



ON: Palestinian Islamist Terror Organizations

Between September 2000 – September 2002, 625 Israelis were killed by Palestinian terrorist attacks. Hamas and Islamic Jihad carried out most of these attacks.

Both Hamas and Islamic Jihad uniformly reject peace with Israel, and both seek Israel's destruction. Article 13 of the Hamas Covenant states that "[Peace] initiatives, and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement.."

Both Hamas and Islamic Jihad also:

- Use terror as a strategy
- Receive substantial financial support from abroad
- Cooperate with the various PLO factions

(See Israel 101 Series Paper No. 8.)

Hamas – (Islamic Resistance Movement)

Hamas is a radical Islamic terrorist organization responsible for the murder of hundreds of Israelis and Palestinians. Hamas was founded in December 1987. Its ideology is based on the doctrines of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood. Hamas is the largest Palestinian organization after Yasir Arafat's Fatah faction. Much of Hamas support comes from the fact that it has organized schools and social services - along with its military and terrorist wing- which provide a strong base of support for Hamas within Palestinian society.

In its early years, Hamas devoted itself to killing Palestinian 'heretics' and 'collaborators.' Hamas uses its overt activities to organize and fund its covert activities, raising money for terrorism through sympathetic groups abroad. Iran contributes \$3 million annually to Hamas. Iraq sends between \$10,000 and \$25,000 to families of suicide bombers to encourage young men to "choose the path of martyrdom."

Between 1994 – 1997 Hamas suicide bombings killed 121 Israelis and wounded hundreds more. Other Hamas terror attacks killed an equal number of Israeli civilians and soldiers. These attacks all occurred after the signing of the Oslo Peace Accords. Using terrorism as a strategic weapon, Hamas has so far achieved its goal of delaying the peace process.

The Hamas covenant also expresses anti-Semitism:

- "The Day of Judgment will not come about until Muslims fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out 'O Muslim, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.'" (Article 7)
- Article 32 cites the anti-Semitic Protocols of the Elders of Zion as support for Hamas' ideology.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)

An offshoot of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, Islamic Jihad was founded in the 1970s. It has cooperated with Hamas on numerous terrorist attacks, and has also conducted its own terrorist operations, such as the suicide bombing outside the Dizengoff Center in Tel-Aviv on March 4, 1996, which killed 13 Israelis. Islamic Jihad rejects any possibility of a negotiated settlement with Israel.

Islamic Jihad calls for armed struggle and strives for the liberation of "all of Palestine" to be accomplished by a revolutionary vanguard carrying out terrorist attacks aimed at weakening Israel. It sees itself as laying the groundwork for the day when a great Islamic Arab army will be able to destroy Israel in a military confrontation.