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 reemphasized the importance of the "unity of the arenas" in its strategic concept and its commitment to the Palestinian issue.

► Iran's and Hezbollah's ties with the Houthis are deepening.

Highlights[1]

- Iran's Supreme Leader stressed the importance of the "unity of the arenas" as a component of Iran's strategic concept in the campaign against the United States and Israel.
- The Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council confirmed that at the quadrilateral meeting in Tehran between representatives of Iran and the "Mecca Alliance," the participants also discussed developments in the Palestinian and Lebanese arenas.
- The Interior Minister of the internationally recognized Yemeni government claimed that a network of 21 IRGC and Hezbollah operatives is operating throughout Yemen and that its members oversee the management of the Houthis' military operations and weapons development.
- The Iranian ambassador participated in a ceremony marking "Martyrs' Week" in Yemen and expressed support for the Houthis.
- Pro-Iranian Iraqi militias warned against the use of Iraqi territory for attacks against Iran if the conflict between the United States and Iran resumes.

Iran and the "Unity of the Arenas"

- Iran's Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, stressed the importance of the "unity of the arenas" at a meeting with the senior commanders of the armed forces, attended by Chief of the General Staff Ali Abdollahi, Army Commander Amir Hatami, and IRGC Commander Ahmad Vahidi. The meeting was held against the backdrop of a possible resumption of the war with the United States and Israel. Khamenei expressed appreciation for "the firm and prudent steadfastness of the Resistance Front in the various countries" and described the "unity of the arenas" as a decisive variable with a strategic impact on shaping the new political and security order in West Asia. He expressed hope that this order would help deepen the unity between the peoples of the Islamic countries and their

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

governments and pave the way for the establishment of a new Islamic civilization (Iranian Supreme Leader's website, October 31, 2026).

- Subsequently, an article published by the Tasnim News Agency stated that, at the strategic level, the concept of the "unity of the arenas" points to the link between the various arenas of activity in the region and their mutual influence on political and security calculations. From this perspective, crises in West Asia cannot always be assessed as separate events because developments in one arena may affect the balance of power, public opinion, and the decisions of other actors. However, differences in the national interests, domestic circumstances, and political priorities of the regional actors place real limits on any convergence. Therefore, the establishment of a stable security order in West Asia depends not only on the balance of power, but also on diplomatic capabilities, respect for the sovereignty of states, and the development of mechanisms for regional cooperation (Tasnim, November 1, 2026).
- Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei confirmed that during the quadrilateral meeting held in Tehran last week with the participation of senior officials from Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Turkey, the participants also discussed developments in the Palestinian and Lebanese arenas. He noted that the question of the future regional order in West Asia and the security arrangements required to manage the region's affairs have become particularly important in light of "the illegitimate aggression of the Zionist regime against Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, and Jordan." According to Rezaei, several priorities were set at the meeting, foremost among them protecting Muslims from the threats of the "Zionist regime," Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon and southern Syria, and issues concerning Gaza and the West Bank (Iranian TV, October 31, 2026).



Mohsen Rezaei (Tasnim, October 31, 2026)

- Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said on the sidelines of a conference in Tehran that any understanding between Iran and the United States is conditional on an unequivocal commitment to ending the war on all fronts, including in Lebanon (Tasnim, November 3, 2026).

Iranian Involvement in the Palestinian Arena

- Deputy Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Bagheri Kani said during his visit to Beijing that Iran and China believe that any initiative in the region will fail without a solution to the Palestinian issue. According to him, as long as the Palestinian issue is not resolved, the region will not experience tranquility. Bagheri Kani added that after decades of "aggression, crimes, and occupation," independent states recognize the reality that the root of the crisis in the Middle East lies in the trampling of the rights of the Palestinian people and in the occupation by the "Zionist regime" (IRIB website, November 2, 2026).



The Deputy Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council with the Chinese Foreign Minister (IRIB website, November 2, 2026)

- Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei participated in the conference "The Bell of Awakening: From Iran to Palestine" in Tehran. In his speech, Baghaei said that the issue of "Palestine" is linked to the worldview of Iranians, who have always supported justice, and that Iranians are not willing to accept a situation in which human beings are subjected to "aggression and genocide." Baghaei added that Iran's position on "Palestine" is a humanitarian and principled one, and that it emphasizes the need to realize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Baghaei also said that "the crimes and killings in the West Bank and Gaza" are continuing and that the "Zionist regime" continues to commit its crimes while enjoying impunity. According to him, the United States and the international organizations themselves are preventing the International Court of Justice from acting on the matter (Tasnim, November 3, 2026).



The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman at the conference in Tehran (Tasnim, November 3, 2026)

The Houthis in Yemen

Iran-Houthi Relations

- The Interior Minister of the internationally recognized Yemeni government, Ibrahim Ali Haidan, claimed that 14 IRGC operatives and seven Hezbollah operatives are operating in six provinces of the country and are responsible for planning military operations, developing weapons, and coordinating the Houthis' maritime attacks. According to him, they manage the Houthis' military activity within the framework of a joint command structure and play a role in planning attacks, developing weapons, and coordinating their maritime activity. According to the minister's statement, the members of the network are engaged in the command and control of operational activity and in the development of ballistic missiles, drones, communications systems, and electronic warfare systems. In addition, they run networks for supplying equipment and smuggling military components and take part in selecting merchant ships as targets for attack, coordinating maritime operations, developing explosive boats and autonomous underwater vessels, and training Houthi forces in mine laying and urban warfare. Haidan added that the network is headed by a senior IRGC official who is staying in Yemen under diplomatic cover and effectively serves as the general supervisor of operations, a strategic advisor, and the head of the joint operations room (Al Arabiya, November 3, 2026). In response, Hezbollah claimed that these were false and unfounded accusations. A statement by its Media Relations Department said that the Yemeni people have the capabilities, means, and experience to defend their country and sovereignty against any attack, threat, or siege, and do not need support or intervention from anyone, as they have proven in confronting the "American and Israeli aggression" against them and in their support for Gaza (Hezbollah in the Field Telegram channel, November 4, 2026).

- Iran's Ambassador to Yemen, Ali Mohammad Rezaei, participated in a ceremony in Sanaa marking Yemen's "Martyrs' Week." Accompanied by Yemen's Deputy Foreign Minister Abdullah Sabri, he visited the graves of senior Houthi military and political leaders who were killed in the fighting in

Yemen in recent years. The delegation then visited the Saleh al-Sammad Museum. During the visit, the ambassador praised the sacrifice of the senior officials and commanders who were killed in the war, noting that it was this sacrifice that ultimately led to the expulsion of the occupiers and "mercenaries" from all parts of the country and that it would soon lead to the defeat of the "American-Zionist project" in the region. The ambassador stressed the importance of instilling the value of *shahada* (martyrdom) for the defense of the homeland and the holy places, especially in the struggle against the United States, the "Zionist regime," and their "mercenaries" in the region, who have committed grave crimes against the peoples of the region. He added that Yemen's armed forces and diplomatic corps are working to fulfill the will of the entire Yemeni people, focusing on consolidating national sovereignty, expelling the occupiers, and lifting the oppressive siege on Yemen (Tasnim, November 1, 2026).



Iran's Ambassador to Yemen at the "Martyrs' Week" ceremony (Tasnim, November 1, 2026)

- Over the past week, Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree claimed responsibility for at least 11 "operations" against various targets in Saudi territory. According to him, airports, energy infrastructure, and military targets were attacked with ballistic missiles and drones (Yahya Saree's Telegram channel, October 28–November 4, 2026). At the same time, Saudi-led coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki stated that coalition forces had intercepted seven ballistic missiles, 12 drones, and a cruise missile launched by the Houthis toward various targets in Saudi Arabia (X account of the Saudi-led coalition forces, October 28–November 4, 2026).
- Four "military sources" said that Houthi forces had advanced to about 80 km from the city of Aden, the temporary capital of the internationally recognized Yemeni government. This is the closest point to Aden the Houthis have reached since 2015, when they captured the city for a short period. The areas captured by the Houthis dominate the road between Aden and the important city of Taiz (which the Houthis have been besieging for several weeks) and the main coastal road from Aden to

the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, and serve as a springboard for cutting off these roads (Reuters, November 2, 2026).

The Pro-Iranian Militias in Iraq

- Ansar Allah al-Awfiya spokesman Ali al-Fatlawi warned the United States against using Iraqi airspace to attack Iran. The militia warned that such use would be considered a violation of Iraqi sovereignty and would be met with a response to be determined by the militia's leadership. It was also stated that the militia would remain "neutral" as long as Iraq is not used as a base for attacks against any of its neighbors (Shafaq News, October 30, 2026). Another report stated that a "leader" in Harakat al-Nujaba claimed that the militia had information indicating the possible use of Iraqi territory by "hostile elements" to attack Iran. He added that "the resistance" is ready for any danger or confrontation Iraq may face (Al-Akhbar, November 2, 2026).
- Kata'ib Hezbollah spokesman Abu Mujahid al-Assaf accused the Iraqi government of allowing repeated violations of Iraqi airspace by Syrian and Emirati drones. He also stressed that the militia has ceased its military activity and that any accusation against it in this regard is false. He further affirmed the militia's commitment to the principle of the "unity of the arenas," implying that the militia would respond to any attack against Iran (Kata'ib Hezbollah Telegram channel, November 3, 2026).
- The Iraqi government reportedly deployed large army forces to Basra Governorate in the south of the country to prevent the pro-Iranian militias from attacking Kuwait from there if the United States attacks Iran again. "A security source and a political source in Iraq" said that the deployment took place after "a Gulf state" informed the Iraqi government of the militias' intention to launch drones toward Kuwait or even to carry out a ground incursion into Kuwaiti territory from southern Iraq. The Iraqi security services did not confirm these reports. "A source in the Shiite Coordination Framework," which brings together prominent Shiite parties in Iraq, said that the Iraqi intelligence service, the Iraqi army, and "Gulf states" are working in coordination to prevent attacks on Gulf states from Iraqi territory (Alhurra, November 2, 2026).