



## **Israel at War – MDC Media update**

December 25, 2023

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Israel's ground operation in the north and south of Gaza continues, twelve weeks since "Black Saturday" of October 7. Israeli forces uncovered a massive attack tunnel near Erez Crossing in northern Gaza. Renewed diplomacy with Qatar in Europe for a deal to return more Hamas-held Israeli hostages broke-down late last week. A vote on a new United Nations Security Council resolution was delayed twice, before a revised resolution calling for more humanitarian "pauses" was passed on Friday, December 22. There have been increasing reports of a possible Israeli military operation against Hezbollah to address the attacks on Israel's northern border. The Houthis in Yemen internationalized the war by escalating the scope of their missile and drone attacks on international shipping vessels in the Red Sea, bringing shipping traffic through the Bab al-Mandab Strait to a standstill, and potentially adding significant time and enormous cost for cargo vessels transiting to and from Europe.

In our continued effort to keep you well-informed, please see the list below of media and public appearances by MDC researchers during the past two weeks. We are continuing our efforts to analyze and explain the fluid developments in this conflict for the general public and our community of subscribers.

## **Hebrew:**

Dr. Michael Milshtein explained in [Kan Bet Radio](#) (December 12, 2023) Hamas's narrative regarding the October 7 events (from minute 32:43).

Prof. Eyal Zisser was interviewed by [the Knesset Channel](#) (December 14, 2023) regarding Mousa Abu Marzook's statement about the need to recognize the State of Israel.

Prof. Uzi Rabi spoke to [Channel 13](#) (December 14, 2023) about the fighting in Shajaiya.

Dr. Michael Milshtein spoke to [Channel 12](#) (December 15, 2023) and raised questions about the awareness of and attitudes toward Hamas's control of the Gaza Strip.

Dr. Harel Chorev spoke to [Channel 13](#) (December 16, 2023) about the rifts emerging between the Hamas leadership in Gaza and the Gazan public.

Dr. Michael Milshtein was interviewed by [Kan Bet Radio](#) (December 17, 2023) regarding the negotiations to release Israeli hostages and explained the differences in attitude towards the negotiations between the local leadership in the Gaza Strip and the Hamas senior officials in Qatar (from minute 45:30).

Dr. Mira Tzoreff was interviewed for Channel 12 podcast [One a Day](#) (December 17, 2023) and explained how Egypt experienced and was affected by the war.

Dr. Michael Milshtein was interviewed by [Channel 12](#) (December 20, 2023) about the failure of Israeli Intelligence to foresee the October 7 attacks (the second part of this interview is available – [here](#)).

Dr. Harel Chorev was interviewed by [Haaretz](#) (December 20, 2023) regarding the history of the Palestinian keffiyeh and how it became a national symbol.

## **English:**

Dr. Harel Chorev spoke to [News9](#) (December 11, 2023) about Israel's calls on Hamas terrorists to surrender (from minute 15:13).

Dr. Michael Barak spoke to [TVP World](#) (December 13, 2023) about the elections in Egypt and how they might affect the situation in the region.

Dr. Harel Chorev spoke to [CNN](#) (December 15, 2023) about U.S request from Israel to restrain its operations in the Gaza Strip.

Dr. Arik Rudnitzky was interviewed by [the Medialine](#) (December 15, 2023) and analyzed the findings of the survey MDC published of Arab Society's Views on the War between Israel and Hamas.

Dr. Michael Milshtein was interviewed by [the Guardian](#) (December 16, 2023) and argued that it had been a mistake to regard Hamas as a conventional state force whose collapse would prove to be a definitive defeat.

Dr. Brandon Friedman was quoted by [NewSrael](#) (December 16, 2023) on the role of Qatar's financing in Hamas' wealthiness and buildup.

Dr. Michael Milshtein was interviewed by [Fox News](#) (December 17, 2023) and explained who the Hamas's senior officials are at the top of Israel's most wanted list.

Dr. Michael Milshtein argued in [Ynet News](#) (December 21, 2023) that Hamas's use of civic space for its anti-Israel activities raises questions about the awareness of locals in the Gaza Strip and attitudes toward Hamas' control and activities in their living spaces.

### **German:**

Dr. Harel Chorev spoke to [Focus Jerusalem](#) (December 12, 2023) and explained the jihadists' thinking.

Dr. Harel Chorev was quoted in [Redaktionsnetzwerk Deutschland](#) (December 12, 2023) regarding Israel's hunt for Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar.

Dr. Harel Chorev was quoted in [Sueddeutsche Zeitung](#) (December 15, 2023) regarding the question – how realistic is Israel's goal of eliminating Hamas?

### **Romanian:**

Prof. Eyal Zisser was quoted in [Omagazine](#) (December 17, 2023) regarding the rise in Antisemitism on university campuses in the U.S.

**Spanish:**

Dr. Harel Chorev was interviewed by [DW Espanol](#) (December 18, 2023), explained Hamas's ideology and goals, and dealt with the main question now – how realistic is Israel's goal of eliminating Hamas?

**Portuguese:**

Dr. Michael Milshtein was interviewed by [Areamilitarof](#) (December 16, 2023) and argued that it had been a mistake to regard Hamas as a conventional state force whose collapse would prove to be a definitive defeat.

**Indonesian:**

Dr. Michael Milshtein was interviewed by [Daily Berita](#) (December 18, 2023) and explained who the Hamas's senior officials are at the top of Israel's most wanted list.

Thank you for your time, attention, and continued support.

Best,

**The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies**

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