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Israel's war on Palestinian Youth

In our June Newsletter we listed the names of all the 66 children known to have been killed by Israel during the May 10th - 21st Israeli assault on Gaza. *Action on Armed Violence* have now published [a list of 73 Palestinian children killed in Gaza and the West Bank over those 11 days, identifying the circumstances in which they died.](#)

Horrible as the details of the Gaza bombings are, we must not overlook the similarly appalling extra-judicial killing of young Palestinians by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank. Since the beginning of the year, twelve young Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers following what appears to be a 'shoot to kill' policy. These killings are prima facie war crimes and must be investigated by the commission of the International Criminal Court.

Details of the killings, carried out [amid a wave of some 854 arrests of Palestinian children](#), are carefully recorded and collated by the international organisation, *Defence for Children International - Palestine*, whose offices in Ramallah were [raided by Israeli forces in the early hours of Thursday July 29th.](#) The following accounts are drawn from reports published by DCIP. Although a number of these killings occurred during clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian demonstrators, what is striking about these accounts is the casual, almost random nature of the killings.

According to Ayed Abu Eqtash, accountability program director at DCIP, 'Israeli forces routinely fire live ammunition killing Palestinian children with impunity in situations where intentional lethal force is not justified. Palestinian children are undoubtedly targets, and systemic impunity, provided in part by the international community's lack of political will to hold Israeli officials accountable, guarantees that Israeli soldiers will continue to unlawfully kill Palestinian children.'

Tuesday 26th January: Attallah Mohammad Harb Rayan, 17

Attallah Mohammad Harb Rayan, 17, from Qarawat Bani Hassan, a town located southwest of the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, was shot dead by Israeli forces around noon at the Hares Junction near the illegal Israeli settlements, Revava and Barqan. According to Israeli army radio, Israeli forces shot Attallah after he allegedly carried a knife and attempted to attack an Israeli soldier stationed at the junction.

Wednesday 5th May: Said Yousef Mohammad Odeh, 16

Said Yousef Mohammad Odeh, 16, from Odala, a village located south of Nablus, was shot dead by Israeli forces with live ammunition around 9 p.m. near the entrance to the village. Israeli forces reportedly confronted Palestinian youth at the village entrance prior to the shooting. Said was not involved in the confrontations at the time he was shot.

Wednesday 12th May: Rashid Mohammad Rashid Abu Arra, 16

Rashid Mohammad Rashid Abu Arra, 16, was shot dead by Israeli forces with live ammunition early on Wednesday morning in the village of Aqaba, located northwest of Tubas in the occupied West Bank. The killing occurred as Israeli forces entered the village to conduct search and arrest operations. Around 6:30 a.m., Rashid, his father, brother, and another individual arrived at Aqaba, returning from Nablus with produce for local vendors to sell in the village. They encountered four Israeli military vehicles deployed on Aqaba's main road. Rashid was shot from behind and sustained two gunshot wounds to the upper and middle back.

Wednesday 12th May: Mohammad Khalil Younis Mohammad Freijat, 14

Mohammad Khalil Younis Mohammad Freijat, 14, was struck in the head with Israeli-fired live ammunition around 11 p.m. on May 12, in Hebron's Bab Al-Zawya neighborhood. He died from his injuries in Hebron's Al-Ahli hospital four days later on May 16. Mohammad Khalil and a friend were out shopping for new clothes for Eid al-Fitr, the holiday marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan, when clashes erupted between Israeli forces deployed in the area and Palestinians. Mohammad Khalil and the other child were at least 300 meters (1000 feet) away from the clashes when an Israeli soldier shot him in the left eye with live ammunition.

Friday 14th May: Youssef Nawaf, 17

Youssef Nawaf, 17 died on Monday, July 26th, two months after he was wounded in the neck by Israeli gunfire during clashes near the city of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. The shooting occurred during one of numerous clashes between Palestinian protesters and Israeli forces during the 11-day war in May. A statement from Palestinian health authorities said Youssef Nawaf died after a May 14 gunshot wound in the neck damaged his spinal cord, leaving him in a critical condition.

Monday 17th May: Obaida Akram Abdurahman Jawabra, 17

Obaida Akram Abdurahman Jawabra, 17, was shot dead by Israeli forces with live ammunition at around 8 p.m. local time in Al-Arroub refugee camp located near the southern occupied West Bank city of Hebron. Obaida sustained a gunshot wound to his chest during a demonstration at the entrance of the camp located near Route 60, the main route in the West Bank connecting Hebron and Jerusalem. An Israeli soldier deployed about 70 meters (230 feet) away fired the fatal shot, according to eyewitnesses.

Tuesday 18th May: Islam Wael Fahmi Dar Nasser, 16

Islam Wael Fahmi Dar Nasser, 16, was struck in the head with Israeli-fired live ammunition around 5 p.m. in the village of Bil'in, located west of the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah. He was shot during a demonstration as Israeli forces confronted Palestinian protestors in the village near Israel's separation barrier. Doctors treated Islam at Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah and pronounced him dead at 8:30 pm.

Monday 24th May: Zuhdi Muhannad Zuhdi al-Tawil, 17

Zuhdi Muhannad Zuhdi al-Tawil, 17, from the northern East Jerusalem neighborhood of Kafr 'Aqab, allegedly stabbed an Israeli settler and soldier around 12 p.m. at a Jerusalem light rail station on Haim Bar-Lev Street located near the Israeli police national headquarters in occupied East Jerusalem. He then fled, running away from the station toward Route 60, where Israeli forces pursued and opened fire on him, killing him.

Friday 11th June: Mohammad Said Mohammad Hamayel, 16

Israeli forces shot Mohammad Said Mohammad Hamayel, 16, with live ammunition around 4:30 p.m. during a protest in the village of Beita, located southeast of Nablus in the occupied West Bank. The bullet entered the right side of Mohammad's chest and exited the left side, striking him in the left arm. Mohammad was taken to the Beita field hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Wednesday 16th June: Ahmad Zahii Ilbrahiim Bani—Shamsa, 15

Israeli forces shot Ahmad Zahi Ibrahim Bani-Shamsa, 15, in the head with live ammunition around 5:30 p.m. on June 16 in Beita, a village located southeast of Nablus in the occupied West Bank. According to eyewitnesses, Ahmad did not present any threat to Israeli forces at the time he was shot. He was transferred to Rafidia hospital in Nablus and succumbed to his wounds around 3 a.m.

Friday 23rd July: Mohammad Munir Mohammad Tamimi, 17

Mohammad Munir Mohammad Tamimi, 17, was struck with live ammunition in his back around 5:30 p.m. in the village of Nabi Saleh located northwest of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. The bullet entered his back and exited out through his abdomen, tearing a large hole and exposing his intestines. Mohammad was taken in a private car to a hospital in Salfit where he underwent four hours of surgery. He was stabilized and moved to the intensive care unit, but later succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead around midnight.

Wednesday 28th July: Mohammad al-Alami, 12

Mohammad al-Alami, 12, died after being shot by Israeli soldiers on the outskirts of Beit Ummar, halfway between Bethlehem and Hebron in the occupied West Bank. Mohammed al-Alami was a passenger in a car being driven by his father, as the family were on their way home from grocery shopping. Israeli forces claimed that they attempted to stop the vehicle by firing warning shots in the air, and firing at the vehicle's tires. The accounts of Mohammed's father, and several eyewitnesses at the time contradict the army's statement, saying that the soldiers sprayed the car with bullets 'out of nowhere', and with no prior warning. The rear of the car was riddled with bullet holes. The 12-year old was shot in the chest and taken to hospital in Hebron where he succumbed to his wounds a few hours later. [Video footage published by B'Tselem](#) shows Israeli soldiers chasing the car as it reverses away from their checkpoint.