Israel’s enemies are learning what resilience really means

written by Meir Ben Shabbat | 19.09.2026

Israel’s enemies have learned to respect not only its military superiority, but also the resilience of its home front and the way Israeli society comes together in the face of an existential threat. The fundamental change we hope to see in Iran will come only when the ayatollah regime reaches the end of the road. Without that, everything achieved so far could prove temporary.

Hezbollah’s pledge of allegiance to Mojtaba Khamenei

written by Dr. Yossi Mansharof | 19.09.2026

Hezbollah’s swift pledge of allegiance provides Mojtaba with a seal of approval from the Iranian regime’s most important strategic asset and assists him in projecting continuity.

What lies behind Trump’s hesitation over Iran?

written by Prof. Zaki Shalom | 19.09.2026

For Washington, there is genuine risk. Iran’s leadership may conclude that it can no longer tolerate a humiliation and launch a direct attack on Israel. That would give Israel grounds for a broad counterattack and could draw the United States into precisely the escalation Trump has sought to avoid. Tehran could also claim

that Israel deliberately tried to provoke an Iranian response in order to force Washington into an all-out war.

An economic drama is unfolding in Iran – Israel must exploit it

written by Dr. Yossi Mansharof | 19.09.2026

Ahead of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's diplomatic visit to Washington, the Israeli defense establishment and decision-makers stand at a critical crossroads. Naturally, the strategic discussion with the American administration focuses on familiar issues – halting the Iranian nuclear program, preventing a renewed buildup of Iran's proxy network, and finding a response to the threat posed by the Iranian missile program.

However, while Israeli and American eyes look toward the battlefields, the smuggling routes, and the nuclear facilities in Natanz, Fordo, and Mount Mokhash, one must not ignore the most critical component that could tip the scales – the cumulative economic effect and deep internal fragility within Iran itself.

The reality in Tehran is far from stable. Beneath the regime's shell of regional and global threats, the Iranian economy continues to bleed. The damages of war and the naval blockade, the sanctions, alongside structural corruption and the massive investment of state resources into funding regional terrorism – whether in Lebanon, Yemen, or advanced weapons systems from Russia and China – are pushing the regime against the wall. These consequences do not remain at the macroeconomic level alone. They trickle directly into the pocket of the average Iranian citizen, who is daily losing purchasing power and trust in the system.

The regime's most significant vulnerability currently manifests in its plan to execute a sharp hike in fuel prices. This is a move it tried to avoid for years due to its immense public sensitivity. Raising fuel prices will create a dizzying effect in Iran, as it will also translate into price increases for transportation, basic

commodities, and services. In doing so, it is expected to exacerbate the pressure on the Iranian public.

For the government in Tehran, the issue of fuel subsidies is not merely a budgetary question, but one of political life and death. The collective memory of the November 2019 events – when a sudden and drastic fuel price hike led to a nationwide wave of protests that was brutally suppressed through the killing of hundreds of citizens – still hovers over senior officials in the Iranian leadership.

The Iranian regime rightly fears that a similar step today, under conditions of extreme economic distress, surging unemployment, and memories of the massacre of thousands of demonstrators in the January 2026 protests, could reignite the fire in the streets. This could fuel a popular wave of protest that would take on massive proportions and destabilize the government in a manner completely different from any external pressure. Therefore, any Western strategy toward Tehran must take into account this internal boiling point.

The message that Israel must bring to Washington must be clear – applying heightened economic pressure and tightening sanctions are not merely punitive measures, but a primary strategic lever. The deeper the economic distress grows, forcing the regime to take steps dangerous to its own stability, such as raising fuel prices, the greater the internal pressure will be that forces regime leaders to turn their attention inward. The focus will shift to survival instead of exporting terror and regional subversion.

We must convince the American administration that the struggle against Iran must include intercepting the regime's economic lifelines. Combining active containment of its regional proxies with a deepening of Tehran's internal economic crisis – with all its explosive social implications – is the key to a genuine destabilization of the regime and the threat it poses to the entire Middle East.

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Israel must retain the right to strike Iran first in this battle for survival

written by Prof. Zaki Shalom | 19.09.2026
When hostile regimes declare their intention to destroy the Jewish state, the country has the right and duty to take preventive action.

Iran war risks becoming America’s next Vietnam

written by Col. (res.) Dr. Hanan Shai | 19.09.2026
Four months into the Iran campaign, the US risks repeating Vietnam by relying on gradual pressure over decisive victory.

Iran’s threats against Trump must be taken seriously

written by Dr. Yossi Mansharof | 19.09.2026
Western observers tend to dismiss the new supreme leader’s threats as mere rhetoric. In reality, revenge is an ideological imperative that Iran has sought to put into practice by recruiting operatives and activating proxies inside the US.

A no-nonsense, strategic approach to Iran

written by Meir Ben Shabbat | 19.09.2026
Against enemies of this kind, deterrence cannot be relied upon. Only prevention and the denial of capabilities can provide real security.

Let us not fool ourselves: Iran has not changed

written by Elie Klutstein | 19.09.2026
The Iranian leadership has not changed its goals or ideology, and the chants to kill Americans and Israelis are still what the public hears from its government.

Do not succumb to Iran’s deterrence equation

written by Dr. Yossi Mansharof | 19.09.2026
History shows that Israeli concessions in the face of Iranian threats lead to demands being escalated, not to calm. In the Middle East, and certainly when dealing with the regime in Tehran, giving up freedom of action out of risk of escalation is not seen as an act of responsibility.