

# Iran Is Testing the Trump Administration

by [Dennis Ross \(/experts/dennis-ross\)](#)

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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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**Tehran seems to believe that anything goes, and the wrong U.S. response may just reinforce that conviction.**

**O**n September 14, drones and cruise missiles struck Saudi Arabia’s most important oil-processing facility, at Abqaiq. The attacks don’t just threaten the global oil supply, of which Abqaiq accounts for roughly five percent. They pose a critical test for the Trump administration. Iran has chosen to act very brazenly with these strikes. If there is no consequence for that choice, the Islamic Republic will be even more emboldened. Worse, an ineffectual response will send a message internationally that there are no rules, no limits, and anything goes...

**[Read the full article on the Foreign Affairs website. \(https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/iran/2019-09-24/iran-testing-trump-administration\)](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/iran/2019-09-24/iran-testing-trump-administration)** ❖

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