

IDF Action against Terrorist Hubs in Jenin

Background:

Recently, Israel has experienced a sharp rise in terrorist attacks against its citizens which caused the death and injury of many civilians. Since the beginning of the year, 29 people have been murdered (including a Palestinian from Gaza who was killed in May by a Palestinian rocket while working in Israel) and more than 270 people have been injured during terror attacks. This rise is the result of a strategic decision by the terrorist organizations to escalate attacks, particularly in Jerusalem and Judea & Samaria.

There has been a sharp increase in the scope of the attacks emerging from Judea & Samaria in general, and from Jenin in particular. The number of attacks that originated in the district of Jenin has increased drastically and consistently over the past few years, and today the Jenin area is responsible for more terror attack than any other district in the West Bank.

The Jenin refugee camp section of the district, which houses 10,000 residents in a very densely populated area, has become a breeding ground for terrorism and a center for directing terror activity. Various terrorist organizations operate a network of surveillance and operation centers, alongside workshops for the production of explosives, some of them underground. This terrorist infrastructure is located close to the civilian population.

The terrorist organizations are taking advantage of the unstable governance of the Palestinian Authority (PA). Fatah members, who are sometimes linked to the PA, are even involved in some forms of terrorism and incitement.

On 26 June, two rockets were launched from the city of Jenin, the first since the Second Intifada. These rockets were launched by Hamas affiliated parties. Although the rockets in question were homemade and the launches were not successful (they landed within PA territory), they reflect an ongoing effort by terrorist organizations operating in northern Samaria and Jenin to upgrade their weapons and boost their efforts to produce explosives and rockets. An IDF and Border Patrol operation (19 June) to arrest terrorists in Jenin prior to the rocket launches was met with heavy fire and a large number of explosive devices were launched at the forces, while during their exit from the city, a vehicle was damaged by a pre-positioned IED. In support of the rescue operation, IDF helicopters provided live fire support against the attackers after they were identified.

As a result of the aforementioned escalation, Israeli security forces have launched an extensive effort to thwart terrorist activity in the area of Jenin, alongside its ongoing counterterrorism actions in Judea & Samaria. Among the measures taken, a site used as a unified military base for different terrorist factions, which was built near a clinic and school, was targeted. This position provided the infrastructure for terrorist activity, and was employed as an observation and communication center, as well as for organizing and arming terrorists with explosives and guns, and as a shelter for persons wanted for terror attacks in the area.

All of the IDF's actions are being carried out in a precise manner and Israel is making a conscious effort to avoid damage to the local quality of life or harm to uninvolved civilians. Israel has avoided carrying out large-scale actions in this area for a long time, however, as a result of the continuous increase in the scope of terrorist activity and the absence of another actor who is willing to deal with the reality that has arisen, Israel has no choice but to act forcefully to eradicate the hubs of terrorism.

Messages:

The current wave of terrorism is the result of ongoing incitement by the entire Palestinian system, in particular the promotion and direction of terrorism in Judea & Samaria by Iran, Hamas, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ).

The PIJ and Hamas terrorist organizations are taking advantage of the Palestinian Authority's inadequate governance and the PA's refusal to act against terrorist elements and their entrenchment in Judea & Samaria. The IDF was left with no choice but to enter and operate in the problematic areas to prevent additional attacks against Israel.

The Jenin refugee camp has become a terrorism stronghold and a safe haven for terrorists, where advanced weapons such as rockets, powerful explosives, and explosive drones are developed and used, and from which attacks against Israeli civilians are carried out. Terrorist organizations transfer money and weapons to the camp and draft unemployed young people into service in exchange for money. Additionally, Fatah members, who are sometimes linked to the PA, have been increasingly involved in terrorism and incitement.

Israel has been taking action against terrorism throughout all of Judea & Samaria for a long time, and now, in light of the entrenchment of terrorist organizations in the Jenin refugee camp, the security forces have begun targeted action against the terrorist infrastructure and terrorists located there.

The security forces are operating in a targeted manner against armed terrorists and they are taking strict precautions to try and avoid causing harm to the civilian population. The terrorists - who deliberately act in close proximity to sensitive sites and from within civilian areas with the intention of exploiting their residents as human shields - are the ones who endanger the local population.

Great efforts are being invested in preserving daily routines for all residents of Judea & Samaria during the security forces' activities in Jenin. Accordingly, the entry of Palestinian laborers into Israel continues and routine civilian activity throughout Judea & Samaria is being maintained.

Israel calls on the international community to strongly condemn Palestinian terrorism and the Palestinian Authority's deliberate neglect of incitement, especially expressions of support from PA officials for terrorist attacks and the payments the PA makes to the attackers and their families.

The international community must put pressure on the Palestinian Authority to fulfil its duty to maintain calm on the ground, thwart terrorist attacks, and prevent incitement and disinformation. It should demand that the Palestinians root out violence and incitement from within and refrain from taking steps that destabilize the area.

Israel will continue to take a strong and uncompromising stance against terrorism in all its forms in order to ensure the safety and security of its citizens. The IDF and other security forces are acting with determination against terrorist elements and will locate every attacker.

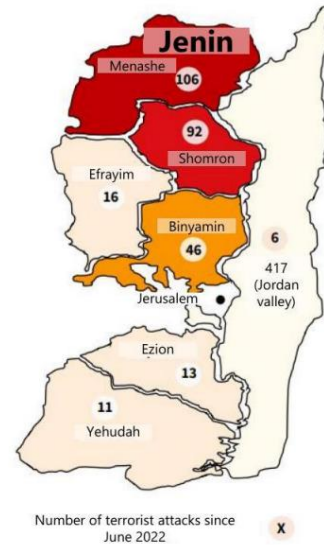
2022-2023 in Judea & Samaria – a Wave of Terrorist Activity

During the last year, a wave of terror attacks threatened to destabilize the Palestinian Arena

The attacks included shooting, stabbing, car-ramming, infiltrating settlements & planting explosives

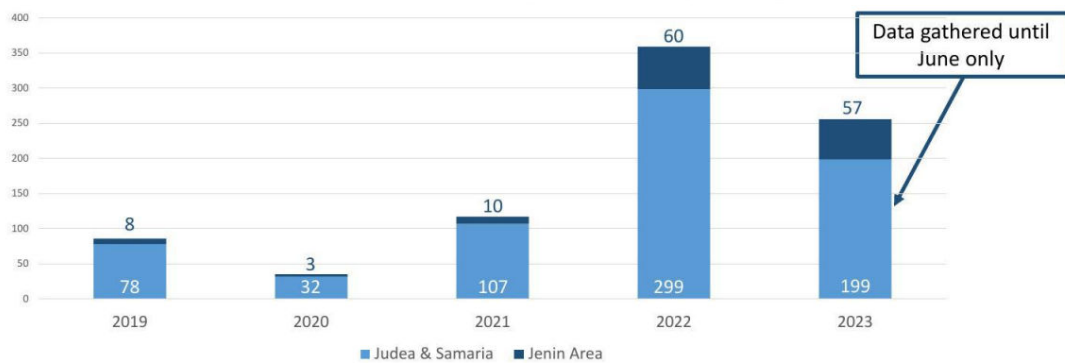
52 people were killed in those attacks between June 2022 – June 2023

Terror attacks carried from or in the Jenin area claimed 15 lives



Jenin – a Unique Terrorist “Hotspot”

Terrorist Attacks in Recent Years – Shooting, Car-Ramming, Stabbing, IEDs



The scale of terrorist activities in or from the Jenin area is disproportionately large in relation to its size and population

Marked in red: Palestinian terror hub, in the heart of Jenin, embedded among schools and medical centers.

Used as an armament of weapons and explosives and to coordinate attacks against Israeli civilians.



Marked in red: underground command center operated by Islamic Jihad beneath a Mosque

Underground Observation Post Located Beneath a Mosque

Israeli security forces targeted an underground observation command & control center, operated by the Islamic Jihad.

The site was also used as a storage for weapons and explosives, composing a crucial role in the terrorists' abilities to operate throughout the Camp.

The underground site is located under a mosque, in a main street in Al-Damj neighborhood, putting its worshippers innocent residents in constant risk

