



## **Cast Lead Offensive in Numbers**

**Statistical Report on:**

**Persons Killed and Property Damaged or Destroyed in the Gaza Strip by the Israeli Occupation Forces during Operation Cast Lead  
(27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009)**

### **Acknowledgements**

Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights expresses appreciation to the following organizations for their major contribution to the success of this documentation project:

Al Haq – Law in the Service of Man  
The NGO Development Center (NDC)  
CARE International (WBG)  
Save the Children UK (SCUK)  
Rights & Democracy, Canada

*The views expressed in this report do not necessarily represent the views of the above organizations*

## Introduction

In late December 2008, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) launched a major offensive, unprecedented in scope and brutality, against the Gaza Strip. The offensive was launched at approximately 11.30am on Saturday 27 December 2008, with a surprise airstrike campaign carried out by 80 warplanes. This attack targeted the majority of police stations and security premises throughout Gaza, in addition to numerous other targets. Lasting just five minutes, this attack was devastating, due to its timing, scale and types of weaponry used. It became clear in the first moments of the attack that the IOF intended to inflict a high level of destruction and killing. From the outset of the offensive, the IOF did not appear to pay any concern to the fate of civilians, such as the hundreds of police officers working inside their stations as the airstrikes were carried out. At the main police headquarters in Gaza City, many of these young men were just graduating from training. The attacks were carried out at the peak time of police activity, with many civilians attending police stations across Gaza to respond to summons or file complaints. Many civilians were therefore killed in these places.

The timing of the attacks also sparked a state of panic among Gaza's children as it coincided with school arrival and departure times when nearly all of Gaza's school students were in the streets or inside school grounds.<sup>1</sup> Several school children were killed in these attacks. The offensive continued with intense air, artillery and naval attacks on the Gaza Strip until 2am on 18 January 2009 after the Israeli Government had declared a unilateral ceasefire. Israeli military attacks concentrated primarily on North Gaza district and Gaza district although less intense attacks were carried-out across the Gaza Strip. This 22-day military offensive was unprecedented in terms of the scale of grave and systematic violations of the rules of international humanitarian law (IHL) and especially the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilians at Time of War of 1949 (GCIV) and Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1977 Relative to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts.

Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights and other national (Palestinian) and international organizations have collected evidence which demonstrates clearly that many of the IOF attacks qualify as grave breaches of GCIV and were carried out in a systematic and deliberate manner, rendering them war crimes and crimes against humanity according to international law. The IOF systematically targeted civilian objects without apparent military necessity, including residential homes; targeted groups of civilians gathered in one place; willfully killed civilians, even those trying to flee their area of residence after the start of the ground invasion which commenced in the early hours of 3 January 2009; and deliberately targeted internally displaced persons in their shelters. Three [UNRWA managed shelters](#) directly targeted are UNRWA schools that had previously notified the IOF of their exact locations, were flying the UN flag and had large UN flags painted on the rooftops. The IOF also targeted [prayers in the mosques and at the entrance to the mosques](#) and used [civilians as human shields](#), forcing them to accompany them, and using them in operations in which residential homes were searched. In some incidents, civilians were forced to negotiate with Palestinian resistance fighters, placing their lives in grave danger.

[Medical teams, ambulances and civil defense teams](#) became the direct target of IOF attacks along with civilians attempting to rescue the injured and remove the bodies of their killed relatives and neighbors.

Journalists and media outlets were also targeted by the IOF in an attempt to obscure the truth of the crimes they were perpetrating. Several [Palestinian journalists](#) were killed. The Israeli authorities also imposed a blockade which prevented the entry into Gaza of foreign media teams. The following civilian objects became a direct target of IOF attacks on a broad scale: civilian infrastructure, water networks, sanitation networks and mosques. The IOF also used internationally prohibited weapons, or legal weapons in an illegal way, such as the widespread use of white phosphorus in residential areas.

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<sup>1</sup> The vast majority of schools in Gaza operate a shift system with some children attending in the mornings and others in the afternoons

This report presents documented statistical material on the damage inflicted on civilians and their property by the IOF during Operation Cast Lead. Information in the report is based on an extensive field survey in which interviews with victims and eyewitnesses were conducted and supporting evidence such as medical reports examined.

### **Field Research Methodology**

This report presents information collected by Al Mezan in a large scale survey. The survey commenced on Wednesday 21 January - three days after the Israeli government declared a unilateral ceasefire. The data collection strategy was planned during Operation Cast Lead as Al Mezan's permanent field workers remained in the field during this time and were therefore able to estimate the scale and type of destruction inflicted on each district. Al Mezan recruited an additional team of temporary field workers and trained them on how to use questionnaires to document violations perpetrated and damage caused during Operation Cast Lead. The use of questionnaires is a documentation tool which has been employed and developed by Al Mezan since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in September 2000. Information in the questionnaires is corroborated with other sources such physical evidence, sworn witness testimonies and medical reports.

#### **Selection of Field Workers**

The additional team of temporary field workers was recruited and selected on the basis of the following criteria: academic achievement and previous voluntary work experience with Al Mezan in the field of documentation. Field workers were allocated to conduct research in the areas where they are resident in order to ensure comprehensive knowledge of the locality and the ability to access victims. Al Mezan's five experienced permanent field workers acted as coordinators and supervisors for the work of the temporary field workers.

#### **Survey Questionnaires:**

Al Mezan prepared 30,000 copies of different types of questionnaires in order to collect data on violations perpetrated and damage inflicted. Different questionnaires were used to collect information about the following violations:

- The violation of the right to life (killing)
- The destruction of homes
- The bulldozing of agricultural land
- Destruction of farms including chicken and cow farms
- Destruction to trade premises
- Destruction to industrial premises
- Destruction to public premises including governmental, non-government, medical, educational, health etc.
- The destruction of vehicles
- Detentions

Each questionnaire incorporates a large set of questions - 95 percent of which are closed questions in order to facilitate data analysis and the remainder open ended questions in order to capture qualitative information such as descriptions of incidents. The following example of the questionnaire used to document violations of the right to life is an example of the type of questionnaire used by Al Mezan in documentation:

#### *Example: Questionnaire on the Right to Life*

The questionnaire on violations of the right to life (killing) was used to document persons killed by the IOF or for reasons related to the presence of the IOF in the Gaza Strip. The questionnaire collected the following information: personal data such as socio-economic status, refugee status, occupation, marital status, number of family members, number of children and number of dependents; the circumstances of the incident including location, time, identity of perpetrator, weapon used, accompanying circumstances, direction of the attack, place of the injury in the body, the reason why the victim was in the location at the time, whether the victim died immediately or in the hours or days after the incident, whether they received immediate medical attention and whether other persons were killed or injured in the same incident.

The questionnaire also records information on the person who provided the information, the person who completed the questionnaire and the date of the conducting of the questionnaire. The questionnaire is conducted via a face-to-face individual interview with the victim or the victim's family.

### **The Distribution of Field Researchers**

Al Mezan distributed the permanent and temporary field workers throughout Gaza as follows:

- North Gaza district: 10 temporary field workers supervised and supported by Al Mezan's permanent field worker for North Gaza district
- Gaza district: 12 temporary field workers supervised and supported by Al Mezan's permanent field workers for Gaza district
- Middle district (Deir al-Balah): 2 temporary field workers supervised and supported by Al Mezan's permanent field worker for Middle district
- Khan Younis district: 2 temporary field workers supervised and supported by Al Mezan's permanent field workers for Khan Younis district
- Rafah district: 3 field workers supervised and supported by Al Mezan's permanent field worker for Rafah district

The permanent field workers allocated the temporary field workers to different regions and coordinated to ensure there was no duplication in the documentation of incidents in nearby areas.

### **Logistical Support**

Al Mezan allocated one office based staff member to provide daily support to the field workers in terms of preparing questionnaires, daily reports of each region and receiving completed questionnaires. The questionnaires were transferred to office staff for a process of verification and review, and for preparation for entry into the database.

### **Collection and Verification of Questionnaires**

The permanent field workers assumed the task of collecting the questionnaires from the additional team of temporary field workers, categorizing them and submitting them to the Field Unit Coordinator. The questionnaires were then categorized by type of violation and region, reviewed to identify missing information, finalized and then transferred to data entry staff for entry into Al Mezan's database.

### **Data Entry**

Al Mezan allocated seven employees to the data entry process: five data entry officers; one employee specialized in verifying information after data entry; and one employee specialized in computer programs who provided guidance on the data entry system and addressed any technical problems arising from the process of data entry. The questionnaires entered into the database were then transferred to another staff member to check for spelling or typing errors which were then corrected and then reentered into the database.

### **Accuracy Level and Data Verification:**

The accuracy level of the documentation of violations, including the violation of the right to life, is extremely high due to the multiple verification stages in the documentation process conducted by different staff members. This applies to other types of violation. In terms of data missing from the questionnaires, the verification process shows that there are some missing pieces of data in only a few dozen of the questionnaires; however, missing data occurs only in minor fields of the questionnaire forms. None of the questionnaires is missing information from any main fields, such as ID information, address and type of damage or violation.

### **General Note**

Al Mezan has completed the process of data entry and data verification of the questionnaires. In the future, Al Mezan intends to computerize the archiving of all supporting evidence such as autopsy reports, birth certificates and land ownership deeds. However, due to technical limitations this is not possible at current and these documents remain in paper archives.

## Definitions

Child: Al Mezan employs the Child Rights Convention (1989) definition of a child as all persons who have not yet reached the age of 18 including unborn children.

Females/Women: In this report the term female(s) refers to women and girls regardless of their ages. The term woman/women refers to females who are older than 18 years of age.

Combatant/Non-Combatant: This report categorizes a combatant as any person killed during armed confrontation i.e. during his/her active participation in minor or major hostilities during Operation Cast Lead. In addition, included in this category is persons known for their affiliation to a resistance group and participating in hostilities in a continuous manner, even if not engaged in hostilities at the time in which they were targeted. In this category, Al Mezan includes persons who were killed by the IOF in targeted, extra-legal assassinations carried out by the IOF during Operation Cast Lead. Bystanders and/or passersby who were in the locations of such assassination operations and believed not to be targeted by IOF's assassination were classified as non-combatants.

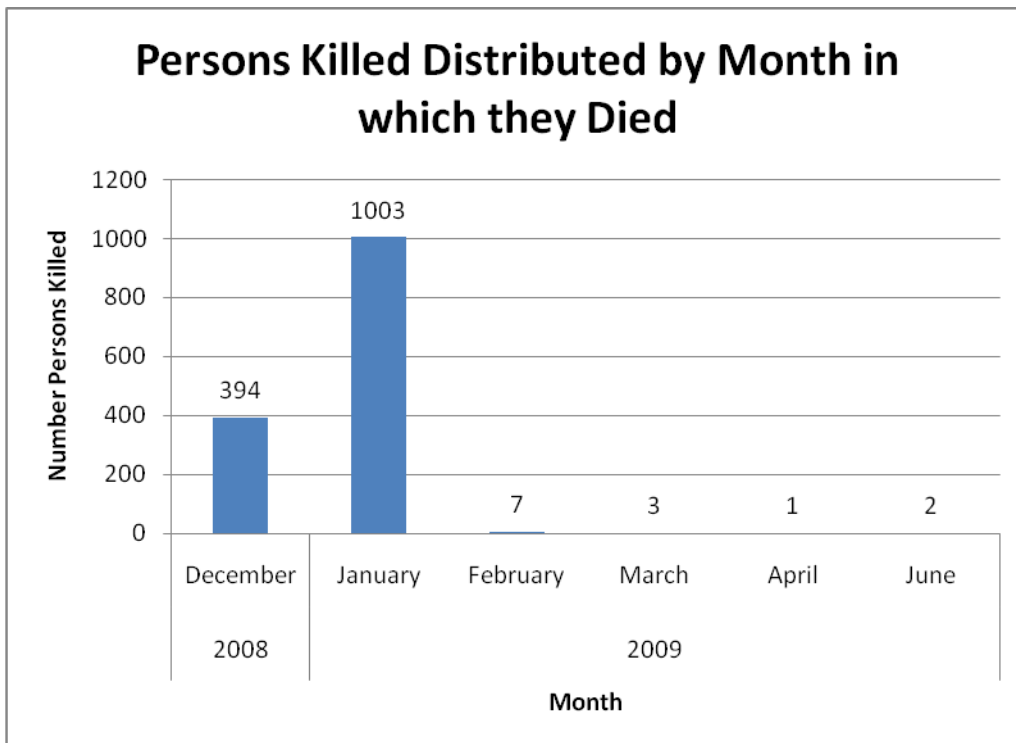
Further, it is important to note that politically affiliated persons killed in arbitrary attacks were not considered combatants. The IOF did not declare that it directly targeted them, and – according to Al Mezan's investigations - they were not taking part in any way in hostilities when they were killed. A good example of this is the victims of the attacks on the police force killed on the first day while inside the police stations. Some of them are known to have used to be affiliated to political groups and/or armed wings of political groups but gave up this role when joining the police force. Thus the vast majority of civil police officers killed by the IOF during Operation Cast Lead were not involved in any hostile activities directly or indirectly when they were attacked. After Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip in June 2007, the Palestinian National Authority's members of the regular police force stopped attending their work, and the Hamas-led government recruited many police officers; including from its members. The vast majority of these individuals then ceased their resistance activities thereby becoming non-combatants. The very small numbers of civil police who remained involved in resistance activities were classified by Al Mezan as 'combatants' and removed from the category 'civil police' as in the below table. The real test that was employed by Al Mezan in this report is strictly the subject's involvement in hostilities at the time of the attack.

### **Important Note Concerning the Status of Casualties:**

There has been much discussion and debate on the numbers of combatants and non-combatants killed by the IOF during Operation Cast Lead. It is important in this regard to highlight the issue of the 'adoption' of killed persons by resistance groups; i.e. declaration by a political or armed group that the person killed was one of their members. Often, when persons, including children, are killed by IOF actions, political and/or armed groups 'adopt' them as 'martyrs' placing their photographs on their websites and commending their contribution to resisting occupation. This does not mean that those persons killed were involved in resistance activities in any way. The families accept this 'adoption' of killed family members for various reasons including the willingness of resistance groups to provide financial support to the families and pay for funeral costs of the persons killed. These cases require in-depth investigation on a case-by-case basis in order to determine every person's status according to his actual affiliation as well as involvement in hostilities, or the lack thereof.

**Table 1: Persons Killed by IOF Actions During Operation Cast Lead Distributed by Month in which they Died**

Year	Month	No.
2008	December	394
2009	January	1003
	February	7
	March	3
	April	1
	June	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>1410</b>



**Table 2: Number Persons Killed by Combatant/Non-Combatant Status**

Category	Number Persons Killed
<b>Combatants (resistance fighters)</b>	<b>234</b>
Of which assassinated	13
Of which children	12
<b>Non-combatants</b>	<b>1176</b>
Of which children	343
Of which women	111
Of which civil police	136
Of which emergency workers on the line of duty	17
<b>Total number of children killed (combatants and non-combatants)</b>	<b>355</b>
<b>Total number persons killed</b>	<b>1410</b>

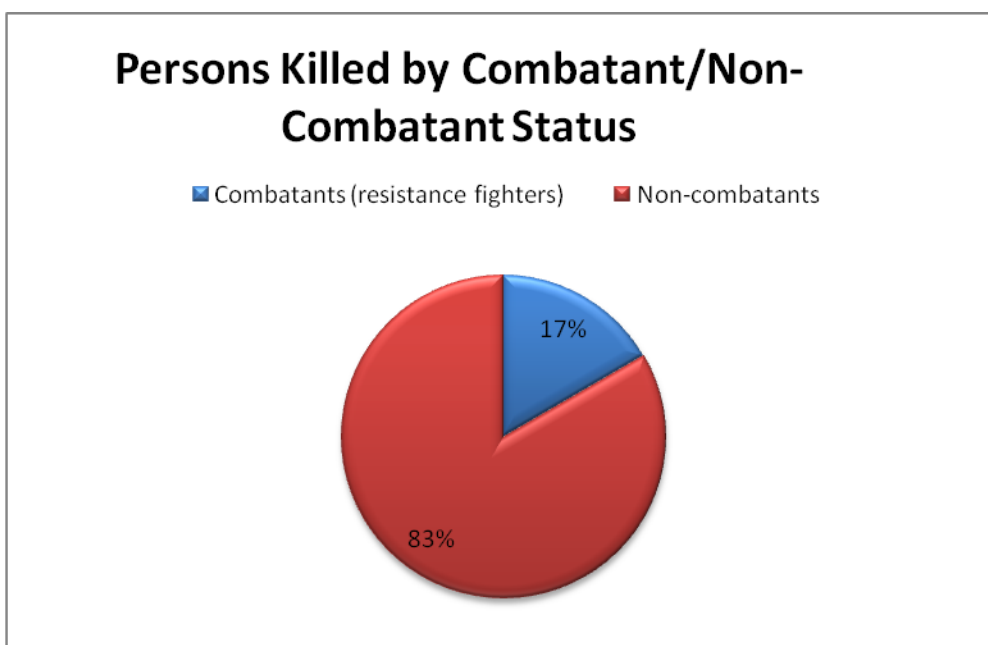


Table 3: Persons Killed Distributed by Gender and District

Gender	District										Total	
	North Gaza		Gaza		Middle		Khan Younis		Rafah			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Male</b>	387	76.90	520	86.80	141	94.00	95	94.06	56	96.50	<b>1199</b>	<b>85.04</b>
<b>Female</b>	115	23.10	79	13.20	9	6.00	6	5.94	2	3.40	<b>211</b>	<b>14.96</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1410</b>	<b>100</b>

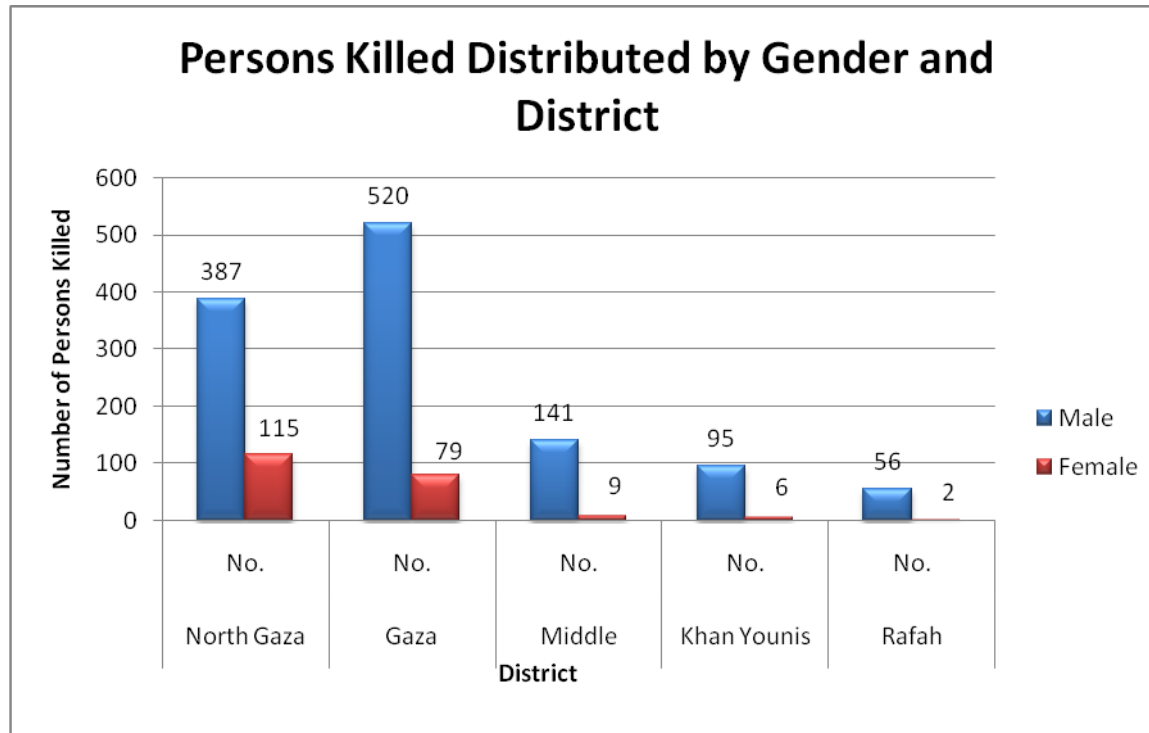




Table 4 : Persons Killed Distributed by Type of Weapon Used and Age Category

Type of Weapon	Age Category								Total	
	0-17		18-40		41-60		60+			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Heavy Weapon	4	1.13	4	0.49	3	1.71	2	3.28	13	0.92
Falchettes	1	0.28	2	0.24	0	0.00	1	1.64	4	0.28
Missile	243	65.07	704	84.76	134	76.00	34	54.10	1115	77.39
Artillery	57	15.77	60	7.32	19	10.86	8	11.48	144	10.06
Explosive bullet	0	0.00	3	0.37	0	0.00	1	1.64	4	0.28
Other	24	6.76	19	2.32	5	2.86	3	4.92	51	3.61
Shooting	23	6.48	27	3.41	14	8.00	11	18.03	75	5.39
Explosive Device	2	0.56	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	0.14
Gas	1	0.28	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.64	2	0.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1410</b>	<b>100</b>

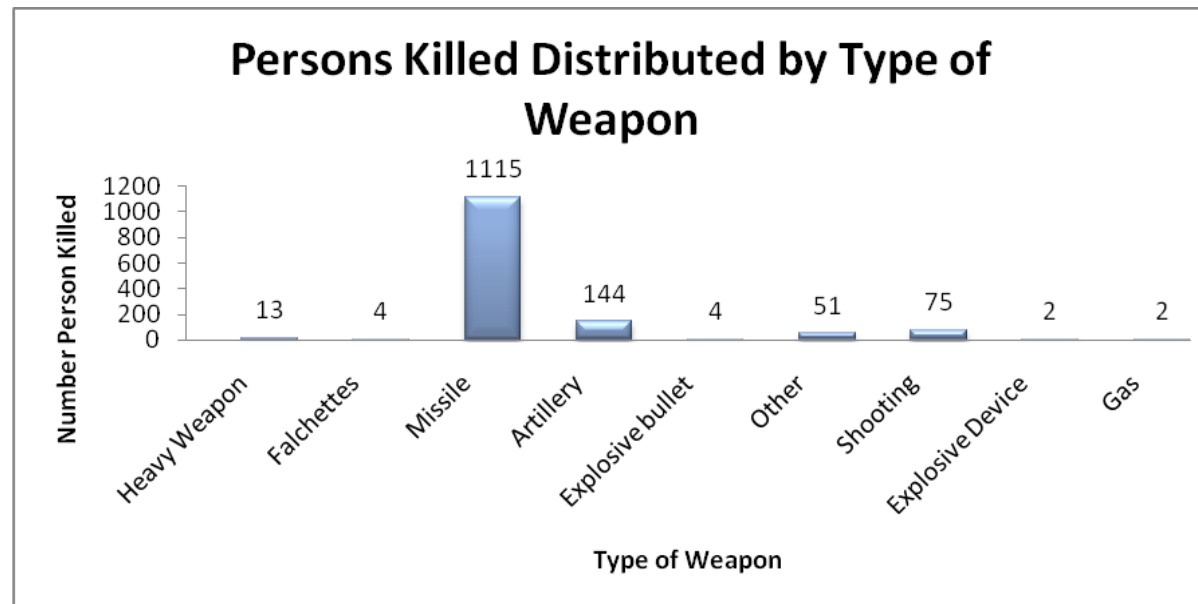


Table 5 : Number of Children Killed Distributed by Type of Weapon Used

Type Of Weapon	No.	%
Heavy Weapon	4	1.13
Falchettes	1	0.28
Missile	243	65.07
Artillery	57	15.77
Other	24	6.76
Shooting	23	6.48
Explosive Device	2	0.56
Gas	1	0.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>100</b>

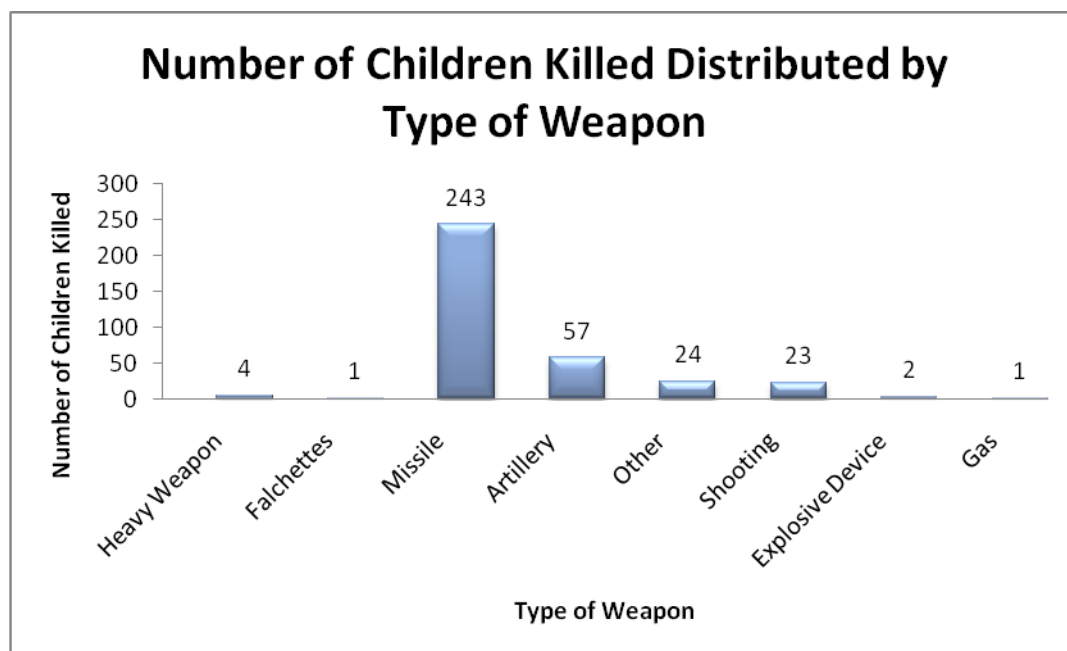


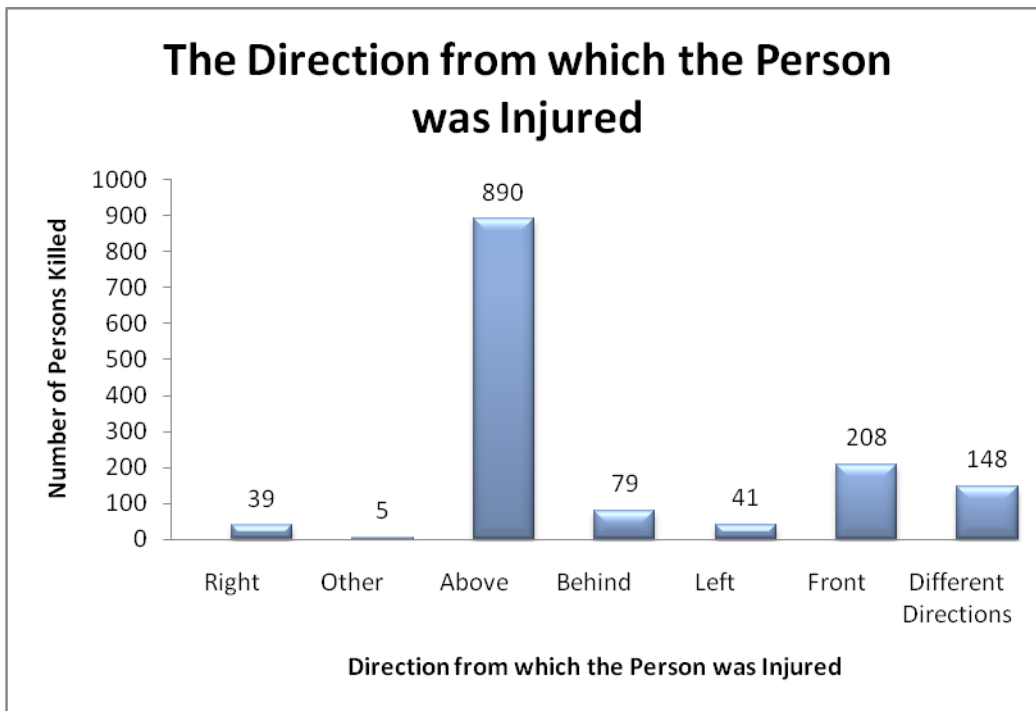
Table 6: Distribution of Persons Killed by Type of Weapon and Part of the body which was injured

Type of Weapon	Place in Body										Total	
	Upper Body		Lower Body		Different Parts of Body		Limbs		Body Dismembered			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Heavy Weapon	11	3.06	0	0.00	2	0.26	0	0.00	0	0.00	13	0.92
Falchettes	1	0.28	1	1.33	2	0.26	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	0.28
Missile	252	70.00	51	68.00	650	84.53	26	89.66	149	81.87	1128	79.72
Artillery	37	10.28	7	9.33	69	8.97	2	6.90	25	13.74	140	9.89
Explosive bullet	3	0.83	0	0.00	1	0.13	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	0.28
Other	17	4.72	6	8.00	26	3.38	0	0.00	4	2.20	53	3.75
Shooting	39	10.83	10	13.33	17	2.21	1	3.45	3	1.65	70	4.95
Explosive Device	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.13	0	0.00	1	0.55	2	0.14
Gas	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.13	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1415*</b>	<b>100</b>

- In this section the number is higher than the total of persons killed because one person killed may sustain different injures in different parts of the body.

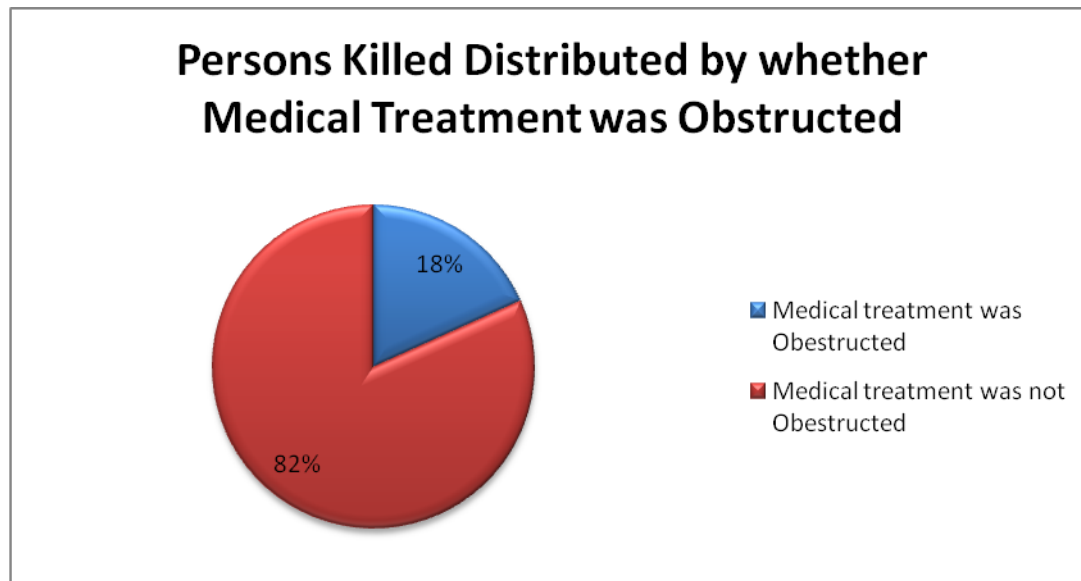
**Table 7: Persons Killed Distributed by Direction from which the Person was Attacked**

The direction from which the person was injured	No.	%
Right	39	2.8
Other	5	0.4
Above	890	63.1
Behind	79	5.6
Left	41	2.9
Front	208	14.8
Different Directions	148	10.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1410</b>	<b>100</b>



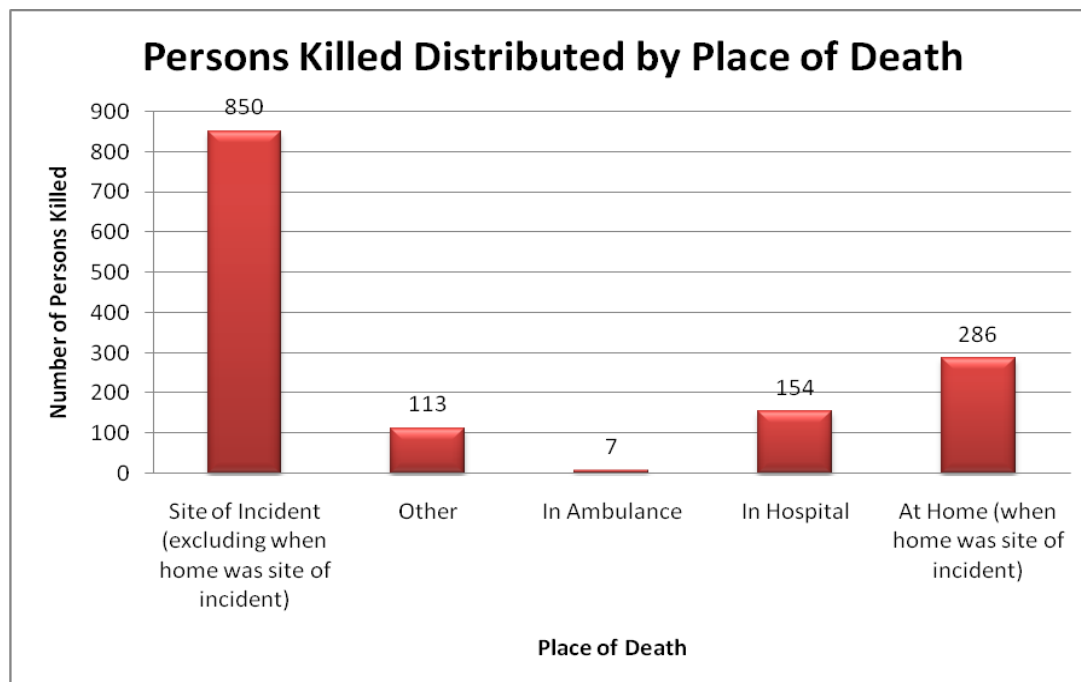
**Table 8: Persons Killed Distributed by Whether Medical Treatment was Obstructed**

Obstruction	No.	%
Medical treatment was Obstructed	258	18.3
Medical treatment was not Obstructed	1152	81.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1410</b>	<b>100</b>



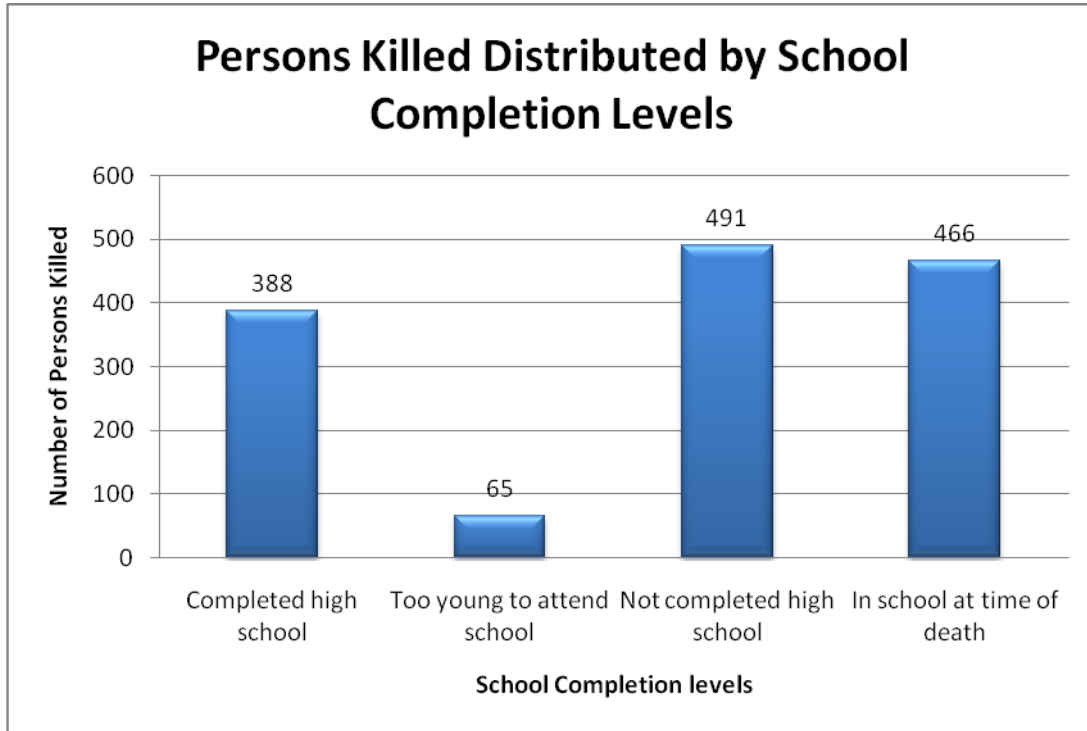
**Table 9: Persons Killed Distributed by Place of Death**

Place of Death	No.	%
Site of Incident (excluding when home was site of incident)	850	60.3
Other	113	8.0
In Ambulance	7	0.5
In Hospital	154	10.9
At Home (when home was site of incident)	286	20.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1410</b>	<b>100</b>



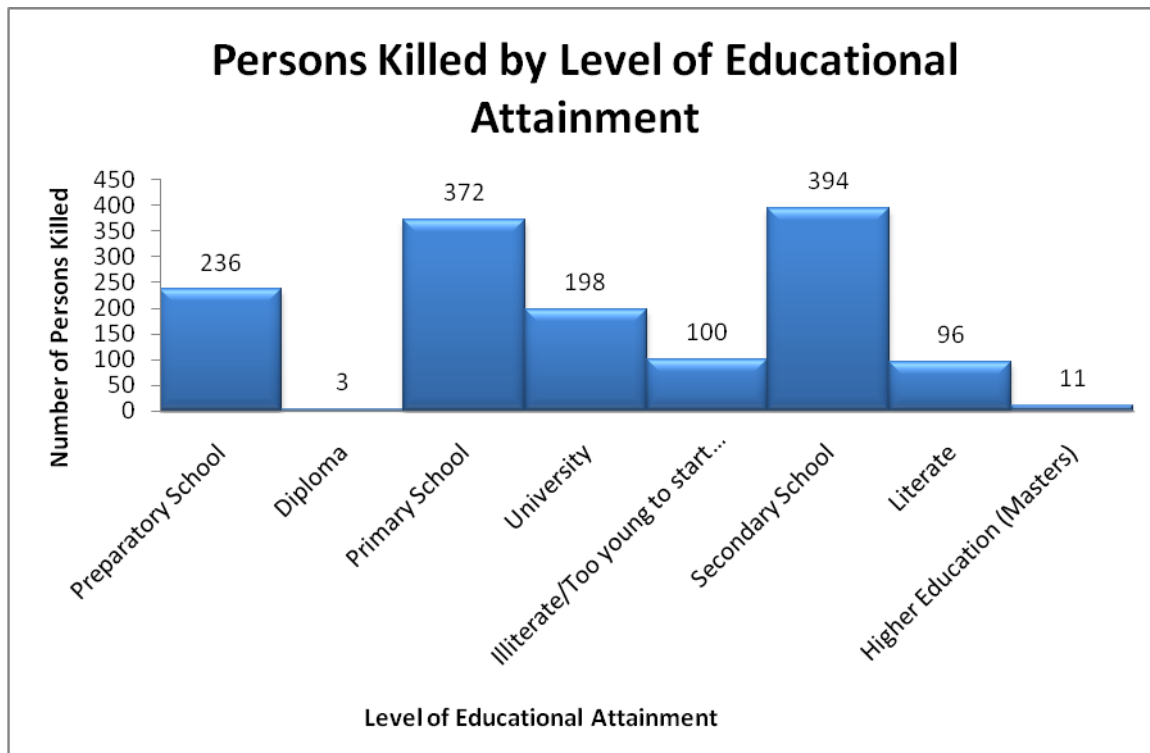
**Table 10: Persons Killed Distributed by School Completion Levels**

School Completion Levels	No.	%
Completed high school	388	27.52
Too young to attend school	65	4.61
Not completed high school	491	34.82
In school at time of death	466	33.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>1410</b>	<b>100</b>



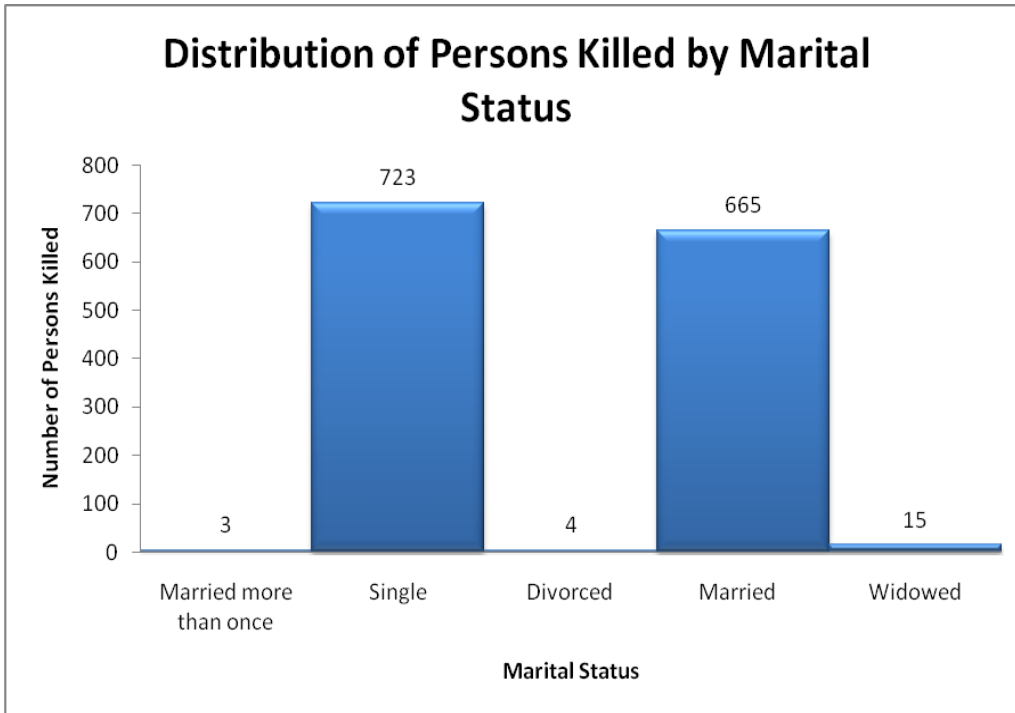
**Table 11: Persons Killed by Level of Educational Attainment**

Level of Educational Attainment	No.	%
Preparatory School	236	16.7
Diploma	3	0.2
Primary School	372	26.4
University	198	14.0
Illiterate/Too young to start school	100	7.1
Secondary School	394	27.9
Literate	96	6.8
Higher Education (Masters)	11	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1410</b>	<b>100</b>



**Table 12: Distribution of Persons Killed by Marital Status**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Married more than once	3	0.2
Single	723	51.3
Divorced	4	0.3
Married	665	47.2
Widowed	15	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1410</b>	<b>100</b>





**Table 13: Distribution of Persons Killed by District and Whether they had Dependents**

Dependents Status	District					Total
	North Gaza	Gaza	Middle	Khan Younis	Rafah	
Has dependents	166	144	81	44	18	453
Does not have dependents	278	412	44	44	29	807
Assists others financially	58	43	25	13	11	150
<b>Total</b>	502	599	150	101	58	<b>1410</b>
Number of Persons Supported	1183	1136	516	257	177	3269

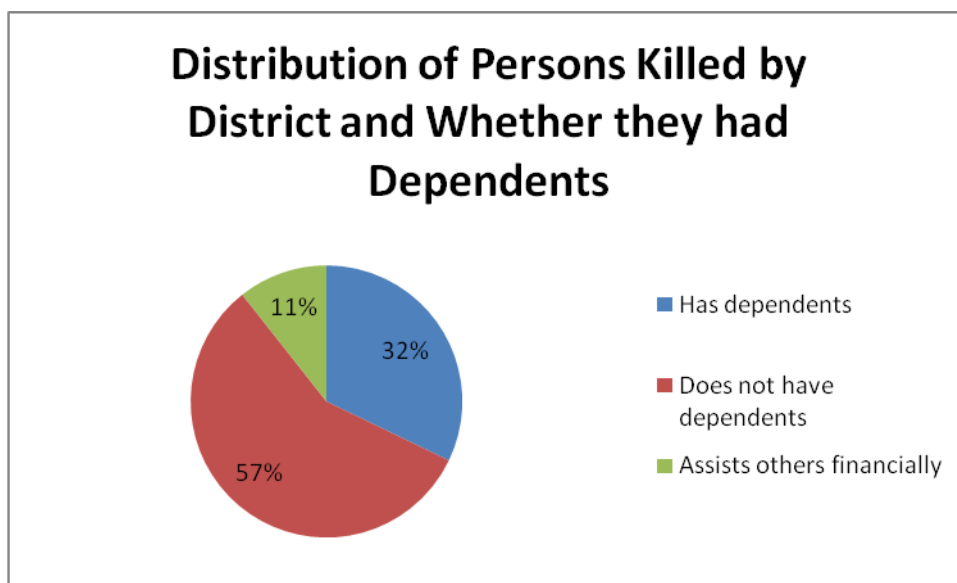
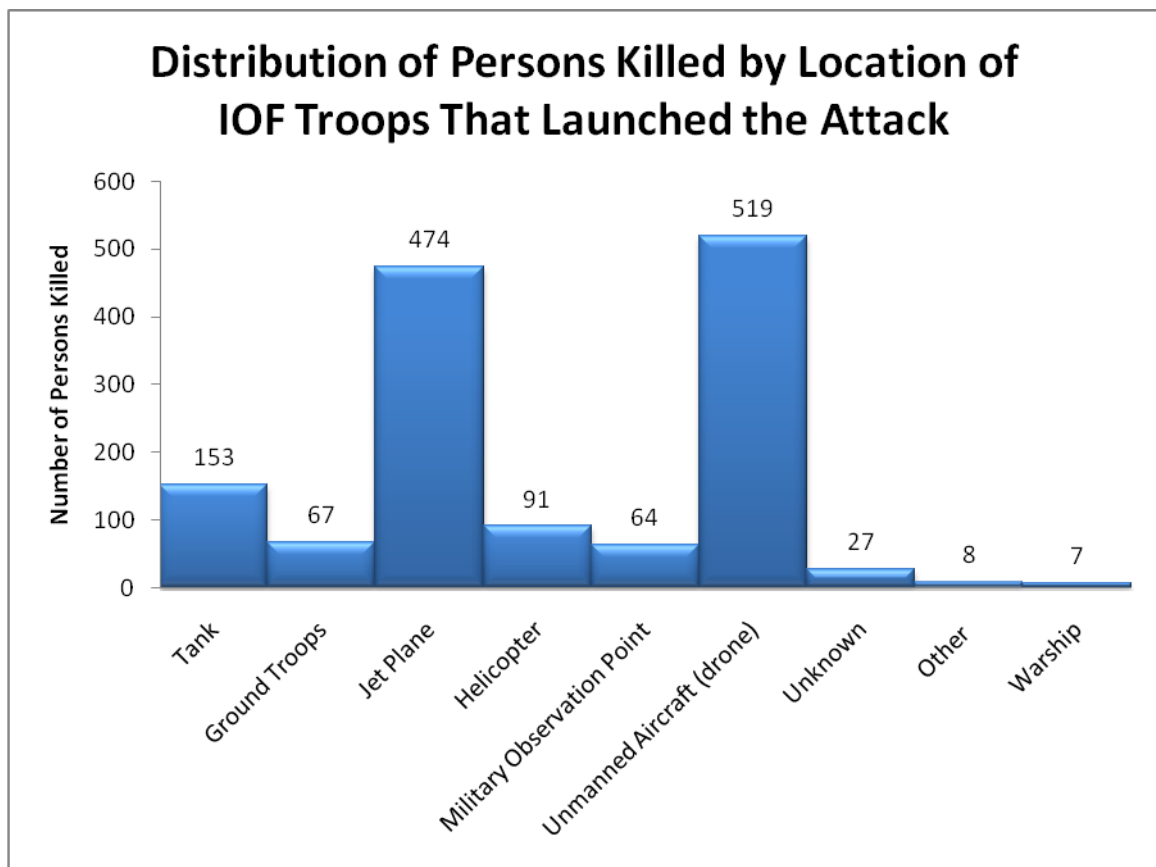


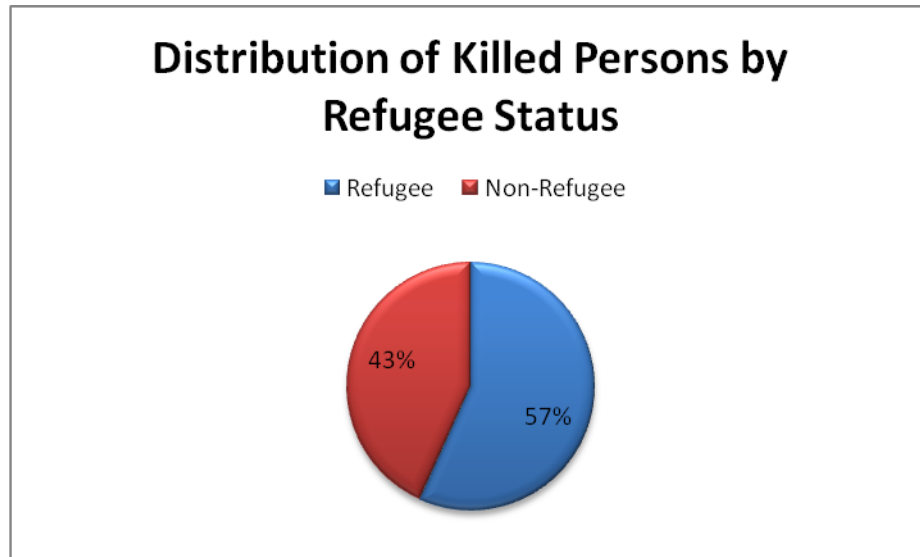
Table 14: Distribution of Persons Killed by Location of IOF Troops that lunched the Attack

Location of IOF Troops	No.
Tank	153
Ground Troops	67
Jet Plane	474
Helicopter	91
Military Observation Point	64
Unmanned Aircraft (drone)	519
Unknown	27
Other	8
Warship	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1410</b>



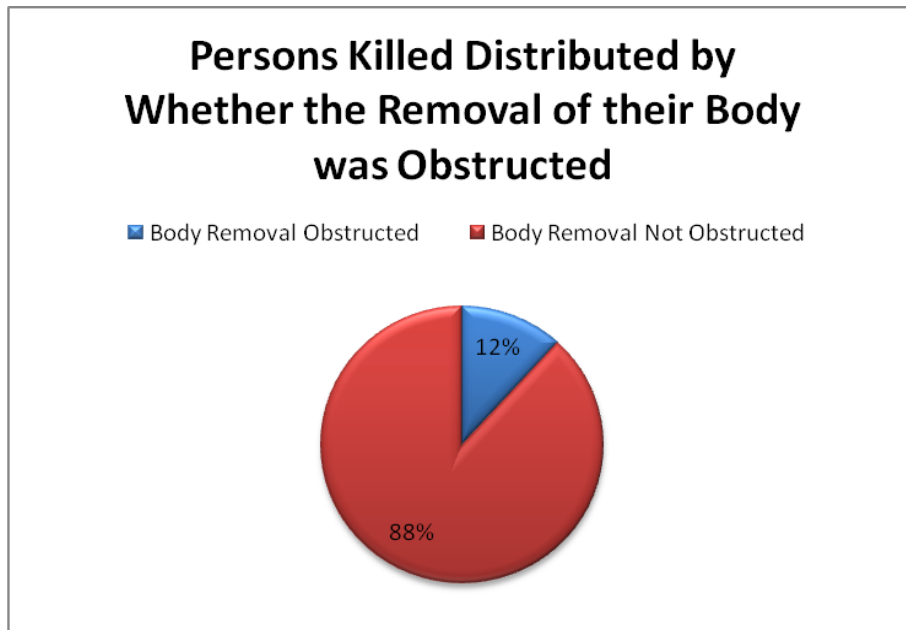
**Table 15: Distribution of Killed Persons by Refugee Status**

Refugee Status	No.	%
Refugee	800	56.74
Non-Refugee	610	43.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>1410</b>	<b>100</b>



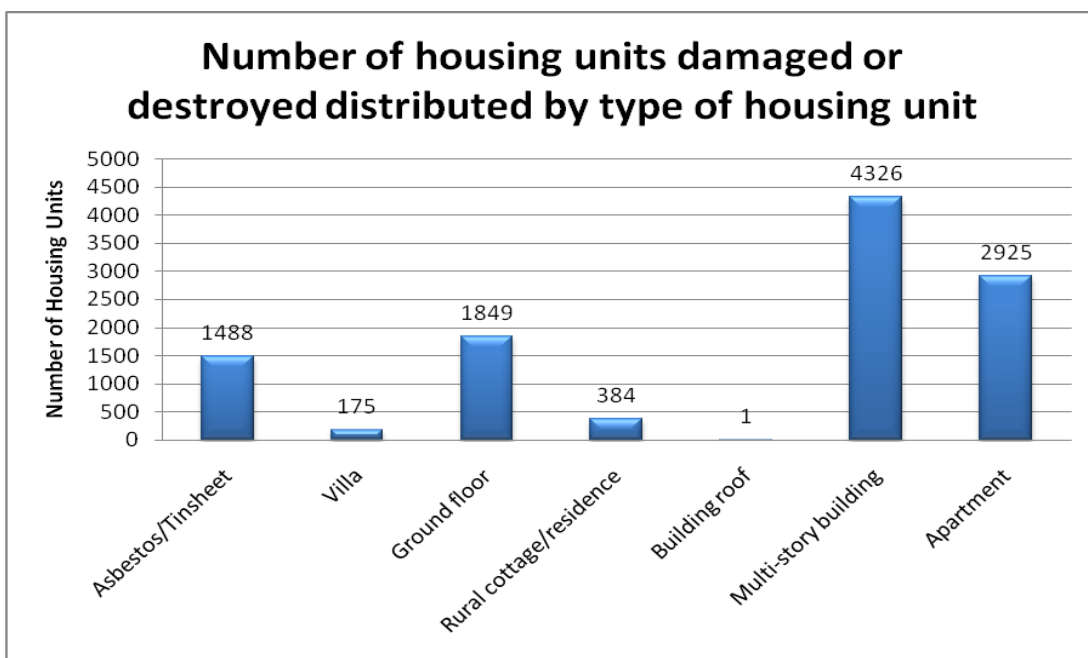
**Table 16: Persons Killed Distributed by Whether the Removal of their Body was obstructed**

Status	No.	%
Body Removal Obstructed	166	11.8
Body Removal Not Obstructed	1244	88.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1410</b>	<b>100</b>



**Table 17: Number of housing units damaged or destroyed distributed by type of housing unit**

Type of housing unit	No.	%
Asbestos/Tinsheet	1488	13.3
Villa	175	1.6
Ground floor	1849	16.6
Rural cottage/residence	384	3.4
Building roof	1	0.0
Multi-story building	4326	38.8
Apartment	2925	26.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>11148</b>	<b>100</b>



**Explanatory Notes:** Al Mezan was able to document the destruction of, or damage to, 11,148 civilian homes (housing units) by the IOF during Operation Cast Lead. Of these, 2652 were totally destroyed (destroyed beyond repair) and 8496 were partially destroyed (i.e. assessed as repairable by Al Mezan). The latest United Nations figures (available from UNRWA) on the destruction of civilian homes during Operation Cast Lead are as follows: 3600 homes destroyed beyond repair; 2700 homes sustained major damages; 52,000 homes sustained minor damages.

In several of the tables in this section, the total number of housing units destroyed is listed as 11,146 rather than 11,148. This is because two of the housing units that were destroyed were owned by companies and therefore detailed information on the number of residents, gender of residents, refugee status of residents etc was not available.

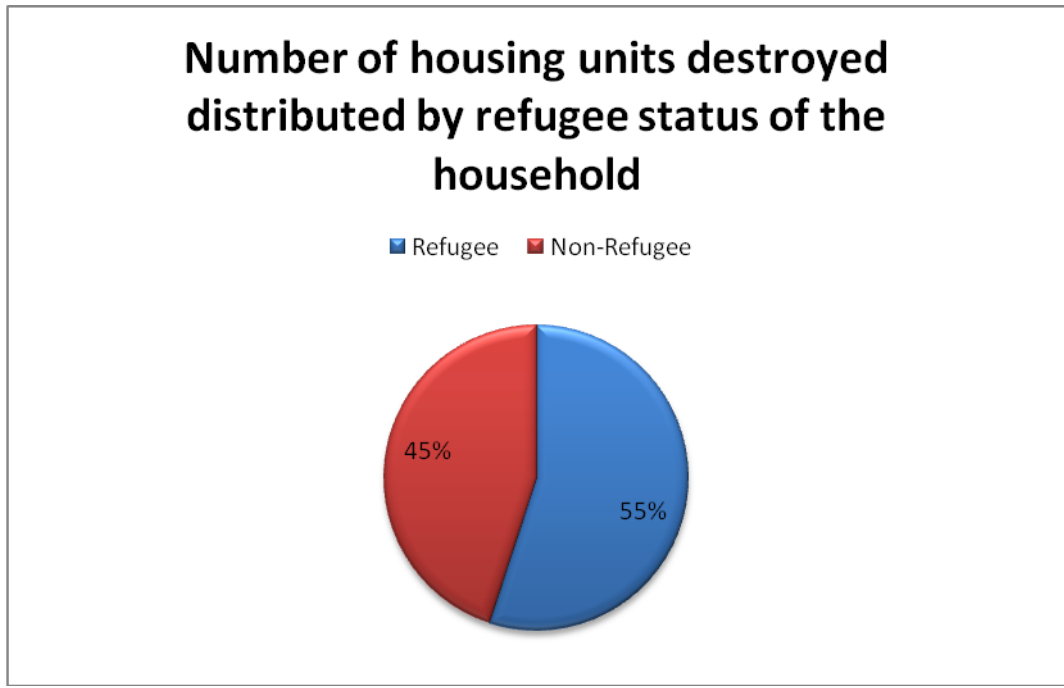
Al Mezan definitions in this section:

- **Totally destroyed:** housing units that were demolished or housing units that were damaged to the extent that they cannot be repaired.

- **Partially destroyed:** housing units that moderate to heavy damages but can be repaired (as assessed by Al Mezan)

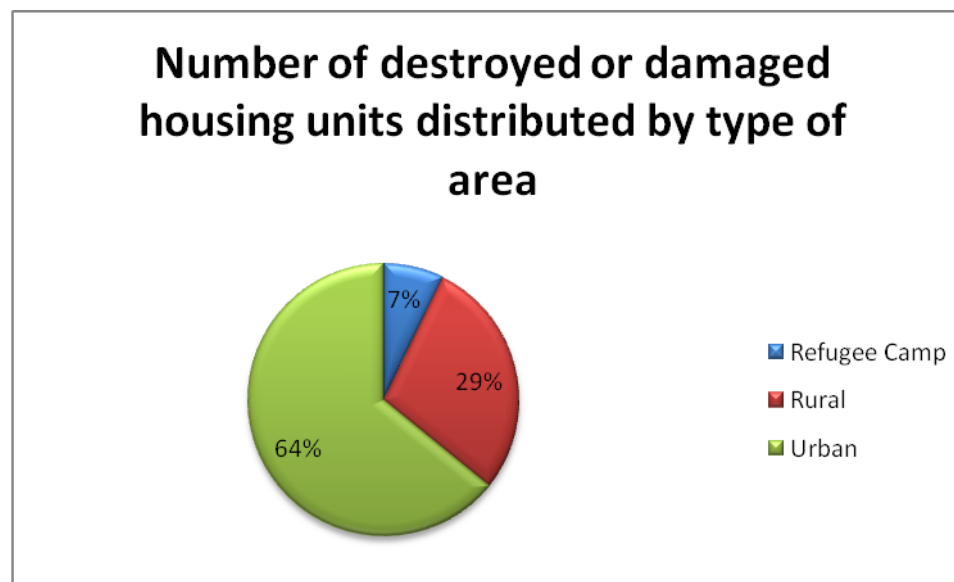
**Table 18: Number of housing units destroyed distributed by refugee status of the household**

<b>Refugee Status</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Refugee	6131	55.0
Non-Refugee	5015	45.0
Total	11146	100



**Table 19: Number of destroyed or damaged housing units distributed by type of area (refugee camp, rural area, urban area) and district**

Type of area	District										Total	
	North Gaza		Gaza		Middle		Khan Younis		Rafah			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Refugee Camp	250	7.59	193	3.26	301	64.59	14	2.87	43	4.38	801	7.19
Rural	1623	49.30	754	12.73	155	33.26	384	78.85	279	28.41	3195	28.66
Urban	1419	43.10	4974	84.01	10	2.15	89	18.28	660	67.21	7152	64.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>3292</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5921</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11148</b>	<b>100</b>

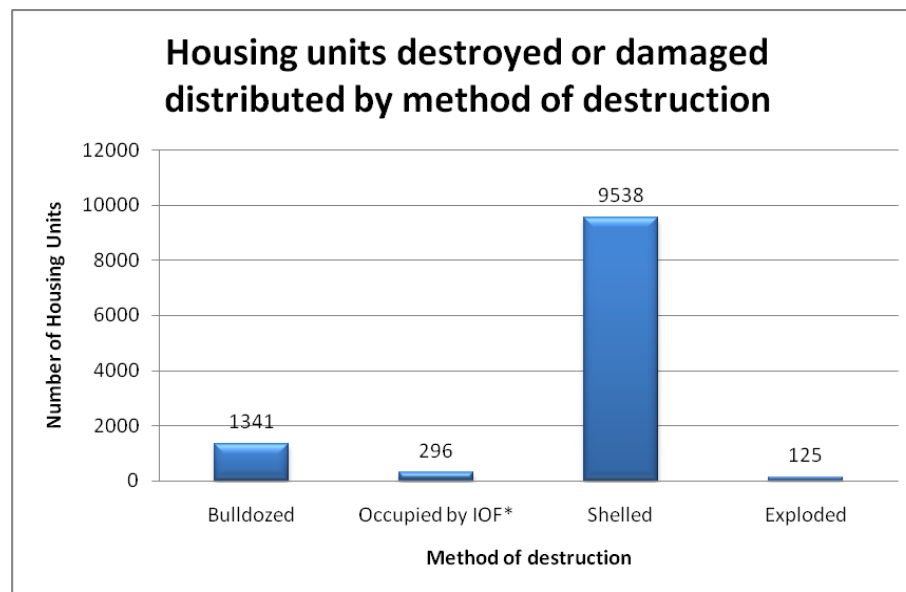


**Table 20: Housing units destroyed or damaged distributed by method of destruction**

Method of destruction	District										Total	
	North Gaza		Gaza		Middle		Khan Younis		Rafah			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bulldozed	506	14.63	498	8.43	43	9.07	226	46.41	68	7.00	1341	11.87
Occupied by IOF*	223	6.45	70	1.18	1	0.21	2	0.41	0	0.00	296	2.62
Shelled	2637	76.26	5312	89.90	429	90.51	259	53.18	901	92.70	9538	84.41
Exploded	92	2.66	29	0.49	1	0.21	0	0	3	0.31	125	1.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>3458</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5909</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11300**</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Note: this refers to homes that were occupied by IOF ground forces and then damaged

\*\*Note: this figure is higher than the total number of homes documented by Al Mezan as several of the homes were damaged or destroyed by multiple methods and thus have been listed in various categories





**Table 21: Housing Units Distributed by District and Extent of Damage**

Extent of damage	District										Total	
	North Gaza		Gaza		Middle		Khan Younis		Rafah			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Totally destroyed	883	26.82	933	15.76	173	37.12	245	50.20	418	42.57	2652	23.79
Partially destroyed	2409	73.18	4988	84.24	293	62.88	242	49.59	564	57.43	8496	76.21
Total	3292	100	5921	100	466	100	488	100	982	100	11148	100

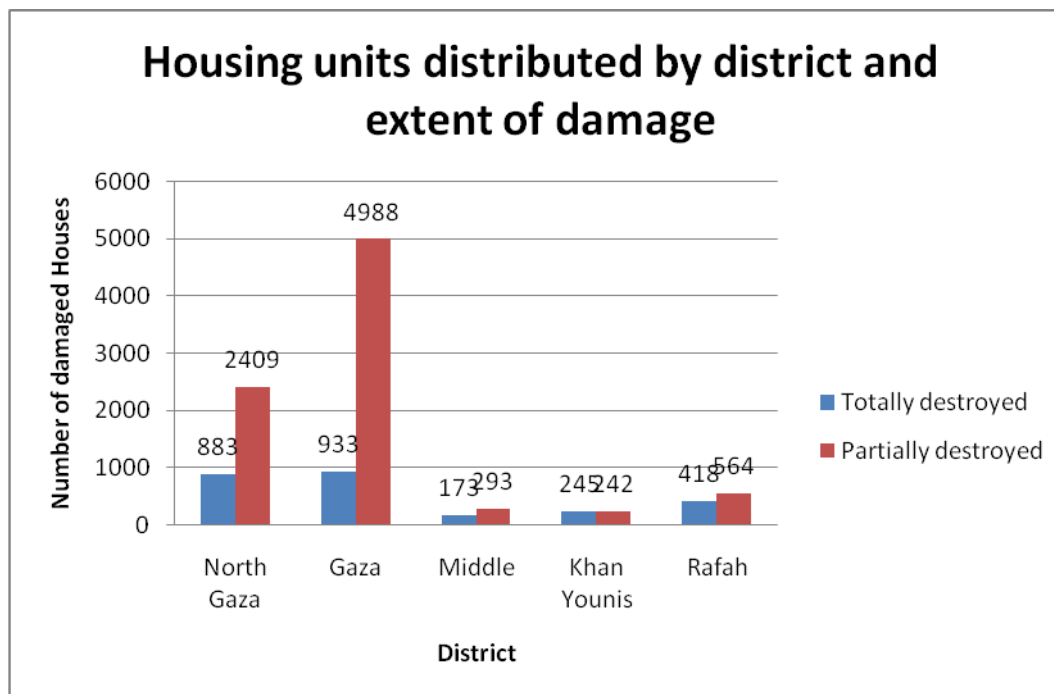
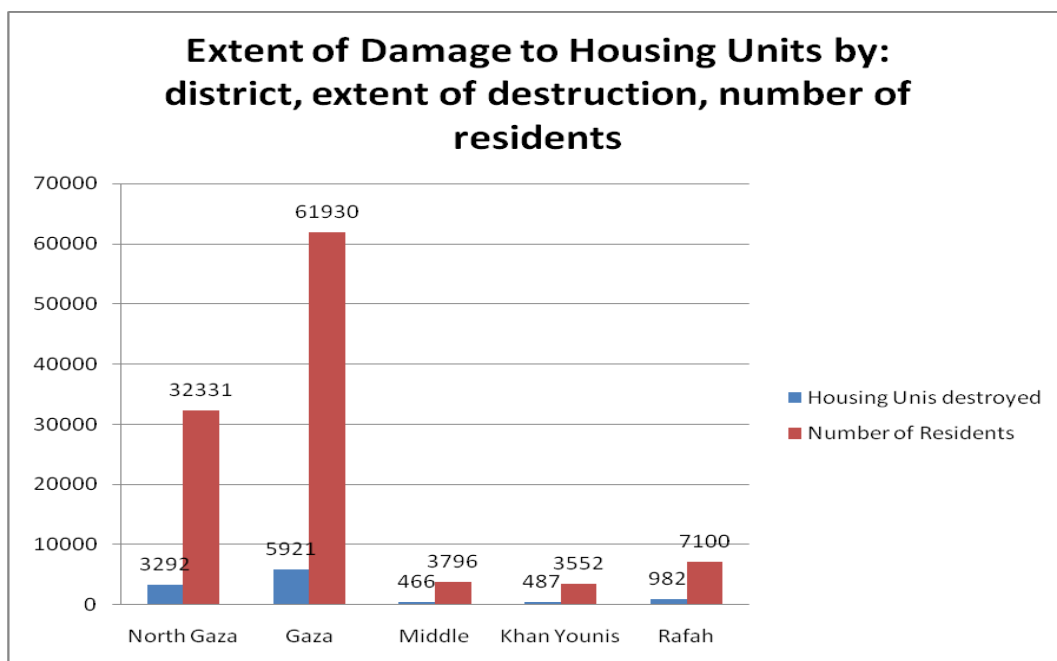


Table 22: Extent of Damage to Housing Units by: district, extent of destruction, number of residents

District	Extent of damage to housing units				Partial and Total	Total number of residents
	Total destruction	Number of Residents	partial destruction	Number of Residents		
North Gaza	883	8006	2409	24325	3292	32331
Gaza	933	8210	4988	53720	5921	61930
Middle	173	1267	293	2529	466	3796
Khan Younis	245	1668	242	1884	487	3552
Rafah	418	3028	564	4072	982	7100
Total	2652	22179	8496	86530	11148	108709



**Table 23: Factories Damaged or Destroyed Distributed by Type of Industry, Number of Employees before Offensive, Number of Employees after Offensive**

Type of industry	Number of factories sustaining		Number employees before offensive		Number employees after offensive		Employees who were laid off		Percentage drop in number of employees	
	Total damage	Partial damage	Total damage	Partial damage	Total damage	Partial damage	Total damage	Partial damage	Total damage	Partial damage
Plastics	0	3	0	34	0	18	0	16	0.00	1.57
Wood	9	11	103	159	16	87	87	72	7.23	7.09
Food	18	12	154	320	24	140	130	180	10.80	17.72
Electrical	2	3	90	19	0	5	90	14	7.48	1.38
Chemical	6	7	41	84	0	44	41	40	3.41	3.94
Mineral	26	36	266	401	29	224	237	177	19.68	17.42
Garment	8	15	124	144	0	22	124	122	10.30	12.01
Construction	31	23	514	434	19	39	495	395	41.11	38.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1292</b>	<b>1595</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>1016</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

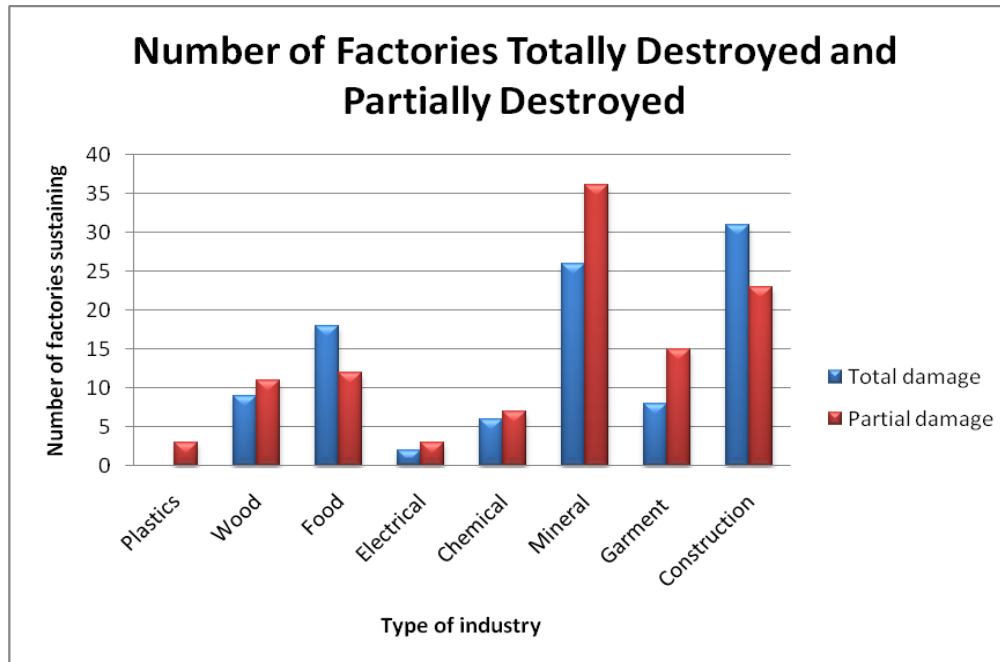
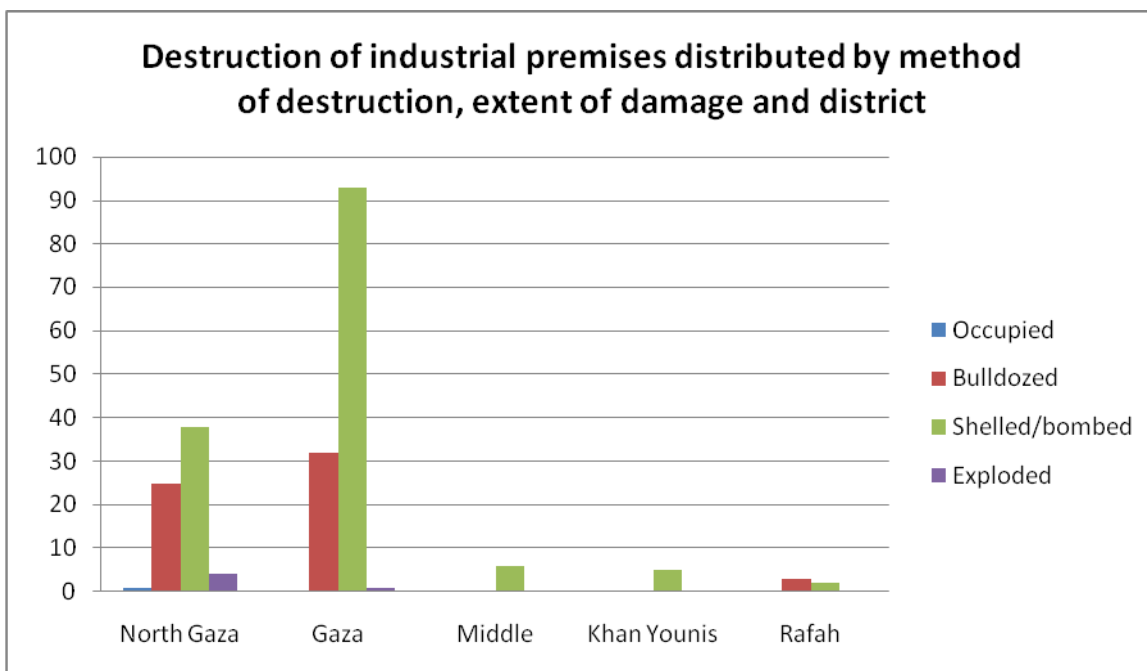


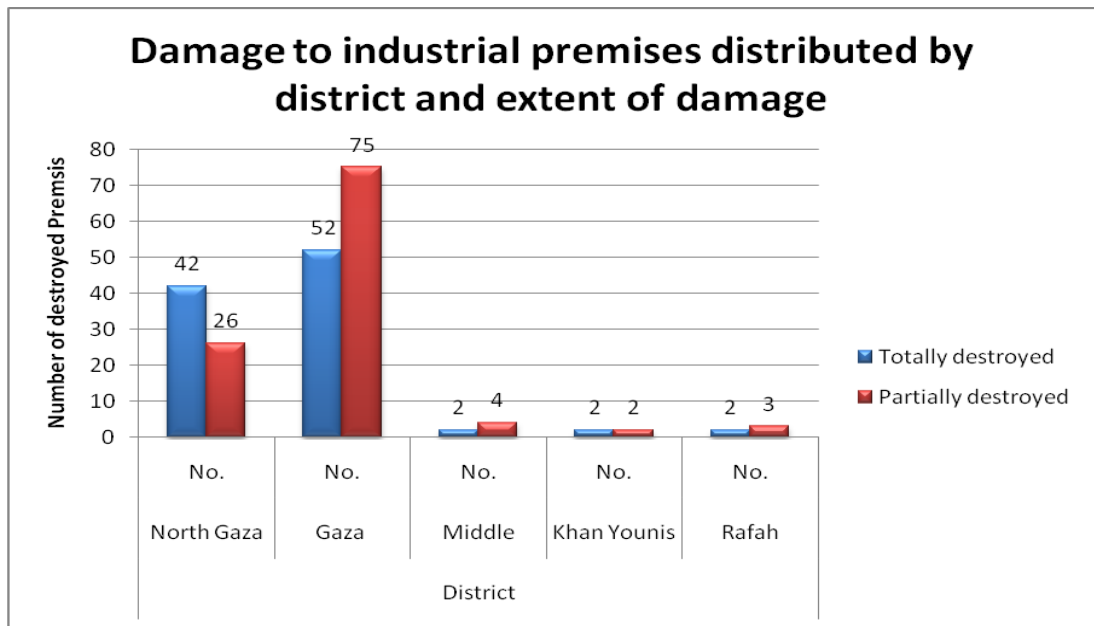
Table 24: Destruction of industrial premises distributed by method of destruction, extent of damage and district

Method of destruction	District										Total	
	North Gaza		Gaza		Middle		Khan Younis		Rafah			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Totally Destroyed</b>												
Occupied	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0
Bulldozed	22	88.00	27	84.38	0	0.00	0	0	2	66.67	51	85
Shelled/bombed	16	42.11	24	25.81	2	33.33	3	0	0	0.00	45	31.25
Exploded	4	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	4	80
<b>Partially Destroyed</b>												
Occupied	1	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	1	100
Bulldozed	3	12.00	5	15.63	0	0.00	0	0	1	33.33	9	15
Shelled/bombed	22	57.89	69	74.19	4	66.67	2	0	2	100.00	99	68.75
Exploded	0	0.00	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	1	20
<b>Total</b>												
Occupied	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100
Bulldozed	25	100	32	100	0	0	0	0	3	100	60	100
Shelled/bombed	38	100	93	100	6	100	5	0	2	100	144	100
Exploded	4	100	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100



**Table 25: Damage to industrial premises distributed by district and extent of damage**

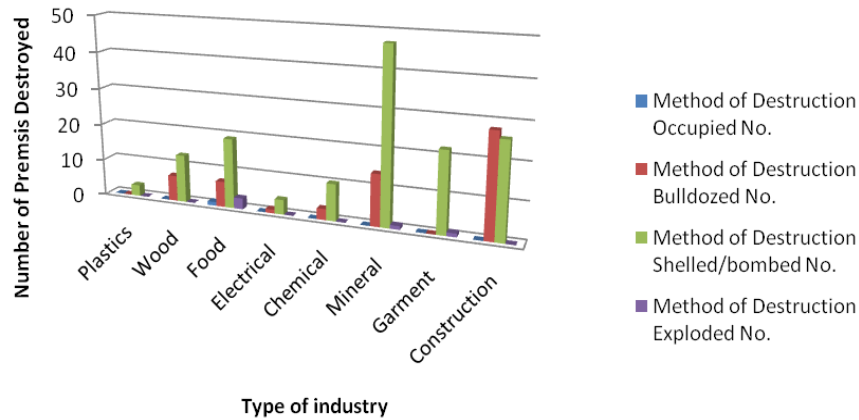
Extent of Damage	District										Total	
	North Gaza		Gaza		Middle		Khan Younis		Rafah			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Totally destroyed	42	61.76	52	40.94	2	33.33	2	50	2	40	100	47.62
Partially destroyed	26	38.24	75	59.06	4	66.67	2	50	3	60	110	52.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100</b>



**Table 26: Destruction of Industrial Premises Distributed by Method of Destruction and Type of Industry**

Type of industry	Method of Destruction								Total	
	Occupied		Bulldozed		Shelled/bombed		Exploded			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Plastics	0	0	0	0.00	3	2.08	0	0	<b>3</b>	<b>1.43</b>
Wood	0	0	7	11.67	13	9.03	0	0	<b>20</b>	<b>9.52</b>
Food	1	100	7	11.67	19	13.19	3	60	<b>30</b>	<b>14.29</b>
Electrical	0	0	1	1.67	4	2.78	0	0	<b>5</b>	<b>2.38</b>
Chemical	0	0	3	5.00	10	6.94	0	0	<b>13</b>	<b>6.19</b>
Mineral	0	0	14	23.33	47	32.64	1	20	<b>62</b>	<b>29.52</b>
Garment	0	0	0	0.00	22	15.28	1	20	<b>23</b>	<b>10.95</b>
Construction	0	0	28	46.67	26	18.06	0	0	<b>54</b>	<b>25.71</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100</b>

**Destruction of Industrial Premises Distributed by Method of Destruction and Type of Industry**

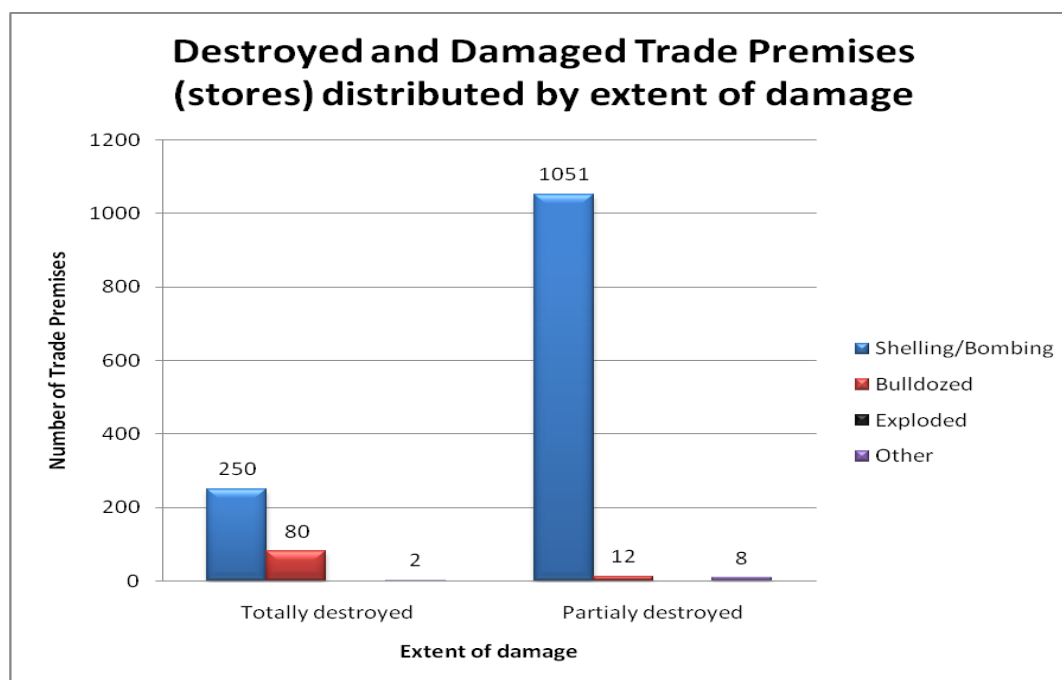


**Table 27: Number of trade premises (stores) destroyed or damaged distributed by extent of damage, number of workers before offensive And number of workers after offensive**

<b>Location (district)</b>	<b>Extent of Damage</b>	<b>No. of stores</b>	<b>No. of workers before offensive</b>	<b>No. of workers at current</b>
Rafah	Total destruction	26	50	8
	Partial destruction	82	55	36
Khan Younis	Total destruction	0	0	0
	Partial destruction	8	10	8
Middle	Total destruction	10	20	6
	Partial destruction	4	10	6
Gaza	Total destruction	162	406	168
	Partial destruction	777	2338	1816
North Gaza	Total destruction	134	482	76
	Partial destruction	202	590	302
<b>Total</b>		<b>1405</b>	<b>3961</b>	<b>2426</b>

**Table 28: Destroyed and Damaged Trade Premises (stores) distributed by extent of damage and method of destruction.**

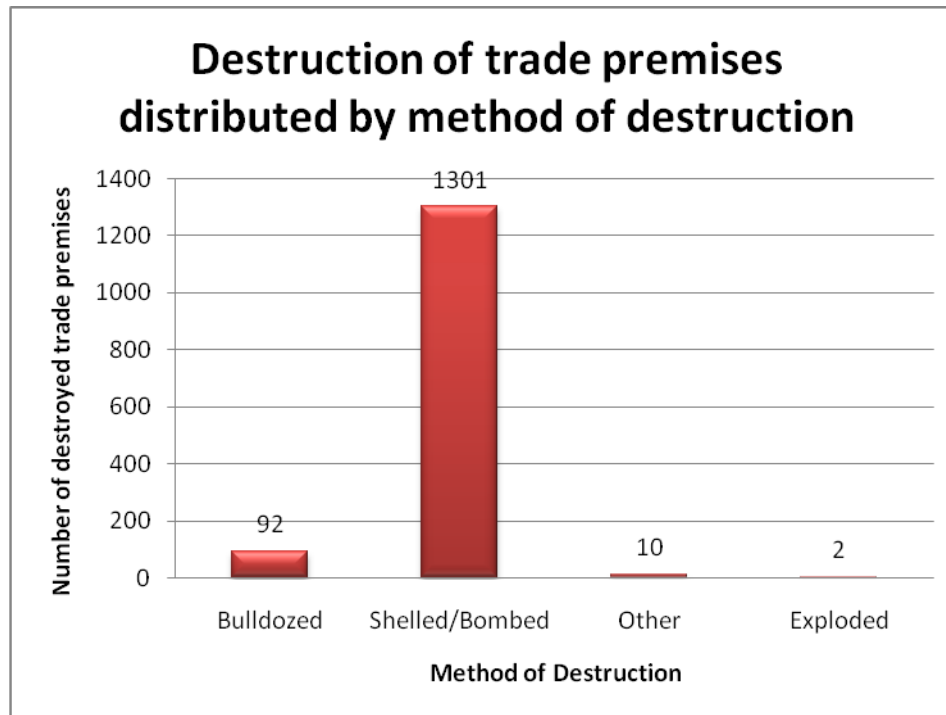
Extent of damage	Method of Destruction/Damage								Total	
	Shelling/Bombing		Bulldozed		Exploded		Other			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Totally destroyed	250	19.22	80	86.96	0	0	2	20	332	23.63
Partially destroyed	1051	80.78	12	13.04	2	100	8	80	1073	76.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>1301</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1405</b>	<b>100</b>





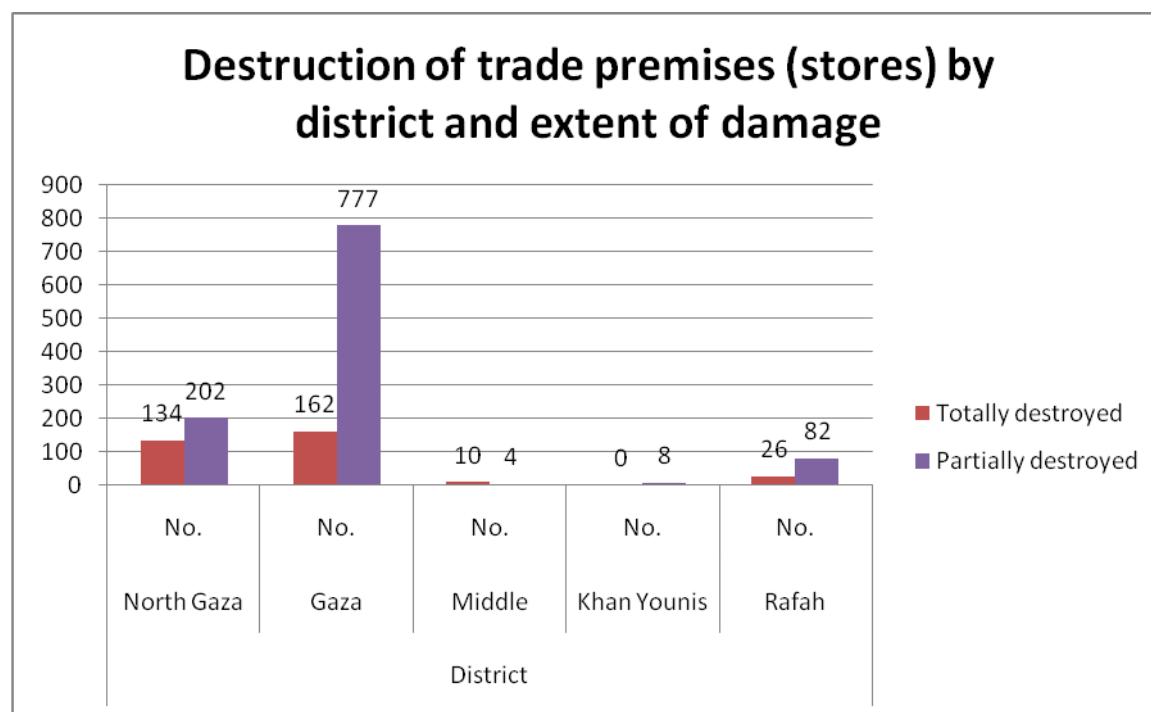
**Table 29: Destruction of trade premises distributed by method of destruction**

Method of Destruction	No.	%
Bulldozed	92	6.55
Shelled/Bombed	1301	92.60
Other	10	0.71
Exploded	2	0.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>1405</b>	<b>100</b>



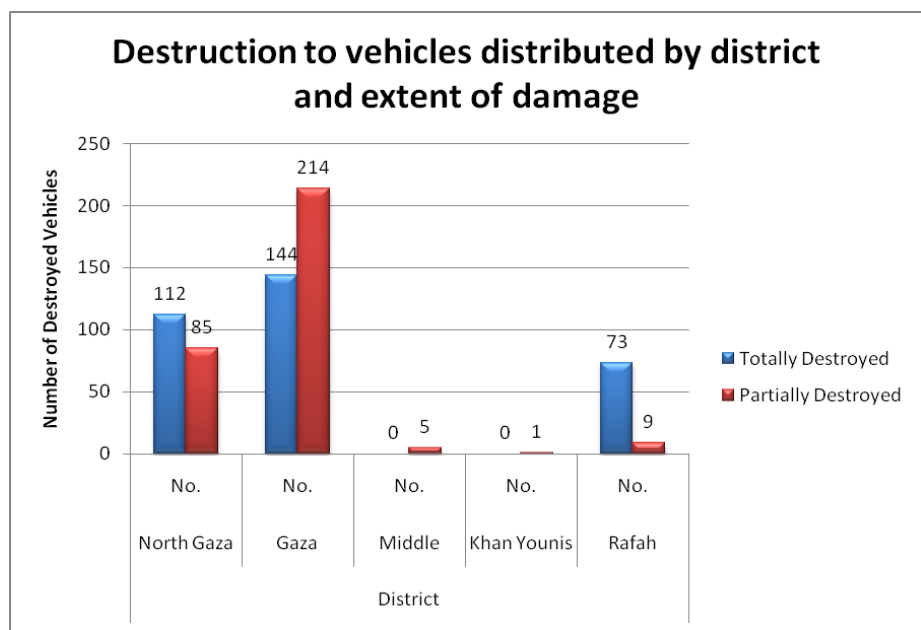
**Table 30: Destruction of Trade Premises (Stores) by district and extent of damage**

Extent of Damage	District										Total	
	North Gaza		Gaza		Middle		Khan Younis		Rafah			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Totally destroyed	134	39.88	162	17.25	10	71.43	0	0	26	24.07	332	23.63
Partially destroyed	202	60.12	777	82.75	4	28.57	8	100	82	75.93	1073	76.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1405</b>	<b>100</b>



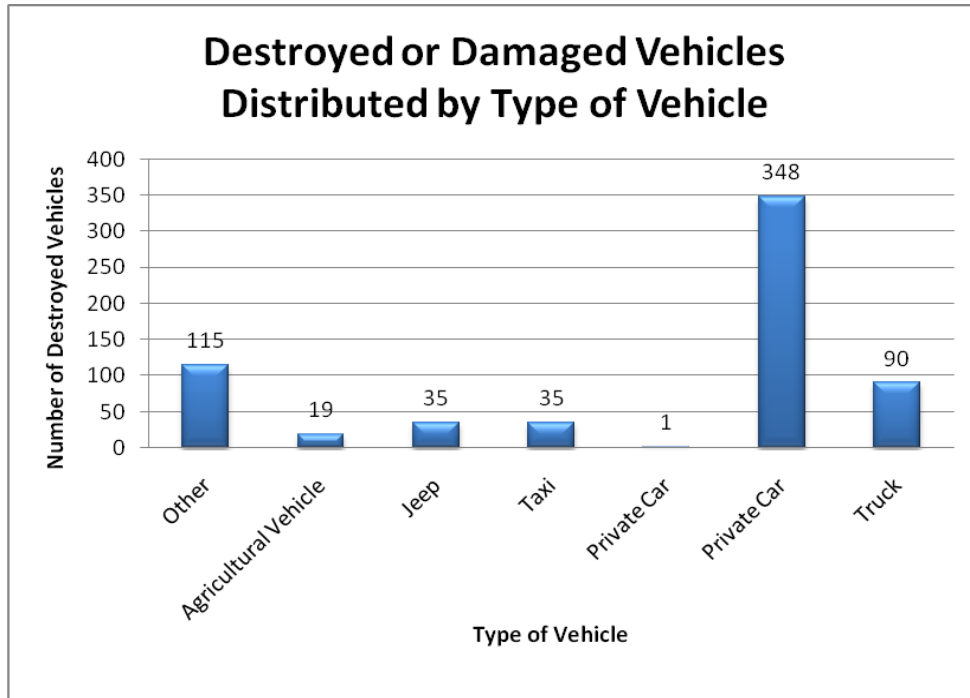
**Table 31: Destruction to vehicles distributed by district and extent of damage**

Extent of Damage	District										Total	
	North Gaza		Gaza		Middle		Khan Younis		Rafah			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Totally Destroyed	112	56.85	144	40.22	0	0	0	0	73	89.02	329	51.17
Partially Destroyed	85	43.15	214	59.78	5	100	1	100	9	10.98	314	48.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>100</b>



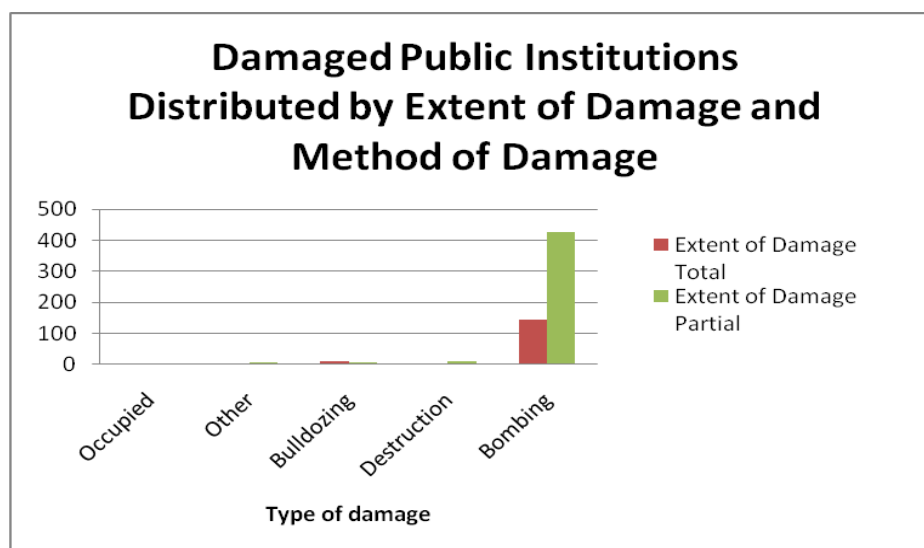
**Table 32: Destroyed or Damaged Vehicles Distributed by Type of Vehicle**

Type of Vehicle	No.	%
Other	115	17.9
Agricultural Vehicle	19	3.0
Jeep	35	5.4
Taxi	35	5.4
Private Car	1	0.2
Private Car	348	54.1
Truck	90	14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>100</b>



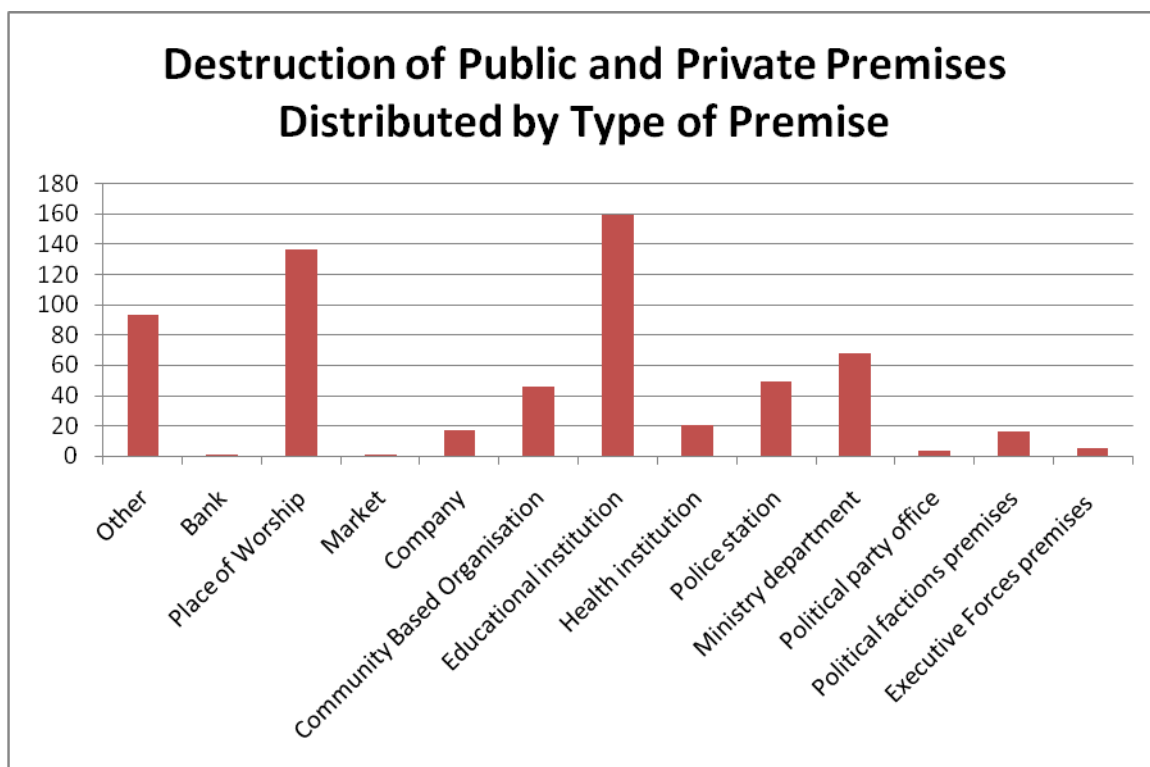
**Table 33: Damaged Public Institutions Distributed by Extent of Damage and Method of Damage**

Type of damage	Extent of Damage		Total
	Total	Partial	
Occupied	2	5	7
Other	0	8	8
Bulldozing	9	7	16
Destruction	3	9	12
Bombing	145	426	571
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>614</b>



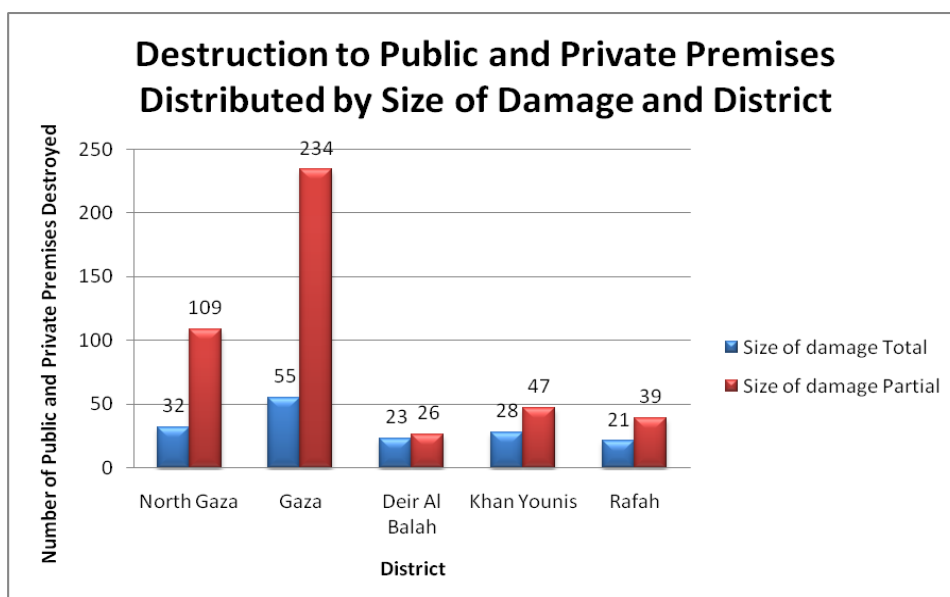
**Table 34: Destruction of Public and Private Premises Distributed by Type of Premise**

Type of Establishment	%	No.
Other	15.15	93
Bank	0.16	1
Place of Worship	22.15	136
Market	0.16	1
Company	2.77	17
Community Based Organisation	7.49	46
Educational institution	25.90	159
Health institution	3.26	20
Police station	7.98	49
Ministry department	11.07	68
Political party office	0.49	3
Political factions premises	2.61	16
Executive Forces premises	0.81	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>614</b>



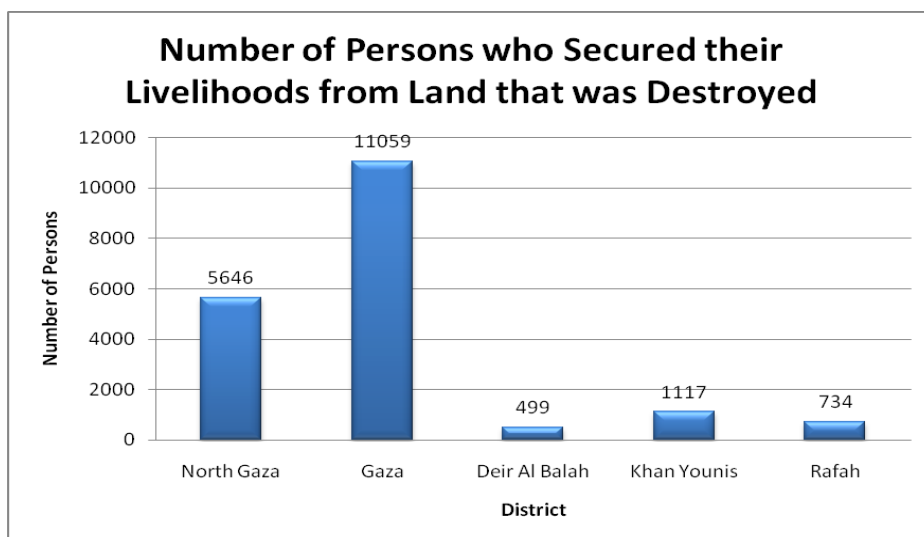
**Table 35: Destruction to Public and Private Premises Distributed by Size of Damage and District**

District	Size of damage		Total
	Total	Partial	
North Gaza	32	109	<b>141</b>
Gaza	55	234	<b>289</b>
Deir Al Balah	23	26	<b>49</b>
Khan Younis	28	47	<b>75</b>
Rafah	21	39	<b>60</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>614</b>



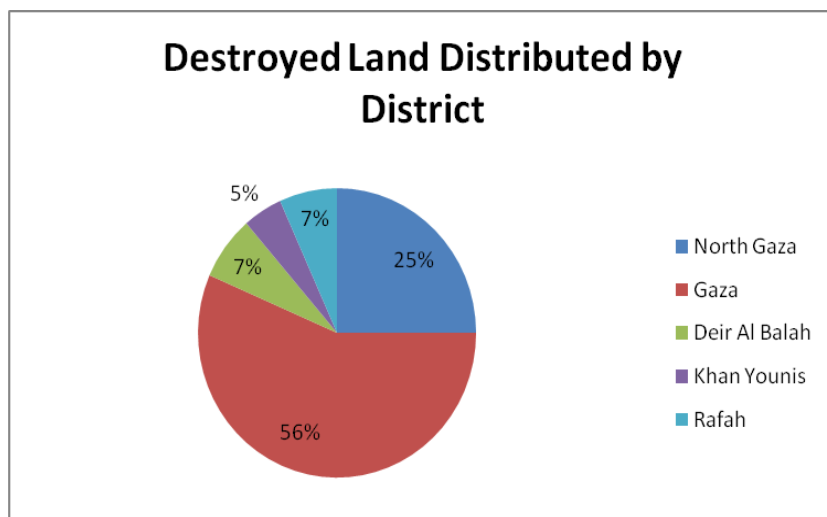
**Table 36: Number of Persons who Secured their Livelihoods from Land that was Destroyed**

District	No.
North Gaza	5646
Gaza	11059
Deir Al Balah	499
Khan Younis	1117
Rafah	734
<b>Total</b>	<b>19055</b>



**Table 37: Destroyed Land Distributed by District**

District	% from total destroyed land	Area (in dunams)
North Gaza	25.0	166.09
Gaza	56.6	376.22
Deir Al Balah	7.2	47.62
Khan Younis	4.6	30.55
Rafah	6.7	44.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>665.23</b>



**Table 38: Direct Losses in the Agriculture Sector**

Type of losses	Total losses in the Gaza Strip	Unit
Greenhouse	94	Number
	190.466	Area(in dunam)
Ground greenhouses	46	Number
	219064	Area(in dunam)
Water-well	919	Number
Irrigation pool	229	Number
	35424	Capacity(in cubic meter)
Water pump	243	Number
Pesticide sprayer	326	Number of orchards
	396	Number of sprayers
Gates	806	Number of orchards
	1125	Number of Gates
Livestock	196	Number of orchards
	9218	Number of Animals
Warehouse	233	Number of orchards
	10434	Number of Warehouses
Birds	206	Number of orchards
	309686	Number of Birds
beehives	47	Number of orchards
	1060	Number of beehives

**Table 39: Damage to Plants, Trees and Vegetables Distributed by District**

Type of plants/trees	District					Total
	North Gaza	Gaza	Deir Al Balah	Khan Younis	Rafah	
# of productive trees	184393	194604	6841	7168	6739	399745
# of unproductive trees	45586	6031	74	0	60	51751
Vegetables (area in dunam)	22.83	71.29	20.65	0	3.60	118.37
Total	229979	200635	6915	7168	6799	451496



## Conclusions

The figures presented in this report reveal the unprecedented scale of killing and material damage inflicted on Palestinian civilians and their property, as well as on public premises, by the IOF during Operation Cast Lead. The figures show that large numbers of children, women and medical personnel were killed during the offensive. This confirms Al Mezan's assertion that the IOF deliberately targeted civilians and their property, and disregarded international legal and universal moral standards relevant to the conduct of hostilities, showing indifference to the lives of civilians who were killed deliberately without military necessity.

Al Mezan investigations, along with other national and international investigations, affirm the presence of incontrovertible evidence on grave and systematic violations of IHL tantamount to war crimes and crimes against humanity according to the Statute of the International Criminal Court and the GCIV and its first Protocol. These crimes include: willful killing; shelling of homes while residents were inside; shooting civilians holding white flags; the random 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.

Further, the IOF also carried out actions which severely affected the lives of civilians in the Gaza Strip including the destruction of water, electricity and sewage networks, the destruction of roads linking Gaza's districts, and imposing a siege which caused severe shortages of food and medicines.

The IOF also inflicted severe psychological harm on the people of Gaza by randomly warning civilians of imminent attacks and then failing to provide them with a safe place to go. Throughout Operation Cast Lead, the IOF dropped warning leaflets in the center of the cities and then even in the shelters set up by the UN to protect and house the displaced who had tried to flee the fighting.

The vast scale of crimes perpetrated and their systematic nature signifies an official policy adopted at the highest levels in Israel. These crimes are but a continuation of existing Israeli policy implemented in recent years such as, to mention only a few crimes: extra-judicial assassinations; the destruction of Gaza's power plant; the massive destruction of homes without military necessity; the deliberate deprivation of and collective penalties imposed upon the entire population of Gaza; and the obstruction of access to essential goods necessary for life and basic wellbeing..

International human rights organizations and other investigation committees that have worked in Gaza following the end of Operation Cast Lead have confirmed that Israel committed crimes which require serious international investigation. The perpetration of such crimes is shown clearly in the findings of the UN investigation of nine attacks on UN facilities.

On 22 April 2009, Israel announced the findings of an international IDF investigation opened in response to the accusations of war crimes that had been made not only by Palestinian, Israeli and international human rights organizations, but also by intergovernmental organizations. This investigation declared that no such crimes were committed by Israeli troops during Operation Cast Lead. This internal investigation was conducted by the Israeli army itself and was closed by the Israeli Military Attorney General on 30 March 2009, just 11 days after it was opened. The failure of Israel to conduct serious investigations merely entrenches the deep-rooted

culture of impunity to its soldiers and leadership. Israel's refusal to conduct an investigation that meets the relevant international standards, and its willingness to provide protection and impunity to the army and government who committed or ordered the perpetration of these crimes, places the onus on the international community to seek to initiate effective, impartial investigations and to pursue and bring suspected war criminals to justice in accordance with international law relevant to the prosecution of war criminals.

Al Mezan strongly condemns continued IOF crimes in the Gaza Strip, including the ongoing siege, which constitutes collective punishment of the entire Gazan population.. Further, Al Mezan condemns Israel's encouragement of its soldiers to commit further grave breaches of applicable rules of international law by providing them with protection and immunity.

Al Mezan calls on the international community to assume its moral and legal obligation to take action to end the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip to pave the way for reconstruction. Further, Al Mezan calls on the international community to open an investigation into violations of human rights and IHL perpetrated by the IOF in the Gaza Strip and bring the perpetrators to justice.

**End**