

Morocco was ravaged by an earthquake; Israel could be next - experts

Israel is located at the juncture of the African and Arabian tectonic plates and, therefore, faces an elevated seismic threat. Experts say a major earthquake is not a matter of if, but when.

By Maayan Jaffe-Hoffman / Published: Sep. 10, 2023

Israel may soon witness similar scenes to the devastating ones seen in Morocco due to the government's failure to prepare for an earthquake, which experts predict could happen here.

[...]

According to Dr. Ariel Heimann, a senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies and a geologist, earthquakes along the Syrian-African Rift in Israel can be traced back as far as the eighth century and have occurred around every 80 years. The last major quake of magnitude six or higher was in 1995 in the Eilat region. It did not cause devastation because it struck south and not north of Eilat in the Dead Sea resort region.

Many small earthquakes that are barely felt occur in the region regularly and pass without incidence. Nevertheless, assuming a high likelihood of another strong quake between southern Lebanon and the southern Dead Sea within the next 50 years is reasonable, Heimann said.

“An earthquake of significant magnitude in Israel is not a question of ‘if’ but ‘when,’” he said. “The disaster in Morocco serves as another warning sign for Israel. Such an earthquake, or perhaps even stronger, is only a matter of time.”

“Unlike threats controlled by humans, such as the Iranian threat, Hezbollah, or internal rifts, an earthquake is uncontrollable, and the critical issue is preparing for it to minimize its damages,” he said.

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