

## Why Israel Doesn't Crush Hamas

Utilizing military means to bring about the downfall of Hamas might lead to a scenario that is highly dangerous to Israel's national interests.

by [Zaki Shalom](#) , [Jacob Aaron Collier](#) / Dec. 13, 2018

In light of the escalating tensions between Israel and Hamas, many have speculated as to why Israel has not used its military superiority to simply crush the terror organization. After all, Israel boasts what is arguably the strongest and most technologically advanced military in the Middle East. On the other hand, while Hamas is heavily armed and clear in its hostility, it is in no way capable of directly taking on the overwhelming firepower of the Israel Defense Forces. It cannot even pose an existential threat to the Jewish state or its vital interests via military means alone. At best, Hamas can disrupt the daily lives of civilians, particularly in the southern part of Israel, elevating the issue of Gaza to the top of Israel's political agenda.

It is important to note that terrorist organizations like Hamas specifically attack civilians hoping that they can force governments into making political concessions. That is why Western-style democracies like Israel are particularly susceptible to the political effects of terrorism, as the resulting protests (often magnified by intensive media coverage) can create instability in democratic governments and societies. The controversy surrounding Israel's response (or lack thereof) to the most recent escalation with Gaza has already brought about the resignation of Israel's defense minister, Avigdor Lieberman, and has even threatened to bring about the downfall of the current governing coalition. In this regard, there is no doubt that despite its limited capabilities, Hamas has succeeded in creating a strategic threat to Israel. This further enhances the question, why doesn't Israel exhaust its abilities to bring about the downfall of Hamas and to bring an end to this threat?

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