

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps Tells 'Zionists' to 'Return' to Europe and US

by Hugh Fitzgerald



The Quds Force commander, Brigadier General Esmail Qaani, like the rest of the Iranian leadership, continues to insist that a great victory was won by Hamas in its latest conflict with Israel. Never mind the destruction of Hamas' weapons warehouses, its command-and-control centers, its intelligence offices, its weapons development facilities. Forget the deaths of several hundred Hamas fighters and 25 of its senior commanders. Pass over in silence the devastating destruction of much of the tunnel network that cost Hamas an estimated one billion dollars to build. Because, in Esmail Qaani's version of reality, the Jews have lost heavily, a loss which prefigures a future colossal defeat, he has words of advice for the "Zionists": Qaani thinks they should "go back" to where they came from, in Europe and the United States.

“Israelis Should ‘Go Back’ to Europe and America, Says Iran’s Quds Force Chief,” [Jerusalem Post](#), May 27, 2021

For the first time, artificial intelligence was a key component and power multiplier in fighting the enemy,” an IDF Intelligence Corps senior officer said. “This is a first-of-its-kind campaign for the IDF. We implemented new methods of operation and used technological developments that were a force multiplier for the entire IDF.”

In 11 days of fighting in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli military carried out intensive strikes against Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad targets. It targeted key infrastructure and personnel belonging to the two groups, the IDF said.

While the military relied on what was already available on the civilian market and adapted it for military purposes – in the years prior to the fighting – the IDF established an advanced AI technological platform that centralized all data on terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip onto one system that enabled the analysis and extraction of the intelligence.

Soldiers in Unit 8200, an Intelligence Corps elite unit, pioneered algorithms and code that led to several new programs called “Alchemist,” “Gospel” and “Depth of Wisdom,” which were developed and used during the fighting.

Collecting data using signal intelligence (SIGINT), visual intelligence (VISINT), human intelligence (HUMINT), geographical intelligence (GEOINT) and more, the IDF has mountains of raw data that must be combed through to find the key pieces necessary to carry out a strike.

“Gospel” used AI to generate recommendations for troops in the research division of Military Intelligence, which used them to produce quality targets and then passed them on to the IAF to strike.

This will come as a shock to IRGC Brigadier General Ismail Qaani, but Israel – far from collapsing – won this latest conflict with ease, and Hamas was rescued from total destruction only by Biden’s pressure on Israel to accept a ceasefire. No Israelis need to flee and “return” to Europe and the United States, as Qaani suggests. The IDF goes from strength to strength. This fourth round was Israel’s greatest triumph yet over Hamas. In just 11 days of fighting, Israel destroyed at least one-third of Hamas’ estimated 14,000 rockets, most of its drones and rocket launchers, and 62 miles of the tunnel network that had cost Hamas such enormous sums to build. Israel’s Iron Dome anti-missile defense again proved its worth, intercepting 90% of the rockets fired into Israel. While several hundred Hamas fighters, and 25 senior commanders of Hamas and PIJ, were killed, only one Israeli soldier died in Operation Guardian of the Walls.

Nor is Israel collapsing economically. Its economy – and especially the high tech sector – is booming. Israel has more companies listed on NASDAQ than any foreign country save China. Israelis have more American patents than any foreigners save for the Japanese. Every week brings fresh news of an Israeli IPO that is a unicorn – meaning the company is valued at more than \$1 billion. All the biggest American tech companies – Apple, Intel, Microsoft, Google have large R & D operations in Israel. Every other day we read the announcement of some Israeli advance, in medicines, medical equipment, and therapies, in solar energy, long-life batteries, and electric vehicles, in water recycling and production, in computer hardware and software, in cybersecurity and cyberwarfare, in laser anti-missile (“Iron Beam”) technology, and in so many other areas.

Meanwhile, Iran has lost its multi-year investment, both in money and weapons, in Hamas. It’s far less than it gives to Hezbollah, but over the past few years, Iran has provided Hamas with several hundred million dollars. The Iranian

economy continues to crater, since the American sanctions have not yet been lifted, as Teheran assumed would happen within a month or two of Biden becoming president; there are still major differences to be ironed out, including Iran's insistence that all sanctions be lifted before Iran makes a move to rejoin the 2015 JCPOA. If we are lucky, the "return to the deal" will take a few months more, meaning a few months more of economic misery for Iran.

Politically, Iran has isolated itself in the region. Syria, which is financially in a catastrophic state, needing an estimated \$375 billion merely to repair the damage from the civil war, is Iran's only ally. Tehran's attempt to extend Shi'a power by using its proxies and allies, including the Houthis in Yemen, the Kata'ib Hezbollah militia in Iraq, and Hezbollah in Lebanon, is viewed with alarm in the Gulf Arab states, especially in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain, and in Egypt. By contrast, these same Gulf Arab states have observed with satisfaction Israel's ability to slow down Iran's nuclear program, setting it back by years. The Stuxnet computer worm that in 2010 caused more than 1000 centrifuges to speed up so fast they destroyed themselves, the assassinations by Mossad of six of Iran's top nuclear scientists between 2010 and 2012, Mossad's locating in 2018, in the middle of Teheran, Iran's entire nuclear archive, which was then spirited back to Israel, the two attacks on the new advanced centrifuge plant at Natanz the second of which, in 2021, led to more than 5,800 centrifuges being destroyed, the assassination just last year of Iran's most important nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, and a long series of "mysterious explosions" at Iranian oil refineries, petrochemical plants, power plants, ammunition dumps, and similar targets, that have been attributed to Mossad – all this activity has made a deep impression on the Gulf Arabs, who are grateful for Israel's acts of derring-do against their common enemy, Iran.

The Israelis are not going to go “back” to Europe or the United States, despite the warnings of that IRGC commander, Esmail Qaani. After nearly two thousand years, Israel’s Jews have rebuilt their ancient commonwealth in their ancestral homeland. They are not about to give that up. And more than half of Jewish Israelis – as Esmail Qaani apparently does not know – come from, or descend from, Jews who lived in the Arab states and Iran. They can’t go “back” to those countries from which they were forced to flee, and where nothing awaits them, in the unlikely event that they were allowed back in, except the dismal status of being “dhimmis,” subject to a host of political, economic, and social disabilities.

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