

Iraq ‘gradually turning into a source of threat’ to Israel

A convenient launching pad for Iranian UAVs or missile strikes, this arena should be monitored carefully, according to Israeli observers.

Yaakov Lappin / June 15, 2023

Last month, almost two years after the United States announced the end of combat missions in Iraq, the White House extended an emergency decree regarding the country due to what it called ongoing obstacles to its orderly reconstruction, peace and security.

[...]

Danny (Dennis) Citrinowicz, a senior research fellow at the Tel Aviv-based **Institute for National Security Studies**, assessed that the significant threat to Israel stemming from Iraq involves armed unmanned aerial vehicles.

“In the past, there was a claim of an attempted UAV launch from Iraq at Israel during ‘Operation Protective Edge’ [in 2014, against Hamas in Gaza],” said Citrinowicz, who served for 25 years in a variety of command positions in the Israel Defense Forces’ Military Intelligence Directorate.

He added that Shi’ite militias in Iraq have themselves said that they are building up UAV capabilities, noting that they attack American targets in Syria using UAVs on a regular basis.

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