

*Tehran talk*

## **Iran in a flurry of diplomatic activity ahead of Israel attack**

The Islamic republic is determined to strike Israel as a matter of “justice and blood revenge,” but will likely limit attack try to avoid broader war, experts say

Iranians burn a representation of the Israeli flag during the funeral ceremony of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and his bodyguard who were killed in an assassination blamed on Israel on Wednesday, at Enqelab-e-Eslami (Islamic Revolution) Sq. on August 1, 2024 in Tehran, Iran.

By Lahav Harkov / August 6, 2024

[...]

**Ben Sabti, a researcher at the Iran program at the Institute for National Security Studies,** said that Iran’s message is one of “justice and blood revenge,” and that the sense of respect and dignity it gets from such diplomatic engagement is important to Tehran.

Monday “was a very unusual day,” Sabti said. “I don’t remember a day with so many people coming and going. Iran was like France all of a sudden; everyone was talking to them.”

Meanwhile, Iran’s proxies remained on the attack, with a [rocket attack](#) on a U.S. military base in Iraq that Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin [called](#) “a dangerous escalation” and linked to Hezbollah’s ongoing assaults on Israel’s north.

But a direct Iranian attack on Israel is almost certain to take place despite any diplomatic efforts to deter Tehran, **Danny Citrinowicz, a research fellow in the INSS Iran Program and the former head of the Iran branch in Israeli defense intelligence,** told *Jewish Insider*.

“Iran’s basic approach is that if they don’t respond, then it’ll be worse next time. Today it’s Haniyeh, tomorrow it’s Khamenei,” he said. “It’s a question of how they’ll respond.”

As for the timing, Citrinowicz said that Iran is “waiting for the time and way that is best for them.”

Citrinowicz argued that by drawing out the prelude to its attack, Iran is already causing psychological damage to Israelis, citing foreign airlines canceling their flights and “minor hysteria” among some of the population.

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