

## Israel awaits Gaza counter-strike after killing of Islamic Jihad leaders

Former IDF intelligence chief **Tamir Hayman** said that Hamas' leadership outside of Gaza often is more in favor of conflict.

By Yonah Jeremy Bob / May 9, 2023

Following the IDF's targeted killing of three top Islamic Jihad leaders in the middle of the night between Monday and Tuesday, Israel was still awaiting a potentially massive counter-strike of rockets from Gaza on Tuesday night.

The main questions are: When will Islamic Jihad strike back, will Jihad fire rockets beyond the South and will Hamas join in a serious way for the first time since the May 2021 Gaza conflict?

On one hand, Hamas' Gaza leadership does not take orders from Iran, has avoided multiple rounds of fighting between Israel and Islamic Jihad over the last two years and IDF intelligence views it as currently preferring stability over war. On the other hand, Hamas cannot afford to appear weak in the eyes of its general public in comparison to Islamic Jihad.

Further, former IDF intelligence chief **Tamir Hayman** said that Hamas' leadership outside of Gaza often is more in favor of conflict, for one because it does not put them or their immediate teams in danger.

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