

Relying on local clans to run postwar Gaza should be off the table, experts warn

Seeking alternatives to Hamas and PA, Israel has proposed handing over civilian affairs to local families, a solution that failed in the past and is unlikely to work today

By Gianluca Pacchiani / 12 March 2024

Israel, while reluctant to flesh out a postwar scenario for Gaza, has repeatedly rejected a proposal favored by the US and much of the international community to restore the Palestinian Authority's rule over Gaza. In seeking an alternative to both the PA and the Hamas terror regime, which it has vowed to eradicate, Israel has been floating the possibility of Gazan clans running the Strip's civilian affairs, while the IDF would retain security control.

[...]

"The clans are a thing of the past," said **Yohanan Tzoreff, a senior researcher at the Tel Aviv Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)**, and an expert on Israeli-Palestinian relations. "Relying on them is relying on a broken reed."

[...]

The main issue with entrusting clans with the governance of Gaza, according to the two experts, is that, since 2008, they are not powerful enough to manage the area independently and to compete against the influence and deeply embedded presence of either Fatah, the party led by PA President Mahmoud Abbas, or Hamas, the terror group that rules Gaza.

"If Israel decides to depend on a series of clans, their chiefs would quickly go to the Palestinian Authority and get their marching orders from them. They're not going to get them from Israel. So you'll end up having Hamas or PA rule anyway," said Zeevi.

Tzoreff concurred. "Whoever goes behind the back of the nationalist movements to speak with Israel will run into trouble."

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