



Spotlight on the Israel-Palestinian Conflict December 31, 2024 – January 7, 2025

Overview¹

- ▶ **The southern arena:** IDF forces continued operating in the northern, central and southern Gaza Strip. They eliminated dozens of terrorists, including the Hamas chief of police, and destroyed terrorist tunnels and facilities. Rocket fire targeting Sderot and the Gaza border communities continued. Two officers and one IDF soldier were killed in the fighting in the northern Gaza Strip.
- ▶ **Negotiations for a ceasefire and the release of the hostages:** Talks continued in Egypt and Qatar in an attempt to reach an agreement. In the assessment of senior Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) figures, the chances for an agreement have increased, but both movements continue to accuse Israel of imposing new conditions.
- ▶ **The "day after":** Hamas expressed its willingness to implement agreements with other Palestinian "factions," including the establishment of a community support committee for the temporary management of the Gaza Strip. Fatah reiterated its position that the committee would cause a split between the Gaza Strip and Judea and Samaria.
- ▶ **Israel, Judea and Samaria:** This past week Palestinian terrorists carried out two attacks, killing three Israelis. Israeli security forces continued counterterrorist operations in Judea and Samaria; two IDF soldiers were injured.
- ▶ **The Palestinian Authority:** The Palestinian Authority (PA) security forces continued their operation against "gunmen" in the Jenin refugee camp. The PA announced the suspension of al-Jazeera's operations in Judea and Samaria.

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

The Southern Arena

IDF operations in the Gaza Strip

► This past week, IDF forces continued extensive operations in the northern (Beit Hanoun), central and southern (Rafah region) Gaza Strip. They located and destroyed weapons and terrorist facilities, including a tunnel with a site for the production of weapons in the central Gaza Strip and a facility for manufacturing rockets in Rafah. Strikes were carried out on more than 100 terrorist targets and IDF forces eliminated Hamas and PIJ terrorist operatives from the air and on the ground, including operatives involved in the October 7, 2023 attack and massacre, and others preparing to carry out attacks, some of whom operated near civilians and within civilian areas.² The Hamas police chief in the Gaza Strip and the head of Hamas' internal security apparatus in the southern Gaza Strip, who were hiding in the humanitarian zone in Khan Yunis, were eliminated. Two officers and one IDF soldier were killed in fighting in the northern Gaza Strip (IDF spokesperson, December 31, 2024 – January 7, 2025).



**Medium-to-long-range rockets found at a production facility in Rafah
(IDF spokesperson, January 1, 2025)**

► On January 3, 2025, Hamas claimed that Israel had attacked near the Indonesian Hospital in Jebalya in the northern Gaza Strip. The attack allegedly destroyed many essential facilities at the hospital and rendered it incapable of providing medical services, as well as setting fire to schools and homes near the hospital (Hamas Telegram channel, January 3, 2025). The IDF spokesperson denied that the IDF had attacked the Indonesian Hospital. In addition, messages

² The practice of using civilian facilities such as schools and hospitals for terrorist purposes is common among the terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip, particularly Hamas. The organizations exploit attacks on such facilities for propaganda and incitement, exaggerating the scale of casualties, making claims of numerous civilian casualties, and in most cases, concealing the identities of the terrorists targeted. In all cases, prior to IDF operations, numerous measures are taken to minimize the likelihood of harm to civilians, including the evacuation of populations and patients from hospitals, the use of precision weapons, aerial surveillance and additional intelligence information.

had been conveyed to officials in the Gaza health system stating that there was no need to evacuate the hospital and that the IDF was in continuous contact with hospital representatives to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian supplies (IDF spokesperson, January 3, 2025).

Rocket fire from the Gaza Strip

► This past week ten rockets were launched at Israeli territory, six of which landed in Israel, including one in the southern city of Sderot. No casualties or damage were reported (IDF spokesperson and Israeli media, December 31, 2024 – January 7, 2025). The Hamas and PIJ military wings claimed responsibility for some of the rocket fire (Izz al-Din Qassam Brigades Telegram channel, Paltoday Telegram channel, December 31, 2024 – January 7, 2025).

The Hostages and a Ceasefire Agreement

► This past week efforts continued in Egypt and Qatar to negotiate agreements for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and the full or partial release of Israeli hostages held in Gaza in exchange for Palestinians imprisoned in Israel:

- ◆ On January 2, 2025, a Hamas delegation arrived in Cairo and met with Egypt's negotiator, Ahmed Abd el-Khaleq, to discuss "Israel's new conditions." According to reports, during the meeting a proposal was made to postpone discussions on several disputed issues until after the first stage of the agreement and then the proposal would be presented to Israel in an attempt to reach an agreement before Trump took office on January 20, 2025.

- ◆ On January 3, 2025, Hamas announced the resumption of indirect negotiations in Qatar, claiming the movement was committed to "seriousness and a positive approach" to reaching an agreement as soon as possible to achieve the Palestinian people's goals, especially stopping the "aggression" (Hassan Aslih's Telegram channel, January 3, 2025). There were reports of progress and a positive atmosphere, with Hamas showing "flexibility" on the issue of the "detainees" [hostages] (al-Hadath, January 4, 2025).

- ◆ A "Palestinian source familiar with the negotiations" stated that the mediators had bridged gaps between the sides through compromises and were awaiting the Israeli government's response. Reportedly, Hamas was willing to agree to an "all-for-all" deal, provided Israel committed to withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and ending the war (al-Araby al-Jadeed, January 5, 2025).

- ◆ Various media outlets published a list of 34 hostages, claiming that Hamas approved presenting it to Israel as part of the agreement which was being formulated. A "senior

Hamas official" said it would take another week to determine which hostages were still alive and which were dead (BBC Arabic, January 5, 2025; al-Sharq and Reuters Arabic, January 6, 2025). The Israeli Prime Minister's Office said it was the "humanitarian" list which Israel had given mediators several months previously (Israeli media, January 6, 2025).

◆ Ahmed Abd al-Hadi, Hamas representative in Lebanon, said that for the first time the movement's delegation felt that most disputed points had been resolved and claimed that Hamas had shown "great flexibility" in light of the new conditions imposed by Israel. He said the decision now lay with Israel and the next stage should involve a permanent halt to the war, the full withdrawal of IDF forces, and the return of displaced persons with assistance and reconstruction (al-Mayadeen, January 6, 2025).

◆ Muhammad al-Hindi, deputy PIJ secretary general, said an agreement could be close, even if only a partial one. He accused Israel of using military pressure to "impose new conditions" in the negotiations and warned that if the Israeli presence remained in the Gaza Strip, a war of attrition could be expected (al-Jazeera, January 2, 2025).

The Gaza Strip

Palestinian casualties

► **The Hamas-controlled ministry of health in the Gaza Strip** reported that since the beginning of the war, 45,885 Palestinians had been killed and 109,196 injured (ministry of health in Gaza Facebook page, January 7, 2025).

The situation in the Gaza Strip

► On December 31, 2024, the departure of 127 patients and their escorts from the Gaza Strip for medical treatment in the UAE was approved. The patients left the Gaza Strip through the Kerem Shalom Crossing and from there went to the Ramon International Airport in Eilat, from where they flew to the UAE. The operation was carried out in coordination between the UAE, Israel and the World Health Organization (WHO) (al-Munsaq Facebook page, December 31, 2024).



**The convoy of ambulances before they left the Gaza Strip
(al-Munsaq Facebook page, December 31, 2024)**

► The ministry of health in Gaza, in cooperation with the Algerian el-Baraka Association, opened the only ophthalmic hospital in Gaza City, which was renovated after parts of it were destroyed during IDF strikes in early November 2023. The ministry of health in Gaza reported that the hospital had begun providing emergency services, operating clinics for ophthalmic diseases and performing surgeries (Palestine Online, December 31, 2024; ministry of health in Gaza Facebook page, January 1, 2025; al-Jazeera.net, January 1, 2025).



The hospital after renovation (Safa Facebook page, January 1, 2025)

► Manal Abu Ramzan, director of planning and projects in the Hamas ministry of social development in the Gaza Strip, stated that the ministry had provided financial assistance to more than 200,000 families in the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023. She said the funds were distributed via electronic payment and e-wallets, in coordination and cooperation with the monetary authority (Wafa, January 2, 2025).

► The ministry of health in Gaza announced that the Indonesian Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip was closed and no longer provided hospitalization or ambulatory treatment. It joined the Kamal Adwan and Beit Hanoun Hospitals in the northern Gaza Strip, which were also shut down by IDF operations. The ministry called on international bodies to help reopen the

hospitals, noting that their closure had a severe negative impact on the Gazans' basic right to health (ministry of health in Gaza Telegram channel, January 4, 2025).

► The Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) announced that in coordination with international organizations, 1,200 liters of blood had been brought to Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis through the Kerem Shalom Crossing. In addition, 3,000 units of plasma, which is used to conduct blood tests, were also delivered (COGAT X account, January 3, 2025).

"The Day After"

► Hamas formally noted its commitment to Palestinian unity and the reorganization of the Palestinian political system in light of the challenges and threats facing "Palestine," and expressed its willingness to implement the national agreements reached in talks held in various countries, including the establishment of a community support committee for the temporary administration of the Gaza Strip, in coordination with Egypt and other Palestinian entities. Hamas said it had given Egypt a list of agreed-upon candidates for the temporary committee and called on Fatah and the PA to join its efforts. Hamas also urged the Palestinian people to unite around the national struggle against "the threats to erase Palestine" (al-Risalah Telegram channel, January 3, 2025; Hamas Telegram channel, January 3, 2025).

► In response to Hamas' statement, Munder al-Hayek, Fatah spokesperson in the Gaza Strip, stated that any committee formed would strengthen division and the PA had legal authority over the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria. He asked why Hamas did not state that the Palestinian government represented the entire Palestinian people and why it established committees which did not serve the people (Radio Alam, January 4, 2025).

► On January 6, 2025, a PA delegation arrived in Cairo to discuss the issue of the administrative committee in the Gaza Strip and related matters. According to an "official source," PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas had requested amendments to the proposal to make the committee an integral part of the Palestinian government and operate under its administrative and financial laws. The source noted that the Palestinian side appreciated Egyptian efforts but remained cautious about Israel's desire to separate the administration of the Gaza Strip from that of Judea and Samaria (al-Sharq, January 6, 2025).

Israel, Judea and Samaria

Terrorist attacks

► This past week Palestinian terrorists carried out two attacks, killing three Israelis:

◆ **Shooting near Kedumim:** On January 6, 2025, three Palestinian terrorists opened fire on a bus and other vehicles near the village of al-Funduq, close to Kedumim. A police officer and two civilians were killed, and seven other Israelis were injured. The terrorists fled the scene (IDF spokesperson and Israeli media, January 6, 2025). The Galilee Forces Revolutionary Council claimed responsibility for the attack (Galilee Forces Telegram channel, January 6, 2025).³

◆ **Stabbing in Deir Qadis:** On January 5, 2025, a 16-year-old Palestinian girl tried to stab an Israeli civilian at a car wash in the village of Deir Qadis, near Ramallah, north of Modi'in Illit. The car wash owner pushed the assailant away, and she fled. There were no injuries (Israeli media, January 5, 2025).

Counterterrorism activities

► The Israeli security forces continued their counterterrorism activities in Judea and Samaria, eliminating terrorist operatives from the air and in exchanges of fire on the ground, detaining dozens of wanted Palestinians and those suspected of terrorist activities. The forces destroyed explosive devices, and confiscated weapons and funds for financing terrorist activities. The home of the terrorist who carried out an attack in which an IDF soldier was killed in November 2023 was demolished. An IDF soldier was seriously injured in an exchange of fire in the village of Talluza, and a female IDF soldier was superficially injured in a vehicle ramming attack during an operation in the village of Deir Qadis (IDF spokesperson, December 31, 2024 – January 7, 2025).

The Palestinian Authority (PA)

Activities of the PA security forces

► The activities of the PA security forces against armed terrorists in the Jenin refugee camp, following directives from PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas, continued into their fourth week. According to reports, since the beginning of the operation there have been 14 fatalities, including six security forces operatives, a senior operative in the PIJ's Jenin Battalion, and seven civilians (al-Araby al-Jadeed, January 6, 2025):

◆ Anwar Rajab, spokesperson for the PA security forces, reported the death of Major Rashid Shako, from Nablus, an officer in Palestinian General Intelligence, who was killed

³ For further information, see the March 2023ITIC report, "[An organization named the Galilee Forces – Lone Wolves claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack at the Megiddo Junction.](#)"

after falling from a great height while "fulfilling his national duty" in the Jenin refugee camp (Wafa, January 3, 2025).

◆ On January 3, 2025, it was reported that two Palestinians, Mahmoud al-Jalkamusi and his son Qasem, were killed while collecting water on the roof of their home in the Jenin refugee camp, and a daughter was seriously injured. "Local sources" claimed the two were hit by gunfire from PA security forces (Jenin News Telegram channel, January 3, 2025). Security forces' spokesperson Rajab stated that there had been no security force presence in the area where the incident occurred and that the location was not part of field operations. He blamed "criminal elements" for the incident (Palestinian National Security Forces Telegram channel, January 4, 2025).

◆ Operatives of the Jenin Battalion claimed they seized an RPG launcher allegedly used by security forces operatives to shoot at houses in the refugee camp (Quds Telegram channel, January 5, 2025). The Palestinian security forces' spokesperson denied they possessed such weapons, claiming that the published picture was of a fake previously used by "felons" (Bethlehem News Telegram channel, January 5, 2025).



The "RPG" launcher displayed by members of the Jenin Battalion (al-Jazeera, January 5, 2025)

◆ At least five buildings were set on fire in the refugee camp. Allegedly, operatives of the security forces set the fires, prevented civil defense forces from extinguishing them and even shot at them (al-Shahid, January 5, 2025). Security forces' spokesperson Rajab accused "felons" acting on behalf of their "financiers and employers" of setting the fires and said the security forces had rescued a family trapped in one of the houses. He added that the actions of the "felons" deliberately harmed residents, endangered lives and destroyed property (Wafa, January 6, 2025).

◆ Kamal Abu al-Rub, the Governor of Jenin, hosted Mahmoud al-Aloul, Fatah deputy chairman, Azzam al-Ahmad, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesman for Mahmoud Abbas. According to reports, the meeting was part

of monitoring directives from PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas to maintain law and public order and to support the security forces in Operation Homeland Defense. The participants said the resilience of the Palestinian people and their support for Palestinian legitimacy guaranteed the maintenance of civil order, prevented chaos and protected Palestinian lives (Wafa, January 5, 2025).

◆ Hamas' military wing and Fatah's al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades in the Jenin refugee camp held a demonstration attended by dozens of armed terrorist operatives, during which they issued a joint statement accusing the PA of "crossing all red lines and systematically and intentionally killing innocent people." They warned that their patience was running out and stated their desire to direct their weapons "solely against the enemy" (al-Risalah, January 6, 2025).



The armed demonstration in the refugee camp (Quds Agency Telegram channel, January 6, 2025)

► According to reports, the Palestinian security forces arrested Hashem Hanishah from Qabatiya and Musa Alawi from Silat al-Harithiya, both wanted by Israel (Quds Agency X account, January 2, 2025; Palinfo X account, January 2, 2025).

► As the PA security forces operated in the Jenin refugee camp, security in the Tulkarm area deteriorated. "Local sources" stated that three "resistance fighters" were injured when security forces operatives opened fire at them in the town of Attil in the Tulkarm District. It was also reported that "resistance operatives" fired at the Muqata'a building in Tulkarm (Quds Agency, January 7, 2025).

Fatah's 60th anniversary

► On December 31, 2024, PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas delivered a speech marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Fatah movement. He said that the Palestinian "revolution" had reunited the Palestinian people, preserved their identity and brought the Palestinian cause back to the forefront of the regional and international stage. He expressed his appreciation for the martyrs, prisoners and wounded who had sacrificed for the Palestinian

cause and noted the PA's commitment to achieving Palestinian independence within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. He also called for an end to the war in the Gaza Strip and for ensuring full PA responsibility for the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria. He noted the need for Palestinian unity under the umbrella of the PLO, "the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," and pledged to continue the "struggle" until full Palestinian freedom and independence were achieved (Wafa, December 31, 2024).

Diplomatic activity

► On December 31, 2024, Muhammad Mustafa, PA prime minister, spoke with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan. They discussed recent political developments, efforts to stop the war in the Gaza Strip and facilitating the delivery of aid by opening additional crossings and providing assistance for urgent needs. Mustafa praised the close bilateral relations between the PA and Turkey and expressed his appreciation for Turkey's willingness to contribute to the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip (Wafa, December 31, 2024).

The PA suspends the operations of al-Jazeera

► On January 1, 2025, a committee composed of the PA ministers of culture, the interior and communications decided to stop al-Jazeera's broadcasts and freeze its satellite operations and offices in "Palestine," including the temporary suspension of all journalists, employees and associated channels. Reportedly the decision had been based on allegations that the network had violated PA laws and regulations, including broadcasting inciting materials, spreading misinformation and interfering in Palestinian internal affairs. According to the announcement, the suspension will continue until the network's legal status has been resolved (Wafa, January 1, 2025).

► On January 5, 2025, a legal decision was issued approving the blocking of al-Jazeera's websites. The decision stated that based on findings from an investigation by the PA judicial authority, the network continued to broadcast media content containing incitement which threatens public order and undermined national unity. It was deemed a direct threat to social stability and the public interest, constituting a clear violation of PA law (Bethlehem Events Telegram channel, January 5, 2025).