



**Passover Eve Massacre at Park Hotel in Netanya: Analysis of a Mass-Murder  
Terror Attack as a Case Study of the Terrorist Nature of the Hamas Movement and  
the Involvement of its Political Leadership in Operational-Terrorist Activity.**



A poster in which the Hamas movement in Tulkarm announces the death as a martyr of **Muhammad Abd al-Basset Oudeh**. That terrorist perpetrated the suicide bombing attack at the Park hotel in Netanya (March 27, 2002), triggering Operation Defensive Shield by the IDF (Israel Defense Forces). The upper part of the poster features a quote from the Quran : a better life in Paradise is promised to those Muslim believers who kill infidels in the name of Allah. In the center of the poster – a photograph of Oudeh holding an M-16 assault rifle in his right hand, a Quran in his left and an explosive belt around his body.

## Table of Contents

[Abstract](#)

[General](#)

[Charting the Hamas infrastructure in Tulkarm involved in the Park hotel suicide bombing attack](#)

[The political as well as the military roles of Abbas Muhammad Mustafa al-Sayyid, initiator and coordinator of the Park hotel suicide bombing attack](#)

[The Park hotel suicide bombing attack in stages](#)

- a. Planning a mass-murder suicide bombing attack (second half of 2001, beginning of 2002)
- b. Final preparations for the implementation of the suicide bombing attack (night between March 26-27)
- c. Plans to incorporate cyanide gas to increase the explosion's deadly effect
- d. Implementation of the Park Hotel suicide bombing attack
- e. Actions after the suicide bombing attack
- f. Further intentions

[Connection with Hamas leadership in Damascus](#)

## Abstract

- Since the outbreak of hostilities in the Palestinian Authority administered territories (September 2000), the **Hamas** movement has **stood in the vanguard of terrorist activity in that area**, challenging and foiling any attempt at negotiation and undermining every effort to achieve a political solution for the violent confrontation with Israel. During this period (as of March 21, 2004), Hamas has perpetrated **about 780 acts of terrorism** (part of which were perpetrated in the Palestinian Authority administered territories, others in Israel proper) , **killing approximately 430 people and injuring nearly 2260** , most of whom are Israeli (and foreign) civilians. It should be noted that most of the casualties are a result of suicide bombing attacks inside Israel proper.
- The most devastating terror attack perpetrated by Hamas against Israel was the suicide bombing attack in which **29 civilians** lost their lives on the night of the traditional Passover Eve feast (known in Hebrew as “Seder”) at the **Park hotel** in Netanya (March 27, 2002). As a result, IDF launched **Operation Defensive Shield, entering into the Palestinian Authority territory** and capturing major cities in the West Bank (Judea and Samaria).
- The trial of a **senior Hamas terrorist, Abbas Bin Muhammad al-Sayyid, leader of Hamas in Tulkarm**, is now approaching its end. Al-Sayyid initiated, planned and coordinated the Park hotel suicide bombing attack along with other terror attacks that **led to the deaths of dozens of Israeli civilians, and injured hundreds more**. The charges against him and against other terrorists, tried for their involvement in the Park hotel suicide bombing attack and sentenced to consecutive lifetime sentences, along with information gathered about the suicide bombing attack, expose the **nature** of Hamas as a terror movement and shed light on the **operatives** that stand behind the Hamas-run **“murder industry.”**
- An analysis of the Park hotel suicide bombing attack reveals **three main characteristics**:
  - **The nature of Hamas as a terror movement focusing its activity against innocent civilians.** The Park hotel suicide bombing attack on Passover Eve was the last in a series of murderous terror attacks planned by Abbas al-Sayyid, leader of Hamas in Tulkarm, devised to inflict mass civilian casualties indiscriminately (Al-Sayyid had been previously involved in assisting and coordinating the suicide bombing attacks on Herzl Street and at the “Ha-Sharon” shopping center in Netanya). Al-Sayyid, assisted by the extensive Hamas infrastructure in Tulkarm and Nablus, gave

considerable thought to arming the suicide terrorist so as to **maximize casualties**. To this end, he equipped the suicide terrorist with a vest embedded with an **explosive belt, metal pellets and pieces of shredded metal**. Plans were made to incorporate a toxic substance (cyanide) received from a Hamas operative who had studied pharmacology in Jordan; however, these plans were not realized and it was decided to implement them in **forthcoming suicide bombing attacks** (those were foiled by Operation Defensive Shield).

- **The operational-terrorist activity and the political propaganda activity of Hamas leaders are completely interwoven and inseparable.**
  - In order to protect its leaders, Hamas claims that its **political** leadership is separate from its **operational** leadership. However, Abbas al-Sayyid, graduate of the Yarmuk University in Jordan and medical engineer by trade, **embodies by his character and by his activity both the terrorist arm and the political arm of Hamas, thus proving the claim unsubstantiated.**
  - **On the one hand**, Abbas al-Sayyid stood at the head of the Hamas **operational infrastructure** in Tulkarm and was involved in covert activity of initiating and coordinating terror attacks against civilians while dealing with the **very essentials** of operational activity concerning the perpetration of those attacks. **On the other hand**, he kept close contacts with senior **political and operational** cadres within Hamas and was involved in a **variety of political, propaganda and organizational activities**: representing Hamas in conventions, giving political speeches cited in the media, enlisting recruits, organizing military-style parades and mourning processions, propaganda activity and even providing legal assistance (through his aide) to Hamas detainees.
- **The connection of the Hamas cell in Tulkarm with the Hamas leadership in Damascus through Abbas al-Sayyid.** The charges filed against Abbas al-Sayyid indicate he maintained a **direct contact** with **Khaled Mash'al**, leader of **Hamas political bureau in Damascus**. Al-Sayyid sought his advice on political issues and provided him with reports on suicide bombing attacks carried out by Hamas. In addition, the Hamas leadership in Syria granted him **USD 10,000-13,000 per month towards subsidizing Hamas activity in Tulkarm**. It is worth mentioning that the Hamas leadership in **Damascus** uses financial leverage as an essential means of encouraging terrorism and coordinating terrorist activity "inside" [i.e., code for the territory **including** the Palestinian Authority administered territories and Israel proper]. Supporting evidence was found during Operation Defensive Shield and uncovered in interrogations by Israeli security services.

## General

- On Passover Eve, March 27, 2002, at 7:30 PM, hundreds of guests were preparing to enjoy the traditional Passover "Seder" [i.e., family oriented ceremony and festive meal] in the dining hall of the Park hotel in Netanya. At that point, **Abd al-Basset Oudeh**, a Hamas suicide terrorist, arrived **disguised as a woman** and detonated himself in the hotel's dining hall. This terror attack left **29 civilians dead** and 155 wounded, some of them critically.
- It was the most devastating suicide bombing attack carried out by Hamas and other terrorist organizations since the outbreak of hostilities by the Palestinians in September 2000, **with implications and consequences extending far beyond murder of innocent civilians**. The suicide bombing attack shocked Israeli and global public opinion and triggered Operation Defensive Shield, in which IDF entered into Palestinian Authority administered territories and captured major Palestinian cities in the West Bank (Judea and Samaria). It was not the only time Hamas succeeded in **manipulating the national security and political state of affairs** by means of a large-scale terror attack: the Jerusalem bus bombing perpetrated by Hamas on August 19, 2003 claimed the lives of 21 civilians, a third of which were children, and brought an end to a brief ceasefire (the *Hudna*) that was not upheld by Hamas (suicide bombing attack in Ariel causing 2 Israelis dead on August 12 – i.e., during the *Hudna*).
- During the period of time that has passed since the Park hotel suicide bombing attack, the main operatives involved have been killed or captured. **Abbas Bin Muhammad al-Sayyid**, leader of Hamas infrastructure in Tulkarm, is now standing trial. He is responsible, along with **Muhannad Taher**, a senior operative for the Hamas leadership in the northern West

Bank (killed in June 2002), for **initiating and coordinating** the Park hotel terror attack.

- This document aims to analyze the modus operandi of the Park hotel suicide bombing attack as a **case study** revealing the terrorist and murderous nature of the Hamas movement and to demonstrate the **involvement of its political leadership in operational-terrorist activity**. The document is based on the charges filed against Abbas Bin Muhammad al-Sayyid and against other Hamas terrorists involved in the suicide bombing attack, as well as information gathered on the Park hotel suicide bombing attack and on Hamas terror activity in general.

### **Charting the Hamas infrastructure involved in the Park hotel suicide bombing attack**

- What follows is a description of the Hamas terror infrastructure in Tulkarm involved in planning the Park hotel suicide bombing attack and its implementation:

- **The local leadership:**

**Abbas Bin Muhammad al-Sayyid:** The highest-ranking Hamas operative in Tulkarm. Responsible for planning and coordinating the Park hotel suicide bombing attack. Initiated, organized and operated additional terror attacks in Israel proper and in the West Bank that **claimed the lives of dozens of Israeli civilians and injured hundreds**. In addition to his terrorist activity, he was also involved in a **variety of political, propaganda and organizational activities** (see below).

**Muhannad Taher :** The highest-ranking Hamas operative in Nablus and the northern West Bank. Responsible for coordinating the suicide bombing attack from Nablus as well as transferring and delivering the **explosive belts** (produced by Hamas infrastructure in **Nablus** ) to Hamas infrastructure in **Tulkarm** , where they were used for the Park hotel suicide bombing attack.

- **The middle level, involved in dispatching the suicide terrorist to Netanya:**

**Mu'ammarr Shahrouri :** Infrastructure operative for Hamas in Tulkarm. Arrested in May 2002. In an interrogation by the Israeli General Security Services, he admitted to serving as the **liaison** between **Abbas al-Sayyid**, coordinator of the suicide bombing attack, and the two suicide terrorists who were supposed to carry it out (one of them being **Abd al-Basset Oudeh** ). Thus, Shahrouri was involved in transferring **funds** received from Al-Sayyid, delivering the **explosive belts** from Nablus to Tulkarm, **photographing** suicide terrorist Abd al-Basset Oudeh and **arming him with the explosive belt**.

**Muhannad Talal Mansour Shrim :** Infrastructure operative for the Hamas in Tulkarm. Abbas al-Sayyid's right-hand man. Arrested in May 2002. Was asked by Al-Sayyid to prepare **posters and cameras** to record the suicide terrorist before dispatching him to carry out the suicide bombing attack. Met with the driver who transported the suicide terrorist, supplied him with a counterfeit ID card prepared by Hamas infrastructure in Nablus, and instructed him to purchase an Israeli vehicle in order to transport the suicide terrorist. He witnessed Abd al-Basset Oudeh's preparation and photographing before the suicide bombing attack. Sentenced to 29 consecutive lifetime sentences and 20 consecutive years in prison.

**Ali Khudeiri :** Infrastructure operative for Hamas in Tulkarm. Killed in May 2002. Delivered explosive belts and counterfeit ID cards prepared by the Hamas military infrastructure in Nablus to members of the Hamas infrastructure in Tulkarm.

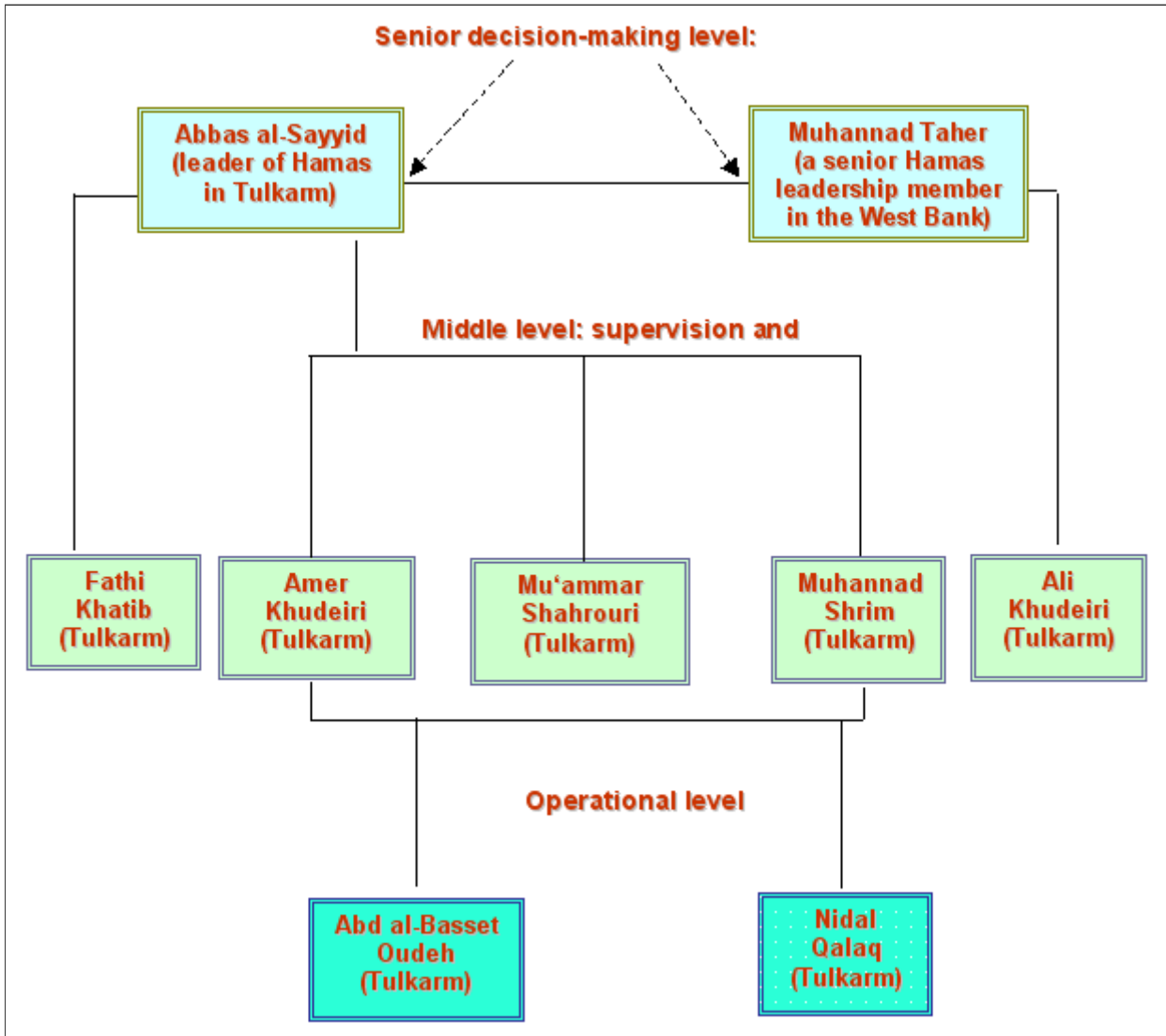
**Fathi Raja Ahmad Khatib :** Resident of the village of Qafin near Tulkarm. Arrested in May 2002. Admitted, in an interrogation by the General Security Service, that he had purchased a vehicle in Israel under Al-Sayyid's guidance and used that vehicle to transport Oudeh to the Tulkarm area, where the two switched vehicles and entered Israel. Sentenced to 29 consecutive lifetime sentences and 20 consecutive years in prison.

- **The operational level**

**Nidal Qalaq** : Resident of Nur al-Shams (Tulkarm). Arrested in April 2002. Was supposed to serve as an **additional suicide terrorist** in the Park hotel suicide bombing attack. A day before the operation, he announced he could not carry it out due to illness. After the Park hotel suicide bombing attack, he was supposed to carry out another suicide bombing attack instead of the one he did not take part in.

**Abd al-Basset Muhammad Qassem Oudeh** : Born in Qalqilya, 1977. Single. Hamas operative. Sent jointly by Hamas infrastructure in **Tulkarm** and the infrastructure in **Nablus** to carry out the suicide bombing attack. Carried out the suicide bombing attack disguised as a woman. His operator, Abbas al-Sayyid, who also wrote his will, stated he was going to carry out the act in the name of Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. A **warning** stating Oudeh's intent was dispatched to the **Palestinian Security Apparatuses** some **six months** before the suicide bombing attack; however, the Palestinians claimed they had failed to locate him.

**Chart of Hamas infrastructure that perpetrated Park hotel suicide bombing attack (March 27, 2002)**



**The political as well as the military-terrorist roles of Abbas Muhammad Mustafa al-Sayyid, initiator and coordinator of the Park hotel suicide bombing attack**



Abbas Muhammad Mustafa al-Sayyid

- **Abbas Muhammad Mustafa al-Sayyid**, detained by Israel, is now standing trial for his terrorist activity. Born in Tulkarm, 1966, he studied **Computer Engineering** at the University of Yarmuk, Jordan; yet, he is a medical engineer by profession. He was employed by a governmental Palestinian hospital in Tulkarm in the field of maintenance. In that capacity, and



perhaps by virtue of his official function as well, he was associated with the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Health in Ramallah.

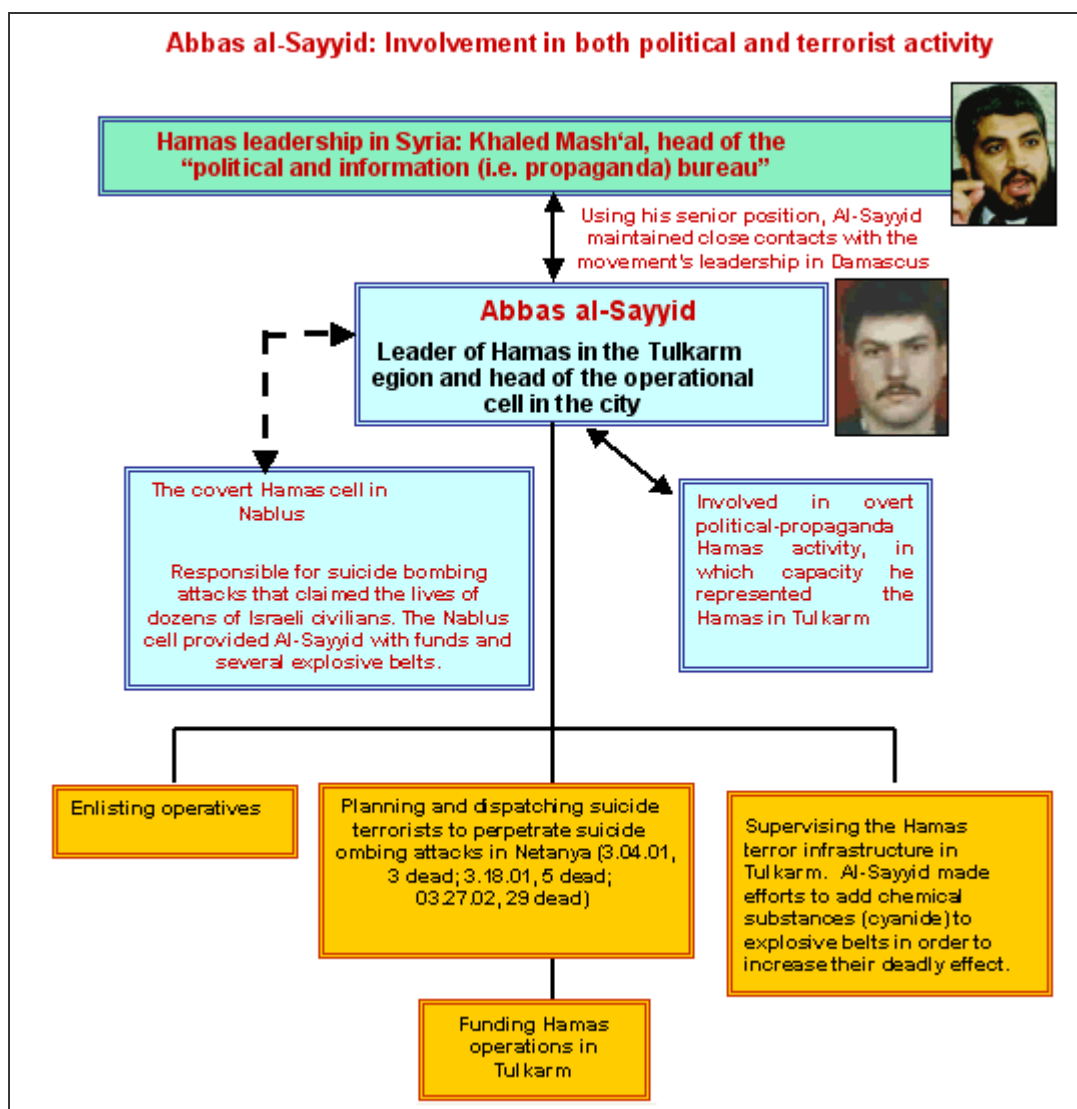
- During his studies at the **university**, Al-Sayyid joined the Hamas movement. The universities, where the movement conducts intensive activities, serve Hamas as an **important pool for recruitment**. After his return to the Palestinian Authority administered territories, Al-Sayyid became a member of the **Hamas leadership in Tulkarm**.
- In the early 1990s, Al-Sayyid was engaged in **disturbing public order** in Tulkarm, prompting his arrest by Israel (1993). He was released about three years later (1996). Following the outbreak of hostilities in September 2000, Al-Sayyid took part in **overt political-propaganda activity** as a Hamas representative in Tulkarm, **acting at the same time as the leader of a covert operational-terrorist cell** that perpetrated mass murder suicide bombing attacks.
- Following are some **examples of his overt political-propaganda activity**, as expressed in Palestinian mass media:
  - **Abbas al-Sayyid**, a senior Hamas activist, took part in a meeting held in Tulkarm on December 15, 2000. During that meeting he pointed out that the political leadership of Hamas and the operational apparatus are two completely distinct entities. He also declared that Hamas had committed itself to avenging the blood of the Palestinian martyrs at the appropriate time and place. In his speech, he also addressed the issue of national unity and the joining of Hamas to the Palestinian national council. He also expressed Hamas' opposition to the possibility of a secret dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian officials (***Al-Hayat al-Jadidah***, December 16, 2000). Engineer **Abbas al-Sayyid**, "the Hamas senior activist in Tulkarm," commented on the statements made regarding opposition to Arafat and pointed out that they did not represent the position of Hamas (***Al-Quds***, December 16, 2000).
  - On November 2, 2000, the Hamas movement opened a photograph exhibition in the town of Anabta named "The Al-Aqsa Intifada Exhibition". "**The representative of the Hamas movement in the Tulkarm district,**" **Abbas al-Sayyid**, "**stressed the importance of propaganda activity and documentation**, specifically through the use of photographs." (***Al-Ayyam***, Ramallah, December 2, 2001).
  - On May 22, 2001, the Hamas movement organized a ceremony in the Tulkarm municipal park commemorating **Mahmoud Marmash**, who carried out the terror attack in Netanya on May 18, 2001. It was attended by a large crowd and by representatives of the district's official and popular organizations. **Abbas al-Sayyid spoke on that event "on behalf of the Hamas movement in the district."** (***Al-Ayyam***, Ramallah, May 23, 2001) [Note: **Mahmoud Marmash** was a Hamas terrorist who perpetrated the suicide bombing attack at the "**Ha-Sharon**" shopping center, which was coordinated by Abbas al-Sayyid<sup>1</sup>. Al-Sayyid, who coordinated and supervised mass murder terror attacks in Netanya throughout his operational-terrorist activity, represented Hamas in Tulkarm in a public ceremony commemorating a terrorist he himself had dispatched!].  
<sup>1</sup> According to the charges filed against Abbas al-Sayyid, he recruited Mahmoud Marmash with the intention of perpetrating a suicide bombing attack at the "Ha-Sharon" shopping center that would inflict heavy civilian casualties.
- The Islamic faction at the Tulkarm branch of "al-Quds" open university organized a memorial procession commemorating Amer Mansouri al-Khadri, killed by the IDF [ **Note:** the aforementioned was a Hamas terrorist who took part in a bus shooting in the settlement of Einav (April 2001) and was involved in coordinating suicide activity with Al-Sayyid]. Abd al-Aziz Rantisi, a leading Hamas activist, spoke at the ceremony via telephone, stressing the importance of choosing the path of Jihad and resistance and making it clear that the escalation of the Intifada would carry on. Then "**Hamas representative in Tulkarm, Abbas al-Sayyid,**" reviewed the accomplishments of the martyr al-Khadri and made it clear that Hamas was committed to avenge the blood of all (Palestinian) martyrs (***Al-Hayat al-Jadidah***, September 20, 2001).
- Alongside his overt activity since the outbreak of violence in September 2000, **Al-Sayyid acted as the head of a covert operative cell in Tulkarm** that perpetrated murderous terror attacks in Israel proper. Abbas al-Sayyid initiated, organized, planned and executed these terror attacks, which left dozens of **Israeli civilians dead and hundreds wounded**.
- Abbas al-Sayyid was responsible for or involved in three devastating terror attacks designed to inflict massive casualties **among civilians** :

- **A suicide bombing attack on Herzl Street in Netanya** perpetrated by a suicide terrorist. This terror attack claimed the lives of 3 people and wounded 56 (March 4, 2001).
- **A suicide bombing attack at the “Ha-Sharon” shopping center in Netanya.** 5 people were killed and 86 were wounded as a result (May 18, 2001).
- **A suicide bombing attack at the Park hotel in Netanya.** 29 people were killed and 155 were wounded as a result (March 27, 2002).
- **Besides his operational-terrorist and political-propaganda <sup>2</sup> activities, Abbas al-Sayyid conducted a variety of other activities: he funded Hamas activity in Tulkarm,** including procurement of arms and raw materials for arms production; he **enlisted operatives** and supervised an extensive terror infrastructure in Tulkarm; he organized protest rallies and mourning processions; he provided legal assistance to Hamas detainees through his aide, Muhannad Shrim: this included payment of legal fees to lawyers who represented these detainees and monitoring the detainees' statements.

<sup>2</sup> Abbas al-Sayyid's nephew, Tareq Zaydan, a pharmacologist by profession, delivered him a vial of cyanide to increase casualties in the Park hotel suicide bombing attack. He claimed, in his defense, that Abbas was not known as a terror operative. This claim was unsubstantiated, for Abbas was engaged in covert terror activity. However, at the same time, he continued playing his political-propaganda role thus being identified as a political activist.

- To sum up: Abbas al-Sayyid's extensive activity **clearly demonstrates that there can be no distinction between the operational-terrorist activity and the political, propaganda, organizational and financial activity of Hamas senior political activists or operatives.** For Al-Sayyid served as a senior activist and operative in both the operational field and the civilian-political infrastructure of the Hamas movement in the West Bank, and the Tulkarm region in particular. In this respect, he kept close ties with both political and operational senior cadres within Hamas and even with **Hamas headquarters in Damascus** . At the same time, he was involved in planning terror attacks designed to cause mass murder among civilians. It should be noted that these patterns of activity, combining both the political and operational fields, are similar to **activities of senior Hamas activists and operatives in other cities** (for example, Abu al-Hija', leader of Hamas in Jenin, and Abd al-Khaleq Natsheh, a senior Hamas figure in Ramallah, all of whom **responsible for the deaths** of dozens of Israeli civilians).





## The Park hotel suicide bombing attack in stages

### Planning a mass-murder suicide bombing attack (second half of 2001, beginning of 2002)

- Preparations for the murderous suicide bombing attack at the Park hotel began **halfway through 2001**. At the time, Abbas al-Sayyid started planning a spectacular suicide bombing attack **devised to cause many deaths among Israeli civilians**. The attack was to be perpetrated by two suicide terrorists carrying explosive belts on their bodies.
- In July 2001, Abbas al-Sayyid decided to carry out the intended suicide bombing attack in August. Preparations for the suicide bombing attack included the following:
  - **Abbas al-Sayyid** approached medium-echelon Hamas operatives in Tulkarm (Abbas Khudeiri; Muhannad Shrim; Fawaz Badran) and initiated them into his plans.
  - **Amer Khudeiri** (of Tulkarm), a Hamas operative in Tulkarm, was asked by Al-Sayyid **to deliver explosive belts from Nablus** (where the Hamas arms production infrastructure is located).
  - **Khudeiri and Shahrouri** , two medium-echelon operatives, recruited two **suicide terrorists** for Al-Sayyid: Nidal Qalaq and Abd al-Basset Oudeh. Nidal Qalaq was asked to write a **will** and was granted a sum of money for expenses until dispatched to the suicide bombing attack.
  - In August 2001, Amer Khudeiri was killed and further impediments to the preparations arose, resulting in the action being delayed. Abbas al-Sayyid found refuge in various hiding places but continued to maintain contact with Hamas operatives in order to carry out his plan.

- Toward the end of 2001, Abbas resumed the preparations for the terror attack. This included:
  - The delivery of **two explosive belts** from Nablus to Tulkarm. The belts were delivered to **the new Tulkarm mosque and hidden in the women's restroom**. The explosive belts were delivered from the mosque to a specially hired apartment (often, Hamas controls **mosques** in the Palestinian Authority administered territories and uses them for operational needs).
  - A **driver** familiar with Israel's territory was located (Fathi Khatib of Tulkarm) and provided with a counterfeit ID card registered on the name of a Taibeh resident. He was granted NIS 16,000 to acquire an Israeli vehicle ("Renault Express" model).
  - Technical preparations were made to **record** the two suicide terrorists on a video tape to be circulated after the suicide bombing attack for propaganda purposes. To this end, a **video camera** was rented from a photography supplies store in Tulkarm.

#### Final preparations for the suicide bombing attack (night of March 26-27)

- **On March 26, 2002**, Abbas al-Sayyid, initiator and coordinator of the suicide bombing attack, met Mu'ammarr Shahrouri, a middle-echelon operative, in an apartment in Tulkarm where final preparations were made. A video camera recorder, a Hamas flag, an M-16 rifle (for the tapes and the poster) and two explosive belts were delivered to the apartment. Shahrouri informed Al-Sayyid that Abd al-Basset was **ready** to carry out the suicide bombing attack, but Nidal Qalaq was ill. It was decided then and there that the suicide bombing attack would be carried out by a **single suicide terrorist**.
- During the night of March 26-27, **Abbas al-Sayyid wrote Abd al-Basset Oudeh's will** (it is worth mentioning that the will, presented on the video tape that was broadcast on television as Oudeh's, was **not** written by Oudeh himself). Afterwards, Al-Sayyid recorded Oudeh reading it.



**Abd al-Basset Oudeh**, perpetrator of the Park hotel suicide bombing attack, is reading his will. The footage was shown on **Hezbollah's Al-Manar Television** a day after the suicide bombing attack (Al-Manar Television provides Hamas with "information services"). The will read by Oudeh was written by **Abbas al-Sayyid**, his handler, and the entire ceremony was staged by Al-Sayyid and his assistants the night before the Park hotel suicide bombing attack.

- Abbas al-Sayyid decided that Oudeh should be dressed in women's clothing in order to conceal the explosive belt. After reading the will, Oudeh shaved his beard and mustache, wore a blue jeans and women's shoes. In addition, he wore a long-haired toupée.
- Abbas al-Sayyid equipped Oudeh with an **explosive belt** that contained approximately **20 lbs of explosives**. It consisted of a vest with pockets containing the explosive material, metal pellets (6.03 mm and 4.7 mm in diameter) and pieces of

shredded metal (50 mm length and 6 mm across). A plan to incorporate cyanide was not implemented. Al-Sayyid showed Oudeh how to detonate the belt using a switch. He also provided Fathi Khatib with a previously-unused cellular phone so that he could be kept up-to-date on the implementation of the suicide bombing attack.



Metal pellets and metal pieces added to the explosives to increase casualties

- On morning of March 27, day of the suicide bombing attack, driver Fathi Khatib was brought to the apartment. Al-Sayyid decided that should the two be captured in Israel, Oudeh would detonate the explosive belt even at the cost of Fathi Khatib's life. In the course of preparations for this scenario, Fathi Khatib was photographed as well in order to release his photograph should he be killed during the implementation.

#### **Plans to incorporate cyanide to increase the explosion's deadly effect**

- In the course of the preparations for the Park hotel suicide bombing attack, Abbas al-Sayyid asked his nephew, Tareq Ghanem Ahmed Zaydan, to assist in preparing a **chemical substance** which would contribute to inflicting mass casualties.
- Tareq Zaydan, who was tried in Israel and sentenced to 6 years in prison, had studied Pharmacology in Jordan and was recruited by Hamas in 1997. In 1997, he was asked by Hamas to conduct a research on incorporating chemical substances and gases in terror attacks. Zaydan conducted a research concerning **nerve gas** and **chlorine gas** , in the course of which he procured 10 lbs of **cyanide** poison. He delivered his findings and the cyanide poison to Hamas in summer of 1997 and even received a letter from Hamas **abroad** detailing the use of cyanide poison and increasing its effectiveness.
- In February 2002, Abbas al-Sayyid asked Zaydan to deliver a **vial of cyanide** held in his possession to be used in a massive terror attack. Zaydan delivered the poison and the possibility of its use was considered in the course of preparations for the Park hotel suicide bombing attack; however, ultimately it was not utilized. After the suicide bombing attack, Abbas informed his nephew that **he intended to incorporate the cyanide in a suicide bombing he was planning to carry out within a short period of time.**

### The implementation of the Park hotel suicide bombing Attack

- On March 27, Passover Eve, around 14:00, suicide terrorist Oudeh and driver Fathi Khatib left the apartment in Tulkarm and drove to the village of Nazlat 'Isa. In Nazlat 'Isa the two switched to a vehicle prepared in advance and drove toward **Herzliya** to find an appropriate target ( **no specific target was stipulated** and it was left to their own consideration to find a target where heavy civilian casualties could be inflicted).



- Upon failing to find an appropriate target in **Herzliya** (that is, a location where heavy casualties could be inflicted), they headed to Tel-Aviv, but no appropriate target was found there either. On their way, Oudeh told Fathi Khatib that he was familiar with **Netanya** and the two headed off in that direction. Once in Netanya, they headed west and got off the vehicle next to the Park hotel. The “appropriate” place, crowded with people celebrating the Seder, was thus found.
- Around 19:30, Oudeh entered the Park hotel dining hall and detonated the explosive belt. Upon hearing the blast and seeing ambulances rush toward the hotel, Fathi Khatib called Muhannad Taher, a Hamas superior in Nablus, and informed him of the successful suicide bombing attack. Taher called Abbas al-Sayyid and reported that the **suicide bombing attack was a success**.



The outcome of “success”: destruction and devastation in the Park hotel dining hall after the dead and the wounded were evacuated.

### Actions after the suicide bombing attack

- Fathi Khatib drove to the village of Nazlat 'Isa, parked the vehicle, returned to his home and reported to Abbas al-Sayyid that he had returned unharmed.
- The **video tape** on which Oudeh had been filmed was delivered to Ali Khudeiri in **Nablus** for distribution to the media.
- After the suicide bombing attack, Muhannad Shrim, Abbas al-Sayyid's aide, organized a procession commemorating Abd al-Basset Oudeh. Using loudspeakers mounted on a vehicle, he called out to Tulkarm residents to join. A three-day-long

mourning period commenced at Oudeh's family house, during the course of which an attendant hired by Muhannad Shrim served coffee to those who came to offer their condolences.

### Further intentions

- After the Park hotel suicide bombing, **Abbas al-Sayyid planned to carry out two additional mass murder terror attacks.**
- In this framework, plans were made to use the remaining terrorist **Nidal Qalaq** and the remaining explosive belt. As noted earlier, it was intended to incorporate the **cyanide** that had not been incorporated in the Park hotel suicide bombing.
- These terror attacks were **foiled in Operation Defensive Shield**, during which the figures involved were killed or captured.

### Connection with Hamas leadership in Damascus

- **Syria** currently serves as the center stage for Hamas' political, propaganda and operational activity. Hamas seniors (in particular, members of the “**political bureau**”, presided over by **Khaled Mash'al** ) reside in Syria and coordinate Hamas activity in the Palestinian Authority administered territories.
- **Abbas al-Sayyid**, who initiated and coordinated the Park hotel mass murder and stood behind numerous other terror attacks, **admitted in his interrogation** that he had maintained telephone contact with the Hamas headquarters in **Damascus**. He stated that he had maintained contact with **Khaled Mash'al**, leader of the Hamas political bureau, **consulted him on political issues** and informed him of terror attacks perpetrated by Hamas. Furthermore, he held political discussions with **Osama Hamdan**, Hamas representative in Lebanon.

- However, his relation with the headquarters in Damascus was not limited to political discussions alone. Al-Sayyid stated that he **had used to contact** Hamas headquarters in Syria whenever he needed **funds**. He pointed out that he had been granted between **\$10,000-13,000** per month towards funding Hamas activity. The sum was deposited in his and his wife's joint bank account in Tulkarm.

- It is worth mentioning that the **financial leverage** serves the terror leadership “outside” [i.e., code for the territory **excluding** the Palestinian Authority administered territories and Israel proper] as an important means to control the situation “within” and to encourage terror activity in the Palestinian Authority administered territories. Evidence to the importance of this leverage to all organizations was uncovered during Operation Defensive Shield and came up during interrogations by Israeli security services. Hamas operatives in the Palestinian Authority administered territories receive financial backing from the organization's headquarters in Damascus to finance their operational activity; furthermore, funds collected through charity organizations are funneled from Syria and Lebanon to find their way to the military-operational arm of Hamas.
- Despite repeated appeals by the Americans, Syria continues to allow **Hamas** and other terror organizations to pursue political and operational activities within its borders, including coordinating terror activities in the Palestinian Authority administered territories. Syria's traditional claim that these are nothing but “political and information offices” **lacks any substantiation whatsoever.**