

Israel Preparing for War on Iran?

By Stephen Lendman

Global Research, December 26, 2019

Region: Middle East & North Africa

Theme: Intelligence

In-depth Report: **IRAN: THE NEXT WAR?**

Israel's longtime goal is unchallenged Middle East dominance partnered with Washington.

Achieving it depends on transforming independent regional nations into US/Israeli vassal states by war or other hostile means, Iran most of all.

Along with Turkey, it's the only regional country able to challenge Israel militarily if attacked.

On Wednesday, IDF chief of staff General Aviv Kochavi claimed Jewish state friction with Iran may increase next year, perhaps leading to war.

Fact: Nonbelligerent Iran threatens no one. Along with the US and NATO, Israel threatens world peace, stability and security.

Kochavi falsely called Iran Israel's main threat, stressing that close ties to Washington is its key strategic asset.

He ignored Jewish state undeclared war on Palestinians and Syria, time and again terrorbombing Gaza and the Syrian Arab Republic with impunity, the world community ignoring its high crimes of war, against humanity, and slow-motion genocide against long-suffering Palestinians.

Nuclear armed and dangerous Israel falsely claims nonbelligerent Iran poses a nuclear threat.

Its legitimate program has no military component, repeatedly confirmed by the IAEA, its inspectors banned from illegal Israeli nuclear sites, Iran's legal ones the world's most heavily monitored.

According to Kochavi, Israel is preparing for war on Iran. If launched, it'll be preemptive by the Jewish state, possibly together with the US, not the other way around by a nation that hasn't attacked another one in centuries, what Israel and Washington do repeatedly.

"We will not allow Iran to entrench itself in Syria, or in Iraq," said Kochavi, failing to explain that Tehran works cooperatively with these nations and others, its military advisors alone in Syria, helping Damascus combat US/Israeli supported terrorists.

Kochavi falsely accused Iran of "smuggl(ing) advanced weapons (into Iraq) on a monthly basis, and we can't allow that."

Responding, Iraqi parliamentarian Hassan al-Kaabi called his remarks "incorrect and politically motivated," bent on "creating sedition and finding an excuse to infiltrate into the Iraqi territory."

Along with the US, Israel is likely involved in stoking violence, vandalism and chaos in Irag.

The Jewish state terror-bombed Iraqi sites several times, the Pentagon reportedly providing air support.

According to Kochavi: "In the coming war (with Iran, Syria, Lebanon or Gaza), we will have to attack with great force in populated areas and also target the state structure of the entity that allows terrorism to act against us (sic)."

"Israel will target everything that helps in combat operations, such as electricity, fuel, bridges," and other targets at its discretion.

Israel considers civilians legitimate targets, striking residential areas indiscriminately in all its wars of aggression, the policy stated earlier by future IDF chief General Gadi Eisenkot, saying:

"We will apply disproportionate force at the heart of the enemy's weak spot (civilians) and cause great damage and destruction."

"From our standpoint, these are not civilian villages (towns or cities). They are military bases. This is not a recommendation. This is a plan. And it has been approved."

Retired General Giora Eiland earlier said Israel's war strategy is all about destroying "the national infrastructure (of enemies) and (inflicting) intense suffering among the population."

This strategy reflects core Israeli policy — to cause maximum casualties, destruction, displacement and human suffering, grave international law breaches.

In November, former Israeli envoy to Washington Michael Oren said the Jewish state is preparing for war with "Iranian proxies," falsely accusing Tehran of "provocations," adding:

Senior Israeli officials met "to discuss the possibility of open war with Iran...Israeli troops, especially in the north, have been placed on war footing."

"Israel is girding for the worst and acting on the assumption that fighting could break out at any time."

Zionist ideologue Oren once arrogantly said: "We expect the world to stand with us."

He's a polarizing figure. Brandeis University students earlier strongly protested against his choice as commencement speaker by university officials.

A letter signed by scores of students slammed his "far-right positions" and marginalization of growing numbers of US Jews who disagree with him.

What's coming in the new year may be more war at a time when the world community should prioritize ending ongoing ones.

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