

On edge about Iran

Diplomatic measures and economic sanctions are not working; the US and Israel need to find new responses to Iranian aggression

By Zaki Shalom and Jacob Aaron Collier / 10 October 2018

According to the Israel Defense Forces, on September 17th, the Israeli Air Force targeted a facility of the Syrian Armed Forces from which systems to manufacture accurate and lethal weapons were about to be transferred on behalf of Iran to Hezbollah in Lebanon. Anti-aircraft fire from Syrian SAM5 batteries in response to the Israeli strikes resulted in the accidental downing of a Russian Ilyushin-20 aircraft, killing all 15 Russian service members aboard. The incident has led to what has arguably been the biggest strain in Israeli-Russian relations since Russia began military operations in Syria three years ago, despite the fact that it had been Syrian anti-aircraft fire that had downed the Russian Ilyushin. Russian defense officials, such as Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu and spokesperson of the Russian Defense Ministry Igor Konashenkov were quick to place blame on Israel.

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