



## **‘As bad as its ever been’: Relations between the US, Iran and Israel worry insiders**

‘Something changed in terms of the nature of the rules of the game in the Middle East in a fairly negative way,’ former vice presidential national security adviser tells Gustaf Kilander

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President Joe Biden warned Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel’s prime minister, that the US would not take part in a counterattack against Iran after it launched 330 drones, cruise, and ballistic missiles at Israel.

[...]

**Beni Sabti, a researcher in the Iran program at the Institute for National Security Studies, a think tank connected to Tel Aviv University,** tells The Independent that “it’s because of US weakness in its attitude toward the Middle East countries and also Israel” that current relations in the region are so tense. That, he adds, is a “very good situation for Iran”.

[...]

“I know Biden is in an election year. It’s a very big problem,” Sabti says, adding that Israel needs to be very careful every time Americans go to the polls.

“[The] US doesn’t want any ... big confrontations. [The] US doesn’t want Hezbollah to get into the war,” he adds.

Sabti argues that Iran sees any concessions not as a reason to “stay quiet” but as “a sign of weakness”.

“They will retaliate all the time if you give them some benefits,” he says.

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*For full article:*

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/israel-iran-us-strikes-gaza-damascus-b2529147.html>