

How Israel Could Strike Back at Iran

By Tom O'Connor , Senior Writer, Foreign Policy & Deputy Editor, National Security and Foreign Policy / Published Oct 02, 2024

And with Tehran threatening to respond to such moves with even greater force, the scope and scale of the looming Israeli operation could determine whether or not the Middle East ultimately slides into an all-out war after a year of tit-for-tat escalations.

Sima Shine, a former head of Mossad's Research and Evaluation Division, told *Newsweek* that she believed it was not in the interests of Israel, Iran, or the United States to enter into such a total confrontation.

[...]

"The question will be whether to go wider or no," **Shine, who now serves as director of the Shiite Axis research program at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies**, said. "And from what I understand, there is an ongoing consultation of the cabinet; they, together with the Americans that are in a very delicate time now, a month before elections."

[...]

Casey Babb, who previously advised Israeli defense ministers and now serves in fellowships at the Macdonald Laurier Institute, the Institute for National Security Studies and the Royal United Services Institute in London, asserted that "the ball is in Israel's court."

"They've proven they aren't afraid of carrying out bold and very daring operations—not just in Lebanon and Gaza, but in Syria, Yemen, and in the heart of Iran, among other places," Babb told *Newsweek*. "That said, they've got a lot of options that appear to be on the table."

Among these targets, **Babb** viewed Iran's nuclear program as a particularly tantalizing target for Israeli forces. While still officially adhering to its long-held doctrine of not seeking a nuclear bomb, Iran has ramped up uranium enrichment and other measures in response to the U.S. decision to abandon a nuclear agreement in 2019 and double down on sanctions against Tehran.

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