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**

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