

MEMMO

May 8, 2017

New Hamas Document Calls for Israel's Destruction

On May 1, Hamas released a policy document outlining the terrorist group's strategy and outlook. The new document represents a cosmetic amendment that does not revoke or supersede Hamas' original anti-Semitic charter. Unfortunately, it reiterates Hamas' claim to all Israeli territory and does nothing to alter the group's commitment to terrorism and the destruction of Israel. The United States and the international community must continue to isolate and sanction the terrorist group.

Hamas' new document calls for conquering all of Israel.

- Some media reports of the new document inaccurately portray it as Hamas' acceptance of pre-1967 Israel. However, the new document makes clear that "Hamas rejects any alternative to the full and complete liberation of Palestine, from the [Jordan] river to the [Mediterranean] sea." (*Article 20*)
- In fact, the document considers the establishment of a Palestinian state along the 1967 lines as just a first step, stating that "There is no alternative to a fully sovereign Palestinian State on the entire national Palestinian soil, with Jerusalem as its capital" (*Article 27*) and "Not one stone of Jerusalem can be surrendered or relinquished." (*Article 10*)



Hamas' new policy document calls for "the full and complete liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea." (*Photo: AP/Khalil Hamra*).

Hamas' new document calls for violence against Israel.

- "Palestine symbolizes the resistance that shall continue until liberation is accomplished, until the return is fulfilled and until a fully sovereign state is established with Jerusalem as its capital." (*Preamble*)
- "Resisting the occupation with all means and methods is a legitimate right guaranteed by divine laws and by international norms and laws. At the heart of these lies armed resistance..." (*Article 25*)

Hamas' new document refuses to recognize Israel's legitimacy.

- "There shall be no recognition of the legitimacy of the Zionist entity. Whatever has befallen the land of Palestine in terms of occupation, settlement building, Judaization or changes to its features or falsification of facts is illegitimate. Rights never lapse." (*Article 19*)

The new document does not replace Hamas' 1988 charter; it is only a cosmetic amendment. The charter states:

- “For a long time, the enemies [Jews] have been planning... With their money, they took control of the world media, news agencies, the press, publishing houses, broadcasting stations, and others. With their money they stirred revolutions... They were behind the French Revolution, the Communist revolution and most of the revolutions... They were behind World War I... They were behind World War II, through which they... paved the way for the establishment of their state... There is no war going on anywhere, without having their finger in it.” (1988 Hamas Charter, Article 22)
- “Israel, Judaism and Jews challenge Islam and the Moslem people. ‘May the cowards never sleep.’” (1988 Hamas Charter, Article 28)

Hamas continues to prepare and execute attacks against Israel.

- In 2016, Israel foiled 1,226 smuggling attempts into Gaza, which is controlled by Hamas. Many of the confiscated materials were weapons and materiel suitable for attacking Israel.
- Hamas continues to divert materials destined for reconstruction projects in order to rebuild its attack tunnel infrastructure. Hamas reportedly digs six miles of tunnels every month.
- In recent months, Hamas has reportedly acquired dozens of short-range heavy rockets intended for use against Israel’s border communities.
- Nine rockets have been fired at Israel from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip since the beginning of 2017. Following Israel’s withdrawal from Gaza in 2006, more than 11,200 rockets and mortars have been fired at Israeli population centers from the coastal enclave in three rounds of Hamas-instigated hostilities: 2008-2009, 2012 and 2014.
- Hamas has been expanding its presence in the West Bank. In 2016, Israel disrupted 114 Hamas cells operating in the West Bank, compared to 70 in 2015.
- Hamas continues to cooperate with the Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula to smuggle weapons and enable terrorist infiltration into Israel.