

Spotlight on Terrorism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict October 6 - 13, 2026

Trending

- ▶ **Hamas and the other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip praised the October 7, 2023 attack and made it clear that they would continue their attempt to destroy Israel.**
- ▶ **One year after the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, in the absence of an alternative government, Hamas is still in control.**
- ▶ **The elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council were postponed until 2027.**

Overview¹

- ▶ In statements marking three years since October 7, 2023, Hamas and the other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip have represented the terrorist invasion and subsequent massacre as a formative event that "changed history." They called on other Arab and Islamic countries to join the campaign.
- ▶ IDF forces destroyed weapons depots and killed commanders and operatives in the Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) military wings in the Gaza Strip, including operatives involved in the atrocities of the October 7, 2023 invasion and massacre. The IDF reported that Hamas terrorists continued to operate from hospitals and civilian facilities; Hamas denied it.
- ▶ Nikolay Mladenov, the Board of Peace representative for the Gaza Strip, warned that without implementing the ceasefire arrangement, the Gaza Strip could return to hostilities or enter a prolonged stalemate without stable governance or significant reconstruction.
- ▶ UN agencies reported that nearly two million Gazans needed shelter, hundreds of thousands of displaced persons were living in areas prone to flooding and thousands of buildings were at risk of collapse. The Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the

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

Territories (COGAT) noted that tens of thousands of tents had been brought into the Gaza Strip as part of a winter preparedness plan.

► According to a new study, Hamas has shifted to a decentralized and informal system of control in the Gaza Strip enabling it to maintain its governance despite its military weakness and relinquishment of formal rule.

► The Palestinian Authority (PA) wants to convene a Security Council meeting to demand international protection in the wake of attacks by Jewish settlers on Palestinians during the olive harvest.

► PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas postponed the Palestinian Legislative Council elections from November 2026 to September 2027 because of the "political and security situation" in the Gaza Strip and Judea and Samaria and the restrictions on voting in east Jerusalem.

Three Years since the October 7, 2023 Terrorist Invasion and Massacre

► In a statement marking three years since the October 7, 2023 terrorist invasion and massacre which began the Gaza Strip War, Hamas called the attack "a formative historical event" in the Palestinian campaign and a "legitimate" act of "resistance."² The movement claimed it was a response to the "siege of the Gaza Strip," Israeli activity at al-Aqsa Mosque, the situation of the Palestinian prisoners and the expansion of Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria. Hamas claimed the war did not begin on October 7, 2023 but rather was part of an ongoing historical conflict. The movement praised the Izz al-Din Brigades terrorist operatives and their "military achievements,"³ and said it would continue the campaign until the end of the "occupation" and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem [*sic*] as its capital (Hamas Telegram channel, October 7, 2026).

► Abu Obeida, spokesman for the Hamas military wing, represented the October 7, 2023 invasion and massacre as an "exceptional military achievement," which he claimed had undermined Israel's concept of security and its three components, i.e., deterrence, decision and warning. He praised the "operational planning and strategic deception" that preceded the attack and claimed Hamas had exploited Prime Minister Netanyahu's self-confidence and contempt for his adversaries. Abu Obeida acknowledged that the Gazans had paid a heavy

² Violence and terrorism designed to destroy the State of Israel.

³ Atrocities.

price, but said the attack had changed history and the regional balance of power. He also called for greater involvement by Arab-Muslim countries in the campaign against Israel and cited Iran, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen as examples of fronts which had taken action against Israel. He said that additional countries, including Sudan and Libya, should also become more involved (Abu Obeida's Telegram channel, October 7, 2026).



Hamas propaganda notices marking the October 7, 2023 invasion and massacre
(Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades Telegram channel, October 7, 2026)

► The Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) claimed that despite three years of war and the extensive destruction in the Gaza Strip, Israel had failed to achieve its objectives. The organization declared its commitment to continuing the armed campaign and called on the mediators to make Israel stop its military activity in the Gaza Strip, effect a full withdrawal of IDF forces, the lifting of the "siege," the entry of humanitarian aid and the beginning of reconstruction. At the same time, it stressed the Palestinians' right to "armed resistance"⁴ and the refugees' "right of return."⁵ The PIJ called on regional peoples to prepare for "confrontation" with Israel and represented the "resistance" organizations as the first line of defense for the security of the Arab-Muslim nation (PIJ Telegram channel, October 6, 2026).

► The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) called the Gaza Strip War "a historic event in the Palestinian national campaign." The movement said that despite the heavy price paid by the Palestinians during the war, their determination to continue the campaign against Israel had not been broken. The PFLP praised the activity of the [so-called] "support fronts" in Lebanon, Yemen, Iran and Iraq and held Israel and the United States responsible for the continuation of the war. The movement said it would continue its campaign for the "right of

⁴ Terrorist attacks.

⁵ The right of all the Palestinian refugees from 1948 and their descendants to "return" to their original places of residence, that is, the destruction of the State of Israel.

return," self-determination and the "liberation of 'Palestine' from the river to the sea" (PFLP-Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades Telegram channel, October 7, 2026).

► In a statement marking three years since the October 7, 2023 invasion and massacre, the Board of Peace recalled the victims of Hamas and the suffering of Israelis and Palestinians during the war. It noted that the UN Security Council had entrusted it with the responsibility of ensuring that the Gaza Strip would no longer pose a threat to Israel and of breaking the decades-long cycle of fear and bloodshed, and stressed its commitment to fulfilling its mandate. The Board added that it sought to create the conditions for sustainable peace through the disarmament and deradicalization of the Gaza Strip, added that its efforts were based on pragmatic solutions rather than declarations or slogans, and stressed that Israel's sustainable security was the foundation of any future peace arrangement (Board of Peace X account, October 7, 2026). Bassem Na'im, a member of the Hamas political bureau, criticized the statement and claimed it was biased in favor of Israel. He said the statement did not reflect the balanced position of an international body which was supposed to act in accordance with international law and did not lay the foundation for regional peace, stability or prosperity (*al-Shorouk*, October 7, 2026).

The Fighting in the Gaza Strip

The IDF

► This past week IDF forces continued their activity in the Gaza Strip, eliminating terrorists who crossed the Yellow Line, as well as commanders and operatives in the Hamas and PIJ military wings, including operatives involved in the atrocities of the October 7, 2023 invasion and massacre and in holding Israeli hostages, and terrorist operatives preparing to attack. Hamas and PIJ weapons depots housing rockets, explosive devices, mortar shells, weapons and other military equipment were destroyed, as were an observation operations room in the

Daraj al-Tuffah area and a rocket launching site in the al-Furqan area (IDF spokesperson, October 6-13, 2026).



Attacks on terrorist infrastructure (IDF spokesperson, October 11, 2026)

► Mahmoud Bassal, spokesperson for Hamas civil defense in the Gaza Strip, claimed 117 residential apartments had been damaged in an attack on the al-Sabra neighborhood of Gaza City. He claimed that 12 apartments were completely destroyed, 41 severely damaged and 64 partially damaged. As a result, the living conditions of 819 people were affected, some of whom lost their homes while others could not return to them because of damage to the buildings (Mahmoud Bassal's Facebook page, October 9, 2026).

► Reportedly, IDF forces moved the yellow concrete barriers marking the Yellow Line in the al-Shuja'iyya neighborhood of Gaza City to within ten meters of Salah al-Din Street, and the entire neighborhood is now effectively under IDF control. According to the reports, moving the barriers displaced hundreds of Palestinians from the neighborhood (Ma'an, October 11, 2026; Palinfo, October 11, 2026).

Hamas' Use of Medical and Civilian Facilities for Terrorist Purposes⁶

► On October 7, 2026, the IDF announced it had eliminated two Hamas terrorists as they emerged from Kamal Adwan Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip carrying explosive devices, one of whom planted the devices in the Yellow Line area. The IDF subsequently published intelligence information and documentation which indicated Hamas' continued use of hospitals and civilian facilities to plan attacks and rebuild its military capabilities. The IDF accused Hamas of exploiting patients, medical personnel and civilians as human shields (IDF spokesperson, October 6-11, 2026).

⁶ See the November 2023 ITIC (Amit Institute since May 2026) report, [Hamas use of the civilian population as human shields and Gaza's civilian facilities for terrorism](#), and the August 2024 report, [The terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip exploit the civilian infrastructure for terrorist activities](#).

- The Hamas ministry of health in the Gaza Strip rejected the report as "false and misleading," and said the IDF was recycling false claims as justification to prepare the ground for the continued destruction of what remains of the public health system in the Gaza Strip (Gaza Strip ministry of health Telegram channel, October 6, 2026).
- Hamas rejected Israel's "incitement propaganda" against hospitals in the Gaza Strip and claimed the accusations were "baseless" and part of a campaign to justify attacks on hospitals and civilian facilities. Hamas called on the World Health Organization and the international media to enter the Gaza Strip and establish UN commissions to visit the hospitals (official Hamas Telegram channel, October 8, 2026).
- The Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, headed by Rami Abdu,⁷ claimed that during the previous two days the IDF had issued six statements against hospitals in the Gaza Strip and that could prepare the ground for further attacks on medical facilities. According to the Monitor, an examination of the video showing armed operatives leaving Kamal Adwan Hospital [allegedly] revealed discrepancies in location and chronology and therefore did not provide sufficient evidence. The Monitor called on international institutions operating in hospitals in the Gaza Strip to examine the claims and publish their findings (journalist Isma'il Abu Omar's Telegram channel, October 9, 2026).



Opening a new wing at the hospital (COGAT Facebook page, October 10, 2026)

⁷ Rami Abdu is a Palestinian born in the Gaza Strip who founded the Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor in Geneva in 2011. In September 2020, former Defense Minister Gantz signed an order restricting the transfer of property and funds to Abdu because he was a member of the management of the designated terrorist organization IPALESTINE, which operates in Britain, is affiliated with Hamas and acts on its behalf. Abdu rejected the allegations.

Negotiating the Second Phase of the Ceasefire Agreement

► An article published by Nikolay Mladenov, Board of Peace representative for Gaza, claimed that failure to implement the American president's peace plan could lead to renewed hostilities between Israel and Hamas or perpetuate a prolonged stalemate in the Gaza Strip, without significant reconstruction or a stable governing arrangement. He said preventing another confrontation required the verified dismantling of Hamas' military capabilities, the dismantling of military infrastructure, the establishment of responsible Palestinian civilian governance, a gradual Israeli withdrawal and the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. Mladenov said responsibility for governing the Gaza Strip should be transferred to Palestinian civilian institutions, within which security mechanisms would operate under lawful governmental authority rather than terrorist organizations. He added that Israel's security would not be ensured through military activity and buffer zones alone, and long-term stability also required the reconstruction of government institutions, the education system and the economy. He said the political framework already existed and had received Security Council support in Resolution 2803, but its success depended on the political will of the parties and the willingness of the international community to ensure its implementation in practice (*The National*, October 7, 2026).

The Gaza Strip

The Civilian Situation

► The UN International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that nearly two million residents needed shelter assistance, but only 17% of the needs for the coming winter had been met so far. It claimed that more than half of the tents and makeshift shelters in the Gaza Strip were no longer fit for use and needed replacing, approximately 1.8 million people were living in displacement sites, most of them in areas prone to flooding, and more than 3,600 buildings had been classified as dangerous and at risk of collapse (Reuters, October 9, 2026). COGAT responded that the statement was biased and represented an inaccurate picture while ignoring Hamas' exploitation of humanitarian aid. He stressed that Israel had announced a winter preparedness plan and more than 53,000 tents had been brought into the Gaza Strip with the assistance of the UN, international organizations and donor countries, in addition to thousands of trucks carrying blankets, winter clothing and other equipment which had arrived in recent

months. He noted that during the previous week more than 13,000 tents and more than 250 trucks carrying winter equipment had been brought into the Gaza Strip and the entry of additional advanced equipment had been approved (COGAT X account, October 11-12, 2026).

► Gazans complained that the extensive destruction of most buildings, particularly in areas which had been razed, created an environment for enormous numbers of stray dogs, which found shelter and places to breed among the ruins and in effect imposed a nighttime curfew on residents. Hospitals treated people injured in dog attacks every day, particularly children. Residents also claimed that the dogs did not hesitate to attack anyone who left their tent and ventured out into the street at night (al-Ayyam, October 10, 2026).

► The ministry of health in Gaza announced that open-heart surgery had resumed at al-Quds Hospital in cooperation with Heal Palestine and the Palestine Red Crescent Society. The operations are performed by a delegation of Egyptian specialists who came to the Gaza Strip for two weeks and plan to perform 25 to 30 operations, depending on the availability of medical equipment and supplies. According to the announcement, more than 200 patients in the Gaza Strip are currently waiting for heart surgery (ministry of health in Gaza Facebook page, October 9, 2026; Palestine Red Crescent Society in the Gaza Strip Facebook page, October 9, 2026).

Hamas Governance

► A Washington Institute for Near East Policy study marking one year since the ceasefire agreement in the Gaza Strip claimed Hamas continued its civilian, economic and security control over the Gaza Strip despite its military weakness and its formal relinquishing of governing authority. It noted that the movement had shifted from a centralized model of government to a decentralized and informal system of control based on the use of public employees, enforcement mechanisms, tax collection, control of the distribution of humanitarian aid and influence over local authorities and civilian institutions. Hamas uses digital communications networks and local intermediaries to manage civilian activity and maintain its influence even in areas where its direct presence has weakened. For security, the movement also relies on clandestine enforcement mechanisms, including the Rada Force, which operates in areas where police functioning has deteriorated. Furthermore, the absence of a governing alternative, together with the delay in transferring authority to the national committee for the administration of Gaza (NCAG), enabled Hamas to continue playing a central role in managing daily life in the Gaza Strip (Washington Institute, October 6, 2026).

► The Hamas land authority in the Gaza Strip announced a temporary suspension of the registration and approval of transactions involving the sale and transfer of ownership of land and properties located within the Yellow Line until the situation had stabilized. Reportedly, the suspension was intended to protect property owners' rights and prevent exploitation of the security situation. Transfers of ownership between family members of different generations were exempted from the prohibition, subject to compliance with legal requirements. The authority warned against conducting private transactions outside official channels and said transactions carried out contrary to the instructions would not be recognized in its records and as far as it was concerned, would have no legal validity (Gaza Strip government media office Telegram channel, October 8, 2026).

► Hamas-affiliated security sources reported that "resistance security" operatives had ambushed members of the armed militia headed by Ghassan al-Dahini in the Bir Abu Hafiz area north of Rafah. According to the report, members of the group entered the area to gather information about Hamas activity, meeting in the tent of a local resident, but were shot at and forced to withdraw, leaving weapons and equipment behind. The sources claimed that the IDF fired shells at the area to cover their withdrawal and according to initial reports, six members of the group were killed or wounded (Palestinian Press Network, October 8, 2026).

► The Popular Forces militia headed by Ghassan al-Dahini reported that following reports from residents about five armed Hamas operatives hiding near the Yellow Line in the al-Shakoush area, its forces went to the location to encircle them. The militia claimed the armed terrorists fled to a nearby camp, hid among civilians and shot at its members. They subsequently withdrew, leaving behind personal belongings and two weapons (Minister of The Leader Facebook page, October 8, 2026).

Hamas Diplomatic Activities

► A Hamas delegation headed by Zaher Jabarin, a member of the political bureau, met in Cairo with a PIJ delegation headed by secretary general Ziyad al-Nakhalah. They discussed developments in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria, the expansion of Israeli communities and events at al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as ways to advance dialogue and unity among the Palestinian organizations (Hamas Telegram channel, October 7, 2026).



Right: Hamas and PIJ representatives meet in Cairo. Left: Jabarin and al-Nakhalah (Hamas Telegram channel, October 7, 2026)

► A Hamas delegation headed by Khalil al-Hayya, chairman of the Hamas political bureau, met with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan. They discussed the security and civilian situations in the Gaza Strip, developments in Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem and the role of the Board of Peace in implementing the agreements with Israel. Al-Hayya said Hamas was committed to internal Palestinian dialogue and the renewal of national institutions. Fidan said he supported continuing the contacts and efforts to implement the agreements and ameliorate the civilian situation in the Gaza Strip (Hamas Telegram channel, October 9, 2026).



Hamas delegation meets with Fidan (Hamas Telegram channel, October 9, 2026)

► Hamas welcomed the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to South African jurist Navi Pillay and regarded it as renewed international recognition of Israel's [alleged] crimes against the Palestinians. Hamas noted that she had headed the independent international commission of

inquiry into the alleged crimes committed in Gaza and in September 2025 had published a report which alleged there was "genocide"⁸ in the Gaza Strip. Hamas said international action was needed to translate the [alleged] "documented facts" into legal measures (Hamas Telegram channel, October 9, 2026)

► Hamas condemned the American president's decision to impose sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC), calling it an attempt to protect Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and senior Israeli officials from prosecution. The movement called on the states party to the Rome Statute to reject the sanctions, protect the independence of the Court and continue efforts to exhaust legal proceedings against [all?] those responsible for war crimes (Hamas Telegram channel, October 9, 2026).



Mocking the American president for his sanctions on the International Criminal Court after Navi Pillay won the Nobel Peace Prize (Facebook page of Alaa al-Laqa, Hamas' in-house cartoonist, October 9, 2026)

Israel, Judea and Samaria

Counterterrorism

► Israeli security forces continued extensive counterterrorism and weapons-locating activity throughout Judea and Samaria, detaining wanted persons and suspects involved in terrorist activity, including four PIJ terrorists who planned an attack in northern Samaria. Suspects involved in weapons trafficking and incitement were also detained, including for publishing messages in support of the October 7, 2023 attack. The forces demolished the home of the terrorist who shot and killed an Israeli civilian in September 2026 and demolished monuments throughout Judea and Samaria which advocated terrorism and glorified terrorists (IDF spokesperson, October 7 and 9, 2026).

⁸ In September 2023 the population of the Gaza Strip was 2.23 million. It is currently 2.1 million. According to Hamas, 74,000 Gazans were killed, according to the IDF, 22,000 of them were terrorist operatives. In addition, about 100,000 people have left the Gaza Strip and there were about 30,000 deaths from old age and disease.

► The Israel Security Agency (ISA) reported that since the beginning of 2026, 72 residents of the Negev and southern Israel, 67 of them Israeli citizens, had been detained for questioning on suspicion of involvement in activity endangering state security, including planning terrorist attacks and smuggling weapons across borders. Indictments were filed against 50 of the detainees (ISA spokesperson, October 8, 2026).

Settler Terrorism

► This past week attacks by Jewish settlers against Palestinian residents were reported throughout Judea and Samaria as the olive harvest began. In the Ramallah area, vehicles were reportedly set on fire in the villages of al-Mughayyir and Deir Nizam, slogans were written and the vehicle of a foreign journalist who had arrived to document the events was set on fire. An attack was reported in the village of Burqa and two Palestinians were reportedly injured west of al-Mughayyir. In the Tulkarm area, clashes were reported between Palestinians and Jewish settlers on the Ramin plain, during which one Palestinian was killed and 14 were injured, including four medical personnel. Rescue teams were also reportedly delayed and medical equipment was confiscated. In the Nablus area, olive harvesters were reportedly attacked in the town of Bazariya and violent incidents were reported in the village of Burqa, in which four Palestinians were injured, one of them seriously. In the Hebron area, dozens of Jewish rioters reportedly surrounded a Palestinian home in the Wadi al-Rahim area (Al Jazeera Aajel, October 7, 2026).

► Reportedly, more than 100 Jewish rioters entered the al-Rihan neighborhood on the outskirts of Ramallah, damaged Palestinian property and fired live ammunition. In the village of Tell, a young Palestinian was reportedly struck by a vehicle and another young man was reportedly beaten (journalist Isma'il Abu Omar's Telegram channel, October 9, 2026). In the Hebron area, Jewish rioters reportedly prevented Palestinian farmers from harvesting olives on the road between Deir Samit and Hamsa and later attacked in the Wadi al-Sheikh area of the town of Beit Ummar. Near the town of Sa'ir, northeast of Hebron, a young man was beaten and his vehicle windows were smashed. In the Salfit area, a Palestinian farmer was injured while harvesting olives in the village of al-Dik (Quds, October 10, 2026).

► The office of the PA chairman instructed the foreign ministry and the Palestinian mission to the UN to request a meeting of the Security Council and have practical measures taken to ensure international protection for the Palestinians. Mahmoud Abbas' spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeineh reported that during the previous days dozens of attacks on farmers and olive

harvesters had been documented, including setting trees and vehicles on fire, uprooting olive trees, stealing crops and livestock, attacking local residents and preventing them from reaching their land. He claimed the incidents, together with military raids, detentions and the seizure of land were part of an Israeli policy to expand the settlements and drive Palestinians from their land. Abu Rudeineh held the Israeli government responsible for the escalation and for the consequences of its policy, which he said fueled the violence, and called on the Security Council to assume its responsibility, act to ensure international protection for the Palestinian population and take deterrent measures to prevent the continuation of these violations (Wafa, October 9, 2026).

Elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council

► On October 10, 2026, PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas declared that elections for the Legislative Council would be held on September 11, 2027 along with the presidential election. That followed a decision by the PLO Executive Committee, after the cancellation of the decree stipulating that the Legislative Council elections would be held on November 28, 2026. The Executive Committee attributed the decision to the deterioration of the security and political situation in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria, including the failure to implement Security Council Resolution 2803, the absence of deployment of the International Stabilization Force and the Palestinian police, the continued presence of IDF forces in the Gaza Strip and Israeli restrictions on the entry of the election commission and observers, together with the increase in attacks by Jewish settlers in Judea and Samaria, restrictions on movement, economic difficulties and obstacles to the participation of east Jerusalem residents in the elections (Wafa, October 10, 2026).



Elections cancelled (Mash Hek Telegram channel, October 10, 2026)

► Before the official decision to postpone the elections was made, the "Palestinian organizations" held a meeting in Cairo to discuss the issue. PIJ deputy secretary general

Muhammad al-Hindi announced they had agreed to renew the national dialogue and postpone the elections, while Fatah spokesperson Abd al-Fattah Dawla stressed the security and logistical difficulties involved in holding them in the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, together with the continuing disagreements among the organizations. Hamas supported the postponement, claiming the elections should be preceded by a process of internal Palestinian dialogue and agreement. Representatives of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said another postponement would damage the PA's credibility and deepen its legitimacy crisis (AP, October 8, 2026).

► PA deputy chairman Hussein al-Sheikh told French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot that the political, security and economic conditions did not permit the elections to be held as scheduled. Al-Sheikh sent a letter claiming the situation in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria did not permit free and equal participation or a proper electoral process (Reuters, October 8, 2026). He later noted that the Palestinian leadership was committed to moving the election date forward as much as possible if suitable conditions existed to ensure their fairness, transparency and credibility. He said the elections were intended to enable residents to express their will and the leadership was committed to implementing the laws concerning the holding of general elections out of a belief in pluralism and the peaceful transfer of power (Hussein al-Sheikh's X account, October 12, 2026)