



## Assad's fall has rewards for Israel. It's focused on the risks.

By [Dina Kraft](#) Special correspondent [@dinakraft](#) / Dec. 12, 2024,

For 50 years, the Israel-Syria border on the Golan Heights was the quietest in the Middle East. But within hours of Syrian rebel forces seizing Damascus without a fight last weekend, Israeli soldiers crossed into a demilitarized zone in Syria designed as a buffer between the two countries.

[...]

With Iran considerably weakened, the biggest question for Israel now surrounds the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, argues **Danny Citrinowicz, a research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies**, a Tel Aviv think tank.

"Tehran could theoretically enrich uranium to a military-grade level of 90 percent 'as early as tomorrow' and attempt to build a nuclear facility within a few months," he wrote in the Maariv daily newspaper. Yet, he cautioned, "Such a move without Hezbollah's protective umbrella, combined with Israel's demonstrated capability to strike in Iran, and the presence of President Trump in the White House, could pose a direct threat to the regime in Tehran."

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*For full article:*

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