

HAMAS GOVERNANCE

No Israeli occupation: Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahhar admitted that Gaza has not been occupied since August, 2005. —*Ma'an News Agency, Jan. 3, 2012*¹

Hamas denies human and civil rights to Gaza's residents. They face "capricious imprisonments, torture and arrests for 'morality offenses' by Hamas police." —*Bill Van Esveld, Human Rights Watch*²

Hamas tortured and murdered its political rivals during its June, 2007 coup. 147 Palestinians were killed and 700 wounded, including women and children. The fighting included "willful killings, extra-judicial executions, and firing at combatants after their capture. According to eyewitnesses, a number of the wounded were killed inside hospitals; reprisal kidnappings and torture of persons affiliated or suspected of being affiliated with a party to the conflict were also reported." —*Palestinian Center for Human Rights*³

No rule of law. Hamas summarily executes alleged Israeli "collaborators," such as the two men executed in April 2010,⁴ the estimated 40 to 80 "collaborators" executed in June 2009,⁵ the over 30 "collaborators" executed in July 2014,⁶ and approximately 20 Palestinian demonstrators, killed for protesting against Hamas in 2014.⁷

Hamas prevents freedom of the press and threatens journalists with violent retaliation, should they report honestly on the situation in Gaza, specifically on Hamas' use of human shields and launching rockets at Israel from civilian centers.⁸ The International Federation of Journalists accused Hamas of a "policy of ... shutting down dozens of organisations, banning the distribution of the main newspapers in Gaza and prosecuting journalists."⁹

Hamas steals humanitarian aid, giving the aid to its cronies to distribute or resell to Gaza residents, as it did with 14 trucks of aid in August 2008¹⁰ and with a convoy in January 2009.¹¹ "We knew Hamas would take the goods for themselves and distribute them at their own discretion. ... People who are not in with Hamas don't see any of the relief goods or the gifts of money," Gaza resident Zaed Khadar told Der Spiegel.¹²

Hamas violates Gaza residents' personal freedoms and civil rights, imposing Islamist dress on women, not allowing women to ride with men on motor scooters, cancelling marathons in which women participate, and opposing gender-mixed summer camps and folk dancing.¹³

Hamas persecutes minorities such as Gaza's 2,500 Palestinian Christians.¹⁴

Hamas closes down human rights groups, such as the six organizations closed in June 2010, which included a women's health society and the Woman and Child Development Association.¹⁵

¹ <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=449619>

² Bill Van Esveld, "The danger of an Islamized Gaza," *LA Times*, June 27, 2010 at <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-vanesveld-gaza-20100627,0,5317748.story>

³ Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Press Release, "No Alternative to Political Dialogue," June 18, 2007 at <http://www.pchrgaza.ps/files/PressR/English/2007/41-2007.htm>

⁴ <http://www.haaretz.com/news/hamas-executes-two-israel-collaborators-in-gaza-1.284326>

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- ⁵ <http://www.haaretz.com/news/hamas-executes-collaborators-and-restricts-fatah-movement-1.267711>
- ⁶ <http://www.i24news.tv/en/news/international/middle-east/38508-140728-hamas-executes-30-suspected-collaborators-report>.
- ⁷ <http://www.jpost.com/Operation-Protective-Edge/Report-Hamas-executes-alleged-spies-shoots-protesters-in-Gaza-369331>
- ⁸ <http://www.algemeiner.com/2014/07/30/italian-journalist-defies-hamas-out-of-gaza-far-from-hamas-retaliation-misfired-rocket-killed-children-in-shati/>
- ⁹ October, 2011 at <http://www.ifj.org/en/articles/ifj-blames-hamas-for-political-interference-after-take-over-of-pjs-office-in-gaza>
- ¹⁰ <http://www.haaretz.com/news/hamas-confiscates-humanitarian-aid-trucks-sent-to-gaza-from-jordan-1.238927>
- ¹¹ <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3651783,00.html>
- ¹² <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,698766,00.html>
- ¹³ Bill Van Esveld, "The danger of an Islamized Gaza," *LA Times*, June 27, 2010 at <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-vanesveld-gaza-20100627,0,5317748.story> and Daniel Williams, " Hamas Bans Women Dancers, Scooter Riders in Gaza Push (Update1) ," *Bloomberg Press*, Nov. 30, 2009 at <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aB2RfynNbLmk&pos=9#>
- ¹⁴ Khaled Abu Toameh, "Christian-Muslim Tensions Heat Up," *Jerusalem Post*, Sept. 25, 2007 at www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?c=JPArticle&cid=1189411486459&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull
- ¹⁵ Bill Van Esveld, "The danger of an Islamized Gaza," *LA Times*, June 27, 2010 at <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-vanesveld-gaza-20100627,0,5317748.story>