

## "Israel had no reason to do that"

Thore Schröder / May 20, 2024

**Israeli Iran expert Raz Zimmt** believes it is impossible that Israel is behind this: about the role of the Mossad in the shadow war and how the regime in Tehran is now positioning itself.

SPIEGEL: Mr. Zimmt, how likely do you think it is that the Israeli foreign secret service Mossad or the Israelis in general were behind the crash of President Ebrahim Raisi's helicopter?

Zimmt: Excluded, no chance.

SPIEGEL: What makes you so sure?

Zimmt: Israel had no reason to do that. The reason for the crash was apparently a combination of bad weather and a very old aircraft. Raisi apparently used a US helicopter from the 1970s. Important people in Iran are known to fly in such aircraft.

SPIEGEL: But why shouldn't Israel have had any reason to eliminate President Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian? Just a few weeks ago, under her leadership, Iran directly attacked Israel with ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones.

Zimmt: Israel does not execute politicians, but is rather interested in eliminating officials who command Iranian proxy militias in the Middle East or nuclear scientists. The focus is on military-relevant goals.

*For full interview:*

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