

## **This is how Blinken's visit could become a success**

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By Meir Ben-Shabbat / Published on Jan. 30, 2023

Secretary of State Antony Blinken visits Israel this week against the backdrop of a surge of terrorism, but Israel should not let the Palestinian theater dominate the discussions he will have. Despite the combustible nature of the conflict, Israel would be well-served if this issue is not high on the agenda.

The first reason why this is a good idea is that we should not let terrorists feel like they had managed to dictate our diplomatic discussions. The second reason is that the US does not hold the key to changing the dynamics with the Palestinians, and if it were to enter the fray, Israel would face pressure and constraints. The third reason is the most crucial one: The main challenge facing Israel and the region is the Iranian threat, and this is where the US plays a central role.

As far as Israel is concerned, this visit will have been a success if it leads to an agreed roadmap on joint collaboration vis-a-vis Iran, comprising the following components:

- An American-European declaration that the 2015 nuclear deal is officially dead and referring the matter to the UN Security Council to trigger the snapback mechanism that would re-impose sanctions.
- Bolstering US enforcement of the sanctions currently on Iran, especially on the export of oil.

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