



# Hamas

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**Hamas**, meaning "Islamic Resistance Movement" is a Palestinian Sunni paramilitary organization and political party which holds a majority of seats in the elected legislative council of the Palestinian National Authority.

Hamas was created in 1987 by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi and Mohammad Taha of the Palestinian wing of the Muslim Brotherhood at the beginning of the First Intifada.

Hamas's political wing has won many local elections in Gaza, Qalqilya, and Nablus. In January 2006, Hamas won a surprise victory in the Palestinian parliamentary elections, taking 76 of the 132 seats in the chamber, while the ruling Fatah party took 43. The Hamas charter states: "There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad." Many perceived the preceding Fatah government as corrupt and ineffective, and Hamas's supporters see it as an "armed resistance" movement defending Palestinians from the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. However, since Hamas's election victory, particularly sharp infighting has occurred between Hamas and Fatah.

Following the Battle for Gaza in June 2007, elected Hamas officials were ousted from their positions in the Palestinian National Authority government in the West Bank, replaced by rival Fatah members and independents in an action that many Palestinians and other experts considered illegal. On 18 June 2007, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (Fatah) issued a decree outlawing the Hamas militia and executive force.

Hamas is listed as a terrorist organization by Canada, the European Union, Israel, Japan, and the United States, and is banned in Jordan. Australia and the United Kingdom list only the military wing of Hamas, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, as a terrorist organization. The United States and the European Union have both implemented restrictive measures against Hamas on an international level.

According to the US State Department, the group "receives some funding from Iran but primarily relies on donations from Palestinian expatriates around the world and private benefactors in Saudi Arabia and other Arab states."

Hamas claims it will ceasefire with Israel in exchange for the 1967 border (the land occupied then) but their Charter still states, "the land of Palestine has been an Islamic Waqf throughout the generations and until the Day of Resurrection, no one can renounce it or part of it, or abandon it or part of it".

## You Would Never Have Guessed

Author Unknown

Captain Kangaroo passed away on January 23, 2004 as age 76, which is odd, because he always looked to be 76.  
(DOB: 6/27/27) His death reminded me of the following story.

Some people have been a bit offended that the actor, Lee Marvin, is buried in a grave alongside 3- and 4-star generals at Arlington National Cemetery. His marker gives his name, rank (PVT) and service (USMC). Nothing else. Here's a guy who was only a famous movie star who served his time, why the heck does he rate burial with these guys? Well, following is the amazing answer:

I always liked Lee Marvin, but didn't know the extent of his Corps experiences.

In a time when many Hollywood stars served their country in the armed forces often in rear echelon posts where they were carefully protected, only to be trotted out to perform for the cameras in war bond promotions, Lee Marvin was a genuine hero. He won the Navy Cross at Iwo Jima. There is only one higher Naval award... the Medal of Honor! **Continued, Page 12**



## ABOUT US

Barrett Firearms Manufacturing has a tried and proven philosophy that embraces the past while forever pursuing the best up-to-date business practices. Most would agree that some things in life and in business are paramount and never change; such as honesty, integrity and meeting the expectations of those being served.

Ronnie Barrett set that tone 25-years-ago and Barrett Firearms Manufacturing has remained true to the mission; build a business on relationships, quality products and service, and work from the customer's point of view. The company credo is "We think outside the box and always explore ways on how we can continue to improve."

Barrett rifles and related products made for civilian sport shooters, law enforcement agencies, the United States military and over 50 foreign countries that are American allies prove that point. **See Barrett, Page 13**