

# Editorial

## America's Weakness

'Musafir'



An Iranian backed militant group killed three American soldiers in Jordan last week. Despite pressure on Joe Biden to respond to the situation, there is no retaliation from him. Simply speaking, the administration is afraid of escalation the situation by retaliating against Iran. In my opinion it was a good test on Iran's behalf. They have now exposed to the world how spineless president Biden could be.

The attack in Jordan marked the first time that U.S. service members have been killed in the Middle East since the war in Gaza began in October, adding a new layer of complexity for the White House.

"We do not seek another war. We do not seek to escalate. But we will absolutely do what is required to protect ourselves ... and to respond appropriately to these attacks," national security spokesperson John Kirby told reporters Monday.

Biden has pledged to respond to the latest attacks in a "time and manner of our choosing."

"This attack over the weekend was escalatory, make no mistake about it. And it requires a response, make no mistake about that," he said. "I will not get ahead of the president's decision making."

American troops have come under fire from Iranian-backed groups more than 160 times since late October.

The death of U.S. troops will not leave Biden alone, particularly among Republican defense hawks in Congress who are already calling for retaliation, including inside Iran.

Ali Vaez, director of the Iran project at the International Crisis Group, said if the U.S. wants to hold Iran responsible, it may target sites or facilities in Iraq or Syria used

by the Iranian military wing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

But the U.S. will likely refrain from targeting Iranian soil, he added.

The dilemma here for the Biden administration is how to retaliate against Iran. It's an irony that Iran seems so powerful who can bully America. Seems obvious that the US doesn't have guts to harm Iran by going inside their territory.

The deaths sparked outrage in Washington and calls from some in the GOP for a more forceful response to Iran, the sponsor of the militia groups.

Former President Trump, Biden's likely GOP rival in November's general election, blamed the attack on Biden's "weakness" and claimed the U.S. was "on the brink of "World War 3."

Republican lawmakers similarly piled on, ripping the White House for failing to hold Iran accountable and urging Biden to take swift and decisive action in response.

"Real leadership requires real action," Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Ala.), chair of the House Armed Services Committee, said in a statement. "Attacks on our servicemembers, allies, and interests will continue until this president shows strong leadership and strikes fear in our enemies."

Any U.S. response to Iran will likely be met with further retaliation from Iranian-backed groups in a continuous cycle until the Israeli war in Gaza ends. The Iranian-linked groups say they are fighting against American troops in solidarity with the Palestinians.

But she said the U.S. already assassinated an Iranian-backed leader in Iraq earlier this month and carried out several destructive strikes, none of which has deterred more

attacks. The sheer number of attacks of Iranian-backed militia groups on the U.S. meant a fatal strike was only a matter of time.

For the time being Iran seems to have an upper hand and America with all its might looks weak.