



Exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies for terror activities

Table of contents

Terrorist attempts to infiltrate Israel under the cover of medical permits	2
Prominent examples of terrorist exploitation of medical permits in order to infiltrate Israel....	4
Exploitation of medical facilities and vehicles to carry out terror activities.....	11
Prominent examples of the exploitation of medical facilities and vehicles in carrying out terror attacks	12



Exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies for terror activities

Terrorist attempts to infiltrate Israel under the cover of medical permits

The buffer zone in the Gaza Strip, alongside security forces' checks and prevention procedures, create a significant obstacle for terror organizations attempting to bring terrorists from the Gaza strip into Israel.

Over the past few years there has been a growing trend in the number of cases in which Palestinian terrorist elements have attempted to overcome this obstacle by bringing in terrorists intending to carry out attacks, as well as terror activists, via the existing border crossings into Israel under the cover of their being sick people in need of medical treatment, and thus exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies regarding the provision of medical treatment to those in need of it.

These efforts are carried out in three primary ways:

1. **Locating and recruiting Palestinians authentically in need of medical assistance.** In certain cases, individuals are recruited after having received an entry permit into Israel and having proved to the terrorist elements that they are able to enter Israel legally; in other cases, they acquire the permit with the aid of terror activists.
2. **Forging medical permits or receiving authentic permits under false pretences or bribery.** For this purpose, terror organizations use their connections with Palestinians in the establishment, such as doctors or administration workers in hospitals in the Gaza Strip, who provide such permits in return for bribes or as a result of the threats of terrorist activists.
3. **Exploiting visit permits to Israel issued to relatives of patients hospitalized in Israel.**

The activities of the security forces to counter such attempts has prevented many terror activities and attacks, including suicide attacks in Israel, shooting attacks and the setting of explosive devices, as well as the foiling of attempts of explosives experts from the Gaza Strip to infiltrate Israel in to upgrade the abilities of terror organizations in Judea and Samaria and to establish further terror cells.



Exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies for terror activities

It is important to note that over the past few years there has been a growing trend in which female suicide bombers attempt to infiltrate Israel under the cover of medical needs, under the assumption that women can more easily receive entry permits and can enter Israel without raising suspicion.



Exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies for terror activities

Prominent examples of terrorist exploitation of medical permits in order to infiltrate Israel

May 2007- the arrest of two female suicide bombers at the Erez border crossing. The two received authentic entry permits to Israel by means of false medical cover, and planned to carry out a double suicide attack in Tel Aviv and Netanya

Fatmeh Zaq, 39 years old, a resident of the Gaza Strip, a mother of eight and pregnant with her ninth child and her niece **Rawda Habib**, 30 years old, a resident of the Gaza Strip and a mother of four, were arrested on 20/05/2007 at the Erez border crossing, and admitted in their ISA interrogation to have planned on carrying out a double suicide attack in Tel Aviv and Netanya, which was masterminded by Islamic Jihad activists from the Gaza strip. The terror attacks were to be held in a restaurant, convention center or a place with a large concentration of soldiers.

In order for them to enter Israel, one of the Islamic Jihad activists obtained authentic entry permits under false medical cover, claiming that Habib needed to undergo a medical examination in a hospital in Ramallah and Zaq was accompanying her. The activist also instructed the two to arrive at the hospital to carry out the examination, and thus to validate their cover story.

Following the medical exam the two were to inform the activists in the Gaza Strip, and were promised that a representative from the organization would meet them in Ramallah, provide them with explosive belts and would take them to the locations for the attack.

Prior to departing for Israel the two were trained in detonation of the explosive belts and Zaq even underwent training with a Kalashnikov. The two were also briefed on how to dress on the day of the attack so as not to raise suspicion when arriving at the location of the attack.

* * *



Exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies for terror activities

September 2006 – the arrest of a National Resistance Committee activist at the Erez border crossing. He had received an entry permit to Israel for humanitarian reasons due to the medical problems from which he suffered, and planned to exploit this permit in order to set up terror cells in the West Bank.

Jabar Hasan Jaber Darabeih, a resident of the Gaza Strip born in 1963, admitted in his ISA interrogation that he was recruited during 2006 by the National Resistance Committee organization and that he was to set up terror cells for the organization in the West Bank in order to carry out attacks against Israel.

In order to carry out this plan, the activists exploited Darabeih's medical condition to obtain an authentic entry permit for medical treatment in Israel, which would allow him to arrive at the West Bank in order to carry out his mission.

For this reason, Darabeih requested medical permits indicating his health condition, in order to obtain entry permits to Israel for medical treatment. He was arrested upon his arrival at the Erez border crossing on September 28, 2006.

* * *

June 2005 – the arrest of a female suicide bomber wearing an explosive belt, at the Erez border crossing. She was entering Israel for the purpose of medical follow-up.

On June 20, 2005, **Wafa' Samir Ibrahim Bass** was arrested at the Erez border crossing while wearing an explosive belt. She was a 21 years old resident of Jabalya. During her security check, she aroused suspicion, to which she reacted by attempting to detonate the explosive belt she was wearing. **During her ISA interrogation she claimed she was sent as a suicide attacker by the Fatah / Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades infrastructure in the north of the Gaza strip, exploiting the entry permits issued to her for medical reasons. She was to arrive at Soroka hospital in Be'er-Sheva for a medical follow up, after having been hospitalized there previously**



Exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies for terror activities

(December 2004 – January 2005) for treatment of severe burns caused by the explosion of a gas canister. **She was instructed by the terrorist infrastructure to carry out the attack in a hospital in Israel, in a location full of people.**

* * *

March 2005 – the arrest of a Hamas activist, a Gaza Strip resident, who planned to carry out a suicide attack in Israel after arriving at the West Bank under the medical cover of being a potential kidney donor.

Muhammad Subhi Abd al-Mu'ti Bahisi a 26 year old Hamas activist residing in Dir al-Balah, stated in his ISA interrogation that he was able to leave the Gaza Strip after beginning a medical process with his acquaintance, an Israeli Arab, to whom he agreed to donate a kidney. **Bahisi was allowed to leave the Gaza Strip to evaluate his compatibility for kidney donation since he was registered as a resident of Judea and Samaria. He was granted a one day permit for medical examinations and was to be escorted by security or in an ambulance.** He departed from the Gaza Strip for Qalandya on March 7, 2005 with a permit stating that he was moving to the West Bank both because of his medical needs, as well as in light of the fact that he was registered as a Qalandya resident in his ID.

Bahisi stated in his interrogation that the day before his departure, when he realized that he had received a general entry permit to the West Bank and not just a one day permit for medical examinations, he informed Hamas activists in the Gaza Strip about the permit. The activists instructed him to contact them about four months after his arrival in the West Bank – after finding a place to live without raising suspicion, and that afterwards, **they would send him an explosive belt in order to carry out a suicide attack.**

* * *



Exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies for terror activities

December 2004 – the arrest of a Hamas activist who was able to enter Israel through the Erez border crossing by using medical permits, with the intention of carrying out a suicide attack

On December 20, 2004, Hammad Abd al-Karim Hammad Abu-Lihye, born in 1981 and a resident of the Jabalya refugee camp, was arrested in Baqa al-Gharbiyya. Abu Lihye had been identified as a Hamas terrorist who had infiltrated Israel in order to carry out a suicide attack.

Abu Lihye admitted in his ISA interrogation that he **infiltrated Israel as a Hamas “sleeper” terrorist in August 2004 via the Erez border crossing, using a humanitarian case cover story, as well as documents alleging that he was a cancer victim in need of medical treatment in a hospital in central Israel.**

The plan was for an additional attacker to join him, and for the two to be provided with weapons in Israel by contacts.

*** * ***

December 2004 – the arrest of two terrorists of the Al-Aqsa Martyr Brigades who attempted to infiltrate Israel through the Egypt-Israel-Gaza border after entering Egypt using medical permits.

In early December 2004 two terrorists of the Al-Aqsa Martyr Brigades from the Gaza Strip, Hasan Ahmad 'Ali Tum and Muhammad Diab Nimr Ja'rur, were arrested, while attempting to infiltrate Israel for the purpose of carrying out terror attacks.

Hasan Tum entered Egypt through the Rafiah border crossing, **after presenting medical permits showing he was to undergo medical treatment in Egypt.** He was arrested on December 12, 2004, following pursuit, after he infiltrated the Negev area from Egypt. During his ISA interrogation he admitted that **the purpose of his entry to Israel was to murder an Israeli citizen and to bury the body in order to enable Fatah elements in the Gaza strip to negotiate for the release of Fatah prisoners.** The interrogation also revealed that Tum intended to sabotage train tracks in the Netanya area by placing explosive devices on them. He was



Exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies for terror activities

to receive the devices from the Fatah infrastructure in Judea and Samaria. About a week prior to his arrest, Muhammad Ja'rur was arrested at the Rafiah border crossing, while attempting to exit Egypt. During his ISA interrogation, he admitted that he had entered Egypt in order to meet Hasan Tum, and from there, to infiltrate the Israeli border in order to carry out terror attacks.

* * *

September 2004 – the arrest of a female terrorist sent by the Al-Aqsa Martyr Brigades infrastructure in the Gaza strip, following medical treatment she received in a hospital in Israel.

Suhad Fawzi Nimr Aslan, a 35 year old single woman residing in the Maghazi refugee camp in the Gaza strip, who was burned as a child as a result of the explosion of a gas container.

During her ISA interrogation, she said that 'Odeh Mahmud 'Odeh Abu Samra, an Al-Aqsa Martyr Brigades activist, requested to **send her for plastic surgery in Al- Makassed hospital in Jerusalem and to exploit her medical situation to hide an explosive belt under her bandages, and to send her on a suicide attack in Jerusalem.** Abu Samra instructed Aslan to obtain a medical document from the al-Makassed hospital certifying that she had an appointment for a medical examination in the hospital, in order to arrange her entry permit to Israel. Aslan obtained the requested document and after her petition was denied she obtained a document in English regarding her medical condition. After her petition was denied at the Erez border crossing for the second time, she obtained an appointment form for the hospital. About a month after the beginning of their attempts to receive an entry permit to Israel due to her medical condition, Aslan received the desired permit.

Aslan departed in August in order to undergo the surgery al-Makassed hospital in Jerusalem. She was operated upon and was hospitalized until September 2, 2004. She remained in the hospital for five additional days after Abu Samra instructed her **not to return to the Gaza strip but to wait in the hospital for the purpose of carrying out a terrorist attack, and until he**



Exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies for terror activities

sent someone to lead her to the attack location. Aslan was arrested by the security forces before she managed to carry out her plan.

* * *

August 2004 – the arrest of an Al-Aqsa Martyr Brigades activist departing for Egypt, and afterwards, to Israel, in order to carry out terror attacks. He used medical permits indicating he allegedly had testicle cancer, despite the fact that he was a healthy individual.

Nabil Maher Khalil Masri, a 22 year old single male and resident of the Jabalya refugee camp, admitted in his ISA interrogation that he planned, along with an another Al-Aqsa Brigades activist, Salem Abd al-Rahman Salem Thabet, to infiltrate into Israel using medical permits despite being completely healthy, in order to carry out a terrorist attack.

Masri stated that Thabet initially planned to smuggle him out via the Erez border crossing, employing a request to depart in order to obtain medical treatment in Israel. **Although Masri was completely healthy, Thabet managed to obtain medical documents alleging that he had testicle cancer.** Masri stated that Thabet had connections with doctors for such affairs, and that he obtained the medical documents either by bribing doctors or by threatening them. Before arriving at the Erez border crossing, Masri was to take pills that would cause people to believe that he was in need of emergency medical assistance and thus receive a permit to enter Tel-Hashomer hospital. Masri had to learn the details of his "illness" and its symptoms, in order for his cover story to seem real if he were interrogated by security forces at the border crossing. He was to inform Thabet upon his arrival at Tel-Hashomer and to wait for men to pick him up so that he could carry out the terror attack. **Thabet told Masri that he managed to smuggle a rifle from the Gaza strip to Israel and that his mission was to carry out an attack in a club in Tel-Aviv disguised as an Israeli soldier with short hair.**

In his interrogation, Masri stated that after Thabet had filed requests for medical treatment for Masri in Tel-Hashomer hospital several times and had been refused, he decided to abandon this plan.



Exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies for terror activities

Following the failure of their plan for Masri to infiltrate Israel by using medical permits to pass through the Erez border crossing, Thabet decided to attempt to employ such medical permits to bring Masri to Egypt under the cover of medical treatment, and then to infiltrate Israel through Sinai to carry out a shooting attack. In order for them to do so, Masri was required to renew his medical permits. **Masri was to depart for Egypt under the cover of medical treatment along with Khayri Abd al-Karim Muhammad Sisi, who was arrested with him.** Masri said he was instructed to wait for Khayri after arriving at the Egyptian side and he would be responsible for taking him to an apartment in Israel and leading him to the location of the attack.



Exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies for terror activities

Exploitation of medical facilities and vehicles **to carry out terror activities**

In addition to the exploitation of medical permits by terrorist organizations to bring attackers into Israel, terrorist activists attempt to use ambulances in order to smuggle weapons and attackers into Israel, in accordance with the assumption that ambulances and medical teams are not checked thoroughly at IDF crossings, as well as exploiting the directives provided to IDF soldiers on dealing with civilian population, especially children and the sick.

Terror organizations also use hospitals to camouflage terror activities and to seek sanctuary from the activities of Israeli security forces, thus risking the lives of both doctors and patients.

These terrorists, who view these facilities as "safe havens" due to Israel's humanitarian policies, have even used hospitals as bases for departing and returning from terror attacks.

Since the beginning of the confrontation with the Palestinians in September 2000, there have been many examples of such activities on the part of terror organizations.



Exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies for terror activities

Prominent examples of the exploitation of medical facilities and vehicles in carrying out terror attacks

February 2007 – the arrest of an Islamic Jihad activist in Bat Yam, after he attempted to carry out a suicide attack in Israel. He admitted that he had prepared his departure for the attack from a hospital in Jenin.

Omar Ahmad Abd al-Rahman al-Roub, a 25 year old Islamic Jihad activist from Jilaboun, in the Jenin area, was arrested in Bat-Yam in February, 20 2007, following an alert of his intention to carry out an attack in Israel. He was captured carrying an explosive bag that did not detonate due to technical problems.

The investigation of the attempted terrorist attack revealed that Al-Roub was directed by Islamic Jihad activists operating from inside the governmental hospital in Jenin, and that it was there that he was videotaped reading his will prior to his departure for the attack. He departed from the hospital in order to carry out his attack.

During his ISA interrogation, he said he joined the Islamic Jihad after he met certain wanted men, activists in the organization, during a visit to a relative hospitalized in the hospital in Jenin. During this meeting he was even photographed with the weapon of one of the men.

During al-Roub's interrogation and in additional interrogations it was discovered that the governmental hospital in Jenin is used as a safe haven for dozens of wanted men, armed Islamic Jihad and Tanzim terrorists from the north of Samaria, who store large quantities of weapons there. The hospital is also used as a base for departure point for shooting attacks on IDF forces in the area as well as for carrying out suicide attacks.

* * *

April 2006 – the arrest of a senior Tanzim wanted man who hid from the Israeli security forces in a hospital in Bethlehem.

Arafat Abu Sha'ira, one of the most wanted Tanzim terrorists in Bethlehem, was involved in operating many terror cells along with masterminding shooting



Exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies for terror activities

attacks, placing explosive devices and planning suicide attacks in Israel. **Sha'ira frequently hid in a hospital in town, on the assumption that by doing so, security forces would not reach him.**

* * *

March 2006 – The manufacturing of an explosive belt on the roof of the Rafidiya hospital in Nablus. The explosive belt was used for carrying out a suicide attack in a vehicle in Kdumim on March 30, 2006, killing four Israeli civilians

The attack was masterminded by Tanzim activists from Nablus and was carried out by **Ahmad Masharqa** a 24 year old resident of Al-Bureij in the Hebron area. He hitched a ride in the Kdumim area and blew himself up during the ride, killing himself as well as the four other passengers of the car.

* * *

August 2004 – the arrest of the military head of the Tanzim organization in Bethlehem and another senior terrorist, following a long period during which they hid out in the French hospital in Bethlehem.

Adnan Muhammad Hasan Abayat, head of the military Tanzim in Bethlehem and **Warateb Ali Hasan Nabhan**, a senior Tanzim activist in Bethlehem, were arrested in the French hospital in Bethlehem after hiding there over a long period, exploiting the fact that the facility had special status and risking the lives of the patients in the hospital. The two were assisted by the hospital's employees and **even hid weapons in the hospital** – including two Kalashnikovs, three M-16s, a machine gun and many ammunition cartridges.

* * *



Exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies for terror activities

July 2004 – the arrest of a member of the Palestinian security forces who was recruited to a Tanzim cell in Bethlehem, and was involved in bringing a booby-trapped ambulance into Jerusalem on April 2004.

Muhammad Taleb Salem Dar'awi, 20 years old, a member of the Palestinian national security apparatus from the Shawara village in the Bethlehem area, was recruited to a Tanzim cell in Bethlehem in March 2004. During his ISA interrogation, he reported that he had met **Fa'iz Fawwaz 'Id Akhras**, a member of the Palestinian national security apparatus from Rafiah and stationed in Bethlehem, during a shift in the Muqata'a in Bethlehem. Akhras, who was also active in the Tanzim, asked for **Dar'awi**'s assistance in bringing a suicide bomber with an explosive belt into Jerusalem using an ambulance, via a route that would avoid the army checkpoints between Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Dar'awi approached two Tanzim terrorists from the Bethlehem area, who were arrested a few months later, and told them that he had a booby trapped ambulance with a suicide attacker prepared to carry out a terror attack in Jerusalem. He asked for their assistance in bringing the attacker and the ambulance into Jerusalem. The plan failed about a week later when **Dar'awi** informed Akhras that he was unable to find a way to bring the ambulance into Jerusalem.

* * *

November 2003- the arrest of a doctor of chemistry, who provided the Hamas military infrastructure in Nablus with chemical substances and used ambulances to transfer the substances, through his employment in hospitals.

Rashed Tareq al-Nimr, a doctor of chemistry from Hawwara, and the nephew of Farouq al-Qaddoumi, the former head of the PLO's political division, was arrested on the 24th of November 2003. During his ISA interrogation he admitted to **operating as a supplier of chemical substances to the Hamas infrastructure in Nablus, while exploiting the access he had to such substances due to his position in hospitals in Nablus and Bethlehem.** These substances served as raw materials for the preparation of explosive



Exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies for terror activities

devices. **He stated as well that he used ambulances to transfer the chemical substances to terror activists.** He admitted to transferring two gallons of hydrogen peroxide to the offices of the ambulance company in Nablus, from where the activists picked up the substances. In a separate incident, he promised one of the activists to obtain chemical substances in Bethlehem for him, and to send them to Nablus by ambulance.

* * *

August 2003 – the arrest of the head of the military wing of the Tanzim in the Balata refugee camp and of a Hamas activist in the Rafidiya hospital in Nablus, after they established a Tanzim headquarters on the roof of the hospital.

Othman Ibrahim As'ad Yunes, born in 1977, head of the Tanzim military force in the Balata refugee camp and Wafad Bani Awda, a Hamas military activist, were both arrested on August 26, 2003 during the operation of security forces in the Rafidiya hospital in Nablus, following their establishment of the Tanzim headquarters on the roof of the hospital.

* * *

May 2003 – the arrest of a suicide bomber operating on behalf of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Nablus. He was arrested in Kalkiliya while attempting to use an ambulance to travel from Nablus to Kalkiliya in order to carry out a suicide attack in Israel.

Amer Nayef Amer Halwan, a resident of Beit Dajan in the Nablus area, born in 1985, was arrested on May 13, 2003 in Kalkiliya while on his way to carry out a suicide attack in Petah Tikva.

Halwan said in his ISA interrogation, that he attempted to leave Nablus for Kalkiliya along with **Zuher Abd Ji'an Hamdan**, a mother of eight. **After discovering that the roads were blocked, they drove to the Al-Watani Hospital and within a few hours they obtained an ambulance. They arrived at the Kalkiliya road block in the ambulance, with Zuher wearing**



Exploiting Israel's humanitarian policies for terror activities

the explosive belt; however they were not permitted to pass, due to IDF activities in the area. The next day, they met again in the hospital, intending to again use an ambulance to get through the road block, but eventually drove to Kalkiliya using regular transportation, where they were arrested.

* * *

March 2002 – the arrest of a Tanzim terrorist working as an ambulance driver for the Palestinian Red Crescent. The ambulance he drove contained explosive belts and explosive devices that were intended to be delivered to Tanzim activists in Ramallah.

Islam Jibril, born in 1971 and a resident of the Balata refugee camp in the Nablus area was arrested on March 27, 2002 at an IDF road block near Ramallah while driving an ambulance. Inside the ambulance were explosive belts and explosive devices that were intended to be transferred to Tanzim activists in Ramallah, as well as children disguised as patients. The explosive belt was discovered underneath the body of a child lying on a stretcher, whose family was with him in the ambulance at the time of the event.

* * *

October 2001 – the arrest of Hamas activist from Kalkiliya who exploited his employment as an ambulance driver to serve as a courier between Hamas headquarters in various cities.

Nidal Nizal a Hamas activist from Kalkiliya, whose brother is Nasser Nizal, one of the commanders at Hamas headquarters in Kalkiliya, was arrested in October 2001. He exploited the relative easy access provided him by his employment as a Red Crescent ambulance driver between the cities in central Israel to act as a courier for Hamas headquarters in various cities.

* * *