

Israel's military challenges: Now and beyond

Analyst says: "Israel has reached the moment of truth"

[Carrie Hart](#) | January 18, 2022

Hamas reportedly fired missiles from the Gaza Strip into the Mediterranean Sea on Monday – another signal to Israel and Egypt that its patience is wearing thin.

This also signals that Hamas feels confident enough to pressure Israel into making concessions, setting conditions and ultimatums. Both sides are negotiating an agreement, through Egyptian mediation, but Hamas thinks it has the upper hand.

[...]

Kobi Michael, a senior research fellow at **INSS**, said part of Hamas' political struggle and end-game strategy is to humiliate the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Fatah. One of the main purposes of Hamas, in its last confrontation with Israel, was to score points among the Palestinians, strengthening its strategic position. It also wanted to strengthen its military position regarding Israel.

"Hamas feels it succeeded in this operation. I think they are right," he acknowledged.

According to Michael, Hamas leaders have set different rules of the game and are using a **DRS** (Dual Resistance Strategy).

"The sense of this strategy is that they keep quiet in the Gaza Strip; but seek all possible efforts to improve and strengthen their terror infrastructures in the West Bank and in South Lebanon; while also broadening their channels with the Arab citizens of Israel," Michael said.

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