By Sacha Wigdorovits

Apple TV is currently showing the third season of “Tehran”, a spy series focusing on a Mossad agent in Tehran. Before the start of each new episode, it is pointed out that all the characters are fictional.

That may be true. What is certain, however, is that some of what can be seen in the series corresponds exactly to what is happening in the current war being waged by Israel and the USA against the Islamofascist mullah regime in Tehran and its henchmen. This includes the fact that the Mossad has hacked the traffic monitoring system and the mobile phone network in Tehran in order to obtain an accurate and up-to-date picture of the whereabouts of key enemy players.

This was reported by the British Financial Times, citing an Israeli intelligence officer. He said: “We know Tehran like we know Jerusalem.” Thanks to access to the traffic cameras stationed throughout Tehran, the Mossad was able to observe the movements of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei’s bodyguards and confidants as well as high-ranking representatives of the Mullah regime for years and knew exactly when they were where.

This was also the case last Saturday morning, when they met Ayatollah Khamenei for breakfast in his palace – and not in one of his bunkers. This information enabled the Israeli air force to attack at the right moment, not only razing the palace to the ground, but also eliminating the supreme leader of Iran and various important people close to him. To prevent them from being warned, the Mossad simultaneously jammed the mobile phone network around Khamenei’s residence.

Together with other air strikes, Israel and the USA succeeded in eliminating around 40 leading figures and high-ranking representatives of the government, Revolutionary Guards and Iranian army in the first few hours of the current war.

It is astonishing that this has been achieved again. After all, at the beginning of the 12-day war in June last year, Israel was able to take out a whole series of important Iranian leaders at a joint meeting right at the start thanks to surveillance of Iranian mobile phone traffic. Apparently, the mullahs and their military personnel had learned nothing from this.

Just like back then, the attack on the Iranian leadership took place at a time when diplomatic talks between representatives of the USA and Iran still seemed to be

negotiating. It was clear from the outset that these negotiations were a farce and doomed to failure. The positions of the two sides were diametrically opposed.

## “The regime knew it would go to war and lose it”

The USA’s demand that Iran stop its nuclear program, which is aimed at producing a nuclear bomb, was unacceptable to the Islamofascist regime in Tehran. As was the demand that it should give up its ballistic missiles. After all, both are necessary for the mullahs to achieve their two central political goals: the destruction of the Jewish state of Israel and Islamist-motivated dominance over the Arab states and the West.

“Complying with American demands would have been a total capitulation for the regime in Tehran,” says Professor Meir Litvak, Director of the Alliance Center for Iranian Studies at Tel Aviv University TAU. In view of the widespread dissatisfaction among the Iranian people, this risk was considered greater than a war. “The regime knew that rejecting President Trump’s demands would mean war, and that Iran would lose this war,” says Litvak. “But it believes that it can survive this war and will therefore still achieve its goal in the long term: to be the undisputed leader of the Islamic world.”

It is currently impossible to say whether the mullahs’ calculations will work out. The regime was able to put down the massive protests of recent months by a population suffering from oppression and a poor economy with bloodshed. But whether it will succeed a second time is uncertain. In the first days of the war, the main targets of Israeli and American air strikes were not only the top leadership but also the missile launching facilities and production sites as well as nuclear facilities. But now the attacks are increasingly targeting the centers of the Revolutionary Guards and the regular army. This is intended to weaken them in view of a possible uprising, possibly armed with the help of the USA or Israel.

In addition, the armed Kurdish groups stationed in the Iraq-Iran border region are considering intervening in the war. The Israeli air force has therefore begun bombing Iranian positions there in order to create better conditions for the Kurds to intervene.

It also cannot be ruled out that differences of opinion and internal battles will arise within the Iranian power structure as the war continues. This in turn would encourage a popular uprising against the current government.

## USA and Israel: partners with partly different goals

The USA and Israel agree that everything must be done to bring about the fall of the mullahs and the destruction of the Iranian nuclear program. Albeit for partially different motives. “For Israel, the Iranian nuclear program is an existential threat,” says Chelsie Mueller from the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies. The American government also sees it that way, explains Mueller. But for the US, the main concern is that Iran is “an obstacle to American supremacy in the world” due to its current close relationship with China, which obtains a large proportion of its oil from the mullahs.

Mueller argues that the current military action by the USA in Iran should therefore be seen in line with the USA’s claim to Greenland and its actions in Venezuela. In all three cases, the aim is to secure the dominance of the USA over China and Russia. “That’s why the war that US President Trump is now waging against Iran is also very much in line with his America First strategy.”

Mueller is convinced that, since Trump cannot run for another term in office anyway, it won’t matter to him if opinion polls show that a large part of the American population sees it differently. Polls currently show that the majority of Democratic voters in the US are against the war with Iran, while the vast majority of Trump’s Republican voter base approve of it.

There is no such division in Israel. According to surveys, almost 90% of the Israeli population approve of the war against Iran. And even in the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, there is cross-party unity on this issue. Whether this will succeed in toppling the Mullah regime, however, is an open question in Israel too.

## Unique opportunity to disarm Hezbollah once and for all

However, the experts in Israel see a good chance of definitively eliminating another source of danger, which is more of a “secondary theater of war” in the current conflict: Hezbollah in Lebanon. The Shiite terrorist organization, which is financed and armed by Iran, began firing rockets into northern Israel shortly after the start of

the current war against Iran.

“The attack by the USA and Israel on Iran, which is its main sponsor, was a moment of truth for Hezbollah,” says Professor Eyal Zisser from Tel Aviv University, “it had to take part in this war, even though it knew that this was a suicide mission.” A suicide mission because it gave Israel another opportunity to eliminate Hezbollah as a military power once and for all.

Israel had already started this during the Gaza War, in which Hezbollah also took part after initial reluctance. However, under European and American pressure, Israel concluded a ceasefire with the terrorist organization based in southern Lebanon in November 2024. This was before Hezbollah had finally been overpowered and crushed. “That was a bitter disappointment for the majority of Lebanese political eauch in the Establishment,” says Zisser. They had hoped for help from the Jewish state in eliminating the terrorist organization, which was also feared in their own country.

It was agreed in the ceasefire of November 2024 that Hezbollah would have to be disarmed. However, it was equally clear that the Lebanese army would not be able to do so. Only the Israeli army is capable of doing so – and now that Hezbollah has intervened in the war against Iran, it has the next opportunity to do so. “Israel should not let this opportunity to disarm Hezbollah pass,” Zisser makes clear. “Because this could finally secure peace in the north of the country.”

There are still many unanswered questions surrounding the war against the mullahs in Tehran. But one thing is certain: the war to overthrow this Islamofascist regime was unavoidable, and it is the right thing to do. This applies above all to Israel and the oppressed people of Iran. But it also applies to us in Europe and the rest of the world, who have also suffered under Iranian terror over the past 45 years.

---

Sacha Wigdorovits is President of the Fokus Israel und Nahost association, which runs the website fokusisrael.ch. He studied history, German and social psychology at the University of Zurich and has worked as a US correspondent for the SonntagsZeitung, was editor-in-chief of BLICK and co-founder of the commuter newspaper 20minuten.