The ISA is a national agency which acts in accordance with the laws of the State. The missions, powers and functions of the ISA were established by the ISA Statute of 5752 – 2002, which is a public law, accessible to all. With this in mind and taking into consideration the public's right to know efforts have been made in the construction of this site to publicize information regarding the ISA's varied activities to the fullest extent possible without posing a danger to state security. Nonetheless, the major part of ISA activity accords with its slogan, "the unseen shield" and thus, naturally, is confidential. For that reason, this site provides information regarding only a small portion of the ISA's activity, and does not provide classified information regarding numerous past ISA operations nor ISA methods of operation.
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Official Publications of the State of Israel
In the case of contradiction or inconsistency between the material published on the service and that which appears in written official publications of the state of Israel, only the material appearing in such official publications will be considered accurate.
Monthly Summary – February 2013

A total of 139 attacks were registered in February 2013. This is a considerable increase in the number of attacks, compared to 83 in January 2013.

Terrorist Attack against the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires, Argentina - 1992)

At 14:45 on March 17, 1992 a car...
A bomb exploded in front of the embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires, Argentina. A large part of the embassy building was destroyed.
The Israel Security Agency was established soon after the founding of the state; however its functions, structure and powers were not comprehensively legislated until 2002. Until this time, they were decided by governmental decisions alone. Over the years, various powers granted to the ISA had been anchored in law, such as the 1979 Wiretapping Law, the 1981 Protection of Privacy Law, and others. Nonetheless, these laws were specific and limited in scope, while the overall status, structure, functions and powers of the ISA, as well as the method of supervising its activity, were defined only with the passage of the ISA Statute.

In late 1988, the ISA administration decided to initiate legislation, in order to evaluate the possibility and the necessity of anchoring ISA activity in the law. Following this decision, the ISA worked exhaustively to draft a proposal, which was presented to the minister of justice in 1994.

In 1995, the ISA began a joint project with the Ministry of Justice in order to produce a draft version of the law, which was completed in 1998.

The law was approved in a “first reading” in the Knesset in February 1998, and was referred to a joint committee of the Constitution, Law and Justice Committee and the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, to prepare it for second and third readings. Its progress in Knesset was delayed until March 2000 because of elections and a subsequent change of government, as well as additional modifications of the statute.

Intensive work on the statute began in 2001, in a joint committee headed by the chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, MK David Magen, together with representatives from the ISA and from
the Ministry of Justice. This arduous endeavor resulted in the legislation of the ISA Statute on 11 February 2002.

The law was published in the Official Gazette on 21 February 2002, and took effect on April 21, 2002. For the first time, the ISA’s activities took place within a comprehensive legal framework. The statute prescribed the need for secondary legislation, in the form of legal ordinances and rules, as well as the establishment of guiding principles, detailing all issues which needed to be determined by legislation. Thus soon after the statute took effect, the ISA established a steering committee for this purpose. Teams were also appointed in a number of units to begin drafting these ordinances, rules and guiding principles.

The ISA Statute establishes four central aspects of ISA activity:

1. Institutional aspect: the status of the ISA and the establishment of its powers, its subordination to the government, and the status of the ISA director.

2. Functions: the mission of the ISA, its functions, general powers granted (including carrying out interrogations), specific powers granted (including carrying out searches, receiving data regarding communications, and carrying out security checks).

3. Control and supervision: the status of the internal comptroller, the requirement of providing the Knesset, the government and the state legal counsel with periodic reports, the requirement of receiving external approval for legal ordinances and rules, and the establishment of an external body to execute security checks.

4. Unique aspects to the ISA: the status of internal supervisory measures, the responsibilities of the ISA employee and his proxy, restrictions on ISA employees during and following their period of employment, and instructions regarding confidentiality.

On the basis of the ISA Statute, the prime minister established ordinances in various areas relating to this law. These ordinances are public.

In addition to these ordinances, instructions and procedures in various areas were also established. These are internal norms which are not public information.
ISA Statute Chronology

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1. The Israel Security Agency is the national organization charged with the defense of the state of Israel, its institutions and its democratic governance, against the threats of terror, espionage, political subversion, and the exposure of state secrets.

2. ISA employees are citizens of the state accountable to the law and loyal to democratic values, who are subject to the tenets of the civil service as well as ISA regulations.
Israel Security Agency

About

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- Core Values of the Israel Security Agency
- FAQs
  - The interrogation division
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- Decennial ISA Convention

FAQs

Questions and answers-the interrogation division

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The division for countering terror and Arab-Iranian espionage

Who are the interrogators of the ISA and where do they work?
The ISA interrogators are ISA employees who have undergone lengthy and specialized professional training, and their work is a crucial component of the war against terror. Their training is long and includes areas beyond their own specialized training, including legal issues, human rights, etc. ISA interrogators work in interrogation centers throughout the country.

Who does the ISA interrogate?
The ISA, as a body entrusted with the task of countering terror, is responsible for the interrogation of those suspected of security infractions, including terrorists, as well as those suspected of espionage and subversion. ISA interrogations are carried out in concert with additional national bodies including the Israel Police, the state legal counsel, the army court system, and others.

Are ISA interrogations carried out under legal supervision?
ISA interrogations are carried out according to the law, and under strict legal supervision which is provided by the Ministry of Justice as well as by various courts of law. During the period of interrogation, every individual subject to interrogation is brought before a judge, who reviews the information requiring the interrogation, and this judge is responsible for deciding on an extension of custody. In the instance in which a complaint is received regarding a particular interrogator, the complaint is investigated by the
What do ISA interrogations contribute to countering terror?

ISA interrogations result in intelligence information which is crucial in countering terrorist activity and espionage. ISA interrogations have led to the discovery of various types of weapons, including guns, explosive devices, laboratories for the preparation of explosive belts, and more. If sufficient evidence is found in the interrogation, the individual interrogated is tried in court.
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The division for countering terror and Arab-Iranian espionage

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The division for countering terror and Arab-Iranian espionage

Does the ISA work in cooperation with other intelligence agencies?
Countering terror involves dozens of professional interfaces inside and outside Israel. In its activities to counter terror, the ISA maintains close contact with the Israel Police, the IDF and the Mossad, as well as with dozens of intelligence agencies in Israel and around the world.

Does the ISA counter espionage?
The ISA acts to counter espionage in the state of Israel. Throughout its history, the ISA has, amongst its other missions, countered espionage-related activities carried out by foreign countries on Israeli soil.

In what areas does the ISA act, in addition to the arrest and interrogation of terrorists?
The ISA has identified additional fundamental problems relating to terror, including money transfers to fund terror, weapon smuggling, and the transfer of materials used in weapon production throughout Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. ISA activities include these areas as well, as part of the fulfillment of its responsibilities.
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FAQs

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From the ISA Director: "The availability of information is a decisive factor in the battle against terror. It is well known that the intelligence capabilities of the ISA will be of no avail without immediate access to information required. In recent years, it has become clear that immediate access is not sufficient, and that a comprehensive plan of managing information must be developed and integrated into the work accomplished at all levels. Without these advanced information technologies, it is doubtful whether we would have succeeded in dealing with the waves of terror of recent years. We are required to absorb, store and analyze enormous quantities of information, and to separate out the wheat from the chaff. The ISA information apparatus employs advanced technologies for collection, sophisticated algorithms for storage and for identifying connections, automated tools for information analysis and retrieval, and logical deductions. In order to thwart a terror attack, information analysis must produce immediate answers, and implement warning systems that survey the enormous amount of information and indicate features and abnormalities automatically, even without a query from a human being. In order to simplify the processes of detection and conclusion-drawing, we have developed graphic capabilities which permit analysis and the demonstration of connections in real time. Snippets of information that point to a developing situation are collected in the system and are put together within minutes to form a comprehensive picture which is presented to the decision-makers in a way that allows them to draw operational conclusions immediately. Thus, the ISA information systems have aided in preventing dozens of terror attacks, even when the terrorist was already en route to the planned site of the attack. The operational effectiveness of the informational technology..."
is tested on the ground, each and every day. The information systems division must meet demanding standards: drawing all necessary conclusions from the information collected, in the best possible way, in real time, and with total reliability. The ISA can tolerate no less, since its successes and failures are measured in human life—a measure alien to the business world." Yuval Diskin, ISA Director, in a speech at the conference held during Information Week, 2005.

Technology Division
The Technology Division in the ISA is the body uniquely appointed to provide comprehensive technological-operational solutions to all ISA units in order to allow the Agency to fulfill its purpose and to carry out its missions. The Division develops and produces sophisticated technological resources for the purpose of collecting intelligence, for countering operations, and for a wide range of operational activities in a variety of areas.

The IT Development Division
The IT Development Division is responsible for IT development as well as for providing computer and information services in all areas of ISA activity, including: intelligence systems, operations systems, systems to aid in investigations, systems for providing alerts and warnings in real time, decision-making systems, information mining, analysis of connections and advanced visualization of these connections to create an integrated intelligence picture, and administrative systems. The consumers of the information are individuals at all levels of ISA activity: operations officers, interrogators, sigint analysts, case officers, analysts, security guards, instructors, administration (logistics, acquisitions, finances, etc), HR, and more.
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The Division develops and produces sophisticated technological resources for the purpose of collecting intelligence, for countering operations, and for a wide range of operational activities in a variety of areas. The Division’s staff and administrators are integrated in operational activities, the development of special resources, and short and long-term projects. These activities are carried out in a professional manner while providing the best possible solution in the shortest possible time, as well as employing unique methods to enable the ISA to respond to hostile activity in a suitable time frame.

The Technology Division strives to be at the forefront of technological progress in the world, and to recruit
to its ranks first-class professionals from a wide range of technological fields, as well as employees with vision, can create new technological realities – and thus always to be a few steps ahead of the enemy.
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Expand all | Collapse all

The responsibilities of the Division for IT Development
The Division for IT Development is responsible for constructing technologies and for developing systems, as well as for the centralized methods of usage and storage of information.

Features of how information is handled
The ISA computers store and manage information using a database which is one-of-a-kind in Israel. Every informational item existing in the ISA information databases is catalogued according to unique
features. The extensive number of links and the numerous levels of information enable the creation of a skeleton of information which is the principal basis of intelligence research. The individual information items and the puzzle which is composed from the logical connections between the pieces of information, serve as the basis for the process called "intelligence synopsis," which allows the development of insights and conclusions that permit efficient and accurate countering operations.

Integration of IT in countering and intelligence operations

Information technology is a central weapon for the ISA in preventing and countering terror, and is a tool that enables the ISA to successfully carry out its mission.
The Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades Mustafa Ali Abu The
A name used by Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) activists in taking responsibility for terror attacks carried by the organization. named after the man who served for many years as the deputy general secretary of the PFLP, and for a short time as the general secretary, until he was killed (August 2001) during the second intifada.

Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades
A pseudonym created in the beginning of the Second Intifada (September 2000) to refer to the terror infrastructures associated with Fatah. This name was used primarily in taking responsibility for terror attacks carried out by Tanzim activists (Tanzim is the operative field wing of Fatah.) The name was intended to identify such activists with the Tanzim, while at the same time avoiding any complications in the international arena due to disapproval of the involvement of Fatah activists in terrorist activity. Many cells that carried out terror attacks added additional names to that of the “Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades” in order to identify themselves more exactly. Thus, for example: Iman Jouda Faction, the Jihad Amarin

Brigades, the Army of Believers led by ‘Isam Batash, and others.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades is not an institutionally-affiliated body, but is rather a group of independent terror cells, which preserve certain ties to Fatah. These ties weakened as the intifada continued, with a growing rift between the movements’ leaders and the operational activists as a result of the disintegration of the institutional frameworks of the Tanzim and their eventual paralysis. One cause of this process was the arrests and eliminations of front-line administrative officials of the Tanzim, whose activists were the most active terrorist element during the beginning of the intifada. Independent local terror cells remained active, and these were joined by new members without organizational affiliation, or even, by members of other Palestinian factions. They received support and funding from terror elements abroad, especially Hizbullah in Lebanon.

The independent cells of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades not only worked in concert with terrorist elements, both Palestinian and otherwise, but they also adopted methods of action including suicide attacks, which had been used earlier only by the Islamic terror organizations. Thus the activists of the Brigades became active in carrying out mass killing attacks within Israel: some independently, and others in concert with different organizations such as the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and even Hamas.

During the second intifada, the Palestinian Authority under Fatah leadership made several attempts to gain control over the activists of the Brigades, many of whom were active in the Palestinian security apparatuses. These efforts to “absorb” them and thus to restrain them and remove them from the circle of terror, were partially successful. The “Fugitive Arrangement” was implemented from mid-2008, in which hundreds of activists left their terrorist activity and committed to cease all terror activity and to surrender their weapons to the authorities, in return for Israel’s refraining from taking action against them. Alongside this, the majority of Al-Aqsa Terror Brigades cells which continue their activity are funded and directed by external terrorist elements, who have no interest in ceasing terror against Israel.

Army of Islam

A faction which separated from the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) in early 2006, and established itself as an independent terror organization in the Gaza Strip. It is led by Murtaz Dughmoush – a terror activist from Gaza – who split off from the leaders of the PRC with a group of followers following personal conflicts. The majority of the group’s activists are part of the Dughmoush extended family in Gaza.

Following its break off, the faction adopted Global Jihad ideology. The organization has featured prominently in the instigation of anarchy in the Gaza Strip, however its activists have also been involved
in significant terror attacks; among them the attack on Kerem Shalom during which the soldier Gilad Shalit was kidnapped and taken to the Gaza Strip. The activists of the Army of Islam were also responsible for the kidnapping of two Fox journalists in the Gaza Strip (August 2006) as well as of the British journalist Alan Johnston (July 2007).

**DFLP - The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine**

A Leninist-Marxist left-wing group that broke off from the PFLP of George Habash in February 1969, due to personal and ideological disagreements between Habash and Nayef Hawatmeh, a Christian originally from Jordan, who has headed the DFLP since its establishment. The DFLP, which opposed the political line led by Arafat in the PLO, was part of the “Opposition Front”, a framework established by Palestinian factions opposed to agreements with Israel. Over the years, though, calls for adaptation to the new developments on the Palestinian scene in the wake of the Oslo Accords grew within the organization. Accordingly, the DFLP announced its willingness (May 1998) to be part of a permanent settlement on the basis of UN decisions regarding the Palestinian issue. This moderate line was not accepted by all of the organization’s activists, and due to these differences of opinion, the moderates split off (1990), under the leadership of Yasser Abed Rabbo, Hawatmeh’s deputy, who founded FIDA, the Palestine Democratic Union, which held views close to those of Fatah and eventually became part of the PA.

Signs of increasing moderation could also be seen in Hawatmeh himself, who even requested permission to enter PA areas, thus engendering the anger of opposition groups, as well as of activists in his own organization, following his highly published handshake with Israeli President Ezer Weizman during the funeral of King Hussein of Jordan (February 8, 1999).

Regarding terror attacks – The DFLP figured prominently in attacks in the 1970s, including the terror attack in Maalot (1974), the infiltration in Magshinim (1975) and in Beit Shean, and the explosion of a booby-trapped cart on Jaffa St in Jerusalem (1975).

During the Second Intifada (beginning in September 2000), the organization’s activists carried out terror attacks primarily in the Gaza Strip, involving shooting attacks, infiltrations of settlements and army posts, the setting of explosive charges, and the firing of rockets and mortars. Most of these attacks were carried out in cooperation with activists from other terror organizations.
**Fatah al-Islam in Palestine**

An organization which believes in Global Jihad ideology, and is identified with Fatah al-Islam in Lebanon. The organization's major aim is to carry out terror attacks against Israeli and Western targets, but has not yet carried out any significant operational activity. In practice, the organization's activists have been involved in rocket fire and shooting attacks against IDF forces in the border areas around the Gaza Strip. The organization also tends to take responsibility for rocket fire carried out by other terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip.

**Hamas – The Islamic Resistance Movement**

Hamas, whose name means “the Islamic resistance movement,” is a Sunni fundamentalist Islamic body, which strives to establish a Palestinian state founded on Islamic law in place of the state of Israel. Hamas was established by Sheikh Ahmad Yassin from the Gaza Strip, and became active in the “territories” in December 1987 (with the beginning of the first intifada). Hamas defines itself, according to its charter published in August 1988, as the Palestinian branch of the Islamic Brotherhood movement. Hamas strongly opposes recognition of Israel and talks with Israel, and sanctifies “Jihad” (holy war) as the sole method of action to solve the "Palestinian problem." According to the Hamas charter, the commandment of jihad is an individual religious obligation applying to each and every Muslim. The Hamas military wing, called the "Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades," is a terrorist organization which is an integral part of the movement. This body is funded by Hamas finance, part of which come from charitable contributions (one of the basic commandments of Islam), and enjoys Hamas' popularity, attained by the "da'wa" infrastructure built by Hamas. The da'wa infrastructure includes a wide network of charitable organizations which provide financial support, religious and educational services, and religious indoctrination (in Hamas terms, "preparation of the hearts"). This infrastructure is used by Hamas to pinpoint and cultivate activists and supporters from a young age.

In the parliamentary elections carried out in the Palestinian Authority in January 2006, Hamas won a large majority in the Legislative Council, and replaced Fatah as the ruling party. Ismail Hanniyeh, a senior Hamas official in the Gaza Strip, was appointed prime minister, and the movement sought to establish its status within the leadership of the Palestinian Authority. In this context, Hamas established an operational force, which took by force the security responsibilities in the Gaza Strip from the official Palestinian security apparatuses, identified with Fatah. Following a number of violent encounters between members of the two movements, Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip (June 2007), ousted the Fatah members from their positions, and became the sole governmental authority in the Strip. Under Hamas rule in the Gaza Strip, rocket fire into Israel increased, as well as the efforts to smuggle weapons into the Strip, and to upgrade Hamas's operational capabilities. All of this was in preparation for future confrontation with Israel.
**Hizbullah**

The organization was founded by forces of the Iranian “Revolutionary Guard” who arrived in Lebanon during Operation Peace in the Galilee in 1982, as part of the policy of “exporting” the Islamic revolution. Up until the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon (May 2000), the organization carried out numerous attacks against IDF forces on the ground, and after the withdrawal, focused on funding, operating and directing terror infrastructures in the “territories.”

Hizbullah – composed entirely of Lebanese activists with no nationalist connection to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict – serves as a front-line operational arm of Iran against Israel, and implements Iranian policies in a comprehensive way, including the intensification of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and in initiating terrorist activity against Israel.

The organization initially worked to infiltrate terrorists and their accomplices across border crossings using foreign documents, and to smuggle weapons and terrorists over the border. Hizbullah has focused since 2003 on establishing terror infrastructures in the “territories” and in Israel and in financing the operations of Palestinian terror groups carrying out actions against Israel. At the top of the list of organizations financed by Hizbullah are the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, identified with Fatah: Hizbullah serves as intermediary between activists in various areas. In addition to Al-Aqsa Brigades, other organizations also receive support from Hizbullah, including the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Resistance Committees, and even Hamas.

In addition to transferring large sums of money to Palestinian terror organizations, Hizbullah elements also invest much effort in upgrading the terror capabilities of groups active in the “territories,” including:

- Transferring much information regarding terror, including training materials regarding the production and use of weapons, as well as the production of makeshift explosives, explosive belts, and high-trajectory weapons.
- Smuggling of high-quality weapons into the “territories”. Such smuggling includes sea routes, notably, the Santorini and Karine A ships, which were captured in January 2001 and 2002, respectively, carrying large quantities of weapons for transport, including anti-aircraft missiles, mortars, pistols and ammunition.
- Military training sessions abroad for activists from the territories. Most of these take place in Lebanon. Terror cells in the “territories,” funded and directed by Hizbullah from Lebanon, have carried out a large number of terror attacks of various types during the current intifada, including mass killing attacks and suicide attacks, in which dozens of Israelis were killed and hundreds wounded. Among Hizbullah’s most notorious attacks abroad against Israeli or Jewish targets, were the explosion of the Israeli embassy in Argentina (1992) and the explosion of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires in 1994.
The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades
The "military wing" of Hamas, used as the movement’s apparatus for carrying out terror attacks. It is named after Sheikh al-Qassam, considered by Hamas to be the founder of the modern Palestinian resistance movement, killed by the British in 1935.
This apparatus became prominent due to its widespread execution of suicide attacks and mass killings, beginning in 1993. The suicide terror attacks climaxed during the early years of the Second Intifada (which began in September 2000). In these attacks, which were carried out mainly in buses and in crowded entertainment areas, hundreds were killed, and thousands were wounded.
Counter-terror activity undertaken by Israel (beginning with Operation Defensive Shield, March 2002), and the establishment of the buffer zone in Samaria, led to a significant decrease in Hamas’s success in carrying out suicide attacks in Israel.
Alongside the suicide attacks, this apparatus also carried out attacks involving kidnappings of Israelis, explosives attacks, and shooting attacks from passing vehicles. In the past decade, the apparatus has focused on developing its ability to carry out high-trajectory fire from the Gaza Strip (locally produced mortars, and rockets of the “Qassam” type) as well as on improving high-trajectory weapon range and exactitude; and, since the Israeli disengagement from the Gaza Strip (September 2005), on weapon smuggling as well.

“The Jerusalem Brigades”
A name used by the activists of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) in taking responsibility for terror attacks carried out by the organization.

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)
A fundamentalist Islamic terror organization that developed from the Islamic Jihad in Egypt, a radical branch of the Muslim Brotherhood striving to create an “Islamic caliphate” through violent struggle (“jihad”). The Palestinian Islamic Jihad was founded in 1981, in the Gaza strip, under the influence of the Egyptian branch. It was headed by Dr. Fathi Shqaqi, who is considered to be the organization’s founder.
Another prominent activist, which is also consider to be among the founders of PIJ, is sheikh Abd al-Aziz ‘Odeh. The PIJ combines extremist nationalist ideology with Islamic views: the destruction of the state of Israel and its replacement with an Islamic Palestinian state, to be established on all of the territory of Palestine. The group’s ideology views the “liberation of Palestine” as a first step in the “redemption of Islam,” and the means of achieving it are “jihad” and uncompromising terror activity against Israel. Shqaqi and ‘Odeh (as students in Egypt, the two were influenced by the views of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and the Islamic revolution in Iran (1979)), were expelled from the Gaza Strip to Lebanon in 1988, following a series of severe terror attacks carried out by members of their organization. Since that time, the organization’s headquarters have been in Syria. Following the death of Shqaqi in Malta (October 1995), he was replaced by Ramadan Shalah. In Damascus, the ruling regime allows the PIJ leadership a wide freedom of action. The JIP also receives significant support from Iran, both financial and operational. In practice, the PIJ serves as a key Iranian tool in the struggle against Israel, and in the strengthening of the Iranian influence on the Palestinian agenda. In the 1980s, the PIJ was, the most active terror organization carrying out terror attacks against Israeli targets. Following the signing of the Oslo Accords, which the organization vehemently opposed, its members adopted the use of suicide attacks and carried out a number of severe attacks within Israel. During the Second Intifada (since September 2000), PIJ activists, particularly from Samaria, featured significantly in a series of suicide bombings and explosives attacks, in which dozens of Israelis were killed and hundreds were wounded. As a result of Israeli counter-terror activity in Judea and Samaria and the establishment of the “buffer zone” in Samaria, the organization’s ability to carry out terror attacks decreased. In recent years, in addition to the continued efforts to execute suicide attacks in Israel, its members, mainly in the Gaza Strip, have focused on high-trajectory fire towards Israel (mortar fire and rockets), including the firing of standard manufactured Grad rockets toward Ashkelon. These attacks have been carried out alongside shooting attacks, explosives attacks, and involvement in a suicide attack in Eilat (January 29, 2007). The PIJ has a civilian infrastructure, which includes educational, cultural, social and religious institutions, dependent on charity funds subordinate to the PIJ. In practice, this infrastructure is the major tool in the achievement of the organization’s goals: it allows the organization to aid the families of terror activists who were killed or wounded, as well as the families of prisoners, and to identify and cultivate activists and supporters from a young age.

**People's Army**
A relatively new terror group in the Gaza Strip. Its founders are former members of the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC), who adopted Global Jihad ideology. The organization currently consists of only a few dozen activists, who cooperate with other terror organizations. The organization’s proclaimed goal is the "establishment of Islamic law and revival of the caliphate." In this context, the organization carries out widespread propaganda activity, and even has an independent internet site which expresses its ideology and publicizes its activity.
The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)
One of the Palestinian opposition groups opposing the peace process and the Oslo Accords. The organization, which holds an especially uncompromising position towards Israel, supports the continuation of the “armed struggle” with the aim of creating a “secular-democratic Palestinian state on all of the Palestinian lands” – i.e., in place of Israel.
The PFLP, a left-wing Marxist group, was established in December 1967 by George Habash, a Christian born in Lod, who headed the group until the year 2000, and supported a hard-line stance against Israel. In 2000, Habash retired from the organization's leadership and was replaced by his deputy Abu ‘Ali Mustafa. Today, Ahmad Sa’adat, a resident of Ramallah, heads the organization. He was involved in numerous terrorist actions against Israel and currently is serving a sentence in Israeli prison as a result of his role in the murder of the Israeli minister of tourism, Rehavam Zeevi, by PFLP terrorists on October 17, 2001.
In the late 1980s, following the breakup of the USSR and the communist bloc which had supported the organization ideologically and economically, PFLP influence and popularity on the Palestinian street decreased. Despite this, the PFLP is considered the largest left-wing organization on the Palestinian scene, as well as the organization second in importance in the PLO.
The members of the organization have tried to compensate for its small size by executing large-scale terrorist activities against Israel. Thus, in the 1970s, the PFLP figured prominently as the organization which initiated and led airplane hijackings, and in 1972 its activists carried out an attack on Israel's Ben-Gurion airport, with the help of Japanese terrorists, in which 22 were killed. During the Second Intifada (beginning in September 2000), PFLP activists carried out a series of attacks involving the explosion of car bombs within Israel, in addition to carrying out shooting and explosives attacks in Judea and Samaria, and the firing of mortars from the Gaza Strip. As noted above, PFLP activists also murdered the government minister Rehavam Zeevi in a hotel in Jerusalem. During the recent past, the organization's activists have cooperated with members of other factions to carry out terror attacks within Israel.

PFLP – General Command/ Ahmad Jibril Faction
A faction of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) which was established in April 1968 as a result of a personal conflict between Ahmad Jibril, who heads this faction, and George Habash. Jibril, who had served as a captain in the Syrian army, established himself in Damascus and dictated a pro-Syrian line in the organization.
The organization, which is quite small, achieved prominence due to a series of attacks in the 1970s; hijacking of a Swissair jet, the terrorist attack on Avivim children bus (May 1970) and a massacre of Israeli civilians in Kiryat Shmona. Nonetheless, the group's primary notoriety derives from the prisoner exchange known as the Jibril Agreement of May 1985. In this exchange 1,150 Palestinian prisoners were released in return for three Israeli soldiers (Hezi Shai, Nissim Salem and Yosef Grof) who had been taken captive in the summer of 1982. Another terrorist attack carried out by the group was the "Night of the Gliders" (November 1987) in which a terrorist belonging to the organization infiltrated into Israel on a glider, broke into a military camp and killed six soldiers.
The organization has little influence in practice today, (limited to Judea and Samaria, not in the Gaza
Strip) and its activists cooperate with infrastructures of the mother organization, the PFLP.

“The Popular Resistance Committees” (PRC)
A terror organization active in the Gaza Strip, which serves as a comprehensive framework for terror cells from various organizations. It originated in local defense committees, which were formed at the beginning of the Second Intifada (September 2000) to protect residents from the possibility of an Israeli incursion into central Palestinian cities. In the city of Rafah, Jamal Abu Samahadana, a senior Fatah field activist (and former Palestinian Islamic Jihad activist), headed the defense committees, and was instrumental in turning them into a fighting militia, which he called the “Popular Resistance Committees.” In early 2001, Abu Samahadana announced his retirement from Fatah owing to what he considered its overly moderate stance toward Israel, and at the same time worked to connect the PRC to Lebanese terror elements, including the Hizbullah and Iran, from whom he received funding for his organization’s terror activity.

The “successes” of the PRC in terror attacks using IEDs (improvised explosive devices) against Israeli forces in the southern Gaza Strip, attracted activists from other Palestinian factions, including Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. The organization grew, and gradually its activity was widened within the Gaza Strip beyond Rafah, to include the central and northern Gaza Strip. Abu Samahadana attempted to expand the PRC activity into the West Bank as well, without much success.

Over the years, and especially following the death of Abu Samahadana (June 2006), the PRC split into a number of factions. Some of these broke off and became independent entities, such as the “Army of Islam” whose activists were involved in the attack near Kerem Shalom (June 2006), during which the Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit was kidnapped and taken to the Gaza Strip.

Today two rival factions of the PRC are active and operate under this name. The central faction (southern), which is larger in both membership and scope of its terrorist activity; and the northern faction, which is smaller. The northern faction, led by Zakaria Dughmoush, is entirely subject to Hamas, from whom it receives instructions and funding.

During the Second Intifada, the activists of the PRC figured prominently in massive explosives attacks against Israeli tanks in the Gaza Strip, and they also participated in high-trajectory fire (rockets and mortar fire) toward Israel. Activists of the PRC also cooperated with activists from other Palestinian factions in carrying out multi-organizational terror attacks against Israel.

Al-Qaeda
Founded by Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri. Identified with the Global Jihad movement, which aims to spread Islam and to create an Islamic caliphate – that is, to institute government throughout the
According to Al-Qaeda’s views, every Muslim is obligated to participate in “jihad” in order to return Islam to the status it deserves. For this reason, jihad is not directed only against infidels, the non-Muslims, but also against Arab and Muslim governments who stray from the correct Islamic path by tending toward the West and adopting “Western” values including nationalism, democracy, constitutions and elections. Al-Qaeda believes in a total and uncompromising war against its enemies, and according to its view, the entire planet is a legitimate sphere of fighting and any and all means are valid in order to achieve the goal (including the use of non-conventional weapons and the targeting of civilians).

Al-Qaeda has been responsible for a large number of mega-terror attacks, most prominently the September 11th attacks in the US, as well as a series of attacks on American and Western targets in Africa, the Persian Gulf and Europe and attacks on Jewish and Israeli targets, including synagogues around the world (Djerba, Tunisia in 2002; Istanbul, Turkey in 2003).

The organization recruits its supporters on the basis of shared ideology, and uses the internet as a primary tool in this effort. In recent years, terror infrastructures inspired by al-Qaeda and identified with Global Jihad have been established in many countries, including in the Middle East (Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt). The terror infrastructures in Iraq and in North Africa are especially prominent; these are linked directly to al-Qaeda leadership and Bin Laden.

The concepts of Global Jihad have been disseminated in the “territories” and among Israeli Arabs, and there has been an increase in the number of incidents in which isolated activists or local terror infrastructures (especially in the Gaza Strip) have contacted al-Qaeda activists in order to join propaganda and operational actions, with the ultimate aim of carrying out terror attacks against Israeli targets.

In the Gaza Strip, a large number of terror organizations act according to the Global Jihad/ al-Qaeda ideology, including the “Army of Islam” and “Fatah al-Islam in Palestine”. Furthermore, smaller groups who have adopted this ideology act primarily against foreign citizens and institutions (such as Christian institutions), and against “overly secular” ways of life (attacking internet cafes and mixed-bathing beaches).

** Salah al-Din Brigades **

A name used by the activists of the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) to take responsibility for terror attacks carried out by the organization.
Al-Aqsa rocket
Homemade rocket manufactured by Gaza Strip-based Al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigades activists.

Al-Nakba
(Literally - The Catastrophe) A term used by Palestinians to mark the 1948 War (War of Independence), which entailed the defeat of the Arab states and the foundation of the State of Israel. The term refers mainly to the Palestinian mass departure and the creation of the refugee problem, both resulting from these events. The Palestinians commemorate the Al-Nakba Day on May 15th.

Al-Naks
(Literally - The Setback) a term used to commemorate the defeat of the Arab states in the 1967 Six-Day War. Those who have reservation of using the term to describe the Arabs’ defeat as Al-Naksa, use the term Al-Nakba Al-Thaniya (The Second Al-Nakba)

Al-Quds rocket
Homemade rocket manufactured by Gaza Strip-based PIJ (Palestinian Islamic Jihad) activists.

Alternative
A choice of one out of many pre-prepared options.

AT shooting
Direct laying rocket shooting originating from an Anti Tank rocket launcher.

Attack for bargaining purposes
An attack in which the primary goal is to take hostages for bargaining. The release of the hostages is conditioned on fulfilling the demands of the kidnappers, which usually are disproportionate to the situation of the specific attack (for example, the release of large numbers of prisoners, etc.).

Attack pattern
Generally describes the type of attack.

Balance of terror
A situation in which both sides are deterred by the prospect of the execution of a specific action and therefore prevent its occurrence.

Belly charge
A charge intended to be activated in the lower part of a tank (which is its weak spot). Improvised belly charges contain large quantities of explosives (approx. 50-100 kg) and are concealed in the ground, like mines. The detonation of a belly charge can neutralize a tank and kill its crew.

Booby trapped
An object to which an explosive charge or explosives have been attached and into which an activating device has been installed, intended to set off an explosion at the time of activation.

**Buffer Zone**
A system intended to separate Judea & Samaria from Israel. Construction began in 2003 and has yet to be completed.

**CBRN**
Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear weapons.

**Car bomb**
A vehicle, in which an explosive charge or explosives have been concealed, intended to be exploded. The vehicle serves as a hiding place for the charge or as a larger receptacle to increase the damage at the time of explosion.

**Claim of responsibility**
Proclamation on behalf of a terrorist organization or squad regarding the execution of a terrorist attack or the elements related to this event.

**Closed military zone**
An area where the military has extensive authorities and military jurisdiction law applies.

**Command post**
During an operation, all relevant information is tunneled to the command post, and therefore decisions are made there.

**Communications interception**
Collection of intelligence, usually from telecommunications traffic or conversations, using technical means.

**Compartmentalization**
One of the means of protecting classified information by limiting access on a need-to-know basis.

**Concealment**
Hiding an object in a hiding-place attempting to avoid its falling into the hands of unauthorized elements.

**Contingency plan**
A prepared action plan whose execution is postponed awaiting a direction. See also a stand-by attack.

**Courier**
A messenger on a secret mission, usually carrying a dispatch.

**Cross reference**
Revelation of information which validates existing information. Comparing the details enables to verify the authenticity of the information.

**Cut-out**
A person used as a buffer between two parties. Operating a cut-out is needed in a clandestine activity to avoid direct contact; this way, the two parties do not meet, or recognize each other.

**Cyber terrorism**
Attacks against computers and computer systems, mainly by hackers who work for terrorist organizations. The purpose of the attacks is to disrupt service provision, plant viruses and steal information.

**Dead drop / Dead Letter Box (DLB)**
A means of clandestine communications enabling non-direct connection between the sides. The connection is made by concealing an object/a dispatch/money in a designated spot and then emptying it.

**Dead letter dropping**
Activating a DLB

**Declassify**
Taking measures intended to lower the classification of specific information.

**Dispatch**
Written message which is transferred clandestinely.

**Dispatcher**
The person who prepares and assists a perpetrator of an attack at the last stages before the attack.

**Escalation**
Gradual radicalization in the intensity of an armed conflict, as a result of a deliberate action (i.e. desire to increase tension) or deterioration and loss of control.

**Establishment of contact**
A move intended to create an initial contact with a potential agent.

**Explosive belt**
A piece of garment (vest, underwear, pants, etc.) containing explosives and an activating device, intended to be used in a suicide attack. The belt is usually very wide and strapped around the waist or chest.

**Explosive charge**
Explosive material connected to an activating device intended to set off an explosion. Explosive charges differ in the amount of explosive material they contain, the composition of the explosive material and the activating mechanism.

**Explosives expert/ "Engineer"**
A title given to a terrorist activist specializing in preparing and manufacturing weapons (specifically: explosives, IEDs, explosive belts).

**Explosives laboratory**
A place used for assembling explosive charges or producing improvised explosives. The lab usually contains most of the components needed for assembling the explosive charge and/or producing the improvised explosives.

**Facilitator**
A person who assists and supports terrorist activity. A facilitator of a terrorist infrastructure may be responsible for food provision, message delivering etc. without taking part in the actual terrorist activity.

**Fragmentation**
Nails, ball bearings and pieces of iron added to an explosive charge in order to increase the damage caused by the explosion and the number of casualties.

**Guerilla warfare**
A warfare doctrine usually carried out by paramilitary forces: small groups of rebels or terrorist activists. They act, inter alia by sabotage, against security forces and state infrastructures.
High trajectory shooting
Indirect laying shooting (of rockets or mortars). This method is advantageous to the shooter due to the long range between the origin of launching and the target (compared with a direct laying shooting), which enables him to avoid direct exposure to the adversary.

Hollow charge
A charge composed of a shell containing explosive material surrounding a cavity, usually cone-shaped. A hollow charge can penetrate an APC (Armored Personnel Carrier) or a tank.

Hoovers Route
The route surrounding the area of the border fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

"Hudna"
An Islamic term indicating an agreement to halt the fighting without ending the state of war. According to the Islamic law, the "Hudna" is possible if it serves the interest of the Muslims, but has to be limited in time – up to 10 years. The precedent of the time limitation and the possibility to violate it were set by the Prophet Muhammad in Hudna Hudaibiya (signed with the sons of the tribe of Quraish in 628 AD). After two years of Hudna, which was preset to last ten years, Muhammad succeeded to rehabilitate his forces and therefore attacked and conquered Mecca. The time limitation is also derived from the duty of Jihad which is not annulled by the "Hudna". (See also Tahadia/Lull).

IED field
A site in which numerous explosive charges have been planted in order to be activated sequentially or simultaneously, aiming to cause greater effect and damage.
**Improvised weapons**
Nonstandard weapons manufactured by terrorist elements.

**Infiltration attack**
An attack in which infiltration/penetration is made into an Israeli populated area, a post or other target, in order to cause casualties and damage.

**Intelligence collection**
Actions taken to obtain information leading to the establishment of the intelligence picture. The gathering of intelligence can be derived from overt or covert sources.

**Inter-organizational cooperation**
Joint activity conducted by two organizations or more operating to obtain a common goal while each maintains its unique nature and structure.

**Improvised explosives**
Home made explosives.

**Indicator**
Certain behavior or data which may demonstrate an intention or a possible course of action of a person or a terrorist infrastructure. For example, an indication to involvement in terrorism – an action or sequence of actions pointing at the possibility that a terrorist attack is to be executed in the near future.

**Infrastructure**
All the elements assisting a terrorist group to carry out its activity.

**Jihad**
A religious Islamic term meaning: fighting the infidels until they accept Islam or submit to the authority of the Muslim state. The "Jihad" is a personal duty (Fardh 'Ayn) imposed on each member of the Muslim nation. In
the Islam there is also a spiritual Jihad (Jihad Al-Nafs): fighting one's desires to obtain self amendment and getting closer to the Islam. Yet the dominant sense of the term is militant. Various terrorist organizations, particularly the Islamic ones, integrated the term in their names, for example Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and Global Jihad.

**Launcher**
A device for holding and shooting rockets. A launcher of homemade rockets usually consists of a pipe enabling only a general direction of shooting.

**Leakage**
Exposure of information to an unauthorized element outside an organization. The leakage is done either by a person or electronically. Sometimes the leakage is intentional (a deliberate leakage) aiming to provide misleading information.

**Luring attack**
An attack intended to draw attention and cause crowding; the second phase of the attack aims to assault the emergency teams and inflict greater damage (see also phased attack).

**Maritime attack**
In this attack the naval zone is used as a platform for perpetration. The attack involves arrival to the shore in a vessel or by swimming, or hitting a vessel of the adversary.
**Mass murder attack**
An attack intended to cause a large number of casualties. For example, a suicide attack wherein a terrorist blows himself/herself up among a crowd of people or in a closed place (such as a bus); the explosives he/she carries and the fragmentation cause a large number of casualties.

**Means of communications**
Predefined means used to maintain contact between members of an infrastructure and the leadership or the guiding element of terrorist activity.

**Mega-terrorism**
A mass-murder terrorist attack regarded as a substantial step up of a standard terrorist attack (such as the 9/11 attacks).

**Military training**
Training of terrorist infrastructures' activists in using various weapons, explosives and in courses of action intended to qualify them for their activities.

**Military wing**
An arm of an organization in charge of the military activity and the execution of terrorist attacks.

**Modus Operandi (MO)**
The method of operation and mode of implementation. A common term used in the context of describing the characteristics of terrorist attacks carried out by terrorist organizations.

**Money transfer**
A method of funding terrorist activity. The transfer is usually carried out by money changers, clearing companies and sometimes through smuggling.

**Mortar**
A weapon for indirect laying shooting of mortar shells. The mortar shells are loaded from the muzzle, the angle of shooting is high and the range of shooting is limited.

**Mortar shell**
A type of high trajectory weapon shot from a mortar.

**Mortar shells / rockets fall**
Location of a hit by a high trajectory weapon launched by terrorist elements.

**Mount an Attack**
The process of planning and facilitating a terrorist attack up until its execution.

**Pattern**
A repeated modus operandi, which is indicative of future actions.

**Penetration**
A deliberate infiltration of a human source into a specific target in which he has not yet operated.

**Phased attack**
An attack consisting of (at least) two stages, wherein the second stage occurs shortly after the first. A phased attack is intended to cause greater damage. For example, attacking emergency teams arriving at the site of an attack.

**Philadelphi Route**
The border line between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, and between Israel and Egypt.

**Pointing**
Marking of a person or a place. For example, pointing to a preferred place for carrying out a terrorist attack.

**Policy of attacks**
The strategy of force activation according to which a terrorist organization acts. For example: in the 1970's, the policy of attacks in some Palestinian terrorist organizations focused on kidnapping airplanes.

**Possible course of action**
A plan designed for the implementation of a defined mission; compared to preferred course of action – the course of action eventually chosen.

**Power/Capacity Build-up**
Actions taken by a terrorist organization to develop and upgrade its operational capabilities, such as: equipping (procurement, smuggling and self-manufacturing), doctrine, recruitment, instructions and military training, establishing infrastructures, etc.

**Pressure-sensitive bar**
A method of activating an explosive charge by exerting pressure. Stepping on the bar causes a closure of an electric circuit in a timing device, which triggers an explosion.

**Qassam rocket**
Homemade rocket designed for different ranges, manufactured by Gaza Strip-based Hamas activists.

**Resistance**
(In Arabic – Muqauma) – The title terrorist activists tend to grant their activity in order to legitimize it and influence public opinion.

**Run-over attack**
An attack executed by using a motor vehicle (including bulldozer) in order to cause a large number of casualties.

**Sacrifice attack**
An attack perpetrated by an attacker who is aware that he/she would most probably get killed in the course of the attack.

**Simultaneous attacks**
Two attacks or more executed at the same time aiming to cause confusion, disrupt the work of the emergency teams and increase the number of casualties.

**Slingshot charge**
A concaved round/dome-shaped charge in which the round part disengages at the time of activation and turns into a kind of metal "bullet" capable of penetrating armor like that of an AFV (Armored Fighting Vehicle), but not a tank.

**Small-arms shooting**
Bullet shooting from an assault rifle or a machine-gun.

**Sniping**
A precise shooting, usually from a sniper rifle which is equipped with telescopic sights, etc.

**Source**
A person who provides an Intelligence Agency with information and is handled clandestinely. In some Intelligence Agencies he/she is called an agent or an asset.

**Spotter**
A person indicating a certain individual meets the recruitment requirements.
Spotting and Recruiting
Modus operandi intended to locate an individual potentially suited for recruitment and convince him to cooperate.

Standard explosives
Explosives produced from standard materials (i.e. TNT).

Stand-by attack
The major preparations for this attack have been completed but its execution has been postponed awaiting directions.

Suicide attack
An attack in which the perpetrator carries an explosive charge which would get him/her killed upon its activation.

Suicide bomber
A terrorist committing an attack in which his/her survival chances are close to none. Usually the suicide bomber wears a garment containing explosives, for example explosive belt, explosive underwear, or explosive vest.

"Tahadia" (Lull)
A term indicating a situation in which the Palestinian terrorist organizations temporarily commit not to initiate actions against Israel but reserve their right to retaliate with terrorism to any change in the situation. While the "Hudna" is an agreement accepted by the two sides, the "Tahadia" is not based on any agreement but constitutes a Palestinian initiative conditioned on the other side fulfilling the provisions that lead to its implementation.
**Terror directing**
Instructions delivered to the field activists for the purpose of perpetrating terrorist activity. The direction can be a general directive or detailed instructions coming from the organization’s commanders and senior figures or from terrorist elements abroad.

**Terrorist**
A member of a terrorist organization or infrastructure who executes acts of terrorism in order to achieve his goals.

**Terrorist activity**
A general term noting involvement in terror.

**Threat warning**
Revealing information regarding the possible occurrence of a suspicious incident, a potential threat or an intention to commit a terrorist attack.

**Thwarting**
An action intended to prevent, minimize or remove a terrorist threat.

**Ticking infrastructure**
An infrastructure known to have reached the last stages of the planned terrorist attack.

**Timing device**
A device attached to an explosive charge in order to delay its activation for a certain period of time. The timing device is usually an alarm clock or a timer.

**Transporter**
A facilitator whose part in an attack is delivering the terrorist to the site of the attack, since he/she is familiar with the place and/or has the accessibility.

**Trip wire**
A thin wire attached to an explosive charge, activated when being stepped on or pulled.
U-Route/Gaza Strip-Sinai-Israel Route
Various routes used by terrorists to infiltrate from the Gaza Strip into Israel via the Sinai.

Weapons / Arms
Explosive charges, rifles, explosive belts, etc.

Weapons smuggling
Infiltration of weapons into a designated area attempting to conceal them from the authorities.

"Work accident"
An activation/explosion of an explosive charge during its preparation or on the way to the attack site. The explosion inflicts damage on the planners of the attack rather than on the designated targets.