

# Israel's Operation Cast Lead

■ **Stage 1, December 27: Week-long air offensive and artillery bombardment begins, to end Hamas rocket fire from Gaza. 10,000 reservists called up**

**Palestinian dead 421**  
**Israeli dead 4**

■ **Stage 2, January 3: Ground offensive begins.** Four Israeli brigades – a tank brigade and three infantry brigades backed by extra tanks and armoured vehicles – enter Gaza. Additional reservists drafted

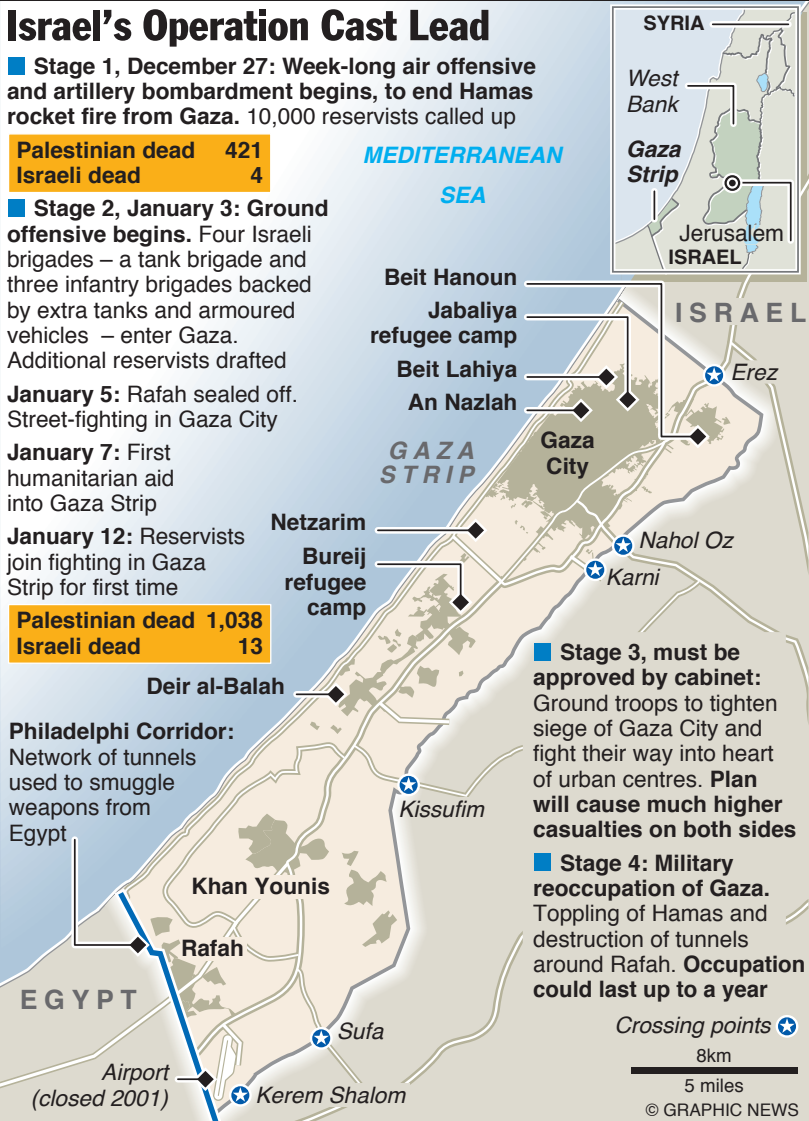
**January 5:** Rafah sealed off. Street-fighting in Gaza City

**January 7:** First humanitarian aid into Gaza Strip

**January 12:** Reservists join fighting in Gaza Strip for first time

**Palestinian dead 1,038**  
**Israeli dead 13**

**Philadelphi Corridor:** Network of tunnels used to smuggle weapons from Egypt



■ **Stage 3, must be approved by cabinet:** Ground troops to tighten siege of Gaza City and fight their way into heart of urban centres. **Plan will cause much higher casualties on both sides**

■ **Stage 4: Military reoccupation of Gaza.** Toppling of Hamas and destruction of tunnels around Rafah. **Occupation could last up to a year**

Crossing points ★

8km

5 miles

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