



July 24, 2016

Vehicular Attacks: A Lethal, Easily-Executed Type of Attack Most are carried out by lone operatives unaffiliated with terrorist organizations although sometimes inspired by them



Making vehicular attacks more lethal. Left: Caterpillar front loader used in a vehicular attack in Jerusalem, July 2, 2008. Three people were killed and 70 wounded (Israeli Government Press Office, July 2, 2008). Right: Refrigerator truck used in the terrorist attack in Nice where 84 people were killed and 200 wounded (Twitter, July 14, 2016).

Overview

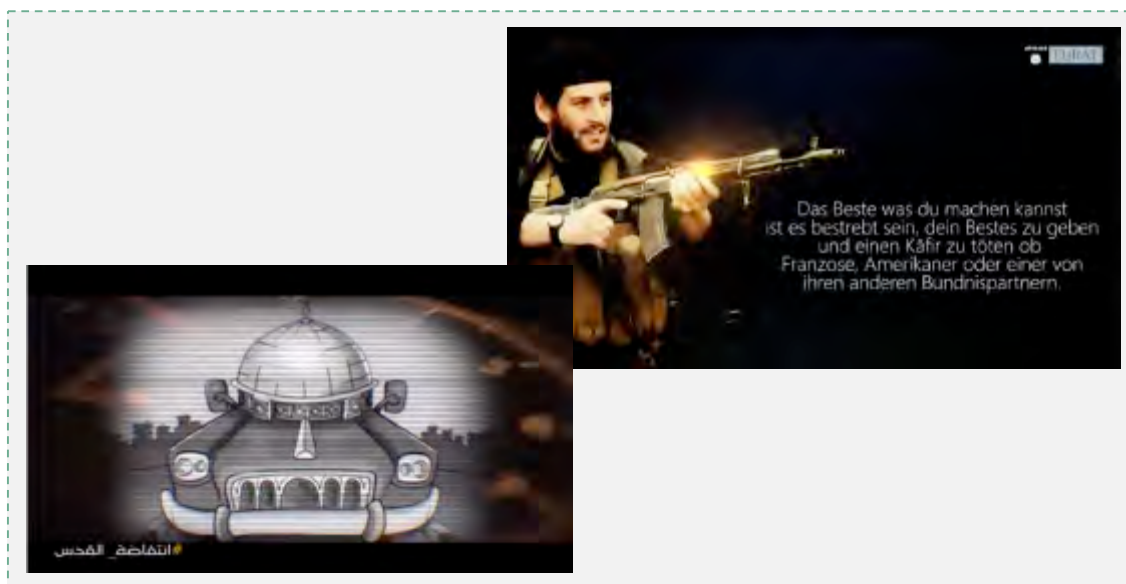
1. The vehicular attack carried out on the Nice promenade on Bastille Day, July 14, 2016, claimed the lives of 84 people and wounded 200. It was the most lethal vehicular attack ever carried out, no less lethal than most of the other terrorist attacks carried out in Europe during the past year. However, unlike the ISIS attacks, it was **relatively simple**. It did not demand complex planning or logistics, intelligence collection or deploying a squad of foreign terrorists, as in the terrorist attacks in Istanbul, Brussels and Paris.
2. The vehicular attack in Nice was carried out by a French citizen of Tunisian extraction. He was apparently **inspired by ISIS** but as far as is known, was **not in direct communication with the organization, and did not receive instructions or support from it**. Three months ago an ISIS spokesman issued a call to the organization's supporters in France, America and their allies to kill **so-called "infidels" in any way possible, including vehicular attacks**. On another occasion

an ISIS spokesman told its supporters that there were **no innocent civilians, and killing civilians was "desirable and beneficial for us because it hurts them [the West] more"** (ISIS spokesman Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, May 21, 2016). Claiming responsibility for the attack in Nice, ISIS said it had been carried out by a "soldier of the Islamic State" in response to the call to attack "infidels" where they lived.



The bodies of Nice victims (YouTube).

3. **Israel has been dealing with vehicular attacks since the first intifada (1987)**, most of them carried out by Palestinian popular terrorism operatives who are not organized or directed by the established terrorist organizations. In most instances the Palestinians use ordinary civilian vehicles, but **in some cases they have used heavy construction equipment to increase the number of victims**. Vehicular attacks continue to this day: since the beginning of the current terrorist campaign which began in September 2015, of the 224 particularly serious terrorist attacks carried out so far, 31 have been vehicular attacks. There have been fewer vehicular than stabbing attacks, but they are more deadly (See Appendix A).



Left: Picture from a Hamas video encouraging vehicular attacks as a way to liberate Al-Aqsa mosque (Facebook page of the Hamas movement in Ramallah and al-Bireh, May 4, 2016) Right: ISIS call in German to kill "infidels," American, French or their allies (Akhbar Dawlat al-Islam, April 16, 2016).

4. In ITIC assessment the extraordinary number of victims in the Nice attack and its resonance in global media are **liable to lead to copy-cat attacks by ISIS-inspired Muslims in the West and also possibly by Palestinians in Israel.**

Appendix A

Vehicular Attacks Carried Out in Israel

Overview

1. Israel has been dealing with **Palestinian vehicular attacks since the end of the 1980s, the outbreak of the first intifada (1987)**. Vehicular attacks are carried out on a smaller scale than other types, but they are relatively more lethal. **Most of them have focused on greater Jerusalem because of the easy access of Palestinian vehicles to the Israeli population**, but they have been carried out in other locations in Judea and Samaria. Most of them have involved ordinary cars although some of them **used heavy construction equipment**, making the attacks more lethal.



Left: The aftermath of the attack in Jerusalem on July 2, 2008. Three people were killed and 70 wounded (Israeli Foreign Ministry, July 2, 2008). Right: A front loader used in a vehicular attack in Jerusalem on July 22, 2008 that wounded 28 people. The terrorist was shot and killed (Photo by Ronen Zebulon for Reuters, July 22, 2008).

2. The vehicular attacks are carried out as part of the so-called "popular resistance" by the Palestinians [i.e., popular terrorism]. They are usually perpetrated by **lone terrorists who do not belong to an established terrorist organization**. Some of the terrorists held Israeli ID cards, giving them easy access to Israeli territory, especially greater Jerusalem. **As part of learning the lessons of the attacks, concrete barriers have been constructed to protect bus stops, the entrances to public buildings and IDF roadblocks**. Israel's preventive measures have reduced the number of casualties in vehicular attacks but have not ended them.

3. Vehicular attacks are supported and encouraged by the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Fatah, which **regard them as a legitimate part of what they call the "popular resistance" [i.e., popular terrorism]**. They therefore do not condemn vehicular attacks but rather give the terrorists who carry them out political and moral support. **Hamas and the other terrorist organizations specifically encourage vehicular attacks as an easy, effective way to kill Israelis** (See Appendix B).

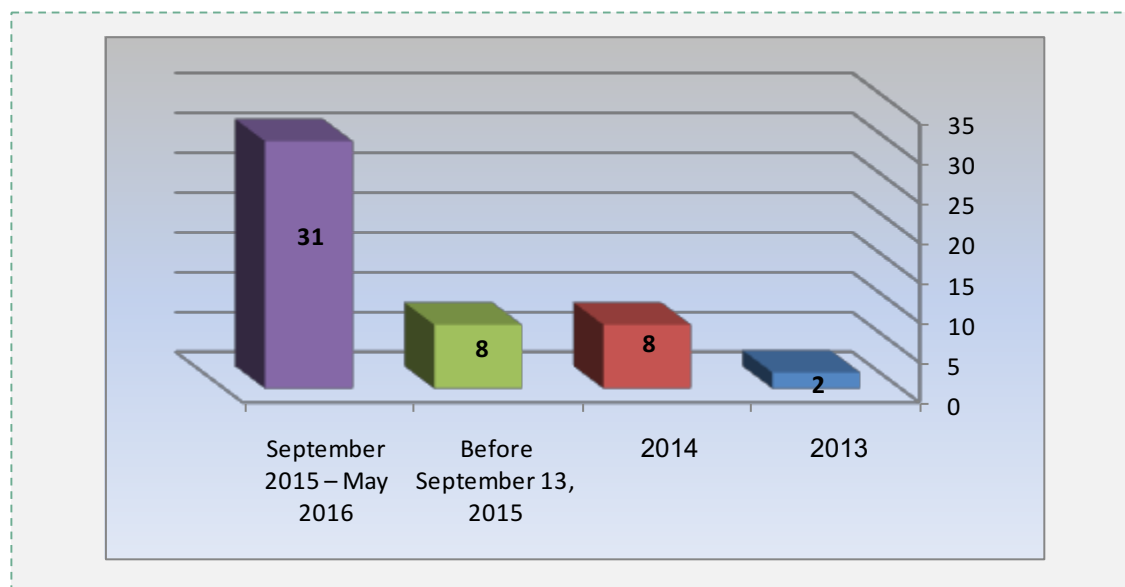
The Scope of Vehicular Attacks

4. **The first vehicular attack was carried out on February 18, 1987**, during the first intifada. A Palestinian terrorist rammed into an IDF patrol in the Askar refugee camp in Nablus. Two soldiers were critically wounded; one later died. The terrorist was shot and killed. **Palestinians carried out sporadic vehicular attacks during the following years.**

5. During the second intifada (2000-2005) and the following years, Palestinians carried out about 20 vehicular attacks, killing 15 people. **There were three prominent vehicular attacks in Jerusalem, two of them using tractors**, killing three Israelis and wounding about 100. Between 2012 and 2013 there were a few vehicular attacks in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, in which one Israeli was killed and several Israeli security force personnel were injured.

6. Since the beginning of the most recent Palestinian terrorist campaign (September 13, 2015) there has been a significant rise in the number of vehicular attacks. Since the end of September 2015, 31 of the 224 particularly serious terrorist attacks have been vehicular attacks (quantitatively, stabbing attacks are the most prevalent type of attack, followed, at a considerable gap, by vehicular and shooting attacks).

Vehicular Attacks in Recent Years



Prominent Vehicular Attacks

7. Prominent vehicular attacks since 2008 have been the following:

- a. On **May 3, 2016**, a Palestinian drove a van into three IDF soldiers near the village of **Dolev in Binyamin (west of Ramallah)**. One soldier was critically wounded and two sustained minor injuries. A fourth soldier shot and killed the driver. The Palestinians issued a video of the terrorist speeding towards the soldiers, who were checking cars on the road.
- b. On **October 3, 2015**, a Palestinian terrorist who worked for Bezeq, the Israeli telephone company, drove a company car into a bus stop on a **main street in Jerusalem**. One man was killed and another wounded. The terrorist then got out of his car and attacked passersby with a knife.
- c. On the evening of **April 25, 2015**, a Palestinian ran into Border Policemen in **east Jerusalem** (near a-Tor and the Mt. of Olives). Four policemen were injured. The police at the roadblock shot at the terrorist but he drove away. The vehicle was later located but the terrorist escaped.
- d. On the evening of **April 16, 2015**, a Palestinian driver sped along a street in **French Hill in Jerusalem**. He swerved to hit a man and woman standing at a bus stop. The man was mortally injured and later died; the woman was critically injured.

e. On **March 6, 2015**, a Palestinian drove a car to a Border Police base north of **Jerusalem**. He drove up onto the sidewalk and into a group of five men, four of whom were Israeli security force personnel, and drove away. When policemen in the base shot at him he got out of the car **holding a meat cleaver**. He was shot and the police overcame him. In a similar attack at a nearby location in **November 2014**, a Border Police officer was killed and 13 people were wounded.

f. On **October 22, 2014**, a Palestinian terrorist from east Jerusalem carried out a vehicular attack at the light railway station at **Ammunition Hill in Jerusalem**. He killed a three-month-old baby girl and wounded eight people, one of them, a 20-year-old woman, seriously.

g. On **August 4, 2014**, during Operation Protective Edge, a Palestinian terrorist drove a tractor **from a construction site in Jerusalem** into a passerby, killing him. He then drove into a bus and **tried to use the tractor's shovel to overturn it**, wounding the driver and another man. An off-duty prison guard shot and killed the terrorist. Five other people were also wounded.

h. On the evening of **October 17, 2013**, a Palestinian **used a tractor** to breach the fence of **an IDF base near A-Ram** (southeast of Ramallah). He tried to run over soldiers and use the tractor's shovel to turn over a jeep. He was shot and killed.

i. On **September 9, 2012**, a security officer of the village of Shaarei Tikva was killed when he was run over by a Palestinian **between the villages of Ornit and Elkana**. A car hit and killed him. He was monitoring vehicles carrying illegal Palestinian workers to Israel. The driver, from Kafr Qassem, fled the scene and was later detained.

j. On **March 5, 2009**, a Palestinian driving a tractor **near the Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem** rammed into a police squad car. He lowered the shovel onto the roof of the car, which had been dispatched because of a traffic accident and was parked at the side of the road. The two policemen in the car incurred minor injuries. The terrorist was shot and died on the way to the hospital.

k. On **July 22, 2008**, a Palestinian drove a tractor out of a construction site near the **Yemin Moshe neighborhood in Jerusalem** and sped along a main street,

hitting cars along the way. After about 250 meters (275 yards) he was shot by a Border Policeman. He wounded 28 people.

I. On **July 2, 2008**, a Palestinian terrorist from east Jerusalem carried out a mass-killing vehicular attack with a large Caterpillar front loader. He drove out of a construction site along **a main street in Jerusalem**, ramming into everything he encountered on the way. From there he turned into an other main street and continued hitting vehicles and pedestrians. Eventually a policeman, a security guard and an off-duty soldier shot and killed him. His rampage killed three Israelis and wounded 70.

Appendix B

Encouragement for Vehicular Attacks

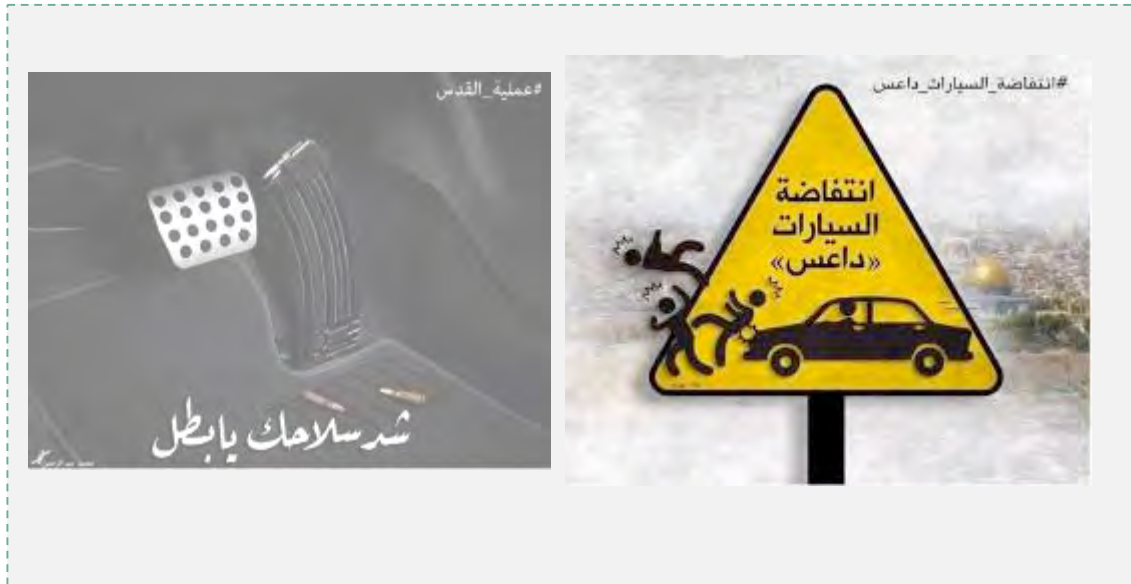
1. Many posts calling for vehicular attacks against Israelis have appeared on the Internet and social networks, especially sites affiliated with Hamas. Examples follow.



A post to a Hamas forum. The Arabic reads, "After the second tractor attack, we promise you, sons of the Zionists, a much larger attack, coming soon: a steamroller attack. The caption reads, "May Allah have mercy on Younes al-Radeideh, the shaheed who carried out the second tractor attack on October 17, 2013, brother of the shaheed Marai al-Radeideh, who carried out the first tractor attack in 2009 (Hamas forum, October 19, 2013, 2016).



A post after the vehicular attack in Jerusalem where Border Policemen were critically injured. The Arabic reads, "an Israeli killed in a vehicular attack in Jerusalem..." (Paldf, November 5, 2014).



Left: Gas pedal exchanged for ammunition magazine. The Arabic reads, "Hold your weapon, hero."
 Right: A road sign with a car hitting people. The Arabic reads, "The intifada of vehicular attacks"
 (Paldf, November 5, 2014).

Encouragement for Vehicular Attacks during the Current Palestinian Terrorist Campaign



Left: Post from the Facebook page of Hamas in Nablus encouraging vehicular attacks. The Arabic reads, "Run away, my friend...this is not your land. Resist, oh son of Jerusalem. Resist, oh son of the [West] Bank. Run over the Zionists" (Facebook page of Hamas in Nablus, November 28, 2015)
 Right: Posting after the vehicular attack at the Halhul Junction on November 4, 2015, where a young Israeli was critically injured. The Arabic reads, "Death of a Zionist officer and wounding of a soldier. Death as a martyr for the sake of Allah of Ibrahim Sakafi in Hebron [the perpetrator of the attack]. Run them over. The intifada continues" (Facebook page of Hamas in Nablus, November 5, 2015).



Picture of the Palestinian terrorist who carried out the vehicular attack on October 13, 2015, in the Geula neighborhood of Jerusalem (from an animated film called "We are the [masculine] men of the [West] Bank" encouraging stabbing, vehicular and shooting attacks (YouTube, February 20, 2016).



Post issued by Hamas in memory of Palestinian terrorist Ahmed Riyadh Shehadeh, who carried out a vehicular attack near the village of Dolev west of Ramallah (critically wounding one IDF soldier and causing minor injuries to two others). The Arabic on the tire reads, "We brought you a vehicular [attack], the intifada continues" (Facebook page of Paldf, May 4, 2016).

Appendix C

ITIC Bulletins about Vehicular Attacks Carried Out as Part of Palestinian Popular Terrorism

1. November 11, 2015 – "The 71-year-old terrorist who carried out a vehicular attack left a will expressing her desire to become a shaheeda (martyred woman). It proves additional evidence refuting Palestinian claims that she was 'executed' by the IDF," <http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/article/20905>
2. June 4, 2015 – "How the Palestinian Authority and Fatah Respond to Vehicular Attacks," <http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/article/20820>
3. May 21, 2015 – "Third vehicular attack carried out in Jerusalem in May, and as before, it received support from Fatah and the Palestinian media; the Palestinian Authority did not condemn it," <http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/article/20812>.
4. May 18, 2015 – "During the past year there has been an increase in the number of vehicular attacks in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria," <http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/article/20809>
5. November 6, 2014 – "Another vehicular terrorist attack in Jerusalem, part of the latest wave of Palestinian violence and terrorism in the city," <http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/article/20726>.
6. October 23, 2014 – "A vehicular attack in Jerusalem in which a three month-old baby girl was killed: The attack was carried out on the backdrop of a wave of Palestinian riots and violence as part of the Palestinian so-called 'popular resistance' " <http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/article/20722>.
7. October 22, 2013 – "Vehicular Attacks: Modus Operandi Considered by the Palestinians as Part of the Popular Resistance in Judea and Samaria," <http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/article/20584>
8. July 23, 2008 – Jerusalem as a focus for terrorism: Another mass-casualty attack using a construction vehicle, part of a trend of increasing terrorist activity in Jerusalem," http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/data/pdf/PDF_08_193_2.pdf
9. July 4, 2008 – "Mass-casualty terrorist attack on Jaffa Road in Jerusalem," <http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/article/18447>