

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.ⁱ
- There are at least 32 tunnels and 60 passageways, connecting to create hundreds of tunnel routes.ⁱⁱ
- 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.ⁱⁱⁱ

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.^{iv}
 - In 2011, Israel released over 1,000 Palestinian-Arab terrorists in exchange for his release, many whom continue to attack Israeli civilians.^v
- 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.^{vi vii}

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 murder civilians.^{viii}
- In addition, Hamas uses these tunnels to smuggle in 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.^{ix}

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.^x
 - In 2011, the per capita annual income in Gaza was \$1,165. The average tunnel costs about \$3 million, or around the yearly income of 2,575 Gazans.^{xi xii}
 - 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.^{xiii}

- 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.^{xiv xv}
- In 2015, Hamas received 3.7 tons of humanitarian aid from Israel.^{xvi} After the 2014 war, the UN gave Gaza \$5.4 billion of aid, including cement to rebuild houses.^{xvii} 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.^{xviii}

Hamis 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.^{xix}
- In 2016, Hamas admitted that at least 18 Gazans were killed by tunnel collapses in the past two years.^{xx}

ⁱ “IDF uncovers Gaza ‘terror tunnel’ dug into Israeli territory,” *The Times of Israel*, April 18, 2016.

ⁱⁱ “Hamas’ Tunnels from Gaza into Israel,” *Anti-Defamation League*.

ⁱⁱⁱ “IDF confirms Hamas planned massive tunnel attack,” *The Times of Israel*, October 21, 2014.

^{iv} “Your Complete Guide to Hamas’ Network of Terror Tunnels,” *The Tower*, April 2016.

^v “Why Israelis believe one soldier is worth 1,000 Palestinian prisoners,” *CNN*, October 18, 2011.

^{vi} “Gaza terror tunnel opening discovered in Israel,” *Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, October 13, 2013.

^{vii} “Your Complete Guide to Hamas’ Network of Terror Tunnels,” *The Tower*, April 2016.

^{viii} “Egypt rankled by Hamas’s burgeoning ties to Islamic State,” *The Times of Israel*, August 1, 2016.

^{ix} “Smuggling between Sinai and Gaza still thriving,” *The Times of Israel*, August 22, 2014.

^x “Global aid to Gaza is on the rise in 2016, as well as Hamas cross-border tunnel construction,” *Israel Defense Forces*, July 7, 2016.

^{xi} “How Hamas uses its tunnels to kill and capture Israeli soldiers,” *The Washington Post*, July 21, 2014.

^{xii} “Global aid to Gaza is on the rise in 2016, as well as Hamas cross-border tunnel construction,” *Israel Defense Forces*, July 7, 2016.

^{xiii} “How Hamas uses its tunnels to kill and capture Israeli soldiers,” *The Washington Post*, July 21, 2014.

^{xiv} “Gaza aid worker accused of funneling millions to Hamas was UN ‘humanitarian hero’,” *The Times of Israel*, August 5, 2016.

^{xv} “World Vision: Israeli Claim That Hamas Siphoned Funds From Gazan Charity Doesn’t Add Up,” *Ha’aretz*, August 8, 2016.

^{xvi} “Israeli Aid to the Palestinians,” *Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, February 2016.

^{xvii} “Operation Protective Edge: Gaza Reconstruction,” *Jewish Virtual Library*.

^{xviii} “Gaza terror tunnel opening discovered in Israel,” *Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, October 13, 2013.

^{xix} “Hamas Killed 160 Palestinian Children to Build Tunnels,” *Tablet*, July 25, 2014.

^{xx} “As Hamas Tunnels Back Into Israel, Palestinians Are Afraid, Too,” *The New York Times*, May 20, 2016.