

# The 'brilliant' way Israel kills innocents



Relatives mourn Fatima Abdallah, a 10-year-old girl killed after hundreds of pager devices exploded in a deadly wave across Lebanon, during her funeral in the village of Saraain in the Bekaa valley on September 18, 2024.

● AFP



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**OPINION**

*In the minds of Israel's cheerleaders abroad, the child victims of its 'sophisticated' and 'complex' mass assassination plot in Lebanon are nothing but an inconvenience.*

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Among Israel's legion of cheerleaders abroad is Artur Wilczynski, a former Canadian ambassador and senior security official, who promptly took to X to describe Israel's ruthless gambit that claimed the budding lives of Fatima Abdallah and Mohammed Bilal Kanjas "brilliant".

In 48 hours alone, 50 children have been killed in Lebanon – all casualties of the latest Israeli strikes.

By now, save her family and friends, the short life and dreadful death of 10-year-old Fatima Abdallah Jaafar will likely have been forgotten.

But the sick circumstance of how, where and why Fatima was killed requires remembering. It requires remembering because her sudden, disfiguring death stands a searing antidote to the almost giddy celebration of the "ingenious" ways Israel devises to assassinate its adversaries.

It is also a halting harbinger of the scores of other innocents who are bound to perish as the Middle East appears destined to be engulfed by an even wider war. In 48 hours alone, 50 children have been killed in Lebanon – all casualties of the latest Israeli strikes.

Fatima and an 11-year-old boy, Bilal Kanj, were killed during the first wave of Israeli attacks targeting Hezbollah fighters involving pagers housing explosives that detonated simultaneously at 3:30pm on September 17 throughout Lebanon and Syria. Fatima had just arrived home

from the first day of the new school year. She was in fourth grade. Her aunt remembered how eager Fatima was to learn English. "Fatima was trying to take courses in English," she said. "She loved English."

Fatima was in the kitchen when a pager, resting on a table, began beeping. She picked up the device, intending to deliver it to her father. En route, it exploded.

Fatima's small, cherubic face turned instantly into a mangled mess. The room was now awash in the schoolgirl's blood – an awful testament to the improvised bomb's lethal force.

At her funeral held in Lebanon's Bekka Valley, grieving classmates carried a large picture of Fatima aloft. Her mother, walking alongside a tiny flower-draped coffin, wept.

Mourners paused in the town square before heading to a nearby cemetery. There, they prayed while a religious elder appealed to God "for justice".

Fatima's death was of little, if any, consequence to the host of West-

ern journalists and so-called "security experts" who "marveled at the complexity" of Israel's covert "plot" to infiltrate Hezbollah on such a "colossal" scale.

Israel has neither confirmed nor denied its involvement. Still, it is widely believed that its security services were responsible for organising and committing the attacks.

It is, of course, a familiar story. Children – whether they are orphaned, traumatised, dismembered or slain in Gaza, the occupied West Bank or Lebanon – are considered disposable fodder as Israel continues to vent, unchecked, its "killing rage".

Fatima and the thousands of children in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon who have already been killed and will be killed have been reduced to an inconvenient asterisk in the myopic minds of Israel's legion of cheerleaders abroad.

Among them is Artur Wilczynski, a former Canadian ambassador and senior security official, who promptly took to X to describe Israel's ruthless gambit that

claimed the budding lives of Fatima Abdallah and Mohammed Bilal Kanjas "brilliant".

"Today's targeting of Hezbollah operatives was brilliant. It struck a major blow against a terror group that has fired thousands of rockets against civilians all while the useless UN mission in Lebanon stands by. There is a price to pay," Wilczynski wrote.

That the deaths of Fatima and Bilal were a shocking measure of the "price" that Lebanese civilians had to "pay" did not deter Wilczynski from posting what the retired Canadian diplomat apparently considered a pithy GIF just hours after the deadly explosions began.

The GIF features two popular Looney Tunes cartoon figures. In the short scene, Road Runner frightens Wile E Coyote. The caption reads: "Beep beep."

Later, in response to a tweet by acclaimed Palestinian writer Mariam Barghouti, pointing out that the victims of Israel's "premediated" attack included children, Wilczynski posted another GIF – this time, of a movie star in character, applauding.

Wilczynski's egregious posts triggered a fierce and sustained backlash – particularly given that, only months earlier, he had been appointed the University of Ottawa's "special advisor" on anti-Semitism.

In a cockeyed bid to explain away his damning posts, Wilczynski claimed that the cartoon GIF was, in fact, "a statement about persistent attempts to kill Jews over the centuries that fail".

No, sir. Posting a snippet of a cartoon to make "a statement" about the murderous pogroms Jews have endured "over the centuries" is an outrageous affront to the memory of millions of victims – girls and boys, women and men.

Remember, the author of this ob-



One of the coffins is carried during the funeral of the 11-year old Mohammed Bilal Kanj, Mohamed Hassan Nour al-Din, Abbas Fadel Yassin and Mohammad Mahdi Ammar, son of Hezbollah member of the Lebanese parliament, Ali Ammar, who were killed amid the detonation of pagers across Lebanon, in Beirut.

● REUTERS