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IRANIAN WARSHIPS TO PASS THROUGH SUEZ CANAL — ISRAEL CALLS IT A 'PROVOCATION'

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Iran just threw gasoline on an already raging fire in the Middle East. According to reports, two Iranian warships have set out for Syria and are planning on using the Suez Canal, a route that would bring it dangerously close to Israel, to get there. Israel is considering the move an act of "provocation" that it may not be able to "ignore."

The Jerusalem Post [reports](#):

The Israel Navy will be tracking two Iranian warships as they make a rare crossing of the Suez Canal late Wednesday night and sail into the Mediterranean Sea.

The two ships will cross into the Mediterranean Sea on their way to Syria. Defense officials said that Israel would track the ships but that their presence in the sea would not change anything for the Navy's operational deployment.



An Iranian warship takes part in a naval parade in 2006.

(Photo: AP)

"It is strange for the Iranian Navy to use the Suez Canal since it really doesn't have anything to look for in the Mediterranean Sea," one unnamed official told the Post.

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman told the Post the planned crossing of the Suez by the Iranian ships is a "provocation that proves that the overconfidence of the Iranians is growing from day to day."

"The international community needs to understand that Israel will not be able to ignore these provocations forever," he added.

According to [IsraelNationalNews.com](#), the ships are [planning](#) on docking in Syria for a year, and [UPI.com](#) [reports](#) that Iranian ships in the Red Sea area may be involved in supplying radical Muslim groups from Yemen with weapons.

The military maneuver comes as last week Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad hosted a massive

anti-American and anti-Israel rally.



“We will soon see a new Middle East materializing without America and the Zionist regime and there will be no room for world arrogance (the West) in it,” Ahmadinejad told cheering crowds in Tehran’s Azadi (Freedom) Square on Friday.

The move also comes amid growing anti-government unrest in Iran. This week, protesters have been heard [chanting](#) “Death to the dictator!” while Iranian leaders have called for the [execution](#) of opposition demonstrators.

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