

# Fatah's Anniversary and the Ongoing Reality of Terror as Official Doctrine

Public messaging often reveals more than formal statements made to foreign diplomats. That truth was on full display during the 61st anniversary of Fatah's founding, when the movement and its media arms used social platforms to restate a long record of violence. Rather than signaling reform or moderation, the anniversary content reaffirmed jihad, armed struggle, and the rejection of compromise with Israel. These posts matter because Fatah remains the ruling movement within the Palestinian Authority and is often presented internationally as a responsible governing alternative to Hamas.

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## Key Takeaways

- Fatah used its 61st anniversary to restate its commitment to jihad and armed struggle
- Official Fatah media celebrated figures responsible for mass casualty terror attacks
- Statements from PA leaders reinforced rejection of compromise with Israel
- The messaging contradicts claims that Fatah abandoned terrorism
- These declarations carry implications for diplomacy and regional security

# What Fatah Chose to Celebrate

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To mark its anniversary, Fatah uploaded videos and slogans stating that jihad remains central to its identity and that it may fight Israel "any way" it chooses. The same video was reposted multiple times in the days leading up to the anniversary, signaling intent rather than accident.

The footage featured senior Fatah figures from the movement's violent past, presented as role models rather than warnings. Captions praised unbreakable willpower and repeated the long standing slogan "Revolution until victory," language historically tied to armed attacks rather than political negotiation.

## Glorifying Known Terror Figures

Among those highlighted was Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, a senior Fatah leader who headed the Black September organization. Black September carried out the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre, murdering 11 Israeli athletes in one of the most infamous terror attacks of the modern era.

On anniversary, Fatah honors arch-terrorists Abu Jihad and...



Another featured figure was Khalil al-Wazir, known as Abu Jihad, a founding Fatah leader responsible for planning attacks that killed at least 125 civilians. Both men were shown speaking about jihad and unyielding struggle, presented without context or condemnation. This choice communicates continuity, not regret.

## Messages from Current and Former PA Leaders

Fatah also circulated archival speeches by current PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas and former PLO leader Yasser Arafat. Abbas was shown recalling Arafat's oath that a Palestinian flag would be raised over Jerusalem's mosques and churches. This

statement asserts exclusive Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem, Israel's capital,

and rejects coexistence in the city.

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Arafat's footage repeated his famous chant "Revolution until victory," a phrase coined during Fatah's early campaign of armed attacks. That slogan remains Fatah's official motto. The accompanying text stated that Fatah was not recalling history but renewing an oath, making clear that the past is treated as a guide for present action.

## Armed Struggle Remains Central

Recent reporting by [Palestinian Media Watch \(https://palwatch.org/page/41843\)](https://palwatch.org/page/41843) has documented additional statements from Fatah officials and its terror wing, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades. These statements describe armed struggle as the foremost form of resistance. Such language leaves little room for reinterpretation.

These messages were not delivered by fringe actors. They appeared on official Fatah platforms, including Fatah-run television channels and verified social media accounts. This demonstrates institutional approval rather than isolated rhetoric.

## Why This Matters Beyond Rhetoric

Fatah is often described in Western discourse as a pragmatic or moderate force within Palestinian politics. Its anniversary messaging contradicts that portrayal. When a ruling movement openly praises mass casualty attackers and recommits to jihad, those words shape policy, education, and security behavior.

For Israel, such declarations reinforce skepticism toward proposals that place Fatah forces in control of sensitive areas. For international actors, they raise questions about continued political and financial support without clear conditions tied to ending incitement and violence.

## Conclusion

The 61st anniversary of Fatah removed any ambiguity about the movement's self-image. Through official videos and statements, Fatah reaffirmed jihad, celebrated terrorists, and renewed slogans calling for revolutionary struggle against Israel. These are not relics of a distant past but present-day declarations issued by a movement that governs through the Palestinian Authority. Any serious discussion of peace, security, or post-conflict governance must begin with an honest reading of what Fatah itself is saying. Ignoring these messages does not promote stability. It postpones accountability and deepens mistrust.

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# What Released Israeli Hostages Heard From Their Captors and Why It Matters

The testimonies of Israeli hostages released from Gaza offer a rare and disturbing look into the mindset of the men who held them. These [accounts](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2025/10/14/hostages-reveal-horror-two-years-hamas-captivity/) do not rely on intelligence estimates or battlefield analysis. They come from direct conversations in tunnels, apartments, and makeshift prisons with Hamas terrorists. Again and again, former hostages describe the same themes: absolute certainty in Israel's destruction, confidence that the West will fall, and a belief that time, suffering, and death all serve their cause. These testimonies explain why disarmament is not optional and why compromise with an armed jihadist movement only delays future violence.

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## Key Takeaways

- Released hostages consistently report ideological indoctrination by Hamas captors

- Terrorists spoke openly about destroying Israel and defeating the West
- Captors expressed certainty that Islam would rule globally through prolonged conflict
- Suffering, including their own, was described as acceptable and even desirable
- These beliefs show why armed Hamas rule cannot coexist with peace

## **What the Hostages Described**

Former hostages have described long conversations with their captors, often during periods of forced isolation. Many said the terrorists spoke at length about ideology, history, and destiny. The message was blunt. Israel was described as temporary. Jewish sovereignty was dismissed as a mistake that would be corrected through violence and patience.

Several hostages recalled being told that the West was weak, morally hollow, and destined to collapse. According to these testimonies, Hamas terrorists framed their struggle as global rather than local. Israel was seen as the first target, not the final one. Europe and the United States were described as future battlegrounds in a long war that would end with Islamist rule.

These statements were not made in moments of anger. Hostages said they were delivered calmly, repeatedly, and with confidence.

## **A Willingness to Suffer and Die**

One of the most chilling elements of these testimonies is the captors' attitude toward suffering. Hostages reported being told that Palestinian hardship, civilian deaths, and destruction in Gaza were temporary sacrifices. Several captors said openly that they expected many Palestinians to die and that this was acceptable if it advanced the cause.

This worldview rejects the basic assumptions of diplomacy. Traditional negotiations assume that both sides want safety, prosperity, and stability. Hamas ideology, as described by hostages, rejects that framework. Victory was defined not by living conditions but by endurance. Survival itself was framed as resistance.

In this belief system, ceasefires serve only as pauses. Reconstruction serves only as preparation.

## **Religious Absolutism and Certainty**

Hostages also described religious language used to justify violence. Captors spoke about divine promises, inevitable triumph, and historical destiny. They claimed that time favored them, not Israel. Several hostages said they were told that Jews loved life too much to win and that the West lacked the will to fight indefinitely.

These statements matter because they reveal intent. This was not anger caused by war. It was doctrine taught, repeated, and internalized. An armed group guided by such beliefs does not seek compromise. It seeks survival until the next opportunity to strike.

This ideology does not represent all Muslims. It represents a radical jihadist movement that uses religion to justify mass murder and permanent war.

## **Why These Testimonies Change the Equation**

The experiences of released hostages confirm what many Israelis already understood after October 7. Hamas does not view peace as a goal. It views peace talks as tools. When captors tell hostages that they will win no matter how many die, it removes any illusion that economic relief or political concessions can change their objectives.

This is why disarmament must come before any discussion of Gaza's future. An armed movement that glorifies death and promises endless war cannot be managed. It must be dismantled.

## **No Reconstruction Without Moral Clarity**

Calls to rebuild Gaza often focus on humanitarian concern. That concern deserves attention. Yet testimonies show what happens when armed extremists retain control. Aid becomes leverage. Civilians become shields. Suffering becomes propaganda.

Rebuilding while Hamas remains armed does not reduce violence. It prepares the ground for the next massacre. Hostage accounts show that Hamas leaders believe time works for them. Every pause is seen as proof that violence succeeds.

## **Conclusion**

The voices of released Israeli hostages provide clarity that policy papers cannot. They heard directly from Hamas terrorists who spoke with certainty about destroying Israel and defeating the West. They described an ideology that welcomes suffering and treats death as a strategy. There can be no compromise with an armed movement built on such beliefs. Peace requires the removal of its weapons, its power, and its ability to act. Ignoring these testimonies means ignoring reality. Disarming Hamas is not vengeance. It is the only way to prevent the next war.

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# Why Somaliland Merits Independence and Why Israel's Recognition Was Justified

The question of Somaliland's independence has moved from academic debate into real diplomacy. For more than three decades, Somaliland has functioned as a separate political entity from Somalia, maintaining internal order and representative governance in a difficult region. Israel's decision to recognize Somaliland, reportedly with approval from the United States, reflects a growing willingness to judge statehood by facts on the ground rather than outdated assumptions. This decision highlights the tension between rigid diplomatic conventions and lived political reality, while raising broader questions about fairness, stability, and self-determination in international affairs.

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## Key Takeaways

- Somaliland has operated as a self-governing entity since 1991, with consistent internal stability
- Its claim to independence rests on historical precedent, consent of its population, and effective governance
- Israel's recognition reflects strategic, legal, and moral considerations
- US approval signals a possible reassessment of long-held diplomatic taboos

# Somaliland's Historical and Legal Case

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Somaliland declared independence in 1991 ([https://cja.org/where-we-](https://cja.org/where-we-work/somalia/related-resources/background-on-somaliland/)

[work/somalia/related-resources/background-on-somaliland/](https://cja.org/where-we-work/somalia/related-resources/background-on-somaliland/)) after the collapse of the Somali central government. Its claim is distinct from many separatist movements because it does not seek to break apart an existing stable state. Instead, it withdrew from a union that had already failed. Somaliland was formerly a British protectorate and briefly existed as an independent country in 1960 before voluntarily uniting with Italian-administered Somalia. That union later became dominated by dictatorship, violence, and systemic marginalization of the northern population.

From a legal standpoint, Somaliland argues that it is dissolving a failed union rather than seceding. This position has gained quiet support among legal scholars who note that the borders Somaliland claims match those recognized at independence in 1960. Its population has repeatedly affirmed independence through referendums and elections, providing a clear expression of consent.

## Governance, Stability, and Democratic Practice

Unlike much of the region, Somaliland has built functioning political institutions. It holds competitive elections, maintains civilian control of security forces, and resolves internal disputes through political processes rather than prolonged armed conflict. While not without flaws, its record stands out sharply when compared to conditions in southern Somalia.

Somalia continues to struggle with fragmented authority and persistent threats from extremist groups. Somaliland, by contrast, has largely prevented such groups from establishing a foothold in its territory. This stability has allowed it to manage ports, collect taxes, issue currency, and conduct limited foreign relations. These are not symbolic gestures but core functions of a state.

## Why Recognition Has Been Delayed

The main obstacle to Somaliland's recognition has been political rather than factual. Many governments, guided by the African Union, fear that recognizing Somaliland could encourage other separatist claims across the continent. As a result, stability has been sacrificed to precedent. This caution has persisted even as Somaliland's track record continues to outperform several internationally recognized states.

Recognition, however, is not automatic validation of every internal policy. It is an acknowledgment of political reality and an opening for accountability through normal diplomatic engagement.

# Why Israel's Recognition Makes Sense

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Israel's recognition of Somaliland (<https://theconversation.com/israels-recognition-of-somaliland-the-strategic-calculations-at-play-273817>) rests on both principle and interest. Israel has long argued that international institutions should judge states by conduct rather than politics. Somaliland's sustained self rule, internal order, and clear borders present a stronger case for recognition than many states admitted to the international system during the Cold War.

Geography also matters. Somaliland sits along the Gulf of Aden near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, one of the world's most important maritime corridors. This route has grown more sensitive as regional conflicts and threats to shipping have increased. A stable and cooperative partner along this corridor aligns with Israel's interest in maritime security and regional awareness.

## The Role of the United States

The reported approval from the United States signals that this recognition was not an isolated move. Washington has increasingly emphasized stability, counterterrorism, and responsible governance in the Horn of Africa. Supporting recognition of a functioning, cooperative authority fits those priorities better than continued insistence on a unity that exists only on paper.

US backing also suggests an understanding that denying recognition has not helped Somalia reunify, nor has it improved conditions for Somaliland's population. Engagement through recognition offers leverage and responsibility rather than neglect.

## Addressing the Criticism

Opponents argue that recognition undermines Somalia's territorial integrity. That concern deserves acknowledgment, but it cannot override three decades of separate political existence. Territorial integrity is meant to prevent violent land grabs, not to force populations into failed political arrangements indefinitely.

Recognition does not erase borders by force. It reflects a judgment that a political entity already functions independently and should be treated accordingly under international norms.

## Conclusion

Somaliland's case for independence rests on history, consent, and performance. It has governed itself responsibly in a region where that achievement is rare. Israel's decision to recognize Somaliland, with US approval, reflects a willingness to align

diplomacy with reality and fairness. For the international community, this moment

presents a choice: continue to reward dysfunction out of habit, or acknowledge

effective self governance where it exists. The path taken with Somaliland may shape

how future claims of legitimacy are judged across the world.

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# A Medical First in Israel: 3D-Printed Bone Implant Restores Hope After Severe Injury

📅 January 27, 2026(<https://innovascope.org/2026/01/27/>)

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Israel has marked a notable medical achievement with the first successful implantation of a 3D-printed, biocompatible bone substitute in a patient suffering from massive bone loss. The procedure, carried out at Sheba Medical Center (<https://www.shebaonline.org/israels-first-3d-printed-bone-implant/?>)

fbclid=IwY2xjawPUPV5leHRuA2FibQIxMABicmlkETFTOVlrTENMbGtUZXFNU1RYc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwAyEGN\_Q8W97gO202fQ9S-dHdLpP6Pn27Eej\_aem\_9F2LkGtVOoGQc2F9CEB5ZQ), involved a man whose ulna bone in the forearm was almost entirely destroyed due to a serious injury. Until now, cases of this severity left doctors with limited and often unsatisfactory options. This surgery demonstrated how precise engineering and biological compatibility can work together to restore both structure and function.

## Key Takeaways

- Israeli doctors implanted a 3D-printed bone substitute for the first time in the country.
- The implant was custom-designed to match the patient's anatomy and biological profile.
- The approach reduces rejection risks and avoids additional trauma from bone harvesting.
- The procedure points toward safer and more accurate treatment for severe bone injuries.

## Designing a Bone Built for the Patient

The implant was developed at Sheba's PlanNet 3D Innovation Center (<https://eng.sheba.co.il/PlanNet-3D-Customized-Medicine-Planning-Center>) under the direction of Dina Orkin. Using advanced imaging of the patient's arm, the team designed a hollow, porous lattice structure that precisely matched the missing section of the ulna. The material chosen was PEKK, a high-performance polymer already used in medical settings due to its strength and compatibility with the human body.

What set this implant apart was its design purpose. The lattice was created to be filled with biological material taken directly from the patient, either harvested bone grafts or bone substitutes grown from the patient's own stem cells. This approach ensured biological compatibility while allowing the body to treat the implant as a framework for natural bone growth rather than a foreign object.

## How the Implant Works

During surgery, the printed structure was placed between the two remaining ends of the damaged ulna. Over time, the graft material inside the implant is expected to encourage the patient's own bone to grow into and around the lattice. As healing progresses, the original bone and the printed structure gradually merge, creating stability while supporting natural regeneration.

This method allows the implant to serve both as a mechanical support and as a guide for biological healing. Surgeons expect that as new bone forms, the arm will regain strength and function without the complications that often accompany traditional reconstruction techniques.

## Limitations of Past Treatments

Before this procedure, patients with extensive bone loss faced difficult trade-offs. One option involved plastic or metal implants that could replace missing bone segments. These often failed to integrate properly with surrounding tissue and carried a significant risk of infection or rejection.

Another option relies on autologous grafts, where bone is taken from another part of the patient's body. While biologically compatible, this method often resulted in an imperfect fit, caused additional injury at the donor site, and extended recovery times. For large defects, the amount of available bone was also limited.

The Sheba procedure addressed both challenges by combining exact anatomical matching with biological integration, reducing the need for secondary surgeries and lowering long-term risks.

## Collaboration Behind the Procedure

The implant itself was manufactured by Oxford Performance Materials (<https://www.oxfordpm.com/>), the only company globally that specializes in medical-grade PEKK printing. The surgical procedure was carried out by Sheba's Hand Surgery Department (<https://www.shebaonline.org/department/hand-surgery-and-limb-salvage-surgery/>), led by Zvi Steinberger and Amir Arami.

This cooperation between engineers, surgeons, and materials specialists highlights how Israeli medicine often brings together multiple disciplines to solve complex clinical problems.

## Preparing for the Next Phase

Sheba physicians are already preparing for further applications of this method. Future cases may rely entirely on stem cell-derived bone and marrow grown from the patient's own cells. That step would bring reconstructed bones even closer to natural structure and function, particularly in cases involving extensive trauma or disease.

Such work builds on Israel's strong record in regenerative medicine and personalized care, fields where precise tailoring to individual patients has shown clear benefits.

## Conclusion

The successful implantation of a 3D-printed bone substitute at Sheba Medical Center represents an important step in orthopedic care in Israel. By addressing both mechanical stability and biological healing, this approach offers new hope for patients who once faced limited options after severe bone injuries. As Sheba continues to apply research-driven medicine to real-world cases, this procedure stands as a clear example of how Israeli hospitals contribute practical, patient-focused advances that improve recovery and quality of life.

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# An Ancient Inscription and the Biblical Foundation of Judeo-Christian Civilization

Published January 2026

Archaeology in Jerusalem continues to affirm what the Bible recorded long ago. A newly uncovered Assyrian inscription from nearly 2,700 years ago, found near the Western Wall, provides rare and direct evidence of events described in the biblical account of the Kingdom of Judah (https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/archeology/artc-israeli-archeologists-uncover-assyrian-inscription-from-first-temple-period-in-jerusalem#google\_vignette). Far from myth or later tradition, this discovery shows that the Bible preserved accurate records of political power, diplomacy, and resistance that shaped the moral and historical foundation of Judeo-Christian civilization. Each such find strengthens the case that the Hebrew Bible stands not only as a religious text but as a reliable historical record at the core of Western civilization.

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### Key Takeaways

- A rare Assyrian inscription from Jerusalem dates to the First Temple period
- The text aligns with the biblical account of King Hezekiah's rebellion
- It confirms Jerusalem's role as the capital of the Kingdom of Judah
- Archaeology continues to support the Bible as a historical source
- Judeo-Christian civilization rests on recorded events grounded in history

### The Discovery Near the Temple Mount

The pottery shard was uncovered during excavations conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority (<https://www.iaa.org.il/en/>) near the Western Wall (<https://aish.com/western-wall-page/>), adjacent to the Temple Mount. Measuring just 2.5 centimeters, the fragment bears a cuneiform inscription written in Akkadian, the diplomatic language of the Assyrian Empire.

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Despite its small size, the shard carries immense historical weight. It is the only Assyrian inscription from the First Temple period ever discovered within Jerusalem itself. According to archaeologists, it was likely part of a royal seal impression used to authenticate official correspondence from the Assyrian royal court to the rulers of Judah.

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#### Judah, Assyria, and the Biblical Record

The inscription addresses a delay in payment from the Kingdom of Judah to the Assyrian Empire and specifies a due date on a shared Mesopotamian calendar. It also mentions a high-ranking Assyrian chariot officer responsible for delivering official messages. These details point to direct administrative and political interaction between the two kingdoms.

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This aligns precisely with the biblical narrative describing tensions between Judah and Assyria during the reign of Hezekiah. The Bible records that Hezekiah rebelled against Sennacherib, refusing to submit to Assyrian domination. The Book of Kings states plainly that Judah resisted imperial control, a claim now supported by material evidence found in Jerusalem itself.

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#### Archaeology Confirms Jerusalem's Status

The location of the find is as important as the inscription. Discovered in debris linked to a collapsed First Temple period structure, the shard confirms that Jerusalem functioned as an administrative and political center during the late eighth century BCE. This directly supports the biblical depiction of Jerusalem as the capital of the Kingdom of Judah.

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Dr. Yael Zilberstein, the excavation director, noted that the discovery demonstrates the presence of senior officials and government activity in this area. Such findings counter repeated modern claims that Jerusalem's capital lacks historical foundation.

### The Bible as a Historical Bedrock

For centuries, critics argued that biblical accounts were theological constructs detached from real history. Discoveries like this undermine that claim. The Bible recorded names, events, political conflicts, and power structures that archaeology continues to verify.

The interaction between Judah and Assyria was not symbolic storytelling. It was real diplomacy, taxation, resistance, and imperial pressure. These realities shaped the moral and political worldview that later influenced Christianity and, through it, Western legal and ethical traditions.

Judeo-Christian civilization rests on the belief that history matters, that moral choices occur in real time and space, and that human actions have consequences. The Bible's reliability as a historical record reinforces why it became foundational to societies that value law, accountability, and moral responsibility.

### A Pattern of Consistent Evidence

This Assyrian inscription joins a growing body of archaeological finds that confirm biblical figures and events. From royal seals to city fortifications, discoveries across Israel continue to match the biblical timeline with striking accuracy. Each find reduces the gap between text and terrain.

Israeli Minister of Heritage Rabbi Amichai Eliyahu emphasized that this discovery highlights the deep roots of the Jewish people in Jerusalem and the city's central role in Jewish history. These roots are not symbolic claims but documented facts embedded in the soil of the city.

### Conclusion

The rare Assyrian inscription found near the Western Wall stands as powerful evidence that the Bible recorded real historical events with precision. It confirms Jerusalem's status as the capital of Judah, validates the account of Hezekiah's rebellion, and illustrates the political realities described in Scripture. For Judeo-Christian civilization, this



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# Gaza Aid and the Facts: Why Access Was the Challenge, Not Israeli Restrictions

Claims that Israel deliberately restricted humanitarian aid to Gaza were circulated widely since the war began, shaping public opinion far beyond the region. Yet recent confirmation from the United Nations tells a very different story. According to a quiet but significant UN statement in early January, Gaza's entire population is now receiving 100 percent of its basic food requirements for the first time since October 2023 (<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/01/1166704>). This development reinforces a point Israel has made consistently: the central obstacle was never the entry of aid, but the ability to deliver it safely to civilians while Hamas diverted supplies for military use.

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## Key Takeaways

- The UN confirmed in January that 100 percent of Gaza's basic food needs are now being met
- Israel did not impose blanket restrictions on aid entering Gaza
- Hamas interference and theft repeatedly disrupted aid distribution inside the Strip
- Once delivery mechanisms improved, Israel ensured aid flowed at full scale
- Major international media outlets largely ignored the UN's confirmation

## What the United Nations Actually Said

On January 5, UN spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric announced that humanitarian aid entering Gaza now meets the full minimum caloric requirement for the population (<https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/01/1166704>). The statement also confirmed that sufficient food stocks exist to sustain all residents. This marked the first time since 2023 that such a benchmark had been reached.

The announcement came from the United Nations itself, not from Israeli officials. It directly contradicts repeated claims that Israel was preventing food from reaching Gaza. The UN did not suggest that Israeli policy had changed from restriction to permission. Instead, the update reflected improved delivery conditions inside Gaza.

## Aid Entry Was Never the Core Problem

From the outset of the conflict, Israel maintained humanitarian corridors and coordinated aid entry through crossings such as Kerem Shalom. Israeli authorities repeatedly stated that aid volumes were limited by security realities inside Gaza, not by policy decisions at the border.

Hamas has a documented history of seizing humanitarian supplies, redirecting food, fuel, and medical equipment to its fighters, and selling aid on the black market. These actions disrupted distribution and made it dangerous for international

agencies to operate. Aid trucks entering Gaza do not automatically translate into meals for families when an armed group controls large parts of the territory.

Israel argued that unrestricted delivery without oversight would strengthen Hamas rather than help civilians. That assessment has been supported by past conflicts and by statements from aid workers who described intimidation and theft by armed groups.

## The NGO Controversy and Its Aftermath

The UN announcement followed international criticism of Israel's decision to suspend dozens of non-registered NGOs operating in Gaza (<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-bars-37-nonprofits-from-gaza-west-bank-for-not-abiding-by-new-guidelines/>). Fifty organizations warned that the move would severely damage humanitarian efforts. Media coverage echoed these claims, often without context.

What went largely unreported was Israel's clarification that the suspended NGOs were responsible for roughly 1 percent of total aid volume. The remaining registered organizations accounted for 99 percent of aid delivery and continued operating. The new UN data confirms that aid levels not only remained stable but reached full coverage shortly afterward.

## Media Silence and Selective Attention

Despite its significance, the UN confirmation received almost no coverage from major international outlets. Organizations such as the BBC and The New York Times published numerous stories in recent months warning of famine risks and access problems in Gaza. Yet neither outlet highlighted the UN's finding that basic food needs are now fully met.

Israel's ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, publicly noted this omission, arguing that positive developments fail to gain attention because they conflict with a prevailing narrative. Israel's embassy in South Africa made similar remarks, pointing to a pattern of silence when facts contradict claims of deliberate Israeli obstruction.

## What Changed on the Ground

The improved situation did not result from Israel lifting restrictions that never existed. It resulted from better coordination, safer delivery routes, and continued pressure to prevent Hamas from diverting supplies. Once distribution mechanisms stabilized, aid reached civilians at scale.

This outcome supports Israel's position that humanitarian success depends on weakening Hamas's control over civilian infrastructure, not on blaming Israel for access problems created by an armed group embedded within the population.

## Conclusion

The UN's confirmation that Gaza's basic food needs are fully met is an important fact that deserves attention. It shows that Israel did not block humanitarian aid and that the real challenge lay in delivering assistance amid Hamas interference. When conditions allowed, Israel ensured that aid flowed in quantities sufficient for all civilians.

The lack of mainstream coverage raises serious questions about how narratives are shaped and which facts receive attention. For anyone concerned with the welfare of Gaza's population, the lesson is clear: accountability matters, and acknowledging success is just as important as reporting hardship.

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# Gaza's Civilians Left Behind: How Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad Put Their People at Risk

Civilians in Gaza have suffered intensely during periods of conflict. Behind that suffering are decisions made by armed groups that hold power and influence there. Recent reporting shows that both Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) have acted in ways that demonstrate little regard for the safety and well-being of ordinary Gazans. Leaders of these groups have made strategic and tactical choices that have resulted in civilians being placed in harm's way, either through the use of defective weapons or by embedding military operations in densely populated areas. These facts raise serious questions about the priorities of these militants and the extent to which they are willing to put their own population at risk for political ends.

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## Key Takeaways

- Palestinian Islamic Jihad knowingly fired rockets that malfunctioned and killed civilians in Gaza.
- PIJ leadership reportedly said civilian deaths were acceptable “the price of war.”
- Hamas has been shown to prioritize military objectives and narrative goals over civilian protection.
- Combined, these actions indicate a pattern where armed groups in Gaza place their strategic goals above the safety of the local population.

## How Palestinian Islamic Jihad Treated Its Own Population

According to a report in *The Jerusalem Post*, a document recovered from Gaza reveals that Palestinian Islamic Jihad’s military leadership was aware that many of its rockets were malfunctioning and landing inside the Gaza Strip, killing civilians (<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-884689>). The document, summarizing a meeting between PIJ leadership and a senior Hamas official, quotes PIJ’s Akram al-Ajouri as saying that civilian deaths from these faulty rockets were acceptable as “the price of war.”

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Palestinian Islamic Jihad leaders acknowledged their rockets were falling inside Gaza and killing civilians. They chose to keep firing.

A senior figure stated: "Even if a thousand are killed by friendly fire, it's the price of war".

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This admission is significant because it shows awareness of the risk those weapons posed to the civilian population. Instead of prioritizing the safety of non-combatants, the leadership reportedly expressed that it was willing to accept civilian fatalities as part of its operational calculus. This reflects a willingness to use weaponry in a way that jeopardizes the people whom these groups claim to represent.

The impact of misfired and defective rockets was serious. Some of these rockets were reported to have caused hundreds of Gazan deaths, according to the same documentation.

## Hamas's Approach to Warfare and Civilian Safety

Hamas has long been criticized for its military strategy in Gaza. Some analyses describe a pattern in which Hamas embeds military assets and fighters within civilian infrastructure, making it harder to separate combatants from non-combatants during conflict (<https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-863018>).

In one discussion of Hamas's war conduct, commentators argue that the group places its fighters and objectives ahead of the safety of everyday people. According to this view, Hamas leadership works to protect its own forces and military infrastructure while civilians are positioned in harm's way, intentionally or not.

This approach can result in elevated civilian casualties when Israel responds to attacks or targets combatants. It also poses challenges for humanitarian aid delivery and civilian protection during hostilities, leaving ordinary Gazans in a more vulnerable position.

## The Broader Impact on Gazan Civilians

The findings about PIJ rockets and the tactical choices of Hamas paint a broader picture of how civilians in Gaza have been caught in the crossfire — literally and figuratively — of decisions made by their own leaders. These groups control key aspects of life in Gaza, including security and military actions. When their choices prioritize strategic objectives without clear protections for non-combatants, everyday people suffer the consequences.

Advocates for civilian safety stress that the rights and protection of non-combatants must be upheld in any conflict situation (<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/FAQ-rules-of-war-ihl>). International humanitarian law emphasizes minimizing harm to civilians and requires that armed actors take feasible precautions to protect them. When armed groups ignore these standards, the local population bears a disproportionate burden of the conflict.

## Why This Matters

Understanding how these militant groups operate is essential for anyone trying to make sense of life in conflict zones like Gaza. When leaders display indifference to civilian casualties, it not only worsens the humanitarian situation but also

undermines prospects for stability and peace. Civilians, particularly children, families, and non-combatants, become collateral in battles far beyond their control.

For policymakers, journalists, and global citizens, it is important to distinguish between claims made by armed factions and the real effects of their policies on people's lives. Reporting that shows internal acknowledgments of risk to civilians contributes to a clearer view of what is happening on the ground.

## Final Thoughts

The document from Gaza showing that Palestinian Islamic Jihad knowingly launched defective rockets that killed civilians, and the broader criticism of Hamas's war conduct, highlight a troubling pattern. Armed leaders who claim to fight for their people but make choices that expose civilians to harm demonstrate a disconnect from the well-being of the very population they purport to serve.

This is not merely a matter of political debate. It is a question of accountability and responsibility in conflict. Civilians deserve protection and leadership that takes their safety seriously, especially in one of the most volatile regions of the world. When armed groups put other priorities first, it is ordinary people who pay the highest price.

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# How Qatar Bought Influence in America and Why It Is Dangerous

In recent years, [Qatar has pursued a systematic campaign to embed itself deep within American political, academic, media, and cultural institutions](https://www.thefp.com/p/how-qatar-bought-america?utm_source=meta&utm_medium=paid-social&utm_campaign=intl&utm_content=howqatarboughtamerica&utm_adgroup=ret&utm_adid=120239453432200270&utm_id=YwYaCRO)

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[YwYaCRO](https://www.thefp.com/p/how-qatar-bought-america?utm_source=meta&utm_medium=paid-social&utm_campaign=intl&utm_content=howqatarboughtamerica&utm_adgroup=ret&utm_adid=120239453432200270&utm_id=YwYaCRO)). What is often framed as soft power, philanthropy, or cultural exchange is better understood as a deliberate state strategy to shape U.S. policy debates, mute criticism, and normalize relationships with actors hostile to American and Israeli interests. Reporting on Qatar's activities reveals a troubling picture of foreign influence that operates legally on the surface yet corrodes democratic accountability and national security from within.

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## Key Takeaways

- Qatar has spent billions to influence U.S. universities, think tanks, media, and political elites.
- These efforts frequently obscure Qatar's support for Islamist movements, including Hamas.
- Financial leverage is used to shape narratives, silence criticism, and gain political protection.
- The strategy exploits weaknesses in U.S. transparency and foreign funding oversight.
- This influence undermines U.S. interests, distorts public debate, and harms Israel's security.

## A State Strategy, Not Isolated Donations

Qatar is not a neutral benefactor acting independently of its government. It is a highly centralized state where major financial decisions align closely with ruling family priorities. Institutions that receive Qatari funding are not engaging with private philanthropy in the American sense but with a foreign government pursuing strategic objectives.

The campaign spans elite universities, Washington policy circles, lobbying firms, media partnerships, and cultural institutions. These investments are designed to buy access, shape discourse, and normalize Qatar as a responsible global actor while deflecting scrutiny from its behavior.

## Universities as Influence Hubs

American universities have become one of Qatar's most effective channels. Qatar has poured billions into U.S. higher education through donations, branch campuses, and research funding (<https://isgap.org/follow-the-money/>). These arrangements often come with limited transparency and weak oversight.

The result is not overt censorship but subtle pressure. Faculty and administrators become reluctant to criticize Qatar, Islamist movements, or extremist financing. Research agendas shift. Panels and conferences reflect a narrower range of views. Over time, academic environments begin to echo Qatari talking points, particularly on Israel, Hamas, and political Islam.

## Whitewashing Extremism

Qatar has long maintained relationships with Islamist groups, including Hamas, which it hosts and funds while portraying itself as a neutral mediator. This dual role allows Qatar to shield Hamas diplomatically while deflecting responsibility by claiming humanitarian intent.

In the American context, Qatari-funded voices often downplay or rationalize Hamas violence, recasting it as resistance while focusing criticism on Israel. This narrative shift does not require explicit coordination. Financial dependency alone is enough to reshape tone, emphasis, and silence inconvenient facts.

## Buying Access in Washington

Qatar is one of the largest foreign spenders on lobbying and influence operations in the United States (<https://quincyst.org/research/soft-power-hard-influence-how-qatar-became-a-giant-in-washington/>). It retains top-tier lobbying firms, public relations companies, and former officials to ensure favorable access across party lines.

This effort has paid dividends. Qatar frequently escapes serious congressional scrutiny despite its record. It is treated as an indispensable partner while its support for extremist actors receives minimal sustained attention. Influence replaces accountability.

## Media and Narrative Control

Qatar's influence extends into the media ecosystem through advertising, partnerships, and indirect financial relationships. The goal is not to dictate coverage line by line but to shape the environment in which stories are selected, framed, or ignored.

Critical reporting on Qatar's role in financing extremism or sheltering militant leaders struggles to gain traction, while narratives portraying Qatar as a peace broker receive disproportionate amplification. Over time, this imbalance distorts public understanding.

## Why This Harms the United States

Foreign influence is not inherently illegitimate, but Qatar's campaign crosses a line. It exploits openness without reciprocity, transparency without accountability. It weakens U.S. policy coherence by allowing a foreign state to insulate itself from consequences through money rather than reform.

This undermines trust in institutions and erodes confidence that decisions are made in the national interest rather than shaped by foreign funding streams.

# Why This Harms Israel

Qatar's influence has direct implications for Israel. By legitimizing Hamas, reframing terrorism, and promoting narratives hostile to Zionism, Qatar contributes to an environment where Israeli self-defense is delegitimized and antisemitic rhetoric is normalized under political cover.

This is not abstract. It affects congressional debates, campus climates, and media framing at a time when Israel faces sustained security threats.

## Legal Does Not Mean Safe

Much of Qatar's activity operates within existing U.S. law. That is precisely the problem. Transparency requirements are weak. Enforcement is inconsistent. Institutions benefitting financially have little incentive to ask hard questions.

A system that allows a foreign government with documented ties to extremist groups to shape elite opinion with minimal scrutiny is not resilient. It is vulnerable.

## Conclusion

Qatar did not buy influence in America by accident. It pursued a long-term strategy that uses money to gain protection, shape narratives, and deflect accountability. The damage lies not only in what is said, but in what goes unsaid. Democratic societies depend on open debate, institutional integrity, and clear-eyed assessment of allies and adversaries. Allowing a foreign state to purchase insulation from criticism undermines all three. Recognizing the scope and consequences of Qatar's influence campaign is the first step toward restoring transparency, accountability, and alignment with American and Israeli interests.

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# How U.S. – Israel Trade Growth in 2025 Strengthened Both Economies and Created American Jobs

The U.S.–Israel economic relationship took meaningful steps forward in 2025, reinforcing ([https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c5081.html?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c5081.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com)) one of America’s most durable trade partnerships. As geopolitical tensions continued across the Middle East, economic cooperation between the United States and Israel expanded in ways that directly supported American workers, manufacturers, farmers, and technology firms. Rather than symbolic gestures, these efforts focused on practical [trade growth](https://gtaic.ai/trends/israel-united-states-trade-corridor-2017-2025?utm_source=chatgpt.com) ([https://gtaic.ai/trends/israel-united-states-trade-corridor-2017-2025?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://gtaic.ai/trends/israel-united-states-trade-corridor-2017-2025?utm_source=chatgpt.com)), joint production, and supply chain cooperation that benefited communities across the United States. The results highlighted how a close ally relationship can translate into tangible economic gains at home.

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3. Manufacturing and Industrial Cooperation
4. Defense Cooperation That Supports U.S. Jobs
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6. Technology Investment Flowing Into the United States
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## Key Takeaways

- U.S.–Israel trade growth in 2025 supported American manufacturing, agriculture, and technology sectors
- Joint projects led to job creation across multiple U.S. states
- Defense, energy, medical technology, and agriculture were major areas of cooperation
- Existing trade frameworks were used to deepen economic ties without new barriers
- Economic cooperation reinforced strategic alignment between the two countries

## A Longstanding Trade Relationship Built on Stability

The United States and Israel have maintained a free trade relationship for decades, built on trust, shared standards, and legal certainty. In 2025, both governments used that foundation to expand cooperation rather than reinvent it. Trade missions, regulatory coordination, and joint investment initiatives focused on speeding up exports, supporting small and mid-sized businesses, and strengthening supply chains that run through American factories and ports.

U.S. officials emphasized that trade with Israel is not a one-way relationship. Israeli imports into the United States rely heavily on American-made components, services, and raw materials. That structure means increased Israeli production often translates directly into more American jobs.

## Manufacturing and Industrial Cooperation

One of the most visible impacts in 2025 came in American manufacturing. Israeli companies expanded procurement from U.S. suppliers in sectors such as advanced materials, electronics, aerospace components, and industrial machinery. Many of these suppliers are located in the Midwest and Southeast, regions, where manufacturing employment remains a priority.

Joint ventures also increased. Israeli firms partnered with U.S. manufacturers to produce goods inside the United States for both domestic use and export. These partnerships supported skilled labor positions, from engineers to production workers, while keeping intellectual property protected under American law.

## Defense Cooperation That Supports U.S. Jobs

Defense cooperation remains a cornerstone of the bilateral relationship. In 2025, joint defense programs continued to rely heavily on U.S.-based production. American defense companies manufactured major system components, interceptors,

This cooperation supports thousands of American jobs across defense plants, subcontractors, and research facilities. It also strengthens U.S. readiness by funding production lines that serve both allies. Rather than shipping finished systems overseas, much of the work happens inside the United States, keeping payrolls local and skills sharp.

## **Energy, Agriculture, and Medical Technology**

Trade growth in 2025 also extended beyond defense. American energy firms worked with Israeli partners on gas infrastructure technology, safety systems, and environmental monitoring tools. These projects supported U.S. engineering and manufacturing roles tied to energy production and transport.

In agriculture, Israeli water management and irrigation technologies relied on U.S.-made components and equipment. American farmers also benefited from expanded access to Israeli agricultural technology, improving yields while supporting U.S. distributors and service providers.

Medical technology cooperation supported American jobs in research, manufacturing, and clinical testing. Israeli startups frequently chose to scale production in the United States, bringing investment and employment to U.S. communities while maintaining access to American healthcare markets.

## **Technology Investment Flowing Into the United States**

Israeli investment into U.S. technology hubs increased in 2025, particularly in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and data infrastructure. These investments often involved opening U.S. offices, hiring American workers, and partnering with U.S. universities and research centers.

Rather than shifting jobs overseas, many Israeli firms viewed the United States as their primary growth market. That decision translated into American payrolls, local tax revenue, and long-term business presence.

## **Why This Matters for American Workers**

Trade relationships matter most when they deliver results at home. The U.S.–Israel partnership in 2025 demonstrated how close allies can grow trade without undercutting domestic labor. The focus remained on co-production, U.S.-based manufacturing, and reciprocal market access.

This approach avoided dependency risks while reinforcing American economic strength. It also showed that national security partnerships and economic growth are not separate goals. They support each other.

# Conclusion

The strengthening of U.S.–Israel trade during 2025 delivered clear benefits for both nations, with American workers seeing real gains through manufacturing, defense production, technology investment, and agricultural cooperation. By building on existing agreements and focusing on practical economic activity, the partnership reinforced jobs, innovation, and long-term stability. As global competition intensifies, the U.S.–Israel trade relationship stands as an example of how trusted alliances can support American prosperity while advancing shared strategic interests.



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# Israel Is Emerging as a Global Leader in Artificial Intelligence and Why It Matters for Humanity

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Israel is rapidly positioning itself as one of the most important centers for artificial intelligence research, development, and deployment in the world. Driven by widespread adoption, heavy investment, and a strong research culture, the country has moved from being a fast follower to a global front-runner in practical AI use. Recent data shows that artificial intelligence is already embedded in daily work across Israel's high-tech sector ([https://innovationisrael.org.il/en/press\\_release/ai-tools-usage-2025/](https://innovationisrael.org.il/en/press_release/ai-tools-usage-2025/)), supported by large-scale infrastructure projects and a regulatory environment that encourages progress while maintaining responsibility. For a nation of roughly 10 million people, Israel's role in shaping the future of AI carries implications far beyond its borders.

## Key Takeaways

- Israel has one of the highest AI adoption rates in the world across its workforce.
- International reports rank Israel among the world's leading AI development nations.
- Major global firms are expanding AI research and hardware development in Israel.
- Large public and private investments are building national AI infrastructure.
- Israeli AI progress is expected to support medicine, security, finance, and global research.

## Widespread Adoption Across the Workforce

Artificial intelligence in Israel is not limited to labs or elite research teams. A recent survey by the Israel Innovation Authority and the Brookdale Institute found that 95 percent of employees in Israel's high-tech sector use AI tools as part of their work ([https://innovationisrael.org.il/en/press\\_release/ai-tools-usage-2025/](https://innovationisrael.org.il/en/press_release/ai-tools-usage-2025/)). Even more striking, 78 percent reported daily use.

This level of adoption places Israel ahead of most advanced economies. AI is being used for software development, data analysis, design, cybersecurity, and logistics. The result is a workforce that gains hands-on experience with AI systems at scale, shortening the gap between research and real-world application.

## Recognized Among Global AI Leaders

According to the Microsoft AI Diffusion Report

(<https://www.calcalistech.com/ctechnews/article/pw6w943x4>), Israel is classified as one of seven "frontier narrowers." This category includes countries that are actively closing the performance gap between leading AI models, a gap currently estimated at less than one year.

Israel is the smallest country on that list by population. Its inclusion reflects research output, speed of adoption, and the ability to translate ideas into working systems. For global partners, this makes Israel a valuable contributor to shared AI progress rather than a passive consumer of technology developed elsewhere.

## Building World-Class AI Infrastructure

Investment levels highlight how central AI has become to Israel's economy. Funding for AI-focused startups rose to \$4.9 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach \$7.9 billion in 2025. This shift places artificial intelligence at the center of Israel's economic growth.

One of the clearest signals came from Nvidia (<https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/>), which announced plans to develop a large AI and research campus in northern Israel. The site is expected to support up to 3,000 employees and strengthen Israel's role in advanced chip and system development.

In January 2026, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang revealed a new supercomputer built around the company's next AI processor. Several of its core components, including networking and data processing units, were developed at Nvidia's center in Yokne'am. This places Israeli engineers at the heart of systems that will support global AI research.

## **National Supercomputing and Public Investment**

Private investment is matched by national planning. The Israel Innovation Authority launched a national supercomputer ([https://innovationisrael.org.il/en/press\\_release/supercomputer-access-2026/](https://innovationisrael.org.il/en/press_release/supercomputer-access-2026/)) as part of the country's Artificial Intelligence Program. With funding exceeding 500 million shekels, including significant government support, the system is designed to train large AI models within Israel.

The infrastructure allows academic institutions, startups, and public agencies to access computing power that was once limited to global tech giants. This reduces dependence on foreign infrastructure and supports domestic research in medicine, climate modeling, language processing, and security.

## **A Regulatory Environment That Encourages Progress**

Israel's approach to AI regulation has focused on guidance rather than heavy mandates. A government white paper published in 2022 and follow-up policy in 2023 set ethical expectations while relying on voluntary standards and professional oversight.

This structure allows rapid experimentation while keeping security and accountability in view. Given Israel's global standing in cybersecurity, this balance has helped integrate AI into sensitive sectors such as finance and critical infrastructure.

## **Benefits Beyond Israel**

Israel's AI progress carries global benefits. Medical research, early disease detection, financial risk analysis, and cyber defense all gain from tools developed in Israeli labs. Many Israeli startups operate internationally from day one, spreading practical AI systems across markets and sectors.

At the same time, policymakers acknowledge that rapid growth raises challenges related to employment, education, and public services. Addressing those issues will require ongoing evaluation as AI adoption deepens.

## **Conclusion**

Israel's rise as a global leader in artificial intelligence rests on adoption, investment, infrastructure, and talent. For a small nation, its impact on AI development is outsized and growing. As artificial intelligence reshapes medicine, security, finance, and research, Israel's contributions are positioned to support real-world progress that extends well beyond its borders. If current trends continue, Israel's role in AI will not only strengthen its economy but also deliver tools and knowledge that benefit societies worldwide.

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# THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY'S PAY-FOR- SLAY PAYMENTS PERSIST

**How the PA continues to funnel millions of shekels to terrorists and their families despite international pressure**

The Palestinian Authority's financial support to convicted terrorists and their families remains a deeply controversial and destabilizing issue in the Middle East. This long-standing practice, commonly referred to by critics as the *Pay-for-Slay* policy, involves monthly stipends to Palestinians imprisoned for violent attacks, as well as to the families of those killed while carrying out attacks against Israelis. Despite years of international pressure from the United States, the European Union, and others to end these payments, recent evidence shows the PA has continued them quietly. According to Palestinian Media Watch, the **PA made millions of shekels in payments, including to those connected with terror attacks, even after declaring the policy closed** (<https://palwatch.org/page/41874>).

In this blog post, we break down what *Pay-for-Slay* is, why it matters, and how these payments are still being made under the surface, shaping political realities and challenging international efforts to promote peace.

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## Takeaways

The **Palestinian Authority continues to pay convicted terrorists and their families**, even after publicly claiming that the policy had been stopped.

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**Nearly 19 million shekels in payments were distributed** following the announcement that the so-called “pay-for-slay” system was ended, according

to documentation reported by **Palestinian Media Watch** (<https://paiwatch.org/page/41874>).

- **Payments remain tied to acts of terrorism**, with larger monthly stipends awarded to individuals serving longer prison sentences for more lethal attacks.
- **Funds are being routed through alternative channels**, such as postal payment systems and reclassified budget lines, allowing the payments to continue with less public scrutiny.
- **The practice directly conflicts with US and European aid conditions** and raises concerns that international assistance may indirectly support incentives for violence against Israeli civilians.

## What *Pay-for-Slay* Is

*Pay-for-Slay* refers to a system under the Palestinian Authority’s Martyrs Fund and Prisoners Fund that provides ongoing financial support to Palestinians convicted of terrorism and to their family members. These payments vary based on the length of prison sentences or whether the beneficiary is a family of someone killed during an attack on Israelis. Critics argue the system creates a dangerous incentive structure by financially rewarding violence against civilians and security forces.

For many years, the PA publicly defended these stipends as a form of social welfare for families who lost a breadwinner or who have relatives in prison, portraying them as part of social assistance. However, critics in Israel and in donor countries describe them as a policy that rewards terror and undermines peace prospects.

## A Public Promise to End *Pay-for-Slay*

In 2025, under intense diplomatic pressure, PA President Mahmoud Abbas signed a decree intending to end the formal *Pay-for-Slay* system ([https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/abbas-promises-un-that-pa-will-reform-after-france-recognizes-palestinian-state-says-pay-to-slay-payments-are-over/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/abbas-promises-un-that-pa-will-reform-after-france-recognizes-palestinian-state-says-pay-to-slay-payments-are-over/)). Western governments, particularly in Europe and the United States, had made continuation of these payments a condition of diplomatic support and financial aid. The idea was to shift the PA away from direct payments linked to violence and toward needs-based welfare that supported all Palestinians regardless of their connection to terrorism.

International donors — including the European Union — publicly welcomed these reforms as a positive step toward aligning PA financial practices with peace objectives. This shift was seen as a way to ensure that outside aid would not indirectly support violence.



# Did the Payments Really End?

Since the decree and promises to donor nations, evidence reported by Palestinian Media Watch and corroborated by media outlets suggests that the practice has not truly stopped (<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/by11joza0eg>). Instead of ceasing all payments tied to convicted terrorists and the families of slain perpetrators, the PA appears to have shifted how and where these payments are being made.

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In the PMW article, it was reported that the PA transferred **18.9 million shekels in payments** connected to this system, and that specific recipients — including a convicted terrorist like **Ahlam Tamimi** ([https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/wanted\\_terrorists/ahlam-ahmad-al-tamimi](https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/wanted_terrorists/ahlam-ahmad-al-tamimi)) — were expected to receive their usual stipends. In her case, that payment would have been about **6,000 shekels**, bringing her total PA salary since her arrest to over **1,158,800 shekels**.

These payments reportedly occurred quietly, often without an official announcement, and sometimes routed through channels such as the Palestinian postal system, rather than the former official frameworks previously criticized by donor countries. This approach has been described as a way to obscure the continuation of the practice while still fulfilling the underlying commitments to beneficiaries.

## How the Payments Are Being Made Today

Reports from PMW and independent outlets indicate that the PA may be using various methods to keep *Pay-for-Slay* alive, including:

- **Indirect payment routes:** Rather than official stipends labeled as prisoner or martyr payments, the PA may funnel the funds through general welfare or other government channels, masking their true purpose ([https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-874771?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-874771?utm_source=chatgpt.com)).
- **Postal delivery:** Some evidence suggests that funds were distributed through post offices in a way that did not publicly advertise their nature. This allowed recipients to collect stipends without a formal public announcement from the PA.
- **Obfuscating labels:** Payments may be categorized under broader welfare or social assistance categories, blurring the connection between the stipend and its original intention as payment for violent acts.

These approaches allow the PA to maintain its longstanding commitment to rewarding individuals and families involved in attacks, even while claiming to the international community that the policy has changed.

## Why This Matters

The continuation of *Pay-for-Slay* payments poses several challenges:



# Obstacles to Peace

By compensating individuals convicted of terrorism or the families of those killed in

attacks, the PA perpetuates a narrative that violence is a legitimate tool of national

defense. This undermines trust between Israelis and Palestinians and makes

negotiations more difficult.

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## 2. Donor Accountability

International aid — particularly from the United States and European Union — is conditioned on not supporting practices that fund terror. If funds are misused or redirected to continue *Pay-for-Slay*, taxpayers in donor countries may inadvertently subsidize behavior that conflicts with peace objectives.

## 3. Security Implications

Payments tied to acts of terrorism can indirectly incentivize future violence by signaling to potential attackers that their actions will yield long-term financial benefits for themselves or their families.

## International Response

The international community has reacted in various ways. Some governments have withheld aid, imposed sanctions, or demanded transparent accounting from the PA to ensure that donor funds are not indirectly used to support violence. Others have called for stricter monitoring and conditions on financial support to make sure all payments are tied to genuine social welfare goals, not incentives for terrorism.

In Israel, government leaders have condemned the continuation of *Pay-for-Slay* and highlighted how these payments contradict efforts to foster peace and stability in the region.

## Conclusion

The evidence reported by Palestinian Media Watch makes it clear that despite public declarations suggesting reform, the **Palestinian Authority has continued paying millions of shekels to terrorists and their families**. This development raises serious questions about accountability, the effectiveness of international pressure, and the prospects for lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Understanding how these payments persist helps clarify one of the key obstacles to progress on the ground. For true reform to occur, international donors and Palestinian leadership must ensure that financial support serves humanitarian purposes rather than rewarding acts of violence. Only by aligning financial practices with peace objectives can sustainable solutions be pursued in one of the longest-running conflicts in the world.



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