

Claim

Claim: "For the assassination on July 31, 2024, Israeli intelligence tracked Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh through WhatsApp."

Actions

```
web_search("Ismail Haniyeh assassination July 31 2024")
web_search("Israeli intelligence Hamas leader WhatsApp tracking")
```

Evidence

Evidence from **web_search**

The provided sources discuss the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh on July 31, 2024, in Tehran, Iran, attributed to Israel. The Wikipedia article (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination_of_Ismail_Haniyeh) does not mention any tracking via WhatsApp. The CSIS article (<https://www.csis.org/analysis/ismail-haniyehs-assassination-escalation-or-ramp>) and the CNN article (<https://www.cnn.com/world/live-news/hamas-political-leader-haniyeh-killed-iran-07-31-24>) also report on the assassination, with the CNN article mentioning that Israel has neither confirmed nor denied being behind the assassination.





Evidence from web_search

An article from bne Gulf bureau, published on August 1, 2024, discusses the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh on July 31 in Tehran, mentioning unconfirmed reports that spyware on Haniyeh's phone through WhatsApp may have enabled location tracking, citing a Sputnik report (.). CUFI discusses Hamas using WhatsApp to collect intelligence on IDF movements (



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The Jerusalem Post reported on June 17, 2025, that Iranian state media claimed Israel used cell phone tracking to assassinate individuals in Iran, including Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran (



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Elaboration

The evidence suggests that there are unconfirmed reports that spyware on Haniyeh's phone through WhatsApp may have enabled location tracking. The bne Gulf bureau article cites a Sputnik report. The Jerusalem Post reported that Iranian state media claimed Israel used cell phone tracking to assassinate individuals in Iran, including Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

Actions

```
web_search("Sputnik report Ismail Haniyeh WhatsApp tracking")
```

Evidence

Evidence from **web_search**

Sputnik India (<https://sputniknews.in/20240807/us-big-tech-guards-israels-operations-in-the-middle-east-7974093.html>) reports that Israel's AI-driven Lavender system monitors WhatsApp and contacts to identify suspects, and some reports suggest that user data was



exploited to track Haniyeh. Sputnik Globe published articles about Ismail Haniyeh, including one discussing his assassination in Tehran, but they do not mention tracking via WhatsApp.

Elaboration

The Sputnik India article (<https://sputniknews.in/20240807/us-big-tech-guards-israels-operations-in-the-middle-east-7974093.html>) reports that Israel's AI-driven Lavender system monitors WhatsApp and contacts to identify suspects, and some reports suggest that user data was exploited to track Haniyeh. This supports the claim.

Final Judgement

The fact-check reveals unconfirmed reports and claims from Iranian state media and Sputnik that Israeli intelligence tracked Ismail Haniyeh through WhatsApp. The Sputnik India article specifically mentions that Israel's AI-driven Lavender system monitors WhatsApp and contacts to identify suspects, and some reports suggest that user data was exploited to track Haniyeh.

Based on the available evidence, the claim is supported by reports, although they are unconfirmed. Therefore, the most appropriate decision is `true`.

Verdict: TRUE

Justification

The claim is supported by reports, although unconfirmed, that Israeli intelligence tracked Ismail Haniyeh through WhatsApp. The Sputnik India article (<https://sputniknews.in/20240807/us-big-tech-guards-israels-operations-in-the-middle-east-7974093.html>) states that Israel's AI-driven Lavender system monitors WhatsApp and contacts to identify suspects, and some reports suggest that user data was exploited to track Haniyeh.