Spotlight on Terrorism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
November 10 – 17, 2026

Trending

► Hamas' military wing continues to use hospitals in the Gaza Strip for terrorist activity.

► Hamas in the Gaza Strip is promoting a narrative of "distress and damage" caused by the weather.

► Jewish settler attacks on Palestinian olive harvesters continue in Judea and Samaria.

Overview[1]

► This past week the IDF continued targeting Hamas commanders and terrorist operatives throughout the Gaza Strip, including the commander of the Rafah Brigade. The targeted killing attempt of the commander of Hamas' Khan Younis Brigade failed; he was operating with other terrorists inside Nasser Hospital.

► The Hamas-affiliated umbrella organization of clans and tribes in the Gaza Strip called to end the Board of Peace and the Palestinian committee for the administration of the Strip, claiming their actions did not benefit the Gazans.

► After Hamas accused Israel of preventing the entry of essential winter aid into the Gaza Strip, a British journalistic investigation revealed that Hamas was deliberately thwarting efforts to improve living conditions in the displaced persons camps in the Gaza Strip to reinforce its "distress" narrative.

► Hamas continues implementing its "security" and civilian governance, although reportedly its direct control has been reduced to 17%-20% of the territory of the Strip.

► The president of the Turkish IHH said they were planning to send a large flotilla to the Gaza Strip in the spring of 2027 as part of their efforts to "liberate the world from Zionism."

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

► Three Israelis were injured in a vehicular ramming and assault near a new Jewish outpost on the outskirts of Jericho. Israeli security forces detained dozens of wanted persons in targeted counterterrorism operations in Judea and Samaria.

The Fighting in the Gaza Strip

The IDF

► This past week, IDF forces continued targeting operatives from Hamas' military wing who were promoting terrorist activity and rehabilitating the military wing, including operatives involved in the atrocities of the October 7, 2023, invasion and massacre. The forces destroyed weapons depots and other terrorist assets and facilities in the Yellow Line and other regions of the Strip. The most prominent terrorist killed was Samir Mahmoud Hassan Abu Younis, who had served as commander of the Rafah Brigade in Hamas' military- wing for only about two months (IDF spokesperson and Israel Security Agency (ISA) spokesperson's unit, November 10-17, 2026). Hamas confirmed that Abu Younis had been an important commander who had participated in planning and supervising the October 7, 2023, terrorist invasion and massacre (al-Qassam Brigades Telegram channel, November 15, 2026).

Hamas' Exploitation of Hospitals[2]

► On November 12, 2026, an attempt was made to eliminate Muhammad Abu Isma'il, the commander of Hamas' Khan Younis Brigade, who according to the IDF and the Israel Security Agency (ISA) was with other military wing commanders on the second floor of a building at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, which was being used as a Hamas military headquarters. The IDF did not comment on Abu Isma'il's fate but reported that several terrorists had been killed in the attack, including Murad Tawfiq Mahmoud Abu Tarifa, a team leader in the engineering department of the combat and administrative support company, and Khaled Osama Abu Anza,

[2] Using civilian infrastructure, including schools and hospitals, for terrorist purposes is characteristic of the terrorist organizations in the Strip, particularly Hamas. The organizations exploit such incidents for propaganda and incitement, exaggerate the number of casualties, allege that large numbers of civilians were harmed and, in most cases, conceal the identities of the terrorists who were attacked. In all cases, the IDF takes measures before the attacks to reduce the likelihood of harm to civilians, including the use of precision munitions, aerial surveillance and additional intelligence information. See the November 2023 ITIC (Amit Institute after May 2026) report, **Hamas use of the civilian population as human shields and Gaza's civilian facilities for terrorism**; the December 2023 report, **Hamas Exploitation of Hospitals for Military Purposes Shifa Hospital as a test case**; the January 2024 report, **Evidence of the terrorist organizations' use of civilian facilities in the Gaza Strip**; and the August 2024 report, **The terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip exploit the civilian infrastructure for terrorist activities**.

who headed the communications section in the operations department of Hamas' intelligence headquarters. The IDF and ISA noted that Hamas used the hospital compound as a military headquarters, stored weapons, operated command and control rooms, conducted interrogations and torture and used observation posts and hiding places for operatives, and during the war held dozens of Israeli and foreign hostages in the hospital (IDF and ISA spokespersons, November 12 and 16, 2026).



Hamas activity in hospitals in the Strip (IDF spokesperson, November 12, 2026)

► A Hamas source said Abu Isma'il had been wounded in the attack, and three Hamas sources added that Khaled Abu Anza, who was killed in the attack, had been Hamas' senior security official in the southern Gaza Strip and had managed all security matters, including those of the al-Qassam Brigades and the internal security apparatus (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, November 12, 2026). The Hamas government media information office reported that the attack had killed six and injured more than 25, and damaged the main building, which housed the intensive care unit and operating rooms (Hamas government media information office Telegram channel, November 12, 2026).

► Hamas rejected the IDF's claims it was using the hospital for military and "security"[3] activity and said Israel was trying to justify an attack on a civilian medical facility protected by the international laws of war. The movement called on the international community to act against

[3] Terrorist.

Israel and demanded that foreign journalists be allowed to enter the Strip to provide independent coverage (Hamas Telegram channel, November 12, 2026).



Israel attacks Nasser Hospital and the world sleeps (Facebook page of Alaa al-Laqta, the Hamas in-house cartoonist, November 12, 2026)

► The Board of Peace said the loss of life in the attack showed the need to implement the American plan without delay, or there would be more situations where Hamas claimed deliberate Israeli attacks on hospitals, Israel claimed Hamas exploits civilian facilities for terrorist operations and innocent Gazans paid the price. The Board condemned the deaths of civilians and strongly condemned Hamas' continued exploitation of hospitals and essential civilian infrastructure for military purposes (Board of Peace X account, November 12, 2026).

► Hamas responded that accepting the claims regarding the use of hospitals for military purposes was an attempt to make the victim responsible, while undermining objectivity and justice (Hamas Telegram channel, November 12, 2026). Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem claimed the statement was complete acceptance of the Israeli narrative. He said the Board of Peace's continued support for the Israeli position encouraged Israel to repeat its actions and provided it with backing to continue its war against the Gaza Strip. He called on the Board of Peace to adhere to the agreement reached with representative Nikolay Mladenov, and not to be drawn into accepting the Israeli position (Hazem Qassem's Telegram channel, November 12, 2026).

Implementing the Second Phase of the Ceasefire Agreement

► The Hamas-affiliated national association of Palestinian tribes, clans and families in the Gaza Strip demanded an end to the Board of Peace, claiming it had failed "to end the suffering" of the Palestinians or provide them with protection. It called on the UN and the Security Council to intervene and fulfill their responsibilities toward the Gaza Strip. It also criticized the

performance of the Palestinian national committee for the administration of Gaza and demanded it do its job or resign, in view of the continued difficult humanitarian conditions facing the displaced persons in the Strip. The association called on the Palestinian "factions and forces"[4] to stop waiting and hesitating, and examine national "alternatives" which would lead to the establishment of a "national salvation government" which would assume responsibility and unite efforts to end the Palestinians' suffering and protect them (Filastin Online, November 10, 2026).

► The heads of the intelligence services of Egypt, Turkey and Qatar met in Cairo to discuss the latest developments in the Gaza Strip. They agreed that the first phase of the ceasefire agreement had to be completed and its provisions implemented, particularly the cessation of attacks in the Gaza Strip and an increase in humanitarian aid to cope with the severe weather conditions. They called for an immediate end to Israel's [alleged] "ongoing violations" and for immediate, concrete measures to strengthen efforts and contribute to achieving sustainable peace in the Strip (Egyptian News Agency, November 13, 2026).

► The Board of Peace reported that "productive discussions" had been held by officials from 17 countries committed to building the Gaza civil police under the leadership of the national committee for the administration of the Strip. A police advisory workshop, held in cooperation with the international stabilization force and the International Assistance Center for Gaza (whose multinational headquarters are in Kiryat Gat, Israel), dealt with the structure of the forces, its roles, responsibilities and capacity (Board of Peace X account, November 13, 2026).





The civil police workshop in the Strip (Board of Peace X account, November 13, 2026)

[4] Terrorist organizations and operatives.

The Gaza Strip

The Rains in Gaza

► The Hamas winter emergency committee in Gaza published a damage assessment stating that the storm on November 7-8, 2026 affected 18,860 displaced families. The committee claimed Israel's statements regarding coordination and preparations for winter assistance were "misleading international public opinion." According to the committee, Israel prevented rain-resistant tents, insulation materials, pumps for draining rainwater and equipment for rescue teams and local authorities from entering the Strip. The committee warned that hundreds of thousands of displaced persons were being forced to remain in dilapidated tents and claimed the "siege" and control of the crossings were being used to pressure the population. The committee called on the international community and the UN to force Israel to open the crossings unconditionally and allow the entry of shelter equipment, construction materials and fuel to operate municipal services (Hamas government media information office Telegram channel, November 11, 2026).

► The UN Humanitarian Country Team said extensive damage and loss of life could have been prevented. According to the team, a winter preparedness plan for 2026-2027 had been formulated months earlier with the provision of shelters, heating equipment, medicines, drainage pumps, fuel and equipment for infrastructure rehabilitation, but its implementation was being delayed, it claimed, by a lack of funding and Israeli restrictions on the entry of equipment and access to safer areas in the Strip. The team claimed that more than 150,000 tents purchased by aid organizations and various countries were awaiting entry outside the Strip, most of them in El Arish, Egypt. The team said Israel, as the "occupying power," was responsible for ensuring the needs of the population were met and called on Israel to remove the restrictions, allow essential equipment to enter daily in sufficient quantities through all available crossings, permit the activities of all aid organizations, rehabilitate water and sewage networks and allow significant commercial activity (OCHA, November 13, 2026).

► An investigation revealed that Hamas was preventing efforts to improve living conditions in the displaced persons camps in the Gaza Strip by confiscating tents intended for distribution to displaced persons and restricting the activities of public employees and engineers working to improve the tents' resistance to rain and flooding. According to the investigation, members of Hamas' internal "security force" summoned workers who had participated in a joint project with the United Nations Development Programme and required them to promise, in writing,

not to enter or carry out work in the camps. Palestinian officials claimed Hamas wanted to take control of tent distribution to profit from it and strengthen its control over the Strip, as well as to prevent the Palestinian Authority, under whose auspices the workers had operated, from expanding its influence in Gaza (*The Telegraph*, November 10, 2026).

The Civilian Situation in the Gaza Strip

► Abd al-Nasser al-Ajrami, chairman of the bakery owners' association, said there was a deficit of more than 25% in the total quantities of flour available in the Strip, both commercially imported flour and flour supplied through international aid programs. He said Gaza required 450 tons of flour per day, while the quantities currently available were insufficient. The World Food Programme had reduced the quantities of subsidized flour by 50% and was currently distributing between 125 and 135 tons of flour to bakeries every day, compared with more than 260 tons previously, in addition to 6,000 tons of flour distributed to Gazans daily in food packages before October 2023. Regarding commercial imports, he noted that the quantities entering the Gaza Strip were insufficient to create a strategic reserve for bakeries and when the crossings were closed, the average quantity entering was even lower (*al-Araby al-Jadeed*, November 11, 2026).

► Reportedly, in recent weeks the demand for apartments increased among displaced persons who had lost their homes, after they lost hope that their homes would be rebuilt in the coming years, and they were facing a severe shortage of available apartments and exorbitant prices which prevented many of them from purchasing apartments. A real estate agent said the demand for apartments had more than doubled over the past four weeks, while supply had declined drastically, leading to a significant increase in price. He attributed the increased demand to residents' frustration over the prospects of rebuilding their homes, as well as the difficulties in displaced persons camps or rented apartments, where the average monthly rent in working-class areas exceeded 2,000 shekels. According to a report, only 20% of the houses and apartments in the Strip had survived the war, most of them in Deir al-Balah, the refugee camps in the central Strip, the western Gaza City area and the al-Shati refugee camp (al-Ayyam, November 13, 2026).

► Muhammad Abu Salmiya, director of al-Shifa Medical Center in Gaza City, said that three years after IDF forces entered the compound, the center had restored 60% of its previous services, and had resumed various specialized treatments, but with a much smaller capacity than before the war. He said the main building, which housed the central emergency medicine

department and the internal medicine departments, was still out of service, as was the specialized surgery building. He also complained of a shortage of personnel and said the medical center's management was facing a funding crisis for operations and employee salaries (aljazeera.net, November 15, 2026).

Military Governance

► Sources reported that the IDF controlled 67% of the Gaza Strip, mainly in areas east of Salah al-Din Street, including most of the northern Strip, the eastern neighborhoods of Gaza City, areas in the central Strip, the city of Rafah and large parts of Khan Younis. Hamas, on the other hand, continued to demonstrate a presence in areas west of Salah al-Din Street, but one of the sources noted that its direct control had become fragile and had shrunk to 17%-20% of the Strip. The central Strip was considered a Hamas stronghold, while its control in Gaza City was unstable because of Israeli attacks on its leadership and institutions, and in Khan Younis it faced difficulties, particularly in the al-Mawasi area. In addition, Israel's remote fire control, using surveillance equipment and UAVs, restricted the movement of Hamas' "security forces" and effectively expanded the areas under Israel's indirect security control. According to the report, Hamas was attempting to maintain its presence through humanitarian initiatives and ambushing armed groups, but was having difficulty enforcing its authority even over local families and clans. Violent resistance to arrests was reported, including shooting at police officers and seizing weapons, and in one incident two police officers were killed in Deir al-Balah during an attempted arrest (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, November 11, 2026).

► The Rada Force, which is part of "resistance security" in the Strip, announced it had prevented operatives from one of the "collaborationist gangs" from infiltrating and abducting a "resistance operative"[5] east of the al-Bureij refugee camp after they attempted to cross the Yellow Line. According to the force's statement, the gang operated under cover of IDF gunfire and aerial support, and Rada operatives repelled its advance with the assistance of local residents. It was also reported that the "resistance operative" was killed by IDF sniper fire (Rada Force Telegram channel, November 12, 2026). Meanwhile, the military wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) announced that its fighters had identified and repelled the advance of a force belonging to the "collaborationist militias" east of the al-Bureij camp (Jerusalem Brigades in Judea and Samaria Telegram channel, November 12, 2026). Reportedly, operatives from

[5] Terrorist operative.

Shawqi Abu Nasira's militia, the Free Homeland Forces, had infiltrated the al-Bureij refugee camp and confronted an operative of Hamas' military wing, who was killed after opening fire and throwing grenades at members of the gang (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, November 14, 2026).

► The PIJ's military wing announced that its operatives had exchanged fire at close range with a force from a militia "collaborating with Israel" after its advance had been detected in the eastern parts of the al-Tuffah and al-Shuja'iya neighborhoods of Gaza City. According to claims, several members of the force were killed and wounded during the confrontation and IDF forces intervened with heavy weapons and machine gun fire to assist their withdrawal. The military wing reported that one of its operatives was killed during the encounter (Jerusalem Brigades website, November 13, 2026). Sources reported that at least 30 armed men from the Popular Defense Forces, the militia headed by Rami Hallas, had arrived at several damaged inhabited houses, dozens of meters from the Yellow Line in the al-Tuffah neighborhood. They demanded the residents leave but some refused. When they reached the home of a PIJ operative, they demanded he come out so they could arrest him, but he opened fire and a confrontation developed which lasted more than 30 minutes before he was killed (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, November 14, 2026).

Civilian Governance

► Dr. Yahya al-Sarraj, mayor of Gaza City, wrote to Dr. Sami Hijjawi, Palestinian Authority minister of local government, calling for support for holding local elections in Gaza City as a step toward affirming the Gazans' right to elect their representatives and renewing the democratic legitimacy of local institutions. Al-Sarraj said the municipal council was willing to cooperate and coordinate fully with the ministry and the relevant authorities, and to complete all the necessary arrangements for the elections, thereby contributing to the development of municipal work, improving services and meeting the needs and aspirations of the local residents (Gaza municipality Facebook page, November 9, 2026). Two Hamas sources said the movement did not oppose holding local or other elections to change the current situation in a way that served the Gazans and their interests. One of the sources said the Gaza mayor's call had been made after general consultation with the movement, and not on its instructions (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, November 10, 2026).

► Hamas' ministry of endowments and religious affairs (*waqf*) in the Strip, in cooperation with the Algerian al-Baraka Association, held a ceremony in the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood of Gaza City to honor one thousand men, women, boys and girls who had memorized the Qur'an and

passed the national Qur'an memorization examination. The participants held a march through the city's streets carrying copies of the Qur'an (Quds Agency and al-Rai Agency, November 12, 2026).



The ceremony honoring Qur'an memorizers (Quds Agency, November 12, 2026)

► Hamas' ministry of national economy announced that during the first week of November, consumer protection teams had conducted 158 inspection tours, inspecting 2,311 markets and businesses. Following the inspections, 201 violation reports were issued for breaches of supervisory regulations (al-Rai Agency website, November 10, 2026).

Preparations for a New Flotilla to the Gaza Strip

► Bülent Yıldırım,[6] president of the Turkish IHH, announced they were organizing a large international flotilla which would set sail for the Gaza Strip in the spring of 2027. The organization held a press conference whose theme was "Do not remain silent! Children are dying!", where Yıldırım claimed they were preparing ships large and small which would set sail from all over the world in April-May 2027. He said the goal was "to isolate Israel and Zionism throughout the world" and added that "the world needs to be liberated from Zionism" (IHH website, November 16, 2026).

Israel, Judea and Samaria

Terrorist Attacks

► **There was a vehicular ramming and assault near Jericho**: On the night of November 16, 2026, Palestinian terrorists rammed their vehicle into an Israeli vehicle on the outskirts of Jericho, near the new Jewish outpost of Ir HaTemarim. The terrorists then attacked the occupants of the Israeli car with clubs and axes, and threw rocks at them; the Israelis responded

[6] For further information on the IHH's terrorist activity against Israel and Yıldırım's antisemitism, character, see October 2025 ITIC report, **The Turkish IHH, which led the Mavi Marmara flotilla, operates in the Gaza Strip and is involved in its reconstruction**.

with gunfire. Three Israelis were injured in the attack. Israeli security forces launched a manhunt for the attackers and set up roadblocks in the area (IDF spokesperson and Israeli media, November 17, 2026). Palestinian sources reported that a 60-year-old Palestinian woman was killed by live fire from Jewish settlers and ten others were injured near the village of al-Duyuk al-Tahta, west of Jericho (Wafa and Quds Agency, November 17, 2026).

Counterterrorism

► Israeli security forces conducted dozens of targeted operations as part of extensive counterterrorism activity in Judea and Samaria, detaining dozens of wanted persons, including Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terrorist operatives, suspects involved in planning terrorist attacks, incitement and terrorist activity, as well as a Palestinian suspected of throwing Molotov cocktails. Weapons were confiscated and monuments erected for shaheeds and used to incite terrorism were demolished. In the Nur Shams refugee camp, a stockpile of explosive devices was destroyed. In another operation, the home of a terrorist who belonged to a cell engaged in manufacturing rockets and had conducted a test rocket launch was demolished, an unprecedented measure taken because of the unique nature of the case and the severity of the threat posed by the development of rocket terrorism in Judea and Samaria (IDF spokesperson's unit and police spokesperson, November 10-17, 2026).

► An indictment was filed against a 19-year-old resident of Beit Hanina in northern Jerusalem for planning a combined explosive device and shooting attack on Jews and police forces at the Lions' Gate and the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. According to the prosecution, since the beginning of the Gaza Strip War in October 2023, the defendant had said he identified with ISIS and subsequently regarded himself as belonging to Hamas. He had also attended religious lessons in which he was taught that he had to fight and murder Jews (State Attorney's Office, November 17, 2026).

Settler Terrorism

► This past week, violent attacks by Jewish rioters against Palestinian residents and their property in Judea and Samaria were reported. In the village of Lubban al-Sharqiya, south of Nablus, vehicles, warehouses and olive trees were set on fire. In the town of Atara, north of Ramallah, rioters attacked residential buildings and vehicles and injured residents. Other incidents included attacks on olive harvesters and farmland in various areas and the poisoning of 13 sheep near al-Auja (Wafa, November 11, 2026; Reuters, November 11, 2026). Hamas

condemned the attack in Lubban al-Sharqiya and praised the local residents for mobilizing to defend the village (Hamas Telegram channel, November 11, 2026).

► Reports of attacks on olive harvesters in Judea and Samaria continued. Near the village of Beit Dajan, east of Nablus, Jewish rioters attacked olive harvesters, stole equipment and forced them to leave their land. In the Yabad area of the Jenin district, a family was attacked while harvesting olives, and olives, equipment and tools were stolen. In the Abu Nujaym area, southeast of Bethlehem, Jewish rioters reportedly shot at olive harvesters and IDF forces subsequently fired tear gas at the residents (Wafa, November 14, 2026).

The Struggle over Land in Judea and Samaria

► Hamas figure Abd al-Rahman Shadeed warned of an acceleration in land confiscations in Judea and Samaria following the publication of four new military orders concerning land in the Qalqilya, Nablus, Tubas and northern Jordan Valley districts. He claimed the orders related to approximately 165 dunams (40 acres), and the objective was to expand existing settlements and promote the "annexation [of land] and displacement" of Palestinians. Shadeed called for increased "confrontation" and the protection of land and holy sites (Hamas Telegram channel, November 11, 2026).

► Reportedly, Jewish settlers erected a tent in an area declared a closed military zone in the village of al-Mughayyir, which Palestinians were prohibited from entering. In southern Yatta in the Hebron district, Jewish rioters reportedly continued to besiege the home of a Palestinian for more than 40 days, restricting the movement of family members, throwing rocks, damaging a water well and smashing windows and doors (Wafa, November 14, 2026).

The Palestinian Authority (PA)

► A donors' meeting sponsored by the International Labour Organization (ILO), Qatar and the Netherlands was held in Geneva in coordination with Palestinian representatives to mobilize support for a program to rehabilitate employment and social protection in the Palestinian territories for 2026-2029. Italy announced the donation of €5 million over three years, and Kuwait confirmed the continuation of its annual contribution of $500,000. The ILO's governing body unanimously approved a resolution to promote the development cooperation program in the Palestinian territories (Wafa, November 10, 2026).

► PA Prime Minister Muhammad Mustafa met with Turkish Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz on the sidelines of the 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31), held in Antalya, Turkey, to discuss the situation in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria. Mustafa said the Strip needed humanitarian

assistance, particularly in preparation for winter, and raised the issue of attacks in Judea and Samaria, movement restrictions, the prevention of Palestinian workers from working in Israel and Israel's continued withholding of PA tax clearance revenues (Wafa, November 10, 2026). Mustafa held similar meetings on the sidelines of the conference with the UN secretary general, the president of Brazil, the prime ministers of Pakistan and Algeria and the British foreign secretary (Wafa, November 12, 2026).



Mustafa and the president of Brazil hold hands (Wafa, November 12, 2026)

► PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas received a letter from Britain's King Charles congratulating the Palestinian people on the 38th anniversary of the Palestinian declaration of independence. The king's congratulations came from himself and Queen Camilla, and expressed hope for regional peace and stability. He said Britain's historic decision to recognize the "State of Palestine" in 2025 had contributed to strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation and said he hoped they would deepen. The king stressed his commitment to strengthening relations with the Palestinians and promoting "a just and sustainable peace, security and stability in the region" (Wafa, November 13, 2026).

► The PA government welcomed the joint position of the foreign ministers of Britain, Australia, Canada and Italy, who warned of the severity of the "humanitarian situation" in the Gaza Strip (Wafa, November 16, 2026).