

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	655
Land:	Libanon
Kilde:	US Department of State – USDoS
Titel:	Country Report on Terrorism 2019. Chapter 5 the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)
Udgivet:	24. juni 2020
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	25. august 2020

Document #2032670

USDOS – US Department of State

Country Report on Terrorism 2019 - Chapter 5 - Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)

Aka PFLP; Halhul Gang; Halhul Squad; Palestinian Popular Resistance Forces; PPRF; Red Eagle Gang; Red Eagle Group; Red Eagles; Martyr Abu-Ali Mustafa Battalion

Description: Designated as an FTO on October 8, 1997, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) is a Marxist-Leninist group founded in 1967 by George Habash after splitting from the Arab Nationalist Movement. The group earned a reputation for committing large-scale international attacks in the 1960s and 1970s, including airline hijackings that killed more than 20 U.S. citizens.

Activities: The PFLP increased its operational activity during the Second Intifada. During that time, the group assassinated Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi in 2001, carried out at least two suicide operations, and launched multiple joint operations with other Palestinian terrorist groups. Between 2008 and 2011, the PFLP claimed responsibility for numerous attacks on IDF in Gaza as well as mortar and rocket attacks fired from Gaza into Israel. In 2012, the Israeli Security Agency arrested several members of the PFLP for plotting to carry out attacks on IDF checkpoints and planning to conduct kidnappings.

In November 2014, two Palestinians reportedly affiliated with the PFLP entered a Jerusalem synagogue and attacked Israelis with guns, knives, and axes, killing five people – including three U.S. citizens – and injuring 12. In December, the PFLP claimed responsibility for several rocket attacks along the Lebanese-Israeli border.

In June 2017, three Palestinian militants launched an attack near Jerusalem's Old City, stabbing and killing an Israeli border security agent. Two of the militants were PFLP members, although ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack.

In September 2019, IDF and Israeli Border Patrol forces arrested four PFLP members allegedly responsible for remotely detonating an IED in the West Bank, killing an Israeli teenager and seriously wounding two others.

Strength: Precise numbers are unknown.

Location/Area of Operation: Gaza, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and the West Bank

Funding and External Aid: Sources of support are unknown.

ecoi.net summary:

Brief description of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2019)

Countries:

Israel, Lebanon, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic

Source:

[USDOS – US Department of State](#)

Original link:

<https://www.state.gov/reports/country-reports-on-terrorism-2019/#PFLP>

Document type:

Periodical Report

Language:

English

Published:

24 June 2020

Document ID:

2032670

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