



Slow and small, drones find cracks in Israel's high-tech air defenses

By [Dina Kraft](#), Special correspondent [@dinakraft](#) / Oct. 16, 2024

Tel Aviv, Israel

Israel's multilayered missile defense system, which has been adept at intercepting many of the rockets and missiles fired at population centers throughout this multifront war, is facing a new threat: nimble, slower, and often small drones.

[...]

"They are also very maneuverable, able to perform complex and sharp movements in the air and go up and down and below the sight of detection systems," says **Yehoshua Kalisky, a senior researcher at the Institute of National Security Studies**.

"One of the complexities of [Israel's defense] mission is to build a picture of what one is really seeing in the sky," Mr. Haimovitz says. "We are talking about a chaotic picture with a lot of objects and targets to decipher – helicopters, jets, interceptors, enemy rockets, and birds. And in real time you need to build situational awareness in a very busy picture."

Intercepting a drone can also be tricky, Dr. Kalisky says, because fighter planes fly four times faster than drones, and because drones launched into Israel from as close as Lebanon leave little time for interception.

[...]

"We have to have a new outlook in the battlefield and accept the fact that our enemies are using relatively low-tech weapons in an effort to defeat us," says Dr. Kalisky. "So we may have to look back and adopt the old methods."

For full article:

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2024/1016/israel-hezbollah-drones-missile-defense>