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**Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center
at the Center for Special Studies (C.S.S)**

On June 11, the Israeli security forces thwarted abduction and killing attempts planned by Jamal Abu Samhadana, the leader of the Popular Resistance Committees, who was killed in an Israeli Air Force strike¹

The two terrorists dispatched by Jamal Abu Samhadana to Israel



Muhammad Ali Omar Assar, born in 1986, from the Nuseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. He was supposed to perpetrate a killing attack by firing and throwing grenades.



Ibrahim Jamal Muhammad Majdoub, born in 1984, from the Gaza City neighborhood of Sheikh Radwan. He was supposed to abduct and murder IDF soldiers.

¹ According to a report by the Israel Security Agency.

Overview

✿ A joint operation carried out on June 11 by the Israel Security Agency and the IDF led to the arrest of two terrorists belonging to the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) during an attempt to infiltrate into Israel through Egypt. In their interrogation, the two admitted that they had been dispatched to Israel by Jamal Abu Samhadana, the PRC leader who was killed by the Israeli Air Force on the night of June 8-9, to abduct and kill Israelis.

Major issues that came up in the interrogation of the two terrorists

✿ In his interrogation by the Israel Security Agency, Ibrahim Majdoub admitted that he had attempted to infiltrate Muhammad Assar into Israel for perpetrating a killing attack. At the same time, he had attempted to abduct Israelis in order to gain “bargaining chips” for the release of Palestinian prisoners. The terrorist attacks were planned by Jamal Abu Samhadana, the former head of the PRC.

✿ In a meeting they held in late May 2006, Abu Samhadana provided Majdoub with instructions with regard to the abduction:

✓ The purpose of the terrorist attack was to **abduct and murder soldiers in the vicinity of Tel-Aviv**, where Majdoub had been formerly employed. Other PRC operatives from the Gaza Strip were supposed to assist in the perpetration of the terrorist attack; they were to join him in Israel several days following his arrival.

✓ The terrorists planned to bury the abducted soldiers in citrus orchards surrounding the city of Rishon Letzion. The city was chosen as the burial site since one of the organization’s operatives, who was supposed to assist in the abduction and murder, had formerly resided and illegally worked there and was therefore familiar with the area.

✓ After the terrorist attack, the terrorists were supposed to fax the soldiers' documents to Abu Samhadana in order to claim responsibility and negotiate the release of prisoners.

✿ In addition to the abduction, Abu Samhadana directed Majdoub to assist in bringing **Muhammad Assar** to Israeli territory. The arms for the perpetration of the two terrorist attacks, the killing and the abduction, were to be delivered to Ibrahim Majdoub and Muhammad Assar by the organization's operatives in Judea and Samaria.

✿ In his interrogation, **Muhammad Assar** admitted that in early June 2006, he had met with Abu Samhadana, who had instructed him as follows:

✓ He was to infiltrate into Israel with the purpose of perpetrating a killing attack by **firing and throwing grenades**, for which purpose he had undergone training in firearms and grenades (his instructor was killed in an IDF strike on the outpost where they were training).

✓ After the infiltration, other PRC operatives from Judea and Samaria were supposed to join him. They were to provide him with a rifle and ammunition and lead him to the site of the terrorist attack.

✓ During his meeting with Abu Samhadana, he was filmed reading his will and claiming responsibility for the terrorist attack on behalf of the PRC.

✿ Muhammad Assar and Ibrahim Majdoub each crossed into Egypt through the Rafah crossing. On June 11, both were detained by the Israeli security forces as they were crossing the border from Egypt to Israel.



Jamal Abu Samhadana, the head of the PRC, who instructed the two terrorists dispatched to abduct and kill Israelis (photo: www.moqawmh.com, the PRC website)

Summary

✿ Even in the course of the lull in the fighting, the PRC did not cease perpetrating severe terrorist attacks against Israel. These attacks included dispatching suicide bombers, firing rockets on Israel, and setting explosive charges. On numerous occasions, the organization's activity was **funded and guided by Hamas**, with the PRC serving as Hamas's covert operative wing. Thus, Hamas kept itself away from the forefront of terrorism and operated behind the scenes.

✿ In addition to the abduction attempt thwarted by the Israeli security forces with the arrest of Ibrahim Majdoub, the organization has been involved in **two additional abductions: the first** is the abduction of IDF soldier Gilad Shalit, perpetrated in collaboration with Hamas and the Army of Islam during an attack on an IDF force near Kerem Shalom; this incident has yet to be resolved. **The second** is the abduction and murder of Eliyahu Asheri by a Fatah Tanzim squad from Ramallah, guided by the PRC from the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, the squad members have been arrested by the Israeli security forces.