

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights

Annual Narrative Report 1 Jan – 31 December 2019

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The Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC).

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Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network (ESCR Network)

Habitat International Coalition - Housing and Land Rights Network

Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN)

The World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)

The Protection Cluster (Chaired by OHCHR)

1. Introduction

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights (Al Mezan) presents its annual narrative report for the year 2019. It covers the activities of Al Mezan during the period January-December 2019. A brief note on the context in which Al Mezan worked on these activities is presented at the start of the report, and is followed by a section on overall achievement and challenges. The report then details the outcomes and activities set out in the 2019 Plan of Action. The report covers all activities under the core program and projects during the reporting period, with a table listing major projects, which aims to provide relevant information to stakeholders and donors.

2. Note on context

Setting the scene:

Developments that took place during the reporting period were primarily a continuation of major issues that emerged in 2018, which saw a sharp rise in grave human rights violations and mounting political and financial pressure on Palestinian Authority and UNRWA which lead to further deterioration of humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.

In relation to grave violations, Israel continue unabated to use lethal force against protestors demonstrating along the separation fence. Although the UN Commission of Inquiry (CoI) found reasonable grounds to deem Israel's use of live ammunition against demonstrators unlawful in almost all investigated incidents, Israel security forces has continued to use live ammunition and killed 23 Palestinians in the demonstrations, including seven children, one paramedic, and one person with disability since the publications of the Commission's detailed findings in March 2019. Over fifteen-hundred Palestinians were also injured by live fire during the protests, including 544 children. Israel also engaged in a number of brief but destructive military escalation against Gaza in 2019, during which public and private properties in densely populated areas were targeted with aerial bombardment leaving 294 homes damaged, including 71 completely destroyed.

As for the economic and humanitarian situation in Gaza, the dire crisis which is mainly driven by a 12-year Israeli blockade has been exacerbated by the PA's measures against Gaza entering their third year—whereby public servants' salaries have been slashed and early retirement has been imposed—and by UNRWA's funding crisis as the agency struggles to secure new funding to offset a gap amounting to a third of its annual budget after the US halted its contribution for the second year in a row. In addition to the aforementioned issues contributing to the humanitarian crisis, this year Israel started to withhold tax revenues owed to the PA thereby plunging the PA into further financial blunders. The PA took several counter measures in response, including a decision to seize referral of medical patients to Israeli hospitals. As a result, an increasing number of referral patients from Gaza had to be referred to hospitals in Egypt, which added unforeseen financial and psychical burdens on patients.

The United States' Secretary of State casted more doubt on the commitment of the US administration to a viable two-state solution when he stated in November 2019 that Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are “not *per se* inconsistent with international law.” This severed as a major hint of what was to come under the Trump administration peace plan that was disclosed in 2020. In the meantime, the Palestinian political division showed no end in sight. Although the Palestinian president publically expressed his intention to hold general elections, a move which was promptly welcomed by other Palestinian political actors, the year ended without any concrete progress to that end. The lack of tangible achievement on this issue further deepened the mistrust between political actors and the Palestinian electorate.

On the international level, the year ended on a positive note as both the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination voiced concerns and recommendation raised to the Committees by national and regional human rights organizations, including Al Mezan, in the Committees' concluding observations on Israel's periodic

reviews. Also finally, the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) of the International Criminal Court advanced the situation in Palestine from the preliminary examination stage to the Pre-trial Chamber to rule on the question of territorial jurisdiction. Despite this welcome development, the move raises questions as to why the OTP delayed addressing such basic question up to this point especially as it was raised year after year since 2015, in each OTP Report on Preliminary Activities.

Al Mezan remains concerned by the extreme fragility of the situation in Gaza. Decisions by donors, the Israeli authorities and the Palestinian Authority seem to have an immediate impact and cause rapid deterioration of the human rights and humanitarian conditions. Without steps taken towards reconciliation that can be made sustainable, the situation could remain too fragile and deteriorate at even more rapidly.

Issues stemming from Israeli violations in Gaza:

- The Great March of Return protests continued during the reporting period, with Israeli forces employing excessive, lethal methods against unarmed protesters. A woman and two children were among the first victims in the year, with another child also killed in February. Despite the decrease in the overall number of casualties, an excessive number of protesters were killed and wounded during the reporting period. Moreover, as UN the CoI report concluded, international action was evidently able to manage the situation in a way that reduced violence and decreased the number of casualties; attesting to the clear lack of necessity for the large number of people who were killed, wounded and maimed in the context of the GMR. During the reporting period, 35 people were killed, of whom 12 children and one woman, another 5,600 received treatment at local hospitals for injuries sustained during the demonstrations, including 2,077 children and 239 women — of whom 2,045 were wounded by live fire.
- Farmers who live or own farms close to the fence between Gaza and Israel continued to live with the implications of years of violent enforcement of the Access Restricted Area (ARA) and the effects of the chemicals spraying of the Buffer Zone which spells over their land and cause severe damage to their farms and the soil. Notably, Israeli forces did not carry out spraying activities in 2019 for the first time in years, however, the spraying recommenced in January 2020, occurring sporadically over the course of three days and causing extensive damage to Palestinian farmers' crops. During the reporting period, Israeli forces carried out 314 attacks on farmers and arable lands, killing one farmer and injuring three others, including one woman.
- The situation for referral patients continued to be difficult, with restrictions on their access to medical care hampered by the permit system and the criteria applied in it. During the reporting period, over 8,000 applications were delayed or denied access to medical care outside Gaza. Of those, one child and one woman died awaiting permits to access hospitals in the West Bank or Israel. Moreover, two patients' companions were arrested at Erez crossing.
- The attacks on and harassment of fishermen continued during the reporting period. Al Mezan documented 347 such incidents during the reporting period where live fire was opened towards Palestinian fishing boats, with 16 fishermen wounded. Another 35 fishermen were arrested by Israeli forces and 15 boats were confiscated. Notably, in most cases of arrest, fishermen were released within hours after being taken to Israeli ports and interrogated but their fishing boats were not released.
- Israeli forces launched military attacks on several occasions in Gaza, including airstrikes on civilian property. The reporting period saw large scale attacks in May in which civilians and civilian property were harmed with 193 homes damaged, including 41 completely destroyed. Another two brief but destructive escalations took place in the second half of the year. Overall, outside the demonstrations, Israeli military attacks in Gaza killed 73 Palestinians, including 11

children, and left over 200 injured, 56 of whom are children. Nearly 300 houses were hit; a quarter of them completely destroyed.

- Accountability and access to justice and redress for Palestinian victims of suspected serious violations of IHRL and IHL continues to be a massive concern. On one hand, the deprivation of justice and/or redress is a serious violation of the victims' rights. On the other hand, it is a major factor behind the continuation, and also worsening, trends of these violations. Improving protection from serious violations requires a significant improvement in accountability, which is the main reason Al Mezan and other partners continue to engage the Israeli justice system despite its apparent structural flaws and its susceptibility to political influence.

Some of the recent examples involve the dismissal of civil suit of the Al-Nabaheen family, who are seeking compensation for the unwarranted shooting of their teenage son leading to him being paralyzed for life. In this case, the Israeli District Court rejected the compensation claim on the grounds that the child is a resident of Gaza, Gaza being determined as an 'enemy territory'. This case has been advanced to the appeal stage with the Israeli Supreme Court, and will have serious strategic implications on the very notion of accountability. The possible dismissal of this appeal will virtually mean that Israel exempted itself from any responsibility for the actions of its forces on Gaza, whether these forces acted in compliance with Israeli and international law or in a way that violated it.

Moreover, the Israeli Supreme Court of Justice, sitting as a Court of Appeals, rejected the appeal concerning the case of the Abu Is'ayid family. The Court narrowly looked at whether inferior courts followed the letter of the law, including Amendment No. 8, or not, and concluded that they did. The Court ruling hints at flaws in the investigations carried out by the Israeli military, suggesting that the investigation could have concluded that there was negligence by the forces who twice attacked the family house in 2010 and 2011; however, the ruling excluded this issue.

Finally, the Military Advocate General's Office (MAG) decided to close the investigation into the killing of amputee Abu Thuraya, a protester who was shot and killed during the GMR in 2018. MAG determined that the victim could have died from Palestinian fire without providing any evidence to support this claim. Only one of dozens of criminal complaints submitted concerning killing of Palestinians in the context of the GMR protests resulted in indictment and conviction of an Israeli soldier. What is even more troubling is the fact that the indictment was limited to disciplinary charges, instead of properly based on criminal charges for unlawful killing, which effectively shielded the perpetrator from genuine accountability for killing a 14-year-old child and convicted him to a 30-day prison sentence to be served through military-related labor and a demotion in rank.

Issues stemming from internal Palestinian violations:

- Trends of internal violations of human rights intensified during the reporting period, according to Al Mezan's documentation. The increase in violations of human rights can be linked in a significant part to the collapse of positive dialogue led by Egypt to achieve internal Palestinian reconciliation. After a promising start in 2018, which saw redeployment of Palestinian Authority personnel at crossing points and partly taking charge of government institutions in Gaza, the talks faced yet another stalemate. The year started with a sabotage attack on the offices of Palestine TV in Gaza. Campaigns of summoning of political opponents, activists and journalists were also launched by the security of the de facto authorities in Gaza, affecting hundreds of people. This year also saw defacto authorities detaining a number of civil servants who were members of a committee formed by the PA to update public servants recorded in the Gaza Strip.

- Gaza also saw arrests that are linked to a crackdown on freedom of speech and academic research. Other detentions occurred which marked a start of crack down on internal protests in Gaza, which escalated and saw the security assault protestors and HRD, including staff members of Al Mezan. The protests focused on the rising living conditions in Gaza that resulted from the de facto authorities taking over of border crossings and restarting the collection of taxes on imports that had already been taxed by the Palestinian Authority. Many people saw the clear legitimacy of this complaint and participated in protests. Nevertheless, the security authorities took a very aggressive approach in dealing with the protests, forcefully dispersing crowds in several areas in Gaza. However, the protests spread further geographically and saw more and more people taking to the streets for several days.
- Although the arrested protestors were civilians, they were detained and interrogated by the Internal Security Apparatus (ISA), which banned lawyer's contact and visitation. Al Mezan's field workers and lawyers played a significant role in documenting the situation, challenging the authorities' unlawful treatment of protestors and people in detention. After many attempts, lawyers were able to visit protestors in detention, albeit in presence of the ISA officers who typically warn against discussing charges brought against the victim. Eventually, the de facto authorities released almost all detained protestors and committed to remove the new taxes.
- This situation developed as Gaza was going through a difficult time, with a fuel crisis causing prolonged power outages that affected public health, healthcare services and other aspects. Gaza also saw serious shortages in medicines and medical supplements health. Moreover, patients were affected by decisions by the Palestinian Authority regarding the referrals to Israeli hospitals and cuts to government employees' salaries, which added much pressure on the economy and various aspects of human security in Gaza.
- Other, rather continuous trends, are also of much concern and require stronger intervention. For example, the reporting period saw honour killing of three women (the youngest of whom was 18 year old) in separate incidents in Gaza that were denounced, with calls on the Palestinian authorities in Gaza and the West Bank to ensure that this type of crime is not tolerated and that men engaged in it are not granted minimized punishment. Gaza also saw incidents of courts giving death sentence rulings, the application of which is both illegal under Palestinian law and also represents a clear failure to deal with crime and security issues.

Shrinking civic space:

- The Israeli authorities continue to deal with human rights NGOs as antagonists. While NGOs such as Al Mezan continue to engage the Israeli courts and military justice system in good faith, and intervene with the authorities to improve protection of civilians, the Israeli government continue to attack them, with reports from the Israeli Strategic Affairs Ministry claiming that they are political organizations that falsely carry the banner of human rights. Criticism of unlawful settlement expansion and exhaustion of natural resources by the occupation authorities and the private sector is continuously attacked as boycott, which is in turn construed as an attempt to bash the State of Israel and its legitimacy. Legal interventions into suspected violations of IHRL and IHL are construed as 'lawfare'; waging war against Israel by using international law and accountability mechanisms. Therefore, the Strategic Affairs Ministry, in close collaboration with lobby groups, continue to delegitimize human rights defenders and put pressure on donors to stop their funding to the human rights sector in Israel and the oPt. It goes as far as claiming that such activities border anti-Semitism. There also continuous claims that try to force a link between human rights defenders and terrorism. This toxic environment adds much pressure on human rights NGOs in the region and drain their resources.

- The crack down on protests was accompanied by violent treatment, unlawful detention and reported assault and torture of human rights defenders, journalists and activists in Gaza. Despite welcoming the acquittal of female journalist after a long process of judicial harassment, HRDs and journalists were arrested and assaulted in high numbers during the reporting period. Al Mezan documented 867 incidents involving violations of freedom of speech, with 787 people arrested by the de facto authorities. Further, local authorities hindered the work of journalists and human rights defenders (HRDs) in the same period, summoning/arresting 27 journalists and at least seven HRDs, including two staff members of Al Mezan.
- The new Palestinian Authority government issued a new executive order concerning the regulation of NGOs registered as not-for-profit companies. The new order invites more government bodies to monitor NGOs in new areas. For example, the government will now check NGOs plans to ensure that they are in line with the government's own National Development Plan. Government bodies will also review salary scales of NGOs with a view to ensure that they are comparatively similar to government and public sector scales. Also, NGOs are being instructed to go through a re-registration process that end with granting or denying them registration certificates, without which they cannot function or access their grants in banks. These new measures raise concerns as to whether they will open new doors for government interference with NGOs. This executive order follows a 2016 order that forced the same NGOs to seek the government approval of every project as a condition for allowing the NGOs to access their grant funds in banks. Al Mezan has been directly affected by these measures as restrictions were imposed on the Center's bank accounts withholding any flow of new funds since August 2019 pending the relevant ministry's approval of the Center's grants and projects. Despite submission of relevant documents in the second half of 2019 to the Ministry of National Economy, the majority of the Center's grants were yet to be approved by the end of February 2020.

In the face of this situation, Al Mezan continues to prioritize improving the protection against human rights and IHL violations in Gaza following its problem-solving approaches that require high quality documentation and research that lead to legal interventions and advocacy and influencing. Al Mezan also continues to build community capacities to strength resilience and involve more people in challenging the serious patterns of human rights violations committed by all duty-bearers. Some of the results achieved during the reporting period are described with some detail in the following sections.

3. Overall achievements

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

Monitoring and Documentation:

- Al Mezan's fieldworkers conducted 4,150 field visits and 2,006 visits to meet victims/eyewitnesses to document violations, during which 5,648 violation forms were completed and over 87 testimonials were taken.
- In the reporting period, Al Mezan documented the killing of 108 Palestinians by Israeli military attacks, including 23 children and seven women; another 5,821 people, including 2,130 children and 261 women, sustained injuries from Israeli shootings, shelling and airstrikes on the Gaza Strip.
- Israeli military use of excessive and lethal force against weekly demonstrations across the separation fence left 35 Palestinians dead, including 12 children and one woman, and injured 5,600 people who were treated at local hospitals, including 2,077 children and 239 women — 2,045 of those injured were hit by live fire shrapnel, including 679 children and 25 women.
- In the sea, 351 incidents involving Israeli forces harassment of or attacks on fishermen were recorded, including 347 incidents involving use of live fire, which led to injuring 16 fishermen (including 2 children). The Israeli military also arrested 35 fishermen (three of whom were children), and seized 15 fishing boats.
- This year saw several limited escalations, each lasting a number of days, where Israeli military launched airstrikes on the Gaza Strip targeting civilian structures and private properties. The airstrikes and shelling left 74 houses and 24 public properties completely destroyed, and 220 houses and 107 public properties partially damaged.
- Incidents of internal violence, i.e. use of arms stemming from local authorities and other Palestinian non-state actors, left 39 persons dead, including 7 children and 6 women, and 153 injured, including 24 children and 10 women. Personal feuds and disputes between families claimed the lives of 9 civilians (including two children and one woman) of the 39 fatalities documented in the reporting period.
- The year saw a severe increase of violations against freedom of expression and right to peaceful assembly as the de facto authorities in Gaza attempted to suppress local protests against rising costs of living through use of force and intimidation. In the reporting period, 1,178 civilians were summoned and/or detained over participation in peaceful assemblies, posts on social media platforms, or based on their political affiliation. Local authorities hindered the work of journalists and human rights defenders (HRDs) in the same period, summoning/arresting 27 journalists and at least seven HRDs from Al Mezan, PCHR, Al Dammer, ICHR, and Amnesty International who were working on documenting human rights abuses against protestors; HRDs from ICHR were also assaulted by security forces.
- Prevention of peaceful assemblies and assaults on protestors prompted Al Mezan to intervene to free those arbitrarily detained. Al Mezan also documented incidents of torture/CIDTP against protestors detained by local authorities in the crackdown that took place in March 2019, however, the majority of the victims turndown Al Mezan offer to submit torture complaint to duty bearers, most likely due to fear of retaliation.
- Data about violations was shared with local and international organizations, including OCHA, OHCHR, WHO, and UNICEF, GCMHP and PUI, about 540 times in the reporting period.

Legal Assistance and Advice:

- 1,030 individuals (330 women, 700 men) received legal counselling on a range of violations or situations of risk resulting from practices of Israeli authorities and Palestinian duty bearers.
- 232 complaints were taken with the Palestinian duty-bearers in Gaza. Of those, 82 were complaints received from prisoners/detainees in local detention centers and prisons during lawyers' regular visits to the facilities (10 visits conducted in 2019), and 57 intervention concerned people in detention who were arrested unlawfully with breaches to the due process or for politically-motivated reasons. Al Mezan lawyers located and visited them in detention centers and prisons in the Gaza Strip and secured the release of at least 46 individuals.
- 535 Complaints were submitted to the Israeli Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA) at Erez on behalf of referral patients applying for exit permits to access hospital in the West Bank or Israel. Al Mezan successfully secured permits for 189 applicants (52 children, 63 women, and 74 men) who subsequently were able to cross Erez and reach their designated health care facilities outside the Gaza Strip.
- 154 cases whereby residents of Gaza sought exit permits to cross Erez for non-medical reasons were represented before the CLA, the majority of which were followed by Gisha. These interventions secured exit permits for 53 residents of Gaza.
- 30 complaints were submitted to the Israeli Military Advocate General (MAG) requesting criminal investigations into incidents where evidence suggests that Palestinians, including 5 children, were killed or wounded in the context of the Great March of Return. At the time of writing, only two criminal investigations have been launched into cases submitted in 2019.
- Further, Al Mezan continue to follow-up on 33 complaints pertinent to the GMR protests submitted in 2018. To date, MAG has closed two cases without launching a criminal investigation (both decisions have been appealed by Al Mezan in 2019 before the Attorney General), and launched only 3 criminal investigations, one of which lead to the indictment and conviction of one soldier. However, the charges pressed against the soldier in military court were pertinent to disobeying orders, not to killing a civilian. Thus, the soldier was convicted to a 30-day prison sentence to be served through military-related labor, a demotion in rank, and a suspended 60-day sentence. The case is very troubling in that it was centered on disciplinary charges, instead of properly based on criminal charges for unlawful killing, which effectively shielded the perpetrator from genuine accountability for killing a 14-year-old child.¹
- Legal interventions secured the return of two bodies (of children) to their families in Gaza for dignified burial. The two children had been shot and killed by Israeli soldiers stationed at the perimeter fence in two separate incidents, and their bodies were withheld for several months. It is important to note that the Israeli cabinet issued a decision in January 2017 banning return of dead bodies of Palestinians in order to use them as bargaining chips in potential future negotiations. Since the start of the GMR protests in 30 March 2018 to date, Israeli forces continue to hold the dead bodies of 16 Palestinians from Gaza, including two minors.
- Al Mezan's lawyer, based in Israel, provided legal representation for 69 detainees from Gaza before Israeli administrative and judicial bodies in the reporting period. At the time of writing, 17 cases ended with the release of represented detainees, 40 cases ended with detainees receiving prison sentences, and another 12 cases remain pending.
- Al Mezan represented one Palestinian detainee who served his sentence In Israeli jail but had not been released as he lacked residency papers for oPt, Israel, or any third country. Legal

¹ More details in Al Mezan statement: Israeli Soldier Sentenced for Failure to Follow Orders Instead of Killing of Child Al Mezan: Leniency Attests to Entrenched Impunity. (available at <http://mezan.org/en/post/23599>)

intervention made to the Israeli Ministry of Interior secured his release to the Gaza Strip almost three months after completing his sentence, which he spent in Israeli authorities' custody.

- One joint-petition submitted to the Israeli Supreme Court in December 2018, when Al Mezan and Physicians for Human Rights demanded to revoke the Israeli Policy of rejecting medical treatment of hundreds of patients from the Gaza Strip. Following the petition, the State Attorney's Office argued prior to and during the court hearing that the criterion for denying exit due to "concern with illegal residence in the West Bank" and the requirement "to have relatives staying in the West Bank or in Israel return" are not applied as a basis for refusing requests by Gazans to exit for the purpose of medical treatment. In September 2019, the judges have accepted the state's position, but left the human rights organizations the option of petitioning once again, should a gap be found between the state's declarations and the reality on the ground. Under these circumstances, the judges rejected the petition arguing it has run its course.
- Another joint-petition (Gisha, Adalah, and Al Mezan) was submitted in Jan. 2019 demanding that Israel return one fishing vessel held for three years and all other seized fishing boats along with their equipment. As a result, the State pledged before court to return the fishing vessel and gradually release 65 fishing boats back to Gaza territorial waters. By the end of 2019, the vessel in question and the other 65 fishing boats had been returned to Gaza with some fishing equipment, including nine outboard motors. The petitioning human rights organizations remain engaged with the court to secure the return of other fishing equipment, particularly motors, that remained under seizure.
- One of only two compensation cases lodged on behalf of residents of Gaza before the Israeli Supreme Court since the introduction of Amendment no. 8 to the Civil Wrongs (State Liability) Law has been struck down. In July 2019, the Supreme Court upheld the district court's decision which dismissed the case based on grounds that the damages to the plaintiff(s) were sustained during a 'combat action' thereby depriving Palestinian claimants of redress within the entire Israeli judicial system as long as the military brands the incident in question as a 'combat action'. It should be noted that Amendment no. 8 broadened the definition of 'combat action' to an extent no longer maintaining the criterion that the Israeli forces actions must be prompted by clear necessity, such that would ensure that a soldier's conduct would be in response to a situation that poses a threat to their life or safety.
- Lawyers continue to follow-up with the MAG with regards to complaints requesting a criminal investigation into the killing, injury, torture and theft of Palestinians in 2014 military operation on Gaza "Operation Protective Edge". At this point, of the 125 submitted complaints, the MAG has closed 72 cases without initiating a criminal investigation, and launched criminal investigations into 21 cases— 15 of which were close thereafter with zero indictments made against military personnel. Al Mezan continue to follow-up on 6 ongoing criminal investigations and 32 cases under MAG's complaint mechanism, and is also following up on 19 appeals made to the Israeli Attorney General against MAG's decisions.

Advocacy, media and liaison:

- Advocacy campaigns in 2019 focused on issues such as impact of Gaza closure on patients' access to medical care outside the strip, lack of accountability and access to justice and redress, findings of the UN CoI into GMR demonstrations, shrinking space for civil society and threats to HRDs. Locally, Al Mezan campaigning focused on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly following the de facto authorities' crackdown on civilians partaking in protests against the rising costs of living in March 2019.
- Al Mezan conducted eleven advocacy mission in the reporting period— including two missions to the Hauge, one to EU institutions in Brussels, two to Berlin, and three missions to the Human Rights Council in Geneva— during which Al Mezan's representatives held dozens of meetings with UN Member States, UN staff, and EU delegation to raise the aforementioned issues.

- In Gaza, Al Mezan leadership conducted 193 meetings with diplomats, UN officials and international organizations. Three field tours were organized for visiting delegations to the gathering sites of the GMR protests and to families affected in the 2014 war on Gaza.
- Al Mezan also maintained our active presence at the Human Rights Council, with three regular sessions attended in the reporting period, three written submissions and five Oral Interventions made, and two major joint side events organized.
- Moreover, Al Mezan made two submissions to UN special procedures (SR on freedom of expression and SR on human rights defenders) and a joint urgent appeal to eight special rapporteurs. This year, UN Special Procedures took action on six cases submitted by Al Mezan in 2018 concerning killing of civilians in the context of the Great March of Return protests. Communiqué were sent to the State of Israel by four Special Rapporteurs: SR on EJE, SR on freedom of assembly and expression, SR on health; and SR on oPt.
- Al Mezan submitted a List of Issues and a Shadow Report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) ahead of Israel's 4th periodic review. In its concluding observations, published in Oct. 2019, CESCR adopted the majority of concerns raised in Al Mezan's list of issues and shadow report, and importantly, called for the immediate removal of Israel's closure regime.²
- Al Mezan also submitted a joint comprehensive report (with seven other human rights organizations) to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) ahead of Israel's review. In its concluding observation, published in Dec. 2019, CERD adopted a number of important recommendations, in line with calls we made, recognizing Israel's policies and practices of racial segregation and apartheid over the Palestinian people on both sides of the Green Line, and urging Israel to ensure that its policies and practices. Further, the Committee called on Israel to uphold its obligations towards the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory in good faith and in accordance with the Convention and international law.³
- Al Mezan maintained our membership at eight networks and coalitions, and joined another coalition comprised of local human rights organizations in oPt, the UNDP, and the Ministry of Justice tasked with advancing progress towards achievement of SDG no. 16 in Palestine.
- Al Mezan staff made over 350 media appearances to discuss human rights issues (with over 200 appearances on TV stations, over 100 on radio stations, and over 30 interviews with journalists writing for newspapers and/or news websites).
- Al Mezan statements, publications and interventions were mentioned over 1,200 times in Arabic and English media outlets (61 times on TV stations, 14 on radio stations, 41 in newspapers, 1,086 times online).
- 83,140 unique users visited Al Mezan Arabic and English website. Al Mezan Facebook followers crossed 8,000 this year and Twitter feeds reached 5,100 tweets, with over 2,700 followers.

² Statement: Al Mezan Welcomes the ESCR Committee's Concluding Observations on Israel's 4th Periodic Report and Supports its Focus on Closure. (available at <http://www.mezan.org/en/post/23597>)

³ Joint Statement: Human rights organisations welcome Concluding Observations of the UN CERD on racial segregation and apartheid on both sides of the Green Line. (available at <http://mezan.org/en/post/23653>)

Training/awareness-raising:

- 384 farmers, fishermen, members of CSOs working in the ARA, journalists and social media activists (including 192 women) attended awareness-raising workshops on various human rights topics and were made aware of available legal remedies for victims of IHL/IHRL violations.
- 564 school children and 56 teachers gained basic knowledge of human rights and rights of the child in 22 awareness sessions organized at Al Mezan's offices and local schools.
- Two public workshops for public figures and community activists to discuss the findings of the UN Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 protests in Gaza.
- Nine Trainings were implemented during the year targeting 222 persons, including 122 women.
- 30 university students of Pass the Word program, 15 of whom were females, took part in the first phase of the program, which featured a seven-day training (56 training hours), and gained knowledge on HR/IHL, ESCR, democracy and the rule of law and International mechanisms for protecting human rights. In the second phase of the program, the students used the acquired skills and knowledge from the first phase to deliver 95 awareness-raising sessions to their peers in local universities during the course of the year (5 sessions on various human rights topics for 19 groups of students). The sessions reached 259 undergraduate students (162 females, 97 males).
- 31 children (16 boys and 15 girls) from residents of rural community in the vicinity of the Access Restricted Areas took part in a recreational camp organized by Al Mezan in presence of MHPSS professional. A range of activities centered on play therapy were implemented and children were engaged in psychosocial support sessions. More than 14 children were identified to be in need of prolonged therapy and were referred to Gaza Community Mental Health Program (GCMHP) to receive tailored treatment.
- 4,140 paintings from student participants in local schools (1,850 from UNRWA schools, 1,600 from the MoE schools and 690 from private schools) were received for the annual IHL/HR Child Art Awards. 491 people (including 74 children) attended the award ceremony on 12 December 2019 in Gaza City; students, their families, and members of the education community from both UNRWA and MoE were present. Representative of MoE, Dr. Ahmed Abu Al Nada and Deputy Director of UNRWA Operations, Ms. Joanna Nathan, gave speeches to the audience. A total of 36 students received awards for their exceptional artwork.
- Pre-and post-tests carried out to gauge learning outcomes of training/workshops showed an average of 15-20% increase in knowledge among surveyed participants.

Information/Communication:

- 108 Arabic/English press releases addressing violations of human rights perpetrated by Israeli forces and Palestinian actors were published online and disseminated to a mailing list of over 700 contacts, including diplomatic missions, media organizations, and NGOs. Of the 108 PRs, 28 presented weekly updates on violations against protesters in the context of the Great March of Return, 7 addressed attacks against Palestinian fishermen, and 6 on de facto authorities' breaches against freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.
- 10 joint press releases were published with partner human rights organizations addressing aerial spraying of herbicides, retrieval of seized fishing boats, appeal to the Israeli Supreme Court, and de facto authorities' crackdown on civilians protesting the rising costs of living in Gaza.
- Ten periodical reports (annual and semi-annual) were published in the reporting period on IHL/IHRL violations and internal violence in the Gaza Strip. In addition, five special reports were published on breaches of international law in the context of the Great Return March, the

implication of closure and the use of force on children in Gaza, ESCR situation in Gaza, shrinking space for civil society in the Gaza Strip, and on disposal of medical waste in the Gaza Strip and associated health and environmental risks.

- The aforementioned report on shrinking space for civil society drew the attention of the Palestinian NGOs Network (PNGO) who utilized the report in their campaigns supporting the right of freedom of association in the oPt. The report was also presented in a specialized workshop held at Al Mezan before representatives of the Ministry of Interior, the Palestinian Monetary Authority, PNGO, academics and civil society institutions. The workshop aimed to discuss the findings of the Center's report on shrinking space for civil society that showed an increase in Palestinian authorities' restrictive measures hindering establishment and sustainability of civil society institutions in the Gaza Strip.
- Alarmed by repeated assaults on medical personnel in local hospital in the Gaza Strip, Al Mezan organized a workshop in April 2019 bringing together representatives of the Ministry of Health, World Health Organization, UNRWA's health program, medical associations, and civil society organizations to discuss findings concerning the repeated attacks on medical personnel, implications for the security and safety of medical staff, recommend measures to prevent their reoccurrence.
- Al Mezan continued to follow-up on an issue raised in a former Face-the-Public meeting held in Dec. 2018 concerning residents whose houses—built on public land—were completely destroyed in 2014 as a result of Israel's large-scale military operation in Gaza and thus plans to rebuilt their houses had been put on hold until the land allocation is resolved. The initial meeting, in 2018, secured an extension for residents to regularize the status of the land with the Palestinian Land Authority before UNRWA reallocates the reserved reconstruction funds for other interventions. In 2019, Al Mezan's follow-up granted the resident another extension to mid-2019. In July 2019, the Palestinian Land Authority and Beit Hanoun Municipality finalized the planning scheme for the area and regularized the status of the land, thus the ownership of the land was fully transferred to the residents effectively resolving any withstanding issues with UNRWA.
- Five factsheets were also published shedding light on range of human rights violations documented in the reporting period, including local authorities' infringement on freedom of expression and right to peaceful assembly in the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces attacks against journalists in the context of the Great March of Return protests, the Human and financial losses of fishing under occupation.
- Three position papers/legal readings on legislative and policy developments influencing human rights in Israel and Palestine: One position paper issued under the umbrella of the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC) in May 2019 on the anniversary of Palestinian Nakba (catastrophe) urging the UNGA to establish a mandatory financing mechanism to sustain UNRWA's services; a joint position paper with Palestinian human rights organizations on the presidential decree laws amending the Law on the Judicial Authority and establishing a Transitional High Judicial Council; and one legal reading discussing the repercussions of Israel's decision to enact a law providing for withholding of Palestinian tax revenue.
- Three letters were sent to Palestinian officials to raise concerns regarding decisions/arrangements that potentially undermine access to basic rights: one concerning the MoH directive to cease referral of medical patients to Israeli hospitals; another concerning local authorities plans to condition journalists' access to information in governmental institutions on acquiring a 'Press Card' from the authorities; and a third concerning forced early retirement of public servants in the Gaza Strip.
- Al Mezan presented papers on the right to health under closure, impact of armed conflict on human rights, and on accountability to three national conferences and two other regional conferences held in Egypt, which were organized by the Arab League and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Library services

- 1,020 university students, researchers, and lawyers benefited from library services and borrowed a total of 2,200 books.
- 143 books and periodicals were added to the library and members gifted four theses of their writing to the library in the reporting period.

4. Challenges

Challenges	Mitigating measures
Uncertainty regarding availability of core funding in the first half of 2019 casted doubt over the center's ability to implement all planned activities.	Project funding secured in the first half of the year (including from UNDP and oPt HF) allowed for due implementation of monitoring, documentation and legal aid activities while the bulk of awareness-raising activities were postponed to the second half of the year when additional core funding will have been transferred.
Considerable deficit carried over from 2018 fiscal year.	By mid-2019, dialogue with Al Mezan's core donors resulted in commitments from at least two contributors to partially cover the deficit incurred in 2018.
In the months of February and March, Al Mezan recorded a drop in the number of beneficiaries seeking legal aid to obtain exit permits for medical purposes.	Al Mezan, upon approval from, the Authority of Civil Affairs, posted a notification in their offices to inform the public, including referral patients, of legal services available at Al Mezan. In the following two months (April and May), the number of referral patients resorting to Al Mezan increased.
Ongoing smear and defamation campaigns against HRDs including Al Mezan which has been explicitly targeted in reports published by the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs in early 2019.	Al Mezan intensified advocacy activities focusing on shrinking space and propagation of disinformation. Joint advocacy activities and missions with partner human rights organization are to be implemented locally and abroad during the course of the year.
Delays in processing the Center's grant approval applications by the PA resulted in restrictions being imposed on flow of new funds into our bank account since August 2019.	Al Mezan was able to continue its activities as planned for the second half of 2019 by relying on existing funds. However, if the issue is not resolved in the first half of 2020, the center is expected to face serious challenges in covering expenditures.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

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

Participant satisfaction forms, oral evaluations, and pre/post tests are some of the tools employed by the training unit to measure new learning and assess the quality of the implemented activities; for instance, pre/post tests measure acquired learning among participants in awareness-raising courses. Awareness raising workshops and trainings implemented in the reporting period were assessed using pre/post-tests which showed increase in knowledge among participants, as follows: 30% increase among rural women; 20% increase among fishermen; 20% increase among farmers; 14% increase among social media activists; 15% increase among residents of rural communities and refugee camps; and 10% increase among young lawyers and other university graduates. Feedback was solicited from 158 participants at the end of the workshops/trainings to gauge their satisfaction. On average over 85% of participants were (very) satisfied with the overall implementation, proficiency of the lecturers and contents of the presented material. In their written feedback, participants listed gained knowledge on the protection provided to civilians under IHL as one of the main takeaways from the sessions, and requested to prolong the period of the discussion following the workshop and duration of certain trainings.

Legal interventions, such as complaints to administrative bodies and petitions to the Supreme Court, are easily gauged as their results are evident within a relatively short period of time unlike interventions with the military justice system which takes years to discern. This year, engagement with the High Court of Justice resulted in the release of 65 seized fishing boats back to Palestinian fishermen in Gaza and dozens of equipment, including nine outboard motors. Although this was a notable success for human rights organizations, the fact that the court dismissed the compensation aspect meant that fishermen had to personally invest in repairing the returned fishing boats, the majority of which sustained serious damages during the prolonged period of unlawful confiscation. Further, a verdict was finally delivered on one of only two compensation cases concerning residents of Gaza appealed before the Israeli High Court since the introduction of Amendment no. 8 to Israeli Tort Law. Although the verdict was negative, it enabled plaintiffs to exhaust all domestic remedies and served as a solid evidence of the rampant impunity. In terms of engagement with Israeli administrative bodies, the success rate for securing exit permits for denied/delayed medical patients was 35% this year, enabling 189 applicants to access medical care outside Gaza.

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. The most notable outcomes for this year's advocacy was the adoption of the majority of issues and recommendation raised by Al Mezan's parallel report submitted to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ahead of Israel's 4th periodic review. In its concluding observation, the Committee called for, inter alia, the immediate removal of Israel's closure regime. Similarly, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopted a number of recommendations which were raised by human rights organizations (including Al Mezan) in a joint report submitted to the Committee ahead of Israel's review. Finally, UN Special Procedures took action on at least six cases submitted by Al Mezan in 2018 concerning killing of civilians in the context of the Great March of Return protests. Communiqué were sent to the State of Israel by four Special Rapporteurs: SR on extra judicial executions, SR on freedom of assembly and expression, SR on health; and SR on oPt.

6. Administrative and financial issues

A detailed financial statement is attached to this report. It contains multiple books, showing revenues, expenses for all donors for the year ending 31 December 2019. Other books deal with projects, and are added for the sake of transparency and information-sharing with all partners during the same period.

Financial situation:

The 2018 fiscal year ended with an annual deficit of 166,993 USD thus raising the center's cumulative deficit to 227,305 USD. As reported in 2018 annual narrative report, the deficit resulted from mainly from unexpected long processing of multi-year grant applications to two core fund contributors, Open Society Foundations and Sida. Al Mezan entered 2019 with this financial burden and had to prioritize implementation of certain activities over others until adequate core funding is secured.

Al Mezan relied on project funding to sustain vital activities and services as the dialogue with core fund contributors continued in the first half of 2019 to reach common grounds with regards to certain provisions in the proposed grant agreements. Al Mezan currently has a well-diverse portfolio of projects to sustain vital activities, including a multi-year project from EIDHR, a major project from the oPt Humanitarian Pooled Fund, and a two-year project from UNDP's SAWASYA II program. Projects' contribution to annual budget is estimated at around 50% this year.

Al Mezan was unable to pay full salaries for staff in the first few months of 2019 due to severe shortage in core funding as grants from long-time contributors Medico International and Kerk in Actie were not readily available from the start of the year and dialogue with OSF and Sida was still ongoing to reach an agreement.

By the end of the June 2019, Al Mezan has reached and signed agreements with OSF and Sida to contribute to the center's core fund: OSF is contributing a total of 600,000 USD to cover years 2018-2020, of which 100,000 USD will contribute to partially cover the deficit incurred in 2018; Sida has pledged an amount of 546,808 USD for years 2019-2020, and has also pledged to cover part of the deficit incurred in 2018 with a contribution of 53,484 USD. With these positive developments, outlook for Al Mezan's financial situation is relatively stable for the time being and we can report with certainty that enough funds have been secured for 2019 budget and the deficit suffered in 2018 is most likely to be covered entirely.

By the end of the reporting period, the center has secured the commitment of four contributors to our core fund pledging an amount totaling 649,797 USD for 2019 fiscal year, in addition, another 573,919 USD were secured from seven projects and subgrants. Hence, the total amount of secured/committed funds earmarked for 2019 reached 1,223,716 USD. In the reporting period, core expenditure was 551,963 USD and projects-related expenditure reached 544,131 USD.

Staff capacity building:

Specialized training on EU advocacy, EPLO, Brussels 20-21 June 2019

The training seminar aimed to analyse the EU's institutional capacity regarding conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It enables participants to increase their understanding of the EU as a foreign policy actor, learn about obstacles and potential of the EU to do effective peacebuilding and provide them with concrete examples of advocating for more effective policies and programmes on conflict prevention and peacebuilding at EU level.

Hebrew language course (1 year) training for certain staff members

Lawyers, researchers and project assistants enrolled in one-year Hebrew language course for beginners held at Al Mezan Gaza office aiming to develop their reading and writing skills to facilitate future work and engagement with Israeli administrative bodies.

Annex I

Achievement as per Plan of Action 2019

Achievements as per Action Plan 2019**I. Protection Program**

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

#	Planned activities	Annual Indicators and targets	Achievements
Outcome 1.1: To enhance respect and protection of human rights and access to justice in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip			
Output 1.1.1: Violations of human rights and IHL in the Gaza Strip are properly documented			
1.1.1.1	Document at least 1000 cases of violations against Gaza population (both by Palestinian and Israeli actors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1000+ cases 	<p>Violations committed by Israeli forces</p> <p>In the reporting period, Al Mezan documented the killing of 108 Palestinians by Israeli military attacks, including 23 children and seven women; another 5,821 people, including 2,130 children and 261 women, sustained injuries from Israeli shootings, shelling and airstrikes on the Gaza Strip.</p> <p>(1) violations in the buffer zone (the territorial part of the Access Restricted Area):</p> <p>Excessive and lethal use of force against demonstrations in the ARA left 35 Palestinians dead, including 12 children and 1 woman, and injured 5,600 people who were treated at local hospitals, including 2,077 children, 239 women — 2,045 of those injured were hit by live fire shrapnel, including 679 children and 25 women.</p> <p>457 incidents of shooting and/or shelling by the Israeli military affecting farming and herding communities in the ARA were documented. The attacks left 16 wounded, including 3 children and 2 women.</p> <p>97 Palestinians were arrested, including 32 children, after crossing the separation fence either during the Great March of Return protests or in separate incidents.</p> <p>59 limited incursions were documented, the majority of which were conducted to level land on the Palestinian side of the border.</p> <p>(2) violations at sea (the naval part of the Access Restricted Area):</p> <p>In the reporting period, Israeli forces opened fire at Palestinians in Gaza Sea in 347 separate incidents, injuring 16 fishermen (including 2 children). The military also arrested 35 fishermen (including 3 children), and seized 15 fishing boats.</p> <p>Violations by Palestinian Actors</p>

			<p>In the reporting period, Al Mezan documented incidents of violence stemming from local authorities and other Palestinian non-state actors which left 39 persons dead, including 7 children and 6 women, and 153 injured (including 24 children and 10 women), most notable incidents were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrest and summon of 391 individuals for their political affiliation and another 787 in breach of their right to freedom of expression. - 19 incidents of personnel disputes or disputes between families, 9 killed (including 2 children and 1 woman) and 34 wounded (including 4 children and 3 women); - 4 cases of ‘honor killing’ (3 women killed); - 5 incidents of shootings by unidentified assailants (5 injured); - 9 incidents of misuse of firearms (5 killed, including 1 child and 1 woman, and 4 were injured, including 3 children); - 33 incidents where arms malfunction/mishandling caused an explosion (13 killed, including 3 children, and 88 wounded, including 11 children and 1 woman). - breaches of the right to peaceful assembly and altercations between local security forces and people involved in public gathering resulted in 12 injuries referred to local hospitals (including 3 children and 2 women). - 34 incidents of assault or restrictions on journalists by local authorities which involved the arrest of 27 journalists.
Output 1.1.2: Enhanced respect of human rights, IHL and the rule of law via legal intervention and analysis			
1.1.2.1	Provide legal advice to at least 100 cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100+ legal advices 	<p>Al Mezan lawyers provided legal counselling to 239 right holders (158 men, 81 women) regarding issues with Palestinian duty-bearers in the Gaza Strip in relation to the following rights and concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - right to due process (32 cases); - concerns in relation to family law (22 cases); - access to legal/official documents (18 cases); - work-related and public servants’ rights (12 cases); - property rights (19 cases); - access to medical care (33 cases); - freedom of assembly/association/expression (13 cases); - torture or Cruel inhuman treatment/punishment (10 case); - right to education (6 cases); - freedom of movement (4 cases); - arbitrary detention (33 cases); - right to housing (10 cases); - right to reparation (12 cases);

			- Others (15 cases).
1.1.2.2	Make at least 50 complaints with the Palestinian authorities	• 50+ interventions	<p>Al Mezan lawyers initiated legal interventions (complaints/communications) to Palestinian duty bearers on behalf of 232 right holders (215 men, 17 women, 12 children) in the Gaza Strip, including detainees in local detention centers/prisons, in relation to the following rights and violations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - detainees' rights (82 cases identified during lawyers' visits to local detention centers and prisons, 62 successful—more details under activity 1.1.2.3); - arbitrary detention (57 complaints, 46 successful) [more details under activity 1.1.2.4]; - access to medical care (19 complaints, 7 successful); - freedom of movement (3 complaints, 2 successful) - freedom of assembly/expression (18 complaints, 18 successful— detainee released); - property rights (7 complaints, 3 successful); - concerns in relation to Family Law (2 complaints, 1 successful); - municipal services, work-related and public servants' rights (1 complaint); - torture or cruel inhuman treatment/punishment (15 complaints, 13 successful—authorities launched an investigation); - Right to due process (5 complaints, 4 successful); - access to legal/official documents (2 complaints); - Right to housing (4 complaints, 2 successful) - Right to reparation (3 complaints, - Right to life and physical (7 complaints, 1 successful) - Others (6 complaints, 4 successful).
1.1.2.3	Conduct 6 visits to prisons and detention centers in Gaza for monitoring and legal advice	• 6 prison visits	<p>Al Mezan's lawyers conducted visits to 6 detention centers, 3 prisons and 1 center for juveniles' welfare in the Gaza Strip. They spoke with detainees in police custody or in prisons, informed them of basic due process rights, and took their complaints to the relevant authorities.</p> <p>A total of 82 complaints were taken with relevant authorities, most notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 22 in relation to access to medical care; - 15 in relation to due process; - And 10 in relation to CIDTP/torture claims. <p>At least 62 of the 82 complaints were resolved successfully with the prison/detention administration whereas serious complaints, i.e. CIDTP/torture claims, were taken with the head of Human Rights and Grievances department at the Ministry of Interior.</p>

1.1.2.4	Representation of 5 cases of human rights violations (arbitrary detention) before the Palestinian courts and/or local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 legal representations 	57 victims of arbitrary detention (all men) were represented before local authorities in Gaza which secured lawyer visitation and led to the release of 46 individuals thereafter.
1.1.2.5	Take up 1 strategic litigation in relation to human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 strategic litigation 	One case lodged at the district court in Gaza against the Islamic University in Gaza whose criteria of admission to the Faculty of Medicine is discriminatory in nature. The university has set a different entry grade for female students than that for their male counterparts, which effectively deprived many female high school graduates from applying to the Faculty of Medicine. Al Mezan represented one of those female students before the district court in Gaza on the pretense that this practice goes against the Palestinian Basic Law (temporary constitution) and is actively depriving female students of their right to equal opportunities. The judge presiding over the case held a meeting with Al Mezan before the ruling, during which he discuss his reasoning for dismissing the case. Al Mezan deemed his reasoning unjustified and legally baseless. Nonetheless, the judge dismissed the case in December 2019. This case goes to show the lack of independence of the judiciary in Gaza and is yet another example of partisan politics prevailing over the rule of law.
1.1.2.6	Conduct 1 legislation review/analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 legislation review 	<p>Legal Reading of Israel’s Law on Withholding Palestinian Tax Revenue: Published in February 2019, the legal reading addresses the repercussions of Israel’s decision to enact a law providing for withholding of Palestinian tax revenue, and discuss its violation of established international treaties such as the Paris Protocol of 1994, the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969, and the UN General Assembly Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States of 1981.</p> <p>[Arabic version of the document is available at http://mezan.org/post/28190]</p>
1.1.2.7	Start conducting 1 case analysis of Israeli court rulings (to be pursued over 3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 court case analysis (initiate) 	To be conducted in 2020 on the Israeli Court of Justice ruling on Abu Is’ayid family case (more details on the ruling under activity 1.1.3.3)
Output 1.1.3: Enhanced respect of IHRL and IHL, and protection of civilians via litigation related to Israeli violations			
1.1.3.1	Make at least 100 complaints with the Israeli authorities, including the Military Advocate General and COGAT concerning movement and access of patients and others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100+ complaints 	<p>Complaints were submitted to the Israeli Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA) at Erez on behalf of referral patients applying for exit permits to access hospital in the West Bank or Israel. The legal intervention was made on behalf of 535 permit applicants (which had been submitted for 98 children, 153 women, 284 men). Al Mezan successfully secured permits for 189 applicants (52 children, 63 women, and 74 men) who subsequently were able to cross Erez and reach their designated health care facilities outside the Gaza Strip.</p> <p>10 complaints were made to the Military Advocate General (MAG) on behalf of fishermen whose fishing boats had been either seized or destroyed by Israeli Navy at Gaza Sea. Further, HR organization appealed to the Supreme Court demanding the return of a large fishing vessel seized for over 3 years and another 65 fishing boats. (more details under 1.1.3.3).</p>

			<p>8 complaints to the MAG pertaining to killing and injury 13 Palestinians as well as property damage which took place during a number of limited military escalations in 2019.</p> <p>30 complaints were submitted to the Israeli Military Advocate General requesting a criminal investigation into cases leading to the killing and injury of Palestinians, including 5 children, in the Great March of Return (GMR) protests. At the time of writing, only two criminal investigations have been launched into cases submitted in 2019.</p> <p>Further, Al Mezan continue to follow-up on 33 complaints pertinent to the GMR protests submitted in 2018. To date, MAG has closed two cases without launching a criminal investigation (both decisions have been appealed by Al Mezan in 2019 before the Attorney General), and launched only 3 criminal investigations, one of which lead to the indictment and conviction of one soldier. However, the charges pressed against the soldier in military court were pertinent to disobeying orders, not to killing a civilian. Thus, the soldier was convicted to a 30-day prison sentence to be served through military-related labor, a demotion in rank, and a suspended 60-day sentence. The case is very troubling in that it was centered on disciplinary charges, instead of properly based on criminal charges for unlawful killing, which effectively shielded the perpetrator from proper accountability.</p> <p>Finally, Lawyers continued to follow-up with the MAG with regards to dozens of complaints requesting a criminal investigation into the killing of Palestinians in 2014 military operation on Gaza “Operation Protective Edge”. At this point, of the 125 submitted complaints, the MAG has closed 72 cases without initiating a criminal investigation, and launched criminal investigations into 21 cases— 15 of which were close thereafter with zero indictments made against military personnel. Al Mezan continue to follow-up on 6 undergoing criminal investigation and 32 cases under MAG’s complaint mechanism, and is also following up on 19 appeals made to the Israeli Attorney General against MAG’s decisions.</p>
1.1.3.2	Representation of at least 12 persons detained in Israel on human rights related issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12+ legal representations (e.g. detention at borders...) 	<p>Al Mezan’s provided legal representation to 69 residents of Gaza (including 11 under the age of 18) arrested by Israeli authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 17 were released within 21 days (no charges were pressed against them); - 40 were charged and were represented before court until a sentencing was pronounced; - another 12 cases are being represented before court at the time of writing; - and one case was dropped upon the request of the detainee’s family who opted to hire a private attorney. <p>Al Mezan also represented one Palestinian detainee who completed his sentence In Israeli jail and was not released as he lacked residency papers for oPt, Israel, or any third country has been represented by Al Mezan before administrative bodies, namely the Israeli Ministry of Interior, to secure his release almost three months after he completed his sentence which successfully resulted in his release to the Gaza Strip.</p> <p>In addition, three female relatives (one mother and two wives) of Palestinians serving sentences in Israeli jails were represented during the reporting period to facilitate visits to detainees as they were all denied permits prior to Al Mezan’s</p>

			<p>intervention. At the time of writing, one intervention was successful and enabled one mother to visit her son; another remains pending; and the third was put on hold as the wife refused to attend an interview requested by Israeli intelligence at Erez crossing, without which a permit to visits the detainee would not be issued.</p> <p>Further, Al Mezan represented a 30-year-old detainee who is serving a 40-month sentence in Nafha prison to secure his access to proper medical care. The detainee had been experiencing health problems since his arrest in 2018 and was admitted to hospital on 11 August 2019 after suffering a heart attack. Doctors recommended installing a heart pacemaker for the patient but the Israeli Prisons Service (IPS) refused to cover the associated costs thereby evading its responsibility of provision of medical care for detainees. In response, the detainees started a hunger strike and Al Mezan lawyer sent a communication to the IPS informing of our intent to take the case to court if proper medical treatment is not provided; the IPS agreed to cover the costs associated with the detainee’s medical treatment who then underwent a surgery to install the pacemaker on 21 August 2019.</p>
1.1.3.3	Take up/follow up at least 2 cases with Israeli courts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2+ litigations 	<p>(1) Joint-petition to the Supreme Court demanding revoking the Israeli policy of refusing medical treatment to hundreds of patients from the Gaza Strip.⁴</p> <p>Physicians for Human Rights (Jaffa) and Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights (Gaza) submitted a petition to the High Court in December 2018 and challenged the Israeli requirement to have relatives – former residents of Gaza now residing in the West Bank or Israel without permit – return to Gaza as a condition for issuing a travel permit for patients. The petition is informed by dozens of cases that have reached the two NGOs over the past two years of patients whose exit had been denied for that reason.</p> <p>Following the petition, the State Attorney’s Office argued prior to and during the court hearing that the criterion for denying exit due to “concern with illegal residence in the West Bank” and the requirement “to have relatives staying in the West Bank or in Israel return” are not applied as a basis for refusing requests by Gazans to exit for the purpose of medical treatment. The judges have accepted the state’s position, but left the human rights organizations the option of petitioning once again, should a gap be found between the state’s declarations and the reality on the ground. Under these circumstances, the judges rejected the petition arguing it has run its course.</p> <p>(2) Joint-petition to the Supreme Court demanding that Israel return one fishing vessel held for three years and all other seized fishing boats along with their equipment.⁵</p>

⁴ For more information, please refer to <http://mezan.org/en/post/23579>

⁵ For more information, please refer to <http://mezan.org/en/post/23541> and <http://mezan.org/en/post/23542>

			<p>Gisha, Adalah, and Al-Mezan submitted a petition to the Israeli High Court in January 2019 on behalf of Gaza fisherman Abdel Ma’ati Habil, whose boat was seized by the Israeli navy in September 2016, demanding that Israel immediately return all boats seized from Gaza fishermen, along with their equipment. The petition argued that the seizure of Habil’s boat and other boats currently held by Israel was illegal and conducted without any legal authority. It was submitted after the Israeli military agreed to return Habil’s boat but only via land rather than by sea, at his own expense, and without mention of the fishing equipment on board at the time it was seized,</p> <p>On 13 June, the state notified the court that it would return Habil’s boat “within two weeks” and that the process of returning the rest of the boats to the Strip, by sea, would be completed “in about four months.”</p> <p>On 1 July, Israel transported the fishing vessel by land to Kerem Shalom Crossing. The boat’s journey from the crossing to the Gaza Port took another seven hours due to logistical challenges. In the following days, Israel return another 20 fishing boats to Gaza territorial waters without their engines or equipment.</p> <p>By the end of 2019, the vessel in question and the other 65 fishing boats had been returned to Gaza with some fishing equipment, including nine outboard motors. The petitioning human rights organizations remain engaged with the court to secure the return of other fishing equipment, particularly motors, that remained under seizure.</p> <p>(3) Four compensation cases lodged before Israeli courts on behalf of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip (3 pending, one closed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abu Is’ayid family case: In Nov. 2017, the District Court in Be’er Sheva dismissed the case lodged in 2012 seeking compensation for damages resulting from the Israeli military attack on the family’s home in July 2010, in which Naser’s wife was killed, four family members were injured, and the house was partially destroyed. The district court dismissed the case on grounds that the incident amounted to ‘combat action’ per Torts (State Liability) Law, and therefore the court considered the State not responsible for any damages resulting from the incident.⁶ In Jan. 2018, Al Mezan applied for an extension to the two-month deadline originally granted to appeal the court ruling to the Israeli Supreme Court of Justice. The extension request was approved and Al Mezan lodged the appeal to the Supreme Court in July 2018. In July 2019, the court upheld the ruling by the district court dismissing the case the same grounds⁷ thereby depriving resident of Gaza who sustained damages during ‘military action’ any access to legal remedies in Israeli civil courts.
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⁶ For more information on the district court ruling, refer to <http://mezan.org/en/post/22132>

⁷ For more information on the district court ruling, refer to <http://mezan.org/post/28969>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nabaheen’s case: On 16 Nov. 2014, Israeli military forces shot Attiya Nabaheen, 15 years-old at the time. Nabaheen was returning from school. He was not armed and was not involved in any violence. As a result of the shooting, Nabaheen was paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. In Nov. 2018, Israel's Be'er Sheva District Court rejected a case filed by Adalah and Al Mezan on behalf of the Nabaheen family against the Israeli military for the shooting and wounding of their son. The court ruled that the state is not liable for damages because Palestinians in Gaza are not entitled to seek compensation from Israel as they live in an “enemy entity”. Adalah and Al Mezan appealed this ruling to the Israeli Supreme Court on 7 February 2019, arguing that the lower court’s decision and the amendment to the State Liability law violate both Israeli and international law, which require that protected civilians be entitled to effective legal remedies.⁸ The human rights organizations demand that the Supreme Court overturn the ruling of the Be’er Sheva District Court and find Amendment No. 8 unconstitutional. The court hearing is scheduled for September 2019. The court then postponed the hearing to 2020. Legal proceedings in two other compensation cases lodged by Al Mezan to the Israeli district court, with similar legal standing to Nabaheen’s case, have been put on hold awaiting the Supreme Court ruling on Nabaheen’s case.
1.1.3.4	Submit at least 5 complaints concerning torture/CIDTP.	• 5+ complaints (T/CIDTP)	<p>In 2019, Al Mezan filed one complaint to the Israeli Military Advocate General on behalf one Palestinian fishermen subjected to torture/CIDTP. The military is currently investigating the incident and, in the process, the Military Police heard the victim and one witness at meeting held at Erez crossing.</p> <p>Further, Al Mezan filed 25 torture/CIDTP complaints to local authorities based on account of victims who were meet during Al Mezan’s regular visits to local detention center/prisons or whose families approached Al Mezan. Local authorities informed Al Mezan of initiating investigations into over a dozen of incidents, however, based on past experience, the findings are not likely to be disclosed.</p>
1.1.3.5	Submit at least 10 civil complaints to the Israeli Ministry of Defense.	• 10+ civil complaints to MoD	Al Mezan sent 30 civil notifications to the Israeli Ministry of Defense to secure the right of victims of IHL/IHRL violations to seek reparation in Israeli courts within two years after the incident, per statute of limitation imposed by Israeli law. The majority of the notification were sent on behalf of casualties of the Great March of Return.
1.1.3.6	Refer at least 25 victims to specialized NGOs in Israel and oPt	• 25+ referrals	<p>Cases where residents of Gaza sought exit permits to cross Erez for non-medical purposes, e.g. appointment for visa application at foreign consulates in Jerusalem, visiting detained relatives in Israeli prisons, travelling to Jordan, etc. were referred to Gisha. Al Mezan also engaged beyond the referral procedures by compiling relevant documents provided by applicants, sending case files to Gisha, and updating applicants of any progress.</p> <p>In the reporting period, Al Mezan referred 125 cases of this nature to Gisha who in turn conducted legal interventions of behalf of the plaintiffs (61 men, 64 women). This collaboration successfully secured exit permits for 41 residents of Gaza. Another 29 cases of this type were taken directly by Al Mezan to the Israeli Coordination and Liaison Administration at Erez, resulting in securing 12 exit permits.</p>

⁸ For more information on the case and the Supreme Court appeal, refer to <http://mezan.org/en/post/23370>

1.1.3.7	Provide legal advice to at least 200 cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200+ legal advices 	<p>Al Mezan lawyers provided legal counselling to 791 right holders (542 men, 249 women) regarding legal issues and concerns in relation to Israeli authorities' policies and practices against Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • freedom of movement for medical patients (381 cases); • freedom of movement for non-medically-related purposes (171 cases); • access to legal/official documents (87 cases); • right to reparation and legal remedies (8 cases); • arbitrary detention (9 cases); • right to work (7 cases); • property rights (5 cases); • detainees' rights (64 cases); • Others (3 cases).
Output 1.1.4: Contribution to the enforcement of the international human rights and IHL mechanisms			
1.1.4.1	Submit 5 complaints and/or reports to intergovernmental mechanisms (e.g. UN/EU, including UN Special Procedures and courts).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 complaints/ reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 January 2019: submission of List of Issues Prior to Reporting to CESCR Committee for adoption of Israel's LoIPR. Link: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCESCR%2fICO%2fISR%2f33549&Lang=en • 1 March 2019: Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of opinion and expression regarding Israel/Palestine's follow-up to the SR's 2011 visit and implementation of recommendations. • March 26, 2019: joint Urgent Appeal (with Al-Haq and PCHR) to the UN Special Procedures ahead of the One-Year Commemoration of the "Great Return March" in the Gaza Strip. http://mezan.org/en/post/23493 • 27 March 2019: Joint Open Letter (signed by 20 Palestinian, regional, and international organizations) to the UN Secretary-General and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights ahead of one-year commemoration of the GRM protests. http://mezan.org/en/post/23492 • 10 May 2019: joint submission (led by CIHRS) to the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders. • 10 May 2019: communication submitted to the ICC OTP regarding accountability updates from the OPE cases. • 3 June 2019: joint letter (with 32 International, European, Israeli and Palestinian organizations) to the High representative of the EU Federica Mogherini and EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs urging the EU to counterweight the US plan for the Middle East. • UN Special Procedures took action this year on six cases submitted by Al Mezan in 2018 concerning killing of civilians in the context of the Great March of Return protests. Communiqué were sent to the State of Israel by four Special Rapporteurs: SR on EJE, SR on freedom of assembly and expression, SR on health; and SR on oPt. • Oct. 2019: Submission of questionnaire to Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders office concerning major trends/issues to highlight for next report, including targeting of unarmed protesters in Great March of Return. • Sep. 2019: Submission of shadow report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which highlighted the issue of patients, attacks in the ARA and impunity. http://mezan.org/en/post/23606

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nov. 2019: eight Palestinian, regional, and international organisations, including Al-Haq, BADIL, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, Addameer, the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem (CCPRJ), the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS), and Habitat International Coalition – Housing and Land Rights Network (HIC-HLRN), submitted a comprehensive 60-page report to the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) ahead of Israel’s review in December 2019. http://mezan.org/en/post/23608
Outcome 1.2: To enhance networking and coordination with local, regional and international human rights actors			
Output 1.2.1: Networking and coordination with local, regional and international NGOs and actors is established and maintained			
1.2.1.1	Pursue 1 new thematic coalition membership (during the 3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8+ active memberships maintained 1 new membership pursued 	<p>Al Mezan’s membership in the existing coalitions was maintained. In addition, Al Mezan joined another coalition comprised of local human rights organizations in oPt, the UNDP, and the Ministry of Justice, tasked with advancing progress towards achievement of SDG no. 16 in Palestine.</p> <p>Meetings/activities were conducted with EuroMed Rights, PHROC, FIDH. Further, Al Mezan attended EuroMed’s Working Group on Palestine, Israel, and Palestinians (PIP) meetings in May and November 2019.</p>
1.2.1.2	Conduct 10 meetings and consultations with local civil society actors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10+ meetings/ consultations 	<p>Over a dozen meetings aimed at consultation and strategizing with civil society organizations addressing human rights concerns relevant to the oPt, including accountability and access to justice, engagement with Israeli justice system, referral patients access to medical care, shrinking space for civil society and threats against human rights defenders, and future cooperation and joint actions.</p>
1.2.1.3	Conduct 1 informal meeting/social gathering with youth activists, young journalists and lawyers, etc. in Gaza.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 informal meeting/gathering with youth 	<p>Al Mezan organized a gathering on 24 June 2019 for 25 social media activists (including 12 females) to raise awareness of IHL and its relevance and applicability in the oPt. The meeting also discussed best practices to portray the current developments on media platforms using proper terms reflective of IHL, especially terminologies used in the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilians in armed conflicts.</p> <p>Al Mezan organized some short meetings with lawyers and journalists in which discussions on the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip, the violations against journalists and the difficulties encountering the new lawyers were raised.</p>
1.2.1.4	Conduct 25 meetings with UN bodies, INGOs and diplomats in Gaza.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 meetings with UN bodies, INGOs and diplomats in Gaza 	<p>Al Mezan’s administration held 193 meetings with diplomatic missions, UN agencies, and international NGO in Gaza, including 29 diplomats, 24 UN officials, 6 EU representatives, and 134 representatives of international organizations.</p> <p>Most notable meetings were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13 January 2019: Mr. Bruno Dmeyere, Head of the Legal Department in Israel and the Occupied Territories at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Mr. Khalil Alwazir, Legal Adviser at ICRC, were welcomed by Mr. Younis during their visit to Al Mezan. Throughout their visit, Mr. Dmeyere and Mr. Alwazir were briefed on the general humanitarian situation in Gaza as well as on Al Mezan’s mission in delivering legal aid to victims of abuses as

			<p>well as a broad range of other activities aimed at protecting and promoting human rights. Mr. Dmeyere discussed the work of ICRC in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. 15 January 2019: Mr. Kees van Baar, Head of Mission at the Netherlands Representative Office in Ramallah, and Mr. Maurits Oskam, First Secretary Political Affairs and Human Rights at the Office, visited Al Mezan Center for Human Rights in Gaza City and were welcomed by Mr. Issam Younis, Al Mezan’s Director-General. During the meeting, Mr. Younis shared with the two diplomats a detailed overview of the deteriorating humanitarian and human rights situation in the Gaza Strip, focusing on recent political developments and their exceptional impact on daily life in Gaza. Mr. Younis discussed the critical effects of the continued blockade, closure of borders, and restriction of movement of people and goods. He noted that the ongoing Palestinian internal division has also resulted in undermining not only the fundamental rights of the people but also the rule of law and the overall living conditions in Gaza. Mr. Younis also stressed that the international community must actively defend the cause of human rights and international law and bring the ongoing violations to an end, including through holding perpetrators to account. 3. On 17 April 2019, the Director General met with the German Ambassador and the head of Development Cooperation at the German Consulate. Al Mezan provided an overview of the deteriorating humanitarian and human rights situation in the Gaza Strip, focusing on recent developments and their exceptional impact on daily life in Gaza, in particular patients, fishermen and farmers affected by the ARA policy. 4. On 28 April 2019, Al Mezan, jointly with PCHR, met with and provided an overview of the human right situation in Gaza for two representatives of Oxfam America—Ms. Shannon Scriber, Associate Director, and Mr. Scott Paul, senior policy advisor. The meeting focused on the impacts of violations of IHL and human rights, especially for those groups served by the project. 5. On 24 June 2019, Al Mezan meet with a visiting delegation from the Carter Center, including Ms. Laura M. Olson, Director of Human Rights Program; and Ms. Beth Plachta, Associate Director of Democracy Program. Al Mezan briefed the delegation on the HR situation in Gaza, especially the center’s interventions following the de facto authorities’ crackdown on peaceful protestors. Impact of the blockade was also discussed with focus on its detrimental impact on patients access to healthcare facilities outside Gaza; the outcomes of joint petitions lodged before the Israeli Supreme Court over the past months to challenge collective punishment policies were discussed in details. Finally, Al Mezan discussed the challenges facing human rights defenders in Palestine in light of the smear campaigns spearheaded by the Israel Ministry of Strategic Affairs. 6. On 10 July 2019, Al Mezan met with WHO delegation to discuss the center’s findings from monitoring and documentation of attacks on medical personnel in the context of the GMR demonstrations and legal interventions, including petitions to the Israeli Supreme Court, to secure referral patients’ access to medical facilities in the West Bank and Israel. 7. On 10 July 2019, Al Mezan met with Ms. Ashley Durec, First Secretary of Political and Trade Affairs at the Representative Office of Canada. The meeting touched on the ongoing restriction on freedom of movement and the affects thereof on referral patients and students; the enforcement of ARA and its repercussions on farming and fishing communities; and lack of accountability was also discussed in details in light of the recent supreme court verdict on Abu Is’ayid case and how it blocks any access to domestic legal remedies for Gazan affected by past and future ‘military action’. 8. On 11 July 2019, Al Mezan attended a meeting via video conference between Gaza-based human rights organizations and the Swedish Consul General, Ms. Jessica Olausson. Al Mezan discussed challenges facing human rights defenders in
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			<p>Gaza based on firsthand experience in the field during monitoring of de facto authorities' crackdown on local protests in March 2019. Local authorities' torture of detained protestors and reluctance of victims to lodge formal complaints for fear of retaliation was also discussed. Further, lack of accountability in Israel was also discussed in light of the Supreme Court dismissal of Abu S'ayid case whereby all domestic legal remedies have been exhausted to no avail. Finally, progress made in the joint petition aimed at retrieving seized fishing boats and equipment was presented.</p> <p>9. On 27 August 2019, Al Mezan Director General met with Mr. Thomas Hammarberg, member of the Swedish parliament and the former Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, and Mr. Hans Josefsson, General Secretary of the Religious Social Democrats of Sweden. Al Mezan provided an overview of the deepening humanitarian crisis and deteriorating economic situation driven primary by Israeli blockade/closure and the PA punitive measures. Lack of accountability and the state of impunity were also discussed in light of Israel's complete disregard of the 2018 Independent Commission of Inquiry's findings pertinent to the GMR demonstrations.</p> <p>10. On 9 September 2019, Al Mezan Director General met with a visiting delegation from the Consulate General of Belgium in Jerusalem, including Marie Cherchar, Consul and head of Political Affairs and Katleen De Naeyer, Head of Cooperation. Al Mezan briefed the delegation on the HR situation in Gaza and the humanitarian conditions. Also, the latest developments of the Palestinian internal split and its impact on undermining human rights at the local level were discussed.</p> <p>11. On 2 October 2019, Al Mezan's Director General met with Mr. Michael Herold, Deputy Head of Mission at the German Representative Office in Ramallah. The diplomat was briefed on the state of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip as Israel's blockade enters its 13th year with aggravating measures restricting movement of people and goods into and out of the costal enclave. Mr. Younis noted that the ongoing Palestinian internal division has severely undermined not only the fundamental rights of the people but also the rule of law and the overall living conditions in Gaza. He also stressed that the international community must actively defend human rights and international law and bring the ongoing violations to an end, including through holding perpetrators to account.</p>
1.2.1.5	Conduct 3 field visits for international delegations in Gaza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 field visits 	<p>June 2019: Field visit conducted for CIDSE's Policy Officer Israel and the oPt, Mr. Frederick Swinnen, to the Great March of Return gathering site east of Gaza City.</p> <p>July 2019: Field visit to French journalists, including a meeting with victims of 2014 military operation on Gaza.</p> <p>November 2019: Field visit for Diakonia's Country Director, Mr. Magnus Carlquist, Policy Officer, Mr. Joakim Wohlfeil, to the Great March of Return gathering site inn east Gaza City where they spoke with one of the injured protestors. They also visited farmlands near the separation to speak to farmers who had been affected by Israel's aerial spraying of herbicides prior to 2019.</p>
1.2.1.6	Attend 5 meetings with relevant networks and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 meetings outside Gaza 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15-17 May (Lecce, Italy): International Workshop on human rights defenders organized by EuroMed Rights and Ache. The workshop brought together civil society organizations working on human rights and good governance from several countries in the Mediterranean basin, including Palestine, and aimed to identify the goals of civil

	coalitions outside Gaza.		<p>society to improve dialogue with and actions by the EU in the face of increasing shrinking space and threats to HRDs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-4 May (Brussels): EuroMed Rights’ Palestine Israel and Palestinians (PIP) Working Group Meeting. The meeting discussed the political and HR developments in the region. Presentations by advocates, lobbyists and members focused on the current issues and EU positions concerning HR issues and the faltering ‘Peace Process’. • 27 March: Meeting with new EuroMed Rights Executive Director, Mr Rasmus Alenius Boserup • 1 March: Meeting with Mr. Frederick Swinnen, CIDSE, concerning a mission to Gaza by the coalition on 1 March. • 25 June: Meeting with Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies on the margin of the Human Rights Council’s 41st session. • 19-24 November (Madrid): EuroMed Rights’ Palestine Israel and Palestinians (PIP) Working Group Meeting. The workshop brought together members of active civil society in Spain, Spanish officials and leadership in political parties to meet with the PIP members and discuss the political situation in Spain as pertaining to the human rights situation in Palestine, and to offer opportunities for coordination and joint actions
1.2.L7	Conduct 3 communications and/or meetings with the Palestinian diplomatic missions on human rights issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 meetings with Palestinian missions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Minister Riyad al-Maliki and Ambassador Ibrahim Kraishi , in Geneva on 27 February 2019 to discuss the ongoing protests in Gaza and the anticipated report from the HRC’s COI. • Meeting with the Palestinian mission in Geneva on the margin of the HRC 40th session in March 2019. • Meeting with the Palestinian Ambassador to the UN in Geneva on the margin of the HRC 41th regular session. • Meeting with the Palestinian mission in Geneva on the margin of the HRC 42th session in Sept. 2019.
Outcome 1.3: To enhance national and international advocacy for human rights conducted by Al Mezan, advocacy actors and partners			
Output 1.3.1: National advocacy campaigning is conducted			
1.3.L1	Conduct at least 2 face-the-public meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2+ face-the-public meetings 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Al Mezan continued to follow-up on an issue raised in a former Face-the-Public meeting held in Dec. 2018 concerning residents whose houses—built on public land—were completely destroyed in 2014 as a result of Israel’s large-scale military operation in Gaza and thus plans to rebuilt their houses had been put on hold until the land allocation is resolved. The initial meeting, in 2018, secured an extension for residents to regularize the status of the land with the Palestinian Land Authority before UNRWA reallocates the reserved reconstruction funds for other interventions. In 2019, Al Mezan’s follow-up granted the resident another extension to mid-2019. In July 2019, the Palestinian Land Authority and Beit Hanoun Municipality finalized the planning scheme for the area and regularized the status of the land, thus the ownership of the land was fully transferred to the residents effectively resolving any withstanding issues with UNRWA. 2. In June 2019, Al Mezan held a public meeting for residents of Jabalia Refugee camp with officials from local municipality and the Environmental Quality Authority to address the residents’ concerns regarding the Jabalia’s rainwater collection pond (locally known as Abu Rashid Pond). The pond has posed a detriment to the residents’ health

			and safety as it regularly floods the surrounding areas during Winter and attracts flies and insects in the Summer. The residents raised their concerns with officials who then discussed measures to be implemented to fight the infestation of flies in the area and measures to end the problem of flooding during Winter. (http://mezan.org/post/28936)
1.3.1.2	Screening of a film on HR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 film screening 	<p>7 April 2019 (World Health Day): Screening of short film that sheds light on the struggles of Gazan cancer patients due to barriers hindering access to treatment outside Gaza for referral patients. The screening took place at Al Mezan’s main office and was attended by a group of journalists and representatives of WHO and EU. To draw more attention to plight of female cancer patients, a mural created by local female artist, who is a cancer survivor, was unveiled was mounted onto a billboard and unveiled an artist to paint a mural of the plight of a female cancer patient and had the mural mounted onto a bill board in a busy section in Gaza and unveiled on the same day of the screening.</p> <p>15 October 2019 (marking the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty): screening of short documentary (Zero Mile) to raise awareness about the repercussions of Israel’s unilaterally imposed closure restrictions on Palestinian fishermen’s right to work and to an adequate standard of living.</p>
Output 1.3.2: International advocacy campaigning is conducted			
1.3.2.1	Conduct international advocacy and campaigning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2+ to HRC, 1 to US and 3 to EU and MSs • 2+ UN side events, 4+ presentations/lectures in EU/US 	In the reporting period, eleven advocacy missions were carried out in Europe, including two missions to the Hauge, one to EU institutions in Brussels, two to Berlin, and three missions to the Human Rights Council’s regular sessions in Geneva. Al Mezan representatives raised protection concerns ranging from shrinking space and smear campaigns against human rights defenders to restriction on freedom of movement impacting access to healthcare outside Gaza. Lack of accountability and rampant impunity after 5 years of 2014 war on Gaza and one year since the start of the Great March of Return protests were the main issues raised in Al Mezan’s written submissions and oral interventions at the HRC regular sessions in Geneva.
1.3.2.2	Conduct at least 2 missions to Human Rights Council (HRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 written submissions and 2 oral interventions to HRC, 1 briefing to EU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission to the Human Rights Council 40th session in Geneva, March 2019 (13 meetings with UN MS, two meeting with UN staff, two liaison meetings with EU delegation, organizing one major side event, two written submission and two oral interventions). • Mission to the Human Rights Council 41st session in Geneva, June 2019 (four meetings with UN MS, eight meetings with UN staff, one liaison meeting with EU delegation, co-sponsoring one side event and participating in another, one written submission and three oral interventions—one under Item 3 and two under Item 7). • Mission to the Human Rights Council 42nd regular session in Geneva, September 2019 (six meetings with UN MS, three meetings with UN staff, and one joint civil society briefing to 11 EU MS)
1.3.2.3	Conduct 1 mission to the US		The mission had been cancelled as Al Mezan’s representative was not granted an entry visa to the US on time.
1.3.2.4	Conduct 3 missions to EU and Member States		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission to the Hague organized from 18 to 22 February during which Al Mezan conducted four meetings, including a meeting with the OTP to provide an update on accountability and complaints submitted to the MAG, and a meeting with the Dutch MFA to discuss the measures hindering access to medical care, shrinking space and accountability. • Mission to Brussels, 27-28 June, to engage with the EU institutions and Brussels based civil society in relation to shrinking space and HRDs issues. Al Mezan briefed officials from the DG Near, the European External Action

		<p>Service, and Denmark mission on various areas of concerns including shirking space, threats to HRDs, and attacks on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly from Israel and Palestinian actors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EuroMed’s Working Group on Palestine, Israel, and Palestinians (PIP) meeting in Brussels, 3-4 May. The meeting discussed the political and HR developments in the region. Presentations by advocates, lobbyists and members focused on the current issues and EU positions concerning HR issues and the faltering ‘Peace Process’. • Mission to Berlin, 23-26 September 2019, focusing on the chemical spraying along the separation fence. It provided interlocutors in the Bundstag (including MPs and officials from the Green Party) with detailed information and legal analysis about the issue, and a written briefing was handed out to them during the meetings. • Another mission to Berlin, 25-29 November 2019, carried out jointly with Physicians for Human Rights-Israel. It focused on the issues around patients and access to medical care for people in Gaza. Representative from both organizations held several meetings with officials from the Federal Foreign Office, Bundestag MPs, staff members of CDU party and SPD party, and political advisors to parliamentary groups)
1.3.2.5	Conduct at least 2 (joint) UN side events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 19 March, Al Mezan held a two-part joint side event with Medical Aid for Palestinians in Geneva at the HRC 40th session in March 2019, titled: “Ending Impunity: The Case for The Right to Health in Gaza”. The event was sponsored by Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies and Al Haq. The panelists included, Prof. Michael Lynk, UNSR human rights in the oPt; and Ms. Kaari Betty Murungi, HRC CoI Commissioner. • Al Mezan co-sponsored CIHRS’ joint event titled, “Upholding the Rule of Law: The UN Database on Businesses Involved in Settlements in the oPt” held at the HRC 41st session on 5 July. 20 missions attended: Finland, EU, Italy, Austria, Luxembourg, Spain, Belgium, Germany, Slovenia, Malta, Switzerland, Azerbaijan, Ecuador, Chile, Mexico, Singapore, Lebanon, Palestine, Senegal, Namibia.
1.3.2.6	Conduct at least 4 presentations at European parliaments, universities and/or civil society events in EU/US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and Q&A with the participants during Human Rights Film Festival, in Lund, Sweden, 21-22 March where a film was screened on Gaza, featuring the creation of the Gaza Surfing Club and explaining the serious restrictions on movement and access that hinder life and human rights in Gaza. • Roundtable with Bread for the World and Meserior in Berlin in November 2019 to present the issues around Gaza’s medical patients access to medical care outside the Gaza Strip. • Presentation to representative of the Green Party in Berlin in Sep. 2019 on the aerial spraying of chemicals by Israel authorities along the separation fence and its detrimental impact on Palestinian farmers’ livelihood and potential environmental damage. • Presentation at the International Workshop on ICC Reform, held at the Hauge in Nov. 2019. The workshop brought together civil society actors from about 16 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America to deliberate about the impending ICC assessment and reform processes, and discuss the role of civil society in the process. Al Mezan made a presentation in the first session concerning the engagement with the ICC in the context of the preliminary examination of the situation in Palestine, and the experiences of the engagement with the various ICC organs.
1.3.2.7	Submit 2 written submissions to HRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two written submissions at the HRC 40th session, both made jointly with Adalah, titled: (1) “Israeli Investigative System Unfit for Purpose: International Community must use UN Commission of Inquiry Report to Further Pursuit of Accountability”; and (2) “Human Rights Council Must Address Root Causes of Great Return March”.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One written submission at the HRC 41st session, titled: “Complete Impunity Five Years from Operation ‘Protective Edge’: Zero Prosecutions or Legal Remedy for Killing and Serious Injury Regarding Full-Scale Bombardments and Other Military Attacks”.
1.3.2.8	Conduct 2 oral interventions to HRC	<p>Two oral statements at the HRC 40th session:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> “Al Mezan Calls for Implementation of Commission of Inquiry’s Recommendations, Calls for States to Exercise Criminal Jurisdiction”, Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry. 18 March 2019, link: http://mezan.org/en/post/23485 “Al Mezan Urges States to Support Resolution on Ensuring Accountability, to Provide Protection and Justice”, General Debate. 18 March 2019, link: http://mezan.org/en/post/23484 <p>Three oral interventions (including one joint OI with CIHRS) at the HRC 41st session:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Individual OI under Item 3 Interactive Dialogue with SR on freedom of expression & SR on freedom of assembly titled, “Sustained Pressure Needed to Combat Violations of Freedom of Expression and Assembly in Gaza”. Individual OI under Item 7 General Debate. Joint OI with CIHRS under Item 7 General Debate.
1.3.2.9	Conduct 1 briefing to EU bodies	<p>During the mission in Brussels in June 2019, Al Mezan briefed the head of the Middle East unit at the EU DG-NEAR and his team on shirking space, threats to HRDs, and attacks on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly in the oPt. Al Mezan also briefed Desk Officers for oPt at the European External Action Service as well as the Danish mission during the same advocacy mission.</p>

II. Promotion Program

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

#	Planned activities	Indicators and targets	Achievements
Outcome 2.1: To contribute to literature and knowledge of Human Rights in the oPt			
Output 2.1.1: Human rights resources, information and knowledge are disseminated			
2.1.1.1	Add at least 50 new titles and resources to Al Mezan library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50+ new titles 	143 books and periodicals were added to the library and members gifted four theses of their writing to the library in the reporting period.
2.1.1.2	Produce a short film on HR/IHL issues (with English subtitles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 short film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One short film produced with the aim of raising public awareness about the struggle of cancer patients in order to create a supportive environment for their rights. The film was screened on 7 April 2019 to mark World Health Day and discussed the barriers hindering access to treatment outside Gaza for referral patients and focuses on female cancer patients. A bill board created by local female artist, who is a cancer survivor, was also unveiled on the same day. One short film and four short videos were produced to address the violations against fishermen and their implications on economic, social and cultural rights. The film titled (Zero Mile) was screened on 15 October 2019 to mark the International Day for the elimination of poverty. A short film on Israel's aerial spraying of chemicals on farmlands in the Gaza Strip has been produced in Nov. 2019. It sheds light on the practice's detrimental effects through first-hand accounts of three farmers, including one female farmer, whose crops were damaged as a result. It also provides a brief background on Israeli forces' measures to maintain a buffer zone on Gaza's side of the separation fence and how Palestinian farmers were forced to alter their farming habits and refrain from growing trees or tall crops for fear of bulldozing.
2.1.1.3	Issue 3 short reports and 2 factsheets on specialized HR issues and resources (including ESCR, in Arabic and English)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 short reports, 2 factsheets 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Report on <i>the situation of economic, social and cultural rights in the Gaza Strip in 2018</i> (available at http://mezan.org/post/28559): The report details the effect of Israeli blockade and the Palestinian political division on health care sector, housing, food security, education national economy, unemployment and energy in the Gaza Strip. The facts and Figures supporting the report's findings were based on information and interview conducted by Al Mezan with officials from: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Housing and Public Works; the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, and the World Bank.

			<p>2. Report on <i>disposal of medical waste in the Gaza Strip and associated health and environmental risks</i> (available at http://www.mezan.org/post/28493):</p> <p>The report discusses contents of medical waste and disposal methods adopted in local medical institutions in the Gaza Strip, as well as the risks it may pose to public health and the environment. Al Mezan sought advice and expert opinion on the mechanisms of handling and safe disposal of medical waste to draft the report and visited local medical facilities to witness the process. The report concludes with a set of recommendations to protect medical professionals and local population from risks associated with the disposal of medical wastes.</p> <p>3. Factsheet on <i>local authorities' violations against freedom of expression and right to peaceful assembly in the Gaza Strip</i> (available at http://mezan.org/en/post/23498)</p> <p>The factual information presented in this fact sheet shows a disturbing reality of infringement on rights and freedoms, censorship, and punishment for political dissent. This conduct seems to disrupt peace and security, create an atmosphere of fear, and fundamentally, is in violation of local law and human rights.</p> <p>4. Report on <i>shrinking space for civil society in the Gaza Strip</i> (available at http://mezan.org/post/29257)</p> <p>The report presents the main challenges facing civil society in Gaza and the increasing restrictions imposed by the Palestinian authorities on forming non-governmental organizations that goes against the legal framework set in place to regulate such organizations. The report also discusses Israeli delegitimization campaigns against civil society organizations fighting impunity and seeking accountability for victims of human rights violations in the oPt.</p> <p>5. Factsheet on the Human and financial losses of fishing under occupation (available at http://mezan.org/en/post/23589)</p> <p>The factsheet briefly presents the systematic difficulties facing Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip that impact their right to work and jeopardizes their safety and means of subsistence.</p>
2.1.1.4	Design and print 2 posters on various HR issues and resources (particularly ESCR, in Arabic and English, 500 copies each).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 posters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two posters were printed (500 copies each) and distributed. The printed artwork was submitted by two school students (12 and 13-year-old girls) to the Child Art competition and were both prize winners in their respective age groups. One painting depicted the attacks against medical personnel and the other depicting the right to treatment especially for cancer patients. • 1000 posters were distributed to the attendees during Al Mezan's annual Child Art competition event.
2.1.1.5	Design and print at least 4 pamphlets, infographics, leaflets, etc. on HR and IHL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4+ pamphlets, infographics and leaflets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One infographic (updated regularly) on casualties of the Great March of Return protests. • One infographic on targeting of journalists in the context of the GMR protests. • One infographic detailing casualties and damage to properties sustained during a limited military escalation in the month of May. • One infographic to mark the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two brochures (one in Arabic and the other in English, 500 copies each) on the impact of Israel’s aerial spraying of herbicides in the Access Restricted Area in Gaza.
2.1.1.6	Add at least 100 new posts about HR on available social media channels/outlets (website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube – in Arabic and English)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100+ postings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 83,140 unique users visited Al Mezan Arabic and English website. Al Mezan Facebook followers crossed 8,000 this year and Twitter feeds reached 5,100 tweets, with over 2,700 followers.
2.1.1.7	Conduct at least 12 media appearances (Radio and/or TV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12+ media appearances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Director General made 91 media appearances (including 6 with Arab media outlets, and 2 with international media outlets). Al Mezan’s Program Director conducted 110 media appearances (59 on local/satellite TV stations, including CNN, 32 interviews on radio stations, including RMC international, and 19 with journalists writing for newspaper, including Haaretz). Researchers conducted 57 media appearances (35 on local/satellite TV stations, 15 on local radio stations, and 7 with journalists writing for local newspapers and/or news websites) to discuss a wide range of topics, including the state of ESCR in Gaza. Lawyer conducted 50 media appearances (17 on local/satellite TV stations, 29 on local radio stations, and 4 with journalists writing for newspapers and/or news websites) to provide legal perspective and discuss the center’s legal intervention. Fieldworkers conducted 53 media appearances (44 on local/satellite TV stations, 9 on local radio stations) to discuss findings of their monitoring and documentation of human rights violations in the Gaza Strip.
Output 2.1.2: Information on IHRL and IHL and violations in the oPt are disseminated locally and internationally (English/Arabic)			
2.1.2.1	Issue at least 50 press releases, letters, appeals and statements on HR and IHL violations/risks (in Arabic and English).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50+ press releases, letters, appeals and statements 	<p>108 Arabic/English press releases were published online and disseminated to a mailing list of over 700 contacts, including diplomatic missions, media organizations, and NGOs. The press releases addressed violations to human rights perpetrated by Israeli forces and Palestinian actors. Of the 108 PRs, 28 presented weekly updates on violations against protesters in the context of the Great March of Return, 7 addressed attacks against Palestinian fishermen, and 6 on de facto authorities’ breaches against freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.⁹</p> <p>Further, 10 joint press releases were published with partner human rights organizations addressing aerial spraying of herbicides, retrieval of seized fishing boats, appeal to the Israeli Supreme Court, and de facto authorities’ crackdown on civilians protesting the rising costs of living in Gaza.</p>
2.1.2.2	Issue 12 monthly statistical reports on Israeli violations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 monthly reports (IL) 	<p>12 monthly statistical updates on violations of IHL/IHRL committed by Israeli authorities in the Gaza Strip, including the ARA (buffer zone and Gaza Sea). (available at http://mezan.org/post/28093)</p>

⁹ English version of the Press Releases issued in 2019 can be accessed at <http://mezan.org/en/posts-archive/2/Press+Releases/2019>

			12 monthly statistical updates on grave violations against children in line with Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism established under UN resolution 1612 on children and armed conflict. (available at http://mezan.org/post/28115)
2.1.2.3	Issue 1 semi-annual and 1 annual report on Israeli violations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 semi-annual, 1 annual (IL) 	<p>Periodical Reports</p> <p>January 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report on IHL/IHRL violations in the Gaza Strip in 2018. (available at http://mezan.org/post/28077) Annual report on the Israeli violations in the territorial part of the Access Restricted Area (buffer zone) in 2018. (available at http://mezan.org/post/27779) Annual report on the Israeli violations in the naval part of the Access Restricted Area (Gaza Sea) in 2018. (available at http://mezan.org/post/27648) Annual report on grave violations against children in the Gaza Strip in 2018 — in line with the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism established by UN resolution no. 1612 (available at http://mezan.org/post/27591) <p>July 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-annual report on IHL/IHRL violations in the Gaza Strip in 2019. (available at http://mezan.org/post/29033) Semi-annual report on the Israeli violations in the territorial part of the Access Restricted Area (buffer zone) in 2019. (available at http://mezan.org/post/29000) Semi-annual report on the Israeli violations in the naval part of the Access Restricted Area (Gaza Sea) in 2019. (available at http://mezan.org/post/28970) Semi-annual report on grave violations against children in the Gaza Strip in 2019 — in line with the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism established by UN resolution no. 1612 (available at http://mezan.org/post/28972) <p>Special Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One year of GMR protest. The report addresses the Israeli forces' conduct toward Palestinian protesters who have been participating in the “Great March of Return” (GMR) demonstrations in the Gaza Strip since 30 March 2018. (available at http://mezan.org/en/post/23511)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implication of closure and the use of force on children in Gaza. The report addresses the Israeli military's violation of child rights in the Gaza Strip in the context of closure and blockade and the Great March of Return (GMR). (available at http://mezan.org/en/post/23353)
2.1.2.4	Issue 3 position papers on patterns of violations/risks and policy issues affecting HR and IHL.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 position papers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position paper issued under the umbrella of the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC) in May 2019 on the anniversary of Palestinian Nakba (catastrophe) urging the UNGA to establish a mandatory financing mechanism to sustain UNRWA's services and calling on UN member states and UNHRC to adopt and implement the recommendations in the report submitted by the UN Commission of Inquiry on the oPt Protests. http://mezan.org/en/post/23526 • Position paper by Palestinian human rights organizations expressing deep concern over the decree laws issued by the Palestinian president amending the Law on the Judicial Authority and establishing a Transitional High Judicial Council. http://mezan.org/en/post/23557
2.1.2.5	Issue 12 monthly statistical reports on local authorities' violations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 monthly reports (PS) 	12 monthly statistical updates on documented incidents of violence instigated by Palestinian actors in the Gaza Strip published online. (available at http://mezan.org/post/28093)
2.1.2.6	Issue 1 semi-annual and 1 annual report on local authorities' violations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 semi-annual, 1 annual (PS) 	<p>January 2019: Annual report on incidents of violence instigated by Palestinian actors, including the de facto authorities, in the Gaza Strip in 2018. (available at http://mezan.org/post/27567)</p> <p>July 2019: Semi-annual report on incidents of violence instigated by Palestinian actors, including the de facto authorities, in the Gaza Strip in 2019. (available at http://mezan.org/post/29007)</p>
Outcome 2.2: To increase awareness of Human Rights at the local community, partners'/actors' and policy/decision makers' levels			
Output 2.2.1: Awareness and sensitization of human rights and IHL are raised			
2.2.1.1	Implement a six-month training course for at least 25 young lawyers (50% females).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25+ young lawyers 	On 16 December 2019, Al Mezan concluded its annual specialized training for young lawyers, which aims at developing young graduates' legal skills on an array of subjects, including Palestinian Law, International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law. In its sixteenth iteration, the training provided 32 young lawyers (14 females) with 145 hours of theoretical lectures and 10 hours of practical training, during which the participants visited a number of detention and rehabilitation centers in the Gaza Strip, including Al-Rabee' Juvenile Rehabilitation Institution.
2.2.1.2	Implement seven training/awareness courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150+ individuals – 	Nine trainings were carried out during the second half of the year which targeted 222 persons (112 women, 110 men) illustrated as the following:

	for 150 persons, including 2 trainings for 25 university students of 'Pass-the-Word' (50% females).	incl. 25 university students (7 groups)	<p>24_25 July 2019: Two-day training (14 training hours) was carried out in Al Quds Society for Developing Al Mawasi in Khan Younis on Human Rights and IHL.</p> <p>29-30 July 2019: Two-day training (14 hours) was carried out in Jabalia Rehabilitation Society on Human Rights and IHL for the employees of the society.</p> <p>7-15 July 2019: Pass-the-Word Program first phase (consisting of two consecutive trainings) was implemented between 7 and 15 July 2019 for 30 university students, including 15 female students. Students learned about human rights, IHL and a practical training on moderating group discussions to qualify them to conduct awareness sessions on the same topics for their peers at various universities in Gaza in the second phase of Pass the Word program.</p> <p>26-28 August 2019: Three-day training (14 training hours) was implemented in Bureij Cultural Forum on human rights and IHL for 29 of the community members including 18 women.</p> <p>2-5 September 2019: Four-day training (28 training hours) was implemented on human rights, IHL and redress for victims of torture for 25 lawyers, medical personnel and workers in the GCMHP, including nine women.</p> <p>10-12 September 2019: Two-day training for 25 journalists including 16 women in Rafah, on human rights and mechanisms of monitoring and documentation.</p> <p>16-17 October 2019: Two-day training for 30 graduates including 11 women in Jabaliya on human rights and mechanisms of monitoring and documentation.</p> <p>Sep-Dec 2019: The annual specialized training for young lawyers started in September 2019 and ended in December 2019. 32 young lawyers attended the training, including 14 females.</p>
2.2.1.3	Supervise at least 20 awareness sessions to be delivered by university	• 300+ university students	Second phase of Pass-the-Word program: University students who successfully finished the first phase of Pass the Word conducted 95 awareness-raising sessions to their peers in local universities. The sessions reached 259 undergraduate students (162 females, 97 males) in the Islamic and Israa Universities.

	students (see 2.2.1.2) for 300 peer students on campuses (50% females).	(‘Peer Education’)	The topics of the sessions included: HR/IHL, ESCR, democracy and the rule of law and International mechanisms for protecting human rights.
2.2.1.4	Conduct 10 awareness/training workshops on various HR and IHL issues and skills (with focus on ESCR) for vulnerable groups, CSOs, journalists and social media activists among others (20 each, 50% females).	• 200+ vulnerable individuals	<p>384 farmers, fishermen, members of CSOs working in the ARA, journalists, youth and social media activists attended awareness-raising workshops:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> January 21st, 2019: Al Mezan held a workshop for 36 fishermen on their protection under international law and avenues of rehabilitation provided by local organizations. Al Mezan’s lawyer discussed the fishermen’s rights as mandated and protected by international human rights conventions, focusing on their rights to work, and to live free from arbitrary arrest and torture and CIDTP, while GCMHP’s mental health specialist provided an overview of physical and psychological impact of ill-treatment and other forms of trauma before surveying the types and levels of trauma of the attendees and advising them on ways to access rehabilitation services. February 17th, 2019: awareness-raising workshop for 29 female students from Al Rimal Prep School on bullying and human rights. March 21st, 2019: 20 senior undergraduate university students (9 females, 11 males), who are enrolled in capacity building program, attended a workshop held at Al Mezan Library on basic principles of human rights, ICESCR, ICCPR and international conventions and treaties to which the State of Palestine has accessed. June 13th, 2019: Al Mezan held a workshop at a local CBO in Khuzza, Khan Younis for 28 women on basic rules and principles of IHL and protection granted to civilians, especially women and children, in armed conflicted under the Fourth Geneva Convention. June 17th, 2019: awareness-raising workshop for 52 fishermen on protection of civilians in armed conflicts. Al Mezan’s lawyer provided an overview of protection granted to civilians under the Fourth Geneva Convention before discussing legal interventions that the center provides for the target group whether they fall victim to torture/CIDTP, arrest and detention, or had their boats and equipment seized by the Israeli Navy. June 20th, 2019: awareness-raising workshop for 32 farmers, including four females, on protection of civilians in armed conflicts. Farmers were introduced to basic rules and principles of IHL and the protection provided to civilians under the Fourth Geneva Convention and the conventions’ additional protocols.

			<p>7. June 24th, 2019: awareness-raising workshop for 25 social media activists (12 females) on IHL and the protection provided to civilians under the Fourth Geneva Convention.</p> <p>8. July 25th, 2019: awareness-raising workshop for 25 women in Al Quds Society for Developing Al Mawasi in Khan Younis on the protection of women under IHL.</p> <p>9. July 29th, 2019: awareness-raising workshop in Al Mezan’s office in Jabalia. 25 persons attended the workshop (including 2 women) on IHL, human rights and the freedom of expression and opinion.</p> <p>10. August 29th, 2019: awareness-raising workshop in Bureij Cultural Forum. 25 persons attended the workshop (including 16 women) on the protection of women under IHL.</p> <p>11. November 5th, 2019: awareness-raising workshop for 28 workers (including 8 women) in rehabilitation centers on the standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.</p> <p>12. December 12th, 2019: awareness-raising workshop for 21 parents (all females) in Deir Al Balah Prep school for girls on the rights of the child.</p> <p>13. December 10th, 2019: awareness-raising workshop for 38 female students in Deir Al Balah Prep school on the rights of the child.</p>
2.2.1.5	Conduct at least 30 awareness sessions/lectures on various HR issues for school students (20 each, 50% females).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 600+ school students 	30 lectures/awareness sessions for children and teachers from different schools in the Gaza Strip reached 620 participants who gained basic knowledge of human rights and rights of the child (260 girls, 304 boys, 32 females’ teachers, and 24 male teachers).
2.2.1.6	Conduct 1 art competition on HR (particularly child rights) engaging 3000 school students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 art competition (3000 school students) 	<p>Al Mezan received 4,140 paintings from student participants in local schools (1,850 from UNRWA schools, 1,600 from the MoE schools and 690 from private schools) for its annual IHL/HR Child Art Awards.</p> <p>491 people (including 74 children) attended the award ceremony on 12 December 2019 in Gaza City; students, their families, and members of the education community from both UNRWA and MoE were present. Representative of MoE, Dr. Ahmed Abu Al Nada and Deputy Director of UNRWA Operations, Ms. Joanna Nathan, gave speeches to the audience.</p> <p>A total of 36 students received awards for their exceptional art work (top three student in each age group received \$200, \$150, and \$100 respectively, as well as encyclopedias, collection of stories and art supplies).</p>

2.2.1.7	Conduct 1-day workshop for law professionals, judges and human rights defenders on legal review of legislation (linked to 1.1.2.6) representatives of relevant NGOs, and civil society actors and stakeholders (25 participants, 50% females)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25+ individuals 	<p>In March, Al Mezan held a workshop to address the repercussions of Israel’s decision to enact a law providing for the withholding of Palestinian tax revenue. Lawyers, legal experts, and representative of human rights and detainee affairs organizations participated in the workshop, and joined discussion of Al Mezan’s legal reading on the same subject (listed under activity 1.1.2.6).</p> <p>[more information available at http://mezan.org/en/post/23470]</p>
2.2.1.8	Issue at least 2 working papers to be presented in workshops with relevant NGOs/CBOs and civil society actors on various HR issues with focus on ESCR and HRBA (Human Rights Based Approach).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2+ working papers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alarmed by repeated assaults on medical personnel in local hospital in the Gaza Strip, Al Mezan organized a workshop in April 2019 bringing together representatives of the Ministry of Health, World Health Organization, UNRWA’s health program, medical associations, and civil society organizations to discuss findings concerning the repeated attacks on medical personnel and implications for the security and safety of medical staff. • Al Mezan organized a workshop in September 2019 for journalists to discuss finding of the Center’s report on violations against media personnel in the context of the Great March of Return demonstrations. The workshop, held on the International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian Journalists, presented the perspective of international humanitarian law and international human rights law on Israeli military’s attacks against journalists to participants, who included head of civil society organizations dedicated to freedom of the press. • Al Mezan presented a working paper on the Israeli military’s practice of home demolitions in the oPt, as a form of collective punishment, at a conference organized by Al-Quds University. (http://mezan.org/en/post/23640)
2.2.1.9	Conduct recreational and activities to children traumatized/affected by HR violations supervised by MHPSS experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 children participated 	<p>31 vulnerable, traumatized children (16 boys and 15 girls) took part in a recreational camp organized by Al Mezan in presence of MHPSS professional. The camp was organized between 3-7 August 2019 in Wadi Al Salqa area for children between the ages of 10 and 14.</p> <p>The children, who were selected by CBOs working in the Access Restricted Areas, were directly affected by GMR protests and conflict– were injured in protests or were traumatized as a result of injury or death of a family member. The camp administrators implemented a range of activities centred on play therapy, during which the children were encouraged to communicate with each other and camp administrators, explore their thoughts and emotions. Group and one-on-one therapy sessions were also conducted by a psychosocial support expert to address unresolved traumas. As a result, the expert identified over a dozen children in need of prolonged therapy, and thereafter Al Mezan coordinated their referral to GCMHP to receive tailored treatment.</p>
Output 2.2.2: Technical assistance and deliberation over IHRL and IHL issued (with focus on ESCR) are conducted			

2.2.2.1	Conduct 2 awareness and technical assistance workshops with relevant practitioners on ESCR issues raised by reports and factsheets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 workshops (technical assistance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2019, Al Mezan presented a paper on the right to water and sanitation in a workshop organized at Ma'an Development Center. It addressed the right in the context decades of Israeli occupation's infringement affecting local population's access to potable water, in addition to contamination of the aquifers. Al Mezan presented the participant with a list of recommendations to contribute to protect the right to water. • In September 2019, Al Mezan held a workshop "Increased pressures and restrictions: shrinking space for NGOs in the Gaza Strip" attended by representatives of the Ministry of Interior, the Palestinian Monetary Authority, the Palestinian NGOs Network (PNGO), academics and civil society institutions. The workshop aimed to discuss the findings of the Center's report on shrinking space for civil society that showed an increase in Palestinian authorities' restrictive measures hindering establishment and sustainability of civil society institutions in the Gaza Strip. • In December 2019, Al Mezan organized a specialized workshop in Gaza City for experts and relevant actors on freedom of opinion and expression on social media platforms ahead of publication of the center's report on the topic in 2020. Participants, including representative of the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate, the Government Media Office, civil society organizations and media institutions, journalists, and social media activists commended Al Mezan's showcasing of the issue through a specialized human rights report, and presented their views, observations and recommendations about the draft report.
2.2.2.2	Conduct 1 roundtable with relevant stakeholders and actors on the judiciary system and/or the reunification of Palestinian judiciary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 roundtable on the judiciary 	Al Mezan is taking part in periodical meetings organized by the Palestinian National Coalition for the Reform and Protection of the Judiciary, which was established in 2018 and brings together relevant civil society organizations from both Gaza and the WB. In 2019, the coalition launched an initiative of social oversight on court proceedings in Gaza and the WB in order to identify shortcomings and propose plans thereafter aiming at reforming and unifying the judiciary.
Output 2.2.3: Human rights related national and international emblematic occasions are observed and celebrated by Al Mezan and the civil society actors			
2.2.3.1	Celebrate at least 5 national and international HR days/occasions (including Human Rights Day on 10 December, linked to 2.2.1.6) though activating social media spaces (Facebook pages, groups, events and/or hashtags).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5+ celebrations • 5+ social media spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One short film depicting the struggle of referral patients in obtaining exit permits to access treatment outside Gaza was produced and screened on World Health Day at Al Mezan for a group of journalists, EU and WHO representatives. • A female artist, who is a cancer survivor, was commissioned to create a mural depicting the struggles of female cancer patients which was then scaled up and printed onto a bill board and unveiled on World Health Day. • One infographic published and shared via social media platforms on the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression • Al Mezan took part in the social media campaign to mark the Palestinian Prisoner's Day.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One film and four short videos depicting the economic conditions of fishermen were produced and the film was screened on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in an event carried out by Al Mezan in the presence of delegations from the EU and fishermen’s syndicate. • Al Mezan’s IHL/HR Child Art Awards organized in celebration of Human Rights Day was streamed live on Facebook.
2.2.3.2	Conduct a reception on the World Press Freedom Day (3 May) in cooperation with CSOs promoting free expression	• 1 reception	As World Press Freedom Day falls in the first half of the year when Al Mezan was still experiencing a shortage in our core funding, this activity had to be dropped as the center was only able to maintain vital activities and services at the time.

III. Capacity Building Program

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

#	Planned activities	Indicators and targets	Achievements
Outcome 3.1: To further enhance strategies, human resources, fundraising and infrastructure			
Output 3.1.1: Strategies assessed and incorporated			
3.1.1.1	Follow up on implementation and monitoring of strategies (including SP, HRD, FR and CAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented and monitored strategies 	As reported last year, significant progress has been made in incorporating CAS into the center's action plan, with major achievement accomplished through (joint) advocacy and UN level interventions made in 2019. Progress in implementation of HRD and FR strategies will be revisited in 2020 to remedy any gaps as far as the financial situation allows for.
3.1.1.2	Develop 2020 action plan and master budget		Developed and shared with donors for fundraising, and Board and staff for monitoring and implementation.
Output 3.1.2: Human Resources are continuously developed			
Capacity building activities implemented in 2019:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialized training on EU advocacy, EPLO, Brussels 20-21 June 2019 <p>The training seminar aimed to analyse the EU's institutional capacity regarding conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It enables participants to increase their understanding of the EU as a foreign policy actor, learn about obstacles and potential of the EU to do effective peacebuilding and provide them with concrete examples of advocating for more effective policies and programmes on conflict prevention and peacebuilding at EU level.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hebrew language course (1 year) training for certain staff members <p>Lawyers, researchers and project assistants enrolled in one-year Hebrew language course for beginners held at Al Mezan Gaza office aiming to develop their reading and writing skills to facilitate future work and engagement with Israeli administrative bodies.</p>			
Output 3.1.3: Fundraising is continuously coordinated and enhanced			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased focus on fundraisings secured grant/subgrants from seven contributors to Al Mezan's projects and funding from four contributors to Al Mezan's core fund. Therefore, Al Mezan will be able to cover the entire expenses budgeted for 2019 as well as the deficit incurred in 2018 thanks to commitment from two core donors (Sida and OSF). 			
Output 3.1.4: Information systems, computing and office equipment, furniture and infrastructure are continuously upgraded			
3.1.4.1	Develop Al Mezan Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) for (2018-2020) developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgraded systems and equipment 	Training for staff on emergency preparedness was conducted in 2018. A contingency plan was agreed upon with the Protection Cluster in 2019 covering both limited-scale and large-scale escalations.
3.1.4.2	Train at least 2 key staff in safety and security of Human Rights Defendants, externally for 6		Completed in 2018.

#	Planned activities	Indicators and targets	Achievements
	days		
3.1.4.3	Assess the needs for information systems and security upgrade		Needs had been assessed and a project grant was secured to finance the required upgrades.
3.1.4.4	Supply and install assessed information systems and security upgrades		Procurement of upgrades completed and installation of over 90% of purchased equipment has been complete by mid-2019. The remaining 10% entails the installation of a backup system which has been delayed as securing its entry to Gaza has taken longer than expected.
3.1.4.5	Assess the needs for office equipment and furniture upgrade		Needs assessed and certain upgrades related to security of the premise and installment of solar energy were scheduled for 2019.
3.1.4.6	Supply and install assessed office equipment and furniture		Procurement of upgrades completed and installation of new doors and solar energy system completed in the first half of 2019.

Annex II

Implemented Projects 2019

Main Projects implemented in 2019

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

Project Title	Donor	Goals/Objectives	Implemented Activities	Outputs/Outcomes
Provision of legal representation to most vulnerable groups in the Gaza Strip — detainees— before Israeli administrative and judicial bodies. (Duration: 1 Jan. 2019 – 31 Dec. 2019)	UNDP/PAPP (Rule of Law Program)	To contribute to protection of human rights and adherence to IHL/IHRL in the oPt through provision of legal representation to most vulnerable groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 69 detainees (including 15 children) from Gaza (arrested in 2019) were represented before Israeli judicial bodies. The detainees included seven arrested at Erez crossing; 10 fishers arrested at sea; one holder of Gaza ID arrested in the West Bank; and 51 arrested after crossing the separation fence. - Eight cases taken with the Israeli administrative bodies concerning detainees sentenced in Israeli prisons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 cases concerning detainees’ whose family members were barred from visitation; • one case concerning an ailing detainee who requires medical intervention that the IPS declined to provide; and • one case concerning a detainee who completed his sentence but had not been released as he lacked residency permits in oPt, Israel, nor in any other county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 17 of the represented detainees were released with no charges pressed against them. 39 detainees were represented before courts and have been sentenced for varying durations in prison, and the remaining cases are all pending. - one intervention was successful and enabled one mother to visit her detained son. - Al Mezan lawyer sent a communication to the IPS informing of our intent to take the case to court if proper medical treatment is not provided; the IPS agreed to cover the costs associated with the detainee’s medical treatment who then underwent a surgery to install the pacemaker in August 2019. - Al Mezan’s lawyer engaged with administrative bodies, namely the Israeli Ministry of Interior, to secure his release to the Gaza Strip almost three months after he finished serving his sentence.
Monitoring and documentation of IHL and IHRL violations in the Gaza Strip with focus on violations in the context of the GMR protests and grave violations against children	oPt Humanitarian Fund (1st Standard Allocation for Gaza 2019)	To strengthen monitoring and documentation of the possible IHR/IHRL violations, including grave violations against children, in the context of the GMR protests to inform humanitarian and international community's actions and enhance respect of human rights in oPt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fieldworkers completed full documentation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 child fatalities, including 2 killed in the reporting period; • 2000 injured children (1,967 boys and 33 girls), including 780 injured in the reporting period; • 300 injured women, including 57 injured in the reporting period; • 197 journalists (192 males, 5 females); • 172 medical personnel (168 males, 5 females).The collected data was utilized to issue dozens of daily news feeds and over 18 press releases written in both Arabic and English on violations against GMR’s protestors, medical personnel and journalists. - Press releases written in both Arabic and English on IHL/IHRL violations in the context of the GMR protests were 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring and documentation data were utilized to brief Protection Cluster partners on GMR protests. - Five visiting delegations were briefed on the state of human rights in the oPt) and the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip. Further, one field visit for CIDSE’s Policy Officer Israel and the oPt to the Great March of Return gathering site east of Gaza City. - Detailed field information and figures on the GMR protests were provided to UN agencies and Protection Cluster partners, including OCHA, OHCHR, GCMHP, and PUI who utilized the information to shape and prioritize their interventions with casualties of the GMR protests. - Al Mezan provided contact information of dozens underage victims (upon their guardians’ approval) to GCMHP to facilitate access to potential MHPSS beneficiaries.

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(Duration: 23 April 2019 – 22 April 2020)			published online, shared through social media platforms, and circulated to over 700 professionals, media organizations, and NGOs through existing mailing list.	- Field data utilized to draft two thematic to be released in the first half of 2020.
Strengthening Monitoring, Protection and Rehabilitation of Civilians Victimized by, or at Risk of, Human Rights and IHL violations in Gaza with Relation to ARA and Torture (Year 2: 1 March 2019 – 28 Feb. 2020)	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)	To promote and protect the rights of vulnerable groups in Gaza through challenging justice conditions and providing legal redress and rehabilitation services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 130 right holders (40 women, 90 men) received legal counselling on violations by Israeli authorities regarding the targeting of protesters in the buffer zone and right of access to medical care of patients. - 45 right holders (9 women, 36 men) received legal counselling violations by local authorities concerning arbitrary arrest and freedom of speech, infringement of the right to freedom movement due to political affiliation (freedom of association), and torture and ill-treatment. - 159 individuals received legal representation before local and Israeli authorities in pursuit of their right/their family member's right to justice and accountability. - One strategic litigation case lodged to Israeli High Court. - Referrals to GCMHP: 14 prisoners who are currently serving sentences in local prison in and are being held in conditions that amount to CIDTP given that most of the cases are of individuals with serious mental health disorders. In addition to referral of five children who sustained trauma/injuries in the context of the Great March of Return. - One training held for 25 medical personnel and lawyers (9 females and 16 males) on Human Rights and IHL. - Fieldworkers conducted over a thousand field visits to locations of violations and over 800 documentation visits to gather information from families and witnesses in the context of monitoring and documentation of GMR protests. - Issued 19 press releases on issues related to the project's areas of focus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 34 patients who were given legal representation were successfully enabled to obtain Gaza exit-permits from Israeli authorities to travel for urgent medical care. - Family of a 16-year-old child, who had been killed after crossing the separation fence, were able to give him a dignified burial after Al Mezan intervened to retrieve the body from the Israeli military. - 45 victims of civil and political rights violations by Palestinian authorities, who had been arbitrarily detained, were released after being legally represented by the center's lawyers. - 14 beneficiaries started to receive treatment, ensuring that the victims of sustained mental trauma have access to quality rehabilitation support services for multiple sessions and access to medication. - Documentation contributing to Al Mezan's information sharing, which took place over 140 times to UN bodies, diplomatic missions, the media and INGOs. - 10% increase in knowledge of IHL/IHRL among professionals following training. - The fieldwork enabled Al Mezan to make effective, detailed, and evidence-supported advocacy and legal interventions, which were followed by a number of positive interventions/statements reflecting Al Mezan's messaging and asks, issued by the UN and EU regarding the victims of violations and abuses specific to the ARA, notably for this period regarding the Great Return March.

Project Title	Donor	Goals/Objectives	Implemented Activities	Outputs/Outcomes
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held 44 meetings locally and abroad with officials and diplomats to raise issues and concerns based on documented human rights violations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One fact sheet published and a number of short films screened highlighting violations against Gaza fishermen and their living conditions under Israeli constraints imposed on their work at the sea.

Project Title	Donor	Goals/Objectives	Implemented Activities	Outputs/Outcomes
<p>Protection and Promotion of IHL in Gaza</p> <p>(Duration: 1 Jan. – 31 Dec. 2019)</p>	<p>Diakonia</p>	<p>Contribute to increased respect for IHL and IHRL through monitoring that enable advocacy and legal intervention into violations in support of groups at risk in Gaza, and raise awareness about IHL/IHRL violations in Gaza locally and internationally and strategically challenging impunity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 young lawyers (including 14 females) took part in the specialized training which aims at developing young graduates' legal skills on an array of subjects, including Palestinian Law, IHRL and IHL. Graduates completed 145 hours of theoretical lectures (including 50 hours on IHL) and 10 hours of practical training - 30 university students, including 15 female students, participated in the first phase of the annual Pass-the-Word program on IHL/IHRL. In the second phase of the program, the participants conducted 19 IHL awareness-raising session to 259 of their peers in local universities. - 3 trainings (each targeting residents of one refugee camp in the Gaza Strip) held at local CBOs attended by a total of 82 individuals (including 47 women) on IHRL and protection of civilians under IHL. - One-day training for 25 social media activists (including 12 females) on protection of civilians, including journalists, under IHL and on adapting social media posts to utilize terms and language which are reflective of IHL terminology. - 3 awareness-raising workshops for 32 farmers, 52 fishermen and 28 rural women on IHL and the protection of civilians in armed conflict. - 22 awareness-raising sessions for children and teachers from different schools in the Gaza Strip. The sessions provided the 653 participants (260 girls, 304 boys, 32 females teachers, and 24 male teachers) with basic knowledge of human rights, rights of the child, and special protections afforded to children under IHL. - 4,400 children from MoE, UNRWA and private schools sent their painting to the IHL/HR Child Art Competition and over 400 individuals attended the awards ceremony to honor 36 winners and visited the art gallery showcasing 70 of the best paintings submitted. - Printing and distribution of two posters (500 copies each) depicting artwork submitted by two school students to the Child Art competition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15-20% increase in knowledge of IHL and IHRL among trainings/workshops participants, including among at-risk groups (women, farmers, fishermen). - Engagement with farmer and fishermen in rural communities through awareness raising sessions during which routes to legal remedies were presented has been instrumental to the large number of farmers seeking legal aid in the wake of Israel's aerial spraying of herbicides across the perimeter fence with Gaza and flooding Palestinians farmlands with water in January 2020. As a result, Al Mezan is currently representing about 50 farmers before Israeli official bodies in relation to the damages sustained from actions of Israeli forces. - University students taking part in Pass-the-Word program showed sincere interest in human rights and raising public awareness which has been evident by their commitment to bring their newly acquired knowledge to over 259 of their peers in local universities.

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Protecting Human Rights Defenders Engaged in the International Criminal Court (Duration: 1 Dec. 2018 – 30 June 2019)	Foundation to Promote Open Society	To enable HRD to operate safely and effectively by mitigating risks by increasing their physical and cyber security, and raising awareness about risks through international and national advocacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mul-T-Lock doors have been installed on all entrances of the main office including the database room. - Motion detection cameras were also installed around the perimeters of the premise and at main entrances to the building to provide surveillance and double as an alarm system which can notify users of any intrusion via mobile text messages. - 13 safer laptops acquired and setup for staff members working with sensitive information (Fieldworkers, lawyers and researchers) with encryption enabled for better data protection. - Boost performance and security of existing PCs by replacing old mechanical hard drives with Solid State Drives (SSDs) and enabling data encryption. - set up server and network attached storage to maintain Al Mezan’s database and up-to-date version of all files, perform regular encrypted back-ups. - Replace aging network hardware, including router, switches, wireless access point and cables. - Upgrade the existing virus scan pack for PCs to a more thorough scanning version that provides additional data and device protection features. - Encrypted mail server - VPN subscriptions for individual use in unsafe/out-of-office environments. - Provide separate internet access for guests in the office; thus separating staff connections from guests to avoid penetration of the network. - Advocacy missions carried out in Geneva and Brussels targeting EU MS. EU DG NEAR and External Action Service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical and data security of HRD improved through fortifying the offices and using surveillance cameras; - Communications and equipment protected and their performance improved to ensure maintained ability to communicate and implement strategy safely; - Raise awareness among international community and HRD mechanisms about the threats and risks facing HRD in Palestine.