

us and Israel.”

In doing so, Khalidi said Biden was embracing the diplomatic version of the militaristic right-wing worldview laid out a century ago by Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the founder of the Revisionist Zionism that helped shape the Likud. “In other words,” Khalidi explained, “only when the Arabs understand that they have to accept whatever it is Israel is willing to offer, will there be peace.” Khalidi, one of the world’s most prominent Palestine scholars, continued, “I think that fairly represents his position to this day. I honestly don’t think this man has any sense that there’s another side to this. I don’t think he understands or is interested in the humanity, or the rights, or the very existence of the Palestinians.”

The full article first appeared on *Mother Jones*.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L) walks past then-US vice president Joe Biden as he prepares to sign the guest book at the prime minister's residence in Al-Quds (Jerusalem) on March 9, 2010.  
● DEBBIE HILL/UPI

## Al-Aqsa Storm, Islam’s new image in Europe

By **Abed Akbari**  
European affairs expert

**EXCLUSIVE OPINION**

The recent events surrounding Operation Al-Aqsa Storm and the developments in the Gaza Strip have presented a different image of Islam than what European media had previously portrayed. Despite extensive efforts by media sympathetic to Zionists in Europe to tarnish the image of Islam and unleash an Islamophobic wave, the prevailing narrative of the Gaza war has not only neutralized these poisonous efforts but has also contributed to a positive change in the European public’s perception of Islam.

The rushed and exaggerated anti-Muslim narratives and caricatures provided by European media in recent weeks that victimized Jews in Europe have even sparked serious criticisms within European media communities.

The German television network Deutsche Welle, which had previously broadcast reports on the educational problems of Jewish children in Germany after Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, released a report claiming that four Muslim students in the city of Neuss in North Rhine-Westphalia intended to enforce strict Islamic laws in school. The media presented this as a harsh interpretation of Islamic Sharia that, for example, obliges Muslim women to wear the Islamic hijab, segregates genders in swimming classes, and allows Muslim students to leave school early to participate in Friday prayers. However, this narrative caused a media uproar and was later proven baseless by the German police and intelligence agencies.

In France, which has recently become the epicenter of Islamophobia in Europe, the situation has been similar. Following Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, Islamophobia in France has been intertwined with a Zionist narrative and racism, where being Muslim is now considered akin to belonging to a specific race. A French analyst explained that these days, if someone in France converts to Islam without disclosing it, they may not face discrimination; however, if someone has an Islamic name or a Middle Eastern appearance, they will face discrimination even if they don’t identify themselves as Muslim. As the head of the French Committee on Justice and Freedom stated, Islamophobia in the country has become a systemic problem and has, in fact, been engrained into the Republic’s DNA.

While Islamophobic actions seem to have been met with mixed responses from French society, it appears that they have led to an alarming increase in hate crimes against Muslims in various parts of England. According to a report from the Community Security Trust charity a few days after Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, incidents related to hate crimes against Muslims in England showed a significant increase. Islamophobic incidence have seen a sixfold rise as well. Muslims in the UK are currently concerned about the safety of their children inside and outside school.

Despite the rise in Islamophobic violence, the repercussions of Operation Al-Aqsa and even the way Palestinian fighters interact with Israeli forces in Gaza have mesmerized the world. The patience, composure, faith, and trust exhibited by the people of Gaza, who are grappling with immense difficulties and the tragic loss of their loved ones and homes, have raised a question in the minds of European citizens: What is behind such calmness and patience? Interestingly, they tend to find the answer to this question in the Islamic beliefs of the oppressed Palestinian people.

# Israel provoking US into conflict with Iran

## Media ignores the danger

By **James North**  
Editor at *Mondoweiss*

**PERSPECTIVE**

For years, *Mondoweiss* has warned that Israel, especially Benjamin Netanyahu, have tried to instigate the US into a wider war in the Mideast, particularly with Iran. It also regularly indicted the US

Since October 7, the stakes for Netanyahu are much higher. Israelis blame him for the Hamas attack, and the opinion polls show his popularity has never been lower. A number of Israeli commentators have called him the worst leader in the country’s history. If just a handful of members from his own coalition in the Knesset abandon him, his cabinet will fall, and he will be trounced in new elections. Even worse, the pending court cases against him for corruption will then revive, and he could end up in prison. Luring the US into a conflict with Iran will distract from his own troubles, and give him time to maneuver.

So, on December 24, an Israeli air strike assassinated an Iranian top commander in Syria, Razi Mousavi. Also, earlier, a cyberattack “caused two-thirds of Iran’s gas stations to suddenly stop working,” yet another sabotage effort with Israel’s fingerprints all over it. No country will be able to endlessly ignore such provocations.

(Netanyahu is not the only Israeli leader who wants the US to attack Iran. Former prime

mainstream media for ignoring this danger.

Today, the threat is greater than ever. And, true to form, the *New York Times*, *National Public Radio*, and the others continue to cover it up, instead treating Netanyahu as the embattled but honest leader of an Israel that is only trying to defend itself. For more than a decade, Netanyahu’s main aim was

minister Naftali Bennett recently published an opinion article in the *Wall Street Journal* headlined: “The US and Israel Need to Take Iran On Directly.” He disclosed 2 secret Israeli attacks inside Iran during his 2021–2022 tenure as prime minister: the destruction of a drone base and the killing of an Iranian military commander. After the article appeared, some Israeli officials criticized Bennett “for revealing classified information... saying that he was potentially putting the country in danger.”

The *New York Times* did run a brief report on the December 24 air strike that killed Razi Mousavi in Syria. But the article was a model of dishonesty. The paper feigned ignorance in the report’s opening sentence: “Iran accused Israel on Monday of killing a high-level military figure in a missile strike in Syria at a time when concerns are growing that the war in Gaza could escalate into a regional conflict.” Nowhere do we learn that many observers, including some Israelis, believe that Netanyahu may actually want a wider conflict, as long as he can embroil the US in it.

*National Public Radio* was even worse. In recent days, the network

to destroy Iran’s alleged (and unproven) program to build nuclear weapons. He openly tried to sabotage the Obama administration’s successful nuclear deal in 2015, and then vigorously encouraged Donald Trump’s abrupt decision to end the agreement 3 years later. Secretly, Israel conducted a long campaign of sabotage against Iran,

ran three on-air reports, including one from a correspondent in the region. The broadcasts were uniformly inept. They barely mentioned Israel’s provocative killing of Mousavi. In one, host Leila Fadel asked: “Does the US or Iran really want this to become a regional war?” Somehow, she forgot to add Israel or Netanyahu to her question, although anyone who follows the story using a range of non-US mainstream sources, even including some in Israel itself, would have known to broaden the inquiry.

The *Washington Post* report has a single throwaway sentence about how an “airstrike” by an unnamed air force killed a “senior [Iranian] officer” in Syria. That was it.

Of course, the situation in the region is complicated. Ansar Allah, Iran’s allies (commonly referred to as the Houthis) who control much of Yemen, have been attacking shipping in the Red Sea, and Hezbollah, the political/military movement in southern Lebanon that is also allied with Iran, has been clashing with Israel across their mutual border. It is doubtful that even Benjamin

which included cyber warfare, and actual assassinations inside the country, including the November 2020 killing of an Iranian scientist, Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh. Netanyahu wanted to provoke Iranian retaliation, which would draw in the US, and — he hoped — trigger an American attack that that would set back or even destroy Tehran’s nuclear program.

Netanyahu would want to widen the conflict to bring in either of these other two actors.

But what makes Israel’s provocative killing of General Mousavi and its latest cyberattack even more dangerous is that it also raises the risk of a lethal accident. Let’s go back to July 1988, when tensions in the region were similarly high. A US Navy warship in the Strait of Hormuz accidentally shot down a civilian Iranian jetliner, killing all 290 people on board. Iran did show restraint, and so the conflict thankfully did not escalate further.

Today, the danger is arguably even higher: Israel continues to murder thousands of Palestinian civilians in Gaza and attack at least four other nations in the region: Iran, Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon. Israel’s desperate leader is rolling the dice for his last time, and the Biden administration is letting him get away with it — while the US media keeps the American public in the dark. The chances for a greater tragedy are high.

This article first appeared on *Mondoweiss*.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shows a crude illustration as he describes his unfounded concerns over Iran’s nuclear program during his address to United Nations General Assembly on September 27, 2012.  
● GETTY IMAGES