

Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center at the Center for Special Studies (C.S.S)

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Hezbollah in Lebanon continues sending Fatah/Tanzim operatives in the West Bank on terrorist missions by means of a link in the Gaza Strip which transmits funds and instructions. ¹

Overview

• On October 16, 2005, Israeli security forces detained Majdi Kamal 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Amer, from the village of Qalil, near Nablus. During interrogation he stated that he took orders from Hezbollah in Lebanon through a kind of front-line headquarters in the Gaza Strip, which liaised between Hezbollah handlers in Lebanon and terrorist-operatives in the West Bank to transfer money and instructions to Fatah/Tanzim operatives.



Majdi Kamal 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Amer, paid by Hezbollah in Lebanon to carry out terrorist missions against Israel

• The interrogations of Majdi 'Amer and others revealed that Hezbollah encourages terrorist-operatives in the Palestinian Authority (PA) administered territories to carry out **large numbers of terrorist attacks**, regardless of the type or impact of attack. The operatives are **chiefly motivated** by the **financial incentives** Hezbollah provides.

The information revealed during Majdi 'Amer's interrogation

- Majdi Kamal 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Amer, 31, lives in the village of Qalil, near Nablus. He is a Fatah/Al-Aqsa Martyrs'
 Brigades operative and serves in the Palestinian security services. Between 1992 and 1993 he was imprisoned in Israel for his involvement in rioting. After his release he was participated in many terrorist activities, mainly shooting at IDF soldiers in the Nablus region. On October 16, 2005, he was detained by the Israel security forces.
- During interrogation Majdi Amar admitted that nine months before his arrest (i.e., January 2005) he contacted a Hezbollah handler in Lebanon, an individual nicknamed Abu Rabi', and asked him for money to continue his activities. His twin brother, Majid, was a member of the same cell, as was Wasim Mansur.
- Majdi 'Amer also revealed that Hezbollah was an excellent source of funding and that the money it transferred to the operatives on the ground financed terrorist attacks against Israeli targets. After making contact with Abu Rabbia, he and his comrades informed him that there were seven of them and that they needed money to purchase weapons to carry out attacks. About ten days later Majdi and his brother received \$1000 from Hezbollah. About a month later they contacted Abu Rabbia again and asked for additional funds to purchase guns and explosive charges, and received an additional \$500.

- In February 2005 Wasim Mansur (one of the cell), who maintained telephone contact with Abu Rabbia, was detained. Abu Rabbia then called Majdi 'Amer and told him that from then on, contact between him and Hezbollah would be maintained through a middleman in the Gaza Strip named Abu Lu'ai. A few days later Abu Lu'ai contacted Majdi 'Amer and gave him \$1500 to continue his activities. From then until he was detained in October 2005 he contacted his Hezbollah handler through Abu Lu'ai and received more money to finance his terrorist activities. During that time he carried out many such attacks against IDF soldiers and was an arms dealer.
- The other members of the Fatah/Tanzim band he belonged to, financed as noted by Hezbollah, were also serving in the Palestinian security services at the same time. Majdi 'Amer related that every month he was paid between 400 and 700 Israeli shekels from the PA because his name appeared on a list of wanted individuals (i.e., terrorists) given to the PA by Israel. In return for his salary from he promised he would stop his anti-Israeli activities, a promise which did not deter him from taking Hezbollah money to continue those activities against Israel.

Conclusion

• During the current violent Palestinian-Israeli confrontation, Hezbollah has shown itself as the main factor in orchestrating the terrorist-operative activities of most of the Fatah bands in the PA-administered territories.
During the Iull as well, Hezbollah continues using financial incentives to motivate those cells in the West Bank to carry out terrorist attacks. It should be remembered that in the past there were reports of Fatah/Tanzim terrorist-operatives in the Nablus region who admitted during interrogation that they had received their instructions from Hezbollah in Lebanon. ² To increase efficiency, in recent months Hezbollah has set up a kind of front-line headquarters in the Gaza Strip, which liaises between Hezbollah in Lebanon and the bands in the West Bank, to transfer money and instructions to operatives on the ground.

¹ Based in an Israeli Security Agency report.

² For further information see for example our Special Bulletin <u>"Iran and its Proxies are Sponsoring and Encouraging Terrorism in the Palestinian Authority Administered Territories"</u>