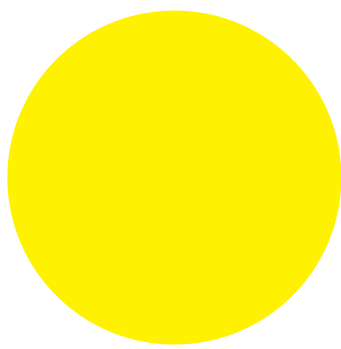


Madanizadeh approved  
as Economy Minister with  
overwhelming majority

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## *Pezeshkian:* Iranians must stand united against Israel's aggression

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*Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during a parliamentary session in Tehran on June 16, 2025.*  
● IRNA

### From Iron Dome to collapse of legitimacy

## Two decades of Israel's strategic miscalculations



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**O P I N I O N**  
**E X C L U S I V E**

In the turbulent landscape of the Middle East, if one state stands as a symbol of miscalculated security strategies, it is undoubtedly Israel — a state that, over the past two decades, has not only failed to establish sustainable security for itself or the region but has also squandered a golden opportunity to become a constructive force through its obsession with militaristic policies. Over these years, the Israeli regime has poured massive resources into military hardware — such as the Iron Dome defense system — targeted assassinations, precision bombings, and proxy wars. Yet its recent encounter

with Iran's retaliatory strike has laid bare the bankruptcy of such a strategy. A system long touted as the epitome of "security invincibility" collapsed within hours under the precision of Iranian missiles. This event not only signified a military failure but also marked the beginning of Israel's political delegitimization on the global stage. Beyond technical and military shortcomings, what has further eroded Israel's standing is a series of persistent strategic blunders in foreign and regional policy:

#### 1. Diplomatic failures and growing isolation

Israel has failed to prevent diplomatic isolation, particularly in its relations with Europe, Latin America, and even some Arab states. Its aggressive policies in the West Bank, rampant settlement expansion, and the ongoing repression of Palestinians have eroded its moral legitimacy and weakened support from

traditional allies. Today, resolutions condemning Israeli policies pass the UN with overwhelming majorities.

#### 2. Ignoring geopolitical shifts in the region

While the Middle East has shifted toward new paradigms of economic synergy and regional bloc-building, Israel clung to outdated threat-centric doctrines. From the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to the rise of South-South partnerships, Israel effectively sidelined itself from emerging regional diplomacy and lapsed into strategic inertia.

#### 3. Militarism without political vision

From Operation Cast Lead (2008–2009) to Guardian of the Walls (2021), Israel has repeatedly responded to resistance threats with an iron fist — offering no meaningful political or economic strategy to complement its military actions. This overreliance on force has perpetuated cycles of violence, vengeance,

and despair rather than eliminating its adversaries.

#### 4. Failure to manage the Palestinian conflict

Peace with the Palestinians could have been Israel's gateway to long-term legitimacy and stability. Instead, Tel Aviv persistently undermined this path by expanding settlements in the West Bank, especially after 2005, thus nullifying the prospects of meaningful dialogue. These actions have significantly tarnished Israel's global reputation and deepened its diplomatic isolation.

Today, neither military threats, separation walls, expensive technologies, nor media propaganda can satisfy domestic public opinion or the conscience of the international community. The Israeli public deserves to know how billions in taxpayer money were funneled into a mirage called "security" — when such resources could have built a thriving, peace-oriented, and regionally inte-

grated future.

Most critically, Israel's strategic error in engaging directly with Iran has proven to be a catastrophic miscalculation. Beyond its overstretched military capacity, this move has re-legitimized Iran's defensive narrative and rallied solidarity across the Islamic world. A regime that once sought to portray itself as the perpetual victim now stands exposed as the provocateur threatening regional stability.

Ultimately, we must acknowledge a truth deeper than military statistics or diplomatic spin: The decline of power is not always about losing borders; Sometimes, it is about losing legitimacy.

And that is precisely what is unfolding — quietly, yet irrevocably — in Tel Aviv. Today, Israel stands before history as a lonely, shaken, and accused actor. And history is a patient, yet unforgiving judge.