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# USDOS – US Department of State (Author)

## Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 5 - Palestine Liberation Front-Abu Abbas Faction

Aka PLF; PLF-Abu Abbas; Palestine Liberation Front.

**Description:** The Palestinian Liberation Front-Abu Abbas Faction (PLF) was designated as an FTO on October 8, 1997. In the late 1970s, PLF splintered from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. It later split into pro-Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), pro-Syrian, and pro-Libyan factions. The pro-PLO faction was led by Muhammad Zaydan (aka Abu Abbas) and was based in Baghdad before Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Activities: PLF was responsible for the 1985 attack on the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro* and the murder of U.S. citizen Leon Klinghoffer. Throughout the 1990s, PLF was suspected of supporting terrorism against Israel by other Palestinian groups. In 2004, Abu Abbas died of natural causes while in U.S. custody in Iraq. After not claiming an attack for 16 years, PLF claimed responsibility for the 2008 assault against an Israeli military bus in Huwarah, Israel, and the shooting of an Israeli settler. In 2010, PLF claimed responsibility for an IED attack against an IDF patrol, which caused minor injuries to a soldier; another IED was discovered during a search of the area. PLF has not claimed responsibility for any attacks since 2016 but continues to maintain a strong presence in many refugee camps in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria.

**Strength:** Precise numbers are unknown.

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

**Funding and External Aid:** Sources of funding are unknown.

#### Associated documents

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Syrian Arab Republic

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 2 - Syria (Periodical Report, English)

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State of Palestine

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 1 - West Bank, and Gaza (Periodical Report, English)

en

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Lebanon

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 1 - Lebanon (Periodical Report, English)

en

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ecoi.net description:

Brief description of the Palestine Liberation Front - Abu Abbas Faction (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2022)

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