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BOW AND SCRAPE



Town of Barnstable maintenance worker Aaron Walker works around the fountain at the John F. Kennedy Memorial in Hyannis as he prepares to paint it, in advance of another summer season. Photo taken April 8. MERRILY CASSIDY/CAPE COD TIMES

FBI warned agencies of Iran's threat

Kristina Cooke and Ted Hesson
REUTERS

WASHINGTON — The FBI warned U.S. state and local law enforcement of an elevated threat posed by Iran's government to targets in the United States last month even as the White House sought to downplay the likelihood of an attack, a law enforcement intelligence report reviewed by Reuters shows.

In the March 20 report, the FBI and other federal intelligence agencies cautioned that the Iranian government "poses a persistent threat" to U.S. military and government personnel and buildings, Jewish and Israeli institutions, and Iranian dissidents in the United States.



Trump

Despite those warnings, the FBI and National Counterterrorism Center had not identified broad threats to the American public, the report said.

President Donald Trump publicly has minimized the possibility of Iranian attacks on American soil in response to other intelligence assessments in recent months. When asked outside the White House on March 11 whether he was worried about Iran perpetrating an attack in the United States, Trump said, "No, I'm not."

Trump said on April 7 he had agreed to a two-week ceasefire with Iran.

The March 20 report — titled "Public Safety Awareness Report" — was issued weeks after Reuters and other news outlets reported that the White House blocked the release of a similarly

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U.S.-Iran ceasefire on tenuous ground

Israel continues attacks on Lebanon

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy, Christopher Cann, Melina Khan and Michael Loria
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump's ceasefire with Iran was on tenuous ground on April 9 after Israel launched its deadliest day of strikes on Lebanon yet and Tehran vowed not to desert its allies.

A day after announcing the Iran war ceasefire, Trump took to social media to warn the country that if the "REAL AGREEMENT" was not complied with, all U.S. military assets would remain in place ready for a military response.

He warned Iran to keep the Strait of Hormuz open and safe but did not address the strikes in Lebanon in the post.

"If for any reason it is not, which is highly unlikely, then the 'Shootin' Starts,' bigger, and better, and stronger than anyone has ever seen before," he wrote.

Meanwhile, strikes on Lebanon, which borders Israel came on April 8, a day after United States and Iranian leaders announced a break in hostilities to hold peace talks and for oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz to resume, a key breakthrough in the agreement. But in the wake of Trump's announcement, parties involved were soon at odds over whether the break in fighting included Lebanon.

"The Iran-U.S. Ceasefire terms are clear and explicit: the U.S. must choose — ceasefire or continued war via Israel. It cannot have both," Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said in a statement as bombs hit Beirut.



Rescuers search through wreckage in Beirut on April 8 after Israeli strikes killed and injured hundreds. MOHAMED AZAKIR/REUTERS

'We will not leave Lebanon alone'

On April 8, Israel carried out its largest bombardment of Lebanon since the start of the war, killing over 250 people, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry. While Hezbollah initially halted fire following the announcement of the ceasefire, it has since responded to the Israeli attacks by firing rockets at northern Israel.

Israeli strikes killed between 180 and 260 people and left around 1,000 people wounded in Lebanon on April 8, local authorities reported.

The death toll in the country border-

ing Israel is the highest yet for a single day of the war. Lebanon's health ministry reported 182 deaths. The country's civil defense service reported 254. The two authorities reported around 1,000 people injured.

Beirut saw the worst of the strikes. Israeli strikes killed 91 people in Lebanon's capital city, the civil defense service said. Residents said attacks came without warnings to evacuate. Videos shared by reporters of strikes on Lebanon's capital city show rubble sent flying as buildings were destroyed.

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MA House plans to ban social media for children under 14

Margie Cullen
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW ENGLAND

The Massachusetts House of Representatives is planning on passing a bill April 8 that would ban social media use for children under 14 in the state.

The ban would be "among the most restrictive in the entire country," Speaker Ron Mariano, D-Quincy, and Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, D-Boston, said in a statement April 6.

"The simple reality is that Massachusetts must do more to ensure that our laws keep pace with modern challenges — especially when it comes to protecting our children, and to setting students up for success in the classroom and beyond," they continued.

The measure was added to a bill passed by the Senate in July 2025 that would ban cellphones for students throughout the school day.

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