



As part of the Hamas summer camps, children and youths undergo military and paramilitary training at the military wing's outposts and facilities

8 August, 2018

Overview

As part of the summer camps for children and youth that are held annually, this year Hamas also organized **summer camps at facilities and outposts of the Hamas military wing throughout the Gaza Strip**. The camps opened on August 6, 2018, and are called **Pioneers of the Liberation**. The camps are held in two sessions (morning and evening). **The instructors are military operatives, members of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades**, and the participants are children and youths, some of them in uniform, mainly the older ones.



Display put on by youths attending a summer camp before a delegation of senior Hamas figures who visited the Khan Yunis Province (Facebook page of the Khan Yunis Province Summer Camp Committee, August 7, 2018)

► Photos **documenting the summer camps in the Khan Yunis area** have been posted on the website of the Hamas Central Committee for Summer Camps. **The summer camp activities are being held near several outposts** that are mentioned on the website (including the Al-Qadisiyyah, Yarmouk and Al-Shuhadaa' outposts). Most of the activity is **devoted to basic military training**. The youths are trained by **instructors wearing uniforms bearing the insignia and badges of Hamas's Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades**. In addition to summer camps held in Hamas facilities, summer camps are held in schools throughout the Gaza Strip. Most of them are organized by Hamas **on a wider scale (tens of thousands of participants)**. The summer camps in schools are also devoted primarily to

military training and ideological indoctrination by Hamas.¹ Training during these summer camps is a supplement to the military training, both theoretical and practical, undergone by high school students **during the school year.**²

► Hamas and other terrorist organizations **attach great importance to shaping the consciousness of and providing military training to the children and youth growing in the Gaza Strip, from preschool age to graduation from university.** From Hamas's perspective, this is intended **to create a new generation of operatives, which will be integrated into the movement's political, military and governmental activities and will guarantee its long-term rule over the Gaza Strip.**

► Hamas inculcates radical ideology among the new generation: **hatred of Israel, the "liberation" of all of Palestine through a military struggle, the values of radical Islam according to the Muslim Brotherhood, and the return of the Palestinian refugees to "Ashdod, Yavne, Jaffa, Acre, Lod, Ramla and all the villages in Palestine"** (from a speech by Fathi Hamad, former interior minister of the Hamas de-facto administration, at the opening ceremony of training camps held at high schools, Al-Rai; Filastin Al-'Aan, January 7, 2014). For a list of publications of the ITIC on the military and ideological training of the younger generation in the Gaza Strip, **see Appendix.**

Examples of activity at the summer camps

► Following are examples of the activities of the summer camps **at the various facilities of the military wing,** as documented on the Facebook page of the Hamas Central Committee for Summer Camps, August 6, 2018.

Drill practice

► Uniformed children doing drill practice at the evening session in the Al-Qadisiyyah outpost in the Khan Yunis Province.

¹See the ITIC's Information Bulletin from July 18, 2018: "Hamas announced the opening of summer camps for children and adolescents in the Gaza Strip. This year summer camps are inspired by the "return marches," and include military training as they do every year."

² See the ITIC's Information Bulletin from January 16, 2014: "Military Training as Part of the School Curriculum: The Al-Futuwwa Program in the Gaza Strip Schools Provides Military Training for Students. Its Objective is to Raise a New Generation of Military-Terrorist Operatives for the De-Facto Hamas Administration."



Theoretical classes and exercises

► Theoretical class **in the Al-Qadisiyah outpost** in the Khan Yunis Province. A uniformed military wing operative is visible on the right. **Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades** appears on his **name tag**. The **insignia of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades** appears on the arm of the instructor on the left. The instructors' faces are not shown in the picture.



Tests of courage: passing through fire exercise

- ▶ A passing through fire exercise was held on the first day of the evening camp at the Hamas military wing's **Yarmouk outpost** in the Khan Yunis Province.



Theoretical lessons in operating weapons

- ▶ A theoretical lesson in the classroom and classes on operating weapons; documentation from the first day of the evening camp at the **Yarmouk outpost** in the Khan Yunis Province.



Climbing walls

- ▶ Children and youths practice **climbing up and down walls** (from documentation of activities on the second day of the Pioneers of Liberation camps in the Khan Yunis Province).



Visit by the Hamas leadership in the Khan Yunis Province and a display by the trainees

► A visit by senior Hamas figures **in the Khan Yunis Province** took place on the second day of the camp's operation (August 7, 2018). The visitors were headed by Palestinian Legislative Council member **Yahya Moussa** and Khan Yunis Province Summer Camp Committee Chairman **Imad Aslim**. **The youths apparently put on a display for the visitors.** During the visit, photos of **shaheeds (who had been operatives of the military wing and residents of Khan Yunis)** were put up, as part of the culture of glorifying shaheeds that is instilled in children and youths (Facebook page of the Khan Yunis Province Summer Camp Committee, August 7, 2018).



Appendix

A selection of the ITIC's publications dealing with ideological indoctrination and military training of children and youths in the Gaza Strip

(The titles of the publications are presented by year, in ascending order from

2007

	Title	Date	Link
1.	Inculcating kindergarten children with radical Islamic ideology and the culture of anti-Israel terrorism	06.06.07	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/pdf/PDF_07_113_2.pdf
2.	The Hate Industry: children and adolescents in the Gaza Strip kiss the corpses of terrorist-operative martyrs (shaheeds). It is part of the indoctrination to hate Israel and of the shaheed cult popular in Palestinian Authority-administered territories.	23.12.07	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/pdf/PDF_07_290_2.pdf

2009

	Title	Date	Link
3.	<p> Hamas summer camps in the Gaza Strip integrate social activities with political and Islamic indoctrination and semimilitary training. The camps' goal is to foster the next generation of Hamas terrorist operatives.</p>	16.08.09	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/pdf/PDF_09_229_2.pdf
4.	<p> The battle for hearts and minds in the Gaza Strip: Hamas attacks UNRWA for planning to teach the Holocaust in its schools. The attack reflects Hamas' ambition for absolute control over education in the Gaza Strip and to inculcate students with its radical Islamic ideology, including hatred and terrorism</p>	06.09.09	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/pdf/PDF_09_247_2.pdf

	against Israel.		
5.	<p>Hamas recently broadcast a children's TV show which specifically called for the slaughter of the Jews. Hamas thus continues brainwashing the children of the Gaza Strip with hatred and the use of violence against Israel and the Jewish people, contradicting the moderate image it tries to market to the West.</p>	08.10.09	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/pdf/PDF_09_268_2.pdf

2010

	Title	Date	Link
6.	<p>Educating the younger generation in the Gaza Strip: summer camps organized by UNRWA in "competition" with Hamas, are a target for threats and assaults. Armed men recently torched an UNRWA</p>	26.05.10	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/pdf/PDF_10_123_2.pdf

	summer camp. Hamas condemned the event but minimized its importance, advising UNRWA to change its ways.		
7.	This year Hamas' summer camps in the Gaza Strip again combined political Islamic indoctrination and paramilitary training with social activities. Conspicuous were manifestations of solidarity with Turkey over the Mavi Marmara. UNRWA summer camps, considered competition by Hamas, were again attacked by Islamist extremists.	14.09.10	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/pdf/PDF_10_251_2.pdf

2011

	Title	Date	Link
8.	The battle for the character of education in the Gaza Strip: Hamas and the PIJ repeatedly demand that UNRWA not teach about the Holocaust in its schools, claiming that it is a “fabricated, twisted history” that “poisons” the minds of young Palestinians and thus serves Israel’s interests.	14.03.11	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/pdf/PDF_11_057_2.pdf
9.	This year’s summer camps in the Gaza Strip were once again used by Hamas and its military wing to combine social activity with Islamic and political indoctrination and paramilitary training. UNRWA summer camps, which offer activities of a different nature, were	07.08.11	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/pdf/PDF_11_168_2.pdf

	again criticized by Hamas and some of them were harassed.		
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2012

	Title	Date	Link
10.	The Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip Continues Inculcating Kindergarten Children with Support for Terrorism and Hatred of Israel	13.06.12	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_20346/E_124_12_629348792.pdf
11.	Hamas and UN agencies (UNDP and UNESCO) participated in two inaugurations in the Gaza Strip: a school named for senior terrorist operative Adnan al-Ghoul (involved in deadly terrorist attacks in Israel) and a space sciences chair at the Islamic University in Gaza City, a Hamas stronghold.	12.07.12	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_20368/E_150_12_1731804429.pdf

12.	This year Hamas and the other terrorist organizations operating in the Gaza Strip again exploited summer camps to integrate camping activities with political Islamic brainwashing and paramilitary training.	31.07.12	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_20373/E_159_12_1860145188.pdf
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2013

	Title	Date	Link
13.	Education for terrorism: Hamas increases its military and propaganda activities among Gazan youth to raise a younger generation able to continue its anti-Israeli path of terrorism and ensure Hamas control of the Gaza Strip.	04.02.13	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_20471/E_019_13_1080719228.pdf
14.	Hamas has introduced a program in Gaza Strip schools called Al-	24.04.13	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_20511/E_069_13_65283962.pdf

	<p>Futuwwa, which provides military training for tens of thousands of adolescent boys. Its objective is to raise a new generation of Hamas operatives and supporters, and to ensure Hamas' future control of the Gaza Strip.</p>		
15.	<p>This Year as Well Summer Camps Open in the Gaza Strip, Run Mostly by the Terrorist Organizations. The Curriculum Includes Social Activities, Radical Islamist Indoctrination and Semi-Military Training</p>	13.06.13	<p>https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_20528/E_092_13_840291554.pdf</p>

2014

	Title	Date	Link
16.	Military Training as Part of the School Curriculum: The Al-Futuwwa Program in the Gaza Strip Schools Provides Military Training for Students. Its Objective Is to Raise a New Generation of Military-Terrorist Operatives for the De-Facto Hamas Administration	16.01.14	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_20612/E_012_14_1142742680.pdf
17.	This year, as in years past, summer camps in the Gaza Strip were exploited by Hamas for radical Islamic ideological indoctrination and semi-military training	22.07.14	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_20664/E_095_14_1133172862.pdf

2016

	Title	Date	Link
18.	Recent Video Shows Palestinian School Children Subjected to Anti-Israel Indoctrination	30.03.16	https://www.terrorism- info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_20983/E _066_16_305801187.pdf
19.	Inculcating Hatred and Violence for Israel in the Palestinian Educational System: The Rudolf Walther School in Deir al-Balah, as a Case Study	05.04.16	https://www.terrorism- info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_20985/E _069-16_536484539.pdf
20.	Indoctrinating Palestinian Children with Hatred and Violence towards Israel: Kindergarten and elementary school children in the Gaza Strip wear uniforms and present displays of releasing a prisoner and attacking IDF soldiers with knives.	22.04.16	https://www.terrorism- info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_20997/E _080_16_1749675127.pdf
21.	Indoctrinating Gazan Children with Hatred and the Use of Violence	10.05.16	https://www.terrorism- info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_21002/E _089_16_501118280.pdf

	against Israel		
22.	Kindergarten party held by a PIJ-affiliated NGO once again demonstrates the indoctrination of Gazan children with violence and hatred for Israel.	02.06.16	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_21015/E_101_16_1808792445.pdf
23.	Geography and Politics During the visit of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to an UNRWA school in the Gaza Strip, a wall map of "Palestine" which ignored the existence of the State of Israel was temporarily hidden.	07.07.16	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_21032/E_123_16_415217514.pdf

2017

	Title	Date	Link
24.	<p> Hamas Strongly Attacks UNRWA for Its Intention to Introduce Changes in the Curriculum of Its Elementary Schools</p>	02.04.17	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_21187/E_073_17_270916526.pdf
25.	<p> Hamas and the Palestinian Authority's ministry of education undermine UNRWA's intention to slightly moderate the curriculum used in its schools. The dispute between them raised the problem of Palestinian textbooks, which are infused with hostility towards Israel</p>	16.05.17	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_21204/E_098_17_2091068177.pdf
26.	<p> Incitement to Terrorism and Hatred Brainwashing Children with Anti-Israel Hatred and Violence at a Gaza Strip Kindergarten Run by a Charity Association Affiliated</p>	08.06.17	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_21218/E_114_17_1401986398.pdf

	with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad		
27.	Hamas Summer Camps Continue Training the Younger Gazan Generation for the Armed Struggle against Israel	10.08.17	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/app/uploads/2017/08/E_16_1_17.pdf
28.	Educating for hatred and violence against Israel in a performance held in a kindergarten sponsored by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)	31.12.17	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/app/uploads/2017/12/E_26_1_17.pdf

2018

	Title	Date	Link
29.	Hamas announced the opening of summer camps for children and adolescents in the Gaza Strip. This year summer camps are inspired by the "return marches," and include military training as they do every year	18.07.18	https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/app/uploads/2018/07/E_18_2_18.pdf