



Israel at War – MDC Media update

January 17, 2024

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This week Israel marked 100 days of war since Hamas's October 7 terrorist attacks. There are still believed to be 136 Israelis held in captivity in Gaza. The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) withdrew the 36th Division from Gaza after two months of fighting, while the 98th, 99th, and 162nd divisions continue the ground war in northern, central, and southern Gaza. The media has reported that Lebanon has produced a roadmap for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1701, and the United States has increased its diplomatic efforts to prevent a war between Israel and Hizballah. Nevertheless, a Hizballah anti-tank missile killed a mother and son in Kfar Yuval, near the Lebanese border this week. Hizballah has also targeted major Israeli military infrastructure in recent weeks. Late last week, the UN's International Court of Justice in the Hague held two days of hearings to determine the "plausibility" of South Africa's charges of genocide against Israel. The continued Houthi missile and drone attacks on shipping transiting to and from Israel through the Bab al-Mandab, were met with a joint US-UK military response over the weekend, which included strikes on Houthi targets across Yemen.

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 three 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 was interviewed for Channel 12's podcast [*One A Day*](#) (December 25, 2023) regarding the Palestinian society's views about Hamas and the war.

Prof. Uzi Rabi spoke on [*Channel 13*](#) (December 25, 2023) about the fighting in the Gaza Strip and Hamas's use of civic space for its anti-Israel activities.

Prof. Eyal Zisser explained in [*Israel Hayom*](#) (December 30, 2023) how Israel's policy of "The War Between the Wars" led to the October 7 attacks.

Dr. Harel Chorev spoke on [*Channel 12*](#) (December 31, 2023) about the extent of Qatar's influence on Hamas's leaders in Gaza regarding the negotiations to release the Israeli hostages.

Dr. Michael Milshtein spoke on [*Channel 13*](#) (January 2, 2024) about Hassan Nasrallah's dilemma following the killing of one of Hamas's senior leaders, Saleh al-Arouri.

Dr. Hay Eytan Cohen Yanarocak was interviewed by [*The Marker*](#) (January 2, 2024) regarding Israel's dependency on oil from Azerbaijan via Turkey and how the deterioration of Turkey-Israel relations might affect it.

Dr. Harel Chorev analyzed in [*Maariv*](#) (January 3, 2024) the role of Hamas senior leader Saleh al-Arouri and the impact of his death on Hamas's survival and the war.

Dr. Michael Milshtein explained in [*Ynet*](#) (January 5, 2024) how the intellectual discourse in the West evolved from anti-colonial protests to justifying Hamas's war crimes.

Prof. Uzi Rabi spoke on [*Kan11*](#) (January 7, 2024) following the cyberattack at Beirut's international airport.

Prof. Eyal Zisser was interviewed for the podcast [*The Headline*](#) (January 8, 2024) and analyzed Syria's interests, noting that Syria permits Iran to operate within its territories against Israel but refrains from directly participating in the war.

Dr. Michael Milshtein spoke on [*Channel 12*](#) (January 9, 2024) about Hassan Nasrallah's dilemma following the killing of Wissam al-Tawil, senior Hizballah commander.

Dr. Michael Milshtein warned in [*Haaretz*](#) (January 10, 2024) against the idea of transferring control in the Gaza Strip to local clans.

Dr. Michael Milshtein explained on [*Kan Beit Radio*](#) (January 10, 2024) how Hamas understands the escalation on Israel's northern border (from minute 37:36).

Dr. Uzi Rabi spoke on [Channel 13](#) (January 13, 2024) about the future of the Gaza Strip and the escalation on Israel's northern border.

Dr. Irit Back explained in [Haaretz](#) (January 14, 2024) the reasons for South Africa's anti-Israel policy.

English:

Dr. Michael Milshtein was interviewed for [TAU Podcast](#) (December 19, 2023) and explored possible scenarios facing Israel, Hamas, the Palestinian Authority and other actors affecting the war.

Dr. Brandon Friedman spoke on [BBC News](#) (January 3, 2024) and explained whether the death of Hamas senior leader Saleh al-Arouri meant escalation with Hizballah and what we might expect for a "day after" in the Gaza Strip.

Dr. Michael Milshtein was quoted in [The Wall Street Journal](#) (January 3, 2024) explaining the role Saleh al-Arouri played in aligning Hamas with Iran and Hizballah.

Dr. Brandon Friedman moderated a [special webinar](#) (January 3, 2024) about the Houthi role in the October 7 War - Global, Local, and Regional Perspectives.

Dr. Harel Chorev was interviewed by [AP News](#) (January 3, 2024) regarding the impact of the assassination of Hamas senior leader Saleh al-Arouri on Hamas's survival and the war.

Dr. Joshua Krasna was interviewed by [The Times of Israel](#) (January 4, 2024) regarding Hizballah's reaction to the killing of Hamas senior leader Saleh al-Arouri in Lebanon.

Dr. Joshua Krasna analyzed in [Foreign Policy Research Institute](#) (January 5, 2024) the impact of the October 7 attacks and the Israel-Hamas war on Israel's relations with United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Dr. Michael Milshtein explained in [Ynet News](#) (January 5, 2024) how the intellectual discourse in the West evolved from anti-colonial protests to justifying Hamas's war crimes.

Dr. Michael Milshtein was quoted in [The Wall Street Journal](#) (January 5, 2024) regarding US efforts to prevent escalation in the Middle East.

Dr. Irit Back explained in [Haaretz](#) (January 14, 2024) the reasons for South Africa's anti-Israel policy.

German:

Dr. Harel Chorev spoke on [ZDF heute](#) (January 3, 2024) regarding the concerns about an expansion of the war following the killing of Hamas senior leader Saleh al-Arouri.

Dr. Harel Chorev spoke on [ZDF heute](#) (January 5, 2024) about Defense Minister Yoav Gallant's plan for the next phase of the fighting and for Gaza's future.

French:

Dr. Harel Chorev was interviewed by [FranceInfo](#) (December 31, 2023) regarding Hamas's network of tunnels beneath Gaza and how IDF is coping with that issue.

Dr. Harel Chorev was interviewed by [FranceInfo](#) (January 16, 2024) regarding the next phase of fighting in the Gaza Strip.

Spanish:

Dr. Michael Milshtein was quoted in [Forbes](#) (January 1, 2024) regarding Israel's preparedness for a prolonged war in Gaza during 2024.

Chinese:

Dr. Michael Milshtein was quoted in [The Wall Street Journal](#) (January 4, 2024) explaining the role Saleh al-Arouri played in aligning Hamas with Iran and Hizballah.

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

Best,

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