



EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

HAMAS VIOLENT CONFRONTATION CAMPAIGN IN GAZA

- Hamas is a radical Islamist terror organization ruling the Gaza Strip since 2007, whose declared goal is the destruction of the State of Israel. Hamas seeks to murder Israelis by terror attacks, firing rockets, placing explosive devices and building terror tunnels into Israeli territory.
- Hamas is leading and orchestrating the recent wave of violence from Gaza, aimed at breaking the fence, storming Israel with thousands of rioters and attacking Israeli civilians.
- The title "Great Return March" amounts to the annihilation of Israel. Hamas denies Israel's right to exist and its outspoken aim is to eradicate the State of Israel, while expelling or killing its Jewish inhabitants. There is nothing peaceful about violent demonstrations aimed at the destruction of Israel.
- Hamas is responsible for Gaza, but instead of providing welfare for its citizens, Hamas brainwashes the Gazans, uses them as pawns against Israel and exploits them as human shields. These practices are criminal acts that deserve condemnation by the international community.
- On repeated occasions including yesterday May 14, Hamas-led crowds have set fire to and destroyed the Kerem Shalom crossing terminal, which provides humanitarian aid, fuel, gas and goods from Israel and foreign donor countries to the people of Gaza. By doing so, only Hamas is carrying the direct responsibility for the deteriorating humanitarian situation of the citizens of Gaza.
- In the past week, Hamas terrorists tried to cross into Israel with explosive devices, while another terror tunnel was uncovered, aimed at attacking an Israeli village.
- One has to clearly understand what would happen to the Israeli communities near Gaza if tens of thousands of violent and armed rioters would break through the fence. Israeli schools and kindergartens are situated only a few hundred meters from this fence and Israeli civilians living and working in its vicinity would be exposed to massive violence, lethal aggressions and terror attacks.

**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC DIPLOMACY**



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- Israel has the right and the duty to protect its citizens from those attempting to breach the fence, with intent to harm them. Israel primarily employs non-lethal means in order to do so, and takes every possible measure to avoid loss of life.

Embassy of Israel
Department of Public Diplomacy