

Zahar: Plan to implicitly accept Israel reached without full data

By [Arnon Regular](#), Haaretz Correspondent, and Agencies

Palestinian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Zahar, a senior Hamas official, praised militants in Israeli jails who hammered out a proposal (see below GN) that would implicitly recognize Israel, but said the prisoners did not have all the pertinent information.

The agreement was reached recently by militants, including the most senior Hamas prisoner, Sheikh Abdel Halek Natshe of Hebron, and calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state on the lands Israel captured in the 1967 War: the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

"The Palestinian people, in the homeland and in the diaspora, aspires to liberate its land and realize its self-determination, including the establishment of an independent state on all the land occupied in 1967, and to assure the right of return for refugees and the liberation of all prisoners and detainees," reads the first section of the document.

That implicit recognition of Israel would be a major shift for Hamas, which calls for replacing Israel with an Islamic state.

Hamas leaders responded ambivalently to the document. Some have privately urged abandoning Hamas' rejection of Israel in an effort to end the crippling international boycott of the new Hamas-led Palestinian Cabinet. Hard-liners, including Zahar, reportedly reject that plan.

"Our people inside the Israeli jails, they are brilliant people. We are very proud about their role. But they are concentrating about issues according to their information, restricted information," Zahar said Saturday in English.

"This is a respectable idea, but it is not the final agreement of any of the Palestinian factions, including Hamas."

On Friday, Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas said that the proposal is important but needs deeper study.

"The document includes very important useful points that will contribute to remove some obstacles, but it needs more deep study," Haniyeh said, adding that the document would be among several presented to a conference of Palestinian factions later this month.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas welcomed the document Thursday, calling it an "important plan" that constitutes a basis for future Palestinian policy. The accord calls on all the factions in the Palestinian parliament, starting with Hamas and Fatah, to establish a national unity government.

Meshal urges Hamas and Fatah to unite and fight Israel

Hamas leader Khaled Meshal said Thursday that Hamas and Fatah should unite and fight Israel rather than fighting each other.

Speaking at the end of a two-day conference in Qatar, Meshal, who is based in Damascus, said Hamas could close ranks with Fatah on the platform of "liberating Palestine, not recognizing Israel and adopting the path of jihad [holy war] and resistance."

The conference - a gathering of Islamic scholars to discuss the Palestinian question - issued a final statement supporting "the right of the Palestinian people ... to wage holy war to regain all their homeland and liberate their land from the river to the sea."

The phrasing means that the conference does not recognize the right of Israel to exist - a position at variance with Fatah.

Meshal made no reference to the 18-point plan between Hamas and Fatah leaders imprisoned in Israel that was announced earlier Thursday, leaving observers with mixed messages about Hamas' position on the 1967 cease-fire lines.

Joint Hamas-Fatah plan implies acceptance of 1967 borders

By [Arnon Regular](#)

A document drafted by Hamas and Fatah leaders imprisoned in Israel implies Hamas's acceptance of a potential agreement with Israel based on the 1967 borders. The document, which has been accepted by the leadership of both organizations, is the first one signed by a senior Hamas official that recognizes those borders.

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Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas welcomed the document yesterday, calling it an "important plan" that constitutes a basis for future Palestinian policy.

The document calls on all the factions in the Palestinian parliament, starting with Hamas and Fatah, to establish a national unity government "based on the document, so as to improve the Palestinians' condition," both locally and within the Arab world and the international community. It states that only a unity government can assure the success of the Palestinian government.

The document is meant to serve as a basis for dialogue between Fatah and Hamas, which are due to resume talks at the end of the month.

The document was drafted in the Hadarim prison by Marwan Barghouti, a Fatah leader, and Sheikh Abdel Halek Natshe of Hebron, a senior Hamas official in the West Bank and a member of the Palestinian parliament. Representatives of Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine were also involved in the drafting.

The plan includes several elements meant to assure that there will be no civil war in the Palestinian Authority and that Fatah and Hamas cooperate. It calls for the creation of a new Palestine Liberation Organization and the inclusion of Hamas and Islamic Jihad in PLO institutions, and urges that these changes take place by the end of the year.

"We call on everyone to accept the changes in the Palestinian arena and expand the legitimacy of the PLO as the sole legal representative of the Palestinians and the supreme legal political address," the document states.