



Statements from 'The Lions' Den

What is The Lions' Den?

The Lions' Den (Areen al-Usud) is an autonomous armed group of Palestinian youth who are waging guerilla war against the Israeli state and settlers in the occupied West Bank. They are part of a new generation of Palestinian militants who, since late 2021, have responded to escalating Israeli fascism, a counter-revolutionary Palestinian Authority (PA), and a factionalized anticolonial movement by organizing themselves into independent, allied groups that operate out of the cities and refugee camps where they live. Like the Jenin Brigades and the Balata Brigades, the Lions' Den does not swear allegiance to any political party. "We are a group and not an organization," one anonymous revolutionary told the press. "Anyone who wants to resist the occupation is welcome."

The Lions' Den is based in the city of Nablus in the northern West Bank; its fighters appear to be mostly young men and boys in their late teens and early twenties. Many of them were born during the Second Intifada (2000-2005) and have already spent time in PA or Israeli prisons. The group was formed under the name the Nablus Brigades (Katibet Nablus) in early 2022 and was incorrectly described by Israeli intelligence as a "renegade cell" of the Fatah party. In August 2022, Ibrahim al-Nabulsi, an 18-year-old founding member known across the West Bank as The Lion of Nablus for evading multiple assassination attempts, was murdered in a shoot-out with Israeli forces. Ibrahim recorded a voice message for his comrades before his death: "I love you so much. If I am martyred, guys, I love my mother. Take care of the homeland after I'm gone, and my final will to you, on your honor: don't let go of the rifle." A Telegram account created two weeks later announced The Lions' Den's new name and appealed to the community for solidarity, gaining more followers than any official party platform.

In September 2022, the group made its first public appearance. Armed, balaclava-clad fighters spoke on a street in Nablus' Old City to a crowd of thousands and promised increased attacks on Israeli soldiers and settler fascists. In the following weeks, Lions' Den

This zine gathers communiqués from The Lions' Den, an armed group of Palestinian youth based in Nablus, issued between October 2022 and February 2023 (present). All Lions' Den statements are released on Telegram at t.me/areennablus and translated into English at t.me/PalestineResist.

Until Palestine is free

fighters made good on their promise with dozens of shootings on checkpoints and settlements, announced through Telegram—always opening with a revolutionary interpretation of Islamic text, and always signing off “your brothers, The Lions’ Den.” In October, the group claimed its first killing of an Israeli soldier at a settlement in the Nablus district.

The Israeli government recognizes the threat The Lions’ Den poses and, fearing an armed Third Intifada, has sought its annihilation from the beginning. As part of “Operation Break the Wave,” Israel has carried out covert and public assassinations of members as young as 16 and conducts near-nightly raids in Nablus, where its soldiers clash with fighters ready to defend their community. In September 2022, the PA arrested two Lions’ Den revolutionaries wanted by Israel, prompting a city-wide backlash where Nablus youth set tire barricades ablaze and attacked police. Since then, the PA has switched to quiet neutralization tactics by offering fighters amnesty within its security ranks if they give up their weapons. This strategy has overwhelmingly failed.

What has allowed The Lions’ Den to survive in the face of extreme counterinsurgency, and what makes it terrifying to Israel, is its enormous base of popular support in Nablus and, increasingly, across the West Bank. After fighters launch guerilla attacks, they depend on relatives, friends, and neighbors to hide them in the alleys of the Old City. Funerals for Lions’ Den martyrs draw thousands, and their photos can be seen pasted up on walls and worn on necklaces even in Gaza. When the group’s Telegram put out consecutive calls in October 2022 for a mass strike and a “night of disruption,” Palestinians across the West Bank shut down entire cities and Ramallah youth threw Molotovs at IDF vehicles. The group also encourages autonomous armed action outside its ranks: In the wake of Ibrahim’s murder, three Nablusi women—Tahrir Abu Sariya, Maryam Arafat, and Alaa Abu Dhraa—opened fire on an Israeli military post to avenge him. In their statement, they addressed “all of the Palestinian women. Oh sisters of struggle...Go out and fight, and do not abandon the gun.”

In addition to participating in armed struggle, Palestinian women form the backbone of The Lions’ Den in more invisibilized ways. At each new funeral for a fallen fighter, women relatives and comrades distribute coffee and water to mourners, communicate collective grief, transmit the memories of their sons and partners, and model courage and determination for their community. At Ibrahim’s funeral, his mother Um Eyad wiped her tears and addressed the crowd of mourners: “They are mistaken if they think they killed Ibrahim. Everyone is Ibrahim.”



Selected & Excerpted Communiqués

October 15, 2022

In the name of Allah the Merciful,

This is a brief statement.

To our family in the West Bank, our family in the Gaza Strip, to our family in exile and in all parts of the world:

Do not pay attention to the trivial matters published by the occupation and its claim that it has achieved successes by deleting The Lions' Den page on Tik Tok. The Lions' Den group does not have an account on Tik Tok anyway. And even if our technological means are fought, our confidence in our people is unparalleled that they will deliver our messages in all ways.

The Lions' Den group is waiting for Al-Khalil and Bethlehem, the guardians of the south and its lions, to make the first statement of the Den with blood and bullets.

The Lions' Den calls on all the residents of the towns adjacent to the marches that the settlers intend to hold tonight to go out, mobilize, cut off roads and engage directly with them, and do not worry, God willing, for the lions of the den are with you and among you.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den

October 16, 2022

In the name of Allah the Merciful,

The fighters of The Lions' Den carried out an operation at 11:30 am on Sunday morning in the area of the occupied al-Murabbaa point separating the Ishar bypass road and the village of Tal. They utilized non-homemade grenades and caused 5 guaranteed casualties among the occupation soldiers through intense gunfire. The resistance fighters withdrew peacefully, and we leave the occupation, as usual, to claim casualties as being dead from road accidents or climbing in the Ecuadorian mountains.

Here, we send a message of salutations, homage, and veneration to our people in the city of Nablus, who are steadfast and patient against the siege, and we promise them strikes that will heal chests.

As for our people in occupied Al-Quds, and in Silwan, the eternal Shuafat, and in every part of Al-Quds, we want you to have a dark night against the enemy equal to the extent of the enemy's crime.

To Allah belongs the command before and after.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den



October 17, 2022

In the name of Allah, the most gracious, the merciful,
“To those who have been oppressed, permission is given to fight,
and verily Allah will provide them victory.”

To our steadfast and patient people in Nablus, the mountain of fire;
from its center to the refugee camps and the surrounding villages.
We salute your courage and steadfastness. We have received your
messages and the messages of our helpers, raising our readiness to
the utmost.

This statement is a call to action to all the patriots who can
participate the armed struggle and fight. To those that can use
weapons, be fully prepared this blessed night. To those that can
fight with anything their ingenuity provides them, be fully prepared
this blessed night.

The occupation wanted to deceive us yet again with its false
information campaigns. The enemy thought changing the sound of
its drones and airplanes would deceive us and throw us off guard.
However, your brothers in The Lions' Den know what the
occupation doesn't. There are only two futures we are patiently
awaiting for: the time of our martyrdom where we will be rejoined
with our loved ones at the feet of our Lord and the time of our
victory.

To all our compatriots - our fathers, our mothers, our brothers and
sisters, our children: come out tonight on the roofs and balconies of
your homes at 12:30 am and let us hear your takbeers. We hope that
the last sounds we hear as we fight are your voices. There is nothing
more precious to us in this world. We will defend our religion, ours
and yours. We will defend our honour and dignity, ours and yours.
Let us fight together, shoulder to shoulder. We tell the enemy: do it!
For we are waiting here, and the wait is long.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den

November 1, 2022

To those who call for peace, look at their elections and you will see
their choices. You will see their results and you will know, despite
your knowledge, that you are chasing a mirage. As for the resistance
in The Lions' Den, the blessed factions and our lone wolves: strike
them everywhere. What kind of life is this that we live in peace
with those who abuse our blood and the blood of our children, our
men and sisters? No, by God, either we will crush the oppressor,
or we die as did al-Wadi', and Abu Saleh, al-Nabulsi, al-Jabari and
al-Tamimi.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den



November 9, 2022

The fighters of The Lions' Den, in a sacred security coordination with the lions of the Balata Battalion and the companions of Al-Farouq, carried out a legendary battle on Wednesday night, as the occupation forces entered the area surrounding Joseph's Tomb. Here, we would like to explain to our people the goal of this incursion, which cost the enemy effort and equipment. A collection of sniper teams, special units, mustaribeen [undercover plainclothes soldiers], and highly fortified mechanized forces, all of this was deployed to transfer the leaders of the Zionist government to take a picture in the Tomb so that the enemy might appear strong before their people. They entered and left under showers of bullets.

If you [journalists] have received any directive to neglect these events and clashes in the hope that life will return to normal, we say to those who passed this information on to you: if Wadie [al-Houh], Mahdi [al-Hashash], [Ashraf] al-Mubaslat, [Ibrahim] al-Nabulsi, [Mohammed] al-Azizi, [Adham Mabrouka] al-Shishani and all the others among the long list of our heroic of the martyrs return; if they return to life then life will return to normal. The rocks, stones, and humans all understand that there is no normal life while the occupation sits on our chests.

Glory, all glory to the educated and combatant rifle.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den

November 19, 2022

On Saturday, The Lions' Den group lured an Israeli special forces unit into the Old City of Nablus. They thought it would be an easy hunt targeting the leaders of our Den, who are unknown to the general public. However, our brave soldiers of the Den were present and used dozens of different methods to defend their pride. The Zionist forces fell into an ambush under an intense hail of bullets and the detonation of explosive devices from three different directions. Allah punished the soldiers of delusion with a defeat at the hands of our anger.

We tell you that The Lions' Den deals with the vile occupier with a unique strategy. As such, the Den has now hidden all information about its leaders, its commanders, and its soldiers who act in utmost secrecy. Any and all information about our group has been cut off. The occupation and those who aid it know nothing of the Den. Therefore, we appeal to you in the name of Allah not to share any pictures or videos or information about the resistance on social media or even on private messages or in private conversations. Do not photograph the resistance, any of its fighters, or any of its actions.

We appeal to you our dear compatriots in the name of Allah, you who are the crown on our heads, our protective shield, our pure caretakers, whether inside the Old City of Nablus or anywhere else in our blessed land to abide by our request. We know that you all care for us more than even your own homes and money. However, the security cameras have become a sword above the necks of your children and loved ones among the resistance fighters. The occupation infiltrates these cameras and tracks the movement of our fighters without any effort or risk. We all hope that you will cooperate with the resistance on this issue which has cost us a lot and hurt us a lot.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den

November 29, 2022

To our people, we say this is a time when Allah distinguishes the bad from the good. Either you choose to be on the front lines for the homeland with the resistance or you are in the trenches of the occupation. There is no isthmus between them and there will never be. Do not let anyone use pretty words and snake-tongued rhetoric to confuse you and misplace you.

Therefore, in retaliation for the blood of our martyrs, Wednesday will be a day of comprehensive anger in all the cities of the West Bank and occupied Al-Quds. At every point of contact, on every front, at all times and places: let us ignite the ground under their feet. There is but one death, and we shall all inevitably perish in various ways. So do good in your lives and in your deaths. Improve the methods in which you fight and kill for as long as they rob us of our right to life.

O children of our people, despite the bitterness of our current economic situation, we say that a “normal” day under the occupation cannot pass while the bloodshed of our siblings continues. Therefore, The Lions’ Den group requests your permission to announce Wednesday as a day of comprehensive strike, comprehensive mourning, comprehensive mobilization, and comprehensive anger, God willing. By Allah, we will be victorious, and by Allah, we will take revenge.

Your brothers, The Lions’ Den

December 2, 2022

The fighters of The Lions’ Den group confronted the occupation soldiers with many heavy salvos of bullets from several directions at 8:00 on Friday morning during the IOF [Israeli Occupation Forces] storming of Ras al-Ain in Nablus. They had two goals: First, the arrest of one of the resistance fighters (may Allah break his chains). The second was the monitoring of resistance confrontation tactics during the occupation storming of the Old City of Nablus.

We call upon the honorable citizens and honorable journalists who seek to document the clashes with the enemy to avoid photographing the faces of the resistance fighters or the areas in which they are present. We thank you for your patriotic sense of duty and your endeavor to document the heroics of the resistance fighters.

We call on you now to come out to the streets and roofs and mobilize to close the roads which settlers and occupation forces pass through. This causes the settlers terror and hysteria and disrupts their supplies.

How do we sleep tonight when one of our lions was executed in cold blood? Get out now, now! And not later. Go onto the roofs and let the world hear your takbeers. Come out to close the roads, distract and confront the occupation in any way you can. We are with you, God willing, and we will not hesitate to take any opportunity to strike them painfully. Our hearts and yours will heal.

Your brothers, The Lions’ Den

December 5, 2022

In response to the execution of the honorable martyr Ammar Mufleh, the soldiers of the Den carried out 5 shooting operations since midnight last Friday towards the occupation checkpoints at Huwara and at Beit Furik. The Lions also targeted the enemy soldiers' gatherings at the occupied Gerzim checkpoint with three consecutive shooting operations. Throughout all these actions, our brave soldiers withdrew from the area safely and without casualty.

The Lions' Den also repelled the so-called "israeli special forces" and their intrusion into the Old City [of Nablus] at dawn on Sunday with a heavy barrage of bullets.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den



December 6, 2022

To our free compatriots, you who are the precious crown upon our heads. All of you, from Al Khalil to Jenin. We reveal to you today facts and information that we must all know and act upon.

We start with an important clarification. The soldiers of The Lions' Den and of the Resistance are not desperate young men with no hope for a future. All the martyrs from The Lions' Den, the martyrs from the Jenin Battalion, the martyrs of the whole Resistance: from the heroic fighting doctor Abdullah Abu al-Tin, to one of the lions of our group Wadie al-Houh, to Abu Saleh, to Abboud, to Meshaal, to the martyr groom Farouk Salamah. All these heroes had a flourishing life, a job, a future waiting for them, and on whom their families pinned their hopes upon. They were not desperate or tired of life as some traitorous and cowardly individuals have tried to portray them. These losers only know how to slander and have no grasp of reality.

The truth is that when our freedom loving people collide with the bitter reality they are faced with, they must decide between dignity and humiliation. They must decide between defending their religion, their culture, their land, and their honor or subjugation. Our heroes chose death with honour over a life defeated with humiliation. As the sister of the two martyred brothers Jawad and Zafer al-Rimawi said, she who is our sister, the sister of the courageous: "It is only natural for free men to defend their homeland and honor. It is only natural for you to defend your land and honor when there are those who violate it."

We are fighting a malicious enemy. It is time for us all to stand up and fulfill our responsibilities towards our country. It is time for thousands of guns to be unloaded whenever an incursion into our cities is attempted. It is time for us all to engage this occupier in daily battles on every front.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den

December 25, 2022

Today, Sunday, 12/25/2022 at 10:47 pm, the soliders of the Den carried out a surprise operation and targeted a settler car on the usurper's Yitzhar road. We achieved accurate hits that the defeated occupation will not disclose. The Den's soldiers withdrew safely.

Bring back the bodies of our martyrs; otherwise the settlers will not return to their homes safely.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den



December 27, 2022

With God's help, the Huwara military camp and the Huwara checkpoint were targeted on Tuesday, 12/27/2022 at 12:55 am, with salvoes of blessed bullets, and the soldiers of the Den withdrew safely.

Wait, for the Den holds more.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den

December 30, 2022

We say to the occupier who said that they will enter the Old City and carry out a quiet arrest: look, for today you are entering the Old City with hundreds of soldiers, armored vehicles, and planes to storm the outskirts of the Old City only to emerge from it gathering your tails in shame and disgrace, failing miserably.

All of these forces that entered at 8:00 am came out with the statement of the arrest of a 16-year-old who is a child in the eyes of the world, but in the eyes of the resistance fighters, he is a lion. Little Pharaoh, who called himself this name after the guard of Jenin camp, Amjad Fayed. Little Pharaoh, who did not exceed 16 years of age, did not surrender, did not bargain.

We say to our people, the heartbeat of every resistance fighter: we saw you today at the pinnacle of sacrifice and redemption. We saw how you besieged the occupier with your bare bodies out of love for the resistance. This love of yours is one we can meet only with love, loyalty, and benevolence.

Our people accompanied the groups of the Lions' Den at the hour of 8:00 until 11:00 and formed around the invading force a thick and continuous belt of fire and explosive devices that were heard by all. They all saw the soldiers of the Den as they confronted the "most powerful force in the region" for three hours. They saw the bullets of the fighters of the Den and their explosive devices rain down on the heads of the occupier.

We do not care at all whether you announce the number of dead or injured; we do not care at all where you distribute your dead. What matters to us is that you understand well that the time of calm that you sing of will not return. Every day we increase in strength and you increase in weakness; we said it before and we say it to you again: our war with you is long and your losses are many, and this is something you are not used to. You will not find a truce from us.

January 5, 2023

By the grace of God, the fighters of the Den targeted the settlement of Bracha and the Kedumim settlement on Qalqilya road today, Thursday, 1/5/2023. The soldiers of the Den withdrew safely.

We congratulate our brother Kareem Younes on his release from the prisons of darkness. We say to [Israeli National Security Minister] Ben-Gvir that your attempt to change the status quo in Al-Aqsa Mosque will not go unnoticed, and if you increase your sins we will increase our punishment.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den

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January 12, 2023

The Lions' Den groups uncovered a special force that infiltrated the western region of the Old City in Nablus at 8:00 this morning. The Lions of the Den surrounded the force near one of the bakeries. The Lions formed a dense belt of fire and homemade explosive devices around the invading force from all directions, from the moment of infiltration until [the IOF's] withdrawal, and the withdrawal of the supporting force.

The groups of the Lions' Den also confirm the failure of the invading force to reach or arrest any of the Lions' Den fighters, or fighters from any regions and factions which participated in the clash. Blessed are the resistant rifles, and may Allah not preserve a rifle that does not know its compass and does not think of resistance.

Your war with us is long and your losses are many, Allah willing. It is a war of attrition.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den

January 26, 2023

The fighters of the Lions' Den, at 8:40 am on Thursday 1/26/2023, carried out a quality operation in the area of Point 17, and achieved certain casualties by firing an intense barrage of blessed bullets. The fighters withdrew safely, and we leave the distribution of casualties to the occupation, as usual.

This enemy knows only one language, which is the language of fire and gunpowder.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den

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January 27, 2023

The soldiers of the Den carried out four shooting operations with blessed bullets, confirming a number of injuries, thanks to God.

- Targeting the Huwara checkpoint and the occupation's Huwara camp at 10:30 pm
- Targeting gatherings of soldiers on the "Shavei Shomron" road at 12:28 am
- Targeting the settlement of "Enav" at 12:12 am
- And targeting the settlement of "Elon Moreh" at 10:55 pm

The soldiers of the Den withdrew safely.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den

January 30, 2023

Our message to you, O children of Zion, is that there is no place for you on our land, no temple, not even a place to bury your dead. Go back where you came from, each to his original homeland. Where you came from is much better for you than your inevitable fate on our land. As you can see and hear, The Lions' Den is waiting for you in every street and every checkpoint, and soon, we will meet inside your homes.

We call upon the sons of our resistant people to be fully vigilant, increase unity, and to engage immediately in an act of resistance. Since we are fighting alone, we call on you, sons of our people, to arm yourselves immediately with everything your faith possesses. We say to the rancid Yahoo [Netanyahu] and Ben-Gvir, the weapons of your settlers will be our prize in the hands of our men. We will kill you with them, and you will see with your own eyes.

We will see who will besiege whom.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den



February 1, 2023

A short while ago, at exactly 10:20 pm, the soldiers of the Den carried out the targeting of a gathering of soldiers on the occupation's Jabal al-Tur point with salvos of blessed bullets, and the soldiers of the Den withdrew safely.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den



February 6, 2023

The Lions' Den groups confronted and clashed with the Zionist occupation forces with salvos of blessed bullets after their storming of Balata camp at dawn today.

Your brothers, The Lion's Den

February 13, 2023

We bring good news for you, our martyrs, wounded, and prisoners.
We bring good news for you, O great people of ours.

Our fighting groups were able to set up a tight ambush and easily lure the idiotic “israeli” army to falling into a trap set up by our lions. Our fighters were then able to detonate a high-explosive device as a group of soldiers entered into the heart of the ambush like mice.

And they rained on the soldiers salvos of blessed bullets after that until they were finished off. We leave the leadership of the occupation army to deny and obscure and to attribute their dead to accidents on the roads, mountains, and diseases. Didn't we tell you, O cowardly army, through our brief statements, that we are waiting for you, and that we are very eager to trample on your cowardly soldiers?

To our beloved sons of our majestic city:

We only testify to Allah that we are in the battlefield and we do not want testimony from anyone, and we testify to Allah that our soldiers and fighters did not leave the mountain even if they shed their blood. Long live their honorable guns that only know the clash with the zionist enemy! Long live all the fighting groups in Nablus that responded to the call and were with us, shoulder to shoulder, arm in arm.

Your brothers, The Lions' Den

