

WG 6 (Forensic Pathology)

### **The IDF Casualties Identification in Iron Swords War: The Operational, Scientific Religious and Cultural Considerations in the Process**

**Alon Oz.**

Medical Corps, Military Rabbinate, IDF.

The lecture will give a glance from above at the different considerations dictating the identification procedures of casualties in the IDF in the Iron Swords war.

It will discuss the operational, scientific religious, cultural and historical influences on identification, and the main goals of the process. The lecture will also give examples of problems in the process and what steps needed to be taken in order to solve them in field.

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### **The Role of IDF Forensic Medicine and Identification Unit in “Iron Swords” War**

**Yael Arbel.**

Forensic Medicine and Identification Unit, Medical Corps, IDF.

The IDF's Forensic medicine and identification unit played a crucial role in the “Iron Swords” war, managing a significant number of casualties under exceptionally challenging conditions.

Throughout the conflict, the unit faced an unprecedented scale of fatalities, many with severe and complex injuries that posed significant challenges to forensic identification and the determination of mechanisms of death. Prior to the war, training scenarios had been based on handling up to 30 casualties per day; the realities of “Iron Swords” far exceeded these expectations.

This lecture will provide an in-depth examination of the unit's deployment since October 7th, tracing its evolving responsibilities over time. It will explore key identification efforts conducted both within Israel and beyond enemy lines to recover missing personnel, as well as forensic operations related to casualties from military maneuvers in Gaza and along the northern borders.

The lecture will also address the establishment of a second forensic identification center in northern Israel and the operational challenges of managing two facilities with the same limited resources.

Additionally, the lecture will highlight strategies for maintaining mental resilience and professional efficacy after 15 months of sustained, high-intensity forensic work.