



### December 2010

- Two years since 'Operation Cast Lead'
- Boy shot in the head while buying strawberries
- Children of the gravel – Urgent Appeal Update
- Children of Silwan – New Urgent Appeal



*17-year-old boy is shot in the head whilst purchasing strawberries to sell at market in the Gaza Strip, about 800 metres from the border fence with Israel.*

#### RECENT MEDIA REPORTS

- [CNN](#) – Gravel collectors
- [Haaretz](#) – NGOs targeted

### December 2010 - overview

December marked the second anniversary since the start of Israel's 2008 military offensive in the Gaza Strip ('Operation Cast Lead'). Between 27 December 2008 and 18 January 2009, over 1,400 Palestinians were killed, including 352 children.

Since the end of the war and following increased international pressure to investigate serious allegations of widespread war crimes, one Israeli soldier has been convicted and imprisoned for credit card fraud; two soldiers received three-month suspended sentences for using a nine-

old boy to search for explosives, and a fourth soldier has now been indicted for shooting a woman carrying a white flag. None of the politicians who ordered the offensive have been investigated. To mark the anniversary, DCI has released the compelling stories of all **352 children** killed during the war.

Also in December, four more children were shot in Gaza while working close to the border with Israel. In response to these latest shootings, DCI has updated our **Urgent Appeal (UA 4/10)**.

**Number of Palestinian children killed as a result of Israeli military and settler presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.**

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	TOTAL
94	98	192	130	162	52	<u>124</u>	50	<u>112</u>	<u>315</u>	8	<u>1337</u>

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## 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](#)



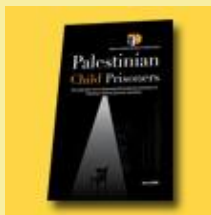
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For information on settler violence against Palestinian children read DCI-Palestine's latest report: [Under Attack: Settler Violence against Palestinian Children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#)



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For information on Palestinian Child Prisoners read DCI's latest [Defention 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 [ia@dcj-pal.org](mailto:ia@dcj-pal.org)



**Khalil (15) – a [15-year-old boy](#) is maimed during 'Operation Cast Lead' – one child among many**

On 16 January 2009, Khalil (15) and his family went to his grandmother's house to take refuge from the war. As they sat together in fear, there was a huge explosion. 'I felt as if I had had an electric shock,' says Khalil. 'It was like a living hell. My body felt as if it was on fire.' At that moment, Khalil lost consciousness. Khalil woke up in the boot of a car as he was being taken to hospital. "I held my head and tried to sit up but I couldn't. I looked around and saw legs on my chest.

They were my legs and I was alone in the boot. At that moment, I completely fainted," he explains. Khalil woke up again at the hospital's intensive care unit. He heard somebody screaming next to him and recognised his brother Abed al-Hadi's (14). "What's wrong with him?" he asked the doctor. "He lost his eyes," the doctor replied. Khalil was shocked: "I cried but without making sounds. The tears just rolled down my cheeks and I started thinking about my family and wondering what happened to them." At that point, Khalil remembered the explosion, and immediately looked at his legs: "I looked down but couldn't see anything because I was covered with sheets. I extended my hand and lifted the sheets and saw my legs wrapped in bandages, but my legs were very short. I tried to move my legs to feel them but they didn't move. I didn't feel them either. I didn't understand anything. I called a doctor and asked him "Where are my legs?" But he turned his face and started crying. Another doctor came in and said to him: "Get out, I'll tell him myself.'" Khalil was told that he had lost his legs in the explosion. He was also told that his 7-year-old brother Mohannad had been killed, and his other brother, Abed al-Hadi, had lost an eye.

Both Khalil and Abed al-Hadi were transferred to Egypt for further treatment.

### 'Operation Cast Lead' - Two years on

Two years after the end of Israel's military offensive in the Gaza Strip, the victims of the war are still being denied justice and reparations. According to figures released by the Israeli army, and as reported in the [Jerusalem Post](#), out of the 400 complaints filed, 50 resulted in the opening of criminal investigations, which lead to four into indictments.

Out of the four indictments, one soldier was convicted of stealing a credit card and two soldiers were convicted of using a child as a human shield. Recently, another soldier was charged with killing a woman who was reportedly holding a white flag at the time ([Haaretz](#)). So far, only the soldier convicted of stealing the credit card has served time in prison. The two soldiers convicted of using a [nine-year-old boy as a human shield](#) received three-month suspended sentences and a demotion in rank. There is no indication that any investigations were ever opened into those who planned, ordered or oversaw the operation which killed over 1,400 Palestinians and 13 Israelis, including three civilians and four soldiers killed by friendly fire.

To mark the second anniversary, DCI-Palestine gives voice to the child victims of the war and their families, by releasing the compelling and disturbing stories of all [352 children](#) killed during the offensive.