Palestinian Islamic Jihad

Name: Palestinian Islamic Jihad

Type of Organization:
- Non-state actor
- terrorist
- violent

Ideologies and Affiliations:
- Iranian-sponsored
- Islamist
- jihadist
- Palestinian
- Salafist
- Sunni
- takfiri

Place of Origin:
Egypt

Year of Origin:
1979

Founder(s):
Fathi Shaqaqi and Abd al-Aziz Awda

Places of Operation:
Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, Lebanon, Syria

Overview

Also Known As:
- Abu Ghunaym Squad of the Hizballah Bayt Al-Maqdis
- al-Awdah Brigades
- al-Quds Brigades
- al-Quds Squads
- Harakat al-Jihad al-Islami al-Filastini
- Harakat al-Jihad al-Islami fi Filistin
- Islamic Holy War
- Islamic Jihad
- Islamic Jihad-Palestine Faction
- Islamic Jihad in Palestine
- Islamic Jihad of Palestine
- Islamic Jihad Palestine
- Palestine Islamic Jihad
- Palestine Islamic Jihad-Shallah Faction
- Palestine Islamic Jihad-Shaqaqi Faction
- PIJ-Shallah Faction
- PIJ-Shaqaqi Faction
- Saraya al-Quds

Executive Summary:

Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) is a Palestinian Islamist terrorist group sponsored by Iran and Syria. Founded in 1979 as an offshoot of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, PIJ is the second-largest terrorist group in Gaza today (after Hamas). The U.S. State Department claims that PIJ has fewer than 1,000 members, though in 2011 the group claimed to have at least 8,000 battle-ready fighters in Gaza.

PIJ is dedicated to eradicating Israel and establishing an autonomous Islamic Palestinian state in the lands currently comprising Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. PIJ believes that the land of Palestine is consecrated for Islam, that Israel usurped Palestine, and, therefore, that Israel is an affront to God and Islam and that Palestine’s re-conquest is a holy task.
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Accordingly, PIJ refuses to negotiate with Israel, rejects a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and carries out numerous terror attacks against Israeli targets and interests. Unlike Hamas, PIJ does not participate in the political process or provide social services.

PIJ’s primary sponsor is Iran, which has provided the group with millions of dollars in direct funding, as well as training and weapons. PIJ has partnered with Iranian- and Syrian-sponsored Hezbollah in carrying out joint operations.

Based in Gaza until 1987, PIJ’s leadership was then exiled to Lebanon, where it reportedly began cooperating with Hezbollah and began receiving training from Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. PIJ’s leadership relocated to Syria in 1989, but left a small group in Lebanon that launched joint attacks with Hezbollah in the 1990s. Syria has also provided military aid and sanctuary to PIJ, allowing the terrorist group’s leadership to occupy a Syrian Army base from 1989 until 2012.

According to the U.S. State Department, PIJ’s senior leadership continues to reside in Syria and some other leaders live in Lebanon, though most PIJ members live in Gaza. International Arabic-language newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat reported in 2012 that PIJ’s Syria-based leadership had relocated to Iran but continued to enjoy positive ties with their Syrian patrons. However, a PIJ official denied that report, claiming “relations between [PIJ] and the Syrian government are excellent, unlike Hamas,” whose leadership left Syria after refusing to support the Assad regime during the Syrian civil war. Official representatives of the group are also stationed elsewhere in the Middle East, including Iran.

Doctrine:

PIJ seeks to create a state based on sharia (Islamic law) in all the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River—including Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. Like Hamas, PIJ portrays the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a religious clash, not merely a territorial dispute. PIJ believes that the land of Palestine is consecrated for Islam and that, therefore, Israel usurped Palestine. Consequently, Israel’s very existence is an affront to God and Islam, and destroying Israel and reconquering Palestine are religious obligations.

In PIJ’s ideology, an Islamic state of Palestine can be established only through jihad (holy war) and the destruction of Israel. According to the “Manifesto of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine,” a document discovered by federal authorities investigating a Florida man with suspected PIJ ties, the group rejects “any peaceful solution to the Palestinian cause” and affirms “the Jihad solution and the martyrdom style as the only choice for liberation.” Accordingly, PIJ completely rejects negotiations with Israel or a two-state solution.

PIJ’s founders, Fathi Shaqaqi and Abd al-Aziz Awda, drew initial inspiration from the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. However, both men left the Brotherhood in the late 1970s, feeling the group had become too moderate and did not focus enough on the plight of the Palestinians. Inspired by Ayatollah Khomeini’s Islamic Revolution in Iran, Shaqaqi and Awda founded PIJ on the principles Khomeini advocated, with the goal of creating an Islamic state within the land that constituted the Palestine mandate prior to Israel’s creation in 1948.

PIJ is dedicated singularly to violent jihad. While Hamas has engaged in indirect talks with Israel (including on prisoner exchanges and ceasefires), PIJ refuses to negotiate with Israel (though the group has participated in pan-Palestinian ceasefires negotiated by Egypt). Also unlike Hamas, PIJ generally does not provide social services. However, in 2013, when Iran and Hamas were estranged due to Hamas’s abandonment of the Iranian-allied Assad regime in Syria’s civil war, Iran tasked PIJ with distributing $2 million in Iranian food aid in Gaza from the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, a Beirut-based Iranian charity. The New York Times interpreted the move as an attempt to extend Iran’s influence in Gaza while undermining Hamas and strengthening the rival PIJ.

Organizational Structure:

Ramadan Shallah served as PIJ’s secretary-general from 1995 until 2018. That September, PIJ’s leadership council elected
Ziad al-Nakhalah to be the new secretary-general. PIJ is governed by a leadership council. PIJ elected nine new members to the council in September 2018 in the group’s first international elections since 1980. The political council is made up of 15 members, nine of whom are elected by balloted voting. The secretary-general appoints two members, and the remaining four are approved by the council. The council represents PIJ members in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Israeli prisons, and abroad. Elections are reportedly to be held every four years.

PIJ’s leadership has operated from Syria since 1989, when they relocated from Lebanon after Israel expelled them a year earlier. In 2012, rumors circulated that the group’s leadership had relocated to Iran, but a PIJ official denied that. According to the U.S. State Department, PIJ operates primarily in the Gaza Strip but its leaders also live in Lebanon and elsewhere in the Middle East.

The al-Quds Brigades, PIJ’s armed wing, carries out violent attacks against Israel. The Brigades has regional staff commands. Each member within a command oversees a cell within that command’s region. The PIJ leadership issues orders and staff commanders carry out PIJ operations and coordinate cells. The U.S. State Department claims that PIJ has fewer than 1,000 members, though the group claimed in 2011 to have at least 8,000 battle-ready fighters in Gaza.

Financing:

Iran is PIJ’s primary source of financial support, according to the U.S. State Department. A 1998 lawsuit against Iran in U.S. federal court revealed that the Islamic Republic allocated $2 million in its annual budget to PIJ. That number has since skyrocketed—in late 2013, PIJ sources revealed that the terror group received about $3 million per month from Iran. During the 2012 war between Israel and Hamas, PIJ fired rockets into Israeli territory and hung banners across Gaza streets with the phrase, “Thank you, Iran.” A February 2014 report by Ali Nourizadeh, director of the Center for Iranian Studies in London, stated that Iran provides PIJ with $100 to $150 million annually.

In mid-2015, a senior PIJ leader said the group was suffering from its worst financial crisis in history. One PIJ leader attributed the crisis to Egypt’s closure of the smuggling tunnels beneath the Gaza-Egypt border. The same source also said Iran had cut back its funding to the group. Iran reportedly cut funding because PIJ refused to issue a statement supporting Iran in its conflict against Saudi Arabia in Yemen. Iran had reportedly cut PIJ’s funding by 90 percent as of January 2016. The loss in funding allegedly forced PIJ to slash salaries of its employees. According to media reports, Iran still considered PIJ a “friend” but one the country is unable to continue to support financially. PIJ’s leaders insisted the group still had good relations with Iran.

In May 2016, the Iranian government reportedly restored its relations with PIJ with an annual allocation of $70 million. The allocation followed visit to Tehran by a PIJ delegation the previous month. As of August 2018, Iran reportedly transferred $30 million annually to PIJ and $70 million to Hamas. In February 2019, PIJ spokesman Abu Hamza told Iran’s Al-Alam TV that “since the day of its establishment, the Islamic Republic [of Iran] has been supporting the Palestinian fighters financially, militarily, in raining, and in all aspects.”

Recruitment and Training:

Recruitment

Fathi Shaqaqi founded PIJ after being jailed for his involvement in the Palestine Liberation Force. Original PIJ recruits included ex-prisoners Shaqaqi met in jail, upon their return to the Gaza Strip. Shaqaqi was also able to recruit in the early 1980s through early PIJ member Abdul Aziz Awda, a popular preacher and professor of Islamic law. Awda attracted many to the PIJ cause through his sermons at one of Gaza’s largest mosques.
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Since PIJ’s goal has always been to execute strategic military operations against Israel, the group has focused on targeted recruiting rather than simply gaining a large membership. For example, PIJ recruited students to demonstrate at Bir Zeit University in the early 1980s. An April 1987 incident resulted in Israeli forces opening fire on demonstrators, resulting in the death of one student.52

PIJ’s leadership began recruiting suicide bombers in the early 1990s and originally did not permit women to serve in that role. However, PIJ officially began recruiting female suicide bombers in 2003, justifying women bombers as defending their honor against Israeli invaders. PIJ’s first female suicide bomber, a 19-year-old student named Hiba Daraghmeh, attacked a shopping mall, killing three.53 The next such bomber, Hanadi Jaradat, a 29-year-old lawyer, blew herself up in a restaurant in October 2003, killing 21.4 Selection and persuasion methods for women suicide bombers are similar to those employed for men. Recruiters of female suicide bombers “take advantage of the candidates’ innocence, enthusiasm, personal distress, and thirst for revenge,” according to U.S. Army civilian professional Debra Zedalis.55

In 2015, PIJ reportedly recruited 200 men between the ages of 19 and 22. According to a 2018 estimate by the U.S. State Department, PIJ has almost 1,000 members.56

Training

Like other violent Islamist groups, PIJ uses training methods and tactics such as exercises in suicide operations and battlefield tactics against Israeli soldiers. PIJ has boasted of opening its ranks to children as young as six years old. PIJ “summer camps” draw as many as 10,000 participants per session.57 The camps’ activities include wielding AK-47s, planting land mines, and mock operations to kidnap Israeli soldiers.58 PIJ spokesman Daoud Shihab describes such training of children as a way to ensure “a generation strong [in] resistance.”59 These “Generation of Faith” camps are not restricted to combat training, however. Recruits are “educated intellectually, militarily, and politically.”60 Ahmad al-Moudalal, a PIJ leader who helps to train children fighters, explained, “We are resistance movements. It is therefore normal for us to want to attract young people, instill the culture of resistance in their minds and prepare them to bear arms against the Israeli enemy.”61

According to the U.S. State Department, members recruited in 2015 were subjected to training programs between 36 days and six months.62

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Key Leaders

Ziyad al-Nakhalah
Secretary-General

Mohammad al-Hindi
Deputy Secretary-General

Ramadan Shallah
Secretary General

Fathi Shaqaqi
Co-founder, former secretary-general (deceased)

Abd al-Aziz Awda
Co-founder
**History:**

- **January 3, 2020 - January 5, 2020:** On January 3, PIJ releases a statement mourning the death of Qasem Soleimani, the commander of Iran's Quds Force killed in a U.S. airstrike earlier that day. Nakhalah calls Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on January 5 to express his condolences, calling Soleimani "a model for all Muslims and free people in the world regarding how to confront America and the Zionist entity." Source: Adam Rasgon, "Hamas, Islamic Jihad heads give condolences to Iran's FM on Soleimani's death," Times of Israel, January 5, 2020, [https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-islamic-jihad-heads-give-condolences-to-iran-s-fm-on-soleimani-s-death/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-islamic-jihad-heads-give-condolences-to-iran-s-fm-on-soleimani-s-death/)*[31].*

- **November 12, 2019:** An Israeli airstrike kills Baha Abu al-Ata, a member of the Al-Quds Brigades' military council in Gaza and commander of the northern part of the strip. Abu al-Ata is suspected of overseeing PIJ's recent rocket attacks on Israel, in opposition to requests for calm from Egypt and Gaza's ruling Hamas government. At approximately the same time as the strike targeting Abu al-Ata, an alleged Israeli strike on the home of a PIJ leader in Damascus, Syria, kills two and wounds 10. PIJ declares it is going to war and launches 350 rockets at Israeli population centers over the next 24 hours. Israel responds with airstrikes targeting rocket positions along the Gaza border. At least 23 Palestinians are killed, including PIJ field commander Khaled Moawad Faraj. Israel reports injuries but no fatalities. The PIJ-Hamas joint command issues a statement that it will not allow Israel to return to a policy of targeted assassinations. Nakhalah reportedly arrives in Egypt on November 13 for ceasefire talks. Sources: Adam Rasgon and Jacob Magid, "Islamic Jihad declares ‘We’re going to war,’ after IDF kills its strongman," Times of Israel, November 12, 2019, [https://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-jihad-declares-were-going-to-war-after-idf-kills-its-strongman/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-jihad-declares-were-going-to-war-after-idf-kills-its-strongman/)*[32];* Anna Ahronheim, "IDF hits anti-tank missile team; Gaza dead at 23, mostly terrorists," Jerusalem Post, November 13, 2019, [https://www.jpost.com/Israel-Palestinian-Affairs/Gaza-militants-pelt-Israel-with-rockets-in-biggest-attack-in-years-id607709](https://www.jpost.com/Israel-Palestinian-Affairs/Gaza-militants-pelt-Israel-with-rockets-in-biggest-attack-in-years-id607709)*[33];* Maayan Lubell and Nidal al-Mughrabi, "Gaza death toll reaches 23 in second day of escalation," Reuters, November 13, 2019, [https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-palestinians-violence/gaza-death-toll-reaches-23-in-second-day-of-escalation-idUSKBN1XN0FR](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-palestinians-violence/gaza-death-toll-reaches-23-in-second-day-of-escalation-idUSKBN1XN0FR)*[34].*


- **October 27, 2018:** Egyptian brokers a ceasefire between PIJ and Israel under which PIJ agrees to stop firing rockets at Israel.


- **October 30, 2017:** Israel destroys an underground tunnel beneath its border with Gaza, killing 10 PIJ militants and two Hamas soldiers.


- **May 26, 2016:** The Islamic government reportedly restores its relations with PIJ with an annual allocation of $70 million. The allocation follows visit to Tehran by a PIJ delegation the previous month. Qasem Soleimani, head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force, reportedly appoints Khaled Mansour commander of PIJ’s Quds Brigades in Gaza. Source: "Iran resumes funding for Palestinian Islamic..."
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**February 2016:** Israel arrests Gaza computer engineer Majid Awida for allegedly hacking IDF drones in order for PIJ to use them to survey Gaza.


**October 29, 2015:** As a wave of stabbing attacks against Israelis enters its second month, PIJ calls on the PA to reject negotiations with Israel.


**August 19, 2015:** PIJ member Mohammed Allan is hospitalized after a 65-day hunger strike in an Israeli prison.


**February 2015:** Former Florida university professor Sami Al-Arian is deported from the United States on charges that he gave money and other material support to the PIJ.


**December 2, 2014:** Arab Bank—accused of financing terrorism by providing services to PIJ and other terrorist groups—asks a U.S. federal appeals court to block thousands of terror-finance claims.


**November 18, 2014:** Two Palestinian terrorists attack a Jerusalem synagogue during prayers, killing four rabbis and one Druze policeman.

PIJ applauds the attack, stating, "The operation in Jerusalem was a natural reaction to the crimes committed by the Israeli Occupation Forces and Zionist settlers." Source: "Two Palestinian storm Jerusalem synagogue, kill four Israelis," Al Akhbar English (Beirut), November 18, 2014, http://english.al-akhbar.com/node/22524 [50].

**October 29, 2014:** Moataz Hejazi shoots and critically wounds prominent right-wing Israeli activist Yehuda Glick in Jerusalem, Israel.


**September 4, 2014:** After the 2014 Israel-Gaza war ends, Al Jazeera broadcasts a video of PIJ’s tunnel systems. In the video, a PIJ militant declares that the group is preparing for its next war with Israel and that the tunnels will be used to launch attacks and fire mortars on Israel.


**August 27, 2014:** Appearing on Iran’s state-run network Press TV, PIJ representative Nasser Abu Sharif praises Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei’s support of PIJ and states, "As the Zionist settlers were forced to emigrate from the settlements around the Gaza Strip, we will certainly witness the return of all the Zionists to their original places of residence outside Palestine in not-too-distant future.”


**August 20, 2014:** According to Iran’s state-run network Press TV, PIJ has fired 3,000 rockets at Israel during the 2014 Israel-Gaza war.


**August 8, 2014:** After a three-day ceasefire between Israel and Hamas expires, PIJ fires three Grad rockets at Ashkelon and promises to continue firing until Israel accedes to all of Hamas’ demands.


July 28, 2014: Seven Palestinian children die after a rocket strikes a playground in Gaza’s al-Shati refugee camp while another rocket hits al-Shifa Hospital. Palestinians initially blamed Israel, but the strikes were the result of misfired rockets by PIJ. Source: Yifa Yaakov, “IDF: Terrorists’ Rockets Hit Gaza Hospital, Refugee Camp,” Times of Israel, July 28, 2014, http://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-terrorists-rockets-hit-gaza-hospital-refugee-camp/ [61].


April 2014: According to a poll by Watan Center for Studies and Research in the Gaza Strip, support for PIJ increased significantly (to 23.3 percent) while support for Hamas declined (to 13.5 percent), compared to the last poll in 2010. PIJ only registered 1 percent support in a 2010 poll. Source: “Rasha Abou Jalal, “Islamic Jihad gains support in Gaza as Hamas declines,” Al-Monitor, April 10, 2014, http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/04/islamic-jihad-support-gaza-expense-hamas.html [67].


June 23, 2013: PIJ announces it is breaking contact with Hamas because of Jundiya’s death. PIJ resumes contact with Hamas three days later. Sources: “Islamic Jihad Chief Dies after Clash with Hamas Police,” Agence France-Presse,
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- **February 2013:** For the first time, PIJ encourages its members to register for Palestinian elections, raising speculation that PIJ is working more closely with the PLO. Source: Ammar Al-Ghoul, “Exclusive: Islamic Jihad Rethinks Role in Palestinian Politics,” *Al-Monitor*, May 9, 2013, [http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/05/islamic-jihad-palestine-political-civil-involvement.html](http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/05/islamic-jihad-palestine-political-civil-involvement.html) [75].

- **November 2012:** PIJ claims it stole and published the private information, including cell phone numbers, of more than 100 Israeli soldiers. Source: Daniel Siryoti, “Islamic Jihad Says It Leaked IDF Soldiers’ Personal Information,” *Israel Hayom*, November 27, 2012, [http://www.israelhayom.com/site/newsletter_article.php?id=6541](http://www.israelhayom.com/site/newsletter_article.php?id=6541) [76].


- **July 2012:** International Arabic-language newspaper *Asharq Al-Awsat* reports that PIJ’s Syria-based leadership had relocated to Iran but continues to enjoy positive ties with their Syrian patrons. However, a PIJ official denies that report, claiming “relations between [PIJ] and the Syrian government are excellent, unlike Hamas,” whose leadership left Syria after refusing to support the Assad regime during the Syrian civil war. Source: “Islamic Jihad Leadership Relocates to Iran,” *Asharq Al-Awsat* (London), July 22, 2012, [http://www.aawsat.net/2012/07/article55241265](http://www.aawsat.net/2012/07/article55241265) [6].


- **April 17, 2006:** PIJ and the Fatah-affiliated Al Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigade claim responsibility for a suicide bombing that killed 11 people at a sandwich stand near Tel Aviv’s old central bus station. Source: “TIMELINE: Recent Bomb and Shooting Attacks against Israelis,” *Haaretz* (Tel Aviv), November 21, 2012,
PIJ claims responsibility. 

March 7, 2001:
According to authorities, Al Najjar had ties to terrorist organizations and held leadership positions in the Tampa-based Islamic Concern Project (ICP) and the World and Islam Studies Enterprise, which the Justice Department said were fronts for Palestinian terrorist groups such as PIJ and Hamas. The ICP is also responsible for petitioning for known terrorists to obtain U.S. entry visas, according to authorities. Source: “Department of Justice Statement Regarding the Arrest of Mazen Al Najjar,” U.S. Department of Justice, November 24, 2001, http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2001/November/01_ins_606.htm [84].

February 28, 2006:

December 2005:

October 26, 2005:

October 5, 2003:

October 4, 2003:

August 14, 2003:

February 19, 2003:
A U.S. federal grand jury indicts eight members of PIJ, including University of South Florida professor Sami Al-Arian, on charges of racketeering, immigration fraud, conspiracy to kill and main persons abroad, providing material support to PIJ, perjury, extortion, and obstruction of justice. Source: “PIJ claims responsibility.” February 6, 2006.

June 5, 2002:

November 29, 2001:

November 24, 2001:
The United States Immigration and Naturalization Service arrests Mazen Al Najjar in Tampa, Florida after a federal judge orders his deportation based on visa violations in the 1980s. According to authorities, Al Najjar had ties to terrorist organizations and held leadership positions in the Tampa-based Islamic Concern Project (ICP) and the World and Islam Studies Enterprise, which the Justice Department said were fronts for Palestinian terrorist groups such as PIJ and Hamas. The ICP is also responsible for petitioning for known terrorists to obtain U.S. entry visas, according to authorities. Source: “Department of Justice Statement Regarding the Arrest of Mazen Al Najjar,” U.S. Department of Justice, November 24, 2001, http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2001/November/01_ins_606.htm [83].
November 2, 2000: Two people are killed in a car bomb explosion near the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem. PIJ claims responsibility.


October 26, 2000: PIJ claims responsibility for a suicide bombing in the Kisufim settlement, which wounds one soldier.

The attack marked the fifth anniversary of PIJ leader Fathi Shaqaqi’s death and was the first suicide bombing of the second intifada. Source: Anthony H. Cordesman, The Israeli-Palestinian War: Escalating to Nowhere (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2005), 211.

November 6, 1998: Two PIJ suicide bombers blow themselves up in the crowded Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem, wounding about 20 people.


March 11, 1998: Stephen Flatow, whose daughter, Alisa, was killed in a 1995 PIJ bus bombing in Gaza, wins a $247 million settlement in U.S. federal court against the Iraqi government for funding the attack.


October 8, 1997: PIJ is designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the U.S.


May 1997: The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service detains Mazen al-Najjar, a University of South Florida professor.


March 4, 1996: A PIJ suicide bomber kills 13 and injures 75 at a Tel Aviv shopping mall.


April 9, 1995: A PIJ suicide bomber blows up his vehicle next to an Israeli bus in the Gaza Strip, killing seven Israeli soldiers and 20-year-old American college student Alisa Flatow.


January 22, 1995: Two consecutive bombs explode at the Beit Lid junction near Netanya, Israel, killing 18 Israeli soldiers and one civilian.


1995: U.S. law enforcement begins investigating Sami al-Arian, a Palestinian professor of computer engineering at the University of South Florida.


November 11, 1994: A Palestinian riding a bicycle detonates explosives strapped to his body at an Israeli army checkpoint at Netzarin junction in the Gaza Strip, killing three Israeli soldiers and wounding six Israeli soldiers and six Palestinians.


September 4, 1994: A PIJ drive-by shooting in Gaza kills one and injures several others.


13
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- **1979:** PIJ emerges as a breakaway group from the Muslim Brotherhood.
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Violent history:

A key component of PIJ’s doctrine is the belief in violent jihad in order to liberate Palestine. PIJ has been responsible for numerous suicide attacks and hundreds of rockets against Israeli civilian centers, resulting in the deaths of dozens of Israeli civilians and soldiers. While PIJ has signed on to wider Palestinian ceasefires with Israel, it is highly unlikely the group will ever renounce terrorism, which has become an integral part of PIJ’s raison d’etre. PIJ believes its goal of creating an Islamic Palestine can be achieved only through the destruction of Israel, and so jihad has become a central tenant of PIJ’s ideology. In pursuit of its jihadist ideology, PIJ has launched numerous bombing attacks against Israeli civilian targets.

- **August 1987**: The commander of Israel’s military police is shot to death by PIJ in the Gaza Strip.63
- **February 1990**: PIJ terrorists attack an Israeli tour bus in Egypt, killing 11 people, including nine Israelis, and injuring 17.64
- **December 1993**: A PIJ shooting kills Israeli army reservist David Mashrati aboard a bus.65
- **April 6, 1994**: PIJ militants explode a car bomb next to a public bus in Afula, Israel, killing nine and injuring 50.66
- **September 4, 1994**: A PIJ drive-by shooting in Gaza kills one and injures several others.67
- **November 11, 1994**: A Palestinian riding a bicycle detonates explosives strapped to his body at an Israeli army checkpoint at Netzarim junction in the Gaza Strip, killing three Israeli soldiers and wounding six Israeli soldiers and six Palestinians. PIJ claims responsibility, stating the attack was in retaliation for a November 2 car bomb that killed PIJ leader Hani Abed.68
- **January 22, 1995**: Two consecutive bombs explode at the Beit Lid junction near Netanya, Israel, killing 18 Israeli soldiers and one civilian. PIJ claims responsibility.69
- **April 9, 1995**: A PIJ suicide bomber blows up his vehicle next to an Israeli bus in the Gaza Strip, killing seven Israeli soldiers and 20-year-old American college student Alisa Flatow.70
- **March 4, 1996**: A PIJ suicide bomber kills 13 and injures 75 at a Tel Aviv shopping mall.71
- **November 6, 1998**: Two PIJ suicide bombers blow themselves up in the crowded Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem, wounding about 20 people.72
- **October 26, 2000**: PIJ claims responsibility for a suicide bombing in the Kisufim settlement, which wounds one soldier.73 The attack marked the fifth anniversary of PIJ leader Fathi Shaqaqi’s death and was the first suicide bombing of the second intifada.
- **November 2, 2000**: Two people are killed in a car bomb explosion near the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem. PIJ claims responsibility.74
- **March 27, 2001**: A car bomb explodes in the Talpiot industrial/commercial zone in Jerusalem, wounding three people. PIJ claims responsibility.75
- **November 29, 2001**: A suicide bomber blows himself up on board a bus on a main highway in northern Israel, killing three passengers. PIJ and Fatah claim responsibility.76
- **June 5, 2002**: A PIJ suicide attack at Israel’s Megiddo Junction kills 18 and injures 50.77
- **October 4, 2003**: A PIJ suicide bomber blows himself up at Maxim restaurant in Haifa, killing 22 and injuring 60.78
- **October 26, 2005**: A bombing at a market in Hadera, Israel kills five people. PIJ claims responsibility.79
- **April 17, 2006**: PIJ and the Fatah-affiliated Al Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigade claim responsibility for a suicide bombing that killed 11 people at a sandwich stand near Tel Aviv’s old central bus station.80
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- **January 2007**: A suicide attack at an Eilat bakery kills three. PIJ and the Fatah-affiliated Al Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigade claim responsibility.\(^{61}\)
- **March 2008**: PIJ and Hamas jointly claim responsibility for an explosion that killed two IDF soldiers patrolling the security fence in the central Gaza Strip.\(^{62}\)
- **April 2008**: PIJ fires 216 rockets and mortar shells at various Israeli towns.\(^{83}\)
- **June 2008**: PIJ claims responsibility for firing a Grad rocket that hit a shopping mall in Ashkelon, Israel, wounding 15. Israeli authorities accuse Iran of providing PIJ with Grad rockets.\(^{64}\)
- **January 8, 2011**: PIJ fires two mortars into southern Israel, killing two Thai nationals.\(^{85}\)
- **August 20, 2011**: PIJ fires a volley of rockets into southern Israel, killing one civilian and wounding seven.\(^{86}\)
- **October 29, 2011**: PIJ fires a number of rockets into southern Israel, killing one civilian and wounding two.\(^{87}\)
- **March 2012**: PIJ fires almost 200 missiles into Israel from Gaza.\(^{88}\)
- **November 2012**: Hamas and PIJ are credited for bombing a Tel Aviv bus that wounds at least 30 people.\(^{89}\)
- **November 2012**: PIJ takes credit for a rocket fired from Gaza at Tel Aviv. The rocket explodes in an open field, causing no casualties.\(^{90}\)
- **June 24, 2013**: Six rockets fired from Gaza explode in southern Israel. No casualties are reported. Israeli intelligence believes PIJ fired the rockets as an act of defiance against the Hamas authorities in Gaza.\(^{91}\)
- **December 22, 2013**: An Israeli police sapper is injured when a bomb he was trying to defuse on a Bat Yam bus explodes.\(^{92}\) Four PIJ members are arrested a month later for coordinating the attack.\(^{93}\)
- **March 2014**: PIJ fires a round of mortars from Gaza into Israel, prompting an Israeli strike that kills three PIJ commanders. In retaliation, PIJ launches at least 130 locally made rockets into Israel as part of a military operation called Breaking the Silence.\(^{94}\) The operation is reportedly in coordination with Hamas.\(^{95}\)
- **July 8, 2014**: Israel launches Operation Protective Edge, aimed at striking Hamas and ending rocket fire from Hamas and PIJ in Gaza.\(^{96}\) PIJ takes credit for firing 60 rockets in recent days and claims it has begun an operation called Stable Building.\(^{97}\) Some analysts argue PIJ has been strengthened by the latest conflict.
- **July 28, 2014**: Seven Palestinian children die after a rocket strikes a playground in Gaza’s al-Shati refugee camp, while another rocket hits al-Shifa Hospital. Palestinians initially blamed Israel, but the strikes were the result of misfired rockets by PIJ.\(^{98}\)
- **August 5, 2014**: An Egyptian-negotiated 72-hour ceasefire takes hold. Israeli and Palestinian negotiators head to Cairo to discuss a longer truce. Representatives of Fatah, Hamas, and PIJ are part of the Palestinian delegation.\(^{99}\)
- **August 8, 2014**: After a three-day ceasefire between Israel and Hamas expires, PIJ fires three Grad rockets at Ashkelon and promises to continue firing until Israel accedes to all of Hamas’s demands.\(^{100}\)
- **August 20, 2014**: According to Iran’s state-run network Press TV, PIJ has fired 3,000 rockets at Israel during the 2014 Israel-Gaza war.\(^{101}\)
- **September 4, 2014**: After the 2014 Israel-Gaza war ends, Al Jazeera broadcasts a video of PIJ’s tunnel systems. In the video, a PIJ militant declares that the group is preparing for its next war with Israel and that the tunnels will be used to launch attacks and fire mortars on Israel.\(^{102}\)
- **October 29, 2014**: Moataz Hejazi shoots and critically wounds prominent right-wing Israeli activist Yehuda Glick in Jerusalem, Israel. After the shooting, police track Hejazi to his home and he dies in a shootout.\(^{103}\) The following day, PIJ publishes an obituary for Hejazi on its website, saying that he had been a member of the organization.\(^{104}\)
August 20, 2015: Four rockets land inside Israel from the Syrian side of the Golan Heights, causing no injuries. Israel accuses PIJ of firing the rockets with Iranian support. PIJ denies the charge.

October 3, 2015: PIJ claims responsibility after 19-year-old Mohannad Halabi stabs two Israeli men to death in Jerusalem’s Old City. Police shot him dead. Israeli authorities demolished Halabi’s house on January 9, 2016. A Palestinian campaign to rebuild the house raised $60,000 and lauded Halabi as the “initiator of the Jerusalem intifada.”

December 1, 2015: Palestinian Authority police arrest a six-member PIJ cell transporting grenades, firearms, and other explosives in the West Bank. The cell reportedly planned to use the weaponry to attack the IDF.

October 30, 2017: Israel destroys a tunnel beneath the Gaza-Israel border, killing 14 militants, including the head of PIJ’s armed wing in central Gaza. PIJ promises revenge. PIJ admits that the tunnel was meant for “kidnapping soldiers in order to free prisoners [from Israeli prisons].”

November 30, 2017: PIJ fires 12 mortar shells from northern Gaza at an Israeli army post northeast of Gaza, causing minimal damage and no casualties.

December 12, 2017: Two PIJ operatives are killed “while carrying out a jihadist mission,” according to a PIJ statement. Palestinian media reports initially blame an Israeli drone strike, which the Israeli military denies.

December 29, 2017: PIJ fires three mortar shells into southern Israel. Two of the mortars are intercepted while the third strikes the Israeli community of Sha’ar Hanegev, causing minor damage to a building. The IDF assesses that the mortars used in the attack and in the November 30, 2017, barrage were Iranian made.

May 28, 2018: PIJ fires 28 mortars at Israel from Gaza. The Israeli military intercepts most of the rockets but one lands outside of a kindergarten causing damage but no injuries.

October 26-27, 2018: PIJ fires dozens of rockets into Israel. Israel responds by bombing multiple targets in Gaza. There are no casualties reported on either side.

November 12-14, 2018: PIJ and Hamas fire more than 450 rockets into Israel, killing one and wounding dozens. After Israel responds with airstrikes in Gaza, the groups agree to a ceasefire on November 13. PIJ claims victory after Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman resigns on November 14 in protest of the ceasefire.

May 3-5, 2019: On May 3, PIJ snipers wound two Israeli soldiers along the Gaza border during weekly protests. Israeli forces retaliate with a strike on a Hamas post near the border, killing two. PIJ and Hamas launch almost 700 rockets into Israel over the course of three days, killing at least four Israeli civilians and wounding dozens more. Most of the rockets are intercepted or fall in open areas, but at least 50 rockets reportedly hit Israeli population centers. Israel retaliates with airstrikes on more than 350 targets in Gaza. The airstrikes kill at least 29, including fighters from Hamas and PIJ, as well as civilians, according to Hamas, though Israeli military officials say some Palestinian civilians were actually killed by misfired Hamas rockets. It is reportedly the most violent conflict between the two sides since the 2014 war. PIJ threatens to launch a full-scale war with Israel. On May 5, Israel restarts its tactic of targeted assassinations after a five-year lull and kills Hamed Ahmed al-Khodary, a senior Hamas finance official accused of funneling Iranian money to PIJ and Hamas. Egypt negotiates a new ceasefire that goes into effect that night. Hamas claims that though this round of violence is over, the conflict will continue.

November 2019: PIJ declares it is going to war and launches more than 350 rockets into Israel beginning on November 12 after Israel assassinates Baha Abu al-Ata, PIJ’s military commander in northern Gaza. Israel responds with airstrikes targeting rocket positions along the Gaza border. At least 23 Palestinians are killed, including PIJ field commander Khaled Moawad Faraj. Israel reports injuries but no fatalities. The PIJ-Hamas joint command issues a statement that it will not allow Israel to return to a policy of targeted assassinations. Nakhalah reportedly arrives in Egypt on November 13 for ceasefire talks.

February 2020: On February 19, a PIJ sniper team fires on a group of Israeli soldiers and police officers along the Gaza-Israel border. There are no casualties. The IDF returns fire and “identified a hit,” though the Palestinians report no casualties. On February 23, Israeli forces kill a PIJ member attempting to plant explosives along the Gaza-Israel border fence. PIJ launches more than 21 rockets into Israel from Gaza in retaliation. In response to the rocket fire, Israeli forces strike multiple PIJ targets in Syria, killing at least two PIJ members. On February 24, PIJ continues to launch dozens of rockets toward Israel’s southern communities in response. Israel’s defense systems intercept most of...
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the rockets but there are reports of damage to homes and minor injuries. Israel launches airstrikes on PIJ rocket positions in Gaza. PIJ pledges to fire on Tel Aviv.\(^{117}\)


\(^{53}\) Anthony H. Cordesman, The Israeli-Palestinian War: Escalating to Nowhere (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2005), 211.


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112 "Judah Ari Gross, "Islamic Jihad was behind Friday’s mortar barrage, IDF assesses," Times of Israel, January 3, 2018, https://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-jihad-was-behind-fridays-mortar-barrage-idf-assesses [114].

113 Amos Harel, Almog Ben Zikri, Yaniv Kubovich, and Jack Khoury, "Barrage of 28 Mortars Fired From Gaza to Israel; Kindergarten's Yard Hit,"
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Designations:

Designations by the U.S. Government:

October 8, 1997: Secretary of State designates Palestine Islamic Jihad - Shaqaqi Faction as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.118

Designations by Foreign Governments and Organizations:

Australia—listed PIJ as a terrorist organization on December 21, 2001.119

Canada—listed Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a terrorist entity on November 27, 2002.120

EU—listed Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as groups and entities involved in terrorist acts on December 27, 2001.121

New Zealand—listed Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a terrorist entity on October 11, 2010.122

United Kingdom—listed Palestinian Islamic Jihad - Shaqaqi (PIJ) as an organization believed to be concerned in terrorism in March 2001.123

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123 “Proscribed Terrorist Organizations,” UK Home Office, last updated February 3, 2015, [131].
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Associations:

Ties to Extremist Entities designated by the U.S. or foreign governments:
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PIJ’s founders modeled the group’s Islamist objectives under the influence of Iran’s 1979 Islamic Revolution. Iran is PIJ’s primary source of financial support, according to the U.S. State Department. A 1998 lawsuit against Iran in U.S. federal court revealed that the Islamic Republic allocated $2 million in its annual budget to PIJ. That number has since skyrocketed—in late 2013, PIJ sources revealed that the terror group received about $3 million per month from Iran.

A February 2014 report by Ali Nourizadeh, director of the Center for Iranian Studies in London, stated that Iran provides PIJ with $100 to $150 million annually. According to PIJ spokesman Daoud Shihab, “all of the weapons in Gaza are provided by Iran,” and “everyone knows that Iran is financing” PIJ. In February 2014, a group of PIJ leaders, including Ramadan Shallah, made what Shihab called a “routine visit” to Tehran, which “still supports resistance factions.”

PIJ also receives aid through Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC). The IRGC is Iran’s primary instrument for spreading the Islamic Revolution abroad and has acted as a conduit between the Iranian regime and PIJ. The IRGC provides PIJ with weapons, training, and funding. It reportedly began sending support after the PIJ was exiled to Lebanon in 1987.

Since the beginning of the 2011 Syrian civil war, Iran has reportedly increased its support of PIJ at the expense of Hamas. Unlike Hamas, Iran supports Syria’s Assad regime and PIJ has noticeably maintained its base in Damascus, Syria (although PIJ otherwise appears to be neutral). In 2013, Iran sent $2 million worth of food aid to Gaza during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, entrusting members of PIJ with distribution. This aid bore stamps with the Palestinian flag alongside the PIJ logo and the Iranian flag.

International Arabic-language newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat reported in 2012 that PIJ’s Syria-based leadership had relocated to Iran but continued to enjoy positive ties with their Syrian patrons. However, a PIJ official denied that report, claiming “relations between [PIJ] and the Syrian government are excellent, unlike Hamas,” whose leadership left Syria after refusing to support the Assad regime during the Syrian civil war. Official representatives of the group are also stationed elsewhere in the Middle East, including Iran.

After a year of decreased funding, the IRGC reportedly restored its relations with PIJ in May 2016 with an annual allocation of $70 million. The allocation followed a visit to Tehran by a PIJ delegation the previous month. As part of the agreement, Qasem Soleimani, head of the IRGC’s Quds Force, reportedly appointed Khaled Mansour commander of PIJ’s Quds Brigades in Gaza.
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In 1987, PIJ was exiled from Gaza to Lebanon. There, the group reportedly began cooperating with Hezbollah and began training under Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. In July 2014, masked members of PIJ were filmed thanking Hezbollah, particularly its Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, for Hezbollah’s “stance and support, be it with financial, military or moral support.”

PIJ and the Al Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigade, the armed faction of Fatah, have carried out a handful of joint terror attacks against Israeli civilians. Examples include an April 2006 suicide bombing at a Tel Aviv sandwich stand that killed 11 people and a January 2007 suicide attack on an Eilat bakery that killed three.

Ties to other entities:

PIJ has been based in Damascus since 1989. An anonymous PIJ source told London’s Asharq Al-Awsat in July 2012 that the PIJ leadership fled Syria for Iran, though PIJ officially denied that it had abandoned its base in Syria. Despite Iranian support for PIJ and Syria, PIJ has otherwise appeared to remain neutral in the Syrian civil war. According to PIJ spokesperson Daoud Shihab, “Palestine is greater than all axes, and we do not accept to be part of the [Syria] conflict.” PIJ has, however, threatened to respond if Israel involves itself in the Syrian civil war.

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Media Coverage:

Media coverage/analysis of group

Media coverage of PIJ is much less subjective than with other groups. While pundits may find themselves sometimes split over Hamas and Hezbollah, which provide social services in addition to their terrorist activities, PIJ provides no such services and is solely dedicated to Israel’s destruction. Further, unlike Hamas and Hezbollah, PIJ is not entangled in any government and therefore there is no need to distinguish between its armed faction and any political leadership, although there are indications that the group might be looking to develop a political role. Though Western media largely still refers to PIJ as a militant and not a terrorist organization, PIJ’s single-mindedness has made it easier for the media to classify and condemn its activities.

Still, while pundits widely condemn PIJ’s tactics, there are some, even in Western media, who equate morally PIJ’s terrorism and Israel’s responses to terrorism. According to this line of thinking, as abhorrent as PIJ’s actions are, they are the actions of desperate people living under brutal occupation. One example of this justification is a 2002 New York Times op-ed by Muhammad Muslih, a professor of political science at Long Island University. Muslih penned the op-ed after overhearing a young Arab-American boy tell his father he wanted to become a suicide bomber and martyr in Palestine. Muslih expressed his dismay at hearing the boy’s words but went on to justify Palestinian terrorism as a response to the Israeli occupation. He cited a PIJ leader who told Muslih the Palestinians “don’t have tanks or Apaches or F-16s, but we have the determination to be martyrs.” Muslih differentiated between Palestinian terrorism and that of Osama bin Laden, stating, “There are no bin Ladens in the Palestinian territories,” and declaring that “Palestinian violence is a reaction to the violence of occupation.” And rather than clearly condemn Palestinian terrorism and call for dialogue, Muslih demanded acquiescence to PIJ’s goals: “The United States should get Israel to withdraw to its borders of June 4, 1967. Then the violence will stop.”

PIJ regularly made headlines during the early 2000s, when a University of South Florida professor, Sami al-Arian, was indicted for aiding the terrorist group. Despite the record of PIJ’s terrorist activities, some Western media reports glossed over PIJ’s record when reporting on the professor, failing to put PIJ and the charges into context. A 2006 Guardian article, for example, reports on al-Arian’s sentencing and lists the charges against the professor as well as the U.S. attorney general’s belief that al-Arian is involved in PIJ’s deadly activities, but the writer provides no background on PIJ itself. By contrast, a 2006 New York Times article on al-Arian’s sentencing extensively cites the federal judge’s contempt for PIJ’s activities, describing what exactly al-Arian was charged with supporting. In a 2003 article on the attempted U.S. extradition of a British national accused of aiding PIJ in connection with al-Arian, the British Telegraph lists PIJ’s recent terrorist activities and their death toll, while citing PIJ’s goal “to create ‘terror, instability and panic.’ Other aims include the destruction of the state of Israel and the rejection of any form of peaceful co-existence.” Further, another 2006 New York Times article on the assassination of a PIJ leader credits the group for carrying out multiple recent suicide bombings against Israel.

PIJ’s singular devotion to violent jihad and destroying Israel makes it difficult for any pundit to write positively on the organization, but sympathies for the Palestinian cause still shade some coverage of PIJ, hiding the group’s terrorist activities behind a veil of nationalism.

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Rhetoric:

**Ziad al-Nakhalah, PIJ secretary-general, January 5, 2020** [147]

The death of Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani is a “huge loss but at the same time he will be a model for all Muslims and free people in the world regarding how to confront America and the Zionist entity.”

**PIJ statement, November 12, 2017** [148]

“It is our right to respond to any aggression, including the right to respond to the crime of attacking the tunnel east of Dir al-Balah, where 12 Mujahideen from Al-Qassam and Saraya al-Quds fell. To clarify the matter, our children and our people are also dear to us, as are our leaders, and the terrorism and the threats of the enemy do not frighten us. The settler is a murderer and a criminal and must understand that his hands are stained with the blood of our children and will not stop killing until he is cut off or he leaves our land.”

**PIJ statement, November 14, 2018** [149]

“Behold the political slaughter dealt to leaders of the occupation who aren’t capable of dealing with Gaza.”

**Abu Imad al-Rifai, PIJ representative in Lebanon, January 19, 2015** [150]

“When the Syrians see that there is a war between Israel and the (Syrian) regime, a large part of the opposition will stand alongside the regime, and fight the Israeli enemy... We are part of the resistance, and we will be at the middle of the fighting with the Israeli enemy if it breaks out. Within 72 hours, half of the Galilee will have fallen into the hands of the resistance, because the Israeli army’s ability to stand ground has been corroded.”

**PIJ statement on a terrorist attack in which four rabbis were murdered in a synagogue, November 18, 2014** [151]

“The operation in Jerusalem was a natural reaction to the crimes committed by the Israeli Occupation Forces and Zionist settlers.”

**Anonymous PIJ militant, September 9, 2014** [152]

“We are now inside one of the tunnels of the Al-Quds Brigades [the military arm of PIJ], on which work began the minute the war on Gaza ended and the ceasefire was declared... We will not be hindered by the threats of the enemy or by the ban on importing cement and other building materials...These tunnels will also have other uses, which we will not disclose. [These tunnels will be used for] launching anti-tank weapons, especially the Kornet missile... Allah willing, we are awaiting instructions to go out and take on the targets of the enemy.”

**Nasser Abu Sharif, PIJ representative, August 27, 2014** [153]

“As the Zionist settlers were forced to emigrate from the settlements around the Gaza Strip, we will certainly witness the return of all the Zionists to their original places of
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Khader Habib, senior PIJ leader, August 2014 [154]

“The issue of arms is connected to the existence of the occupation. This right is guaranteed by the laws of heaven and earth... When the Israeli occupation felt it had failed to face the resistance, it put all of its power in destroying homes and infrastructure in order to break the will of the fighters. Our nation will continue fighting until achieving all the goals set by the resistance.”

Daoud Shihab, PIJ spokesman, July 2014 [155]

“Israel is targeting the Palestinians... I would just like to remind you of the ruling by the Israeli rabbis, who have instructed the soldiers to knead the [dough for] the bread that the Jews eat with the blood of Arab and Palestinian children.”

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, May 2014 [156]

“In the past two decades, Iran has had an outstanding stance on Palestine, Israel and the resistance.”

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, May 2014 [157]

“This is what Israel and its allies want, for all of its enemies from all parties in Syria and the region to fight [each other]. What could be better [for them]?”

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, May 2014 [158]

“In the past two decades, Iran has had an outstanding stance on Palestine, Israel and the resistance. Some question Iran’s intentions and motives regarding its support to the resistance. Our job is not to examine intentions; we are concerned with actions... We appreciate Iran’s outstanding position on the Palestinian cause, but there are other sensitive files and issues in the region that have made others say that Iran constitutes a threat to them. They even see Iran as a new enemy in the region, instead of Israel. In our opinion, this is a dangerous slippery slope. We believe that the goal, or one of the main goals, of the hostile forces in the ummah [Islamic nation] — in light of the brutal wars taking place between components of the ummah and between our societies—is for the sectarian conflict, or the Sunni-Shiite conflict, to replace the Israeli-Arab conflict.”

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, March 2014 [159]

“Our performance from one war to another is getting better. If in 2012 we hit Tel Aviv, I think the enemy can imagine what can be beyond Tel Aviv... Our resistance will continue as far as there is Israel, as far as there is occupation, the daily aggression against our people. Let me make it clear: Our arms are only for Palestine. Our arms aren’t for rent. We will continue until we see the Dome of the Rock, Jaffa and Haifa.”

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, March 2014 [160]
“Our resistance will continue as far as there is Israel, as far as there is occupation, the daily aggression against our people. Let me make it clear: Our arms are only for Palestine. Our arms aren’t for rent. We will continue until we see the Dome of the Rock, Jaffa and Haifa.”

_Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, March 2014_ [161]

“Our performance from one war to another is getting better. If in 2012 we hit Tel Aviv, I think the enemy can imagine what can be beyond Tel Aviv.”

_Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, March 2014_ [162]

“Unfortunately, the Palestinian Authority [PA], in response, is banning the resistance, though there’s great potential, and our people are ready to rise up once again. Why are they committed to security coordination with Israel? What does security coordination mean? It means that the PA is working for Israel.”

_Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, March 2014_ [163]

“...those who chose the negotiation path gained nothing. We all lost because of them.”

_Daoud Shihab, PIJ spokesman, on a high-level PIJ visit with Iranian officials, February 2014_ [164]

“The warm welcome that the delegation received expresses Iran’s solidarity [with Islamic Jihad] and its rejection of US policy. It shows that [Tehran] still supports resistance factions. This was a large delegation, headed by Ramadan, and it included his deputy and a number of members of the movement’s political bureau, in addition to Islamic Jihad’s representative in Iran. The visit comes at a time when some believe that Tehran’s policy toward resistance movements is changing. But Iran is reiterating its support for the Palestinian cause, regardless of the developments in its relationship with the West. The Palestinian cause is one of Iran’s objectives.”

_PIJ statement, January 2014_ [165]

“The blood of martyrs will not be in vain, but a curse that chases the occupier everywhere.”

_Daoud Shihab, PIJ spokesman, May 2013_ [166]

“All of the weapons in Gaza are provided by Iran, be they weapons intended for the Hamas movement or for the PIJ. Perhaps Hamas even has more Iranian weapons than us; and everyone knows that Iran is financing us... The PIJ is a resistance movement, and while there are many parties in the Arab and Muslim world offering support for the resistance, the largest share of this financial and military support is coming from Iran.”
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**Khader Habeeb, senior PIJ official, May 2013** [168]

“The equation has yet to change. The Oslo Accords are still the reference and we continue to refuse them, as we see them as a deviation from the correct Palestinian direction, which is to resist and liberate the entire land.”

**Abu Ahmad, military spokesman of PIJ’s Al-Quds Brigades in Gaza, January 2013** [169]

“Every offensive Israel wages on Gaza is usually harder than the previous. This is why we are focusing now to strengthen our infrastructure and to store more weapons... Our local rockets proved their high level of proficiency, especially in the latest round of the battle.”

**Abu Ahmad, military spokesman of PIJ’s Al-Quds Brigades in Gaza, January 2013** [170]

“Although we lost some of our sites and resources, the Palestinian resistance was able to hit back at Israel harshly, instantly and deep into Israel’s main cities, shaking their security and forcing them into a cease-fire... The most important thing we have learned was that the Israeli enemy needs to be shocked from the first day... You have to send a powerful message on the first day in any future military confrontation with Israel, and this is what we have done. We are in a state of gradual escalation, and Israel will take into consideration our military capability to use this tactic in any future conflict.”

**Abu Ahmad, military spokesman of PIJ’s Al-Quds Brigades in Gaza, January 2013** [171]

“We are not the only Palestinian armed group that receives an Iranian support, but we are the one that admits it the loudest. We feel it’s like an inevitable gratitude... I wonder why Iranian support for Palestinian armed groups is not acceptable as we are the victims, while the American support for Israel is acceptable despite Israel being the aggressor.”

**Khader Habeeb, senior PIJ official, January 2013** [172]

“Iran has adopted the Palestinian resistance since its Islamic revolution. It has been a loyal backer. Consequently, Iranian assistance for the Syrian regime has nothing to do with our relations with Iran, even when our views are different... Iran was pleased with the victory the Palestinian resistance achieved. This is why it’s likely to increase its support for us, for what we have lost during the war and because we need to rebuild our infrastructure.”

**Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, November 2012** [173]

“Do we accept the 1967 borders? No. We have to restore all of Palestine.”

**Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, November 2012** [174]

“Therefore, the only way before us is steadfastness and resistance in the West Bank, too.”
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Resistance would drive Israel out of the West Bank, as it did in Gaza.”

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, November 2012

“Iran has been providing us with the support we needed to defend ourselves in the face of the Zionist occupation. Iran supported us militarily and financially and with all we need to remain steadfast on our land. We hope that all the Arab countries do the same.”

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, November 2012

“In Palestinian history, resistance was always a source of inspiration for our people to continue the struggle in order to get back our rights and homeland, Palestine.”

Khalid al-Batsh, PIJ senior official, July 2012

“The fruit was unripe, green, and bitter; the Oslo accords were bitter and we were made to swallow the bitterness. The result of this premature step was the Palestinian Authority... So what is our strategy today? We consider ourselves on a path to national liberation and therefore proclaim ourselves a movement of national and Islamic liberation from Israeli occupation. This requires us to adhere to the motto of resistance and continue with that option to reclaim the land... At all events, it must be made clear that this land is occupied and that resistance, jihad, and liberation are the only paths to restore our rights, while rejecting all compromise with Israel... They knew they were fighting Islamic Jihad, and that Islamic Jihad has nothing to lose, controls its own decisions, and does not count its casualties.... [So] trying to match Islamic Jihad in battle would entail great losses, particularly if Jihad extended the range of its missiles.”

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, November 2012

“Gaza is the human shield between Israeli aggression and Egypt.”

Daoud Shihab, PIJ spokesman, September 2011

“All Palestinian factions within the PLO have aimed at liberating Palestine, not establishing a state; a state comes after liberating Palestine.”

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, on PIJ’s anniversary, October 2010

“The motto of every honorable one should remain that Israel must be eliminated from life.”
Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, December 2009 [181]
“The United States is the best place in the world to live in. But, unfortunately, the gang in the White House sees everything through Israel's eyes, and the government manipulates the people's vision of what is going on outside the country.”[196]

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, December 2009 [182]
“But I will never, under any conditions, accept the existence of the state of Israel.”[197]

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, December 2009 [183]
“There is no possibility today of a two-state solution. That idea is dead.”[198]

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, December 2009 [184]
“The US and Israel heighten Iranophobia to gain the support of Arab regimes, which fear Iran.”[199]

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, October 2009 [185]
“We do not trust the so-called peace process.”[200]

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, October 2009 [186]
“We do not recognise Israel as a legitimate entity within this region and see it as an invading body that was cultivated in this area as a representative of Western interests and colonial powers.”[201]

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, October 2009 [187]
“I consider that the entire land of Palestine is ours and that the Israelis have no right to build so-called Israel as a Jewish state on that land... I do believe that Israel is an alien entity and they have no right to live as a legal part of this region.”[202]

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, October 2009 [188]
“First of all, we do not believe in negotiations with Israel. We do not recognise Israel as a legitimate entity within this region and see it as an invading body that was cultivated in this area as a representative of Western interests and colonial powers. Israel is an occupier and they expelled the indigenous people of the land—the Palestinian population who are now living as refugees throughout the world... We do not trust the so-called peace process. From our point of view, nothing has been achieved since the Madrid
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conference and the Oslo Accords signed by Yasser Arafat, the late Palestinian president, in 1993.\(^\text{1}\)

**Abu Dajana, al-Quds Brigade spokesman, March 2006** [189]

“The Zionists will swallow the same bitter drink that each Palestinian family has drunk from before.”\(^\text{2}\)

**PIJ statement in response to Israel’s killing of two PIJ terrorists, September 2005** [190]

“After this crime, we reiterate that there will be no security for the residents of Sderot and Ashkelon.”\(^\text{3}\)

**Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, November 2002** [191]

“The operation is a clear message to the Zionist enemy that it can enjoy no security while it continues to perpetrate massacres against the Palestinian people.”\(^\text{4}\)

**Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, June 2002** [192]

“To those who tell us to stop the martyrdom operations we say: give us an alternative.”\(^\text{5}\)

**Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, June 2002** [193]

“No one has the right to object to us giving away our souls and turning them into human bombs for a cause we consider more important and more sacred than our lives.”\(^\text{6}\)

**Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, June 2002** [194]

“If America is the one to divide the world into the ‘camp of the good’ and the ‘camp of the evil,’ and if it puts the Palestinian people and its Jihad fighters on the evil side, claiming that the martyrs are evil, then we say: ‘Allah, make us all evil, [make us all] anger America and blow up in the heart of this cursed Zionist entity....’”\(^\text{7}\)

**Unnamed PIJ leader, 2002** [195]

“The Zionist entity shows us nothing but naked and brutal power, which makes any kind of restraint on our part impossible. We don’t have tanks or Apaches or F-16s, but we have the determination to be martyrs.”\(^\text{8}\)

**Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, following a PIJ attack on an IDF outpost, October 2000** [196]

“These actions are the beginning and there will be other attacks against settlers and the
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Israel army.«211

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ secretary-general, September 2000 [197]

“We have nothing with which to repel killing and thuggery against us except the weapon of martyrdom. It is easy and costs us only our lives.»212

Ramadan Shallah, PIJ leader, January 1997 [198]

“We are going to retaliate with a language that the enemy can only understand. The danger of the suicide operations are coming.”213

Ramadan Abdullah Shallah, January 1997 [199]

“We are going to retaliate with a language that the enemy can only understand. The danger of the suicide operations are coming.”214

PIJ website [200]

“Liberating Palestine from the river to the sea, as this is the land of Muslims and Arabs. No inch of this land should be compromised and the existence of the Zionist entity is void and forbidden. According to sharia, it is forbidden to recognize any part of the Zionist entity. All settlement projects that recognize the Zionist existence in Palestine, or seek to compromise any national rights, are rejected and forbidden.”215


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