

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a blue wall. There are four distinct bullet holes of varying sizes scattered across the wall. In the top left corner, a portion of a dark curtain with a gold floral pattern is visible. The overall lighting is somewhat dim, and the wall shows signs of wear and discoloration.

War Crimes Against Children

A PCHR investigation into Palestinian children killed by Israeli Forces in the Gaza Strip,
27 December 2008 - 18 January 2009

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Contents

Executive Summary	4
Introduction: the pattern of child killings in the Gaza Strip	6
Child protection under international law and IHL	9
Truth and lies: Operation Cast Lead and civilian deaths	11
The precautions necessary in attack	14
Case study 1 – the Olaiwa family	15
Case study 2 – the al-Dayah family	18
Case study 3 – the al-Battran family	20
Case study 4 – the Abu Eita family	22
Case study 5 – the Salha family	24
The principle of distinction	26
Case Study 6 – Shahd Hijji	27
Case study 7 – Izziddin al-Farra	29
Case study 8 – Farah al-Helu	30
Indiscriminate attacks	32
Case study 9 – the Balousha family	33
Case study 10 – the Deeb family	35
Case study 11 – Sidqi, Ahmed and Mohammed al-'Absi	37
Case study 12 – Bilal & Mohammed al-Ashqar	39
Case study 13 – Arafat & Islam Abdul-Dayem	41
Maimed and disabled: child injuries sustained during the offensive	44
Collective trauma: psychological impact of the offensive on children	48
Comments and recommendations	50
Appendix: Names of all children killed	52



Executive Summary

On 27 December, 2008, Israel launched a wide-scale military offensive against the population and infrastructure of the Gaza Strip. *Operation 'Cast Lead'* lasted 23 days and was the biggest Israeli military offensive in the Gaza Strip in nearly 42 years of occupation. 1,414 Palestinians were killed, including 313 children.¹ The evidence obtained by PCHR strongly indicates that the overwhelming majority of these victims were civilians.

This PCHR investigative report has been written in response to the unprecedented number of children who were killed by Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) during the offensive on Gaza. Its aim is to investigate and document how and why so many children were killed, and to present urgent recommendations in order to protect the lives of children in Gaza. For the purposes of this report, and in accordance with international standards, PCHR uses the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) definition of a child as a boy or girl under the age of eighteen.

The report examines the pattern of IOF killings of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the second *intifada*, in September 2000. It then focuses on PCHR's ongoing investigations into the deaths of the 313 children killed during the recent offensive. PCHR has gathered data and documentation, including testimonies from numerous eye-witnesses, which testify to the widespread targeting of unarmed civilians, including children, throughout the offensive. In addition, the report also explores the psychological impact of the offensive on children, and the alarming scale of physical injuries inflicted on children, some of whom were blinded, or had their limbs blown off or amputated, leaving them permanently disabled.

War Crimes Against Children exposes the abject failure of the IOF to uphold the precautions necessary in attacks, or to distinguish between military targets and civilians and civilian objects, throughout the offensive. Other cases documented in this report detail indiscriminate attacks on civilians, including attacks on civilian homes, and schools where internally displaced people were sheltering.

¹ Source: PCHR data.

The thirteen case studies in this report represent a fraction of the overall number of children killed during the offensive. However, they illustrate the reasons why so many children died, and what can be done to protect them in future. PCHR is continuing its rigorous investigations into all attacks perpetrated against the civilian population of Gaza, including children.

In addition to the 313 children who lost their lives at the hands of Israeli forces, seven Palestinian child combatants were also killed. PCHR has consistently condemned the recruitment and use of children for armed combat and demands that all armed Palestinian groups cease this abuse of children.

The Centre is calling for an independent full-scale investigation into all documented attacks on civilians and civilian objects during the offensive, in order that the State of Israel be held fully accountable for the crimes it has perpetrated against Gaza's civilian population, including alleged war crimes against children.

In addition, the Centre demands that the international community intervenes to effectively lobby and pressure Israel to respect and uphold the human rights of Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) in order to protect their lives, wellbeing and property.

Introduction:

the pattern of child killings in the Gaza Strip

The killing of children during the recent Israeli military offensive in the Gaza Strip needs to be seen in the context of a wider pattern of IOF killings of unarmed civilians, including children, across the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) – including Gaza – since the start of the second *intifada* in 2000. Since then, the IOF have killed a total of 1,179 children in the OPT, including 865 children in Gaza.² These deaths, and the often horrific injuries sustained by those who survived, are part of an overall Israeli policy of collectively punishing the 1.5 million people living in Gaza.

During the year 2000, almost half the children killed by IOF in the Gaza Strip were killed in Gaza City, which lies to the north of the Gaza Strip. In 2001 there were child deaths across the entire Gaza Strip, including a significant number in Gaza City. However, from 2002 onwards, children living in the border areas of northern, southern and eastern Gaza became more at risk and the child death toll rose. (See the table below).

² This covers child killings from September 2000- 18 January, 2009.

Children killed in Gaza Strip, September 2000 – 26 December 2008

	Rafah	Khan Yunis	Central Gaza Strip	Gaza City	Northern Gaza Strip	Total
2000	7	5	4	16	4	36
2001	12	14	3	14	8	51
2002	32	15	5	16	7	75
2003	10	8	10	12	20	60
2004	32	24	5	12	41	114
2005	7	3	4	2	10	26
2006	8	7	9	22	54	100
2007	5	1	2	6	18	32
2008	3	5	16	5	29	58
Total	116	82	58	105	191	552

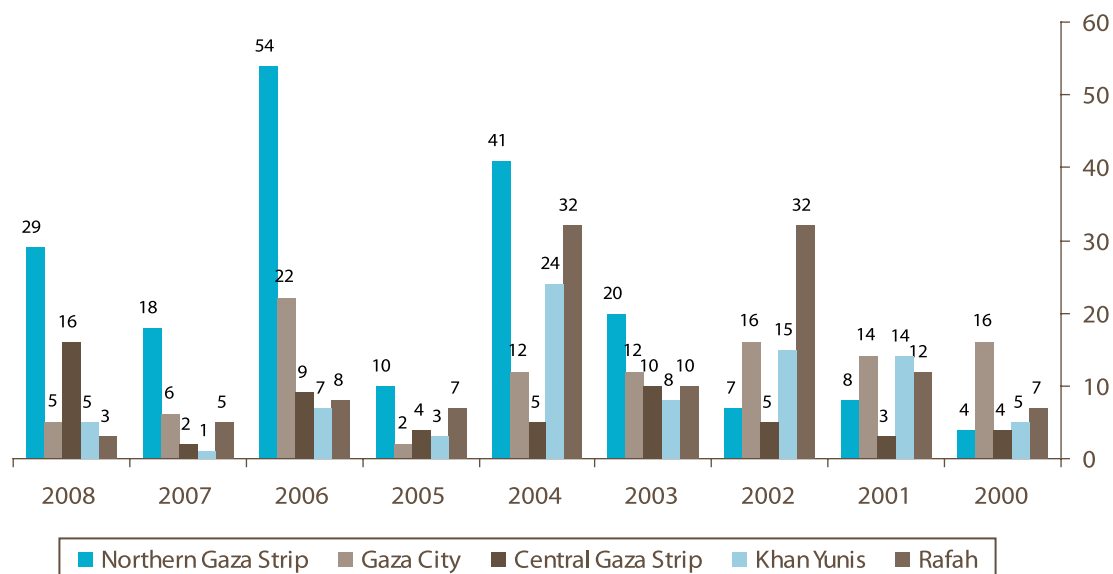
The number of children killed decreased in 2005. However it then rose dramatically in 2006. From 30 June 2006 to 30 June 2007, a total of 98 children were killed by IOF in the Gaza Strip. The child death toll dropped in the latter part of 2007 only to rise dramatically once more during the first six months of 2008, largely as a result of an Israeli military offensive

in northern Gaza at the end of February 2008.³ The IOF killed more children in the Gaza Strip during the first four months of 2008 than during the whole of 2007.⁴

³ The IOF launched Operation Winter Heat on 27 February, 2008. At least 110 Palestinians, including 27 children were killed during the offensive. Almost half of the victims died within a period of just 24 hours.

⁴ During 2007, 34 Palestinian children were killed by IOF in the Gaza Strip. From 1 January 2008 – 31 April 2008, 47 Palestinian children were killed by IOF in the Gaza Strip. Source: PCHR data

Killings of children in the Gaza Strip by area, September 2000 – 26 December 2008 (Source: PCHR)



When civilians are killed in the Gaza Strip, the State of Israel consistently claims it has been responding to missiles being launched by militant groups inside Gaza or other forms of armed resistance. However, PCHR investigations into civilian deaths, including child deaths, in Gaza have consistently undermined these claims.

In September 2006, the UK-based *Independent* newspaper ran a front page report on child deaths in Gaza that subsequently became an international news story. 'Gaza: the children killed in a war the world doesn't want to know about' focused on the deaths of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip during Operation Summer Rain, a large-scale IOF military offensive that resulted in the deaths of at least 153 Palestinians during June/ July 2006. Ninety six of the victims were unarmed civilians, including at least 31

children.⁵ The fact that unarmed civilians bore the brunt of IOF attacks during *Operation Summer Rain* clearly illustrates use of excessive lethal force against Palestinian civilians.⁶

Israel has consistently failed to investigate its killings of unarmed Palestinian civilians, including children. On the rare occasions that Israel has launched official investigations in response to international political pressure, they have been internal investigations.

PCHR has vigorously voiced its opposition to these internal IOF investigations, which do not meet international standards of independence and transparency, and therefore do not represent any genuine attempt on behalf of Israel to hold its personnel to account for the deaths of civilians, including children.

On Monday 30 March 2009, Israeli military advocate-general Avichai Mandelblit closed Israel's inquiry into Israeli soldiers' accounts of alleged crimes committed in the Gaza Strip during the recent military offensive. Soldiers had made serious allegations that included war crimes, and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions (1949). However, the internal inquiry was closed after just eleven days.⁷

5 PCHR data.

6 PCHR, *Blood on Their Hands*, 2008.

7 PCHR press release 45/2009.

Child Protection under International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law

During international armed conflicts, such as the recent Israeli military offensive in the Gaza Strip in December 2008 and January 2009, children are afforded protection under International Humanitarian Law (IHL), including the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949). They are also protected under international human rights law, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

International Humanitarian Law provides general protection for children as persons taking no part in hostilities, and special protection as persons who are especially vulnerable during war and armed conflict. As children are protected under the Fourth Geneva Convention, they benefit from all the provisions related to the treatment of protected persons. IHL safeguards the basic principles of humane treatment – including respect for life and physical and moral integrity – while forbidding, *inter alia*, wilful killing, coercion, corporal punishments, torture, collective penalties and reprisals.

The (1989) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) brings together the human rights of children articulated in other international human rights instruments. The CRC was the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights – for children. It is a universally agreed set of non-negotiable standards and obligations that provides protection and support for the rights of children.

The (CRC) Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict is an effort to strengthen implementation of the Convention and to increase the protection of children during armed conflicts. The (CRC) Optional Protocol ‘reaffirms that the rights of children require special protection,’ and condemns ‘the targeting of children in situations of armed conflict and direct attacks on objects protected under international law, including places that have a significant presence of children, such as schools and hospitals.’

The Optional Protocol entered into force on 12 February 2002. Israel ratified the CRC in 1991, and ratified the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict on 18 July 2005.⁸ As a State Party to both the CRC and the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, Israel is legally obliged to abide by these human rights instruments both within Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT).

Although the State of Israel has not ratified the Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), it is used as a point of reference in this report. The Statute contains the most comprehensive single definition of war crimes, all of which constitute violations of customary international law and are universally prohibited.

⁸ Israel ratified the CRC Optional Protocol, with one reservation: that the State would continue recruiting soldiers at the age of 17, not 18 as stipulated in the CRC Optional Protocol.

Legal Framework

International humanitarian law (IHL) strives to establish a balance between the demands of military necessity and the requirements of humanity, realized by the protection of civilian populations. 'Military necessity' refers to essential measures which are necessary to attain the fundamental goals of war. However, in order to limit unnecessary suffering, hostilities must be conducted in accordance with the principles of IHL: any force that exceeds the necessary minimum is unlawful.⁹

In order to protect the civilian population (including children) to the greatest extent possible, IHL establishes a number of legal requirements, aimed at effectively limiting and regulating the conduct of hostilities. As relevant to this report, these requirements include the principle of distinction, a framework regulating the precautions necessary in attack, and the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks. Violations of these fundamental principles may amount to war crimes, or grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions.

The military offensive in the Gaza Strip took place in the context of an ongoing international armed conflict and belligerent occupation. The applicable bodies of law include, *inter alia*, the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, the Hague Regulations of 1907, the CRC Optional Protocol and customary international law.

⁹ International Committee of the Red Cross, Commentary on the Additional Protocols of 8 June 1997 to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, 1395 (Geneva 1987).

War Crimes and Grave Breaches of the Geneva Conventions

War crimes are serious violations of IHL. The most comprehensive contemporary definition of war crimes is found in Article 8 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court. As relevant to this report, violations of the principle of distinction, inadequate precautions in attack and indiscriminate attacks all constitute war crimes. Grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions are universally condemned crimes, to which the legal principle of universal jurisdiction applies.

The grave breach most relevant herein is the crime of 'wilful killing', which occurs when death results from a wilful fault or omission. Execution and the killing of protected persons as a result of illegitimate acts of war – such as an indiscriminate attack – are examples of wilful killing, and as such are considered grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions.

Truth and Lies:

Operation Cast Lead & Civilian Deaths

Israel launched *Operation Cast Lead* at 11:25 on Saturday, 27 December 2008, by unleashing intensive air strikes across the Gaza Strip. At a press briefing on the same day, (former) Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert stated that '... one thing must be clear. We are not fighting against the people of Gaza. I take this opportunity to appeal to the people of Gaza...you, the citizens of Gaza are not our enemies. Hamas, Jihad, the other terrorist organizations.... are our enemies.' The prime minister went on to say, 'the efforts that we made [in Gaza] today were focused entirely on military targets.'¹⁰

Consistent claims by the Government of Israel that its forces were acting within the parameters of international law, and making every effort to minimize civilian casualties during the offensive, do not stand up to scrutiny. The IOF carried out air strikes, bombings and shelling, including using shells containing white phosphorous, in and around densely populated residential areas throughout the 23-day offensive.

Approximately 20,000 Palestinian homes were either completely or partially destroyed. In addition, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Gaza reported 57 of its buildings sustained damage during the offensive, including the main UNRWA compound which was directly hit, and 36 local schools. Five of these schools were being used as temporary shelters for internally displaced people when they were damaged.¹¹

The widespread destruction of civilian facilities throughout *Operation Cast Lead* partly explains the overwhelming civilian death toll during the offensive. A total of 1,414 Palestinians, including 313 children, were killed in Gaza, and at least 5,300 other people, including 1,606 children, were injured.¹² PCHR estimates that 83 per cent of the overall dead and injured were non-combatants, many of whom were killed or injured whilst sheltering in their own homes or other civilian facilities.¹³

The targeting of civilian facilities is prohibited by customary international law, and constitutes a war crime.

Regarding the 313 children killed during the offensive, the overwhelming majority were killed either while inside their own homes or within the near vicinity of their homes.

99 (or 31 per cent) of the children killed by IOF during *Operation Cast Lead* were girls, and 214 (69 per cent) were boys. Almost 15 per cent of the children who were killed were under five years old. Approximately one quarter (23.3 per cent) were aged between five and ten years. 195 of the children (62 per cent) were aged between 11 and 17 years.

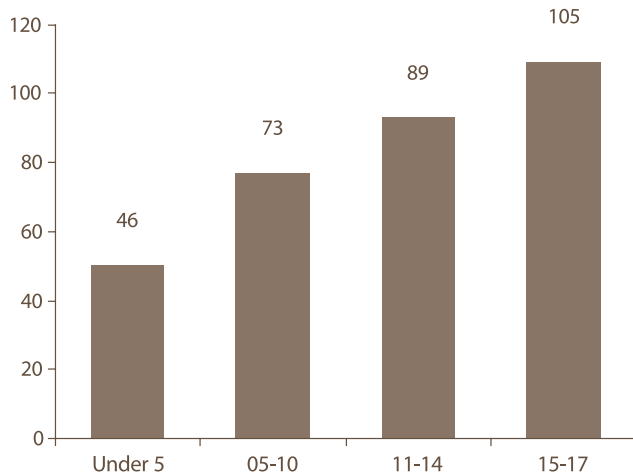
¹⁰ PM Ehud Olmert's Press Briefing, 27 Dec. 2008

¹¹ Source: UNRWA

¹² Data on injuries is from the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH)

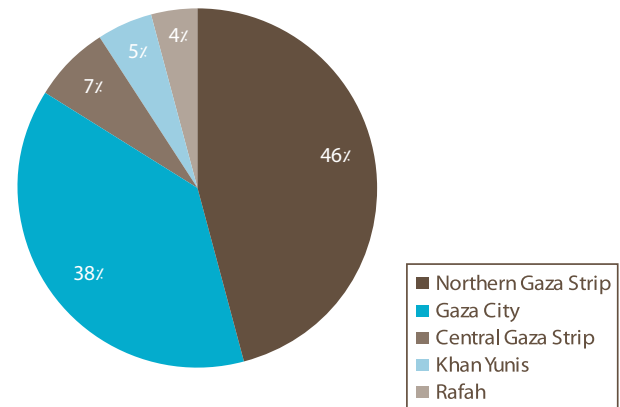
¹³ This figure includes 255 police officers, the majority (240) killed on the first day of the offensive.

Table depicting ages of children killed by IOF during Operation Cast Lead (PCHR)



The overwhelming majority of children died in densely populated residential areas in the northern Gaza Strip and Gaza City. 141 of the children (46 per cent) died in the northern Gaza Strip. 120 (38 per cent) were killed in Gaza City. 29 children (9 per cent) were killed in Khan Yunis and Rafah. 23 (7 per cent) were killed in the less densely populated central Gaza Strip.

Child killings in Gaza by IOF during Operation Cast Lead by area (PCHR)



During its offensive in Gaza, the IOF employed a wide range of conventional weapons, including tank shells, aerial bombs and missiles and mortars, including mortars with white phosphorous warheads.¹⁴

The IOF also deployed flechettes as part of its arsenal. These are 4cm long metal darts used as anti-personnel weapons, which penetrate straight through human bone and, like all the weapons mentioned above, can cause horrific injuries when used against civilians. There are 5,000-8,000 flechettes packed into a single artillery shell. Shortly after firing the shell ruptures, scattering the flechettes at a high speed over a distance of around 300 metres. (See Case Study 13: Arafat and Islam Abdul-Dayem).

¹⁴ Source: PCHR correspondence from Human Rights Watch military expert Marc Galasco, 03/0309. Also see Amnesty International: http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news_details.asp?NewsID=18024

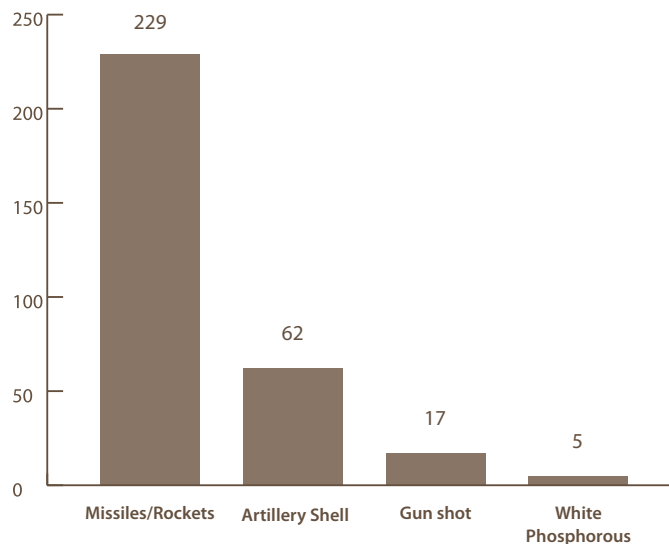
In addition, the IOF used white phosphorous in and around civilian facilities throughout the offensive (see Case study 12 – Mohammed and Bilal al-Ashqar). White phosphorous is an incendiary chemical substance that ignites on contact with oxygen and is dispersed through artillery shells, bombs and rockets. It is typically used in military operations to create a smoke screen that masks large troop movements. White phosphorous causes extreme chemical burn injuries to humans and can burn down to the bone. Although it is not prohibited as a weapon, the use of white phosphorous in populated civilian areas violates customary IHL. Having initially denied using white phosphorous in Gaza, the IOF later admitted using 155mm shells, which each contain 116 felt wedges soaked in the substance.¹⁵

PCHR’s ongoing investigations have revealed Israeli forces extensively used weaponry in ways which are internationally prohibited.

Almost three quarters of the children killed during the IOF offensive (73 per cent) died as a result of bombs, or projectiles, including guided missiles. 19.8 per cent of the children were killed as a result of attack by artillery shells, 5.4 per cent died after being shot and 1.5 per cent died as a result of white phosphorous.

¹⁵ 'Israel accused of indiscriminate phosphorous use in Gaza' Rory McCarthy, Guardian, 25 March, 2009. Also see Human Rights Watch: <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/03/25/witness-accounts-and-additional-analysis-idf-use-white-phosphorus>

Methods by which children were killed during the offensive (PCHR)



The 13 case studies that follow illustrate the consistent failure of the IOF to take precautions to protect the lives of Palestinian civilians when launching attacks in Gaza, its failure to distinguish between civilians and combatants and military targets or objectives, and indiscriminate attacks on civilians.

THE PRECAUTIONS NECESSARY IN ATTACK

In order to ensure the safety of the civilian population, certain precautions must be taken into consideration during any attack. Customary IHL requires that all feasible precautions must be taken to avoid, and in any event to minimize, incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects.

This regulation requires that those launching an attack must take all feasible measures to ensure that the objectives to be attacked are neither civilians nor civilian objects. In cases of doubt – given the fundamental purpose of IHL – a decision must be made in favour of civilians and civilian objects.

In addition, care must be taken when choosing the methods and means of an attack, in order to avoid or minimize incidental loss to civilian life, injury to civilians, or damage to civilian objects.

Case Study 1

the Olaiwa family



Isma'il,
Mo'men,
Mo'tassem
and Lana Olaiwa
were killed together
in their home
in Gaza City.

At approximately 16:00 on 5 January 2009, Amal Olaiwa and four of her children were killed in the kitchen of their home in Shijaiyeh in the east of Gaza City, when the house was struck by an artillery shell. The shell smashed through a bedroom window and landed in the kitchen, decapitating Amal Olaiwa and killing three of her sons and one of her daughters. Three other members of the Olaiwa family were injured in the attack, including Amal's husband, Haider, and her eldest son, Muntasser, who both witnessed the attack.

The victims were identified as:

- **Amal Olaiwa**, age 40
- **Mo'tassem Olaiwa**, age 14
- **Mo'men Olaiwa**, age 13
- **Lana Olaiwa**, age 9
- **Isma'il Olaiwa**, age 7



PCHR visited the Olaiwa family on 10 February. It was not possible to interview Haider Olaiwa as he sustained serious facial and jaw injuries during the attack and now has difficulty speaking. Sixteen year old Muntasser Olaiwa was also unable to give an interview as he was severely traumatized by the events he witnessed. PCHR interviewed Fadwa Olaiwa, the sister of Haider Olaiwa, who lives two floors below the apartment formerly occupied by Amal and Haider Olaiwa and their eight children.¹⁶

Fadwa Olaiwa told PCHR that altogether 42 members of the extended Olaiwa family were living in the four-storey house, in five separate apartments. Amal and Haider Abu Olaiwa and their children were living in an apartment on the fourth floor. At approximately 16:00 on 5 January, Haider and Amal were preparing food in the family kitchen with three of their sons, Mo'tassem, Mo'men and Isma'il, when the artillery shell struck the house.

The shell smashed through the window of the bedroom shared by the three Olaiwa daughters, Ghadir, Lana and Mai. The force of the artillery shell toppled the dressing table over fifteen year old Ghadir, pinning her to the floor, as the shell penetrated the wall that separated the girl's bedroom from the kitchen next door. When it struck the kitchen, the explosion decapitated Amal Olaiwa as she was standing next to the wall making salad, and killed Mo'tassem, Mo'men, Isma'il, and nine year old Lana, who had also entered the kitchen. Muntasser Olaiwa, aged 16, was standing in the kitchen doorway. His father, Haider, was on the opposite side of the kitchen, grilling meat. They both survived.

Fadwa Olaiwa was at home, in her second floor apartment, when she heard the explosion. 'I thought the generator upstairs had exploded, and ran upstairs to my brother's apartment' she told PCHR. 'I found two of his children, Mohammed and Mai, outside the apartment, on the stairs. They were OK, but there was

smoke everywhere.' Fadwa immediately went into the apartment. 'I saw my brother Haider in the kitchen. His face was covered in blood' she said. 'I was calling for Amal, but all I could hear was Ghadir screaming. She was in the bedroom, under the dressing table. I helped her to escape, and then I went into the kitchen.'

Fadwa told PCHR she found the decapitated body of Amal Olaiwa lying underneath the refrigerator. The bodies of Mo'tassem, Mo'men and Isma'il Olaiwa were also in the kitchen, near the body of nine year old Lana. Muntasser was lying just outside the kitchen, badly injured.

Haider, Muntasser and Ghadir were transferred to al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Haider sustained serious facial and jaw injuries and is scarred for life. Ghadir sustained serious injuries to her right arm.



She and her father both have badly damaged hearing. Muntasser Olaiwa had serious injuries to his stomach and liver and shrapnel wounds. He underwent two operations at al-Shifa Hospital, continues to receive medical treatment, and still has shrapnel embedded in his right leg. Muntasser confirmed to PCHR that he had been standing in the kitchen doorway at the time of the attack, and had seen his mother, his sister and his three brothers killed in front of him.

Investigations conducted by PCHR indicate there were no militants or clearly identifiable military targets in the area at the time of this attack. No buildings around the home of the Olaiwa family were targeted.

Artillery shells are fired from an artillery gun and can have a range of up to 60 kilometres. They are used to shell entire areas, not to hit specific targets.

Under customary IHL all feasible care must be taken to spare civilians from the effects of hostilities. Artillery bombardment is indiscriminate, and therefore violates the principle of distinction when used in a civilian area. This attack constitutes two counts of war crimes, as defined in Articles 8(2)(b)(ii) and (iv) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.



The Olaiwa kitchen where the four children died with their mother, Amal.



Case Study 2

the al-Dayah family

At approximately 05:45 on 6 January 2009, twenty two members of the al-Dayah family, including 12 children and a pregnant woman, were killed when an aircraft bomb struck their home in the Zaytoun district of eastern Gaza City. The explosion caused the house to collapse, burying many of the family. In addition to the 21 people killed instantly, Radwan al-Dayah was critically injured and subsequently died. Only one member of the family inside the house at the time of the attack, 28 year old Aamer al-Dayah, survived.

The victims were identified as:

1. **Fayez Musbah Hashem al-Dayah**, age 60
2. **Kawkab Sa'id Hussein al-Dayah**, age 57
3. **Radwan Fayez Musbah al-Dayah**, age 22 (died 9 January in hospital in Gaza)
4. **Sabrin Fayez Musbah al-Dayah**, age 24
5. **Raghda Fayez Musbah al-Dayah**, age 34
6. **Eyad Fayez Musbah al-Dayah**, age 36
7. **Rawda Hilal Hussein al-Dayah**, age 32
8. **Ali Eyad Fayez Musbah al-Dayah**, age 10
9. **Khitam Eyad Fayez Musbah al-Dayah**, age 9
10. **Alaa' Eyad Fayez Musbah al-Dayah**, age 7
11. **Raba'a Eyad Fayez al-Dayah**, age 6
12. **Sharaf Al-Din Eyad Fayez al-Dayah**, age 5
13. **Mohammed Eyad Fayez al-Dayah**, age seven months
14. **Ramez Fayez Musbah al-Dayah**, age 27
15. **Safaa' Saleh Mohammed al-Dayah**, age 20
16. **Baraa' Ramez Fayez al-Dayah**, age 1.5
17. **Salsabil Ramez Fayez al-Dayah**, age five months
18. **Tazal Isma'il Isma'il Mohammed al-Dayah**, age 28 (eight months pregnant)
19. **Amani Mohammed Fayez al-Dayah**, age 6
20. **Qamar Mohammed Fayez al-Dayah**, age 5
21. **Arij Mohammed Fayez al-Dayah**, age 3
22. **Yousef Mohammed Fayez al-Dayah**, age 2

On 3 February, PCHR interviewed Aamer al-Dayah, and his brother, 23 year old Rida al-Dayah, who was outside the house at the time of the attack but returned to the house within minutes of the explosion.¹⁷

¹⁷ PCHR interview with Aamer and Rida al-Dayah, Zaytoun, 3 February, 2009.

Aamer al-Dayah told PCHR that 24 members of the extended al-Dayah family had been sharing seven different apartments in the family home. 'We had all stayed in our apartments throughout the war' he said. 'On 6 January, I left the house early in the morning to pray at the [local] mosque. I came back home at about 05:40. Minutes later, I heard a loud explosion outside.'

Aamer had an apartment on the ground floor of the house. 'All the members of my family started to come downstairs to my apartment because we were afraid our house was going to be targeted,' he said. 'We were waiting for my brother Eyad and his wife, Rawda. Eyad came downstairs with two of his children, but we were still waiting for Rawda when the house was bombed.'

When the al-Dayah house was hit, Aamer was knocked unconscious by the force of the explosion. 'I was flung about eight metres from the house' he said. 'I woke up lying underneath rubble – one of my arms was free but my body was underneath a wall of stones.'

Rida al-Dayah was praying at a nearby mosque when the house was bombed. 'I ran towards my house, and saw what had happened – I realized my whole family was dead.

Then I saw an arm sticking out from the rubble. It was the arm of my brother, Aamer. I dug into the rubble and managed to free him. Then I went to where my bedroom used to be, because I needed to find my twin brother, Radwan. We shared the room, and I saw his fingertips sticking out of the rubble. I thought he must be dead. But he was still alive.'

Rida dug his brother out of the rubble, and then stood amidst the ruins, calling 'Is anyone alive?' for several minutes, until an ambulance arrived on the scene. Radwan al-Dayah subsequently died of his injuries in hospital on 9 January.

Rida and Aamer al-Dayah stated to PCHR that

the bodies of some members of their family were flung metres outside the house by the force of the explosion. They also stated that the bodies found inside the house were burnt beyond recognition. Medical personnel managed to unearth 13 bodies from the rubble, but nine members of the family remain buried under the rubble of the al-Dayah house.

Rida and Aamer al-Dayah said they had received no information from the IOF that their house would be targeted. Investigations by PCHR fieldworkers indicate there was militant activity in the area at the time of the attack. However PCHR believes that all the victims of this attack were civilians.

This direct attack on a civilian object, at a time when civilians were forced to shelter in their homes due to the intensity of the IOF assault, constitutes a wilful killing, a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions. It could also be reasonably expected that the complete destruction of a house would result in extensive civilian death and injury. Therefore, this attack also constitutes two counts of war crimes, as defined in Articles 8(2)(b)(ii) and (iv) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The IOF may have been targeting armed militants in the vicinity of the al-Dayah home: however, customary IHL lays out strict requirements governing the precautions necessary in attack. All feasible measures must be taken to ensure that an ostensibly civilian object, in this case a home, is in fact a military target. In the case of any doubt the interests of the civilian population should prevail.

In addition, given that the militants were approximately 50 metres away, and the house was destroyed by a bomb dropped from an aircraft, it is evident that if the intent was to target the militants, Israel violated IHL principles regulating the methods and means of warfare, and used excessive and disproportionate lethal force.



Case Study 3

the al-Battran family



Manal al-Battran
and her six children

On 16 January 2009, six members of the al-Battran family were killed inside their home in al-Bureij refugee camp, in the central Gaza Strip when their house was struck by a Hellfire missile fired from an IOF aircraft. Thirty two year old Manal al-Battran and five of her children were killed in the attack. Her husband, Issa and their youngest son, one year old Abdul Hadi, survived the attack.

The victims were identified as:

- **Manal al-Battran**, age 32
- **Islam al-Battran**, age 15
- **Eman al-Battran**, age 9
- **Ehsan al-Battran**, age 9 (twin sister of Eman)
- **Bilal al-Battran**, age 6
- **Izziddin al-Battran**, age 3

On 25 February, PCHR interviewed Diaan al-Battran, the brother of Issa, who was in the house next door at the time of the attack.¹⁸ 'On 16 January, I was at home, next door to my brother's house,' he said. 'There is less than one metre between the two houses. I could hear planes and helicopters and drones in the sky. At about 17:30 I heard one loud explosion. I realised the explosion had come from my brother's house and ran into the door of his house and upstairs to the third floor apartment, where his family lives.'

'My brother's family had not been sleeping in the apartment. They had been visiting it during the day and then leaving before night, but I knew they were then inside the house. I ran into the bedroom and saw the bodies of Manal and her children. The missile had hit the room and some of the bodies were burnt, and some body parts had been torn off. Islam was still alive, but she died within a few minutes. My brother Issa was alive, and so was his little son, Abdul Hadi. They had been in a different room because my brother had wanted to pray.'

Issa and Daa' were joined by another brother, Samah al-Batran. The three men gathered the bodies of the victims and took them downstairs. But the bodies of two of the Batran children, six year old Bilal and three year old Izziddin, were missing. When the men stepped outside the house, they found the bodies of Bilal and Izziddin in the branches of a nearby tree, where they had been flung by the force of the explosion.

Daa' and Samah al-Batran took the six bodies to Al Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah. Their brother Issa, who is a member of Izz ad-Din Al Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, did not accompany them, and could not be contacted for an interview relating to the death of his wife and children as he remains in hiding.

According to the al-Batran family, Issa had not seen his wife and children since the beginning of the IOF military offensive in the Gaza Strip on 27 December, due to his fear of being assassinated by the IOF. 16 January was the first time the family had been together, and they were packing clothes because they were not planning to stay in the house overnight. According to Daa' al-Batran, his brother Issa had survived three previous IOF assassination attempts.

The al-Batran family showed PCHR shrapnel they had collected from the apartment where Manal and her five children were killed. The manufacturer's data clearly identified the shrapnel as a part of a Hellfire guided missile. The evidence obtained by PCHR strongly indicates that the IOF targeted the home of Issa al-Batran in order to assassinate him because of his position in the Izz ad-Din Al Qassam Brigades. IOF used excessive lethal force to target the house, killing six civilians in the process.

Issa al-Batran's involvement with the Izz ad-Din Al Qassam Brigades does not justify the attack on him and his family. At the time of the attack, Issa was taking no part in hostilities. His family were civilians: persons granted explicit protection by the Geneva Conventions. PCHR affirm that this attack, which resulted in the death of six civilians, and destruction to the property, was intentional and disproportionate. As such, the attack was indiscriminate, and therefore is a war crime, as defined in Article 8(2)(b)(iv) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.



Case Study 4

the Abu Eita family

At 15:00 on 16 January 2009, four members of the Abu Eita family were killed by two projectiles whilst sitting outside their home in the al-Fakhoura area of Jabaliya, in the northern Gaza Strip. Three members of the family died instantly, and the fourth, 16 year old Ahmed Abu Eita, was critically injured in the attack, and died of his injuries in hospital later the same day.

The victims were identified as:

- **Malak Abu Eita**, age two and a half
- **Anwar Abu Eita**, age seven (cousin of Malak and Ahmed)
- **Zakia Abu Eita**, age 50 (aunt of Malak and Anwar)
- **Ahmed Abu Eita**, age 16 (brother of Malak)

PCHR interviewed Salama and Eman Abu Eita, the parents of Malak and Ahmed, on 3 February. The couple had seven children together. Zakia was the sister of Salama Abu Eita, and Anwar was the son of Salama's brother.

Salama Abu Eita told PCHR he was standing just outside his home when the attack took place. 'My eldest son, Ahmed and his sister, Malak were sitting in the sunshine outside our house with their aunt, Zakia, and my brother's son, Anwar. Ahmed was holding Malak in his arms. I was about ten metres away from them, sitting inside a car, waiting to go to the mosque and pray, when I heard an explosion. Almost immediately afterwards, there was a second explosion. I ran from the car towards my house, and found the pieces of my children on the ground.'

Salama's 12 year old son, Mohammed Abu Eita, also witnessed the attack, and gave PCHR an eye-witness statement. 'I was standing just outside the house of our next door neighbour' he told PCHR. 'I heard two explosions, and ran towards my house crying for my mother. Next to my house I saw the body of my brother on the ground, and there was nothing I could do.'¹⁹

¹⁹ Ibid.

Eman Abu Eita was inside her house with her four daughters when she heard the two explosions. 'I immediately ran outside and saw my children on the ground' she said. 'Ahmed was still alive – I was holding him. Zakia's body had exploded and her insides were all over the ground.'²⁰

Ahmed Abu Eita was transferred to Kamal Odwan Hospital, where he died of his injuries at approximately 21:00 on 16 January.

The Abu Eita family told PCHR that the attack on their family was the first time the area around their home had been targeted during the Israeli military offensive. 'There had been no fighting, no tanks and no bulldozers in this area' said Salama. 'My two children were sitting outside in the sun with their cousin and their aunt because our area had been peaceful. We would not have allowed them to sit outside if there had been any fighting.'

Whoever launched this attack failed to take the necessary precautions in attack, and was indiscriminate. The attack, which killed four civilians, including three children, is a war crime as defined in Article 8(2)(b)(iv) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

PCHR calls for the attack on the Abu Eita family to be independently investigated in order to establish who was responsible for these deaths. The Centre reiterates its call for an independent full-scale investigation into all documented attacks on civilians and civilian objects during the offensive, in order for the perpetrators to be held fully accountable for crimes against Gaza's civilian population, including alleged war crimes against children.

²⁰ Ibid.



Case Study 5

the Salha family

At approximately 03:30 on 9 January, 2009, the home of the Salha family in Jabaliya town in the northern Gaza Strip was struck by two projectiles. According to neighbours, the projectiles struck the three storey house within two or three minutes of each other. A total of 12 civilians, including nine children, were inside the Salha home at the time of the attack. Six of them, including Randa Salha and four of her children, were killed instantly. The house was also completely destroyed in the attack.

The victims were identified as:

- **Randa Salha**, age 35
- **Rula Salha**, age one year and three months
- **Bahaa' Salha**, age 5
- **Rana Salha**, age 12
- **Diaa' al-Din Salha**, age 14
- **Fatma al-Haw**, age 22 (sister of Randa Salha)

On 3 February, PCHR interviewed Fayez Nour Mohammed Salha, the husband of Randa Salha and the father of their children. Fayez Salha works as a security guard for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and was on duty at a local school when the attack took place. He and his wife had a total of seven children, three of whom survived the attack. The substantial number of handprints on the inside right section of the front door of the house (which was still standing in its frame), and the fact the six bodies were found at the bottom of the stairs next to the front door, both suggest that the six victims were killed while trying to flee the house.

Fayez Salha told PCHR that his neighbours called him around 04:00 on 9 January, telling him his house had been bombed and his children were dead.²¹ The neighbours said they had been to the destroyed house, gathered the remains of the six victims and transferred them to nearby Kamal Odwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya.

Fayez arrived at the hospital just after 04:00, where he identified the bodies of his wife, four of his children and his sister-in-law.

'Their severed limbs were in buckets. I could only identify my children by their clothes,' Fayez told PCHR. He also said his family had remained in their home during the offensive because they thought the area was safe enough to stay. 'The day before the attack, my children were playing outside on the [flat] rooftop of our house. We thought they were safe.'

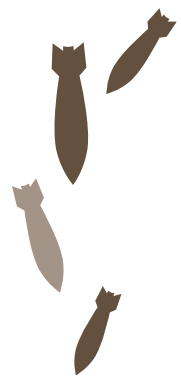
21 PCHR interview with Fayez Nour Mohammed Salha, Jabaliya, 3 February, 2009.



The remains of the two-storey home where Randa Salha, her four children and her sister were killed

The Salha home was located in a residential area of Jabaliya town. The family ran a kitchen on the ground floor of their house, from where they sold basic food. After investigating this attack, PCHR believes there was no militant activity in the area of the Salha home at the time of the attack, and that the home was struck by at least one bomb dropped from an aircraft.

This direct attack on a civilian object, at a time when civilians were forced to shelter in their homes due to the intensity of the IOF offensive, constitutes a wilful killing, a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions. As it could also be reasonably expected that the complete destruction of a house would result in extensive civilian death and injury, this attack also constitutes two counts of war crimes, as defined in Articles 8(2)(b)(ii) and (iv) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.



THE PRINCIPLE OF DISTINCTION

In order to effectively ensure their protection, the principle of distinction requires that civilian populations, including children, and civilian objects, be distinguished from combatants and military objectives at all times. Customary IHL is explicit in this regard; while combatants and military objectives are regarded as legitimate military targets, civilians and civilian objects may not be made the object of an attack. Children are considered civilians, and are thus 'protected persons' according to the Geneva Conventions.

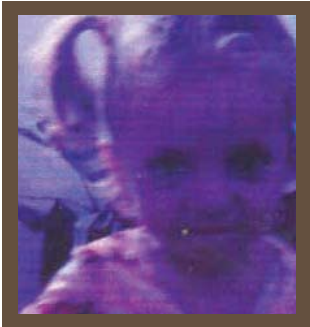
Combatants include members of the armed forces of a Party to the conflict, and members of armed resistance groups. Non-combatants are all those who cannot be considered combatants; this includes civilians and persons who are not members of armed groups. The civilian population refers to all civilians, i.e. those who are not members of armed forces or armed groups, such as police officers.

Military objectives are objectives whose nature, location, purpose or use makes an effective contribution to military action, and whose total or partial destruction, capture or neutralization – under the circumstances at the time – offers a definite military advantage. However, civilian objects are all non-military objectives; in case of doubt, objects must be presumed to be civilian.

Customary IHL explicitly prohibits violations of the principle of distinction. Such violations are war crimes, as defined in, inter alia, Articles 8(2)(b)(i), and (ii) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court. Additionally, violations of the principle of distinction may constitute 'wilful killing', a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions.

Case Study 6

Shahd Hijji



On 5 January, 2009, Abeer Hijji witnessed the death of her husband, Mohammed and her two and a half year old daughter, Shahd, who were both killed by the IOF. The Hijji family was inside their home in Zaytoun in the east of Gaza City when the house was struck by a projectile that killed Mohammed. As Abeer was attempting to flee the house with her five children, IOF soldiers occupied the house, and used the family as human shields in order to occupy a nearby house. The IOF subsequently ordered the Hijji family to evacuate Zaytoun, and apparently shot at them while they were fleeing. Shahd was shot in the chest and died of her injuries several hours later.

PCHR interviewed Abeer Hijji on 10 February.²² 'My family were all at home at around 02:30 on 5 January,' she told the Centre. 'We had decided to leave our house because the situation was very dangerous. My husband was putting on his outdoor clothes when the bedroom was hit by a rocket. He was killed instantly, and my ten year old son, Amir, was also injured.'

As Abeer was preparing to flee the house with her five children, her brother-in-law, Nasser Hijji, arrived from his house next door. Nasser had just entered Abeer Hijji's house when approximately 40 IOF soldiers stormed into her house. 'The [IOF] soldiers ordered my brother-in-law to take my husband's body, put it in another room and cover it with blankets' she said. 'They were laughing, saying they had killed my husband because he was Hamas.'

The IOF detained Abeer Hijji and her children in one room and Nasser in another. 'After a while the soldiers told us we had to leave the house' said Abeer. 'They made me, my children and Nasser walk in front of them. We thought they were going to kill us. They took us to Nasser's house, which is just a few metres away.'

The family of Nasser Hijji were inside their home. When Abeer, her children and Nasser arrived, there were a total of around 35 Palestinians inside the house. 'The Israeli soldiers blindfolded all the young men and then put us all into one room and told us not to move. They broke the furniture and occupied the rest of the house.'

²² PCHR interview with Abeer Hijji, Zaytoun, 10 February, 2009.



Abeer, along with the others, were held inside the house for around nine hours without food or water. At approximately noon [on 5 January] the IOF ordered all of them to leave the house. 'They told us to go to Rafah' said Abeer. 'Rafah is at the other end of the Gaza Strip, and we didn't even have our shoes, but they ordered us to leave [the house] immediately. They [the IOF] kept three of the young men hostage, and the rest of us left the house.'

As they walked from the house, the Hijji family met other relatives also fleeing the area, who joined them, and a local family named Arafat. 'There were around 45 of us in total,' she said. 'We thought we would be safer all together. The Arafat family had white scarves with them and we were waving the scarves. But as we were walking the soldiers began shooting at us. We thought they were shooting at our feet. But one woman was shot and killed in front of us.' Twenty seven year old Ola Arafat was shot in the chest, and died inside her home approximately 48 hours later, on 7 January 2009.²³

'The Israelis kept shooting as we were trying to escape to a nearby house,' said Abeer. Approximately nine people were injured during the shooting, including Abeer's daughter, Shahd. 'I thought she [Shahd] had died, but when I realized she was still alive I decided to take all my children and try to reach Rafah' said Abeer, who subsequently left the house with some of the other people who had not been injured. 'About 24 of us left the house together and began to run along the street' she told PCHR. 'I was holding Shahd. There was nobody in the street, but there were aircraft above us. We ran for a long time – I think it was more than two kilometres. Eventually we found a vehicle. We crowded inside and drove towards Deir al-Balah [central Gaza Strip]. I knew my daughter was badly injured and we took her straight to Al Aqsa Hospital [in Deir al-Balah].

According to the Al Aqsa Hospital medical records, which PCHR has seen, Shahd Hijji was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital at approximately 14:20 on 5 January 2009. She had been killed by a shot to the chest.

After investigating this attack, PCHR believes the evidence indicates there was no militant activity in the area at the time of the attack. Therefore, this attack constitutes a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions, and two counts of war crimes, as defined in Articles 8(2)(a)(i) and 8(2)(b)(i) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court. The direct targeting of civilians is a clear violation of customary IHL, as it violates the principle of distinction, and the requirement that civilians be spared the effects of hostilities. Customary IHL is explicit in this regard: attacks may not be intentionally directed against civilians.

23 See PCHR press release ref: 07/2009

Case Study 7

Izziddin al-Farra

On 14 January 2009, 14 year old Izziddin al-Farra was killed in Qarara village, in the eastern Gaza Strip. Izziddin and his friend, 17 year old Abdul Ghani, were riding bicycles along a rural road when they were struck by a projectile, which killed Izziddin al-Farra instantly. Abdul Ghani sustained a serious head injury.

PCHR interviewed 20 year old Ahmed al-Farra, the brother of Izziddin.²⁴

He told PCHR that the two boys had left his house together at approximately 18:30 on 14 January, in order to buy chocolate at a nearby local supermarket.

'The store was just 500 metres away from our house' said Ahmed al-Farra. 'We all thought this area was quite safe. People were still going outside in the evenings during the offensive. We had received no leaflets or information from the Israelis telling us the area was being targeted.' Ahmed al-Farra stated that there had been no military activity in the area. PCHR visited the al-Farra home in al-Qarara, and saw no identifiable military targets in the vicinity of the area of the attack.

According to Ahmed al-Farra, Izziddin and Abdul Ghani were approximately 100 metres from the al-Farra home when they were attacked. Izziddin was killed instantly. Abdul Ghani sustained a serious head injury and was admitted to a local hospital. He was subsequently transferred to a hospital in Egypt for further medical treatment.

PCHR investigations strongly indicate that Izziddin al-Farra and Abdul Ghani were both civilians. The



direct targeting of civilians is explicitly prohibited by customary IHL. The evidence obtained by PCHR also indicates there was no militant activity in the vicinity at the time. Given the fact the children were cycling at the time of the attack, it is highly unlikely that they could have been regarded as taking an active role in hostilities, or be mistaken for armed militants.

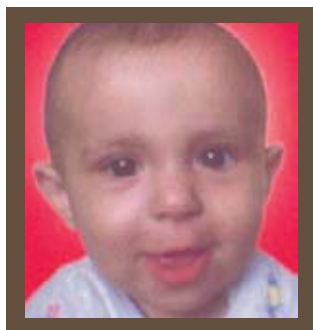
Customary IHL explicitly requires that all feasible measures must be taken to avoid injury to civilians: in cases of doubt, the best interests of the civilian population should prevail. This attack was a direct attack on civilians, a serious violation of the very principle on which IHL is founded. It is therefore a wilful killing, a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions, and a war crime as defined in Article 8(2)(b)(i) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

²⁴ PCHR interview with Ahmed al-Farra, Qarara, 19 February, 2009.



Case Study 8

Farah al-Helu



In the early hours of 4 January 2009, one and a half year old Farah al-Helu died in the Zaytoun district of east Gaza City after being shot by the IOF. The family was inside their home when it was invaded by IOF soldiers who killed 62 year old Fouad al-Helu, before ordering the rest of the family to evacuate the house.

Whilst the al-Helu family was attempting to flee the area, IOF soldiers shot at them, injuring three members of the al-Helu family, including Farah, who bled to death approximately two hours later.

PCHR interviewed Aamer al-Helu, Farah's father, on 8 February. He and his wife had four children together. Aamer al-Helu told PCHR that 14 members of his family were inside the two storey house, on Salah al-Din Street, when it was shelled by IOF at approximately 05:30 on 4 January.

'When our house was shelled, we all ran downstairs to the ground floor and hid in a space underneath the staircase' he told PCHR. 'We could hear tanks in the street outside the house, and then we heard soldiers coming into our yard. They [the soldiers] started to come into our house, and they were shooting. My father stood up and they shot him dead in front of us.'

The IOF soldiers then told Aamer al-Helu that everyone had to leave the house immediately. 'I asked them how we could leave the dead body of my father, I also said it was too dangerous outside because there were a lot of soldiers and tanks in the streets.'

One of the IOF soldiers told Aamer 'No-one will harm you.' The soldier then spoke into a walkie-talkie, before repeating that the al-Helu family would be safe when they left the house. Aamer and the other twelve members of his family, including four children, left the building ten minutes later, at approximately 05:40.

The IOF instructed the family to walk behind their house in a direction parallel to Salah al-Din St, a main road running north-south down the centre of the Gaza Strip. 'After about 500 metres we crossed over onto Salah al-Din Street' said Aamer. 'There were tanks and [Israeli] soldiers in the street, and I saw two Israeli soldiers in the upstairs window of a building in front of us. Suddenly they started shooting at us, and we all threw ourselves on the ground.'

Aamer said the IOF soldiers shot at his family for several minutes. They began to crawl along the street, trying to reach a safe place. Most of the family managed to crawl behind a sandbank, but three family members, Aamer's daughter Farah, his brother Abdullah (age 20) and his sister Islam (age 18) who had been carrying Farah, were injured and remained lying in the street.

'I could see Farah moving' said Aamer. 'I called to Abdullah to show us if he was still alive. He moved his legs and began to crawl towards us on his knees. We also called to Islam and she began to crawl towards us too, holding Farah.'

As Abdullah and Islam were crawling towards the sandbank with Farah, Aamer used his mobile phone to call the Al Quds Hospital in Gaza City, asking for an ambulance to come and rescue the injured. He told PCHR that a member of the ambulance crew called him at approximately 06:00, saying the ambulance could not reach the area because it had been attacked by IOF.

'When Islam reached us and I took hold of Farah, I realized she had been very badly injured' he said. 'There was no blood on her face, but when I lifted up her dress, her stomach was open and bleeding. I gave her to my wife, but she was losing blood, and she died

two hours later.' Farah al-Helu died at approximately 08:00 on 4 January.

The surviving members of the al-Helu family spent a total of twelve hours hiding behind the sandbank. They were subsequently confronted by IOF soldiers, who arrested Aamer and transferred him to prison in Israel, where he was held without charge until 9 January.

In this attack, the denial of access to emergency medical services had fatal consequences for Farah al-Helu. Article 16 of the Fourth Geneva Convention requires that the injured and sick be the object of particular protection and respect and that all Parties to a conflict facilitate the search for wounded individuals. Customary IHL also explicitly prohibits attacks directed against relief personnel.

The direct targeting of civilians is a clear violation of customary IHL, as it violates the principle of distinction, and the requirement that civilians be spared the effects of hostilities. Customary IHL is explicit in this regard: attacks may not be intentionally directed against civilians.

After investigating this attack, PCHR believes it constitutes a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions, and two counts of war crimes, as defined in Articles 8(2)(a)(i) and 8(2)(b)(i) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

INDISCRIMINATE ATTACKS

The prohibition of indiscriminate attacks is an extension of the principle of distinction, which strictly regulates what may be considered a legitimate attack. Customary IHL defines indiscriminate attacks as those:

- A: which are not directed against a specific military objective;
- B: which employ a method or means of combat which cannot be directed at a specific military objective;
- C: or which employ a method or means of combat the effects of which cannot be limited as required by international humanitarian law;²⁵

For example, the artillery bombardment of a civilian area containing combatants is indiscriminate, as it is impossible to direct such bombardment at a specific military objective.

Equally, the use of a two ton bomb to destroy a single building is indiscriminate, as it is inevitable the effects will be very extensive and will annihilate or damage nearby buildings, while a less powerful bomb would be sufficient to destroy the objective. The use of white phosphorous in civilian areas is also indiscriminate, given its known effects, the danger posed to the civilian population, and the availability of less harmful alternatives.²⁶

Indiscriminate attacks violate the principle of distinction, and are war crimes, as defined in Articles 8(2)(b)(i), (ii) and (iv) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court. Additionally, indiscriminate attacks constitute 'wilful killing', a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions.

²⁵ International Committee of the Red Cross, Customary International Humanitarian Law, Rule 12 (2005).

²⁶ See Human Rights Watch: <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/03/25/witness-accounts-and-additional-analysis-idf-use-white-phosphorus>

Case Study 9

the Balousha family



Jawaher,
Tahreer,
Ikram,
Dina
and Samar Balousha,
who were killed
in their home in Jabaliya.

At approximately 00:00 midnight on 29 December 2008, the home of Anwar and Samira Balousha in Jabaliya refugee camp was destroyed by a large aircraft bomb that struck a mosque just three metres from their home. Five of their eight daughters were killed in the attack. Another five people were injured and three other homes standing close to the mosque were also completely destroyed. Another five homes were seriously damaged.

The victims were identified as:

- **Tahreer Balousha**, age 18
- **Ikram Balousha**, age 15
- **Samar Balousha**, age 13
- **Dina Balousha**, age 8
- **Jawaher Balousha**, age 4



PCHR interviewed the Balousha family on 11 February. Anwar and Samira Balousha, who had eight daughters and one son before the attack, both gave PCHR eye-witness testimonies.²⁷ 'The night of the bombing we had no electricity at our home' said Anwar. 'We all went to sleep early, around 10pm. I used to stay awake alone to watch over my family, but that night I was tired. I woke up because there was water pouring onto my face – I had heard no explosion, but I realized I was lying under the rubble of my own house. Only my hands and face were in the air and I was very cold. I thought I was dying.'

Anwar managed to free himself from the rubble and also found his wife, Samira and freed her from the rubble. They found their youngest child, 12 day old Baraa' and clambered out of the bedroom through a large hole in the wall.

Samira Balousha began to search for her children in the rubble. 'I was looking for my son, Mohammed [age one year and four months]. People arrived at the house to help us and the ambulance and fire brigade also arrived. I also started searching for my daughters, but I saw their room had been completely destroyed. I went out into the street and called for more people to come and help me find them - but I thought they had all been killed.'

Samira and Anwar had both been injured in the explosion and were transferred to Kamal Odwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya. Several hours later medical sources confirmed that five of their eight daughters had been killed in the attack. In addition, seventeen year old Iman and eleven year old Samah had both sustained injuries.

The Imad Akel Mosque stood approximately three metres from the Balousha home, and was completely destroyed by the projectile. Anwar Balousha told PCHR that his family had received no warning about an imminent attack on the mosque from the IOF.

'We received no phone call or any information that the mosque was going to be targeted. We lived closer to the mosque than any other family and if we had known there was going to be an attack [on the mosque] we would have left the area immediately.'

Munir Shubair, who lived next door to the Balousha family, and whose home was also destroyed in the attack, told PCHR that he was sleeping in his house with his wife and six children when he heard an explosion and his house collapsed. His family survived.

The bombing of the Imad Akel Mosque was an indiscriminate and disproportionate attack, in violation of customary international humanitarian law (IHL). Mosques – as religious objects – are specifically protected by IHL, unless they are being used for military purposes. Witnesses reported no military activity in the area, and no secondary explosions which may have indicated that armaments were being stored in the mosque.

In addition, the choice of weapon used to destroy the mosque was excessive to the purpose; launching an attack, the effects of which can reasonably be expected to cause disproportionate death, injury, or destruction to civilians and civilian objects, is prohibited by customary IHL. This attack was a wilful killing, and therefore a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions. It is also a war crime, as defined by Article 8(2)(b)(ii) and (iv) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Case Study 10

the Deeb family



At approximately 15:30 on 6 January 2009, two projectiles struck the yard of the home of Mo'in Deeb in the al-Fakhoura district of Jabaliya refugee camp. One of the projectiles struck the outside wall of the yard, while the other landed in the yard itself. Fourteen members of the Deeb family were sitting in the yard at the time. Ten of them were killed instantly, including Mo'in Deeb's mother, his wife, Amal, and four of their children. Mo'in's brother, Samir, was also killed along with three of his sons. Mo'in's daughter, Alaa', sustained critical injuries and subsequently died from her injuries.

The victims were identified as:

- **Amal Deeb**, age 38
- **Nour Mo'in Deeb**, age 3
- **Asseel Mo'in Deeb**, age 9
- **Mustafa Mo'in Deeb**, age 13
- **Mohammed Mo'in Deeb**, age 16
- **Alaa' Mo'in Deeb**, age 20 (died in hospital in Egypt on 24 January 2009)
- **Shamma Deeb**, age 65 (mother of Mo'in Deeb)
- **Samir Deeb**, age 42 (brother of Mo'in Deeb)
- **'Isam Samir Deeb**, age 13 (son of Samir Deeb)
- **Fatma Samir Deeb**, age 23
- **Mohammed Samir Deeb**, age 24 (son of Samir Deeb)



PCHR interviewed Mo'in Deeb on 3 February 2009 at his home. Mo'in told PCHR that 21 people had been living in the two-storey house. He and his wife, Amal, had six children altogether, four of whom, all under the age of 18, were killed instantly in the attack. Amal Deeb was three months pregnant with their seventh child when she was killed.

Mo'in did not witness the attack on his home, as he was several hundred metres outside the house, speaking with a friend. His only surviving child, 18 year old Baker Mo'in Deeb, was also outside, visiting a local shop.

Nineteen year old Fadel Samir Deeb was in the yard when the projectiles struck. He described the two projectiles as tank shells. 'I was in the yard with my family when two shells hit [the yard] just seconds apart. I ran and crouched at the back of the yard until it was over. I could see all the dead and injured [in the yard]. I was stunned and couldn't move.'²⁸ Fadel told PCHR that within minutes several cars arrived at the house, and transferred the dead and injured to nearby Kamal Odwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya.

Four of the survivors were critically injured. Alaa' Mo'in Deeb subsequently died of her injuries, and twenty seven year old Ziad Samir Deeb, the son of Samir Deeb, who lost his father and three brothers in the attack, had both his legs amputated in hospital.

'We were a house of civilians' said Mo'in. 'There was no-one in this house who could be a target for the Israelis. I lost almost my whole family for no reason.'

The Deeb house is located opposite al-Fakhoura School on al-Fakhoura Street and the distance between the house and the school is around 200 metres. At the time of the attack, Al-Fakhoura school was being used by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) as a shelter for local people who had fled their own homes due to intense IOF

shelling and bombardment. UNRWA had provided the Israeli authorities with detailed geographical coordinates of all UN facilities in the Gaza Strip, including al-Fakhoura school.

At approximately the same time as the attack on the Deeb house, the junction beside al-Fakhoura school was struck by three IOF projectiles. Twenty three civilians sheltering in the school, including nine children were killed in the attack and another nine civilians, including seven children were injured. The IOF initially claimed there had been militant activity in or around the school, though they produced no evidence to back up this claim. UNWRA Director of Operations in Gaza, John Ging, completely refuted the allegation. 'I can tell you categorically that there was no military activity in that school at the time of the tragedy' he said. 'They were innocent people.'

After investigating both these attacks, PCHR believes that despite media reports connecting the two, they were in fact unrelated, apart from the fact they took place in the same vicinity, and were both attacks on civilian objects. Without the requirement of military necessity, the [IOF] bombardment of a civilian object in a clearly civilian area is illegal as it can reasonably be expected to cause excessive death, injury and destruction to civilians and civilian objects.

The attack on the Deeb family, which killed eleven civilians, including five children, constitutes two counts of war crimes, as defined in Articles 8(2)(b)(ii) and (iv) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court. Customary IHL prohibits indiscriminate attacks – those which are not directed against a specific military target – as well as the targeting of civilian objects.

28 PCHR interview with Fadel Samir Deeb, al-Fakhoura district, Jabaliya, 3 February 2009.

Case Study 11

Sidqi, Mohammed & Ahmed Al-'Absi



In the early hours of 29 December 2008, an aircraft bomb struck the house of the al-'Absi family in Yibna refugee camp in Rafah. The family were sleeping in the house at the time. Three children were killed instantly, and their mother, 'Efaf al-'Absi sustained critical injuries. Four other children from the family were also injured.

The victims were identified as:

- **Sidqi al-'Absi**, age 4
- **Ahmed al-'Absi**, age 12
- **Mohammed al-'Absi**, age 14

On 16 February, PCHR interviewed Ziad Mahmoud al-'Absi, the husband of 'Efaf and father of the three dead boys. The al-'Absi family had eight children, and were all inside their home at the time of the attack.²⁹

'The war had just begun and everyone was frightened' said Ziad al-'Absi. 'I put my wife and children together into one room and we went to sleep around 10 pm [on 28 December]. Just my eldest son, Mahmoud, was in another room in the house.'

²⁹ PCHR interview with Ziad al-'Absi, Rafah, 16 February, 2009.



At approximately 00:55 [on 29 December] an aircraft bomb hit the al-'Absi house. Ziad told PCHR he heard nothing before the explosion, but awoke to find himself being thrown from his bed towards the kitchen by the force of the explosion. 'All I knew was that the roof was collapsing on top of us' he said. His wife 'Efaf and their young son, Sidqi were also flung towards the kitchen.

Sidqi, Ahmed and Mohammed al-'Absi were all killed instantly. Sidqi's body was found in the remains of the kitchen. Twelve year old Ahmed was flung outside the house – his body was found in the street by neighbours. The body of fourteen year old Mohammed was found in the yard next to the house.

'Efaf al-'Absi survived the attack, but sustained critical injuries, including a broken back. She was immediately transferred to Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, where she entered a coma. On 11 January, 2009, she was transferred to hospital in Egypt. Her husband, Ziad, was also transferred to Nasser Hospital, and was discharged after three days of treatment.

In addition to the deaths of Sidqi, Ahmed and Mohammed, the four daughters in the family were also injured. Two year old Ne'ma sustained head, feet and leg injuries and was also facially scarred. Fifteen year old Zakia sustained a serious injury to her left arm and now requires reconstructive surgery. Nineteen year old Nidaa' and 20 year old Fidaa' both sustained head injuries. Eighteen year old Mahmoud al-'Absi survived the attack as he had been in a separate room, slightly further from the centre of the explosion.

'I am a civilian and my family are all civilians' said Ziad al-'Absi. 'But I have lost three of my sons and my wife is in a coma and my house has been completely destroyed – I do not want money – I just want to know why my house and family were targeted.'³⁰

Customary IHL prohibits attacks directed at civilian objects. In case of doubt regarding an object's status, an ostensibly civilian object must be presumed civilian. In addition, given that civilians had been forced to shelter in their homes throughout the course of the IOF offensive, it could also be reasonably expected that the complete destruction of a house would result in extensive death and injury. This attack therefore constitutes two counts of war crimes, as defined in Articles 8(2)(b)(ii) and (iv) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

³⁰ 'Efaf al-'Absi emerged from her coma on approximately 10 March 2009, and is recovering

Case Study 12

Bilal & Mohammed al-Ashqar



On 17 January, 2009, Bilal and Mohammed al-Ashqar, aged six and four years, died in Beit Lahiya Elementary Co-Education School, when the area around the school was hit by at least one artillery shell containing white phosphorous. Two other members of the al-Ashqar family were seriously injured in the attack: Njoud al-Ashqar, the mother of the two dead boys, sustained critical head injuries and her right hand was severed. Eighteen year old Mona al-Ashqar, a cousin of the two boys, had her left leg blown off. At the time of the attack, approximately 1,600 Palestinians were sheltering in the school

Salah al-Ashqar, the uncle of Bilal and Mohammed and the father of Mona, told PCHR that his family had received leaflets from the IOF telling them to evacuate their home around 30 December. 'The leaflets did not tell us to go to the school' he said, 'but there were helicopters, drones and F16 aircraft in the skies around us, and we thought [the school] would be safe.' About twenty members of the al-Ashqar family, including eight children, went to shelter in the school around 4 January.

Whilst sheltering at the Beit Lahiya Elementary Co-Education School, the women, girls and young boys slept on the top [third] floor, and the men and older boys shared the first and second floors. According to Salah al-Ashqar, 'there was good security at the school provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). If anyone went outside, they were searched for weapons when they returned.'

On the night of 16 January, Bilal and Mohammed were inside a classroom on the third floor of the school with their mother, Njoud, their younger brother, Sabri, and their six year old sister, Madeleine.



Azhar il-Banna, a relative of the al-Ashqar family, was staying in the same classroom with her four children. She told PCHR that there were approximately 15 women and 50 children altogether in the classroom.³¹ 'The Israelis had been bombing [the area] every night, but that night was very bad, and all the children were very frightened' said Azhar il-Banna. 'We got up to pray around 3am. A few hours later, Njoud and I decided to take the children outside onto the balcony because we thought the windows were going to shatter from the bombing.'

Azhar and Njoud took six of their children onto the outside balcony, which ran the length of the building, at approximately 06:00 [on 17 January]. 'There were other women and children standing on the balcony' said Azhar. 'We were all near the stairs when suddenly there was a huge explosion, and smoke everywhere. Bilal and Mohammed, were thrown down the stairs. I looked down and saw they were dead. Then I saw Njoud – her right hand was torn off, and her head was horribly burned. Everyone was rushing down the stairs – but we were being attacked by white phosphorous.'

Azhar il-Banna told PCHR she was desperate to find her children. 'I had to find my [four] kids – so I went back into the classroom. But I could not see them because of the thick smoke. So I started crawling on the floor. When I got into the classroom, I saw a leg on the floor, and then I saw Mona [al-Ashqar]. It was her leg on the floor, and she was in terrible pain.' Azhar eventually found her children and managed to escape from the burning school.

Salah al-Ashqar, who was inside the school when it was attacked, immediately ran to the third floor, where he found his daughter, Mona, lying in the classroom, maimed and bleeding. With the help of two other men, he managed to stretcher Mona downstairs on a broken door.

Mona was transferred to Kamal Odwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya, where she underwent emergency surgery. She was later transferred to al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, where she underwent two further operations. Her left leg was blown off above the knee, and she also lost almost all use of her left arm. Njoud al-Ashqar, who sustained critical head injuries as well as having her right hand severed, was transferred from Gaza to a specialist hospital in Egypt for treatment.

The evidence gathered by PCHR indicates there was no militant activity in the area at the time of the attack and no clearly identifiable military targets. After investigating this attack, the Centre asserts that IOF failed to take the required precautions when launching the attack in a populated residential area. The attack is therefore a wilful killing, which is a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions and a war crime as defined in Article 8(2)(a)(i) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

In addition, this indiscriminate use of white phosphorous is also a war crime, as defined in Article 8(2)(b)(iv) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court. The bombardment of a densely populated civilian area can predictably be expected to cause disproportionate death and injury to the civilian population. Although white phosphorous itself is not prohibited, its use in densely populated civilian areas violates customary IHL provisions regarding the distinction between combatants and civilians, and the precautions necessary in attack.

Case Study 13

Arafat and Islam Abdul-Dayem

On the morning of 5 January, 2009, the Abdul-Dayem family was holding a condolence ceremony next to a house in Izbat Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip, to mark the death of 33 year old paramedic Arafat Hani Abdul-Dayem. During the ceremony, the house was struck by a projectile. The family and their guests subsequently began to move across the street for their own safety. As they were doing so, they were struck by two tank shells containing flechette darts. Three members of the Abdul-Dayem family, including one child, were killed instantly by the flechettes. Two other members of the family, including a second child, subsequently died in hospital of their injuries.

The victims were identified as:

- **Arafat Mohammed Abdul-Dayem**, age 12
- **Nafez Jamal Abdul-Dayem**, age 22 (his cousin)
- **Maher Yunis Abdul-Dayem**, age 32 (also a cousin)
- **Sa'id Jamal Abdul-Dayem**, age 28 (died in hospital 6 January. Brother of Nafez)
- **Islam Jaber Arafat Abdul-Dayem**, age 16 (died in hospital 7 January)

PCHR interviewed Jamal Sa'id Mohammed Abdul-Dayem (the father of Nafez and Sa'id) and his 25 year old son, Nafez Abdul-Dayem, on the 21 March 2009. On the day of the attack, 5 January, Jamal and Nafez Abdul-Dayem were both attending the condolence ceremony for 'Arafat Abdul-Dayem, which is traditionally held in a tent. 'Arafat was a paramedic and had been killed on 4 January while he was working' said Jamal Abdul-Dayem.³² 'We held our condolences in a tent at the house of Mohammed Deeb Abdul-Dayem. The condolences started about 6am and there were 60-70 men present. The women were on the other side of the street in another tent, next to the house of Hani Arafat Abdul-Dayem (the father of paramedic Arafat Abdul-Dayem).'

At approximately 07.30 there was an explosion, and part of the ceiling collapsed on top of the condolence tent. According to Jamal, five people were injured. Jamal and some of the other men escorted the injured to nearby Kamal Odwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya. When they returned, at approximately 08:30, the male guests decided to move across the street to the women's condolence tent for their own safety.

³² See <http://www.pchrgaza.org/files/Reports/English/medical5.htm>





Flechettes extracted by doctors from the bodies of Nafez and Sa'id Abdul-Dayem

Jamal's son, Nahez Abdul-Dayem walked across the street towards the women's tent. As he was crossing the street, he heard a second explosion. 'I heard the [second explosion] but saw nothing. My two cousins [Maher and Arafat] fell to the ground. Then there was another [third] explosion and I felt something moving in my chest – I fell to the ground clutching my chest, and there was blood coming from my mouth.'

Arafat, Nafez and Maher Abdul-Dayem were killed instantly by the flechettes. In addition, more than twenty other civilians were injured in the attack, including 28 year old Sa'id Jamal Abdul-Dayem, and 16 year old Islam Jaber Arafat Abdul-Dayem. The dead and injured were evacuated to Kamal Odwan Hospital. Sa'id Abdul-Dayem died of his injuries on 6 January, and Islam Adbul-Dayem died of his injuries the following day, 7 January. Nahez Abdul-Dayem, who survived the attack, still has several flechettes embedded in his body, including in his chest, and is unable to move freely without pain.



Flechette embedded in the wall of the home of the Abdul-Dayem family (PCHR)

On 21 March, PCHR visited the Abdul-Dayem family, and photographed flechettes still embedded in the walls in the area where the attack took place. Flechettes are 4cm long metal darts used as anti-personnel weapons. They are contained inside a 105 or 120 mm tank shell. Shortly after firing, the shell ruptures, releasing 5,000 - 8,000 flechettes, which then scatter at high speed in a funnel shaped pattern and have an effective range of approximately 300 metres.³³ Flechettes penetrate straight through human bone, and can cause horrific injuries.

IHL does not explicitly prohibit the use of flechettes in all circumstances: they are an anti-personnel weapon intended for use against massed troop concentrations. However, their inappropriate use in the Gaza Strip violates other rules of customary IHL, notably the principle of distinction and the precautions necessary in attack.

Using flechettes in densely populated civilian areas can reasonably be expected to inflict massive suffering on the civilian population. In this case, the flechette shells were fired in the vicinity of a large group of civilians, killing five, and injuring more than twenty. The use of flechettes in this indiscriminate manner is a war crime, as defined in Article 8(2)(b)(iv) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

³³ See: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/israeli-army-used-flechettes-against-gaza-civilians-20090127>



Maimed & disabled: child injuries sustained during the offensive

Alongside the 313 children killed by Israeli forces during the offensive, 1,606 children were also injured³⁴, with some sustaining horrific disabilities, head and spinal injuries, facial disfigurement, burns and amputation.

The majority of children were injured while sheltering in their own homes, either by shrapnel, white phosphorous burns or rocket and missile fire. There have also been reported cases of children who were unable to access medical care promptly, leading to permanent disability, infection, or even death that could otherwise have been averted.

In the case of the Samouni family from Zaytoun, eastern Gaza, three injured brothers – Nizar, Izhaq and Isma'il Samouni, aged 4, 13 and 15 respectively, bled to death over a period of two days because no ambulances were able to access the house where they were sheltering. Their older brother Ahmed, also sustained injuries and was denied access to medical care due to restrictions. The injuries sustained by Ahmed's three brothers may not have been fatal if they had been able to get to hospital promptly.

Doctors operating within Gaza's under-resourced and overwhelmed hospitals during the offensive also reported penetration blast injuries among children where shrapnel was lodged deep inside the body and numerous cases of external limbs being blown off. Dr Fawzi Al Nabulsiya, head of intensive care at Gaza City's Al Shifa Hospital has said the high number of child injuries may have been due to the use of more sophisticated weaponry by the Israeli military, which "led to amputation of limbs, particularly lower limbs and devastating injuries to spinal cords".

Operation Cast Lead struck a population already vulnerable due to two years of border closures and restricted access to medical facilities. Fuel shortages meant generators for hospital equipment were not fully operational, whilst vital access to secondary and tertiary medical assistance was curtailed. PCHR also interviewed firsthand witnesses who confirmed the restrictions placed on medical staff trying to evacuate the injured and the dead, and attacks on rescue teams. Medical staff and paramedics came under fire when trying to evacuate the injured and were subject to excessive delays as they tried to reach victims. Khaled Yousef Abu Sa'ada, an ambulance driver from Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza, told PCHR of IOF attacks against his ambulance as he was attempting to evacuate injured children. "In early January I was trying to rescue a boy who had been injured in Beit Lahiya, when the Israelis bombed us," said Khaled. "The bomb struck just as we were evacuating the patient into our ambulance – the force of the explosion ripped the boy's head off."

Many bereaved parents in Gaza are also facing the prospect of lifelong care for severely injured children who survived attacks that killed other family members. Ziad Al 'Absi, whose three sons Sidqi, Ahmed and Mohammed

34 The Ministry of Health (MoH)

were killed when an Israeli aircraft bomb struck their house in Rafah on 29 December, also has four other injured children and a wife recovering from a broken back sustained in the same attack. Two year old Ne'ma sustained head, feet and leg injuries and was facially scarred and fifteen year old Zakia was injured in her left arm and now requires reconstructive surgery. Ziad and 'Efaf's two adult children – 19 year old Nidaa' and 20 year old Fidaa' both sustained head injuries.

The continued closure of the Rafah and Erez pedestrian crossings into Gaza has also had a devastating impact on children who need treatment and aftercare outside Gaza. Many child amputees have not been given comprehensive and appropriate access to prosthetic fitting services or follow-up physiotherapy. 14 year old Ghassan Ibrahim Salama Mattar from the eastern Gaza district of Zaytoun was in his house when a missile struck the building on the 5 January 2009. Ghassan's brother and cousin were both killed and Ghassan sustained such severe leg injuries that both his legs were amputated above the knee.

The only rehabilitation hospital with the capacity to effectively treat patients such as Ghassan is the Al Wafaa Rehabilitation Centre, east of Shijaiyeh, north Gaza. However, Al Wafaa was also hit by several rounds of artillery fire during the offensive and wards had to be evacuated.

Customary IHL – and the Fourth Geneva Convention in particular – affords specific protection to the injured. As codified in Article 16 of the Fourth Geneva Convention: "The wounded and sick, as well as the infirm, and expectant mothers, shall be the object of particular protection and respect". In order to ensure respect for the injured, customary IHL specifically protects medical facilities, and those persons engaged in the search for, and care of, the sick and wounded.

As non-combatants, IHL grants medical personnel the same rights, protection and immunity as civilians. They must be spared the effects of hostilities to the greatest extent possible, and they may not be directly targeted;

doing so constitutes the crime of wilful killing and is a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions.

Injuries: Mahmoud Mattar



On 7 January 2009, 14 year old Mahmoud Mattar was blinded by a missile near his home in Sheikh Radwan, Gaza City. At around 09:30 in the morning, Israeli aircraft fired a rocket at al-Taqwa mosque, 150 metres from Mahmoud's home. Mahmoud ran to see what had happened, and shortly afterwards a second rocket hit the scene, killing two 15 year old boys, including Abdullah Juda, one of Mahmoud's school friends. Mahmoud's uncle, Nahed Mattar, 43, went to find his nephew while people gathered in the area.

"I had gone to find Mahmoud and bring him home," said Nahed. "I saw the two boys who had been killed and their bodies were dismembered. People were trying to evacuate them because ambulances were unable to reach the area. I was about to reach out for Mahmoud's hand, when a third rocket landed just a metre and a half away from him. I was injured in the head and Mahmoud was thrown unconscious. His face was in a terrible shape and there were shrapnel injuries all over his body."

The last thing Mahmoud remembers that day was his uncle was beside him: "I told my uncle something was going to hit us. I couldn't see the missile but I could feel something was going to happen. I made my 'shahaadah' [Muslim declaration of faith before

death] and was about to take a step forward. I don't remember anything after that."

Mahmoud's eyes were burnt, and his facial bones were fractured. His lower jaw was broken, he lost some of his teeth, and had shrapnel injuries and third degree burns throughout his body. Mahmoud was transferred to Gaza City's Shifa hospital where the seriousness of his condition meant transfer to hospital in Egypt was essential. Mahmoud spent a total of three months and ten days in hospital in Egypt, including one month in the intensive care unit of Sheikh Zayid hospital, where he celebrated his 15th birthday, and two months in Cairo's Palestine hospital. He endured numerous operations to reconstruct his face, bone transplants and cosmetic surgery. Mahmoud also suffered lung damage due to smoke inhalation: "Some of the costs of his treatment were covered by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, but Mahmoud needs further cosmetic surgery and to be fitted with glass eyes," explains Nahed.

Mahmoud returned to the Gaza Strip in late April 2009 and is now trying to adapt to his new circumstances. His father is unemployed and has health problems and the school for the blind in Gaza accepts only younger children. His family is now trying to arrange special dispensation so Mahmoud can continue his education at a specialist school for the blind. "The only thing different with me is that life is blind now," says Mahmoud. "Sounds are much louder now. Now if an ant walks by, I hear it."

Injuries: The Al-'Ir family.

43 year old Leila Hussein Hassan Al-'Ir, has seven children and lives east of Izbut Abed Rabbo. At around 17:30 on Saturday 3 January 2009, she was with her family inside their home when they heard a very loud explosion nearby. "We all collected our personal things and got dressed," said Leila. "My stepson Nahedh, prepared the donkey cart. Some of my children sat on the cart, while others got themselves ready. I was carrying my daughter, Malak, aged eighteen months and was standing by the gate. Suddenly, I heard a very

strong explosion. Dust fell over the area and it felt like the explosion was inside the house. Two or three minutes later, the dust settled and I could see blood coming out of my daughter Malak's head. I cried for help. I saw my son, Ibrahim, on the ground, bleeding from his head and neck. He was dead. My daughter, Fidaa', was bleeding and I thought she was dead. The donkey was on the ground, bleeding. I brought blankets and wrapped the body of my son Ibrahim. I wanted to wrap the body of my daughter Fidaa', but then I heard her moaning in pain. She was still breathing."

Despite the proximity of the Israeli forces, the family wanted to get Fidaa' to hospital, so they decided to leave the house after the first attack. "We knew the situation was very dangerous, but we needed to take her to the hospital, so we all left our house together," said Senah, Leila's 16 year old daughter. As the family was attempting to leave their house, an Israeli tank fired a second shell towards them which hit Leila's five year old son Rakan.

Leila carried Fidaa' to the home of their neighbour, Mohammed al-'Atawna. Her daughter Yasmin was already at the al-'Atawna house, and had sustained back injuries. "Fidaa' was dying in pain because of her severe injuries," said Leila. "Eventually, she died. [My sons] Ibrahim and Rakan died too."

The two families were inside Mohammed al-'Atawna's house for the next five days while tanks and bulldozers created earth barriers around them. They were eventually able to leave the house on the 8 January 2009. After they did so Israeli military bulldozers demolished the home of Mohammed al-'Atawna on top of the dead bodies in the house. The corpses, including the dismembered body of Leila's husband Mohammed Al-'Ir were eventually unearthed on the 18 January 2009 after the Israeli army forces had withdrawn from the area. Seventeen year old Fidaa' al-'Ir was a student in the third grade of al-Zahra Girls' Secondary School. Her brother Ibrahim, age 12, was in the sixth grade of elementary school, and Rakan was just five years old. Their sister Yasmin Mohammed Mousa al-'Ir, age 14, was injured in the attack.



Collective Trauma: the psychological impact of the offensive

Children who are directly or indirectly exposed to war and conflict experience a variety of adverse short and long-term psychological reactions. Common symptoms and reactions in the aftermath of potentially traumatic events include anger, sleeping difficulties, nightmares, avoidance of situations that are reminders of the trauma, impairment of concentration, and guilt due to survival or lack of personal injury during the traumatic event. A number of studies have found a high prevalence of symptoms, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) among children exposed to war trauma, state-sponsored terrorism or interpersonal violence.³⁵

The Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP) has provided mental health services across the Gaza Strip since 1990 and is now one of the most renowned mental health service providers and research centres in the Middle East. Immediately after the 18 January 2009 ceasefire, GCMHP began to conduct a survey of children across the Gaza Strip, in order to gauge their psychological reactions to the military offensive. GCMHP surveyed a total of 141 children, and the initial findings of the survey indicate that the overwhelming majority of children personally witnessed traumatic events during the offensive which could seriously affect their mental health.³⁶

³⁵ PCHR, *Blood on Their Hands*, 2008.

³⁶ Initial survey results presented to PCHR by GCMHP psychologist Hassan Ziyada, 12 March, 2009.

For example, 90.4% of the children surveyed reported having heard bombing, 89% had witnessed physical destruction of homes as a result of bombing, 65% had been forced to evacuate their homes during the military offensive and 61% reported having witnessed bombing of their neighbours' homes. In addition, 53.6% of the children surveyed reported having either been physically detained in their own homes by IOF soldiers, or else having been trapped inside their homes due to intense bombardment in their locale. 55% said they had been told about the death of a family member or relative killed during the offensive.

'These children reported high levels of trauma and insecurity that will impact on their psychological and intellectual development' said Hassan Ziyada, a psychologist who has worked with GCMHP since 1991. 'In this survey, 97.8% of the children told us they did not feel personally safe [during the offensive]. 95.6% did not believe they could protect themselves, and 97.1% did not believe their families could protect them.'³⁷

Hassan Ziyada believes that the trauma experienced by children in Gaza during the IOF military offensive is part of the collective trauma resulting from the continuing IOF siege of Gaza, as well as the fragmented Palestinian internal political situation. 'Children are suffering continual long-term trauma due to the psychological, social and economic effects of the recent offensive, the siege and closure of Gaza and the internal political situation,' he said. 'This [IOF] offensive came at a very difficult time for all the people of Gaza, especially children, who were already suffering acute feelings of anxiety and powerlessness.'

Hassan Ziyada believes many children in Gaza will develop 'some form of depression' due to grief at personal loss, and feelings of abandonment during the offensive. 'Parents in Gaza could not protect their children [during the military offensive] and this also affects the dynamics between parents and children' he told PCHR. 'Children in Gaza are continuing to exhibit long-term symptoms of hyperactivity, deterioration of their cognitive abilities, intrusive memories and hyper arousal and anxiety.'

Mr Ziyada also highlighted that, without sustained psychological support, including support from their families, children will continue to experience difficulties in expressing their feelings, resulting in physical manifestations of anxiety such as physical body pain, headaches, stomach aches, insomnia and aggressive behaviour both within and outside their families.

It is difficult to measure the full impact of psychological trauma affecting children in Gaza. From a human rights perspective however, the collective exposure of civilians, including children, to psychological trauma during the recent military offensive represents another form of collective punishment being perpetrated by Israel against the civilian population of Gaza, including its children.

37 PCHR interview with Hassan Ziyada, GCMHP, Gaza City, 12 March 2009.

Comments and Recommendations

The Israeli military offensive in Gaza had a devastating effect on the Gaza Strip, resulting in massive loss of life, injury, and destruction to civilian property and facilities. Civilians including children were targeted by the IOF throughout the offensive, resulting in the deaths of 1,414 civilians, including 313 children, the vast majority of whom were killed either whilst inside their own homes or else in the vicinity of their homes.

As previously noted, International Humanitarian Law provides general protection for children as persons taking no part in hostilities, and special protection as persons who are especially vulnerable during war and armed conflict. However Israel has consistently failed to protect Palestinian children during its continuing occupation, including during its recent offensive in Gaza.

Children also benefit from all the provisions related to the treatment of protected persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention. Israel violated these provisions throughout the offensive by failing to use precautions in attack or to distinguish between civilians and combatants or military objectives. In addition, the Israeli military launched indiscriminate attacks against civilians, resulting in mass civilian deaths.

PCHR reiterates that Israeli forces targeted civilians and their property for the duration of its offensive, as part of its overall strategy of collectively punishing the population of the Gaza Strip. The people of Gaza continue to live under an illegal siege imposed by the State of Israel which affects every aspect of life inside Gaza, including access to appropriate medical care for those who were injured during Israeli military operations.

Recommendations

- The Centre calls for an independent full-scale investigation into all documented attacks on civilians and civilian facilities, in order for the State of Israel to be held fully accountable for the crimes it perpetrated against the civilian population during the offensive, including alleged war crimes against children.
- PCHR also calls on all armed Palestinian groups to immediately cease the recruitment and use of children as combatants.
- The Centre calls on the Government of Israel to establish an Independent Investigation Committee to investigate all IOF killings of Palestinians civilians, including children. The Committee must meet international standards of independence and transparency, and publish its findings publicly, in order to address the impunity with which Israeli forces kill Palestinian civilians and their children.
- In addition, the Centre calls on Israel to uphold the rights accorded to children under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which brings together the human rights of children articulated in other international human rights instruments. Israel must abide by this universally agreed set of non-negotiable standards and obligations that provides protection and support for the rights of children.



Appendix

Names of the 313 civilian children killed during 'Operation Cast Lead'

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Location	Date of death	Date of attack
1	Ahmed Reyad Mohammed al-Sinwar	Male	3	Behind the civil Defense service site/ al-Zahra City / Middle Gaza	27-Dec-08	27-Dec-08
2	Mustafa Khader Saber Abu Ghanima	Male	16	Tal al-Hawa / Gaza	27-Dec-08	27-Dec-08
3	Tamer Hassan Ali al-Akhras	Male	5	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	27-Dec-08	27-Dec-08
4	Mazen Ahmed Mohammed Matar	Male	15	Al-Shati Refugee Camp / Gaza	27-Dec-08	27-Dec-08
5	Khaled Sami Tarraf al-Astal	Male	14	Al-Satar/ Khan Younis	27-Dec-08	27-Dec-08
6	Kamilia Ra'afat al-Bardini	Female	13	Deir al-Balah / Middle Gaza	27-Dec-08	27-Dec-08
7	'Uday Abdul Hakim Rajab Mansi	Male	6	Deir al-Balah / Middle Gaza	27-Dec-08	27-Dec-08
8	Yahya Ibrahim Farouq al-Hayek	Male	13	Tal al-Hawa / Gaza	27-Dec-08	27-Dec-08
9	Abdul Hamid Jamal Khaled al-Sawi	Male	15	Al-Tufah / Gaza	27-Dec-08	27-Dec-08
10	Yasmin Wa'el Dhaban	Female	17	Tal al -Hawa / Gaza	27-Dec-08	27-Dec-08
11	Haneen Wa'el Dhaban	Female	15	Tal al-Hawa / Gaza	27-Dec-08	27-Dec-08
12	Ahmed Rasmi Mohammed Abu Jazar	Male	16	Al-Juneiena neighborhood/ Rafah	27-Dec-08	27-Dec-08
13	Mustafa Khadl Saber Abu Ghnima	Male	16	Tal al-Hawa / Gaza	27-Dec-08	27-Dec-08
14	Ibrahim Akram Ibrahim Abu Daqqa	Male	15	Abasan al-Kabira / Khan Younis	28-Dec-08	28-Dec-08
15	Samar Anwar Khalil Ba'alousha	Female	6	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	28-Dec-08	28-Dec-08
16	Jawaher Anwar Khalil Ba'alousha	Female	8	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	28-Dec-08	28-Dec-08
17	Akram Anwar Khalil Ba'alousha	Female	14	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	28-Dec-08	28-Dec-08
18	Dina Anwar Khalil Ba'alousha	Female	7	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	28-Dec-08	28-Dec-08
19	Tahreer Anwar Khalil Ba'alousha	Female	17	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	28-Dec-08	28-Dec-08

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Location	Date of death	Date of attack
20	Nabil Mahmoud Mohammed Abu Ti'eima	Male	16	Khan Younis	28-Dec-08	28-Dec-08
21	Ebtehal Abdullah Tawfiq Keshko	Female	8	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	28-Dec-08	28-Dec-08
22	Mohammed Akram Ibrahim Abu Daqqa	Male	14	Abasan al-Kabira / Khan Younis	28-Dec-08	28-Dec-08
23	Wisam Akram Rabi' Eid	Male	12	Opposite to Ministry of Interior/ Al-Quds Street / Northern Gaza	29-Dec-08	29-Dec-08
24	Mu'ath Yaser al-'Abed Abu Teir	Male	6	Abasan al-Kabira / Khan Younis	29-Dec-08	29-Dec-08
25	Ahmed Zeyad Mahmoud al-'Absi	Male	12	Yebna Refugee Camp / Rafah	29-Dec-08	29-Dec-08
26	'Imad Jamal Shehda Abu Khater	Male	15	Jabaliya/ Northern Gaza	29-Dec-08	29-Dec-08
27	Diaa'Aref Farhood Abu Khubeiza	Male	15	Block C in Nuseirat / Middle Gaza	29-Dec-08	28-Dec-08
28	Mahmoud Nabil Deeb Ghabayen	Male	13	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	29-Dec-08	29-Dec-08
29	Mohammed Basil Mahmoud Madi	Male	17	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	29-Dec-08	29-Dec-08
30	Mohammed Zeyad Mahmoud al-'Absi	Male	14	Yebna Refugee camp / Rafah	29-Dec-08	29-Dec-08
31	Sidqi Zeyad Mahmoud al-'Absi	Male	4	Yebna Refugee Camp / Rafah	29-Dec-08	29-Dec-08
32	Shadi Yousif Ramadan Ghabin	Male	14	Beit Lahia / Northern Gaza	29-Dec-08	29-Dec-08
33	Lama Talal Shehda Hamdan	Female	4	Beit Hanoun / Northern Gaza	30-Dec-08	30-Dec-08
34	Mohammed Majed Ibrahim Ka'abar	Male	17	Jabaliya/ Northern Gaza	30-Dec-08	30-Dec-08
35	Haya Talal Shehda Hamdan	Female	12	Beit Hanoun / Northern Gaza	30-Dec-08	30-Dec-08
36	Sha'aban 'Adel Hamed Hanif	Male	16	Al-Juneina neighborhood / Rafah	31-Dec-08	27-Dec-08
37	Tareq Yaser Mohammed 'Afana	Male	16	Jabalyia Refugee camp / Northern Gaza	31-Dec-08	31-Dec-08
38	Isma'il Talal Shehda Hamdan	Male	9	Al-Rayes Mountain/ Gaza	31-Dec-08	30-Dec-08

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Location	Date of death	Date of attack
39	Mahmoud Majed Mahmoud Abu Nahla	Male	16	Rafah	31-Dec-08	27-Dec-08
40	Mohammed Hussam Radwan 'Eleyan	Male	17	Al-Sawarha area / Middle Gaza	01-Jan-09	01-Jan-09
41	Al-mo'iz Lideen Allah Jihad al-Nasla	Male	3	Al-Nada Apartment Buildings/ Northern Gaza	01-Jan-09	01-Jan-09
42	Asa'ad Nizar Abdul Kader Rayan	Male	2	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	01-Jan-09	01-Jan-09
43	Mohammed Maher Abu Sweireh	Male	16	Al-Sawarha area / Middle Gaza	01-Jan-09	18-Jan-09
44	Abdul Rahman Nizar Abdul Qader Rayyan	Male	6	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	01-Jan-09	01-Jan-09
45	Aya Nizar Abdul Kader Rayan	Female	12	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	01-Jan-09	01-Jan-09
46	Abdul Kader Nizar Abdul Kader Rayan	Male	12	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	01-Jan-09	01-Jan-09
47	Maryam Nizar Abdul Kader Rayan	Female	10	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	01-Jan-09	01-Jan-09
48	Rim Nizar Abdul Kader Rayan	Female	5	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	01-Jan-09	01-Jan-09
49	'Oyoun Jihad Yousif al-Nasla	Female	16	Al-Nada Apartment Buildings/ Izbat Beit Hanoun / Northern Gaza	01-Jan-09	01-Jan-09
50	'Usama Ibn Zeid Nizar Abdul Kader Rayan	Male	3	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	01-Jan-09	01-Jan-09
51	Ghassan Nizar Abdul Kader Rayan	Male	16	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	01-Jan-09	01-Jan-09
52	Zeinab Nizar Abdul Kader Rayan	Female	9	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	01-Jan-09	01-Jan-09
53	'Aisha Nizar Abdul Kader Rayan	Female	2	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	01-Jan-09	01-Jan-09
54	Halima Nizar Abdul Kader Rayan	Female	5	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	01-Jan-09	01-Jan-09
55	Krestin Wadi' Estandi al-Turk	Female	15	Al-Sahaba area / Gaza	02-Jan-09	02-Jan-09
56	Hamada Ibrahim Ali Msabeh	Male	15	Sheja'eya / Gaza	02-Jan-09	02-Jan-09

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Location	Date of death	Date of attack
57	Mohammed Iyad Abed Rabbu al-Astal	Male	12	Al-Qarara / Khan Younis	02-Jan-09	02-Jan-09
58	Abed Rabbu Iyad Abed Rabbu al-Astal	Male	8	Al-Qarara / Khan Younis	02-Jan-09	02-Jan-09
59	Abdul Sattar Walid Abdul Rahim al-Astal	Male	10	Al-Qarara / Khan Younis	02-Jan-09	02-Jan-09
60	Sujood Hamdi Juma'a al-Dardasawi	Female	14	Sheja'eya / Gaza	03-Jan-09	03-Jan-09
61	Mohammed Mousa Isma'il al-Silawi	Male	12	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	03-Jan-09	03-Jan-09
62	Ahmed Asa'ad Tbeil	Male	16	Beit Lahia Housing Project/ Northern Gaza	03-Jan-09	03-Jan-09
63	Hani Mohammed Moussa al-Silawi	Male	7	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	03-Jan-09	03-Jan-09
64	Sharif Abdul Mu'ti Suleiman al-Rmeilat	Male	16	Al-Shuka Village / Rafah	03-Jan-09	03-Jan-09
65	Hassan Nasim 'Amer Hijo	Male	16	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	03-Jan-09	03-Jan-09
66	Hamza Zuheir Reziq Tantish	Male	12	Beit Lahia / Northern Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
67	Yahya Salman Abu Halima	Male	17	Beit Lahia / Northern Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
68	Eyad Nabil Abdul Rahman Saleh	Male	16	Al-'Awda Apartment Buildings / Northern Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
69	Ibrahim Kamal Subhi 'Awaja	Male	9	Al-Zahra Cityy/ Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
70	Adham Na'im Mohammed Abdul Malik	Male	17	Beit Lahia / Northern Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
71	Tha'er Shaker Sha'aban Qarmout	Male	17	Jabaliya Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	04-Jan-09	29-Dec-08
72	Wadi' Amin 'Umar 'Umar	Male	3	Al-Nuzha Street / Beit Lahia / Northern Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
73	Mousa Yousif Hassan Barbakh	Male	16	Al-Shuka Village / Rafah	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
74	Mahmoud Sami Yahya 'Asaleya	Male	3	Jabaliya/ Northern Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
75	Bahaa' Mou'ayad Kamal Abu Wadi	Male	8	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Location	Date of death	Date of attack
76	Isma'il Abdullah Suleiman Abu Sneima	Male	15	Rafah	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
77	Jihan Sami Sa'adi al-Helu	Female	17	Al-Mina>a area / Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
78	'Ayed 'Imad Jamal Khira	Male	14	Al-Daraj / Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
79	Zeyad Mohammed Selmi Abu Sneima	Male	10	Miraj area / Rafah	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
80	Farah 'Ammar Fou'ad al-Helu	Female	1	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
81	Ahmmmed Khader Diab Subeih	Male	17	Yarmouk Street / Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
82	Yousif 'Abed Hassan Barbakh	Male	14	Al-Shuka Village / Rafah	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
83	Suheir Zeyad Ramadan al-Nemer	Female	11	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
84	Jihad Samir Fayez Erhayem	Male	9	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
85	Asma'a Ibrahim Hussein 'Afana	Female	12	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
86	Isra'a Qusai Mohammed al-Habbash	Female	13	Al-Tufah/ Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
87	Mahmoud Khaled 'Eleyan al-Mashharawi	Male	13	Al-Daraj / Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
88	Abdul Karim Zeyad Ramadan Aal-Nemer	Male	14	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
89	Mohammed Faraj Isma'il Hassouna	Male	16	Yarmouk Street / Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
90	Shatha al-'Abed Abed Rabbu al-Habbash	Female	10	Al-Tufah/ Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
91	'Umar Mahmoud al-Barade'i	Male	12	Tal al-Hawa / Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
92	Ruba Mohammed Fadel Abu Ras	Female	14	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
93	Al-Mu'tasim Bellah Mohammed Ibrahim al-Samouni	Male	0.1	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
94	Rezqa Wa'el Faris al-Samouni	Female	13	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
95	Mohmmmed Salam 'Awwad al-Tarfawi	Male	4	Opposite to al-Je'el Petrol Station/ al-Karama Street/ al-Qerem Area	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
96	Faris Wa'el Faris al-Samouni	Male	14	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
97	Lana Heidar 'Eliwa	Female	10	Sheja'eya/ Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Location	Date of death	Date of attack
98	Aya Usama Nayef al-Sersawy	Female	6	Sheja'eya/ Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
99	Al-Syed Jawad Mohammed al-Siksik	Male	16	Al-Twam area/ Northern Gaza	05-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
100	Nada Radwan Na'im Mardi	Female	6	Al-Seyafa area/ Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
101	We'am Jamal Mahmoud al-Kafarneh	Female	2	Beit Hanoun / Northern Gaza	05-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
102	'Arafat Mohammed 'Arafat Abdul Dayem	Male	12	Izbat Beit Hanoun / Northern Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
103	Mahmoud Mohammed Khamis Abu Qamar	Male	15	Block 4 / Jabalia Refugee Camp / Northern Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
104	Isma'il Heidar 'Eleiwa	Male	7	Sheja'eya/ Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
105	Ahmed Helmi 'Ateya al-Samouni	Male	4	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
106	Ishaq Ibrahim Helmi al-Samouni	Male	13	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
107	Khalil Mohammed Khalil Helles	Male	16	Sheja'eya/ Gaza	05-Jan-09	03-Jan-09
108	Mu'tasim Heider 'Eleiwa	Male	13	Sheja'eya/ Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
109	Sayed 'Amer Abu 'Eisha	Male	12	Al-Shati Refugee Camp / Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
110	'Azza Salah Talal al-Samouni	Female	0.5	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
111	Mo'men Heidar 'Eleiwa	Male	12	Sheja'eya/ Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
112	Fatheia Ayman Salim al-Dabbari	Female	0.4	Rafah	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
113	Walid Rashad Helmi al-Samouni	Male	17	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
114	Nassar Ibrahim Helmi al-Samouni	Male	5	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
115	Ibrahim Rawhi Mohammed 'Aqel	Male	16	Block 4 / al-Bureij / Middle Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
116	Isma'il Ibrahim Helmi al-Samouni	Male	14	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
117	Naji Nedal Abdul Salam al-Hamalawi	Male	15	Block 12 / al-Bureij / Middle Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
118	Mohammed Samir Hijji	Male	16	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
119	Ayat Yousif Mohammed al-Dufda'a	Female	13	Al-Tufah/ Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
120	Mo'men Mahmoud Talal 'Ilaw	Male	12	Al-Tufah/ Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Location	Date of death	Date of attack
121	Mohammed Helmi Talal al-Samouni	Male	0.6	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
122	Hanadi Basem Kamel Khalifa	Female	13	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
123	Ramadan Ali Mohammed Filfil	Male	15	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
124	Mohammed 'Amer Abu 'Eisha	Male	10	Al-Shati Refugee Camp / Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
125	Shahd Mohammed Amin Hijji	Female	3	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
126	Huda Na'el Fares al-Samouni	Female	7	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
127	Ghaida'a 'Amer Abu 'Eisha	Female	8	Al-Shati Refugee Camp / Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
128	Nadia Misbah Salem Sa'ad	Female	14	Sheja'eya/ Gaza	05-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
129	Arij Mohammed Fayez al-Daia	Female	3	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
130	Sharaf Al-Din Eyad Fayez al-Daia	Male	5	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
131	Shahd Hussein Nazmi Sultan	Female	8	Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
132	Ranin Abdullah Ahmed Saleh	Female	12	Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
133	Adam Ma'amoun Saqer Ramadan al-Kurdi	Male	3	Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
134	'Isam Samir Shafiq Deeb	Male	13	Opposite to al-Fakhoura School/ Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
135	Marwan Hassan Abdul Mo'min Qdeih	Male	5	Abasan Village/ Khan Younis	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
136	Isma'il 'Adnan Hassan Hweila	Male	16	Near al-Fakhoura School/ Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
137	Qamar Mohammed Fayez al-Daia	Female	5	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
138	Mohammed Eyad Fayez al-Daia	Male	0.7	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
139	Bashar Samir Mousa Naji	Male	14	Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
140	Amani Mohammed Fayez al-Daia	Female	6	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
141	Yousif Mohammed Fayez al-Daia	Male	2	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
142	Ahmed Jaber Jabr Hweij	Male	6	Al-Tufah/ Gaza	06-Jan-09	27-Dec-08

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Location	Date of death	Date of attack
143	Mohammed Mo'in Shafiq Deeb	Male	16	Opposite to al-Fakhoura School/ Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
144	Islam 'Oda Khalil Abu'Amsha	Female	12	Sheja'eya/ Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
145	Ibrahim Suleiman Mohammed Baraka	Male	12	Bani Sheila/ Khan Younis	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
146	'Ahed Eyad Mohammed Qadas	Male	14	Near al-Fakhoura School/ Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
147	Baraa' Ramez Fayez al-Daia	Female	1.5	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
148	Alaa' Eyad Fayez al-Daia	Female	7	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
149	Ibrahim Ahmed Hassan Ma'arouf	Male	15	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
150	Ali Eyad Fayez al-Daia	Male	10	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
151	Sahar Hatem Hesham Daoud	Female	17	Al-Tufah/ Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
152	Raba'a Eyad Fayez al-Daia	Female	6	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
153	Hassan 'Ata Hassan 'Azzam	Male	0.2	Al-Mughraqa/ Middle Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
154	Abdul Jalil Hassan Abdul Jalil al-Halis	Male	8	Al-Shati Refugee Camp/ Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
155	Mohammed 'Ata Hassan 'Azzam	Male	13	Al-Mughraqa/ Middle Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
156	Salsabil Ramez Fayez al-Daia	Female	0.5	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
157	Rafiq Abdul Baset Saleh al-Khudary	Male	16	Rimal/ Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
158	Khetam Eyad Fayez al-Daia	Female	9	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
159	Amjad Majdi Ahmed al-Bayed	Male	16	Rimal/ Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
160	Lina Abdul Mon'im Nafez Hassan	Female	10	Near al-Fakhoura School/ Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
161	Ahmed Shaher Fayeq Khdeir	Male	10	Al-Seyafa area/ Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	03-Jan-09
162	Mohammed Basem Ahmed Shaqqoura	Male	9	Near al-Fakhoura School/ Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
163	Bilal Hamza Ali 'Ubeid	Male	17	Near al-Fakhoura School/ Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Location	Date of death	Date of attack
164	Asil Mo'in Shafiq Deeb	Female	10	Near al-Fakhoura School/ Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
165	Nour Mo'in Shafiq Deeb	Male	3	Opposite to al-Fakhoura School/ Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
166	Mustafa Mo'in Shafiq Deeb	Male	13	Opposite to al-Fakhoura School/ Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
167	'Imad Mohammed Fou'ad Abu 'Askar	Male	14	Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
168	Zakaria Yahya Ibrahim al-Tawil	Male	5	Behind the al-Qassam Mosque/ Nuseirat/ Middle Gaza	06-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
169	Nader Bassam Ibrahim Qaddoura	Male	17	Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	07-Jan-09	07-Jan-09
170	Amal Khaled Mohammed Munib 'Abed Rabbu	Female	2	Izbat Abed Rabbu / Jabalia/ Northern Gaza	07-Jan-09	07-Jan-09
171	Su'ad Khaled Mohammed Munib 'Abed Rabbu	Female	7	Izbat Beit Hanoun / Northern Gaza	07-Jan-09	07-Jan-09
172	Abdullah Mohammed Shafiq Abdullah	Male	11	Beit Lahiya / Northern Gaza	07-Jan-09	06-Jan-09
173	Mohammed Farid Ahmed al-Ma'asawabi	Male	16	Sheikh Radwan/ Gaaza	07-Jan-09	07-Jan-09
174	Anas 'Aref Baraka	Male	8	Al-Mahatta Area/ Wadi al-Salqa/ Deir al-Balah/ Middle Gaza	07-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
175	Habib Khaled Isma'il al-Kahlut	Male	14	Beit Lahiya Housing Project / Northern Gaza	07-Jan-09	07-Jan-09
176	Husam Ra'ed Rezeq Subuh	Male	12	Beit Lahiya/ Northern Gaza	07-Jan-09	07-Jan-09
177	Radwan Mohammed Radwan 'Ashour	Male	12	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	07-Jan-09	07-Jan-09
178	Abdullah Jihad Hussein Juda	Male	15	Sheikh Radwan/ Gaza	07-Jan-09	07-Jan-09
179	Tawfiq Khaled Isma'il al-Kahlut	Male	12	Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	07-Jan-09	07-Jan-09
180	Abdul Rahman Mohammed Radwan 'Ashour	Male	11	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	07-Jan-09	07-Jan-09

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Location	Date of death	Date of attack
181	Baraa' Eyad Samih Shalha	Male	7	Beit Lahiya Housing Project / Northern Gaza	08-Jan-09	08-Jan-09
182	Mohammed Khader 'Abed Rajab	Male	17	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	08-Jan-09	08-Jan-09
183	Yousif 'Awni Abdul Rahim al-Jaru	Male	2	Al-Tufah/ Gaza	08-Jan-09	08-Jan-09
184	Basma Yaser 'Abed Rabbu al-Jallawi	Female	5	Izbat Beit Hanoun / Northern Gaza	08-Jan-09	08-Jan-09
185	Islam Jaber 'Arafat Abdul Dayem	Male	16	Beit Hanoun / Northern Gaza	08-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
186	Matar Sa'ad Abu Halima	Male	17	Izbat Beit Hanoun / Northern Gaza	08-Jan-09	08-Jan-09
187	'Amer Ibrahim Khalil Ba'alousha	Male	10	Apartment Building 12/ Al-Zahra'a City/ Middle Gaza	08-Jan-09	08-Jan-09
188	Ibrahim Mo'in al-'Abed Juha	Male	14	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	08-Jan-09	05-Jan-09
189	Rula Fayez Nour Salha	Female	2	Beit Lahiya Housing Project / Northern Gaza	09-Jan-09	09-Jan-09
190	Ghanima Sultan Fawzi Halawa	Female	11	Jafa Street/ Jabalia Town/ Northern Gaza	09-Jan-09	09-Jan-09
191	Wedad Mohammed al-Qara'an	Female	17	Northern Qara'a/ al-Zawayda Village/ Middle Gaza	09-Jan-09	09-Jan-09
192	Diaa' Al-Din Fayez Nour Salha	Male	14	Beit Lahiya Housing Project / Northern Gaza	09-Jan-09	09-Jan-09
193	Isma'il Ayman Jamil Yasin	Male	17	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	09-Jan-09	09-Jan-09
194	Bahaa' Al-Din Fayez Nour Salha	Male	5	Beit Lahiya Housing Project / Northern Gaza	09-Jan-09	09-Jan-09
195	Rana Fayez Nour Salha	Female	12	Beit Lahiya Housing Project / Northern Gaza	09-Jan-09	09-Jan-09
196	Fatma Ra'ed Zaki Jad Allah	Female	11	Tal al-Za'atar/ Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	09-Jan-09	09-Jan-09
197	Nariman Ahmed Abdul Karim Abu'Oda	Female	16	Al-Amal Neighborhood/ Beit Hanoun/ Northern Gaza	09-Jan-09	09-Jan-09
198	Suheib Mohammed al-Qara'an	Male	16	Northern Qara'a/ al-Zawayda Village/ Middle Gaza	09-Jan-09	09-Jan-09
199	Shahd Sa'ad Allah Matar Abu Halima	Female	2	Beit Lahiya Housing Project / Northern Gaza	09-Jan-09	09-Jan-09

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Location	Date of death	Date of attack
200	Alaa' Ahmed Fathi Jaber	Female	13	Gaza Old Street/ Northern Gaza	09-Jan-09	09-Jan-09
201	Izz Al-Din Ali 'Awad al-Burs	Male	17	Al-Nouri Tower/ Nuseirat/ Middle Gaza	10-Jan-09	10-Jan-09
202	Mohammed Jaber Mohammed 'Eleyan	Male	16	Aslan Street/ Beit Lahiya / Northern Gaza	10-Jan-09	10-Jan-09
203	Mohammed Majed Ali Hussein	Male	17	Al-Naser/ Gaza	10-Jan-09	10-Jan-09
204	Abdul Rahman Ahmed Habboush	Male	4	Al-Tufah/ Gaza	10-Jan-09	10-Jan-09
205	'Amer Kamal Ali al-Nether	Male	15	Al-Nader Steet/ Northern Gaza	10-Jan-09	10-Jan-09
206	Wesam Ibrahim Mesbah Nabhan	Male	17	Al-Nuzha Street/ Northern Gaza	10-Jan-09	10-Jan-09
207	Abdul Hakim Khader Mohammed Al- Sultan	Male	15	Jabalia Town/ Northern Gaza	10-Jan-09	10-Jan-09
208	Amina Nafeth Mohammed al-Helu	Female	14	Beit Lahiya / Northern Gaza	10-Jan-09	10-Jan-09
209	Bayan Khaled Ibrahim Khalif	Male	13	Beit Lahiya Housing Project / Northern Gaza	10-Jan-09	10-Jan-09
210	Samed Mahfouz Mahmoud Abed Rabbu	Male	16	Jabalia/ Northern Gaza	10-Jan-09	10-Jan-09
211	Ali Kamal Ali al-Nether	Male	11	Al-Naser Street/ Northern Gaza	10-Jan-09	10-Jan-09
212	TasnimYaser Jaber al-Rafati	Female	2.5	Mas'oud Street/ Northern Gaza	11-Jan-09	11-Jan-09
213	Zakareia Hamed Khamis al-Samouni	Male	8	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	11-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
214	Khawla Ahmed Ramadan Ghaben	Female	15	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	11-Jan-09	11-Jan-09
215	Sahar Ahmed Ramadan Ghaben	Female	17	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	11-Jan-09	11-Jan-09
216	Fatma Mohammed Rushdi Ma'arouf	Female	16	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	11-Jan-09	11-Jan-09
217	Musa'ab Abdul Mohsen Ali Khader	Male	14	Jafa Street/ Jabalia/ Northern Gaza	11-Jan-09	11-Jan-09
218	Haitham Yasser Yousif Ma>arouf	Male	11	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	11-Jan-09	11-Jan-09
219	Fares Tala'at Asa'ad Hammouda	Male	2	Tal al-Hawa/ Gaza	11-Jan-09	11-Jan-09
220	Mohammed Tala'at Asa'ad Hammouda	Male	17	Sheikh 'Ejlin/ Gaza	11-Jan-09	11-Jan-09

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Location	Date of death	Date of attack
221	Amal Najib Mohammed Alloush	Female	12	Near Abu Shbak Clinic/ Mas'oud Street/ Northern Gaza	11-Jan-09	11-Jan-09
222	Jihad Rashad Sha'aban Dallul	Male	16	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	11-Jan-09	03-Jan-09
223	Mohammed Younis Nasir Abu Jame'	Male	17	Bani Sheila/ Khan Younis	11-Jan-09	11-Jan-09
224	Usama Khaled Hussein Abu Rjeila	Male	17	Khza'a Village/ Khan Younis	11-Jan-09	11-Jan-09
225	Mahmoud Jamal Hassan Mohammadin	Male	16	Sheja'eya/ Gaza	11-Jan-09	11-Jan-09
226	Ayat Kamal Mahmoud al-Banna	Female	12	Al-Nazla/ Jabalia/ Northern Gaza	12-Jan-09	12-Jan-09
227	Abdul Rahman Mohammed 'Ateya Ghaben	Male	15	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	12-Jan-09	12-Jan-09
228	Fad Allah 'Imad Hassan al-Najjar	Male	2	Block 2/ Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	12-Jan-09	12-Jan-09
229	Nasha'at Ra'ed al-Firi	Male	12	Jabalia / Northern Gaza	12-Jan-09	12-Jan-09
230	Eyad Taher Ahmed Shehada	Male	17	Al-Nazla area/ Jabalia/ Northern Gaza	12-Jan-09	12-Jan-09
231	Mohammed Alaa' Al-Din Falah al-Sawafiri	Male	14	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	13-Jan-09	13-Jan-09
232	Mohammed Medhat Harb Eslim al-Bassous	Male	10	Sheja'eya/ Gaza	13-Jan-09	13-Jan-09
233	Mustafa Mohammed Nasser Tawfiq al-'Ashi	Male	17	'Amer Housing Project/ Jabalia/ Northern Gaza	13-Jan-09	13-Jan-09
234	Feras Fayez Kamel Abu Samra	Male	17	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	13-Jan-09	13-Jan-09
235	Majdi Nahed Harb Eselim al-Bassous	Male	15	Sheja'eya/ Gaza	13-Jan-09	13-Jan-09
236	Mohammed Jamil Abdullah Qdeih	Male	15	Khza'a Village/ Khan Younis	13-Jan-09	13-Jan-09
237	Qasem Tala'at Jamil Abdul Nabi	Male	7	Al-Falouja area/ Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	13-Jan-09	13-Jan-09
238	Yousif Mohammed Ahmed al-Farahta	Male	17	Sheja'eya/ Gaza	13-Jan-09	13-Jan-09
239	Mohammed Maher Ahmed al-Zenati	Male	17	Sheikh Radwan/ Gaza	13-Jan-09	13-Jan-09

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Location	Date of death	Date of attack
240	Mahmoud Mohammed Mahmoud Jaballah	Male	14	Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	13-Jan-09	13-Jan-09
241	Alaa' Khaled Khalil al- Najjar	Female	15	Khza'a Village/ Khan Younis	13-Jan-09	13-Jan-09
242	Mamdouh Msa'ed Mohammed Qdeih	Male	17	Khza'a Village/ Khan Younis	13-Jan-09	13-Jan-09
243	Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Tawfiq Jaballah	Male	14	Al-Sekka Street/ Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	13-Jan-09	13-Jan-09
244	Basem TAla'at Abdul Nabi	Male	12	Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	13-Jan-09	13-Jan-09
245	Bilal Jamal Isma'il Abu 'Awwad	Male	17	Block 1/ Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	14-Jan-09	14-Jan-09
246	'Aisha Ibrahim al-Sayed al-Najjar	Female	4	Al-Nader Street/ Northern Gaza	14-Jan-09	14-Jan-09
247	Nour Izz Al-Din Wahid Mousa	Male	15	Al-Sabra/ Gaza	14-Jan-09	14-Jan-09
248	Zeyad Sa'ad Allah Matar Abu Halima	Male	10	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	14-Jan-09	14-Jan-09
249	Hamza Sa'ad Allah Matar Abu Halima	Male	8	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	14-Jan-09	14-Jan-09
250	Khalil Mohammed Mousa Bhar	Male	12	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	14-Jan-09	14-Jan-09
251	Abdul Rahim Sa'ad Allah Abu Halima	Male	14	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	14-Jan-09	14-Jan-09
252	Hadil Jabr Diab al-Rafati	Female	9	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	14-Jan-09	14-Jan-09
253	Hammam Mohammed Hassan al-Khudary	Male	16	Al-Sha'af/ Gaza	14-Jan-09	14-Jan-09
254	Mohammed al-Sayed Mohammed 'Akkila	Male	7	Al-Naser/ Gaza	14-Jan-09	14-Jan-09
255	Mahmoud Khader Mohammed Abu Kamil	Male	14	Al-Mughraqa village/ Middle Gaza	14-Jan-09	14-Jan-09
256	Izz Al-Din 'Adel Khaled al-Farra	Male	14	Al-Qarara/ Khan Younis	14-Jan-09	14-Jan-09
257	Arij 'Ata Hassan Ermeilat	Female	0.2	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
258	Ali Kamal Badawi al-Barrawi	Male	14	Al-Tufah/ Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
259	Ahmed Usama Mohammed Kurtom	Male	7	Northern Rimal/ Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
260	'Ismat Fathi Daoud al-Qerem	Female	15	Tal al-Hawa/ Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Location	Date of death	Date of attack
261	Hanin Fadel Mohammed al-Batran	Female	10	Al-Tufah/ Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
262	Hussam Mohammed Sha'aban Eslim	Male	7	Northern Rimal/ Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
263	Ahmed Mohammed Sha'aban Eslim	Male	13	Northern Rimal/ Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
264	Samer Mohammed al-'Abed Abu 'Aser	Male	17	Sheja'eya/ Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
265	Ala'a 'Uday Salama al-Haddad	Female	15	Tal al-Hawa/ Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
266	Karim Mesbah Mohammed Abu Sidu	Male	16	Al-Tufah/ Gaza	15-Jan-09	13-Jan-09
267	Sabrin 'Ata Hassan Ermeilat	Female	14	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
268	Sahar Ali Sha'aban Eslim	Female	17	Al-Yarmouq Street/ Northern Rimal/ Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
269	Issa Mohammed Jabr Abu 'Ubeida	Male	17	Jabalia/ Northern Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
270	Hala 'Isam Ahmed al-Mnei'i	Female	0.1	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	15-Jan-09	13-Jan-09
271	Ala'a Fathi Daoud al-Kerem	Male	14	Tal al-Hawa/ Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
272	Shaima'a 'Adel Ibrahim al-Jdba	Female	9	Al-Sourani Street/ Al-Tufah/ Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
273	Yasmin 'Adel Ibrahim al-Jadba	Female	15	Al-Tufah/ Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
274	Baraa 'Ata Hassan Ermeilat	Female	1	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
275	'Imad Maher Saleh Ferwana	Male	17	Tal al-Hawa/ Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
276	Ahmed Salamah Abdul Hay Abu 'Eita	Male	10	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09
277	Aya Izz Al-Din Abu al-'Eish	Female	14	Izbat 'Abed Rabbu/ East of Jabalia/ Northern Gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09
278	Abdullah Mohammed Abdul Rahman al-Juju	Male	17	Tal al-Hawa/ Gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09
279	Musa'ab Subhi Mohammed Modad	Male	17	Sheja'eya/ Gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09
280	Ehsan Issa Abdul Hadi al-Batran	Male	14	Block 4/ al-Bureij/ Middle gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09
281	Izz Al-Din Issa Abdul Hadi al-Batran	Male	3	Block 4/ al-Bureij/ Middle gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Location	Date of death	Date of attack
282	Mohammed 'Atef Mohammed Abu al-Husni	Male	12	Gaza Old street/ Jabalia/ Northern Gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09
283	Muhannad 'Amer Khalil al-Jdeili	Male	8	Block 7/ al-Bureij/ Middle gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09
284	Maiar Izzi Al-Din Mohammed Abu al-'Eish	Female	15	Izbat 'Abed Rabbu/ East of Jabalia/ Northern Gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09
285	Anwar Salman Rushdi Abdul Hai Abu 'Eita	Male	7	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09
286	Malak Salama Abdul Hay Abu 'Eita	Female	3	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09
287	Bilal Issa Abdul Hadi al-Batran	Male	6	Block 4/ al-Bureij/ Middle Gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09
288	Rawan Isma'il Mohammed Al-Najjar	Female	7	Gaza Old Street/ Northern Gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09
289	Ahmed al-'Abed Ali Banar	Male	17	Sheja'eya/ Gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09
290	Iman Issa Abdul Hadi al-Batran	Female	11	Block 4/ al-Bureij/ Middle Gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09
291	Islam Issa Abdul Hadi al-Batran	Female	14	Block 4/ al-Bureij/ Middle gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09
292	Noura Shhab Al-Din Mohammed Abu al-'Eish	Female	17	Izbat 'Abed Rabbu/ East of Jabalia/ Northern Gaza	16-Jan-09	16-Jan-09
293	Ahmed Fawwaz Ahmed Saleh	Male	5	Jabalia/ Northern Gaza	17-Jan-09	17-Jan-09
294	Bilal Mohammed Sehda al-Ashqar	Male	6	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	17-Jan-09	17-Jan-09
295	Fawzeya Fawwaz Ahmed Saleh	Female	4	Jabalia Town/ Northern Gaza	17-Jan-09	17-Jan-09
296	Mohammed Mohammed Shehda al-Ashqar	Male	4	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	17-Jan-09	17-Jan-09
297	Munir Sami Amin Ahmed Sheibar	Male	15	Al-Sabra/ Gaza	17-Jan-09	07-Jan-09
298	Mohammed Abdullah Salama Abu 'Eteawi	Male	16	Nuseirat New Refugee Camp/ Middle Gaza	17-Jan-09	17-Jan-09
299	Asil Munir Matar al-Kafarna	Female	1	Al-Amal Neighborhood/ Beit Hanoun/ Northern Gaza	17-Jan-09	17-Jan-09
300	Anwar Marwan Fayege Shehada	Female	14	Al-Ghabbari Neighborhood/ Jabalia Town/ Northern Gaza	17-Jan-09	17-Jan-09
301	Issa Mohammed 'Eyada Ermeilat	Male	12		18-Jan-09	18-Jan-09
302	Abdul Rahman Ahmed Abed Rabbu al-'Atawna	Male	16	Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	18-Jan-09	18-Jan-09

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Location	Date of death	Date of attack
303	Angham Ra'afat Atalla al-Masri	Female	10	Al-Masreyen Street/ Beit Hanoun/ Northern Gaza	18-Jan-09	18-Jan-09
304	Rakan Mohammed Mousa al-'Ir	Male	5	Izbat 'Abed Rabbu/ Jabalia/ Northern Gaza	18-Jan-09	18-Jan-09
305	Ibrahim Mohammed Mousa al-'Ir	Male	12	Izbat 'Abed Rabbu/ Northern Gaza	18-Jan-09	18-Jan-09
306	Abdullah Naser Abdullah al-Sdoudi	Male	7	Near the Ahli Club/ Nuseirat/ Middle Gaza	19-Jan-09	18-Jan-09
307	Abdullah Mohammed Hamdan Abu al-Ruq	Male	17	Khza'a Village/ Khan Younis	23-Jan-09	11-Jan-09
308	Nansy Sa'id Mohammed Waked	Female	0.6	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	25-Jan-09	18-Jan-09
309	Mohammed Yahya Sa'id Baba	Male	11	Near al-Ansar Mosque/ al-Barrawi area/ Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	26-Jan-09	10-Jan-09
310	Sundus Sa'id Hassan Abu Sultan	Female	4	Jabalia Refugee Camp/ Northern Gaza	28-Jan-09	17-Jan-09
311	Mohammed Rajab Abdu al-'Awadi	Male	17	Al-Daraj/ Gaza	29-Jan-09	27-Dec-08
312	Abdullah Tabil Sha'aban Eslim	Male	17	Northern Rimal/ Gaza	24-Feb-09	15-Jan-09
313	Dima Sa'id Ahmed al-Zahal	Female	5	Beit Lahia/ Northern Gaza	03-Mar-09	07-Jan-09

Names of seven child combatants killed during 'Operation Cast Lead'

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Address	Date of death	Date of attack
1	'Ateya Rushdi Khalil Aal-Khuli	Male	16	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	04-Jan-09	04-Jan-09
2	Ahmed Fawzi Hassan Lubbad	Male	17	Al-Zaytoun / Gaza	07-Jan-09	07-Jan-09
3	Ibrahim Mustafa Sa'id	Male	17	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	09-Jan-09	09-Jan-09
4	Mahmoud Ahmed Fares Juha	Male	16	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	12-Jan-09	12-Jan-09
5	Mohammed Nader Khalil Abu Sha'aban	Male	17	Rimal/ Gaza	13-Jan-09	13-Jan-09
6	Tamer Reyad Ibrahim Faza'a	Male	17	Sheikh 'Ejlin/ Gaza	15-Jan-09	15-Jan-09
7	Tamer 'Umar Isma'il al-Louh	Male	17	Al-Zaytoun/ Gaza	21-Jan-09	12-Jan-09



Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR)
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