



## Israeli Defense Forces Reservist On The Country's Military Strategy

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NPR's Scott Simon speaks to **Assaf Orion**, Senior Research Fellow at the **Institute for National Security Studies** at Tel Aviv University about Israel's military strategy in the recent conflict.

SCOTT SIMON, HOST:

The cease-fire in Gaza holds for now after 11 days of rockets, bombs and death. At least 250 people were killed in Gaza - among them, at least 66 children - in intense Israeli airstrikes. And in Israel, 12 people, including two children, were killed by Hamas rockets fired at many towns.

Now, in a moment, we'll hear from a Palestinian official. Right now, we're joined by Brigadier General Assaf Orion, senior research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University. General, thank you very much for being with us.

ASSAF ORION: Thank you for inviting.

SIMON: And we should note, you're a reserve member of the IDF and understand you were called into duty this past week.

ORION: Yes, I was.

SIMON: The world has seen this before. Israel and Gaza have seen this before. Do past conflicts suggest that the level of destruction Israel has inflicted on Gaza in the end will only strengthen the hand of Hamas and inspire them just to make new rockets when they can?

ORION: I believe they don't need the conflicts for inspiration, but they have the inspiration for conflicts. This is the fourth conflict in Gaza since Israel disengaged from the Strip in 2005. Strategically, that's the first time when Hamas opened a conflict not to improve governance and the economy of the Strip but seeking to dominate the Palestinian system, including the West Bank and the rest of it.

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*For full interview:*

<https://www.npr.org/2021/05/22/999418501/israeli-defense-forces-reservist-on-the-countrys-military-strategy>