

Israel's lies exposed

More killings, more lies.

On 23 March soldiers of the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) killed 14 Palestinian first responders and a UN worker. The team had arrived in Rafah to look for survivors of an earlier incident. They were in clearly-marked ambulances.

The soldiers blocked access to the site and bulldozed the bodies and the mangled vehicles into a mass grave. When the bodies were discovered, they put out a cover story that the ambulances were unlit and had presented a threat.

This lie, like so many others, might have succeeded. But a phone buried with one of the men contained a recording showing that the ambulances were displaying full lighting at the time, that the firing lasted three minutes and that some men were shot at point-blank range. **There could have been no mistake.**

The IDF conducted a 'review' which blamed 'professional failures' and 'misunderstanding'. The review was denounced by the Palestinian Red Crescent as *'full of lies....it justifies the killing and shifts responsibility to a personal error in the field*



The bodies of fifteen Palestinian emergency workers are found by the UN a week after they disappeared. They had been executed by Israeli soldiers

command when the truth is quite different.' An officer has been dismissed, but none have been charged.

A CULTURE OF IMPUNITY

Human rights organisations, such as the Israeli Yesh Din, have long accused the Israeli military of a culture of impunity. The IDF has a track record of denying wrongdoing, contradicting itself or blaming low-ranking individuals without broader repercussions for the armed forces.

Since the start of Israel's offensive in Gaza in October 2023, over 1,060 healthcare workers have been killed. UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini has noted that these killings have become 'routine' in Gaza.

One of the counts on which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant are indicted before the International Criminal Court is failure genuinely to investigate allegations of war crimes.

Israel constantly claims that the killings and cover-ups are individual 'mistakes'. They are not. They are war crimes or crimes against humanity. They are the routine acts of an apartheid state, rooted in Zionist ideology which dehumanises Palestinians.

And politicians who claim to be Zionists and who arm the Israeli war machine are assisting these crimes.