



Abdullah as-Sadouri (6)

Operation Cast Lead: 6-year-old boy killed while shopping for his mother

On 14 January 2009, Abdullah as-Sadouri (6) went to the store to get some things for his mother. His father, Naser, was praying the *Maghreb* prayer when he heard a huge explosion outside. Abdullah's older brother Anas (16) came running into the Mosque shortly after the prayer to tell Naser that Abdullah had fallen and couldn't stand up. Naser rushed to his son to find his body stiff and shivering. They rushed Abdullah to the camp clinic. Once there, they moved him to an ambulance and took him to Shuhada 'al Aqsa Hospital for treatment. Abdullah was then transferred to Naser Hospital in Khan Younis, where Brain scans showed that shrapnel had settled in his brain and caused internal bleeding. In order to perform the operation, Abdullah would need to be

transferred again, this time to the European Hospital in Khan Younis. Abdullah was operated upon the following day. He was then moved to the intensive care unit. After two more days, Abdullah was still in very bad condition, and they decided to send him to Egypt for more treatment. Abdullah's mother, Amal (40) went with him to Egypt. The following day, 18 January 2009, Naser received a phone-call from Amal. His son had died. Amal brought Abdullah's body home later that day so that he could be buried.

The following information is based on an affidavit taken by DCI from Abdullah's father, Naser Abdullah Ali as-Sadouri (44), on 26 February 2010.

Naser as-Sadouri lives with his family in the Qaffeh neighbourhood, an-Nusairat camp, Central Gaza. On 27 December 2008, 'Operation Cast Lead' began with heavy bombing everywhere. Naser and his family were hearing stories of attacks on mosques and houses affiliated with Hamas. As Naser puts it, *"a state of terror and fear had prevailed around us even though, according to the news, the camp was targeted less than other areas, especially Gaza City and the North Governorates."*

On 14 January 2009, as he was leaving the house for the *Maghreb* (evening) prayer in the small mosque near his house, he saw his son, Abdullah (6), walking to the store to buy things for his mother. During the prayer, Naser heard a huge explosion outside. After they had finished the prayer, his other son Anas (16) came into the mosques shouting that Abdullah had fallen down and couldn't stand up. Naser rushed out of the mosque followed by some of his neighbours and friends.

As Naser remembers it, *"I checked Abdullah and found his body had almost gone stiff. He was shivering in a scary way. I checked his head and face and lifted his clothes but didn't find any blood."* Naser washed Abdullah's face, but he didn't stop shivering, so

they decided to get the car and take him to the hospital. Shortly after leaving, another explosion took place to the side of the car. Naser drove through the rubble and smoke in spite of the bad visibility to the nearby camp clinic.

As he drove, Naser heard his brother shouting from the back seat that Abdullah's head was bleeding. Then he said he thought Abdullah was dead. In spite of the growing screams from his wife, brother, and other son, Naser drove as fast as he could to the camp clinic. Once they arrived, the doctors immediately put Abdullah in the ambulance and rushed him over to Shuhada' al Aqsa Hospital for treatment.

After conducting some tests and carefully following his condition, which hadn't improved, the doctors asked that Abdullah be transferred to Naser Hospital in Khan Younis, since it had more capability to handle such cases. Once again, from Naser's own words, *"Once we arrived at Naser Hospital, doctors immediately ran some tests and brain scans. Then, they told me shrapnel had settled in the brain, injuring it and causing internal bleeding."* In order to perform the operation, however, Abdullah would need to be transferred again, this time to the European Hospital in Khan Younis.

Abdullah was operated upon the following day and then moved to the intensive care unit, where he continued to receive treatment. After two more days, Abdullah was still in very bad condition and they decided to send him to Egypt for more treatment. Abdullah's mother, Amal (40) went with him to Egypt. The following day, 18 January 2009, Naser received a phone-call from Amal: *"my wife called me while crying and I realized Abdullah had died. I asked her and she confirmed it. She said he had died just a few minutes before her call. She told me that the hospital was arranging their return to Gaza Strip with the body"*.

Naser stayed in touch with Amal until she arrived at around 2:00pm with Abdullah's body: *"When I first saw her, she was pale, very tired and in a difficult psychological state. It is not easy for a mother to accompany her son's dead body back home. I spared her from talking too much about her experience in accompanying Abdullah..."*

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