

The change of perception of ongoing war after hamas attacked Israel in october 7th, 2023

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The following text examines the media portrayal of the events in the German press following the publication of the Israeli government's intelligence dossier in January 2024. Only three of the allegations that became known in the German press are examined here.

1. At least 12 members of UNRWA were involved in the Hamas attack of 7.10.23.
2. 17% of UNRWA employees are Hamas supporters.
3. The UNRWA buildings are used by Hamas as tunnels, ammunition, command center.

<https://www.zdf.de/nachrichten/politik/deutschland/israel-palaestina-hilfswerk-unrwa-hamas-un-100.html>

<https://www.fr.de/politik/krieg-nahost-waren-mitarbeiter-am-hamas-angriff-auf-israel-beteiligt-zr-92804053.html>

What happened after the dossier was published?

After the publication nine members of UNRWA were immediately dismissed from UNRWA because it was clearly proven their involvement in the terrorist attack of October 7, 2023 (more persons followed later).

<https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/gaza-krieg-bericht-unrwa-mitarbeiter-an-entfuhrung-beteiligt-dpa.urn-newsml-dpa-com-20090101-240129-99-792577>

<https://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2024-01/unrwa-hilfswerk-hamas-mitarbeiter-faq>

- 1. It follows that the first accusation of direct involvement of UNRWA members in the terrorist attack of 7.10.2023 can be considered confirmed.**

Furthermore, UNRWA was putting together a commission to “independently review the mechanisms and procedures to ensure UNRWA's compliance with the humanitarian principle of neutrality”.

This means that the commission put together by UNRWA itself was not tasked with reviewing the three allegations mentioned above, but with reviewing UNRWA's procedures for ensuring neutrality.

This was later criticized in the Swiss press: “The UNRWA report ignores the core of the problem.”

<https://www.nzz.ch/meinung/nahost-der-unrwa-bericht-ignoriert-den-kern-des-problems-ld.1827565>

The former French Foreign Minister, Catherine Colonna, who is considered a friend of UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini, was appointed chair of the commission. Together with three other organizations from various UN member states (Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human

Rights and Humanitarian Law Sweden, Chr. Michelsen Institute Norway, Institute for Human Rights Denmark), a report was compiled.

<https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-preliminary-response-final-report-independent-review-mechanisms-and>

<https://www.tagesspiegel.de/meinung/das-dilemma-mit-der-unrwa-solange-es-dieses-hilfswerk-noch-gibt-muss-es-helfen-11573774.html>

The findings of this study by the commission of UNRWA are that there are fundamental structural problems with political neutrality in UNRWA, which is why various improvements are recommended.

2. It follows that the second accusation of the Israeli dossier, that there are structural problems with Hamas in UNRWA can be seen as confirmed.

The third accusation, that the buildings and infrastructure of UNRWA are used by members and leaders of the terrorist organization Hamas, has long been known in the German press, German titles were translated into English to clarify the content:

December 2022: Tunnels discovered under UN schools

<https://www.mena-watch.com/gaza-hamas-tunnel-unter-un-schule/>

November 2023: Israeli army discovers 55-meter-long tunnel under Al-Shifa hospital

<https://www.welt.de/politik/ausland/article248607676/Israel-entdeckt-55-Meter-langen-Tunnel-unter-Al-Shifa-Klinik.html>

November 2023: EU: Hamas must not misuse hospitals and civilians as shields

<https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/eu-hamas-darf-krankenhaeuser-und-zivilisten-nicht-als-schutzschild-missbrauchen-110.html>

February 2024: Hamas tunnel discovered under UNRWA headquarters

<https://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2024-02/unrwa-gaza-hamas-tunnel-datenzentrum>

February 2024: Israel shows foreign reporters Hamas tunnel under UNRWA headquarters

<https://www.diepresse.com/18091951/israel-zeigt-reportern-hamas-tunnel-unter-unrwa-hauptquartier>

Philippe Lazzarini's statement to the Neue Zürcher Zeitung in February 2024 seems somewhat strange in this light: "I learned (...) about this tunnel (under the UNRWA headquarters) from the media at the weekend."

<https://www.nzz.ch/international/interview-unrwa-chef-lazzarini-zu-den-vorwuerfen-gegen-das-hilfswerk-ld.1807659>

3. The fact that UNRWA buildings and other civilian facilities are used by Hamas as hiding places, ammunition depots, tunnel entrances, command centers, etc. has been known to the public for years. The three accusations mentioned are confirmed by the German press.

Why is this not attracting more attention? In fact: Why are these facts being ignored by the press, which is thereby contradicting itself? Why does german press nowadays writes „israel attack on school“ and not „israel attack on hamas commanders who abuse again school for hiding“?

<https://www.tagesschau.de/multimedia/video/video-1346262.html> (06-07-2024)