

Tehran's Opponents See Possible False-Flag Operation in Deadly Attack Near Soleimani's Gravesite

'We, the people of Iran, know very well that the Islamic Republic has experienced many violent episodes by internal groups in order to put the blame on Israel or America,' an Iranian-American journalist and activist, Masih Alinejad, writes.

Benny Avni / Jan. 3, 2023

[...]

"How is it that only civilians were killed and not even a parliamentarian or mayor?" **an Iran scholar at Tel Aviv's Institute for National Security Studies, Beni Sabti**, asks the Sun. Soleimani's closest relatives and associates, including his daughter Zeinab, were nowhere near the prominent event, raising suspicion they may have been warned of a pending attack.

Mr. Sabti also notes that the first world leaders to console Tehran, Presidents Erdogan of Turkey and Putin of Russia, are seen by Iranians as the types who would themselves mastermind false-flag operations. Regime critics suspect that by bombing such a symbolic event, Iran is "seeking legitimacy to attack opponents," Mr. Sabti says.

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