

مجموعة الرقابة الفلسطينية



PALESTINIAN MONITORING GROUP

SPECIAL REPORT
Israel's Ongoing Attack on the Gaza Strip

Since 27 June 2006, Israel has waged a massive military offensive against the Gaza Strip, causing high numbers of civilian casualties and widespread destruction of public and private property.¹ From 08:00 27 June – 08:00 08 August, Israel's attack on the Gaza Strip resulted in the **deaths of 170 Palestinians**, including 138 civilians (some 25 per cent of whom were children), 14 security officers, and 15 armed Palestinians. An additional 506 Palestinians were injured.

During this period, the **Israeli military carried out 768 attacks** on the Gaza Strip, including 190 air attacks by Israeli F16s, UAVs and helicopters. The Israeli military **fired over 3,500 artillery and other shells** into the Gaza Strip and Israeli military aircraft, including F16s, **carried out 380 air patrols**.

Israel's attack on the Gaza Strip has been grossly disproportionate and constitutes collective punishment of the 1.4 million Palestinian civilians residing there. This Special Report updates the previously issued PMG Special Report: *Collective Punishment: Israel's Attack on the Gaza Strip*, issued on 09 July 2006. It focuses on the period between 08:00 08 July and 08:00 08 August 2006.

1. Killings and Injuries

Israeli military operations from 08:00 08 July until 08:00 08 August resulted in the **killing of 131 Palestinians, including 108 civilians** (of whom 26 were children), 8 security officers, and 12 armed Palestinians.² During the same period, Israeli military activity resulted in the **injury of 395 civilians**, including women and children.

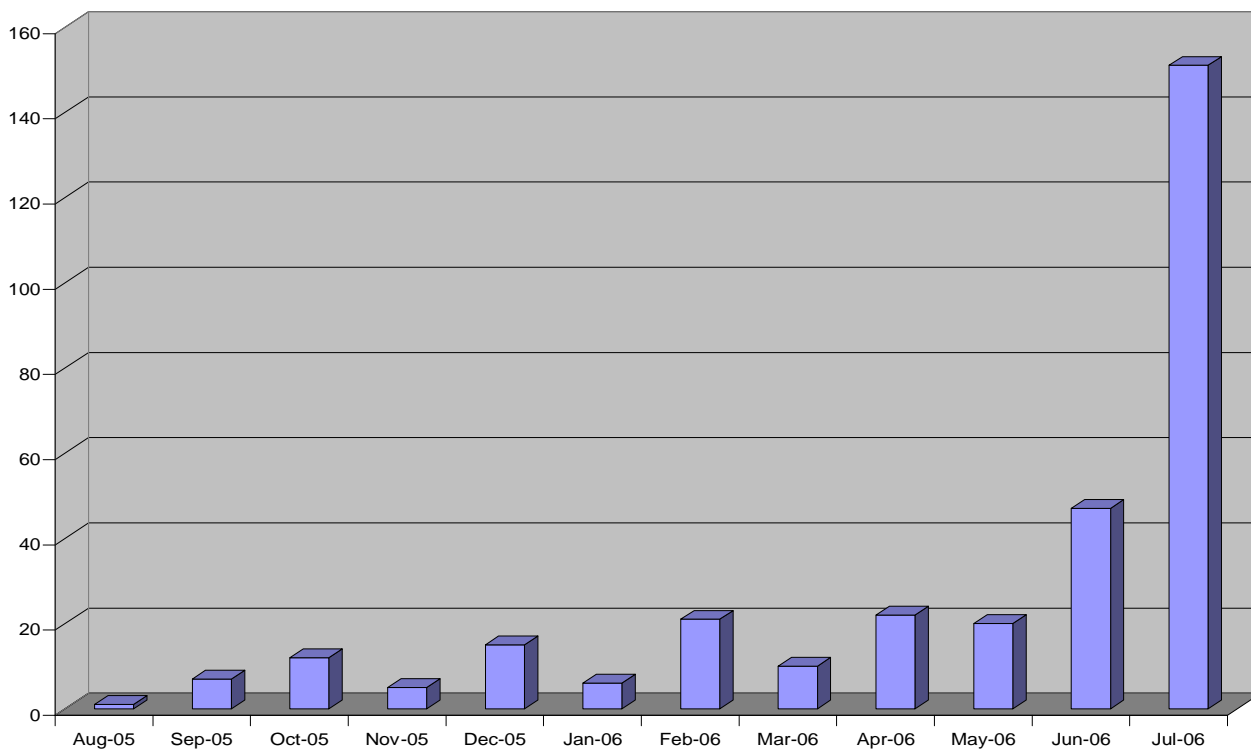
This brings the total number of Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip since 08:00 27 June to 170. This is roughly equivalent to the total number of Palestinians killed in the 11 month period between 01 August 2005 and 08:00 27 June 2006 (*see Annex I*).

Of the total number of Palestinians killed since 08:00 27 June, 151 (88.8 per cent) were killed during the month of July 2006. This is the **single largest monthly death toll in the Gaza Strip since October 2004**, when 166 Palestinians were killed, of whom 6 were assassinated.

¹ This Special Report is based on Daily Situation Reports and Monthly Summary Reports of the Palestinian Monitoring Group (PMG), along with information from the Palestinian Coastal Municipalities Water Utility and PMG field work. PMG Daily Situation Reports are a survey of daily events collated from information provided by Palestinian Authority civilian ministries and security agencies. The reporting period for Daily Situation Reports is 08:00 to 08:00. The information reported through the PMG process only represents data available at the time of distribution. For PMG reports, please visit <http://www.nad-plo.org>.

² Three (3) additional Palestinians were killed during this reporting period, but their status is unclear.

TABLE 1: Palestinian Deaths in the Gaza Strip resulting from Israeli Military Operations, 1 August 2005 – 31 July 2006



Sample of Israeli Military Operations Resulting in the Killing of Palestinian Civilians³

- At 20:00 on 08 July, the Israeli army fired 1 artillery shell from its locations in Israel towards 1 civilian house east of the neighbourhood of Ash Shuja’iya east of Gaza city, **killing 3 civilians from the same family** (a mother as well as her son and daughter): Rawan Fareed Hajjaj, a **6-year-old** female child, Amneh Yousef Hajjaj, a female civilian, and Mohammed Fareed Hajjaj. The attack also resulted in the **injury of 5 other family members** (brothers), including 3 children (**aged 12, 13, and 15 years**).
- At 03:00 on 12 July, an Israeli F16 combat aircraft fired 1 missile towards a civilian house in Ash Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood in Gaza city, **killing Dr. Nabeel Abu Salmiyyeh, his wife, and his 4 children**, injuring 17 civilians, and completely destroying the house.
- At 13:25 on 24 July, the Israeli army fired a number of artillery shells from its locations in Israel towards Palestinian territory near An Nada residential towers in the town of Beit Lahiya, **killing 3 civilians**, including 1 child, and injuring 15 others, including a number of children. Of those injured, 2 civilians were in critical condition. Those killed were: Saleh Ibrahim Nasser, **15 years old**; Sa’di Ahmed Abu Na’im; and Sadeq Abdul Ra’ouf Nasser.
- At 15:50 on 24 July, the Israeli army fired 1 artillery shell from one of its locations in Israel towards Palestinian territory near the American School. The artillery shell hit a cart carrying farmers who were travelling to their land, **killing 1 child and 1 female civilian**: Nadi Habeeb al ‘Attar, **12 years old**, and Kheiriyyeh al ‘Attar. The attack also resulted in the **injury of 3 children**, including 2 who were in critical condition.
- At 19:50 on 26 July, the Israeli army fired 1 artillery shell from a location in Israel towards 1 house in the area of Al Qarem east of the town of Jabalya, **killing 4 civilians from the same family**: Asma’ Ali ‘Okal and her

³ For additional examples, see Annex I.

daughters, Shahd ‘Okal, **a 6-month infant**; Mariya ‘Okal, **3 years old**; and Sumayyah ‘Okal, **7 years old**. The attack also resulted in the injury of other civilians as well as caused damage to the house.

- At 07:00 on 27 July, the Israeli army fired a number of artillery shells from its locations in Israel towards the area of Tallet al Kashef south of the town of Beit Hanun, killing Kamilah al Najjar, **a 75-year-old female civilian**.
- At 00:05 on 28 July, an Israeli UAV fired 1 missile towards the area surrounding a social club in the town of Jabalya, **killing 12-year-old Anas Khaled Zamlat**.
- At 23:55 on 05 August, an Israeli UAV fired 1 missile towards a gathering of civilians on George Street in the city of Rafah, **killing 12-year-old Ibrahim Salman ar Rmeilat** and injuring 3 civilians.

2. Ordered Evacuations

*Beginning in late July, the Israeli military began notifying Palestinian civilians of the military’s intention to attack their homes and ordering their evacuation. There have been **at least 40 such reported incidents**. Notification to individuals has been made in a variety of ways, including directly by telephone and through the District Coordination Office. During air patrols over the Gaza Strip, the Israeli military has also dropped flyers warning that the military will shell civilian houses, allegedly because some contain weapons’ caches or because mortars are fired from the vicinity of civilian houses towards Israel.*

These types of ordered evacuations, irrespective of the purported presence of military objectives in the vicinity, are illegal, as they are neither sufficient, nor effective precautions against the effects of attacks on civilians, particularly given the overall nature and extent of Israel’s indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks in the Gaza Strip.⁴

Selected Incidents

- At 14:00 on 25 July, Israeli combat helicopters patrolled the skies over the district of Northern Gaza and dropped flyers warning that the Israeli army would shell civilian houses.
- At 20:55 on 25 July, the Israeli army demanded that civilian residents evacuate Buildings # 10 – 15 in the complex of An Nada residential towers in the town of Beit Lahiya in order to shell these towers. As a result, civilian residents were forced to move to schools administered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Jabalya refugee camp.
- At 00:30 on 28 July, an Israeli F16 combat aircraft fired 1 missile towards 1 house in Al Qarya al Badawiya, after the Israeli army had demanded from its residents to evacuate. The air attack resulted in the critical injury of Ahmed Abu Ghararah and the destruction of the house. At 19:45, Abu Ghararah died of injuries sustained.
- At 01:25 on 30 July, an Israeli F16 combat aircraft fired 1 missile towards 1 house belonging to ‘Ata ash Shinbari on Al Banat Street in the town of Beit Hanun, injuring 2 civilians and damaging the house. The Israeli army had demanded from residents (by telephone) to evacuate 15 minutes prior to the air attack.
- At 01:45 on 04 August, an Israeli combat aircraft fired 1 missile towards 1 house belonging to Mohammed Abu Qneiss on Al Jala’ Street in Gaza city, after the Israeli army had notified him (by telephone) to evacuate. The Israeli air attack resulted in the injury of 2 civilians, including 1 child, and damage to the house.
- Between 19:40 and 23:45 on 06 August, the Israeli authorities demanded by telephone (through a recorded announcement) the evacuation of 10 houses in various locations, including Gaza city, Jabalya refugee camp, the city of Deir al Balah and An Nuseirat refugee camp, in order to shell them.
- At 23:20 on 06 August, the Israeli authorities demanded by telephone the evacuation of Al Karama Military Hospital within a maximum period of 1 hour. However, the Director of the hospital refused to evacuate.

⁴ Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, *Art. 57(2)*, established by state practice as a norm of customary international law.

Israel's Attack on Al Maghazi Refugee Camp

At 02:00 on 19 July, Israeli Special Forces, supported by a number of Israeli army armoured vehicles, raided Palestinian territory east of Al Maghazi refugee camp, whilst combat helicopters and UAVs fired missiles towards the area. Armoured vehicles and helicopters opened intensive fire towards the refugee camp and its surroundings, killing 2 civilians and 2 members of the Palestinian National Security forces. In addition, 18 others were injured, including 4 children. Israeli forces remained positioned in the camp until 03:00 on 21 July. **Twelve (12) Palestinians were killed during the course of the 2-day incursion, including 3 children.**

* *Between 08:00 19 July and 08:00 20 July*, the Israeli army opened intensive fire and fired tank shells towards the camp and its surroundings, killing Ali Kamel an Najjar, 16 years old; Hanan Faissal al 'Urouqi, a female civilian; Wisam Shalabi, a Palestinian National Security officer; and Ahmed 'Awadh an Na'ami. The attacks also resulted in the critical injury of Fadwa al 'Urouqi, a 10-year-old female child, who died at 19:35 on 19 July of injuries sustained. In addition, the Israeli army destroyed electricity and telephone posts and levelled agricultural land east of the refugee camp.

* *At 19:15 on 19 July*, the Israeli army fired 2 tank shells from its locations on Palestinian territory towards a gathering of civilians east of Al Maghazi refugee camp, killing 1 civilian, 'Atiyyeh Rawhi Abu 'Abdu, and injuring 31 others, including 12 children. Of these, 3 civilians, including 1 child, sustained critical injuries: Mohammed Ahmed Hour, 17 years old; Jamal Fawzi Abu Habel; and Yousef Sa'eed al Maghari. Al Maghari subsequently died of injuries sustained.⁵

* *Between 08:00 20 July and 03:00 21 July 2006*, the Israeli army opened intensive fire and fired tank shells towards Al Maghazi refugee camp and its surroundings, setting fire to 1 commercial shop and 1 house. In addition, the Israeli army arrested 8 civilians and 1 Palestinian National Security officer (4 of the civilians and the security officer are all brothers). The Israeli army also occupied 2 houses, converted them into military posts, demolished 1 house belonging to 'Aysheh Abu Is'ayyed, a female civilian, and destroyed greenhouses east of the refugee camp. At 12:00 on 20 July, the Israeli army fired 2 tank shells from its locations on Palestinian territory towards a gathering of civilians in Al Maghazi refugee camp, killing 2 civilians, Mohammed 'Awadh Mahrah, 17 years old and Yasser Abu Libdeh, and injuring 9 others. At 19:55 on 20 July, an Israeli UAV fired 1 missile towards a gathering of civilians in Al Maghazi refugee camp, killing 1 civilian, Isam'il Nathmi Rayyan, and injuring 4 others, including 1 medic.

* *On 21 July*, Mousa Qandeel and Mustafa Qattoush died of injuries sustained during the Israeli army's incursion into the refugee camp. Also, on 25 July, Khader al Maghari, an ambulance driver, died of injuries sustained.

3. Destroying Palestinian Public and Private Property

Israel's attack on the Gaza Strip has resulted in widespread destruction of Palestinian public and private property. In many cases, the destruction has been **clearly deliberate**, with Palestinian infrastructure, institutions and other facilities targeted with attack. While Israeli military assaults against civilian property in the Gaza Strip have intensified during the recent attack, of note is the increased level of *public* Palestinian property that has been targeted for destruction by the Israeli military.

Destruction of Palestinian property has occurred primarily during open-fire attacks by the Israeli military or as a result of the firing of missiles and artillery shells into the Gaza Strip. Additionally, widespread damage has resulted from ground incursions into specific Palestinian areas.

⁵ Reported in the 01 August PMG Daily Situation Report.

Private Palestinian property that has been targeted with attack during Israel's offensive on the Gaza Strip includes: civilian vehicles, houses, barracks, cultivated land, and greenhouses, among other forms of property. Public property recently destroyed by the Israeli military includes *inter alia* governmental vehicles, Palestinian National Security locations, the buildings housing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of National Economy, the bridges of Beit Hanun and Wadi Gaza, roads, as well as telephone, water, and electricity networks. (See *Annex II* for more details).

4. Water and Wastewater

According to the Palestinian Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU), the water crisis in the Gaza Strip continues and ongoing Israeli military operations have resulted in further damage to water and wastewater infrastructure.

For example, the Israeli military's incursion into Wadi al Salqa on 14 July resulted in the destruction of some 850 metres of the water network and damage to 35 house connections. The Israeli military's incursion into Beit Hanun between 15 – 19 July resulted in damage to over 180 rooftop water tanks and Israel's incursion into the Al Maghazi area on 19 July 2006 resulted in a severe water shortage for 3 days as the Israeli army targeted the main transformer and all the wells which provide water to the area were inaccessible to Palestinians as they are located behind Israeli tanks positioned in the area. Most recently, the incursion into Ash Shoka and parts of the Rafah area on 01 August resulted in a severe shortage of water for five days as Israeli tanks damaged significant sections of the water network. CMWU estimates that repairing the damage in Ash Shoka will cost US\$ 34,890.

Water supply and management of water, wastewater and sewage systems continue to be heavily affected by Israel's deliberate 28 June destruction of the substation of the Gaza power plant. CMWU is particularly concerned about the situation at the Northern Governorates Wastewater Treatment Plant, where there is the increasing possibility of flooding as there is no longer a steady supply of power to the pumps discharging wastewater from the lagoons. As a result, the situation in the lagoons has reached a critical level, with some 3 million cubic metres of wastewater threatening to destroy the shoulders of the lagoon if Israeli shelling takes place in the vicinity or to eventually overflow due to insufficient pumping. Flooding will directly affect thousands of Palestinians residing in the area and threatens to further pollute the sandy, shallow aquifer that Gazans rely upon, along with the seashore.

CMWU estimates that emergency and urgent needs for water and wastewater generators and consumables in the Gaza Strip total some US\$ 628,000, while emergency fuel supplies now needed to power water and wastewater facilities (because of increased reliance on electricity generators) will cost an average of US\$ 860,000/month.

ANNEX I

1. Palestinian Deaths in the Gaza Strip resulting from Israeli Military Operations, 01 August 2005 – 08:00 27 June 2006

MONTH	KILLINGS	ASSASSINATIONS	TOTAL
August 2005	1	0	1
September 2005	3	4	7
October 2005	9	3	12
November 2005	3	2	5
December 2005	10	5	15
January 2006	4	2	6
February 2006	12	9	21
March 2006	7	3	10
April 2006	15	7	22
May 2006	19	1	20
June 2006*	38	8	46
TOTAL	121	44	165

* 08:00 01 June – 08:00 27 June 2006

2. Israeli Military Operations Resulting in the Killing of Palestinian Civilians

- At 14:50 on 12 July, the Israeli army opened fire from one of its locations on Palestinian territory on Salah ad Din main road near Abu Holi junction towards a gathering of civilians near *Al Quds* Open University in the vicinity of Al Matahin junction, killing 4 civilians and injuring another.
- At 19:25 on 12 July, an Israeli UAV fired 1 missile towards a gathering of civilians near Al Matahin junction at the entrance to the city of Deir al Balah, killing 5 civilians, and injuring 6 others, including 3 children.
- At 10:10 on 15 July, an Israeli UAV fired 1 missile towards 1 civilian house on An Nafaq Street in Gaza city, killing 1 civilian, Omar Mahmoud Younes, and injuring 6 others, including 4 children. Of these, 2 infants sustained injuries: 'Izz Harb al Jadabeh, 6-months-old and Talal Raed Murad, 9-months-old. The air attack also resulted in the destruction of the targeted civilian house.
- At 08:30 on 16 July, the Israeli army fired a number of artillery shells from its locations in Israel towards the area of Ad Dihniya east of the city of Rafah. Artillery shells hit 1 civilian house, killing 65-year-old Fatima Jadallah and damaging the house.
- At 06:05 on 21 July, the Israeli army fired 1 artillery shell from one of its locations in Israel towards 1 civilian house in the area of Al Muntar east of Gaza city, killing 4 civilians (from the same family) and injuring 2 others. The Israeli army's attack also caused damage to the house.
- Between 22:00 25 July and 24:00 26 July, the Israeli army opened fire and fired tank shells towards the areas of Ash Shuja'iyah and Ash Shaghaf east of Gaza city, killing 11 civilians and injuring 31 others.
- At 22:00 on 25 July, the Israeli army, including 1 tank and 2 bulldozers, raided 400 metres into Palestinian territory east of the area of Al Qarara, opened intensive fire, and fired 1 tank shell towards 1 house, killing 14-year-old Basheer Abdullah Abu Thaher, and injuring 2 civilians, including Nismah Abdullah Abu Thaher, a 3-year-old female child. The attack also resulted in the destruction of the house.
- At 00:50 on 05 August, an Israeli UAV fired 1 missile towards a gathering of civilians in Al Juneina neighbourhood in the city of Rafah, killing 2 children, Kifah an Natour, 15 years old and 'Imad an Natour, 17 years old, and injuring 7 civilians.

ANNEX II

1. Selected Incidents of Destruction of Private and Public Property, Gaza Strip, 08 July – 07 August 2006⁶

Date, Time & Location	Details of Attack	Result
08 July 2006		
Northern Gaza	The Israeli army invaded the areas of Al 'Atatira and Al Waha, the area of the American School, the area near Ash Shurafa gas station, and the area of As Salatin north and northwest of the town of Beit Lahiya. The Israeli army opened intensive fire towards civilian houses in these areas.	Great damage to agricultural crops, greenhouses, a number of civilian houses as well as electricity, water, and telephone networks.
11 July 2006		
15:00, Gaza	The Israeli army, including a number of armoured vehicles, levelled the road leading to Al Muntar (Karnei) Crossing.	Road leading to Al Muntar (Karnei) Crossing destroyed.
13 July 2006		
01:40, Gaza	An Israeli F16 combat aircraft fired 1 missile towards the building housing the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the area of Tall al Hawa in Gaza city.	Building housing Ministry of Foreign Affairs damaged; 14 civilians were injured, including children.
14 July 2006		
03:15, Northern Gaza	An Israeli combat helicopter fired 1 missile towards the offices of members of the Palestinian Legislative Council in the area of Ash Sheikh Zayed in the town of Beit Lahiya.	Offices of PLC members damaged.
15 July 2006		
00:55, Gaza	Israeli combat helicopters fired 2 missiles towards the building housing the Palestinian Ministry of National Economy in Gaza city.	Building housing Ministry of National Economy damaged; and fire was set to the second storey in the building.
01:25, Central Gaza	An Israeli UAV fired 1 missile towards Wadi Gaza overpass north of An Nuseirat refugee camp.	Wadi Gaza overpass/bridge damaged.
16 July 2006		
04:30, Northern Gaza	Israeli army armoured vehicles positioned on Palestinian territory fired a number of shells towards civilian houses in the town of Beit Hanun.	An electricity network was damaged (hence electricity was cut off in the district of Northern Gaza); a number of civilian houses were damaged.
17 July 2006		
01:30, Gaza	An Israeli F16 combat aircraft fired 1 missile towards the building housing the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the complex of Palestinian Ministries in Tall al Hawa neighbourhood in Gaza city.	Building housing Ministry of Foreign Affairs severely damaged and 5 civilians were injured.

⁶ For details on destruction of Palestinian private and public property in the Gaza Strip prior to 09 July 2006, see the previously issued PMG Special Report, *Collective Punishment: Israel's Attack on the Gaza Strip*, issued on 09 July 2006. Available at <http://www.nad-plo.org>.

10:00, Northern Gaza	The Israeli army destroyed a wall of a cemetery, a barracks belonging to Beit Hanun Municipality, and parts of a hospital's wall in the town of Beit Hanun.	Cemetery wall, barracks, and hospital wall destroyed.
18 July 2006		
22:20, Central Gaza	The Israeli army fired a number of artillery shells from its locations inside Israel towards Palestinian territory east of Al Bureij and Al Maghazi refugee camps. An artillery shell hit an electricity transformer.	Electricity transformer damaged and electricity was cut off in Al Maghazi refugee camp.
24 July 2006		
18:20, Northern Gaza	The Israeli army fired a number of artillery shells from its locations in Israel towards 2 buildings of An Nada residential towers in the town of Beit Lahiya.	2 buildings were damaged; 1 female child was killed and 2 civilians were injured.
25 July 2006		
19:10, Gaza	The Israeli army, including 5 tanks and 2 bulldozers, raided 250 metres into Palestinian territory near Point 102 in the area of Juhor ad Dik south of Gaza city and destroyed 1 Palestinian National Security Headquarters.	A Palestinian National Security HQs destroyed.
29 July 2006		
09:00 28 July – 08:00 29 July, Northern Gaza	The Israeli army fired 380 artillery shells from its locations in Israel towards Palestinian territory: east of the towns of Beit Hanun and Jabalya; near <i>Balsam</i> Hospital; near Al Qarya al Badawiya; near An Nada residential towers; near the American School; and on Al Kashif Mount north and northwest of the town of Beit Lahiya.	1 ambulance and 5 rooms in <i>Balsam</i> Hospital damaged; and 1 civilian injured.
01 August 2006		
00:10, Gaza	An Israeli combat helicopter fired 2 missiles towards 1 blacksmith's workshop in An Nassr neighbourhood in Gaza city.	A blacksmith's workshop was damaged and 2 civilians were injured.
02 August 2006		
02:35, Gaza	Israeli navy battleships fired 2 shells towards Gaza Port.	Fire was set to 1 boat and 1 room at the port was destroyed.
03 August 2006		
--,Rafah	The Israeli army destroyed a number of greenhouses, demolished 1 house in the area of Ash Shoka, detained 12 civilians, and released them at a later time.	Greenhouses and 1 house destroyed.
07 August 2006		
02:30, Northern Gaza	An Israeli F16 combat aircraft fired 1 missile towards 1 house in Jabalya refugee camp.	A neighbouring house was damaged.