



[Leak of Israel's Plan to Attack Iran](#)

The United States has launched a probe following an unauthorized leak of classified documents which detail Israel's anticipated attack on Iran. The materials were posted last Thursday by an account on the Telegram platform, with both documents marked "top secret" and dated October 15th and October 16th. [According to news outlets such as CNN](#), one item is from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) and discusses Israel's plans to move munitions around; while the other is attributed to the National Security Agency (NSA) and outlines Israeli air force exercises involving air-to-surface missiles – something believed to be in preparation for a strike against Iran. U.S. intelligence officials have also confirmed the authenticity of the documents. The implications of the leak have elicited concern relating to the security of U.S. intelligence, with one official commenting that while "the content is not that significant...the fact that there was a leak is a lot more significant."

The nature of the leak and its timing has led to speculation about the identity of the leaker(s), how the documents were obtained, and the veracity of the information contained within them. Experts, such as [Trita Parsi of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft](#), [have suggested possible theories](#) regarding potential actors involved in the leak and their motivations. Some others have suggested that given the relative unimportance of the information contained within the documents, this may have been an authorized leak – even by the Israeli government itself in an effort to incite trepidation about the impending attack. Whether or not the leak was intentional, the identity of who was behind it remains an open question. So far, investigators are trying to determine if the leak was carried out by a member of the U.S. intelligence community, or obtained by alternative methods such as a hack. This has fueled further unease over the possibility that any other intelligence information may have been compromised.

One of the things that analysts and investigators are considering is whether this could have been a psy-op attack by hackers tied to the Iranian regime. In the past, Iranian officials have hacked U.S. government and government-related entities, most recently the 2024 Trump presidential campaign roughly a month ago. This theory suggests that while Iran may be incapable of totally preventing damage from the anticipated attack, a leak could potentially forestall it. Some have also put forth the idea that the leak may have been committed by a United States ally, as the documents were available to the Five Eyes (FVEY) – the international Anglosphere intelligence alliance comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The motive behind this possible scenario, it has been suggested, could be the result of frustration from U.S. allies with the Biden administration's failure to restrain the Netanyahu government's belligerent behavior – to the point that they decided to leak the information as an act of disapproval.

Others have also hinted that the leak may have been an inside job by a member of the U.S. intelligence community, and the result of internal dissatisfaction with the Biden administration's Gaza War policy and its lack of success in curtailing the destructive Israeli war efforts. This could have been carried out as an act of protest regarding the role that Israel has played in escalating regional hostilities and to derail the expected Israeli attack against Iran or to, at the bare minimum, at least try to indefinitely delay it given that it is something which peace advocates are on the edge about and understandably fear might trigger the onset of all-out war in the Middle East.

The fact that the leak came mere days after [President Biden confirmed knowledge of when and how Israel may carry out its attack](#) lends some credence to this as a possible motivation behind it.

Earlier this week, the FBI announced that it had opened an investigation into the leak, and that it would be first primarily focusing on individuals who had authorized access to the documents.