

Mohammad Basyouni



<http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/two-palestinian-teens-among-casualties-israeli-drones-target-gaza>

Mohammad Basyouni, 15, sustained critical injuries and Rania Odeh, 13, was hospitalised following an attack on the village of Beit Hanoun on March 3.

Basyouni was hit by shrapnel in the neck, thigh and abdomen as he was walking home from his uncle's shop.

In a sworn testimony given to DCI-Palestine, Basyouni said there was a sudden flash and moments later he was knocked to the ground.

"I was feeling pain in the right side of my neck and my right thigh," he said.

"The pain in my abdomen grew bigger and I started vomiting. I was not fully aware of what was going on."

Neighbours took Basyouni to hospital where he underwent surgery to remove the shrapnel fragments. Surgeons removed a large part of his liver and he received multiple stitches in his internal organs.

According to the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#), the March 3 attack brings the number of children wounded in Israeli air strikes in 2014 to seven.

“Israel is pursuing a campaign of collective punishment in Gaza that results in regular injuries and fatalities amongst Palestinian children,” said Rifat Kassis, Executive Director of DCI-Palestine. “These air strikes are indiscriminate and disproportionate. Israel is in violation of international law and must be held to account.”

In 2009, a UN Human Rights Council fact-finding mission [found evidence of war crimes](#) and possible crimes against humanity committed by both the Israeli military and Palestinian armed groups during Operation Cast Lead, a 22-day Israeli military offensive in Gaza in 2008, which claimed the lives of at least 1,400 Palestinians, including [more than 350 children](#).

Israel’s last major military offensive in Gaza, Operation Pillar of Defense, in November 2012 claimed the lives of [over 30 children](#). Since then Israel has employed air strikes sporadically.

The Israeli military spokesperson’s office [told wire service](#) Agence France-Press that the target was a Palestinian “rocket-launching squad.”

The first months of 2014 have seen what Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas described as “[an escalation](#)” of Israeli military activities, which according to the Israeli army are a response to an increase in rockets fired from the Gaza strip.

Speaking to DCI-Palestine from home, where he is convalescing, Mohammad said: “I cannot forget the flash I saw and the force that knocked me down. I am still scared. I remember those moments a lot.”