Spotlight on Terrorism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
November 3 – 10, 2026

Trending

► **Hamas revived its "Gaza is drowning" narrative following the heavy rains in the Gaza Strip.**

Overview[1]

► Heavy rains and winds flooded displaced persons' camps throughout the Gaza Strip, overturned and submerged tents and caused buildings to collapse. Hamas blamed the "Zionist enemy" and the Board of Peace, while the Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories accused Hamas of refusing to disarm, thereby undermining the living conditions of the residents of the Gaza Strip.

► Hamas called on the Board of Peace and the Arab and Muslim countries to take action against Israeli "violations" in the Gaza Strip.

► Israeli security forces continued extensive counterterrorism operations in Judea and Samaria and detained terrorist cells preparing to attack.

► The Palestinian Authority is mobilizing international support against Israeli policy.

► Several Palestinians were arrested on suspicion of selling land to Jews following the establishment of a new outpost near Jericho.

The Fighting in the Gaza Strip

► Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem accused Israel of continuing to attack displaced persons' tents and kill civilians in the Gaza Strip despite the ceasefire agreement. Qassem called on the Board of Peace and its representative Nikolay Mladenov to stop Israeli activity and demanded that the Arab and Islamic countries participating in the Board prevent Israel from exploiting their participation as cover for its continued operations (Hamas Telegram channel, November 3, 2026).

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

Negotiations for the Second Phase of the Ceasefire Agreement

► Nikolay Mladenov, representative of the Board of Peace for the Gaza Strip, and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who serves as a senior Board representative, visited Israel and met with Israeli leaders in an effort to renew progress on the American plan for the Gaza Strip (Israeli media, November 3–5, 2026). Hamas said the movement was waiting for the mediators' response following Blair's meetings in Israel. Hamas said it was skeptical about the United States' increasing pressure on Israel following the midterm election results, claiming that past experience showed the United States had no genuine intention of exerting pressure on Israel and as a result, implementation of the agreement was progressing slowly (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, November 7, 2026).

► Turkish President Erdoğan said the ceasefire agreement in the Gaza Strip, which Turkey had participated in efforts to achieve, was not being implemented on the ground. He claimed the [alleged] "continued Israeli violations" undermined prospects for peace and could ignite further regional confrontations. He criticized the inability of international institutions to enforce commitments and protect regional stability (Palestinian Information Center, November 6, 2026).

The Gaza Strip

Stormy Weather in the Gaza Strip

► Following the winter storm which struck the Gaza Strip with heavy rains and strong winds on November 7, 2026, buildings and parts of buildings were reported to have collapsed (journalist Isma'il Abu Omar's Telegram channel, November 7, 2026). Palestinian sources reported five deaths following the collapse of sand dunes onto displaced persons' tents. Three people were injured in the al-Nuseirat refugee camp, when a wall collapsed onto a tent (Al Jazeera "Palestine," November 9, 2026). The Gaza municipality reported that approximately 60 mm of rain had fallen during the storm, about 15% of the annual average, flooding or damaging 70,000 tents (Shehab News Agency, November 8, 2026). Displaced persons in the al-Mawasi area of Rafah reported rainwater entering tents, flooding due to the lack of drainage and the collapse of shelters because of the winds. They said the shortage of suitable tents and building materials, alongside the high prices of iron and sheeting, made it difficult to prepare for winter. Gazans called on humanitarian organizations to provide safe shelters and caravans for

temporary housing and to allow them to return to their places of residence until they were rehabilitated (Wafa, November 7, 2026).



Winter in the Gaza Strip (Wafa, November 7, 2026)

► Hamas civil defense announced the deployment of 30 field teams "working round the clock" to deal with flooding and dangerous buildings. The teams had responded to more than 1,500 distress calls (journalist Isma'il Abu Omar's Telegram channel, November 7, 2026). Reportedly, teams from the ministry of public works and housing went to camps flooded by heavy rains to deal with the damage with the available resources. They reinforced the affected camps, erected embankments around them, repaired the external access roads and internal paths and took measures to prevent water from entering (Facebook page of the ministry of public works and housing in the Gaza Strip, November 7, 2026).

► The Qatari committee for the reconstruction of Gaza carried out emergency operations to deal with the effects of the stormy weather. Engineering equipment and bulldozers were deployed in several displaced persons' camps following requests from the affected camps. Operations on the first day covered more than 19 camps and several main streets, and focused on constructing embankments and opening rainwater drainage channels to prevent water from flowing toward the tents (website of the Qatari committee for the reconstruction of Gaza, November 7, 2026).

► Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem said the "Zionist enemy" was responsible for the situation, as were the relevant international bodies, including the Board of Peace and its representative Nikolay Mladenov, for failing to fulfill its role in ensuring the entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip. In a different statement, Qassem said the silence of the Board of Peace regarding the situation in the Gaza Strip was "complicity in the crime" and provided backing for the "Zionist crimes" (Hazem Qassem's Telegram channel, November 7, 2026). Hamas called on the Board of Peace to halt the deterioration of conditions in the Gaza Strip and on the international community and Arab-Muslim countries to break the "blockade,"

ensure the entry of basic necessities, and end their silence and inaction in the face of the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza (Hamas Telegram channel, November 8, 2026).



Revival of the "Gaza is drowning" narrative (Facebook page of Alaa al-Laqta, Hamas' in-house cartoonist, November 8, 2026)

► In response to Hamas' claims, the Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) said the humanitarian situation was being monitored and assessments were being conducted with the UN and international aid organizations to meet residents' needs. It was noted that in preparation for winter, more than 91,000 tents and 8,200 trucks carrying plastic sheeting, blankets, winter clothing and other equipment had entered the Strip. In addition, 12 pumping trucks, thousands of doses of vaccines, fuel and engine oil had been brought in to operate pumping facilities and humanitarian installations. The COGAT added that Hamas' refusal to disarm and its continued use of civilian facilities for military purposes were preventing improvements in the Gazans' living conditions (COGAT X account, November 8, 2026).

► The Board of Peace said the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip would worsen following floods which inundated tens of thousands of tents and makeshift shelters, leaving displaced families exposed. The Board noted that it had previously warned of the anticipated dangers and called on Israel to allow the entry of shelter, sanitation, drainage and water infrastructure equipment, in accordance with its commitments under the humanitarian protocol of the ceasefire agreement. According to the Board, the measures taken by Israel were insufficient, and delays in the entry of aid and the implementation of commitments had exacerbated the crisis and significantly delayed the beginning of Hamas' disarmament and the transfer of governing authority to the national committee for the administration of Gaza (NCAG). The Board called on Hamas to fulfill its commitments under the American plan, including disarmament and the transfer of governing authority, and on international actors to mobilize resources to address winter needs. The Board warned that further delays would

endanger both the population and the prospects for sustainable peace, adding that parties failing to meet their commitments would bear direct responsibility for the consequences (Board of Peace X account, November 9, 2026).

The Civilian Situation in the Gaza Strip

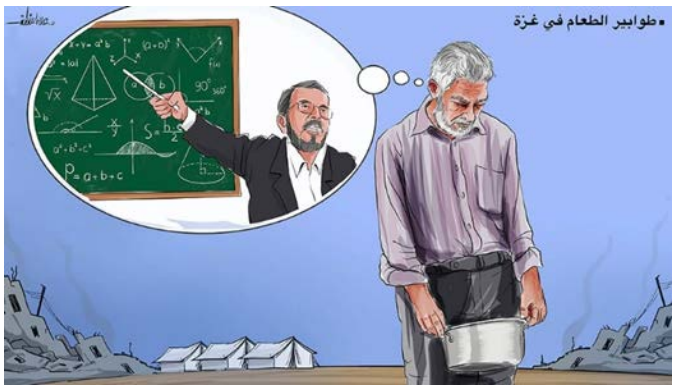
► UNRWA announced that approximately 1.98 million people in the Gaza Strip, 94% of the total population, needed shelter and non-food assistance, and 58% faced "critical or catastrophic" shelter shortages. A winter-needs assessment conducted at 113 displaced persons' sites found that 18 emergency shelters were unsafe, four at very high risk of collapse, six at high risk and eight at moderate risk. Reportedly, there were repeated disruptions in the supply of clean, safe water for 84% of Gazans and shortages of basic hygiene products in 89% of households (Wafa, November 6, 2026).

► A significant increase in cases of meningitis among children in the Gaza Strip was reported, blamed on harsh living conditions, overcrowding in displaced persons' tents, environmental pollution and immune systems weakened by malnutrition. Over the past two months, al-Rantisi Children's Hospital in Gaza City reported 145 cases. According to figures from the ministry of health in Gaza, there were 1,140 cases of viral meningitis, 295 cases of bacterial meningitis and 11 deaths from the disease since the beginning of the year (*al-Araby al-Jadeed*, November 5, 2026).

► A source in the Gaza Strip reported 260 cases of congenital malformations among newborns during the first nine months of 2026, compared with 184 cases in the 12 months of 2022 and 322 cases in 2025. He claimed the data did not make it possible to determine the proportion of malformations among all births or identify their causes and called for an independent international scientific investigation to examine the possible effects of maternal malnutrition, exposure to pollutants and disruptions in medical monitoring during pregnancy (Wafa, November 7, 2026).

► Willy Nyeko, the World Food Programme's (WFP) coordinator of emergency operations in the Gaza Strip, said funding shortages forced the agency to reduce its humanitarian assistance in Gaza. He said the number of monthly food aid recipients had been reduced from 1.6 million to 1.1 million, with reductions in the quantities of food and the frequency of distribution, so that some families received assistance once every three months instead of every month. The number of cooked meals provided by the agency in areas with limited access, mainly along the

Yellow Line, had been reduced from 250,000 to 150,000 meals a day, so that some families received one meal every two days instead of daily (aljazeera.net, November 7, 2026).



Gazans line up to receive food, including a math teacher (X account of Alaa al-Laqta, Hamas' in-house cartoonist, November 6, 2026)

Military Governance

► The Rada Force of Hamas "security" announced it was monitoring the abduction of several residents in the al-Shuja'iya neighborhood in eastern Gaza City by operatives of the "gang" headed by Rami Hallas (Rada Force Telegram channel, November 5, 2026). Reportedly, "gang" operatives abducted dozens of residents from a displaced persons' camp at the al-Shuja'iya neighborhood junction, under Israeli air and artillery cover, and released all of them after questioning except one, who remained in the custody of IDF forces. According to claims, the IDF ordered residents to evacuate the camp and move westward (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, November 6, 2026).

► Three security sources said "security" in the Strip had foiled four plots allegedly planned by militias collaborating with Israel between April and October 2026. According to the report, militia operatives underwent training under the direct supervision of Israeli officers, and trained for an attack on Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, scheduled for late September 2026 and planned by Ghassan al-Dahini, Shawqi Abu Nasira and Rami Hallas (*al-Araby al-Jadeed*, November 8, 2026).

► The general command of special forces in the Popular Army in the northern Gaza Strip, commanded by Ashraf al-Mansi, announced the successful conclusion of the first phase of the rapid military operation along the Gazan coastline. According to the statement, special force operatives had established full military and security control over the coastal strip, severed all maritime supply lines and launched an operation to clear all remaining pockets and northern areas of Hamas operatives (Aljayshalshaabi Facebook page, November 6, 2026).

Civilian Governance

► The supply-investigations department of the Rafah police, in cooperation with teams from the ministry of national economy, seized 1,312 kg of vegetables which had been hoarded to create artificial shortages, control prices and sell them above the official rate. Eight citations were issued to merchants who violated the regulations (Hamas police Telegram channel in the Gaza Strip, November 5, 2026).

► Hamas police in the Gaza district provided security for the mass wedding event *Thawb al-Farah 3* (Garment of Joy 3), a mass wedding held as part of the United Arab Emirates' Gallant Knight operation for 500 couples. Police forces secured the wedding procession, which departed from the central Gaza Strip and traveled along al-Rashid Street toward the event venue at the Maritime Club in southwestern Gaza City (Hamas police Telegram channel, November 5, 2026).

Israel, Judea and Samaria

Counterterrorism

► Israeli security forces continued extensive counterterrorism and preventive operations in Judea and Samaria. They detained three terrorists who planned attacks and terrorist activities against Israeli civilians and IDF forces in the villages of al-Am'ari, al-Ram and al-Bireh; in the village of Araba, ten terrorists who were establishing a terrorist network to attack Israeli civilians in northern Samaria were detained; in the Nur Shams refugee camp, an explosive device planted to target security forces was destroyed, and in the Shuafat refugee camp, six kg of material suspected of being gunpowder and used to manufacture explosive devices, were seized, along with a pipe adapted for assembling an explosive device, Border Police and IDF uniforms and combat equipment; in Zababda, a Palestinian carrying a Molotov cocktail was shot, and in the village of Burqa, the forces shot at Palestinians planning to throw rocks at Israeli vehicles (IDF spokesperson and Israel Police spokesperson's unit, November 3–10, 2026). Palestinian sources reported that a 14-year-old boy was killed by the gunfire in Burqa (Al Jazeera "Palestine," November 10, 2026).

► Hamas condemned the wave of detentions carried out by Israeli security forces, mainly in Hebron, Nablus and Tulkarm, claiming that dozens of Palestinians had been detained. The movement represented the detentions as Israeli policy whose objective was to exert pressure on the population and encourage "forced migration," and called for international intervention

and the mobilization of public and legal activity on behalf of the prisoners (Hamas Telegram channel, November 4, 2026).

Settler Terrorism

► Reports continued of attacks by Jewish settlers against Palestinians and their property at various locations in Judea and Samaria. Two vehicles were reportedly set on fire in the village of Majdal Bani Fadil, south of Nablus, students were prevented from passing through Masafer Yatta in the southern Hebron Hills, greenhouses were damaged in the northern Jordan Valley and farmers were prevented from accessing their land in Beit Anan. It was also reported that a Palestinian home was attacked in Aqraba, near Nablus, a vegetable stand was damaged in the northern Jordan Valley, rioters entered farmland in Umm Safa and olive trees were vandalized in Surif, in the Hebron area. The Palestinian commission for combating the wall and settlements reported 13 incidents involving attacks on farmers and their land within 12 hours in eight districts, followed by 20 more incidents within 12 hours in six districts, including an attack on farmers and international volunteers in Kafr Naama, west of Ramallah, after which IDF forces detained 17 people, including 12 foreign activists, two foreign journalists and three Palestinians (Palestinian Information Center, November 3–6, 2026).

The Palestinian Authority (PA)

International Activity

► The PA foreign ministry welcomed a joint statement by the African Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Arab League calling for political, legal and economic action against Israeli policy in the Palestinian territories. The statement included a demand for an end to the "occupation," the dismantling of settlements, measures against companies involved in settlement activity and the prosecution of those responsible for violence against Palestinians. The organizations called on countries not to move their embassies to Jerusalem and on countries which had announced their intention to do so to reverse their decisions. They also called for broad recognition of a Palestinian state and its admission to the UN as a full member state. Regarding the Gaza Strip, they demanded implementation of the second phase of the American peace plan, the opening of the crossings and the reconstruction of the Strip (Wafa, November 5, 2026).

► The PA presidential committee for church affairs issued an appeal to churches around the world to assist residents of the Gaza Strip and protect churches and places of worship in view of the destruction and the worsening humanitarian situation following the rains and storms. It

was also reported that rainwater had entered the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Porphyrius in Gaza City. The committee said Christian communities in the Strip shared the hardships of war and displacement with the rest of the Palestinian population and called on churches worldwide to mobilize humanitarian assistance, including food, water, medicines, medical equipment and shelter and heating supplies, and to assist in the rehabilitation of damaged churches and religious sites (Wafa, November 7, 2026).

► A delegation from the committee for monitoring UNRWA affairs, affiliated with the PLO executive committee, met with the agency's commissioner general, Christian Saunders, and other officials and said they opposed decisions made by UNRWA's management to dismiss employees and reduce its workforce and the services provided to Palestinian refugees. Delegation members demanded the decisions be revoked and said the financial crisis should not be used to change the agency's structure, undermine its mandate or transfer its powers to other bodies. They said they were prepared to help mobilize political and financial support and expand the number of donor countries, while noting the need to ensure stable, sustainable funding. Saunders said the agency faced ongoing financial difficulties requiring a balance between its revenues and obligations, including salary payments and operating expenses, adding that he was continuing contacts to raise funding from donor countries, including Kuwait, and was planning visits to Saudi Arabia and Sweden (Wafa, November 8, 2026).

New Jewish Outpost Established near Jericho

► Palestinian condemnations followed the revelation that Jewish families had occupied eight houses secretly purchased in Ein al-Duyuk al-Tahta, a suburb of Jericho in Area C, adjacent to the border with Area A.

- Rawhi Fattouh, chairman of the Palestinian National Council, called the establishment of the outpost "terrorism under the auspices of the Israeli government," which he accused of pushing the region and the world toward further conflicts and violence by encouraging colonization, land confiscation and the forced displacement of Palestinians in defiance of signed international agreements. He said Jericho was not a "lawless area" and attempts to impose settlements there would not grant Israel any rights or change the fact that it was Palestinian land. He called for international measures and practical deterrent steps to prosecute those responsible and stop "colonial piracy" before it created facts on the ground that would be difficult to contain (Wafa, November 5, 2026).

- Senior Hamas figure Abd al-Hakim Hanini warned of a takeover by Jewish settlers, claiming the move was intended to deepen the Israeli presence within Palestinian urban centers in Judea and Samaria. He said such measures would not displace Palestinians or defuel their determination to remain on their land. He called on the residents of Jericho and the areas targeted by Jewish settlement plans to strengthen steadfastness and confrontation, not leave the areas "easy prey for settler gangs" and employ various means of "resistance"[2] to hinder the "settlement enterprise" (Hamas Telegram channel in Judea and Samaria, November 5, 2026).
- The Palestinian land authority said that of the two plots of land on which the buildings stood, one was state-owned and the other was privately owned, with ownership registered before 1967. The authority rejected claims that the land had been sold or that ownership transfer documents and powers of attorney existed, and said it had not issued any official documents concerning the plots and the matter had been referred for investigation by the competent security and civilian authorities. It also said that any unauthorized activity on state land was trespassing and actions carried out under occupation had no legal validity (land authority Facebook page, November 5, 2026). The chairman of the land authority issued a decision freezing all land registration procedures in PA territories involving Arabs who were Israeli citizens and residents of East Jerusalem, pending the publication of new instructions (al-Fajr TV Instagram account, November 6, 2026). It was called a "temporary precautionary measure" whose objective was to tighten supervision of ownership and registration procedures, protect Palestinian land and private property and prevent forgery and the exploitation of registration procedures by parties linked to Israel (land authority Facebook page, November 6, 2026).

[2] Violence and terrorist attacks.



The circular issued by the chairman of the land authority (al-Fajr TV Instagram account, November 6, 2026)

- Palestinian security apparatus spokesperson Liwa Anwar Rajab said more than ten suspects, some of them Israeli citizens or residents of the Jerusalem district, had been arrested as part of the investigation into the purchase of the buildings (Ma'an, November 7, 2026; Raya Radio website, November 8, 2026). The PA governor of the Jericho and Jordan Valley district, Hussein Hamayel, said the matter was being monitored directly at the highest levels. He noted that any infringement of Palestinian land and property or assistance in taking control of them was a serious national-social issue and every suspicion or violation would be examined in accordance with legal procedures, while ensuring that no citizen would suffer injustice and no accusations would be made without evidence and official investigative findings (Wafa, November 8, 2026).