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Hamas's Show of Force in Gaza

JAN. 8 2021

On December 28, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and twelve other terrorist groups held massive joint military exercises in the Gaza Strip. **Kobi Michael** and **Yohanan Tzoreff** report: In the large-scale exercise, rockets were launched toward the sea, attacks occurred on simulated IDF positions and included abductions of soldiers; drones and other technologies were displayed. The exercise took place against the backdrop of a severe crisis in Gaza caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the failure of the reconciliation efforts with the Palestinian Authority, Arab countries apparent sidelining of the Palestinian issue, and concerns of another military conflict with Israel.

This display of arms was meant, according to Michael and Tzoreff, to send a message of deterrence to Israel as well as to send a message "to the Palestinian public regarding the importance of unity and the continuation of the resistance to Israel as the forefront of the national struggle." They add:

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