

# **WORLD WAR 3 FEARS: Russia BACKS Iran as Putin STARES DOWN Trump**

WORLD War 3 fears are growing after Russia rushed to back Iran in the Middle East's escalating nuclear crisis - a move which plunges Vladimir Putin into a deadly standoff with Donald Trump.

Last night Iran fired rockets into Israeli-occupied territory in the Golan Heights, prompting a ferocious response from Israel.

Israel pummelled "nearly all" of Iran's military infrastructure in Syria, with world leaders calling for calm as the two states exchange missiles.

The clash came after Donald Trump pulled the United States from the Iran nuclear agreement - a decision he said was necessary to avoid a "nuclear arms race in the Middle East" but which his critics argue has already badly destabilized the region.

In the immediate aftermath of the announcement, Iran promised a "fierce" response on his rivals including Israel, while Saudi Arabia said they would build their own nuclear weapons if Tehran did.



World War 3: Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump are going head-to-head over Iran.

Russia's foreign ministry said the Kremlin will maintain close coordination on nuclear issues with Iran despite the US quitting the international agreement.

In stark contrast, the White House condemned Iran's "provocative rocket attacks" from Syria and said it supported Israel's right to defend itself.

A White House statement said: "The Iranian regime's deployment into Syria of offensive rocket and missile systems aimed at Israel is an unacceptable and highly dangerous development for the entire Middle East."

Israel said 20 Iranian Grad and Fajr rockets were shot down by its Iron Dome air defence system or did not reach targets in the occupied Golan Heights, territory captured from Syria in a 1967 war.

The Quds Force, an external arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, carried out the rocket salvo, Israel said.





Iran and Israel were already drawing deeper into confrontation before Mr Trump pulled the US out of the deal, but his move has shaken up the region.

Within Iran, the US withdrawal could empower hardliners while weakening the moderate camp that has sought better relations with the West.

Today Israel accused Iran of crossing “red lines”, warning of further missile strikes if necessary.

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