

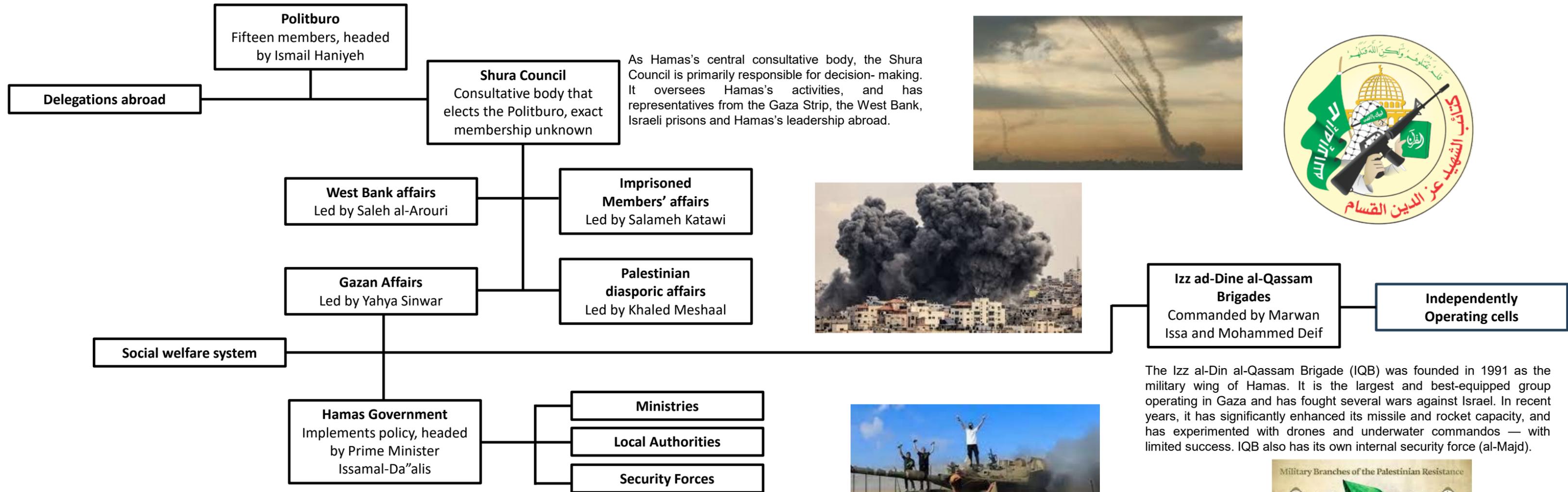


Hamas - Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya (“Islamic Resistance Movement”)



U.S. ARMY

(U) This infographic provides information on Hamas, HAMAS formed in late 1987 at the beginning of the first Palestinian intifada (uprising). Hamas is both an Islamist militant movement and one of the Palestinian territories’ two major political parties. It governs more than two million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, but the group is best known for its armed resistance to Israel. Dozens of countries have designated Hamas a terrorist organization, though some apply this label only to its military wing. Iran provides Hamas with material and financial support. Hamas’ assault on southern Israel is called “Operation Al-Aqsa Storm,” and was extraordinary in its strategy, scale, and secrecy. It began early in the morning on October 7, the Jewish Sabbath and an important Jewish holiday, with Hamas launching several thousand rockets into southern and central Israel, hitting cities as north as Tel Aviv. The group said it undertook the assault because of Israel’s long-running blockade of Gaza, its occupation of Palestinian lands, and its alleged crimes against Muslims including the desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.



As Hamas’s central consultative body, the Shura Council is primarily responsible for decision-making. It oversees Hamas’s activities, and has representatives from the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Israeli prisons and Hamas’s leadership abroad.



Izz ad-Dine al-Qassam Brigades
Commanded by Marwan Issa and Mohammed Deif

Independently Operating cells

The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigade (IQB) was founded in 1991 as the military wing of Hamas. It is the largest and best-equipped group operating in Gaza and has fought several wars against Israel. In recent years, it has significantly enhanced its missile and rocket capacity, and has experimented with drones and underwater commandos — with limited success. IQB also has its own internal security force (al-Majd).



Today, there are over 83,000 security personnel in the West Bank and Gaza combined, forming one of the highest ratios of security personnel to civilians in the world. They account for approximately one third of the budget of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Source:
<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/what-hamas>
https://counterterrorismethics.tudelft.nl/hamas/#_Toc495915201
https://ecfr.eu/special/mapping_palestinian_politics/introduction/