

## **‘No Single Person Can Be Eliminated To End This’: The Complexity of Defeating Hamas**

Keren Setton / 03/14/2024

*Israel's war on Hamas seeks to dismantle its leadership, and the fate of key figures like Marwan Issa remains uncertain*

Almost a week after an Israeli airstrike targeted a top Hamas member in the Gaza Strip, his fate is unclear, as is the fate of much of the terrorist organization's senior leadership. In the six months of Israel's war on Hamas, it still has inroads to make toward the goal it set out of toppling Hamas and obliterating its leaders and military commanders.

[...]

“It was clear from the beginning, as soon as the details of Hamas’ murderous attack emerged, that this would be a very long battle because Israel will not be able to stay silent on such an event,” said **Yohanan Tzoreff, a senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies**. “Israel has to eliminate Hamas’ military power, and this can take time because the nature of such organizations is not to surrender quickly.”

According to Tzoreff, the fighting could last well over a year.

“Hamas’ leadership is counting on international pressure applied to Israel, and they might be hoping for assistance from the Arab world,” he added.

In addition to Marwan Issa, who may not have survived the Israeli assassination attempt over the weekend, Israel has already killed Ahmed Randour, who commanded Hamas forces in the northern part of Gaza, and Ayman Nofal, commander of Hamas’ central Gaza brigades, in addition to other senior field commanders. Saleh Aroui, the second-in-command in Hamas’ political wing, was killed by a drone strike in Lebanon in January. Earlier this week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed Israel was behind the assassination.

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