The Truth Behind the Tragedy:

An In-Depth Editorial of Beit Hanoun

By: Abeer Odeh

The phrase Autumn Clouds might bring memories of warm August days, soft marshmallow clouds, warm apple cider and frolicking through the diag as you watch the leaves turn into beautiful reds and oranges. Well the phrase has a much different connotation to the people living in Beit Hanoun; the red, orange leaves and fluffy clouds here is blood flowing down the streets and fires raging through homes and smoking choking children there. Operation Autumn Cloud occurred between November 2nd and the 8th in Northern Gaza, deemed by the Israeli military an operation to root out militants firing rockets into Israel. Of course this is the same excuse that Israel uses to justify all their military operations. So as your teachers will not believe you after you claim you lost your paper due to spilling water on it for the 10th time, the Palestinians refuse to accept Israel's repetitive old excuse.

What happened in Beit Hanoun was not as PM Ehud Olmert claimed to be a "Technical error" rather it was a carefully planned out siege on the innocent people of Beit Hanoun. The Israeli military was not looking for militants rather it was looking to collectively punish Palestinians for the same joy they have been getting out of it for the last 6 decades. The Israelis decided that their main targets would be infrastructure and resident complexes, taking out the roads, hospitals, electricity and water systems is an excellent way to corner civilians.

Sounds familiar? Israel used the same method during the invasion of Lebanon over the summer, leaving hundreds of thousands of people cut off from the rest of the world. Israel went in to the village and began terrorizing the civilians; all men (which include 12yr old boys) were rounded up, searched and imprisoned while the women and children were hiding in their homes trying to stay out of the scope of snipers. Of course the beautiful apache helicopters (gifts from the USA) were firing missiles and shells into the city in order to set it ablaze and kill as many Palestinians as possible and destroy their livelihood and homes.

The result of operation Autumn Cloud was over 75 Palestinians killed, loss of electricity and water for several days, destroyed homes and business, devastated families with the loss of loved ones and not a single militant found. A complete success for the Israeli government, what about the militants you might ask, oh of course there are not any rocket launching militants, that's just a way to justify Israel's aggression in the eyes of the world community. This latest attack on Gaza is a UN violation as well as an abuse of power considering that Israel is the 2nd most advance military force in the world and the operation resulted in a massacre of innocent people.

It is clear that the code name Autumn Cloud was used to cover up the real intentions of the operation, but no matter what name the Israeli government puts on its operation the true goals of decimating the Palestinian population through destruction of livelihood and basic needs such as food, water and shelter will always shine through like a diamond in the rough. The façade is easily revealed to those who find no bliss in ignorance and shut the door on lies, by opening up their minds to the truth.

So the next time you are admiring the beauty of the colorful autumn sky and thinking how exquisite it is, remember that somewhere around the world someone else is looking up into that same sky and thinking how horrible it is that they must suffer from injustices; take moment, and look up into the sky as the sun sets and say a prayer that one day those that suffer can enjoy the same twilight as you do and live in peace and happiness in their own land.