



مركز الميزان لحقوق الإنسان
AL MEZAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Annual Narrative Report

1 January – 31 December 2021

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The Palestinian Digital Rights Coalition (PDRC)

The Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR)

The Protection Cluster (Chaired by OHCHR)

1. Executive Summary

The year started with unexpected positive development as the Palestinian President issued a decree in January 2021 providing for holding Parliamentary and Presidential elections in the oPt in May and July, respectively. Al Mezan made swift changes to its action plan channelling the focus of relevant activities in the first quarter of the year to elections and voter participation. Plans were in place to conduct a comprehensive observation campaign, whereby Al Mezan was to deploy over 300 trained and accredited observers across the Gaza Strip, one per each polling center, and had recruited and trained around a dozen observers to monitor the campaigning phase in the weeks leading up to the voting day. Additionally, Al Mezan also shifted focus and expanded the coverage of its awareness-raising workshops, reaching around 400 participants (including 226 females) in the first four months of the year. The annual Pass-the-Word program also delved more into elections, voter participation and democracy this year, and its 35 volunteers went on to organize awareness sessions (under the supervision of Al Mezan) to 302 of their peers (including 169 females) in local universities in Gaza. Further, Al Mezan pursued and won a [strategic case](#) before the Election Court in Gaza against Central Elections Commission's decision that disenfranchise eligible prison inmates, inpatients, care home residents, and persons under quarantine. Finally, Al Mezan and partner Palestinian Human Rights organizations raised the alarm over several unconstitutional directives and decrees issued in the first quarter of the year undermining public freedoms, the most notable of which were the amendments to the Charitable Associations and Civil Society Organizations' Law No. 1 of 2000.

Shortly after postponement of the general election in late April 2021, another round of hostilities broke out in the Gaza Strip, the largest in scale since the 2014 offensive. The large-scale escalation started on 10 May and ended in the early hours of 21 May. The onset of hostilities and its aftermath required further changes to the annual action plan of Al Mezan. When hostilities were ongoing, Al Mezan focus was shifted to collection of preliminary data and dissemination to inform the international community of the rapid developments. Al Mezan issued at least one press release each day covering the event of the preceding 24 hours and our representatives conducted dozens of interviews with media outlets including international agencies such as the Associated Press and the Guardian. Following cessation of hostilities, Al Mezan conducted a series of rapid assessments, the results of which were published and circulated widely in fact sheets addressing the military offensive's impact on [sanitation](#) infrastructure and access to clean and safe [drinking water](#), as well as the impact of additional restrictive measures imposed at the outset of the offensive on the [economic and humanitarian](#) conditions and on Gaza's [referral patients](#) and the healthcare system at large. Al Mezan also shed light on the environmental and health repercussion of bombing Gaza's largest [agricultural chemical warehouse](#) during the May 2021 in a widely circulated [video](#), which amassed over 35 thousand views on social media. Al Mezan local advocacy on the matter helped expedited the removal of hazardous material from the bombed site and persuaded the Ministry of Health in Gaza to hold two free medical days (free walk-in clinic) for residents of areas in proximity to the incident site (namely, As-Siyfa and al-Attatra) where dozens of people experienced skin rashes that had been attributed to the incident.

Human rights organizations played an instrumental role in advocating for holding a special session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). After meeting with Al Mezan and partners, South Africa [co-signed](#) the request led by Pakistan and the State of Palestine to convene a special session and issued strong oral statement during the session. The session, which was held on 27 May, adopted a landmark resolution (A/HRC/RES/S-30/1) which provides for the establishment of an ongoing independent, international commission of inquiry. This is the first UN resolution of its kind to grant the appointed commission of inquiry an ongoing, broad mandate to investigate not only all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, but also "all underlying root causes of recurrent tensions, instability and protraction of conflict" therein.

Al Mezan and partner human rights organizations (Al-Haq and PCHR) approached multiple donor partners in the weeks following the May 2021 offensive to raise funds for a comprehensive campaign to document casualties and damages to public and private properties. A grant from the UN oPt Humanitarian Fund enabled partners to recruit, train and deploy dozens of fieldworkers to carry out documentation of 240 fatalities (including 151 civilians, 59 of whom are children and 38 are women) and the maiming of 630 women and 397 children, in addition to 1,313 destroyed housing units and another 6,367 damaged housing units, as well as damages to 420 hectares of cultivated land, 221 livestock and poultry farms, 24 water wells, 169 vehicles, 59 manufacturing facilities, 483 commercial facilities, and over 800 other public and private facilities. The information of the joint documentation campaign was published and widely circulated in a joint report titled '[Assault on Gaza in Number](#)'.

In the reporting period, Al Mezan provided legal aid to over 600 referral patients, whose applications for exit permits to access hospital in the West Bank or Israel had been denied by Israeli authorities or remained pending on the date of their hospital appointment, successfully securing permits for 252 applicants (102 children, 74 women, and 76 men) to reach their designated health care facilities outside the Gaza Strip. Similarly, legal aid was provided to over 150 residents of Gaza seeking exit permits to cross Erez for non-medical purposes, securing exit for 25 residents. Further, communications made to the Israeli State Prosecution (notification of intention to petition cases to court) in May 2021 concerning denial of entry of the bodies of four referral patients deceased outside Gaza has secured their entry back to Gaza via Erez crossing to their families for dignified burial.

Al Mezan's lawyer in Israel provided legal counselling and representation for 24 detainees from Gaza (including two children) before Israeli administrative and judicial bodies in the reporting period. At the time of writing, 15 cases ended with the release of represented detainees. Al Mezan also joined HaMoked in petitioning the High Court of Justice (HCJ) in Israel in December 2021 to request that the court reinstate family visits for all Gaza inmates, which were suspended following the coronavirus outbreak in March 2020. In its [response to the petition](#) before the HCJ in February 2022, the State said that "following an examination ... it has been decided to reinstate the family visitation program for Gaza Strip detainees."

Al Mezan's lawyers visited eight detention centers and three prisons in the Gaza Strip. They spoke with detainees in police custody and inmates in prisons, informed them of basic due process rights, and took their complaints to the relevant authorities. A total of 81 individual complaints were taken with relevant authorities, mostly in relation to access to medical care, claims of ill-treatment and torture, due process, and temporary release. At least 48 of the 81 complaints were resolved successfully with the prison/detention administration, whereas serious complaints, i.e. CIDTP/torture claims, were taken with the Police General Comptroller. Al Mezan submitted a total of 25 torture/CIDTP complaints to local authorities, leading the Police General Comptroller's office to launch probes into at least thirteen of the reported incidents.

Al Mezan concluded the year with a landmark report '[The Gaza Bantustan—Israeli Apartheid in the Gaza Strip](#)' which builds on its decades-long work to promote respect, protection, and fulfillment of international law in the oPt, and is the Center's first report focused on apartheid in Gaza. The Gaza Bantustan report, which was cited in the Special Rapporteur on oPt [report](#) to the 49th regular session of the UN HRC, draws upon relevant work by Palestinian, Israeli, and international human rights organizations, academics, and experts, and reaffirms that Israel's institutionalized and systemic racial domination and oppression of the Palestinian people, including those residing in Gaza, contravenes Article 3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, amounts to the crime of apartheid according to the Apartheid Convention, and constitutes a crime against humanity as defined by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

2. Context Analysis

Economic indicators recorded at the outset of the reporting period continued to indicate a bleak outlook. Further contraction in employment attributed to the pandemic was recorded as the workforce fell from 16,830 workers in 2019 to 13,770 in 2020, and the production capacity fell from 20% to 14.5% in the same period. The Palestinian Ministry of National Economy reduced customs duty on industrial input materials and licensing fees by 50% but that was not sufficient to compensate industrial facilities. In parallel, the tight restrictions on the movement of goods into and out of the Gaza Strip imposed by Israel continued to undermine the productive capacity and growth prospects of these industrial actors. The unemployment rate in the Gaza Strip stood at 46.6%. Young people with an intermediate diploma or higher constitute the great majority of Gaza's unemployed: 54% of adults aged 19-29 with these qualifications or higher are unemployed, and over two-thirds of them are women. The burden of these alarming economic consequences was borne mainly by women, as unemployment, confinement and stay-at-home measures led to a significant increase in gender-based violence. In general, the COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on major social protection deficits primarily affecting workers, women, and the elderly, among other groups. Older people were also negatively affected by the COVID-19 outbreak in Gaza, particularly those without pension benefits. Poverty and food insecurity rates stood at 64% and 62.2% respectively, with some 80% of the population still dependent on foreign aid.¹

The first four months of the year were shaped by the call for general elections in the oPt. The Palestinian President issued a decree in January 2021 calling for holding consecutive Parliamentary and Presidential elections in the entirety of the oPt. This long overdue call for elections was expected to renew the legitimacy of the state's legislature and presidency after political rivals' failure to resolve complex issues arising from the Palestinian internal schism. At the time, the abrupt announcement seemed to have emerged from agreement between the two main political rivals (Fatah and Hamas) to prioritize elections instead of continuing the same path of unproductive talks attempting to reach common grounds on reunification of the dual political system and judiciary.

Despite the promising signs of commitment shown in response to the Presidential decree by political actors pledging to fully support the electoral process, voters in the oPt, particularly residents of Gaza who experienced first-hand the disastrous repercussion of the Palestinian internal schism, were skeptical. On 29 April, the Palestinian President suspended the electoral process indefinitely on the pretense of Israel not sanctioning an election in Jerusalem. This was not the first election to be called only to be cancelled few months later. In 2012, local elections were called but only held in the West Bank where Fatah claimed victory after Hamas withdrew from the elections, leaving out roughly 500,000 registered voters in Gaza from participating in the democratic process. Similarly, in 2016, the local elections were postponed by six months as the Supreme Court in the West Bank deemed the judicial system in Gaza illegitimate and unfit to adjudicate appeals on the Central Elections Commission (CEC) decisions and other election-related cases. By 2017, the local elections were only held in the West Bank as political rivals failed to reach an agreement on judicial jurisdictions, further disenfranchising voters in Gaza.

Even during the short-lived period of optimism prior to cancellation of elections which saw Palestinian political factions meet in Cairo and agree to safeguard public freedoms, the authorities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were somehow inclined to issue directives and decrees that undermine those freedoms. The PA introduced stifling provisions amending the Charitable Associations and Civil Society Organizations' Law No. 1 of 2000, which governs the majority of Palestinian civil society institutions. The amendment hinders the right of CSOs to operate independently of ministries and the executive authority by obligating CSOs to submit annual plans that are "in line" with those of the competent ministry. In Gaza,

¹ Al Mezan annual report on access to ESCR in the Gaza Strip 2020 ([link](#)).

The Higher Sharia Court Council issued a Judicial Circular based on a ruling by the Supreme Sharia Court on 14 February 2021 setting forth travel restrictions which blatantly disregard the right to equality and non-discrimination. Both directives were later rescinded following targeted advocacy by Palestinian human rights organizations.

In March 2021, a major development took place in Palestinian campaign for international justice and accountability for Israel's apparent atrocity crimes in the Palestinian territory. After about one year of assessment, the Pre-Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued its decision affirming that the Court has full territorial jurisdiction over the occupied Palestinian territory. Accordingly, the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC announced the initiation of an investigation into the Situation in Palestine, covering alleged crimes committed since 13 June 2014. This landmark decision came in spite of the aggressive campaign against the ICC, which culminated in the former US President's executive order providing for sanctions against ICC personnel. After years of ICC's Preliminary Examination into the Situation in Palestine, during which Palestinian human rights organizations submitted at least five comprehensive reports presenting evidence of perpetration of war crimes and lack of accountability, victims are now a step closer to accessing genuine legal remedies.

Shortly after canceling the general elections in late April, another round of fighting—not seen in scale since the 2014 offensive—engulfed the Gaza Strip over a period of eleven days, the aftermath of which shaped the rest of the reporting period. The military escalation broke out between Israel and Palestinian factions in Gaza following weeks of heightened tensions in Jerusalem where Palestinian families living in East Jerusalem face impending eviction and where multiple raids on Al-Aqsa Mosque were carried out by Israeli forces. Israel claimed that over four thousand rockets were fired from Gaza over the course of the 11-day escalation.² On the other hand, Israel launched hundreds of airstrikes on the Gaza Strip, the majority of which were concentrated in Gaza City. Israel attacked civilian objects, including populated houses and residential complexes, as well as industrial and commercial entities, governmental offices, livestock farms and farmlands, banks, mosques, schools, and water, sanitation, and electricity infrastructure, and thousands of square meters of paved roads. At least four high-rise buildings were reduced to rubble,³ including a building housing the offices of the Associated Press and other media agencies on the pretense of containing assets of Hamas' military intelligence unit.⁴ In unprecedented tactic, long stretches of paved roads in Gaza City were heavily bombarded, meters away from residential buildings, allegedly aiming at crumbling Hamas' underground tunnels. This approach led to one of deadliest nights of this escalation, on the early hours of 16 May, when bombardment of the main road leading to Gaza's central hospital (Al-Shifa Hospital) brought down multiple inhabited residential buildings killing 46 Palestinians, including 18 children and 15 women.⁵ This incident along with other recorded incidents over the course of the 11-day offensive raised concerns over Israel's adherence to the International Humanitarian Law during the military action, particularly principles of distinction, proportionality, and necessity.

During the 11-day bombardment, the Israeli authorities completely closed the Kerem Shalom crossing, thus preventing the entry and exit of goods to the Strip until a ceasefire agreement came into effect on 21 May 2021, when the crossing was partially reopened. These measures seriously hampered the work of the industrial facilities in the Gaza Strip, left thousands of workers unemployed, and led to a substantial rise in the price of raw materials in the weeks and months after cessation of hostilities.

² Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs ([link](#)).

³ Report on targeting high-rise building in May 2021 escalation, 27 October 2021, Al Mezan ([link](#)).

⁴ 'Shocking and horrifying': Israel destroys AP office in Gaza, 17 May 2021, Associated Press ([link](#)).

⁵ Al Mezan field documentation data.

3. Overall achievements

This section provides highlights of the main achievements accomplished in the reporting period in relation to specific objectives of Al Mezan strategy. Full details of implemented activities are available in section 7 ‘reporting on action plan’.

- Contributions to Specific Objective: To enhance respect and protection of human rights and access to justice in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip.
 - Over 1,400 incidents of violations of human rights and IHL in the Gaza Strip were properly documented in the reporting period, including fatalities, injuries, and property damage of the May 2021 full-scale military offensive.
 - Enhanced respect of human rights and the rule of law through provision of legal aid to right holders in relation to Palestinian authorities’ infringements, with 160 right holders represented (138 males and 17 females, including 18 children), half of whom were in custody and were identified during visits conducted by lawyers to eight detention centers and three prisons in the Gaza Strip. Al Mezan restored the rights of at least 80 represented beneficiaries and led the Police General Comptroller’s office to launch investigation into at least thirteen claims of torture or ill-treatment.
 - One strategic case pursued and won before Palestinian courts, whereby Al Mezan filed a challenge to the Election Court in Gaza against the decision of the Central Elections Commission to disenfranchise eligible prison inmates, inpatients, care home residents, and persons under quarantine. The Court ruled in favor of Al Mezan’s challenge in April 2021 and maintained that the Commission has the responsibility to undertake all appropriate procedures to ensure these categories of constituents are able to exercise their right to vote.
 - Enhanced protection of human rights through provision of legal aid to right holders in relation to Israeli authorities’ collective restrictions on freedom of movement, with 791 cases represented (including 238 in relation to women and 237 in relation to children), the majority of which were concerning referral patients whose exit-permit request to access hospitals outside Gaza were unapproved. Al Mezan intervention secured over 250 exit permits, including for 103 children and 86 women.
 - Protected the rights of Palestinians in Israel’s custody by providing legal counselling and representation before administrative and judicial bodies to over half of Gaza residents arrested in the reporting period, and by successfully petitioning the Israeli High Court of Justice (jointly with HaMoked) to reinstate family visits for all Gaza inmates, which had been suspended following the coronavirus outbreak in March 2020.

- Contributions to Specific Objective: To increase awareness of international community, UN institutions and decision makers of human rights infringements in the oPt.
 - Engagement with international human rights mechanisms, particularly the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures. Al Mezan and partners submitted ten joint submissions and urgent appeals to Special Rapporteurs (including SPs on the situation of human rights in the oPt, Freedom of Expression, health, torture and human rights defenders) on a range of violations documented in the reporting period (including forced evictions in East Jerusalem, smear and intimidation of human rights defenders, and retaliatory measures against Palestinian prisoners) and in response to request for inputs ahead of SPs annual thematic reports. As a result, the Special Procedures sent communications (letters of allegations) to the State for Israel concerning [threats against human](#)

[rights defenders](#), the deterioration of the health conditions of several Palestinian prisoners in [administrative detention who were on hunger strike](#), and [arbitrary detention](#) of two Palestinian human rights defenders.

- Al Mezan virtually participated in three regular sessions of the HRC as well as the special session held in the aftermath of the May 2021 full-scale military operation in Gaza. Al Mezan submitted 14 joint written statements and made 20 oral interventions with partners at HRC regular sessions, and co-organized two side events, hosting the SP on the situation of human rights in the oPt and the SP on the right to physical and mental health.
 - Briefing the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in New York on the latest developments in the Gaza Strip; the EU Delegation and Member States at the ‘exchange of views’ at the start of the 46th HRC regular session in Geneva; and eight representatives from MEP offices from seven EU States, 4 EU Member States (Lithuania, Portugal, Belgium and Luxembourg), and two representatives from EEAS and DG NEAR from the European Commission in a briefing organized by EuroMed Rights.
 - Over 55 meetings at Al Mezan office in Gaza City to brief diplomats, UN agencies, and INGO on recent developments relevant to the human rights situation in the oPt and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, which was further exacerbated in the aftermath of Israel’s military offensive. Visiting delegations included the Representatives of the Netherlands, Ireland, Norway, Germany to the PA as well as the British Consul General.
- Contributions to Specific Objective: To increase awareness of Human Rights at the local community level.
- Over 200 adults (half of whom were women) participated in Al Mezan-organized training on specialized human rights topics.
 - Volunteers of Pass-the-Word program organized awareness sessions (under the supervision of Al Mezan) to 302 of their peers (including 169 females) in local universities in the Gaza Strip.
 - Over 400 adults (including 240 women) took part in Al Mezan workshops and awareness raising-sessions on democracy, electoral process, and human rights.
 - Over 700 children attended child-friendly awareness sessions on human rights, focusing on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
 - Over 4,500 children (from MoE, UNRWA, and private schools in the Gaza Strip) submitted their artworks to the annual IHL/HR Child Art Competition. Al Mezan held a ceremony to honor the students who submitted the best artworks in each age group, and organized an exhibition in Gaza City in December 2021, in celebration of the Human Rights Day, which featured the best 71 submitted artworks depicting human rights.

4. Success stories

Re-instating family visits for Palestinian inmates (from the Gaza Strip) serving time in Israeli prisons:

Al Mezan joined HaMoked in petitioning the High Court of Justice (HCJ) in Israel to demand the Minister of Public Security and the IPS put an end to the complete isolation of Palestinian inmates from the Gaza Strip incarcerated inside Israel: The petitioners requested that the court reinstate family visits for all Gaza inmates, which were suspended following the coronavirus outbreak in March 2020. The petitioners noted that the Covid-19 emergency regulations prohibiting entry of visitors to prisons had expired and that following the progress in the vaccination endeavors in Israel and the oPt, prison visits, including to some 4,000 Palestinian inmates classified as "security inmates", had been renewed, initially for relatives who are Israeli residents and from July 2021 for visitors from the West Bank. All this clearly indicated that the continued ban on family visits from Gaza was unjust, discriminatory, and disproportionately harmful. The court instructed the State to respond to the petition by February 2022. In its response to the petition before the HCJ in February 2022, the State said that "following an examination by the Prison Service Commissioner with security officials and the Health Ministry, as well as a study of the epidemiological situation, it has been decided to reinstate the family visitation program for Gaza Strip detainees. The relevant authorities are acting to arrange the matter as soon as possible."

Fishers' means of subsistence restored:

On 30 November 2021, as the legal representative for four fishermen, Al Mezan retrieved four fishing boats held by the Israeli authorities. The sailboats, which had been confiscated in Palestinian territorial waters in June, July and October of 2021, belong to the following Gaza fishermen: Mohammed Samir Ali Al Burdwail (boat no. 231), Omar Mohammed Ismail Al Burdwail (boat no. 213), Mohammed Omar Mohammed Al Burdwail (boat no. 199) and Mohammed Adel Al Burdwail (boat no. 207). Al Mezan submitted civil notifications to the Israeli Ministry of Defense Compensation Department and initiated legal procedures with the Military Advocate General (MAG), Attorney General, and Ministry of Defense, on behalf of fishermen Mohammed Omar Al Burdwail and Mohammed Adel Al Burdwail on 8 November 2021 and for Mohammed Samir Al Burdwail and Omar Mohammed Al Burdwail on 6 July and 2 August 2021, respectively.

Previously, on 10 October 2018, Al Mezan, in partnership with Gisha – Legal Center for Freedom of Movement and Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights, filed a preliminary petition to the State Attorney in preparation for a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court regarding the release of additional fishing boats. Indeed, the Israeli authorities released 25 Palestinian boats on 29 November 2018, some of which had been held for years. Some were returned without their engines.

Returning the body of slain Palestinian child to family in Gaza after three-year legal battle:

Nearly three years ago, on 29 April 2018, Israeli forces shot and killed Yousef Abu Jazar, 15, as he was approaching the separation fence, east of Rafah. His family sought legal assistance from Al Mezan after being informed by the Palestinian Liaison Office of Israel's decision to withhold the body of their deceased son. Al Mezan engaged with the Israeli authorities for the release of the body for over two years without success. After exhausting all other legal avenues, in September 2020, Al Mezan petitioned the Israeli High Court of Justice, demanding the return of Yousef's body to his family for a proper burial in accordance with international law.

Subsequently, the state requested and was granted multiple extensions from the Court, before a hearing for its response to Al Mezan's petition was scheduled for 28 April 2021. Preempting a judgement by the Court, the public prosecution informed Al Mezan of the pending release of the child's body.

After the decision was communicated to Al Mezan on 21 April 2021, which included a request for the presence of a first-degree relative for DNA verification, a lawyer from Al Mezan accompanied members of the child's family to Erez crossing on 22 April 2021. The body was then transferred to Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis for forensic assessment, before burial.

Removal of hazardous material in North Gaza expedited and affected communities provided with free medical care:

On 9 September 2021, Al Mezan held an expert workshop in Gaza City on the effects of Israel's bombing and destruction of Gaza's largest agricultural chemical warehouse during the May 2021 full-scale military assault on the Gaza Strip. The workshop was held to discuss serious concerns for the health of the population and environment, and the delay in disposal of hazardous material from the burned down warehouse. Participants included representatives of Gaza's Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Water and Environment Quality Authority, and the municipality of North Gaza, who spoke about the roles of their respective agencies in addressing the incident and their respective concerns. Al Mezan raised concerns over the remaining hazardous material in the site of the incident, which the representatives attributed to delays in securing grants from the UNDP to cover the cost of safe removal and disposal of hazardous material. Several recommendations were agreed upon by the end of the workshop. Al Mezan communications in the following weeks contributed to expediting the process of safe removal and disposal of around 40 tons of hazardous material from the site of the incident, and resulted in holding two free medical days (free walk-in clinic) organized by the Ministry of Health for residents of areas in proximity to the incident site (namely, As-Siyfa and al-Attatra) where dozens of people experienced skin rashes that had been attributed to the incident.

Challenging the Central Elections Commission's decision that disenfranchise inmates and eligible other voters:

On 8 April 2021, Al Mezan filed a challenge to the Election Court in Gaza against the decision of the Central Elections Commission to disenfranchise eligible prison inmates, inpatients, care home residents, and persons under quarantine. Previously, the Commission had held that allowing these categories of constituents to vote would be logistically infeasible in light of current public health concerns and available resources and would raise concerns over the confidentiality of their votes.

Accordingly, on 17 February 2021, Al Mezan called on the Commission to undertake all appropriate procedures to ensure eligible inmates would be able to exercise their right to vote in the—later cancelled—elections. Prompted by the Commission's response on 1 April 2021 that served to confirm that voters would be disenfranchised, Al Mezan proceeded to file an official objection with the Commission; however, the Center was informed on 7 April 2021 that the Commission's decision was final.

On 11 April 2021, the Election Court in Gaza ruled in favor of Al Mezan's challenge against the decision of the Central Elections Commission to disenfranchise eligible prison inmates, inpatients, care home residents, and persons under quarantine. In this significant ruling, the Court found that the Commission has the responsibility to undertake all appropriate procedures to ensure these categories of constituents are able to exercise their right to vote.

Decree-law amending the Law of Charitable Associations and Civil Society Organizations:

Despite encouraging talks between Palestinian political factions in Cairo—following the president’s call in January of 2021 for elections—during which commitments for safeguarding public freedoms were agreed upon, the PA introduced stifling provisions amending the Charitable Associations and Civil Society Organizations’ Law No. 1 of 2000, which governs the majority of Palestinian civil society institutions. The amendment hinders the right of CSOs to operate independently of ministries and the executive authority by obligating CSOs to submit annual plans that are “in line” with those of the competent ministry.

Representatives of human rights organizations (Al-Haq, PCHR, Al Mezan and ICHR) and Palestinian NGOs Network held a meeting on 7 March 2021 with Mr. Ahmed al-Azim, Advisor to the Prime Minister, to raise concerns over the introduced amendments and call for their revocation. After conveying the concerns and asks to the Council of Ministers, the Advisor held a follow-up meeting with the organizations, including Al Mezan, to inform participants of the Council of Ministers’ intention to recommend rescinding the controversial amendments. In the following weeks, multiple communications were made (led by Al-Haq) to keep track of the progress. On 11 May 2021, the Palestinian President issued a decree suspending the amendments introduced to the Law of Charitable Associations.

Higher Sharia Court Council in Gaza concerning circular no. 01/2021:

The Higher Sharia Court Council (the Council) in Gaza issued a Judicial Circular (the Circular) based on a ruling by the Supreme Sharia Court on 14 February 2021. The Circular set forth travel restrictions which blatantly disregard the right to equality and non-discrimination.

On 16 February 2021, Al Mezan sent a legal memo to the Council underlining the Circular’s clear violation of the Amended Basic Law of 2003 (temporary constitution), Civil Law No. 4 of 2012, and Sharia Judicial Law No. 3 of 2011. Al Mezan also stressed that enacting such regulations falls outside the jurisdiction of the Council as specified in the law governing its establishment and scope of authority. Accordingly, Al Mezan called on the Council in Gaza to revoke the unconstitutional Circular no. 01/2021 and to uphold Palestine’s obligations arising from the State’s accession to relevant international treaties.

The Circular drew intense public criticism from human rights organization in Gaza, and the Council amended the provisions of the Circular shortly thereafter.

5. Challenges and mitigation measures

- Challenges in fundraising following unforeseen events: Upon cessation of hostilities in May 2021, preliminary data indicated that at least 250 Palestinians had been killed and over 1,900 were wounded. Initial assessments of the Shelter Cluster indicate that over one thousand housing units were destroyed and another thousand were severely damaged and rendered uninhabitable, leaving around 8,500 Gazans internally displaced as a result. This unforeseen sharp rise in alleged violations of IHL/IHRL required additional fundraisings to conduct comprehensive field documentation of alleged breaches and evidence collection. Al Mezan reached out to existing project partners to seek additional funding to at least cover documentation of violations against children. This was not successful. In the following two months, Al Mezan joined forces with Al-Haq and PCHR to jointly raise fund for a comprehensive documentation campaign of IHL/IHRL violations committed in the May 2021 offensive. Multiple donors were approached and eventually the three partners secured funding from the UN oPt Humanitarian Fund to carry out a joint documentation campaign
- Challenges resulting in long delay in receiving funds: Although the PA has rescinded the restrictive measures introduced earlier this year which undermined the independence of civil society organizations registered under the Law of Charitable Institutions, civil society organizations registered under the Law of Companies as non-profits (including Al Mezan) continue to experience inexplicably lengthy bureaucratic measures to approve new funding. Under such measures, new funding agreements signed by a non-profit must be scrutinized by relevant ministries and PA's security forces before funds can be transferred to the recipient organization's bank account.
- Challenges that potentially could have hindered legal aid to Palestinian detainees in Israel's custody, included: (1) a fairly long judicial holiday was in effect starting from 21 July to 5 September, thus limiting court sessions to urgent cases and extension of detention hearings; (2) a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases ushered in a third wave of the pandemic in Israel that saw the State reinstate restrictive measures, including limiting lawyer to meeting a single client per sanctioned prison visit; and (3) imposition of retaliatory measures against Palestinian prisoners following the escape of six Palestinian inmates from Gilboa Prison on 6 September 2021, which included ban on family visits and phone calls, closing the canteens, and transfer of Palestinian detainees to solitary confinement or other facilities.

6. Deviations and Adaptations

Activity Ref. no.	Planned Activity	Actual Activity	Reasons for Deviation/Adaptation	Was this adaptation beneficial/satisfactory?
1.3.1.2	Screening of a film on HR	The produced film was widely circulated on Facebook using sponsored post feature.	No public film screening was held due to the Covid outbreak	Yes, the film amassed over 35K views on Facebook.
3.1.3.1	Develop the Operational manual for the Legal Aid Unit	Developed Child Safeguarding (CSG) policy and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy.	Pressing need for CSG and PSEA to meet requirement for Call for Proposals issued by the European Commission and the oPt Humanitarian Fund	The developed CSG and PSEA policies helped Al Mezan fulfil the requirement for the call for proposals and subsequently secure two project grants from said donors.
3.1.5.1	Develop Al Mezan Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) for (2021-2023)	Postponed.	Unforeseen developments during the year (announcement of general elections and the large-scale military offensive on Gaza) added additional workload to fieldwork, advocacy and fundraising activities thus offsetting non-urgent activities in the workplan (namely activity no. 3.1.5.1, 3.1.8.1, and 3.2.2.1)	Al Mezan had made all necessary preparation to conduct election observation campaign, including securing accreditation of hundreds of recruited observers from the CEC, before the elections were indefinitely postponed few weeks before voting day. To respond to the sharp rise in HR violations and casualties resulting from the large-scale offensive in May 2021, Al Mezan and partners' fundraising efforts secured funding for joint documentation campaign, which included recruitment, training and deployment of dozens of additional fieldworkers for three months to document IHL/IHRL violations committed in the May 2021 offensive, which was concluded with publishing a joint statistical report (available for download at https://www.mezan.org/en/post/24096)
3.1.8.1	Develop Al Mezan Fundraising plan (2021-2023)			
3.2.2.1	Develop Al Mezan Staff Appraisal system			

7. Reporting on action plan

I. Protection Program

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

Ref. no.	planned activities	Planned targets	Achieved targets	Implemented Activities
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				
<u>1.1.1.1</u>	Document at least 1000 cases of violations against Gaza population (both by Palestinian and Israeli actors)	1,000+ cases	1,400+ incidents documented	<p><u>(1) Violations committed by Israeli forces</u> In the reporting period, Al Mezan documented 1,434 incidents of shootings, shelling and airstrikes by Israeli military, killing of 243 Palestinians, including 61 children and 38 women, and injuring over two thousand people, including 664 children and 397 woman.</p> <p><u>(1.1) violations in the buffer zone (the territorial part of the Access Restricted Area):</u> 491 incidents of shooting and/or shelling by the Israeli military affecting farming and herding communities in the ARA were documented. The attacks killed 6 people (including one child) and left 110 wounded, including 34 children; 31 Palestinians were arrested, including 7 children, after crossing the separation fence; and 46 limited incursions were documented, the majority of which were conducted to level land on the Palestinian side of the border, damaging crops across 1.6 hectares of cultivated land in the process.</p> <p><u>(1.2) violations at sea (the naval part of the Access Restricted Area):</u> Israeli forces opened fire at Palestinians in Gaza Sea in 313 separate incidents, injuring five fishers. The military also arrested 12 fishers (including two children), and seized six fishing boats.</p> <p><u>(2) Violations by Palestinian Actors</u> In the reporting period, Al Mezan documented incidents of violence stemming from local authorities and other Palestinian non-state actors which left 57 persons dead, including 13 children and 6 women, and 194 others injured (including 47 children and 30 women).</p>
Output 1.1.2: Enhanced respect of human rights, IHL and the rule of law in relation to Palestinian actors via legal intervention and analysis				

<u>1.1.2.1</u>	Provide legal advice to at least 150 cases	150+ legal advice	135 legal advice given	135 individuals (45 women, 90 men) received legal counselling on issues arising from actions of Palestinian duty-bearers in the Gaza Strip in relation to the following rights and concerns: arbitrary detention; torture or cruel inhuman treatment/punishment; family law; work-related and public servants' rights; access to medical care; and other rights.
<u>1.1.2.2</u>	Make at least 75 complaints with the Palestinian authorities	75+ interventions	155 interventions conducted	Al Mezan lawyers initiated legal interventions (complaints/communications) to Palestinian duty bearers on behalf of 160 right holders (138 males and 17 females, including 18 children) in the Gaza Strip, in relation to the following rights, concerns and violations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - detainees' rights (81 individual interventions, 45 successful) [more details under activity 1.1.2.3] - torture or cruel inhuman treatment (10 complaints, 8 successful) [more details under activity 1.1.2.4]; - arbitrary detention (9 complaints, 7 successful) [more details under activity 1.1.2.5]; - access to medical care (20 complaints, 10 successful); - freedom of movement (3 complaints, 2 successful); - right to housing (9 complaints, 6 successful); - right to due process (3 complaints, 2 successful); - others.
<u>1.1.2.3</u>	Conduct 6 visits to prisons and detention centers in Gaza for monitoring and legal advice	6 prison visits	11 prison and detention center visits	Al Mezan's lawyers conducted visits to eight detention centers and three prisons in the Gaza Strip. They spoke with detainees in police custody and inmates in prisons, informed them of basic due process rights, and took their complaints to the relevant authorities. A total of 81 individual complaints were taken with relevant authorities, mostly in relation to access to medical care, claims of ill-treatment and torture, due process, and temporary release. At least 48 of the 81 complaints were resolved successfully with the prison/detention administration whereas serious complaints, i.e. CIDTP/torture claims, were taken with the Police General Comptroller.
<u>1.1.2.4</u>	Submit at least 10 complaints concerning torture/CIDTP in Gaza	10+ complaints	25 complaints (T/CIDTP)	Al Mezan submitted 25 torture/CIDTP complaints to local authorities (15 of which were reported during lawyers' visits to prisons and detention centers under activity 1.1.2.3) leading the Police General Comptroller's office to launch probes into at least thirteen of the 25 reported incidents.
<u>1.1.2.5</u>	Representation of 5 cases of arbitrary detention	5 legal representations	9 legal representations	Nine interventions were made to local authorities concerning detention of individuals without due process (including one child), which resulted in the release of four individuals and following Al Mezan's intervention.

1.1.2.6	Take up 1 strategic litigation in relation to human rights	1 strategic litigation	1 strategic litigation	<p>Challenging the Palestinian Central Elections Commission’s decision that disenfranchise inmates and eligible other voters</p> <p>On 8 April 2021, Al Mezan filed a challenge to the Election Court in Gaza against the decision of the Central Elections Commission to disenfranchise eligible prison inmates, inpatients, care home residents, and persons under quarantine. Previously, the Commission had held that allowing these categories of constituents to vote would be logistically infeasible in light of current public health concerns and available resources and would raise concerns over the confidentiality of their votes. Accordingly, on 17 February 2021, Al Mezan called on the Commission to undertake all appropriate procedures to ensure eligible inmates would be able to exercise their right to vote in the—later cancelled—elections. Prompted by the Commission’s response on 1 April 2021 that served to confirm that voters would be disenfranchised, Al Mezan proceeded to file an official objection with the Commission; however, the Center was informed on 7 April 2021 that the Commission’s decision was final.</p> <p>On 11 April 2021, the Election Court in Gaza ruled in favor of Al Mezan’s challenge against the decision of the Central Elections Commission to disenfranchise eligible prison inmates, inpatients, care home residents, and persons under quarantine. In this significant ruling, the Court found that the Commission has the responsibility to undertake all appropriate procedures to ensure these categories of constituents are able to exercise their right to vote.</p>
1.1.2.7	Conduct 1 legislation review/analyses	1 legislation review	1 legislation review	<p>legislation analysis was published in March 2021 on decree law no. 1 of 2021 amending of the Law of General Election, which was introduced after the call for holding PLC and Presidential elections had been made in presidential decree issued in January 2021. [available only in Arabic at http://mezan.org/post/31481]</p>
Output 1.1.3: Enhanced respect of IHRL and IHL, and protection of civilians via litigation related to Israeli violations				
1.1.3.1	Provide legal advice to at least 200 cases.	200+ legal advice	793 legal advice	<p>Al Mezan lawyers provided legal counselling to 793 right holders (434 men, 359 women) regarding legal issues and concerns in relation to Israeli authorities’ policies and practices against Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip: freedom of movement for medical patients; freedom of movement for non-medical purposes; detainees’ rights; right to reparation and legal remedies; and access to legal/official documents.</p>
1.1.3.2	Make at least 100 complaints with the Israeli authorities, including the Military	100+ complaints	799 complaints	<p>Al Mezan submitted 635 complaints to the Israeli Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA) at Erez on behalf of referral patients (235 children, 158 women and 242 men) applying for exit permits to access hospital in the West Bank or Israel. Al Mezan successfully secured permits for 252 applicants (102 children, 74 women, and 76 men) to reach their designated health care facilities outside the Gaza Strip.</p> <p>Another 156 cases (2 children, 80 women, and 74 men) whereby residents of Gaza seeking exit permits to cross Erez for non-medical purposes were represented before the CLA, securing exit for 25 residents.</p>

	Advocate General and COGAT concerning movement and access of patients and others.			<p>Communications made to the Israeli State Prosecution (notification of intention to petition cases to court) in May 2021 concerning denial of entry of the bodies of four referral patients deceased outside Gaza has secured their entry back to Gaza via Erez crossing to their families.</p> <p>Four requests submitted to the Military Advocate General to open criminal investigation into the killing of four civilians in the Gaza Strip by Israeli military.</p> <p>Further, Al Mezan continues to follow-up on 73 pending cases pertinent to the GMR protests submitted in 2018-2020 to Israeli authorities. The cases included six ongoing criminal investigations launched by the MAG and nine appeals made to the Israeli AG against MAG’s decisions to close the cases without pressing charges or without launching investigation.</p> <p>Finally, Lawyers continued to follow-up on 42 pending cases into the killing of Palestinians in 2014 military operation on Gaza “Operation Protective Edge”. Of the pending cases, 21 are appeals submitted to Israeli AG against MAG’s decisions to close the cases without pressing charges or without launching investigation.</p>
<u>1.1.3.3</u>	Representation of at least 12 persons detained in Israel on human rights related issues	12+ legal representations	21 legal representations	<p>Al Mezan’s lawyer, based in Israel, provided legal counselling and representation for 24 detainees from Gaza (including two children) before Israeli administrative and judicial bodies in the reporting period. At the time of writing, 15 cases ended with the release of represented detainees.</p>
<u>1.1.3.4</u>	Take up/follow up at least 2 cases with Israeli courts.	2+ litigations	2 successful petitions & 4 pending litigations	<p>Petitions to the Israeli High Court of Justice (both successful):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al Mezan joined HaMoked in petitioning the High Court of Justice (HCJ) in Israel to demand the Minister of Public Security and the IPS put an end to the complete isolation of Palestinian inmates from the Gaza Strip incarcerated inside Israel: The petitioners requested that the court reinstate family visits for all Gaza inmates, which were suspended following the coronavirus outbreak in March 2020. The petitioners noted that the Covid-19 emergency regulations prohibiting entry of visitors to prisons had expired and that following the progress in the vaccination endeavors in Israel and the oPt, prison visits, including to some 4,000 Palestinian inmates classified as "security inmates", had been renewed, initially for relatives who are Israeli residents and from July 2021 for visitors from the West Bank. All this clearly indicated that the continued ban on family visits from Gaza was unjust, discriminatory, and disproportionately harmful. The court instructed the State to respond to the petition by February 2022. In its response to the petition before the HCJ in February 2022, the State said that “following an examination by the Prison Service Commissioner with security officials and the Health Ministry, as well as a study of the epidemiological situation, it has been decided to reinstate the family visitation program for Gaza Strip detainees. The relevant authorities are acting to arrange the matter as soon as possible.”

				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Returning the body of slain Palestinian child to family in Gaza after three-year legal battle: Nearly three years ago, on 29 April 2018, Israeli forces shot and killed Yousef Abu Jazar, 15, as he was approaching the separation fence, east of Rafah. His family sought legal assistance from Al Mezan after being informed by the Palestinian Liaison Office of Israel’s decision to withhold the body of their deceased son. Al Mezan engaged with the Israeli authorities for the release of the body for over two years without success. After exhausting all other legal avenues, in September 2020, Al Mezan petitioned the Israeli High Court of Justice, demanding the return of Yousef’s body to his family for a proper burial in accordance with international law. Subsequently, the state requested and was granted multiple extensions from the Court, before a hearing for its response to Al Mezan’s petition was scheduled for 28 April 2021. Preempting a judgement by the Court, the public prosecution informed Al Mezan of the pending release of the child’s body. After the decision was communicated to Al Mezan on 21 April 2021, which included a request for the presence of a first-degree relative for DNA verification, a lawyer from Al Mezan accompanied members of the child’s family to Erez crossing on 22 April 2021. The body was then transferred to Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis for forensic assessment, before burial. <p>Compensation cases lodged before Israeli courts on behalf of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip (all pending):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. 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. The court hearing was scheduled for September 2019. The court then postponed the hearing multiple times, first rescheduling the hearing in the second half of 2020 before postponing it again to 2021. The session was finally held in June 2021 but a court ruling is yet to be made.
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal proceedings in three 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>1.1.3.5</u>	Submit at least 5 complaints concerning torture/CIDTP.	5+ complaints	-	No torture complaints (via-a-vis Israeli authorities) were brought to Al Mezan attention in the reporting period
<u>1.1.3.6</u>	Submit at least 10 civil complaints to the Israeli Ministry of Defense.	10+ civil complaints to MoD	6 civil notifications	Al Mezan sent six 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 on non-Israelis by Israeli law.
<u>1.1.3.7</u>	Refer at least 25 victims to specialized NGOs in Israel and oPt	25+ referrals	39 referrals	39 cases concerning residents of Gaza seeking exit permits to cross Erez for non-medical purposes were referred to and followed by partner Israeli organization, Gisha, securing 16 permits as a result.
<u>1.1.3.8</u>	Start conducting 1 case analysis of Israeli court rulings	1 court case analysis	1 court case analysis	To be initiated at the start of the third year of Al Mezan current three-year strategy 2021-2023.
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	5 complaints/ reports	10 submissions	<p>1. Joint submission to the SR on Freedom of Expression (15 February 2021) Al Mezan, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, and Al-Haq sent a joint submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Ms. Irene Khan, in response to a call for input issued ahead of her upcoming annual thematic report on disinformation and freedom of opinion and expression, which will be presented to the Human Rights Council at its 47th regular session in June 2021. The submission focused on Israel smear and disinformation campaign against Palestinian civil society. File: http://mezan.org/en/uploads/files/16148816961255.pdf</p> <p>2. Al-Haq led urgent appeal concerning evictions in E Jerusalem (10 March 2021)</p>

	Procedures and courts).			<p>The Palestinian Human Rights Organization Council, comprising of 11 Palestinian human rights organizations, the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem, the Community Action Center (Al-Quds University), and Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies sent a joint urgent appeal in March 2021 to the UN Special Procedures on forced evictions in East Jerusalem. Addressing six UN Special Rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the oPt, the organizations highlight forced evictions as part of Israel’s coercive environment in East Jerusalem. http://mezan.org/en/post/23934</p> <p>3. Joint submission on long-term detention of HRDs to the UN SR on HRDs (19 Mar 2021) Al Mezan, Addameer, Al-Haq and CIHRS sent a joint submission to United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Ms Mary Lawlor, in response to a call for input issued ahead of her upcoming report on long-term detention of human rights defenders, which will be presented to the 76th session of the General Assembly in October 2021. https://www.mezan.org/en/uploads/files/1616420564211.pdf</p> <p>4. Joint Submission to the UN Secretary-General on Intimidation and Reprisals for Cooperation with the UN (15 Apr 2021) https://www.mezan.org/en/post/23960</p> <p>5. Joint submission to the SR on the human rights situation in the oPt (30 April 2021) led by Al Haq on the “Legal status of settlements under the Rome Statute”, which will be presented at HRC 47. https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/18274.html</p> <p>6. Joint submissions to the SR on freedom of expression led by FIDH (May 2021) again focused on Israel’s smear and intimidatory campaign against Palestinian HRDs and NGOs</p> <p>7. Joint urgent appeal to Special Procedures (SRs on oPt, torture, health, and the WG on arbitrary detention) led by Addameer on the Imminent Threat to Life of Hunger Striking Administrative Detainee Ghadanfar Abu Atwan (July 2021)</p> <p>8. Joint urgent appeal to Special Procedures (SRs on oPt, HRDs, health, torture, independence of judges, WG on arbitrary detention) led by Al Haq on the Arbitrary Detention and Harassment of Human Rights Defender Shatha Odeh (August 2021)</p> <p>9. Joint urgent appeal to Special Procedures (SRs on oPt, HRDs, health, torture, independence of judges, WG on arbitrary detention) led by Addameer on the Critical Need to Immediately Release Nine-Month Pregnant Palestinian Woman Anhar Al-Deek from Israeli Prison (Sept 2021)</p>
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				<p>10. Joint urgent appeal to Special Procedures (SRs on oPt, torture, health, and the WG on arbitrary detention) led by Addameer (September 2021) on Israel’s collective punishment and retaliatory measures against Palestinian prisoners following the escape of six Palestinian inmates from Gilboa. http://mezan.org/en/uploads/files/16316939861366.pdf</p>
<p>Outcome 1.2: To enhance networking and coordination with local, regional and international human rights actors</p>				
<p>Output 1.2.1: Networking and coordination with local, regional and international NGOs and actors is established and maintained</p>				
1.2.1.1	Pursue 1 new thematic coalition membership (during the 3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8+ active memberships maintained • 1 new membership pursued 	11 existing memberships maintained and two new memberships established	<p>Membership maintained in the following coalitions and networks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 (Chaired by OHCHR) - National team for retrieval of bodies of slain Palestinian withheld by Israel. - The Palestinian Digital Rights Coalition (PDRC), established by 7amleh. - Coalition of local human rights organizations in oPt, the UNDP, and the Ministry of Justice, aiming at advancing progress towards achievement of SDG no. 16 in Palestine. <p>In addition, Al Mezan joined two coalitions/networks in 2021:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR) 2) The Coalition for establishment of national observatory to monitor Israeli violations against Palestinian women and girl.
1.2.1.2	Conduct 10 meetings and consultations with local civil society actors.	10+ meetings/ consultations	15+ meetings/ consultations	Over 15 meetings aimed at consultation and strategizing with civil society organizations addressing human rights concerns relevant to the oPt, particularly concerns arising from the coronavirus outbreak, protection of detainees and prisoners, and independence of the judiciary. The meetings were mostly held under the umbrella of PHROC. Bilateral meetings were held with partner organizations in oPt and Israel, including PHR-I and Gisha to discuss joint actions with respect to new challenges facing referral patients access to medical care outside Gaza.
1.2.1.3	Conduct 1 informal meeting/social gathering with youth activists,	1 informal meeting/gathering	1 meeting	A social gathering was held in February 2021 with 66 young lawyers, journalist, and social media activists to discuss the upcoming elections, stressing young voters’ role in raising awareness of their peers and communities of the importance of election participation to shape their future according to their aspirations.

	young journalists and lawyers, etc. in Gaza.	with youth		
<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	55+ meetings	Al Mezan Director-General held over 55 meetings with diplomatic missions, UN agencies, and INGO in Gaza (with 61 diplomats, 13 UN officials, 16 EU representatives, and 38 representatives of international NGOs). The visiting delegations included the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Representative Office of Norway to the PA, the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority, the Representative Office of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ramallah, the British Consulate General in Jerusalem. The delegates were briefed on the human rights situation in the oPt and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip emanating from Israel’s prolonged and unlawful closure and exacerbated following Israel’s recent military offensive.
<u>1.2.1.5</u>	Conduct 3 field visits for international delegations in Gaza	3 field visits	-	No field visits implemented in the reporting period as the coronavirus outbreak led to a sharp drop in the number of foreign delegations visiting the Gaza Strip
<u>1.2.1.6</u>	Attend 5 meetings with relevant networks and coalitions outside Gaza.	5 meetings outside Gaza	11 meetings	<p>International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) (3 meetings):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Al Mezan’s Int’l Legal and Advocacy Director met with FIDH collectively with member organizations to take stock of the preliminary examination of Palestine at the ICC, 23 June 2021. - Al Mezan’s Int’l Legal and Advocacy Director attended an FIDH webinar on 4 March 2021. - Al Mezan’s Int’l Legal and Advocacy Director attended a meeting with FIDH concerning shrinking space on 19 January 2021. <p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FIDH advocated for better processes at the ICC concerning the Situation in Palestine based on feedback from Al Mezan and other participants in their meeting. - FIDH issued an instrumental report with the Observatory concerning shrinking space for Paletsinian organizations and HRDs. Al Mezan was able to provide input for the report. <p>EuroMed Rights (3 meetings):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Al Mezan’s Int’l Legal and Advocacy Director attended two days of Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians (PIP) Working Group meeting between 2-3 December 2021. The meetings focused on issues central to the work of network/PIP members, including shrinking space, accountability and apartheid.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Al Mezan’s Int’l Legal and Advocacy Director attended a workshop organized by EuroMed concerning European counterterrorism measures, due diligence of states and shrinking space for NGOs on 13 September 2021. - Al Mezan’s Int’l Legal and Advocacy Director attended two days of PIP Working Group meeting between 3-4 May 2021. Ms. Oswald presented to the group on accountability issues and Al Mezan’s work to pursue justice. <p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closer cooperation and collaboration, including EuroMed supporting Al Mezan’s advocacy mission to Brussels with HRW in November 2021 with analysis and information concerning stakeholder meetings (see 1.3.2.4) among other meetings. - EuroMed provided Al Mezan with information and analysis concerning shrinking space. - EuroMed highlighted Al Mezan’s work, including on Twitter, here for example. <p>World Organization Against Torture (2 meetings):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Al Mezan’s general director and Int’l Legal and Advocacy Director met with OMCT’s Secretary General and Project Officer to discuss issues relating to Al Mezan and other Network members, including in particular shrinking space and the criminalization of Palestinian human rights organizations. - Al Mezan’s Int’l Legal and Advocacy Director met with OMCT’s Secretary General on 19 October 2021 to discuss the designation of six Palestinian civil society organizations (some with membership in OMCT) that day as “terrorist” organizations. <p>Result: OMCT followed up with statements on Twitter about shrinking space for Palestinian NGOs and the protection of Palestinian HRDs, here, here, here, here, here, here and here.</p> <p>ESCR-Net (3 meetings):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Al Mezan’s Int’l Legal and Advocacy Director met with ESCR-Net’s SOS System of Solidarity Advisory Group (where she holds an individual advisory position), 8 November 2021. - Al Mezan’s Int’l Legal and Advocacy Director met with ESCR-Net on 28 September 2021 to plan a joint statement on due process rights and protection of human rights defenders and free speech under Palestinian law. - Al Mezan’s Int’l Legal and Advocacy Director met with ESCR-Net’s SOS System of Solidarity Advisory Group (where she holds an individual advisory position), 1 July 2021.
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				Result: Al Mezan’s engagement with ESCR-Net led to Al Mezan’s Int’l Legal and Advocacy Director being offered an advisory role in her personal capacity on ESCR-Net’s HRD protection mechanism. A seat on this board enables Al Mezan to highlight issues relating to Palestine.
<u>1.2.1.7</u>	Conduct 3 communications and/or meetings with the Palestinian diplomatic missions on human rights issues.	3 meetings with Palestinian missions	2 meetings with Palestinian missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 28 January 2021 (Geneva): Meeting with two representatives from the Palestinian mission to the UN in Geneva. The meeting was around update at the Human Rights Council, areas of overlap and coordination, and Al Mezan advocated for the mission’s inclusion of reference to the ICC within its accountability resolution. - 17 February 2021 (Virtual): Meeting with two representatives from the Palestinian mission to the UN in Geneva. The meeting was around the revised texts of the UN HRC resolutions on Palestine, in particular the newly combined accountability and human rights resolution, and around language being sanctioned by the HRC during NGO oral statements.
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				
<u>1.3.1.1</u>	Conduct at least 2 face-the-public meetings	2+ face-the-public meetings	2 meetings held.	<p>Al Mezan held a face-the-public meeting on 24 November 2021 to discuss recurring issue of rainwater flooding in North Gaza with representatives of municipalities of Jabalia Al-Nazla, Beit Lahia, and Umm Al-Nasr, a representative of the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility, and 32 community members from affected areas.</p> <p>Another face-the-public meeting was held in Rafah on 27 December 2021 to discuss concerns in relation to water and sanitation in the district with representatives of the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility and Rafah Municipality, and a number of community-based organizations.</p>
<u>1.3.1.2</u>	Screening of a film on HR	1 film screening	-	No public film screening was held due to the outbreak but the produced film on Israel's bombing of an agricultural chemical supplies warehouse in Gaza (Activity 2.1.1.2) was widely circulated on Facebook amassing over 35k views.
Output 1.3.2: International advocacy campaigning is conducted				

1.3.2.1	Conduct international advocacy and campaigning		Intl. advocacy conducted	International advocacy in 2021 focused on the impact of the May 2021 large-scale military offensive and its aftermath, including the additional restrictions imposed on movements of people and goods outside the Gaza Strip. Further, advocacy work highlighted the incessant impunity and drew attention to the discriminatory nature of policies imposed on people under occupation in Palestine.
1.3.2.2	Conduct at least 2 missions to Human Rights Council (HRC)	<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 	4 missions to HRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRC 46 (virtual participation) https://www.mezan.org/en/post/23945 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Al Mezan briefed the EU Delegation and MS at the ‘exchange of views’ at the start of the session (see 1.3.2.8) - Al Mezan led and joined five written statements (see 1.3.2.6) - Al Mezan led and joined 13 oral statements (see 1.3.2.7) - Al Mezan co-organized one side event (see 1.3.2.5) • 30th Special session on “The grave human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem” (virtual participation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Advocacy prior to the session:</i> Al Mezan and partners played a key role in advocating for the session to take place, including by holding a meeting with the South Africa delegation and other joint activities with partners asking HRC MS to request and support the convening of a special session. - Participated and intervened at the informal consultations on Resolution - Supported two oral statements led by Al-Haq and CIHRS • HRC 47 (virtual participation): https://www.mezan.org/en/post/24031 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Al Mezan joined four written statements by Al-Haq and CIHRS. - Al Mezan led and joined six oral statements • HRC 48 (virtual participation): https://www.mezan.org/en/post/24065 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Al Mezan led and joined five written statements (see 1.3.2.6) - Al Mezan led and joined six oral statements (see 1.3.2.7) - Al Mezan endorsed two side events on “Urgent Response Needed to Address Israel’s Escalation of Attacks on Palestinian Human Rights Defenders” and on threat of eviction in Beita, Nablus (see 1.3.2.5) <p><i>More details on written submission to the HRC under Activity 1.3.2.7</i> <i>More details on oral statements to the HRC under Activity 1.3.2.8</i></p>

<p><u>1.3.2.3</u></p>	<p>Conduct 1 mission to the US</p>		<p>Virtual mission conducted</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On 16 June, Al Mezan’s International Advocacy Director spoke at a panel event hosted by Harvard University, titled: “From Dialogue to Accountability: The Struggle to Implement Rights in Israel/Palestine”. Other organizations speaking: Gisha, Physicians for Human Rights - Israel, and Adalah. (International Advocacy Director was present in the US but the event was held online because of COVID-19) 2. On 3 August, Al Mezan’s International Advocacy Director was in New York and briefed the NY-based UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People on the latest developments in the Gaza Strip. (Meeting held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions.)
<p><u>1.3.2.4</u></p>	<p>Conduct 3 missions to EU and Member States</p>		<p>4 missions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Joint HRW-Al Mezan advocacy mission to Brussels between 2-3 October 2021 concerning apartheid. Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European External Action Service, including deputy head of unit at EEAS, Vladimir Janecek; desk officer for MEPP, Katarina Tapio; desk officer for Israel, Michele Merloni; and desk officer for OPT, Maria Amoroso. - European Member of Parliament: Raphael Fisera, Greens/EFA - Civil society: CIDSE and 11.11.11 - Civil society: HRW, Amnesty, EuMEP, ECCHR - Civil society meeting: EuroMed - Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2) Joint Rights Defenders-Al Mezan advocacy mission to The Hague on 2 November 2021. Meeting two representatives of the Dutch Foreign Ministry. Also, Civil society meeting with Rights Defenders. 3) (Virtual) UK mission to brief Parliamentary Members, hosted by MAP (see 1.3.2.6 point 9) 4) Mission to Geneva in November 2021. Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bilateral meeting with Rocco Polin, Human Rights Officer at the EU Delegation to the UN in Geneva. - Meeting with Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights. Main topics discussed: 1) Situation in Gaza following May escalation; and 2) Israel’s recent designation of six Palestinian organizations as ‘terrorist’.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with the staff of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders (Orsolya Toth, Mariana Vargas Climent, Christina Challis) to discuss Israel’s recent designation of six Palestinian organizations as ‘terrorist’. - Meeting with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association to discuss Israel’s recent designation of six Palestinian organizations as ‘terrorist’.
<u>1.3.2.5</u>	Conduct at least 2 (joint) UN side events	3 side-event	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HRC 46: Al Mezan and partners co-organized an online side-event on “Israeli Health Apartheid during COVID-19” (video: https://www.mezan.org/en/post/23935). Speakers include Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to physical and mental health. 2. UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: Al Mezan participated in a side-event organized by Al-Haq titled “Towards Goal 16 of Sustainable Development in Palestine: The Realisation of the Palestinian Right to Self-Determination, and Ensuring Accountability” 3. HRC 48: Al Mezan and partners co-organized an online side event on the urgent response needed to address Israel’s escalation of attacks on Palestinian human rights defenders (see more at: https://cihrs.org/side-event-to-hrc-48-urgent-response-needed-to-address-israels-escalation-of-attacks-on-palestinian-human-rights-defenders/?lang=en)
<u>1.3.2.6</u>	Conduct at least 4 presentations at European parliaments, universities and/or civil society events in EU/US	10 (virtual) presentations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 11 March 2021: Al Mezan’s Int’l Legal and Advocacy Director briefed a virtual delegation of UK Members of Parliament (Wayne David and Anna McMorrin), hosted by Medical Aid for Palestinians. 2. On 20 April 2021, Al Mezan’s Director and Int’l Legal and Advocacy Director participated in a panel at the Swedish Forum for Human Rights (sending videos prior to the start of the panel), invited by Diakonia. 3. 20 May 2021: Al Mezan’s Intl Legal and Advocacy Director briefed Swedish parliamentarian during a Conversation on the situation in Palestine and especially in Gaza, hosted by Håkan Svenneling, Member of the Swedish Parliament for the Vänsterpartiet and Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs. 4. 25-26 May 2021: Al Mezan’s director participated in one panel during two-days conference on "Israel/Palestine: in search of the rule of law", organized by the Balfour Project. 5. Al Mezan’s director participated in this panel: "Gaza Reconstruction: More than a Humanitarian Project", organized by the Foundation for Middle East Peace (FMPEP). 6. 16 June 2021: "From Dialogue to Accountability: The Struggle to Implement Rights in Israel/Palestine", organized by the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University. 7. 24 June 2021: "Resurging Violence in Israel and Palestine", organized by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.

			<p>8. 17 September 2021: Al Mezan’s Int’l Legal and Advocacy Director briefed a delegation of Swedish parliamentarians concerning legal and factual issues in the Gaza Strip. Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Camilla Hansén from the Green party spokesperson for aid - Gudrun Brunegård from the Christian Democratic Party spokesperson for aid - Helena Storckenfeldt from the Moderate party spokesperson for aid - Joar Forsell just recently appointed spokesperson on foreign affairs for the Liberal party - Annika Strandhäll from the Social democratic party focusing on aid issues in the committee Did not attend but instead - Olle Thorell. Social democrat member of the parliament committee on foreign affairs. - Thomas Hammarberg, social democrat and former commissioner for human rights for the European council. <p>9. 30 September 2021: Al Mezan’s Int’l Legal and Advocacy Director spoke at the FoBZU panel event on education in the Gaza Strip.</p> <p>10. 30 September 2021: Al Mezan’s director briefed a virtual delegation of UK Members of Parliament (David Jones, Alicia Kearns, Steve Baker and Munira Wilson), hosted by Medical Aid for Palestinians. On 19 October, David Jones MP sent a follow up note after the session requesting written questions that he submitted to FCDO (see UIN 58757, UIN 58758, UIN 58759 for questions and answers).</p>
<p><u>1.3.2.7</u></p>	<p>Submit 2 written submissions to HRC</p>	<p>14 written submissions to HRC</p>	<p>At HRC 46 (March 2021 session), Al Mezan submitted five written statements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) “Israel must uphold responsibilities as Occupying Power vis-à-vis the two million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip” submitted jointly with Al-Haq, Adalah, CIHRS, and WCLAC under Agenda Item 7 (https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/NGO/133); (2) “The Ongoing Nakba: Israel’s Forcible Transfer Policies Continue Amidst COVID-19” submitted jointly with Al-Haq and PCHR under Agenda Items 2 and 3 (https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/NGO/130); (3) “Israel’s Medical Negligence Targeting Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees During COVID-19” submitted jointly with Al-Haq, CIHRS, and PCHR under Agenda Items 2 and 7 (https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/NGO/90); (4) “Ensuring Accountability and an End to Impunity in Palestinian territories” submitted jointly with Al-Haq and PCHR under Agenda Items 2 and 7 (https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/NGO/128); (5) “Silencing Opposition and Shrinking Civil Society Space in Palestinian territories” submitted jointly with Al-Haq, CIHRS, and PCHR under Agenda Item 3 (https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/NGO/22).

			<p>At HRC 47 (June-July 2021 session), Al Mezan and partners submitted four written statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Joint written submission on the need to take effective measures to ensure accountability amidst escalating Israeli attacks against the Palestinian people (Link) (2) Joint written submission on Israel’s continuous repression of Palestinians challenging Israel’s domination and oppression on both sides of the Green Line (Link) (3) Joint written submission on Israel’s escalation of systematic arbitrary arrests and detention campaigns against Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line (Link) (4) Joint written submission on the UN database and its cruciality for corporate accountability, amid ongoing settlement expansion and escalating attacks against Palestinians (Link) <p>At HRC 48 (September-October 2021 session), Al Mezan submitted five joint written statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Israel’s increase in prohibited restrictions following its 11-day full-scale military offensive against the Gaza Strip (https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3942201?ln=en) (2) Israel’s mistreatment of Palestinian prisoners (https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3942204?ln=en) (3) Forced eviction and dispossession in East Jerusalem (https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3942203?ln=en) (4) Illegal settlements expansion (https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3942205?ln=en), and (5) Crackdown on Palestinian civil society (https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3941860?ln=en)
<p><u>1.3.2.8</u></p>	<p>Conduct 2 oral interventions to HRC</p>	<p>20 individual/joint oral interventions</p>	<p>• 13 individual and joint oral interventions (OI) at the HRC 46th session:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) “Civil society calls for the re-establishment of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid”, joint oral statement led by CIHRS at the UN HRC Annual High-Level Panel Discussion on Human Rights Mainstreaming. (http://mezan.org/en/post/23947) (2) “Israel’s apartheid regime on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip as a means to strategically fragment the Palestinian people”, joint OI led by Al Mezan under Agenda Item 9. (https://www.mezan.org/en/post/23936) (3) “Palestinian and regional human rights groups give voice to Jerusalem’s African-Palestinian community at Human Rights Council 46”, joint OI under Agenda Item 9 led by CIHRS. (http://mezan.org/en/post/23948) (4) “Civil society urges the Human Rights Council to establish an independent fact-finding mission into Israel’s apartheid regime”, joint oral statement under Agenda Item 7 led by Al-Haq. (https://www.mezan.org/en/post/23953) (5) “Al Mezan calls on Human Rights Council to support resolutions and accountability mechanisms on Palestine”, joint OI under Agenda Item 7 led by Al Mezan. (http://mezan.org/en/post/23941) (6) “Al Mezan delivers statement to UN expert on right to food concerning protracted food crisis in Gaza”, joint OI led by Al Mezan during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. (http://mezan.org/en/post/23922)

			<p>(7) “At Human Rights Council 46, Al Mezan calls on the Council and its Members to support the international law and fact-based resolutions on Palestine”, joint OI under Agenda Item 2 led by Al Mezan. (https://www.mezan.org/en/post/23951)</p> <p>(8) “Human rights organizations call for an accurate characterization of the situation in Palestine which includes the apartheid framework”, joint OI under Agenda Item 2 led by CIHRS. (http://mezan.org/en/post/23946)</p> <p>(9) “14 Palestinian human rights organizations highlight the need for accountability at Human Rights Council 46”, joint OI under Agenda Item 2 led by Al-Haq. (https://www.mezan.org/en/post/23952)</p> <p>(10) “Civil society welcomes the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights while calling for more guidance on third state responsibilities”, joint OI under Agenda Item 2 led by HIC. (http://mezan.org/en/post/23950)</p> <p>(11) “At Human Rights Council 46, Al Mezan calls on the Council and its Members to support the international law and fact-based resolutions on Palestine”, individual OI under Agenda Item 2 (https://www.mezan.org/en/post/23951)</p> <p>(12) “Civil society condemns the continued expansions of enterprises in illegal Israeli settlements and urges the OHCHR to update the database on businesses”, joint OI led by CIHRS under Agenda Item 7. (http://mezan.org/en/post/23949)</p> <p>(13) “At Human Rights Council 46, human rights organizations highlight Israel’s apartheid and stress the need for international accountability”, joint OI led by Al-Haq under Agenda Item 9. (https://www.mezan.org/en/post/23954)</p> <p>• 4 joint oral interventions (OI) at the HRC 47th session:</p> <p>(1) “At Human Rights Council 47, Al Mezan highlights the precarious humanitarian conditions of IDPs in the Gaza Strip in the wake of Israel's May 2021 military offensive”, Joint OI led by Al Mezan http://mezan.org/en/post/24025</p> <p>(2) “At Human Rights Council 47, Al Mezan raises the issue of Israel's settler-colonial and apartheid regime and its impact on Palestinians’ right to health”, Joint OI led by Al Mezan, http://mezan.org/en/post/24026</p> <p>(3) “Palestinian human rights organizations ask UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression to address Israel’s smear and disinformation campaigns”, Joint OI led by Miftah: http://mezan.org/en/post/24027</p> <p>(4) Joint OI led by CIHRS at the Panel on tenth anniversary of guiding principles on business and human rights: http://mezan.org/en/post/24028</p> <p>• 3 joint oral interventions (OI) at the HRC 48th session:</p>
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<u>1.3.2.9</u>	Conduct 1 briefing to EU bodies		2 virtual briefings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2021: Al Mezan and partners briefed the EU Delegation and Member States at the ‘exchange of views’ at the start of the 46th Human Rights Council session. Al Mezan’s presentation covered Palestinian elections, right to health/vaccine, impunity and attacks on HRDs. • Briefing on Attack on Gaza with EU policy makers (2 June 2021) organized by EuroMed Rights attended by eight representatives from MEP offices from seven EU States, 4 EU Member States (Lithuania, Portugal, Belgium and Luxembourg), and two representatives from EEAS and DG NEAR from the European Commission.

II. Promotion Program

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

<i>Ref. no.</i>	<i>planned activities</i>	<i>Planned indicators / targets</i>	<i>Achieved targets</i>	<i>Implemented Activities</i>
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	100+ new titles to be added	88 books and periodicals were purchased (order placed and shipment to arrive from Egypt in Q1 of 2022) to add to the library, as well as 15 books/periodical and two thesis that were gifted to the library in the reporting period. 690 university students, researchers, and lawyers benefited from library services and borrowed a total of 1,800 books.
<u>2.1.1.2</u>	Produce a short film on HR/IHL issues (with English subtitles)	1 short film	1 film produced	One short film on Israel's bombing of an agricultural chemical supplies warehouse during the 2021 full-scale military offensive on the Gaza Strip. (Available at https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=884968508865711 and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=paNKZ10yg40)
<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	3 report and 6 factsheets published	1. Report on Farming in a Buffer Zone, The conditions Gaza farmers face under closure (available at http://mezan.org/en/post/23918): The report provides information and analysis of the situation of Palestinian farmers in the ARA on land and, in particular, focuses on the violations carried out against them by the Israeli forces. This report is supported by figures, statistics, and testimonies gathered by Al Mezan's researchers through interviews, surveys, and data collection, covering the period between 2018-2020. 2. Report on the Situation of economic, social and cultural rights in the Gaza Strip in 2020 (full report available in Arabic at http://mezan.org/post/31500 English executive summary is available at http://mezan.org/en/post/23940) The report details the impact of COVID-19, and intra-Palestinian schism, and Israeli blockade on key ESCR, including health care, housing, food security, education, unemployment, and energy in the Gaza Strip.

				<p>3. Report on Media Ethics (Available in Arabic at http://mezan.org/post/31555) The report (research paper) provides an overview of the emergence and evolution of media ethics' concepts, determinants, and principles. It focuses on media ethics in Palestinian law and international conventions, including confidentiality, privacy, incitement of violence and racial discrimination. Since the report had been issued prior to postponement of PLC and Presidential elections, it also focused on the ethics of covering the electoral process.</p> <p>4. Factsheet on the Effects of Israel's military offensive on Gaza's WASH facilities (available at http://mezan.org/en/post/24001)</p> <p>5. Factsheet on the Effects of Israel's military offensive on access to clean and safe drinking water in the Gaza Strip (available at http://mezan.org/en/post/24008)</p> <p>6. Factsheet on the effects of Israel's tightened blockade on the economic and humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip (Available at https://mezan.org/en/post/24015)</p> <p>7. Factsheet on the effects of Israel's offensive of May 2021 and tightened blockade on Gaza's patients and healthcare system (Available at https://mezan.org/en/post/24021).</p> <p>8. Factsheet on Obstacles to Accessing Education and Out-of-School Children in the Gaza Strip (Available at https://mezan.org/en/post/24074)</p> <p>9. Fact Sheet on Israel's Bombing of the Khudair Group's Warehouse—Gaza's largest agricultural chemical warehouse—in May 2021 offensive (Available at https://mezan.org/en/post/24080)</p>
2.1.1.4	Design and print 2 posters on various HR issues and resources (particularly ESCR, in Arabic and English, 500 copies each).	2 posters	2 miniature d posters printed	1,000 copies of two miniature posters were printed and distributed at attendees during Al Mezan's HR Child Art exhibition. The printed artwork was submitted by two school students to the Child Art competition and were both prize winners in their respective age groups.

2.1.1.5	Design and print at least 4 pamphlets, infographics, leaflets, etc. on HR and IHL	4+ pamphlets, infographics and leaflets	31 infographics	31 of infographics produced and posted on Al Mezan's social media accounts in relation to May 2021 offensive, gender-based violence, and out-of-school children.
2.1.1.6	Add at least 100 new posts about HR on available social media channels/ outlets (website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube – in Arabic and English)	100+ postings	200+ postings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 200 posts (press releases, reports, letters and appeals) were posted on both Arabic and English websites as well as social media platforms in the reporting period. - Over 45,000 unique users visited Al Mezan Arabic and English websites in 2021. - Al Mezan Facebook page followers crossed 11,000 and Twitter page had over 5,500 followers by the end of 2021.
2.1.1.7	Conduct at least 12 media appearances (Radio and/or TV)	12+ media appearances	300+ media appearances conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Al Mezan’s Program Director made 141 media appearances (91 on local/satellite TV stations, including Euro News and Al-Jazeera, 27 interviews on radio stations, and 24 with journalists writing for newspaper, including the Guardian, the Asahi Shimbun, Haaretz, and the Associated Press). • Fieldwork coordinator conducted 47 media appearances (9 on local/satellite TV stations, including Al-Jazeera, 30 on local radio stations, and 8 with journalists writing for newspapers and/or news websites, including the Associated Press). • Researchers conducted 22 media appearances (9 on local/satellite TV stations, 3 on local radio stations, and 10 with journalists writing for local newspapers and/or news websites, including the BBC and the Associated Press) to discuss a wide range of topics related to ESCR in the Gaza Strip. • Lawyers conducted 95 media appearances (61 on local/satellite TV stations, 19 on local radio stations, and 15 with journalists writing for local newspapers and/or news websites) to provide legal perspective and discuss the center’s legal intervention.
Output 2.1.2: Information on IHRL and IHL and violations in the oPt are disseminated locally and internationally (English/Arabic)				
2.1.2.1	Issue at least 50 press releases, letters, appeals and statements on HR and IHL violations/risks	50+ press releases, letters, appeals and statements	121 press releases, letters, appeals and statements	105 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 press releases addressed violations to human rights perpetrated by Israeli forces and Palestinian actors. Many of the issued PRs provided daily updates during the May 2021 offensive and of its aftermath in the following months. Other PRs and statements addressed arrest and detention of residents of Gaza travelling via Erez crossing, detention condition of Palestinian prisoners and hunger strike of Palestinians held in custody under

	(in Arabic and English).			administrative detention, the suspended public election, death sentences issued in Gaza, and gender-based violence incidents. ⁶ Further, 12 joint press releases were published under the umbrella of the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC) and four other joint press releases were made with partner Israeli human rights organizations.
<u>2.1.2.2</u>	Issue 12 monthly statistical reports on Israeli violations.	12 monthly reports (IL)	12 monthly statistical reports	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 https://mezan.org/en/post/23911) 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 https://mezan.org/en/post/23910)
<u>2.1.2.3</u>	Issue 1 semi-annual and 1 annual report on Israeli violations.	1 semi-annual, 1 annual (IL)	2 semi-annual, 4 annual reports, and 2 thematic reports	<p><u>Thematic Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>The Gaza Bantustan—Israeli Apartheid in the Gaza Strip (Available at https://www.mezan.org/en/post/24084).</p> <p>The report builds on Al Mezan's decades-long work to promote respect, protection, and fulfillment of international law in the Gaza Strip, an integral part of the OPT, and is the Center's first report focused on apartheid in Gaza. The report draws upon relevant work by Palestinian, Israeli, and international human rights organizations, academics, and experts, and reaffirms that Israel's institutionalized and systemic racial domination and oppression of the Palestinian people, including those residing in Gaza, contravenes Article 3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, amounts to the crime of apartheid according to the Apartheid Convention, and constitutes a crime against humanity as defined by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.</p> <p>Press Freedom and Media in the Crossfire (Available in Arabic at https://mezan.org/post/32389)</p> <p>The report presents information and documentation collected by Al Mezan's researchers and field workers as well as testimonies of affected journalists regarding Israel's military attacks that hindered the media coverage of its military offensive against Gaza in May 2021. The report details how both Palestinian and international journalists have suffered injuries and damage to their equipment, with the Israeli military deliberately targeting media offices, ultimately destroying 51 and causing damage</p>

⁶ English version of the Press Releases issued in 2021 can be accessed at <https://mezan.org/en/posts-archive/2/Press+Releases/2021>

				<p>to 22 others. Notably, throughout the offensive, the Israeli authorities also denied foreign reporters access to Gaza, thereby further obstructing the media coverage of the offensive.</p> <p><u>Periodical Reports</u></p> <p>July/August 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-annual report on the Israeli violations in the naval part of the Access Restricted Area (Gaza Sea) in 2021. (available at https://mezan.org/post/32430) • Semi-annual report on grave violations against children in the Gaza Strip in 2021 — in line with the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism established by UN resolution no. 1612 (available at https://mezan.org/post/32385) <p>January 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report on IHL/IHRL violations in the Gaza Strip in 2020. (available at https://mezan.org/post/31310) • Annual report on the Israeli violations in the territorial part of the Access Restricted Area (buffer zone) in 2020. (available at https://mezan.org/post/31276) • Annual report on the Israeli violations in the naval part of the Access Restricted Area (Gaza Sea) in 2020. (available at https://mezan.org/post/31259) • Annual report on grave violations against children in the Gaza Strip in 2020 — in line with the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism established by UN resolution no. 1612 (available at https://mezan.org/post/31300)
<u>2.1.2.4</u>	Issue 1 factsheet on prisoners and detainees (in Israel)	1 factsheet (on prisoners & detainees)	1 factsheet	<p>Al Mezan issued a paper on access to health of Palestinians from Gaza held in Israel’s custody. The information presented is based on over 28 individual cases followed up by Al Mezan before the Israeli Prison Service in 2021. The data indicate a widespread medical negligence, manifesting mostly in long delays in accessing medical screening and subsequent medical intervention.</p> <p>(Available at https://www.mezan.org/post/32716)</p>
<u>2.1.2.5</u>	Issue 3 position papers on patterns of violations/risks and policy issues affecting HR and IHL.	3 position papers	4 position papers	<p>- Joint position paper addressing a series of recently issued decree-laws in relation to the judicial authority which undermine independence of the judiciary (Arabic version available at http://www.mezan.org/post/31302)</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A joint position paper issued in March 2021 with respect to the decree-law issued by the Palestinian President introducing amendments to the Charitable Associations and Civil Society Organizations Law. (English version available at http://mezan.org/en/post/23924) - Position paper and legal analysis concerning a Judicial Circular (the Circular) issued by The Higher Sharia Court Council in Gaza issued based on a ruling by the Supreme Sharia Court on 14 February 2021. The Circular set forth travel restrictions which were in breach of the Amended Basic Law of 2003 (temporary constitution), Civil Law No. 4 of 2012, and Sharia Judicial Law No. 3 of 2011. Accordingly, Al Mezan called on the Council in Gaza to revoke the unconstitutional Circular no. 01/2021 and to uphold Palestine’s obligations arising from the State’s accession to relevant international treaties. (Arabic version available at https://www.mezan.org/post/31422) - Joint position paper: Human Rights and Civil Society Organizations Hold Head of the Executive Authority and Government Responsible for Rights and Freedoms’ Violations and the Collapse of Official Institutions. (English version available at https://www.mezan.org/en/post/24043)
<u>2.1.2.6</u>	Issue 12 monthly statistical reports on local authorities’ violations.	12 monthly reports (PS)	12 monthly statistical reports	12 monthly statistical updates on documented incidents of violence emanating from Palestinian actors in the Gaza Strip published online. (available at https://mezan.org/en/post/23912)
<u>2.1.2.7</u>	Issue 1 semi-annual and 1 annual report on local authorities’ violations.	1 semi-annual, 1 annual (PS)	1 semi-annual, 1 annual reports	<p>January 2021: Annual report on incidents of violence instigated by Palestinian actors, including the de facto authorities, in the Gaza Strip in 2020. (available at https://mezan.org/post/31256)</p> <p>August 2021: Semi-annual report on incidents of violence instigated by Palestinian actors, including the de facto authorities, in the Gaza Strip in 2021. (available at https://mezan.org/post/32417)</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				

2.2.1.1	Implement a six-month training course for at least 25 young lawyers (50% females).	25+ young lawyers	35 young lawyers (including 16 females)	A 140-hour training course for 35 young lawyers, including 16 female lawyers, was conducted from June to November 2021. The training program covered a range of specialized topics, including Palestinian law, human rights and international conventions, and international humanitarian law, with sessions delivered by Palestinian law experts as well as Arab law experts from the Arab Organization for Human Rights, which added to the training a diversity of experiences and specialized topics. (https://mezan.org/post/32620)
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).	150+ individuals – incl. 25 university students (7 groups)	201 individuals (including 107 females)	<p>Al Mezan implemented nine training courses for 201 individuals (including 107 females) in the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-17 February 2021: two trainings on basic human rights and IHL principles in addition to session-moderation skills for 35 university students (including 20 females) of “Pass-the-Word” in 2021. The students who successfully completed the two trainings went on to carry conduct peer-education sessions to their peers in local universities in the Gaza Strip (activity 2.2.1.3). • 2-4 March 2021: a three-day training for 31 medical students (including 13 females) on "Human Rights and Elections " introducing participants to various human rights topics, with focus on democracy and the electoral process. • 28-30 March 2021: three-day training for 11 pre-election observers who are to assist Al Mezan’s existing fieldworkers to monitor the candidacy and campaigning phases of the upcoming elections. • 12-13 April 2021: virtual training on rights of the child and freedom of expression to 47 staff members (including 33 females) of Nawa Association for Culture and Art. • 10-12 August 2021: advocacy training for 14 children (9 girls and 5 boys) in Gaza City to empower them to advocate for their rights. The training covered several topics, including basic human rights concepts, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and simplified concepts of advocacy, community initiatives and campaigning. • 10-12 August 2021: A similar advocacy training was held in Khan Younis for a different group of children (2 girls and 8 boys) to empower them to advocate for their rights. • 30 August – 1 September 2021: training for 20 youths (including 12 females) in North Gaza on women’s rights with focus of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) • 17-18 November 2021: training for 33 public servants (including 18 women) on the laws of civil service and retirement.
2.2.1.3	Supervise at least 20 awareness sessions to be delivered by university students (see 2.2.1.2) for 300	300+ university students (‘Peer Education’)	302 university students (including 133 females)	In the second phase of Pass-the-Word program 2021: University students who successfully finished the first phase conducted a total of 126 awareness-raising sessions (six sessions per each group) to 302 of their peers (169 females and 133 males). The topics of the sessions included: HR/IHL, ESCR, democracy and the rule of law and international mechanisms for protecting human rights.

	peer students on campuses (50% females).			
2.2.1.4	Conduct 10 awareness/training 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).	200+ vulnerable individuals	416 individuals (including 240 females)	<p>Al Mezan implemented 12 workshops for 416 (including 240 females) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8, 11, 15, 16 and 24 February 2021: Al Mezan implemented five awareness sessions (one in every district of the Gaza Strip) to raise awareness of the public of democracy, political participation and the electoral process. A total of 216 participants (including 142 women) were introduced to the role of elections in promoting social justice, safeguarding equal rights and duties of citizens, and combating corruption. Amendments introduced recently to the Election Law and their potential implications were also discussed. • 1 March 2021: Al Mezan organized a workshop in Rafah on election for 69 of public figures, community activists and members. The session discussed the right to political participation and challenges facing the Palestinian elections. The participants raised questions and concerns in relation to the electoral law, and the role of the electoral court. A number of speakers also expressed their concerns about some of the challenges facing the election process, including youth and women participation, and minimum age of candidates. • 9 March 2021: Al Mezan held an awareness-raising workshop for 47 female farmers in Jabalia refugee camp. The workshop focused on women’s political participation, notably in the electoral process, and was implemented in cooperation with Takween Association for Development. The workshop discussed the elections as a fundamental contribution to democratic governance that leads to promotion of social justice, ensuring the equality of citizens’ rights and duties, and combating corruption. • 22 March 2021: Al Mezan held an awareness-raising session for 40 fishermen in the fisher’s port in Deir Al-Balah. The session discussed elections and the need to participate in the electoral process to guarantee freedom of opinion and expression, and the right of citizens to choose their representatives, as it is a human right as well as an entry point for promoting, protecting and ensuring respect for human rights. • 6 April 2021: a virtual workshop on human rights and IHL was held in collaboration with grassroots organizations in North Gaza for 15 university graduates (including 9 females), who were introduced to human rights instruments signed by the State of Palestine and UN human rights monitoring mechanisms as well as protection of civilians in times of armed conflicts in accordance with IHL. • 7 April 2021: Al Mezan held a workshop for 25 members (including 19 females) of the Culture and Free Thought Association in Khan Younis on human rights conventions, including CCPR and CESC, and established monitoring mechanisms. The session also discussed the upcoming elections and the need to participate in the electoral process to fulfil the right of citizens to choose their representatives. • 14 April 2021: Al Mezan held a virtual workshop for 23 members (including 9 females) of grassroots organizations in Gaza to discuss promotion of social justice through participation in the upcoming elections, as a first step towards holding duty-bearers accountable. The session presented the electoral process in the oPt and discussed relevant amendments to the General Elections Law.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 August 2021: workshop for 25 deaf people (including 14 females) in North Gaza on the rights of people with disability.
<u>2.2.1.5</u>	Conduct at least 30 awareness sessions/lectures on various HR issues for school students (20 each, 50% females).	600+ school students	723 children and 44 women	36 child-friendly awareness session were conducted for 723 school children (287 boys and 436 girls) and 48 adults (including 44 women) on human rights with focus on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The sessions were organized in collaboration with a number of civil society organizations (Qattan Foundation, Culture and Free Thought Association, Nawa Association for Culture and Arts, and others).
<u>2.2.1.6</u>	Conduct 1 art competition on HR (particularly child rights) engaging 3000 school students	1 art competition (3000 school students)	4,750 school students	Al Mezan received 4,750 paintings from student participants in local schools (UNRWA, MoE, and private schools) for its annual IHL/HR Child Art Competition. Over 400 people attended the award ceremony on 13 December 2021 in Gaza City; students, their families, and members of the education community from both UNRWA and MoE were present. 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). The ceremony was followed by opening an exhibition featuring the best 71 child paintings depicting human rights.
<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	25+ individuals	64 individuals	On March 17, 2021, Al Mezan held a specialized legal workshop for representatives of civil society titled “General Elections: Challenges and Opportunities” in Gaza City, in light of the Central Elections Committee’s adoption of the final electoral register. The workshop discussed the existing challenges and opportunities for success that would ensure the holding of free and fair PLC elections in May 2021, and a reviewed the most prominent legal observations made by Al Mezan in recent weeks in relation to the electoral process. [https://www.mezan.org/post/31498]

2.2.1.8	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).	2+ working papers	5 working papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2021, Al Mezan presented a paper addressing use of social media at times of general elections to the Palestine Digital Activism Forum organized by the Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media (7amleh). In its fifth annual edition with the theme “Palestinian Digital Rights during and after the Coronavirus Pandemic”, the Forum hosted over 80 speakers from local, regional, and international organizations. • In April 2021, Al Mezan presented a paper on the impact of COVID-19 on ESCR in the Gaza Strip, including access to basic services such as electricity and water and sanitation, to at a session of the Gaza Policy Forum titled "Double Lockdown" hosted online by Gisha. • In April 2021, Al Mezan presented a working paper on Media Ethics in a workshop on the Role of the Media in Promoting Free Elections to relevant stakeholders ahead of the release of a report with the same name. The session was held via Zoom, and the main panelists included representatives of the Central Election Commission, the Community Media Center, the Palestinian institute for Communication-and Development, and the Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media. • On 9 September 2021, Al Mezan held a briefing for several members of the Education Cluster, including UNRWA, Humanity and Inclusion, NRC, Tamer, Islamic Relief and Save the Children, to present the findings of assessment on barriers to education in the Gaza Strip and solicit feedback on the content of the factsheet prior to its publication. The participants recommendations were reflected in the published version of the factsheet. • On 9 November 2021, Al Mezan held a workshop to discuss “The Global Rise in Prices: Mitigation Mechanisms for the Implications on the Humanitarian Situation in the Gaza Strip” with a group of experts and representatives of local trade unions and civil society organizations. Al Mezan presented a paper discussing the inter-related factors affecting economic growth in the Gaza Strip, notably Israel’s human rights violations, the internal Palestinian political division, and the pandemic. During the workshop, representatives of Bakery Owners Association, Poultry Breeders Syndicate, Palestinian Contractors Union, and agricultural associations attributed the increasing costs of the goods and services they provide to the global rise in prices as well as double taxation due to the Palestinian political divide and lack of strategic planning among various related economic sectors.
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	2 workshops (technical	3 workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In February 2021, Al Mezan held a specialized workshop to discuss viable methods to strengthen resilience of the agricultural sector in the ARA in the Gaza Strip based on the findings of a three-year report issued by the Center on challenges facing farmers in the ARA. Representative of farming community, CBOs and International NGOs working with farmers attended the workshop, and together with Al Mezan put forth several recommendations to duty-bearers.

	relevant practitioners on ESCR issues raised by reports and factsheets.	assistance)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 9 September 2021, Al Mezan held an expert workshop in Gaza City on the effects of Israel’s bombing and destruction of Gaza’s largest agricultural chemical warehouse during the May 2021 full-scale military assault on the Gaza Strip. The workshop was held to discuss serious concerns for the health of the population and environment, and the delay in disposal of hazardous material from the burned down warehouse. Mr. Mahmoud Khudair, one of the company owners, provided an account of the attack on the warehouse, including the aftermath and destruction from the fire to participants who included representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Water and Environment Quality Authority, and the municipality of North Gaza. The representatives then spoke about the roles of their respective agencies in addressing the incident and their respective analysis and concerns. Al Mezan raised concerns over the remaining hazardous material in the site of the incident, which the representatives attributed to delays in securing grants from the UNDP to cover the cost of safe removal and disposal of hazardous material. Several recommendations were agreed upon by the end of the workshop. On 15 September 2021, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights held an expert workshop titled, “The Third Wave of COVID-19: Infections, Challenges and Confrontation Techniques.” The participants included representatives from the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), local and international institutions, as well as members of the science faculties at Palestinian universities. The workshop analyzed the epidemiological approaches in Gaza, particularly those of the Ministry of Health, and formed a series of recommendations aimed at helping the relevant authorities to identify deficiencies and organize an effective response.
<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	1 roundtable on the judiciary	1 roundtable meeting held	Al Mezan held a specialized roundtable meeting for 14 academics, legal researchers and lawyers, and representatives of human rights organizations in Gaza City in September 2021 to discuss the state of judicial authority in the oPt. This meeting comes within the framework of the Center’s work to promote independence and impartiality of the judiciary in light of Palestine’s international obligations arising from accession to international human rights instruments, after obtaining the status of a non-member observer state at the United Nations in November 2012. The participants discussed concerns arising from the executive authority’s increasing influence on the judiciary both in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and called for unifying the judiciary and ensuring its independence.
Output 2.2.3: Human rights related national and international emblematic occasions are observed and celebrated by Al Mezan and the civil society actors				

<p><u>2.2.3.1</u></p>	<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 	<p>1 exhibition organized, 1 twitter campaign joined, 1 report issued, 15 PRs issued</p>	<p>Al Mezan organized the 11th annual Child Art Award to mark the International Human Rights Day (December 2021), in which 4,750 drawings from students of all ages and from all Gaza districts participated, and an exhibition was held featuring the best 71 painting depicting human rights.</p> <p>Joint the 16-day campaign on violence against women in November – December 2021 on social media by issuing a total of eight infographics on Al Mezan social media pages.</p> <p>On the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (Nov. 2021) Al Mezan issued and circulated a comprehensive report ‘The Gaza Bantustan – Israeli Apartheid in the Gaza Strip’ on social media platforms.</p> <p>15 press releases marking international days (including: the World Day against the Death Penalty, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, World’s Children Day, Human Rights Day, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People) were issued and circulated in the reporting period.</p>
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III. Capacity Building Program

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

<i>Ref. no.</i>	<i>planned activities</i>	<i>Planned indicators/ targets</i>	<i>Achieved targets</i>	<i>Implemented Activities</i>
Specific Objective 3.1: To further develop and enhance strategies, policies and procedures				
Output 3.1.1: Strategic and operational plans are developed and updated				
3.1.1.1	Follow up on the implementation of 2021 action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Plan (2020-2023) is implemented (revised annually) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Strategic Plan on track Action plan and budget developed 	Completed implementation of activities under Promotion and Protection programs, while some activities under Organizational Development program were postponed in favor of urgent actions in response to May 2021 military offensive.
3.1.1.2	Revise Strategic Plan (2021-2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational plan and master budget are developed annually 		No changes introduced to the strategic plan 2021-2023.
3.1.1.3	Develop action plan and master budget for 2022			Action plan for 2022 developed and shared with donors, BoD and staff for monitoring and to initiate implementation.
Output 3.1.2: Administrative and Financial systems/manuals are developed and updated				
3.1.2.1	Review Al Mezan Administrative and Financial systems/manuals	Administrative and Financial systems/manuals are revised annually	Administrative and Financial manual revised annually.	Al Mezan Administrative and Financial manual reviewed.
Output 3.1.3: Operational manuals are developed and updated				
3.1.3.1	Develop the Operational manual for the LAU	Operational manuals are developed and revised annually	-	Postponed in favor of developing Child Safeguarding policy and PSEA policy.
Output 3.1.4: Staff Code of Conduct is developed and updated				
3.1.4.1	Update Al Mezan Code of Conduct (mainly related to use of social media)	Staff Code of Conduct is updated and revised annually	CoC revised and updated.	Al Mezan Code of Conduct updated (with new provision addressing use of social media), approved by management and BoD, and disseminated to staff.
Output 3.1.5: Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) is developed and updated				
3.1.5.1	Develop Al Mezan Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) for (2021-2023)	Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) is developed and revised annually	-	Development of Al Mezan Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) postponed.
Output 3.1.6: MEAL system/manual is developed and updated				

3.1.6.1	Develop Al Mezan MEAL system/manual	MEAL system/manual is developed and revised annually	M&E matrix in place.	M&E matrix for Al Mezan’s Promotion and Protection programs developed.
Output 3.1.7: Accountability/ Complaint System is developed and updated				
3.1.7.1	Develop Al Mezan Accountability/Complaint System	Accountability/ Complaint System is developed and updated annually	Complaint and feedback system maintained.	Al Mezan Complaint System developed and maintained.
Op.3.1.8: Fundraising plan is developed and implemented				
3.1.8.1	Develop Al Mezan Fundraising plan (2021-2023)	FR plan is developed and revised annually	-	Postponed.
Specific Objective 3.2: To further develop and enhance human resources				
Output 3.2.1: Human Resources development plan is developed and implemented				
3.2.1.1	Develop Al Mezan Human Resources plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRD plan is developed and revised annually • # of staff trained in selected (soft and hard) topic annually • # of training hours conducted (per type) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 staff members trained • 30 training hours conducted 	Capacity building activities identified, and arrangement made for relevant staff to participate.
3.2.1.2	Implement Al Mezan Human Resources plan (conduct assessed trainings)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Al Mezan’s researcher attended a five-day training in November 2021 organized by the Arab Institute of Human Rights in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on promotion of sexual and reproductive rights of women through International Human Rights Mechanisms. • Al Mezan Information Officer completed a tailored training on database maintenance and database design using Delphi and SQL to complement the database upgrade activity (3.3.1.1).
Output 3.2.2: Staff Appraisal System is developed and implemented				
3.2.2.1	Develop Al Mezan Staff Appraisal system	Staff Appraisal System is developed and revised annually	-	Postponed.
Specific Objective 3.3: To further develop and enhance infrastructure				
Output 3.3.1: Information Systems and computing equipment, are upgraded				

<u>3.3.1.1</u>	Redesign and develop Al Mezan (Fieldwork and Legal Aid) Database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al Mezan Database is developed and maintained annually 	Al Mezan Database is developed and migrated.	Al Mezan (Fieldwork and Legal Aid) Database redesigned and maintained
<u>3.3.1.2</u>	Assess the needs for information systems and computing equipment upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of computing equipment (hardware and software) supplied and installed (by type) 	11 computing equipment (7 hardware and 4 software) supplied and installed (by type)	Needs for information systems and computing equipment for assessed and procured.
<u>3.3.1.3</u>	Supply and install assessed information systems and computing equipment upgrade			New information systems and computing equipment installed (Hardware: 1 scanner, 2 monitor, 2 laptop, and 2 printers, Software: Windows Server 2019 essential license; and Office 365, Zoom and VPN subscriptions)
Output 3.3.2: Office equipment, furniture and structure are upgraded				
<u>3.3.2.1</u>	Assess the needs for office equipment and furniture upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of office equipment supplied and installed (by type) # of office furniture supplied and installed (by type) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 types of office equipment and furniture supplied and installed 	Needs for new office equipment and furniture assessed.
<u>3.3.2.2</u>	Supply and install assessed office equipment and furniture			New equipment and/or furniture supplied and installed. (Projector, speaker, telephone, bookcases, shelving units, and 4 air conditioning units)