



# News of Terrorism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

(October 14 – 20, 2015)



Hamas in the Gaza Strip expresses joy after the shooting attack in the Central Bus Station in the southern city of Beersheba. Demonstrators wave knives and axes, and burn an Israeli flag (Facebook page of QudsN, October 18, 2015).

## Overview

- This past week the wave of terrorism and violence continued, focusing on **Beersheba** (shooting attack), **Jerusalem, Hebron and the Etzion Bloc** (stabbing and vehicular attacks). As during the past weeks, the attacks were carried out by lone, young terrorists, unaffiliated with the terrorist organizations, most of them without a criminal record. The number of Israelis killed in the current wave of terrorism has reached 11.
- The wave of terrorism has been accompanied by riots in Judea and Samaria and in a number of locations in the northern and central Gaza Strip near the border security fence. However, in the past few days there has been a decrease in the number of violent confrontations, partially because of the attempts to contain the riots made by the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Hamas. However, although Hamas prevents rocket fire that might lead to an escalation, it continues inflaming the wave of terrorism and violence in Israel, Judea and Samaria.

## Terrorist Attacks of the Past Week

### Shooting Attack at the Beersheba Central Bus Station

- The most prominent terrorist attack this past week was **the shooting attack at the Beersheba Central Bus Station**. An IDF soldier was killed and a foreign national from Eritrea was killed by mistake. It was the second shooting attack in the current wave of Palestinian terrorism (the previous one was on a bus in Jerusalem and killed two civilians).
- On the evening of **October 18, 2015**, a terrorist armed with a gun and knife entered the Beersheba Central Bus Station. He shot and killed an IDF soldier and snatched his weapon. He indiscriminately shot at bystanders and wounded ten soldiers, policemen and civilians. He then fled, and was shot and killed outside the bus station. A foreign national from Eritrea was shot by mistake on suspicion of being an accomplice. He was critically wounded and died. The IDF soldier was Sergeant Omri Levi, 19, from the village of Sde Hemed (IDF Spokesman, October 19, 2015). The foreign national was Haftom Zarhum, 29, from Eritrea.
- The Palestinian terrorist was **Muhannad Khalil Salem al-Uqabi**, 21, from the Bedouin settlement of al-Uqab, near Hura in the Negev (east of Beersheba in southern Israel). His mother is from the Gaza Strip and when she married his father she was allowed to receive Israeli citizenship as part of family unification. The terrorist's uncle is **Sheikh Osama al-Uqabi**, head of the Islamic Movement in Israel in the Negev. Sheikh Osama al-Uqabi was detained by the Israel Police Force in 2014, and at the beginning of 2015 Jordan prevented him from entering its territory. Sheikh Osama al-Uqabi gave a Friday sermon in a mosque in the southern Bedouin city of Rahat, in which he condemned Israel's activity and called for massive numbers of Muslims to go to pray at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem (Pls48.net, October 16, 2015).



Left: The uncle of terrorist Muhannad Khalil Salem al-Uqabi, head of the Islamic Movement in the Negev (Pls48.net, October 16, 2015). Right: Hamas death notice for Muhannad Khalil Salem al-Uqabi (Facebook page of PALDF, October 19, 2015).

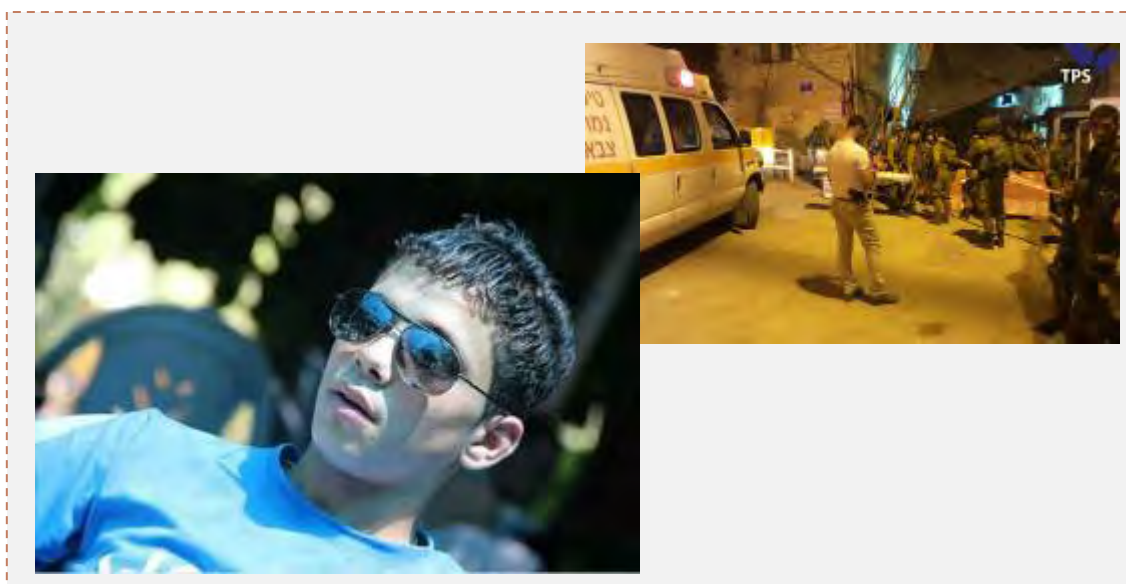
■ After the shooting attack Hamas held a parade to celebrate. Participants waved knives and axes. Local residents of the Shuafat refugee camp and Jerusalem distributed candy to passersby and drivers in passing cars to express their joy (Facebook page of QudsN, October 18, 2015). On October 19, 2015, Hamas issued a death notice for the "heroic shaheed" Muhannad Khalil al-Uqabi, who carried out the "heroic attack" in Beersheba (Facebook page of PALDF, October 19, 2015). **The notice did not indicate that al-Uqabi was connected to Hamas.**

- Senior Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) figures praised the attack:
  - **Husam Badran**, Hamas spokesman, praised the "heroic action" in Beersheba, calling it the "natural response" to Israel's killings. He said that the attack, which took place in the heart of Israel, had successfully harmed the Israeli security forces, which were on very high alert. He added that it showed that nothing could stop the resistance [i.e., violence and terrorism] of the Palestinian people, and **the intifada would continue and escalate** until the Palestinian people had completely achieved their goals (Facebook page of Gaza al-'Aan, October 18, 2015).
  - **Izzat al-Rishq**, senior Hamas figure, said that with the attack in Beersheba **the intifada had passed the point of no return**. He stressed Israel's failure to halt it (Facebook page of Izzat al-Rishq, October 18, 2015).
  - **Daoud Shihab**, PIJ spokesman, praised the attack, saying the "heroic act" had two aspects: the continuation and escalation of the intifada, and the natural

civilian response to the killings [of Palestinians] of the past few days, which had taken a high toll of young Palestinian men and women (Paltoday, October 18, 2015).

## Overview of Other Terrorist Attacks

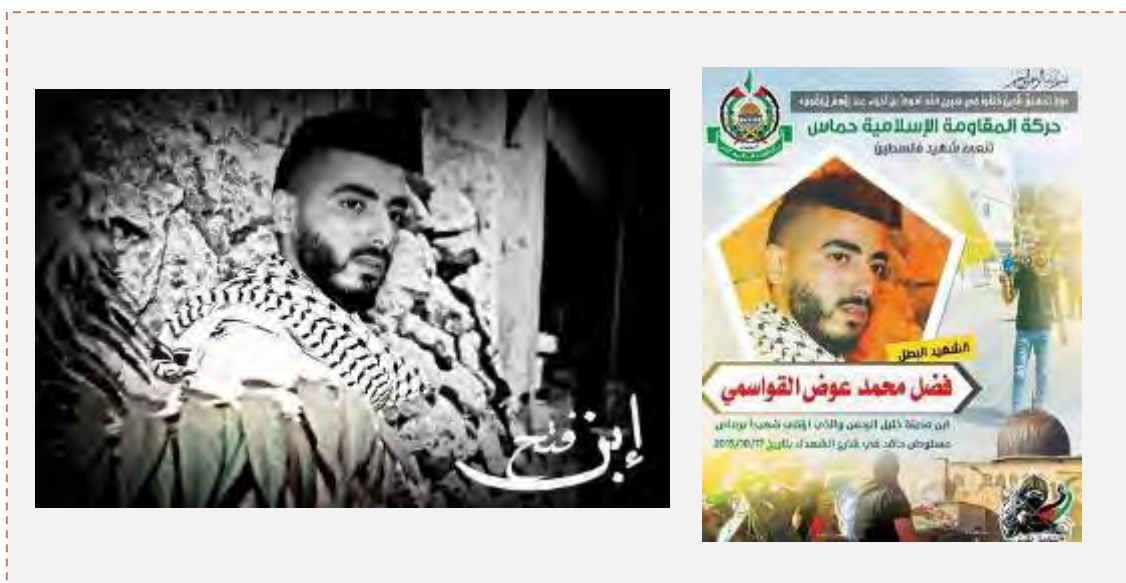
- **Vehicular attack in the Etzion Bloc** – On October 20, 2015, a Palestinian terrorist driving a vehicle with Israeli license plates ran into an IDF soldier and an Israeli civilian. The two suffered minor injuries. The terrorist driving the vehicle was shot and killed. A knife was found in his possession.
- **Vehicle attacked with stones in Hebron** – On October 20, 2015, an Israeli civilian was attacked by stone-throwing Palestinians in the Hebron region. He stopped his car on the side of the road and was run over by a truck. He was fatally wounded and later died. The truck driver drove away and later turned himself in to the Palestinian security forces. He claimed it was a traffic accident. The Israeli who was killed was **Avraham Asher Hasno**, 54, from Kiryat Arba.
- **Stabbing attack in Mt. Hebron** – During a riot involving dozens of Palestinians in the village of Beit 'Awwa (west of Hebron) on October 20, 2015, a Palestinian stabbed an IDF officer who had gone to disperse the riot. The officer suffered minor wounds and was treated at the scene of the attack. IDF soldiers shot and killed the terrorist.
- **Stabbing attack in Hebron** – On October 17, 2015, a Palestinian stabbed an IDF soldier at the roadblock separating the Jewish and Palestinian neighborhoods in the city of Hebron. The soldier suffered minor wounds. Two soldiers shot and critically wounded the terrorist, who later died. The Palestinian media reported the death of **Tareq Ziyad al-Natshe**, 16, from Hebron (according to a Hamas website he was 18), during an attempt to stab an IDF soldier on Al-Shuhadaa Street in Hebron (Safa and Amad news agencies, October 17, 2015).



Right: The roadblock in Hebron where the IDF soldier was stabbed (Photo by Tsippi Schlisel for TPS, October 17, 2015). Left: Palestinian terrorist Tareq Ziyad al-Natshe (Facebook page of PALDF, October 18, 2015).

■ **Attempted stabbing attack in Hebron** – On October 17, 2015, a Palestinian tried to stab a Jew returning from prayers at the Tomb of the Patriarchs. The attack was carried out on a street in the Jewish neighborhood of Hebron. The Jews shot the terrorist three times, killing him.

■ The terrorist was **Feisal Muhammad Awad al-Qawasmi**, 18, from Hebron. Hamas issued a death notice for the "heroic shaheed." According to al-Qawasmi's Facebook page, he considered himself affiliated with Fatah (Facebook pages of the Islamic Bloc of Al-Najah University and the Islamic Bloc in Hebron, October 17, 2015; Facebook page of Feisal al-Qawasmi).



Left: Picture of Feisal Muhammad Awad al-Qawasmi from his Facebook page. The Arabic reads, "Son of Fatah" (Facebook page of Feisal Muhammad Awad al-Qawasmi October 17, 2015.) Right: The Hamas death notice for Feisal Muhammad Awad al-Qawasmi (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc in Hebron, October 17, 2015).

■ **Attempted stabbing attack on the Armon Hanatziv Promenade, Jerusalem –**

On October 17, 2015, Israeli Border Policemen examined a suspicious Palestinian on the Armon Hanatziv Promenade in Jerusalem. The Palestinian took out a knife and tried to stab the policemen. They shot and killed him. He was **Muataz Awisat** from Jabel Mukaber in east Jerusalem (Al-Aqsa, October 17, 2015).

■ **Attempted stabbing attack near the Cave of the Patriarchs –**

On October 17, 2015, a 16 year-old female Palestinian tried to stab an Israeli Border Policewoman near the Cave of the Patriarchs. The policewoman, who suffered a minor wound to her arm, shot and killed the terrorist. The female Palestinian was **Bayan Iman 'Asila**, 16, form Hebron. Hamas issued a death notice for her (Facebook pages of the Islamic Block at Al-Najah University in Nablus and the Islamic Bloc in Hebron, October 17, 2015).



Death notice issued by Hamas for Bayan 'Asila (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc in Hebron, October 17, 2015).

■ **Stabbing attack at the Qalandia roadblock –**

On October 17, 2015, a Palestinian stabbed a Border Policeman during a security check at the Qalandia roadblock, near Ramallah. The policeman suffered minor injuries. The terrorist was shot. He was **Omar Muhammad al-Faqi**, 23, from the village of Qatana, north of Jerusalem. He graduated from Bir Zeit University in 2013 (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc in Bir Zeit University, October 17, 2015; Amad news agency, October 18, 2015).



Left: Omar al-Faqi' (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc of Bir Zeit University, October 17, 2015).  
Right: The knife used at the stabbing attack at the Qalandia roadblock (Picture Israel Police Force Spokesman's Unit, October 17, 2015).

■ **Stabbing attack in Kiryat Arba** – On October 16, 2015, a **Palestinian terrorist who disguised himself as a press photographer** stabbed an IDF soldier near Kiryat Arba. The soldier was seriously wounded and the terrorist was killed by IDF soldiers. The Palestinian Prisoners' Club issued a death notice mourning the death of **Iyad Khalil Mahmoud al-Awauda**, 26, from the village of Dura (south of Hebron). **Al-Awauda was released in January 2012 from an Israeli jail, where he had served a sentence of three years.** His father is a retired officer of the Palestinian preventive security forces (Dunia al-Watan, October 16, 2015). The PA held a funeral with full military honors for al-Awauda, and his body was carried by operatives of the Palestinian national security forces (Wafa News Agency, October 17, 2015).



Left: Hamas death notice for al-Awauda (Facebook page of the Islamic Bloc in Hebron, October 17, 2015). Right: Terrorist al-Awauda, wearing a press vest, tries to stab an IDF soldier (Twitter, October 17, 2015)

■ **The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate** issued an announcement stating the Palestinian who carried out the attack in Hebron was not a journalist and did not work for Palestinian, Arab or foreign media. According to the announcement, the Syndicate demanded that no Palestinian pretend to be a journalist or use any sign that would identify him as belonging to the press corps (Ma'an News Agency, October 16, 2015).

■ **Attempted stabbing attack at the Nablus Gate, Jerusalem** – On October 14, 2015, a Palestinian wearing camouflage fatigues went to the Nablus Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem. When members of the Israeli security forces tried to examine him he took out a knife and tried to stab them. The police shot him but he continued running, brandishing the knife. The Israeli security forces shot and killed him. The terrorist was **Basel Bassam Sidr**, 20, from Hebron. The newspaper Al-Araby Al-Jadeed reported he had dreamed of dying as a martyr in or near Al-Aqsa mosque, and that during Operation Protective Edge he had said as much to his family. He refused to marry although his parents urged him to several times (Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, October 15, 2015).



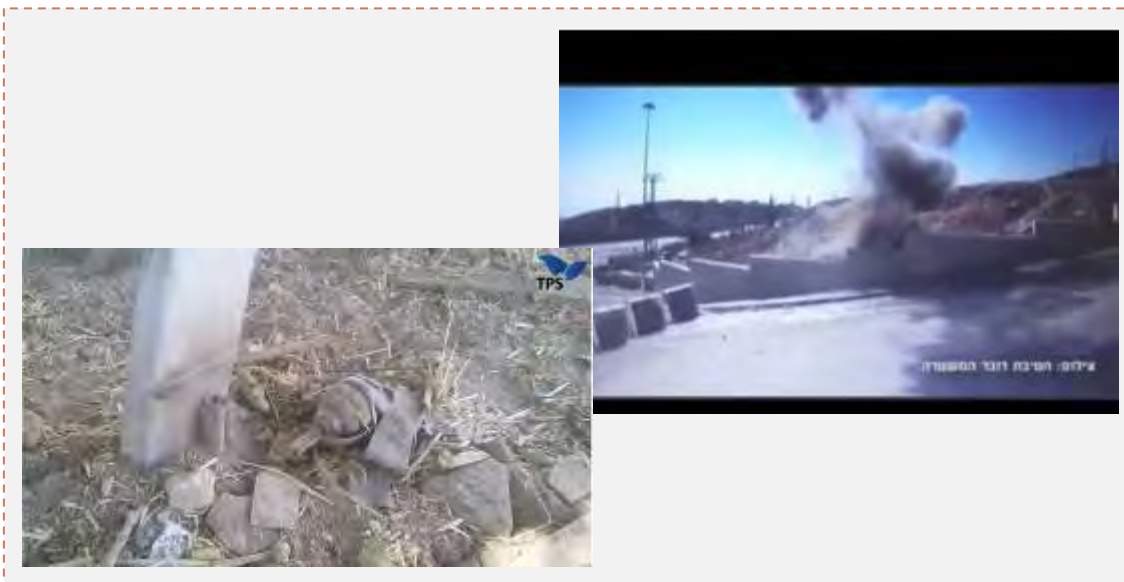
**Basal Bassam Sidr, 20 from Hebron (Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, October 15, 2015).**

■ **Stabbing attack on Jaffa Road in Jerusalem** – On the evening of October 14, 2015, a Palestinian terrorist stabbed a 65 year-old woman on Jaffa Road, a main street in Jerusalem, near the Central Bus Station. She was fairly seriously wounded. The terrorist then tried to get on a bus nearby but the driver prevented him. Police who arrived on the scene shot and killed him.

■ **Additional prominent attacks were the following:**



- On **October 16, 2015**, Palestinians shot at an Israeli military vehicle in the region of Silwad in east Jerusalem. There were no casualties and no damage was reported. Three suspects were seen running away (IDF Spokesman, October 16, 2015).
- **On October 16, 2015**, a terrorist attack was prevented when a pipe bomb was discovered by the Border Police canine unit in Jerusalem. The bomb was placed near the roadblock on the road from Issawiya to Ma'aleh Adumim. A demolitions expert detonated the device.
- **On October 16, 2015**, an IDF force discovered an object suspected of being a fragmentation grenade. It was found near the benches at the Mayan Meir Spring at Neve Tsuf in Judea. The area was closed and the grenade was neutralized (Tazpit News Agency, October 16, 2015).



Left: The fragmentation grenade discovered at Mayan Meir (Photo by Ehud Amitun for TPS, October 16, 2015). Right: The pipe bomb at Issawiya is detonated (Israel Police Force Spokesman's Unit, October 16, 2015).

- On **October 16, 2015**, the **Joseph's Tomb in Nablus** was set on fire by a **group of Palestinians** and suffered extensive damage. The Palestinians were dispersed by the PA's security forces (Paltoday, October 16, 2015). **Mahmoud Abbas condemned the act of arson**. He ordered the formation of a committee to investigate and bear the expenses of rebuilding the Tomb. He said such an act was forbidden and illegal, and harmed culture, religion and the Palestinian character (Wafa News Agency, October 16, 2015). The governor of the Nablus district claimed that they had begun clearing the rubble to begin rebuilding

immediately. He claimed the PA would not allow anyone to harm a heritage site located under its control (Dunia al-Watan, October 16, 2015).

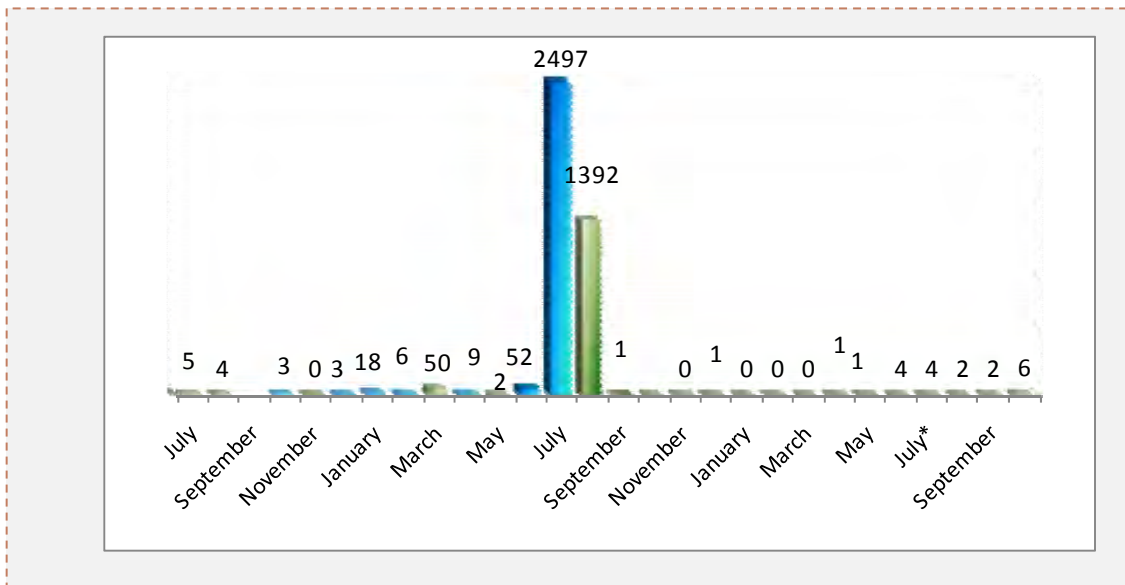
- On **October 12, 2015**, Palestinians shot at a guard post located at the entrance to Nebi Saleh. There were no casualties (Tazpit News Agency, October 16, 2015).

## Israel's South

### Rocket Fire Attacking Israel

■ Searches carried out by an IDF force on the morning of October 17, 2015, revealed an unexploded shell near the border security fence in the northern Gaza Strip. It was apparently a rocket fired the previous day that had not exploded. An IDF engineering force detonated the shell in a controlled explosion. There were no casualties and no damage was reported (IDF Spokesman, October 17, 2015).

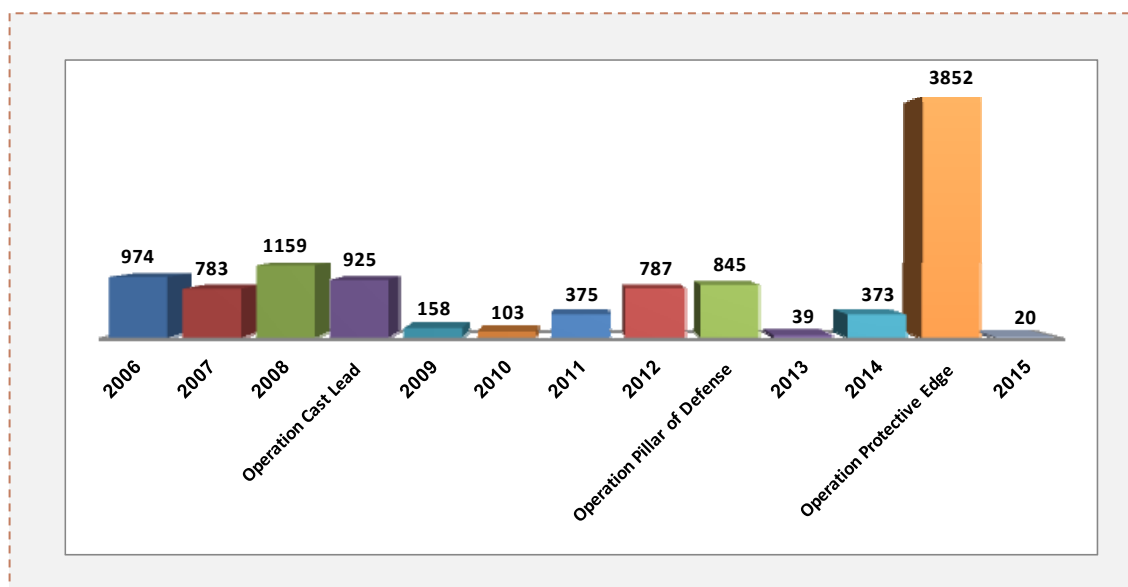
### Monthly Distribution of Rocket Fire (2014 – 2015)<sup>1</sup>



\*The data include the three rockets launched by ISIS's Sinai Province from the Sinai Peninsula in July by ISIS's Sinai Province.

<sup>1</sup> As of October 20, 2015. The statistics do not include mortar shell fire or rockets which misfired and fell inside the Gaza Strip.

## Annual Distribution of Rocket Fire in Israel's South<sup>2</sup>



\*Three of the rockets that hit Israeli territory in 2015 were launched in July by ISIS's Sinai Province.

## Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem

### Riots, Clashes and Popular Terrorism

■ Despite the calls for a "day of rage" after the Friday prayer on October 16, 2015, **there have been fewer participants in the riots held at the traditional friction spots. Only a few thousand Palestinians participated in the "day of rage."** There has also been a decrease in the level of friction between rioters and the Israeli security forces. A total of about 20 riots were held at the friction spots in Judea and Samaria, primarily at the end of the week. A young Palestinian, **Ihab Jihad Hunani**, was killed in a riot in Beit Furik (near Nablus) (Al-Aqsa TV, October 17, 2015).

### Activities of the IDF Security Forces

■ On the night of October 19, 2015, the IDF security forces operating in the village of Bituniya (southwest of Ramallah) detained **Hassan Yussuf**, the senior Hamas figure in Judea and Samaria. He was involved in intensive incitement to terrorism and violence. He was detained and jailed in Israel in the past a number of time because of his activities (IDF Spokesman, October 20, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> The statistics do not include mortar shell fire or rockets which misfired and fell inside the Gaza Strip.

■ Before daybreak on October 20, 2015, IDF forces razed the house in Hebron of terrorist operative **Maher Zuheir Rashdi al-Hashalmoun**. On November 10, 2014 he carried out a terrorist attack at the Alon Shvut Junction, killing Dalia Lemkus and wounding two other Israelis. His house was razed in accordance with instructions from Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon as part of the struggle against terrorism (IDF Spokesman, October 20, 2015).

## Developments in the Gaza Strip

### Riots at the Israel-Gaza Strip Border

■ In the **Gaza Strip riots continue near the border security fence** in a show of solidarity with Judea and Samaria. The riots were held mainly over the weekend (October 16-17, 2015) **and an estimated 4,000 Gazans participated**. They focused mainly on the Erez crossing in the northern Gaza Strip and in the eastern part of Gaza City. Palestinians approached the border and threw stones and Molotov cocktails at IDF forces. **Two Palestinians were killed by Israeli security force fire and more than 100 were wounded**. One of the Gazans killed, **Yahya Abd al-Qadr Farahat (Abu al-Baraa)**, 20, from the Shati refugee camp in Gaza City, was an operative in the *nukhba*, an elite unit in the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades (Wafa News Agency and the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades website, October 16, 2015).



Left: Death notice issued by Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood and the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades for the death of Yahya Abd al-Qadr Farahat (Abu al-Baraa) (Al-Aqsa TV, October 19, 2015). Right: Palestinians riot against IDF forces on the Palestinian side of the Erez crossing (Wafa News Agency, October 16, 2015).

■ In addition to the riots, solidarity marches were held at a number of locations in the Gaza Strip under the aegis of Hamas and the PIJ. On October 13, 2015, Hamas held a march in support of the terrorists and the attacks carried out that day in Jerusalem. Marchers waved knives and Molotov cocktails, and carried signs blessing the shaheeds killed in Jerusalem and West Bank (Filastin al-'Aan, October 13, 2015). On October 18, 2015, the PIJ held a march in Gaza City where participants burned Israeli and American flags.



Left: Burning the Israeli and American flags during a PIJ march in support of terrorists. Right: March organized by Hamas in Rafah in support of the terrorists and the attacks in Jerusalem (Paltoday, October 18, 2015).

■ The events led Hamas in the Gaza Strip to preventive activities out of fear of an Israeli attack. Sources in the Gaza Strip reported the Hamas leadership had ordered the suspension of military training and the cancellation of parades at the security headquarters (Al-Quds, October 17, 2015).

## Senior Hamas Figures Encourage Terrorism

■ **Hamas in the Gaza Strip continues to maintain quiet and is careful not to be drawn into an escalation with Israel.** Hamas is apparently also trying to contain the riots near the border security fence. On the other hand, senior Hamas and PIJ figures continue their **militant rhetoric to encourage and inflame the current wave of terrorism in Israel, Judea and Samaria.** They called for a "day of rage" and for Palestinian flags to be waved at all the friction points with Israel, and for an increase in support for the activities of the "youths of the intifada in Jerusalem and the West Bank." They also praised the Palestinians who carried out terrorist attacks, and called for more.

- the following were statements made by senior Hamas figures:
  - Visiting the wounded in the Gaza Strip, **Ismail Haniya, deputy head of the Hamas' political bureau**, claimed that despite the Gaza Strip's difficult conditions it would not retreat from its role of "defending Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa mosque." He claimed that a continuation of the "aggression" against Al-Aqsa mosque and the Judaization of Jerusalem would lead to an explosion of the rage bottled up in the Palestinians. He claimed the "Jerusalem intifada" proved that Jerusalem was the hotspot of the struggle between the Palestinians and Israel. He praised the shaheeds and those who had carried out attacks (Safa News Agency, October 15, 2015). On another occasion, he gave a speech in Turkey where he said that the spirit of the intifada should be strengthened, and that all the Palestinians were awakening for the sake of Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa mosque (Twitter account of Al-Quds TV, October 16, 2015).
  - **Osama Hamdan**, responsible for Hamas' external relations, claimed that an entity frightened by a kitchen knife was not real and would not continue to exist. He claimed [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu was "confused and stunned" in dealing with the current intifada (Twitter account of Al-Quds TV, October 16, 2015). On another occasion he claimed Israeli relied on the silence of the international community and on the condemnation of the Palestinians by the counties of the world (Anadolu News Agency, October 17, 2015).
  - **Mahmoud al-Zahar, a member of Hamas' political bureau**, claimed that events in Jerusalem and the West Bank were **an intifada in every respect**. He claimed the Palestinian street had proved it was prepared to sacrifice its blood (Paltoday, October 19, 2015).
  - **Khalil al-Haya, a member of the Hamas' political bureau**, called on all the Palestinians to join the "Jerusalem intifada" because it defended a national interest. He demanded that the Palestinian national consensus government provide funds to rebuild houses destroyed by Israel, for treating the wounded and to support the families of prisoners and those killed (Hamas website, October 15, 2015).

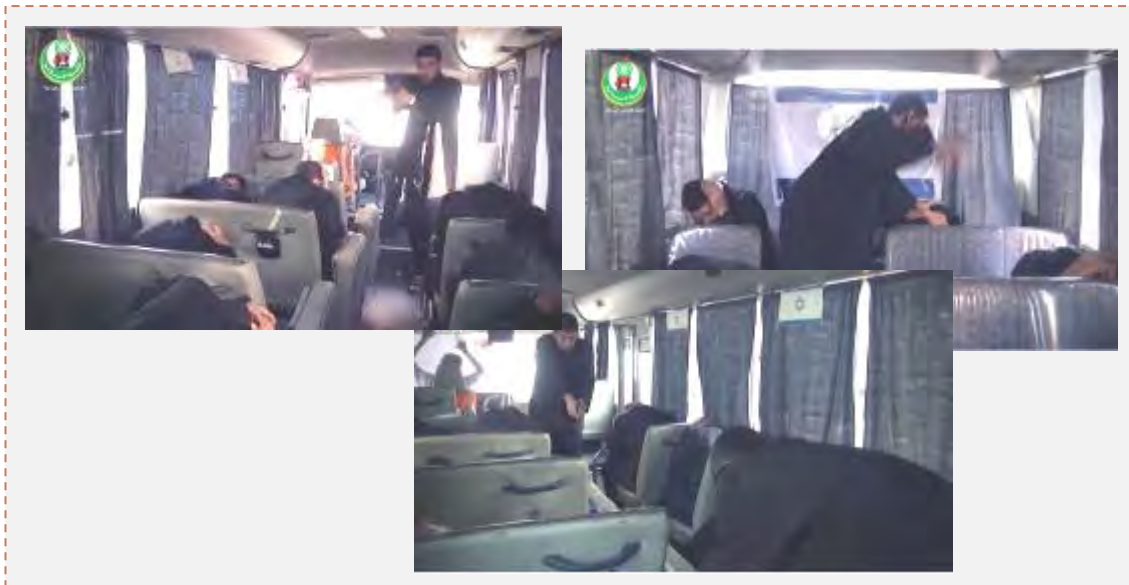
## "Educational Activity" Conducted by Hamas' Student Organization in Support of Terrorism

■ The faction of the Islamic Bloc (the Hamas movement student organization) in western Gaza City conducted a number of activities in schools in Gaza City in support of the current wave of terrorism. **Muhammad Hiles**, who delivers the Islamic Bloc's sermons, spoke before the students of the Palestine High School. He bemoaned the fate of the Palestinians who had been killed and expressed support for the use of force. During his speech, **Islamic Bloc activists stood next to him holding knives**. At the Adnan al-Alami school in Gaza City, Islamic Bloc activists holding knives distributed candy to the students to celebrate the terrorist attacks (Hamas' Islamic Bloc in western Gaza City, October 18, 2015).



**Left: Islamic Bloc activists holding knives distribute candy. Right: Islamic Bloc activists holding knives during a speech given by Muhammad Hiles before high school students in Gaza City (Hamas' Islamic Bloc in western Gaza City, October 18, 2015).**

■ On October 14, 2015 Hamas' Islamic Bloc in west Gaza City posted a **video on the social networks simulating the combined shooting and stabbing attack in Jerusalem. It was carried out on a number 78 bus in the Armon Hanatziv neighborhood of Jerusalem by Bahaa Alian and Bilal Abu Ghanem from Jabel Mukaber**. Actors played the roles of the two terrorists getting on the bus and carrying out the attack. As of October 20, 2015, 3,959 people had seen the video (Hamas' Islamic Bloc in western Gaza City, October 14, 2015).



Scene from the video produced the Islamic Bloc simulating the terrorist attack on the number 78 bus in Jerusalem (Hamas' Islamic Bloc in western Gaza City, October 14, 2015).

## The Palestinian Authority

### Mahmoud Abbas' Speech

■ In view of the escalation in Palestinian terrorism, Mahmoud Abbas gave a speech broadcast live. It was belligerent and stressed the legitimacy of the "popular resistance," carried out, he claimed, by peaceful means. He protested the so-called [Israeli] "occupation," settler terrorism and the damage to Al-Aqsa mosque, and threatened to appeal to the International Criminal Court (ICC) (Voice of Palestine Radio, October 14, 2015):

- **Accusing Israel of seeking to change the status quo on the Temple Mount:** At the current time, Mahmoud Abbas claimed, when Israel's aggression against the Palestinian people, its land and holy places is escalating, and racism and arrogance raise their ugly heads, the Palestinian clearly say that they will not agree to a change in the status quo of Al-Aqsa mosque. The Palestinians will not allow Israel to continue its plans to harm it or its sanctity and change pure Islamic nature.
- **Continuation of the "popular struggle:"** The shaheeds, Mahmoud Abbas claimed, are the price the Palestinians have to pay for their freedom. He stressed that the popular struggle would continue alongside measures taken in the international arena. He appealed to the Palestinians and condemned the "escalating Israeli hostility" towards the Palestinians.



- **Appeal to the international community to intervene:** Mahmoud Abbas called for international intervention and praised the political achievements gained with the support of the "popular struggle." He said the Palestinians would continue their national political and legal struggle. He also claimed the Palestinians would not remain committed to agreements Israel did not honor and they would continue to join international conventions.
- During the speech Mahmoud Abbas made no mention of the wave of terrorism and made no effort to calm the situation. He made the false claim that Israel "executed" Palestinian children such as **Ahmed Manasra**. Manasra was a 13 year-old boy wounded while carrying out a stabbing attack in Pisgat Zeev, a northern neighborhood of Jerusalem. Mahmoud Abbas waved a picture of the child lying in the street. Ahmed Manasra was one of two young boys who carried out the stabbing attack. He was wounded during the attempt to stop his during the terrorist attack. **Israeli issued pictures proving that during Mahmoud Abbas' speech Ahmed Manasra was receiving medical treatment in an Israeli hospital** (and has since been released).
  - Other senior PA figures condemned Israel and called for international intervention:
    - **Rami Hamdallah**, prime minister of the Palestinian national consensus government, accused Israel of the current escalation, claiming the Palestinians would continue their "popular struggle" using non-violent means and political and legal measures. He accused Israel of murdering and torturing the Palestinians people by attacking demonstrators, medical teams and correspondents. He called on the international community to protect the Palestinians people from Israel (Wafa News Agency, October 17, 2015).
    - **The Palestinian foreign ministry** condemned Israel's "lack of respect" for the lives of the Palestinians and their "disregarding of Palestinian blood" during confrontations. He claimed the decisions made by the Israeli prime minister enabled the IDF forces to shoot at Palestinians, leading to many killings. According to the statement, the Palestinian foreign ministry will appeal to the ICC in The Hague and to other international courts to demand international protection for the Palestinian people and to appoint international committees to investigate Israel's "crimes" (Wafa News Agency, October 18, 2015).
    - **Saeb Erekat, secretary general of the PLO's Executive Committee**, said in a statement that he opposed a return to the same sort of negotiations with Israel

as had been conducted so far because they were useless. He called on the UN Security Council to pass a resolution that would determine the principles for the permanent agreement of the conflict. It would include an independent Palestinian state with the 1967 borders and east Jerusalem as its capital, a solution for the problem of the Palestinian refugees, setting a time table for Israel's withdrawal [from the Palestinian territories] and the cessation of the building in the settlements and east Jerusalem during the negotiations (Agence France-Presse, date, 2015).

- **Marwan Barghouti**, currently serving a life sentence in an Israeli jail, wrote an article for The Guardian, a British newspaper. He said there would be no peace until Israel evacuated the [Palestinian] territories. He claimed the occupation was the root of the problem and that the current clashes did not begin because of the killing of settlers but rather years ago. He claimed Palestinians were being killed and detained every day. After the article was published Barghouti was tried by a disciplinary tribunal in jail. During the trial he denied he had been interviewed and claimed he had not sent the article to the newspaper.

- **Jibril Rajoub, deputy secretary general of Fatah's Central Committee** (and chairman of the PA's football association) was interviewed on October 17, 2015, on Palestinian TV. **He praised the stabbing attacks of Israeli soldiers and civilians** beyond the Green Line, calling them "acts of heroism." He called for the unification of the Palestinian struggle for the sake of freedom and the end of the "Israeli occupation." He posted similar statements on his Facebook page (YouTube and Facebook page of Jibril Rajoub, October 17 and 18, 2015).

■ **However, exceptional statements were also made calling for the Palestinian people to calm down:**

- **Zakaria al-'Agha**, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, called on the Palestinians to conduct a non-violent "popular uprising." He claimed the Palestinians had to show the world the image of non-violent national resistance against the Israeli occupation and not get dragged into a cycle of armed violence. Israel, he claimed wanted armed violence to present the world with a war between two armies (Fatah Movement website, October 17, 2015).

- **Ahmed Majdalani, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee**, published an article calling for Palestinians to refrain from violence because, he claimed, the government of Israel would use violence to represent the

Palestinians side as violent and terrorists. He also called for children to be kept away from the focal points of friction (Dunia al-Watan, October 17, 2015).

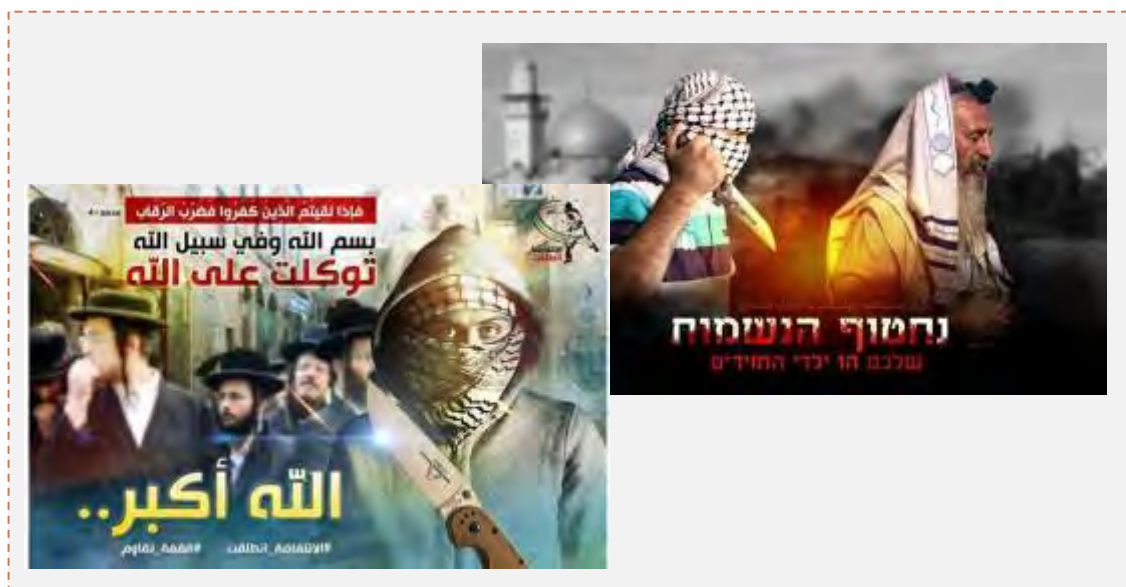
■ **Muhammad Daraghmeh**, a prominent and influential journalist in Ramallah, published an op-ed piece calling for young Palestinians not to carry out stabbing attacks. Entitled "**Don't go to [your] death**," he called on young Palestinians to go out into the streets, to the roadblocks, yell, make themselves heard but not die for the sake of the homeland. He said that anyone who had a knife and attacked a soldier was committing suicide. He added that the world the Palestinians were trying to enlist did not accept stabbing and vehicular attacks against civilians, and opposed them as it opposed suicide bombing attacks (Al-Hadath News, October 18, 2015)

## The Battle for Hearts and Minds

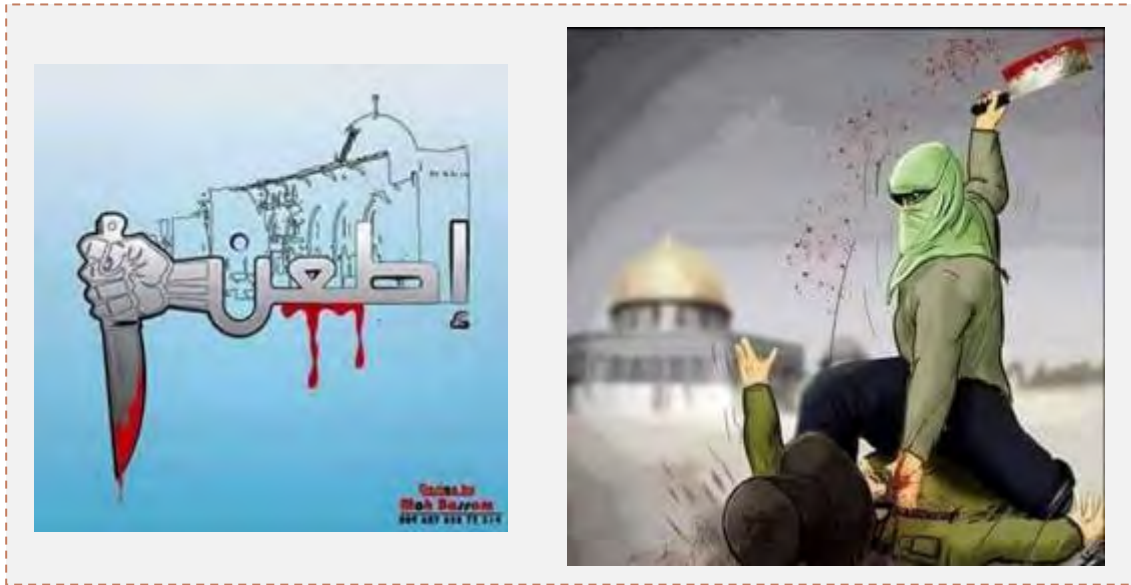
### Encouragement for the Current Wave of Terrorism in the Palestinian Media

#### Ongoing Incitement in the Social Networks

■ This past week incitement and hate propaganda continued in the Palestinian social networks. Many notices, cartoons and videos were posted encouraging terrorist attacks. For example:



Left: Encouragement for stabbing attacks. The Arabic reads, "If you have seen those infidels, strike their throats...Allahu akbar (Facebook page of Gaza al-'Aan, October 14, 2015). Right: A notice reading "We will take your souls, oh sons of pigs" (Facebook page of Gaza al-'Aan, October 13, 2015).



The Facebook page of QudsN encourages stabbing attacks. Left: The Arabic reads, "Stab!" (Facebook page of QudsN, October 14, 2015). Right: a masked Palestinian hacks at a Jew with a meat cleaver (Facebook page of QudsN, October 18, 2015).