



**Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights
Field Work Unit**

From the Field:

Monthly Field Report on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in the Gaza Strip



Rubble of a store in Khuza'a town; attacked by IOF on 22 March 2011 (Picture, Al Mezan)

Reporting Period 1-31 March 2011

Gaza City 2 April 2011

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Introduction:

The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) continued to commit violations of international human rights law (IHRL) and international humanitarian law (IHL) against the population of the Gaza Strip in March 2011. This report, which is laid out chronologically, details Israeli violations carried out in March 2011.

The report demonstrates the lethal and excessive use of force against Palestinians. The IOF continuous attacks and deliberate killing of Palestinians come in the context of imposing restrictions on the movement of the population in the Gaza Strip, particularly farmers who work in their fields near the borders. During the reporting period, the IOF killed six non-combatants, including four children, who did not present any threat to the IOF when they were killed.

The report also details the ongoing Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen. It is important to note that the Israeli blockade on Gaza deprives the population from their most basic rights including, inter alia, their rights to life, an adequate standard of living, housing, water and sanitation, work, and access to health, education and family life. Moreover, the IOF prevents Palestinian fishermen from working and attack them, even when they are within the Israeli-imposed 'fishing zone' of three nautical miles from shore. During this reporting period the IOF attacked fishermen on several occasions, thereby preventing them from concluding their fishing trips. The IOF also opened fire on Palestinian fishermen and chased them to the shore with inflatable rubber boats.

The report also demonstrates that the IOF continued to carry out systematic attacks on civilians and their properties in areas near the border-lines as part of its attempt to enforce the so-called "security buffer zone" that extends one-and-a-half kilometers along the eastern and northern separation fences between the Gaza Strip and Israel. This zone has grave consequences for the Palestinians who live near the borders and the farmers who work in their fields near the borders. It also deprives dozens of Palestinian families from their source of living as these lands account for a high proportion of all agricultural lands in the Gaza Strip.

During this reporting period, the IOF carried out four limited incursions into the Gaza Strip. During these incursions, Israeli bulldozers leveled dozens of dunams of land and attacked Palestinian civilians and their properties near the borders. These incursions come in the context of ongoing Israeli efforts to enforce the so-called 'security buffer zone' and prevent hundreds of Palestinian farmers from farming their lands which are located near the border-line with Israel.

The report also details IOF artillery shelling and missile attacks on different areas throughout the Gaza Strip. In this reporting period, the IOF continued to act in a way that breaches the rules of international humanitarian law in this regard. As a result of these attacks several persons were killed or injured, physical damage was sustained, and civilians, including women and children were terrified. According to Al Mezan's documentation, the IOF carried out 26 artillery shelling and missile attacks. As a result, nine persons were killed and 37 persons were injured, including ten children and three women. One house was completely destroyed, 55 houses were severely damaged, and dozens more were slightly damaged. In addition, one store was

completely destroyed, nine shops and two stores were partially destroyed, one workshop was completely destroyed and another two were partially damaged, and three security sites, six cars (including a sewage car and a breakdown truck), 11 public facilities and NGO offices, including a building for the Islamic University of Gaza, were partially damaged.

The report shows that the IOF continued to arrest Palestinians during its limited incursions into the Gaza Strip and when pursuing fishermen and rubble collectors. Moreover, during the reporting period, the IOF arrested a Palestinian patient on his way to pass the Erez crossing after obtaining permission from the Israeli authorities to travel to receive medical treatment in an Israeli hospital.

The report also presents statistical information on the consequences of the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip in March 2011. It seeks to highlight the circumstances in which violations of international law were carried out. Therefore, the report details all of the documented violations as well as the way in which they happened.

Statistical Note:

The information presented in this report is basic information intended to provide an overview of the human rights situation. Researchers and other interested persons can obtain further detail about all of the incidents mentioned in the report from Al Mezan.

The report shows that the IOF continued to commit violations of IHRL and IHL against the population of the Gaza Strip. According to Al Mezan's field investigations, the IOF continued to:

- Deliberately kill Palestinians and use excessive force against them;
- Attack Palestinian fishermen and deprive them from their right to make a livelihood by limiting the fishing zone to three nautical miles;
- Enforce the so-called 'security buffer zone';
- Attack peaceful demonstrations against enforcing the 'security buffer zone';
- Arbitrarily arrest Palestinians; and
- Tighten the siege and the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip and violate the freedom of movement of goods and individuals.

Statistical table on the Israeli violations carried out during March 2011

Number of persons killed	15 (11 adults and 4 children)
Number of injured persons	49 (30 adults and 19 child)
Number of limited incursions	3
Number of attacks against fishermen	5
Number of arrests	1

Excessive and Lethal Use of Force

The IOF continued to use excessive and lethal force against Palestinian civilians. The IOF continuous attacks against Palestinians come in the context of imposing restrictions on the movement of the population in the Gaza Strip, particularly farmers who work in their fields near the borders. During the reporting period, six unarmed persons, including four children, were killed. Eleven persons were injured, including nine children.

- At approximately 9:30pm on Saturday 19 March 2011, the IOF fired ten artillery shells at two children who approached the separation fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel, east of the Wadi Gaza Village. According to eyewitnesses, one of the shells fell in agricultural fields east of the Hamza mosque in the Village south of the solid waste dump and in the northeastern area of the Village.
- At approximately 7:30am on Sunday 20 March 2011, two Israeli tanks accompanied by armored bulldozers moved about 400 meters into eastern parts of the Wadi Gaza Village. Bulldozers leveled agricultural land planted with olive trees, belonging to Maher Sa'adi Az-Za'eem, 42. This limited incursion lasted for about an hour.
- At approximately 10am on the same day, the IOF fired two artillery shells at eastern parts of the Wadi Gaza Village. As a result, a young man sustained moderate injuries.
- At approximately 11:30am on Sunday 20 March 2011, two ambulances for the Palestinian Red Crescent collected the dead bodies of Imad Mohammed Issa Farajallah, 16, and Qasem Salaha Suliman Abu Ittawi, 16. The two children were from the An-Nuseirat refugee camp.

In his affidavit to Al Mezan, the ambulance driver found the two dead bodies about 400 meters away from the separation fence, east of Hamza mosque. The dead bodies were lying on the ground and were dressed in civilian clothes. One of the dead bodies sustained shrapnel and its upper parts were amputated. The dead bodies were admitted to the Shifa Hospital in Gaza.

- At approximately 3:30pm on Tuesday 22 March 2011, the IOF fired three artillery shells at the east of Al Sheja'iyah neighborhood, east of Gaza city. The shells fell on residential houses and on a group of Palestinian children and young men who were playing football and watching and encouraging a football match near the Al Wadiya Dairy. The factory is located in the Nazaz Street in the Al Sheja'iyah neighborhood, east of Gaza City. As a result, two adults and two children were killed and nine persons were injured.

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

- Yaser Hamed Al Helou, 52;

- Yaser 'Ahed Al Helou, 16;
- Mahmoud Talal Al Helou, 15; and
- Mohammed Saber Harara, 19.

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

- Mohammed Alaa Al Helou, 13;
- Ahmed Talal Al Helou, 12;
- Yaser Amer Al Helou, 3;
- Naser 'Ahed Al Helou, 12;
- Tareq Ziyad Al Helou, 14;
- Jamal Mahmoud Al Helou, 53;
- Abdullah Ziyad Al Helou, 12;
- Mu'ammer Amer Al Mbaied, 15;
- Mu'ammer Atef Al Mbayed, 18;
- Alaa Rami Abu Sakran, 5, and
- Abdel Kareem Abu Sirriyeh, 11.

The first three children sustained critical injuries.

Excerpt from Shaher Jamal Al Helou's affidavit to Al Mezan:

I was sitting in my house with my children. Suddenly I heard the sound of a big explosion. At first I thought it was at my home. I instantly run out of the house. I found my father on his way home after practicing the Al Aser prayer at the adjacent Mu'ammer Al Mbaeid mosque. My father was shocked. His leg was bleeding. I found a piece of child's clothing on the ground. I picked it up and tried to bind it around my father's leg to stop the bleeding. Suddenly another two consecutive explosions took place. The first explosion took place at the roof of my uncle's house, Hamdi Hamed Al Helou. My uncle lives close to our home. I went out of the main door of our houses. My uncles and I share an empty square between our houses. The square has a main door and every house has a door. When I went out, I saw a number of my cousins, children and young men, lying on the ground. There were more than nine people on the ground. Some of them looked dead. One of them had his brain out of his head and another one had his intestine out of his abdomen. My relatives and I who live in the same street brought civilian cars and carried the killed and injured people to the Shifa Hospital in Gaza. At the Hospital, I was informed about the death of my uncle Yaser Al Helou and his grandson Yaser. I was also informed of the death of my cousin Mahmoud Talal Al Helou and our neighbor Mohammed Harara.

Attacks against Fishermen

In this reporting period, the IOF continued its systematic attacks on fishermen in the Gaza Strip. Israel has imposed restrictions prohibiting Gaza fishermen from fishing more than three nautical miles off the coast of the strip. It is common for IOF soldiers to open fire on fishermen, pursue them in the water while they are fishing, and destroy and confiscate their equipment, including their nets and boats. Such acts constitute flagrant violations of Israel's legal obligations as an occupying power under international law. They violate the fishermen's rights to life and work. As a result of

these attacks, one fisherman sustained moderate burns. Al Mezan documented the ongoing attacks on fishermen as follows:

- At approximately 3:20am on Friday 4 March 2011, Israeli naval vessels patrolling the Gaza Sea opened fire on a Palestinian fishing boat off the coast of the As-Sudania area, west of Jabalia town in North Gaza district. The firing scared the fishermen on the boats and they sailed to land immediately. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 11pm on Monday 7 March 2011, Israeli naval vessels patrolling the Gaza Sea fired several flare bombs at the As-Sudaniya area, west of Jabalia town, in North Gaza district. They then opened fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the coast, in the same area. The firing scared the fishermen on the boats and they sailed to land immediately. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 6:45am on Sunday 13 March 2011, Israeli naval vessels patrolling the Gaza Sea opened fire on a Palestinian fishing boat off the coast of the An-Nuseirat refugee camp in Middle Gaza district. The firing scared the fishermen on the boats and they sailed to land immediately. No casualties or injuries were reported. According to Al Mezan's field investigations, about 50 fishing boats were in the sea when Israeli gunboats opened fire.
- At approximately 11am on Wednesday 16 March 2011, Israeli naval vessels patrolling the sea opened fire on Palestinian fishing boats, north of Al-Waha resort, off the coast of Beit Lahya town in the North Gaza district.
- As a result, Yaser Nasser Baker, 18, was injured by a bullet in the right side of his torso. According to Al Mezan's field investigations, Yaser, his father, and his brother were on board a *hasaka* (small boat), which was about 2 kilometers south of the separation fence, when Israeli gunboats opened fire. The firing scared the fishermen on the boats and they sailed to land immediately.
- At approximately 11:30pm on Tuesday 22 March 2011, Israeli naval vessels patrolling the sea opened fire on Palestinian fishing boats at the As-Sudaniya area, west of Beit Lahya town in North Gaza district. The firing scared the fishermen on the boats and they sailed to land immediately. No casualties or injuries were reported.

Enforcing 'Security Buffer Zone' and Attacks on Peaceful Assemblies

The IOF continued to open fire on an almost daily basis on Palestinians near the Gaza Strip's eastern and northern borders with Israel; an area inside the Gaza Strip that the IOF has declared to be a security 'buffer zone'. Some attacks were carried-out close to the border fence; many other attacks took place when civilians were more than a kilometer from the borderline. In February 2010, Israeli aircrafts dropped leaflets claiming that its soldiers fire at Palestinians only when they are 300 meters away from the border fence. The following violations were perpetrated in March 2011:

- At approximately 3:30pm on Tuesday 1 March 2011, the IOF fired an artillery shell at a group of Palestinian people who were east of Wadi As-Salqa village, in Middle Gaza district. As a result, Rami Salah Mohammed Abu Msa'ed, 22, who lives in the village, sustained an injury to his right thigh. He was admitted to Al Aqsa Hospital for medical treatment. In his affidavit to Al Mezan, Abu Msa'ed said he was injured while planting okra in his field in that area.
- At approximately 3:30pm on Wednesday 2 March 2011, the IOF opened fire at Palestinian farmers who were in their fields in the Al Ahmar area, near the separation fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel, east of Beit Hanoun. No casualties or injuries were reported, but the firing scared farmers and they abandoned their farms.
- At approximately 5:20pm on Wednesday 2 March 2011, the IOF opened fire at Palestinian houses and at farmers who were in their fields near the separation fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel, east of Beit Hanoun. No casualties or injuries were reported, but the firing scared farmers and they abandoned their farms.
- At approximately 11:30pm on Saturday 5 March 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at land owned by Hani Kamel Al Hayik, 58. The land is located southwest of Az-Zawaida village. As a result of the attack, a building consisting of two rooms used to rear geese and doves was destroyed and a number of animals were killed. Al Hayik's house, which is adjacent to where the attack took place, was also partially damaged. Eight family members, three of whom are children, live in the house. According to Al Mezan's field investigations; five adjacent houses were also partially damaged as a result of the attack, one of which was uninhabited.
- At approximately 1:30am on Saturday 12 March 2011, the IOF opened fire and dropped flare bombs on areas near the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel. The IOF opened fire on the agricultural area and residential houses in the As-Siafa area, northwest of Beit Lahiya town. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 6:30am on Thursday 17 March 2011, an Israeli aircraft dropped leaflets on different areas of the Gaza Strip. The leaflets contained warnings to the population. On one side of the leaflet, the IOF threatened that it would fire at any person who was as close as 300 meters from the border fence. The other side of the leaflet contained a rough map of the eastern and northern borders, with markers showing what the IOF declares as a security 'buffer zone'.
- The second leaflet was directed to the population at large and in particular at those who live near the borders. It contained a statement, which said "'terrorist groups threaten your lives."
- At approximately 10:30am on Saturday 19 March 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at the vicinity of a water reservoir that is located southeast of Wadi As-Salqa village. No casualties or injuries were reported.

- At approximately 8:30am on Saturday 19 March 2011, the IOF fired several artillery shells at various areas in the Al Shoka village, east of Rafah town. The IOF concentrated its attack east of the Rafah crossing and the Gaza International Airport. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 9:30am on Saturday 19 March 2011, the IOF fired an artillery shell at agricultural land, southwest of the Shuhada Cemetery, east of Jabalia town. No casualties or injuries were reported but it scared farmers and they abandoned the area without finishing their farming activities. This attack took place whilst the IOF fired dozens of artillery shells at agricultural lands that are located east of Gaza city.
- At approximately 8:30pm on Thursday 24 March 2011, the IOF fired five artillery shells at agricultural land in North Gaza district. Two shells fell on the southwest of the Islamic Shuhada Cemetery, east of Jabalia, two other shells fell on the Buret Abu Samra area, northeast of Beit Hanoun, and a shell fell in the vicinity of the Al Khusa area, northwest of Beit Lahyia. No casualties or injuries were reported but people were terrified. This attack coincided with the Israeli shelling of the premises of the police investigation office, west of Jabalia.

Limited Incursions into the Gaza Strip

During this reporting period, the IOF carried out four limited incursions into the Gaza Strip. During these incursions, Israeli bulldozers leveled dozens of dunams of land and attacked Palestinian civilians and their properties near the borders. These incursions come in the context of ongoing Israeli efforts to enforce the so-called 'security buffer zone' and prevent hundreds of Palestinian farmers from farming their lands, which are located near the borderline with Israel. Al Mezan documented these incursions as follows:

- At approximately 9am on Tuesday 1 March 2011, Israeli tanks accompanied by armored bulldozers moved under sporadic fire around 400 meters to the east of Al Qarara village, in the east of Khan Younis district. Bulldozers leveled agricultural land that had been previously razed. At app. 4pm on the same day, the IOF withdrew from the area. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 1pm on Tuesday, 1 March 2011, Israeli tanks accompanied by armored bulldozers moved under sporadic fire around 300 meters to the east of Khuza'a town, in the east of Khan Younis district. Bulldozers leveled agricultural land that had been previously razed. At app. 5:30pm on the same day, the IOF withdrew from the area. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 8:15am on Tuesday 22 March 2011, six Israeli tanks accompanied by three armored bulldozers moved about 300 meters into the agricultural area that is located east of the Islamic Shuhada Cemetery, east of Jabalia town, in the North Gaza district. Then seven Israeli vehicles moved

southwards and were stationed near the Juice Factory, east of Gaza city. The other two vehicles were positioned in the same area, east of the Cemetery.

- At approximately 11:20am on the same day, seven Israeli vehicles moved to the place where the two vehicles were stationed. Bulldozers leveled lands that had been frequently razed before.
- At approximately 10:30am on Wednesday 30 March 2011, six Israeli tanks accompanied by armored bulldozers moved about 300 meters into the Buret Abu Samra area, north of Beit Lahiya town, in North Gaza district. Bulldozers leveled agricultural land that had been previously razed. The IOF opened fire on Palestinian farmers who were in the area. No casualties or injuries were reported, but the gunfire scared farmers and they abandoned their farms. At approximately 3:30pm on the same day, the IOF withdrew from the area.

Artillery Shelling and Missile Attacks

The IOF escalated its artillery shelling and missile attacks in different areas throughout the Gaza Strip. In this reporting period, the IOF continued to disregard the rules of international humanitarian law in this regard. As a result of these attacks, several persons were injured, physical damage was sustained, and civilians, including women and children were terrified. According to Al Mezan's documentation, the IOF carried out 26 artillery shelling and missile attacks. As a result, nine persons were killed and 37 persons were injured, including ten children and three women. One house was completely destroyed, 55 houses were severely damaged, and dozens more were slightly damaged. In addition, one store was completely destroyed, nine shops and two stores were partially destroyed, one workshop was completely destroyed and another two were partially damaged, and three security sites, six cars,(including a sewage car and a breakdown truck), 11 public facilities and NGO offices, including a building for the Islamic University of Gaza, were partially damaged.

Al Mezan documented these attacks as follows:

- At approximately 12:30am on Friday 4 March 2011, Israeli aircrafts fired two missiles at a white Daewoo jeep parked in An-Nuseirat Refugee Camp. As a result, the car sustained major damages. An adjacent building owned by Kamel Jebiril Farajallah, 52, was also damaged. In his affidavit to Al Mezan, Farajallah said that six residential apartments, four apartments used as offices, and two shops were damaged as a result of the attack.
- At approximately 11pm on Saturday 5 March 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at an open area near the Musa'ab bin 'Umair mosque, south of Az-Zeitoun neighborhood, in the south of Gaza city. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 11:15pm on Saturday 5 March 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at the Abu Jarad security site used by the Gaza Government. The site is located south of Az-Zeitoun neighborhood, near the Shuhada Crossroad, east of Gaza city. No casualties or injuries were reported.

- At approximately 11:20pm on Saturday 5 March 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at an open area in the evacuated Nizarim settlement, south of Gaza city. As a result, a building currently under construction for the Islamic University of Gaza was partially destroyed. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 10:40am on Wednesday 16 March 2011, Israeli aircrafts fired two missiles at the Abu Jarad national security site, north of the village of Al Mughraga. As a result, three buildings were destroyed, killing Ghasan Fat'hi Abu Amr, 25 and Adnan Ishtawi, 23. Adjacent stores for the Ministry of Public Works were partially damaged and two persons, Ayman Mohammed Keshkou, 26 and Mohammed Hisham Al Louh, 25, who work for the Ministry, were injured. They were admitted to Shifa Hospital for medical treatment.
- At approximately 8:45am on the same day, the IOF fired an artillery shell at the national security site, which is located near the Nahal Oz crossing, east of the Al Sheja'iya neighborhood, in the east of Gaza city. As a result five persons were injured; including three members of the national security forces and a child. Al Mezan identified the names of the injured persons as follows:
 - Sa'eb Maher Abu Safeera, 20, from the At-Twam area in North Gaza district;
 - Medhat Saleem Ad-Daiya, 20, from Az-Zeitoun neighborhood;
 - Imad Saleh Sa'ad, 35, from the Al Sheja'iya neighborhood;
 - Naser Omar Abu Shanab, 22, from the Al Sheja'iya neighborhood; and
 - QusaiFadi Abu Shanab, 4, from the Al Sheja'iya neighborhood.

The first three persons work for the national security forces. Medical sources described their injuries as moderate.

- At approximately 1:20pm on Monday 21 March 2011, the IOF fired an artillery shell at an open area east of the car market in the Az-Zeitoun neighborhood, east of Gaza city. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 5:50pm on Monday 21 March 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at the An-Njjar barracks for animal feed. The Barracks are located near the Doghmoush family for car tires, east of Al Sheja'iya neighborhood, east of Gaza city. The missile did not explode but it partially damaged the barracks. Ismail Helmi An-Njjar, 45, owns the Barracks. In his affidavit to Al Mezan, An-Najjar said that the explosive engineering department could not get the missile out of the barracks due to the current unstable atmosphere. The police recommended not to go near the Barracks until the missile was taken out.
- At approximately 11:20pm on Monday 21 March 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a stone factory that is located in the Al Sha'af area, east of Al Tuffah neighborhood, in the east of Gaza city. Riyadh Yousif Abdullah Hassanein, 54, owns the factory. As a result, the factory was partially damaged; no casualties or injuries were reported.

- At approximately 11:25pm on Monday 21 March 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at the Al Aseel iron workshop, which is located east of Salah Ad-Din Street, in the Az-Zeitoun neighborhood, in the east of Gaza city. As a result, the workshop was completely destroyed. No casualties or injuries were reported. Abdel Salam Abdullah Daloul, 45, owns the workshop.
- At approximately 11:30pm Monday 21 March 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a military site, west of the Al Magusi towers in the An-Naser neighborhood, in the northwest of Gaza City. The site was completely destroyed in the attack. As a result, Yihya Ibrahim An-Najjar, 31, and Qamar Basher Abdel 'Al, 3, were injured. The windowpanes of two adjacent schools and dozens of adjacent departments were shattered as a result of the attack.
- At approximately 11pm on Monday 21 March 2011, Israeli aircrafts fired two missiles at a police station in the At-Twam area in Jabalia town, in North Gaza District. 19 persons sustained various injuries, including eight children, three women, an elderly man, and two policemen. The station was completely destroyed and two police cars were partially damaged. 16 adjacent houses, seven shops, a factory, an NGO office, a family council (*Diwan*), and two civilian cars were also partially damaged in the attack.

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights identified the names of the injured children in these attacks as follows:

- Mohammed Juma' Ali Ghneim, 5;
- Basma Aqel Al Sheik Khalil, 5;
- Mohammed Abdel Khaleq Abdel Fattah Sabbah, 7;
- Mohammed Hashem Iyad Jaber, 11;
- Rasha Mohammed Owda Abu Khattab, 11;
- SundusIyadFakhriJaber, 16;
- 'Ahed Faiyz Deeb As-Sultan, 17; and
- Mohammed Mansour Ahmed At-Toum, 17.

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights identified the names of the injured adults in these attacks as follows:

- Lubna Ahmed Dawas, 35;
- Eman Mohammed Ibrahim At-Toum, 32;
- Huda Mohammed At-Toum, 40;
- Ibrahim Mohammed At-Toum, 82;
- Basher Ibrahim At-Toum, 44;
- Nafez Ahmed At-Toum, 30;
- Hani Ibrahim At-Toum, 39;
- Mahmoud Sa'eed Ghneem, 23;
- Mohammed Ziyad Lubad, 30;
- Mohammed Hussein Abu Amera, 43; and
- Mohammed Yousif An-Najjar, 25.

- At around midnight 12:10am on Tuesday 22 March 2011, Israeli aircrafts attacked a store in the Municipality of Khuza'a village. The store is about 120 square meters and is located near the 'Ibad Ar-Rahman mosque, east of Khuza'a village in Middle Gaza district. The store is connected to a tin-roofed barrack. The barrack is about 500 square meters. As a result of the attack, the store was completely destroyed and the barrack sustained severe damages. According to estimations made by the Municipality of Khuza'a village, the damages and losses come to about 300,000,000 USD. Several adjacent houses were partially damaged in the attack.
- At approximately 12:15am on Tuesday 22 March 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at the house of Hussein Mahmoud An-Najjar, 33, which is located in the An-Najjar neighborhood, east of Khuza'a village, east of Khan Younis. The house hosts five family members, including three children. As a result of the attack, the house was partially damaged and people were terrified.
- At around midnight on Tuesday 22 March 2011, Israeli aircrafts attacked an empty tin-roofed store near the Bank of Palestine in Khan Younis. The store is about 240 square meters and was used to store construction materials. Hatem Mohammed Al Farra owns the store.
- At approximately 10:50am on Tuesday 22 March 2011, an Israeli reconnaissance drone fired a missile at a group of Palestinian people who were at the Nazaz Street in the Al Sheja'iyah neighborhood east of Gaza City. As a result, three persons were injured, one of whom Ismail Zuhair Mhamadeen, 23, sustained severe injuries.
- At approximately 7:40pm on the same day, Israeli reconnaissance drones fired two missiles at a car carrying four members of Al-Quds Brigades, the military wing of the Islamic Jihad Movement. The car was travelling near the Tunis School, east of Az-Zeitoun neighborhood, east of Gaza City. As a result, the four were killed. Their dead bodies were dismembered and were admitted to Shifa Hospital in Gaza. Al Mezan identified the names of the killed persons as follows:
 - Mohammed Akram Abed, 30, who were from Al Shate' refugee camp;
 - Adham Fayiz Al Harazeen, 29, from the Al Sheja'iyah neighborhood,
 - Mohammed Attiya Al Harazeen, 27, from the Al Sheja'iyah neighborhood, and
 - Sa'adi Mahmoud Helles, 22, from the Al Sheja'iyah neighborhood.
- At approximately 1:25am on Thursday 24 March 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at the Gaza Egypt border near the Salah Ad-Din gate, south of Rafah town. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 7am on Thursday 24 March 2011, a Palestinian resistance fighter arrived at the Kamal Odwan Hospital in North Gaza district after sustaining a light injury. According to Al Mezan's field investigations, an Israeli reconnaissance drone fired a missile at a group of Palestinian resistance

fighters from the An-Naser Salah Ad-Din Brigades, east of Hamouda Gas Station in the Abu Safiya area, east of Jabalia town, in North Gaza District.

- At approximately 8:28pm on Thursday 24 March 2011, Israeli jet planes fired four missiles at the premises of the police investigation unit office, west of Jabalia town, in North Gaza district. As a result, the building was completely destroyed and 30 adjacent houses and seven public facilities were partially damaged. One person was slightly injured. According to Al Mezan's field investigation, the attack took place under heavy rains. People who were in their homes had their windows closed. As a result, dozens of windowpanes of adjacent houses were destroyed. Civilians were terrified.
- At approximately 2am on Thursday 24 March 2011, Israeli helicopters fired two missiles at an electricity generator of Gaza Power Plant, which is located in the Al Sheik 'Ijleen neighborhood, southwest of Gaza City. The generator supplies electricity to the southern parts of Gaza City, including the neighborhoods of Az-Zeitoun and Al Sheikh 'Ijleen, and other parts of Gaza.
- At approximately 1:30am on Thursday 24 March 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a training site for the Ezadin Al-Qassam Brigades, southeast of Gaza city. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 7:55am on Sunday 27 March 2011, an Israeli reconnaissance drone fired a missile at a group of young Palestinian men who were at the As-Seka street, east of Qleebu area, east of BeitLahyia town, in North Gaza district. As a result, Sabri Hashem Mohammed Asaleea, 19, and Redwan Ahmed Mohammed An-Namrouti, 31, were killed. Another adult was moderately injured in the attack. Civilians were terrified.
- At approximately 2:20am on Wednesday 30 March 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a tunnel on the Gaza-Egypt border in the Yebna neighborhood, in the refugee camp neighborhood, south of Rafah. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 4:30am on Wednesday 30 March 2011, an Israeli reconnaissance drone fired a missile at a motorcycle near the Tareq Abu Al Hassein mosque, in the An-Naser village, in Rafah town. As a result, two persons, who were riding the motorcycle on their way to practice the Al Fajer (morning) prayers, were severely injured. They were admitted to the European Gaza Hospital in Khan Younis. At approximately 5:40am on the same day, medical sources announced the death of one of them; Mohammed Salim Abu Muammar, 24. Abu Muammar is well known for his affiliation to the Islamic Jihad movement.

Arbitrary Detention and Arrest

During the reporting period, the IOF continued its policy of arbitrary and political detentions against the population of the Gaza Strip. In this reporting period, the IOF arrested eight fishermen. The IOF also used the crossings into and out of Gaza as a form of 'trap' for Palestinians by exploiting the need of patients to travel for treatment and blackmailing them. In this context, the IOF arrested three persons on their way to hospitals in Israel. Al Mezan documented the arrests as follows:

- At approximately 2pm on Tuesday 1 March 2011, the IOF arrested Mahdi 'Atef Hasan Abu Naser, 20, who is from Deir Al Balah, while he was at the Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel. According to Al Mezan's field investigations, Abu Naser obtained permission from the Israeli side to pass the Erez crossing to receive medical treatment at Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem. When Abu Samra and his escorting mother arrived at the Erez crossing, the IOF arrested him and referred him to Ashkelon prison.
- In the morning hours of Wednesday 16 March 2011, the IOF arrested merchant Rajeh Mahmoud Ibrahim Al Kahlout, 57, while he was on his way to meet the Israeli Security Agency at the Erez crossing, in North Gaza district. According to information obtained by Al Mezan, Al Kahlout is a resident of At-Tufah neighborhood and he was referred to Ashkelon prison. Al Kahlout was still in detention when this news was being published at 12:40pm on 4 April 2011.
- At approximately 7pm on Wednesday 23 March 2011, the IOF arrested Wesam Abu Samra, 26, while he was at the Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel. According to Al Mezan's field investigations, Abu Samra traveled to Jordan for medical treatment via the Rafah crossing. He stayed in Jordan along with another 25 patients for three months. Due to the difficulty in returning via the Rafah crossing, coordination was arranged to allow the patients to return to Gaza via the Erez crossing. When the patients arrived at the Erez crossing, the Israeli Security Agency (ISA) summoned five of them for interrogation. Abu Samra was arrested and referred to Ashkelon prison.

Movement at the Crossings

The IOF continued to impose a tight siege on the Gaza Strip for the fourth consecutive year. It has become apparent that the Israeli statements that the IOF would ease the siege were an attempt to placate the international community after the attack on the 'freedom flotilla.' The so-called 'easing of the siege' has had no impact on the local economy. During this reporting period, the IOF continued to impose restrictions on the movement of individuals and commodities. The IOF partially opened some of the crossings into Gaza for limited hours. During these limited hours, the IOF allowed the entry of some commodities into and out of the Gaza Strip. During this reporting period, the IOF continued to completely close some of the crossings. Al Mezan summarized the movement at the crossings as follows:

Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing

During this reporting period, the IOF completely closed the Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing for four days for the movement of Palestinian civilians. The IOF imposes restrictions on the movement of patients and their escorts, international journalists, employees of international agencies, and Palestinians living in Israel who wish to visit their relatives in the Gaza Strip. Although the IOF opens the crossing for the aforementioned cases, access is extremely limited. The IOF allows the passing of a very limited number of people: for limited humanitarian cases, foreign passport holders, diplomats, and businesspersons. The IOF does not allow Gazan workers and travelers who travel for religious, social or tourism purposes to pass Erez. The number of persons allowed to pass the crossing varies from one day to another. Al Mezan summarized the movement at Erez crossing as follows:

During this time, the IOF allowed 809 patients and 792 escorts, 639 international employees, 124 UNRWA employees, 124 diplomats, 69 journalists, 1255 businesspersons holding Palestinian businessmen cards BMC other businesspersons ,205 Palestinians living in Israel who were visiting their relatives in the Gaza Strip, and 29persons who travel via Allenby (Al Karama) to pass the crossing.

Al Muntar (Karni) Crossing

On 2 March 2011, the Israeli authorities decided to completely close the Al Muntar crossing and to use the Karm Abu Salim crossing, which is located in the southeast of the Gaza Strip, as the only crossing for goods to pass in and out of the Strip. This decision comes in the context of the tightened Israeli siege and the ongoing collective punishment of the population of the Strip.

The Israeli acts in the past three years disclose its policy to close all the crossings in the Gaza Strip except the Karm Abu Salim crossing. In this context, the Israeli authorities announced on 12 September 2008, the total closing of the Sofa crossing. The Sofa crossing was used to import gravel and construction materials. About 130 truckloads of gravel and construction materials were allowed daily into the Gaza Strip. On 1 January 2010, the Israeli authorities totally closed the Nahal Oz crossing, which was used to import fuel and cooking gas. About 60 truckloads of fuel and cooking gas were allowed daily into the Strip via this crossing. A few months after the

second Intifada, the IOF closed the department of importing goods at the Erez and Rafah crossings.

Rafah Terminal Crossing

The Egyptian authorities only opened the crossing partially for 22 days out of the 31 days it was open. During these times, around 3118 persons were allowed to travel to Egypt, including patients, students, persons who hold residency overseas and medical and media delegations who visited the Gaza Strip. 5058 persons were allowed into the Gaza Strip, including injured persons, patients, and their escorts. Around 793 persons who wanted to enter the Gaza Strip were not allowed.

Karm Abu Salim (Kerem Shalom) Crossing

During the reporting period, the IOF opened the Karm Abu Salem crossing for 18 days and several hours each day for the entry of 3,612 truckloads of food, medical commodities and basic humanitarian aid. The IOF allowed the entry of 160 truckloads of cooking gas (6,204,92.6 tons), and 5 truckloads carrying industrial diesel fuel for (27,500) liters. The IOF also allowed one truckload of fuel of about 38,000 liters for cars to enter the Gaza Strip.

Export: the IOF allowed the export of 4 truckloads carrying 9465 kilograms cherry tomatoes and 17 truckloads carrying 1,656,344 flowers.

Conclusion

This report detailed the ongoing IOF violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law against the population of the Gaza Strip. The IOF continued to indiscriminately open fire on and attack civilians. The IOF also continued to attack fishermen and prevent them from working, even when they are within the Israeli-imposed 'fishing zone' of three nautical miles from shore. The IOF also pursued fishermen to the shore with inflatable rubber boats and confiscated their boats. The IOF continued to attack Palestinian civilians and their properties near the borders. These attacks come in the context of ongoing Israeli efforts to enforce the so-called 'security buffer zone' that, according to IOF announcements, extends 300 meters along the Gaza Strip's borderlines with Israel. Some attacks were carried-out close to the border fence; many other attacks took place when civilians were more than 1.5 kilometers away from the borderline. The IOF also continued to attack peaceful assemblies.

Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights reiterates its condemnation of the continued and systematic attacks by the IOF against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip. It also condemns the ongoing collective punishment imposed on Gaza's population which came in the context of blockade in violation of international law. It also reiterates its condemnation of the ongoing Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen.

As these violations and the Israeli siege of Gaza continue, Al Mezan expresses its grave concern at the lack of any meaningful international protection for Gaza's population. This has encouraged the IOF to continue to perpetrate serious violations of IHL and international human rights law in Gaza as well as in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) for a now very lengthy period.

Al Mezan, therefore, calls on the international community to promptly intervene to lift the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and to ensure the entry of basic commodities for rehabilitation, food, medicines, clothes, and fuel, and to allow the free movement of the population of Gaza Strip.

Al Mezan asserts that the Israeli collective punishment of Gaza's population is a gross violation of human rights and IHL. The Israeli blockade and many of its military attacks are grave violations of international law.

Al Mezan, therefore, calls on the international community to uphold their moral and legal obligations and take action to bring to a swift end the violations of international law perpetrated in the oPt including by ending the blockade and providing protection for the civilian population. Al Mezan also calls for all those who have ordered or committed gross human rights violations and war crimes to be brought to justice.

Al Mezan stresses the importance of bringing to an end the culture of immunity in relation to violations of human rights and IHL in the oPt.

End