

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **Military, Security, and Borders – Insights from the Israeli Case**

One of the notable and traditional roles of the military is to protect the nation state's borders and maintain its sovereignty against the threat of foreign enemies. Yet, during the past decade, various scholars have called attention to the growing involvement of military forces in controlling the border vis-à-vis an array of border phenomena, that include hostile insurgency, terror, drug trafficking, human trafficking and irregular migration.

These developments pose new challenges to militaries that demand organizational reforms, and strategic and tactical adjustments. These in their turn have a significant impact on the military; both in force design and on the logic(s) of action of the deployed forces.

While these transformations could be viewed as part of the general tendency of militaries to expand their activities beyond conventional warfare, contemporary border phenomena seem to generate new complexities. The need to confront traditional threats and, often at the same time to response to new challenges, make the border a foci of contemporary military conduct and innovations. As such, it invites genuine scholarly attention and theorization.

Why Israel and why the Israel Defense Forces (IDF)? For the past decades, Israel has served as an important case for investigation and theorization of civil-military relations and "things military". Its potential contribution to general understanding of these topics derives from the fact that due to the central place of war (and security) in Israel's history and contemporary circumstances, it encapsulates in a very explicit manner of many of the tensions in the relationships between the military, state and society found in other democracies (Ben Ari, Rosenhek, and Maman 2001). As such it is an especially appropriate case to examine questions raised in wider scholarship, in Europe and elsewhere. Moreover, the current security agenda of Israel create a diversion from this neatly sketch of security affairs in which the army maintain the borders and police operate inside the realms of the state. Israel's security agenda is characterized by immense complexities and the study of their sociological dimensions is of high interest for military social scientists in Europe. Historically, Israel is on the crossroads of Africa, Asia and Europe and its borders have always been challenged. Yet the borders of Israel—as the borders of Europe—are now under constant pressures due to the consequences of the "Arab Spring" and the increase waves of irregular migration. Israel faces myriad of military and security complexities along its borders. They include a non-state organized enemy in Lebanon and Gaza (Hezbollah and Hamas), a non-state semi-organized enemy (ISIS) and intense irregular migration in Sinai, a

border with a friendly state (with Jordan), and a border with a failed state grappled in a civil war and humanitarian catastrophes (with Syria). Israel's "internal borders" (with the West Bank) are also constantly challenged, and their rapid transformation is subjected to internal debates. The recent Palestinian insurgency and the Israeli response to it also invite scholarly attention of the use of military forces in internal borders management and policing missions. Finally, Israel is an interesting case to investigate the role and influence of new technologies at the border. In recent years, high-tech military technologies have been rapidly deployed on borders but the very nature of civil-military friction surrounding the borders often renders these high-techs assets irrelevant. Thus, it calls for traditional skirmish with the armed opponents on the border together with police in operations against irregular migration and criminals.

While the Israeli case seems unique in the variety of borders, the above-mentioned border phenomena are not restricted to the Israel. European militaries and other security agencies also cope with the erosion of the EU (external and internal) borders in the face of increased irregular migration, international crimes and terror threats. Hence, although the Israeli case is anchored in specific geopolitical circumstances, it may certainly draw general insight on the conduct of military forces on contemporary border that are also relevant to Europe.

The purpose of this call for papers is to invite contributions that offer new theoretical insights or empirical observation on these issues by focusing on the Israel's borders and on the conduct of the Israeli Defense Forces (the IDF and other armed agencies as the police and border control) along them. Contributions might include explorations of the following issues:

- Organizational and tactical adjustments in border missions
- The logic of "Boundary Work" by security and military agents
- Military conduct and humanitarianism at the border
- Military technologies and border management
- Cross-border military innovation
- Irregular migrants and military forces
- Internal violence and the role of the military institution
- Military, policing and borders
- Civilian and military border control including by-proxy arrangements (As the defunct South Lebanon Army – "ZADAL")

We invite 7500 words original articles – quantitative or qualitative - which will be peer reviewed. The complete draft is to arrive by 30 October 2017. Guidelines for contributors are to be found Res-Militaries portal (<http://resmilitaris.net/>).

Sincerely Yours

Uzi Ben-Shalom ([uzibs@ariel.ac.il](mailto:uzibs@ariel.ac.il)) & Nir Gazit ([nirgazit2@gmail.com](mailto:nirgazit2@gmail.com))