



Canadians for Justice and Peace  
in the Middle East



# Module 5: Israeli Assault on Palestine, and the Myths surrounding it

September 30, 2006



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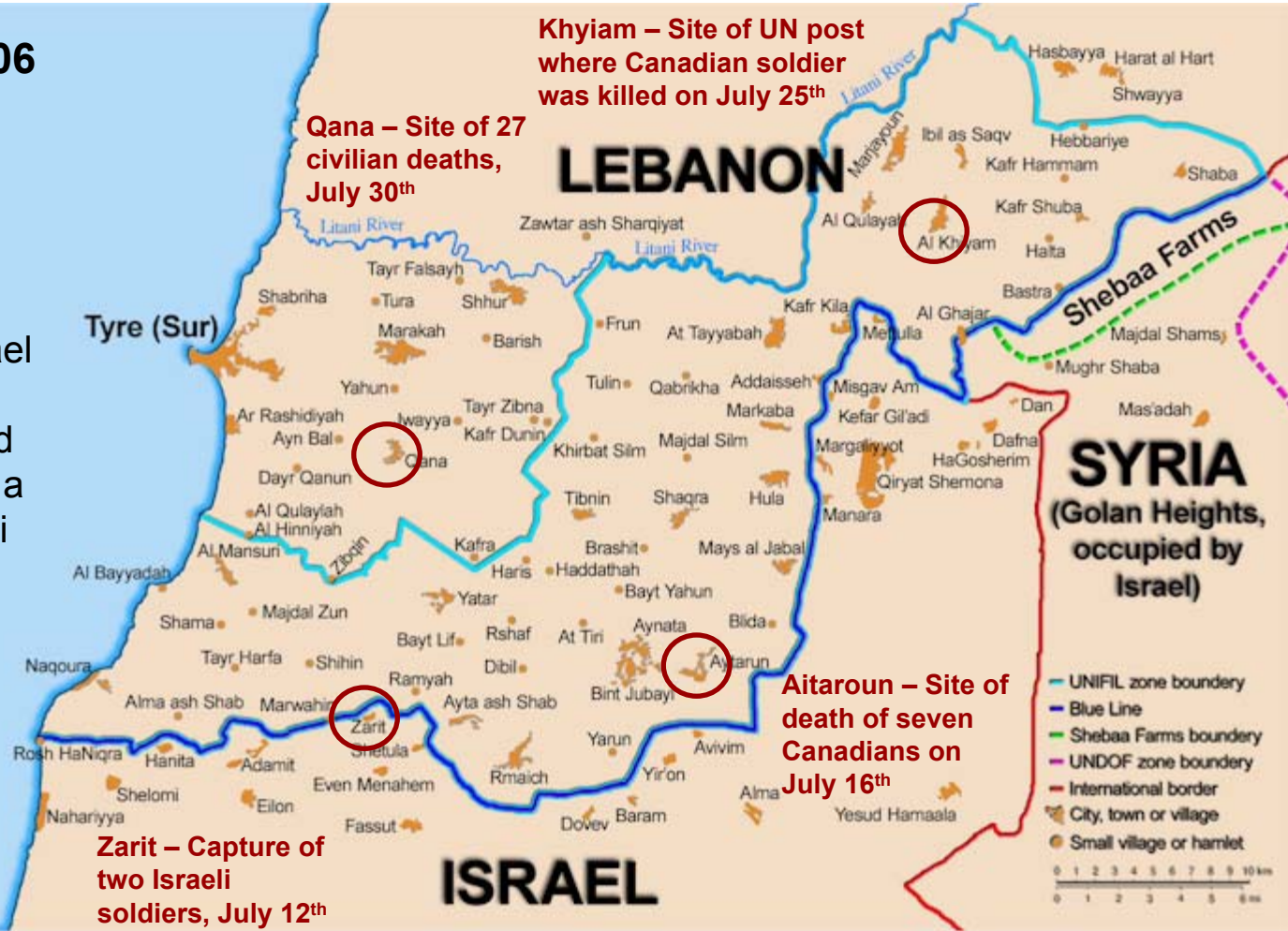


# **Patterns of Violence in the Destruction of Lebanon**

# War along the Blue Line

## Events of July 12, 2006

- 9h00. Hezbollah fighters attack Israeli soldiers in Shabaa Farms, killing 3, and capturing 2
- Soon afterwards. Israel launches rescue attempt. Tank involved in rescue attempt hits a mine killing four Israeli soldiers
- Fifth Israeli soldier hit while trying to access the tank
- By 14h00, Israel calls the attack an “act of war.”



# Israeli Commission of Inquiry

On September 18<sup>th</sup>, The Israeli Cabinet appointed a Commission of Inquiry to investigate its war on Lebanon...

CJPME suggest the Commission consider that:

- For all intents and purposes, Israel's war on Lebanon was unrelated to the capture of two soldiers
- Regional events that precipitated the conflict began long before July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- Israel unilaterally escalated the violence in unimaginable ways
- Israel's aggression was offensive
- High rates of civilian death in Lebanon were not the result of Hezbollah using "human shields"
- Israel's military did not show restraint

*"Going to war was scandalous and he [i.e. Israeli PM Olmert] is directly responsible for that. The management of the war was a failure and he [Omert] is responsible for that."*

*Former Israeli Chief of Staff  
Moshe Yaalon*



# Israel's war on Lebanon was unrelated to the capture of two soldiers

- Israel had violated the Blue Line thousands of times between May, 2000 and July, 2006
- Killings, captures, and assassinations by both sides across the Blue Line were fairly commonplace
- Israel was waiting for a pretext to launch a pre-planned attack against Lebanon
- Israel's response was in no way proportionate to the purported provocation



A fortress-like Israeli outpost along the Blue Line. The Blue Line is a line which has been established by the UN to the best of its ability – most recently in 2000 – to specify the territorial division between Israel, and Lebanon and Syria.

# The conflict began long before July 12th, 2006

- Violations of the Blue Line had been occurring for years
- Hezbollah was established in 1982 to resist an earlier Israeli occupation of Lebanon
- Hezbollah's ideology reflects frustration with long-standing regional injustices
- Hezbollah sought the release of prisoners held for years in Israeli jails

*"Hezbollah went through various decisive moments in its history. With the most important moment being in 1982 the year of the [Israeli] invasion of Lebanon."*

*"Hezbollah: Identity and goals," Central Press Office of Hezbollah*



**"Free Sheikh Obaid"**  
– Activists in Beirut advertise for the release of Sheikh Obaid, kidnapped from his Beirut home in 1989 by Israeli, and finally released in a prisoner exchange in 2004.

# Israel escalated the violence in unimaginable ways

- A detailed timeline of the first 18 hours shows Israel immediately escalated the violence to unprecedented levels
- Israel struck civilian targets within hours of the war's start
- Israel's violence consistently dwarfed that of Hezbollah
- Israel sought to maximize gains through violence, using even the final hours of the conflict to conduct air strikes

Maps Showing Destruction  
of Lebanon (slide 55)



Syrian Mubashir TV images of the Israeli bombing of Beirut International Airport, which took place within 24 hours of the July 12th capture of two Israeli soldiers. This was one of dozens of civilian assets destroyed by Israel in the first hours of the conflict.

# Israel's aggression was offensive, not defensive

- Israel ruled out negotiations within hours of the start of the conflict
- Israel invaded Lebanon
- Israel itself was never threatened with any invasion
- There is every evidence that Israel was bent on broad destruction, beyond “self-defence”

*“This morning's events are not a terror attack, but the act of a sovereign state that attacked Israel for no reason and without provocation... Lebanon is responsible, and Lebanon will bear the consequences of its actions.”*

*- Ehud Olmert, July 12, 2006*



A heavily damaged shopping concourse in Beirut, destroyed in an Israeli air strike in the first weeks of the Destruction of Lebanon.

# Civilian deaths were not the result of Hezbollah using “human shields”

- While Hezbollah did violate international law, even committing war crimes,
- Human rights organizations found no evidence that Hezbollah was using human shields

*“The Israeli government claims that it targets only Hezbollah, and that fighters from the group are using civilians as human shields, thereby placing them at risk. Human Rights Watch found no cases in which Hezbollah deliberately used civilians as shields to protect them from retaliatory IDF attack.*

*“In none of the cases of civilian deaths documented in this report is there evidence to suggest that Hezbollah forces or weapons were in or near the area that the IDF targeted during or just prior to the attack...”*

*- Human Rights Watch*



Lebanese paramedics work with one of the at least 28 victims of the Israeli attack on Qana on July 29<sup>th</sup>. One third of Israel's civilian victims have been children.

# Israel's military did not show restraint

Among others, including war crimes, the following are Israeli violations of international law as cited by human rights organizations:

- Israel did not distinguish between civilians and combatants as required under international law
- Israel's force was disproportionate
- Israel's force was used in a way to incite fear and panic

*“By consistently failing to distinguish between combatants and civilians, Israel has violated one of the most fundamental tenets of the laws of war: the duty to carry out attacks on only military targets. The pattern of attacks during the Israeli offensive in Lebanon suggests that the failures cannot be explained or dismissed as mere accidents; the extent of the pattern and the seriousness of the consequences indicate the commission of war crimes”*

*- Human Rights Watch*



Among copious other evidence, the presence of an unexploded bomb in a living room suggests that Israel was not distinguishing between civilians and Hezbollah fighters during the conflict.



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# **Patterns of Violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories**

# The Trigger Event

- On June 24th, Israeli soldiers seized suspected Hamas members Osama and Mustafa Muamar in the Gaza Strip.
- Palestinian militants captured an Israeli soldier on the morning of Sunday, June 25 via a tunnel dug near the Israeli town of Karem Shalom. Two Israeli soldiers were killed in the process, and four were injured during that attack.
- On June 26, the soldier's captors ask for the release of all Palestinian women and children in Israeli captivity. The statement came from the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades (the military wing of the Palestinian governing party Hamas), the Popular Resistance Committees (which includes members of Fatah, Islamic Jihad, and Hamas), and a previously unknown group calling itself the Army of Islam.
- Israel has stated that they will stop when soldier is released.
- PA suspects the assault is aimed at toppling the democratically elected Hamas-led government and at destabilizing the Palestinian National Authority



**Karem Shalom:**  
Near where the  
capture took  
place.

# Israel's assault on Gaza is like Israel's Destruction of Lebanon

CJPME implores the international community to intervene to stop the violence in Palestine, especially Gaza...

CJPME suggests Canada consider that:

- For all intents and purposes, Israel's assault on Palestine has been unrelated to the capture of one of its soldiers
- Regional events that precipitated the conflict began long before June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- Israel escalated the violence in unimaginable ways
- Israel's aggression has been offensive
- High rates of civilian death in Palestine – over 200 since end of June – are not the result of militants using “human shields”
- Israel's military has not shown restraint

*“Civilians, particularly the most vulnerable, such as children, women and the elderly, should not pay the price for the neglect of human rights and humanitarian obligations.”*

*Louise Arbour,  
UN High Commissioner for  
Human Rights*



A man helps to evacuate his son via Rafah during one of the 3-4 windows during which the crossing was open from June through September

# 1: Israel's war on Palestine has been unrelated to the capture of one of its soldiers

- The Israeli military fired on average 200-250 artillery shells per day into Gaza from June 28 to early August<sup>1</sup>
- Israeli strikes hit many purely civilian sites, unrelated to military targets: bridges, sewage treatment, medical services, water systems
- Israel's response was in no way proportionate to the purported provocation



Israeli soldiers stand behind an 155mm mobile artillery firing into southern Lebanon, from a position on the Israeli-Lebanese border August 6, 2006. Hizbollah killed 11 Israeli soldiers on Sunday in its deadliest rocket strike yet and Israeli bombs killed 18 Lebanese civilians as Lebanon rejected a draft U.N. resolution to end the 26-day-old war.

REUTERS/GIL COHEN MAGEN

<sup>1</sup>“Statement on Gaza by UN Humanitarian Agencies working the occupied Palestinian territories,” August 3, 2006

# 1a: Israel's shelling of Gaza

- Israel has fired more than 8,000 artillery shells into northern Gaza since late 2005, including about 5,000 in a one-week period <sup>1</sup>
  - Shelling alone has caused death of 47 Palestinians, including 11 children and 5 women
  - HRW has found that shelling is indiscriminate
- Shelling was intense even before June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006. OCHA reported 5,700 shells fired between end March and beginning June <sup>2</sup>
  - Israel admitted to about 5000 artillery strikes
  - During same period, about 300 inaccurate Qassam rockets were fired on Israel



<sup>1</sup>"Human Rights Council Special Session on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, July 6, 2006: Human Rights Watch written statement," Human Rights Watch, July 6, 2006

<sup>2</sup>"Israel: Investigate Gaza Beach Killings: Artillery Strike Probably Killed Palestinian Family," Human Rights Watch, June 13, 2006

# 1b: Israel striking purely civilian Targets

- Between June 26<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>, it's estimated that 220 Palestinians have been killed, only about half alleged to have been militants.<sup>1</sup> 80 of the victims have been women and children.<sup>2</sup>
- Amnesty International calls on Israel, responsible for the humanitarian well-being of Gazans as the military occupier, to repair power stations, water mains, bridges and other civilian infrastructure destroyed in its assault on Gaza.<sup>3</sup>
- *“Israel must now take urgent measures to remedy the long-term damage it has caused and immediately restore the supply -- at its own cost -- of electricity and water to the Palestinian population in the affected areas... As the occupying power, Israel is bound under international law to protect and safeguard the basic human rights of the Palestinian population.”*<sup>4</sup>



A worker in Gaza seeks to help restore electricity following Israeli strikes against electrical infrastructure late in June, 2006

<sup>1</sup>“Gazans rush to cross border during opening,” Reuters, September 22, 2006

<sup>2</sup>“GAZA – ICRC Bulletin No. 07 / 2006,” ICRC, September 19, 2006

<sup>3</sup>“Israel/Occupied Territories: Civilian population at risk in Gaza,” Amnesty International, July 14, 2006

<sup>4</sup>“Israel/Occupied Territories: Deliberate attacks a war crime,” Amnesty International, June 30, 2006

# 1c: Israel's attacks are disproportionate

- UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Egeland comments: <sup>1</sup>
  - *“This was clearly a disproportionate use of force,” he said during a visit that included a health clinic damaged by Israeli incursions last week and also a stop at the power station that was destroyed by an air strike on 28 June, leaving the Gaza Strip without 45 per cent of its prior electricity supply.*”
- None of the conditions for a proportionate response have been satisfied. A proportionate response must be: <sup>2</sup>
  - Immediate and necessary
  - Refrain from targeting civilians
  - Require only enough force to reinstate the status quo ante



<sup>1</sup>“Human Rights Council Special Session on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, July 6, 2006: Human Rights Watch written statement,” Human Rights Watch, July 6, 2006

<sup>2</sup>“Israel and the doctrine of proportionality,” Council on Foreign Relations, Beehner, Lionel, July 13, 2006

## 2: The conflict began long before June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006

- a. Context/history of the conflict in Palestine
- b. Terrible acts of Israeli violence took place through the first half of this year (Gaza beach incident, etc.)
- c. 8000 Israeli artillery shells were fired into Gaza from late 2005 through early July, 2006
- d. About 9000 Palestinians, many never charged with crimes, languish in Israeli prisons

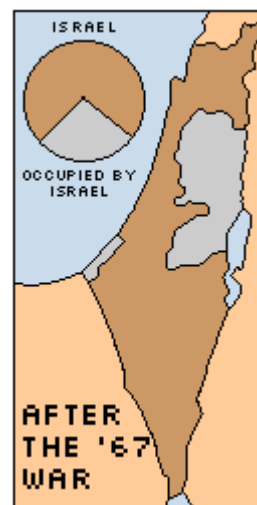
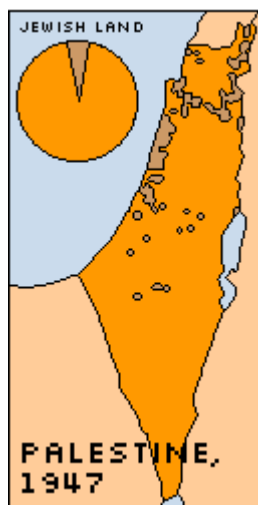


A Palestinian refugee demonstrating in Philadelphia seems to reflect in his face all the pain and frustration of the Palestinian dream of self-determination

# 2a: History/context

Over time, the Palestinians become increasingly dispossessed with each decade:

- In 1947, the UN allocated 47 percent of the land to Palestinians
- In 1948, the war left Palestinians with only 23 percent of the land
- In 1967, the Palestinians had an occupation, and no land
- In 1968, Israel annexed East Jerusalem
- Starting in 2002, imprisonment within the Wall began



# 2b: Terrible acts of Israeli violence and intimidation in 2005/2006

- Israeli shelling of Gaza beach on June 9<sup>th</sup> which killed 8 Palestinians
  - Israeli Army conducted partisan probe, and included only Israeli Army sources <sup>1</sup>
  - Israeli Army denied any responsibility, while human rights organizations have identified egregious exclusions in the investigation <sup>1</sup>
- In December 2005, in a threat of collective punishment, Israeli suggested it would cut off power to Gaza if militant attacks continued. <sup>2</sup>
- Israeli restrictions on movement and access into and within Gaza has long been a source of frustration and anger for civilians
- House demolitions also a big issue over time in Gaza – especially in Rafah



*June 9, 2006: Huda Ghalia, a Palestinian child who lost her whole family due to Israeli bombs on Gaza.*

<sup>1</sup>“Israel: Gaza Beach Investigation Ignores Evidence: IDF’s Partisan Probe No Substitute for Independent Inquiry,” Human Rights Watch, June 20, 2006

<sup>2</sup>“Israel: Gaza Power Cut Would Violate Laws of War: Militant Attacks Cannot Justify Unlawful Collective Punishment,” Human Rights Watch, December 23, 2005

## 2c: Artillery and other strikes commonplace

- Between June 28<sup>th</sup>, and August 2<sup>nd</sup>:<sup>1</sup>
  - Israeli army has fired 200-250 artillery shells on average, per day
  - Palestinian militants have fired on 8-9 homemade rockets on Israel, per day
  - Israeli Air Force conducted 220 aerial bombings



<sup>1</sup> "Statement on Gaza by UN Humanitarian Agencies working in the occupied Palestinian territory," August 3, 2006

# 2d: Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails

## Statistics on Palestinians in the custody of the Israeli security forces

Year 2006

Month	Date of statistics	Prison facility of:	Total nr. of individuals held	Serving sentence	Detainees	Detained until end of legal process	Admin. detainees
Sept.	11 Sept.	IPS	8,074	5,741	228	1,593	592
	3 Sept.	IDF	929	118	176	519	116
July	28 July	IDF	1,078	141	514	318	105
		IPS	8,085	5,701	1,739	*	645
Jan.	3 Jan.	IDF	3,111	*	*	*	741
	1 Jan.	IPS	5,127	4,019	105	950	53

IPS – Israeli Prison System

IDF – Israeli Army Detention

Source: B'Tselem, accessed September 24, 2006

# 3: Israel escalated the violence in unimaginable ways

- a. A detailed timeline of the first 18 hours shows Israel immediately escalated the violence to unprecedented levels
- b. Israel struck civilian targets within hours of the renewed cycle of violence
- c. Israel's violence consistently dwarfs that of Palestinian militants



# 3a: Events following soldier capture

- Prior to June 25<sup>th</sup>:
  - Palestinian Qassam rockets have been launched out of Gaza for months; a suicide bombing occurred in April; a Qassam rocket killed 3 in June.
  - Israel had been frequently shelling suspected militant sites in Gaza since December, 2005
- After June 25<sup>th</sup>:
  - While Israeli killing of Palestinians was not infrequent prior to June 25<sup>th</sup>, it escalated dramatically following June 25<sup>th</sup>
    - Aerial strikes became commonplace following June 25<sup>th</sup>, with 220 aerial strikes in the 2.5 months following the start of the escalation
    - Shelling accelerated, with 200-250 artillery strikes daily during the two months following June 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Israel very quickly moved to the destruction of civilian infrastructure following June 25<sup>th</sup>, as per the stated purpose of Israeli political and military leaders.

## 3b: Escalation to civilian targets (1)

- Incarceration of Hamas Federal and municipal authorities entirely unlawful:
  - “[Amnesty International is] seeking clarification about the circumstances surrounding the arrest by Israeli forces of scores of PA ministers, Hamas parliamentarians, Heads of Municipalities and other elected Palestinian officials earlier today. There is concern that some or all of these arrests may have been carried out as a purely retaliatory measure intended to exert pressure on the Palestinian armed groups who are holding the Israeli soldier hostage.”<sup>1</sup>
- Israel’s closure’s are a part of the unlawful pressure campaign against civilians, as they target civilians, and not combatants:
  - “IDF’s Planning Division argued that the crossing “should be opened on occasion only after the kidnapped soldier is released and the shooting from the Gaza Strip stops. (To use the crossing as a means of applying pressure).” The General Security Service opposed opening the crossing even for a few hours, (so long as the matter of the abducted soldier remains unchanged. Pressure on this matter must remain in place at this stage).” The representative of the Coordinator of Government Operations in the Territories also believed that the crossing should remain closed until Shalit is released.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> “Israel/OT: Growing concern for safety of civilian population,” Amnesty International, June 29, 2006

<sup>3</sup> “Stop using Rafah Crossing to pressure Gaza civilians,” B’Tselem, August 30, 2006

## 3b: Escalation to civilian targets (2)

- Israel's acts equate to "collective punishment":
  - *"The wanton destruction of civilian infrastructure and property and the disproportionate restrictions imposed on civilians by Israeli forces amount to collective punishment on the entire population of the Gaza Strip, a violation of Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits punishing protected persons for offences they have not committed."*<sup>1</sup>
- Amazingly, the greatest damage sustained in Gaza between June 28<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup> was to the agricultural sector, closely followed by power/energy and civilian infrastructure:
  - Agriculture: \$23 M (e.g. poultry farms, greenhouses, olive trees, etc.)
  - Power and Energy: \$8 M
  - Infrastructure and bridges: \$8 M

<sup>1</sup>"Assessment of Damages caused by the Israeli Defense Forces Operations in the Gaza Strip," UNDP, September, 2006

## 3c: Israeli response dwarfs the threat

- Comparative weapons strikes mentioned in 2.c. above
- Qassam rockets typically fall in open spaces. The one exception was June 11, when three Israeli civilians were killed. <sup>1</sup>
- Casualty figures also tell story, between June 26<sup>th</sup> and end of August: <sup>2</sup>
  - 226 Palestinians in Gaza dead, 54 of them minors. 114 of whom (among them 46 minors), were not alleged to be taking part in the hostilities when killed. 620 Gazans injured. <sup>3</sup>
  - One Israeli soldier dead, 25 Israeli civilians injured. <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Israel/Occupied Territories: Israel must end unlawful killings of Palestinians and stop reckless shelling," Amnesty International, June 12, 2006

<sup>2</sup> "76 Palestinians killed in August - over half did not participate in the hostilities," B'Tselem, September 5, 2006

<sup>3</sup> Injury figures apply to period from June 25<sup>th</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Both figures apply to period from June 25<sup>th</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup>. No significant Israeli casualties from Palestinian militants in Gaza during August.

# 4: Israel's aggression was offensive, not defensive

- Israel ruled out negotiations within hours of the start of the conflict
- Israel has repeatedly invaded and bombarded Gaza, a territory it claims to no longer “occupy”
- Israel itself was never threatened with any invasion
- There is every evidence that Israel was bent on broad destruction, beyond “self-defence”

*“Israel must minimize the harm to Gaza’s civilian population during any military operation to rescue the [captured Israeli soldier], and that includes not destroying vital power plants.”*

*- Human Rights Watch, June 29, 2006*



August, 2006 - A homeless Palestinian refugee family sits inside a school used as a shelter after they left their house during an Israeli raid in the Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza strip August 4, 2006.

# 5: Israeli intimidation

- Israel has acted in ways which suggest an intent to intimidate and create fear
  - *“Israeli aircraft have caused sonic booms over Gaza on a nearly nightly basis, a practice which contravenes the Fourth Geneva Convention’s prohibition on “measures of intimidation” against the civilian population.”<sup>1</sup>*
- Israel warns civilians of attacks, but provides them no avenue of safety
  - *“Yesterday’s warning by the Israeli army, conveyed by air-dropped leaflets, that residents should evacuate the North Gaza area has heightened fear among the population there, who have long been vulnerable to attacks by Israeli forces but who have nowhere else to go.”<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>U.N.: New Rights Council Must Widen Focus: Body Calls for Independent Investigation of Gaza Crisis,” Human Rights Watch, July 6, 2006

<sup>2</sup>“Israel/OT: Growing concern for safety of civilian population,” Amnesty International, June 29, 2006

# 6: Israel's military has not shown restraint

Among others, including war crimes, the following are Israeli violations of international law as cited by human rights organizations:

- a. Israel has not distinguished between civilians and combatants as required under international law
- b. Israel's force has been disproportionate
- c. Israel used military force to attack objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population



*“Among the first Israeli targets was the only electrical power station in the Gaza strip... The destruction of the power station could quickly cause a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, as electricity is essential to power the water system, sewage treatment, and medical services.”*

*- Human Rights Watch*

# 6a: Indiscriminate Israeli Violence

- *“According to a preliminary Human Rights Watch field investigation, the pattern of Israeli artillery fire into northern Gaza is indiscriminate because, given the type of weapon and location of the attacks, Israel has failed to distinguish between combatant and civilian.”*<sup>1</sup>
- Israeli leaders have made statements suggesting that they view everyone/everything in Gaza as a target<sup>2</sup>
  - Israeli PM Olmert says Israel willing to take “extreme measures” to retrieve captured soldier
  - Olmert reportedly threatened to block entry of fuel and food to Gaza if soldier not released.
  - Almost every house on the periphery of areas of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahia in northern Gaza has holes in it indicative of Israeli artillery shrapnel. Israeli General Aviv Kockavi: “The message we are trying to convey, you can call it deterrence, but it’s ‘Ladies and gentlemen, there is an equivalence: so long as you shoot qassams at us, we’ll shoot at you.’”<sup>3</sup>



Closures, and the resultant near-collapse of the economy has pushed many Palestinians over the brink – especially those that were on the margin even before Israel chosen to wage its assault on Gaza. Here, a woman begs on the streets in Gaza.

<sup>1</sup>“Human Rights Council Special Session on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, July 6, 2006: Human Rights Watch written statement,” Human Rights Watch, July 6, 2006

<sup>2</sup>“Gaza: Israeli Offensive Must Limit Harm to Civilians: War Crime for Palestinians to Hold Soldier Hostage,” Human Rights Watch, June 29, 2006

<sup>3</sup>“Israel: Investigate Gaza Beach Killings: Artillery Strike Probably Killed Palestinian Family,,” Human Rights Watch, June 13, 2006

## 6b: Israeli Violence is disproportionate

- Amnesty International identifies Israel's force as disproportionate, and states that the civilians are bearing the brunt of this violence
  - *“Israeli forces are increasingly resorting to the use of disproportionate force and attacks on civilian objects which are having a serious impact on the Palestinian population in the Occupied Territories, and especially in the Gaza Strip.”*<sup>1</sup>
- See additional discussion from 1.c

*“This was clearly a disproportionate use of force,” he said during a visit that included a health clinic damaged by Israeli incursions last week and also a stop at the power station that was destroyed by an air strike on 28 June, leaving the Gaza Strip without 45 per cent of its prior electricity supply.”*

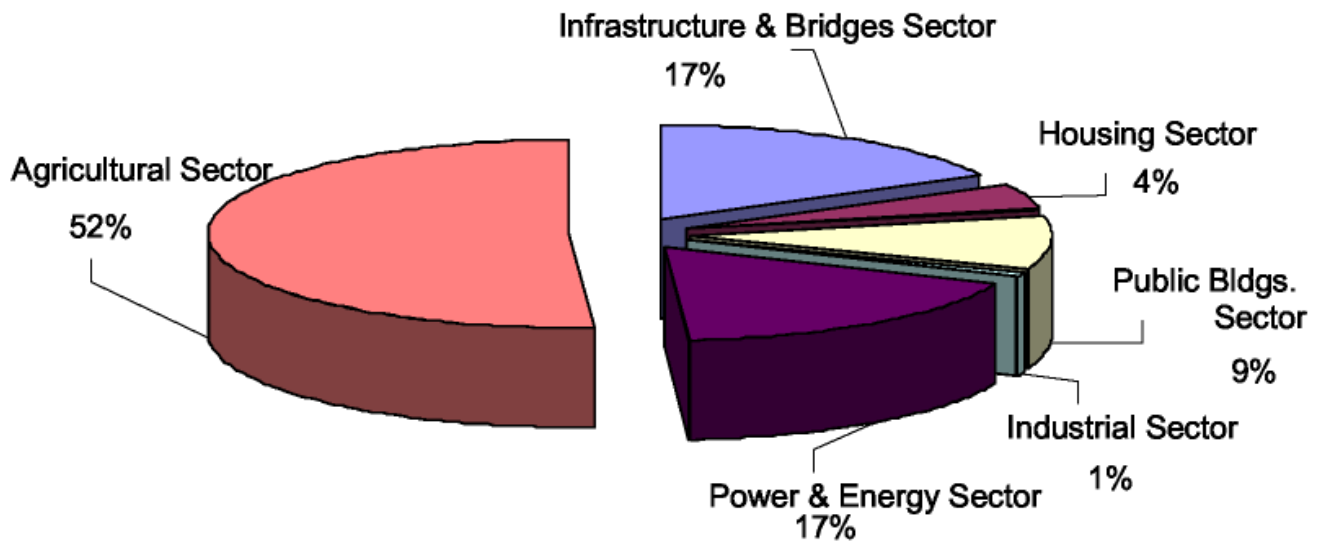


*Jan Egeland  
UN Under-Secretary-  
General for Humanitarian  
Affairs, as quoted by Human  
Rights Watch*

<sup>1</sup>“Israel/OT: Growing concern for safety of civilian population ,” Amnesty International, June 29, 2006

# 6c: Israeli attacked civilian targets (1)

Part No.	Sector	Estimated Cost (\$)
1	Infrastructure & Bridges Sector	\$7,912,078
2	Housing Sector	\$2,049,521
3	Public Buildings Sector	\$4,223,020
4	Industrial Sector	\$348,792
5	Power & Energy Sector	\$7,918,441
6	Agriculture Sector	\$23,546,023
<b>TOTAL COST (\$)</b>		<b>\$45,997,873</b>



Source: UNDP: Assessment of Damages caused by the Israeli Defense Forces Operations in the Gaza Strip, September, 2006

## 6c: Israeli attacked civilian targets (2)

- Closures of various Gaza crossing points have imposed an escalated humanitarian cost. <sup>1</sup>
  - Prevention of reasonable movement of civilians prevented as Gazans trapped either in Egypt or in Gaza
  - Prevention of food, medicine and other supplies to the civilian population is outlawed under international law



August, 2006 – The Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt, normally a bustling border point filled with hundreds of travellers, has been idle after three months of virtual complete closure.

<sup>1</sup> "Israel/Occupied Territories: Civilian population at risk in Gaza," Amnesty International, July 14, 2006

## 6d: Other Israeli violations of IHL

- According to B'Tselem (Israeli human rights org), Israeli soldiers have used human shields in their “Summer Rains” campaign <sup>1</sup>
- Hostage taking (e.g. members of the PA legislature) is a war crime



<sup>1</sup>“Israeli Soldiers use civilians as Human Shields in Beit Hanun,” B’Tselem, July 20, 2006