



March 2011

- Two children killed in Gaza while trying to cross the border with Israel
- Two children killed and at least eight injured by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza
- Five incidents of settler violence against Palestinian children documented
- HRC resolution - Follow-up to the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict
- New UN report: East Jerusalem: Key Humanitarian Concerns



On 7 March 2011, a 15-year-old boy from Qusra, near Nablus, was shot in the back during clashes between settlers and villagers in a settler attack on his village.

March 2011 - overview

During the month of March there was a significant increase in violence in Gaza and southern Israel. As a result, four children were killed: two were shot while trying to cross the border to look for a job inside Israel, and two were [killed](#) in an Israeli [airstrike](#) on 22 March 2011. At least eight more children were injured in the same incident.

On 21 March 2011, the Human Rights Council adopted a [resolution](#) recommending that the report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict be sent to the UN General Assembly for further action, including submission to the UN Security Council for referral to the International Criminal Court. On 1 April 2011, Richard Goldstone wrote an op-ed in the [Washington Post](#) reigniting the controversy surrounding the report.

In March, DCI documented one case of soldier violence against a [7-year-old boy](#), in addition to four other incidents of settler violence against Palestinian children. In one of them, soldiers intervening in clashes between settlers and residents of a village near Nablus shot a [15-year-old boy](#) in the back. Other incidents involved the beating of [two siblings](#) in Hebron, and an [attack](#) on a Palestinian home near Nablus with Molotov cocktails. At the time of writing, investigations into the murder of a family of five settlers from Itamar, including three children, are ongoing.

On 27 March, an Israeli settler from the settlement of [Shilo](#), was [sentenced](#) to one and a half years in prison for kidnapping and assaulting fifteen-year-old [Amran F.](#) in 2007.

Number of Palestinian children killed as a result of Israeli military and settler presence (OPT)

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	TOTAL
94	98	192	130	162	52	124	50	112	315	8	6	1343

RECENT MEDIA REPORTS

- [Haaretz](#) – Israeli airstrikes in Gaza
- [Haaretz](#) – Israeli settler sentenced to prison
- [The Washington Post](#) – Goldstone on his report on the Gaza war
- [The Guardian](#) – Response to Goldstone

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URGENT APPEALS

- **UA 4/10** – Gravel collectors
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MEDIA ARCHIVE – 2010-2011

- **Haaretz** – Human shield
- **The Independent** – Human shield
- **New York Times** – Human shield
- **BBC** – Human shield
- **Haaretz** – Gravel collectors
- **The Guardian** – Gravel collectors
- **Independent** – Gravel collectors
- **AFP** – Settler violence
- **BBC** – Human shield
- **Haaretz** - Human shield
- **AFP** - Human shield conviction
- **AFP** – Gravel collectors
- **CNN** – Gravel collectors
- **BBC** - documentary on extremist settlers - "The Ultra Zionists"
- **BBC** – US veto of UNSC resolution condemning settlements
- **UN** – 2011 increase in settler violence
- **Save the Children** – Gravel collectors
- **Yesh Din** – Factsheet on Law Enforcement

I.H. (15 years) - On 7 March 2011, a 15-year-old boy is shot in the back during clashes between settlers and villagers in an attack on his village in the West Bank.

I.H. (15) lives in the West Bank village of Qusra, around 25 kilometres from Nablus. On Monday 7 March 2011, at around 4:00 pm, he heard a call through the mosque loudspeakers for the villagers to head south to stop settlers from uprooting their olive trees. I.H. went to see what was happening: 'As soon as I arrived, I saw about eight male settlers in their twenties. Some of them were carrying shovels, others were carrying sticks. Three of them were armed. They also had a number of dogs. About 50 metres away from me some settlers were chasing a village woman and three village men towards the village. Then, the three men stopped to throw stones at the settlers, to chase them away. Other settlers were throwing stones at us and we threw stones back at them, to stop them from coming any further. When they saw a number of villagers coming to join us they stopped chasing us, and even retreated. However, more and more settlers started to arrive, as well as two Israeli military jeeps. The soldiers got out and started firing tear gas, stun grenades, rubber bullets and even live bullets at us. As we retreated the settlers advanced under the soldiers' protection. Then, as I was bending down to pick up a stone, I felt something hitting my back, shaking my body. It was very painful. I realised I had been shot.' On arrival in hospital, I.H. was admitted to intensive care, the bullet having fractured his ribs on entry. He was released from hospital a week later and doctors say his recovery will take two months.

'Awni S. (11) and Marwa S. (8) - On 20 March 2011, two children were beaten by child settlers in two separate attacks, occurring within minutes of each other in the old city of Hebron.

'Awni (11) and his sister Marwa (8) live in Hebron, in the neighbourhood of Tel Rumeida. At around 1:00 pm on 20 March 2011, 'Awni was coming home from school, carrying a sack of rice for his mother, when he was attacked by Israeli settlers. 'Three settlers from the Beit Hadassah came up to me. Two were around 17 or 18, the other was around 12. They were wearing black trousers and white shirts. (...) Then they started beating me, punching me in the chest and stomach and kicking me in the legs. I fought back in self defence. The little settler was holding a thick metal wire and he beat my arms and shoulders with it. I tried to defend myself and push them away but they outnumbered me. I was in a lot of pain. They also insulted me. All this time the two soldiers manning the checkpoint kept watching, without trying to stop it. (...) One of them slammed my sack of rice on the ground, scattering the rice everywhere.' As 'Awni headed home, he found his little sister Marwa (8) crying. Her face was bruised and bloodstained. A settler had hit her on the face, scratched her and knocked her over. Marwa was later treated in hospital for her cuts and bruises.

Tareq H. (17 years) - On 22 March 2011, two children were killed and at least eight were injured as a result of an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City, near Gaza's eastern border with Israel.

Tareq (16) lives in Gaza City, near the eastern border. On 22 March 2011, at around 3:00 pm, he went outside to play football with his friends. Shortly after they started playing, 'some fighters in black clothes with their faces covered in black masks (...) stopped the car about 50 metres away from us. They got out some projectiles and put them on the ground.' Tareq's grandfather shouted at them to leave but, despite his appeal, the men fired two rockets. At that point, an Israeli drone plane appeared overhead and, about five minutes later, there was an explosion. Tareq rushed to see what had happened and when he was about 10 metres from his house, there was another explosion: "It was much more powerful than the first one. (...) I looked behind and saw smoke rising from the empty land where we had been playing earlier. I had barely turned when there was another explosion and I felt something hitting my left arm. It was hot as if it had been set on fire. I saw Yasser (16) on the ground at the door of the garage. I saw his grandfather on the ground as well. They weren't moving and the ground around them was filled with blood. I tried to run but I felt the ground spinning. I fell down." Tareq was taken to Shifa Hospital, where he underwent surgery to remove shrapnel from his arm.

In the spotlight

For information on child rights violations during Operation Cast Lead in Gaza read DCI and AI Mezan's report: [Bearing the Brunt Again](#)



For information on settler violence against Palestinian children read DCI-Palestine's latest report: [Under Attack: Settler Violence against Palestinian Children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#)



For information on Palestinian Child Prisoners read DCI's latest [Detention Bulletin](#), or the report: [Palestinian Child Prisoners, The systematic and institutionalised ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian children by Israeli authorities](#)



Lawyers and fieldworkers for DCI-Palestine collect sworn affidavits from victims and/or eye witnesses of human rights violations against Palestinian children. These affidavits are collected in Arabic and further reviewed by trained staff to determine appropriate follow up action. Additional case summaries are available on request. For further information contact an advocacy officer at ria@dc-pal.org

Israeli school bus hit by rockets launched from Gaza

On Thursday, 7 March 2011, a rocket launched from the Gaza Strip injured two people, including a 16-year-old boy, according to [news reports](#). DCI-Palestine condemns this attack and all indiscriminate acts of violence. This type of action can never be justified, regardless of the circumstances.

Goldstone's recent remarks and the need for accountability

On 1 April 2011, The Washington Post published an opinion piece by Justice Richard Goldstone in which he 'reconsidered' his report on the Gaza war of 2008-2009. Among other things, Goldstone said that the investigations conducted by the Israeli army into possible war crimes had shown that civilians had not been 'intentionally targeted as a matter of policy' by the Israeli forces. As a result of Goldstone's article, the Israeli government has initiated a campaign to urge the UN to cancel the Fact Finding mission report.

However, as pointed out by [EMHRN](#) and [FIDH](#), 'the findings of the UN Fact-Finding Mission, were corroborated by international organisations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the International Federation for Human Rights, by Israeli and Palestinian human rights organisations as well as in the Fact-Finding Mission mandated by the Arab League.

Key allegations about Israeli violations relate to widespread indiscriminate attacks, the choice of targets, use of certain prohibited weaponry, and the extensive destruction of public and private infrastructure. Despite Justice Goldstone's personal re-consideration of Israel's intent to strike civilians, as expressed in his opinion piece, no credible evidence has come to light to contest the validity of these claims.

Based on the conclusions of international, Palestinian and Israeli human rights organisations, the incidents specified in the UN Fact-Finding Mission Report have been insufficiently investigated, domestically, in accordance with international law. The two reports of the UN Committee of Independent Experts mandated to "monitor and assess any domestic, legal or other proceedings undertaken by both the Government of Israel and the Palestinian side" have concurred with the assessment of these organisations. Among others, the Committee notes that "there is no indication that Israel has opened investigations into the actions of those who designed, planned, ordered and oversaw Operation Cast Lead." (...)

To-date one Israeli soldier has served 7.5 months in jail for the theft of a credit card and two others have received three month suspended sentences for using a Palestinian child as a human shield. These three convictions, and the ongoing trial of a fourth soldier, have been the *only* concrete judicial outcomes of Israeli Operation Cast Lead investigations. It is noted that neither these indictments nor the sentences handed down for the human shield conviction reflect the gravity of the actual crimes committed. It appears that the majority of other investigative procedures have been closed without charge.'

Since 2008, DCI-Palestine has documented the deaths of 421 children in Gaza as a result of Israeli military actions. [352](#) of these child fatalities occurred as a result of [Operation Cast Lead](#) (December 2008 – January 2009).