



### [The Lack of Support for the Iran War Among Key U.S. Allies and Partners](#)

Since the onset of the Iran war, the lack of public support from traditional U.S. allies towards it has been evident. This has seen major American partners in Western Europe, the Gulf Arab states, and East Asia either express outright criticism of the Trump administration's military actions or notable silence – illustrating the extent to which most have been opposed to the war efforts. Across Europe, several key U.S. allies, including Spain, France, and Italy have condemned the U.S. and Israeli military attacks against Iran. Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has described the military action as reckless and unjustified – while also labeling it a violation of international law. On top of this, Spain has explicitly refused to allow U.S. forces to use jointly operated military bases on its territory for attacks against Iran and has formally withdrawn its ambassador to Israel over its opposition to the U.S.-Israeli military offensive against Iran and the Gaza war. France and Italy have been noticeably critical as well. Earlier this week, the French foreign minister stated that U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran fall outside of the framework of international law and lack clearly defined objectives. In Italy, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has repeatedly voiced that the country will not take part in offensive military operations against Iran, also describing them as interventions outside of the scope of international law. Furthermore, new polling in Italy has shown that nearly 70% of the population believe that Italy should follow Spain's lead and deny the use of U.S. military bases on its territory.

Outside of Europe and among other noteworthy U.S. allies, the criticism has also been clear. Gulf Arab states have voiced significant discontent with the Trump administration's handling of the conflict. Officials from several Gulf countries have relayed frustration and anger over the lack of advance notice of the U.S.-Israeli attacks and the Trump administration's ignoring of their warnings surrounding the detrimental consequences of the war. Despite their status as primary security partners of the United States, observers have also outlined how many Gulf countries increasingly feel that the U.S. has failed to defend them enough – with a growing sense in the region that the military operation has focused on defending Israel and American troops, while leaving Gulf countries to protect themselves from Iranian retaliation.

Analysts have noted that this sentiment may spur Gulf states to reassess their reliance on the United States and instead explore deepening and diversifying their security ties with other countries. Additionally, reports have emerged that various Gulf states are reviewing the

manner in which they deploy trillions of dollars invested by their sovereign wealth funds – in anticipation of offsetting the losses that have been triggered by the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran. Experts have pointed to how this signals the degree to which there is economic panic regarding the impacts of the Iran war. All told, for many, the conflict has prompted Gulf states to reconsider their regional strategies and the nature of their relationship with the U.S. under Trump. The hosting of U.S. military bases has turned Gulf nations into primary targets for Iranian retaliation, and as such, there is mounting resentment over them being drawn into the conflict because of this, with officials understandably criticizing the Trump administration for failing to provide adequate protection.

Longstanding U.S. allies in East Asia like Japan and South Korea have also expressed deep concern over the Iran war. Officials in Tokyo and Seoul are alarmed that the redeployment of U.S. naval, missile, and air defense assets from the region to the Middle East will leave the Indo-Pacific under-defended. In addition to this, both countries are heavily dependent on energy imports from the Middle East – making their economies extremely vulnerable to volatility and disruptions in the region. According to estimates from early 2026, a whopping over 90% of Japan's crude oil imports and approximately 70% of South Korea's come from the Middle East. These factors, along with concern over the legality of the U.S.-Israeli strikes themselves, have prompted a telling lack of endorsement towards the military actions from both Japan and South Korea. Civic groups and activists in the two countries have also been particularly vocal regarding their high levels of opposition towards U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran.

Ultimately, the widespread opposition to the U.S.-Israel war on Iran from American allies across the globe stems from an array of concern over its illegality under international law as well as its detrimental effect on regional stability and the global economy. The conflict has prompted U.S. allies to reassess their security dependencies and has placed a serious strain on the United States' most critical international partnerships. By alienating key partners and failing to prioritize the economic and security anxieties of regional allies, the current administration has threatened diplomatic stability in favor of dangerous escalation. To those advocating for a responsible U.S. role in global affairs, these developments serve as a reminder that American standing on the world stage is negatively impacted when it acts in noncompliance with the very international norms and collaborative frameworks that it helped to establish.