

# HAARETZ

## 'The Jewish People Are Known in Academic Literature to Have High Resilience'

**Brigadier-General (res.) Meir Elran studies the way societies and communities rebuild after calamities. A moment after Hamas' horrifying attack, when the future appears darker than ever, he manages to find small reasons for optimism**

Itay Mashiach / Oct 13, 2023

It's not easy being an optimistic Israeli these days. The volunteering initiatives are touching and so is the spirit of solidarity, but profound hope for the future is another story. But might there be a small window through which true hope can sneak in for a better future, even now, in the face of the acts of terror, when we're in our toughest hour? Brigadier-General (res.) Meir Elran, former deputy director of Military Intelligence and currently a research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies, has managed to identify a few such openings.

In the spirit of the hour, for Dr. Elran everything dates back to the [Yom Kippur War](#). On October 6, 1973, he was a young captain heading the Israel Defense Forces' Soviet department, who found himself lugging heavy crates of intelligence files from his office in the Kirya military base, in Tel Aviv, into the "pit," the underground command bunker. These moments shaped him. "There is a fascinating resemblance between what happened 50 years ago and [what's happening now](#)," he says. "There was a 'konseptzia' ['conception' in Hebrew] back then that they're not strong enough because they're Arabs and they know as much, so they won't go to war. It wasn't a [mere] intelligence mistake ... Everyone thought that way: Intelligence officials, the army, the state, the leaders. It was the same way now. Whenever we thought about terrorists, we thought of groups of two, three, 10. We didn't understand that we were dealing with something else entirely."

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*For full interview:*

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