

Refugee Trauma Across the Lifespan.

Children and Adolescent Wellbeing
and the Implications for Adult Health.

Psychiatry, Politics and
Trauma.

– some thoughts after a brief
visit to West Bank & Israel



Massacre in Korea (1951)

Musee Picasso

Visits – April 2009

East Jerusalem

- School of Public Health, Al-Quds University,

Ramallah

- Trauma Research Centre
- Institute of Community and Public Health,
Birzeit University in Ramallah
- Palestinian Children's Relief Fund

Nablus

- Human Supporter's Association

Nazareth

- The Follow-up Committee of Arab Education
- Nazareth Hospital
- Guanella Holy Family Centre

WEST BANK & GAZA

Under Israeli Occupation Since 1967

- 1949 Armistice (Green Line)
- Palestinian Authority
- Israeli control
- Wall/fence
- Roads
- ▲ Israeli Settlement



Palestinian Population
Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

3.8 million
(many are refugees)

Arab Citizens of Israel
1.4 million
(20% of Israeli population)

Jordan, Lebanon, Syria
refugees
up to 3 million

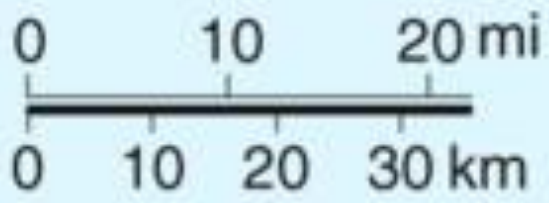
Palestinian Authority

Israeli control

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Lancet: Health in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*

Launched London, March 4 2009

- <http://www.thelancet.com/series/health-in-the-occupied-palestinian-territory>

‘structural and political conditions that [Palestinians] endure in the OPT are the key determinants of population health’

*Written by

- health scientists in OPT
- international colleagues from UN, & academic institutions in USA, UK, Norway, and France.

10 threats to human security in Palestine

1. Death

10000 since 1987

– includes >900 children;

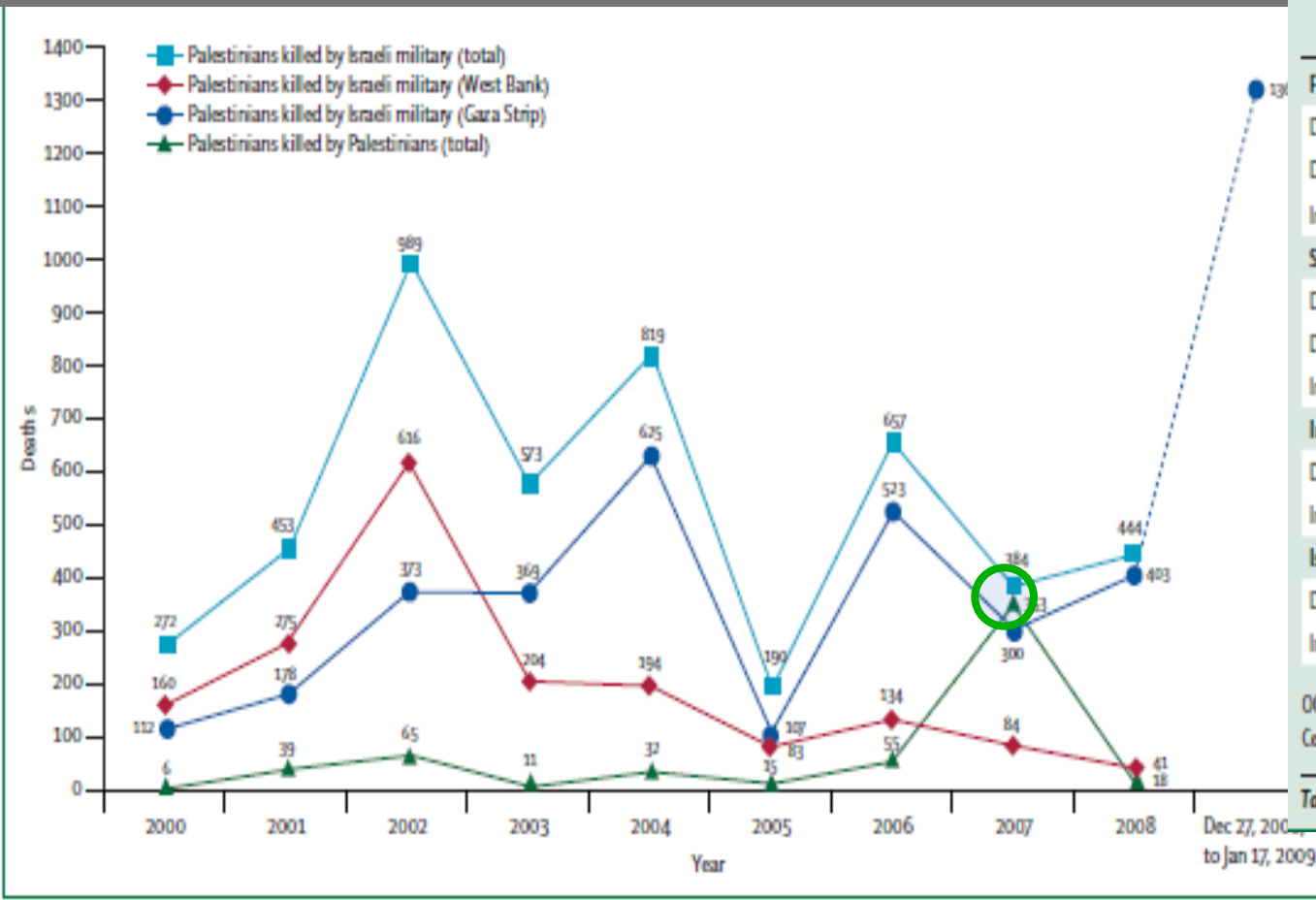
35000 injuries since 2000

Lancet 2009: Health in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

<http://www.thelancet.com/series/health-in-the-occupied-palestinian-territory>

10 threats to human security in Palestine

1. Death



	Israeli source (B'Tselem)	Palestinian source (PCBS, PRCS, OCHA)
First uprising and post-Oslo Accords (1987-2000)		
Deaths, Israeli	422 ¹⁴	-
Deaths, Palestinian	1541 ¹⁴	1381 ¹⁵ -1734 ¹⁵
Injuries, Palestinian	-	80 891 ¹⁵
Second uprising (data for 2000, to November, 2008)		
Deaths, Israeli	1062 ¹⁶	-
Deaths, Palestinian	4781 ¹⁷	4502 ¹⁷
Injuries, Palestinian	-	31 531 ¹⁷
Inter-Palestinian conflict (data for 2000-08)		
Deaths	594	-
Injuries	-	-
Israeli military attacks on Gaza Strip (Dec 27, 2008, to Jan 17, 2009)		
Deaths, Palestinian	-	1366 ¹⁸
Injuries, Palestinian	-	5380 ¹⁸

OCHA=Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. PCBS= Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. PRCS= Palestine Red Crescent Society.

Table 2: Casualty indicators

Figure 3: Palestinian deaths resulting from Israeli-Palestinian and inter-Palestinian conflicts
 Data from B'Tselem for 2000-08,¹⁴ and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs¹⁵ and WHO¹⁷ for Dec 27, 2008, to Jan 17, 2009.

Batniji et al, *Lancet*, 2009



10 threats to human security in Palestine

2. Palestinian Adolescents' exposure to trauma

Table 2: Exposure to violent events during the past year (%)

Exposure to event once or more	Boys	Girls	Total
Saw shooting	86	75	80
Saw explosions/shelling	57	43	50
Saw stranger being humiliated	72	62	67
Saw stranger being arrested	70	54	62
Saw stranger being injured	60	39	49
Saw stranger being killed	32	23	28
Saw friend/neighbor being humiliated	42	29	35
Saw friend/neighbor being arrested	44	30	37
Saw friend/neighbor being injured	30	15	22
Saw friend/neighbor being killed	14	8	11
Saw family member being humiliated	30	28	29
Saw family member being arrested	35	27	31
Saw family member being injured	19	15	17
Exposed to tear gas	72	50	60
Exposed to sound bombs	71	56	63
House searched	40	31	35
House occupied and you/family locked in	16	12	14
House occupied and you/family locked out	10	7	9
House sealed or demolished	2	2	2
House shot at	24	20	22
House bombed or shelled	8	9	8
Shelling in the neighborhood	33	29	31
Beaten by the army	30	2	15
Beaten by settlers	5	0.3	2
Used by army as human shield	10	3	6
Body searched	54	9	30
Shot at or hit	38	13	25
Detained or arrested	29	6	17
Humiliated (cursed, bullied, shoved)	34	13	23
Stripped in public	4	1	2
Interrogated	22	5	13
Tortured	9	1	5
Injured at least once by Occupation violence	34	13	23

Figure 9: Exposure to individual violent events, by sex (%)

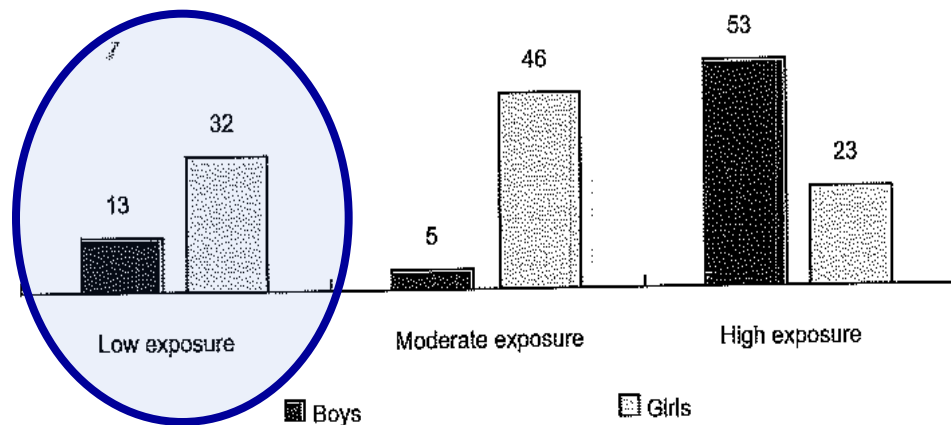
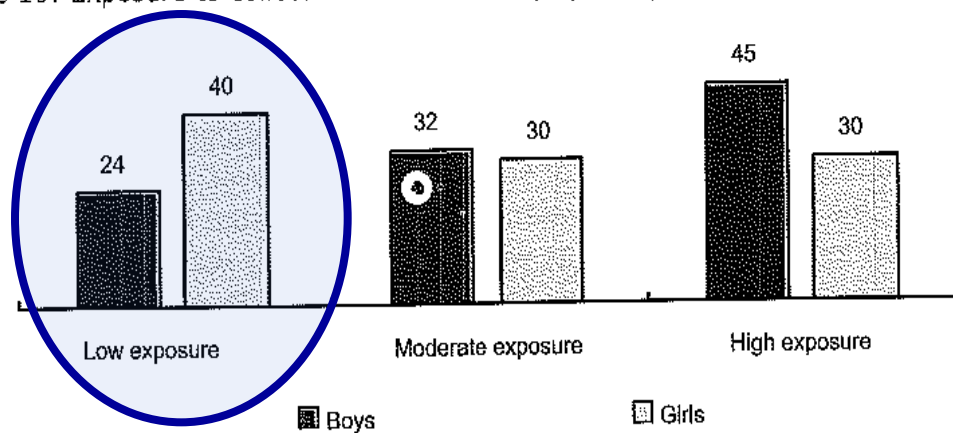


Figure 10: Exposure to collective violent events, by sex (%)



3415 Ramallah 15-17 yr olds in 2003
(Giacaman et al, 2004)

10 threats to human security in Palestine

3. House demolition

- Introduced by British in 1930s
 - 2000-5
 - 7600 homes destroyed, 65000 damaged
- 60% - Clearing operations for military needs
25% - no permit (Israel controls 71% of West Bank)
15% - punishing families and neighbours of suspected attackers of Israel.

10 threats to human security in Palestine

4. The wall



87% inside territory of
west bank

School of Public Health, Al Quds University, East Jerusalem





10 threats to human security in Palestine

5. Settlements



on

2009

10 threats to human security in Palestine

6. Checkpoints

- 600 Israeli controlled checkpoints/road barriers in WB
- Frequent harassment by settlers, often with military protection
- 18% of patients seeking emergency care delayed at checkpoints

Sick patients needing to leave Palestine for medical care targeted for collaborators.

Effectively no movement between

- Israeli Palestinians (eg, Nazareth)
- West Bank
- East Jerusalem
- Gaza



10 threats to human security in Palestine

7. Imprisonment

- 8000 imprisoned
- Indefinite detention for children
- Torture widely reported in both Israeli and Palestinian prisons

Desmond Tutu writes of Palestine:

To travel only blocks in his own homeland, a grandfather waits on the whim of a teenage soldier.

More than an emergency is needed to get to a hospital; less than a crime earns a trip to jail.

Tutu & Urbina Against Israeli Apartheid.
The Nation. 15 July 2002

10 threats to human security in Palestine

8. Resources and utilities

- Disruption to fuel, electricity, sanitation
- Palestinians prohibited from digging or deepening wells

30% Israeli water comes from WB aquifers

Settlers use 9x more water than

Palestinians, who average 320m³

(shortage = 1700m³)

10 threats to human security in Palestine

9. Economic Issues

Imports to Israel clear in 1-2 days, those to West Bank 30 days

Unemployment 35.5% in WB; poverty rates higher

External aid = 32% gross national income
cf Rwanda 27%

Aid revenues increase scope for patronage politics

10 threats to human security in Palestine

10. Human shields

Confirmed use by IDF

- Jenin refugee camp siege, 2002
- Children in invasion of Nablus, 2007

Accusations against both IDF and Hamas in Gaza, 2009

Remedies?

1. Political
2. Education
3. Therapy



Beyond therapy - Activism

“Meeting Gerald showed me that the fight to make things better for others was not only important for human rights and social justice but that it was at times the only way to fight against the ravages of mental illness on a personal level”.

Eulogy for Gerald Graves, Adelaide, 2009