

Spotlight on Terrorism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

September 1-8, 2026

Trending

- ▶ **Hamas resumed unprovoked attacks on IDF forces in the Gaza Strip.**
- ▶ **Hamas is increasing coordination with Palestinian terrorist organizations and political parties in preparation for the elections for Palestinian institutions.**

Overview¹

- ▶ Terrorists opened fire at IDF forces and an IDF engineering vehicle hit an IED in the northern Gaza Strip. There were no Israeli casualties and the IDF responded with attacks on Hamas facilities. Terrorist operatives from Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) who approached IDF forces at the Yellow Line or were involved in planning terrorist attacks were eliminated.
- ▶ A Hamas spokesman warned that Israeli ministers' calls for encouraging emigration from the Gaza Strip were a "dangerous development."
- ▶ A Hamas delegation visited Iran and called for pressure to be exerted on Israel to implement the ceasefire agreement and withdraw from the Gaza Strip.
- ▶ A new international flotilla to the Gaza Strip is supposed to set sail in October 2026.
- ▶ There were two stabbings, one in the Old City of Jerusalem and the other at a farm in Samaria; an Israeli civilian was critically wounded. The Israeli security forces detained terrorist cells which were planning attacks and located a rocket in a village in northern Samaria. Two Israeli Arabs from the Galilee were accused of supporting ISIS.
- ▶ A Fatah figure said that in his opinion the Palestinian elections would not be held in November 2026. Hamas figures spoke with representatives of the Palestinian terrorist organizations to formulate a common position ahead of the elections.

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

► This past week, Hamas escalated its attacks on IDF forces in the Gaza Strip. In the northern Gaza Strip, terrorist operatives opened fire at IDF forces east of the Yellow Line and an IDF engineering vehicle went over an IED near the Yellow Line. In response, the IDF attacked Hamas facilities in various areas of the Gaza Strip, eliminating three terrorists who approached them near the Yellow Line and eliminated Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terrorists who were involved in planning terrorist attacks and posed a threat (IDF spokesperson, September 1-8, 2026).

► On September 1, 2026, the Israeli security forces detained the head of Hamas internal security in the Gaza Strip, Muin al-'Arabid, who was responsible for the security of senior Hamas figures, consolidating Hamas control in the northern Gaza Strip, concealing hostages held by Hamas after the October 7, 2023 massacre, and combating militias opposed to Hamas (IDF spokesperson, Israel Security Agency spokesperson and Israeli media, September 1, 2026). Sources in Hamas said members of the Israel Security Agency (ISA) posed as representatives of an international aid organization and recruited Palestinians, including women, who set up sales stalls and were used to collect information and monitor al-'Arabid and his surroundings, apparently without knowing the full purpose of the activity. On the day of the operation, members of the force mingled with Gazans in the area. When al-'Arabid left his home, the forces opened fire, which was returned, and al-'Arabid's wife was killed, while members of his family and security guards were wounded. Al-'Arabid tried to escape through the rear of the house but encountered another force, was wounded and taken captive (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, September 4, 2026).

► According to reports, Kamal Adwan Hospital in the Beit Lahia Project in the northern Gaza Strip was evacuated after it came under direct fire from IDF combat vehicles that advanced beyond the Yellow Line (*al-Araby al-Jadeed*, September 3, 2026). The hospital administration announced the suspension of operations at the hospital for one day because of the advance of IDF forces near the hospital (Kamal Adwan Hospital Facebook page, September 3, 2026).



The world disregards the Israeli attacks (Facebook page of Alaa al-Laqt, in-house Hamas cartoonist, September 2, 2026)

Negotiations for the Second Phase of the Ceasefire Agreement

► Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem criticized Israeli Defense Minister Katz and National Security Minister Ben Gvir who called for encouraging residents to emigrate from the Gaza Strip, and said the increase in such statements by Israeli government ministers was a "dangerous development." He said they showed Israel had not abandoned its plans to uproot the Gazans and they also explained Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip as an attempt to impose "harsh living conditions" which would lead to displacement (Hamas website, September 4, 2026). Mike Huckabee, the American ambassador to Israel, said anyone who volunteered to leave the Gaza Strip should be allowed to do so, but there was no Israeli or American plan for the Gazans' forced displacement (Reuters, September 5, 2026).

► Hazem Qassem also criticized the Board of Peace, which related to an article from *The New York Times* noting that only the removal of Hamas would help the Gaza Strip recover. Qassem claimed that the article had reported unsubstantiated information and unfair positions against the Palestinian people and the "resistance."² He said the Board of Peace should maintain balanced and objective discourse and not issue material that could harm any Palestinian party or adopt Israel's narratives. He called on the Board of Peace and its representative, Nikolay Mladenov, to focus their efforts on the Board's basic tasks, especially consolidating the ceasefire, working to halt Israeli "violations," ensuring the flow of humanitarian aid and monitoring the implementation of the agreements (Hamas website, September 5, 2026). Bassem Na'im, a member of the Hamas political bureau, said that if the Board of Peace wanted to contribute to peace and stability in the region, it should act neutrally and in accordance with

² The terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip actively working to destroy the State of Israel.

international decisions and resolutions. According to him, the Board was trying to conceal its failure to successfully pressure Netanyahu by blaming Hamas (Bassem Na'im's Telegram channel, September 6, 2026).

► An American official said the administration was dissatisfied with Israel for not providing the guarantees required to establish a new police force in the Gaza Strip. He said establishing such a force was necessary for a new security system which would operate independently of Hamas. He added that Israel did not meet its commitments to allow the entry of materials required for several reconstruction projects in the Gaza Strip. He further claimed that some Israeli attacks exceeded the bounds of the right to self-defense and led to "insecurity" in the Gaza Strip (CBS News, September 7, 2026).

The Gaza Strip

The Civilian Situation in the Gaza Strip

► The Palestinian water authority reported that the sewage system in the Gaza Strip was collapsing, with approximately 55,000 cubic meters of untreated sewage discharged daily, approximately 40,000 cubic meters of it directly into the sea and approximately 15,000 cubic meters seeping into the environment through cesspits and leaks in the sewage network. The five main wastewater treatment facilities were inoperative, and only 18 of 74 pumping stations were partially operative, while the proportion of the population connected to an operational sewage system had fallen from more than 85% to about 45%. The water authority warned of the risks to public health, groundwater and the environment and called for the provision of fuel, pumps, generators, spare parts and heavy equipment to maintain the system (Wafa, September 2, 2026).

► Ramiz Alakbarov, UN deputy coordinator for the Middle East peace process and humanitarian coordinator for the Palestinian territories, visited the Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani Hospital for Rehabilitation and Prosthetics in the Gaza Strip. He was received by the hospital director and representatives of the Qatari Committee for the Reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. They discussed the challenges delaying the continuing provision of the hospital's services and reviewed the difficulties related to bringing supplies and medical equipment through the crossings. Alakbarov said the UN would continue its efforts and coordination to make it easier to bring in the required medical and logistical supplies (Hamad Hospital website, September 3, 2026).

► Hamas-affiliated commentators criticized the plan of an Israeli nonprofit organization to open a clinic in a displaced persons camp in al-Mawasi in the southern Gaza Strip. Wissam Afifa³ wrote that anyone who wanted to help Gaza could do so better through independent and impartial humanitarian organizations (Wissam Afifa's X account, September 4, 2026). Iyad al-Qara⁴ warned of the danger inherent in turning humanitarian aid into a tool for "whitewashing the image of the occupation" and presenting Israel as part of the solution, instead of accusing it of the [alleged] "crimes and violations" it had committed against the Palestinians (Palestine Online, September 5, 2026).

► Hamas alleged that Israel was trying to obscure evidence of "crimes" committed in the Gaza Strip by removing, crushing and transferring rubble which, it claimed, contained the bodies of "thousands" of missing persons and physical evidence. Hamas claimed that disturbing the sites violated international decisions and the International Court of Justice ruling regarding the preservation of evidence (Hamas Telegram channel, September 7, 2026).

Civilian Governance

► An armed Hamas force reportedly opened fire at residents near al-Shafi'i Mosque in the Khan Yunis refugee camp, wounding several and abducting others (Hamza al-Masri's Telegram channel, September 3, 2026). A Hamas-affiliated channel denied the report and claimed "drug dealers" had opened fire at a police force and a confrontation developed at the site (Khalik Wa'i Telegram channel, September 3, 2026). The Khan Yunis district police later said that a narcotics force had raided a drug distribution den in the Khan Yunis camp area. The force came under direct attack and faced an attempt to provoke a disturbance at the site while carrying out its mission, causing the police to respond, as a result of which two civilians were wounded. The police stressed that they would continue pursuing drug dealers and maintain public order and would not tolerate attempts to provoke chaos or block roads (Shehab, September 5, 2026).

Military Governance

► It was reported that after the Israeli security forces detained Hamas internal security official Muin al-'Arabid, three Israeli "agents," including a woman, were detained. The three had reportedly posed as an international aid organization to facilitate movement in the area and the collection of information. According to the preliminary interrogations, the "agents" said that the special force had arrived at the scene of the operation only a few hours before its cover

³ Wissam Afifa is a Hamas media figure. He was formerly the director of Hamas' al-Aqsa media network and before editor-in-chief of the movement's magazine *al-Risalah*.

⁴ Iyad al-Qara was formerly editor-in-chief of Hamas' daily newspaper *Filastin*.

was exposed and had not previously been present there (al-Akhres Telegram channel, September 3, 2026). A Hamas source said that at least 36 people had been detained on suspicion of collaborating with Israel following the abduction (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, September 4, 2026).

► The PIJ's military wing claimed its operatives had foiled an attempt by a militia collaborating with Israel to abduct an operative of the organization in the al-Qarara area north of Khan Yunis. According to the statement, the militia operated with the assistance of Israeli UAVs, and the attempt was foiled after an exchange of fire developed at close range. It was further reported that members of the militia killed the intended abduction target, an operative in the al-Qarara Battalion of the Khan Yunis Brigade (Jerusalem Brigades Telegram channel, September 4, 2026).

New Flotilla to the Gaza Strip

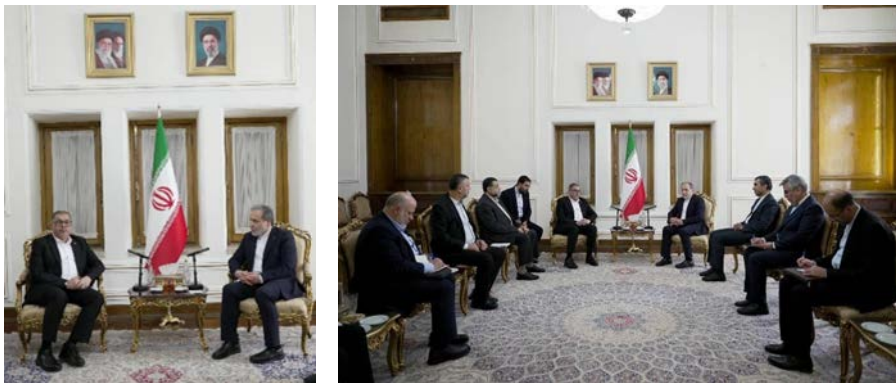
► The International Committee for Breaking the Siege on Gaza, which is part of the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, announced the resumption of international maritime activity to "support the Gaza Strip" and a plan to reach its shores in October 2026. The new mission reportedly included voyages from port to port across Europe to mobilize public support and exert political pressure to end the "blockade." After the *Handala 2* sailed to Norway, Sweden and Denmark in June and July 2026, the *Kate* sailed from Bristol to ports in Ireland, Germany and France. The next stops will be Spain, Portugal and Italy before the vessels continue to the Gaza Strip (International Committee for Breaking the Siege on Gaza Facebook page, September 4, 2026).



The *Kate* (International Committee for Breaking the Siege on Gaza Facebook page, August 29, 2026)

Hamas in the International Arena

► A Hamas delegation headed by Bassem Na'im, a member of the Hamas political bureau and head of the movement's Arab and Islamic relations office, met in Iran with Majlis [Parliament] Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. They discussed developments in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria and east Jerusalem and presented the understandings reached with the mediators and representatives of the Board of Peace regarding the roadmap for the second phase of the agreement. Hamas declared its commitment to the understandings and called for pressure on Israel to implement them, including a full withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the beginning of reconstruction. The Iranians noted their continued support for the Palestinians and briefed the delegation on developments in the confrontation between Iran and the United States and on the roadmap agreed upon for ending it (Hamas website, September 3, 2026).



Hamas delegation meets with the Iranian foreign minister (Hamas website, September 3, 2026)

Israel, Judea and Samaria

Terrorist Attacks

► **Stabbing in the Old City of Jerusalem:** Before dawn on September 4, 2026a Palestinian terrorist from Beit Hanina north of Jerusalem went to the Damascus Gate in the Old City and tried to stab civilians. When Israeli security forces approached him, he tried to stab one of the fighters; he was shot and killed. There were no civilian or security force casualties (Israel Police spokesperson and Israeli media, September 4, 2026).

► **Stabbing in Samaria:** On September 7, 2026, a Palestinian terrorist drove to the Maoz Yehuda farm in Samaria and stabbed an Israeli resident several times, critically wounding him. Israeli security forces launched a manhunt for the terrorist, who fled the scene by car. More than an hour later, he was located in the town of Qabalan, where he tried to stab the fighters; he was shot and killed (IDF spokesperson and Israeli media, September 7, 2026).

Counterterrorism

- This past week, the Israeli security forces continued extensive counterterrorism activities in Judea and Samaria, detaining more than ten wanted persons and questioning dozens of suspects in an operation conducted in Nablus and the surrounding villages. More than 30 lathes used to manufacture weapons were destroyed and weapons, handguns and ammunition were confiscated; five terrorists who planned to attack civilians and security forces were detained in the town of Qabatiya, and weapons and other means of combat were found in their homes. In a counterterrorism operation in the village of Aqaba in northern Samaria, a Hamas terrorist network of ten operatives who were promoting terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians was detained. A rocket without a launcher was located and destroyed and numerous weapons and explosives were found; during activity in villages in the Nablus area, a terrorist who tried to attack the forces was eliminated and terrorists who planned attacks and dealt arms were detained (IDF spokesperson, September 4-8, 2026). The Jerusalem district of the Palestinian Authority reported that "occupation" forces had imposed a "siege" on the town of Anata and the Shuafat refugee camp in northeast Jerusalem and detained approximately 100 people; as a result, all schools and businesses were closed (Palestinian Media Center, September 8, 2026).
- An indictment was filed against an Israeli Arab from the Galilee who said he identified with ISIS and had viewed instructional material on combat, the use of weapons and the manufacture of missiles and drones for terrorist purposes (Israel Police spokesperson, September 2, 2026). Another indictment was filed against a 19-year-old Israeli Arab from the Galilee who expressed solidarity with ISIS, viewed material about the organization and swore allegiance to it (Israel Police spokesperson and ISA spokesperson, September 7, 2026).

Settler-Palestinian Friction

- The Palestinians reported that three local residents were killed by IDF fire in confrontations caused by Jewish settlers' entering Palestinian villages:
 - ◆ The ministry of health in Ramallah reported that two young Palestinians had been killed by IDF fire in the village of al-Mughayyir, northeast of Ramallah. According to the head of the village council, the incident began after Jewish settlers tried to steal sheep, and following a confrontation, IDF forces entered the village and opened fire at local residents (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, September 3, 2026). However, the IDF reported that it had secured the entry of police officers and an Israeli civilian into the village to enable the return of sheep belonging to Israelis, and during the activity the Palestinians rioted, throwing rocks and

concrete blocks at them, and the forces fired at the instigators (IDF spokesperson, September 2, 2026). Hamas confirmed that the two fatalities were members of its organization (Hamas Telegram channel in Judea and Samaria, September 3, 2026).

◆ Palestinian sources reported that a young Palestinian was shot in the head and died and two others were wounded during an attack attributed to Jewish rioters in the village of Hajjah, east of Qalqilya (al-Mayadeen, September 7, 2026). The IDF reported that Israeli security forces removed Israeli civilians who had entered the village following a report of a confrontation between them and Palestinians. Subsequently, a riot developed with Palestinians throwing rocks at the fighters, who responded by firing into the air and then at the instigators (IDF spokesperson, September 7, 2026).

The Palestinian Authority (PA)

► PA Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa met with Japanese assistant foreign minister for Gaza reconstruction Takeshi Okubo to discuss relief, recovery and reconstruction efforts in the Gaza Strip. Takeshi related Japan's activities in health, education, water and sanitation, employment, social protection, removal of explosive remnants and municipal services. Mustafa said reconstruction activity should be coordinated with the Palestinian government and in accordance with its recovery and reconstruction plan. In addition, he briefed Okubo the economic and social situation in Judea and Samaria, which he attributed to Israeli measures, violence by Jewish rioters, delays in transferring tax revenues and restrictions on movement. He called on Japan and the international community to exert pressure on Israel and assist the Palestinian government, including in preparations for holding the upcoming general elections (Wafa, September 3, 2026).

► The Board of Peace categorically denied the report, allegedly based on statements by Jeremy Greenstock, Britain's ambassador to the UN from 1998 to 2003, claiming that Tony Blair, the British prime minister at the time and currently a senior Board official, had recently been sent by the Board to ask the PA to replace every mention of the word "Palestine" in Palestinian textbooks with the Jewish term "Samaria" [*sic*]. According to Greenstock, Blair tried to pressure the PA but the demand was rejected by Mahmoud Abbas (Middle East Eye, September 2, 2026; Board of Peace X account, September 3, 2026).

The Palestinian General Elections

► Jibril Rajoub, secretary of the Fatah Central Committee, said it would not be possible to hold the elections in November 2026 because there were still issues that had to be dealt with before the official decree could be issued. He added that a comprehensive national dialogue had to be held before moving forward toward elections and only elections and a democratic process would determine who would govern "Palestine" (Quds News Agency, September 7, 2026).

► Senior Hamas figures held talks with representatives of Palestinian terrorist organizations in an effort to promote a common position ahead of the elections:

◆ Husam Badran, a member of the Hamas political bureau and head of the national relations office, spoke by telephone with Salem Atallah, secretary general of the Palestinian Mujahideen Movement, about developments in the Palestinian arena and the upcoming elections for the Legislative Council and the Palestinian National Council. They called for broader participation by the "organizations" and political forces in the elections, opposed the appointment of representatives instead of their election and discussed the establishment of a Palestinian national alliance (Hamas Telegram channel in Judea and Samaria, September 2, 2026). Badran also spoke with Hassan Mahmoud Abu Halima, secretary general of the Palestinian al-Ahrar Movement. They noted the need to broaden the participation of Palestinian "organizations, forces and figures" in the elections and opposed the appointment of representatives. They also discussed the establishment of the Palestinian national alliance as a framework for coordination among the forces and "organizations" ahead of the elections (Hamas Telegram channel in Judea and Samaria, September 3, 2026).

◆ Meeting in Beirut, representatives of Hamas and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) called for dialogue and broad national agreement on the elections, strengthening partnership among the organizations and integrating all the forces into PLO institutions. They also discussed the situation in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria, called for expanding the "popular resistance"⁵ and discussed the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and the continuation of UNRWA activity (Hamas Telegram channel in Judea and Samaria, September 2, 2026).

⁵ Terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians and soldiers.

◆ The central leadership of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces held a meeting in Beirut attended by senior Hamas figure Ali Baraka representing political bureau head Khalil al-Hayya. The participants called for elections to the Legislative Council, the PA presidency and the Palestinian National Council with the participation of all the organizations, and opposed the exclusion of the "resistance forces."⁶ They supported the establishment of a broad Palestinian national alliance and said they would establish monitoring committees outside the Palestinian territories to promote Palestinian participation in the elections for the National Council (Hamas Telegram channel in Judea and Samaria, September 3, 2026).

◆ A Hamas delegation met in Beirut with representatives affiliated with Muhammad Dahlan's party. They called for an end to the fighting and implementation of the understandings and demanded democratic elections to the Palestinian National Council without appointments or exclusion. They said they supported the continuation of UNRWA activity and agreed to work to establish a unified Palestinian leadership in Lebanon (Hamas website, September 5, 2026).

⁶ Palestinian terrorist organizations.