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Resistance Axis: a calculated, simultaneous strike on Israel

A Hezbollah source tells The Cradle that Iran, Lebanon, and Yemen will launch simultaneous retaliatory strikes against Israel, intended to overwhelm the Iron Dome. Let's wait and see.

West Asia stands on a knife's edge as the region's Axis of Resistance prepares to retaliate against a series of recent Israeli assassinations and aggressions.

Iran, Hezbollah, and Yemen's Ansarallah-aligned armed forces have vowed to make the occupation state pay a heavy price following the targeted killing of Hamas political bureau chief [Ismail Haniyeh](#) in Tehran and Hezbollah senior commander [Fuad Shukur](#) in southern Beirut.

Additionally, Israel bombed the Hodeidah port in Yemen following Sanaa's successful 'Yafa' [drone operation in Tel Aviv](#) on 19 July.

An official from the Lebanese resistance has informed *The Cradle* that "The response will come at once from Iran, Hezbollah, and Yemen," adding that the goal was to "inflict a painful blow to Israel which may not be achieved should separate retaliations be pursued."

Executing the 'Unity of Fronts'

Retaliation is all but certain and could happen within hours, according to senior US officials.

A report yesterday by [Axios](#) claims that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken informed his G7 counterparts that the response could begin as early as within the next 24 hours.

Just yesterday, Ali al-Qahoum, a member of the political bureau of Ansarallah, [emphasized](#) that the response to Israel will not just come from Tehran:

We affirm our commitment to the battle, steadfastness, awareness, honor, and pride in standing with Palestine, the cause of the nation.

The critical question now is the scope and severity of the retaliation. Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah has [promised](#) a painful yet calculated blow to Tel Aviv. During Shukur's funeral procession, Nasrallah warned that Israel had crossed the line, promising "a real and well-calculated response" – distinct from the cross-border operations Hezbollah has conducted against Israel since 8 October.

Flattening the Iron Dome

Other well-informed sources agree that the response could be coordinated, suggesting that retaliation from multiple fronts simultaneously is likely. They tell *The Cradle* that such an approach could take Israel's primary air defense system, the Iron Dome, out of commission by preventing it from rapidly rearming. They believe this is achievable given Hezbollah's capacity to launch a significant barrage of missiles and given Lebanon's geographical proximity to potential Israeli targets.

These assessments appear to be consistent with those made by US officials who have [warned](#) that the Iron Dome could be overwhelmed by Hezbollah's missile and drone arsenal should a full-scale war erupt.

Senior US military officials, meanwhile, have gone on the record [cautioning](#) that Washington would probably be unable to provide Tel Aviv with sufficient protection *even in a single front*, full-scale war with Hezbollah. US Joint Chief of Staff Charles Brown said as much in his remarks to the press in late June.

From our perspective, based on where our forces are, the short-range between Lebanon and Israel, it's harder for us to be able to support them [Israel] in the same way we did in April [with [Operation Truthful Promise](#)].

Unwilling US support for Tel Aviv

Although much has been said about the US and its allies successfully thwarting Iran's response to the Israeli attack on its consulate last April, it is noteworthy that all targeted [Israeli military bases were hit](#) during the Iranian retaliatory strikes. Operation Truthful Promise was intended more as a [message](#), indicating that Tehran would no longer tolerate Israeli aggression against its interests.

US military [reinforcements](#) in the region may help intercept missiles and drones coming from Lebanon, while vassal state [Jordan](#) could also [play a part](#) as it did during Iran's retaliatory strikes. However, this also makes US military assets and those of its partners legitimate targets for the Resistance Axis.

As former Pentagon analyst Michael Maloof explains to *The Cradle*:

Hezbollah would likely target US warships in the region that would take part in intercepting missiles directed at Israeli targets.

“As in 2006, I envision US involvement focused more on evacuating many of the 86,000 Americans now in Lebanon who would want to leave,” adds Maloof.

Washington’s top military officials also appear firmly opposed to being drawn into an active offensive role should a wider war erupt with Hezbollah, let alone a dreaded [multi-front war](#). This stance is supported by statements from US Joint Chiefs of Staff Charles Brown, indicating the Pentagon’s limited willingness to protect the occupation state.

Note that Washington’s pledges to defend Israel have made no mention of potential *offensive action*, reflecting an American [desire to avoid a wider war](#). Experts doubt the US will become heavily involved in any full-scale war, supported by public statements underscoring the importance of avoiding regional escalation – and voiced more privately, the desire to keep US military targets safe from retaliatory strikes.

Military risk and political calculations

As Brown said at the time, Washington’s main message is:

To think about the second order of effect of any type of operation into Lebanon, and how that might play out and how it impacts not just the region, but how it impacts our forces in regions as well.

The general – the most senior ranking US military official and the senior military advisor to the White House – was delivering a message that carries special significance amidst the recent developments.

By stating that an Israeli-initiated war on Lebanon put US troops at risk, Brown was essentially saying that a wider regional war was not seen as helping US interests by the Pentagon’s top brass.

Given these statements, it remains possible – though far from guaranteed – that the outgoing Biden administration may rein in Israel regardless of how painful a blow is delivered to it by the Axis of Resistance.

The upcoming US election in November is another factor that may prevent a regional conflagration. “The US getting more militarily involved with Israel,” warns Maloof, “would lead to riots in the streets of Chicago at the Democratic Convention later this month.”

These realities suggest a scenario where Washington might force Tel Aviv to absorb the Axis of Resistance’s retaliation, however severe it may be.

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