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Hamas will continue to threaten Israel as long as it exists - ex-Mossad head

Pardo said that another option would be to try to turn a terror group into a political group, as was done in Ireland.

By Yonah Jeremy Bob / March 7, 2024

If a terror group like Hamas continues to exist, it cannot be deterred and will continue to constitute a threat, former Mossad director Tamir Pardo said on Thursday.

Speaking at the **INSS conference**, Pardo said that anyone who thinks they can carry out a "military campaign against a terror group" to end them has lost their way.

Saying that Israel has held "foolish" expectations regarding Hamas, he said, "There is no deterrence against a terror organization. There are only two options. Either it exists or does not exist. If it exists, there is no deterrence. They might take a hit in the head, but then they will just cut their losses, switch over their weapon magazines, and attack again."

[…]

Former IDF intelligence chief and current INSS Managing Director **Tamir Hayman** said that the message that attendees of the conference should take away is that a major change in the strategic balance with Iran, the Palestinians, and the Saudis is now possible.

He said that Israel recognized the challenges and risks, but that it should push forward without looking back if it concludes that the ultimate outcome will be reorienting the region in a way that favors Israeli security interests over the long term.

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