



## ON: Arafat's Reign of Terror

### Yasir Arafat's private militia: the Fatah Tanzim

The Tanzim is the armed wing of Arafat's Fatah faction. Arafat and the Fatah leadership established this group in 1995 as a quasi-military counterpart to the military wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The Tanzim is popular with Palestinians because it is perceived to be a grass-roots movement dominated by Palestinian "insiders," e.g., Palestinians who were present in the territories during the first Intifada, or "uprising," between 1987-1991.

Arafat uses the Tanzim as an unofficial army that can attack Israeli forces and civilians without officially breaking signed agreements. They have been active since the mid-1990s. In September 2000, they began orchestrating "made-for-television" demonstrations: The Tanzim bring large numbers of civilians to IDF (Israeli army) positions. The civilians hurl stones and petrol bombs while armed Tanzim members fire at the soldiers from within the crowd.

### Arafat's private terrorists: Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades are directly linked to Arafat. Fatah formed the Brigades as a response to the loss of popularity it suffered when Hamas and Islamic Jihad led the violent uprising in the wake of the Al-Aqsa Intifada. In contrast to the Tanzim, which organizes large numbers of Palestinian youths to participate in violent demonstrations and guerrilla attacks on Israeli soldiers, the Al-Aqsa Brigades recruits smaller groups for suicide attacks. As of March, 2002, the Fatah Tanzim and the Al-Aqsa Brigades had taken responsibility for more than 300 terror attacks. Since that time, the Al Aqsa Martyrs claimed credit for the "Passover Massacre" and other subsequent suicide bombings. The Al-Aqsa Brigades have eclipsed Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the number of terrorist attacks they have committed.

### Hamas and Islamic Jihad

These two groups, which are committed to the destruction of Israel, have been "indirectly linked" to Yasir Arafat. (For more information on Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

See Israel 101 Series, Paper No. 9.)

### Cooperative Terror: the "Cocktail Cells"

Toward the end of 2000, Yasir Arafat ordered his security forces to release the majority of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants under Palestinian Authority custody. Many of these militants were convicted terrorists who were jailed under the terms of the Oslo Agreements. Arafat invited Hamas to join the Palestinian Authority's governing body, but they did not accept the invitation. Members of Fatah, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad, however, began cooperating in joint attacks against Israeli civilians through "cocktail cells" — ad hoc terrorist groups comprised of members of all three organizations. These "cocktail cells" are responsible for numerous deadly attacks, including the June 2001 bombing of the Tel-Aviv nightclub Dolphinarium, where 20 Israeli teen-agers were murdered and more than 120 were injured.

### Invoices of Terror

Among the documents seized in a raid on Arafat's headquarters in April 2002 was an invoice from the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. The invoice demonstrates that Al-Aqsa's members are on the Palestinian Authority's payroll, its activities are financed out of Palestinian Authority coffers, and its operations are carried out with the knowledge of Yasir Arafat's inner circle.

