

INFER Issue Report

Violent Non-State Actors Advancing Iran's Agenda

February 2024

This report is a summation of crowdsourced predictions. It should not be viewed as an analytic product.

[Interested in an issue decomposition on another topic? >>](#)

Violent Non-State Actors Advancing Iran’s Agenda

Iran’s influence on violent non-state actors (VNSAs) like Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis has long been a source of instability in the Middle East. This heatmap analyzes crowd forecasts from the signals below to show whether INFER’s forecasts indicate that VNSAs are advancing Iran’s agenda.

Decreasing Advancement

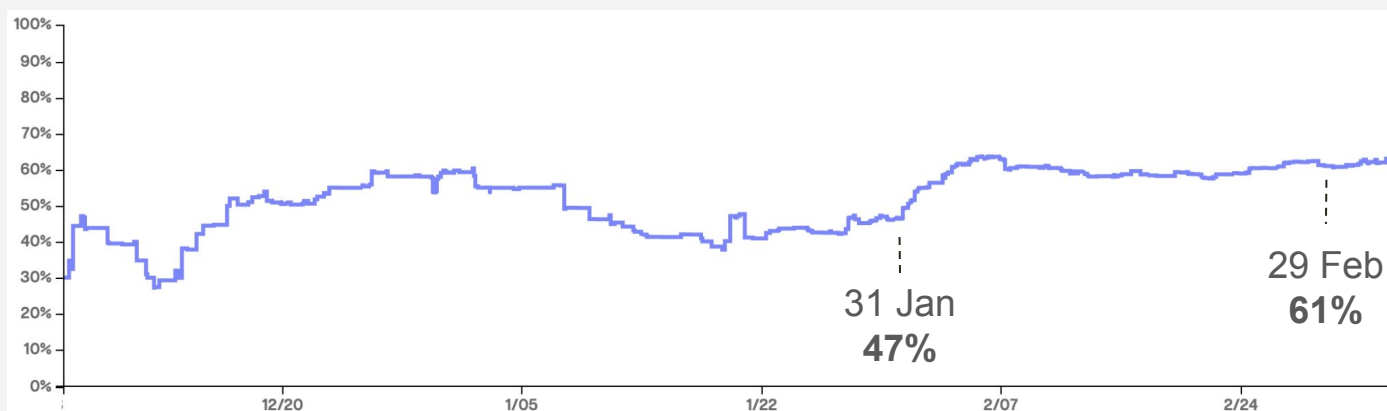
Status Quo

Increasing Advancement

Drivers	Signals		INFER Probability Forecast		
			31 Dec	31 Jan	29 Feb
Iranian Stability	Anti-government protest takes place in Iran with 10,000 or more participants lasting at least a week		14%	11%	10%
Threats to Iranian Allies	Houthi rebels execute an attack against an Israeli civil or military vessel in the next six months		25%	11%	6%
	Houthi rebels launch a missile that strikes within Israel in the next six months		26%	14%	7%
	Houthis and Yemen reach a ceasefire that is in effect on 31 December 2024 and lasts at least six months		25%	6%	4%
	Israel and Hamas agree on a 30-day or longer pause in the conflict before December 2024		59%	47%	61%
	Hezbollah launches a missile that impacts more than 10 km into Israel in the next six months		N/A	37%	RESOLUTION: YES FINAL FORECAST: 84%
	[NEW] Will BP or Shell resume oil shipments through the Red Sea before 31 March 2024?		N/A	N/A	1%
Direct Threats to Iran	Iran launches missiles or conducts an airstrike against U.S. forces in the next six months		4%	4%	2%
	Iran launch missiles targeting Israel or conduct an airstrike in Israel in the next six months		2%	3%	1%
	Israel and Saudi Arabia resume normalization process in the next six months		2%	4%	2%
Iranian Economy	Highest price per barrel of Brent crude oil between 4 December 2023 and 31 March 2024	Less than \$90	55%	60%	81%
		\$90 - \$99.99	39%	35%	17%
		\$100 - \$109.99	5%	3%	1%
		\$110 - \$119.99	1%	1%	0%
		\$120 or more	1%	0%	0%

Question Spotlight

Will there be an agreed-upon pause in the conflict between Israel and Hamas that starts before 1 December 2024 and lasts at least 30 days?



On 31 January, forecasters predicted a 47% chance that Israel and Hamas agree to a 30-day or longer pause in the conflict before December. Since then, forecasts have risen to an average of 61%. Forecasters gave the following reasons for thinking that the probability of a ceasefire was *more likely*:

- **International pressure:** There is significant international pressure on both sides to reach a ceasefire agreement, including from the U.S., Arab states like Egypt and Qatar, and international bodies like the UN [[@Plataea479](#), [@lgnaalbe](#)]
- **Ongoing negotiations:** Israel and Hamas have proposed deals involving pauses and hostage/prisoner exchanges [[@MoritzLudwig](#), [@MoritzLudwig](#)]
- **U.S. support for a pause:** U.S. officials remain confident a deal can be reached and have proposed resolutions calling for a pause [[@ctsats](#), [@ctsats](#), [@cmeinell](#)]

In contrast, forecasters said that the probability of a ceasefire is *less likely* because:

- **Netanyahu pushback:** Netanyahu has stated repeatedly he wants total victory over Hamas, not a ceasefire [[@cmeinell](#), [@vex](#), [@lgnaalbe](#)]
- **No historical precedent:** Previous short ceasefires have quickly broken down [[@fionack](#), [@paulazhang](#)]
- **Hamas demands:** Hamas has demanded maximalist concessions that Israel is unlikely to accept [[@cmeinell](#)]

As of 29 February, 117 people forecasted a total of 418 times in this question. The forecasters who have participated tend to be more accurate than average.