The Tower

Fmr IDF Intel Chief: Bombing of Syrian Reactor Shows Israel will Act Alone to Survive

by TheTower.org Staff | 03.21.18 12:14 pm

Israel's chief of military intelligence in 2007 said in a press briefing hosted by The Israel Project Wednesday that the Israeli Air Force's destruction of a Syrian reactor shows that when Israel is faced with "a very serious threat" to its existence, "Israel is going to act, and act even if Israel has to act alone."

Maj-Gen. (Ret.) **Amos Yadlin**, who currently heads the **Institute for National Security Studies**, observed that he is probably the only person to be involved in the destruction of two nuclear reactors being built by Israel's enemies. In 1981, he was one of the pilots who participated in the raid on the Iraqi reactor, and in 2007 he was head of military intelligence for the strike against the Syrian reactor, known as Operation Orchard.

He said that operating in the latter capacity was more difficult. In 1981 as a fighter pilot, his job was to "aim the gun sights on the target," which he acknowledged was not easy, but it was the job he was trained to do. As chief of military intelligence, when Israel learned of the reactor, he needed to figure out when the reactor would be operational, at which point Israel could no longer strike, and know what the consequences of the strike might be, including the possibility that Syria would launch an all-out war with Israel.

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*A complete recording of the call with Yadlin is available **here**.*

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