

How Israel-Iran attacks reconfigure the Middle East puzzle

Cristina Cifuentes / Apr. 19, 2024

After a week in which the United States and the international community pressed Israel not to respond to the attacks carried out by Tehran last Saturday, the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ignored and finally decided that the date of its replication would be nothing less than on the 84th birthday of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Thus, in the early morning of Friday, it launched a limited attack on Iranian territory.

[...]

Was there a growing sense that all other means of response to Iran - such as cyber - were ineffective. On the other hand, Israel's weakness - in Iran's eyes - is the fact that it has been lying in Gaza for six months, continues to fight Hezbollah, is in a situation of displaced populations, the wide protest against Israel at the global level, the internal fissure of society and the difficulties in relations with the United States, tells **Eldad Shavit**, chief researcher at the **Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) at Tel Aviv University**.

[...]

I think Iranian action was a significant change in Iranian strategy and is a movement that has the potential to change the rules of the game in the region. For the first time, Iran is carrying out a massive attack on another country and using earth-to-ground missiles. The equation so far has been that Iran is using its allies in the region to respond. Now Israel has to bear in mind that Iran will respond directly to any of its actions on its territory. The balance of deterrence has changed and this is something that both Israel and the other countries of the region and the international community must take into account," warns **Shavit**.

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