

Rafah 2005

Rafah suffered terribly from the string of military invasions by the Israeli army during the current Intifada.



Map from
<http://rafahpundits.com/>

B'Tselem The Israeli Info Center for Human Rights

***www.btselem.org Excerpts from “Through No Fault of Their Own”,
November 15, 2004:***

“During the course of the al-Aqsa intifada, which began in September 2000, Israel has implemented a policy of mass demolition of Palestinian houses in the Occupied Territories. In that period, Israel has destroyed some 4,170 Palestinian homes.

Most house demolitions are carried out in the framework of what Israel calls ‘clearing operations,’ which are intended to meet what Israel defines as ‘military needs.’ These operations take place primarily in the Gaza Strip: along the Egyptian border, which passes through Rafah and its refugee camps; around settlements and army posts; alongside roads used by settlers and IDF forces; and in the northern part of the Gaza Strip.”

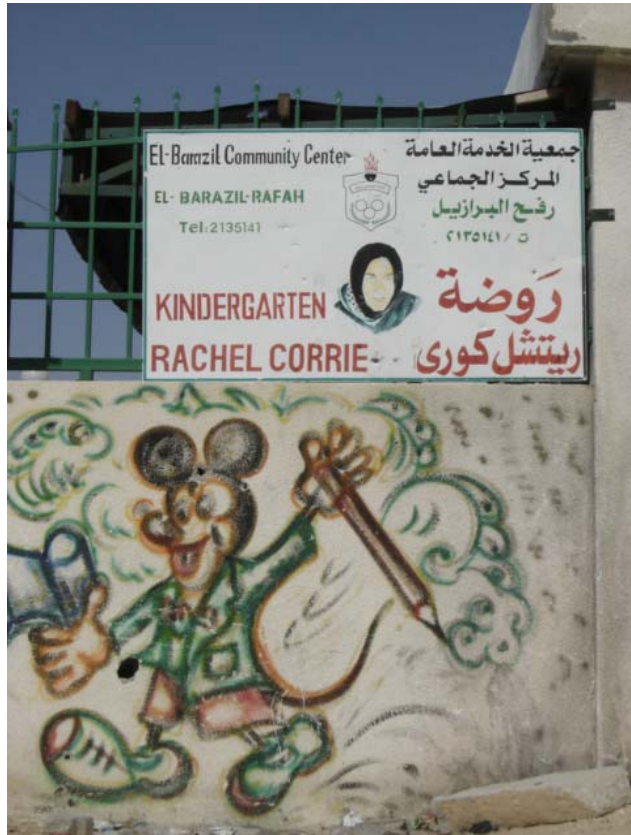
January 2005 Fact Sheet

[Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(OCHA\) / UN
http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/opt/](http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/opt/)

“Between September 2000, and through September 2004, more than 24,000 Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip have been made homeless by the Israeli house demolitions. In the first 9 months of 2004 the Israeli army demolished on average 120 residential buildings each month.”

And this is how it looks...

**Photo credits: Dimarzhade
Rafah 2005**



Community Center in Rafah in memory of Rachel Corrie killed by an Israeli bulldozer on 16 march 2003 when she tried to stop the destruction of a house in the Brazil camp. The center provides care and activities for children. There is also a women's center for hand crafts.



Above: bullet holes in the walls of the Rachel Corrie center.

Left: the playground in the front of the center, was destroyed during one of the incursions.



**Civilian houses destroyed in the
Brazil camp, in the front of the
Egyptian border -
the “Philadelphi axis”**



















Tents of people whose homes were demolished

Friday, November 21, 2003, report on some of the incursions in Al-Ahram, by Graham Usher. From <http://gaza.blogspot.com/>

Rafah's Philadelphi Road along the border with Egypt was once home to several thousand Palestinian refugees. Today it is a slough of bulldozed mud, crushed stone and fallen homes, keeled and abandoned like so many shipwrecks. Last month the Israeli army mounted three incursions to clear the road, pulling down apartments used by Palestinian guerrillas, unearthing tunnels that fed them arms, pushing out the people who lived there. Eighteen Palestinians were killed, including three children; 120 were wounded; nearly 200 homes were razed; nearly 2,000 Palestinians were made homeless; and three tunnels were found.

For those displaced Israel's aim is not defensive or even punitive. It is rather a massive act of geo-political engineering, stirring both memory and omen. "In 1948 the Israelis transferred us to the West Bank and Gaza. Now they're transferring us to places within the West Bank and Gaza," says Hajar Abu Armana.

She and her seven children are now squatting in a changing room in Rafah's football stadium, dripping with damp, shared with 30. Her house was on the border, she says. It is now a pile of pulverised concrete covered by a carpet. "I don't know where we will be moved," she says leaning on a fence hung with washing. "But I know we will be moved. We always are."