

Hamas Will Determine the Scale of Expected Escalation Between Israel, Islamic Jihad

Debbie Mohnblatt / May 9, 2023

Hamas faces a dilemma: Let the conflict remain between Israel and the PIJ or bend to pressure for a unified retaliation

Three top commanders of the military wing of the Iranian-backed Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terror organization were killed early Tuesday morning by the Israeli army in Gaza. Israel is expecting a retaliation that most likely will lead to a significant escalation, but its scale will depend on whether Hamas will join the PIJ against Israel.

[...]

Security expert **Danny Citrinowicz**, a research fellow at the Israel **Institute for National Security Studies**, who served in various Israeli intelligence command positions, told The Media Line that the expected escalation has the potential of being very serious.

“As we all know from previous rounds with the PIJ, after events like these, they launched rockets toward Tel Aviv. [These rockets] are not highly sophisticated, but they can cause damage,” he said.

However, Citrinowicz believes that the real question is whether Hamas will decide to join the retaliation, “which will determine the [nature] of this escalation.”

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