**"An a-symmetric doubling": using the method of doubling sources by a terror organization against a state – the case of Palestinian Hamas against the Israeli intelligence** (abstract)

Netanel (Nati) Flamer

The Palestinian society has been dealing for decades with the phenomenon of people from its ranks who became intelligence sources working for Israel (named 'collaborators').[[1]](#footnote-1) Since its foundation in December 1987, Palestinian Hamas Movement was forced to cope with the Israeli intelligence effort to penetrate its organization and reveal its secrets. From the very beginning, as other armed groups in the Palestinian society in Judah, Samaria and Gaza, Hamas assigned the target of exploring collaborators with Israel on the top of its list.[[2]](#footnote-2) That included the establishment of an apparatus (named Almajd) where gathering information on Palestinians who were suspected as collaborators, was in top priority. Hamas custom was to treat those suspected collaborators by different degrees of torture and abuse and damaging their property as well. Many suspects were kidnapped, interrogated, tortured, and killed, although many of them were not actually collaborators.

In some cases, Hamas chose to act differently and exploit the situation by turning the tables and make the threat an opportunity – Hamas doubled the collaborators and used them for its goals. The article will examine a few doubling operations of Israeli collaborators carried out by Hamas, during the last three decades. Perusing those cases will reveal how using this method was developed throughout the years, concurrently with the movement's evolution. In the 90's, the doubling operation was used for a short-term goal of killing the collaborators coordinators. In the early 2000's, the doubling operation became more sophisticated; it included a longer-term operation (a month to a few months), and more sophisticated aspects, as providing false information. After Hamas took control over the Gaza Strip (2007), the case of dealing with collaborators gradually became more organized by the Hamas governmental apparatus, such as the Internal Security Force (ISF). The doubling operation became more organized as well, alongside with using the operation for propaganda and deterrence.

The research is based on various sources, both in Hebrew and Arabic, which includes official publications of Hamas together with official Israeli sources, such as judicial proceeding – some of them have not yet gotten a serious attention in the research field. Some of the secondary literature and journalistic sources will be used to complete the picture and as necessary background. Research on intelligence and counter-intelligence activity of non-state armed organizations lacks academic material and is insufficient, fortiori the specific aspect of doubling sources. Therefore, the article will provide a unique opportunity to explore how terror organizations can use doubling of sources as part of its a-symmetric war against a state. In addition, it will shed light on an interesting aspect of Hamas counter-intelligence activity.

**Bio**

Netanel (Nati) Flamer is a PhD student at the Department of Middle Eastern Studies in Bar Ilan University. He holds an M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies (with honors) from Tel Aviv University. Over the past four years he is been working as a teaching assistant at the IDC School of Government, and currently he is an adjunct lecturer in Bar-Ilan University. His current research examines the intelligence activity of Hizballah and Hamas against Israel. Generally, He is interested in Islamic terror organizations in the Middle East and intelligence issues related to the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas.

1. See Hillel Cohen, *Army of Shadows: Palestinian Collaboration with Zionism, 1917–1948* (Oakland: University of California Press, 2008); Hillel Cohen, *Good Arabs: The Israeli Security Agencies and the Israeli Arabs, 1948–1967* (Oakland: University of California Press, 2010). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. An attempt to Characterize and categorize this activity on real time see in "Collaborators in the Occupied Territories: Human Rights Abuses and Violations", *b'tselem,* January 1993. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)