IRAN AND ITS NETWORK OF NINETEEN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS ON ISRAEL’S BORDERS
DESCRIPTION

Over the last four decades, the Iranian regime has built a network of armed groups on Israel’s borders to create instability and foment terrorism. Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, and a mosaic of other terrorist organizations receive funding, training, and weapons from Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps – Quds Force (IRGC-QF). FDD’s Long War Journal has monitored the buildup of Iran-backed terrorist organizations on key fronts: Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria. Israel has worked to limit the growth of these terrorist organizations, but they remain a significant threat on multiple fronts.
Terrorist organizations highlighted in the visual are active, possess military capabilities to attack Israel and have acknowledged receiving support from Iran or are closely affiliated with armed groups who do. Palestinian organizations who operate under the Hamas-led Joint Operations Room are included due to their close affiliation with factions who receive support from Iran.

Likewise, long-established organizations sometimes seek to open new fronts, as in the case of Hamas’ spread into southern Lebanon.

Some data — particularly funding levels, number of active members, arsenal contents and the identity of key leaders — are not available in open sources. These data points are noted as “undisclosed” or an estimate is given, often based on public statements of government officials — some anonymous — who have access to intelligence. In some instances, if FDD’s Long War Journal cannot locate reliable open-source data identifying a commander or secretary-general, “key leaders” is listed as “former leaders.” Furthermore, some organizations have established external headquarters, which are indicated in the “Area of Operation” segment of the profiles.
Abd Al-Qadir Al-Husseini Brigades

- **Founded:** 2012
- **U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization:** No

Funding
- Undisclosed

Weapons
- Light arms, mortars, shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, and short-range rockets

Areas of Operation
- Gaza

Connection to other Militias
- Member of the Palestinian Joint Operations Room

Key Leader
- Abu Suhaib Zaqout
- Secretary-General

Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades

- **Founded:** 2000
- **U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization:** Yes

Funding
- Undisclosed

Weapons
- Light arms, mortars and short-range rockets

Areas of Operation
- Gaza
- West Bank
- Lebanon

Connection to other Militias
- Member of the Palestinian Joint Operations Room, coordinates attacks with other Palestinian terror organizations

Key Leader
- Salem Thabet
- Gaza commander
Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq

- **Founded:** 2006
- **U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization:** Yes

**Funding:** Undisclosed

**Weapons:**
- U.S.-made M113 armored personnel carriers;
- has access to Iranian-produced arms as well as Soviet-era vehicles, tanks, light arms, drones and ballistic missiles

**Areas of Operation:**
- Iraq
- Syria

**Connection to other Militias:**
- Iran-backed groups in Iraq and Syria, including Lebanese Hezbollah

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Badr Organization

- **Founded:** 1983
- **U.S. Designated Foreign Terror Organization:** No

**Funding:** Undisclosed

**Weapons:**
- M1 Abrams tanks and MRAP armored vehicles;
- has access to Iranian and Soviet-era weapons

**Areas of Operation:**
- Iraq
- Syria

**Connection to other Militias:**
- Iran-backed groups in Iraq and Syria, including Lebanese Hezbollah
Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine

- Founded: 1968
- U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization: No

- Connection to other Militias: Member of the Palestinian Joint Operations Room

Hamas

- Founded: 1987
- U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization: Yes

- Key Leaders:
  - Yahya Sinwar: Gaza commander
  - Ismail Haniyeh: Political leader outside Gaza

- Key Leader: Nayef Hawatmeh
  - Secretary-General

- Funding: Undisclosed
- Funding:
  - Iran funds Hamas with approximately $100 million per year.
  - Qatar funds the Gaza Strip and Hamas with $120 million per year

- Weapons:
  - Light arms, mortars, and short-range rockets
  - Anti-tank guided missiles, shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, drones, short and long-range unguided rockets

- Areas of Operation:
  - Gaza
  - West Bank
  - Lebanon
  - Syria
  - Headquarters: Turkey and Qatar

- Connection to other Militias:
  - Hamas leads and works closely with members of the Palestinian Joint Operations Room (a grouping of approximately a dozen Palestinian terrorist factions), receives support from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and coordinates attacks on Israel with Lebanese Hezbollah
Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba’

- **Founded:** 2013
- **U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations:** Yes

**Funding**
Undisclosed

**Weapons**
U.S.-made vehicles such as MRAPs, HUMVEEs, and M113 armored personnel carriers in Iraq; has access to Iranian and Soviet-era weapons and vehicles, drones and ballistic missiles

**Areas of Operation**
- Iraq
- Syria

**Connection to other Militias**
Iran-backed groups in Iraq, Syria and Lebanese Hezbollah

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Hezbollah

- **Founded:** 1982
- **U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization:** Yes

**Funding**
$700 million per year is sent to Hezbollah from Iran. Hezbollah also receives hundreds of millions of dollars in funds from illegal businesses, criminal enterprises and donations

**Weapons**
Light arms, mortars, short and long-range unguided and precision guided rockets, anti-tank guided missiles, sophisticated anti-aircraft systems, drones and anti-ship missiles

**Areas of Operation**
- Lebanon
- Syria
- Africa

**Connection to other Militias**
Takes orders from Tehran, coordinates with Palestinian armed groups and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, including Houthis in Yemen
Islamic Jihad

- Founded: 1981
- U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization: Yes

**Funding**
- Tens of millions of dollars

**Weapons**
- Light arms, mortars, anti-tank guided missiles, drones, shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, short and long-range unguided rockets

**Areas of Operation**
- Gaza
- West Bank
- Syria
- Headquarters: Lebanon

**Connection to other Militias**
- A member of the Palestinian Joint Operations Room, receives support and coordinates with Lebanese Hezbollah and the IRGC-QF

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps – Quds Force

- Founded: 1990
- U.S. Designated Terrorist Organization: Yes

**Funding**
- $6 billion (2019)

**Weapons**
- Conventional weapons, including ballistic missiles

**Areas of Operation**
- Worldwide
- Lebanon
- Iraq
- Syria

**Connection to other Militias**
- Established Liwa Fatemiyoun and Zeynabiyoun. Directs and supports an array of militias in Syria, Iraq, including Hezbollah and Palestinian armed groups belonging to the Palestinian Joint Operations Room
Kataib Hezbollah

- Founded: 2003
- U.S. Designated Terrorist Organizations: Yes

Funding
- Undisclosed

Weapons
- U.S.-made vehicles such as MRAPs, HUMVEEs, and M113 armored personnel carriers in Iraq; has access to Iranian and Soviet-era weapons, vehicles, drones and ballistic missiles

Areas of Operation
- Iraq
- Syria

Connection to Other Militias
- Coordination with other Iran-backed groups in Iraq such as Asaib Ahl al-Haq, Badr and others

Key Leader
- Ahmad al-Hamidawi
- Secretary-General (Under Dispute)

Lions’ Den

- Founded: 2022
- U.S. Designated Terrorist Organization: No

Funding
- Receives undisclosed amount of funds from Hamas

Weapons
- Undisclosed, likely possesses small arms and IEDs

Areas of Operation
- West Bank

Connection to other Militias
- Coordinates with Hamas, PFLP, DFLP, al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and Islamic Jihad

Key Leader
- Wadi al-Houh
- Former leader
Liwa Al-Quds

- **Founded:** 2011
- **U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization:** No

**Key Leader**
Muhammed al-Saeed
Commander

**Funding**
Undisclosed

**Weapons**
Light arms, mortars and short-range rockets

**Areas of Operation**
- Syria

**Connection to other Militias**
Maintains a close relationship with pro-Syrian armed groups, and the IRGC

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Liwa Fatemiyoun

- **Founded:** 2013
- **U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization:** No, though listed on Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list

**Key Leader**
Ali Reza Tavasoli
Former leader

**Funding**
Undisclosed

**Weapons**
Light arms, mortars and short-range rockets

**Areas of Operation**
- Syria

**Connection to other Militias**
Maintains a close relationship with pro-Syrian armed groups, established by the IRGC in 2013
Liwa Zeynabiyyoun

Founded: 2014

U.S. Designated Terrorist Organization: No, though listed on Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list

Connection to other Militias
Maintains a close relationship with pro-Syrian armed groups, Russia and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-QF

Funding
Undisclosed

Weapons
Light arms, mortars and short-range rockets

Areas of Operation
- Syria

Key Leader
Muhammed Jannati
Former commander

Palestinian Mujahideen Movement

Founded: 2000

U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization: No, though listed on Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list

Connection to other Militias
Member of the Palestinian Joint Operations Room

Funding
Undisclosed

Weapons
Light arms, mortars, shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles and short-range rockets

Areas of Operation
- Gaza
- West Bank

Key Leader
As’ad Abu Sha’ria
Secretary-General
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

- Founded: 1967
- U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization: Yes

Key Leader
Ahmed Sa’dat
Secretary-General

Funding
Undisclosed

Weapons
Light arms, mortars and short-range rockets

Areas of Operation
- Gaza
- West Bank
- Lebanon
- Headquarters: Syria

Connection to other Militias
Member of the Palestinian Joint Operations Room, receives support from Iran

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Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command

- Founded: 1968
- U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization: Yes

Key Leader
Talal Jali
Secretary-General

Funding
Millions of dollars per year (estimate)

Weapons
Light arms, mortars and short-range rockets

Areas of Operation
- Gaza
- Lebanon
- Headquarters: Syria

Connection to other Militias
Member of the Palestinian Joint Operations Room, supported by Iran
Joe Truzman is a research analyst at FDD’s Long War Journal, focused primarily on Palestinian militant groups and Hezbollah. He also contributes to FDD’s Center on Military and Political Power (CMPP). Joe has assisted non-governmental organizations and policymakers in identifying Palestinian groups and their members. He has served on panels discussing Palestinian militant group activity in Gaza and has provided evidence to investigators at the United Nations on their activities.

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