

The Challenges that Israel and the Western World are facing

Israel and the democratic world are facing today threats and challenges that during the last 2 years have developed and become more complicated and dangerous.

In order to cope with the threats and challenges it is imperative to have a strong society, stable economy, strong armed forces and effective security apparatuses.

The disabled veterans of the IDF and their friends that scarified their lives for the sake of Israel's security are the most powerful element in our strength that enables us to bloom in the Middle East and to defend ourselves by ourselves.

In the last 2 years the Arab and Muslim world has experienced a chain of revolutions, we called it the "Arab Spring" but in fact it didn't bring any spring, quite the contrary, the Middle East has become less stable.

Islamist regimes, some of them extreme, have replaced the secular regimes that were considered stable. The hostility toward Israel and the free world has increased and the same can be said regarding the dangers we are now facing.

We are facing a phenomenon of Islamization and radicalization in the Arab and Muslim world

Egypt- In a democratic elections The Muslim brotherhood movement has conquered the Parliament and the Presidential Palace, but the demonstrations against the president, this time Mohamed Morsi, continue. In Clashes with security forces protesters have been killed and half of the Egyptian people that didn't elect Morsi, feels that the revolution has been stolen from them by the Muslim brothers.

Jordan- The situation is very complicated. King Abdullah experiences the toughest period toward the stability of his regime since he took the rein.

In the last 2 years Jordan experiences weekly demonstrations led by the Jordanian Muslim brotherhood but also by traditional supporters of the kingdom. All demand political reforms and tough steps against corruption.

Syria- The civil war in Syria claims till now 80.000 lives (in last March 6000 Syrians were killed) and creates an influx of 1.5M refugees. We consider Syria as a very sensitive and special case due to its chemical weapons, a pile which is one of the biggest in the world, and the concern that this weapon will fall into the hands of terrorists, due to a concern that highly advanced weapons like ground to ground missiles will fall into the hands of terrorists, and due to the participation of more than 10.000 terrorists in the war in Syria, those terrorists came from all over the world.

Hezbollah and its master Iran support Assad, Al-Qaeda, Global Jihad and extreme Salafist terror organizations which support the opposition and are financed by Saudi Arabia and Qatar. As a matter of fact Saudi Arabia and Iran are fighting by proxies in Syria on the hegemony in the Muslim world.

I asses that Assad will fall, no one knows when and who will be his successor. According to many scenarios it might be someone more extreme than Assad.

The common scenario is that Syria will fall apart to ethnic enclaves and the civil war will continue.

Israel is concerned that terror organizations in Syria will point their weapons against us and in result- new front will erupt in the Golan Heights.

One of the most dominant terror organizations fighting in Syria on the side of the rebels is the An-Nusra organization its leader just recently identified the organization as part of Al-Qaeda and said that after Syria their aim is Israel.

The second challenge is nuclearization of Iran

This is also by far the biggest threat to Israel and the world. I say categorically that Iran should not be nuclear.

When I served as director of "Mossad" we realized that Iran develops to be the most dangerous threat.

A confidential report by the International Atomic Energy Agency that was leaked a month ago concludes that Iran continues to enrich uranium despite all the efforts to stop it.

Iran has today 167kg of uranium enriched to 20% it needs only 80 more kg to produce a bomb. Iran that holds today the knowledge, the technology, the infrastructure and the capabilities, can reach it easily, but recently they slowed down the pace of enrichment because of the fear from the American, Israeli and Western response.

Let us don't make any mistake; Iran is already a nuclear threshold country.

Once Ali Khamenei decides to proceed to the break through stage and to build the bomb it will take the Iranians 4 months to present a nuclear device.

Ahmadinejad reiterates that Israel should be wiped of the map. I take it very seriously and I advice to all of us to take it seriously, we cannot play with our fate and future and we cannot allow build up of an existential threat to Israel.

The Iranians continue to manipulate the free world and to gain time. Last talks in Kazakhstan failed. Sanctions and diplomacy didn't stop Iran so that the military option should remain an option as a vivid and realistic one.

Iran sees North Korea as an example; the Iranian regime understands that the United States does not attack North Korea because the last one has nuclear capability.

The Iranians believe that once they will have a bomb they will also become immune to such an attack.

President Obama committed that the United States will prevent Iran from achieving nuclear capability. I believe that the president has genuine intentions. I believe that he does not bluff, but the real test will be in the deed.

Personally I believe that the U.S. will stick to its commitments and if no, Israel will have to attack the nuclear facilities of Iran.

In 1981 the Israeli air force destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor and we proved then that we have the determination and the capabilities.

North Korea is a rogue state and presents a real danger to the peace and stability of the world. This is because it has nuclear capabilities and ballistic missiles. North Korea very easily can flame up the Korean Peninsula and the entire world. Kim Jong-un threatens to attack South Korea and the United states, just imagine what will happen if Iran will have as well nuclear capabilities.

The third challenge we are facing today is terror

Like nuclear Iran terror is also a global challenge. Every day we receive a painful reminder that terror continues to kill innocent people.

2 weeks ago in the Marathon in Boston, another reminder that Jihadist ideology crosses borders. A week ago rockets from Sinai toward the city of Eilat. Yesterday a squad of terrorists linked to Al- Qaida was arrested in Canada. The terrorist planned to hit the train between Toronto and New York. Yesterday the Spanish police arrested 2 suspects one Algerian and the other Moroccan, they planned to execute terror attacks. Numerous terror attacks happen every day in Iraq and Afghanistan. Al-Qaeda and global Jihad continue with their deadly and bloody way.

Despite the painful blows that Al-Qaeda took recently and first and forth most the killing of Osama Ben Laden. The successor Ayman al-Zawahiri fosters merges between local terror organizations to Al-Qaeda this created the Al-Qaeda in the Hejaz, Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb, Al-Qaeda in Iraq and more.

The aim of all the extreme Muslim organizations is to build a religious Islamic caliphate by using Jihad (The holy war) against the infidels.

Extreme Islam expands its present in many Muslim communities in Europe, the United States and more.

Many Muslim communities contribute money to the cause of the Islam most of this money goes to feed terror organizations. In addition the terrorist recruit Muslims holding western passports to carry out terror attacks.

To the developments mentioned above we should add the deterioration of the American image among the Muslims, this is because of the consequences of the Arab Spring and due to the perception that the U.S. and the west do not succeed in Iraq and Afghanistan. This creates a complicated and threatening reality.

We should remember that despite of all what I've mentioned the U.S is still the strongest power in the world, Israel is the strongest in the Middle East and European countries enjoy strong societies and powerful armed forces.

In order to successfully face the dangers the countries belonging to the free world should join forces in order to achieve the following:

1. Prevent Iran from becoming nuclear.
2. Fight terror in full determination and cooperation between the countries and to make clear that no terrorist will enjoy any immunity.

In May 1972 an airplane belonging to Sabena airliner was hijacked by 4 terrorist on the route from Brussels to Tel Aviv. On board of the airplane were 100 passengers.

After landing in Ben-Gurion airport the terrorists demanded to release 300 terrorist that were jailed in Israel and to take off to Egypt. The Israeli government never yield to the demands and ordered the commando unit were I served as deputy commander to seize the airplane.

16 of us dressed as technicians assaulted the airplane and in 90 seconds released the hostages, killed the 2 male terrorist and captured the 2 female terrorist. This is what I mean by saying determination.

3. To prevent the fall of chemical and advanced weapons into the hands of terrorists in Lebanon and Syria.
4. To strengthen the moderate Sunni axis led by Saudi Arabia against the Shia axis with its mentors Iran, Syria, and Hezbollah.
5. To break the Shia axis by the fall of Assad.
6. To isolate North Korea more so that it will agree to abandon its nuclear program in return for supply of food.

To sum up, yet it is true that the challenges we are facing are difficult and complicated but the democratic world is much stronger than the dark one. The leaders of the free world understands that Islamization, nuclear Iran and terror are global threats and are no longer sole Israeli problem. A combined and coordinated activity will enable us to face the challenges and uncertainties and to win the war.