

Notes on relevant content regarding the Gaza Docket, 2009.

By Paul Hendler (based on inputs from [Yousha Tayob](#), attorney of record on the Gaza Docket, and [Ziyaad Patel](#), attorney taking attached affidavit from R Kasrils).

The Gaza Docket was a chronicle of actions by South African volunteers to the IDF, who took part in alleged war crimes during Operation Cast Lead in 2008 (the attack on Gaza). The following provides an overview of the Gaza Docket project.

WHAT IS THE GAZA DOCKET?

- The Gaza Docket is a body of evidence which was collected over 8 months by the Palestine Solidarity Alliance and the Media Review Network.
- On 3 August 2009 a joint request was made by the PSA and MRN to the National Director of Public Prosecution (NDPP), an organ of state and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and the Directorate of Priority Crimes Investigations (DPCI), to investigate and if appropriate prosecute in South Africa individuals involved in war crimes and crimes against humanity during Israel's Operation Cast Lead.
- The Docket was sent to: Office of the State President, Ministry of Police, Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Development, Ministry of Safety and Security and the Office of the Commissioner of Police.

OPERATION CAST LEAD

- 27 December 2008 - 18 January 2009.
- Over 1400 Palestinians murdered , 40% of which were women and children.
- 3 Israelis civilians and 9 Israeli soldiers were killed by friendly fire.
- The IDF acted illegally by using White Phosphorus, Dime Bombs, Nail Bombs, Drones, Flechettes.
- The IDF targeted schools and UN shelters, ambulances, hospitals and government buildings.
- The IDF destroyed places of worship and targeted children.

- The commission of war crimes.
- The commission of crimes against humanity.
- The crime of Apartheid: The authorities should assess whether Israel is practicing a form of colonialism and apartheid in its treatment of Palestinians.
- The investigation of foreign and local individuals who have participated in the commission of the above crimes during Operation Cast Lead.

- The people identified as lone soldiers revealed their recruitment through posts on Facebook to their Jewish friends, but there was sometimes not enough detail to positively incriminate them.
- In total there were 73 identified recruits and when they got wind of the legal campaign to prosecute them they simply shut down their social media pages. I have not had sight of evidence of the 73. In the Gaza Docket pack that I was given there is information on seven or eight people.
- A certain individual¹ was identified as a recruiter of note, a South African citizen, and someone who possibly held/holds dual South African and Israeli citizenship.
- Specialised Israeli officials trained lone soldier recruits at the Sandringham and Norwood Police Stations, under guise of their undergoing South African Police Reservist training. Some of the photos I have had sight of have background buildings that look familiar as typical South African police structures.
- One of the 73 made reference to having trained with [Kraf Maga](#), a martial art for self-defence developed in Israel by the Israel Defence Force, which now is marketed in South Africa to groups that perceive themselves to be marginalised and threatened (like [commercial farmers](#)) and anyone wanting to be able [to defend themselves](#) in what they perceive to be a high crime environment with risks of attack by criminals resulting in theft, bodily injury and/or death.
- The names of the 73 people thought to be recruited were not put out into the public domain primarily to protect own researchers.
- The [affidavit attached to the Gaza Docket](#) contains reference to historical and contemporary events to illustrate why it is accurate to describe Israel as a settler colonial state and its state structure as an *apartheid* regime.

¹ Name withheld for reason of respect for privacy.