

GAZA, IRAN AND THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SYRIA

They Are Parts of Iran's Strategy to Isolate and Harass Israel



Iran is pursuing a regional strategy to turn Israel into the South Korea of the Middle East: a country increasingly beset by threats of a devastating attack. Just as North Korea has done to South Korea, Iran aims to do the same to Israel.

Some may consider as disconnected events the violent protests in Gaza, the violation of Israeli airspace by an Iranian drone last February, and the surgical attacks of the coalition led by the U.S., France, and the U.K. against Syrian installations. Nonetheless, that is not the case.

The violent demonstrations at the Gaza border were not to protest against the blockade imposed by Israel on the Strip; on the contrary, the "Day of Earth" or the "March of Return" were based on a recurrent strategy employed by Palestinian terrorist groups in their genocidal struggle against Israel: **the image of victims for the Western press. These were not peaceful protests.** The demonstrators, put there by Hamas, threw Molotov cocktails and other incendiary devices, and sang loudly "Death to the Jews!" Of the 30,000 Palestinians who participated, 17 were killed by Israel's Defense Forces and 10 of them were identified as Hamas terrorists.

The main claim of the demonstrations is that Israel in its entirety must be “returned” to the Palestinians. Yahya Sinwar, Hamas’s leader in Gaza, stated that, “the March of Return is aimed to affirm that our people cannot give up an inch of the land of Palestine.”

According to Israel’s Ministry of Defense, Hamas has invested 15 million dollars in these demonstrations — presumably funded by Iran. It is really significant that, given the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the lack of employment, its government would dedicate that amount of money to send its population to face armed Israeli soldiers instead of empowering its own population. Just as Iran did before, **Hamas also decided long ago to promote hate and terror instead of coexistence and peace.**

Hamas, financed and supported by the theocratic regime that rules in Tehran, heeded its master and harassed Israel from the south, as it knows best: using human shields. In this regard, the “March of Return” demonstrations were a clear response to the Israeli bombing of the Iranian military installation T4 in Syria last February. In sum, the “Day of Earth” was another chapter in the proxy war that Iran is carrying out against Israel.

Probably the next chapter, and as we have warned on many occasions, will come from the north, by Iran's main proxy: Hezbollah. **A third war in Lebanon**, likely spread to Syria’s territory where Iran is pursuing to build strongholds, may break out soon. This offensive against Israel will not stop until Iran is deterred.

Israel is often accused of being an occupying power, but **in the Middle East, the main colonizing power is Iran.** The Quds Force controls Damascus and Beirut and wants to isolate Israel in the same way that North Korea has done to South Korea.

Some analysts say that Israel has already carried out more than 100 attacks on Syrian soil to destroy shipments of chemical weapons that Bashar al-Assad sent to his ally, Hezbollah. What al-Assad has done with his population, more than 70 attacks with chemical weapons since 2012, Hezbollah—that is, Iran—wants to do to the Israelis, but the Jewish State, logically, will not sit idly by. Once again, Israel has defended its interests and that of all Westerners by preventing the spread and use of chemical weapons in the Middle East.

After the surgical attacks last weekend by the coalition formed by the United States, France and the U.K., the region can experience a new and unprecedented escalation of violence. **If Iran decides to crank up its hostility towards Israel, what will the Western powers do?**

They should firstly fix the JCPOA once and for all. **The nuclear deal has created the perfect scenario for Iran to expand its influence throughout the Middle East and to harass Israel on all fronts.** If the deal cannot be properly fixed, the Western P5+1 signatories—the U.S. France and the U.K.--should abandon the JCPOA and reimpose the sanctions once more. With the money obtained by the lifting of sanctions, Iran has dedicated itself to strengthening its position in all the countries where it has a presence, especially in Syria, instead of improving the lives of its citizens.

All the current problems in the Middle East bear a name: Iran. The violent protests in Gaza, the violation of Israeli sovereignty, and the use of chemical weapons against the civilian population are **all part of the same strategy to besiege Israel.**

CONGRATULATIONS, AMBASSADOR BOLTON!

A strong Israel's supporter and the best selection to make America safer and stronger



Ambassador John Bolton, a **founding member of the Friends of Israel Initiative (FOII)**, has been appointed by President Donald Trump as the National Security Advisor of the United States.

Ambassador Bolton has long experience promoting efficient initiatives for the U.S. security interests. He is also a person with solid principles and values, and above all, he has undeniable strategic skills.

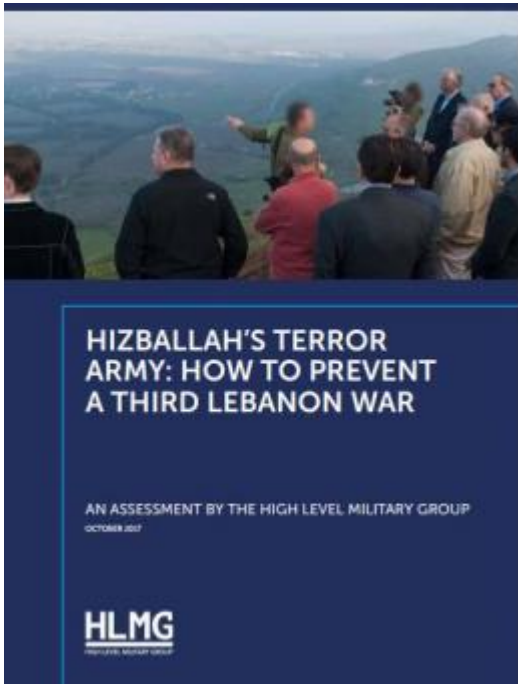
Bolton's defense of Israel as a bulwark of the West and as a vital ally of the United States is long standing. In 1991, he fought to revoke the U.N. General Assembly Resolution 3379, which defined Zionism as a form of racism. Bolton wrote at the time: "Zionism is one of the oldest national liberation movements of the modern age. It is Zionism's bearing upon the creation of the state of Israel that led to the General Assembly's perverse action in 1975." In 2010, he was **one of FOII's founding members and one of its main promoters.**

Ambassador Bolton has always been on the side of good causes and has never been ambiguous about the response to rogue regimes or terrorist groups threatening the security of American citizens. **We need more Boltons in the areas of action and decision; with more Boltons, the West would be better prepared to confront the challenges that is currently facing.**

The members of Friends of Israel Initiative would like to express their **most sincere and warmest congratulations to Ambassador John Bolton for his new appointment.** We wish him the best during these difficult times we all are facing. **We firmly believe that Ambassador Bolton will do a great job and help to make America and her allies safer and stronger.**

FOII'S ACTIVITIES

EVENTS



PRESENTATION OF THE HLMG'S REPORT "HIZBALLAH'S TERROR ARMY" AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

On April 25, **Lord General Richard Dannatt** and **Colonel Richard Kemp** will offer remarks on the occasion of the UK launch of the High Level Military Group's new extensive study regarding the Hizballah threat, Iran's role in the geopolitics of the Middle East, and the necessary efforts to prevent a new and serious war in the Middle East.

MEDIA

"Aussie Diary", Colonel Richard Kemp, The Spectator Australia, March 17

I know of many other times Israeli intelligence has saved the lives of Australians -as well as Brits, Americans and Europeans- in our cities and on the battlefields of Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria. The Israelis are not alone in their impressive track record against jihadists.

[Read full article](#)

"Iran: The Europeans Are Wrong Once Again", Rafael Bardaji, La Gaceta, March 22

There are some who believe that the Europeans will be able to respect and sustain the agreement with Iran without the United States, but that is just an illusion.

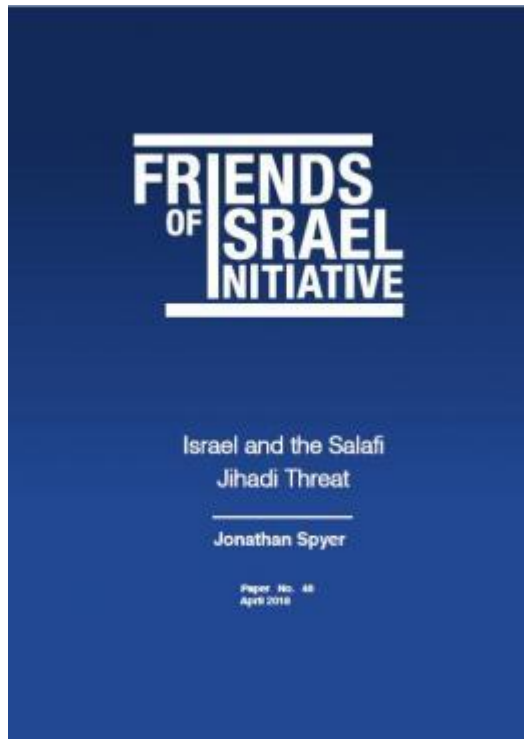
[Read full article](#)

"Gaza", Rafael Bardaji, La Gaceta, April 5

Israel may be the last Western nation on the face of the Earth.

[Read full article](#)

WORKING PAPERS



Israel and the Salafi-Jihadi Threat

The renowned expert on Middle East, Jonathan Spyer, analyzes the threat that Salafi-Jihadist groups in Syria, Egypt, Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, and Lebanon represent for Israel. Unlike well-known groups such as Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, or the Islamic State, those lesser-known groups **also seek to destroy Israel and spread radical Islam throughout the region.**



“There's no doubt that Iran funds and supplies Hamas with weapons.”
John Bolton

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