

# During the Israeli invasion

of the Gaza Strip in December 2008-January 2009, citizens of Haifa, both Arabs and Jews, demonstrated against the attacks every day. There were many arrests.

The police arrested 13 Haifa University students, then released them after a few days. The students had asked permission to hold a demonstration inside the university. This was denied so they decided to stand in the university's middle square to observe a minute of silence on the behalf of those killed in the attacks, and to raise the Palestinian flag.

More than 500 students took part, of whom five were given an administrative trial, because they "organised non-authorised political activity" as the charge called it, though there is no such crime in the university code of conduct.

In the city itself, the Israeli Communist Party and other political parties such as Tajama Watani, Abna al-Balad and the Islamic movement held more than 30 demonstrations, sometimes several each day, some of them organised together.

Demonstrations were held all over Haifa, but the favourite place was at the junction of Hagefen and Al-Jabal streets, connecting the Wadi Nisnas and Hadar neighbourhoods. Some were held on the first square on Ben Gurion Street, under the Bahai Gardens, and others were held in the Horev Centre and Carmel Centre, both main junctions in the middle of Jewish neighbourhoods. Several thousand people marched from the end of Abbas Street to the Prophets Centre, "Migdal Haniviim." Demonstrators held up Palestinian flags, Communist flags, black flags to mourn the Palestinian dead, and some raised bloodied dolls to show that the Israeli forces were killing children.

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