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**Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center
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& Commemoration Center (IICC)**

Anti-Israeli Terrorism in 2007 and its Trends in 2008



The remains of rockets fired at Sderot and the western Negev population centers, kept by police in Sderot. Center: Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist operatives launching a rocket into Israeli territory (Al-Jazeera TV, February 28, 2008).

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Overview

Anti-Israeli terrorism in 2007

1. This study analyzes anti-Israeli terrorism in 2007, an important, continuing influence on the country's political agenda. It includes analyses of the terrorist attack policies and the modus operandi of the various terrorist organizations and networks (Palestinian terrorist organizations, Hezbollah and global jihad). It also analyzes the factors influencing the extent and nature of the terrorism against Israel in 2007 and the trends of the first months of 2008.

2. Terrorist organization policies and modus operandi, 2007:

i) **Rocket and mortar shell fire from the Gaza Strip continued as the Palestinian terrorist organizations' preferred form of attack.** In 2007, 896 hits were identified in Israeli territory, compared with 946 in 2006, the year with the largest number. During the past two years there was a substantial increase in rocket fire compared with 2001-2005, the years before the disengagement. **The trend continues in 2008.** There was also a significant increase in the amount of mortar shell fire, another continuing trend. Rocket and mortar shell fire is relatively less lethal than suicide bombing attacks but has a **devastating effect on the daily life and sense of security of the 200,000 residents of the western Negev.**

ii) **Palestinian suicide bombing terrorism**, which was the dominant form of attack during the first years of the current confrontation, has continued declining since the peak of 2002. (There was one such attack in 2007, in the southern city of Eilat, and one so far in 2008, carried out in the southern city of Dimona, compared with four in 2006 and 55 in 2002). That was also manifested by the conspicuous decrease in the number of suicide bombing attacks prevented by the Israeli security forces. In addition, the decrease in number of Israelis killed in suicide bombing attack also continued (three in 2007, compared with 15 in 2006 and 220 in 2002).

iii) **Mass-killing attacks and abductions:** In 2007 there were sporadic infiltrations into Israeli territory from the Gaza Strip, whose objective was to kill Israeli civilians and soldiers near the border and, should the opportunity present itself, to abduct Israelis. On August 25 such an attack was prevented by the IDF at Netiv Haasara, a village near the Gaza Strip's northern edge. Several attempts to abduct civilians and soldiers in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria were prevented. In 2008, however, **there has been an increase in the number of mass-killing attacks**, such as Dimona (carried out by suicide bombers), Jerusalem (the shooting attack at the Mercaz Ha'Rav yeshiva), and at

border crossings, settlements and military targets near the security fence in Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

iv) **In Judea and Samaria there were a number of shooting attacks, two of them fatal.** One occurred near **Hebron** on December 28, 2007, killing two IDF off-duty soldiers on a walking trip. The other was a drive-by shooting which killed an Israeli civilian near the settlement of **Kedumim** on November 29, 2007. However, many attacks in 2007 were relatively “simple” from an operational point of view, due to the terrorist organizations’ operational weaknesses, and consisted of IEDs, stabbings (one fatality) and “cold” attacks (Molotov cocktails and stones.)

v) **Hamas and secondly, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad** continued as the dominant terrorist organizations. In Lebanon, **Hezbollah** has avoided attacking Israel since the second Lebanon war in the summer of 2006, focusing instead on rebuilding its military infrastructure. **Global jihad networks** which have gained a foothold in Lebanon carried out a number of attacks against Israel and UNIFIL. In Judea and Samaria there was no significant global jihad activity against Israel.

3. **Thirteen Israelis were killed in terrorist attacks in 2007**, seven civilians and six members of the security forces, continuing the decrease in the number killed in terrorist attacks since the 2002 peak of 453 dead. Two hundred and ninety-one individuals were wounded in terrorist attacks in 2007, most of them members of the security forces. **However, in 2008 there has been a significant increase** in the number of Israelis killed as a result of the current escalation of the terrorism emanating from the Gaza Strip and the improvement in Hamas’s operational capabilities (during the first four months of 2008 15 Israeli civilians and eight members of the security forces were killed).

4. In 2007 Hamas accelerated the military buildup of its military-terrorist wing, the **Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades**, which focuses on terrorist attacks against Israel and defense against the IDF; and of the **internal security apparatus** (i.e., the Executive Force integrated into the police), Hamas’s main arm for internal control, and which supports the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades. Hamas’s military buildup is manifested in a variety of ways: an increase in training (including sending operatives to Iran and Syria), improving its underground tunnel system, acquiring weapons and smuggling them into the Gaza Strip (especially standard rockets and advanced anti-tank missiles) and developing and manufacturing weapons (improving the range and penetration of rockets, manufacturing powerful explosive devices and anti-tank weapons, etc.).

5. In **Lebanon**, the military buildup of Hezbollah and the activities global jihad networks were particularly conspicuous.

i) **Hezbollah**: In 2007 Hezbollah continued to avoid attacking Israel, focusing its efforts instead on rehabilitating its military infrastructure, and adapting its activities to the new situation created in the south by the second Lebanon war. Particularly conspicuous was the **construction of a new rocket arsenal in south Lebanon**. With its construction, Hezbollah completed arming itself with the same quantity of rockets it had (20,000) on the eve of the second Lebanon war, and in our assessment, now possesses far more. The rehabilitated arsenal was built with the support of Iran and Syria and is a formidable threat to Israel as far south as Tel Aviv, and even to the southern part of the country.

ii) **The global jihad**: In 2007 global jihad networks worked intensively to strengthen their position in south Lebanon. After the Lebanese government successfully uprooted Fatah al-Islam from the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp in north Lebanon, the Ein al-Hilweh refugee camp near Sidon became the focal point for organization and activity of global jihad-affiliated networks. In 2007 and the beginning of 2008 global jihad groups attacked Israel and UNIFIL a number of times. Two of the more conspicuous attacks were rocket fire targeting Kiryat Shemonah in June 2007 and Shelomi in January 2008. However, their potential for causing damage is much greater.

Factors influencing Palestinian terrorist policy, its scope and nature, 2007

6. **Two important factors** influencing Palestinian terrorist policy in 2007 were the **Israeli security forces counterterrorist activities** and the **dramatic developments in the internal Palestinian arena**. Both continue to influence Palestinian terrorism in 2008.

7. The successful **Israeli security force counterterrorist activities in Judea and Samaria** led to a reduction in the number and severity of terrorist attacks. In the **Gaza Strip**, on the other hand, where there is no permanent Israeli security presence, extensive rocket and mortar shell fire continued. The trends of increasing rocket and mortar shell fire improving their quality rose in 2008. As a result, the number of Israel casualties caused by rocket and mortar shell fire increased.

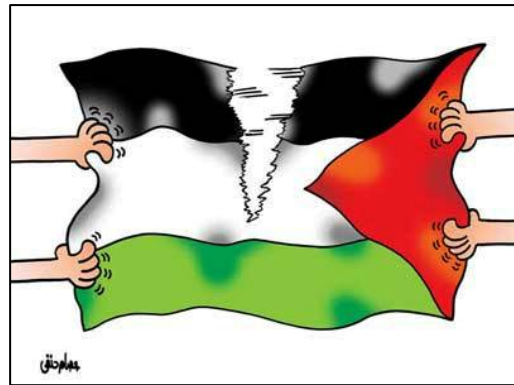
8. In **Judea and Samaria** the security forces maintain counterterrorist activity pressure which includes the detention of wanted terrorists, exposing weapons and killing the terrorist operatives who resisted detention. Successful counterterrorist activities and finishing many sections of the security fence led to a continued decrease in suicide bombing terrorism. In many cases, the operational weakness of the terrorist organizations forced them to make do with relatively "simple" attacks such as shootings, stabbings, laying IEDs, and throwing Molotov cocktails and stones. The **Palestinian security forces'** activities, despite their ineffectiveness, also contributed to the difficulties faced by Hamas and the other terrorist organizations in Judea and Samaria.

9. In the **Gaza Strip**, which is the focal point of anti-Israeli terrorism, the Israeli security forces increased the level of their counterterrorist activities during the second half of 2007. There were no major operations but rather air strikes and ground activities limited in time were carried out. They included the targeted killings of terrorist operatives; attacks on weapons and ammunitions stores, workshops and weapons-manufacturing lathes; strikes against rocket launching squads; attacks on terrorist bases and offices; the detention of suspected terrorists and the exposure of tunnels dug to smuggle weapons. Although the IDF's activities in the Gaza Strip made it difficult for the terrorist organizations to carry out attacks, they did not stop the rise in the number of rockets fired and **did not stop Hamas's military buildup** or the improvements in its operational capabilities (as was illustrated by the first months of 2008).

10. Another important factor influencing Palestinian terrorism in 2007 was the **dramatic developments in the internal Palestinian arena** which occurred concurrently with the continuing peace process, which reached its high point at the Annapolis meeting on November 27. The most important internal Palestinian developments were the **schism between Hamas and Fatah**, the **Hamas military takeover of the Gaza Strip in June**, which came after a series of violent incidents, and the **brutal oppression on Fatah and the Palestinian Authority security services**. Following the takeover, Hamas established a Palestinian entity in the Gaza Strip ("**Hamastan**") which is in constant confrontation with Abu Mazen's PA.



Symbolically smashing Fatah and the PA: Hamas operatives treading on a picture of Abu Mazen (Ibrahim Abu Mustafa for Reuters, June 15, 2007).



The Palestinian schism (PIJ Website, June 14, 2007).

11. The dramatic events in the Gaza Strip **weakened Abu Mazen's PA**, hampering his ability to make effective progress in a peace process with Israel and enabled Hamas to force its agenda on the Palestinians. Its agenda is based on non-recognition of the State of Israel and using terrorism to achieve its aspirations, i.e., the destruction of the State of Israel and the establishment of an Islamic Palestinian state on the ruins. Hamas's Palestinian entity in the Gaza Strip, whose ideology and policies are different from those of the PA headed by Abu Mazen in Judea and Samaria found itself isolated by the international community and even the Arab and Muslim world (with the **exception of Syria and Iran**, which support it politically, militarily and financially).

12. The terrorist policy of Hamas, which enjoys unprecedented freedom of action in the Gaza Strip, is influenced by the continual tension between its administrative responsibilities, which force it to respond to the population and to cope with internal and external threats to the Gaza Strip; and its strategic-political and ideological goals, which commit it to maintaining its jihad identity by continually attacking Israel, even when the terrorist attacks clearly harm the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip.¹

13. Hamas resolves that fundamental tension by continuing attacks (mainly rocket and mortar shell attacks) while controlling their dosage, keeping them at a level which will not drag Israel into a broad military action in the Gaza Strip. At the same time, inspired by Hezbollah's achievements in Lebanon during the second Lebanon war, it has accelerated the pace of its ongoing military buildup, hoping that will enable it to fight the IDF successfully when the latter enters the Gaza Strip. The buildup is made possible by the Iranian and Syrian support

¹ The attacks at the Gaza Strip crossings, through which goods and fuel pass into the Gaza Strip are one example; rocket attacks targeting the power plant in Ashqelon, which provides the Gaza Strip with electricity, are another.

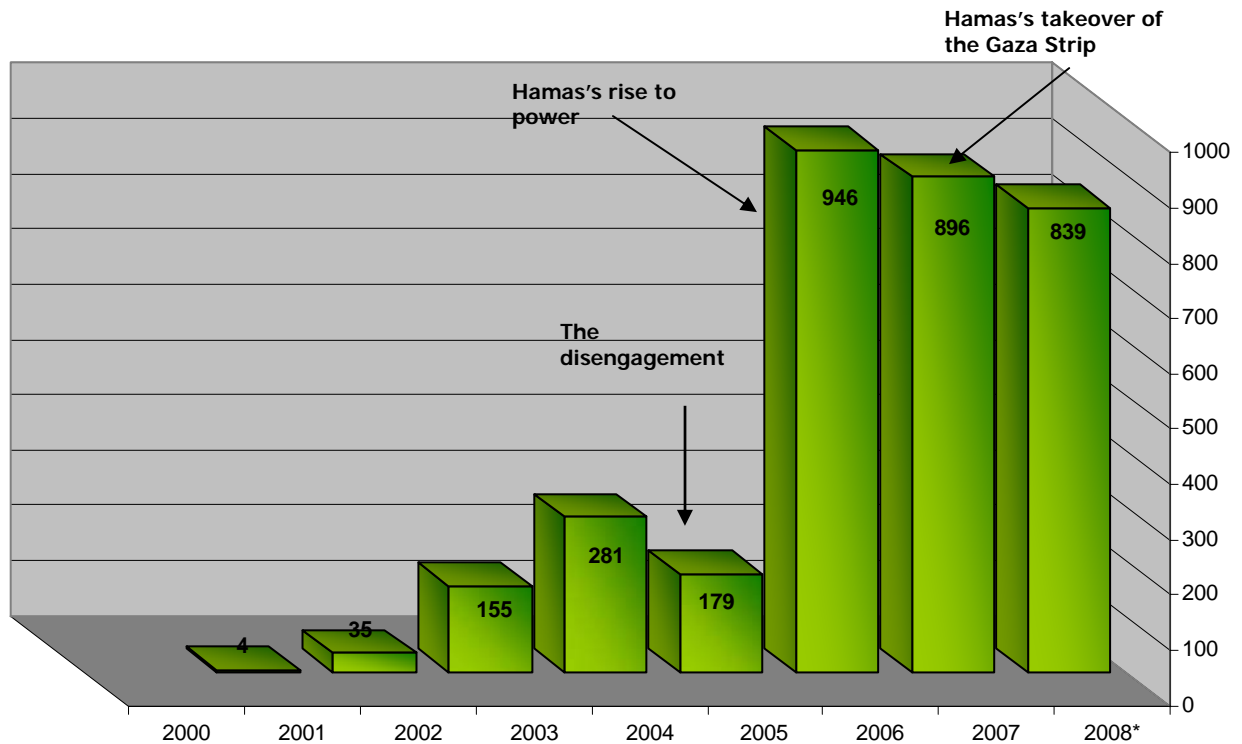
of Hamas (and the other terrorist organizations), partly the result of the Egyptian government's ineffective response, which did not prevent the smuggling of weapons, money and terrorist operatives into the Gaza Strip through Rafah Crossing and the tunnels dug under the Philadelphi Route.

Part I: Palestinian terrorism in 2007

The nature of terrorism in 2007 compared with previous years

1. Since September 2000 the Palestinian terrorist organizations have been waging an on-going terrorist campaign against Israel (called by the Palestinians "the second intifada"). Its scope and intensity are unprecedented in the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, although there have been ups and downs in the extent of the terrorism employed and significant changes in the modus operandi used by the terrorist organizations.
2. The first years of the terrorist campaign were characterized by **mass-casualty suicide bombing attacks** which peaked in 2002. However, beginning with Operation Defensive Shield (April 2002), there was a continuous decline in suicide bombing terrorism which continued throughout 2007. On the other hand, a high level of rocket attacks continued in 2007 (close to the record year of 2006) and the level of mortar shell fire also increased significantly. Quantitatively, there were 1,800 terrorist attacks in 2007, including rocket and mortar shell attacks, compared with 2,135 in 2006 and 7,634 in 2001. There has been a steady quantitative decline since 2001, which was the year of the most Palestinian terrorist attacks.
3. In 2007 rocket fire continued as the terrorist organizations' preferred method of attack from the Gaza Strip. A total of 896 rocket hits were identified in the western Negev (compared with 946 in 2006). About half of the rockets targeted the city of Sderot which remained the terrorist organizations' preferred target. A conspicuous point in rocket fire was the escalation initiated by Hamas during its confrontation with Fatah in the middle of May to divert attention from internal Palestinian tensions and confrontations toward Israel.

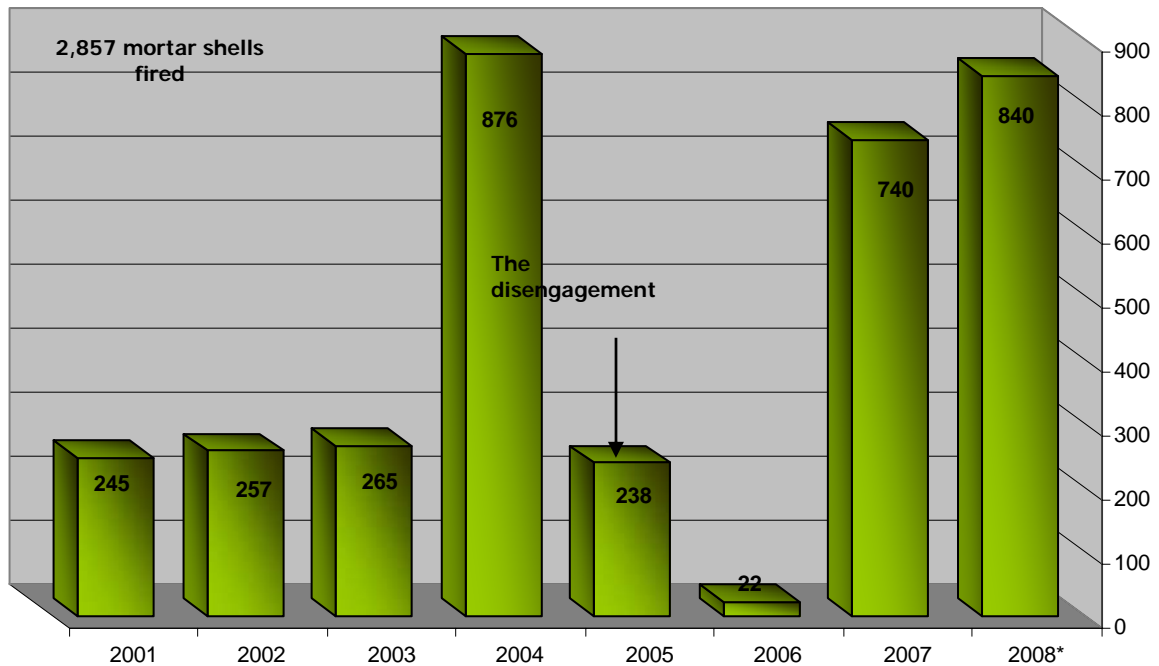
Rocket Shell Fire



* As of April 30, 2008

4. There was a sharp increase in mortar shell fire from the Gaza Strip in 2007, relative to the two years since the disengagement. In 2007 there were 740 identified mortar shell hits, compared with 22 in 2006. Mortar shell fire targeted IDF forces and population centers within 2-3 kilometers (about 1 ¼ to 1 ¾ of a mile) of the Gaza Strip border. Increase is due, in our assessment, to the rise in fighting near the border. The terrorist organizations, especially Hamas, use mortar shells extensively as a tactical weapon against IDF forces as well as firing them at civilian targets. The existence of standard 120mm mortar shells (which have greater accuracy and destructive power than those manufactured locally) in the hands of the terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip has increased the number of Israeli towns and villages within firing range to 10 kilometers (almost 6 ¼ miles).

Mortar Shell Fire



***As of April 30, 2008**

5. The number of **suicide bombing attacks** noted above continued to **decline**. In **2007** only one was carried out, by a terrorist who went from the Gaza Strip through Sinai to Eilat, Israel's southernmost city, and blew himself up. In comparison, there were **four** suicide bombing attacks in 2006, all carried out by terrorists from Judea and Samaria. At the same time, there was a significant drop in the number of attempted suicide bombing attacks prevented by the Israeli security forces, **six** in 2007² compared with **71** in 2006.

6. Shootings and stabbings were prominent among the terrorist attacks carried out in Judea and Samaria. Three such attacks killed four Israelis, two civilians and two members of the security forces (a third of the 13 deaths caused by terrorist attacks in 2007). There are fewer deaths from shootings and stabbings than from suicide bombing attacks, but operationally they are easier to carry out, especially during periods of terrorist organization weakness in Judea and Samaria.

7. **Financing terrorism:** In 2007 the amounts of money sent to the terrorist organizations and networks from abroad rose. The funds enable the organizations to maintain and even expand their networks, pay and train operatives, and manufacture and purchase weapons.

² According to statistics provided by the Israel Security Agency.

8. The terrorist organizations worked energetically to develop varied methods of transferring funds from abroad to the terrorist networks in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria. Money changers and businessmen played a significant role in laundering terrorist money. In 2007 a Hamas network in Jerusalem was exposed to which funds were transferred for terrorist activities. In addition, a Palestinian Islamic Jihad collaborator from the village of Tubas was detained for having 80,000 Israeli shekels transferred to his account used to fund the PIJ's terrorist operational activities in northern Samaria (according to data from the Israel Security Agency's annual report).

Gaza Strip terrorism compared with Judea and Samaria

Overview

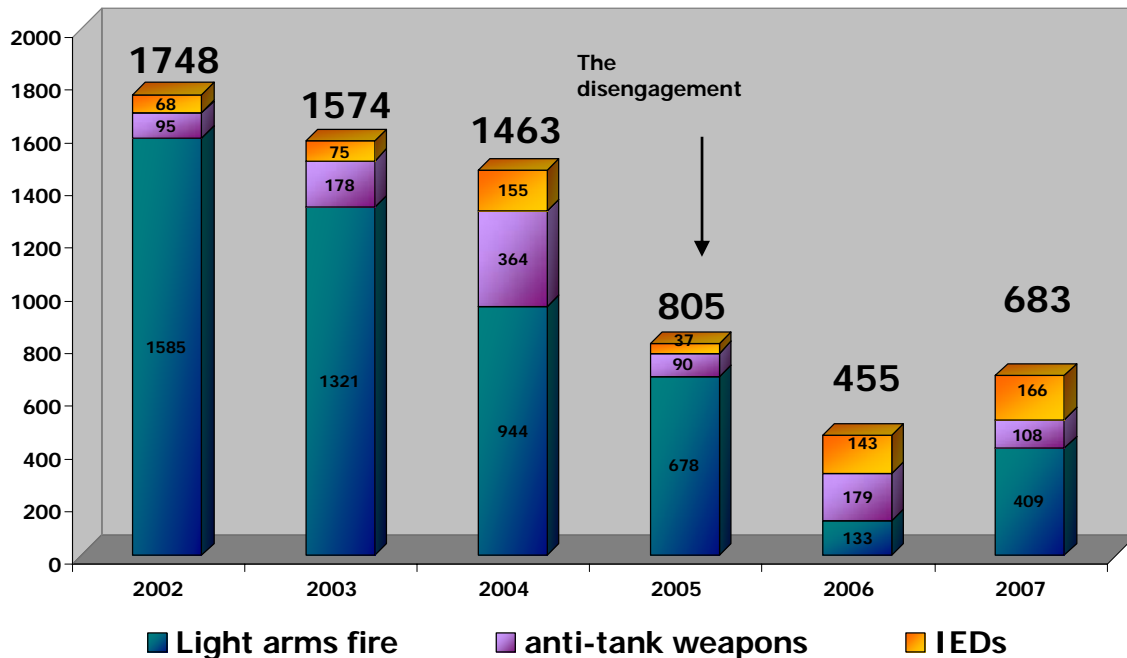
9. In 2007 as well, the modus operandi of the terrorist organizations in Judea and Samaria was significantly different from that of the organizations in the Gaza Strip. In Judea and Samaria, where Israel maintains a continuous security force presence and undertakes effective counterterrorist measures, the terrorist organizations were faced with operational difficulties, which hindered their freedom of action and led to a decrease in terrorism. The activities of the Palestinian Authority security forces, despite their ineffectiveness, also made certain contributions to those difficulties, mainly for Hamas.

10. **In the Gaza Strip**, where since the disengagement there has been no IDF presence, the terrorist organizations enjoy great freedom of action regarding both attacks and military buildup. The June 2007 Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip increased that freedom even more and provided it with governmental resources it had formerly lacked, manifested in the increase of terrorist attacks from the Gaza Strip, especially rocket and mortar shell fire.

The Gaza Strip

11. The rise in terrorist attacks from the Gaza Strip was marked by an increase in rocket and mortar shell fire targeting western Negev population centers. The terrorist organizations also carried out other types of attacks targeting civilians and the military near the border, while trying to direct the terrorist networks in Judea and Samaria.

Terrorist attack level from the Gaza Strip (excluding rocket and mortar shell fire)

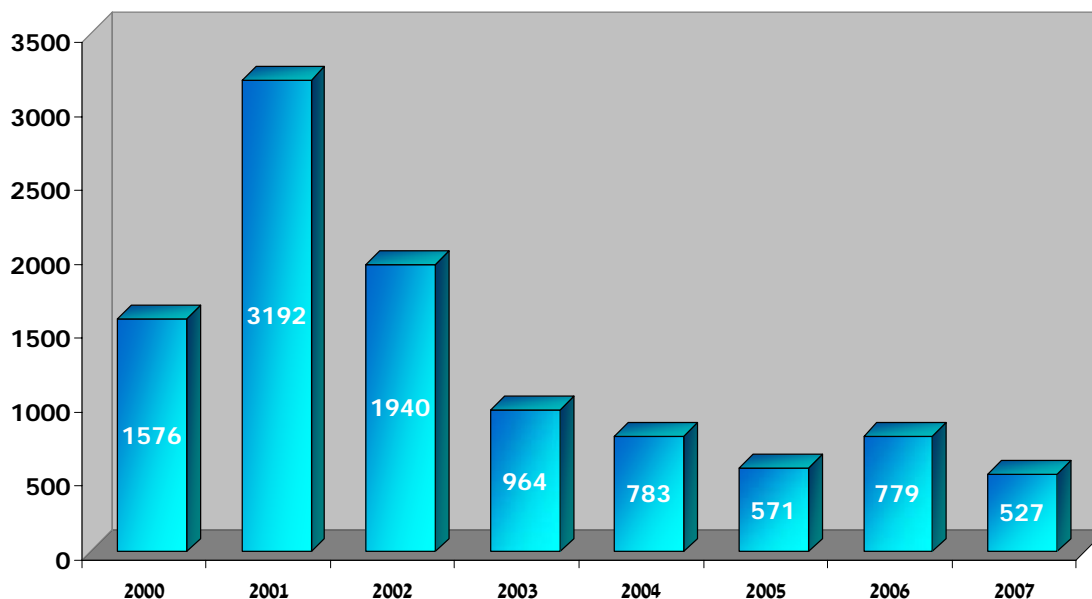


Judea and Samaria

Overview

12. In 2007 the number of attacks **continued to decline**. A total of 527 were carried out, compared with 799 in 2006. That was the smallest number of attacks since 2000, when the current confrontation began. Most of the terrorist attacks in Judea and Samaria are “cold” attacks, such as stabbings, stone-throwing, etc., against both civilians and IDF soldiers.

Terrorist Attacks from Judea and Samaria 2007



13. In 2007 **no suicide bombing attacks** originating in Judea and Samaria were **carried out in Israeli territory**, compared with 2006, when three suicide bombing attacks were carried out, two of them in Israeli territory. However, in 2007 **three suicide bombing attacks** originating in Judea and Samaria were **prevented at the last minute**, one of which was planned for **Tel Aviv on Yom Kippur**.

14. Some of the Hamas networks in Judea and Samaria received directions from Hamas headquarters abroad. In several instances operatives were sent to Judea and Samaria to rehabilitate the networks there and to carry out attacks in Israel. At the same time, the networks sent some of their operatives abroad for training to upgrade their technical-military knowhow. Others were sent to arrange financial matters. One of the main objectives of Hamas headquarters is to develop the networks' capabilities to fire rockets and mortar shells into Israel from Judea and Samaria.

Israeli counterterrorist activities in Judea and Samaria and their impact on terrorism

15. In 2007 there was a clear contrast between the **motivation** of the terrorist organizations operating in Judea and Samaria on the one hand and their **operational weakness** and the effectiveness of the Israeli security forces' counterterrorist activities on the other. According to Israel Security Agency data, as of October 2007 close to 4,000 terrorist operatives, among

them **117 potential suicide bombers**, had been detained. In comparison, in 2006 approximately 5,000 terrorist operatives were detained, 279 of them potential suicide bombers.

16. According to Israel Security Agency data, 1,357 Palestinians detained on suspicion of terrorist activities were brought for interrogation in 2007, a decrease from the 2,007 interrogated in 2006. In 2007 most of them belonged to Hamas (188 from Samaria and 299 from Judea), but many also belonged to Fatah-Tanzim (458). There was a decrease in the number of Fatah members interrogated compared with 2006, probably the result of the Amnesty Plan.³

17. The Israeli counterterrorist activities in Judea and Samaria were directed against a number of terrorist focal points:

- i) The **Hamas networks in Samaria**, especially in the Nablus region, defined by the Israel Security Agency as dangerous and working avidly to rehabilitate themselves after the damage done by Operation Defensive Shield. In 2007 a series of counterterrorist activities was directed against the networks including the detention of many operatives, some of them senior. Following the detention of a network explosives expert, two explosives laboratories were uncovered, which had produced high-power devices intended for use against the IDF and an explosive belt for a suicide bombing attack in Tel Aviv.



Israeli security forces activity in the Old City in Nablus exposed a weapons laboratory and a storehouse full of weapons, as can be seen in the picture; 23 wanted terrorist operatives were detained (IDF Spokesman's Website, January 5, 2008).

³ The Amnesty Plan went into effect on July 12, 2007. According to the agreement, wanted terrorists agreed to abandon terrorism, turn over their weapons and accept a series of limitations for a trial period of three months. The agreement was coordinated with the Palestinian security services to enable them to promote it through persuasion, inspection and enforcement.

Weapons laboratory uncovered in the Old City in Nablus (IDF Spokesman's Website, January 5, 2007)



Entrance to the weapons storehouse



Inside the explosives laboratory



Inside the explosives laboratory



Poor quality improvised artillery rockets in the first stages of manufacture



Weapons and ammunition

ii) The Palestinian Islamic Jihad networks, **especially in northern Samaria**, were responsible for most of the suicide bombing attacks carried out within Israeli territory. They are directed by the **organization's headquarters in Syria** and supported by

high-level organization members in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli security forces detained 300 PIJ operatives, among them those who were involved in lethal suicide bombing attacks in Israel. For example, in July 2007 **Adham Yunis** was detained, a PIJ operative who worked intensively to rehabilitate the organization's network in Tulkarm. He escorted the suicide bomber to the attack at the Sharon Mall in Netanya on December 5, 2005, which killed five Israelis and wounded 40. In November 2007 **Fadi Zurba** was detained, who belonged to a terrorist squad which planned to infiltrate a suicide bomber into Israel dressed as a student with an explosive device in his backpack.

iii) **The Hamas networks in Judea** were also targets of Israeli counterterrorist activities. Most of the Palestinians detained on suspicion of terrorist activity and interrogated in 2007 belonged to Hamas networks in Judea. In April 2007 a Hamas squad was uncovered in Hebron responsible for planting IEDs near the trans-Judea road to attack IDF forces. Following their arrest dozens of kilograms of materials used in the manufacture of explosives were found. (The Hamas network in Hebron was responsible for the suicide bombing attack in Dimona on February 4, 2008).

18. In 2007 the Israeli security forces discovered many instances of weapons being sold to terrorist operatives by **criminal elements in Israel**. One instance was a network of Hamas activists and arms dealers in the Jabel Mukaber neighborhood of East Jerusalem which supplied the gun used in the shooting at the Sheikh Saad roadblock in southeast Jerusalem (May 2007). Another was the exposure of a criminal network in the Nazareth district which sold arms and ammunition stolen from the IDF to Palestinians in Judea and Samaria. One of the weapons was in the possession of a Fatah operative in Nablus who was also detained.⁴

Palestinian Authority security activities in Judea and Samaria

19. After the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in 2007 the Palestinian security services began taking action against the Hamas movement in Judea and Samaria. On the one hand, it was done in retaliation for the attacks on Fatah activists in the Gaza Strip, and on the other, it was aimed at reinforcing the administration of the PA in Judea and Samaria and prevent a similar Hamas takeover there.

20. The Palestinian security services' activity increased over the last months of 2007 at the same time the PA conducted negotiations with Israel and preparations for the Annapolis

⁴ According to the Israel Security Agency's Annual Report for 2007 – Data and Trends in Palestinian Terrorism.

meeting. The Palestinian security services conducted intensive activities in Nablus, and to a lesser degree in other cities in Judea and Samaria, including Jenin, Hebron, Tulkarm and Bethlehem. Their activities were intended to end the reign of anarchy, enforce public order, reinforce the PA's status among the population and to hinder Hamas's activities. Moreover, the activities were undertaken to show the United States, Israel and the international community that the PA was fulfilling its security commitments as the first stage in implementing the Road Map.



The Palestinian security services enters the Old City in Nablus to enforce law and order but without disarming the terrorist operative networks (Abd Omar for Reuters, December 15, 2007).

21. The PA's efforts to weaken Hamas in Judea and Samaria, especially around Nablus and Jenin, were manifested by the detention of approximately 430 Palestinians⁵ suspected of belonging to Hamas. Another manifestation was the fairly intensive steps it took to curtail the activities of the "charitable societies" and other institutions affiliated with Hamas's civilian infrastructure (the *da'wah*). Thus "charitable societies" were disbanded, the Hamas activists heading them were fired and committee members were replaced, as were a number of preachers in the mosques. Most of the activities were carried out during the second half of 2007, however **their success will depend on the extent of the PA's willingness and ability to continue them over a long period of time.**⁶

22. One of the PA's efforts against Hamas in Judea and Samaria was the action taken by the security services against the mosques, many of which were traditionally Hamas strongholds and centers for propaganda and incitement, and often served as operational centers for the terrorist organizations. At the end of 2007 steps were taken to confiscate propaganda material, six preachers were detained and a number were replaced. However, the process of replacing Hamas-affiliated preachers has so far been limited and incitement from the mosques against Israel and the PA continues.

⁵ Updated to the beginning of January 2008.

⁶ Under Arafat the PA took a few short-lived steps to weaken the Hamas *da'wah* but in the end Hamas succeeded in rehabilitating its control over the "charitable societies" and other civil institutions.

23. The Hebron district remains the focal point of Hamas's power in the West Bank. The movement has traditionally had a firm political, social and operational foothold in Hebron, where religion and tradition have a strong influence. In addition, the dominant clans enjoy tremendous influence in comparison with other districts. In 2007 the Palestinian security services uncovered weapons in Hebron and a number of times confronted Hamas and the radical Islamic Liberation Party. However, so far the Palestinian security services have not yet undertaken any large-scale security activities in the Hebron district, such as they have in Nablus, and have not made a real attempt to uproot the networks belonging to Hamas and other terrorist organizations.



Demonstrators in Hebron confronting the Palestinian security services during a protest against the Annapolis meeting (Naif Hashalmon for Reuters, November 27, 2007).

24. An interim evaluation of the PA security services' activity (as of January 2008) shows that with respect to enforcing law and order and limiting Hamas's political, social and propaganda activities, there were successes in Nablus and other locations in Judea and Samaria. However, with regard to disbanding the operational networks and every aspect of counteracting terrorism, to which the Road Map commits them, the activities of the Palestinian security services were fairly limited and ineffective, and in effect no significant change was made.

25. As a result, the Hamas, PIJ and even Fatah networks which did not subscribe to the Amnesty Plan preserved their existence and continued their efforts to carry out terrorist attacks in both Judea and Samaria and within Israeli territory, including suicide bombing attacks. The decline in the number of terrorist attacks originating in Judea and Samaria in 2007 was the result of the ongoing intensive counterterrorist activities carried out by the

Israeli security forces and not of any efforts made by the Palestinian security services.⁷

⁷ For further information see our January 11, 2008 Bulletin entitled "Has the Palestinian Authority fulfilled its security commitments, and to what extent, in accordance with the road map? (Interim analysis)" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/road_map_e.htm. Clear evidence of the fact that the Fatah network in Nablus is interested in carrying out showcase attacks in Israel can be found in the event of the attempted

Part II: The terrorist attack policies of the various organizations

The Hamas movement

1. In June 2007 Hamas took over the Gaza Strip, neutralized the military and political strength of Fatah and the Palestinian security services and established a radical Islamic entity in the Gaza Strip (“Hamastan”), which is separate from the PA in Judea and Samaria led by Abu Mazen and Fatah. That fundamental change in the status of Hamas, which turned it into an administration responsible for the lives of the Gaza Strip’s 1,400,000 residents, also influenced its terrorist attack policy.

2. In view of the changes, Hamas, more than the other terrorist organizations, was forced to provide a response to the tension between the political exigencies and its dedication to the path of terrorism employed to realize its strategic and political goals. The response to the dilemma was to continue its terrorist campaign, especially from the Gaza Strip, while regulating the dosage in a way that would enable it to undertake a controlled escalation of rocket fire without provoking Israel into a broad military action in the Gaza Strip. At the same time Hamas continued its accelerated military buildup, intended to enable it to face the IDF effectively when the latter does enter the Gaza Strip.

3. The following are some of the main aspects of Hamas’s terrorist attack policy manifested in 2007:

i) **Focus on routine terrorist activities which Hamas perceives as “justified” to maintain its anti-Israel campaign:** mortar shell fire targeting military and civilian objectives along the Gaza Strip border, attacks on the border crossings (at the expense of the civilian Palestinian population), light arms fire, planting IEDs along the security fence, etc.

ii) **The continuation of a “routine” of high doses of rocket fire** targeting the western Negev population centers subcontracting to the PIJ and other organizations, permitting and sometimes encouraging them to carry out “routine” rocket fire from the Gaza Strip.

iii) **An occasional increase in rocket fire as a deterrence, creating a “response equation” with Israel.** For example, in response to an unusual action by

poisoning of diners at a restaurant in Ramat Gan (March 2008). Two Palestinians in Israel illegally who worked in the restaurant were enlisted by a Fatah network in Nablus directed and financed by Hezbollah to poison the diners.

the Israeli security forces, such as a broad land incursion into the Gaza Strip, a response to targeted killings of senior operatives, the (accidental) harming of civilians, etc. In most instances the response involves intensive rocket and mortar shell fire and a time-limited escalation in the terrorist activities against Israel.

iv) **Intentional escalation to meet internal Palestinian political needs**, involving exceptional amounts of rocket fire into Israel to attract attention away from events in the Gaza Strip and toward the confrontation with Israel, creating an escalation for a limited time. An obvious example occurred in May 2007, at the height of the violent conflict between Hamas and Fatah, when Hamas initiated an unprecedented barrage of rocket fire.⁸

v) Hamas still aspires to **rehabilitate its operational networks in Judea and Samaria** to open a second front against Israel and to ease the pressure on the Gaza Strip. However, the Israeli security forces' intensive counterterrorist activities have prevented Hamas from carrying out showcase attacks from Judea and Samaria, although its operatives attempted to initiate mass-casualty attacks (attempts to carry out a suicide bombing attack in Tel Aviv and planting IEDs to attack IDF forces near the trans-Judea road).⁹

Fatah

The Amnesty Plan

4. As a goodwill gesture to the Palestinians, on July 12, 2007, the Amnesty Plan went in to effect, intended to reduce the numbers of operatives involved in terrorism and to encourage moderate anti-Hamas elements in the PA. As part of the agreement, it was decided to freeze active Israeli security force counterterrorist activities in Judea and Samaria against 170 wanted Fatah operatives, on the condition that they agreed to abandon terrorism, surrender their weapons and accept a series of limitations for a trial period of three months. The agreement was coordinated with the Palestinian security services to enable them to use persuasion and enforcement to implement the agreement.

⁸ **Musa Abu Marzuq**, deputy head of Hamas's political bureau, openly admitted that Hamas initiated the rocket attack against Israel to end the violent confrontations with Fatah. He added that the rocket attack succeeded in extricating Hamas from the stress of its internal problems.

⁹ On August 26, 2007, deputy head of the Israel Security Agency told a government meeting that the Hamas leadership in Damascus headed by Khaled Mashal had instructed the operatives in the West Bank **to initiate mass-casualty attacks within Israel**. He also said that the Hamas leadership wanted such an attack to frustrate the political moves made by PA chairman Abu Mazen (Haaretz, August 27). However, in 2007 Hamas did not succeed in carrying out such an attack, but on February 4, 2008, two Hamas operatives from Hebron carried out a suicide bombing attack in the southern city of Dimona, killing a woman and wounding ten civilians.



Left: Fatah's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade operatives turning in weapons to the Palestinian security services. Right: Returned weapons (Al-Jazeera TV, July 16, 2007).

5. The first group was composed of wanted Fatah operatives who showed clear signs of willingness to abandon terrorism. Israeli security announced that it would consider including other terrorists in the future who showed their intentions were serious and who, on their own initiative, did not take part in or support terrorism. Israeli security has closely monitored the wanted operatives included in the agreement since its inception to verify their adherence to its terms.

6. During the three-month trial period the PA had limited success in enforcing the agreement. The Palestinian security services dragged their feet when it came to collecting weapons and the collections were not fully implemented. However, the agreement would seem to have created dynamics which had a positive influence on some of the wanted operatives, who showed self-restraint, especially in view of the new situation created by the Hamas military takeover of the Gaza Strip.

7. More than two hundred wanted operatives took part in the second stage (November 2007-January 2008), committing themselves to fulfilling all the conditions of the agreement. An examination of the implementation of the second stage showed that the overwhelming majority kept to the conditions. At the same time, there was also a decrease in the terrorist activity of wanted Fatah-Tanzim operatives who were not included in the agreement, resulting from the positive dynamics it created.

8. When the second stage ended, several dozen participants were allowed to return to normal civilian life as law-abiding citizens. During the second stage as well, the contribution of the Palestinian security services to its success was limited. The main reason it did succeed was the motivation of the participating terrorists to return to routine civilian life.

9. The limited success of the Palestinian security services is another indication of the problems plaguing them, and points up their functional difficulties. The fundamental reforms required of the security services by the Road Map have not been carried out and the changes

made by the Abu Mazen administration in 2007 were cosmetic, some of them still only plans for the future.¹⁰

The continued terrorist activities of local Fatah networks

10. Even after the Hamas takeover, **local Fatah Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade networks** in the **Gaza Strip** continued their terrorist activity. They have several hundred operatives who **do not accept Abu Mazen's authority**. Their attack policy is not influenced by Abu Mazen's political considerations nor by those of the Fatah leadership in Judea and Samaria, but by local operational factors and their own operational capabilities.

11. Most of the Fatah operatives in the groups are located in the northern sector of the Gaza Strip and are supported by other terrorist organizations. Most of their activity in 2007 was rocket and mortar shell fire and planting IEDs to attack IDF forces. Some of the networks attempted to carry out showcase attacks at the border crossings, such as infiltrating into Israeli territory, in collaboration with other organizations (See below).

12. In **Judea and Samaria** local Fatah Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade groups continued their activities (including in Nablus, the terrorism center in Samaria), but following the Fatah participation in the Amnesty Plan, their operational capabilities declined. They were, however, active in carrying out shooting attacks, and were involved in two such attacks, one of which killed two off-duty Israeli soldiers and the other an Israeli civilian (See below).

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad

13. The attack policy of the PIJ (the second most prominent terrorist organization) is not influenced by the political exigencies influencing Hamas. The organization is responsible for a large percentage of the "routine" rocket fire plaguing Israel, its intention being to disrupt the daily lives of the residents of the western Negev. For example, on September 3, the day after school began, the PIJ launched several barrages of rockets at Sderot.¹¹ At the same time the

¹⁰ For further information see our January 11, 2008 Bulletin entitled "Has the Palestinian Authority fulfilled its security commitments, and to what extent, in accordance with the road map? (Interim analysis)" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/road_map_e.htm.

¹¹ For further information see our September 5, 2007 Bulletin entitled "Palestinian Islamic Jihad Website and a spokesman claimed the volleys of Qassam rocket fire at Sderot were launched to mark the beginning of the school year" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/pij_e_spokesmen.htm.

organization attempted to send terrorist operatives into Israeli territory to carry out showcase attacks, such as infiltrating IDF posts along the border and the border crossings.

14. The PIJ aspires to showcase attacks in Judea and Samaria as well, especially through the use of the terrorist networks in northern Samaria, which formerly played a major role in sending suicide bombers into Israel. However, the Israeli security forces' intensive counterterrorist activities and the existence of the security fence prevented them from carrying out suicide bombing attacks in Israeli territory in 2007.¹²



Armed Jerusalem Battalions operative (From the annual report of the Jerusalem Battalions posted on the PIJ Website, April 2008).

The Popular Resistance Committees

15. The PRC has two main (and a number of small) factions and a total of several hundred operatives. It deployed throughout the Gaza Strip and carried out shootings, plants IEDs near the border fence, launched rockets and mortar shells, carried out showcase attacks at the border crossings and attempted to infiltrate into Israeli territory.

16. Their rocket launching policy was not influenced or restrained by political considerations of the type influencing Hamas, but by local operational factors. The organization integrated itself into the trend of steady rocket fire into Israel. Its operatives carried out routine attacks, usually in collaboration with the PIJ and various Fatah networks.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

17. The PFLP has a small operational network in the Gaza Strip of several dozen operatives. Most of its activity in 2007 was channeled into attacks against IDF forces and included shooting attacks and planting IEDs near the border fence.

¹² The leaders of the PIJ publicly admitted that the security fence hindered their efforts to carry out suicide bombing attacks in Israel.

Part III: The modus operandi

Rocket and mortar shell fire

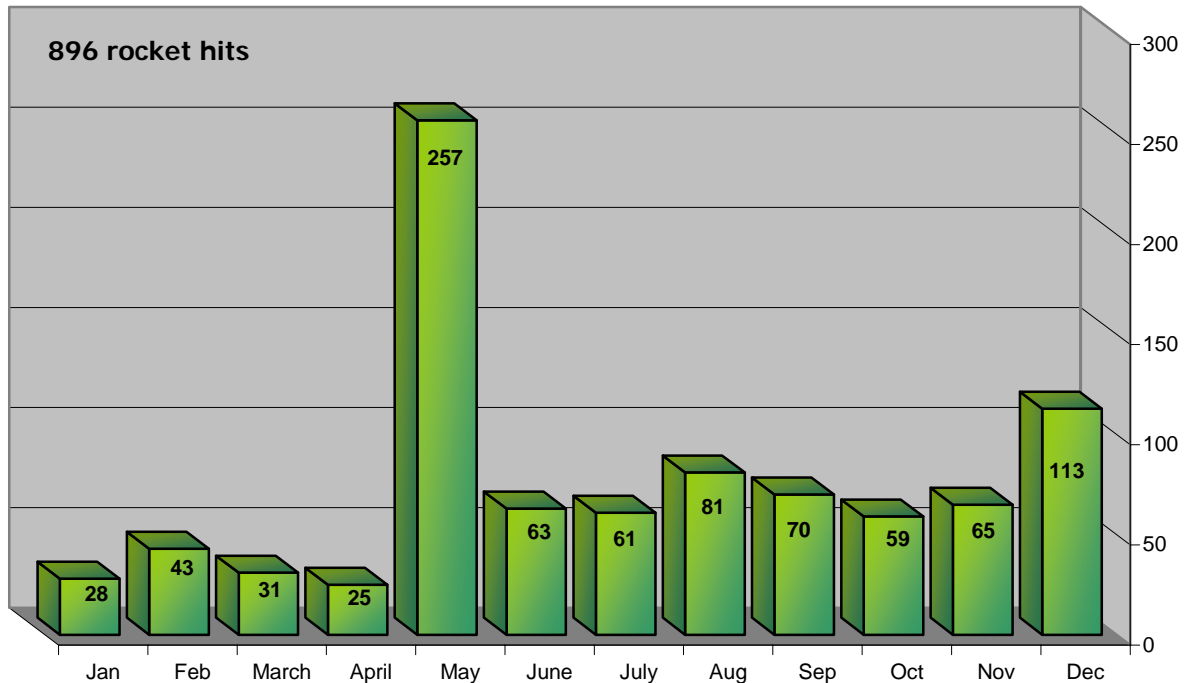
1. In 2007 there was intensive rocket and mortar shell fire from the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian terrorist organizations' preferred weapon of choice. During the year 896 hits were identified in Israeli territory, compared with 946 the previous year, the year with the greatest quantity of rocket fire. Most of the rockets were manufactured in the Gaza Strip and had short to medium ranges (6-9 kilometers – about 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ to a little over 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles, 41% of all the launchings in 2007).
2. About 11% of the rockets fired in 2007 had a range greater than 9 kilometers; the longest was 12.7 kilometers (almost 8 miles). In addition to rockets manufactured in the Gaza Strip, a standard Grad rocket was fired at the Negev city of Netivot. Standard Grad rockets have a maximum range of 20.4 kilometers (12 $\frac{2}{3}$ miles) and do more damage on impact than the rockets manufactured by the terrorist organizations.



PIJ operatives planning a rocket attack (From the annual report of the Jerusalem Battalions posted on the PIJ Website, April 2008).

3. In May 2007 Hamas initiated an escalation in rocket fire, attempting to end the violent confrontations with Fatah by deflecting the fire toward Israel. Once Hamas had taken over the Gaza Strip (June 2007) the level of rocket fire returned to "routine," although the monthly average of more than 60 rockets was higher than the period before the takeover. The rise can be explained by Hamas's policy of a keeping a higher level of rocket fire, and not as a

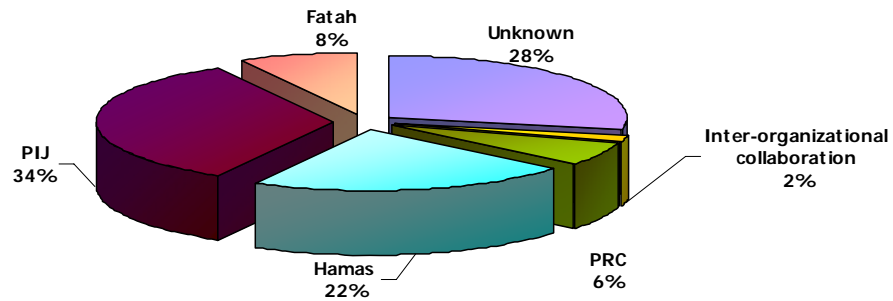
response to an exceptional IDF activity in the Gaza Strip. Most of the routine rocket fire (about 1/3 of the attacks) was carried out by the PIJ, while Hamas carried out most of the rocket fire during escalations.



4. The longest range of any **independently manufactured rocket** fired in 2007 was 12.7 kilometers (almost 8 miles), launched at Ashqelon on November 19 by the PIJ. The range increased during the first months of 2008 and is now close to 20 kilometers (almost 12 ½ miles), the range of a 175mm rocket fired by the PIJ on February 29, 2008. Most of the rockets are fired singly or as a barrage of two, but the terrorist organizations are apparently able to fire barrages of four or five rockets as well.

5. **Almost all the rockets fired in 2007 were manufactured independently.** One standard 122mm Grad rocket was fired at the Negev city of Netivot. However, during the first months of 2008 a new trend began of firing standard rockets, mainly by Hamas: during the escalation at the end of February 2008 at least 18 standard 122mm Grad rockets were fired, all of them targeting Ashqelon (as of this writing, more than 30 standard Grad rockets have been fired at Ashqelon).

Estimated Distribution of Rocket Fire According to Organizations



6. A total of two Israeli civilians were killed by rocket fire in 2007 and 200 were wounded,¹³ as well as several hundred who suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. A great amount of property damage was reported, including residences, public buildings, factories, cowsheds, cultivated fields, vehicles, etc.



The PIJ fires rockets at Ashqelon (Al-Jazeera TV, March 1, 2007).



Firing locally manufactured rockets (Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades Website, April 24, 2007).

¹³ According to data from the IDF and the Israeli Magen David Adom (the Israeli equivalent of the Red Cross).



Left: PIJ operatives with a Quds rocket. Right: PIJ operatives fire a Quds rocket (From the annual report of the Jerusalem Battalions posted on the PIJ Website, April 2008).

7. Some of the more notable rocket attacks were the following:

i) **Unprecedented level of rocket fire in May 2007**

1) **In May 2007 there were 257 identified rocket hits in Israeli territory.** The attack which began on May 15 was initiated by Hamas to deflect attention from its confrontations with Fatah to Israel. The peak of the rocket attack was on May 16, and after a few days the numbers declined significantly. Most seriously affected were Sderot and the neighboring population centers. The Hamas Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades claimed responsibility for most of the attacks.

2) The rocket fire was meant to deflect attention from the internal Palestinian confrontations between Fatah and Hamas and from the helplessness of the Palestinian national unity government, and to turn the spotlight on the confrontation with Israel. Two Israelis were killed in the attack, Israel Friedman, a Sderot resident who was killed on May 21, and Oshri Oz, a resident of Hod Hasharon who was visiting Sderot and was killed on May 27 by a direct hit on his car. Four Sderot residents were critically wounded, 40 suffered slight wounds and 238 had to be treated for shock.

ii) **Direct hit on the IDF's basic training camp at Zikim:** At 2:00 in the morning on September 11 a rocket was fired from Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip and hit the IDF's basic training camp at Zikim. Fifty soldiers suffered varying degrees of wounds. The PIJ and the PRC claimed joint responsibility for the attack.¹⁴

¹⁴ For further information see our September 11 Bulletin entitled "A rocket fired at the northern Negev on the night of September 10 hit the IDF base at Zikim, wounding 50 soldiers" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/zikim_e0907.htm.



The rocket remains. It bears the inscription "Quds 3."



The basic training camp at Zikim (Picture courtesy of the IDF Spokesman, September 11, 2007).

- iii) **Netivot hit for the first time:** On October 7 the city of Netivot was hit by a rocket for the first time since July 16, 2006. Police sappers who examined the remains of the rocket concluded that it was a 122mm standard Grad rocket with a maximum range of 20.4 kilometers (12 2/3 miles).¹⁵
- iv) **Rocket fire at Kibbutz Zikim and Ashqelon:** On November 11 the PIJ fired a longer-range independently manufactured rocket which hit the cowshed in Kibbutz Zikim, killing six cows and damaging the structure. Another such rocket was fired on November 19 and hit a house in the southern part of Ashqelon.

¹⁵ In 2007 the terrorist organizations did not often use standard Grad rockets, but the escalation at the end of February 2008 the first intensive barrage of such rockets was fired at Ashqelon, apparently the result of the increase of Hamas's stock of such rockets.

Property damage done by rocket fire



Dead cows in the Kibbutz Zikim cowshed (Pictures courtesy of Noam Badin, Sderot Media Center, www.sderotmedia.co.il).



Damage done to a house in Sderot by a direct Hamas rocket hit (Amir Cohen for Reuters, May 15, 2007).



Inspecting the damage done by a direct rocket hit (Amir Cohen for Reuters, August 28, 2007).



Damage done by a direct rocket hit in Sderot, (Amir Cohen for Reuters, July 17, 2007).



House in Sderot damaged by rocket fire (Amir Cohen for Reuters, December 13, 2007).

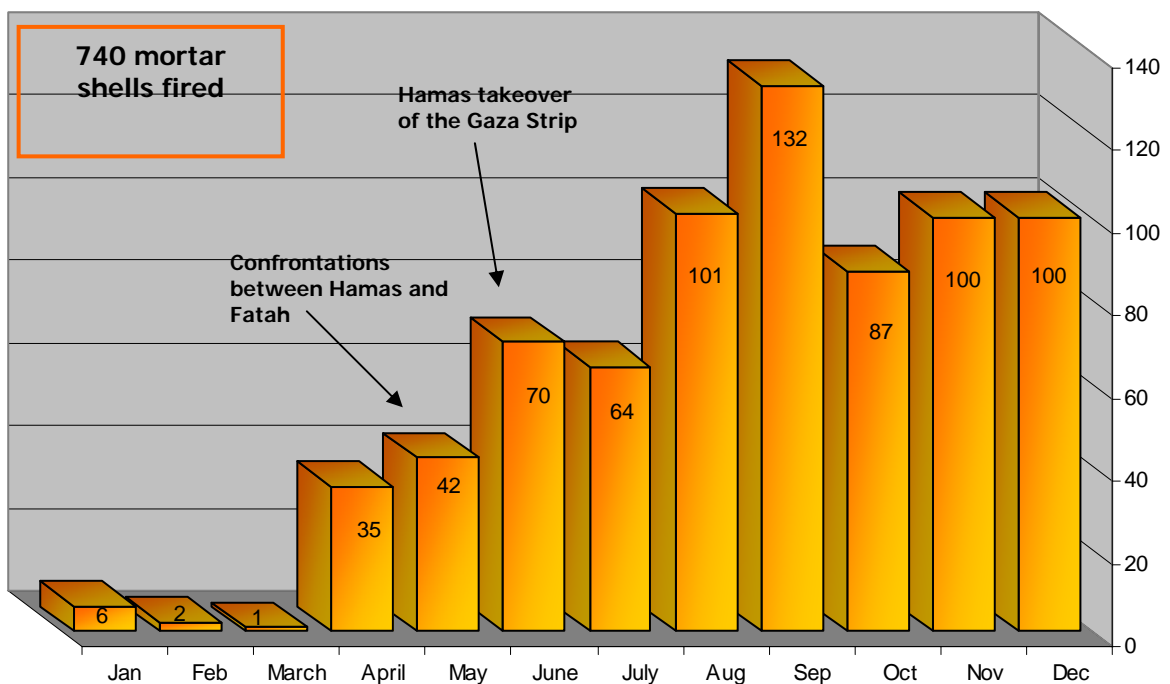


House in Sderot destroyed by direct rocket hit (Photo courtesy of the Sderot security headquarters, May 16, 2007).

Mortar shell fire

8. In 2007 there were **740 identified mortar shell hits**, compared with **22** in 2006. The step-up began after the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip. Since then it has fired the greatest number of mortar shells, using them as a tactical weapon against IDF forces and Israeli villages close to the border.

Monthly distribution of mortar shell fire



9. Mortar shells were fired at both military and civilian targets, the number beginning to rise significantly in April and continuing to rise until it peaked in September, remaining at the same level through November-December. The increase in mortar shell fire was parallel to intensive Israeli counterterrorist activities. Extensive mortar shell fire was carried out during the second half of November, related to the Annapolis meeting.



Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades operatives firing mortar shells from Beit Lahia (Al-Aqsa TV, October 26).



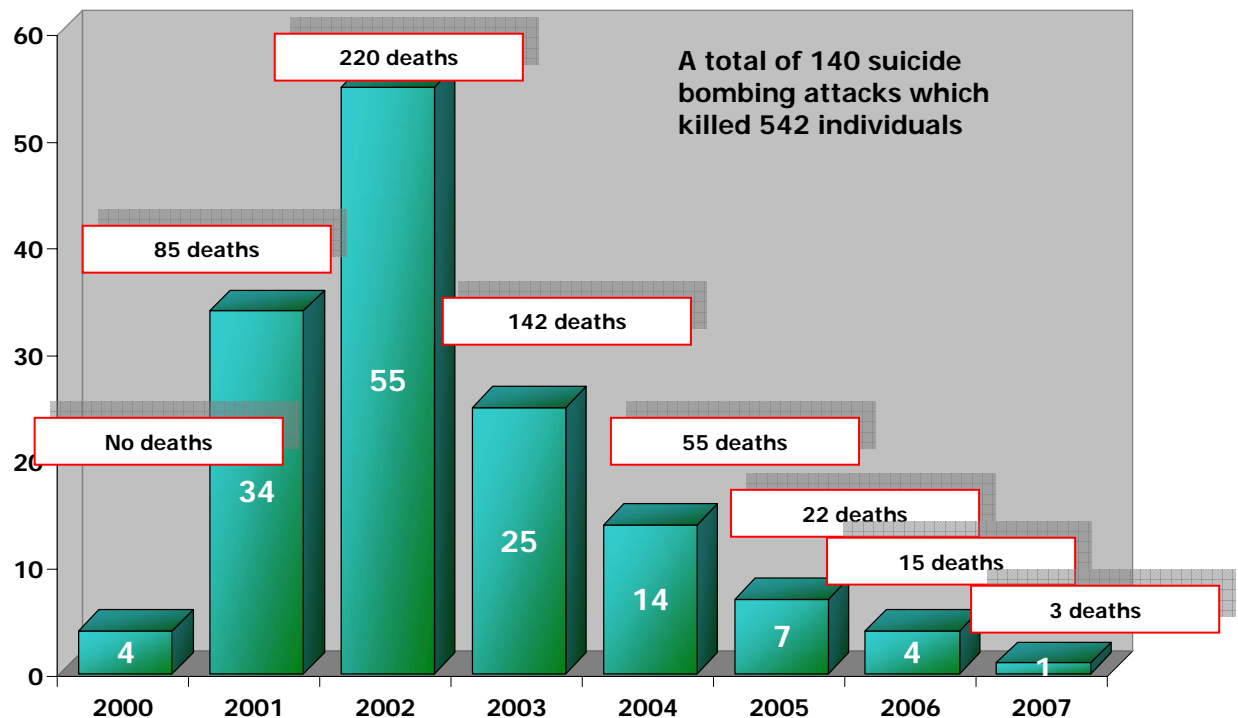
Examining the damage done by a Hamas mortar shell (Amir Cohen for Reuters, October 30, 2007).

10. In 2007 mortar shell fire wounded a number of Israelis. For example, on December 3 a mortar shell fell near the infirmary on the Zikim base near Kibbutz Nahal Oz, wounding four IDF soldiers. On December 4 an IDF soldier was wounded by shrapnel when a mortar shell landed in the Kissufim area.

Suicide bombing attacks

11. In 2007 the steady decrease in the number of suicide bombing attacks continued. There was also a significant decrease in the number of such attacks prevented. That was the result of many factors, the most prominent of which were the successful Israeli security force counterterrorist activities and the existence of the security fence. Other factors included steps taken by the Palestinian security services in Judea and Samaria against Hamas networks (as part of the drive to enforce law and order and prevent a replay of the events in the Gaza Strip) and the operational weakness of Hamas and the other terrorist organizations.

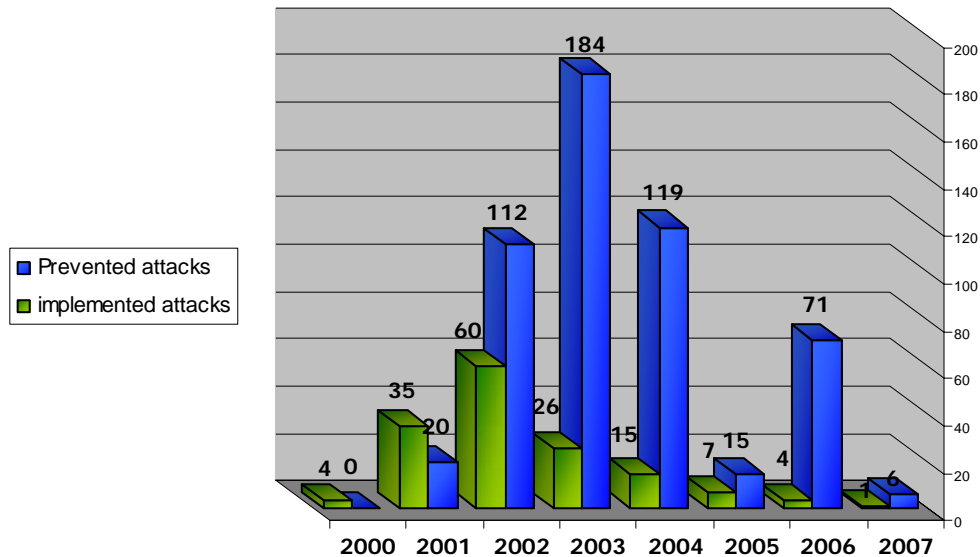
Suicide bombing attacks during the confrontation



Suicide bombing attacks during the confrontation

12. **One suicide bombing attack** was carried out in 2007, originating in the Gaza Strip, compared with **four** in 2006. The terrorist networks in Judea and Samaria did not succeed in bringing plans for suicide bombing attacks to fruition, compared with 2006, when they carried out three such attacks, two within Israeli territory. Six potential suicide bombing attacks were prevented in 2007. In three instances the terrorists succeeded in infiltrating into Israel from Judea and Samaria and the attacks were prevented at the last minute.

Prevented vs. implemented suicide bombing attacks 2007¹⁶



13. The only suicide bombing attack in 2007 occurred on January 29 in Eilat, when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a bakery. The attack killed three civilians: the bakery's two owners and an employee. The body of the suicide bomber was found at the scene of the explosion. An examination of the remains of the bomb showed it was a 100mm shell which had been detonated by the terrorist.

14. The PIJ and a Fatah Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade faction calling itself "The Army of the Faithful" claimed joint responsibility for the attack. The suicide bomber was an operative belonging to the Jerusalem Battalions, the PIJ's terrorist-military wing, from Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip (Al-Jazeera TV, January 29, 2007).¹⁷ Eilat, Israel's southernmost city, was chosen as the target for a suicide bombing attack because of the ease in crossing the long, unprotected border between Israel and Egypt and the freedom of action the terrorist networks enjoy in the Gaza Strip.

¹⁶ According to data provided by the Israel Security Agency.

¹⁷ For further information see January 31, 2007 date Bulletin entitled "The Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Fatah elements in the Gaza Strip dispatched a terrorist who carried out a suicide bombing attack in Eilat" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/eilat_290107e.htm.



Evacuating the body of one of the casualties in Eilat (Gil Cohen Magen for Reuters, January 29, 2007).

15. In 2007 the Israeli security forces prevented six attempted suicide bombing attacks, five of them from terrorist networks in Samaria and one from the Gaza Strip. Descriptions of five of them follow:

- i) On **September 2** a suicide bombing attack was prevented in Tel Aviv when a Nablus resident working in the city was detained. The attack was planned by a joint Hamas-PFLP squad. The interrogation of the Palestinian led the security forces to an explosive belt weighing ten kilograms (22 pounds) which had been hidden in an apartment in south Tel Aviv. It was found on Yom Kippur and detonated in a controlled explosion by the security forces.¹⁸



The building in south Tel Aviv where the explosive belt was found (Photo courtesy of Yuval Ariel, Israeli Police Department).

¹⁸ For further information see our September 24, 2007 Bulletin entitled "A suicide bombing attack in Tel Aviv was prevented by the detention of a Hamas operative which led to the discovery of an explosive belt" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/ct_230907e.htm.



Poster of Nihad Rashid Shukeirat, Hamas operative whose interrogation led to the discovery of the explosive belt lodged in a Tel Aviv apartment. According to the information given, he is an Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades commander in the Ein Beit Ilma refugee camp and belongs to the Islamic Bloc (Hamas's student organization) at Al-Najah University (Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades Website, September 23).

ii) On **May 20** the Israeli security forces detained two Palestinian women at the Rafah Crossing who planned to carry out a double suicide bombing attack in crowded locations in Tel Aviv and Netanya during a Hamas rocket attack against western Negev population centers. The attack was planned and directed by the PIJ. To facilitate entrance into Israel the two were supplied with false entry permits for medical examinations.¹⁹



Two explosive belts found following the detention of Fatah-Tanzim operatives (Photo courtesy of the IDF Spokesman, January 7).

iii) In **March** a suicide bombing attack planned for the Tel Aviv area was prevented following the detention of Hamas terrorist operatives in Qalqilya. An interrogation revealed that the Hamas network in Qalqilya was preparing to carry out a suicide bombing attack in Tel Aviv using a car bomb loaded with 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of

¹⁹ In 2007 there was a significant increase in the exploitation of entrance permits granted by Israel out of humanitarian considerations, such as life-saving medical treatment. One of the methods was a false medical referral from a doctor to a hospital in Israel, Judea and Samaria or abroad. The Israeli security forces are familiar with doctors and administrative workers in hospitals in the Gaza Strip who can be bribed into issuing false requests for permits.

explosives and metal balls and screws. The vehicle had already been driven into Israeli territory by the suicide bomber, who had an Israeli ID card.²⁰

iv) On **February 20** a suicide bombing attack planned by the PIJ was prevented, apparently meant for Tel Aviv. The attack was prevented when the Israeli security forces received information that a suicide bomber had left Jelaboun (near Jenin in northern Samaria) that morning and was on his way to Israel. He was carrying a bag with a large amount of explosives and planned to blow himself up in a crowded place (central bus station, shopping mall or commercial center). The terrorist and several suspects were detained in the apartment in Bat Yam in which they were hiding.²¹

v) On **January 7, 2007**, the Israeli security forces detained two Fatah-Tanzim operatives, residents of the Balata refugee camp in Nablus. The two had completed advanced stages of preparation for carrying out a suicide bombing attack in Israeli territory. During interrogation they revealed the location of two explosive belts in the apartment they were staying in. The belts were found and detonated by the IDF.²²

Shooting attacks

16. The number of shooting attacks in 2007 was similar to that in 2006. A total of **663** were carried out in 2007 compared with **608** in 2006. Most of them took place in Judea and Samaria and were directed primarily against civilians standing near bus stops. The number of shooting attacks in the Gaza Strip declined as a result of the decrease in the friction between the terrorist organizations and the IDF and Israeli settlers. However, shooting attacks killed three Israelis in 2007, all of them in Judea and Samaria.

²⁰ For further information see our April 11, 2007 Bulletin entitled "Interrogations of Hamas terrorists detained in Qalqilya revealed that the organization's infrastructure there has been planning mass attacks against Israel" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/hamas_qalqilya0407.htm.

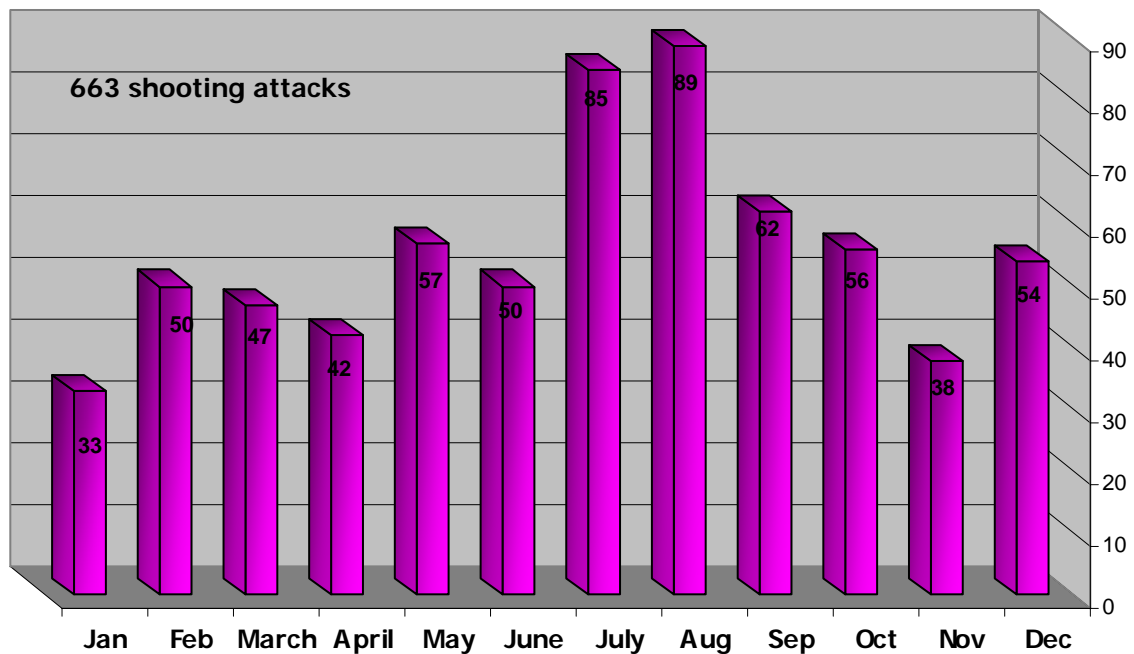
²¹ For further information see our February 23, 2007 Bulletin entitled "Prevention of Palestinian Islamic Jihad suicide bombing attack in Tel Aviv" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/ct_e22feb07.htm.

²² For further information see our January 7, 2007 Bulletin entitled "The arrest of Fatah Tanzim operatives in the Balata refugee camp in Nablus, one of the major hotspots of terrorism in Judea and Samaria, prevented a suicide bombing attack in Israel" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/ct_fatah_e.htm.



PIJ terrorist operative (from the Jerusalem Battalions annual report for 2007, PIJ Website, April 2007).

Shooting Attacks 2007



17. In 2007 there were a number of relatively rare instances in which snipers shot at IDF forces and the border crossings in the Gaza Strip. They were mainly carried out by Hamas operatives who continued to launch various types of terrorist attacks at times when Hamas was not firing rockets.

18. **The most notable shooting attack was carried out on December 28** two off-duty soldiers, David Ruben and Ahikam Amihai, both from Kiryat Arba, were shot and killed while hiking. The attack was carried out by a squad of three operatives, two of them from Fatah. One was also an activist in the Palestinian national security service and another who was in contact with Palestinian General Intelligence. One was wounded and another was killed. The

two Israelis were on a hike with a female friend in the region of Nahal Telem, northwest of Hebron. Both were out of uniform but carried their weapons, which they used in the exchange of fire with the terrorists. The young woman managed to hide and alert the security forces.²³

19. **On November 19**, in an attack carried out near Kedumim (in central Samaria, between Qalqilya and Nablus), Ido Zoldan was killed by Palestinians in a drive-by shooting. He was 29, lived in the settlement of Shavei Shomron, married and father of two. The killers were three Fatah operatives, two of them members of the Palestinian national security service. Two were detained by the Israeli security forces and the third by the Palestinian security services.



The scene of the shooting near Kedumim in which Ido Zoldan was killed (Photo courtesy of ZAKA, November 19).

20. Other shooting attacks in Judea and Samaria:

i) **October 24**: A number of Israelis were attacked in a drive-by shooting at the entrance to the city of Ariel. An IDF soldier and a civilian were wounded. The terrorists continued along the road and shot at a number of Israel and Palestinian vehicles, wounding another Israeli civilian. The IDF searched for and found the vehicle, which was in flames, near the village of Jammain (north of Ariel).

²³ For further information see our January 3, 2008 Bulletin entitled "Shooting attack near Hebron, December 28, 2007: The Israel Security Agency revealed that the attack was carried out by Fatah operatives linked to the Palestinian security services" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/ct_020108e.htm.



The burned vehicle (Photo courtesy of the IDF Spokesman, October 24).

ii) **September 14**: An Israeli driver was attacked in a drive-by shooting on the road between Karnei Shomron and Kedumim, west of Nablus. Two Israeli civilians were wounded; the shooters fled the scene.

iii) **August 10**: An Israeli Arab approached two security guards at the entrance to the Aterat Kohanim Yeshiva in the Old City of Jerusalem, grabbed one of their weapons, used it to shoot him in the shoulder and fled. The other guard ran after him. The two fired shots as they ran through the streets of Old Jerusalem, wounding several passersby. The guard shot and killed the terrorist, an Israeli Arab from Kafr Manda, a town in the Galilee. Three terrorist organizations claimed responsibility for the attack: Fatah, the PIJ and the PFLP. Another network, calling itself "The Brigades of the Free Galileans" also took responsibility for the attack (Note: The Brigades are a network of Israeli Arabs which was involved in the abduction and murder of Israeli soldier Oleg Shaichat, July 2003).

iv) **May 26**: A Border Policeman and security guard were shot and wounded near the security fence in the Armon Hanatziv neighborhood of Jerusalem. Two Palestinians approached the roadblock where the policeman was standing with several security guards, and shot him in the back. He in turn shot and killed both terrorists. Fatah's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade claimed responsibility for the attack. An official Palestinian spokesman said that there was no connection between Fatah and the attack (Palestinian News Agency, May 26).

v) **May 6**: Several terrorists fired from a moving vehicle at the fuel depot near the settlement of Nili, in southwest Samaria. The Israeli guard of a fuel tanker was seriously wounded. Fatah claimed responsibility for the attack.

vi) **April 22**: An Israeli civilian was shot and wounded by a young Palestinian at the Hamzeh junction north of Jerusalem. The Israeli was standing next to his parked vehicle when a young Palestinian nearby drew his gun and fired. The terrorist fled to Beit Hanina.

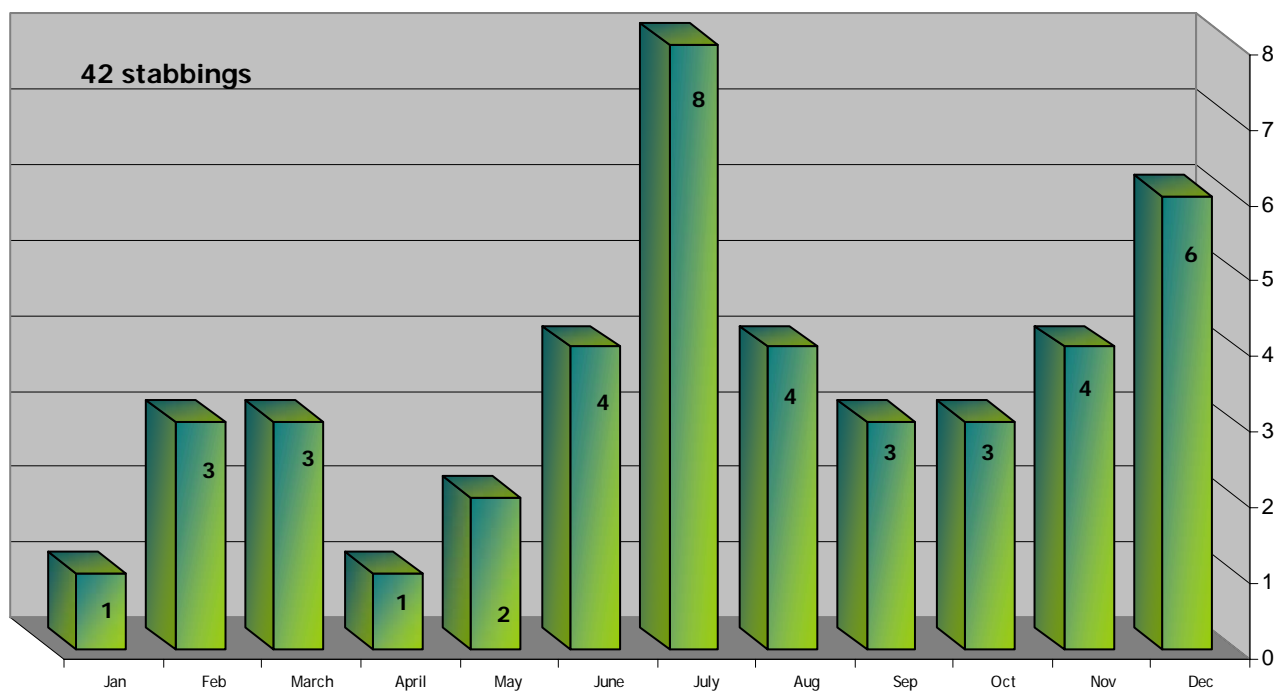
vii) **April 10**: A Israeli civilian residing in the settlement of Emanuel was wounded in a drive-by shooting as he stood waiting at the bus stop near the settlement. The weapon

used was apparently a hunting rifle. Two other civilians who were there at the time were unharmed.

Stabbings and other “cold” attacks

21. Widespread stabbings and other “cold attacks” (such as throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails) continued throughout Judea and Samaria. However, in 2007 there was a **marked decrease in stabbings, 42** compared with **75** in 2006. One Israeli civilian was stabbed to death. Some of the stabbings were initiated locally and not by terrorist organizations.

Stabbings 2007



22. The most prominent stabbing attack took place on **February 25**, when the Palestinian security services found the body of a resident of the Israeli settlement of Bat Ayn (near Hebron), who had been stabbed and his body thrown into a gully near Beit Omer (between Bethlehem and Hebron). The Palestinian security services detained the murderers, two Palestinians, residents of Hirbet Safa (near Beit Omer). Their investigation revealed that the attack had been premeditated and preceded by scouting trips in the area. On the day of the

murder they left the village armed with knives and when they found the victim they stabbed him to death. The PIJ claimed responsibility for the murder, but it was apparently planned by the two terrorists.

23. There were others stabbings, most at the roadblocks and crossings:

i) **December 11**: A stabbing attack was prevented at the Gush Etzion junction southwest of Bethlehem. A Palestinian woman armed with a knife reached the junction and tried to stab an IDF soldier. Soldiers who were there at the time overcame her, detained her and brought her to the security forces for interrogation.

ii) **April 8**: A 17-year old Hebron high school student stabbed two Border Policemen near the precinct of the Cave of the Patriarchs. A Border Police patrol opened fire and wounded him.

iii) **March 21**: A knife was found in the possession of a female Palestinian who aroused the suspicions of IDF soldiers at the Hawara roadblock south of Nablus. The soldiers succeeded in detaining her. Her interrogation revealed that she had planned to kill a soldier at the roadblock.

iv) **March 11**: At the entrance to the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron the Israeli security forces detained a 23-year old Palestinian woman from Tulkarm who was armed with a knife. During interrogation she said that she had been planning to stab Israeli soldiers at the roadblock.

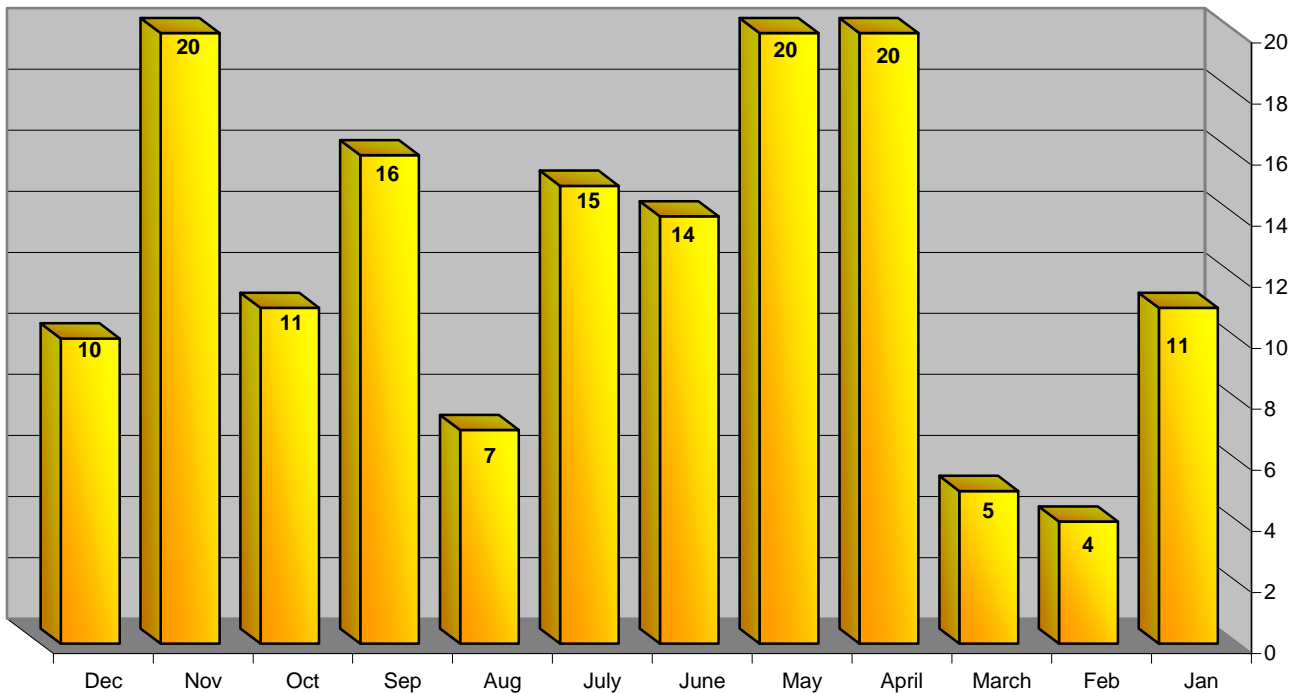
24. Throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails at Israeli vehicles, familiar from the past, was renewed in 2007. Route 443, which links Jerusalem to Modi'in and Tel Aviv and the surrounding areas became a focal point for rock-throwing. Toward the end of the year a Molotov cocktail was also tossed. In 2007 the Israeli security forces carried out a number of activities to stop the attacks, detaining and interrogating dozens of Palestinians who had carried them out on a daily basis.²⁴

IED attacks

25. In 2007 there was a **decrease** in the number of attacks involving IEDs. A total of **153** attacks were carried out, compared with **217** in 2006. Most of the attacks targeted Israeli security forces in Judea and Samaria. There were sporadic IED attacks in the Gaza Strip, most of them against IDF forces operating there.

²⁴ According to data from the Israel Security Agency.

IEDs 2007



26. The following attacks were notable:

i) **August 6:** The interrogation of a terrorist operative detained by the IDF Spokesman at the Salem roadblock near Nablus led to the discovery of an IED weighing ten kilograms (22 pounds). It was hidden inside the carcass of a sheep on the road between Alon Moreh and Hawara in Samaria. In our assessment it was intended to be used to attack one of the settlements in the region or IDF soldiers operating in the area.



The explosive device and the carcass in which it was hidden (IDF Spokesman, August 6, 2007).

ii) **February 13:** Two terrorist operatives were observed advancing toward the security fence in the **northern Gaza Strip** with the intention of planting an IED. One of them

detonated the device and then they both opened fire on the soldiers. One was killed and the other fled the scene.

iii) **January 17:** Israeli security forces operating in **Jenin** uncovered two IEDs weighing 30 kilograms (66 pounds) each. During the activity four IEDs were thrown at the soldiers and terrorists opened fire on them. An IDF vehicle was damaged.



One of the explosive devices discovered in Jenin (Photo courtesy of the IDF Spokesman, January 17).

iv) **January 12:** An IDF force uncovered an IED made from a cooking gas container and holding 20 kilograms (44 pounds) of explosives and metal screws and balls. The IED, which was found south of Jenin, was apparently intended to be used in an attack against IDF soldiers operating in the area.



Explosive device made from a cooking gas container.



The device detonated in a controlled explosion. (Photos courtesy of the IDF Spokesman, January 12).

Mass-killing attacks

27. In 2007 a small number of infiltrations were attempted by squads from the Gaza Strip with the intention of carrying out mass-killing attacks in the towns and villages or IDF posts near the border, or to abduct soldiers should the operational opportunity present itself. All the attacks were prevented. In addition, no mass-killing attacks were made by terrorists in Judea and Samaria.

28. Two noteworthy attacks were:

i) **On September 6** a joint Fatah-PIJ squad attempted to infiltrate into Israeli territory. The squad was composed of seven terrorist operatives who arrived in two vehicles and were observed 250 meters (about 280 yards) from the security fence in the central Gaza Strip. IDF forces on the scene attacked, with helicopter air cover. The terrorists' target was either to attack an IDF post 10 kilometers (6 ¼ miles) north of Kissufim or an IDF patrol, and possibly to abduct a soldier. Six terrorists were killed and the seventh escaped. An IDF investigation conducted after the event revealed that one of the vehicles contained hundreds of kilograms of explosives, and a large number of weapons were found in the area.²⁵



The Jerusalem Battalions and Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades claim responsibility for the attack. The face of the terrorist who escaped is intentionally out of focus (Jerusalem Battalions Website, September 10).



The remains of the car bomb (IDF Spokesman, September 6).

ii) **On the morning of August 25** IDF forces prevented an infiltration into Moshav Netiv Haasara north of the Gaza Strip. At 7:00 in the morning, under cover of heavy fog, two terrorist operatives used a rope ladder to climb up the security fence, then lowered it to the ground on the Israeli side. When on Israeli territory they opened fire at a soldier guarding a post near the Erez Crossing. The soldier returned fire but the terrorists continued toward Netiv Haasara. An IDF force which arrived on the scene killed the terrorists after they had advanced a few hundred meters. Joint responsibility was claimed by the Popular Resistance Committees, Fatah and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.²⁶

²⁵ For further information see our September 11, 2007 Bulletin entitled "Yet another attempt to infiltrate Israel from the Gaza Strip: IDF forces thwarted an attack on an IDF outpost in the vicinity of Kissufim by a terrorist squad of Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Fatah" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/pij_100907e.htm.

²⁶ For further information see our August 27, 2007 Bulletin entitled "On the morning of August 25 two terrorist operatives infiltrated Israeli territory from the northern Gaza Strip by climbing over the security fence. They intended to carry out a killing attack at the settlement of Netiv Ha'asara north of the Gaza Strip" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/ct_270807e.htm.



Ladder used by terrorists to enter Israeli territory.

Abductions

29. Abducting Israel soldiers and civilians to use as bargaining chips in the release of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel is one of the terrorists' tactics. Hamas and the other terrorist organizations regard it as a routine type of attack not subject to political considerations. In 2007 all the terrorist organizations continued their efforts to abduct Israelis at the same time negotiations were conducted to secure the release of Gilad Shalit, abducted in June 2006.

30. Jews living in Judea and Samaria are preferred targets for abduction attempts, largely because of their availability and the facts that they often wait for rides (sometimes alone) at intersections. Furthermore, many of them use Arab services such as garage mechanics, builders, etc. The proximity to areas settled by Palestinians allows the abductors to move the victims from the place of attack quickly and hide them within the local population.

31. In 2007 a number of attempts to abduct soldiers and civilians were made. The most notable were:

i) On **April 24**, Israel's Independence Day, Hamas terrorist operatives in the Gaza Strip attacked an IDF force, apparently with the intention of abducting a soldier. The attempt was made under the cover of an intense barrage of rockets and mortar shells along the southern section of the security fence. Hamas spokesmen claimed public responsibility for the massive artillery attack but denied they had planned an abduction.²⁷

ii) In the evening of **February 4** there was an attempted abduction of an Israeli civilian at the Eli junction north of Jerusalem. The civilian at the bus stop was suspicious of the three Palestinians who offered him a ride and therefore refused to get into the car.

²⁷ For further information see our April 26, 2007 Bulletin entitled "On Israel's Independence Day, the IDF thwarted a terrorist attack (possibly an abduction attempt) by Hamas against a military target in the southern Gaza Strip, under the cover of massive mortar and rocket fire" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/hamas_ct0407e.htm.

When he refused they drove away. IDF forces searched the area and stopped a vehicle near Beir Zayit, north of Ramallah, carrying three Palestinians. Weapons were found in the car. An examination showed that the same squad had previously tried to abduct three yeshiva students at the Tapuah junction.

32. **Signs of life from Gilad Shalit, the IDF soldier abducted by Hamas:** In 2007 the efforts to secure the release of Gilad Shalit continued without success. On June 25, the anniversary of his abduction from Kerem Shalom, Hamas issued an audio cassette, a step touted as a “humanitarian message.” It was made public by Hamas’s military-terrorist wing, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, without mentioning the other organizations which had participated in the abduction. On the tape Gilad Shalit called upon the government of Israel to accede to the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades’ demands. He said his health was deteriorating and that he needed prolonged hospital treatment. The text was obviously written by his captors, the Hebrew was poor and the word “brigades” appeared in Arabic.



Audio cassette of Gilad Shalit issued by Hamas (Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades Website, June 25).

33. Foreigners working in the Gaza Strip were also **abduction victims in 2007**. The most notable instance was the abduction of **BBC journalist Alan Johnston**, who had been covering the Palestinian Authority for three years. He was snatched in Gaza City by four armed terrorists who ambushed him and forced him into their vehicle. The abduction was carried out by terrorist operatives belonging to the Army of Islam, a terrorist group with links to the global jihad which wanted to use him as a bargaining chip in its dealings with the PA. On July 4, after four months in captivity, and after Hamas operatives encircled his place of captivity, exerted pressure on the Army of Islam, and released Johnston alive and well.²⁸ He was released a short time after Hamas took over the Gaza Strip, part of Hamas’s tactic to

²⁸ **The Army of Islam**, a radical Islamic terrorist group operating in the Gaza Strip, claimed responsibility for his abduction. In return for his release they demanded the release of global jihad operatives, especially sheikh Abu Outadeh, a Jordanian of Palestinian extraction held in Britain for his links to global terrorism (May 16, 2007).

create a positive image for the West (and also because of Hamas's opposition to the attempts of global jihad networks operating in the Gaza Strip).

Attacks on IDF forces

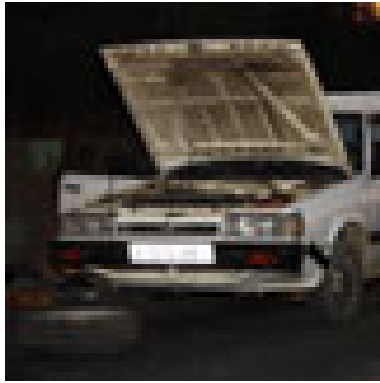
34. During the second half of 2007 the Palestinian terrorist organizations made more attempts to attack IDF forces. There were several clashes between terrorist squads and the IDF forces carrying out counterterrorist activities in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria. During the attacks **four IDF soldiers were killed**. Notable were the following:



Jeep with the words "TV" and "Press" painted on it used by the squad in the attack at the Kissufim Crossing (Picture courtesy of Yedioth Ahronoth and Meir Azouli).

- i) **October 29**: During an Israeli security force action at the border fence in the southern Gaza strip, close to the Sufa Crossing, there was an exchange of fire with armed terrorists. Staff Sergeant Major Ehud Efrati was critically wounded and later died. Two other soldiers were wounded. Hamas claimed responsibility for the shooting.
- ii) **October 17**: During an IDF operation near Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza strip Sergeant Ben Kubani, 20, from Hadera was shot to death by terrorists. Hamas claimed responsibility for the shooting.
- iii) **September 18**: During broad counterterrorist activities in the Beit Ilma refugee camp on the outskirts of Nablus, one IDF soldier was killed and four wounded in an exchange of fire with armed terrorists. The soldier killed was First Sergeant Ben-Zion (Haim) Henman, 21.
- iv) **July 12**: An IDF soldier was killed and two wounded during an exchange of fire between armed terrorists and an IDF force conducting operations on the outskirts of Al-Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. The soldier killed was First Sergeant Arbel Reich, 21. **Hamas** claimed responsibility for the shooting.

v) **July 12:** In the afternoon hours a Subaru raced toward the IDF roadblock at Anabata, between Tulkarm and Nablus. The driver braked suddenly, got out of the car and started shooting at the soldiers stationed at the roadblock. They returned fire and killed the shooter. A search of the vehicle revealed three pipe charges. The PIJ claimed responsibility for the attack.



**Car used by the terrorist in the attempted attack
(Photo courtesy of the IDF Spokesman, July 12).**

vi) **June 9:** A four-man PIJ-Fatah squad attacked an IDF post and patrol near the Kissufim Crossing in the central Gaza Strip, possibly with the intention of abducting a soldier. Riding in a jeep camouflaged as a media vehicle, the terrorists broke through the gate and entered Israeli territory. They then tried to attack a post near the fence (which was unmanned at the time). IDF forces arriving on the scene opened fire, killing one of the terrorists; three of them fled the scene.²⁹



**The remains of the terrorist squad's vehicle in the attack prevented
on September 6 (IDF Spokesman, September 6).**

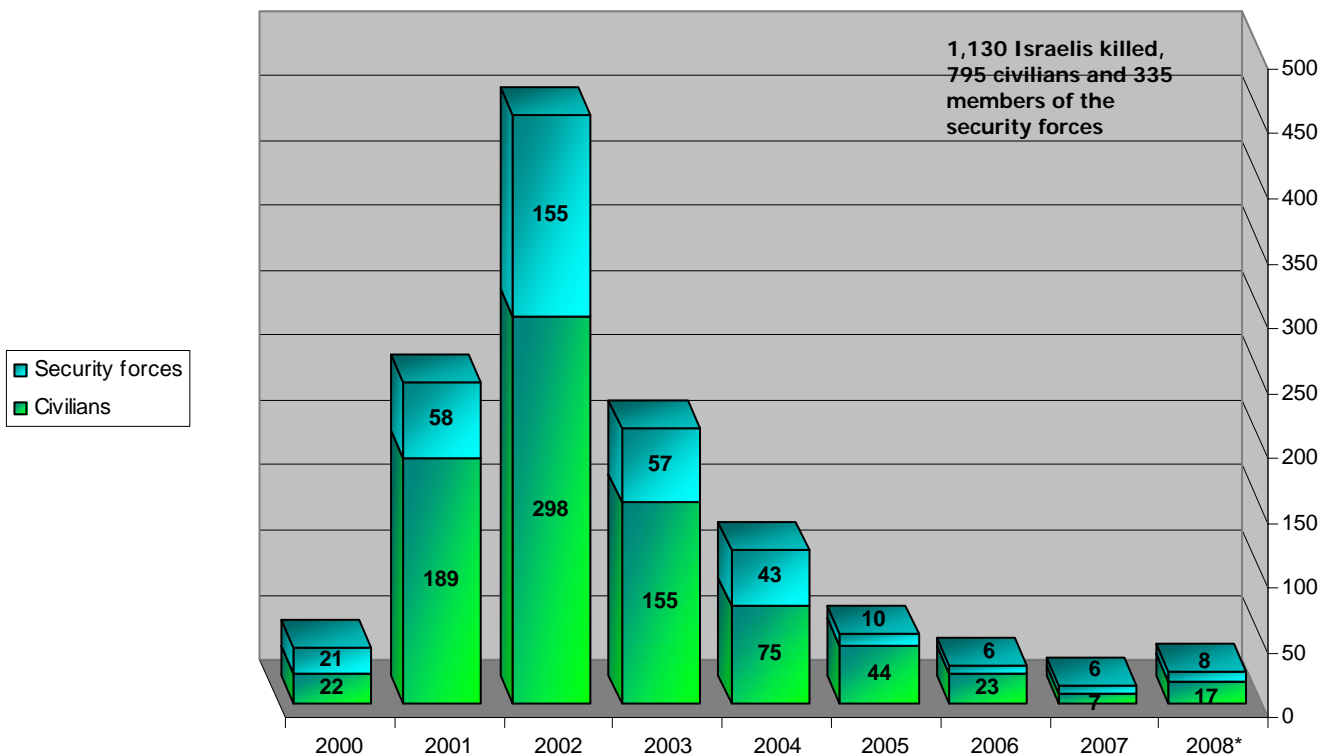
²⁹ For further information see our June 12, 2007 Bulletin entitled "The attack at the Kissufim Crossing: the Palestinian Islamic Jihad manipulated the media regarding the use of a jeep camouflaged as a press vehicle" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/pij_110607e.htm.

Part IV: Terrorist victims, 2007

Israelis killed by terrorist attacks

1. In 2007 there was a **steady decline** in the number of Israelis killed in terrorist attacks, since the peak of 2002. A total of 13 were killed, seven civilians and six members of the security forces (two of them off duty). During the first months of 2008 there was a **significant increase in the number of Israelis killed** (a total of 25, 17 civilians and eight soldiers).³⁰

Israelis killed during the Palestinian terrorist campaign



³⁰ As of May, 2008.

Civilians



Israel Samolia, 26, from Eilat. Killed in an suicide bombing attack on January 29. Left a family in the United States.



Michael Ben-Saadon, 27, from Eilat. Killed in an suicide bombing attack on January 29. Married and father of one.



Emil Almaliah, 32, from Eilat. Killed in an suicide bombing attack on January 29. Married and father of two.



Oshri Oz, 36, from Hod Hasharon. Killed by rocket fire in Sderot, May 27.



Shirel Friedman, 32, from Sderot. Killed by rocket fire in Sderot, May 21.



Erez Levanon, 42, from the settlement of Bat Ayn. Stabbed to death, February 25. Married and father of three.



Ido Zoldan, 29, from Karnei Shomron. Shot to death, November 19, 2007. Married and father of two.

IDF forces



Sergeant Ben Kubani, 20, from Hadera. Killed in IDF counterterrorist activities near Khan Yunis, October 17.



First Sergeant Ben-Zion (Haim) Henman, 21, from Moshav Nov. Killed in IDF counterterrorist activities near Nablus, September 18.



First Sergeant Arbel Reich, 21, from Moshav Yuvalim. Killed in IDF counterterrorist activities in Al-Bureij refugee camp, July 12.



Staff Sergeant David Ruben, 21, from Kiryat Arba. Murdered by gunfire while off duty, December 28.



Corporal Captain Ahikam Amihai, 20 from Kiryat Arba. Murdered by gunfire while off duty, December 28.



Staff Sergeant Major Ehud Efrati, 34, from Moshav Beit Yehoshua, married and father of three. Killed in IDF counterterrorist activities near the security fence in the Gaza Strip, October 29.

Deadly terrorist attacks, 2007, in chronological order

	Date	Event	Place	Number dead
1.	January 29	Suicide bombing attack	Eilat	Three civilians
2.	February 25	Stabbing	Gush Etzion	One civilian
3.	May 21	Rocket fire	Sderot	One civilian
4.	May 27	Rocket fire	Sderot	One civilian
5.	July 12	Exchange of fire	Al-Bureij refugee camp	One soldier
6.	September 18	Exchange of fire	Outskirts of Nablus	One soldier
7.	October 17	Exchange of fire	Near Khan Yunis	One soldier
8.	October 29	Exchange of fire	Near border fence	One soldier
9.	November 19	Shooting attack	Near Kedumim	One civilian
10.	December 28	Shooting attack	South of Hebron	Two soldiers

The wounded and the victims of post-traumatic stress disorder

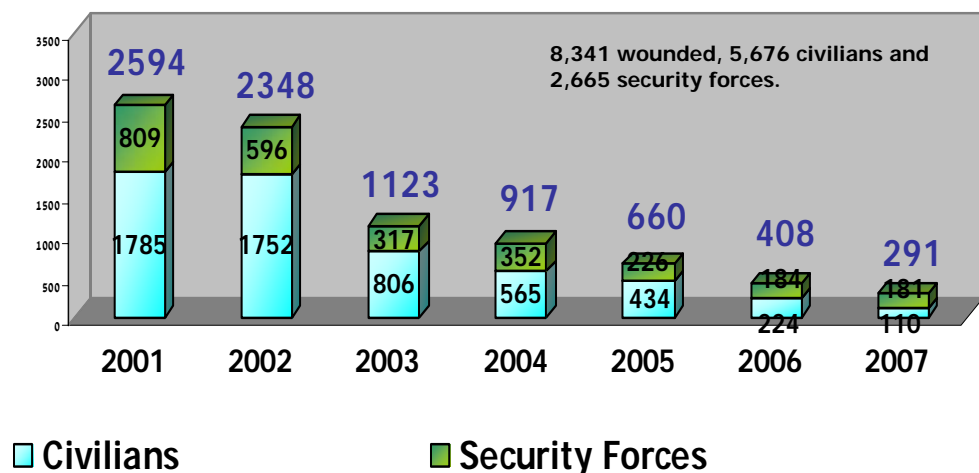
3. A total of 291 Israelis were wounded in 2007, 181 members of the security forces and 110 civilians, compared with 408 in 2006 (184 members of the security forces and 224 civilians). In 2007 the steady decline since 2001, the peak year, continued.

4. Most of the wounded were victims of rocket fire. In 2007, 155 civilians and 64 members of the security forces, 50 of whom were soldiers wounded at the basic training camp at Zikim on September 11. Most of the wounded civilians (148) were residents of Sderot, and the rest (seven) of Ashqelon. A total of two civilians were critically wounded, five had moderate wounds and the rest were slightly injured.³¹



Evacuating the wounded in Sderot (Photos courtesy of Sderot Security Headquarters, May 16, 2007).

5. It should be noted that the damage done by rockets to the civilian population of Sderot and other western Negev population centers cannot be measured only statistically in terms of dead and wounded. Studies done in recent years showed that the continued rocket fire and the large number of shock victims have led to post traumatic stress disorder among many of Sderot's residents (close to 30%). It influences their mental health and seriously damages the quality of their lives.³²



³¹ According to data from the Israeli Magen David Adom.

³² According to a study done in at the Sapir College in the summer of 2007, 28.4% of Sderot adults reported symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder, three times the national average.

To see a video of life in Sderot in the shadow of rocket attacks

Click here

video courtesy of sderot media center

www.sderotmedia.com

Part V: Hamas's military buildup in the Gaza Strip³³

Accelerating the process in 2007

1. During 2007, Hamas accelerated its military buildup. The process was the result of several factors:

i) **The many difficulties faced by Hamas since it came to power, especially since its takeover of the Gaza Strip:** Hamas has been forced to struggle with a series of difficulties including its political isolation, an economic blockade, IDF activities, internal subversion, political competition with Fatah and the unending propaganda war waged against it by Fatah and Abu Mazen's PA. They have given it a sense of being menaced and present it with continual challenges, requiring it to form military-security systems to ensure its rule in the Gaza Strip and protect it from its many enemies, internal and external.

ii) **The need to find a response to the IDF's counterterrorist activities in the Gaza Strip accompanied by fear that Israel will reconquer the Strip or parts of it:** The scenario of an IDF takeover resurfaces every time Palestinian terrorism escalates and along with it increased IDF counterterrorist activities. Hamas also continually needs to deal with the IDF's intensive counter-terrorist activities in the Gaza Strip, including targeted killings of terrorist operatives, attacks on bases and facilities and limited land activities in the northern and southern regions.

iii) **Hezbollah's success** in providing an asymmetric response to the IDF's might during the second Lebanon war made it a **role model for Hamas**. The second Lebanon war and the results of the constant rocket fire at Sderot and the western Negev population centers made it clear that rockets were strategically important because of Israeli civilian vulnerability. The lessons of the second Lebanon war also illustrated the importance of a **strong military force** which could stand fast and survive to protect Hamas's control of the Gaza Strip, like the military force Hezbollah established in south Lebanon.

³³ For further information see our April 8, 2008 Bulletin entitled "Hamas's military buildup in the Gaza Strip (Updated April 2008)" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/pdf/hamas_080408.pdf.

2. **Hamas’s military build-up** is based on two main systems: the **internal security system**, centering around the **Executive Force**, its main security arm for controlling the Gaza Strip; and its **military-terrorist system**, centering around the **Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades**, which deal with planning and carrying out terrorist attacks against Israel and defending the Gaza Strip from within. The operatives of the internal security system and of the other Palestinian terrorist organizations would integrate into the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades’ program for defense should the IDF enter the Gaza Strip.

The overall strength of Hamas’s military forces

3. The Hamas’s military strength rests on the **Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades**, its military-terrorist wing. In our assessment, it has **more than 10,000 operatives in the Gaza Strip**. That figure may be larger because of Hamas’s intense recruiting process since it took over the Gaza Strip. It can be expected that most of the operatives will reinforce the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades in an emergency situation vis-à-vis the IDF, while routinely the regular hard core is composed of **several hundred skilled operatives**. Its acting commander is **Ahmed Ja’abari**.³⁴

4. A considerable number of the operatives expected to reinforce the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades routinely serve in the **internal security forces**. Those forces, centering around the **Executive Force**, today number around **10,000 operatives**, most of them either Hamas members or supporters. Thus the total number of Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and internal security force operatives controlled by Hamas is, in our estimation, about **15,000**.³⁵

5. About **3,000-4,000 operatives** belonging to the other Palestinian terrorist organizations operating in the Gaza Strip can be added to the strength of the Hamas forces. At least some of them may join the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades in an emergency situation and accept its orders to fight the IDF. Thus the entire strength Hamas has at its command in the Gaza Strip is **close to 20,000 armed men** of varying degrees of skill and professionalism.

³⁴ The status of **Muhammad Deif**, the commander of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, who was badly wounded, is unclear. The Hamas media still refer to him as “the general commander of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades.”

³⁵ In an interview with the London Sunday Times on March 9, 2008, a senior Hamas terrorist operative said that the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades had **15,000** operatives. In our assessment, that figure also includes members of the internal security forces.

Hamas's military wing (the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades).



6. In the past few years, especially since the disengagement, Hamas's military-terrorist infrastructure has gradually transformed itself into a **hierarchical structure with semi-military patterns of action**. That change means the unification of local terrorist networks throughout the Gaza Strip into one military wing with an orderly structure which has adopted military components both in its commanding and directing the forces and support systems (manufacturing, acquiring and smuggling weapons, etc.). However, it is not a classic military organization, and under fire Hamas can be expected **to employ the principles of asymmetric warfare**: the operation of small fighting units (platoons and squads), focusing on hit and run attacks, blending in with and disappearing into the civilian population, making extensive use of civilians as human shields, etc.

7. Hamas's military wing includes territorial brigades and designated units deployed throughout the Gaza Strip, **each of which has more than 1,000 operatives**. Each brigade has a number of battalions and each battalion has several companies. Each company has three platoons composed of three combat teams (including fighters, anti-tank operatives, saboteurs, medics).

8. The brigades are deployed as follows:

- i) A brigade in **northern sector**, commanded by **Ahmed Ghandour**.
 - ii) The **Gaza City sector**, which apparently has two brigades commanded by **Ahmed Ja'abari**.
 - iii) A brigade in the **central sector**, commanded by **Ayman Nawfal** (today detained by the Egyptians).
 - iv) A brigade in the **southern sector**, which apparently has two brigades (in accordance with geographical conditions), one in **Khan Yunis**, commanded by **Muhammad Sinwar**, and the other in Rafah, commanded by **Ra'ed al-Attar**.
9. Ordinarily, as noted above, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades have a **few hundred skilled operatives**. They attack civilian targets in Israel (firing rockets and mortar shells) and military targets bordering the Gaza Strip (firing mortar shells, light weapons fire, planting IEDs, attempts to carry out mass-killing attacks and abduct soldiers in Israeli territory).



Camouflaged operatives of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades' al-Nusseirat battalion. Left: Camouflaged infantry operative. Right: Sniper with a Russian Dragunov sniper assault rifle fitted with a telescopic sight (PALDF forum, March 12-15, 2008).
PALDF(

Internal security

10. Hamas's internal security forces number approximately **10,000 operatives**, about 6,000 of whom belong to the police, many of them former members of the Executive Force. In addition to the police there are the following units:

- i) The **rapid response force** (an élite police force)
- ii) The **security and protection force**, responsible for guarding important people and institutions.
- iii) **National security** (about 400 operatives)
- iv) **Internal security** (about 200 operatives)
- v) **Coastal security** (about 200 operatives)
- vi) **Civil defense** (about 400 operatives)



Hamas's Executive Force, the main arm of control in the Gaza Strip.



Hamas Executive Force operatives shouldering a home-made Al-Yassin anti-tank missile launcher (www.palissue.com, June 13, 2007).



Left: Coastal security inflatable rubber dinghy. Right: Coastal security flag.

The underground system

11. One of the main components of Hamas's military build-up is a vast **underground system** which includes a network of tunnels dug under various regions of the Gaza Strip for attack and defense. The network is intended to create a threat to IDF forces operating in the Gaza Strip, to neutralize some of the IDF's capability to damage the Hamas infrastructure and to give Hamas's military wing an operational breathing space during prolonged, extensive fighting.



Tunnels for smuggling terrorist operatives and weapons from Egypt into the Gaza Strip (IDF Spokesman, November 1, 2007).



Generator and digging equipment near the tunnel shaft. The generator was sunk into the ground to muffle noise and make its discovery difficult (IDF Spokesman's Website, August 16).



A tunnel shaft exposed by the Israeli security forces in the northern Gaza Strip. It was 3.5 meters (11.5 feet) deep and had been dug inside a house standing 700 meters (about 4/10 of a mile) from the security fence. It was apparently intended to be used to enable a terrorist squad to infiltrate into Israeli territory (IDF Spokesman, April 8, 2008).



Small room and tunnel exposed by IDF forces in the house of a wanted Fatah terrorist during an IDF action in the Gaza Strip (September 19, 2007).

Weapons

12. As part of its military buildup project, Hamas is making an effort to equip itself with **advanced standard arms and ammunition** alongside **independently-produced arms and ammunition**. Hamas places great significance on **artillery** (rockets and mortars), **anti-tank weapons, and IEDs** to be used against the IDF's infantry and armored combat vehicles (since those types of weapons proved themselves in Hezbollah's fighting against the IDF on the Lebanese scene).

13. The arms and ammunition smuggled into the Gaza Strip are usually obtained from **three major sources**:

i) **Arms and ammunition provided by Iran and Syria, either directly or through Hezbollah.** The arms and ammunition are smuggled to Sinai and then make their way to the Gaza Strip through the extensive network of tunnels. The breach of the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Egypt allowed Hamas and other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip to smuggle considerable amounts of arms and ammunition, including artillery rockets and anti-tank weapons.

ii) **Arms and ammunition acquired from arms dealers.** The arms and ammunition are smuggled to Sinai (or purchased there) and are then smuggled into the Gaza Strip through the network of tunnels.

iii) **Independently-produced arms and ammunition.** These arms and ammunition, which include improved Qassam artillery rockets and other types of rockets, are manufactured in lathe shops and workshops in the Gaza Strip. The raw materials are smuggled into the Gaza Strip from Egypt and Israel, including chemicals, metal parts, and other substances used for the production of arms and ammunition.



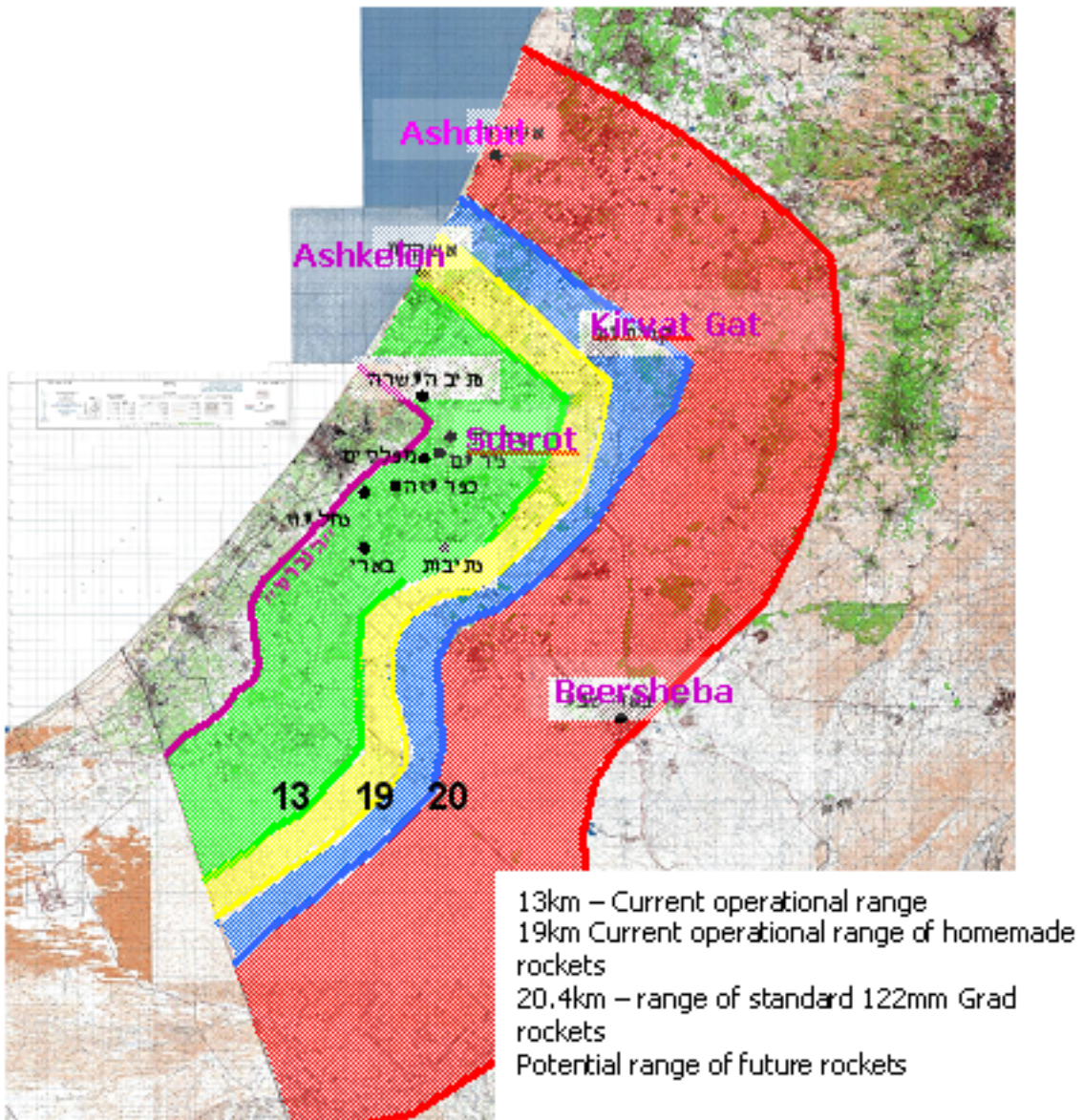
On February 6, 2007, Israeli security forces operating at the Erez Crossing apprehended Amr Muhammad Mustafa Zaq, a scrap metal dealer from the Gaza Strip. He used to sell pipes and other metal parts to terrorist operatives and lathe shop owners in the Gaza Strip, who then used them for manufacturing rockets.

14. **Exceptionally, Hamas obtained large quantities of weapons after it took over the security services of the Palestinian Authority** in June 2007. Some of the weapons were advanced items which Hamas had not possessed before (it would have taken Hamas months or even years to smuggle them through the tunnels).



PA weapons seized by Hamas: 14.5mm anti-aircraft machineguns and ammunition (Al-Aqsa TV, December 24, 2007).

Rockets and mortars



15. For Hamas and the other terrorist organizations, firing rockets and mortar shells is an asymmetrical, simple, readily available and cheap solution to Israel's military superiority. While it does have problems, they believe that **it allows them to continually disrupt the life of the civilian population within the rockets' range for prolonged periods of time**. That destabilizes Israel's social fabric, bypasses the security buffer zone built by Israel along the Gaza Strip, and creates a kind of "balance of terror" that would make it difficult for Israel to carry out its counter-terrorism operations. The rockets are launched from densely-populated areas, sometimes near residential buildings and in some cases from rooftops and schoolyards, and Palestinian civilians are used as human shields.

16. **Hamas's rocket supply is based on several hundred independently-produced Qassam rockets**, with diameters ranging from 90mm to 115mm **and ranges of 9-13 km (6-8 miles)**. The Hamas military wing has several **independently-produced** long-range rockets **which can reach 19 km (almost 12 miles)**. Hamas also possesses at least dozens of standard long-range Grad rockets (122mm), **with a range of up to 20.4 km (12 ½ miles)**, smuggled into the Gaza Strip or confiscated from the Palestinian Authority security services following the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip. The breach of Rafah Crossing in January 2008 helped increase the number of standard rockets, **and perhaps even a number of rockets for ranges longer than 20.4 km**.



Iranian 120mm mortar shell with an auxiliary rocket engine



Iranian high-explosive 120mm mortar shell



Remains of the mortar shell fired from Gaza



Part of the 120mm mortar shell fired from Gaza



Tail section of a 120mm mortar shell from the second Lebanon war



A PIJ vehicle carrying four rocket launchers



Qassam-1 rockets

17. **The assistance provided by Iran to Hamas** and other Palestinian terrorist organizations allows them to improve their military capabilities, both by **arming themselves with standard rockets and standard mortar shells smuggled into the Gaza Strip**, and to receive the technological assistance necessary to create improved rockets with longer ranges than those existing today. This was reflected in the terrorist organizations' use of **Iranian-made mortar shells** at the beginning of 2008:

i) On February 29, another mortar shell landed **near Sufa, an IDF outpost** in the southern Gaza Strip. Examination of the remains showed that it was a **standard 120mm HE Iranian mortar shell** manufactured in 2006. Its warhead is **more destructive** than that of an independently-manufactured rocket of the same weight (so far, late May 2008, dozens of standard 120mm mortar shells have been fired at Israel).

ii) On February 24, 2008, **a standard 120mm mortar shell** was fired from the Gaza Strip. Examination of the remains showed that it was probably an **Iranian-made mortar shell** (a copy of one produced by Israel Military Industries in the 1970s). **The mortar shell is equipped with an auxiliary rocket engine which increases its range from six to ten kilometers.**

18. During of the escalation in late February 2008, at least 18 standard 122mm rockets were fired at Ashkelon by Hamas. **The difference** between them and the Grad rockets used till then is that their engine is composed of four 50cm sections. That feature is highly unusual and does not exist in rockets produced by countries which manufacture the same models. The technological effort put into that new development was designed, in our assessment, to make it easier for the terrorist organizations, Hamas included, to smuggle the rockets into the

Gaza Strip (by dismantling the sections). There are several Middle Eastern countries producing such rockets, including **Iran, Syria, and Egypt**. The considerable assistance provided by Iran to terrorist organizations, including smuggling weapons and ammunition into the Gaza Strip, would lead to the conclusion that Iran was responsible for the manufacture of the Grad rockets fired at Ashkelon.

Anti-tank weapons

19. In the last several years Hamas and the other terrorist organizations have ascribed increased significance to anti-tank weapons in fighting against the IDF. That is also a result of the successful use made by Hezbollah of advanced anti-tank missiles against IDF forces in the second Lebanon war.

20. The second Lebanon war accelerated Hamas's stockpiling of advanced anti-tank weapons in the Gaza Strip. There are many hundred to several thousand independently-produced **Al-Yassin** rockets (a reconstruction of the PG-2 rocket). Hamas's arsenal also includes hundreds of standard **PG-2 and PG-7** anti-tank rocket launchers and several dozen advanced anti-tank missiles of various types, including **Konkurs (AT-5)** and **Sagger**. Hamas and the other terrorist organizations are trying to **increase their arsenal of anti-tank weapons**.

RPG-7 anti-tank rocket launcher manufactured by Russia and other countries, including Egypt

21. Technical specifications:
- i) **Launcher length:** 950mm
 - ii) **Launcher diameter:** 40mm
 - iii) **Launcher weight:** 6 kg
 - iv) **Warhead:** hollow charge (85mm in diameter)
 - v) **Effective range:** stationary target 350 m; moving target 300 m
 - vi) **Maximum range:** 800-900 m
 - vi) **Armor piercing capability:** 300mm of steel



22. Russian-made Sagger missile³⁶

Technical specifications:

- i) **Warhead diameter:** 125mm

³⁶ The seized materials display of the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center missiles on board the Karine-A ship. The Iranians scratched off the Iranian army emblem from the missile.



- ii) **Missile length:** 86.4 cm
- iii) **Armor piercing capability:** 450mm of armored steel
- iv) **Minimum range:** 500 m
- v) **Maximum range:** 3,000 m

Russian-made Konkurs missile

Technical specifications:

- i) **Armor piercing capability:** 600mm of steel; 800mm after reactive plating³⁷
- ii) **Maximum day range:** 4,000 m
- iii) **Maximum night range:** 2,500 m



Konkurs missile inside the launch container



Konkurs launcher (seized in Lebanon)

Explosives and IEDs

23. Since Hamas took over the Gaza Strip it has smuggled significant amounts of high quality explosives and raw materials for manufacturing explosives into the Gaza Strip. According to a report issued by the Israel Security Agency, between the takeover of the Gaza Strip and early 2008, Hamas smuggled **at least 80 tons of explosives**, more than half the amount of

³⁷ **Reactive plating:** a technology developed after 1967. It is armor which reacts on impact to reduce damage to the vehicle. Usually, reactive plating contains units of propellant explosives installed on the outside of the vehicle and explode on impact, making anti-tank weapons less effective.

explosives smuggled to the Gaza Strip since the disengagement.³⁸ That has resulted in the improvement of the performance of IEDs as well as warheads of the artillery and anti-tank rockets in the possession of Hamas and the other terrorist organizations.

24. Hamas also tries to imitate Hezbollah with **roadside charges and powerful underbelly charges**. They are placed near or under roads to disrupt the IDF's combat maneuvers and take a heavy toll in human lives and weapons. Such IEDs can also be expected to be hidden in houses or other sites where the IDF is likely to carry out its activities. A prominent example was the explosion of a booby trapped house during activities conducted by the IDF in Beit Lahiya (August 1, 2007).



Various models of plate charges uncovered in the Gaza Strip in recent years



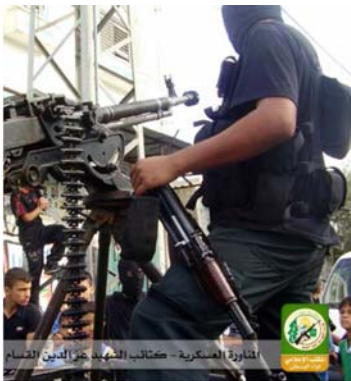
Fragmentation charges manufactured by Hamas, seized near a tunnel entrance (September 2006)

³⁸ From a report published by the Israel Security Agency: "Summary of 2007—Data and Trends in Palestinian Terrorism".

Other weapons and ammunition

25. Following the Hamas takeover of the Palestinian security services, the rifle stockpile of the military wing increased **from thousands to tens of thousands** (including millions of bullets). Hamas now has sufficient amounts of small arms to increase the number of Hamas operatives in the military and security services.

26. Hamas and the other terrorist organizations have several **SA-7 shoulder missiles**, which have not been used so far (Hamas's entire air defense has so far consisted of firing machineguns and small arms at aircraft). There are also **dozens of** standard and improvised **sniper rifles, heavy machineguns also used for anti-aircraft fire, recoilless guns, binoculars, and some night vision equipment.**



Heavy 12.7mm machinegun which could also be used for anti-aircraft fire (Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades forum, September 17, 2007)



Heavy 12.7mm machinegun used by a Hamas operative for anti-aircraft fire (Al-Aqsa TV, December 23, 2007)

Systems for manufacturing and smuggling weapons

Independent manufacturing system

27. Hamas has in its disposal **a network for independent weapons and ammunition manufacture**, as well as for storage and delivery to combatants. It includes several dozen operatives organized into professional work groups. Several dozen production sites are based in the Gaza Strip inside densely populated civilian areas. Weapons and ammunition are manufactured for defense and offense. Over the past year Hamas operatives continued their efforts to independently produce a considerable portion of the weapons and ammunition they require for routine terrorist activities, to reduce their dependency on smuggling.

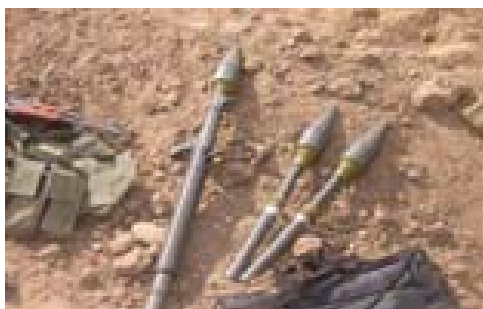


A workshop for manufacturing weapons located inside a densely populated civilian area in the Rafah neighborhood of Shaboura. The workshop was attacked by the IDF.

28. Situated in the heart of civilian areas, the production facilities expose the residents to risks due to attacks by Israel and to “work accidents.” Thus, for example, on December 29, 2007, two “engineers” engaged in the manufacture of weapons were killed when a powerful IED exploded inside a residential building in the Gaza City neighborhood of Zeitun. The explosion caused injuries to civilians and considerable damage to the building.

29. Key among the weapons produced in the Gaza Strip are:

- i) **Anti-tank weapons**, including Hamas’s manufacture of **Al-Yassin-type** anti-tank rockets (and launchers), a reproduction of the Russian **PG-2** anti-tank rockets.



Hamas-made Al-Yassin rockets. Maximum range: about 250 m. Estimated armor piercing capability: up to 200mm of steel.

iii) **Producing artillery rockets for various ranges and manufacturing mortars and mortar shells:**³⁹

1) As the terrorist organizations' spearhead, the Hamas movement **has capabilities for producing a considerable variety of Qassam-class rockets for ranges of up to 13km (8 miles)** and of improved rockets **for ranges of up to 19km (12 miles)**. **In our assessment Hamas currently has several hundred rockets.**

2) Hamas **constantly strives to improve the range** and shelf life of independently-manufactured rockets.

3) **The Palestinian Islamic Jihad** also independently manufactures rockets (**Al-Quds**) with technical specifications similar to those of Hamas.

Weapons smuggling systems

30. Hamas and the other terrorist organizations obtain weapons and ammunition from various sources, some from Iran and Lebanon, and some from other countries, such as Sudan. In addition, the terrorist organizations acquire weapons and ammunition from Bedouins in the Sinai desert and from arms dealers operating outside the Gaza Strip. The weapons and the raw materials needed for independent manufacture are transported to the Gaza Strip through a network of smugglers from the Egyptian border, a lifeline for Hamas and the other terrorist organizations.

31. **Since the IDF's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip as part of the Israeli disengagement (September 2005), there has been a dramatic increase in weapons smuggling from Egypt into the Gaza Strip through the Philadelphi route.** The IDF forces operating along the Egyptian border were first replaced by Palestinian security forces belonging to Fatah. Now, following the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip, its own operatives patrol the border in order to facilitate arms smuggling. The presence of Hamas forces and the ineffectiveness of the Egyptian security forces have left the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt **wide open**, making it possible to carry out extensive smuggle activities with relative ease.

32. The **main** method of smuggling used by the terrorist organizations is the **network of tunnels** dug from Rafah to Sinai in the Rafah region and along Philadelphi route. The smuggling takes place through **scores of subterranean tunnels** connecting the Gaza Strip

³⁹ For details, see our Information Bulletin: "Rocket threat from the Gaza Strip, 2000-2007" (December 2007).

to Egypt. The extent of the network was shown during IDF's activity in the Kerem Shalom region (October 30, 2007), in which eight tunnel entrances were located and destroyed.

33. The tunnels are used to smuggle weapons, military equipment, raw materials for the independent weapons and ammunition manufacture, and even funds (tens of millions of dollars).⁴⁰ Anti-tank missiles, standard 122mm Grad rockets, dozens of tons of standard explosives, mines, anti-tank launchers, rifles, and bullets have been smuggled into the Gaza Strip through the tunnels. In addition, they are used to smuggle terrorists from the Gaza Strip into Israel through the Israeli-Egyptian border.⁴¹ The breach of the border fence at Rafah (January 22-February 3, 2008) reduced dependence on the tunnel network for a short time and allowed a massive influx of vehicles laden with weapons and ammunition into the Gaza Strip.

34. Smuggling is also conducted through border crossings between Israel and the Gaza Strip under cover of delivering commercial or humanitarian equipment. That results in the absurd situation in which much of the raw materials used in the manufacture of rockets and explosives used to attack Israelis originate in Israel (for example, **potassium nitrate** and sugar are two basic substances used to create propellants for IEDs and rockets).⁴² The use of potassium nitrate is therefore forbidden in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; accordingly, the terrorist organizations attempt to smuggle it in various ways and means.⁴³

⁴⁰ Hamas is noted for its use of tunnels to smuggle funds. For example, in 2007, the military wing of Hamas received a significant portion of its budget, estimated at **tens of millions of dollars**, through the tunnels. The smuggled funds supported Hamas's military buildup in the Gaza Strip (from "Summary of 2007: Data and Trends in Palestinian Terrorism", report by the Israel Security Agency).

⁴¹ For example, on July 3, 2007, Israeli security forces prevented a suicide bombing attack in Beersheba when they detained a suicide bomber armed with an explosive belt. During interrogation the terrorist admitted that he had infiltrated Israeli territory from Sinai and the Gaza Strip. The terrorist had been instructed to locate a crowded place and carry out the attack there.

⁴² In the past year, the Israeli security forces carried out special activities to prevent the transport of substances used as raw materials for the production of explosives into Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Seized in raids carried out in the past year on five factories in Judea and Samaria were substances that are illegal to transport into Palestinian territory.

⁴³ For example, Egyptian security forces arrested in Rafah Mehdi Salim Abu Freij, who lived near the border. Over a half a ton of explosives and 1.2 tons of potassium were found in his house. He said the substances had been smuggled into the Gaza Strip through tunnels (Jerusalem Post, December 26, 2007).



In late 2007, security forces at one of the crossings in Judea and Samaria stopped a truck containing six tons of potassium nitrate. That substance was sent to terrorist operatives and was concealed in sacks of sugar sent as aid by the European Union (IDF Spokesman, December 29, 2007).

35. The terrorist organizations operating in the Gaza Strip take advantage of the fact that Israel grants entry permits to Gaza Strip residents for special humanitarian reasons (for example, life-saving treatments at hospitals). This is done in several ways, mainly by purchasing fake medical authorization to undergo medical treatment in hospitals in Israel, Judea and Samaria, or elsewhere in the world. Israeli security forces are aware of several doctors and administrative workers in Gaza Strip hospitals who issue authorizations in exchange for bribes.⁴⁴

36. Most of the weapons are smuggled into the Gaza Strip by **independent smugglers and traders prompted by financial motives**. At times, there is no particular buyer before the smuggling, and the smuggled goods are sold on the free market to the highest bidder. Some of the weapons smuggling activity is carried out on demand for a particular organization (mostly Hamas). **Following the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip, Hamas has tightened its control over the weapons smuggling system from Sinai to the Gaza Strip.**

37. The **funds** necessary for the purchase of weapons (and the military buildup process in general) are introduced by Hamas into the Gaza Strip in covert ways, mostly through money changers and traders in the Arab world. Terrorist organizations also make extensive use of the tunnels to smuggle large sums of money, up to tens of millions of dollars on each run.

⁴⁴ From "Summary of 2007: Data and Trends in Palestinian Terrorism", a report by the Israel Security Agency. In May 2007 two female suicide bombers were arrested at the Erez Crossing. They had been given authentic entry permits into Israel based on false medical information. The two were planning to carry out a double suicide bombing attack in Tel-Aviv and Netanya.



Hamas knocks down the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Egypt
 (Ma'an News Agency, January 23, 2008)

Training in the Gaza Strip and abroad

38. Hamas's military buildup process also includes training courses to increase the military professional skills of operatives from all levels and in all occupations. Hamas has a core of several hundred highly-trained operatives who have undergone basic and advanced military training, specializing in such fields as anti-tank weapons, small arms, machineguns, sabotage, etc. Those operatives have acquired fighting skills that allow them to engage in personal combat, squad combat, and possibly in larger-scale formations as well.



The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades train in the use of RPG-7 anti-tank weapons (Filastin al-Mubashir Website, December 10, 2007)



The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades training in the use of mortars (Al-Aqsa TV, February 14, 2007)

39. Operatives belonging to the Hamas military wing undergo intensive, systematic training **in the Gaza Strip**, which include **elementary training** (fitness, rifle shooting, and field training) as well as advanced **professional training** in sniping, anti-tank warfare, intelligence, and artillery. Elementary training is held **in the Gaza Strip** and taught by local instructors (some of whom were trained abroad). The advanced professional training is given **abroad—in Iran, Syria, and Lebanon** (through Hezbollah). At the same time, **operatives of the internal security services** (the Executive Force, the police, etc.) also undergo basic

and advanced training in the Gaza Strip and elsewhere (Iran and Syria), preparing them to serve in Hamas's military wing in emergency situations.

40. Following the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip, as part of the acceleration of the military buildup Hamas operatives were sent to training courses in Iran and Syria. They were smuggled back into the Gaza Strip and transferred the know-how and skills they had acquired to operatives belonging to Hamas's operative wing and internal security services. **In 2007, Hamas undertook the most extensive and significant training effort in the history of its military wing to improve its operative capabilities.**



Izz al-Din al-Qassam Martyrs Brigades on training in the Al-Nusseirat refugee camp for a possible IDF operation (Radio Al-Aqsa Website, January 12, 2008)

Part VI: The global jihad and radical Islamic networks in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria

Overview

1. The global jihad considers Judea and Samaria as a front line in the campaign against Israel; however, **throughout 2007** it has been largely unsuccessful in penetrating and influencing the Palestinian arena. The major difficulty encountered by global jihad elements is that the Palestinian arena is already home to terrorist organizations strongly characterized by radical Islamic and jihadist worldviews coupled with Palestinian nationalism. The same is true in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, since Hamas is hostile to the global jihad and fears that it might gain a foothold in its territory.

2. Over the past two years, the Islamization of the Gaza Strip has seen the emergence of several **small networks** whose activities in the Gaza Strip focus on ideology. The ideological influence of the global jihad seeps into the Palestinian Authority-administered territories through global jihad organization Websites, an important means of disseminating radical Islamic ideas. There have been sporadic attempts by radical Islamic elements and global jihad networks to expand their activities and carry out terrorist attacks like the other Palestinian terrorist organizations operating in the Gaza Strip. However, they have yet to make any significant progress.

3. **No significant activity of global jihad elements was detected in Judea and Samaria in 2007**, but there was an increase in the activity and daring of the **Islamic Liberation Party**, which is hostile to the Palestinian Authority. The Party **is not affiliated with the global jihad** and is not involved in terrorism; however, due to its radical Islamic ideology, it is a convenient reservoir for the recruitment of terrorist operatives.

The Gaza Strip: The Radical Islamic elements and terrorist networks affiliated with the global jihad

4. Since its takeover of the Gaza Strip, the Hamas movement has stepped up its efforts to impose an Islamic social code on the local population. Still in its early stages, the process is characterized by **increasing Islamization and deepening the social and cultural differences between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.**⁴⁵ The Hamas takeover and the beginning of the Islamization process have changed Al-Qaeda's view of Hamas. Unlike the harsh criticism voiced in the past of Hamas and its political moves in the Palestinian Authority by Al-Zawahiri, Bin Laden's right-hand man, a more appeasing tone has been heard after the takeover.⁴⁶

5. Hamas usually allows radical Islamic elements to operate in the Gaza Strip. However, when their activities challenge Hamas's rule or could result in external pressure being exerted on the movement (for example, in cases of abduction of foreigners), Hamas attempts to **impose its authority** on the networks, occasionally even by using force.

⁴⁵ For further information see our July 31, 2007 Bulletin entitled "Since Hamas took over the Gaza Strip, it has intensified its activities to impose an Islamic social code" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/islamization_e.htm.

⁴⁶ For further information see our March 22, 2007 Bulletin entitled "Ayman al-Zawahiri lashed out at the Hamas movement once again, accusing it of abandoning jihad and "selling Palestine" for seats in the Palestinian unity government. Hamas spokesmen defended their political activity, stressing the continuing adherence of the movement to its radical principles, namely "resistance" and "jihad", and non-recognition of Israel" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/al_zawahiri_e.htm.

6. **In the past two years**, the radical Islamic elements and terrorist networks associated with the global jihad **have been behind a series of attacks on foreigners, Christians, and educational institutions associated with the West or with its culture**. They included attacks on Internet cafés, an attack on the American School in the northern Gaza Strip (January 12, 2007), the kidnapping of BBC reporter Alan Johnston (March 12, 2007), the attack on the convoy of John Ging, Director of UNRWA in Gaza on its way from the Erez border crossing to Gaza (March 15, 2007), the attack on a school run by UNRWA in Gaza (May 6, 2007), the murder of a Christian resident of the Gaza Strip active in a Christian association (October 6, 2007) and destroying equipment and vehicles in the American School in Beit Lahiya (January 12, 2008). Hamas, on its part, did not take effective steps to put an end to the attacks, which have continued into 2008.⁴⁷

7. Several terrorist networks affiliated with the global jihad operate in the Gaza Strip. Some consist of several dozen operatives, while others are **virtually non-existent networks** which do little more than make announcements to the media. What follows is a brief description of some of the major terrorist networks operating in the Gaza Strip during 2007.

The Army of Islam

8. **The Army of Islam** is the name of a Palestinian network in the Gaza Strip which numbers several dozen operatives and is dedicated to the liberation of Palestine by jihad and the establishment of an Islamic Palestinian nation. The network is headed by **Mumtaz Dughmush**, a member of a powerful clan in the Gaza Strip based in the Gaza neighborhood of Al-Sabra who seceded from the Popular Resistance Committees in 2004.

9. In the past, at least at its inception, the Army of Islam had close ties with Hamas. Later, tensions arose which have since been resolved. Following the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip, the network has resumed activities under Hamas's guidance. The Army of Islam operates in the familiar pattern of routine terrorist attacks against Israel, and does not follow the modus operandi of other global jihad organizations.

10. The Army of Islam is one of the three networks which claimed responsibility for the abduction of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit (June 25, 2006)⁴⁸ and for the kidnapping of BBC

⁴⁷ For further information see our June 2 Bulletin entitled "An increase in attacks on Christian and institutions identified with the West in the Gaza Strip. Hamas, which controls the radical Islamic entity in the Strip, pays lip-service to condemning the attacks but does not take effective steps to stop them" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/gaza_020608e.htm.

⁴⁸ The other two organizations were Hamas and the Popular Resistance Committees.

reporter Alan Johnston (whom it had to release following pressure exerted by Hamas) and two Fox News reporters. In addition, the network has carried out dozens of attacks and murders to settle scores with its opponents in the internal Palestinian arena (the elimination of Moussa Arafat in October 2005 was the most prominent of those incidents).



Mumtaz Dughmush (right) with one of his supporters
(the Hamas Website, January 21, 2007)

Army of the Nation

11. A minor network affiliated with the global jihad is **Army of the Nation (or Al-Qaeda in Palestine)**, headed by **Abu Hafez al-Maqdisi**. According to the network's operatives, they seek to establish Islam as the world's dominant religion. They also state that their goal is to kill Jews, Americans, and Christians, emphasizing the importance of attacking the State of Israel and of self-sacrifice.

12. In an exclusive interview granted to CBN,⁴⁹ **Abu Hafez al-Maqdisi** said his network was known as "Al-Qaeda in Palestine" since both were brothers in ideas, goals and activities. He thanked Allah for the global jihad being waged in Iraq, Chechnya and Afghanistan. A video tape produced by the network shows operatives in military training, singing Islamic songs about their path to jihad.⁵⁰

⁴⁹ A Christian website from Virginia, US.

⁵⁰ For further information see our February 11, 2008 Bulletin entitled "A group called "Army of the Nation, Jerusalem" is yet another global jihad offshoot in the Gaza Strip. Since the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip, there has been an increase in the propaganda and terrorist activities carried out by radical Islamic groups associated with Al-Qaeda and the global jihad" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/gj_030208e.htm.



Typical uniform worn by Army of the Nation operatives (From the network's Website).

Some of the network's masked, armed and uniformed operatives at a press conference in Khan Yunis (From the network's Website, January 2008).

13. This minor network has not carried out terrorist attacks until now, focusing most of its efforts on propaganda and terrorist activities on the internal Palestinian scene. In a first public appearance, the network's operatives threatened an attack on President Bush during his visit in Israel and in the Palestinian Authority (January 9-10, 2008). The network's most noteworthy activities were firing RPG rockets on the American School in Beit Lahiya, breaking into the school and destroying school equipment and vehicles.

Fath al-Islam offshoot in the Gaza Strip

14. A small branch of Fath al-Islam, directed from Lebanon, operates in the Gaza Strip. It is engaged mostly in propaganda activities, such as distributing publications on behalf of Shaker al-Absi, the organization's leader in Lebanon. The network is connected with operatives in Judea and Samaria and with smugglers in Sinai (mostly for criminal activities). Driven by the difficulties it encounters in Lebanon, Fath al-Islam is very interested in developing its own operative network so that it can carry out terrorist attacks against Israel from the Gaza Strip.

Judea and Samaria: Increased activity of the Islamic Liberation Party

15. No significant activity of global jihad elements was detected in Judea and Samaria in 2007. Of note is the activity of the radically-oriented Islamic Liberation Party,. It has no connections with the global jihad and does not take a direct part in anti-Israeli and international terrorism; however, its radical ideology and its extensive deployment worldwide turn it into a reservoir for radical Islamic terrorist organization recruiting.

16. In 2007 it increased its political and social activity in Judea and Samaria with the assistance of Hamas, which so far avoids taking the front stage in the resistance against the Palestinian Authority and prefers to work behind the scenes. The Liberation Party played a prominent part in the demonstrations against the Annapolis meeting, which were forcefully suppressed by the Palestinian Authority's security services.



The Liberation Party demonstrating in Lebanon (Reuters, November 27, 2007, photo by Nayef Hashlamoun)



One of the Islamic Liberation Party demonstrations in Judea and Samaria (precise location unknown). The participants carry posters against the Annapolis meeting, portraying the US as the enemy of Islam (www.al-aqsa.org, one of the Liberation Party's websites)

Part VI: Terrorist organizations in the Lebanese arena

Hezbollah's attack policies and modus operandi



A UNIFIL armored vehicle passes near a poster of Hassan Nasrallah which is titled “We Are the Surprises” (i.e., we are planning surprises for Israel) (alhadathonline.com, November 9, 2007)

1. In 2007, Hezbollah continued to avoid perpetrating terrorist attacks against Israel (not even in the Sheba Farms, a hotspot of Hezbollah activity until the second Lebanon war, where the organization claimed its terrorist attacks were “legitimate”). **Hezbollah’s avoidance of terrorist attacks for more than a year and a half following the second Lebanon war was unprecedented** since Hezbollah’s establishment in the first Lebanon war (1982). Such a policy harms the warlike jihadist image the organization has been nourishing for many years by constantly attacking Israel.

2. In our assessment, the explanation is twofold: **first**, Hezbollah is interested in a period of calm to carry out its reconstruction and military buildup without interference from Israel, UNIFIL and the Lebanese government. Hezbollah fears that changing its policy of terrorist attacks would lead to a strong retaliation by Israel, particularly since Israel’s deterrence has increased. **Second**, Hezbollah is focused on its internal political struggles against Seniora’s government (struggles which peaked with the ongoing presidential crisis), and it has no interest in becoming involved in conflicts with the Lebanese army and with UNIFIL, which might trigger harsh criticism within the internal Lebanese arena. However, it also seems that stopping terrorist activities **is a result of Syrian-Iranian policy, according to which Hezbollah must not become involved in a conflict with Israel if the circumstances are inconvenient**, and that it should continue building its military infrastructure without interruptions from Israel.

3. As a result, **2007 saw an unprecedented calm in south Lebanon and along the Israeli-Lebanese border.** Following are details of some (minor) incidents that took place in 2007:

i) **Limited, local incidents between Hezbollah and UNIFIL (mainly the Spanish battalion, which operates in the eastern sector).** For example, a **Spanish patrol which crossed the Litani river from south to north and took photographs in one of the villages** (January 17, 2007) was blocked by local residents who demanded that the UNIFIL force leave the area. A verbal altercation ensued and the Spanish aimed their weapons at the residents. The incident occurred outside the force's operative region.

ii) **The exposure of a series of IEDs, leading to an incident between the Lebanese army and the IDF (February):** an IDF force discovered 4-5 IEDs camouflaged as stones in the central sector of the Israeli-Lebanese border (near Avivim). The IEDs were planted near the Blue Line (the Israeli-Lebanese border) north of the border fence. Israel claimed that it was a new series of IEDs. The Lebanese government and Hezbollah denied the Israeli claim (February 5, 2007). Two days later, during an IDF operation to detonate the IEDs, the Lebanese army fired light arms and machineguns at an IDF force which crossed the border fence (but did not cross the Blue Line) near Maroun al-Ras. The IDF force returned fire, shooting at a Lebanese army armored vehicle and injuring several Lebanese soldiers (night of February 7, 2007).



One of the rock-like charges found on the scene (Photo courtesy of the IDF Spokesman)



The IDF detonates one of the charges (Photo courtesy of the IDF Spokesman)

Rebuilding Hezbollah's military infrastructure in Lebanon

4. In 2007 Hezbollah rehabilitated most of the military infrastructure in south Lebanon (south and north of the Litani River), adapting its activities to the new situation created in south Lebanon following the deployment of UNIFIL and the Lebanese army. For example, Hezbollah has given up its visible presence along the first line of outposts along the border (as was the case before the war), it conceals its weapons transfers, and makes sure that its operatives keep a low profile and avoid frontal confrontations with UNIFIL and with the Lebanese army.



Hezbollah operatives on military parade
(Hezbollah's Moqavemat Website)

5. Hezbollah took advantage of the calm in south Lebanon to restore its military infrastructure, damaged in the second Lebanon war, placing particular emphasis on replenishing its rocket arsenal. Noteworthy were the following activities:

- i) Creating a new and improved rocket arsenal in south Lebanon which poses a considerable threat to Israel's home front (to the Tel Aviv region and beyond). Hezbollah places a particular emphasis on its **thousands of 40km-110km (29-68 miles) mid-range rockets** (of the kinds used in the first Lebanon war, such as 122mm rockets for ranges of up to 40km, 220mm, Fajr-3, 302mm rockets for ranges

of 110km and 115km). It is possible that Hezbollah has also long-range Zelzal rockets. Hezbollah's rocket arsenal is deployed from the Blue in the south to the Awali River in the north. **Hezbollah has now completely replenished the rocket arsenal it possessed on the eve of the second Lebanon war (about 20,000 rockets), and in our assessment even considerably increased it.**

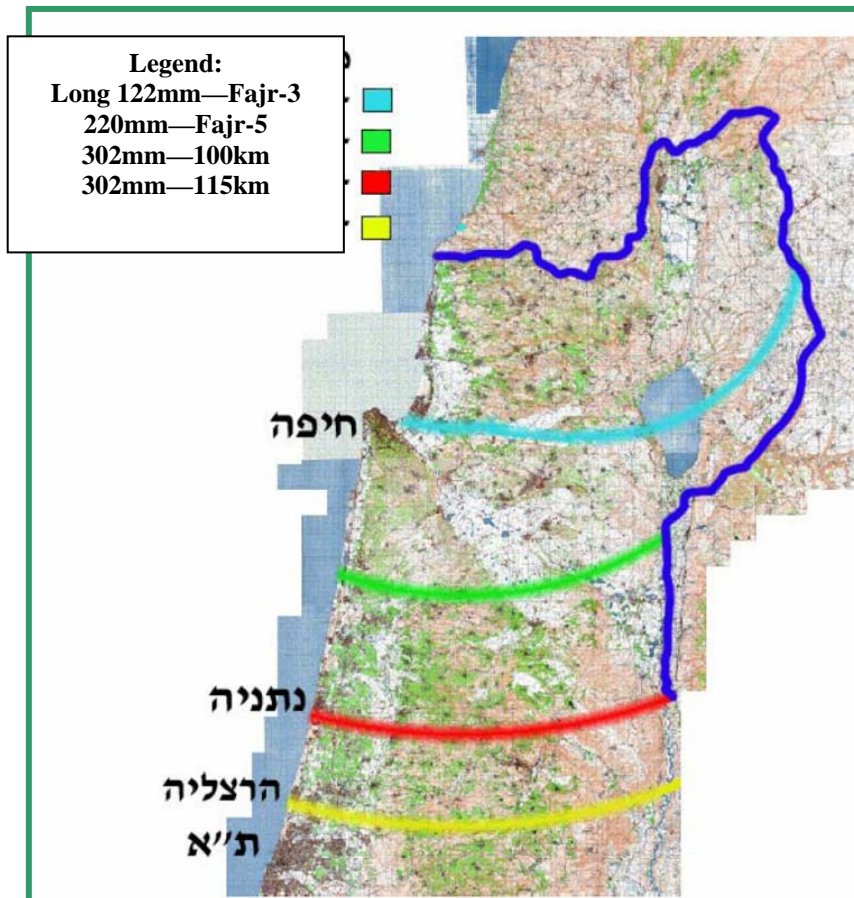


A ten-barrel 122mm rocket launcher (from an article published on Shiaweb, a Hezbollah Website, June 28, 2007)



A dummy display of Hezbollah's rockets near a UNIFIL vehicle. Above the rockets is a Hezbollah flag (Al-Akhbar,¹ Lebanon, March 2, 2008)

Medium rocket ranges south of the Litani River⁵¹



⁵¹ The map does not show long-range rockets (such as Zelzal) that are capable of hitting also south Israel.

ii) **Restoring the military infrastructure in south Lebanon:** Hezbollah has restored its military infrastructure in south Lebanon, which is mostly located **inside Shi'ite towns and villages**. Hezbollah is deployed in civilian buildings and underground facilities which serve as headquarters, command posts and stations. To avoid confrontations with UNIFIL and with the Lebanese army, Hezbollah has relocated its operative posts away from the Israeli border and lowered the profile of its activity in uninhabited zones. At the same time, the organization has expanded its military infrastructure **north of the Litani River** and has significantly improved its deployment there.

iii) **Recruiting and training new operatives:** during the war, Hezbollah lost a significant number of operatives (**about 650 fighters**), most of them highly trained. As part of the restoration process, Hezbollah operatives in south Lebanon have gradually resumed routine military activities. In our assessment, south of the Litani River there are **several thousand Hezbollah operatives** deployed of the total of **10,000-15,000** who Hezbollah can employ during a war.

Hezbollah operatives on training in Iran (photographs found with Hezbollah operatives captured in the second Lebanon war)



Firing LAU missiles



Operatives on training



An operative with photographs of Khomeini and Khamenei in the background



Hezbollah operatives in Iran receiving certificates from Hassan Nasrallah

iv) **Acquiring weapons and ammunition:**

1. To rebuild its military infrastructure, Hezbollah smuggled a significant quantity of weapons and ammunition into Lebanon in 2007, mainly **rockets, anti-tank weapons, and anti-aircraft weapons**. South of the Litani River there are **hundreds** of advanced anti-tank systems, hundreds of personal anti-aircraft missiles and anti-aircraft guns, and a large quantity of IEDs. They are hidden mostly in Shi'ite population centers which support Hezbollah.



A Kornet anti-tank system used by Hezbollah (aljanoub-land, an online message board associated with Hezbollah, August 31, 2007)



A Hezbollah operative with a Sagger anti-tank missile (aljanoub-land, an online message board affiliated with Hezbollah, August 31, 2007)

6. The main channel for smuggling weapons and ammunition is Syria, where they are loaded on vehicles and sent to the Lebanon Valley through the open Syrian-Lebanese border. **From the Lebanon Valley**, the weapons and ammunition are transported to Hezbollah's storehouses across Lebanon, including the southern part of the country. Another channel for smuggling weapons is **Turkey**. That was illustrated on May 25, 2007, when the Turkish army discovered a shipment of weapons in the boxcar of a train travelling from Iran to Syria. On two occasions, the Lebanese army stopped vehicles transporting weapons from Syria for

Hezbollah: **on February 8, 2007**, a truck with weapons and ammunition was stopped in the Beirut neighborhood of Hazmiyeh. On **June 6, 2007**, another truck was stopped in the Baalbek region. Those, however, were unusual incidents, rather than part of a Lebanese government policy. Another potential smuggling route is sending them by sea to the Beirut port.



A civilian truck used to smuggle weapons for Hezbollah confiscated by the Lebanese army in the Beirut neighborhood of Hazmiyeh (Reuters, February 8, 2007, photo by STR News)

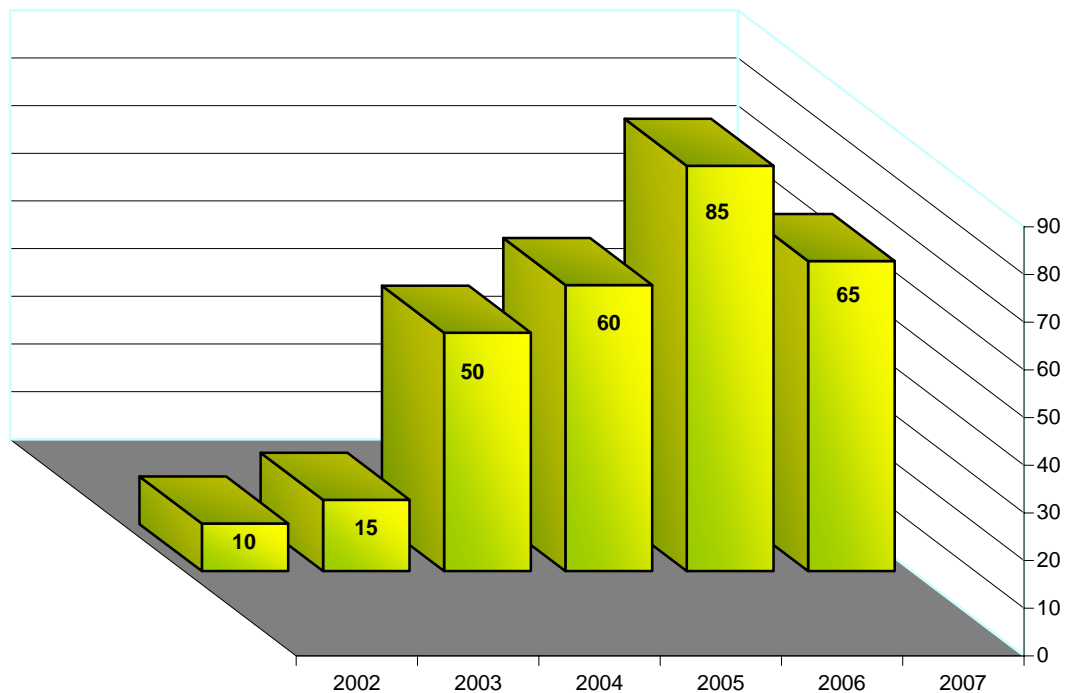
v)**Training:** Hezbollah operatives are trained in south Lebanon and in the Lebanon Valley. They are also sent for training to **Iran**, a practice used by Hezbollah before the second Lebanon war. Basic training is conducted in Lebanon while advanced training in specific kinds of weapons (such as anti-tank missiles) takes place in Iran. Of note was an **extensive military exercise** held by Hezbollah in south Lebanon in early November 2007. An article in Hamas-affiliated newspaper Al-Akhbar described it as the “largest exercise in Hezbollah history.” It lasted for three days and methodically tested Hezbollah’s military capabilities, including rockets and anti-tank fire, based on the lessons learned in the second Lebanon war. The exercise was also designed to send a message of deterrence to Israel, to the effect that Hezbollah learned its lessons and it was highly prepared to face Israel in a military conflict.

Hezbollah’s direction of and support for Palestinian terrorism

7. According to Israel Security Agency data, since 2004 Hezbollah has spent **over \$10 million a year** to encourage Palestinian terrorist activity against Israel. Investigations of arrested terrorist operatives show that Hezbollah focuses mostly on carrying out **a large number of terrorist attacks**, rather than showcase attacks. In most cases, the Palestinian terrorist organizations collaborate with Hezbollah to receive **financial assistance**, not necessarily for ideological reasons. The organizations which cooperate most with Hezbollah are **Fatah’s Tanzim** and the **Palestinian Islamic Jihad**.

8. In 2007, there was a drop in the number of networks directed by Hezbollah. The Israeli security forces exposed about **65 such networks** (compared with about 80 in 2006, on the eve of the second Lebanon war, about 50 of which were from Judea and Samaria). According to the Israel Security Agency, one of the reasons for the decrease is the Amnesty Plan, following which Fatah operatives who joined it severed ties with Hezbollah. In our assessment, another possible reason is Hezbollah's disillusionment with the efficiency of the Palestinian terrorist networks. Therefore, Hezbollah preferred to focus on transferring know-how for improving combat methods and the independent manufacture of weapons (Hezbollah's experience inspired the Hamas's military build-up in the Gaza Strip).

The number of Palestinian networks which were supported by Hezbollah throughout the confrontation⁵²



⁵² The Israel Security Agency: "Summary of 2007—Data and Trends in Palestinian Terrorism".



Two armed and uniformed Hezbollah operatives interviewed in the village of 'Aita al-Shaab, south Lebanon. Left: A close-up on the operative's rifle (Al-Manar TV, July 15, 2007). This is a rare image, since Hezbollah operatives usually make sure to dress in civilian clothes and avoid openly carrying arms and exposing themselves on the media.



Hezbollah fighters during the second Lebanon war. The headbands read: "Blessed be Khamenei" (from an Algerian blog called ttouf.Jeeran, July 19, 2006, titled "Lebanon and Palestine in our Hearts").⁵³

Global jihad networks in Lebanon and their activity

9. In 2007, global jihad networks continued their extensive efforts to strengthen their foothold in Lebanon, the result of a decision made by the Al-Qaeda leadership to expand its presence in Lebanon for use as a staging point for terrorist attacks against Israel and foreign targets in Lebanon. The hotspots of global jihad activities and terrorist operations in 2007 were Palestinian refugee camps, specifically **Ein el-Hilweh, near Saida**, and **Nahr al-Bared, near Tripoli**.

⁵³ This demonstrates Hezbollah's close relations with the Iranian Islamic regime and its leader Khamenei.



An Islamist fighter in the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp (Al-Akhbar, April 8, 2008)



Operatives of a jihadist organization in the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp (Al-Akhbar, April 7, 2008)



Islamist fighters in Ein el-Hilweh (Al-Akhbar, April 9, 2008)

10. **The Lebanese government**, which attempts to curb the global jihad expansion, **had an impressive success in 2007** when it successfully uprooted the **Fath al-Islam headquarters** from the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp in north Lebanon. Fath al-Islam is an Al-Qaeda branch in Lebanon with several hundred operatives. Most of its operatives settled during 2006 in the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp and in other sites, mainly in the Palestinian refugee camps.

11. September 2, 2007 was the end of some three and a half months of fighting between the Lebanese army and the Fath al-Islam organization, which began on May 20. In an unprecedented move, **the Lebanese army took over the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp and purged it of Fath al-Islam operatives.**⁵⁴ According to an article in Al-Akhbar, a Lebanese newspaper affiliated with Hezbollah, the Nahr al-Bared events illustrated

⁵⁴ See our Information Bulletin: "The confrontation in northern Lebanon between the Lebanese army and Fath al-Islam, the Al-Qaeda offshoot in Lebanon" (May 31, 2007).

the operative readiness of the Al-Qaeda organization in Lebanon (February 4, 2008). At the same time, the Lebanese security services exposed Al-Qaeda cells which planned showcase terrorist attacks against the Lebanese regime.

12. Fath al-Islam suffered a heavy blow and many of its operatives who were captured by the Lebanese army are now facing charges.⁵⁵ However, the organization's operative infrastructure in Lebanon, particularly in the south, was not completely uprooted. Furthermore, some operatives managed to escape from the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp before the fighting ended, including Fath al-Islam leader **Shaker al-Absi**.



The Lebanese army announces that the fighting is over and it is now in control of the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp in north Lebanon (Al-Jazeera TV, September 2, 2007)

13. Once the Fath al-Islam headquarters in Nahr al-Bared were destroyed, **the organization relocated to Ein el-Hilweh, a large refugee camp near Saida, south Lebanon.** The refugee camp, which is not controlled by the Lebanese government, has become a center for terrorist organizations which have affiliated themselves with the global jihad, **and has become a potential hotspot of terrorism against Israel, UNIFIL, the Lebanese government, and Western targets in Lebanon.** The jihad networks in the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp keep in touch with other like-minded networks in the PA-administered territories.

13. The Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp is home to several terrorist networks associated with the global jihad:

- i) **Fath al-Islam**, which relocated its headquarters from Nahr al-Bared to Ein el-Hilweh.
- ii). **Usbat al-Ansar** ("The Gathering of Supporters").
- iii). **Jund al-Sham**.

⁵⁵ The trial of 150 Fath al-Islam operatives is about to begin in Lebanon. Fifty-one of them are Saudi and the rest are other Arab and foreign nationals, including Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian, Jordanian, Tunisian, Algerian, Omani, Yemeni, Russian, Turkish, and German. Also, the trial of 25 Jund al-Sham operatives is set to begin in July 2008. They are accused of taking part in the fighting against the Lebanese army on the outskirts of the neighborhood of Al-Ta'mir, in the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp (Al-Watan, Saudi Arabia, April 5, 2008).



Usbat al-Ansar fighters praying in Ein el-Hilweh (Al-Akhbar, April 10, 2008)



Usbat al-Ansar operatives on a military-like parade in Ein al-Hilweh (Al-Akhbar, April 5, 2008)



Abu Ramez al-Sahmarani, the Jund al-Sham supervisor in the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp (Al-Akhbar, April 5, 2008)

Global jihad networks' attacks against Israel and UNIFIL

14. To relieve the pressure exerted on Fath al-Islam in Nahr al-Bared during the fighting with the Lebanese army, **networks affiliated with the global jihad** carried out several terrorist attacks in south Lebanon. One was targeted against Israel and two others were targeted against the UNIFIL force. Two other terrorist attacks were carried out in early 2008. A brief description of the attacks follows:

- i) **On June 17, 2007**, two rockets were fired from the Taybe-Adeisseh region at **Kiryat Shmona**, for the first time since the second Lebanon war. There were no casualties, but some property was damaged. Hezbollah denied any involvement in the incident. The Lebanese PM and the Lebanese army strongly condemned the firing and promised

to capture those responsible for it.⁵⁶ It is our assessment that the rockets were fired by global jihad elements associated with the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp.



A rocket that hit Kiryat Shmona damaged a car and formed a pit in the road (Al-Arabiya TV, June 17)

ii) **On June 24, 2008**, a car bomb exploded and hit a **patrol of the UNIFIL Spanish regiment in the region between Marjayoun and Al-Khiyam**. The terrorist attack took place when a car parked on the side of the road exploded as an armoured vehicle passed. Six soldiers belonging to the regiment were killed and two were wounded. Hezbollah condemned the attack and claimed that it was detrimental to Lebanon. The identity of the perpetrators remains unknown (and Hezbollah involvement cannot be ruled out).

c. **On July 17, 2007**, a small IED was activated against the Tanzanian regiment of the UNIFIL force on the Qasmiya Bridge, north of Tyre. No one was hurt. The terrorist attack was carried out by a squad belonging to Fath al-Islam in Ein el-Hilweh, which planned to carry out other terrorist attacks, which were prevented by the detentions of some of the squad members.

d. **On January 8, 2008**, the remains of two rockets were found in the town of **Shlomi** in Western Galilee. Examination showed they were 107mm rockets fired at night from Lebanon. One rocket landed in the back yard of a residential building and parts of it were found on the porch. The remains of the second rocket were discovered nearby. No one was hurt and minor damage was caused. No organization claimed responsibility for the firing.

⁵⁶ For more details, see our Information Bulletin: "Rockets fired at Kiryat Shmona for the first time since the second Lebanon war" (June 20, 2007).



The remains of one of the rockets found in Shlomi
(Nana Website, courtesy of Israel Channel 10, January 8, 2008)

e. Early in the afternoon of **January 8, 2008**, a roadside charge was activated against a civilian vehicle on the Beirut-Saida road, near Al-Rumeila (north of Saida). The vehicle was carrying soldiers belonging to the Irish regiment of UNIFIL. Two soldiers were slightly injured. The Lebanese army imposed a closure on the sector. Hezbollah and Amal rushed to condemn the incident.



Lebanese soldiers examining the site where the UNIFIL
vehicle exploded (Al-Manar, January 8)