

## BRIEF ANALYSIS ON HAMMAS'S RECENT SPREAD OF TERROR ACROSS ISRAEL

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**Abstract:** *Nearly 85 Palestinians and 7 Israelis were killed in a reciprocal bombardment, and nearly 1,500 different missiles were fired at the state of Israel. It is the fiercest conflict from the two sides in recent years. A 13-storey residential building has collapsed in Gaza, and another has been severely damaged by hundreds of Israeli airstrikes in May 2021, while Hamas and Palestinian factions have shot down a dam in Tel Aviv and Beersheba. The resurgence of the conflict between the Jewish state and Hamas is proving to have worse consequences than the last war in 2014, gaining international concern, for fear that this situation will spiral out of control. The regional instability has only largened the gap between third-world countries and global power-states, which aim to provide a solid democratic reset for the society in those areas. Hamas, as an international terrorist organization, aims not only to regain part of the lost territory, but also to punish the Jewish community as a whole, by provoking suffering on the civilian and military society of Israel.*

**Keywords** (max.5): *Hamas; bombardment; Israeli airstrikes; Islamic jihad; conflict*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Hamas is a militant development and one of the Palestinian territories' two major political parties. It governs more than two million Palestinians within the Gaza Strip, but the group is best known for its armed resistance to Israel. Handfuls of nations have assigned Hamas a terrorist organization, in spite of the fact that a few apply this name only to its military wing. Iran provides it with fabric and monetary support, and Turkey allegedly harbors a few of its best pioneers. Its opposition, Fatah, which overwhelms the Palestine Freedom Organization (PLO) and rules within the West Bank, has disavowed viciousness. The part in Palestinian authority and Hamas's unflinching antagonistic vibe towards Israel have lessened prospects for steadiness in Gaza (Laub, 2021).

The recent escalation of violence in the Gaza Strip is a source of deep concern about a potential 'large-scale war,' as UN Middle East envoy Tor Wennesland warned in May 2021, according to Agerpres. urges Palestinians to fight even harder for Israel. According to Iranian state television, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the Israelis 'only understand the language of force.' "Zionists only understand the language of force, so Palestinians must develop their strength and resilience to force criminals to surrender and stop their brutal acts," Ayatollah said. Mohsen was assassinated, and the then defense minister declared Israel's revenge (we

will strike with lightning) that is, it is very clear that Iran supported this terrorist attack (Watt, 2021).

### 2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONFLICT

Israeli Defense Serve Benny Gantz cautioned on May 11, 2021 that the bombarding of the Gaza Strip, is 'just the beginning' (Watt, 2021) after a missile assault from Hamas on the Israeli city. In an explanation from Prime Minister Netanyahu, he said he had given the green light to pronounce a state of crisis within the city of Lod, whereas police reported riots nearby Middle Easterner minority after the death of an Israeli civilian. Whereas Israel is seeing a rocket bombarding, Gaza is focusing on enormous airstrikes (Schanzer, 2021:120-155), considering the proceeding heightening of the battle between Palestinian groups and Israel, which has escalated.

On Wednesday, May 12, 2021, Israel killed a senior Hamas leader and bombed several buildings, including tall buildings and a bank, which were linked to the movement's activities, while Hamas raised the banner of defiance. "The confrontation with the enemy is open" (Watt, 2021) said Ismail Haniyeh, head of his political bureau. Israel has launched military actions after Hamas fired missiles in response to clashes between Israeli and Palestinian police near the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Ramadan.

Violence has opened a new front by fueling tensions between Israeli Jews and the Arab minority<sup>1</sup>. Jewish attacks on Arab spectators have increased day and night in mixed areas in Israel (Friedman, 2022:220-265). Police said a person was in critical condition after being shot by Arabs in the town of Lod, where authorities imposed a search. Police say more than 150 people have been arrested overnight in the northern Israeli cities of Lod and Arabs. This prompted Israeli President Reuven Rivlin to warn of a civil war between Arabs and Jews. "Please stop this madness" (Watt, 2021) Rivlin said, his ceremony largely ceremonial.

On May 13, 2021, Israel started preparations to knead tanks and troopers on the Gaza Strip, raising fears of a ground attack. Hamas and Islamic Jihad had sufficient weapons to start an assault and were already sending drones and other intelligence-gathering devices to inspect the planned targets.

Concurring to the Israeli armed forces representative, "a special Hamas unit tried to infiltrate Israel through a tunnel in the southern part of the Strip" (Watt, 2021). This shows that the Israeli armed forces have received a warning in this respect not to attempt any assault. The head of the Gaza Strip's Hamas movement, Yahya Sinwar, has reported for the first time that Palestinian groups within the Gaza Strip are mobilizing at the slightest 70,000 equipped military soldiers, cautioned Israel against "committing any nonsense" (الشرق, 2021:1:22-1:45) during a gathering for recruiting young fighters in Gaza. Al-Sinwar's response provided details regarding Gaza Strip's weaponry, saying that they own Russian ground-to-ground missile have been introduced through burrows within the Sinai Egyptian Peninsula (which have been utilized in later times), unlike Hamas' locally made missiles. Proved to be true, these facts would suggest Iranian involvement (Sekulow, 2018:279-323). Also, information played a vital part in building this industry, having been bombarded a vast number of times by the neighboring countries. Be that as it may, clearly in later a long time the major Israeli invasion into Gaza in 2014, the human fetched are exceptionally tall. However, given the major Israeli incursion into Gaza in 2014, the human costs were and still are very high. Violence has halted talks with Netanyahu's opponents to form a coalition government to oust him after inconclusive elections on March 23, 2021. Although recent events in Jerusalem have sparked escalation, Palestinians are frustrated by failures in their hopes. to establish an

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<sup>1</sup> which makes up 21 percent of the population and live in common neighborhoods.

independent state in recent years. These failures include Washington's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and an American plan to end the conflict, which the Palestinians see as biased in favor of Israel, and the continued construction of the settlement of the Israeli people.

During the operation, 2,251 Palestinians were killed, including 1,462 civilians, while 67 soldiers and 6 civilians were killed (RT Arabic, 2019) on the Israeli side.

### 3. INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

Amid concerns that the violence could spiral out of control, numerous states have taken action (RT Arabic, 2019), at least at a political level. Washington planned to send its envoy, Hadi Amr, to the region for talks with Israel and the Palestinians. Mediation efforts by Egypt, Qatar and the United Nations have not progressed so far. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has called for 'escalation'. "Violence must stop, all parties must commit to de-escalation, reduce tensions, take concrete steps to calm things down." "We need an immediate de-escalation from all sides and no more targeting of civilians," said British Foreign Minister Dominic Raab. "The significant outbreak of violence in the occupied West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, as well as in the Gaza Strip and its environs, must end immediately," said Josep Borrell, a spokesman for EU foreign policy chief. "The Gaza Strip on Israel's civilian population is completely inadmissible and fuels escalation" the spokesman said in a statement.

The Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif stated during a Twitter post "It was not enough for the Israeli regime to steal land and people's homes, create an apartheid regime and refuse to vaccinate civilians under illegal occupation. He had to shoot innocent believers in Islam's third holiest mosque." On May 15, 2021, Iran urged the United Nations to condemn what he called Israel's 'war crime' in Jerusalem (Demsas et.al, 2021). The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has strongly condemned "the new incursion of Israeli forces into the Al-Aqsa Mosque."

The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed that at the disposal of Minister Bogdan Aurescu, a Task Force was set up, at an institution level, which met urgently for "permanent monitoring and evaluation of the situation in Israel", as well as identifying the main directions of action, in order to support Romanian citizens and their family members who are in the area affected by the conflict. The MFA says it is closely monitoring the situation in Israel and strongly condemns the rocket fire launched from the Gaza Strip, targeting civilian areas inhabited by

Israel. Despite the implications, Romania's diplomatic missions in Tel Aviv and Ramallah have not received any request for consular assistance from Romanian citizens. At the same time, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs recommended to the Romanian citizens in the region to show increased attention, vigilance and avoid the areas declared in a state of emergency.

Tunisia, Norway and China have called for a new emergency session of the UN Security Council on the Israeli-Palestinian escalation, which are planned to be made public this time. This session, in which Israelis and Palestinians are expected, will be the third in the Security Council. A second closed-door emergency meeting on the escalation was held, during which the United States again opposed the adoption of a resolution, considering it would lead to 'adverse results'.

"I expect and hope this will end soon" US President Joe Biden told reporters after a phone call with Netanyahu, while British Prime Minister Boris Johnson called for a rapid reduction in escalating violence. Netanyahu said Israel would continue strikes against the military capabilities of Hamas and other groups in Gaza. As it is already known, Israel and the United States consider Hamas a terrorist organization.

#### **4. HISTORICAL ANALYSIS ON THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT**

The organizations' name is an acronym, which stands for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya<sup>2</sup>. It was founded by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, who was a basic Palestinian cleric who got to be an extremist in nearby branches of the Muslim Brotherhood after committing his early life to Islamic grant in Cairo. Starting with the late 1960s, Yassin lectured and performed charitable work within the West Bank and Gaza, both of which Israel occupied after the 1967 Six-Day War (Laub, 2021).

Yassin set up Hamas as the Brotherhood's political arm in Gaza in December 1987, after the episode of the primary intifada, a Palestinian rebellion against Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. At the time, Hamas's goal was to counter Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), another organization whose commitment to savagely standing up to Israel debilitated to draw Palestinians' back from the Brotherhood. In 1988, Hamas distributed its constitution, calling for the pulverization of Israel and the foundation of an Islamic society in notable Palestine. In what

eyewitnesses called an endeavor to moderate its picture, Hamas displayed an unused archived document in 2017 that acknowledged an interim Palestinian state along the "Green Line" border set up some time prior to the Six-Day War but that still denied recognizing Israel.

Hamas began to utilize suicide bombarding in April 1993 (Lazaroff, 2021), sometime before PLO pioneer Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Serve Yitzhak Rabin marked the Oslo Accords.

The noteworthy settlement set up constrained self-government for parts of the West Bank and Gaza under a recently made organization called the Palestinian Specialist (PA). Hamas condemned the Accords, as well as the PLO's and Israel's acknowledgment of each other, which Arafat and Rabin formally concurred to in several letters (Kingsley, 2021). In 1997, the United States assigned Hamas as a terrorist organization. The development went on to initiate rough resistance amid the second intifada, within the early 2000s, in spite of the fact that PIJ and Fatah's Tanzim local army were moreover responsible for viciousness against Israelis. At the moment, Ismail Haniyeh serves as political chief, having supplanted longtime pioneer Khaled Meshaal in 2017. Haniyeh has worked from Doha, Qatar, since 2020, supposedly since Egypt does not permit him to travel into and out of Gaza. Hamas extended their organization in Qatar after falling out with their past host-country, Syria, when Palestinian displaced citizens had intensified the 2011 Arab Spring phenomenon (Laub, 2021). Western intelligence still believe that Hamas true leadership to operate out of Turkey.

Following this short qualitative method of historical analysis on Hamas as an organization, this paper presents a chronology of some of the most important moments of the great confrontation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (Watt, 2021):

1987 – The founding of the Hamas movement at the beginning of the first Palestinian intifada against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Two years later, the movement carried out its first attacks on Israeli military targets, including the abduction and killing of two Israeli soldiers.

1993 – After years of violence, the Oslo Accords are signed with the aim of establishing peace between Israel and the Palestinians. Hamas opposed the peace process and tried to stop it with bus bombings and armed attacks inside Israel.

2000 – Israel and the Palestinians fail to reach a final agreement on a peace process during a US-hosted summit in July 2000. Two months later, the visit of then-Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon

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<sup>2</sup> Eng. Islamic Resistance Movement.

ignited the Al-Moscow Mosque Complex. Aqsa from East Jerusalem, the second intifada.

2001-2002 – Hamas carried out a series of suicide bombings in Israel, including the killing of 21 Israelis outside a nightclub in Tel Aviv in June 2001 and 30 Jewish citizens during the Netanya Passover. Israel has killed Hamas military commander Salah Shehadeh in an airstrike and has begun besieging Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's complex in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

2004 - Israel kills Hamas spiritual leader and co-founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in an airstrike, as well as co-founder and political leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi in Gaza for two consecutive months. Hamas leadership disappears.

2005 – Israeli forces begin a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, which they captured from Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war, leaving the settlements and densely populated strip to the Palestinian Authority.

2006 – Hamas wins majority in Palestinian legislative elections. Israel and the United States have cut off aid to the Palestinians because of Hamas' refusal to renounce violence and to recognize Israel. Hamas captured Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit in a cross-border raid, prompting Israel to launch airstrikes and push into the Strip. Shalit was released five years later in a prisoner exchange.

2007 – Hamas takes control of Gaza in short fighting and eliminates Fatah forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas based in the West Bank.

2008 – Israel launches a 22-day military offensive on Gaza after Palestinians fire rockets on the southern Israeli city of Sderot. Reports indicate that 1,400 Palestinians and 13 Israelis were killed before an armistice was agreed.

2012 – Israel kills Hamas military commander Ahmed al-Jabari, followed by Palestinian militants firing missiles into Israel and Israeli airstrikes for eight days.

2014 – The abduction and killing of three young Israelis by Hamas leads to a seven-day war that allegedly killed 2,100 Palestinians in Gaza and 73 Israelis, including 67 soldiers.

2018 – Palestinian protests erupt on the Gaza Strip border with Israel and Israeli forces open fire to keep them behind the border. Reports indicate that more than 170 Palestinians have been killed in protests over the past few months, which has also led to clashes between Hamas and Israeli forces.

2021 – After months of tension, during Ramadan, Israeli police confront Palestinian protesters near the Al-Aqsa Mosque for a trial in which eight Palestinian families face a possible eviction from their homes in

East Jerusalem in favor of Jewish settlers. Hundreds of Palestinians are wounded in clashes with Israeli security forces at the Al-Aqsa Mosque complex after two days of sporadic violence. After urging Israel to withdraw its security forces from the complex, Hamas launched a missile barrage from Gaza into Israel. Israel responded with airstrikes on Gaza.

An interesting aspect observed during the siege is that most of the missiles used by Hamas are named after their former leaders, such as Major Al Atar<sup>3</sup> (Watt, 2021).

#### 4.1. Hamas Structure.

After thoroughly analyzing multiple sources<sup>4</sup>, we have established a confirmed structure of the Hamas Organization.

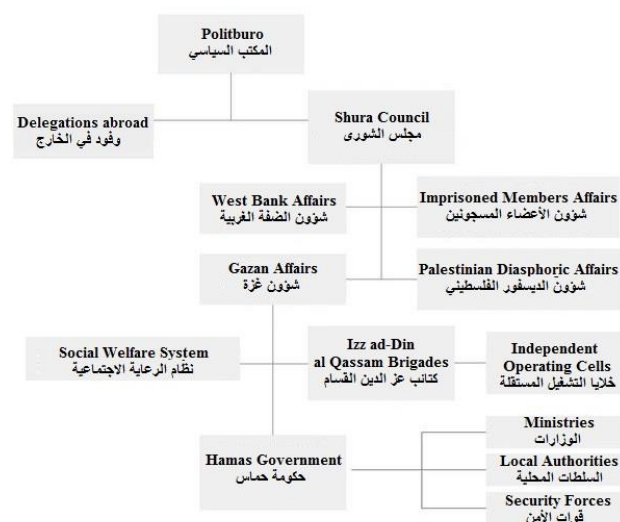


Fig.1 Hamas structure

In a deeper dive towards understanding the mentality of the terrorist organization, we will detail each section presented in the above figure.

The Politburo has a number of fifteen members, and is currently headed by Ismail Haniyeh; The Shura Council is the consultative body that elects the Politburo members – confirmed information about membership is not accessible to the public; The West Bank Affairs is led by Saleh al-Arouri; The Imprisoned Members Affairs is led by Salameh Katawi; The Gazan Affairs section is headed by Yahya Sinwar.

Special significations hold the so-called Social Welfare System sub-section, that provides the brute

<sup>3</sup> Aiash (A120 / 220km), which is the most modern model; (M302 / 200km); (R160 / 120km); (Alfajer80 / 100km); (SH85/85 km); (M75 / 75 km); (WS-1-E / 55km); (Alkuds101 / 16km); (Alkasam / 10km).

<sup>4</sup> See <https://www.counterextremism.com/threat/hamas>; <https://ecfr.eu/topic/hamas/>; <https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/>; <http://www.passia.org/>.

force for implementing the extremist ideology. Notably, we are talking about The Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, which are commanded by Marwan Issa and Mohammed Deif. The independent cells function as local monitoring stations for maintaining the self-proclaimed equilibrium of society. They are also known to engage in undercover missions, the aftermath and responsibility of which require to be separate from the Hamas organization. Last, we have the Hamas Government, which implements policies and is headed by Prime Minister Issam al-Da'alis (Staff, 2021).

#### 4.2. Hamas Funding.

As a assigned terrorist organization, Hamas is cut off from official help that the United States and European Union give to the PLO within the West Bank. Generally, Palestinian expatriates and private givers within the Gulf given much of Hamas' financing. Expanding, a few Islamic charities within the West have channeled cash to Hamas-backed social benefit entities (Laub, 2021), inciting resource freeze by the U.S. Treasury.

### 5. CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion is that the Hamas Movement and its activity in Gaza create great difficulties for the Palestinian authorities as well as for the Israeli state, so Hezbollah's current policy also causes economic problems, energy, gas and especially a permanent state of war in Lebanon. Both movements are based on very strong external support, Iran, Syria.

Hamas began in 2021 preparing to run in the Palestinian Legislative Council elections in a military confrontation with Israel. Surprisingly, however, the movement implemented these two steps with unexpected enthusiasm, which raises the question: which approach best reflects its essence? The election provided Hamas with a real, albeit limited, opportunity to reappear in the West Bank, where it has been overshadowed by Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and to engage in Palestinian national structures, represented by a peaceful parliament and the Palestine Liberation Organization. Hamas hoped to control a very large group in a divided parliament, and if it did, it would find itself involved in Palestinian decision-making and an active party that could no longer be controlled or ignored. He has just elected a new leadership that is ready to make concessions to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Fatah to make progress in organizing elections and achieving Palestinian reconciliation. When Abbas canceled the election for fear of divisions within his movement. Hamas left empty-

handed, with no seat in parliament. However, he has faced rival parties that are now torn apart by divisions and a president who lacks credibility and has limited options.

This political vacuum that followed the cancellation of the elections provoked a deep-rooted crisis over Jerusalem, exacerbating the traumas that Palestinians are experiencing today and those they have suffered in the past. When Israel expelled Palestinians living in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, it reminded them of the events in Nakba, which led to the expulsion of Palestinians from their lands in 1948, after the founding of Israel. However, his desire to take control of the entire city, to revive Jewish property claims over pre-1948 real estate, and to continue to violate Palestinian rights, made Nakba seem more like an act in unfolding than a historical act. Apparently, these steps also coincided with the abandonment by the international Palestinian community. The Trump administration has supported the efforts of Israeli extremists to expel Palestinians from their homes in Jerusalem and to replace them with Israeli settlers. But this issue has taken on a religious character, after Israel imposed strict measures to restrict traffic in the city during the month of Ramadan and targeted those in the courtyards of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is one of the most sacred. places for Palestinians and Muslims around the world. Images of clashes inside the mosque complex and videos that were widely viewed and showed Israeli police storming the mosque have led to growing Palestinian anger. It is noteworthy that Hamas did not have a hand in initiating waves of mobilizations against evacuations, nor did it take the lead. But these measures have given rise to action, as Hamas leaders believe they will not be held accountable for the heavy costs that Gaza citizens pay today for Israeli attacks on residential areas and the killing of civilians, knowing that previous rounds of fighting -based on this equation. For his part, the head of Hamas's political bureau, Ismail Haniyeh, said the war was not Hamas's choice, but rather that the Palestinians had "called for a move" and called on them to intervene, before calling for a new Palestinian leadership.

The conflict has so far killed at least 200 people in Gaza, including 58 children and 35 women, as 11 Israelis have been killed in rocket attacks. Hamas continued the war by firing rockets into West Jerusalem in response to an Israeli police attack on the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Hamas hopes to use this to ease the severity of its rule in Gaza, as the movement pays special attention to its position among the people, especially the people's control of its steps and its chosen leadership. In this context, the re-election of

Yahya Sinwar in 2021 as the leader of the Gaza Strip movement was a victory for a pragmatic approach to the issue of elections and the division of power. Hamas has decided to run in the by-elections to break the deadlock. Since the military took over the Gaza Strip in 2007, Hamas has suppressed dissenting voices. Many young people have come to see the movement's behavior as 'corrupt,' just like Fatah's rule. In addition, living under siege is not a viable way.

To continue the forms of resistance. Israeli authorities in the Gaza Strip have prevented Hamas from fulfilling its promises and implementing its electoral and social programs, undermining its position at the local level. On this basis, many Gaza residents believe that the Hamas project to combine armed resistance with the ruling authority has largely failed. However, recent hostilities have given Hamas the opportunity to assert its support for the people of Gaza and to assure them that their suffering has not been in vain. While communicating with the people of Gaza via WhatsApp, many of those who criticized the previous military confrontations between Hamas and Israel spoke about their support for the steps of today's movement. In a speech, Haniyeh carried the 'defender' flag of Sheikh Jarrah and Al-Aqsa Mosque and portrayed himself as a representative of the Palestinian people. But at least for now, the contrast with Fatah's inefficient movement is strong, allowing Hamas to claim that it is paving the way for national unity.

## 5. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

May 2021 marks one year since the loss of many Israeli and Palestinian souls. This article is written in memoriam to them.

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