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[Home](#) >> [Features](#) > American citizen critically injured after being shot in the head by Israeli forces in Ni'lin

American citizen critically injured after being shot in the head by Israeli forces in Ni'lin

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Updates below Press Release



For Immediate Release

13th Friday 2009, Ni'lin Village: An American citizen has been critically injured in the village of Ni'lin after Israeli forces shot him in the head with a tear-gas canister.

Tristan Anderson from California USA, 37 years old, has been taken to Israeli hospital Tel Hashomer, near Tel Aviv. Anderson is unconscious and has been bleeding heavily from the nose and mouth. He sustained a large hole in his forehead where he was struck by the canister.

Tristan was shot by the new tear-gas canisters that can be shot up to 500m. I ran over as I saw someone had been shot, while the Israeli forces continued to fire tear-gas at us. When an ambulance came, the Israeli soldiers refused to allow the ambulance through the checkpoint just outside the village. After 5 minutes of arguing with the soldiers, the ambulance passed.

– **Teah Lunqvist (Sweden) - International Solidarity Movement**

The Israeli army began using to use the [Rutger rifle](#) and a high velocity tear gas canister in December 2008. The black canister, labeled in Hebrew as “40mm bullet special/long range,” can shoot over 400 meters and weighs 130 grams when empty of gas. The gas canister does not make a noise when fired or emit a smoke tail. A combination of the canister’s high velocity and silence is extremely dangerous and has caused numerous injuries, including a Palestinian male whose leg was broken in January 2009.

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Tristan Anderson

Tristan Anderson was shot as Israeli forces attacked a demonstration against the construction of the annexation wall through the village of Ni’lin’s land. Another resident from Ni’lin was shot in the leg with live ammunition.

Four Ni’lin residents have been killed during demonstrations against the confiscation of their land.

Ahmed Mousa (10) was shot in the forehead with live ammunition on 29th July 2008. The following day, Yousef Amira (17) was shot twice with rubber-coated steel bullets, leaving him brain dead. He died a week later on 4 August 2008. Arafat Rateb Khawaje (22), was the third Ni’lin resident to be killed by Israeli forces. He was shot in the back with live ammunition on 28 December 2008. That same day, Mohammed Khawaje (20), was shot in the head with live ammunition, leaving him brain dead. He died three days in a Ramallah hospital.

Residents in the village of Ni’lin have been demonstrating against the construction of the Apartheid Wall, deemed illegal by the International Court of Justice in 2004. Ni’lin will lose approximately 2500 dunums of agricultural land when the construction of the Wall is completed. Ni’lin was 57,000 dunums in 1948, reduced to 33,000 dunums in 1967, currently is 10,000 dunums and will be 7,500 dunums after the construction of the Wall.

Updates:

Orly Levi, a spokeswoman at the Tel Hashomer hospital, tells [Ha'aretz](#):

He's in critical condition, anesthetized and on a ventilator and undergoing imaging tests," She described Anderson's condition as life-threatening.

Israeli activist Jonathan Pollack told [Ynet](#):

... the firing incident took place inside the village and not next to the fence. There were clashes in the earlier hours, but he wasn't part of them. He didn't throw stones and wasn't standing next to the stone throwers.

There was really no reason to fire at them. The Dutch girl standing next to him was not hurt. It only injured him, like a bullet.

13 March: Anarchists Against the Wall [reports on Tristan's condition](#) (*volunteers with AWALLS were present when Tristan was injured and have been at the hospital to oversee his treatment*):

The impact of the projectile caused numerous condensed fractures to Anderson's forehead and right eye socket. During the operation part of his right frontal lobe had to be removed, as it was penetrated by bone fragments. A brain fluid leakage was sealed using a tendon from his thigh, and both his right eye and skin suffered extensive damage. The long term scope of all of Tristan's injuries is yet unknown.

Media Links:

- [Israelis 'firing live rounds' at West Bank protesters](#) – Guardian
- [US Activist in Critical Condition; Shot By IDF](#) – Fire Dog Lake
- [Former UC Berkeley Tree-Sitter Injured in West Bank](#) – Daily Californian
- [Former Tree-Sitter Critically Hurt During Protests on West Bank](#) – Berkeley Daily Planet
- [US citizen in critical condition; four others wounded by Israeli fire in Ni'lin](#) – Ma'an
- [Israeli soldier shot American activist in face with tear gas can](#) – Raw Story
- [US citizen critically injured protesting illegal wall in Ni'ilin, West Bank](#) – Amnesty USA
- [American Protester Critically Injured by Soldiers in Ni'ilin](#) – AWALLS
- [Friend says activist's life is 'somewhat at risk' in Israel](#) – KPIX
- [Ex-Cal tree-sitter hurt in West Bank protest](#) - San Fransisco Chronicle
- [American Injured in Clash at Israeli Barrier](#) – New York Times
- [U.S. citizen critically hurt at West Bank protest](#) – Ha'aretz
- [US national badly hurt in anti-fence protest](#) – Ynet
- [American hurt in West Bank barrier demo](#) – AFP
- [American badly hurt in clash with Israeli military](#) – AP
- [US demonstrator critically injured at West Bank protest](#) – Jerusalem Post
- [US activist critically injured by Israeli troops during protest in Ni'lin village](#) – IMEMC

Updated on March 15, 2009

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- ["I used to dream about my future" - Israeli forces tear-gas school children in Ni'lin](#) (2008)
- [Israeli forces shoot four with live ammunition at Ni'lin demonstration](#) (2009)
- [Israeli forces kill resident of Ni'lin and leave another in critical condition during demonstration of solidarity with Gaza](#) (2008)
- [One arrested and seven injured in Ni'lin prayer demonstration](#) (2008)

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