

# MEMO

August 10, 2007

## Hamas Creates Terror 'State' in Gaza

Since Hamas took control of Gaza in June from the Fatah party, the group has continued firing rockets into Israel and smuggling arms while imposing Islamic law. The terrorist organization has also maintained close ties with Iran, and the two have issued statements declaring their desire to see Israel destroyed. The international community and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas should maintain their isolation of Hamas until the terrorist group demonstrates its commitment to ending violence and making peace with Israel.

Hamas is overseeing a massive arms build-up while rocket attacks against Israeli civilians continue.

- Since Hamas' takeover of Gaza in June, it has smuggled some 25 tons of explosives from Egypt into the territory, compared to five tons of explosives in the first five months of 2007.
- Palestinians have fired more than 160 Qassam rockets and 110 mortars from Gaza at neighboring Israeli cities since seizing control of the territory, bringing the total number of rockets fired from Gaza at the Jewish state since 2005 to more than 2,700.
- After it conquered Gaza, Hamas seized large quantities of anti-aircraft missiles, anti-tank rockets and Katyusha rockets from Fatah depots, according to the Israel army. Hamas also now has heavy anti-aircraft machine guns, large quantities of explosives and thousands of guns and RPG rockets.
- Hamas' rockets target Israelis indiscriminately and have even hit Palestinians. In early August, a rocket fired from Gaza into Sderot struck a kindergarten schoolyard, while a rocket aimed at Israel went astray and instead killed two Palestinian children.

### AFTER THE FALL

HAMAS HAS NOT WAVERED FROM ITS RADICAL AGENDA

#### QASSAM ATTACKS CONTINUE UNABATED

Hamas has also attacked border crossings with Israel, preventing vital goods from reaching civilians in need.

#### ISRAELI SOLDIER STILL HELD HOSTAGE

Kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit is still being held.

#### WEAPONS SMUGGLING

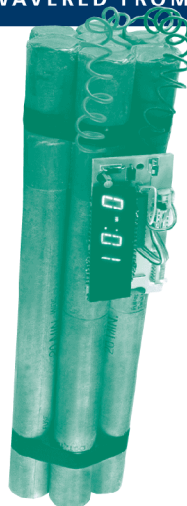
Hamas has imported more than 25 tons of TNT since the takeover.

#### HATEFUL SPEECH

Hamas terror mouse Farfour urged children to kill Jews.

#### CIVIL LIBERTIES CRACKDOWN

Hamas has forced Christians to convert, destroyed churches and restricted newspapers and T.V. broadcasts.



Hamas has inhibited freedom of speech and religion in Gaza and tried to stop Israeli efforts to supply humanitarian aid to the Palestinians.

- Hamas militiamen in late June kidnapped Professor Sana al-Sayegh, dean of the Science and Technology Faculty at Palestine University in Gaza, and reportedly forced her to convert to Islam at gunpoint.
- Hamas forces have detained employees of several Palestinian newspapers and postponed the newspapers' distribution after they published articles that were critical of Hamas.
- Hamas forces arrested Dr. Jomma Saka after he criticized Hamas' takeover over of Gaza for leading to a shortage of supplies at Shifa Hospital.
- Palestinian terrorists on July 10 fired at least 11 mortar shells at the Kerem Shalom border crossing, the key entry point for humanitarian goods being trucked from Israel into Gaza.
- Despite Hamas' destructive behavior, Israel continues to allow thousands of tons of food supplies and other humanitarian aid to be brought in into Gaza from Israel. Since June 19th, more than 50,000 tons of humanitarian aid was transferred from Israel into the Gaza Strip

Hamas continues to maintain close ties with Iran.

- Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal met in July with the leaders of Iran, Syria and Hizballah in Damascus. During the meeting, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vowed "to keep up the support" for Hamas, senior Hamas official Izzat al-Rishq told Reuters.
- Iran continues to provide Hamas with robust financial support. Musheir al-Masri, a Hamas representative in the Palestinian Legislative Council, said on July 7 that Iranian support is "a thousand times preferable to putting our trust in the Americans and Zionists."
- In a June 20 editorial, the daily newspaper *Jumhuri*, a mouthpiece of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khomeini, commended Hamas for its takeover of Gaza and called upon it to carry out "orders to destroy the Zionist regime."
- Hamas continues to send hundreds of terrorists to Iran to receive advanced military training in preparation for a future conflict against Israel.

The international community and the new Palestinian government should continue to isolate Hamas.

- President Bush made clear in his July 16 speech on the Middle East that Palestinians must reject Hamas and take concrete action against terrorism to move forward in peace negotiations with Israel.
- The international community should continue to isolate Hamas until the terrorist groups meets the internationally backed conditions outlined by the Quartet: recognizing Israel's right to exist, renouncing violence and terror and accepting previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements.
- The new Palestinian government under President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad should continue to reject any accommodation with an unreconstructed Hamas that opposes peace with Israel.