

The entire Middle East region could flare up

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)

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There is a danger that the war in the Middle East will escalate and extend to the entire Middle East – Central Asian region.

The US, Israel and Turkey have formulated concrete war plans involving air raids on Iran's nuclear sites.

The use of tactical nuclear weapons is contemplated.

The bombings of Lebanon by Israel are part of an integrated military agenda. These are not spontaneous bombing raids by Israel. They have Washington's approval. They could indeed be used as a pretext to trigger a much broader military operation.

The G8 is meeting on the 17th of July. On the agenda is a draft UN security council resolution pertaining to Iran's alleged nuclear weapons program, which has been tacitly approved by Russia and China. This resolution, if adopted, could open the way for punitive bombings on Iran, with the full support of America's European allies. Israel is a part of the military coalition. If these bombing raids were to be carried out, the entire region would flare up.

It is therefore essential that citizens' movements around the world act consistently to reverse and dismantle a military agenda which threatens the future of humanity.

Iranian president says Israeli attack on Syria to meet "strong response"

Text of report by Iranian radio on 14 July

In a telephone conversation last night, the Iranian and Syrian presidents condemned the Zionist regime's attacks on Lebanon and Gaza. They called on the Islamic nations to show their support for the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

Mr [Mahmud] Ahmadinezhad expressed grave concerns over the Zionist military's attacks on Palestinian and Lebanese civilians. He described the aggressions as the sign of weakness on the part of the illegitimate regime. He said despite what the Zionist officials may think, such actions cannot save the regime.

Commenting on the recent Israeli threats against Syria, the president said that the regime's ever increasing aggressive measures would be interpreted as an attack on the whole of the

Islamic world, adding that it would meet with a strong response.

For his turn, the Syrian President Bashar al-Asad, said that by attacking Gaza, the Zionist regime had broken the one-year long ceasefire, and had created a new crisis. He added that the courageous, timely and decisive response by the Hezbollah had surprised and angered the leaders of the regime. Pointing out that many popular groups from various Islamic countries had expressed their willingness to fight the occupiers in the troubled areas, Mr Asad said that Israel would face a fierce response should it decide to commit another mistake and attack Syria. He added that Syria was not afraid of any threats.

Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 0430 gmt 14 Jul 06

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