



**CHANGE** *for*

**PEACE ?**



# Overview

In a series of recent **military clashes in Rafah, Gaza**, **Israeli forces** have reportedly eliminated **Yahya Sinwar**, **the leader of Hamas in Gaza**, along with two senior Hamas commanders, **Mohammed Hamdan** and **Hani Hamidan**. This development marks a significant blow to Hamas's leadership structure, although questions about the long-term impact on the organization's operational capacity remain.



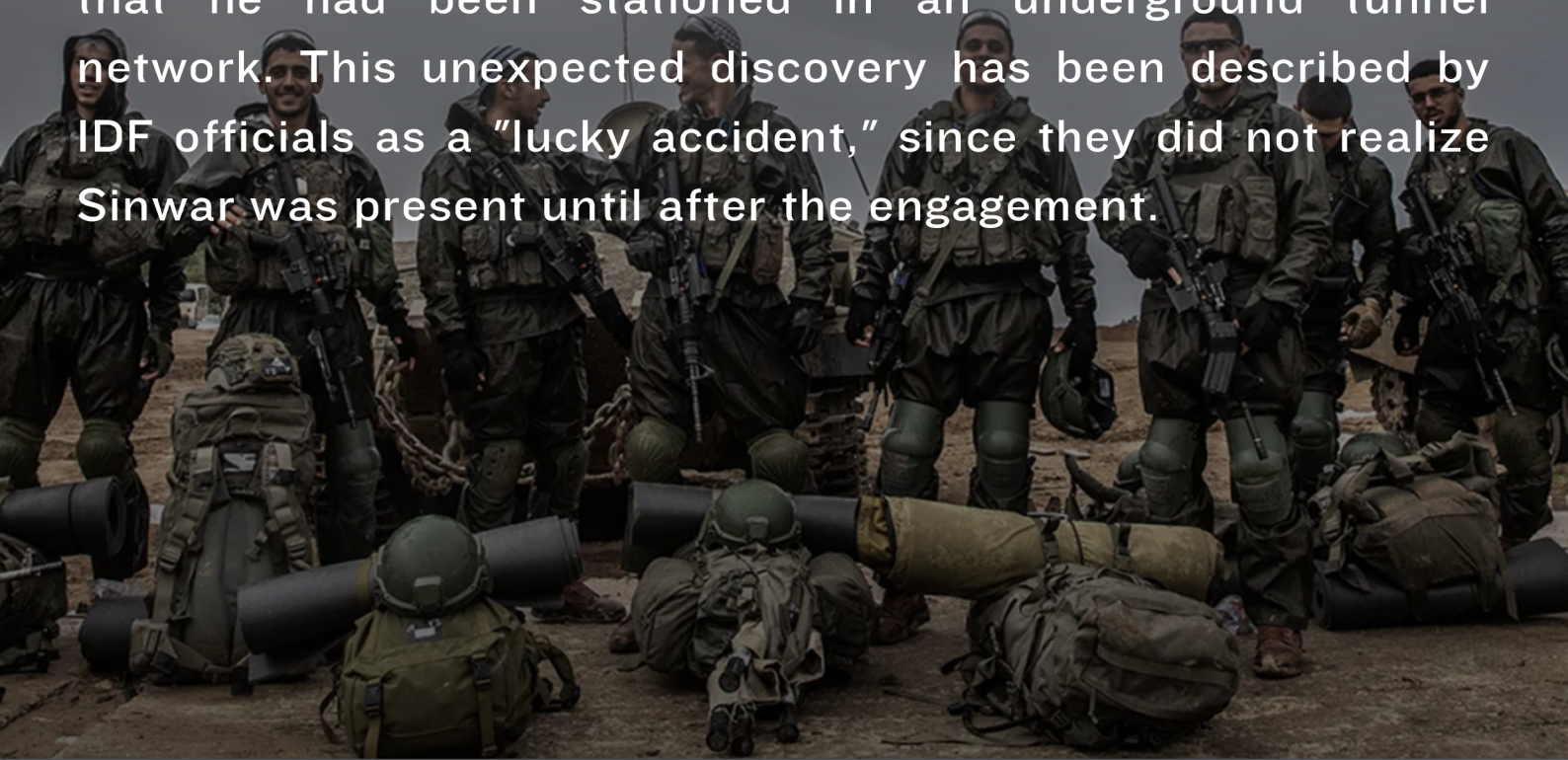


# Sinwar's Death:

## Event Breakdown

According to multiple sources, **Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)** detected suspicious movement in a building in the **Tel al-Sultan area, West Rafah**, during a routine patrol. Upon spotting armed militants, an IDF tank from the 30th Company fired two shells at the building. After the strike, infantry from the 450th Battalion searched the rubble and discovered the bodies of three individuals, one resembling **Yahya Sinwar**. Israeli media reports indicate that initial facial recognition and dental images confirmed Sinwar's identity, though official DNA testing is still pending.

Sinwar, along with **his two bodyguards**, was found in combat gear, indicating he remained on the front lines rather than in hiding, contradicting earlier Israeli intelligence assessments that he had been stationed in an underground tunnel network. This unexpected discovery has been described by IDF officials as a "lucky accident," since they did not realize Sinwar was present until after the engagement.





# Key Figures Killed

**Yahya Sinwar** – Hamas leader in Gaza since 2017 and architect of Hamas's internal security apparatus, Sinwar was a pivotal figure in the group's operations, particularly its hardline stance against Israel. Sinwar's death is seen as a severe symbolic blow, given his high profile and influence.

**Mohammed Hamdan** – Senior Hamas commander, often involved in operational planning for al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's military wing.

**Hani Hamidan** – Another prominent commander within the al-Qassam Brigades, instrumental in Hamas's guerilla tactics and operational planning in the Rafah region.





# Sinwar's Rise and Role

**Yahya Sinwar rose to prominence following his release from Israeli imprisonment in a prisoner exchange in 2011. Having spent decades in Israeli jails, his influence within Hamas grew rapidly. As one of the founding members of Hamas's security service, Majd, Sinwar was deeply involved in internal Hamas security and the identification of Israeli collaborators.**

**His ascent to the leadership of Hamas's Gaza political bureau in 2017 placed him at the heart of both political and military decision-making for the group. Known for his uncompromising stance against any form of negotiation with Israel, Sinwar was viewed as the driving force behind Hamas's militant activities, including the October 7, 2023, attacks on Israeli civilians.**





# Operational Impact

While Sinwar's death may disrupt Hamas's immediate chain of command, Hamas's decentralized structure, with strong local commanders and autonomous units, is designed to withstand such leadership losses. The likely successor to Sinwar is Khaled Meshaal, the former leader of Hamas's political bureau, who is expected to return to a central role in the organization's leadership.

Meshaal, currently based in Qatar, holds significant influence within Hamas's international network, particularly its financial and diplomatic channels. His return could shift Hamas's approach, but any drastic organizational changes remain speculative.



# HAMAS GOVERNING STRUCTURE

## Politburo

Fifteen Members



Political Bureau Leader:

**Ismail Haniyeh**

**KILLED JULY 31, 2024**



Gaza Leader:

**Yahya sinwar**

**KILLED OCT 17, 2024**

**Delegations  
Abroad**

## Shura Council

Consultative body that, elects the Politburo, exact membership unknown

## West Bank Affairs



Former Leader:

**Saleh al-Aroui**

**KILLED JAN 2, 2024**

## Imprisoned Member's Affairs



Leader:

**Salameh Katawi**

## Gazan Affairs



Leader:  
**Yahya Sinwar**

## Palestinian Diasporic Affairs



Leader:  
**Khaled Meshaal**

## Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades Military Wing



Former commander  
**Mohammed Deif**

**KILLED JUL 13, 2024**



Former commander  
**Marwan Issa**

**KILLED MAR 10, 2024**

**Social  
Welfare System**

**Independently  
Operating Cells**

## Hamas Government Implements Policy



Prime Minister  
**Rawhi Mushtaha**

**KILLED OCT 3, 2024**

**Ministries**

**Local  
Authorities**

**Security  
Forces**







## Challenges for Hamas

**Hamas's leadership transition** comes at a critical time, as the movement deals with significant casualties, including several senior figures. The **death of Sinwar** could also **weaken Hamas's internal security** and intelligence capabilities, as he was instrumental in coordinating operations across the **Gaza Strip**. Additionally, the **death of these senior leaders may embolden rival factions** within Gaza, such as **Islamic Jihad**, to challenge Hamas's authority.

**For Israel**, while the elimination of Sinwar is seen as a **victory**, it could **further complicate negotiations** regarding the hostages held by Hamas. The families of kidnapped Israelis have expressed mixed feelings, with some relieved by Sinwar's death, while others fear it could reduce the chances of their loved ones being returned.

# Netanyahu's Message

The confirmation of the elimination of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar by the IDF and Shin Bet, followed by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's statement, marks a significant moment in Israel's ongoing conflict with Hamas. Netanyahu emphasized Sinwar's involvement in the October massacre and framed this operation as a key moment in dismantling Hamas's control over Gaza.

Netanyahu's remarks also stress the impact of Sinwar's leadership on both Israel and Gaza's residents, offering hope for a future without Hamas's rule. His message to Gaza residents calls for them to break free from what he describes as Hamas tyranny, while reinforcing Israel's commitment to returning abducted citizens.

The speech combines both military resolve and a call for regional change, framing this operation as a victory of "good over evil," but acknowledging that the war is not over yet and that many challenges remain.



# Conclusion

The death of Yahya Sinwar marks a pivotal moment in the ongoing conflict between Hamas and Israel. While his death is a significant blow to Hamas's leadership, the movement's decentralized nature and entrenched ideology make it unlikely that this will lead to its collapse. Instead, Hamas will likely adapt, potentially under the leadership of Khaled Meshaal or other senior figures, continuing its militant operations against Israel. However, the loss of such a prominent leader may also present opportunities for diplomatic initiatives or shifts in strategy within both Hamas and Israel.

As events continue to unfold, the implications of Sinwar's death will be closely monitored by all parties involved in the region's complex power dynamics.





**GLOBAL EYE**

**INTELLIGENCE**