

Hamas caused Gaza’s pain — and Gazans still support them.

The Lie:

- Hamas doesn’t represent Palestinians; most Gazans are innocent civilians trapped under its rule.

The Truth:

- Nearly twenty years after electing Hamas, The Gazan population have not shown diminished support — they still endorse its leaders, its terror, and its war against Israel.

Background:

- Israel fully withdrew from Gaza in 2005. One year later, Gazans freely elected Hamas to power with 44% of the vote. The terror group violently seized total control in 2007 and has ruled the Strip ever since. **Consistent polling over the years — including the most recent in October 2025 — shows Gazans still overwhelmingly support Hamas and its war against Israel.**

Truth Explained:

- **Historical continuity:** In the 2006 Palestinian legislative elections, Hamas won **44.45%** of the vote, defeating Fatah (41.43%) and forming the next government before violently ousting Fatah in 2007. ([Election Guide](#))
- **Continued widespread support for terror:** The **Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR)** finds **53%** of Palestinians in Judea and Samaraia and in Gaza still call the Oct 7 attack “the correct decision,” **69%** oppose disarming Hamas even to end the war, and **86%** deny Hamas committed atrocities. ([PCPSR Poll No. 96, Oct 2025](#))
- **Political dominance:** Hamas's approval stands at 60% versus 21% for Mahmoud Abbas. In elections, 35% would vote for Hamas versus 24% for Fatah—a gap that has widened since the war began. ([PCPSR Poll No. 96](#))
- **Shared ideology:** Pollster **Dr. Khalil Shikaki** told NPR (July 26 2024) that two-thirds of Palestinians continue to support the Hamas-led Oct 7 attack because “they share Hamas’s values — they will support Hamas for that.” ([NPR](#))
- **Civilian complicity:** Freed hostages have confirmed that Hamas’s terror network is rooted in civilian life. Many were held inside *ordinary Gazan homes* — guarded, taunted, and starved by families who treated them as captives. One freed hostage, *Mia Schem*, recalled: “I felt like an animal in a zoo — the family’s children would open the door just to stare at me.” ([Interview With Mia Schem](#))
- **Mass participation:** Over 2,000 Gazans who infiltrated Israel on Oct 7 were not registered Hamas members — they were “civilian” participants. ([JNS, Mar 4 2025](#))

Quotes:

- “The population of the Gaza Strip is supportive of Hamas. They embrace that genocidal ideology.” — *Pesach Wolicki, Eyes on Israel (Oct 2025)*
- “Freed hostages have described being held by Gazan families — proof that Hamas’s terror network is woven into civilian life.” — *Israeli Government Statement (June 2024)*
- “It’s important to me to reveal the real situation about the people who live in Gaza, who they really are, and what I went through there,” she told Channel 13 news. “I experienced hell. Everyone there are terrorists... there are no innocent civilians, not one,” she said. “[Innocent civilians] don’t exist.” *Mia Schem, freed hostage*

Takeaway:

- Twenty years after voting Hamas into power, Gazans still stand by it. Hamas doesn’t hide behind civilians, it *is* the civilian population of Gaza.

Sources:

[PCPSR Poll No. 96 \(Oct 2025\)](#); [NPR Interview with Dr. Khalil Shikaki \(July 26 2024\)](#); [Times of Israel — Mia Schem Interview \(Dec 29 2023\)](#); [JNS / FLAME — Jason Shvili \(Mar 4 2025\)](#); [Rabbi Pesach Wolicki, Eyes on Israel](#); [Election Guide — 2006 Palestinian Legislative Elections](#)