

COLONEL RICHARD KEMP CBE

Colonel Richard Kemp has spent most of his life combating terrorism and insurgency in Iraq, the Balkans and Northern Ireland, where he was wounded in a terrorist attack. He was Commander of British Forces in Afghanistan in 2003. His name appeared on an Al Qaida kill list in 2013.

As well as leading at the sharp end of conflict, he has been involved in direction of national policy at the highest level, in the British Prime Minister's Office heading the international terrorism intelligence team and chairman of the intelligence group in the UK national crisis management committee COBRA.

He was counter insurgency advisor to the Prime Minister of Macedonia, founding member of the US-UK government International Security Strategy Committee and special advisor on counter terrorism to the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee.

Having been present during recent military operations in Gaza and in the West Bank he has defended the State of Israel and its armed forces at the United Nations, at several national legislatures including the US Congress and UK Parliament, and in international media.

In June this year he addressed the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, speaking against the initial report of the permanent Commission of Inquiry (COI) alleging war crimes and breaches of international law by Israel and briefed the international media in New York at the time of presentation of the COI report to the UN General Assembly in October.

He was recently in Israel meeting with IDF and government officials in order to prepare a report on the August 2022 conflict in Gaza for briefing at the UN and in national parliaments. He was also present during this conflict and visited the front lines.

He was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire by the Queen for counter terrorism work in the UK and Iraq and awarded the Queen's Commendation for Bravery in Bosnia. He received an honorary doctorate from Bar-Ilan University in Israel "In recognition of his stalwart battle against terrorism and terrorist organizations. Courageously defending Israel's security policies and the morality of the IDF before the UN Human Rights Council, he has helped strengthen the standing of Israel throughout the world".

He is a founding board member of the Friends of Israel Initiative; a Senior Associate Fellow of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies in London; Fellow of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs; Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Gatestone Institute; board member of Israel-based NGO Monitor, the campaign group Veterans for Britain and the Community Security Trust.

He is author of Sunday Times bestseller about Afghanistan: "Attack State Red", regular columnist in the Daily Telegraph and other UK national papers and prolific commentator on defence, security, intelligence, terrorism, Middle East politics and Israel-related issues in British and international broadcast media. He is also a frequent speaker in the US, Europe, Israel and many other countries on international security and leadership.