

## **Expanding Footprint of Chinese Weapon Systems in Africa a Major Concern for US: Israeli Experts**

By Arie Egozi / January 17, 2023

“As the Chinese do with their economic programs in Africa, they will do now with the increased sales of their weapons to African states and that will further increase their impact,” a Israeli source said. The Chinese effort to achieve deeper penetration into African and Gulf states is reaching a new peak. Middle Eastern sources said that China has stepped up its ballistic missiles program with Saudi Arabia. According to media reports based on information from US intelligence agencies and satellite photographs, China is assisting Saudi Arabia in the al-Dawadami region as it develops its solid-fuel missile program. The satellite photographs show the solid fuel remnants and casting traces of missile engines.

[...]

**Galia Lavi**, a senior researcher in the Israeli **Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)** said that China has long relations with African states, mostly based on investment in infrastructure programs and other business that are based of supplying funding. “Now the Chinese use the Russian situation caused by the war in Ukraine to move into these countries’ defence markets. The Chinese policy is to get the greatest possible influence in foreign countries and now they have added weapon systems to the tools that help them achieve the goal,” said Galia Lavi.

Lavi added that the Chinese also use the fact that the US pulled out of some regions in Africa, and told the relevant countries – “The American left. We are here to supply both economic and military help”.

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