



GLOBAL EYE INTELLIGENCE

UNITY DEAL BETWEEN  
**HAMAS AND FATAH**



STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT



# OVERVIEW

On July 23, 2024, Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah signed a significant unity deal brokered by China. This agreement marks a pivotal moment in Palestinian politics, with potential far-reaching implications for the West Asian peace process, regional stability, and international security.





# PROFILING



## FATAH

- Founded: 1959
- Founders: Yasser Arafat & Khalil al-Wazir
- Ideology: Initially focused on armed struggle against Israel, later evolved towards a more pragmatic approach, including political negotiations.
- Role: Central role in the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO); became the dominant faction within the PLO and the primary representative of the Palestinian people in international forums.
- Leadership: Yasser Arafat led Fatah until his death in 2004, after which Mahmoud Abbas became its leader.



## HAMAS

- Founded: 1987, during the First Intifada (Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation)
- Founder: Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi, and Mahmoud Zahar.
- Ideology: Islamic fundamentalism with a focus on armed resistance against Israel; opposes the existence of Israel and seeks to establish an Islamic state in historic Palestine.
- Role: Initially a social and religious organization, quickly evolved into a significant militant and political force.



# UMBRELLA ENTITY OF RESISTANCE IN PALESTINE

## 1. **Palestinian National Initiative (Al-Mubadara)**

- Founded: 2002
- Ideology: Secular nationalism, Social democracy
- Key Figures: Mustafa Barghouti

## 2. **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)**

- Founded: 1967
- Ideology: Marxism-Leninism, Palestinian nationalism
- Key Figures: George Habash, Ahmed Jibril

## 3. **Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)**

- Founded: 1969
- Ideology: Marxism-Leninism, Palestinian nationalism
- Key Figures: Nayef Hawatmeh

## 4. **Palestinian People's Party (PPP)**

- Founded: 1982 (originally founded as the Palestinian Communist Party in 1919)
- Ideology: Communism, Palestinian nationalism
- Key Figures: Bassam al-Salhi

## 5. **Palestinian Democratic Union (FIDA)**

- Founded: 1990
- Ideology: Social democracy, Palestinian nationalism
- Key Figures: Saleh Ra'fat

## **6. al-Qassam Brigades**

- Armed wing of Hamas
- Known for: Rocket attacks, suicide bombings, guerrilla warfare

## **7. Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine (PIJ)**

- Founded: 1981
- Ideology: Islamic fundamentalism, Palestinian nationalism
- Armed Wing: Al-Quds Brigades
- Key Figures: Fathi Shaqaqi, Ramadan Shalah

## **8. Popular Resistance Committees (PRC)**

- Founded: 2000
- Ideology: Palestinian nationalism, Islamic fundamentalism
- Known for: Rocket attacks, cross-border raids

## **9. Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command (PFLP-GC)**

- Founded: 1968
- Ideology: Marxism-Leninism, Palestinian nationalism
- Key Figures: Ahmed Jibril

## **10. Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades**

- Founded: Early 2000s
- Ideology: Palestinian nationalism
- Affiliated with: Fatah
- Known for: Attacks on Israeli targets during the Second Intifada



### **11. Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades**

- Armed wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)
- Known for: Attacks on Israeli soldiers and settlers

### **12. National Resistance Brigades**

- Armed wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)
- Known for: Rocket attacks, militant activities

### **13. Al-Nasser Salah al-Deen Brigades**

- Armed wing of the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC)
- Known for: Rocket attacks, cross-border raids

### **14. Jaysh al-Ummah (Army of the Nation)**

- Founded: Early 2000s
- Ideology: Salafist jihadism
- Known for: Rocket attacks, militant activities

### **15. Tanzim**

- Founded: Mid-1990s
- Ideology: Palestinian nationalism
- Affiliated with: Fatah
- Known for: Militant activities during the Second Intifada

### **16. Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF)**

- Founded: 1961
- Ideology: Palestinian nationalism
- Key Figures: Muhammad Zaidan (Abu Abbas)





## 17. Arab Liberation Front (ALF)

- Founded: 1969
- Ideology: Ba'athism, Palestinian nationalism
- Affiliated with: Iraqi Ba'ath Party

## 18. As-Sa'iqa

- Founded: 1966
- Ideology: Ba'athism, Palestinian nationalism
- Affiliated with: Syrian Ba'ath Party





# HISTORY

## **Oslo & Post-Oslo**

- Oslo Accords (1993-1995): Negotiated by the PLO (dominated by Fatah), the accords aimed to establish a framework for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and led to the creation of the Palestinian National Authority (PA).
- Hamas Opposition: Hamas rejected the Oslo Accords, viewing them as a betrayal of Palestinian rights and refusing to recognize Israel. This opposition marked the beginning of significant tensions between Hamas and Fatah.

## **Second Intifada and the Rise of Hamas**

- Second Intifada (2000-2005): A period of intensified Israeli-Palestinian violence. Hamas's military wing, the al-Qassam Brigades, played a major role in the uprising through suicide bombings and attacks on Israeli targets.
- Fatah's Struggles: Fatah faced criticism for corruption and inefficacy, leading to a decline in its popularity among Palestinians.



## 2006 Elections and the Split

- 2006 Legislative Elections: Hamas won a surprise victory in the Palestinian Legislative Council elections, defeating Fatah and gaining a majority of seats.
- Formation of Hamas Government: Hamas's election win led to international sanctions and a refusal by Israel, the U.S., and the EU to engage with a Hamas-led government unless it renounced violence, recognized Israel, and accepted previous agreements.
- Internal Clashes: Tensions escalated between Hamas and Fatah, resulting in violent clashes. In 2007, Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip after fierce fighting, effectively splitting Palestinian governance: Hamas ruling Gaza and Fatah ruling the West Bank.

## Attempts at Reconciliation

- Multiple Reconciliation Attempts: Several attempts at reconciliation have been made, often brokered by regional powers like Egypt and Qatar. Notable agreements include the 2011 Cairo Agreement and the 2014 Gaza Agreement, but implementation has consistently faltered.
- 2017 Agreement: Another attempt in Cairo saw some progress, but deep-seated mistrust and divergent interests continued to pose significant barriers.
- Post 7th October 2023: Sensing that the existence of a Palestinian state is critically under threat, Russia initiated the all-Palestinian unity forum as Moscow Talks. It was followed up by Beijing Talks. Both the talks were fundamental to reach an understanding that culminated into the Beijing Declaration.

# BACKGROUND OF BEIJING DECLARATION



Hamas and Fatah have been long standing rivals since the violent split in 2007, which resulted in Hamas taking control of the Gaza Strip and Fatah governing the West Bank. Multiple reconciliation attempts have failed in the past, primarily due to ideological differences, power struggles, and external influences. The new deal brokered by China reflects shifting geopolitical dynamics and Beijing's growing influence in the region.



# GEOPOLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

- **Chinese Influence:** This deal underscores China's growing diplomatic role in West Asia, challenging traditional Western and regional powers' influence. Beijing's involvement could shift the geopolitical landscape, potentially altering alliances and strategic calculations.
- **West Asian Stability:** A unified Palestinian leadership could either stabilize or further complicate the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. If successful, the deal might lead to renewed peace talks with Israel. However, any perceived empowerment of Hamas, designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. and EU, might escalate tensions.
- **Regional Dynamics:** Neighboring countries, particularly Egypt, Jordan, and Gulf states, will closely monitor the deal's implementation. Their reactions and support (or lack thereof) could significantly impact the agreement's success and regional stability.
- **Reconstruction and Development:** Joint economic projects, particularly in Gaza, could spur development and improve living conditions. Chinese investments and infrastructure projects may play a crucial role in this regard.



- Trade and Aid: Enhanced economic collaboration could attract international aid and investment, contingent on the unified government's ability to maintain stability and transparency.

- Militant Activity: Integration of security forces aims to reduce intra-Palestinian violence. However, managing factions within Hamas and other militant groups will be critical to preventing potential escalations.

- Israeli Response: Israel's security policies and responses will be pivotal. Increased security coordination between Hamas and Fatah might be seen as a threat, potentially leading to heightened military readiness or preemptive actions by Israel.



# WAY FORWARD

Hamas maintains control over Gaza, with an emphasis on armed resistance and periodic conflicts with Israel. It also provides social services and governance in the territory. Fatah / Palestinian Authority continues to govern the West Bank and engage in diplomatic efforts for statehood. It faces internal challenges and external pressures, including Israeli settlement expansion and U.S. policy shifts.

The history of Hamas and Fatah is marked by ideological, political, and tactical differences, leading to decades of rivalry and intermittent conflict. Their relationship is a central element in the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict and regional geopolitics. Efforts at reconciliation, while numerous, have struggled to overcome deep-rooted mistrust and divergent visions for the future of Palestine.

The Hamas-Fatah unity deal brokered by China represents a landmark development in Palestinian politics and regional geopolitics. While it offers a pathway to stability and renewed peace efforts, numerous challenges and uncertainties remain. Close monitoring and strategic engagement by regional and international stakeholders will be essential to support its successful implementation and mitigate potential risks.



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