



Palestinian Islamic Jihad

Name: Palestinian Islamic Jihad

Type of Organization:

- Non-state actor
- terrorist
- violent

Ideologies and Affiliations:

- Iranian-sponsored
- Islamist
- jihadist
- Palestinian
- Salafist
- Sunni
- takfiri

Place of Origin:

Egypt

Year of Origin:

1979

Founder(s):

Fathi Shaqaqi and Abd al-Aziz Awda

Places of Operation:

Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, Lebanon, Syria

Overview

Also Known As:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Abu Ghunaym Squad of the Hizballah Bayt Al-Maqdis ¹ | • Islamic Jihad in Palestine ¹⁰ |
| • al-Awdah Brigades ² | • Islamic Jihad of Palestine ¹¹ |
| • al-Quds Brigades ³ | • Islamic Jihad Palestine ¹² |
| • al-Quds Squads ⁴ | • Palestine Islamic Jihad ¹³ |
| • Harakat al-Jihad al-Islami al-Filastini ⁵ | • Palestine Islamic Jihad–Shallah Faction ¹⁴ |
| • Harakat al-Jihad al-Islami fi Filistin ⁶ | • Palestine Islamic Jihad–Shaqaqi Faction ¹⁵ |
| • Islamic Holy War ⁷ | • PIJ–Shallah Faction ¹⁶ |
| • Islamic Jihad ⁸ | • PIJ–Shaqaqi Faction ¹⁷ |
| • Islamic Jihad–Palestine Faction ⁹ | • Saraya al-Quds ¹⁸ |

Executive Summary:

Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) is a Palestinian Islamist terrorist group sponsored by Iran and Syria. Founded in 1979 as an offshoot of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, PIJ is the second-largest terrorist group in Gaza today (after Hamas). The U.S. State Department claims that PIJ has fewer than 1,000 members, though in 2011 the group claimed to have at least 8,000 battle-ready fighters in Gaza.

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PIJ is dedicated to eradicating Israel and establishing an autonomous Islamic Palestinian state in the lands currently comprising Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. PIJ believes that the land of Palestine is consecrated for Islam, that Israel usurped Palestine, and, therefore, that Israel is an affront to God and Islam and that Palestine's re-conquest is a holy task. Accordingly, PIJ refuses to negotiate with Israel, rejects a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and carries out numerous terror attacks against Israeli targets and interests. Unlike Hamas, PIJ does not participate in the political process or provide social services.

PIJ's primary sponsor is Iran, which has provided the group with millions of dollars in direct funding, as well as training and weapons. PIJ has partnered with Iranian- and Syrian-sponsored Hezbollah in carrying out joint operations.

Based in Gaza until 1987, PIJ's leadership was then exiled to Lebanon, where it reportedly began cooperating with Hezbollah and began receiving training from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.¹⁹ PIJ's leadership relocated to Syria in 1989, but left a small group in Lebanon that launched joint attacks with Hezbollah in the 1990s.²⁰ Syria has also provided military aid and sanctuary to PIJ, allowing the terrorist group's leadership to occupy a Syrian Army base from 1989 until 2012.²¹

According to the U.S. State Department, PIJ's senior leadership continues to reside in Syria and some other leaders live in Lebanon, though most PIJ members live in Gaza.²² International Arabic-language newspaper *Asharq Al-Awsat* reported in 2012 that PIJ's Syria-based leadership had relocated to Iran but continued to enjoy positive ties with their Syrian patrons. However, a PIJ official denied that report, claiming "relations between [PIJ] and the Syrian government are excellent, unlike Hamas,"²³ whose leadership left Syria after refusing to support the Assad regime during the Syrian civil war. Official representatives of the group are also stationed elsewhere in the Middle East,²⁴ including Iran.²⁵

Doctrine:

PIJ seeks to create a state based on sharia (Islamic law) in all the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River—including Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. Like Hamas, PIJ portrays the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a religious clash, not merely a territorial dispute. PIJ believes that the land of Palestine is consecrated for Islam and that, therefore, Israel usurped Palestine. Consequently, Israel's very existence is an affront to God and Islam, and destroying Israel and reconquering Palestine are religious obligations.

In PIJ's ideology, an Islamic state of Palestine can be established only through jihad (holy war) and the destruction of Israel. According to the "Manifesto of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine," a document discovered by federal authorities investigating a Florida man with suspected PIJ ties, the group rejects "any peaceful solution to the Palestinian cause" and affirms "the Jihad solution and the martyrdom style as the only choice for liberation."²⁶ Accordingly, PIJ completely rejects negotiations with Israel or a two-state solution.

PIJ's founders, Fathi Shaqaqi and Abd al-Aziz Awda, drew initial inspiration from the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. However, both men left the Brotherhood in the late 1970s, feeling the group had become too moderate and did not focus enough on the plight of the Palestinians.²⁷ Inspired by Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic Revolution in Iran, Shaqaqi and Awda founded PIJ on the principles Khomeini advocated, with the goal of creating an Islamic state within the land that constituted the Palestine mandate prior to Israel's creation in 1948.²⁸

PIJ is dedicated singularly to violent jihad. While Hamas has engaged in indirect talks with Israel (including on prisoner exchanges and ceasefires), PIJ refuses to negotiate with Israel (though the group has participated in pan-Palestinian ceasefires negotiated by Egypt). Also unlike Hamas, PIJ generally does not provide social services.²⁹ However, in 2013, when Iran and Hamas were estranged due to Hamas's abandonment of the Iranian-allied Assad regime in Syria's civil war, Iran tasked PIJ with distributing \$2 million in Iranian food aid in Gaza from the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, a Beirut-based Iranian charity. *The New York Times* interpreted the move as an attempt to extend Iran's influence in Gaza while undermining Hamas and strengthening the rival PIJ.³⁰

Organizational Structure:

Ramadan Shallah served as PIJ's secretary-general from 1995 until 2018. That September, PIJ's leadership council elected Ziad al-Nakhalah to be the new secretary-general.³¹ PIJ is governed by a leadership council. PIJ elected nine new members to the council in September 2018 in the group's first international elections since 1980. The political council is made up of 15 members, nine of whom are elected by balloted voting. The secretary-general appoints two members, and the remaining four are approved by the council. The council represents PIJ members in the West

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Bank, Gaza Strip, Israeli prisons, and abroad. Elections are reportedly to be held every four years.³²

PIJ's leadership has operated from Syria since 1989, when they relocated from Lebanon after Israel expelled them a year earlier. In 2012, rumors circulated that the group's leadership had relocated to Iran, but a PIJ official denied that.³³ According to the U.S. State Department, PIJ operates primarily in the Gaza Strip but its leaders also live in Lebanon and elsewhere in the Middle East.³⁴

The al-Quds Brigades, PIJ's armed wing, carries out violent attacks against Israel. The Brigades has regional staff commands. Each member within a command oversees a cell within that command's region. The PIJ leadership issues orders and staff commanders carry out PIJ operations and coordinate cells.³⁵ The U.S. State Department claims that PIJ has fewer than 1,000 members,³⁶ though the group claimed in 2011 to have at least 8,000 battle-ready fighters in Gaza.³⁷

Financing:

Iran is PIJ's primary source of financial support, according to the U.S. State Department.³⁸ A 1998 lawsuit against Iran in U.S. federal court revealed that the Islamic Republic allocated \$2 million in its annual budget to PIJ.³⁹ That number has since skyrocketed—in late 2013, PIJ sources revealed that the terror group received about \$3 million per month from Iran.⁴⁰ During the 2012 war between Israel and Hamas, PIJ fired rockets into Israeli territory and hung banners across Gaza streets with the phrase, "Thank you, Iran."⁴¹ A February 2014 report by Ali Nourizadeh, director of the Center for Iranian Studies in London, stated that Iran provides PIJ with \$100 to \$150 million annually.⁴²

In mid-2015, a senior PIJ leader said the group was suffering from its worst financial crisis in history. One PIJ leader attributed the crisis to Egypt's closure of the smuggling tunnels beneath the Gaza-Egypt border. The same source also said Iran had cut back its funding to the group.⁴³ Iran reportedly cut funding because PIJ refused to issue a statement supporting Iran in its conflict against Saudi Arabia in Yemen.⁴⁴ Iran had reportedly cut PIJ's funding by 90 percent as of January 2016. The loss in funding allegedly forced PIJ to slash salaries of its employees. According to media reports, Iran still considered PIJ a "friend" but one the country is unable to continue to support financially. PIJ's leaders insisted the group still had good relations with Iran.⁴⁵

In May 2016, the Iranian government reportedly restored its relations with PIJ with an annual allocation of \$70 million. The allocation followed visit to Tehran by a PIJ delegation the previous month.⁴⁶ As of August 2018, Iran reportedly transferred \$30 million annually to PIJ and \$70 million to Hamas.⁴⁷ In February 2019, PIJ spokesman Abu Hamza told Iran's Al-Alam TV that "since the day of its establishment, the Islamic Republic [of Iran] has been supporting the Palestinian fighters financially, militarily, in raining, and in all aspects."⁴⁸

A U.S. lawsuit filed in June 2020 alleged Qatar provided funding to Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) through three Qatari financial institutions, the Qatar Charity, Masraf Al Rayan, and Qatar National Bank. The Qatar Charity is a member of the U.S.-sanctioned Union of Good charity network. All three institutions have links to members of the Qatari royal family. The plaintiffs are friends and family members of 10 victims who died in terror attacks in Israel carried out by Hamas and PIJ. The lawsuit accuses Qatar of coopting "several institutions that it dominates and controls to funnel coveted U.S. dollars (the chosen currency of Middle East terrorist networks) to Hamas and PIJ under the false guise of charitable donations."⁴⁹

Recruitment and Training:

Recruitment

Fathi Shafaqi founded PIJ after being jailed for his involvement in the Palestine Liberation Force.⁵⁰ Original PIJ recruits included ex-prisoners Shafaqi met in jail, upon their return to the Gaza Strip.⁵¹ Shafaqi was also able to recruit in the early 1980s through early PIJ member Abdul Aziz Awda, a popular preacher and professor of Islamic law. Awda attracted many to the PIJ cause through his sermons at one of Gaza's largest mosques.⁵²

Since PIJ's goal has always been to execute strategic military operations against Israel, the group has focused on targeted recruiting rather than simply gaining a large membership. For example, PIJ recruited students to demonstrate at Bir Zeit University in the early 1980s. An April 1987 incident resulted in Israeli forces opening fire on demonstrators, resulting in the death of one student.⁵³

PIJ's leadership began recruiting suicide bombers in the early 1990s and originally did not permit women to serve in that role. However, PIJ officially began recruiting female suicide bombers in 2003, justifying women bombers as defending their honor against Israeli invaders. PIJ's first

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female suicide bomber, a 19-year-old student named Hiba Daraghme, attacked a shopping mall, killing three.⁵⁴ The next such bomber, Hanadi Jaradat, a 29-year-old lawyer, blew herself up in a restaurant in October 2003, killing 21.⁵⁵ Selection and persuasion methods for women suicide bombers are similar to those employed for men. Recruiters of female suicide bombers “take advantage of the candidates’ innocence, enthusiasm, personal distress, and thirst for revenge,” according to U.S. Army civilian professional Debra Zedalis.⁵⁶

In 2015, PIJ reportedly recruited 200 men between the ages of 19 and 22. According to a 2018 estimate by the U.S. State Department, PIJ has almost 1,000 members.⁵⁷

Training

Like other violent Islamist groups, PIJ uses training methods and tactics such as exercises in suicide operations and battlefield tactics against Israeli soldiers. PIJ has boasted of opening its ranks to children as young as six years old. PIJ “summer camps” draw as many as 10,000 participants per session.⁵⁸ The camps’ activities include wielding AK-47s, planting land mines, and mock operations to kidnap Israeli soldiers.⁵⁹ PIJ spokesman Daoud Shihab describes such training of children as a way to ensure “a generation strong [in] resistance.”⁶⁰

These “Generation of Faith” camps are not restricted to combat training, however. Recruits are “educated intellectually, militarily, and politically.”⁶¹ Ahmad al-Moudalal, a PIJ leader who helps to train children fighters, explained, “We are resistance movements. It is therefore normal for us to want to attract young people, instill the culture of resistance in their minds and prepare them to bear arms against the Israeli enemy.”⁶²

According to the U.S. State Department, members recruited in 2015 were subjected to training programs between 36 days and six months.⁶³

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⁴ “Country Reports on Terrorism 2013: Chapter 6. Foreign Terrorist Organizations,” U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224829.htm>.

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¹¹ “Country Reports on Terrorism 2013: Chapter 6. Foreign Terrorist Organizations,” U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224829.htm>.

¹² “Palestinian Islamic Jihad | Australian National Security,” Australian Government, accessed July 7, <http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/Listedterroristorganisations/Pages/PalestinianIslamicJihad.aspx>.

¹³ “Country Reports on Terrorism 2013: Chapter 6. Foreign Terrorist Organizations,” U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224829.htm>.

¹⁴ “Country Reports on Terrorism 2013: Chapter 6. Foreign Terrorist Organizations,” U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224829.htm>.

¹⁵ “Country Reports on Terrorism 2013: Chapter 6. Foreign Terrorist Organizations,” U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224829.htm>.

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Key Leaders



Ziad al-Nakhalah
Secretary-General



Mohammad al-Hindi
Deputy Secretary-General



Ramadan Abdullah Shallah
Former Secretary-General
(deceased)



Fathi Shaqaqi
Co-founder, former secretary-
general (deceased)



Abd al-Aziz Awda
Co-founder

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History:

- **May 8, 2021 - May 10, 2021:** On May 6, PIJ calls for new attacks against Israelis—including vehicle rammings and stabbings—leading up to Israel’s Jerusalem Day celebration on May 10.

On May 8, after Israeli police quell rioting around the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, Nakhalah releases a statement threatening a violent response: “It is impossible to remain silent in the face of what is happening in Jerusalem. The enemy must expect our response at all times.” On May 10, PIJ joins Hamas in launching hundreds of rockets against Israeli communities. Sources: Liad Osmo, “Islamic Jihad calls for more terror attacks ahead of Jerusalem Day,” Ynet, May 6, 2021, <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/SkH7W2110000>; Elior Levy, “Islamic Jihad threatens ‘response at any moment’ against Israel for Jerusalem unrest,” Ynet, May 8, 2021, <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/r1Vl6Q7dd>; “Islamic Jihad releases footage of anti-tank missile attack,” Times of Israel, May 10, 2021, https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/islamic-jihad-releases-footage-of-anti-tank-missile-attack/; Nidal Al-mughrabi and Jeffrey Heller, “Israel airstrikes kill 20 in Gaza, Palestinians say, after militants fire rockets at Jerusalem,” Reuters, May 10, 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-airstrikes-kill-20-gaza-palestinians-say-after-militants-fire-rockets-2021-05-10/>.
- **May 4, 2021:** Nakhalah calls for a reformation of the PLO focusing on a “resistance agenda.”

He further calls on Palestinian factions to agree to a national platform in support of the “renewable intifada.” Source: “Islamic Jihad calls for reform of PLO based on resistance agenda,” Middle East Monitor, May 5, 2021, <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20210505-islamic-jihad-calls-for-reform-of-plo-based-on-resistance-agenda/>.
- **April 24, 2021:** After 36 rockets are launched into Israel overnight by smaller militant groups in Gaza, PIJ and Hamas issue a statement to Egypt that they are not looking for escalation with Israel.

Source: Jack Khoury, “Hamas, Islamic Jihad Not Seeking Escalation With Israel, Gazan Official Says,” *Haaretz* (Tel Aviv), April 24, 2021, <https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/palestinians/-premium-hamas-islamic-jihad-not-seeking-escalation-with-israel-gazan-official-says-1.9742459>.
- **January 1, 2021:** In an appearance on Iran’s Al-Alam TV ahead of the one-year anniversary of Soleimani’s death, Nakhalah credits Soleimani for providing PIJ with its rocket arsenal and his “pivotal role” in Palestinian attacks on Jerusalem.

According to Nakhalah, nothing happened in Gaza without Soleimani’s direct order or supervision. Source: “Sec.-Gen. Of Palestinian Islamic Jihad Ziad Al-Nakhaleh: Nothing Happened In Gaza Without Soleimani’s Direct Orders And Supervision, He Supplied The Rockets We Used To Attack Tel Aviv,” MEMRI, January 1, 2021, <https://www.memri.org/tv/sec-gen-palestinian-islamic-jihad-ziad-nakhaleh-soleimani-supplied-rockets-used-attack-tlv>
- **January 3, 2020 - January 5, 2020:** On January 3, PIJ releases a statement mourning the death of Qasem Soleimani, the commander of Iran’s Quds Force killed in a U.S. airstrike earlier that day.

Nakhalah calls Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on January 5 to express his condolences, calling Soleimani “a model for all Muslims and free people in the world regarding how to confront America and the Zionist entity.” Source: Adam Rasgon, “Hamas, Islamic Jihad heads give condolences to Iran’s FM on Soleimani’s death,” Times of Israel, January 5, 2020, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-islamic-jihad-heads-give-condolences-to-irans-fm-on-soleimanis-death/>.
- **November 12, 2019:** An Israeli airstrike kills Baha Abu al-Ata, a member of the Al-Quds Brigades’ military council in Gaza and commander of the northern part of the strip.

Abu al-Ata is suspected of overseeing PIJ’s recent rocket attacks on Israel, in opposition to requests for calm from Egypt and Gaza’s ruling Hamas government. At approximately the same time as the strike targeting Abu al-Ata, an alleged Israeli strike on the home of a PIJ leader in Damascus, Syria, kills two and wounds 10. PIJ declares it is going to war and launches 350 rockets at Israeli population centers over the next 24 hours. Israel responds with airstrikes targeting rocket positions along the Gaza border. At least 23 Palestinians are killed, including PIJ field commander Khaled Moawad Faraj. Israel reports injuries but no fatalities. The PIJ-Hamas joint command issues a statement that it will not allow Israel to return to a policy of targeted assassinations. Nakhalah reportedly arrives in Egypt on November 13 for ceasefire talks. Sources: Adam Rasgon and Jacob Magid, “Islamic Jihad declares ‘We’re going to war,’ after IDF kills its strongman,” Times of Israel, November 12, 2019, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-jihad-declares-were-going-to-war-after-idf-kills-its-strongman/>; Anna Ahronheim, “IDF hits anti-tank missile team; Gaza dead at 23, mostly terrorists,” *Jerusalem Post*, November 13, 2019, <https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Massive-barrage-towards-southern-and-central-Israel-shatters-quiet-607709>; Maayan Lubell and Nidal Al-Mughrabi, “Gaza death toll reaches 23 in second day of escalation,” Reuters, November 13, 2019, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-palestinians-violence/gaza-death-toll-reaches-23-in-second-day-of-escalation-idUSKBN1XN0FR>; “Israel kills top Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant in Gaza,” BBC News, November 12, 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-50386164>; “Islamic Jihad chief said to arrive in Cairo amid reported ceasefire efforts,” Times of Israel, November 13, 2019, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-jihad-chief-said-to-arrive-in-cairo-amid-reported-ceasefire-efforts/>.
- **November 12, 2018 - November 14, 2018:** PIJ and Hamas fire more than 450 rockets into Israel, killing one and wounding dozens.

After Israel responds with airstrikes in Gaza, the groups agree to a ceasefire on November 13. PIJ claims victory after Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman resigns on November 14 in protest of the ceasefire. Sources: Oren Lieberman, “Biggest Israel-Gaza firefight since 2014 ends in ceasefire,” CNN, November 13, 2018, <https://www.cnn.com/2018/11/13/middleeast/israel-gaza-tesnions-escalate-intl/index.html>; Judah Ari Gross and Raoul Wootliff, “Hamas claims Liberman’s resignation as a ‘victory for Gaza,’” Times of Israel, November 14, 2018, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-claims-libermans-resignation-as-a-victory-for-gaza/>.
- **October 27, 2018:** Egypt brokers a ceasefire between PIJ and Israel under which PIJ agrees to stop firing rockets at Israel.

Two days later, PIJ promises revenge against Israel after the Israeli military kills three Palestinian teenagers allegedly planting explosives near the Gaza-Israel border. Sources: “Islamic Jihad group announces Gaza ceasefire with Israel,” Al Jazeera, October 27, 2018, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/10/islamic-jihad-group-announces-gaza-ceasefire-israel-181027134405582.html>; Raf Sanchez, “Islamic Jihad vows revenge after three Palestinian teenagers killed by Israeli airstrike in Gaza,” *Telegraph* (London), October 29, 2018, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/10/29/islamic-jihad-vows-revenge-three-palestinian-teenagers-killed/>.
- **September 27, 2018:** PIJ elects Ziad al-Nakhalah as its secretary-general, replacing Shallah.

Shallah had been hospitalized earlier in the year and reportedly fell into a coma, though PIJ denied the reports. Nakhalah appoints Mohammad al-Hindi deputy secretary-general, the position previously held by Nakhalah. PIJ also elects nine new members to its leadership council for the first time since 1980. The group reportedly plans to hold elections every four years. Shallah dies on June 7, 2020. Sources: “Iran-backed Palestinian Islamic Jihad names new leader,” Associated Press, September 28, 2018, <https://apnews.com/d14e7e64a68481980b6db8052853f03>; “Palestine’s Islamic Jihad denies leader was in coma in Lebanon,” Middle East Monitor, April 10, 2018, <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180410-palestines-islamic-jihad-denies-leader-was-in-coma-in-lebanon/>; “Palestinian Islamic Jihad chooses new leader, remains close to Iran,” Times of Israel, September 28, 2018, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-islamic-jihad-chooses-new-leader-remains-close-to-iran/>; Ahmad Abu Amer, “Has Iran’s influence increased in Palestinian arena?” Al-Monitor, October 16, 2018, <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/10/palestinian-islamic-jihad-elections-iran-influence.html>; Shlomi Eldar, “Islamic Jihad, the new lord of Gaza?” Al-Monitor, February 5, 2019, <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/02/israel-egypt-gaza-strip-palestinians-hamas-islamic-jihad.html>; “Former Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader Ramadan Shallah dies at 62,” Times of Israel, June 6, 2020, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/former-palestinian-islamic-jihad-leader-shallah-dies-at-62/>.

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- **May 29, 2018:** Hamas and PIJ fire at least 28 mortars at communities in southern Israel.
The Israeli military responds by bombing Gaza facilities belonging to Hamas and PIJ. There are no casualties reported on either side. It is reportedly the largest confrontation between Hamas and Israel since the 2014 war. Sources: Bethann McKernan, "Gaza militants pelt Israel with rockets in biggest attack in years," *Independent* (London), May 29, 2018, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/gaza-rocket-attack-israel-hamas-palestinians-protest-idf-a8373556.html>; "Live Updates: Why Israel Agreed to Hamas' Request to End Fighting," *Haaretz* (Jerusalem), May 31, 2018, <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/why-israel-agreed-gaza-cease-fire-with-hamas-1.6131634>.
- **October 30, 2017:** Israel destroys an underground tunnel beneath its border with Gaza, killing 10 PIJ militants and two Hamas militants. PIJ calls the militants "heroes" in a media statement. Source: Agence France-Presse and Times of Israel, "Islamic Jihad declared tunnel missing dead; toll rises to 12," Times of Israel, November 3, 2017, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-jihad-declares-tunnel-missing-dead-toll-rises-to-12/>.
- After Hamas releases a new governing document that signals its acceptance of a temporary Palestinian state along the 1967 borders, PIJ releases a statement rejecting any Palestinian state within the 1967 borders.
PIJ reiterates its commitment to the full pre-1948 borders that would signal the elimination of Israel. Source: Agence France-Presse, "Islamic Jihad rejects Palestine state within 1967 borders," Public Radio International, May 6, 2017, <https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-05-06/islamic-jihad-rejects-palestine-state-within-1967-borders>.
- The Iranian government reportedly restores its relations with PIJ with an annual allocation of \$70 million.
The allocation follows visit to Tehran by a PIJ delegation the previous month. Qasem Soleimani, head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force, reportedly appoints Khaled Mansour commander of PIJ's Quds Brigades in Gaza. Source: "Iran resumes funding for Palestinian Islamic Jihad: report," i24 News, May 25, 2016, <https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/international/middle-east/114490-160525-iran-resumes-funding-for-palestinian-islamic-jihad-group-report>.
- Israel arrests Gazan computer engineer Majd Awida for allegedly hacking IDF drones in order for PIJ to use them to survey Gaza.
PIJ reportedly recruited Awida in 2011 and Awida developed the hack in 2012. Awida also allegedly developed software to allow PIJ to track flights at BenGurion International Airport and see passenger lists. Source: "Gazan engineer allegedly also created software to spy on flights at Ben Gurion airport for Islamic Jihad," i24 News, March 23, 2016, <http://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/diplomacy-defense/107160-160323-islamic-jihad-operative-hacked-into-israeli-drones-says-indictment>.
- **October 29, 2015:** As a wave of stabbing attacks against Israelis enters its second month, PIJ calls on the PA to reject negotiations with Israel.
PIJ also calls on Palestinian factions to review their policies and move away from political opportunism. Source: Adnan Abu Amer, "How Palestinian divisions affect the intifada," Al-Monitor, November 3, 2015, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/11/palestinian-intifada-disputes-objectives.html>.
- **August 19, 2015:** PIJ member Mohammed Allan is hospitalized after a 65-day hunger strike in an Israeli prison.
The Israeli Supreme Court rules he is not a threat in his current state and suspends his arrest warrant. Allan's health reportedly improves. He is released on November 4. Sources: "Islamic Jihad shot rockets at Israel's north on Iran's behalf, IDF says," Times of Israel, August 20, 2015, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/four-rockets-land-in-northern-israel-no-injuries-reported/>; Ali Sawafa, "Palestinian detainee ends 65-day hunger strike," Reuters, August 19, 2015, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/19/us-israel-palestinians-hungerstriker-idUSKCN0Q01K520150819>; Agence France-Presse, "Israel frees former hunger strike Palestinian: prison services," Yahoo News, November 4, 2015, <http://news.yahoo.com/israel-set-free-hunger-strike-palestinian-prison-000226951.html>.
- **July 12, 2015:** Israel releases PIJ leader Khader Anan from prison after reaching a deal to end his 55-day hunger strike.
Authorities arrested Anan in July 2014 for the 10th time. He began his hunger strike on May 4. Israeli authorities reached a deal to release him in late June. Source: Nidal al-Mughrabi and Ori Lewis, "Israel frees Palestinian hunger striker from jail," Reuters, July 12, 2015, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/07/12/us-israel-palestinians-idUSKCN0PM05O20150712>.
- Former Florida university professor Sami Al-Arian is deported from the United States on charges that he gave money and other material support to the PIJ.
Source: Letitia Stein, "Former Florida professor deported from U.S. over Palestinian terrorist ties," Reuters, February 6, 2015, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/06/us-usa-security-al-arian-idUSKBNOLA2KA20150206>.
- **December 2, 2014:** Arab Bank—accused of financing terrorism by providing services to PIJ and other terrorist groups—asks a U.S. federal appeals court to block thousands of terror-finance claims.
Source: Nate Raymond, "Arab Bank asks U.S. court to block thousands of terror-finance claims," Reuters, December 2, 2014, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/02/usa-arab-bk-appeal-idUSL2N0TM1LR20141202>.
- **November 18, 2014:** Two Palestinian terrorists attack a Jerusalem synagogue during prayers, killing four rabbis and one Druze policeman.
PIJ applauds the attack, stating, "[T]he operation in Jerusalem was a natural reaction to the crimes committed by the Israeli Occupation Forces and Zionist settlers." Source: "Two Palestinian storm Jerusalem synagogue, kill four Israelis," *Al Akhbar English* (Beirut), November 18, 2014, <http://english.al-akhbar.com/node/22524>.
- **October 29, 2014:** Moataz Hejazi shoots and critically wounds prominent right-wing Israeli activist Yehuda Glick in Jerusalem, Israel.
After the shooting, police track Hejazi to his home and he dies in a shootout. The following day, PIJ publishes an obituary for Hijazi on its website, saying that he had been a member of the organization. Sources: Daniel K. Eisenbud, "Police and Shin Bet kill suspect in shooting of right-wing activist Yehuda Glick," *Jerusalem Post*, October 30, 2014, <http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Report-Suspect-in-right-wing-activist-Yehuda-Glicks-shooting-killed-by-police-380238>; Nir Hasson, "Israeli police kill Palestinian suspect in Jerusalem assassination attempt," *Haaretz* (Tel Aviv), October 30, 2014, <http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/.premium-1.623528>.
- **September 4, 2014:** After the 2014 Israel-Gaza war ends, Al Jazeera broadcasts a video of PIJ's tunnel systems.
In the video, a PIJ militant declares that the group is preparing for its next war with Israel and that the tunnels will be used to launch attacks and fire mortars on Israel. Sources: "Video shows Islamic Jihad's new Gaza tunnels," i24 News, September 9, 2014, <http://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/diplomacy-defense/43188-140909-video-shows-islamic-jihad-s-new-gaza-tunnels>; "#4478-Palestinian Islamic Jihad Digs New Tunnels in Gaza," Middle East Media Research Institute, September 4, 2014, <http://www.memritv.org/clip/en/4478.htm>.
- **August 27, 2014:** Appearing on Iran's state-run network Press TV, PIJ representative Nasser Abu Sharif praises Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei's support of PIJ and states, "As the Zionist settlers were forced to emigrate from the settlements around the Gaza Strip, we will certainly witness the return of all the Zionists to their original places of residence outside Palestine in not-too-distant future."

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Source: "Islamic Jihad lauds Leader's backing for resistance," Press TV, August 27, 2014, <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/08/27/376781/islamic-jihad-hails-leader-backing/>.

- **August 20, 2014:** According to Iran's state-run network Press TV, PIJ has fired 3,000 rockets at Israel during the 2014 Israel-Gaza war. Source: "Islamic Jihad fired 3,000 rockets on Israeli cities," Press TV, August 30, 2014, <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/08/30/377060/gaza-fires-3000-rockets-into-israel/>.
- **August 8, 2014:** After a three-day ceasefire between Israel and Hamas expires, PIJ fires three Grad rockets at Ashkelon and promises to continue firing until Israel accedes to all of Hamas's demands. Source: Ola Attalah, "Islamic Jihad Claims Rocket Barrage at Israel," *Daily Star* (Beirut), August 8, 2014, <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Aug-08/266473-islamic-jihad-claims-rocket-barrage-at-israel.ashx#axzz3A3RYuBbz>.
- **August 5, 2014:** An Egyptian-negotiated 72-hour ceasefire takes hold. Israeli and Palestinian negotiators head to Cairo to discuss a longer truce. Representatives of Fatah, Hamas, and PIJ are part of the Palestinian delegation. Sources: "Israel-Hamas Cease-Fire Holding, Truce Talks to Open in Cairo," Voice of America, August 5, 2014, <http://www.voanews.com/content/israel-hamas-begin-72-hour-truce-gaza/1971724.htm>; "Rory Jones, 'Israel, Hamas Agree to Gaza Policing Plan,'" *Wall Street Journal*, August 6, 2014, <http://online.wsj.com/articles/israel-hamas-agree-to-gaza-policing-plan-1407372983>.
- **July 29, 2014:** Israeli air strikes kill Salah Abu Hassanein, PIJ's commander of its Military Media Division; PIJ regional commanders who controlled the northern and central sectors of the Gaza Strip; and Shaaban Dakhdoukh, PIJ commander of forces in Zeitoun. Source: Felice Friedman, "Israel says it has targeted and killed high-profile terrorists during Gaza fighting" *National Post* (Toronto), July 29, 2014, <http://news.nationalpost.com/2014/07/29/israel-says-it-has-targeted-and-killed-high-profile-terrorists-during-gaza-fighting/>.
- **July 28, 2014:** Seven Palestinian children die after a rocket strikes a playground in Gaza's al-Shati refugee camp while another rocket hits al-Shifa Hospital. Palestinians initially blamed Israel, but the strikes were the result of misfired rockets by PIJ. Source: Yifa Yaakov, "IDF: Terrorists' Rockets Hit Gaza Hospital, Refugee Camp," *Times of Israel*, July 28, 2014, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-terrorists-rockets-hit-gaza-hospital-refugee-camp/>.
- **July 22, 2014:** The European Union demands that Hamas, PIJ, and other Palestinian terror groups disarm, calling the groups' indiscriminate rocket fire on Israel "criminal and unjustifiable." Source: Marissa Newman, "EU Calls on Hamas, Islamic Jihad to Disarm," *Times of Israel*, July 22, 2014, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/eu-calls-on-hamas-islamic-jihad-to-disarm/>.
- **July 8, 2014:** Israel launches Operation Protective Edge, aimed at striking Hamas and ending rocket fire from Hamas and PIJ in Gaza. PIJ takes credit for firing 60 rockets and claims it has begun an operation called Stable Building. Some analysts argue PIJ has been strengthened by the latest conflict. Sources: "Operation Protective Edge: Israel bombs Gaza in retaliation for rockets," *Guardian* (London), July 8, 2014, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/08/operation-protective-edge-israel-bombs-gaza-in-retaliation-for-rockets>; Spencer Ho and Yifa Yaakov, "Israel Hits Hamas, Islamic Jihad Leaders after Rockets Land North of Tel Aviv," *Times of Israel*, July 8, 2014, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-pounds-dozens-of-gaza-targets-in-major-counteroffensive/>.
- U.S. federal authorities drop contempt charges against Sami Al-Arian. Source: Josh Gerstein, "Feds Drop Sami Al-Arian Prosecution," *Politico*, June 27, 2014, <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/06/sami-al-arian-prosecution-108404.html>.
- Three local Hamas leaders attack a group of PIJ members in a Gaza mosque and throw them out. Source: Hani Ibrahim, "Hamas' Growing Rivalry with Islamic Jihad," *Al Akhbar English* (Beirut), April 16, 2014, <http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/hamas%E2%80%99-growing-rivalry-islamic-jihad>.
- According to a poll by Watan Center for Studies and Research in the Gaza Strip, support for PIJ increased significantly (to 23.3 percent) while support for Hamas declined (to 13.5 percent), compared to the last poll in 2010. PIJ only registered 1 percent support in a 2010 poll. Source: "Rasha Abou Jalal, 'Islamic Jihad gains support in Gaza as Hamas declines,'" *Al-Monitor*, April 10, 2014, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/04/islamic-jihad-support-gaza-expense-hamas.html>.
- PIJ fires a round of mortars from Gaza into Israel, prompting an Israeli strike that kills three PIJ commanders. In retaliation, PIJ launches at least 130 locally made rockets into Israel as part of a military operation called Breaking the Silence. The operation is reportedly in coordination with Hamas. Sources: JC Finley, "US & UN Condemn Islamic Jihad Rocket Attack on Israel," *United Press International*, March 12, 2014, http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2014/03/12/US-UN-condemn-Gaza-rocket-attacks-on-Israel/8791394656512/; "Rasha Abou Jalal, 'Islamic Jihad gains support in Gaza as Hamas declines,'" *Al-Monitor*, April 10, 2014, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/04/islamic-jihad-support-gaza-expense-hamas.html>; Hani Ibrahim, "Hamas' Growing Rivalry with Islamic Jihad," *Al Akhbar English* (Beirut), April 16, 2014, <http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/hamas%E2%80%99-growing-rivalry-islamic-jihad>.
- **February 5, 2014:** PIJ leader Ramadan Shallah leads a delegation from the group to Tehran for a meeting with Iranian officials. Source: Asmaa al-Ghoul, "Hamas Isolated as Iran Boosts Ties with Islamic Jihad, Fatah," *Al-Monitor*, February 12, 2014, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/02/islamic-jihad-fatah-hamas-iran-palestinians.html>.
- **December 22, 2013:** An Israeli police sapper is injured when a bomb he was trying to defuse on a Bat Yam bus explodes. Four PIJ members are arrested a month later for coordinating the attack. Sources: "Disaster Averted as Bomb Explodes on Bus after Passengers Evacuated," *Times of Israel*, December 22, 2013, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/i-injured-in-explosion-on-bat-yam-bus/>; "Bat Yam Bus Bombers Caught, Were Planning Larger Blast in Tel Aviv," *Times of Israel*, January 2, 2014, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/four-islamic-jihad-members-arrested-over-bat-yam-bus-bombing/>.
- PIJ and Hamas announce plans to create a joint command in Gaza. Source: Elhanan Miller, "Islamic Jihad Ends Three-Day Schism with Hamas," *Times of Israel*, June 26, 2013, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-jihad-ends-three-day-schism-with-hamas/>.

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- **June 24, 2013:** Six rockets fired from Gaza explode in southern Israel.
No casualties are reported. Israeli intelligence believes PIJ fired the rockets as an act of defiance against the Hamas authorities in Gaza. Source: "Six Rockets Fired from Gaza Explode in Southern Israel," *Times of Israel*, June 24, 2013, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/three-rockets-fired-from-gaza-explode-in-south/>.
 - **June 23, 2013:** PIJ announces it is breaking contact with Hamas because of Jundiya's death.
PIJ resumes contact with Hamas three days later. Sources: "Islamic Jihad Chief Dies after Clash with Hamas Police," Agence France-Presse, June 23, 2013, <http://archive.today/U8pqD>; Elhanan Miller, "Islamic Jihad Ends Three-Day Schism with Hamas," *Times of Israel*, June 26, 2013, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-jihad-ends-three-day-schism-with-hamas/>.
 - **June 22, 2013:** Hamas police forces shoot Raed Jundiya, a commander in PIJ's al-Quds Brigade and the chief of PIJ's rocket unit.
Source: "Islamic Jihad Chief Dies after Clash with Hamas Police," Agence France-Presse, June 23, 2013, <http://archive.today/U8pqD>.
 - For the first time, PIJ encourages its members to register for Palestinian elections, raising speculation that PIJ is working more closely with the PLO.
Source: Asmaa Al-Ghoul, "Exclusive: Islamic Jihad Rethinks Role in Palestinian Politics," *Al-Monitor*, May 9, 2013, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/05/islamic-jihad-palestine-political-civil-involvement.html>.
 - PIJ claims it stole and published the private information, including cell phone numbers, of more than 100 Israeli soldiers.
Source: Daniel Siryoti, "Islamic Jihad Says It Leaked IDF Soldiers' Personal Information," *Israel Hayom*, November 27, 2012, http://www.israelhayom.com/site/newsletter_article.php?id=6541.
 - PIJ takes credit for a rocket fired from Gaza at Tel Aviv.
The rocket explodes in an open field, causing no casualties. Source: "Gaza Terrorists Fire Two Rockets at Tel Aviv," *Jerusalem Post*, November 16, 2014, <http://www.jpost.com/Defense/Gaza-terrorists-fire-two-rockets-at-Tel-Aviv>.
 - Hamas and PIJ are credited for bombing a Tel Aviv bus that wounds at least 30 people.
Source: Gil Cohen, "Israel Arrests Hamas, Islamic Jihad Cell behind Tel Aviv Bus Bomb," *Haaretz* (Tel Aviv), November 22, 2012, <http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/israel-arrests-hamas-islamic-jihad-cell-behind-tel-aviv-bus-bomb-1.479958>.
 - International Arabic-language newspaper *Asharq Al-Awsat* reports that PIJ's Syria-based leadership had relocated to Iran but continues to enjoy positive ties with their Syrian patrons.
However, a PIJ official denies that report, claiming "relations between [PIJ] and the Syrian government are excellent, unlike Hamas," whose leadership left Syria after refusing to support the Assad regime during the Syrian civil war. Source: "Islamic Jihad Leadership Relocates to Iran," *Asharq Al-Awsat* (London), July 22, 2012, <http://www.aawsat.net/2012/07/article55241265>.
 - PIJ fires almost 200 missiles into Israel from Gaza.
Source: Asmaa al-Ghoul, "Islamic Jihad Movement Maintains Popularity in Gaza," *Al-Monitor*, May 7, 2013, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulseen/originals/2013/05/islamic-jihad-movement-gaza-palestine.html>.
 - **October 29, 2011:** PIJ fires a number of rockets into southern Israel, killing one civilian and wounding two.
Source: "Palestinian Islamic Jihad | Australian National Security," Australian Government, accessed July 7, 2014, <http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/Listedterroristorganisations/Pages/PalestinianIslamicJihad.aspx>.
 - **August 20, 2011:** PIJ fires a volley of rockets into southern Israel, killing one civilian and wounding seven.
Source: "Palestinian Islamic Jihad | Australian National Security," Australian Government, accessed July 7, 2014, <http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/Listedterroristorganisations/Pages/PalestinianIslamicJihad.aspx>.
 - **January 8, 2011:** PIJ fires two mortars into southern Israel, killing two Thai nationals.
Source: "Palestinian Islamic Jihad | Australian National Security," Australian Government, accessed July 7, 2014, <http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/Listedterroristorganisations/Pages/PalestinianIslamicJihad.aspx>.
 - Two weeks before Israel's Operation Cast Lead, the Israel Defense Forces kills Jihad Nawahda, a senior member of PIJ's military wing.
In response, PIJ fires a barrage of rockets at Israel. Source: Shlomi Eldar, "Hamas Trapped between Israel, Islamic Jihad," *Al-Monitor*, March 14, 2014, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulseen/originals/2014/03/israel-hamas-gaza-iran-islamic-jihad-rival-rockets.html>.
 - PIJ claims responsibility for firing a Grad rocket that hit a shopping mall in Ashkelon, Israel.
Israeli authorities accuse Iran of providing PIJ with Grad rockets. Source: "15 Wounded as Grad Rocket Strikes Ashkelon Shopping Mall," *Jerusalem Post*, March 14, 2008, <http://www.jpost.com/Israel/15-wounded-as-Grad-rocket-strikes-Ashkelon-shopping-mall>.
 - Before Sami al-Arian is to be deported, a U.S. grand jury in Virginia indicts him on two counts of criminal contempt for refusing to testify in a case involving local Muslim groups and their ties to terrorism.
Source: Josh Gerstein, "Feds Drop Sami Al-Arian Prosecution," *Politico*, June 27, 2014, <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/06/sami-al-arian-prosecution-108404.html>.
 - PIJ fires 216 rockets and mortar shells at various Israeli towns.
Source: "Country Reports on Terrorism 2008: Chapter 6. Terrorist Organizations," U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2009, <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2008/122449.htm>.
 - PIJ and Hamas jointly claim responsibility for an explosion that killed two IDF soldiers patrolling the security fence in the central Gaza Strip.
Source: "Country Reports on Terrorism 2008: Chapter 6. Terrorist Organizations," U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2009, <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2008/122449.htm>.
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- A suicide attack at an Eilat bakery kills three.
PIJ and the Fatah-affiliated Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade claim responsibility. Source: Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.
 - **April 17, 2006:** PIJ and the Fatah-affiliated Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade claim responsibility for a suicide bombing that killed 11 people at a sandwich stand near Tel Aviv's old central bus station.
Source: "TIMELINE: Recent Bomb and Shooting Attacks against Israelis," *Haaretz* (Tel Aviv), November 21, 2012, <http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/timeline-recent-bomb-and-shooting-attacks-against-israelis-1.479592>.
 - A U.S. federal judge sentences alleged senior PIJ leader and former University of South Florida professor Sami Al-Arian, who had pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to aid PIJ, to an additional 19 months in prison before he is to be deported from the U.S.
Source: Jennifer Steinhauer, "19 Months More in Prison For Professor in Terror Case," *New York Times*, May 2, 2006, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/02/us/02islamic.html>.
 - **March 6, 2006:** Khaled Dahdouh, commander of PIJ's al-Quds Brigades and developer of a new generation of rockets, is killed by a car bomb. PIJ vows revenge against Israel. Source: "Blast Kills Islamic Jihad Leader in Gaza," *New York Times*, March 1, 2006, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/01/world/africa/01iht-web.0301mideast.html>.
 - **February 28, 2006:** Sami Al-Arian, alleged PIJ senior leader and former professor at the University of South Florida, pleads guilty in a U.S. district court to one count of conspiracy to contribute services to or for the benefit of PIJ.
A federal jury acquitted Al-Arian in December 2005 of eight of the 17 charges against him. The jury deadlocked on the remaining nine counts. Source: Jennifer Steinhauer, "19 Months More in Prison For Professor in Terror Case," *New York Times*, May 2, 2006, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/02/us/02islamic.html>.
 - After a six-month trial, a U.S. federal jury acquits Sami Al-Arian, alleged PIJ senior leader and former professor at the University of South Florida, of eight of the 17 charges against him.
The jury fails to reach a verdict on the remaining nine charges. The charges included racketeering, immigration fraud, conspiracy to kill and maim persons abroad, providing material support to PIJ, perjury, extortion, and obstruction of justice. Source: Jennifer Steinhauer, "19 Months More in Prison For Professor in Terror Case," *New York Times*, May 2, 2006, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/02/us/02islamic.html>.
 - **October 26, 2005:** A bombing at a market in Hadera, Israel kills five people.
PIJ claims responsibility. Source: Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.
 - **October 5, 2003:** Israel bombs a PIJ training base in Syria in retaliation for the previous day's Haifa bombing.
Source: "Israel Attacks Alleged Islamic Jihad Base in Syria," Fox News, October 5, 2003, <http://www.foxnews.com/story/2003/10/05/israel-attacks-alleged-islamic-jihad-base-in-syria>.
 - **October 4, 2003:** A PIJ suicide bomber blows himself up at Maxim restaurant in Haifa, killing 21 and injuring 60.
Source: "Suicide bombing of Maxim restaurant in Haifa October 4, 2003," Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, January 21, 2004, <https://mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFA-Archive/2004/Pages/Suicide%20bombing%20of%20Maxim%20restaurant%20in%20Haifa%20-%20204-O.aspx?ViewMode=Print>.
 - **August 14, 2003:** Israeli forces kill local PIJ commander Muhammad Sidir, who was responsible for the deaths of more than 20 people during an arrest raid-turned-deadly in Hebron.
PIJ vows revenge. Source: James Bennet, "Israelis Kill a Leader of Islamic Jihad, Which Vows Revenge," *New York Times*, August 15, 2003, <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/15/world/israelis-kill-a-leader-of-islamic-jihad-which-vows-revenge.html>.
 - **February 19, 2003:** A U.S. federal grand jury indicts eight members of PIJ, including University of South Florida professor Sami Al-Arian, on charges of racketeering, immigration fraud, conspiracy to kill and maim persons abroad, providing material support to PIJ, perjury, extortion, and obstruction of justice.
Al-Arian is also accused of being the North American leader of PIJ and secretary of its governing Shura Council. In addition to Al-Arian, the grand jury indicted Temple Terrace, Florida resident Sameeh Hammoudeh, a West Bank-born USF instructor and administrator at the Islamic Academy of Florida; Spring Hill, Florida resident Hatim Naji Fariz, a manager at a medical clinic; and West Bank native and Tinley Park, Illinois resident and small business owner Ghassan Zayed Ballut. Also charged, but not arrested at the time because they lived abroad, were PIJ leader and former USF instructor Ramadan Abdullah Shallah; the alleged United Kingdom leader of PIJ, Bashir Musa Mohammed Nafi; Beirut resident Mohammed Tasir Hassan Al-Khatib, alleged to be PIJ's treasurer; and Abd Al Aziz Awda, imam of the Al Qassam Mosque in Gaza Strip, one of PIJ's founders and "spiritual leader(s)." Sources: "Members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Arrested, Charged With Racketeering and Conspiracy to Provide Support to Terrorists," U.S. Department of Justice, February 20, 2003, http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2003/February/03_crm_099.htm; "Florida Professor Charged With Operating Global Terror Organization," Fox News, February 20, 2003, <http://www.foxnews.com/story/2003/02/20/florida-professor-charged-with-operating-global-terror-organization>.
 - **June 5, 2002:** A PIJ suicide attack at Israel's Megiddo Junction kills 18 and injures 50.
Source: "Car Bomb Kills 17 on Bus in Israel," CNN.com, June 5, 2002, <http://www.cnn.com/2002/WORLD/meast/06/05/mideast.bomb/index.html>.
 - **November 29, 2001:** A suicide bomber blows himself up on board a bus on a main highway in northern Israel, killing three passengers.
PIJ and Fatah claim responsibility. Source: "Suicide and Other Bombing Attacks in Israel Since the Declaration of Principles (Sept. 1993)," Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, accessed March 10, 2015, <http://www.mfa.gov.il>.
 - **November 24, 2001:** The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services arrests Mazen Al Najjar in Tampa, Florida after a federal judge orders his deportation based on visa violations in the 1980s.
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According to authorities, Al Najjar had ties to terrorist organizations and held leadership positions in the Tampa-based Islamic Concern Project (ICP) and the World and Islam Studies Enterprise, which the Justice Department said were fronts for Palestinian terror groups such as PIJ and Hamas. The ICP is also responsible for petitioning for known terrorists to obtain U.S. entry visas, according to authorities. Source: "Department of Justice Statement Regarding the Arrest of Mazen Al Najjar," U.S. Department of Justice, November 24, 2001, http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2001/November/01_ins_606.htm.

- **March 27, 2001:** A car bomb explodes in the Talpiot industrial/commercial zone in Jerusalem, wounding three people. PIJ claims responsibility.
Sources: "3 Injured in Jerusalem Car Bomb," CNN.com, March 27, 2001, <http://edition.cnn.com/2001/WORLD/meast/03/27/mideast.02/>; J.K. Dineen, Express Wire, Services, "Fury in Israel: Jerusalem Seethes as 2 Blasts Follow Infant's Killing," *New York Daily News*, March 27, 2001, <http://www.nydailynews.com/archives/news/fury-israel-jerusalem-seethes-2-blasts-follow-infant-killing-article-1.916685>; "Incident Summary for GTDID: 200103270008," Global Terrorism Database, accessed March 10, 2015, <http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/IncidentSummary.aspx?gtidid=200103270008>.
- **November 2, 2000:** Two people are killed in a car bomb explosion near the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem. PIJ claims responsibility.
Source: "Recent Attacks Thrust Islamic Jihad Back into the Headlines," CNN.com, November 2, 2000, <http://www.cgi.cnn.com/2000/WORLD/meast/11/02/islamic.jihad/index.html>.
- **October 26, 2000:** PIJ claims responsibility for a suicide bombing in the Kisufim settlement, which wounds one soldier.
The attack marked the fifth anniversary of PIJ leader Fathi Shaqaqi's death and was the first suicide bombing of the second intifada. Source: Anthony H. Cordesman, *The Israeli-Palestinian War: Escalating to Nowhere* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2005), 211.
- **November 6, 1998:** Two PIJ suicide bombers blow themselves up in the crowded Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem, wounding about 20 people.
Sources: Deborah Sontag, "24 in Jerusalem Injured by Blast from Car Bomb," *New York Times*, November 7, 1998, <http://www.nytimes.com/1998/11/07/world/24-in-jerusalem-injured-by-blast-from-car-bomb.html>; Anthony H. Cordesman, *The Israeli-Palestinian War: Escalating to Nowhere* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2005), 27.
- **March 11, 1998:** Stephen Flatow, whose daughter, Alisa, was killed in a 1995 PIJ bus bombing in Gaza, wins a \$247 million settlement in U.S. federal court against the Iranian government for funding the attack.
Source: Richard Sisk, "Terror Victim's Dad Wins \$247M Lawsuit Vs. Iran," *New York Daily News*, March 12, 1998, <http://www.nydailynews.com/archives/news/terror-victim-dad-wins-247m-lawsuit-iran-article-1.789077>.
- **October 8, 1997:** PIJ is designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the U.S.
Source: "Country Reports on Terrorism 2008: Chapter 6. Terrorist Organizations," U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2009, <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2008/122449.htm>.
- The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service detains Mazen al-Najjar, a University of South Florida professor.
According to the authorities, al-Najjar held leadership positions in the Tampa-based Islamic Concern Project and the World and Islam Studies Enterprise, which were alleged fronts for Palestinian terror groups such as PIJ and Hamas. Sources: Dana Canedy, "A Nation Challenges: The Detainee: Professor to Be Deported After Secret Evidence Case," *New York Times*, November 27, 2001, <http://www.nytimes.com/2001/11/27/us/nation-challenged-detainee-professor-be-deported-after-secret-evidence-case.html>; "Department of Justice Statement Regarding the Arrest of Mazen Al Najjar," U.S. Department of Justice, November 24, 2001, http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2001/November/01_ins_606.htm.
- **March 4, 1996:** A PIJ suicide bomber kills 13 and injures 75 at a Tel Aviv shopping mall.
Source: Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.
- PIJ Secretary-General and co-founder Fathi Shaqaqi is gunned down in Malta on October 26.
PIJ accuses Israel of executing him. Ramadan Shallah assumes the leadership of PIJ later that month. Shallah taught courses on the Middle East at the University of South Florida from 1990 to 1995. Sources: Susan Aschoff, "Jihad Leader Emerged from Shadows of USF," *St. Petersburg Times*, February 21, 2003, http://www.sptimes.com/2003/02/21/TampaBay/Jihad_leader_emerged_.html; [1] Mary Curtius, "Leader of Islamic Jihad Reported Killed in Malta," *Chicago Sun-Times*, October 29, 1995, <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-4307208.html>.
- **April 9, 1995:** A PIJ suicide bomber blows up his vehicle next to an Israeli bus in the Gaza Strip, killing seven Israeli soldiers and 20-year-old American college student Alisa Flatow.
Source: David Stout, "American Slain In Gaza Is mourned," *New York Times*, April 13, 1995, <http://www.nytimes.com/1995/04/13/world/american-slain-in-gaza-is-mourned.html>; James Dao, "Judgment for Terrorism is \$248 Million," *New York Times*, March 12, 1998, <http://www.nytimes.com/1998/03/12/nyregion/judgment-for-terrorism-is-248-million.html>.
- **January 22, 1995:** Two consecutive bombs explode at the Beit Lid junction near Netanya, Israel, killing 18 Israeli soldiers and one civilian. PIJ claims responsibility. Source: Clyde Haberman, "Suicide Bombs Kill 19 in Israel; Shadow Cast over Peace Talks," *New York Times*, January 23, 1995, <http://www.nytimes.com/1995/01/23/world/suicide-bombs-kill-19-in-israel-shadow-cast-over-peace-talks.html>.
- U.S. law enforcement begins investigating Sami al-Arian, a Palestinian professor of computer engineering at the University of South Florida. Al-Arian is suspected of raising \$650,000 in the 1980s and 1990s for PIJ through a Florida-based Islamic charity he created. Source: Judith Miller, "A Professor's Activism Leads Investigators to Look Into Possible Terrorism Links," *New York Times*, July 23, 2002, <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/07/23/national/23PROF.html>.
- **November 11, 1994:** A Palestinian riding a bicycle detonates explosives strapped to his body at an Israeli army checkpoint at Netzarim junction in the Gaza Strip, killing three Israeli soldiers and wounding six Israeli soldiers and six Palestinians.
PIJ claims responsibility, stating the attack was in retaliation for a November 2 car bomb that killed PIJ leader Hani Abed. Source: Mary Curtius, "Suicide Bomber Kills 3 Israeli Soldiers in Gaza," *Los Angeles Times*, November 12, 1994, http://articles.latimes.com/1994-11-12/news/mn-61608_1_israelis-gaza-soldiers.
- **September 4, 1994:** A PIJ drive-by shooting in Gaza kills one and injures several others.
Source: "Statement of the Attorney General, Indictments," U.S. Department of Justice, February 20, 2003, <http://www.justice.gov/archive/ag/speeches/2003/02202003pressconference.htm>.

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- **April 6, 1994:** PIJ militants explode a car bomb next to a public bus in Afula, Israel, killing nine and injuring 50.
Source: "Statement of the Attorney General, Indictments," U.S. Department of Justice, February 20, 2003, <http://www.justice.gov/archive/ag/speeches/2003/02202003pressconference.htm>.
- A PIJ shooting kills Israeli army reservist David Mashrati aboard a bus.
Source: Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.
- Egyptian authorities arrest a group of PIJ trying to enter the country "with the intention of committing terrorist acts," according to the U.S. Department of State.
Source: "Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1990: Middle East Overview," Federation of American Scientists, April 30, 1991, http://fas.org/irp/threat/terror_91/mideast.html.
- PIJ terrorists attack an Israeli tour bus in Egypt, killing 11 people, including nine Israelis, and injuring 17.
Source: "Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1990: Middle East Overview," Federation of American Scientists, April 30, 1991, http://fas.org/irp/threat/terror_90/mideast.html.
- PIJ's leadership relocates to Syria but leaves a small group in Lebanon, where it launches joint attacks with Hezbollah throughout the 1990s.
Source: Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.
- Israel exiles PIJ from Gaza to Lebanon, where the group reportedly begins cooperating with Hezbollah and receiving training from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.
Source: Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.
- The commander of Israel's military police is shot to death by PIJ in the Gaza Strip.
Source: Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.
- Egypt expels PIJ to Gaza after discovering the group has close ties with radical students responsible for the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.
Source: Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.
- Fathi Shaqaqi, still a student in Egypt, authors the book *Khomeini: The Islamic Solution and the Alternative*, describing Shaqaqi's admiration of Iran's Islamic Revolution.
Egyptian police arrest Shaqaqi for praising the revolution. Source: Asmaa al-Ghoul, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad: Iran Supplies All Weapons in Gaza," *Al-Monitor*, May 14, 2013, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulseen/originals/2013/05/gaza-islamic-jihad-and-iranian-arms.html>.
- PIJ emerges as a breakaway group from the Muslim Brotherhood.

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Violent history:

A key component of PIJ's doctrine is the belief in violent jihad in order to liberate Palestine. PIJ has been responsible for numerous suicide attacks and hundreds of rockets against Israeli civilian centers, resulting in the deaths of dozens of Israeli civilians and soldiers. While PIJ has signed on to wider Palestinian ceasefires with Israel, it is highly unlikely the group will ever renounce terrorism, which has become an integral part of PIJ's *raison d'être*. PIJ believes its goal of creating an Islamic Palestine can be achieved only through the destruction of Israel, and so jihad has become a central tenant of PIJ's ideology. In pursuit of its jihadist ideology, PIJ has launched numerous bombing attacks against Israeli civilian targets.

- **August 1987:** The commander of Israel's military police is shot to death by PIJ in the Gaza Strip.⁶⁴
- **February 1990:** PIJ terrorists attack an Israeli tour bus in Egypt, killing 11 people, including nine Israelis, and injuring 17.⁶⁵
- **December 1993:** A PIJ shooting kills Israeli army reservist David Mashrati aboard a bus.⁶⁶
- **April 6, 1994:** PIJ militants explode a car bomb next to a public bus in Afula, Israel, killing nine and injuring 50.⁶⁷
- **September 4, 1994:** A PIJ drive-by shooting in Gaza kills one and injures several others.⁶⁸
- **November 11, 1994:** A Palestinian riding a bicycle detonates explosives strapped to his body at an Israeli army checkpoint at Netzarim junction in the Gaza Strip, killing three Israeli soldiers and wounding six Israeli soldiers and six Palestinians. PIJ claims responsibility, stating the attack was in retaliation for a November 2 car bomb that killed PIJ leader Hani Abed.⁶⁹
- **January 22, 1995:** Two consecutive bombs explode at the Beit Lid junction near Netanya, Israel, killing 18 Israeli soldiers and one civilian. PIJ claims responsibility.⁷⁰
- **April 9, 1995:** A PIJ suicide bomber blows up his vehicle next to an Israeli bus in the Gaza Strip, killing seven Israeli soldiers and 20-year-old American college student Alisa Flatow.⁷¹
- **March 4, 1996:** A PIJ suicide bomber kills 13 and injures 75 at a Tel Aviv shopping mall.⁷²
- **November 6, 1998:** Two PIJ suicide bombers blow themselves up in the crowded Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem, wounding about 20 people.⁷³
- **October 26, 2000:** PIJ claims responsibility for a suicide bombing in the Kisufim settlement, which wounds one soldier.⁷⁴ The attack marked the fifth anniversary of PIJ leader Fathi Shaqaqi's death and was the first suicide bombing of the second intifada.
- **November 2, 2000:** Two people are killed in a car bomb explosion near the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem. PIJ claims responsibility.⁷⁵
- **March 27, 2001:** A car bomb explodes in the Talpote industrial/commercial zone in Jerusalem, wounding three people. PIJ claims responsibility.⁷⁶
- **November 29, 2001:** A suicide bomber blows himself up on board a bus on a main highway in northern Israel, killing three passengers. PIJ and Fatah claim responsibility.⁷⁷
- **June 5, 2002:** A PIJ suicide attack at Israel's Megiddo Junction kills 18 and injures 50.⁷⁸
- **October 4, 2003:** A PIJ suicide bomber blows himself up at Maxim restaurant in Haifa, killing 22 and injuring 60.⁷⁹
- **October 26, 2005:** A bombing at a market in Hadera, Israel kills five people. PIJ claims responsibility.⁸⁰
- **April 17, 2006:** PIJ and the Fatah-affiliated Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade claim responsibility for a suicide bombing that killed 11 people at a sandwich stand near Tel Aviv's old central bus station.⁸¹
- **January 2007:** A suicide attack at an Eilat bakery kills three. PIJ and the Fatah-affiliated Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade claim responsibility.⁸²
- **March 2008:** PIJ and Hamas jointly claim responsibility for an explosion that killed two IDF soldiers patrolling the security fence in the central Gaza Strip.⁸³
- **April 2008:** PIJ fires 216 rockets and mortar shells at various Israeli towns.⁸⁴
- **June 2008:** PIJ claims responsibility for firing a Grad rocket that hit a shopping mall in Ashkelon, Israel, wounding 15. Israeli authorities accuse Iran of providing PIJ with Grad rockets.⁸⁵

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- **January 8, 2011:** PIJ fires two mortars into southern Israel, killing two Thai nationals.⁸⁶
 - **August 20, 2011:** PIJ fires a volley of rockets into southern Israel, killing one civilian and wounding seven.⁸⁷
 - **October 29, 2011:** PIJ fires a number of rockets into southern Israel, killing one civilian and wounding two.⁸⁸
 - **March 2012:** PIJ fires almost 200 missiles into Israel from Gaza.⁸⁹
 - **November 2012:** Hamas and PIJ are credited for bombing a Tel Aviv bus that wounds at least 30 people.⁹⁰
 - **November 2012:** PIJ takes credit for a rocket fired from Gaza at Tel Aviv. The rocket explodes in an open field, causing no casualties.⁹¹
 - **June 24, 2013:** Six rockets fired from Gaza explode in southern Israel. No casualties are reported. Israeli intelligence believes PIJ fired the rockets as an act of defiance against the Hamas authorities in Gaza.⁹²
 - **December 22, 2013:** An Israeli police sapper is injured when a bomb he was trying to defuse on a Bat Yam bus explodes.⁹³ Four PIJ members are arrested a month later for coordinating the attack.⁹⁴
 - **March 2014:** PIJ fires a round of mortars from Gaza into Israel, prompting an Israeli strike that kills three PIJ commanders. In retaliation, PIJ launches at least 130 locally made rockets into Israel as part of a military operation called Breaking the Silence.⁹⁵ The operation is reportedly in coordination with Hamas.⁹⁶
 - **July 8, 2014:** Israel launches Operation Protective Edge, aimed at striking Hamas and ending rocket fire from Hamas and PIJ in Gaza.⁹⁷ PIJ takes credit for firing 60 rockets in recent days and claims it has begun an operation called Stable Building.⁹⁸ Some analysts argue PIJ has been strengthened by the latest conflict.
 - **July 28, 2014:** Seven Palestinian children die after a rocket strikes a playground in Gaza's al-Shati refugee camp, while another rocket hits al-Shifa Hospital. Palestinians initially blamed Israel, but the strikes were the result of misfired rockets by PIJ.⁹⁹
 - **August 5, 2014:** An Egyptian-negotiated 72-hour ceasefire takes hold. Israeli and Palestinian negotiators head to Cairo to discuss a longer truce. Representatives of Fatah, Hamas, and PIJ are part of the Palestinian delegation.¹⁰⁰
 - **August 8, 2014:** After a three-day ceasefire between Israel and Hamas expires, PIJ fires three Grad rockets at Ashkelon and promises to continue firing until Israel accedes to all of Hamas's demands.¹⁰¹
 - **August 20, 2014:** According to Iran's state-run network Press TV, PIJ has fired 3,000 rockets at Israel during the 2014 Israel-Gaza war.¹⁰²
 - **September 4, 2014:** After the 2014 Israel-Gaza war ends, Al Jazeera broadcasts a video of PIJ's tunnel systems. In the video, a PIJ militant declares that the group is preparing for its next war with Israel and that the tunnels will be used to launch attacks and fire mortars on Israel.¹⁰³
 - **October 29, 2014:** Moataz Hejazi shoots and critically wounds prominent right-wing Israeli activist Yehuda Glick in Jerusalem, Israel. After the shooting, police track Hejazi to his home and he dies in a shootout.¹⁰⁴ The following day, PIJ publishes an obituary for Hijazi on its website, saying that he had been a member of the organization.¹⁰⁵
 - **August 20, 2015:** Four rockets land inside Israel from the Syrian side of the Golan Heights, causing no injuries. Israel accuses PIJ of firing the rockets with Iranian support. PIJ denies the charge.¹⁰⁶
 - **October 3, 2015:** PIJ claims responsibility after 19-year-old Mohannad Halabi stabs two Israeli men to death in Jerusalem's Old City. Police shot him dead. Israeli authorities demolished Halabi's house on January 9, 2016. A Palestinian campaign to rebuild the house raised \$60,000 and lauded Halabi as the "initiator of the Jerusalem intifada."¹⁰⁷
 - **December 1, 2015:** Palestinian Authority police arrest a six-member PIJ cell transporting grenades, firearms, and other explosives in the West Bank. The cell reportedly planned to use the weaponry to attack the IDF.¹⁰⁸
 - **October 30, 2017:** Israel destroys a tunnel beneath the Gaza-Israel border, killing 14 militants, including the head of PIJ's armed wing in central Gaza. PIJ promises revenge. PIJ admits that the tunnel was meant for "kidnapping soldiers in order to free prisoners [from Israeli prisons]."¹⁰⁹
 - **November 30, 2017:** PIJ fires 12 mortar shells from northern Gaza at an Israeli army post northeast of Gaza, causing minimal damage and no casualties.¹¹⁰
 - **December 12, 2017:** Two PIJ operatives are killed "while carrying out a jihadist mission," according to a PIJ statement. Palestinian media
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reports initially blame an Israeli drone strike, which the Israeli military denies.¹¹¹

- **December 29, 2017:** PIJ fires three mortar shells into southern Israel. Two of the mortars are intercepted while the third strikes the Israeli community of Sha'ar Haneguv, causing minor damage to a building. The IDF assesses that the mortars used in the attack and in the November 30, 2017, barrage were Iranian made.¹¹²
- **May 28, 2018:** PIJ fires 28 mortars at Israel from Gaza. The Israeli military intercepts most of the rockets but one lands outside of a kindergarten causing damage but no injuries.¹¹³
- **October 26-27, 2018:** PIJ fires dozens of rockets into Israel. Israel responds by bombing multiple targets in Gaza. There are no casualties reported on either side.¹¹⁴
- **November 12-14, 2018:** PIJ and Hamas fire more than 450 rockets into Israel, killing one and wounding dozens. After Israel responds with airstrikes in Gaza, the groups agree to a ceasefire on November 13. PIJ claims victory after Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman resigns on November 14 in protest of the ceasefire.¹¹⁵
- **May 3-5, 2019:** On May 3, PIJ snipers wound two Israeli soldiers along the Gaza border during weekly protests. Israeli forces retaliate with a strike on a Hamas post near the border, killing two. PIJ and Hamas launch almost 700 rockets into Israel over the course of three days, killing at least four Israeli civilians and wounding dozens more. Most of the rockets are intercepted or fall in open areas, but at least 50 rockets reportedly hit Israeli population centers. Israel retaliates with airstrikes on more than 350 targets in Gaza. The airstrikes kill at least 29, including fighters from Hamas and PIJ, as well as civilians, according to Hamas, though Israeli military officials say some Palestinian civilians were actually killed by misfired Hamas rockets. It is reportedly the most violent conflict between the two sides since the 2014 war. PIJ threatens to launch a full-scale war with Israel. On May 5, Israel restarts its tactic of targeted assassinations after a five-year lull and kills Hamed Ahmed al-Khodary, a senior Hamas finance official accused of funneling Iranian money to PIJ and Hamas. Egypt negotiates a new ceasefire that goes into effect that night. Hamas claims that though this round of violence is over, the conflict will continue.¹¹⁶
- **November 2019:** PIJ declares it is going to war and launches more than 350 rockets into Israel beginning on November 12 after Israel assassinates Baha Abu al-Ata, PIJ's military commander in northern Gaza. Israel responds with airstrikes targeting rocket positions along the Gaza border. At least 23 Palestinians are killed, including PIJ field commander Khaled Moawad Faraj. Israel reports injuries but no fatalities. The PIJ-Hamas joint command issues a statement that it will not allow Israel to return to a policy of targeted assassinations. Nakhalah reportedly arrives in Egypt on November 13 for ceasefire talks.¹¹⁷
- **February 2020:** On February 19, a PIJ sniper team fires on a group of Israeli soldiers and police officers along the Gaza-Israel border. There are no casualties. The IDF returns fire and "identified a hit," though the Palestinians report no casualties. On February 23, Israeli forces kill a PIJ member attempting to plant explosives along the Gaza-Israel border fence. PIJ launches more than 21 rockets into Israel from Gaza in retaliation. In response to the rocket fire, Israeli forces strike multiple PIJ targets in Syria, killing at least two PIJ members. On February 24, PIJ continues to launch dozens of rockets toward Israel's southern communities in response. Israel's defense systems intercept most of the rockets but there are reports of damage to homes and minor injuries. Israel launches airstrikes on PIJ rocket positions in Gaza. PIJ pledges to fire on Tel Aviv.¹¹⁸
- **December 2020:** On December 29, PIJ announces widescale military drills, reportedly organized by Iran, in preparation for a future conflict with Israel. PIJ launches eight rockets into the sea off of Gaza's coast. The drill includes Hamas and smaller armed groups.¹¹⁹
- **May 2021:**
 - **May 9:** As Israelis rally in Jerusalem to mark Jerusalem Day, celebrating the 1967 capture of east Jerusalem from Jordan, riots break out on the Temple Mount as hundreds of Palestinians reportedly throw rocks and firecrackers at security forces. Israeli police storm the Temple Mount in response. The protests coincide with an expected Israeli supreme court decision on the eviction of Palestinians from their homes in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. The decision is delayed because of the rioting.¹²⁰
 - **May 10:** Palestinians in Jerusalem throw rocks at an Israeli car, causing the driver to lose control. PIJ joins Hamas in launching hundreds of rockets towards Israeli border communities, with some reaching as far as Jerusalem. One rocket strikes a house near Jerusalem, lightly wounding those inside. Hamas claims the rocket fire is "in retaliation to [Israel's] crimes and aggression on the holy city and brutality against our people in Sheikh Jarrah and Al Aqsa Mosque." Hamas demands Israel remove its forces from both the Temple Mount and the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and sets a deadline of that evening. PIJ posts a video online of an anti-tank missile striking an Israeli car near Gaza, wounding one. In response, Israel launches airstrikes on Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip. At least nine people are killed and two wounded in Gaza. Israeli authorities claim the strikes killed eight Hamas operatives while the Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza claimed the Israeli strikes killed 21 people, including 10 children. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken calls for an immediate end to rocket attacks on Israel. Rocket attacks from Gaza continue into May 11 as the death toll rises to two Israelis and 26 in Gaza. At least 30 are wounded in southern Israel.¹²¹

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- **May 11:** Hamas claims to launch 137 rockets within a five-minute span toward the Israeli cities of Ashkelon and Ashdod, just south of Tel Aviv. Israel claims one-third of the rockets from Gaza had fallen short and landed inside the coastal enclave, resulting in increased Palestinian casualties. An Israeli strike in Gaza kills a Hamas commander and three PIJ commanders. The strike primarily targets Sameh Fahim Al-Mamlouk, a senior PIJ military commander. The other two PIJ fighters killed are field commanders who oversaw the group's rocket attacks. Rockets strike homes in the Israeli city of Ashkelon, killing two and wounding dozens of others, marking the first Israeli fatalities in the conflict. A rocket strike outside a home in Rishon LeZion kills one inside and a neighbor dies from a heart attack after the strike.¹²²
- **May 12:** Hamas and PIJ continue to fire rockets toward Israeli cities. Rockets target Sderot and other Israeli communities near the Gaza border. Hassan Abu al-Ata, deputy commander of PIJ's Gaza Brigade, is killed in an Israeli strike in Gaza. PIJ promises a harsh response. A rocket strikes a home in Sderot, wounding three. A Kornet anti-tank guided missile strikes a Jeep in Israel's Netiv Ha'Asara, north of Gaza, killing a soldier and wounding three others. Israeli media reports more than 1,200 rockets have been launched at Israel since the start of fighting on Monday, though 200 fell within Gaza. Israel's missile defense systems reportedly intercept 80 to 90 percent of the rockets.¹²³
- **May 13-14:** Israel strikes at least five Hamas cells preparing to launch anti-tank guided missiles. A rocket strikes a building in Tel Aviv, wounding five Israeli civilians. Rocket fire kills an Israeli soldier and a 5-year-old in Israel. As of May 13, at least 46 Israelis are wounded and seven are killed since the beginning of the conflict. In Gaza, the death toll reaches at least 109. Hamas and PIJ confirm 20 deaths between the two groups. Israel claims to have struck almost 1,000 militant targets in Gaza. Hamas begins sending armed drones into Israel while continuing to target southern Israel, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem with rockets. The drones are either shot down or blown up in the air. That night, Israel mobilizes air and ground forces to strike inside Gaza. The Israeli military denies it is an invasion and that its forces are firing artillery from the Israeli side of the border. Egypt sends mediators to Israel to discuss a ceasefire. Hamas rejects a proposal for a three-hour lull in the fighting to further discussions and calls an Israeli invasion would be an opportunity to capture Israeli soldiers. Overnight, Israel conducts airstrikes on some 150 targets around Gaza while infantry near the Gaza-Israel border—but staying on the Israeli side—strike nearby Hamas positions. The IDF claims to damage several kilometers of Hamas's underground tunnels. According to some reports, Israel intentionally leaked misinformation of a ground invasion to draw Hamas into positions around and beneath the border for aerial bombardment.¹²⁴
- **May 14:** Rioters from Lebanon approach the Israeli border and are repelled by Israeli forces. The rockets are fired from Syria, one falls into the sea or open areas of the Golan. There are no injuries or immediate claims of responsibility. IDF aircraft target a PIJ anti-tank missile operative, two Hamas anti-tank missile positions, and a Hamas surface-to-surface rocket position in Gaza. As of nightfall on May 14, more than 2,000 rockets have been fired toward Israel in five days of fighting. Approximately half of those projectiles are intercepted while 350 fall inside of Gaza. The Hamas-run health ministry claims 126 Palestinians have been killed in five days of fighting, including 31 minors, while 950 are wounded. Israeli casualties rise to eight dead, including two children. Hamas reportedly passes messages to Israel that it is interested in a ceasefire. Israeli media reports increasing chances of a ceasefire over the weekend.¹²⁵
- **May 15:** Hamas and PIJ continue to launch missiles toward Israeli cities. An Israeli airstrike destroys a building in Gaza hosting the offices of the Associated Press, Al Jazeera, and other media outlets. Israel accuses Hamas of using civilian infrastructure, including the building hosting press offices, as shields. Israel presents evidence that Hamas military intelligence units were operating in the building. Hamas launches dozens of missiles and rockets towards Tel Aviv, Beersheba, Ashdod, and Sderot, killing one in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan and raising the death toll in Israel to 10. Militants fire at least 120 rockets that night at southern Israel. Almost 300 rockets are fired throughout the day, about 40 of which fall inside Gaza.¹²⁶
- **May 16:** Militants fire at least 150 rockets toward southern Israel, striking buildings in Ashkelon and Ashdod, including a synagogue. At least 66 people are wounded in the strikes. Two rockets destroy five cars and a house in Ashkelon, while another lands near a supermarket in Beersheba. No injuries are reported in those strikes. Israeli airstrikes on Gaza continue, killing at least two and wounding 25, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry. Israeli airstrikes target a Hamas tunnel system, which collapses and brings down houses above, killing 42. Israel says civilian casualties are unintentional. Since the beginning of the conflict, at least 192 have been killed in Gaza and 1,125 injured. Hamas and PIJ have launched more than 2,000 rockets and missiles since the beginning of the conflict. The United States and United Nations say they are working on a ceasefire agreement.¹²⁷
- **May 17:** The French and Egyptian governments issue a joint call for a ceasefire. U.S. officials reportedly tell Israeli leaders to begin winding down operations in Gaza. Israel kills Hussam Abu Harbeed, PIJ's northern division commander, in Gaza.¹²⁸
- **May 18-19:** After a six-hour lull in rocket fire, Gaza militants continue to launch rockets toward Israeli cities. Hamas threatens to strike Tel Aviv. On May 18, a mortar shell strikes a packing house in Israel's Eshkol region, killing two Thai foreign workers and wounding 10 others. Rockets also target the Erez pedestrian crossing and Keren Shalom crossing into Gaza, wounding one Israeli soldier and forcing both crossings to close. The crossings are used to bring food and aid into Gaza. Hamas claims to fire multiple rockets toward six Israeli air force bases overnight. The Israeli military says there is no indication any of its bases were struck by rockets. At least 50 rockets are fired

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toward Israel, 10 of which fall within Gaza. The military strikes a PIJ cell preparing a rocket attack from central Gaza. The IDF claims to kill at least 10 members of Hamas and PIJ in overnight airstrikes in Khan Younis and Rafah in Gaza. The IDF also strikes several targets overnight in the upscale Rimal neighborhood of Gaza City, where many Hamas commanders reportedly live. Israeli planes also target Hamas's network of underground tunnels in Gaza. As of May 19, Hamas and PIJ have launched almost 3,700 rockets since the beginning of the conflict. The fighting kills at least 217 in Gaza and wounds 1,400, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry. The Israeli military says at least 160 Hamas and PIJ operatives have been killed since the start of the fighting. According to Israel's Magen David Adom, the fighting has killed 12 in Israel and wounded more than 330.¹²⁹

- o **May 20:** IRGC Quds Force commander Ismail Ghaani writes to Hamas military leader Mohammed Deif to praise Hamas's actions during the conflict. Ghaani addresses Deif as a "living martyr" and writes he is confident of Hamas's victory. After an eight-hour lull in rocket fire overnight, Hamas and PIJ renew their campaign with salvos targeting Ashkelon, Ashdod, Beersheba, and neighboring communities. Rockets strike homes in Ashkelon and Ashdod, wounding one. An anti-tank missile strikes an empty military bus in southern Israel, wounding one. The Israeli military claims to strike at least three homes in Gaza's Khan Younis and Rafah belonging to Hamas commanders. As of May 20, Hamas and PIJ have launched more than 4,000 rockets toward Israel. Hamas and PIJ claim only 20 of their fighters have been killed in the fighting while Israel claims it has killed 130 fighters from both groups. An Egyptian intelligence official says a ceasefire is likely by the end of the week. Israel's security cabinet approves a truce for "quiet in exchange for quiet." A Hamas official confirms a truce will go into effect at 2 a.m. the following day.¹³⁰

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Designations:

Designations by the U.S. Government:

October 8, 1997: Secretary of State designates Palestine Islamic Jihad - Shafaqi Faction as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.¹³¹

Designations by Foreign Governments and Organizations:

Australia—listed PIJ as a terrorist organization on December 21, 2001.¹³²

Canada—listed Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a terrorist entity on November 27, 2002.¹³³

EU—listed Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as groups and entities involved in terrorist acts on December 27, 2001.¹³⁴

New Zealand—listed Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a terrorist entity on October 11, 2010.¹³⁵

United Kingdom—listed Palestinian Islamic Jihad - Shafaqi (PIJ) as an organization believed to be concerned in terrorism in March 2001.¹³⁶

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Associations:

Ties to Extremist Entities designated by the U.S. or foreign governments:

Iran and the [Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps \(IRGC\)](#)

PIJ's founders modeled the group's Islamist objectives under the influence of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. Iran is PIJ's primary source of financial support, according to the U.S. State Department.

¹³⁷ A 1998 lawsuit against Iran in U.S. federal court revealed that the Islamic Republic allocated \$2 million in its annual budget to PIJ.¹³⁸ That number has since skyrocketed—in late 2013, PIJ sources revealed that the terror group received about \$3 million per month from Iran.¹³⁹ A February 2014 report by Ali Nourizadeh, director of the Center for Iranian Studies in London, stated that Iran provides PIJ with \$100 to \$150 million annually.¹⁴⁰

According to PIJ spokesman Daoud Shihab, “all of the weapons in Gaza are provided by Iran,” and “everyone knows that Iran is financing” PIJ.¹⁴¹ In February 2014, a group of PIJ leaders, including Ramadan Shallah, made what Shihab called a “routine visit” to Tehran, which “still supports resistance factions.”¹⁴²

PIJ also receives aid through Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).¹⁴³ The IRGC is Iran's primary instrument for spreading the Islamic Revolution abroad and has acted as a conduit between the Iranian regime and PIJ. The IRGC provides PIJ with weapons, training, and funding. It reportedly began sending support after the PIJ was exiled to Lebanon in 1987.¹⁴⁴

Since the beginning of the 2011 Syrian civil war, Iran has reportedly increased its support of PIJ at the expense of Hamas. Unlike Hamas,

Iran supports Syria's Assad regime and PIJ has noticeably maintained its base in Damascus, Syria (although PIJ otherwise appears to be neutral).¹⁴⁵ In 2013, Iran sent \$2 million worth of food aid to Gaza during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, entrusting members of PIJ with distribution. This aid bore stamps with the Palestinian flag alongside the PIJ logo and the Iranian flag.¹⁴⁶

International Arabic-language newspaper *Asharq Al-Awsat* reported in 2012 that PIJ's Syria-based leadership had relocated to Iran but continued to enjoy positive ties with their Syrian patrons. However, a PIJ official denied that report, claiming “relations between [PIJ] and the Syrian government are excellent, unlike Hamas,”¹⁴⁷ whose leadership left Syria after refusing to support the Assad regime during the Syrian civil war. Official representatives of the group are also stationed elsewhere in the Middle East,¹⁴⁸ including Iran.¹⁴⁹

After a year of decreased funding, the IRGC reportedly restored its relations with PIJ in May 2016 with an annual allocation of \$70 million. The allocation followed a visit to Tehran by a PIJ delegation the previous month. As part of the agreement, Qasem Soleimani, head of the IRGC's Quds Force, reportedly appointed Khaled Mansour commander of PIJ's Quds Brigades in Gaza.¹⁵⁰

[Hamas](#)

PIJ and Hamas collaborate militarily in order to fight Israel. During the first and second Palestinian intifadas, Hamas and PIJ claimed joint responsibility for a handful of attacks, including an April 9, 1995 suicide bombing that killed seven Israeli soldiers and an American.¹⁵¹ The groups continued coordinated attacks after the end of the second intifada and after Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip in 2007. In November 2012, for example, PIJ and Hamas jointly bombed a Tel Aviv bus, wounding 29 people.¹⁵²

After Hamas's falling out with Iran in 2012, relations between Hamas and PIJ also degraded. Fighters from the two organizations clashed amid accusations that Hamas was targeting PIJ. In September 2013, however, the two terror groups announced plans to form a new joint command to create a better political atmosphere in Gaza.¹⁵³

In March 2014, PIJ fired a round of mortars into Israel, prompting an Israeli strike that killed three PIJ commanders. In retaliation, PIJ launched at least 130 locally made rockets into Israel as part of a military operation called Breaking the Silence, reportedly in coordination with Hamas.¹⁵⁴ PIJ and Hamas also jointly launched rockets at Israel during Israel's summer 2014 conflict with Hamas.¹⁵⁵ PIJ and Hamas have since continued to coordinate politically and militarily.¹⁵⁶ The two groups announced in December 2019 they would join forces against Israel in the next round of conflict with the Jewish state.¹⁵⁷

Palestinian Islamic Jihad

Hezbollah

In 1987, PIJ was exiled from Gaza to Lebanon. There, the group reportedly began cooperating with Hezbollah and began training under Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.¹⁵⁸

In July 2014, masked members of PIJ were filmed thanking Hezbollah, particularly its Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, for Hezbollah's "stance and support, be it with financial, military or moral support."¹⁵⁹

Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade

PIJ and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, the armed faction of Fatah, have carried out a handful of joint terror attacks against Israeli civilians. Examples include an April 2006 suicide bombing at a Tel Aviv sandwich stand that killed 11 people¹⁶⁰ and a January 2007 suicide attack on an Eilat bakery that killed three.¹⁶¹

Ties to other entities:

Syria

PIJ has been based in Damascus since 1989. An anonymous PIJ source told London's *Asharq Al-Awsat* in July 2012 that the PIJ leadership fled Syria for Iran,¹⁶² though PIJ officially denied that it had abandoned its base in Syria.¹⁶³ Despite Iranian support for PIJ and Syria, PIJ has otherwise appeared to remain neutral in the Syrian civil war.¹⁶⁴ According to PIJ spokesperson Daoud Shihab, "Palestine is greater than all axes, and we do not accept to be part of the [Syria] conflict."¹⁶⁵ PIJ has, however, threatened to respond if Israel involves itself in the Syrian civil war.¹⁶⁶

Qatar

A U.S. lawsuit filed in June 2020 alleged Qatar provided funding to PIJ and Hamas through three Qatari financial institutions, the Qatar Charity, Masraf Al Rayan, and Qatar National Bank. The Qatar Charity is a member of the U.S.-sanctioned Union of Good charity network. All three institutions have links to members of the Qatari royal family. The plaintiffs are friends and family members of 10 U.S. citizens who died in terror attacks in Israel carried out by PIJ and Hamas. The lawsuit alleges Qatar Charity allegedly worked with Masraf Al Rayan bank and Qatar National Bank to forward Hamas and PIJ millions of dollars. It further accuses the Qatari government of coopting "several institutions that it dominates and controls to funnel coveted U.S. dollars (the chosen currency of Middle East terrorist networks) to Hamas and PIJ under the false guise of charitable donations."¹⁶⁷

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Palestinian Islamic Jihad

Media Coverage:

Media coverage/analysis of group

Media coverage of PIJ is much less subjective than with other groups. While pundits may find themselves sometimes split over Hamas and Hezbollah, which provide social services in addition to their terrorist activities, PIJ provides no such services and is solely dedicated to Israel's destruction. Further, unlike Hamas and Hezbollah, PIJ is not entangled in any government and therefore there is no need to distinguish between its armed faction and any political leadership, although there are indications that the group might be looking to develop a political role.¹⁶⁸ Though Western media largely still refers to PIJ as a militant and not a terrorist organization, PIJ's single-mindedness has made it easier for the media to classify and condemn its activities.

Still, while pundits widely condemn PIJ's tactics, there are some, even in Western media, who equate morally PIJ's terrorism and Israel's responses to terrorism. According to this line of thinking, as abhorrent as PIJ's actions are, they are the actions of desperate people living under brutal occupation. One example of this justification is a 2002 *New York Times* op-ed by Muhammad Muslih, a professor of political science at Long Island University. Muslih penned the op-ed after overhearing a young Arab-American boy tell his father he wanted to become a suicide bomber and martyr in Palestine. Muslih expressed his dismay at hearing the boy's words but went on to justify Palestinian terrorism as a response to the Israeli occupation.¹⁶⁹ He cited a PIJ leader who told Muslih the Palestinians "don't have tanks or Apaches or F-16s, but we have the determination to be martyrs."¹⁷⁰ Muslih differentiated between Palestinian terrorism and that of Osama bin Laden, stating, "There are no bin Ladens in the Palestinian territories," and declaring that "Palestinian violence is a reaction to the violence of occupation."¹⁷¹ And rather than clearly condemn Palestinian terrorism and call for dialogue, Muslih demanded acquiescence to PIJ's goals: "The United States should get Israel to withdraw to its borders of June 4, 1967. Then the violence will stop."¹⁷²

PIJ regularly made headlines during the early 2000s, when a University of South Florida professor, Sami al-Arian, was indicted for aiding the terrorist group. Despite the record of PIJ's terrorist activities, some Western media reports glossed over PIJ's record when reporting on the professor, failing to put PIJ and the charges into context. A 2006 *Guardian* article, for example, reports on al-Arian's sentencing and lists the charges against the professor as well as the U.S. attorney general's belief that al-Arian is involved in PIJ's deadly activities, but the writer provides no background on PIJ itself.¹⁷³ By contrast, a 2006 *New York Times* article on al-Arian's sentencing extensively cites the federal judge's contempt for PIJ's activities, describing what exactly al-Arian was charged with supporting.¹⁷⁴ In a 2003 article on the attempted U.S. extradition of a British national accused of aiding PIJ in connection with al-Arian, the British *Telegraph* lists PIJ's recent terrorist activities and their death toll, while citing PIJ's goal "to create 'terror, instability and panic.'" Other aims include the destruction of the state of Israel and the rejection of any form of peaceful co-existence.¹⁷⁵ Further, another 2006 *New York Times* article on the assassination of a PIJ leader credits the group for carrying out multiple recent suicide bombings against Israel.¹⁷⁶

PIJ's singular devotion to violent jihad and destroying Israel makes it difficult for any pundit to write positively on the organization, but sympathies for the Palestinian cause still shade some coverage of PIJ, hiding the group's terrorist activities behind a veil of nationalism.

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¹⁶⁹ Muhammad Muslih, "'They Took Our Land, so Why Shouldn't I Kill Them?'" *New York Times*, April 26, 2002, http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/26/opinion/26iht-edmus_ed3_.html.

¹⁷⁰ Muhammad Muslih, "'They Took Our Land, so Why Shouldn't I Kill Them?'" *New York Times*, April 26, 2002, http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/26/opinion/26iht-edmus_ed3_.html.

¹⁷¹ Muhammad Muslih, "'They Took Our Land, so Why Shouldn't I Kill Them?'" *New York Times*, April 26, 2002, http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/26/opinion/26iht-edmus_ed3_.html.

¹⁷² Muhammad Muslih, "'They Took Our Land, so Why Shouldn't I Kill Them?'" *New York Times*, April 26, 2002, http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/26/opinion/26iht-edmus_ed3_.html.

¹⁷³ Suzanne Goldenberg, "Palestinian Professor Sentenced for Terrorism in US," *Guardian* (London), May 1, 2006, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2006/may/02/usa.internationaleducationnews>.

¹⁷⁴ Jennifer Steinhauer, "Palestinian to Be Imprisoned Before Deportation," *New York Times*, May 1, 2006, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/01/us/01cnd-islamic.html>.

¹⁷⁵ David Bamber and Alasdair Palmer, "US Furious as Britain Ignores Extradition Plea," *Telegraph*, February 23, 2003, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/1422853/US-furious-as-Britain-ignores-extradition-plea.html>.

¹⁷⁶ "Blast Kills Islamic Jihad Leader in Gaza," *New York Times*, March 1, 2006, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/01/world/africa/01iht-web.0301mideast.html>.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad

Rhetoric:

Ziad al-Nakhalah, May 8, 2021

“It is impossible to remain silent in the face of what is happening in Jerusalem. The enemy must expect our response at all times.”¹⁷⁷

PIJ statement, May 6, 2021

“Jerusalem Day is the day for standing up to Zionist-American terrorism. This year we mark this day in the shadow of the ‘Ramadan Intifada’ and the voices of jihad on the steps of the Damascus Gate, the Al-Aqsa Mosque and in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. If the enemy continues, the fire of Ramadan Intifada will reach the settlements and beyond. We call on our people in Jerusalem and the West Bank to revolt against the Zionists, resume ramming and stabbing attacks at checkpoints and shoot without hesitation anywhere soldiers and herds of settlers are located.”¹⁷⁸

PIJ statement, February 23, 2020

“We are placing our hands on the trigger and we will avenge the blood of the martyrs by firing on Tel Aviv.”¹⁷⁹

Ziad al-Nakhalah, PIJ secretary-general, January 5, 2020

The death of Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani is a “huge loss but at the same time he will be a model for all Muslims and free people in the world regarding how to confront America and the Zionist entity.”¹⁸⁰

PIJ statement, November 12, 2017

“It is our right to respond to any aggression, including the right to respond to the crime of attacking the tunnel east of Dir al-Balah, where 12 Mujahideen from Al-Qassam and Saraya al-Quds fell. To clarify the matter, our children and our people are also dear to us, as are our leaders, and the terrorism and the threats of the enemy do not frighten us. The settler is a murderer and a criminal and must understand that his hands are stained with the blood of our children and will not stop killing until he is cut off or he leaves our land.”¹⁸¹

¹⁷⁷ Elior Levy, “Islamic Jihad threatens ‘response at any moment’ against Israel for Jerusalem unrest,” Ynet, May 8, 2021, <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/r1Vl6Q7dd>.

¹⁷⁸ Liad Osmo, “Islamic Jihad calls for more terror attacks ahead of Jerusalem Day,” Ynet, May 6, 2021, <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/SkH7W2110000>.

¹⁷⁹ Anna Ahronheim, “Palestinian Islamic Jihad bombards South after clash near Gaza border,” *Jerusalem Post*, February 24, 2020, <https://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/IDF-fires-mortar-shells-at-terrorists-in-southern-Gaza-Strip-report-618454>.

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¹⁸¹ Avraham Gold, “IDF: We Will ‘Respond With Force’ to Threats From Palestinian Islamic Jihad,” *Jerusalem Post*, November 12, 2017, <https://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/IDF-We-will-respond-with-force-to-threats-from-Palestinian-Islamic-Jihad-514017>.