

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights**Annual Narrative Report 1 Jan – 31 December 2018****General and Contact Information**

Main Office Address: 5/102-1, Habosh Road, Omar El-Mukhtar Street, Western Rimal Gaza City, the Gaza Strip.

Telephone: +972 (0)8 282-0447 **Fax:** +972 (0)8 282-0442

Jabalia Office: Main St., Jabalia Camp, the Gaza Strip; P.O. Box 2714,

Telephone: +972 (0)8 245-3555 **Fax:** +972 (0)8 245-3554

Email: info@mezan.org

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/mezancenter>

Twitter: [@AlMezanCenter](https://twitter.com/AlMezanCenter)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MezanCenter/

Board Members

Dr. Kamal Al Sharafi (Chairperson), Former head of PLC oversight committee for human rights

Mr. Talal Aukal (Vice Chairperson), Journalist and political analyst

Mr. Jamil Serehan (Treasurer) lawyer and Director of ICHR Office in Gaza

Mrs. Andaleeb Shehadeh (Member), Women rights activist

Mr. Nafez Al Madhoun (Member) Lawyer

Dr. Ali Abu Zuhri (Member), President of the American Arab University – Jenin.

Dr. Azmi Shuaibi (Member) AMAN Coalition Anti-Corruption Consultant.

Al Mezan Donor Partners in 2018**Core Program Donors:**

Netherlands Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority

ICCO & Kerkinactie, the Netherlands

Medico International – Germany

Projects Donors:

European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

United Nations Development Fund

Norwegian Refugee Council

Save the Children – International

Open Society Foundations

Diakonia, Sweden

Trócaire, Ireland

Memberships

The Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC)

Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network (ESCR Network)

Habitat International Coalition - Housing and Land Rights Network

Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN)

The World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)

The Protection Cluster Working Groups (Chaired by OHCHR)

1. Introduction

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights (Al Mezan) presents its annual narrative report for the year 2018, which is the first of the current three-year strategy. It covers the activities of Al Mezan during the period January-December 2018. A brief note on the context in which Al Mezan worked on these activities is presented at the start of the report, and is followed by a section on overall achievement and challenges. The report then details the outcomes and activities set out in the 2018 Plan of Action. The report covers all activities under the core program and projects during the reporting period, with a table briefly listing the projects, which aims to show all relevant information to relevant stakeholders and donors.

2. Note on context

Setting the scene: The main developments that shaped the scene and influenced the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip in 2018 are causes for concern. The economic situation reached a very low point due to the Israeli closure and blockade and ARA policy, which caused severe harm to the most vulnerable people. The impacts of the measures taken by the Palestinian Authority and the de facto authorities, following an attempted assassination of the Palestinian Prime Minister in March 2018, became more visible, also deepening the political schism. Also, in March, large-scale demonstrations started and continued throughout the year with Israeli forces use of excessive force leading to thousands of casualties. The United States moved its embassy to Jerusalem, sparking official and popular responses in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) that practically froze the already weak peace efforts, while the US imposed sanctions on the Palestinian people in the form of halting aid to the PA, UNRWA and civil society. Meanwhile, Israeli settlement activities in the oPt, with violations of international law linked to them. The year saw more active involvement on the part of international community; however, this engagement did not help influence the situation significantly. Finally, the pattern of shrinking civic space and direct attacks on independent civil society intensified in 2018, with more direct interference and involvement from the Israeli government.

In response to these developments, Al Mezan intensified the reporting and legal and advocacy efforts based on the factual documentation of the violations of human rights and IHL violations. A significant part of the interventions during the year came in the form of strategic litigation in Israel on behalf of affected groups in Gaza. International advocacy efforts were also intensified in an effort to create pressure on the duty bearers to improve protection.

The Great March of Return:

In January 2018 a call on social media for peaceful protests attracted attention in Gaza. It generated support from civil society and political powers. Tens of thousands of Palestinians mobilized on 30 March 2018 and demonstrations took place in five locations near the fence. Notably, in the buildup for the protests, the Israeli military declared that the protests were viewed as a threat and that Israel would respond with force.¹ On the first day of protests, 15 Palestinians were killed and over a thousand were injured as Israeli forces deployed lethal, excessive force against the protests.²

The demonstrations were initially expected to continue until 15 May, the day Palestinians call the Nakba (Catastrophe) Day. On 14 March 2018, the US opened its embassy in Jerusalem, and the demonstrations

¹ Al Mezan and Adalah had sent a letter to the Israeli Attorney General and Military Advocate General on 30 March, the day before the first demonstrations took place. In this letter, the two organizations warned about the consequences of the Israeli military statement announcing the deployment of over 100 snipers with relaxed open-fire orders to face the protests, and asked that the two officials intervene to prevent what would be a serious violation of Israeli law and international law. This letter can be reached online at <https://www.adalah.org/en/content/view/9446>. After the killing of 15 protesters on 31 March, the two organizations sent another letter asking for an investigation into the way Israeli forces deployed lethal force, and demanded that the two officials intervene to prevent recurrence of these actions. Information about this letter can be accessed online at <http://mezan.org/en/post/22595>.

² See Al Mezan's press release on the first day of demonstrations at <http://mezan.org/en/post/22594>.

intensified. 57 Palestinians were killed and over 2,000 injured on that day.³ Al Mezan and Adalah had petitioned the Supreme Court in Israel on 24 April 2018 to intervene and prevent the unlawful use of lethal force; however, the Court did not intervene in a timely manner.⁴ The State submitted a response to this petition, arguing that the use of force was lawful, including the targeting of protesters with live fire by snipers.⁵ On 24 May 2018, the Court issued its ruling, in which it adopted the States position in full; thus permitting the use of lethal force against protesters.⁶

The demonstrations continued into 2019. By 22 February 2019, Al Mezan's documentation shows that 190 Palestinians were killed at the protests, including 40 children, two women, two journalists, three paramedics, and eight persons with disability, including one child. Another 14,673 persons have been wounded, including 3,128 children, 653 women, 171 paramedics, and 148 journalists. Of those wounded, 7,750 were hit by live fire, including 1,433 children and 151 women.

The health sector in Gaza struggled to deal with these high numbers of casualties. The lack of capacity to deal with the severe wounds and Israeli authorities' restrictions on access to hospitals in the West Bank, dozens have had their limbs amputated.⁷ In February 2019, the UN Commission of Inquiry (CoI) issued a summary of its report after having conducted extensive investigations into the demonstrations. It condemned the use of excessive, lethal force as unlawful and criticized the lack of domestic legal remedies.⁸ Al Mezan cooperated with the CoI's investigations by providing documentation and evidence, but also by facilitating investigators' access to victims and witnesses for private interviews with them.

The Closure/blockade and ARA policy:

The closure of Gaza entered its 11th year with disastrous implications for the economy and deepening the de-development trends. The closure and blockade policy has crippled Gaza's institutions that are in charge of providing public services to the residents, directly infringing on their rights to housing and an adequate standard of living.

The rates of poverty and unemployment have been rising dramatically for over a decade. In the third quarter of 2018, unemployment reached 54.9%. At least 53% of Palestinians in Gaza endure poverty, with 33.8% living in extreme poverty.^{9,10} The Israeli authorities continue to increase restrictions as a means of retaliation and collective punishment. In July 2018, the Israeli government maintained a closure of Kerem Abu Salam (Kerem Shalom), the main cargo crossing between Israel and Gaza, as a response to and punishment for incendiary kites being floated into Israel by Palestinian protesters.¹¹ On

³ For more details see Al Mezan's press release at <http://mezan.org/en/post/22820>.

⁴ Please consult the joint press release on this petition at <http://mezan.org/en/post/22754>. The Court first heard the petition on 1 May 2018; see <http://mezan.org/en/post/22797>. As the protests continued and more protesters and other civilians were killed, Al Mezan and Adalah urged the Court's intervention on 17 May 2018; see <http://mezan.org/en/post/22825>.

⁵ See a summary of the State's response (in English) at https://www.adalah.org/uploads/uploads/Summary_Snipers_petition_and_state's_response_15_May_2018_FINAL.pdf.

⁶ See the joint press release concerning the court's ruling at <http://mezan.org/en/post/22875>.

⁷ See Al Mezan's joint petition to the Israeli Supreme Court on behalf of young wounded protesters at <http://mezan.org/en/post/22709>.

⁸ See Al Mezan's press release on the Commission of Inquiry's report at <http://mezan.org/en/post/23469>.

⁹ Ibid footnote 14

¹⁰ Exacerbating the issue, in June 2017, the Palestinian Authority cut the salaries of 45,000 of its employees in Gaza by between 30% and 60%. The families of these employees lost a significant percentage of their income and were pushed into poverty, thereby increasing Gaza's poverty rate.

When in 2018 the United States cut its contribution to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), the deterioration of the economic situation was dramatically accelerated. See: U.S. Department of State, "On U.S. Assistance to UNRWA". Available at <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/08/285648.htm>

¹¹ Al Mezan, "Collective Punishment: Israeli Authorities Block Gaza Imports and Exports". 20 Jul 2018, available at: <http://mezan.org/en/post/23078>

17 October 2018, the Israeli government re-imposed harsh restrictions on the movement of people and goods and reduced the fishing zone to three nautical miles. The temporary restrictions served to exacerbate economic and human rights conditions in Gaza.¹² The restrictions on the entry of essential materials continued to have serious implications on access to safe water and food.

2018 also saw stricter restrictions on access to healthcare inside Gaza and outside of it. As mentioned above, the sheer number of people killed and wounded in protests added severe pressure on the health sector, which was already under-staffed, under-equipped and under-funded. Shortages in power, fuel and medicines were experienced throughout the year, causing interruptions at medical facilities.¹³

As for patients in need of medical care outside Gaza, new record numbers of patients have had their permit requests excessively delayed or rejected by the Israeli authorities during the year, leading to deaths and trauma for patients. In 2018, 1,971 were rejected, and 7,861 were delayed or ignored, which is an 8% increase from the alarming record in 2017.

These figures were partly caused by decisions by the Israeli government that added further criteria to the already strict criteria for granting permits to patients. For example, persons wounded at demonstrations were denied access to hospitals in the West Bank.¹⁴ Moreover, the Israeli authorities denied hundreds of requests to exit Gaza for medical treatment for patients on the ground that their relatives were illegally residents in Israel or the West Bank, conditioning granting permits for them to their relatives' return to Gaza.¹⁵

Another main feature of the closure/blockade policy is the imposition of Access Restricted Areas (ARA), which affects fishermen and farmers communities in particular. Fishermen, who work in the access restricted areas by sea, endure constant harassment, detention, and shooting on the part of the Israeli navy. These attacks are unwarranted and compound the dire conditions of the fishing community in the Gaza Strip, 80 percent of whom live below the poverty line. Al Mezan's monitoring and documentation, in 326 incidents of harassment by the Israeli navy in 2018, 323 involved the navy's use of live fire. In 2018, the navy arrested 68 fishermen, killed two fishermen, injured 19 fishermen, confiscated 21 boats, and destroyed boats and equipment in eight incidents. The Israeli navy still targets Palestinian fishermen when they are within the permitted fishing zone.¹⁶

Gaza's farming community experiences similar attacks and destruction of property as fishermen. The ARA restrictions deny access 35% of agricultural lands in Gaza.¹⁷ In 2018, the Israeli military shelled agricultural lands 15 times, and conducted shooting and airstrikes 214 time, resulting in the killing of five farmers and wounding of two farmers. Israeli forces continue to conduct chemical spraying of farmlands, which affects the livelihood and right to food of the population, while posing a risk to Gaza's fragile environment and decaying infrastructure. The spraying is reported to be creating a

See also: Al Mezan, "Further Strangling Gaza, Israeli Authorities Add Restrictions on Movement of Goods in and out of Gaza". 15 Jul 2018, available at: <http://mezan.org/en/post/23072>

See also: New York Times, "Unable to Stop Flaming Kites, Israel Moves to Choke Off Gaza Commerce". 9 Jul 2018, available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/09/world/middleeast/gaza-israel-kites-embargo.html>

See also: Haaretz, "Israel to Reopen Gaza's Only Commercial Crossing if Calm Persists, Defense Chief Says". 9 Jul 2018, available at: <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/defense-chief-israel-to-re-open-gaza-border-crossing-if-calm-persists-1.6294479>

¹² Al Mezan, "Israeli Forces Reinstate Increased Restrictions, Launch Attacks on Gaza". 17 Oct 2018, available at: <http://mezan.org/en/post/23299>

¹³ See for example Al Mezan's press release concerning the shortages in medicines at <http://mezan.org/en/post/23181> and fuel and other necessities at <http://mezan.org/en/post/23072>.

¹⁴ For more information on the Israeli Supreme Court's decision on the case of Al-Kronz, see Al Mezan's joint press release: <http://www.mezan.org/en/post/22751>.

¹⁵ Ibid footnote 26

¹⁶ Al Mezan, "Israeli Forces Fire at and Detain Four Fishermen, Confiscate their Boats". 16 Dec 2018, available at: <http://mezan.org/en/post/23337>

¹⁷ UN OCHA oPt, Special Focus, Aug 2010

lasting change to the chemical composition of entire swaths of arable land, reaching up to 700 meters beyond the designated access restricted area.^{18, 19}

Accountability and access to redress:

Serious violations of IHRL and IHL continued to go uninvestigated or improperly examined in 2018. Accountability: litigation in Israel is increasingly frustrating. As mentioned above, the Israeli Supreme Court allowed the use of lethal force against unarmed protesters who evidently did not pose an imminent threat to life, which is an alarming departure from the international law obligations.

The MAG also continued to fail to properly investigate incidents involving serious suspicion of violations of Israeli and international law. The percentage of complaints in which criminal investigations is extremely low, whereas 58% of the complaints submitted by Al Mezan were not investigated at all. Criminal investigations were almost always closed without introducing charges to perpetrators, let alone indictments. Most recently, the MAG decided to close the investigation in the Black Friday case in Rafah; one of the most serious incidents during the 2014 hostilities, without taking further action. This follows a pattern where serious cases are closed without proper investigations, raising even more questions about whether the investigations live up to the relevant minimum international standards.²⁰

Al Mezan's experience indicates that the investigations' system and its structure suffer from serious flaws, which have been reported frequently, but have not been amended. Allegations of serious violations on the part of the Palestinian non-state actors have not been properly investigated, either, whether those affecting Palestinian or Israeli nationals.

An alarming development in 2018 occurred in relation to Palestinian residents of Gaza access to redress and compensation in Israel. In November, an Israeli court ruled that the State is not liable for damages for severely wounding boy in 2014. The ruling invokes Israeli law that law grants comprehensive immunity to Israeli military in Gaza, which the court considered as constitutional, regardless of the circumstances and the gravity of the injury.²¹ Al Mezan and Adalah have filed an appeal to the Israeli Supreme Court concerning this case in February 2019.²²

As the investigations system and courts in Israel continue to fail to deliver justice as per the relevant standards, international accountability mechanisms need to play a stronger role in the situation.

Internal political schism and violations of human rights

Efforts to achieve Palestinian reconciliation took a blow since the start of 2018, especially following the attempted assassination of Prime Minister Rami Alhmdallah as he was on the way to visit Gaza in March 2018.²³ The de facto authorities in Gaza took severe measures concerning movement and access and against telecom companies as they investigated the incident.²⁴

Campaigns of summoning, intimidation and detention of members and supporters of Fateh Movement occurred twice during the year, affecting hundreds of people who suffered from arbitrary detention and

¹⁸ Al Mezan, "Briefing Paper Effects of Aerial Spraying on farmlands in the Gaza Strip". Feb 2018, available at: <http://www.mezan.org/en/uploads/files/15186958401955.pdf>

¹⁹ Al Mezan, Adalah, and Gisha, "Stop spraying dangerous herbicides over the Gaza Strip". 9 Jan 2019, available at: <http://mezan.org/en/post/23348>

²⁰ See for example an overview of the investigation into the killing of four children on Gaza beach in 2014; a case that was closed by MAG despite the evident misconduct by the Israeli military. Details are available at <http://mezan.org/en/post/22379>.

²¹ For more details about this court ruling, please consult the joint press release by Al Mezan and Adalah at <http://mezan.org/en/post/23316>.

²² See the joint press release reporting the appeal at <http://mezan.org/en/post/23370>.

²³ For details see <http://mezan.org/en/post/22586>.

²⁴ For more details see <http://mezan.org/en/post/22556>.

abuse.²⁵ Detentions that seem to be politically motivated occurred in Gaza and the West Bank.²⁶ In September 2018, the spokesperson of Fatah was assaulted in Gaza.²⁷

In addition, the de facto authorities in Gaza used violent means to disperse peaceful assemblies during the year and intimidation and attacks on journalists.²⁸ Respect for fundamental rights and freedoms in Gaza remains a serious concern, especially at those times when reconciliation efforts do not move in a positive direction.

The security situation in Gaza is also alarming. Al Mezan reported deaths resulting from family feuds,²⁹ acts of revenge,³⁰ criminal murder of women on ‘family honour’ grounds,³¹ and in celebratory firing of small arms.³² These acts and the continued use of small arms and light weapons in Gaza are concerning and pose a challenge to social cohesion and peace. They attest to a growing gap in person security.

Al Mezan expressed concern about the continued application of corporal punishment in Gaza. During the year, courts in Gaza issued death sentences at least in two occasions, with eight individuals sentenced to death by courts.³³

The pressures emanating from Israeli policy, a crippled economy and increasing poverty and unemployment, and frustrations emanating from the failure of Palestinian political leadership to secure reconciliation and move towards improving the living conditions have resulted in widespread anxiety and frustration among the population in Gaza. This is reflected in the increasing numbers of suicides, which occurred over ten times in 2018, with unofficial sources reporting that over 50 attempted suicides occur monthly.

Shrinking space and threats to civil society:

As part of Palestinian independent civil society, Al Mezan worked under various pressures and risks in 2018. Attempts by groups affiliated with Israeli government continued to make false claims and spread rumors aimed at harming Al Mezan’s standing and reputation. Moreover, the Israeli government has become more directly involved in spreading reports aiming for the same purpose, especially the Strategic Affairs Ministry. The Palestinian legislative and administrative environment continue to pose risks, too.

Having to deal with record numbers of workload due to the conditions mentioned above; including concerning patients’ medical access and the outcomes of armed attacks on protesters and vulnerable groups, Al Mezan worked under severe pressure in 2018. This pressure does not allow for investing sufficient time and energy into repelling unfounded attacks, as this energy is needed for working on the actual cases with actual affected people in Gaza, while at the same time raising funding for this work is becoming increasingly challenging. The following section briefly describes some of the attacks during the year and the environment in which the Plan of Action for 2018 was implemented.

Israeli government-affiliated groups, such as NGO-Monitor and UN Watch, continued to invest all their time and resources into watching what human rights NGOs do and say. In Geneva and Brussels, representatives of these organizations follow the activities of organizations, record them and report on

²⁵ See for example Al Mezan’s press release on 31 December 2018 concerning the conduct of the de facto authorities in Gaza, available at <http://mezan.org/en/post/23343>.

²⁶ For more details see Al Mezan’s press release at <http://mezan.org/en/post/23231>.

²⁷ See Al Mezan’s press release for more details at <http://mezan.org/en/post/23229>.

²⁸ See for example Al Mezan’s report on a relevant incident at <http://mezan.org/en/post/22926>, and concerning attacks on journalists in Al Mezan’s report on internal violations, available at <http://mezan.org/en/post/23354>.

²⁹ See <http://mezan.org/en/post/22282> and <http://mezan.org/en/post/23191> for example.

³⁰ See for example <http://mezan.org/en/post/23185>.

³¹ See <http://mezan.org/en/post/23227> for more details.

³² See for example <http://mezan.org/en/post/23071>.

³³ See <http://mezan.org/en/post/23075> and <http://mezan.org/en/post/23335> for details.

their activities in detail. They seem to jump on any opportunity to discredit their target. In November 2018, it was reported that a member of Al-Haq; which is based in the West Bank, was a staff member of Al Mezan and that he was recruited in a way that indicated serious conflict of interest, as he is a close relative of a Dutch diplomat; the Government of The Netherlands being a donor of Al Mezan's. In fact, this person was asked to read a 90-second oral statement at the Human Rights Council on behalf of Al Mezan, as our staff left Geneva having finished all their program there. As in last year's attempted smearing incidents, the persons conducting 'robust research' did not make contact with any of the relevant parties to seek information or verify it.

During 2018 and early 2019, the Israeli government's SAM issued three reports. Two of them, titled 'The Money Trail', focus on EU funding to human rights and development organizations who work in Israel and Palestine. Al Mezan was mentioned in the second report, with accusations of being anti-Israel and being involved in BDS campaigns. Evidence to support these claims in the report almost completely match the information spread by NGO-Monitor on their web site, and it invokes examples that are almost completely critical to Israeli settlements in the oPt.

The third report, titled 'Terrorists in Suits', does not mention Al Mezan directly. However, it puts forward serious allegations against partner NGOs and it follows direct similar attacks on Al Mezan in 2017. It seems that the tactic 'repeat it until it is a fact' is being pushed to its limits. Despite Al Mezan and other Palestinian and Israeli NGOs efforts to show how poor the research for these reports is and how clearly they promote political statements using unfounded claims, they continue to re-emerge. Unfortunately, they are being picked up more by the media, lobby groups on social media as well as an increasing number of parliament members who take the word of the SAM and affiliated groups at face value. An entire literature is being created, with different groups issuing reports and articles that cite each other to force new truths.

As a result, government donors of Al Mezan are faced with an increasing number of parliamentary questions and media reports critical of this support. Moreover, Al Mezan has been receiving more questions about these allegations from non-government donors who feel vulnerable to attack; especially under the current political and judicial environment in the US and Europe. This has caused delays in clearing grants in 2018, as Al Mezan engaged in a process of providing information and clarifications to donors and in negotiations over the grants. We are confident that these issues will be solved on a solid basis of transparency and trust; however, we note that they have had an impact on Al Mezan's resources at the short-term level.

At a broader level, the Israeli government continues to gather information about NGOs and expand a 'sanctions list'. Individuals of organizations on this list are banned from entering Israel and; therefore, the oPt. Al Mezan followed the case of Human Rights Watch country director, which is being reviewed by courts in Israel, with concern.³⁴ US and Dutch activists were also banned during the year.

It was reported that an Israeli spying party functioned in Gaza for some time before it was discovered in an incident that left one of them and several Hamas members dead. It is concerning that this group was in Gaza disguised as members of an international NGO. It was noticed that this incident has led to stricter scrutiny of international organizations by the de facto authorities in Gaza. This incident is cause for concern, as it injures the image of independent organizations and their independence and impartiality as they work in areas of conflict.

Al Mezan notes that the Palestinian authorities in the West Bank and Gaza have also created conditions that added to the workload significantly. Moreover, the legislative reforms enacted in 2017, and which influence free speech, were not revoked. The Palestinian Authority's decision to force not-for profit organizations to obtain approval of their projects from the cabinet as a condition to access their funds is also still in effect. These are issue of concern and require resolution as there is always fear that they could be used as tools to criminalize legitimate speech and be used as pressure tools.

³⁴ See the joint statement by PHROC at <http://mezan.org/en/post/22873> for more information.

3. Overall achievements

The following areas of work provide a brief overview of Al Mezan's main action points, which are further detailed in Annex I 'Achievement as per Plan of Action'

Monitoring and Documentation:

- Al Mezan's fieldworkers conducted 3,753 field visits, including 2,570 visits to meet victims/eyewitnesses to document violations and collect over 290 testimonials.
- In the reporting period, Al Mezan documented the killing of 262 Palestinians by Israeli military attacks, including 50 children and two women; another 13,946 people, including 2,888 children and 611 women, sustained injuries from Israeli shootings, shelling and airstrikes on the Gaza Strip.
- The majority of killings occurred among protesters in the ARA in the context of a chain of demonstrations called the 'Great March of Return'. Israeli military use of excessive and lethal force against demonstrations left 183 Palestinians dead, including 36 children, three paramedics and two journalists, and injured 13,730 people who were treated at local hospitals, including 2,846 children, 596 women, 154 paramedics and 143 journalists — 7,571 of those injured were hit by live fire shrapnel, including 1,404 children and 148 women.
- In relation to the demonstrations, Al Mezan fully documented all the cases of killing and the cases of wounded who were children, women, journalists and medics, and people whose injury was critical or caused disability. The rest of cases of injuries were collected from hospitals and verified by field workers, but were not individually documented in full due to the lack of capacity.
- In the sea, Al Mezan documented incidents involving Israeli forces attacks on fishermen; including 325 separate incidents involving opening fire at fishermen, killing 2 fishermen and injuring 20. The Israeli military also arrested 94 Palestinians, including 68 fishermen (of them 6 children), and seized 21 fishing boats.
- The documentation enabled reporting and legal interventions into many of these cases, and sharing information with UN bodies and INGOs.
- At the local level, Al Mezan documented 110 incidents of violence or use of arms stemming from local authorities and other Palestinian non-state actors which left 60 persons dead and 129 injured (including 22 children and 16 women). Alarmingly, personal feuds and disputes between families claimed the lives of 20 civilians (including 4 children) and left 44 wounded.
- At least 21 of those incidents were in relation to prevention of peaceful assemblies and assaults on journalist prompting Al Mezan to intervene on behalf of journalists/activists arbitrarily detained. Al Mezan also documented death sentences issued in the reporting period and issued two position papers/legal reading on capital punishment.
- Data about violations was shared with local and international organizations, including OCHA, OHCHR, WHO, and UNICEF, over 480 times.
- Monitoring of ESCR issues led to holding two meetings with the public and a third meeting in presence of Palestinian Authority officials to resolve issue related to electricity and water shortage, disposal of medical waste, and settlement of land ownership affecting hundreds of residents.
- Findings of research into ESCR issues was also shared with government and UN actors. For example, finding of comprehensive research on the state of ESCR in the Gaza Strip was shared with UNDP, and on PA's measures detrimental effects on patient access to healthcare was shared with MAP. Al Mezan also reported to the Committee on ESCR.

Legal Assistance and Advice:

- 1,175 individuals (356 women, 819 men) received legal counselling on a range of violations or situations of risk resulting from practices of Israeli authorities and Palestinian duty bearers. As detailed below, the target group included victims or people at risk from among the civilian population who have no means to defend themselves, such as patients, farmers, fishermen and others.
- 240 interventions were with to Palestinian duty-bearers. Of those, 109 cases concerned people in detention who were arrested unlawfully with breaches to the due process or for politically-motivated reasons. Al Mezan lawyers located and visited them in detention centers and prisons in the Gaza Strip. During these visits, the lawyers dealt 83 complaints from detainees successfully. Another 38 cases concerning arbitrary detention were represented before local authorities in Gaza, which secured lawyer visitation to 10 detainees and led to the release of 29.
- 575 Complaints were submitted to the Israeli Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA) at Erez on behalf of referral patients applying for exit permits to access hospital in the West Bank or Israel. Al Mezan successfully secured permits for 240 applicants (35 girls, 36 boys, 87 women, and 82 men) who subsequently were able to cross Erez and reach their designated health care facilities outside the Gaza Strip.
- 132 cases where residents of Gaza sought exit permits to cross Erez for non-medical reasons were referred to and followed up with Gisha. This collaboration secured exit permits for 62 residents of Gaza (40 women, 18 men, and 4 children).
- 40 complaints were submitted to the Israeli Military Advocate General (MAG) requesting criminal investigations into incidents where evidence suggests that 40 Palestinians were killed or wounded in circumstances where force was unlawfully used. Those included 13 children, in the context of the ‘Great March of Return’ protests. Another 11 complaints were made to the MAG on behalf of fishermen whose fishing boats had been either seized or destroyed by Israeli Navy.
- 70 civil notifications sent to the Israeli Ministry of Defense to secure the right of victims of IHL/IHRL violations to seek reparation in Israeli courts within two years from the date of the incident, as per the statute of limitation under Israeli law in relation to Palestinian plaintiffs. The majority of the notification were sent on behalf of casualties of the ‘Great March of Return’.
- Al Mezan’s lawyer in Israel provided legal representation for 70 detainees from Gaza before Israeli administrative and judicial bodies.
- A joint-petition to the Israeli Supreme Court challenging denial of exit permits for casualties of the Great March of Return who had been referred to healthcare facilities in the West Bank and Israel. the judges ruled in favor of the petitioners, marking the first time the Israeli Supreme Court has issued a ruling to allow a resident of Gaza to transfer to the West Bank via the Erez crossing. Consequently, by the end of 2018, the CLA approved at least 50 exit-permit applications submitted by casualties of the ‘Great March of Return’ protests to receive treatment in the West Bank and Israel.
- Another joint-petition to the Israeli Supreme Court challenged the denial of exit permits for patients claimed to be relatives of ‘ Hamas operatives’ which had been implemented to serve as leverage over Hamas with respect to returning captured and missing persons. The Court overruled the government’s decision to impose this sweeping prohibition on exit of Gaza residents in need of urgent medical treatment to serve as leverage stands in violation of fundamental human rights.
- Al Mezan’s joint work with Adalah and Gisha on a case which involved seizure of three large Palestinian fishing boats by Israeli Navy resulted in the release of two large fishing boats and another 23 small fishing boats which had been withheld for the last three years.

- Two strategic cases lodged before the Israeli district court (one in 2012 and the second in 2016) seeking compensation for damages caused by Israeli military for two Palestinian families from Gaza have been struck down. The judges based their decisions on Amendment no. 8 introduced to the State Liability Law citing ‘combat action’ as base for dismissal in one case and Gaza being an ‘enemy entity’ in the dismissal of the second case. Al Mezan has appealed both cases (one taken jointly with Adalah) to the Israeli Supreme Court in 2018 and first hearing sessions in both cases are scheduled for 2019. This marks the first time any compensation case lodged on behalf of residents of Gaza reaches the Israeli Supreme Court since the introduction of Amendment no. 8 to the State Liability Law.
- Lawyers continued to follow-up with the MAG with regards to complaints requesting the opening criminal investigation into the killing of Palestinians in 2014 military operation on Gaza “Operation Protective Edge”. This year, lawyers received correspondence from MAG informing of the closing of 28 cases, in which the military body concluded that it found no grounds for justifying a criminal investigation. In response, Al Mezan appealed 16 closure decisions to the Israeli Attorney General in Oct. 2018, which remain pending at the time of writing.
- Al Mezan continued to follow up and assist cases with national courts in France, the Netherlands and Belgium against violations of IHRL and IHL in Gaza. Moreover, the reporting period saw one joint communication submitted to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

Advocacy, media and liaison:

- In par with the communications and advocacy strategy, Al Mezan intensified campaigning and advocacy during 2018. Campaigning focused on priority issues; such as patients’ access to medical care and Gaza closure, accountability and access to justice and redress, shrinking space, threats to HRDs, and the prohibition against torture. At the local level, Al Mezan campaigning focused on the impacts of the political split, freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and corporal punishment.
- In doing so, Al Mezan managed to increase the advocacy missions to 15 during the year. In addition, liaison and consultation missions were conducted to rally civil society around key priorities and coordinate joint actions. Over 100 meetings were conducted during these activities, reaching EU officials, UN officials, government officials in EU member States and Switzerland, and civil society. They also included five key presentations at public events in Europe and the US.
- Al Mezan also attended the ICC Assembly of States Parties 2018 in The Hague; during which key side events, workshops and meetings were attended. In 2018, several communications were made to the ICC in response to inquiries from the Office of the Prosecutor in the context of their preliminary examination of the situation in oPt.
- In Gaza, Al Mezan leadership conducted over 200 meetings with diplomats, UN officials and international organizations. Three field tours were organized for visiting delegations to explain certain human rights issues in practical terms.
- Al Mezan also maintained our active presence at the Human Rights Council’s sessions, with four sessions attended in 2018, and interaction with UN special rapporteurs and treaty bodies, ensuring factual inputs and analysis on the human rights situation in Gaza. During these activities, Al Mezan made seven submissions (under four different items), submitted four Oral Interventions and joined another four, organized a major joint side event and presented at a second side event. Moreover, Al Mezan made nine submissions to special rapporteurs for individual communications as well as submissions for their reports. Another eight submissions were also made for treaty bodies and special procedures; including a joint submission to CCPR (Israel List of Issues); CEDAW (Palestine).

- Al Mezan maintained our membership at eight networks and coalitions, with membership vitalized EuroMed Rights, FIDH, ESCR-Net, HIC and OMCT.
- Al Mezan's staff conducted over 400 media appearances to discuss human rights issues (with over 220 TV stations, over 120 radio stations, and 60 journalists writing for local newspapers and/or news websites).
- Publications and interventions by Al Mezan were mentioned 1,131 times in Arabic media outlets (62 on TV stations, 10 on radio stations, 134 in newspapers, 925 online) and 168 times in English media³⁵ (14 on TV stations, 49 in newspapers, 105 online).
- 16,642 unique users visited Al Mezan Arabic website and 9,412 visited Al Mezan English website.
- Al Mezan Facebook followers crossed 6,600 this year and Twitter feed reached 4,630 tweets and over 2,270 followers.

Training/awareness-raising:

- 35 university students (including 16 females) participated in the Pass-the-Word program where they received 2-week training on human rights, IHL, democracy, rule of law, elections, and moderating discussion, and then used the acquired skills to deliver 100 awareness-raising sessions to their peers in local universities during the course of the year (5 sessions on various human rights topics for 20 groups of students). The sessions reached 356 undergraduate students (189 females, 167 males).
- 144 university undergraduates, young lawyers, and members of CBOs (including 71 females) took part in three-day trainings organized in Gaza and Khan Younis on human rights and IHL-related topics.
- 241 farmers, fishermen, members of CSOs working in the ARA, journalists and social media activists (including 125 women) attended awareness-raising workshops on various human rights topics and the available legal remedies for victims of IHL/IHRL violations.
- 1,191 school children and 110 teachers gained basic knowledge of human rights and rights of the child in over 40 awareness sessions organized at Al Mezan's offices and local schools.
- 4,000 school children used art to express their take on human rights in relation to the situation they live in. Children from UNRWA and MoE schools sent their art to compete in Al Mezan's annual IHL/HR Child Art Awards. 490 people (including 115 children) attended the award ceremony held in December 2018 to mark Human Rights Day and to honor the 36 winners (top three student in each age group). The Palestinian Minister of Education, who could not attend in person, gave a pre-recorded video message to the children, and UNRWA's Education Program Director joined Al Mezan's Director General on stage to present awards for the winning art work and opened the art gallery showcasing 71 children's paintings in conclusion of the ceremony.
- 92 vulnerable children affected by trauma took part in recreational camps organized by Al Mezan in presence of MHPSS professional. The children, who were injured in protests or were traumatized as a result of injury or death of a family member, took part in week-long camps where a range of activities centred on play therapy were conducted. Group and one-on-one therapy sessions were conducted by a psychosocial support expert to address unresolved traumas. As a result, the expert identified over a dozen children in need of prolonged therapy, and thereafter Al Mezan coordinated their referral to GCMHP to receive tailored treatment with

³⁵ For a list of mentions in English media outlets, please visit <http://mezan.org/en/posts-archive/4/Mezan+In+Media/2018>

accompaniment of their guardians; at least five children showed substantial progress by the end of the reporting period.

- Al Mezan's Pass-the-Word program has been nominated for the Welfare Association's Gaza Award in recognition of its distinct achievements over the past decade and is currently among a handful of finalists being considered for the award.

Information/Communication:

- 121 Arabic/English press releases were published online and disseminated to a mailing list of over 700 contacts, including diplomatic missions, media organizations, and NGOs. The majority of the press release were on violations committed by the Israeli authorities: 32 on violations against protesters in the context of the Great March of Return, 11 on attacks against Palestinian fishermen, 5 on military targeting and airstrikes.
- Over a dozen joint-press releases with Adalah and other partners on cases taken to the Israeli justice system in relation to access to healthcare outside Gaza for injured protestors and female patients, and use of lethal force and sniper fire against protestors in the ARA.
- 17 reports were published in 2018, including ten regular report (annual and semi-annual) on IHL/IHRL violations and internal violence, four special report on breaches of international law in the context of the Great Return March, and three reports ESCR in Gaza.
- Two fact sheets were published on the electricity crisis in Gaza and Environmental impact of improper disposal of batteries widely used in Gaza to cope with the power shortage.
- Three position papers/legal readings on legislative and policy developments influencing human rights in Israel and Palestine; one on dissolving the Palestinian Legislative Council, one on the Knesset's death penalty bill affecting Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons, and another on death sentences issued by de facto authorities in the Gaza Strip.
- Pass-the-Word volunteers setup up a social media initiative with Al Mezan which aimed at giving a voice to people in the Access Restricted Area. The campaign was to be called #WeTweetForYou and engaged with women, men and children participating in the weekly demonstrations in the ARA to portray their messages using social media platforms, mainly twitter. The campaign was a success managing to reach 277,118 twitter accounts within the first six hours.
- Al Mezan's annual IHL/HR Child Art Awards ceremony organized in celebration of Human Rights Day in December was streamed live on Facebook reaching over five thousand people.

Library services

- 989 university students, researchers, and lawyers benefited from library services and borrowed a total of 2,350 books.
- 80 books and periodicals were added to the library this year.
- Beneficiaries gifted three theses and three books of their writing to the library.

4. Challenges

| Challenges | Mitigating measures |
|---|--|
| For the second year in a row, Al Mezan has suffered a deficit (see 6. Admin and financial issues section below). In the opening two months of 2019, staff salaries were partly paid and essential expenses, such as office rent, was delayed. | More project funding was raised during 2018, and further funding is being sought for 2019 and beyond. Al Mezan also intensified the dialogue with partners to seek core funding grants. |
| Electricity outages lasting between 17 and 19 hours per day throughout the year raised the cost of operating the center's backup power generator which also suffered from overheating during summer time. | Funds allocated to install a small-size solar panel system (7KW) to cover essential needs such as lighting and powering computers, thus significantly cutting down on use of the back-up generator. |
| Delays in response to legal intervention made on behalf of referral patients seeking exit permits with the Israeli Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA) at Erez in the first half of 2018. | Al Mezan's lawyers met with the Head of the Entry Licenses Department of the CLA at Erez in July 2018 to agree on effective communications channels for filing requests on behalf of referral patients. |
| Field workers and researchers continue to face difficulties obtaining information from official channels at the Ministry of Health in Gaza. | Field workers and researchers manage to form a diverse network of sources in hospitals to secure verifiable information, and make extra efforts to verify with people and witnesses. |
| Smearing and disinformation campaigns continued to target Al Mezan and other human rights NGOs in the region. In 2018. The Israeli government became directly and openly involved in these campaigns. | Al Mezan continued to work with partner NGOs and Human Rights Defenders groups to ensure proper analysis and reporting to UN and other bodies. Al Mezan also intensified our advocacy activities on shrinking space, during which we shared information with partners as well as UN, EU and government officials and parliaments in relation to these attacks. |

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring benefits from regular reporting from staff to heads of units who, in turn, meet on a monthly basis to review progress in implementation of the action plan with the Director General. In these meetings, the efficacy of implemented activities can be assessed and revised to better achieve the planned outcomes. Reporting to the Board of Directors occurs on a quarterly basis.

Participant satisfaction forms, oral evaluations, and pre/post tests are some of the tools employed by the training unit to measure new learning and assess the quality of the implemented activities; for instance, pre/post tests showed an average of 73% new acquired learning among participants in awareness-raising activities in 2018.

Legal interventions, such as complaints to administrative bodies and petitions to the Supreme Court, are easily gauged as their results are evident within a relatively short period of time unlike interventions with the military justice system which takes years to discern.

Advocacy activities are measured against whether target officials and institutions are reached, and whether asks and messages are received positively or find their way in resolutions or statements, and ultimately bring about policy changes.

After reaching certain milestones in the action plan, questionnaires are used to solicit feedback from beneficiaries of certain activities and services.

The Legal Aid Unit utilized UNDP's legal aid questionnaires to solicit feedback from 25 beneficiaries provided with legal aid ranging from legal counselling to representation before administrative and judicial bodies:

- 85% of legal consultation beneficiaries were (very) satisfied with legal information provided by lawyers and the professionalism of the staff and the time the lawyers took to hear their cases.
- 95% said that they would consider Al Mezan for any future legal aid.
- 90% were pleased with the ease of access and communication with Al Mezan.

The Training and Mass Communication Unit conducted an assessment of implemented training in 2018, including Pass-the-Word program. Sampling 61 of the participants, the results were as follows:

- 84% of participants felt that the topics covered in training were relevant to their line of work;
- 93% said that the training increased their knowledge on the topics discussed;
- 89% were pleased with overall and implementation of the training; and
- 87% were satisfied with the level of knowledge and proficiency of the lecturers.

6. Administrative and financial issues

A detailed financial statement is attached to this report. It contains multiple books, showing revenues, expenses for all donors for the year ending 31 December 2018. Other books deal with projects, and are added for the sake of transparency and information-sharing with all partners during the same period.

Financial situation:

The budget that was shared with donors at the start of the year is USD 923,810. This budget was a modified version of the budget initially shared with the strategic plan. The modification sought to reduce spending in light of the increasing challenges faced in fundraising.

In February 2018, the agreement with The Sigrid Rausing Trust ended. During negotiations to renew the agreement, the Trust expressed a desire to change its strategic interventions and focus on areas where more concrete impacts can be achieved. The agreement was therefore not renewed.

Grant applications for the Open Society Foundations and Sida also stalled until after the end of the year. Dialogue with OSF has been extensive and revolved around the grant application as well as measures required to ensure OSF compliance with US law. The dialogue saw much progress and will hopefully be concluded in early 2019. The grant for Sida started quite late in the year and it was not processed by the end of 2018, but is also hopefully expected to be concluded in early 2019. The two grants are expected to be for core funding for the duration of three years; with 2018 covered by at least one of the two grants.

As the funds for these three grants were not available in 2018, the financial situation did not stabilize and Al Mezan has experienced another deficit, as explained below. This deficit is expected to be rectified if the effort to secure a grant covering 2018, when the grant was requested, is successful.

Faced with challenges during the year, Al Mezan took measures to mitigate the situation. The EIDHR project started in March 2018, and will continue for three years. Al Mezan also applied successfully for more project funding with Diakonia, NRC, Save the Children, UNDP, OCHA and Trocaire. Other projects are still pending with Oxfam GB and Heinrich Boll Foundation. Medico International – Germany, provided extra funding towards the end of the year, which helped ease the crisis.

The year started with an accumulated deficit of USD 75,559 accrued from previous years. The actual funding received in 2018 was USD 848,251 and actual spending was USD 873,868, which is over the received funds, however, most of the deficit was suffered in the budgeted core funding. Core expenses amounted to USD 481,008, while the actual core funds received during the year were limited to USD 325,548, leaving a gap of USD 155,460. While project funding can help alleviate the shortage in funding, it can provide only partial support to core expenses through overhead support.

Al Mezan was unable to pay full salaries for the staff in the first two months of 2018. It is hoped that the efforts to secure core funding with OSF and Sida will be successful. Al Mezan also intends to seek extra core funding from existing donors for 2019.

Structure:

The organizational structure remained the same as in 2017. The existing vacancies that were identified in 2017 remained unfilled due to the lack of funding. Focus was placed on the ability to maintain the core structure of the organization; and reduce the staff cost. Meanwhile, staff cost expenses were reduced where it was possible and lawful.

Deviations:

The year has seen few negative deviations caused mainly by shortage of core funding, however, considerable number of positive deviations were conducted during the implementation period.

Negative deviations:

The specialized lawyer training (150 training hours planned) was not held this year due to shortage in core funding and instead Al Mezan invited lawyer for a three-day training limited to IHL topics. Another activity which entails holding a reception for journalists on the World Press Day was dropped this year for the same reason.

Positive deviations:

- A record number of complaints (over 500) sent to the Israeli Coordination and Liaison Administration at Erez on behalf of referral patients seeking exit permits to access medical care facilities in the West Bank and Israel; 240 permits were secured as a result. This outcome was partly supported by the EIDHR project, which provided resources for lawyers and expenses in Gaza and Israel in support for patients.
- An increase in advocacy and networking activities, with more advocacy missions and advocacy implemented in cooperation and support from partners and coalitions.
- Increased collaboration with human rights organizations in Israel working on freedom of movement as 132 cases were referred and followed up with Gisha who represented the individuals seeking exit permits for non-medical purposes and successfully secured permits for 62 residents of Gaza.
- Over 60 cases of detainees in Israel taken in. This was in response to the rise in detentions among fishermen, minors who cross the fence in search of opportunity and work, and people arrested at Erez crossing.
- Four joint-petitions made with human rights organizations in Israel to the Israeli High Court of Justice, which ruled in favor of plaintiffs in two cases: (1) petition challenging blanket policy of denial of exit permits to access treatment for casualties of the Great March of Return; and (2) denial of exit permits for female referral patients on grounds of having family ties with Hamas operatives.
- Two compensation cases for damages caused by Israeli military, which were struck down by the Israeli District Court, have been appealed to the High Court marking the first time such cases reach this level of legal proceedings since the introduction of Amendment no. 8 to the State Liability Law.

Staff capacity building:

Emergency preparedness review organized by Save the Children International (SCI) to partner organizations operating in Gaza. The training spanned for two days (27 - 28 June 2018) and included an overview of the Core Humanitarian Standards then shifted focus to joint emergency preparedness plan for SCI partner organizations in terms of emergency program implementation and coordination as well as operational capacity and available resources.

Gaza Community Mental Health Program held one-day training for at Al Mezan's office on detection and referral mechanism of torture/CIDTP/trauma survivors to available psychosocial support/treatment. The training was held on 5 July 2018 for seven staff members (4 lawyers and 3 fieldworkers) whose work put them at direct contact with project beneficiaries on daily basis .

A one-day training for staff working with children, mainly staff working on awareness raising activities and fieldworkers, on psychological first aid for child. The training aimed to improve skills and competences of practitioner to reduce the initial distress of children caused by critical incidents.

Lawyers and key staff started a course in Hebrew to strengthen their ability to deal with cases that require direct contact with the Israeli authorities, such as patients' cases.

Two staff members attended professional writing sessions (25 training-hours).

Fieldwork Coordinator took part in Shelter City Program organized by Justice and Peace Netherlands for three months where he completed a course on IHL in Maastricht University and attended trainings in digital security, organizational security, and physical security by expert security trainers.

Annex I

Achievement as per Plan of Action 2018

Achievements as per Action Plan 2018**I. Protection Program**

Overall Objective: To contribute to the respect and protection of human rights, particularly ESCR, in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip.

| # | Planned activities | Annual Indicators and targets | Achievements |
|--|---|---|--|
| Outcome 1.1: To enhance respect and protection of human rights and access to justice in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip | | | |
| Output 1.1.1: Violations of human rights and IHL in the Gaza Strip are properly documented | | | |
| 1.1.1.1 | Document at least 1000 cases of violations against Gaza population (both by Palestinian and Israeli actors) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1000+ cases | <p><u>Violations committed by Israeli force</u></p> <p>In the reporting period, Al Mezan documented the killing of 262 Palestinians due to Israeli military attacks, including 50 children and two women; another 13,946 people, including 2,888 children and 611 women, sustained injuries from Israeli shootings, shelling and airstrikes on the Gaza Strip.</p> <p>(1) violations in the buffer zone (Access Restricted Area):</p> <p>Excessive and lethal use of force against demonstrations in the ARA left 183 Palestinians dead, including 36 children, three paramedics and two journalists, and injured 13,730 people who were treated at local hospitals, including 2,846 children, 596 women, 154 paramedics and 143 journalists — 7,571 of those injured were hit by live fire shrapnel, including 1,404 children and 148 women.</p> <p>251 incidents of shooting and/or shelling by the Israeli military affecting farming and herding communities in the ARA were documented. The attacks killed five people and left five wounded. Aerial spraying of herbicides by Israeli military along the Israel-Gaza border continued to affect Palestinians farmers in the ARA with at least seven incidents taking place in 2018.³⁶ Another 82 attacks against civilians in the ARA (outside the context of the GMR) were documented leaving five civilians killed, including four children, and 70 injured, including seven children.</p> <p>64 Palestinians were arrested, including 22 children, after crossing the separation fence either during the Great March of Return protests or in separate incidents.</p> <p>92 limited incursions, the majority of which were conducted to level land on the Palestinian side of the border.</p> |

³⁶ Read about Al-Mezan, Adalah and Gisha letter to Israeli MoD, MAG, and Attorney General demanding Israel refrain from conducting further aerial spraying of herbicides inside and near the Gaza Strip; available at <http://mezan.org/en/post/23348>

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | <p>(2) violations at sea (the naval part of the Access Restricted Area):</p> <p>In the reporting period, Israeli forces opened fire at Palestinians in Gaza Sea in 325 separate incidents, killing 2 fishermen and injuring 20. The military also arrested 94 Palestinians, including 68 fishermen (including 6 children), and seized 21 fishing boats.</p> <p><u>Violations by Palestinian Actors</u></p> <p>In the reporting period, Al Mezan documented 110 incidents of violence stemming from local authorities and other Palestinian non-state actors which left 60 dead and 129 injured (including 22 children and 16 women), most notable incidents were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 28 incidents of personal disputes or disputes between families, 20 killed (including 4 children) and 44 wounded (including 7 children); - 1 case of honor killing (1 woman killed); - 4 incidents related to feuds (2 killed and 3 injured) - 8 incidents of shootings by unidentified assailants (9 injured, including 4 children and 2 women); - 9 incidents of misuse of firearms (7 killed, including 1 child, and 5 were injured, including 2 children and 2 women); - 17 incidents where arms mishandling caused an explosion (15 killed, including 1 child, and 27 wounded, including 9 children and 5 women). - 4 Incidents where suspects were injured/killed during arrest carried out by local authorities (6 killed and 6 injured). In addition, two detainees died in custody of local authorities. - 13 incidents of breaches of the right to peaceful assembly; altercation between local security forces and people involved in public gathering resulted in 10 injuries (including 5 women). - 8 incidents of assault or restrictions on journalists by local authorities which involved arrest of 8 journalists |
| Output 1.1.2: Enhanced respect of human rights, IHL and the rule of law via legal intervention and analysis | | | |
| <u>1.1.2.1</u> | Provide legal advice to at least 100 cases | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100+ legal advices | <p>Al Mezan lawyers provided legal counselling to 260 people (165 men, 95 women) regarding issues with Palestinian duty-bearers in the Gaza Strip in relation to the following rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - right to due process (50 cases); - concerns in relation to family law (35 cases); - access to legal/official documents (32 cases); - work-related and public servants' rights (22 cases); |

| | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - property rights (27 cases); - access to medical care (16 cases); - freedom of assembly/association/expression (14 cases); - torture or Cruel inhuman treatment/punishment (11 case); - right to education (10 cases); - freedom of movement (10 cases); - arbitrary detention (9 cases); - right to housing (7 cases); - right to reparation (6 cases); - PwD rights (2 cases); - Others (9 cases). |
| <u>1.1.2.2</u> | Make at least 50 complaints with the Palestinian authorities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50+ interventions | <p>Al Mezan lawyers initiated legal interventions (complaints/communications) to Palestinian duty bearers on behalf of 240 right holders (196 men, 31 women, 13 children) in the Gaza Strip, including detainees in local detention centers/prisons, in relation to the following rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - detainees' rights (114 cases in total [109 cases identified during lawyers visits to local detention centers and prisons— more details under activity 1.1.2.3]); - arbitrary detention (38 complaints) [more details under activity 1.1.2.4]; - access to medical care (13 complaints, 5 successful); - freedom of movement (9 complaints, 6 successful) - freedom of assembly/expression (7 complaints, 6 successful); - right to due process (15 complaints, 5 successful); - property rights (6 complaints, 3 successful); - concerns in relation to family law (5 complaints, 4 successful); - right to housing (4 complaints); - municipal services, work-related and public servants' rights (9 complaints, 2 successful); - torture or cruel inhuman treatment/punishment (7 complaints, 5 successful); - access to legal/official documents (3 complaints, 1 successful); - Others (10 complaints, 2 successful). |
| <u>1.1.2.3</u> | Conduct 6 visits to prisons and detention centers in Gaza for | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 prison visits | <p>Al Mezan's lawyers conducted visits to 9 detention centers and 3 prisons —including one women's prison — in the Gaza Strip. They spoke with detainees in police custody or in prisons, informed them of basic due process rights, and took their complaints to the relevant authorities.</p> |

| | | | |
|----------------|---|--|---|
| | monitoring and legal advice | | <p>A total of 109 complaints were taken with relevant authorities, most notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 38 in relation to access to medical care; - 28 in relation to due process; - And eight in relation to CIDTP/torture claims. <p>At least 83 of the 109 complaints were resolved successfully with the prison/detention administration whereas serious complaints, i.e. CIDTP/torture claims, were taken with Comptroller of the Ministry of Interior.</p> |
| <u>1.1.2.4</u> | Representation of 5 cases of human rights violations (arbitrary detention) before the Palestinian courts and/or local authorities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 legal representations | 38 interventions were made on behalf of victims of arbitrary detention (34 men, 2 women, and 2 children). interventions secured locating and lawyer visitation to 10 detainees and led to the release of 29 individuals thereafter (25 men, 2 women, and 2 children). |
| <u>1.1.2.5</u> | Take up 1 strategic litigation in relation to human rights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 strategic litigation | Al Mezan represented one child before local courts whose case was specifically selected after receiving complaints indicating that the due process was being undermined by the other party's connections with local authorities. The defendant, who had been detained for being involved in a fight with another child, was initially released after spending 4 days in detention but the authorities took him back in custody with no legal justification. Al Mezan managed to secure the child's transfer to a juvenile institution and during his stay Al Mezan represented him in three court sessions before finally being released on bail. The case sought to challenge the influence practiced by people in power on the way the law enforcement and courts dealt with cases. |
| <u>1.1.2.6</u> | Conduct 1 legislation review/analysis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 legislation review | <p>One legal reading issued in November 2018 on Israel's death penalty bill and its repercussions on Palestinian detainees (The death penalty bill is part of a draft law amending Israel's Penal Law of 1977). The document discusses the legal framework of the death penalty with reference to Articles 97, 98, and 99 of Israel's Penal Code in non-murder cases as well as with reference to Military Order No. 378 in cases of murder. It also highlights the contradiction between the death penalty bill and Israel's Basic Law adopted in 1994, particularly in reference to principles of dignity and freedom. At the broader level, it shows that Israel's legislation is violating the basic standards of human rights, including the right to fair trial. Local and international parties have shared their recommendations against the adoption of the bill, which nonetheless continues to be advance in Israeli parliament.</p> <p>Al Mezan reiterated its unchanged position against death penalty as a matter in principle; both in Palestinian and Israeli laws.</p> |
| <u>1.1.2.7</u> | Start conducting 1 case analysis of Israeli court rulings (to be pursued over 3 years) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 court case analysis (initiate) | To be initiated in 2019 |

| Output 1.1.3: Enhanced respect of IHRL and IHL, and protection of civilians via litigation related to Israeli violations | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p><u>1.1.3.1</u></p> | <p>Make at least 100 complaints with the Israeli authorities, including the Military Advocate General and COGAT concerning movement and access of patients and others.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100+ complaints <p>Complaints were submitted to the Israeli Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA) at Erez on behalf of referral patients applying for exit permits to access hospital in the West Bank or Israel. The legal intervention was made on behalf of 575 permit applicants (which had been submitted for 49 girls, 66 boys, 203 women, 257 men). Al Mezan successfully secured permits for 240 applicants (35 girls, 36 boys, 87 women, and 82 men) who subsequently were able to cross Erez and reach their designated health care facilities outside the Gaza Strip.</p> <p><i>Remark: 16 of those referral patients (including 5 children) were referred to healthcare facilities outside Gaza to treat injuries sustained during the Great March of Return protests. Al Mezan secured exit permits for 8 victims which would have not been possible without a Supreme Court decision prompted by a joint petition submitted by Al-Mezan and Adalah (more details under activity 1.1.3.3).</i></p> <p>11 complaints were made to the Military Advocate General on behalf of fishermen whose fishing boats had been either seized or destroyed by Israeli Navy at Gaza Sea. During the reporting period, Al Mezan’s joint work with Adalah and Gisha on one case which involved seizure of three large fishing boats (each capable of providing sustenance for 7-10 fishermen and their families) resulted in the release of two large fishing boats and another 23 small fishing boats which had been withheld for the last three years. This success came after the three organizations sent a communication on in Oct. 2018 to the Israeli civil prosecutor notifying of their intent to resort to the supreme court since the military has not provided any legal justification for withholding the boats for such a long period. Less than two months later, two of the three large fishing boats were released in addition to the 23 small fishing boats, however, the boats were returned without their engines.</p> <p>40 complaints were submitted to the Israeli Military Advocate General requesting a criminal investigation into cases leading to the killing and injury of 40 Palestinians, including 13 children, who are casualties of the Great March of Return protests. All requests remain open at the time of writing.</p> <p>7 communications were made with Israeli judicial system to acquire legal document requested by Palestinian ex-detainees in Israeli prisons. Al Mezan secured the requested documents in 2 cases at least.</p> <p>Finally, Lawyers continued to follow-up with the MAG with regards to dozens of complaints requesting a criminal investigation into the killing of Palestinians in 2014 military operation on Gaza “Operation Protective Edge”. This year, lawyers received closure responses from MAG regarding 28 cases in which the military concluded that it found no grounds for justifying a criminal investigation as the targeting decisions were made in line the proportionality principle and collateral damages did not exceed the potential military advantage. In response, Al Mezan appealed 16 closure decisions to the Israeli Attorney General in Oct. 2018, which remain pending at the time of writing.</p> |

| | | | |
|---------|---|--|---|
| 1.1.3.2 | Representation of at least 12 persons detained in Israel on human rights related issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12+ legal representations (e.g. detention at borders...) | Al Mezan’s provided legal representation to 70 residents of Gaza (including 11 children) arrested by Israeli authorities. 18 were released within 21 days without a trial. |
| 1.1.3.3 | Take up/follow up at least 2 cases with Israeli courts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2+ litigations | <p>(1) Joint-petition to the Supreme Court challenging denial of exit permits for casualties of the Great March of Return who had been referred to healthcare facilities in the West Bank and Israel.³⁷</p> <p>On 8 April 2018, Adalah and Al Mezan filed a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court demanding Israel let two seriously wounded young men leave Gaza to receive treatment in Ramallah. The two men were wounded during the Great March of Return protests and both were in danger of losing their legs as a result of their gunshot wounds. The Palestinian Ministry of Health had referred both men to Ramallah on 1 April 2018, however, Israeli authorities denied them of exit permits to cross Erez.</p> <p>In its response to the petition, the state asserted that it did not allow the young men to leave Gaza because they were wounded as a result of their participation “in a violent riot organized by Hamas.” While the state admitted that the medical condition of the two wounded men justified their exit from Gaza for urgent care, the state also declared that “authorized bodies” decided to deny their evacuation to the Ramallah hospital.</p> <p>The Israeli Supreme Court ruled, on 16 April 2018, that one of the Palestinian youths, who has already lost one leg to amputation, must be permitted to leave the Gaza Strip for urgent medical care in Ramallah to save his remaining leg.</p> <p>Justices Uri Shoham, Yael Wilner, George Karra ruled that the state was “unable – in response to our request – to point out even one case in the past in which it prevented passage in similar circumstances for the purpose of receiving medical treatment...”</p> <p>This case marked the first time the Israeli Supreme Court has issued a ruling to allow a resident of Gaza to transfer to the West Bank via the Erez crossing. Consequently, by the end of 2018, at least 50 exit permit applications submitted by casualties of the Great March of Return protests were approved by the CLA.³⁸</p> <p>(2) Joint-petition to the Supreme Court challenging policy of denying exit permits for referral patients claimed to be relatives of Hamas operatives.³⁹</p> |

³⁷ For more information, please refer to <http://mezan.org/en/post/22707> , <http://mezan.org/en/post/22751> and <http://mezan.org/en/post/22654>

³⁸ Figures obtained by Al Mezan in Dec. 2018 from the Palestinian General Authority of Civil Affairs in Gaza.

³⁹ For more information, please refer to <http://mezan.org/en/post/23196> and <http://mezan.org/en/post/23105>

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | <p>Adalah, Al Mezan, Gisha, and Physicians for Human Rights Israel submitted a petition to Israel’s High Court on 29 July 2018 on behalf of seven female referral patients who were openly denied access to treatment outside Gaza because of a claim that their family members are “ Hamas operatives.” The state argued before the Supreme Court that the patients’ refusals reflected a decision made by Israel’s Security Cabinet in January 2017 which orders “several operative measures to serve as leverage over Hamas with respect to returning captured and missing persons.” The state also confirmed that the patients themselves did not pose any threat to Israel’s security. After the petition was filed, Israel admitted that it had mistakenly identified two of the seven patients as “relatives of Hamas members” and would allow them to reach medical treatment, which had already been greatly delayed. One of the two petitioners is in such a grave condition that she has opted to forgo the bureaucratic process of re-submitting her application for an exit permit from Israel.</p> <p>The justices ruled that Israel’s decision to impose a sweeping prohibition on exit of Gaza residents in need of urgent medical treatment to serve as leverage over Hamas is invalid, stands in violation of fundamental human rights, and moreover, that it does not promote Israel’s objective of returning captured and missing persons. “Ignoring these, and basing the decision on a relative’s prohibited activity, with no suggestion that the patient herself is involved in or even aware of the activity, is contrary to the basic principles to which we are committed,” concluded Justice Fogelman, the lead justice on the case.</p> <p>(3) Joint-petition to the Supreme Court demanding that it order the Israeli military to stop using snipers and live ammunition in order to disperse Palestinian protests in the Gaza Strip.⁴⁰</p> <p>23 April 2018, Adalah and Al-Mezan filed an urgent petition to the Israeli Supreme Court demanding that it order the Israeli military to stop using snipers and live ammunition to disperse Palestinian protesters participating in the March of Return in the Gaza Strip.</p> <p>Adalah and Al Mezan argue in the petition that the open-fire policy being used against the protesters is patently illegal and excessive, as evidenced by the high number of deaths and injuries. The petition lays out the facts of the case based on the testimonies of protesters, rescue workers, journalists and doctors, as well as on video documentation and reports and statements made by international organizations. This information includes evidence and testimony of the civilian nature of the protests, the arbitrary use of lethal force by the Israeli military against unarmed demonstrators, and the fatal and other serious injuries sustained by the protesters.</p> |
|--|--|--|--|

⁴⁰ For more information, please refer to <http://mezan.org/en/post/22754> , <https://www.adalah.org/en/content/view/9488> , <http://mezan.org/en/post/22825> and <http://mezan.org/en/post/22875>

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | | | <p>Adalah and Al Mezan submitted, on 16 May 2018, a motion to the Israeli Supreme Court demanding that it issue an immediate final decision on the organizations' joint petition against the Israeli military's use of live ammunition and sniper fire on unarmed civilian protesters in Gaza.</p> <p>On 24 May 2018, Three Supreme Court justices unanimously rejected the petition fully accepting the military's claims related to the use of live fire on protesters. The court ruled that the Israeli military's firing of live ammunition at protesters was in accordance with the law because, according to the court, the protest participants constituted a real danger to Israeli soldiers and citizens.</p> <p>(4) Compensation cases lodged before Israeli courts on behalf of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abu Is'ayid family case: In Nov. 2017, the District Court in Be'er Sheva dismissed the case lodged in 2012 seeking compensation for damages resulting from the Israeli military attack on the family's home in July 2010, in which Naser's wife was killed, four family members were injured, and the house was partially destroyed. The district court dismissed the case on grounds that the incident amounted to 'combat action' per Torts (State Liability) Law, and therefore the court considered the State not responsible for any damages resulting from the incident.⁴¹ In Jan. 2018, Al Mezan applied for an extension to the two-month deadline originally granted to appeal the court ruling to the Israeli Supreme Court of Justice. The extension request was approved and Al Mezan lodged the appeal to the Supreme Court in July 2018, to which the court replied positively and set the 28 of June 2019 for the first hearing session to be held. Nabaheen's case: On 16 Nov. 2014, Israeli military forces shot Attiya Nabaheen, 15 years-old at the time. Nabaheen was returning from school. He was not armed and was not involved in any violence. As a result of the shooting, Nabaheen was paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. In Nov. 2018, Israel's Be'er Sheva District Court rejected a case filed by Adalah and Al Mezan on behalf of the Nabaheen family against the Israeli military for the shooting and wounding of their son. The court ruled that the state is not liable for damages because Palestinians in Gaza are not entitled to seek compensation from Israel as they live in an "enemy entity". Adalah and Al Mezan appealed this ruling to the Israeli Supreme Court on 7 February 2019, arguing that the lower court's decision and the amendment to the State Liability law violate both Israeli and international law, which require that protected civilians be entitled to effective legal remedies.⁴² The human rights organizations demand that the Supreme Court overturn the ruling of the Be'er Sheva District Court and find Amendment No. 8 unconstitutional. |
|--|--|--|---|

⁴¹ For more information on the district court ruling, refer to <http://mezan.org/en/post/22132>

⁴² For more information on the case and the Supreme Court appeal, refer to <http://mezan.org/en/post/23370>

| | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal proceedings in two other compensation cases lodged by Al Mezan to the Israeli district court, with similar legal standing to Nabaheen’s case, have been put on hold awaiting the Supreme Court ruling on Nabaheen’s case. |
| <u>1.1.3.4</u> | Submit at least 5 complaints concerning torture/CIDTP. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5+ complaints (T/CIDTP) | <p>In 2018, Al Mezan filed one complaint to the Israeli Military Advocate General on behalf one resident of Gaza subjected to torture/CIDTP. The military is currently investigating the incident and, in the process, the Military Police heard the victims account at a meeting held at Erez crossing.</p> <p>Further, Al Mezan filed eight torture/CIDTP complaints to Palestinian authorities based on account of victims who were met during Al Mezan’s regular visits to detention center/prisons or whose families approached Al Mezan. The Palestinian authorities informed Al Mezan of initiating investigations into five incidents, however, based on past experience, the findings are not always disclosed.</p> <p>Al Mezan continued to follow-up on torture complaints submitted to the MAG prior to 2018, of those 11 remain pending and one was closed without opening an investigation after the plaintiff dropped the complaint.</p> |
| <u>1.1.3.5</u> | Submit at least 10 civil complaints to the Israeli Ministry of Defense. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10+ civil complaints to MoD | Al Mezan sent 70 civil notifications to the Israeli Ministry of Defense to secure the right of victims of IHL/IHRL violations to seek reparation in Israeli courts within two years after the incident, per statute of limitation imposed by Israeli law. The majority of the notification were sent on behalf of casualties of the Great March of Return. |
| <u>1.1.3.6</u> | Refer at least 25 victims to specialized NGOs in Israel and oPt | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25+ referrals | <p>Cases where residents of Gaza sought exit permits to cross Erez for non-medically related purposes, e.g. appointment for visa application at foreign consulates in Jerusalem, visiting detained relatives in Israeli prisons, travelling to Jordan, etc. were referred to Gisha. Al Mezan also engaged beyond the referral procedures as our lawyers compile relevant documents provided by applicants, send case files to Gisha, and updated applicants of any progress.</p> <p>In the reporting period, Al Mezan referred 132 cases of this nature to Gisha who in turn conducted legal interventions of behalf of the plaintiffs (54 men, 72 women, and 6 children). This collaboration successfully secured exit permits for 62 residents of Gaza (40 women, 18 men, and 4 children).</p> |
| <u>1.1.3.7</u> | Provide legal advice to at least 200 cases. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200+ legal advices | <p>Al Mezan lawyers provided legal counselling to 915 right holders (654 men, 261 women) regarding legal issues and concerns in relation to Israeli authorities’ policies and practices against Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> freedom of movement for medical patients (403 cases); freedom of movement for non-medically-related purposes (182 cases); access to legal/official documents (175 cases); right to due process (64 cases); right to reparation (37 cases); arbitrary detention (23 cases); right to work (8 cases); |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • property rights (5 cases); • detainees' rights (5 cases); • others. |
| Output 1.1.4: Contribution to the enforcement of the international human rights and IHL mechanisms | | | |
| <u>1.1.4.1</u> | Submit 5 complaints and/or reports to intergovernmental mechanisms (e.g. UN/EU, including UN Special Procedures and courts). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 complaints/ reports | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Nine complaints submitted to UN Special Procedures and information sent on an additional two cases upon the request of Special Procedures. The nine complaints were of cases of killing. The two additional briefings concerned two cases of injury: Al-'Ajouri and Al-Kronz. The complaints and briefs were sent to: SR on EJE, SR on freedom of assembly and of association, and SR on oPt; The complaints led to actions by Special Procedures: on 25 May 2018, concerning the two injury cases: Al-'Ajouri and Al-Kronz, six mandate holders in Special Procedures sent a communiqué to the Israeli government. The mandate-holders are: SR on freedom of opinion and expression; SR on freedom of assembly and of association; SR on health; SR on torture; SR on oPt; SR on EJEs. To date - no response from the State. 2) Joint submission to the UNSC concerning the use of force in relation to protests in Gaza, with information about the situation on the ground and the legal interventions in Israel. 3) Submission of a briefing on children and armed conflict to the EU institutions, UNICEF and the UN Secretary General's Special Representative on CAAC. 4) One joint submission to the CICCPR with Al-Haq concerning the Human Rights Committee's consideration of Israel's List of Issues. 5) One submission to CEDAW concerning Palestine's regular report, focusing on violations of women's rights in Gaza. 6) Remarks for the preliminary report drafted by the State of Palestine for submission to the UN Committee on ESCR, submitted during an experts meeting organized by the Independent Commission of Human Rights (ICHR) on 6 Feb. 2018; 7) Major submission to the HRC Commission of Inquiry with factual information about the protests in Gaza; jointly with Al-Haq; 8) Follow up to the Special Rapporteur on Torture concerning a landmark torture case at the Israeli Supreme Court; 9) Joint submission of Leahy complaint to US Congress concerning the use of force in Gaza. |
| Outcome 1.2: To enhance networking and coordination with local, regional and international human rights actors | | | |
| Output 1.2.1: Networking and coordination with local, regional and international NGOs and actors is established and maintained | | | |
| <u>1.2.1.1</u> | Pursue 1 new thematic coalition membership (during the 3 years) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8+ active memberships maintained • 1 new membership | Al Mezan's membership in the existing coalitions was maintained during 2018. Meetings and joint activities were conducted with EuroMed Rights, whose GA was also attended, FIDH, ESCR-Net (GA was not attended due to lack of visa), OMCT and HIC. Joint activities were conducted at the UN HRC with the latter two networks. Al Mezan is more active at the ESCR-net and has joined two working groups in the network. |

| | | | |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| | | pursued | |
| <u>1.2.1.2</u> | Conduct 10 meetings and consultations with local civil society actors. | • 10+ meetings/ consultations | Al Mezan was part of 37 meetings aimed at consultation. Some of those are reported below (see 1.2.1.6 and 1.2.3.4). seven of these consultations focused on threats and risks to human rights defenders. Three consultations focused on accountability and access to justice, and four on the human rights situation and priorities in the Gaza Strip and responses to the developing situation around the demonstrations. Several consultations revolved around joint legal interventions in Israel. |
| <u>1.2.1.3</u> | Conduct 1 informal meeting/social gathering with youth activists, young journalists and lawyers, etc. in Gaza. | • 1 informal meeting/gathering with youth | Al Mezan organized a gathering on 1 July 2018 at the Al Mezan’s Friends Club for 25 social media activists, journalists and lawyers (including 15 female activists and alumni) in which an informal discussion ensued on the current state of respect and protection of human rights and IHL in oPt. The meeting also discussed best practices to portray the current developments on media platforms using proper terms reflective of IHL/IHRL terminologies. |
| <u>1.2.1.4</u> | Conduct 25 meetings with UN bodies, INGOs and diplomats in Gaza. | • 25 meetings with UN bodies, INGOs and diplomats in Gaza | <p>Al Mezan Director General held 201 meetings with international and diplomatic missions in Gaza where he met 29 diplomats, 49 UN officials, 29 EU representatives, and 93 representatives of international organizations.</p> <p>Most notable meetings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 22 January 2018: Meeting with Norway’s representative Ms. Hilde Haraldstad and advisor Mr. Hans Langaker the meeting discussed the deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip, focusing on the impact of the continued closure/blockade on movement of people and goods and the stumbling internal reconciliation efforts. 21 February 2018: Meeting with Mr. Roberto Valent, UNDP Special Representative of the Administrator in Palestine and Mr. Geoffrey Prewitt, Deputy Special Representative, to discuss the current human rights situation in Gaza and challenges. 20 March 2018: Meeting with Netherlands’ Representative Peter Mollema, Human Rights Ambassador Kees Van Baar, and representatives from the human rights sector to discuss the human rights situation in relation to international diplomacy. Al Mezan raised the issues of closure and patients’ access to medical care, the right to freedom of assembly in practice in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian political reconciliation, and the need for accountability/status of impunity for serious violations of international law. 27 March 2018: Meeting with Ms. Marie Cherchari, Head of Political Affairs, and Mrs. Danielle Haven, Consul General, Consulate General of Belgium in Jerusalem. Al Mezan raised the issues of closure and patients’ access to medical care, the right to freedom of assembly in practice in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian political reconciliation, and the need for accountability/status of impunity for serious violations of international law. |

| | | | |
|---------|--|------------------|---|
| | | | <p>5. 24 April 2018: Al Mezan hosted a meeting between Palestinian CSOs and CIDSE delegation, international alliance of 19 catholic development agencies. Al Mezan discussed development pertaining to the GMR protests based on its monitoring and documentation of IHL/IHRL violations, and impact of the blockade on patients seeking exit permits to access medical care outside Gaza including those injured in the context of the protests.</p> <p>6. 10 May 2018: Meeting with Nathalia Feinberg, Head of Mission at the Danish Representation in Ramallah. Through the meeting, Feinberg was briefed on the situation of human rights in the Gaza Strip. Ways of collaboration on the promotion of human rights, democratic values, and the rule of law were explored in the meeting. Al Mezan raised the issues of closure and patients' access to medical care, the right to freedom of assembly in practice in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian political reconciliation, and the need for accountability/status of impunity for serious violations of international law.</p> <p>7. 29 May 2018: Meeting with Jamie McGoldrick, OCHA Humanitarian Coordinator. Through the meeting, joined by human rights organizations, McGoldrick was briefed on the situation of human rights in the Gaza Strip. Al Mezan raised the issues of the closure and patients' access to medical care, the right to freedom of assembly in practice in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian political reconciliation, and the need for accountability/status of impunity for serious violations of international law.</p> <p>8. 21 November 2018: Al Mezan's director met with Azzam Suleiman, the director of the MENA department at Save the Children UK, and Hussein Aziz, an influential figure in the UK. Mr. Younis outlined the civil, political and economic situation in the Gaza Strip, including the attacks on protesters and the shrinking space for activists in Gaza. The meeting also included: Adnan Al Wheidi, Director of Ard El Insan Association, Saed Al Madhoun from OHCHR, Wasfi Abu Za'nouna from UNICEF, Ibrahim Sbeih, Project Manager in Save the Children/Gaza.</p> <p>9. 22 October 2018: Al Mezan's director and other human rights organizations' directors met with Mary Ann Peters, the Chief Executive officer of The Carter Center, and Jose Vericat, the Director of Carter Center in the West Bank. Mr. Younis discussed the humanitarian and human rights situation in the Gaza Strip as determined by the 11-year closure and blockade of Gaza—notably it's impacts on patients.</p> <p>10. 11 October 2018: Al Mezan's director met with Karin Axelsson Zaar, the Middle East Program Officer from the Church of Sweden. Mr. Younis described the human rights' situation in the oPt during the meeting, and detailed the unlawful response of the Israeli military to the peaceful demonstrations in the Gaza and the continued repression of civil and political rights by the local authorities in Gaza.</p> |
| 1.2.1.5 | Conduct 3 field visits for international delegations in Gaza | • 3 field visits | <p>March 2018: one field visit organized for international staff member of UNOCHA to border areas east of Khan Younis.</p> <p>April 2018: a field visit with an international expert to meet farmers affected by aerial spraying of herbicides carried out by Israeli forces along the border.</p> |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| | | | <p>July 2018: three field visits for independent journalists shooting a documentary on the targeting of a Palestinian family in 2014 during Israel’s large-scale military operation on Gaza ‘Operation Protective Edge’.</p> <p>August 2018: a field visit for Diakonia’s country office manager to Gaza and North Gaza districts, which included a meeting with a referral patient unable to acquire an exit permit from Israeli authorities to receive treatment outside Gaza for injuries sustained during the GMR protests.</p> |
| <u>1.2.1.6</u> | Attend 5 meetings with relevant networks and coalitions outside Gaza. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 meetings outside Gaza | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Liaison and advocacy mini-mission 13-14 February 2018, Paris for meetings with FIDH, ACAT and Al-Haq; 2) International Workshop on human rights defenders, 26 -27 March 2018, Brussels, organized by EuroMed Rights; 3) Gaza liaison meeting on 28 March 2018, Brussels, organized by Al Mezan and EuroMed Rights; 4) EuroMed Rights General Assembly, Brussels, June 2018. 5) Liaison mission in the Netherlands and Stockholm in June 2018 (2 meetings with partners in The Netherlands, and five meetings with civil society, the MFA and partners in Stockholm); 6) Meetings with the Egyptian Human Rights Council, Arab Lawyers Union and the Arab Organization for Human Rights in Cairo in August 2018. 7) Attending the International Human Rights Defenders Summit 29-31 October 2018. 8) Attending EuroMed Rights PIP WG meeting, 28-29 November in Berlin; 9) Participation at a public conference organized by Italian civil society on the UN Day in solidarity with the Palestinian People and delivering two presentations on the human rights situation in Gaza; Turin 30 November- 1 December 2018. |
| <u>1.2.1.7</u> | Conduct 3 communications and/or meetings with the Palestinian diplomatic missions on human rights issues. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 meetings with Palestinian missions | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Meeting with the Palestinian mission in Geneva for exchange of views and discuss draft resolutions, Geneva 3 July 2018; 2) Meeting with the Palestinian mission in the Hague to discuss accountability and the ICC strategies, 19 July 2018; 3) Meeting with the Palestinian mission in the Hague and the International Organizations Department at the Palestinian MFA on the margin of the ICC Assembly of Member States on 4 December 2018. 4) Meeting with the Palestinian mission in Cairo to discuss the situation in Gaza and access and movement issues, on 7 August 2018. 5) Meeting with the Palestinian Mission to the UN, New York, on 27 November 2018 to discuss accountability and UN strategies. |
| Outcome 1.3: To enhance national and international advocacy for human rights conducted by Al Mezan, advocacy actors and partners | | | |
| Output 1.3.1: National advocacy campaigning is conducted | | | |

| | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|
| 1.3.1.1 | Conduct at least 2 face-the-public meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2+ face-the-public meetings | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) In February 2018, Al Mezan held a public meeting with residents of a multi-story apartments' complex in Johr Al Deek after receiving several complaints on severe shortage of electricity supply in the neighborhood, which was also resulted in shortage of water supply. The residents engaged in an open discussion about the problems affecting 320 families and recounted how their attempts to resolve the issue with the Electricity Distribution Company (EDC) failed as the EDC refused to connect the power unless the construction company which built the housing project settled its outstanding debt. Both parties reached an agreement on outstanding debt few weeks after Al Mezan voiced its concerns to the EDC (http://mezan.org/en/post/22377) 2) In March 2018, Al Mezan held a public meeting with 15 residents of Gaza City residing near the children hospital who had raised concerns about the disposal of medical waste. The adjacent hospital had been using its medical waste incinerator increasingly and the emitted fumes on almost daily basis were negatively affecting the quality of air in the area and causing complications for people with respiratory illnesses. Al Mezan also visited a public school affected by the fumes and encouraged the administration to send an official letter to the Palestinian authority's Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health to raise the issue. Al Mezan raised the issue with the Ministry of Health. The almost daily use of the incinerator was attributed to the breakdown of another incinerator with higher capacity located at Al-Shifa hospital. Two weeks after Al Mezan's interventions, the rate of reliance on the incinerator at hospital was lowered. (http://www.mezan.org/post/25252) 3) In December 2018, Al Mezan held a public meeting attended by 20 residents of Beit Hanoun and officials from the Land Authority and Beit Hanoun Municipality. The meeting was held for residents whose houses—which were built on public land— were completely destroyed in 2014 as a result of Israel's large-scale military operation in Gaza and thereafter plans to rebuilt their houses had been put on hold until the land allocation is resolved. The meeting was held at a critical time for the residents as UNRWA (who is in charge of disbursing compensation for victims to rebuilt their homes) set the 30th Jan. 2019 as a deadline to resolve the land allocation issue otherwise UNRWA will utilize the allocated amount for other affected houses. The officials explained ongoing efforts to finalize the planning scheme of the affected area and discussed legal procedure that will follow, which depending on the established legal timeframes are set to conclude after the deadline imposed by UNRWA. In the following month, Al Mezan brokered a meeting with UNRWA in Gaza to discuss the issue and present UNRWA with the progress made thus far; by the end of the meeting UNRWA was satisfied with the progress and agreed to postpone the deadline to 15 March 2019, which should be enough to settle land ownerships for local residents. (http://mezan.org/post/27463) |
| 1.3.1.2 | Screening of a film on HR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 film screening | Screening of a short film during the EP Parliament mentioned below. The film is a collection of segments taken by journalists and protesters during the protests in Gaza. It was developed as evidence for the Supreme Court petition regarding the use of force against protesters; however, the Israeli Supreme Court declined viewing it. The film shows ordinary people far from the border and in situations where they do not take part in any actions that can be interpreted as posing risk, and yet shot by snipers. |

| Output 1.3.2: International advocacy campaigning is conducted | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <u>1.3.2.1</u> | Conduct international advocacy and campaigning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2+ to HRC, 1 to US and 3 to EU and MSs • 2+ UN side events, 4+ presentations/lectures in EU/US • 2 written submissions and 2 oral interventions to HRC, 1 briefing to EU | <p>Campaigning efforts, with various media and communications tools, public events and reporting. The campaigning focused on the priority issues of the closure/blockade, especially access to medical care; accountability and access to justice and redress; shrinking space and human rights defenders; and, locally, on the political schism, free expression and assembly, and corporal punishment.</p> <p>Al Mezan is mindful of the relatively high number of issues raised; however, given the width of the problems in Gaza, key issues are difficult to ignore.</p> |
| <u>1.3.2.2</u> | Conduct at least 2 missions to Human Rights Council (HRC) | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mission to the Human Rights Council 37th session, 17-20 March 2018 (joint side event, six advocacy meetings, written submission and oral intervention); 2) Mission to the HRC 28th special session in April 2018; for details see http://mezan.org/en/post/22826. 3) Mission to the Human Rights Council 38th Session in Geneva and to Bern, July 2018 (11 meetings in Geneva and 4 in Bern, four written submissions under four items and 2 Oral Interventions); 4) Mission to the Human Rights Council 39th Session in Geneva, 16-20 September 2018 (6 meetings with UN staff and States, one participation in side event, attending 2 side events, 3 liaison meetings, written submission and two oral interventions). |
| <u>1.3.2.3</u> | Conduct 1 mission to the US | | <p>Mission to the UN, New York for participation in the Palestine Solidarity Day, upon invitation from the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, 26-29 November 2018.</p> <p><u>Al Mezan presented</u> on the situation in Palestine and the need for a human rights-based approach and accountability as a starting point.</p> <p>Al Mezan conducted the following networking meetings during the mission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance at: Day of Solidarity session at the UN Secretariat. 2. ESCR-Net (Chris and Sally) regarding Al Mezan’s US advocacy planning. 3. DCIP and AJP regarding Al Mezan’s US advocacy planning. 4. CCR (Dom Renfrey) regarding Al Mezan’s cooperation on the Leahy Law complaint and regarding Al Mezan’s US advocacy planning. 5. Israel-Palestine working group meeting and networking luncheon with activists and advocates (approx. 30 organizations in attendance). 6. Center for Constitutional Rights, DCIP, Applied Research Institute and Al Mezan for a discussion and action plan regarding shrinking space/attacks on Palestinian and Israeli civil society. 7. Attendance at: General Assembly debate on Item 38 (Question of Palestine). 8. Attendance at: reception hosted by Palestinian mission. 9. Nada Tarboush (Palestine mission) |
| <u>1.3.2.4</u> | Conduct 3 missions to EU and Member States | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Advocacy mission and PIP WG meeting 26-29 April 2018, Paris, organized by EuroMed Rights (four meetings with parliament and government officials and two meetings with civil society partners). |

| | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Advocacy mission on Gaza, Berlin 11-14 June 2018, organized by EuroMed Rights with support from Medico International – Germany (meetings with MFA, BMZ, Parliament, four political foundations, civil society and journalists). 3) Mini mission in Brussels 25-26 June 2018 (meetings with the EEAS and civil society). 4) Mini mission in Germany 8-9 July 2018 (liaison meetings with partners Medico Int'l and the Germany MFA); 5) Joint advocacy mission in Stockholm, Sweden, with B'Tselem and Diakonia 14-18 November 2018 (seven meetings with parliament, government officials and civil society; and two seminars and one public event at parliament). 6) Mini mission in The Hague 19 July 2018, meetings with MFA and civil society; 7) Mission in Brussels 22-25 July 2018, meetings with EEAS, Belgian MFA, DG-Near and civil society. 8) Mission to the Hague to attend the ICC Assembly of States Parties 2018, organized between 5 and 10 December 2018. During the ASP, Al Mezan attended six side events, two workshops and conducted seven meetings. 9) Advocacy Mission in Brussels 13-14 December 2018 focusing on children and armed conflict, and attended by Al Mezan's field work coordinator. (meetings with the EEAS, DROI, DG-Near, and 5 MAMA representatives). |
| <u>1.3.2.5</u> | Conduct at least 2 (joint) UN side events | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Joint side event organized by Al Mezan, OMCT and LPHR in Geneva at the HRC session in March 2018. For more information see http://mezan.org/en/post/22582. 2) Side event with Habitat International Coalition; July 2018. |
| <u>1.3.2.6</u> | Conduct at least 4 presentations at European parliament, universities and/or civil society events in EU/US | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Participation in the Katholikentag in Muenster, Germany, 10-12 May 2018, and presentation in event on the human rights situation in Gaza; 2) Skype presentation to donors in Ramallah, via Skype, focusing on human rights defenders and the defunding efforts against human rights NGOs, which took place on 12 March 2018. 3) European Parliament's DEPAL exchange of views on the situation in Gaza in light of the Great March of Return, focusing on the EP's draft resolution on the situation in Gaza on 19 April at the EP in Brussels. 4) Presentation on accountability and access to justice at a European Parliament event on the situation in the Gaza Strip, hosted by the DEPAL and DROI, and attended by Prof. John Dugard, Col. Desmond Travers, MAP, UNRWA and Al Mezan. 5) Presentation on OPAC in Amman, Jordan, delivered by Mr Issam Younis on behalf of the ICHR, on 1 August 2018. |
| <u>1.3.2.7</u> | Submit 2 written submissions to HRC | During 2018, Al Mezan made seven submissions to the HRC. Three submissions were under Item 7, while four others were under Items 2, 3 and 6, following up on thematic reports by Special rapporteurs. |
| <u>1.3.2.8</u> | Conduct 2 oral interventions to HRC | During 2018, Al Mezan submitted and read four Oral Interventions during the four HRC sessions attended during the year. Al Mezan was also part of four joint Oral interventions. |
| <u>1.3.2.9</u> | Conduct 1 briefing to EU bodies | During the mission in Brussels in December 2018 (see 1.3.2.4 above), Al Mezan prepared a briefing on children and armed conflict, following the UNSC Res. 1612 monitoring and reporting mechanism guidelines. The briefing was submitted to the EEAS, European Parliament's Human Rights Committee (DROI) and the Commission's DG-Near. It was also submitted to the Belgian MFA. |

II. Promotion Program

Overall Objective: To contribute to the promotion of human rights and democracy in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip.

| # | Planned activities | Indicators and targets | Achievements |
|--|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Outcome 2.1: To contribute to literature and knowledge of Human Rights in the oPt | | | |
| Output 2.1.1: Human rights resources, information and knowledge are disseminated | | | |
| <u>2.1.1.1</u> | Add at least 50 new titles and resources to Al Mezan library | • 50+ new titles | 80 books and periodicals were added to the library this year and members gifted three theses and three books of their writing to the library. |
| <u>2.1.1.2</u> | Produce a short film on HR/IHL issues (<u>with English subtitles</u>) | • 1 short film | A short film is currently in final stage of production and will be released in 2019. The film discusses the barriers hindering access to treatment outside Gaza for referral patients and focuses on female cancer patients. |
| <u>2.1.1.3</u> | Issue 3 short reports and 2 factsheets on specialized HR issues and resources (including ESCR, in Arabic and English) | • 3 short reports, 2 factsheets | <p>1. Report on <i>the situation of economic, social and cultural rights in the Gaza Strip in 2017</i> (available at http://mezan.org/en/post/22532):</p> <p>The report details the effect of Israeli closure/blockade and the Palestinian political division on healthcare sector, housing, food security, education, national economy, unemployment and energy in the Gaza Strip. The facts and Figures supporting the report's findings were based on information and one-on-one interviews conducted by Al Mezan with experts and officials.</p> <p>2. Report on <i>the PA measures hindering Gaza patients' access to medical care</i> (available at http://mezan.org/en/post/23342):</p> <p>The report provides an overview of the bureaucratic, complex and time-consuming procedures patients from Gaza have to follow to obtain medical referrals within the PA health system. It also discusses the consequences of the PA's restrictive measures on Gaza's patients, concluding with recommendations to improve the medical referral system in support of patients' smooth and timely access to urgent treatment.</p> <p>3. Report on <i>Youth unemployment in the Gaza Strip</i> (available at http://mezan.org/post/24960)</p> <p>The report was based on study and analysis of surveys and discussions groups conducted by Al Mezan in late 2017 with 120 university graduates (24 from each district of the Gaza Strip, 50% females).</p> |

| | | | |
|----------------|---|---|--|
| | | | <p>4. Factsheet on Health and environmental risks of the disposal of batteries and recycling in the Gaza Strip (available at http://mezan.org/post/25159)</p> <p>5. Factsheet on Gaza's electricity crisis and implementation of smart meter scheme as a viable solution (available at http://mezan.org/post/27064)</p> |
| <u>2.1.1.4</u> | Design and print 2 posters on various HR issues and resources (particularly ESCR, in Arabic and English, 500 copies each). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 posters | Two posters were printed (500 copies each) and distributed. The printed artwork was submitted by two school students (11 and 14-year-old girls) to the Child Art competition and were both prize winners in their respective age groups. One painting depicted the attacks against medical personnel and the other depicting freedom of movement. |
| <u>2.1.1.5</u> | Design and print at least 4 pamphlets, infographics, leaflets, etc. on HR and IHL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4+ pamphlets, infographics and leaflets | <p>May 2018: provided stats to Visualizing Palestine to create an infographic on the fatalities of the Great March of Return.⁴³</p> <p>July 2018: Published infographic on casualties of the Great March of Return.</p> <p>December 2018: Published infographic about children affected by armed conflict in Gaza.</p> |
| <u>2.1.1.6</u> | Add at least 100 new posts about HR on available social media channels/outlets (website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube – in Arabic and English) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100+ postings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16,642 unique users visited Al Mezan Arabic website and 9,412 visited Al Mezan English website. • Al Mezan Facebook followers crossed 6,600 this year and twitter feed reached 4,630 tweets and over 2,270 followers. • Hundreds of posts made on Facebook and Twitter (433.4K impressions on Twitter and 3,398 retweets). |
| <u>2.1.1.7</u> | Conduct at least 12 media appearances (Radio and/or TV) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12+ media appearances | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Al Mezan's Director General conducted 70 media appearances (58 with local media outlets, 7 with Arab media outlets, and 5 with international media outlets) • Al Mezan's Program Director conducted 118 media appearances (71 on local/satellite TV stations, including France 24 and BBC Arabic, 32 interviews on local radio stations, and 22 with journalists writing for newspaper, including twice with Haaretz). • Al Mezan communications Director co-authored an Op-ed with the Director of B'Tselem and contributed to several articles with international media. • Al Mezan's researchers conducted 67 media appearances (30 on local/satellite TV stations, 26 on local radio stations, and 8 with journalists writing for local newspapers and/or news websites) to discuss a wide range of topics, including the state of ESCR in Gaza, challenges facing the health sector, blockade and political division |

⁴³ <https://twitter.com/visualizingpal/status/993475722474901504>

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| | | | <p>detrimental effects on referral patients, sea pollution and targeting of journalists in the context of the GMR protests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al Mezan’s lawyer conducted 64 media appearances (33 on local/satellite TV stations, 19 on local radio stations, and 12 with journalists writing for newspapers and/or news websites) to provide legal perspective and discuss the center’s legal intervention pertinent to Israeli authorities’ practices against residents of Gaza, including arrest and detention of fishermen in Gaza Sea, hindering access of referral patients to medical facilities outside Gaza, use of lethal force against protestors, and the recent Knesset’s death penalty bill against Palestinian detainees. Lawyers also discussed legal concerns with regards to actions emanating from the Palestinian political division such as salary cuts imposed on PA’s public servants in Gaza and the controversial social security law. Al Mezan’s fieldworkers conducted 86 media appearances (45 on local/satellite TV stations, 32 on local radio stations, and 9 with journalists writing for newspapers and/or news websites) to findings of their monitoring and documentation of human rights violations in the Gaza Strip, especially in the context of the GMR protests. |
| Output 2.1.2: Information on IHRL and IHL and violations in the oPt are disseminated locally and internationally (English/Arabic) | | | |
| <u>2.1.2.1</u> | Issue at least 50 press releases, letters, appeals and statements on HR and IHL violations/risks (in Arabic and English). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50+ press releases, letters, appeals and statements | <p>121 Arabic/English press releases were published online and disseminated to a mailing list of over 700 contacts, including diplomatic missions, media organizations, and NGOs. The majority of the press release were on violations committed by the Israeli authorities: 32 on violations against protesters in the context of the Great March of Return, 11 on attacks against Palestinian fishermen, 5 on military targeting and airstrikes. Further, over a dozen joint-press releases with Adalah and other partners on cases taken to the Israeli justice system in relation to access to healthcare outside Gaza for injured protestors and female patients, and use of lethal force and sniper fire against protestors in the ARA.⁴⁴</p> |
| <u>2.1.2.2</u> | Issue 12 monthly statistical reports on Israeli violations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 monthly reports (IL) | <p>12 monthly statistical updates on violations of IHL/IHRL committed by Israeli authorities in the Gaza Strip, including the ARA (buffer zone and Gaza Sea). (available at http://mezan.org/post/28091)</p> <p>12 monthly statistical updates on grave violations against children in line with Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism established under UN resolution 1612 on children and armed conflict. (available at http://mezan.org/post/28114)</p> |
| <u>2.1.2.3</u> | Issue 1 semi-annual and 1 annual report on Israeli violations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 semi-annual, 1 annual (IL) | <p><u>Regular Reports</u></p> <p>January 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report on IHL/IHRL violations in the Gaza Strip in 2017. (available at http://mezan.org/post/24927) |

⁴⁴ English version of the Press Releases issued in 2018 can be accessed at <http://mezan.org/en/posts-archive/2/Press+Releases/2018>

| | | | |
|---------|--|--|---|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report on the Israeli violations in the territorial part of the Access Restricted Area (buffer zone) in 2017. (available at http://mezan.org/post/24925) • Annual report on the Israeli violations in the naval part of the Access Restricted Area (Gaza Sea) in 2017. (available at http://mezan.org/post/24916) • Annual report on grave violations against children in the Gaza Strip in 2017 — in line with the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism established by UN resolution no. 1612 (available at http://mezan.org/post/24918) <p>July 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-Annual report on IHL/IHRL violations in the Gaza Strip in 2018. (available at http://mezan.org/post/27638) • Semi-Annual report on the Israeli violations in the territorial part of the Access Restricted Area (buffer zone) in 2018. (available at http://mezan.org/post/26728) • Semi-Annual report on the Israeli violations in the naval part of the Access Restricted Area (Gaza Sea) in 2018. (available at http://mezan.org/post/24916) • Semi-Annual report on grave violations against children in the Gaza Strip in 2018 — in line with the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism established by UN resolution no. 1612 (available at http://mezan.org/post/26638) <p><u>Special Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2018: Targeting of children in GMR protests - killing of Mohamed Ayoub as a case. (available at http://mezan.org/post/25499) • June 2018: Targeting of journalists in GMR protests. (available at http://mezan.org/post/25812) • July 2018: Targeting of civilians in GMR protests. (available at http://mezan.org/post/26619) • August 2018: Targeting of medical personnel in GMR protests. (available at http://mezan.org/post/26797) |
| 2.1.2.4 | Issue at least 2 (joint) reports on prisoners and detainees. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2+ (joint) reports | One joint annual report on Palestinian detainees held in Israel covering 2017. The report discussed arbitrary detention and administrative detention, with focus on child detainees. It also provides testimonials from victims and eyewitnesses on CIDTP and excessive use of force during arrest, and assaults and detention of human rights defenders and journalists. The report concludes by listing major law bills and amendments proposed by Israeli legislature which |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| | | | will have a detrimental impact on Palestinian detainees if enforced. ⁴⁵ Another 4 periodical reports on detainees with the same areas of concern were published during the year. ⁴⁶ |
| <u>2.1.2.5</u> | Issue 3 position papers on patterns of violations/risks and policy issues affecting HR and IHL. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 position papers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One position paper issued in February 2018 on ‘death penalty: sentences and executions in the Gaza Strip’.⁴⁷ The paper discussed the legal constraints under Palestinian law for such sentencing, and provisions that duty bearers in Gaza are found to be in breach of when delivering death penalties. The findings were drawn from 17 cases of death sentences issued in 2017 where in some cases civilians were tried before military courts and all executions were carried out without a presidential approval as conditioned by the Palestinian Penal Code. [Remark: four months after issuing this position paper, the State of Palestine acceded to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of death penalty, thereby adding another layer of illegality to the application of death penalty in oPt]. One position paper issued in December 2018 under the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC) jointly with the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO-Net) on the ‘constitutional court’ ruling to dissolve the Palestinian Legislative Council. |
| <u>2.1.2.6</u> | Issue 12 monthly statistical reports on local authorities’ violations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 monthly reports (PS) | 12 monthly statistical updates on documented incidents of violence instigated by Palestinian actors in the Gaza Strip published online. (available at http://mezan.org/post/28091) |
| <u>2.1.2.7</u> | Issue 1 semi-annual and 1 annual report on local authorities’ violations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 semi-annual, 1 annual (PS) | <p>January 2018: Annual report on incidents of violence instigated by Palestinian actors, including the de facto authorities, in the Gaza Strip in 2017. (available at http://mezan.org/post/24897)</p> <p>July 2018: Semi-annual report on incidents of violence instigated by Palestinian actors, including the de facto authorities, in the Gaza Strip in 2018. (available at http://mezan.org/post/26579)</p> |
| Outcome 2.2: To increase awareness of Human Rights at the local community, partners’/actors’ and policy/decision makers’ levels | | | |
| Output 2.2.1: Awareness and sensitization of human rights and IHL are raised | | | |

⁴⁵ Annual report on Palestinian detainees in Israel is available for download (in Arabic) at <http://mezan.org/post/24987>

⁴⁶ Monthly reports on Palestinian detainees in Israel are available for download (in Arabic) at <http://mezan.org/post/25197> ; <http://mezan.org/post/25385> ; <http://mezan.org/post/25574> ; and <http://mezan.org/post/26660>

⁴⁷ For the Arabic version of the position paper on Death Penalty, please refer to <http://www.mezan.org/post/27198>

| | | | |
|---------|--|--|---|
| 2.2.1.1 | Implement a six-month training course for at least 25 young lawyers (50% females). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25+ young lawyers | This year, due to shortage in Al Mezan’s core funding (for more details, refer to section 6 on Admin and Financial Issues) the specialized lawyers training was converted into a 3-day training limited to IHL components (listed under activity 2.2.1.2) |
| 2.2.1.2 | Implement seven training/awareness courses for 150 persons, including 2 trainings for 25 university students of ‘Pass-the-Word’ (50% females). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150+ individuals – incl. 25 university students (7 groups) | <p>A total of 179 university undergraduates, young lawyers, and members of CBOs (including 87 women) benefitted from trainings listed below:</p> <p>3-11 February 2018: Pass-the-Word Program first phase (consisting of two consecutive trainings) was implemented between 3 and 11 Feb. 2018 for 35 university students, including 16 female students. In the first phase of the program, which delivered 80 training hours, students learned about Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International covenants on ESCR and CPR, IHL, democracy and the rule of law. They also received practical training on moderating group discussions to qualify them to conduct awareness sessions on the same topics for their peers at various universities in Gaza in the second phase of Pass the Word program (Activity 2.2.1.3).</p> <p>13 - 15 February 2018: 39 undergraduate law students (23 females, 16 males) participated in three-day training on human rights in Khan Younis which included six-training hours on IHL, thus filling the knowledge gap that existed within their regular university studies.</p> <p>16 - 18 February 2018: 36 senior undergraduate university students (15 females, 21 males), who are enrolled in capacity building program, received 3-day training on human rights topics delivered by Al Mezan in Gaza city. The training hours included a six-hour course on IHL.⁴⁸</p> <p>9 – 12 May 2018: Training course on monitoring and documentation methods and reporting mechanisms in IHL and IHRL held for 25 professionals (14 male/11 female) from community-based organizations operating in the ARA. The activity built the capacity of professionals from organizations mandated to document international law violations within the context of the Great Return March protests. Training components: IHL and IHRL, including the principles and protection related to the use of force during hostilities, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against</p> |

⁴⁸ News brief in Arabic at <http://mezan.org/post/25089>

| | | | |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| | | | <p>Women. One full day spent learning about the methods of monitoring and documenting violations of international law. One session on the protection of children’s rights in an international armed conflict, and the importance of reporting abuses to the MRM 1612 mechanism under UN Security Resolution 1612.</p> <p>23 - 24 October 2018:</p> <p>Training for CBOs professionals working with children in access-restricted areas (ARA). 24 professionals, half of them female, gained understanding of child rights and were introduced to international mechanisms of child rights. The participants gained greater familiarity with and IHL’s principles of protecting children in contexts of armed conflict. On the first day, Mr. Saber Al-Nairab, from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, presented on UN conventions, procedures, and mechanisms which are at place to ensure child protection. He explained how these can be used in effect to protect children, especially through reporting to UN special rapporteur on children. On the second day, the training discussed the Convention on the Rights of the Child and a member of Al Mezan’s Fieldwork Unit engaged participants in discussion of monitoring, documentation, and reporting tools, and introduced them to the UN Security Council Resolution 1612. On 11 and 12 November 2018, the same target group was invited back to participate in additional two-day training organized in Gaza City to expanded on the topics discussed earlier and focused on protection of children and women in armed conflicts.</p> <p>28 - 30 October 2018:</p> <p>The was held between 28 and 30 October 2018 for 20 lawyers, including ten female lawyers. The participants were introduced to IHL and human rights standards, and they were engaged in discussions of monitoring, documentation, and reporting mechanisms relevant to the UN Security Council Resolution 1612 on children and armed conflict. The training also covered the protection granted to women and children under IHL. The training was concluded with a discussion on the responsibilities of Israel as an occupying power towards the Palestinian civilian population.⁴⁹</p> |
| <u>2.2.1.3</u> | Supervise at least 20 awareness sessions to be delivered by university students (see 2.2.1.2) for 300 peer students on campuses (50% females). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300+ university students (‘Peer Education’) | <p>Second phase of Pass-the-Word program: University students who successfully finished the first phase of Pass the Word conducted 100 awareness-raising sessions to their peers in local universities (5 sessions on various human rights topics for 20 groups of students). The sessions reached 356 undergraduate students (189 females, 167 males) in the Islamic University and University of Palestine.</p> <p>The topics of the sessions included: HR/IHL, ESCR, democracy and the rule of law and International mechanisms for protecting human rights.</p> |
| <u>2.2.1.4</u> | Conduct 10 awareness/training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200+ vulnerable | <p>241 farmers, fishermen, members of CSOs working in the ARA, journalists and social media activists attended awareness-raising workshops:</p> |

⁴⁹ News Brief published in conclusion of the lawyers’ training is available in Arabic at <http://mezan.org/post/27097> and in English at <http://mezan.org/en/post/23306>

| | | | |
|--|---|-------------|--|
| | workshops on various HR and IHL issues and skills (with focus on ESCR) for vulnerable groups, CSOs, journalists and social media activists among others (20 each, 50% females). | individuals | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. February 18nd, 2018: a workshop was carried out for youth in the Culture and Free Thought Association for 16 youth (11 females and 5 males), on the right to return. 2. March 5th, 2018: 45 women attended a workshop in Al Braem Association for Development in Khan Younis on the rights of women. 3. May 7th, 2018: 18 women attended a workshop on the protection of women under IHL. 4. May 12th, 2018: a workshop for social media activists on IHL and the protection of journalists. 25 persons attended (15 females, 10 males). The participants were introduced to IHL principles and its applicability in oPt and the protection provided to civilians per its provisions. They also took part in detailed discussion with the training moderator on adapting their posts on social media platforms to utilize terms and language which are reflective of IHL terminology. 5. 3 September 2018: One workshop for 30 fishermen (all males) from Middle Gaza on protection of civilians under IHL. The fishermen discussed the ever-shrinking fishing zone due to limits imposed by Israeli authorities and the daily attacks by the Israeli navy which end up with fishermen being arrested and their boats and equipment being seized. Through the discussion, fishermen were introduced to relevant IHL treaties — primarily, the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions. An overview of Al Mezan’s legal work was also provided, particularly legal representation provided for detained fishermen and interventions aiming to retrieve seized fishing boats from Israeli authorities. 6. 6 September 2018: Awareness session for 25 farmers (including 5 female farmers) held at Al Quds Society for Developing Al Mawasi in Khan Younis. Al Mezan’s lawyer provided an overview on IHL and the protection of civilians in armed conflict—primarily, the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions. The lawyer then discussed with participants the common breaches that farmers are subjected to by Israeli military, particularly in the Access Restricted Area. The session was concluded by discussing the occupying forces’ obligations towards the civilian population in Gaza in terms of accountability and access to justice, and Al Mezan’s legal aid available for victims of IHL/IHRL violations. 7. 17 September 2018: An awareness-raising session for 17 women at Al-Taghreed Association for Culture and Development in North Gaza aiming to raise awareness of women’s protection under international humanitarian law. The session moderator engaged the participating women in a discussion highlighting the |
|--|---|-------------|--|

| | | | |
|---------|--|--|--|
| | | | <p>significance of IHL to civilians during armed conflict and went into details with regards to protection of women in armed conflict—primarily, the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions. The session was concluded with a discussion of most common breaches against women by Israeli military and legal aid available for victims at Al Mezan.</p> <p>8. 17 July 2018: Awareness session held in Khuza'a, Khan Younis for 24 farmers and members of CBOs working with farmers (10 men, 14 women). The session included a review of the Israeli practices against Palestinian farmers and the difficult economic conditions they suffer as a result of the ongoing violations in ARA, particularly the spraying of pesticides on agricultural crops, the razing operations. Al Mezan's lawyer discussed the international mechanisms available for their protection; explaining aspects of IHL/IHRL relevant to farmers concerns, and how human rights organizations file complaints on their behalf with Israeli and international bodies. The issues facing requests for compensation for damages and losses caused by such practices were discussed and obstacles hindering access to legal recourse were also outlined.</p> <p>9. 6 September 2018: Awareness session held in Salateen, Rafah for 26 fishermen. Al Mezan lawyer discusses restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation forces on fishermen work at sea, and the nature of the violations at sea. The lawyer explained the rules imposed by international humanitarian law on the conduct and practices of occupation forces, the protection provided to civilians, and mechanisms of international litigation, including the contractual and non-contractual mechanisms of the United Nations.</p> <p>He also discussed Al Mezan attempts to hold the occupation forces accountable for their violations, including efforts to retrieve fishing boats and equipment seized by the Israeli occupation forces. The participants discussed the issues of obtaining compensation for the damages and losses caused by these practices.</p> <p>10. 31 December 2018: Al Mezan organized a joint awareness session for farmers and fishermen on violations against fishermen in the Gaza Sea and legal aid available for victims.</p> <p>Al Mezan's lawyer highlighted the fishermen's rights as mandated and protected by different international human rights conventions, and discussed in details the forms of legal aid provided by the center to fishermen, particularly legal representation provided for detained fishermen and interventions aiming to retrieve fishing boats seized by Israeli authorities.</p> |
| 2.2.1.5 | Conduct at least 30 awareness sessions/lectures on various HR issues for | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 600+ school students | 43 lectures/awareness sessions for children and teachers from 43 different schools in the Gaza Strip. A total of 1,301 participants gained basic knowledge of human rights and rights of the child (799 girls, 392 males, 73 females teachers, and 37 male teachers). |

| | | | |
|----------------|---|--|---|
| | school students (20 each, 50% females). | | |
| <u>2.2.1.6</u> | Conduct 1 art competition on HR (particularly child rights) engaging 3000 school students | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 art competition (3000 school students) | <p>This year marked the tenth consecutive year of IHL/HR Child Art Awards. Al Mezan received 4,000 painting from student participants in local schools (2,200 from UNRWA schools and 1,800 from the MoE schools).</p> <p>490 people (including 115 children) attended the award ceremony on 20 December 2018 in Gaza City; students, their families, and members of the education community from both UNRWA and MoE were present. The Palestinian Minister of Education, who could not attend in person, gave a pre-recorded video message to the children, and UNRWA's Education Program Director joined Al Mezan's Director General on stage to present awards for the winning art work and opened the art gallery showcasing 71 children's paintings in conclusion of the ceremony.</p> <p>A total of 36 students received awards for their exceptional art work (top three student in each age group received \$200, \$150, and \$100 respectively, as well as encyclopedias, collection of stories and art supplies).</p> |
| <u>2.2.1.7</u> | Conduct 1-day workshop for law professionals, judges and human rights defenders on legal review of legislation (linked to 1.1.2.6) representatives of relevant NGOs, and civil society actors and stakeholders (25 participants, 50% females) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25+ individuals | <p>Nov. 2018, Al Mezan held an expert discussion on Israel's death penalty bill, which seeks to amend current legislation regulating the use of the death penalty thus paving the way for application of such penalty on Palestinians held in Israeli prisons.</p> <p>Lawyers, human rights specialists, and representatives of local organizations serving detainees and prisoners discussed the risks and consequences posed by Israel's death penalty bill, which passed preliminary reading in Israel's parliament, the Knesset, in January and is currently being prepared for final plenary votes in the Knesset. Al Mezan's legal reading of the bill (conducted under activity 1.1.2.6) was shared with participants to inform the discussion.</p> <p>[more information available at http://mezan.org/en/post/23321]</p> |
| <u>2.2.1.8</u> | Issue at least 2 working papers to be presented in workshops with relevant NGOs/CBOs and civil society actors on various HR issues with focus on ESCR and HRBA (Human Rights Based Approach). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2+ working papers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In August 2018, Al Mezan presented a working paper on sea pollution at a workshop held for 28 participants from relevant governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations working in the Gaza Strip. The participants asserted that the electricity crisis is the culprit behind rising level of pollution of sea water as local municipalities struggle to operate their sewage treatment facilities at the rate required to prevent pumping of untreated sewage water into the Gaza Sea. The participants put forward an array of recommendation to resolve crisis, which were incorporated into Al Mezan's working paper and published online (available at http://mezan.org/post/26827) In Sept. 2018, Al Mezan invited representative of the Ministry of Health in Gaza and officials in charge of the Treatment Abroad Department (aka Services Purchasing Unit) and relevant NGOs to discuss the finding of Al Mezan report on the consequences of the PA's restrictive measures for Gaza's patients. The participants discussed complex and lengthy procedures associated with obtaining medical referrals within the PA health system and agreed on a number of recommendations to improve the medical referral system, which were added to Al Mezan's report on the subject (available at http://mezan.org/en/post/23342) |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| 2.2.1.9 | Conduct recreational and activities to children traumatized/affected by HR violations supervised by MHPSS experts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 children participated | <p>92 vulnerable, traumatized children (46 boys and 46 girls) took part in recreational camps organized by Al Mezan in presence of MHPSS professional. Three camps were organized between 22 July and 9 August 2018: one in North Gaza for 31 children between the ages of 12 and 15; the second held in Khan Younis for 30 children between the ages of 9 and 12; and the third also in Khan Younis for 31 children between the ages of 12 and 15.</p> <p>The children, who were selected by CBOs working in the Access Restricted Areas, were directly affected by GMR protests and conflict– were injured in protests or were traumatized as a result of injury or death of a family member. The camp administrators implemented a range of activities centred on play therapy, during which the children were encouraged to communicate with each other and camp administrators, explore their thoughts and emotions. Group and one-on-one therapy sessions were also conducted by a psychosocial support expert to address unresolved traumas. As a result, the expert identified over a dozen children in need of prolonged therapy, and thereafter Al Mezan coordinated their referral to GCMHP to receive tailored treatment.</p> |
| Output 2.2.2: Technical assistance and deliberation over IHRL and IHL issued (with focus on ESCR) are conducted | | | |
| 2.2.2.1 | Conduct 2 awareness and technical assistance workshops with relevant practitioners on ESCR issues raised by reports and factsheets. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 workshops (technical assistance) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Dec. 2018, Al Mezan invited officials from the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian Federation of Industries, the Chamber of Commerce, and academic economists and NGOs professionals to discuss issues resulting from newly-imposed taxes on imported goods. The workshop discussed the implication of the new policy on economic activity, prices, and living conditions in the Gaza Strip, as well as the potential steps to be taken to protect local products, support the private sector, and enhance the gross domestic product. Al Mezan voiced its concerns about imposing additional taxes on goods that have no local alternatives. In light of the implication presented, NGOs and academics urged officials to freeze the new taxes and pursue alternative policies to protect local products. • In Oct. 2018, Al Mezan held an expert workshop on the electricity crisis in Gaza attended by 25 professionals from nonprofit, and international organizations. The meeting discussed dangers posed by unregulated privately-owned power generators which are widely used in Gaza to cope with the power shortage. The participants also discussed the success of the smart meter scheme which provides restricted flow of electricity to household for minimum needs instead of completely cutting the power. The scheme, although successful, was not widely adopted and was only applied in few neighborhoods; Al Mezan called on the Palestinian relevant authorities to revitalize the ‘smart meter scheme’ for widescale adoption. By the end of the meeting participants agreed on a number of recommendations which were included in Al Mezan’s factsheet on the issue (available at http://mezan.org/post/27064). In addition, Al Mezan sent a letter to the head of the Palestinian Authority’ Energy and Natural Resources Authority urging the adoption and promotion of the smart meter scheme through financial incentives. |

| | | | |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP Livelihood Advisor met Al Mezan researchers to discuss latest development concerning ESCR of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip as outlined by Al Mezan’s annual ESCR report (available at http://mezan.org/post/25218) • Al Mezan shared its remarks and recommendation on the preliminary report drafted by the State of Palestine for submission to the UN Committee of ESCR during experts meeting organized by the Independent Commission of Human Rights (ICHR) on 6 Feb. 2018. • Al Mezan attended a panel alongside the WHO to present challenges facing the health sector in the Gaza Strip at gathering for journalists organized by the Palestinian Institute for Communication & Development (PICD). Al Mezan focused on implication of the Israeli blockade on referral patients in need of exit permits to access medical facilities outside Gaza, and also outlined the PA punitive measures on referral patients which were characterized by a sharp drop in referrals in mid-2017. |
| <u>2.2.2.2</u> | Conduct 1 roundtable with relevant stakeholders and actors on the judiciary system and/or the reunification of Palestinian judiciary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 roundtable on the judiciary | <p>Nov. 2018 — Al Mezan held an expert discussion on justice reform and unification in the oPt to explore the challenges hindering reformed and unified justice system. The meeting was held at Al Mezan’s main office in Gaza City and via video conference at the office of the Palestinian Center for Policy Research and Strategic Studies (Masarat) in Ramallah. Participants were lawyers, academics, and civil society experts.</p> <p>With no substantial change to the state of political division in oPt creating two separate justice systems in the WB and Gaza, the meeting discussed the role of the National Committee on Justice Sector Development (NCJSD) in driving effective reform, especially in light of the recommendations set forth in the Committee’s report on 5 September 2018. The meeting discussed the failure of the NCJSD to include representatives from the Gaza Strip, to meet the minimum justice reform needs demanded by civil society organizations, to address rulings and laws made during the period of internal division, and to propose practical solutions to the challenge of division within the Palestinian judicial authority.</p> <p>Participants discussed their ideas on the division within the justice system and on the work of NCJSD. All the participants agreed that the justice sector remains challenged, especially as it continues to be influenced by the executive authority. At the end, the following recommendations were set forth to improve the Palestinian judiciary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1-- General elections should be held as a basis for a unified, democratic, and functioning political system that respects the rule of law, separation of powers, and the independence of the judiciary. 2-- The division of the judicial authority should be ended as a basis instrumental in informing the processes of political reconciliation and comprehensive national unification. 3-- Law No. 1 of 2002 should be amended in line with common legislative procedures. 4-- NCJSD should be restructured to reflect geographic representation and national consensus. |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| | | | <p>5-- The Supreme Constitutional Court should be reestablished to ensure protection of the Palestinian Basic Law as well as of people's rights and freedoms.</p> <p>These recommendations were incorporated into Al Mezan's working paper and published online (available at http://mezan.org/post/27200)</p> |
| Output 2.2.3: Human rights related national and international emblematic occasions are observed and celebrated by Al Mezan and the civil society actors | | | |
| <u>2.2.3.1</u> | <p>Celebrate at least 5 national and international HR days/occasions (including Human Rights Day on 10 December, linked to 2.2.1.6) through activating social media spaces (Facebook pages, groups, events and/or hashtags).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5+ celebrations • 5+ social media spaces | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. February 2018: media event on satellite TV channel on World Cancer Day to discuss challenges facing the health sector and the effects of Israeli closure and blockade on cancer patients seeking access to healthcare facilities outside Gaza. 2. March 2018: Social media campaign to launch the center's annual report on ESCR. 3. April 2018: Al Mezan took part in a nation-wide social media campaign to support prisoners' rights under the #BornaPrisoner campaign. 4. April 2018: Pass-the-Word volunteers setup up a social media initiative with Al Mezan which aimed at giving a voice to people in the Access Restricted Area. The campaign was called #WeTweetForYou and engaged with women, men and children participating in the weekly demonstrations in the ARA to portray their messages using social media platforms, mainly twitter. The campaign was a success managing to reach 277,118 twitter accounts within the first six hours. 5. May 2018: social media campaign with partner human rights organizations using #StandWithGaza to highlight the breaches of international law against demonstrators of the Great Return March. 6. November 2018: Al Mezn presented a working paper in a conference held by Gaza Community Mental Health Program on the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women. 7. November 2018: media appearance on satellite TV channel to discuss the question of Palestine on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. 8. December 2018: Al Mezan's IHL/HR Child Art Awards organized in celebration of Human Rights Day was streamed live on Facebook reaching over five thousand people. |
| <u>2.2.3.2</u> | <p>Conduct a reception on the World Press Freedom Day (3 May) in cooperation with CSOs promoting free expression</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 reception | <p>Al Mezan was unable to hold the activity due to shortage of funding (for more details, refer to section 6 on Admin and Financial Issues)</p> |

III. Capacity Building Program

Overall Objective: To enhance the organizational and staff capacity of Al Mezan

| # | Planned activities | Indicators and targets | Achievements |
|--|--|--|---|
| Outcome 3.1: To further enhance strategies, human resources, fundraising and infrastructure | | | |
| Output 3.1.1: Strategies assessed and incorporated | | | |
| <u>3.1.1.1</u> | Follow up on implementation and monitoring of strategies (including SP, HRD, FR and CAS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented and monitored strategies | Significant progress made in relation to the communications and advocacy strategy. The incorporation of the two other strategies is also underway and measures to that effect were presented for deliberations during staff meetings. |
| <u>3.1.1.2</u> | Develop 2019 action plan and master budget | | Developed and shared with donors for fundraising, and Board and staff for monitoring and implementation. |
| Output 3.1.2: Human Resources are continuously developed | | | |
| | Capacity building activities implemented in 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency preparedness review organized by Save the Children International (SCI) to partner organizations operating in Gaza. The training spanned for two days (27 - 28 June 2018) and included an overview of the Core Humanitarian Standards then shifted focus to joint emergency preparedness plan for SCI partner organizations in terms of emergency program implementation and coordination as well as operational capacity and available resources. Gaza Community Mental Health Program held one-day training for at Al Mezan's office on detection and referral mechanism of torture/CIDTP/trauma survivors to available psychosocial support/treatment. The training was held on 5 July 2018 for seven staff members (4 lawyers and 3 fieldworkers) whose work put them at direct contact with project beneficiaries on daily basis. A one-day training for staff working with children, mainly staff working on awareness raising activities and fieldworkers, on psychological first aid for child. The training aimed to improve skills and competences of practitioner to reduce the initial distress of children caused by critical incidents. Two staff members attended professional writing sessions (25 training-hours) conducted by the Palestinian Ministry of Culture. Fieldwork Coordinator took part in Shelter City Program organized by Justice and Peace Netherlands for three-month where he completed a course on IHL in Maastricht University and attended trainings in digital security, organizational security, and physical security by expert security trainers. | | |
| Output 3.1.3: Fundraising is continuously coordinated and enhanced | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased focus on fundraisings secured project funding and subgrants from seven contributors covering 50% of the center's annual budget. | | |
| Output 3.1.4: Information systems, computing and office equipment, furniture and infrastructure are continuously upgraded | | | |

| # | Planned activities | Indicators and targets | Achievements |
|----------------|---|--|--|
| <u>3.1.4.1</u> | Develop Al Mezan Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) for (2018-2020) developed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgraded systems and equipment | Training for staff on emergency preparedness was conducted, as reported above. A plan will be developed in 2019. |
| <u>3.1.4.2</u> | Train at least 2 key staff in safety and security of Human Rights Defendants, externally for 6 days | | Training for one staff member at the International Summit for HRDs 2018, Paris, France. Another staff member underwent digital and personal security training during his stay in the Netherland for the Shelter City Program. The training discussed secure digital communication, email and file encryption software, anonymous web surfing, field and office risk assessment, and creating personal security plan. |
| <u>3.1.4.3</u> | Assess the needs for information systems and security upgrade | | Needs had been assessed and a project grant was secured to finance the required upgrades. |
| <u>3.1.4.4</u> | Supply and install assessed information systems and security upgrades | | Solicitation of price quotes and procurement of upgrades conducted in the second half of the year with instalment to be finalized by mid-2019. |
| <u>3.1.4.5</u> | Assess the needs for office equipment and furniture upgrade | | Needs assessed and limited upgrades made as necessary. Lack of resources caused further upgrade to be delayed. |
| <u>3.1.4.6</u> | Supply and install assessed office equipment and furniture | | Same as previous |

Annex II

Implemented Projects 2018

Projects implemented in 2018

The following table provides a summary of the projects implemented in full or in part during the reporting period.

| Project Title | Donor | Goals/Objectives | Implemented Activities | Outputs/Outcomes |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <p>Promotion and protection of human rights, the pursuance of the rule of law and the realization of democratic principles for the Palestinian people.</p> <p>(Duration: 1 March – 30 June 2018)</p> | UNDP/PAPP (Rule of Law Program) | To protect and promote human rights, the pursuance of the rule of law and the realization of democratic principles for the Palestinian people. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation for 20 detainees from represented in Israel (two children, seven fishermen, and two men arrested at Erez crossing after being called for security interview to process their exit permit applications). - Legal intervention to the CLA on behalf of 34 patients (4 girls, 5 boys, 11 women, and 10 men, including 3 protestors injured during the GMR demonstrations) whose permit requests have been rejected/delayed once or more by Israeli authorities. - legal advice provided to 102 right holders (43 women, 59 men) on a range of right infringed upon by Israeli authorities. - Al Mezan’s lawyers visited two detention centers and one prison in the Gaza Strip to inspect detention conditions, meet with detainees/prisoners and listened to their complaints. - Monitoring and documentation of IHL/IHRL violation in the Gaza Strip and answer requests to share documentation information with UN agencies working in oPt. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All seven fishermen were released with no charges pressed against them. Al Mezan also secured the release of one of the two children and one of the two men arrested at Erez. The other detainees cases are still pending. - The intervention secured travel permits for 16 patients, including seven children and three injured protestors, one of whom was in danger of losing his right leg had he remained in Gaza. - Following prison/detention centers visits, 21 cases/complaints were taken to authorities: 8 concerning access to medical care (all successful), 6 concerning right to due process (2 successful, 4 ongoing), 3 concerning torture/CIDTP (pending, complaints sent to the Attorney General), 2 requests to contact family (both successful), and 2 requests to be transferred to another prison (2 pending). Further, 6 cases of children being held with adult detainees were documented in Khan Younis detention center; lawyers secured their transfer to a juvenile social welfare facility. - Information and figures concerning IHL/IHRL violation were utilized for reporting and answering request for information from UN agencies working in oPt. |
| <p>Protection and Promotion of IHL in Gaza</p> <p>(Duration: 1 Jan. – 31 Dec. 2018)</p> | Diakonia | Contribute to increased respect for IHL and IHRL through monitoring that enable advocacy and legal intervention into violations in support of groups at risk in Gaza, and raise awareness about IHL/IHRL violations in Gaza locally and internationally and strategically challenging impunity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal advice provided for 30 victims of IHL violations. - 35 university students (including 19 females) participating in Al Mezan’s Pass-the-Word training program received additional 20 hours of training on IHL. In the second phase of the program, the participants conducted 20 IHL awareness-raising session to 356 of their peers in local universities. - 75 undergraduate university students (38 females, 37 males) received 3-day training on human rights topics delivered by Al Mezan in Gaza City and Khan Younis. The training hours included a six-hour course on IHL. - Three-day training for 20 lawyers, including ten female lawyers on to IHL and human rights standards, in addition to monitoring, documentation, and reporting mechanisms relevant to the UN Security Council Resolution 1612 on children and armed conflict. - One-day training for 25 social media activists (15 females, 10 males) on protection of civilians, including journalists, under IHL and on adapting social media posts to utilize terms and language which are reflective of IHL terminology. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased knowledge of IHL among university students and law graduates in Gaza - Increased information on IHL violations and available legal interventions for at-risk groups (women, farmers, fishermen). - The society and actors better informed on IHL violations against at-risk groups, and greater awareness about IHL violations, including calls for respect of IHL - Pass-the-Word volunteers setup up a social media initiative with Al Mezan which aimed at giving a voice to people in the Access Restricted Area. The campaign was to be called #WeTweetForYou and engaged with women, men and children participating in the weekly demonstrations in the ARA to portray their messages using social media platforms, mainly twitter. The campaign was a success managing to reach 277,118 twitter accounts within the first six hours. |

| Project Title | Donor | Goals/Objectives | Implemented Activities | Outputs/Outcomes |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 awareness-raising workshops for 25 farmers, 30 fishermen and 17 rural women on IHL and the protection of civilians in armed conflict. - 4,000 children from MoE and UNRWA schools sent their painting to the IHL/HR Child Art Competition and 490 individuals attended the awards ceremony to honor 36 winners and visited the art gallery showcasing 71 of the best paintings submitted. - Printing and distribution of two posters (500 copies each) depicting artwork submitted by two school students (11 and 14-year-old girls) to the Child Art competition. - Advocacy mission to Stockholm, Sweden conducted in Nov. 2018; Al Mezan representative addressed Swedish MPs, journalists and members of civil society at a public event organized by Diakonia and the Church of Sweden; one-on-one meetings with parliamentarians, officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Swedish Bar Association to discuss developments in oPt with focus on the situation in Gaza and stressing the need for accountability. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The advocacy mission conducted in Sweden provided in-depth analysis of the latest development in oPt to members of Parliament, journalists and civil society; The Swedish Bar Association and legal experts were informed of legal challenges facing Palestinians seeking remedies in Israeli justice system. The visit opened the door for potential future cooperation to engage with international accountability mechanisms. |
| <p>Support to documenting IHRL & IHL violations in the Gaza Strip</p> <p>(Duration: 1 Dec 2017 – 30 June 2018)</p> | TRÓCAIRE | Strengthen Al Mezan’s capacity for full, professional documentation of violations of IHRL & IHL in Gaza; including in the context of 2018 protests and enable reporting on it. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 500 cases of IHRL/IHL violations against protestors, farmers, fishermen, and patients were documented. - monitoring and documentation information were used to update delegations visiting Gaza, including CIDSE delegation who held a meeting with Palestinian civil society organizations at Al Mezan office in Gaza on 24 April 2018. - One report on IHL/IHRL violations against protestors produced, printed and disseminated. - 15 legal case files concerning killing of civilians taking part in the GMR protests. Al Mezan sent civil notifications to Israeli MoD to secure victims’ families right to claim reparation, and sent criminal investigation requests the MAG. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribute to comprehensive documentation of incident involving violations, including those committed in the context of the ‘Great Return March’. - Contribute to dissemination of reliable information on the violations committed in the context of the demonstrations to UN agencies working in oPt. - Enabling legal interventions and communication, including with UN special procedures. |
| <p>Monitoring, verification and documentation of possible IHL/IHRL violations, and provision of legal aid to victims in the Gaza Strip</p> | UN OCHA (1st Reserve Allocation for Gaza 2018) | To strengthen monitoring, verification and documentation of the possible IHR/IHRL violations including attacks on health staff and other protected and/or vulnerable groups in the Gaza Strip, and enhance access to medical care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fieldworkers documented 86 killings in the context of the GMR protests; those killed included 19 children, 1 woman, and 2 paramedics. - Fieldworkers also monitored and verified 5,377 injuries which were treated at local hospitals for various injuries ranging from teargas inhalation to bullet wounds; and documented injuries of 1,242 children and 229 women. - 169 attacks/targeting of 89 medical personnel and 89 journalists at the GMR protests were also documented. - The collected data was utilized by both implementing organizations to issue dozens of daily news feeds, 26 weekly updates, and over 45 press | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring and documentation data were utilized to brief Protection Cluster partners on GMR protests. - Detailed field information and figures on the GMR protests were provided to Protection Cluster partners upon their request, including SCI, GCMHP, PUI, and Aisha who utilized the information to shape and prioritize their interventions with casualties of the GMR protests. - Monitoring and documentation data as well as testimonies obtained from victims and eyewitness were shared with the UN CoI established by the HRC to investigate violations of IHL/IHRL committed in the context of the GMR protests |

| Project Title | Donor | Goals/Objectives | Implemented Activities | Outputs/Outcomes |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p><i>Joint-project with PCHR</i></p> <p>(Duration: 16 May – 16 Nov. 2018)</p> | | for the victims outside Gaza. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> releases written in both Arabic and English on violations against GMR's protestors, medical personnel and journalists. Field data utilized to draft a thematic report on grave violations against children. Al Mezna provided legal intervention to 90 medical referral patients, including 6 injured during the GMR protests seeking exit permits to cross Erez and reach medical facilities in the WB/Israel. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lawyers secured exit permits in 45% of the cases and thus enabling referral patients to access medical care outside Gaza. |
| <p>Protecting at-risk vulnerable households and building an enabling environment for resilient communities in the Gaza Strip</p> <p>(Duration: 1 Apr. 2018 – 28 Feb. 2019)</p> | Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) | To improve protection of human rights, including HLP rights, through documentation, legal intervention and information/advocacy activities around vulnerable group. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> legal counselling to 80 individuals, including 15 women, directly affected by IHL/IHRL violations in the ARA. 31 legal intervention on behalf of victims (families) to Israeli authorities in the form of civil notification to Israeli MoD, communication with the MAG to retrieve seized fishing boats, and complaints to the MAG requesting criminal investigation into incident of killing/injury of Palestinians. Two capacity building sessions: one for 24 farmers (including 14 women) and another for 26 fishermen to raise awareness of their rights under IHL/IHRL and to discuss available legal recourse for victims and assistance provided by local human rights organizations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil notifications sent MoD has granted victims (families) access to Israeli civil courts to seek redress within two years after the date of the incident per Israeli law. Lawyers successfully retrieved one confiscated fishing boat from Israeli Navy thereby restoring the owner's means of livelihood. Lawyers also secured exit permit for one casualty of the GMR protests to access medical care facilities in the WB. Farmers and fishermen communities' knowledge on available protection mechanisms and available legal interventions increased. |
| <p>Gaza Preparedness and Early Action</p> <p>(Duration: 1 July – 31 Dec. 2018)</p> | Save the Children International (SCI) | To support rapid response capacity and preparedness in relation to the human rights and humanitarian situation affecting children in the Gaza Strip. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation of child casualties in the context of the GMR protests. Monthly statistical updates on children and armed conflict. Information was also utilized for a briefing on CAAC in Gaza in 2018 which was then shared with EU officials and during advocacy mission conducted under this action. One advocacy mission to Brussels, Belgium, focusing on the EU institutions whereby meetings were held with the EU External Action Service, the EU Commission, the European Parliament's Human Rights Committee (DROI) and several of the MaMa representatives. Oral intervention in Human Rights Council 39th session held in Geneva highlighting violation against children in the context of GMR protest and attacks on schools documented in 2018. Four-day training for 24 professionals from CBOs working with children in the ARA on range of human rights topics. Two recreational camps held for 61 children who were directly affected by GMR protests (injured in protests or were traumatized as a result of injury or death of a family member). Group and one-on- | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on child casualties in the context of the GMR shared on regular basis with partner organizations working in oPt, including SCI, to aid in identification of most vulnerable children and designing informed interventions. CBOs professionals gained valuable knowledge on protection of children and women in armed conflicts and on UN mechanism available for victims. EU institutions briefed on violations of children in the context of armed conflict in Gaza and urged to improve child protection in oPt through bilateral and multi-lateral interventions at the EU level and at UN institutions. Recreational camps provided a safe environment for vulnerable children to interact with each other through recreational activities and during which the psychosocial expert identified at least eight children in need of prolonged therapy, who were thereafter referral to GCMHP for tailored intervention upon consent from guardians. |

| Project Title | Donor | Goals/Objectives | Implemented Activities | Outputs/Outcomes |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | | one therapy sessions were conducted by a psychosocial support expert to address unresolved traumas. | |
| Strengthening Monitoring, Protection and Rehabilitation of Civilians Victimized by, or at Risk of, Human Rights and IHL violations in Gaza with Relation to ARA and Torture (Duration of YEAR ONE: 1 March 2018 – 28 Feb. 2019) | European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) | To promote and protect the rights of vulnerable groups in Gaza through challenging justice conditions and providing legal redress and rehabilitation services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 131 right holders (61 women, 70 men) received legal counselling on violations by Israeli authorities regarding the targeting of protesters in the buffer zone and right of access to medical care of patients. - 72 right holders (20 women, 52 men) received legal counselling violations by local authorities concerning arbitrary arrest and freedom of speech, infringement of the right to movement due to political affiliation (freedom of association), and torture and ill-treatment. - 199 individuals received legal representation before local and Israeli authorities in pursuit of their right/their family member's right to justice and accountability. - One strategic litigation case lodged to Israeli High Court. - 5 survivors of torture/CIDTP referred to GCMHP for treatment. - Four-day training course on monitoring and documentation methods and reporting mechanisms in IHL and IHRL held for 25 professionals (14 male/11 female) from community-based organizations operating in the ARA. - Recreational camp held for 31 children affected by and/or prone to experience trauma, and delivered rehabilitation, relief, and support services to the participants. - Fieldworkers conducted over a thousand field visits to locations of violations, including 790 documentation visits to gather information from families and witnesses in the context of monitoring and documentation of GMR protests. - Issued over 40 press releases on issues related to the project's areas of focus. - Over 30 meetings locally and abroad with officials to raise issues and concerns based on documented human rights violations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 203 right holders (including 81 women) received legal advice and were enabled to pursue their rights to legal justice and accountability. - 54 patients who were given legal representation were successfully enabled to obtain Gaza exit-permits from Israeli authorities to travel for urgent medical care. - 27 victims of civil and political rights violations by Palestinian authorities who were legally represented had their rights successfully restored. - 11 individual/family members received enhanced visibility of their cases by the UN Special Procedures and Israeli government – aiding in the protection of the rights to justice and accountability. - 25 trainees showed 22% gain in knowledge based on pre-post evaluation tests and are able to disseminate information victims and refer cases to Al Mezan, - Children attending the recreational camp benefited from group and on-on-one sessions with psychosocial expert who referred at least five children in need of prolonged therapy to GCMHP for tailored intervention upon consent from guardians. - Documentation contributing to Al Mezan's information sharing, which took place over 300 times to UN bodies, diplomatic missions, the media and INGOs. - The fieldwork enabled Al Mezan to make effective, detailed, and evidence-supported advocacy and legal interventions, which were followed by a number of positive interventions/statements reflecting Al Mezan's messaging and asks, issued by the UN and EU regarding the victims of violations and abuses specific to the ARA, notably for this period regarding the Great Return March. |