

Mossad intelligence agency

Israel's Mossad intelligence agency has orders to hunt down and kill the top leadership of Hamas anywhere in the world following the October 7 attack which killed 1,200 people



■ **Institute for Intelligence and Special Tasks:** Known as Mossad – Hebrew for “Institute” – responsible for intelligence collection, covert action and counterterrorism

■ **Mossad HQ:** Hadar Dafna building (above) on King Saul Boulevard, Tel Aviv

■ **1949:** Israel's first prime minister, **David Ben-Gurion**, establishes Mossad forerunner, **Central Institute for Coordination**

■ **1962:** Mossad “snatch team” abducts Nazi war criminal **Adolf Eichmann** from Argentina. Eichmann is tried and executed in Israel

■ **1997:** **Aliza Magen-Halevi** becomes first woman appointed as Mossad's deputy director

■ **Nov 27, 2020:** Iranian nuclear physicist **Mohsen Fakhrizadeh** – “father of Iran's atomic bomb” – assassinated near Tehran



■ **May 2021:** Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** names **David Barnea** (left) as Mossad director, replacing **Joseph Cohen**

■ **Nov 23, 2023:** Netanyahu (above) orders Mossad to assassinate top leadership of Hamas “*wherever they are*”

■ **Structure of Mossad:** Around 1,200 personnel, including 30 to 40 case officers, or **katsas**. In addition, there are tens of thousands of **sayanim** – unpaid civilians, loyal to Israel – recruited by katsas. Israeli students, known as **bodlim**, are also used as helpers

■ **Tzomet:** Mossad's largest department, responsible for locating, recruiting and handling foreign agents. Division led by Barnea from 2013 to 2019

■ **Caesarea:** Most secretive unit conducts special operations inside Arab countries. **Kidon** – “bayonet” – task force specialises in sabotage and assassination

■ **Jan 2, 2024:** **Saleh al-Aroui**, (right) deputy political leader of Hamas, killed in drone strike in Beirut with six other Hamas members

