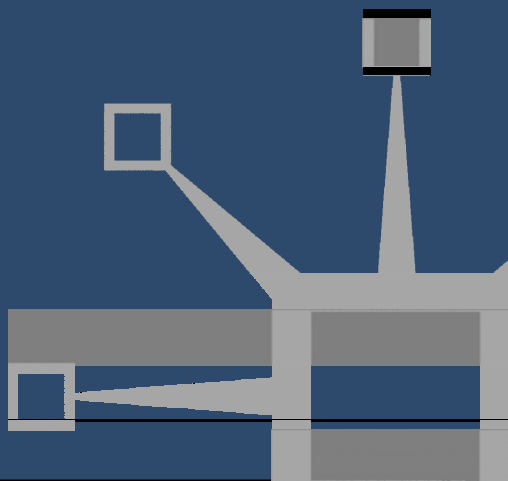


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Hamas vs. Fatah

The Struggle for Palestine

Jonathan Schanzer



H A M A S

VS.

F A T A H

ALSO BY JONATHAN SCHANZER

*Al-Qaeda's Armies: Middle East Affiliate Groups &
the Next Generation of Terror*

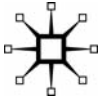
H A M A S
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**THE STRUGGLE
FOR PALESTINE**

Jonathan Schanzer

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*in memory of
David Schanzer*



HAMAS VS. FATAH
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Jonathan Schanzer
Washington, D.C.
August 2008

GLOSSARY

- Al-Mujamma' al-Islami—An Islamic movement founded by the late Hamas leader Ahmed Yassin, and the precursor to Hamas in the Gaza Strip.
- Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades—The Islamist armed wing of the Fatah organization, responsible for suicide bombings and other attacks against Israeli civilians.
- Fatah—A secular Palestinian terrorist organization founded in the late 1950s by Yasir Arafat. It is now a political faction, but has not broken completely from its terrorist past.
- Gaza Strip—The disputed territory captured by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War, bordering the Sinai Peninsula and the Mediterranean Sea.
- Green Line—Israel's borders after the 1948 war of independence, which do not include the West Bank or Gaza Strip.
- Hamas—Also known as the Islamic Resistance Movement. This group is the primary Islamic opposition to Fatah in the West Bank and Gaza.
- IDF—The Israel Defense Forces, or the Israeli army.
- Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades—The arm of Hamas that typically claims credit for suicide bombings and other acts of violence.
- Intifada—The term Palestinians use to describe uprisings or campaigns of violence against Israel. It literally means “shaking off.”
- PA—The Palestinian Authority, which is the governing body of the Palestinians, pursuant to the Oslo diplomatic process of the 1990s.
- PIJ—Palestinian Islamic Jihad, an organization that predates Hamas, carries out similar acts of violence against Israel, and is largely funded by Iran.
- PLO—Palestine Liberation Organization, an umbrella organization of Palestinian factions that came under the control of Yasir Arafat following the 1967 Six-Day War.