Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC)

OVERVIEW

AS OF OCTOBER 2026

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine–General Command (PFLP-GC) is a Palestinian terrorist group that split from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) in 1968. It combines Arab nationalism with Marxist-Leninist ideology and is focused on destroying Israel and removing Western influence from the Middle East to establish a Marxist Palestinian state. During the 1970s and 1980s, PFLP-GC carried out dozens of attacks in Europe and the Middle East, primarily against perceived Israeli interests. It celebrated HAMAS's attack against Israel on 7 October 2023 but did not participate. In 2024, it claimed responsibility for attacks on Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip.

PFLP-GC previously maintained its headquarters in Syria and fought alongside the Asad regime. Since 2025, Syria's Government has seized the group's weapons, froze its financial assets, closed its offices and training camps, and detained several fighters. Several PFLP-GC members fled to Lebanon, and the group's leader requested permanent residence in Egypt.

Operating Area

Maintains a presence in Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip

Members

Probably has several hundred members

Tactics And Targets

In the 1970s and 1980s, the PFLP-GC used innovative attack methods, including barometric bombs to destroy civilian aircraft; mail bombs; and other more unusual means for conducting attacks—such as hot-air balloons and motorized hang-gliders—against what it perceived to be Israeli interests. However, since the early 1990s, the group has primarily used guerrilla tactics, including grenades, IEDs, rockets, small arms and light machineguns, and suicide vests in attacks against Israeli military and civilian targets, and in support of the Asad regime.

Terrorist Group Designation

The US State Department designated PFLP-GC as a FTO on 8 October 1997. The State Department designated the group as a terrorist organization under Executive Order 13224 on 31 October 2001.

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) *(continued)*

KEY LEADERS

Talal Naji
Leader 2021 to Present

Ahmad Jibril [DECEASED]
Leader 1968-2021

NOTABLE ATTACKS

11 April 2024
PFLP-GC claims a mortar attack targeting Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip.

25 November 1987
Two PFLP-GC members kill six Israeli soldiers in northern Israel after flying in separate hang-gliders from southern Lebanon.

11 April 1974
Three PFLP-GC members attack Qiryat Shemona, Israel, killing 10 adults and eight children.

22 May 1970
PFLP-GC attacks a school bus near Moshav Avivim, Israel, killing 12 civilians—including nine children—and wounding 25.

21 February 1970
PFLP-GC plants a barometric bomb in a Swiss airliner, which explodes after takeoff, killing 47 passengers and crewmembers.