



February 11, 2015

Examination of the Names of 17 Journalists and Media Personnel Whom the Palestinians Claim Were Killed in Operation Protective Edge¹



Abdallah Fadel Mortaja, a military-terrorist operative, one of 17 journalists and media personnel the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate claimed were killed by Israel in Operation Protective Edge.

"Journalist" Mortaja was a military operative in the Shejaiya battalion of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and belonged to Hamas' military "information office." He is seen here reading his will in a video produced by the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and uploaded to YouTube after his death (YouTube, October 30 2014).

Overview of the Examination's Findings

1. About a week after the end of **Operation Protective Edge** the **Palestinian Journalists Syndicate** issued a list of 17 names, allegedly of journalists who had been killed in the operation. The list was published by the PA's **Wafa News Agency**, which received it from the **Hamas-controlled Gaza office** of the

¹ Follow-up of the December 31, 2014 bulletin, "Additional findings in the examination of the names of Palestinians killed in Operation Protective Edge - Part Eight." This is part nine of the ITIC project examining the names of Palestinians killed in Operation Protective Edge.

ministry of information.² As part of the ITIC's ongoing project concerning Palestinians killed in Operation Protective Edge, the 17 names were examined.

2. The examination revealed that **almost half (eight out of 17) were names of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terrorist operatives, or were journalists who worked for the Hamas media.** The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate and the Gaza office of the ministry of information tried to hide their military-terrorist identity, representing them only as journalists and media personnel. The examination revealed three levels of affiliation between the journalists and media personnel and the terrorist organizations (Hamas and the PIJ):

1) **The high level: Two military-terrorist operatives** armed and in uniform carried out propaganda missions in **Hamas and PIJ military-terrorist units.** One, whose picture appears at the beginning of this report, also recorded a will before he went into battle. It was uploaded to YouTube by the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military-terrorist wing, after his death.

2) **The middle level:** Three Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades operatives and one PIJ operative also worked for media affiliated with Hamas and the PIJ and/or local Gazan media.

3) **The low level:** Two of the names on the list belonged to **civilian media personnel** who were not military operatives in the terrorist organizations, but worked for **Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV, and its publication Al-Resala.**

3. Two additional conclusions were drawn from the examination:

1) **More than one third (six) of the media personnel on the list were killed while reporting from the battlefield.** Most or all of the others were killed during the battles in the Gaza Strip while they were in their houses or driving on the road under **circumstances not connected to their media work.** They were killed because they lived in densely populated areas where the IDF was fighting the terrorist organizations, which used the civilian population as human shields.

2) **At least two of the media personnel on the list were not killed by the IDF.** They were an Italian AP photojournalist and his translator, who were killed during one of the ceasefires while covering Gaza police engineers defusing unexploded ordnance in a location where there were no IDF soldiers (and Israel was not held responsible for their deaths). It is possible that others on the list were not killed

² The official name, as it appears on their website, is the "Palestinian national authority ministry of information government information office" [in the Gaza Strip].

by the IDF but the ITIC cannot prove it (that would necessitate thorough examinations of the events on the ground and comparisons with Palestinian reports in each case).

4. The findings of the examination indicate that the Palestinian list of 17 journalists killed during Operation Protective Edge was manipulative: it integrated names of civilians with names of terrorist operatives who served in information and media capacities. It incorporated the names of those who did in fact cover the fighting as correspondents and those who were killed randomly and were not serving as correspondents. It integrated those who were killed by the IDF in error with those in whose deaths the IDF had no involvement whatsoever. The objective was to give credence to the false claim that Israel deliberately killed a large number of media personnel and therefore was guilty of "crimes" for which the Palestinians demand the "murderers" be tried in international criminal courts. Manipulating the list of Palestinian journalists killed in Operation Protective Edge is another example of **Hamas-led Palestinian tactics of deceit and fraud** (as proved by the ITIC's findings of the examination of the lists of Palestinian fatalities). Thus, distorting the truth about the Palestinians killed in Operation Protective Edge has become **a propaganda weapon in the Palestinian political, propaganda and legal war being waged against the State of Israel.**

The Palestinian Institutions Issuing the List of the 17 Journalists

5. **On September 2, 2014, the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate issued a list of 17 Palestinian journalists** who were killed in Operation Protective Edge (See **Appendix 5** for the original list in Arabic). A week previously, **on August 26, 2014**, the list was issued by the **Hamas-controlled Gaza office of the ministry of information**. It was then disseminated by the Palestinian Authority (PA)'s Wafa News Agency and received much media coverage (according to the Wafa website, it had received 5,846,812 hits as of January 26, 2015). It was quoted and referred to on websites and by the international media, and exploited for anti-Israeli propaganda.

6. The **Palestinian Journalists Syndicate** is a trade union established in 1979, originally located in Jerusalem. Today its main offices are in Ramallah and it has **a branch in the Gaza Strip controlled, in ITIC assessment, by Hamas**. Its chairman is **Abd al-Nasser al-Najar**, who has two deputies, **Nasser Abu Bakr** in Judea and

Samaria and **Tahsin al-Astal** in the Gaza Strip (Website of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, February 4, 2015).

7. The list of 17 journalists and media personnel killed in Operation Protective Edge and short biographies were also issued by **the Gaza office of the ministry of information**. Published in Arabic and English, it was called "Heroes of Truth." The same office also issued a poster with pictures of the 17 journalists. The document about those who "paid a precious price, which is their souls," was written by a public relations team headed by **Ihab al-Ghussin**, who was formerly **spokesman for the interior ministry in the de-facto Hamas administration in the Gaza Strip** and today is deputy minister of information and head of the Gaza office of the ministry of information. He is also head of Al-Ra'i, **a Hamas newspaper published in Gaza**. The Gaza office of the ministry of information **served the de-facto Hamas administration and continues to function, even after the establishment of the Palestinian national consensus government in June 2014**.



The title page of the Gaza office of the ministry of information's publication about the 17 journalists killed in Operation Protective Edge ("Heroes of Truth").



The commemorative poster issued by the Gaza office of the ministry of information for the 17 journalists. Their names are identical with the names on the list issued by the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (Twitter account of DANCOHEN, January 27, 2015).

The Findings of the Examination

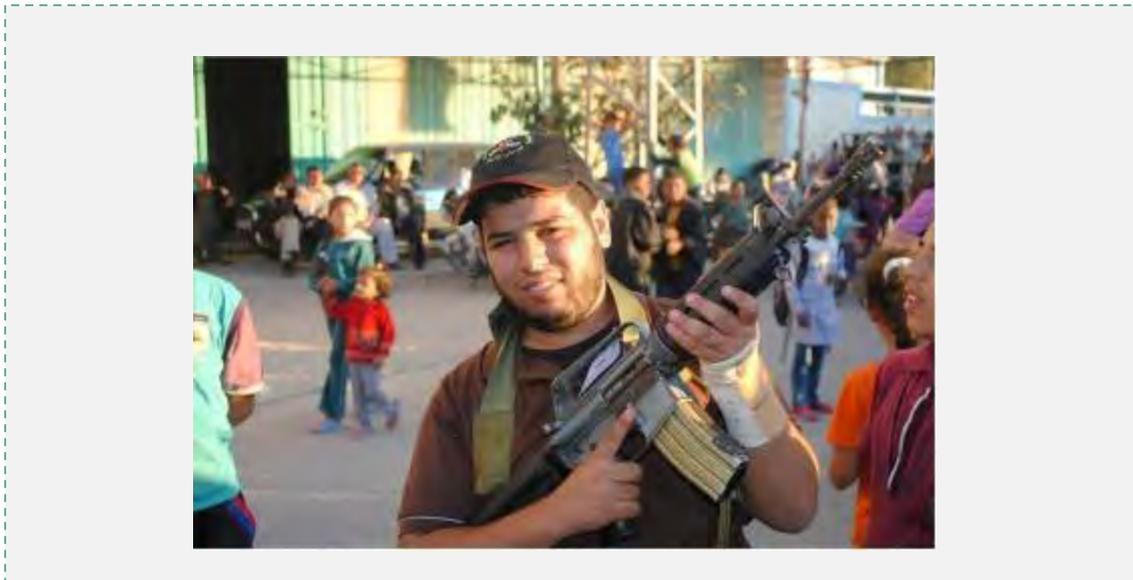
8. The list of 17 journalists and media personnel includes names of terrorist operatives as well as civilians who practiced a wide variety of media professions. They were journalists, photographers, editors, media crewmen (a driver and a translator) and a social network activist (whose status as a journalist is doubtful).

9. Of the 17 names, eight (almost half) had **varying degrees of affiliation** with the terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip, as follows: **two** were military-terrorist operatives, who wore uniforms and were armed. They belonged to **Hamas and PIJ military units and had propaganda missions** (numbers 11 and 12 on the table in **Appendix 1**). **Four** were **Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and Jerusalem Brigades** (the PIJ's military-terrorist wing) **operatives** who also served as journalists or personnel for the Hamas- and PIJ-affiliated media or for local Gazan media (numbers 4, 5, 9 and 10). Two were civilian journalists who worked for Hamas' media (numbers 6 and 15). Pictures of some of those affiliated with the terrorist organizations follow.

Ezat Salameh Doheir, PIJ terrorist operative (Number 12)



Left: Ezat Salameh Doheir carries a camera (Hamas forum, July 30 2014). Right: Death notice issued by the PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades for Ezat Salameh Doheir. He belonged to the "military media" unit of the Rafah brigade. The document issued by the Palestinian ministry of information made no mention of his identity as a military-terrorist operative and said only that he was killed in a "barbaric" Israeli attack.



"Journalist" Ezat Salameh Doheir, wearing a PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades cap and armed with an M-16 rifle (Ardh Knaan website, December 25 2014).

Abdallah Fadel Mortaja, Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades terrorist operative (Number 11)



Abdallah Mortaja belonged to the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades' military propaganda department. In the video he reads his will. He bids goodbye to his mother, wife and children, and says he belongs to the Al-Shejaiya battalion (the Gaza City battalion) of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades (YouTube, October 30, 2014) (click for video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9_FvBCaYeU). The document issued by the Palestinian ministry of information makes no mention of his identity as a military operative, claiming he was a "journalist" who worked for civilian communications companies.



Left: Abdallah Mortaja photographed as correspondent for Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV (YouTube, December 12, 2013). Right: Abdallah Mortaja calls himself "an information shaheed of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades" in his videotaped will (YouTube, October 30, 2014).

Abdullah Naser Khalil Fahjan, Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades terrorist operative (Number 10)



Abdullah Naser Khalil Fahjan, an Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades terrorist operative who also apparently worked as a reporter for Hamas' Voice of Al-Aqsa Radio. The picture shows the Rafah regional leadership of the "Al-Ahrar Movement" (an organization that split from Fatah and is today affiliated with Hamas) paying a condolence call to Abdullah Naser Khalil Fahjan's family. It was said of him (highlighted in black in the text) that he was "one of the shaheeds of the [Izz al-Din] al-Qassam Brigades" (Alahrar.ps, October 7, 2014).

Khaled Riyad Muhammad Hamad, Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades terrorist operative (Number 5)



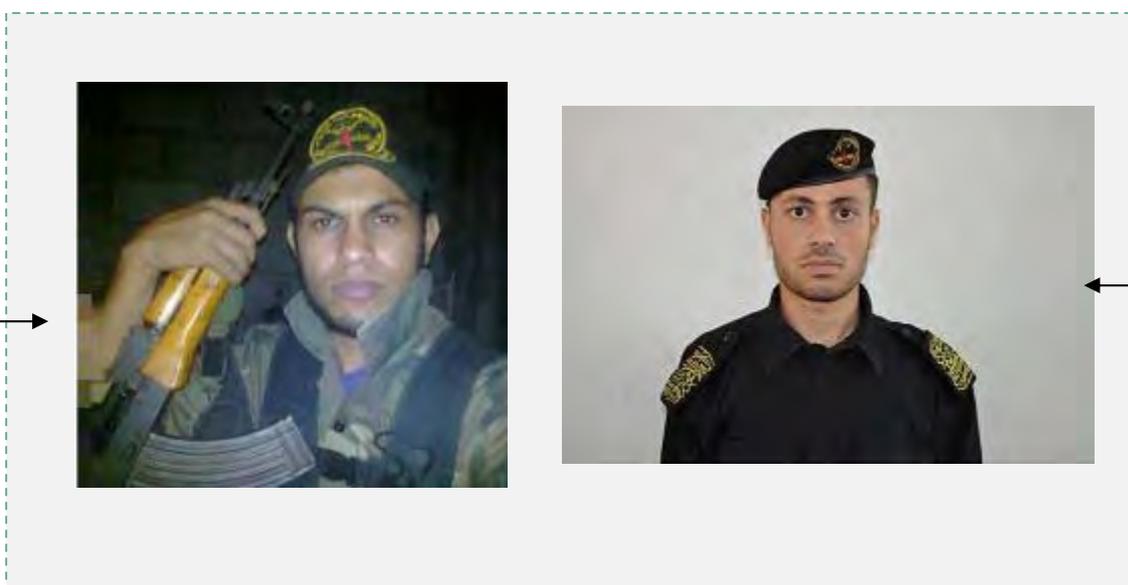
Khaled Riyad Muhammad Hamad, Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades terrorist operative, apparently also worked for Hamas' civilian media network. He was described as a "jihad fighter" journalist who was killed covering the fighting in Shejaiya. In the picture his body is wrapped in a green Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades flag. His Press vest and camera rest on the body (Hamas' Felesteen.ps, July 27, 2014).

Hamada Khaled Muqat, PIJ terrorist operative, killed with three other PIJ operatives (Number 4)



Hamada Khaled Muqat, military-terrorist operative in the PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades. Killed on August 5, 2014, along with three other PIJ terrorist operatives in the northern Gaza Strip. The picture is from the Facebook page of the PIJ-affiliated Saida Na'ama al-Ghafari mosque (August 9, 2014). The page listed the names of four "jihad shaheeds" who attended the mosque. The fourth name (outlined in yellow) is Hamada Khaled Muqat.

Two of the three terrorist operatives killed with Hamada Khaled Muqat



Two of the three PIJ operatives killed with Hamada Khaled Muqat. Left: Suleiman Marouf (second on the list), a PIJ operative. Right: Zaher al-Anqah (first on the list), also a PIJ terrorist operative (Facebook.com)



Death notice issued by the PIJ / Jerusalem Brigades / Northern [Gaza Strip] Brigade for the death of "jihad fighter shaheed" Suleiman Muhammad Marouf. He was one of the PIJ operatives killed with Hamada Khaled Muqat (Saraya.ps, October 15, 2014). His parents wrote an article in which they said he was an operative in the PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades in the northern Gaza Strip. They claimed he was killed at midnight on October 4, 2014, in an Israeli Air Force attack near the Al-Tawhid mosque in Jabaliya. His "jihad fighter shaheed" comrade Zaher al-Anqah and his "shaheed" brothers Hamada and Ahmed Muqat were killed with him, according to the family report. Suleiman Marouf's mission on the night he was killed was to check the Jabaliya region and make sure no activity was being carried out by collaborators (Saraya.ps, October 15, 2014).



The main post on the Facebook page of the Saida Na'ama al-Ghafari mosque, four of whose frequenters were PIJ operatives who were killed. The mosque is clearly affiliated with the PIJ, as shown by the PIJ logo at the upper right, the PIJ inscription in the center and the picture of late PIJ leader Fathi Shqaqi at the left (Facebook page of the Saida Na'ama al-Ghafari mosque, February 3, 2015).

10. Other findings revealed by an examination of the 17 names:

1) **Circumstances of death:** About one third of the list (six of the 17 journalists) were killed while covering the hostilities in the Gaza Strip. Four were not affiliated with terrorist organizations and two were: three journalists (two unaffiliated and

one affiliated) were killed in error on July 30, 2014 while covering Gazans stocking up on food in the market in Shejaiya (numbers 1, 6 and 14). Two others, both unaffiliated, (numbers 13 and 17), were killed (not by the IDF) while covering Gaza police engineers defusing unexploded ordnance. One terrorist operative, who might have been affiliated with a civilian media outlet, was killed while covering the fighting in the Shejaiya neighborhood (number 5). Apparently the others on the list (or most of them) **were killed during Operation Protective Edge in circumstances not connected with their media professions** (according to the document issued by the Gaza office of the ministry of information, "Some of these heroes were killed while they were holding their cameras... others were killed along with their family members on [sic] the Israeli bombing to [sic] their homes...").

2) **Nationality**: The journalists and media personnel killed were Palestinians with one exception, **an Italian photojournalist working for AP** (killed while covering Gaza police engineers defusing unexploded ordnance). The reasons for **the relatively small number of foreign media personnel killed among the hundreds of foreign correspondents and photographers in the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge** were, in ITIC assessment the following: most importantly, **Hamas' policy of deliberate concealment, which prevented foreign correspondents from reaching the combat zones**, and Hamas' desire to ensure that its own military information operatives and the personnel affiliated with its media were those reporting on the hostilities (thus enabling Hamas to control the information that would be quoted by the international media).³

3) **Inclusion of journalists and media personnel not killed by the IDF on the Palestinian list**: The list mixes (apparently deliberately) journalists and media personnel whose deaths were caused by the IDF in error with those in whose deaths the IDF was not involved. The most blatant example is the Italian AP photojournalist and his translator who were killed while unexploded ordnance was being defused by Gaza police engineers. They were killed in an area where there were no IDF soldiers present, and Israel was not accused of being either responsible for or involved in their deaths.⁴ It can be assumed that the list

³ For further information see the August 10, 2014 bulletin "Reports from foreign correspondents in the Gaza Strip vis-à-vis the limitations Hamas placed on media coverage of the military aspects of the fighting."

⁴ The circumstances of their deaths appeared in an AP report from Beirut by Zeina Karam (August 13, 2014), who wrote, "He was killed in a blast as police were defusing unexploded ordnance. The explosion also killed a freelance Palestinian translator, as well as four Gaza police engineers trying to neutralize the explosives. 4 people including AP photographer Hatem Moussa were badly injured."

includes the names of other journalists and media personnel not killed by the IDF, although the ITIC cannot prove it (that would necessitate thorough examinations of the events on the ground and comparisons with Palestinian reports in each case).

The Policy of Fraud and Concealment: Abdallah Mortaja as a Case Study

11. In their publications (in ITIC assessment obeying deliberate Hamas policy), the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate and the Hamas-controlled Gaza office of the ministry of information concealed the true identities of the terrorist operatives who at the same time had media missions or were media personnel. One such individual was **Abdallah Fadel Mortaja**, a terrorist operative in the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades' **Shejaiya battalion** in the Gaza City brigade (See picture above). The document issued by the Gaza office of the ministry of information represented him as a journalist and **made no mention of his identity as a military operative**, giving details only of his civilian record. **Hamas' Alresala website** called him "fellow journalist" Abdallah Mortaja, and avoided mentioning his military-terrorist activities. It described him as a graduate of the department of journalism and communications at the Islamic University in Gaza who was a correspondent for Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV and married to the daughter of Fawzi Barhoum, Hamas spokesman in the Gaza Strip (Alresala.net, October 25, 2015).

12. Based on the [biased] information disseminated from the Gaza Strip, on August 29, 2014 **the director-general of UNESCO, Irina Bokova**, issued a notice for the death of "journalist" Abdallah Mortaja, in line with "UNESCO's mandate to defend freedom of expression and press freedom" (UNESCO website, August 29, 2014). However, during the first half of November 2014 Mortaja's true identity as a Hamas terrorist operative was brought to UNESCO's attention by Perspectiva, an Israeli NGO. In consequence Abdallah Mortaja's name was stricken from the UNESCO list of journalists who died in Gaza in the line of duty and the condemnation of Israel was revoked. UNESCO's director-general added the following explanation on the UNESCO website (November 14, 2014): **"I deplore attempts to instrumentalize the profession of journalists by combatants... The civilian status of journalists is critical**, especially in situations of conflict, to ensure the free flow of information and ideas that are essential to the wider public and the restoration of stability and peace" (ITIC emphasis).

Campaign to Defame Israel

13. The report issued by the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate and quoted, partially or in its entirety, by various groups and individuals served as a platform for a **campaign to defame Israel**. The campaign used the report to substantiate two main claims: **first, that Israel killed more journalists during the fighting in the Gaza Strip than the number of those killed around the globe in 2014**; and **second, that Israel deliberately killed them to keep them from performing their duty**. The first claim is based on the false data about the number of media personnel killed in Operation Protective Edge, and the second claim is simply a **fabrication**.

14. The ITIC's examination of the names on the list indicated that the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate and the Hamas-controlled Gaza office of the ministry of information used various methods to inflate the number of civilian media personnel killed covering the hostilities. Two blatant methods were adding the names of Hamas and PIJ military operatives to the list of civilian media personnel and including the names of those whose deaths did not occur within the framework of their media duties.

15. Israel was also falsely accused of **deliberately killing journalists** (Union of Palestinian radio and television stations, summary report for 2014, according to Maannews.net, December 29, 2014). Based on the claim, the Gaza branch of PA's ministry of information demanded "to bring journalist killer to the international criminal courts" (Document of the Gaza branch of the Palestinian ministry of information). The following should be taken into account:

1) The deaths of approximately one third of the journalists and media personnel whose names appear on the list were caused in error while they were reporting on the fighting. Deaths of correspondents reporting from battle zones are considered an occupational hazard voluntarily accepted by correspondents and Israel cannot be blamed for them.

2) The deaths of two thirds of the media personnel on the list were the result of their **residence in densely populated** battle zones, full of terrorist operatives fighting against the IDF, and were unrelated to their mission as correspondents.

3) Two of those killed were uniformed, armed terrorist operatives, and including them on a list of journalists is pure manipulation. Four others were terrorist operatives who also had roles as media personnel. Two were civilians who worked for the Hamas media.

4) The Italian photojournalist working for AP and his translator were not killed by the IDF (the number of media personnel not killed by the IDF may be greater and requires a thorough examination).

The Military Media Networks of Hamas and the PIJ

16. Of the 17 names on the list, **two were identified with certainty as armed, uniformed terrorist operatives who served in media roles in the PIJ and Hamas' combat units.** They were **Abdallah Fadel Mortaja**, from the Shejaiya battalion of the Gaza City brigade of Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, and **Ezat Salameh Doheir**, from the Rafah brigade of the PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades. Both belonged to the military media networks of Hamas ("the information office") and the PIJ ("military media") and were **terrorist operatives in every respect.**

17. The following is a short description of the military media networks of Hamas and the PIJ:

1) **Hamas** considers the battle for hearts and minds very important and it maintains a military propaganda network called "**the information office**" within the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. It is staffed by terrorist operatives trained for media missions on the ground. They are deployed in accordance with Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades deployment, **are not professional journalists but are rather terrorist operatives in every respect. Sometimes they are also military commanders who were trained to carry out media missions on the ground or to direct media networks throughout the Gaza Strip.** That is because of Hamas' awareness that nowadays **the camera is as much of a weapon as an assault rifle, a mortar shell or a missile** (See **Appendix 2**).

2) **The PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades** also have a network called "military media." Its operatives deploy according to Jerusalem Brigades deployment. They are military-terrorist operatives or commanders, not professional journalists. "Military media" operatives are distributed throughout five regions in the Gaza Strip among the operatives of the organization's military-terrorist infrastructure (See **Appendix 3**).



Left: The logo of the PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades' "military media." Right: The logo of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades' "information office."

18. The two military-terrorist operatives who appear on the list of the 17 journalists are not the only military-terrorist operatives in the ranks of Hamas and the PIJ's military information networks who were killed in Operation Protective Edge. At least three others were killed, one of them a senior commander. However, the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate avoided putting their names on the list (for their pictures and information, see Appendix 4).

Appendices

19. This report has five appendices:

- 1) **Appendix 1** – Findings of the examination of the names of the 17 media personnel killed in Operation Protective Edge, as reported by the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate and the Gaza office of the ministry of information.
- 2) **Appendix 2** – The "information office" network of Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades.
- 3) **Appendix 3** – The "military media" network the PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades.
- 4) **Appendix 4** – Portraits of three Hamas and PIJ terrorist operatives who belonged to the organizations' military information networks and were killed in Operation Protective Edge.
- 5) **Appendix 5** – The original list of 17 names issued by the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate and published by the Wafa News Agency.

Appendix 1

Findings of the examination of the names of the 17 media personnel killed in Operation Protective Edge, as reported by the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate and the Gaza office of the ministry of information⁵

	Name and media affiliation	Circumstances of death	Terrorist organization affiliation	Notes
1	Ramy Fathi Hussein Rayyan photographer and journalist, director of Jana News Agency. Worked for other Gazan media including the Palestinian Network for Press and Media.	Killed on July 30, 2014 while photographing Gazans stocking up on food in the market in Shejaiya.	Unaffiliated	
2	Bahaa' al-Deen Kamel Muhammad al-Ghareeb, journalist for Palestinian TV.	Killed on July 29, 2014, not under professional circumstances. The Palestinians claim he was killed while accompanying his daughter to the hospital in the wake of an airstrike.	Unaffiliated	✓ Director of the Hebrew-language news department of Palestinian TV.
3	Hamed Abdallah Muhammad Shehab, worked as a driver for news crew of the local media agency, Media 24.	The Palestinians claim he was killed when his car was attacked by Israeli planes in Gaza on July 9, 2014.	Unaffiliated	✓ The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate issued a notice of his death calling him "a driver for the Media 24 production company."
4	Hamada Khaled Muqat, PIJ operative. Palestinians claim he was the director of the Saja News Agency website.	Killed on August 4, 2014 in an attack on PIJ operatives in the northern Gaza Strip. Three other PIJ operatives were killed in the same attack.	Affiliated	✓ A PIJ-affiliated Facebook page said the following on August 9, 2014: "The family of the Na'ama al-Ghafari mosque [PIJ-affiliated] regards the jihad fighters named below, who

⁵ The table is based on the website of the Wafa News Agency (see **Appendix 5**). The names are in the order as they appear on the website. The results of the ITIC examination are integrated into the table.

				<p>frequented this mosque, as shaheeds. [They are] shaheed Zaher al-Anqah [PIJ operative], shaheed Suleiman Marouf [PIJ operative], shaheed Ahmed Muqat [both of Hamada Muqat], shaheed Hamada Muqat [PIJ operative].</p> <p>✓ Saja is a local Gazan news agency that operates a news website and has a Facebook page. The contents of the Facebook page indicate its affiliation with the PIJ. The page shows Muhammad Sultana, the head of Saja, and to his left there is a picture of the late Fathi Shqaqi, who headed the PIJ. After the Hezbollah attack at Har Dov in which two IDF soldiers were killed, Muhammad Sultana praised and congratulated Hezbollah.</p>
5	<p>Khaled Riyad Hamad, according to ITIC information, was an Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades operative. The Palestinians claim he was a photojournalist for a local news agency called "Continue" (which could not be identified by the ITIC).</p>	<p>Killed on July 20, 2014, in the Shejaiya neighborhood, apparently while covering the fighting.</p>	Affiliated	<p>✓ Described as a "jihad fighter" journalist killed while covering the fighting in Shejaiya. His body was buried wrapped in a green Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades flag on which were placed his Press vest and camera (Hamas' Felesteen, July 27, 2014).</p>

6	Sameh Mohammed Al-Aryan, cameraman and presenter for Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV	Killed on July 30, 2014, while photographing Gazans stocking up on food in the Shejaiya market.	Affiliated	
7	Shadi Hamdi Muhammad Ayad, freelancer, worked as a volunteer for the Qudsnet News Agency.	Killed on August 2, 2014, under circumstances unrelated to media coverage (the Palestinians claim he was in his house when it was attacked by the Israeli Air Force).	Unaffiliated	✓ The ITIC could not find articles by this individual. His identity as a journalist is unconfirmed.
8	Ahed Afeef Zakout, presenter and sports commentator for Palestinian TV and Al-Kitab TV in Gaza (which operates from within the Hamas-controlled Islamic University in Gaza City).	Killed on July 30, 2014, under circumstances unrelated to media coverage (the Palestinians claim his house was attacked by the IDF).	Unaffiliated	✓ Fatally wounded. ✓ Formerly a well-known soccer player, coach and popular sports announcer, not known as dealing with events unrelated to sports.
9	Abdurrahman Ziad Hassan Abu Heen. According to ITIC information joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and carried out military activities. The Palestinians claim he was a reporter for Al-Kitab TV (which operates out of the Hamas-controlled Islamic University in Gaza City).	Killed in Shejaiya on July 23, 2014, under circumstances unrelated to media coverage.	Affiliated	

10	Abdullah Nasser Khalil Fahjan, Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades operative, may have also been a reporter for Hamas' Voice of Al-Aqsa Radio.	The Palestinians claim he was killed on August 1, 2014, in an Israeli attack on the Al-Zeitoun neighborhood (Gaza City).	Affiliated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Rafah-region leadership of the "Al-Ahrar Movement" (a terrorist network in the Gaza Strip established by operatives who left Fatah in 2007 and currently affiliated with Hamas) paid a condolence visit to the Fahjan family on October 7, 2014. According to its website (Alahrar.ps): "The shaheed Abdallah Nasser Fahjan one of the [Izz al-Din] al-Qassam Brigades shaheeds of 'Operation [Protective Edge].'"
11	Abdallah Fadel Mortaja, Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades terrorist operative, carried out media missions.	Killed on July 25, 2014, in the fighting in Shejaiya (the Palestinians claim by IDF artillery fire).	Affiliated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Graduate of the journalist and communications department of the Islamic University in Gaza City. Was married to the daughter of Fawzi Barhoum, Hamas spokesman in the Gaza Strip. ✓ YouTube shows him holding a rifle and reading his will in a video produced by the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. (See picture on the front page). ✓ The document issued by the Palestinian ministry of information hid his military-terrorist identity (in ITIC assessment deliberately).⁶ ✓

⁶ According to the government media office of the ministry of information in Gaza, "He worked as a journalist in the Palestinian Zakat Institution."

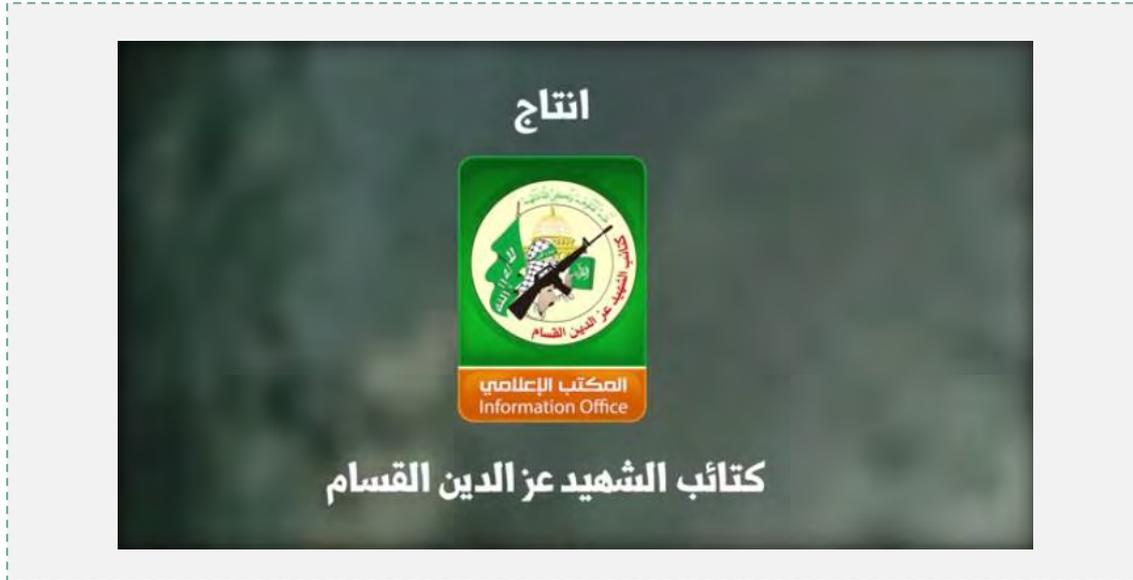
12	Ezat Salameh Doheir, PIJ operative, worked for several media outlets in the Gaza Strip.	Killed on July 29, 2014. The Palestinians claim he was killed during an attack on his house.	Affiliated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Belonged to the PIJ's "military media." ✓ The PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades issued a commemorative poster. (See the picture in the "Findings of the Examination" section). ✓ The document issued by the government media office of the ministry of information in Gaza hid his military-terrorist identity (in ITIC assessment deliberately).⁷
13	Ali Sehda Abu Afash translated for AP photographer Simone Camilli and was killed with him.	Killed on August 13, 2014, at the same time as AP photojournalist Simone Camilli, while unexploded ordnance was being defused in the area of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip. (See number 17)	Unaffiliated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Program Director of the Doha Center for Media Freedom. Worked for its Gaza branch.
14	Mohamed Nour al-Din Mustafa al-Deyri, photojournalist, worked for the Palestinian Network of Journalism and Media.	Injured on July 20, 2014, while photographing Gazans stocking up on food in the Shejaiya market. Died on July 31, 2014.	Unaffiliated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wrapped in the Fatah flag at his funeral.

⁷ According to the government media office of the ministry of information in Gaza, "He worked as correspondent for al-Horia Radio and a programmer in Yarmouk TV channel."

15	Mohamed Majed Daher, editor of Hamas' publication Al-Resala	Wounded on July 20, 2014, in an attack on his house in the Shejaiya neighborhood. Died several days later. Killed under circumstances unrelated to media coverage.	Affiliated	
16	Najlaa' Mahmoud Lutfi al-Haj (Umm Hamza), described as a "media activist."	Killed on July 10, 2014. The Palestinians claim she was killed in an attack on her house in the Khan Yunis refugee camp.	Unaffiliated	✓ Her identity as a journalist is doubtful. The Arab media described her as "disseminating news on Facebook accounts as a volunteer" (Alrai.com, July 10, 2015).
17	Simone Camilli, Italian photojournalist who worked for AP.	Killed on August 13, 2014, while unexploded ordnance was being defused in the area of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip.	Unaffiliated	✓ Four Gaza police engineers were killed when the shell exploded. Another AP photojournalist, Hatem Mousa, was critically wounded. ✓ Simone Camille was the only foreign correspondent killed during Operation Protective Edge.

Appendix 2

The "information office" network of Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades



The logo of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades' "information office"

Overview

1. **Hamas, like other terrorist organizations**, considers the battle for hearts and minds very important and maintains a military information network called "**the information office**" within the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. The "information office" is staffed by military operatives trained for propaganda missions on the ground. They are **not professional media personnel but rather military operatives in every respect. Sometimes they are also military commanders who were trained to carry out media missions on the ground.** That is because of Hamas' awareness that nowadays the camera is as much of a weapon as an assault rifle, a mortar shell or a missile.

2. The Hamas propaganda network was established in 2001 during the second intifada. The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades' high military council, headed by **Salah Shehadeh**, who was at the time head of Hamas' military-terrorist wing, decided to establish a professional network of military operatives who would deal with propaganda missions. In March 2003 it received the name it holds today, "**the information office of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades.**"⁸

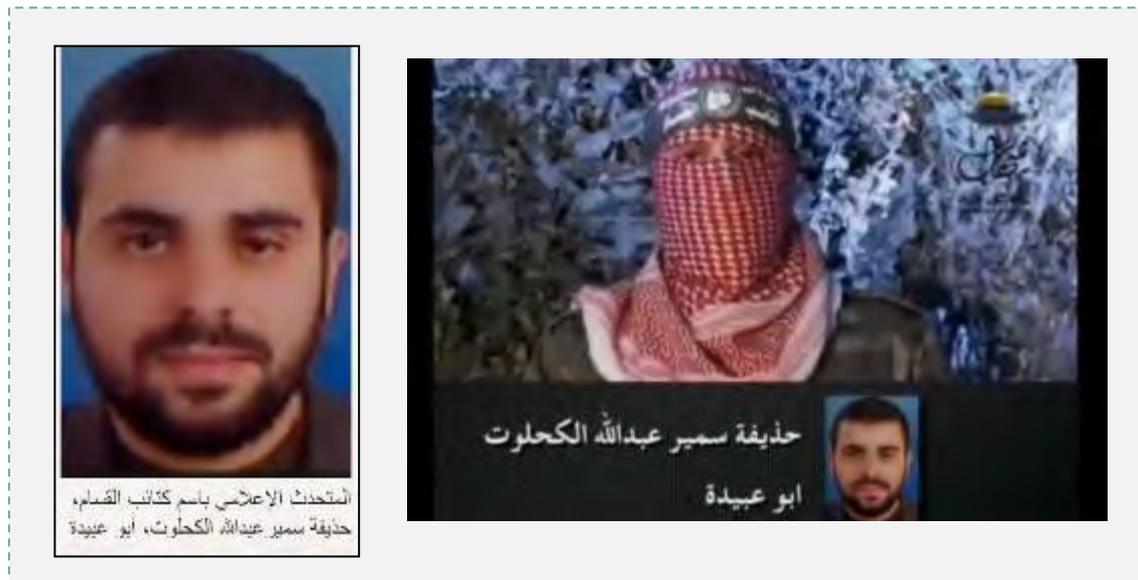
⁸ A distinction should be made between "the information office" and the Hamas movement's press office, which is headed by Dr. Hassan Abu Hashish and deals with Hamas' media activities.

3. The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades' "information office" was **allotted considerable resources by Hamas**. Over the years it has acquired advanced professional and technological capabilities, putting Hamas in the forefront of its battle for hearts and minds both internally (in the Palestinian arena) and externally. The "information office" has operatives in **five brigades in the Gaza Strip**, located in the northern Gaza Strip, Gaza City, the central Gaza Strip, Khan Yunis and Rafah. The "information office" operatives are deployed at the battalion level of the various brigades. Its objectives have been classified as the following:⁹

- 1) Issuing notices and military announcements, and holding press conferences.
- 2) Monitoring the news from the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and disseminating it to the world.
- 3) Liaising between Hamas' military wing and the [civilian] media.
- 4) Photographing Hamas' military wing's missions and "special jihadi operations."
- 5) Photographing recorded wills of Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades shaheeds and distributing them to the media.
- 6) Operating the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades website, and updating it with reports, notices and news items.
- 7) Producing special videos, including songs, and documenting the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades' activities.

4. Since 2004 the "information office" has had its own official spokesman, who is in effect the **spokesman for the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades**. His name is **Abu Obeida**, and he often verbally attacks Israel and threatens it with terrorist attacks. Over the years he has appeared masked before the camera to hide his true identity. His name and identity were revealed in May 2014 during a program broadcast by Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV. His full name is **Hazifa Samir Abdallah al-Kahlut**, he is 29 and lives in Jabaliya.

⁹ According to the Muslim Brotherhood's Ikhwanwiki.com website.



The identity of Hamas spokesman Abu Obeida is exposed for the first time by a broadcast on Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV in May 2014 (Al-masdar.com)



Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades spokesman Abu Obeida threatens Israel during Operation Protective Edge and warns international airlines not to fly to Israel's Ben-Gurion airport (Al-masdar.com, August 20, 2014).

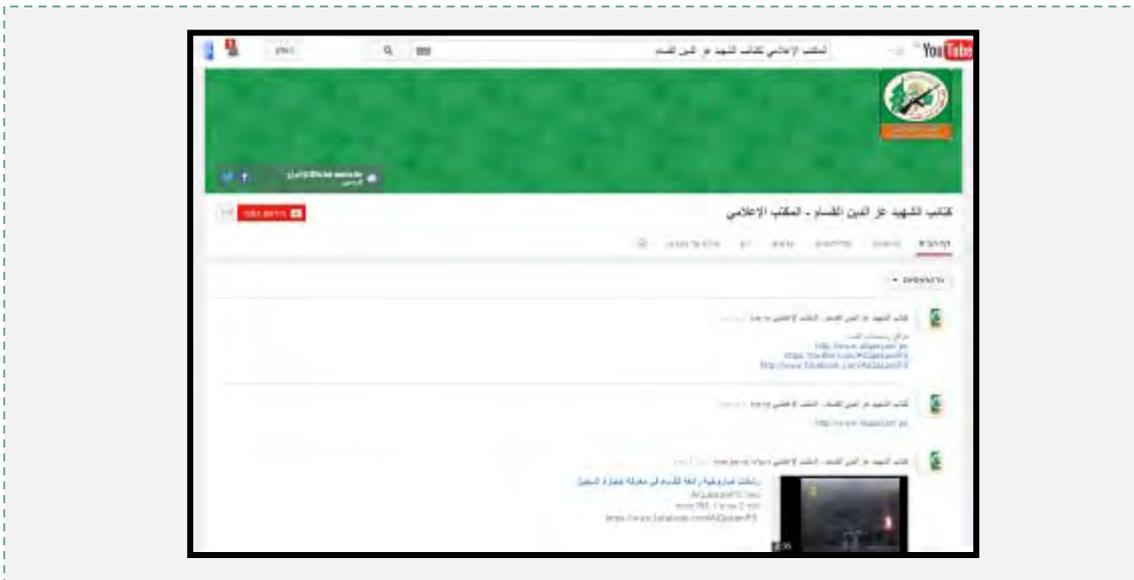
Pictures of the Hamas "information office" products



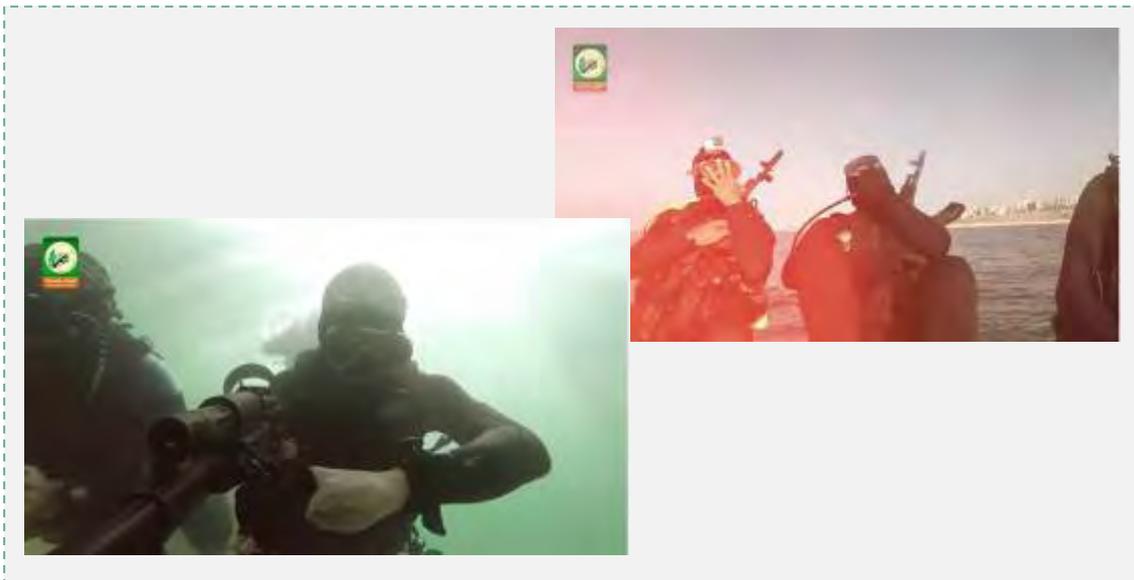
"Information office" operatives wear uniforms and flak jackets to work. The "information office" logo is behind them on the wall (the Muslim Brotherhood's Ikhwanwiki.com website)



The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades website, operated by the "information office" (Alqassam.ps)



The "information office's" official YouTube channel. The "information office's" logo is in the upper right hand corner. It broadcasts "information office"-produced videos (YouTube.com).



An "information office" product: a video documenting Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades naval commando training (YouTube, December 13, 2014).



An "information office" product: documentation of a military display in Gaza City on the anniversary of the Hamas movement's founding (YouTube, December 14, 2014).



An "information office" product: documentation of Hamas terrorist operatives infiltrating an IDF post at Nahal Oz during Operation Protective Edge (YouTube, August 12, 2014).



An "information office" product: firing a Konkurs anti-tank missile at an IDF force in the region of Jahar al-Deek in the southern Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge (YouTube, July 22, 2014).



An "information office" product: firing mortar shells at an IDF base near the Gaza Strip (YouTube, June 7, 2013).



"Information office" operatives document training at a "Pioneers of Liberation" facility held by Hamas throughout the Gaza Strip between January 20 and 27, 2015. The operatives wear flak jackets with the "information office" logo on the back (Facebook page of the Pioneers of Liberation camps, January 22-24, 2015).

Appendix 3

The "military media" network the PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades



The logo of the Jerusalem Brigades' "military media"

Overview

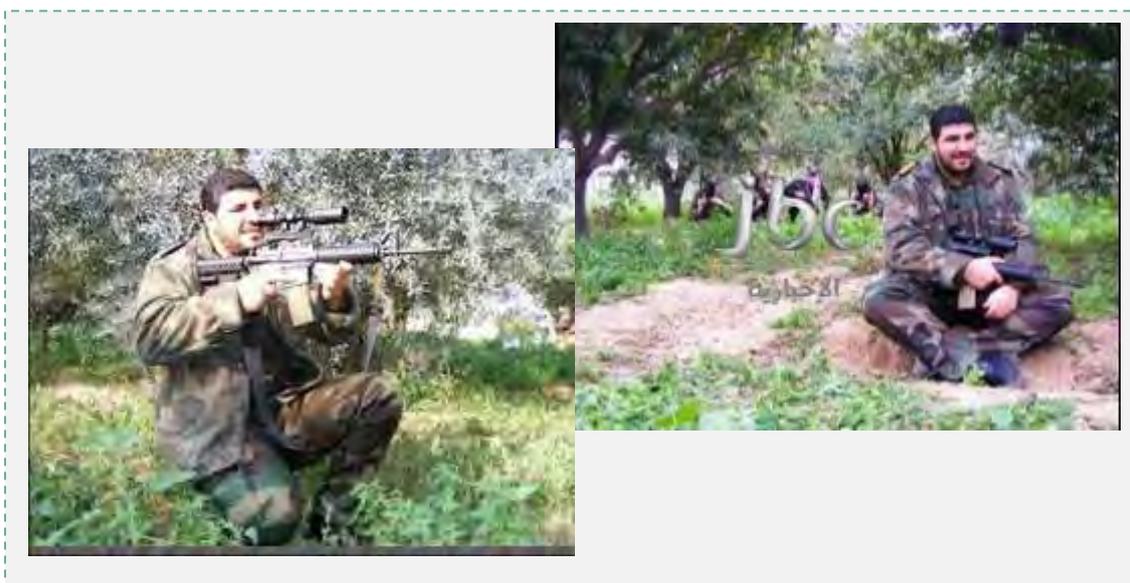
1. **The Jerusalem Brigades, the PIJ's military-terrorist wing**, maintain a military propaganda network called "**military media**." Its operatives are deployed according to Jerusalem Brigades deployment in **five regions in the Gaza Strip**: Gaza City, the northern Gaza Strip, the central Gaza Strip, Khan Yunis and Rafah.
2. Like Hamas' "information office," PIJ's "military media" personnel are military operatives who received training in communications. In most cases **they wear uniforms** during their missions, like other field operatives (See pictures below). They take photographs, and cover and document the PIJ's military-terrorist activity. They produce videos, pictures, photographs of military displays and weapons, articles and interviews with military operatives. Their propaganda products are displayed on the PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades' website, directed and edited by "military media" operatives.
3. A terrorist operative aka **Abu Ahmed was the PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades spokesman** until he was replaced after Operation Protective Edge by **Abu Hamza**. A little over a year ago he described **the "military media" and stressed its importance as follows** (Paltoday.ps, December 22, 2014):

1) "The Jerusalem Brigades have an excellent military information network that operates in the field every day. The professional level of its personnel is very high."

2) The "military media" is one element of **military activity on the ground**. "It is committed to being present in the heart of an [a military] event, to cover the event, translate it and distribute it to all the local and international media using every electronic means at its disposal."

3) **"The craft of the jihad fighter in media is no different from that of the operative who launches a rocket and is active on the ground."**

4) "If the resistance [i.e., the terrorist organizations] operates on the ground without document and distribution, then the world and Palestinian society will not know of its activities at all, and of the resistance's successes on the ground."

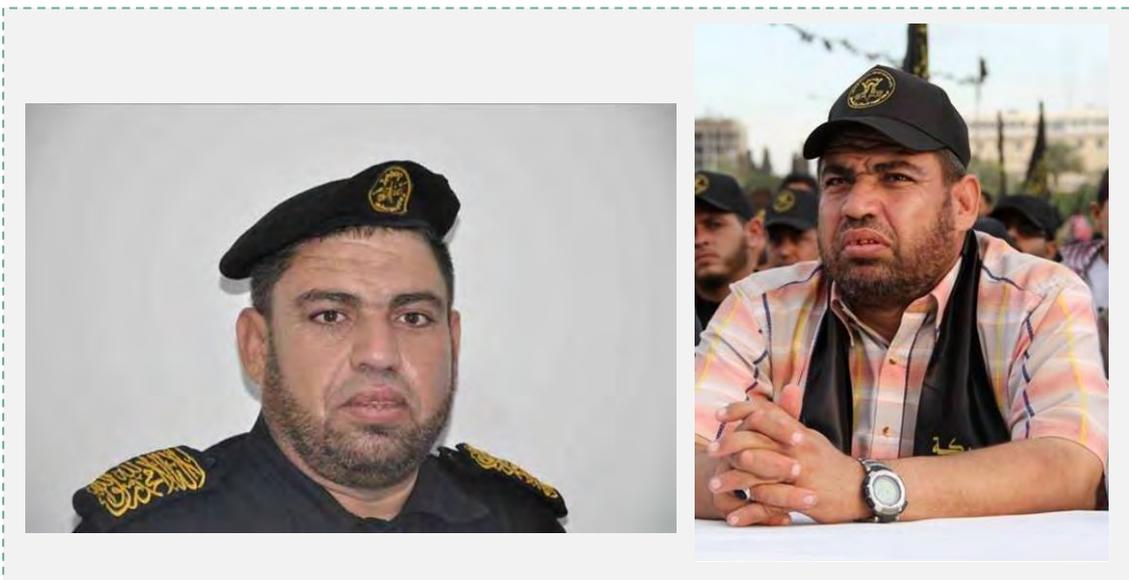


Abu Ahmed, PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades spokesman, in military uniform and armed with a rifle (YouTube, March 11, 2014; Radio Al-Kofia, July 8, 2014).

Deaths of senior "military media" operatives in IDF activities

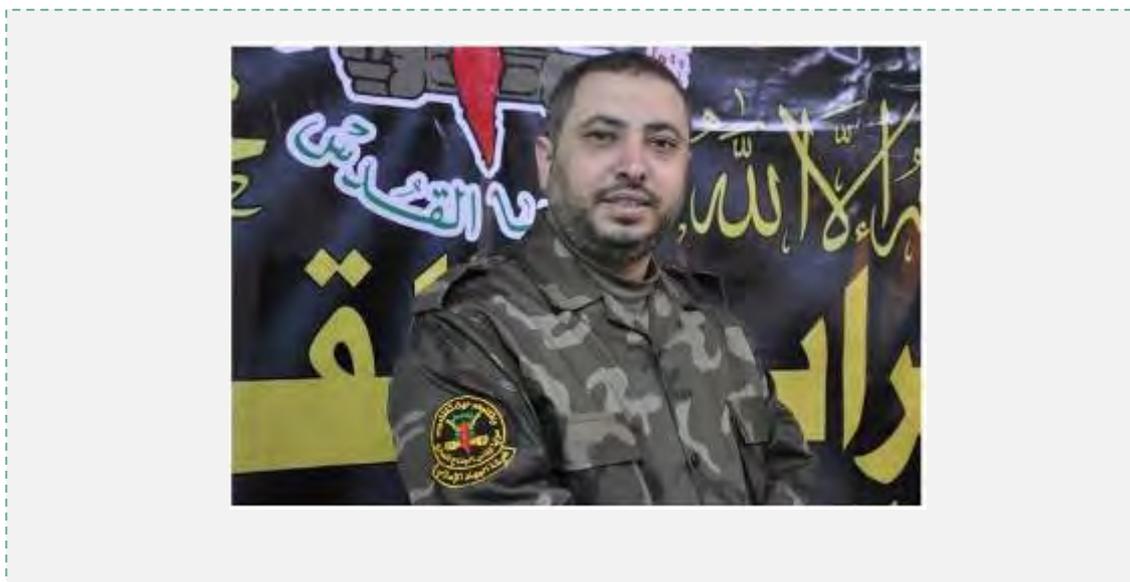
4. During IDF activities in the Gaza Strip two prominent military operatives who headed the PIJ's "military media" were killed:

1) **Salah Abu Hassanein (Abu Ahmed) – Senior operative in the PIJ's military-terrorist leadership in the Gaza Strip.** He headed the PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades' "military media" network. Killed in the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge in an Israeli Air Force attack on his house in Rafah, July 25, 2014.



Salah Abu Hassanein (Abu Ahmed) when he headed the PIJ's "military media" network in the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge (Paltoday.ps, July 25, 2014).

2) Ramez Najib Harb (Abu Obeida) – Began as a military field operative and worked his way up to battalion commander. He headed the "military media" network of the PIJ's Gaza brigade. Killed during Operation Pillar of Defense in the Gaza Strip on November 19, 2012, in an Israeli Air Force attack on the PIJ office in the Al-Shorouk building in Gaza City (Saraya.ps, December 3, 2012).



Ramez Najib Harb (Abu Obeida), headed the "military media" network for of the PIJ's Gaza brigade (Saraya.ps).

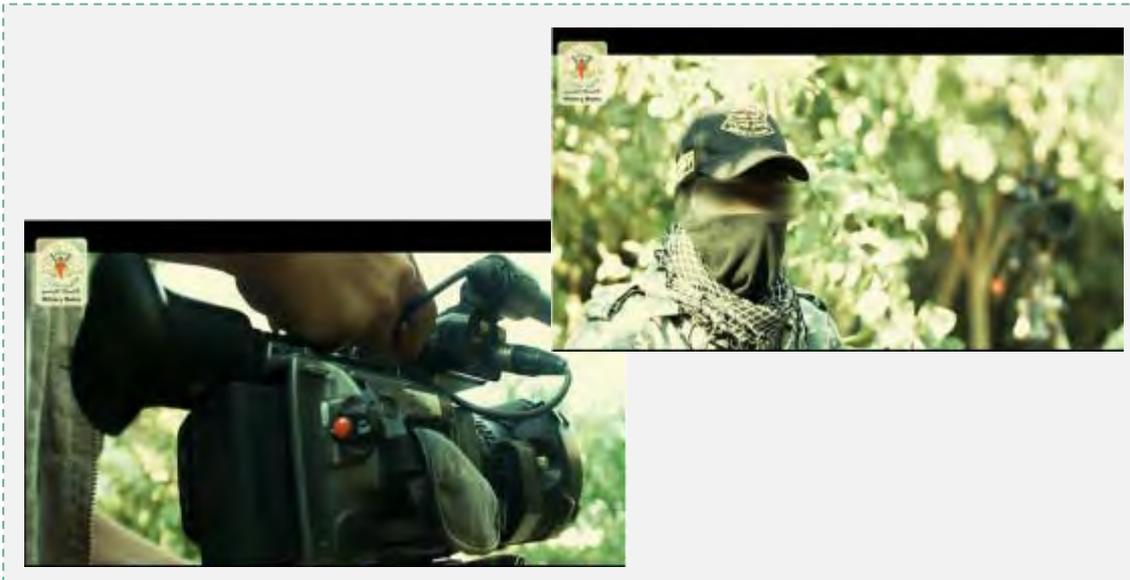
Pictures of PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades "military media" products



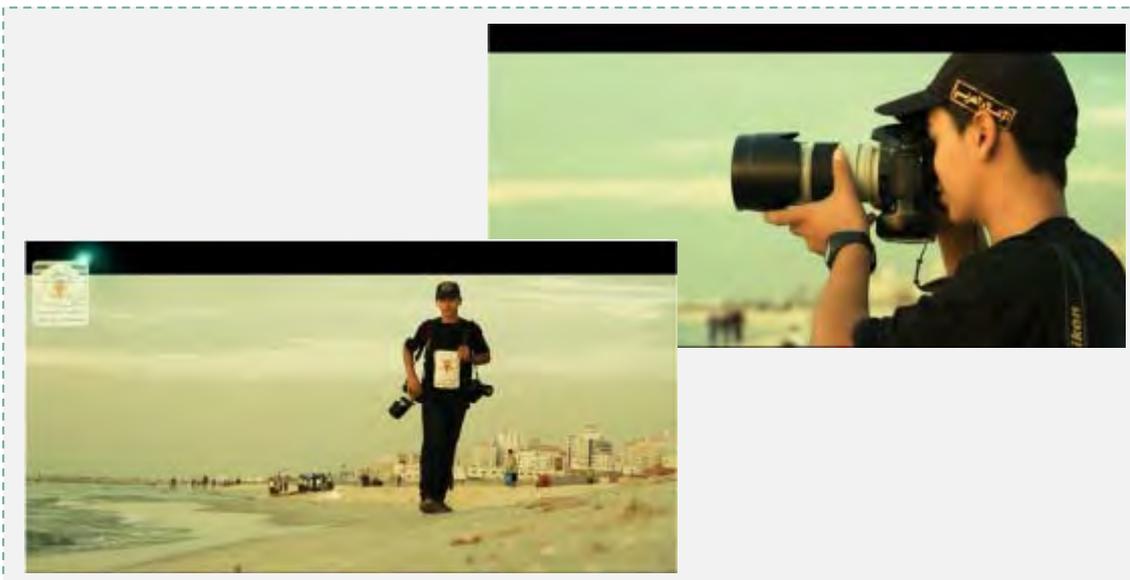
The PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades website, operated by the "military media" (Saraya.ps)



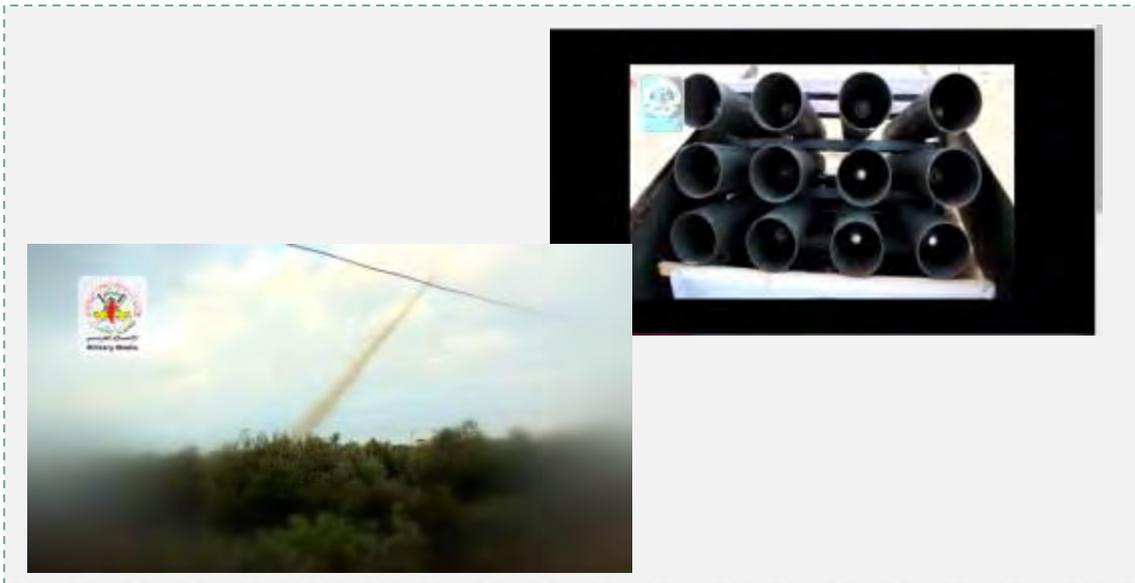
"Military media" operatives at work (Paltoday.ps, December 22, 2014).



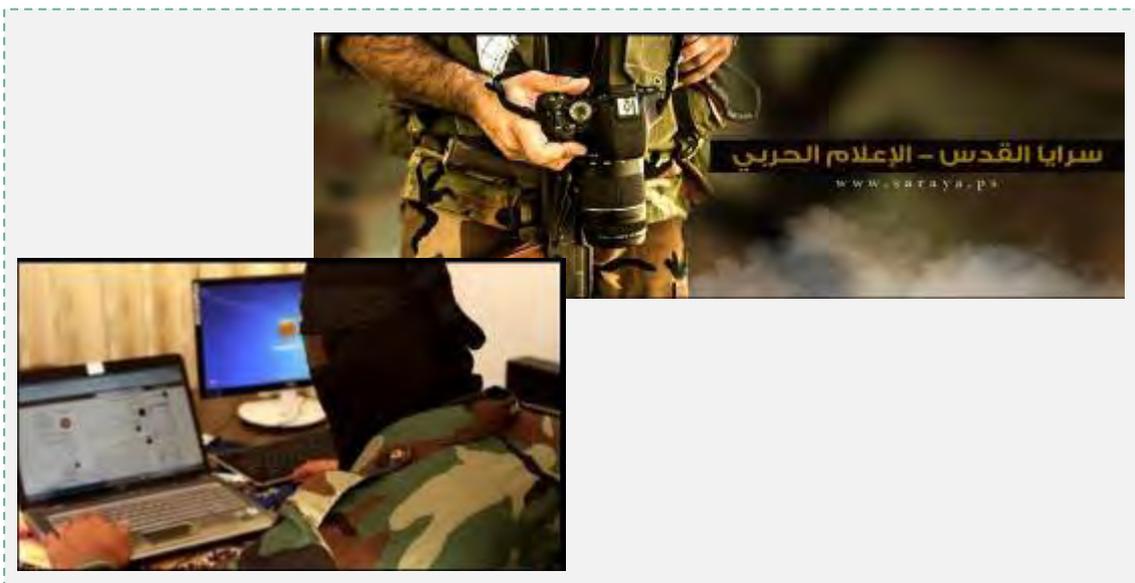
"Military media" operative with camera in action on the ground, (Paltoday.ps, December 22, 2014)



"Military media" youths on missions of documenting and coverage (Paltoday.ps, December 22, 2014).



The "military media" YouTube site, where it posts videos documenting rocket fire attacking the Israeli population, among other things.



Uniformed "military media" operatives at work (Facebook, February 6, 2014).



"Military media reporter accompanies a PIJ terrorist operative to document rocket fire (Paltoday.ps, September 10, 2014).



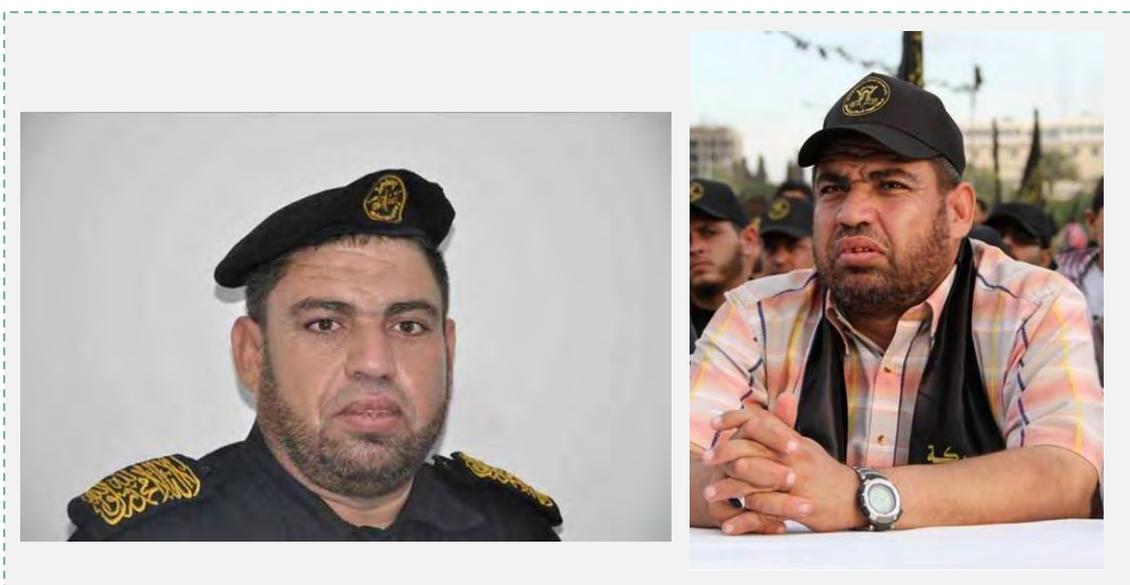
"Military media" reporter accompanies a delegation of senior PIJ figures that visited organization military-terrorist operatives in the eastern part of Gaza City. Left: Senior PIJ figures photographed with a rocket launcher (Saraya.ps, January 26, 2013).

Appendix 4

Portraits of three Hamas and PIJ terrorist operatives who belonged to the organizations' military information networks and were killed in Operation Protective Edge

1. The two terrorist operatives whose names appear on the list of 17 journalists and media personnel issued by the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate were not the only ones who belonged to the military information networks of Hamas and the PIJ and were killed during Operation Protective Edge. At least three others were killed (one of them holding a senior position) who had served in the Jerusalem Brigades' "military media" and the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades' "information office." The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate did not put their names on their list (despite the fact that names of two others did appear, as mentioned above). Pictures and information about the three follow.

Salah Abu Hassanein (Abu Ahmed), senior PIJ terrorist operative

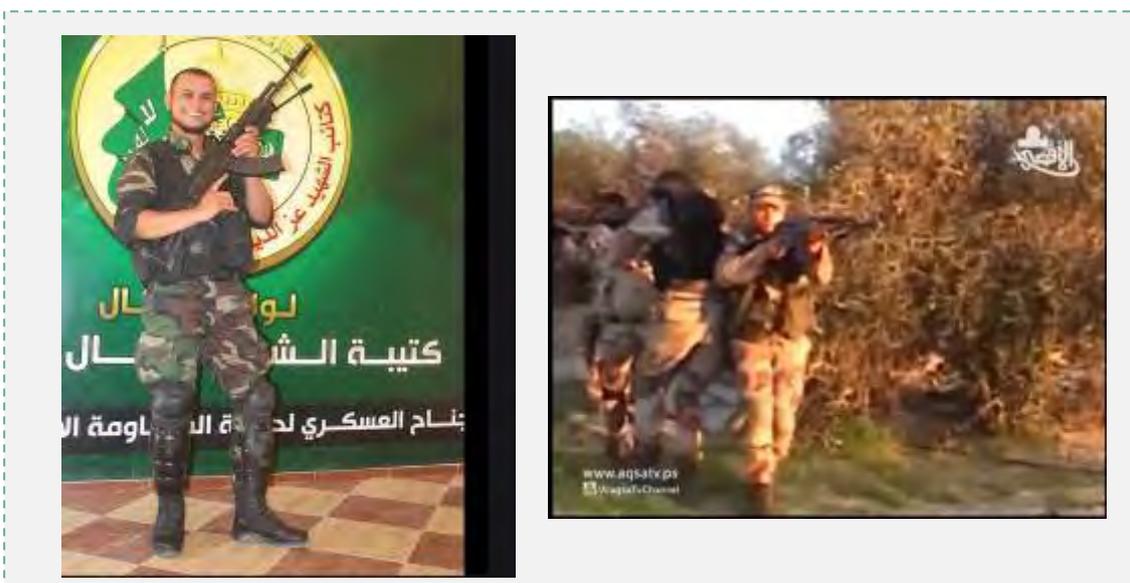


Salah Abu Hassanein (Abu Ahmed), senior terrorist operative in the PIJ leadership. Headed the PIJ/Jerusalem Brigades' "military media" (Paltoday.ps, July 25, 2014).

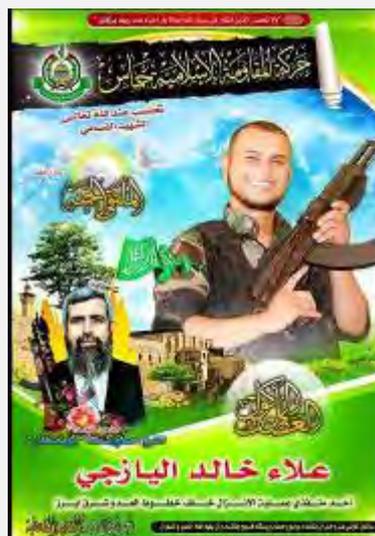
Alaa Khaled Najib al-Yazji, military operative in elite Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades al-nukhba unit



Alaa Khaled Najib al-Yazji, from Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip, an operative in the elite Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades al-nukhba unit, participated in three military-terrorist activities, including penetrating into Israeli territory (see below). He was an operative in Hamas' "information office" (Left picture: YouTube, October 26, 2014. Right picture: Facebook.com)



Left: Alaa Khaled Najib al-Yazji, in uniform and armed. According to the sign in Arabic behind him, he belonged to the northern Gaza Strip brigade, northern battalion (Facebook page dedicated to the "shaheed hero" Alaa al-Yazji, December 3, 2014). Right: Alaa al-Yazji during military training (YouTube, October 26, 2014).



Left: Illustration prepared by a relative of Alaa Khaled Najib al-Yazji. In the upper left hand corner he is shown holding a camera (Google+, October 1, 2014). Right: Death notice issued by Hamas for Alaa Khaled Najib al-Yazji, referred to as participating in an infiltration into Israeli territory east of the Erez crossing (Facebook page dedicated to the "shaheed hero" Alaa al-Yazji, November 23, 2014).

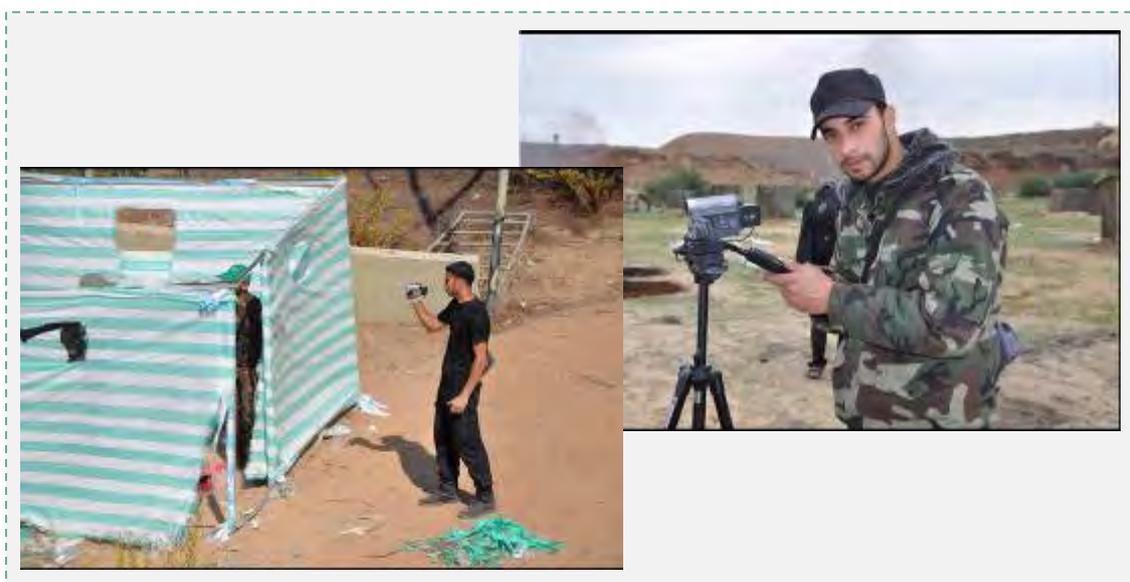
Walid Tawfiq Darabyyah, terrorist operative in elite Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades al-nukhba unit



Left: Death notice posted by the Shaheed Imad Aqal battalion for the "al-Qassam jihad fighter shaheed" Walid Tawfiq Darabyyah (Abu Hamza). He belonged to the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades' elite al-nukhba unit. The notice describes him as "one of the al-nukhba heroes of [Izz al-Din] al-Qassam and the information office" (Facebook page dedicated to the shaheed Walid Tawfiq Darabyyah, September 5, 2014). Right: Walid Tawfiq Darabyyah, terrorist operative in the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades' elite al-nukhba unit, reads his will in a video produced by the Izz al-Din al-Qassam (YouTube.com). Walid Tawfiq Darabyyah served in Hamas "information office."



Left: Walid Tawfiq Darabyyah armed with a rifle and with a camera on his forehead (Facebook page dedicated to the shaheed Walid Tawfiq Darabyyah, October 2, 2014). Right: Walid Tawfiq Darabyyah's headstone. According to the inscription, he was a shaheed and belonged to the al-Qassam al-nukhba unit and the "information office." Walid Tawfiq Darabyyah (Abu Hamza) was killed in Operation Protective Edge on August 3, 2014, at the age of 24 (Facebook page dedicated to "the shaheed" Walid Tawfiq Darabyyah, December 13, 2014).



Walid Tawfiq Darabyyah, uniformed and with a video camera and a regular camera, photographs a Hamas training camp (Facebook page dedicated to the "al Qassam [brigade] shaheed" Walid Tawfiq Darabyyah, August 28, 2014).

أسماء الصحفيين الشهداء:				
الاسم	العمر	جهة العمل	مكان الاستشهاد	تاريخ الاستشهاد
رامي فتحى حسين ريان	26	مصور صحفي في الشبكة الفلسطينية للصحافة والإعلام	سوق لتجارية.	30/7/2014م
بهاء الدين الغريب	58	رئيس تحرير الأخبار الحرة في تلفزيون فلسطين.	جراه القصف الذي استهدفه أمام منزله مع ابنته في منبجة رفح	29/7/2014
حامد عبد الله شهاب	33	صحفي في ميدنا 24.	قصف سيارته بشكل مباشر في منطقة الزمائل.	9/7/2014
حمادة خالد مفاط	29	مدير إعلاني لمؤسسة "سحي" على مستوى قطاع غزة.	استشهاد إثر قصفه من طائرة استطلاع بالقرب من منزله	4/8/2014
خالد رياض حمد	25	مصور صحفي شركة "كونتيليو".	استشهاد في مجزرة التجاعية إثر استهدافه من طائرة استطلاع بشكل مباشر.	20/7/2014
سامح محمد الحريان	29	مصور صحفي "فضائية الأقصى".	استشهاد أثناء تغطيته الإعلامية لمجزرة التجاعية إثر استهدافه بصاروخ من طائرة استطلاع	30/7/2014
شادي حمادي عيد	26	محرر صحفي حر.	استشهاد إثر استهداف المنفحة الصهيونية لمنزله في حي الزيتون.	2/8/2014
عاهد عفيف زقوت	50	إعلامي رياضي في تلفزيون فلسطين.	قصف شقته السكنية في المجمع الإيطالي بصاروخ طائرة استطلاع	30/7/2014
عبد الرحمن زياد أبو هين	28	محرر صحفي في قناة "الكتاب"، وهو مشق علاقات عامة في كلية المجتمع، ومراسل في وكالة "سفا".	ارتقى في قصف صهيوني استهدف منزله في حي التجاعية بغزة.	23/7/2014
عبد الله نصر خليل فحجان	21	يعمل لدى موقع "الأقصى الرياضي" التابع لإذاعة "صوت الأقصى".	استشهاد في مجزرة رفح جراه استهدافه من قبل طائرة استطلاع صهيونية.	1/8/2014
عبد الله فضل مرتجي	26	مصور ومراسل لـ "قناة الأقصى" وشركة "النورس" الإعلامية.	أثناء تغطيته الإعلامية في أحياء التجاعية نتيجة القصف المتعمد.	25/8/2014
عزت سلامة صبيح	23	مراسل صحفي ووكالة "الحرة" للتحليل.	استشهاد في قصف منزله المكون من 3 طوابق، بالإضافة لاستشهاد 21 شخصاً من أفراد عائلته.	29/7/2014
علي شحنة أبو عفش	36	مدير للبرامج في "مركز الوحدة للحرية الإعلام" - فرع "فلسطين" ومقره غزة.	استشهاد حامل تغطيته الإعلامية لتأحداث، حيث انفجر صاروخ من مخلفات العدوان، ما أدى إلى استشهاده في مخيم جداليا.	13/8/2014
محمد نور الدين مصطفي النيزي	22	مصور صحفي "الشبكة الفلسطينية للصحافة والإعلام".	استشهاد أثناء تغطيته لمجزرة التجاعية في قصف مدفعي للمكان المتواجد فيه.	30/7/2014
محمد ماجد ضاهر	27	محرر صحفي صحيفة "الرسالة"، ومحرر في مكتب وطن للصحافة التابعة لصحيفة "القدس".	تم قصف منزله بصاروخ من الطائرات الحربية، واستشهد 5 من أفراد عائلته، تم استشهاد هو متأثراً بجراحه إضافة إلى استشهاد ابنته.	31/7/2014
نجاهة محمود الحاج	29	ناشطة إعلامية عبر مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي	أثناء قصف الاحتفال للمنزل الذي كانت تسكنه وأهلها في مخيم خانيونس، ما أسفر عن استشهاد الصحفية لجلاء وسبعة آخرين من أفراد عائلتها.	10/7/2014
سيمونه كامبيلي "صحفي إيطالي"	35	مصور في وكالة "الأسوشيتد برس".	استشهاد إثر حادث انفجار، بينما كان يوثق بكثيرة عمليات التخلص من	13/8/2014