

# Remember Gaza

Two years ago, from 7th July until 26th August 2014, Israel relentlessly bombed the densely populated towns and villages of Gaza, which is home to 1.8 million Palestinians. According to a UN investigation, 1,462 Palestinian civilians were killed during those attacks, 551 of them children. Another 3,436 children were injured and around one third of these are now permanently disabled. Seventy-eight health centres and hospitals were destroyed as were many ambulances. UN schools which served as shelters for civilians were targeted, too.

This was the third major military attack by Israel on Gaza since 2008.

Indiscriminate attacks on civilians and the systematic destruction of whole neighbourhoods are crimes under international law.



Gaza has been under siege from Israel since 2007. Few Palestinians are allowed to travel beyond Gaza, and all imports are controlled and restricted by Israel. Since the illegal siege began, malnutrition and unemployment have steeply increased. 80% of the population depend on international aid, mostly food aid.

*"I heard the explosion, but thought a neighbour's home was hit. People were screaming. We ran out of the house. Then, I looked around and saw that two of my five children were missing. I ran back when I saw my brother holding my son Mohammed in his arms. He was barely breathing. At that moment my mind froze; I couldn't understand what I saw. I felt completely paralyzed. My children were only trying to feed their doves. That's all. I could not believe that all that was left of my beautiful daughter was something black. I picked up her body and we ran to the hospital. My son died as soon as we arrived.*

**Amjad Oweida, UNRWA staff, August 2014**  
(unrwa.org)



*"I was playing friends when with my I suddenly felt blood running down on me. The next thing I knew is that I woke up in a hospital with great pain in my leg. I was sad seeing my friends going to school, my brothers playing outside in the street and I myself was only watching them, unable to run or play football like all the others.*  
**"Yusef Mansour, April 2015 (unrwa.org)**

90,000 Palestinians whose homes were destroyed in 2014 continue to live in damaged houses, caravans or even tents. This is due to Israel blocking most construction materials from entering Gaza. 95% of Gaza's drinking water is polluted, electricity is cut for 12-16 hours a day, and infant mortality has risen to 22.4 per 1,000 (compared to 3.8 per 1000 in the UK). Nearly one third of children under 5 are stunted due to chronic malnutrition.



Israel's Land and Sea Blockade of Gaza



*"I am unable to warm my children in this urgent and hard winter. My children need electricity to study, and the living conditions are difficult without electricity."*  
**Hani Uliwa, January 2015** (unrwa.org)

### What is the UK Government doing?

In 2014 alone, the UK government granted licences for the sale of weapons worth nearly £12 billion to Israel. The government continues to back the arms trade with Israel, in breach of the UK's own regulations.

[Edinburghaction4palestine.org](http://Edinburghaction4palestine.org)

[facebook.com/EdinburghAction4Palestine/](https://facebook.com/EdinburghAction4Palestine/)

### WHAT CAN YOU DO

- 1) **Write to your MP.** Demand an immediate two-way arms embargo on Israel. See [edinburghaction4palestine.org/lobbying-your-mp/](http://edinburghaction4palestine.org/lobbying-your-mp/) for a draft letter.
- 2) **Boycott Israeli goods:** Support the Palestinian civil society call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel, which is a peaceful means of trying to force the Israeli government to comply with international law, and of raising public awareness.
- 3) **Get active:** Email [edinburghaction4palestine@gmail.com](mailto:edinburghaction4palestine@gmail.com) to find out how you can get involved.

