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A Joint Army for the Arabian Gulf

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Abstract:

When allies face serious external threats, their disagreements are often sidelined in order to promote a more visibly united front. Indeed, internal and external challenges recently prompted the six Arab monarchies of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain to announce the formation of a joint military command. However, Yoel Guzansky argues that, as past experience indicates, this initiative might remain hostage to intra-Gulf Cooperation Council rivalries and make only a marginal contribution to Gulf security.

Yoel Guzansky is a scholar of political science at Haifa University, Israel and a Research Fellow at the **Institute for National Security Studies**, Tel Aviv University. He has served as Iran co-ordinator at Israel's National Security Council. His forthcoming publications include *The Arab Gulf States and Reform in the Middle East: Between Iran and the 'Arab Spring'* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).