



## Warning from broadcaster on Iran threat

'If Israel goes, there won't be any West left,' said William Shawcross

BY [Sarah Harris](#) / May 5, 2023

Writer and broadcaster William Shawcross was reduced to tears on Tuesday night, when speaking about Israel to a launch audience for a new support group, UK Israel Future Projects.

Mr Shawcross, who has just returned from an exclusive tour of Israel hosted by the philanthropist Dame Vivien Duffield, became tearful when speaking about Israel, which he called “the beacon of liberty in the Middle East”. He said that Iran presented “a catastrophe” to the Middle East and the world as a whole, “and remains a critical and appalling threat”. And he warned his audience: “If Israel goes, there won’t be any West left”.

The new organisation, born after a fierce internal split in the Anglo-Israel Association, attracted a high-profile audience, including Israeli ambassador Tzipi Hotovely, to celebrate Israel’s 75th anniversary. The keynote speaker was Israeli intelligence expert **Major-General Tamir Hayman**, managing director of Israel’s **Institute for National Security Studies**, and former chief of the IDF Intelligence Directorate.

Mr Shawcross’s emotional comments followed a forensic presentation by Maj-Gen Hayman, who unpicked the threat posed by Iran and the belief by Israel’s enemies — mistaken in his view — that the relationship between Israel and America was diminishing.

Speaking about the continuing debate over judicial reform in Israel, Maj-Gen Hayman noted that in 17 weeks of protest on Israel’s streets, “there has been no looting, no violence — it has been very quiet, on both sides. We consider that a sign of our democracy.” The country’s adversaries viewed the demonstrations as a sign of weakness, he said, and “the belief that Israel will destroy itself from within, predicting that Israel will not reach its 80th birthday”.

He did not accept this to be the case, but said that Israel and the world had to deal more pro-actively with Iran and the growing restiveness of Palestinian millennials, who no longer had faith in a two-state solution.

The event was chaired by Bernard Shapiro and guests were welcomed by UK Israel Future Projects chairman, Lord Bew.

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