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Iranian proxy from Bahrain joins efforts to destabilize the region

An unverified claim by the Al-Ashtari Brigades that it launched a drone strike against Israel last month is a sharp indication that Iran is working to broaden its proxy war against the Jewish state

Two unidentified men are carrying a model of Iran's first-ever hypersonic missile, Fattah, by a motorcycle during a gathering to celebrate the IRGC UAV and missile attack against Israel, at Palestine Square in downtown Tehran, Iran, on April 15, 2024.

By Ruth Marks Eglash / May 21, 2024

An unverified claim by an Islamist terror group with roots in Bahrain that it launched a drone strike against Israel last month is a clear indication that Iran is working to broaden its proxy war against the Jewish state with new fronts across the region, analysts and experts on Iran and its militant offshoots told Jewish Insider last week.

[...]

“Bahrain is a small island with a large Shia population, about 50-70%, while the ruling dynasty is Sunni,” explained **Ilan Zelayat, a Gulf researcher at Israel’s Institute for National Security Studies and at the Moshe Dayan Center at Tel Aviv University.**

Iran, which is also majority Shiite, has been helping its co-religionists in Bahrain to agitate against the country’s leadership since its own Islamic revolution in 1979, Zelayat said. While none of its efforts have been successful, the 2011 Arab spring saw mass protests by the Shia population in Bahrain. Those were quickly put down by the country’s rulers, he said.

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