HAMAS

Hamas is a Palestinian Sunni-Islamic fundamentalist organization designated as a terrorist group by several countries and international organizations. Here's a brief overview of the organization:

Origins:

Hamas, which stands for "Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya" or "Islamic Resistance Movement" with the acronym Hamas translating to "zeal" in Arabic, was founded in 1987 during the First Intifada (Palestinian terror uprising) against Israeli rule in the Palestinian territories. It emerged as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, which also to varying degrees spawned Al-Qaeda, ISIS and Islamic Jihad.

Goals:

In 1947, The United Nations Partition Plan proposed the division of Mandatory Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. Jewish leaders accepted the plan, and Arab leaders rejected it.

When Israel declared Independence on May 14th, 1948, the Jewish people declared sovereignty in their ancestral homeland, ending thousands of years of exile. In response, the stated goal of Arab leaders was to "drive the Jews into the sea," and as such, would force the Jewish State to fight for its survival.

Structure:

Hamas has a political wing, which manages the group's social and political activities, and a military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades. The military wing has been responsible for numerous terrorist attacks, including suicide bombings, rocket attacks, and kidnappings. It was responsible for the brutal attacks on October 7th.

Governance:

In 2006, Hamas won the Palestinian legislative elections. This victory led to tensions with Fatah, the dominant Palestinian political organization.

The infighting culminated in the 2007 battle for Gaza, which resulted in Hamas taking control over the Gaza Strip, where they've governed since.

International Relations:

1. The United States, European Union, Canada, Israel, and others have designated Hamas as a terrorist organization. This designation is primarily due to its commitment to violence and its history of carrying out terrorist attacks.
2. Iran, Qatar, and Turkey have provided various forms of support to Hamas over the years. The group has also received backing from various non-state entities.
3. Hamas has consistently been a complicating factor in peace negotiations between Israel and Palestinians, given its refusal to recognize Israel's right to exist and its commitment to violence.

Terrorism:

Hamas is responsible for numerous attacks against Israeli civilians and military personnel. Some of the most notable incidents include:

- Suicide bombings in Israeli cities during the Second Intifada.
- The kidnapping of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit in 2006.
- Multiple conflicts with Israel, including wars in 2008-2009, 2012, 2014, and others.
- The October 7th massacre of more than 1,400 Israelis during which Palestinian terrorists committed all manner of atrocities including, rape, decapitation and the kidnapping of men, women and children.

Hamas in Gaza:

- Hamas has been accused of human rights abuses, including the use of child soldiers, extrajudicial killings, and suppression of dissent.
- Using civilians structures such as hospitals and kindergartens to launch attacks and hide weapons.
- With support from Iran, Hamas has repeatedly shown that they care more about murdering Israelis than the welfare of their people. Hamas is simply Isis in a different cloth.