

10 FACTS ABOUT HAMAS

Hamas is a radical Islamist group and designated a Palestinian terrorist organization by the U.S., the EU, Canada, Japan, and Israel and banned in Jordan, the UK, and Australia.¹ It shares the ideology and tactics of Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, ISIS, and Al Qaeda.²

Hamas is supported by the world's major state sponsors of terrorism and worst human rights abusers. Iran has been Hamas' main sponsor, trained Hamas combatants, supplied Hamas with sophisticated weapons like the long-range Fajr-5 missiles, and given Hamas over \$250 million per year.³ In July 2014, Hamas engaged in a secret arms deal to buy weapons from North Korea.⁴

Hamas is not trying to end a nonexistent Israeli "occupation." It took credit for ending Israel's presence in Gaza. Israel evacuated all settlements, people, and soldiers from Gaza in 2005 to promote peace. Hamas leader Mahmoud Al-Zahhar boasted in July 2011, "We in Gaza conducted a plan of resistance in order to drive the occupation out. The plan was accomplished, and not a single settler or soldier remains on the Palestinian land in Gaza."⁵

Hamas' mission is the murder of Jews, "obliteration" of Israel, and its replacement with a Taliban-like theocracy.

"Israel will exist until Islam will obliterate it." —Hamas Charter, 1988

"The annihilation of the Jews here in Palestine is one of the most splendid blessings....This will be followed by a greater blessing, Allah be praised, with the establishment of a Caliphate that will rule the land." —Hamas Cleric Muhsen Abu It'a, July 3, 2008⁶

Hamas rejects all compromises and negotiations with Israel. Its goal is genocidal—Israel's destruction, not territorial accommodation or peaceful coexistence.

"There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors." —Hamas Charter, Article 13⁷

"Jews have no place among us...and no future among the nations....You are about to disappear, and we are about to emerge victorious." —Hamas political leader Mahmoud al-Zahar, 2010⁸

Hamas systematically commits double war crimes with impunity, targeting Israeli citizens and forcing its own citizens to be directly in the line of fire.

"Each and every missile against Israel constitutes a crime against humanity, whether it hits or misses, because it is directed at civilian targets." —Palestinian Envoy to the UN Human Rights Council, July 9, 2014⁹

Hamas fights from and puts its military arsenal and attack tunnel entrances in schools, homes, residential neighborhoods, hospitals, and mosques, ruthlessly endangering the population and turning these protected structures into legitimate military targets, as happened with United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) schools and Gaza's Al-Wafa Hospital in 2014.¹⁰ Hamas urges Gaza residents to act as human shields and to ignore Israel's warnings to move to safer areas because of imminent attacks.¹¹ In some cases, Hamas operatives violently attack residents who do seek safer areas.¹²

Hamas is responsible for the civilian casualties in Gaza. Hamas is "shedding the blood of innocent Palestinians" by attacking Israel and refusing a ceasefire, said former Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Al-Arabi in July 2014.¹³ Hamas has built no bomb shelters to protect Gaza residents: Hamas' extensive reinforced tunnels protect only Hamas leadership and weapons, not civilians.¹⁴ Hamas exploits the civilian deaths for propaganda purposes, leading some Middle East experts to conclude that "Hamas is trying to get Israel to kill as many Palestinians as possible. Dead Palestinians represent a crucial propaganda victory for the nihilists of Hamas. It is perverse, but true," as Jeffrey Goldberg stated in 2014.¹⁵

Hamas' dictatorial government oppresses Gaza residents, denying them civil, human, and political rights. Gaza residents face "capricious imprisonments, torture and arrests for 'morality offenses' by Hamas police," reported the Human Rights Watch in 2010.¹⁶ Hamas tortures and murders political rivals,¹⁷ regularly kills alleged collaborators,¹⁸

intimidates journalists,¹⁹ oppresses women,²⁰ and persecutes non-Muslims²¹ and gays. Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, the senior leader of Hamas, described gays as “a minority of perverts and the mentally and morally sick.”²²

Hamas has impoverished Gaza, diverting resources for civilians to its war machine. Hamas corruption plagues Gaza, with Hamas using UNRWA goods for profit or for its fighters. Hamas and human rights groups demanded that Israel allow importation of cement to rebuild Gaza, but Hamas diverted the 80,000 tons of cement to build an attack tunnel system, not to build hospitals or schools.²³

If Hamas renounced terrorism, honored past PLO-Israel agreements, and accepted a two-state solution, there would be no violence, and Israel and the international community would help turn Gaza into a thriving, beautiful Mediterranean region. Hamas has instead chosen a path that is destructive to Israelis, Palestinians, and hopes for a better future.

¹ Canada: “Public Safety Canada” at www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/ns/le/cle-en.asp; Council of the European Union at eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:340:0064:0066:EN:PDF; Australia: “List of Terrorist Organizations” at www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/agd/www/nationalsecurity.nsf/AllDocs/95FB057CA3DEC30CA256FAB001F7FBD?OpenDocument; Japan: www.mofa.go.jp/policy/other/bluebook/2005/ch3-a.pdf; US State Department: www.state.gov/documents/organization/65462.pdf; UK “Proscribed Terrorist Groups” at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/terrorism-act/proscribed-groups; Jordan: *Daily Star*, February 18, 2006, at www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=10&categ_id=5&article_id=22307#

² Jonathan Schanzer, “The Prospects of al-Qaeda in Hamas-Controlled Gaza,” *In Focus Quarterly*, Fall 2007 at www.jewishpolicycenter.org/55/the-prospects-of-al-qaeda-in-hamas-controlled-gaza and Meir Amit Intelligence and Information Center, “Expressions of support in the Gaza Strip for the Islamic State in Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS), which is affiliated with the global jihad,” *Meir Amit Intelligence and Information Center*, July 16, 2014, at www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/article/20675

³ *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* (London), February 21, 2010, at www.memri.org/report/en/0/0/0/0/0/4086.htm; Bari Weiss, “Michael Oren: It’s May 1967, or May 1948,” *The Tablet*, November 15, 2012, at www.tabletmag.com/scroll/116870/michael-oren-its-may-1967%E2%80%94may-1948

⁴ Con Coughlin, “Hamas and North Korea in secret arms deal,” *The Telegraph*, July 26, 2014, at

www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/palestinianauthority/10992921/Hamas-and-North-Korea-in-secret-arms-deal.html

⁵ “Hamas Leader Mahmoud Al-Zahhar Slams PA President Abbas for “Aimless Kangaroo-Like” Political Gymnastics and Says: We Will Not Relinquish Any Piece of Palestinian Land,” *MEMRI*, Clip No. 3051, July 21, 2011, at www.memri.org/clip_transcript/en/3051.htm

⁶ “Hamas Cleric Muhsen Abu 'Ita: The Annihilation of the Jews in Palestine One of the Most Splendid Blessings for Palestine,” *Al-Aqsa TV* (Hamas/Gaza), July 13, 2008, at www.memritv.org/clip/en/1877.htm

⁷ Hamas Charter at www.hamascharter.com

⁸ Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan Halevi, “Talking to Hamas? – Increasing Expressions of Genocidal Intent by Hamas Leaders Against the Jews,” *Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs*, January 3, 2011, at jcpa.org/article/talking-to-hamas-%E2%80%93-increasing-expressions-of-genocidal-intent-by-hamas-leaders-against-the-jews; jcpa.org/article/talking-to-hamas-%E2%80%93-increasing-expressions-of-genocidal-intent-by-hamas-leaders-against-the-jews/#sthash.DrZq5rMt.dpuf

⁹ MEMRI, “Palestinian Envoy to UNHRC: Israelis Warn Civilians Before Attacks, We Don't,” Interview on Egyptian TV, posted July 13, 2014

¹⁰ Sharon Schwartz, “Ambulances, Schools and Mosques: Hamas’ Top 10 Hiding Places That Are Frustrating Israel’s Fight Against Terror,” *The Blaze*, July 23, 2014, at www.theblaze.com/stories/2014/07/23/ambulances-schools-and-mosques-hamas-top-10-hiding-places-that-are-frustrating-israels-fight-against-terror; International Committee of the Red Cross, “Rule 10. Civilians Objects’ Loss of Protection from Attack,” *Customary International Humanitarian Law*, 2014; “WATCH: Footage of IDF strike on Gaza hospital,” *Times of Israel*, July 23, 2014

¹¹ Anne Barnard and Jodi Rudoren, “Civilians as Human Shields? Gaza War Intensifies Debate,” *New York Times*, July 23, 2014, at www.nytimes.com/2014/07/24/world/middleeast/israel-says-hamas-is-using-civilians-as-shields-in-gaza.html?_r=0

¹² “Report: Hamas Beats Gazans Seeking to Heed Israeli Calls to Leave Targeted Area,” *Algemeiner*, July 24, 2014, at www.algemeiner.com/2014/07/24/report-hamas-beats-gazans-seeking-to-heed-israeli-calls-to-leave-targeted-area-video

¹³ Uzi Baruch, “Egyptian Official: Hamas to Blame for Gaza Destruction,” *Israel National News*, July 17, 2014, at www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/183006#.U9VR4pt0xjo

¹⁴ Dr. Eado Hecht, “Hamas Underground Warfare,” *BESA Center Perspectives Paper no. 259*, July 27, 2014, at besacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Hecht-Eado-Underground-Warfare-DW-edit-most-recent.pdf; besacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Hecht-Eado-Underground-Warfare-DW-edit-most-recent.pdf

¹⁵ Jeffrey Goldberg, “Is Hamas Trying to Get Gazans Killed?,” *Bloomberg News*, July 11, 2014, at www.bloombergview.com/articles/2014-07-11/is-hamas-trying-to-get-gazans-killed

¹⁶ Bill Van Esveld, “The danger of an Islamized Gaza,” *Los Angeles Times*, June 27, 2010, at www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-venesveld-gaza-20100627,0,5317748.story

¹⁷ Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Press Release, “No Alternative to Political Dialogue,” June 18, 2007, at www.pchrgaza.ps/files/PressR/English/2007/41-2007.htm

¹⁸ BBC News: “Palestinian Collaborators’ executed by Hamas,” April 15, 2010, at news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8622084.stm and Joshua Levitt, “Report: Hamas Used Ceasefire to Execute 25 Gazans Accused of Treachery, Blamed Israel for Deaths,” *Algemeiner*, July 27, 2014, at www.algemeiner.com/2014/07/27/report-hamas-used-ceasefire-to-execute-25-gazans-accused-of-treachery-blamed-israel-for-deaths

¹⁹ Lahav Harkov, “Gaza reporters’ tweets: Hamas using human shields,” *Jerusalem Post*, July 24, 2014, at www.jpost.com/Operation-Protective-Edge/Gaza-reporters-tweets-Hamas-using-human-shields-368689. And Jordan Schachtel, “Hamas Violates Another Ceasefire, Bans Journalists from

Leaving Gaza." *Breitbart News Network*, July 24, 2014, at www.breitbart.com/Big-Peace/2014/07/20/Hamas-Violates-Another-Ceasefire-Bans-Journalists-From-Leaving-Gaza

²⁰ Bill Van Esveld, "The danger of an Islamized Gaza," *Los Angeles Times*, June 27, 2010, at www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-vanesveld-gaza-20100627,0,5317748.story and Daniel Williams, " Hamas Bans Women Dancers, Scooter Riders in Gaza Push (Update1)," *Bloomberg Press*, November 30, 2009, at www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aB2RfynNbLmk&pos=9#

²¹ Khaled Abu Toameh, "Christian-Muslim Tensions Heat Up," *Jerusalem Post*, September 25, 2007, at www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?c=JPArticle&cid=1189411486459&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull

²² "A Guide to Hamas: Human Rights Record in Gaza," *Free Middle East Blog*, n.d. at www.freemiddleeast.com/blog/free_middle_east/guide-hamas-human-rights-record-gaza/378

²³ Amos Yadlin, "To Save Gaza, Destroy Hamas," *Wall Street Journal*, July 25, 2014, at www.nytimes.com/2014/07/26/opinion/to-save-gaza-destroy-hamas.html?_r=2&referrer and "The Price of Hamas' Underground Terror Network,""

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