



Ibrahim Baraka (11)

Operation Cast Lead: 11-year-boy killed by raid

“I was performing the afternoon prayer with my grandson Ibrahim when I heard an F16 hovering in the sky”

On 28 December 2008, Ibrahim Baraka (11) moved with his grandmother, Kamela Baraka (58), and two aunts to the village of Bani Suhaila, about 500 metres away from his house. Kamela feared an Israeli raid on an-Nour Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, 20 metres away, and urged all the family to leave the area and seek shelter in relatives’ houses. The next day, Kamela went back with her grandson to feed the goats and cows. At around 3:30pm, while performing her afternoon prayer, she heard an F16 overhead and felt herself being thrown into the air as it launched an attack. She passed out and woke up later in hospital. Ibrahim was

severely injured and died several days later in an Egyptian hospital. Kamela feels guilty for his death.

The following information is based on an affidavit taken by DCI-Palestine from Kamela Hammad Suleiman Baraka, on 15 February 2010.

Ibrahim Baraka (11) lived in a three-storey house, 20 metres from an- Nour Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, in the village of Bani Suhaila, Khan Yunis. He lived with his grandmother Kamela Baraka (58), mother, siblings, and extended family. On 28 December 2008, fearing an Israeli attack on the society, Kamela took Ibrahim, and two of her daughters to another daughter’s house, about 500 metres away. The rest of the family went to various relatives. Kamela explains: *“I had heard on the news that the Israeli army was targeting everything affiliated with Hamas including posts, organizations, houses and mosques. My family and I had a terrible feeling that an-Nour Society would be targeted by the Israeli planes sooner or later, so I asked my children to leave their houses and go somewhere else.”*

The next day, at around 3:15pm, Kamela went back home to feed her goats and cows. She brought Ibrahim to help her carry the food and water. *“When I reached the house, everything was relatively calm; not that many people were in the street because of the drone planes that were constantly circling overhead.”*

At around 3:30pm, Kamela performed the ablution for Asr prayer and asked Ibrahim to wait for her until she was done. *“He sat down, leaning his back against the western wall of my son Suleiman’s newly constructed house. I was standing in front of the prayer mat, about two metres west of him.”* As she prayed next to Ibrahim, Kamela heard an Israeli F16 hovering in the sky at a low altitude: *“Suddenly, I felt a violent thrust of air pushing me and I found myself flying eight metres northwest of the house. Then I slammed to the ground, unaware of what was going on and passed out.”*

When Kamela woke up, she found herself at the hospital hooked up to a breathing apparatus: *“My entire body was aching. My sons and daughters were beside me but I couldn’t hear them because of the buzzing in my ears due to the explosion.”*

On 5 January 2009, Kamela was discharged from hospital and was told by her children that the an-Nour Society had been targeted by an Israeli F16 and completely destroyed. Her children brought her out of the hospital on a wheelchair to her daughter Sabreen's house. There, she found many women crying, and offering her condolences: *"I understood that my grandson Ibrahim had died of injuries from the incident when he was with me. He had been treated in Egypt while I was being hospitalized, but they couldn't manage to save him. I felt guilty for his death because I had asked him to come with me."*

Their neighbourhood was practically destroyed in the war. Both Kamela's house, and her son Saif's house had been completely destroyed, while the houses of her other sons Sa'd and Salameh had suffered severe damage. Ibrahim's father's new house was also completely destroyed in the attack that killed Ibrahim and injured Kamela. Another two houses in the area were also severely damaged.

Kamela blames herself for Ibrahim's death and set up a mourning tent for him near the spot where he was killed: *"I made my children set up a tent for me on the same location where Ibrahim was targeted by the missile. I felt very guilty for my beloved grandson."*

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