

**Al Mezan Center for Human Rights
Annual Narrative Report 1 Jan – 31 December 2016**

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Core Program Donors:

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The Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority.

Open Society Foundations (OSF).

The Sigrid Rausing Trust, UK.

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The European Commission: "Combating and Preventing Torture and Ill-Treatment.

Diakonia: Monitoring of, Education on and Promotion of IHL in Gaza.

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

Central Election Commission: Election awareness in Gaza.

American Friends Service Committee: Educating young people on HR and IHL.

Memberships

The Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC).

Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network (ESCR Network)

Habitat International Coalition - Housing and Land Rights Network

Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN)

The World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)

The Protection Sector Working Group (Chaired by OHCHR)

1. Introduction

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights (Al Mezan) presents this annual narrative report for the period January-December 2016. The report provides a brief description of the environment in which our work was carried out and provides information on achievements of outcomes and activities as set out in the 2016 Plan of Action. The report covers all activities under the core program and projects during the reporting year; also, a list of the individual projects and a summary of their activities is provided separately to ensure transparency and to better inform the stakeholders and core donors.

The report starts with a brief description of the political and socioeconomic context in which Al Mezan worked based on the main issues the Center dealt with in 2016. It then gives an overall account of the outcomes and participants, challenges, deviations and assessment. A table shows the progress achieved as per the 2016 Plan of Action, which gives Al Mezan and the donor-partners the opportunity to assess the progress with more specificity. A brief section on the projects implemented, in part or in full, during the reporting period is provided, and finally, a list of significant administrative and financial issues are raised for the attention of the stakeholders.

2. Note on context

In 2016, the Israeli occupation entered its 49th year, and the closure/blockade of Gaza with its associated buffer zone policy entered its 9th year. The Palestinian internal split also extended to its 9th year. Israeli policy in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) remained unchanged: settlements expanded, practices of control and demolitions in Area C were further entrenched, settler violence was a normal occurrence, and Palestinian national resources continued to be exhausted for the benefit of Israel and Jewish settlers in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). As the region continued to endure turmoil, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2334, condemning Israeli settlement activities as lacking any legal validity and criticizing the continued destruction, within occupation, without accountability.¹

The end of 2016 saw a noticeable deterioration in living conditions in Gaza. As the now two-million population continued to live through a protracted humanitarian crisis, described below, the end of the year brought further deterioration. The easing measures of the closure that were announced by Israel after the 2014 bombardment on Gaza were removed in 2016, and movement and access worsened. Another bout of worsened electricity crisis ensued in December, continuing into 2017, and affecting a whole range of human rights.

The power shortages are an example of the complexity of the situation in Gaza, as they are a result of the failure by all duty bearers to comply with their human rights obligations. While restrictions imposed by Israel on power and fuel have undermined the energy sector in Gaza, the internal Palestinian split plays a significant role in this problem. Moreover, peaceful protests by people in Gaza were met with repression and intimidation by the Gaza authorities' security force.² The new year also began with alarming developments, such as death sentences, honor killing, and Israel's recurring failure to uphold the duty to credibly investigate its serious crimes.

Despite the bleakness of political horizons, which are further influenced by the results of the general elections in the United States, some positive developments at the end of the year should be highlighted. As mentioned above, the UN Security Council resolution 2334, which stressed the obligation of compliance with international law and the inadmissibility of

¹ Al Mezan welcomed the resolution and declared that the real test is whether international community will act to implement it in the coming months. See Al Mezan's Press Release on this issue at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21678>.

² See Al Mezan's Press Release on this issue on 14 January 2017, available at: <http://mezan.org/en/post/21740>.

annexing occupied land, represented a significant development. It reflected a long awaited voice by the international community, also reflected in the preparations for a peace conference in Paris. Resolution 2334 serves as the first instance since 1979 of the Security Council adopting a resolution critical of violations of international law in Palestine; this step was not experienced by generations of Palestinians, who felt let down and voiced distrust towards the international community.

For diverse reasons, the debates about intra-Palestinian reconciliation were also revived. Under the pressure of deeper internal splits, especially within the Fatah movement, and the threat of Israel's annexation policy, which is reflected in continued settlement construction and division of Palestinian communities in the oPt, a chance for unity talks bore fruit and ended nine years of bitter division that caused severe harm to the Palestinian political system and to access to human rights. An improvement in the human rights situation is largely dependent on whether these proposals will be implemented on the ground.

In the meantime, Gaza's economic and living conditions are well below 2014 levels. Serious violations of international law and human rights are farther from being accounted for than ever. 2016 also saw a sharp increase in the number and seriousness of attacks that aim to intimidate human rights organizations, especially those working on accountability.³ Desperation and hopelessness are the common condition, leading to widespread protests and acts of public suicide; also to violent actions by Palestinian individuals against Israeli forces, citizens and settlers. The human rights and humanitarian conditions have never been worse in a territory where human rights violations have been the norm for decades.

The following points are a reflection of the main issues monitored by Al Mezan, and which called for both attention and intervention during the reporting period. They give an idea about the situation in Gaza and some hints to the environment in which the organization struggled to implement its strategy and respond to these challenges.

i. Israeli control and violence: closure/blockade, armed attacks and accountability deficit

The reporting period saw Israel's further retreat from easing measures of the closure/blockade of the Gaza Strip. The closure/blockade policy, which maintains a protracted humanitarian crisis and prevents access to fundamental rights and freedoms of the population, has had far reaching implications on Gaza's development, many of which cannot be corrected in the future, especially for a generation of which more than 70% lived their entire life under conditions of poverty and violence. The closure/blockade violates, *inter alia*, the population's right to freedom of movement, access to work, water and sanitation, and health. It is accompanied by Israel's frequent incursions and attacks using live-fire that frequently violate the right to life and bodily integrity. This period witnessed a marked decrease in the protection of the right to liberty and security of the person. Given the seriousness of the Israeli closure/blockade, the four Palestinian human rights organizations – Al-Haq, PCHR, Al Dameer and Al Mezan – submitted a third communication to the ICC Prosecutor on the issue.⁴

The closure is maintained through daily military operations and through the use of armed force, which hinders the work of farmers and fishermen and puts lives of protestors at risk. In 2016, 55 incursions into Gaza were carried out by Israeli infantry troops and an additional 71 incursions were marked by artillery/tank shelling. Over the course of 80 demonstrations in the buffer zone, 180 Palestinians were shot and injured by Israeli forces and four were killed. In

³ Al-Haq and Al Mezan were particularly targeted with intimidation, threats and smear campaigns. See for example <http://mezan.org/en/post/21209> and <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/08/14/israel/palestine-palestinian-rights-defenders-threatened>.

⁴ See the joint press release regarding the submission of this communication at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21631>.

the access restricted areas by sea, 135 fishermen were arrested, 26 were shot and injured, and 43 boats were confiscated by Israeli forces. The Israeli escalation in attacks against farmers and fishermen was noticed all through the reporting period.

The inhibiting influence of the closure and latest Israeli military offensive on Gaza maintain a crippled health sector, prompting patients to continue seeking appropriate medical care outside of Gaza. The complex and onerous permit application process requires an interview with Israeli security services, which puts patients at risk of coercion, torture and ill-treatment, while delaying or denying urgent medical care. Patients remain threatened with arrest throughout the process: during the reporting period, five patients and five patient-companions were arrested at Erez crossing. Al Mezan's documentation shows that two patients died after the delayed issuance of a permit to access the hospital.⁵ Incidents involving coercion of patients to provide information about their families or neighbors have increased and attest that such security interviews represent a tool for extortion and leverage, whereby the pressing need for life-saving medical care is levied in Israel's information-gathering practices.⁶

During the reporting period the Israeli forces arrested one Palestinian athlete from Gaza, 14 businessmen at Erez crossing, and 26 Palestinians (12 of whom are children) in Gaza's buffer zone, in addition to the numerous arrests of Palestinians in the West Bank, including an elderly man and woman who were in Jerusalem for prayers.

The chronic electricity deficit affecting Gaza over the past ten years, prompted mainly by Israeli policies and controls, continues to disrupt delivery of basic services and undermines already vulnerable livelihoods and living conditions. The blackouts, which worsened in the winter, prompt families to use crude means of light, including candles, which this period resulted in the death of three children⁷. They sparked a wave of protests in the Gaza Strip leading to talks for temporary solutions with aid from Turkey and Qatar; however, a permanent solution to improve power supplies seems impossible without the removal of Israeli restrictions.

On several occasions, the Israeli forces launched airstrikes and artillery attacks, some of which hit homes and killed civilians.⁸ In March, an airstrike killed two children, a brother and a sister, when the debris and shrapnel from the explosion fell on their house.⁹ In the first week of May, a series of artillery attacks and air raids killed a woman and injured about a dozen civilians. These attacks are said to be responses to attacks emanating from Gaza, but in targeting protected persons in occupied territory, they follow a clear pattern of illegal belligerent reprisals.

The continued impunity of Israel and denial of justice for Palestinians means that the infringement of basic and inalienable human rights of Palestinians and the de-development of Gaza has been allowed to continue unabated within this reporting period.¹⁰ Over the summer, the Israeli Military Advocate General Office (MAG) announced the closure of numerous complaints submitted by Al Mezan and partner NGOs without launching criminal

⁵ For further information see Al Mezan's Press Release at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21488>.

⁶ For more information, consult Al Mezan's documentary 'Under Security Check', available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehe8S9o3ZR0>.

⁷ For further information see Al Mezan's Press Release at: <http://www.mezan.org/en/post/21348>

⁸ For further information, see Al Mezan's press releases covering the issue: <http://mezan.org/en/post/21220>; <http://mezan.org/en/post/21347>; <http://mezan.org/en/post/21632>; <http://mezan.org/en/post/21564>; <http://mezan.org/en/post/21500>; <http://mezan.org/en/post/21470>

⁹ See Al Mezan's press release on this incident at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21220>.

¹⁰ See for example AL Mezan and MAP report regarding attacks on health facilities, available at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21442>, and Al Mezan and LPHR updated complaint to UN Special Rapporteurs regarding attacks on inhabited houses, available at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21653>; both complaints being concerned with attacks during "Operation Protective Edge" in 2014.

investigations, thereby continuing to fail to credibly investigate attacks where there is evidence that the Israeli army committed war crimes.¹¹

As these trends of disregard that Israel shows to human rights and international humanitarian law continue across the oPt, accountability for violations emerges as one of the most crucial concerns. Without perpetrators of such grave violations being held to account, the violations are expected to continue and worsen. Practices such as, *inter alia*, the targeting of civilians, launching of disproportionate armed attacks, extrajudicial killings, forcible displacement, torture and ill-treatment represent the backbone of the Israeli occupation regime that has enabled occupation and separation to continue for almost 50 years. They must be challenged locally and internationally, including by introducing reflective cases within the United Nations mechanisms, the International Criminal Court, and national courts in third States where universal jurisdiction applies. Efforts to raise awareness internationally, so that the UN, European Union and third States that possess political capital and leverage could intervene, are more necessary than ever. A human rights-friendly shift in the international approach to the situation is necessary, especially in light of the proposals and arguments presented in the recent French Initiative and the Quartet Report, both of which are disappointing developments for Palestinian communities and the political initiative.

As impunity continues to prevail at the local level, with the international community unwilling to take measures to secure justice and redress, or to deploy political means to prevent or reduce serious violations, it is increasingly important to strengthen cooperation among human rights actors to secure greater political support for international justice mechanisms in the UN system and the ICC, while continuing professional documentation, building community capacities, and pursuing legal action at the local level.

ii. Intimidation campaigns against human rights defenders

The human rights defenders (HRDs) and civil society organizations working for the promotion and protection of Palestinian human rights, and notably working on accountability for Israeli violations of international law, are under marked pressure seeming to emanate directly from the Israeli government. A protracted campaign of defamation, intimidation and threats escalated during the reporting period as Palestinian HRDs realized they are under tight surveillance by the security services.

Since 2015, when the Israeli security establishment described the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and Palestinian HRDs who pursue litigation of Israeli violations before international forums, including the ICC, as an existential threat to the security of Israel, HRDs have felt the impact of close surveillance. Communications between staff about normal managerial and financial issues were distorted into problems and widely circulated. Campaigns aiming at defaming HRDs were launched on Facebook. Telephone calls to donors and partner NGOs were made with allegations of financial misconduct and even affiliation with armed terrorist groups. Inquisitive and seemingly harmless calls were made to friends of HRDs by journalists who identified themselves to be working for renowned media outlets, which upon follow-up turned out to be counterfeit. Death threats to HRDs and their families were passed via phone calls and emails, with evidence of close personal surveillance.¹² These serious developments occurred in a context of rising incitement and intimidation against HRDs in Israel, where legislation was adopted to put restrictions on them, and media campaigns launched by right-wing groups putting HRDs in the spotlight,

¹¹ See for example the joint press release by Adalah and Al Mezan regarding the closure of the file concerning the bombing of UNRWA school in Rafah at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21523>, and the joint brief report by Adalah and Al Mezan "Two Years On: Impunity over Accountability", available at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21501>.

¹² For further information, please consult AL Mezan's press release at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21475> and PHROC's press release at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21477>.

together with government incitement against them with support from groups such as the NGO Monitor, which continue to act as an arm of the Israeli government to manipulate public opinion and put pressure on donors.

The reporting period also saw pressure directed to humanitarian and development actors in Gaza, where access restrictions for aid workers increased and allegations of international NGOs diverting funding to groups deemed illegal by Israel were made. In 2016, international development organizations have been experiencing increased indirect pressure by Israel to limit their operations and access to Gaza. The access of INGO local and international staff is dependent on permits issued by Israel to the Gaza Strip. With UN OCHA reporting about a 40% increase in permit denial rates in the third quarter of 2016, INGOs, especially local employees, are faced with increasing difficulties in conducting their day-to-day work¹³.

In July 2016, Israeli security arrested the director of World Vision's Gaza branch¹⁴ at Erez crossing while he was returning to Gaza from a work trip to Jerusalem. The Israeli authorities claimed that he had allegedly channeled tens of millions of dollars of aid money to Hamas over the past 10 years. According to information available to Al Mezan, he was tortured during the interrogation. World Vision suggested that its total budget for operations in Gaza amounted to roughly one third of what Israel claimed had been embezzled.

Similarly, a UN contractor was arrested at Erez and accused of funneling resources to Hamas, and keeping Hamas out of trouble with the UN,¹⁵ which was condemned by the UN after an emphatic statement that tracking the said resources proved they were mobilized to the correct destination. Israel has further claimed to have more ongoing investigations against local INGO employees.

iii. Internal split

As mentioned above, the intra-Palestinian political divide has persisted over the past nine years and fed into dangerous dynamics. Israeli policies of closure/blockade and military action continue to strangulate Gaza's population. The international community's engagement focuses on humanitarian aid, rather than development of rights – an approach that allows Israel's fatal policies to continue unchecked. Frequent frictions between the authorities in Gaza and Ramallah, despite the current government of national consensus, continue to hurt the availability of basic services, and lead to civil rights violations through repressing dissent.

While the rates of poverty and unemployment soar, the suspension of salaries for civil servants appointed by the Gaza government has added around a quarter of a million people to the poverty pool in Gaza. The young generations and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected by poverty and access to adequate services, especially education and healthcare services. Crime rates have been on the rise at rates unprecedented in Gaza. Electricity cuts have become normalized to the extent that when the power is cut for 50% of the time it is considered a normal state of affairs. Yet, these cuts are impacting vulnerable groups, leading to deaths and reducing access to water and sanitation.

One of the symptoms of the gaping Palestinian political divide has been political and arbitrary detention and repression of free expression and dissent. The reporting period was no exception, despite a relative decrease in political detention in Gaza. In addition to the incidents in footnote 7 above, the reporting period saw serious incidents involving police

¹³ Read UNOCHA's article on access restrictions for INGOs.

¹⁴ Read the article "[Israel accuses World Vision's Gaza director of diverting cash to Hamas](#)" published in "The Guardian" on August 4th, 2016.

¹⁵ Read the article "[The Allegations Against a UN Contractor in Gaza](#)" published on August 9th, 2016 in "The Atlantic".

violence,¹⁶ death in police custody,¹⁷ and a raid on the Bar Association in Gaza.¹⁸ In January 2017, peaceful protests against power cuts ó a result of a crisis building since December 2016 ó were addressed by force by the security forces in Gaza, which are still operated by the Hamas movement.¹⁹ A civil society conference that aimed to debate the political split was banned by the security forces in Gaza.²⁰

Moreover, incidences of explosions, use of small arms and rises of crime rates, point to an increasing state of insecurity. The reporting period saw several incidents of unexplained explosions in North and Middle Gaza,²¹ shooting at a civilian car in Beit Hanoun, and several incidents of the use of small arms in private spaces and in feuds.

The use of the death penalty stood as a prominent issue in Gaza during the reporting period. Ezzadin Al Qassam Brigades extra-judicially executed one of their members in February.²² Courts sentenced nine persons to death and confirmed the death sentence for another two. The Hamas Movement Parliamentary Bloc at the PLC announced that more death sentences would be carried out, with hints at possible public executions, to deter rising rates of crime.²³ This is despite the clear unlawfulness of all executions in Palestine, which are explicitly conditioned by the approval of the President of the Palestinian Authority. Later, in May, the authorities executed four persons.²⁴ These developments have prompted stronger responses from Palestinian civil society, and Al Mezan intends to double our work on the death penalty in Palestine with a view towards abolishing it completely in the coming years.

iv. Increasing democratic deficit

Since 2006, a new generation has been raised in Gaza without the experience of elections, but with a deep sense of political divide and violence. The July 2016 announcement that local elections would take place all over the oPt was lauded by Palestinian civil society as a step that could provide opportunities to reverse the democratic deficit in Gaza and engage large segments of society in the management of their livesô especially if followed by elections at universities, trade unions and other social and political groupings. Regrettably, the processes leading to the elections were colored by distrust and actions that undermined the elections. Finally, a case filed with the Palestinian High Court resulted in a ruling that struck down the elections on the ground that there is an internal split that involves the security forces and the courts system. Ironically, a measure that was meant to be a step towards ending the split was ended by the split itself.

The democratic deficit cannot only be dealt with through elections alone. Civil society must be relieved of the pressure that is being exerted on it, and Palestinian authorities must seek to relax some of the new policies and legislations. The way teachers' strikes were dealt with in the West Bank was worrying, with security services interfering and making arrests among activists. The Ministry of Labor's decisions that practically prevented trade unions from

¹⁶ See this incident for example: <http://mezan.org/en/post/21406>.

¹⁷ See <http://mezan.org/en/post/21194> for details.

¹⁸ See <http://mezan.org/en/post/21362> for details.

¹⁹ For further information, please consult AL Mezan's press release concerning these developments, which is available at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21740>.

²⁰ See Al Mezan's press release regarding this issue at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21568>.

²¹ See for example <http://mezan.org/en/post/21195>.

²² See <http://mezan.org/en/post/21171> for more details.

²³ For more details on this issue and our position, see Al Mezan's press release at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21345> and consult al Mezan's press release on more recent death sentences, available at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21567>, 10 October 2016.

²⁴ For details see Al Mezan's briefings about executions at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21357> and <http://mezan.org/en/post/21367>.

accessing their bank accounts without approval from the Ministry was a harsh way to deal with practical differences of opinion.²⁵

A new decree by the Council of Ministers of the government of national consensus prevents NGOs registered as not-for-profits to access any grants without prior approval by the Cabinet, thus disproportionately increasing government control, despite the high, and commended levels of transparency and accountability already legally required. This decree, which was criticized by civil society in Palestine, was subject to negotiations that aimed at reducing the government unreasonable control; however, Al Mezan was unable to access grant funds during the negotiations, which ended in May 2016. In a yet more concerning development, the Council of Minister stated in its 27 January 2016 that it would seek to unify the funding channels, be they for government or civil society organizations, and work towards channeling all funding through the Ministry of Finance.²⁶ A temporary closure of the office of an international NGO in Gaza was also of concern.²⁷

Palestinian civil society has voiced concern over continued legislative reforms, which were passed through presidential decrees in the West Bank and meetings of Hamas PLC bloc in Gaza, and which continue to undermine democracy and the rule of law in Palestine. In 2016, a presidential decree was issued concerning the formation of the Constitutional Court, which in turn interpreted articles in the Basic Law (Palestine's temporary constitution) to allow for the removal of immunity from elected PLC members in a process that was stained by political interference.²⁸

v. Despair and insecurity

Within these conditions, and under the pressure exerted on Palestinian civilians by the occupation regime and Palestinian authorities, expressions of despair and helplessness have been noted throughout Gaza and the oPt. Examples include the spread of lone wolf attacks by Palestinian young men and women. Young individuals find themselves in a complex situation, living under occupation, violence and repression, and witnessing the expansion of settlements, with all that it brings: restrictions on movement, violent dispersal of demonstrations and protest, settler violence and displacement and demolition. They are losing trust in all political processes—local, regional and international. The Israeli response, which includes very serious violations that have led to numerous extrajudicial executions and unnecessary killings, is empowering these feelings.

In Gaza, there has been a sudden increase in public suicides, where desperate citizens who face impossible, humiliating conditions that they feel they can no longer manage, decide to take their own lives. There have been several such suicides, including at a hospital where people lit themselves on fire, and where people threw themselves off tall buildings, to end their lives.

The alienation of the young generation and desperation of parents whose dignity has been injured far too many times due to aid dependency and humiliating and degrading treatment is a matter of serious concern. There are rising individual grievances that must be dealt with through political solutions and a path of inclusion in political processes. This can only be achieved by the full lifting of Israel's closure/blockade of Gaza, securing accountability and access to justice, Palestinian internal reconciliation, and a shift in the international

²⁵ See <http://mezan.org/en/post/21295> for details.

²⁶ See the Council of Ministers statement, 27 December 2016, at http://www.wafa.ps/ar_page.aspx?id=XToFXza730555133517aXToFXz (Arabic).

²⁷ See <http://mezan.org/en/post/21249> for details.

²⁸ For more details, please consult PHROC's pres release concerning the removal of parliamentary immunity, available at <http://mezan.org/post/22915> (Arabic only), and PHROC's press release regarding the Constitutional Court, available at <http://mezan.org/post/22709> (Arabic only).

involvement in the conflict in a way that secures respect for international law and the rights and freedoms of the population.

3. Overall achievement (outcomes, results)

Al Mezan's main areas of action in 2016 remained largely the same as provided in the Strategic Plan 2015-2017. A flexible set of priorities includes a focus on monitoring and seeking accountability and access to justice both in Israel and in Gaza, challenging the closure/blockade of Gaza, and strengthening the work on Palestinian unity and on economic, social and cultural rights. The following areas of work provide a brief overview of Al Mezan's main action points, which are further detailed in the PoA below.

Monitoring and Documentation

- Al Mezan field workers documented 203 attacks by the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) in Gaza resulting in death of nine civilians, including three children and one woman, and injury to 221 civilians, including 36 children. In addition, Israeli authorities arrested 202 Palestinians, including 135 fishermen and 30 individuals travelling via Erez crossing either for business or seeking medical treatment outside Gaza. Further, our field workers reported a noticeable escalation of attacks against fishermen in the naval part of access restricted area; 141 incidents of shooting at fishermen were documented. The documentation enabled reporting and legal interventions into many of these cases, and sharing information with UN bodies and INGOs.
- At the local level, hundreds of violations committed by the Palestinian authorities and other Palestinian non-state actors were also documented, leading to strong interventions by Al Mezan on behalf of victims of *inter alia* unlawful detention, abuse and ill-treatment, repression of free expression, police violence, death penalty, and use of small arms. Al Mezan also intervened on behalf of victims who were arbitrarily denied access to basic services based on documentation of their cases.
- Comprehensive questionnaires on IOF violations, local violations, situations of risk, and the closure/blockade were inserted into Al Mezan's database. The data has been analyzed and utilized for reporting and information provision to local and international organizations, including OCHA, OHCHR, and WHO (this year, over 560 requests for data/statistics were answered).
- Al Mezan's monitoring and documentation is perceived to be relevant to people's needs in Gaza. People appreciate the significance of documentation of violations, including violations by local authorities, and have personally contacted Al Mezan to voice appreciation for raising their issues through statements and by directly intervening with the relevant authorities to stop violations or risks.
- The field research around the new taxation policies by the local authorities highlighted mounting burdens on Gaza's population, the majority of whom already live below the poverty line.

Legal Assistance and Advice:

- In total, 1,859 individuals benefited from the legal aid unit, with 754 of them having received free legal advice on a range of violations or situations of risk; 195 complaints were submitted to the Israel authorities on behalf of victims. Al Mezan provided legal representation for 74 people before Israeli courts, including 3 minors; 45 of the 74 were detainees. Al Mezan continues to engage with the Israeli justice system, civilian and military, with lawyers following up on 107 complaints filed in 2014 and 2015 and a strategic civil litigation case. Al Mezan also engaged the new mechanism in the Israeli ministry of justice which was created to investigate allegations of torture, and submitted 14 cases to it. While no investigations were launched by this body, the complaints represent solid test-cases for its credibility.

- Another 189 complaints were made to the Palestinian authorities, including 23 children--one case concerning a child before Palestinian courts. Al Mezan also engaged the Palestinian justice system with a strategic case involving equality before the law.
- Some of the successful legal interventions include Al Mezan's close work with Gisha to secure access for 96 people whose travel permit requests had been repeatedly rejected by Israeli or local authorities. Access was also secured for a witness in a major civil suit in Israel following petitions with courts in Israel.
- In Gaza, interventions led to the release of dozens of people unlawfully detained, swift intervention in juvenile cases, securing access to housing and healthcare for dozens of families and releasing pressure on journalists and activists.
- At the international level, Al Mezan was part of two joint submissions to the ICC, one of which was led by Al Mezan and has remained confidential.²⁹ The second communication focused on Gaza closure/blockade and is public.³⁰ The A complaint was also filed in France regarding arms used in alleged grave breaches of IHL. Al Mezan also provided major support (documentation and investigations) for a civil case in the Netherlands.

Advocacy, media and liaison:

- Active membership was maintained in eight networks and coalitions: notably, FIDH, PHROC, EuroMed Rights, OMCT and the Protection Cluster. Coordination with FIDH increased during its Congress in South Africa leading to FIDH intervention concerning attacks on Al Mezan's human rights defenders – a protection initiative also pursued by OMCT in support of Al Mezan. PHROC was effective in addressing significant issues at the local level: free expression, independence of the judiciary, and workers' rights (e.g. teacher strikes). Work with EuroMed Rights strengthened the engagement with the EU institutions and collaboration with regional and European partners.
- During the reporting period, Al Mezan issued 83 statements and was part to 45 joint statements and 5 joint appeals. There also was contribution to 7 statements by EuroMed Rights. Al Mezan participated in 13 international advocacy missions, meeting with high-level governmental, EU and UN officials, and with civil society, in Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, France, and the United States.
- Al Mezan's work was mentioned in the media 892 times – 809 in the Arabic language media. Multimedia materials and social media posts received tens of thousands of visits. The website had over 47,000 visits (Arabic version: 36,000 visits, English: 11,000 visits) during the reporting period. The Center's Facebook and Twitter accounts have over 6,000 followers. A documentary was screened for about 200 people in Gaza, received over 2,400 views on YouTube, and was screened on a local TV station.
- Al Mezan fieldworkers and lawyers appeared/participated in over 170 interviews with local and international media outlets covering various range of topics concerning human rights and IHL violations.
- Advocacy efforts continued to focus on the situation in Gaza, accountability and human rights defenders, with engagement with the Human Rights Council, UN bodies and Special Rapporteurs, UN CAT, the European Union and Member States, the Council of Europe, and the ICC. The issues highlighted by Al Mezan and the partners were mentioned in HRC resolutions, EU FAC conclusions and statements and interventions by EU Member States. CAT concluding observations took up over a dozen issues raised by Al Mezan and our partners. Briefings to diplomatic and UN missions in Gaza also fed into diplomatic processes and consultations.

²⁹ See <http://mezan.org/en/post/21177> for further details.

³⁰ For further information, please consult the joint press release at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21631>.

Training/awareness-raising:

- Diverse awareness and training activities benefited various groups in Gaza. The 15 trainings, 27 workshops, 1 screening, 70 lectures, 120 student-led discussion sessions, and one HR Artwork competition for students in the reporting period reached 4,617 people (1,084 women and 2,233 children, 26 of whom were juvenile detainees). Staff members delivered 81% of the total training/awareness hours (736 out of 905 hours).
- 33 university students were recruited as volunteers and trained to deliver HR awareness to their peers. They organized 120 awareness sessions for 333 of their peers in local universities.
- International experts conducted a 7-day extensive training course for HR activists, ER doctors, and lawyers on documenting torture/ill-treatment using the Istanbul Protocol. The experts also discussed access to reparation through UN mechanisms and treaty bodies.
- The Annual Human Rights Award for Student had around 4,000 students participating with their artwork. The 36 winners (top three from each age group) were honored in a ceremony attended by 430 people, including their parents, teachers, and representative from the Ministry of Education and UNRWA.
- Staff training is expected to boost the work on human rights mechanisms and the producing of multimedia materials in the future.

Information/Communication

- Al Mezan's field workers received a training on videography and video editing principles, as well as basics of photography, photocomposition and light, all to be used to digitalize monitoring and documentation, and make it available for use in the future.
 - 10 videos of witness accounts (fishermen and farmers) were recorded and are available for publication/use in other videos and films for the purpose of awareness-raising, advocacy and information-sharing.
 - In the wake of the increased threat to HRDs, and together with Al Mezan's IT department, a digital safety strategy was put forward in order to increase personal and digital safety of Al Mezan's colleagues.
 - Al Mezan facilitated visits of international NGOs and consultants to Gaza who sought information and follow-up on victims of IHL violations from OPE, particularly ambulance drivers and medical staff, as well as farmers and fishermen in ARA.
 - Throughout 2016, Al Mezan conducted tens of informative meetings with diplomatic missions, international organizations and other actors relaying information about our work, monitoring efforts, advocacy and work on accountability for the purpose of promoting Al Mezan's work, gather support and explore new possibilities for funding.
- Terms of references were put forward to develop new advocacy, fundraising and human resources strategies.

Library Services:

1,052 students, researchers, and lawyers benefited from library services. In total, 2,336 books were borrowed with a wide range of subjects, mainly law and IHL. 69 new books and 70 new periodicals were added to the library.

4. Challenges

Challenges	Mitigating measures
Worsening power crisis resulting in	Al Mezan continued to allocate more funds

prolonged daily power cuts.	for the cost of operating and maintaining power generators.
Field workers face increasing difficulties obtaining information from local authorities, especially the Ministry of Health.	Field workers managed to form a diverse network of sources in hospitals to secure verifiable information.
Israeli authorities continue to stall and postpone responses to complaints sent by Al Mezan's legal aid unit on behalf of victims of IOF violations	Work on international level to expose policies hindering access to justice. Letters and appeals to Israeli authorities to request responses; partnership and coordination with expert civil society in Israel.
The internal schism continues to negatively affect the judicial system even after the formation of a unity government. Currently, several laws and orders vary between Gaza and the West Bank. Our lawyers are therefore facing difficulties in identifying competent judicial authorities between Gaza and the West Bank.	Al Mezan took this issue to court with a case to demand equality before the law, and held consultations with officials in Gaza and the West Bank to stress the matter. The issue requires further follow up.
Despite the high and commended levels of transparency and accountability already legally required, the Council of Ministers of the government of national consensus issued a new decree that prevented NGOs registered as not-for-profits from accessing their grants without prior approval by the Cabinet, therewith disproportionately increasing government control.	After not being able to receive funding for several months while filing a complaint with the relevant ministry, Al Mezan reached an agreement to accommodate some of the requests put forward by the decree. The money was eventually released, however discussions between HR organisations and the authorities are still ongoing. Al Mezan was also forced to change the hosting bank, which extended the process even further.
Specialized lawyer-training activities were hampered by the inability of the participants to exit Gaza.	International experts were brought to Gaza and managed to implement the lawyers' training successfully. A successful training in September focused on torture and ill-treatment.
Shortage of staff in certain units.	Advertisements for several vacancies were made and tests and interviews conducted; however, no hiring was done. Temporary replacements were placed where suitable, and alternate staff cover certain activities until the hiring of adequate staff becomes possible.
Increasing threats and attacks on human rights defenders, including Al Mezan.	Increased coordination and solidarity with Palestinian NGOs on the issue and advice was sought from HRD international NGOs.

	<p>Increased exposure of the issue with relevant networks.</p> <p>Briefings and letters to UN Special Rapporteur on HRDs and other relevant actors.</p> <p>Coordination with Palestinian NGOs and donors to secure mitigating measures, such as training and other safety measures.</p>
<p>Threat from outbreak of violence.</p> <p>Although the Strip has seen a relatively quiet period since the Operation Protective Edge in 2014, the situation is always fragile and volatile. Based on previous experience, attacks from either side can potentially occur any day, and the situation can quickly develop from a single incident into a full-fledged war.</p>	<p>In situations of armed conflict, Al Mezan immediately changes the organization's mode of operation: only necessary staff (field workers and management) continue daily operations that are changed to monitoring and advocacy. All other activities are frozen until hostilities cease and can be resumed, at times also after an extended period.</p>

5. Assessment and Evaluation

Al Mezan has various tools for assessment and evaluation in place. Staff observation, which is reflected in routine reporting, is a source of assessment whereby the achievement of results is measured and changes to the activities are determined.

Field workers trace important cases as they are used for reporting or referred to legal intervention. Lawyers follow cases and deal with procedures and obstacles to push for them to progress. The training unit employs a variety of tools, including participant satisfaction forms, oral evaluations during activities, and pre/post tests to measure new learning. Advocacy activities are measured against whether target officials and institutions are reached, and whether asks and messages are received positively or find their way in resolutions or statements, and ultimately bring about policy changes.

These tools were used to assess achievements for the purposes of this report. After the end of the reporting year, an evaluation is conducted with focus groups encompassing a random sample of the beneficiaries to illicit specific information about the results and impact, as reported below. An external evaluation is conducted at the end of every 3-year strategic plan.

In January 2017, Al Mezan's units sampled 35 beneficiaries (16 women, 19 men) for the annual internal evaluation. The beneficiaries were invited to focus group meeting at Al Mezan main office to provide feedback in relation to various activities implemented in 2016:

- 85 % participants who benefited from workshops/training expressed their satisfaction answering questions related to the time, place, material, and style of delivery of workshops/training.
- Benefits of new learning ranged between 63% and 75%, according to pre/post-tests' results.
- Activists from local NGOs and journalists expressed appreciation for networking and collaboration with Al Mezan.
- Representative of Palestinian Fishermen Union expressed his appreciation of the prompt legal aid provided to detained fishermen.
- One patient seeking treatment outside Gaza who had been refused a travel permit three times informed Al Mezan that the legal intervention helped secure access to hospitals four times to seek treatment and medical follow-up.
- Participants who attended Al Mezan's specialized course with international experts on documenting torture using Istanbul protocol said that the knowledge they acquired has highly influenced the way they approach cases of torture.
- When asked for suggestion to improve Al Mezan work, participants urged Al Mezan to hold other specialized trainings on torture documentation, conduct more workshops with the police force, and focus on vital, immediate issues such as the electricity crisis and lack of freedom of movement.

In late December, the Legal Aid unit sampled 23 people who received legal consultation (including 6 who benefited from legal representation). The sample responded to a questionnaire designed by UNDP concerning activities implemented under UNDP/PAPP Rule of Law program:

- 78% of legal consultation beneficiaries were satisfied with legal information provided by Al Mezan lawyers and were pleased with the professionalism of the staff and the time the lawyers took to hear their cases.
- 95 % said that they would come to Al Mezan for any future legal consultation.

- Six recipients of legal aid who, in addition to legal consultation, also benefited from legal representation were all satisfied with our lawyers' work and follow-up on their cases, as well as the level of communication to keep them up to date with the latest developments of their legal case. They expressed appreciation for the level of involvement they were granted, especially the freedom to make final decisions pertaining to their case.
- A number of legal aid recipients noted an increase in awareness about the judicial system and gained confidence in human rights organizations.
- When asked for suggestions to improve Al Mezan services, most recommended: use of billboards for awareness campaigns; a weekly radio program on human rights; more focus on women with cases before Sharia Courts.

6. Achievement as per Plan of Action 2016

Strategic Goal 1: To contribute to challenging IOF violations of human rights and IHL through peaceful means					
1.1 To promote human rights, including self-determination and the unity of the oPt.					
#	Output	Activity	Indicators	Time frame (January-December 2016)	Results
1.1.1	Reports and fact sheets on the freedom of movement of persons and goods published.	Publish quarterly statistical reports on the freedom of movement for persons and goods	4 statistical sheets published annually.	5 statistical reports highlighting the impact of closure on freedom of movements of people and goods: 1) 2 statistical reports on the closure of Rafah crossing 2) 2 statistical reports on the movement of people via Erez crossing 3) 1 statistical reports on the movement of goods via Kerem Shalom crossing	Made available well-documented information about violations emanating from closure/blockade. Enabled legal & advocacy interventions on some of these violations. Shared data and trends with UN agencies, INGOs and int'l community.
1.1.2	Legal interventions related to the freedom of movement implemented	Provide legal advice to and file complaints on behalf of victims of violations	36 complaints annually	1) 101 cases of access to healthcare in the West Bank and Israel; 2) 26 cases of access to family life and humanitarian access; 3) 5 cases of access to education; 4) 2 cases of access to religious places 5) 6 cases concerning visitation rights of detainees/families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 31 patients accessed hospitals.(less than a third) ➤ One woman reached her family. ➤ 3 students gained access to educational institutions. ➤ No success ➤ 3 mothers visited their imprisoned sons
1.1.3	Maintain partnership with HR NGOs in the West Bank strengthened	Issue joint publications with West Bank-based partners.	At least 1 publication annually	1) Active membership in PHROC and close cooperation with several HR NGOs in the West Bank. 2) 6 joint reports on arrest of Palestinians by Israeli authorities in cooperation with Addameer, Prisoners and Detainees Association and the Prisoners Club (also reported in 1.2.2 below).	Strengthen national reporting on HR, Strengthen UN reporting and advocacy, Joint action to solidify solidarity and increase impact to challenge pressure on HRDs and civil society and social justice.
		Joint submissions and events with UN agencies and ICC	3 joint submissions, statements, letters	1) 3 joint written submissions to HRC and CAT, 2) 3 oral interventions with HRC and 1 oral intervention with CAT, 3) 19 joint actions (letters, urgent appeals, and joint statements). (Also reported in 3.1.2 below)	
1.2 Enhance the legal protection for the residents of the Gaza Strip through legal accountability.					
#	Output	Activity	Indicators	Time frame (January 2016 – December 2016)	Results/Outputs

1.2.1	Legal representation to violations of human rights implemented	Legal representation to persons from Gaza detained in Israel	25 detainees	45 cases of detention by Israel received legal representation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 were detained near the border - 4 arrested in WB and Israel (3 at check points, 1 at Ben-Gurion airport) - 17 persons were arrested at Erez, including 4 patients - 16 arrested fishermen 	Legal representation for people from Gaza arrested by IOF secured, especially poor communities.
		Provide legal advice to victims of Israeli violations	200 victims receive legal advice annually	In all 754 cases of legal advice were delivered: 435 of them in relation to Israeli violations, 312 in relation to violations or at-risk situation concerning the conduct of the Palestinian authorities, and 7 related to other parties. In total, 754 benefited from legal advice (213 women and 541 men)	Legal remedies for victims and/or people at risk provided. 754 victims of violations and people at risk are now aware of their legal rights, and can make informed decisions about their cases. Al Mezan focused its legal interventions on most recurring cases and successfully obtained legal documents/case files for 102 ex-detainees of Israeli prisons.
		Refer victims of Israeli violations to specialized institutions	50 cases referred annually	86 cases referred to NGOs in Israel and Palestine for legal intervention or psychosocial support including Physician for Human Rights, Gisha, Adalah and Gaza Community Mental Health Programme.	Specialized legal and other services otherwise unavailable to victims/people at risk secured. Legal protection strengthened.
		Update the database on Palestinian detainees in the Israeli prisons.	Database updated.	Prisoners/detainees database updated with new case files and is helping staff manage the detainees cases and generate reports.	Analysis made possible for better intervention and better management.
1.2.2	Israeli violations of human rights documented	Document cases of Israeli violations to human rights.	1,000 cases of violations documented annually	Documented 491 incidents of IOF violation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 132 shootings (5 killed, including 1 child, and 196 wounded); 71 shelling/airstrikes (4 killed, including 2 children and one women); 55 incursions; 141 assaults/shooting on fishermen (26 wounded, 32 boats confiscated); 92 incident leading to arrest (202 individuals detained, including 135 fishermen) <p>264 questionnaire forms on Palestinian victims/property damage were inserted into the Database (Data-analysis results: 202 detainees, 37 wounded children, 9 deaths, 7 damaged houses, 2 damaged farmlands, 2 damaged commercial facilities, and 4 damaged vehicles)</p>	Violations and risk situations properly documented and inputted in database; Reporting, legal interventions and advocacy enabled based on solid information; Trends and patterns of violations better understood.

		Issue periodic and thematic reports on Israeli violations.	2 reports published	26 reports issued, including 12 reports on children in armed conflict, 4 reports on violations against fishermen, 4 reports on violations in the ARA, and 6 joint reports on arrest of Palestinians by IOF. ³¹	Information and analysis about HR and IHL violations made available for media and int'l community and used in advocacy.
		Issue press statements on the Israeli violations	At least 50 press statements annually.	60 press releases issued on Israeli violations, including 23 dealing with economic and social rights and 37 with civil and political rights, and all with emphasis on IHL. ³²	HR and IHL violations made public and challenged.
1.2.3	The capacity of lawyers in IHL is strengthened	Lawyer training (IHL, human rights, representation)	1 training course targeting 25 lawyers.	Implemented six-month (152 training hours) training for 38 lawyers (12 female and 26 male). 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, international organizations and other areas.
		Provide training course on torture and ill-treatment to 25 from workers in the health sector.	25 workers in the health sectors receive training.	Implemented in 2015.	N/A
		Provide training course for lawyers on torture and ill-treatment	30 lawyers	One training course for 25 lawyers (9 women) on torture and ill-treatment	Capacities of lawyers built to enable engagement against torture and ill-treatment.
		Provide specialized training and TOT for lawyers and human rights activists on torture by external experts.	30 lawyers	Specialized training conducted by international experts on documenting torture cases using Istanbul protocol and on seeking reparation through UN bodies. 41 lawyers, ER doctors and HR activists attended the training, including 29 women.	New capacities on torture, rehabilitation and Istanbul Protocol are built in Gaza.

³¹ Most of these reports were issued in Arabic, and some were translated. A full list of them can be found at <http://mezan.org/posts/15/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1+%D9%88%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%AA>.

³² Al Mezan's Press Releases in English language can be accessed at <http://mezan.org/en/posts/2/Press+Releases/2016>.

		Allocate 6 lawyers to work in Al Mezan's legal unit (3 lawyers every 6 months)	6 lawyers.	Four lawyers selected and granted 6-month paid internships at Al Mezan's Legal Aid Unit.	Young lawyers' capacities and practical experience in HR is grown in Gaza.
		Train lawyers on the documentation of war crimes.	25 lawyers receive training.	30 legal councillors and lawyers (including 7 women) received 18-hours of training on IHL and documenting war crimes.	Capacities of lawyers to build case-files on IHL and IHRL violations built.
		Conduct meetings with the BAR and law faculties to raise the capacity of lawyers.	5 meetings annually.	9 meeting including meetings with the BAR, High Judicial Council, public prosecution, and meetings with the deans of department of law in local universities to collaborate on organizing activities inside the campus targeting student lawyers	Coordination with relevant actors and consultations strengthened.
1.2.4	Legal representation 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.	Complaints were submitted on behalf of victims as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - freedom of movement (140 complaints) [refer to 1.1.2 of this table] - right to legal papers (11 complaints, 10 successful) - right to work (confiscation of boats) (11 complaints, unsuccessful) - right to residency/nationality (2 complaints, 2 successful) - forced disappearance (5 complaints, 5 successful) - right to life (2 complaints) - right to reparation (2 complaints) - right to private property (1 complaint, successful) 	Protection for victims and people at risk against Israeli violations strengthened via legal intervention. Challenging impunity and advocacy to improve protection of civilians in conflict.
		Provide legal aid to victims of torture in Israeli prisons	5 victims annually.	13 complaints made to MAG and Ministry of Justice in Israel against torture and ill-treatment perpetrated by Israeli Army and the Israeli security services during OPE.	Challenge of torture and abuse enhanced for improved protection.
		Legal representation in Israeli courts for victims of human rights violations from Gaza.	2 cases annually.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Lodged a compensation case with an Israeli district court in Beersheba demanding reparation for a Palestinian child who has been paralyzed (Quadriplegia) after he was shot by IOF in November 2014 near the ARA. 2) A joint case with Gisha, regarding a prisoner's wife barred from visiting her husband in Israeli prison, which has reached the Israeli Supreme Court. 3) Appeal to Israeli Supreme Court in relation to extension of detention of a Palestinian prisoner. (Appeal has been rejected) 4) At the time of writing, Al Mezan is lodging a case in Israel concerning the return of 21 bodies held by the Israeli authorities in secret cemeteries ðcemeteries of numbersö. By the end of 2016, Al Mezan has been granted 21 powers of attorney from families of the deceased and will be lodging the 	Obstacles introduced by Israeli law to hinder access to justice for Palestinians were challenged.

			case in collaboration the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center	
	Submit civil complaints to Israeli defence ministry.	20 complaints annually.	1 civil complaint made concerning an assault on fishermen which left one with severe injuries. 1 civil complaint on behalf of Palestinian civilian who sustained injuries after Israeli soldiers opened fire at peaceful protestors. 1 civil complaint for shooting and killing a civilian.	Victims' right to seek reparation within two years secured.

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	Time frame (January 2016 – December 2016)	Results/Outputs
2.1.1	Awareness on HR, democracy and IHL spread on campus by volunteer students	2 trainings for students on HR and IHL and discussion moderation skills.	2 courses for 25 students annually.	Two trainings for 33 university students (21 women), who went on to deliver awareness discussion sessions to peers in campuses.	Capacities of volunteer students built so they contribute to HR awareness on campus. Volunteer students supported into HR activism and help spread awareness via dialogue on campus.
		Two days of extracurricular activities for Pass the Word students	25 students	Additional activities were implemented in the form of a field trip during which a total of 90 students of the Pass the Word program and Al Aqsa University received a two-day training (14 training hours) on life skills and survival, in collaboration with Peace Ambassadors Scouts. In addition, Pass the Word program volunteer students visited rural areas in western Khan Younis to gain hands-on experience by observing and leading discussions on the situation of HR in marginalized communities.	
		Students organize awareness sessions for peer students in universities.	15 educational sessions for 200 students.	Volunteer students implemented 20 awareness courses (6 sessions per course) for 333 peers (202 women).	
		Conduct educational sessions to school students.	30 sessions, each targeting 30 students annually.	70 lectures, symposia and awareness sessions for children and teachers of 70 schools 2,276 people in total (including 1,169 girls, 931 boys and 90 mothers and female teachers) through which groups of women, youth and marginalized groups were reached.	
		Conduct art	1 competition	4,278 students sent their artwork. 3,934 painting matched the entry criteria (1,158 from	Awareness in HR spread among hundreds of school children and teachers. Children express HR/IHL by art and their awareness is raised in how it affects

	competition for school children on human rights and IHL	annually targeting 3000 students.	Ministry of Education schools, 2,660 from UNRWA schools, and 116 from private schools). A committee comprised of professional painters selected 36 artworks (best 3 for each age group). A ceremony was held to award the 36 winners. 392 people attended the ceremony (including parents, teachers, and representatives from UNRWA and MoE). Later, 60 students' artworks were showcased in gallery-setting for the attendees. 2 artworks were chosen and printed as a poster (500 copies each) .	their life. Local community and media encouraged to view HR through child art via an art exhibition.
	Conduct training sessions on human rights and IHL targeting different sectors of the society.	8 training annually, each targeting 20 beneficiaries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March: training on HR and IHL for 43 university graduates (16 women) undergoing one-year capacity-building program for job market - March: training for 27 university graduates (12 women) on HR and IHL in Rafah - April: 5 training courses (one in each of Gaza's five districts) on elections awareness targeting 158 (68 women) members of CBOs - May: Three-day training on monitoring and documentation of Israeli violations of women's rights during armed conflict targeting 27 (12 women) of activists. - May: A three-day training³³ for 26 Palestinian police officers on HR and IHL, focused on the protection granted to civilian police forces under IHL in times of armed conflicts. 	Awareness in HR, IHL, and protection of civilians enhanced; esp. among at-risk communities. 344 participants of various groups increased their awareness about IHL/HR
	Publish awareness posters and brochures on violations of human rights.	2 posters and 1 brochure annually.	Poster (300 copies), DVD (300 copies), and DVD covers for documentary film "The Ambulance"; the poster focusing on targeting ambulances during OPE. ³⁴ Posters on violations against journalists (500 copies). Poster on freedom of expression (artwork by student) (500 copies) Poster on rights of persons with disabilities (artwork by student) (500 copies) Leaflet on protection of medical personnel under International Law (300 copies). Updated Pass the Word Manual for volunteer students (200 copies)	
	Conduct awareness workshops targeting vulnerable women, teachers and journalists and other groups at risk.	10 awareness workshops annually, each targeting 20.	27 lectures/workshops attended by 1076 participants (401 women and 45 children) targeting people at-risk of Israeli violations, journalists, children, juveniles, juveniles' parents, farmers, and social workers. One film screening on the Israeli violation against medical personnel during OPE attended by 198 people (40 women)	

³³ For further details about this activity, which is conducted on the occasion of the Human Rights Day, please visit <http://mezan.org/en/post/21679>, which also presents photographs from the ceremony.

³⁴ The documentary film is available online at <https://youtu.be/7kSrX8FVQe0> with English subtitles.

2.1.2	Violations of human rights by local authorities have been documented.	Document human rights violations by local authorities in Gaza	1,000 violations have been documented annually.	194 cases/incidents of local violations and risk situations documented and inputted in database (55 incidents of arrests by local authorities, 98 cases of violence/assaults, and 39 cases of risk situations)	Violations and risk situations properly documented and inputted in database; Reporting, legal interventions and advocacy enabled based on solid information; Trends and patterns of violations better understood. Database on local violations used for reporting, exposure and advocacy. Violations by Palestinian actors highlighted and challenged locally. Data on ESCR rights gathered for reporting.
		Update the database on the local violations.	Updated database.	Data from 194 questionnaires/briefings on local violations and risk situations inserted to the database (data-analysis results: 77 deaths, including 7 children and 7 women, and 196 wounded, including 9 children)	
		Monthly reports on HR violations committed by local authorities.	12 monthly reports.	12 monthly reports on HR violations by local authorities and the lack of rule of law in Gaza produced.	
		Annual report on HR violations committed by local authorities.	One annual report.	In January 2016, produced report on violations by local authorities in 2015. ³⁵	
		Press releases on HR violations by local authorities	50 press releases annually	23 press releases on HR violations by local authorities.	
		Interviews to collect information for reports.	20 interviews.	12 interviews with businesspeople discussing the impact of the newly imposed taxes and duties in Gaza and understand their implications on the population and trade. 4 interviews with members of the public discussing the rising prices of goods and services, and the effect it had on their access to food and services. 10 interview with officials from Energy and National Resources Authority, Electricity distribution company, hospitals and municipalities to discuss the repercussions of Gaza Electricity Crisis. 12 interviews with businessmen, and officials from Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education to discuss the repercussions of closure/blockade on patients, students, and businessmen.	

³⁵ Available online in Arabic at <http://mezan.org/post/21599>.

2.1.3	Researches on the separation between powers have been finalized	Publication on the impact of the internal split on the judiciary and HR.	One publication.	Outline for a study on "The state of the justice system and justice facilities in oPt," which will be produced in the second half of the year following a series of meetings/discussions with judges, lawyers, and academics.	Various components of judiciary engaged to challenge split by scrutinizing major sources of violations.
2.1.4	Factsheets, position papers on the legislative reform issued	Position papers/ factsheets on legislative reform	2 papers.	One position paper on the barriers to the implications of newly instated taxes in Gaza on judicial services and access to justice. One position paper on Ministry of Social Affairs' decision regarding charitable associations and civil society organizations. One position paper on the Palestinian Legislative Council enacting "Administrative Committee Act" which constituted an infringement to the separation of powers. One Factsheet on Juvenile Justice published in both Arabic and English.	Improved legal protection and legislative monitoring. The decision by Ministry of Social Affairs has been retracted. As for the "Administrative Committee Act," a group of lawyers successfully appealed the Act before the Constitutional Court and the Act was eventually retracted.
		Conduct workshops on findings of papers.	2 workshops annually.	One workshop on 24 May 2016 on "The state of the justice system and justice facilities under the internal schism" attended by 26 lawyers/specialists (6 women). Three more workshops: North Gaza (30 August 2016), Khan Younis (17 October 2016), and Gaza (7 November 2016), attended in total by 121 lawyers, prosecutors, and judges who discussed the repercussions of the internal schism on the legal system and justice facilities.	
2.2 Strengthening human rights in Palestine, particularly ESCRs.					
#	Output	Activity	Indicators	Time frame (January-December 2016)	Results/Outputs
2.2.1	Awareness on ESCRs is enhanced	Awareness/training workshops on ESCRs for different sectors of society.	4 workshops annually targeting 100 beneficiaries.	Four workshops were conducted: February: a workshop on women's ESCRs targeting 17 women in North Gaza March: a workshop on women's ESCRs targeting 42 women in Gaza March: a workshop on women's ESCRs targeting 14 women in Rafah August: a workshop on women's ESCRs targeting 23 women in Gaza	Awareness among local communities and people affected by unjust ESCR policies raised ESCR for awareness and mobilisation.
2.2.2	Legal interventions to enhance respect of HR and Palestinian law including ESCR.	Provided legal aid	60 cases received legal aid.	189 cases (99 men, 67 women and 23 children) were taken with the authorities in the Gaza Strip: - Movement and access restrictions (96 complaints, 95 successful) - Access to health care (12 complaints, 5 successful) - Right to reparation (3 complaints, 1 successful) - Right to a fair trial (15 complaints, 2 successful) - Right to ID (4 complaints, both successful) - Right to housing (6 complaints, 2 successful) - Right to legal representation (3 complaint, successful) - Right to family life (2 complaints, pending)	Victims receive protection interventions against arbitrary detention, abuse and violations of citizens' rights and ESCR.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Right to a natural judge (1 complaint, pending) - Right to private property (3 complaint, pending) - Financial entitlement (1 complaint, successful) - Forced disappearance (1 complaint, unsuccessful) - Access to salary (21 complaints, pending) - Right to personal freedom (1 complaint, successful) - Right to work (9 complaints, 9 unsuccessful) - Right to promotion (1 complaint, pending) - Suspicion of medical negligence (5 complaint, investigation opened) - Freedom of expression (4 complaints, all successful) 	
		Conduct field visits to prisons and criminal rehabilitation centers.	12 field visits annually.	23 visits to 5 prisons and 18 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 78 complaints, including 11 complaints from minors. Al Mezan intervention led to releasing 6 minors and transferring 5 others to social welfare institution.	78 interventions, 72 were successful, to improve legal protection for detainees were successful after complaints were taken by lawyers with prison authorities and followed up until resolved.
		Conduct Legal representation to victims of arbitrary detention.	24 victims annually.	53 cases of arbitrary detention by authorities in Gaza were represented, including 7 boys and 1 woman. Al Mezan's legal interventions led to the release of 33 individuals, including 6 children, two of whom were detained by the Internal Security Apparatus.	Arbitrary detention challenged via legal intervention.
		Strategic litigation before Palestinian courts	One case.	One legal intervention in a case concerning a child who has been subjected to torture and subsequently confessed to committing several previously unresolved cases of theft and robbery. Al Mezan took the case after identifying mishandling of the case by investigators. The case was first litigated before the magistrate court, however, after a request for bail in both magistrate and the appeal courts were rejected, the case was finally taken to the juvenile court. The child was released and the fine was reduced to 25%. This case attests to problems within the legal system as far as juvenile justice is concerned.	Violations of human rights by the local authorities challenged at strategic level.
2.2.3	Advocacy efforts on human rights, particularly ESCR on local level have	Issue publications on ESCRs (fact sheets, reports, studies)	4 publications annually.	One position paper ³⁶ on fees imposed on legal procedures and hindering access to justice for marginalized/impooverished groups. One report on taxes and duties imposed by local authorities in Gaza on merchants and business.	Awareness raised among the public after ESCR research put these issues to scrutiny publicly and in

³⁶ <http://mezan.org/post/22426>

	been implemented.			<p>One Study examining the impact of closure on Palestinian patients, student, and businessmen.</p> <p>One report on the electricity crisis in Gaza and its ramification.</p>	<p>the local media. Improved access to healthcare for people in Gaza.</p>
	Roundtable on Palestinian judiciary.	One roundtable		<p>Roundtable on justice system and judiciary reform in the West Bank on 10 October 2016, attended by 14 specialists, academics, researchers, and human rights activists. Attendees including heads of major HR organizations in the West Bank discussed the issues at hand and agreed to consolidate civil society efforts to agree on a single and comprehensive initiative representing their vision for future judicial reform.</p>	<p>Civil society mobilised against split.</p>
	Provide technical assistance.	12 beneficiaries annually.		<p>Al Mezan continues to overcome understaffing issues, which is why this part of our activities has not yet been conducted. Please see more information below.</p>	<p>Local government institutions assisted to rectify situations leading to violations of ESCR due to lack of services or improper performance.</p>
	Conduct public meetings with officials related to issues of ESCRs.	2 public meetings.		<p>One workshop attended by 27 lawyers, legal counsellors, and specialists who discussed the repercussions of the internal schism on the judicial system and justice facilities.</p> <p>One roundtable discussion on closure and its repercussions on patients, students and businessmen. The participants included officials from Ministry of health, Ministry of Education, OCHA, and OHCHR.</p> <p>One roundtable discussion on the electricity crisis in Gaza. The participants included officials from Palestinian Energy and National Resource Authority, Gaza Electric Company, Gaza Electricity Distribution Corporation, and OCHA.</p>	<p>Grassroots mobilised and take part in pressuring local authorities to improve ESCR protection.</p>
2.3 Build the capacity of Al Mezan					
#	Output	Activity	Indicators	Time frame (January-December 2016)	Results/Outputs
2.3.1	Human resources development strategy developed.	Train field researchers on filming and film-making.	One training course.	February-June: In-house training for field workers by an international media consultant, with practical training and tutoring.	Staff capacity to produce multimedia materials about HR violations improved.

		Train field workers and lawyers on UN treaty bodies.	One training course.	May: Four staff members, including 2 field workers, attended training by PHROC, hosted by Al Mezan.	Contribution by experienced field workers and lawyers in UN communications increased.
		Train staff and lawyers on documenting war crimes.	One training	March: Four field workers and three lawyers received training on IHL, delivered by ICRC, with case studies about IHL violations and grave breaches.	Staff capacity to build case-files for interventions in Israel and with int'l mechanisms improved.
		Conduct annual retreat.	At least one annual retreat.	Postponed to next year due to unexpected health and travel issues for senior staff, including director..	N/A
2.3.2	Administrative and financial manuals reviewed/updated.	Final review for financial/ admin manual.	Updated Financial/ Admin manual reviewed	The manuals were translated into Arabic for ease of access by staff. A consultant was recruited to finalize the review with the staff. Review results expected in February 2017, and a decision whether to adopt the new manual will be made by the Board.	Updated manuals assessed and, if relevant, improved during the year.
		Update the human resources development strategy.	Human resources development strategy.	Advertised and a consultant selected. The strategy is expected to be finalized in the first half of 2017.	N/A
2.3.3	Advocacy strategy announced.	Recruit consultants to develop the advocacy strategy.	Consultants identified and recruited.	Advertised and a consultant selected. The strategy is expected to be finalized in the first half of 2017.	N/A
2.3.4	Fundraising strategy consultancy announced	Recruit consultants to develop the fundraising strategy.	Consultants identified and recruited.	Advertised and a consultant selected. The strategy is expected to be finalized in the first half of 2017. ³⁷	Fundraising strategy deployed to improve financial stability.

Strategic Goal 3: To contribute to a stronger role of the international community in human rights in Palestine

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

³⁷ The capacity building items in 2.3.2, 2.3.3, and 2.3.4 were significantly delayed due to unexpected health and travel issues experienced by some of the senior staff members during the year. However, the consultancies Terms of Reference were developed, advertisements made and consultants selected in 2016. The strategies are expected to be finalized in February and March 2017.

#	Output	Activity	Indicators	Time frame (January-December 2016)	Results/Outputs
3.1.1	Publications presenting the role of international community to protect HRs issued.	Media materials on violations of HR and IHL.	2 posters.	4 posters were implemented (same as reported under 2.1.1 above).	Awareness on HR and IHL, including the impacts of Gaza's 9-year-old closure, violations increased by using art and multimedia. Awareness on impacts of IHL violations on civilians in Gaza increased.
		Conduct photo gallery on Israeli assaults on houses.	1 photo gallery.	This year Al Mezan opted for creating an info-graph both in Arabic and English to increase social media exposure. The Info-graph was published and shared on the day marking the second anniversary of 2014 Israeli Aggression on Gaza. (Link: http://mezan.org/en/post/21502)	
		Produce a documentary film on lack of access to medical care.	1 documentary.	Screening of the documentary film "Ambulance" which brings the stories of medics and health personnel at hospitals as they came under attacks during OPE. The film was screened during a conference organized by Al Mezan to discuss Israeli violations against medical personnel. Documentary Film "Under Security Check" which tells two stories of Palestinians seeking urgent medical care not available in the Gaza Strip and their access to medical care has been hindered through the complex Israeli permit procedures for Palestinian patients. ³⁸	
3.1.2	Information provided to inter-governmental organizations	Briefings and updates in English on the situation of HR in Gaza.	2 briefings on accountability and access to justice.	<p>Briefing for a workshop on "Countering the shrinking space for civil society in a context of growing security threats and security-oriented policies" in Brussels on 24 April, invitation by EuroMed Rights.</p> <p>Briefing for international and local NGOs in Brussels on accountability and shrinking space for HRDs in Brussels on 29 April, invitation by ACT Alliance EU.</p> <p>Briefing to the Council of Europe meeting in Paris on Gaza closure and accountability on 3 June.</p> <p>Written joint briefing was prepared during the reporting period in partnership with Medical Aid for Palestine and Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights on accountability for attacks on health facilities during OPE, released in July on the second anniversary of OPE.</p> <p>Joint briefing with Adalah on the lack of credible investigations by the Israeli authorities.³⁹</p> <p>Briefing on accountability at the European Parliament's D-PAL Committee.⁴⁰</p>	Analysis of monitoring and legal intervention enables informed int'l advocacy for stronger statements from the UN, EU and third states.

³⁸ To view the documentary, please click the following link to Al Mezan's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehe8S9o3ZR0>.

³⁹ Available online at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21503>.

⁴⁰ For further details, please see <http://mezan.org/en/post/21597>.

			<p>Two briefings on accountability and access to justice delivered at screenings for the film 'Obliterated Families', which is based on photographer Anne Paq's work with Al Mezan in 2014/15, and focused on attacks on family houses in Gaza in 2014. One screening took place in Brussels, and the second in Paris at the Arab World Institute.</p> <p>Two presentations on accountability and access to justice were delivered at the EuroMed Rights International Workshop in Brussels in November 2016.</p>	
	Letters on HR/IHL violations to international community.	3 letters annually.	<p>Al Mezan confidential communication with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, March 2016.</p> <p>Letter to the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs denouncing terrorist attacks on Brussels.</p> <p>Confidential letters to the UN OHCHR, EU officials, and EU MS regarding serious attacks on HRDs and staff.</p>	Positive engagement with stakeholders to highlight violations and ask for action.
	Contribute to/lead joint letters and statements.	5 joint letters and statements.	<p>33 joint letters, appeals and statements (lead 6). 17 actions were with PHROC, 6 with Adalah (of which also 1 with PHR-I), 7 with Al-Haq, PCHR, Badil and other partners, and 4 with LPHR and ACAT. The following are examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PHROC joint letter to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation for Human Rights Defenders. - PHROC joint letter to the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands concerning the Dutch Parliament motion to ban funding for NGOs who pursue or promote BDS. (Al Mezan and Addameer lead) - Joint letter to the President of the Human Rights Council regarding the appointment of the special rapporteur on the oPt. (Al Mezan and Al-Haq lead) - Joint letter to the EU on human rights defenders (EuroMed Rights lead). - Call for protection of human rights defenders working on issues related to Palestine - PHROC and PNGO Welcome UN Security Council's Resolution No. 2334 - PHROC Welcomes the Launch of Women's Boat to Gaza - PHROC Calls for Immediate and Decisive Confrontation of Israel Legalizing Piracy - Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council Calls for Immediate Investigations into Threats against Human Rights Defenders - PHROC Calls for the Immediate Release of Hunger Striking Administrative Bilal Kayed - Investigate Persecution Arising out of Ongoing Gaza Closure, Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Urge ICC Prosecutor - Al Mezan Center for Human Rights and Al-Haq Highlight Rights Violations of Farming and Fishing Communities within Gaza Closure in Submission to UN Special Rapporteurs - Al Mezan, Al Haq, and Badil deliver a joint oral statement at the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business 	Liaison and coordination improved with better outreach and stronger focus on HR and IHL issues influencing human rights in Palestine.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enterprises with respect to human rights in Geneva - European Parliament: Badil and Al Mezan Discuss Accountability for International Law Violations with the Delegation for Relations with Palestine - Al-Haq and Al Mezan participate in UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development - Al Mezan and LPHR submit complaint update to the UN concerning Israel's large-scale and systematic military attacks against family homes during its 2014 military offensive on Gaza - Two years on, still no accountability for attacks on Gaza's health sector - Israeli military refuses to investigate attack near UNRWA School in Rafah, Gaza that killed 14 civilians - Adalah and Al Mezan Appeal Israeli Military's Decision not to Investigate Civilian Killings near UNRWA School in Gaza in 2014 - Adalah, Al Mezan oppose Israel's rejection of compensation suit resulting from declaration of Gaza as 'enemy territory' <p>Contribution to 5 statements by EuroMed Rights.</p>	
		Translate reports on HR/IHL.	1 report.	<p>Al Mezan's quarterly report on IHRL and IHL violations in Gaza during January-March 2016. Operation Cast lead in Numbers; joint report translated by Al Mezan.</p> <p>Report on amendment No. 8 to the Israeli Torts (State Liability) Law and subsequent barriers to reparation for Palestinian in Israeli courts.⁴¹</p> <p>Joint briefing with Adalah on the lack of credible investigations by the Israeli authorities.⁴²</p> <p>2 factsheets: Juvenile Justice in Gaza Strip 2012-2016; torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, Gaza, Nov. 2015 - Oct. 2016</p>	Larger audiences made aware about HR through increase of available information
		Provide information to UN-agencies regarding HR violations.	3 communications / submissions	<p>Joint written submission with Adalah and LPHR: "Addressing Prevailing Impunity for Israel's Violations of International Law"; 31st HRC Session, March 2016.</p> <p>Two oral interventions: 1) oral intervention under General Debate, 2) Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the oPt Mr. Wibisono, 31st HRC Session, March 2016.</p> <p>UN CAT Israel review, May 2016: Two written submissions: 1) PHROC joint submission, 2) Adalah/PHR-I/Al Mezan joint submission.</p> <p>Oral statement and one intervention during the NGO briefing and NGO informal.</p> <p>Oral intervention: 1) under General Debate with Adalah, 32nd HRC Session, June 2016.</p>	UN bodies informed of violations and analysis for action and better use of UN mechanisms to improve protection and visibility.
3.1.3	The awareness of	Field visits with	3 visits.	6 visits/tours for international delegations during the reporting period:	Int'l actors

⁴¹ Available online at <http://mezan.org/en/post/20954>

⁴² Available online at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21503>.

	official missions regarding HR issues enhanced	international and diplomatic missions in the Gaza Strip.		February: Tour for MAP to document and update cases of victims of IOF attacks on health facilities during OPE. February: Tour for Belgium based NGOs in Gaza to document impacts of OPE. March: Tour for international staff supporting Ayam Al Masrah to the ARA. May: Tour for Forensic Architecture to document attacks on agricultural land during OPE. September: Tour for international experts on torture to meet fishermen who had be subjected to torture/ill-treatment. December: Tour for Diakonia's Secretary General in Gaza city and North Gaza.	informed and made aware of IHL/HR violations through exposure and interaction with victims.
		Conduct meetings with international and diplomatic missions in the Gaza Strip.	30 meetings	The senior management conducted the following meetings with local and international officials in Gaza during the reporting period: Diplomats: 36 meetings. UN officials and staff: 50 EU officials and staff: 20 International NGOs: 19 Local officials, media and NGOs: 338. These meetings provided opportunities to raise human rights concerns and provide information about the human rights and humanitarian conditions in Gaza and Palestine.	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.
3.2 Spread information about human rights issues internationally					
#	Output	Activity	Indicators	Time frame (January 2016 – December 2016)	Results/Outputs
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.	Active membership preserved in eight networks, while two were not active and abandoning them will be under consideration during the second half of the year. Please consult the 'General and Contact Information' section in the beginning of this report for further details about the membership.	Liaison, solidarity and coordination maintained for stronger intervention and capability to act at UN/EU and individual states' levels.
		Attend the meetings of HR actors inside and outside Gaza Strip.	3 meetings.	1 PHROC meeting in Ramallah and 2 via Skype from Gaza. 3 meetings for the Protection Cluster (led by OHCHR office in Gaza) and 2 meetings for the prisoners and detention group (led by OHCHR in Gaza). 7 meetings for the Legal Aid group in Gaza (led by NRC and UNDP PAAP). Two meetings for the PIP Working Group at EuroMed Rights, Paris, June 2016 and Brussels, November 2016.	Regional and international actors informed on the HR situation in Palestine and the pressing priorities.

				Two presentations at the EuroMed Rights international workshop on accountability, Brussels, November 2016. 9 meetings with HR NGOs working on Israel/Palestine in Brussels. 4 meetings with NGOs and lawyers working on accountability in Paris.	
		Contribute to reports and press releases with similar actors.	5 reports.	3 reports: Gaza Health Sector under Attack, joint report with MAP and LPHR. Contribution to HRW report on death penalty in Gaza, February 15, 2016. Contribution to Amnesty International update on accountability, June 2016. Contribution to two reports by EuroMed Rights. Contribution to infographics being prepared by Visualising Palestine, focusing on accountability and access to justice.	Violations exposed and stronger outreach secured through documentation and use of local capabilities.
3.2.2	Interaction with the mechanisms of enforcing law and HRs is strengthened.	Contribute by training HR organizations on using HR mechanisms.	1 training/ presentation	7-day training for 41 lawyers, professionals and HR activists (29 female and 12 male) on documenting torture/ill-treatment. 50 % of the training covered a range of HR mechanisms, including: Human Rights Council, universal periodic reviews, Committee against Torture, Special Rapporteurs against Torture, and urgent appeals to Special Rapporteurs.	HR activists, lawyers, and professionals became well acquainted with HR mechanisms
		Conduct meetings with coalitions and Arab networks for HRs.	6 meetings	Staff were mostly not able to travel for regional events and meetings due to restrictions on movement. A permit was granted to the General director to access the West Bank, which enabled meetings for PHROC, the ICHR and other Palestinian NGOs. Two Skype meetings with regional actors; including the Arab Organization for Human Rights (Cairo) and a coordination meeting with the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) regarding participation at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York City, July 2016. One meeting with the Arab Organization for Human Rights in Cairo by the director of Awareness and Monitoring.	Liaison and experience sharing with regional human rights actors strengthened. Joint advocacy missions with regional actors.
3.2.3	Advocacy in USA and Latin America is strengthened.	Advocacy mission to the USA.	One mission	UN event on development; a presentation on "Gaza: de-developed by the closure, military bombardments, and Israeli impunity" at side event, 1 statement, and 4 meetings with (I)NGOs in the US.	Advocacy action coverage of US and UNGA secured.
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.	2 meetings with the Palestinian mission in Geneva for consultation around the Human Rights Council 31 st and 32 nd sessions. 3 meeting with the Palestinian mission in Brussels.	Better coordination and liaison on human rights issues with Palestinian government and diplomats.

3.3 To contribute strengthening enforcement of international law.					
#	Output	Activity	indicators	Time frame (January-December 2016)	Results/Outputs
3.3.1	Provide information on HR to inform UN agencies is strengthened.	Send missions to the human rights council.	3 missions annually.	2 written (joint) 6 oral (joint) 3 side events 1 letter (joint) to the HRC president 2 press releases 12 meetings with state representatives, OHCHR, and (I)NGOs	Interaction with HRC on HR issues strengthened, leading to strong resolutions and follow up. Inform member states of violations/risks and pressure for HR friendly voting.
		Present oral and written submissions to the HR council	3 oral and 3 written submissions.	2 joint written submissions and 6 oral interventions (4 lead by Al Mezan).	
		Participate in the side events at the HRC.	4 side events.	3 side events.	
		Submit reports to ICC	2 reports.	2 reports submitted: Joint report with PCHR and Al-Haq (PCHR and Al-Haq lead); Joint report with PCHR and Al-Haq (Al Mezan lead). Meeting with the OTP at the ICC in The Hague, February 2016.	Professional contribution to ICC preliminary examination to help ensure full investigation to improve protection of civilians.
3.3.2	UN/EU human rights mechanisms are more effective.	Provide information/ reports of UN/EU about HR in Gaza.	2 submissions	2 joint submissions to UN CAT. 1 oral intervention to CAT 2 joint press releases on CAT proceedings 3 meetings with OHCHR, (I)NGOs, and partners at CAT	Feed into existing UN/EU HR mechanisms for targeted priorities.
				1 oral intervention to European Commission	Prompt the EC to challenge human rights and IHL violations embedded in the closure/blockade
				1 side event 1 joint press release 4 meetings with (I)NGOs	Lay the groundwork for advocacy and challenging IL violations in the US and at the UN Secretariat

7. Projects 2016:

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

Project Title	Donor	Goals/Objectives	Implemented Activities	Outputs/Outcomes
Promotion of IHL Protection in Gaza (Duration: 1 Jan. 2016 – 31 Dec. 2016)	Diakonia	monitor and document IHL violations and increase respect for and further implementation of International Law, specifically IHL, in the Israel-Palestine conflict	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and documentation: 182 field visits to collate data on IHL violations, and 6 tours for delegations to expose IHL violations. Advocacy and awareness: distribution of 1,000 leaflets on protection of journalists under IHL, and 500 posters on attacks on journalists; Dozens of statements/press releases on IHL violations. Education: Extension of 7 IHL training courses with 39 hours. IHL Protection: Legal advice for at least 75 persons and 16 groups of victims on IHL violations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased knowledge by 54.8% - 73.3% among target groups (journalists, lawyers, police officers, HR activists, etc.) as shown from pre/post tests. The society and actors better informed on IHL violations against at-risk groups, and greater awareness about IHL violations, including calls for respect of IHL Victims of IHL violations have increased possibility to achieve justice though increased legal interventions provided by AL Mezan outside the project.
Protection of Human Rights through legal action and judiciary reform in the oPt (Duration: 1 march 2016 – 31 March 2017)	UNDP/PAPP (Rule of Law Program)	To contribute to enhancing the rule of law and legal protection for victims of HR and IHL in the Gaza Strip through enforcing domestic and international law, building community capacity, and strengthening the independence of the judiciary and juvenile justice.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the rule of law and legal protection - 50 cases monitored and documented, 660 legal advices documented with newly developed legal aid form, legal representation (50 cases in Israel and 17 in Gaza), legal interventions (50 in both Gaza and Israel), 2 strategic cases (in Gaza and Israel respectively), 3 case brought to Israeli Supreme court, monitoring 18 cases in local courts, 6 visits to local prisons and 18 to detention centers, transfer of a minor from an adult prison. Reunification of the judiciary ó one meeting with council members of the Palestinian Bar Association, two meetings with High Judicial Council, 4 workshop about Justice system in oPt, one meeting with the head of Advisory and Legislation Bureau and legal councilors, two meeting with head of Police, three meeting with public prosecution, outline of a mapping study on the work of the justice system in oPt finalized, and one roundtable on the justice system held in the West Bank Capacity building ó trained four lawyers at Al Mezan (internship), completed 152 training hours for 38 lawyers, Awareness raising ó 10 statements/press releases addressing legal issues in Gaza/oPt, 2 awareness sessions for inmates in detention, workshop for Juvenile in welfare institution, workshops for parents and lawyers of juvenile inmates, radio interview and a factsheet on juvenile justice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased protection for victims of human rights abuses through direct legal aid, victims are informed and advised, their cases monitored and reported about. Youth have increased knowledge/awareness about their rights within the justice system through training. Young lawyers trained on HR and IHL, therewith fostering a new generation of lawyers for the future. Better overview and understanding of the situation in Palestinian judiciary, and recommendations for the future based on advice gathered from relevant stakeholders Enhanced rule of law and increased legal protection of human rights in Gaza through better application of domestic and international laws. Foundation laid for greater support for human rights through information and analysis produced under the project. Al Mezan lawyer successfully lobbied for allocating a detention room for minors in Middle Gaza's detention center, which had been mixing minors with adults previously.

Project Title	Donor	Goals/Objectives	Implemented Activities	Outputs/Outcomes
<p>Combating Impunity: Torture and CIDT Prevention, Accountability and Rehabilitation in Israel/oPt (Joint project with Adalah and Physician for Human Rights – Israel).</p> <p>(Duration: Nov. 2013 – Oct. 2016)</p>	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>	<p>1. Legal support: Representing 4 victims subjected to torture/CIDT by Israeli security authorities; submission of 5 complaints on torture by the Israeli army during OPE to MAG and 8 complaints of torture by Shabak during OPE to the Israeli Ministry of Justice; joint complaint with Adalah to MAG about a child abused by Israeli soldiers; legal advice to 227 Palestinians in Gaza who are at risk or victims of torture or ill-treatment: 85 cases dealt with complaints from fishermen surrounding their arrest and harassment at sea by the Israeli navy constituting CIDT; 142 of the cases dealt with medical patients whose treatment and requests for travel to Israel or the West Bank was delayed or denied. Some of the 227 individuals sought legal advice after attending one of Al Mezan's workshops under the project; 133 interventions, most jointly with PHR-I, on behalf of Gaza patients whose permits were denied/delayed.</p> <p>2. Monitoring/Reporting & Awareness: documented detention of 151 fishermen including 38 children, injury of 20, confiscation of 46 boats, and destruction of 16 boats and fishing equipment; documenting violations against people at-risk of torture and CIDT; a workshop for 37 people at risk of torture and CIDT; 5-day training for 25 lawyers discussing torture and CIDT; 7-day training for 41 lawyers and professionals (29 female and 12 male) on the Istanbul Protocol, documentation and intervention in torture/CIDT cases at the international level. A short film on torture and CIDT highlights ill-treatment of fishermen, farmers, and patients with denied permits; 1 fact sheet on annual documentation of torture/CIDT; and 25 joint and individual press releases.</p> <p>3. Rehabilitation: 5 victims of torture and ill-treatment were referred to GCMHP to receive rehabilitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased awareness about rights for victims/groups at risk about torture and CIDT, practices of torture/CIDT by Israeli authorities, legal bodies that receive complaints from victims of torture/CIDT particularly in the context of the Israeli occupation, and staff working on legal interventions with Israeli authorities. - Increased awareness among Palestinian lawyers about methods of torture prevalent in Israel and oPt, and means of redress regionally and internationally. Al Mezan received positive feedback with highlight on coverage of material and subjects previously not studied. - 32 patients gained access to hospitals after Al Mezan and PHR-I helped overturning denial of permits. - 5 victims of torture received much needed rehabilitation and psychological support.
<p>Gaza Emergency Response: Legal Assistance to Conflict Victims</p>	Oxfam-Novib	To strengthen protection of civilians through legal action, advocacy and media outreach.	<p>1. Screening of the documentary "Ambulance" which shed light on Israeli violations against Palestinian medical personnel. 198 participants attended, including medical staff, representatives of local and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased media outreach through screening of the film and increased media interest in violations against medical personnel during armed conflicts (a TV and radio stations asked to

Project Title	Donor	Goals/Objectives	Implemented Activities	Outputs/Outcomes
<i>(extension: first two months of 2016)</i>			international organizations (WHO, UNRWA...), and several family members of victims whose stories were portrayed in the film. 2. Distribution of 300 DVD-copies of the documentary.	broadcast the film). - Increased awareness among the general public about the violations against medical staff - film has been viewed over 2,400 times on Al Mezan's YouTube channel.
Educating young people in human rights and international humanitarian law (Duration: Jan. – Feb. 2016)	American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	Contribute in disseminating human rights and IHL culture among youths. Raise awareness of youths in cultivating and raising awareness of others.	1. 33 students from Gaza Strip universities receive 10-day training (five as a part of this project) on HR principles, IHL, democracy, communicating techniques, and methods to moderate group discussion. 2. Production and print of 200 copies of "Pass the Word" program manual. 3. 29 journalists participated in a workshop aimed at raising awareness of journalists about HR, IHL, and their protection under IHL.	- 33 youths recognized human rights principles, IHL, and democracy. - Personal skills of students in leadership developed. - 29 journalists (19 females and 10 males) gained valuable knowledge about HR and IHL, and became aware about the rights they have under IHL in times of conflict.
Promoting elections through partnership with civil society institutions "Elections: Gateway to Renew Legality and Legitimacy of the Political System" (Duration: March – August 2016)	Central Elections Commission - Palestine	Promoting elections among the youth, especially those who have never participate in the election process. Raise awareness about elections as a fundamental HR and a mean of political participation among the youth, senior citizens, and people with disabilities.	1. A two-day training on moderating group discussion for students from Gaza Strip universities 2. Five 3-day training courses (one per district in Gaza Strip) targeting workers/volunteers in CSOs aimed at raising awareness about elections and the democratic process. 3. Production of a short film to help raise awareness among target groups about elections. 4. Printing and distribution of 1,000 leaflets to promote/raise awareness about elections.	- 33 university students gained knowledge on how to moderate group discussions about elections and democratic participation. The students then organized awareness sessions targeting 107 of their peers in Palestinian universities. - 158 employees/volunteers in civil society institutions gained valuable awareness about elections and participation in the democratic process. The participants are to further promote the acquired knowledge among their peers in civil society institutions. - A 12-minute short film about the importance of periodic elections was produced and screened during training courses, published on Al Mezan website and shared through social media.

8. Admin and Financial issues

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

Financial situation:

Despite the difficulties faced during the reporting year, Al Mezan's budget remained stabilized through measures that reduced spending and increased revenues. Regrettably, some of these measures were delayed due to unexpected circumstances, including concerning health issues and prompt travel of managerial staff members for rest and respite.

One of the core donors, Save the Children, informed Al Mezan that there are no available funds to support the core program in 2016. There have been discussions about project funding. Despite the efforts to recruit joint project support, the attempt was not successful during the reporting year.

The Norwegian Representative Office to the PA also informed of the decision to join the HR/IHL Secretariat starting in 2017. This issue was raised between the Office and Al Mezan in meetings. Later, the Office informed Al Mezan that the decision to join the secretariat was retracted, and that future cooperation would be discussed in early 2017.

The reporting period witnessed tensions between some of the Palestinian human rights NGOs those registered as not-for-profit companies under existing Palestinian law and the Palestinian Council of Ministers. This followed a decision by the Council that dictates that these NGOs require the approval of the Council for every grant before they can access it. This problem was subject to repeated discussions with the government for months during which Al Mezan was unable to access grants, which affected the ability to implement some of the activities during the first four months of the year. However, an agreement was reached in May that allowed access to the funds, and minimized the government control.

The deficit, reported to donors in 2013, has been almost completely eliminated during 2016, with about 5% remaining. Al Mezan's management will consult with donors concerning any remaining funds that can be used to fund this remaining amount, and with the Board of Director to approve directing any unrestricted funds for this purpose, if relevant.

The 2016 total budget is USD 924,344 (both for the core program and projects). However, given the gaps in the structure that were not bridged due to failed recruiting attempts in 2016, the actual spending was less than planned. Al Mezan consequently prepared a modified budget for the reporting year and shared it with all donors in December in order to obtain approval.

The total revenues received as of 31 December 2016 reached USD 855,182. Moreover, an amount of USD 186,706 of remaining funds from 2015 was cleared to be used in 2016 following approvals of corresponding donors.

In conclusion, Al Mezan's budget was relatively stable in 2016. There is a degree of uncertainty for 2017, but Al Mezan is seeking to recruit funding for the core program and projects, which have proven to be a suitable means to bridge gaps and support significant elements in the core program. There have been discussions with some project donors; such as UNDP/PAPP, OSF and Diakonia.

Structure:

There have been significant changes to the Centre's structure. Two senior staff members have left Al Mezan (on a positive note: one became the president of a university and the second a dean of the politics faculty at the same university). A third staff member has relocated and is working from a distance due to security-related circumstances. Some of the newly established posts are also still vacant, despite the advertisement and interviewing of dozens of candidates. Al Mezan has recruited several temporary replacements to deal with these gaps, and has asked existing staff members to cover other gaps. With no success in recruiting senior and technical positions, this issue was considered in the second half of 2016 and creative solutions to stabilize the structure were formulated. Senior staff members who have spent years with Al Mezan and have developed strong research and training skills have been relocated to positions at the Training and Mass Communication Unit and the Research and Technical Assistance Unit for a proportional period of six months. An assessment of their work will be conducted in February 2017; a process on which a decision will be taken on their permanent recruitment for these positions. As these positions were filled by staff from the Field Work Unit, new field workers were recruited and trained to fill the gap.

Moreover, Al Mezan has contemplated the idea of creating a small office (one staff member and one intern) in Europe. This proposition was introduced in order to deal with some of the outstanding safety and access problems faced in 2015 and 2016, especially pressures and threats that seem to emanate from the Israeli security against HRDs engaged in work on accountability. A small office could secure presence in Europe to enable international advocacy and litigation, and reduce security threats to staff and information. Nevertheless, the budget cannot support this costly endeavor. Therefore, it has been decided that this will be in the form of a pilot project that will depend on whether or not there is new funds for it, and will be subject to review at the end of the pilot year. Medico International Germany has approved additional funding to initiate this project, and it will be appraised in February 2017 for final decisions on the matter.

Deviations:

Due to the reasons described in the previous section, Al Mezan did not have enough staff to conduct the planned technical assistance to local authorities and civil society organizations part of the action plan (section 2.2.3).

Due to tight restriction on travel permits for Palestinian seeking to travel through Erez crossing, our Training and Mass Communication coordinator could not participate in two trainings (one by UN Women, and another by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung) held in Jordan.

Training on documenting torture, which was originally planned to be held abroad and had been postponed several times due to travel restrictions, was finally held this year in Gaza after Al Mezan received the EU delegation's approval, and recruited international experts who managed to travel to Gaza and conduct a 7-day intensive training course on the documentation of torture using the Istanbul protocol and engaging with UN human rights mechanisms.

The number of participants at Al Mezan's 6-month lawyer training exceeded original estimates by 50% (38 lawyers participated instead of 25). A similar increase was also recorded in the Pass-the-Word program which is aimed at university students. Such numbers indicate that students and lawyers are well aware of Al Mezan training programs.

The reporting period has been marked by a significant rise in the number of civilians seeking legal advice concerning freedom of movement, due to a surge in rejection of travel permits by Israel. In total, Al Mezan provided legal advice for and filed complaints on behalf of 140

cases, the majority of which concerned access to health care in the West Bank and Israel (101 cases of access to health care in 2016 were filed compared to the original target of 36 complaints, which was set based on the number of complaints received in 2015).

Al Mezan's legal unit also exceeded initial target of legal intervention with local authorities; in total, 189 cases were taken with local authorities in Gaza (compared to 105 cases in 2015). The large increase in this year's beneficiaries came mostly from cases concerning movement and access restriction (about 50 % of all cases)

Due to the large amount of complaints collected by our lawyers in various visits to prisons and detention centers, Al Mezan decided to conduct more visits than initially planned (12) to provide much needed legal aid to prisoners/detainees. In total, our lawyers conducted 23 visits and took 78 complaints, including 11 complaints from minors. Al Mezan successfully intervened and resolved 72 complaints, which also led to the release of 6 minors and transfer of 5 others to social welfare institution.

Instead of creating online photo gallery to commemorate the second anniversary of 2014 Aggression on Gaza, Al Mezan opted for creating an info-graph both in Arabic and English to increase social media exposure. The Info-graph was published and shared on social media, mainly Twitter and Facebook, on the day of the anniversary.

Capacity building:

Al Mezan has an ambitious capacity building set of activities in 2016 and 2017. They touch on staff development and training on the one hand, and on building the organizational capacity through devising strategies for fund-raising, advocacy and human resources development on the other. These are significant areas for the stability and effectiveness of the organization in the coming years. For the first time in years, it is possible to invest more in program management, advocacy and legal assistance. Despite the challenges mentioned above, Al Mezan worked hard in 2016 to fill the gaps in the structure and ensure that the capacity-building plans will be implemented. The capacity building items were processed quite late in the year and they are expected to be completed in the first half of 2017.