Here is all we know about militias & mercenaries linked to the Israeli Defense Force, IDF, in Gaza

Information assembled by Ulysses on August 27, 2026,
for his blog: **blueprinteditor.blogspot.com**

Israel continues to arm and train ISIS-linked gangs to serve as 'operational arm' in Gaza

The criminals were given artillery and drone cover
by the Israeli military during their operations

Israel is expanding its use of criminal gangs, drug dealers, and other mercenaries recruited from within Gaza to commit war crimes in the enclave, creating the conditions for local massacres "reminiscent of Sabra and Shatila," *Haaretz* reported on 26 August [2026].

The investigation found that the armed groups now function as an "operational arm" of the Israeli army and the Shin Bet inside the enclave.

Five prominent armed groups currently operate in Gaza, deployed in Beit Hanoun, Shujaiyeh, Deir al-Balah, Khan Yunis, and Rafah, with each assigned a defined area under Israeli military control.

An Israeli Air Force officer who tracked the gunmen by drone alongside a Shin Bet operative told *Haaretz*: "You see the State of Israel, the IDF and Shin Bet sending armed, trained militias to commit war crimes, and I'm the one who has to protect them during their operations so they don't get hurt."

The armed groups have turned on Palestinians trying to survive the genocide, opening fire on civilians, looting and torching homes, and forcibly displacing families from shelters, according to the officer's account and information gathered by the UN.

Soldiers who spoke to the newspaper early in the scheme warned that it could lead to killings comparable to the Sabra and Shatila massacre, in which Phalangist forces allied with Israel slaughtered as many as 3,500 Palestinian and Lebanese civilians in the two Beirut refugee camps in 1982.

Israeli troops sealed off the area and watched the killing unfold, firing illumination flares to help the militants spot their targets.

Senior Israeli military officials told the newspaper that these groups' key figures are not political leaders or credible alternatives to Hamas. Instead, they are former gang bosses and drug dealers who exploited Gaza’s disorder for their own benefit.

Sources in Gaza confirmed the Israeli military supplied the gunmen with artillery and drone cover during their operations.

The report states armed groups use Israeli army call signs, appear on briefing maps, are marked in command systems, and have bases near Israeli outposts.

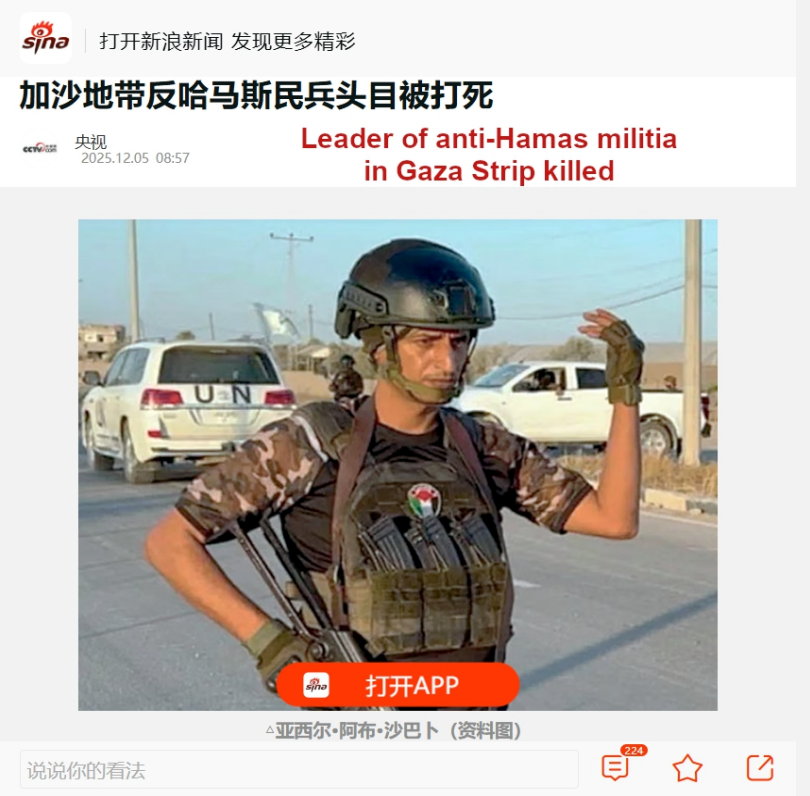
The tactic is built on Israel's earlier backing of now-deceased smuggler Yasser Abu Shabab, the Rafah warlord whose gang spent months looting UN aid convoys under Israeli protection while Tel Aviv publicly blamed Hamas for the theft.

Israeli Prime Minister and war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu admitted in June 2025 that Israel had deployed Gaza clans against Hamas "on the advice of security officials," in response to accusations that his government had armed "criminals affiliated with the Islamic State," referring to Abu Shabab’s gang members.

A senior UN official based in Rafah said the aid theft was systematic, tactical, armed, crime-syndicate looting, and said the Israeli army had allowed it to go unchecked in areas under its own military control.

Israel opened the space these gangs moved into by repeatedly killing members of Gaza's police force as they escorted aid convoys, leaving the trucks unguarded and the crossings exposed.

[**Haaretz**, Israel, quoted by **The Cradle** on August 27, 2026]



On the 4th, the militia group “People Power” in the Gaza Strip against the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) confirmed that its leader, Yasser Abu Shabab, had been killed. It is reported that Shabab died at the hands of the clan “internal conflict”, not Hamas.

A source for the militia group said fighting between different families and groups within the group escalated into a shootout in which Shabab was killed by gunfire. An Israeli security official said later that day that Shabab was beaten in an argument “with Israel” and that he died of his injuries after being taken to an Israeli hospital.

It is reported that the exact time of Shabab's death is unknown and appears to have been within the last 48 hours.

“People Power” has previously denied being supported by Israel or cooperating with the Israeli military, saying its activities are of a “humanitarian” nature. But it was revealed that Shabab's “People Power” militia group had been working with Israel on anti-Hamas operations in the southern Gaza Strip.

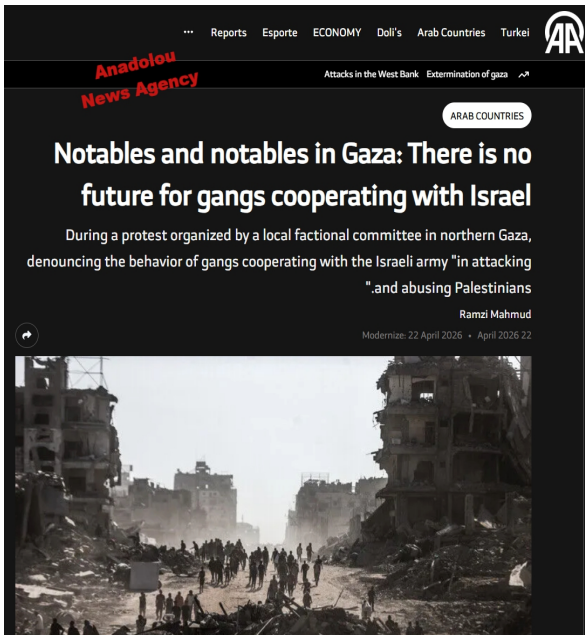
It is reported that Shabab was the head of the Bedouin clan, and that the militia he led was the HonlunSince then, the anti-Hamas organization in the Gaza Strip has performed “most prominently”. Since the October ceasefire in Gaza, Shabab and his group have been operating in the Israeli-controlled area of Rafah, a city in the southern Gaza Strip.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu admitted in June that Israel had armed anti-Hamas clans in the Gaza Strip, but Israel rarely released details. There has been no official Israeli response in response to Shabab's death.

A Hamas spokesman denied that the group was linked to Shabab's death. Hamas determined that Shabab had cooperated with Israel and had ordered its armed men to kill or capture him.

Israel was revealed to have tried unsuccessfully to win over community leaders and family elders in the Gaza Strip to form an anti-Hamas coalition, and turned to young people like Shabab. This type of anti-Hamas militia has been involved in the systematic looting of aid convoys and the theft of humanitarian aid.“ People Power” also cooperated with the Israeli army in clearing out Hamas militants hiding in tunnels in the Israeli-controlled area of Rafah City. The Israeli side is trying to weaken Hamas, control the population of Gaza and reject the Palestinian National Authority's governance of Gaza after the war by fostering these “agents”. https://news.sina.cn/2025-12-05/detail-infztcen7904064.d.html?vt=4

Quoted from the Chinese platform **SINA**, published May 15, 2025]



[Published by **Anadolou**, Turkish news agency, on April 22, 2026]

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