

Israel News Digest



Christian Friends of Israel

cfi@cfijerusalem.org

www.cfijerusalem.org

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Is “Persia” Itching for Trouble?

Iranians apparently think they are ancient Persia, and they are trying to spread their tentacles all over the Middle East as ancient Persia did. In the 6th century BC, the Persians conquered the entire Middle East including Egypt and Greece. They even burned Athens around 450.

If some of the Arab states are beginning to cozy up to Israel today, as the Saudis are doing, then it is probably out of fear of Iran that they are doing so.

The Iranians, as most are aware, are planting their feet in Lebanon and Syria, with their eyes on other locations, such as Jordan, Gaza and maybe even Egypt. This is partly due to previous US administrations that winked an eye at Persian antics.

The ancient Persians, however, lived to rue their megalomania. Alexander gave them a trouncing at the Battle of Issus in 338 BC, and he made them eat dirt as he pushed on towards India, wiping out most of the Persian holdings.



Destruction Of Persepolis by Alexander the Great, 330 BCE.
(Artist unknown, www.heritageinstitute.com, Public Domain).

As for the present, satellite images taken near Damascus allegedly show a new permanent Iranian military base that might house missiles capable of striking Israel (*Fox News* report on Wednesday, Feb 28).

The images of the base some 12 km northwest of Damascus, taken by ImageSat International, reportedly show two recently constructed hangars that are similar to other Iranian bases in Syria. According to Fox, Iran's Quds Force, a branch of its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, operates the new base in order to store short- and medium-range missiles.



Iran's Fateh-110 missile in Great prophet-7 military exercise.
(Photo by Hossein Velayati via www.ypa.ir, CC BY-SA 4.0)

In November, the BBC reported that Iran had established another military base at a Syrian Army site south of Damascus. Media reports claimed that the base was destroyed by an Israeli air-to-surface missile in December.

The BBC report, based on Western intelligence sources, said the Iranian base was some 50 km north of the Golan Heights and contained several buildings that likely could have housed soldiers and military vehicles.

Israeli officials have repeatedly said the growing Iranian presence on its borders and the smuggling of sophisticated weaponry from Tehran to Hezbollah in Lebanon via Syria are redlines for the Jewish state.

Last week, a New York Times report on the scope and depth of Iranian entrenchment in Syria showed a high concentration of outposts along the border with Israel, including administrative and logistical bases, control centers for drones, training centers and more.

Former defense minister MK Amir Peretz said on Twitter Wednesday that the report of a new base demands determined diplomatic action.

“The message must be made clear that Iranian military entrenchment constitutes a redline that must not be crossed. If need be, all options will be examined to prevent the entrenchment on the northern border,” he wrote.

In early February, Syrian antiaircraft missiles downed an Israeli F-16 fighter jet, after it carried out retaliatory air strikes, following the infiltration of an advanced Iranian drone into Israel.



Iranian soldiers marching in Military Day parade.
(Photo via www.tashimnews.com, CC BY-SA 4.0)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu then warned at the Munich Security Conference that Israel could strike the Islamic Republic directly and cautioned Tehran not to “test Israel’s resolve.”



Gen. Joseph Votel discusses security challenges in the greater Middle East.

(Photo by Joel Chalfin courtesy DoD News, News, www.defense.gov).

“Israel will not allow Iran’s regime to put a noose of terror around our neck. We will act without hesitation to defend ourselves. And we will act, if necessary, not just against Iran’s proxies that are attacking us, but against Iran itself.”

On Tuesday, Gen. Joseph L. Votel, head of US Central Command, said Iran was “increasing the number and quality” of its ballistic missiles deployed to Syria and had “enhanced” funding for its proxy troops in the Middle East. Of course. They have plenty of money, thanks to the previous US administration.

Those who ignore history, never learn anything from history. As my mother used to say, “those people are itching” for a trouncing.

“When he spoke to me I was strengthened and said, Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength. So he said, Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia...” (Daniel 10:19-20).

In Messiah,

Lonnie C. Mings

A promotional banner for Israel's 70th Birthday celebration. The left side features a collage of historical photos and newspaper clippings, including one from 'THE PALESTINE POST' with the headline 'STATE OF ISRAEL'. The right side shows a night view of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem with fireworks. Text in the center reads: 'Christian Friends of Israel invites you to celebrate Israel's 70th Birthday April 16-19, 2018 in Jerusalem Contact: events@cfjerusalem.org'.