

“Apparently, Tom had seen a little boy shot in the shoulder after throwing stones at a tank five days before. Now he saw what was happening, handed his camera to one of the group and went towards the children...”

- Jocelyn Hurndall, *My Son Tom*

In fall 2000, the second Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation began. Israel used massive force against the largely unarmed population, firing over a million bullets in the first few days alone. By the end of December Israeli forces had killed 161 Palestinians, 86 of them children.

Palestinians called for an international mediation force to stop the violence, but Israel vetoed such efforts. People from around the world began traveling to the West Bank and Gaza in an effort to stop the carnage. One of the groups they joined was the International Solidarity Movement, formed by Palestinian and Israeli nonviolence activists.

Tom Hurndall, a 21-year-old student and photographer who wished “to make a difference,” went to Gaza in 2003. On April 11, he watched as children playing nearby suddenly came under Israeli rifle fire. Most of the children fled, but three, aged four to seven, froze with fear. Tom rushed one to safety. When he returned for two little girls, an Israeli sniper shot him in the head. Despite the urgency, Israeli officials delayed his transport to specialized medical care for over two and a half hours. Tom remained in a vegetative state until his death 9 months later.

From the end of 2002 to the spring of 2003, Israeli forces killed four internationals and shot another in the face. Two recent non-Palestinian victims are Tristan Anderson, shot in the head, and Emily Henochowicz, shot in the eye, with high-velocity tear gas canisters. Over 45,000 Palestinian men, women, and children have been killed or injured since Sep. 2000.

