

Expansion of Israeli terrorism from Gaza to Doha

Is region finally waking up?

ANALYSIS

For years, some Arab countries in the region pointed fingers at Iran as the main actor fanning the flames of instability in the Middle East by supporting resistance groups. This narrative, blaming Tehran as the source of regional crises, was not just echoed in Arab and Western media but was also used as a tool to shore up hardline and hostile policies against Iran in some official circles. These states sometimes turned a blind eye to or tacitly justified even Israel's repeated attacks on Iranian soil, scientists, and security infrastructure, viewing them as the price of the Islamic Republic's regional policies and Tehran's support for the Axis of Resistance.

However, developments over the past two to three years have shown that everyone will sooner get their turn as targets. Israeli military operations and terrorist attacks are now not only aimed at Iran and resistance groups in Lebanon, Gaza, and Yemen but have also spread to targeting America's Arab allies in the Persian Gulf. This reality has thrown a wrench into the previous calculations of some Arab governments, confronting them with the question of whether leaning on Washington as a security partner truly guarantees stability or, on the contrary, represents a fresh threat against themselves.

A glance at the Syria dossier offers a clearer picture of Israel's expansionism. The Zionist regime, which repeatedly carried out bombings and terrorist operations in Syria aimed at opposing Bashar al-Assad, the former president, and what it called Iran's presence and influence there, has kept up the same path even after the end of the Ba'ath Party rule in Da-



mascus. By hammering away at Damascus and Aleppo airports, logistics centers, and military installations through repeated air strikes, Tel Aviv has shown its project is not limited to confronting Iran or Hezbollah but pursues a broader goal: eroding any indigenous power in the Arab world and pursuing territorial expansion and occupation.

Today, Arab countries are gradually catching on that the very accusation they repeated for years against Iran now applies more than ever to the Israeli regime. If, until recently, Tehran was falsely accused of jeopardizing Middle Eastern stability through

its regional policies, Israel, by attacking Washington's Arab allies and, in its latest move, violating Qatar's national sovereignty and bombing a safehouse of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas in the capital, has shown that it is the real source of instability and state terrorism in the region.

Furthermore, the normalization of relations between some Arab governments and Israel under the Abraham Accords now faces serious questions. What was promoted as a "warm peace" and economic-security cooperation has now lost its shine in light of Tel Aviv's hostile actions. Even among Arab societies, popular

opposition to any rapprochement with Israel has gained ground, and the political legitimacy of governments emphasizing normalization with Tel Aviv has come under more scrutiny than ever before.

On the other hand, the increase in Israeli attacks on Arab countries' soil has practically created a glaring contradiction between Tel Aviv's slogans about regional security and its actual behavior. This contradiction is especially a wake-up call for governments that for years had put their hopes on Israel within security alliances. If this trend continues, it could not only prompt a rethink of their for-

eign relations but also lay the groundwork for redefining the balance of power in the Middle East.

It seems the region's future depends more than ever on Arab countries' ability to wrap their heads around the reality that the United States, contrary to its claims, is no one's security guarantor. The more this understanding takes hold, the higher the chances of opening the doors for dialogue and security-political cooperation between Iran and its Arab neighbors.

The article first appeared in Persian on IRNA.



Qatari people are shocked to see smoke billowing after an Israeli strike on a building in the capital, Doha, on September 9, 2025.

● JACQUELINE PENNEY/APPTV



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Losers of attack on Doha



By Salahuddin Khadiv
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OPINION

The entire Hamas leadership in Doha managed to escape unharmed from the recent Israeli strike. Given the widespread global condemnation of this attack, Israel's failure in this regard amounts to a major political blow.

In a historical comparison, the resulting fiasco could be likened to the Suez Canal War of 1956. Back then, after Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalized the canal, it became the target of a joint invasion by Britain, France, and Israel. Although Egypt was quickly routed militarily, under president Truman's reprimand and Khrushchev's missile threat, the aggressors were forced to back down swiftly. Israel was called out by the two superpowers of the time, and Egypt scored an extraordinary political victory, reshaping the political landscape of the Middle East.

It now appears that Hamas — and certainly not Qatar — has snatched an accidental political win. Its leadership was targeted by a surprise attack while gath-



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (c) and his senior cabinet and intelligence officials watch the progress of the air strike on Doha, Qatar, on September 9, 2025.

ered to go over a US cease-fire proposal.

So, what role does the US play in this? When the White House initially said it was in the loop beforehand and informed the Qatari government, does that not also mean Hamas was tipped off? Why did the US both greenlight the attack and indirectly

give Hamas the heads-up? Likely, it was to put the squeeze on the movement's leaders to accept Trump's latest plan — with a warning that even Doha is no longer off-limits.

With all this, the main loser in the affair is Israel, followed by Qatar. Tel Aviv now finds itself under unprecedented pressure

from global public opinion and its European allies. Its political capital and soft power have been worn down over the past two years, and the Tuesday bombing was the final nail in the coffin. Qatar, one of the Persian Gulf's economic powerhouses, has been hit twice in the past three months — once by Iran for hosting the

US, and now by Israel for hosting Hamas. These contradictory roles are part of the political ambition of a newly rich country, but apparently one that does not fit the bill given its tiny population and size.

The article first appeared in the Persian-language newspaper Arman-e Emrooz.



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