

# *Israel to demand U.S. funding of its laser weapons during Biden's visit*

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File photo of the Israeli regime's laser-based 'Iron Beam' anti-rocket system being developed with US funding

Tel Aviv, June 27 (RHC)-- The Israeli regime will demand a special budget for its development of new laser weapons and raise concerns about Saudi Arabia's nuclear ambitions when US President Joe Biden visits occupied Palestine next month, a report unveils.

When Biden visits the Israeli-occupied Jerusalem (al-Quds) next month, he will not only be met with a new face as the regime's prime minister but also with "a request for a special budget" to help the regime complete its development of laser weapons to intercept rockets and drones and work in parallel to its increasingly ineffective anti-air batteries such as the Iron Dome, U.S.-based military news outlet Breaking Defense reported Friday.

Citing what is referred to as "the visit plan" shared by Israeli military sources, the report said Biden is due to "stop by" an Israeli air force base, where two Israeli weapons makers, Rafael and Elbit Systems, will display the prototypes of laser systems being developed for the interception of rockets and drones but need "more money to complete the development."

The report further noted that the U.S. annually provides the occupying regime with \$3.3 billion in Foreign Military Financing (FMF), "including \$500 million for cooperative programs for missile defense."

The Israeli regime's air strikes against targets in Syria have been conducted with the secret approval of the American military, a US-based daily has reported citing current and former officials.

The new funding request "is aimed at adding funds to that portion of the FMF pool," the report pointed out, citing Israeli military sources as adding that the regime "will ask for around \$300 million in extra funds."

According to the report, the Israeli regime has long been seeking the additional US funding for its laser capabilities, which "are not tied directly into a recently-announced regional air defense network, although it is possible that if such a system is made operational, it would be exported down the line."

Pointing to the recent political upheaval in Israel that has led to the downfall of the regime's former prime minister Naftali Bennett, the report further underlined, "The common feeling among Israeli politicians and experts is that whoever greets Biden at Ben Gurion airport will not impact the national security priorities that will be discussed."

"Our working assumption is still that the trip will go forward as planned," the US Embassy in occupied al-Quds said in a statement as cited in the report.

"The relations between the U.S. and Israel are solid," added a senior Israeli military source as quoted by the news outlet. "The issues that will be on the table during the visit are of utmost importance to both the U.S. and Israel. I'm confident that the talks will be fruitful for both sides."

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