

Major General Gholam-Ali Rashid,
a leading commander of Iran's strike on Israel:

Operation True Promise was to bypass Israel's fake deterrence

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

Operations Al-Aqsa Storm and True Promise, which were carried out by Hamas and Iran, respectively, can be considered turning points in the developments of the region and changes of the international order. On the one hand, these events proved how fake is Israel's deterrence by relying on all its allies, and on the other hand, made the struggle for the liberation of Palestine from the clutches of the Zionist usurper regime to be noticed by the nations of the world as an ideal. After Operation True Promise, which was carried out by the Islamic Republic as a legitimate defense in response to the Zionist regime's aggression against the Iranian consulate in Syria, the power and authority of the discourse of the Islamic Revolution became clear to the world, especially to the arrogant leaders in the West. Nevertheless, Israel and the media hegemony ruling the international space tried to censor various aspects of the operation and make it look like a small action — an attempt that, of course, failed. Iran Daily has conducted an exclusive interview with Major General Gholam-Ali Rashid to inform Iranian and international audiences about the dimensions of Iran's operations against Israel. Considered to be one of the main commanders of Operation True Promise, Major General Rashid was one of the senior commanders of the IRGC during the holy defense period and held responsibilities such as the replacement of the commander of the IRGC's ground forces and the IRGC operations deputy. After the war, Major General Rashid became the deputy for information and operations of the General Staff of the Armed Forces and then the deputy of that staff.



IRAN DAILY: How do you evaluate the October 7 operation by Hamas, and what do you think was its most important achievement?

RASHID: The primary achievement of this operation was the exposure of Israel's vulnerability. The foundations of the Israeli army were revealed as being boastful and deceitful — a military that, over the past 70 years, falsely claimed victories over Egypt, Jordan, and Syria crumbled. This is a fabricated regime, which in recent years has been tasked with vilifying us. Martyr General Qassem Soleimani used to say that every government in the world has an army, but in Israel, it's the opposite; there's an army that has fabricated a pseudo-state. Therefore, we are only confronting a military force and nothing more. They have come here and planted something that they believe could become a country; Israel is akin to a dental implant in dentistry that the English and Western countries have implanted, and Israel's existence depends on the West. Meaning that if one day the West is

not there, Israel will collapse, and vice versa; if Israel collapses, the West will collapse too. Israel has no embassy in Iran, but all Western embassies assist it. They provide them with information and any assistance, whether political, military, media-related, etc., that they may require.

So, do you believe that the reality of Israel is not consistent with what it portrays in the media?

Yes. The image that Israel creates of itself in the media never aligns with the actual situation inside the occupied Palestinian territories. It fabricates a false image of being defenseless and having no enemies. In the October 7 operation, all of its false pretenses were shattered by 1,100 to 1,200 fighters of a group that everyone knows has the combat skills and maneuverability of an infantry battalion. These 1,100 or so individuals attacked Israel's vaunted army; some Hamas fighters say that the Israelis were asleep or drunk in tanks and bases, adding that they could not believe that the Israeli army

would collapse to this extent in just a few hours.

Even Americans themselves say that Anthony Blinken, the US secretary of state who is frequently traveling to Arab countries, told the Iraqi prime minister that the Israeli army had collapsed and its work was almost done. He reportedly said that the US went and helped them, lifted their army from the ground and kept it up so that it would not be completely destroyed, and tried to persuade them to stand and continue their work while relying on Americans. Therefore, the Zionist regime, economically and militarily, stands upright with the direct support from Americans and Europeans, who freely provide any means the Israelis need, even weapons of mass slaughter, namely atomic bombs.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly stated that Israel, as an occupier and aggressor, must be eradicated. To what extent is this ideal achievable in reality?

I would like to clarify that, unfortunately, some university professors



and intellectuals have misconstrued our statements that the Islamic Republic of Iran intends to destroy the occupying Israel. However, the leadership and authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran have always emphasized that Iran, as a political system, must defeat and destroy the occupying and aggressive Israel, which has occupied the first Qibla of Muslims and the land of the Palestinian people, with the help of all governments and Muslim nations.

This is deeply unsettling and a nightmare for Israeli commanders. Their vulnerability is what shakes them. The nightmare for Israeli commanders is that they say only 1,100 individuals attacked us and scattered us like this; while Hamas has 30,000 fighters; if 10,000 of its fighters again attacked us unexpectedly, along with 10,000 fighters from Lebanon's Hezbollah and two or three thousand youths from its western shores, Israel's work would be finished. This figure is just a small portion of their power.

Israel has a very small land area. Once in June of last year, in one of the frequent meetings we had with senior commanders of the IRGC and the army, I made a comparison between our action in this operation and Israel's situation. The scope of our Operation Beit ol-Moqaddas in the war against Iraq was 6,000 square kilometers. That is, we liberated the geographical scope of the occupied Palestinian territories in this operation. We placed this region

