



News of Terrorism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (December 27, 2017 – January 2, 2018)

Overview

- ▶ After a short respite, rocket and mortar shell fire from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory was renewed. A rocket hit was identified in an open area near one of the communities in the western Negev. Three mortar shells were also fired at a ceremony held in a community near the Gaza Strip to mark the birthday of fallen IDF soldier Oron Shaul, whose body is held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip. One of the mortar shells damaged a building in one of the villages. In response Israeli Air Force aircraft attacked two Hamas posts in the northern Gaza Strip.
- ▶ This past week demonstrations and riots continued in Judea, Samaria, east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip to protest the declaration made by Donald Trump that the United States recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. However, the slight decrease in the number of participants that began the previous week continued this past week as well.

[Click for video](#)

- ▶ This past week it was reported that in November a terrorist squad, handled by a Hamas operative in the Gaza Strip, was exposed. The squad had been planning to carry out attacks in Judea and Samaria. It was another example of the efforts (so far unsuccessful) made by Hamas to orchestrate showcase terrorist attacks in Judea and Samaria, and of the success of the Israeli security forces in foiling them.

Terrorist attacks and attempted terrorist attacks

- ▶ **January 1, 2018 – In the region of Beit A'innon, north of Kiryat Arba**, a Palestinian terrorist armed with two knives ran towards Israeli security forces to carry out a stabbing attack. The forces neutralized him. No casualties were reported (IDF spokesperson, January 1, 2018).

► **December 28, 2017** – Israeli security forces detained a suspect who went to **the military court in Samaria, near Kafr Salem**. He was found to be in possession of a pipe bomb. The suspect, 16 years old, lived in the Jenin refugee camp. He went to the security checkpoint at the court and aroused the suspicions of the guards. The metal detector at the entrance indicated he had a metallic object on his person. He was searched and a pipe bomb was found. He was taken for interrogation (Israel Police Force spokesperson's unit, December 28, 2017). It was the second time in recent weeks that a Palestinian tried to enter the military courthouse with a pipe bomb. (There was a similar occurrence on December 7, 2017.)

► **December 27, 2017** – The Israeli security forces detained a Palestinian woman **at the Qalandia crossing**. She was 18 years old and lived in the village of Qatana (northwest of Jerusalem). She was planning to carry out a terrorist attack. She tried to enter Israeli territory but was prevented by the Israeli security forces. She later tried to enter again through the Qalandia crossing with the entrance permit of her seven year-old sister. She was again prevented from entering by the Israeli security forces and detained. During interrogation she confessed she was planning to carry out a terrorist attack in the Jerusalem region (Israel Police Force spokesperson's unit, December 27, 2017).

Additional information about the stabbing attack in Jerusalem

► On December 10, 2017, a stabbing attack was carried out at the central bus station in Jerusalem, in which a security guard was critically wounded. The terrorist suspected of the attack was **Yassin Abu al-Qara'a**, 37, from the al-Fara' refugee camp near Nablus. He entered Jerusalem using a permit issued for agricultural purposes. During interrogation he said he had planned and carried out the attack alone. According to his interrogation, he had been **influenced by incitement on the social networks** following the American recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The interrogation also revealed that before the attack he wrote a "will" whose contents included a quote about shaheeds found in PA school textbooks (Israel Security Agency information, December 28, 2017).¹

¹ For further information about the shaheed culture and its influence on terrorist attacks, see the January 2, 2018 bulletin, "**Schoolbooks of the Palestinian Authority (PA): The Attitude to the Jews, to Israel and to Peace.**"

Detention of terrorist squad planning attacks in Judea and Samaria

► During November 2017, five Palestinians were detained in Judea and Samaria by the Israeli security forces. **The Palestinians were operatives in a terrorist squad planning to carry out terrorist attacks.** Interrogation revealed that **the squad was handled by Abdallah 'Arar, a Hamas operative who was involved in the abduction of Sasson Nuriel.**² 'Arar was expelled to the Gaza Strip as part of the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange deal and returned to terrorist activities.

► It is suspected that **Abdallah 'Arar instructed Alaa' Salim**, from Jaba (north of Jerusalem) to form a terrorist squad and acquire an M16 assault rifle for the attack. He also gave him money. Alaa' Salim approached Riyan Tawam, also from Jaba, for help in acquiring a rifle, and gave him thousands of shekels. He approached Shahadeh Tawam and asked him for help in recruiting operatives. He also tried to recruit **Mahmoud Abu 'Arqoub, a Hamas operative from A-Ram**, to the squad (Israel Security Agency information, January 1, 2018).

Riots, clashes and popular terrorism

► This past week riots and demonstrations continued in Judea, Samaria, east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in the wake of Donald Trump's declaration that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. However, **there have been fewer participants.** In Judea, Samaria and east Jerusalem events were held at a number of locations, peaking on Friday after the prayer. **Only a few thousand demonstrators participated.** Several dozen Palestinians were injured in clashes with the Israeli security forces.

² On September 21, 2005, in a factory in Mishor Adumim where Palestinians and Israelis worked, two Hamas operatives, **Abdallah 'Arar and Ali Qadi**, tempted Sasson Nuriel to ride with them to A-Ram (north of Jerusalem) to buy a coffee machine. During the ride they pointed a gun at him and drove to Ramallah. He was taken to a house where he was photographed by his abductors and forced to state he had been abducted by Hamas and his release depended on the release of Palestinian prisoners. His abductors, who were afraid they would be discovered by the Israeli security forces if they kept him alive, drove him to the garbage dump in Bituniya, where Sayid Shaldah stabbed him to death. They buried his body there.



March in Bethlehem held to protest the Trump declaration. Marchers carry an American flag with a picture of Trump covered by a swastika and the inscriptions, "Zionism = Nazism = fascism" and "USA = ISIS =Terror" (Wafa, December 29, 2017).

► **On Friday several thousand Palestinians demonstrated in the Gaza Strip at about twenty locations along the border.** They threw stones and Molotov cocktails and burned tires. The IDF responded with riot dispersal measures. **Ashraf al-Qidra, spokesman for the ministry of health in the Gaza Strip,** claimed about 50 Palestinians had been injured (Facebook page of Ashraf al-Qidra, December 29, 2017). In a previous riot held on the border with Israel east of the al-Bureij refugee camp, **Jamal Muhammad Muslah** was wounded in the chest and died on December 30, 2017. He was apparently a Fatah operative (Facebook page of QudsN, December 30, 2017).



Burning the American and Israeli flags and a picture of Donald Trump at a rally in Gaza (Twitter account of Palinfo, December 31, 2017).



**Gazans riot near the border security fence in the eastern Gaza Strip
(Facebook page of Shehab, December 29, 2017).**



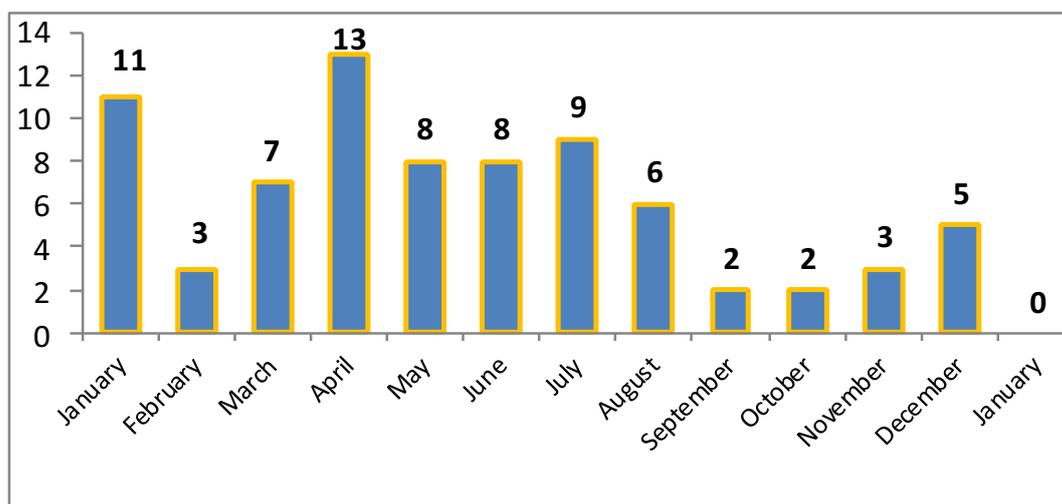
**Cartoon mocking Mahmoud Abbas' activity to counter the Trump declaration.
The Arabic reads "Non-violent resistance to the Trump declaration"
(Felesteen, December 29, 2017).**

► In the meantime Palestinians continued throwing stones and Molotov cocktails at Israeli security forces and civilian targets. The Israeli security forces carried out counterterrorism and preventive activities throughout Judea and Samaria, detaining Palestinians suspected of terrorist activity and seizing weapons. The more prominent events were the following:

- ◆ **December 30, 2017** – Stones were thrown at the Israeli security forces operating in **Issawiya (east Jerusalem)**. A Border Policeman sustained minor injuries and was evacuated to a hospital (Facebook page of Red Alert, December 30, 2017).
- ◆ **December 30, 2017** – A pipe bomb was thrown at Israeli security forces in **al-Bireh (near Ramallah)**. No casualties were reported (Facebook page of Red Alert, December 30, 2017).
- ◆ **December 29, 2017** – Two Palestinians who threw stones at Israeli security forces in **al-Arub (Gush Etzion)** were wounded by Israeli security force fire (Facebook page of Red Alert, December 29, 2017).

- ◆ **December 29, 2017** – A pipe bomb was thrown at Israeli security forces near the village of **Yaabed (northwestern Samaria)**. No casualties were reported (Facebook page of Red Alert, December 29, 2017).
- ◆ **December 28, 2017** – Stones were thrown at Israeli security forces near **Nabi Saleh**. An IDF soldier incurred minor injuries (Facebook page of Red Alert, December 28, 2017).

Significant terrorist attacks during the past year ³



Israel's South

Rocket Fire Attacking Israel

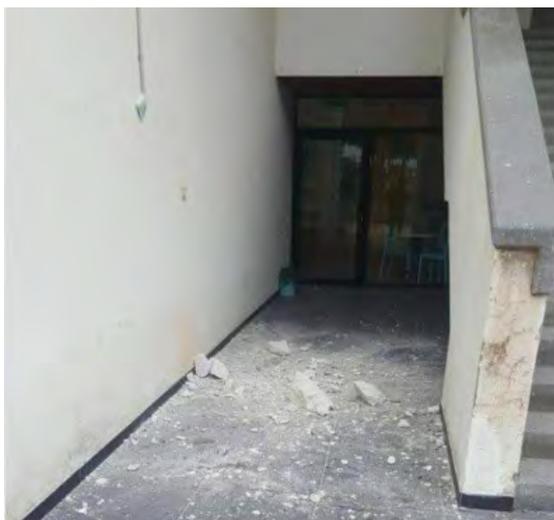
► **On January 1, 2018, an explosion was heard in one of the communities in the western Negev.** Police who arrived on the scene found **the remains of a rocket that had fallen in an open area near the community.** No casualties or damage was reported. In response Israeli Air Force aircraft attacked a Hamas military facility in the southern Gaza Strip. The Palestinian media reported that a post of Hamas' naval force west of Khan Yunis had been attacked (al-Quds TV, January 2, 2018).

³ A significant attack is defined by the ITIC as involving shooting, stabbing, a vehicular attack, the use of IEDs, or a combination of the above. Stones and Molotov cocktails thrown by Palestinians are not included.



**Remains of the rocket fired into the western Negev
(Twitter account of Palinfo, January 1, 2018).**

- ▶ **On December 29, 2017, three mortar shells were fired into Israeli territory.** The barrage was fired at a ceremony of civilians who had gathered in one of the communities near the border to mark the birthday of fallen IDF soldier Oron Shaul, whose body is held by Hamas. Two mortar shells were intercepted by the Iron Dome aerial defense system. **Another mortar shell fell in a community in the western Negev and caused damage to a building.**

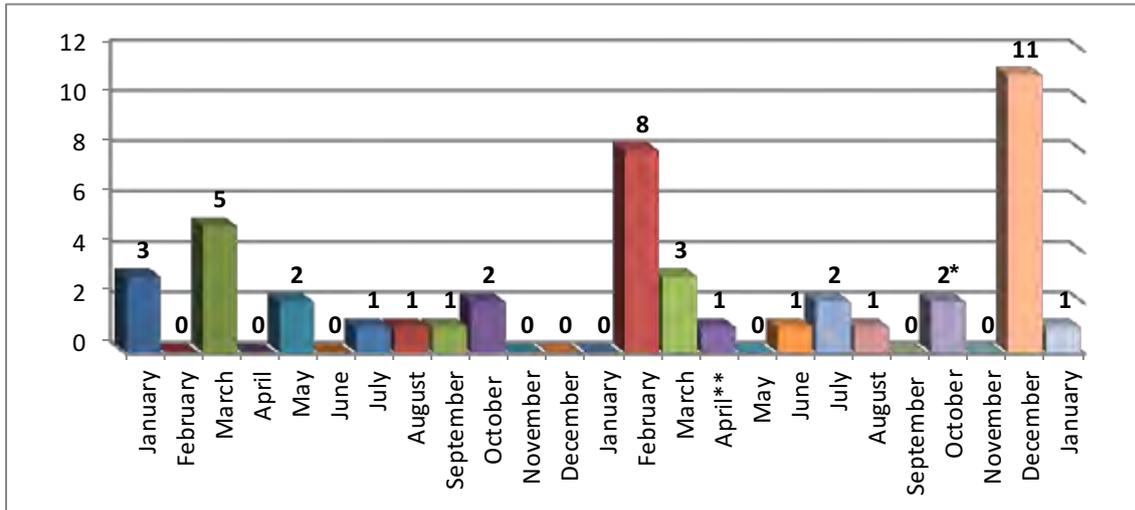


Right: Israeli civilians lie on the ground after mortar shell fire during an event to mark the birthday of fallen Israeli soldier Oron Shaul (YouTube, December 29 2017). Left: Damage to a building from a mortar shell fire (Twitter account of Palinfo, December 29, 2017).

- ▶ In response to the rocket fire Israeli Air Force aircraft attacked two Hamas posts in the northern Gaza Strip (IDF spokesperson, December 29, 2017). According to the Palestinians, the "restraint force" post in the Sajaiya neighborhood was attacked and no casualties were

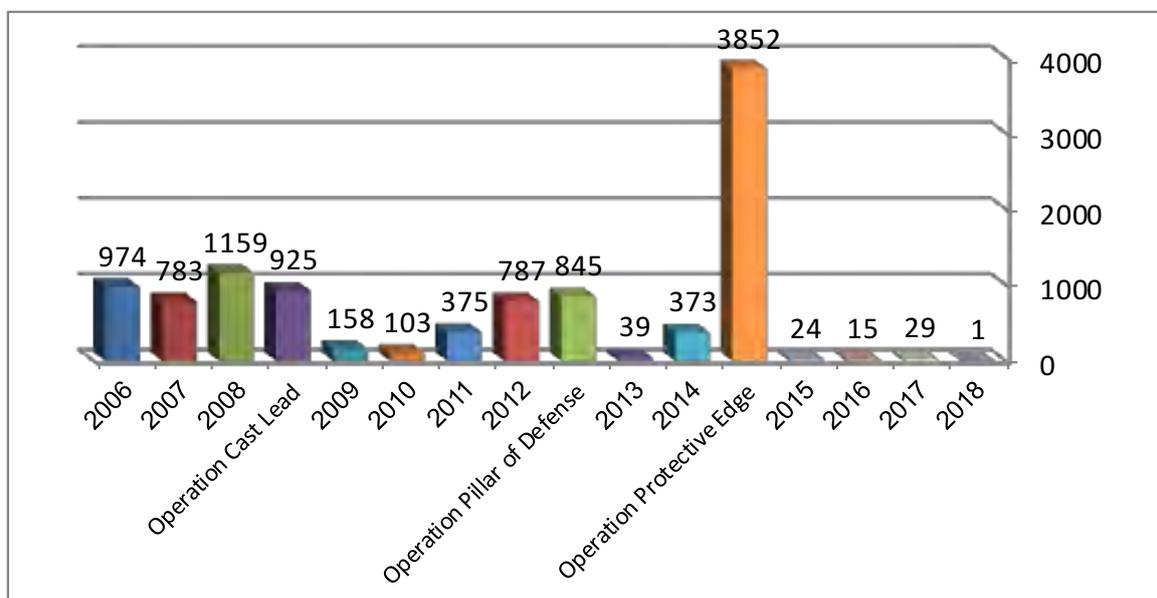
reported (Twitter account of Palinfo, December 29, 2017). On December 30, 2017, Israeli Air Force aircraft attacked a Hamas observation post in the southern Gaza Strip (IDF spokesperson, December 30, 2017). The Palestinian media reported that an observation post in the eastern part of Rafah had been attacked (Twitter account of Ajel from Palestine, December 30, 2017).

Monthly Distribution of Rocket Hits in Israel since January 2016



Six of the rockets fired in February 2017 were launched from the Sinai Peninsula at Israeli territory, apparently by ISIS's Sinai Province. In April a rocket was launched from the Sinai Peninsula by ISIS's Sinai Province. In October 2017 two rockets were fired from the northern Sinai Peninsula by ISIS's Sinai Province. They fell in an open area in the western Negev.

Annual Distribution of Rocket Hits⁴



⁴ The statistics do not include mortar shell fire or rockets which misfired and fell inside the Gaza Strip.

The Internal Palestinian Reconciliation

Transferring authority to the Palestinian national consensus government

► **The internal Palestinian reconciliation remains stalled. Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum** blamed Mahmoud Abbas, chairman of the Palestinian Authority (PA), and the national consensus government for the situation. He said that following the faulty functioning of the national consensus government and the sanctions it had imposed on the Gaza Strip, the situation on the ground was on the brink of collapse (Hamas website, December 27, 2017). **Fayez Abu 'Itta, deputy secretary of Fatah's Revolutionary Council**, claimed Fatah would continue to pursue the reconciliation despite the difficulties, and that there was no reason to cancel the agreements signed during the talks in Cairo (Palestinian TV, December 30, 2018).

► Palestinian sources reported that **Yahya al-Sinwar, head of the Hamas' political bureau in the Gaza Strip, had agreed with Azzam al-Ahmed, a member of Fatah's Central Committee**, to a joint meeting of **Mahmoud Abbas**, PA chairman, and **Isma'il Haniyeh**, head of Hamas' political bureau, to promote the reconciliation (al-Hayat, December 29, 2017). Azzam al-Ahmed, who holds the "reconciliation portfolio" in Fatah, confirmed that Hamas had in fact asked for the meeting and said it would be held soon (almayadeen.net and palsawa, December 29, 2017).

► **The Egyptians are making efforts with the PA and Hamas to rescue and restart the reconciliation process.** To that end the leadership of Egyptian General Intelligence contacted senior Hamas figures, Mahmoud Abbas and Azzam al-Ahmed. According to senior figures in Egyptian General Intelligence, they are planning to continue investing efforts to resolve the conflicts between Hamas and Fatah (al-Sharq al-Awsat, December 26, 2017). A Fatah delegation headed by Azzam al-Ahmed went to Egypt. The members of the delegation deliberated with senior Egyptian security figures, focusing on the difficulties delaying the reconciliation's implementation. A Hamas delegation is also supposed to arrive in Cairo (al-Hayat, December 27, 2017).

► **Isma'il Haniyeh, head of Hamas' political bureau**, revealed that a few days ago he had spoken on the phone with senior Egyptian General Intelligence operatives and discussed the reconciliation. Haniyeh said Egypt had to intervene to remove the obstacles preventing the

reconciliation. He also said that any option other than reconciliation would have negative consequences, unwanted by Hamas (Paltoday, December 26, 20187).

► According to **Rami Hamdallah, prime minister of national consensus government**, the obstacles in the path of the reconciliation are, among other things, the issues of transferring authority in the Gaza Strip to the national consensus government, collecting taxes and allowing government ministers to fully function. He said that Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian leadership had decided that the reconciliation process had to continue (Dunia al-Watan, January 1, 2018).



Cartoon predicting the future of the internal Palestinian reconciliation, 2018
(Twitter account of Palinfo, December 31, 2017).

Developments in the Gaza Strip

The humanitarian situation

► After a number of days during which the Rafah crossing was open, it was again closed to pedestrian traffic. On December 28, 2017, the Egyptian side of the crossing opened for the passage of Egyptian tanker trucks. According to the crossing directorate, ten trucks passed through (Majal Press, December 28, 2017). The directorate of the Rafah crossing reported that on December 30, 2017, six fuel trucks entered the Gaza Strip from Egypt (Emad, December 30, 2017).

► A summary written by **Jamal al-Khudari, chairman of the so-called "Popular Committee against the Siege" and a Hamas-faction member of the Palestinian Legislative Council,** about the situation in the Gaza Strip in 2017, called it the worst year in the Gaza Strip in humanitarian and economic terms. He claimed 80% of Gazans live below the poverty level, unemployment reached 50%, and for young people and university graduates, it

reached 60% (a quarter of a million unemployed workers). He added that 40% of the houses destroyed in Operation Protective Edge had not yet been rebuilt, and thousands of families lived in rented apartments unsuited to their needs. He claimed 80% of the factories in the Gaza Strip were either completely or partially closed, and the direct and indirect damages of the past two years were estimated at \$250 million (Facebook page of Jamal al-Khudari, December 20, 2017)

► On December 30, 2017, store owners in the Khan Yunis district held a general strike to protest the economic situation. They said they were striking to send **the message that the situation was unprecedented and unbearable**. They also said the salary crisis in the public sector had led to a decline of customers in the local markets (Safa, December 30, 2017).



Stores closed in Khan Yunis (al-Ra'i, December 30, 2017).

Rally for the release of prisoners

► While the family of fallen IDF soldier Oron Shaul was marking his birthday (and the gathering was attacked with mortar shell fire), relatives of terrorists in Israeli prisons held a rally in the eastern Gaza Strip near the place where Oron Shaul was killed. Signs in Hebrew were waved calling for the release of the prisoners in return for his body. A sign provided by Hamas' military wing had a picture of the head of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, under which was written in Hebrew, "Your soldiers are still in the Gaza Strip" (Palinfo, December 29, 2017).



Rally of relatives of Palestinian prisoners held at the same time as the event held by the family of fallen IDF soldier Oron Shaul (Twitter account of Palinfo, December 29, 2017).

Other rallies

► Rallies and demonstrations were held throughout the Gaza Strip in the wake of Donald Trump's declaration. They were exploited by senior figures of Hamas and the other terrorist organizations to condemn Israel and the United States and in favor of the "resistance:"

- ◆ **Senior Hamas figure Musheir al-Masri** said Jerusalem would always be the spark that ignited an intifada. He claimed the Palestinians were the owners **of all the lands of Palestine from the [Mediterranean] Sea to the [Jordan] River and that the Palestinian people had an exclusive right to Jerusalem.** He said Hamas would invest efforts to liberate Jerusalem from the [so-called Israeli] "occupation" (al-Aqsa TV, December 29, 2017).

- ◆ **Mahmoud al-Zahar, a member of Hamas' political bureau**, interviewed by a Turkish TV channel, said that the Oslo Accords had been signed 24 years ago and that so far they had brought only destruction. Therefore, he said, **a "death certificate" had to be signed for the Oslo Accords** because they contributed nothing to achieving the objectives of the Palestinians. He said the Palestinians needed to rely on an armed popular resistance, which was the correct way for the Palestinian people to defend itself (Channel 9, Turkey, December 28, 2017).

- ◆ **Usama Hamdan, in charge of Hamas' public relations**, gave a speech in Sidon, Lebanon. **He praised the shaheeds and said children had to be brought up in the spirit of the heroic shaheeds.** He said Jerusalem would continue to be the core of the struggle against Israel and that the only way to restore it was with jihad and "resistance" [i.e., terrorism], because any other means was an illusion. Regarding

Trump's declaration, he said the American president had made the move in order to destroy the Palestinian cause. He accused the president of the United States for turning a regional conflict into a religious, sectarian and ethnic conflict (al-Quds, December 30, 2017).

◆ According to **senior PIJ figure Khaled al-Batash**, the only way to respond to Trump's declaration was **to continue the Jerusalem intifada and to confront the "Zionist occupier"** until the United States retracted the declaration. He said the Palestinians would continue along the path of jihad until Jerusalem was restored. He called on the PA to retract its recognition of Israel, to leave the political process and restore internal Palestinian peace (al-Mayadeen, December 29, 2017).

Hamas-Iran relations

► Recently senior Hamas figures have often spoken about the relations between Hamas and Iran, and about **the military support Iran provides to Hamas**. This past week **Saleh al-Arouri, deputy head of Hamas political bureau**, spoke about Hamas-Iran relations in an interview with al-Quds TV. He said Hamas' political relations with Iran had been damaged by the [so-called] Arab Spring, but even at the height of their disagreements **Iranian military support had not been suspended**. He claimed that despite the severing of diplomatic relations, Iran continued as the main provider of support for the "resistance." Al-Arouri said the ties to Iran were based on the fact that Iran is the only country saying that Israel is a "Satanic entity" that has to be cut out of the Middle East, and is the only country willing to publicly provide material support for the Palestinian resistance. He added that **he meant military support**. He said Iranian support was **not symbolic, but genuine, central, and vital to the existence of the "resistance" and the continuation of its activity** (al-Quds YouTube channel and the Hamas Movement website, December 30; Sama, December 31, 2017).



Saleh al-Arouri, deputy head of Hamas' political bureau, during an interview (al-Quds YouTube satellite channel, date, 2018).

► The Iranian TV channel al-Ayam reported that the Instagram account of Qassem Soleimani, commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC)'s Qods Force, **had uploaded a video of Palestinian children from Gaza. They were standing near the Israeli border waving Palestinian flags and pictures of Qassem Soleimani, thanking him and Iran for their support.** The children say they are proud of him and love him (al-Alam TV, December 27, 2017).



Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip thank Qassem Soleimani and Iran (al-Alam TV, December 27, 2017).

The Palestinian Authority (PA)

Palestinian activity in the international arena

► Given the protest activities against Trump's declaration, the PA has **intensified its activity in the international arena.** According to **Fayez Abu 'Itta, deputy secretary of Fatah's Revolutionary Council,** all options are open to the Palestinian leadership, "**from throwing stones to launching missiles.**" However, he said, the leadership was in favor of working on two levels: the political level and the "resistance" level [i.e., terrorism]. He said

the Oslo Accords were meaningless and irrelevant, and that a declaration cancelling them would not change anything (Palestinian TV, December 30, 2017).

► **The PA's political and international activities are the following:**

◆ **Riyadh al-Maliki, the Palestinian foreign minister**, announced that **Mahmoud Abbas had decided to sign 22 international agreements** making the PA a member of international organizations, and that the government regarded that as the key means for ending the occupation and achieving Palestinian rights. He called on the international community to take responsibility for the Israeli occupation by implementing UN resolutions and the decisions of legitimate international institutions (Dunia al-Watan, December 28, 2017). He also summoned **Husam Zomlot, the PA representative in the United States**, to Ramallah for consultations (Safa, December 31, 2017).

◆ **Jamal Nizal, Fatah spokesman in Europe**, called on the countries of the Arab-Muslim world **to sever relations with the countries that recognized Jerusalem** as the capital of Israel, or those who relocate their embassies to Jerusalem. He said every country that relocated its embassy to Jerusalem harmed the standing of the Palestinians and would pay a high price (al-Quds, December 26, 2017).

◆ **Issa Qaraqe, chairman of the PA Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs**, demanded that Arab and international parliaments ostracize **the ministers of the Israeli government** and adopt a policy of boycotting Israel in every sphere. He said Arab countries in whose capitals American embassies are located should take a firm stand against the American administration (Safa, December 27, 2017).

Upcoming meeting of the PLO's Executive Council

► On December 31, 2017, **Salim Zaanoun, chairman of the Palestinian National Council**, announced that a meeting of the PLO's Central Council would be held on January 14 and 15, 2018, and its theme would be "Jerusalem is the exclusive capital of Palestine." He said the meeting, which he called very important, would be held in the shadow of the struggle the Palestinian people. He said that in the coming days all the members of the council would receive invitations, and **that included representatives of Hamas and the PIJ** (Wafa, December 23, 2017).

► **Senior PIJ figure Khader Habib** said they had not yet formulated a position regarding participation in the Central Council meeting. He said the organization's leadership would

discuss the matter and make a final decision (Ma'an, January 1, 2018). According to **Azzam al-Ahmed, a member of Fatah's Central Committee**, despite the fact that Hamas expressed its willingness to attend the meeting, it had not yet confirmed its participation (al-Mayadeen, December 28, 2017).

Reactions to Likud vote to annex Judea and Samaria

► On December 31, 2017, members of the Likud Central Committee voted in favor of instituting Israeli law over Judea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley. The decision led many PA figures to react, claiming it violated UN resolutions and ended the peace process.

► **The main reactions were the following:**

- ◆ **Mahmoud Abbas** condemned the decision, claiming it was part of a new Israeli government strategy to end Palestinian presence and deprive the Palestinians of their rights. He said Israel would not have made such a decision without the support of the United States. He demanded the international community intervene immediately (Wafa, January 1, 2018).
- ◆ **The Fatah movement** said in an announcement that the vote of the Likud members publicly disgraced UN and Security Council resolutions, and was a provocation that could not be passed over in silence. He said by issuing the decision Israel had unilaterally destroyed what remained of the peace process (Wafa, December 31, 2018).
- ◆ **Saeb Erekat, secretary of the PLO's Executive Committee**, said the decision was part of an American-Israeli plan which Trump had begun by declaring Jerusalem as the capital of Israel (Palestinian TV, January 1, 2018).

The 53rd anniversary of Fatah's founding

► **January 1, 2018, was the 53rd anniversary of the founding of the Fatah movement.** To mark the day Fatah declared 2018 the "**year of confrontation and defense of the holy places.**" In honor of the day there were torch-light parades and rallies in city centers. The main rally was held in Ramallah in the al-Shuhadaa square, where Mahmoud Abbas gave a speech. He began by saying he hoped 2018 would be the year of liberation. He said that despite the fact that the revolution had led to the deaths of tens of thousands of Palestinians and to the wounding of hundreds of thousands, the revolution still existed and would continue until the Palestinian people succeeded in establishing an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. He emphasized Jerusalem was the eternal capital of the state of

Palestine, and praised the stance of the Palestinian people and the struggle to establish the state of Palestine (Palestinian TV, December 31, 2018).

► To mark the 53rd anniversary of Fatah's founding, Fatah's official Facebook page posted **notices glorifying Fatah female suicide bombers and those who carried out killing attacks**. The pictures were of **Dalal al-Mughrabi**, who carried out the attack on a bus in 1978 on Israel's Coastal Road in which 35 Israelis were killed, 12 of them children; **Zaynab Abu Salem**, who carried out an attack on French Hill in Jerusalem on September 22, 2004, killing two Israelis; **Andalib al-Taqatqa**, who carried out a suicide bombing attack in the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem on apr 12, 2002, killing six Israelis; and **Wafa Idriss**, who carried out a suicide bombing attack on Jaffa Road in Jerusalem on January 27, 2002, killing one Israeli.



Notices posted to Fatah's official Facebook page for the 53rd anniversary of the organization's founding. They glorify Fatah female suicide bombers and those who carried out killing attacks (official Fatah Facebook page, December 30, 2017).

The northern front

► **Hezbollah held a demonstration along the Israeli-Lebanese border near the Fatima Gate**. Its slogan was "Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Palestine," in condemnation of

Trump's declaration. Several town and village mayors from south Lebanon participated. The marchers waved Lebanese, Hezbollah and Palestinian flags and shouted anti-American slogans. The Lebanese army and UNIFIL increased the number of their forces in the area. During the demonstration a speech was given by **Hassan Izz al-Din, in charge of Hezbollah's foreign relations**. He sent his blessing to everyone who stood against the "Zionist enemy" and for the shaheeds of the intifada. He called Jerusalem the "eternal capital of Palestine" (Lebanese News Agency, December 29, 2017).



Hezbollah operatives march near the Israeli border in solidarity with Jerusalem (al-Manar TV, December 29, 2017).