

# THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

## The rocket attack on Eilat: Why now?

[Yoram Schweitzer](#) / February 13, 2017

The barrage of rockets fired at Eilat several days ago by the Islamic State's "Sinai Province" faction, which has claimed responsibility for the attack, should come as no surprise. The question is not why the Salafi-Jihadist organization acted against Israel, but rather why it has not done so before.

Hatred of Israel and Jews has been a well-known tenet of this organization since it was established — it attacked Israel when it was still identified as part of Al-Qaeda. In August 2011, members of Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis killed eight Israelis in an attack that took place on Highway 12 leading to Eilat. A year later, an Israeli Air Force helicopter thwarted a massive attack that the organization attempted to carry out on Kibbutz Kerem Shalom near Gaza. During operation "Protective Edge" in the summer of 2014, it sent a suicide bomber who was intercepted by the Egyptians, and the following winter it fired rockets at Eilat. Hence, the present attempt to launch rockets to Eilat is not surprising. The intriguing question is the issue of timing.

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