

## Spotlight on Terrorism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

### September 8-16, 2026

### Trending

- ▶  **Hamas continues to promote narratives of shortages in the Gaza Strip.**
- ▶  **Terrorist elements in Judea and Samaria attempted to carry out attacks.**

### Overview<sup>1</sup>

- ▶ IDF forces destroyed weapons depots and eliminated more than ten Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad commanders and terrorist operatives, including the commanders of the Rafah and Khan Yunis Brigades, a battalion commander in the northern Gaza Strip and a senior terrorist who was released in the Gilad Shalit exchange deal.
- ▶ The Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) denied allegations made by Hamas agencies of a shortage of medical equipment and of preventing patients from leaving for medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip.
- ▶ Armed clashes continued between militia operatives and Hamas operatives.
- ▶ Israeli security forces continued extensive counterterrorism activity in Judea and Samaria, detaining two wanted men who had planned shooting attacks. A terrorist cell of more than 30 terrorists was exposed in east Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria, and a young man from Kafr Qassem was detained on suspicion of planning an attack.
- ▶ The Palestinian Authority welcomed Britain's decision to prohibit imports of products from Israeli communities beyond the Green Line and impose sanctions on extremist settlers. Hamas and the boycott movement claimed the measures were insufficient.
- ▶ Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other terrorist organizations called for free and transparent elections to the Palestinian National Council and warned the Palestinian Authority and PLO leadership not to appoint council members without a pan-Palestinian vote.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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

► IDF forces continued operations to destroy terrorist facilities and assets and eliminate terrorists throughout the Gaza Strip. More than ten Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) commanders and terrorist operatives were eliminated, including operatives involved in the atrocities of the October 7, 2023 terrorist invasion and massacre and in rebuilding the military wings after the ceasefire. Those eliminated included Nael Abu Obeid, commander of the Rafah Brigade and head of Hamas' operations array; Muhammad al-Yazouri, commander of the Khan Yunis Brigade; Ahmed al-Batsh commander of the Jabalia Battalion in the Northern Gaza Strip Brigade; and Farah Ahmad Abd al-Majid Hamed, a terrorist released in the 2011 Gilad Shalit exchange deal who was a member of the military council of the military wing in Judea and Samaria. Hamas and PIJ weapons depots containing dozens of rockets, Kalashnikov rifles and other combat equipment were also destroyed, as was a launch pit from which rockets had been fired at Israel during the war (IDF spokesperson, September 8-16, 2026).



**Right: Al-Yazouri's "ID card" (IDF spokesperson, September 11, 2026).**

**Left: Abu Obeid's "ID card" (IDF spokesperson, September 15, 2026)**

► Sources in the Gaza Strip reported that Israel had attacked surveillance devices installed inside the Gaza Strip following the detention of senior Hamas security official Muin al-Arabid on September 1, 2026. According to the sources, IDF suicide UAVs struck surveillance devices installed on the roofs of two destroyed houses in the al-Shati refugee camp; a UAV blew up another device on the roof of a house in the al-Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in northern Gaza City; and a UAV dropped a bomb on a small device installed on the roof of a destroyed residential building in the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, September 9, 2026).

► Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem denied claims regarding alleged Hamas plans to abduct soldiers in the Gaza Strip. He claimed the reports were false propaganda whose objective was to justify further attacks on the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. He claimed the movement was "committed to the ceasefire agreement" and called on the mediators and the Board of Peace

to fulfill their role and assume their responsibility to put an end to Israel's actions ( Hamas website, September 9, 2026).

## The Gaza Strip

### The Civilian Situation

► On the night of September 15, 2026, the six-story Saada building in Gaza City collapsed after having been damaged during the war. The Hamas civil defense agency said that at least 11 people had been killed, and approximately 100 displaced persons who had found shelter in the building were trapped under the rubble, adding that efforts were underway to rescue them (Shehab Agency, September 16, 2026). The Hamas government claimed the Israeli "occupation" and the international community were responsible for the disaster and its consequences and accused Israel of preventing the entry of heavy equipment needed for rescue operations. It also said thousands of homes in the Gaza Strip housing residents and displaced persons were in danger of collapse (Hamas government media information office Telegram channel, September 16, 2026).



**Rescue operations at the collapsed building (Shehab Agency, September 16, 2026)**

- Hamas agencies in the Gaza Strip continued to promote narratives of shortages:
  - ◆ The Hamas government media information office in the Gaza Strip accused Israel of only allowing food and humanitarian aid to enter the Gaza Strip in very small quantities which did not meet the population's minimum needs. It claimed that more than 95% of Gaza residents had become completely dependent on aid and that more than 90% could not afford to buy food. The office accused Israel of deliberately preventing the entry of hundreds of thousands of aid and food trucks and allowing no more than 35% of the agreed number of trucks to enter (Hamas government media information office in the Gaza Strip Telegram channel, September 8, 2026).

◆ Muhammad Salha, general coordinator of the NGO network in the Gaza Strip, said 800,000 residents were living in "dilapidated" tents and needed replacements, and the humanitarian response was weak and limited because of the small quantities Israel [allegedly] allowed to enter. He added that the private sector was permitted to bring in various types of vegetables, fruit and meat, but not all residents could afford them because of rising costs, weak purchasing power and the difficult economic situation. He said they had warned and still warned that Gaza was approaching a situation of little food. He also claimed that 60% of Gazan children did not belong to any educational framework and UNICEF could not provide educational assistance the way UNRWA could (Safa, September 12, 2026).

◆ Anwar Abu Alba, chairman of the association of bus company owners in the Gaza Strip, said that approximately 70% of the 450 buses in the Gaza Strip were non-operational because of the shortage of spare parts, lubricants and tires, adding that the number of operational buses declined every day (Voice of Palestine Radio, September 13, 2026). The association of bus company owners in the Gaza Strip announced the suspension of transportation services for medical teams on September 16, 2026, because there had been no response to its requests for spare parts and maintenance equipment (Palestine Online, September 13, 2026).

◆ Shortages of fuel, motor oil and spare parts were reportedly causing prolonged power outages which endangered hospital operations and the lives of patients. Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis introduced rolling power outages between the buildings after one of the four generators was taken out of service and the others were forced to operate under heavy loads without regular maintenance. Gazans claimed the price of electricity supplied by private generators had increased approximately twentyfold, while two-thirds of Gazans were still living at displacement sites. In response, the Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) stated that there was a supervised mechanism for the entry of motor oil, spare parts and medical equipment to ensure that they reached the population and prevent their transfer to Hamas (Reuters, September 10, 2026). According to a report, the main generator at al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City was non-operational because of a shortage of the lubricants and spare parts needed for maintenance. That allegedly led to the closure of the MRI department and the

shutdown of the only functioning CT scanner in the northern Gaza Strip, and forced the hospital to reduce its medical services (Palestine Online, September 10, 2026).

◆ Dr. Muhammad Abu Afash, chairman of the medical relief association in the Gaza Strip, reported that the World Health Organization had informed hospitals and health centers in the Gaza Strip that their supply of diesel oil would be halted beginning on September 19, 2026. He said that did not include government and public hospitals, but rather medical centers, hospitals and medical institutions in the nongovernmental sector. He claimed the suspension of the supply of diesel oil could lead to the cessation or disruption of medical services at seven medical centers (Palestine Today channel website, September 13, 2026). Dr. Munir al-Barsh, director general of the ministry of health in Gaza, reported the suspension of diesel supplies to more than 20 hospitals and medical centers beginning on September 19, 2026 (Munir al-Barsh's X account, September 14, 2026).

► In response to the claims, the COGAT stated that since the beginning of the ceasefire in October 2025, more than 24,000 tons of medical equipment had been brought into the Gaza Strip, including X-ray machines, oxygen tanks, generators, spare parts and incubators, while monitoring the equipment to ensure that it did not reach Hamas. It said efforts were also being made to establish new medical institutions and evacuate patients from the Gaza Strip (COGAT X account, September 15, 2026).

► The COGAT also rejected Hamas' claims that Israel was preventing residents from receiving medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip. He reported that in 98% of cases requests to leave the Gaza Strip were approved, and exit requests were denied only when Hamas criminals tried to exploit the system for their own benefit and that of their associates. He attached photographs and personal information concerning three key Hamas figures and wrote that like common thieves, they had tried to circumvent the system and exploit the exit mechanism to get their family members out of the Gaza Strip at the expense of Gazans who were genuinely in need (COGAT Arabic-language Facebook page, September 9-13, 2026). In response the Hamas-affiliated Khalik Wa'i channel alleged that reports from the World Health Organization and the UN "confirmed" that the rate of approvals Israel granted for patients to travel did not exceed 48%, and that Israel rejected travel requests from thousands of patients "for no reason," with rejections including "thousands of civilians" and their escorts (particularly young men) who had no connection to "military" activity (Khalik Wa'i Telegram channel, September 10-11, 2026).

## Civilian Governance

► The relief committee and social development department in the Khan Yunis district, under the auspices of the Turkish Deniz Feneri Association,<sup>2</sup> held its first forum for managers of displaced persons camps in preparation for winter. The forum was attended by representatives of the local district authorities, the ministry of social development, civil defense and relief organizations, as well as more than 750 camp managers, who discussed identifying the most vulnerable families and areas, the risks of flooding and rainwater accumulation, existing resources and requirements (Palestine Online, September 8, 2026; Khan Yunis municipality website, September 9, 2026).

► The Hamas ministry of education, in cooperation with UNICEF and partner institutions, began distributing schoolbags to students in schools in the Gaza districts (Hamas government media information office Telegram channel, September 10, 2026).



**The new school year in the Gaza Strip: schools destroyed by the war (Facebook page of Alaa al-Laqta, Hamas' in-house cartoonist, September 12, 2026)**

## Military Governance

► According to reports, on the night of September 9, 2026, operatives from Ashraf al-Mansi's militia entered the Jabalia refugee camp and were ambushed by "resistance fighters."<sup>3</sup> Riots broke out, while Israeli fighter jets launched airstrikes to provide cover for the force's withdrawal. The incident reportedly lasted for more than two hours until calm was gradually restored (Amsak Amil Telegram channel, September 9, 2026; Palinfo, September 10, 2026). Hamas' Rada Force claimed it had foiled an attempt by "the gang of collaborator Ashraf al-Mansi" to abduct civilians from the Jabalia refugee camp and confirmed it had inflicted casualties on "the gang." It further claimed that IDF forces had intervened with airstrikes and

<sup>2</sup> The Deniz Fener (Lighthouse) Association is a Turkish NGO which provides food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, and financial aid to people in need in Turkey and worldwide.

<sup>3</sup> Terrorist operatives.

artillery fire, prevented the arrest of operatives and deliberately killed civilians (Rada Force Telegram channel, September 10, 2026). Al-Mansi's Popular Army – Northern Forces militia stated that its strike force had raided terrorist operatives in the Jabalia camp. The fighters engaged in direct, hand-to-hand combat with the "remnants of the Hamas militia," resulting in dead and wounded in their ranks and the destruction of their remaining fortifications in the area. It was further noted that the mission had been completed successfully and the fighters returned to their bases and positions without casualties (Aljayshalshaabi Facebook page, September 10, 2026).

## International Hamas Activity

► A Hamas delegation headed by Taher al-Nunu, adviser to the head of the political bureau, visited Malaysia, where it met with government officials and representatives of parties and organizations and participated in the conference of the Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS). The delegation reported on developments in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria and Jerusalem, and thanked the Malaysian leadership and public for their support of the Palestinians. It called for expanded political, public and legal activity to isolate Israel and maintain Malaysian support for the "Palestinian issue" (Hamas Telegram channel, September 10, 2026).

► Hamas welcomed the New Delhi Declaration 2026 issued at the conclusion of the 18th BRICS summit in India. The movement praised the support for the Palestinians' right to self-determination and "return,"<sup>4</sup> the establishment of a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital and the admission of "Palestine" as a full member of the UN. It also welcomed the opposition to the displacement of Palestinians and to geographical or demographic changes in the Gaza Strip, support for UNRWA and the condemnation of the [alleged] trickle of humanitarian aid. Hamas called on the BRICS countries to translate the declaration into practical measures against Israel (Hamas website, September 13, 2026).

## Israel, Judea and Samaria

### The Israeli Security Forces

► Israeli security forces continued extensive counterterrorism activity in Judea and Samaria. In the Bitunia region and in Hebron, two wanted men who planned to carry out shootings in the immediate future were detained; in Tulkarm, a senior terrorist operative in the Fatah movement who was wanted for involvement in terrorist activity, planning and carrying out

---

<sup>4</sup> The "return" of the Palestinian refugees to the sites of their pre-1948 habitation, that is, the destruction of the State of Israel.

attacks and trafficking in weapons was detained; during activity in villages in the Nablus area, weapons and other combat equipment were confiscated; two Jericho residents were detained while attempting to smuggle weapons across the eastern border, and 36 weapons were seized (IDF spokesperson, September 8-16, 2026). The Palestinians claimed the detainee in Tulkarm had been the Fatah movement secretary in the refugee camp. It was also reported that a man was killed by Israeli security forces' fire in al-Bireh (Wafa and Quds Agency, September 14-15, 2026).



**Weapons seized at the eastern border (IDF spokesperson, September 11, 2026)**

► According to reports, Israeli security forces exposed a terrorist network of more than 30 operatives from east Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria. The investigation found that two of the detainees, east Jerusalem residents who were active in an organization affiliated with Hamas, had established a terrorist network in early 2026, purchased weapons and recruited terrorist cells with the objective of carrying out attacks during 2027. It was claimed that they planned to shoot at security forces at the al-Eizariya checkpoint, north of Jerusalem, and attack a restaurant in Modi'in where one of the detainees worked. During the investigation, weapons and other combat equipment were seized (Israel Security Agency spokesperson, Israel Police spokesperson, IDF spokesperson and Israeli media, September 8, 2026).

► Israeli security forces detained three Palestinian police officers for questioning who had set up a checkpoint in Area C, near Bitunia, detained an Israeli civilian and assaulted him while exceeding their authority to operate in the area. That constituted a serious violation by the Palestinian security services, during which the civilian's life was endangered and considerable force was used against him (IDF spokesperson, September 9, 2026). In response Palestinian security services spokesman Anwar Rajab called it "disgraceful conduct which reflects Israeli army bullying of the Palestinian security services." He claimed that Israel systematically tried to undermine the work of the security services and restrict their ability to carry out their

missions. In response to a question about reports that the police officers had exceeded their authority to operate in areas under Israeli control, Rajab called it "a complicated and complex issue," in the sense that the areas were "intertwined," and they were dealing with the issue with "great wisdom and calmly to control the situation" (*al-Araby al-Jadeed*, September 9, 2026).

► A 19-year-old from Kafr Qassem was detained on suspicion of planning to carry out an attack. Interrogation revealed that he had searched for combat manuals, downloaded and saved instructions for preparing explosive devices, attempted to manufacture devices from various materials and shared his attempts with other people. Training equipment and Airsoft guns were found in his home (Israel Police spokesperson, September 15, 2026).

### **Settler Terrorism**

► Attacks by Jewish settlers on Palestinians and their property were reported throughout Judea and Samaria: in the village of Fuqua, east of Jenin, riots broke out after settlers entered farmland and grazed their sheep. According to the report, IDF forces intervened, fired live ammunition, wounding a young man, and detained dozens of local residents; in the village of Burqa, settlers threw rocks at houses and vehicles, and damaged a car and an event venue; in Mikhmas, north of Jerusalem, a settler cut a fence and brought his flock onto Palestinian farmland to graze; in the village of Abu Nujaym, southeast of Bethlehem, an elderly man and his wife were attacked and wounded in their home; settlers were reported to have entered Deir Jarir and gunfire was reported among residents' homes; in Beita, a local resident and several of his children were reportedly attacked and sheep were stolen; in Wadi al-Shaer, east of Salfit, two Palestinians were wounded and an attempt was made to set fire to farmland (Quds Agency, September 12-15, 2026).

## **The Palestinian Authority (PA)**

### **Political Activity**

► The office of the PA chairman reported satisfaction with Britain's decision to prohibit imports of products from Israeli communities beyond the Green Line and impose sanctions on extremist Jewish settlers. It described the move as "an important and correct step," and called on more countries to adopt similar measures (Wafa, September 8, 2026). Omar al-Barghouti, one of the founders of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, was more reserved, claiming the step was limited and lacked impact. He claimed a broader boycott and complete ban on the supply of weapons to Israel were required (Al Jazeera, September 8, 2026). Bassem Na'im, a member of the Hamas political bureau, said the imposition of sanctions was

a step in the right direction insufficient. He said what was required to achieve stability and peace in "Palestine" and beyond was the immediate implementation of the relevant international resolutions and the prosecution of [alleged] "Israeli war criminals" (Bassem Naim's Telegram channel, September 8, 2026).



**After Britain shifts from supporting Israel to confronting it, Israel gives it 30 days to close its consulate in Jerusalem (Facebook page of Alaa al-Laqtta, the Hamas in-house cartoonist, September 10, 2026)**

## The Palestinian General Elections

► Seven Palestinian organizations, including Hamas, PIJ, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Muhammad Dahlan's faction in Fatah and the Palestinian National Initiative, issued a joint statement to protest the manner in which the Palestinian National Council was being reconstituted. They claimed that appointing members through electoral bodies in several Arab countries did not represent all Palestinians and enabled elements in the PA to control the composition of the council and exclude rival organizations and independent representatives. They demanded free and transparent elections based on proportional representation, the formulation of an agreed electoral law and mechanism and guarantees for the participation of Palestinians in Arab countries and the diaspora. They also called on the Palestinian public and institutions not to grant legitimacy to a council constituted through appointments, and held the PA leadership and PLO institutions responsible for the consequences. According to the organizations, restoring the PLO's status as the representative of the Palestinian people required rebuilding its institutions on the basis of national partnership, broad representation and agreement among the organizations (Hamas website, September 9, 2026).

► The Fatah Revolutionary Council announced the movement would contest the elections for the Legislative Council, scheduled for November 28, 2026, as part of an official national slate to be formed in consultation with PLO member organizations. The council called for the elections

to be held in east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip as well, for the formation of the National Council to be completed and for the advancement of Palestinian dialogue that would lead to unity within the PLO (Wafa, September 12, 2026).



**Fatah conference in Ramallah (Wafa, September 12, 2026)**

► Despite the preparations, sources in Fatah stated that the likelihood was increasing that PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas would postpone the elections for the Palestinian National Council, on the grounds that Israel did not permit them to be held in Jerusalem and the situation in the Gaza Strip made it difficult to complete the necessary preparations. According to the report, Abbas was simultaneously dealing with an initiative by senior Fatah figure Marwan Barghouti, who is imprisoned in Israel, to reunify the movement's ranks, including reconciliation with the Dahlan camp, the reinstatement of operatives who had been expelled and the holding of a new general conference. Barghouti had also expressed his intention to run in the elections for the PA presidency, and rejection of his initiative could lead him and his supporters to support a competing list in the National Council elections (Quds, September 14, 2026).