



# HAMAS - THE ISLAMIC RESISTANCE MOVEMENT



## **What is Hamas**

Hamas is the acronym of al-Harakat al-Muqawwama al-Islamiyya—the name of the Islamic Resistance Movement, a Palestinian Sunni-Islamist terror organization that the United States, Canada, the EU and Israel have banned. The second wealthiest terrorist organization in the world and the de facto ruler of the Gaza Strip, it poses a direct and immediate threat to the safety and security of Israeli civilians; we saw this to devastating effect on October 7th, 2023.



## **A Covenant of Terror**

Founded in 1987 as an offshoot of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood by Palestinian cleric Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, its covenant states that "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it." Since its founding, Hamas has made every effort to fulfill this objective by murdering over 500 Israeli civilians. With suicide bombings, stabbings, terror tunnels, and now relentless rocket attacks, Hamas has spared no expense or effort to develop methods to murder Israeli civilians while neglecting the needs and well-being of the Gazans who have been under Hamas' de-facto rule since 2007. On October 7th, they would launch the bloodiest attack in Israel's modern history, murdering over 1200 people and kidnapping over 200.



## **The Missile Threat to Israeli Civilians**

Since 2001, more than 20,000 rockets have been fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip. Thanks to the Iron Dome and Israeli warning systems, these rockets have not caused the high rate of casualties Hamas intended. But even with the Iron Dome missile defense system, the everyday threat from missile attacks is a brutal reality in Israel.

The rockets have caused extensive property damage in southern Israel, and the constant fear produced by Red Alert sirens has created nearly an entire generation of Israeli children living with PTSD in that region. While Hamas has not succeeded in killing many Israelis with their rockets, this persistent threat has disrupted and damaged the daily lives and the economy of Israeli communities within the range of rockets from Gaza. On October 7th the rocket barrages acted as a decoy for its infiltration of Israeli territory.

The trauma from the rockets has been amplified with the October 7th massacres as Hamas terrorists murdered Israelis, sheltering in safe rooms to avoid the missiles fired from Gaza.

On October 7th alone, over 3,000 rockets were fired at Israel, surpassing the November 2018 escalation by Hamas in which they fired over 400 missiles at Israeli territory in the space of 25 hours. While Israel's defensive actions in Gaza have severely diminished Hamas's rocket capability, four months into the war, there is still sporadic rocket fire from Hamas in Gaza.

The maximum warning most Israelis will receive for an incoming missile strike is between 30-45 seconds. Therefore, while Hamas remains in power in Gaza, it presents an immediate and direct threat to the people of Israel.