

# Frontier

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## MALAYSIA'S MEDIATION: MIDDLE POWER, MORAL VOICE

Page 06

A LONG-DELAYED RECOGNITION:  
WESTERN POWERS SIGNAL A  
SHIFT ON PALESTINE AT THE UN

Page 12

TRAVEL BAN AND THE IDF:  
RIGHTS WITHOUT RECOURSE

Page 48

KASHMIR: NATION AND PEOPLE  
ABANDONED BY THE WORLD

Page 20

THE MYTH OF INVINCIBILITY:  
HOW IRAN'S RESILIENCE  
REDEFINED THE BALANCE OF  
POWER

PAGE 28

FROM KUALA LUMPUR TO GAZA:  
HOW THE SUMUD FLOTILLA  
REDEFINED  
SOLIDARITY

Page 24

# CONTENTS

<b>04</b> From the Editor	<b>06</b> Malaysia's Mediation: Middle Power, Moral Voice		
	<b>12</b> A Long-delayed Recognition: Western Powers Signal a Shift on Palestine at the UN	<b>20</b> Kashmir: Nation and People Abandoned by the World	<b>24</b> From Kuala Lumpur to Gaza: How the Sumud Flotilla Redefined Solidarity
<b>28</b> The Myth of Invincibility: How Iran's Resilience Redefined the Balance of Power	<b>36</b> How Films Reframe the Palestinian Struggle and Western Conscience	<b>32</b> What Gaza Reveals About the End of the Rules-based Order	
<b>40</b> Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim Speaks at the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit, Doha	<b>43</b> Rohingya: the World's Forgotten Refugees	<b>48</b> Travel Ban and the IDF: Rights Without Recourse	<b>55</b> Hit By 25% Tariffs (Now 19%): Should Malaysia Go Deeper into the Muslim World

*Behind the missiles and media narratives lies a deeper truth—resistance, not dominance, is shaping the next global order.*

# **THE MYTH OF INVINCIBILITY: HOW IRAN'S RESILIENCE REDEFINED THE BALANCE OF POWER**

*Iran's long endurance under siege has shattered one of geopolitics' most enduring illusions: that military dominance ensures moral authority. As Israel's strikes backfire and the global balance tilts toward multipolarity, a deeper truth emerges — resilience, over might, may come to define the new architecture of power.*

By Michelle Kimball



## A Nation Under Siege—and Still Strong

**F**or more than four decades Iran has endured relentless economic warfare. Sanctions imposed after the 1979 Iranian Revolution were meant to isolate the country and cripple the economy. Yet instead of collapse, Iran adapted—building advanced industries and gaining world-wide recognition up to today in science, defence, and technology.

As one analyst put it, “Iran turned isolation into innovation.”

When Israel launched airstrikes claiming to pre-empt a nuclear threat, international experts, including from the IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency) and U.S. National Intelligence, swiftly rejected the rationale, finding no evidence of an active weapons program. The attacks killed senior Iranian officials and scientists and struck civilian sites, prompting Iran to retaliate with targeted strikes that smashed Tel Aviv and pierced Israel’s much-touted Iron Dome defences.

Many observers saw echoes of the false “weapons of mass destruction” claims that justified the Iraq War, that killed hundreds of thousands.



## Gunboat Diplomacy and Global Hypocrisy

At a Kuala Lumpur forum hosted by the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS), scholars described these events as part of a broader pattern—gunboat diplomacy replacing genuine negotiation.

Western powers, they argued, routinely invoke international law against others while violating it themselves.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, in remarks quoted at the event, called the attacks “punitive and unprovoked,” warning that they undermine diplomacy and extinguish hopes for peace. His statement captured a growing sentiment across the Global South: that the rules-based order only applies when convenient for those writing the rules.

## Shattering the Myth of Invincibility

For decades, mainstream Western media portrayed Israel as militarily invincible—protected by U.S. patronage and fortified by the “Iron Dome.” That image is beginning to crumble.

Iran’s ability to strike strategic Israeli targets has upended the myth of absolute Israeli superiority. Analysts also noted the imbalance in media coverage: Iranian retaliation dominates headlines, while Israel’s repeated bombardments of hospitals and civilian areas in Gaza receive far less scrutiny.

This selective outrage sustains a moral hierarchy in which some nations are absolved of their own violence.

**“Such actions, carried out with utter impunity, constitute a blatant violation of international law, further eroding the norms that hold the global order together.”**

— Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim



## Demonisation as Policy

Much of today's hostility toward Iran dates back to 1979, when the Islamic Revolution overthrew the U.S.-backed Shah and severed ties with Israel. From Saddam Hussein's U.S.-supported war against Iran in the 1980s to President George W. Bush's "axis of evil" rhetoric, Tehran has been cast as a permanent villain for asserting independence and defending the Palestinian cause.

Yet Iran's endurance—its survival under siege—has turned it into a symbol of defiance for those seeking to challenge Western dominance. In a world increasingly skeptical of unilateral power, Tehran's resistance resonates far beyond its borders.

## A Multipolar Re-Orientation

Many analysts now see Iran as central to a shifting global landscape. Its growing ties with Russia and China signal a move toward a multipolar order in which U.S. dominance is no longer absolute.

"Iran's resilience offers the Muslim world a counter-narrative to Western hegemony," one speaker noted. Beyond sectarian divides, this call for unity urges Muslim nations to act assertively and pursue justice on equal terms.



# IRAN– ISRAEL 12- DAY WAR IMPACT

Total  
economic  
losses to  
Israel

**\$6B**  
ESTIMATES



## Law, Power, and the Future

Under international law, Israel's pre-emptive strikes violated the UN's Charter Article 51, while Iran's limited retaliation fell within its right to self-defence. Yet, as one analyst warned, "Any attack without Security Council authorisation represents a dangerous erosion of international law."

The deeper concern is that legality itself has become political. When powerful states act with impunity, law ceases to serve justice—it becomes a tool of control. The strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities risked not only radioactive fallout, but also the collapse of already fragile peace efforts, that were actively in progress.

## Lessons in Justice and Resilience

If Israel can attack a sovereign state without consequence, what hope do smaller nations have? The answer, suggested the Kuala Lumpur panelists, lies in resilience rather than merely in retaliation—building independent capacity, upholding moral clarity, and insisting on equality in global engagement.

Iran's survival under siege offers lessons for the wider Muslim world: strength comes not only from domination, but from conviction and the ability to engage the world without surrendering sovereignty.

Beyond ideology, the issue is one of justice. Iran's endurance challenges a world order that privileges might over right. Whether this moment marks the rise of a more balanced global system—or merely a pause before another escalation—remains uncertain.

But one truth is unmistakable: the myth of US and Israeli invincible military and political power has been broken. And in that fracture, a new struggle for justice, sovereignty, and global order is taking shape.

“

**Iran's endurance challenges a world order that privileges might over right. ♫**



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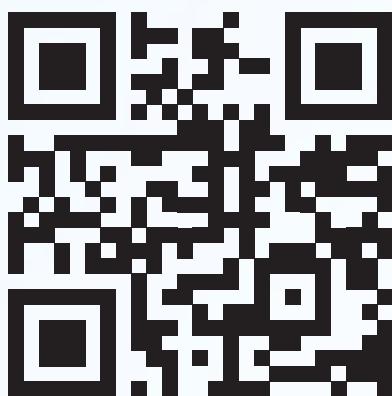
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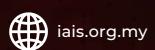
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