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## **UNRWA schools in Gaza - a Greenhouse for Hamas**

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### **Al-Kutla al-Islamiya activities in UNRWA's schools**

Al-Kutla al-Islamiya (a.k.a al-Kutla), literally the Islamic block, is Hamas official arm operating in all educational institutions in the Gaza Strip, from elementary schools to colleges and universities, including the educational institutions run by UNRWA. The Kutka's strategy in elementary and middle school is focused on attracting students to its variety of activities, that intended to strengthen the bonds with the students as well as their belief in Islam, and exposing them gradually to Hamas ideology in order to make them active members of the Islamic movement. In each school, including those run by UNRWA, Hamas appointed a student to head al-Kutla local branch, who operates as point of contact for Hamas and responsible for recruiting students to the Kutla and organizing activities inside school and after-school.<sup>1</sup>

Media reports documented in recent years a fraction of al-Kutla activities inside UNRWA's middle schools or with students of middle schools run by UNRWA, as demonstrated as follows:

November 2008 – Al-Kutla held in Ahmad Abd al-Aziz middle school, run by UNRWA, an event

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<sup>1</sup> <http://alrased.ps/index.php?action=showdetail&seid=238>

honouring students who managed memorizing the Koran. Al-Kutla's representatives reviewed their activities in school, including: strengthening bonds between students and teachers, disseminating al-Kutla leaflets, posters and magazines to students, organizing soccer tournament, supplying eye glasses with great discount for students and teachers and cleaning campaign of school with cooperation of Khan Yunis municipality. Imad Abdin, the school's principle, attended the event and gave a speech to the students.<sup>2</sup>

July 18, 2009 – Al-Kutla held an event honoring close to 400 outstanding students of elementary, middle and high schools, including of schools run by UNRWA. One of them was a student with special needs of Gaza al-Jadida middle school B (UNRWA). Hamas senior officials attended the event. MP (Hamas) Ahmad Bahr, deputy speaker of the Palestinian parliament, praised the students saying: “the great excellence of the students of the Gaza Strip is the best proof and most appropriate response to the Zionist enemy, and a message that the Palestinian people grew and will grow scholars who will be able to liberate the holy land from the uncleanliness of the Zionists.” Wael Rashid, head of al-Kutla al-Islamiya in Palestine, expressed his wish that with the “land of Palestine will be liberated from the Zionist occupation.”<sup>3</sup>

January 1, 2010 – Al-Kutla organized in Rafah a soccer tournament commemorating Mohammad al-Sharif, an operative of al-Qassam Brigades, killed on December 12, 2007.<sup>4</sup> Teams from 18 middle schools in Rafah participated in the tournament, including those run by UNRWA. Rafah middle school G (UNRWA) won the finals defeating al-Omaria middle school (UNRWA)<sup>5</sup>. The event was held in the football field of the Services Club founded by UNRWA.<sup>6</sup>

March 15, 2010 – Al-Kutla organized a knowledge competition between 16 middle schools in the northern district of the Gaza Strip, including schools run by UNRWA. Beit Hanoun middle school (UNRWA) and Saad bin Abi Waqas middle school won the competition.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.paldf.net/forum/showthread.php?t=323886>

<sup>3</sup> <http://64.57.218.25/~paldf/forum/showthread.php?t=449291>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.al-fateh.net/fateh-d/fa-09-163/shahid.htm>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.rafahnews.ps/ar/?action=showdetail&seid=451>

<sup>6</sup> <http://ar-ar.facebook.com/pages/%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%B7%D8%A9-%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%87%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AE%D8%AF%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%B1%D9%81%D8%AD/151308921581734?sk=info>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.paldf.net/forum/showthread.php?p=8404254>



### Knowledge competition for students at UNRWA middle schools

October 24, 2010 – Al-Kutla organized a tournament in Ain al-Hilwa school with the participation of 12 student teams from middle schools in the central district of the Gaza Strip, including middle schools run by UNRWA. The students team of al-Maghazi middle school A (UNRWA) defeated in the finals the students team of al-Maghazi middle school B (UNRWA).<sup>8</sup>

November 6, 2010 – Al-Kutla concluded a tournament in al-Ahali sport club in Gaza with the participation of 14 middle schools, including those run by UNRWA (Gaza al-Jadida and al-Rimal B middle schools).<sup>9</sup>



### Al-Kutla tournament in al-Ahali sport club with students from UNRWA's schools

December 5, 2010 – Al-Kutla activists repainted the facilities of al-Imam al-Shafi'i middle school, run by UNRWA.<sup>10</sup>

February 24, 2011 – Al-Kutla held series of events honoring the outstanding students of 30 school. The last honoring event took place in al-Qarara middle School (UNRWA). Mohamad al-Huli, the school's principle, thanked al-Kutla for its efforts in making the event successful. Al-Kutla's representative, Mustafa al-Astal praised the cooperation with the school's management and the Education

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.alkotla.ps/kotlanews602b77.html> <http://www.maannnews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=366721>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.panet.co.il/online/articles/110/111/S-346857,110,111.html>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.alresalah.ps/ar/index.php?ajax=preview&id=24842>

Directorate.<sup>11</sup>

March 3, 2011 – Al-Kutla organized table tennis tournament in al-Ribat sport club, with the participation of 40 students of middle schools in central Gaza, including schools run by UNRWA. Students of al-Bureij middle school B (UNRWA) defeated the students of al-Nuserat middle school G (UNRWA). Tareq Tabaza, organizer of the tournament on behalf of al-Kutla, said that it was only one of many activities of al-Kutla in schools in central Gaza.<sup>12</sup>

March 7, 2011 – Al-Kutla held an event in al-Qarara middle school honouring the outstanding students. Al-Qarara middle school is run by UNRWA. Hamad al-Ruqab, Hamas senior official, and two al-Kutla senior activists, Mohammad Ta'a and Mustafa al-Astal, as well as the school's principle, participated in the event.<sup>13</sup>



Al-Kutla and Hamas officials honouring outstanding students at UNRWA's al-Qarara middle school

March 8, 2011 – Al-Kutla al-Islamiya held the al-Quds soccer tournament in Rafah with the participation of student teams from 18 middle schools, including those run by UNRWA, and 7 high schools. The team of middle school A (UNRWA) won the tournament.<sup>14</sup>



Soccer tournament in Rafah

March 30, 2011 – Al-Kutla organized in al- Qa'aqa' Mosque a knowledge competition between schools in eastern Gaza, commemorating the seven anniversary of Sheik Yassin death in an Israeli air strike.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.alkotla.ps/kotlanews391b76.html>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.safa.ps/ara/new/?action=showdetail&seid=43637>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.almaaref.ps/index.php?action=detail&id=29>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.alkotla.ps/kotlanews509b75.html>

Students of 4 schools participated in the competition, two of them are run by UNRWA (Salah al-Din and Shejaiya middle schools).<sup>15</sup>

April 1, 2011 – Al-Kutla held an event honoring 800 female students who managed memorizing the Koran. The students came from 19 middle and high schools, including schools run by UNRWA.<sup>16</sup>

April 27, 2011 – Al-Kutla organized knowledge competition between Khan Yunis' middle schools, including schools run by UNRWA (al-Qarara and al-Ma'ari middle schools). Al-Ma'ari middle school (UNRWA) won the competition, which was held in commemoration of Hamas former leader Dr. Abd al-Aziz al-Rantisi.<sup>17</sup>



Al-Kutla commemorating Rantisi by knowledge competition in middle schools including UNRWA's

July 2, 2011 – Al-Kutla organized in Khan Yunis an event - “ the Regiment of Unit and Return” - honoring outstanding students, including those who study at middle schools run by UNRWA.<sup>18</sup> Similar events were held in July in Shejaiya<sup>19</sup> and the city of Gaza<sup>20</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.panet.co.il/online/articles/110/111/S-390217,110,111.html>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.kotla.ps/index.php?act=Show&id=444>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.almaaref.ps/index.php?action=detail&id=203>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.almaaref.ps/index.php?action=detail&id=316>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.fajernews.ps/index.php?pid=845169ec8751362698898943bbb1c481&post=6297>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.maannnews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=403631>

## **Direct path between activity in al-Kutla at UNRWA's schools and recruiting to al-Qassam Brigades**

The activities of al-Kutla al-Islamiya is a powerful vehicle for Hamas to indoctrinate the youth in both governmental and UNRWA schools in the Gaza Strip and to pave the way for their future recruitment to al-Qassam Brigades. Reviewing the bio sketches of al-Qassam Brigades' fatalities reveals a repeated pattern. More than two dozens of al-Qassam operatives were activists of al-Kutla al-Islamiya in UNRWA's schools in the Gaza Strip, who joined Hamas and later its military wing al-Qassam Brigades. All were also involved in terrorist attacks against Israel or in combat against IDF forces.

### **Ahmad Mohammad Ghorab**



Ahmad Mohammad Ghorab was born in 1980 in Gaza. He graduated Abu Asi elementary school, Gaza al-Jadida middle school (UNRWA) and Salah Khalaf high school. During middle and high schools Ghorab served as the leader of al-Kutala al-Islamiya. After dropping out of the Islamic University of Gaza he graduated the Community College of Applied Science and Technology (CCAST) and later worked as a secretary at the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Interior. Since young age he used to frequent Ahmad Yassin Mosque and after few years he moved to Ibad al-Rahman Mosque, where he was appointed to the mosque's manager and was responsible for arranging Daawa activities. In 2000 Ghorab joined the Popular Army, founded by Hamas, and in the following year he was recruited to al-Qassam Brigades by Ismail Lubad, commander of al-Shati battalion of al-Qassam Brigades. In the Brigades he underwent military training and then was positioned at al-Shati battalion and assigned for special jihadist operations and guarding the borders. Later he joined the unit of suicide attackers, and appointed to a commander of Artillery unit. He participated in combat against IDF forces and launched mortar shells and rockets at Israeli communities. Ghorab was killed in an Israeli Air Force strike on April 4, 2011 while he and his fellow al-Qassam operative were launching mortar shells.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1770>

## Haitham Abd al-Hafez Abd al-Aal



Abd al-Aal graduated from the al-Fallah elementary and middle school (UNRWA) and al-Nil high school. He was active in al-Kutla al-Islamiya beginning in middle school. He attended al-Mujama al-Islami Mosque where he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood. In 2003, he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing. He participated in combat against IDF forces (including firing RPG rockets). He also served in the Palestinian Police. On January 15, 2009 he was targeted while preparing to attack IDF forces in the Tel al-Islam (Tel al-Hawa) neighbourhood west of Gaza city.<sup>22</sup>

## Imad Maher Farwaneh



Farwaneh graduated from UNRWA schools and Khalil al-Wazir high school. He became an activist in al-Kutla al-Islamiya as early as middle school. He attended the al-Barra bin 'Azeb Mosque in al-Sabra neighborhood, where he was recruited by Hamas. Later, he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing. He was killed by the Israeli Air Force in Tel al-Islam neighborhood while attempting ambushing IDF forces.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1448>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1456>

## **Mohammad Zuheir al-Alul**

Al-'Aalul graduated from the al-Fallah elementary/middle school (UNRWA), al-Nil high school and the Islamic University in Gaza. He was an activist in al-Kutla al-Islamiya, beginning in middle school. He attended the al-Mujama al-Islami Mosque where he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood. In 2002, he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing. He underwent military training, was posted to forward position and participated in combat against IDF forces.<sup>24</sup>

## **Riyad Mohammad al-Ra'i**

A-Ra'i graduated from Safad elementary school (UNRWA), al-Imam al-Shafi'i middle school (UNRWA), Abd al-Fattah Hamud high school and the Islamic University of Gaza. In middle school he joined al-Kutla al-Islamiya and he attended the Ali bin Abi Taleb Mosque and the Amro Mosque beginning in 2004. In 2001, he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood and was involved in Dawa (Islamic outreach) activity. A year later he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing. In the Brigades he underwent military training (including artillery and infantry) , participated in combat against IDF forces in the al-Zaytoun neighborhood, launched rockets and mortar shells at Israeli targets and served as a commander. He was killed in an Israeli Air Force strike near the al-Farouq Mosque.<sup>25</sup>

## **Ibrahim Rafiq Abu al-Kheir**



Abu al-Kheir graduated from Safad elementary school (UNRWA), al-Imam al-Shafi'i middle school (UNRWA), Jamal abd al-Nasser high school and al-Azhar University in Gaza. At school he was an activist in al-Kutla al-Islamiya. From early age attended Musab bin Omair Mosque and through hid Dawa (Islamic outreach) activities was recruited by Hamas in 1998 and four years later the Muslim Brotherhood. In 2002 he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing. In the Brigades he underwent basic and advanced military training, participated in combat against IDF forces in the al-Zaytoun neighborhood, took part in detonating IED near IDF bulldozer and launched rockets and mortar shells at Israeli communities. On January 14, 2009 he met with the Izz al-Din al-

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1610>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1323>



Qassam Brigades operatives near Musab bin Omair Mosque and delegated operational missions aimed at IDF forces. They were spotted and killed by UAV.<sup>26</sup>

### **Mohammad Osama Aqilan**



Aqilan was born in Saudi Arabia and at age of 8 returned with his family to Gaza. He graduated Gaza al-Jadida elementary school (UNRWA), Salah al-Din middle school (UNRWA), Shuhada al-Shati high school and studied at the University College of Applied Sciences (UCAS). In middle school he served as the head of al-Kutala al-Islamiya and was a prominent member of al-Kutla during high school. He used to frequent Abu Bakr al-Sadiq and Hudhaifa bin al-Yaman mosques. In 2005 he joined Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood and two years later al-Qassam Brigades. Aqilan underwent military training, posted in forward positions, participated in jihadist missions, placed explosives charges and documented launching rockets at Israeli communities. He was killed on January 13, 2009 during an exchange of fire with IDF forces north west of Gaza.<sup>27</sup>

### **Mahmoud Ahmad Juha**



Juha was born in 1992 in Gaza and graduated from the al-Fallah elementary and middle school (UNRWA). He then became a member of al-Kutla al-Islamiya, Hamas student organization, many of

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<sup>26</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1701>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1730>

whose members are recruited by the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. He attended the al-Imam al-Shafi'i Mosque, was involved in Dawa (Islamic outreach) activities and was recruited by Hamas (2002), later joining its military wing, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades (2007). In the Brigades he underwent military training (including anti-tank warfare and sharpshooting). He was killed by the Israeli Air Force while participating in combat against IDF forces in the al-Zaytoun neighborhood.<sup>28</sup>

### **Khaled Hassan al-'Abed**



Al-'Abed attended the al-Taqwa Mosque and through his Dawa (Islamic outreach) activity he was recruited by Hamas (2004) and the Muslim Brotherhood (2005). During middle school he became an activist of al-Kutla al-Islamiya, the students' organization of Hamas that many of its members are recruited by Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. In 2005 at age 17 he joined Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing. He was posted in mid 2007 in the special unit of al-Radwan Brigade. Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades used his expertise in explosives and assigned him to bobby trap many houses located along the border line with Israel. He was killed while participated in combat in al-Atatra area.<sup>29</sup>

### **Osama Ayyub al-Sifi**

A-Sifi graduated from the al-Fallah elementary and middle school (UNRWA), al-Zaytoun high school and was a student at Gaza's Ummah University. In middle school he became an active in al-Kutla al-Islamiya. Beginning at an early age, a-Sifi attended the al-Farouq Mosque in the al-Zaytoun neighborhood, where he was recruited by Hamas. In 2005, he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing. He also served in the Palestinian Police special forces. He was later transferred to the Public Order and Intervention Forces where he served as a security officer responsible for safeguarding Hassan a-Sifi, the Comptroller General of the Ministry of Interior. In the Brigades he underwent military training (horse riding, basic and advanced drills, infantry, anti-tank warfare) was first assigned to the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigade's special forces and later the operatives unit. During Operation Cast Lead he placed and detonated two explosive charges under IDF tanks near the Auto Market in southern al-Zaytoun. He assisted in placing another IED in the al-Zaytoun neighborhood, supplied other operatives with weapons and ammunition, and took part in

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1282>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1719>

digging and outfitting tunnels in al-Zaytoun. At the beginning of Operation Cast Lead he was assigned to carry out a suicide attack against IDF forces, but the bombing of the tunnels and prepared positions foiled the plan. On January 12, 2009 he ambushed IDF forces in a residential house in al-Zaytoun. He bobby-trapped the house and then began to move to another position as IDF forces approached. He was spotted and killed by a UAV.<sup>30</sup>

### Saad Mohammad Hassan



Hassan graduated from al-Hurriya elementary school, al-Imam al-Shafi'i middle school and Shouhada al-Zaytoun high school. In middle school, he became an activist in al-Kutla al-Islamiya. From an early age, he attended al-Imam al-Shafi'i Mosque, where, through his Dawa (Islamic outreach) activity he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood (2004). In 2007 he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing. In the Brigades he underwent military training, was posted to the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Anti Aircraft Unit and participated in combat against IDF forces. Hassan was killed when the Israeli Air Force struck a group of Izz al-Din al-Qassam operatives in the al-Zaytoun neighborhood.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1319>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1336>

## Ibrahim Mahmoud Washah



Washah graduated from UNRWA schools in Nuserat refugee camp (elementary and middle schools) and Khaled bin al-Walid high school. During middle school he became an activist in al-Kutla al-Islamiya. He attended the al-Jam'iyah al-Islamiya Mosque in Nuserat and the Salah Shehadeh Mosque. Through his Dawa (Islamic outreach) activities in the Mosque he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood and later joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades (2000). He also served in the Marine Unit of the Police and held the rank of Constable . In the Brigades he started as a commander in Hamas' Popular Army in the central district of the Gaza Strip, served as the commander of the Nuserat area and after the Popular Army was fully intergrated into the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades he was promoted and appointed company commander. He recruited dozens of youths to the Popular Army and the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, participated in combat against IDF forces in the area of Nuserat, and was co-founder of the military security apparatus of Hamas. During Operation Cast Lead he was the commnder of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam forces along Salah al-Din new road, placed IEDs and organized ambushes. On January 9, 2009 at 10:30 PM he was peparing explosive charges in an orchard with other Izz al-Din al-Qassam operatives when he was spotted and killed by the Israeli Air Force.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1596>

## **Amru Mohammad Nassar**



Nassar graduated from UNRWA schools in the Nuserat refugee camp (elementary and middle schools), Shouhada al-Aqsa high school and was a student at al-Aqsa University in Gaza. During middle school he became an activist in al-Kutla al-Islamiya. He was also member of the Muslim scouts. He attended the Hassan al-Bana Mosque and through his Dawa (Islamic outreach) activity he was recruited in 2007 by Hamas and a year later joined its military wing, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. He underwent military training and was posted in forward positions. He was killed by an Israeli Air Force strike aimed at a group of Izz al-Din al-Qassam operatives.<sup>33</sup>

## **Azmi Mohammad Diab**

Diab graduated from al-Imam al-Shafi'i elementary school, al-Fallah middle school (UNRWA), abd al-Fattah Hamoud high school and al-Azhar University in Gaza. A member of al-Kutal al-Islamiya (since early age), he joined Hamas police's executive force after graduating university and served as a investigator. Later he served in al-Zaytoun Police Station and held the rank of Sub-Inspector. Attending the 'Aliyeen Mosque he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood. Later he moved to pray at the al-Farouq Mosque and was responsible for the mosque's public activity committee. In 2003, he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing. In the Brigades he underwent extensive military training (including suicide attacker training) , launched mortar shells and rockets (Qassam and RPG) at Israeli targets, and took part in combat against IDF forces. On January 7, 2009, Azmi decided to leave a position he had held for four days, waiting to ambush Israeli forces near the 'Aliyeen Moaque. The Israeli Air Force spotted Diab and killed him.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1507>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1347>

## Radwan Fayez al-Daya

A-Dayah graduated from Safad elementary school (UNRWA), al-Imam al-Shafi'i middle school (UNRWA) and Tunis high school. A member of al-Kutla al-Islamiya since middle school, he attended the Hassan al-Bana Mosque and there he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood. In 2006, he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. In the Brigades he underwent military training, was posted to forward positions, participated in combat against the IDF in the northern district, prepared and placed IEDs, and participated in digging and outfitting tunnels. During Operation Cast Lead he participated in combat against IDF forces. The Israeli air force targeted a building that according to intelligence was being used as a Hamas weapons cache. The residents of the building were called beforehand and warned of the imminent airstrike. But, the intended target wasn't hit and instead the Al-Daya home which was several dozen meters from the intended target was bombed. According to the findings of the IDF's investigation, the error occurred because the pilot was given the wrong coordinates.<sup>35</sup>

## Khaled Mohammad Abu Askar



Abu 'Askar graduated from Ibn Rushd elementary school, Jabalya middle school (UNRWA) and Abu Obaeida al-Jarah high school. During middle school he became an activist in al-Kutla al-Islamiya. At that time he contacted Izz al-Din al-Qassam operatives and asked to be recruited by the Brigades. He attended the al-Haq Mosque and later Abu Bakr al-Sadiq Mosque. After being involved in Dawa (Islamic outreach) activity in the Mosque he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood (2004). He joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades at age 16. In the Brigades he was posted to forward positions northwest of Gaza, took part in many ambushes in the northern area of the Gaza Strip and served in the Izz al-Din al-Qassam military supply unit, where he was responsible for supplying the Izz al-Din al-Qassam operatives with weapons, rockets and ammunition. Several times he volunteered to carry out a suicide attack against Israeli targets. On January 6, 2009 he returned home after completing guard duty in a forward position with Ayman al-Kurd. He found that the house - which doubled as a Brigades weapons cache despite its location near the al-Fakhoura school - had been bombarded by the Israeli Air Force. While attempting to salvage equipment under the debris he was killed by an IDF mortar shell aimed at Hamas operatives who firing mortars from the vicinity of the al-Fakhoura school.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1276>

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1441>

### **Salah Naim Sheldan**

Sheldan graduated from Safad elementary school (UNRWA), al-Imam al-Shafi'i middle school (UNRWA) and Tunis high school. During middle school he became an activist in al-Kutla al-Islamiya. He attended the Ali bin Abi Taleb Mosque in al-Zaytoun neighborhood and through his Dawa (Islamic outreach) activity in the Mosque he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood (2006) and later the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing. In the Brigades he underwent military training and was posted in the the Izz al-Din al-Qassam's engineering corps.<sup>37</sup>

### **Bilal Mohammad Omar**

Omar is a graduate of al-Shati elementary school (UNRWA), al-Rimal middle school (UNRWA) and Shouhada al-Shati high school. Since middle school he became an activist of al-Kutla al-Islamiya. He attended the White Mosque in Shati refugee camp and through his Dawa (Islamic outreach) activity he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood. Omar served in Hamas security apparatus and in 2007, he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. In the Brigades he underwent military training, was posted to forward positions, and guarded the house of the chief police commissioner. He was killed in the Israeli Air Force strike on police headquarters.<sup>38</sup>

### **Nahez Salim Abu Namus**



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<sup>37</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1280>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1287>

Abu Namus graduated from al-Rimal elementary school (UNRWA), al-Zaytoun middle school (UNRWA) and Zueir al-Alami high school. In the ninth grade, he became an activist in al-Kutla al-Islamiya. He attended the al-Fallah Mosque in al-Sabra neighborhood and through his Dawa (Islamic outreach) activity he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood (2005). On April 20, 2007 he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing. He also served in the Cavalry Unit of the Palestinian Police. In the Brigades he underwent military training and was posted in an infantry unit and later an artillery unit. He was killed by the Israeli Air Force strike on police headquarters in Gaza while attending a military course.<sup>39</sup>

### **Saed Mohammad Islim**



Islim graduated from al-Imam al-Shafi'i elementary and middle school (UNRWA), and Khaled bin al-Walid high school, and he studied for a year at the al-Quds Open University in Beit Lahiya. During the various stages of his studies at school he was an activist of al-Kutala al-Islamiya. He attended the al-Nur Mosque and later the Abdallah Azzam Mosque and through his Dawa (Islamic outreach) activity he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood. In 2000 he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing. In the Brigades he underwent military training, launched rockets at Sderot, fired mortar shells at IDF positions, served in the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Anti-Aircraft Unit and as a commander in an infantry unit. Islim also served in the Public Order and Intervention Forces and held the rank of Inspector. The night before his death he was posted to a forward position. Islim was killed in an Israeli Air Force strike aimed at a group of Izz al-Din al-Qassam operatives near the al-Katiba Mosque.<sup>40</sup>

### **Baha Ziad Al-Gharabli**

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<sup>39</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1393>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1388>





Al-Gharabli graduated from an elementary school in Sheja'iyah, Muaz bin Jabal middle school and Jamal Abd al-Nasser high school. During middle school he became an activist in al-Kutla al-Islamiya. He attended the al-Islah Mosque and through his Dawa (Islamic outreach) activity he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood. In 2006 he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, and also served as a Constable in the Palestinian Police. In the Brigades he underwent advanced military training, fired heavy machine guns at Israeli military aircrafts, and was posted to forward positions. Al-Gharabli was killed by the Israeli Air Force in the Israeli Air Force strike on police headquarters.<sup>41</sup>

### **Mohammad Tawfiq al-Nimrah**

A-Nimrah graduated from the al-Fallah elementary and middle school (UNRWA), Zuheir al-Alami high school and was a student at the University College of Applied Sciences (UNRWA). During the various stages of his studies at school he was an activist of al-Kutala al-Islamiya. He attended the al-Nur Mosque in the al-Sabra neighborhood and because of his Dawa (Islamic outreach) activities he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood (2003). In 2006 he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, where he underwent military training (including cavalry and anti-tank warfare training). He was attending a military course in the Gaza police headquarters when the Israeli Air Force and was killed in the Israeli Air Force attack on the building.<sup>42</sup>

### **Mohammad Nabil Barghouth**



Barghouth graduated from Safad elementary and middle school (UNRWA) and was a student at Shouhada al-Zaytoun school. An activist in al-Kutla al-Islamiya during the various stages of his studies

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1395>

<sup>42</sup> [http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?sub\\_action=picture&id=1399](http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?sub_action=picture&id=1399)

at school, he attended the al-Shafi'i Mosque and through his Dawa (Islamic outreach) activity he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood (2001). He used to assist the Izz al-Din al-Qassam operatives and supplied them with equipment and ammunition needed to carry out their missions. In 2000 he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing. He also served in the Hamas Interior Ministry's Security and Protection Forces. In the Brigades he participated in combat against IDF forces in the al-Zaytoun area, launched rockets and mortar shells at Israeli communities and served as the second in command of the al-Zaytoun Brigade's artillery unit. He was killed in an Israeli Air Force strike on the headquarters of the Security and Protection Forces (al-Muntada).<sup>43</sup>

### **Rami Suliman Abu al-Sheikh**



Abu a-Sheikh was born in Jordan in 1982. Graduate of elementary school in Jordan, UNRWA's middle school in al-Maghazi refugee camp in Gaza and al-Azhar University in Gaza. Activist of al-Kutla al-Islamiya since middle school. Attended Yasser al-Masdar Mosque. Joined Hamas the Muslim Brotherhood and the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades (2003). He also served as an officer in the Palestinian Police (anti drug unit) and held the rank of Sub-Inspector. In the Brigades He underwent military training (basic and artillery), served as a commander, participated in combat against IDF forces in the area of al-Maghazi, fired RPG rockets at IDF vehicles and launched rockets at Israeli communities. He was killed in the Israeli Air Force strike on Abu Madin Police station.<sup>44</sup>

### **Mohammad Ismail Al-Ghumari**

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<sup>43</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1405>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1536>



Al-Ghumari graduated from UNRWA's elementary and middle school in al-Maghazi refugee camp, al-Manfaluti high school and was a student at the al-Quds Open University. During middle school he became an activist in al-Kutla al-Islamiya. He attended the Ahamd Yassin Mosque and through his Dawa (Islamic outreach) activity he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood. In 2007 he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing and underwent military training. Al-Ghumari also served in the Police. He was killed by the Israeli Air Force strike on position 13 of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades in the central district of the Gaza Strip.<sup>45</sup>

### **Alaa al-Din al-Qatrawi**



Al-Qatrawi graduated from UNRWA's elementary and middle schools in Nuserat refugee camp, Khaled bin al-Walid high school and was a student at the Islamic University of Gaza. During middle school he became an activist in al-Kutla al-Islamiya, Hamas' students organization, many of whose members are recruited by the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. He attended the Obeida bin al-Jarah Mosque and because of his Dawa (Islamic outreach) activities he was recruited by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood in 2002. A year later he joined the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing. In the Brigades he underwent military training (including sharp shooting), was posted to forward positions in the Nuserat area, participated in combat against IDF forces, placed IEDs, and participated in digging and outfitting tunnels. He also served in the Hamas Interior Ministry's Executive Force and later worked as a criminal investigator in the Palestinian Police. He was killed when the Israeli Air Force attacked Hamas' Abu Madin police station.<sup>46</sup>

### **Sharaf Mohammad Abu Shamaleh**

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1538>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1554>



Abu Shamaleh graduated from UNRWA's elementary and middle schools in Khan Yunis, Harun al-Rashid high school and the University College of Applied Sciences (UNRWA). During the various stages of his studies at school he was an activist of al-Kutala al-Islamiya. He attended the al-Imam al-Shafi'i Mosque and through his Dawa (Islamic outreach) activity he was recruited by Hamas and later by the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades (2006). He served in the al-Zaytoun and North Gaza Brigades and volunteered to carry out a suicide mission, underwent military training, was posted to forward positions, participated in military operations, placed IEDs, carried out observations of IDF forces in the area of Khuzaa, Abassan and East al-Zaytoun and participated in digging and outfitting tunnels. He also served in the Hamas Interior Ministry's Security and Protection Unit. He was killed in an Israeli Air Force strike on the Security and Protection headquarters.<sup>47</sup>

### **Wisam Abd al-Majid al-Qoqa**

Al-Qoqa graduated from al-Shati elementary school (UNRWA), Gaza al-Jadida middle school (UNRWA), an unknown high school and was a student at the Islamic University of Gaza. In middle school he became an activist of al-Kutla al-Islamiya and even headed the Gaza al-Jadida branch. He attended the al-Shati al-Kabir Mosque and through his Dawa (Islamic outreach) activity, in 2002, he was recruited by the Muslim Brotherhood and the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. He also served as a Advanced Staff Sergeant Major in the Military Police. In the Brigades he underwent advanced military training, was posted to forward positions, launched rockets and mortar shells at Israeli communities, participated in combat against IDF forces and served as a bodyguard for senior Hamas leaders. He was killed in the Israeli Air Force strike on police headquarters in Gaza while attending a military course.<sup>48</sup>

### **Issa Abd al-Hadi al-Batran**

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<sup>47</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1629>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1652>



Al-Batran was born in 1973 in al-Bureij refugee camp in Gaza. He graduated UNRWA's elementary and middle schools in al-Bureij, Khaled al-Hassan high school, Gaza Traing Center (UNRWA) and al-Quds Open University. He used to frequent al-Bureij al-Kabir Mosque. For years al-Batran was working as a teacher in UNRWA's schools the central district of the Gaza Strip. In 1989 he joined Hamas and soon later the Muslim Brotherhood. At the beginning of the 90s he was recruited to al-Qassam Brigades and operated during 1994-6 under the command of Yasser Taha. In the Brigades he participated in combat against IDF forces, placed explosive charges, participated in digging tunnels for the use al-Qassam Brigades and was posted in forward positions. Being a blacksmith he was chosen to join the military manufacturing unit al-Qassam, in which he took part in producing explosive charges, bombs, rockets and other military equipment needed. He also founded the media office of al-Qassam Brigades in al-Bureij refugee camp. According al-Qassam Brigades, IDF failed to assassinate al-Batran in four attempts. The last failed attempt was executed during Operation Cast Lead (January 2009), in which his wife and children were killed. After a period of time he was injured during a “jihadist mission” and his left palm was mutilated. Later, Issa, a teacher in UNRWA's al-Bureij school, was fired because of his involvement in al-Qassam Brigades. He was killed in an Israeli air strike on July 31, 2010.<sup>49</sup>

John Ging, UNRWA Director of Operations in Gaza, was notified as early as December 2008, that Issa al-Batran is an active operative of al-Qassam Brigades. No action was taken by UNRWA against al-Batran including after the he was a target for four failed assassination attempts, which exposed his connection to terrorist activity.<sup>50</sup> All that time, al-Batran continued work as a teacher in a school run by UNRWA in al-Bureij refugee camp, and was fired only after he was injured in “work accident” dealing with explosives months after Operation Cast Lead.

### **UNRWA insists hiring senior Hamas official**

UNRWA's management is fully aware for at least 7 years that Suhail al-Hindi, head of the teaching sector on behalf of UNRWA, is a senior Hamas activist who condones the jihad against Israel and the suicide attacks carried out by Hamas. UNRWA spokesperson, Chris Gunness, acknowledged awareness

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1727>

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.alaahd.com/arabic/?action=detail&id=2792>

to this information in an article he published on Ynet (January 27, 2009)<sup>51</sup> referring to an article written by Jonathan Dahoah-halevi.<sup>52</sup> To this day (March 2011), Suhail al-Hindi is still being employed by UNRWA<sup>53</sup>, ignoring repeated open source reports on his current and overt activities as a senior official of Hamas.<sup>54</sup>

## **UNRWA school instill students with commitment to the Right of Return and hatred to Israel**

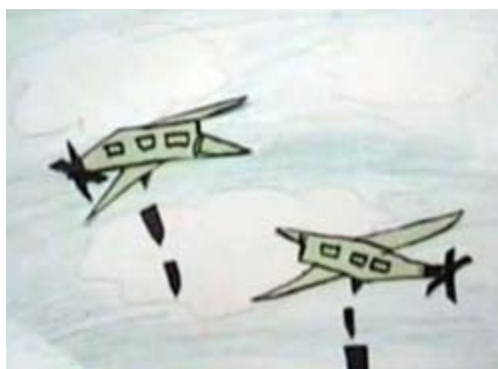
### **Gaza Strip**

Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eE6vQM0DjJc>

Date of upload: May 16, 2011

School: Maghazi middle school A (UNRWA)

Content: Basma Society for Culture and Arts, with cooperation of Maghazi middle school, learned and trained students in making animation films. One of these films shows Israeli fighter planes bombing and indiscriminately killing Palestinian civilians including children.



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Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RO8gNNDgWbA>

School: Mustafa Hafez elementary school for boys in Khan Yunis

Date of upload: June 28, 2011

Content: Animation film showing IDF indiscriminately killing Palestinian civilians including children.

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<sup>51</sup> <http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-3662487,00.html> <http://www.unrwa.org/htemplate.php?id=165>

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-3657863,00.html>

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=365824>

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.paltimes.net/olddetails/news/63126> <http://islah.ps/new/index.php?page=viewThread&id=1793&cat=81>

<http://www.palestine->

[info.info/ar/default.aspx?xyz=U6Qq7k%2bcOd87MDI46m9rUxJEpMO%2bi1s7xd9Pi7IjvuqLz545Rq6ulG5wDw%2fXASgjjPHhTX2vpQZiOnGX4tqYCyn2kc5ePdALZIA6%2bAjoLPDh%2fGexH0iMTED7RqjWSesOHwDPEn9kdo%3d](http://www.palestine-info.info/ar/default.aspx?xyz=U6Qq7k%2bcOd87MDI46m9rUxJEpMO%2bi1s7xd9Pi7IjvuqLz545Rq6ulG5wDw%2fXASgjjPHhTX2vpQZiOnGX4tqYCyn2kc5ePdALZIA6%2bAjoLPDh%2fGexH0iMTED7RqjWSesOHwDPEn9kdo%3d)



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Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2o8waAuMW4>

School: Mustafa Hafez elementary school for boys in Khan Yunis

Date of upload: May 18, 2011

Content: Nakba ceremony 2011. Students holding banners with names of Israeli cities, such as Ashdod, Tel Aviv and Askelon and later chanting repeatedly for several minutes: "we'll sacrifice our soul and blood for you the martyr". One of the speakers called Israel the "Zionist enemy" and stressed that the Palestinians will return to Palestine. Another speaker called described Israel as the "enemy" and called the students to join him chanting "the return [to Palestine] is [an obvious] right as the sun." A student, holding small wooden map of historic Palestine, led hundreds of students to chant together and loudly the slogan: "the [Palestinian] people wants to liberate Palestine."



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Source: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUzcfreb\\_4M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUzcfreb_4M)

School: Mustafa Hafez elementary school for boys in Khan Yunis

Date of upload: April 21, 2011

Date of event: January 16, 2011

Content: A man, most probably a teacher, introduced to the students Sheik Jamil Mutawi', salafi imam

of Ibn Taymiya Mosque, as their guest speaker, and said: "the army of Palestine will liberate al-Quds."



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Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwqpoSrDs9E>

School: Dir al-Balah middle school B

Date of upload: February 22, 2011

Content: sport tournament named "the refugees' right of return"



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Source: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1eH14h8nHI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1eH14h8nHI)

School: Beit Hanoun middle school B

Date of upload: May 16, 2011

Content: Nakba commemoration ceremony at school. Students are seen holding banners with names of Israeli cities such as Afula and Acre.





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## West Bank

Source: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUzcfreb\\_4M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUzcfreb_4M)

School: UNRWA's school in Tulkarem refugee camp

Date of upload: April 24, 2011

Date of event: April 24, 2011

Content: Sael Khalil, senior leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), in a lecture to the students in memory of 63 years to the Nakba, emphasized the Palestinian commitment to "Historic Palestine" and argued that the state of Israel was founded on the lies of the Torah. Ala Saruji, coordinator of al-Awda center in Tulkarem refugee camp, said that al-Awda center organized a special program for 300 students of UNRWA's school in Tulkarem refugee camp in order to raise awareness to the Palestinian problem and to strengthen the students' historical bonds to cities and villages in Israel.



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Source: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUzcfreb\\_4M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUzcfreb_4M)

School: UNRWA's school in Tulkarem refugge camp

Date of upload: May 5, 2010

Date of event: May 2010

Content: Honouring ceremony of outstanding students. Banner: "No Peace Without Return to Our Homes". Faysal Salameh, UNRWA's services manager in Tulkarem refugee camp, said that the students will raise Palestine flag in al-Quds and will return to the villages from which the Palestinian were deported in 1948.

