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Israel's Secret Often Wins War, Builds 'Lab' Weapons

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Jakarta, CNBC Indonesia - The open war that took place between Israel and the Hamas group in Palestine again opened the veil of Israeli military power.

Despite being hit with a major attack by Hamas in the first week of October 2023 to reclaim Palestinian land from Zionist occupation, the country is now rattling Gaza with its military equipment.

In the major attack last weekend, it was recorded that about 5,000 rockets were launched by Hamas and entered Israeli territory, causing casualties. However, Israel retaliated against the attack that resulted in a declaration of war. As a result, the shooting action has occurred until now that it has claimed many civilian casualties.

History has actually recorded that Israel as a state proclaimed in 1948 on the land of Palestine often wins wars. Even after independence, Israel still won.

Not surprisingly, Israel is often called a country with a qualified military power in the world to become a high-income country based on World Bank records. His military strength is also a selling commodity offered to other countries. So, how did this happen?

The Beginning of Israel's Military Power

Since David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the founding of the world's first Jewish State, Arab countries immediately reacted strongly. They cannot accept Israel's presence in the Middle East that oppresses Palestinians. As a result, war always happens in the next days.

This position puts Israel in a difficult situation. Indeed, Israel was fully supported from the beginning by the United States and other Western countries. However, Tel Aviv also realizes that the support is not forever eternal.

On this basis, according to Yaakov Katz in *The Weapons Wizard: How Israel Became a High-Tech Military Superpower* (2017), Israel began to exercise independence in the military sector.

For Tel Aviv, being in a 'ocean of anger' makes the country's defense sector very good. If at any time attacked, then the country will not just collapse and can counterattack the enemy. So, David Ben-Gurion's first order was not to focus on building the economy, but building the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

Long story short, the presence of the IDF was positively welcomed by the US side. Because, Uncle Sam has an interest there and wants to make Israel a shield to dispel the rise of the power of the Arab state and Soviet influence in the Middle East.

On this basis, aid from the US to the IDF flows profusely.

In the US Foreign Aid to Israel (2022) document, it is recorded that Israel is the largest recipient of aid from the US since World War II.

Al Jazeera wrote that from 1946 to 2023, the US has sent military aid worth US\$ 124 billion or Rp 1,946 Trillion. Of course this does not take into account the transfer of technological knowledge that cannot be calculated economically.

Thanks to the large amount of assistance, it is not surprising that the IDF is transforming into the largest modern military in the world. At this point, the IDF began to 'sell itself'.

Gun Business

Realizing that the country lacks natural resources and other commodities, the government began to sell weapons of domestic production to the international world. Please note, Israel does not only receive weapons supplies from the US. However, it also produces it itself.

According to Antony Loewenstein's notes in *The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Export the Technology of Occupation Around the World* (2023), this production has been carried out since the 1990s as an attempt by Israel to release its weapons dependence from the US. Since then, large-scale research has been carried out by Israel for the production of weapons.

It is known, still quoting Yaakov Katz's exposure, Israel is willing to spend around 4.5 percent of the country's GDP on research and development. Of that amount, about 30 percent of the research budget is channeled to developing the defense industry.

Moving from here, four world-renowned weapon companies were born, namely Elbit, RAFAEL, IMI (Israel Military Industries), and IAI (Israel Aircraft Industries). All of the company's productions, from drones, tanks, missiles and so on, have successfully attracted the world's attention.

For example, Tel Aviv succeeded in creating the Merkava tank, one of Israel's most secret military projects. The tank is considered the deadliest to the enemy and the safest to its troops.

Then there is the Heron drone made by IAI. According to Antony Loewenstein's notes, the Heron drone became the EU's flagship weapon to monitor the arrival of immigrants from the Middle East and Africa. The drone, which is capable of flying for 40 hours non-stop, was purchased by the European Union in a partnership package worth US\$ 91 million in 2020.

Interestingly, Antony Loewenstein's research in *The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Export the Technology of Occupation Around the World* (2023) explained that, during the arms business, Israel made Palestine a laboratory.

So, the Israel-Palestinian conflict is used as a means of testing Israeli weaponry that can be used as a promotional tool when selling weapons. When it works, it will be able to attract more countries to buy Israeli weapons.

'The EU has partnered with leading Israeli defense companies to use its drones, and of course years of experience in Palestine is key to selling points,' Antony said.

Furthermore, Antony said, 'Palestinians are guinea pigs for Israeli technology.'

On this basis, it is not surprising that Israel is among the largest arms exporters that play an important role in shaping global military and geopolitical trends.

Referring to the SIPRI Arms Transfer Database in March 2023 shows Israel is the world's 10th largest arms exporter, accounting for 1.4% of global arms sales during the 2018-2022 period. Furthermore, The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute shows that Israel entered the top 10 arms exporters in the world in 2017-2021 with a contribution of 2.4%.

While referring to Reuters and Times of Israel, Israel's arms exports reached US\$ 12.5 billion in 2022 or around Rp 196.63 trillion (US\$1=Rp 15,730). The value is 9.6% higher compared to 2021 US\$ 11.4 billion which is the record.

And it was all done after Israel successfully made Palestine a 'laboratory' of the arms business.

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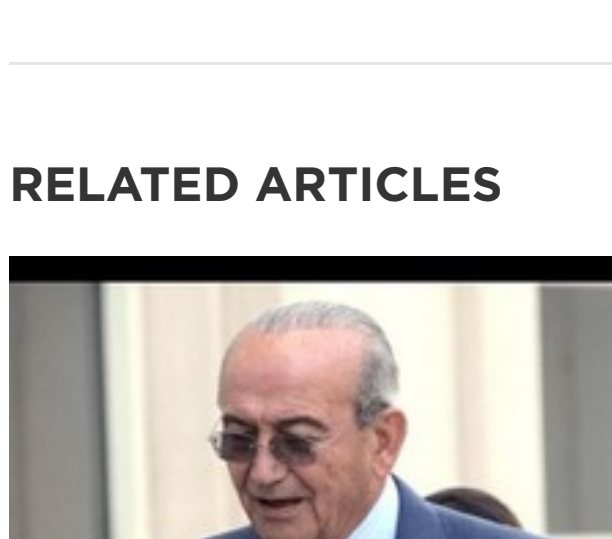
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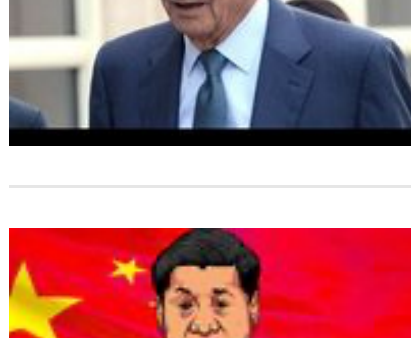
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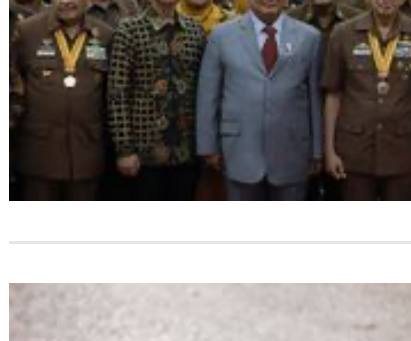
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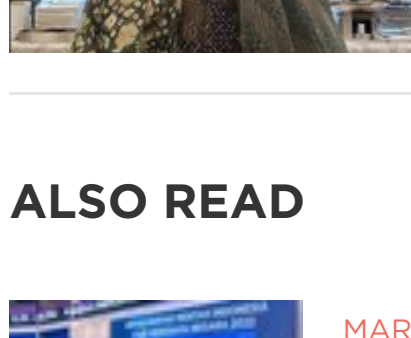
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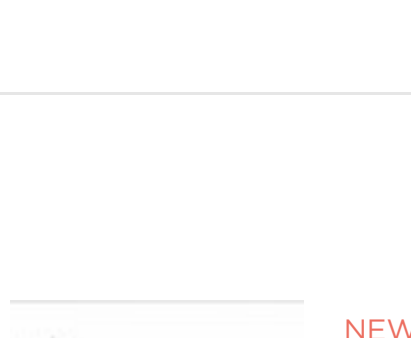
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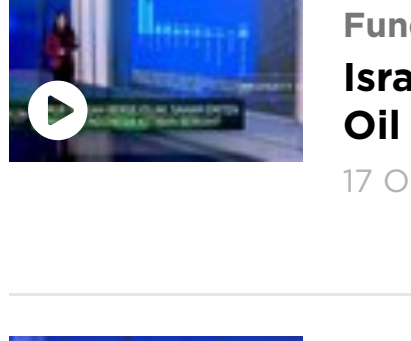
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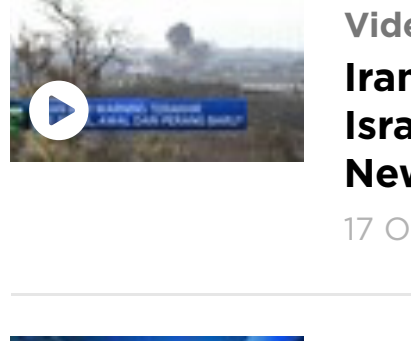
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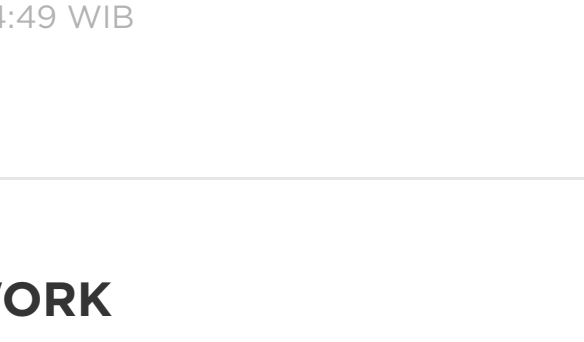
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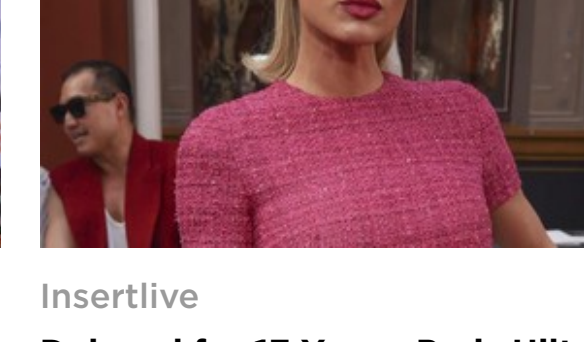
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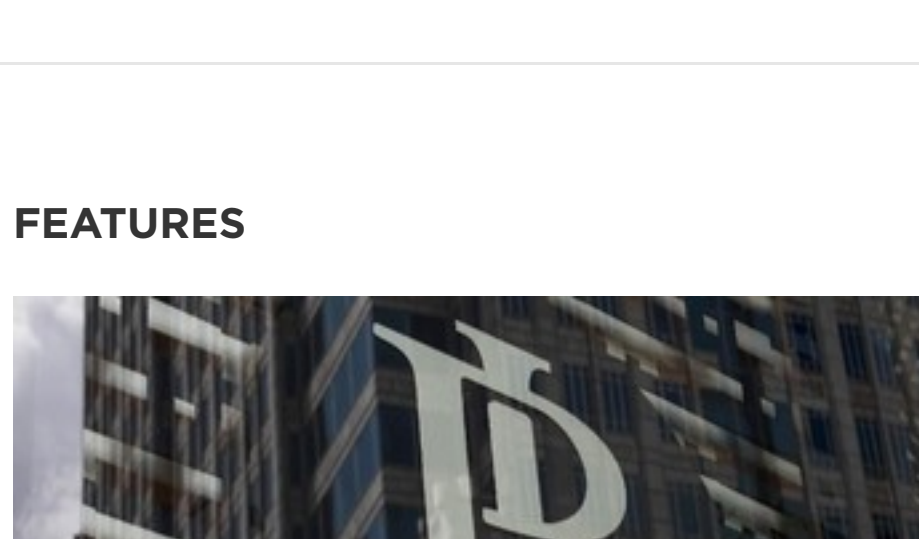


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