

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

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. 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.¹ PIJ's leadership relocated to Syria in 1989, but left a small group in Lebanon that launched joint attacks with Hezbollah in the 1990s.² 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 2012.³

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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.⁴ 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,"⁵ 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,⁶ including Iran.⁷

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."⁸ 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.⁹ 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 1948.¹⁰

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.¹¹ 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.¹²

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.¹³ 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.¹⁴

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.¹⁵ 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.¹⁶

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.¹⁷ The U.S. State Department claims that PIJ has fewer than 1,000 members,¹⁸ though the group claimed in 2011 to have at least 8,000 battle-ready fighters in Gaza.¹⁹

Financing:

Iran is PIJ's primary source of financial support, according to the U.S. State Department.²⁰ A 1998 lawsuit against Iran in U.S. federal court revealed that the Islamic Republic allocated \$2 million in its annual budget to PIJ.²¹ That number has since skyrocketed—in late 2013, PIJ

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sources revealed that the terror group received about \$3 million per month from Iran.²² 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.”²³ 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.²⁴

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.²⁵ Iran reportedly cut funding because PIJ refused to issue a statement supporting Iran in its conflict against Saudi Arabia in Yemen.²⁶ 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.²⁷

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.²⁸ As of August 2018, Iran reportedly transferred \$30 million annually to PIJ and \$70 million to Hamas.²⁹ 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.”³⁰

A U.S. lawsuit filed in June 2020 alleged Qatar provided funding to Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) through three Qatari financial institutions, the Qatar Charity, Masraf Al Rayan, and Qatar National Bank. The Qatar Charity is a member of the U.S.-sanctioned Union of Good charity network. All three institutions have links to members of the Qatari royal family. The plaintiffs are friends and family members of 10 victims who died in terror attacks in Israel carried out by Hamas and PIJ. The lawsuit accuses Qatar of coopting “several institutions that it dominates and controls to funnel coveted U.S. dollars (the chosen currency of Middle East terrorist networks) to Hamas and PIJ under the false guise of charitable donations.”³¹

Recruitment and Training:

Recruitment

Fathi Shaqaqi founded PIJ after being jailed for his involvement in the Palestine Liberation Force.³² Original PIJ recruits included ex-prisoners Shaqaqi met in jail, upon their return to the Gaza Strip.³³ 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.³⁴

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.³⁵

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 Daraghme, attacked a shopping mall, killing three.³⁶ The next such bomber, Hanadi Jaradat, a 29-year-old lawyer, blew herself up in a restaurant in October 2003, killing 21.³⁷ 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.³⁸

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.³⁹

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.⁴⁰ The camps’ activities include wielding AK-47s, planting land mines, and mock operations to kidnap Israeli soldiers.⁴¹ PIJ spokesman Daoud Shihab describes such training of children as a way to ensure “a generation strong [in] resistance.”⁴²

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These “Generation of Faith” camps are not restricted to combat training, however. Recruits are “educated intellectually, militarily, and politically.”⁴³ 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.”⁴⁴

According to the U.S. State Department, members recruited in 2015 were subjected to training programs between 36 days and six months.⁴⁵

Also Known As:

- Abu Ghunaym Squad of the Hizballah Bayt Al-Maqdis⁴⁶
- al-Awdah Brigades⁴⁷
- al-Quds Brigades⁴⁸
- al-Quds Squads⁴⁹
- Harakat al-Jihad al-Islami al-Filastini⁵⁰
- Harakat al-Jihad al-Islami fi Filistin⁵¹
- Islamic Holy War⁵²
- Islamic Jihad⁵³
- Islamic Jihad–Palestine Faction⁵⁴
- Islamic Jihad in Palestine⁵⁵
- Islamic Jihad of Palestine⁵⁶
- Islamic Jihad Palestine⁵⁷
- Palestine Islamic Jihad⁵⁸
- Palestine Islamic Jihad–Shallah Faction⁵⁹
- Palestine Islamic Jihad–Shaqaqi Faction⁶⁰
- PIJ–Shallah Faction⁶¹
- PIJ–Shaqaqi Faction⁶²
- Saraya al-Quds⁶³

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Key Leaders



Ziad al-Nakhalah
Secretary-General



Mohammed al-Hindi
Head of PIJ political department



Ramadan Abdullah Shallah
Former Secretary-General
(deceased)



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



Abd al-Aziz Awda
Co-founder

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History:

- **April 13, 2024:** The Israeli army releases an eight-minute-long interrogation video of PIJ political bureau spokesman Tariq Salami Otha Abu Shlouf, who was arrested at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza in late March with 358 other Hamas and PIJ members. During the interrogation, Shlouf claims that PIJ falsifies narratives in Arabic and international media regarding what happens on the ground in Gaza. He further claims the group used all of Gaza's hospitals and ambulances during the entirety of the war. Shlouf further mentioned how Nakhalah maintained daily contact with PIJ's communication department to ensure that certain stories were retracted or pushed out by journalists. Source: Ruth Marks Eglash, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad spokesman reveals group's Gaza propaganda playbook," Fox News, April 13, 2024, <https://www.foxnews.com/world/palestinian-islamic-jihad-spokesman-reveals-groups-gaza-propaganda-playbook>.
- **April 13, 2024:** In a discussion with the Iranian government website khamenei.ir, Nakhalah claims the United States is seeking to find a way to withdraw Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip as the resistance groups have "united" toward claiming a final victory. Sources: "US seeking to withdraw Israeli forces from Gaza after failing to achieve goals: Islamic Jihad," Press TV, April 13, 2024, <https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2024/04/13/723620/Palestine-Israel-Gaza-war-Islamic-Jihad-Ziyad-al-Nakhleh-US-negotiation-withdraw-Israeli-troops>; "Al-Nakhalah: Resistance prepared for extended war, Axis aid integral," Al-Maydeen English, April 13, 2024, <https://english.almayadeen.net/news/politics/al-nakhalah--resistance-prepared-for-extended-war--axis-aid>.
- **March 28, 2024 - March 29, 2024:** Nakhalah travels to Tehran to meet with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Hamas's Haniyeh. During a March 28 meeting, Khamenei applauds the actions of the Axis of Resistance and criticizes the leaders of other Muslim-majority countries for what he called their "passivity and lack of action." After Nakhalah's March 29 meeting with Haniyeh, Hamas releases a statement claiming that the two reiterated during the meeting the conditions set out in the February 2024 Gaza ceasefire proposal and further stressed intensifying the resistance and its actions in all forms. Sources: "Head of Palestinian Islamic Jihad meets Iran's supreme leader," Middle East Eye, March 28, 2024, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/live-blog/live-blog-update/head-palestinian-islamic-jihad-meets-irans-supreme-leader>; "Iran-backed Palestinian leader vows victory over Israel in the war in Gaza," Associated Press, March 30, 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/iran-palestinians-leader-israel-islamic-jihad-nakhalah-d507575f170f47e87432a48d4606ec03>.
- **March 18, 2024 - March 24, 2024:** Beginning on March 18, Israeli forces launch a raid at the Al-Shifa Hospital, Gaza's main hospital. During the raids, the IDF reportedly discover a tunnel network used as a base for Palestinian fighters, including Hamas and PIJ. Hundreds of fighters are killed during the operation and the IDF detains 358 fighters belonging to PIJ and Hamas, including three senior PIJ officials. Source: "Israeli military says troops captured hundreds of fighters in Gaza hospital," Reuters, March 22, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-military-says-troops-captured-hundreds-fighters-gaza-hospital-2024-03-22/>.
- **March 3, 2024:** Abu Hamza, PIJ's spokesman for its al-Quds Brigades, announces during a speech that the PIJ is calling for Ramadan to be a "month of terror." He further calls for attacks on Israeli military checkpoints and cutting off Israeli forces from roads. Source: Seth J. Frantzman, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad calls for Ramadan to be 'month of terror' – analysis," *Jerusalem Post*, March 3, 2024, <https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-789938>.
- On February 2, Nakhalah meets with Hamas's Haniyeh at an undisclosed location to discuss a proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza. The conditions outlined in the proposal include the complete end to the Israeli "aggression," the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territory, continued delivery of humanitarian aid, the return of displaced people, and reaching a comprehensive prisoner exchange deal. Nakhalah then meets with Hezbollah's Nasrallah on February 12 at an undisclosed location where they discuss current, as well as expected, on the ground developments in Gaza. "Haniyeh, Al-Nakhleh: 'Resistance factions will advocate for protection of Palestine,'" Middle East Monitor, February 3, 2024, <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20240203-haniyeh-al-nakhleh-resistance-factions-will-advocate-for-protection-of-palestine/>; "Hezbollah's Nasrallah met with Islamic Jihad's Nakhleh, terror group says," Times of Israel, February 12, 2024, https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/hezbollahs-nasrallah-met-with-islamic-jihads-nakhleh-terror-group-says/.
- **January 31, 2024:** The IDF carries out a raid in Khan Younis where they locate and destroy the PIJ's rocket manufacturing facility. Stored within the facility are long-range rockets, anti-tank missiles, mines, and explosive charges. Other weapons included Kalashnikov firearms, hand grenades, warheads, and other arms. The IDF also demolishes an underground route under the weapons facility. Source: "IDF destroys PIJ rocket facility, finds materials in UNWRA bags," I24 News, January 31, 2024, <https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel-at-war/1706695119-idf-destroys-pij-rocket-manufacturing-facility-finds-rocket-materials-in-unwra-bags>.
- **November 24, 2024:** In response to a temporary Israel-Hamas ceasefire, Nakhalah delivers a televised address claiming that Israel failed to achieve its stated goals and that "had it not been for the losses on the battlefield, the Zionist regime would not have agreed to the ceasefire agreement and the exchange of prisoners." Nakhalah further states that the resistance front will continue fighting to "prevent the enemy from reaching its objectives." Sources: "Ziyad al-Nakhalah: Israel failed to achieve goals as four-day truce in Gaza takes effect," Nour News, November 24, 2023, <https://nournews.ir/en/news/155887/Ziyad-al-Nakhalah-Israel-failed-to-achieve-goals-as-four-day-truce-in-Gaza-takes-effect>.
- On October 7, one day after the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War and as Israel is marking the Jewish Sabbath and holiday of Simchat Torah, Hamas launches a multi-pronged attack on Israel called Al-Aqsa Flood, which results in 1,200 killed in Israel and more than 240 hostages taken into Gaza. On October 8, Nakhalah announces PIJ is holding 30 Israeli hostages. During an October 9 phone call with Nakhalah, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi praises the "brilliant and impressive victories" of the "Palestinian resistance." In response to the attack, Israel launches the "Swords of Iron" offensive in the Gaza Strip. Sources: Josef Federman and Issam Adwan, "Hamas surprise attack out of Gaza stuns Israel and leaves hundreds dead in fighting, retaliation," Associated Press, October 7, 2023, <https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-gaza-hamas-rockets-airstrikes-tel-aviv-11fb98655c256d54ceb5329284fc37d2>; Gianluca Pacchiani, "Iran president praises 'innovative operation' in call with Islamic Jihad chief," Times of Israel, October 9, 2023, https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/iran-president-praises-innovative-operation-in-call-with-islamic-jihad-chief/; Gianluca Pacchiani, "Islamic Jihad leader claims terror group is holding over 30 Israeli hostages," Times of Israel, October 8, 2023, https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/islamic-jihad-leader-claims-terror-group-is-holding-over-30-israeli-hostages/; Gianluca Pacchiani, "Iran president praises 'innovative operation' in call with Islamic Jihad chief," Times of Israel, October 9, 2023, https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/iran-president-praises-innovative-operation-in-call-with-islamic-jihad-chief/; "Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders discuss how to achieve 'victory,'" Reuters, October 25, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/hezbollah-chief-meets-top-palestinian-leaders-2023-10-25/>; David Averre, "Head of Hezbollah meets with leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad to discuss how to 'achieve victory for the resistance against Israel' in Gaza," *Daily Mail* (London), October 25, 2023, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12669947/hezbollah-meet-hamas-islamic-jihad-israel-war-gaza-victory.html>.

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- **September 24, 2023:** Senior officials of PIJ, Hamas, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) meet in Beirut and agree to increase coordination and violent activities to “deal with Israel’s aggression.”
Nakhalah represents PIJ in the meeting with Hamas’s Saleh al-Aroui and PFLP deputy secretary-general Jamil Mazhar. Source: Jack Khoury, “Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PFLP Announce Intention to Escalate Conflict With Israel,” *Haaretz* (Tel Aviv), September 24, 2023, <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-09-24/ty-article/.premium/hamas-islamic-jihad-plo-agree-to-further-escalate-conflict-with-israel/0000018a-c631-d3ca-a9ef-c7bd36da0000>.
- **September 20, 2023:** PIJ accuses the Palestinian Authority of threatening and arresting its members in Hebron.
A PIJ statement accuses the Palestinian Authority of a “continuous political crime and offering free service to the Israeli occupation.” Source: “Palestinian Islamic Jihad Accuses PA of Threatening, Arresting Its Members in Hebron,” *Palestine Chronicle*, September 20, 2023, <https://www.palestinechronicle.com/palestinian-islamic-jihad-accuses-pa-of-threatening-arresting-its-members-in-hebron/>.
- **July 6, 2023:** On July 3, PA President Mahmoud Abbas announces reconciliation talks between 14 Palestinian factions, including Hamas, PIJ, and Fatah. The talks are scheduled for July 30 in Cairo to end the rift between the factions and create unity in Palestinian governance.
On July 18, PA forces arrest five members of PIJ near Jenin, sparking a PIJ protest that accuses the Palestinian Authority of carrying out “the work of the Israeli occupation.” Also, that day, Hamas forces raid the Al Awda mosque in Rafa and arrest PIJ-affiliated Sheikh Yahya Mansour. Mansour claims Hamas militants beat him with chairs and broke his hand during the raid. On July 20, Hamas militants hang the group’s flags outside the mosque. On July 23, Hamas and other Palestinian factions hold a public meeting in Gaza and agree to the July 30 reconciliation talks in Cairo. Khalil al-Hayya says Hamas will participate in the talks and do “everything it can for the success of the meeting.” PIJ announces it will boycott the talks in protest of recent arrests of its members by the Palestinian Authority. Sources: Michael Horowitz, “Hamas raids Islamic Jihad mosque in Gaza, arrests prominent cleric,” *Times of Israel*, July 22, 2023, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-raids-islamic-jihad-mosque-in-gaza-arrests-prominent-cleric/>; Khaled Abu Toameh, “PA security forces arrest top Hamas activist amid ongoing security crackdown,” *Jerusalem Post*, July 20, 2023, <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-751844>; Gianluca Pacchiani, “As Palestinian factions seek reconciliation in Cairo, Islamic Jihad to boycott talks,” *Times of Israel*, July 23, 2023, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-palestinian-factions-seek-reconciliation-in-cairo-islamic-jihad-to-boycott-talks/>.
- **July 3, 2023 - July 5, 2023:** On July 3, Israeli forces launch a large-scale operation in the Jenin refugee camp, the first such operation in 20 years.
According to an IDF spokesman, at least 50 shooting attacks have come from Jenin. During the 48-hour operation, the IDF seizes hundreds of weapons caches and explosives and detains 120 people. Firefights between the IDF and militants are reported. At least 12 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier are killed. At least five of the Palestinians are identified as militants. IDF forces begin withdrawing on July 4. In the days after the operation, the Palestinian Authority begins arresting PIJ commanders in the West Bank. PA forces arrest several PIJ commanders who had been freed from prison. PIJ condemns the crackdown as a “a deviation from the national consensus.” On July 5, Fatah officials are expelled a public mass funeral for those killed during the Jenin operation. On July 6, Hamas and PIJ release a joint statement praising Palestinians’ “steadfastness” against Israeli forces in Jenin and calling for a “comprehensive national approach” to confront Israel. Sources: Hadas Gold and Rob Picheta, “Israel ended a huge military operation in Jenin. Here’s what you need to know,” *CNN*, July 5, 2023, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/07/05/middleeast/jenin-israel-operations-explainer-mime-intl/index.html>; Ali Sawaf, “Israeli troops withdraw in West Bank, Gaza rockets fired,” *Reuters*, July 5, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-signals-jenin-operation-close-completion-10-palestinians-dead-2023-07-04/>; “Jenin battle ushered in ‘new era’ in resistance superiority: Islamic Jihad,” *Press TV*, July 9, 2023, <https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2023/07/09/706748/Islamic-Jihad-Jenin>; “Islamic Jihad blasts Palestinian Authority’s crackdown on resistance,” *Press TV*, July 10, 2023, <https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2023/07/10/706778/Islamic-Jihad-condemns-PA-crackdown-resistance>; “Hamas, Islamic Jihad hail Palestinian resistance in Jenin,” *Hamas*, July 6, 2023, <https://hamas.ps/en/post/4834/Hamas-Islamic-Jihad-hail-Palestinian-resistance-in-Jenin>.
- Nakhalah leads a delegation of senior PIJ political leaders to Tehran to meet with Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and other leaders.
On June 13, he meets with Khamenei, and then on June 19 he meets with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. Nakhalah tells Raisi Israel wants to normalize ties with more Arab and Muslim countries “to discourage young Palestinians from [seeking to] liberate the occupied territories.” Both Khamenei and Raisi pledge continued support to PIJ. Upon their return, PIJ’s political leadership holds a series of consultations on the trip and recent developments in the West Bank and Gaza. On July 1, Nakhalah recounts in an interview that Khamenei supported expanding PIJ’s presence in the West Bank. Nakhalah claims PIJ has set up new “fighting battalions” across the West Bank and is manufacturing explosives and distributing weapons in the territory. According to Nakhalah, PIJ is also distributing weapons to gunmen affiliated with the Fatah movement, the ruling party of the Palestinian Authority. Nakhalah thanks Iran for its support. He acknowledges Iran provides “security-military assistance,” but says it should not be exaggerated. Sources: Ariel Oseran, “Iran’s Khamenei calls West Bank ‘major battleground’ against Israel,” *i24 News*, last updated June 15, 2023, <https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/middle-east/iran-eastern-states/1686771534-iran-s-khamenei-calls-west-bank-a-major-battleground-for-palestinian-factions-against-israel>; “Islamic Jihad chief says his Iran-backed group forming fighting units across W. Bank,” *Times of Israel*, July 1, 2023, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-jihad-chief-says-iran-backed-group-forming-fighting-battalions-across-w-bank/>; Khaled Abu Toameh, “Iran is already in the West Bank,” *Palestinian Authority official says*, *Jerusalem Post*, June 26, 2023, <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-747769>; Agence France-Presse, “Top Palestinian Militants Hold Talks in Iran,” *Voice of America*, June 19, 2023, <https://www.voanews.com/a/top-palestinian-militants-hold-talks-in-iran-7144039.html>.
- **March 5, 2023:** PIJ reelects Nakhalah as secretary-general for a second four-year term.
PIJ also elects Akram Al-Ajoury, Youssef Al-Hassayna, Nafiz Azzam, Mohammed al-Hindi, Ali Abu Shahin, Walid Al-Qutatti, Ahmed Al-Mudallal, Mohammed Humaid, and Ihsan Ataya to its political bureau. PIJ claims a 95 percent voter turnout rate among eligible voters in Gaza and abroad. Source: “Islamic Jihad members re-elect Ziad Nakhalah as secretary-general,” *Middle East Monitor*, March 6, 2023, <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20230306-islamic-jihad-members-re-elect-ziad-nakhalah-as-secretary-general/>.
- **February 21, 2023:** An Israeli military court sentences PIJ West Bank leader Bassem Saadi to 22 months in prison after Saadi confesses in a plea deal to conducting activity on behalf of a banned organization, incitement, and assuming a false identity.
Israel arrested Saadi on August 1, 2022, with his son-in-law and aid, Ashraf al-Jada. The arrest sparked eight days of conflict with PIJ, which demanded Saadi’s release. Sources: Emanuel Fabian, “IDF arrests senior PIJ member in Jenin; Palestinian teen from PIJ killed in the raid,” *Times of Israel*, August 2, 2022, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-teen-killed-during-idf-raid-of-jenin-to-arrest-senior-pij-member/>; “Palestinian Islamic Jihad says no ceasefire if members not freed,” *Al Jazeera*, August 8, 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/8/palestinian-islamic-jihad-says-no-ceasefire-if-members-not-freed>; Emanuel Fabian, “Islamic Jihad leader whose arrest sparked 2022 Gaza conflict gets 22 months in jail,” *Times of Israel*, February 21, 2023, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-jihad-leader-whose-arrest-sparked-2022-gaza-conflict-gets-22-months-in-jail/>.
- **February 5, 2023:** Israel arrests senior PIJ leader Khader Adnan during an overnight raid in Arraba village in the West Bank.
Adnan has previously been imprisoned at least 11 times since 2004. He served as a spokesman for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons. He was last freed in 2021 after serving a 25-day detention. Source: “Israel rearrests senior Palestinian Islamic Jihad member Khader Adnan,” *Middle East Eye*, February 5, 2023, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israel-palestine-rearrests-khader-adnan-islamic-jihad>.
- **February 4, 2023:** Nakhalah meets with Abbas Kamel, director of Egypt’s General Intelligence Directorate, in Cairo for talks on easing tensions between the Palestinians and Israel and achieving Palestinian unity.

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According to a PIJ statement, Nakhalah and Kamel also discuss bilateral relations between PIJ and Egypt. They agree to continue contact and consultations on all issues related to the Palestinian cause and the situation in the West Bank and Jerusalem. Source: Khaled Abu Toameh, "Egypt invites Hamas, Islamic Jihad leaders to ease tensions with Israel," *Jerusalem Post*, February 4, 2023, <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-730586>.

- **December 17, 2022:** Nakhalah meets with Hamas deputy leader Saleh al-Arouri in Beirut. According to a Hamas statement, the leaders "affirmed the joint cooperation in strengthening and activating the resistance of our people in all of Palestine in the face of the Israeli occupation and criminality." The delegations also noted "the importance of rallying around the resistance in all its forms." Source: Khaled Abu Toameh, "Hamas, Islamic Jihad call to step up 'resistance' attacks against Israel," *Jerusalem Post*, December 18, 2022, <https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/article-725191>.
- **November 23, 2022:** PIJ joins Hamas, Hezbollah, and other groups in praising twin bombings in Jerusalem that killed two people that day. PIJ calls the attack a "natural response to the occupation." Sources: Stephen Sora, "2 US citizens injured in Jerusalem during deadly terror attack, ambassador says," Fox News, November 23, 2022, <https://www.foxnews.com/world/us-citizens-injured-jerusalem-deadly-terror-attack-ambassador-says>; "Hamas, other terrorist groups, praise Jerusalem bombing attack," *Jerusalem Post*, November 23, 2022, <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-723170>.
- **April 25, 2022:** Nakhalah attends a conference in Sanaa, Yemen, entitled, "Palestine, the Central Issue of Islamic Ummah," during which he warns the Palestinians are creating "new equations in its confrontation with the Zionist regime." He further warns the "countdown for the Zionist regime has begun," and Israel is "rapidly going downhill" domestically and in confronting Palestinian uprisings. Source: "Islamic Jihad leader: Palestinians creating new equations in confrontation with Zionist enemy," Press TV, April 25, 2022, <https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2022/04/25/680983/Palestinians-Islamic-Jihad-movement-Ziad-Nakhala-->.
- **April 17, 2022:** PIJ provides a press tour for international media of a tunnel city underneath southern Gaza. The tunnels are equipped with electric lights, a ventilation system, and telecoms cables. The tunnels also have small rooms for storing weapons and ammunition. A PIJ official tells a journalist with Agence France-Presse the group has both defensive and offensive tunnel systems. According to the PIJ commander, the offensive tunnels are used "for taking Israeli soldiers captive, repelling Israeli ground offensives and carrying out various field operations." Source: Agence France-Presse, "Gaza militants prepare tunnels as next conflict looms," France 24, April 19, 2022, <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220419-gaza-militants-prepare-tunnels-as-next-conflict-looms>.
- **March 30, 2022:** PIJ praises—but does not claim responsibility for—a series of recent terror attacks in Israel that killed at least 11 people. After a March 22 stabbing attack in Beersheba that killed two, a PIJ spokesman says Israel will be deterred by "acts of resistance." ISIS claims responsibility for that attack. Following an April 7 shooting in Tel Aviv that killed at least three people, PIJ senior member Yousef al-Hasayneh says the attack is a reminder of Israel's frailty and how close it is to being broken. PIJ and Hamas officials threaten an explosion of violence during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. After a March 22 stabbing attack in Beersheba that killed two, a PIJ spokesman says Israel will be deterred by "acts of resistance." ISIS claims responsibility for that attack. Following an April 7 shooting in Tel Aviv that killed at least three people, PIJ senior member Yousef al-Hasayneh says the attack is a reminder of Israel's frailty and how close it is to being broken. PIJ and Hamas officials threaten an explosion of violence during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Sources: Aaron Boxerman, "Islamic Jihad terrorists praise deadly Beersheba attack," Times of Israel, March 22, 2022, https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/islamic-jihad-terrorists-praise-deadly-beersheba-attack/; Aaron Boxerman, "Palestinian terror groups praise 'heroic' Tel Aviv attack, but don't claim credit," Times of Israel, April 8, 2022, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-terror-groups-praise-heroic-tel-aviv-attack-but-dont-claim-credit/>; "Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, other groups, threaten violence during Ramadan," Jewish News Syndicate, April 8, 2022, <https://www.jns.org/hamas-palestinian-islamic-jihad-other-groups-threaten-violence-during-ramadan/>.
- **March 16, 2022:** During a meeting in Beirut between Nakhalah and Hamas deputy leader Saleh al-Arouri, the two leaders jointly call for escalating "resistance operations" against Israel in the West Bank and Jerusalem until "the liberation of Palestine." With increased Jewish visitations to the Temple Mount expected during the coming Jewish holidays, Hamas and PIJ call on Palestinians to "thwart" the planned "incursions." Sources: Khaled Abu Toameh, "Hamas, Islamic Jihad call to step up attacks in West Bank, Jerusalem," *Jerusalem Post*, March 16, 2022, <https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/article-701471>.
- **September 6, 2021:** Six prisoners escape from Israel's high-security Gilboa Prison using an underground tunnel they dug from the floor of a cell. Among the escapees are five members of PIJ, including Mahmoud Ardah, whom PIJ referred to as the "Emir of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Prisoners in Gilboa Prison." Ardah was serving a life sentence. The sixth escapee is identified as Zakaria Zubeidi, a member of the Fatah-affiliated Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade. PIJ, Hamas, and Fatah praise the escape of the "heroes" from Gilboa. Sources: "Six Palestinian prisoners escape Israeli jail through tunnel," BBC News, September 6, 2021, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-58460702>; Khaled Abu Toameh, "Gilboa Prison escapees: The 'sheriff' of Jenin and the 'emir' of Islamic Jihad," *Jerusalem Post*, September 8, 2021, <https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/gilboa-prison-escapees-the-sheriff-of-jenin-and-the-emir-of-islamic-jihad-678846>.
- **August 29, 2021 - August 30, 2021:** On August 29, Abbas meets with Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz to discuss security, economic, civil, and diplomatic affairs. On August 30, Hamas and PIJ condemn the meeting as "a stab in the back of the Palestinian people and what they have sacrificed. It is a betrayal of the blood of the martyrs," according to a Hamas statement. A Hamas spokesman accuses Abbas of weakening the Palestinian rejection of normalization with Israel. Sources: Aaron Boxerman, "Hamas, Islamic Jihad condemn Abbas for 'reprehensible' meeting with Gantz," Times of Israel, August 30, 2021, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-islamic-jihad-condemn-abbas-for-reprehensible-meeting-with-gantz/>; "Hamas denounces Abbas's meeting with Gantz," Hamas website, August 30, 2021, <https://hamas.ps/en/post/3577/Hamas-denounces-Abbas-s-meeting-with-Gantz>.
- **May 10, 2021 - May 21, 2021:** PIJ joins with Hamas in launching more than 4,000 rockets toward Israel. On May 20, Hamas and Israel agree to a ceasefire, which goes into effect at 2 a.m. on May 21. Israel says the ceasefire is unconditional and rewards calm with calm. Hamas claims it extracted concessions from Israel at the Temple Mount but does not specify further. Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh praises Hamas's "victory" and claims the group destroyed Israel's attempts at normalization and integration with the Arab world. Haniyeh vows Hamas will maintain its focus on Jerusalem "until Al-Aqsa Mosque is liberated." PIJ official Ali Barakeh calls the conflict a defeat for Netanyahu and "a victory to the Palestinian people." According to Gaza's Hamas-run Health Ministry, 232 people died in Gaza and more than 1,900 were wounded during the conflict. Israel claims at least 120 of those people killed belonged to Hamas and 25 belonged to PIJ. Israel reports 12 people, including two foreign workers, died in Israel during the conflict and more than 300 were wounded. Sources: Aaron Boxerman and staff, "Hamas chief says war foils Israel's attempts at Arab coexistence, normalization," Times of Israel, May 21, 2021, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-chief-says-war-foils-israels-attempts-at-arab-coexistence-normalization/>; Nidal Al-mughrabi, Jonathan Saul, and Rami Ayyub, "Israel and Hamas both claim victory as ceasefire holds," Reuters, May 21, 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/gaza-truce-between-israel-hamas-begins-mediated-by-egypt-2021-05-20/>; "Live Updates: As Israel-Hamas Cease-Fire Holds, Gazans Survey Wreckage," *New York Times*, last updated May 21, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/05/21/world/israel-hamas-news>.

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- **May 8, 2021 - May 10, 2021:** On May 6, PIJ calls for new attacks against Israelis—including vehicle rammings and stabbings—leading up to Israel’s Jerusalem Day celebration on May 10.

On May 8, after Israeli police quell rioting around the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, Nakhalah releases a statement threatening a violent response: “It is impossible to remain silent in the face of what is happening in Jerusalem. The enemy must expect our response at all times.” On May 10, PIJ joins Hamas in launching hundreds of rockets against Israeli communities. Sources: Liad Osmo, “Islamic Jihad calls for more terror attacks ahead of Jerusalem Day,” Ynet, May 6, 2021, <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/SkH7W2110000>; Elior Levy, “Islamic Jihad threatens ‘response at any moment’ against Israel for Jerusalem unrest,” Ynet, May 8, 2021, <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/r1Vl6Q7dd>; “Islamic Jihad releases footage of anti-tank missile attack,” Times of Israel, May 10, 2021, https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/islamic-jihad-releases-footage-of-anti-tank-missile-attack/; “Nidal Al-mughrabi and Jeffrey Heller, “Israel airstrikes kill 20 in Gaza, Palestinians say, after militants fire rockets at Jerusalem,” Reuters, May 10, 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-airstrikes-kill-20-gaza-palestinians-say-after-militants-fire-rockets-2021-05-10/>.
- **May 4, 2021:** Nakhalah calls for a reformation of the PLO focusing on a “resistance agenda.”

He further calls on Palestinian factions to agree to a national platform in support of the “renewable intifada.” Source: “Islamic Jihad calls for reform of PLO based on resistance agenda,” Middle East Monitor, May 5, 2021, <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20210505-islamic-jihad-calls-for-reform-of-plo-based-on-resistance-agenda/>.
- **April 24, 2021:** After 36 rockets are launched into Israel overnight by smaller militant groups in Gaza, PIJ and Hamas issue a statement to Egypt that they are not looking for escalation with Israel.

Source: Jack Khoury, “Hamas, Islamic Jihad Not Seeking Escalation With Israel, Gazan Official Says,” *Haaretz* (Tel Aviv), April 24, 2021, <https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/palestinians/.premium-hamas-islamic-jihad-not-seeking-escalation-with-israel-gazan-official-says-1.9742459>.
- **January 1, 2021:** In an appearance on Iran’s Al-Alam TV ahead of the one-year anniversary of Soleimani’s death, Nakhalah credits Soleimani for providing PIJ with its rocket arsenal and his “pivotal role” in Palestinian attacks on Jerusalem.

According to Nakhalah, nothing happened in Gaza without Soleimani’s direct order or supervision. Source: “Sec.-Gen. Of Palestinian Islamic Jihad Ziad Al-Nakhleh: Nothing Happened In Gaza Without Soleimani’s Direct Orders And Supervision, He Supplied The Rockets We Used To Attack Tel Aviv,” MEMRI, January 1, 2021, <https://www.memri.org/tv/sec-gen-palestinian-islamic-jihad-ziad-nakhleh-soleimani-supplied-rockets-used-attack-tv>
- **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-irans-fm-on-soleimanis-death/>.
- **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/>; Anna Ahronheim, “IDF hits anti-tank missile team; Gaza dead at 23, mostly terrorists,” *Jerusalem Post*, November 13, 2019, <https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Massive-barrage-towards-southern-and-central-Israel-shatters-quiet-607709>; 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>; “Israel kills top Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant in Gaza,” BBC News, November 12, 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-50386164>; “Islamic Jihad chief said to arrive in Cairo amid reported ceasefire efforts,” Times of Israel, November 13, 2019, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-jihad-chief-said-to-arrive-in-cairo-amid-reported-ceasefire-efforts/>.
- **November 12, 2018 - November 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. Sources: Oren Lieberman, “Biggest Israel-Gaza firefight since 2014 ends in ceasefire,” CNN, November 13, 2018, <https://www.cnn.com/2018/11/13/middleeast/israel-gaza-tesnions-escalate-intl/index.html>; Judah Ari Gross and Raoul Wootliff, “Hamas claims Liberman’s resignation as a ‘victory for Gaza,’” Times of Israel, November 14, 2018, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-claims-libermans-resignation-as-a-victory-for-gaza/>.
- **October 27, 2018:** Egypt brokers a ceasefire between PIJ and Israel under which PIJ agrees to stop firing rockets at Israel.

Two days later, PIJ promises revenge against Israel after the Israeli military kills three Palestinian teenagers allegedly planting explosives near the Gaza-Israel border. Sources: “Islamic Jihad group announces Gaza ceasefire with Israel,” Al Jazeera, October 27, 2018, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/10/islamic-jihad-group-announces-gaza-ceasefire-israel-181027134405582.html>; Raf Sanchez, “Islamic Jihad vows revenge after three Palestinian teenagers killed by Israeli airstrike in Gaza,” *Telegraph* (London), October 29, 2018, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/10/29/islamic-jihad-vows-revenge-three-palestinian-teenagers-killed/>.
- **September 27, 2018:** PIJ elects Ziad al-Nakhalah as its secretary-general, replacing Shallah.

Shallah had been hospitalized earlier in the year and reportedly fell into a coma, though PIJ denied the reports. Nakhalah appoints Mohammed al-Hindi deputy secretary-general, the position previously held by Nakhalah. PIJ also elects nine new members to its leadership council for the first time since 1980. The group reportedly plans to hold elections every four years. Shallah dies on June 7, 2020. Sources: “Iran-backed Palestinian Islamic Jihad names new leader,” Associated Press, September 28, 2018, <https://apnews.com/d14e7e6a4a68481980b6db8052853f03>; “Palestine’s Islamic Jihad denies leader was in coma in Lebanon,” Middle East Monitor, April 10, 2018, <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180410-palestines-islamic-jihad-denies-leader-was-in-coma-in-lebanon/>; “Palestinian Islamic Jihad chooses new leader, remains close to Iran,” Times of Israel, September 28, 2018, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-islamic-jihad-chooses-new-leader-remains-close-to-iran/>; Ahmad Abu Amer, “Has Iran’s influence increased in Palestinian arena?” Al-Monitor, October 16, 2018, <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/10/palestinian-islamic-jihad-elections-iran-influence.html>; Shlomi Eldar, “Islamic Jihad, the new lord of Gaza?” Al-Monitor, February 5, 2019, <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/02/israel-egypt-gaza-strip-palestinians-hamas-islamic-jihad.html>; “Former Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader Ramadan Shalah dies at 62,” Times of Israel, June 6, 2020, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/former-palestinian-islamic-jihad-leader-shalah-dies-at-62/>.
- **May 29, 2018:** Hamas and PIJ fire at least 28 mortars at communities in southern Israel.

The Israeli military responds by bombing Gaza facilities belonging to Hamas and PIJ. There are no casualties reported on either side. It is reportedly the largest confrontation between Hamas and Israel since the 2014 war. Sources: Bethann McKernan, “Gaza militants pelt Israel with rockets in biggest attack in years,” *Independent* (London), May 29, 2018, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/gaza-rocket-attack-israel-hamas-palestinians-protest-idf-a8373556.html>; “Live Updates: Why Israel

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Agreed to Hamas' Request to End Fighting," *Haaretz* (Jerusalem), May 31, 2018, <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/why-israel-agreed-gaza-cease-fire-with-hamas-1.6131634>.

- **October 30, 2017:** Israel destroys an underground tunnel beneath its border with Gaza, killing 10 PIJ militants and two Hamas militants. PIJ calls the militants "heroes" in a media statement. Source: Agence France-Presse and Times of Israel, "Islamic Jihad declared tunnel missing dead; toll rises to 12," Times of Israel, November 3, 2017, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-jihad-declares-tunnel-missing-dead-toll-rises-to-12/>.
- After Hamas releases a new governing document that signals its acceptance of a temporary Palestinian state along the 1967 borders, PIJ releases a statement rejecting any Palestinian state within the 1967 borders. PIJ reiterates its commitment to the full pre-1948 borders that would signal the elimination of Israel. Source: Agence France-Presse, "Islamic Jihad rejects Palestine state within 1967 borders," Public Radio International, May 6, 2017, <https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-05-06/islamic-jihad-rejects-palestine-state-within-1967-borders>.
- The Iranian 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 Jihad: report," i24 News, May 25, 2016, <https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/international/middle-east/114490-160525-iran-resumes-funding-for-palestinian-islamic-jihad-group-report>.
- Israel arrests Gazan computer engineer Majd Awida for allegedly hacking IDF drones in order for PIJ to use them to survey Gaza. PIJ reportedly recruited Awida in 2011 and Awida developed the hack in 2012. Awida also allegedly developed software to allow PIJ to track flights at BenGurion International Airport and see passenger lists. Source: "Gazan engineer allegedly also created software to spy on flights at Ben Gurion airport for Islamic Jihad," i24 News, March 23, 2016, <http://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/diplomacy-defense/107160-160323-islamic-jihad-operative-hacked-into-israeli-drones-says-indictment>.
- **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. PIJ also calls on Palestinian factions to review their policies and move away from political opportunism. Source: Adnan Abu Amer, "How Palestinian divisions affect the intifada," Al-Monitor, November 3, 2015, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/11/palestinian-intifada-disputes-objectives.html>.
- **August 19, 2015:** PIJ member Mohammed Allan is hospitalized after a 65-day hunger strike in an Israeli prison. The Israeli Supreme Court rules he is not a threat in his current state and suspends his arrest warrant. Allan's health reportedly improves. He is released on November 4. Sources: "Islamic Jihad shot rockets at Israel's north on Iran's behalf, IDF says," Times of Israel, August 20, 2015, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/four-rockets-land-in-northern-israel-no-injuries-reported/>; Ali Sawaf, "Palestinian detainee ends 65-day hunger strike," Reuters, August 19, 2015, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/19/us-israel-palestinians-hungerstriker-idUSKCN0QO1K520150819>; Agence France-Presse, "Israel frees former hunger strike Palestinian: prison services," Yahoo News, November 4, 2015, <http://news.yahoo.com/israel-set-free-hunger-strike-palestinian-prison-000226951.html>.
- **July 12, 2015:** Israel releases PIJ leader Khader Anan from prison after reaching a deal to end his 55-day hunger strike. Authorities arrested Anan in July 2014 for the 10th time. He began his hunger strike on May 4. Israeli authorities reached a deal to release him in late June. Source: Nidal al-Mughrabi and Ori Lewis, "Israel frees Palestinian hunger striker from jail," Reuters, July 12, 2015, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/07/12/us-israel-palestinians-idUSKCN0PM05O20150712>.
- 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. Source: Letitia Stein, "Former Florida professor deported from U.S. over Palestinian terrorist ties," Reuters, February 6, 2015, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/06/us-usa-security-al-arian-idUSKBN0LA2KA20150206>.
- **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. Source: Nate Raymond, "Arab Bank asks U.S. court to block thousands of terror-finance claims," Reuters, December 2, 2014, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/02/usa-arab-bk-appeal-idUSL2N0TM1LR20141202>.
- **November 18, 2014:** Two Palestinian terrorists attack a Jerusalem synagogue during prayers, killing four rabbis and one Druze policeman. PIJ applauds the attack, stating, "[T]he 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>.
- **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. The following day, PIJ publishes an obituary for Hijazi on its website, saying that he had been a member of the organization. Sources: Daniel K. Eisenbud, "Police and Shin Bet kill suspect in shooting of right-wing activist Yehuda Glick," *Jerusalem Post*, October 30, 2014, <http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Report-Suspect-in-right-wing-activist-Yehuda-Glicks-shooting-killed-by-police-380238>; Nir Hasson, "Israeli police kill Palestinian suspect in Jerusalem assassination attempt," *Haaretz* (Tel Aviv), October 30, 2014, <http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/premium-1.623528>.
- **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. Sources: "Video shows Islamic Jihad's new Gaza tunnels," i24 News, September 9, 2014, <http://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/diplomacy-defense/43188-140909-video-shows-islamic-jihad-s-new-gaza-tunnels>; "#4478-Palestinian Islamic Jihad Digs New Tunnels in Gaza," Middle East Media Research Institute, September 4, 2014, <http://www.memritv.org/clip/en/4478.htm>.
- **August 27, 2014:** Appearing on Iran's state-run network Press TV, PIJ representative Nasser Abu Sharif praises Iranian 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." Source: "Islamic Jihad lauds Leader's backing for resistance," Press TV, August 27, 2014, <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/08/27/376781/islamic-jihad-hails-leader-backing/>.
- **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. Source: "Islamic Jihad fired 3,000 rockets on Israeli cities," Press TV, August 30, 2014, <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/08/30/377060/gaza-fires-3000-rockets-into-israel/>.

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- **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.
Source: Ola Attalah, "Islamic Jihad Claims Rocket Barrage at Israel," *Daily Star* (Beirut), August 8, 2014, <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Aug-08/266473-islamic-jihad-claims-rocket-barrage-at-israel.ashx#axzz3A3RYuBbz>.
 - **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. Sources: "Israel-Hamas Cease-Fire Holding, Truce Talks to Open in Cairo," *Voice of America*, August 5, 2014, <http://www.voanews.com/content/israel-hamas-begin-72-hour-truce-gaza/1971724.htm>; "Rory Jones, 'Israel, Hamas Agree to Gaza Policing Plan,'" *Wall Street Journal*, August 6, 2014, <http://online.wsj.com/articles/israel-hamas-agree-to-gaza-policing-plan-1407372983>.
 - **July 29, 2014:** Israeli air strikes kill Salah Abu Hassanein, PIJ's commander of its Military Media Division; PIJ regional commanders who controlled the northern and central sectors of the Gaza Strip; and Shaaban Dakhdoukh, PIJ commander of forces in Zeitoun.
Source: Felice Friedson, "Israel says it has targeted and killed high-profile terrorists during Gaza fighting" *National Post* (Toronto), July 29, 2014, <http://news.nationalpost.com/2014/07/29/israel-says-it-has-targeted-and-killed-high-profile-terrorists-during-gaza-fighting/>.
 - **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/>.
 - **July 22, 2014:** The European Union demands that Hamas, PIJ, and other Palestinian terror groups disarm, calling the groups' indiscriminate rocket fire on Israel "criminal and unjustifiable."
Source: Marissa Newman, "EU Calls on Hamas, Islamic Jihad to Disarm," *Times of Israel*, July 22, 2014, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/eu-calls-on-hamas-islamic-jihad-to-disarm/>.
 - **July 8, 2014:** Israel launches Operation Protective Edge, aimed at striking Hamas and ending rocket fire from Hamas and PIJ in Gaza.
PIJ takes credit for firing 60 rockets and claims it has begun an operation called Stable Building. Some analysts argue PIJ has been strengthened by the latest conflict. Sources: "Operation Protective Edge: Israel bombs Gaza in retaliation for rockets," *Guardian* (London), July 8, 2014, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/08/operation-protective-edge-israel-bombs-gaza-in-retaliation-for-rockets>; Spencer Ho and Yifa Yaakov, "Israel Hits Hamas, Islamic Jihad Leaders after Rockets Land North of Tel Aviv," *Times of Israel*, July 8, 2014, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-pounds-dozens-of-gaza-targets-in-major-counteroffensive/>.
 - U.S. federal authorities drop contempt charges against Sami Al-Arian.
Source: Josh Gerstein, "Feds Drop Sami Al-Arian Prosecution," *Politico*, June 27, 2014, <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/06/sami-al-arian-prosecution-108404.html>.
 - Three local Hamas leaders attack a group of PIJ members in a Gaza mosque and throw them out.
Source: Hani Ibrahim, "Hamas' Growing Rivalry with Islamic Jihad," *Al Akhbar English* (Beirut), April 16, 2014, <http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/hamas%E2%80%99growing-rivalry-islamic-jihad>.
 - 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>.
 - 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. The operation is reportedly in coordination with Hamas. Sources: JC Finley, "US & UN Condemn Islamic Jihad Rocket Attack on Israel," *United Press International*, March 12, 2014, http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2014/03/12/US-UN-condemn-Gaza-rocket-attacks-on-Israel/8791394656512/; "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>; Hani Ibrahim, "Hamas' Growing Rivalry with Islamic Jihad," *Al Akhbar English* (Beirut), April 16, 2014, <http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/hamas%E2%80%99growing-rivalry-islamic-jihad>.
 - **February 5, 2014:** PIJ leader Ramadan Shallah leads a delegation from the group to Tehran for a meeting with Iranian officials.
Source: Asmaa al-Ghoul, "Hamas Isolated as Iran Boosts Ties with Islamic Jihad, Fatah," *Al-Monitor*, February 12, 2014, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/02/islamic-jihad-fatah-hamas-iran-palestinians.html>.
 - **December 22, 2013:** An Israeli police sapper is injured when a bomb he was trying to defuse on a Bat Yam bus explodes.
Four PIJ members are arrested a month later for coordinating the attack. Sources: "Disaster Averted as Bomb Explodes on Bus after Passengers Evacuated," *Times of Israel*, December 22, 2013, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/i-injured-in-explosion-on-bat-yam-bus/>; "Bat Yam Bus Bombers Caught, Were Planning Larger Blast in Tel Aviv," *Times of Israel*, January 2, 2014, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/four-islamic-jihad-members-arrested-over-bat-yam-bus-bombing/>.
 - PIJ and Hamas announce plans to create a joint command in Gaza.
Source: Elhanan Miller, "Islamic Jihad Ends Three-Day Schism with Hamas," *Times of Israel*, June 26, 2013, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-jihad-ends-three-day-schism-with-hamas/>.
 - **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. Source: "Six Rockets Fired from Gaza Explode in Southern Israel," *Times of Israel*, June 24, 2013, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/three-rockets-fired-from-gaza-explode-in-south/>.
 - **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*, June 23, 2013, <http://archive.today/U8pQD>; Elhanan Miller, "Islamic Jihad Ends Three-Day Schism with Hamas," *Times of Israel*, June 26, 2013, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-jihad-ends-three-day-schism-with-hamas/>.
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[jihad-ends-three-day-schism-with-hamas/](#).

- **June 22, 2013:** Hamas police forces shoot Raed Jundiya, a commander in PIJ's al-Quds Brigade and the chief of PIJ's rocket unit.
Source: "Islamic Jihad Chief Dies after Clash with Hamas Police," Agence France-Presse, June 23, 2013, <http://archive.today/U8pqD>.
- 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: Asmaa 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>.
- 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.
- PIJ takes credit for a rocket fired from Gaza at Tel Aviv.
The rocket explodes in an open field, causing no casualties. Source: "Gaza Terrorists Fire Two Rockets at Tel Aviv," *Jerusalem Post*, November 16, 2014, <http://www.jpost.com/Defense/Gaza-terrorists-fire-two-rockets-at-Tel-Aviv>.
- Hamas and PIJ are credited for bombing a Tel Aviv bus that wounds at least 30 people.
Source: Gil Cohen, "Israel Arrests Hamas, Islamic Jihad Cell behind Tel Aviv Bus Bomb," *Haaretz* (Tel Aviv), November 22, 2012, <http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/israel-arrests-hamas-islamic-jihad-cell-behind-tel-aviv-bus-bomb-1.479958>.
- 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>.
- PIJ fires almost 200 missiles into Israel from Gaza.
Source: Asmaa al-Ghoul, "Islamic Jihad Movement Maintains Popularity in Gaza," *Al-Monitor*, May 7, 2013, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/05/islamic-jihad-movement-gaza-palestine.html>.
- **October 29, 2011:** PIJ fires a number of rockets into southern Israel, killing one civilian and wounding two.
Source: "Palestinian Islamic Jihad | Australian National Security," Australian Government, accessed July 7, 2014, <http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/Listedterroristorganisations/Pages/PalestinianIslamicJihad.aspx>.
- **August 20, 2011:** PIJ fires a volley of rockets into southern Israel, killing one civilian and wounding seven.
Source: "Palestinian Islamic Jihad | Australian National Security," Australian Government, accessed July 7, 2014, <http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/Listedterroristorganisations/Pages/PalestinianIslamicJihad.aspx>.
- **January 8, 2011:** PIJ fires two mortars into southern Israel, killing two Thai nationals.
Source: "Palestinian Islamic Jihad | Australian National Security," Australian Government, accessed July 7, 2014, <http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/Listedterroristorganisations/Pages/PalestinianIslamicJihad.aspx>.
- Two weeks before Israel's Operation Cast Lead, the Israel Defense Forces kills Jihad Nawahda, a senior member of PIJ's military wing.
In response, PIJ fires a barrage of rockets at Israel. Source: Shlomi Eldar, "Hamas Trapped between Israel, Islamic Jihad," *Al-Monitor*, March 14, 2014, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/03/israel-hamas-gaza-iran-islamic-jihad-rival-rockets.html>.
- PIJ claims responsibility for firing a Grad rocket that hit a shopping mall in Ashkelon, Israel.
Israeli authorities accuse Iran of providing PIJ with Grad rockets. Source: "15 Wounded as Grad Rocket Strikes Ashkelon Shopping Mall," *Jerusalem Post*, March 14, 2008, <http://www.jpost.com/Israel/15-wounded-as-Grad-rocket-strikes-Ashkelon-shopping-mall>.
- Before Sami al-Arian is to be deported, a U.S. grand jury in Virginia indicts him on two counts of criminal contempt for refusing to testify in a case involving local Muslim groups and their ties to terrorism.
Source: Josh Gerstein, "Feds Drop Sami Al-Arian Prosecution," *Politico*, June 27, 2014, <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/06/sami-al-arian-prosecution-108404.html>.
- PIJ fires 216 rockets and mortar shells at various Israeli towns.
Source: "Country Reports on Terrorism 2008: Chapter 6. Terrorist Organizations," U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2009, <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2008/122449.htm>.
- PIJ and Hamas jointly claim responsibility for an explosion that killed two IDF soldiers patrolling the security fence in the central Gaza Strip.
Source: "Country Reports on Terrorism 2008: Chapter 6. Terrorist Organizations," U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2009, <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2008/122449.htm>.
- A suicide attack at an Eilat bakery kills three.
PIJ and the Fatah-affiliated Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade claim responsibility. Source: Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.
- **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, <http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/timeline-recent-bomb-and-shooting-attacks-against-israelis-1.479592>.

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- A U.S. federal judge sentences alleged senior PIJ leader and former University of South Florida professor Sami Al-Arian, who had pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to aid PIJ, to an additional 19 months in prison before he is to be deported from the U.S.
Source: Jennifer Steinhauer, "19 Months More in Prison For Professor in Terror Case," *New York Times*, May 2, 2006, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/02/us/02islamic.html>.
- **March 6, 2006:** Khaled Dahdouh, commander of PIJ's al-Quds Brigades and developer of a new generation of rockets, is killed by a car bomb. PIJ vows revenge against Israel. Source: "Blast Kills Islamic Jihad Leader in Gaza," *New York Times*, March 1, 2006, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/01/world/africa/01iht-web.0301mideast.html>.
- **February 28, 2006:** Sami Al-Arian, alleged PIJ senior leader and former professor at the University of South Florida, pleads guilty in a U.S. district court to one count of conspiracy to contribute services to or for the benefit of PIJ.
A federal jury acquitted Al-Arian in December 2005 of eight of the 17 charges against him. The jury deadlocked on the remaining nine counts. Source: Jennifer Steinhauer, "19 Months More in Prison For Professor in Terror Case," *New York Times*, May 2, 2006, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/02/us/02islamic.html>.
- After a six-month trial, a U.S. federal jury acquits Sami Al-Arian, alleged PIJ senior leader and former professor at the University of South Florida, of eight of the 17 charges against him.
The jury fails to reach a verdict on the remaining nine charges. The charges included racketeering, immigration fraud, conspiracy to kill and maim persons abroad, providing material support to PIJ, perjury, extortion, and obstruction of justice. Source: Jennifer Steinhauer, "19 Months More in Prison For Professor in Terror Case," *New York Times*, May 2, 2006, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/02/us/02islamic.html>.
- **October 26, 2005:** A bombing at a market in Hadera, Israel kills five people.
PIJ claims responsibility. Source: Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.
- **October 5, 2003:** Israel bombs a PIJ training base in Syria in retaliation for the previous day's Haifa bombing.
Source: "Israel Attacks Alleged Islamic Jihad Base in Syria," Fox News, October 5, 2003, <http://www.foxnews.com/story/2003/10/05/israel-attacks-alleged-islamic-jihad-base-in-syria>.
- **October 4, 2003:** A PIJ suicide bomber blows himself up at Maxim restaurant in Haifa, killing 21 and injuring 60.
Source: "Suicide bombing of Maxim restaurant in Haifa October 4, 2003," Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, January 21, 2004, <https://mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFA-Archive/2004/Pages/Suicide%20bombing%20of%20Maxim%20restaurant%20in%20Haifa%20-%204-O.aspx?ViewMode=Print>.
- **August 14, 2003:** Israeli forces kill local PIJ commander Muhammad Sidir, who was responsible for the deaths of more than 20 people during an arrest raid-turned-deadly in Hebron.
PIJ vows revenge. Source: James Bennet, "Israelis Kill a Leader of Islamic Jihad, Which Vows Revenge," *New York Times*, August 15, 2003, <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/15/world/israelis-kill-a-leader-of-islamic-jihad-which-vows-revenge.html>.
- **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 maim persons abroad, providing material support to PIJ, perjury, extortion, and obstruction of justice.
Al-Arian is also accused of being the North American leader of PIJ and secretary of its governing Shura Council. In addition to Al-Arian, the grand jury indicted Temple Terrace, Florida resident Sameeh Hammoudeh, a West Bank-born USF instructor and administrator at the Islamic Academy of Florida; Spring Hill, Florida resident Hatim Naji Fariz, a manager at a medical clinic; and West Bank native and Tinley Park, Illinois resident and small business owner Ghassan Zayed Ballut. Also charged, but not arrested at the time because they lived abroad, were PIJ leader and former USF instructor Ramadan Abdullah Shallah; the alleged United Kingdom leader of PIJ, Bashir Musa Mohammed Nafi; Beirut resident Mohammed Tasir Hassan Al-Khatib, alleged to be PIJ's treasurer; and Abd Al Aziz Awda, imam of the Al Qassam Mosque in Gaza Strip, one of PIJ's founders and "spiritual leader(s)." Sources: "Members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Arrested, Charged With Racketeering and Conspiracy to Provide Support to Terrorists," U.S. Department of Justice, February 20, 2003, http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2003/February/03_crm_099.htm; "Florida Professor Charged With Operating Global Terror Organization," Fox News, February 20, 2003, <http://www.foxnews.com/story/2003/02/20/florida-professor-charged-with-operating-global-terror-organization>.
- **June 5, 2002:** A PIJ suicide attack at Israel's Megiddo Junction kills 18 and injures 50.
Source: "Car Bomb Kills 17 on Bus in Israel," CNN.com, June 5, 2002, <http://www.cnn.com/2002/WORLD/meast/06/05/mideast.bomb/index.html>.
- **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. Source: "Suicide and Other Bombing Attacks in Israel Since the Declaration of Principles (Sept. 1993)," Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, accessed March 10, 2015, <http://www.mfa.gov.il>.
- **November 24, 2001:** The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services 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 terror 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.
- **March 27, 2001:** A car bomb explodes in the Talpiot industrial/commercial zone in Jerusalem, wounding three people. PIJ claims responsibility.
Sources: "3 Injured in Jerusalem Car Bomb," CNN.com, March 27, 2001, <http://edition.cnn.com/2001/WORLD/meast/03/27/mideast.02/>; J.K. Dineen, Express Wire, Services, "Fury in Israel: Jerusalem Seethes as 2 Blasts Follow Infant's Killing," *New York Daily News*, March 27, 2001, <http://www.nydailynews.com/archives/news/fury-israel-jerusalem-seethes-2-blasts-follow-infant-killing-article-1.916685>; "Incident Summary for GTDID: 200103270008," Global Terrorism Database, accessed March 10, 2015, <http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/IncidentSummary.aspx?gtidid=200103270008>.
- **November 2, 2000:** Two people are killed in a car bomb explosion near the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem. PIJ claims responsibility.

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Source: "Recent Attacks Thrust Islamic Jihad Back into the Headlines," CNN.com, November 2, 2000, <http://www-cgi.cnn.com/2000/WORLD/meast/11/02/islamic.jihad/index.html>.

- **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. Sources: Deborah Sontag, "24 in Jerusalem Injured by Blast from Car Bomb," *New York Times*, November 7, 1998, <http://www.nytimes.com/1998/11/07/world/24-in-jerusalem-injured-by-blast-from-car-bomb.html>; Anthony H. Cordesman, *The Israeli-Palestinian War: Escalating to Nowhere* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2005), 27.
- **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 Iranian government for funding the attack. Source: Richard Sisk, "Terror Victim's Dad Wins \$247M Lawsuit Vs. Iran," *New York Daily News*, March 12, 1998, <http://www.nydailynews.com/archives/news/terror-victim-dad-wins-247m-lawsuit-iran-article-1.789077>.
- **October 8, 1997:** PIJ is designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the U.S. Source: "Country Reports on Terrorism 2008: Chapter 6. Terrorist Organizations," U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2009, <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2008/122449.htm>.
- The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service detains Mazen al-Najjar, a University of South Florida professor. According to the authorities, al-Najjar held leadership positions in the Tampa-based Islamic Concern Project and the World and Islam Studies Enterprise, which were alleged fronts for Palestinian terror groups such as PIJ and Hamas. Sources: Dana Canedy, "A Nation Challenges: The Detainee: Professor to Be Deported After Secret Evidence Case," *New York Times*, November 27, 2001, <http://www.nytimes.com/2001/11/27/us/nation-challenged-detainee-professor-be-deported-after-secret-evidence-case.html>; "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.
- **March 4, 1996:** A PIJ suicide bomber kills 13 and injures 75 at a Tel Aviv shopping mall. Source: Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.
- PIJ Secretary-General and co-founder Fathi Shaqaqi is gunned down in Malta on October 26. PIJ accuses Israel of executing him. Ramadan Shallah assumes the leadership of PIJ later that month. Shallah taught courses on the Middle East at the University of South Florida from 1990 to 1995. Sources: Susan Aschoff, "Jihad Leader Emerged from Shadows of USF," *St. Petersburg Times*, February 21, 2003, http://www.sptimes.com/2003/02/21/TampaBay/Jihad_leader_emerged_.shml; [1] Mary Curtius, "Leader of Islamic Jihad Reported Killed in Malta," *Chicago Sun-Times*, October 29, 1995, <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-4307208.html>.
- **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. Source: David Stout, "American Slain In Gaza Is mourned," *New York Times*, April 13, 1995, <http://www.nytimes.com/1995/04/13/world/american-slain-in-gaza-is-mourned.html>; James Dao, "Judgment for Terrorism is \$248 Million," *New York Times*, March 12, 1998, <http://www.nytimes.com/1998/03/12/nyregion/judgment-for-terrorism-is-248-million.html>.
- **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. Source: Clyde Haberman, "Suicide Bombs Kill 19 in Israel; Shadow Cast over Peace Talks," *New York Times*, January 23, 1995, <http://www.nytimes.com/1995/01/23/world/suicide-bombs-kill-19-in-israel-shadow-cast-over-peace-talks.html>.
- U.S. law enforcement begins investigating Sami al-Arian, a Palestinian professor of computer engineering at the University of South Florida. Al-Arian is suspected of raising \$650,000 in the 1980s and 1990s for PIJ through a Florida-based Islamic charity he created. Source: Judith Miller, "A Professor's Activism Leads Investigators to Look Into Possible Terrorism Links," *New York Times*, July 23, 2002, <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/07/23/national/23PROF.html>.
- **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. Source: Mary Curtius, "Suicide Bomber Kills 3 Israeli Soldiers in Gaza," *Los Angeles Times*, November 12, 1994, http://articles.latimes.com/1994-11-12/news/mn-61608_1_israelis-gaza-soldiers.
- **September 4, 1994:** A PIJ drive-by shooting in Gaza kills one and injures several others. Source: "Statement of the Attorney General, Indictments," U.S. Department of Justice, February 20, 2003, <http://www.justice.gov/archive/ag/speeches/2003/02202003pressconference.htm>.
- **April 6, 1994:** PIJ militants explode a car bomb next to a public bus in Afula, Israel, killing nine and injuring 50. Source: "Statement of the Attorney General, Indictments," U.S. Department of Justice, February 20, 2003, <http://www.justice.gov/archive/ag/speeches/2003/02202003pressconference.htm>.
- A PIJ shooting kills Israeli army reservist David Mashrati aboard a bus. Source: Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.
- Egyptian authorities arrest a group of PIJ trying to enter the country "with the intention of committing terrorist acts," according to the U.S. Department of State. Source: "Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1990: Middle East Overview," Federation of American Scientists, April 30, 1991, http://fas.org/irp/threat/terror_91/mideast.html.
- PIJ terrorists attack an Israeli tour bus in Egypt, killing 11 people, including nine Israelis, and injuring 17.

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Source: "Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1990: Middle East Overview," Federation of American Scientists, April 30, 1991, http://fas.org/irp/threat/terror_90/mideast.html.

- PIJ's leadership relocates to Syria but leaves a small group in Lebanon, where it launches joint attacks with Hezbollah throughout the 1990s.
Source: Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.
- Israel exiles PIJ from Gaza to Lebanon, where the group reportedly begins cooperating with Hezbollah and receiving training from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.
Source: Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.
- The commander of Israel's military police is shot to death by PIJ in the Gaza Strip.
Source: Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.
- Egypt expels PIJ to Gaza after discovering the group has close ties with radical students responsible for the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.
Source: Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.
- Fathi Shaqaqi, still a student in Egypt, authors the book *Khomeini: The Islamic Solution and the Alternative*, describing Shaqaqi's admiration of Iran's Islamic Revolution.
Egyptian police arrest Shaqaqi for praising the revolution. Source: Asmaa al-Ghoul, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad: Iran Supplies All Weapons in Gaza," *Al-Monitor*, May 14, 2013, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulseen/originals/2013/05/gaza-islamic-jihad-and-iranian-arms.html>.
- 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'être*. 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.

- **April 13, 2024:** PIJ launches eight rockets at Sderot. Israel intercepts an unspecified number of rockets. No injuries or damage are reported.⁶⁴
- **April 8, 2024:** Israel reveals a video of the interrogation of PIJ political spokesman Abu Shlouf in which he reveals how Gaza's terrorist groups have used all of Gaza's hospitals and ambulances in their war against Israel. He further confirms the PIJ's role in the al-Ahli failed rocket attack. Abu Shlouf also reveals that PIJ has used Arabic and international media to create a false narrative about what is happening in the Gaza Strip. Abu Shlouf also reconfirms that PIJ fired the rocket that struck Al Shifa Hospital in October 2023 and PIJ's leadership 'fabricated the story about an Israeli strike on the hospital' to "erase" its own culpability.⁶⁵
- **April 6, 2024:** Israel announces that it has recovered the body of Elad Katzir, an Israeli farmer held hostage in Gaza by PIJ since October 7, 2023. Katzir was reportedly killed by his PIJ captors in mid-January and was buried in Khan Younis. Katzir's mother was also taken hostage but released in the November exchange deal.⁶⁶
- **April 4, 2024:** PIJ launches two rockets from the Gaza Strip toward Sderot and the coastal city of Ashkelon. One rocket strikes a Sderot road, causing slight damage. The other is shot down.⁶⁷
- **March 15, 2024:** PIJ launches two rockets from the Gaza Strip toward Sderot. One rocket is intercepted and the other lands outside the city. No damage or casualties are reported.⁶⁸
- **December 1, 2023:** PIJ claims it launched rockets at Jerusalem and other unspecified cities in Israel.⁶⁹
- **October 2023:**
 - October 7-9: On October 7, one day after the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War and as Israel is marking the Jewish Sabbath and holiday of Simchat Torah, Hamas launches a multi-pronged attack on Israel, resulting in 1,200 killed and more than 240 hostages taken into Gaza. On October 8, Nakhalah announces PIJ is holding 30 Israeli hostages. During an October 9 phone call with Nakhalah, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi praises the "brilliant and impressive victories" of the "Palestinian resistance." As of April 2024, PIJ has only confirmed that "several" civilian hostages were released as part of the November 2023 exchange deal.⁷⁰
 - October 17: PIJ and Hamas blame an Israeli airstrike for destroying the al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, allegedly killing at least 500 people. Israel provides evidence that the explosion was caused by an errant PIJ rocket attack. According to the IDF, approximately 450 Palestinian rockets have landed inside Gaza since October 7. PIJ accuses Israel of trying to "evade responsibility" after previously calling for the hospital's evacuation. U.S., Canadian, and French investigations conclude that an errant Palestinian rocket struck the hospital. Investigations by Human Rights Watch and the Associated Press confirm that a Palestinian rocket likely struck the hospital. An April 2024 interrogation of PIJ political spokesman Tariq Salami Otha Abu Shlouf further corroborates that PIJ was responsible for a failed rocket that struck the al-Ahli hospital.⁷¹
- **September 22, 2023:** Palestinian gunmen open fire and throw explosives at an IDF battalion conducting a search for illegal weapons in Kafr Dan in the West Bank. The Israeli soldiers return fire, wounding several and killing PIJ member Abdullah Imad Abu Hassan. PIJ issues a statement claiming Abu Hassan as a member, referring to him as a "fighter" in a local PIJ wing in the Jenin area.⁷²
- **September 19, 2023:** An explosive device detonates underneath an army vehicle and gunmen open fire as the Israelis are leaving the Jenin refugee camp after a counterterrorism operation. The vehicle is damaged but no Israeli casualties are reported. Three Palestinians—identified as Mahmoud al-Sadi, Mahmoud Ararawi, and Ata Yasser Musa—are killed. The three are claimed as members of either Hamas or PIJ.⁷³
- **September 12, 2023:** Members of PIJ, Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine jointly hold "The Hard Corner 4" military exercise in Gaza during which they launch rockets toward the sea and show off drone capabilities. Hamas military commander Mohammed al-Deif says "armed resistance" is the Palestinians' only option to "liberate their historical lands and declare their own independent State." The training exercise coincides the anniversary of the Oslo Accords.⁷⁴
- **August 30, 2023:** A roadside bomb wounds four Israeli soldiers conducting a counterterrorism operation in Nablus. A local PIJ wing claims responsibility.⁷⁵

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- **August 30, 2023:** PIJ gunmen and Palestinian Authority policemen engage in a firefight in the Tulkarem refugee camp in the West Bank after the PA police enter the camp to remove street barriers set up by militants. A 25-year-old Palestinian bystander is killed in the crossfire. A Palestinian security official claims PA forces had fired stun grenades and teargas at PIJ fighters but not used live fire.⁷⁶
 - **August 21-22, 2023:** During overnight counterterrorism raids in the West Bank, Israeli forces shoot and kill 17-year-old Othman Abu Kharj in the village of Zababdeh. Israel does not comment specifically on Abu Kharj but says explosives were thrown at the soldiers during the raids. PIJ claims Abu Kharj as a member of its “rapid response unit.”⁷⁷
 - **July 3-4, 2023:** Israeli forces launch a large-scale operation in the Jenin refugee camp, the first such operation in 20 years. According to an IDF spokesman, at least 50 shooting attacks have come from Jenin. During the 48-hour operation, the IDF seizes hundreds of weapons caches and explosives and detains 120 people. Firefights between the IDF and militants are reported. At least 12 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier are killed. At least five of the Palestinians are identified as militants. IDF forces begin withdrawing on July 4. Nakhalah claims the Jenin Battalion of PIJ’s al-Quds Brigades led the “resistance” to Israel in Jenin with other groups. He claims the battle was a “great triumph in the face of Zionist aggression.”⁷⁸
 - **June 21, 2023:** Two teenagers are killed in the Balata refugee camp, near Nablus, when the explosives they are handling accidentally detonate. One other person is wounded. PIJ names the deceased teenagers as 17-year-old Mohammed Hashah and 18-year-old Alaa Hafnawi.⁷⁹
 - **June 20, 2023:** PIJ gunmen confront a group of Israeli soldiers after they entered the Jenin refugee camp to arrest two Palestinian suspects. The gunmen also use explosives against the soldiers. A roadside bomb wounds eight Israeli soldiers in a military jeep. PIJ’s local wing, the Jenin Battalion, claims responsibility. Palestinian media share video footage of gunfire targeting the soldiers and of the jeep engulfed in smoke.⁸⁰
 - **May 2023:**
 - **May 2:** After imprisoned PIJ political leader Khader Adnan dies in Israeli custody, a coalition of Gaza militant groups launch at least 25 rockets toward southern Israel from Gaza, wounding at least three people. Israeli defenses intercept four rockets. PIJ and Hamas are among the groups to claim credit for the rockets. Adnan had been charged with links to an outlawed group and incitement to violence. He had announced a hunger strike and reportedly lost 88 pounds over 87 days prior to his death. Hamas condemns Adnan’s death as an assassination and offers its condolences to PIJ.⁸¹
 - **May 2-3:** Palestinian militants launch at least 100 rockets toward Israel late on May 2, wounding a foreign worker at a construction site. In response, Israel strikes multiple Hamas targets in Gaza on May 3, killing one and wounding five. Qatar, Egypt, and the United Nations broker a ceasefire. Hamas spokesman Hazem Qasem thanks Palestinian militants for “confronting Israeli aggression and concluding the round of the conflict.” Haniyeh demands Israel return Adnan’s body to his family. After PIJ announces the ceasefire, spokesman Tariq Salmi declares, “One round of confrontation has ended, but the march of resistance continues and will not stop.”⁸²
 - **May 9:** Israel launches Operation Shield and Arrow against PIJ in Gaza in response to the more than 100 rockets PIJ fired the week before. Airstrikes kill PIJ commanders Jihad Ghannam, Tareq Izzeldeen, and Khalil Al-Bahtini in Gaza. Ghannam and Izzeldeen allegedly orchestrated operations in the West Bank and sought to bring rockets to Jenin. Bahtini allegedly coordinated rocket fire during the previous week. The Israeli strikes also kill 10 civilians. A PIJ spokesman says Israel “must expect a response at any moment and anywhere.”⁸³
 - **May 10:** Israel renews strikes against PIJ rocket sites in Gaza as militants fire hundreds of rockets from Gaza toward Israel. The southern Israeli towns of Sderot and Ashkelon each report two direct hits on residential buildings. No injuries are reported. Later in the evening, a rocket directly strikes a home in the Nir Am kibbutz near the Gaza border, causing structural damage. Israel says it has hit more than 130 PIJ targets, while Gaza militants have fired more than 400 rockets. Rocket alert sirens also sound in Tel Aviv. According to the Israeli government, approximately one-quarter of the rockets fired from Gaza have fallen short of Israel. The joint command of Hamas and PIJ claim responsibility for the rocket fire. A Hamas statement suggests it is participating in launching rockets at Israel, but Israeli military officials say they have not seen evidence of Hamas itself launching rockets. Israeli strikes specifically target PIJ and not Hamas. Egypt begins mediation, according to PIJ. Separately, two PIJ gunmen open fire on Israeli soldiers in the West Bank. The soldiers kill the gunmen, whom PIJ claims as members.⁸⁴
 - **May 11:** Israel targets and kills Al-Quds Brigades commander Ali Hassan Ghali, who headed the Al-Quds Brigades’ rocket unit. According to PIJ, Ghali had co-founded the rocket unit and had more than 20 years’ experience with rockets. Israel also targets and kills Ahmed Abu Daqa, the deputy commander of PIJ’s rocket division. PIJ had fired at least 523 rockets toward Israel since May 9. Egypt sends envoys to Israel for ceasefire talks. Israel calls for an unconditional ceasefire, while PIJ calls for Israel to release Adnan’s body and cease targeted strikes against PIJ leaders. Despite the disagreement, both Israel and PIJ reportedly significantly decrease their attacks on each other as of 2:30 p.m. As of that point, PIJ had launched only 40 rockets and the IDF has struck only eight targets in Gaza since that morning. That evening, a rocket strikes a residential building in Rehovot, Israel, killing an elderly man and wounding five other people. It is the first Israeli fatality in the conflict. In the West Bank, gunmen shoot and wound an Israeli soldier in Tulkarm. IDF forces return fire, reportedly killing a 66-year-old man, according to Palestinian sources. The IDF arrests 25 people allegedly affiliated with PIJ.⁸⁵
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- **May 12:** Rockets strike empty homes in Sderot and Nir Am in southern Israel. No casualties are reported. A rocket lands near the Israeli West Bank settlement of Bat Ayin, about 10 miles south of Jerusalem. No injuries are reported. It is the first rocket to land near Jerusalem in the conflict. PIJ calls the attack near Jerusalem “a message” and “everyone should understand its aim.” Israel reportedly freezes ceasefire talks, telling the Egyptians it will not negotiate while under rocket fire. Israel strikes multiple PIJ targets in Gaza, including an underground rocket launcher and a military post. Israel announces a new wave of strikes against PIJ targets in Gaza, including against multiple homes in the northern Gaza city of Beit Lahiya, which Israel says are used by PIJ. According to Israel, PIJ has launched more than 850 rockets since May 9. Most have been intercepted or landed in open areas. Approximately one-fifth landed in Gaza, killing four people. Israeli airstrikes have hit 215 PIJ targets during that timeframe.⁸⁶
 - **May 13:** Shrapnel from fallen PIJ rockets wounds three in Shokeda in southern Israel. One of the wounded later dies from his injuries. Two of the wounded, including the fatality, were Palestinians from Gaza in Israel with work permits. The Gaza-based Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) confirms some of the Gazans killed and wounded that week were hit by Palestinian rockets. Hamas accuses PCHR of a “lack of patriotism” and says the group is not authorized to draw those conclusions. Israel targets the Gaza apartment building of PIJ commander Mohammed Abu Al-Atta, who had reportedly left the building earlier to seek refuge in a hospital. PIJ fires dozens of rockets and promises a continued onslaught. An Egypt-negotiated ceasefire goes into effect at 10 p.m., though limited Palestinian rocket fire and Israelis strikes continue just past the deadline. According to PIJ, Israel agreed to halt targeted strikes against PIJ leaders. Israeli officials say quiet will be met with quiet.⁸⁷
 - **May 14:** Militants fire a rocket from Gaza in the afternoon. The rocket falls in an open area. In response, Israel strikes Hamas observation posts in northern Gaza. A member of the Joint Operations Rooms of the Palestinian Resistance Factions reportedly says the rocket fired because of a “technical defect” and the groups remain committed to the ceasefire. Senior PIJ official Mohammed al-Hindi says PIJ will hold the ceasefire as long as Israel does. Between May 9 and May 14, Israel had killed six senior PIJ leaders and struck 371 targets in Gaza. During that timeframe, PIJ launched more than 1,234 rockets, of which 221 fell inside Gaza. Israel intercepted approximately 373 rockets. Israel reported one fatality, while Palestinian sources report 34 Palestinian fatalities, including 15 civilians.⁸⁸
- **March 16, 2023:** Undercover members of Israel’s Yamam counterterrorism unit come under fire in Jenin and engage in a shootout with Palestinian gunmen, killing four and wounding 23 others. No Israeli casualties are reported. Two of the dead gunmen are identified as wanted fugitives Nidal Khazem of PIJ and Yusuf Shreim of Hamas. PIJ and Hamas identify the two as senior members. A local PIJ wing accuses Israel of “a cowardly assassination of resistance fighters.”⁸⁹
 - **March 9, 2023:** PIJ gunmen in a passing vehicle open fire at undercover IDF soldiers carrying out an arrest raid in the Palestinian village of Jaba’, south of Jenin in the West Bank. The soldiers return fire, killing the three gunmen. The IDF identifies the gunmen as Ahmed Fashafsha, Sufyan Fakhoury, and Nayef Malaysha. The soldiers launched the raid to arrest Fashafsha and Fakhoury. The soldiers discover multiple firearms and explosives in the militants’ car. A local PIJ wing in Jaba’ confirms three members had been killed in a “cowardly assassination operation.” PIJ also claims it shot down an IDF drone over Jaba’ during the raid. The IDF confirms a Skylark drone crashed during the raid, but says the investigations is continuing.⁹⁰
 - **February 23, 2023:** Palestinian militants fire six rockets toward Israel from Gaza hours after an Israeli arrest raid in the West Bank city of Nablus led to a gun battle that left 11 Palestinians dead. Israel intercepts five of the rockets. The sixth lands in an open field. PIJ calls for retaliation after the raid. Nakhala calls the raid a “huge crime” and it is PIJ’s duty “to respond to this crime without hesitation.”⁹¹
 - **February 8, 2023:** PIJ gunmen open fire on Israeli forces in Nablus in the West Bank as incoming Israeli parliamentarian Zvi Sukkot visits Joseph’s Tomb in the city. Two Palestinian teenagers are reportedly wounded during the clashes. A local branch of PIJ’s al-Quds Brigades claims responsibility for firing on Israeli forces.⁹²
 - **January 26-27, 2023:** Israeli forces launch a morning counterterrorism raid in the West Bank’s Jenin refugee camp, in response to intelligence of a pending PIJ attack. At least nine Palestinians are killed during ensuing clashes. According to reports, seven of the casualties are gunmen while two are civilians. Most of the casualties reportedly belong to PIJ. Unspecified IDF casualties are also reported. Egyptian mediators tell Israeli officials PIJ is determined to respond. PIJ reportedly tells the Egyptians they would respond by 9 p.m., but no response occurs by the deadline. PIJ spokesman Tariq Salmi vows “the resistance is everywhere and ready and willing for the next confrontation.” Hamas West Bank leader Saleh al-Arouri vows Israel “will pay the price for the Jenin massacre.” Overnight, Israel’s Iron Dome defense system intercepts two rockets from Gaza. In response, the IDF launches an airstrike targeting an “underground rocket manufacturing site.” Early on January 27, a second round of rockets launches toward Israel, but the rockets are either shot down, land in open areas of southern Israel, or fall inside Gaza. In retaliation, Israel strikes “a significant centre of Hamas terrorist activities” in northern Gaza. PIJ claims responsibility for the rocket fire. Nakhala declares a “day of jihad” and states PIJ will not back down.⁹³
 - **January 14, 2023:** Members of PIJ driving by an IDF position near the northern West Bank village of near the village of Jaba’ open fire. The Israelis return fire, killing two. PIJ claims the attack and identifies the two fatalities as members.⁹⁴
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• **August 2022:**

- **August 1:** Israeli forces enter Jenin in the West Bank and arrest Bassem Saadi, PIJ's West Bank commander, along with his son-in-law and aide, Ashraf al-Jada. Israeli forces seize a gun, ammunition, and cash during the raid. A local PIJ cell opens fire on the Israeli soldiers, who return fire and reportedly wound several of the PIJ gunmen. A 17-year-old member of PIJ, identified as Dirar al-Kafrayni, is killed during the raid. In response to the arrests, PIJ declares a state of "alertness" and that it is raising its fighters' "readiness." Israel closes schools within 50 miles of the border.⁹⁵
- **August 5:** Israel launches Operation "Breaking Dawn," striking PIJ targets in Gaza. At least 10 people are killed, including a 5-year-old girl, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. PIJ commander Tayseer al-Jabari is also among the fatalities. Nakhalah tells Iran's al-Mayadeen TV network PIJ is "starting the fight" and the "fighters of the Palestinian resistance have to stand together to confront this aggression." Nakhalah warns there will be no red lines against Israel and PIJ is "going into battle." PIJ launches dozens of missiles toward Israeli civilian centers. No Israeli casualties are reported.⁹⁶
- **August 6:** An Israeli strike kills Khaled Mansour, PIJ's southern Gaza commander, in an apartment building in Rafah in southern Gaza. According to the Israeli military, Mansour was responsible for years' worth of rocket and mortar strikes against Israel and was plotting an attack against Israel using anti-tank missiles and rockets. The strike reportedly also kills two other militants and five civilians. A PIJ rocket misfires, killing six in the Jebaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza. PIJ targets Ashkelon with rockets.⁹⁷
- **August 7:** Israel arrests 20 PIJ members in the West Bank overnight and strikes suspected rocket launching sites in Gaza. An Egypt-negotiated ceasefire goes into effect at 11:30 p.m. The United Nations, Qatar, United States, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority also aid in the negotiations. Israel denies reports it had agreed to release Saadi and Palestinian security prisoner Khalil Awawdeh as part of the ceasefire. Nakhalah calls the conflict a victory for PIJ because Israel failed to destroy it completely. He also threatens to resume violence if Awawdeh and Saadi are not released. According to the Hamas-run Palestinian Health Ministry, the three days of conflict killed 46 Palestinians, including 15 children, and wounded 360. At least 70 Israelis were wounded but no fatalities were reported. PIJ says 12 of its fighters were killed and a smaller armed group says one of its fighters was killed. Israel says some of the fatalities were caused by misfired Palestinian rockets. Videos emerge of PIJ rockets misfiring and striking Palestinian towns. The Israeli military says Gaza militants fired at least 1,100 rockets over the course of three days while Israel launched 147 airstrikes in Gaza. At least two PIJ rockets had been fired toward Jerusalem but were shot down. About 380 rockets were intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system, while approximately 200 failed to clear the border and landed inside Gaza, possibly killing one-third of the conflict's casualties. Hamas does not participate in the conflict, though two Hamas-affiliated policemen not involved in the fighting were also killed.⁹⁸
- **August 8:** PIJ spokesman Khaled About Hait tells Al Jazeera the ceasefire is contingent on Israel releasing Saadi and Awawdeh within two weeks. Hait says an Israeli refusal to release the two prisoners would break the ceasefire agreement. On August 19, an Israeli military court temporarily suspends Awawdeh's detention to allow him to receive medical care, but says the detention will be reinstated once Awawdeh is well enough to return to prison. On August 21, Israel's High Court of Justice rejects an appeal to fully cancel Awawdeh's detention. Awawdeh is released on September 15, 2023.⁹⁹
- **April 28, 2022:** PIJ releases a propaganda video of its Jenin aerial drones dropping an explosive device on an Israeli military jeep in September 2019. Spokesman Abu Hamza warns "the enemy" to "think carefully and reflect: what are our drones like today, and how are their capabilities three years after that operation?" The Israeli military vehicle was not damaged in the 2019 drone strike. Abu Hamza further warns Israel that PIJ and other terror groups will one day turn the country into a "mass of fire and flame."¹⁰⁰
- **April 25, 2022:** Israel's Shin Bet security service breaks up a PIJ cell in the West Bank allegedly under the direction of senior PIJ official Jihad Shaker Diab Ganam in Rafah in the Gaza Strip. According to the Shin Bet, Ganam directed Rafah-based PIJ operative Ahmad Nabil Ahmad Judeh to recruit Palestinians around Jenin in the West Bank with the intention of launching violent attacks. Among those arrested is Yasmeen Shaaban, a mother of four from the village of Jalama near Jenin, who allegedly helped transfer weapons and money to the West Bank operatives. Shaaban had previously been arrested for aiding in a suicide bombing. Israeli security officials accuse PIJ militants of launching recent rockets from Gaza under orders from PIJ leadership in Lebanon.¹⁰¹
- **April 2022:**
 - April 14:** Hamas issues a call for Palestinians to mobilize at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem to "protect it from the colonial settler extremist groups" allegedly planning to hold animal sacrifices there over the Passover holiday.¹⁰²
 - **April 15:** Israeli police storm the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, after reportedly coming under attack from fireworks and stones. Police clash with stone-throwing protesters and arrest more than 400 people. Hamas calls for "popular mobilization" at the mosque against Israel.¹⁰³

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- During the convergence of Easter Sunday, Passover, and Ramadan, a group of Israeli rightwing activists gather at the Temple Mount and Israeli police enter the compound in response to ensuing clashes and further allegations of Palestinians storing weapons in the mosque. Hamas condemns Israel for attacking Palestinian worshippers.¹⁰⁴
 - **April 18:** Israel's Iron Dome defense system intercepts a rocket launched from Gaza. Neither Hamas nor PIJ claim responsibility for the attack.¹⁰⁵
 - **April 19:** Israeli jets strike a Hamas "weapons manufacturing site" in Gaza. There are no reported casualties. Nakhalah warns Israel's blockade of Gaza will not silence the Palestinians. Media reports circulate of PIJ fighters preparing underground tunnels for incursions into Israel. A PIJ official tells Agence France-Presse the group has defensive and offensive tunnel systems for use in "taking Israeli soldiers captive, repelling Israeli ground offensives and carrying out various field operations." Thanking Iran, PIJ spokesman Abu Hamza says PIJ has replenished its supply of rockets since the May 2021 conflict with Israel. Another PIJ fighter says he and others have received orders to mobilize "and be on high alert to defend the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Jerusalem." Hamas publishes video of its members firing surface-to-air missiles at Israeli jets the night before. Israel reports the missiles caused no damage.¹⁰⁶
 - **April 20-21:** During a meeting of Hamas leaders, Hamas deputy leader Yahya Sinwar calls for the prevention of "independent" initiatives such as the April 18 rocket attack. Sinwar says any action must be coordinated by all of Gaza's factions as well as its political leadership. Israeli police stop a group of Israeli rightwing activists from marching through Jerusalem's Old City. Hamas calls the march a provocation. At approximately 10:30 p.m., militants in Gaza launch a rocket toward the southern Israeli town of Sderot, striking a parked car and a wall near a home. There are no reported casualties. Israel's Iron Dome system intercepts anti-aircraft fire. After midnight, Israeli jets target a Hamas air defense military post and an underground site used for the storage of chemical materials for rocket engines. Later in the morning, Gaza militants attempt to launch another rocket into Israel but it lands inside Gaza. No groups claim responsibility for the overnight rockets but Israeli security officials reportedly suspect PIJ.¹⁰⁷
 - **April 22:** Militants fire two rockets from Gaza toward southern Israel. One of the rockets lands near a residential building in northern Gaza while the second reaches Israeli territory but causes no damage. On April 24, Israel closes the main Erez Crossing between Gaza and Israel to pressure Hamas to rein in militants. Hamas condemns the move as collective punishment.¹⁰⁸
 - **April 2-5, 2022:** During a predawn operation on April 2, Israeli security forces intercept three PIJ gunmen from Jenin on their way to carry out an attack in Israel. Israeli forces kill the three gunmen in an ensuing firefight. On April 5, Israeli media reports PIJ wanted to launch the rockets in revenge for the killings but Hamas exerted pressure because it did not want to provide an excuse for a larger Israeli operation into Gaza.¹⁰⁹
 - **January 1, 2022:** Militants in Gaza launch two rockets toward the Mediterranean Sea, which explode off the coast of Tel Aviv. Palestinian armed factions in Gaza claim inclement weather caused the rockets to inadvertently launch. PIJ reportedly evacuates in Gaza and raises its alert level in preparation for Israeli retaliation. Israel launches retaliatory airstrikes against Hamas security posts and a training camp. Hamas's Aqsa TV reports militants fired two surface-to-air missiles toward Israeli planes in retaliation for the airstrikes. Israel's military confirms the launch of one missile at one of its planes but reports it did not inflict damage. There are no casualties reported on either side.¹¹⁰
 - **January 1, 2022:** PIJ demands Israel release Hisham Abu Hawash, who has been on a hunger strike for 135 days in protest of his detention in Israel. PIJ claims Abu Hawash "is being subjected to a process of assassination, of elimination," and threatens violent retribution against Israel if Abu Hawash dies in prison. PIJ's military wing reportedly receives instructions to be ready to respond in the event of Abu Hawash's death.¹¹¹
 - **December 28, 2021:** Media reports emerge of a joint PIJ and Hamas week-long joint military drill, called "Rukn a-Shadid 2," to practice confronting Israeli forces. According to Palestinian media reports, the drills are meant to "convey political and military messages to Israel and the other mediators" that Hamas and other Gaza terror groups are losing patience with efforts to reach a long-term ceasefire with Israel. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Resistance Committees also participate in the drills.¹¹²
 - **May 2021:**
 - **May 9:** As Israelis rally in Jerusalem to mark Jerusalem Day, celebrating the 1967 capture of east Jerusalem from Jordan, riots break out on the Temple Mount as hundreds of Palestinians reportedly throw rocks and firecrackers at security forces. Israeli police storm the Temple Mount in response. The protests coincide with an expected Israeli supreme court decision on the eviction of Palestinians from their homes in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. The decision is delayed because of the rioting.¹¹³
 - **May 10:** Palestinians in Jerusalem throw rocks at an Israeli car, causing the driver to lose control. PIJ joins Hamas in launching hundreds of rockets towards Israeli border communities, with some reaching as far as Jerusalem. One rocket strikes a house near Jerusalem, lightly wounding those inside. Hamas claims the rocket fire is "in retaliation to [Israel's] crimes and aggression on the holy city and brutality against our people in Sheikh Jarrah and Al Aqsa Mosque." Hamas demands Israel remove its forces from both the Temple Mount and the
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Sheikh Jarah neighborhood and sets a deadline of that evening. PIJ posts a video online of an anti-tank missile striking an Israeli car near Gaza, wounding one. In response, Israel launches airstrikes on Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip. At least nine people are killed and two wounded in Gaza. Israeli authorities claim the strikes killed eight Hamas operatives while the Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza claimed the Israeli strikes killed 21 people, including 10 children. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken calls for an immediate end to rocket attacks on Israel. Rocket attacks from Gaza continue into May 11 as the death toll rises to two Israelis and 26 in Gaza. At least 30 are wounded in southern Israel.¹¹⁴

- **May 11:** Hamas claims to launch 137 rockets within a five-minute span toward the Israeli cities of Ashkelon and Ashdod, just south of Tel Aviv. Israel claims one-third of the rockets from Gaza had fallen short and landed inside the coastal enclave, resulting in increased Palestinian casualties. An Israeli strike in Gaza kills a Hamas commander and three PIJ commanders. The strike primarily targets Sameh Fahim Al-Mamlouk, a senior PIJ military commander. The other two PIJ fighters killed are field commanders who oversaw the group's rocket attacks. Rockets strike homes in the Israeli city of Ashkelon, killing two and wounding dozens of others, marking the first Israeli fatalities in the conflict. A rocket strike outside a home in Rishon Lezion kills one inside and a neighbor dies from a heart attack after the strike.¹¹⁵
- **May 12:** Hamas and PIJ continue to fire rockets toward Israeli cities. Rockets target Sderot and other Israeli communities near the Gaza border. Hassan Abu al-Ata, deputy commander of PIJ's Gaza Brigade, is killed in an Israeli strike in Gaza. PIJ promises a harsh response. A rocket strikes a home in Sderot, wounding three. A Kornet anti-tank guided missile strikes a Jeep in Israel's Netiv Ha'Asara, north of Gaza, killing a soldier and wounding three others. Israeli media reports more than 1,200 rockets have been launched at Israel since the start of fighting on Monday, though 200 fell within Gaza. Israel's missile defense systems reportedly intercept 80 to 90 percent of the rockets.¹¹⁶
- **May 13-14:** Israel strikes at least five Hamas cells preparing to launch anti-tank guided missiles. A rocket strikes a building in Tel Aviv, wounding five Israeli civilians. Rocket fire kills an Israeli soldier and a 5-year-old in Israel. As of May 13, at least 46 Israelis are wounded and seven are killed since the beginning of the conflict. In Gaza, the death toll reaches at least 109. Hamas and PIJ confirm 20 deaths between the two groups. Israel claims to have struck almost 1,000 militant targets in Gaza. Hamas begins sending armed drones into Israel while continuing to target southern Israel, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem with rockets. The drones are either shot down or blown up in the air. That night, Israel mobilizes air and ground forces to strike inside Gaza. The Israeli military denies it is an invasion and that its forces are firing artillery from the Israeli side of the border. Egypt sends mediators to Israel to discuss a ceasefire. Hamas rejects a proposal for a three-hour lull in the fighting to further discussions and calls an Israeli invasion would be an opportunity to capture Israeli soldiers. Overnight, Israel conducts airstrikes on some 150 targets around Gaza while infantry near the Gaza-Israel border—but staying on the Israeli side—strike nearby Hamas positions. The IDF claims to damage several kilometers of Hamas's underground tunnels. According to some reports, Israel intentionally leaked misinformation of a ground invasion to draw Hamas into positions around and beneath the border for aerial bombardment.¹¹⁷
- **May 14:** Rioters from Lebanon approach the Israeli border and are repelled by Israeli forces. The rockets are fired from Syria, one falls into the sea or open areas of the Golan. There are no injuries or immediate claims of responsibility. IDF aircraft target a PIJ anti-tank missile operative, two Hamas anti-tank missile positions, and a Hamas surface-to-surface rocket position in Gaza. As of nightfall on May 14, more than 2,000 rockets have been fired toward Israel in five days of fighting. Approximately half of those projectiles are intercepted while 350 fall inside of Gaza. The Hamas-run health ministry claims 126 Palestinians have been killed in five days of fighting, including 31 minors, while 950 are wounded. Israeli casualties rise to eight dead, including two children. Hamas reportedly passes messages to Israel that it is interested in a ceasefire. Israeli media reports increasing chances of a ceasefire over the weekend.¹¹⁸
- **May 15:** Hamas and PIJ continue to launch missiles toward Israeli cities. An Israeli airstrike destroys a building in Gaza hosting the offices of the Associated Press, Al Jazeera, and other media outlets. Israel accuses Hamas of using civilian infrastructure, including the building hosting press offices, as shields. Israel presents evidence that Hamas military intelligence units were operating in the building. Hamas launches dozens of missiles and rockets towards Tel Aviv, Beersheba, Ashdod, and Sderot, killing one in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan and raising the death toll in Israel to 10. Militants fire at least 120 rockets that night at southern Israel. Almost 300 rockets are fired throughout the day, about 40 of which fall inside Gaza.¹¹⁹
- **May 16:** Militants fire at least 150 rockets toward southern Israel, striking buildings in Ashkelon and Ashdod, including a synagogue. At least 66 people are wounded in the strikes. Two rockets destroy five cars and a house in Ashkelon, while another lands near a supermarket in Beersheba. No injuries are reported in those strikes. Israeli airstrikes on Gaza continue, killing at least two and wounding 25, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry. Israeli airstrikes target a Hamas tunnel system, which collapses and brings down houses above, killing 42. Israel says civilian casualties are unintentional. Since the beginning of the conflict, at least 192 have been killed in Gaza and 1,125 injured. Hamas and PIJ have launched more than 2,000 rockets and missiles since the beginning of the conflict. The United States and United Nations say they are working on a ceasefire agreement.¹²⁰

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- **May 17:** The French and Egyptian governments issue a joint call for a ceasefire. U.S. officials reportedly tell Israeli leaders to begin winding down operations in Gaza. Israel kills Hussam Abu Harbeed, PIJ's northern division commander, in Gaza.¹²¹
 - **May 18-19:** After a six-hour lull in rocket fire, Gaza militants continue to launch rockets toward Israeli cities. Hamas threatens to strike Tel Aviv. On May 18, a mortar shell strikes a packing house in Israel's Eshkol region, killing two Thai foreign workers and wounding 10 others. Rockets also target the Erez pedestrian crossing and Keren Shalom crossing into Gaza, wounding one Israeli soldier and forcing both crossings to close. The crossings are used to bring food and aid into Gaza. Hamas claims to fire multiple rockets toward six Israeli air force bases overnight. The Israeli military says there is no indication any of its bases were struck by rockets. At least 50 rockets are fired toward Israel, 10 of which fall within Gaza. The military strikes a PIJ cell preparing a rocket attack from central Gaza. The IDF claims to kill at least 10 members of Hamas and PIJ in overnight airstrikes in Khan Younis and Rafah in Gaza. The IDF also strikes several targets overnight in the upscale Rimal neighborhood of Gaza City, where many Hamas commanders reportedly live. Israeli planes also target Hamas's network of underground tunnels in Gaza. As of May 19, Hamas and PIJ have launched almost 3,700 rockets since the beginning of the conflict. The fighting kills at least 217 in Gaza and wounds 1,400, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry. The Israeli military says at least 160 Hamas and PIJ operatives have been killed since the start of the fighting. According to Israel's Magen David Adom, the fighting has killed 12 in Israel and wounded more than 330.¹²²
 - **May 20:** IRGC Quds Force commander Ismail Ghaani writes to Hamas military leader Mohammed Deif to praise Hamas's actions during the conflict. Ghaani addresses Deif as a "living martyr" and writes he is confident of Hamas's victory. After an eight-hour lull in rocket fire overnight, Hamas and PIJ renew their campaign with salvos targeting Ashkelon, Ashdod, Beersheba, and neighboring communities. Rockets strike homes in Ashkelon and Ashdod, wounding one. An anti-tank missile strikes an empty military bus in southern Israel, wounding one. The Israeli military claims to strike at least three homes in Gaza's Khan Younis and Rafah belonging to Hamas commanders. As of May 20, Hamas and PIJ have launched more than 4,000 rockets toward Israel. Hamas and PIJ claim only 20 of their fighters have been killed in the fighting while Israel claims it has killed 130 fighters from both groups. An Egyptian intelligence official says a ceasefire is likely by the end of the week. Israel's security cabinet approves a truce for "quiet in exchange for quiet." A Hamas official confirms a truce will go into effect at 2 a.m. the following day.¹²³
 - **December 2020:** On December 29, PIJ announces widescale military drills, reportedly organized by Iran, in preparation for a future conflict with Israel. PIJ launches eight rockets into the sea off of Gaza's coast. The drill includes Hamas and smaller armed groups.¹²⁴
 - **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 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.¹²⁵
 - **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.¹²⁶
 - **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.¹²⁷
 - **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.¹²⁸
 - **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.¹²⁹
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- **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.¹³⁰
 - **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.¹³¹
 - **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.¹³²
 - **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.¹³³
 - **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].”¹³⁴
 - **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.¹³⁵
 - **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.”¹³⁶
 - **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.¹³⁷
 - **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.¹³⁸ The following day, PIJ publishes an obituary for Hijazi on its website, saying that he had been a member of the organization.¹³⁹
 - **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.¹⁴⁰
 - **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.¹⁴¹
 - **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.¹⁴²
 - **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.¹⁴³
 - **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.¹⁴⁴
 - **July 8, 2014:** Israel launches Operation Protective Edge, aimed at striking Hamas and ending rocket fire from Hamas and PIJ in Gaza.¹⁴⁵ PIJ takes credit for firing 60 rockets in recent days and claims it has begun an operation called Stable Building.¹⁴⁶ Some analysts argue PIJ has been strengthened by the latest conflict.
 - **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.¹⁴⁷ The operation is reportedly in coordination with Hamas.¹⁴⁸
 - **December 22, 2013:** An Israeli police sapper is injured when a bomb he was trying to defuse on a Bat Yam bus explodes.¹⁴⁹ Four PIJ members are arrested a month later for coordinating the attack.¹⁵⁰
 - **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.¹⁵¹
 - **November 2012:** PIJ takes credit for a rocket fired from Gaza at Tel Aviv. The rocket explodes in an open field, causing no casualties.¹⁵²
 - **November 2012:** Hamas and PIJ are credited for bombing a Tel Aviv bus that wounds at least 30 people.¹⁵³
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- **March 2012:** PIJ fires almost 200 missiles into Israel from Gaza.¹⁵⁴
 - **October 29, 2011:** PIJ fires a number of rockets into southern Israel, killing one civilian and wounding two.¹⁵⁵
 - **August 20, 2011:** PIJ fires a volley of rockets into southern Israel, killing one civilian and wounding seven.¹⁵⁶
 - **January 8, 2011:** PIJ fires two mortars into southern Israel, killing two Thai nationals.¹⁵⁷
 - **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.¹⁵⁸
 - **April 2008:** PIJ fires 216 rockets and mortar shells at various Israeli towns.¹⁵⁹
 - **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.¹⁶⁰
 - **January 2007:** A suicide attack at an Eilat bakery kills three. PIJ and the Fatah-affiliated Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade claim responsibility.¹⁶¹
 - **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.¹⁶²
 - **October 26, 2005:** A bombing at a market in Hadera, Israel kills five people. PIJ claims responsibility.¹⁶³
 - **October 4, 2003:** A PIJ suicide bomber blows himself up at Maxim restaurant in Haifa, killing 22 and injuring 60.¹⁶⁴
 - **June 5, 2002:** A PIJ suicide attack at Israel's Megiddo Junction kills 18 and injures 50.¹⁶⁵
 - **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.¹⁶⁶
 - **March 27, 2001:** A car bomb explodes in the Talpote industrial/commercial zone in Jerusalem, wounding three people. PIJ claims responsibility.¹⁶⁷
 - **November 2, 2000:** Two people are killed in a car bomb explosion near the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem. PIJ claims responsibility.¹⁶⁸
 - **October 26, 2000:** PIJ claims responsibility for a suicide bombing in the Kisufim settlement, which wounds one soldier.¹⁶⁹ The attack marked the fifth anniversary of PIJ leader Fathi Shaqaqi's death and was the first suicide bombing of the second intifada.
 - **November 6, 1998:** Two PIJ suicide bombers blow themselves up in the crowded Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem, wounding about 20 people.¹⁷⁰
 - **March 4, 1996:** A PIJ suicide bomber kills 13 and injures 75 at a Tel Aviv shopping mall.¹⁷¹
 - **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.¹⁷²
 - **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.¹⁷³
 - **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.¹⁷⁴
 - **September 4, 1994:** A PIJ drive-by shooting in Gaza kills one and injures several others.¹⁷⁵
 - **April 6, 1994:** PIJ militants explode a car bomb next to a public bus in Afula, Israel, killing nine and injuring 50.¹⁷⁶
 - **December 1993:** A PIJ shooting kills Israeli army reservist David Mashrati aboard a bus.¹⁷⁷
 - **February 1990:** PIJ terrorists attack an Israeli tour bus in Egypt, killing 11 people, including nine Israelis, and injuring 17.¹⁷⁸
 - **August 1987:** The commander of Israel's military police is shot to death by PIJ in the Gaza Strip.¹⁷⁹
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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.¹⁸⁰

Designations by Foreign Governments and Organizations:

- Australia—listed PIJ as a terrorist organization on December 21, 2001.¹⁸¹
- Canada—listed Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a terrorist entity on November 27, 2002.¹⁸²
- EU—listed Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as groups and entities involved in terrorist acts on December 27, 2001.¹⁸³
- New Zealand—listed Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a terrorist entity on October 11, 2010.¹⁸⁴
- United Kingdom—listed Palestinian Islamic Jihad - Shaqaqi (PIJ) as an organization believed to be concerned in terrorism in March 2001.¹⁸⁵

¹⁸⁰ “Chapter 6. Foreign Terrorist Organizations,” U.S. Department of State, May 30, 2013, <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2012/209989.htm>.

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Associations:

Ties to Extremist Entities designated by the U.S. or foreign governments:

- **Iran and the [Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps \(IRGC\)](#)**

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.¹⁸⁶ A 1998 lawsuit against Iran in U.S. federal court revealed that the Islamic Republic allocated \$2 million in its annual budget to PIJ.¹⁸⁷ That number has since skyrocketed—in late 2013, PIJ sources revealed that the terror group received about \$3 million per month from Iran.¹⁸⁸ 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.¹⁸⁹

According to PIJ spokesman Daoud Shihab, “all of the weapons in Gaza are provided by Iran,” and “everyone knows that Iran is financing” PIJ.¹⁹⁰ 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.”¹⁹¹

PIJ also receives aid through Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).¹⁹² 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 1987.¹⁹³

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).¹⁹⁴ 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.¹⁹⁵

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,”¹⁹⁶ 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,¹⁹⁷ including Iran.¹⁹⁸

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.¹⁹⁹

- **[Hamas](#)**

PIJ and Hamas collaborate militarily in order to fight Israel. During the first and second Palestinian intifadas, Hamas and PIJ claimed joint responsibility for a handful of attacks, including an April 9, 1995 suicide bombing that killed seven Israeli soldiers and an American.²⁰⁰ The groups continued coordinated attacks after the end of the second intifada and after Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip in 2007. In November 2012, for example, PIJ and Hamas jointly bombed a Tel Aviv bus, wounding 29 people.²⁰¹

After Hamas's falling out with Iran in 2012, relations between Hamas and PIJ also degraded. Fighters from the two organizations clashed amid accusations that Hamas was targeting PIJ. In September 2013, however, the two terror groups announced plans to form a new joint command to create a better political atmosphere in Gaza.²⁰²

In March 2014, PIJ fired a round of mortars into Israel, prompting an Israeli strike that killed three PIJ commanders. In retaliation, PIJ launched at least 130 locally made rockets into Israel as part of a military operation called Breaking the Silence, reportedly in coordination with Hamas.²⁰³ PIJ and Hamas also jointly launched rockets at Israel during Israel's summer 2014 conflict with Hamas.²⁰⁴ PIJ and Hamas have since continued to coordinate politically and militarily.²⁰⁵ The two groups announced in December 2019 they would join forces against Israel in the next round of conflict with the Jewish state.²⁰⁶

Between August 5 and August 7, 2022, PIJ fired 580 rockets toward Israel, which in return struck PIJ targets in Gaza. The three-day conflict concluded with an Egypt-negotiated ceasefire. According to the Hamas-run Palestinian Health Ministry, the conflict killed 44 Palestinians,

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including 15 children, and wounded 311. Nonetheless, Hamas did not join PIJ in launching rockets at Israel.²⁰⁷

Hezbollah

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.²⁰⁸

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."²⁰⁹

Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade

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 people²¹⁰ and a January 2007 suicide attack on an Eilat bakery that killed three.²¹¹

Ties to other entities:

Syria

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,²¹² though PIJ officially denied that it had abandoned its base in Syria.²¹³ Despite Iranian support for PIJ and Syria, PIJ has otherwise appeared to remain neutral in the Syrian civil war.²¹⁴ According to PIJ spokesperson Daoud Shihab, "Palestine is greater than all axes, and we do not accept to be part of the [Syria] conflict."²¹⁵ PIJ has, however, threatened to respond if Israel involves itself in the Syrian civil war.²¹⁶

Qatar

A U.S. lawsuit filed in June 2020 alleged Qatar provided funding to PIJ and Hamas through three Qatari financial institutions, the Qatar Charity, Masraf Al Rayan, and Qatar National Bank. The Qatar Charity is a member of the U.S.-sanctioned Union of Good charity network. All three institutions have links to members of the Qatari royal family. The plaintiffs are friends and family members of 10 U.S. citizens who died in terror attacks in Israel carried out by PIJ and Hamas. The lawsuit alleges Qatar Charity allegedly worked with Masraf Al Rayan bank and Qatar National Bank to forward Hamas and PIJ millions of dollars. It further accuses the Qatari government of coopting "several institutions that it dominates and controls to funnel coveted U.S. dollars (the chosen currency of Middle East terrorist networks) to Hamas and PIJ under the false guise of charitable donations."²¹⁷

¹⁸⁶ Holly Fletcher, "Palestinian Islamic Jihad," Council on Foreign Relations, April 10, 2008, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/palestinian-islamic-jihad/p15984>.

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¹⁹⁶ "Islamic Jihad Leadership Relocates to Iran," *Asharq Al-Awsat* (London), July 22, 2012, <http://www.aawsat.net/2012/07/article55241265>.

¹⁹⁷ "Country Reports on Terrorism 2013: Chapter 6. Foreign Terrorist Organizations," U.S. Department of State, April 30, 2014, <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224829.htm>.

¹⁹⁸ Asmaa al-Ghoul, "Hamas Isolated as Iran Boosts Ties with Islamic Jihad, Fatah," *Al-Monitor*, February 12, 2014, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/02/islamic-jihad-fatah-hamas-iran-palestinians.html>; "Islamic Jihad: Israeli Attacks on Gaza Backfired," *Tasnim News Agency*, July 15, 2014, <http://www.tasnimnews.com/english/Home/Single/4320791>.

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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.²¹⁸ 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.²¹⁹ 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."²²⁰ 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."²²¹ 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."²²²

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.²²³ 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.²²⁴ 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.²²⁵ 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.²²⁶

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.

²¹⁸ Asmaa 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>.

²¹⁹ Muhammad Muslih, "They Took Our Land, so Why Shouldn't I Kill Them?" *New York Times*, April 26, 2002, http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/26/opinion/26iht-edmus_ed3_.html.

²²⁰ Muhammad Muslih, "They Took Our Land, so Why Shouldn't I Kill Them?" *New York Times*, April 26, 2002, http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/26/opinion/26iht-edmus_ed3_.html.

²²¹ Muhammad Muslih, "They Took Our Land, so Why Shouldn't I Kill Them?" *New York Times*, April 26, 2002, http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/26/opinion/26iht-edmus_ed3_.html.

²²² Muhammad Muslih, "They Took Our Land, so Why Shouldn't I Kill Them?" *New York Times*, April 26, 2002, http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/26/opinion/26iht-edmus_ed3_.html.

²²³ Suzanne Goldenberg, "Palestinian Professor Sentenced for Terrorism in US," *Guardian* (London), May 1, 2006, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2006/may/02/usa.internationaleducationnews>.

²²⁴ Jennifer Steinhauer, "Palestinian to Be Imprisoned Before Deportation," *New York Times*, May 1, 2006, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/01/us/01cnd-islamic.html>.

²²⁵ David Bamber and Alasdair Palmer, "US Furious as Britain Ignores Extradition Plea," *Telegraph*, February 23, 2003, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/1422853/US-furious-as-Britain-ignores-extradition-plea.html>.

²²⁶ "Blast Kills Islamic Jihad Leader in Gaza," *New York Times*, March 1, 2006, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/01/world/africa/01iht-web.0301mideast.html>.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad

Rhetoric:

PIJ statement, April 14, 2024

Following a direct Iranian attack on Israel in which Iran launched hundreds of drones and missiles toward Israel:

“We consider this response to be the natural reaction to the existence of the occupying entity, and it becomes increasingly necessary in light of the crimes, violations, and assassinations that the entity continues to commit in flagrant violation of all humanitarian and legal values and standards. We also condemn all the denying voices that have emerged in defense of the occupying entity, especially the countries that have made themselves a firewall to defend the entity, and portray it as the victim, in a blatant distortion of all facts and realities.”²²⁷

Ziad al-Nakhalah, April 13, 2024

“We have entered the seventh month of the aggression of the Zionist regime, which has not achieved any of its goals, but is retreating day by day.”²²⁸

Ziad al-Nakhalah, April 13, 2024

“If the resistance groups did not resist, no one would have asked for negotiations. The West is not looking for a solution for the Gaza Strip but for Israel. The US is negotiating to find a way to withdraw Israeli forces from Gaza.”^[1]

Ziad al-Nakhalah, April 13, 2024

“Today, all fronts of the resistance axis have united.”²²⁹

Abu Hamza, PIJ Al-Quds Brigades spokesman, March 3, 2024

In a speech calling for Ramadan to be a “month of terror”:

“Isn’t it time for you to raise your guns like the free people in Yemen, Lebanon, and Iraq?...Isn’t it time for you to take off the garment of slavery and humiliation to America, the Great Satan, and follow the example of the honorable?...We are certain that the single body of the nation will do the impossible and will make the month of Ramadan historic days to wash away shame and threaten the existence of the Israeli enemy entity and global arrogance.”²³⁰

²²⁷ “Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad hail Iran’s retaliatory strikes on occupied territories,” Press TV, April 14, 2024, <https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2024/04/14/723687/Lebanese-resistance-movement-Hezbollah-brave-decision-Iran-retaliatory-strikes-Israel>.

²²⁸ “US seeking to withdraw Israeli forces from Gaza after failing to achieve goals: Islamic Jihad,” Press TV, April 13, 2024, <https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2024/04/13/723620/Palestine-Israel-Gaza-war-Islamic-Jihad-Ziyad-al-Nakhleh-US-negotiation-withdraw-Israeli-troops>.

²²⁹ “US seeking to withdraw Israeli forces from Gaza after failing to achieve goals: Islamic Jihad,” Press TV, April 13, 2024, <https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2024/04/13/723620/Palestine-Israel-Gaza-war-Islamic-Jihad-Ziyad-al-Nakhleh-US-negotiation-withdraw-Israeli-troops>.

²³⁰ Seth J. Frantzman, “Palestinian Islamic Jihad calls for Ramadan to be ‘month of terror’ – analysis,” *Jerusalem Post*, March 3, 2024, <https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-789938>.