

No, the IDF Is Not A Ruthless Killing Machine

THE LIE

For over two years, the Hind Rajab Foundation has claimed that Israel murders Palestinian children with total impunity – using the January 29, 2024 death of five-year-old Hind Rajab as proof.

THE TRUTH

On August 19th, the IDF opened a criminal investigation into the death of Hind Rajab. Israel maintains a formal military justice system that keeps working even in the middle of an active war: the Military Advocate General can order criminal investigations into the conduct of soldiers, and those decisions are subject to review by Israel's civilian Supreme Court. Israel does not grant its soldiers impunity. It investigates them.

BACKGROUND

- On January 29, 2024, five-year-old Hind Rajab was killed in Gaza alongside members of her family. An ambulance dispatched to rescue her was also struck. The incident became the basis for a two-year international campaign claiming Israel would never be held accountable for the deaths of Palestinian children.
- The Hind Rajab Foundation was established after the January 29, 2024 incident in Gaza and describes its mission as 'breaking the cycle of Israeli impunity.' It has publicly stated it has 'no confidence' in Israeli military investigations, framing any IDF self-review as theater.
- On August 19, 2026, the IDF announced it was opening criminal investigations into troop conduct in Gaza, covering 150 reviewed incidents - while the conflict was still active. The Hind Rajab inquiry is among the cases under formal review. [Epoch Times](#)

TRUTH EXPLAINED

- The IDF recently completed its investigation into the April 2024 World Central Kitchen strike that killed seven aid workers, resulting in IDF officer dismissals and disciplinary action. The inquiry into the Hind Rajab incident remains open and active. [Jerusalem Post](#)
- The Hind Rajab Foundation built its campaign on the claim that Israel acts with impunity. Israel's response undercuts that narrative. On August 19, 2026, the IDF opened a formal criminal investigation into Hind Rajab's death, with military prosecutors now reviewing whether charges are warranted. Even in wartime, Israel investigates its own. That is not a weakness. It is what accountability looks like. ([The Epoch Times](#)), ([Newsmax](#))
- Other examples of the IDF taking accountability for their own actions include when an IDF soldier vandalized a Christian statue, Prime Minister Netanyahu publicly condemned the act and the Northern Command launched an immediate criminal investigation - demonstrating that accountability extends beyond combat incidents to any misconduct. [Daily Wire](#)
- Before every strike in Gaza, the IDF calls residents directly (165,000 calls total), has dropped 2.5 million evacuation leaflets, broadcasted over local radio stations to warn citizens in Arabic, and fired low-yield "roof-knocking" shots as a final alert – with aerial surveillance confirming civilians had cleared the area before any live attack. No other army warns enemy civilians as standard doctrine. [INSS](#)
- Hamas, the governing authority in Gaza, has no accountability mechanism. It does not investigate civilian deaths - it engineers them as strategic assets, deliberately embedding fighters and weapons in schools, hospitals, and residential areas to maximize the civilian toll it can blame on Israel.
- Hamas built a 300-mile tunnel network exclusively for its fighters - zero civilian bomb shelters. It stored weapons in and fired rockets from schools, hospitals, mosques, and UN facilities, and deliberately blocked civilians from evacuating battle zones. The Foundation for Defense of Democracies documents how Hamas constructed a 'win-win': if the IDF strikes, Hamas blames Israel for war crimes; if it does not, Hamas survives. [FDD](#)

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→ Hamas leaders admitted the strategy in their own words. Yahya Sinwar said: “We decided to turn that which is most dear to us - the bodies of our women and children - into a dam blocking Arab Collapse.” Hamas officials have separately confirmed that civilian casualties are a deliberate communications tool. [Jewish Virtual Library](#)

→ Mainstream media consistently amplifies accusations against Israel, but will rarely retract their false accusations when proven wrong. When Hamas claimed Israel bombed Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital killing 500 civilians, CNN, BBC, and the *New York Times* ran it as fact within hours. Subsequent reporting and intelligence confirmed the explosion was caused by a misfired rocket from Hamas ally Islamic Jihad — hitting the parking lot, not the hospital — with a death toll a fraction of what was claimed. The "Israel bombed a hospital" headline went global. The correction didn't. [Fox News](#)

QUOTES

I am not aware of any nation that has conducted more comprehensive or resolute investigations into its military activities than Israel." — Col. Richard Kemp, UN Watch

TAKEAWAY

The Hind Rajab Foundation's claim that Israel operates with total impunity is directly contradicted by the record. Mistakes happen in war — what matters is what an army does next. The IDF investigates its own conduct during active combat, dismisses officers, and operates under civilian Supreme Court oversight. The real impunity belongs to Hamas, whose charter calls for the murder of Jews, whose leaders celebrate civilian deaths as propaganda wins, and whose tunnels were built for fighters while children had no shelters. When critics demand accountability from Israel and ask nothing of Hamas, they are not applying a moral standard — they are applying a double standard designed to delegitimize the only party in this conflict that actually investigates itself.