Israel confirms Gaza airstrike killed Hamas military chief Mohammed Deif

Aug. 1 (UPI) — The Israeli military confirmed Thursday that it killed Hamas' military leader, Mohammed Deif, whom it said was responsible for planning and carrying out the Oct. 7 attacks on Israel, in a targeted airstrike on Khan Younis in southern Gaza last month.

In a statement posted on X, Israel Defense Forces spokesman Daniel Hagari said the military had received intelligence in the past few hours that Deif was "eliminated" in the July 13 joint IDF-Shin Bet operation.

The IDF confirmed Rafe Salama, the commander of Hamas' Khan Younis Brigade and many other militants, had been killed a day after Israeli warplanes struck a compound where, according to "accurate intelligence from Aman [military intelligence] and Shin Bet," Deif and Salama were in hiding.

The announcement followed Tuesday's strike on Beirut that killed Hezbollahmilitary commander Fuad Shukr in retaliation for a rocket attack that killed 12 children in Israel's Golan Heights and a second on Wednesday that killed Hamas' political chief and lead peace negotiator Ismail Haniyeh while on a visit to Tehran.

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