

Israeli Snipers Routinely, Deliberately Shoot Palestinian Kids in the Head

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[Caitlin's Newsletter](#)

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There's yet another doctors' testimony about Israeli forces constantly shooting Palestinian children in the head, this one published in The New York Times.

The report, titled "[65 Doctors, Nurses and Paramedics: What We Saw in Gaza](#)," begins as follows:

"I worked as a trauma surgeon in Gaza from March 25 to April 8. I've volunteered in Ukraine and Haiti, and I grew up in Flint, Mich. I've seen violence and worked in conflict zones. But of the many things that stood out about working in a hospital in Gaza, one got to me: Nearly every day I was there, I saw a new young child who had been shot in the head or the chest, virtually all of whom went on to die. Thirteen in total.

"At the time, I assumed this had to be the work of a particularly sadistic soldier located nearby. But after returning home, I met an emergency medicine physician who had worked in a different hospital in Gaza two months before me. 'I couldn't believe the number of kids I saw shot in the head,' I told him. To my surprise, he responded: 'Yeah, me, too. Every single day.'"

Numerous named medical staff who worked in Gaza then testify in the report about routine encounters with children who'd been shot in the head and chest by Israeli forces, as well as children and infants suffering from severe malnutrition and easily preventable infections.

"I met an emergency medicine physician who had worked in a different hospital in Gaza two months before me. 'I couldn't believe the number of kids I saw shot in the head,' I told him. To my surprise, he responded: 'Yeah, me, too. Every single day'." <https://t.co/olibMpmCG7> pic.twitter.com/PFXk8Mkciv

— Dr. Genevieve Guenther (@DoctorVive) [October 9, 2024](#)

Such reports have been coming out all year. Because Israel [has not been allowing](#) foreign press into Gaza, medical staff have in many ways become the de facto western journalists on the ground in the enclave—and they are all saying the same thing.

Back in July a group of 45 doctors and nurses who'd been working in Gaza [signed an open letter](#) to President Biden testifying that "every single signatory to this letter treated children in Gaza who suffered violence that *must* have been deliberately directed at them."

"Specifically, every one of us on a daily basis treated pre-teen children who were shot in

the head and chest,” the letter continues.

Also in July, Politico published an article by two American surgeons named Mark Perlmutter and Feroze Sidhwa titled “[‘Nothing Prepared Us for What We Saw’: Two Weeks Inside a Gaza Hospital](#),” which contains the following passage:

“We started seeing a series of children, preteens mostly, who’d been shot in the head. They’d go on to slowly die, only to be replaced by new victims who’d also been shot in the head, and who would also go on to slowly die. Their families told us one of two stories: the children were playing inside when they were shot by Israeli forces, or they were playing in the street when they were shot by Israeli forces.”

45 American surgeons, physicians, and nurses who volunteered in Gaza said in a letter to Biden that “every one of us on a daily basis treated pre-teen children who were shot in the head.” pic.twitter.com/GgnltT5l2j

— Dave DeCamp (@DecampDave) [July 26, 2024](#)

In April an article titled “[‘Not a normal war’: doctors say children have been targeted by Israeli snipers in Gaza](#)” was published in The Guardian, citing nine doctors who’d worked in Gaza after October 7 who “reported treating a steady stream of children, elderly people and others who were clearly not combatants with single bullet wounds to the head or chest.”

Forensic pathologists were able to identify bullets used by the Israeli military in these attacks on children:

“The Guardian shared descriptions and images of gunshot wounds suffered by eight children with military experts and forensic pathologists. They said it was difficult to conclusively determine the circumstances of the shootings based on the descriptions and photos alone, although in some of the cases they were able to identify ammunition used by the Israeli military.”

In February the Los Angeles Times published an article titled “[‘I’m an American doctor who went to Gaza. What I saw wasn’t war—it was annihilation](#)”. The author, a reconstructive surgeon named Irfan Galaria, writes as follows:

“On one occasion, a handful of children, all about ages 5 to 8, were carried to the emergency room by their parents. All had single sniper shots to the head. These families were returning to their homes in Khan Yunis, about 2.5 miles away from the hospital, after Israeli tanks had withdrawn. But the snipers apparently stayed behind. None of these children survived.”

According to a US doctor in Gaza, Israeli snipers are executing Palestinian children with single shots to their heads.

Biden's response is to ACTIVELY PREVENT other countries from seeking to stop Israel's massacre. [#ceasefire](#) <https://t.co/FCDtmxibjX>
pic.twitter.com/Ot3G6UnQFj

— Trita Parsi (@tparsi) [February 17, 2024](#)

So this is happening. The evidence is undeniable, and the sourcing is as solid as it gets. There are mountains upon mountains of rock solid proof that Israeli forces routinely, deliberately shoot Palestinian children in the head in Gaza.

The only reason this isn't being treated as an established fact by the western political-media class is because the Israeli military denies it, [telling The Guardian](#) in response to the aforementioned report that "The IDF only targets terrorists and military targets. In stark contrast to Hamas's deliberate attacks on Israeli civilians, including men, women and children, the IDF follows international law and takes feasible precautions to mitigate civilian harm."

"Doctors say otherwise," The Guardian wrote.

Indeed, there is no longer any fact-based reason to deny that Israel is deliberately targeting children with sniper fire. The facts are in and the case is closed. The only basis anyone can have for denying this established fact is their own personal loyalty to the state of Israel and its military, and/or their own personal disdain for Palestinian lives.

This fact punches holes in so many of the narratives used to defend Israel over the past year. That Israel is conducting itself in a more ethical way than Hamas. That Israel is waging a war against Hamas and not the Palestinian people. That the IDF are "the most moral army in the world" and are taking extraordinary measures to avoid civilian casualties. That civilians are being killed in Gaza because Hamas uses them as "human shields". That this is a war fought for Israel's self-defense, and not a campaign of extermination driven by racism and hate.

There is simply no way to believe any of these things are true when you acknowledge the extensively-documented fact that Israeli forces are routinely shooting children in the head throughout the Gaza Strip.

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