



## **My Drift**

**Title: What is Hamas?**

**Written By: Jerry D. Petersen**

**Date: 4 Nov 2023**

**Article Number: (436-2023-26)**



**There was series of coordinated terrorist attacks, conducted by the Palestinian Islamist militant group Hamas, from the Gaza Strip onto bordering areas in Israel, commencing on Saturday 7 October 2023, a Sabbath day and date of several Jewish holidays. (More about this attack later in article)**

**Hamas, officially the Islamic Resistance Movement, is a Sunni Islamist political and military organization governing the Gaza Strip of the Palestinian territories. Headquartered in Gaza City, it also has a presence in the West Bank, in which its secular rival Fatah exercises control.**

**Hamas was formed in late 1987 at the beginning of the first Palestinian intifada (uprising). Its roots are in the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, and it is supported by a robust sociopolitical structure inside the Palestinian territories.**

## Map of the Mideast Region



## Map of Israel (West Bank, and Gaza Strip)



**Note that Israel is surrounded by predominant Muslim countries Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey. All of these countries hate Israel and don't even recognize it as a world country.**

**Now let's take a closer look at Israel, the West Bank, and the home of Hamas, the Gaza Strip.**

## **Israel**



**Capital: Jerusalem**

**Area: 20,770 sq km or 8,020 sq miles**

**Population: 9.6 million**

**Language: Hebrew**

**Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu**

**Religions: 73.6% Jewish, 18.1% Muslim, 1.9% Christian, and 1.6% Druze.**

## **West Bank**



**The landlocked West Bank - the larger of the two Palestinian territories - is home to some three million Palestinians. Inhabited since at least the 15th century B.C., the West Bank has been dominated by many different peoples throughout its history; it was incorporated into the Ottoman Empire in the**

early 16th century. The West Bank fell to British forces during World War I, becoming part of the British Mandate of Palestine. Following the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, the West Bank was captured by Transjordan (later renamed Jordan), which annexed the West Bank in 1950; it was captured by Israel in the Six-Day War in 1967. Under a series of agreements known as the Oslo Accords signed between 1993 and 1999, Israel transferred to the newly created Palestinian Authority (PA) security and civilian responsibility for many Palestinian-populated areas of the West Bank as well as the Gaza Strip.

## Gaza Strip



This territory is at the heart of the Israel-Hamas war. The Gaza Strip has been the epicenter of heavy bombardment for several weeks after Israel launched retaliatory airstrikes for the unprecedented terror attack by Palestinian militant group Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023. Gaza is governed by Hamas, a militant, Sunni Islamic organization, which has ruled the territory since an internal conflict between Palestinian factions in 2007 that followed their electoral victory in 2006.

Gaza is a narrow strip of land between Israel and Egypt, next to the Mediterranean Sea. It is home to roughly 2.3 million Palestinians and is described as one of the most densely populated places on Earth. The 140-square-mile region is roughly the size of Philadelphia. The majority of those who live in Gaza are young, with almost 65% of the population under the age of 24.

Since 2007, Israel has imposed an air, land, and sea blockade on the Gaza Strip, saying the move is necessary to safeguard the country from Hamas' attacks. Gaza is surrounded by concrete walls and barbed wire fences. It has been described as the world's largest open-air prison.



## **Israel-Hamas War**

**The surprise attack on Israel by Hamas has brought the militant group back into the spotlight. In the attack, Hamas fighters flew paragliders from Gaza and used bulldozers to poke gaping holes in a barrier fence to gain access to Israeli territory. Around 1,400 Israelis and foreigners have been killed since 7 October, including 308 IDF soldiers, 10 Shin Bet agents and 58 police officers and at least 5,132 wounded in Israel. There are at least 32 Americans dead and 11 unaccounted for.**



**Hamas (Terrorist) Fighters**

**(The US State Department says Iran provides money and weapons to Hamas)**



**Hamas terrorists killed children, babies, women, and old people**

**This Hamas' attack was unprecedented. Its planning and execution were kept a close secret and came as a complete surprise to Israel's defenses. Since Hamas' formation more than three decades ago, the armed, hardline Islamist group has been a major presence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Hamas wants to create a Palestinian state. It rejects any peace deal with Israel, which it refuses to recognize.**

**President Biden says the U.S. will 'always be there' for Israel, urging safety for US civilians. Hamas is considered a terrorist organization by Israel, the US and a number of other Western countries. "Hamas has only one agenda, to destroy Israel and to murder Jews," Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters at a recent press conference in Israel.**

**Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, which makes up Hamas' armed wing, has an estimated 30,000–40,000 fighters. The Brigades, which has existed since 1991, initially relied in part upon suicide bombing campaigns. The Hamas military wing is currently overseen by Marwan Issa, reportedly born in a Gaza Strip refugee camp, and Mohammed Deif, who is said to be the mastermind of the latest assault on Israel. Israel has previously tried to assassinate Deif.**

**It also maintains a presence — and popularity — in the West Bank. In 2006, Hamas won legislative elections in Gaza and the West Bank but refused to join a coalition government with the opposition Fatah party — a key constituent of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, or PLO. Hamas later seized control of the Gaza Strip.**



### **What did Hamas hope to accomplish with this attack?**

**In an interview with a senior Hamas official based in Lebanon, he said the Oct. 7 attack came in response to "Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people in Jerusalem and the West Bank" and to "break the blockade on the Gaza Strip." He said it was also meant to free thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.**



**Well before the latest attack on Israel, Hamas said it wanted to resist Israeli occupation and to seek revenge for Israel's 2021 raid on Islam's third-holiest site, Al-Aqsa Mosque, in the Old City of Jerusalem. Conditions in the Gaza Strip have worsened since the blockade was imposed in 2007. Most Gazans live in poverty and are dependent on aid. Unemployment is high.**

**For most in Hamas, opposing Israel is the organization's reason for existing. That this is what they live for ... what they're trained for, what they want to be doing.**

**The strike by Hamas could also serve as a touchstone for others who want to fight against Israel. They were able to capture people and kill Israelis in a way they never had before. So, they are hoping that this attack will inspire others in the Middle East to fight Israel.**

### **Israel's massive retaliation**

**Unsurprisingly, it has triggered a massive retaliation, with Israel launching airstrikes deep into Gaza and vowing a "complete siege."**



**Gaza's humanitarian crisis deepened with warnings that the population is at risk of starvation and fuel could run out within hours, as Israel continues airstrikes and withholds essential supplies from the enclave in response to Hamas' brutal terror attacks.**





**The decades old conflict between Israelis and Palestinians has entered uncharted territory this week as Israeli declared a “complete siege” on Gaza. Bombardment by Israeli war planes have reduced entire streets to rubble and killed over 7,000 people in the isolated and densely inhabited area, including 500 children, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry.**



**Israel’s stepped-up offensive in Gaza follows a bloody surprise attack by Hamas on October 7, which saw armed militants pour over the heavily fortified border into Israel. The group’s gunmen killed more than 1,400 people, wounding thousands more in a coordinated rampage through farms and communities, taking civilian and military captives. Some 150 hostages are thought to be currently held by Hamas in Gaza.**

### **What have we learned about Hamas?**

- 1. Hamas is a Sunni Islam Muslim terrorist group based mostly in the Gaza Strip.**
- 2. Hamas’s only mission in life is planning how and killing Jews.**
- 3. Hamas knows that Israel would retaliate, and they apparently don’t care how many Palestinians are killed or injured.**
- 4. The only way to stop Hamas from attacking Israel is to lock them up or kill them.**

**Israel-Hamas war fuels anger and protests across the Middle East and the United States**





**Thousands of protesters in Iran show support for Palestine.**



**Protests across the US are happening mostly supporting Hamas and the Palestinians.**





**Student protesters at New York City University showing support for Israel and Palestine.**

**What the heck is going on in our country when most young people are protesting in favor of the Palestinian Hamas terrorists who attacked Israel to start this war in the first place?**

**[Bigdrifter44@gmail.com](mailto:Bigdrifter44@gmail.com)**

**[Bigdrifter.com](http://Bigdrifter.com)**