Lethal and with a range of 2,000 km: what we know about the Iranian drones Arash-2

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The **Arash-2** is one of the Iranian weapon systems that is attracting more attention after the recent attacks against **Israel**. According to the Iranian agency **Tasnim**, Tehran allegedly used these drones against the **Ben Gurion** airport area, identified as a strategic target. Iran presents it as a more advanced and destructive unmanned aircraft compared to the previous **Arash-1** and **Kian**, capable of hitting targets at very long distances. However, beyond the Iranian claims, there is still no full independent confirmation of the actual extent of the damage caused by this system.

A kamikaze drone for deep attacks

Publicly presented in **2022**, the **Arash-2** falls into the category of **loitering munitions** or **kamikaze drones**: platforms designed to remain in flight until the target is identified and then

destroy it by crashing into it. According to official Iranian statements, the drone was developed to hit cities and strategic infrastructures such as **Tel Aviv** and **Haifa**, but more generally its function is to carry the Iranian attack deep against **military bases**, **radars**, **command centers**, and **logistical nodes**. This hybrid nature, halfway between a drone and a rudimentary **cruise missile**, makes it one of the most observed tools in Tehran's arsenal.

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Technical characteristics and cost factor

The most striking data is the **range**, which according to Iranian sources would reach up to **2,000 kilometers**. Open source estimates also speak of a speed between about **180 and 260 kilometers per hour**, while other details such as the exact weight of the **explosive warhead** remain less clear. Tehran also claims that the drone has a **reduced radar cross-section**, a feature that would make it difficult to detect and intercept. But the real strength of the **Arash-2** seems to be its **cost-effectiveness ratio**: producing and launching a drone of this type would cost much less than the defensive missiles needed to shoot it down. In this perspective, the weapon fits perfectly into the Iranian strategy of **saturating enemy defenses**, forcing the opponent to consume much more expensive resources to neutralize a relatively cheap threat.

Why the Arash-2 is concerning

More than for its absolute performance, the **Arash-2** is concerning for its possible large-scale use. A drone with **long autonomy**, **low cost**, and the ability to hit **strategic targets** can indeed become an effective tool of **asymmetric deterrence**. This is the logic that has guided

the development of the Iranian arsenal for years: using relatively simple systems, but numerous and economically difficult to neutralize, to put pressure on the opponent's defenses. In this sense, the **Arash-2** is not just a new kamikaze drone, but the symbol of a military strategy based on **mass**, **depth**, and **operational convenience**.

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