**Brigadier General (res.) Sima Vaknin-Gill**

**Personal Details**

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**General**

**Manager, strategist content and executive professional** in various public bodies and a broad spectrum of fields for almost four decades.

I have held senior positions in the IAF intelligence branch, IDF Intelligence agency and Ministry of Defense - achieving the rank of Brigadier General. While in public service, I served as Director General of the Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Public Diplomacy, a ministry that focused on battling against the delegitimization campaign and on the Iranian issue.

Throughout the years as a commander and manager, I educated, supervised and developed hundreds of individuals. I managed budgets of hundreds of millions of NIS. I established organizations, beginning with vision formulation to full performance and operation, and I led many organizational or operational development and change processes.

The array of positions that I filled required complex and highly-developed management and command skills, task and people oriented management, professionalism and the ability to gain an in-depth knowledge of new issues, the ability to function and make decisions under ordinary and stressful conditions, creative thinking, vision and initiative, the ability to lead as well as be part of a team, strong verbal expression and writing abilities, training skills and developed mediation skills. I am known for having prominent social skills and for leading change, both strategic and within the system.

Strengths: Strategic vision and thinking – Analyzing the big picture while considering possible future scenarios. The ability to formulate a vision (for an organization or task) and transform it into a reality. Task oriented management – Execution based on objectives and adherent to timetables. Colleague and subordinate leadership and interpersonal skills. A different way of thinking and creativity. Close acquaintance with government ministries and an understanding of the depths of Israeli bureaucracy. Close ties with civil society officials in Israel and around the world. Ongoing and personal acquaintance with the security community and civilian companies involved in big data, data mining and cyber. Direct interface to Jewish leaders – philanthropic and institutional.

**Abstract:**

* Deep acquaintance with Israel’s security system and its leaders – especially related to intelligence functions, military industries and cyber.
* Deep acquaintance with government ministries, governmental bureaucracy and senior officials of the executive authority.
* Broad acquaintance with public officials in Israel and partial access to public officials worldwide, mainly in Europe and the U.S.
* Close ties with Jewish and pro-Israel communities and organizations **worldwide**.
* Broad acquaintance with philanthropic matters and the legal, economic and ideological issues that underlie them – philanthropic funds, family foundations and major donors around the world.
* Good acquaintance with the Israeli media and with local and global polling, advertising and PR companies.

**Areas of Interest:**

* Israel’s national security, security relations and national security issues and challenges facing western countries.
* Israel’s foreign affairs, especially relating to Europe, U.S., Russia and East Asia.
* Cyber – Monitoring, compiling and researching information and taking active measures.
* Israel relations with world Jewry, especially U.S. Jewry, addressing issues of Jewish identity.
* The delegitimization campaign against Israel. Anti-Semitism and new Anti-Semitism. The rise of extreme Islam, especially in Europe.
* Addressing the balance between values, especially the balance between various values and freedom of expression and freedom of opinion.

**Milestones**

**2015 – 2019 Director General, Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Advocacy**

As Director General of the Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Public Diplomacy, I was required to demonstrate the skills and abilities acquired in 32 years of IDF service – studying a complex and multifaceted problem that has been accompanying Israel for two decades, defining the vision and proposing the conceptual a structural solution for dealing with it.

Within a short and intense period, I established the Ministry’s operational task force – recruiting about 45 people while leading a unique project with the Civil Service Commission, developing operational perceptions along with prevention and thwarting tools, while developing a positive campaign, creating action networks, initiating legislation, managing and raising budgets and donations and more.

During my tenure, the Ministry established several disciplinary action networks in Israel and around the world, aimed to coordinate and create a synergy among the pro-Israel factors. We operated with the civil society and with establishments in Israel and abroad. We exposed the true nature of our adversary and revealed its weaknesses throughout the network and, within three years, the task force was highly praised for its work, demonstrating multiple successes.

Concurrently, I established a joint venture (PBC) between the Israeli government and leading Jewish leaders and philanthropists. I personally managed the venture, ranging from the formulation of its vision, its unique operational perception and establishment. The project, currently known as Concert and operating on a budget of ~250M NIS for 3 years, consists of five infrastructures of research and knowledge, network activities, campaign management, delegations – Birthright for non-Jews – and an incubator, also operating as an empowerment center among the pro-Israel network.

**1984 – 2015 Military Service, Brigadier General upon discharge**

Various junior and senior positions in the IAF operational intelligence and training arrays, as well as my service as Israel’s chief censor, have introduced me to endless professional, managerial and value based challenges.

As an operational intelligence officer, I led many organization, managerial, perceptual and budget changes, including the establishment of new organizations and the complete transformation of existing ones. (A new operational unit within the Intelligence Division, an officers’ school for combat support officers, a collaborative international operational war room, leading lateral operational procedure changes in the IAF and more).

While serving in the IAF intelligence-operational array, I acquired a great deal of experience with leading and developing automated systems, compilation and weapon systems (as per Intelligence requirements). This activity required close contact with software development and defense industry companies. As chief censor, my involvement in all aspects of the security world increased and I extended my education in Israeli law and media.

**Education**

**2004 – 2005** Graduate degree (M.A.) in National Security Studies, Magna Cum Laude

 National Defense College – Class valedictorian

**1999** IDF Headquarters and Command College, Cum Laude.

**1989 - 1991** Undergraduate degree (B.A.) in Middle Eastern Studies and Political Science, Tel Aviv University, Magna Cum Laude.

**Experience – Military and civil Service**

**2015 – 2019** Director General, Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Advocacy

**2005 – 2015** Israel’s chief censor

**1999 – 2004** IAF Intelligence – Senior positions

**1995 – 1999** Founder and commander of the aviation officers’ school at the Ovda AFB.

**1984 – 1995** Intelligence officer (operational research and intelligence), IAF Intelligence

**Interests**

Reading: History – World Wars, Birth of the State of Israel to the present, Europe and the U.S, Intelligence and espionage. Biographies – local and international leaders. Analyzing lateral trends – history, politics, science and technology. The human brain and age of singularity.

Publications – “Updated Regulation Proposal for Censorship in Israel” – “Military and Law” magazine.

Opinion pieces on the delegitimization campaign and call for boycotts.

Creative writing – Suspense, fiction and nonfiction

Lectures and participating in panels.

Mentor in the IAF Veterans Association mentoring program.

Voluntary board member in various areas of interest, among them the Jewish Agency Emissary School, ISGAP – Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy. The Council for a Beautiful Israel.

Also, I serve as member of the founding team of CAM – combat antisemitism movement. Combat Antisemitism Movement is a a non-partisan, global grassroots movement of individuals and organizations, across all religions and faiths, united around the goal of fighting anti-Semitism. The CAM Movement initiates its own campaigns and projects and supports and highlights the work of its many partner organizations, governments and other bodies trying to fight anti-Semitism. We are a coalition of 250 organization from around the world and approximately 250000 people who signed the pledge.

**Languages**

Hebrew – Mother tongue

English - Fluent