

How will strike on Deif affect Hamas in Judea and Samaria?

Only the Israeli security forces can keep Hamas in check in Judea and Samaria, say Israeli observers.

Yaakov Lappin / (July 16, 2024 / JNS)

Israel's July 13 strike on Hamas military leader Mohammed Deif in Gaza, while of great practical and symbolic significance, is not likely to affect the terror group's operations in Judea and Samaria, Israeli observers have told JNS.

"It is an event with significant cognitive impact, which definitely affects Hamas members wherever they are, but Hamas is more than the sum of its parts," said **professor Kobi Michael, a senior researcher at the Tel Aviv-based Institute for National Security Studies and the Misgav Institute for National Security and Zionist Strategy** in Jerusalem.

"Hamas is a well-established, organized and determined jihadist entity that has previously endured severe losses among its key leaders and knowledge hubs," added Michael, who also served as head of the Palestinian desk at Israel's Strategic Affairs Ministry.

Historical examples of such losses include Yahya Ayyash, Hamas's former chief bombmaker and Deif's mentor, Hamas founders Ahmad Yassin and Abed Aziz al-Rantisi and the terror group's former number 3 in Gaza, Marwan Issa, who was killed in March, Michael noted.

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