Major-General (res.) Meir Dagan, who served as the director of the Mossad-Institute for Intelligence and Special Operations until January 2011, and today is the chairman of the Israel Ports Company, is a highly accomplished figure who has made a distinctive contribution to the State of Israel. The 32 years he served in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and the decade that he led the Mossad testify to his inexhaustible investment in and dedication to the Israeli security establishment.

Born in Russia in 1945 to parents who had survived the Holocaust, Meir Dagan and his family immigrated to Israel in 1950. In 1963, he entered the IDF, first serving in the General Staff's commando unit and then in the Paratroop Brigade. During the Six Day War, he participated in battles in the Sinai and the Golan Heights. In 1970, he established the Rimon Unit to combat Palestinian terrorism in Gaza. During the Yom Kippur War, he fought on the southern front as part of a special patrol force in the Sharon Division. In 1980, he was the commander for the southern Lebanon region. In Operation Peace for Galilee, he served as the commander of Brigade 188, known as the Barak Brigade. He subsequently was appointed commander of the liaison unit to Lebanon, where he established a unit to collect intelligence and operate agents. He retired from the IDF in 1995.

Meir Dagan was injured twice during his military service and awarded a medal of valor in 1973. Major-General (res.) Meir Dagan continued his inspiring career in security even after his IDF career. In 1996, then-prime minister Shimon Peres appointed him deputy director of the Counter-Terrorism Bureau of the National Security Council and he later was promoted to the head of the bureau. In the late 1990s, Meir Dagan joined the General Staff and served as the head of the operations brigade and a special advisor to the chief of general staff.

From 2002 to 2011, Meir Dagan served as the director of the Mossad-Institute for Intelligence and Special Operations. He was highly esteemed by both Israeli and international figures for his extensive and distinguished activities.

Meir Dagan's ideology, devotion, and commitment to fulfilling highly meaningful roles in the IDF, as well as the manner in which he led the Mossad were influenced by the insight he gained as the son of Holocaust survivors and the descendant of Holocaust victims. The photograph that hung in his office at the Mossad throughout his entire tenure there, is testimony to this. The photograph depicts an old man kneeling before Nazis with a rifle aimed at his head moments before he was murdered. The old man in the photograph is Dagan's grandfather.

In April 2011, Meir Dagan was awarded the Chaim Herzog Prize for his unique contribution to the State of Israel.

In recognition of his extensive activities on behalf of the security of the State of Israel and to protect the welfare of its citizens and in appreciation for his many years of dedicated service in various arms of the security establishment, Meir Dagan is hereby named an Honorary Fellow of the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya.

Prof. Uriel Reichman
President
May 25, 2011
Herzliya, Israel