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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

January 8, 2020



Bad Day for Middle East Terrorists: U.S.'s Soleimani Termination Should Focus the Ayatollah's Attention—and Ours

Dear Friend of FLAME:

The death-by-missile of top Iranian General Qassem Soleimani—who was later identified by a distinctive silver ring on the finger of his severed hand—certainly gave Grand Ayatollah Khamenei something to think about.

He should think hard. Iran's response over the coming months to this act of U.S. retribution for numerous acts of Iranian aggression could prove disastrous to the Islamic Republic.

Iran is already reeling from crippling U.S.-instigated economic sanctions, anti-government demonstrations turned deadly in its own streets, and debilitating Israeli military attacks on its imperialist assets.

Soleimani's timely and ignoble death should focus the Iranian kingpin's attention as never before. If it doesn't—if he attempts serious retaliation—Iran will deserve the further decimation it receives at the hands of the U.S. and our equally indignant Middle East allies.

Khamenei should already have gotten the message that Iran's terrorist brand of imperialism is not welcome in the Middle East—especially after some 200 missile strikes by Israel on Iran's threatening weapons facilities in Syria in recent years and, just last August, on Hezbollah in Beirut, Lebanon.

Let's not forget that tiny Israel also broke into a nuclear weapons warehouse smack in the center of Iran's capital, Tehran, and removed thousands of pages of evidence of Iran's cheating on the terms of the nuclear agreement it had with the U.S. and European Union.

Despite this humiliation, the Ayatollah possesses supreme arrogance and a misplaced sense of invincibility. Following an attack by Iranian-led Shiite militias on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq last week, Khamenei mocked the Americans, saying, "You can't do anything."

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2. When will the Arab leadership accept Israel as the national home of the Jewish people? For 72 years, the Jewish people have lived in peace and prosperity in the Jewish state of Israel. The Arab leadership has consistently refused to accept Israel as the national home of the Jewish people.

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Soleimani's demise a few days later proved his boss's assessment embarrassingly false.

Nonetheless, Iran has been singularly persistent and successful in its efforts to spread violent Islamic jihad throughout the Middle East—led primarily by none other than Qassem Soleimani.

- The Lebanese Hezbollah, supervised by Soleimani, is a poster child for proxy militias, in this case one that has effectively taken over governance and military operations in its host country on behalf of Iran.
- Houthi rebels in Yemen—also supported by Iran—threaten to take over that country.
- Syria's President Assad is inextricably beholden to Iran, since Soleimani helped him quell a long, devastating civil war against ISIS and other rebel armies.
- In Baghdad, where Soleimani was killed, Iranian surrogates are a major controlling force in Iraq's government and military forces.
- Leaders of the Palestinian terror group Hamas in Gaza—also beneficiaries of Iranian financial support—are openly mourning Soleimani's death.

In short, few terrorists have had more American (or Arab) blood on their hands than Soleimani, and few have deserved such an ignominious fate more than he.

In addition to Soleimani directing his armies of foreign puppets in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Gaza, Iran has also launched missile assaults on Saudi Arabia's key oil refinery, attacked and harassed cargo ships in the Gulf of Hormuz and shot down a U.S. drone over the Persian Gulf.

These recent acts, of course, supplement decades of attacks on U.S. forces by Iranians or militias under their control—in which hundreds of Americans were killed in Iraq.

While Soleimani's loss is a major setback to Iran—among many such lately—the Islamic Republic is still powerful and determined. Its leaders are guided by a religious fervor that is not likely to be much tempered by rational calculations on the balance of power.

In fact, statements coming from Iran's leadership reflect continued belligerence. Its Information Minister called President Trump “a terrorist in a suit”—ironic, given Iran's informal mantle as the greatest state sponsor of global terrorism. A Hezbollah spokesperson called for the targeting of U.S. military assets.

In any case, both the U.S. and Israeli militaries are on high alert, expecting Iranian retaliation at some level over the coming months.

When Iran does seek its revenge on either the U.S. or Israel, we can be sure that each will respond respectively with devastating hammer blows—not half measures.

Iran is on the ropes—financially, politically (don't forget nationwide popular protests over recent months) and militarily. While the country is well armed,

editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

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Khamenei and Co. surely have limits to how much more credibility and assets they're willing to throw into battle against the U.S. and Israel—two equally determined and better armed combatants.

Above all, pro-Israel advocates should make the case that if further provoked, both the U.S. and Israel have every reason and right to act firmly against Iran's bellicose and imperialistic terror regime. We should support such countermeasures, and the U.S. Congress should support them.

After all, Iran has declared itself our enemy—its chants of “death to America,” often led by Ayatollah Khamenei, make that indisputable.

I hope in conversations with friends, family and colleagues, you'll point out that the U.S. elimination of Qassem Soleimani was entirely justified by the attack on our Baghdad Embassy by his Iranian proxies—it was an act of war.

If Iran attempts to double down with further belligerence in the region—especially against the U.S. or our other allies, including Israel—there should be no discussion of “proportional” response. Iran must now be set back definitively.

In addition, I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to visit FLAME's lively [new Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new hasbarah campaign—outspokenly questioning the validity and wisdom of the so-called two-state solution.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson
President, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. Many politicians in the U.S., as well as in Western Europe, hold steadfastly to the notion of a two-state solution for resolving the Palestinians' conflict with Israel. However, it's become clear as stability in the Middle East deteriorates, power balances shift and the Palestinians themselves continue to reject peace initiatives, that a two-state solution may be no solution at all. That's why FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called [“Is a Two-State Solution Still Possible?”](#) I hope you'll review this hard-hitting paid editorial, which will run in coming months in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*. It lays out seven tough questions that must be answered before two states can seriously be considered. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Pence and President Trump. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME's powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider giving a donation now, as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to [donate](#) now. Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Trump stay focused on realistic policies in relation to Israel, the Palestinians and the entire Middle East.

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