



Axis of Resistance
Iran-backed militias *Fighters*

GAZA STRIP

■ **Hamas:** Since its creation in 1987, extremist movement has been committed to destroying Israel.
 Qassam Brigades, military wing **20,000-25,000**

■ **Palestinian Islamic Jihad:** Formed 1981. Armed wing **Al Quds Brigades** – up to **15,000**

■ **Al Nasser Brigades:** Third-largest force, comprising about **5,000** fighters

■ **Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade:** Formed late 2000 during second intifada. About **2,000** fighters

■ **Omar Al Qasim Forces:** Up to **1,500** fighters

■ **Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades:** Wing of Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine. **Hundreds**

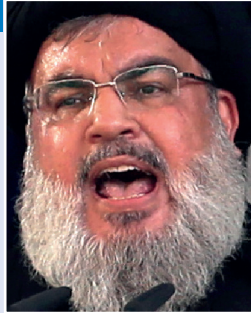
WEST BANK

■ **Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hamas, Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, and affiliates**

LEBANON

■ **Hezbollah:** Formed in 1982. Manifesto calls for destruction of Israel.
 30,000-45,000

Oct 2023: Hezbollah chief, **Hassan Nasrallah** (right) adopts emergency plan for war between Israel and Hezbollah



IRAQ

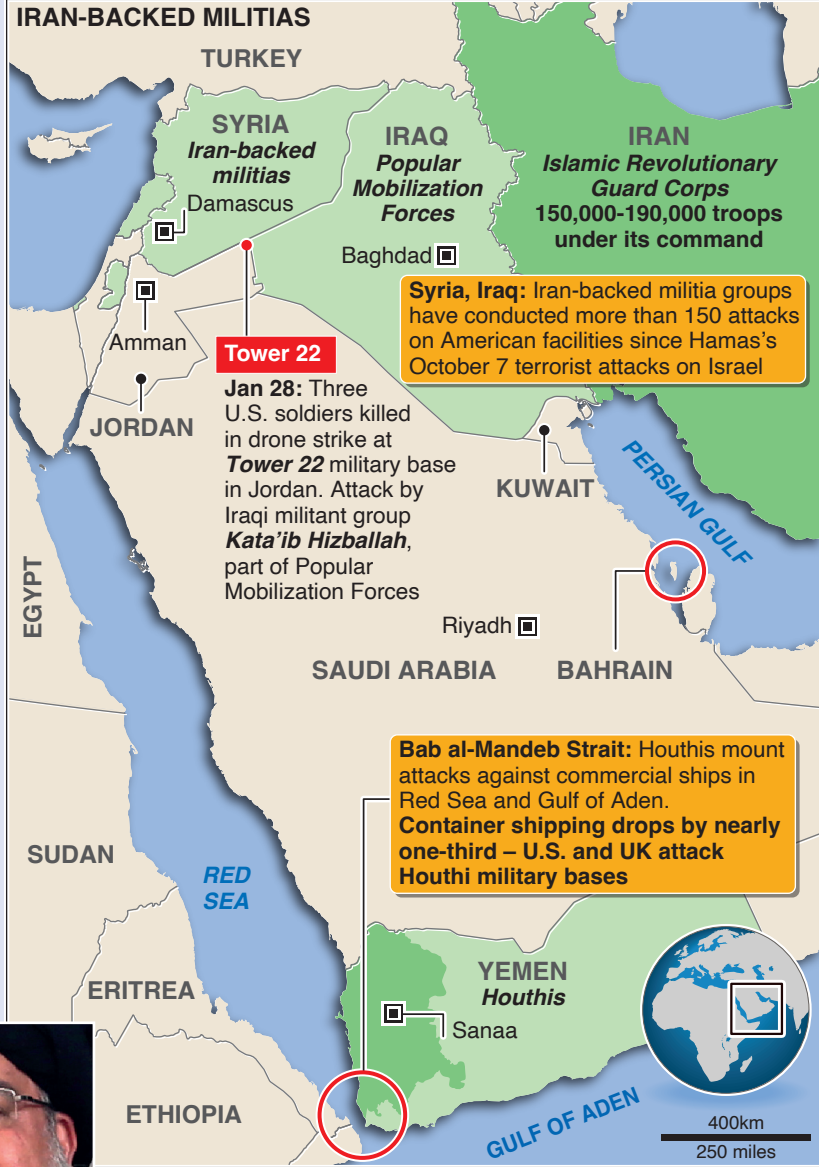
■ **Popular Mobilization Forces:** PMF has more than 60 armed factions – **230,000**

■ **Badr Organisation:** Created by Iranian intelligence during Iran–Iraq War. **10,000-30,000**

■ **Asaib Ahl al-Haq:** Three brigades of PMF. Up to **15,000**

Middle East flashpoints

Attacks by Iran-backed militant groups throughout the Middle East – including the first to kill U.S. service members – have dramatically heightened the risk of regional war



Syria, Iraq: Iran-backed militia groups have conducted more than 150 attacks on American facilities since Hamas's October 7 terrorist attacks on Israel

Tower 22
Jan 28: Three U.S. soldiers killed in drone strike at **Tower 22** military base in Jordan. Attack by Iraqi militant group **Kata'ib Hizballah**, part of Popular Mobilization Forces

Bab al-Mandeb Strait: Houthis mount attacks against commercial ships in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Container shipping drops by nearly one-third – U.S. and UK attack Houthi military bases

SYRIA

■ **Fatemiyoun Brigade:** Afghan refugees in Iran who fight on side of Syrian government.
 10,000-15,000

■ **Zainabiyoun Brigade:** Shia Pakistanis recruited to fight in Syria. Up to **5,000**

■ **Quwat al-Ridha:** Hezbollah-trained pro-government Syrian militia. **3,000-3,500**

■ **Baqir Brigade:** Backed by Iran's **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)**. **3,000**

BAHRAIN

■ **Al Ashtar Brigades:** Funded, trained and armed by IRGC to overthrow Bahraini government. **Unknown**. Iranian leaders claim Bahrain is Iran's "fourteenth province"

YEMEN

■ **Houthis:** Formed in 1990s. Seized capital of Yemen, Sanaa, and overthrew Saudi-backed government in 2014.
Houthis attack commercial ships in Red Sea.
 Up to **30,000**