

## Special Report 93, Israel Under Attack



Hamas has presents itself to the world as a benign organization defending a displaced, dispossessed people. Following are major excerpts from Hamas' Manifesto, with comments marked in *blue Italics*.

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of all worlds. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon Muhammad, the Master of Messengers and the Leader of the mujahidin, and upon his household and all his companions.

### Preamble

Palestine is the land of the Arab Palestinian people .... a land that was seized by a racist, anti-human and colonial Zionist project ... This document is the product of deep deliberations that led us to a strong consensus ... This document unveils the goals, the milestones and the way in which national unity can be enforced. It also establishes our common understanding of the Palestinian cause, the working principles which we use to further it, and the limits of flexibility used to interpret it.

**1.** The Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas" is a Palestinian Islamic national liberation and resistance movement. Its goal is to liberate Palestine and confront the Zionist project. Its frame of reference is Islam, which determines its principles, objectives and means. *Hamas exists "to liberate Palestine [from Jewish presence] and confront the Zionist project [namely, the very existence of the State of Israel]". That is its primary goal.*

**2.** Palestine, which extends from the River Jordan in the east to the Mediterranean in the west and from Ras al-Naqurah in the north to Umm al-Rashrash in the south, is an integral territorial unit. It is the land and the home of the Palestinian people. *There is no room for the State of Israel. The establishment of a Palestinian State necessitates to destruction of Israel.*

**4.** The Palestinians are the Arabs who lived in Palestine until 1947, irrespective of whether they were expelled from it, or stayed in it; and every person that was born to an Arab Palestinian father after that date, whether inside or outside Palestine, is a Palestinian. The Palestinian identity ... is passed from generation to generation. The catastrophes that have befallen the Palestinian people, as a consequence of the Zionist occupation and its policy of displacement, cannot erase the identity of the Palestinian people nor can they negate it. A Palestinian shall not lose his or her national identity or rights by acquiring a second nationality. *In other words, unlike all other instances in modern history, refugees status is inherited and must not be obscured by Palestinians settling in any other country. Be it 100 or 1,000 years from now, the Arab Palestinian people are to maintain their status as refugees,*

*live off the largesse of other nations and decline to develop a viable ways of life. Jews, who originally were welcomed by Arabs living in the land, and who contributed to the growth of the Arab population by the provision of gainful employment and a higher standard of living, are now viewed as occupiers.*

**6.** The Palestinian people are one people, made up of all Palestinians, inside and outside of Palestine, irrespective of their religion, culture or political affiliation. *Yet Hamas discriminates against Palestinian Christians, creating circumstances in which their number in Gaza constantly dwindles due to emigration.*

**7.** Palestine is at the heart of the Arab and Islamic Ummah and enjoys a special status. ... It is the land of people who are determined to defend the truth – within Jerusalem and its surroundings – ... and they will continue their mission until the Promise of Allah is fulfilled. *In other words, absolute, uncompromising achievement of Hamas' goal to destroy Israel and murder or displace all its citizens. There is no room to negotiate.*

**8.** By virtue of its justly balanced middle way and moderate spirit, Islam – for Hamas - provides a comprehensive way of life and an order that is fit for purpose at all times and in all places. Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance. It provides an umbrella for the followers of other creeds and religions who can practice their beliefs in security and safety. Hamas also believes that Palestine has always been and will always be a model of coexistence, tolerance and civilizational innovation. *Hamas' hard-fisted regime in Gaza is an example of the "comprehensive way of life" and of the kind of "peace and tolerance" the organization wishes to implement in the whole of the land for "the followers of other creeds and religions who can practice their beliefs in security and safety".*

**9.** Hamas believes that the message of Islam upholds the values of truth, justice, freedom and dignity and prohibits all forms of injustice and incriminates oppressors irrespective of their religion, race, gender or nationality. Islam is against all forms of religious, ethnic or sectarian extremism and bigotry. *All one needs to do is observe the kind of regime Hamas established in Gaza and the way it cares for the civilians under its care.*

**10.** Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine. Its religious, historic and civilisational status is fundamental to the Arabs, Muslims and the world at large. Its Islamic and Christian holy places belong exclusively to the Palestinian people and to the Arab and Islamic Ummah. Not one stone of Jerusalem can be surrendered or relinquished. *Hence, the Jewish people are said to have no history in the land, no religious, cultural or national attachment to it. It is to be "exclusively" the domain of Arab Palestinians. The rights of Arab Christians, all of whom do not belong to "the Arab and Islamic Ummah", are also questioned.*

**12.** The Palestinian cause in its essence is a cause of an occupied land and a displaced people. The right of the Palestinian refugees and the displaced to return to their homes from which they were banished or were banned from returning to – whether in the lands occupied in 1948 or in 1967 (that is the whole of Palestine), is a natural right, both individual and collective. This right is confirmed by all divine laws as well as by the basic principles of human rights and international law. *International law and repeated UN resolutions*

*notwithstanding, from the River to the Sea (that is the whole of Palestine), Palestine will be free of the presence of Jews.*

**13.** Hamas rejects all attempts to erase the rights of the refugees, including the attempts to settle them outside Palestine ... Compensation to the Palestinian refugees for the harm they have suffered as a consequence of banishing them and occupying their land is an absolute right that goes hand in hand with their right to return. *Jews forced to leave Arab countries are accorded no such rights. The de facto exchange in populations is wholly ignored. Justification for shutting the Palestinian Arabs up in refugee camps rather than assisting them to forge a future for themselves is hereby justified.*

**14.** The Zionist project is a racist, aggressive, colonial and expansionist project based on seizing the properties of others; it is hostile to the Palestinian people and to their aspiration for freedom, liberation, return and self-determination. The Israeli entity is the plaything of the Zionist project and its base of aggression. *When Jewish settlers first arrived, the land was largely denuded of population. They settled in unpopulated areas, many of which were uninhabitable swamp lands. They were welcomed by the few that were in the land. Other lots were purchased at exorbitant prices from Arab owners. In 1948, Israel agreed to the territorial compromise proposed by the UN but the Arab nations invaded, seeking to seize lands in possession of the Jewish settlers and to obviate the formation of an Arab Palestinian State. Since then Israel has repeatedly offered negotiations to resolve border issues, to which Palestinian leadership responded with a resounding "No!" and ongoing terrorist attacks.*

**15.** The Zionist project does not target the Palestinian people alone; it is the enemy of the Arab and Islamic Ummah posing a grave threat to its security and interests. It is also hostile to the Ummah's aspirations for unity, renaissance and liberation and has been the major source of its troubles. The Zionist project also poses a danger to ... peace and to mankind and its interests and stability. *Israel does not "target the Palestinian people", is not "the enemy of the Arab and Islamic Ummah" nor is it in any way "hostile to the Ummah's aspirations for unity, renaissance and liberation", let alone constitute "a danger to ... peace and to mankind and its interests and stability". It has made major contributions to the welfare of mankind, particularly in impoverished and under-developed countries. "The major source of ["the Arab and Islamic Ummah"] troubles" is not Israel but Palestinian intransigence and poor government.*

**16.** Hamas affirms that its conflict is with the Zionist project not with the Jews because of their religion. *And yet Hamas repeatedly invokes Muslim religious lore, steeped with hatred of Jews.*

**17.** Hamas rejects the persecution of any human being or the undermining of his or her rights on nationalist, religious or sectarian grounds. *Hamas' conduct speaks volumes. Reference to the horrific atrocities of October 7 renders comment hardly necessary.*

**18.** The establishment of "Israel" is entirely illegal and contravenes the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and goes against their will and the will of the Ummah; it is also in violation of human rights that are guaranteed by international conventions, foremost

among them is the right to self-determination. *Israel has no such “right to self-determination”. Its very existence is considered “illegal” and should therefore be destroyed.*

**19.** There shall be no recognition of the legitimacy of the Zionist entity ...

**20.** Hamas believes that no part of the land of Palestine shall be compromised or conceded, irrespective of the causes, the circumstances and the pressures ... Hamas rejects any alternative to the full and complete liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea. However, without compromising its rejection of the Zionist entity and without relinquishing any Palestinian rights, Hamas considers the establishment of a fully sovereign and independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital along the lines of the 4th of June 1967, with the return of the refugees and the displaced to their homes from which they were expelled, to be a formula of national consensus. *See above comments.*

**21.** Hamas affirms that the Oslo Accords and their addenda contravene the governing rules of international law in that they generate commitments that violate the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Therefore, the Movement rejects these agreements and all that flows from them, such as the obligations that are detrimental to the interests of our people, especially security coordination (collaboration). *No peace agreement can be acceptable until Israel is wiped off the face of the earth.*

**23.** Hamas stresses that transgression against the Palestinian people, usurping their land and banishing them from their homeland cannot be called peace. Any settlements reached on this basis will not lead to peace. Resistance and jihad for the liberation of Palestine will remain a legitimate right, a duty and an honor for all the sons and daughters of our people and our Ummah. *Jihad implies the enlistment of religion in the service of Hamas’ aims. As a religion, its demands are absolute, irrevocable and non-negotiable for all eternity. On January 9th, in a speech aired on Al Jazeera, Hamas politburo chief Ismail Haniyeh made it clear: “We should hold on to the victory that took place on Oct. 7 and build upon it.” To the West, Mr. Haniyeh demands an end to the war speaks of a two-state solution, but to the Arab masses he says “the time has come for the jihad of the swords.”*

**24.** The liberation of Palestine is the duty of the Palestinian people in particular and the duty of the Arab and Islamic Ummah in general. It is also a humanitarian obligation as necessitated by the dictates of truth and justice. *The terms “truth and justice” are turned on their head to imply the opposite.*

**25.** 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, which is regarded as the strategic choice for protecting the principles and the rights of the Palestinian people. *“All means and methods”, “armed resistance” such as those employed by Hamas on October 7, including the rape and brutal murder of women, children and the elderly, the abduction of hundreds of all ages and the sacrifice of thousands of Gaza civilians on behalf of their professed rights is exactly what is implied in this cause. Hamas here means what it says.*

**26.** Hamas rejects any attempt to undermine the resistance and its arms. It also affirms the right of our people to develop the means and mechanisms of resistance. Managing resistance, in terms of escalation or de-escalation, or in terms of diversifying the means and methods, is an integral part of the process of managing the conflict and should not be at the expense of the principle of resistance. *“The means and mechanisms of resistance” by “our people” included the diversion of billions of Dollars and resources provided by the international community for the weal of the population in Gaza to Hamas’ military purposes and to the luxurious lifestyle of Hamas’ leadership and the impoverishment of the rest of the people; the construction of military facilities in, among and under sensitive civilian institutions; the launching of rockets at Israeli civilian targets and the atrocities of October 7.*

**27.** ... There is no alternative to a fully sovereign Palestinian State on the entire national Palestinian soil, with Jerusalem as its capital. *Wholly cleansed of Jewish presence.*

**28.** Hamas believes in, and adheres to, managing its Palestinian relations on the basis of pluralism, democracy, national partnership, acceptance of the other and the adoption of dialogue. *The cynicism expressed in this statement and the contrast with Hamas’ conduct are nothing short of breathtaking.*

**29.** The PLO is a national framework for the Palestinian people inside and outside of Palestine. It should therefore be preserved, developed and rebuilt on democratic foundations so as to secure the participation of all the constituents and forces of the Palestinian people, in a manner that safeguards Palestinian rights. *See comment above.*

**30.** Hamas stresses the necessity of building Palestinian national institutions on sound democratic principles, foremost among them are free and fair elections. Such process should be on the basis of national partnership and in accordance with a clear programme and a clear strategy that adhere to the rights, including the right of resistance, and which fulfil the aspirations of the Palestinian people. *See comment above. Hamas took over control of Gaza by maiming and murdering representatives of the Palestinian Authority.*

**35.** Hamas believes that the Palestinian issue is the central cause for the Arab and Islamic Ummah. *Not the development of an industry, social and political infrastructures, the alleviation of poverty, the education of the people, the improvement of their health, but spite, anger and war against Israel. Hamas leader Ali Baraka explained: “We made them [the Israelis] think that Hamas was busy with governing Gaza, and that it wanted to focus on the 2.5 million Palestinians” while it planned and prepared for the October 7 attack. Hamas leader Khaled Mashal shrugging off the suffering Hamas brought on Gazan civilians following that attack: “Nations are not easily liberated ... The Algerian people sacrificed six million martyrs.” Hamas is willing to follow that example. Mousa Abu Marzouk, another senior Hamas leader, made it clear that Hamas’s tunnels are for protecting its fighters, not Gazan civilians: “It is the responsibility of the United Nations to protect them.”*

**38.** The Palestinian issue is one that has major humanitarian and international dimensions. Supporting and backing this cause is a humanitarian and civilizational task that is required by the prerequisites of truth, justice and common humanitarian values. *No comment is necessary.*

**40.** In its relations with world nations and peoples, Hamas believes in the values of cooperation, justice, freedom and respect of the will of the people. *Again, no comment is necessary.*

*With reference to the October 7 atrocities, in an Oct. 24 appearance on Lebanese television, Hamas politburo member Ghazi Hamad declared: “We will do this again and again ... The Al Aqsa Flood”—Hamas’s name for the Oct. 7 operation—“is just the first time, and there will be a second, a third, a fourth.”*

No, there will not be, not as far as Israel is concerned. But how about the “enlightened people of the world”? What say YOU?

### Updates

One hundred and thirty six (136) abductees remain in captivity, of whom 26 are known to be dead, with two freshly added to that number. Noa Argemani is among the living. Her mother is dying of cancer and pleaded to be able to embrace her daughter before dying.

In Ra’anana, a city in central Israel, two Palestinians carried out stabbing and car ramming attacks, killing a 76-year-old women, injuring 17 of whom 8 were school children. Five of the injured are in critical condition.

The Wall Street Journal reports: The Palestinian Authority (PA) added 23,210 to the list of those whose families will receive a one-time grant and life-time support, a number derived from Hamas’ notoriously unreliable estimate of the number killed in Gaza since October 7, including some 9,000 known militants. The PA described them all as Martyrs for the Cause. In addition, the PA recognized 3,550 new Prisoners for the Cause, including 661 Hamas militants captured by Israeli forces in Gaza. Their families, too, will receive considerable stipends. These outlays of money constitute a considerable part of the PS’s budget, most of which is supported by international generosity. Israel protests this “pay for slay” program and withholds sums from tax returns due the PA that equal the amount of stipends paid.

In Lebanon, under constant military pressure from Israel and political pressure both from within Lebanon and from the US and France, Hezbollah indicated willingness to negotiate a resolution to its present conflict with Israel once hostilities in Gaza come to an end or are at least significantly reduced.

In the Bab el-Mandab Straits, the Houthis once again attacked a merchant ship. Iran attacked American military assets in Iraq and Syria.