

What is Hannibal Directive?

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About Hannibal Directive:

- It is a **purported operational doctrine** of **using maximum force** to ensure no soldiers are captured, even if it means sacrificing military and civilian lives, a media investigation has found.
- It is also known as **Hannibal Procedure and Hannibal Protocol**.
- The expression refers to a purported **Israel Defence Forces (IDF)** operational policy that aims to **pre-empt politically painful prisoner** swaps by immediately eliminating everyone in the vicinity of a captive Israeli soldier, even if it poses a risk to the soldier himself.
- The full text of the purported doctrine has never been published, even though its existence has been an open secret that has long been discussed by soldiers and analysts.
- It is believed that the policy was named after the **Carthaginian general Hannibal**, who apparently chose to kill himself when faced with the possibility of capture by the Romans in c. 181 BCE.
- **Origin of the doctrine**
 - The Hannibal Doctrine was formulated **as a response to the Jibril Agreement** of 1985 in which 1,150 Palestinian prisoners were exchanged for three Israelis who had been seized in Lebanon by the Syria-based militant group Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).
- **Criticism:** The Hannibal Doctrine has been criticised by legal experts for its disregard for human life.

Source: Death before capture: What is Israel's Hannibal Directive?

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