



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

**From the Field:**

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

**Reporting Period: 1 January – 31 March 2011**

**First Quarter Report of 2011**



**Palestinian Woman stands in front of her house in Beit Lahya town in North Gaza District, 25 March 2011 (Photographer: Mahmoud Fat'hi)**

## **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 during the first quarter of 2011. This report details in chronological order the Israeli violations which occurred during the first quarter of 2011.

The report also details the use of Israeli Order No. 1650, which allows the IOF to arrest and deport any person, including Palestinians who hold Gazan ID cards and live in the West Bank as well as the spouses of West Bank Palestinians who live in the West Bank. During this reporting period, the IOF deported one person from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip.

Witness statements from the victims of the IOF violations that were carried out in March 2011 are also included within this report. As a result of these violations, 26 persons were killed, five of whom were children, 103 persons were injured, 3 of whom were women and 26 of whom were children.

The report gives details about the lethal and excessive use of force against Palestinians by the IOF. The IOF's continuous attacks and deliberate killing of Palestinians take place in the context of severe restrictions imposed by the IOF on the movement of the population in the Gaza Strip. Those particularly affected are farmers working in their fields near the borders. During the reporting period, the IOF killed ten persons, including five children.

During the reporting period, the IOF continued to carry out extra judicial killings and attacks on Palestinian individuals. The IOF continued to disregard the rules of international humanitarian law in this regard. The IOF claimed that the attacks perpetrated were carried-out against persons 'wanted' by Israel or against Palestinians fighters.

The report also details the ongoing Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen. 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. 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. The IOF also pursued fishermen to the shore with inflatable rubber boats and confiscated their 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.

The report also highlights the ongoing Israeli attacks on the Palestinian civilians who collect and remove scrap and rubble from destroyed structures and roads near the eastern and northern border fence between Gaza and Israel. The workers collect rubble and sell it to brick factories which recycle it into bricks or to people who need to use it for construction purposes. This is the only source of material available in the Gaza Strip for making bricks and concrete for construction. Gaza suffers from an acute shortage of construction materials due to the Israeli siege. In February, the IOF carried out 17 attacks against Palestinian civilians who collect and remove rubble. As a result, two persons were killed and 18 persons were injured.

The IOF continued to carry-out limited incursions into the northern and eastern areas of the Gaza Strip. During this reporting period, the IOF carried out 19 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. As a result, one person was killed and nine persons were injured. 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 details IOF 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 54 artillery shelling and missile attacks. As a result, 12 persons were killed and 61 persons were injured, including 16 children and three women.

Four houses were completely destroyed, 77 houses were severely damaged, and dozens more were slightly damaged. In addition, three stores were completely destroyed, nine shops and two stores were partially destroyed, 12 industrial facilities were partially destroyed and one industrial facility was completely destroyed, seven security premises were partially destroyed, eight cars (including a sewage car and a breakdown truck), and 16 public facilities and NGO offices were partially damaged.

The report shows that the IOF continued its arbitrary arrest policy; arresting Palestinians during its limited incursions into the Gaza Strip and when pursuing fishermen and rubble collectors. 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 16 persons, including 11 fishermen, three persons who obtained permissions, and two patients' escorts.

At approximately 10am on Tuesday 4 January 2011, Israeli naval vessels patrolling the Gaza sea arrested four Palestinian fishermen and confiscated their boat. The fishermen were working inside the permitted fishing zone that Israel has declared. The IOF arrested the fishermen opposite the Al Sheikh 'Ijleen area, west of Gaza city. This incident is detailed above in the 'attacks against fishermen' section in this report.

On Thursday 6 January 2011, the Israeli occupation forces detained Fu'ad Mohammed Ibrahim Abu Meri, 59, who is a resident of Deir Al Balah town in Middle Gaza district. According to Al Mezan's field investigations, Abu Meri was accompanying his daughter-in-law, Ra'eda Salim Abu Meri, 36, who was on her way to an Israeli hospital for medical treatment. The IOF allowed the patient to pass through Erez crossing and detained Fuad for several hours. He was released in the evening.

Around midday on Tuesday 11 January 2011, Israeli naval vessels that were patrolling the Gaza sea arrested four Palestinian fishermen and confiscated their boat. The fishermen were working about 2.5 kilometers off the Gaza shore; i.e. inside the permitted fishing zone Israel has declared. The IOF arrested the fishermen opposite the Al Sheikh 'Ijleen area, west of Gaza city. This incident is detailed in 'attacks against fishermen' section in this report.

- At approximately 10:30am on Tuesday 15 February 2011, the IOF arrested Mohammed Mosa Zo'rob, 28, from the town of Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip, as he was accompanying his sick sister, Hanan, 42. The patient suffers from cancer and Guillain-Barré syndrome, and Mohammed had previously donated bone marrow to his sister. Her health condition had deteriorated seriously four days before she made the trip to Erez Crossing; therefore, a hospital in Gaza referred her for urgent treatment in the Beilinson hospital in Israel, and she and her brother were granted a permit from the Israeli authorities on 14 February 2011.

The patient and her brother had been granted permits to pass through the Erez crossing and access to hospital in Israel for the purpose of receiving urgent medical treatment. Due to the critical condition of the patient, they were transported to the crossing in a Palestinian ambulance equipped with an ICU, on 15 February 2011. As they reached the crossing, the IOF allowed the ambulance to pass through and the patient was transported to hospital by an Israeli ambulance. However, the IOF arrested the patient's brother. According to Al Mezan's field investigations, the brother had accompanied his sick sister to hospitals in Israel, via the Erez crossing, five times in the past. He had never before been arrested. Acting on the request of their family, Al Mezan contacted the Israeli authorities and was informed that the prisoner was being held in Shikma prison in Ashkelon.

### **Excerpts from Hidayat Mosa Zo'rob's affidavit to Al Mezan:**

*I'm Hidayat Mosa Rezeq Zo'rob, 28. I'm married. I have a family of six members, four of whom are children. I'm a housewife. I live in a neighborhood, west of Rafah . At around 6:30am on Tuesday 15 February 2011, my husband Mohammed Mosa Mohammed Zo'rob went to the European Gaza Hospital in Khan Younis to accompany his sister Hanan, 42. Hanan has suffered from cancer and Guillain-Barré syndrome for a year and a half. My husband had accompanied his sick sister to hospitals, particularly the Beilinson hospital in Israel, via the Erez crossing five times in the past. He had previously donated bone marrow to his sister. Hanan's health condition had deteriorated seriously four days before she made the trip to Erez Crossing; therefore, a hospital in Gaza referred her for urgent treatment in a hospital in Israel. At approximately 8am on the same day, my husband accompanied his sister in an ICU ambulance to Erez crossing. My husband made his last call to his uncle, Issa Mohammed Mosa Zo'rob, at around 10:30am on the same day. My husband told his uncle that his sister was being transferred to an Israeli hospital by an ambulance. He also told his uncle that he was at Erez crossing to finish some procedures and he would follow his sister daughter. My husband's uncle tried to call him several times, but my husband hung the phone up on him. At around 7pm on Tuesday 15 January 2011, Al Mezan told us that my husband was detained at the Ashkelon prison in Israel. Hanan was alone at the Hospital despite her deteriorated health condition.*

- At approximately 11am on Saturday 19 February 2010, Israeli gunboats that were patrolling the waters off the coast of the Gaza Strip opened fire at a Palestinian fishing boat, off the coast of Khan Younis. Three fishermen were working on the boat about 3 kilometers off Gaza shore.

In his affidavit to Al Mezan, one of the fishermen said that IOF military boats moved towards the Palestinian fishing boat and surrounded them. The IOF ordered three fishermen who were on the fishing boats to take off their clothes and to swim towards the IOF boats. The IOF arrested the three of them. The IOF confiscated the Palestinian fishing boat. Al Mezan identified the names of the fishermen as follows:

- Mustafa Hjaz Al Laham, 41;
- Hjaz Hani Al Laham; 17; and
- Mahmoud Hassan Al Laham, 30.

At approximately 8:30pm on the same day, the IOF released the fishermen at Erez crossing after interrogating them. The boat was still confiscated when this report was being published.

## 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:

- Forcibly transfer Palestinians from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip, implementing the Military Order 1650;
- 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	27 (22 adults and 5 children)
Number of injured persons	103 (77 adults and 26 children)
Number of limited incursions	20
Number of attacks against fishermen	11
Number of attacks against rubble collectors	17
Number of arrests	16

IOF violations increased dramatically in March compared to the number committed in January and February. In March about 15 persons were killed, four of them children, and 50 persons were injured, including 19 children. In January and February, about 12 persons were killed, including one child and 53 persons were injured, of whom seven were children.

March also witnessed an increase in the number of attacks against Palestinian civilians near the border fence. The IOF carried nine attacks in March while in January and February the IOF carried five attacks in total. There was also a substantial increase in Israeli missile and artillery shell attacks in March. The IOF carried 28 missile and artillery shell attacks in March and 27 attacks in January and February.

## **Forced Transfer of Palestinians from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip under Military Order 1650**

The IOF continued to implement the discriminatory Military Order 1650. This law allows the IOF to arrest and deport Palestinians who hold Gazan ID cards and live in the West Bank. This includes the wives of Palestinians living in the West Bank.

In this reporting period the IOF transferred two persons whose registered address is in the Gaza Strip from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip. Since 2000, the IOF has refused to amend thousands of registered addresses of Palestinians who have moved from the Gaza Strip and now live in the West Bank.

The IOF did not inform the deportees about the transfer decision before implementing it and it did not give the deportees the opportunity to appeal the decision before any judicial or military committee or body. This violates the rights of Palestinians to move and travel freely within their own country. It also constitutes a serious violation of the right to family life.

Al Mezan documented the Israeli transfers of Palestinians from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip in January 2011 as follows:

In the morning hours on Monday 17 January 2011, the IOF transferred Mahmoud Yousif Yassen Dweik, 30, from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip. According to Al Mezan's field investigations, Dweik and his family have lived in the West Bank for 20 years. Dweik was arrested by the IOF for working inside Israel without a permit. The IOF then transferred him to the Gaza Strip instead of to Jericho in the West Bank where he now lives because he was born in Gaza. This transfer came in the context of the implementation of Military Order 1650.

**Excerpt from Mahmoud Dweik's affidavit to Al Mezan:**

*At around 8am on Saturday 9 January 2011, I was on my way to work in the Rekefet area which is located between the Al Led and Ramallah cities. When I was about 200 meters away from the place of my work, I saw a Toyota jeep with an Israeli police symbol. While I was walking, the jeep stopped me. I saw three young men dressed in civilian clothes in the jeep. One of the men asked me what my name is and I answered him. Another man tied my hands with metal handcuffs and made me get into the jeep. They took me to the Rekefet police station.*

*When I was there, a man ordered me to put my thumb on a fingerprint screen (a square-shaped device about 20cm long and 7cm wide. It has a glass surface and inside it there is a white light). He asked me in Hebrew, "Are you Mahmoud from Gaza?" Then he said, "You must return to Gaza". I speak Hebrew well and I said, "I've lived in Jericho for 20 years. My family and relatives are there". He said "No, Gaza for Gaza and Jericho for Jericho even if you were living here for 100 years". I asked him to take me to the court. He said "No courts. Now you will go to Gaza. There are courts in Gaza and you can go to them."*

*They took some pictures of me. Two men led me from the police station to a police car. They took me to Erez crossing in the north of the Gaza Strip. I saw a sign that read "Erez crossing". They took me to a room inside the crossing. They made me sit on a chair. In the room there was a man dressed in civilian clothes sitting behind a desk. The man told me that I was at the intelligence agency office. He asked me "How did you leave Gaza?" and "How did you move to the West Bank?" and "When was the last time you went to Gaza?" He also asked me questions about my work in the West Bank.*

*I told him that I have lived in Jericho for 20 years. I also told him that my wife, my children, my brothers, my mother, and my family live in Jericho. He was looking at a computer. He said, "Right. Right. Your brothers' addresses are in Jericho, but yours is in Gaza. You have a sister lives in Gaza." He also said: "Anyone who is born in Gaza must return to Gaza". He refused to listen to my explanations. He told me, "If we catch your brothers, we will return them all to Gaza."*

*Then two men dressed in civilian clothes took me from the room [where I was] to the gate for Gaza. I refused to walk with them. I asked them to return me to Jericho. They beat me with their hands and kicked me and forced me to go through the gate. I walked down a long path. At around 5pm on the same day, I arrived at the Palestinian liaison office. Then I went to my half-brother's home, Muneer who lives in the Al Bureij refugee camp near the Martyrs Square."*



## **Extra Judicial Killing "Assassination"**

During the reporting period, the IOF continued to carry out extra judicial killings and attacks on Palestinian individuals. The IOF continued to disregard the rules of international humanitarian law<sup>1</sup> in this regard. The IOF claimed that the attacks perpetrated were carried-out against persons 'wanted' by Israel or against Palestinians fighters. In this context, the Israeli aircrafts attacked a Palestinian resistance fighter in Khan Younis. Al Mezan documented this attack as follows:

- At approximately 4pm on Tuesday 11 January 2011, an Israeli reconnaissance drone fired a missile at a motorcycle that was travelling on Martyr Usama An-Najjar Street in the Al Gezan neighborhood in Khan Younis. As a result, Mohammed Jamil An-Najjar, 24, was killed and Ahmed Shehda Al Baiouk, 41, sustained a light injury. The motorcycle was completely damaged in the attack.

## **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, ten persons, including five children were killed. Eleven persons were injured, including nine children. Al Mezan documented these attacks as follows:

- At approximately 4pm on Thursday 27 January 2011, medical sources at Abu Yousif An-Najjar Hospital announced the death of Basel Mohammed Nafea' Abu Odwan, 14, due to an explosion. The explosion took place while the child was grazing sheep with his brother Nedal, 25, about 250 meters from their house southeast of Sofa crossing in the Ash-Shoka village, about 2.5 kilometers from the eastern separation fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

---

<sup>1</sup> Article (3) of Fourth Geneva Convention states: "In the case of armed conflict not of an international character occurring in the territory of one of the High Contracting Parties, each Party to the conflict shall be bound to apply, as a minimum, the following provisions:

(1) Persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed hors de combat by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction founded on race, colour, religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth, or any other similar criteria.

To this end the following acts are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever with respect to the above-mentioned persons:

- (a) violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture;
- (b) taking of hostages;
- (c) outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment;
- (d) the passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court, affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples.

(2) The wounded and sick shall be collected and cared for.

The child died from the explosion of an unknown object, which is believed to be unexploded ordnance (UXO) left by Israeli tanks as the IOF frequently invaded the area particularly during Operation Cast Lead (OCL).

**Excerpt from Nedal Mohammed Nafea' Abu Odwan to Al Mezan:**

I live north of Al Shoka village, east of the city of Rafah , about 2.5 kilometers from the eastern separation fence. At around 4pm on Thursday 27 January 2011, my brother Basel, 14, and I were grazing sheep in our family land, 250 meters away from our house. Our house is located southwest of Sofa crossing in Al Shoka village, . My brother was about ten meters away from me in an open agricultural field. I heard a big explosion. Smoke was covering the place. I expected that something wrong had happened to my brother. I went to see him. His body was dismembered. His body parts were scattered all over the place. A few minutes after the explosion, neighbors and relatives arrived.... My family told me that my brother Basel had been killed. My uncle Eid accompanied the dead body to Abu Yousif An-Najjar Hospital by ambulance. The police then arrived and collected parts of the remaining exploded device. The place of the explosion was frequently invaded by the IOF particularly during Operation Cast Lead. The sand piles where the IOF tanks used to station are still in the same place.

- At approximately 1:30am on Thursday 17 February 2011, the IOF opened fire and fired artillery shells under the cover of aircrafts at three Palestinian men who were near the separation fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel, in the north of the Gaza Strip. The three were in the As-Siafa area, northwest of Beit Lahya town, in the North Gaza district. The shooting lasted for about an hour. At approximately 8:20am on the same day, the dead bodies of the three men were transferred by an ambulance to the Kamal Odwan Hospital in Beit Lahya town. Al Mezan identified the names of the three men as follows:
  - Jihad Fathi Mohammed Khalaf, 20, from Jabalia;
  - Ashraf Abdel Lateef Rasheed Iqteefan, 32; from Gaza city; and
  - Tala't Mohammed Salama Ar-Rawagh, 40, from Gaza city.

The IOF announced that it killed three Palestinians who approached the separation fence to smuggle into Israel through the separation fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel. However, Al Mezan's investigations found that the three were civilians working in the area with other people.

According to Al Mezan's field investigations, the dead bodies were defaced and torn apart. Their dead bodies were carried about one kilometer, on horse-driven carts by workers who were with the victims in the area, and then an ambulance took them to hospital.

The field investigations by Al Mezan indicated that the three victims were in the area to collect seashells to sell them. They used to go to this coastal area west of the As-Siafa area, not far from the separation fence. The three victims were dressed in civilian clothes and did not carry any weapons on them. They did not form any threat to the IOF when they were attacked.

- 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 mu 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.

According to Al Mezan's documentation, during the reporting period, the IOF opened fired on fishermen, pursued them in the water while they were fishing, and arrested 11 fishermen and confiscated several fishing boats. As a result of Israeli naval attacks against fishermen, one fisherman was injured.. Al Mezan documented the ongoing attacks on fishermen as follows:

- At approximately 10am on Tuesday 4 January 2011, Israeli naval vessels patrolling the Gaza sea arrested four Palestinian fishermen and confiscated their boat. In their affidavits to Al Mezan, the fishermen said that they were working inside the permitted fishing zone Israel has declared. The IOF arrested the fishermen opposite the Al Sheikh 'Ijleen area, west of Gaza city. The IOF took them and their boat north towards Ashdod harbor. The next day, the IOF released the fishermen. Al Mezan identified them as follows:
  - Mohammed Abdel Qader Baker;
  - Nehad Mohammed Abdel Qader Baker;
  - Raef Nabil Baker; and
  - Mohammed Mahmoud Baker.

The fishermen are residents of Gaza city.

- At approximately 4pm on Friday 7 January 2011, Israeli vessels that were patrolling the waters off the coast of the Gaza Strip opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of Beit Lahya and Jabalia towns in North Gaza District. No casualties or injuries were reported, but the fishermen were terrified and abandoned their fishing activities.
- Around midday on Tuesday 11 January 2011, Israeli naval vessels that patrolled Gaza sea arrested four Palestinian fishermen and confiscated their boat. The fishermen were working about 2.5 kilometers off the Gaza shore, i.e. inside the permitted fishing zone Israel has declared. The IOF arrested the fishermen opposite the Al Sheikh 'Ijleen area, west of Gaza city. The IOF took them and their boat north towards Ashdod harbor. The reasons behind the arrest have remained unknown. Al Mezan identified the names of fishermen as follows:
  - Usama Nasser Abu Amera, 18;
  - Mohammed Khalid Abu Amera, 17;
  - Mahmoud Khalid Abu Amera, 18; and
  - Saher Khalid Juha, 18.

The fishermen are residents of Al Shati' refugee camp west of Gaza city.

- At app. 9:30pm on Saturday 22 January 2011, Israeli gunboats that were patrolling the waters off the coast of the Gaza Strip opened heavy fire at Palestinian fishing boats near the As-Sudania area west of Beit Lahya town in North Gaza District. No casualties or injuries were reported, but the fishermen were terrified and abandoned their fishing activities.
- At approximately 11am on Saturday 19 February 2010, Israeli gunboats that were patrolling the waters off the coast of the Gaza Strip opened fire at a Palestinian fishing boat off the coast of Khan Younis. Three fishermen were working on the boat about 3 kilometers off Gaza shore.

In his affidavit to Al Mezan, one of the fishermen said that IOF military boats moved towards the Palestinian fishing boat and surrounded them. The IOF ordered three fishermen who were on the fishing boats to take off their clothes and to swim towards the IOF boats. The IOF arrested the three of them. The IOF confiscated the Palestinian fishing boat. Al Mezan identified the names of the fishermen as follows:

- Mustafa Hjaz Al Laham, 41;
- Hjaz Hani Al Laham; 17; and
- Mahmoud Hassan Al Laham, 30.

At approximately 8:30pm on the same day, the IOF released the fishermen at Erez crossing after interrogating them. The boat was still confiscated when this report was being published.

**Excerpt from fisherman Mustafa Hjaz Al Laham, 41, affidavit to Al Mezan:**

*At around 11pm on Saturday 19 February 2011, my nephew Hani Hjaz Al Lahan, 27, my cousin Mahmoud Hasan Saleh Al Laham, 30, and I were on a fishing hasaka (boat). We were sailing opposite the coast of Khan Younis. We were 300 kilometers off the Gaza shore, within the limited fishing zone. We dropped the nets in the sea. I saw an Israeli boat about one kilometer away from us. The Israeli boat was sailing quickly towards us. My nephew, cousin, and I started to withdraw the fishing nets. During that time, the Israeli boat surrounded us. When we withdrew the net I switched the hasaka engine on and began to sail eastwards to land. I heard someone on an amplifier saying "stop or I will shoot you". I switched the engine off. I saw a number of Israeli soldiers on the Israeli boat. They ordered us to move to the bow. Then they ordered us to take off our clothes. They also ordered us to swim to their boat which was about 20 meters from us. I jumped into the sea and swam to the Israeli boat. I got into the boat. One soldier searched me immediately, cuffed my hands with a plastic strap from behind, and blind folded my eyes with a piece of clothing.*

- At approximately 8:20am on Wednesday 23 February 2011, Israeli gunboats that were patrolling the coast of the Gaza Strip opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of Jabalia town, in North Gaza District. No casualties or injuries were reported, but the fishermen were terrified and abandoned their work.
- 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 the civilians were more than a kilometer from the borderline. In January 2010, Israeli aircrafts dropped leaflets claiming that its soldiers fire at Palestinians only when they are 300 meters away from the border fence. Israeli violations related to enforcing the 'security buffer zone' are classified into: attacks on civilians near the borders, attacks on Palestinian civilians collecting scrap materials and rubble, and limited IOF incursions into the Gaza Strip. The following violations were perpetrated in the first quarter of 2011:

### **Attacks on Palestinian Civilians near the Borders**

During this reporting period, the IOF continued to attack Palestinians near the Gaza Strip's eastern and northern borders with Israel. These attacks prevent hundreds of Palestinian farmers from farming their lands which are located near the border-line with Israel. The IOF carried out 14 attacks against Palestinian civilians near the border. As a result of these attacks, one farmer was killed and another two farmers were injured in a separate attack. Al Mezan documented these attacks as follows:

- At approximately 2:05pm on Monday 10 January 2011, the IOF opened fire at Palestinian farmers who were about 550 meters away from the border fence between Gaza and Israel. These civilians were in the Al-Shobaki area, north of the Agriculture School in the north of Beit Hanoun town in North Gaza district. As a result, a farmer, Sha'ban Mohammed Shaker Qarmout, 64, was killed from a bullet injury to the chest, beneath the neck. He died at Beit Hanoun Hospital about an hour after he was injured.

The shooting took place when there was calm in the area and just after an international delegation had left the area subsequent to a visit. .



Qarmout was working in his land in that area when he was shot. He lived in that same area and was well known there.

**In his affidavit to Al Mezan, Khalid Qarmout who was accompanying his father at the time of the attack said:**

*“At around 6am on Monday 10 February 2011, my father and I arrived at our field. We started to collect stones from the destroyed structures to take them from the field and sell them later. We were carrying the stones on a donkey drawn cart which was in the field. It was calm in the area.*

*At around 1:30pm on the same day, while my father and I were collecting stones from around our home, a delegation came to us. The delegation consisted of an international woman and two men. One of them was Saber Az-Za'aneen, activist at the popular campaign against the security buffer zone. Such delegations came to us weekly. They asked my father to take some photos for him while he was working. My father refused, he was afraid of the Israeli occupation forces. We were in an open area that is located 500 meters from the separation fence.*

*Ten minutes later, the delegation left the area. My father asked me to prepare lunch. I made lunch and ate with my father. After that we continued our work. At around 2:05pm on the same day, my father was driving a donkey drawn cart. He was going to the south. I was collecting stones from the ground. My father was about 300 meters away from me. My father was closer than I was to the separation fence. He was about 500 meters away from the fence. I heard two bullets whizzing past. I heard my father calling, "Khalid". I looked to the place where my father was, but I could not see him. I dropped what I was holding in my hands. I ran to the place where my father was. I saw the donkey running away from the place. I could hear sporadic fire. I was afraid. I saw my father lying on his back on the ground near a tree, west of the house. He was looking at the sky. I called him but he did not reply. Suddenly I saw my father bleeding from the mouth. At that moment, I was sure that he had died. I went to an adjacent stone-breaker about 400 meters away from where I was. I asked the workers who were there to help me. They drove a bulldozer and picked up my father. We moved about 300 meters to the south. I saw an ambulance. The ambulance took my father to Beit Hanoun Hospital. The doctors there told me that my father had died.”*

- At approximately 5:30pm on Saturday 22 January 2011, the IOF opened fire at Fares Shaheen Abu Ajwa, 47, while he was working on a cow farm east of Al Sheja'ia neighborhood. Medical sources described his injury as critical
- At approximately 7:50am on Monday 7 February 2011, the IOF opened fire at Palestinian farmers who were in their fields near the separation fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel. The farmers were in the Al Qatbaniya area, east of Beit Hanoun, when IOF opened fire on them. No casualties or injuries were reported, but the farmers were terrified and abandoned their farms.
- At approximately 12:40pm on Saturday 12 February 2011, the IOF opened fire at Palestinian farmers who were in their fields near the separation fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel, north of Beit Lahiya. No casualties or injuries were reported, but the farmers were terrified and abandoned their farms.
- At approximately 2:40pm on Monday 28 February 2011, the IOF opened fire at Palestinian farmers who were in their fields north of the Islamic Martyrs

Cemetery. No casualties or injuries were reported, but the farmers were terrified and abandoned their farms.

- 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.

### **IOF Attacks against Palestinian Civilians Collecting Scrap Materials and Rubble**

The IOF continued to attack Palestinian civilians collecting scrap materials and rubble from destroyed structures that are located near the northern and eastern separation fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel. These destroyed structures have been destroyed by the IOF in the past. The workers collect rubble and sell it to brick factories which recycle it into bricks or to people who need to use it for construction purposes. This is the only source of material available in the Gaza Strip for making bricks and concrete for construction. Gaza suffers from an acute shortage of construction materials due the Israeli siege.

The Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip impedes governmental and non-governmental efforts to decrease poverty and unemployment. The Israeli siege deprives Palestinians of their most basic rights; in particular the right to life. As poverty and unemployment are prevalent, collecting rubble and scrap material from destroyed structures has flourished as an activity aimed at creating a source of income as well as providing construction materials. During this reporting period, Al Mezan documented 17 attacks against Palestinian civilians collecting scrap materials and rubble. As a result of these attacks, two persons were killed and 18 persons were injured, three of whom were children. Al Mezan documented these attacks as follows:

- At approximately 8am on Tuesday 18 January 2011, ten Israeli tanks accompanied by armored bulldozers moved under sporadic fire about 200 meters inside the Wadi Ad-Douh area east of Beit Hanoun town, in North Gaza district. Then the Israeli tanks moved slowly to the south to the As-Sa'adat family land southeast of Beit Hanoun. The tanks moved to Abu Safya area east of Jabalia town, and then they moved about 300 meters to the northeast of the Islamic Martyrs Cemetery, east of Jabalia town. Bulldozers leveled lands that have been razed before.
- At approximately 2pm on the same day, the IOF fired seven artillery shells at Palestinian civilians, most of whom were children, as they were collecting scrap material and rubble from the destroyed structures in the Abu Safyia area to the north of the area under incursion. The group was about one kilometer from the separation fence when the IOF fired at them.
- As a result, Amjad Sami Ahmed Az-Za'aneen, 18, was killed. Medical sources at Beit Hanoun Hospital Az-Za'aneen sustained injuries from shrapnel in

different parts of his body. Ismail Abdel Qader Ahmed Az-Za'aneen, 17, and Sharaf Rafat Mohammed Sa'ada, 19, were injured. Medical sources at Beit Hanoun Hospital described their injuries as moderate. A horse was killed and another horse was injured in the attack. The two horses were used to pull donkey-drawn carts used by the two injured persons. The IOF withdrew from the area in the evening hours on the same day.

- At approximately 6:40am on Sunday 16 January 2011, the IOF opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians as they were collecting scrap materials and rubble from the destroyed structures near the border fence between Gaza and Israel. The group was about 300 meters away from the border fence near the Burat Abu Samra area north of Beit Lahiya, in the North Gaza district when the IOF fired at them. As a result, Adham Ramadan Freeh Subbuh, 21, was injured in the left leg, causing a fracture. Medical sources at Kamal Odwan Hospital described his injury as moderate. He was referred to Shifa Hospital in Gaza city.
- At approximately 2pm on Wednesday 19 January 2011, the IOF opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians as they were collecting scrap materials and rubble from the destroyed structures near the border fence between Gaza and Israel. The group was about 300 meters away from the border fence, east of the Islamic Martyrs Cemetery, east of Jabalia town in North Gaza district when the IOF fired at them. As a result, Ahmed Nemer Al Irr, 22, sustained an injury to his left leg which was fractured as a result.
- At approximately 9:30am on Monday 24 January 2011, the IOF, which was stationed in monitoring towers northeast of the Wadi Gaza Village, opened fire at Palestinian civilians as they were collecting scrap materials and rubble from streets in the village. The civilians were one kilometer away from the separation fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel when the IOF fired at them. No casualties or injuries were reported but the civilians were terrified and left the area.
- At approximately 9:50am on Sunday 30 January 2011, the IOF opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians as they were collecting scrap and rubble from the destroyed structures near the border fence between Gaza and Israel. The group was about 150 meters away from the border fence in the Burat Abu Samra area north of Beit Lahiya, in the North Gaza district when IOF fired at them. As a result, Mohammed Zakaria Rajab Subuh Halawa, 21, sustained a fracture to his left leg. Medical sources at Kamal Odwan Hospital described his injury as moderate. Halawa is a resident of Jabalia town.
- At approximately 11:30am on Saturday 5 February 2011, the IOF opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians as they were collecting scrap and rubble from destroyed structures near the border fence between Gaza and Israel. The group was 200 meters from the border fence near the Burat Abu Samra area north of Beit Lahiya, in the North Gaza district, when IOF fired at them. As a result, Abdullah Rabee' Ahmed 'Ulwan, 46, was injured in his right thigh. Medical sources at Kamal Odwan Hospital described his injury as moderate.
- At approximately 9:30am on Saturday 5 February 2011, the IOF opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians as they were collecting scrap material and rubble from destroyed structures west of Kani Crossing, east of Al Sheja'iya

neighborhood, east of Gaza city. As a result, Belal Abdullah Ad-Da'our, 20, was injured in his right hand and leg and Ibrahim An-Nabaheen, 20, was injured in his right leg and pelvis. The two injured persons are from the Al Mughraga village, south of Gaza City.

- At approximately 2:30pm on Monday 7 February 2011, Israeli occupation forces (IOF) opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians as they were collecting scrap material and rubble from destroyed structures west of Kani Crossing, east of Al Sheja'iya neighborhood, east of Gaza city. As a result, Nash'at Sa'eed Hawas, 17, who is from Gaza city, was injured in his left leg, beneath the knee.
- At approximately 1:10pm on Saturday 12 February 2011, the IOF opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians as they were collecting scrap and rubble from destroyed structures near the border fence between Gaza and Israel. The group was about 200 meters from the border fence near the evacuated settlement Eli Sinai, northwest of Beit Lahyia, in the North Gaza district, when IOF fired at them. As a result, Ashour Mohammed Ashour Shkhedem, 29, was injured in his right knee. Medical sources at Kamal Odwan Hospital described his injury as moderate.
- At approximately 12:15pm on Saturday 21 February 2011, the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians as they were collecting scrap and rubble from destroyed structures near the border fence between Gaza and Israel. The group was about 200 meters from the border fence near the evacuated settlement Eli Sinai, northwest of Beit Lahyia, in the North Gaza district, when IOF fired at them. As a result, Mahran Rezeq Tanboura, 24, was injured in his left knee. Medical sources at Kamal Odwan Hospital described his injury as moderate, as the bullet was removed from his knee.

**Excerpts from Mahran Rezeq Tanboura's affidavit to Al Mezan:**

*At around 6am on Sunday 12 February 2011, my relative and work partner Ahmed and I went on a donkey drawn cart to Eli Sinai, the evacuated settlement, east of As-Siafa area, northeast of Beit Lahya. We arrived at the area at around 6:40am. We started to destroy cement blocks using heavy rocks to small and medium stones. After long hours of hard work we usually sell these stones. Every cartload is sold for 10 NIS. We work together all day. We sell four to five carts every day to obtain 60 NIS. We share this money between us.*

*Dozens of workers and I were about 200 meters away from the northern separation fence. I was standing to the north of Eli Sinai, the evacuated settlement, to carry stone to put on the cart. It was around 12:15pm on Saturday. I suddenly heard the sound of a bullet being shot. Calm prevailed in the place. Then I saw my left leg was bleeding. I was scared. I hysterically ran southwards. .*

*One of my relatives, Ahmed As-Sous, stopped me. He carried me on his donkey drawn cart. My relative, Ziyad Tanboura, came with us on the cart. We went to the Al Khusa area which is located east of Doggett, an evacuated settlement, which is located in the north west of Beit Lahya. My relatives who worked with me called an ambulance. . The ambulance carried me to the Kamal Odwan Hospital where I received medical treatment. I had an X-ray there. The doctors told me that the bullet entered my left knee and passed under my kneecap. Fortunately, the bullet exited without damaging the bone. At around 3:30pm on the same day I left the hospital.*

- At approximately 9:45am on Monday 14 February 2011, the IOF opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians who were collecting scrap and rubble from destroyed structures near the border fence between Gaza and Israel. The group was about 200 meters from the border fence near the evacuated settlement, Eli Sinai, northwest of Beit Lahya, in the North Gaza district, when IOF fired at them. As a result, Suliman Salim Mohammed Abu Rekab, 20, who is a resident of Gaza city, was injured in his left leg. Medical sources at Kamal Odwan Hospital described his injury as light.
- At approximately 1:30pm on Thursday 17 February 2011, the IOF opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians as they were collecting scrap materials and rubble from destroyed structures west of Karni Crossing, east of Al Sheja'iya neighborhood, in the east of Gaza city. As a result, Mustafa Khader Al Manasra, 17, and Waleed Khalil Jendea, 19, were injured, both in their right legs. Medical sources described their injuries as moderate.
- At approximately 12:30pm on Tuesday 22 February 2011, the IOF opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians as they were collecting scrap and rubble from destroyed structures near the border fence between Gaza and Israel. The group was about 400 meters from the border fence near Erez crossing, in the North Gaza district, when IOF fired at them. As a result, Saleem Kamal Abed

Barakat, 21, who is from Gaza city, was injured in his right thigh. Medical sources at Kamal Odwan Hospital described his injury as light.

- At approximately 9:45am on Wednesday 23 February 2011, the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians who were about 300 meters from the border fence near the Burat Abu Samra area, north of Beit Lahya town, in the North Gaza district. As a result, Nedal Mohammed Mohammed Halawa, 21, who is from Gaza city, was injured in his left leg. Medical sources at Kamal Odwan Hospital described his injury as moderate.
- At approximately 9:30am on Wednesday 23 February 2011, the IOF opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians as they were collecting scrap materials and rubble from destroyed structures west of Karni Crossing, east of Al Sheja'iya neighborhood, in the east of Gaza city. As a result, Ihab Dawoud Al Ashqar, 32, was injured in his abdomen and left leg. Medical sources at Balsam Hospital described his injury as critical. He was referred to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Al Ashqar lives in Beit Lahya.
- At approximately 11:40am on Saturday 26 February 2011, the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians who were collecting scrap and rubble from destroyed structures near the border fence between Gaza and Israel. The group was about 300 meters from the border fence near the evacuated settlement, Eli Sinai, northwest of Beit Lahya, in the North Gaza district, when IOF fired at them. As a result, Khalid Mohammed Mustafa Al Hsoumi, 36, was injured in his right leg, causing a fracture. Medical sources at Kamal Odwan Hospital described his injury as severe. Other civilians who were in the area were terrified and left their work.
- At approximately 10am on Monday 28 February 2011, the IOF opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians as they were collecting scrap material and rubble from destroyed structures near the border fence between Gaza and Israel. The group was about 300 meters from the border fence west of the Burat Abu Samra area, north of Beit Lahya, in the North Gaza district, when the IOF fired at them. As a result, Omar Arafa Abdel Lateef Ma'rouf, 20, was severely injured.
- At approximately 11am on the same day, three Israeli tanks moved under sporadic fire in the same area and took Ma'rouf to Israel. At approximately 2pm on the same day, the IOF submitted Ma'rouf's dead body to the Palestinian Liaison Office, which is located in the Ministry of Civil Affairs' office at the Erez crossing, in the north of the Gaza Strip. The dead body was admitted to Shifa Hospital in Gaza city.

In his affidavit to Al Mezan, Talal 'Aish Abdel Lateef Ma'rouf said that while he was taking care of land that he was renting from the Hamouda family he saw his cousin Omar arriving at the area on a donkey drawn cart. He added that Omar started to destroy stones in order to sell them to buy food for his wife and his infant Mohammed. Talal said that he was surprised by the onset of shooting which lasted for about an hour. Talal tried to find his cousin but he could not see him.

While Talal was trying to find his cousin Omar, he saw Omar's donkey lying on the ground. The donkey was killed. Talal suspected that his cousin Omar was hiding, afraid of the continuous shooting. Then Talal saw two bulldozers and armored bulldozers had moved into the place. Talal and his family who were accompanying him immediately left the area. At approximately 12:30pm on the same day, Talal returned to his land after the withdrawal of the Israeli tanks. Talal saw signs of bulldozers in the place where his cousin was. Talal informed the Red Crescent Society, who arrived and waited in a nearby place awaiting permission from the Israelis to enter the area. However, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which is responsible for coordinating with the Israelis, informed the Red Crescent Society that the IOF had handed Omar's dead body to the liaison office at Erez Cross. When Talal went to his uncle's house, he was informed that the IOF tried to provide medical treatment for Omar but he died from his wounds at approximately 11:30am on the same day. The Bullet entered Omar's left side and exited from his right side. A Hebrew newspaper reported the death of Omar.

### **Limited Incursions into the Gaza Strip**

The IOF continued to carry-out limited incursions into the northern and eastern areas of the Gaza Strip. During this reporting period, the IOF carried out 19 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 prevent hundreds of Palestinian farmers from farming their lands which are located near the border-line with Israel. As a result of these incursions, one person was killed and nine persons were injured. Al Mezan documented these incursions as follows

- At approximately 8am on Sunday 2 January 2011, ten Israeli tanks accompanied by bulldozers moved amid sporadic fire about 300 meters north of the As-Saifa area, which is located northwest of Beit Lahya, in North Gaza District. The Israeli bulldozers leveled the lands that had been frequently razed before. The bulldozers also dug deep holes in the area. At approximately 2:30pm on the same day, the IOF withdrew from the area. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 7am on Monday 3 January 2011, several Israeli tanks accompanied by armored bulldozers moved under Israeli aircraft cover about 500 meters east of Khuza'a village which is east of Khan Younis district. The Israeli bulldozers leveled and combed lands in that area. The incursion lasted for several hours. Due to the heavy Israeli fire, two schools in that area evacuated their students at around 10am. No casualties or injuries were reported but the students were very afraid.
- At approximately 1:20pm on Monday 10 January 2011, six Israeli tanks accompanied by armored bulldozers moved around 300 meters into the east of Wadi Gaza (Gaza Valley) village. Bulldozers leveled agricultural land in the area. In the evening hours on the same day, the IOF withdrew from the area. No casualties or injuries were reported.



- At approximately 7:30am on Tuesday 25 January 2011, three Israeli tanks accompanied by three armored bulldozers moved around 300 meters into the east of Wadi Gaza (Gaza Valley) village. The incursion lasted for around two hours. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 11am on Monday 24 January 2011, three Israeli tanks accompanied by four armored bulldozers moved about 250 meters inside the northeastern side of the Al Bureij refugee camp, in Middle Gaza district. The IOF then moved to the south towards the separation fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 9:15am on Tuesday 25 January 2011, three Israeli tanks and three armored bulldozers moved about 300 meters to the east of Al Maghazi refugee camp, in Middle Gaza district. At approximately 12:30pm on the same day, the IOF withdrew from the area.
- At approximately 7am on Thursday 27 January 2011, Israeli tanks accompanied by armored bulldozers moved under sporadic fire about 300 meters inside the eastern parts of Khan Younis district. Bulldozers leveled agricultural lands that had been razed in the past. The incursion lasted for about one hour. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 7am on Tuesday 8 February 2011, six Israeli tanks moved under fire about 400 meters into the Burat Abu Samra area, north of Beit Lahiya town, west of the Bedouin (Um An-Naser) Village, in the North Gaza district.
- At approximately 9am on the same day, another five Israeli tanks moved into the same area and stationed there. No casualties or injuries were reported in this limited incursion. At approximately 5:45pm on the same day, the IOF withdrew from the area.
- At approximately 8:10am on Tuesday 8 February 2011, five Israeli tanks moved under fire about 200 meters into the As-Syafa area, northwest of Beit Lahiya town, in North Gaza district. The tanks moved slowly eastwards and accompanied the tanks which had invaded the Burat Abu Samra area. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 7:30am on Wednesday 9 February 2011, four Israeli tanks accompanied by three armored bulldozers moved around 250 meters into the east of Wadi Gaza (Gaza Valley) village. The incursion lasted for about two hours. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 8:30am on Tuesday 15 February 2011, Israeli tanks accompanied by armored bulldozers moved about 300 meters into the Al Fukhari town, east of Khan Younis district. Bulldozers leveled lands that had been razed before. At approximately 12:30pm on the same day, the IOF withdrew from the area. No casualties or injuries were reported in this limited incursion.
- At approximately 8am on Tuesday 22 February 2011, Israeli tanks accompanied by armored bulldozers moved about 300 meters into the southeast of Al Qarara town, in the east of Khan Younis district. Bulldozers leveled agricultural land that had been previously razed. . At app. 1pm on the

same day, the IOF withdrew from the area. No casualties or injuries were reported.

- At approximately 8am on Wednesday 23 February 2011, four Israeli tanks accompanied by three armored bulldozers moved about 200 meters into the eastern parts of the Wadi Gaza (Gaza Valley) village. Bulldozers leveled lands in the area. The Israeli tanks moved to southern parts of the village. At approximately 10am on the same day, the IOF withdrew from the area.
- At approximately 9am on Wednesday 23 February 2011, four Israeli tanks and an armored bulldozer moved under heavy fire about 300 meters into Malaka square, east of Az-Zaitoun neighborhood, in the east of Gaza City. Bulldozers leveled agricultural land in the area.

At around midday, another force backed the invaded forces and fired two artillery shells at a group of Palestinian men who gathered near the As-wada Factory in the east of Az-Zaitoun neighborhood, to follow the developments on the ground. As a result, nine persons were injured. Adel Othman Jendia, 25, was critically injured. At approximately 7pm on the same day, Jendia died from his wounds. In the evening hours on the same day, the IOF withdrew from the area.

- At approximately 9am on Monday 28 February 2011, seven Israeli tanks moved about 300 meters into the An-Nahda neighborhood, east of Rafah town. The IOF fired several artillery shells at Gaza International Airport. As a result, one person was injured in the legs. Medical sources at Abu Yousif An-Najjar Hospital described his injury as moderate. An artillery shell fell on the house of Hanan Abdel Qader Abu Jarad. The house, which is about 100 square meters in area and hosts five family members, was completely destroyed. The house is located in the Al Shoka village, east of Rafah crossing. At approximately 5pm on the same day, the IOF withdrew from the area.
- 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**

During the reporting period, 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. The IOF randomly attacked Palestinians and their properties. As a result of these attacks, several people sustained injuries from shrapnel, houses and other civilian objects sustained physical damage, and civilians were terrified. 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 54 artillery shelling and missile attacks. As a result, 12 persons were killed and 61 persons were injured, including 16 children and three women.

Four houses were completely destroyed, 77 houses were severely damaged, and dozens more were slightly damaged. In addition, three stores were completely destroyed, nine shops and two stores were partially destroyed, 12 industrial facilities were partially destroyed and one industrial facility was completely destroyed, seven security premises were partially destroyed, eight cars (including a sewage car and a breakdown truck), and 16 public facilities and NGO offices were partially damaged. Al Mezan documented these attacks as follows:

- At approximately 2:15am on Monday 10 January 2011, an Israeli jet plane fired a missile at the former police investigation unit office premises, which is located west of the Al Ghoul neighborhood, west of Jabalia town in North Gaza district. As a result, the northwestern side of the building was destroyed. The attack left a deep hole in the ground. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 12:25am on Wednesday 12 January 2011, Israeli aircraft attacked a training site of the Al-Quds Brigades, the military wing of the Islamic Jihad Movement. The site is located in a former settlement west of Khan Younis district. As a result, the site sustained major damages. No casualties or injuries were reported in this attack.
- At around midnight on Wednesday 12 January 2011, Israeli aircrafts fired two missiles at the naval forces building west of An-Nuseirat refugee camp in

Middle Gaza district. As a result, two rooms and two cars in the office premises were destroyed. No casualties or injuries were reported.

- At approximately 11:25pm on Tuesday 11 January 2011, Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a training site for the Ezzadin Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas movement, in the Al Zaytoun neighborhood southeast of Gaza city. As a result, the site sustained major damages. No casualties or injuries were reported in the attack.
- At approximately 1:50am on Sunday 2 January 2011, Israeli helicopters attacked an iron store in the Khubaib neighborhood in the An-Nuseirat refugee camp. As a result, the store was destroyed. Tha'er Awni Jad El-Haq, 22, was injured while he was in his house adjacent to the store. He was admitted to the Al Aqsa Hospital in the nearby Deir Al-Balah town, and then referred to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Two adjacent houses were also partially damaged in the attack.
- At approximately 2am on Sunday 2 January 2011, an Israeli jet plane fired a missile at a training site for the Ezzadin Al-Qasam Brigades. The training site is located on Mas'oud Street in Jabalia, in North Gaza district. As a result, the training site was completely destroyed. The attack left a deep hole in the ground. Ahmed Mohammed Deeb Masnour, 48, was injured while he was sleeping in his house when the glass in the windows shattered. Medical sources at Kamal Odwan Hospital described his injury as light. Four adjacent houses were slightly damaged in the attack. A piece of agricultural land planted with citrus trees, of about 1730 square meters, was damaged.

According to Al Mezan's field investigations, the site of the attack is located in the middle of citrus fruit fields. The owners of the fields have built their houses in the same area, around their fields. The site of the attack is about 2000 square meters and is located east of Mas'oud Street. The IOF also attacked a container and a small room that is located 20 meters away from the site of the attack. As a result, the container and the room were completely destroyed. Around 50 members of the Al Qasam Brigades were training in that site until 11pm on Saturday 2011.

- At approximately 8pm on Wednesday 5 January 2011, the IOF fired artillery shells at the eastern part of the Islamic Martyrs Cemetery, east of Jabalia town in North Gaza district. Then the IOF opened fire at the same area. The IOF announced on an Israeli website ([www.walla.co.il](http://www.walla.co.il)) that it had targeted two Palestinian persons who approached the separation fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel.
- At approximately 8:30am on Thursday 6 January 2011, coordination started with the Israeli authorities to allow Palestinian ambulances to reach the area and collect the dead bodies. An hour later, a Palestinian ambulance was able to reach the area and collect two dead bodies. The dead bodies were taken to the Kamal Odwan Hospital. Later, the police discovered that the two killed persons hold Egyptian passports. One of them also held an Egyptian ID card; his name was Mustafa Abdel Fatah Mohammed, 22, and he was from Al Giza governorate in Cairo. The other one was in his twenties.

- At approximately 11:30pm on Thursday 6 January 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a training site for the Ezzadin Al-Qasam Brigades. The training site is located east of Al Shija'ia neighborhood east of Gaza city. The Tunis High School for boys and Bisan Primary School for girls, which are close to the site, sustained damage. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 1:30am on Friday 7 January 2011, Israeli aircrafts fired a missile at an open area in the Zalata neighborhood in the Al Shoka village east of Rafah town. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 6:10pm on Wednesday 2 February 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at the Gaza-Egypt border, east of the Rafah crossing, in the Al Shoka village, southeast of Rafah town. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 11:50pm on Tuesday 8 February 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at an open area, south of Malaka Square, east of Az-Zaytoun neighborhood, in the east of Gaza city. No casualties or injuries were reported, but people were terrified.
- At approximately 7am on Wednesday 9 February 2011, the IOF fired five artillery shells at an open agricultural area east of Abasan town, east of Khan Younis district. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 1:15am on Wednesday 9 February 2011, an Israeli aircraft attacked a training site for the Al-Quds Brigades, the military wing of the Islamic Jihad Movement. The site is located west of Khan Younis district, south of the Gaza Strip. As a result, two persons sustained light injuries and bruises. The site sustained physical damages.
- At around midnight on 9 February 2011, an Israeli aircraft attacked the Hashem Al Hatou and Sons Plastics Factory, which is under construction with an area of 1,200 square meters. The factory is located in the Al Qerem crossroad in the Al Tuffah neighborhood, northeast of Gaza city. It is owned by Mohammed Hashem Al Hatou. The factory was completely destroyed. In addition, an adjacent 700-square-meter drug store; one of the main Ministry of Health (MoH) stores in Gaza, was also destroyed. According to Dr. Muneer Al Bursh, the general director of pharmacy at the MoH in Gaza, "the attack will immediately deepen the shortage of medicine in Gaza."
- Eleven people were injured in this attack; four of whom were children and two women. They were injured from the shattered windowpanes in their houses. Moreover, the Nour Al Ma'aref Private School, which is close to the attacked facility, sustained major damages. The school hosts about 600 students from first to tenth grades. The schools roof, windows, doors and the playground were damaged. The school's administration decided to close it down until the building is repaired.
- Several other factories and metal workshops in the same area were also damaged in the same attack. The roof and walls of a 1,200-square-meter textiles factory, owned by Jawad Mohammed Odeh, were damaged. The four-

story, 1,500-square-meter As-Sousi Factory for wood, which is owned by Mujahed Mahmoud As-Sousi, was also damaged. The offices of the As-Sousi Wood Company and its furniture exhibit, which are located opposite the attacked place, were also damaged.

- At approximately 10am on Saturday 19 February 2011, the IOF opened fire at the Koz Abu Hamam area, southeast of Deir Al Balah town, in Middle Gaza district. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- At approximately 10pm on Wednesday 23 February 2011, the IOF fired two artillery shells at a group of Palestinian resistance fighters who were near the Abdel Aziz Ar-Rantisi mosque, east of Az-Zaitoun neighborhood, east of Gaza city. As a result, two persons sustained moderate injuries.
- At approximately 12:05am on Thursday 24 February 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a training site for the Ezadin Al-Qasam Brigades, the military wing of the Hamas movement, west of Gaza city. No casualties or injuries were reported in the two attacks.
- At approximately 12:20am on Thursday 24 February 2011, Israeli aircrafts fired two missiles at a training site for the Ezadin Al-Qasam Brigades, the military wing of the Hamas movement, south east of Gaza city. No casualties or injuries were reported in the attack.
- At approximately 12:10am on Thursday 24 February 2011, Israeli aircrafts attacked a small agricultural store owned by Wael Al Majayda, 40, near the separation fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel. The store is located north of Khan Younis city and is about 600 square meters in area. As a result, the store was completely destroyed and the brick fence surrounding the land on which it was built, were destroyed. An adjacent four-story house was also partially damaged in the attack. The house hosts six families of 36 residents and is owned by Khalid Na'eem Wafi, 42. No casualties or injuries were reported in this attack.
- At approximately 3:30am on Thursday 24 February 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a metal workshop in the Az-Zawaida village, in Middle Gaza district. The asbestos-roofed workshop is about one dunam (1000 square meters) and is owned by Ibrahim Al Hayya, 49. As a result, the asbestos roof of the workshop was damaged.
- At approximately 7:05pm on Thursday 24 February 2011, an Israeli reconnaissance drone fired a missile at a Magnum jeep in the As-Salam neighborhood, south of Rafah town near the Gaza-Egypt border. As a result, two persons were moderately injured. A house belonging to Mansour Hamdan Mansour Bin Hasan, was partially damaged. The house is about 150 square meters in area. Four families live in the house, about 25 family members, including five children.
- At approximately 5am on Thursday 24 February 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at an open area in the Al Shoka village, east of Rafah town. As a result, the house of Hasan Mahmoud Hamad, 48, was destroyed. The asbestos-roofed house is about 111 square meters in area. The house hosts six family

members, four of whom are children. An adjacent house belonging to Ashraf Hasan Shehda Abu Lebda, 36, sustained physical damages. The house is about 140 square meters in area and hosts five family members, including three children.

- At approximately 3:05am on Thursday 24 February 2011, Israeli aircrafts fired two missiles at an area near the Salah Ad-Din Street, east of the An-Nuseirat refugee camp, in Middle Gaza district. One of the missiles fell on an asbestos-roofed store, which is about 1,500 square meters in area and is owned by Adham Shurab. The missile left a big hole in the store. The second missile fell on a two-story office building with an area of 150 square meters, which is owned by Hassan Yousif Shurab, 46. As a result, the building was completely destroyed and four adjacent industrial facilities were partially damaged.
- At approximately 3:30am on Saturday 26 February 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a rest house owned by Imad Ad-Din Mohammed Aqel, 38. The rest house is located behind the Abdeen wedding hall on the Salah Ad-Din Street, at the edge of the Al Bureij refugee camp. As a result, the rest house was completely destroyed. Eight adjacent houses, a car, a mosque and a livestock farm were partially damaged. Moreover, a girl, Haneen Nasr Ammar, 17, was injured while she was at her home. Dozens of civilians were terrified and panicked due to this attack.
- At approximately 1:50pm on Saturday 26 February 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a training site for the Ezadin Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of the Hamas movement, northwest of Rafah town, in the south of the Gaza Strip. As a result, Mohammed Ayman Tabasi and Atta Abdullah Abu Jazar (19 and 42 respectively), who were coincidentally in the area, suffered from a panic attack.
- At approximately 2:10pm on Saturday 26 February 2011, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a training site for the Ezadin Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of the Hamas movement, north of Sa'ad Sayil barracks on the eastern street of Rafah town, in the south of the Gaza Strip. As a result, a child, Sajja Haitham Abu Sharekh, 1.5 years old, was injured while she was in her house. Husam Salah Abu Mteer, 37, suffered from a panic attack. Medical sources at Abu Yousif An-Najjar Hospital described their injuries as moderate.
- At approximately 3:30pm on Saturday 26 February 2011, Israeli aircrafts fired two missiles at a residential house, east of Al Bureij refugee camp. The house is 700 meters away from the separation fence. The house is owned by Ahmed Eid Suliman Abu Shareb, 32, and hosts five family members, three of whom are children. According to Al Mezan's field investigations, an adjacent house owned by Hatem Eid Suliman Abu Shareb, 37, was completely destroyed. The house hosts seven family members, five of whom are children. Another adjacent house and a tin store sustained physical damages.

### **Excerpts from Ahmed Eid Abu Shareb's affidavit to Al Mezan:**

*At around 3:30pm on Saturday 26 February 2011, while I was in my home I received a phone call on my cell phone. Someone introduced himself as from the Israeli forces, he spoke to me. He said, "Are you Ahmed Abu Shareb?" I answered yes, that's right. He then said "This is the Israeli Defense forces". I asked him "what do you want?" The man said: "Listen carefully; you have to evacuate your home within ten minutes." Then he hung up the phone. I immediately evacuated my family, relatives, and neighbors. Ten minutes later, my cell phone rang and I answered. A man said: "this is the Israeli defense forces. Did you evacuate the house?" I said "yes". Then I heard a whistle like the whistle of a missile. I ran about 30 meters away, eastwards. I then heard a sound of a big explosion. I ran away. When I returned home, I found my home was completely destroyed. I did not take anything from my house. At the beginning I thought that someone was kidding with me. I work for the Palestinian national authority. I have no military affiliation. I did not expect that my home would be attacked.*

- At approximately 8pm on Sunday 27 February 2011, Abdel Majeed Ghazi Shaheen, 20, was killed. Shaheen was probably killed in an Israeli attack on Malaka square, east of Az-Zaitoun neighborhood, east of Gaza City
- 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 Jebri 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 Ishtiwi, 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'iyah 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'iyah neighborhood;
  - Naser Omar Abu Shanab, 22, from the Al Sheja'iyah neighborhood; and
  - QusaiFadi Abu Shanab, 4, from the Al Sheja'iyah 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'iyah 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 'trap' to arrest Palestinians by exploiting the need of patients to travel for essential treatment and coercing and threatening them, usually to provide information about friends and relatives. In this context, the IOF arrested 16 persons, 11 of whom were fishermen. The IOF arrested three persons who obtained Israeli permission to pass the Erez crossing. Two of the three were escorting patients on their way to hospital in Israel. Al Mezan documented the arrests as follows:

- At approximately 10am on Tuesday 4 January 2011, Israeli naval vessels patrolling the Gaza sea arrested four Palestinian fishermen and confiscated their boat. The fishermen were working inside the permitted fishing zone that Israel has declared. The IOF arrested the fishermen opposite the Al Sheikh 'Ijleen area, west of Gaza city. This incident is detailed above in the 'attacks against fishermen' section in this report.

- On Thursday 6 January 2011, the Israeli occupation forces detained Fu'ad Mohammed Ibrahim Abu Meri, 59, who is a resident of Deir Al Balah town in Middle Gaza district. According to Al Mezan's field investigations, Abu Meri was accompanying his daughter-in-law, Ra'eda Salim Abu Meri, 36, who was on her way to an Israeli hospital for medical treatment. The IOF allowed the patient to pass through Erez crossing and detained Fuad for several hours. He was released in the evening.
- Around midday on Tuesday 11 January 2011, Israeli naval vessels that were patrolling the Gaza sea arrested four Palestinian fishermen and confiscated their boat. The fishermen were working about 2.5 kilometers off the Gaza shore; i.e. inside the permitted fishing zone Israel has declared. The IOF arrested the fishermen opposite the Al Sheikh 'Ijleen area, west of Gaza city. This incident is detailed in 'attacks against fishermen' section in this report.
- At approximately 10:30am on Tuesday 15 February 2011, the IOF arrested Mohammed Mosa Zo'rob, 28, from the town of Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip, as he was accompanying his sick sister, Hanan, 42. The patient suffers from cancer and Guillain-Barré syndrome, and Mohammed had previously donated bone marrow to his sister. Her health condition had deteriorated seriously four days before she made the trip to Erez Crossing; therefore, a hospital in Gaza referred her for urgent treatment in the Beilinson hospital in Israel, and she and her brother were granted a permit from the Israeli authorities on 14 February 2011.

The patient and her brother had been granted permits to pass through the Erez crossing and access to hospital in Israel for the purpose of receiving urgent medical treatment. Due to the critical condition of the patient, they were transported to the crossing in a Palestinian ambulance equipped with an ICU, on 15 February 2011. As they reached the crossing, the IOF allowed the ambulance to pass through and the patient was transported to hospital by an Israeli ambulance. However, the IOF arrested the patient's brother. According to Al Mezan's field investigations, the brother had accompanied his sick sister to hospitals in Israel, via the Erez crossing, five times in the past. He had never before been arrested. Acting on the request of their family, Al Mezan contacted the Israeli authorities and was informed that the prisoner was being held in Shikma prison in Ashkelon.

### **Excerpts from Hidayah Mosa Zo'rob's affidavit to Al Mezan:**

*I'm Hidayah Mosa Rezeq Zo'rob, 28. I'm married. I have a family of six members, four of whom are children. I'm a housewife. I live in a neighborhood, west of Rafah . At around 6:30am on Tuesday 15 February 2011, my husband Mohammed Mosa Mohammed Zo'rob went to the European Gaza Hospital in Khan Younis to accompany his sister Hanan, 42. Hanan has suffered from cancer and Guillain-Barré syndrome for a year and a half. My husband had accompanied his sick sister to hospitals, particularly the Beilinson hospital in Israel, via the Erez crossing five times in the past. He had previously donated bone marrow to his sister. Hanan's health condition had deteriorated seriously four days before she made the trip to Erez Crossing; therefore, a hospital in Gaza referred her for urgent treatment in a hospital in Israel. At approximately 8am on the same day, my husband accompanied his sister in an ICU ambulance to Erez crossing. My husband made his last call to his uncle, Issa Mohammed Mosa Zo'rob, at around 10:30am on the same day. My husband told his uncle that his sister was being transferred to an Israeli hospital by an ambulance. He also told his uncle that he was at Erez crossing to finish some procedures and he would follow his sister daughter. My husband's uncle tried to call him several times, but my husband hung the phone up on him. At around 7pm on Tuesday 15 January 2011, Al Mezan told us that my husband was detained at the Ashkelon prison in Israel. Hanan was alone at the Hospital despite her deteriorated health condition.*

- 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 13 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 2,177 patients and 2,107 escorts, 1,853 international humanitarian aid workers, 305 diplomats, 225 journalists, 3,829 businesspersons holding Palestinian businessmen cards (BMC) other businesspersons, 608 Palestinians living in Israel visiting their relatives in the Gaza Strip, and 143 travelers travelling via Allenby Bridge (Al Karama) to go to Jordan.

Table illustrates the number of people who crossed Erez crossing during the first quarter of 2011 disaggregated by purpose

Month	Patients	Escorts	Int'l humanitarian aid workers	Diplomats	Journalists	Businesspersons	Palestinians citizens of Israel visting relatives in Gaza	Via Allenby	Total
Jan.	679	643	463	112	81	1373	231	22	3604
Feb.	698	672	751	69	75	1201	172	92	3730
March	809	792	639	124	69	1255	205	29	3922
Total	2177	2107	1853	305	225	3829	608	143	11247

### **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.

During the reporting period, the IOF partially opened the crossing for 19 days during which the IOF allowed the entry of 1931 truck loads. 724 of the 1931 truck loads were carrying gravel for UNRWA approved projects. 1207 of the 1931 truck loads were carrying tons of wheat and fodder. The IOF totally closed the crossings for 40 days. The IOF partially opened the crossing for 34 days for export.

Table illustrates the work at Karni Crossing during the first quarter of 2011

Month	Number of Import Days	Number of Export Days	Truck loads	Exports
January	8	19	881	85.5
February	11	15	1050	52
March	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Total	19	34	1931	137.5

### **Rafah Terminal Crossing**

The Egyptian authorities have decided to continue to open the Rafah terminal crossing for humanitarian cases including for patients and persons who hold residency cards overseas. During the reporting period, the Egyptian Ports Authority decided to close the Rafah terminal crossing on Fridays and Saturdays as an official weekend. It also decided to work on Thursday just for half a day.

The Egyptian authorities only opened the crossing partially for 49 days. During these times, around 11178 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. 13040 persons were allowed into the Gaza Strip, including injured persons, patients, and their escorts. Around 1690 persons who wanted to enter the Gaza Strip were not allowed.



On 28 January 2011, the Egyptian authorities have decided to close the Rafah terminal crossing due to the incidents that took place in Egypt. The Egyptian authorities announced that the Rafah Crossing would be reopened in the morning hours on Tuesday 22 February 2011. About 300 persons are allowed to travel via the crossing daily. A list including the names and dates of birth of persons who wish to enter Egypt from Gaza is expected to be sent daily to the Egyptian authorities. The categories of people who are expected to be allowed to cross into Egypt include patients, students, persons who hold visas, and internationals.

Table illustrates the work at Rafah crossing in the first quarter of 2011

Month	Number of closing days	Number of open days	Number of persons who left Gaza	Number of persons who were allowed to enter Gaza	Number of persons who were not allowed to travel
January	10	21	6936	5741	795
February	22	6	1124	2241	102
March	9	22	3118	5058	793
Total	41	49	11178	13040	1690

### **Karm Abu Salim (Kerem Shalom) Crossing**

During the reporting period, the IOF opened the Karm Abu Salem crossing for 61 days and several hours each day for the entry of 9,443 truckloads of food, medical commodities and basic humanitarian aid. The IOF allowed the entry of 436 truckloads of cooking gas (6, 440.23 tons), and 0 truckloads carrying industrial diesel fuel for (0) liters. The IOF also allowed 13 truckloads of fuel of about 27,988.94 liters for cars to enter the Gaza Strip. Moreover, the IOF allowed ten truckloads of fuel of about 38,278.82 liters for cars to enter the Gaza Strip.

Export: the IOF allowed the export of 186 truckloads. 110 of the 186 truck loads were carrying strawberry (342,492.2 kilograms). The IOF also allowed the export of 71 truck loads were carrying 5,846,023 flowers, four truck loads were carrying 9465 kilograms cherry tomatoes and one truckload carrying pepper (3,330).

Table illustrates the work at Karm Abu Salim (Kerem Shalom) Crossing during the first quarter of 2011

Month	Commodities & basic humanitarian aid	Cooking gas	Industrial diesel fuel	Fuel for cars	Diesel fuel	Exports

	Number of trucks	# of trucks	Quantity in ton	# of trucks	Quantity in liter	# of trucks	Quantity in liter	# of trucks	Quantity in liters	# of trucks
Jan.	3,087	186	4,151.69 4	0	0	3	39.798	1	38,000	113
Feb.	2,744	90	1,893.72	0	0	5	449.145	8	240.822	52
March	3,612	160	620,492. 56	0	0	5	27,500	1	38,000	21
Total	9,443	436	3,440.23	0	0	13	27,988.94	10	38,278.8 2	186

Table illustrates the exports on Karm Abu Salim (Kerem Shalom) Crossing during the first quarter of 2011

Month	Strawberry		Flowers		Cherry Tomatoes		Pepper	
	# of trucks	Quantity in Kilo	# of trucks	Quantity by flowers	# of trucks	Quantity in Kilo	# of trucks	Quantity in Kilo
Jan.	84	246,380.2	28	2,635,728	0	0	1	3,300
Feb.	26	96,112	26	1,553,970	0	0	0	0
March	0	0	17	1,656,334	4	9,465	0	0
Total	110	342,492.2	71	5,846,032	4	9,465	1	3.300

## **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**