

**Ex-IDF intel. chief contradicts CIA chief on potential Iranian nuclear threat**

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By Yonah Jeremy Bob / March 1, 2023

Former IDF intelligence chief **Tamir Hayman** on Wednesday contradicted CIA Director William Burns regarding the handling and seriousness of the potential Iranian nuclear threat.

Speaking at the **INSS conference**, Hayman, the think tank's managing director, was asked about Burns' statement that since Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has not given a formal order to go for a nuclear weapon, the nuclear threat was still far off.

In contrast, the former IDF intelligence chief said he disagreed with the idea that "if you don't identify an order from the top, that is a sign that there is no [nuclear weapons] plan. Even if there is no formal paperwork, things continue."

Rather, Hayman said that Burns' statement showed a common Western misunderstanding of the Iranian mentality which does not always move in a linear fashion to achieve its goals, but might take a much more zigzagging and roundabout-looking path.

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