Hamas’s Terror Tunnels

Since the mid 1990s, Hamas had been harming its own population in order to build terror tunnels from Gaza into Israel, in order to capture and harm Israelis and smuggle weapons into Gaza.

What are the terror tunnels?

- Hamas, an internationally recognized terror organization, has been building underground tunnels from Gaza that extend as far as 100 feet into Israeli territory.¹
- There are at least 32 tunnels and 60 passageways, connecting to create hundreds of tunnel routes.²
- Before Operation Protective Edge in 2014 destroyed 38 tunnels, Hamas planned to use them to “inflict mass casualties” on the Jewish Holy Day of Rosh Hashanah.³

Hamas uses tunnels to capture, torture and injure both Israeli soldiers and citizens.

- Hamas used the tunnels to capture soldiers such as Gilad Shalit in 2006.⁴
  - In 2011, Israel released over 1,000 Palestinian-Arab terrorists in exchange for his release, many whom continue to attack Israeli civilians.⁵
- In October 2013, Israeli soldiers discovered the opening of a tunnel in a civilian community. Since then, the army has thwarted at least four terror attack from the tunnels aimed at civilians.⁶ ⁷

Hamas uses terror tunnels to smuggle weapons and terrorists from Egypt into Gaza.

- Injured ISIS fighters are smuggled into Gaza by Hamas through the tunnels and treated so that they can continue to attack civilians.⁸
- In addition, Hamas uses these tunnels to smuggle illegal weaponry used in terror attacks. In 2014 Egypt's military claimed it destroyed 1,370 of these tunnels, but still had more work to do.⁹

Hamas takes international aid from the Gazan people and uses it to build terror tunnels. Hamas prioritizes terror tunnel construction over the well-being of Gazan civilians.

- Due to Hamas’s commitment to rebuilding tunnels destroyed in the last war, the government only reconstructed about 23 percent of civilian homes.¹⁰
  - In 2011, the per capita annual income is Gaza was $1,165. The average tunnel costs about $3 million, or around the yearly income of 2,575 Gazans.¹¹ ¹²
  - One of the more developed tunnels contains enough food provisions to last months and is fully equipped with electricity. The tunnel itself cost Hamas $10 million to build.¹³
World Vision is a humanitarian charity with a chapter in Gaza. The head of the Gaza chapter, Muhammad Halabi, funneled 60 percent of its funds for 11 years (over $30 million) to terrorist activities such as tunnel construction.  

- In 2015, Hamas received 3.7 tons of humanitarian aid from Israel. After the 2014 war, the UN gave Gaza $5.4 billion of aid, including cement to rebuild houses. Instead of using this to help its citizens, Hamas stole this cement from its people in order to build and rebuild more terror tunnels.  

- Hamas used 500 tons of concrete and cement to build one tunnel alone— that is 500 tons of concrete and cement that did not go towards helping the Palestinian-Arab people rebuild their homes.

Hamas forces its own civilians to build the terror tunnels. Many of these modern-day slaves fall victim to Hamas’s cruelty.  

- In order to rebuild these tunnels, Hamas uses child slavery. More than 160 children have been murdered in an attempt to rebuild terror tunnels that will murder Israeli civilians in their own homes.  

- In 2016, Hamas admitted that at least 18 Gazans were killed by tunnel collapses in the past two years.