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 and the Shiite militias used the anniversary of the October 7, 2023, attack to stress the importance of continuing the "resistance" against Israel until its elimination.

► Iranian diplomatic activity amid the escalation between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis in Yemen.

Highlights[1]

- Official statements issued by Iran and the Shiite militias to mark the anniversary of October 7, 2023, praised the Hamas attack as a defining moment for the Palestinian cause and stressed the need to continue the "resistance" against Israel.
- Iran reportedly transferred $200 million to Hezbollah for an assistance program for Lebanese residents displaced during the campaign against Israel.
- Houthi attacks inside Saudi Arabia continued, with fatalities reported in strikes on Riyadh's international airport. The Iranian Foreign Minister spoke with his counterparts in Saudi Arabia and other countries in the region amid the escalation in Yemen.
- The Houthis are reportedly working to develop ballistic missiles that threaten all of Israel using components from China.
- The IDF struck a Syrian terrorist who operated under Iranian direction to carry out attacks against IDF forces in southern Syria.

Statements by Iran and the Militias Marking the Anniversary of the October 7, 2023, Attack

- Iran and the Shiite militias issued statements marking the third anniversary of the Hamas attack against Israel on October 7, 2023 ("Operation al-Aqsa Flood"). The statements praised the attack and the role of the Axis of Resistance in the campaign across multiple fronts, while accusing Israel of committing "crimes."

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

Iran

- An IRGC statement said that three years after "this momentous and unforgettable historic event," the strategic balance in the region had shifted in favor of the Axis of Resistance, while the "Zionist regime," along with its principal supporter, the United States, had sunk into a vortex of structural crises and repeated defeats. The statement added that "al-Aqsa Flood" had set the "Zionist regime" on a course toward inevitable decline, not only forever shattering the myth of the invincible Zionist army but also turning the "Resistance Front" in the region into an undeniable strategic reality. It further stated that recent developments in the region demonstrate the full strength of the "resistance" against the front comprising the United States, the "Zionist regime," and their partners within and outside the region, and that the Axis of Resistance continues to stand firm despite intense pressure and the loss of its commanders. In conclusion, the IRGC stressed that the path of "resistance" would continue until the liberation of Jerusalem and the complete destruction of the "usurping Zionist regime" (Tasnim, October 7, 2026).
- Ali Abdollahi, chief of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces and commander of the Khatam al-Anbiya Emergency Headquarters, stressed in a published message that the operation had exceeded anything the "fake Zionist regime" had imagined, disrupted the calculations of the enemies of the "Resistance Front," and "shaken the Zionists." He added that the events of October 7, 2023, had transformed the "Resistance Front's" defensive strategy into an offensive strategy intended to provide a legitimate defense for the Palestinian people and their land, and had accelerated the decline of the "occupying, child-killing, and oppressive Zionist regime." Abdollahi said that the enemies of the Islamic nation, especially the "criminal Zionists without a homeland," should know that the heroic deeds of the "Resistance Front's" fallen members, especially Qassem Soleimani, Hassan Nasrallah, Ismail Haniyeh, and Yahya al-Sinwar, would continue and bring about the end of the "regime occupying Jerusalem." He stressed that the vision and directives of former Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and current Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei concerning the defense of the sacred cause of "Palestine" and the "Resistance Front" would continue to be implemented until the liberation of Jerusalem (Tasnim, October 8, 2026).
- Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei addressed Israel's activity in the Gaza Strip following the October 7, 2023, attack, saying that the events in Gaza and the "massacre" perpetrated in "Palestine" were so inhumane that they could not be justified even in the eyes of Jews around the world. He said that the "violent and inhumane face of the Zionist regime," which had

previously been exposed on a smaller scale over the past 70 years, had now been revealed to the world on a vast scale, illustrating the extent of Israel's "crimes" (Press TV, October 11, 2026).

Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei (Press TV, October 11, 2026)

The Houthis

- Houthi leader Abd al-Malik al-Houthi delivered a speech marking the third anniversary of the start of "Operation al-Aqsa Flood," stressing the Houthis' "enormous" responsibility toward the Palestinians and their stance against the "Israeli enemy." He claimed that when the West and much of the Arab world came to Israel's aid, members of the Axis of Resistance were the only ones who supported the Palestinians. He argued that the exposure of Israel's many "crimes" in the Gaza Strip and the support it received from the West should provide an important basis for many members of the elite and young people to develop a "realistic view" of the West. Al-Houthi further claimed that just as Saudi Arabia had assisted Israel through defensive and offensive actions since the outbreak of the war, Israel is now assisting Saudi Arabia through similar actions against the Houthis. He called on the entire Islamic nation to act in unity against the "Zionist threat," which poses a danger to every part of that nation (Almasirah, October 7, 2026).
- A Houthi Foreign Ministry statement claimed that the "Israeli enemy entity continues to commit war crimes and crimes of genocide" against the Palestinian people but has failed to achieve its objectives. It added that "Operation al-Aqsa Flood" had succeeded in bringing the Palestinian cause back to the forefront, thwarting normalization, shattering Israel's pride, and proving to the world that it is "weaker than a spider's web." The ministry praised the members of the Axis of Resistance for their sacrifices on behalf of the Palestinian people and expressed appreciation for "several free countries and peoples" that had taken practical steps and positions in support of the Palestinian people. The ministry stressed that the Palestinian cause and "liberating the Palestinian people from the yoke of Israeli occupation" are among the Houthis' top priorities (Houthi Foreign Ministry Telegram channel, October 7, 2026).

The Militias in Iraq

- A statement issued by the Ashab al-Kahf ("Companions of the Cave") militia said that "al-Aqsa Flood" had brought the Palestinian cause back to the forefront. The militia stressed that it had been among the first in Iraq to mobilize in support of the Palestinian people in Gaza at a time when others chose to remain silent or even support the "occupation." It further claimed that during the confrontation, possessing and using weapons had been essential to the militia's resilience and deterrent capability. Accordingly, the militia considers retaining its weapons an integral part of the "deterrence and defense equation" required to counter any aggression directed against it (Ashab al-Kahf Telegram channel, October 7, 2026).

The Militias in Syria

- The Islamic Resistance Front in Syria – Possessors of Might (Uli al-Ba's, UAB) stressed that the "al-Aqsa Flood" campaign had brought the Palestinian cause back to the "forefront of human consciousness," ignited the anger of the "oppressed," shaken the foundations of the "Zionist entity," and brought down the arrogance of "global imperialism led by America." The militia said that, as Israel had done in the Gaza Strip, it is also trying to seize territory in Syria that the militia is committed to liberating. It claimed that the resilience of the "resistance" in Syria stems from its belief that its struggle is a single existential struggle also being waged in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Lebanon, Yemen, and Iraq, with Iranian support, and that this is a united front that will not rest until the "occupier" is expelled from every "sacred inch" (Islamic Resistance Front in Syria Telegram channel, October 7, 2026).

Iranian Involvement in Lebanon

- "Two sources familiar with the details" said that Hezbollah received approximately $200 million from Iran in September 2026 to assist displaced residents, despite tightening US economic pressure on Tehran. According to the report, the intermediaries who transferred the funds charged a commission of 20%, four times the usual rate, reflecting the risks involved in working with the organization. The sources explained that Hezbollah intends to pay an initial grant of $3,000 to approximately 50,000 families, prioritizing those whose villages were destroyed or remain isolated because of the Israeli presence (Reuters, October 7, 2026). The US State Department said that Hezbollah is spreading false claims that it continues to receive funding from Iran, and that reports of money transfers from Iran to Lebanon are a "fabricated story." It further stressed that Hezbollah cannot recover in the face of the measures being taken by the Trump administration (Al Arabiya, October 8, 2026).

Iranian Involvement in Iraq

▶ Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei said that the withdrawal of US forces from Iraq is a major victory, demonstrating that the era in which the United States can attack countries, station forces in them, and take control of their political affairs has ended. He said that because the US attack against Iran had failed and the "Resistance Front" had blocked the Americans inside Iraq, they had no choice but to leave. He added, however, that the Iraqi people's revenues and Iraq's airspace remain under US control, and that the suspension of flights from Iran to Iraq demonstrates that although the Americans have withdrawn their ground forces from Iraq, their control over its economy and interference in its affairs continue (Press TV, October 11, 2026).

The Houthis in Yemen

▶ Over the past week, Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree reported that the Houthi armed forces had carried out at least 14 "operations" against various targets inside Saudi Arabia using ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and drones. The targets included airports, with at least six attacks against King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, energy infrastructure, concentrations of military forces, and other military targets. Saree again warned all international airlines not to fly over Saudi territory because it is subject to Houthi military operations, which would spare only the airports in Mecca and Medina. Saree also warned workers at oil infrastructure facilities in Saudi Arabia to stay away from these sites because they are targets for Houthi attacks (Yahya Saree's Telegram channel, October 7–14, 2026).

Houthi poster threatening future attacks on targets in Saudi Arabia
(Houthi Combat Media Telegram channel, October 13, 2026)

▶ Saudi-led coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki said that at least 12 ballistic missiles, eight drones, and two cruise missiles launched toward various targets in Saudi Arabia had been intercepted (Saudi-led coalition forces X account, October 7–14, 2026). At least 17 people were reportedly killed and approximately 319 others injured in several strikes on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh.

Saudi authorities said that the airport would remain closed until October 17, 2026 (Arab media, October 8–12, 2026).

- Houthi Political Bureau member Mohammad al-Bukhaiti declared that the Houthis are prepared to support any action inside Saudi Arabia intended to overthrow the country's current regime. He said that such an initiative could come from a popular movement, opposition forces, or even members of the Saudi royal family. He added that such a coup would be important to save the country's infrastructure, which is being severely damaged by the Houthis (Mohammad al-Bukhaiti's Telegram channel, October 11, 2026).
- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi spoke with his Saudi counterpart, Faisal bin Farhan, and discussed recent developments in the region. Araghchi stressed that there is no military solution to the region's ongoing crises and made clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to provide any assistance needed to facilitate the start of talks between Saudi Arabia and Yemen and help achieve a political solution. Developments in Yemen were also discussed in telephone conversations Araghchi held with the foreign ministers of Iraq, Egypt, and Turkey (Iranian Foreign Ministry Telegram channel, October 12–13, 2026).
- A report by the weapons research organization Conflict Armament Research revealed that the Houthis are working to develop an independent capability to manufacture advanced ballistic missiles, including a locally produced version of Iran's Kheibar Shekan missile, with a range of approximately 1,930 km that puts all of Israel within reach. According to the report, the Houthis developed this independent manufacturing capability using components from China identified in two shipments intended for the Houthis that were seized during 2025. According to the article, the report adds to other reports in recent months revealing that China is the source of most components and goods intended for the Houthis, despite its claim that it complies with the UN arms embargo imposed on them (The Wall Street Journal, October 14, 2026).

The Pro-Iranian Militias in Iraq

- An "Iraqi security source" said that three "armed factions" had not complied with Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi's call to surrender all their weapons and had agreed to hand over only some of their "heavy and special weapons," along with several bases, to the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF). The source, who did not identify the factions, added that they had begun transferring some of their fighters to PMF organizational structures separate from the factions themselves as part of their response to the Iraqi government's demands (Erem News, October 9, 2026).

The Militias in Syria

- On October 9, 2026, the IDF struck Syrian terrorist Yusuf Ali al-Hassoun on the Syria-Lebanon border. He had planned attacks against Israeli civilians and IDF forces in southern Syria under Iranian direction (IDF Spokesperson, October 9, 2026). Six people – five Syrian civilians, including two women, and one Lebanese national – were reportedly injured in an Israeli drone strike on a vehicle near the town of Hawsh al-Sayyid Ali in al-Hermel District, close to the Syrian border (Lebanese Health Ministry, October 9, 2026).
- The Islamic Resistance Front in Syria – Possessors of Might said that it is monitoring the operational movements of the "Zionist enemy" in southern Syria and warned local residents that these activities pose a real danger and are intended to annex their land by exploiting the atmosphere surrounding the approaching elections in Israel. The militia claimed that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu seeks to use this escalation to export his "internal crises" and avoid a crushing defeat against his political rivals. It further claimed that Syrian actors working on Israel's behalf and in coordination with the Syrian government are also operating behind the scenes of Israel's actions in an attempt to force residents of southern Syria to abandon their homes and land (Islamic Resistance Front in Syria Telegram channel, October 8, 2026).