

As Iran's Uranium Enrichment Progresses, Israel Contemplates Future Steps

Keren Setton / Feb. 26, 2023

Tehran's steady increase in its levels of uranium enrichment seems designed to grab the West's attention and to be used by Iran as leverage for nuclear negotiations

Iran's recent acknowledgment that it has enriched uranium to 84% purity is cause for alarm throughout the world, experts say. This is especially true for Israel, which defines the Iranian nuclear program as its greatest threat.

[...]

"Both sides are trying to buy more time," explained Dr. **Yoel Guzansky**, a senior researcher at the **Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)** and former member of Israel's National Security Council. "Iran is solidifying its position on the cusp of nuclear capability, accumulating more abilities and knowledge while fortifying the defense of its nuclear sites."

"At the same time, Israel is working on improving its offensive capabilities," **Guzansky** added.

International developments have had a direct impact on the talks. The Russia-Ukraine war and the global economic crisis have held the attention of the international community elsewhere. Iran has grown closer to Russia since the beginning of the war, supplying it with drones that are used to attack Ukraine that have decreased the appetite of Western powers to negotiate with it on a deal.

"There is an overload of challenges in the international arena," said **Guzansky**.

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