

Deconstructing and Countering the Iran Threat Network

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Omer Carmi, a lead researcher with the Israel Defense Forces, analyzes the components of the Iran Threat Network and builds a compelling case for neutralizing harmful Iranian activity in the region and beyond.

The discussion surrounding President Trump's decertification of the nuclear deal has obscured more-urgent threats emanating from the Islamic Republic. These include Iranian efforts to spread its influence as far afield as Nigeria, Azerbaijan, and Pakistan—not to mention its aggressive involvement in closer theaters such as Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. Any policy designed to contain Iran's activities abroad and constrain the players known collectively as the Iran Threat Network (ITN) must therefore follow certain precepts. As a starting point, such a policy must hold Iran accountable for the actions of its partners, establish efficient information sharing with other countries regarding the network, and demonstrate to Shia communities worldwide that Iran is exploiting them, not giving them succor.

In this detailed Policy Note, Omer Carmi, a lead analyst and researcher with the Israel Defense Forces, breaks down the components of the ITN and then methodically builds a compelling case for neutralizing harmful Iranian activity in the region and beyond.

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