

### General and Contact Information

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### Board Members

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

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

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

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**Mr. Nafez Al Madhoun** (Member) Lawyer

**Dr. Ali Abu Zuhri** (Member), President of the Al Aqsa University

**Dr. Azmi Shuaibi** (Member) General Coordinator **AMAN** Coalition.

### AI Mezan Donor Partners in 2014

#### **Core Programme Donors:**

The HR/IHL Secretariat – representing 4 like-minded European donors.

The Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority.

Open Society Foundations (OSF).

The Sigrid Rausing Trust, UK: Promotion of Human Rights in Gaza.

Medico International – Germany.

Save the Children International.

#### **Projects Donors:**

UNDP/PAPP: Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Gaza.

The European Commission: "Combating and Preventing Torture and Ill-Treatment of Palestinian Prisoners held in Israel Prisons and Palestinian Civilians in the OPT".\*

Diakonia: Promotion of IHL in Gaza by Education/Information.

Norwegian Refugee Council: Support to access to redress in Israel for victims in Gaza.

The Heinrich Boll Foundation: Enhancing Technical Equipment for AI Mezan.

Oxfam Novib: Gaza Emergency Response.

### Membership

The Palestinian of 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)

Middle East and North Africa Network to Stop the Use of Children as soldiers

MENA Network to Stop the Proliferation and Misuse of Small Arms & Light Weapons

The World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)

The Protection Sector Working Group (Chaired by OHCHR)

### Introduction:

This is the annual narrative report for the year 2015. While it provides an account of the activities implemented during this year by Al Mezan Center for Human Rights (Al Mezan), it reflects the human rights situation to which activities responded. The report follows the action plan introduced in the Strategic Plan 2015-2017, presenting tables of planned activities and implemented activities and outputs. Sections on challenges, projects and financial issues to the attention of the Board and donors are also introduced.

The continuously deteriorating human rights situation in Palestine, particularly in the besieged Gaza Strip, is largely shaped by the 49-years-long Israeli occupation and closure, frequent military attacks including large-scale military operations, as well as the internal Palestinian political schism.

In September 2015, developments in Jerusalem, including Israeli police raids at the Al Aqsa mosque plaza in Jerusalem's Old City and Israeli government threats to the alter Jerusalem's status quo, instigated a wave of protests and attacks in the occupied West Bank. These developments gripped the already volatile region, with the conflict claiming more victims.

What is being dubbed as the leaderless "third intifada" has seen Palestinian youth express their anger over the prolonged occupation by taking matters in their own hands, organizing demonstrations and carrying out a number of attacks. The Israeli response was with more violence, often including regular and indiscriminate settler attacks in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, extra-judicial killings of young alleged perpetrators of attacks, illegitimate and punitive demolition of their families' homes, threats to revoke Jerusalem identity cards for those who are in any way connected to attacks and the attackers, arbitrary detention of minors and military occupation of villages with imposed curfews and night raids. In addition, Israel approved building of new settlement housing, all while already heavy restrictions on Palestinian movement and access to services have been curtailed even more, with Palestinians seeing no other way out but to daily demonstrate at and around checkpoints. The Israeli government also loosened the rules of engagement, allowing for snipers to be redeployed and use lethal fire against protestors. All these have not gone unnoticed in Gaza. Demonstrations have also been held regularly in Gaza, resulting in 11 deaths and dozens of injuries. Since the beginning of the latest wave of violence in October 2015, at least 165 Palestinians have been killed, thousands were wounded, and dozens of Palestinian homes punitively demolished.

With the Gaza closure measures inflicting further harm to the population, the reconstruction of Gaza proving to be impossible under closure measures, violent Israeli responses to demonstrations, and deeper de-development pushing the population, especially the younger generations in Gaza, into despair, there is growing concern that another escalation of the conflict in Gaza is looming on the horizon. There is greater concern by this situation as the plight to ensure accountability and justice to improve protection has not been met with any adequate responses at the domestic or international levels.

In the meanwhile, very little progress has been made to reconcile the two Palestinian political parties. The May 2014 agreement between the two political actors to bring the intra-Palestinian split to an end failed to be honored by both parties. At that time, Gaza had just started to recover from a devastating war in the summer of 2014, which led to thousands of casualties, injuries and property destruction. Although both parties have

recently been claiming commitment to the cessation of the political divide, concrete actions have yet to be made in order to administratively unite the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Although Israeli occupation is principally responsible for the devastating deterioration of living conditions for besieged Gazans, the internal split and its dangerous dynamics have had a significant role. As the tight closure continues to be implemented in full effect, the quality of life for the people in Gaza has gone from bad to worse: the electricity and water supply are at an all-time low, untreated sewage continues to flow into the sea and permeate Gaza's already exhausted aquifer under the ground, all while the prohibition of importing materials essential for repairing the supply of these basic necessities continues to be strictly imposed by the occupying power. In addition, Israel still continues to control movement of people and goods, and comprehensively limits the access of people to healthcare and other basic services available in the West Bank and Jerusalem. Gravely ill people are largely denied permissions to travel and seek treatment, and when permitted, they are often detained for hours and coerced into collaboration with Israel in exchange for a free passage to a hospital.

The imposition of access restricted areas (ARA) for Gaza's farmers and fishermen, and Israel's embargo on export of most of Gazan produce have put a heavy burden on the already perishing economy. At the same time, Israel heavily inhibits import of building materials and goods that would help rebuild factories and infrastructure destroyed in the previous war. In the past, the authorities in Gaza relied on revenues of the tunnel economy to fund governmental activities. However with Israel's massive destruction and Egypt's flooding of most tunnels, these revenues have been completely severed. In response, the local government imposed heavy taxation on the already poor population, providing little to no services in return.

These developments have been used to excuse tightened control over Gaza's citizens. 2015 has seen further restrictions on freedom of speech and deterioration of respect for human rights in general. The Strip has seen an increase in criminal behavior, and with governmental employees receiving their salaries irregularly, the police has less resources to work towards criminal cases. More people are choosing to take justice in their own hands. The internal split has also strongly affected the legal and justice system, where lack of unity starkly prevents the judiciary system from being in service of the people.

In addition to these, in spite of the promise that Gaza would be reconstructed after Israel's military operation in 2014, rebuilding of housing and infrastructure is to this day almost non-existent, complicating the already catastrophic situation even more. The Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM) has completely failed to satisfy people's needs: the houses that were completely destroyed have not yet been rebuilt and the victims continue their life in displacement a year and a half after the destruction of their homes. The mechanism itself has proven to be a failure because re-institutionalizes the closure over Gaza by the very severe measures on who is eligible for reconstruction and how, the shipments of cement are highly restricted, and responsibility is pushed from one party to the other, whereby victims suffer enormously. In the background of these conditions, the prevalent culture of impunity blocks any attempts to change this situation, thus allowing for further violations to be committed and denying victims their right to justice or redress. With reconstruction going too slow and closures intensified, the need to end the Palestinian political divide became even more urgent.

In June 2015, the UN appointed independent Commission of Inquiry (CoI), which investigated the violations of IHRL and IHL during the Gaza war in the summer of 2014,

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submitted its report to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). The findings, conclusions and recommendations of the report presented profound developments highly relevant for pushing for accountability and increasing access to justice. The recommendations necessitated that previous instructions by investigative bodies be implemented, and that the preliminary examination by the International Criminal Court be supported by the international community.

During this reporting year, Al Mezan's work on documentation, monitoring and particularly accountability significantly increased. More than 100 complaints are pending in the Israeli military authorities, requesting credible investigations into cases where there is evidence that the Israeli forces violated international humanitarian and human rights law. This work continues to be important, as it represents the basis for analysis of the status of accountability in the context of the conflict. In the first half of 2015, Al Mezan was basically continuing to deal with the consequences of the 2014 war, and thus adjusted its operations accordingly. The documentation and monitoring campaign conducted together with partner organizations Al Haq, Palestinian Center for Human Rights and Al Dameer is a continuing work that feeds into efforts to seek accountability.

Al Mezan, as the chairing organization of the documentation side of this campaign, has invested tremendous efforts, manpower and resources into maintaining the database that has been available for both our partners, and relevant international actors to use for potential legal action in the quest to pursue justice for victims. Collecting data has been a meticulous and long process ongoing since the end of the war and will continue until mid-2016: each victim has its own entry in the database, and each entry contains witness accounts and documentation.

In the joint effort to seek and improve accountability, the four organizations submitted a confidential communication pursuant to Article 15 of the Rome Statute to the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in November 2015. The communication contains detailed witness accounts of murder, destruction of property, persecution, torture and other inhuman behavior providing evidence to Israel's deliberate and indiscriminate attacks on civilians in clear breach of the international humanitarian war. A second communication on the attacks in Rafah in August 2014 was in the pipeline for submission in the end of 2015, and was successfully submitted in February 2016. The submission of these communications, aims at ending the impunity for crimes against humanity and war crimes and to further respect for international law and improve protection of civilians in the context of the conflict. This is the first time in history that the Palestinian people have the opportunity to fight Israel's impunity through legal means on international level.

This work on strengthening accountability and challenging impunity and lack of respect for international law is not restricted to the conduct of Israeli actors. Palestinian human rights organizations have frequently condemned violations committed by Palestinian actors equally, and welcomed the CoI report, which pointed at such violations. During 2015, Al Mezan organized a conference on the ICC in Gaza with participation of the civil society, politicians and officials. The conference clarified that the ICC jurisdiction would extend to actions by Palestinian actors as well as Israeli actors. Nonetheless, there was consensus that ICC involvement is essential to improve protection of Palestinian civilians, who bore the brunt of vicious unlawful attacks and policies, especially during the past six years.

All throughout 2015, Al Mezan accelerated the international advocacy and attended a number of meetings with high-level. Missions took place in Germany, the UK, Switzerland,

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Belgium, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, focusing on the pursuit of accountability with the United Nations, the European Union and EU member states.

In 2015 Al Mezan was also very active in enhancing respect for human rights on the local level. Our legal unit has successfully made interventions into hundreds of cases of violation or risk; including arbitrary detention, abuse and torture, medical negligence and suppression of free expression. Research and the “Face the Public” open meetings raised various economic and social rights issues and led to solutions with direct participation of local communities. These and other activities are detailed further below in this report.

Internally, Al Mezan has not undergone any major structural changes during 2015. New financial and administrative manuals have been developed by an independent auditing company with the intention to optimize Al Mezan’s efficiency and professionalize the work of our administrative and financial department. Both manuals (in English and in Arabic) will be available for our donor partners should they request a copy.

In 2016, Al Mezan plans to further implement the strategic goals set out in our new strategic plan. The strategic plan foresees strengthening of legal protection of human rights in the Gaza Strip against violations committed by various duty bearers and building community capacity to challenge violations of IHL and IHRL. The starting point for these strategic goals is monitoring and documenting cases of violation or risk from violations for the purpose of enabling proper legal intervention or reporting. In addition, Al Mezan will continue with the joint documentation of violations committed during Israel's "Operation Protective Edge" in the summer 2014. Al Mezan also intends to continue with its educational and promotion activities including annual training for law graduates, participatory education for university students, IHL trainings, etc.

### Overall achievements and outcomes:

Assessments and evaluation indicate that very good achievement and positive results were accomplished. Staff reports and observations were used in the assessments, together with evaluation forms, pre/post-tests (for awareness/training activities) and oral evaluations during the year. In late December, the Training and Mass Communication unit sampled 40 beneficiaries and invited them to two focus-group meetings. The sample was gender-balanced and representative geographically and in relation to the various activities implemented by Al Mezan during 2015. The following points are based on information generated from all the assessment and evaluation tools mentioned above:

- Al Mezan's program and activities are perceived to be relevant to people's needs in Gaza. People appreciate the significance of documentation of violations by all duty-bearers,<sup>1</sup> which help make interventions and solve problems through advocacy and legal intervention<sup>2</sup>.
- Awareness and training activities are varied and benefit diverse groups in Gaza. 4,333 people received such services (1,755 children and 1,537 women) during 2015. University students and lawyers gained skills that were relevant to their careers and activism. At schools, thousands of children, teachers and parents gained information

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<sup>1</sup> 2,049 cases were documented, and involved updating the databases 3,047 times. One case could comprise multiple victims and violations.

<sup>2</sup> In all 463 cases of legal advice were delivered; 191 of them in relation to Israeli violations, delivered for 32 women and 159 men, and 272 in relation to violations or risk situation concerning the conduct of the Palestinian authorities, delivered to 91 women and 181 men

about child rights, child protection and the standards of the right to education. People at risk, especially in the ARA (fishermen and farmers communities), appreciate the awareness activities, which improve protection. Journalists and activists consider working with them and the strengthened liaison with Al Mezan as an asset, which also helps improve their protection. Beneficiaries new learning ranged between 67% and 84%, according to pre/post-tests' results.

- Local advocacy activities helped put very important human rights issues to scrutiny and exposed violations or negligence. Open meetings helped resolve problems people suffered from; especially in relation to the youth, healthcare, and water and sanitation. Civil society and the media became involved in the debates around Palestinian internal split, and a national committee was formed to follow on this serious issue. A conference on the ICC generated a solid political commitment from political actors towards accountability and justice.
- Legal interventions in Gaza and Israel helped hundreds of people survive violations affecting their rights; including the right to life.
- Research into economic and social rights in Gaza revealed serious problems concerning food safety and a serious lack of crucial equipment or medical supplies for children suffering serious health conditions. Technical assistance provided to the relevant offices resulted with helping thousands of children.
- Over 4,000 children were given the chance to produce artwork on human rights. A ceremony and art exhibition were attended by hundreds of people and promoted human rights in Gaza.
- Four documentary films about human rights in Gaza were produced. Another three photo galleries were produced in collaboration with a photographer and two international organizations; reflecting a stronger use of multimedia and social media.
- Analysis of legal interventions<sup>3</sup> and producing briefings about them in Israel supported advocacy efforts around Gaza closure and the stark lack of accountability for victims of human rights and IHL violations. These materials were used in advocacy activities targeting international community; both in Gaza and internationally, and have helped make a stronger case for justice and accountability to ensure better protection of civilians. They have contributed to debates within the UN, the EU and European states, who have indicated deeper understanding of the plight for accountability, reflected in statements, pledges to raise the issue bilaterally with Israel, and voting at UN bodies.
- Liaison with Palestinian, Israeli and international organizations and networks produced positive results; including significant advocacy missions, joint submissions to the UN and EU, joint side events at the UN, and joint international conferences and workshops with stronger impact in the media and on governments.
- Al Mezan achieved positive progress in acting on the external evaluation report's recommendation in 2015. Changes on the structure were approved for more coherent program management. Two capacity building tasks were also achieved, including developing a code of conduct. Staff training helped greater staff delivery of promotion activities. And a previous deficit was reduced to one third of its 2014 levels.

The services provided by AL Mezan and their outputs are described in more detail in the next section.

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<sup>3</sup> 108 key cases from OPE were investigated and 102 criminal complaints were submitted to the Israeli authorities.

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### Activities: Progress 1 January – 31 December 2015

<b>Strategic Goal 1: To contribute challenging IOF violations of human rights and IHL by peaceful means</b>					
1.1 To promote human rights; including self-determination and the unity of the oPt.					
#	Output	Activity	indicators	Achievement 2015	Outcomes
1.1.1	Reports and fact sheets on the freedom of movement of persons and goods published.	Issue reports and fact sheets on the freedom of movement for persons and goods.	2 reports issued annually	3 factsheets on the impact of the closure on access to health for children and on the power crisis and its implications on economic and social rights.	Issues of freedom of movement for persons and goods were put to scrutiny publicly and in the local media through the research in ESCR. Access to healthcare was improved for hundreds of children suffering cancer, or need dialysis in Gaza.
		Publish quarterly statistical reports	4 statistical sheets published annually.	1 report and 1 factsheet highlighting the impacts of movements restrictions on the civilian population of the Gaza Strip; especially hindering medical access and access to family life. 3 reports on the closure policies of Access Restricted Areas; 1 on violations against fishermen and 2 on violations in the buffer zone.	Multiple UN agencies and INGOs received statistics after Al Mezan highlighted human rights and humanitarian issues affecting vulnerable population due to violations of internal law.
1.1.2	Legal interventions related to the freedom of movement implemented	Provide legal advice (complaints) for victims of violations	36 complaints annually	1.36 cases of access to healthcare in the West Bank or Israel; 2.31 cases of access to family life and humanitarian access; 3.4 cases of access to education; 4.9 cases of access to work; 5.2 cases of access to religious places 6.4 cases of confiscation of fishing boats	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 16 patients accessed hospitals.</li> <li>2. 13 people reached their families.</li> <li>3. 2 students gained access to educational institutions.</li> <li>4. No success</li> <li>5. No success</li> <li>6. No success</li> </ol>
1.1.3	Partnering with similar actors in Jerusalem and WB strengthened	Issue annual publications in partnership with similar actors.	1 publication annually	Partnership strengthened with Gisha, joined forces to extensively work on access cases and litigation in 2015.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Victims met lawyer at Erez for the first time following litigation.</li> <li>2. Gaza residents can now request permits to access consulates in Jerusalem.</li> </ol>
		Implement collaborative	3 joint submissions,	Joint work with PHROC and Palestinian NGOs saw a new high in 2015; with 10 joint submissions to the UNHRC, 2 submissions to	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stronger advocacy before the UN, EU</li> </ol>

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		activities related to UN agencies and ICC	statements, letters	other UN bodies, and one joint submission to the ICC.	and MS; 2. Adoption of CoI report with EU states voting in favour.
1.2 Enhance the legal protection for the residents of the Gaza Strip through legal accountability.					
#	Output	Activity	indicators	Achievement 2015	Outcomes
1.2.1	Legal representation to violations of human rights implemented	Provide legal representations to detainees in the Israeli prisons	25 detainees	55 new cases of detention by Israel received legal representation. The majority (30) were detained near the border either as they tried to enter Israel for work or during demonstrations. Another 17 persons were arrested at Erez; including 2 businessmen, two patients and three activists; all of whom had been granted permits from the Israeli authorities. Al Mezan also provided representation to 5 fishermen and two persons from Gaza who were arrested by the Israeli forces in the West Bank.	Palestinian prisoners, almost all from poor backgrounds in Gaza, detained in Israel benefited directly from the professional legal advice..
		Provide legal advice to victims of Israeli violations	200 victims receive legal advice annually	In all 463 cases of legal advice were delivered; 191 of them in relation to Israeli violations, delivered for 32 women and 159 men, and 272 in relation to violations or risk situation concerning the conduct of the Palestinian authorities, delivered to 91 women and 181 men.	463 victims of violations and people at risk are now aware of their legal rights, and can make informed decisions about their cases.
		Refer victims of Israeli violations to specialized	50 cases referred annually	109 cases referred to NGOs in Israel and Palestine for legal intervention or psychosocial support including Physician for Human Rights – Israel, Gisha, Adalah and Gaza Community Mental Health Program.	Victims/people at risk benefited from specialized services that are otherwise unavailable to them. Al Mezan's intervened in over 30% of the cases.
		Update the database on Palestinian detainees in the Israeli prisons.	Database updated.	Detainees database, which was developed in 2014, was completely updated in 2015 and is helping staff manage the detainees cases and to generate reports.	Al Mezan has a better overview over detainees' cases, both from admin and financial points of view, and can now follow up more efficiently.
1.2.2	Israeli violations of human rights documented	Document cases of Israeli violations to human rights.	2000 cases of violations documented annually	2,049 cases documented. Database updated 3,047 times (questionnaire forms, brief headlines...etc. about specific violations). Of them 611 cases involved violations by the Palestinian authorities and 2,446 cases of violations by the Israeli authorities.	Reporting, legal interventions and advocacy improved due to the processed information, which also

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					helped enhance understanding the human rights situation in Gaza. Trends and patterns of violations helped devise responses locally and internationally.
		Issue periodic and thematic reports Israeli violations.	2 reports published	22 reports issued, including 3 reports on OPE, 11 reports on children and armed conflict, 1 report on women in armed conflict, 4 reports on violations in the ARA and 3 on violations against fishermen. Another report focused on torture and ill treatment of Palestinians by the Israeli authorities; both in the contexts of detention and the closure/blockade measures.	Strong media coverage about pertinent human rights and IHL violations in Gaza due to increased availability of qualitative information. Information shared with and used by UN and INGOs.
		Issue press statements on the Israeli violations	At least 50 press statements annually.	67 press releases issued	The public widely informed about challenging human rights and IHL violations.
1.2.3	The capacity of lawyers in IHL is strengthened	Lawyer training (IHL, human rights, representation)	1 training course targeting 25 lawyers.	One six-month course (150 training hours) for 29 young lawyers (14 women) implemented and concluded in 2015. Four lawyers were selected based on performance for internships at the Legal Aid Unit at Al Mezan.	Capacities of young lawyers built in IHRL, IHL, litigation, and international organizations.
		Provide training course on torture and ill-treatment to 25 from workers in the health sector.	25 workers in the health sectors receive training.	Two trainings on torture for a group of health workers and a group of lawyers	Capacities of 50 health workers and lawyers built on Convention against Torture, and local and international mechanism of victims' protection.
		Provide training course for lawyers and human rights activists on torture	30 lawyers	Training deferred to 2016 due to border closures.	N/A

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		and mishandle in Egypt.			
		Allocate 6 lawyers to work in the legal unit of the center (3 lawyers every 6 months)	6 lawyers.	Four lawyers selected and granted training internship (as reported above)	Capacities of 4 female lawyers built through a 4-months practical training at legal aid unit on dealing with HR violations cases and organizing IHL/HR awareness-raising activities.
		Train lawyers on the documentation of war crimes.	30 lawyers receive training.	Deferred to 2016	N/A
		Conduct meetings with the BAR and law faculties to raise the capacity of lawyers.	5 meetings annually.	13 meetings with the BAR, the Legal Aid Working Group, judges and NGOs working on the rule of law.	Strengthened coordination with other actors and consultations that informed activities.
1.2.4	Legal representations and complaints related to the residents of the Gaza Strip are implemented.	Submit complaints on behalf of the victims of Israeli violations to human rights.	50 complaints annually.	102 complaints were submitted on behalf of victims of armed attacks during OPE in total; 88 of which during 2015.	Increased possibility for achieving justice for victims and survivors through provision of legal advice. Challenging impunity and enabling analysis used in advocacy to improve protection of civilians in conflict.
		Provide legal aid to victims of torture in the Israeli prisons	5 victims annually.	6 complaints made against torture and ill treatment in Israel; one of which a case of child abuse upon arrest near the border.	Enhanced possibilities to combat endemic torture and abuse to improve protection.
		Legal representation in Israeli courts for victims of human rights violations from Gaza.	2 cases annually.	1 case was litigated before Israeli courts in cases other than detention during the year. The first case is a compensation case that has been open since 2012 and is stumbled by legal and structural obstacles. The court demanded documentation and powers of attorney to be signed before the Israeli lawyer, which required the victims to meet their lawyer. However, the request to grant	Challenged obstacles introduced by Amendment 8 to the Israeli State Liability Law, which hinders

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				them a permit to meet their lawyer at Erez was rejected which required initiating legal action with the district court in Beersheba. The two interventions were successful and the next hearing set up for January 2016.	access to redress.
		Submit civil complaints to Israeli defence ministry.	20 complaints annually.	13 complaints were made during 2015.	Victims enabled to seek compensation within two years through submission of complaints.

### **Strategic Goal 2: To contribute promoting respect and protection of human rights in the Palestinian society**

#### 2.1 Enhancing unity, the rule of law and separation of powers.

#	Output	Activity	Indicators	Achievement 2015	Outcomes
2.1.1	Awareness regarding international standards of human rights and IHL is enhanced	Conduct training courses targeting university students on human rights and IHL and dialogue skills.	2 courses targeting 25 students annually.	Two trainings for 29 students (14 women), who delivered awareness discussion sessions to peers in campuses.	29 selected students increased their knowledge on HR, IHL and democracy after attending two courses organized by Al Mezan.
		Conduct educational sessions by trained students to their peers in universities.	15 educational sessions annually.	Trained students implemented 20 awareness courses 5 discussion sessions per course) with 501 peers (334 women); i.e. 100 sessions for 501 students.	Hundreds of university students enhanced their knowledge about HR, IHL, and democracy after 20 students organized 100 awareness-raising sessions for their peers at universities.
		Conduct educational sessions to school students.	30 sessions, each targeting 30 students annually.	57 lectures, symposia and awareness sessions for children and teachers of 35 schools and several CBOs through which groups of women, youth and marginalized groups were reached.	Hundreds of school students learned about IHL and HR after Al Mezan's team delivered 147 awareness hours to various groups.

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		Conduct art competition for school students on human rights and IHL	1 competition annually targeting 3000 students.	805 schools were contacted to encourage children to create artwork on human rights. Over 4,000 children participated by sending artwork. A committee selected 39 pieces and the children were awarded best award for their age group in a ceremony that was attended by 298 adults (126 women) and 93 children (51 girls). The event was held on the occasion of the Human Rights Day. The ceremony was held on 9 December 2015.	4000 students exercised their right of participation and freedom of expression by submitting paintings about HR. 39 students received prizes for their paintings.
		Conduct training sessions on human rights and IHL targeting different sectors of the society.	8 workshops annually, each targeting 20 beneficiaries.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. February: Training for 15 young journalists/bloggers (8 women) in cooperation with the Community Media Center,</li> <li>2. May: Training for women on HR and IHL in east Jabalia (ARA), 26 women.</li> <li>3. June: Course on the protection afforded to journalists for 28 journalists in Rafah (9 women).</li> <li>4. June: training on monitoring and documenting torture and ill-treatment for 22 lawyers (1 women) in Gaza city.</li> <li>5. August: training on child rights and the right to education for 8 teachers (7 women) in Jabalia.</li> <li>6. Awareness course on human rights and IHL for a group of 24 librarians (9 women) in Gaza City.</li> <li>7. December: an awareness course on the legal protection for child rights for 30 children elected for UNRWA school parliament and 2 teachers (2 women) in Rafah.</li> <li>8. December: A joint training course held in cooperation with the HR/IHL Secretariat for a group of CBOs on IHL, attended by 13 members of CBOs (7 women)</li> </ol>	Capacities of 168 participants (women , journalists, children, teachers, etc.) were built in HR, IHL, and protection of civilians
		Publish awareness posters and brochures on violations of human rights.	2 posters and 1 brochure annually.	Two posters were implemented (one small for film, and one large for distribution)  1 Brochure on IHL produced.	Enhanced awareness among civilians about legal protection in armed conflict after wide distribution of 400 publications on special protection for women and children in armed conflict.
		Conduct awareness workshops targeting vulnerable women, teachers and	10 awareness workshops annually, each targeting 20.	13 awareness workshops were organized for various groups; including women in marginalized areas, children, female journalists, teachers, and other groups. They were attended by 612 people; including 228 women and 71 children.	612 participants of various groups increased their awareness about

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		journalists and other groups at risk.			IHL/HR (40 hours in total) after AI Mezan staff delivered 10 awareness workshops on IHL/HR.
2.1.2	Violations of human rights by local authorities have been documented.	Document human rights violations by local authorities in Gaza	1000 violations have been documented annually.	611 cases documented and inputted in database (for comparison, 2,446 cases of violations by the Israeli authorities were documented and inputted)	Enhanced prospect for legal interventions and reporting on various thematic situations and violations, referral and advocacy by having an up-to-date database, Awareness and media attention raised to human rights violations in Gaza.
		Update the database on the local violations.	Updated database.	Database updated with 3,057 questionnaires or briefings.	Database on local violations used for reporting, exposure and advocacy.
		Publish monthly report on human rights violations committed by local authorities.	12 monthly reports annually.	11 reports produced. The 12 <sup>th</sup> report is issued in early January 2016.	Violations by Palestinian actors highlighted and challenged locally.
		Publish an annual report on human rights violations committed by local authorities.	One annual report annually.	A semi-annual report on internal violations was produced. The annual report is issued in early 2016.	Same as previous
		Carry out interviews to collect information for reports.	20 interviews annually.	41 interviews were conducted with officials whose work is related to economic and social rights and the justice system and with experts and academics to gather information for reports and factsheets. Some of the interviews also aimed to introduce technical assistance as to how to rectify certain situations to ameliorate violations or risks.	Increased possibility to improve respect for ECSR through highlighting violations and risk situation, and provision of technical assistance..
2.1.3	Researches on the	Issue publication on	One publication	A report on the reality of the institutional independence of the Palestinian	Empowering and

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	separation between powers have been finalized	the impact of divided judiciary on human rights.	annually.	justice system was produced in 2015. It reviews how Palestinian law intends to ensure the independence of the judiciary and compares it with actual practice and with relevant international standards. The report indicates that the Palestinian justice system lacks significant regulations and policies that could ensure better independence, which renders the judiciary susceptible to administrative, financial; and therefore political, influence from the executive.	engaging various judicial actors to challenge issues causing the judicial split by scrutinizing major sources of violations..
2.1.4	Fact sheets, position papers on the violations of human rights by local authorities and the separation of powers have been issued	Issue a legal paper on regulation, project presidential or ministerial decision for regulation.	3 papers annually.	Three factsheets on ESCR: the power crisis in Gaza, risks facing children suffering kidney failure under closure and split, and risks facing children suffering cancer in Gaza. While these problems are influenced significantly by the Israeli closure of the Gaza Strip, they also result from the internal Palestinian political split, which puts pressure on the power sector and the health sector in Gaza and causes serious violations of human rights.	Improved protection and access to vital cancer and dialysis services in Gaza hospitals for children.
		Conduct workshops for position papers.	2 workshops annually.	During 2015, 2 workshops and 1 conference were conducted on the implications of the internal Palestinian split on the justice system: Workshop 1:	Stakeholders reached an understanding to form a national committee involving judges, Bar, and lawyers to follow on unifying the justice system and help end the internal Palestinian split.
<b>2.2 Strengthening human rights in Palestine, particularly ESCRs.</b>					
2.2.1	Awareness on ESCRs is enhanced	Conduct training workshops on ESCRs for different sectors of society.	4 workshops annually targeting 100 beneficiaries.	Three workshops were conducted: April: a workshop on inheritance in Palestinian law and women's access to it. Attended by 51 people (16 women). May: a workshop on the rights of people with disability since after Palestine's accession to the relevant agreement, attended by 42 people (22 women) in Rafah. June: workshop on the legality of new tax laws in Gaza, attended by 56 people (45 women). August: workshop on child protection for 8 health workers (1 woman).	Local communities and people affected by unjust ESCR policies increased knowledge about local policies affecting ESCR and women's rights for awareness and mobilisation.
2.2.2	Legal interventions to enhance the respect of human rights and the Palestinian law	Provided legal aid	60 cases received legal aid.	105 cases were taken with the authorities in the Gaza Strip	Victims benefit from improved legal protection against arbitrary detention, abuse and violations of citizens' rights.

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	including ESCRs are implemented.	Conduct field visits to prisons and criminal rehabilitation centers.	12 field visits annually.	12 field visits to prison and detention facilities in Gaza by Al Mezan's lawyers. Lawyers spoke with detainees in police custody or prisons, informed them of basic due process rights and took complaints	25 of 27 interventions to improve legal protection for detainees were successful after complaints were taken from 24 men and 3 women by lawyers with prison authorities and followed up until resolved.
		Conduct Legal representation to victims of arbitrary detention.	24 victims annually.	29 cases of arbitrary detention by the authorities in Gaza were represented in 2015. Those included 10 cases of medical negligence leading to health problems (3 responses; 2 positive); 5 cases concerning access to healthcare inside Gaza (5 positive); 5 cases concerning access to disability benefits (5 positive); 6 cases of detention and abuse of journalists; 5 cases concerning access to housing (3 positive); 6 cases concerning access to social welfare and pension (4 positive); 3 cases concerning torture (no success); 2 cases of theft or confiscation of funds by security personnel (1 positive); 10 cases concerning free movement and travel (9 positive). Other cases involved access to sue process, to education and to a process of law in situation where the prosecution did not move certain files forward in accordance with the law.	Legal protection against violations including against arbitrary detention, abuse and access to basic services improved..
		Conduct legal representation before local court.	One case annually.	One new case was brought before Palestinian courts concerning work rights and the application of the Civil Service Law. The case is still pending. Also, during the year a case that was lodged in 2014 was heard and had positive results. The complainants, who are represented by Al Mezan, took the Chamber of Commerce in Middle Gaza district to court after a group of dismissals that followed elections. The case was resolved in agreement before the court ruled.	Violations of human rights by the local authorities challenged at strategic level.
	Advocacy efforts on human rights, particularly ESCRs on local level have been implemented.	Issue publications on ESCRs (fact sheets, reports, studies)	4 publications annually.	Three factsheets on ESCR: the power crisis in Gaza, risks facing children suffering kidney failure under closure and split, and risks facing children with cancer in Gaza.	Awareness raised among the public after ESCR research put these issues to scrutiny publicly and in the local media. Improved access to healthcare for hundreds of children suffering cancer and dialysis in

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		Carry out a conference on judiciary.	One conference annually.	One conference organized, same as item 2.4.1 above.	Gaza.
		Provide technical assistance.	12 beneficiaries annually.	7 interviews involved provision to technical assistance on issues to do with access to health services and the power crisis following research and publication of factsheets on the subjects.	Local government institutions assisted to rectify situations leading to violations of ESCR due to lack of services.
		Conduct public meetings with officials related to issues of ESCRs.	2 public meetings.	Two meetings were organized and dealt with services to youth and sports, basic services in marginalized communities (Rafah). The meetings provided an opportunity for people who suffer marginalization and risks to meet with officials and raise their concerns directly with them, while Al Mezan framed the issues in human rights language. 114 people participated in the two meetings (26 women).	114 citizens exercised their right of freedom of expression by expressing their opinions to officials in matters concerning public services in their neighbourhoods through Al Mezan's Face the Public program.
<b>2.3 Build the capacity of Al Mezan</b>					
2.3.1	Human resources development strategy developed.	Train field researchers on filming and film-making.	One training course.	Deferred to 2016	N/A
		Train field researchers on the contractual mechanisms of UN.	One training course.	Two field workers received training on human rights approaches. Another two field workers received ToT during 2015.	Greater contribution by experienced field workers to Al Mezan's awareness and training activities. Greater self-sufficiency in awareness and training.
		Train 4 lawyers on the mechanisms of UN.	One training course.	Two field workers were registered for a training on drafting alternative reports to UN bodies; however, they were not allowed to exit Gaza and join the training.	Organizational capacity built to support UN reporting.
		Upgrade the capacities of field	One training course.	One field worker received specialized training on elections monitoring.	Capacity built in anticipation of elections.

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		Work unit.			
		Train staff and lawyers on documenting war crimes.	One training	Was not implemented due to the inability to bring relevant experts into Gaza for an advanced training. The training has been moved to the 2016 action plan.	N/A
		Conduct annual retreat.	At least one annual retreat.	An all-staff two-day workshop was organized in the context of strategic planning, with participation of the Board of Directors. Led by consultants, this event was a major effort towards strategizing for the coming three years. This event was only a part of the larger strategic planning process, which involved focus-group meetings with various stakeholders; including NGOs, target groups, the media, government officials and experts. Meetings were also organized with donors in the process.	Al Mezan's mission, goals and vision revised and upgraded through active involvement of the board and staff in re-thinking the existing goals. Strategy for the coming three years developed by Al Mezan through active staff participation and engagement..
2.3.2	Administrative and financial manuals reviewed/updated.	Update the financial/ admin manual.	Financial/ Admin manual updated	The Financial/Admin manual was updated and the Code of Conduct was developed during 2015.	Enhanced internal management and oversight by development of stronger management and monitoring tools. Internal transparency and accountability secured through development of a Code of conduct and clarifications of responsibilities for staff.
		Update the human resources development strategy.	Human resources development strategy updated.	Deferred to 2016	N/A
2.3.3	Advocacy strategy announced.	Recruit consultants to develop the advocacy strategy.	Consultants identified and recruited.	Deferred to 2016	N/A

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2.3.3	Fundraising strategy consultancy announced	Recruit consultants to develop the fundraising strategy.	Consultants identified and recruited.	Deferred to 2016/2017	N/A
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### **Strategic Goal 3: To contribute to stronger role of international community in human rights in Palestine**

#### 3.1 Better diplomatic and legal roles by international community in justice and human rights issues.

#	Output	Activity	indicators	Achievement 2015	Outcomes
3.1.1	Publications presenting the role of international community to protect HRs issued.	Issue media materials on violations of HRs.	2 posters, 1 documentary film annually.	Two posters were implemented (one small for film, and one large for distribution). 3 documentary films, see below	Awareness on HR and IHL violations increased by using art and multimedia to spread the word.
		Conduct photo gallery on Israeli assaults on houses.	1 gallery.	One photo gallery about families obliterated during OPE.	Awareness on impacts of IHL violations on civilians in Gaza increased.
		Produce a documentary film on the attacks on medical facilities.	One documentary.	Three documentaries were released during 2015. Two were work in progress at the end of 2014, but were screened and released in 2015. The third was made in 2015 and brings the stories of medics and health personnel at hospitals as they came under attacks during OPE.	Increased possibilities to strengthen visibility and exposure through use of multimedia; Enhanced prospect to improve protection and strengthen advocacy through documentation of serious HR and IHL violations.
3.1.2	Information provided to inter-	Issue briefings in English on the	Two briefings annually.	Three briefings were produced; all of which focused on the obstacles facing Palestinians' access to justice and redress in Israel.	Advocacy on accountability and

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	governmental organizations	situation of HRs in Gaza.			access to justice strengthened, with results involving informed advocacy efforts leading to stronger statements from the UN, EU and third states.
		Send letters on the violations of HRs and the duties of international community.	3 letters annually.	Four letters to UN officials: the UNSCO and the UNSG and two letters to Foreign Ministers of EU and other involved states by the PHROC..	Positive engagement with stakeholders to highlight violations and ask for action.
		Contribute to letters and press releases with similar actors.	The contribution to at least 5 letters and press releases.	Seven statements and appeals by PHROC, covering areas such as EU labeling guidelines, UNRWA funding crisis, the situation in Jerusalem, the detention of Palestinian MP, and pressure on civil society by the PA.	Liaison and coordination improved with better outreach and stronger focus on HR and IHL issues influencing human rights in Palestine.
		Translate reports on HRs.	One report.	Al Mezan translated some reports into English and circulated them, such as the statistical report on OPE, the report on children's narratives during OPE, and three briefings on accountability.	Larger audiences made aware about HR through increase of available information ..
		Provide information to UN-agencies regarding HR violations.	Three communications/submissions	The following submissions were made to HRC and CAT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7 written (2 Al Mezan and 5 joint),</li> <li>- 7 oral (2 Al Mezan and 5 joint).</li> <li>- 3 submissions: 1 joint to Commission of Inquiry; 1 individual to CoI and 1 joint to CAT.</li> <li>- Al Mezan was also part of three side events at the UN during 2015.</li> </ul>	Stronger engagement with the UN leading to informing relevant UN bodies and better use of UN mechanisms to improve protection and visibility.
3.1.3	The awareness of official missions regarding HR issues enhanced	Conduct field visits to international and diplomatic missions in the Gaza Strip.	3 visits.	Six visits were facilitated by Al Mezan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February: Visit to families attacked during OPE for a delegation from OHCHR, ECHO and diplomats;</li> <li>February: A tour in Gaza for a civil society delegation from Sweden NGOs and partners;</li> <li>February: A tour for a delegation from the Belgian Parliament;</li> <li>March: A tour for a delegation from EuroMed Rights.</li> </ul>	Decision-makers informed and made aware about IHL/HR violations through strengthened exposure and interaction with victims and violations..

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				<p>May: A tour for a delegation including the co-chair of the Heinrich Boll Foundation and the German Representative Office to the PA; and</p> <p>August: A tour for a delegation including the Secretary General of Medico International-Germany and other members of the partner organization. Following this tour, a meeting was held with a number of academics, journalists, youth activists and politicians in Gaza City.</p>	
		Conduct meetings with international and diplomatic missions in the Gaza Strip.	30 meetings	146 persons were received in Gaza; mostly at Al Mezan's offices, for briefings or consultations from the UN, INGOs and diplomats.	International actors increased their knowledge and awareness about IHL/HR violations in Gaza, as well as the overall situation through briefings and provision of a list of priorities that need attention..
<h3>3.2 Spread information about human rights issues internationally</h3>					
3.2.1	Networking and coordination with international coalitions for HRs strengthened.	Maintain network memberships and contribute to their work.	Preserve the membership of 10 networks.	10 memberships maintained. Coordination and active joint action with EuroMed Rights, FIDH, PHROC, the Protection Cluster and the Legal Aid Working Group; including in advocacy missions, information sharing, consultations, media work and UN submissions.	Liaison and coordination maintained at a high level for stronger interventions.
		Attend the meetings of similar actors inside and outside Gaza Strip.	3 meetings.	Two meetings for the Euro-Med Rights PIP Working Group (Stockholm and Copenhagen), a conference on the Psychological Impacts of Torture (Copenhagen), an international workshop on the policy of separation (Brussels), a consultation with OMCT and other partners on torture (Geneva), a partners' meeting with Adalah and PHR-I (Geneva) and a seminar on litigation (Amsterdam).	Regional and international actors informed on the human rights situation in Palestine. Al Mezan enhanced its network to boost effectiveness of advocacy and possibility for future actions.
		Contribute to reports and press releases with similar actors.	5 reports.	Contribution to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'No Safe Place'; a report by an independent mission dispatched to Gaza by PHR-I;</li> <li>- Leading a report '<a href="#">OPE in Numbers</a>' with Al-Haq, PCHR and Al Dameer;</li> </ul>	Violations exposed and stronger outreach secured through documentation and use of local capabilities.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leading an <a href="#">update on legal interventions in Israel on behalf of Gaza victims</a> with PCHR ;</li> <li>- A feature profile '<a href="#">Remembering Gaza Children</a>' in cooperation with MAP;</li> <li>- A joint report '<a href="#">No More Impunity: Gaza's Health Sector Under Attack</a>' with MAP.</li> </ul>	
3.2.2	Interaction with the mechanisms of enforcing law and HRs is strengthened.	Contribute by training HR organizations on using HR mechanisms.	One training/ presentation	Three sessions on HR mechanisms in AI Mezan's trainings reported above.	Same as above
		Conduct meetings with coalitions and Arab networks for HRs.	12 meetings	Seven meetings with Arab actors; including Arab Organization for Human Rights, WANA, Jordanian Bar, and Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies.	Strengthened liaison and experience sharing with regional human rights actors. Joint advocacy missions with CIHRS. Project on children casualties with WANA.
3.2.3	Advocacy in USA and Latin America is strengthened.	Advocacy mission to the USA.	One mission	Deferred to 2016 due to movement restrictions and uncertainty in getting visas and ensured exit from Gaza.	N/A
		Create international coalition in Latin America.	Initiate communications with civil society	Same as above	N/A
3.2.4	Advice to the State of Palestine to enable it to comply with its commitments with ICC is provided.	Conduct mutual meetings with representatives of the state of Palestine.	2 meetings annually.	<p>Three meetings held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- June: Meeting in Geneva with the Palestinian Mission to the UN, focusing on upcoming reporting obligations and ways to ensure effective consultation with civil society;</li> <li>- July: meeting with the Palestinian MFA in Ramallah and agreement to follow on impending reporting; and</li> <li>- August: meeting with Palestinian officials concerning the work with the International Criminal Court.</li> </ul>	Better coordination and liaison on human rights issues with Palestinian government.
<b>3.3 To contribute strengthening enforcement of international law.</b>					

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3.3.1	Information flow on the violations of human rights to inform UN human rights agencies is strengthened.	Send missions to the human rights council.	3 missions annually.	11 advocacy missions: 6 joint and 5 by AI Mezan were conducted during 2015. Three of the missions were to the three sessions of the HRC, where AI Mezan has recorded most interaction with the Council this year. Other missions took place in Brussels (3), Stockholm (2), Berlin (2), London (1), Paris (1), Copenhagen (1) and Oslo (1).	Successful focus on accountability and Gaza closure, leading to stronger statements by the UN, EU and third states.
		Present oral and written submissions to the HR council	3 reports annually.	Same as 3.1.2 above	N/A
		Participate in the side events at the human rights council.	2 activities annually.	Three HRC sessions attended, with three side events co-organized and/or attended.	N/A
		Submit reports to ICC	2 parallel reports annually.	One <a href="#">report was submitted jointly</a> (and confidentially) to the ICC and a second report that is led by AI Mezan was work-in-progress when this report was drafted.	Professional contribution to ICC preliminary examination to help ensure full investigation to improve protection of civilians.
	UN/EU human rights mechanisms are more effective.	Provide information/reports of UN/EU about HR in Gaza.	2 submissions	Contributions to two submissions by EuroMed Rights to the EU and several submission to the UN, as above.	Successful focus on accountability and Gaza closure, leading to stronger statements by the UN, EU and third states.

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### **Challenges:**

The spillover of the troubles faced in 2014 impacted on the program in 2015. In 2014, several activities were put on hold and there was a focus on preparing an adequate response to the aftermath of the 51-day military attack on Gaza. Some of the delayed activities had to be implemented in 2015, including the external evaluation and strategic planning. This situation forced Al Mezan to function based on a modified version of the previous strategic plan for almost a half of 2015, and then modify the action plan in the light of the new strategy. The impact of this situation was reduced by making use of the content of propositions provided by the Board, staff and key stakeholders, which gave some sense of strategic directions.

Although 2015 saw more of Al Mezan's members being able to access significant events outside of Gaza, several activities were hampered by the inability to exit Gaza or bring in experts.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza, which hit a new low in 2015 due to vast destruction, failure of reconstruction plans and the continued closures, added more pressures on the Center. The needs are big and the resources small; however, responses must be secured to serious situations of violation and risk.

In line with the above, the power crisis remains a concern. 2015 was no exception and saw prolonged daily power cuts, which Al Mezan was able to deal with during office hours by allocating more funds for the cost of the power generators.

The stalemate in the internal reconciliation efforts also added serious pressures in 2015. The political split is the source of serious human rights abuses that must be dealt with, and it adds pressures on the Palestinian civil society and the media. In response to this situation, Al Mezan doubled its efforts to liaise with civil society and act on the political split in 2015.

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### Projects 2015:

The following table provides a summary of the projects implemented in full or in part during 2015.

Project Title	Donor	Goals/Objectives	Planned Activities	Implemented Activities
Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Gaza	Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBS)	Promoting and protecting human rights in the Gaza Strip, by addressing the Palestinian internal split, and challenging the absence of accountability for IHL violations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Analyzing cases and complaints submitted to Israeli authorities.</li> <li>- Drafting a Factsheet on the obstacles facing access to justice for Palestinian victims in Israel, based on the above mentioned analysis.</li> <li>- Advocacy in EU: secure greater support in for access to justice for violations of IHRL/IHL</li> <li>- Workshops: discussing the implications of Palestinian political split on the judiciary</li> <li>- Conference: discussing proposals to unify the justice system</li> <li>- Reprinting of 4000 copies awareness-raising materials to be used in seminars/workshops<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 fact sheets drafted with analysis of complaints: 1) criminal complaints to Israeli military authorities, and 2) access to redress and reparation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy mission to Berlin with 8 meetings with government officials and Bundestag members, including a public hearing with HRC at the Bundestag.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- 2 workshops on Palestinian judiciary:</li> <li>- Conference on Palestinian judiciary under split.</li> <li>- Printing awareness material.</li> </ul>
Promotion of IHL Protection in Gaza	Diakonia	monitor and document IHL violations and increase respect for and further implementation of International Law, specifically IHL, in the Israel-Palestine conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expansion of six training courses; including a six-month lawyer training to include IHL components.</li> <li>- Two workshops on IHL for groups of farmers and fishermen.</li> <li>- Printing awareness and advocacy materials.</li> <li>- Monitoring and documenting IHL violations.</li> <li>- Production of two statements on IHL violation</li> <li>- Production of one annual report on IHL violations (online).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expansion of 11 courses with 134 training hours.</li> <li>- Two awareness-raising workshops for 64 farmers and fishermen:</li> <li>- Printing of 300 copies of the IHL guide package, 1,000 leaflets on protection of women and children in armed conflicts, and 1,000 posters on attacks on journalists and civilians in the ARA.</li> <li>- 498 field visits to collate data on IHL violations.</li> <li>- Meetings with 8 groups of victims for legal advice.</li> <li>- Tours for delegations to expose IHL violations.</li> </ul>
Emergency Project: Support to the Rule of Law and Access to Justice (carry on from August	UNDP (Rule of Law Program)	contribute towards the respect and protection of human rights in the Gaza Strip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documenting Israeli violations with focus on house demolitions and child and women injuries during Operation Protective Edge.</li> <li>- Monitoring cases of internal violations by Palestinian actors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documenting thousands of violations during OPE;</li> <li>- Report on house demolitions during OPE.</li> <li>- Statistical report on the impacts of IHRL/IHL violations during OPE.</li> <li>- International legal expert recruited and supported</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup>

This activity was added due to a surplus of funds resulting from unanticipated alteration of the original plan. HBS approved these changes.

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Project Title	Donor	Goals/Objectives	Planned Activities	Implemented Activities
2014, ended May 2015))			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two statistical reports on: child and women injuries and home demolitions during OPE.</li> <li>- Investigate cases of suspected grave violations of IHL by experts.</li> <li>- Criminal complaints in Israel against torture during OPE.</li> <li>- Five complaints in Israel against robbery and damage of civilian property by Israeli soldiers OPE.</li> <li>- Submitting dozens of cases to the UN Commission of Inquiry.</li> <li>- 100 civil complaints to the Israeli Ministry of Defence.</li> <li>- Meetings with local authorities to raise cases of violations by Palestinian actors.</li> <li>- Film on OPE and attacks on civilians.</li> <li>- Poster on OPE.</li> <li>- Conference on the International Criminal Court in Gaza.</li> <li>- Publications: awareness and promotion materials on accountability and the ICC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- investigations into 31 cases of grave violations.</li> <li>- 111 civil complaints submitted.</li> <li>- Documentary film highlighting Israeli violations during OPE.</li> <li>- A poster on home demolitions and displacement during OPE.</li> <li>- Four meetings with relevant authorities in Gaza on violations by internal actors during OPE.</li> <li>- Conference on ICC.</li> <li>- Four publications on the ICC.</li> <li>- Media/promotion materials produced and distributed.</li> </ul>
Combating Impunity: Torture and CIDT Prevention, Accountability and Rehabilitation in Israel/oPt (Joint project with Adalah and Physician for Human Rights – Israel).	EU/EIDHR	<p>1) To prevent the occurrence of torture and CIDT through more effective monitoring and reporting and enhanced local implementation of UNCAT</p> <p>2) To aim to ensure that victims' rights are restored through direct legal support, accountability of perpetrators and psychological, medical and social rehabilitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training courses on torture/CIDT for lawyers, medical students, medical professionals, civil society, and people at-risk.</li> <li>- legal interventions, complaints of torture/CIDT submission, and legal advice to Gaza victims</li> <li>- Monitoring, Reporting &amp; Public Campaigns: field reports, briefing papers, advocacy missions to UN and EU.</li> <li>- Rehabilitation, including referrals for torture victims; linking workshops between partners and rehab centers; and awareness raising</li> <li>- partner monitoring meetings &amp; annual planning and evaluation meeting in Europe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 training sessions for 50 lawyers in Gaza on torture/CIDT</li> <li>- About 200 cases of legal advice given to individuals and their families subjected to torture/CIDT in Gaza.</li> <li>- Factsheet on torture and CIDT;</li> <li>- 3 briefing papers/reports including reports to the UN CAT;</li> <li>- 1 update to the EU on Torture and CIDT;</li> <li>- Advocacy missions to the UN and EU;</li> <li>- Press releases focusing torture and CIDT;</li> <li>- Public campaign to raise awareness and promote a culture against torture /CIDT;</li> <li>- Referral of over 20 torture victims for rehabilitation services;</li> <li>- Partner meeting for planning, assessment and liaison.</li> </ul>
Gaza Emergency Response: Legal	Oxfam-Novib	To strengthen protection of civilians through legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legal action: 10-15 legal complaints with the Israeli Military Advocate General and 1-2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 17 complaints submitted;</li> </ul>

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<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Goals/Objectives</b>	<b>Planned Activities</b>	<b>Implemented Activities</b>
Assistance to Conflict Victims (Joint project with Adalah)		action, advocacy and media outreach.	strategic litigation cases; - International advocacy: 2 missions to the UN/EU/US; briefing papers, and provide information to the UN Commission of Inquiry; - Media outreach:	- 1 strategic litigation case pursued; - 2 advocacy missions conducted; - One factsheet on accountability produced; - Increased media outreach on accountability, including the production of a documentary film and a screening is scheduled in February 2016.

### **Admin and Financial issues:**

A detailed financial statement is enclosed to this report. It contains multiple books, showing revenues, expenses and deviations for all donors. Other books deal with projects, and are added for the sake of transparency and sharing information with all partners.

2015 saw improvement in two key areas:

- 1) An increase in the levels of core funding compared with the past few years. This was the result of a new core donor joining the pool of core donors (the Sigrid Rausing Trust) and an increase in the funding by an existing core donor (the Open Society Foundation), while other core donors maintained more or less the same commitments. As an outcome, Al Mezan implemented a smaller number of projects in 2015 compared with the previous three years, which helped focus on strategic interventions rather than management.
- 2) Another decrease of the deficit, which now stands at less than USD 40,000, and is expected to be reduced by more than half in the first six months of 2016.

The total revenues reached over USD 986,000, of which USD 673,000 were spent on the core program in 2015. Project funding is still a significant proportion of the overall funding and will be maintained in the coming year due to its importance to stabilize the budget, but also because of its ability to cover gaps and help secure quick responses to emerging situations in a complex environment like Gaza.

Some of the grants flagged for 2015 were not spent in full for various reasons. Al Mezan is in contact with the relevant donors to consult as to how to proceed with these funds, which will hopefully be used for 2016 or to cover past deficits.

These developments opened the door for significant developments that are important for the stability and effectiveness of the organization in the coming years. For the first time in five years, it is possible to invest more in staff by recruiting more manpower to deal with the increasing demand, especially in program management, advocacy and legal assistance. The new structure reflects these developments.

In December 2015, Al Mezan advertised for new posts that will strengthen fundraising, program/project management, advocacy and legal assistance. It is hoped that the recruitment will be successful.