



[Israel Admits That One of Its Air Strikes Killed 5 Children in the Jabalia Refugee Camp in Gaza](#)

In stark contradiction with previous statements by senior military figures initially attempting to place blame on a Palestinian militant group, Israeli officials have admitted that Israel was responsible for an air strike in Gaza that killed 5 children. The victims, all of whom were between the ages of 4 and 16, were killed in an Israeli air raid on the Fallujah cemetery in the Jabalia refugee camp. The attack was part of the recent 3-day Israeli assault on the besieged enclave which killed at least 49 people including 17 children, and wounded 360 others. Social justice and human rights activists lament that these types of destructive Israeli air raids have become far too commonplace for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. It is also regrettable that those in refugee camps are especially vulnerable and susceptible to the Israeli bombardment campaigns. Furthermore, observers point out that it is incredibly reprehensible that Israel continues to launch air strikes on such densely-populated areas, where a vast majority of people are civilians. Perhaps most telling is the fact that many were not surprised at the admission of what was already suspected, demonstrating that there is a consistent pattern and track record of Israeli forces engaging in such heinous behavior.

Cousins Jamil Al-Din Nijm, Jamil Ihab Nijm, Mohammad Salah Nijm, and Hamed Haidar Nijm, along with their friend Nathmi Abu Karsh, were killed in the Israeli air strike while they sat next to the Nijms' grandfather's grave in a cemetery in the northern Gaza Strip. Israeli officials originally blamed the attack on the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) group, a tactic often deployed to try and absolve culpability for the inexcusable killing of children and other civilians. This has been outlined as a longstanding trend, as Israel made similar unsubstantiated claims after the murder of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. In the case of Abu Akleh, multiple independent investigations by an array of reputable outlets found that a member of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) fired the bullet that killed her. The Israeli government had also attempted to claim that the bullet came from crossfire with Palestinian militants, with this later being found to have been physically impossible.

In this instance of the Israeli air strike on the Gazan refugee camp, Israeli newspaper Haaretz revealed how certain military officials had been giving accounts which contradicted those from other officials. Fair and impartial analysts have highlighted how blaming other groups for their own egregious human rights crimes has been an Israeli foreign policy staple. They often only walk back their claims if independent groups prove their falsehoods, but at other times they even double down and accuse these entities of bias.

Israel's continued aerial assaults have been understandably denounced by social justice activists as deplorable and only serving to further fuel animosity. The number of civilian fatalities, including children, is unacceptable. Israel has an alarming history of conducting air raids like this that result in an abundance of civilian deaths. If past incidents are any indication, it is likely that there will be a lack of accountability for these actions. An absence of tangible punitive measures has allowed Israel to commit human rights violations with impunity. While rebuking language is often used, particularly among international organizations such as the United Nations, veto power prevents any concrete repercussions.