

# SIX WARS OLD

## SIXTEEN YEARS OF CHILDHOOD IN GAZA

2.3 million Palestinians live in Gaza, 47% of which are children. Most of these children have spent their entire life under Israeli blockade being subjected to various traumatic events.

### CONTINUOUS DEPRIVATION

#### WATER CRISIS

97% of fresh water is contaminated. Lack of access to clean drinking water is a leading cause of illness and child mortality in Gaza.

#### EXTREME POVERTY

61% poverty rate / 63% food insecurity; 35% of Palestinian children under 5 risk not reaching their developmental potential due to chronic trauma.

#### RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Due to a shortage of classrooms, 2/3 of schools in Gaza operate on double shifts.

#### MENTAL HEALTH

95% of children in Gaza show symptoms of anxiety, depression and trauma. In Gaza, there is no 'post' (traumatic) since the trauma is continuous, healing cannot take place. Samah Jabr, Palestinian Ministry of Health

### 0 YEARS OLD

#### BORN A REFUGEE, 2007

I was born as one of the more than 70% of Palestinians in Gaza whose families were originally displaced during the Nakba in 1948.

#### BLOCKADE

The year I was born, Israel imposed a blockade on Gaza (ongoing as of 2023) by land, air, and sea, intensifying earlier restrictions.

### 2 YEARS OLD

#### FIRST WAR, DECEMBER 2008 - JANUARY 2009

I survived 22 days of attack on Gaza. Israeli forces killed 1,385 Palestinians, including 318 children.

### 5 YEARS OLD

#### SECOND WAR, NOVEMBER 2012

I survived an 8 day attack as Israeli forces killed 168 Palestinians in Gaza, including 33 children.

### 7 YEARS OLD

#### THIRD WAR, JULY 2014

I survived 50 days of onslaught as Israeli forces killed 2,251 Palestinians in Gaza, including 556 children. Over 1,500 children were orphaned.

### 11 YEARS OLD

#### GREAT MARCH OF RETURN, MAR 2018 - DEC 2019

During 2 years, I saw my community mobilising to protest the blockade. Israeli forces killed 214 protesters, including 46 children, and injured 8,800 children with live ammunition, rubber bullets and tear gas.

### 14 YEARS OLD

#### FOURTH WAR, MAY 2021

I survived 11 days of attack as Israeli forces killed 230 Palestinians. 12 of the 67 children killed were participating in a trauma recovery program.

### 15 YEARS OLD

#### FIFTH WAR, AUGUST 2022

I survived 3 days of attack on Gaza. Israeli forces killed 33 Palestinians, including 9 children.

### 16 YEARS OLD

#### SIXTH WAR, OCTOBER 2023 - ?

In the last weeks, I have survived the most cruel massacres. Israeli forces have killed and wounded tens of thousands of people in targeted attacks on civilian facilities such as reservoirs for drinking water, housing complexes and hospitals. The Gaza Strip has become a cemetery for children with more than 8,000 minors killed (as of DEC 2023). The genocide still continues to this day. I have no idea what will become of me.

