

## 'More civilians in Gaza were killed by Palestinian Islamic Jihad rockets than by Israeli strikes'

By Guest Contributor - Opinion / August 11, 2022

*"Close to one-third of the Palestinians who died in the latest outbreak of violence between Israel and Gaza militants may have been killed by errant rockets fired by the Palestinian side, according to an Israeli military assessment that appears consistent with independent reporting by The Associated Press," AP wrote in a tweet last Monday (8 August) one day after a ceasefire was agreed in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Jihad Islamic (PIJ) with the mediation of Egypt, writes Yossi Lempkowicz.*

[...]

He noted that, as shown in a video posted on social media, several air strikes against PIJ commanders have been delayed when the IDF discovered the presence of a single civilian in the vicinity of the target (see video below). The Palestinian Islamic Jihad is an older organization than the other terrorist group, Hamas, that governs the Gaza Strip. "It's a very radical and dangerous organization that doesn't have any aspiration to become the ruler of any Palestinian territory, contrary to Hamas," explained **Kobi Michael, senior research fellow at the Institute of National Security Studies (INSS)** in Tel Aviv, during an online briefing for journalists organized by Europe Israel Press Association on Monday.

"Their only agenda, their 'raison d'être', is to lead the armed resistance against Israel." Since the last decade, it became a pure proxy of Iran. The PIJ leader, Ziyad Nakhalah, was (and is still) in Tehran during the three days of Israel's operation against the group. Although it is a Sunni group, the Iranian Shiite theocracy uses them (and the other Sunni group in Gaza, Hamas) as tools to destabilise the Middle East and attack Israel. Despite these similarities, it's important to highlight the differences between the two groups : Hamas, who has been ruling Gaza since it took power fifteen years ago after a military takeover in which dozens of Palestinians from Fatah were killed, is also a terrorist organization but also a political, social and religious movement.

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