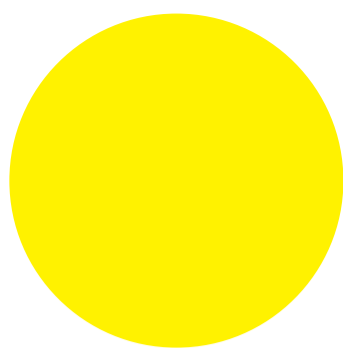


## Iran excoriates Zelensky for Davos drivel

*Araghchi: World has had enough of 'confused clowns'*

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# Pezeshkian: Enemies seek to expand insecurity in Muslim countries

Erdogan says Iran's security of 'extraordinary importance' to Turkey

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## 14 infrastructure plans launched at Chabahar Port as INSTC advances

Iranian Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq Malvajer (3rd L) is welcomed by Governor General Mansour Bijar (2nd L) during a visit to Sistan and Baluchestan Province, southeastern Iran on January 22, 2026.

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## Failed Mossad operation aims to cause chaos in Iran

Israeli efforts to incite Trump continue

By Afifeh Abedi  
International relations expert

**OPINION  
EXCLUSIVE**

Following a fragile cease-fire in the 12-day conflict, it was predictable that the United States and Israel would move the war to Iran's streets. Concurrently with intensified economic sanctions targeting ordinary Iranians, American and Israeli media outlets were churning out daily reports and analyses portraying widespread public discontent. These reports were further fueled by climate-related water shortages, painting a picture of Iranian society on the brink of explosion. Behind the scenes, Mossad and the CIA were reportedly recruiting terrorists, outlaws, and opponents of the Islamic Republic to stir up an armed conflict.

Much of what transpired in January was a pre-planned scenario designed for January and February. However, Iran was not caught off guard. It must be emphasized that the hybrid war waged against the Islamic Republic is one of the most complex subversion projects in international politics, encompassing vast intelligence, security, economic, social, and even psychological dimensions – a comprehensive analysis of which would fill hundreds of pages.

However, after navigating the recent crisis, two short-term steps that represent the initial next moves by the US and Israel against Iran can be described as follows: persuading Donald Trump to take further action against Iran and launching a campaign to tarnish the Islamic Republic's image internationally.

1. Wooing Trump for aggressive action: After Iran's decisive response to US and Israeli aggression in June, which involved

precise targeting of Israeli military and intelligence centers in occupied Palestinian territories, Tel Aviv has largely accepted that any unilateral attack on Iran could trigger a far more regret-inducing response. As seen during the 12-day conflict, Israel couldn't hold its own without US and European support, and any new conflict will require significant external backing for survival. Consequently, during the recent crisis, Israel admitted Mossad's involvement in the killings of Iranians in the streets while publicly stating it would not intervene in an attack on Iran.

However, Israel's efforts to play mind games with Trump to incite the US president against Iran continue. Trump, meanwhile, has fallen for the Israeli trap. Regardless of the Jeffrey Epstein case, which can be seen as a Mossad file against Trump, Benjamin Netanyahu has used various psychological tactics and exploited Trump's personality traits to push the

US president into a direct and reputational confrontation against Iran.

One of Trump's characteristics is that he views all global equations as win-or-lose scenarios and is unwilling to accept any form of defeat. During the 12-day conflict, Trump was talked into an illegal and highly dangerous attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, after which he trumpeted a victory on social media. However, the recent crisis, which has once again put Trump in Netanyahu's trap, has yielded no major gains. Consequently, Israel's game of goading him into an unpredictable and aggressive action against Iran continues, as evidenced by recent claims about Iran's alleged plot to assassinate Trump.

The NewsNation journalist's question to Trump about the possibility of Iranian assassination was not accidental and it is clear that Israeli propaganda is behind it to continue inciting Trump against Iran.

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