

# One war older

Israeli violations against children and women during  
the military attack on Gaza (10 – 21 May 2021)



Euro-Med Human  
Rights Monitor  
الأورومتوسطي لحقوق الإنسان

I have worked in journalism and human rights for many years aiming to always give a voice to the voiceless. Like previous years, I am currently working on field research to document the targeting of civilians, homes and press offices in Gaza.

Today, I am documenting the killing of children and families, the attempts of dozens of civilians fighting to stay alive under the rubble of their used-to-be safe homes, and the panic attacks and traumas among children and teenagers, and I do dozens of interviews with displaced families whose homes were targeted during Israel's attack on Gaza.

There is no much difference from the three previous military attacks on Gaza, except for one thing; Today I was among those whom I documented and photographed. I ran with them and screamed in search of my little daughter, and fled my home after an Israeli warplane targeted my building. This time, I was both the researcher who documented the violation and the victim who faced it.

The military attack lasted for 11 days, during which we experienced unprecedented and continuous bombardment that could not be justified by "military necessity". There is nothing necessary in inflicting such a real tragedy to more than two million people, half of whom are children, nor to destroy entire residential towers and target whole families in their homes.

The attack has finally ended. Today, my 3-year-old daughter Sophie and I are still trying to live normally while going through PTSD like the vast majority of Palestinians in Gaza, and I am desperately trying to make her forget the sounds of bombs and the horrifying images of blood and destruction. The attack has ended, but the conflict within each of us is still at its peak.

## **Mariam Dawwas**

A mother and field researcher at the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor

Mariam Dawwas, Euro-Med Monitor's field researcher, fleeing her home in Gaza after the building was targeted by Israeli airstrikes.

Photo: Abedelrahman Alkahlout

«Mankind  
owes to the  
child the best  
it has to give»

Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959)

About

# 50%

of the two-million-people in the Gaza Strip are children under the age of 15, and 49% are female.

During Operation “Guardian of the Walls” in the Gaza Strip, Israel carried out disproportionate attacks against densely populated residential neighborhoods with the majority (75%) being children and women.



**66 children**

**were killed in 11 days.**

At least  
**470 children**

**were injured during the attack, including injuries that will result in permanent or long-term disabilities.**

Photo: Mohammed Al Thalathini

**241**  
**children**  
**lost one or**  
**both parents.**



**«I cannot imagine what the world will look like for my child Omar when he grows up, knowing that he lost his mother and all his siblings in one night. How will a child who has lost all sources of safety in his life live?»**

– Muhammad al-Hadidi, about his 5-month-old child, the sole survivor of his family during an Israeli bombing of a house in the al-Shati refugee camp, west of Gaza City (May 15, 2021).



Nearly

# 5,400

children lost their homes (completely destroyed or severely damaged), and 42,000 children had their homes partially damaged.

Photo: Mohammed Assad

Photo: Atia Darwish

# 72,000

children were displaced to UNRWA schools or relatives' homes during the Israeli attack.

Prior to the military  
attack, about

**33% of  
children  
in Gaza**

needed support as  
a result of trauma caused  
by previous attacks.

Today, about

**%91.4 of  
children in Gaza**

suffer from some form of conflict-related trauma.<sup>(1)</sup>



**«He lost consciousness upon seeing his brother lying on the ground, and since that day, he has been behaving strangely; suddenly screaming in anger, laughing, or crying all day for no reason. When he sleeps, he keeps shouting his brother's name throughout the night.»**

Shaima Khalifa about her son Mutassim Khalifa, 12 years old, who saw the body of his brother Yahya, 15 years old, in pieces on the ground, after he was killed by an Israeli airstrike (May 13, 2021).





# 400,000

children<sup>(1)</sup> have a hard time accessing water because due to the damage of wells, groundwater, desalination plants and sewage treatment plants as a result of the bombing.

# 40

women were

# killed

and 310 injured during the  
Israeli attack on Gaza.



Photo: Bashar Taleb

# 37,000

women and girls have been displaced  
to UNRWA schools or their relatives' homes.<sup>(1)</sup>



Photo: Samar Abu Elouf

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/Situation\\_Report\\_No.1\\_Palestine.pdf](https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/Situation_Report_No.1_Palestine.pdf)

Nearly

# 2,500

pregnant women due to give birth in the next three months will suffer complications in childbirth<sup>(1)</sup>, mostly as a direct or indirect effect of the attack.



Photo: Samar Abu Elouf

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/Situation\\_Report\\_No.1\\_Palestine.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/Situation_Report_No.1_Palestine.pdf)



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