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January 20, 2009

US Military Analysts: "Israel Clearly Won, But Should Have Destroyed Hamas"....



Israel won the battle, but it's the war that counts....

Israel clearly won the latest round with Hamas, but could have gone deeper into Gaza and done greater damage to the organization, according to military analysts in the US media on a visit to the region this week.

"I think you achieved what one Israeli general called 'changing the reality' in which Hamas operates, but I think you were too restrained and could have gone deeper into Gaza," Lt.-Gen. Thomas McInerney, a 35-year veteran of the US Air Force and a Fox News military analyst, told The Jerusalem Post Monday after touring the Gaza periphery and receiving briefings from Israeli officials as part of a trip of military analysts organized by the New York-based Project Interchange affiliated with the American Jewish Committee.

The Gaza fighting is seen in the US as a healthy demonstration of Israel's capabilities, according to Lt.-Col. Rick Francona, a former US Air Force intelligence officer in several theaters and military analyst for NBC News.

Unlike in the wake of the 2006 Second Lebanon War, "the conversation in the US revolves around Israeli decision making - what's the end game? Are they going to remove Hamas? It doesn't question Israel's capabilities. You've won the battle," Francona said.

Both analysts said Israel seemed ready to face down Hamas in a long-term fight.

The ceasefire is "just the end of this round, and that seems to be Israeli policy right now. The best Israel can go for is to manage the conflict until Hamas can be made to go away," said Francona.

....Even so, said McInerney, "Your leadership is too sensitive about world opinion. I know why Israel didn't [drive deeper into Gaza] - you have an election coming up and a new [US] president taking office, but you need to gain the freedom of operation in Gaza that you have in the West Bank."

Commenting on the unilateral ceasefire announced by the Israeli cabinet on Saturday, he suggested "Israeldid not want to destroy Hamas. I believe you should have."

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Personally, I don't think they are done yet. One reason is all they need to go back in and finish the job... which I suspect hamas will soon give them.

Posted by: Xen | [January 20, 2009 at 11:39 PM](#)

Hamas think they won, lets see if they are man enough to "win" again.

Posted by: Elric66 | [January 21, 2009 at 04:23 AM](#)

Yeah, if that was a hamass victory, I'd LOVE TO SEE what a loss would look like! If only one hamasshole was left breathing, surely, he would still claim a victory.

Posted by: Atom&Yves | [January 21, 2009 at 10:26 AM](#)

If you want to have a clear idea about the kind of victory Israel has won , just visit the following websites, you ll see things never reported by Western media:

<http://portail.islamboutique.fr/gaza2008/>

http://na.mo.free.fr/gaza2008/index_for.php

Posted by: Ham | [January 21, 2009 at 01:34 PM](#)

@Ham, thanks for the links. Can't decide which photo I like BEST!

Posted by: Atom&Yves | [January 22, 2009 at 08:57 AM](#)

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