

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.



Abd Al-Qadir
Al-Husseini Brigades



Al-Aqsa
Martyrs Brigades



Asa'ib
Ahl al-Haq



Badr
Organization



Democratic Front for the
Liberation of Palestine



Hamas



Harakat
Hezbollah al-Nujaba'



Hezbollah



Islamic Jihad
Movement in Palestine



Islamic Revolutionary
Guard Corps – Quds Force



Kataib
Hezbollah



Lions'
Den



Liwa
Al-Quds



Liwa
Fatemiyoun



Liwa
Zeynabiyoun



Palestinian
Mujahideen Movement



Popular Front for the
Liberation of Palestine



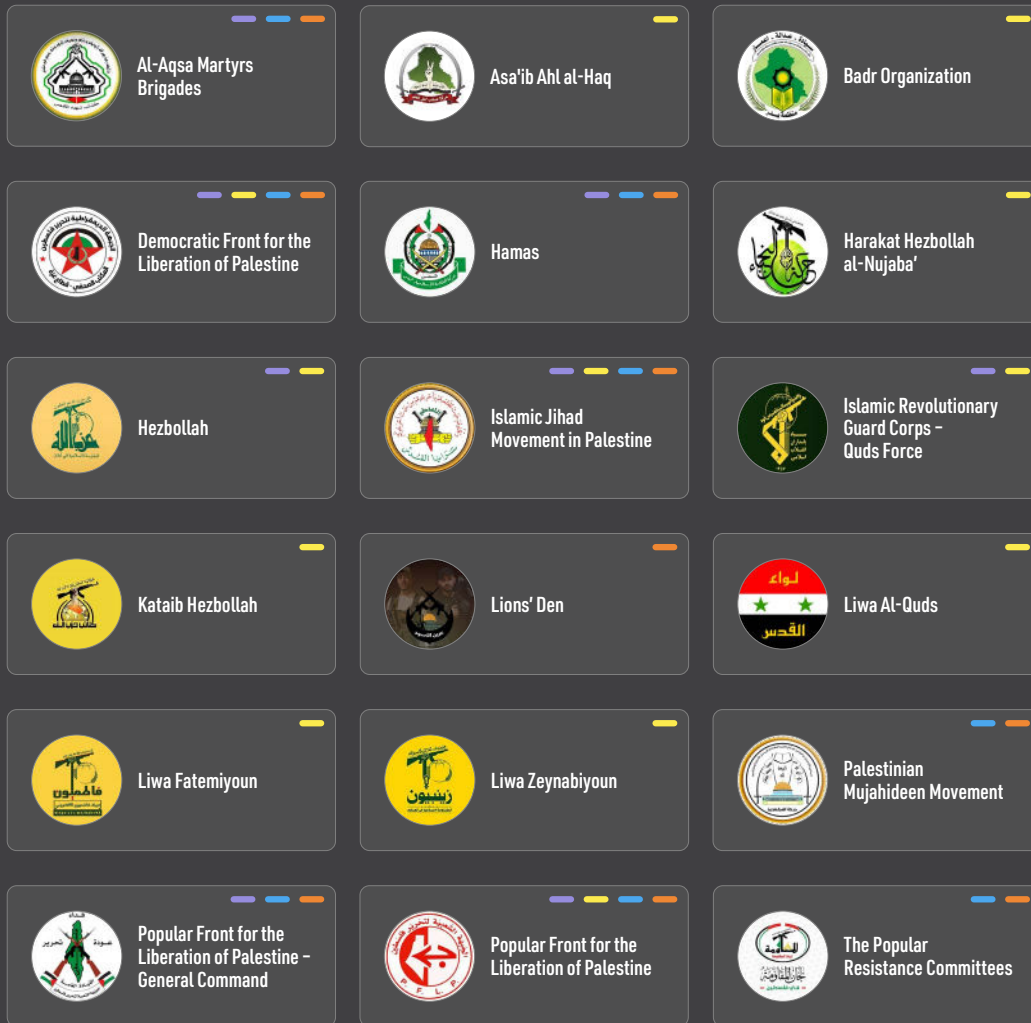
Popular Front for the
Liberation of Palestine
– General Command



Popular Resistance
Committees

METHODOLOGY

This visual draws on open-source information, such as data released by government agencies, English and Arabic-language news reports, and social media accounts operated by terrorist organizations.



LEBANON

SYRIA

WEST BANK

GAZA

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.

The visual identifies the terror groups' areas of operation based on information primarily published by terrorist organizations. While most of the armed groups have maintained a presence in their respective territories for many years – decades in some cases – nascent terrorist organizations, such as the West Bank branches of Islamic Jihad and the Nablus-based Lions' Den, are in the process of expanding the territory from which they operate from.

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



Key Leader
Abu Suhaib Zaqout
Secretary-General



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](#)



Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades

Founded: 2000

✓ U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization: [Yes](#)



Key Leader
Salem Thabet
Gaza commander



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](#)



Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq

🚩 Founded: 2006

✅ U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization: [Yes](#)



Key Leader
[Kais al-Khazali](#)



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](#)



Badr Organization

🚩 Founded: 1983

❌ U.S. Designated Foreign Terror Organization: No



Key Leader
[Hadi al-Amiri](#)



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



Key Leader
Nayef Hawatmeh
Secretary-General



Funding

Undisclosed



Weapons

Light arms, mortars and short-range rockets



Areas of Operation

- Gaza,
- West Bank
- Lebanon
- Syria
- Headquarters: Syria



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



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, anti-tank guided missiles, shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, drones, short and long-range unguided rockets



Areas of Operation

- Gaza
- West Bank
- Lebanon
- 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](#)



Key Leader
[Akram al-Kaabi](#)



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](#)



Hezbollah

🚩 Founded: 1982

✅ U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization: [Yes](#)



Key Leader
[Hassan Nasrallah](#)
Secretary-General



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 Movement in Palestine

🚩 Founded: 1981

✅ U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization: [Yes](#)



Key Leader
[Ziyad Nakhlah](#)
Secretary-General



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](#)
- [Lebanon](#)
- [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](#)

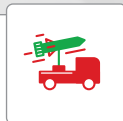


Key Leader
[Esmail Qaani](#)
Commander



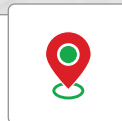
Funding

[\\$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](#)



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



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



Lions' Den

🚩 Founded: 2022

✗ U.S. Designated Terrorist Organization: No



Key Leader
Former leader
[Wadi al-Houh](#)



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](#)



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



Liwa Fatemiyoun

🚩 Founded: 2013

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



Key Leader
Former leader
Ali Reza Tavasoli



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 Zeynabioun

🚩 **Founded:** 2014

✗ **U.S. Designated Terrorist Organization:** No, though listed on [Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list](#)



Key Leader
Former commander
[Muhammed Jannati](#)



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, Russia and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-QF](#)



Palestinian Mujahideen Movement

🚩 **Founded:** 2000

✗ **U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization:** No, though listed on [Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list](#)



Key Leader
[As'ad Abu Sha'ria](#)
Secretary-General



Funding

[Undisclosed](#)



Weapons

[Light arms, mortars, shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles and short-range rockets](#)



Areas of Operation

- [Gaza](#)
- [West Bank](#)



Connection to other Militias

[Member of the Palestinian Joint Operations Room](#)



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](#)
- [Syria Headquarters: Syria](#)



Connection to other Militias

Member of the [Palestinian Joint Operations Room](#), receives support from [Iran](#)



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](#)
- [Syria Headquarters: Syria](#)



Connection to other Militias

Member of the [Palestinian Joint Operations Room](#), supported by [Iran](#)



Popular Resistance Committees

🚩 Founded: 2000

❌ U.S. Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization: No



Key Leader
Ayman al-Shishniyeh
Secretary-General



Funding

Undisclosed



Weapons

Light arms, mortars, anti-tank guided missiles, short-range rockets



Areas of Operation

- Gaza
- West Bank



Connection to other Militias

A member of the Palestinian Joint Operations Room, receives support and coordinates with Lebanese Hezbollah and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps

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.



Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD)

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