

# On the Backdrop of the Ceasefire in the Gaza Strip

**1** The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) – an official Turkish aid organization with ties to the Muslim Brotherhood – has not only been active in Jerusalem these past two years, despite the subversive nature of its work, but is also active in Gaza. In addition to activating other forces in the area, it has built a hospital in Gaza City, which was actually vacant for several years because of an apparent dispute with Hamas. TIKA's main office here is in Ramallah, from where it runs its Jerusalem activities some 20 kilometers to the south. FIMED is an Istanbul-based organization that calls itself the "Palestinian Information Corporation" for Palestinian affairs in Turkey. It posted a video on its X account, purporting to show injured Gazans being taken to a hospital in an ambulance adorned not only with a Fatah flag, but also a Turkish flag.



**2** The Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem are preparing joyous festivities to celebrate the release of many major terrorists in the current ceasefire/hostage-release deal. Among the Jerusalem residents who had been sentenced to life in prison but who will now be freed, if the deal continues to go through, is Ismail Hajazi. He is a convicted murderer who was originally freed in the Shalit deal, and who was arrested again when he continued his terrorist activity. He will be permanently deported from Israel upon his release. Similar preparations were made for the previous mass release of terrorists just over a year ago, in which dozens of Jerusalem terrorists – a quarter of all those released – were freed.

**3** The O202 View from Eastern Jerusalem website cites some interesting and differing reactions on the part of local Arabs regarding the ceasefire in Gaza. Bishop Atallah Hana writes about a "moment of joy" for "tortured and mournful Gaza." Amhad Al-Badeiri, a journalist working for the Al-'ad Al-Arabi network, writes that Gaza is "strong and solid." And a journalist for Al-Kuds, Mahmoud Awadallah, calls for an accounting of gains vs. losses, and says that "lessons must be learned."

The expected return of murderous terrorists to the Arab neighborhoods around Jerusalem has yet other ramifications as well. Rumors are making the rounds in these areas that the return

of the killers means that the Israeli security forces will close the passages in the security barrier in the coming days, affecting the entry into Jerusalem.

**4** Israel has denied the rumors. Still, increased passage from behind the wall to within Jerusalem has been noticed over the last few days, especially from Kafr Aqeb and the Shuafat refugee camp. As noted in our previous report, these locales are located on the Arab side of the security barrier, but are also within the municipal Jerusalem borders. Many PA residents reside there illegally, and many Jerusalem residents are also registered there, seeking to maintain their Israeli rights while at the same time living in other PA areas where the cost of living is cheaper. A large number of Arabs are now expected to seek to move [back] to Shuafat and Kafr Aqeb over the coming days.

**5** Many of these residents used to live in the Old City, which they left over the last few years because of the lack of affordable housing and general economic troubles there. The rising average age in the Old City, the dearth of local shoppers, and the decreasing tourism rates of the past years due to Corona and the war – these are all factors in the sinking economic fortunes in the Old City. If the Israeli authorities fail to convince the Arab public that the rumors of the passages-closing are false, there is liable to be great congestion in the Old City because of the return of many Arab residents.

## What is FIMED?



Filistin İletişimciler ve Medya Derneği  
الجمعية الفلسطينية للإعلام

FIMED is apparently run by Turkish elements and located in Istanbul, but which calls itself a Palestinian organization: the "Palestinian Information Corporation." Its website is in Turkish, with an option for Arabic, and it bills itself as dealing with Palestinian matters in Turkey. Its X account was active until now, but was closed this week, at least temporarily, for unspecified "guideline violations." It is a very extremist anti-Israeli organization, similar to other Turkish groups in general, but especially to the non-governmental organizations.

FIMED is said to be a Hamas body, whose goal is to promote and aggrandize Turkish President Erdogan among the Palestinian Authority population. This is the view of Nordic Monitor – a website and tracking site run by an opponent of Turkish President Erdogan, exiled Turkish journalist Abdullah Bozkurt – that covers religious, ideological and ethnic radical groups, with a special focus on Turkey.

If Nordic Monitor is correct, this jibes well with Erdogan's imperialist aspirations, especially those having to do with his designs on Jerusalem. Erdogan sees Jerusalem as the crown of the Caliphate that he seeks to re-establish (the cities of Mecca and Medina, in Saudi Arabia, are currently not in the running when it comes to Turkey). Erdogan's stature in the PA is not good, partly because of his support for Hamas, and it is reasonable to assume that he would strive to advance his personal image in the PA and Gaza, as part of his far-reaching diplomatic plans.

