



Members of Palestinian terrorist organizations and security apparatuses of the Palestinian Authority, as well as their collaborators, use Palestinian Red Crescent ambulances, vehicles of international organizations and internationally recognized documents to evade thorough searches at the IDF checkpoints.

All the privileges granted to these Palestinians at the checkpoints are exploited in attempts to smuggle Palestinian terrorists and various explosive devices, thereby facilitating the perpetration of terrorist activities (including suicide bombing attacks) against Israel.



An intensive care ambulance carrying the acronym of the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), delivering an explosive belt found underneath a stretcher on which a sick child was lying (March 27, 2002). The ambulance driver, a wanted terrorist and member of the Fatah-Tanzim organization, revealed to his Israeli interrogators that the explosive belt and other arms found in the ambulance were handed over to him by a Tanzim operative in the Samaria region, to be delivered to other Tanzim operatives in Ramallah

Overview

- As recently as November 2003, an attempt at using an **ambulance** for terrorist purposes was again exposed in the Palestinian Authority administered territories. The ambulance was carrying chemicals intended for the Hamas infrastructure in **Nablus** , for the **preparation of explosives** .

- This was yet **another example** of the way Palestinian terrorist organizations and security apparatuses of the Palestinian Authority **have misused**, during the Palestinian-Israeli violent conflict, **emergency vehicles and cars belonging to international bodies, to smuggle wanted terrorists, deliver arms and explosives and perpetrate terrorist activities against Israel** . In addition, several cases of using medical and UN documents, as well as medical uniforms, and even of recruiting medical staff to collaborate in Palestinian terrorist activity, were uncovered.
- Indeed, on many occasions during the violent conflict, the Palestinian terrorist organizations have attempted to **exploit the freedom of passage through Israeli army checkpoints** granted to the users of ambulances and other emergency vehicles as well as to the users of vehicles belonging to international bodies. In this way, they tried to **evade the searches** performed at the Israeli military checkpoints for the detection of wanted terrorists and explosive materials. Palestinian terrorists have also been hiding in hospitals, assuming that the Israeli army would refrain from entering these institutions. They have also been using hospital grounds to launch Qassam missiles targeted at Israel proper, and even placed explosive charges around hospitals, as a means of deterring the Israeli security forces from searching them.

The following are some conspicuous examples:

The use of ambulances to supply chemicals for the preparation of explosives to the Hamas infrastructure in Nablus (November 2003)

- **Rashed Tareq Rashed Agha Nimr** , a Palestinian from the village of Hawara, was arrested on November 24, 2003. Nimr, the nephew of the wife of PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi, studied in Germany and holds a Ph.D. in chemistry. He worked at hospitals in **Nablus** and **Bethlehem** , and exploited his position to lend assistance to the terrorist activity of Hamas.



Dr. Rashed Nimr - a Palestinian chemistry expert who used an ambulance to deliver chemicals to Hamas for the preparation of an explosive charge

- During his interrogation by the Israeli General Security Services, Nimr confessed to having **served as a supplier of chemicals to the operational arm of Hamas in Nablus** , taking advantage of the accessibility of these materials in the hospital where he was employed. In other words, **chemicals originally intended for civilian health care landed instead in the hands of the Hamas infrastructure in Nablus, to serve as bomb-making materials** .
- Nimr also told his interrogators that he used an **ambulance** in order to transport two **hydrogen peroxide containers to the premises of the ambulance operating company in Nablus** . There the containers were delivered to **Sa'id Kutab, a Hamas operative in Nablus** , who took them to his home. Hydrogen peroxide is known to serve as raw material for the **preparation of improvised TATP-type explosive, as used by Hamas in numerous devastating attacks that caused dozens of Israeli casualties** .
- Nimr also made inquiries with a gold merchant in **Bethlehem** about the acquisition of **nitric acid** and **sulfuric acid** . He had been assigned by Hamas operative Sa'id Kutab two days before his arrest, to help acquire these two chemicals. Nitric acid and sulfuric acid are commonly used for the preparation of **nitroglycerin (a liquid type of explosive)** . Nimr told his Hamas operator that upon locating the requested materials in Bethlehem, he would dispatch them **by ambulance** to Nablus.

Palestinian suicide terrorist youth using an ambulance on his way to perpetrate a suicide bombing attack against Israel, accompanied by a female Palestinian collaborator (May 2003)

- On May 8, 2003 a Palestinian young man named 'Amer Nayef 'Amer Hilwan and his female companion, Zuhur Hamdan, were arrested on their way to perpetrate a suicide bombing attack in Petah Tikva (a city east of Tel-Aviv). Under interrogation, Hilwan admitted that both had passed across the IDF checkpoints through the use of an ambulance (which was not checked at the time). He also added that his female companion had carried the explosive belt (to be used by him for the attack), assuming (correctly) that she would not be subjected to body search as well.

“Creative thinking” on a Hamas website about the use of emergency vehicles for terrorist purposes (May 2003)

- On May 19, 2003, two surfers visiting the **Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades** website suggested using **emergency vehicles** to perpetrate terrorist bombing attacks. The following is the main concept, as formulated by one of the surfers: “I have a suggestion which will help our brothers at the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades increase the number of casualties among the Zionist enemy... Why not take advantage of the Jews' avoidance of searching Palestinian **ambulances and fire brigade [vehicles]** , fill them with **explosives** and drive them in high speed, as they are unlikely to arouse any suspicion... or else, hijack a **Zionist ambulance** from the 1948 territories [i.e. Israel], pack it with explosives and drive it into restaurants or cafés [where they will be blown up]?”

Using a car with EU emblems to transport arms and explosives (March 2003)

- During a raid launched on March 25, 2003 in search of wanted Palestinian terrorists, an alleged **EU** car – carrying EU insignia and diplomatic license plates [guaranteeing that it will not be searched by Israeli checkpoint soldiers] – was apprehended in Ramallah. Investigation revealed that this was not a diplomatic vehicle, and that the insignia and license plates had been **forged** . Both of the car's occupants were arrested.
- The suspects' interrogation revealed that they had intended to use the car to transport arms and explosives from **Nablus** to **Ramallah** , or alternatively, to serve as a **car bomb on Israeli territory** . The car, a Suzuki Baleno, was confiscated by the Israeli security forces.



A Suzuki Baleno carrying EU insignia, which was intended to serve terrorist purposes

Using an ambulance of the Palestinian Red Crescent to deliver an explosive belt and explosive devices (March 2003)

- On March 27, 2002, an intensive care **ambulance** carrying a wanted terrorist, an **explosive belt** and **explosive devices** was intercepted at an Israeli army checkpoint south of Ramallah. The explosive belt was found hidden underneath a stretcher on which a Palestinian sick child was lying. Also present during the incident were the sick child's relatives – a man, a woman and three children. The driver was **Islam Jibril**, a Fatah-Tanzim operative and **wanted terrorist, who was employed as ambulance driver for the Palestinian Red Crescent**. **During his interrogation, Jibril admitted having received the bombing devices from Mahmud al-Titi**, with the assignment to deliver them to other **Fatah-Tanzim** operatives in Ramallah. Titi, himself a **Fatah-Tanzim** operative from Samaria, closely linked to **Marwan Barghuti** (head of the Palestinian Fatah-Tanzim organization in the West Bank at the time) and active in the Palestinian Preventive Security apparatus, has already been involved in shooting and bombing attacks in the Nablus region.
- Among the documents seized during IDF's Operation Defensive Shield (April 2002) is a report by the Palestinian **General Security** to Tawfiq al-Tirawi, Director of the Palestinian General Intelligence (apparatus) in Gaza (March 27, 2002). The report mentions the above ambulance incident, along with the assumption that the entire incident is an "Israeli set-up". However, a handwritten note at the bottom of the report states that "**there is information indicating** that behind the affair is **al-Titi from the Preventive Security**, [the person] through whom 50,000 Israeli shekels are being paid as(?) bonuses(?) to these [sic!] squads of the Preventive Security".



Handwritten note:
"There is information indicating that behind the affair is al-Titi from the [Palestinian] Preventiv Security..."

A report by the Palestinian General Security mentioning an incident in which an ambulance as used to smuggle explosives and a wanted terrorist (March 27, 2002; for translation of the document – see Appendix)

The following are some additional pictures taken at the incident in which an intensive care ambulance was apprehended while carrying a wanted terrorist and an explosive belt (see also the front page of this bulletin):



Unloading the explosive belt



A close-up of the explosive belt



Safe detonation of the explosive belt outside the ambulance

The use of medical documents of the Palestinian Red Crescent (and possibly also a Red Crescent vehicle) to perpetrate a car suicide bombing attack in Jerusalem (January 2002)

- A blatant example of misusing **medical documents** – and possibly also a medical vehicle – of the Palestinian Red Crescent for terrorist purposes is the **suicide bombing attack** of January 27, 2002 on Jaffa Street, Jerusalem. In this attack, **one Israeli civilian was killed and 127 were wounded** . The suicide bomber was **Wafa Idris** , a women terrorist from the Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah, **who was employed as medical secretary for the Palestinian Red Crescent. Wafa Idris became a role model following the suicide bombing attack which she perpetrated and in which she found her death** .
- Investigation of the suicide bombing by the Israeli security forces revealed that Wafa Idris was recruited by **Muhammad Hababa** , a **Fatah-Tanzim operative** from the village of Beit Ikksa in the Ramallah region. Hababa **was employed as ambulance driver for the Palestinian Red Crescent** . Evidence also pointed to the involvement of **Munzer Nur** from the village of Anabta near Tulkarm. Nur **was employed by the Red Crescent in Ramallah as well** . It appears that **Palestinian Red Crescent documents** held by the woman terrorist and her assistants, and possibly also a **Red Crescent vehicle** , helped them pass through the Israeli army's checkpoints, and **eased the security checks performed by the Israeli soldiers**.

Hamas uses medical staff to assist in the infiltration of suicide terrorists into Israeli territory (June 2002)

- In June 2002, Israeli security forces arrested **Dr. Amjad 'Izzat Hassan Mustafa, MD** , a **general practitioner at the Al-Ghazi Hospital in Jenin** . Dr. Amjad had been recruited by a military cell of **Hamas** in Jenin for the **smuggling of suicide terrorists** to Baqa al-Sharqiyya, and from there to the adjoining Baqa al-Gharbiyya, a village near the "seam line" ¹ . It is worth noting that the **Al-Ghazi Hospital in Jenin** is owned by the local Charity Committee, an integral part of the civilian infrastructure of **Hamas** in Jenin.

¹ A term describing the area adjacent to the pre-1967 border between Israel and the West Bank.

- Dr. Amjad confessed during interrogation to having escorted two suicide terrorists on June 17, 2002 to Baqa al-Sharqiyya, **on his way to deliver medicines** . From there, the two terrorists intended to penetrate into **Israeli territory** to carry out a suicide bombing attack. Dr. Amjad traveled by taxi while the terrorists were driving a car behind him, and made sure that the road was clear. The terrorists eventually called off the attack on account of Israeli forces operating in the area, and returned to the Palestinian Authority administered territories.

Other examples of using ambulances to smuggle terrorists and explosives

- **On November 26, 2002** , a **Fatah-Tanzim** operative from Ramallah by the name of **Muhammad Yussuf al-Salqan** was arrested. He admitted under questioning to having engaged in **smuggling explosive devices by means of ambulances** . Salqan was about to transport an **explosive belt** from the Samaria region to Ramallah.
- In **March 2002** , several wanted terrorists from **Ramallah** used **ambulances** to move from one place to another while carrying arms. They **wore medical uniforms** and some of them hid in various departments of the **town's hospitals** . On July 1, 2002, several Fatah-Tanzim operatives moved around **Nablus** using ambulances. On June 30, 2002, ambulances of the Sheikh Zaid Hospital in **Ramallah** transported wanted terrorists to and from various places in the town.
- In **October 2001** , Israeli security forces arrested **Nidal Abd al-Fattah Abdallah Nazzal** , a **Hamas** operative from **Qalqilya** . Nidal Nazzal, the brother of Nasser Nazzal, a senior member of Hamas in Qalqilya, was employed as **ambulance driver for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)** . He confessed during interrogation to having delivered **arms and explosives to terrorists** , and used his freedom of movement as ambulance driver to **transfer messages between Hamas headquarters in various Palestinian towns** .

Using UNRWA vehicles and UN documents to facilitate terrorist acts (January 2002; June /July 2002)

- **Nahed Rashid Ahmed Attalah** , from Jibaliya in the Gaza Strip, was employed for UNWRA since 1987 and was in charge of the food supplies provided by the local UNRWA bureau to the Gaza Strip refugees. Attalah had at his disposal a UN vehicle, a white Fiat Punto marked with the letters UN. He also carried a **free travel permit (laissez-passer) of the UN, no. 80340** . Attalah made **recurrent use** of both the UN car and travel permit to lend assistance to **terrorist activity in the Gaza Strip** against Israel (see below), while maintaining contacts with **senior terrorist operatives belonging to the Palestinian Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) in Lebanon** .



A page of the UN laissez-passer used by Attalah to enter Syria and Lebanon for the purpose of contacting PFLP operatives

- Nahed Atallah was eventually arrested and tried. He confessed to having **used his UN car on several occasions** to transport **arms and explosives** , and drive **terrorists** on their way to perpetrate terrorist attacks and back from the site where the attacks took place. Following are some details:
 - **In late June 2002** , Nahed Attalah drove two operatives of the **Palestinian Resistance Committees** (a militant faction of the Fatah whose terrorist activity centers mainly in the Gaza Strip) to the nearby **Karni region** . Both terrorists were armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles, and they intended to carry out a shooting attack against an Israeli army base. The attack eventually did not take place (due to operational considerations) and Nahed Attalah drove the two terrorists back home in his **UN car** .
 - **In late June 2002** , Nahed Attalah drove two operatives of the **Palestinian Resistance Committees** and helped them transport a **gas container** for the purpose of perpetrating a terrorist attack. (**Note** : this may refer either to an empty gas container subsequently filled with explosive material, or to a gas container filled with regular cooking gas, which would be added to an **explosive charge** in order to create a thermal effect.)
- **In late July 2002** , Nahed Attalah drove two operatives of the **Palestinian Resistance Committees** to the Beit Lahiya area (north of Gaza Strip), where they intended to perpetrate a terrorist attack. They had in their possession three RPG rockets and three gray-colored plastic pipes (**Note** : the description suggests that they were apparently using locally manufactured improvised rocket launchers, with the RPG ammunition possibly serving as improvised rockets). Nahed Attalah dropped his passengers at their destination, and was instructed to await their call when they finished what they had been assigned to do. Half an hour later, he returned to the spot in his **UN car** and brought the two terrorists home, after being told that they completed their mission.
- Nahed Attalah explained to his interrogators that operatives of the **Palestinian Resistance Committees** had repeatedly asked him to use his **UN car** for their transportation, since the **Israeli army does not perform security checks on this type of vehicle**; hence, it can move around freely.

- Nahed Attalah also admitted having used his **UN laissez-passer** to travel to **Egypt, Lebanon and Syria** . There he established contacts with the **PFLP terrorist organization** , in order to raise funds and transfer arms to the Gaza Strip, in support of the **Palestinian Resistance Committees** . During his stay in Lebanon (January 2002), he met with **Samih Rizq aka Abu Rami, a senior operative of the PFLP** . The latter, according to the indictment against him, had been involved in operating terrorists in the Gaza Strip. After Nahed Attalah's return to the Gaza Strip on January 26, 2002, he maintained ongoing contact with Abu Rami, through phone calls made once every two or three weeks and through the Internet.
- Nahed Attalah used the laissez-passer issued to him by the **UN** to facilitate his moves between the Gaza Strip, Syria and Lebanon. The UN laissez-passer is recognized throughout the world, including in Israel, as an **official document** used for the purpose of **performing official assignments on behalf of the UN and its institutions** . Hence, Nahed Attalah and his operators took advantage of the UN laissez-passer to promote contacts between the Gaza Strip and terrorist elements in Syria and Lebanon, thus **misusing the privileges afforded by the UN document**.



The above is a page of Nahed Attalah's laissez-passer, featuring the entry visa to Syria issued to him by the **Syrian Embassy in the Jordanian capital, Amman** . The visa was granted on January 2, 2002, and its validity extends over “a number of trips”. The visa is defined as “**special**” (meaning an official visa granted to him in his capacity as UN employee). Handwritten on the right-hand side of the page is the note “**UN memo [dated] 31.12.2001**”. This apparently refers to a **UN certificate** presented by Nahed Attalah to the embassy officials who granted him the visa.

Terrorists use hospitals as safe hiding places (2001 – 2003)

- Ever since the violent conflict in the Palestinian Authority administered territories broke out, **hospitals have been used time and again as safe hiding places for operatives from all the Palestinian terrorist organizations** .
- During a raid launched in Nablus by the Israeli security forces on August 8, 2003, two wanted terrorists of the Fatah-Tanzim were hit: **Khaled Amin Muhammad Namruti** was killed and **Uthman Ibrahim As'ad Yunes** was injured. Both were **hiding inside the Fatah-Tanzim headquarters located on top of the roof of the Rafidiya hospital in Nablus** , close to the operation rooms and the **maternity ward** .
- Both terrorists mentioned above had been involved in numerous attacks against Israeli civilians, including suicide bombing

attacks that killed and injured dozens of Israelis. For example, **Uthman Yunes** , a senior operative of the Fatah-Tanzim, was responsible for planning bombing, shooting and suicide bombing attacks. These include the suicide bombing at a supermarket in Rosh Ha'ayin (a city east of Tel-Aviv) on August 12, 2003, and the shooting attack in a banquet hall in Hadera (a city situated north of Tel-Aviv) on January 17, 2002.

- Additional examples of using hospital premises as safe hiding places:
 - On June 26, 2003, Israeli security forces arrested **U mar Hamdan Ahmad Abu Snena** from the Abu Snena neighborhood in Hebron, a senior operative of Fatah-Tanzim who also was employed for the Palestinian General Intelligence. He confessed to having engaged in dozens of terrorist attacks against the Israeli army, involving gunfire and roadside bombs and resulting in the killing and wounding of Israeli soldiers. He admitted under interrogation that, in early 2002, he **placed explosive charges all around Al-Mizan Hospital** (a private hospital in Hebron owned by the local Qawasmeh family) **where he was hiding** from the Israeli armed forces
 - **'Imad 'Issa Ibrahim Hammoud** , a resident of Bethlehem who served in the Ramallah-based “ **Force 17** ” (the personal security force for Yasser Arafat), surrendered himself to the Israeli army during Operation Defensive Shield (April 2002). He admitted under interrogation that he had participated in numerous shooting attacks against the Israeli army, and had agreed to perpetrate a suicide bombing attack. He also confessed to having once, in 2001, found refuge at the **Al-Mustaqbal** hospital, a private medical institution in Ramallah. From there, together with three of his associates, he had **shot fire** on an Israeli tank that was moving in their direction.

Launching Qassam missiles from hospital grounds (October 2003)

- On October 20 and 21, 2003, Hamas operatives launched Qassam missiles from the **Muhammad al-Dura Hospital complex** , located in the Tuffah neighborhood in Gaza. The missiles were directed towards the nearby Israeli town of Sderot and Kibbutz Sa'ad.

A poster published by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad testifying to the use of an ambulance (laden with explosives) to carry out a terrorist attack

- In December 1993, **Anwar Abdallah Abd al-Karim Aziz** , a **Palestinian Islamic Jihad** operative from the Jibaliya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, drove an ambulance with the intention of perpetrating a terrorist attack. Stolen from the Beit Lahiya Charity Association in the Gaza Strip, the ambulance **was loaded with 48 kg of explosives** , clearly intended to be used for a **suicide bombing attack** . While being chased by Israeli security forces, the ambulance crashed into a military jeep, killing the ambulance driver and wounding three Israeli soldiers. However, the explosives did not blow up.
- A **poster of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyyah** (i.e., “the Islamic Group”, the students' movement of the **Palestinian Islamic Jihad**) **seized** during the IDF's Operation Defensive Shield, features a picture of the terrorist Anwar Aziz (as shown below). In this context, it should be noted that a yard in Gaza, bearing his picture and named after him, is being used for rallies by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.



The photograph of **Anwar Aziz** on a poster commemorating the martyrs of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. The legend reads: “ **Anwar Aziz – a suicide bombing attack [meant to be perpetrated by Anwar Aziz through the use of] an ambulance** ”. It testifies that the Palestinian Islamic Jihad organization does not shy away from admitting the use of an ambulance by one of its operatives for terrorist purposes

Appendix

Translation from Arabic of a document seized during the IDF's Operation Defensive Shield, April 2002

Palestinian National Authority
General Intelligence
[emblem]

Palestinian General Security
General Intelligence
Directorate of the West Bank Districts

In handwriting:

[For] follow-up and
[additional] information

Serial Number: 18

Date: March 27, 2002

In handwriting:

For the information of (?)
our Brother, the Director

To our Distinguished Brother, Director of the Palestinian General Intelligence in the West Bank [i.e., Tawfiq al-Tirawi]

Greetings,

Islam Jibril from the Balata [refugee] camp [near Nablus], an ambulance driver for the Palestinian Red Crescent [Society], was caught [while driving the ambulance] on the Jaba – al-Ram road [north of Jerusalem]. The Israelis allege that he was in possession of explosives. [Consequently,] the road was closed [to traffic]. After two hours, the car [i.e., the ambulance] was towed away by the Israeli defense forces. Then a blast was heard, and according to Israeli allegation, explosives that had been in the driver's possession were blown up [by the Israelis].

We should keep in mind that the Israeli Supreme Court has requested clarification from the Israeli army regarding the incidents of opening fire [by the Israelis] on Palestinian ambulances, and has [even] fixed a deadline of five days [only] for response. It is likely that the incident is an Israeli set-up.

For your information,

The Director of [the Palestinian General] Intelligence [Bureau] in Jerusalem
(-)

The bottom of the memo features a handwritten note by a person who read the memo (possibly prior to its being sent to al-Tirawi, the Director of the Palestinian General Intelligence in the West Bank), and commented as follows:

“There is **information** [underlined in the original note] indicating that behind the affair is [Mahmoud] al-Titi from the [Palestinian] Preventive Security, [the person] through whom 50,000 Israeli shekels are being paid as(?) bonuses(?) to these [sic!] squads of the [Palestinian] Preventive Security.”

