

# ISRAEL'S 2014 ATTACK ON GAZA – MYTHS VS. FACTS



# The Myths

Israel is just **defending** itself

“Terror” tunnels

*The death of 3 settlers*

**OH! Those Rockets!**



# What's the truth?





The situation in the West Bank and Gaza must be viewed within the context of the ...



**Occupation**

and ...

# The siege on Gaza



# Occupation as the root of the problem

## **Palestinians endure:**

Military occupation

Apartheid

Lack of freedom of movement

Apartheid Wall

600 checkpoints

Expanding settlements

Settler violence

Home demolitions

90 percent of Palestinians in West Bank prohibited from Jerusalem

100 percent of people in Gaza prohibited from leaving

Random arrests and detentions  
700 children arrested per year

Israeli Occupation Forces and settlers killed 1,500 children since 2000

# The siege as the root of the problem

Since 2007, Israel has had Gaza under a total siege

- Three major attacks since 2007 and several smaller ones
  - Operation Cast Lead, December 2008-January 2009 – 1,409 dead
- Operation Pillar of Defense, November 2012 – 169 dead
- Operation Protective Edge Summer 2014 – at least 2,168 dead

Lack of drinkable water

Lack of fuel

Power outages of up to 18 hours per day

Rampant unemployment at least 45 percent

Buffer zones took 35 percent of arable land

Israeli navy fires on Gaza fishermen, keeping them close to shore

# Disengagement and collective punishment

Even after Israel pulled out its troops and settlers from Gaza in 2005, it still controls the air, land and sea.

In other words, Israel still controls every aspect of Palestinian life in Gaza.

Palestinians in Gaza endure collective punishment, namely for duly electing Hamas in fair and democratic elections in 2006 – and since Hamas took control of Gaza in 2007.

Palestinian resistance was born out of the occupation and the siege, plain and simple.



# What led to Israel's attack on Gaza and what's the impact?



# Timeline leading to Israel's assault on Gaza

- **April 24**, more than 100 Palestinian political prisoners waged a hunger strike that lasted three months to administrative detention. It was the longest lasting hunger strike in Palestinian prisoner history.
- **May 15** - Israeli forces killed 12 Palestinians between May and June. Two of them were youth walking peacefully down the street on Nakba Day. CNN caught the shooting on video.
- **June 2**, Hamas and Fatah created a Unity Government. This was roundly condemned in Israel because it has a vested interest in keeping Palestinians
- **June 1-10**, Israeli Occupation Forces kidnap 17 Palestinian children, many from their beds in the middle of the night.

# Timeline leading to Israel's assault on Gaza

**June 12** - three Israeli settlers go missing. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu blames Hamas and uses this as a pretext to invade the West Bank.

**June 12** – Israel launches Operation Brother's Keeper, an incursion into the West Bank

- Thousands of homes raided; many homes demolished, at least 1,000 arrested; and 19 Palestinians killed

**June 12** – Israel begins random airstrikes on Gaza, launching at least one nearly every day until military operation begins on July 8

(source: Jerusalem Fund)

**June 13** – Israeli officials know the settlers are dead but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issues a gag order, preventing the release of this information.



# Timeline leading to Israel's assault on Gaza

**June 29** – Israel kills a Hamas government employee, tasked with enforcing the truce.

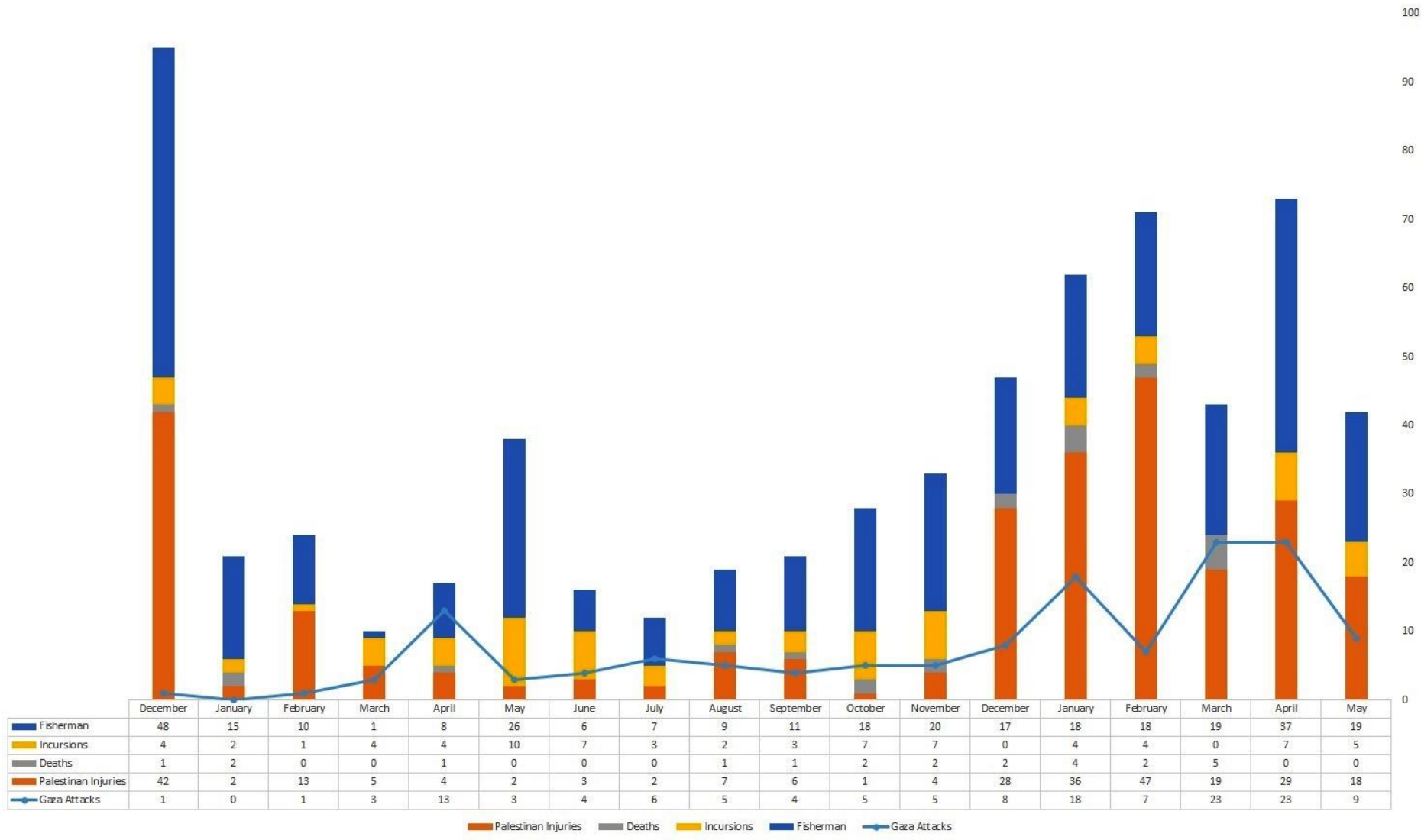
**June 30** – Hamas fires rockets into Israel for the first time since 2012, according to Israeli military officials (Source: Times of Israel)

**July 1** - Mohammed Abu Khdeir, 17, is kidnapped and burned alive.

**July 3** – American high school student Tarek Abu Kdheir, 15, is brutally beaten and arrested by Israeli police.

**July 8** – Israel launches Operation Protective Edge.

# Cease-Fire Dynamics Nov 2012- May 2014



# Summer of fire – Impact of Israel's assault on Gaza





Israeli strikes killed more than **2,000 Palestinians**, including ...



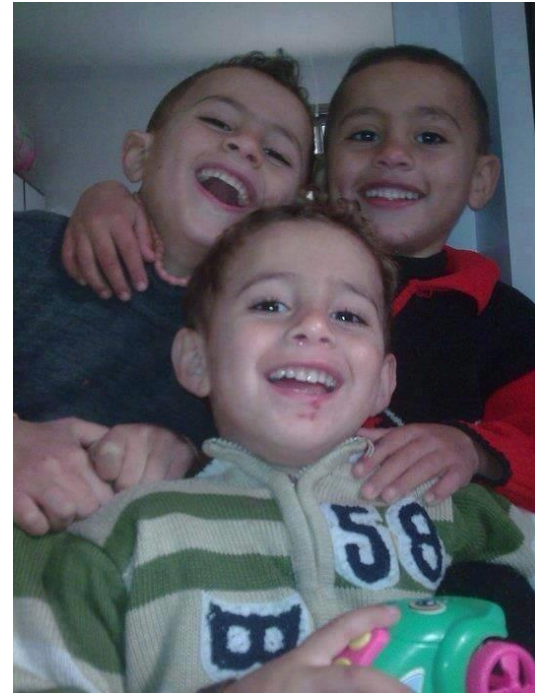
More than **520 children**

Nearly **300 women**

**78%** were non-combatants

**1,000** were killed **inside their homes**

(Source: Al Mezan)



Israel wiped out entire families. By mid-August, **352 families** had lost multiple members, including the Abu Jame family. One airstrike killed 26 members of their family, including 19 children.

(Source: B'Tselem)



# The Israeli navy shelled the Bakr cousins playing soccer on Gaza Beach

Mohamed, 11  
Atef, 10  
Zakariya, 10  
Ismael, 9





**“If we kill their families,  
that will frighten them.”**

~ Israeli Major Gen. (res.) Oren Shachor, as quoted in Haaretz



More than 370,000  
children are in  
need of  
psychosocial  
treatment

~ UNRWA





- ❖ Israel destroyed 2,836 homes and damaged nearly 11,000
- ❖ Tens of thousands of people have been displaced
- ❖ At the height of the attack 25% of the population was displaced – the largest amount since the Six Day War in 1967 (UNRWA)





- ❖ 98 schools were destroyed or damaged
- ❖ Kids will not be starting school on time



# Summer of fire – Impact of Israel’s assault on Gaza



Israel shelled 70% of the Strip’s water wells

Israel targeted infrastructure

Occupation Forces targeted hospitals, mosques, churches, universities

Israel bombed the main power plant and



# People around the world protested Israel's crimes





Interest in Boycott, Divestment  
and Sanctions grew by leaps  
and bounds



Block the Boat in California,  
organized by Arab Organizing &  
Resource Center, AMP and other  
groups, successfully kept an Israel  
Zim ship from docking at different  
ports for several days.



Consumer boycotts are great but  
it's important to partner with  
others to pressure institutions,  
unions, and companies to join the  
boycott and to isolate Israel  
academically, culturally,  
economically and militarily. Join a  
campaign against Soda Stream,  
Ahava or Hewlett Packard, for  
instance.

[www.bdsmovement.net](http://www.bdsmovement.net)

Engage in media and legislative work.  
And check out AMP's resources for students at  
[www.ampalestine.org](http://www.ampalestine.org)

