



Euro-Mid Observer



Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense

A report by Euro-Mid Observer for Human Rights on the killing of
Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Occupation Forces during

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012
www.euromid.org



Geneva Office

Maison des Associations,
Rue des Savioses 15,
Ch- 1205 Geneva
Geneva@euromid.org
0041792642590

Turkey Office

Ankara
Kamal Ataturk St.
amani@euromid.org
00905433737462

Tunisia Office

Tunisia, the capital
33 Nahj Mukhtar Atia
ahmed@euromid.org
0021623542857

Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt) Office

Gaza city, Southern Remal
Opposite to UNRWA Head Quarter (HQ)
info@euromid.org
0097082889713

Up to Date

Keep yourself updated with the latest developments of human rights issues in the Middle East and North Africa, and with the activities and projects promoting human rights in the region as well. Please visit our website or find us on the social media:

 info@euromid.org  [euromid](https://www.facebook.com/euromid)
 www.euromid.org  [@euromid](https://twitter.com/euromid)



Euro-Mid Observer

EuroMid is registered as a human rights organization with internationally operating offices in Geneva, Switzerland the seat of many international agencies focused on human rights and law – and London. Our regional office is located in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (Gaza Strip), with a number of representative officers across the region countries. EuroMid will partner with local/regional organizations to select issues and cases most amenable to and in need of pan-European/global attention and pressure, and launch the necessary investigations and campaigns.

The organization works through a Board of Directors composed of experts in appropriate fields in the region and around the world. EuroMid is coordinated by a director, with regional managers.



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012

States Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts that are relevant to the child.

In accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 38, Paragraphs 2,4



Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense

A report by Euro-Mid Observer for Human Rights on the killing of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Occupation Forces during

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Euro-Mid Observer

A report by Euro-Mid Observer for Human Rights on the killing of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Occupation Forces during Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012.

www.euromid.org

|02|





Euro-Mid Board of Directors,
represented by its chairman

Dr. Ramy Abdu

sincerely thanks all those contributed
to this report, particularly:

Amani Senwar

Middle East Executive Director

Ihsan Adel

Head of Legal Department

Yousri Alghoul

Team leader

Tareq Abdel Raziq

Ramadan Rizeq

Pamela Baily

Zerka Sahnone

Editing and Proofreading

Mohammed Rizeq Elhayek

Angie Mazen Skeik

Aya Jamal Alsaidy

Dina Asad Ferwana

Wesam Abdel Hakeem Abu Safia

Huda Fadel Naem

Wafa Jaber Shurrab

Field Team

Mohammed Muneer Alhadad

Design Director

+972599238246

Cover photo taken by:

Zainab Ouda

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense

A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip
by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov, 2012

The child Eyad Abu Khusa after he was targeted

Table of Contents

- o Executive Summary
- o Mandates of International Humanitarian Law
- o Child Victims of Pillar of Defense
- o Psychological Impact
- o Recommendations
- o Appendix: Names of Children Killed in Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012

Executive Summary

On Nov. 14, 2012, Israeli forces assassinated Hamas military chief Ahmad al-Jabari, initiating the eight-day assault called “Operation Pillar of Defense” (also called “Pillar of Cloud”). The operation ended on 21 Nov., following a ceasefire brokered by Egypt.

The “eight-day war” was the most extensive aggression against the people of the Gaza Strip since Operation Cast Lead in 2008/9. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, 65 percent of the 185 Palestinians killed were non-combatants, including 47 children. Twenty-one were under the age of 10.

This report from Euro-Mid Observer for Human Rights documents in detail the circumstances of the deaths of the 41 children.



Children wounded in residential buildings targeted by Israeli warplanes

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip
by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov, 2012

Mandates of International Humanitarian Law

During Operation Pillar of Defense, Israel committed numerous violations of international law that protect human rights.

Protection of children during war is guaranteed by international conventions governing non-combatants:

Fourth Geneva Convention

The Fourth Geneva Convention, adopted by 194 countries (including Israel, in 1951), defines humanitarian protections for civilians in a war zone. Article 33 states: “No persons may be punished for an offense he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited.” Likewise, Article 77 of Protocol 1 contains the provision that “children shall be the object of special respect and shall be protected against any form of indecent assault.” As Jean S. Pictet wrote in *Commentary on IV Geneva Convention Relating to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War*, “these words make it unlawful to kill, ill-treat or in any way injure — while at the same time they impose an obligation to come to his aid and give him any care of which he stands in need.”

Convention on the Rights of the Child

The state of Israel signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990. Article 6 states simply but powerfully that “children have the right to live.” Article 38 is more specific to lives under conflict: “Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war.”

In 2005, Israel approved an “optional protocol” for the Convention that condemned “the targeting of children in situations of armed conflict and direct attacks on objects protected under international law, including places that generally have a significant presence of children, such as schools and hospitals.”

It is clear from Euro-Mid's fieldwork, documenting the stories of the children killed, that despite its possession of sophisticated military technology that can target specific individuals and buildings, Israel was in flagrant violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child during Operation Pillar of Defense. It also is clear based on the lack of internal investigation that the Israeli government's signature on international law, treaties and covenants masks a blatant disregard for the same.

Child Victims of Operation Pillar of Defense

Euro-Mid Observer for Human Rights has created a database documenting Israeli breaches of international law related to the protection of children during the 14-21 Nov. 2012 offensive. The database – summarized in this report – draws from both eyewitness testimony collected by Euro-Mid fieldworkers and records compiled by other third parties. Such documentation is a critical first step in a campaign to bring the state of Israel – along with individual military commanders -- to account.



The infant Haneen Khaled Tafesh after she was targeted

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense

A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Rownan Yousef Jalal Arafat

Place and date of birth:

Gaza City, Zaitoun neighborhood, 13 Dec., 2007

Rownan was the youngest among the three children in her family. She was known as a smart girl at Dar Al-Huda Kindergarten. Rownan enjoyed playing with blocks and asked lots of questions, her mother remembered. Ironically, the last letter she learned at kindergarten before she was killed was "/ha/hamama," an Arabic word meaning "dove" in English, which symbolizes peace.

At 5:10 p.m. on Wed., 14 Nov., Israeli warplanes fired two consecutive rockets that destroyed the building that Rownan's family called home, also causing the walls and ceiling of an adjacent structure belonging to her uncle to implode.

The search for Rownan's body under the rubble continued for more than half an hour. Doctors testified to Euro-Mid that the pressure created when an Israeli shell hit Rownan's house triggered an "explosion" in

her brain. Her mouth, nose and ears bled heavily. In addition, shrapnel penetrated her stomach, and her legs were shattered.

Rownan's sister, 9-year-old Maria, was thrown out of the house by the explosion and miraculously survived. However, shrapnel wounded her when a third rocket landed at her family's front door.

The neighbors rescued Rownan's pregnant mother and 7-year-old brother from under the rubble, but both suffered back and related injuries. The patriarch of the family, Yousef Jalal Arafat, was not injured. However, the home that the construction worker had built just nine months before now lies in ruins.

Today, Rownan's mother often finds Maria crying alone, looking at her sister's picture. Jalal, her brother, keeps asking his mother, "Why did you get us out of the rubble, and did not get her out?"



Pictures of Rownan before and after she was killed



Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Omer Jihad Ali Nemer Al-Masharawi

Place and date of birth:

Gaza City, 20 Dec., 2011

At 5 p.m. on Wed., 14 Nov., several members of the Masharawi family were sitting in their house. When they heard a loud explosion, the mother told everyone to move to the backyard, thinking it would be safer.

The mother, Ahlam El-Ashi, was the first to exit, holding the hand of her eldest son, 4-year-old Ali. Next was her brother-in-law Ahmed, 18, who carried Ahlam's infant son, Omer. Her sister-in-law, Heba, followed them. A mass of flames descended, seriously burning Omer and Ahmed and slightly injuring Ali. Ahlam ran onto the street, screaming, "Where is Omer?!" The neighbors tried to break into the house, but fire was everywhere.

Ambulances from the Palestinian Red Cross arrived, taking Ahlam, Ahmed and

Ali to the hospital. "When I got to the hospital, I kept repeating 'where is Omer?'" Ahlam recalled. "After the doctor treated Ali, I was told about an infant who had been brought in to the burn unit. Immediately, I went there. I asked the doctors to let me see my baby. They refused, but told me he was still alive. I kept waiting. Fifteen minutes later, they surprised me with the news of his death."

During that one night, the Masharawi family lost both Heba Adel Fadel, 19, and 11-month-old Omer. Ahmed Ali Nemer, also 19, suffered burns over his entire body.

"My children cannot forget Omer," his father told Euro-Mid. "His older brother, Ali, keeps asking about him, and is traumatized by sounds, even the squealing of cars when they come to a halt."



The infant Omer Masharawy in his father's arms at Al-Shifa Hospital



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov, 2012

Mohammed Hani Ibrahim Al-Kaseeh

Place and date of birth:

Beit Lahia, 7 July, 1994

AlKaseeh was included in the report based on the information provided by his family stating that he was born on Nov. 1994. However, after data verification with the competent public agencies, the date of his birth was on July 1994.

Mohammed Hani Al-Kaseeh, 18, used to be the breadwinner for his entire family, consisting of his ailing, unemployed father; his mother; and four younger siblings. Since his father was ill, Mohammed dropped out of school after the 10th grade and found employment, supplementing the meager income his mother made from her homemade foods.

Mohammed's mother told the Euro-Mid team that he planned to go back to school and continue at least his secondary education. Mohammed used to dream of traveling abroad so he could earn a better living and improve his family's conditions. But, travel needed financial resources his family didn't have.

One of his sisters, Samah, is disabled. His mother described Mohammed's relationship with Samah to Euro-Mid, as tears choked her throat: "He used to pay her special attention. He was so kind to her, and to us all!"

Nearly two hours after the assassination of Jabari, Mohammed was traveling home from work. He was riding a motorbike, along with his friend Esam Abu Al-Meza, 22. Israeli drones directly targeted their motorbike, and they were killed at once. Their bodies were scattered in pieces on the street. Many passersby were injured, and adjacent residential buildings and shops suffered partial damage.



Mother of Muhammed Al-Kaseeh next to picture of her son

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip
by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012

Haneen Khaled Ahmed Tafesh

Place and date of birth
Gaza City, 14 Feb., 2012



At 11:30 a.m. on 15 Nov., the Tafesh family was at home when their house began to shake violently and fill with smoke. Haneen's father rushed to her room to try to save her. However, he found that shrapnel had penetrated her head and other parts of her body.

Her mother, Huda, 21, also was injured in the explosion; she sustained wounds to her back and one hand. The other members of the family were only slightly injured, from stones scattered by the explosion.

Father of Haneen giving her a farewell kiss at Al-Shifa Hospital

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip
by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Waleed Mahmoud Abdel Fattah Al-Abadllah

Place and date of birth:

Khan Younis, 2 April, 2010

For a child belonging to a simple family like Waleed's, the streets were the only place where he could have fun, since there was no money for other pleasures. It was while he was playing on a street in the al-Abadllah neighborhood of the Alqarara region of Gaza that he was killed.

On 15 Nov., the 2-year-old was first hit in the head by shrapnel from a drone, and then burned by a strike from an F-16. At noon, he was transferred to the European Hospital in Gaza City, where he lapsed into a coma. Waleed died three hours later.



Waleed Abadellah at the European Hospital, Gaza strip

Waleed Abadellah at a mosque in Khan Younis



Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report by Euro-Mid Observer for Human Rights on the killing of
Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Occupation Forces during



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Audai Jamal Abdel Kareem Naser

Place and date of birth:

Beit Hanoun, 2 April, 1997

Audai was different from his siblings," recalled his mother. "Even as he grew older, he would always stick by my side. He valued his studies very much, but would take time to help his brother with his own homework, even at exam time."

Audai Jamal Naser attended Hayel Abdel Hameed Secondary School. He was in the 10th grade when Israel launched its attack and, as his younger brother told Euro-Mid, Audai was planning to pursue the "science track" the next year.

"He got full marks three days prior to his death," said his grandmother. "His father gave him a fancy coat as a reward for his success at school. Audai didn't want to try it on until he went to school the next day, but he never got the chance. He was killed that night."

At 10: 45 p.m. on 15 Nov., Israeli warplanes dropped an artillery shell on an empty lot

opposite to Audai's house. The shell fell about 30 meters away from the house, creating a huge hole.

No one in the neighborhood received any prior warning from the Israeli authorities. The family was asleep when their home suddenly fell around them. "All of a sudden, I woke up," recalled the Jamal, his father. "My children were screaming, and I was bleeding. I started to evacuate the house. I took my sons out one by one."

Flying shrapnel killed the 15-year-old Audai and another child in the same neighborhood, Fares Basiony, 8. Audai's father and 20-year-old brother, Tareq, were seriously injured, and their home is no longer fit to live in.

"When I found him, I tried to save him, aiding him with artificial breathing," said his father. "His blood was all over my mouth. But he was dead."

Audai before he was targeted

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report by Euro-Mid Observer for Human Rights on the killing of
Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Occupation Forces during





Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012

Fares Ahmed Dyab al-Basyouni
(neighbor of Audai Jamal Abdel Kareem Naser)
Place and date of birth:
Gaza City, 4 Oct., 2004

Fares Ahmed Basyouni was the fifth among six children in his family, and in the third grade at Beit Hanoon Elementary School. "He used to love playing soccer and computer games," his mother told Euro-Mid. "Like other children of his age, he had many dreams -- one of which was to grow up and apply to a university. His life wasn't long enough to get what he wanted, however." Late Thursday evening on 15 Nov., Fares' father and mother were watching the news on the TV in their living room. Fares and his siblings were asleep in their rooms. Their peace was suddenly destroyed when Israeli warplanes targeted an adjacent empty lot and the Basyouni house was critically damaged. Shrapnel penetrated the walls of Fares' bedroom, killing him at the age of 8. Fares' father, Ahmed Basyouni, explained: "The shrapnel made many holes in the

bedroom where Fares and his siblings were sleeping. The largest of these holes was right above his bed. His head was directly hit by shrapnel, and he was instantly killed." When his father reached him, he could see a hole in Fares' head, exposing his skull. Fares' brother, 14-year-old Nader, was injured in the face and legs. When Ahmed Basyouni rushed to their bedroom at the sound of the explosion, he could see their room was destroyed. Nader was bleeding and moaning, "I can't feel my legs." Despite his injuries, Nader asked his father to check on Fares. That's when Fares' limp body was found. Ahmed al-Basyouni took Fares to the hospital in the ambulance first. When he came back home to take Nader to the hospital, he found his other son attempting to crawl out of his room. Nader spent a week at the hospital.

The Child Fares Basuony before he was targeted



The bedroom where Fares was sleeping at the moment of the explosion

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report by B'nai B'rith Observer for Human Rights on the killing of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Occupation Forces during



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Mahmoud Raed Mohammed Sadullah

Place and date of birth:

Gaza City, 27 Oct., 2009

Mahmoud's mother told the story of her son's death to the Euro-Mid team. Between 10 and 10:30 on the morning of Friday, 16 Nov., she was happily watching her son play with some other children his age in a narrow street in Jabalia Camp. When she went to the kitchen to check on the food she was preparing, she heard a massive explosion and felt a wave of pressure roll through the house. Objects fell and broke around her. She immediately went out to the street to find her son, crying, "Mahmoud! Mahmoud!"

Mahmoud was laying on the ground in front of her, but she didn't see him at first. One of her other sons, 11-year-old Malek, picked Mahmoud up in his arms and said, "Here he is, mom. Here he is."

Neither Mahmoud's family nor his neighbors knew the kind of weapon that killed Mahmoud. Some guessed it was a missile from an F-16, because the explosion was so

powerful. Others think it was an artillery shell.

According to the medical report, Mahmoud was dead upon arrival at the hospital, after bleeding heavily from his mouth, nose and ears. His skull was broken and his brain was battered.

Mahmoud's pregnant aunt and her 11-year-old son Fares were injured as well, and their house partially damaged.

Mahmoud's mother told Euro-Mid: "We were so attached to Mahmoud. He was my youngest child, and I lost three sons before him to disabilities. We were so happy that he was in good health and wasn't disabled. He was so smart, outgoing and naughty. All of our neighbors loved him too."

Malek, Mahmoud's brother, told his mother that he now wishes he was dead as well. However, she responded, "You stay! Stay with me! I feel so lonely now."



The child Mahmoud Sadallah before he was targeted

Mahmoud during his funeral procession

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report by Euro-Mid Observer for Human Rights on the killing of
Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Occupation Forces during



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012

The Dalou family Gaza City

At 2:40 p.m. on Sunday, 18 Nov., an Israeli F-16 hit the Nasser neighborhood opposite the Palestine Bank in Gaza City, without any warning. Neighbors say at least two missiles were fired at the Dalou house, which sheltered 12 family members – of whom 10 were home at that moment. The three-story building was flattened.

All 10 members of the family who were at home were killed:

- Suhaillah Mahmoud, 73, the aunt.
- Tahani Hassan, 52, wife and mother.
- Raneen Jamal, 22, daughter.
- Yara Jamal, 15, daughter. At the time of her death, she was in 10th grade at the Hassan Sallamah School. She excelled in her studies and, according to her father, her dream was to be an advocate for the rights of the “victimized.”
- Mohammed Jamal, 29, the son, along with his wife and children -- Samah Abdel Majeed, 27; Sarah, 7; Jamal, 5; Yousef, 4; and Ibrahim, one year and two months old.



The neighbors and paramedics were able to dig all of the bodies out from under the rubble immediately after the attack – except for little Sarah's. After the first day, they found one of her hands, but the rest of her body wasn't retrieved for four days.

The patriarch of the family, Mohammed Dalou, told Euro-Mid: "I didn't leave home for a week. Ever since the beginning of the war, I stopped going to work. I loved (my family), and they loved me. They were not only my children, but also my friends. They used to come to me whenever they had a problem. My grandson used to sleep in my room everyday. I was everything to them, and they loved me so much."

His son, Mohammed Jamal, recalled: "My life was

all about my work and the comfort of my five daughters, three sons and my wife. I used to bring them whatever they wanted to make them happy. Our house is three floors high, built on a lot of 250 square meters, and we were so happy. Now I have only two sons -- Abdullah, who happened to be out of the house during the attack, and another who works as an engineer in Turkey. His mother used to tell him, 'I'm missing you, I wish to see you.' He would reply, 'We will see, mother.' Thank God he didn't come and is still abroad. We still have him."

Abdullah, left alone in Gaza among Mohammed Jamal's children, is devastated, remembering the younger sisters and brothers who used to play with him by climbing on his back. "They loved him so much. Now, he feels so miserable," said Mohammed Dalou.



Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense

A report by Euro-Mid Observer for Human Rights on the killing of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Occupation Forces during



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012

Tamer Sallamah Abu Saefan Jumana Sallamah Abu Saefan

Date and place of birth:

Jabalia, 25 Aug., 2009, and 22 Dec., 2010

Tamer was conceived after his parents took fertility medication for four years; Jumana was born a year later. Tamer, just 3 years old, was a smart boy who spent much of his time with his 4-year-old cousin Sarah. He loved playing in the public park and riding on his father's back. Although he was not yet old enough to attend kindergarten, his mother told the Euro-Mid team that Tamer used to tell her, "I need a school bag, mama." He couldn't wait for the moment when he could go to school.

At 3 a.m. on Sunday, 18 Nov., the boys' mother, Sammah Abu Saefan, was in the kitchen pouring glasses of milk for her two children to drink. Tamer and Jumana were

still in bed sleeping peacefully next to their father, Sallamah Saefan, upstairs.

An Israeli F-16 hit their house with a missile, striking a window right above the bed where the two children and their father were sleeping. All three were buried in the rubble at first, with Sallamah getting out first and telling the rescue workers to find his sons. However, although Sallamah suffered only an injury to the head, his two sons were killed – Tamer immediately, and Jumana on the way to the hospital. According to medical reports, the cause of death was the high pressure created by the explosion; the two boys bled from the mouth, nose and ears.

Funeral procession of Abu Saefan children

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip
by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense





Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012

Eyad Yousef Ahmed Abu Khusa

Place and date of birth:
Gaza City, 17 April, 2011



Eyad's house is located in Bureej Camp, near a stretch of agricultural land. Some of the land was empty, while other parts were planted with trees where children loved to play.

Eyad's mother described the circumstances of her son's death this way: "At half past 8 in the morning, on 18 Nov., we heard a powerful explosion. I quickly went outside the house to look for Eyad and his other brother. But I could see nothing. Smoke was everywhere. Minutes later, I saw Eyad lying on the ground, his body covered with blood. He had apparently been hit by shrapnel in his head, stomach and legs."

She later learned that a missile had been shot from a drone, hitting the house. "It was crystal clear that (the Israeli forces) meant to kill the little kids," she said. "They were playing in an open area and easily seen. Why kill them? What was their fault? No one knows!"

Eyad's brother, 7 years old, was wounded in the neck and his jaw was broken. His cousin, 5-year-old Sarah, sustained serious injuries to her abdomen and liver; she still suffers from internal bleeding. She will likely need to travel to Egypt for surgery.

"His brothers always ask about Eyad, and I tell them that he now is a bird in heaven," his mother said, looking sad and tired.

The child Eyad Abu Khusa after he was targeted



Tasneem Zuheer Mohammed Al-Nahal

Place and date of birth:

Gaza City, 23 Oct., 2003

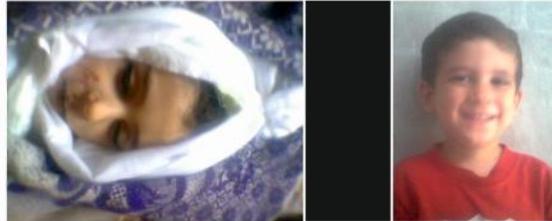
It was 11 a.m. Sunday, 18 Nov. Tasneem was on her way to a nearby minimarket to buy some refreshments when an Israeli drone and warship simultaneously hit an adjacent house. The owner of the house, Esam Al-Nahal, was killed. Tasneem was hit by shrapnel in the back of her head, killing her immediately. Hearing the explosion, her aunt set out for Tasneem's house to make sure everybody was fine. On the way, she found Tasneem's body on the ground, coated with blood.

Tasneem's family consists of eight members, and age-wise, she was in the middle. Tasneem was in the fourth grade at Beach Camp School and was known for her beautiful singing voice. She used to record her voice, and along with a few photos on her cell phone, that is all that her family now has left of her. If she had lived, Tasneem had dreamed of being a teacher.



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Mohammed Eyad Fuad Abu Zoor

Place and date of birth:

Gaza City, 11 Dec., 2008

Mohammed was described by his father as "naughty and outgoing. He used to come to my auto workshop (garage) whenever he was home from the kindergarten, along with his brother Fuad. He would play with the tools and tease the workers."

Then came the morning of 19 Nov. "It was 3:40 a.m. My wife, my sons Mohammed and Fuad, and my daughter Hanaa woke up to the sound of an explosion at our front door. It was an Israeli drone missile. We all evacuated the apartment. While going down the stairs, another missile penetrated the ceiling of our bedroom. Mohammad's legs were wounded, and my brother's wife sustained moderate injuries as well."

The family hurried to an uncle's nearby house. "With my injured son in my arms, I waited for an ambulance to come and get us," his father continued "The ambulance finally arrived, but just before I could put him inside, an Israeli F-16 targeted our neighbor's house. A big stone carried by the high pressure of the explosion fell on my already-injured son's head. He was killed immediately. My shoulder was broken, but my brother -- who was standing next to me

-- was fine, thank God."

The uncle's house, to which the family fled, was seriously damaged by the F-16. Mohammed's aunt, 23-year-old Nesma, was killed. Fuad, 5 years old, and Mohammed's mother, sister, grandfather and other aunt, 12-year-old Hanadi, sustained head injuries. (As of this writing, Hanadi was still in a coma, in Egypt.) Mohammed's uncle, Mahmoud, lost a kidney.

"It was our neighbor's house that was targeted, not ours," said Mohammed's father. "Why did they the drones fire on our house too?! In addition, the F16 missile that targeted our neighbor's house further damaged all of the five apartments in our building. The furniture and the windows were damaged, and the walls of one of the rooms collapsed."

He added: "My children are so frightened now. They keep asking me whether there will be another shelling. Now we feel separated and scattered. We are living in different relatives' homes, and some have had to go to Egypt for treatment. It's hard for us to gather like we used to. In fact, we haven't since the day of the shelling."



The child Muhammed Abu Zour after he was targeted



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Husain Jalal Mohammed Naser

Place and date of birth:

Jabalia, 26 Sept., 2006.

It was 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, 18 Nov. Jalal Mohammed Naser, Husain's father, heard a loud explosion. He hurried to the roof of his house to see where it had occurred. When 6-year-old Husain learned his father was on the roof, he told his mother he was afraid for him and went up the stairs to ask him to come down. When both were still on the roof, an Israeli drone fired a missile, hitting them. Husain was killed immediately. His father was seriously injured and transferred to a hospital. He was announced dead two hours later.

The missile that killed Husain and his father penetrated the roof and third-floor ceiling, leaving a huge hole. It eventually came to "rest" next to the bed of Husain's brother, Mohammed, where he was sleeping. His brother wasn't physically hurt, but was traumatized.

"When the missile hit the building and I saw it in Mohammed's room, I was terrified," remembered his mother. "I cried out, 'Mohammed is dead!' But he was fine. Then I went looking for Husain and his father on the roof. They were laying on the ground, coated

with their own blood."

Jalal Mohammed Naser's family consisted of four sons, three daughters and a grandparent. Husain was fifth among his siblings, attending first grade at Hufsah Bent Omar Elementary School. "During the assault, he kept asking, 'Will there be school tomorrow?,'" recalled his mother. "I told him 'no,' and he asked 'and the next day, mom?' He loved school so much."

Husain's youngest brother, Braa, asks about him everyday before sleep: "Where is Husain?" Whenever he is given something to eat, he asks, "where is Husain so I can share it with him?" His mother said she tries to help him forget by giving him some money or sweets. When that doesn't work, she tells him, "Husain and daddy are in heaven." He answers her by asking, "so why don't you take me there?"

The Euro-Mid team asked Husain's mother to collect a few of his belongings for a photograph. However, she said that rain had come in through the hole in the ceiling left by the missile, destroying everything she had left of him.

The child Hussein Naser after he was targeted at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza



Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip
by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Rama Emad Muhammed Al-Shandi

Place and date of birth:
Gaza City, 25 April, 2011

Rama's family lives in a house located in the Tal Alhawa neighborhood of Gaza City. She was her father's only daughter. (Her mother married her father after the Israeli occupation forces killed her first husband. Rama had a 7-year-old stepbrother and a 5-year-old stepsister.)

This is her mother's account of the circumstances of Rama's death: "It was Thursday, the 11th of November. The shelling was so violent, and so continuous, that night. Still, Rama was smiling so much. Her father and I played with her; we tried to be silent, since we knew people were dying out there and the situation wasn't a time for smiling and fun. But she had so much joy.

We couldn't go to sleep until 3 in the morning. Fifteen minutes later, Israeli warplanes targeted a plot of land next door. Rama's younger sister woke up, frightened at the sound of the explosion, crying, 'Mom! Mom!' I told her to cover her face and sleep. Then we heard another huge explosion and Rama screamed! I looked at her. Her eyes were wide open, but her body was motionless and she didn't breathe. Her grandfather took her to the hospital immediately, but transportation was difficult and he got there half an hour later. The doctors told him that Rama suffered a violent shock and had a heart attack."



Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Occupation forces during operation Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012

Mohammed Fuad and Suhayb Fuad Khalil Hhazi

Place and date of birth:

Jabalia, 17 Aug., 2008 and 2010

At the time of Operation Pillar of Defense, the Hijazi family had 10 members: the father Fuad, his wife and their sons Ashraf, Nour, Sundos, Osama, Mohammed, and the twins Musab and Suhayb. (One of the family members was killed in Operation Cast Lead in 2008, at the age of 15 years old.)

The story of Mohammed and Suhayb was told by 20-year-old Mustafa, one of the family's survivors from the 19 Nov. attack on Block VIII in the Jabalia refugee camp. He was the first to be rescued from the rubble after their house was shelled. He didn't lose consciousness, but said he was "swallowing sand" (at the time of his rescue) and about to suffocate.

According to Mustafa, it was half past seven in the evening; he remembered the precise time of the attack because he was watching television with his mother, talking to her about a program that was about to begin and

for which he was eagerly waiting. Mohammed and Suhayb were playing with a bike in another room. Suddenly, Mustafa heard a loud explosion and saw a bright red flash. The house fell onto their heads. The rubble was three meters high, and many adjacent buildings were destroyed as well since the area was extremely crowded.

Later, it became clear that an Israeli warplane had directly targeted the house, with no warning to its non-combatant inhabitants. Suhayb, Mohammed and their father were killed, while the rest of the family was injured. Their mother was transferred to Egypt for treatment.

The bodies of Mohammed and Suhayb were found after more than an hour and a half. When they were dug out of the rubble, their bodies were laying one above the other, still seated on their children's bike – Mohammed in the front and Suhayb in the back.





Suhayb and Mohammed Hijazi after they were targeted

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip
by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012

Omer Mahmoud Mohammed Al-Astal

Place and date of birth:

Khan Younis, 29 Jan., 1998

Omer was born in the city of Khan Younis into a middle-class family. He was in the 10th grade at Alqarara Secondary School. On Monday morning, 19 Nov., he woke up and as usual had breakfast with his family. Then, he went to a nearby farm. While he was walking with his uncle, they were hit by Israeli drones and killed, their bodies in pieces.

Osama Walid Ibrahim Shehada

Place and date of birth:

Gaza City, 22 Jan., 1995

Osama was a hard-working high school student. He loved teaching, and would gather his siblings around him, put a board on the wall and instruct them in their school subjects.

According to his mother, Osama used to say: "God willing, when I finish high school I will apply to university, but will learn a handicraft so I can work at the same time." After his death, his family discovered that he had saved \$25 to obtain his high school certificate.

When he was killed, it was 7:30 p.m. On 19 Nov., Osama was walking down the street with his aunt and uncle. An Israeli drone hit them; Osama and his uncle (56 years old) were killed at once and his aunt (54 years old) was seriously injured.



A Gaza child raising his hand in victory after he sustained slight wounds at Al-Shifa Hospital

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip
by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012

Ahmed Tawfeeq Mamdouh Al-Nasasra

Place and date of birth:

Rafah, 22 April, 1995

Ahmed Tawfeeq Mamdouh Al-Nasasra, one of 11 family members, lost his biological mother when he was 7 years old. He dreamt of starting a family – and a farm -- of his own. According to his father, he loved farming and his goal was to run “a big plantation with many greenhouses and trees with olives and citrus fruit.”

That dream was ended when Ahmed was in the 11th grade, at 10:30 p.m. on 19 Nov., when an Israeli F-16 struck his house in the Alnaser neighborhood of Rafah. No warning had been received.

The Al-Nasasra home was destroyed. Ahmed’s father, stepmother and brothers were rescued from the rubble with injuries ranging from moderate to critical.

Yusra Basel Murtadi Alshawa

Place and date of birth:

Iraq, 2 April, 1994

Yusra had completed high school and was hoping to study economics and political science at university. She was one of four children in her family, but was her parents’ only daughter. Yusra used to help her neighbors with their studies and to prepare for parties. She was known for her hard work and sense of humor.

On 20 Nov., Yusra was sitting with her mother in a room of their house that overlooked Baghdad Street in the Alshajaya neighborhood. An Israeli drone hit a window with two consecutive missiles. Flying shrapnel killed Yusra, and her mother sustained moderate injuries. Three other people on the street outside were killed, and 17 were injured.



An injured child from Abu Khusa family



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Yahya Mohammed Yahya Awad

Place and date of birth:

Gaza 13 Feb., 1999

The suspension of school due to the Israeli offensive on Gaza bored Yahya, so despite his mother's objection, he went with his father to hunt sparrows on some vacant land in northern Gaza early on the morning of 20 Nov.

While they were setting up the nets, however, an Israeli tank fired a shell that landed 20 meters away from them. Shortly after, a missile from a drone seriously injured Yahya's father, who cried out to him to escape. Yahya ran, but was hit by a second missile.

Yahya's father lay on the ground, bleeding, for two hours. Finally, a passerby noticed and took him to the hospital. Once Yahya's

father returned to consciousness, he asked about his son and pled for someone to go back to the scene to search for him. When the rescue workers arrived, they found Yahya's mangled body. Yahya's uncle told the Euro-Mid field team that it wasn't until two days later, when a ceasefire was announced, that the family could collect his bike, clothes and various parts of his body.

Yahya's father had his leg amputated and was transferred to Egypt for treatment. His brothers and cousins told Euro-Mid that Yahya's mother has not spoken since receiving the news of her son's death, and refuses to stay in her home because it reminds her of her lost child.

A child injured in the operation Pillar of Defense

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip
by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense





Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Ibrahim Ahmed Mahmoud Hamad Mahmoud Khalil Mahmoud Al-Arja

Place and date of birth:

Rafah, 29 April and 23 March, 1996

Ibrahim and his friend Mahmoud were killed by a missile from an Israeli drone while hunting sparrows in Alshouhada village in Rafah (Nahda neighborhood), near the Israeli border.

Ibrahim was born in Rafah to a simple Bedouin family. He was a student at Beer Shiva Secondary School, the youngest in a family of 17. His hobbies were hunting sparrows, riding horses, and raising chicken and sheep. But his dream was to become a physician so that he could care for his diabetic mother, as he frequently told her.

Ibrahim's mother told Euro-Mid that on the morning of 20 Nov., he made his lunch, took a shower and said, "If I die, don't weep for me, mama." Later, he called his friend Mahmoud Al-Arja, and after visiting some

friends, the two set out to catch sparrows in an empty lot about 500 meters away from the Israeli border. It was about 4 p.m.

His mother noticed Ibrahim wasn't home when she was preparing dinner, and began searching for him. She called his cell phone, but it was off. She was informed moments later that he had been hit. However, ambulances were not allowed to reach the area until 2 a.m. Israeli ground forces fired at the ambulances more than once. After many attempts at intervention by the Israeli Red Cross, the ambulances were able to pick up the bodies of Ibrahim and Mahmoud.

The medical report shows that Ibrahim's skull was cracked, many of his chest bones were broken and he was badly burned.

A child sitting on the rubbles of their house which was targeted in Pillar of Defense

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip
by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense





Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012

Abeer Talal Saed Alasaly

Date and place of birth:

Jabalia, 28 Dec., 2000

Abeer was a fifth-grade student at Emwas Elementary School. "Abeer used to pull on my clothes and hug me whenever she saw me," recalled her aunt. "She dreamed of becoming a teacher when she grew up. She used to carry her mother's bag and pretended she was a teacher already."

It was Wednesday afternoon on 21 Nov. Talal Alasaly was sitting with his son Ayman in Ahmed Yaseen Park, behind their house in

the Abdullrahman neighborhood of Jabalia. When Abeer joined her father and brother, the three were hit by a missile, throwing her body some distance.

At the sound of the explosion, Abeer's mother came to the park to be sure they were ok. At first she saw only the bodies of Talal and Ayman, and she screamed and fainted. She learned of Abeer's death later.



Mohammed Kamel Salamah Abu Edwan

Place and date of birth:

Rafah, 25 March, 1994

Mohammed was a first-year student in the School of Nursing at Al Azhar University. He had hoped to study at one of the universities in Egypt, but he could not due to financial difficulties.

His mother said that he woke up the morning

of 21 Nov., ate breakfast and went out as usual. She was afraid for him and urged him to stay home, to no avail.

Israeli warplanes hit Mohammed and his friend while they were walking on the streets of Rafah, in the Alshoukah neighborhood.



Picture of Mohammed Abu Edwan next to his friend Abdullah Ibrahim

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip
by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012

Auda Arafat Auda Al-Shandi

Place and date of birth:

Gaza City, 9 Sept., 1995

According to Auda's mother, the boy loved to have fun and kid around, but left school in the ninth grade because he wanted to help his father and uncle with their work. He would work from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

His family lived on Alnazaz Street in the Shajaya neighborhood of Gaza City. Because he thought it was safer than staying at home, his father rented a store when Israel launched Operation Pillar of Defense, and the family slept there every night.

"Auda always was optimistic about the future, except the night before his death," recalled his mother. "He asked me to stay at his aunt's house, because he didn't like to sleep in the store. And so he spent the last night of his life away from me. I didn't see him until 11 in the morning the next day – when he was dead."

On Tues., 20 Nov., after the family had returned home, "we heard a loud explosion, very close by," continued Auda's mother. "My cousin, who was deaf, made a gesture to tell us that there were martyrs on the street. My heart started to beat fast, and I told her I didn't think so. She said, 'yes there are.' At that moment, I realized I didn't know where Auda was. I asked his uncles and brothers and they hadn't seen him. I went to my sister's house, which is nearby, since he had slept there. She told me what happened."

Auda had been helping his father, who worked as a guard at a slaughterhouse. He was hit in the head and back by an Israeli drone when as he was leaving the building, dying immediately. His cousin Tareq was with him at the moment of the attack and was seriously injured in the back, stomach and legs.



Child Ouda Al-Shandi after targeting



Auda Al-Shandi before he was targeted

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip
by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012

Amira Ahmed Ibrahim Abu Naser

Place and date of birth: Khan Younis, 22 May, 1998



At 14, Amira was the eldest child in a family of 10 – including a father who was disabled during the First Intifada and three brothers who are fighting to survive blood cancer. She had been a student at Daliat Al-Karmel Prep School until she left to care for her ill brothers while they received treatment in Egypt. Just 10 days before Israel launched Operation Pillar of Defense, she returned to Gaza to look after her younger brothers while her mother remained in Egypt. Her family lives in a house

made of asbestos, containing only one bedroom, a kitchen and a bathroom.

On the afternoon of 21 Nov., Amira was visiting her grandparents at their farm in the Abbasan area of Khan Younis. Her aunt asked Amira to call her grandfather and uncle in from the olive grove for lunch. When she got there, however, an Israeli drone struck. Her grandfather and uncle died instantly; Amira died on her way to the hospital.



Ahmed Awad Mahmoud Abu Elian

Place and date of birth: Khan Younis, 7 Feb., 1997

A student at Alawda Secondary School, Ahmed liked watching football and weight lifting. But he was most remembered for his success at school, where he quickly mastered the English language and loved solving complex mathematical problems. According to his family, his greatest wish was to apply to the Aviation School at Ayn Shams University-Egypt.

On Thursday morning, 15 Nov., Ahmed went to his family's olive grove to help his uncle irrigate the trees. That afternoon, a missile from an Israeli drone hit them. Ahmed was struck in the head and suffered internal bleeding in his brain. He was transferred to the European Hospital in Gaza, but lapsed into a coma and died Wednesday morning, 21 Nov.

Reham Maher Muhammed Nabaheen

Place and date of birth:

Nusairat Camp, 3 Feb., 2009



Reham was the only daughter among her parents' three children. She would accompany her father wherever he went.

During most of the eight-day Israeli assault, Reham's family stayed away from their home in Nusairat Camp, sheltering with relatives in Buraij Camp. On the day that negotiations for a ceasefire began, however, they returned to their house. Her father recalled that she had wanted to stay with their relatives until the assault was truly over.

On 21 Nov., Reham was standing near the

front door of their home, overlooking the main street. She was killed when an Israeli missile landed in the street close to her.

"Shortly before she was killed, Reham was sitting next to me, and she asked me to kiss her," her father remembered. "She also asked me to buy her some biscuits, so I asked her brother to go to the store. Reham told me she loved me... When she walked towards the front door, she was hit in the head and chest by shrapnel. She fell down in a pool of her own blood, and her soul ascended to heaven."

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense

A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov, 2012

The child Abdel Rahman Naeem at Al-Shifa Hospital morgue



Abdel Rahman Majdi Ramadan Naim

Place and date of birth:

Gaza City, 6 January, 2010

Abdel Rahman's family lives in the Gernata building on Alwehda Street in Gaza City. On 21 Nov., the boy was playing with his 2-year-old nephew in the hall.

"When Israeli warplanes targeted the Nema building, which is adjacent to ours, it made a loud explosion," recalled Abdel's mother. "I rushed to make sure my son was ok, and I found him lying in the hall with blood pouring from his nose and mouth. I cried out his name, but he didn't answer or move. I held him in my arms and screamed silently, in my head."

According to the medical staff's report to his family, the boy's death was caused by high pressure from the explosion, destroying his brain. Flying shrapnel injured his brother, 15-year-old Mahmoud, and his 17-year-old cousin Sami.

When the Euro-Mid team asked about Abdel Rahman, a smile came to his mother's face as if she was seeing him before her eyes. "I've accepted my life without Abdel Rahman. I'll harm my family if I kept thinking of it, and will not be strong enough to care for them. But this doesn't mean that I don't love my son Abdel Rahman, or have forgotten him. He is more precious to me than my soul."



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Mahmoud Atya Abdel Razeq Abu Khusa

Place and date of birth:

Gaza City, 8 Sept., 1999

Mahmoud's family consists of a blind father, a mother, four sisters and two older brothers. He acted as the "eyes" of his blind father, serving as guide wherever they went. An eighth-grader at New Gaza School, Mahmoud loved football and dreamed that one day, he would be "found" by a trainer, like the one who discovered the famous player Messi.

Another wish was to become a pilot. His sister remembers that Mahmoud once said, "I want to become a pilot! But where will I fly in Gaza?!" That is what occupation is like, she added. It kills the aspirations of children.

On Wednesday afternoon, 21 Nov., Mahmoud was on his way to a nearby minimarket to buy some pencils when Israeli drones fired a missile near him and a piece of shrapnel penetrated his heart. A former classmate, neighbor and friend of Mahmoud's named Muhammed was nearby and heard the explosion. He ran away, crying out to Mahmoud to escape – not knowing he already was dead.

Another neighbor saw him fall, and informed Mahmoud's family. One of his brothers went to the scene and got him to the hospital, but it was too late.



A child wounded in the head during Israeli attacks

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip
by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Mohammed Ibrahim Rizeq Ashour

Place and date of birth:

UAE (Abu Dhabi), 28 Nov., 2004

Mohammed's family came to Gaza from the UAE only three months before Israel's eight-day assault, yet his mother said the 8-year-old had immediately fit in socially.

"He liked to play computer games, and was one of the top students at his school. His GPA was 96%," she said.

His family lives in the Zaitoun neighborhood of Gaza City, and Mohammed was the only son among his four siblings.

In tears, his mother described the circumstances of the boy's death: "On

Tuesday, the 21st of November, Mohammed asked for permission to play with his friends. Around mid-day, I heard a loud explosion. My heart started beating fast and I cried out, 'It's my son!' Immediately, I went out to find him. Smoke was everywhere. I saw children crying, but didn't see Mohammed. Then I found his body, in pieces next to a tree, and realized that he was dead."

Four of his six friends were injured.

Mohammed Ashour before he was targeted by Israeli drones



Clothes of Mohammed Ashour after he was targeted



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Nader Yaser Suleiman Abu Maghaseeb

Place and date of birth:

Gaza City, 27 June, 1997

Nader was the eldest son among five siblings and a step brother. A top student at school, he lived at his father's house with his stepmother in Deir Albalah in the eastern part of the Gaza Strip. During the Israeli assault, he often went to his grandfather's house along with his siblings, where he thought it was safer. On the night of his death, however, he stayed home.

His father described to the Euro-Mid team the circumstances of Nader's death on 21 Nov.: "Nader prayed to God in the adjacent mosque as usual. Then he returned home. He said to me, 'Dad, I need some money to buy my brothers something to eat.' I gave him the money reluctantly, because I didn't want him to go out that late. Yet, his brothers were starving and had nothing to eat. After he left, I realized that he had forgotten the money at home. So I asked his little brother to go after

him. His brother gave Nader the money, and wanted to go with him to the store, but he said no. A few moments later, after his little brother returned home, we heard a loud explosion. My wife asked me to call Nader and make sure he was ok. I called his mobile, but it was off. I hurried toward the supermarket and waited for Nader down the road, but he didn't show up. I came closer to the supermarket, and found Nader's body on the ground."

His father fell silent for a bit, then continued: "He was hit in the head, stomach and chest. Part of his chest was burned. I called for help, but no one answered me. I tried to carry him, but I was too shocked and I couldn't. I tried to drag him, and I still couldn't. I sat next to him and hugged him until the ambulance came 10 minutes later."

Siblings of Nadler standing before his picture after he was killed



Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip
by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Ashour Suhail Mohammed Hamada

Place and date of birth:

Gaza City, 3 May, 2002

Ashour was the youngest son in a family of seven children. His father, Suhail Hamada, supported them by selling and distributing water.

Ashour was in the fifth grade in Jabalia Elementary School. His mother told Euro-Mid that he was a very distinguished student, receiving full marks on his latest exam. His mother added that Ashour was quiet and helpful. He liked reading, playing football and watching cartoons.

At approximately 4:15 p.m. on Sunday, 18 Nov., an Israeli drone hit a water distribution car west of Beit Lahia. Ashour, 10, was in the

car that day, helping his father, Suheel Muhammed Hamada. Without any warning, the missile struck the front part of the car, killing the father and his son immediately.

Medical staff told Euro-Mid that Suhail Hamada's body was torn in pieces. Ashour suffered serious burns all over his body, shrapnel penetrated his back and his kidneys were damaged.

Ashour was close to all of his siblings, but he had a special place in his heart for his youngest sister, Batool, 4. He bought her sweets, and loved to sleep next to her. His mother told Euro-Mid field team that the little girl keeps looking at his picture and

Abdullah Talaat Ahmed Ibrahim

Place and date of birth:

United Arab Emirates, 3 March, 1994

Born to a simple family in the UAE, Abdullah grew up without a mother. He finished secondary school, but didn't enroll in a university due to financial difficulties. His father works as a salesman, trying to support his nine children.

On Wed., 21 Nov., Abdullah ate lunch and then went out with his friend Mohammed Abu Audwan. On his way home, an Israeli drone hit him. He was killed at once. His body was brought to Abu Yousef Al-Najjar Hospital, and on the next day, he was buried next to his friend Mohammed.



The child Ashour Hamada holding his younger sister's hand

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip
by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense

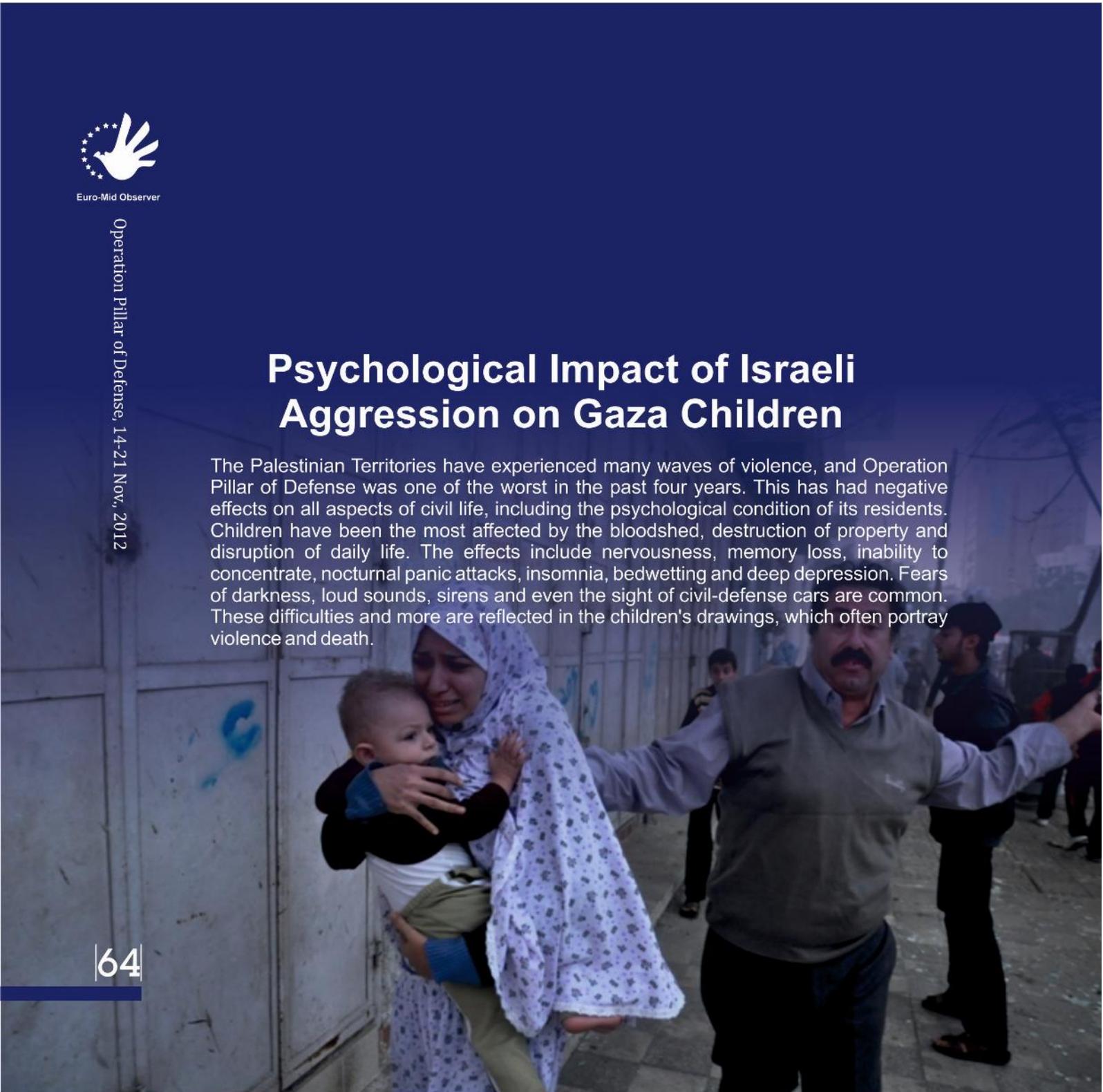


Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012

Psychological Impact of Israeli Aggression on Gaza Children

The Palestinian Territories have experienced many waves of violence, and Operation Pillar of Defense was one of the worst in the past four years. This has had negative effects on all aspects of civil life, including the psychological condition of its residents. Children have been the most affected by the bloodshed, destruction of property and disruption of daily life. The effects include nervousness, memory loss, inability to concentrate, nocturnal panic attacks, insomnia, bedwetting and deep depression. Fears of darkness, loud sounds, sirens and even the sight of civil-defense cars are common. These difficulties and more are reflected in the children's drawings, which often portray violence and death.





The Euro-Mid team noted a strong correlation between direct exposure to violence and problems such as retrogression, in which children forget previously learned skills and manners. Negative behavioral patterns such as nail biting and lying have appeared, while other children stopped speaking or eating. Physical ailments such as intestinal disorders also became more common, along with uncontrollable anger among boys, and excessive introversion and crying among girls.

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense

A report about Palestinian children killed in the Gaza Strip
by Israeli Occupation Forces during operation Pillar of Defense



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov, 2012

Recommendations

International law was written to protect children both because they are typically noncombatants and because they are weakest in society and the least able to defend themselves. While Israel has signed international conventions to protect children, reality on the ground demonstrates that no serious effort is made to fulfill those promises.

In light of the testimonies and photographs collected by Euro-Mid, we call on the international community, including related UN agencies, to hold Israel to account and prevent any further transgressions.

Therefore, Euro-Mid Observer for Human Rights urgently recommends governments and agencies call for:

1

Formation of a committee to investigate the killing of children during Pillar of Defense, and to bring the perpetrators to justice. The committee should be established in accordance with international standards to ensure reliability and objectivity, and all conclusions must be made public.

2

Creation of a process to require signatories of the Fourth Geneva Convention to fulfill their obligations in accordance with articles No. 1 and 146. For example, signing countries are obligated to honor the principle of universal jurisdiction. Likewise, the targeting of children is clearly listed as a serious violation.

3

A focus on the rights of Palestinian children by all international NGOs working in the field, which must include a willingness to pressure the Israeli government to stop all attacks against civilians.

4

Public exposure by all civil society institutions, including NGOs focused on human rights and/or children's organizations, of individuals who have been complicit with the state of Israel's breaches of international law.

Appendix: List of child victims killed in Pillar of Defense, Nov. 2012

No.	Name	Age	Sex	Quarter	District	Way of Killing	Death Date
1.	Rownan Yousef Jalal Arafat	4	F	Zaytoon	Gaza	Explosion pressure	11/14/2012
2.	Omer Jihad Ali Al-Masharawi	11 months	M	Gaza	Gaza	Shrapnel	11/14/2012
3.	Haneen Khaled Ahmed Tafesh	10 months	F	Zaytoon	Gaza	Head injury	11/15/2012
4.	Mohammed Hani Ibrahim Al-Kaseeh	18	M	Beit Lahya	North	Shrapnel	11/14/2012
5.	Walid Mahmoud Abdel Razaq Al-Abadellah	2	M	Khan Younis	Khan Younis	Burns	11/15/2012
6.	Audai Jamal Abdel Naser	15	M	Beit Hanoon	North	Shrapnel	11/15/2012
7.	Fares Ahmed Dyab Al-Basuoni	8	M	Beit Hanoon	North	Head amputation	11/15/2012
8.	Mahmoud Raed Mohammed Sadallah	3	M	Jabalia	North	Shrapnel	11/16/2012
9.	Jamal Mohammed Jamal Al-Dalou	5	M	Naser	Gaza	Shrapnel	11/18/2012
10.	Ibrahim Mohammed Jamal Al-Dalou	1	M	Naser	Gaza	Shrapnel	11/18/2012
11.	Yousef Mohammed Jamal Al-Dalou	4	M	Naser	Gaza	Shrapnel	11/18/2012



12.	Sarah Mohammed Jamal Al-Dalou	7	F	Naser	Gaza	Shrapnel	11/18/2012
13.	Ashour Suheel Ashour Hamada	10	M	Jabaia	North	Shrapnel	11/18/2012
14.	Jumana Sallamah Ibrahim Abu Saefan	2	M	Jabalia	North	Shrapnel	11/18/2012
15.	Tamer Sallamah Ibrahim Abu Saefan	3	M	Jablia	North	Shrapnel	11/18/2012
16.	Eyad Yousef Ahmed Abu Khusa	1	M	Abureej	Middle	Shrapnel	11/18/2012
17.	Tasneem Zuheer Mohammed Al-Nahal	9	F	Al-Shati	Gaza	Shrapnel	11/18/2012
18.	Mohammed Eyad Fuad Abu Zour	3	M	Gaza	Gaza	Shrapnel	11/19/2012
19.	Omer Mahmouh Mohammed Al-Astal	14	M	Al-Qarara	Khan Younis	Body parts	11/19/2012
20.	Husain Jalal Mohammed Naser	6	M	Jabalia	North	Shrapnel	11/18/2012
21.	Rama Emad Mohammed Al-Shandi	1	F	Gaza	Gaza	Shrapnel	11/20/2012



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov, 2012

22.	Osama Walid Ibrahim Shuhada	17	M	Nusairat	Middle	Shrapnel	11/19/2012
23.	Suhayb Fuad Khalil Hijazi	2	M	Jabalia	Gaza	Body parts	11/19/2012
24.	Mohammed Fuad Khalil Hijazi	4	M	Jabalia	Gaza	Body parts	11/19/2012
25.	Ahmed Tawfeeq Memdouh Al-Nasasra	17	M	Naser	Rafah	Chest internal bleeding, mouth bleeding	11/19/2012
26.	Yahya Mohammed Awad	13	M	Sheikh Redwan	Gaza	Shrapnel	11/20/2012
27.	Yusra Basil Murtada Al-Shawa	18	F	Shajaya	Gaza	Shrapnel	11/20/2012
28.	Ibrahim Ahmed Mahmoud Hamad	16	M	Rafah	Rafah	Shell in the head	11/20/2012
29.	Mahmoud Khalil Mahmoud Al-Arja	16	M	Rafah	Rafah	Body parts, tear and burning shrapnel	11/20/2012
30.	Abeer Talal Sadi Al-Asli	11	F	Jabalia	North	Body parts, tear and burning shrapnel	11/21/2012
31.	Mahmoud Atya Abdel Razaq Abu Khusa	13	M	Sheik Redwan	Gaza	shrapnel	11/21/2012
32.	Abdel Rahman Majdi Ramadan Naecen	2	M	Sheik Redwan	Gaza	shrapnel	11/21/2012
33.	Reham Maher Al-Nabaheen	3	F	Buraij	Middle	shrapnel	11/21/2012
34.	Amira Abu Naser	14	F	Jabalia	North	shrapnel	11/21/2012
35.	Ahmed Awad Mahmoud Abu Alian	15	M	Beni Sehila	Khan Younis	Shrapnel in the head	11/21/2012
36.	Muahmmmed Kamel Sallamah Abu Audwan	18	M	Rafah	Rafah	shrapnel	11/21/2012
37.	Yara Mohammed Jamal Al-Dalou	15	F	Remal	Gaza	shrapnel	11/18/2012

38.	Audai Arafat Audai Al-Shandi	17	M	Shajaia	Gaza	shrapnel	11/20/2012
39.	Abdullah Talat Ahmed Ibrahim	18	M	Rafah	Rafah	shrapnel	11/21/2012
40.	Nader Yousef Abu Maghaseeb	15	M	Selga Valley	Deer Balah	shrapnel	11/21/2012
41.	Mohammed Ibrahim Rizeq Ashour	7	M	Zaytoun	Gaza	shrapnel	11/20/2012



Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense
 A report by Euro-Mid Observer for Human Rights on the killing of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Occupation Forces during



Euro-Mid Observer

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Euro-Mid Observer

Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense

A report by Euro-Mid Observer for Human Rights on the killing of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Occupation Forces during

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012



Euro-Mid Observer

www.euromid.org



Euro-Mid Observer



Children Targeted in Pillar of Defense

A report by Euro-Mid Observer for Human Rights on the killing of
Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip by Israeli Occupation Forces during

Operation Pillar of Defense, 14-21 Nov., 2012

www.euromid.org

Designer
Mohammed M. Al-Haddad
+972599238246