

## Compilation of guidelines, remarks, chat of pop up ONO shop talk 19-10-2023

Initial requester was Sandra Martin (*The Globe and Mail*), asking the membership about the use of terms and words in reporting the Israel – Hamas conflict starting October 7. See several reactions by members below.

On the tails of this request came the shop talk that started with talking points by Eric Wishart (AFP), separate document in the members section. Interesting links and remarks from the zoom talk chat are gathered here as well.

This information is for reference, not to be attributed to persons writing unless checked with them and agreed upon.

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Dear Sandra and the rest of colleagues,

I am having the same questions from EL PAÍS's readers. Also because we used to call ETA members terrorist and we do not use the same words for Hamas.

Since there is no official definition for the word terrorist from UN and the international community does not agree about it, it is not easy to use the word.

We have our standards in EL PAÍS against using this word, but maybe in Spanish has different connotations: we do not call Hamas terrorists, but militiamen. In Spanish, milicianos. From this point of view, Hamas is a militia and its members are militiamen, since it is a hierarchical military organization, has a uniform and controls and rules a territory, Gaza. We may add in the text that both the EU and the US consider Hamas a terrorist organization. But we do not call its members either combatants or warriors. And we may use quotes in case of using the word terrorists. Nevertheless, we may say the militiamen commit acts of terrorism.

The difference with ETA is that it never controlled nor ruled a territory in Spain. Also while having a hierarchical organization it never intended to be a military one nor did their members have uniforms. In Spanish the connotation of being a "terrorista" is of a member of a small group willing to sow chaos through murdering, but we wouldn't use it in a context of war between different nations. Is not a word, you may see in a text about Ukrainian war, for example.

Maybe this is also useful too for Sandra: <https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-67076341>



### [BBC defends policy not to call Hamas 'terrorists' after criticism](https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-67076341)

UK Defence Secretary Grant Shapps says the BBC's position is "verging on disgraceful".

[www.bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com)

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**Soledad Alcaide (El Pais)**

Hi Sandra,

Here's the latest guidance from Radio Free Asia's News Standards Guide:

### **Reporting Terrorism & Extremism**

Generally, terrorism is defined as “the unlawful use of violence or threats to intimidate or coerce a civilian population or government, with the goal of furthering political, social, or ideological objectives.”

“Terrorism” and “terrorist” carry a lot of weight, and they should be used with extreme care. It is up to editors to determine if they are the most appropriate terms to use.\* If you’re not certain about the terminology, please consult with the Managing Editor and News Standards Editor.

RFA will report the actions of terrorists (bombings, shootings, hostage takings) fully, accurately and without taking sides, as we would cover any other news story. Wherever possible, we should also provide appropriate coverage of the victims, their injuries and their families.

RFA will provide our audiences with informative analyses of terrorist organizations, their ideology and history, but at the same time we must never suggest that reporting the context in which terrorism takes place justifies terrorism in any way.

RFA’s Code of Journalistic Ethics states that RFA journalists must not incite listeners or viewers to violence or encourage acts of rebellion or emigration.

If terrorists or extremists make news in our region, we report on it. If the intended publication or broadcast could place RFA at risk of being used as a platform for any individual or group, RFA journalists must consult with the appropriate Managing Editor or the News Standards Editor.

These are basic guidelines. Each instance is unique, and a decision in one situation will not necessarily be the proper action for the next situation. Always consult with RFA senior editorial management before making any decisions to broadcast or publish content of this nature.

\*In addition, we caution our staff to not use the words terrorist or terrorism unless we are directly quoting someone who is using those terms. As noted in your policy, it's not up to RFA to determine whether an individual or a group should be described as terrorists.

\* Radio Free Asia focuses entirely on East and Southeast Asia, so our coverage of Israel-Hamas is limited. As such, we've not gotten any comments about the terminology. However, because we report from and about countries like China, Myanmar and Cambodia, we do have situations where we have to be judicious about using those terms, and only use them when citing government officials or statements.

Best,

**Steve Springer (Radio Free Asia)**

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Hi Sandra,

I'm the former standards editor of AP, now doing consulting on journalistic ethics. I was involved in AP Stylebook's entry on terrorists (see below) and still hew to that view, though even more strongly. Rather than use the word "with caution," I wouldn't use it at all, except when essential in quotes.

First, the word "terrorist" is thrown around so much these days that if you ever use it on your own, you will effectively have to constitute a tribunal on who is or isn't a terrorist. Though everyone thinks they know a terrorist when they see one, people in fact disagree and you don't want to get into having to make judgments. (For example, Russia accuses Ukraine of terrorism for its attacks inside Russia.)

Second, the word doesn't describe a perpetrator's action, but his goal – to spread terror. As we know, these perpetrators often reap exactly the opposite: an overwhelming reaction that destroys them and unifies the people they had hoped to "terrorize." So why use a word that glorifies them, implying that they're successful?

Third, the word is uninformative. You can terrorize a person by attacking them online, or painting a swastika on their house. Hamas' action was in a totally different class. If the goal is to make readers fully aware of the horror of what Hamas perpetrated, you don't accomplish much with a word that has a wide range of meanings to different people. The best way to describe horror is to describe the horror.

I do understand the problem of writing, as you apparently did, something like "Trudeau said the 'terrorists' will not succeed." The problem here is that when you write that way, some will think the paper is questioning his use of the T-word. (Others may think the paper is simply highlighting Trudeau's use of a very apt term, but apparently your critics didn't take it that way.) The best away to avoid this problem would have been not to put that one word in quotes, but to use a longer quote by Trudeau. That way, the word "terrorist" would not have stood out.

Cheers

**Tom Kent**

AP Stylebook entry:

terrorism

The calculated use of violence, especially against civilians, to create terror to disrupt and demoralize societies for political ends. Because the word is often used loosely by governments and leaders to condemn any rival political group or act of resistance or protest, the word is best used with caution. Instead, describe specific actions that are being perpetrated and attribute the use of the word terrorism or terrorist to authorities or others except when talking about significant historical events

widely acknowledged as terrorist actions, such as the 9/11 attacks, the London tube bombings, the Bali bombings or the Oklahoma City bombing.

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Hello.

I am **Mineko Okamoto**, the newly appointed in-house Public Editor replacing Kaori, also used to be a writer for the **Asahi Shimbun**.

I received your request.

Although there is no definition of "terrorism" or "terrorist" in the Asahi Shimbun's style book, we believe that we should be extremely careful when describing it.

The reason for this is as my colleague Tsutomu Ishiai, Senior Staff Writer, recently wrote in Expert Comments, Asahi Shimbun Digital (2023/10/12 23:06)

[https://digital.asahi.com/articles/ASRBD20Z2RBCUHBI04K.html?iref=pc\\_ss\\_date\\_article#expertsComments](https://digital.asahi.com/articles/ASRBD20Z2RBCUHBI04K.html?iref=pc_ss_date_article#expertsComments)

I would appreciate it if you read his writings and understand the stance of the Asahi Shimbun Editorial Department.

Tsutomu Ishiai, Senior Staff Writer, former Middle East correspondent for the Asahi Shimbun

*In reporting on the Middle East, shouldn't the word "terrorism" be treated with caution? We have been discussing this point internally for some. I myself have been involved in Asahi Shimbun's Middle East reporting for many years as Cairo Bureau Chief and the Foreign News Editor, and I have tried to be as restrained as possible in using the word "terrorism" in the descriptive part of the article, with the exception of quotations.*

*There are several reasons for this, but the biggest one is that the word "terrorism" is associated with the idea that "evil". Simplifying the conflict into a dualism in which one party is evil and the other is good may lead to a situation that is different from the reality of the conflict.*

*First of all, what is "terrorism"? Depending on where you look at a certain act, the way it is perceived and written will change. When Hamas fighters detonate their own bombs, killing Israeli soldiers and civilians, Israel would naturally refer to them as "suicide terrorism." Hamas, on the other hand, justifies it as "resistance to the occupying state of Israel," and the deceased fighters are treated as "martyrs." (Just to be clear, I am in no way justifying that claim.) So how should we write about it in the newspaper? An expression that does not make any value judgments would be "suicide attack."*

*There is no clear definition under international law as to what "terrorism" is. This has been debated at the United Nations for many years. Furthermore, the definition of "killing or injuring civilians or non-combatants" to achieve political objectives is relatively widely shared. The recent use of force and abduction of Israeli civilians by Hamas is a perfect example of this.*

*On the other hand, what about the Israeli military's air strikes on Gaza? Even if the aim is to kill Hamas combatants, there is no doubt that the destruction of buildings and other activities has*

*resulted in numerous casualties among civilians and non-combatants. In the Arab and Islamic world, including Palestine, there is a general view that if attacks by Hamas are considered "terrorism," then Israeli attacks should be called "(state-sponsored) terrorism."*

*What would happen if we recognized Hamas's recent act as "terrorism" while labeling Israel's attack on the Gaza Strip as "fighting against terrorism" and "self-defense"? As a result, there will be even more casualties among Palestinian civilians and non-combatants. I do not believe that this will lead to maintaining the "fairness and justice" of the international community.*

*In a press statement, a press spokesman at Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, "In response to Palestinian armed groups such as Hamas firing numerous rockets toward Israel from the Gaza Strip and carrying out cross-border attacks into Israeli territory. "‡ We strongly condemn this," he said, without using the word "terrorism." Japan is not necessarily in the same step with Western countries, which have supported Israel in response to this situation.*

*When an international conflict occurs, some Japanese people may think that it is okay to align with the superpower, our ally, the United States. However, in the Middle East, the United States' position of continuing to unilaterally support Israel, which has strong ties with the Jewish lobby, is not seen as "fair and just," especially in the Arab and Islamic worlds, and has received a strong backlash. I think we need to carefully examine whether it is really in Japan's national interest to simply support the US position solely in the context of the Japan-US alliance. Should the word "terrorism" be used easily or not in the reporting surrounding this situation? If so, in what context is it used? I think the position of the media is also being questioned.*

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**Jack Nagler (CBC)** sent the link below, as a good read from an outsider:

<https://theconversation.com/terrorist-vs-militant-the-complicated-language-of-reporting-atrocities-in-israel-hamas-war-215626>

And an article by the CBC Editor in Chief: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/editorsblog/editor-in-chief-note-use-of-words-terrorist-terrorism-1.6997281>

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**David Jordan (BBC)** wrote the following:

Margo / Sandra,

These are the BBC's 2019 Editorial Guidelines.

### ***Use of Language***

**11.3.5** *Our reporting of possible acts of terror should be timely and responsible, bearing in mind our requirement for due accuracy and impartiality. Terrorism is a difficult and emotive subject with significant political overtones and care is required in the use of language that carries value judgements. We should not use the term 'terrorist' without attribution.*

**11.3.6** *The word 'terrorist' itself can be a barrier rather than an aid to understanding. We should convey to our audience the full consequences of the act by describing what happened. We should use*

*words which specifically describe the perpetrator such as 'bomber', 'attacker', 'gunman', 'kidnapper', 'insurgent' and 'militant'. We should not adopt other people's language as our own; our responsibility is to remain objective and report in ways that enable our audiences to make their own assessments about who is doing what to whom.*

The principle of not using the term terrorist to describe perpetrators has existed for decades and all through the IRA bombing campaign.

We are less clear as an organisation about the use of terms like "act of terrorism" and "act of terror". Both are currently permitted by the News Style Guide <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsstyleguide> but since 2019 News has been trying to reduce their use because we have asked why someone who has carried out an act of terrorism can't be described as a terrorist. The Style Guide currently says as follows:

### **terrorist**

*The word "terrorist" is not banned, but its use can be a barrier rather than an aid to understanding. We should not use the term without attribution. We should convey to our audience the full consequences of the act by describing what happened. We should use words which specifically describe the perpetrator such as **bomber, attacker, gunman, kidnapper, insurgent** and **militant**. We should not adopt other people's language as our own. Our responsibility is to remain objective and report in ways that enable our audiences to make their own assessments about who is doing what to whom.*

*While care is needed when describing perpetrators, an action or event can be described as a **terror attack** or an **act of terror**.*

*When we do use the term we should strive to do so with consistency in the stories we report across all our services, and in a way that does not undermine our reputation for objectivity and accuracy. It is also very important that we strive for consistency across the international and UK facing sites. If a BBC World story uses very measured language but a UK version does not, a user will rightly question the different approaches.*

*Beware of paraphrasing and selective quotation, eg: "The Israeli prime minister said that while 'terrorist' attacks continued he would not back down." Putting the single word "terrorist" in quotes may give the impression that the BBC is sceptical about the prime minister's assessment of the nature of the attacks.*

*Domestically, we tread a similar line on Northern Ireland. The IRA is so well known, worldwide, that a label is not necessary. Groups such as the Real IRA and Continuity IRA can often be best labelled as **dissident**. A second reference to organisations such as the UFF and UVF could be along the lines of: **The loyalist paramilitary organisation warned...***

Best,

David

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**George Claassen (News24)** added in the chat during the shop talk:

In South Africa we still have many people who call the ANC a "terrorist" organisation. Nelson Mandela is also called this by some, especially right-wing whites like the Boeremag, whose members even after 1994 tried to kill him and were sent to jail for life.

Our media mostly call them "freedom fighters". On the Israeli/Hamas War: we have a sizable Muslim population, especially in the Cape Town region where I live. Their ancestors were slaves brought into the Cape in the 17th century by the Dutch.

I have had it from both sides as ombud/Public editor for News24, from SA's sizable Jewish community, and from the Pro-Palestinian supporters. And the SA government is under the cosh because of its so-called neutral stance, very similar to its stance regarding the Russian/Ukraine War. And it fills many South Africans with disgust.

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Here are the **AP** style guidelines, as shared by **John Daniszewski**

From the Standards and Style team: Topical guide for the coverage of the Israel-Hamas war

Colleagues,

In collaboration with in-house and external experts, the Standards and Style team has devised a topical guide for the coverage of the Israel-Hamas war. Please read it thoroughly and let us know if you have any questions.

Best,

Amanda, Karen, Howie, John and Paula

Terms, background and guidance related to the Israel-Hamas war, compiled from Associated Press coverage, AP experts and the AP Stylebook. Newsrooms and organizations outside the AP might make decisions that differ from the AP's specific recommendations.

See full [AP coverage](#) for updates and more background, context and terms.

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Hamas militants stormed from the blockaded Gaza Strip into nearby Israeli towns on Oct. 7, which coincided with a major Jewish holiday. The attack, which killed hundreds of civilians, stunned Israel and caught its vaunted military and intelligence apparatus completely off guard.

Israel immediately launched airstrikes on Gaza, destroying entire neighborhoods and killing hundreds of Palestinian civilians in the days that have followed.

The war has become the deadliest of five Gaza wars for both sides. At least 199 people, including children, were captured by Hamas and taken into Gaza, according to Israel.

The leader of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, said in a recorded message that the assault was in response to Israel's 16-year blockade of Gaza; Israeli raids inside West Bank cities over the past year, violence at the Al-Aqsa Mosque — built on a contested Jerusalem holy site sacred to Jews as the Temple Mount; increased attacks by settlers on Palestinians; and the expansion of Jewish settlements on occupied lands Palestinians claim for a future state.

The Hamas incursion came on Simchat Torah, a normally joyous day when Jews complete the annual cycle of reading the Torah scroll. Israel declared war the next day.

Previous Israel-Hamas wars were in 2008-2009, 2012, 2014 and 2021.

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## **balance**

When approaching the 75-year Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Palestinian conflict, it is important to understand the deep wells of anger, hurt, bitterness and grievance built up over generations among Israelis and Palestinians who have lived with insecurity and conflict their whole lives, and who have seen many attempts at negotiation and mediation fail.

In some ways, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the world's most intractable problem.

Words should be chosen carefully to reflect respect for different perspectives on the conflict. Palestinians are divided between more moderate and more radical viewpoints. Similarly, among Israelis, some take a more far-right and ultranationalist approach to Palestinian demands and aspirations, and there are those who would want to achieve a peaceful co-existence.

Avoid stereotyping, discuss nuance, and in broad ways maintain a balanced perspective. When talking about attacks, keep in mind that in a conflict going back so many years, there are often many antecedents.

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## **Israel-Hamas war**

The Associated Press is calling the present conflict between Israel and the militant Palestinian group Hamas a war, given the widespread and ongoing nature of military operations in Israel and Gaza.

The decision was made in consideration of the high number of casualties, the mobilization of armies, the organized, cross-border fighting and bombardments, and Israel's declaration of war and announcement that Gaza will be under siege.

For the time being, it can be called *the latest war between Israel and Hamas*, *the latest Israel-Hamas war* or simply *the Israel-Hamas war* if the context makes clear that the reference is not to a previous war.

Do not use terms such as *Israel-Palestinian war* or *Gaza war*.

Lowercase the word *war*. AP capitalizes that word only as part of a formal name, which as of now does not exist.

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## **terrorism**

The calculated use of violence, especially against civilians, to create terror to disrupt and demoralize societies for political ends.

The terms *terrorism* and *terrorist* have become politicized, and often are applied inconsistently. Because they can be used to label such a wide range of actions and events, and because the debate around them is so intense, detailing what happened is more precise and better serves audiences.

Therefore, the AP is not using the terms for specific actions or groups, other than in direct quotations or when attributed to authorities or others. Instead, we describe specific atrocities, massacres, bombings, assassinations and other such actions.

In the past, the AP had used the terms without attribution sparingly and with great caution.

We continue to use the terms in broad references to terrorism as a threat and *anti-terrorism efforts*, *fear of terror*, etc.

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## **militant, militants**

AP uses this term to describe Hamas, in keeping with the Webster's New World College Dictionary definition: ready and willing to fight; especially, vigorous or aggressive in supporting or promoting a cause; and Merriam-Webster: aggressively active (as in a cause).

Terms such as *Hamas fighters*, *attackers* or *combatants* are also acceptable depending on the context.

Do not use the term Hamas *soldiers* or Hamas resistance, other than in direct quotations.

The *Israeli army* has soldiers. It also can be called the *Israeli military*. Use its official name, *Israeli Defense Forces*, and the acronym *IDF* only in direct quotations.

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## **Palestine**

Use *Palestine* only in the context of Palestine's activities in international bodies to which it has been admitted.

Do not use *Palestine* or *the state of Palestine* in other situations, since it is not a fully independent, unified state. For territory, refer specifically to the *West Bank* or *Gaza*, or *the Palestinian territories* in reference to both.

*Palestinians* are Arabs who live in, or whose ancestors lived in, the geographic area that comprises Israel, the Gaza Strip, the occupied West Bank, and east Jerusalem. These areas were once part of the traditional eastern Mediterranean region of Palestine.

See **Gaza Strip, Gaza; West Bank; east Jerusalem.**

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## **Gaza Strip, Gaza**

The Gaza Strip is an area of about 140 square miles and 2.3 million people at the border of Israel and Egypt on the Mediterranean Sea. One of two Palestinian territories along with the West Bank, it is one of the most densely populated and impoverished areas in the world. *Gaza* is acceptable on second reference. Palestinians seek Gaza, along with the *West Bank* and *east Jerusalem* — all areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war — for a future state.

The 1993 Oslo Accords between Israel and the *Palestine Liberation Organization* were meant to lay the groundwork for the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel. The interim agreement created the *Palestinian Authority* and set up self-rule areas in the Palestinian territories. Several rounds of peace talks over the years all ended in failure and violence has been frequent.

Israel unilaterally withdrew its troops and settlers from Gaza in 2005. Hamas won legislative elections held in the West Bank and Gaza in 2006, and seized control of Gaza from the Palestinian Authority in 2007.

Since Hamas took control, Israel and Egypt have severely restricted the flow of goods into the territory and the movement of people in and out, in what Israel says is a security measure. The blockade has ravaged Gaza's economy, and Palestinians accuse Israel of collective punishment.

In the current war, Israel cut off all fuel, food and electricity. Meanwhile, Hamas says that Israeli strikes had made the Rafah crossing into Egypt — the only other way out with the Israeli side sealed — impassable.

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## **Gazans**

Avoid this term. Instead: *Palestinians in Gaza*.

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## **Hamas**

An armed Palestinian militant group, Hamas governs some 2.3 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip after violently seizing control of Gaza in 2007 from the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority. It is one of the Palestinian territories' two major political parties; the other is the more moderate Fatah party.

Hamas has always espoused violence as a means to liberate occupied Palestinian territories. The group has vowed to annihilate Israel and has been responsible for many suicide bombings and other deadly attacks on civilians and Israeli soldiers.

The U.S. State Department designated Hamas a terrorist group in 1997. The European Union and other Western countries also consider it a terrorist organization.

Hamas has carried out suicide bombings and over the years fired tens of thousands of increasingly powerful rockets from Gaza into Israel. It also established a network of tunnels running from Gaza to Egypt to smuggle in weapons, as well as attack tunnels burrowing into Israel.

Hamas was founded in 1987 by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, a Palestinian refugee living in Gaza, during the first intifada, or Palestinian uprising. The word *Hamas* is the Arabic acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement.

Over the years, Hamas received backing from Arab countries, such as Qatar and Turkey. Recently, it has moved closer to Iran and its allies.

Yehia Sinwar, in Gaza, and Ismail Haniyeh, who lives in exile, are Hamas' current leaders. They realigned the group's leadership with Iran and its allies, including Lebanon's Hezbollah. Since then, many of the group's leaders relocated to Beirut.

Possessive form: Hamas' not Hamas's.

See **militant, militants**.

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## Israel

The modern state was declared in 1948 after Arab countries rejected the United Nations' partition resolution \_ a plan that would have divided the region into two states with Jerusalem controlled by the U.N. Israelis believed in creating a Jewish state in the biblical land of Israel as a guarantor of Jewish survival.

The state was immediately recognized by the United States and admitted to the U.N. Israel was attacked by neighboring Arab countries, winning the war. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians living in what would become Israel fled or were forcibly expelled and settled in refugee camps in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, a source of tension to this day.

Later wars, including the 1956 Suez Crisis, the 1967 Six-Day War and the 1973 war, further defined the de facto frontiers of Israel, which developed over the years into an undeclared nuclear-armed regional power backed by the United States.

An uneasy peace was achieved with Egypt in 1978 with the Camp David Accords, and the 1993 and 1995 Oslo Accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization were meant to usher an eventual two-state solution in which Israel would trade land for peace with the Palestinians.

Although the Palestinians achieved limited autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza, the process bogged down in acrimony and repeated rounds of violence, and the goal of a two-state solution was never achieved. Palestinian demands for a return of refugees and their descendants, the construction of Jewish settlements in areas claimed by Palestinians, and the lack of a clear statement of Israel's right to exist from some on the Palestinian side have been among the major impediments to a settlement.

In addition to the Egypt accords, Israel and Jordan reached a peace treaty in 1994. The Abraham Accords of 2020 normalized relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates; Israel and Bahrain; and Israel and Morocco.

Violence has ebbed and flowed. Israel has been subject to attacks from Palestinian militants and Hezbollah for years, including rocket attacks, suicide bombings and other violence against ordinary citizens. Israel has carried out bombardments that have also killed many civilians in Palestinian territories, deadly raids in Palestinian towns in the West Bank, and assassinations against Palestinian leaders both in the region and beyond. At various stages, Israel has occupied southern Lebanon, for multiple years after a full-scale invasion of Lebanon and war in 1982.

In effect, Israel exercises security control of the occupied West Bank, leaving the Palestinian Authority with limited administrative authority over Palestinian population centers. Israel fully withdrew from Gaza in 2005, turning it over to the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority, while retaining control of most access to Gaza by land, air and sea. The United Nations still considers Gaza to be occupied. Egypt controls access to Gaza's southern border crossing at Rafah.

Fatah in turn was ousted by the militant Hamas group.

Israel has a parliamentary system. The present government led by Benjamin Netanyahu, who has served as prime minister for a total of 16 years since 1996, is a far-right coalition comprised of ultra-nationalist and ultra-Orthodox parties. After the outbreak of the latest war, Netanyahu formed a wartime Cabinet that includes Benny Gantz, an opposition party leader and former military chief of staff.

Netanyahu, who has been prosecuted for a series of personal scandals, recently has moved to limit the independence of Israeli courts that serve as a check on the government's power.

His coalition includes religious and nationalist parties active in creating West Bank settlements and considered hostile to Palestinians, while more liberal opponents have been staging massive demonstrations against Netanyahu's proposals to limit the judiciary, which they see as a threat to democracy.

On Oct. 11, Netanyahu and a leading opposition figure created a wartime Cabinet to oversee the fight against Hamas. It will consist of Netanyahu, Benny Gantz — a senior opposition figure and former defense minister and army chief — and current Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

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### **settlements**

Over 500,000 Israelis live in Israeli settlements built in the occupied West Bank, in addition to more than 200,000 settlers in east Jerusalem. Israel considers the settlements in east Jerusalem to be neighborhoods of its capital.

The international community overwhelmingly considers all settlements to be illegal. Palestinians say settlers are taking over their homes and lands they had claimed for a future state.

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### **West Bank**

One of two Palestinian territories, along with the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Authority, dominated by the Fatah movement, administers semi-autonomous areas of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Israel captured the West Bank, along with Gaza and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 war.

The West Bank, which is not part of Israel, can be described as *occupied territory*.

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### **east Jerusalem**

Israel captured east Jerusalem, along with the West Bank and Gaza, territories the Palestinians want for their future state, in the 1967 war. Israel annexed east Jerusalem and views the entire city as its capital. The annexation is not recognized internationally and most of the world considers east Jerusalem to be occupied territory.

The Palestinians view east Jerusalem — which includes some of the holiest sites for Jews, Christians and Muslims — as their capital, and its fate is one of the most sensitive issues in the Mideast conflict.

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### **Jerusalem**

Do not refer to Jerusalem as the capital of Israel or refer to the Israeli government as “Jerusalem.”

Israel considers the entire city to be its capital. The Palestinians view annexed east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state.

Most of the international community does not recognize Israel’s annexation of east Jerusalem and believes its fate should be determined in peace talks.

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### **Temple Mount**

The walled, elevated area in Jerusalem's Old City that was the site of the ancient Jewish temples. It now houses the centuries-old Dome of the Rock shrine and Al-Aqsa Mosque and is known to Muslims as the *Haram al-Sharif*, or *Noble Sanctuary*. Muslims believe the Prophet Muhammad made his night journey to heaven from the site.

Any reference to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound/Temple Mount should note both names and its importance to both Muslims and Jews. It is the third holiest site in Islam, after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia. It is the holiest site for Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount because it was the site of the Jewish temples in antiquity.

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### **Al-Aqsa Mosque**

The mosque completed in the eighth century atop the Haram al-Sharif, or *Noble Sanctuary*, in the Old City of Jerusalem; Arabs also use *Al-Aqsa* to refer to the whole area, which houses the Dome of the Rock shrine, too. To Jews the area is known as the *Temple Mount*, the site of the ancient Jewish temples.

Any reference to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound/Temple Mount should note both names and its importance to both Muslims and Jews. It is the third holiest site in Islam, after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia. It is the holiest site for Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount because it was the site of the Jewish temples in antiquity.

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### **Hezbollah**

Hezbollah was founded in 1982 at the height of Israel’s invasion of Lebanon. It has become the largest and most heavily armed militant group in the Middle East. The Shiite group, based in Lebanon, is armed and funded by Iran. A senior Hamas leader says Hezbollah was not involved in the attack on southern Israel. In recent days, the group has fired rockets and shells into Northern Israel.

Hezbollah, supported by both Iran and Syria, has fought continuously with Israel since its formation, and is the major power broker in Lebanon.

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### **pro-Israeli, pro-Palestinian**

These shorthand descriptions can be misleading in that people can be critical of the current leadership or policies on either side and still support Israel or the Palestinian people. A critic of the present government of Israel may nevertheless be pro-Israeli, and a critic of Hamas may still be a supporter of Palestinians. When possible, try to say exactly what the individual believes.

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### **Other terms**

#### **antisemitism**

Prejudice or discrimination against Jews. A 2021 change from previous style (*anti-Semitism* and *anti-Semitic*).

The term was coined in the 19th century by the German writer Wilhelm Marr, who opposed efforts to extend the full rights of German citizenship to Jews. He asserted that Jews were Semites — descended from the Semitic peoples of the Middle East and thus racially different from (and threatening to) Germany's Aryans. This racist pseudoscience was applied only to Jews, not Arabs.

The previous style was based on common usage. In recent years, that style has come under criticism from those who say it could give credence to the idea that Jews are a separate race. In response, a growing number of Jewish organizations and others have settled on the style *antisemitism*.

Avoid using the term *antisemite* for an individual other than in a direct quotation. Instead, be specific in describing the person's words or actions.

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