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No matter how big, Israel's defense budget alone can't provide security

Former INSS head says security is dependent on a diplomatic process, not just budgetary increase.

By Eve Young / May 21, 2024

No matter how much the country increases its defense budget, it will not be enough to bring security to Israel, former **Institute for National Security Studies** executive director **Prof. Manuel Trajtenberg** said on Tuesday.

This security is dependent on a diplomatic process, he added.

He was speaking at the Israel Democracy Institute's Eli Hurvitz Conference about a study on the influence of the Israel-Hamas war on Israel's security budget, and the budget's influence on the economy.

This impact can be significant, Trajtenberg explained. While it has been growing in real terms, the security budget's part of GDP has been shrinking in past years, which has freed up funds for other priorities and allowed Israel to succeed in many ways, he added.

The defense budget's part of GDP stood at just over 4% on the eve of the war, and if not for the war, the study projected that this part would have continued to shrink, reaching 3.4% of GDP by around 2024.

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