

Iran's view of Biden as restrained could lead to hitting Israel harder, INSS

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By Yonah Jeremy Bob / January 6, 2021

Iran could decide to hit Israel hard in 2021 if it views the incoming Biden administration as restrained, according to the INSS annual report issued on Wednesday.

Covering regular national security issues from Hezbollah to Syria to Hamas, to the impact of normalization and diplomacy with the Palestinian Authority, the report also addresses less conventional security dilemmas like the coronavirus, internal domestic instability and climate change.

Regarding Iran, the report says, "Iran has an 'open account' with Israel, and it is possible that Tehran will act aggressively, primarily through its proxies, based on the premise that the new American administration will show restraint in its response and will reduce 'the maximum pressure'" that it has faced.

Next, the report says that, "Israeli deterrence is strong on all fronts and its enemies do not want war with it, but that due to regional instability, constant friction and the difficulty of controlling dynamic developments, the probability of a [military] deterioration running out of control exists and requires a high level of readiness."

In particular, INSS writes that threats from Iranian proxies in the North, including Hezbollah and from proxies in Syria, "are the greatest military threat in 2021," and should be treated as such in terms of how much attention it is given by the defense establishment.

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