

Spotlight on Terrorism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

June 16-23, 2026

Trending

- ▶ Hamas expressed cautious optimism regarding the talks in Egypt on implementing the second phase of the ceasefire agreement.
- ▶ Opponents of Hamas in the Gaza Strip are advancing a protest movement against the organization's rule.
- ▶ Turkey continues to serve as a base for Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel.

Overview¹

- ▶ IDF forces eliminated Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists who posed an immediate threat, including individuals involved in the October 7, 2023 attack and massacre and a Hamas terrorist operative who also worked as a photographer for the Al Jazeera network.
- ▶ Hamas accused Board of Peace representative Nikolay Mladenov of promoting positions close to Israel's. However, it noted that agreements had been reached during talks with the mediators in Cairo which would allow the Palestinian technocrat committee to enter the Gaza Strip and oversee the collection of weapons along with an Israeli withdrawal.
- ▶ The Hamas administration in the Gaza Strip, senior UN officials and aid organizations reiterated warnings of a humanitarian crisis in the Strip.
- ▶ Calls to protest Hamas rule on June 26, 2026 have generated discussion in the Gaza Strip, accompanied by accusations that Israel and anti-Hamas militias are behind the initiative.
- ▶ Hamas renewed the elections for the head of the movement's political bureau while increasing security measures and casting secret ballots.
- ▶ Turkish involvement in the Palestinian arena: the IHH continues to expand its activities in the Gaza Strip, and a Hamas network directing terrorist attacks in Israel from Judea and Samaria was exposed in Turkey.
- ▶ Israeli security forces continued counterterrorism operations in Judea and Samaria.

¹ Click <https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en> to subscribe and receive the ITIC's daily updates as well as its other publications.

► The Palestinian Authority is in contact with the American administration through Saudi Arabian mediation.

The Fighting in the Gaza Strip

The IDF

► IDF forces continued destroying terrorist infrastructure and eliminating terrorists within the Yellow Line and other parts of the Gaza Strip. Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terrorists who were planning terrorist activity and posed an immediate threat to the forces were eliminated, including individuals involved in the atrocities of the October 7, 2023 terrorist attack and massacre and who held hostages. Samir Muhammad Shah, an Al Jazeera photographer and operative in Hamas' military wing, was eliminated (IDF Spokesperson, June 16-23, 2026). Al Jazeera rejected the allegations of Shah's involvement in terrorism, claiming they were false and part of an ongoing incitement campaign against the network's journalists which began in October 2023. The network called on the international community to punish those responsible and said it would pursue legal action against those involved (aljazeera.net, June 20-21, 2026).

► According to Palestinian reports, the IDF fired artillery in the southern and central Gaza Strip, along with low-altitude flights by Israeli aircraft. Strikes were reportedly conducted in the areas of Deir al-Balah, Abu Hamam, al-Bureij, residential compounds in northwestern Rafah were reportedly demolished, and tank fire was reported in southern al-Mawasi and Rafah. Ten Palestinians were reportedly killed (Mutabaa Min al-Midan Telegram channel, June 16-20, 2026). According to claims, IDF forces continue evacuating residents from the al-Tuffah neighborhood in Gaza City with gunfire while advancing the concrete blocks marking the Yellow Line by several hundred meters. It was claimed that the IDF was doing the same thing east of Khan Yunis, where the area around Bani Suheila Square is being evacuated (al-Ayyam, June 20, 2026). According to Palestinian claims, in the Mashrua Beit Lahia area in the northern Gaza Strip, the new Yellow Line passes less than 50 meters from the Kamal Adwan Hospital area (PalToday, June 20, 2026).



The World Cup versus the war in the Gaza Strip
(Hamas house cartoonist Alaa al-Laqta, Filastin, June 15, 2026)

Negotiating the Second Phase of the Ceasefire Agreement

► This past week talks continued in Cairo between a Hamas delegation and Board of Peace representative Nikolay Mladenov, along with representatives of the American administration and the mediating countries, in an attempt to reach understandings regarding progress to the second phase of the ceasefire agreement, particularly concerning the issue of disarming Hamas and the militias. There was no Israeli presence:

◆ A Palestinian source said Mladenov had rejected the factions' wording for Article 8 of the Road Map, which deals with disarmament, although he agreed to remove the term "resistance infrastructure." However, he presented a more detailed text describing the resources and means used by the "resistance,"² including tunnels, off-road vehicles, warehouses, open areas where "resistance" operatives gather or which can be used as training camps, in addition to personal weapons, military uniforms or military-style clothing, and medical units or field hospitals. According to the source, the terrorist organizations were surprised by the new text, which was stricter regarding the means and capabilities of the "resistance." The report stated that under the new amendments, the national committee for the administration of the Strip would assume responsibility only from the moment it entered office and would not be responsible for previous obligations of the Hamas administration in the Gaza Strip, including debts to employees, suppliers and loans (aljazeera.net, June 18, 2026).

◆ A source in Hamas stated that Mladenov's new proposal had changed the wording regarding the weapons of the "resistance." Instead of an explicit demand for

² Hamas and the other terrorist organizations operating in the Gaza Strip to destroy the State of Israel.

disarmament, the gradual concentration and storage of weapons under the supervision of the mediators, the Board of Peace, the national committee for the administration of Gaza and the international stabilization force was proposed. According to the report, the process would be carried out in parallel with an Israeli withdrawal from the Strip and would apply to weapons depots defined under the agreement. It was further reported that the proposal distinguished between heavy weapons, which would be collected and stored under supervision, and "light personal weapons," which would be transferred to the security force of the national committee for the administration of the Strip or regulated through licensing. It was also reported that some of the terrorist organizations' comments were accepted, particularly the demand to complete the first phase of the agreement and receive concrete guarantees before moving to the second phase (*al-Quds al-Arabi*, June 19, 2026).

◆ Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said the meetings with the mediators had led to important understandings regarding the completion of the first phase of the agreement and the establishment of mechanisms for implementing the second phase, including "complex and sensitive issues" such as the entry of the national committee for the administration of the Strip and its assumption of governmental responsibilities in various sectors, including security, in addition to mechanisms for handling Palestinian weapons. However, he claimed that in meeting with Hamas and the other organizations, Mladenov had presented a view "inconsistent" with the understandings reached with the mediators, which complicated the situation and prevented a final agreement at that time. He said Hamas was of the opinion that Mladenov approached the issue from a perspective close to Israel's, as reflected by the proposals he presented during his recent meetings. He said that the organizations continued to study the proposal presented by Mladenov to formulate a unified and responsible response whose first priority was the interests of the Palestinian people (*alresala.net*, June 22, 2026).

◆ Taher al-Nunu, media adviser to the head of Hamas' political bureau, said their optimism had peaked following the talks with the mediators, but claimed that on June 12, 2026, Mladenov retreated from the Road Map and presented new, surprising formulations. Al-Nunu reiterated Hamas' position that it would not agree to move to a new phase before the implementation of the previous one. He added that the "occupation" wanted a Gaza Strip free of the "weapons of the resistance" and with the

resistance organizations dismantled, and accused the Board of Peace of not being serious regarding the reconstruction of the Strip (Shehab Agency, June 23, 2026).

◆ Despite the criticism of Mladenov's revised proposal, Palestinian sources noted that the general trend among Hamas and the other organizations was to discuss the amendments positively along with the updates and improvements made to some of the other clauses. Two Hamas sources added that the movement's overall objective was to use the understandings reached in the Cairo talks to advance a complete end to the war (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, June 22, 2026).

► Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem welcomed the statement of the American president regarding Hamas' commitment to the ceasefire, which he claimed "proved" the movement's seriousness regarding implementing the agreement. He called on the American administration to exert pressure on Israel to stop the "violating the agreement" and allow the implementation of its remaining clauses in accordance with mechanisms agreed upon by all parties (Hazem Qassem Telegram channel, June 18, 2026).



The peace agreement [between Iran and the United States] bypasses Gaza
(Alaa al-Laqta Facebook page, June 17, 2026)

The International Stabilizing Force

► A logistical support center is reportedly being established on the Israeli side of the Kerem Shalom Crossing and will serve as a transit station for the international stabilization force and for efforts to rebuild the Gaza Strip. A Board of Peace figure said the first officers of the force had already arrived in Israel and were expected to be joined by thousands of soldiers from additional countries, including Kosovo, Morocco, Kazakhstan and Albania. He said the force's activities would be coordinated with Israel and carried out in agreed areas, alongside the entry of representatives of the Palestinian technocrat committee into the Gaza Strip to prevent the movement of terrorists and weapons. It was noted that the preparations were progressing gradually even without Hamas' consent, and American forces would remain at the center at

Kerem Shalom and not be stationed at international stabilization force bases inside the Strip (Ynet, June 18, 2026).



The arrival of representatives of the Moroccan army who will participate in the international stabilization force (Board of Peace X account, June 23, 2026)

Activities of the National Committee for the Administration of the Strip

► The national committee for the administration of the Strip, headed by Dr. Ali Sha'ath, held a coordination meeting with representatives of the EU, the UN and the World Bank focusing on the findings of the rapid damage and needs assessment and on establishing priorities for reconstruction. The participants said reconstruction should be conducted under Palestinian leadership, with the committee serving as the body coordinating local and international efforts. Sha'ath said the committee had adopted the assessment's findings as the basis for its work plans and that priorities had already been established for health, housing, infrastructure, the economy, agriculture, communications and social protection. Representatives of the international organizations reaffirmed their commitment to continued technical coordination and cooperation with the committee to advance reconstruction and sustainable development in the Gaza Strip (X account of the national committee for the administration of the Strip, June 18, 2026).



Right: A meeting of the national committee for the administration of the Strip with representatives of the EU, the UN and the World Bank. Left: Committee chairman Ali Sha'ath meets with Yvette Cooper, British Foreign Secretary (X account of the national committee for the administration of the Strip, June 18, 2026)

The Gaza Strip

The Situation in the Gaza Strip

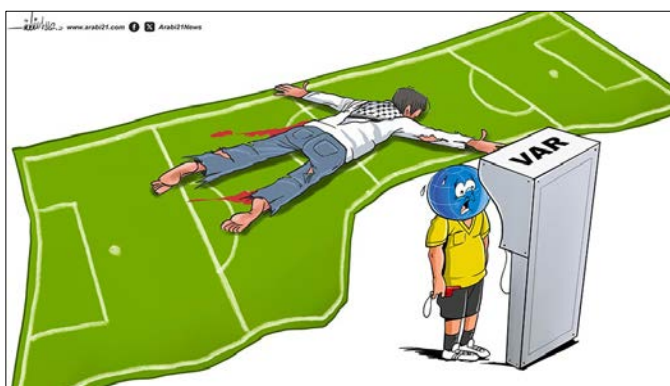
► Interviewed by Radio Voice of Palestine, Dr. Nahez Abu Aasi, chairman of the blood bank association in the Gaza Strip, claimed the blood bank and laboratory system in the Gaza Strip was facing a crisis following the destruction of the Association's headquarters, shortages of medical equipment and damage to the ability to test, separate and provide safe blood units. He warned that hemoglobin levels among donors were declining due to hunger, making it more difficult to supply blood to the sick and wounded (Ultra Palestine, June 15, 2026).

► Gaza municipality spokesman Husni Mahna claimed the service system was on the verge of collapse, with the current situation's having passed the point of the ordinary fuel shortage and reaching a critical stage because industrial oils needed for operating equipment and vehicles were "about to run out." He said the sectors threatened with "immediate shutdown" were drinking-water wells; sewage pumping stations, whose cessation of operations threatened to cause sewage to flood streets and residential neighborhoods; and waste collection and transport vehicles, whose suspension would lead to the accumulation of solid waste and the spread of disease. He claimed 700,000 cubic meters of solid waste had accumulated in Gaza City (aljazeera.net, June 18, 2026).

► Tom Fletcher, the UN assistant secretary general for humanitarian affairs, told the UN Security Council that aid conditions had improved since the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas went into effect on October 10, 2025. However, he said it was unacceptable for the international community's highest aspiration to be a world in which children received sufficient calories to survive while living in poverty during hostilities. He called for the opening of all the crossings into the Gaza Strip and the immediate removal of Israeli restrictions on the

entry of goods (aljazeera.net, June 19, 2026). He warned of the continuing deterioration in the Gaza Strip, even though the percentage of families suffering from hunger has declined from 92% to 36%. He said Gaza was the most dangerous place in the world for aid workers and described ongoing displacement, a severe shortage of shelter, the collapse of essential services, hospitals not functioning at full capacity, daily difficulty in obtaining water for 1.1 million children and severely reduced sanitation (Wafa, June 19, 2026).

► International aid organizations have recently halted their support for projects supplying drinking and purified water to hundreds of displaced-persons camps in the Gaza Strip because of funding difficulties and disputes, leaving tens of thousands facing a genuine health risk. The director-general of the coastal municipalities water utility stated that the suspension of support by the UN Development Programme and other organizations disrupted the water distribution system, created shortages of water tankers and emergency funding, and particularly affected sensitive areas such as displaced-persons camps and the al-Mawasi area (Ultra Palestine, June 21, 2026).



**The humanitarian situation in the Strip while others watch videos of the World Cup games
(Alaa al-Laqta Facebook page, June 20, 2026)**

► The World Central Kitchen announced the closure of several kitchens in the central and southern Gaza Strip and the termination of approximately 600 employees. According to the announcement, only three kitchens would continue operating, on al-Rashid Street in the al-Qarara area, in Khan Yunis and in Gaza City (Quds News Network Telegram channel, June 22, 2026).

Civilian Governance

► The June 26 Revolution initiative, which calls to protest conditions in the Gaza Strip under Hamas rule, has generated debate in Palestinian society. Palestinian sources affiliated with the

"resistance camp"³ claimed it was a political and media campaign exploited by Israel and local actors cooperating with Israel to undermine internal stability in the Gaza Strip. It was reported that the Popular Army in the northern Gaza Strip, the militia of Ashraf al-Mansi, whose opponents claim operates under Israeli sponsorship, supported the calls for protest, thereby reinforcing claims that the campaign was being driven by parties seeking to divert public anger away from the confrontation with Israel and toward an internal conflict against Hamas and the "resistance organizations." Senior Fatah figure Samih Khalaf said the calls for protest resembled historical attempts to divide Palestinian society during periods of national crisis, adding that protesting economic and humanitarian hardship was a legitimate right but caution had to be exercised not to exploit public anger to advance external political agendas or create internal chaos (Palestinian News Network, June 19-20, 2026). The national gathering of Palestinian tribes, clans and families also criticized calls to "spread chaos and undermine public order in the Gaza Strip" as part of the June 26 Revolution. The organization claimed such initiatives aligned with the objectives of Israel and parties cooperating with it which sought to provoke internal conflicts and damage Palestinian unity. It further stated that family and clan backing would be withdrawn from anyone involved in such initiatives (Sada Khan Yunis Telegram channel, June 22, 2026).

► Gazan patients and wounded persons demonstrated near Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, claiming that figures associated with Hamas and the Gaza Strip's public health system were involved in corruption and the sale of medical exit permits through the Rafah Crossing. According to the allegations, since the crossing was closed, the distress of patients and wounded persons has been exploited with sums ranging from \$20,000 to \$30,000 charged in exchange for placing individuals on exit lists for medical treatment outside the Strip. It was also alleged that medical documents belonging to seriously ill patients were used for other individuals who paid money, and that a special departure system known as the "afternoon list" operated for those with the means to pay for their exit. It was further reported that hundreds of patients and wounded persons had died while waiting to leave for medical treatment (Telegram channel of activist Hamza al-Masri, June 16-18, 2026). The organizers of the June 26 Revolution said the protests showed the revolution had officially been launched and praised the residents who participated (Facebook page of the June 26 Revolution, June 19, 2026).

³ Terrorist organizations.

► The East Gaza education department, with support from the Turkish IHH,⁴ inaugurated the Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Masqat al-Tuffah School after it was rebuilt on the ruins of the school destroyed during the war. The school is reportedly constructed from wooden boards and tents and currently serves more than 1000 students (Facebook page of the East Gaza education department, June 17, 2026; aljazeera.net, June 17, 2026).



School inauguration (Facebook page of the East Gaza education department, June 17, 2026)

► The Hamas ministry of interior and national security issued a statement for the beginning of the matriculation examinations, which are being held "under exceptional conditions due to the war." The ministry wished the students success and called on the public to show social responsibility, maintain quiet and avoid noise and disturbances to allow students to take their examinations in a calm atmosphere. It added that the ministry's agencies were monitoring the situation and being supportive in accordance with the circumstances (Palestinian Police Telegram channel, June 20, 2026).

Security Governance

► Palestinian sources reported the death of Abd al-Aziz al-Dahini, the brother of Ghassan al-Dahini, one of the leaders of the militias cooperating with Israel in the Gaza Strip, in a "resistance" ambush (QudsN Telegram channel, June 18, 2026). Ghassan al-Dahini responded by stating that his brother Abd al-Aziz died in an accident (Ghassan al-Dahini Facebook page, June 18, 2026).

⁴ See the October 2025 Amit Institute report, [The Turkish IHH, which led the Mavi Marmara flotilla, operates in the Gaza Strip and is involved in its reconstruction.](#)



**Abd al-Aziz al-Dahini wearing a protective vest bearing an Israeli flag
(QudsN Telegram channel, June 18, 2026)**

► The Rada Force of Hamas' "resistance security" claimed that despite the presence of Israeli aircraft, its forces attacked a group of operatives from the "collaborating militias" after they crossed the Yellow Line in the northern Gaza Strip. According to the force, its operatives attacked a house where the collaborators were hiding behind the Ansar Mosque in eastern Beit Lahia by firing a mortar shell and then opened fire on the building with small arms. Following the attack, the "collaborators" evacuated the wounded and returned to their camp near an Israeli military position (Rada Force Telegram channel, June 21, 2026).

► A security source claimed several operatives in the "collaborator gangs" had confessed to having received instructions from Israeli intelligence to incite armed chaos. It was further claimed that based on the confessions, sleeper cells had been neutralized and explosive devices planted in civilian facilities and shelter centers had been dismantled. According to the source, confessions of collaborators would be published in the coming days and sentences would be carried out against collaborators involved in crimes that claimed the lives of Palestinians (al-Akhres Telegram channel, June 21, 2026).

Palestinian Authority Involvement in the Gaza Strip

► The Palestinian Authority ministry of public works and housing, in cooperation with the UN Development Programme, announced the establishment of a new reception center for displaced families in the al-Saftawi area in the northern Gaza Strip, covering an area of eight dunams, with the possibility of future expansion. The plan includes the construction of 103 temporary housing units, as well as two multi-purpose double tents and ten water tanks with a capacity of 1,500 liters each (Facebook page of the Palestinian Authority ministry of public works and housing, June 20, 2026).



The new reception center in the northern Gaza Strip (Facebook page of the Palestinian Authority ministry of public works and housing, June 20, 2026)

► Ahed Bseiso, Palestinian Authority minister of public works and housing, announced the launch of a program for the reconstruction and repair of homes which were partially damaged in the Gaza Strip, part of efforts to return residents to their homes. He said the ministry was repairing homes using materials available in local markets in light of the shortage of construction materials in the Strip. He noted that the ministry had repaired 300 housing units in cooperation with the Beit Lahia development association and was working on an additional 125 units. He added that the ministry had established 15 shelter camps housing approximately 1,700 families and was constructing eight additional camps (Facebook page of the Palestinian Authority ministry of public works and housing, June 20, 2026).

Elections for the Hamas Leadership

► Hamas sources in the Gaza Strip said the movement had resumed elections for the head of its political bureau after no one had won the first round, which was held in May 2026. According to the sources, voting in the Gaza Strip had already begun, and elections were also expected to take place in Judea and Samaria and in the "external" arena, although they could not confirm that voting had in fact begun in those arenas. The sources said the second round was supposed to take place within 20 days of the previous vote, but "security and political circumstances" had delayed it. They added that the second round was being conducted with greater secrecy than the first to prevent security breaches and media leaks. Voters will cast secret ballots using sealed envelopes or closed letters delivered to those eligible. After selecting their candidates, the envelopes will be returned in accordance with security measures to protect the individuals or bodies responsible for the election process (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, June 16, 2026).

Internal Palestinian Tension

► Musa Abu Marzouq, head of Hamas' office of international relations, called for renewed Palestinian dialogue in Moscow under Russian sponsorship, arguing that Russia had prior experience in uniting the Palestinians and formulating broad consensus documents. He said that although previous Russian efforts had not been translated into practical steps because of "circumstances imposed by Israel," recent developments could justify renewed Russian involvement. He said success would depend on a genuine Palestinian desire to end the internal schism and achieve national unity. He noted that the continuing split, primarily between Hamas and Fatah, remained a major obstacle to efforts to reach arrangements with Israel (Russian News Agency Novosti, June 16, 2026).

► Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem criticized the Palestinian Authority and claimed that the difficulties faced by released Palestinian prisoners in various countries reflected Authority neglect and mistreatment. He criticized the suspension of payments to imprisoned and released prisoners and said that while the Palestinian Authority allocated resources to political appointments and ineffective institutions, released prisoners were left without adequate support. Qassem called on Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas to reverse the decisions concerning the reduction or termination of stipends and said the prisoners symbolized the Palestinian "national struggle" (Hazem Qassem's Telegram channel, June 19, 2026).

► Hamas called for broad national consensus before holding elections for the Palestinian National Council, arguing that the elections should renew national legitimacy and represent all Palestinians in Judea and Samaria, the Gaza Strip and abroad. Hamas said it opposed unilateral measures, exclusion or exclusive control over the electoral process and criticized new laws concerning elections, political parties and the constitution of the "State of Palestine" which were passed without broad consensus. Hamas said the main challenges at present were the settlements, "annexation attempts" in the West Bank, assistance to the Gaza Strip, lifting the "siege" and ending the fighting. It called for convening a comprehensive national meeting to ensure full political partnership, freedom of participation and pluralism to prevent a deepening of Palestinian divisions (Palestinian Information Center, June 20, 2026).

Hamas in the International Arena

► Abu Obeida, spokesman for the Hamas military wing, praised Hezbollah operatives for their attacks on IDF forces in south Lebanon and represented them as a "legitimate defense" of

Lebanon, its people and its sovereignty. He claimed Israel was attempting to compensate for its "failures" in the various arenas and to sever the connection between the fronts of resistance and the unity of the arenas linking Lebanon and the Gaza Strip (Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades Telegram channel, June 19, 2026).

► Palestinian sources reported that a "highly secret" meeting was held by Hamas' political bureau and a French delegation which included current and former diplomats and members of parliament from both coalition and opposition parties. Two sources, one from a Palestinian civil society organization involved in programs with France and other European countries and the other from a faction close to Hamas, said the meeting had been held recently in a regional country, but refused to identify it. They noted that several parties from different countries, as well as Palestinian "organizations" and the mediating states, became aware of the meeting shortly before or after it took place. According to a "civilian" source, they discussed the Palestinian situation as a whole, including organizing Palestinian internal affairs in a manner which would enable the restoration of national relations, and advancing a political course which would end the conflict with Israel and support the Palestinians' right to establish an independent state within the June 4, 1967 borders. Two Hamas sources confirmed that the meeting had taken place but refused to provide additional details (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, June 21, 2026).

Israel, Judea and Samaria

Counterterrorism

► Israeli security forces continued extensive counterterrorism operations in Judea and Samaria, detaining approximately 60 wanted persons, including terrorists who attempted to attack the forces, individuals involved in terrorist activity and weapons traffickers. They destroyed 18 machine shops used for manufacturing weapons and explosive devices, and seized 11 weapons of various types, including improvised Carlo firearms, handguns and hunting rifles, as well as three drones, ammunition and weapon parts, military equipment and incitement propaganda materials. The forces killed two terrorists who set fire to tires and threw Molotov cocktails at the community of Karmeit Zzur (IDF Spokesperson, June 19, 2026).

► According to a report, during the past year Israeli security forces prevented dozens of attacks directed by Hamas operatives from its West Bank headquarters in Turkey, and exposed the identities of five key operatives from the West Bank headquarters. They recruited operatives to

carry out attacks and transferred weapons and funds for terrorist operations (IDF Spokesperson and ISA Spokesperson, June 21, 2026).⁵

Settler Terrorism

► This past week incidents of Jewish settler terrorism in Judea and Samaria continued. Jewish rioters attacked Palestinian vehicles in Wadi al-Sha'ir east of Salfit, and in the al-Badun area of Salfit three Palestinians were reportedly injured in attacks by Jewish rioters; in Beit Furik and the village of Salem east of Nablus, Jewish rioters, who were alleged to have operated under the protection of IDF forces, prevented Palestinian farmers from working their land; Palestinians were attacked in the Ein Jariut area west of Ramallah; and in Tsurif, in the Hebron area, a Palestinian father and son were wounded by gunfire from Jewish rioters (Nablus News Telegram channel, June 19-20, 2026).

► According to reports, Jewish rioters set fire to the Grand Mosque in the village of Jaljaliya and to the al-Farouq Mosque in the village of Mazari' al-Nubani north of Ramallah (Wafa, June 17, 2026). The Palestinian Authority ministry of foreign affairs issued a condemnation calling on the international community, the UN and its institutions to take practical, binding measures to stop settler terrorism and designate armed settler groups which attack Palestinian civilians as terrorist organizations. The statement added that the continued international delay in applying the same standards to crimes committed against the Palestinian people was a double standard and encouraged the recurrence of such attacks. It noted the need to prosecute the perpetrators of the crimes, those behind and supporting them and those who provided them with protection and weapons, and to adopt deterrent measures to ensure they were not repeated (Wafa, June 17, 2026). Hamas claimed that the burning of the mosque was part of a broader pattern of violence by Jewish settlers against Palestinians and their property throughout Judea and Samaria, calling it "a dangerous escalation" (Hamas Telegram channel, June 17, 2026).

⁵ See the February 2025 Amit Institute report, [Turkey as a Center for Hamas Activity](#)



The mosque fire (Wafa, June 17, 2026)

► Hamas figure Mahmoud Mardawi praised the residents of Turmus Ayya, Sa'ir and Khallat al-Hams south of Hebron for standing up to attacks by Jewish rioters and holding Friday prayers on land designated for confiscation. He called for expanding "popular activity" on the ground, strengthening defense committees and supporting residents and farmers, claiming that attachment to the land and "popular resistance" were the way to stop settlement, annexation and displacement (Hamas official Telegram channel, June 19, 2026).

The Palestinian Authority (PA)

The PA and the United States

► At the second meeting of Fatah's Central Committee, PA deputy chairman Hussein al-Sheikh reviewed the political developments and contacts being conducted with the American administration to reshape bilateral relations. Committee members praised Saudi Arabia's efforts to promote understandings between the Palestinians, the United States and Saudi Arabia (Wafa, June 18, 2026). Senior Fatah figures Mahmoud al-Aloul and Jibril Rajoub boycotted the meeting to protest PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas' unilateral decision to appoint al-Sheikh as Fatah deputy chairman. They claimed the decision was contrary to previous understandings within the Central Committee according to which positions would be allocated through broad consensus rather than personal appointment, and in accordance with the principle that a Central Committee member should not hold more than one senior position simultaneously within Fatah, the PLO and the Palestinian Authority (*al-Araby al-Jadeed*, June 18, 2026).

► According to Palestinian and Israeli sources, contacts between the PA and the United States are focused on issues such as curbing settler violence, the future administration of the Gaza Strip, tax revenues and internal PA reforms, particularly regarding payments to prisoners and the families of shaheeds, welfare and educational curricula. It was noted that the PA was also seeking the reopening of the PLO office in the United States (Xinhua, June 18, 2026).

► Reportedly, the American administration is advancing a memorandum of understanding with the PA as part of the implementation of the 20 point plan for the reconstruction of Gaza and the transfer of control of the Strip to the PA after comprehensive reforms. Saudi Arabia is playing a central role in promoting the initiative, which is viewed as part of a possible path toward the establishment of a Palestinian state and the expansion of the Abraham Accords. Among the disputed issues are the American demand that the Palestinians reduce their international initiatives against Israel, versus the PA's demand that the agreement include a commitment to halt the expansion of Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria and address Jewish violence. The talks are being led by Hussein al-Sheikh with senior American administration officials, with assistance from Saudi Arabia international actors. However, according to the reports, the pace of progress has recently slowed due to American reservations regarding the signing of a formal memorandum, and the possibility of settling for an exchange of letters between the parties is being examined (Zman Israel, June 17, 2026).

Palestinian Opposition to a Soccer Match with an Israeli Youth Team

► The Palestinian Football Association stated it had not received a notification or official proposal from FIFA regarding the intention of the international football federation to hold a symbolic match between the Israel and "Palestine" national teams at the opening of a new under-15 tournament in the United States in September 2026. The Palestinian association reiterated its unequivocal position that it would not take part in any initiative or attempt to impose what it described as a "false sporting situation" alongside an organization which "daily committed serious violations against Palestinian athletes and systematically targeted the Palestinian people and their sports networks" (Palestinian Football Association website, June 18, 2026).

Condemnations of an Israeli Plan to Build New Housing Units in Judea and Samaria

► The PA foreign ministry condemned the approval by the Civil Administration's planning council for the construction of 576 new housing units in Judea and Samaria, including the establishment of a religious school in Hebron. The ministry called the decisions a "dangerous escalation" and a "blatant violation" of international law undermining prospects for peace and regional stability. The ministry also called on the international community to fulfill its legal and moral responsibilities and exert pressure on Israel to stop its "colonialist activities" (Wafa, June 17, 2026).

► Senior Hamas figure Abd al-Rahman Shadid claimed that the decision violated international law and continued of Israeli policy to expand settlement activity, advance annexation and consolidate Israeli control over areas of Judea and Samaria. Hamas appealed to the international community, the UN and international institutions to take practical measures against what it called settlement and annexation policies, rather than limiting their response to verbal condemnations (Hamas in Judea and Samaria Telegram channel, June 17, 2026).