



June 26, 2014

## Return of Palestinian terrorist operatives released in the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange deal to terrorist activities



Left: The rifle and magazines used in the shooting attack in which Baruch Mizrahi was killed by a Palestinian terrorist released in the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange deal (Israel Security Agency, June 23, 2014). Right: Baruch Mizrahi, an Israeli police officer, killed in a shooting attack on the night of the Passover Seder (Facebook page of the Israel Police Force, April 15, 2014)

### Overview

1. It was recently made known that on May 7, 2014, the Israeli security forces detained a Hamas terrorist operative from the Hebron region who was released in the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange deal (October 2011). The Palestinian is suspected of having carried out, with the help of his son, the shooting attack that killed Israeli police officer Baruch Mizrahi on April 14, 2014. Until his release he had been imprisoned in Israel for the murder of a Palestinian he suspected of collaborating with Israel.
2. The detention of another terrorist operative released in the Shalit deal is **an indication of the widespread return, especially of Hamas operatives, to terrorist activities in Judea and Samaria**. The terrorists released in the Shalit deal are actively involved in terrorist and violence in Judea and Samaria, and **direct terrorist activities from the Gaza Strip and countries including Qatar and Turkey**. The analysis of cases where operatives released in the Shalit deal were involved in terrorist activities (See Appendix A) revealed that **Saudi Arabia and Jordan** were exploited as venues

where Palestinians from Judea and Samaria met with handlers from abroad. In addition, terrorist operatives relocated in the Shalit deal are active in propaganda-indoctrination activities and in the so-called "popular resistance" in Judea and Samaria.

3. On **October 18, 2011**, Gilad Shalit was released from captivity in the Gaza Strip in return for **1,027 Palestinian security prisoners**, among them terrorist operatives who had been sentenced to long prison terms for their involvement in murdering Israelis. Approximately 620 prisoners were permitted to return to Judea and Samaria and east Jerusalem. Since the Shalit deal, **76 have been detained again, having returned to terrorist activities in violation of the terms of their release** (i.e., about 12% of the prisoners released to Judea and Samaria and east Jerusalem have been apprehended for involvement in terrorist activities, and the number is expected to rise with the detentions resulting from the abduction of the three Israeli youths).

4. In addition, in June 2014, during Operation Brothers' Keeper, conducted to find the youths abducted from the Gush Etzion region, **56 additional Shalit deal prisoners were detained**, most of them affiliated with Hamas. Each of them will be individually examined by a committee to determine whether or not he violated the terms of the release (For the names of 51 new detainees, as reported by the Palestinian media, see Appendix B).

5. **The phenomenon of the mass return to terrorist activities of released Palestinian operatives is well known.** One prominent example was the 1985 so-called Jibril Agreement, in which 1,150 terrorist operatives were released, hundreds of whom had been involved in terrorist activities in Judea and Samaria (experts believe their release may have been an important factor in the outbreak of the first Palestinian intifada in 1987). However, there is still **no historical perspective** for the Shalit deal which would make it possible to determine the overall security consequences to the State of Israel of the release of the terrorists.

6. For examples of the involvement of terrorists released in the Shalit deal in terrorism in Judea and Samaria, and their involvement in orchestrating terrorism in Judea and Samaria from the Gaza Strip and abroad, see Appendix A.

## The Murder of Baruch Mizrahi and the Apprehension of the Murderers

7. On April 14, 2014, a few hours before the Passover Seder, there was a shooting attack on the road to Hebron near the Tarqumia crossing. Dozens of shots were fired at seven Israeli vehicles. The shots hit a car and members of an Israeli family en route to celebrate the Seder in Kiryat Arba were wounded. The father, Baruch Mizrahi, 48, a police officer, was killed. His wife was critically wounded; two of their five children sustained minor injuries.

8. On June 23, 2014, it was announced that on May 7, 2014, the Israeli security forces detained two suspects, father and son, from the village of Edna (west of Hebron), for involvement in the Passover eve shooting attack in which Police Superintendent Baruch Mizrahi was killed (Israel Security Agency website, June 23, 2014):

1) **Ziad Hassan Awad** – 42, Hamas operative, **suspected of committing the murder**. He was formerly imprisoned in Israel for killing Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel. **He was released in the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange deal in October 2011.**

2) **Izz al-Din Ziad Hassan Awad** – 18, son of Ziad Hassan Awad, suspected of participating in planning the attack and helping his father escape after it had been carried out.



Left: Video of the reception held for Ziad Hassan Awad (circle) upon his release. In the background are green flags affiliated with Hamas (YouTube, October 20, 2014). Right: Ziad Hassan Awad and his son, Izz al-Din Ziad Hassan Awad (Maannews.net, June 23, 2014).

9. During interrogation **Izz al-Din Ziad Hassan Awad admitted that he know about his father's intentions and gave up the Kalashnikov assault rifle used to carry out the attack.** The interrogation also revealed that before the attack **Ziad Awad acquired a motorbike and a rifle**, and also went to the site of the attack to gather information and carry out surveillance. Despite the fact that both father and son were Hamas operatives, the attack was apparently not externally directed or supported, and the motive was apparently religious (Israel Security Agency website, June 23, 2014).

## Appendix A

### Examples of Terrorists Released in the Shalit Deal Involved in Terrorism in Judea and Samaria (2012-2014)<sup>1</sup>

#### 2014

#### Detention of Ziad Awad, Hamas Operative Suspected of the Murder of Baruch Mizrahi

1. On May 7, 2014, Ziad Awad, a Hamas operative released in the Shalit deal was detained on suspicion of murdering Baruch Mizrahi on April 14, 2014. His son was also detained as an accomplice (See above).



Ziad Awad and his son Izz al-Din in a military court (Palestinian Facebook page devoted to Hebron daily news, June 23, 2014).

#### Involvement of Shalit Deal Terrorists in Throwing Molotov Cocktails

2. On April 25, 2014, an IDF force detained two young Palestinians who had thrown Molotov cocktails at the Tunnel roadblock in Gush Etzion. They had previously thrown Molotov cocktails several times and were known to the security forces. One of them had been released from jail in the Shalit deal and lived in the Al-Aida refugee camp near Bethlehem (IDF Spokesman, April 25, 2014).

<sup>1</sup> Follow-up of the June 11, 2013 bulletin ["Ayman al-Sharawneh, a terrorist released in the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange deal, was relocated to the Gaza Strip after a hunger strike. Terrorists freed in prisoner exchange deals often return to terrorism in violation of their release terms."](#)

## 2013

### Reestablishment of External Hamas Headquarters in Judea and Samaria Directed by Terrorists Released in the Shalit Deal

3. According to an Israeli media report, at the end of 2013 **Hamas reestablished the headquarters of its military-terrorist wing in Judea and Samaria**. The headquarters is directed by a group of terrorist operatives released in the Shalit deal who live in the Gaza Strip. It is **headed by Salah Arouri, who was relocated from Israel in 2010 and operates from Turkey**.<sup>2</sup> He directs groups of Hamas activists and operatives in the Gaza Strip, who regularly transmit instructions and large amounts of money terrorist squads in Judea and Samaria (Amos Harel in Haaretz, December 20 2013).



Left: Salah Arouri interviewed from Turkey by Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV during the funeral of senior Hamas terrorist operatives, the brothers Aadel and Imad Awadallah, whose remains Israeli returned to the Palestinian Authority. He praised them and stressed the concept of the "resistance" [i.e., terrorism] against Israel (Al-Aqsa TV, May 6, 2014). Right: Salah Arouri in Damascus, speaking at a meeting in support of Sheikh Ra'ed Salah (YouTube, August 13, 2010)

<sup>2</sup> **Salah Arouri** was born in the village of Aroura in the Ramallah region. He was one of the founders of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades in Judea and Samaria, a member of Hamas' political bureau and holder of the prisoners' portfolio. He was released from an Israeli jail in 2010 after serving a term of 18 years, and relocated from Israel after an agreement had been reached with him. He was a member of the Hamas team that negotiated the Shalit deal. He currently lives in Turkey (Firas, June 19, 2014).

## Hisham Hijaz, Relocated to Qatar, Handles Hamas Operative in Ramallah

4. In May 2013 the Israel Security Agency detained **Bakr Atallah Samih Sa'ad**, from the village of Mazraa al-Sharqia (near Ramallah), a Hamas operative who planned **to carry out shooting attacks and abductions**. Investigation revealed that in April 2013 he went to **Jordan** where he met with **Hisham Abd al-Qader Ibrahim Hijaz**, a Hamas terrorist operative from his village, who had been **released in the Shalit deal**. Hijaz recruited Sa'ad into the ranks of Hamas and **gave him instructions for planning shooting attacks and abductions of Israeli soldiers and civilians**. Before the attacks he was supposed receive four guns from a messenger. He was also instructed to find money to finance his activity. Bakr Sa'ad said he agreed to go to **Sudan** for military training (Israel Security Agency website, June 3, 2013).

5. **Hisham Hijaz** was responsible for the deaths of ten Israeli civilians and IDF soldiers. **He was sentenced to ten consecutive life sentences, released in the Shalit deal and relocated. He currently lives in Qatar.** The meeting noted above was held in **Jordan**.



Hisham Hijaz at his wedding in the Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus. He married a Palestinian woman from Damascus after his release (Hamas forum website, April 21, 2012).

## **Terrorist Operative Relocated to the Gaza Strip Handles Palestinians in Judea and Samaria from Saudi Arabia and Jordan**

6. In April 2013 it was announced that in March the Israel Security Agency (ISA) had uncovered **terrorist networks operating in Nablus and east Jerusalem** that planned to attack Israeli civilians and security forces. Their exposure illustrated the efforts of the terrorist organizations, especially Hamas, to promote terrorism in Judea and Samaria. That includes **the growing involvement of terrorists released in the Shalit deal who were relocated to the Gaza Strip**, from where they handle terrorist squads in Judea and Samaria in **gross violation** of the terms of their Egyptian-brokered release. **Saudi Arabia and Jordan** serve as **places for operatives from Judea and Samaria to meet their handlers** from the Gaza Strip (April 23, 2013):

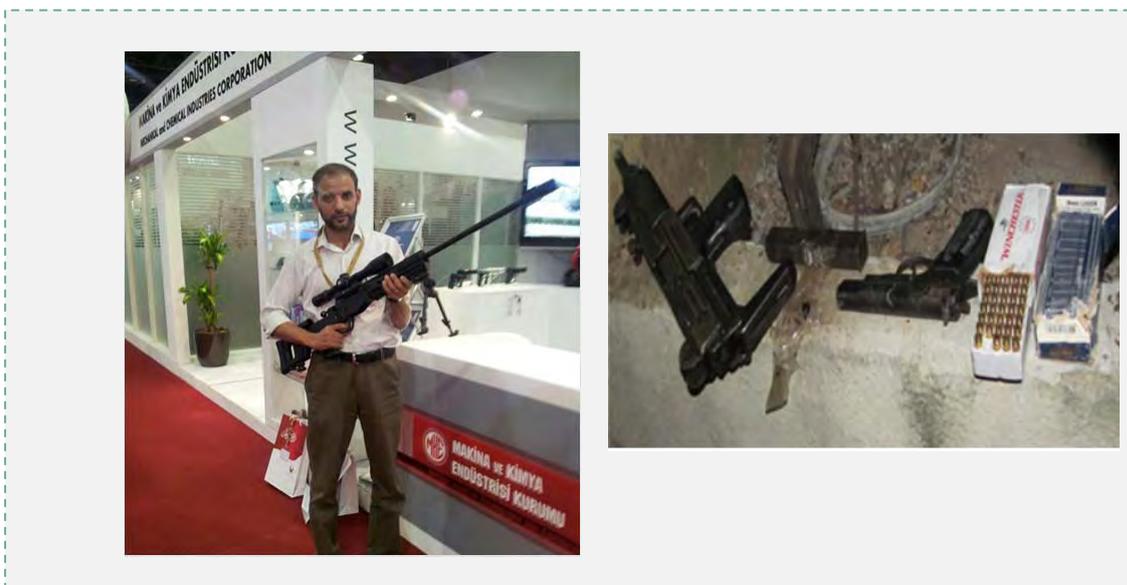
### **Bassel Haimouni, Relocated to the Gaza Strip, Directed Hamas Network near Hebron**

7. In February 2013 it was publicly announced that the Israeli security forces had exposed a **terrorist network belonging to Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades in the Hebron region**. It was directed by **Bassel Haimouni**, who was relocated to the Gaza Strip in the Shalit deal. The network was planning to carry out **shooting attacks and detonate IEDs**, but its members were detained before they could implement their plans. One of the operatives was found with a pipe bomb in his possession. The network was headed by **Munajed Musa Diab Juneidi**, 23, from Hebron. During interrogation he admitted maintaining contact with **Bassel Haimouni, a Hamas operative from Hebron, who had been released in the Shalit deal and relocated to the Gaza Strip** (Israel Security Agency website, February 27, 2013).

### **Hussam Badran, Relocated to Qatar, Directed Hamas Terrorist Network in Hebron**

8. At the end of February-beginning of March 2013 the Israeli security forces **detained 20 Hamas operatives from the Hebron region**. They belonged to networks planning to carry out terrorist attacks, particularly abductions to bargain for the release of Palestinian terrorist prisoners. **The plans for implementing the abductions were almost ready**. They were looking for an apartment to hide the abductees and tried to make contact with an Israeli citizen who would be their driver. During their detention they gave up a large quantity of weapons, all planned to be used in terrorist attacks. **Most of the Palestinians detained had served long prison sentences in Israel**, mainly for involvement in terrorist activities (Israel Security Agency website).

9. **The terrorist operatives detained were in contact with Hamas operatives outside Judea and Samaria** from whom they received support, instructions and financing. Most of their contacts were conducted by **Hussam Badran (Abu Imad), a Hamas operative released in the Shalit deal**. In 2004 he was sentenced to a term of 17 years for his involvement in a suicide bombing attack during the second intifada. Released in October 2011, **he was relocated to Qatar** (Israel Security Agency website).



**Left: Hussam Badran photographed with a weapon during his stay in Turkey (Hamas forum website, October 19, 2012). Right: Weapons found in the possession of the Hebron Hamas network (Israel Security Agency website, January 31, 2013).**

10. In December 2013 Hussam Badran was appointed Hamas' official external spokesman (Wafa.ps, December 25, 2013). **He currently lives in Doha, Qatar**, from where he conducts extensive anti-Israeli media, propaganda and incitement activity (while he handles terrorists in Judea and Samaria, as noted above).



Official Facebook page of Hussam Badran (Abu Imad), Hamas spokesman (Facebook, June 25, 2014).



Hussam Badran interviewed by TRT-TV, Turkey (Facebook page of Hussam Badran, June 7, 2014).

## Amir Dukan, Fatah Operative, Relocated to the Gaza Strip, Handles Terrorist in Nablus

11. In March 2013 **Amir Barakat** (b. 1988) from Nablus was detained, having returned from a **pilgrimage to Mecca** in February. During interrogation Barakat admitted that while in Saudi Arabia he met with **Amir Dukan**, former head of Fatah's military-terrorist wing in Nablus. **Dukan, originally from the Balata refugee camp near Nablus, was released in the Shalit deal** and relocated to the Gaza Strip.

12. Amir Dukan suggested to Barakat that **he carry out a shooting attack on the road bypassing Nablus or throw a hand grenade at the Hawara roadblock, in return for which he would receive \$60,000**. Returning from Mecca, Amir Barakat contacted Amir Dukan, told him he was willing to carry out the attack and even tried to acquire a gun (Israel Security Agency website).



Amir Dukan during the second intifada, when he headed Fatah's military-terrorist wing in Nablus ( Hamas forum website, October 20, 2011).

### **Amir Dukan Transfers Funds for Hamas to Judea and Samaria to Finance Terrorism**

13. In **January and February 2013** the Israeli security forces detained a Hamas courier and his handler who tried **to smuggle funds into Judea and Samaria to finance Hamas' terrorist activities**. The two were brothers who lived in the Al-Farah refugee camp near Nablus. In the possession of the courier, who was detained at the Allenby crossing, were **€10,000 and \$900**, hidden in cigarette packs.

14. During interrogation one the couriers admitted that his brother had sent him to Jordan to get money from **Hamas** to finance terrorist activities. He received the money in Jordan from a messenger sent by **Amir Dukan, who had been released in the Shalit deal and relocated to the Gaza Strip**. At the beginning of the second intifada Dukan was the commander of Fatah's military-terrorist wing in Nablus and also a member of the Palestinian preventive security force.

15. After his release and relocation to the Gaza Strip Amir Dukan contacted various terrorist organizations, **including Hamas** (Israel Security Agency website). At a

Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) reception held in Gaza Strip he called the Shalit deal a "victory for the resistance." He also praised the PRC, whose operatives had participated in the abduction of Gilad Shalit (Qawem website, October 19, 2011).  **Hamas praised Amir Dukan for providing its military-terrorist wing with logistical support at the beginning of the second intifada** (Hamas forum website, paldy.net, October 20, 2011).



Amir Dukan (center) at the PRC reception in the Gaza Strip (Qawem website, October 19, 2011)



Amir Dukan (circle) received by Hamas in the Gaza Strip (Samapal.net)



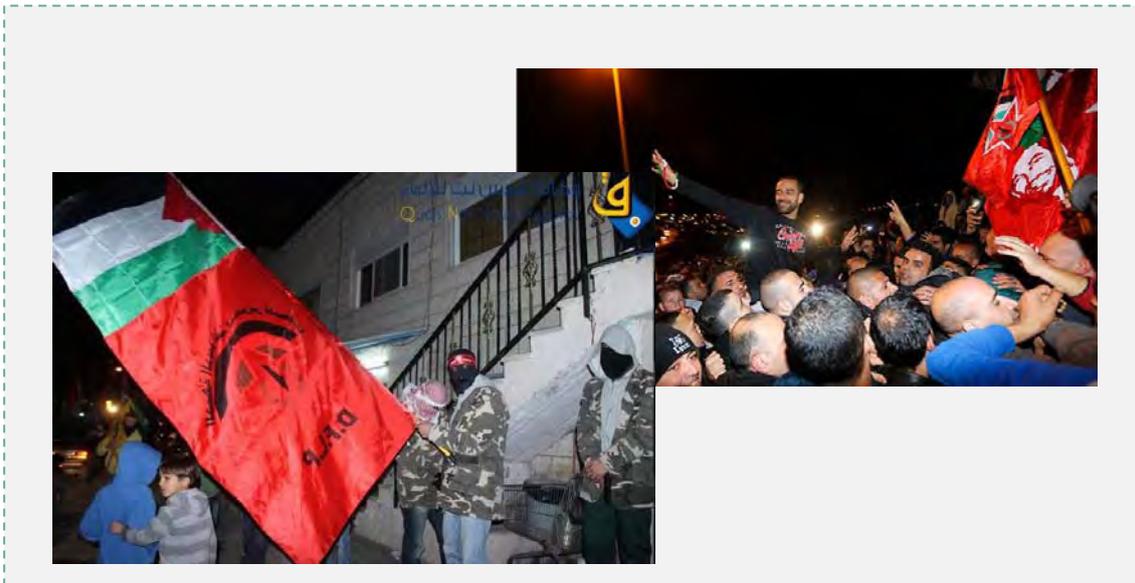
Amir Dukan's mother enters the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing to visit her son (Samapal.net)

## 2012

### **Samer al-Issawi, Democratic Front Operative, Violates the Terms of His Release**

16. **Samer al-Issawi** is a Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) terrorist operative from the village of Issawiya in east Jerusalem. In 2002 he was sentenced to 26 years in prison for shooting attacks carried out against Israeli vehicles. Released in the Shalit deal, he was detained again in July 2012 after violating the terms of his release. On December 23, 2013, he was released from an Israeli jail after a prolonged hunger strike.

17. On June 23, 2014 during Operation Brothers' Keeper, Samer al-Issawi was detained. He was brought before a judge on June 25, 2014, who ordered him held in custody for eight days (Haaretz.co.il, June 25, 2014).



Left: Armed, masked DFLP operatives at a reception for Samer al-Issawi after his release (Quds.net, December 23, 2013). Right: The reception for Samer al-Issawi (Al-Hayat Press, December 23, 2013).

### Hana Yahya Sabar al-Shalabi Returns to Terrorist Activity

18. **Hana Yahya Sabar al-Shalabi** from the village of Burqin (near Jenin) was detained for interrogation in September 2009 because of her terrorist activities in the **Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)**. She did not cooperate with her interrogators and used excessively strong and extremist language, even threatening them. However, while there was not enough evidence to try her, there was sufficient information about her involvement in terrorist activities to make her an administrative detainee. Her detention was extended a number of times until she was released in October 2011 in the **Shalit deal**.

19. After her release **intelligence was obtained indicating that she had renewed her involvement in terrorist activities and she was detained again on February 16, 2012 for eight months**. During detention she went on a hunger strike. On April 1, 2012 she was relocated to the Gaza Strip. The Arabic media reported that she had been relocated to the Gaza Strip for three years and that Israel would then permit her to return.



Left: Hana Yahya Sabar al-Shalabi (right) interviewed by Al-Alam TV, Iran (Al-Alam TV, September 14, 2013). Right: Hana Yahya Sabar al-Shalabi in a video produced in the Gaza Strip and exhibited on May 19, 2014 at a conference in the Gaza Strip whose theme was "A medal for the homeland" (YouTube, May 20 2014).

## The Case of Ayman al-Sharawneh

20. On January 13, 2012, an IDF force detained Ayman al-Sharawneh, from Dura (near Hebron). He was detained on suspicion of having **returned to Hamas terrorist activities**. He had been imprisoned in Israel for his involvement in a terrorist attack in Beersheba in 2002 in which 18 civilians were wounded.<sup>3</sup> Sentenced to 38 years in jail, **he was released in the Shalit deal** 28 years early (IDF Spokesman, January 31, 2012).

21. Immediately after his release al-Sharawneh violated its terms and returned to terrorist activity, and was detained again. Imprisoned again, he went on a hunger strike that lasted 53 days. In the first half of March 2013 he asked to be relocated to the Gaza Strip instead of continuing his prison sentence. The relevant Israeli security and judicial institutions granted his request and he was relocated to the Gaza Strip (March 2013).

22. Al-Sharawneh was warmly received in the Gaza Strip. Interviewed from his hospital bed, **he said the only way to secure the release of [Palestinian terrorist] prisoners was to abduct Israeli soldiers** (Al-Quds TV, March 18, 2014). After his hospitalization, he rejoined Hamas and renewed his terrorist activities.

<sup>3</sup> On the morning of May 11, 2002, two terrorist operatives went to the center of the Old City of Beersheba, placed an IED near a group of civilians and fled. A technical fault prevented a complete detonation of the bomb. Eighteen civilians were wounded. The Israeli security forces captured one of the terrorist operatives and after a chase the other was captured as well.

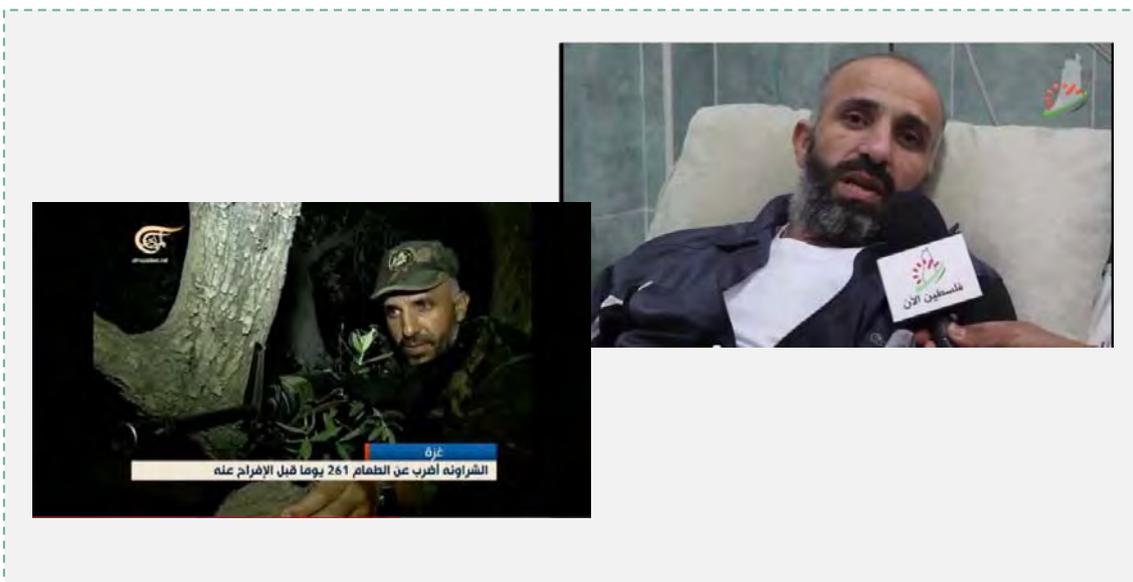
23. On May 27, 2013, two months after he arrived in the Gaza Strip, the Lebanese TV channel Al-Mayadeen, broadcasting from the Gaza Strip, aired a program about his **return to terrorist activities in the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military-terrorist wing**. The correspondent interviewed him at his home in the Gaza Strip and accompanied him on a military-terrorist action in the eastern part of the Gaza Strip, near the Israeli border. According to the correspondent, every Thursday night al-Sharawneh put on a uniform, took his weapon and participated in nighttime operations.

24. The Al-Mayadeen correspondent also reported that al-Sharawneh's long years of incarceration had not influenced him and that participation in jihad was still a necessity for him. Al-Sharawneh said that the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades existed to defend Palestinian land and liberate the West Bank, the Temple Mount and "all Palestine, from the [Jordan] river to the [Mediterranean] sea," and to free the "Palestinian prisoners imprisoned in Israel" (Al-Mayadeen, Lebanon, May 27, 2013).

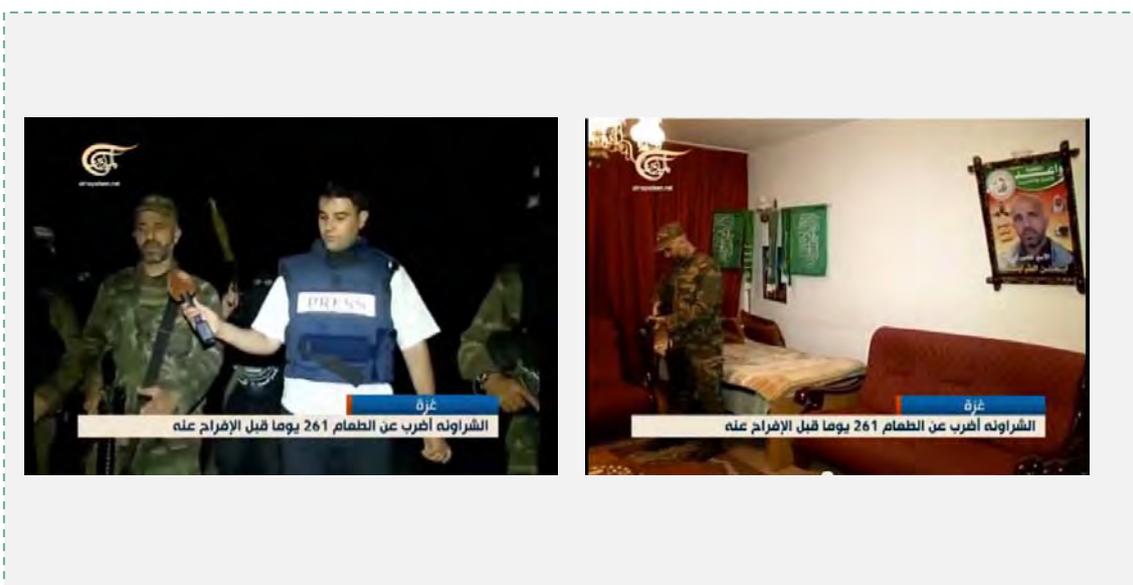
### Ayman al-Sharawneh: Detention, Release and Return to Terrorist Activities in the Gaza Strip



Demonstration in the village of Dura (Hebron district) during Ayman al-Sharawneh's hunger strike to demand his release (Al-Quds TV, March 3, 2013).



Left: Ayman al-Sharawneh in uniform in an ambush or reconnaissance position after his return to terrorist activities in the Gaza Strip (Al-Mayadeen, Lebanon, May 27, 2013). Right: Ayman al-Sharawneh interviewed in the hospital in Gaza Strip, calling for the abduction of Israeli soldiers (Paltimes.net, March 18, 2013).



Left: Ayman al-Sharawneh puts on his uniform and takes his weapon in preparation for nighttime military-terrorist activities. Right: TV correspondent accompanies Ayman al-Sharawneh on nighttime military-terrorist activities (Al-Mayadeen TV, Lebanon, May 27, 2013).



Ayman al-Sharawneh interviewed by Egyptian TV during Palestinian Prisoner Day activities in the Gaza Strip (EGM TV, Egypt, June 22, 2014).

## Appendix B

### **Hamas Terrorist Operatives Released in the Shalit Deal Redetained by the IDF in Judea and Samaria on June 17, 2014 (Names of Operatives and Places of Origin)<sup>4</sup>**

1. Na'el Barghouti, Ramallah
2. Rabi' Barghouti, Ramallah
3. Nidal Zaloum, Ramallah
4. Safwan al-Awiwi, Hebron
5. Zuheir Skafi, Hebron
6. Rashad al-Jaabari, Hebron
7. Muammar Rashad al-Jaabari, Hebron
8. Ahmed al-Awawda, Edna (Hebron)
9. Bassam Naim Natsha, Hebron
10. Ismail Musalma, Hebron
11. Mahmoud al-Swaiti, Hebron
12. Imad Fatouni, Salfit
13. Uthman Muslah Muqdi, Salfit
14. Yaqoub al-Kilani, Jenin
15. 'Araf Fahouri, Jenin
16. Muhammad al-Rishq, Qabatiya (Jenin)
17. Wahib Abu al-Roubb, Jenin
18. Abd al-Rahman Salah, Jenin
19. Samer al-Mahroum, Jenin

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<sup>4</sup> According to the Facebook page of the Islamic bloc in Bir Zeit University and the Ma'an News Agency, June 17 and 19, 2014. The transliteration of the names was carried out by the ITIC.

20. Alaa al-Din al-Bazian, Jerusalem
21. Adnan Maragha, Jerusalem
22. Jamal Abu Saleh, Jerusalem
23. Ibrahim Mashaal, Jerusalem
24. Rajab al-Tahan, Jerusalem
25. Uthman Muslah Abu al-Naji, Jerusalem
26. Nasser Abd Rabbo, Jerusalem
27. Nidal Abd al-Haq, Nablus
28. Tahe al-Shakhshir, Nablus
29. Ahmed Silwadi, Nablus
30. Muhammad Barakat, Anabta (Tulkarm)
31. Abd al-Jabar Fuqha, Anabta (Tulkarm)
32. Adnan Diyab, Qalqiliya
33. Shadi al-Zaid, Qalqiliya
34. Khader Radi, Bethlehem
35. Abd al-Munim Taama, Fuqin (north Tulkarm)
36. Majdi Ajouli, Fuqin (north Tulkarm)
37. Ayed Harsha, Fuqin, (north Tulkarm)
38. Muhammad Saleh
39. Hamza Abu Arqoub
40. Imad Abd al-Rahman Ali
41. Ashraf al-Wawi
42. Amer Abd al-Rahman Muqbal
43. Wa'el Kamal Jalboush

44. Muammar Ghawadra

45. Yaqoub Adnan Zeid

46. Lui Rajah Nofal

47. Fuad Abu Rajab

48. Ahmed Taleb Hamad

49. Zaher Khattatba

50. Ashraf Abu al-Roubb

51. Yaqoub Estitia