

Iran is risking war by upping the ante in conflict with US

While neither country appears to want a war, Tehran's graduated nuclear escalation is inherently risky, introducing more variables into an already dangerous equation.

By [Ariel Ben Solomon](#)

(July 14, 2019 / JNS) As the United States continues to ratchet up pressure on Iran and as Tehran continues to breach the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the question is whether the increased tensions could trigger a war.

[...]

Raz Zimmt, an Iran expert at the **Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)** and the Alliance Center for Iranian Studies at Tel Aviv University, said Iran's decision to violate its commitments under the JCPOA it is mostly designed to send a message. It's a strategy, said **Zimmt**, aimed at sending a message to the United States and in particular to the European Union that the maximum-pressure strategy and the E.U.'s failure to address Iran's demands concerning the lifting of sanctions—especially on oil exports—will only escalate the situation even further.

Zimmt also sees Iran as trying to gain leverage for future negotiations.

“If and when that [negotiations] happens, Iran would be in a much better position, even though at this stage [Iran's] Supreme Leader Khamenei made it very clear that he opposes any negotiations with the U.S. administration.”

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