

The Times of Israel

An Iranian drone and Israel's disproportionate response

Teheran will likely get the message and back down -- but in case of a clash, Israel now has the upper hand

By [Zaki Shalom](#) and [Jonathan Mintzer](#) 16 March 2018

Last month, Israeli helicopters shot down an Iranian drone after it entered Israeli airspace from Syria. The drone was allegedly launched from Tiyas Military Airbase, approximately 250 kilometers (155 miles) east of the Syrian-Israeli border. The Israeli Air Force had apparently tracked the drone from its launch and waited to shoot it down over Israeli airspace.

Soon after the drone was intercepted, Israeli F-16s targeted the site from which it was launched. Upon their return, the planes were subject to heavy anti-aircraft fire from Syrian forces, and one crew was forced to eject from their plane, which subsequently crashed in Northern Israel. The two crewmembers were injured, one seriously, but have both recovered. Following this incident, the Israeli Air Force began a broad attack on various targets in Syria, and allegedly took out eight Syrian air defense positions and four Iranian military sites in Syria. According to some reports, Israel considered carrying out further retaliatory attacks on positions in Syria, but backed down after a telephone call took place between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Following the incident, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassem issued a statement denying the drone flight and the country's role in targeting Israeli planes as "baseless" and "too ridiculous to be taken seriously."

....

Professor [Zaki Shalom](#) is a member of the research staff at the [Institute for National Security Studies](#) and the Ben-Gurion Research Institute at Ben-Gurion University.

[Jonathan Mintzer](#), an attorney, is a research intern at the [Institute for National Security Studies](#) in Tel Aviv where he primarily researches Israel-United States relations.

For full article, see:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/an-iranian-drone-and-israels-disproportionate-response/>