

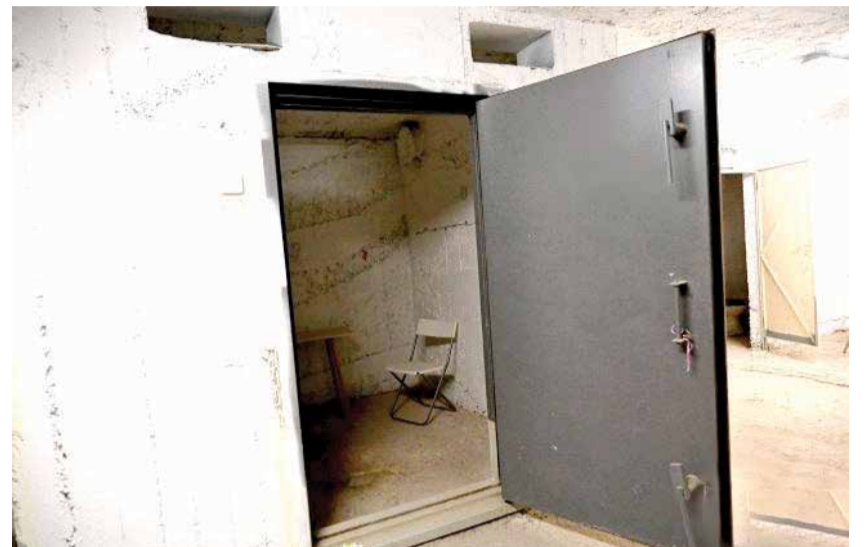
Israel trapped in psychological warfare's quagmire



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OPINION EXCLUSIVE

This "assassination" strategy employed by the Zionist regime and its staunch ally, the United States, is less about showcasing achievements and more about finding an escape from the severe disarray in decision-making bodies in Washington and Tel Aviv. In the meantime, the Zionist regime, by leveraging Western media giants, seeks to wage a psychological war against the Resistance and ultimately, hide its own weaknesses in the Gaza war and surrounding developments. However, there are multiple factors at work that have turned this psychological war against them: the revelation of the United States's intentions in supporting Israel's genocide, Israel's failure in achieving its intended objectives, the uncertainty within the American-Zionist front, the strategic ambiguity of the Resistance's next moves, and the Resistance's ability to take the initiative in the Gaza war.



The photo shows the inside of a communal bomb shelter opened by the Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Municipality for the public as Israel readies for a possible multi-front military attack from Iran and its backed groups, in Al-Quds (Jerusalem) on August 14, 2024.
● DEBBIE HILL/UPI

A man readies a bomb shelter in Ashdod, southern Israel, on August 4, 2024, when the city ordered its public shelters to open after a barrage of rockets were fired at the southern port city.
● TSAFRIR ABAYOV/AP

Fragile strategy to weaken Resistance
The primary goal of the Zionist regime in resorting to assassination is to project victory and dominance over the Resistance Front in the eyes of the public. However, many analysts view this move as an attempt to overcome the anguish caused by the lack of achievements during 10 months of intense bombing and killing of Gazans. In essence, assassination is seen as the only available option to compensate for the military and political defeats in Tel Aviv's strategic circles. Many political observers acknowledge that the outcome of the Gaza war, whatever it would be, will be a complete defeat for Israel. On the one hand, the regime cannot accept its defeat, and on the other, it is forced to negotiate with the Resistance. Thus, to avoid admitting its defeat, it resorts to assassination, mass

killing, destruction, and devastation. Moreover, assassination plays a crucial role in igniting and reinforcing the Resistance's motivation and that of the people, making it a catalyst on the warfront. Therefore, contrary to the belief of Israeli officials, assassination not only fails to be effective as a tool of psychological warfare against the Resistance but is also a clear sign of the declining military and political strength of both Israel and the United States.

Initiative in hands of Iran, Resistance Front

The most pivotal factor driving the psychological war against Israel is the Resistance Front's control over the initial calculations and decision-making power. In other words, the Resistance is acting, while the Zionist-American front is

reacting. Being in anticipation of retaliatory attacks in response to their assassinations has created a hybrid war against the Israelis. Their inability to foresee these unpredictable developments has only added to their fear and psychological pressure. Since the beginning of Operation Al-Qsa Storm, the Resistance groups have based their operations on a gradual and phased escalation of attacks. Over time, missile and drone attacks of Hezbollah and Yemen's Resistance groups have penetrated the occupied territories more effectively as they showcase new advanced weapons such as Yemeni unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs). The Iraqi Resistance has also intensified its attacks on American bases in Iraq and Syria, with the recent attack on the Ain al-Assad base, which resulted in the

killing and wounding of five American soldiers, serving as an example of the increasing assaults on the United States by the Resistance. These factors have not only created a deterrence effect in Tel Aviv but have also compromised their strategic calculations in the war. At this point, following the assassination of Hamas's political leader in Tehran, the Resistance has control over the rules of engagement. The strategic planning of Iran and the Resistance forces, combined with the current air of ambiguity and uncertainty regarding the nature and scale of their response, has instilled fear in the United States and its Zionist allies. As a result, the latter side is attempting to promote narratives such as "both sides should exercise restraint," "tensions can be avoided," "the world needs stability and peace," and "the goal should be a cease-fire in Gaza," alongside claims that "Israel has the right to defend itself". This is part of their psychological operations aimed at deterring the Resistance from retaliating for Haniyeh's martyrdom. Meanwhile, Iran and Hezbollah have emphasized their commitment to responding to Haniyeh's assassination and severely punishing the occupiers.

Gaza cease-fire: New US strategy

After Iran and the Resistance Front officially announced their intention to retaliate against the Zionist regime, the United States, alongside Cairo and Doha, hastily devised a plan for a cease-fire in an attempt to overshadow this response. Soon after, the Israeli prime minister's

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Israeli soldiers operate amid a billowing smoke in the Gaza Strip on January 21, 2024.
● REUTERS