Spotlight on Terrorism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
October 28 – November 3, 2026

Trending

► The Palestinians are waiting for the political picture in Israel to become clear after the Knesset elections.

► An Al Jazeera investigative program about Muhammad al-Deif cast him as the architect of the October 7, 2023 attack and massacre.

Overview[1]

► IDF forces continued destroying terrorist infrastructure and eliminating terrorists in the Yellow Line and other areas of the Gaza Strip. Terrorist operatives who were involved in the atrocities of the October 7, 2023 invasion and massacre and in holding hostages were eliminated.

► An Al Jazeera investigative program about Muhammad Deif, the former head of the Hamas military wing, showed videos of senior Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades figures and revealed minutes of secret meetings which indicated that Hamas had been prepared to cancel the attack if Israel stopped the "attacks" on al-Aqsa Mosque and the alleged "maltreatment" of Palestinian prisoners.

► The Egyptian foreign minister reported that his country was in daily contact with the United States to advance the American plan in the Gaza Strip.

► Palestinians are angry because the UNRWA's acting director plans mass dismissals of agency employees.

► The Palestinian "resistance organizations,"[2] especially Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, did not formally comment on the results of Israel's elections. Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas and his deputy, Hussein al-Sheikh, said they were "cautiously hopeful" about the renewal of the political process.

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

► Israeli security forces continued extensive counterterrorism activity in Judea and Samaria. The operation in Hebron ended after the homes of the perpetrators of the attack at the Judea Junction had been demolished.

The Fighting in the Gaza Strip

The IDF

► IDF forces continued operations to eliminate terrorists and destroy terrorist infrastructure in the Yellow Line and other areas of the Gaza Strip. The forces eliminated field commanders and terrorists in the Hamas military wing, including *nukhba*[3] force operatives and others involved in the atrocities of the October 7, 2023 terrorist invasion and massacre and in holding hostages. Two Hamas weapons warehouses were destroyed, in which dozens of weapons were stored, including rockets, explosive devices, RPG launchers, Kalashnikov rifles, grenades, ammunition magazines and other combat equipment (IDF spokesperson, October 28–November 3, 2026).

► Relatives of a *nukhba* terrorist who was eliminated in Khan Yunis claimed he had received a telephone call from an Israeli Shin Bet officer who gave him the choice of being attacked while he was with his family or going up to the roof to die alone. He allegedly went up to the roof alone, where he was eliminated by a small missile (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, October 29, 2026).

► On October 31, 2026, Arafat Kamel al-Ara'ir died after having been wounded in an attack in Gaza nine days earlier (aljazeera.net, October 31, 2026). Al-Ara'ir was the nephew of Ahmed al-Jaabari, who was acting commander of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades until he was eliminated in 2012, and was his personal escort, including during the release of abducted soldier Gilad Shalit in October 2011 (Facebook page of Umm Hussein al-Jaabari, October 31, 2026; Facebook page of Israa Ara'ir, October 31, 2026; Facebook page of Abu Musab Lafi, October 31, 2026). Participants at the funeral accused anti-Hamas activist Hamza al-Masri of treason after he published the names of al-Ara'ir and another Hamas operative several days before the IDF eliminated them (X account of Hudhayfa al-Astal, October 31, 2026).

► The Hamas ministry of the interior in the Gaza Strip said five ranking police officers and policemen were killed in an IDF attack during "routine work " in Khan Yunis. The ministry reported that since the ceasefire began in October 2025, 75 police operatives had been killed

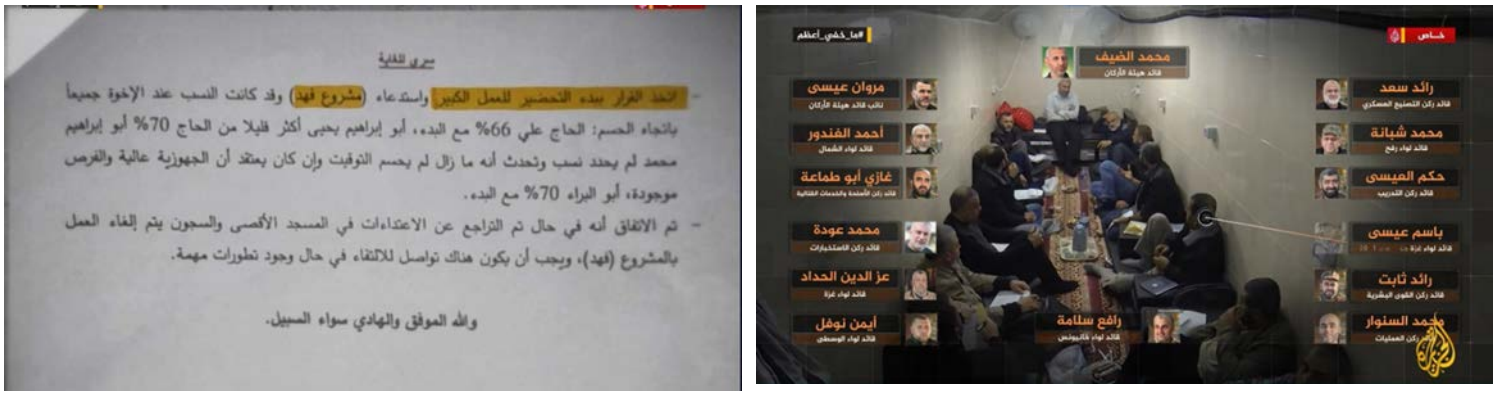
[3] Elite Hamas terrorist operatives.

by Israel (Telegram channel of the ministry of the interior and national security in the Gaza Strip, November 1, 2026).

Al Jazeera Program about Muhammad al-Deif and Preparations for the October 7, 2023 Invasion and Massacre[4]

► On October 30, 2026, the Al Jazeera investigative program *What Is Hidden Is Greater* broadcast an episode about Muhammad Deif, head of the Hamas military wing, who was eliminated in an Israeli attack in Khan Yunis in July 2024. The program presented a profile of his life through videos of Muhammad Deif and other senior Hamas terrorists, most of whom were eliminated during the war in the Gaza Strip. It featured interviews with senior operatives in the military wing who accompanied Muhammad Deif and participated in his terrorist activity. Among the interviewees, without his face or identity revealed, was Abu Obeida, The current commander of the Gaza Brigade.

► The program noted Muhammad Deif's role in orchestrating the October 7, 2023 attack and massacre by revealing minutes of meetings of Hamas' restricted military council. A document from February 2023 claimed Hamas had been prepared to cancel the attack, which was codenamed Project Fahd (the former name of al-Aqsa Flood), if Israel stopped the "attacks" on al-Aqsa Mosque and the "maltreatment" of Palestinian prisoners. A document from October 5, 2023, said they had decided to launch the invasion because the events at al-Aqsa had reached an unacceptable level, and it would begin at 06:30 on October 7, 2023.



From the program, a meeting of the Hamas military council led by Muhammad Deif in a tunnel in the Gaza Strip (right) and the minutes pertaining to Project Fahd (Al Jazeera, October 30, 2026)

Negotiations for the Second Phase of the Ceasefire Agreement

► Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty said Egypt was in daily contact with the United States in an effort to advance the implementation of the American plan for the Gaza Strip. He

[4] See the October 2026 Amit Institute report, **Al Jazeera's What Is Hidden Is Greater's Episode about Muhammad Deif and Planning the October 7, 2023 Terrorist Invasion and Massacre**

said the success of the plan depended on the involvement of the American president and the fulfillment of the commitments of the first phase before moving to the second phase. He claimed Israel had not met several of its commitments, including allowing 600 aid trucks to enter every day, halting targeted killings and reconstructing the Gaza Strip. He said Egypt, Qatar and Turkey had worked to advance the disarmament of the Palestinian "factions"[5] but Israel's response had been negative (*al-Shorouk*, October 29, 2026).

► The monitoring committee of the national and Islamic forces in Gaza held the Board of Peace and its affiliated bodies responsible for failing to implement the ceasefire agreement. The committee claimed the Board was doing nothing to stop the Israeli attacks, lift the "siege," open the crossings, withdraw IDF forces from the Gaza Strip, bring in the international stabilization forces and facilitate the activity of the administrative committee. It further claimed that the delay in implementing the agreement and the Board's silence in the face of the Israeli "violations" allowed Israel to continue its activities and showed the countries guaranteeing the agreement were incapable of enforcing and protecting its implementation (Palestine Online, October 31, 2026).

► Ali Shaath, chairman of the Palestinian technocratic committee for the administration of the Gaza Strip, held his first online meeting with Ambassador Takeshi Okubo, responsible for assistance in the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip on behalf of the Japanese foreign ministry. Okubo noted the importance of the "stable implementation of the reconstruction plan" and said Japan would continue working to advance it in coordination with other countries and organizations (X account of the Japanese foreign ministry, October 29, 2026).

► The Board of Peace formally asked Italy for policing advisers to assist in establishing a new security force in the Gaza Strip (Bloomberg, October 31, 2026).

The Gaza Strip

The Civilian Situation in the Gaza Strip

► According to reports, many Gazans, particularly displaced persons, complained they were not receiving aid and aid was being distributed according to the whims of those dispensing it. According to the residents, the situation had continued since the ceasefire went into effect in October 2025. From then on, aid distribution by foreign organizations, UN organizations and local organizations was no longer the responsibility of the ministry of social development, and

[5] Terrorist organizations.

the organizations were given complete freedom of action. They called on the ministry of social development to resume regulating aid and supervise its distribution "in a balanced and equitable manner" (al-Ayyam, October 30, 2026).

► Doctors Without Borders claimed that the production of 3D masks for treating burns could stop because of Israeli restrictions on the entry of raw materials (Sama, October 30, 2026).

► Zaghloul Samhan, head of the Palestinian Authority's environmental quality commission, met with Inger Andersen, UN Environment Programme executive director, on the sidelines of the UN Biodiversity Conference COP17 in Armenia. They discussed reconstruction needs and the environmental damage caused in the Gaza Strip by the war, dealing with rubble, testing pollution levels and implementing the recommendations of the program's reports for 2024–2025. Samhan called on the Environment Programme to lead efforts to mobilize international funding to rehabilitate the damaged ecosystems, and work to ensure the Palestinian Authority had direct access to funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to advance environmental projects. They agreed to continue coordination and resource mobilization for the rehabilitation of the Gazan environment (Wafa, October 29, 2026).

UNRWA's Future

► Sources revealed that Christian Saunders, acting UNRWA commissioner general, had presented a plan to dismiss half of the 15,000 employees in the agency's areas of operation in the Gaza Strip in preparation for the subsequent transfer of all UNRWA's tasks to other UN agencies and to the Board of Peace. A senior UNRWA official said the current financial deficit, which Saunders used to justify his plan, was estimated at only $70 million, while in previous years UNRWA's deficit ranged between $150 million and $200 million and there had been no need for mass dismissals (*al-Quds al-Arabi*, November 1, 2026).

► The general conference of UNRWA staff unions said the agency's financial crisis threatened the continuation of its activity and the provision of services to millions of Palestinian refugees. However, the conference, which represents the staff unions in the countries of the region and the Palestinian territories, rejected dismissing employees or reducing services because of the financial deficit (Quds, November 1, 2026).



UNRWA employees in the Nuseirat refugee camp demonstrate to protest the dismissals (Sanad News Agency, November 2, 2026)

► Saunders' plan angered the Palestinians, who accused him of working to eliminate the agency.

- According to reports, Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas ordered urgent diplomatic measures to prevent the dismissals. The Palestinian Authority foreign ministry was in contact with the UN secretary general and senior UN officials, and contacts were also being held with donor countries to cover UNRWA's financial deficit (*al-Quds al-Arabi*, November 1, 2026).
- Bassem Na'im, head of the Hamas Arab and Islamic relations office, called the plan "very serious." He claimed that from the outset, the financial issue had been a tool used by the Israeli government, with American support, to dismantle UNRWA, which he claimed was important evidence, both politically and legally, of the "rights of the Palestinian refugees, especially the [so-called] right of return."[6] He added that the "dangerous plot" should not be allowed to succeed and it required the combined efforts of everyone, states, institutions and national and popular forces, to prevent it and "protect the issue of the Palestinian refugees inside and outside 'Palestine' " (Telegram channel of Bassem Na'im, November 1, 2026).
- A conference was held at the headquarters of the PLO Executive Committee in Ramallah, whose theme was "UNRWA's Future: Where is it going?" to discuss "existential challenges and ways to address them." Ahmed Abu Houli, head of the department of refugee affairs, called on Christian Saunders to resign if he could not fulfill his role, and noted opposition to dealing with UNRWA's financial crisis by dismissing employees or reducing services. He

[6] The "right of return" is the so-called "right" of all the Palestinian refugees (estimated at about 7 million) to return to their pre-1948 places of residence, that is, the demographic and physical destruction of the State of Israel.

added that a committee monitoring the situation was in continuous session and reviewed the contacts aimed at unifying positions and acting at the UN to stop the measures (Wafa, November 2, 2026; aljazeera.net, November 2, 2026).

Military Governance

► A security source said Hamas "resistance security" had arrested several "Israeli agents" who tried to infiltrate the Gaza Strip among groups of workers and Palestinians who had returned from Judea and Samaria (QudsN, October 29, 2026).

► According to reports from Palestinian sources, three vehicles belonging to armed militias affiliated with Israel entered the al-Karama displaced persons camp near Abu Hamid Square under cover of heavy gunfire. Two explosions and the detention of four people were also reported (Telegram channel of activist Hamza al-Masri, November 2, 2026).

► The Hamas ministry of the interior and national security in the Gaza Strip announced that three suspects had been identified in the murder of two members of "internal security" who were shot to death during an operation to arrest a wanted person on security grounds in Deir al-Balah on October 26, 2026. The three were declared wanted and the ministry called on them to surrender. The ministry also urged the public to provide any information which could assist in locating them and warned against cooperating with them (Telegram channel of the Hamas Palestinian police, November 2, 2026).

Civilian Governance

► Hamas oversight mechanisms in the Gaza Strip continued activity against hoarding, price gouging and marketing spoiled food. In Rafah, approximately four tons of potatoes and onions stored by merchants to create a shortage were seized and sold at the official price; in the central Gaza Strip, citations were issued to merchants who violated regulated prices, and quantities of sugar, onions and charcoal were confiscated; in Khan Yunis, 100 kilograms of frozen fish unfit for human consumption were destroyed (Telegram channel of the Hamas Palestinian police, October 28–30, 2026).

Palestinian Reactions to the Results of the Elections in Israel

► The prominent Palestinian terrorist organizations, including Hamas, Fatah, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, did not officially comment on the elections in Israel held on October 27, 2026. The Popular Resistance Committees said the elections were an internal Israeli matter and their results would not change Israel's policy

toward the Palestinians. According to the organization, despite their differences, the Israeli parties shared a commitment to continuing the "occupation and settlements," and therefore hopes should not be raised for changes in Israeli government policy (Safa, October 28, 2026).

► At a joint press conference held by Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas and the president of Cyprus, Abbas said he hoped the period following the formation of the new government in Israel would provide an opportunity to renew serious political dialogue which would lead to peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy (Wafa, October 29, 2026). Mahmoud Abbas' deputy, Hussein al-Sheikh, said the elections in Israel were an internal Israeli matter, but the Palestinians hoped there would be a partner who believed in peace. He said the key to regional security, peace and stability was implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy (X account of Hussein al-Sheikh, October 29, 2026).

► The Palestinian media had mixed reactions to the strengthening of the Arab parties in the Knesset. Some people viewed it as an opportunity to increase political influence, while others said they doubted the election results would make a significant change in Israel's policy toward the Palestinians (Filastin al-'Aan, October 29, 2026; al-Ghad, October 28, 2026).

Pro-Palestinian Anti-Israeli Activity Abroad

► Saif Abu Kashk, spokesperson for the Sumud Flotilla, claimed activists were carrying out tactics in the Mediterranean Sea to disrupt supply routes for military equipment to Israel, part of international "solidarity" efforts with the Palestinian people. He claimed some of the activists had been detained for several hours and boats used to block shipping routes had been confiscated (Quds, October 29, 2026).

► Bassem Na'im, a member of the Hamas political bureau, welcomed the international port workers' strike held on October 30, 2026, with the participation of more than 25 workers' organizations at 113 ports in 22 countries and regions. The strike, held to prevent the use of civilian ports to transfer weapons and military equipment to war zones, included protests against the war in the Gaza Strip and demands for improved working conditions. He described the strike as an "important development" in the effort to isolate Israel and called for the protest to be expanded to include official institutions and civilian organizations. Palestinian labor unions welcomed the initiative and called for increased international pressure on Israel through boycotts and sanctions (Reuters, October 30, 2026; Al Jazeera, October 30, 2026).



Strike posters (Telegram channel of the Sumud Flotilla, October 28, 2026)

Israel, Judea and Samaria

Counterterrorism

► Israeli security forces continued extensive counterterrorism activity against hundreds of targets in Judea and Samaria. They detained wanted persons and suspects of terrorist activity, including four terrorists who had previously belonged to a terrorist network operating in Jenin, Hamas and Fatah operatives, and suspects involved in dealing arms, manufacturing explosive devices and planning terrorist attacks. Weapons and ammunition were located and confiscated, including handguns, rifle parts and thousands of rounds of ammunition discovered in the village of Hableh, south of Qalqiliya. Fifteen memorials for terrorists were demolished. On November 2, 2026, Israeli security forces completed the military operation conducted in Hebron since the shooting attack at the Judea Junction on October 23, 2026, during which they demolished the homes of the two terrorists who carried out the attack (IDF spokesperson and Israel Police spokesperson's unit, October 28–November 3, 2026).



Weapons and tactical equipment discovered in the village of Hableh (Israel Police spokesperson's unit, October 30, 2026)

► The governor of Hebron reported that the Israeli activity in the city had caused the suspension of studies for approximately 262,000 students, the displacement of 537 families and daily economic losses estimated at 10–12 million shekels (Nablus News Telegram channel,

October 29, 2026). Residents returned to their homes after the forces withdrew (Quds Agency, November 2, 2026).

► Israeli security forces said six residents from the Jenin area had been detained in recent months on suspicion of involvement in a network which manufactured rockets and explosive devices. According to the statement, the investigation revealed that the suspects had manufactured a rocket body and explosive devices and carried out three test launches, receiving instructions and information from a party outside Israel for manufacturing explosives through a messaging application (Israel Police and Shin Bet spokespersons' units, November 3, 2026).

► A resident of Shefa-'Amr was detained on suspicion of security offenses and support for ISIS. He reportedly published ISIS content online, corresponded with supporters of the organization and attempted to persuade his friends to support it to advance its activity (Israel Police spokesperson's unit, November 2, 2026).

Settler Terrorism

► Palestinian sources reported an increase of activity by Jewish rioters in Judea and Samaria, including the establishment of new outposts, placement of caravans and the erection of tents, land clearing, damage to water infrastructure and attacks on Palestinian residents, particularly during the olive harvest. In the Sanur area, work continued to prepare land and open roads ahead of the establishment of the Sa-Nur East community, while other outposts were established in Jiftlik (north of Jericho), at the entrance to al-Bireh, in the south Hebron Hills and in the Bethlehem area; in the Hebron, Ramallah, Nablus and Salfit districts, attacks on farmers, theft of olive crops and livestock, uprooting of trees and prevention of access to agricultural land were reported. According to reports, two Palestinians were wounded in an attack by Jewish rioters east of Salfit, four were wounded in Tel Rumeida in Hebron and a resident was wounded in the village of Duma. In al-Khader, an olive crop and harvesting equipment were stolen, in Marah Rabah farmers were forced to leave their land at gunpoint, in al-Mughayyir gunfire at farmers was reported, in Deir Dibwan the theft of an olive crop was reported, in Yasuf an attack on residents' homes was reported, and rioters took control of approximately 40 dunams in al-Duyuk al-Tahta, which were converted into a settlement outpost. The wall and settlement resistance commission claimed 22 attacks by Jewish rioters and IDF forces against olive harvesters and their land had been documented in five districts in Judea and Samaria (Wafa, October 31, 2026; Safa Agency Telegram channel, October 30, 2026).

► The Palestinian Authority ministry of agriculture said Jewish settler damage to the agricultural sector during the week of October 23–29, 2026, totaled approximately $1.196 million. The Hebron district sustained the highest losses, approximately $301,000. Uprooting and breaking olive trees caused the greatest financial damage, approximately $587,000 (Facebook page of the Palestinian Authority ministry of agriculture, October 31, 2026).

The Issue of the Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails

► The partner of Hamas prisoner Hassan Salameh,[7] who is incarcerated in an Israeli prison, claimed that after national security minister Itamar Ben Gvir visited Salameh's cell, it was "raided" by prison guards. She claimed Salameh was shot nine times, although she did not know whether rubber bullets or tear gas projectiles were used (Quds Agency, November 2, 2026). Hamas figure Abd al-Rahman Shadeed claimed Salameh's life was in danger and claimed he had been seriously wounded on the day Ben Gvir "stormed " his cell. Shadeed accused Israel of attempting to harm Salameh physically and psychologically and held it responsible for his safety and the lives of all the Palestinian prisoners. He called on UN agencies, human rights organizations and medical groups to intervene and ensure medical treatment for Salameh and the other prisoners, and to increase public activity and efforts on behalf of the prisoners in Israeli prisons (Hamas Telegram channel, November 2, 2026).

The Palestinian Authority (PA)

International Activity

► PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas visited Cyprus where he met with Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides. They discussed strengthening bilateral relations, developments in "Palestine" and the region and efforts to advance peace. Mahmoud Abbas thanked Cyprus for supporting Palestinian rights and its humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Strip, and reviewed the difficult situation in the Gaza Strip and the "escalation in the West Bank," including the expansion of settlements, annexation attempts and settler violence. He called for accelerating the implementation of the second phase of the American plan and complained about the economic crisis caused, he claimed, by the withholding of Palestinian tax revenues, which had [allegedly] accumulated to approximately $7 billion. He also briefed the Cypriot president on the reforms being advanced by the Palestinian government and on its intention to hold presidential and Legislative Council elections during 2027, with willingness to bring them

[7] Salameh, a senior figure in Hamas' military wing, has been serving 46 cumulative life sentences since 1997 for his responsibility for a series of terrorist attacks in Israel in 1996.

forward if the obstacles to holding them were removed. He also met with the Orthodox Archbishop of Cyprus, Georgios III, and noted the importance of preserving the Christian presence in "Palestine," protecting the holy sites of Islam and Christianity and maintaining freedom of worship and access to them. He condemned Israeli measures against the churches and restrictions on freedom of worship. Mahmoud Abbas also met with the ambassadors of Arab countries in Cyprus and briefed them on the situation in "Palestine" and regional developments (Wafa, October 29–30, 2026).





Right: Mahmoud Abbas with the president of Cyprus. Left: Mahmoud Abbas with the archbishop (Wafa, October 29–30, 2026)