

The Israel-Hamas Conflict Has Spread the Fog of War Across the Western World

By

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Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack on Israel began a war responsible for the deaths of many thousands in both Israel and Gaza. The Israeli government and the Hamas controlled Ministry of Health report an estimated [26,000 deaths](#) on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides. While debate rages over the conduct of the war, there is little doubt that Hamas is not an organization supporting personal freedom and peace.

It is important to separate this terrorist organization from the innocent Palestinian population that is dying as sacrificial lambs to Hamas' ideological goals. Hamas is arguably using the self-made shield of dead and starving Palestinian civilians to gain appeal with Western observers. Civilian casualties, whether child or adult, male or female, devout or secular, are collateral damage in the terrorist organization's quest to remain hidden and effective in their fight for narrative supremacy.

Yet upon further examination of Hamas' [covenant](#), "The Day of Judgment will not come about until [Muslims] fight Jews and kill them." History has demonstrated that the groups and individuals who choose violent and radical means to achieve ideological goals often disregard the unintended consequences of their ambitions.

It seems that Hamas rejects any long-term peace talks. According to the Hamas covenant, "So-called peaceful solutions and international conferences are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement...Those conferences are no more than a means to appoint the infidels as arbitrators in the lands of Islam." To take it a step further, Hamas believes, "There is no solution for the Palestinian problem except by Jihad. Initiatives, proposals, and international conferences are but a waste of time, an exercise in futility."

Hamas does not care about the thousands of dead Palestinians, or the families displaced and starving. One must ask, is Hamas an organization supporting Palestinian liberation or a cancer on long-term peace and security in the Palestinian-Israeli question?

From a strategic perspective, Iran is the actor behind the scenes supporting Hamas, which many experts suggest is a subordinate organization in Iran's "Axis of Resistance" against Israel. A further examination suggests Hamas' ideological blindness brought the current hell on Gazans. In November 2023, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei [reportedly told](#) Hamas leader, Ismail Haniya, "You gave us no warning of your October 7 attack on Israel and we will not enter the war on your behalf."

Analysts can choose to believe this or not. But Tehran struggles to keep up with [heavy inflation](#), faces angry and restless [youth](#) and minority groups, a possible [invasion by Azerbaijan into Armenia](#), which would cut [trade](#) and [electricity imports](#). This is all while Iran undertakes a [multifaceted campaign](#) to remove the US from the middle east.

Hezbollah has largely remained out of the Gaza conflict, limiting engagement with Israel to [small skirmishes on the Lebanon-Israel border](#). Hezbollah's ideological and militaristic zealots do not appear willing to sacrifice their manpower and treasure for a group that is not comprised of co-religionists. Bashar al-Assad's Syria was not going to join Hamas either because of its never-ending civil war and depleted resources. The Houthis are a different story, but [as one al-Jazeera columnist wrote](#), the group's real goal is permanent deterrence against the Saudis.

Hamas failed to understand that Israel would “[rally around the flag](#)” in an effort to exterminate the organization once and for all. Although Hamas sought to invoke a severe reaction from Israel to generate Gazan casualties, which then generates international support and aid, the Hamas leadership did not expect Israel to pursue a fight to the death.

Globally, Hamas is experiencing significant support in the information war, which can prove equally [important to battles on the ground](#). While fighting rages in Gaza, the terror group’s strategic ambitions remain unchanged. The confounding reality is that the war is producing distorted Western perceptions of Hamas which are winning sympathy for [Hamas](#) (a [designated](#) terror group since 1997). Uninformed views of Hamas in the West confuse some younger generations, leaving them thinking the extremist group is fighting for freedoms similar to those found in the West.

Sadly, social media algorithms seem to ignore the hostage situation. Hamas took roughly [240 Israeli hostages](#) during the attacks that killed over [1,200 people](#). The hostages were [taken to underground “tunnels of the resistance”](#). Recent efforts to negotiate the trade of Hamas prisoners for Israeli hostages has failed. Though many Gazans celebrated in the streets after the October 7 attacks, Gazans recently criticized the harm caused by Israel’s response and are [calling for an end](#) to Hamas’ reign of terror. Tragically, the Israeli response and the refusal of Egypt or any other neighboring nations to accept Palestinian refugees has created a humanitarian crisis that is often viewed from very skewed sources that create echo chambers of disinformation.

This [content amplification](#) may arguably be convincing actors to commit more acts of terror. National law enforcement agencies [report seven arrests made in connection with planned terror attacks related to efforts to support Hamas](#). Three of them were planning an attack on behalf of Hamas in Denmark and four in Germany and the Netherlands were members of the organization. They were detained due to suspicion of planning attacks against Jewish institutions in Europe.

European countries are notorious for knife attacks related to terror groups. Americans are susceptible to the [same danger](#) due to the Biden administration’s open-border policy. A US Customs and Border Protection [internal intelligence notice](#) warned that “individuals inspired by, or reacting to, the current Israel-Hamas conflict may attempt to travel to or from the Middle East via circuitous transit across the Southwest border.” Hamas’ ideology is indeed a cancer that will spread to the West if left uncontested. Amplified media content indirectly can support Hamas, as the justification and expansion of terrorism is copycatted.

Hamas is far from an Enlightenment-minded organization advocating for personal freedom and the preservation of human life. Americans can help end this war, but only with the defeat of Hamas.

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