



**Intelligence and Terrorism  
Information Center  
Israel Intelligence Heritage and  
Commemoration Center**

## **News of the Israeli-Palestinian Confrontation**

**July 29-August 5, 2008**



Fatah operatives who fled the Gaza Strip registering at an IDF checkpoint before entering Jericho (Ammar Awad for Reuters, August 4).



Hamas security forces detaining Fatah operatives in the Gaza Strip (Al-Alam TV, August 1).

### **Important Events**

- This past week the lull arrangement was maintained and deliveries of goods continued into the Gaza Strip through the crossings without interruption. However, elements within Hamas and the other terrorist organizations have stated that the lull arrangement may collapse because it does not fulfill Palestinian expectations.
- Since the series of explosions at the end of July, Hamas has continued its suppression of Fatah in the Gaza Strip. At least 180 Fatah operatives fled to Israel in the wake of the violent confrontations which broke out this week. Israel provided some of them with medical treatment and others were transferred to the Palestinian Authority. The events struck a blow to the prestige of Hamas, which recently boasted of its success in restoring security to the Gaza Strip.

## Important Events

### Gaza Strip

#### Quiet in the western Negev towns and villages preserved

■ This past week quiet was maintained, and the western Negev towns and the villages along the Gaza Strip border were not attacked. No rockets were fired into Israel, although three mortar shells were launched on August 2 and fell in Israeli territory. In our assessment, Israel was not the target, but rather Fatah operatives who fled from the eastern Gaza City neighborhood of Saja'iya to the region of Nahal Oz (See below).

## Counterterrorism Activities

### Gaza Strip

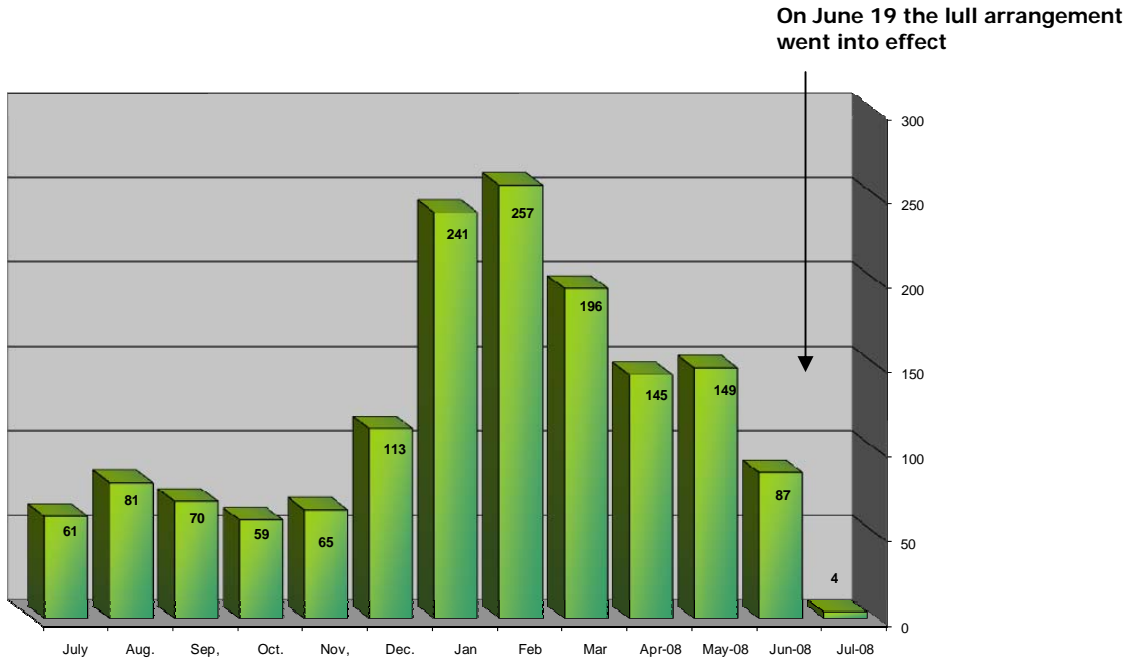
- This past week as well the IDF refrained from carrying out counterterrorism activities in the Gaza Strip.

### Judea and Samaria

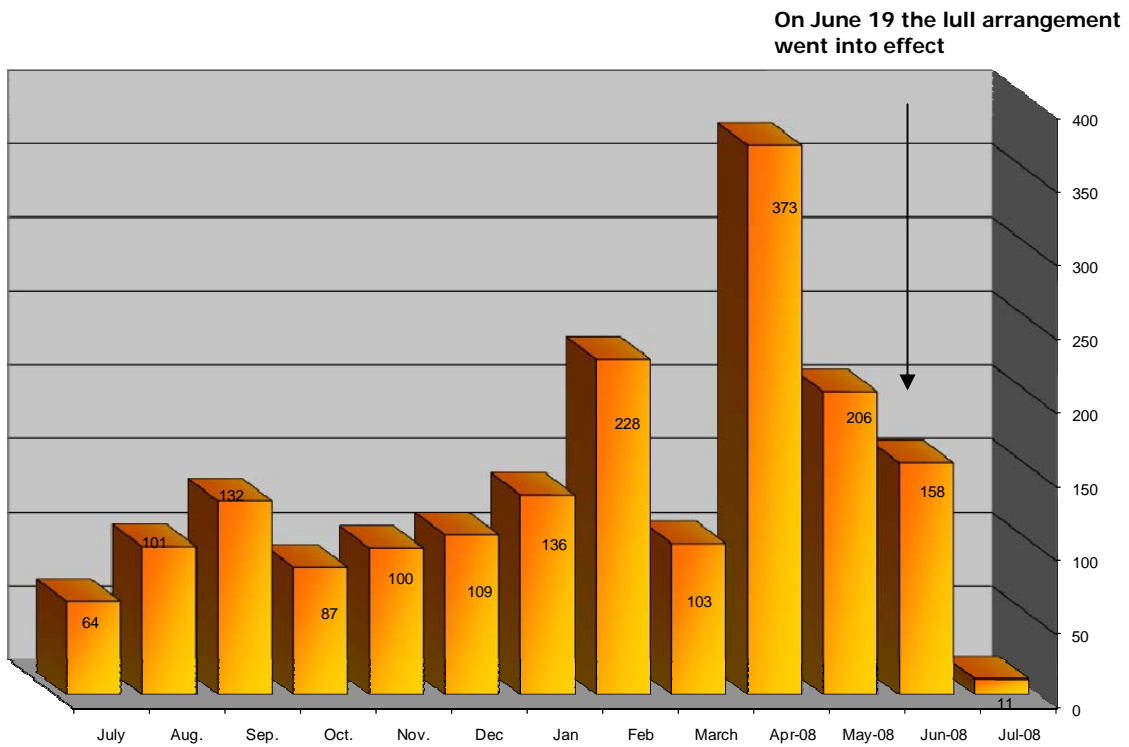
- This past week counterterrorism activities continued:
  - **On July 30** the Israeli security forces detained Fatah operative Taymour Muhammad Sa'id Muhammad Adib Khanduqji. Taymour Khanduqji was involved in the organization's terrorist activities (IDF Spokesman's website, July 30).
  - **On August 4** Border Policemen detained a 19-year old Palestinian who came to the roadblock near the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron armed with a knife. During interrogation he admitted he had intended to stab the policemen at the roadblock.

## Statistical Data

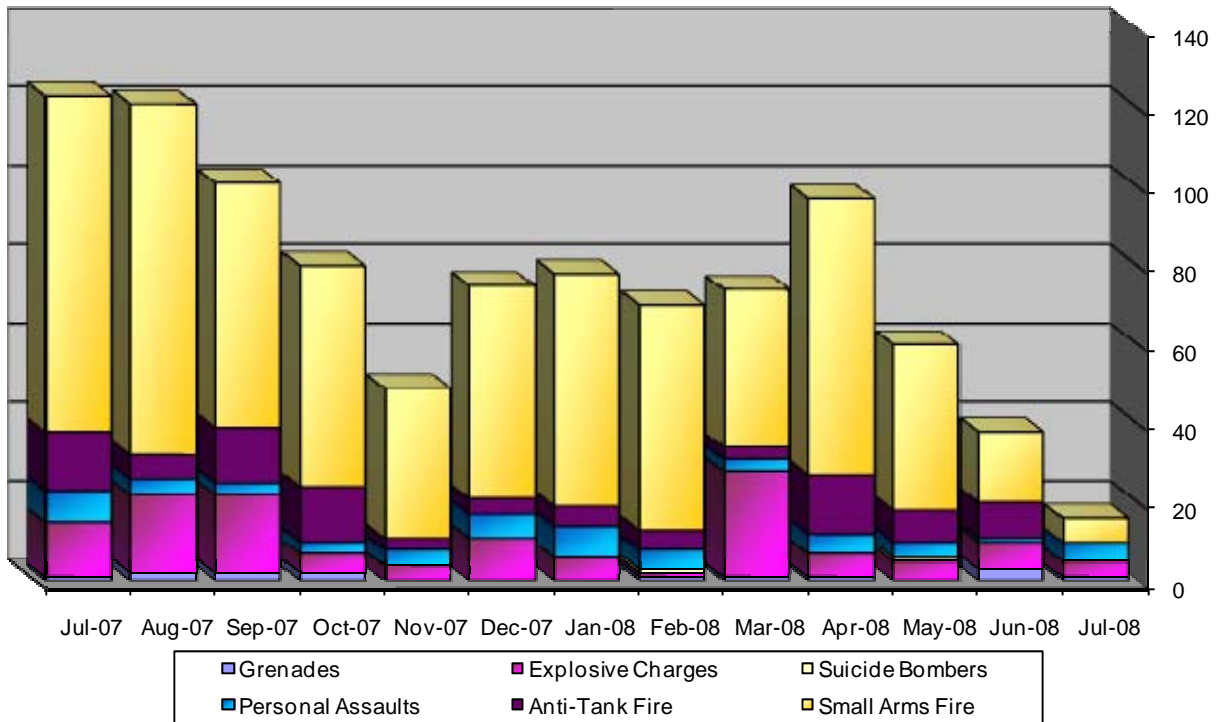
### Monthly Distribution of Rocket Hits



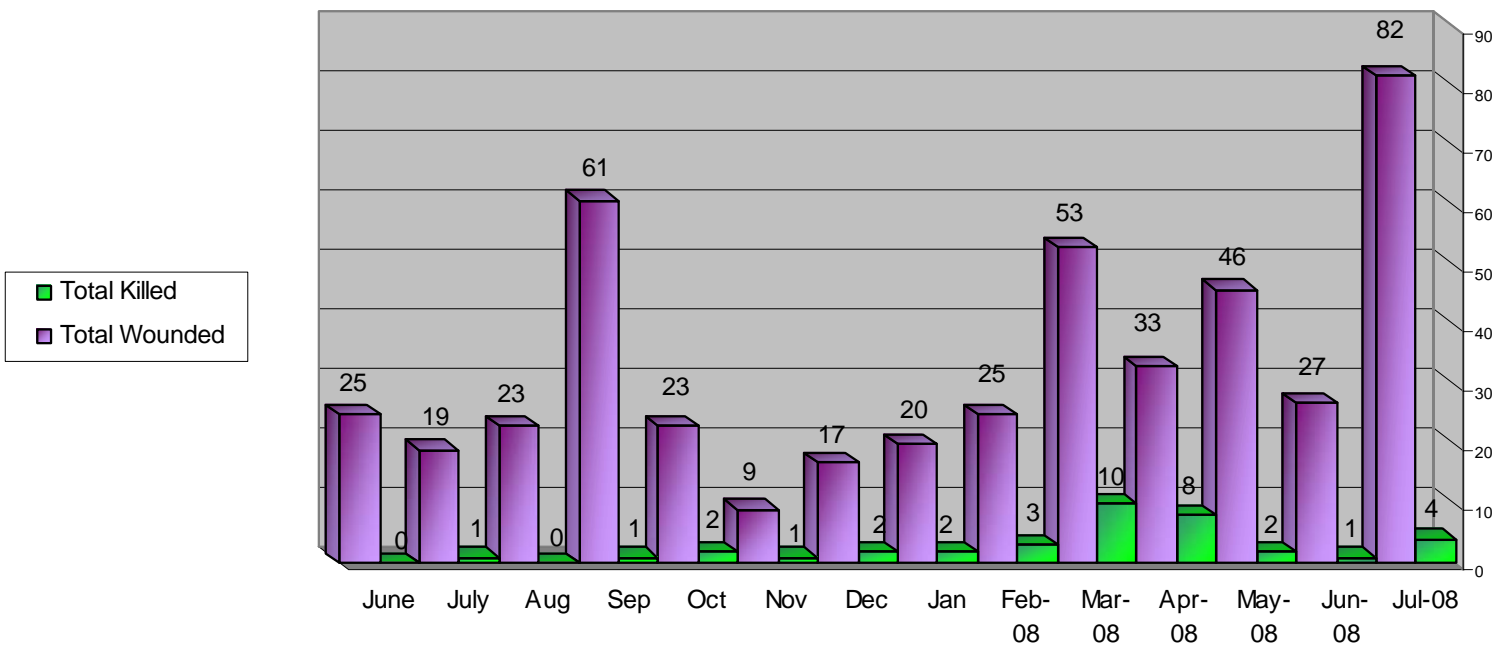
### Monthly Distribution of Mortar Shells Fired



### Monthly Distribution of Attacks<sup>1</sup>



### Monthly Distribution of Israeli Casualties



<sup>1</sup> Not including rocket and mortar shell fire.

## The Lull Arrangement – Update

### The Gaza Strip crossings

■ This past week quiet was maintained and goods continued flowing from Israel into the Gaza Strip. During the week a daily average of 90 trucks passed through the Sufa crossing. The gradual increase in the amount and variety of goods delivered through the Karni crossing continued.

### The controversy over the lull arrangement continues

■ While Hamas preserves the lull, other terrorist organizations threaten to reconsider their participation. Palestinian Islamic Jihad spokesman **Abu Hamzeh** warned that his organization's patience was growing thin in view of "Israel's continued violations of the agreement in the Gaza Strip and West Bank" (Filastin al-Yawm, July 31). A Popular Resistance Committees source said that it had agreed with other organizations to reevaluate the arrangement at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> week (i.e., the end of August) and at that point to decide whether or not to continue honoring it. He said that so far the arrangement had not fulfilled the PRC's expectations (Ma'an News Agency, July 31).

### Hamas delegation visits Egypt

■ On July 29 a Hamas delegation including high-ranking figures from the Gaza Strip and the headquarters in Damascus arrived in Egypt for talks with the heads of the government. A number of issues were raised, among them the lull arrangement, the internal Palestinian dialogue, the Palestinian prisoners held in Israel and the Rafah crossing (Felesteen, July 23). **Musa Abu Marzuq**, deputy head of the Hamas political bureau, described the visit as positive, criticizing Israel's implementation of the lull arrangement, especially regarding the crossings (Filastin al-Yawm, July 31). Abu Marzuq claimed that the lull had not made any significant change in the Gazans' lives, and **threatened that the arrangement would collapse** if the situation continued (Filastin al-Yawm, August 2).

■ Regarding the abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, Hamas interior minister **Sa'id Siyam** said that progress was being made and that Egypt was investing great effort in completing the deal (Al-Haqiqa al-Dawliha, July 30). Other sources in Hamas have remained silent, stating only that the matter has been turned over to the Egyptians (Middle East News Agency, July 31).

## The Internal Palestinian Arena

### The violent confrontations between Hamas and Fatah in the Gaza Strip continue

■ Following a series of explosions in the Gaza Strip which targeted Hamas (July 24 and 25), the Hamas security forces have continued wide-scale detentions of Fatah-affiliated operatives. Their activity peaked on the morning of August 2, when a particularly violent confrontation broke out between Hamas security forces and Fatah operatives in the eastern Gaza City neighborhood of Saja'iya. The confrontation was precipitated by the Hamas detention of operatives who, it claimed, were involved in the explosions and had hidden in the area, having been granted asylum by the large, influential Hilles clan, affiliated with Fatah.<sup>2</sup>



The Hamas security forces detaining Fatah operatives in the Gaza Strip (Al-Alam TV, August 1).

■ In the afternoon dozens of Fatah operatives, some of them armed, fled Saja'iya, arriving at the border with Israel near Nahal Oz. In view of the danger to their lives, the IDF, with governmental authorization, allowed at least **180** into Israeli territory after they had surrendered their arms. Twenty-two of them were wounded, some of them seriously, and were transferred to hospitals in Israel for medical treatment (IDF Spokesman's website, August 3).

■ The following day, acceding to requests from Palestinian Authority chairman Abu Mazen and Palestinian prime minister Salam Fayyad, the IDF began returning Fatah operatives to the Gaza Strip. When it became clear that upon their return a number of them had been detained

<sup>2</sup> For further information see our August 4 Bulletin entitled "Fatah suppressed in the Gaza Strip: Violent Fatah-Hamas confrontations lead to the flight of 180 Fatah operatives to Israel" at [http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam\\_multimedia/English/eng\\_n/pdf/hamas\\_e002.pdf](http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/pdf/hamas_e002.pdf).

by Hamas, Israeli security reassessed the situation and decided to transfer them to the PA, which agreed to accept them in Judea and Samaria (IDF Spokesman's website, August 4). On the afternoon of August 4, 88 Fatah operatives were transferred to Jericho, where they were lodged in a camp erected for them by the PA.

■ The confrontations in Saja'iya continued the violence between Hamas and Fatah. Apparently Hamas exploited the July explosions to tighten its hold on the security of the Gaza Strip and to settle accounts with Fatah networks, which, it claimed, continued to subvert its rule in the Gaza Strip. The events dealt a blow to the prestige of Hamas, which recently boasted of having stamped out anarchy and restored security to Gaza Strip residents. However, in our assessment the events will have no real effect on Hamas's political and security control over the Gaza Strip.



**Fatah activists in Judea and Samaria protesting the detention of Fatah activists in the Hamas roundup in the Gaza Strip (Al-Jazeera TV, August 2).**

## **Palestinian Authority counterterrorism activities in Judea and Samaria**

■ The Palestinian security forces in Judea and Samaria continued their counterterrorism activities against Hamas. In Nablus they conducted widespread detentions of lecturers and academics at Al-Najah University, some of whom were released a short time later (Hamas forum, July 31; Ma'an News Agency, August 1). Seven civilians were wounded during confrontations between Hamas operatives and Palestinian security forces in the town of Silwad (near Ramallah) (Filastin al-'An website, July 29).

■ The Palestinian security forces in Judea and Samaria prevented radical Islamic Liberation Party<sup>3</sup> gatherings from being held in Hebron, Jenin, Bethlehem and Ramallah, and even detained some of the party's activists. The gatherings were part of the party's events marking the anniversary of the end of the Caliphate, which the party intended to hold in Judea and Samaria, as it does every year (Filastin al-'An website, Ma'an News Agency, July 30). As a result the events this year were limited in scope.



**The Palestinian security forces dispersing a Liberation Party demonstration in Jenin (PALDF Forum, August 1).**

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<sup>3</sup> The Islamic Liberation Party was established in 1953 in East Jerusalem, then still under Jordanian rule. Since its inception its objective has been to restore the Islamic Caliphate and to impose Islamic law on those under its rule. Last year the party's activities in the PA-administered territories were highlighted by the limitations imposed by the PA on Hamas. On August 10-11, 2007, the party held a series of well-attended gatherings in Judea and Samaria which were an impressive show of force and gave witness to its growing political power. For further information see our August 26, 2007 Bulletin entitled "The Islamic Liberation Party recently held mass rallies in Al-Bireh and other cities in the Palestinian Authority" at [http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam\\_multimedia/English/eng\\_n/pdf/islamic\\_lp0807e.pdf](http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/pdf/islamic_lp0807e.pdf).