



Jerusalem Post / Middle East / Iran News

Washington Post columnist claims Rising Lion op. destroyed Iranian attempts to develop EMP weapon

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps leaders had allegedly encouraged the efforts to develop EMP weapons because it wouldn't violate Khamenei's fatwa.



Pictures of Iranian military commanders, nuclear scientists and others killed in Israeli strikes are displayed in Behesht Zahra Cemetery in southern Tehran, Iran, July 11, 2025

(photo credit: Majid Asgaripour/WANA/via Reuters)

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF

JULY 26, 2025 19:50

Updated: JULY 26, 2025 19:52

Israel's [Operation Rising Lion](#) may have disrupted Iranian efforts to construct an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) weapon, a nuclear fusion bomb, and a standard fission warhead, *Washington Post* columnist David Ignatius claimed in an op-ed published Saturday, citing Israeli sources.

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) leaders had allegedly encouraged the efforts to develop EMP weapons because it wouldn't violate Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's fatwa against nuclear weapons, Israeli sources allegedly told Ignatius.

An EMP weapon is designed to generate a powerful burst of electromagnetic radiation, capable of disrupting or damaging electronic equipment and infrastructure, according to a fact sheet published by the Washington State Department of Health's Division of Environmental Health Office of Radiation Protection.

Israel's military successes in Iran

[Israeli attacks](#) also reportedly destroyed 3,000 ballistic missiles and 80% of its 500 missile launchers.

The unnamed Israeli source claimed that [Tehran](#) had aims to grow its ballistic missile stockpile to at least 8,000 before the war, necessitating the strikes.



IR SUPERIORITY proved the decisive factor in both the Six Day War and Israel's 12-day war against Iran. During Operation Rising Lion, dozens of IDF fighter jets conducted waves of strikes across Iran, decimating the country's defense systems – more than 1,500 km. from Israeli territory. (credit: IDF Spokesperson's Unit)

Despite intelligence, Israel was reportedly surprised by the number of solid-fuel missiles in Tehran's possession.

Sources also claimed that, beyond assassinating many of the masterminds behind Tehran's nuclear programs, there were hopes that the strikes would dissuade scientists from joining the programs in the future, knowing that doing so would put targets on their backs.

SEE MORE ON

Iran | Israel Iran War | weapons | Operation Rising Lion