

Iran in crisis: Battling Israel left Tehran too weak to deal with Syria, researcher says

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By Maya Cohen / Dec. 2, 2024

The surprising offensive by Sunni rebels in Syria reveals a deep crisis in Iran's strategy, **Institute for National Security Studies researcher Benny Sabti** said in a recent interview with Maariv, arguing that Tehran's efforts in combatting Israel left the Islamic Republic depleted.

"The Iranians have paid a very high price for operating all their proxies against Israel over the past year," explained Sabti.

Iran finds itself significantly weakened

"Their command has been eliminated, their soldiers and field commanders - many of whom are in Hezbollah, Hamas, and other groups," Sabti noted. As a result, "Iran is entering the campaign in Syria in a very weak state; it has no means to help Assad's regime at all."

This double blow is not only about the inability to provide assistance but also about inflicting harm.

"They targeted a general and several IRGC members, killed them, and captured the Iranian consulate. On one hand, Iran is unable to assist; on the other, it has become a target itself."

Struggling with parallel fronts

According to Sabti, Iran's problem is compounded by its inability to manage simultaneous fronts.

"The Iranians have an issue. They neither like nor believe in fighting on two fronts. When they're focused on the Israeli front, that's all they deal with," Sabti said.

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