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Abstract

The events of September 11, 2001 took place almost a year
after the beginning of the second Palestinian Intifada (Uprising). The
impact of these attacks was so vast that the United States (US) was
so clear about its determination to declare war on terrorism and to
obliterate all those forces that were, in any way, connected to
terrorist actions. In fact the US was so determined in its military
actions against Afghanistan and Iraq and in its plight to rally the
support of the international community for its war on terrorism
(mostly the terror of Islamic fundamentalist organizations) which, it
asserted, threatened world peace. The US stance on terrorism
coincided with Israel's policy towards the Palestinian Intifada which
found in the US plight to fight terrorism the right political
atmosphere to develop a similar slogan and policy that was aimed at
Palestinian 'terrorism'.

Against these international developments few Palestinian
organizations did not hesitate in mounting their military operations
against Israeli military and mostly civilian targets through a series of
suicide or what Palestinians would like to term commando or martyr
attacks or bombings. Despite the fact that these attacks did not meet
the support of most Palestinian organizations, they nevertheless
consolidated Israel's negative position towards the Palestinian
authority and helped it in its attempts to rally the support of the
international community towards what was termed Palestinian
terrorism. Israel saw in the American position on terrorism the right
umbrella for its policies towards the Palestinians. It was also able to

convince the world that its war against Palestinian terrorism was part and parcel of the US war on global terrorism. The military actions of Palestinian organizations have harmed the plight of the Palestinians for statehood. They have in fact complicated the political problem of the Palestinians and helped Israel in its attempt to divert the attention of the world through exerting pressure on the Palestinian authority to introduce internal changes within its institutions and put an end to Palestinian terrorism.

This research endeavors to uncover the Palestinian, Arab and international interpretations of the concept of Palestinian resistance in particular the issue of armed struggle on both the official and popular levels. It also seeks to study the various forms of resistance as they were reflected in the political literature that appeared after the second Palestinian Intifada and their transformations into actual military actions. The fundamental problem that this research seeks to examine is, however, the developments that emerged after the attacks of September 11 and their impact not only on US policy towards Palestinian forms of resistance but also on that of the international community.