

Turkey hosting Hamas signals resurgence of Muslim Brotherhood ideology

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Shimon Sherman / (Nov. 24, 2024 / JNS)

Recent reports of the Hamas politburo moving from Qatar to Turkey mean the potential introduction of a new major player into a geopolitical struggle that has mostly circled the two poles of Tehran and Jerusalem.

[...]

Gallia Lindenstrauss, a senior research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) at Tel Aviv University, explained that Turkey's unwillingness to openly associate with the full span of the Hamas organization is not new.

"Turkey emphasizes the difference between Hamas's political wing and Hamas's military wing and has claimed over the years that it has tried to moderate Hamas and facilitate political dialogue among the Palestinians. If Turkey will now host the headquarters of Hamas, it will make it harder for Ankara to claim that it only supports Hamas's political wing," Lindenstrauss told JNS.

She further explained that this outward appearance can sometimes be duplicitous. "Already, Israel has found evidence of the involvement of Hamas operatives residing in Turkey in terrorist activity aimed at harming Israelis," she said.

[...]

While Hamas may view a move to Turkey as a soft landing in a safe harbor, for Ankara, accepting Hamas would be a risky and multifaceted move in a complex geopolitical game. According to experts, there are many factors influencing Turkey's decision.⁰ First and foremost, Turkey is interested in Hamas's survival as a potential ally. "Turkey does not want to see the Oct. 7 war end with Hamas being eliminated, and hence, it is willing to assist it now," said Lindenstrauss.

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