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This is where we stand

Former IDF intel chief shares his unconventional take on Iran, Ukraine, and the Palestinians

Maj. Gen. (res.) Tamir Hayman tells Israel Hayom that a deal with Iran would be preferable to military action against its nuclear facilities, but if Israel has to carry out an operation, it will.

By Ariel Kahana / May 27, 2022

Former head of the IDF Military Intelligence Directorate, Maj. Gen. (res.) Tamir Hayman, has racked up plenty of experiences in his 34 years in the military. One of the most chilling, for him and for the country, in recent years was the return of the remains of Israeli soldier Zachary Baumel returned home some 37 years after he went missing during a major battle fought in 1982 on the Syrian-Lebanon border.

The former MI chief rejected the claim that the retrieval of Baumel's remains was an election campaign "gift" from Russian President Vladimir Putin to former Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, saying, "That's simply not true. This was a long operation the efforts of which had come to fruition. There were past attempts to make it happen. The timing had nothing to do with the elections."

As head of MI, and because of his involvement with efforts to bring Baumel's remains home, Hayman was invited to represent the IDF.

"The event was really moving. At the ceremony at the Russian Defense Ministry, there were rows of Russian soldiers, saluting the coffin, which was wrapped in an Israeli flag. It was a very honorable salute. For me, as someone who began his service in a tank, like Baumel, it was also a kind of closure. I felt a commitment to him. It was an event I'll remember all my life," Hayman tells *Israel Hayom*.

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