



SCUTUM
SECURITY FIRST

STRIKES ON DOHA

NEW REGIONAL ESCALATION

Regional Focus – 12.09.2025

14 rue Magellan
75008 Paris
ssf-contact@scutum-sf.com
01 55 57 16 10

Israeli strike on Doha: new regional escalation

Israel carried out a **targeted air strike on Doha**, in the residential neighbourhood of Leqtaifiya, north of the Qatari capital 9 September 2025

The attack targeted a complex described as **a gathering place for senior Hamas officials**, killing several members of the movement, including the son of the chief negotiator, Khalil al-Hayya, and an officer of the Qatari security forces. The Israeli army claimed to have used **precision weapons** to limit collateral damage, but the operation **caused significant material damage** to the targeted building, where the authorities are still working to identify the victims under the rubble. The final casualty figures from the strike remain unknown as of 12 September.

This is **the first strike claimed by Israel on Qatari territory**, marking a turning point in the regional conflict and prompting a fierce reaction from the Qatari authorities, who condemned it as **a serious violation of their sovereignty**.

Doha: location of the Israeli strike against a summit of Hamas leaders on 9 September 2025



Map: SSF - Scutum Security First • Created with Datawrapper

Why Qatar?

Such unprecedented strikes in Qatar, although planned well in advance and requiring at least the approval of the United States, mark a new escalation in the regional conflict, fully endorsed by Israel.

Faced with diplomatic announcements, particularly from Europe, in favour of the State of Palestine in the light of the humanitarian situation in Gaza, Benjamin Netanyahu's government is once again imposing its priorities by force, drastically reducing room for manoeuvre in the negotiations. By **scuppering the ongoing negotiations** with Hamas, as it did with Iran last June, the Israeli government is able **to justify stepping up military operations in Gaza**, [despite opposition from the Israeli military leadership](#).

Meanwhile, although two-thirds of Israelis recently polled support [the prospect of a ceasefire](#) that would allow for the release of hostages and an end to the war in Gaza, paradoxically 55% of Israelis approve of strikes against Hamas leaders in Doha, according to a poll conducted by Channel 12 (Israel). a figure that allows the Israeli government to **remobilise its base in pursuit of the war despite the sharp resurgence of anti-government protests in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem** in recent weeks.

The strikes do not appear to be aimed at undermining Qatar's interests as a mediator for Hamas, given that its status was approved by Israel and the United States, but rather at **putting a stop to the momentum in negotiations initiated by the former Biden administration** in November 2023, thereby completing the regional isolation of Hamas.

What are the risks of regional escalation?

Israel initiated its strategy **to isolate Hamas regionally** with its offensive against Hezbollah in Lebanon (September–November 2024) and completed it during the ‘12-day war’ against Iran (13–24 June 2025), neutralising the main regional supporters of Hamas. Given that its supporters are primarily concerned with their own survival, it is highly unlikely that they will engage in any **reprisals, with only the Houthis in Yemen remaining capable of orchestrating** regular missile and drone strikes against Israeli territory. As for Qatar and its partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), discussions are underway to **consider a response, which is likely to be diplomatic** and most certainly not military.

In fact, although Israel has stepped up its brutal military actions in the Middle East (Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iran, Qatar) over the past twelve months, strengthening its position as a regional military power, **none of the country's regional cooperation agreements have been called into question so far**. Despite the unpredictable and opportunistic nature that tends to characterise the current Israeli government, the peace agreements in force with **Egypt** (1978), **Jordan** (1994), and, under the Abraham Accords, the **United Arab Emirates** and **Bahrain** (2020) have withstood successive regional escalations since the Hamas attacks of 7 October 2023.

With this in mind, for the time being the said countries, which share with Israel the strategic imperative of containing the regional influence of the Muslim Brotherhood (Hamas) on the one hand and Iran on the other, appear to be less exposed to the risk of Israeli attack on their own territory. Although not currently bound to Israel by peace agreements, Saudi Arabia, which adopts a similar regional position, is also less likely to be affected by such a scenario.

However, the attack on Doha has **served as a warning to certain countries**, particularly Türkiye, which is believed to still be harbouring Hamas leaders despite President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's increasingly cautious attitude towards them. Türkiye's diplomatic, and not just rhetorical, response to the attack on Doha will determine its risk of exposure to Israeli military intervention. However, it should be noted that, unlike Qatar, Türkiye has not been involved in the negotiation process with Hamas. Furthermore, it plays a key role in the future of Syria, which Israel would like to see aligned with its security imperatives.

Finally, it is worth noting that Israel continues to carry out regular bombings in southern and eastern Lebanon and southern and western Syria, notably as part of operations aimed at destroying Hezbollah's rearmament capabilities.

Safety Recommendations

In view of the targeted nature of the 9 September strikes, travel to Qatar and the Gulf countries can continue as normal for the time being.

For travellers, it is advisable to choose accommodation in densely populated areas (such as tower blocks) rather than in residential neighbourhoods.

For residents, as a precaution please review security conditions in the vicinity of your place of residence.

Always have a fully charged **means of communication** at your disposal.

Ensure you have **some degree of flexibility** (accommodation, flights, etc.) in case of delays, flight cancellations or airspace closures.

In the event of an air raid or explosion: seek shelter away from windows and report the incident as soon as possible (call 999 for local emergencies), including to provide information on your own situation (your local point of contact, etc.).

Your international security partner



SCUTUM
SECURITY FIRST

Information & Analysis

*Country profiles
Alerts 24/7
Customised Reports*

Training

*E-learning
Courses prior to travel
Crisis management drills*



Consultancy

*Business intelligence
Travel safety audit
Security risk management
ISO 31030 compliance advice*

Technology

*Tracking
Mobile app
SOS & Safety Check*

Operations

*Security Operations Centre 24/7
Assistance in high-risk zones
Crisis management support*