

5.2 Palestinian factions

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According to Daher, ‘Palestinian factions maintain armed groups within Lebanon’s 12 official refugee camps, located across Beirut, north Lebanon, Saida, Tyre, and the Bekaa Valley. These include not only Fatah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, but also other smaller factions. Camps have also hosted groups linked to international jihadism, such as Fatah al-Islam, notably involved in the 2007 Nahr al-Bared conflict’.^{[331](#)} These factions maintain an active presence across refugee camps in Lebanon.^{[332](#)} According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), over many years Palestinian armed factions have engaged in fighting within the camps, sometimes breaching the inviolability of UNRWA premises, as in Ein El Hilweh where schools remained closed for much of 2025.^{[333](#)} UNRWA has also highlighted the absence of effective governance, judiciary, and law enforcement structures in these camps.^{[334](#)} For more information on the camps, see section [6.3 Areas controlled by different actors](#) and for information on the situation of Palestinian refugees in these camps, see section [7.7 Palestinians in Lebanon](#).

As of May 2025, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas agreed to prevent attacks on Israel from Lebanon and remove unauthorised weapons.^{[335](#)} In correspondence with the EUAA for this report, Maalouf Moneau stated that ‘Palestinian groups remain armed, but the government has begun disarming them through an agreement with the Palestinian Authority’^{[336](#)} while UNRWA reported that Lebanon, with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) support, is working to demilitarise the camps under a ceasefire agreement with Israel.^{[337](#)} For more information, see sections [7.7.3 Security situation in the camps](#) and [7.7.3\(b\) Balance of power and role of militias in specific camps](#) and [6.3 Areas controlled by different actors](#).

On 21 August 2025, as part of the first phase of the broader disarmament effort, Fatah-affiliated groups in Burj al-Barajneh and several other camps handed over part of their weapons.^{[338](#)} ACLED recorded nine weapon seizures from groups linked to Fatah, while Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad refused to participate, highlighting the limited scope of the initiative.^{[339](#)} As of 13 September 2025, Palestinian factions in Ein al-Hilweh and Beddawi refugee camps in Lebanon handed over truckloads of weapons to Lebanese authorities.^{[340](#)}

^{[331](#)}

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