



# IDF SPOKESPERSON ANNOUNCEMENT



March 21, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **The Chief of the General Staff, Lt. Gen. Aviv Kohavi:**

"Until a year ago, nearly every day the Southern Command faced a wide range of threats and challenges posed by the terrorist armies in Gaza. The pace and scale of such incidents has since subsided considerably. This did not occur on its own, rather, thanks to a combination of military force and the implementation of civilian policy.

IDF soldiers and their commanders, past and present - I support your action, and stand with you in the face of any accusations. I am responsible for the rules of engagement and how to use force. I sent you and approved the operations. You are not alone and you will not be alone. The General Staff and all the senior command are with you and by your side.

It is incumbent upon the IDF, the State of Israel and the international community to adapt the paradigms, combat techniques and international law to account for the way in which terrorist armies are to be fought. The values of the IDF and international law were not only intended to prevent harm to noncombatants on the other side, they were equally intended to enable us to protect our citizens.

Herzi, the burden of the Command in recent years has rested on your shoulders. Today, after nearly three years as CO of the Command - years in which you focused on ensuring the safety and well-being of

## **Foreign Press Branch – IDF Spokesperson Unit**

International News Desk:	+972-3-6080245	Official IDF Website:	idf.il/English
Arabic Media Desk:	+972-2-5485802	IDF Blog:	idfblog.com
European Media Desk:	+972-2-5485800	IDF YouTube Channel:	IDFNADesk
Latin American and Asian Media Desk:	+972-2-5485800	IDF Twitter:	IDFSpokesperson
New Media Desk:	+972-3-6080521	IDF Flickr:	IDFOnline
North American Media Desk:	+972-2-5485806	IDF Facebook:	facebook.com/idfonline
Russian Media Desk:	+972-2-5485803	Site de Tsahal en Français:	tsahal.fr



# IDF SPOKESPERSON ANNOUNCEMENT



March 21, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

the residents of the South and preparing our forces for war. You commanded the southern theater with great wisdom, thoroughness, and impressive leadership, while deftly navigating its complexities.

Eliezer - You are returning to the theater, this time as the CO of the Command. I have no doubt that you will fulfill your duty with talent; you will navigate and lead the Command skillfully - improve and refresh, keep the bar high, and raise it. I trust you".

## **The Outgoing Commanding Officer of the Southern Command, Maj. Gen. Herzi Halevi:**

"An army needs to be prepared and ready. A new, updated 'Southern Spirit' plan, defines our response to the threats imposed by terrorist armies. It builds on our areas of strength - quality intelligence, accurate fire and sharp maneuverability; and most importantly, the correct balance between those areas.

You came here, Chief of the General Staff, on your first day on the job, and you defined battle readiness here as a first priority. We are very prepared; we've strived every day to be more prepared than the last. You know this, it is important that the citizens of Israel know this, and it is no less important that those who need to know on the other side know it as well.

In order to maintain our readiness as time progressed, we operated to be better at preventing the strengthening of the other side. We strived

### **Foreign Press Branch – IDF Spokesperson Unit**

International News Desk:	+972-3-6080245	Official IDF Website:	idf.il/English
Arabic Media Desk:	+972-2-5485802	IDF Blog:	idfblog.com
European Media Desk:	+972-2-5485800	IDF YouTube Channel:	IDFNADesk
Latin American and Asian Media Desk:	+972-2-5485800	IDF Twitter:	IDFSpokesperson
New Media Desk:	+972-3-6080521	IDF Flickr:	IDFOnline
North American Media Desk:	+972-2-5485806	IDF Facebook:	facebook.com/idfonline
Russian Media Desk:	+972-2-5485803	Site de Tsahal en Français:	tsahal.fr



# IDF SPOKESPERSON ANNOUNCEMENT



March 21, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

to train properly for the campaign in question. Our training process kept getting better, stronger and more complex.

To my partners in the South, the heads of councils, authorities, cities. "In the Negev, the people of Israel will be tested." How beautiful the saying; how difficult the implementation.

You are an amazing and inspiring leadership. Even if the process of bringing life to the wilderness is long and full of difficulties; I think David Ben-Gurion would be proud of the leadership you demonstrate.

You have been an important voice around the table, on tough days and good days. We are proud of the joint achievements and are committed to the continuation - the development of the Gaza Strip envelope, a safe and prosperous south with proper governance in all civilian areas."

## **The Incoming Commanding Officer of the Southern Command, Maj. Gen. Toledano:**

"Herzi, with wisdom and skill, you combined security with the community. You did not tell stories or make promises that you could not keep, you were the man in charge for the citizens, serving the understanding that settling the frontier is at the forefront of the Zionist enterprise in the State of Israel.

A detailed understanding of the enemy has led you to build innovative operational capabilities, and to change attitudes in a dynamically

### Foreign Press Branch – IDF Spokesperson Unit

International News Desk:	+972-3-6080245	Official IDF Website:	idf.il/English
Arabic Media Desk:	+972-2-5485802	IDF Blog:	idfblog.com
European Media Desk:	+972-2-5485800	IDF YouTube Channel:	IDFNADesk
Latin American and Asian Media Desk:	+972-2-5485800	IDF Twitter:	IDFSpokesperson
New Media Desk:	+972-3-6080521	IDF Flickr:	IDFOnline
North American Media Desk:	+972-2-5485806	IDF Facebook:	facebook.com/idfonline
Russian Media Desk:	+972-2-5485803	Site de Tsahal en Français:	tsahal.fr



# IDF SPOKESPERSON ANNOUNCEMENT



March 21, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

evolving way. Today, I embrace these plans with confidence, pledging to delve deeper, to locate additional gaps and complete them.

I, a subordinate who succeeds his commander, undertake the duty of maintaining continuity, strengthening our capabilities. Today I take command and take responsibility for the security of the southern part of the State of Israel.

I am responsible for border protection, for winning the war and for providing security and a sense of security to the citizens of Israel in the Negev and the Arava. We will do it together, with solid spirits, broad shoulders, straight backs and devotion in our eyes. Our actions will determine the outcome!"

## Foreign Press Branch – IDF Spokesperson Unit

International News Desk:	+972-3-6080245	Official IDF Website:	idf.il/English
Arabic Media Desk:	+972-2-5485802	IDF Blog:	idfblog.com
European Media Desk:	+972-2-5485800	IDF YouTube Channel:	IDFNADesk
Latin American and Asian Media Desk:	+972-2-5485800	IDF Twitter:	IDFSpokesperson
New Media Desk:	+972-3-6080521	IDF Flickr:	IDFOnline
North American Media Desk:	+972-2-5485806	IDF Facebook:	facebook.com/idfonline
Russian Media Desk:	+972-2-5485803	Site de Tsahal en Français:	tsahal.fr