

FACTSHEET ON THE GOLANI AND GIVATI BRIGADES

HISTORY:

- The Golani and Givati Brigades both have long histories as part of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). The Givati Brigade was founded in 1947 and the Golani Brigade in February, 1948.
- The Golani and Givati Brigades have taken part in several bloody wars and operations throughout Israel's sixty-two years of existence. The Golani Brigade participated in all of Israel's major wars, including the Suez Crisis, Six-Day War, War of Attrition, Yom Kippur War and the 1978 South Lebanon Conflict, known as Operation Litani. Both brigades took part in the 1982 Lebanon War, the 2006 Lebanon War, operations during the Palestinian intifadas and Operation Cast Lead. Four brigade commanders, all colonels, fought on the front lines with their troops throughout Operation Cast Lead's two-week ground offensive in Gaza.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS:

- The 1948 Palestinian exodus, known as Al Nakba, or catastrophe, consisted of the forced relocation of approximately 800,000 Palestinians, more than half of the Palestinian population at that time, the destruction of 531 Palestinian villages, and the emptying of 11 Palestinian cities. The Golani and Givati Brigades were involved in many major operations to uproot and cleanse the indigenous Palestinians. The mass expulsion, in some cases, was accompanied by massacres and rapes.
- Both Brigades took part in the 2002 invasion of the Jenin Refugee Camp in the West Bank, Operation Defensive Shield, or what Palestinians call "The Jenin Massacre." According to Human Rights Watch at least fifty-two Palestinians were killed, at least twenty-two of which were civilians, including children, physically disabled, and elderly people. Many of the civilian deaths documented by Human Rights Watch were found to be instances of unlawful or willful killings by the Israeli military. At least 140 buildings—most of them multi-family dwellings—were completely destroyed, and at least another 200 were so severely damaged that they were rendered uninhabitable. An estimated 4,000 people, more than a quarter of the population of the camp, were made homeless as a result of this destruction.
- The most recent operation that both the Golani and Givati took part in was Operation Cast Lead, a three-week invasion of Gaza in the winter of 2008-2009, resulting in a completely damaged infrastructure and the creation of an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in Gaza. 1,440 Palestinians were killed, including 431 children and 114 women. The people of Gaza have been unable to rebuild and civilians are still facing dire shortages of food, water, cooking gas, fuel, medical care and building supplies due to the continued blockade of Gaza.

For more primary source references for these facts and for additional information on documented human rights abuses by the Golani and Givati Brigades, visit www.phillyBDS.org and refer to the Sabra Research Report in the Toolkit Section.

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Their Proceeds Support the Golani and Givati Brigades

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