

Israeli army deliberately kills minors in Gaza and West Bank

Letter from Jerusalem by Helga Baumgarten

The martyrdom of children

Every day since the war resumed on March 18, 100 children have been injured or killed in the Gaza Strip.

This information was announced on social media last Saturday by the Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA) Philipp Lazzarini. Some 15,000 children have been murdered since October 2023. "Gaza has become a 'bottomless pit' for children," he says. - Lazzarini concludes. "Nothing justifies killing children, anywhere."

Palestine's Central Bureau of Statistics reports that 876 children under the age of one, or infants, have already been murdered. At least 52 children have died of starvation and malnutrition. 39,000 children have been orphaned, 17,000 of whom were orphans.

U.S. doctors working in hospitals are reporting on the targeted killings of children. First reported in the New York Times (NYT) on October 9, 2024, documentary film director and Al-Jazeera correspondent Josh Rushing spoke with 20 doctors out of 65 listed in the NYT. His film, "Children Under Fire," titled "Investigating the Shooting of Children by Israeli Soldiers," summarizes the doctors' experiences. The result is a film that is difficult to watch.

The doctors agree that several children were brought to the hospitals where they worked on a daily basis with gunshot wounds to the head and heart. This The end is inevitable: children were and are being killed deliberately, that is, murdered in cold blood. Most were children under the age of ten. The images in the film document the cruel truth. This is how Mimi Syed, a doctor from the US, recalls August 24, when scores of wounded were brought to her hospital.

In front of her on the treatment table lay a four-year-old girl Mira with a gunshot wound to the head.

A CT scan showed that there was a bullet in Mira's brain. Although no action is usually taken in the case of such serious injuries, as the chances of survival are zero, Syed decided otherwise: she performed surgery on Mira and completed it successfully. The girl survived.

Mira's father, Mohammed Al-Darini, recounted exactly what happened that day: The family was celebrating the birthday of Mira's older sister when Israeli "killer drones" opened fire. Experts confirm,

that the person controlling such a drone can clearly see who he is shooting at: in this case, a four-year-old child. US doctors, based on their experience, agree that Israeli soldiers mainly target children and that this is a "clear pattern."

According to Miranda Cleland of Defense for Children International, we will never know exactly how many children were killed in Gaza, and we will never know their names. When Rushing asked her how it was possible that Israeli soldiers commit such crimes, she gave , a shocking answer: "Children have been deliberately killed for years. And no one reacts to this and does nothing about it. Their conclusion: "Israeli soldiers shoot Palestinian children because they want to.

And I think they do it because they were allowed to do it and no one ever stopped them. Israel has been committing serious war crimes for years.

The film also shows how, in January 2025, some doctors decided to inform members of Congress in Washington about their experiments and infanticide.

However, even to the worst photos there is no reaction from politicians. Instead, there are doubts as to whether they are authentic: this includes photos taken by American doctors themselves. In the end, faced with the specific experiences of the doctors, public representatives shrug their shoulders and remain silent. In December, Syed returns to Gaza and visits Mira. The girl is able to speak again, begins to stand on her own and take her first steps.

Then comes another blow: during another attack by the army on the place where the family is located where the family is - like everyone in Gaza - always on the run. Mira is just receiving physiotherapy, her mother is hit and seriously injured, her leg has to be amputated.

But she doesn't give up and continues to care for her children, especially her four-year-old. Mira needs to leave Gaza as soon as possible to receive treatment at a specialized hospital, which is essential for her survival.

Syed ends the film with the words: "Gaza is a graveyard of human rights."

Josh Rushing documented various cases in which children were deliberately shot and murdered to the Israeli army press office.

This is the 34th "Letter from Jerusalem" by Helga Baumgarten, professor emeritus of politics at the University of Jerusalem.

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