

The 3rd Lebanon war

The IDF has set up 14 teams to learn the lessons of Operation Guardian of the Walls, and the big question now is how the operation will affect the larger campaign against Hezbollah. The picture emerging from these studies is troubling.

By Yoav Limor / May 30, 2021

Last Sunday, in the wake of Operation Guardian of the Walls, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi agreed to set up 14 research teams on various issues that came up during the military campaign in the Gaza Strip. The teams will review almost every conceivable topic: intelligence, targets, inventory of armaments and interceptors, the efforts against the rockets, the home front, public image, and more. In about a month and a half, the General Staff will convene for a workshop over a few days, to review insights and lessons from the operation.

[...]

"We measure mileage and count bodies," says **Raz Zimmt**, a researcher at the **Institute for National Security Studies**, who specializes in Iran and its emissaries. "Our enemies look at it differently, with a broader perspective. For them, it has once again been proven that it is possible to wage a long-term conflict with Israel and endure."

[...]

"Hezbollah has no interest in heating up Lebanon," **Zimmt** says. "The Iranians do not care that Gaza is being crushed and that Hamas pays a price, but Lebanon is another matter. Hezbollah for them is a strategic asset, built to deter Israel from attacking their nuclear program. One does not risk such an asset for no reason."

"Therefore, the chances of a campaign initiated by Hezbollah are very low. The organization has been deterred since 2006 and deeply preoccupied with its internal problems in Lebanon – from the unprecedented economic crisis that threatens to turn Lebanon into an insolvent state, to the pandemic. The Iranians will not let Hezbollah ignite Lebanon: their top priority right now is a return to the nuclear deal, the removal of sanctions and the restoration of Iran's economy. They do not want to turn the fire on them again, as those responsible for the instability in the area."

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