



October 21, 2013

Vehicular Attacks: Modus Operandi Considered by the Palestinians as Part of the Popular Resistance in Judea and Samaria¹



At attempt to use the blade of a tractor to damage an IDF jeep at a military base near Al-Ram (IDF spokesman, October 17, 2013).

Vehicular Terrorist Attack at Al-Ram Using a Tractor

1. On the evening of October 17, 2013, a Palestinian driving a tractor tried to enter an IDF base near Al-Ram (south of Ramallah). **He drove at high speed toward the base fence, crossed it and tried to run over IDF soldiers and used the tractor blade in an attempt to turn over a jeep.** He was shot and killed by an IDF force. An IDF soldier sustained minor injuries when he was hit by a flying object during the incident (IDF spokesman and Ynet, October 17, 2013). Fatah and Hamas praised the attack; so far the Palestinian Authority (PA) has not issued a statement regarding the attack.

2. The terrorist who carried out the attack was **Younes Ahmed Muhammad Radeideh** from Beit Hanina (Wafa News Agency and Palestine Online, October 17, 2013). According to reports, **his brother, Mari' al-Radeideh, carried out a vehicular**

¹ For the full analysis of the violence inherent in the popular resistance, see the ITIC May 20, 2013 study "The Palestinian "Popular Resistance" and Its Built-In Violence."

attack on March 5, 2009, near the Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem (See Appendix). According to Palestinian sources, before the attack his family received an order to raze their house. The family originally came from the village of Ubeidiya (east of Bethlehem) but currently lives in the Al-Ram area. The terrorist who carried out the attack apparently used a tractor belonging to the family.



Younes Radeideh, who carried out the vehicular attack (Ajnad Facebook page, October 20, 2013)

Vehicular Attacks as Part of the Popular Resistance

3. **As part of the violence inherent in popular resistance events, extensive use is made of cold weapons, mostly by individual terrorists or networks of young Palestinians who do not belong to established terrorist organizations.** The most prevalent type of popular resistance violence is throwing stones and Molotov cocktails at Israeli security forces and civilians, however, there are other types that are used less frequently such as vehicular and stabbing attacks.

4. Vehicular attacks are used relatively infrequently, but they are more lethal than stones or Molotov cocktails. For example, between 2000 and 2008 about 20 vehicular attacks were carried out, killing 15 people. **Prominent among them were three attacks in Jerusalem, two using front loaders, which killed three Israelis and injured an estimated 100** (Israel Security Agency website, "Analysis of [Terrorist] Attacks during the Past Decade"). In 2012-13 there were a number of vehicular attacks in the Jerusalem area and throughout Judea and Samaria in which one Israeli

civilian was killed and several Israeli security force personnel were injured (See Appendix).

5. The PA and Fatah support the popular resistance, (falsely) representing it as a nonviolent struggle (*muqawama silmiya*, "peaceful resistance," according to the PA). The PA provides the popular resistance organizations with financial and logistic support. It also gives its backing to political events encouraging the popular resistance and helps enlist international support. In addition, the PA does not condemn the attacks carried out within the popular resistance and its security forces do not take effective measures to prevent them. **Hamas also supports the popular resistance, calling for it to be broadened even as it supports armed military-terrorist "resistance" and urges its increase in Judea and Samaria.**

6. The most recent vehicular attack is one in a series, some carried out as part of the popular resistance and others military-terrorist actions (with nationalist or criminal motivation, or both). The attacks, which the PA does not condemn, are not connected to each other. However, they do not occur in a vacuum, and in our assessment they should be considered within the overall context of the current atmosphere and mindset in Judea and Samaria. The support the PA gives the popular resistance's violent activities, the way it condones deadly attacks in which Israelis are killed and the vicious propaganda campaign currently waged by Hamas – **all provide a favorable, encouraging atmosphere for Palestinian activists initiating attacks on Israelis in Judea and Samaria, both military-terrorist attacks and popular resistance attacks, and are liable to encourage their continuation.**

Reactions to the Tractor Attack at Al-Ram

The PA

7. So far, we have not seen a PA reaction.

Fatah

8. The official Facebook page of Fatah's office for enlistment and organization praised the attack, saying "May Allah have mercy on him, may Allah have mercy on him and situate him next to the shaheeds in paradise, may Allah have mercy on them, [they] have written history and honor for Palestine" (Official Facebook page of Fatah's office for enlistment and organization, October 17, 2013). A mourning tent was set up in

Beit Hanina by Younes Radeideh's family and official Fatah notices were hung mourning the death of "the heroic shaheed".



Relatives of Palestinian terrorist Younes Radeideh erect a mourning tent in Beit Hanina (Al-Salaam TV, Tulkarm, October 19, 2013) .



The grave of Younes Radeideh dug by his family near the grave of his brother, Mari' Radeideh, who carried out a vehicular attack in Jerusalem in 2009 (Al-Salaam TV, Tulkarm, October 19, 2013)



The official announcement of Younes Radeideh's death hung in Beit Hanina by the Fatah movement in al-Ubeidiya mourns the death of the "heroic shaheed" (Al-Salaam TV, Tulkarm, October 19, 2013)

Hamas

9. Hamas praised both the attack and the attacker on its Facebook page of Hamas in Judea and Samaria. **Izzat al-Rishq**, a member of the Hamas political bureau, sent the following Tweet: "May your hands be blessed...may the death of a martyr be pleasant for you, hero Younes Radeideh..." (Izzat al-Rishq Twitter account, October 17, 2013).



The Hamas obituary for the "heroic shaheed," Younes Radeideh (Abu Mari') (Quds Facebook page, October 20, 2013).

The Hamas Internet forum issued an announcement threatening another vehicular attack:



The Hamas threat of another attack. Top: "After the second tractor attack, we promise you, children of the Zionists, a bigger attack soon, the steamroller attack." Bottom: "May Allah have mercy on the shaheed Younes al-Radeideh, who carried out the second tractor attack on October 17, 2013, brother of shaheed Mari' Radeideh, who carried out the first tractor attack in 2009 (Hamas forum website, October 19, 2013).

10. **Ismail Haniya**, head of the de-facto Hamas administration in the Gaza Strip, gave a speech marking the second anniversary of the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange deal, urging a renewal of the "mass intifada" (*al-intifada al-jamahiriyah*) and initiate active "resistance" [i.e., terrorism and violence] in Judea and Samaria for the sake of "the liberation of Palestine." He criticized Palestinian security cooperation with Israel and called for formulating "a national Palestinian strategy that would include every option and all means available, including **armed resistance and popular resistance**, and political, diplomatic, media, popular and legal confrontations, as well as an academic and diplomatic boycott" (Al-Aqsa TV, October 19, 2013).



] Ismail Haniya speaks at the Rashad al-Shawa center in the Gaza Strip (Filastin Al-'Aan, October 19, 2013).

Appendix

Previous Vehicular Attacks in Recent Years

1. This was not the first time Palestinian terrorists carried out vehicular attacks using heavy equipment. The following is information about three prominent previous attacks, all of them in Jerusalem:

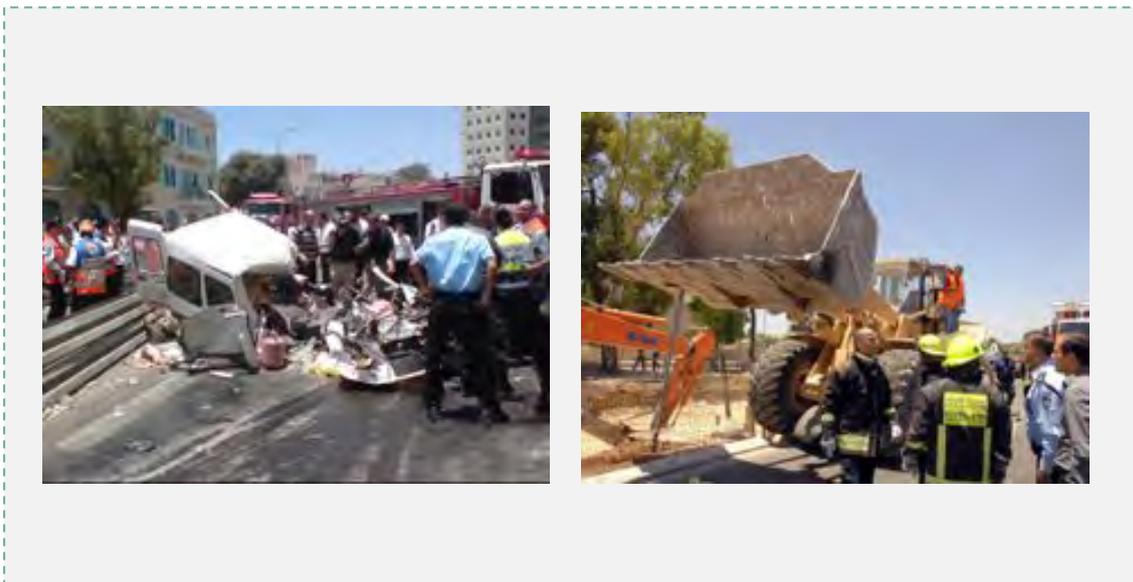
a. **On March 5, 2009, a Palestinian driving a front loader near the Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem deliberately rammed into a police patrol car.** The driver lowered the blade onto the roof of the car, which had been summoned to deal with a traffic accident and was parked at the side of the road. Two policemen were in the car at the time and sustained minor injuries. The driver of the tractor, Mari' al-Radeideh, 24, from Beit Hanina north of Jerusalem, was shot by three policemen and a taxi driver. He was fatally wounded and died on the way to the hospital. **His brother, Younes al-Radeideh, carried out the vehicular attack at the IDF base near Al-Ram on October 17, 2013.**

b. **On July 22, 2008, a Palestinian took a front loader from a construction site near the Jerusalem neighborhood of Yemin Moshe and drove at high speed along the main street.** On the way he rammed into a number of vehicles and injured 28 people. After 250 meters, or about 275 yards, he was shot by a



The front loader used in the July 22, 2008 attack (Photo by Ronen Zevulun for Reuters, July 22, 2008).

c. **On July 2, 2008, a Palestinian terrorist operative from east Jerusalem used a Caterpillar tractor to attack and kill people in a crowded area in the center of Jerusalem.** He took the tractor from a construction site and drove at high speed along Sarei Israel Street, ramming into every vehicle he came across. From there he turned into Jaffa Road, one of Jerusalem's main streets, continuing to target pedestrians and cars. After a short time a policeman, a security guard and a soldier on leave shot and killed him, ending his killing spree. **Three people were killed in the terrorist attack and approximately forty wounded.**



Right: The tractor used by the terrorist to carry out the attack (Israeli Government Press Office, July 2, 2008). Left: A car damaged in the attack (Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, July 2, 2008).

Vehicular Attacks in 2012 – 2013

2. **A number of vehicular attacks were carried out in 2012 in the Jerusalem region and throughout Judea and Samaria, part of the popular resistance.** In one an Israeli civilian was killed and in some of them Israeli security force personnel were injured. In two attacks the Palestinians carrying out the attacks were killed. The more prominent attacks were the following:

d. On **February 14, 2013**, a Palestinian broke through the roadblock at Karnei Shomron in Samaria and tried to run over a policeman. The policeman shot at the wheels of the car but the Palestinian continued driving. The policeman then shot at the vehicle, wounding the driver, who was taken to a hospital (Ynet, February 14, 2013).

e. On **December 23, 2012**, a taxi driver hit a Border Policeman at the entrance to the Jabal Mukaber police station in east Jerusalem. The Border Policeman sustained minor injuries. The taxi driver drove to the police station and when he was not permitted to enter the station parking lot and reversed into a car leaving the lot (Ynet, December 23, 2012).

f. At the end of **November 2012** a Palestinian who lived in a village in the Tulkarm region deliberately hit a vehicle of IDF personnel engaged in a security activity in the Nablus region. The jeep overturned and the passengers sustained minor injuries. The Palestinian rushed at them with an upraised axe yelling "Allahu Akbar" and wounded two of them. One of the passengers shot and killed him. Five security force personnel were wounded in the attack (IDF spokesman, November 29, 2012).

g. On **October 2, 2012**, four IDF soldiers were wounded (one was seriously injured, the others sustained minor wounds) when they were hit by a Palestinian taxi near the Jewish village of Neve Daniel (one of the villages of Gush Etzion). The soldiers were standing at the side of the road, near their vehicle, which had broken down. A Palestinian taxi passing by hit the vehicle and the soldiers and fled the scene. It was not clear if the attack had a nationalist motivation or was a case of hit and run.



The vehicular event in which IDF soldiers were injured, October 2, 2012 (Israel Police, Judea and Samaria spokesman, October 2, 2012)

h. On **September 9, 2012**, Lior Farhi, the security officer of the Jewish village of Shaarei Tikva in western Samaria was killed in a vehicular attack

between the villages of Ornit and Elkana. He was killed trying to document and stop a car carrying illegal Palestinian workers to their places of employment in Israel. Despite the fact that he was standing in the middle of the road the car deliberately swerved to hit him, killing him. The driver, from the village of Kafr Qassem, fled the scene and was later detained. According to the indictment handed down against the driver, he deliberately sped up and aimed at Lior Farhi, hit him and fled (NRG website, September 27, 2012).

i. On the night of **July 29, 2012**, a Palestinian driver attempted to break through the roadblock at al-Za'im (north of Jerusalem near Ma'aleh Adumim). The driver was killed and an Israeli policeman sustained minor injuries. According to the police, the driver attempted to drive his vehicle through the roadblock and run over the policemen stationed there. The office of the PA chairman issued a statement condemning the killing of a Palestinian which, it claimed, had been carried out deliberately and in cold blood (Wafa News Agency, July 30, 2012).