

Israel Didn't 'Kidnap' Anyone - It Captured a Hamas Leader

THE LIE

Israeli undercover units disguised as civilians infiltrated western Gaza City and “kidnapped” Moein al-Arabid, the head of Hamas’s internal security. The operation, which killed his wife, was an illegal abduction and raised further questions about Israel’s commitment to pursuing a genuine ceasefire rather than continuing military operations.

THE TRUTH

Mo'in al-Arabid was not a civilian . He was the commander of Hamas's internal security apparatus, the man personally responsible for hiding and moving the Israeli hostages who were kidnapped to Gaza by Hamas on October 7th.

BACKGROUND

- On September 1, 2026, Shin Bet special forces, with IDF air support, raided a building in western Gaza City and captured Muein al-Arabid, the commander of Hamas’s internal security apparatus. Al-Arabid was wounded, captured alive, and transferred to Israel. Reports indicate local Palestinian militias coordinated with the IDF in the operation.
- Al-Arabid served as commander of Hamas's General Security apparatus - the secret internal police responsible for hiding hostages, protecting senior Hamas leaders, managing secure communications, and shielding al-Qassam Brigades from infiltration by Israeli, Arab, and Palestinian Authority intelligence services.
- . → Prime Minister Netanyahu publicly confirmed the capture the same day, commending the Shin Bet and IDF for what he called a 'bold operation' against one of Hamas's most senior figures.
- On September 1, 2026, pro-Hamas account @QudsNen framed the operation as Israel 'kidnapping' al-Arabid and 'killing his wife.'

TRUTH EXPLAINED

- Netanyahu stated that al-Arabid, one of Hamas’s most senior leaders, was directly responsible for hiding and moving Israeli hostages, concealing senior Hamas officials, rebuilding the organization’s military capabilities, and helping carry out terrorist attacks against Israeli forces and civilians. As head of Hamas’s internal security apparatus, he played a central role in protecting the organization’s leadership, concealing its operations, and maintaining the infrastructure that kept Israeli hostages hidden in Gaza. [Times of Israel](#)
- Hamas initially tried to downplay the raid, first claiming it had been thwarted and that only an unnamed senior member had been taken. Once photos of al-Arabid surfaced, the group attempted to portray him as a lower-level commander. However, Hamas’s own official publications had already identified him as the head of internal security in Gaza City as far back as 2015. [Amit Segal X](#)
- Al-Arabid ran Hamas's secret police - the apparatus behind torture, forced disappearances, executions, and extortion used to maintain Hamas's authoritarian grip on Gaza's civilian population. Gazans who suffered under his secret police celebrated his capture publicly. [Times of Israel](#)
- Hen Mazzig reported that al-Arabid was captured in coordination with local Palestinian militias working alongside the IDF. Palestinians on the ground actively assisted Israeli forces in removing a man who terrorized their own community. [Times of Israel](#)
- Palestinian support for Hamas has collapsed inside Gaza itself, dropping to just 18% in Gaza and 33% in the West Bank as of August 2026, according to polling by Khalil Shikaki. The population Hamas claims to represent does not want Hamas. [Jerusalem Post](#)

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QUOTES

"Al-Arabid has long been tied to some of the group's worst abuses against Palestinians: torture, intimidation, disappearances, executions, extortion, all carried out through Hamas's secret police to maintain its authoritarian grip on Gaza. Many Gazans are openly celebrating the fall of a symbol of tyranny." - Ahmed Fouad Alkhatib, Gazan analyst and commentator

"Muein al-Arabid was the head of Hamas's internal security apparatus and one of the group's most senior figures. He was responsible for hiding and moving hostages and senior Hamas officials." - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, September 1, 2026

TAKEAWAY

Calling the operation a "kidnapping" obscures who was actually captured. Al-Arabid was a senior Hamas commander who helped hide and move Israeli hostages and protect Hamas's leadership. By stripping away that context and presenting him simply as a man "kidnapped" by Israel, the narrative transforms the capture of a Hamas operative into an alleged Israeli war crime.