

IRAN'S AGGRESSION AGAINST ISRAEL: THE WEST MUST ACT RAPIDLY



The cross-border confrontation between Israel and Iran on February 10 is **undeniable evidence of the real intentions of the Ayatollahs' regime to dominate the Middle East and destroy Israel.**

Iran's first direct and open aggression against Israel also constitutes strong evidence of the hegemonic position that Iran has gained in the region during these last years — with the West's acquiescence. Iran is now controlling most of the region, thus now it is targeting those actors able to counter its expansionist agenda. **The player that impedes Iran's total domination is the State of Israel**, which has been the historical obsession of the Iranian leaders since 1979. However, other Western allies, such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt, live under the threat of the regime.

Nowadays, we can see —as aforementioned, **with the West's acquiescence**— the emergence of an Iranian-led Shia crescent going from Tehran to Beirut via Sana'a, Baghdad and Damascus. **Iran seeks to control the Middle East and it is succeeding.** In this strategic plan, the annihilation of the Jewish State is central as one of the top goals. It is thus striking that Iran sent directly one of its drones to attack Israel, instead of using its proxy, Hizballah, as the Iranians have been doing since 1982. **This attack shows that Iran is taking a qualitative leap in its hostility against Israel and Iran will likely keep the pressure on and even escalate if nothing is done to prevent it.**

The West has allowed Iran to erect this Shia crescent that not only threatens Israel's existence, but also endangers the stability of the Middle East and the security of the world.

Along this vein, the Iranian regime's evil intentions have never been a secret. For example, on February 12, two days after the clash at Israel's northern border, the regime celebrated in a big way the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution on Tehran's streets and **the crowd chanted again "Death to America" and "Death to Israel"** — one more slap in the face after the recent street protests violently crushed by the regime's Basij militias oppression forces.

Hizballah, the Shia terrorist organization, is Iran's spearhead in Lebanon, where it controls the politics in Beirut, and in Syria, where they have supported and propped up dictator and mass-murderer Bashir al-Assad, who has been in power since the beginning of the civil war in 2011. A third Lebanon War could break out any time, as the High Level Military Group has warned in its report [Hizballah's Terror Army: How to Prevent a Third Lebanon War](#). However, it is still preventable. **The West should implement the correct measures to curb Iran's expansionism in the Middle East and to stop Hizballah's activities in Lebanon, Syria, and beyond.** For these purposes, the Joint

Comprehensive Plan of Action, the generally known as “nuclear deal with Iran”, must be fixed and Hizballah must be completely blacklisted. Both issues require that Europeans get on board and they actually should.

Time is running out. Iran is directly violating the State of Israel’s sovereignty and forcing cross-border clashes in Syria. A joint operation from Syria and Lebanon against Israel could be catastrophic. **The West has been constantly warned about this danger; however, nothing out of the ordinary has been done to deter Iran’s intentions.** On the contrary, the West has appeased Iran and lifted sanctions.

A fake fix for the nuclear deal, or a bad decision on Hizballah, both just pave the way to one more Iranian aggression against Israel. As Colonel Richard Kemp has asserted in *The Times*; “Although President Trump is holding Iran to account, Israel’s warnings have been largely ignored by the West and the United Nations. Britain and the European Union could play an effective role in containing Iranian aggression, but their answer is appeasement.”

Iran is directly attacking and harassing Israel from Syria and Lebanon. **We cannot repeat often enough that a liberal, Western-like democracy has been attacked by a theocratic dictatorship that violates human rights and promotes international terrorism. The West must act now.** The best way to defend the West, in Jose Maria Aznar’s words, is to defend Israel. The latest Iranian attack on Israeli soil should trigger a quick response of the West, because Western security is also at stake.

Spotlight

MIGRANT CRISIS IN ISRAEL: HOW TO GIVE THE RIGHT RESPONSE



Israel has proved once again that it can handle and solve difficult situations that other nations are avoiding. **The migrant crisis is one of the main problems of our times and it requires courageous decisions and firm resolve.**

The Israeli cabinet recently approved a plan to mitigate its current migrant crisis. Around 40,000 undocumented migrants were offered to leave the country — they will be safely relocated with a 3,500-dollar cash compensation. If they refuse to relocate, they will face detention and prison. Vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly are allowed to stay. They will also get residence and job permits; in addition, they will enjoy the benefits of the welfare state such as health care and education.

The plan has passed the scrutiny of the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) and even the main opposition party, the Zionist Union, has endorsed it.

Despite all the unfair criticism against Israel—especially from Europe—the **plan respects all the Human Rights provisions and Refugee conventions. It has been checked out and monitored by judicial and other democratic bodies. All of them have concluded that the plan meets all the guarantees for safe relocation of undocumented migrants.**

Since 2006, more than 60,000 migrants have entered Israel through the Egyptian border, most of them from Sudan and Eritrea. Roughly 20,000 of them have voluntarily left Israel (with economic compensation granted by the State) and there are currently around 40,000 more.

Due to violent events in Eastern Africa, these migrants were permitted to stay in Israel and also to apply for asylum — without the requirement of proving their eligibility for refugee status. Nonetheless, Israel's Population and Immigration Authority has concluded that most of the Sudan and Eritrea migrants are economic migrants, not refugees, so they have not been found eligible for asylum.

The process to obtain refugee status in Israel, and therefore to get asylum, is designed according to the provisions of the 1951 Refugee Convention—Israel was one of the first countries to sign, ratify and adopt it. Israel also guarantees all the democratic rights since applicants can appeal in court or even re-apply for changed circumstances. Also, the process of safe relocation has been tested and approved by the Attorney General and the Supreme Court. As the Refugee Convention established, it is a matter of national sovereignty to set its own refugee and asylum policies. In addition, Israel meets all democratic standards.

Israel has always been a haven for people in danger and oppressed. In this regard, Israel has always received oppressed people from countries such as Iran, Egypt, Lebanon, Bosnia, Eritrea, Sudan, and from the Palestinian territories. However, **Israel is a tiny country that is not physically and geographically prepared to receive a massive influx of migrants.** The collapse of the State would be the first consequence and the second one would be the end of the State. Hence, the State of Israel has showed eagerness to adopt courageous and correct decisions regarding this issue, because its leaders put survival over political correctness.

Israel has taken a courageous and correct decision to solve the migrant crisis, unlike a Europe not yet ready to deal with its own migrant crisis.

FOII'S ACTIVITIES

OP-EDS AND MEDIA

“**The Arab-Israeli Conflict: Why No Peace?**”, Colonel Richard Kemp, *Gatestone Institute*, January 17 ([Read](#))

“**We Must End This Appeasement and Ban Hezbollah**”, Colonel Richard Kemp, *The Times*, January 23 ([Read](#))

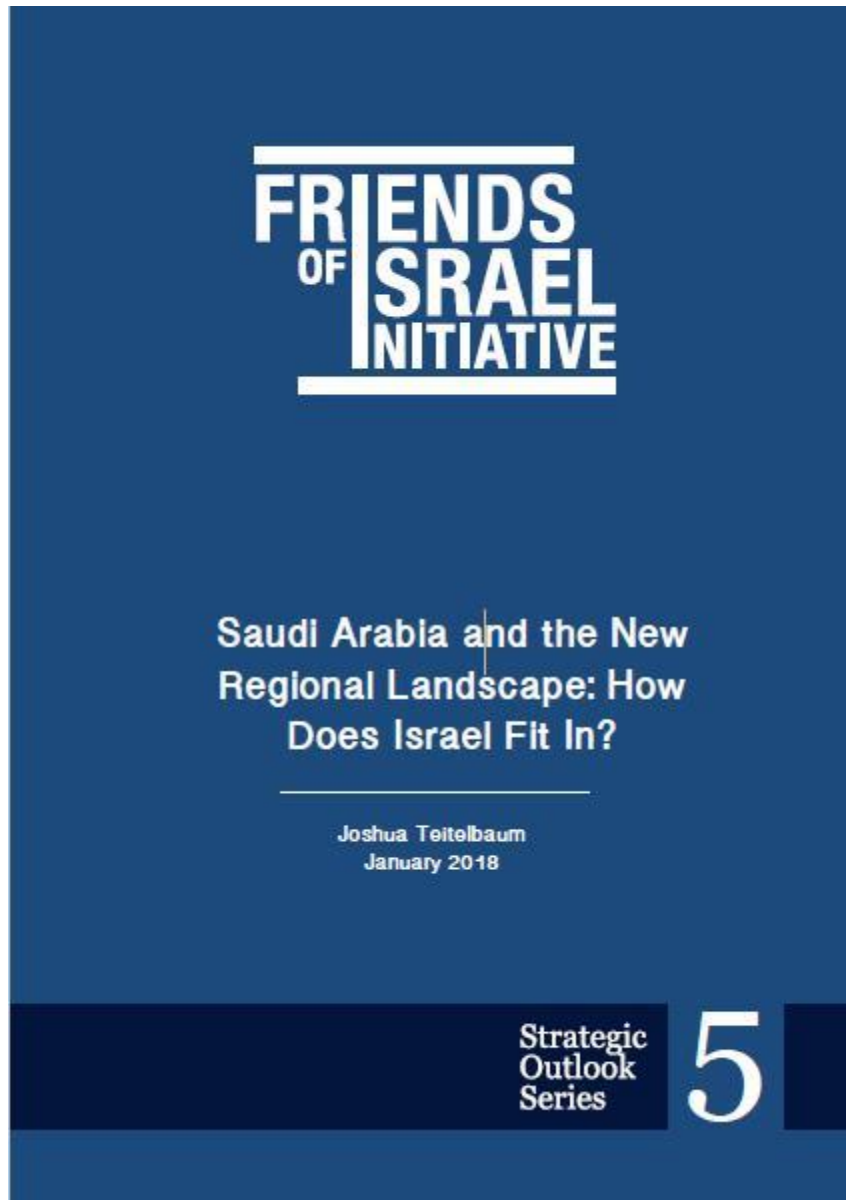
“**Britain Needs to Wake Up to the Threat from Hezbollah**”, Lord General Richard Dannatt, *The Spectator*, January 24 ([Read](#))

“**Failure to Support Israel against Iran Could End in War**”, Colonel Richard Kemp, *The Times*, February 12 ([Read](#))

STRATEGIC OUTLOOK SERIES 5

Saudi Arabia and the New Regional Landscape: How Does Israel Fit In?

Joshua Teitelbaum



Joshua Teitelbaum analyzes the new strategic framework in the Middle East and especially **Saudi Arabia's role and its interaction with Israel**. Teitelbaum warns that Israel should be very cautious in its cooperation with Saudi Arabia because Mohamed bin Salman, the new strong man in Riyadh who has embraced a new approach for the kingdom, is still in his early days.

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“Iran is not a nation-state; it's a revolutionary cause devoted to mayhem.”

James Mattis

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