



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

### **From the Field**

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



**Consequences of an Israeli Attack on a Navel Police Site which is located west of the An-Nuseirat Refugee Camp. The site was attacked on 19 November 2010**

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

**Gaza City 7 February 2011**

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## **Introduction:**

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

The report illustrates 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 Palestinians in the West Bank who live there. During this reporting period, the IOF deported one person from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip.

The report highlights the Israeli extra judicial killings of Palestinians who are allegedly wanted to the IOF, and other violations of international law, in which the IOF showed disregard to the rules of international humanitarian law.

The report also details the ongoing Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen. It is important to note that these attacks are taking place in the context of the siege on the Gaza Strip, which deprives Palestinian residents of Gaza from, inter alia, their right to work. During this reporting period the IOF attacked fishermen on several occasions, thereby preventing them from concluding their fishing trips. The IOF also opened fire on Palestinian fishermen and chased them to the shore with inflatable rubber boats.

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

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 the Israeli siege.

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

The report 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.

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. During the reporting period, the IOF pursued and arrested eight fishermen while they were working in the sea.

This report also addresses Israeli restrictions on the crossings and describes the movement at these crossings during January 2011. As a result of the Israeli siege, unemployment and poverty increased.

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

## Statistical Note:

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

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

- Forcibly transfer Palestinians from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip, implementing the Military Order 1650;
  - Carry-out extra judicial killings and attacks on Palestinian individuals;
  - 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 January 2011**

Number of persons killed	5
Number of injured persons	9 (8 adults and 1 child)
Number of limited incursions	8
Number of attacks against fishermen	4
Number of arrests	8

## Forcible 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.

## **Attacks against Fishermen**

In this reporting period, the IOF continued its systematic attacks on fishermen in the Gaza Strip. Israel imposed restrictions prohibiting Gaza fishermen from fishing more than three nautical miles off the coast. 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.

During the reporting period the IOF arrested eight fishermen and confiscated several fishing boats. 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.

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<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 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.

## **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 January 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. As a result of these attacks, Sha'ban Qarmout, 64, a farmer, was killed and another farmer sustained moderate injuries 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.

### **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 six attacks against Palestinian civilians collecting scrap materials and rubble. As a result of these attacks, one person was killed and five persons were injured, one of whom was a child. 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 Lahya, 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.

### **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 eight 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. 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 December 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.

## **Artillery shelling and missile attacks**

During the reporting period, the IOF continued to fire artillery shells and missiles at different areas throughout the Gaza Strip. 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. According to Al Mezan's documentation, the IOF carried out ten artillery shelling and missile attacks. As a result, two persons holding Egyptian passports were killed and two other persons sustained moderate injuries. 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.

## **Arbitrary Detention and Arrest**

During the reporting period, the IOF continued its policy of arbitrary and political detentions against the population of the Gaza Strip. In this reporting period, the IOF arrested eight fishermen. The IOF also used the crossings into and out of Gaza as a form of 'trap' for Palestinians by exploiting the need of patients to travel for treatment and blackmailing them. In this context, the IOF arrested one person who was escorting a patient 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.

## **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 five 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 679 patients and 643 escorts, 463 international employees, 82 UNRWA employees, 112 diplomats, 81 journalists, 1373 businesspersons holding Palestinian businessmen cards BMC other businesspersons , 231 other businesspersons, 22 Palestinians living in Israel who were visiting their relatives in the Gaza Strip, and 37 travelers who travel via Allenby (Al Karama) to pass the crossing.

### **Al Muntar (Karni) Crossing**

During the reporting period, the IOF partially opened the crossing for eight days during which the IOF allowed the entry of 881 truck loads carrying tons of wheat and fodder. 143 of the 881 truck loads were carrying gravel for UNRWA approved projects. The IOF totally closed the crossings for 23 days. The IOF partially opened the crossing for 19 days to export 85.5 truckloads of strawberries and flowers.

### **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 21 days out of the 31 days it was open. During these times, around 6936 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. 5741 persons were allowed into the Gaza Strip, including injured persons, patients, and their escorts. Around 795 persons who wanted to enter the Gaza Strip were not allowed.

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

During the reporting period, the IOF opened the Karm Abu Salem crossing for 23 days and several hours each day for the entry of 3,087 truckloads of food, medical commodities and basic humanitarian aid. The IOF allowed the entry of 186 truckloads of cooking gas (2,530,114 tons), and 38 truckloads carrying industrial diesel fuel for the Gaza Power Plant (4,151,694) liters. The IOF also allowed one truckloads of fuel of about 38,000 liters for cars to enter the Gaza Strip. Moreover, the IOF allowed the entry of three truckloads of industrial fuel of about 39, 798 liters.

Export: the IOF allowed the export of 84 truckloads carrying 246,380.2 kilograms strawberries, 28 truckloads carrying 263, 572, 28 flowers, and one truckloads carrying 3,300 kilograms peppers.



## **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.

**Ends**