

‘Israel will need to examine ways to deal with Iraqi militias’

Israeli observers warn that the Shi’ite militias’ failure to date to mount a significant attack on Israel, the threat they post must not be discounted.

Yaakov Lappin / (April 2, 2024 / JNS)

[...]

Speaking prior to Monday’s incident, **Danny (Dennis) Citrinowicz**, a senior research fellow at the Tel Aviv-based Institute for National Security Studies, told JNS that it would be a mistake to dismiss threats and statements by Shi’ite militias regarding attacks on strategic sites in Israel.

While the gap between some of the previous statements by the militias in Iraq and what actually occurred could tempt observers to trivialize the threat, “We must not dismiss it,” said Citrinowicz.

“In recent years, the build-up of the militias in Iraq has accelerated, including, according to the militias, self-production of capabilities in the field of rockets and missiles. With the generous help of Iran and as part of the desire to push the American presence out of the country, the Shi’ite militias dramatically upgraded their military capabilities, while significantly tightening their connection with Hezbollah,” he stated. The Iranian-backed Iraqi Popular Mobilization Forces, which recently threatened the 2,500 U.S. forces stationed in the country, is a member of the Iranian-backed radical axis, and cooperates with Hezbollah, as well as with Shi’ite militias in Syria.

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