



Report on IOF's Operation Warm Winter in the Gaza Strip

27 February – March 3, 2008

Reported from the Gaza Strip, 3:00pm Monday 3 March 2008



March 2008

Introduction

From 27 February – 3 March 2008, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) continued its military operations and escalated its aggression the Gaza Strip; including civilians and civilian property. IOF attacks caused the deaths of 236 Palestinians since the beginning of 2008, including 37 children and 16 women. During 'Operation Warm Winter", which occurred between 27 February and 3 March 2008, 107 Palestinians were killed including 27 children and six women. Over 200 people were also injured; more than one fourth of whom were children.¹ Tens of homes and other structures were destroyed. The operation comes amid an ongoing blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip by the IOF. This blockade, which is not confined only to restricting freedom of movement of individuals and goods; rather it extends to reach humanitarian cases and aid, including fuel and electricity. Amid the rising number of people killed and injured by this aggression, there are limitations placed on the movement of medical crews and ambulances.

This field report covers a period of five days: 27 February to 2 March 2008. It aims to disseminate information about the conducts of IOF during its military operation "Warm Winter" in the Gaza Strip, in which the IOF committed new crimes, and to report to all local and international parties interested in advocating for respect of human rights and compliance with international law. Before delving into the details of the events, it is important to point out some basic rules of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), which governs the IOF's conduct when dealing with the population of the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). The IOF has the obligation as the occupying force to protect the rights of the citizens in the OPT. The rules of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), which are considered part of customary international law, aim, inter alia, to provide protection for victims of armed conflict, especially for the civilians. The Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War (1949) and its additional protocol I are the main international treaties tackling the protection of civilians. While military occupation is tolerated by international law, it is not approved and must be brought to a speedy end.² International law also places strict restraints on the behavior of the occupying forces. Under the provisions of IHL, the IOF does not have a *carte blanche* to use force, procedures, or policies against the civilian population of the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) at its will. The interests of the civilian population as well as their property, along with the legal status of the territories, must always be considered and protected.

Civilians must enjoy the protection of the law during the conduct of hostilities; they enjoy the status of 'protected persons'. There is an absolute prohibition on the targeting of civilians and civilian objects in customary international law; a prohibition that the occupying forces may not derogated from. IHL prohibits strictly the use of certain weapons in military

¹ Following the completion of documentation of casualties, the number of people killed by the IOF rose to 117; 29 of whom were children.

² See Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories Occupied since 1967, John Dugard, A/HCR/7/17 21 January 2008, p. 4.

operations and in times of war, particularly in the case of military occupation. The use of force by the occupying power must take into account certain fundamental principles:

- (1) The Principle of Distinction: Military operations and fighting forces must make a distinction between civilian and military targets and to take all feasible precautions to verify that the objectives attacked are not civilian. The occupying forces bear a positive obligation to take measures to avoid possible civilian suffering as a result of its actions.
- (2) The Principle of Proportionality: This principle refers to military actions and methods employed to achieve the desired military objective, which must be proportionate. Actions that result in the loss of life or property that have no relation to military operations or anticipated achievable results must remain prohibited.

The Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War, of 12 August 1949, is the core document that protects citizens undergoing occupation, military operation or war. Israel is a party to the Convention. Private property is clearly protected in this Convention. Article 23 of the Convention stipulates that:

Each High Contracting Party shall allow the free passage of all consignments of medical and hospital stores and objects necessary for religious worship intended only for civilians of another High Contracting Party, even if the latter is its adversary. It shall likewise permit the free passage of all consignments of essential foodstuffs, clothing and tonics intended for children under fifteen, expectant mothers and maternity cases (Article 23).

Article 33 of the Convention stipulates that each High Contracting Party to the Convention must ensure the following:

No protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited. Pillage is prohibited. Reprisals against protected persons and their property are prohibited).

Article 53 of the Convention stipulates that each High Contracting Party to the Convention must ensure the following:

Any destruction by the Occupying Power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, is prohibited, except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations .

Articles 146 and 147 are two of the most important in the Convention, as they define a set of grave breaches of the Convention; specific acts that qualify as war crimes or crimes against humanity. Those who commit the crimes must be brought to trial and prosecution under the law. Article 146 states:

The High Contracting Parties undertake to enact any legislation necessary to provide effective penal sanctions for persons committing, or ordering to be committed, any of the grave breaches of the present Convention defined in the following Article.

Each High Contracting Party shall be under the obligation to search for persons alleged to have committed, or to have ordered to be committed, such grave breaches, and shall bring such persons, regardless of their nationality, before its own courts. It may also, if it prefers, and in accordance with the provisions of its own legislation, hand such persons over for trial to another High Contracting Party concerned, provided such High Contracting Party has made out a prima facie case.

Each High Contracting Party shall take measures necessary for the suppression of all acts contrary to the provisions of the present Convention other than the grave breaches defined in the following Article.

Article 147 states:

Grave breaches to which the preceding Article relates shall be those involving any of the following acts, if committed against persons or property protected by the present Convention: wilful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, including biological experiments, wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health, unlawful deportation or transfer or unlawful confinement of a protected person, compelling a protected person to serve in the forces of a hostile Power, or wilfully depriving a protected person of the rights of fair and regular trial prescribed in the present Convention, taking of hostages and extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly.

According to AI Mezan's monitoring of the IOF's conducts during the second Intifada, which started on 29 September 2000, it collated information and evidences about the IOF's violations of IHL and human rights standards. This report shows in more detail the following:

- (1) The IOF used excessive and lethal force in a systematic way civilian, inflicting large number of deaths and injuries. It deliberately targeted and killed protected persons, in a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. One fourth of the victims were children.
- (2) The IOF intentionally targeted civilian objects from buildings to homes to privately owned land, to educational and worship institutions which caused considerable destruction;
- (3) The siege imposed on the Gaza Strip directly restricts the right to free movement of individuals between regions belonging to the OPT (West Bank and the Gaza Strip). The siege prohibits entry into of goods, and their exit from, the Gaza Strip, including essential supplies such as food, medicine, fuel, and electricity, which represents one of the cruelest form of collective punishment imposed on a protected civilian population in contravention with the absolute prohibitions of such actions in IHL;

- (4) The IOF did not observe the principle of proportionality in its conduct of hostilities. It employed extremely high levels of force in civilian areas. This includes live bullets, fighter jets, helicopter gunships, heavy artillery, tanks, and heavy missiles.

Despite the clear legal limitations on the IOF and the international criticism of Israel for its abuse of force in Gaza, it continues its flagrant and outrageous violations of international law. This report sheds light on the IOF's aggression and its consequences. It starts with a brief description of the humanitarian situation, and then turns to provide a detailed account of the events distributed chronologically by region.

The number of victims from IOF's aggression on the Gaza Strip from 27 February - 3 March 2008 reaches 107 (117 by the end of the day). Of those killed, there were 42 resistance members, and the rest were civilians. Among those were 27 children, and 6 women (29 children by the end of the day). In addition, at least 166 were injured, including 46 children and 7 women.

Seven people of those killed during the reporting period perished at dawn on 2 March 2008. In Gaza City, a house belonging to the Attallah family was destroyed by an IOF missile on 1 March 2008. It was initially reported that three of the family members were killed in their house. The following day, three other bodies of the rest of the family were found under the rubble of that house; thus bringing the number of those killed in the Attallah house to six. This includes a husband and his wife, their two sons and two daughters.

The IOF continues its frequent targets against medical crews and ambulances. In a very serious incident, at approximately 6:30pm on 1 March 2008, the IOF targeted an ambulance and the driver, Mustafa Al Sadawi, and two medics, Muhammad Nassar and Muhammad An Neirab. The ambulance was moving on Ezbet Abed Rabbo neighborhood in north Gaza and heading to take an injured girl, 17-year-old Safa' Ra'ed Ali Abu Saif.³ The ambulance approached the area after great efforts to coordinate its entry. After the IOF allowed its access, the IOF opened fire at the ambulance. As a result, one of the tires exploded and the ambulance was shot with several bullets. The attack prevented the ambulance from reaching the girl and she bled to death.

The severity of the humanitarian crisis exacerbates for thousands of civilians, especially the residents of northern Gaza Strip. This includes areas of Al Qerem, Az Zaweya, Ezbet Abed Rabbo, Zimmo, and Jabal Al Kashef that in particular are under the direct control of the IOF, and undergo total electricity cuts and lack of drinking water, food and medicine. The residents of these areas were prevented from moving. Ambulances were unable to transfer injured persons, who remained bleeding on the roads, according to eyewitnesses in the areas. Some areas of Jabalia refugee camp experience constant interruption of drinking water due to collapsed water wells. The IOF were in the areas of the collapsed wells and did not permit technical teams to operate them.

³ See Al Mezan's Press Release 28/2008 at http://www.mezan.org/site_en/press_room/press_detail.php?id=806. The press release reports the victim's name as Nirmeen Abu Saif and her age as 17. After verification, it was confirmed her name was Safa' Abu Saif and age 13.

According to Al Mezan's monitoring, Gaza's hospitals faced serious difficulties dealing with the high number of casualties during the reported period. In particular, hospitals suffered shortages in medicines and other medical materials. More seriously, these hospitals lacked electricity and fuel, forcing them to operate only half of their ambulances, which consumption usually doubles in emergency times. Hospitals also reported that they have only 30% of the fuel needed for the electricity generators. Fuel consumption for electricity generators triples during emergency times; rising from 80,000 liters to approximately 300,000 liters per month. However, the blockade of Gaza has affected created a shortage in fuel, reducing hospitals' ability to cope with emergencies; especially since the Israeli decision to cut down the fuel and electricity allowed into Gaza.

In addition, the Ministry of Health's central stores continue to suffer shortages in medicines and medical materials. 71 items on the Ministry's Essential Medicines List and 100 items of medical and surgical materials ran out of store. Another 126 medicine items and 120 medical materials items are about to run out of the Ministry's stores. This problem is an extension of the problem of lack of strategic medical materials due to the blockade, a problem that has far reaching consequences on the right to health in Gaza.⁴

Added to this is hospitals' relatively low capacity to deal with emergencies involving high numbers of injuries. For example, the Gaza Strip's largest hospital, the Shifa Hospital, has an eleven-bed Intensive Care Unit. The hospital was recently supported with two mobile units, which increased its capacity by nine beds. Nonetheless, it still falls too short of the level of capacity that such IOF aggression entails, as this hospital receives critical cases from all over the Gaza Strip.

The following section provides a statistics about the number of people killed and injured, homes and structures destroyed or damaged, and the damage in the infrastructure during the Operation Warm Winter. The report then provides an account of the IOF's attacks distributed by location. The events that occurred in each of Gaza's five Governorates are described chronologically in separate section during the reported period.

Statistical summary:

a. Killing and maiming:

Table 1: # of Palestinians killed during "Operation Warm Winter" in Gaza

Total ⁵	Combatants	Civilians ⁶	Children ⁷	Women
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⁴ See Al Mezan's Press Release 19/2008 for more details about this problem http://www.mezan.org/site_en/press_room/press_detail.php?id=792, and the special report on the availability of medicines in Gaza under blockade (Arabic only) at http://www.mezan.org/site_ar/resource_center/mezan_publications/detail.php?id=184.

⁵ By the end of March 3, the number rose to 117. IOF killed more people and at least four of the injured died in hospitals in Egypt.

⁶ This includes ten policemen who were killed in IOF raids while they were in their posts without any involvement in hostilities.

⁷ The number of children rose to 29 by the end of March, 3.

107	42	65	27	6
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Table 2: # of Palestinians injured during "Operation Warm Winter" in Gaza

Total	Children	Women
App. 200	46	8

b. Destruction of homes and infrastructure

Tale 3: Homes and properties destroyed/damaged during "Operation Warm Winter"

Homes		Industrial facilities		Commercial facilities		Vehicles		Institutions	
Total	Partial	Total	Partial	Total	Partial	Total	Partial	Total	Partial
4	198	2	13	1	11	3	2	5	1

Table 4: Damage to infrastructure during "Operation Warm Winter"

Electricity network	Water network	Telephone network
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Four main transformers were destroyed in Jabalia - Electricity lines damaged in Rafah and jabalia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three main water pipes damaged in Jabalia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Telephone lines damaged in Jabalia and Rafah

Chronology of events in the Gaza Strip's governorates:

a. North Gaza

(1) At approximately 6:35pm on 27 February 2008, an IOF's drone launched a missile that exploded near the Montana Wedding Hall, on the Sea Street in Jabalia. As a result, 13-year-old Bilal Kamel Hijazi and 12-year-old Salman Khalil Hamada were killed. Five other children were injured; three of them were reported to have sustained serious injury. The injured were identified as:

- 13-year-old Maher Muhammad Hamada, injured by shrapnel to his left hand and he lost his left eye;
- 14-year-old Anas Al Mana'ma, injured by shrapnel to various parts of his body;
- 10-year-old Jamal Khalil Hamada, injured by shrapnel to his face;
- 8-year-old Jamil Khalil Hamada, injured by shrapnel to different parts of his body.

Jamal and Jamil Khalil Hamada were brothers of Salman, one of the victims. The identity of the fifth injured child remained unknown as of issuing this report. The field investigation indicated that the children were playing near their homes at the time of the attack.

(2) At approximately 1:30pm on 28 February 2008, the IOF, stationed on the eastern border, launched a missile that landed on a farm located near Abu Obida Al Jarah Secondary School for Boys in western Beit Lahia. This shelling was followed by an IOF drone firing another missile, landing on the same farm again. No injuries were reported. The sound of the explosion caused fear and panic among the civilian population, including children.

(3) At approximately 1:55pm on 28 February 2008, the IOF launched a missile from the eastern border line at a group of young men who were Demra Street in northern Beit Hanoun. As a result, 23-year-old Abdullah Muhammad Azweedi was killed and another young man was injured.

(4) At approximately 8am on 28 February 2008, the IOF launched fifteen artillery shells from the eastern border line. Five of them landed on the Dabour farm; a densely populated area in Tala'zatar neighborhood of Jabalia. As a result, four citizens were injured, including two women and a child. They were identified as 53-year-old Fatma Abdul-Khliq Salha, 21-year-old Warda Ibrahim Salha, 5-year-old Haya Majed Salem, and 22-year-old Ahmed T'aima. All of them suffered minor injuries and shock. Eight other artillery shells landed on the Al Basha area in eastern Beit Hanoun. As a result, 22-year-old Bilel Khalil Al Masri sustained moderate injuries. Two artillery shells landed in Oleibo area in eastern Beit Lahia, but no injuries were reported. According to field investigations, the shelling targeted farms and open areas in the vicinity of or near to densely populated areas that resulted in a state of fear and panic among civilians, especially children. The Center's fieldworker reported that the shells used in these attacks were different than ones used in the past in the sense that they produced a particularly very loud sound, accompanied by tremors that

shake homes in the surrounding areas. Consequently, the windows of numerous homes in Tala'zatar neighborhood, Jabalia refugee camp, Sheik Zayed Town, and Beit Hanoun shattered.

- (5) At approximately 3:20pm on 28 February 2008, IOF warplanes shelled a group of children who were playing football in an open area near As Salam Mosque in Al Qerem Street (eastern Jabalia). The shelling killed four children. They were identified as 17-year-old Omar Hassan Dardona, 8-year-old Ali Monir Dardona, 17-year-old Dardona Deeb Dardona, and 7-year-old Muhammad Na'im Hamouda. Also, 7-year-old Ali Farraj Dardona sustained serious injury.
- (6) At approximately 3:45pm on 28 February 2008, IOF warplanes shelled a car while it was traveling on Khalil Al Wazir Street, a main road that runs through central Beit Hanoun. One passerby, 19-year-old Ramiz Mustafa Hassan Nasser, was killed by the blast. Three people riding in the car received injuries. One sustained serious injury. Another bystander was also injured.
- (7) At approximately 6:15pm on 28 February 2008, IOF warplanes fired one missile killing 19-year-old Talat Salah Inmelat was killed while he was herding sheep in western Beit Lahia.
- (8) At approximately 6:55pm on 28 February 2008, IOF warplanes fired three missiles in an open area in eastern Beit Hanoun and close to the junction of northern Beit Lahia Project and Dabour farm in Telaza'tar neighborhood in Jabalia town. 39-year-old Ahmed Ali Hamid was injured by shrapnel as a result of the attack.
- (9) At approximately 10:45pm on 28 February 2008, IOF warplanes fired two missiles that landed in an open area close to Halima As Sadiya School in An Nazla area in Jabalia town. The shelling did not cause any injuries or deaths; however, it damaged five nearby homes.
- (10) At approximately 11:00pm on 28 February 2008, eight IOF military vehicles entered 700 meters into Abu Samara area in northern Beit Lahia. They stationed in this area until they withdrew at approximately 6:00pm later that same day.
- (11) At approximately 11:05pm on 28 February 2008, IOF's F16 warplanes launched two heavy missiles at the General Federation of Trade Unions, located in As Saftawi area, which is a large residential area in Jabalia town. The shelling caused the total destruction of the five-story building, and partial damage to dozens of nearby homes. Forty-four civilians were injured in the incident, including twelve children and six women. Seven of those injured were treated for shock.
- (12) At approximately 12:10am 29 February 2008, ten IOF military vehicles penetrated amid heavy fire into Al Basha farm in eastern Beit Hanoun. They entered one kilometer into the area and took positions until they withdrew at approximately 5:00pm later that day.

- (13) At approximately 2:30am on 29 February 2008, ten IOF military vehicles penetrated into a northern Bedouin village, north of the town of Beit Lahia. They withdrew later that day at 5:00pm.
- (14) At approximately 2:30am on 29 February 2008, the IOF warned residents of two homes in Al Arany area (northern Jabalia refugee camp) that their homes would be bombarded. These homes belonged to two brothers killed in combat during the reporting period: Ayman and Othman ar-Razayna. Many people from the neighborhood gathered near the homes to prevent the IOF's expected raid. The IOF also gave a ten-minute warning that the home of Mus'ab Al Ja'beer, located near Kamal Udwan Hospital in Beit Lahia, would be bombarded. Later, a missile landed in an open area near Al Ja'beer's home. As a result, 20-year-old Basem Abu 'Itta was injured by shrapnel and was reported to have sustained serious injury.
- (15) At approximately 6:00am on 29 February 2008, the IOF fired six missiles that landed in the Klebu area in eastern Al Sheik Zayed City in Beit Lahia. The shelling led to the damage of dozens of apartments in the City, shook the ground violently, and made a deafening sound.
- (16) At approximately 10:05am on 29 February 2008, IOF warplanes fired two missiles in northern Talet al-Raiyes area in eastern Jabalia town. Severe damage was caused to Basim Dardona's home and two of his children were injured, as a result of the attack.
- (17) At approximately 11:00am on 29 February 2008, IOF warplanes fired a missile at a group of young men in Be'r An Na'ja in western Jabalia refugee camp. The shelling injured two residents of this area: 23-year-old Sa'd Hussein Madi (shrapnel in his right leg) and 5-year-old Muhammad Issam Abu Zeina (shrapnel to the head).
- (18) At approximately 11.10pm on February 2008, IOF warplanes fired a missile at the Mas'oud farm eastern Jabalia town, killing 26-year-old Iyad al-Ashram.
- (19) At approximately 1:45pm on 29 February 2008, IOF warplanes shelled the Dabour farm in Tala'zatar neighborhood in Jabalia town with one missile. This farm is in the middle of a residential area and was shelled on the previous day.
- (20) At approximately 2:40pm on 29 February 2008, IOF warplanes dropped leaflets on areas north of Beit Lahia and eastern Beit Hanoun. The leaflets warned the residents that the IOF would target any persons or structures in what it believes rocket launch spots or houses where it believes arms are stored. The end the leaflets wrote "we have warned and will be pardoned, whatever we do" (Arabic proverb). The leaflets terrified the population, for their misleading content and the clear threat they posed on their life. Residents told Al Mezan that IOF had targeted many homes directly without any presence of arms or launchers. They believed that the IOF's attacks on civilian targets would increase.
- (21) At approximately 12:30am on 1 March 2008, IOF helicopters fired one missile that landed az-Zawiya Street in eastern Jabalia. Then they opened heavy fire towards

ambulances that were heading to the area. Consequently, a medic, 25-year-old Muhammad Dardona, was injured by shrapnel throughout his body. The helicopters continued to fire intensively in this area and in Ezbet Abed Rabbo and Al Qaram areas. Under the helicopters cover, an IOF special unit composed of fifty Israeli soldiers penetrated into Jabal Al Kashif area in Ezbet Abed Rabbo (eastern Jabalia). At approximately 1:30am, they opened fire intensively towards civilian residents in the area. IOF helicopters fired five missiles that landed there. At approximately 2:40am, ten IOF military vehicles penetrated near Al Shohada'a Cemetery in eastern Jabalia. Coming from the Nahal Ouz Crossing and stationed near the cemetery, at approximately 3:00am, twenty IOF military vehicles penetrated into Abu Safiya area in eastern Jabalia. At approximately 3:30am, the two units advanced on Al Karama Road and thirty minutes later, they penetrated into Jabal Al Kashif under heavy fire and helicopter cover. The incursion continued until 7:00am, as the IOF controlled Al Qaram, az-Zawiya, Ezbet Abed Rabbo, Zimmo, Jabal Al Kashif, and Saknat Al Jammul areas. They remained stationed in these areas until they withdrew at 6:00am on 3 March 2008.

(22) This incursion lasted from approximately 12:30am to 7:00am on 1 March 2008. It resulted in the killing of 22 Palestinians, including nine civilians killed inside their homes. They were identified as:

- 17-year-old Jakleen Muhammad Abu Shbak;
- 14-year-old Eyad Muhammad Abu Shbak;
- 45-year-old Basem Muhammad Obaid;
- 15-year-old Mahmoud Basem Obaid;
- 17-year-old Muhammad Hani Al Mabhouh;
- 40-year-old Hamza Muhammad Al Jammal;
- 19-year-old Sary Fat'hey Obaid;
- 25-year-old Hassan Rashad Safy; and,
- 25-year-old Ghada al-Abed Saleh.

16-year-old Abdullah Abu Shaira was killed while he was near his house watching the incursion. According to field investigations, the IOF that penetrated in Ezbet Abed Rabbo opened fire towards residential homes on Al Karama Road. As a result, the aforementioned 19-year-old Sary Fat'hey Obaid was injured while he was inside his home and continued bleeding because the ambulances were denied access to the him. His death was announced at 4:00pm in his home.

The rest of the people killed were believed to have died as a result of armed clashes with the IOF. And they were identified as:

- 24-year-old Hussein Sami Al-Batsh;
- 25-year-old Mesleh Muhammad Saleh;
- 28-year-old Abdullah Nabil Abed Rabbo;
- 22-year-old Mustafa Said Abu Jalala;
- 21-year-old Mustafa Nasser Zaghloul;
- 23-year-old Abedul-Hamid Hamed Hamada;
- 25-year-old Ibrahim Sha'ban az-Zein;

- 21-year-old Said Ahmed al-Hasheem;
- 20-year-old Ali Jabel al-Katnany;
- 24-year-old Mu'tasim Sharif Abed Rabbo;
- 25-year-old Abedul-Rahman Muhammad Shehab;
- 23-year-old Tal'at Muhammad Dardona; and,
- 22-year-old Thabet Fat'hey Jneed.

(23) IOF drones shelled five missiles between 7:00am and 9:00pm on 1 March 2008 in areas near the incursion. Consequently, two children, 16-year-old Abdul-Ra'ouf Odah and 14-year-old Na'el Abu Oun, and two men, 19-year-old Yasser Abu Odah, and 25-year-old Mahmoud Isleem were killed.

(24) At approximately 7:55am on 1 March 2008, IOF tanks, which had penetrated into Ezbet Abed Rabbo, launched one artillery missile that landed near Majad Abu Jalhoum's home in the former Civil Administration area (eastern Jabalia refugee camp). As a result, his eighteen-month-old daughter Salsabil was killed. Three of his other children, Shorouk, Anwar, and Anas, were injured and were reported to have sustained moderate wounds. The house was partially damaged.

(25) At approximately 10:10am on 1 March 2008, IOF drones fired one missile at a group of young men gathered on the Dabour farm in Teleza'tar neighborhood eastern Jabalia. As a result, three young men were injured and two of whom sustained serious wounds.

(26) At approximately 9:00am on 1 March 2008, the IOF, which penetrated into Ezbet Abed Rabbo area, opened fire on homes near the former Civil Administration in eastern Jabalia refugee camp. A 20-year-old woman, Nihad Abdul-Hadi Muhammad Zaher, was injured by a live bullet to the neck. Later that evening, she died from her wounds in Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

(27) At approximately 10:15am on 1 March 2008, IOF drones launched one missile that landed near Zedan Asaliya's home in the as-Seka Street in eastern Jabalia refugee camp. As a result, two of his daughter's were killed: 12-year-old Samah and 19-year-old Sana'a. A number of other residents in the home were injured and the home was damaged partially.

(28) At approximately 10:30am on 1 March 2008, an Al Jazeera TV crew was in Ezbet Abed Rabbo covering the IOF incursion. They came under intense fire and were forced to leave the area. No injuries were reported.

(29) At approximately 10:30am on 1 March 2008, the IOF, stationed in Ezbet Abed Rabbo, opened fire at a car carrying a journalist for the AFP, Muhammad Al Baba. The windows of the car were shot several times. At the time, Al Baba was traveling to the area to cover the events after the IOF shelled artillery missiles at nine children there. Al Baba's car was armored and was clearly marked "Press".

- (30) At approximately 11:05am on 1 March 2008, IOF helicopters shelled a farm with two missiles. The farm lies east of Beit Lahia police station. No injuries or damages were reported.
- (31) At approximately 11:30am on 1 March 2008, journalist for the Media Group, Mahmoud Al Ajrami, was injured when the IOF fired three artillery shells from military vehicles stationed in Ezbet Abed Rabbo (eastern Jabalia). One of the shells fell close to him and he was thrown in the air. He fell unconscious and later transferred to a hospital. Medical sources reported that Al Ajrami suffered from temporary blindness and loss of hearing.
- (32) At approximately 3:30pm on 1 March 2008, the IOF penetrated into Ezbet Abed Rabo area and opened fire towards homes. 19-year-old Safa' Ra'ad Abu Saif was injured by a live bullet to her right thigh from the shooting. Ambulances were unable to reach her. After making the necessary coordination with the IOF, the ambulance driver and the Director of the Liaison Department in northern Gaza Strip, Mr. Khalil Mustafa as-Sidawi, along with two medics, Muhammad al-Assar and Muhammad an-Nerab headed to the area to transfer her to hospital. They reached the area at approximately 6:10pm; however, IOF tanks opened fire intensively at the ambulance despite obtaining coordination. As a result the vehicle was damaged and one of its wheels exploded. The attack forced them to return to Kamal Udwan Hospital. As the ambulance could not reach the victim, she bled to death.
- (33) At approximately 4:15pm on 1 March 2008, IOF drones launched two missiles that landed near the Civil Defense building in Be'ir An Naja'a in western Jabalia. 25-year-old Saed Atta ad-Dabour was killed and three other citizens were injured. One was reported to have sustained serious injury.
- (34) At approximately 4:20pm on 1 March 2008, IOF drones shelled a group of young men with one missile on Al Mahkama Street in eastern Riyad As Salehen area in Jabalia. Consequently, 19-year-old Jihad Hatem Abu Ehlel was killed and three others were injured in the attack. One of them was reported to have sustained serious injury.
- (35) At approximately 4:25pm on 1 March 2008, the IOF launched two missiles at two civilian cars. The two vehicles were in a market in Jabalia refugee camp. As a result, they were destroyed completely but no injuries were reported.
- (36) At approximately 5:00pm on 1 March 2008, medical sources at Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City announced the death of eight children from wounds they sustained earlier on the same day. They were identified as:
- 16-year-old Khalid Munzir Abdul-Kader Rayyan;
 - 16-year-old Ahmed Ziad Abdul-Kader Rayyan;
 - 17-year-old Ahmed Nemir Abdul-Latif Zaghrh;
 - 17-year-old Ismail Atif Abu Sultan;
 - 15-year-old Abdul-Karim Hosni Al Haw;
 - 16-year-old Mahmoud Nayif Hnediq;

- 16 –year- old, Mahmoud Na'eem Al-Attar and,
- 17-year-old Abdul-Mu'ti Osama Sa'ad.

Medical sources also announced the death of 20-year-old Bilal al-Jamal, who died from wounds he sustained near Talet Al Rayes in eastern Gaza City. Also, 20-year-old Mahmoud Munzir Abdul-Kader Rayyan died from wounds he sustained when an IOF drone shelled the former Civil Administration area.

- (37) At approximately 5:00pm on 1 March 2008, IOF warplanes fired two missiles at a group of young men, who were in the former Civil Administration area east of Jabalia. As a result, four of them were killed: Tamer Mahmoud Al Weshahi, Muhammad Abdul-Kader I'kilan, Hassan Kamal Abu Harb and Muhammad Abdul-Hakim Abu Rayya. The ages of the victims remained unknown. No injuries were reported.
- (38) At approximately 5:05pm on 1 March 2008, IOF warplanes fired two missiles that landed in an open area near the Jabalia Preparatory School for Boys. No injuries were reported.
- (39) At approximately 5:10pm 1 March 2008, IOF drones launched one missile that landed on a farm west of Al Fakhoura School in western Jabalia refugee camp, but no casualties were reported.
- (40) At approximately 8:05pm on 1 March 2008, IOF drones launched one missile at a group of young men, who were in Al Mahkama Street in the eastern Riyadh As Saleheen area in Jabalia. As a result, 20-year-old Mohanad Omar al-Anshasy was killed. No other casualties were reported.
- (41) At approximately 8:30pm on 1 March 2008, the IOF notified the family of Awad Mousa Az Zainen, on Al Qaraman Street in Beit Hanoun, that it was going to bombard their home. After the news of the bombardment spread, hundreds of neighbors gathered on the roof of the two-story house to prevent the bombing.
- (42) At approximately 1:00am 2 March 2008, IOF helicopters launched one missile that landed in agricultural areas west of Beit Lahia. No casualties were reported.
- (43) At approximately 1:30am on 2 March 2008, IOF warships fired an artillery shell at a group of young men gathered near chalets (beach cabin) on Jabalia Beach. Consequently, 20-year-old Khalid Kamal Ez ad-Din was killed when his body was blown into pieces. No other injuries were reported.
- (44) At approximately 8:30am on 2 March 2008, IOF snipers opened fire towards a home in Ezbet Abed Rabbo area, broke into it, and stationed into it. From this house, they opened fire at anyone who moved in this area. As a result, 25-year-old Wasim Fayez Abed-Rabbo was shot and died ten minutes after he arrived to Kamal Udwan Hospital.

- (45) At approximately 11:40am on 2 March 2008, IOF tanks in Al Qerem area shelled a car with artillery. The car was travelling on Salah ad-Din Street. As a result, the car was destroyed and two men inside it were killed. The victims were identified as 18-year-old Muhammad Imad Haliwa and 19-year-old Luo'ai Jamal Jendiya.
- (46) At approximately 1:30pm on 2 March 2008, IOF tanks in Al Qerem area launched an artillery shell at a group of young men gathered near Zimmo junction in eastern Jabalia. Consequently, 18-year-old Mahmoud Abdul-Khaleq Abu Itta and 19-year-old Abdul-Rahim Muhammad Saleh were killed. No other injuries or casualties were reported in this attack.
- (47) At approximately 3:45pm on 2 March 2008, IOF tanks in Al Qerem area (eastern Jabalia) launched an artillery shell that hit the two-story home of Abdul-Karim al-Shamaly in Teleza'tar neighborhood. It hit the roof and the stairs room of the house. There were no reports of injuries among the eight residents of this home.
- (48) At approximately 4:10pm on 2 March 2008, IOF tanks entered Al Qerem area under heavy fire. They opened fire at 21-year-old Fadi Jamal Motran, who was trying to retrieve the bodies of victims lying near the al-Salam Mosque in the area. He was injured by a live bullet to his left leg.
- (49) At approximately 4:15pm on 2 March 2008, ten IOF tanks penetrated from the northern border into Al Khosa area, northwest of Beit Lahia, amid heavy fire. They remain there as of the issuance of this report.
- (50) At approximately 7:20pm on 2 March 2008, IOF helicopters fired one missile at an open area east of Al Qerem area in eastern Jabalia. No casualties or damages were reported.
- (51) At approximately 9:10pm on 2 March 2008, IOF helicopters launched one missile at a group of men gathered in as-Seka area, east of Jabalia refugee camp. 38-year-old Naim Abu Al Hosna and 25-year-old Rayed Jnaid were killed as a result. A third person was injured and reported to have sustained serious injury.
- (52) At approximately 11:50pm, On 2 March 2008, IOF helicopters launched one missile at a carpentry shop that is owned by Muhammad Yousef Shabat in Beit Hanoun. As a result, the shop was destroyed completely. No casualties were reported.
- (53) At approximately 12:35am on 3 March 2008, IOF warplanes fired two missiles at a metal workshop that was owned by Hatem Al Batran, located on Al Hawaja Street in central Jabalia refugee camp. The shelling led to the total destruction of the workshop, but no injuries were reported.
- (54) At approximately 12:50am on 3 March 2008, IOF warplanes shelled a carpentry workshop that belongs to Emad Muhammad Abu Habil in Teleza'tar neighborhood in eastern Jabalia. The shelling destroyed the shop completely. No injuries were reported.

- (55) Despite the IOF's withdrawal from areas it penetrated, at approximately 7:50am on 3 March 2008, IOF warplanes fired one missile at a group of young men gathered near a customs office on Al Karams Road in eastern Jabalia town. As a result, two were critically injured. Ten minutes prior to this incident, the IOF shelled a ground-to-ground missile into an open area east of this spot, but no injuries were reported.
- (56) At approximately 3:30am on 3 March 2008, the IOF began to withdraw from areas in north Gaza over which it imposed military control, namely eastern Jabalia town, and completed their withdrawal at approximately 6:00am that day. As a result, there was considerable destruction to private property and agricultural lands. Al Mezan started its work to complete field documentation.

b. Gaza City

- (1) At approximately 4:15pm on 27 February 2008, the IOF, stationed on the eastern border, launched a ground-to-ground missile that landed on a farm in the vicinity of Talet Al Rayes in eastern At Tuffah neighborhood of Gaza City. As a result, 35-year-old Minwir Rizik Abu Mandil was killed immediately when his body was blown into pieces. 59-year-old Hamad Mershed Attia Al Masalha died at hospital hours later from injuries he sustained in the attack. The shelling led to the injury of a 32-year-old woman, Sobhiya Hamad Mhessen Al Masalha by shrapnel throughout her body. All of them were residents of Al Maghazi refugee camp.
- (2) At approximately 10:45pm on 27 February 2008, an IOF helicopter launched three missiles at the Ministry of Interior building in western Gaza City. The shelling led to the destruction of the three upper floors of the five-story building. It led also to partial damage of several neighboring houses, and the death of the baby Muhammad Nasser Abed Al Aziz Al Borai, who was seven months old. He died as a result of falling debris on his home, which is opposite the Ministry. The baby is an only child, and was born five years into their marriage. In the same incident, five citizens were injured from glass when windows shattered; especially in the neighboring eleven-floor Shifa Tower.
- (3) At approximately 11:00pm on 27 February 2008, an IOF helicopter launched two missiles at a metal workshop, belonging to 54-year-old Muhammad Al Said Felfel, on Kishku Street in az-Zaitoun neighborhood in southern Gaza City. The shelling destroyed the workshop completely.
- (4) At approximately 11:30pm on 27 February 2008, an IOF helicopter launched three missiles at another building of the Ministry of the Interior in the ad-Daraj neighborhood on Port Said Street. The shelling destroyed the three upper floors of the five-story building, but no injuries were reported.

- (5) At approximately 12:30am on 28 February 2008, an IOF helicopter fired two missiles at a store for the sale and electric of batteries. This store belongs to 35-year-old Amin Saleh al-Areashi in Sheik Ijleen neighborhood. As a result, the store was destroyed completely in addition to partial damage to the first floor of the building.
- (6) At approximately 2:00am on 28 February 2008, an IOF helicopter launched two missiles at a gathering of resistance members on Baghdad Street in Al Shaja'ia neighborhood of Gaza City. Two civilians from the neighborhood were injured: a 33-year-old man, Maher Harbi Sukkar, and a 19-year-old women, Basma Ghazi Sukkar.
- (7) At approximately 5:30am on 28 February 2008, an IOF drone launched one missile at the gathering of resistance members near at-Tawfi Mosque on Baghdad Street. The mosque is located in Al Shaja'ia neighborhood of Gaza City. Consequently, 23-year-old Ahmed Saleem Mustafa Assimari and 25-year-old Amjad Yihya Abdul-Hakim al-Amriti were killed. Two others were injured in the attack. Those killed were members of the resistance group Nasser Salah ad-Din Brigades.
- (8) At approximately 5:30am on 28 February 2008, an IOF drone launched one missile at a gathering of resistance members of Hassanein in Al Shaja'ia neighborhood in Gaza City. One of the members of the Ezadin Al Qassam Brigades, 19-year-old Luo'ai Fayiq Said Kaneeta was killed. Two others were injured with different wounds.
- (9) Medical sources announced the death of 26-year-old Rami Ramadan Khalifa, who was injured during an IOF shelling of az-Zeitoun neighborhood at approximately 10:00am on 28 February 2008. Medical crews also found the body of 16-year-old Amjad Hafez as-Sakany near the eastern cemetery. His identity was unknown until later that day.
- (10) At approximately 10:00am on 28 February 2008, an IOF drone launched one missile at a group of the Al Qassam Brigades in eastern az-Zaitoun neighborhood in Gaza City. As a result, many people were killed and injured; including:
 - 22-year-old Hamza Khalil Ismail Al Hayya from Al Shaja'ia neighborhood; and,
 - 23-year-old Jawad Khamis Jawad Tafish from az-Zaitnoun neighborhood.The following people were injured in the attack:
 - 26-year-old Rami Ramadan Khalifa, whose two legs were amputated; and,
 - 22-year-old Adel Jamal Hamdiya, whose leg was crushed.
- (11) At approximately 5:05pm on 28 February 2008, IOF warplanes fired a police station located behind Al Shati (Beach) refugee camp, which is located near PM Ismael Haniya's home. As a result, one policeman 22-year-old Mohammad Al Helou was killed. Four other policemen were injured and were reported to have sustained serious wounds.

- (12) At approximately 6:00pm on 28 February 2008, an IOF drone fired a missile at a group of resistance members gathered in eastern Al Shaja'ia neighborhood. No injuries were reported.
- (13) At approximately 7:30pm on 28 February 2008, an IOF helicopter fired two missiles at Al Qassam Brigades training base in western Al Makkosi towers, in western Nasser neighborhood of Gaza City. No injuries were reported.
- (14) At approximately 8:20pm on 28 February 2008, an IOF helicopter launched two missiles at a truck used for transporting beverages. The truck was traveling near Al Shifa tower, which is near the Al Shifa Hospital, in western Gaza City. As a result, 26-year-old Khalil Mahmoud Ahel and 30-year-old Muhammad Mas'oud Al Helou were killed. The two were members of Nasser Salah ad-Din Brigades. The shelling also led to the injury of two other passersby.
- (15) At approximately 9:45pm on 29 February 2008, an IOF helicopter fired two missiles at a metal workshop Askola area in az-Zeitoun neighborhood in eastern Gaza City. The workshop is owned by Mousa Sha'ban and it was destroyed. The IOF targeted this workshop more than once since the beginning of the current Intifada.
- (16) At approximately 11:00pm on 29 February 2008, medical sources announced the death of 17-year-old Ala'a Ayman Al Bourno, resident of Al Shati refugee camp. He died from injuries he sustained in the shelling of the Al Shati police station while he was going to visit a friend at the time of the incident.
- (17) At approximately 2:30am on 29 February 2008, an IOF helicopter launched two missiles at shops under the home of Khalil Ahel, whom the IOF killed while he was in a truck along with one of his friends. The shelling damaged these shops, which spanned an area of 500 square meters. Ahel's home was also damaged.
- (18) Later on 2 March 2008, an IOF helicopter fired one missile at a metal workshop owned by Hisham Al Masri on as-Sahaba Street in Ad-Daraj neighborhood in Gaza City. The workshop received severe damage. Windows of neighboring homes were shattered by the explosion. No injuries were reported.
- (19) At approximately 8:00pm on 2 March 2008, IOF warplanes fired one missile at Khalid Ahel's home. The IOF had shelled his home the previous day. There were people in the home, mourning Ahel's death from when the IOF shelled his beverage truck (see no. 14 above). No one was injured in this attack.
- (20) At approximately 11:00pm on 1 March 2008, medical sources and the Civil Defense Forces announced that they found the body of 62-year-old Abdul-Rahman Mohammad Attalah under the ruins of his home, which was bombarded by the IOF earlier that evening. The house is located on an-Nafaq Street. At approximately 11:00am on 2 March 2008, two other bodies were found, including 30-year-old Raja'

Abdul-Rahman Attalah and her sister, 25-year-old, Ibtissam Abdul-Rahman Attalah. The number of people killed in the Attalah home rose to six.

- (21) At approximately 1:28am on 2 March 2008, an IOF helicopter fired two missiles at the Council of Ministers building on Aidya Street near Al Shifa Tower in western Gaza City. As a result, the building was damaged partially; no casualties were reported.
- (22) At approximately 1:35am on 3 March 2008, an IOF drone fired one missile at a crowd in eastern at-Tuffah neighborhood in Gaza City. Two members of the Mujahadeen Brigades, which is linked to Fateh, were killed. They were identified as 20-year-old Ramzi Rebh- Khweetir and 24-year-old Abdul-Fatha Muhammad Abdul-'Al. Also, two other civilians were injured with various wounds.
- (23) At approximately 2:40am on 3 March 2008, an IOF drone fired one missile at a group of citizens near the Grand Palace Hotel located on the beach in western Gaza City. As a result, one member of the Al Qassam Brigades, 20-year-old Ibrahim Said al-Masri, was killed and three other civilians were injured with different wounds.

c. Deir Al Balah (Central Gaza Strip)

- (1) At approximately 10:30pm on 1 March 2008, a group of Palestinian resistance fighters clashed with IOF troops. The soldiers were backed by IOF helicopters and drones, which launched two missiles injuring one of them was injured by shrapnel and was transferred to Al Aqsa Hospital in Deir Balah. Later, due to his serious injuries, he was transferred to Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. He remains in intensive care.
- (2) At approximately 2:20am on 3 March 2008, IOF warplanes fired one missile at a base belonging to the naval police of the deposed government, located on a coastal road near Gaza Valley Bridge in an-Nuseirat refugee camp. Twenty minutes later, IOF warplanes returned and launched two missiles. One of them did not explode. The shelling killed one policeman, 34-year-old Darwish Mekdad, and injured another, 24-year-old Walid Tawfiq Abu Yousef, whoc was transferred to Al Aqsa Hospital, and later to Al Shifa Hospital. He was reported to have sustained serious injury.

d. Khan Younis

- (1) At approximately 8:45 am on 27 February 2008, IOF helicopters launched two missiles targeting a minibus which was traveling on the coastal road in Al Mawasi area west Khan Younis. As a result, the vehicle was destroyed completely and five passengers were killed and blown into pieces. They were identified as:
- 29-year-old Omar Atteyeh Salama Abu Akar;
 - 24-year-old Aziz Jawdat Mas'oud;
 - 20-year-old Muhammad Majdi Abu Lehssain;

- 24-year-old Abdullah Muhammad Yahya Udwan; and,
 - 19-year-old Hassan Nour Ahmed al-Motawak.
- (2) At approximately 11:15 pm on 27 February 2008, an IOF helicopter launched two missiles at Salama metal workshop near al-Kattiba Mosque in western Khan Younis. The workshop is owned by Amer Muhammad Khalid Ali. The attack destroyed the workshop completely, in addition to damaging a neighboring workshop for car upholstery that belongs to Attyah Ahmed Al Selawi.
 - (3) At approximately 11:55 pm on 27 February 2008, an IOF helicopter launched two missiles at Abu Ghneima metal workshop, belonging to Ibrahim Suleiman Baraka on Al Quds Street in Bani Suhaila village in eastern Khan Younis. As a result, the building was damaged but no injuries were reported.
 - (4) At approximately 10:15pm on 28 February 2008, IOF warplanes launched at least one missile at a car that belongs to an electricity company in Khan Younis. At the time of the incident, it was parked near an electric transformer in al-Wafaya area, located on the main road that links the al-Kattiba and al-Amal areas in Khan Younis. As a result, the car was set ablaze and destroyed completely. Two maintenance workers in the car: 22-year-old Mohammad Suliman Shamyah was killed and, his coworker, 28-year-old Bahy Adham Al Farrah was injured seriously.
 - (5) At approximately 8:35pm on 1 March 2008, an IOF drone launched one missile at a police car in Khan Younis. The car was parked close to the police station in Khan Younis, in Al Mahata area. Three police officers were in the car guarding the police station. The missile hit the car directly, setting it ablaze and destroying it completely. Consequently, 24-year-old Rafat Yassin Hamad and 24-year-old Hassan Ibrahim Abu an-Naja were killed. 26-year-old Muhammad Abu Shammalah was injured and transferred to Nasser Hospital for treatment. He was reported to have sustained serious injury.
 - (6) At approximately 1:15am on 2 March 2008, the IOF fired one missile at an empty one-story house in Abasan al-Kaberah area. The 150 square meter house belonged to Osama Ali Ahmed Abu al-Hassan "Tabash". As a result, the shelling destroyed the house and caused damage to five neighboring houses. No injuries were reported.
 - (7) At approximately 1:50am on 2 March 2008, IOF warplanes fired two missiles at a group of resistance fighters gathered on a farm in the Abbasan al-Jadida town. The shelling destroyed a room covered in asbestos, which was attached to Riyadh Abdul-Rahman al-Daghma's home. No injuries were reported
 - (8) At approximately 1:15pm on 3 March 2008, IOF warplanes fired one missile at the office of PLC members of the 'Change and Reform Bloc'. The office is located on the second floor of Hashim al-Farrah tower, which is off of Jamal Abdul-Nasser Street in central Khan Younis. The shelling caused severe damage to the office and its

contents. Some residential apartments opposite the tower were damaged. No injuries were reported.

e. Rafah

- (1) At approximately 7:00pm on 27 February 2008, the IOF troops, stationed in the watchtowers near the Kerem Shalom Crossing, opened fire near the vicinity of the Gaza International Airport in al-Shouka village in Rafah. As a result, 20-year-old Muhammed Hamdan al-Farrah was injured by shrapnel to his left thigh. He was transferred to Al Najjar Hospital for treatment.
- (2) At approximately 10:04pm on 1 March 2008, IOF warplanes launched five missiles at Bader Mosque, which is under construction. The mosque is located 10 meters from the police station's western gate in Rafah's main governorate (central Rafah). As a result, the building was destroyed completely and six policemen were killed. Their bodies were blown into pieces.

Twenty-eight citizens in neighboring houses were injured, including six children and six women.

A journalist for the Associated Press (AP), 25-year-old Tamer Nasser ad-Din Ziyara, was also injured.

Damage was inflicted on stores belonging to UNRWA, which are opposite the mosque. One of the store's guards was injured. There was damage to the Rafah Primary School for Boys, which is close to the shelling, and also to a number of neighboring shops.

The victims were identified as:

- 36-year-old Samir Hamdi Sa'id Asfour "Keshta";
- 31-year-old Khalid Ahmed A'id Abu Eidah;
- 26-year-old Sadeq Yousef Nayf al-Balishi;
- 21-year-old Muhammad Omar Subhi Abu Ne'mah;
- 34-year-old Emad Ibrahim Muhammad el-Talaa'; and,
- 20-year-old Subhi Mofeed Awadallah.

Of the 32 residential homes damaged in the shelling, one was destroyed completely. Fifty-one families, a total of 260 citizens, inhabited these homes.

- (3) At approximately 2:12am on 2 March 2008, IOF helicopters fired three missiles at Palestine Carpentry, which belongs to Muhammad Salim Hamattu Abu Taha. The shop is located on Block O. The shelling caused material damage to the shop.
- (4) At approximately 11:15am on 2 March 2008, an IOF special unit, backed by many military vehicles, penetrated two kilometers past the Karem Shalom Crossing. This Crossing is on the eastern border line of Rafah. They penetrated the Al Jaradat area and opened fire intensively towards this area.

- (5) At approximately 1:20am on 3 March 2008, IOF helicopters fired two missiles at a number of shops, located under a residential building on Zo'rob junction on Abu Baker Street in western Rafah. The following shops were completely destroyed: 1) metal workshop owned by Dawoud Abdul-' Al; 2) Zo'rob Paint Store, owned by Yasser Suliman Zo'rob; and 3) Hejazy Aluminum Shop, owned to Naim Hamdan Hejazy. Severe damage was inflicted on a storage room in an emergency and first aid center that belongs to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Rafah. It put crew members at the center at risk. The two-story residential building belongs to Hamdan Awwad Suliman Hejazy, and it is inhabited by five families of 26 citizens, including 15 children.

Conclusion

These above mentioned facts clarify the IOF's conducts violate systematically the rules of general international law, International Humanitarian Law and the human rights standards. This led to a seriously deteriorated state of human rights in the OPT in general, and particularly in Gaza, during the period of this report.

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights considers that one of the main elements leading to the ongoing and escalating Israeli aggression and crimes committed against civilians and civilian propriety in OPT is the inaction of the international community, especially the High Contracting Parties of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Those who signed the Convention bear an outstanding international obligation, under the Convention, to respect and ensure its respect by other Parties. They therefore must take effective action to stop the IOF violations according to the principles of IHL. Al Mezan affirms that Israel is under an obligation, as an Occupying Power, to fulfill its obligations under IHL, even as it attempts to ensure its security.

Thus, the Center calls on the international community, and especially the Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, to uphold its obligations. The Parties are called on to re-affirm the applicability of the Convention on the OPT, and to act upon the principles and obligations emanating from it.

Al Mezan affirms that the Israel's escalating violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention should push the Parties to hold a special conference on the OPT. This will offer them an opportunity to examine the measures that should be taken as a part of their obligations to ensure the Convention is respected by the Parties in all circumstances. At the same time, the Center considers that any action to activate the role of the international community should provide immediate protection for civilians, stop the blockade that constitutes a brutal policy of unlawful collective punishment, and put an end to the ongoing Israeli aggression on the OPT.

END