



Press Release | הודעה לעיתונות |
Iron Sword, Day 16
October 23rd, 2023

Situation

Gaza Strip

Israel entered the third week of the war. The Hamas attack on October 7th broke all the rules of the game in the long-standing conflict with terrorism. Usually, the response to any action by either side was proportional to the damage caused. For example, if Hezbollah bombed a residence without causing casualties, Israel would attack the organization's empty real estate.

The Hamas attack was a true massacre, resulting in over 1,500 dead, 3,100 injured, and 200 captured. The attack involved more than 3,000 terrorists heavily armed and thousands of rockets launched over most of the Country. Hamas used a brutality never before seen in Israel or anywhere else in the world, practices inspired by ISIS.

As a result, Israel has decided to eliminate Hamas. The definition of elimination is not clear. It may involve eliminating the military wing, suppressing its supporters, or removal of Hamas from the administration and the political map of the region.

The Israeli Armed Forces recruited about 360,000 reservists, and is preparing an invasion of the Gaza Strip. This invasion is also unclear, as we don't know whether the idea is simply to eliminate Hamas and reoccupy Gaza.

The army is said to be ready for the invasion, and the air force is limiting Hamas resistance with air strikes on Hamas command centers, warehouses, ammunition depots, supply centers, tunnels, and finances.

We know that there are several factors for postponing the invasion:

- Hamas prepared a host of "nasty surprises" for the IDF: bombs, booby traps, explosive tunnels and kidnapping of Israeli soldiers. In other words, such an invasion will cost many additional lives.
- Use of "Human Shields" - Israel's hostages as well as the Palestinian civilian population.
- Sensitivity to international public opinion.
- US pressure

Hamas does not want to reveal the number and condition of the hostages, as a measure of pressure and psychological warfare.



Lebanon

At the same time, Hezbollah is heating Israel's northern border with Lebanon. Over the last two weeks, Hezbollah has intensified and escalated the conflict. We have recorded hundreds of incidents in the last 15 days, which have not reached a critical mass that would allow us to declare a state of war.

Yemen

Last weekend, pro-Iranian factions launched a missile and drone attack, which was intercepted long before it reached Israel.

Iran

Iran is the mastermind, sponsor and facilitator of all the terrorist organizations in the region, whose tentacles extend also to Syria, Algeria, Venezuela and Argentina, among other countries. For Iran, Israel is the "Little Devil". One of Iran's objectives is to eliminate Israel completely. Iran makes threats against Israel daily. So far, however, it has not attacked Israel directly, but through its proxies, the terrorist organizations.

The United States

Israel is very sensitive to international opinion, especially that of the EU countries, our allies, and trading partners. The US decided to show its support and send ammunition and equipment to keep Israel's superiority in the region. Among all, two American aircraft carriers are close to Israel's territorial waters, to discourage Iran and Hezbollah from going to war.

The Israeli society

The Israeli government is not handling the war as it should. However, civil society has shown impressive strength, as well as the armed forces, the police, and the health system. This resilience of the population is the greatest encouragement and recovery factor.

Between the citizens who have lost their homes and villages and the people who evacuated as a precaution, we have more than 120,000 Israeli refugees in the center of the country.

Hostages

Hamas has captured more than 200 people, including many civilians, children, babies, the elderly, and foreign nationals.

The human factor is significant because Israel and the countries of origin of the abductees have a duty to preserve the lives of their citizens.

We must remember that Hamas is not a nation committed to international treaties such as the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Consequently, we know nothing about them, and the Red Cross has not yet visited the hostages.



Analysis

It is difficult to predict how the situation will evolve over the coming weeks. Broadly speaking, two scenarios are emerging, with numerous derivatives and ramifications.

A war limited to Gaza

The IDF will enter Gaza, to eliminate the military and terrorist threat from Hamas. In that case, the war will be easy to contain, despite the financial and human costs. The influence on the national economy will be reduced and limited. Within two to three weeks, we will finish the combat part and Israeli industry will return to normal.

War also with Hezbollah

It is a much more complex situation, as Hezbollah has superior military power and hundreds of thousands of missiles, capable of launching thousands of rockets per day, for several months. Such a war will be painful and its impact may be severe.

Post-War Crisis

The surprise on Saturday, 7 October, is the consequence of a series of failures in the armed forces, intelligence, logistics, preparation, and allocation of funds. In addition to those responsible at the tactical level, there are those responsible at the strategic level, namely the government and the prime minister.

Once completed, the State of Israel would enter a period of political protest, fiercer than the last nine months, with the people demanding an investigation and replacement of all those responsible.

Kinds Regards,

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President

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