

= Muhammad al @-@ Durrah incident =

The Muhammad al @-@ Durrah incident took place in the Gaza Strip on 30 September 2000 , on the second day of the Second Intifada , during widespread rioting throughout the Palestinian territories . Jamal al @-@ Durrah and his 12 @-@ year @-@ old son , Muhammad , were filmed by Talal Abu Rahma , a Palestinian cameraman freelancing for France 2 , as they were caught in crossfire between Israeli and Palestinian security forces . The footage shows the pair crouching behind a concrete cylinder , the boy crying and the father waving , then a burst of gunfire and dust , after which the boy is seen slumped across his father 's legs .

Fifty @-@ nine seconds of the footage were broadcast in France with a voiceover from Charles Enderlin , the station 's bureau chief in Israel , who was not present during the shooting . Based on information from the cameraman , Enderlin told viewers that the al @-@ Durrahs had been the " target of fire from the Israeli positions " and that the boy had died . After an emotional public funeral , Muhammad was hailed throughout the Muslim world as a martyr .

Over the months and years that followed , commentators questioned the accuracy of France 2 's report . The Israel Defense Forces accepted responsibility for the shooting at first but later retracted . French journalists who saw the raw footage confirmed that France 2 had cut a final few seconds in which Muhammad appeared to lift his hand from his face ; they acknowledged that he had died , but said the footage alone did not show it . France 2 's news editor said in 2005 that no one could be sure who fired the shots . Other commentators , particularly Philippe Karsenty , a French media commentator , went further , alleging that the scene had been staged by Palestinian protesters ; France 2 sued him for libel and in 2013 he was fined ? 7 @,@ 000 by the Court of Appeal of Paris . In May that year an Israeli government report supported Karsenty 's view . Jamal al @-@ Durrah and Charles Enderlin rejected its conclusion and called for an independent international investigation .

The footage of the father and son acquired what one writer called the power of a battle flag . Postage stamps in the Middle East carried the images ; one of the images was visible in the background when Daniel Pearl , a Jewish @-@ American journalist , was beheaded by al @-@ Qaeda in 2002 . James Fallows wrote of the controversy that " no version of truth that is considered believable by all sides will ever emerge . "

= = Background = =

On 28 September 2000 , two days before the shooting , the Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon visited the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem , a holy site in both Judaism and Islam with contested rules of access . The violence that followed had its roots in several events , but the visit was provocative and triggered protests that escalated into rioting across the West Bank and Gaza Strip . The uprising became known as the Second Intifada ; it lasted over four years and cost around 4 @,@ 000 lives , over 3 @,@ 000 of them Palestinian .

The Netzarim junction , where the shooting took place , is known locally as the al @-@ Shohada ( martyrs ' ) junction . It lies on Saladin Road , a few kilometres south of Gaza City . The source of conflict at the junction was the nearby Netzarim settlement , where 60 Israeli families lived until Israel 's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005 . A military escort accompanied the settlers whenever they left or arrived at the settlement , and an Israeli military outpost , Magen @-@ 3 , guarded the approach . The area had been the scene of violent incidents in the days before the shooting .

= = People = =

= = = Jamal and Muhammad al @-@ Durrah = = =

Jamal al @-@ Durrah ( born c . 1963 ) was a carpenter and house painter before the shooting . Since then , because of his injuries , he has worked as a truck driver . He and his wife , Amal , live in

the UNRWA @-@ run Bureij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip . As of 2013 they had four daughters and six sons , including a boy , Muhammad , born two years after the shooting .

Until the shooting , Jamal had worked for Moshe Tamam , an Israeli contractor , for 20 years , since he was 14 . Writer Helen Schary Motro came to know Jamal when she employed him to help build her house in Tel Aviv . She described his years of rising at 3 : 30 am to catch the bus to the border crossing at four , then a second bus out of Gaza so he could be at work by six . Tamam called him a " terrific man , " someone he trusted to work alone in his customers ' homes .

Muhammad Jamal Al @-@ Durrah ( born 1988 ) was in fifth grade , but his school was closed on 30 September 2000 ; the Palestinian Authority had called for a general strike and day of mourning following violence in Jerusalem the day before . His mother said he had been watching the rioting on television and asked if he could join in . Father and son decided instead to go to a car auction . Jamal had just sold his 1974 Fiat , Motro wrote , and Muhammad loved cars , so they went to the auction together .

= = = Charles Enderlin = = =

Charles Enderlin was born in 1945 in Paris ; his grandparents were Austrian Jews who had left the country in 1938 when Germany invaded . After briefly studying medicine , he moved to Jerusalem in 1968 where he became an Israeli national . He began working for France 2 in 1981 , serving as their bureau chief in Israel from 1990 until his retirement in 2015 . Enderlin is the author of several books about the Middle East , including one about Muhammad al @-@ Durrah , *Un Enfant est Mort : Netzarim* , 30 Septembre 2000 ( 2010 ) . Highly regarded among his peers and within the French establishment , he submitted a letter from Jacques Chirac , during the Philippe Karsenty libel action , who wrote in flattering terms of Enderlin 's integrity . In 2009 he was awarded France 's highest decoration , the Légion d'honneur .

According to journalist Anne @-@ Élisabeth Moutet , Enderlin 's coverage of the Israeli @-@ Palestinian conflict was respected by other journalists but was regularly criticized by pro @-@ Israel groups . As a result of the al @-@ Durrah case , he received death threats , his wife was assaulted in the street , his children were threatened , the family had to move home , and at one point they considered emigrating to the United States .

= = = Talal Abu Rahma = = =

Talal Hassan Abu Rahma studied business administration in the United States , and began working as a freelance cameraman for France 2 in Gaza in 1988 . At the time of the shooting , he ran his own press office , the National News Center , contributed to CNN through the Al @-@ Wataneya Press Office , and was a board member of the Palestinian Journalists ' Association . His coverage of the al @-@ Durrah shooting brought him several journalism awards , including the Rory Peck Award in 2001 . According to France 2 correspondent Gérard Grizbec , Abu Rahma had never been a member of a Palestinian political group , had twice been arrested by Palestinian police for filming images that did not meet the approval of Yasser Arafat , and had never been accused of security breaches by Israel .

= = Initial reports = =

= = = Scene on the day = = =

On the day of the shooting ? Rosh Hashanah , the Jewish New Year ? the two @-@ story Israel Defense Forces ( IDF ) outpost at the Netzarim junction was manned by Israeli soldiers from the Givati Brigade Engineering Platoon and the Herev Battalion . According to Enderlin , the soldiers were Druze .

The two @-@ story IDF outpost sat northwest of the junction . Two six @-@ story Palestinian

blocks ( known as the twins or twin towers and described variously as offices or apartments ) lay directly behind it . South of the junction , diagonally across from the IDF , there was a Palestinian National Security Forces outpost under the command of Brigadier @-@ General Osama al @-@ Ali , a member of the Palestine National Council . The concrete wall that Jamal and Muhammad crouched against was in front of this building ; the spot was less than 120 metres from the most northerly point of the Israeli outpost .

In addition to France 2 , the Associated Press and Reuters also had camera crews at the junction . They captured brief footage of the al @-@ Durrahs and Abu Rahma . Abu Rahma was the only journalist to film the moment the al @-@ Durrahs were shot .

= = = Arrival at the junction , shooting starts = = =

Jamal and Muhammad arrived at the junction in a cab around midday , on their way back from the car auction . There had been a protest , demonstrators had thrown stones , and the IDF had responded with tear gas . Abu Rahma was filming events and interviewing protesters , including Abdel Hakim Awad , head of the Fatah youth movement in Gaza . Because of the protest , a police officer stopped Jamal and Muhammad 's cab from going any further , so father and son proceeded on foot across the junction . It was at that point , according to Jamal , that the live fire started . Enderlin said the first shots were fired from the Palestinian positions and returned by the Israeli soldiers .

Jamal , Muhammad , the Associated Press cameraman , and Shams Oudeh , the Reuters cameraman , took cover against the concrete wall in the south @-@ east quadrant of the crossroads , diagonally across from the Israeli outpost . Jamal , Muhammad and Shams Oudeh crouched behind a three @-@ foot @-@ tall ( 0 @-@ 91 m ) concrete drum , apparently part of a culvert , that was sitting against the wall . A thick paving stone sat on top of the drum , which offered further protection . Abu Rahma hid behind a white minibus parked across the road about 15 metres away from the wall . The Reuters and Associated Press cameramen briefly filmed over Jamal and Muhammad 's shoulders ? the cameras pointing toward the Israeli outpost ? before the men moved away . Jamal and Muhammad did not move away , but stayed behind the drum for 45 minutes . In Enderlin 's view , they were frozen in fear .

= = = France 2 report = = =

In an affidavit three days after the shooting , Abu Rahma said shots had been fired for about 45 minutes and that he had filmed around 27 minutes of it . ( How much film was shot became a bone of contention in 2007 when France 2 told a court that only 18 minutes of film existed . ) He began filming Jamal and Muhammad when he heard Muhammad cry and saw that the boy had been shot in the right leg . He said he filmed the scene containing the father and son for about six minutes . He sent those six minutes to Enderlin in Jerusalem via satellite . Enderlin edited the footage down to 59 seconds and added a voiceover :

1500 hours . Everything has just erupted near the settlement of Netzarim in the Gaza Strip . The Palestinians have shot live bullets , the Israelis are responding . Paramedics , journalists , passersby are caught in the crossfire . Here , Jamal and his son Mohammed are the target of fire from the Israeli positions . Mohammed is twelve , his father is trying to protect him . He is motioning . Another burst of fire . Mohammed is dead and his father seriously wounded .

The footage shows Jamal and Muhammad crouching behind the cylinder , the child screaming and the father shielding him . Jamal appears to shout something in the direction of the cameraman , then waves and shouts in the direction of the Israeli outpost . There is a burst of gunfire and the camera goes out of focus . When the gunfire subsides , Jamal is sitting upright and injured and Muhammad is lying over his legs . Enderlin cut a final few seconds from the footage that shows Muhammad lift his hand from his face . This cut became the basis of much of the controversy over the film .

The raw footage stops suddenly at this point and begins again with unidentified people being loaded into an ambulance . ( At that point in his report , Enderlin said : " A Palestinian policeman

and an ambulance driver have also lost their lives in the course of this battle . " ) Bassam al @-@ Bilbeisi , an ambulance driver on his way to the scene , was reported to have been shot and killed , leaving a widow and 11 children . Abu Rahma said Muhammad lay bleeding for at least 17 minutes before an ambulance picked up father and son together . He said he did not film them being picked up because he was worried about having only one battery . Abu Rahma remained at the junction for 30 ? 40 minutes until he felt it was safe to leave , then drove to his studio in Gaza City to send the footage to Enderlin . The 59 seconds of footage were first broadcast on France 2 's nightly news at 8 : 00 pm local time ( GMT + 2 ) , after which France 2 distributed several minutes of raw footage around the world without charge .

= = = Injuries , funeral = = =

Jamal and Muhammad were taken by ambulance to the Al @-@ Shifa Hospital in Gaza City . Abu Rhama telephoned the hospital and was told that three bodies had arrived there : that of a jeep driver , an ambulance driver , and a boy , initially named by mistake as Rami Al @-@ Durrah .

According to Dr. Abed El @-@ Razeq El Masry , the pathologist who examined Muhammed , the boy had received a fatal injury to the abdomen . In 2002 he showed Esther Schapira , a German journalist , post @-@ mortem images of Muhammad next to cards identifying him by name . Schapira also obtained , from a Palestinian journalist , what appeared to be footage of him arriving at the hospital on a stretcher . During an emotional public funeral in the Bureij refugee camp , Muhammad was wrapped in a Palestinian flag and buried before sundown on the day of his death , in accordance with Muslim tradition .

Jamal was taken at first to the Al @-@ Shifa Hospital in Gaza . Dr. Ahmed Ghadeel said Jamal had received multiple wounds from high @-@ velocity bullets striking his right elbow , right thigh and the lower part of both legs ; his femoral artery was also cut . Talal Abu Rahma interviewed Jamal and the doctor there on camera the day after the shooting ; Dr. Ghadeel displayed x @-@ rays of Jamal 's right elbow and right pelvis . Moshe Tamam , Jamal 's Israeli employer , offered to have him taken to hospital in Tel Aviv , but the Palestinian Authority declined the offer . He was transferred instead to the King Hussein Medical Center in Amman , Jordan , where he was visited by King Abdullah . Jamal reportedly told Tamam that he had been hit by nine bullets ; he said five were removed from his body in hospital in Gaza and four in Amman .

= = = Cameraman 's account = = =

Enderlin based his allegation that the IDF had shot the boy on the report of the cameraman , Talal Abu Rahma . Abu Rahma was clear in interviews that the Israelis had fired the shots . For example , he told The Guardian : " They were cleaning the area . Of course they saw the father . They were aiming at the boy , and that is what surprised me , yes , because they were shooting at him , not only one time , but many times . " Abu Rahma said shooting was also coming from the Palestinian National Security Forces outpost , but that they were not shooting when Muhammad was hit . The Israeli fire was being directed at this Palestinian outpost , he said . He told National Public Radio :

I saw the boy getting injured in his leg , and the father asking for help . Then I saw him getting injured in his arm , the father . The father was asking the ambulances to help him , because he could see the ambulances . I cannot see the ambulance ... I wasn 't far away , maybe from them [ Jamal and Muhammad ] face to face about 15 meters , 17 meters . But the father didn 't succeed to get the ambulance by waving to them . He looked at me and he said , " Help me . " I said , " I cannot , I can 't help you . " The shooting till then was really heavy ... It was really raining bullets , for more than for 45 minutes .

Then ... I hear something , " boom ! " Really is coming with a lot of dust . I looked at the boy , I filmed the boy lying down in the father 's lap , and the father really , getting really injured , and he was really dizzy . I said , " Oh my god , the boy 's got killed , the boy 's got killed , " I was screaming , I was losing my mind . While I was filming , the boy got killed ... I was very afraid , I was very upset , I was crying , and I was remembering my children .... This was the most terrible thing that has

happened to me as a journalist .

Abu Rahma alleged in an affidavit that " the child was intentionally and in cold blood shot dead and his father injured by the Israeli army . " The affidavit was given to the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights in Gaza and signed by the cameraman in the presence of Raji Sourani , a human rights lawyer . France 2 's communications director , Christine Delavennat , said in 2008 that Abu Rahma denied having accused the Israeli army of firing at the boy in cold blood , and that this had been falsely attributed to him .

= = = Israel 's early response = = =

The position of the IDF changed over time , from accepting responsibility in 2000 to retracting the admission in 2005 . The IDF 's first response , when Enderlin contacted them before his broadcast , was that the Palestinians " make cynical use of women and children , " which he decided not to air .

On 3 October 2000 , the IDF 's chief of operations , Major @-@ General Giora Eiland , said an internal investigation indicated the shots had apparently been fired by Israeli soldiers . The soldiers , under fire , had been shooting from small slits in the wall of their outpost ; General Yom @-@ Tov Samia , then head of the IDF 's Southern Command said they may not have had a clear field of vision , and had fired in the direction from which they believed the fire was coming . Eiland issued an apology : " This was a grave incident , an event we are all sorry about . "

The Israelis had been trying for hours to speak to Palestinian commanders , according to Israel 's Cabinet Secretary , Isaac Herzog ; he added that Palestinian security forces could have intervened to stop the fire .

= = Controversy = =

= = = Overview = = =

Three mainstream narratives emerged after the shooting . The early view that Israeli gunfire had killed the boy developed into the position that , because of the trajectory of the shots , Palestinian gunfire was more likely to have been responsible . This view was expressed in 2005 by Denis Jeambar , editor @-@ in @-@ chief of L 'Express , and Daniel Leconte , a former France 2 correspondent , who viewed the raw footage . A third perspective , held by Arlette Chabot , France 2 's news editor , is that no one can know who fired the shots .

A fourth , minority , position held that the scene was staged by Palestinian protesters to produce a child martyr or at least the appearance of one . This is known by those who follow the case as the " maximalist " view , as opposed to the " minimalist " view that the shots were probably not fired by the IDF . The maximalist view takes the form either that the al @-@ Durrahs were not shot and Muhammad did not die , or that he was killed intentionally by Palestinians .

The view that the scene was a media hoax of some kind emerged from an Israeli government enquiry in November 2000 . It was most persistently pursued by Stéphane Juffa , editor @-@ in @-@ chief of the Metula News Agency ( Mena ) , a French @-@ Israeli company ; Luc Rosenzweig , former editor @-@ in @-@ chief of Le Monde and a Mena contributor ; Richard Landes , an American historian who became involved after Enderlin showed him the raw footage during a visit to Jerusalem in 2003 ; and Philippe Karsenty , founder of a French media @-@ watchdog site , Media @-@ Ratings . It was also supported by Gérard Huber , a French psychoanalyst , and Pierre @-@ André Taguieff , a French philosopher who specializes in antisemitism , both of whom wrote books about the affair . The hoax view gained further support in 2013 from a second Israeli government report , the Kuperwasser report . Several commentators regard it as a right @-@ wing conspiracy theory and smear campaign .

= = = Key issues = = =

Key issues include how much footage was shot ; that it was blurred at the moment Jamal and Muhammad were hit ; that France 2 cut a few seconds in which the boy moves ; and that the cameraman stopped filming at that point . Despite the presence of camera crews from ( at least ) France 2 , Associated Press and Reuters , there is no footage of the c . 17 minutes Jamal and Muhammad waited for an ambulance or of them being loaded into one . There is no film of the death of the first ambulance driver , Bassam al @-@ Bilbeisi , who was reportedly shot on his way to pick them up .

Several commentators questioned what time the shooting occurred ; what time Muhammad arrived at the hospital ; why there seemed to be little blood on the ground where they were shot ; and whether any bullets were collected . Several alleged that , in other scenes in the raw footage , it is clear that protesters are play acting . One physician maintained that Jamal 's scars were not from bullet wounds , but dated back to an injury he sustained in the early 1990s .

There was no criminal inquiry . Palestinian police allowed journalists to photograph the scene the following day , but they gathered no forensic evidence . According to a Palestinian general , there was no Palestinian investigation because there was no doubt that the Israelis had killed the boy . General Yom Tov Samia of the IDF said the presence of protesters meant the Israelis were unable to examine and take photographs of the scene . The increase in violence at the junction cut off the Nezarim settlers , so the IDF evacuated them and , a week after the shooting , blew up everything within 500 metres of the IDF outpost , thereby destroying the crime scene .

A pathologist examined the boy 's body , but there was no full autopsy . It is unclear whether bullets were recovered from the scene or from Jamal and Muhammad . In 2002 Abu Rahma implied to Esther Schapira that he had collected bullets at the scene , adding : " We have some secrets for ourselves . We cannot give anything ... everything . " According to Jamal al @-@ Durrah , five bullets were recovered from his body by physicians in Gaza and four in Amman . In 2013 he said , without elaborating : " The bullets the Israelis fired are in the possession of the Palestinian Authority . "

== Footage ==

=== How long , what it showed ===

Questions arose about how much footage existed and whether it showed the boy had died . Abu Rahma said in an affidavit that the gunfight had lasted 45 minutes and that he had filmed about 27 minutes of it . Doreen Carvajal of the International Herald Tribune said in 2005 that France 2 had shown the newspaper " the original 27 @-@ minute tape of the incident . " When the Court of Appeal of Paris asked , in 2007 , to see all the footage , during France 2 's libel case against Philippe Karsenty , France 2 presented the court with 18 minutes of film , saying the rest had been destroyed because it had not been about the shooting . Enderlin then said only 18 minutes of footage had been shot .

According to Abu Rahma , six minutes of his footage focused on the al @-@ Durrahs . France 2 broadcast 59 seconds of that scene and released another few seconds of it . No part of the footage shows the boy dead . Enderlin cut a final few seconds from the end , during which Muhammad appears to lift his hand away from his face . Enderlin said he had cut this scene in accordance with the France 2 ethical charter , because it showed the boy in his death throes ( " agonie " ) , which he said was " unbearable " ( " J 'ai coupé l 'agonie de l 'enfant . C 'était insupportable ... Cela n 'aurait rien apporté de plus ) . In 2007 he said he had meant to use the word agony , not agonie . If he were editing the footage again , he said in 2005 , he would include that scene .

=== Why the footage stopped when it did ===

Another issue is why France 2 , the Associated Press and Reuters did not film the scene directly after the shooting , including the shooting death of the ambulance driver who arrived to pick up

Jamal and Muhammad . Abu Rahma 's footage stops suddenly after the shooting of the father and son , then begins again ? from the same position , with the white minibus behind which Abu Rhama was standing visible in the shot ? with other people being loaded into an ambulance .

Abu Rahma said Muhammad lay bleeding for at least 17 minutes before an ambulance picked up Jamal and Muhammad together , but he did not film any of it . When Esther Schapira asked why not , he replied : " Because when the ambulance came it closed on them , you know ? " When asked why he had not filmed the ambulance arriving and leaving , he replied that he had only one battery . Enderlin reportedly told the Paris Court of Appeal that Abu Rahma changed batteries at that point . Enderlin wrote in 2008 that " footage filmed by a cameraman under fire is not the equivalent of a surveillance camera in a supermarket . " Abu Rahma " filmed what circumstances permitted . "

= = = = French journalists view the footage = = = =

In October 2004 France 2 allowed three French journalists to view the raw footage ? Denis Jeambar , editor @-@ in @-@ chief of L 'Express ; Daniel Leconte , former France 2 correspondent and head of news documentaries at Arte , a state @-@ run television network ; and Luc Rosenzweig , former editor @-@ in @-@ chief of Le Monde . They also asked to speak to the cameraman , who was in Paris at the time , but France 2 apparently told them he did not speak French and that his English was not good enough .

Jeambar and Leconte wrote a report about the viewing for Le Figaro in January 2005 . None of the scenes showed that the boy had died , they wrote . They rejected the position that the scene had been staged , but when Enderlin 's voiceover said Muhammad was dead , Enderlin " had no possibility of determining that he was in fact dead , and even less so , that he had been shot by IDF soldiers . " They said the footage did not show the boy 's death throes : " This famous ' agonie ' that Enderlin insisted was cut from the montage does not exist . "

Several minutes of the film showed Palestinians playing at war for the cameras , they wrote , falling down as if wounded , then getting up and walking away . A France 2 official told them , " You know it 's always like that , " a comment that Leconte said he found disturbing given the controversy . Christine Delavennat , France 2 's communications director , said that none of the scenes in the footage had been staged . Jeambar and Leconte concluded that the shots had come from the Palestinian positions , given the trajectory of the bullets . Leconte said in an interview : " If they had been Israeli bullets , they would be very strange bullets because they would have needed to go around the corner . " He dismissed France 2 's explanation ? that perhaps the bullets that hit the boy had ricocheted off the ground . " It could happen once , but that there should be eight or nine of them , which go around a corner ? They 're just saying anything . "

The idea of writing about the raw footage had been Luc Rosenzweig 's ; he had initially offered a story about it to L 'Express , which is how Jeambar ( editor of L 'Express ) had become involved . But Jeambar and Leconte ended up distancing themselves from Rosenzweig . He was involved with the Israeli @-@ French Metula News Agency ( known as Mena ) , which was pushing the view that the scene was a fake . Rosenzweig later called it " an almost perfect media crime . " When Jeambar and Leconte wrote up their report about the raw footage , they initially offered it Le Monde , not Le Figaro , but Le Monde refused to publish it because Mena had been involved at an earlier stage . Jeambar and Leconte made clear in Le Figaro that they gave no credence to the staging hypothesis :

To those who , like Mena , tried to use us to support the theory that the child 's death was staged by the Palestinians , we say they are misleading us and their readers . Not only do we not share that point of view , but we attest that , given our present knowledge of the case , nothing supports that conclusion . In fact , the reverse is true . "

= = = = Enderlin 's response = = = =

Enderlin responded to Leconte and Jeambar in January 2005 in Le Figaro . He thanked them for rejecting that the scene had been staged . He had reported that the shots were fired by the Israelis

because , he wrote , he trusted the cameraman , who had worked for France 2 since 1988 . In the days following the shooting , other witnesses , including other journalists , offered some confirmation , he said . He added that the Israeli army had not responded to France 2 's offers to cooperate with their investigation .

Another reason he had attributed the shooting to Israel , he wrote , was that " the image corresponded to the reality of the situation not only in Gaza but also in the West Bank . " Citing Ben Kaspi in the Israeli newspaper Maariv , he wrote that , during the first months of the Second Intifada , the IDF had fired one million rounds of ammunition ? 700 @,@ 000 in the West Bank and 300 @,@ 000 in Gaza ; from 29 September to late October 2000 , 118 Palestinians had been killed , including 33 under the age of 18 , compared to 11 adult Israelis killed during the same period .

= = = Confusion about timeline = = =

Confusion arose about the timeline . The cameraman said the shooting began at noon and continued for 45 minutes . Jamal 's account matched his : he and Muhammad arrived at the junction around noon , and were under fire for 45 minutes .

Enderlin 's France 2 report placed the shooting later in the day . His voiceover said that Jamal and Muhammad were shot around 3 : 00 pm local time ( GMT + 3 ) . James Fallows agreed that Jamal and Muhammad first made an appearance in the footage around 3 : 00 pm , judging by comments from Jamal and some journalists on the scene . Abu Rahma said he remained at the junction for 30 ? 40 minutes after the shooting . According to Schapira , he left for his studio in Gaza at around 4 pm , where he sent the footage to Enderlin in Jerusalem at around 6 pm . The news first arrived in London from the Associated Press at 6 : 00 pm BST ( GMT + 1 ) , followed minutes later by a similar report from Reuters .

Contradicting the noon and 3 pm timelines , Mohammed Tawil , the doctor who admitted Muhammad to the Al @-@ Shifa Hospital in Gaza City , told Esther Schapira that the boy had been admitted around 10 : 00 am local time , along with the ambulance driver , who had been shot through the heart . Tawil later said that he could not recall what he had told reporters about this . Records from the Al @-@ Shifa Hospital reportedly show that a young boy was examined in the pathology department at midday . The pathologist , Dr. Abed El @-@ Razeq El Masry , examined him for half an hour . He told Schapira that the boy 's abdominal organs were lying outside his body , and he showed Schapira images of the body , with a card identifying the boy as Muhammad . A watch on a pathologist 's wrist in one of the images appeared to say 3 : 50 .

= = = Interview with soldiers = = =

In 2002 Schapira interviewed three anonymous Israeli soldiers , " Ariel , Alexej and Idan , " who said they had been on duty at the IDF post that day . They knew something was about to happen , one said , because of the camera crews that had gathered . One soldier said the live fire started from the high @-@ rise Palestinian blocks known as " the twins " ; the shooter was firing at the IDF post , he said . The soldier added that he had not seen the al @-@ Durrahs . The Israelis returned fire on a Palestinian station 30 metres to the left of the al @-@ Durrahs . Their weapons were equipped with optics that allowed them to fire accurately , according to the soldier , and none of them had switched to automatic fire . In the view of the soldier , the shooting of Jamal and Muhammad was no accident . The shots did not come from the Israeli position , he said .

= = = Father 's injuries = = =

In 2007 Yehuda David , a physician at Tel Hashomer hospital near Tel Aviv , told Israel 's Channel 10 that he had treated Jamal Al @-@ Durrah in 1994 for knife and axe wounds to his arms and legs , injuries sustained during a gang attack . David maintained that the scars Jamal had presented as bullet wounds were in fact scars from a tendon @-@ repair operation David had performed in the early 90s . When David repeated his allegations in an interview with a " Daniel Vavinsky , "



published in 2008 in Actualité Juive in Paris , Jamal filed a complaint with the Tribunal de grande instance de Paris for defamation and breach of doctor @-@ patient confidentiality .

The court established that " Daniel Vavinsky " was a pseudonym for Clément Weill @-@ Raynal , a deputy editor at France 3 . In 2011 it ruled that David and Actualité Juive had defamed Jamal . David , Weill @-@ Raynal and Serge Benattar , the managing editor of Actualité Juive , were fined ? 5 @,@ 000 each , and Actualité Juive was ordered to print a retraction . The Israeli government said it would fund David 's appeal . The appeal was upheld in 2012 ; David was acquitted of defamation and breach of confidentiality . Benjamin Netanyahu , Israeli 's prime minister , telephoned David to congratulate him . Jamal Al @-@ Durrah said he would appeal the court 's decision .

In 2012 Rafi Walden , deputy director of the Tel Hashomer hospital and board member of Physicians for Human Rights , wrote in Haaretz that he had examined Jamal 's 50 @-@ page medical file , and that the injuries from the 2000 shooting were " completely different wounds " from the 1994 injuries . Walden listed " a gunshot wound in the right wrist , a shattered forearm bone , multiple fragment wounds in a palm , gunshot wounds in the right thigh , a fractured pelvis , an exit wound in the buttocks , a tear in the main nerve of the right thigh , tears in the main groin arteries and veins , and two gunshot wounds in the left lower leg . "

= = = Israel 's inquiries = = =

= = = = 2000 : Shahaf report = = = =

Major General Yom Tov Samia , the IDF 's southern commander , set up an inquiry soon after the shooting . According to James Fallows , Israeli commentators questioned its legitimacy as soon as it started ; Haaretz called it " almost a pirate endeavour . " The team was led by Nahum Shahaf , a physicist , and Joseph Doriel , an engineer , both of whom had been involved in the Yitzhak Rabin assassination conspiracy theories . Other investigators included Meir Danino , chief scientist at Elisra Systems ; Bernie Schechter , a ballistics expert , formerly with the Israeli police 's criminal identification laboratory ; and Chief Superintendent Elliot Springer , also from the criminal identification lab . A full list of names was never released .

Shahaf and Doriel built models of the wall , concrete drum and IDF post , and tried to reenact the shooting . A mark on the drum from the Israeli Bureau of Standards allowed them to determine its size and composition . They concluded that the shots may have come from a position behind the France 2 cameraman , where Palestinian police were alleged to have been standing .

On 23 October 2000 , Shahaf and Doriel invited CBS 60 Minutes to film the reenactment . Doriel told the correspondent , Bob Simon , that he believed the boy 's death was real , but that it had been set up to damage Israel . Those in the know , he said , included the cameraman and the boy 's father , though the latter had not realized the boy would be killed . When General Samia heard about the interview , he removed Doriel from the investigation . The investigators ' report was shown to the head of Israeli military intelligence ; the key points were published in November 2000 as not ruling out that the IDF had shot the boy , though describing it as " quite plausible " that he had been hit by Palestinian bullets aimed at the IDF post . The inquiry provoked widespread criticism . A Haaretz editorial said , " it is hard to describe in mild terms the stupidity of this bizarre investigation . "

= = = = 2005 : Retraction of earlier position = = = =

In 2005 Major @-@ General Giora Eiland publicly retracted the IDF 's admission of responsibility , and a statement to that effect was approved by the prime minister 's office in September 2007 . The following year an IDF spokesman , Col. Shlomi Am @-@ Shalom , said that the Shahaf report had shown the IDF could not have shot Muhammad . He asked France 2 to send the IDF the unedited 27 minutes of raw footage , as well as footage the France 2 cameraman shot the following day .

=== 2013 : Kuperwasser report ===

In September 2012 the Israeli government set up another inquiry at the request of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu . The team was led by Yossi Kuperwasser , director @-@ general of the Strategic Affairs Ministry . In May 2013 it published a 44 @-@ page report concluding that the al @-@ Durrahs had not been hit by IDF fire and may not have been shot at all .

The Kuperwasser report said that France 2 's central claims were not substantiated by the material the station had in its possession at the time ; that the boy was alive at the end of the video ; that there was no evidence that Jamal or Muhammad were injured in the manner reported by France 2 or that Jamal was seriously injured ; and that they may not have been shot at all . It included a medical opinion from Yehuda David , the doctor who treated Jamal in 1994 . The report said it is " highly doubtful that bullet holes in the vicinity of the two could have had their source in fire from the Israeli position , " and that the France 2 report was " edited and narrated in such a way as to create the misleading impression that it substantiated the claims made therein . " The France 2 narrative relied entirely on the cameraman 's opinion , the report said . Yuval Steinitz , Minister of International Affairs , Strategy and Intelligence , called the affair a " modern @-@ day blood libel against the State of Israel . "

France 2 , Charles Enderlin and Jamal al @-@ Durrah rejected the report 's conclusions and said they would cooperate with an independent international investigation . France 2 and Enderlin asked the Israeli government to supply the commission 's letter of appointment , membership and evidence , including photographs and the names of witnesses . Enderlin said the commission had failed to speak to him , France 2 , al @-@ Durrah or other eyewitnesses , and had consulted no independent experts . According to Enderlin , France 2 stood ready to help al @-@ Durrah have his son 's body exhumed ; he and al @-@ Durrah said they were willing to take polygraph tests .

= = Philippe Karsenty litigation = =

=== 2006 : Enderlin @-@ France 2 v. Karsenty ===

In response to claims that it had broadcast a staged scene , Enderlin and France 2 filed three defamation suits in 2004 and 2005 , seeking symbolic damages of ? 1 . The most notable lawsuit was against Philippe Karsenty , who ran a media watchdog , Media @-@ Ratings . He published an analysis of the footage on his website in November 2004 , based on work from the French @-@ Israeli Metula News Agency , that alleged the shooting scene had been faked , as had several scenes leading up to it where protesters were shown being injured . France 2 and Enderlin issued a writ two days later .

The case began in September 2006 . Enderlin submitted as evidence a February 2004 letter from Jacques Chirac , then president of France , which spoke of Enderlin 's integrity . The court upheld the complaint on 19 October 2006 , fining Karsenty ? 1 @,@ 000 and ordering him to pay ? 3 @,@ 000 in costs . He lodged an appeal that day .

=== 2007 : Karsenty v. Enderlin @-@ France 2 ===

The first appeal opened in September 2007 in the Court of Appeal of Paris , before a three @-@ judge panel led by Judge Laurence Trébuçq . The court asked France 2 to turn over the 27 minutes of raw footage the cameraman said he had shot , to be shown during a public hearing . France 2 produced 18 minutes ; Enderlin said that only 18 minutes had been shot .

During the screening , the court heard that Muhammad had raised his hand to his forehead and moved his leg after the cameraman had said he was dead , and that there was no blood on his shirt . Enderlin argued that the cameraman had not said the boy was dead , but that he was dying . A report prepared for the court by Jean @-@ Claude Schlinger , a ballistics expert commissioned by Karsenty , said that had the shots come from the Israeli position , Muhammad would have been hit

in the lower limbs only .

France 2 's lawyer , Francis Szpiner , counsel to former President of France Jacques Chirac , called Karsenty " the Jew who pays a second Jew to pay a third Jew to fight to the last drop of Israeli blood , " comparing him to 9 / 11 conspiracy theorist Thierry Meyssan and Holocaust denier Robert Faurisson . Karsenty had it in for Enderlin , Szpiner argued , because of Enderlin 's even @-@ handed coverage of the Middle East .

The judges overturned the ruling against Karsenty in May 2008 in a 13 @-@ page decision . They ruled that he had exercised in good faith his right to criticize and had shown the court a " coherent body of evidence . " The court noted inconsistencies in Enderlin 's statements and said that the cameraman 's statements were not " perfectly credible either in form or content . " There were calls for a public inquiry from historian Élie Barnavi , a former Israeli ambassador to France , and Richard Prasquier , president of the Conseil Représentatif des Institutions juives de France . The left @-@ leaning Le Nouvel Observateur began a petition in support of Enderlin that was signed by 300 French writers , accusing Karsenty of a seven @-@ year smear campaign .

= = = 2013 : Defamation ruling = = =

France 2 appealed to the Court of Cassation ( supreme court ) . In February 2012 it quashed the decision of the appeal court to overturn the conviction , ruling that the court should not have asked France 2 to provide the raw footage . The case was sent back to the appeal court , which convicted Karsenty of defamation in 2013 and fined him ? 7 @,@ 000 .

= = Impact of the footage = =

The footage of Muhammad was compared to other iconic images of children under attack : the boy in the Warsaw ghetto ( 1943 ) , the Vietnamese girl doused with napalm ( 1972 ) , and the firefighter carrying the dying baby in Oklahoma ( 1995 ) . Catherine Nay , a French journalist , argued that Muhammad 's death " cancels , erases that of the Jewish child , his hands in the air before the SS in the Warsaw Ghetto . "

Palestinian children were distressed by the repeated broadcasting of the footage , according to a therapist in Gaza , and were re @-@ enacting the scene in playgrounds . Arab countries issued postage stamps bearing the images . Parks and streets were named in Muhammad 's honour , and Osama bin Laden mentioned him in a " warning " to President George Bush after 9 / 11 . The images were blamed for the 2000 Ramallah lynching and a rise in antisemitism in France . One image could be seen in the background when journalist Daniel Pearl , an American Jew , was beheaded by al @-@ Qaeda in February 2002 .

Sections of the Jewish and Israeli communities , including the Israeli government in 2013 , described the statements that IDF soldiers had killed the boy as a " blood libel , " a reference to the centuries @-@ old allegation that Jews sacrifice Christian children for their blood . Comparisons were made with the Dreyfus affair of 1894 , when a French @-@ Jewish army captain was found guilty of treason based on a forgery . In the view of Charles Enderlin , the controversy is a smear campaign intended to undermine footage coming out of the occupied Palestinian territories . Doreen Carvjal wrote in The New York Times that the footage is " a cultural prism , with viewers seeing what they want to see . "