



ISRAEL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Israel's Operation against Hamas

# **Defeating Terror**

# **Promoting Peace**



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# **Moderates vs. Extremists**

## **The Struggle for Regional Peace**

Israel desires peace with those who seek peace,  
but must deter those who seek its destruction



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Israel's greatest hope  
is to live in peace and security with all its neighbors

Signing the  
Israel-Jordan  
Peace Treaty



Prime Minister Begin, President Sadat and President Carter signing the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty, Washington, 26 March 1979



Israel Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas with US President Bush at the Annapolis Conference, November 2007



Foreign Minister Livni meets with Qatar Prime Minister Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabr Al-Thani at the 8th Doha Forum on Democracy, Development, and Free Trade (April 2008)



Foreign Minister Livni meets with Foreign Minister of Oman Yousef Bin Alawi



Former Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, US President George Bush and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas Middle East summit in Aqaba (June 2003)



MASHAV Course for Palestinian Farmers on Cooperative Development in Rural Areas

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Israel has proven its ability to make peace with those who desire peace.  
The moderates in the region agree on the need for a “two-state solution” to the Palestinian issue



Assad and Ahmadinejad



Hamas in Gaza - September 2007



Ahmadinejad and Nasrallah

While Israel desires peace with those who seek peace,  
it must deter those who seek its destruction.

**Hamas:**

"Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it."

[The Hamas Covenant, Introduction]

"There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through *Jihad*."

[The Hamas Covenant, Article 13]

**Hizbullah:**

"Palestine, from the [Mediterranean] sea to the [Jordan] river, is the property of Arabs and Palestinians and no one has the right to give up even a single grain of earth."

[Hizbullah leader Hassan Nasrallah, 26 Sept 2008]



Ahmadinejad



Iranian Weapons in the Gaza Strip



Ahmadinejad and Haniye

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### Iran:

**"The cancerous tumor called Israel must be uprooted from the region."**

[Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, 15 December 2000]

**"Khomeini ordered that Israel must be wiped off the map. This was a very wise statement."**

[Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, 26 October 2005]

### Bin Laden:

**"It is a duty is to urge people to *Jihad* and to enlist the youth into *Jihad* brigades...Muslim nation, you are capable of defeating the Zionist entity"**

[Osama bin Laden, 14 January 2009 audiotape]

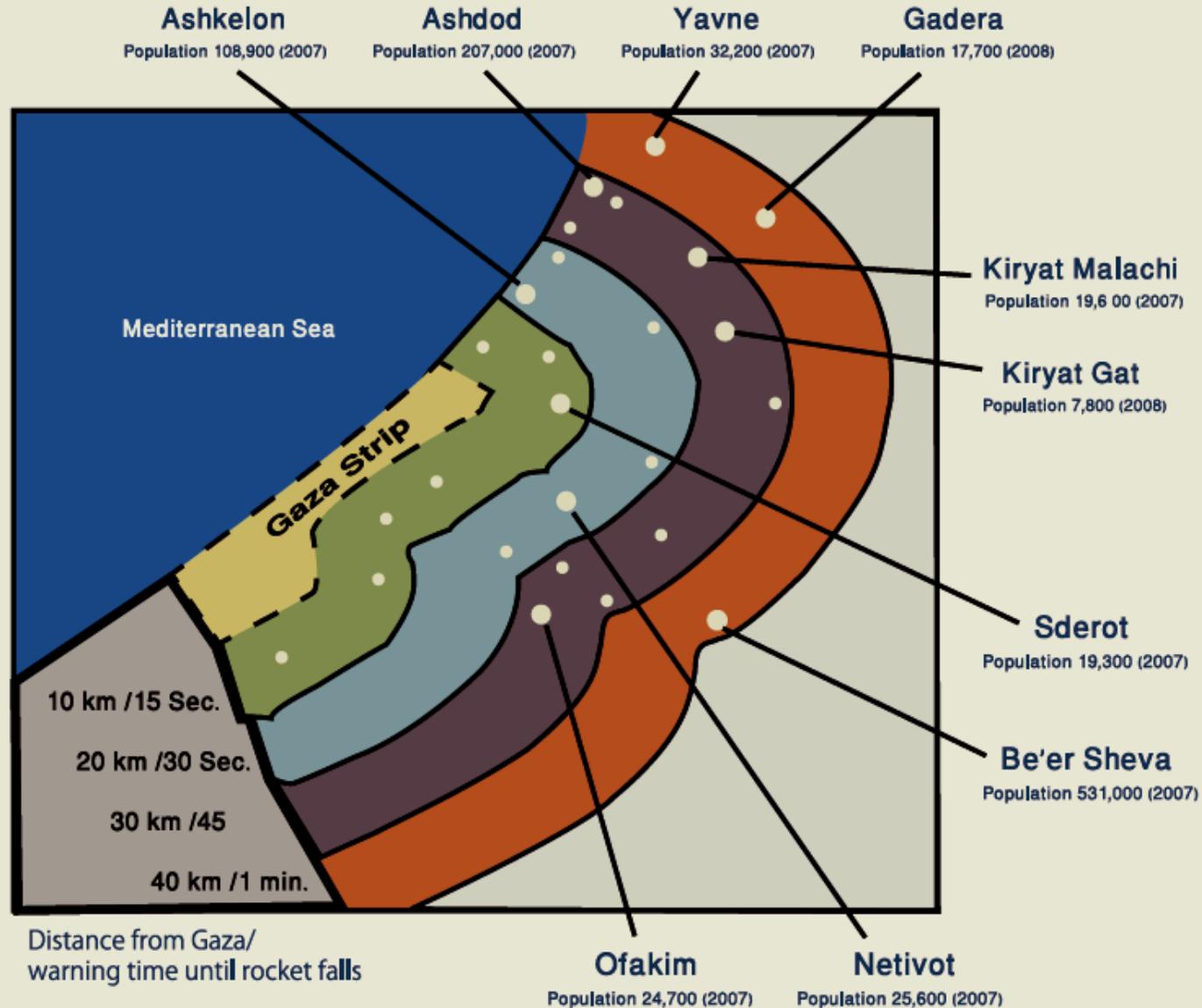
The extremist, terrorist camp – Hamas, Hizbullah, Iran and their allies – cannot be allowed to triumph. This would be a disaster for Israel, the Palestinians and the entire world.



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## Self Defense

The Hamas deliberately targets Israeli cities. Israel has the right and the obligation to protect the lives of its citizens



Precious seconds: The difference between life and death in southern Israel.  
15 seconds is all the time many Israelis have to find cover from incoming Hamas missiles.

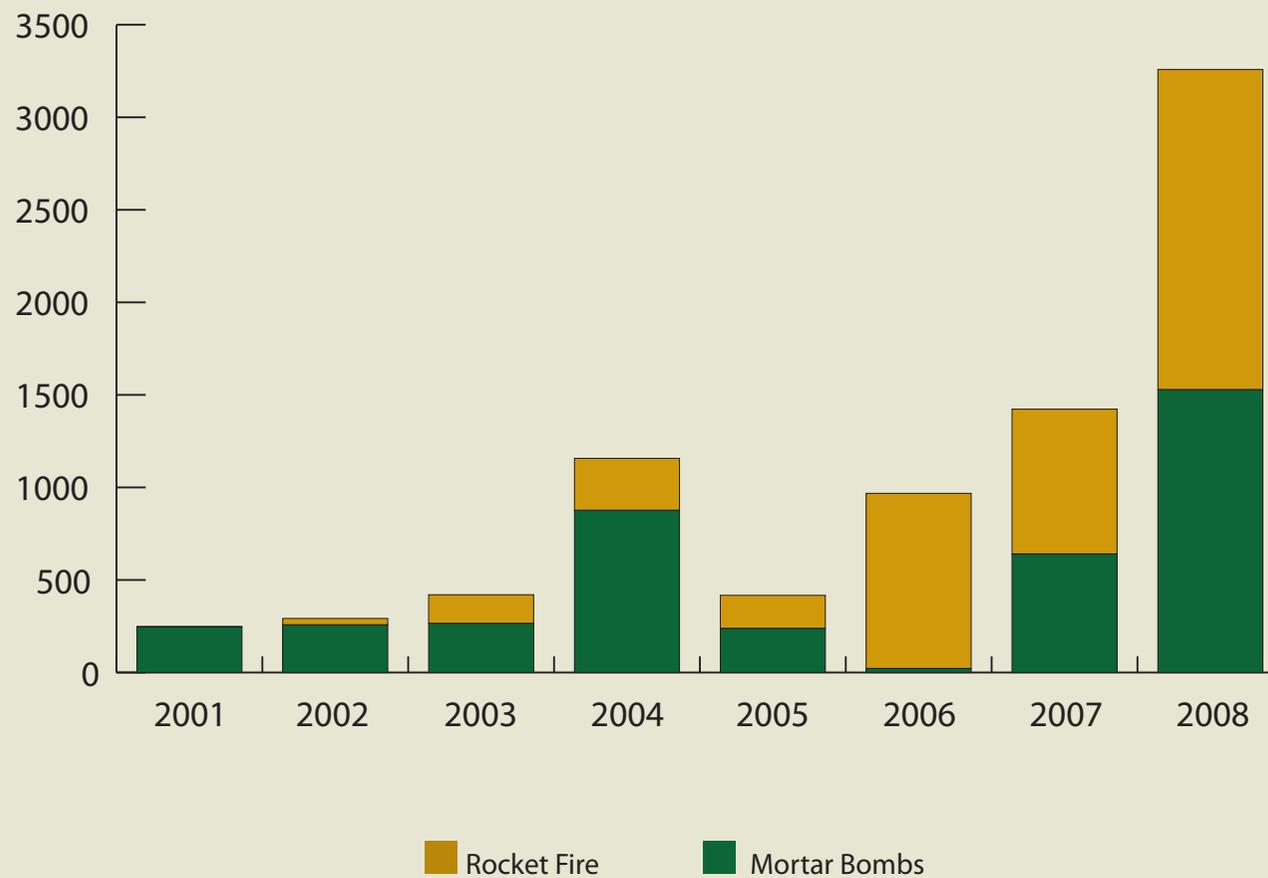


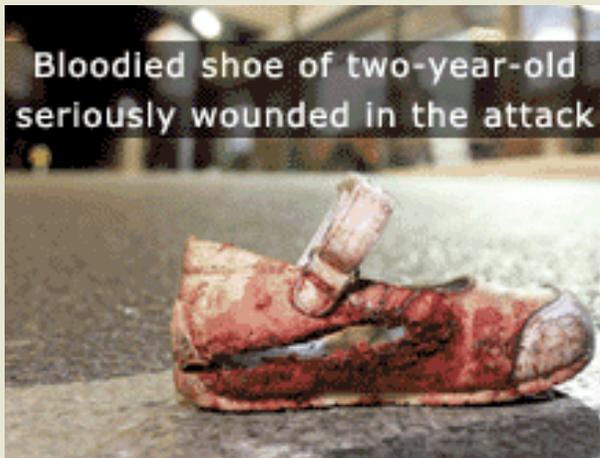
[▶ More info](#)

Hamas intentionally targets Israeli civilians - a grave war crime



### Rocket Fire and Mortar Bombs 2001-2008





8,000 rocket attacks over 8 years have left their toll:  
75-95% of Sderot children exhibit symptoms of post-traumatic stress.

[Natal - the Israel Center for Victims of Terror and War.]



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# Humanitarian Aid

Israel is fighting the Hamas, not the citizens of Gaza.



Injured Palestinian boy receives medical treatment by Israeli and Palestinian medical personnel at Erez crossing, 31 Dec 2008



For Israel, the Palestinian people are neighbors, not enemies



Food supplies for Gaza unloaded at Kerem Shalom crossing

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Humanitarian aid delivered to Gaza

Despite Hamas attacks on Israeli cities,  
massive humanitarian aid continues to flow into the Gaza Strip



Mortar shell falls near fuel truck at Nahal Oz crossing on April 9, 2008



Truck explodes in suicide bombing at Erez Crossing May 22, 2008

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Many Israelis have been killed in order to transfer aid to the Palestinian people.



### Humanitarian Aid Flowing into Gaza from Israel

	<b>Truckloads of Aid</b>	<b>Tons of Aid</b>	<b>Liters of Fuel</b>	<b>Tons of Cooking Gas</b>
16 June 2007–26 Dec 2008 From the Hamas takeover of Gaza till the Recent Israeli Operation	Over 36,000	Over 915,000	Over 200,000,000	Over 40,000
27 Dec 2008 –18 Jan 2009 During the Israeli Operation	1,498	36,991	1,726,351	(Jan 5-8) 236

Hamas is truly “bombing the hand that feeds them”



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# The Hostage Situation

Israel does its utmost to avoid harming civilians,  
yet the Hamas intentionally exploits the Gaza population  
as human shields



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**Trail of smoke rises over Gaza homes  
after launching of rockets against Israel**

Photo: Amir Meir (Dec 2007)



Under international law, whoever exploits civilians as human shields  
in armed conflict is solely responsible for the consequences of his actions.

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Gaza is the world's largest "hostage situation".

Under international law, whoever exploits civilians as human shields in armed  
conflict is solely responsible for the consequences of his actions.



A Hamas Kassam rocket manufacturing shop in the Darj neighborhood of Gaza



A Hamas explosives lab in the ground floor of a residential building in Jabalya

[▶ View clip](#)

IDF video documenting how Hamas munitions, intentionally hidden in residential areas, cause extensive destruction to civilian homes.

[▶ More info](#)



Deliberate use of civilians as human shields against anticipated air-strikes

[▶ View clip](#)



An armed Hamas terrorist violently grabs an innocent young boy off the street to use as a human shield in order to save his own life

[▶ View clip](#)



Weapons and ammunition uncovered in a mosque

[▶ View clip](#)

A Hamas cell is captured on video launching mortar bombs from the porch of a UN elementary school in Beit Hanoun (north Gaza Strip).

" Hamas hides weapons in mosques and uses minarets to launch attacks... Hamas launches rockets from school yards and rigs schools with booby-traps... Hamas commanders set up shop in the basement of Gaza's largest hospital."

" Hamas views civilians not as a population to be avoided -- but as a population to be exploited." [UN Amb. Gabriella Shalev, 14/1/2009]



Israeli leaflet drop on Gaza

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Israel has done its utmost to avoid civilian casualties in Gaza:  
It aborted missions when civilians were spotted in target areas;  
It scattered nearly a million leaflets warning civilians away from target areas;  
It contacted 30,000 civilians by telephone to warn of attacks.

Israel voluntarily sacrificed the element of surprise to save civilian lives.  
Its actions are almost unprecedented in the history of warfare.



The terrorists cannot be allowed to destroy  
the hope of peace in the region.

When Hamas and the other extremists are contained,  
the moderates will prevail and there will be peace.