



Death of Israeli archaeologist highlights ‘strange phenomenon’ of IDF battlefield tours

'This is sheer madness,' said one analyst. 'This is a war zone not a tourist attraction.'

By Kieron Monks / November 24, 2024

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) is investigating the death of an archaeologist in Lebanon, which has shone a light on an emerging trend of civilian settlers and pro-Israel influencers being invited into the tightly controlled battlefields of Gaza and Lebanon.

[...]

Professor Kobi Michael, a military analyst at the Israeli think tanks the Institute for National Security Studies and the Misgav Institute, said the incidents were “embarrassing” and damaging for the military.

“The IDF headquarters and supreme command must regain control over such violations sooner rather than later,” he said, attributing the incidents to “erosion of discipline” in the army ranks and a lack of oversight from senior commanders.

Prof. Michael said he hoped that with the formation of the new investigation committee “everyone will be much more cautious from now on”.

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