

As the year 2009 began, the horrific Israeli massacre of Gaza continued. Hundreds were killed, including many children. The invasion came on top of an 18-month siege that cut off food, medicine, and other vital supplies to Gaza. The Israeli invasion was fully backed by the U.S.

The year closed out with Obama announcing a “surge” of 30,000 more American troops in Afghanistan that would bring the total U.S.-led occupation forces there to about 150,000—along with an escalation of military attacks in Pakistan. The military machine that has bombed wedding parties, that has held thousands of young Afghan men in Bagram prison without charges, that kicks down doors in the middle of the night—this machine is being strengthened and further unleashed. Obama made the troop increase announcement shortly before flying to Oslo to accept the Nobel “Peace Prize.”

Thirty members of the Samouni family were slaughtered by Israeli shells, January 4, 2009. They were in a house where they were told to seek refuge. Right, children mourn three of the youngest who were killed.



Photos: AP



Composite image: Tank: U.S. troops and Afghan border police on the Afghanistan/Pakistan border near Spin Boldak, August 2009. Bottom image: A child, one of several civilians killed by international forces in a nighttime airstrike, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, November 5, 2009.