The Amit Terrorism and Intelligence Research Institute
At the Israeli Intelligence Heritage and Commemoration Center

# Spotlight on Iran and the Shiite Axis

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## Key Trends

**►Iran intensifies its condemnation of continued IDF activity in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.**

**►Iran reiterates its position that it does not interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs.**

**►The Iraqi Prime Minister's activity against the pro-Iranian Shiite militias draws criticism in Iran.**

## Highlights[1]

- Iran condemned continued IDF activity in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank amid the worsening humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.
- The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman rejected the Lebanese President's claims regarding Iranian interference in his country's internal affairs.
- An unconfirmed report indicated that IRGC operatives and logistical equipment had been transferred from Hezbollah strongholds in southern Beirut to the Beqaa Valley amid concerns over a possible resumption of the regional campaign.
- The Iraqi Prime Minister and Kata'ib Hezbollah avoided a direct confrontation following a last-minute agreement on the evacuation of the militia's forces from its stronghold in Jurf al-Sakhar. Criticism was voiced in Iran over the Iraqi Prime Minister's efforts to act against the pro-Iranian Shiite militias.

## Iranian Involvement in the Palestinian Arena

- The Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement strongly condemning the "crimes of the Zionist regime against the oppressed Palestinian people, especially in Gaza," and stressed the need for urgent and effective action by the international community to stop the "genocide" and to bring the "Zionist criminals" to justice and punish them. The Foreign Ministry also condemned the "crimes of the occupation regime and the terrorist acts of the Zionist settlers against the Palestinians in the West Bank," the latest of which was the torching of the al-Dahi Mosque (the mosque is actually

[1] The weekly study includes the activities of Iran, the Shiite militias in Iraq, and the Houthis in Yemen.

located inside Israel). The statement further noted that while Gaza had been reduced to a pile of rubble and debris following extensive bombardment, and displaced Gazans were not even provided with tents to protect them from the winter cold and rain, soldiers of the "Zionist regime" were conducting raids in the central Gaza Strip to intensify the "genocide" plan and kill more of the Strip's residents. The ministry condemned the inaction imposed on international institutions by the United States and "supporters of the occupation regime," saying that it encourages Israel to continue its "flagrant violation" of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people. The statement also reminded all countries of their responsibility, in accordance with the UN Charter and international law, to support the Palestinian people in realizing their right to self-determination and liberation "from the yoke of occupation, apartheid, and violent colonialism," and to prosecute and punish the leaders of the "Zionist regime" for committing international crimes. The Foreign Ministry stressed the Islamic Republic's support for the Palestinian people until they realize their right to self-determination and establish an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. It called on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and all Islamic countries to take immediate steps to harness the full capabilities of the organization and of other international institutions to combat the "genocide" of the Palestinians (Iranian Foreign Ministry Telegram channel, November 19, 2026).

- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said at a ceremony marking Oman's National Day that "Palestine" remains the central issue of the Islamic world and the region and that Iran is very concerned about what is happening in Gaza. He claimed that a "silent genocide" is now taking place in Gaza and that the "Zionist regime" is preventing the entry of food and medicine into the Gaza Strip. He added that weather conditions had significantly worsened the situation in the Gaza Strip. Araghchi called for convening a meeting of the OIC to discuss the issue (Mehr, November 21, 2026).




**The Iranian Foreign Minister (ISNA, November 21, 2026)**

## Iranian Involvement in Lebanon

- The Iranian embassy in Beirut issued a statement on the occasion of Lebanon's Independence Day, stressing that Tehran continues to firmly support the country's independence and stability. The

embassy's statement noted that from the period preceding the liberation of southern Lebanon in 2000 through the Islamabad agreement with the United States, Iran has stood firmly by Lebanon's side, supported its efforts to liberate its land and preserve its independence and stability, and encouraged consensus among its people. The embassy criticized US policy toward Lebanon and claimed that Washington had worked to create and exacerbate divisions and had provided cover for the "Zionist massacres" in the south. The Iranian Foreign Ministry also issued a statement on X congratulating Lebanon on its Independence Day and expressing hope that the ties of brotherhood and friendship between Iran and Lebanon would remain strong and firmly established (snn.ir, November 23, 2026).

- Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei used his weekly press conference to address the remarks of Lebanese President Joseph Aoun, who in his Independence Day speech accused Iran of interfering in Lebanon's internal affairs. Baghaei said that Iran fully respects the Lebanese people, Lebanese culture, and Lebanon's sovereignty. However, if "interference" refers to the fact that during the negotiations in Islamabad, Iran placed respect for Lebanon's sovereignty at the top of its list of demands, its friends should explain why that was considered interference. He noted that Iran's position is clear and that Lebanon does not face two problems, as the Lebanese President had claimed (the Israeli occupation and Iranian interference), but only one: the "continued aggression" of the "Zionist regime" against Lebanon for decades. He stressed that the "resistance" in Lebanon had been established to confront the "aggression and occupation" and that it is the main pillar of Lebanon's strength. According to Baghaei, Iran seeks good relations with Lebanon, and the only problem facing Lebanon is the "Zionist regime" (Tasnim, November 23, 2026).
- "Lebanese security sources" told the Emirati news website Erem News, known for its anti-Hezbollah stance, that several days earlier, the IRGC had begun evacuating its centers in Beirut's southern suburb (Dahiyeh) and transferring its personnel and logistical equipment to the Beqaa Valley. The sources noted that the move was carried out on direct orders from Tehran amid growing international and Arab warnings of an extensive Israeli military escalation in Lebanon. They added that the relocation was not limited to evacuating the headquarters but also included part of the IRGC's operational infrastructure and groups of officers in charge of overseeing efforts to rebuild Hezbollah's military capabilities. The sources clarified that the Iranian decision was made amid differing assessments by the IRGC leadership and Hezbollah's political leadership of the implications of Lebanon's involvement should the regional confrontation resume. According to the sources, the recent measures do not indicate a reduction in the IRGC's military role in Lebanon but mainly reflect

Tehran's insistence on maintaining its direct presence despite Lebanese government decisions banning the IRGC's security and military activity and paving the way for the expulsion of its personnel from the country. The sources also revealed that in recent months, the Lebanese security services have identified the continued entry of operatives and senior officials linked to the IRGC, despite the departure of dozens of Iranian officers from Lebanon in March 2026 following the outbreak of the regional campaign. They added that some of the Iranian officers had entered Lebanon under diplomatic cover (Erem News, November 24, 2026).

## The Pro-Iranian Militias in Iraq

- On November 20, 2026, upon the expiration of the ultimatum issued by Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi to Kata'ib Hezbollah to evacuate its headquarters in the Jurf al-Sakhar area south of Baghdad, it was reported that an agreement had been reached, the details of which were not disclosed, under which Iraqi security forces had deployed at the site (international and Arab media, November 20, 2026). Later, "informed sources" said that only about a third of Kata'ib Hezbollah's forces had withdrawn from Jurf al-Sakhar and that the withdrawal of the remaining forces would be completed gradually. It was also reported that the forces that entered the area included a brigade belonging to the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), as well as Iraqi police and army forces (Shafaq News, November 22, 2026).



**Iraqi security forces at the entrance to Jurf al-Sakhar**
**(Azhar al-Jumaili's X account, November 20, 2026)**

- A day before the ultimatum expired, Kata'ib Hezbollah Secretary-General Ahmad Mohsen Faraj al-Hamidawi sought to send reassuring messages. He called for focusing on confronting the "forces of arrogance and the Zionist entity" and defending the Iranian-led "camp of truth" ahead of a possible confrontation in the near future. Regarding the tensions with the Prime Minister, he said that the existing "problems" with him would be addressed through "private channels," thereby denying the "original enemies" an opportunity (Kata'ib Hezbollah Telegram channel, November 19, 2026).

- An article published by the SNN news agency criticizing Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi stated that the steps he is taking reflect growing US pressure to disarm the "resistance" organizations and reduce their political and military influence in Iraq. The article warned al-Zaidi against following the path of former Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, who also sought, with US support, to restrict the activity of the pro-Iranian militias but failed to consolidate his rule. According to the article, al-Kadhimi's experience demonstrates that closer ties with Washington and compliance with US policy do not necessarily ensure the consolidation of power in Baghdad. The article stressed that some of the forces whose activities the Iraqi government seeks to restrict are the very forces that came to Iraq's defense in the campaign against ISIS, and that the strength of the "resistance" organizations cannot be assessed solely on the basis of the number of fighters and the military equipment at their disposal. The social, ideological, and political support they enjoy must also be taken into account. Therefore, the notion that the "resistance" can be removed from the Iraqi equation merely by issuing a disarmament order is inconsistent with the reality in the country. The article further noted that Iraq's political history has shown that no prime minister can secure his rule solely by relying on Washington's support and disregarding the internal balance of power. The article concluded that al-Zaidi's compliance with Washington's demands may satisfy the United States in the short term but could undermine Iraq's stability and exact a heavy political and security toll on him and his government (snn.ir, November 22, 2026).

## The Houthis in Yemen

- Over the past week, Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree claimed responsibility for at least 12 "operations" by the Houthi armed forces against various targets in Saudi Arabia, including airports, energy infrastructure, economic assets (including in Riyadh's economic hub), and military targets. According to Saree, the attacks were carried out with a large number of ballistic missiles and drones. He also threatened that if the Saudi-led coalition attacks the port of Hodeidah, the Houthi forces will respond against Saudi Arabia's main seaports, foremost among them Jeddah and Yanbu (Yahya Saree's Telegram channel, November 18–25, 2026). Saudi-led coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki said that coalition forces had succeeded in intercepting 13 ballistic missiles, 19 drones, and 3 cruise missiles launched by the Houthis toward various targets in Saudi Arabia. Al-Maliki also reported that the Houthis had carried out several attacks around the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, allegations that the Houthis denied (X account of the Saudi-led coalition forces, November 18–25, 2026).




**Maps illustrating the Houthi threats against Saudi seaports**
**(Yahya Saree's Telegram channel, November 25, 2026)**