

## Middle East Disaster in the Making

The situation in the Middle East has suddenly gotten much worse.

*Israel carried out strikes against bases in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday after Palestinians launched their heaviest barrages against Israel since the 2914 Gaza war.*

*The firing of some 28 mortar shells toward Israel caused no injuries, with most intercepted by air defense systems, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed a forceful response.*

*"Israel takes a grave view of the attacks on it and its communities by Hamas and Jihad from the Gaza Strip," he said during a conference in northern Israel, adding that the military would respond "forcefully."*

*One mortar shell exploded near a kindergarten building, a military spokesman said, causing damage to the structure.*

*Shortly after Netanyahu spoke, Israel's military began carrying out strikes in Gaza.*

*(<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1283746/tensions-soar-israel-hits-gaza-bases-after-mortar-fire>)*

*The Israel coastal town of Ashkelon and dozens more places came under heavy rocket fire Tuesday night from the Gaza Strip, after a day of almost continuous rocket and mortar fire on Israeli communities within range of the Palestinian enclave. (<https://www.debka.com/mivzak/all-day-rocket-fire-from-gaza-targets-ashkelon/>)*

Israel's policymakers don't seem to have a clear plan for stopping the Palestinian rocket/mortar assault on the communities next door to the Gaza Strip, after nearly 100 rockets and mortar shells were launched against them all day Tuesday, May 29. They were fired by the Islamic Jihad, Hamas and the Popular Resistance Committees terrorist groups. Four Israelis were hurt by flying shrapnel, three of them soldiers. A kindergarten was hit minutes before the children arrived. During the afternoon, although the IDF pounded 37 of their structures and bases in the Gaza Strip with punitive strikes, Hamas and Jihad were undeterred and kept up a continuous barrage of fire, hour after hour into the night. (<https://www.debka.com/no-sign-hamas-jihad-intend-de-escalating-their-rocket-mortar-assault-on-israel/>)

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**BORDER RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN TOLD TO REMAIN IN PROXIMITY TO SHELTERS AT ALL TIMES - FIRST TIME SINCE 2014 THIS ORDER HAS BEEN GIVEN**

**The situation in which a terror organization fires into Israeli communities is unacceptable. Since noon we have been operating throughout the Gaza Strip in a series of attacks which has not been done since Operation Protective Edge" IDF Spokesman Brig-Gen.Ronen Manelis**

FORENSIC ANALYSIS OF ROCKET DEBRIS SHOWS \*\*\*IRANIAN-MADE\*\*\* ROCKETS BEING FIRED INTO ISRAEL BY TERRORISTS IN GAZA.

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**Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz “We may have no choice, we will have to strike in Gaza and conquer it.. and end this terrorist regime.”**

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**Iran has threatened Iraq PM Haider al-Abadi to ally with Hashid al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization Forces - Hadi al-Ameri) or else Baghdad will be attacked with 60 car bombs in one day, according to an individual close to al-Abadi**

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**ISRAELI ARMY SPOKESMAN STATES 'TONIGHT WE ARE GOING TO WAR'**

(<http://haltturnerradioshow.com/index.php/news/world-news/2605-large-mortar-attack-from-gaza-blows-up-israeli-civilian-areas-massive-response>)

Analysis. The references are from Tuesday, 29 May 2018. It is now noon on 30 May. The shelling has stopped. Why a day of intense shelling from Gaza?

*Under cover of the deafening Gaza clash, Iran, Syria and Hizballah began marching military units on the road to Quneitra opposite Israel's Golan border. They include the Syrian army's 42<sup>nd</sup> armored brigade of the elite 4<sup>th</sup> Division. DEBKAfile's military and intelligence sources report Iran is employing its classical tactic of cooling one sector – on Israel's southern border with Gaza – while creeping up silently on another – the Golan front in the north. (<https://www.debka.com/as-gaza-front-cools-iran-and-syria-move-on-their-next-flashpoint-quneitra/>)*

Now perhaps we know why so much artillery was expended in an attempt to draw Israeli forces into Gaza and perhaps away from the Golan. Not quite a classic case of misdirection but reasonably close. Sun Tzu perhaps would have called the force in Gaza the “normal” force, the one we are all supposed to watch, and the forces opposite the Golan the “extraordinary” force. The extraordinary force is the one whose attack is supposed to be a surprise.

The last time Israel fought a two-front war was Yom Kippur, 1973. It almost ended in disaster. It was only through lots of intelligent generalship, help from the United States and Israel's ability to move forces quickly from one front to another that gave Israel the great victory over Egypt and almost a great victory over Syria.

Time has changed the strategic situation but perhaps not the tactical one. Syria is still under the strategic protection of Russia. But a new player has been added to the mix: Iran. Several years ago, Reza Kahlili provided us with a translation of *The Coming Is Upon Us* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwiadYT-N9k&pbjreload=10>). While the references to modern personalities is out of date, you should watch this movie concentrating on the Shiite religious beliefs. Those beliefs are still in operation.

It is still the purpose of the religious leadership in Iran to bring forth the Mahdi. It still requires a time of massive destruction. Only then can the Mahdi come forth to save the World by bringing us all to Shi'i Islam. Former President Ahmadinejad of Iran laid the religious foundation for the wars that are to bring forth the Mahdi in three of his speeches to the UN General Assembly. He invited the nations to accept Islam. If you have been invited to accept Islam three times and reject Islam, you are now an infidel who may be killed or conquered. Religiously, Iran is now free to go about subjugating the lands of the Kuffar, the infidel.

The greatest of the infidel nations is Israel. Jews are the most hated people in Islam. The destruction of the "Jewish entity" is of the highest priority to Iran. It is for this reason that Iran, through the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Qods Force, has taken control of the "rejectionist" groups in Gaza. This latest move to invade Israel through Gaza, or at least direct everyone's attention there, is a tactical move designed to allow Iran to come within striking distance of Israel from the Golan.

The last few weeks of attempts to breach the Israeli border from Gaza have all been leading up to whatever Iran has planned to happen on the Golan. All of this "protest" activity has been blamed on the move of the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It has surrounded "Nabka" Day, the day that Jerusalem was conquered by Israel in the 1967 war. These are convenient excuses used to hide the real purpose: destroying Israel.

While the destruction of Israel is a purpose in itself, it also hastens the downfall of the House of Saud. Israel is merely a stopping off point on the road from Damascus to Medina and Mecca. Whoever controls the Two Holy Mosques is the leader of Islam. Right now that is Sunni Islam and the House of Saud. The overarching story here is the Islamic Sectarian Civil War between Sunni and Shiite for the control of Islam, its doctrines and theology.

If you superimpose the Shiite Crescent propounded by King Abdullah II on the Arabian Peninsula, the actions of Iran become much clearer. There are two ways to get to Mecca. The first is along the Damascus, Amman highway via Medina. The second is from the south from Sana'a through the lands currently controlled by the Houthi to Mecca. Iran can be seen to be pressing from both directions.

We understand the Middle East much better when we stop thinking of the problems there in the Western sense of disagreements between nation states and through the eyes of religious conflict. The threat to explode 60 car bombs in Baghdad in one day was nothing other than a blatant attempt to force majority Sunni Iraq to support the Shiite cause. Obviously more subtle forms of persuasion have not worked. Now it is time to do violence. So far I have seen no reports of car bombs detonating in Baghdad. That does not mean that it will not happen. Just not yet.

We should also remember that the Iranian ambassador to Iraq is a senior IRGC Qods Force general officer. He controls the Shiite "Popular Mobilization Forces" which are Shiite militias. These militias are close to the fighting power of the Iraqi Army. They provide Iran with a guerrilla force with which to destabilize Iraq on command. They also insure that the northern cusp of the Shiite Crescent remains unbroken at least in Iraq. This allows Iran a land corridor to Syria. It is through this corridor that Iran plans to bring in Qods Force units and support Hezbollah.

Another factor in this orgy of violence is undoubtedly the US leaving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) also known as the Iran nuclear deal and President Trump's reimposition of serious sanctions on Iran. The seriousness of the attack on Israel may well be a reflection of Iran's displeasure at the sanctions which will likely cripple Iran's already bad economy. Iran is doing its best to convince the other parties to the JCPOA to ignore the US unilateral sanctions and continue to do business with Iran.

It is highly doubtful that Iran will be able to convince Great Britain, France or Germany to ignore the sanctions. There is a move in the European Union to revive a law allowing EU companies to continue to do business with Iran while protecting them from fines imposed by the US. I doubt it is the fines that worry European businesses. It is exclusion from doing business in the United States that worries them. Deutsche Bank would be a prime example of a company that can ill afford to be excluded from the United States.

Other purchasers of Iranian oil may continue to pay for that oil by means other than US dollars. Many of those countries do not do a lot of business in the US and may be able to tolerate losing business in America to get Iranian oil perhaps at a serious discount. India comes to mind as does the People's Republic of China (PRC) with whom we are already having serious trade disputes. The Shanghai Exchange "Petro Yuan" contract may well be a means to circumvent US sanctions. Payments for oil under this contract may be converted to gold on the Shanghai exchange.

As of 1219 today, Hal Turner Radio Show is reporting movements of armor and main battle tanks to Gaza. *This afternoon I received video directly from a source inside Israel who witnessed the movement of **numerous Main Battle Tanks and Armor**, toward the Gaza Strip. The video appears below.* (<http://haltturnerradioshow.com/index.php/news/world-news/2612-exclusive-israel-moving-tanks-armor-to-gaza-strip>)

It is quite likely that there will be a land invasion of Gaza. The Israeli government, whoever is in charge, cannot allow a challenge of this magnitude to go unmet. The Iranians and the "rejectionists" in Gaza are more than willing to sacrifice the general population to bring international pressure to bear on Israel not to do what must be done: the complete destruction of the rejectionist groups and perhaps the reincorporation of Gaza into Israel. Ariel Sharon's attempt to trade land for peace has not worked. Time to take back the land and impose peace.