

Spotlight on Terrorism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

August 3 – 11, 2026

Trending

- ▶ **The dispute over disarming Hamas and the extent of the IDF withdrawal from the Gaza Strip delays implementation of the roadmap.**
- ▶ **Hamas continues to tighten its military control in the Gaza Strip.**
- ▶ **Turkish involvement in the Palestinian arena continues.**

Overview¹

- ▶ IDF forces continued low-intensity activity within the Yellow Line in the Gaza Strip and detained a terrorist who participated in the October 7, 2023 terrorist attack and massacre and worked as a truck driver.
- ▶ Hamas condemned the statement by the Board of Peace, which accepted Israel's position regarding the disarmament of the "resistance," and called for Israel to be compelled to halt the "aggression" and meet its commitments.
- ▶ It was reported that implementing the roadmap was expected to take 210 days and be carried out in five phases.
- ▶ Hamas "security" forces claimed they had foiled attempts by militias collaborating with Israel to abduct Gazan civilians.
- ▶ Khalil al-Hayya received a congratulatory call from the Iranian president on his election to the position as head of the Hamas political bureau and met with the head of Turkish intelligence.
- ▶ Israeli security forces continued extensive counterterrorism activity in Judea and Samaria and demolished the house of the terrorist who shot and killed two Israelis in the village of Tal.
- ▶ An aid convoy organized by a Turkish organization with more than 500 participants is advancing overland from the east toward the Palestinian Authority territories.

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 Fighting in the Gaza Strip

The IDF

► IDF forces continued operating within the yellow line to locate terrorists and destroy terrorist infrastructure. In northern Rafah, a tunnel containing dozens of rockets was destroyed. A terrorist operative who participated in the atrocities of the October 7, 2023 invasion and massacre was detained while working as a truck driver for a merchant in the Strip as he drove to the Kerem Shalom Crossing from the Gazan side (IDF spokesperson, August 3–11, 2026).

► Palestinian sources reported that IDF activity continued at several locations in the Gaza Strip, mainly in the north, the Khan Yunis area and eastern Gaza City. In the Beit Lahia area, several shooting incidents were recorded in the western part of the city, the al-Salatin area and central Beit Lahia; continued fire from military vehicles was also reported in the Jabalia refugee camp and the Khan Yunis area; in eastern Gaza City, a house was reportedly attacked by two UAVs (Palestinian Information Center, August 8, 2026).

Negotiations for the Second Phase of the Ceasefire Agreement

► After Nikolay Mladenov, the representative of the Board of Peace, met with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, the Board issued a statement stating that Israel and the Board shared a common understanding regarding the ultimate objectives of the agreement, which were the complete disarmament of the Strip and a transition from rule by force of arms to civilian government (Board of Peace X account, August 3, 2026). Senior Hamas figures and members of other Palestinian terrorist organizations were dissatisfied with the statement, which they claimed focused only on the issue of weapons and did not address Israel's commitments and other provisions which had been agreed upon, including the humanitarian aspects and the cessation of the "aggression" in the Gaza Strip. A senior Hamas figure claimed Hamas was committed to the agreement, which includes phase two of the ceasefire agreement, the concentration, collection and storage of weapons, but said Israel had to adhere to the agreement and stop its procrastination and obstruction, which required pressure from the mediators and the Board of Peace (*al-Araby al-Jadeed*, August 4, 2026).

► Bassem Na'im, a member of the Hamas political bureau, said that the movement was still waiting for a formal response from Mladenov regarding the roadmap for phase two,² particularly in view of the "great responsibility" [*sic*] the movement had demonstrated in its response to what had been presented to it (Bassem Na'im's Telegram channel, August 5, 2026). Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem also claimed Hamas adhered to what had been agreed upon with the mediators and the Board of Peace, and called on the American administration and Mladenov to exert pressure to compel the Israeli government to comply with the agreement and allow practical steps to begin the roadmap (Hazem Qassem's Telegram channel, August 5, 2026).



Cartoons on Hamas-affiliated media websites criticizing Mladenov following the Board of Peace statement after his meeting with Netanyahu. Mladenov and Netanyahu (alresala.net, August 4, 2026). Left: Cartoon by inhouse Hamas cartoonist Alaa al-Laqta in *Filastin*, August 7, 2026)

► Sources in Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist organizations said the outline for phase two, which was agreed upon between the Palestinian delegation and the mediators, was expected to extend over 210 days in five phases, with the transition from one phase to the next not taking place before the previous phase had been fully implemented. Accordingly, the transition to phase two would not take place before Israel had met its commitments to phase one, including observing the ceasefire, withdrawing to the original Yellow Line established in the October 2025 agreement and fully implementing the humanitarian protocol. The sources added that according to the agreement, the Palestinian national committee for the administration of Gaza would assume responsibility for administering areas in which weapons had been collected and stored, and in response, IDF forces would gradually withdraw. The committee is also responsible for settling the rights of former Hamas government employees

² See the August 2026 Amit Institute report, [Agreement for Collecting Weapons from Hamas and the Other Armed Organizations in the Gaza Strip – Significance and Reactions](#)

and other parties, and the UAE is expected to transfer approximately \$400 million over three years to pay debts owed to employees and the private sector (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, August 5, 2026).

The International Stabilization Force

► Reportedly, the Board of Peace plans to sign a contract with the American company Arkel International to establish an initial military base for the international stabilization force (ISF). According to the report, the base is intended to accommodate approximately 150 soldiers from Morocco, who will be deployed as part of the international force which will assist in the security and governance arrangements of the roadmap. It is the first phase of a broader plan to establish infrastructure for the international force in the Strip. A Board of Peace official confirmed that several additional contracts were in advanced stages of preparation for the roadmap (*The Guardian*, August 6, 2026).

► The Ugandan parliament approved the country's participation in a multinational security force in the Gaza Strip, should a decision be made to establish one. According to the Ugandan defense minister, the request was conveyed to President Yoweri Museveni through American envoys, and following parliamentary approval, an agreement regulating the status of the force is expected to be signed (Reuters, August 6, 2026).

The Gaza Strip

Military Governance

► Hamas issued a warning about a fake website pretending to be the official website of its military wing, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, as well as fake email addresses allegedly being used for fraud and to solicit donations. The movement said only the official al-Qassam Brigades domain and addresses were authorized sources for publications and inquiries regarding support and contact (Hamas Telegram channel, August 6, 2026).

► The Hamas Rada Force reported that its operatives, with the assistance of local residents, had apprehended an agent "close to senior figures in gangs opposed to the movement," and confiscated the weapons and money in his possession (Rada Force Telegram channel, August 6, 2026). The Force later reported that thanks to popular efforts, the "resistance security" forces had thwarted an attempt by the "collaborating gangs" to abduct a civilian (Rada Force Telegram channel, August 8, 2026).

► A "security source" said operatives from Shawqi Abu Nasira's militia, traveling in two vehicles, attempted to abduct a Hamas operative in the Asdaa area in northern Khan Yunis and

take him to a site under Israeli control, but the attempt failed. Hamas gunmen arrested one of the gang members, while the others fled amid exchanges of fire (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, August 9, 2026).

Civilian Governance

► It was reported that Gazans dependent on the Egyptian-Emirati water pipeline, which was laid more than a year ago from the Egyptian city of Rafah to serve displaced persons in Khan Yunis, were suffering from a water shortage. Sources claimed the main reasons were increased consumption during the summer months and numerous illegal connections made by farmers to the pipeline to irrigate their farmland. The Rafah and Khan Yunis municipalities, in cooperation with the coastal municipalities water utility, launched operations to remove the illegal connections to the pipeline (al-Ayyam, August 3, 2026).

► Nahed Shechibar, chairman of the association of private transport companies in Gaza, complained about the condition of the Muslim cemeteries in Gaza, which have become places where passersby relieve themselves and dump garbage, and which are used for grazing donkeys and sheep, in contrast to the English cemetery, which is orderly, well maintained and cared for by Gazan workers. He told the Hamas ministry of religious endowments that its responsibility was not limited to collecting and managing endowment funds, nor to employing workers in mosques, and asked what role it played in maintaining the cemeteries, where its funds were invested, and who was responsible for the cemeteries for follow up questions (Nahed Shechibar's Facebook page, August 6, 2026). Amir Abu al-Amrin, director general of Hamas' ministry of endowments in the Gaza Strip, claimed the IDF currently controlled 40 cemeteries in the Gaza Strip, approximately 80% of all cemeteries in the Strip, causing a shortage of burial sites for those killed and those who die, and also causing pressure on the remaining available cemeteries. He noted that the relevant authorities were coordinating with the Red Cross and the Gaza municipality to allocate a plot of land located not far from the Yellow Line, which required arrangements and permits to ensure safe access to and use of the site (alresala.net, August 8, 2026).

The Situation in the Gaza Strip

► A downturn in the commercial sector in the Gaza Strip was reported after a brief period of prosperity following the partial ceasefire in October 2025. According to the report, shopping malls, stores, restaurants and cafés have closed or consider closing because of a decline in the number of customers, high rents and continuing losses. Business owners noted that the

recovery ended shortly after the month of Ramadan and their revenues no longer covered their expenses. According to the report, one of the main reasons for the situation was the decline in the activity of aid organizations and in the distribution of shopping vouchers, which served as a major motivator of commercial activity in the Strip during the war (al-Ayyam, August 5, 2026).

► Riyad al-Sawafiri, coordinator of the economic committee at the Gaza chamber of commerce and industry, said the coordination process for bringing goods into the Gaza Strip had become an additional burden on trade and prices, since the permits required to bring in trucks were now limited to a small number of merchants, leading to increased import costs and reduced competition. He said the entry of every truck or shipment of goods into the Strip depended on a coordination system. He added that the coordination cost for a truck bringing food was approximately 100,000 shekels [about \$33,400], could reach 350,000 shekels [about \$117,000] for a truck bringing clothing and 1 million shekels [\$334,000] for a truck bringing shoes, perfumes and cosmetics. He said the Gaza chamber of commerce and industry estimated the value of payments made for coordination since the beginning of the war at more than \$2 billion (Radio Alam Telegram channel, August 6, 2026).

► It was reported that 91 Palestinians, including 38 patients and 53 escorts, recently left the Gaza Strip through the Rafah Crossing to receive medical treatment abroad (Gaza al-'An Telegram channel, August 6, 2026). Dr. Muhammad Abu Nada, medical director of the Gaza Cancer Center, warned of a deterioration in the condition of approximately 11,000 cancer patients in Gaza due to the shortage of drugs and the prevention of travel for treatment abroad. He claimed the lack of drugs and the suspension of specialized treatment services were causing three patients to die every day. He added that approximately 4,000 patients had formal medical referrals for treatment or diagnosis abroad but were unable to leave because of restrictions and the continued closure of the crossings (Hamis ministry of health Facebook page, August 4, 2026).

► Dr. Muhammad Abu Ra'i, a specialist in nutrition and gastrointestinal disease, claimed the growth of approximately 18% of children in the Gaza Strip had been stunted by malnutrition. According to him, the ongoing lack of a varied diet, proteins, vitamins and minerals impaired their physical development, particularly during infancy and early childhood, and could cause long-term damage (Al Jazeera "Palestine"," August 7, 2026). However, UN Watch published figures based on July 2026 data from the World Bank, UNICEF and the World Health Organization, according to which the rate of malnutrition among children under the age of five

in the Gaza Strip was 0.5%, similar to Germany and significantly lower than the global average of 6.6% percent and the rates of malnutrition in countries such as Egypt (3.3%), Iran (4.3%) and Yemen (16.8%) (UN Watch X account, August 7, 2026).

Hamas Activity in the International Arena

► Khalil al-Hayya, head of the Hamas political bureau, received a telephone call from Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who congratulated him on his election to the position. Pezeshkian reiterated Iran's continued support for the Palestinian people, their rights and their "just cause." Al-Hayya thanked him for the call and for Iran's position in support of the Palestinian people and their "inalienable rights." He briefed the Iranian president on the latest political developments in the negotiations and the situation in Judea and Samaria, the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem (Hamas Telegram channel, August 3, 2026).

► Khalil al-Hayya headed a Hamas delegation which met with Turkish intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin. Al-Hayya described the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, accused Israel of violating the agreement and called on Turkey and the other mediators to increase pressure on Israel to meet its commitments under the roadmap. They also discussed developments in Judea and Samaria, east Jerusalem and the issue of Palestinian prisoners. Kalin reiterated Turkey's support for the Palestinian position, welcomed the progress in the negotiations and noted Ankara's commitment to continuing its mediation efforts and assistance in implementing the understandings (Hamas Telegram channel, August 4, 2026).



Al-Hayya refuses to come and live with the people in the Gaza Strip even after he was forced to leave Qatar (Facebook page of the Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, August 10, 2026)

► After the foreign ministers of Qatar, Jordan, the UAE, Indonesia, Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt issued a joint statement condemning the [alleged] "continuing Israeli violations" in the Gaza Strip, Hamas called on the signatory countries, the mediators and the American administration to act urgently and effectively to prevent Israel from undermining the

agreement by evading its commitments under the ceasefire agreement (Hamas Telegram channel, August 6, 2026).

Israel, Judea and Samaria

Counterterrorism

► Israeli security forces continued extensive counterterrorism activity in many areas of Judea and Samaria. In the Qalandiya refugee camp near Jerusalem, the forces carried out enforcement activities and detained and questioned wanted persons; in Qabatiya, ten lathes used to manufacture explosive devices and weapons were destroyed; in the Nablus casbah, an operative affiliated with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad was detained for promoting terrorist activity; in the Shuafat refugee camp, a suspect was detained for promoting terrorist activity and planning to carry out an attack; in the village of Tal near Nablus, the house of the terrorist who shot and killed an IDF officer and an Israeli civilian during a confrontation between local residents and Israeli civilians on July 24, 2026, was demolished (Israel Police spokesperson, IDF spokesperson and Israeli media, August 3–11, 2026).



Destruction of the lathes in Qabatiya (IDF spokesperson, August 4, 2026)

► The Palestinian Red Crescent reported that during Israeli security force activity in the Qalandiya refugee camp 48 Palestinians were injured, most of them by physical violence, including one person struck by a rubber-coated metal bullet and six who suffered from gas inhalation (Wafa, August 7, 2026). Haroun Nasser al-Din, Hamas political bureau member and head of the Jerusalem affairs office, condemned the activity of the Israeli security forces in northern Jerusalem and claimed it was part of a policy to promote annexation and "Judaize Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria." He claimed such measures would not break the residents' steadfastness, stressed continued adherence to the "path of resistance"³ and called on the

³ Anti-Israeli violence, terrorism and jihad.

Palestinian public to unite, support the residents of Jerusalem and increase their steadfastness in the face of Israeli activity (Hamas Telegram channel, August 6, 2026).

► Two Israeli civilians who mistakenly entered Jenin were rescued after they were attacked by terrorists who threw bricks at them. The Israelis' vehicle was damaged; no casualties were reported (IDF spokesperson, August 6, 2026).

Settler Terrorism

► This past week reports continued of violence and rioting by Jewish settlers at several locations in Judea and Samaria. Jewish rioters attacked Palestinian residents at the Naif al-Ka'abneh Bedouin outpost east of Ramallah, raided Palestinian villages, grazed herds on agricultural land, erected a new tent on Palestinian land west of the village of al-Mughayyir and damaged a water tanker in the Khalayil al-Luz area south of Bethlehem. Clashes between Jewish settlers and residents in the Beit Furik area east of Nablus were also reported (Al Jazeera "Palestine", August 7, 2026); Jewish rioters reportedly attacked residents in Khirbet al-Tuba in the southern Hebron Hills, set fire to five residential structures, vandalized solar energy systems, continued fencing off land in the northern Jordan Valley, attacked members of a family east of al-Taybeh and threw rocks at Palestinian homes in the al-Mughayyir area (Wafa, August 7, 2026); rocks were reportedly thrown at a Red Crescent ambulance and Palestinian vehicles, along with continued settlement activity in the al-Mughayyir and Masafer Yatta areas (Palestinian Information Center, August 8, 2026).

► The IDF declared the Palestinian Christian village of Taybeh a closed military zone for Israelis who were not residents of the village to prevent Jewish rioters from attacking Palestinians in the area. Soldiers sent to the village following reports of violations of the order dispersed gatherings and detained suspects. Taybeh is one of the few Christian villages remaining in Judea and Samaria and, according to UN reports, is regularly attacked by Jewish settlers (Reuters, August 9, 2026).

The Palestinian Authority (PA)

- Varsen Aghabekian Shahin, PA minister of foreign affairs and expatriates, met with Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Nafti on the sidelines of a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab committee for international action against Israeli policy in Jerusalem. At the meeting, Shahin presented developments in the Gaza Strip and Judea and Samaria, accused Israel of expanding the settlements, demolishing Palestinian houses, displacing residents and taking control of land, and called for increased international pressure and the implementation of Arab League resolutions regarding budgetary assistance to the PA government in view of its financial crisis. She also requested the reactivation of the joint political committee and the expansion of cooperation between "Palestine" and Tunisia. Nafti reiterated Tunisia's support for the Palestinian "cause" and said his country would continue to act on its behalf at the UN and in international organizations, while supporting the establishment of an independent Palestinian state within the June 4, 1967 borders, with Jerusalem [*sic*] as its capital (Wafa, August 5, 2026).
- Ihab Suleiman, Egyptian representative to the PA, met separately with PA Prime Minister Muhammad Mustafa and Foreign Minister Varsen Shahin, to discuss bilateral relations and recent developments in the Palestinian territories. Suleiman stressed Egypt's consistent and firm position in support of the rights of the Palestinian people (Egyptian foreign ministry Facebook page, August 10, 2026).
- The Palestinian commission for resistance to the wall and settlements accused Israel of issuing eight new orders to uproot olive trees and remove vegetation from a total area of 316 dunams [78 acres] in the Jenin, Nablus and Jerusalem areas, which it claimed were intended to prepare the land for settlement expansion (Al Jazeera "Palestine," August 7, 2026).

Turkish Aid Convoy en route to the PA

- The "Palestine" Convoy, which departed Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina on July 26, 2026 with more than 500 volunteers from various countries, arrived in Mardin in southeastern Turkey on August 9, 2026 on its way to Iraq, Jordan and Ramallah. As the convoy passed through the city of Diyarbakir, participants chanted anti-Israel slogans, including "continue the resistance" and "liberate 'Palestine' from the river to the sea."⁴ The convoy describes itself as a "civilian, nonviolent protest initiative" against Israel, and demands an end to Israeli control over all the territories of "Palestine," the annexation and military activity, the repeal of the

⁴ i.e., destroy the State of Israel.

death penalty for terrorists and the implementation of UN resolutions. The initiative is led by Turkey's Anatolian Resilience movement, which views it as a continuation of the global march to Gaza. According to the organizers, the convoy consists of 12 buses and dozens of private vehicles, and its objective is not merely to deliver one-time aid, but to promote the opening of a permanent "humanitarian corridor" for the delivery of food and medical supplies to the Palestinians ("Palestine" Convoy website, aljazeera.net and Anadolu Agency, August 4–9, 2026).



Right: Route of the "Palestine" Convoy. Left: The convoy on roads in Turkey (aljazeera.net, August 4, 2026)