



FREE GAZA

NOVEMBER 2012 FACTSHEET

CURRENT SITUATION

- The alarming escalation of violence in Gaza requires prompt and informed response from our politicians and the international community to avoid the kind of violence and destruction we witnessed in 2008.
- Gaza continues to be under siege, and sporadic violence against the people of Gaza has been unrelenting since Winter 2008/09's Operation Cast Lead, killing hundreds of Palestinians over the past four years.
- The brutality of Israel's siege on Gaza is slowly coming to the fore; According to the Guardian, the Israeli military even imposed a policy to keep Palestinians in Gaza just above the threshold off mass starvation by counting their calories.
- Unlike rocket attacks, which Israel uses as a ruse whenever it needs to ratchet up its bombardment of Gaza, Israeli assaults have been killing Palestinians regularly.
- On 08 November 2012, Only Six days prior to its most recent assault, the Israeli occupying forces killed a Palestinian child during an incursion into 'Abassan village, east of Kahn Yunis, Gaza.
- On 10 November 2012, IOF killed 4 Palestinian civilians, including two children, when they fired a number of artillery shells at al-Shoja'iya neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. Additionally, 38 Palestinians, including 9 children, were wounded.
- Its worth keeping in mind that Hamas, like Hizbullah, is the product of Israeli ethnic cleansing, brutal occupation and ongoing violence. Israel's violent response is not, as we are told, a product of Hamas and rocket attacks, Israeli violence and aggression precedes Hamas.
- As of 17 November 2012, Palestinian officials indicate that 49 Palestinians have been killed, including 29 civilians — among them a pregnant woman and 13 children — with hundreds of others injured and thousands more displaced since the onset of Operation Pillar of Defense. As of this writing, three Israelis have been killed.
- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has declared that Israel is ready to "significantly expand" its operations through continued airstrikes and ground force attacks.

— Prepared by (and modified from) Nasim Ahmed's "November 2012 Factsheet" • Palestinian Return Centre (PRC), London, England.

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GAZA: HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

1. Israel occupied the Gaza Strip in 1967.

2. In September 2005, then Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon implemented a so-called “unilateral disengagement plan” withdrawing Israeli troops and settlers (around 9,000) out of the Gaza Strip after 38 years of occupation. In ensuing years, however, Israel greatly expanded its settlements (with over 400,000 settlers) in the West Bank.

2. Gaza has been under a brutal siege for the past 6 years. Food and medical supplies have been blocked. The siege is Israel’s treble crime against the people of Gaza. The vast majority of Gazan’s are refugees who were expelled by Israel in 1948. They were then occupied in 1967 and after Israel “ended its occupation in 2005” it began a brutal siege.

3. In 2009, while the people of Gaza were under a siege, a full scale massacre left 1,400 dead, 5,000 wounded in addition to destroying over 25 thousand residential, industrial and educational facilities.

4. Constant Israeli attacks and air raids continued against Gaza, which claimed the lives of more than 300 Palestinians. Israeli attacks were always followed by Palestinian rockets.

5. The current assault on Gaza was initiated by Israel. On the 8th of November, Israeli military killed an 11-year-old boy, and then four more Palestinians. This was followed by more Palestinian retaliation until Israel officially escalated its campaign on the 14th of November by killing a key Hamas commander in Gaza.

6. The killing took place while discussion of a cease fire, brokered by Egypt, was taking place.

7. In less than 36 hours, Israel launched 600+ raids against Gaza, killed 22 persons most of them women and children. More than 200 people have been injured.

8. Israeli provocations has led Palestinians to fire longer range rockets, which killed 3 Israelis and wounded 10.

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