



Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs

המרכז הירושלמי לענייני ציבור ומדינה

Claim: A NATO or multinational force would be able to prevent terrorist groups from using the West Bank as a safe haven.

Response:

1. There are many serious logistical issues with placing a NATO/multinational force in the West Bank. Who will provide the soldiers? Who will fund the operation? How long will it last and what will happen afterwards? Would a NATO mission be ready and able to take on insurgents, and if not, to what extent would they then get in the way of a vital Israeli effort to do so to protect their own people?
2. Peacekeeping missions have not been too successful in the past and have folded when the conflict became too intense. Consider Lebanon in 1983, when suicide bomb attacks killed 300 troops and led to the withdrawal of the French and American peacekeeping forces, or Lebanon today, in which UNIFIL has been unable to prevent Hizbullah from amassing weapons to use against Israel. Al-Qaeda's attack in Madrid in 2004 led to the withdrawal of Spanish forces from Iraq. Undoubtedly, extremist groups would target peacekeepers to pressure them to leave.
3. Just how sure could we be that the electorates in contributing countries would allow their militaries to remain deployed in the West Bank under these kinds of pressures, and how effective would NATO be as a peacekeeping force in these demanding circumstances?



See: [Will an IDF Withdrawal from the West Bank Mean a Safe Haven for Extremist Groups?](#) By Col. Richard Kemp

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