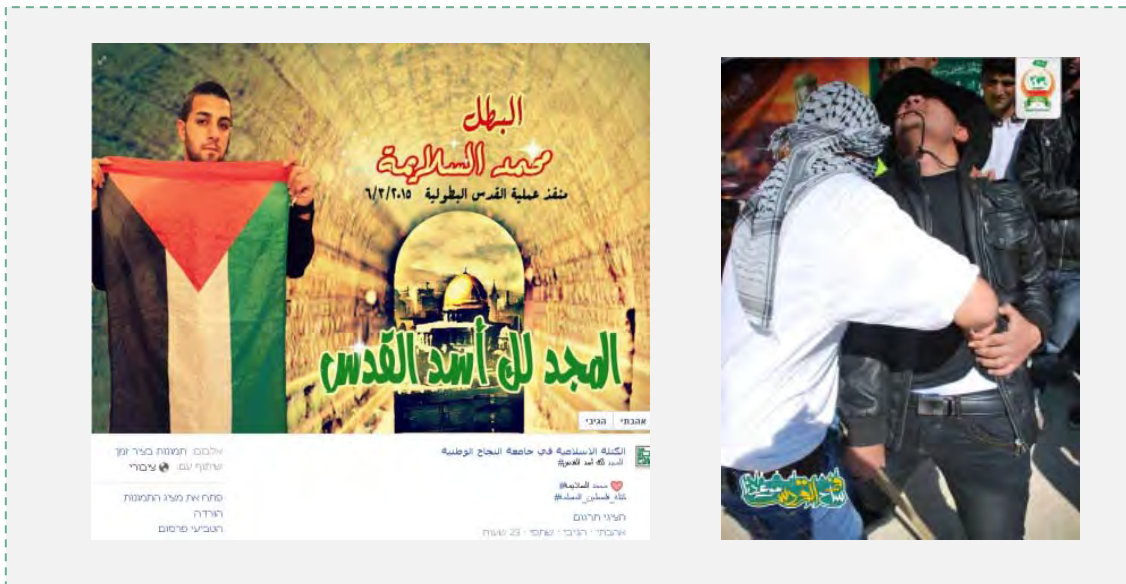




March 5, 2015

Incitement to terrorism by the Hamas student association at Al-Najah University in Nablus



Left: Poster glorifying the perpetrator of the vehicular attack in Jerusalem, March 6, 2015 (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University, March 7, 2015). Right: The Hamas association's display at Al-Najah University, simulating a masked Palestinian stabbing an Orthodox Jew (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University, March 5, 2015)

Overview

1. On March 1, 2015, the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University in Nablus opened an exhibition on Jerusalem. The event was attended by the **Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the university, and by Mona Mansour, member of the Palestinian Legislative Council on behalf of Hamas**. The prominent themes in the weeklong exhibition were glorification of the perpetrators of terrorist attacks against Israel and incitement to carry out further terrorist activities.
2. At the exhibition, incitement was reflected in the various pictures and exhibits, including an exhibit of a vehicular attack showing a car running over an Israeli civilian. The exhibition also includes a poster with a picture of Yehuda Glick (an Israeli Jewish activist advocating access to the Temple Mount by Jews, who recently survived an assassination attempt), with targets marked on him (Facebook page of

the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University, March 1, 2015; PALDF Facebook page, March 1, 2015).

3. The recent vehicular and stabbing attack in Jerusalem (March 6, 2015), in which 7 people were wounded,¹ was also supported by the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University. A day after the attack, a poster was uploaded to the Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc presenting the perpetrator of the attack as follows: “The hero Mohammad al-Salaima [...], the perpetrator of the heroic Jerusalem attack, March 6, 2015 [...] Glory to the lion of Jerusalem.”

4. Al-Najah University has been known since the intifada as a center of incitement and terrorism by terrorist organizations, especially Hamas, which operates its student association there (the Islamic Bloc) to this end. Through the Islamic Bloc, Hamas conducts **intensive activity at the university, designed to incite terrorism and hatred against Israel.** This incitement has **found expression in practice in the past** - during the intifada, many students attending the university were involved in carrying out terrorist attacks, including suicide bombing attacks. Moreover, other universities in Judea and Samaria are fertile ground for incitement to terrorism and recruitment of operatives, mainly due to their high level and the students’ political and ideological awareness.

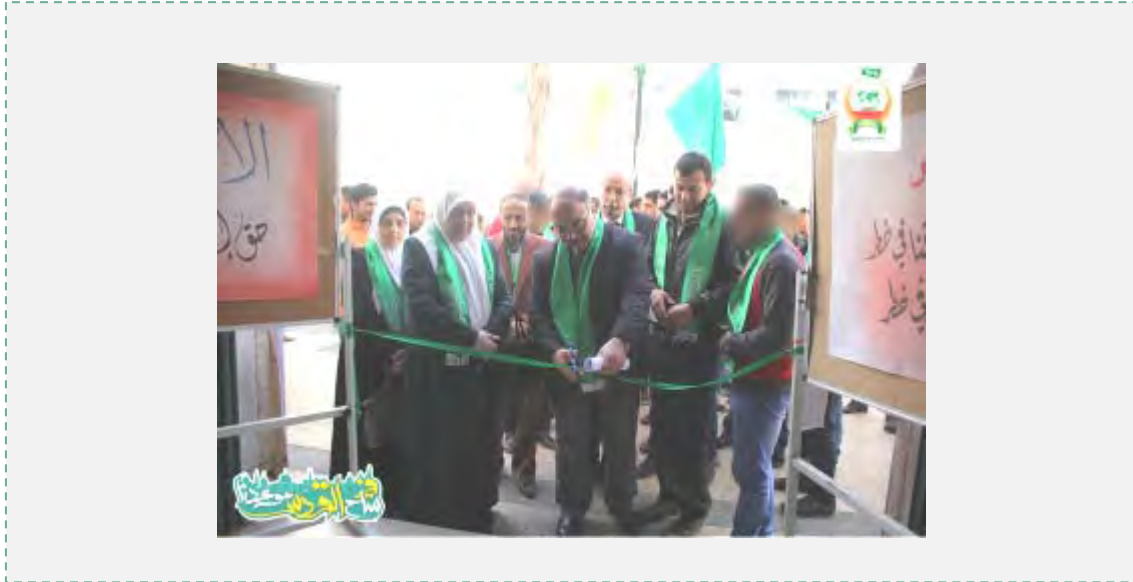
5. Attached are two appendices:

- A. Photos from the recent exhibition at Al-Najah University
- B. Al-Najah University as a center for incitement in the past and present

¹ On March 6, 2015, Mohammad al-Salaima carried out a vehicular and stabbing attack near the Light Railway in the north of Jerusalem. Seven people were injured. The terrorist, a resident of East Jerusalem, was shot and seriously wounded by the security guard at the train station and was evacuated to the hospital.

Appendix A

Photos from the recent exhibition on Jerusalem at Al-Najah University



The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the university and Mona Mansour, both wearing green Hamas scarves, opening the exhibition (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University, March 1, 2015)



Visitor at the exhibition viewing posters showing the so-called “destruction of the Temple Mount complex by Israelis” (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University, March 1, 2015)



Exhibit showing Yehuda Glick with red targets marked on him. Next to him is a model of the Al-Aqsa mosque (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University, March 1, 2015)



The Hamas association's display at the exhibition at Al-Najah University, simulating a vehicular attack. Near the vehicle there is a bloody body of an Israeli; above the car there are photos of the perpetrators of vehicular attacks in Jerusalem over the past year (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University, March 1, 2015)

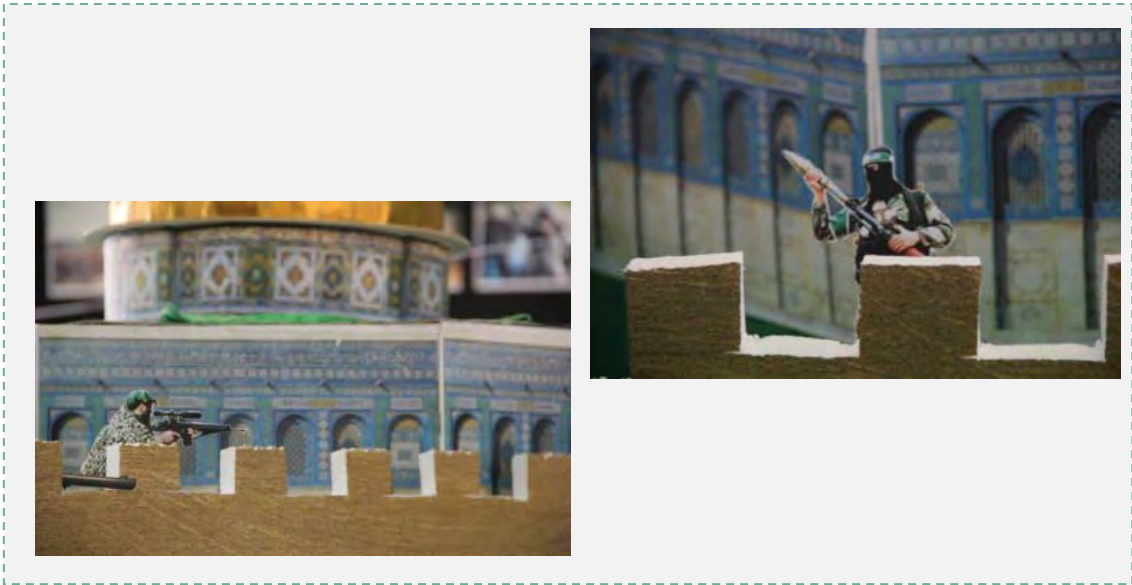
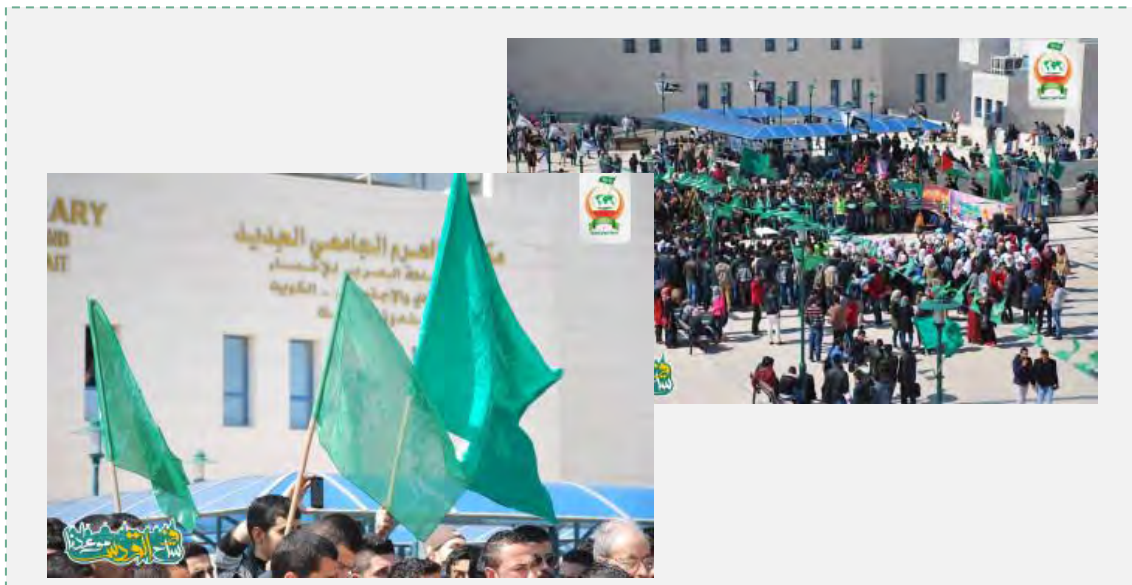
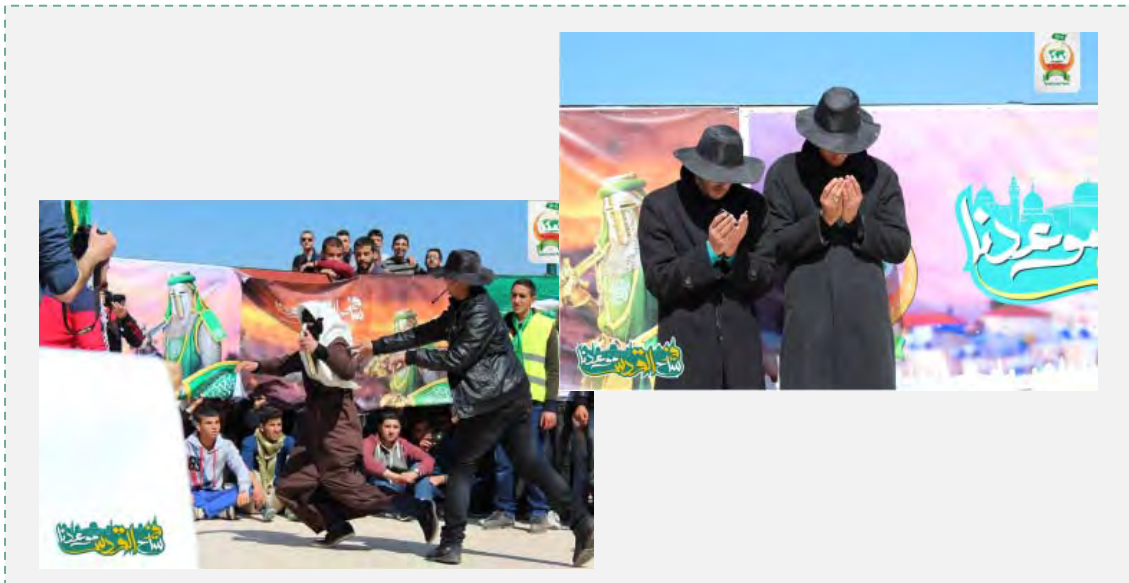


Exhibit of cardboard figures of armed operatives of Hamas's military wing defending the Al-Aqsa compound (PALDF Facebook page, March 1, 2015)

Photos from the closing ceremony of the exhibition



Crowd bearing Hamas-affiliated flags at the closing ceremony of the exhibition (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University, March 1, 2015)



Left: Orthodox Jews trying to drive away Moslem worshippers from the Temple Mount. Right: Orthodox Jews praying, apparently, at the Temple Mount (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University, March 7, 2015)

Appendix B

Al-Najah University as a center for incitement in the past and present

The Islamic Bloc (the Hamas student association) at Al-Najah University

6. **Al-Najah National University** in Nablus is **the largest university in Judea and Samaria**. It is a non-governmental private university run by a board of trustees. The university is attended by over 22,000 students, most of them Palestinians, in 19 different faculties. Rami Hamdallah, Prime Minister of the government of national consensus, served as president of the university from 1998 until his election (June 2013) as Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority.

7. During the second Intifada, Al-Najah University **was a center of incitement and terrorism by terrorist organizations, especially Hamas**. Many students attending the university **were involved in carrying out terrorist attacks, including suicide bombing attacks**. The incitement activity at the university **was carried out by Hamas's student arm, the Islamic Bloc**.² This arm organizes rallies, exhibitions and events, publishes leaflets, organizes campaigns and more. **Hamas supports and helps finance the activity of the Islamic Bloc**. Hamas perceives the Islamic Bloc as an important lever for identifying and recruiting students for the movement's operational needs. This is partly because the human element at universities is considered high caliber: they are educated young people with leadership skills and considerable Islamic political, religious and ideological awareness, high-level motivation and loyalty to the movement by virtue of their activities in the Islamic Bloc.

8. For many years, Al-Najah University was influenced by the Islamic Bloc. This influence guaranteed Hamas control of the students' agenda and enabled it to receive funds from the university. However, in November 2010, after years in which the Islamic Bloc controlled the student council at Al-Najah University, **Fatah won**

¹. **The Islamic Bloc**, Hamas's student cells, which operate in the Palestinian institutions of higher education in Judea and Samaria and in the Gaza Strip. The Islamic Bloc has been perceived as part of the Hamas movement and as one of its power centers since the early days of the movement (1987). It is evident from Hamas documents seized during Operation Defensive Shield that the Islamic Bloc's activity at universities was one of the sources of power that enabled the movement's official establishment and rapid growth.

the elections. This was after Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) boycotted them, in protest over the actions taken by the Palestinian Authority's security apparatus against Hamas-affiliated students. In light of the victory of the Fatah representatives, the Hamas and PIJ representatives voiced allegations of fraud and bias of the election results (Al-Risala, November 11, 2010; Wafa News Agency, November 9, 2010; PNN, November 9, 2010).

Incitement to terrorism by Islamic Bloc activists

9. After the defeat in the 2010 elections, the activity of the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University was characterized by a relatively low profile. However, since 2013, **the Islamic Bloc stepped up its propaganda activity.** In 2013, the Islamic Bloc at the university organized a book and stationery fair. The opening ceremony was attended by **Hamas members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Husni al-Burini and Mona Mansour.** The slogan of the fair was **“Knowledge and resistance [...] [are] words that reject negotiations ...”** Items offered for sale at the fair included books and publications of the Hamas movement, as well as CDs, booklets, diaries and mugs with the movement's insignia and photos of its senior officials (Ajnad Facebook page, Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc faction at Al-Najah University in Nablus, August 18, 2013).

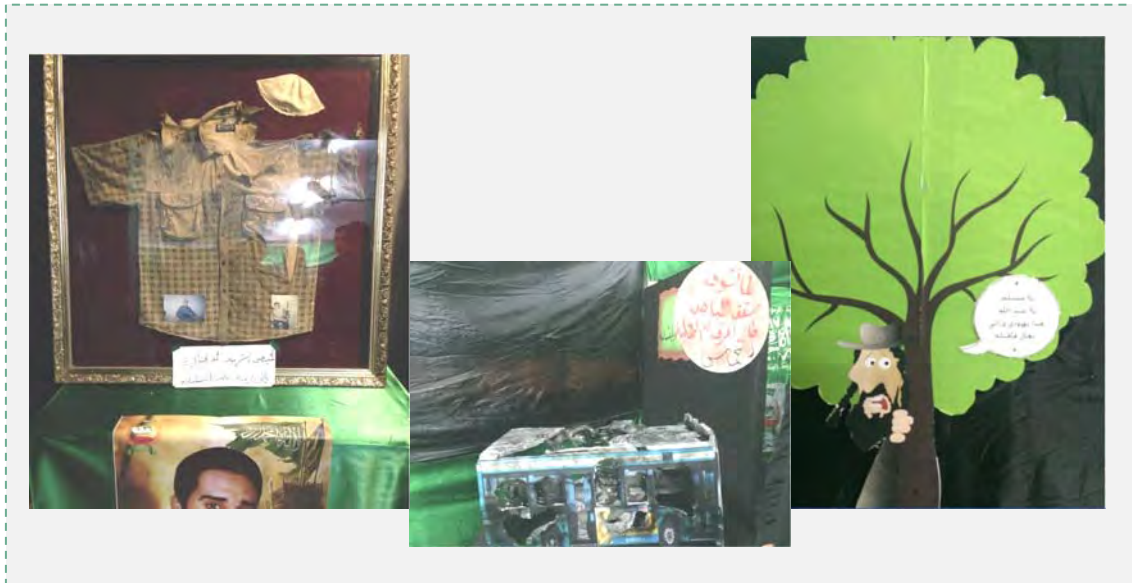


Left: Illustration showing the combination of “knowledge” and “resistance” (an M75 rocket)
Right: Hamas book and stationery fair at Al-Najah University in Nablus (Ajnad Facebook page, August 18, 2013)

10. **On March 30, 2014, the Week of the Shahids** was held at Al-Najah University. The event was organized by the Islamic Bloc and utilized for incitement to terrorism and hatred against Israel. The events included the opening of an exhibition entitled **The Covenant and Loyalty**. Items displayed at the exhibition included photos, posters and exhibits glorifying the Palestinian shahids, including suicide bombers. The exhibition's opening ceremony was attended by Hamas representatives of the Palestinian Legislative Council, including **Sheikh Fathi al-Qar'awi, Mona Mansour** and **Sheikh Abu Taha al-Bashtawi** (Facebook page of Al-Najah University in Nablus, March 30, 2014).



The exhibition's opening ceremony was attended by Hamas representatives from the Palestinian Legislative Council, including Sheikh Fathi al-Qar'awi, Mona Mansour and Sheikh Abu Taha al-Bashtawi (Facebook page of Al-Najah University in Nablus, March 30, 2014)



Exhibits: Left: A shirt that belonged to Mohammad al-Hanbali, a Hamas operative killed in a clash with IDF forces in Nablus³. Middle: Exhibit of a burned bus after a suicide bombing attack. Right: Poster showing a stereotypical Jewish figure hiding behind a tree; the tree turns and says: “O Muslim, O slave of God, this is a Jew behind me, come and kill him” (Facebook page of Al-Najah University in Nablus, March 30, 2014)

11. In August 2014, during Operation Protective Edge, a poster appeared on the Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University in Nablus, calling on Nablus residents to come to the “**We are all resistance**” march on August 15, 2014, after Friday prayers (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University, August 14, 2014).



Hamas poster on the Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University

³Mohammad al-Hanbali served as commander of the Hamas military wing in Nablus. He was killed in a clash with IDF forces at his home in Nablus on September 5, 2003, in a clash that killed an Israeli officer. Mohammad al-Hanbali was responsible for the deaths of 26 Israelis (Ynet, September 5, 2003).

12. On **September 29, 2014**, students at Al-Najah University held a demonstration against the US Consul's visit to the university. The students, **some wearing Hamas scarves**, waved signs denouncing the United States (Gaza al-Aan, 29 September, 2014; PALINFO, September 29, 2014).



Students waving signs at a demonstration: “Uncle Sam killing kids since 1948” and “No normalization on campus” (PALINFO, September 29, 2014).

13. The Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University was also active in the “At your orders, Al-Aqsa” campaign. This was a campaign in which Hamas called on people to carry out terrorist attacks in Jerusalem. As part of the campaign, the Islamic Bloc issued a poster with a photo of **Hamza Matrouk**, who carried out a stabbing attack in Tel Aviv (January 21, 2015) against the background of photos from the scene⁴ (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University in Nablus, January 21, 2015).

⁴ On **January 21, 2015**, a terrorist carried out a stabbing attack on a bus in Tel Aviv. The bus was en route from Bat Yam to Tel Aviv University. Nine people were wounded in the attack, four of them seriously and three moderately. Another 12 were treated for shock (Magen David Adom spokesperson's office, January 21, 2015). The terrorist who carried out the attack is a resident of Tulkarm, with no record of security crimes. It seems that he didn't belong to any terrorist organization. During his interrogation, the terrorist claimed that he carried out the attack in response to Operation Protective Edge, the incidents on the Temple Mount, and watching extremist Islamic content conveying messages about “getting to paradise”.



Poster with a photo of Hamza Matrouk, who carried out a stabbing attack in Tel Aviv (January 21, 2015), against a background of photos from the scene (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University in Nablus, January 21, 2015)

Al-Najah University students' involvement in terrorist activity

14. During the second intifada, the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University played an important role in the activity of Hamas's military wing in Judea and Samaria. A booklet published by the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University detailed the role of the Islamic Bloc in the terrorist attacks. It was coedited by a student who died carrying out a suicide bombing in Netanya and became a role model (**Hamed Falah Abu Hijlah**). The pamphlet states that the Islamic Bloc "believes that jihad is the way to liberate the land, save the individual, and purify the holy places" (page 17). The same page also states: "From the womb of the Islamic Bloc generations emerged, who sacrificed their lives and their blood and dedicated their time and effort to Allah and as redemption (*fida'*) for Palestine...". The booklet included many examples of involvement in terrorist activities by members of the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University.

15. Following are a number of examples of Al-Najah University students' involvement in terrorist activity:

A. In June 2004, during a joint operation by Israeli security forces in Nablus, a cell of Hamas operatives was apprehended, most of whom were students from Al-Najah University in Nablus. The operatives had planned to

carry out a series of terrorist attacks. These attacks were thwarted following the arrest of the cell operatives.

B. **On February 21, 2005**, Israeli security forces arrested **Said Akhras**, one of the leaders of the Islamic Bloc at the university and one of the heads of the terrorist infrastructure in the Nablus area. He was supposed to carry out a suicide bombing attack (which was thwarted) in the town of Rosh Haayin, east of Tel Aviv (July 2004)

C. **In September 2007**, Hamas published a poster with a picture of **Nihad Rashid Shqirat**, a Hamas operative whose interrogation led to the discovery of an explosive belt in a Tel Aviv apartment. According to the poster, Shqirat is an Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades commander in the Ein Beit al-Maa refugee camp and a member of the Islamic Bloc at Al-Najah University (Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades website, September 23, 2007).



Poster showing Nihad Rashid Shqirat (Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades website, September 23, 2007)

D. **On September 22, 2008**, an IDF soldier was moderately wounded by acid splashed on his face by a female Palestinian terrorist who came to the Hawara crossing near Nablus. She was the same terrorist who carried out a similar attack on September 10, spraying acid at a soldier, also at the Hawara crossing (IDF Spokesperson's website, September 22, 2008). According to a local TV station in Nablus, the young woman was a law student at Al-Najah University (Nablus TV website, September 22, 2008).

E. **On January 29, 2013**, an Israeli youth was stabbed near Tapuach Junction while waiting at the bus stop. The boy was moderately wounded and taken to the hospital. The stabber detained by the Border Police was **Mustafa Adel Mustafa Barghouti**, a resident of Beit Rima and an Al-Najah University student. He confessed that his initial goal was to murder a soldier (IDF Spokesperson's website, April 9, 2013).