

WHICH CAME FIRST- TERRORISM OR "OCCUPATION"?

Major Arab Terrorist Attacks against Israelis Prior to the 1967 Six-Day War

Palestinian and Arab spokesmen commonly claim that the Palestinian terrorism is the result of the Israeli 'occupation' of the West Bank and Gaza, adding that the violence will cease only when the 'occupation' is ended. Despite this claim, it should be recalled that the many Palestinian and Arab rejectionist factions (such as the Hamas and the Hizbullah) repeatedly declare that even if Israel would fully withdraw from the territories they will continue their attacks, since they refute Israel's basic right to exist.

More importantly, however, the basic premise of the Palestinian claim - that the 'occupation' causes terrorism - is historically flawed. Arab and Palestinian terrorism against Israel existed prior to the establishment of the State of Israel in May 1948. Arab terrorism was rampant during:

- Wave of anti-Jewish riots in 1920-21 (which was characterized by the brutal murder in Jaffa of the prominent Jewish author Y. Brenner)
- The 'Disturbances' of 1929 (which included the massacre of the Jewish community in Hebron),
- The Arab Revolt of 1936-39, and in many other recorded incidents of wholesale anti-Jewish Arab violence throughout the pre-state period.
- The eve of the UN Partition Resolution of November 1947, and led to the joint Arab invasion of 1948-49 which delineated the boundaries of the newly established State of Israel.
- 1952, when 'fedayeen' terrorist border incursions reached their height, there were about **3,000** incidents of cross-border violence, extending from the malicious destruction of property to the brutal murder of civilians. In the years 1951-1955, 503 Israelis were killed by Arab terrorists infiltrating from Jordan, 358 were killed in attacks from Egypt, and 61 were killed in attacks originating from Syria and Lebanon. This anti-Israeli violence encompassed both frontier settlements and population centers, and was perpetrated, for the most part, against innocent civilians, most of them new immigrants.

The following is a **PARTIAL** list of documented acts of Arab terrorism, all occurring prior to the beginning of the Israeli administration of the West Bank and Gaza in 1967:

Major Arab Terrorist Attacks against Israelis Prior to the 1967 Six-Day War

- Jan 1, 1952 - Seven armed terrorists attacked and killed a nineteen year-old girl in her home in Jerusalem.
- June 7, 1953 - A youngster was killed and three others were wounded, in shooting attacks on residential areas in Jerusalem.
- June 9, 1953 - Terrorists attacked a farming community near Lod, and killed one of the residents. On the same night, another group of terrorists attacked a house in the town of Hadera. This occurred a day after Israel and Jordan signed an agreement, with UN mediation, in which Jordan undertook to prevent terrorists from crossing into Israel from Jordanian territory.
- June 11, 1953 - Terrorists attacked a young couple in their home in Kfar Hess, and shot them to death.
- Sept 2, 1953 - Terrorists infiltrated from Jordan, and reached the neighborhood of Katamon, in the heart of Jerusalem.
- Mar 17, 1954 - Terrorists ambushed a bus traveling from Eilat to Tel Aviv. Eleven passengers were murdered.
- Jan 2, 1955 - Terrorists killed two hikers in the Judean Desert.
- Mar 24, 1955 - Terrorists threw hand grenades and opened fire on a crowd at a wedding in the farming community of Patish. A young woman was killed, and eighteen people were wounded in the attack.
- Apr 7, 1956 - A resident of Ashkelon was killed in her home, when terrorists threw three hand grenades into her house. Two members of Kibbutz Givat Chaim were killed, when terrorists opened fire on their car.
- Apr 11, 1956 - Terrorists opened fire on a synagogue full of children and teenagers, in the farming community of Shafrir. Three children and a youth worker were killed on the spot, and five were wounded, including three seriously.
- Apr 29, 1956 - Egyptians killed Roi Rotenberg, 21 years of age, from Nahal Oz.
- Sept 12, 1956 - Terrorists killed three Druze guards at Ein Ofarim, in the Arava region.
- Sept 23, 1956 - Terrorists opened fire from a Jordanian position, and killed four archaeologists, and wounded sixteen others, near Kibbutz Ramat Rachel.
- Sept 24, 1956 - Terrorists killed a girl in the fields of the farming community of Aminadav, near Jerusalem.
- Oct 4, 1956 - Five Israeli workers were killed in Sdom.

JCRC Israel Issue Summary

- Oct 9, 1956 - Two workers were killed in an orchard of the youth village, Neve Hadassah, in the Sharon region.
- Nov 8, 1956 - Terrorists opened fire on a train. Six Israelis were wounded.
- Feb 18, 1957 - Two civilians were killed by terrorist landmines, next to Nir Yitzhak, on the southern border of the Gaza Strip.
- Mar 8, 1957 - A shepherd from Kibbutz Beit Govrin was killed by terrorists in a field near the Kibbutz.
- Apr 16, 1957 - Terrorists infiltrated from Jordan, and killed two guards at Kibbutz Mesilot.
- May 20, 1957 - A terrorist opened fire on a truck in the Arava region, killing a worker.
- May 29, 1957 - A tractor driver was killed and two others wounded, when the vehicle struck a landmine, next to Kibbutz Kisufim.
- June 23, 1957 - Israelis were wounded by landmines, close to the Gaza Strip.
- Aug 23, 1957 - Two guards of the Israeli Mekorot water company were killed near Kibbutz Beit Govrin.
- Dec 21, 1957 - A member of Kibbutz Gadot was killed in the Kibbutz fields.
- Feb 11, 1958 - Terrorists killed a resident of Moshav Yanov who was on his way to Kfar Yona, in the Sharon area.
- Apr 5, 1958 - Terrorists lying in ambush shot and killed two people near Tel Lachish.
- Apr 22, 1958 - Jordanian soldiers shot and killed two fishermen near Aqaba.
- May 26, 1958 - Four Israeli police officers were killed in a Jordanian attack on Mt. Scopus, in Jerusalem.
- Nov 17, 1958 - Syrian terrorists killed the wife of the British air attache in Israel.
- Dec 3, 1958 - A shepherd was killed at Kibbutz Gonen. In the artillery attack that followed, 31 civilians were wounded.
- Jan 23, 1959 - A shepherd from Kibbutz Lehavot Habashan was killed.
- Feb 1, 1959 - Three civilians were killed by a terrorist landmine near Moshav Zavdiel.
- Apr 15, 1959 - A guard was killed at Kibbutz Ramat Rahel.
- Apr 27, 1959 - Two hikers were shot at close range and killed near Massada.
- Sept 6, 1959 - Bedouin terrorists killed a paratroop reconnaissance officer near Nitzana.
- Oct 3, 1959 - A shepherd from Kibbutz Heftziba was killed near Kibbutz Yad Hana.
- Apr 26, 1960 - Terrorists killed a resident of Ashkelon south of the city.
- Sept 30, 1962 - Two terrorists attacked an Egged bus on the way to Eilat. No one was wounded.
- Jan 1, 1965 - Palestinian terrorists (Fatah) attempted to bomb the National Water Carrier.
- May 31, 1965 - Jordanian Legionnaires fired on the neighborhood of Musrara in Jerusalem, killing two civilians and wounding four.
- June 1, 1965 - Terrorists attack a house in Kibbutz Yiftach.
- July 5, 1965 - A Fatah cell planted explosives at Mitzpe Massua; and on the railroad tracks to Jerusalem near Kafr Battir.
- Aug 26, 1965 - A waterline was sabotaged at Kibbutz Manara, in the Upper Galilee.
- May 16, 1966 - Two Israelis were killed when their jeep hit a terrorist landmine, north of the Sea of Galilee. Tracks led into Syria.
- July 13, 1966 - Two soldiers and a civilian were killed near Almagor, when their truck struck a terrorist landmine.
- July 14, 1966 - Terrorists attacked a house in Kfar Yuval, in the North.
- July 19, 1966 - Terrorists infiltrated into Moshav Margalot on the northern border and planted nine explosive charges.

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