



Operation Cast Lead: Boy (13) killed and another seriously injured by missile

On 14 January 2009, at around 6:30pm, Ezz ad-Deen al-Farra (13) and his cousin Abed al-Ghani al-Farra (17) were heading to the supermarket in the village of Al Qarara, east of Khan Yunis, where they both lived. As they passed Abu Salsabil's house, about 300 metres from their houses, they heard a drone plane overhead and saw a red blaze coming towards them. Abed al-Ghani felt a strong blast that slammed him onto the ground. He saw Ezz ad-Deen lying beside him, muttering in a feeble voice. Then, he laid his head on the ground. Abed al-Ghani felt he had just died. Abed al-Ghani was hospitalized in Egypt for two months with serious injuries. Ezz ad-Deen was killed in the incident.

Ezz ad-Deen al-Farra (13)

Ezz ad-Deen al-Farra (13) lived with his family in a two-storey house near al-Estiqama Mosque and al-Aqsa Girls School in the village of Al Qarara, east of Khan Yunis. His cousin Abed al-Farra (17) lived south of Ezz ad-Deen's house with his family. During the ground offensive stage of Operation Cast Lead Israeli troops invaded the Kesofim area, about 700 metres east of his village.

On Wednesday, 14 January 2009, at around 6:30pm, Ezz ad-Deen was sitting in front of the computer in his cousin's Abed al-Ghani's house. Ahmad (21), Ezz ad-Deen's brother, asked Abed al-Ghani to buy some nuts for him from at-Taqwa supermarket, about 500 metres south of their house. Ezz ad-Deen decided to go with him.

Abed and Ezz ad-Deen took their bicycles and headed to the supermarket. There were drone planes overhead. They took Street 2, and had just reached Abu Salsabil's house, 300 metres away from the house, when the sound of the drone plane got louder. Abed remembers what happened next: *"Ezz ad-Deen was on the west side of the street while I was on his left, less than half a metre away. Suddenly, I saw a red blaze coming from the east towards us. Then, I felt something pushing and slamming me against the ground."* Abed saw his cousin lying on the ground beside him: *"Ezz ad-Deen was on the ground, face down, beside me. I was lying on my back, with my left leg on his right."*

Abed tried to adjust his position but he couldn't; he couldn't feel anything. His ears were buzzing and he strained to hear his cousin speak: *"I saw Ezz ad-Deen mumbling something with a really feeble voice, but I couldn't understand because of my ears. I saw blood on Ezz ad-Deen's left cheek. At that moment, he stopped mumbling and laid his head on the ground. I felt he had died or fainted."*

An ambulance arrived and took the children to hospital. *"I saw an ambulance arriving and it took me away. I was still conscious, but I couldn't move, and strangely I wasn't in any pain. Then, I passed out."* When Abed woke up, he found himself in hospital in Egypt. He was hooked up to a breathing apparatus and was in a lot of pain: *"My right arm was in a cast and both my chest and abdomen were wrapped in white bandages, as well as my left thigh and my right leg."*

Abed underwent a lot of surgery while in hospital, first in Gaza and then in Egypt, his injuries didn't heal properly and he is still in a lot of pain: *"I still have a lot of pain in my right leg because the nerve was cut. The doctors did a nerve transplant on my right leg. The bone of the left thigh is broken and didn't knit together properly. Doctors at al-Wafa Hospital in Gaza did an operation on my left thigh to adjust the bone and insert platinum. They also did an operation on my left arm to insert platinum. My right index finger was also broken. There was a tear in the nerve under my left armpit and I can't control it correctly."*

While in hospital he was told about Ezz ad-Deen's death. He had many nightmares at first but his studies have not been affected. *"During the early days of my injury, after the first few days of the incident I had nightmares about it. Luckily, my studies haven't been affected by these events."*

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