

Last week marked the 36th anniversary of the founding of [Hamas](#). While much of the conversation around Hamas is focused on October 7th, the organization has been committing terrorist attacks against Israel for over three decades.

- Hamas, an acronym of the Islamic Resistance Movement, promises in its [charter](#) “sincere efforts to fight the Jews” and that “Israel will exist, and will continue to exist, until Islam abolishes it.”
- The organization has committed itself to [brutal terror attacks](#) that have left thousands of Israelis dead and many more injured.
- On October 8, 1997, the organization was officially added to the U.S. State Department’s [list](#) of terrorist organizations.
- In the 2006 elections in Gaza, Hamas won the majority of seats and made statements that opposed recognition of Israel. The following year, it took over Gaza and expelled the Palestinian Authority (PA) even though the PA had a majority in the parliament. Its leaders continue to call for the [annihilation](#) of Israel as well as [violence](#) against Americans worldwide.
- Late last week, Hamas terrorists were [arrested](#) in Europe for allegedly plotting attacks on European soil.
- The organization is [notorious](#) for the torture and murder of Palestinians in Gaza who oppose its control and of those who identify as LGBTQ. Hamas has been accused of horrific women’s rights abuses and honor killings.
- Hamas [deliberately](#) places Palestinian civilians in harm’s way by turning civilian infrastructure into terror bases, embedding itself within mosques, schools and hospitals and preventing civilians from heeding the IDF’s evacuation orders.
- The organization benefits from massive financial support from international allies and supporters, most notably Iran, with the injection of billions of dollars of aid which has been diverted to finance the organization’s terrorist activities. The organization’s three senior leaders who are living in Qatar have a combined estimated worth of [\\$3 billion](#).