



Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad continue to use Facebook and Instagram for the dissemination of incitement messages

May 9, 2022

Overview

- ▶ The events of the month of Ramadan and the series of terrorist attacks perpetrated in Israel since mid-March 2022 have once again brought to mind the **use made by Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) of social media as platforms to convey incitement messages and calls for carrying out terrorist attacks**. Social media is popular mostly among the younger generation and is used by youths as the main means of consuming news (including fake news). It is likely that social media also influences the extent of their radicalization and willingness to take part in violent activity and in carrying out attacks.
- ▶ **To deliver their messages of incitement, Hamas and the PIJ** make use of platforms such as Twitter, TikTok, WhatsApp, Telegram, and YouTube. These platforms are neither supervised nor subject to a consistent policy of removing content and blocking pages and accounts inciting terrorism and violence.
- ▶ However, alongside these types of social media, **Hamas also succeeds in conveying its messages of incitement through Meta's platforms (Facebook and Instagram)**, which are subject to supervision and the removal of inciting content. The Hamas leadership uses these platforms to disseminate **incitement messages** serving its line of information and propaganda. In some cases, it uses alternative platforms, replacing those that have been removed due to inappropriate content. All this is carried out in spite of the supervision and efforts to remove inciting content.
- ▶ It should be pointed out that compared to the content on unsupervised platforms, it is evident that Hamas activists operating those networks are well aware of the need to disguise their incitement content on Facebook and Instagram in order not to expose themselves to the risk of being shut down. They are doing that by disseminating the information under the guise of “journalist coverage” and “live broadcasts.” In addition, they sometimes stress that what they are quoting is information from Israeli sources. However, their messages are edited in a biased and tendentious way, intended to serve Hamas's narrative.

► The following are examples identified by May 8, 2022, as content **posted on Facebook and Instagram** by Hamas and the PIJ.

Appendix

Examples of the use of social media made by Hamas to convey incitement messages

Paltimesps.ps – news agency affiliated with Hamas

► Link to the content:

https://www.instagram.com/p/CcLnu6usl_s/

► Link to the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/paltimes2015>



Broadcast (May 8, 2022) praising the perpetrators of the attack in the city of Elad

► Link to the content:

<https://fb.watch/cTOSUDUgdX/>



Illustration taking pride in the attack in Ariel (April 29, 2022), under the caption “Point blank”

► Link to the content:

► <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=4907525562708091>



A video entitled “By Allah, we shall beat them soon, Allah willing,” showing Fathi Hazem, the father of terrorist Raad Hazem, calling for carrying out additional acts of terrorism

Palinfo.com – news agency known to be used by the Hamas propaganda network

► Link to the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/palinfoar>

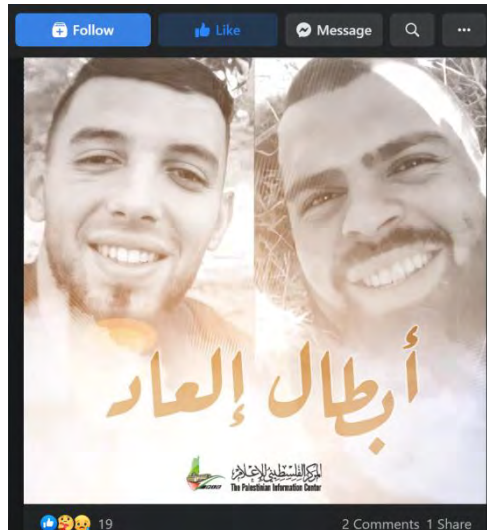
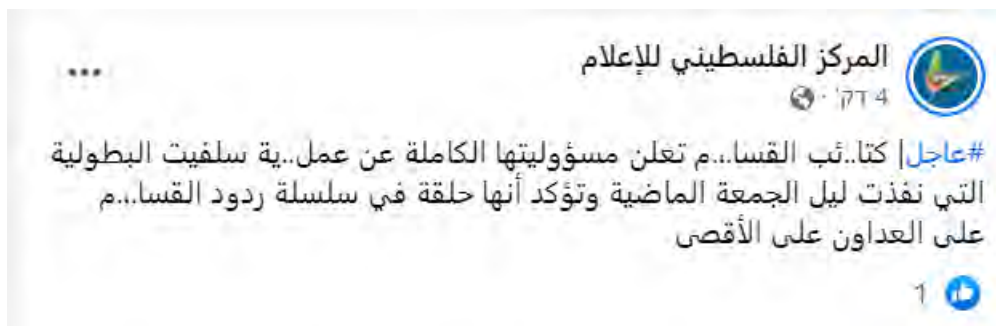


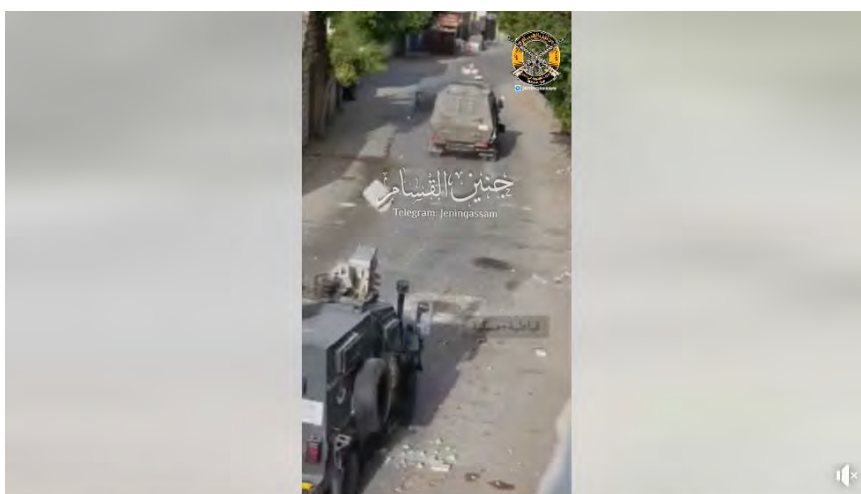
Illustration praising the perpetrators of the attack in the city of Elad, posted on May 8, 2022



May 2, 2022: Official claim of responsibility by Hamas's military wing for the attack in Ariel (April 29, 2022)

► Link to the content:

► <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=484717696775215>



مصادر محلية: "لحظة انسحاب قوات الاحتلال من بلدة مسلية جنوب جنين صباح اليوم"

Video on behalf of Hamas's military wing in Jenin documenting throwing rocks at Israeli forces

► Link to the Instagram account:

► <https://www.instagram.com/paltimesnet/>



Picture of armed operatives of the military wing's Jenin Battalion with an announcement on raising the alert level among the fighters

Felesteen.news – a Hamas daily newspaper issued in the Gaza Strip

Link to the Instagram account:

<https://www.instagram.com/pl24online/>

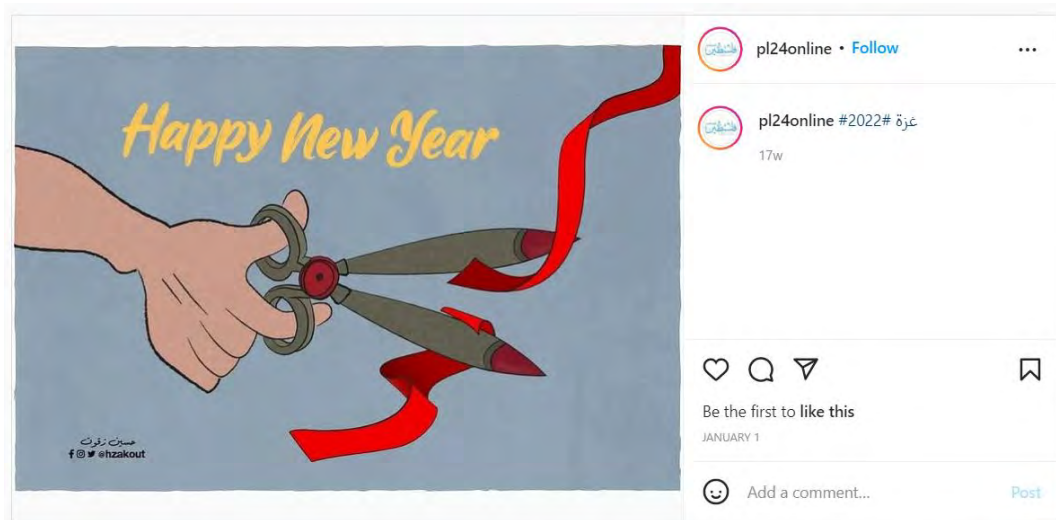


Illustration expressing joy for the launch of two rockets from Gaza at the Tel Aviv region on New Year's Eve (January 1, 2022)

► Link to the content:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CcfN93vNa3b/>

► Link to the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/24palonline>



Illustration praising Ismail Haniya’s statement following the terrorist attack in Bnei Brak (March 29, 2022): “The attack has once again drawn the map of the homeland on the occasion of the Land Day; Our people and the nation’s freemen are proud of it; The heroic shaheed Dhia Hamarsha (the perpetrator of the attack) has hurt the entire enemy entity.” At the same time, this message includes a condemnation of Mahmoud Abbas’s denouncement of the attack and his statement that the continuation of violence hinders peace.

► Link to the content:

<https://www.facebook.com/24palonline/photos/695247245242307/>

Shehabnews.com – news agency and main platform operated by Hamas on social media

Link to the Instagram account:

<https://www.instagram.com/shehabagency>



Video praising the perpetrators of the attack in the city of Elad, posted on May 8, 2022

Link to the content:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CdTHysFqnyg/>



Illustration praising Raad Hazem, the perpetrator of the attack in Tel Aviv (April 7, 2022)

Link to the content:

<https://www.facebook.com/Shehab.MainPage/photos/pcb.5445252448853114/5445171928861166/>



Live broadcast (April 29, 2022) of cries of incitement in the Al-Aqsa Mosque praising Hamas's military wing Izz al-Din al-Qassam along with the saying, "May Allah turn me into a Shaheed"

Link to the content:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1413783972400202&ref=sharing>

Seraj.tv – Hamas’s Al-Aqsa channel broadcasting from the Gaza Strip

Link to the Instagram account:

<https://www.instagram.com/seraj.sat1>



Praise for the perpetrators of the attack in Elad (broadcast on May 8, 2022) under the title: “The perpetrators of the Elad action achieved a great victory over the enemy”

Link to the content:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CdTjgZnqEfK/>

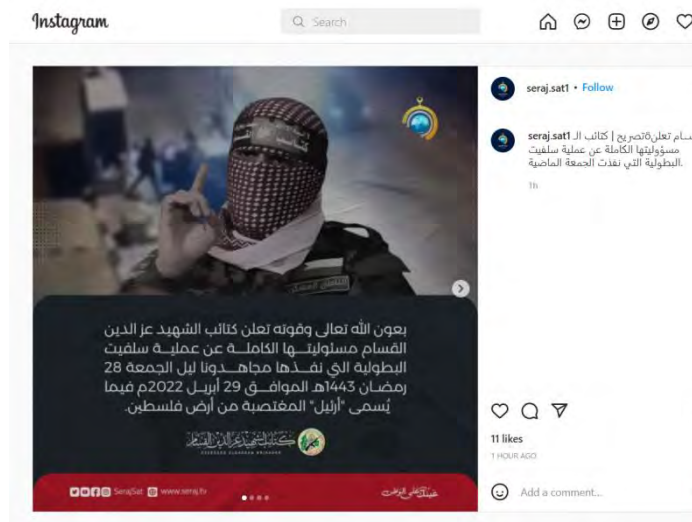


Illustration taking pride in the claim of responsibility (May 2, 2022) by Hamas’s military wing for the attack in Ariel (April 29, 2022)

Link to the content:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CdEMy63Kjlv/>



The title after the attack in Tel Aviv (April 7, 2022) reads, “Dizengoff Street – the street of the heroic actions”

Link to the content:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CcF5tITq9Kj/>



Giving publicity to Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar’s threat to fire 1,111 rockets at Israel on the anniversary of Yasser Arafat’s death, 11.11 (April 30, 2022)

Link to the content:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cc-yh3dql2M/>

Link to the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/serajsat4>



Praise by Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem for the perpetrators of the attack in Elad, on a “heroic action of victory for the Al-Aqsa Mosque” (May 8, 2022)



Giving publicity to Hassan Nasrallah’s statement praising the lone wolf attacks in the Palestinian arena, under the title, “The lone wolf attacks made apparent the weakness of the Zionist occupation” (April 29, 2022)

Link to the content:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=401388005136120>

Alresalah.ps – Hamas weekly issued in the Gaza Strip

Link to the Instagram account:

https://www.instagram.com/alresalah_net

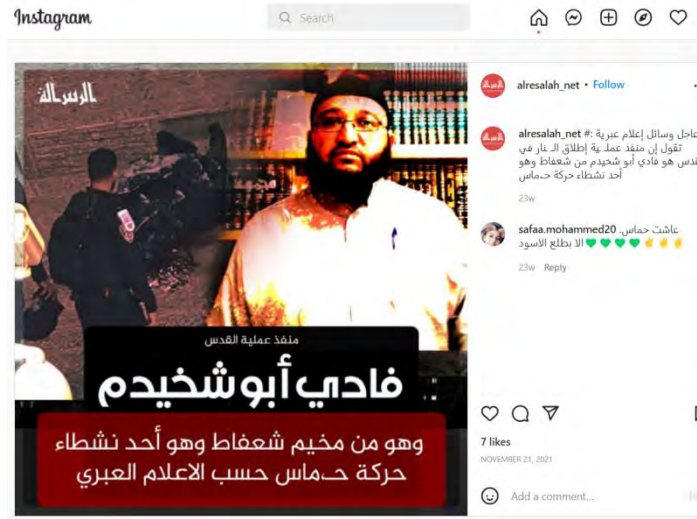


Illustration and users' comments praising Fadi Abu Shkhydam who perpetrated a shooting attack in Jerusalem (November 21, 2021)

Link to the content:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CWiD3LDqz9x/>

Link to the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/alresalahps>



Cartoon showing the series of attacks in Beer Sheba, Hadera and Tel Aviv and speculating where the next attack will take place

Link to the content:

<https://www.facebook.com/alresalahps/photos/141772291719508/>

Radio Sawt Al-Aqsa - the Hamas movement's official radio in the Gaza Strip

Link to the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AAQSAVO>



Broadcast following the attack in the city of Elad (May 5, 2022), including praise for the attack and blatant incitement songs, such as the song “Death to Israel” (at 19:58 in the linked segment)

Link to the content:

<https://www.facebook.com/AAQSAVO/videos/714215509774762>



Live broadcast of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar's speech (April 30, 2022), in which he called for carrying out attacks, including attacks with axes, and threatened to fire rockets at Israel, in the presence of senior military wing operatives

Link to the content:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=1042937456304756

Examples of the use made of social media by the PIJ to convey incitement messages

Radio Sawt al-Quds officially broadcasting on behalf of the PIJ in the Gaza Strip

► Link to the Instagram account:

<https://www.instagram.com/qudsradiofm>



Video praising the perpetrator of the attack in the city of Elad

► Link to the content:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CdTUL5kKgBr/>



Post praising a UAV attack by the PIJ's military wing

► Link to the content:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cc5DW7RKxrc/>

► Link to the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/qudsradio/?ref=bookmarks>



Video praising the perpetrators of the attack in the city of Elad (parallel to the content on Instagram)

► Link to the content:

<https://www.facebook.com/qudsradio/?ref=bookmarks>

The PIJ-affiliated PalToday news agency

► Link to the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/paltodayagency>



Describing the perpetrators of the attack in Elad as those who carried out a “heroic action” (May 8, 2022)