

## Palestinians arresting more militants

by UPI

JERUSALEM -- Israel's security agency reported Palestinian Fatah-affiliated security services appear to be cracking down, making arrests of more Hamas operatives. In the Shin Bet's report to the Cabinet Sunday, the agency said more than 250 Hamas members had been arrested in Judea and Samaria in the past month, Haaretz reported Monday. The intelligence report said some of the arrests between Nov. 29 and Jan. 2 were non-militants, including charity workers. Shin Bet said arrests were up even in the Hamas stronghold of Hebron, the newspaper said. "We are seeing an effort on the part of the Palestinians to tighten their grip on the street, and this is having practical results," Defense Minister Ehud Barak said. Last week, officials from the Palestinian Authority in Nablus told Haaretz under normal procedure, nearly all of the prisoners had been released after they surrendered their weapons.

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