



“Operation Protective edge in Numbers”

**A Statistical Report on Civilian Casualties and Destruction of
Property by the Israeli Occupation Forces between 7 July and 26
August 2014"**

2015

Introduction

Following the disappearance of three Israeli teenage settlers in Hebron, the Israeli occupation forces intensified the practices of oppression and attack in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). The Israeli forces launched the military campaign in Hebron and the surrounding villages and proceeded to expand it to the majority of the West Bank cities and villages. The campaign involved movement restrictions and thousands of house raids, and caused significant material damage. The Israeli forces and authorities arrested hundreds of Palestinians, including members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and former ministers, and re-arrested more than fifty former prisoners who had been released in the prisoner swap in 2011.

The abduction and burning alive of 17-year-old Mohamed Abu Khudeir from Jerusalem's suburb of Shuafat by Israeli settlers on 2 July 2014 sparked a widespread wave of protests and violence. This incident came after an aggressive campaign of open incitement by the Israeli political leadership against Palestinians. The Israeli government also failed to prevent or punish settler violence, encouraging Israeli settlers, who live in illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank, to deliberately target Palestinians and to destroy their property. In the wake of the killing of Abu Khudeir, Palestinians took to the streets, and the initially peaceful demonstrations quickly turned into clashes, that quickly spread all over the oPt as well as among Palestinian citizens of Israel. The Israeli forces also intensified attacks on Gaza by carrying out regular, multiple air strikes.

At approximately 11:10 pm on Sunday, 6 July 2014, Israeli warplanes launched an air raid targeting a group of Palestinian resistance fighters in southwest Gaza City. The same evening, Israeli warplanes raided Al Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza, killing two residents of the camp affiliated with the Al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of the Islamic Jihad movement, and moderately injuring another.

On the same evening, Israeli forces destroyed a tunnel in the vicinity of Gaza International Airport in Gaza's southern city of Rafah, killing five members of Al Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). Their bodies were recovered one day later. On Monday, 7 July 2014, at approximately 1:30 am, the Israeli occupation forces bombed a site belonging to the Public Resistance Committees (PRC) in Rafah, killing a member of its armed wing, the Al Nasser Salah Al-Din Brigades. In response to repeated Israeli attacks, Palestinian armed resistance groups launched a series of rockets towards Israel, particularly in the vicinity of the Gaza Strip.

On 8 July 2014, the Israeli government announced that it would step up the military attacks into a full-scale operation that it had codenamed "Operation Protective Edge" (OPE). During this operation, the Israeli forces launched a military offensive on the Gaza Strip so far unprecedented in scale, in which, in addition to different types of warplanes used, both the ground and naval forces took part. During this operation, the Israeli forces and authorities carried out mass killing and destruction, including the deliberate targeting of civilians that killed hundreds in their homes. The widespread destruction targeted vital civilian and public property and infrastructure. Up until a ceasefire agreement on Tuesday, 26 August 2014, Israeli forces also targeted medical facilities, hospitals, and ambulance vehicles in blatant violation of international law.

This latest Israeli aggression is vastly reminiscent of the Operation Cast Lead (OCL), when on Saturday, 27 December 2008, the Israeli government launched a comprehensive attack on the

Gaza Strip targeting civilian police stations and government buildings and killing around 320 Palestinians within the first few minutes of the attack. The operation lasted for 22 days. OPE is also reminiscent of the Operation Pillar of Defense (OPD) that started with the assassination of Ahmed Al Ja'abari, the Commander of Al Qassam Brigades, on Wednesday, 14 November 2012, and lasted for eight days.

It should be emphasized that Israel is an Occupying Power, and that the Palestinian territory, i.e. the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip, is occupied territory. The widespread Israeli military attacks covered in this report, occurred in the context of an eight-year closure/blockade of the Gaza Strip imposed by Israel in June 2007, expanded in October 2000 at the start of the Second Intifada, and rooted in movement restrictions imposed in 1993.

The siege constitutes collective punishment of the Gaza population, affects a wide range of human rights, and is in violation of international human rights law and humanitarian law, which prohibit collective punishment. The closure/blockade has also caused the deterioration of basic services, particularly healthcare, whereby chronic lack of medicines, medical equipment and disposables significantly exacerbates the capability of hospitals and medical staff to deliver necessary basic healthcare. The health sector was near collapse during the last military operation in the Gaza Strip.

This report presents statistical data on the impacts of the Israeli occupation forces' attacks on the Gaza Strip during OPE. It is based on information gathered carefully from the field by four Palestinian human rights organizations who joined forces to conduct field research on the 51-day military offensive. This report provides information about the victims and the material loss caused to civilian objects, particularly houses, residential buildings and civilian infrastructure, including educational, health, industrial, and commercial facilities such as agricultural machinery and land. This report aims to present figures and facts pertinent to the widespread, unprecedented Israeli military offensive, during which civilians and their properties represented the main targets of Israeli forces' attacks.

Methodology: Information Gathering

This report presents statistical analysis of the primary data collected from the field through a joint documentation campaign conducted by four human rights organizations: Al-Haq, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Al Dameer Association for Human Rights, and Al Mezan Center for Human Rights. The four organizations have a long experience in monitoring and documenting human rights and IHL violations. They also have a history of cooperation with international organizations and UN investigative bodies. The organizations have experienced teams with track records in monitoring and documentation that is accepted as evidence in courts of law. The methodology used by the four organizations to implement a joint documentation campaign, and to gather the information carefully and professionally can be summarized in the following points.

- Field and legal staff members of the four organizations worked around the clock beginning at the start of the Israeli attacks. They visited the attacked areas and verified shrapnel and fragments of the munitions used in attacks in accessible areas. They met victims and witnesses to gather information from them. They also met victims and their companions at ambulances when they arrived at hospitals in order to gather firsthand information about the attacks that hurt them. They checked people who were killed or injured at hospitals. The four organizations recruited trained volunteers to monitor the arrival of killed and injured people at hospitals throughout the Gaza Strip. They exchanged information about the referrals for critical injuries to hospitals within the same district of the hospital where they were first admitted or to hospitals in other districts in the Gaza Strip in order to avoid duplication in counting injuries and/or fatalities.
- In the last three weeks of the Israeli military campaign on Gaza, the four organizations started to coordinate their work in order to achieve the maximum attainable results. On Thursday, 7 August 2014, a meeting was held for field workers where information gathering tools, such as unified questionnaire forms and computerized databases for archiving data, were agreed upon. An action plan was also put forward to implement a joint, full monitoring and documentation campaign. They agreed to use Al Mezan's questionnaire forms as they are comprehensive and include all of the data being gathered by the other organizations. The four organizations also agreed on a field plan for the field work to be divided according to geographic areas. Field supervisors were assigned and they administered the distribution of tasks among the fieldworkers, thereby preventing the overlap of work and avoiding repetition of documented cases.

In addition to gathering data for the database and for reporting purposes, hundreds of key incidents were identified in order for field workers to contribute to detailed investigations in cooperation with lawyers who prepared case-files for the cases. Affidavits and testimonies were taken from victims and witnesses and cross-checked. Field workers helped find shrapnel and fragments to pass to Police Explosives Unit for expert reports about the type and origin of the weapons. This measure was taken after the four organizations failed to secure the entry of military experts into the Gaza Strip; experts on whom the organizations had relied in the past to give expert opinion that helped in the field investigations. The Police Explosives Unit provided reports about the type and origin of the weapons used in various attacks.

The field workers sought to identify the locations of attacks that led to fatalities or house destruction by using GPS devices to register the precise locations of the attacks. The

campaign assigned a group of trained and experienced field workers and lawyers in each district to collect affidavits, testimonies and other evidence. The effort to investigate and document these key incidents is complementary to the data gathering for the database, yet it is unique because it enables legal intervention into cases that require further detail and scrutiny.

- The field workers verified and cross-checked the information in affidavits and testimonies taken from victims and witnesses in order to make sure that all of the information is accurate and coherent. At the same time, information given by victims and witnesses was verified through other documents such as medical reports, munitions reports, death and birth certificates, and proof of ownership of property.
- Shortly before the end of the Israeli military operation, the four organizations recruited more field workers in addition to their 15 experienced field workers.
- Later, they recruited 85 temporary field workers and trained them to assist with collecting information from the field. The new field workers participated in a training course that started on Friday, 15 August 2014. The training focused on the use of the questionnaire forms adopted for the gathering of data, the methodology of field work used by the organizations, the use of tools to gather primary information from the field, and mechanisms of their work in the field to make a comprehensive survey all over the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, 14 were selected to carry out the data-entry tasks. They were trained and worked at Al Mezan for four months to ensure full inputting of the collated field data and its verification.
- The four organizations prepared 50,000 copies of the different questionnaire forms to be used to collect data about different types of damages and losses, such as killings, home demolition, demolition of agricultural land, destruction of agricultural goods and property, destruction of commercial premises, destruction of industrial facilities, destruction of public infrastructure/objects (including governmental and non-governmental facilities, such as educational, health...etc.), destruction/damage of vehicles, and detention. Each questionnaire form consisted of a wide range of questions, of which 95% are closed-ended questions and the rest are open-ended questions, which aim to gather further data about the victims and the affected persons' names, personal remarks, and a narration of the incidents they experienced. This organization of the questionnaire helped field workers obtain quantitative as well as qualitative data in a uniform way.
- In order to clarify the purpose of some of the questionnaire forms, this explanatory information about the killings (violation of the right to life) form is for the sake of example. The right to life questionnaire form aims at documenting situations where people were killed and to determine whether they were killed deliberately and unlawfully by the Israeli forces or killed during combat action. It's also used to collect information, such as the victims' personal data and their socio-economic background, including their refugee status, employment status, marital status, their educational background, the number of family members, including children, and whether the victims were breadwinners or contributing to the family income.

This form informs about the incident itself, such as its location, timing, the party that committed it, the weapons used, the circumstances in which it occurred, the direction of the attack, which part of the body was hurt or wounded, the reason the victim was in the location of the attack, whether death occurred instantly or after some time, whether the injured received immediate medical aid or not, and whether there were other victims in the same incident or not.

The form also collects data about the person who gives the information, the field worker who gathers the information using the form, and the date of the documentation. It is worth noting that this questionnaire form, and other forms adopted by the four organizations, is based on the assumption that the forms will be used during a direct, personal, individual interviews with the victim and/or their relatives or other witnesses. Gathering evidence through questionnaires is only one of many data gathering tools used in recording statistical data. Other methods include collecting hard evidence, gathering affidavits and testimonies from witnesses, and analyzing medical and official reports, etc.

- The offices of Al Mezan and the Palestinian Center for Human Rights were two main offices for providing the required logistical support for the campaign where field researchers met to hand over the filled-in questionnaire forms, collect further forms, review and assess whether the required information and data was complete, agree on working schedules and divide the workload among the team members in different districts in order to prevent overlapping of data or repetition of documented cases. Logistical support also included preparing different working tools.
- The four organizations agreed that Al Mezan's office in Gaza City would be the headquarters from which the joint campaign would be led. From that office, questionnaire forms were collected from all of the districts for final verification and data-entry, and the database was managed. This helped ensure that the data was not divided or kept in various locations so as to avoid any duplication going unchecked.
- Al Mezan provided ten computers for the campaign. Al Dameer Association provided three computers, while Al-Haq contributed with one computer and seven UPS devices to maintain electricity supply during power outages and avoid loss of data. Al-Haq also provided a switch with 16 ports that were used for the data-entry. Al Mezan provided 6 UPS devices.
- Al Mezan's information systems officer supervised the process of upgrading computers to increase their efficiency. Electricity and computer networks were installed in Al Mezan's training room and all computers were connected to Al Mezan's main server. Al-Haq also supplied the campaign with a high performance scanner, used to scan the identification cards and questionnaire attachments that were to be saved in the database, such as medical reports and proof of ownership.
- Al Mezan's experienced database officer developed the current database system so that every user would have access to the system using specific a username and password. He also developed a log system that monitored the processes carried out by the user, such as entering the system, modifying entries, and deletion of entries on the database. This made it possible to conduct direct supervision over the data-entry and detect errors that could be corrected during data-entry processes. It also simplified supervision of data-entry staff.

- The data-entry staff were divided into three groups that were assigned different tasks. The first group was comprised of 10 members whose task was to insert the information from the questionnaires into the system and to make sure that all the questions on the questionnaires were answered. The inserted questionnaires were then delivered to the second group, which was made up of two persons, to review the inserted data and make sure that it matched the information written on the paper questionnaire. The verified questionnaires were then sent to the third group that scanned copies of questionnaire attachments and saved them to be inserted into the system later. At the end of each day, the database supervisor reviewed each staff's data entry record.
- The actual field survey operations across the Gaza Strip commenced on Wednesday, 20 August 2014, which was six days before the end of the military attacks. The field survey operations took advantage of ceasefires and focused on accessible areas. The mission was to scan the attacked areas, take witness statements from victims and/or witnesses and document damages inflicted on residential houses, private property, and private and public facilities. The survey operations were conducted under the supervision of the experienced field workers of the four organizations who have in-depth experience in their corresponding districts and in the characteristics of their populations. They led the field work and distributed and supervised the newly recruited field workers. The field workers verified the collated questionnaire forms in their districts on a daily basis before sending them to the data entry in the Gaza City office.
- The information gathering was based on filling in previously prepared questionnaires through interviewing victims and/or their first-degree relatives. Field workers were verifying every incident and its victims and witnesses. Where relevant and possible, field workers also interviewed paramedics and civil defense crews to ask them about their initial observations when they visited attacked places to evacuate fatalities or put out fires. The affiliation of resistance fighters was verified by interviewing their family members, neighbors and friends, and sometimes by asking political activists and persons who might be affiliated with armed groups and who live in the same area as the deceased. The field workers also verified whether or not there were any clashes with the Israeli forces or any attacks launched by Palestinian fighters in the area at the time the individual was killed.

The recording of the information about the victims was based on formal documentation such as identification cards, birth and death certificates, and medical reports. Regarding damages of residential houses and other personal properties, victims were asked to provide documents to prove ownership. For example, ownership documents formed the basis behind documenting residential houses and personal civil properties. Multi-story houses owned by one person with no proof of separate ownership or service providers to other residential units was considered one residential house, with a note to the number of floors and the number of families living there. After finishing the field research, the completed questionnaires about the people killed were distributed once again among the experienced field workers who would verify the information, re-check the facts surrounding the circumstances of the killing and make another check on the status of the deceased, determining everyone as either a fighter or a civilian.

- Inputted questionnaires were compiled on a daily basis and were put in special files and submitted to two staff members for review and verification. The two staff members verified the information in the questionnaires against that in the database. If any mistake was found, a note would be written on the paper questionnaire forms, which were then returned to the field workers for correction, before being returned again to the data entry team for correction in the database. Afterwards, the questionnaire forms would be archived. The data entry process involved thorough verification of all questionnaires where any incomplete questionnaires or mistakes were returned to be filled or corrected, and then inserted into the database.
- The four human rights organizations carried out comprehensive online research, including analyzing websites of Palestinian armed resistance groups in order to verify the status of hundreds of deceased people and the circumstances of their killing. The organizations added a large number of people killed under the category of 'resistance fighters/combatants'. While these individuals were not taking a direct part in hostilities at the time they were targeted, there was information that they were affiliated with armed resistance groups, had participated in hostilities or had maintained a regular active membership in a group.
- After finishing the verification of the inputted data in the data base, the paper questionnaires were archived in special boxes according to a system previously prepared by the administration of the campaign. The cases mentioned in this report hold a very high degree of verification, with a very low margin of error, as all of the information was thoroughly verified.

Information was also exchanged with different UN bodies. The field investigations were expanded in some cases by lawyers and complaints were submitted to the relevant Israeli bodies requesting criminal investigations into cases where the documentation indicated that violations of international law were committed and had led to fatalities, injuries, or damages. The UN Commission of Inquiry into the 2014 Gaza Conflict, which was created by the UN Human Rights Council, was provided with all of the available information to facilitate its work and enable it to interview victims and witnesses.

As for the level of the completion of questionnaire forms, the margin of error does not exceed 2%. The incomplete information is related to minor fields, such as the number of families who lived off the property or lived in a house or residential building, or the number of workers in an industrial facility before the attack, not pertaining to main categories. This does not affect the overall statistics and figures.

General remarks

The documentation campaign has completed the data entry and data verification processes for all questionnaires; however, the scanning and attaching of paper documents, such as medical reports, birth certificates, ownership certificates for land and houses, electricity bills, and available videos accompanying large number of questionnaires, was not fully completed in the database by the time this report was published in Arabic due to time constraints. This task is expected to be completed in the next stage.

As explained below, documented houses that contain multiple stories (where extended families lived) but have just one ownership, one construction license, and a single water and power supply from the local authorities, are counted as just one house, with several units. This explains the discrepancy between the high numbers of damaged and destroyed houses reported by other international and governmental bodies and the figures provided in this report.

It should also be noted that the campaign decided not to document minor damages as these numbers would surpass tens of thousands of cases. This decision was made due to the lack of financial resources necessary to ensure that all cases were documented in a timely fashion. Instead, the campaign focused on documenting destruction or damage to houses and other premises where the building was completely destroyed or substantially damaged.

List of Definitions

Child:

The definition and distinction of a child from other persons is based on the definition of a child stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 (CRC). The CRC considers any person below the age of 18 a child. Unborn babies are not considered children in this report. Every person killed before reaching the age of (18), even by one day, was included within the category of children, both girls and boys.

Female:

The term female considers the gender of the person regardless of her age, i.e. the category of female includes both adult women and girls. This applies to every use of the term female.

Woman /women:

The term woman/women refers to every female that has reached the age of 18, regardless of her marital status, i.e. includes both married and single females. The category excludes child females.

Civilian:

The term civilian refers to a person who has not taken a direct part in hostilities, either through confrontation with enemy forces, or other activities, such as military training, gathering of information/intelligence, or providing logistical support to hostilities. This category also includes persons who are affiliated with the political wings of Palestinian factions and might have connections with armed groups, however, they did not conduct activities that have to do with combat action, and there was no information to prove their involvement in any way in supporting military efforts. Conversely, the same persons are considered combatants if there was no proof that they had never participated in activities related to hostilities, especially if their factions made statements that they were members. Therefore, should there be minor mistakes in calculating the number of combatants, the actual number would be smaller than that presented in this report due to the counting of dozens of those persons.

Resistance fighter/combatant:¹

This report adopts a definition of 'resistance fighter/combatant' that includes any person killed who was taking direct part in major or minor hostilities alongside the Palestinian armed resistance groups, whether in direct combat action with Israeli forces or in any other circumstances, including passing by when an attack was carried out that was not targeting them.

This category also includes persons killed in assassinations (targeted killings) by Israeli forces as known affiliates of armed resistance groups who took part in hostilities continuously or sporadically, even if the assassination occurred geographically far from the hot battlefield or the individual was not at that moment participating in hostilities. Conversely, this category excludes

¹ The coalition of the four human rights NGOs preferred to take a cautious approach in defining the status of civilian and combatant. As a general rule, the definition used for combatant is broad and inclusive, and allows for the inclusion of persons who might not otherwise be considered combatants. This categorization is without prejudice to other legal principles that under certain circumstances determine as legal attacks in which combatants are killed or wounded.

persons otherwise considered civilian who were killed in assassination attacks and were in the location of such attacks by coincidence.

It is worth noting that the categorization of dozens of deceased individuals as combatants was determined after field workers carried out field research and primary research online and found information and evidence that although the persons were killed in situations where they were not taking part in hostilities, they would be categorized as combatants due to statements made by armed resistance groups and letters they left behind confirming their affiliation with armed groups. Fighters who were killed in what seem to be civilian setting (not in direct combat) are categorized below as combatants killed in a civilian setting.

Assassination:²

The categorization of assassinated persons is based on Israel's explicit announcement – following the planning and the extrajudicial killing – that it targeted that individual specifically. The assassinations category differs from killings of persons categorized as combatants where the same planning and method of specific targeting isn't followed. An attack by drones on persons Israel suspects of launching an armed attack are categorized as combatants, but outside the 'assassinations' category. Examples of the 'assassinations' category in this report are found in the attacks that targeted the Commander of the Al Qassam Brigades in Gaza City, as well as the attack on leaders of Al Qassam Brigades in Rafah, including Mohammed Abu Shamalah and Ra'ed Mohamed Al Attar.

Presence in Assassination Location:

This category refers to people killed in locations where assassination attacks were carried out that were targeting other people. They could be people living in the immediate vicinity of the location of the attack or people passing by, by coincidence. This category also includes persons who were with the targeted individual(s) at the time of the attack, but were not themselves targeted. In the event that those accompanying targeted-persons were members of military groups but are not announced as targets of the attack, they are still classified as resistance fighters (combatants) who were at an assassination scene, but not as targets of an assassination attack.

Forcible Displacement:

Forcibly displaced people are those who were forced to leave their homes because of fear from danger caused by bombardment that targeted their houses or houses in the vicinity of their homes. This category includes people who were killed while trying to escape neighborhoods under bombardment to safer areas.

Providing Assistance and Rescue:

This category includes persons killed while attempting to aid or rescue, or provide first aid to others. Non-paramedics are included, such as neighbors or relatives, who were attempting to help or rescue neighbors or relatives whose houses had been bombarded, when the Israeli forces launched additional attacks at the same location and killed them.

² The selection of the term 'Assassination' includes acts described as 'extrajudicial killing' or 'targeted killing'. The use of this term was motivated by practical concerns, since the translation of the latter terms in Arabic is too long to be effectively used in the database and statistical reports with tables and charts.

Passerby:

This term refers to persons killed because he/she was accidentally in or passing by a location that was targeted by an Israeli military attack. This category does not apply to persons killed in their houses, places of work, or during hostilities, if they were taking part in them.

At Work:

Refers to persons killed while they were exercising their daily, routine work, such as farmers, shop owners, and governmental and non-governmental employees.

Compound Type:

This category groups casualties according to the classification of their residential area, regardless of their refugee status. A compound could, for example, be a village/rural compound or a city/town/urban compound, or a rural refugee camp. It could be an urban/city compound where a refugee victim resides or a rural compound where refugees reside...etc. It focuses on the type of community.

Refugee Status:

This term refers to the status of a victim based on whether she/he was a refugee or a non-refugee resident of the Gaza Strip. A refugee is defined as a person who himself/herself or their ancestors were forced to leave their towns/villages of origin within the pre-1948 Palestine and relocate to the Gaza Strip or elsewhere. Refugees' offspring who were born in the Strip after 1948 are also classified as refugees.

Residential house:

A residential house is a place consisting of walls, a ceiling, and a floor, and includes a kitchen and a bathroom. It is connected to basic services, such as water and electricity grids. That is the general definition. This report takes into consideration one essential criterion - house ownership. For instance, registration of property is based on the actual registration of ownership and allocation of the property. Hence, a multi-story house owned by one person – with only one water and power subscription with the local authorities, and where none of the apartments inside it are registered as owned by another person through sale, rental agreement, or inheritance – is considered as only one residential house. Otherwise, an apartment within a residential building, regardless of its size or the number of floors in it, which is owned by a certain person and has separate water and electricity subscriptions, is considered a residential house by itself. So are other types of residential buildings, such as villas, rural houses, or ground floor houses in the countryside or in refugee camps. Therefore, certain multi-story houses are sometimes counted as a single house (when the ownership and services belong to one person) while in other cases they can be considered several houses. An example of the latter is when a house encompasses several apartments that are legally registered as being owned by different persons and have separate service supplies.

The reason behind this classification is owed to the nature of the work of the four human rights organizations involved in the documentation campaign, which requires the legal proof of ownership. Such proof is usually used by victims to seek certification of the damages incurred to their homes (and the same applies to other private property such as land, vehicles or commercial stores). Such certification can be the basis of receiving humanitarian aid, support for reconstruction, or compensation, in which case such resources must be legally granted to the person(s) who legally own the property. This type of classification should explain why there are

conflicting figures of destroyed or damaged properties provided by other parties, such as the United Nations or governmental bodies, who use different criteria or definitions. This report provides the overall outcome of the joint documentation campaign carried out by the four human rights organizations based on this definition. It is not meant to give the total number of residential units affected by the military attacks, which is naturally higher than the number presented in this report since a large number of such residential units was not classified as 'residential houses' due to the lack of proof of ownership or proof of independent ownership.

Total Damage:

This term refers to houses that were totally destroyed or demolished, or houses that suffered destruction beyond repair and have to be completely demolished in order to be reconstructed.

Severe Partial Damage:

This term refers to houses that suffered substantial damage that surpasses damages to windows, doors, water tanks...etc., and that caused destruction of walls or main concrete structures; however the damages are repairable and the house could be re-constructed without the need to demolish it first.

Partial Damage:

This term refers to houses that suffered damages that did not cause destruction of walls or concrete structures or foundations, but was limited to burning of rooms' content and destroying of windows, doors, and water tanks.

Slight Damage:

The documentation campaign disregarded houses with minor damages, such as those with broken windowpanes, due to lack of resources and concern over the feasibility of listing this type of damage in an inclusive way. Tens of thousands of houses were slightly damaged; however, a detailed investigation of such damage requires additional resources and time in the field that exceeds the capabilities of this campaign.

Number of Permanent Inhabitants:

The number of permanent inhabitants in a residential house could differ from the number of members of a family, because there are members of the same family who do not permanently reside in a house together for various reasons, including marriage, living in a separate house, or residing abroad. This term refers to the number of people who were living in a residential house, permanently, at the time when it was destroyed or damaged.

Number of Families:

The campaign adopted various means of proof of ownership, including sale and rental contracts, and separate connections to public services provided by the local authorities.³ In doing so, it transpired that while many multi-story buildings were legally registered as owned by a parent, they contained more than one residential unit inhabited by more than one family. Thus, the number of families residing in a certain house provides an important criterion to indicate the

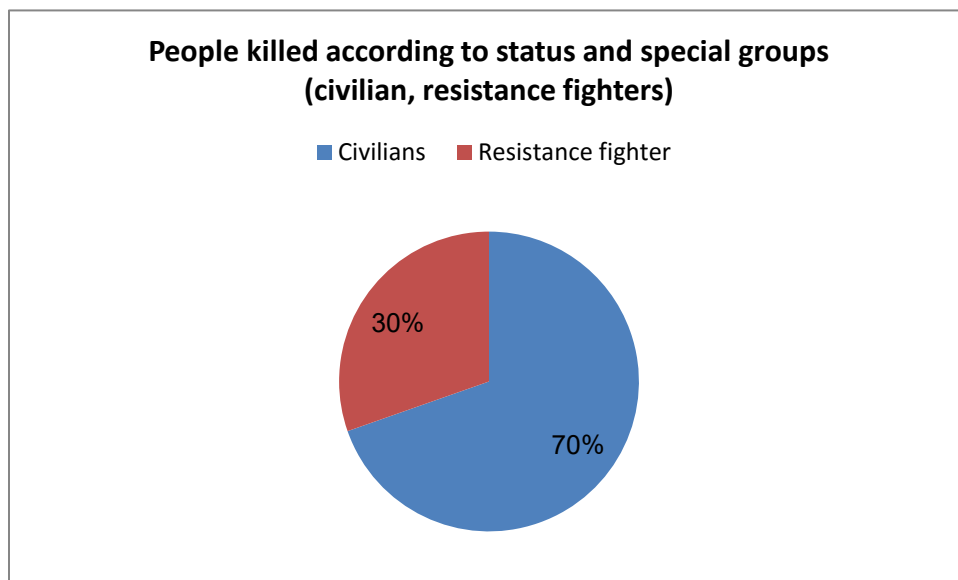
³ In this case, the family who reside in a residential house (which could be an apartment within a building) must show electricity or water bills attesting that they are recognized as a separate family, distinct from others who live in the building; sometimes even when the others are part of the extended family.

number of families who suffered from forcible displacement and attests to the very high number of affected residential units, regardless of ownership.

People killed

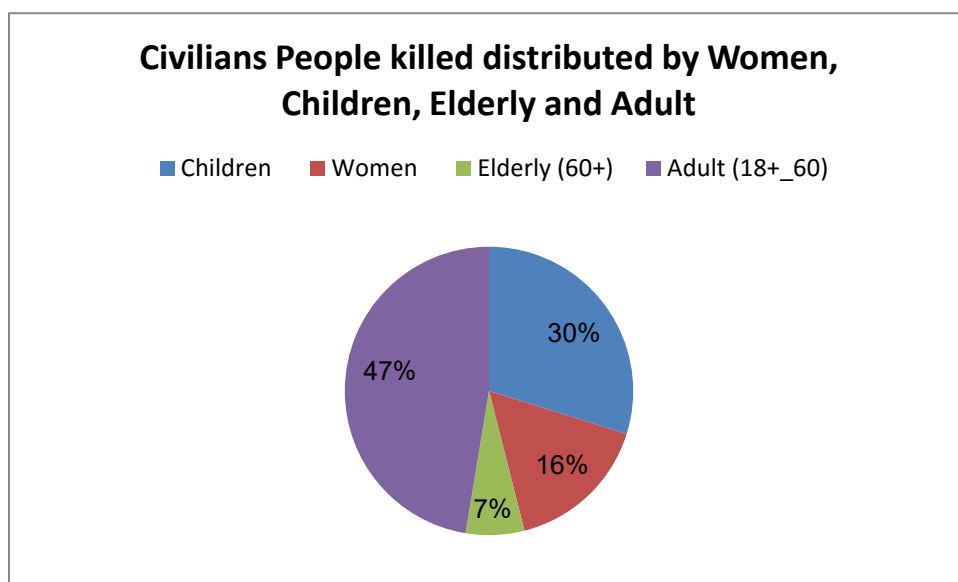
People killed according to status and special groups (civilian, resistance fighters), women and children

Total	2219	100%
Civilians	1545	70%
Resistance fighter	674	30%
Children	556	25%
Women	299	13%



Civilians People killed distributed by Women, Children, Elderly and Adult

Civilian Killed	1545	100%
Children	550	36%
Women	299	19%
Elderly (60+)	120	8%
Adult (18+-60)	874	57%

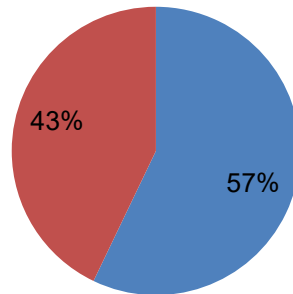


Resistance fighter killed distributed by circumstances of killing

Resistance fighters total	674	100%
Killed during combat action	385	57%
killed in civilian circumstances	289	43%

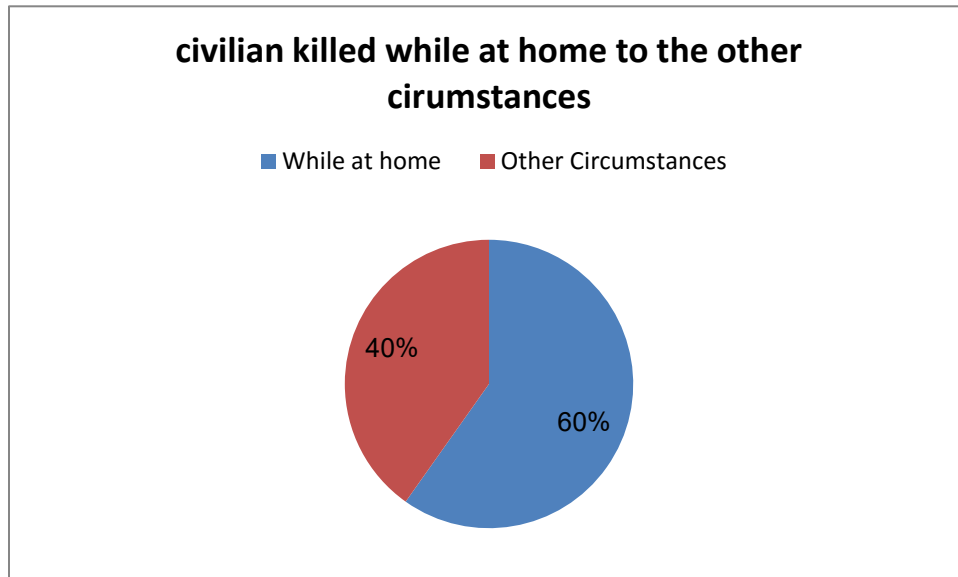
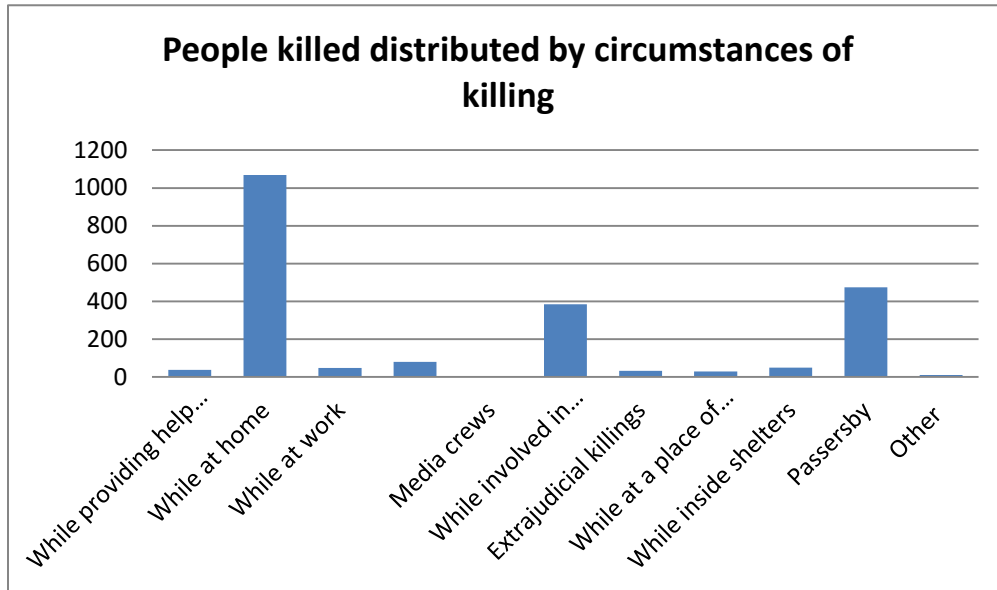
Resistance fighter killed distributed by circumstances of killing

■ Killed during combat action ■ killed in civilian circumstances



People killed distributed by circumstances of killing

Circumstance of killing	Number	Percentage
While providing help and rescue	38	1.71%
While at home	1068	48.13%
While at work	48	2.16%
While at forcible displacement	80	3.61%
Media crews	4	0.18%
While involved in combat action	385	17.35%
Extrajudicial killings	33	1.49%
While at a place of extra-judicial killing	29	1.31%
While inside shelters	49	2.21%
Passersby	474	21.36%
Other	11	0.50%
Total	2219	100%



Resistance fighters killed in civilian circumstances distributed by circumstances of killing

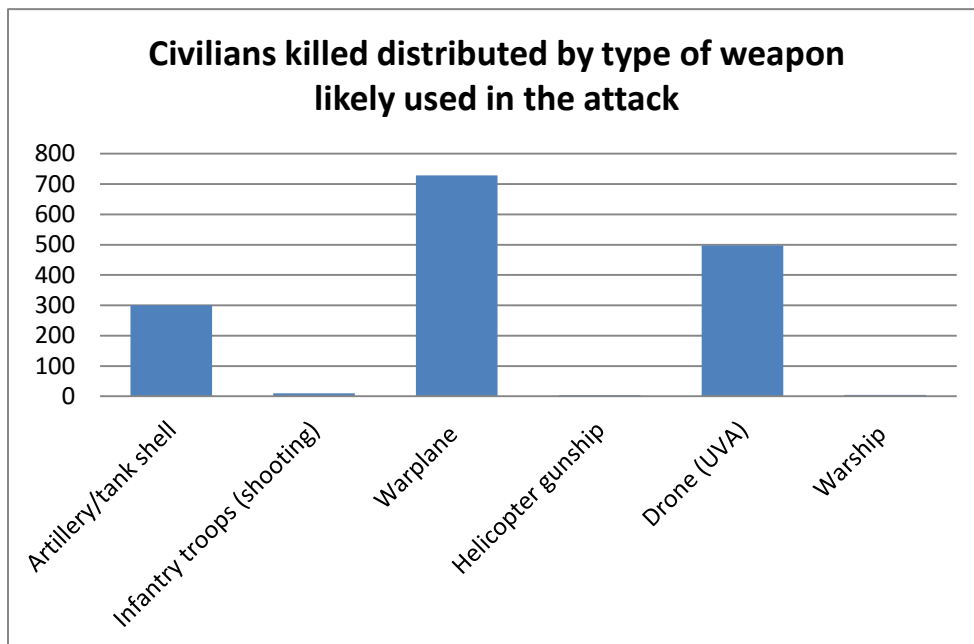
Circumstances of killing	Number
While at work	3
Extrajudicial killing	33
While at a place of extra judicial killing	1

While providing help and rescue	12
While at forcible displacement	3
Passersby	91
Other	1
While at home	144
While at shelter	1⁴
Total	289

Civilians killed distributed by type of weapon likely used in the attack

Type of weapon	Number	%
Artillery/tank shell	300	19.4%
Infantry troops (shooting)	10	0.6%
Warplane	729	47.2%
Helicopter gunship	4	0.3%
Drone (UVA)	497	32.2%
Warship	5	0.3%
Total	1545	100%

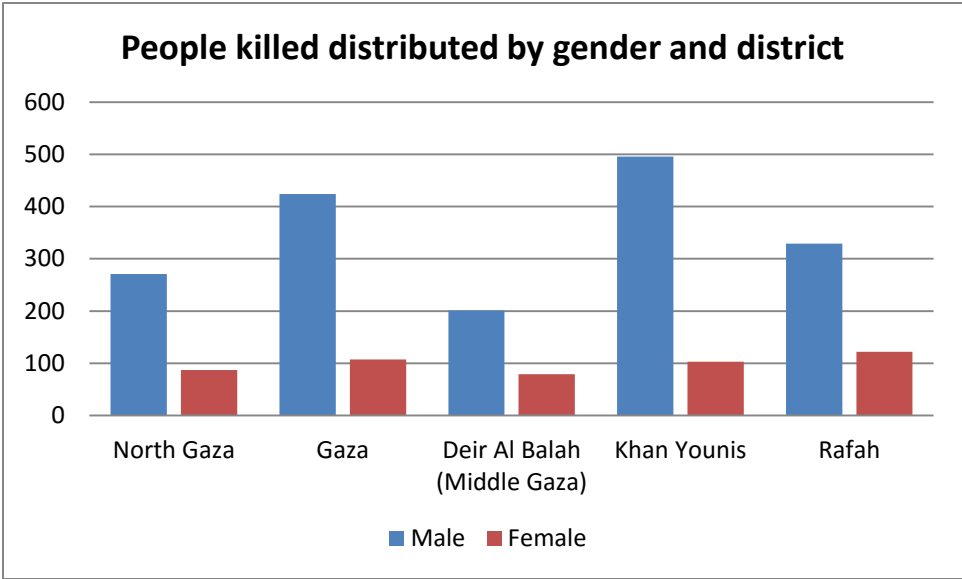
⁴ This case was examined further by the human rights organizations. UNRWA applied strict security arrangements on displaced people who wished to use its shelters; including thorough searches, to ensure that no fighters or weapons can enter the shelter. In this single case, the person who was killed and classified as a fighter – because of his membership in a resistance armed group, was in his house and not taking part in hostilities. While he was at home, an Israeli attack struck a school that was used as a shelter next to his house. Several shells struck the school and killed many people. He and his family rushed to the school to provide aid and rescue to the displaced people there. During their attempt to help, a shell struck the school/shelter and he was killed.



People killed distributed by gender and district

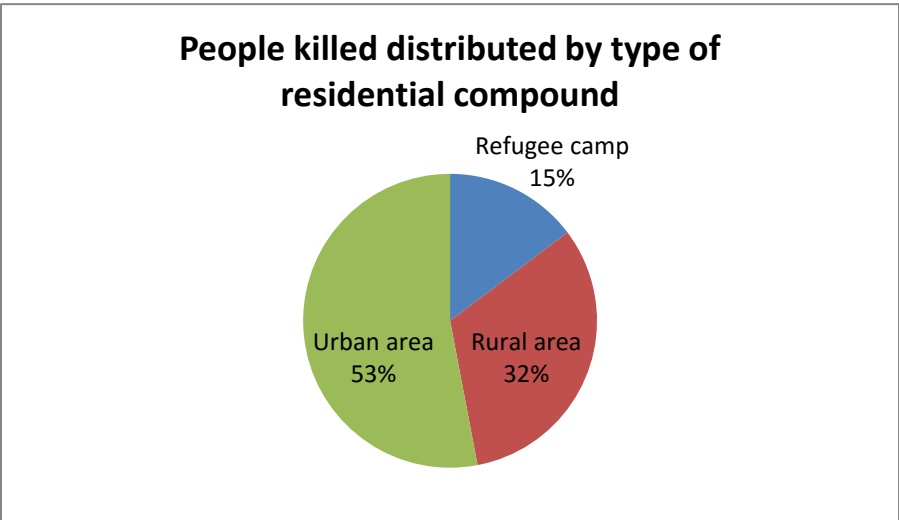
District	Male	Female	Total
North Gaza	271	87	358
Gaza	424	107	531
Deir Al Balah (Middle Gaza) ⁵	201	79	280
Khan Younis	496	103	599
Rafah	329	122	451
Total	1721	498	2219

⁵ Deir Al Balah district is also commonly referred to as the Middle Gaza district elsewhere. This applies to the name of this district all through this report.



People killed distributed by type of residential compound

Type of Compound	Number
Refugee camp	327
Rural area	716
Urban area	1176
Total	2219

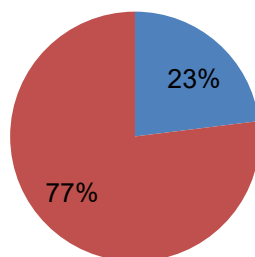


People killed distributed by whether medical treatment was obstructed

Obstruction	Number
Medical treatment was obstructed/delayed	511
Medical treatment was not obstructed/delayed	1708
Total	2219

People killed distributed by whether medical treatment was obstructed

- Medical treatment was obstructed/delayed
- Medical treatment was not obstructed/delayed

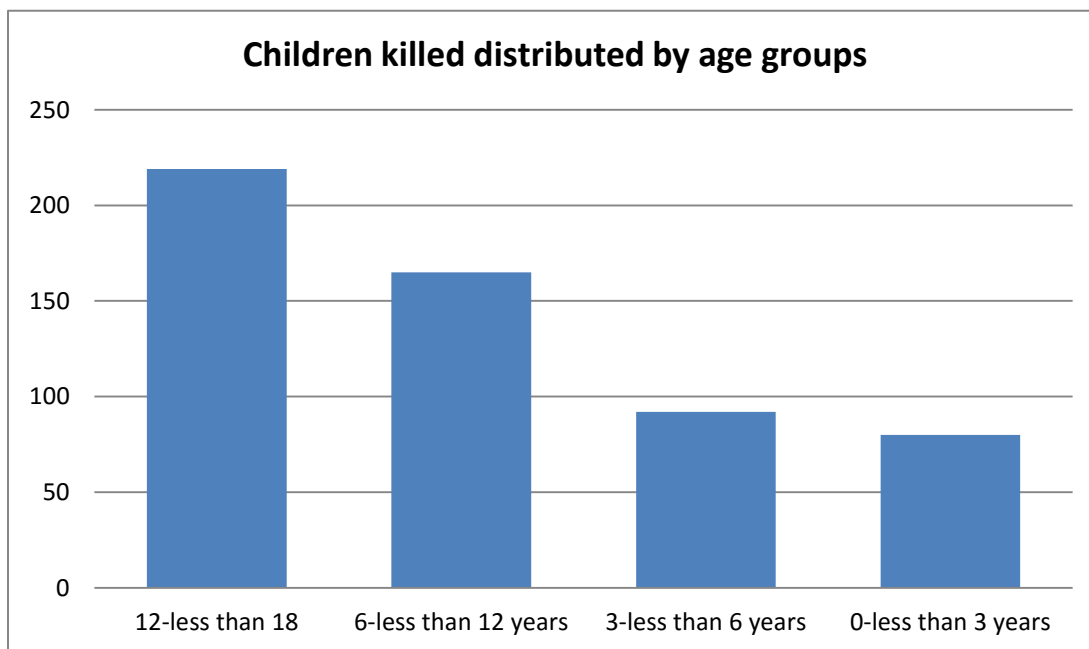


People with disabilities killed distributed by district

District	Disabled	Women	Children
North Gaza	11	5	2
Gaza	11	1	1
Deir Al Balah	5	1	1
Khan Younis	10	3	1
Rafah	5	1	2
Total	42	11	7

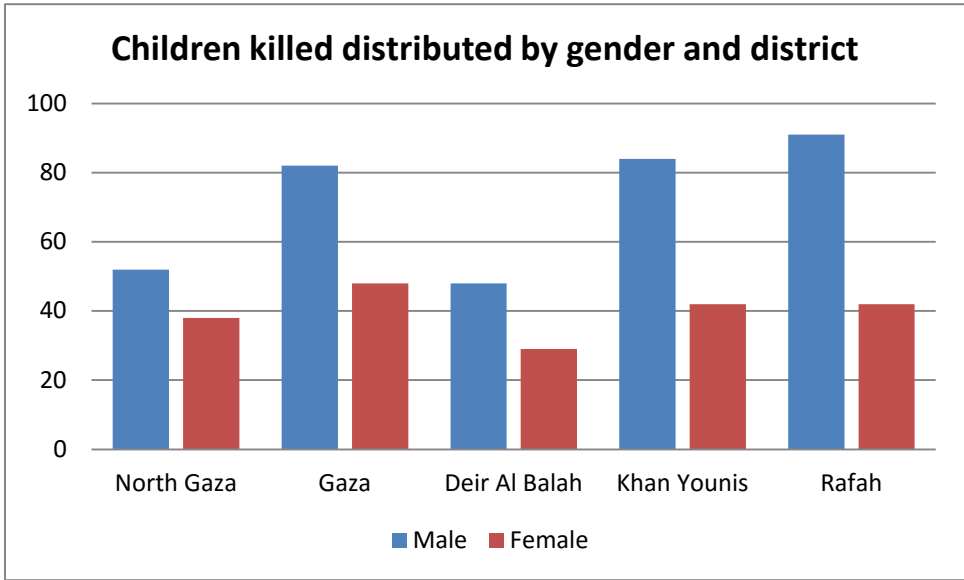
Children killed distributed by age groups

Age group	0-less than 3 years	3-less than 6 years	6-less than 12 years	12-less than 18
Number	80	92	165	219



Children killed distributed by gender and district

District	Male	Female	Total
North Gaza	52	38	90
Gaza	82	48	130
Deir Al Balah	48	29	77
Khan Younis	84	42	126
Rafah	91	42	133
Total	357	199	556

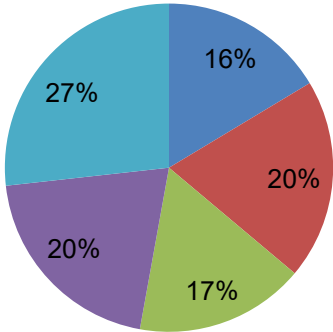


Women distributed by district

District	Number	%
North Gaza	49	16%
Gaza	59	20%
Deir Al Balah	50	17%
Khan Younis	61	20%
Rafah	80	27%
Total	299	100%

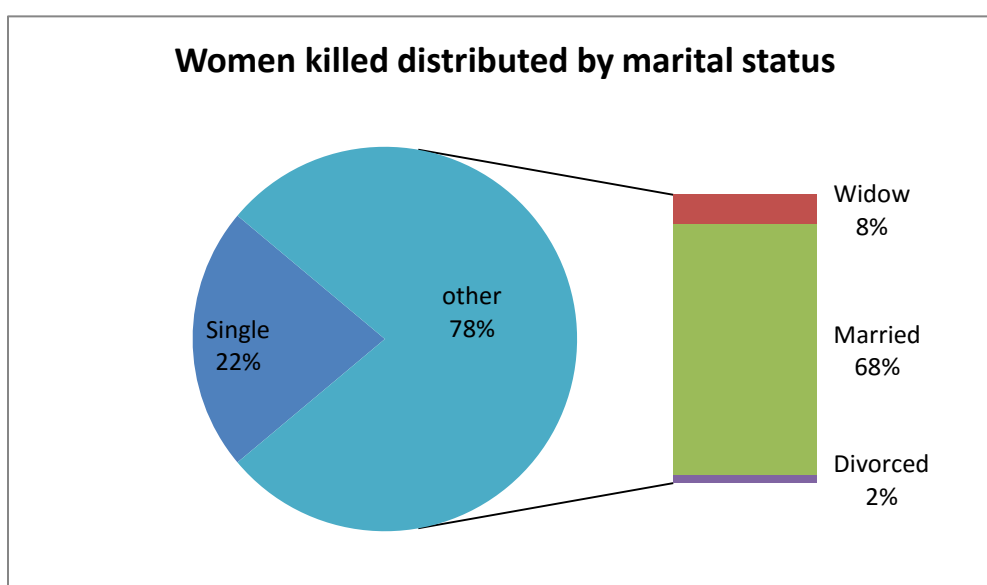
Women distributed by district

■ North Gaza
 ■ Gaza
 ■ Deir Al Balah
 ■ Khan Younis
 ■ Rafah



Women killed distributed by marital status

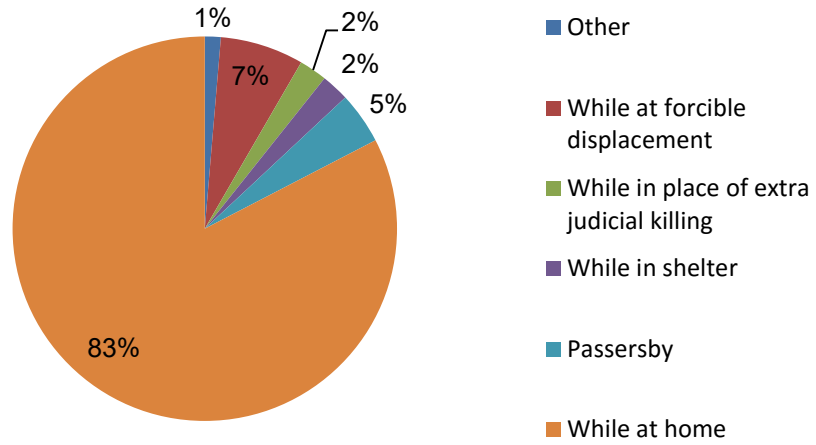
Marital status	Number	%
Widow	23	8%
Single	65	22%
Married	205	69%
Divorced	6	2%
Total	299	100%



Women distributed by circumstances of killing

Circumstances of killing	Number	%
Other	4	1.3%
While at forcible displacement	21	7.0%
While in place of extra judicial killing	7	2.3%
While in a shelter	7	2.3%
Passersby	13	4.3%
While at home	247	82.6%
Total	299	100%

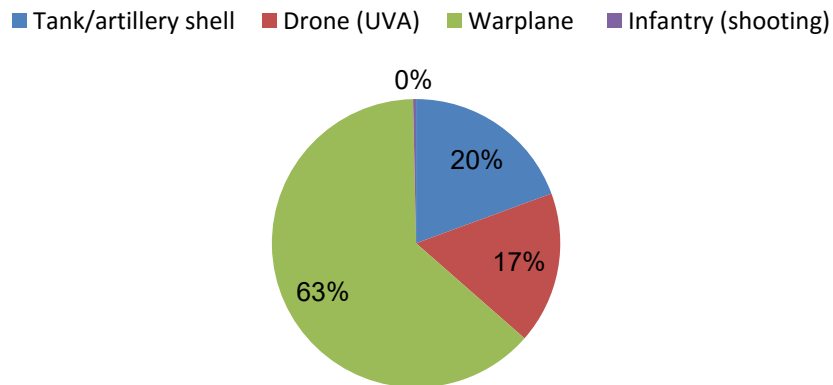
Women distributed by circumstances of killing



Women killed distributed by type of weapon likely used in the Attack

Location of IOF Troops	Number	%
Tank/artillery shell	58	19%
Drone (UVA)	51	17%
Warplane	189	62%
Infantry (shooting)	1	0%
Total	299	100%

Women killed distributed by type of weapon likely used in the Attack



People killed distributed by special category and district

District	Journalists	Municipality, GEDC, and CMWU Employees*	Paramedics and civil defense crews
North Gaza	1	2	3
Gaza	3	0	4
Deir Al Balah	0	3	0
Khan Younis	0	1	1
Rafah	0	2	3
Total	4	8	11

* GEDC: Gaza Electricity Distribution Company

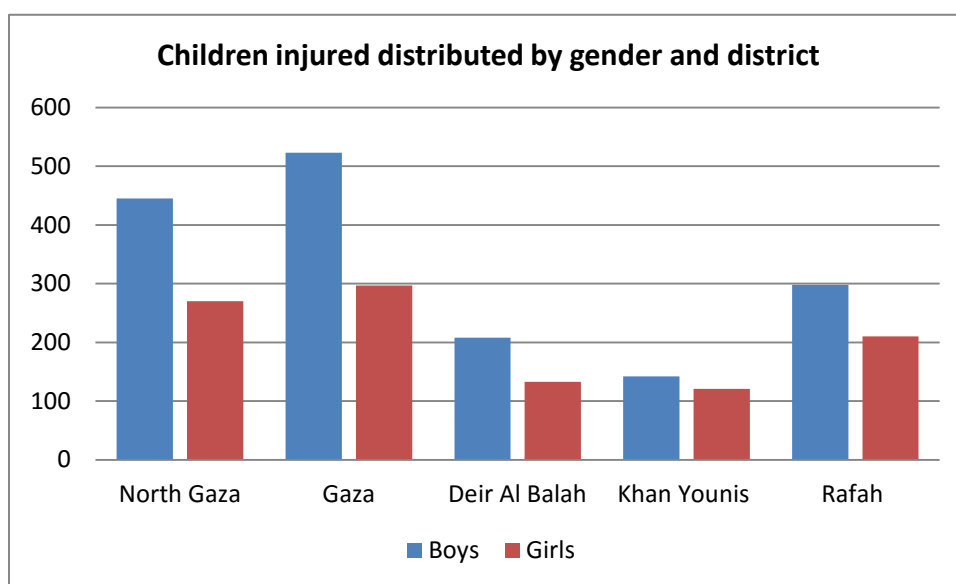
* CMWU: Coastal Municipalities Water Utility

Children and Women Injured⁶:

First: Children Injured⁷

Children injured distributed by gender and district

District	Boys	Girls	Total
North Gaza	445	270	715
Gaza	523	297	820
Deir Al Balah	208	133	341
Khan Younis	142	121	263
Rafah	298	210	508
Total	1616	1031	2647

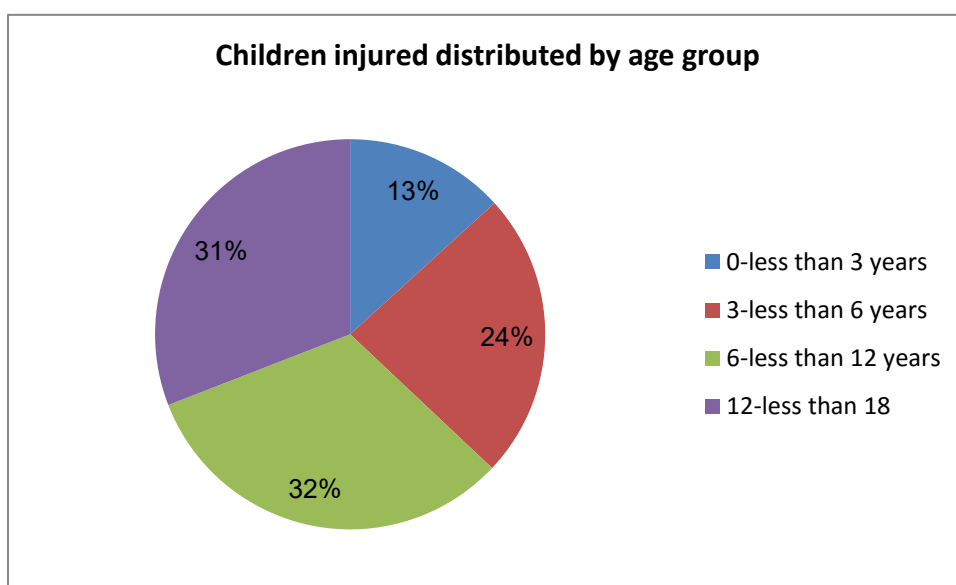


⁶ These numbers are based on the initial monitoring operations conducted by fieldworkers from the joint campaign of human rights organizations. Fieldworkers cross-checked each other's to prevent the overlap of work and avoid repetition of documented cases.

⁷ Al Mezan Center for Human Rights documented the injured women and children by its own means; outside the scope of the joint campaign. These numbers represent the cases that Al Mezan was able to document.

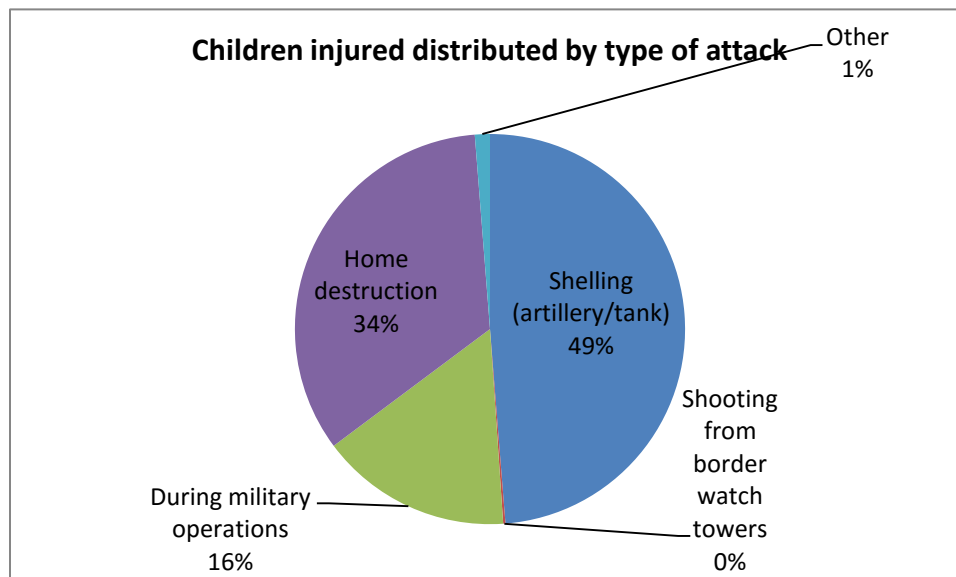
Children injured distributed by age group

Age group	Number
0-less than 3 years	351
3-less than 6 years	629
6-less than 12 years	849
12-less than 18	818
Total	2647



Children injured distributed by type of attack

Type of Attack	Number
Shelling (artillery/tank)	1290
Shooting from border watch towers	5
During military operations	420
Home destruction	899
Other	33
Total	2647

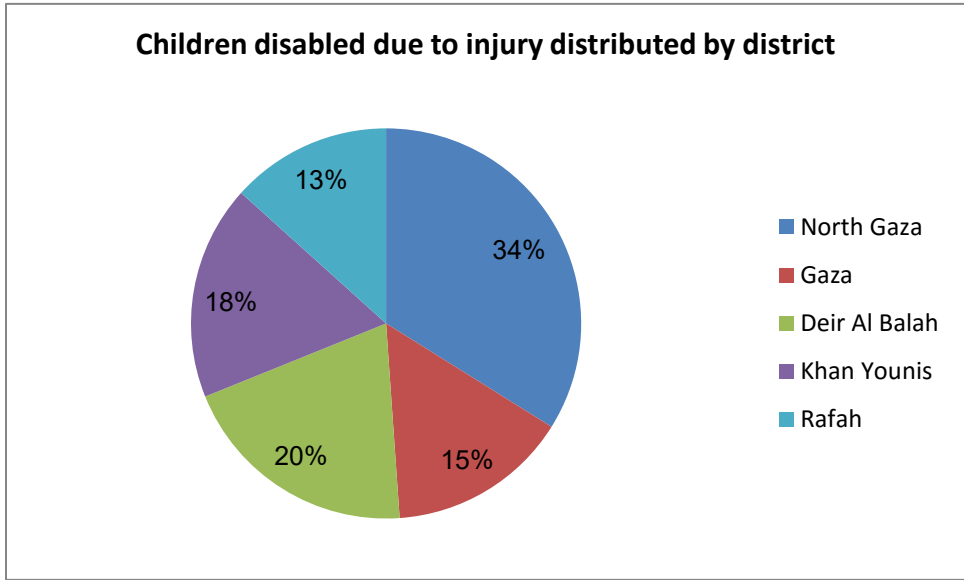


Children with disabilities injured distributed by district

District	Number
North Gaza	12
Gaza	5
Deir Al Balah	13
Khan Younis	16
Rafah	7
Total	53

Children disabled due to injury distributed by district

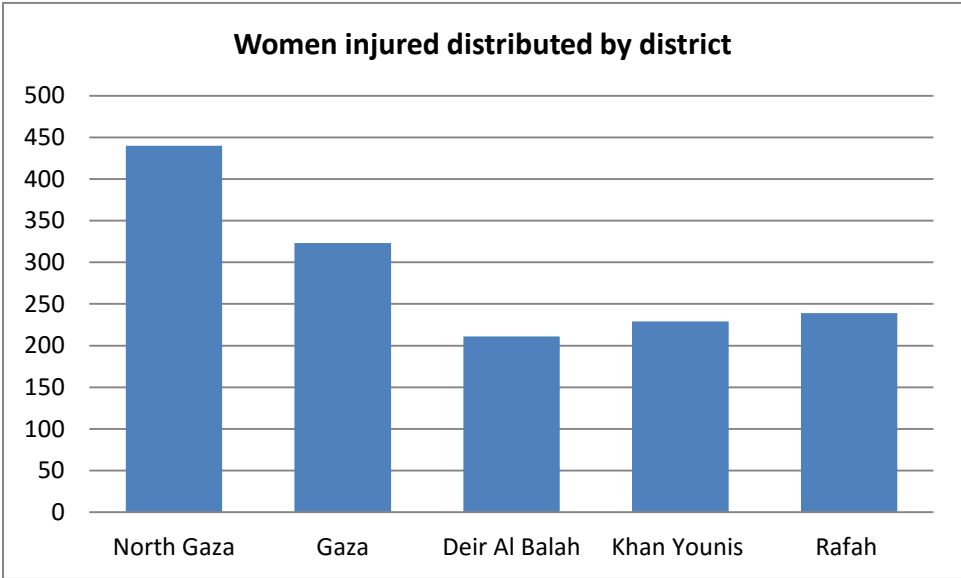
District	Number
North Gaza	61
Gaza	27
Deir Al Balah	36
Khan Younis	32
Rafah	24
Total	180



Second: Women Injured

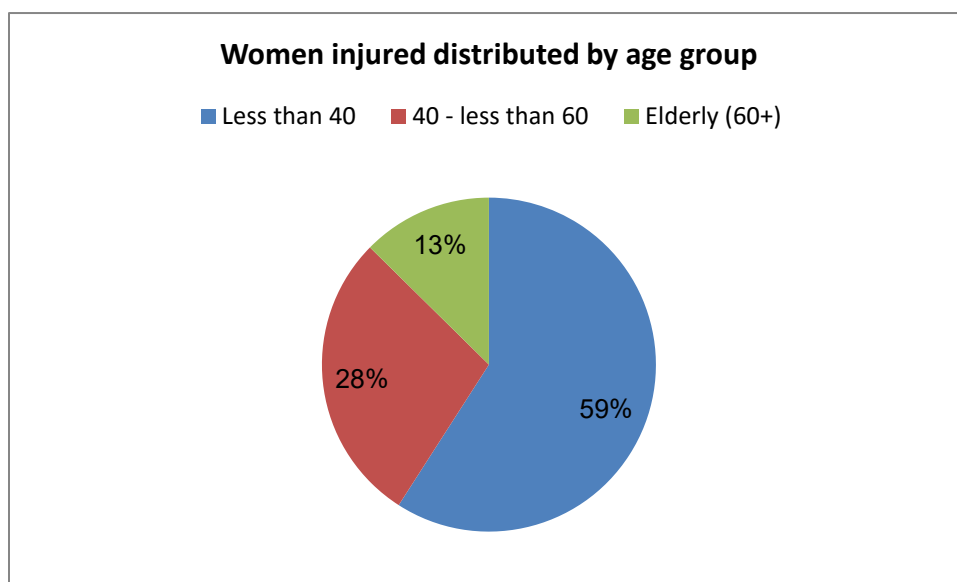
Women injured distributed by district

District	Number
North Gaza	440
Gaza	323
Deir Al Balah	211
Khan Younis	229
Rafah	239
Total	1442



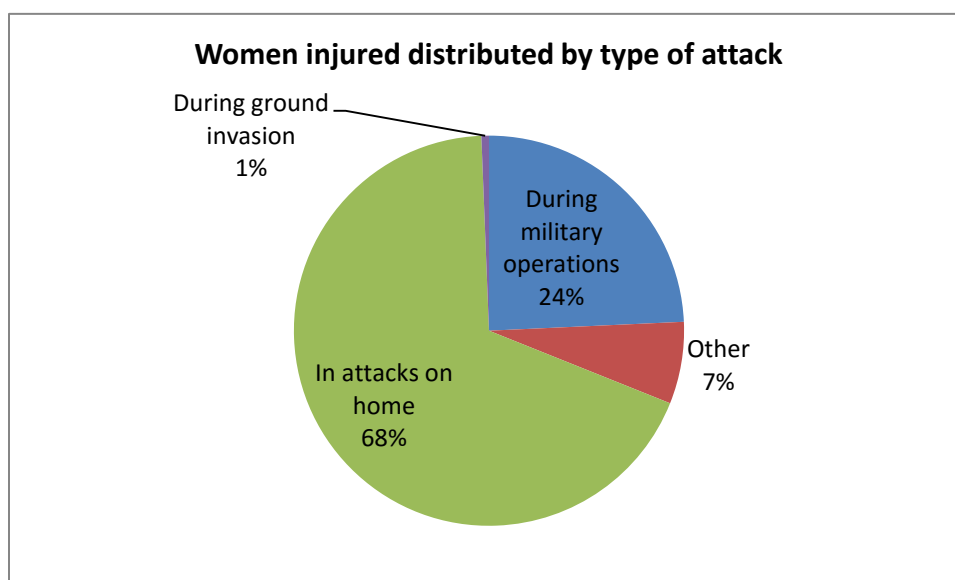
Women injured distributed by age group

Age	Number
Less than 40	852
40 - less than 60	408
Elderly (60+)	182
Total	1442



Women injured distributed by type of attack

Type of Attack	Number
During military operations	350
Other	98
In attacks on home	985
During ground invasion	9
Total	1442



Women with disabilities injured distributed by district

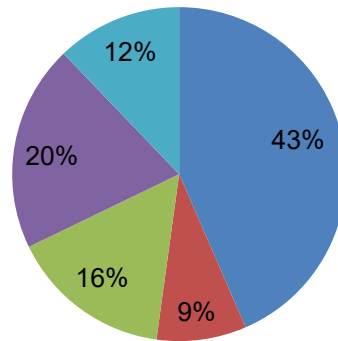
District	Total
North Gaza	20
Gaza	5
Deir Al Balah	10
Khan Younis	7
Rafah	6
Total	48

Women disabled due to injury distributed age group

District	Number
North Gaza	50
Gaza	10
Deir Al Balah	18
Khan Younis	23
Rafah	14
Total	115

Women disabled due to injury distributed age group

■ North Gaza ■ Gaza ■ Deir Al Balah ■ Khan Younis ■ Rafah

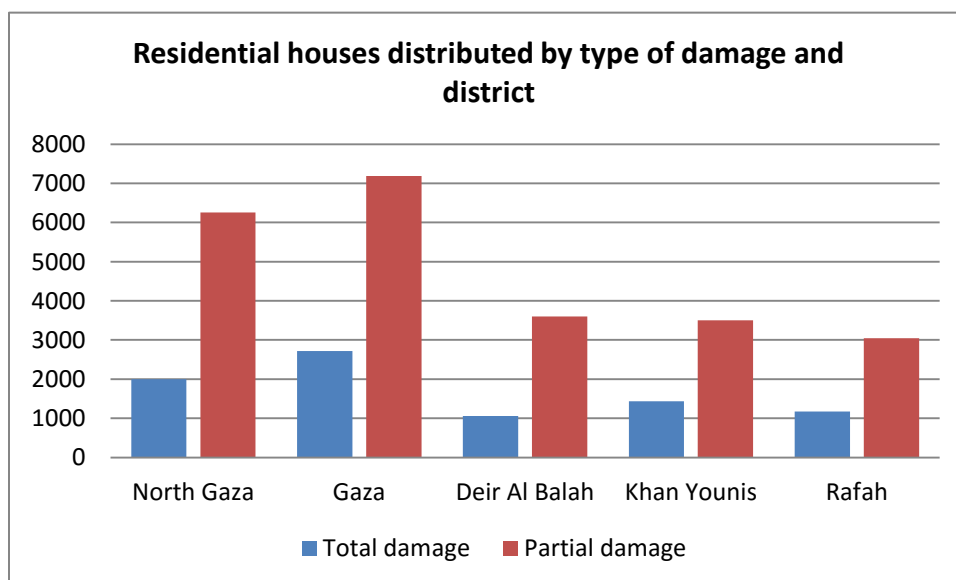


Destruction of Civilian Objects and Properties

1. Residential houses

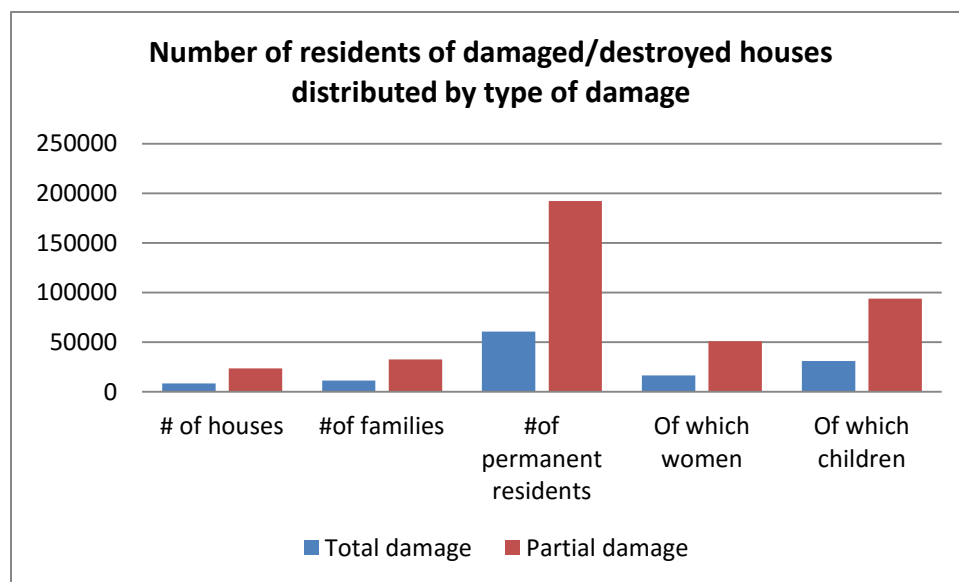
Residential houses distributed by type of damage and district

District	Total damage		Partial damage	
	Number	%	Number	%
North Gaza	1998	24%	6257	27%
Gaza	2718	32%	7192	30%
Deir Al Balah	1060	13%	3604	15%
Khan Younis	1435	17%	3504	15%
Rafah	1170	14%	3041	13%
Total	8381	100%	23598	100%



Number of residents of damaged/destroyed houses distributed by type of damage

Type of damage	# of houses	#of families	#of permanent residents	Of which women	Of which children
Total damage	8381	11166	60623	16525	30838
Partial damage	23598	32623	192312	50928	93845
Total number	31979	43789	252935	67453	124683

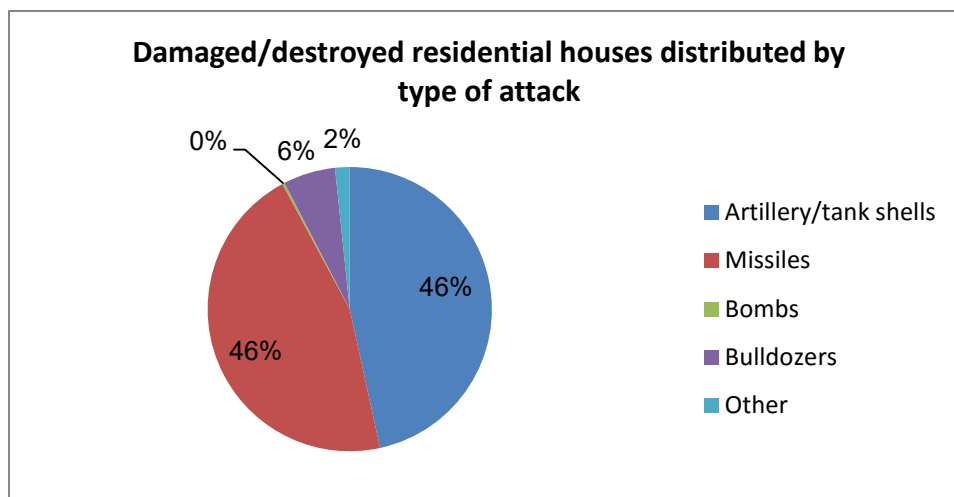


Number of residents of damaged/destroyed houses distributed by district

District	# of houses	# of families	Permanent residents	Of whom women	Of whom children
North Gaza	8255	12378	72944	18265	37617
Gaza	9910	14040	74652	20682	41370
Deir Al Balah	4664	5932	35441	9642	15539
Khan Younis	4939	6325	37472	10700	15801
Rafah	4211	5114	30426	8164	14356
Total	31979	43789	250935	67453	124683

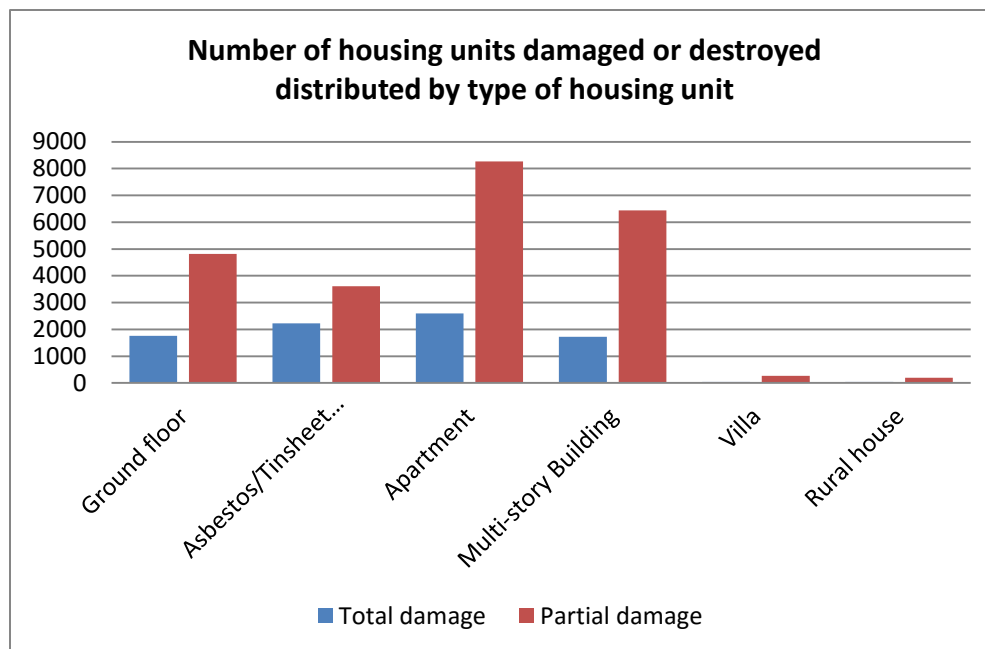
Damaged/destroyed residential houses distributed by type of attack

Type of attack	number	%
Artillery/tank shells	14893	47%
Missiles	14575	46%
Bombs	81	0%
Bulldozers	1899	6%
Other	531	2%
Total	31979	100%



Number of housing units damaged or destroyed distributed by type of housing unit

Type of housing unit	Total damage	Partial damage	Total number
Ground floor	1762	4814	6576
Asbestos/Tin sheet roofed	2222	3607	5829
Apartment	2591	8269	10860
Multi-story Building	1718	6446	8164
Villa	44	269	313
Rural house	44	193	237
Total	8381	23598	31979

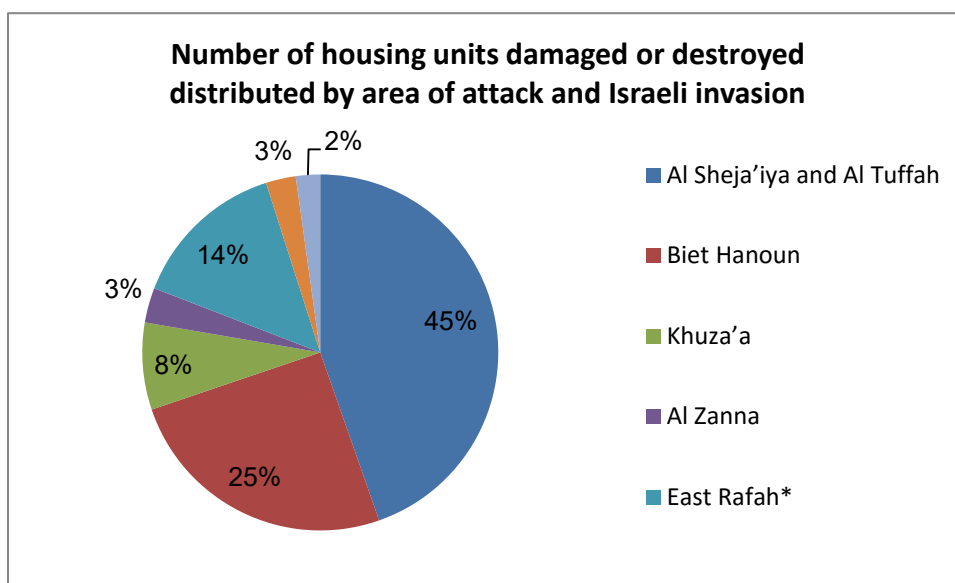


Number of housing units damaged or destroyed distributed by area of attack and Israeli invasion

Area	Total damage	Partial damage	Total number
Al Sheja'iyah and Al Tuffah	1949	5414	7363
Biet Hanoun	1250	2901	4151
Khuza'a	360	944	1304
Al Zanna	184	339	523
East Rafah*	768	1575	2343
Juhr Al Deek	310	139	449
East Deir Al Balah District**	217	147	364

*East Rafah includes: Al Shoka, Tabet Zare', Al Tanour, and Al Salam neighborhoods.

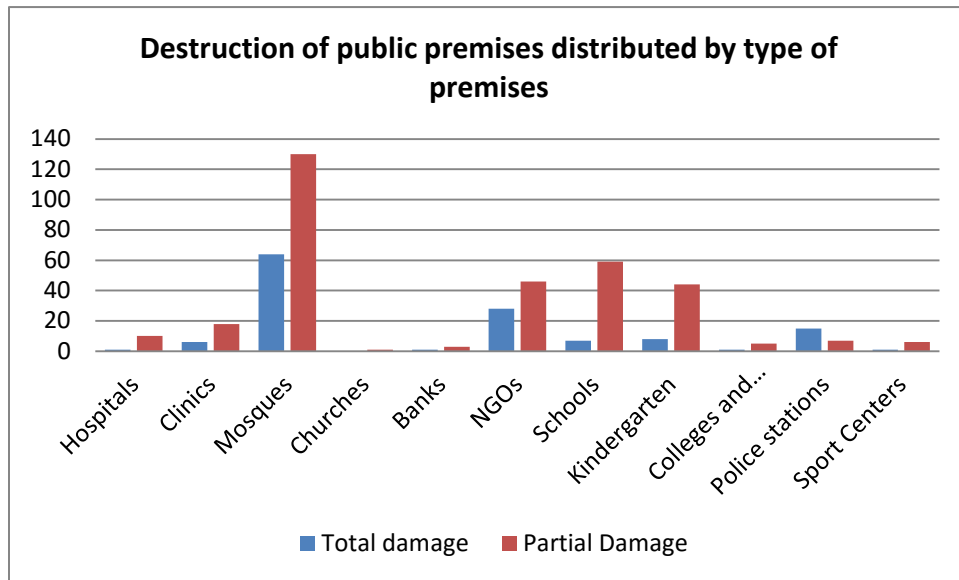
** East of Deir Al Balah district includes: Ebad Al Rahman, Mhareb, Kisufim, Quz Abu Hamam, Abu Shehada, Hussni Mosque, Abu Mandeel, and Abu Mattwi neighborhoods.



2. Public Premises

Destruction of public premises distributed by type of premises

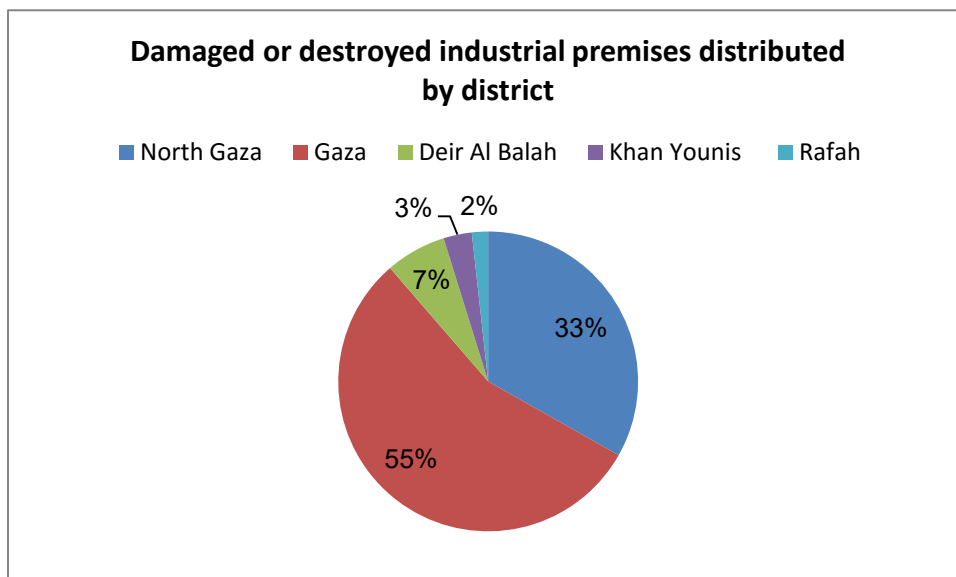
Total Number	Total damage	Partial Damage	Type of Establishment
Hospitals	1	10	11
Clinics	6	18	24
Mosques	64	130	194
Churches	0	1	1
Banks	1	3	4
NGOs	28	46	74
Schools	7	59	66
Kindergarten	8	44	52
Colleges and Universities	1	5	6
Police stations	15	7	22
Sport Centers	1	6	7
Total	132	329	461



3. Industrial premises

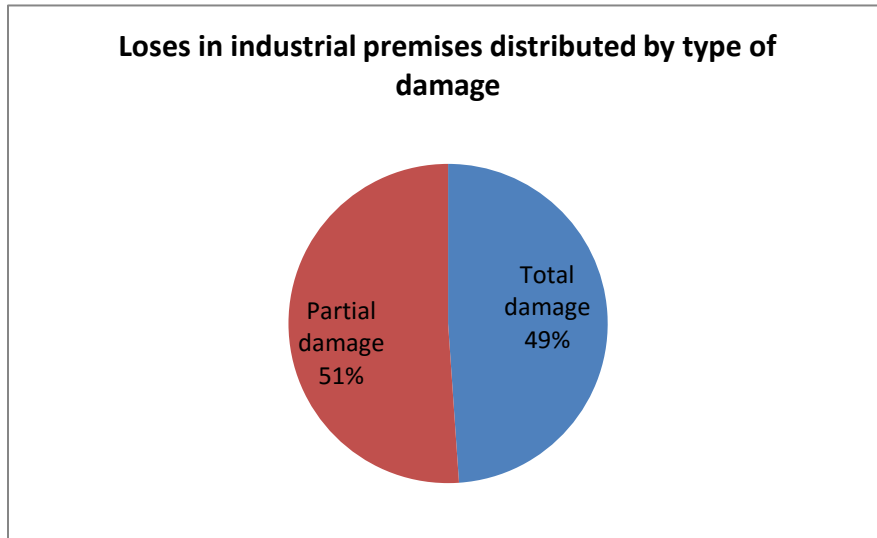
Damaged or destroyed industrial premises distributed by district

District	Number	%
North Gaza	76	33%
Gaza	127	55%
Deir Al Balah	15	7%
Khan Younis	7	3%
Rafah	4	2%
Total	229	100%



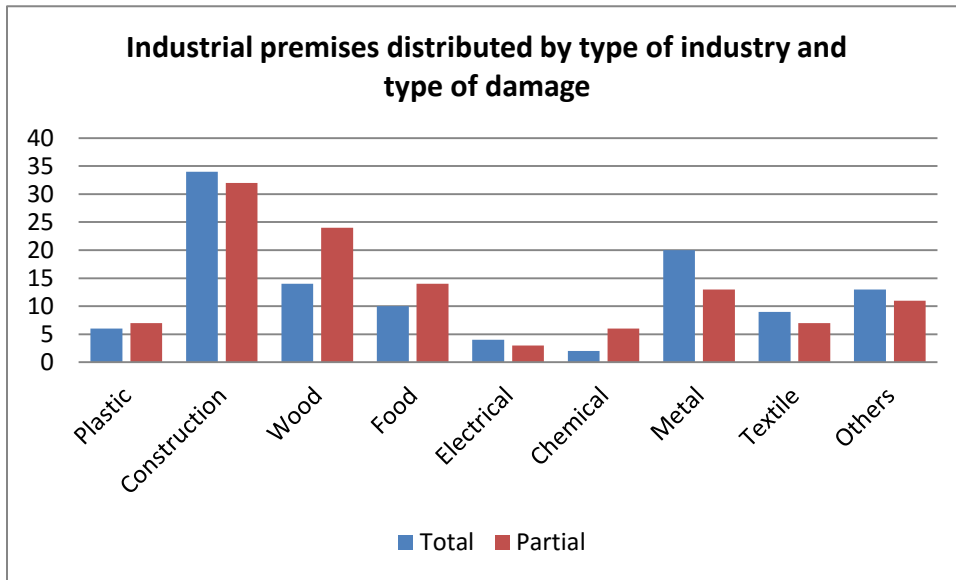
Losses in industrial premises distributed by type of damage

Total number	229	100%
Total damage	112	49%
Partial damage	117	51%



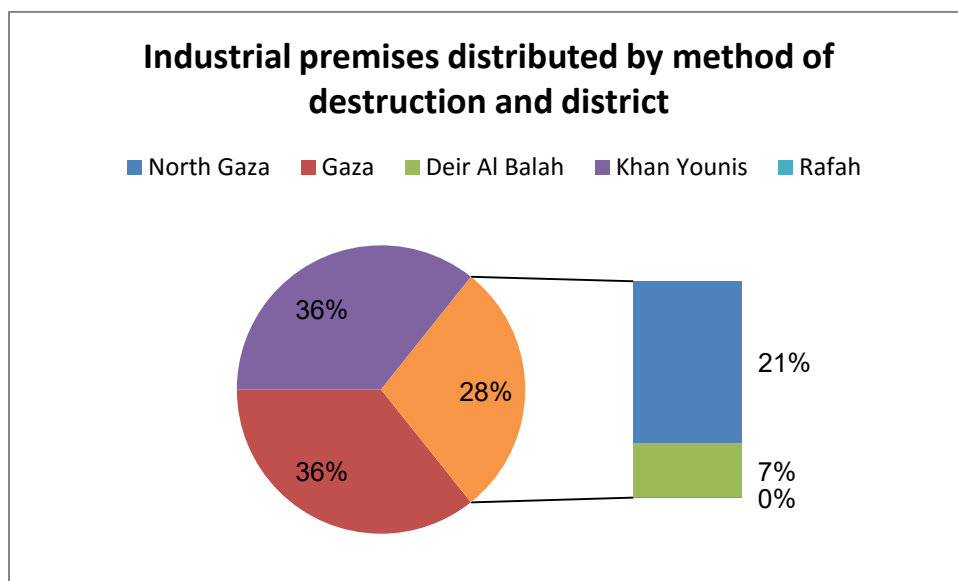
Industrial premises distributed by type of industry and type of damage

Type of industry	Type of damage	
	Total	Partial
Plastic	6	7
Construction	34	32
Wood	14	24
Food	10	14
Electrical	4	3
Chemical	2	6
Metal	20	13
Textile	9	7
Others	13	11
Total	112	117



Industrial premises distributed by method of destruction and district

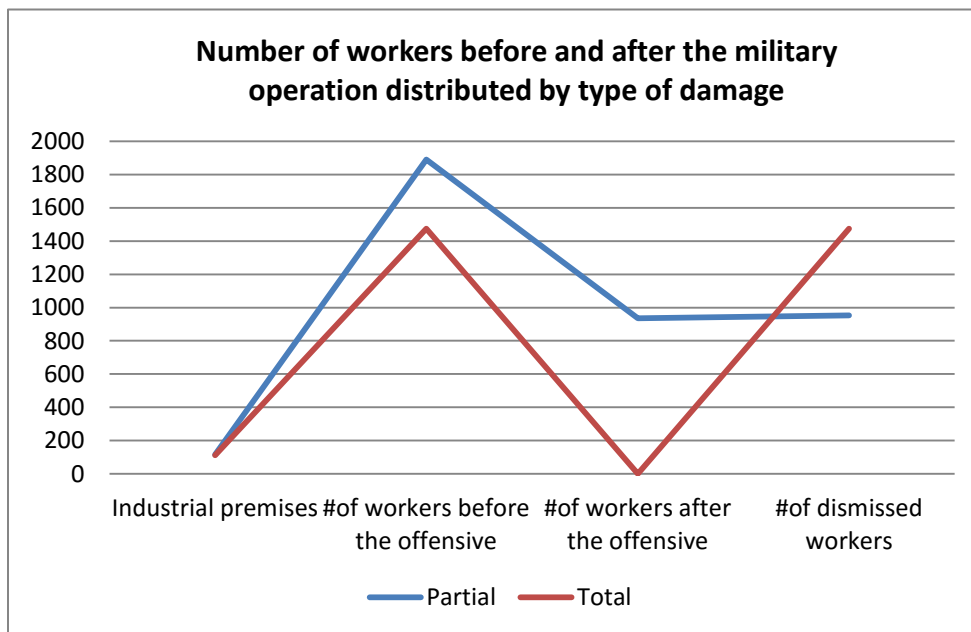
District	Method of destruction	
	Shelled	Bulldozed
North Gaza	73	3
Gaza	122	5
Deir Al Balah	14	1
Khan Younis	2	5
Rafah	4	0
Total	215	14



Number of workers before and after the military operation* distributed by type of damage

Type of damage	Industrial premises	#of workers before the offensive	#of workers after the offensive	#of dismissed workers	%of decrease
Partial	117	1889	936	953	50%
Total	112	1474	0	1474	100%

* The military operation refers to Operation Protective Edge; the same operation covered by this report.



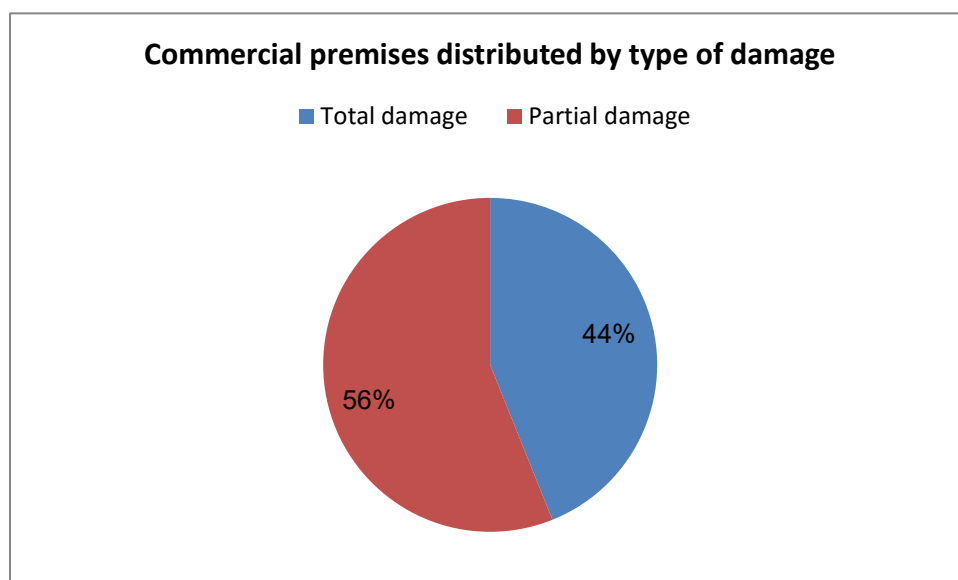
4. Commercial premises

Damaged or destroyed commercial premises distributed by district

District	Number	%
North Gaza	451	29%
Gaza	563	36%
Deir Al Balah	175	11%
Khan Younis	240	15%
Rafah	149	9%
Total	1578	100%

Commercial premises distributed by type of damage

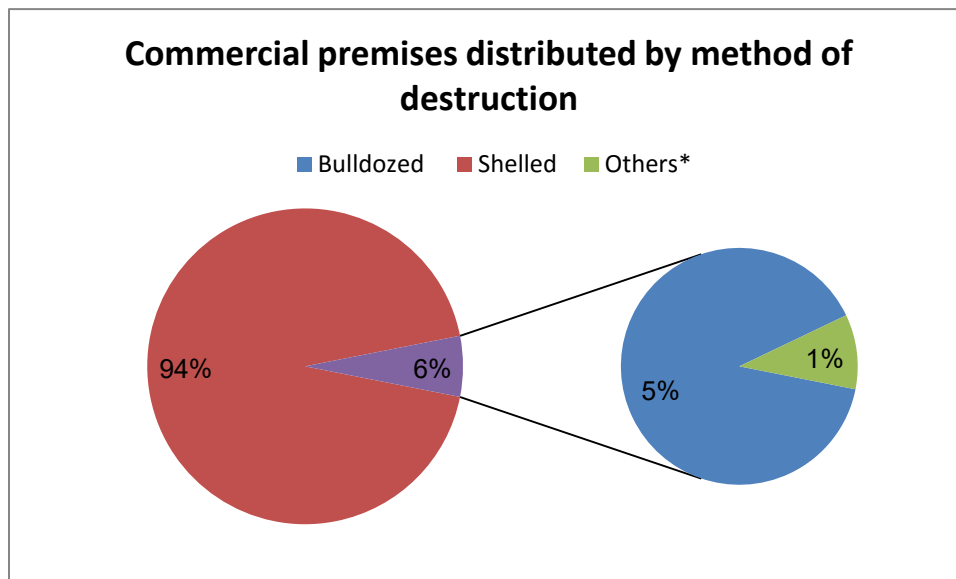
Total number	1578	100%
Total damage	693	44%
Partial damage	885	56%



Commercial premises distributed by method of destruction

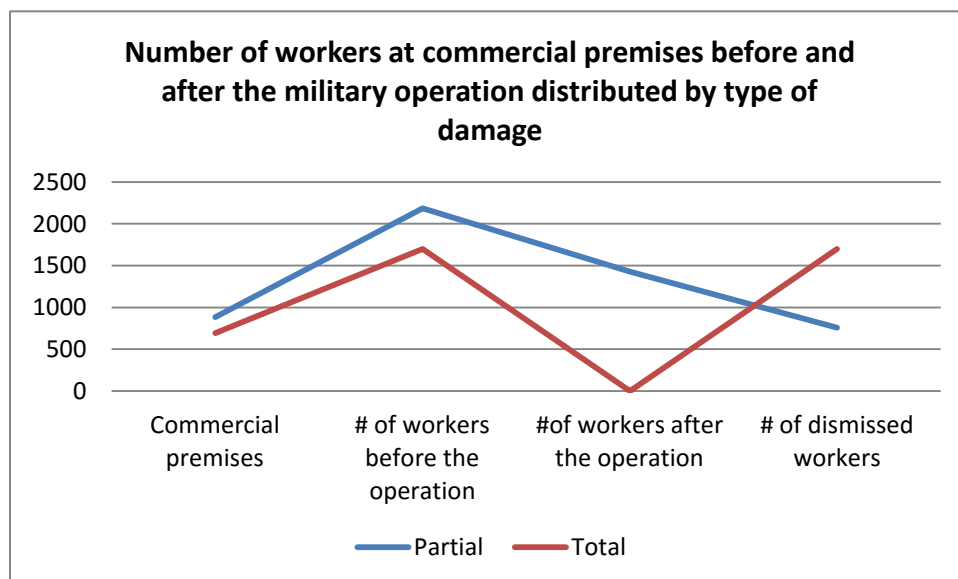
Method of destruction	number	%
Bulldozed	88	5.58%
Shelled	1480	93.79%
Others*	10	0.63%
Total	1578	100%

* Others include explosion, confiscation, and demolition



Number of workers at commercial premises before and after the military operation distributed by type of damage

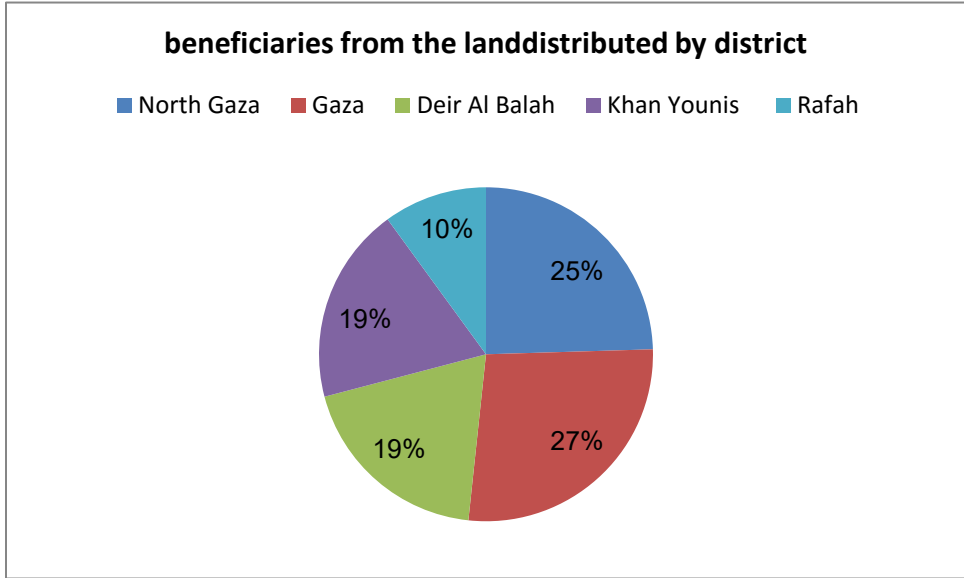
Type of damage	Commercial premises	# of workers before the operation	#of workers after the operation	# of dismissed workers	% of decrease
Partial	885	2185	1427	758	35%
Total	693	1700	0	1700	100%



5. Agricultural Land

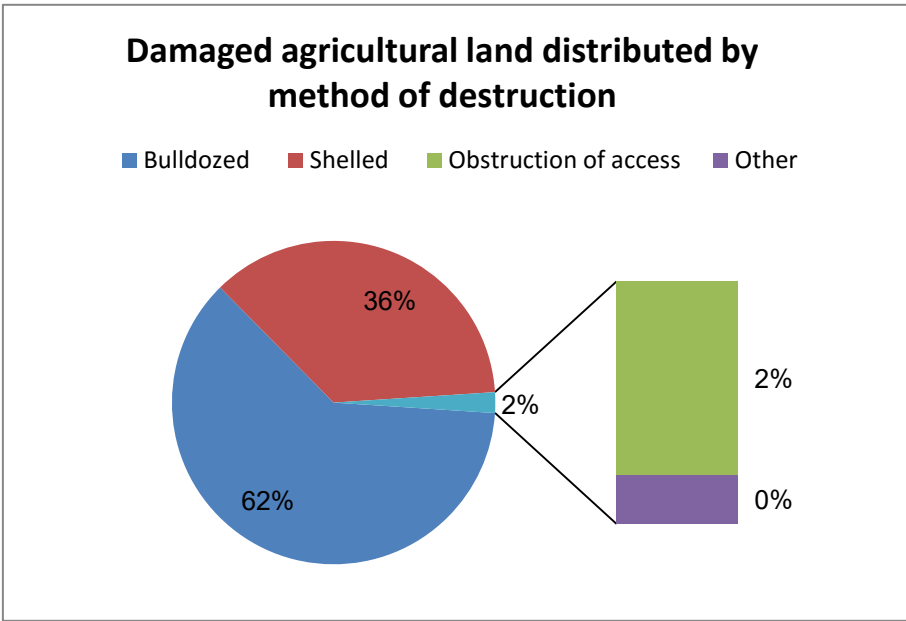
Damaged agricultural land distributed by district

District	# of cases	Damaged area (in square meters)	# of family members	Of whom children	# of beneficiaries from the land
North Gaza	593	3594294	5459	1731	8310
Gaza	264	1369528	2018	886	9202
Deir Al Balah	340	1917040	2436	959	6515
Khan Younis	642	2479534	4831	1471	6458
Rafah	342	1808768	2385	1034	3398
Total	2181	11169164	17129	6081	33883



Damaged agricultural land distributed by method of destruction

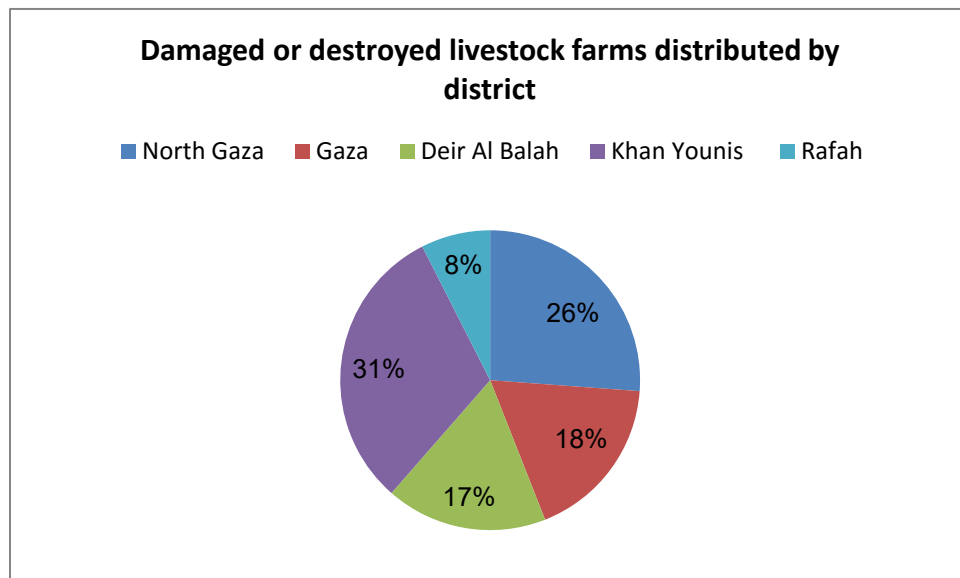
Method of destruction	Number	%
Bulldozed	1343	62%
Shelled	793	36%
Obstruction of access	36	2%
Other	9	0%
Total	2181	100%



6. Livestock

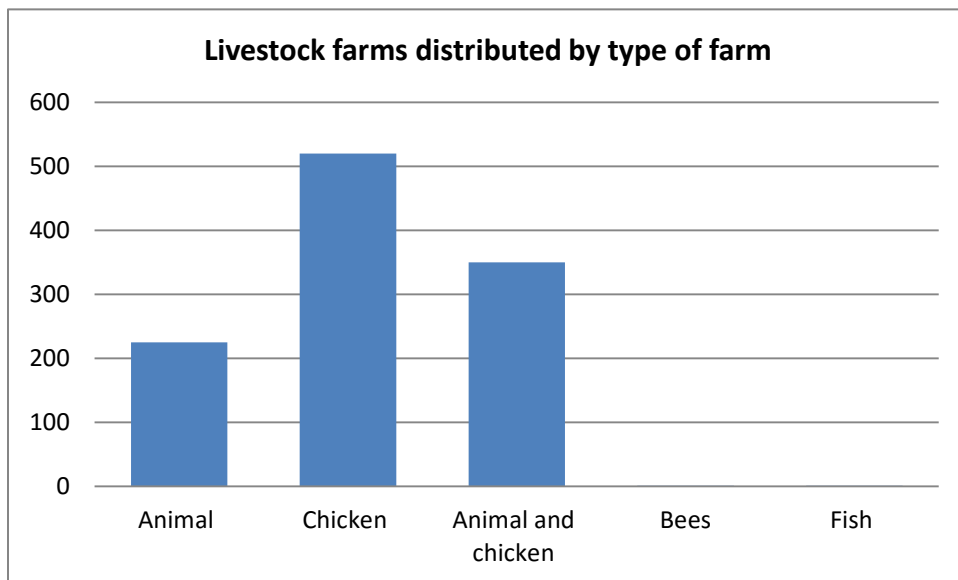
Damaged or destroyed livestock farms distributed by district

District	Number	%
North Gaza	287	26.16%
Gaza	196	17.87%
Deir Al Balah	191	17.41%
Khan Younis	341	31.08%
Rafah	82	7.47%
Total	1097	100%



Livestock farms distributed by type of farm

Type of farm	Number
Animal	225
Chicken	520
Animal and chicken	350
Bees	1
Fish	1
Total	1097



7. Water-wells

Damaged or destroyed water-wells distributed by district

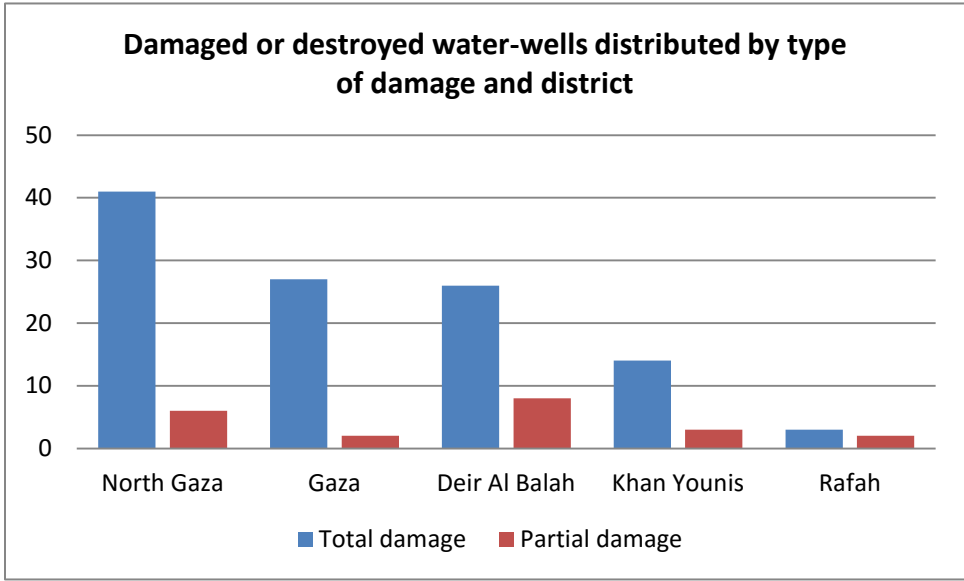
District	number	%
North Gaza	47	35.6%
Gaza	29	22.0%
Deir Al Balah	34	25.8%
Khan Younis	17	12.9%
Rafah	5	3.8%
Total	132	100%

Damaged or destroyed water-wells distributed by type of damage

Type of damage	Number	%
Total damage	111	84%
Partial damage	21	16%
Total number	132	100%

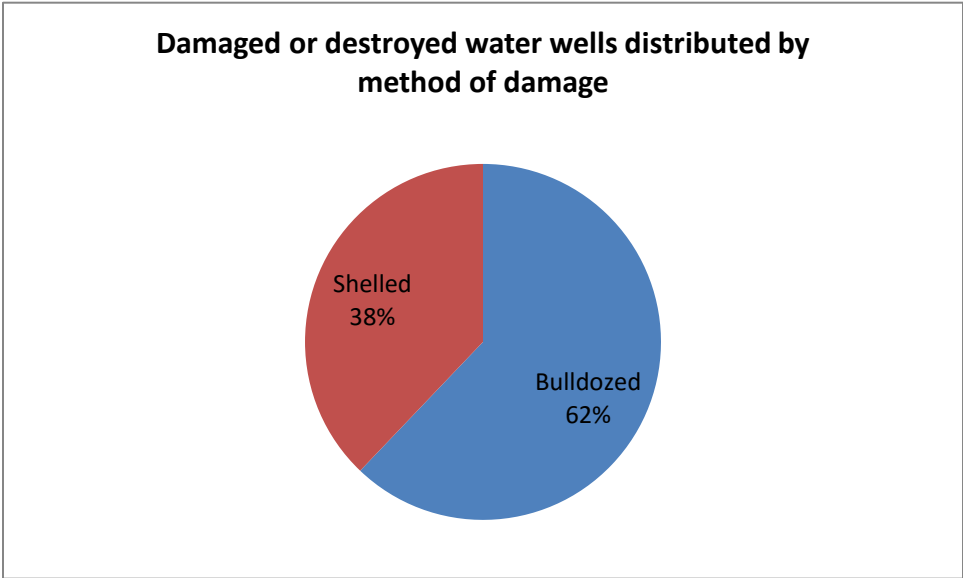
Damaged or destroyed water-wells distributed by type of damage and district

District	Total damage		Partial damage	
	Number	%	Number	%
North Gaza	41	37%	6	29%
Gaza	27	24%	2	10%
Deir Al Balah	26	23%	8	38%
Khan Younis	14	13%	3	14%
Rafah	3	3%	2	10%
Total	111	100%	21	100%



Damaged or destroyed water wells distributed by method of damage

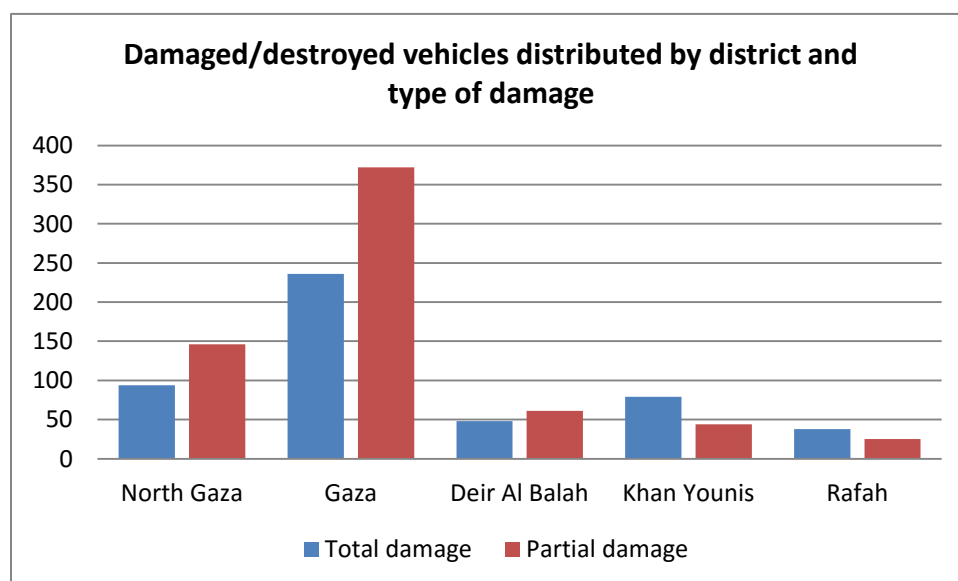
Method of damage	Number	%
Bulldozed	82	62%
Shelled	50	38%
Total	132	100%



8. Vehicles

Damaged/destroyed vehicles distributed by district and type of damage

District	Total damage	Partial damage	Total number	%
North Gaza	94	146	240	21%
Gaza	236	372	608	53%
Deir Al Balah	48	61	109	10%
Khan Younis	79	44	123	11%
Rafah	38	25	63	6%
Total	495	648	1143	100%



Damaged/destroyed ambulances distributed by district

District	Number
North Gaza	9
Gaza	6
Deir Al Balah	5
Khan Younis	3
Rafah	1
Total	24

Conclusion

The statistics presented in this report reflect the unprecedented number of casualties and material damage inflicted on Palestinian civilians and their property, including civilian infrastructure, during the Israeli military OPE assault on the Gaza Strip in 2014.

The above figures demonstrate that civilians constitute the vast majority of the casualties. Similarly, children, women, elderly people, and health personnel constitute a large segment of the death toll. This confirms the human rights organizations' assertion that the IOF routinely targeted civilians and their property, disregarding the relevant applicable legal standards in relation to the conduct of hostilities, and showing a stark indifference to civilian life and property, which must be protected.

Investigations conducted by the four human rights organizations, along with other domestic and international investigations, affirm a damning body of evidence attesting to the commission of grave and systematic violations of IHL by Israeli forces, tantamount to war crimes and crimes against humanity according to the Rome Statute of the ICC and the Fourth Geneva Convention. These crimes include: deliberate killing and murder; shelling of houses while civilian residents were inside them; shooting civilians holding white flags; arbitrary use of excessive force in civilian areas; targeting civilians and civilian premises without distinction, proportionality or military necessity; using civilians as human shields; targeting medical personnel; preventing ambulances from reaching the injured to save their lives; and targeting UN buildings and personnel.

Furthermore, the IOF carried out actions which severely affected the life and wellbeing of civilians in the Gaza Strip by destroying water, electricity and sewage networks, and linking-roads between districts, as well as by maintaining the closure/blockade of Gaza, which rendered the population desperately short on food and medicines. The IOF also inflicted severe psychological harm on the residents of the Gaza Strip by its random, ineffective warnings of imminent attacks while at the same time bombing areas where civilians were directed to go to, as well as UN shelters.

The scale and systematic nature of the serious violations of international law committed by the IOF points to the pursuit of a consistent policy designed by and deployed from the highest levels of Israeli government. Statements made by political and military leaders, in which they portend killing people and destroying their homes, highlight this policy, thus destroying the clear lines that international law draws between civilians and military targets.

This pattern of conduct by the Israeli State reinforces the conviction of informed observers that Israel, the Occupying Power, has released itself from the will to respect its international obligations, including the established obligation to properly investigate suspected crimes committed by its agents. Statements about policy and the rules of engagement signify encouragement for the commission of such violations whereby perpetrators are also assured State protection.

Israel's failure to conduct adequate investigations that meet the relevant international standards and its willingness to provide protection and impunity to the military and government officials who committed or ordered the commission of these crimes as also evident following operations Cast Lead (2008/09) and Pillar of Defence (2012), places the onus on the international community to initiate effective, impartial investigations and to secure accountability and justice in accordance with international law.

The four human rights organizations strongly condemn the IOF's continued, grave and systematic violations of international law in the Gaza Strip, including its ongoing closure/blockade, which constitute a form of unlawful collective punishment. The four human rights organizations condemn Israel's continued policy of complete impunity that has encouraged its military forces to commit grave breaches of the rules of international law. The four human rights organizations call on the international community to assume its moral and legal obligations by taking action to bring the unlawful eight-year closure/blockade of the Gaza Strip to a swift end and to ensure the swift reconstruction of the devastated Strip. The four organizations also call on the international community to support independent and credible investigations into the violations of human rights and IHL in the Gaza Strip by the UN and the ICC.