



HAMAS AND GOVERNANCE IN GAZA

Hamas, founded in 1987, is a Palestinian terror organization designated as a terrorist group by several countries. It took control of the Gaza Strip in 2007 and has ruled it since.



Hamas's Rise to Power in Gaza:

Hamas gained popularity in the Palestinian territories during the 1980s and 1990s, positioning itself as an alternative to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). In 2006, Hamas won the Palestinian legislative elections, leading to tensions with the Fatah party, culminating in the 2007 conflict. After several days of fighting, Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip.

GOVERNANCE AND JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Under Hamas's rule, the Gaza Strip has seen:



- Implementation of a draconian and corrupt judicial system which gives the accused no recourse.
- Enactment of strict laws, often based on conservative interpretations of Sharia.
- Reports of arbitrary detentions, torture, and unfair trials.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND ASSEMBLY



Hamas is:

- Suppressing dissenting voices.
- Targeting journalists and restricting media freedom.
- Disrupting peaceful protests and assemblies.

TREATMENT OF POLITICAL DISSIDENTS



Hamas has:

- Arrested members and supporters of rival political factions, especially Fatah.
- Subjected detainees to torture or ill-treatment.
- Carried out extrajudicial executions.

RELIGIOUS CONSERVATISM IN GOVERNANCE



Under Hamas:

- Religious conservatism has influenced policymaking.
- There have been attempts to impose strict dress codes for women.
- Public behaviors, like mixed-gender gatherings, have been scrutinized and sometimes penalized.



Conclusion:

Hamas's governance of the Gaza Strip has seen strict control and reports of human rights abuses. Yet the so-called supporters of the Palestinians look away at Hamas's crimes.