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Special Field Report
IOF Attacks Violate International Law: 61 Killed and Injured in Three Days of
Attacks in Gaza
Al Mezan Condemns the Escalation and Calls for Protection of Civilians in Gaza

The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) continued escalated its attacks on the Gaza Strip. Between the evening of Thursday 7 April 2011 and evening of Saturday 9 April 2011, the IOF killed 19 Palestinians, including two children, two women and two elderly persons. It also injured 44 persons, including 13 children, one woman, and two paramedics.

This escalation represents a continuation of a volatile situation in Gaza since the start of 2011. According to Al Mezan's documentation, 48 Palestinians (including 7 children) have been killed by IOF since the start of 2011. Another 153 people were injured; including at least 40 children and two paramedics.

According to the documentation of Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights (Al Mezan), IOF attacks violated basic principles of international law by targeting and killing civilian persons and civilian objects, particularly houses. The IOF escalation comes as Israel continues to impose an illegal blockade on the Gaza Strip. The situation deteriorated since the IOF [extra-judicially assassinated three persons](#) in Gaza on 2 April 2011; however, attacks were more concentrated starting on 7 April.

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights monitored the IOF attacks in the past three days. This field report chronologically details the attacks that took place in each of the Gaza Strip's five districts.

- At approximately 3pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, the IOF attacked the eastern parts of Al Sheja'iyah neighborhood, east of Gaza city. The attacks were concentrated on the Al Kurba area, east of the neighborhood. One IOF artillery shell fell on the house of Mahmoud Mansour Al Manasra, 54, near the Al Kurba crossing. The two-story house was still under construction and about 350 square meters in area. The shell hit the second floor and caused physical damages. The owner of the house was killed and his son, Fawaz Mahmoud Al Manasra, 15, sustained an injury from shrapnel in his right hand while he was irrigating plants in front of his house. In his affidavit to Al Mezan, Fawaz said that his father left their other house, which is about 150 meters away from the attacked house, when he heard the sound of the explosion. Both father and son went to the attacked house to check the damage caused. As soon as they arrived at the door of the house, the IOF fired two artillery shells at them. As a result, the father was killed and his body was dismembered and Fawaz was injured.
- The IOF continued to attack the same area with sporadic artillery shells. As a result, Subhi Abdel Rahman Abu Shanab, 60, sustained shrapnel in his right leg.

- At approximately 3:30pm on the same day, the IOF fired three artillery shells at the house of Adel Mohammed Hillis, 49. The three-story house is about 300 square meters in area and is also located near the Al Kurba area, east of Al Sheja'iyah neighborhood, east of Gaza city. Thirty minutes later, the IOF fired another three artillery shells at the same house. As a result, the house sustained severe damages. No casualties or injuries were reported in this attack.
- In a separate attack, at approximately 3:30pm on the same day, Israeli tanks and aircraft fired several artillery shells and missiles at a training site for the Ezadin Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of the Hamas movement, which is located near the Shuhada Crossing in the south of Az-Zeitun neighborhood south of Gaza city. At the same time, the IOF fired several artillery shells and a missile at an open area that inside the evacuated settlement of Nizarim, south of Gaza City.
- At approximately 3:45pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, the IOF fired about four artillery shells at the eastern parts of the Wadi Gaza (Gaza Valley) Village. No casualties or injuries were reported. The IOF also fired several artillery shells at the Fayiz Jarad national security site, which is located west of the village.
- At approximately 4pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, the IOF fired several artillery shells at the North Gaza district. Four shells fell on agricultural land in the vicinity of the Islamic Shuhada Cemetery, east of Jabalia town. Another two artillery shells fell on the Abu Safiya area, east of Beit Lahiya, in the North Gaza district. At the same time, the IOF fired a guided ground-to-ground missile at an open area east of the Al Bura area, northeast of Beit Hanoun. As a result, Ra'fat Tayseer Jneed, 21, sustained bruises in his left hand as he fell down on the ground afraid of being injured by shrapnel while he was at his house, which is located in the As-Salam neighborhood, southeast of the nearby Jabalia town. Many civilians suffered from panic shocks. This attack took place while the IOF was also firing at areas near the eastern border fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel.
- At approximately 4pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, the IOF fired dozens of artillery shells at the vicinity of the Gaza International Airport, southeast of the town of Rafah. This attack took place while IOF helicopters were firing at the same area. As a result, four persons, including a child, were killed. Al Mezan identified the names of the killed persons as follows:
 - Mus'ab Mohammed Obied As-Swoufi, 20;
 - Mohammed 'Iyiada Al Mahmoum, 24;
 - Saleh Attiya At-Trabeen, 38, who died from his wounds at the European Gaza Hospital at 7pm on the same day, and
 - Khalid Ismail Ad-Dbari, 17.

Al Mezan verified that Al Mahmoum and At-Trabeen work with national security apparatus; however, they were unarmed when they were attacked. The other two victims are civilians.

- At approximately 8am on Friday 8 April 2011, medical teams recovered the dead body of Khalid Ad-Dbari whose body was dismembered. Medical sources at Abu Yousif An-Najjar Hospital in Rafah town announced that 14 injured persons were referred to the hospital. One of them sustained severe injuries, and five were children. Al Mezan identified their names as follows:
 - Amjad Faried Shalouf, 8;
 - Saleh Sa'eed Obied As-Soufi, 13;
 - Mohammed Hassan Irmilat, 16;
 - Murad Mahmoud Abu Safra, 17;
 - Issa Farajallah Eid Irqeebat, 17;
 - Salam Suliman Jbara, 57;
 - Eid Jum'a Shalouf, 22;
 - Ziyad Jum'a Shalouf, 30;
 - Ibrahim Hussein Shalouf, 20;
 - Faried Abdel Rahman Abu Odwan, 19;
 - Adel Fat'hi Al Hams, 26;
 - Omar Harb Abu Mour, 46; and
 - Ismail Selmi Ben Hasan.
 - Hassan Hosni Al Heela, 42.¹

Medical sources described their injuries as moderate.

- At approximately 6:20pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, the IOF fired an artillery shell at the vicinity of the Gaza International Airport in the southeast of Rafah town. As a result, an ambulance, which was in the area to collect casualties, was partially damaged and its paramedic Hasan Husni Al Heela, 42, sustained injuries from shrapnel. It was reported that the injury was caused by flechette shrapnel in his right hand. Medical sources described his injury as moderate. In his affidavit to Al Mezan, Al Heela said that he and another paramedic, Musa Mahmoud Obied, went to the area south to the Gaza International Airport after being informed about the death of a Palestinian man. He added that as soon as they reached the dead body an artillery shell was fired at them. He was sitting on the right side near the ambulance driver. He sustained injuries in his right hand. They instantly left the area without carrying the dead body and arrived at the Abu Yousif An-Najjar Hospital. After a medical examination was performed, it was clear that he had been injured from flechette bomb splinters in his right arm. The windows and the body of the ambulance also sustained similar splinters.
- At approximately 4pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, Israeli tanks fired artillery shells at residential and agricultural areas east of Al Qarara village, in the northeast of the southern Gaza district of Khan Younis. As a result, Yousif

¹ This is a paramedic; please see the paragraph below for details on the conditions in which he was injured.

Ahmed As-Smeri, 10, sustained an injury from shrapnel in his hands while he was near his house.

- At approximately 4:05pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, Israeli helicopter gunships opened machinegun fire at open agricultural areas in the vicinity of the Islamic Shuhada Cemetery and Abu Safia areas, east of Beit Hanoun and Jabalia towns. No casualties or injuries were reported but many civilians suffered from panic shocks.
- At approximately 4:30pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, the IOF fired several artillery shells and missiles at the Ishtewi mosque, which is located south of Az-Zeitoun neighborhood in the southeast of Gaza city. The attack also targeted at the Abu Obayda training site for the Al Qassam Brigades, which is located in the same area. No casualties or injuries were reported but the mosque and the training site were damaged.
- At approximately 4:30pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, Israeli aircrafts attacked an agricultural storage room for the Abu Shab family in the Az-Zanna neighborhood, in Bani Suhila town, east of Khan Younis district. As a result, the room was damaged.
- At approximately 4:45pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, the IOF fired about four artillery shells at an open area southeast of Wadi As-Salqa village in the north of Dier Al-Balah town. As a result, cables of electricity networks were damaged.
- At approximately 4:50pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a police station in the At-Twam area, in the west of Jabalia town, in the North Gaza district. As a result, Mohammed Khalil Ibrahim Al Madhoun, 35, sustained injuries in his face and forehead. Al Madhoun was at his house in the As-Saftawi neighborhood, about 1,500 meters away from the attacked place. Two police office rooms, an operations room, and three other rooms were completely destroyed in the attack. Moreover, 16 adjacent houses, shops, and public facilities sustained partial damages. Earlier, at approximately 11pm on Monday 31 March 2011, the IOF attacked the same police station. Many civilians suffered from panic shocks in these two attacks.
- At approximately 4:50pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, Israeli helicopter gunships fired two missiles at an open field west of Al Aqsa Hospital, in the middle-Gaza town of Deir Al Balah. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 5pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, Israeli aircrafts fired dozens of artillery shells at residential and agricultural areas on various areas east of Khan Younis district. Most of the shells fell on fields. Israeli helicopters indiscriminately opened fire at agricultural fields near the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel. No Casualties or injuries were reported.

- At approximately 5:10pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at an open field east of Beit Hanoun in North Gaza district. No casualties or injuries were reported but people were terrified.
- At approximately 5:30pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, Israeli aircraft fired about five missiles at a training site for the Al Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas Movement. The site is located near sewage pools west of Bisan town in Beit Lahya in North Gaza district. As a result, the site was completely destroyed. No casualties or injuries were reported but many civilians suffered from panic shocks.
- At approximately 5:35pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, Israeli aircraft fired two missiles at the Al Masri family agricultural arboretum, which is located in Tal Ad-Dahab area in Beit Lahya in North Gaza district. As a result, an adjacent house, owned by Jameel Mohammed Abu Shadaq, was partially destroyed. Many civilians suffered from panic shocks.
- At approximately 6pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, the IOF fired three artillery shells at the house of Ra'ed Ibrahim Qdeeh. The three-story house is located east of Khuza' village. As a result, the house was partially damaged. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 6:15pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, an Israeli drone fired a missile at Muhannad Ahmed Al Jerjawi, 18, who is a farmer, while he was taking care of agricultural land east of the desalination plant near the former American International School, west of Beit Lahya town in North Gaza district. As a result, Al Jerjawi sustained injuries from shrapnel in different parts of his body. His left leg was amputated later and medical sources at Kamal Odwan Hospital described his injury as critical. He was referred to the Shifa Hospital for medical treatment. According to Al Mezan's field investigations, Al Jerjawi's father had leased the field, which is owned by the Abu Halema family. They planted vegetables and mlukhiya plants in it. Al Jerjawi is a resident of As-Sedra area in the Ad-Daraj neighborhood in Gaza city. Al Jerjawi and his sons were taking care of the land when his son was injured. A motorcycle carried Muahnnad to the As-Salateen crossroad where an ambulance then carried him to the hospital.
- The above attack occurred while Israeli aircraft were carrying out six airstrikes on various locations on the Gaza-Egypt border. Israeli aircraft fired about seven missiles at the area where smuggling tunnels exist. As a result, Mrs. Faten Subhi Al Ledawi, 44, sustained a moderate injury.
- At approximately 6:30pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, the IOF fired an artillery shell at an open area near the As-Salam mosque, which is located near the Al Kurba crossroad, east of Al Sheja'iyā neighborhood, east of Gaza city. As a

result, Nour Abdullah Abu Karesh, 42, sustained shrapnel in the right hand. The mosque sustained physical damages.

- At approximately 10pm on Thursday 7 April 2011, the IOF fired about four artillery shells at the vicinity of the solid waste dump in the Wadi Gaza village. Smoke and fire were seen in the attacked area.
- At approximately 8:25pm on Friday 8 April 2011, Israeli gunboats fired flare bombs and opened fire opposite the coasts of the Az-Zahra and An-Nuseirat refugee camps. The firing scared the fishermen on the boats and they sailed to land immediately.
- At approximately 12:30am on Friday 8 April 2011, the IOF fired an artillery shell at the house of Rami Jawad Hillis, 35. The two-story house is about 200 square meters and is located east of Al Sheja'iyah neighborhood. The IOF continued firing sporadically on open areas east of Al Sheja'iyah, At-Tufah, and Az-Zaitoun neighborhoods for several hours.
- At approximately 5am on Friday 8 April 2011, an Israeli drone fired a missile at a group of young Palestinian men who were in an open area north of Abu Obayda Secondary School in Beit Lahiya town, in North Gaza district. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 8:15am on Friday 8 April 2011, the IOF fired two artillery shells at a group of young Palestinian men who were near the At-Taqwa mosque, southwest of the Gaza International Airport, southeast of Rafah town. As a result, four persons including a child were injured. Al Mezan identified their names as follows:
 - Yousif Muneer As-Soufi, 16;
 - Abdel Hadi Jum'a As-Soufi, 20;
 - Mahdi Jum'a Abu 'Adhreh, 19; and
 - Mahmoud Fayiz Abu 'Adhreh, 21.

The last two persons sustained critical injuries and were referred to the Shifa Hospital in Gaza city.

- At approximately 9:15am on Friday 8 April 2011, Israeli drones attacked a group of resistance fighters who were at the entrance of Khuza'a village, east of Khan Younis. As a result, Abdullah Mahmoud Al Farra, 20, who lived in Khuza'a village, and Mu'taz Jamal Abu Jame', 22, who lived in the nearby Bani Suhaila, were killed.
- At approximately 12:30pm on Friday 8 April 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at an agricultural field in the Al Manara neighborhood, southeast of Khan Younis. As a result, Talal Rabee' Abu Taha, 56, sustained shrapnel in different parts of his body, and his nephew Hamada Salama Abu Taha, 25, sustained shrapnel in his legs while they were in their field in that area.

- At approximately 12:20pm on Friday 8 April 2011, an artillery shell fell in the courtyard of the house of Ibrahim Hamdan Qdeeh. The asbestos-roofed house is located in the Abasan town, east of KhanYounis district. As a result, Mrs. Najah Harb Qdeed, 41, and her daughter Nedal Ibrahim Qdeeh, 19, were killed and Nedaa' Ibrahim Qdeeh, 18, sustained critical injuries, and a child, Fedaa' Ibrahim Qdeeh, 15, was injured.

According to information obtained by Al Mezan, the family members were injured while they were sitting in their house courtyard. The killed and injured persons were admitted to the Nasser and Gaza European Hospitals in Khan Younis district.

- At approximately 4pm on Friday 8 April 2011, an Israeli reconnaissance drone fired a missile at a group of young Palestinian men while they were sitting together in the Mashrou' 'Amer neighborhood, west of Jabalia town in North Gaza district. As a result, Ra'ed Mahmoud Shehada, 25, was killed and Ahmed Mohammed Ghorab, 30, was injured, medical sources at the Shifa Hospital described his injury as critical. At approximately 5:15pm on the same day, medical sources announced his death. The killed persons were residents of the Al Shati' refugee camp. Another person was slightly injured in the attack.
- At approximately 4:15pm on Friday 8 April 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a motorcycle that was travelling on a bystreet in the Salah Ad-Din Street near the Saqallah mosque, in the Az-Zeitoun neighborhood, east of Gaza city. The targeted person survived the attack. Adjacent houses and a metal workshop were damaged.
- At approximately 4:30pm on Friday 8 April 2011, the IOF opened fire at a group of Palestinian farmers who were in their fields near the separation fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel, in the Buret Abu Samra area, and in the vicinity of the evacuated Eli Sinai settlement, north of Beit Lahiya in North Gaza district. The gunfire scared the farmers and they immediately abandoned their work and left the area.
- At approximately 5pm on Friday 8 April 2011, the IOF fired an artillery shell at the house of Ahmed Mahmoud Al 'Arqan, 51. The missile hit the roof of the house. The four-story house is about 500 square meters and is located in the Al Mansoura Street in the Al Sheja'ia neighborhood, east of Gaza city.
- At approximately 6:30pm on Friday 8 April 2011, the IOF fired an artillery shell at a group of Palestinian men who were near the Al Sheja'ia Cemetery in the Al Beltaji Street in the Al Sheja'ia neighborhood, east of Gaza city. As a result, several persons were injured. People who live in that area hurried to help the injured persons. An ambulance arrived at the place of the attack. While people were helping the injured persons, the IOF fired another artillery shell at them. As a result, two persons were killed and ten persons were injured, including four

children and a paramedic. Al Mezan identified the names of the injured persons as follows:

- Mahmoud Majed Al 'Ijla, 17;
- JalalMuneer Al Jammal, 22;
- Rami Abdel Men'enDababesh, 29;
- HamdiAmmarBahloul, 16;
- 'UsamaMamoudFouad, 14;
- RezeqSa'eed Al 'Amawi, 25;
- JaberSaleem Abu Al Kas, 12;
- HamzaMohammed Shamali, 24; and
- Sami Khader Abu 'Aser, 25.
- Khalil Jamal Mheesin, 31.

Al Mezan identified the names of the killed persons as follows:

- Mahmoud Wael Al Jaru, 10; and
- Belal Mohammed Al 'Ar'eer, 24.

- At approximately 9:27pm on Friday 8 April 2011, Israeli helicopters fired two missiles at a group of young Palestinian men at the Revolution Veterans area in the Mashrou' Amer area, west of Jabalia town in North Gaza district. This attack was the second one that took place on that day in the same area. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 9:30pm on Friday 8 April 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a civilian car that was travelling on the third street in the Al Sheikh Radwan neighborhood, north of Gaza city. The missile missed the car and the people who were in the car survived.
- At approximately 10:15pm on Friday 8 April 2011, an Israeli drone fired a missile at a group of young Palestinian men who were in an open area in the Asaliya Street, southeast of Jabalia refugee camp in North Gaza district. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 10:30pm on Friday 8 April 2011, the IOF fired an artillery shell at a citrus field owned by the sons of Mohammed Mas'uod in the Mas'oud Street in Jabalia town, in North Gaza district. No casualties or injuries were reported but many civilians suffered from panic shocks.
- At approximately 11:40pm on Friday 8 April 2011, Israeli aircraft fired two missiles at a training site for the Al Qassam Brigades; the military wing of Hamas Movement. The site is located in the Mas'uod Street. No casualties or injuries were reported but people were terrified. Several adjacent houses sustained partial damages.

- At around midnight on Saturday 9 April 2011, an Israeli drone fired a missile at a group of young Palestinian men who were walking on the An-Nuss Street in the Tal As-Sultan neighborhood, west of Rafah town. As a result, two persons were killed and one person was injured. Al Mezan identified the names of the killed persons as follows:
 - Tayseer Sa'eed Abu Sneima, 27; and
 - Mohammed Ali 'Awaja, 28.

Both of them sustained shrapnel in different parts of their bodies. A third person, Shadi Mahmoud Az-Zatma, 28, was injured in the attack and was admitted to the Gaza European Hospital. Medical sources described his injury as critical. He sustained shrapnel injuries in different parts of his body, causing a fracture to his left jaw, and his legs were amputated. An adjacent Subaru car was damaged. Later, Hamas Movement declared that the two persons who were killed in this attack were members of its military wing.

- At approximately 1:30am on Saturday 9 April 2011, the IOF fired several artillery shells at the eastern Gaza city neighborhoods of Az-Zeitoun, At-Tufah, and Al Sheja'iyah. All the shells fell on open areas. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 1:30am on Saturday 9 April 2011, Israeli gunboats opened fire at the Al Sheikh 'Ijleen coast, west of Gaza city. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 2:20am on Saturday 9 April 2011, an Israeli drone fired a missile at a group of young Palestinian men who were in an open area in the Asaliya Street, southeast of Jabalia refugee camp, in North Gaza district. As a result, two persons who were near their houses were injured. Al Mezan identified the names of the injured persons as follows:
 - Alaa Saber Abu Aqel, 30; and
 - Mustafa Sa'eed Hamdiyeh, 37.

Medical sources at Kamal Odwan Hospital described their injuries as light.

- At approximately 6am on Saturday 9 April 2011, an Israeli drone fired a missile at a training site for the Military wing of Hamas Movement, Ezadin Al Qassam Brigades. The site is located in the Mas'uod Street in Jabalia town, in North Gaza district. No casualties or injuries were reported. Israeli aircraft had attacked the same site before midnight.
- At approximately 7:50am on Saturday 9 April 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a motorcycle that was travelling on the eastern street south of the Abu Eida cement factory, east of At-Tufah neighborhood, east of Gaza city. As a

result, Ahmed Nabil 'Ilyian Zaitoniya, 24, who was from Ad-Daraj neighborhood, was killed and Ahmed Akram Ammar, 22, sustained moderate injuries.

- At approximately 2:30pm on Saturday 9 April 2011, the IOF opened fire at a group of Palestinian men and children who were participating in a funeral of Belal Al 'Ar'eer, who had been killed by the IOF. These persons were in the Islamic Shuhada Cemetery when the IOF opened fire at them. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 2:35pm on Saturday 9 April 2011, the IOF fired three artillery shells at the Qleebou family land, which is located east of Al Sheikh Zayed town in North Gaza district. No casualties or injuries were reported but many civilians suffered from panic shocks.

Al Mezan Center for Human rights strongly condemns the escalation of IOF attacks against the Gaza Strip. The Centre condemns with the strongest terms the IOF's continuous targeting of civilians and civilian property, which shows the same pattern of flagrant disregard of Israel's obligations under international law. Al Mezan notes that many of the attacks reported above represent a continuation of the violations that had been documented by international and UN fact-finding missions in the past.

Al Mezan also notes with great concern the IOF attacks on civilian targets, including houses, with precision weapons. The IOF attacks indicate a serious return to employing excessive force against civilians, using missiles, artillery shells and flechette bombs. The IOF also indiscriminately opened fire in residential areas. Al Mezan asserts that these practices constitute serious violations of international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention and human rights law.

Al Mezan views with much concern the silence of the international community, particularly the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, vis-à-vis the recent Israeli violations. This silence only encourages further violations of international law to be committed. Al Mezan reiterates its call on the international community to uphold their obligations under the Convention and to ensure its respect. Al Mezan also calls on the international community to promptly intervene to bring to an immediate end the IOF violations, and to provide effective international protection for the civilian population in the Gaza Strip. Such intervention represents a natural response to international legal obligation in the current situation.

Moreover, Al Mezan reiterates its calls on the UN General Assembly (GA) to ensure making further steps towards securing justice for the victims of Israeli illegal attacks on the Gaza Strip, and accountability for those who perpetrated criminal acts in violation of international law. The GA is called upon to refer the UN fact-Finding Mission's report to the security Council with a recommendation to refer it to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate the serious allegations of war crimes, and possibly crimes against humanity, as mentioned in the Mission's report on the Israeli aggression (Operation Cast Lead), which occurred between 27 December 2008 and 18 January 2009. The ICC must

also investigate other attacks that violated international law since after Operation Cast Lead.

Al Mezan asserts that by not serving justice and securing accountability for the gross violations of international law, it is only expected that disregard and violation of international law in the occupied Palestinian territory, including the Gaza Strip.

End