

## **Operation Breaking Dawn weakened the PA against Hamas - opinion**

By allowing Hamas to stay out of the Gaza conflict and charging it with the responsibility to keep the ceasefire, Israel strengthened it.

By Kobi Michael and Ori Wertman / Published: August 13, 2022

Operation Breaking Dawn ended after three days of fighting between Israel and the Islamic Jihad as Jerusalem crediting it with a military and mental achievement. Even if the achievement does not change the complex reality in the Gaza Strip, it does influence the internal balance of power in the Palestinian arena itself.

Hamas chose not to join the Islamic Jihad and denied it the long-awaited achievement for it: “the unity of the arenas” and by not joining, it aided its military and psychological downfall. The PA became silent. Besides issuing statements of condemnation and a request to convene the Security Council, it had no effect on what was happening.

However, Israel’s choice to allow Hamas to remain on the fence weakens a very significant element of Israel’s strategy towards the Gaza Strip in recent years, the element of Hamas’s absolute responsibility for everything that happens there. Israel preferred to follow the principle it established because, in its estimation, Hamas staying out of the military campaign enabled a short, efficient, and targeted campaign on the one hand and reducing the extent of the damage and casualties given a broad campaign with the participation of Hamas on the other hand.

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