

**Al Mezan Center for Human Rights  
Annual Narrative Report 1 Jan – 31 December 2017**

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**Al Mezan Donor Partners in 2017**

**Core Program Donors:**

The HR/IHL Secretariat – representing 4 European donors.

Open Society Foundations (OSF).

The Sigrid Rausing Trust, UK.

ICCO & Kerkinactie, the Netherlands.

Medico International – Germany.

**Projects Donors:**

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

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

Central Election Commission: Elections as a Way to Reclaiming Legitimacy.

European Endowment for Democracy (EED): Emergency Budget Support.

The International federation for Human Rights (FIDH): Emergency Budget Support.

Broederlijk Delen: Emergency Budget Support.

**Memberships**

The Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC).

Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network (ESCR Network)

Habitat International Coalition - Housing and Land Rights Network

Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN)

The World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)

The Protection Cluster Working Groups (Chaired by OHCHR)

## 1. Introduction

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights (Al Mezan) presents its annual narrative report for the year 2017, which is the last of the current three-year strategy. It covers the activities of Al Mezan during the period January-December 2017. 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 2017 Plan of Action. The report covers all activities under the core program and projects during the reporting period, with a table briefly listing the projects, which aims to show all relevant information to relevant stakeholders and donors.

### 1. Note on context

Setting the scene: In the days leading up to 2017, the international political climate looked somewhat promising after a historic adoption of resolution 2334 by UN Security Council, which condemned, as illegal, the settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and the violations of international law linked to them. The international community, including the United States, took a long-awaited step after decades of inaction. However, as the months passed in 2017, the human rights and humanitarian conditions deteriorated at an alarming pace and proved to be everything but positive for the Palestinian population in the oPt, especially the Gaza Strip.

On 6 December, US president Donald Trump declared Jerusalem to be Israel's capital and ordered the US embassy in Israel moved to the city.<sup>1</sup> The declaration sparked protests in the oPt and a surge of diplomatic action at the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations. The US administration announced that it would cut aid funds to the Palestinian Authority as well as UNRWA.<sup>2</sup> Cuts to the UNRWA funding commenced in January 2018, with USD 65 million earmarked for 2018<sup>3</sup> as well as tens of millions earmarked for food aid in 2017.

These developments have changed the political dynamics in the region. The Palestinian Authority has declared the US to be an unfit broker for peace negotiations.<sup>4</sup> On the other hand, the Israeli government has pushed ahead with large settlement expansion plans, including plans to build a new settlement, and legislation aimed at annexing the West Bank and increasing settlements.<sup>5</sup> While this immense pressure on the Palestinian people and leadership seemed to bring Palestinians closer together, the year ended with regression in reconciliation talks, with too little achieved in order to consider the progress on reconciliation a game changer politically or from a human rights perspective.

Occupation and closure: Earlier in the year, the Israeli occupation of the oPt reached its 50<sup>th</sup> year. With it, the closure and blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip also reached entered its 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. The residual impact of these two regimes, implemented with full impunity, was more visible than ever, and sparked even greater controversy regarding the approaches of the international community that failed to tackle the issues rooted in these policies. As development efforts appear distant and security in the decline, a humanitarian approach cannot be deemed sustainable.

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<sup>1</sup> See the New York Times 'Trump Recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's Capital and Orders U.S. Embassy to Move', available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/06/world/middleeast/trump-jerusalem-israel-capital.html>.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/01/02/trump-mulls-cutting-off-aid-to-palestinians-says-theyre-no-longer-willing-to-talk-peace.html>.

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/trump-cuts-american-aid-for-palestinians-report/article/2646073>.

<sup>4</sup> See <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jan/20/mike-pence-middle-east-israel-peace-talks>.

<sup>5</sup> See <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-netanyahu-s-party-votes-to-annex-west-bank-increase-settlements-1.5630099>.

During the above-mentioned protests against the US declaration concerning Jerusalem, Israeli forces killed nine Palestinian protestors in the Gaza Strip, including one minor and one person with disability, and wounded 758, including 119 children. These killings are caused by the apparent excessive use of force against protesters, which was most evident in the killing of a double-leg amputee who could not have posed any serious threat to the lives of Israeli soldiers.<sup>6</sup>

For groups most at risk of Israeli violations in Gaza, the year started with a stark reminder of their reality when an Israel navy boat deliberately rammed into a fishing boat killing a Palestinian fisherman. Throughout the year, Israeli navy opened fire towards fishermen at an unprecedented rate, reaching 214 incidents of shooting compared to 141 incidents in 2016. This was coupled with what appears to be a change in the tactics deployed to enforce a narrow fishing zone with Israeli Navy opening fire at a significantly higher rate compared to past years, but avoided initiating arrests at the usual rate (39 in 2017 down from 135 in 2016). By the end of the year, two fishermen<sup>7</sup> had been killed by Israeli forces and 14 injured. Those arrested were mostly released within 48 hours with no charges pressed against them, which suggests that there is no legal basis on which to detain them.

Similarly, farmers living and working near the access restricted area (ARA) continue to face detrimental threats to their livelihood due to Israeli forces practices, including the aerial spraying of chemicals on fields along the border fence. At least 11 spraying incidents occurred in 2017 according to the data gathered from the field.<sup>8</sup> Spraying seems to reoccur at least twice a year. Independent lab analysis of the sprayed chemicals is needed to provide conclusive information as to their type and long-term effects on the soil and water sources.

In February 2017, Al Mezan joined a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court against the newly passed ‘regularization law’, which permits the confiscation of Palestinian privately-owned land for the purpose of settlements construction and/or expansion<sup>9</sup>. The law has retroactive effect, and allows for dozens of settlement ‘outposts’, which are illegal under Israeli law, to become recognized *en masse* by the Israeli government. This law adds to an increasing list of legislations passed by the Knesset, a body that is not elected by the Palestinian population in the oPt, but that continues to legislate for that population.

Following a series of restrictive measures by the Israeli Prisons Service, about 1,500 Palestinian prisoners and detainees launched a hunger strike on 17 April 2017 coinciding with Palestinian Prisoner’s Day, after months of unsuccessful talks with the Israel Prison Service, to call for the respect of their rights and raise alarm at their situation.<sup>10</sup> The prisoners demands included ending solitary confinement and allowing for family visits, among others. The strike lasted for over 40 days and ended with an agreement concerning most of the prisoners’ demands. The prisoner and detainee issues are among the most sensitive in the oPt, and protests normally break out following reports highlighting abuses against them, which are usually faced with excessive force by the Israeli security authorities.

With the health sector in Gaza plunging into a deeper crisis, an increasing number of patients need access to medical care outside Gaza, mainly in the West Bank and Israel. 2017 has seen

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<sup>6</sup> Please refer to Al Mezan’s detailed analysis of the incident, available in Arabic at <http://mezan.org/post/24838>

<sup>7</sup> See Al Mezan’s Press Release regarding an attack on a fishing oar, killing a fisherman at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21928>.

<sup>8</sup> For a copy of the factsheet on Aerial spraying of chemicals, please visit <http://mezan.org/post/23462>

<sup>9</sup> For more details, see the joint press release ‘**17 West Bank Palestinian municipalities, 3 human rights groups petition Israeli Supreme Court against Settlements Law**’, available online at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21791>.

<sup>10</sup> For more details, see the joint press release ‘**As Hunger Strike Persists, Basic Rights of Participants Must be Upheld**’, available online at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21919>.

the lowest rate of approval of patients requests for permits, with approximately 44% of the requests rejected or excessively delayed by the Israeli authorities, leading to at least 20 deaths, including 11 women and three children.<sup>11</sup> Patients are often detained, and sometimes ill-treated and coerced by Israeli security agents to give information in exchange for crossing permits.

After more than ten years of full closure, the effects of de-development, in the form of declining standards of education, healthcare, public health and economic opportunities, are more visible than ever in Gaza and have left the economy ‘virtually stagnant’ for the past ten years.<sup>12</sup> This situation, of widespread violation of human rights, leaves entire generations marginalized, which is amplified by deep feelings of despair, hopelessness and injustice, pushing many into depression and even suicide.

Israeli incitement against the civilian population in Gaza took a shocking new form in October when the official Facebook page of the Israeli military's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) announced that the military had discovered two tunnels and related infrastructure constructed by Hamas under a mosque and apartment building in the village of Beit Lahiya, and posted an aerial image showing the location of the site<sup>13</sup>. Further, through Facebook, COGAT informed Palestinian civilians living in and around the six-story apartment building and mosque in the northern Gaza town that their lives are threatened by a potential Israeli military attack on the area. Some two days after the COGAT post on Facebook, the apartment owner received a phone call from an individual who identified himself as a member of the Israeli military intelligence. The individual informed him that his life and his family's lives were in danger as their home was marked as an Israeli military target.

In July 2017, the UN released new findings concerning the livability of Gaza, indicating that most of the 2012 projections for 2020 “have in fact deteriorated even further and faster than anticipated [and that] Gaza has continued on its trajectory of de-development, in many cases even faster than the UN had originally projected.”<sup>14</sup> This downward spiral is evidenced in a period marked by the drastically heightened electricity crisis, shrinking incomes, and a decline in the situations of water and sanitation, health, and education. Meanwhile, major economic sectors, such as housing, farming, industry, energy and fishing, are being stifled under the closure regime. Unemployment, which is conservatively estimated at 45.5%,<sup>15</sup> and extreme poverty are on the rise. These conditions disproportionately affect women, young people and children and emphasize the need for Al Mezan to focus on economic, social and cultural rights in the coming period.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> For more details please consult Al Mezan’s report ‘**MEDICAL CARE UNDER SIEGE: ISRAEL’S SYSTEMATIC VIOLATION OF GAZA’S PATIENT RIGHTS**’, available online at <http://mezan.org/en/post/22333>.

<sup>12</sup> See UNDP ‘**Gaza Economy - Nearing Total Collapse**’, available at <http://www.ps.undp.org/content/papp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2017/07/12/beyond-survival-challenges-to-economic-recovery-and-long-term-development-in-gaza/>; last accessed 25 July 2017.

<sup>13</sup> For a screenshot of the post, please visit [https://www.adalah.org/uploads/uploads/COGAT\\_Facebook\\_threat\\_10.08.2017.jpg](https://www.adalah.org/uploads/uploads/COGAT_Facebook_threat_10.08.2017.jpg)

<sup>14</sup> See UN’s “Gaza Ten Years Later” [https://unsco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/gaza\\_10\\_years\\_later\\_-\\_11\\_july\\_2017.pdf](https://unsco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/gaza_10_years_later_-_11_july_2017.pdf) July 2017

<sup>15</sup> Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics ‘**Press Release on the Results of the Labour Force Survey Third Quarter (July – September, 2017)**,’ available at <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/site/512/default.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=2904>.

<sup>16</sup> See UNDP ‘Gaza Economy - Nearing Total Collapse’, available at <http://www.ps.undp.org/content/papp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2017/07/12/beyond-survival-challenges-to-economic-recovery-and-long-term-development-in-gaza/>, last accessed 25 July 2017.

Intra-Palestinian split and Palestinian violations: The situation in Gaza was impacted harder by the intra-Palestinian split during the reporting period. When Hamas created an executive committee in April to administer Gaza affairs without coordination with the government of national consensus, Gaza's population were already experiencing hardship due to severe power cuts that left them with an average of four hours of supply daily. Nevertheless, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has responded to Hamas steps by actions that have had severe implications, including laying off employees paid by the PA, forcing thousands into early retirement, and cutting 30% to 70% of PA paid employees in Gaza. The PA also reduced its spending on power supplies from Israel by 35%, a decision that was endorsed by the Israeli government who started to reduce power supplies when it was at an average of four hours per day.<sup>17</sup> The Palestinian Authority's processing of referrals for patients from Gaza also saw a significant delay, with lower rates of approvals, reaching 64% reduction in June 2017.<sup>18</sup> The impact of these delays will be researched in 2018 by Al Mezan, especially as initial reports suggest that there were patient deaths that could be attributed to it.

As a result of the PA's mounting measures, Hamas dissolved the executive committee. Fatah and Hamas were invited to Egypt to resolve the long-standing dispute, and Egypt's efforts culminated in signing a reconciliation deal between the rivals on 12 October 2017 in Cairo. However, some of the PA's strict measures against Gaza remained unchanged towards the end of the year with signs of old disputes beginning to resurface. After more than three months of no tangible progress, the population in Gaza is growing ever more skeptical of the plausibility of a sustainable deal. In either case, a deal or no deal, the situation is not expected to change dramatically in 2018, as improvement and investment is expected to take time should the parties reach a viable agreement.

These developments came at a time when the humanitarian conditions in Gaza had reached a serious low. While intra-Palestinian rivalries played a significant role in the crisis, Israel, the occupying power who bears the ultimate responsibility for the humanitarian situation in the territory it controls, endorsed the drastic measures, which pushed Gaza's population even further into darkness and instability, notably regarding the clear implications of the power cuts. These cuts affected the functioning of health facilities and the water and sanitation system, exacerbating an already serious situation. In July, at the height of the electricity crisis in Gaza, 110 thousand cubic meters of sewage were pumped into the sea every day. At the time, the Ministry of Health and the Environment Quality Authority performed tests on seawater samples taken along the coast of the Gaza Strip, which showed that over 70% of the cost was contaminated to a high degree. A few days later, a 5-year-old child died from toxic encephalopathy due to Ekiri syndrome after swimming in the seawater days earlier.<sup>19</sup>

While the rates of poverty and unemployment are soaring, especially among the young generations and other vulnerable groups, suppression of peaceful assembly and arbitrary detention continue to occur, while the justice system's independence continues to be undermined. With this also comes violence, including domestic violence and lethal family feuds.<sup>20</sup> Incidences of explosions, use of small arms and rises of crime rates point to an increasing state of insecurity.

Alarmingly, the reporting period also saw an increase in the issuance of death penalty sentences and executions. Following the assassination of a high rank member of Hamas, powers were granted to the Field Military Court to issue death sentences, which were executed quickly, in

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<sup>17</sup> See PHROC press release '**PHROC denounces the decision to reduce the power supply to the Gaza Strip and warns of a humanitarian disaster**', available online at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21938>.

<sup>18</sup> See Al Mezan's Press Release '**Gaza Healthcare Update: Conditions Worsen**', available online at <http://mezan.org/en/post/22018>.

<sup>19</sup> See Al Mezan PR on incident with testimonial from the child father, available online at <http://mezan.org/en/post/22030>

<sup>20</sup> See for example Al Mezan's briefing at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21937>

an infringement of due process and the check and balances provided for in Palestinian law.<sup>21</sup> This is despite the clear unlawfulness of all executions in Palestine, which are explicitly conditioned on the approval of the President of the Palestinian Authority.

Following the above-mentioned assassination, the authorities in Gaza closed the borders for an excessively long period, denying any men between 15 and 45 years old from travel. Children, women, and patients with critical conditions were allowed to pass through the border checkpoint.<sup>22</sup> This incident indicates the fragility of the situation in Gaza, and the tendency to take measures that seriously violate human rights standards and Palestinian law in times of doubt and emergency.

Gaza also witnessed incidents that point to the state of insecurity there, including kidnapping of political activists,<sup>23</sup> honor killing,<sup>24</sup> prevention of peaceful assemblies,<sup>25</sup> and the death of a person in detention.<sup>26</sup>

**Impunity and shrinking space:** Impunity, which is embodied in the lack of effective access to justice, conduct of genuine investigations into suspected serious violations of international law, and legislative reform aimed at reducing potential access to redress, continues to prevail domestically, which raises the risks of repetition of serious violations of IHRL and IHL in Gaza.

In July 2017, three years had passed since the latest Israeli full-scale assault on the Gaza Strip, and yet almost no credible investigations were performed into many of the most serious attacks that clearly violated international law. There have been no prosecutions of individuals who committed, or ordered to be committed, these attacks, save for one soldier who was indicted for stealing and using a credit card from a Palestinian family. Al Mezan continues to pursue accountability both domestically and internationally.

During the reporting period Al Mezan worked with partners to highlight the seriousness of impunity—sharing information and analysis with UN bodies, especially the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with EU and member States interlocutors. A campaign visualizing the lack of accountability and redress with infographics was launched in July to further highlight the issue.<sup>27</sup> Moreover, the coalition of Palestinian NGOs submitted a fifth communication to the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC, highlighting the failure of the domestic remedies in relation to over 350 criminal complaints submitted to Israeli authorities concerning military attacks in 2014.<sup>28</sup>

With the international community's hesitation to address access to justice and redress issues, or to deploy effective political means to prevent or reduce serious violations, it is increasingly important to strengthen cooperation among human rights actors to secure greater political support for international justice mechanisms in the UN system and the ICC. Simultaneously,

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<sup>21</sup> See Al Mezan's press release **'Three Executed in Gaza in Death Penalty Rulings by the Field Military Court'**, among other statements, on this issue at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21933>

<sup>22</sup> See the joint press release **'Palestinian NGO's Network and Human Rights Organizations Call for Ending Exceptional Restrictions Imposed on Traveling from and into Gaza Strip'**, available at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21900>.

<sup>23</sup> See press release **'Al Mezan condemns kidnapping of Al-Zeq and requests a thorough investigation of the incident'**, at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21909>.

<sup>24</sup> See press release **'Al Mezan Condemns "Honor Killing" in the Gaza Strip and Calls for Justice'** at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21727>.

<sup>25</sup> See Al Mezan's statement on the prevention of a conference on reconciliation, available in Arabic at <http://mezan.org/post/23489>.

<sup>26</sup> See <http://mezan.org/en/post/21918> for more details.

<sup>27</sup> See Joint Press Release: Zero Accountability, 10 July 2017, available online at <http://mezan.org/en/post/22001>.

<sup>28</sup> See Joint Press Release: **'Israel is Unable and Unwilling to Conduct Genuine Investigations and Prosecutions'**, available at <http://mezan.org/en/post/22238>.

professional documentation, building of community capacities, and pursuing legal action at the local level must be continued.<sup>29</sup>

The intimidation of human rights defenders (HRDs) and civil society organizations working for the promotion and protection of Palestinians human rights escalated during the reporting period. The shrinking of the space for HRDs is felt both in the region and abroad, including in the US and Europe. During the reporting period, human rights organizations, especially those taking a position against the prolonged Israeli occupation of the oPt and/or working on accountability for violations of international law, continued to suffer coordinated attacks from the Israeli government and quasi/non-government entities. Al Mezan was subject to sustained attacks during this period.

In April, the Israeli Prime Minister cancelled a meeting with the German Foreign Minister following the latter declining a demand that he cancel a meeting with two Israeli NGOs who are active against the occupation and human rights violations: B'Tselem and Breaking the Silence (BtS).<sup>30</sup> Al Mezan had planned a tour with Physicians for Human Rights – Israel and BtS in Germany to inform the public and officials about the implications of the shrinking space faced by civil society in Israel and Palestine, and it was part of a feature by German TV channel Arte.

This incident marked a significant change in the dynamics concerning Israel's attacks on human rights NGOs. Whereas most attacks emanated from Israeli lawmakers, security services and groups that claim to be independent, but coordinate closely with the government—such as the NGO-Monitor—here, the Israeli Prime Minister made a direct intervention. This change was also evidenced in Denmark's sudden suspension of its funding to Palestinian NGOs, allegedly following an intervention from the Israeli Prime Minister.<sup>31</sup> The suspension of Denmark's funds to the HR/IHL Secretariat was confirmed in December 2017, and hailed by NGO Monitor as its top achievement of the year.<sup>32</sup> Al Mezan was involved in two joint advocacy missions in Denmark, where communications with government, parliament and media interlocutors helped ensure a mature debate about this issue. A hearing is scheduled in early February 2018 at the Danish parliament, and the Foreign Minister is expected to provide answers and details to lawmakers in relation to the processes and assessments that led to the decision to defund the Secretariat.

On 23 May 2017, a consultant working with Al Mezan on mainstreaming gender and improving communications was stopped at the Ben Gurion airport, interrogated and deported after being informed that she was banned from Israel for ten years. During the interrogation, Israeli security agents informed her that they considered Al Mezan a 'terrorist' organization, focusing on the cooperation with the preliminary examination of the ICC. In June 2017, the Israeli ambassador to the UN launched an attack on Al Mezan and Al-Haq, after Al Mezan presented at a UN event in New York, claiming that the two NGOs had links with terrorist groups.<sup>33</sup> HRDs groups issued

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<sup>29</sup> For a recent intervention highlighting the need for accountability, consult the '**Joint Statement to the Human Rights Council Calling for Accountability Following High Commissioner's Comprehensive Review**', available online at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21997>.

<sup>30</sup> See The Guardian, '**Israel snubs German foreign minister in row over human rights talks**', 25 April 2017, available online at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/25/israel-snubs-german-foreign-minister-in-row-over-human-rights-talks>.

<sup>31</sup> See Jerusalem Post, '**DENMARK FREEZES \$8M. IN PALESTINIAN NGO FUNDING**', 4 June 2017, available online at <http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Denmark-freezes-8m-in-Palestinian-NGO-funding-494822>.

<sup>32</sup> See NGO-Monitor's annual report 2017, page 4, available at [https://www.ngo-monitor.org/pdf/annual\\_report2017.pdf](https://www.ngo-monitor.org/pdf/annual_report2017.pdf).

<sup>33</sup> See <http://www.timesofisrael.com/danon-slams-pa-for-legitimizing-terror-groups-at-un-event/>.

statements denouncing the allegations.<sup>34</sup> In June 2017, a cross-party advisory group at the Bundstag declined a meeting request with Al Mezan together with a group of Palestinian and Israeli human rights NGOs on the ground that Al Mezan was not a transparent organization. They declined requests for an explanation; however, the only publicly available source stressing this claim is an NGO-Monitor report.<sup>35</sup> The false contentions in this report were taken at face value, and without considering how this group arrived at its conclusion, having never contacted primary or secondary sources for its alleged research. Al Mezan and the partner NGOs provided information to interlocutors in the German government, parliament and civil society, and continue to work on the matter.

These attacks coincided with attacks on donors supporting HRDs in the region, most notably the Open Society Foundations.<sup>36</sup> The effects of this change in dynamic, and the direct pressure of the Israeli government was immediately felt in diverse ways. First, funding from at least two European countries has been either cancelled or delayed. Moreover, public opinion in Israel and among Israel supporters has been mobilized in a way that leaves little, if any, room for objective debate concerning human rights and peace. This is evident in, for example, political parties that situate themselves at the political right in the European Parliament and national parliaments in Europe having less and less communication with human rights NGOs, while endorsing and promoting actors who promote Israeli settlement in the oPt and settlement products. In effect, the space available for NGOs is shrinking not only in the region, but also in Europe.

The Israeli government's pressure on international organizations working in Gaza has also continued. In July 2017, the Israeli authorities arrested a UN employee at Erez Crossing.<sup>37</sup> This pressure continues despite developments concerning the allegations against UN entities and the World Vision in 2016 proving false, as the Australian government's investigation indicates.<sup>38</sup>

A glimpse of hope: As the information above draws a rather bleak picture, Al Mezan finds glimmers of hope in the resilience of people in Gaza, and the solidarity with the cause of human rights in the region and worldwide. The positions announced by the EU, UN and other states that stress the need to ensure respect for human rights and international law are a cause for hope. The solidarity from civil society and support for human rights and humanitarian actions are essential. That the manifestations of this solidarity are increasing is also a cause for hope.

But the brightest light shines in Gaza, with women and men, old and young putting their faith in the human rights cause, participating in events and seeking peaceful, dignified solutions to the huge problems facing them. In December 2017, Al Mezan organized the annual Human Rights Award for children's art. Over 4,000 children in Gaza's schools participated in the award, submitting children's art about human rights and justice. In a ceremony attended by about 500 children and parents, Al Mezan invited UNRWA and the Palestinian Ministry of Education to celebrate them and promote their message. The support to affected groups, their

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<sup>34</sup> See 'Open Letter to UNSG Re Slandering statements against Palestinian NGOs Al-Haq and Al-Mezan', 4 July 2017, available at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21998>.

<sup>35</sup> The 2016 report can be found at [http://www.ngo-monitor.org/ngos/al\\_mezan\\_center\\_for\\_human\\_rights/](http://www.ngo-monitor.org/ngos/al_mezan_center_for_human_rights/).

<sup>36</sup> See for example the New York Times 'Israel's War Against George Soros', 17 July 2017 at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/17/opinion/george-soros-israel-hungary.html?mwrsm=Facebook>.

<sup>37</sup> See Al Mezan's briefing on this incident, which is available in Arabic at <http://mezan.org/post/23992>.

<sup>38</sup> See the Jerusalem Post article 'AUSTRALIAN PROBE FINDS NO EVIDENCE THAT GOVERNMENT FUNDS WERE MISUSED BY WORLD VISION', 21 March 2017, available at <http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Australian-probe-finds-no-evidence-that-government-funds-were-misused-by-World-Vision-484791>.



strength and resilience, and the participation of children and young people are good starting points for a positive outlook.

## 2. Overall achievement (outcomes, results)

The following areas of work provide a brief overview of Al Mezan's main action points, which are further detailed in the PoA below.

### Monitoring and Documentation

- 706 field visits to locations and 576 home to document 310 attacks (shooting, shelling, and airstrikes) by the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) in Gaza, resulting in death of 29 Palestinians, including three children, and injury to 902, including 160 children. The majority of killings occurred among protestors in the ARA. Also, 213 incidents of attacks by the Israeli Navy were documented, killing 2 fishermen, injuring 14, and confiscated 13 boats. 86 Palestinians, including 39 fishermen and 17 individuals travelling via Erez crossing either for business or seeking medical treatment, were arrested by IOF. The documentation enabled reporting and legal interventions into many of these cases, and sharing information with UN bodies and INGOs.
- At the local level, 177 incidents of violations committed by the Palestinian authorities and other Palestinian non-state actors were also documented, which left 60 people dead, including 11 children and 10 women, and 163 others wounded. About 39 of those incidents were in relation to prevention of peaceful assemblies and assaults on journalist prompting Al Mezan to intervene on behalf of journalists/activists arbitrarily detained. Al Mezan also documented death sentences in the reporting period.
- Data about violations was shared with local and international organizations, including UNRWA, OCHA, OHCHR, and WHO, over 280 times.
- Documentation and reporting on aerial spraying of chemicals in the ARA was shared with the ARA Core Group, a sub-group of the OHCHR-led Protection Cluster, and UN FAO, urging effective action.
- Findings of research into ESCR issues was also shared with government and UN actors. For example, research on education was shared with UNRWA, and on healthcare and access to hospitals with WHO, MAP and UN Special rapporteurs.

### Legal Assistance and Advice:

- 721 beneficiaries (242 women, 479 men) received free legal advice on a range of violations or situations of risk. 516 complaints were submitted to the Israel authorities on behalf of victims who included 102 children and 180 women. Al Mezan provided legal representation for 22 detainees, including two minors and two women, from Gaza before Israeli courts.
- One compensation case was lodged with an Israeli court on behalf of a Palestinian victim of torture, and one joint petition was made to the Israeli Supreme Court (for more details refer to 1.2.4 of section 6, Achievement as per Plan of Action)
- More than half of the legal interventions with Israeli authorities (369 out of 516) were on behalf of medical patients denied access to hospitals in the West Bank and Israel, with a success rate of 19% (compared to last year's 31%). This was in the year with the lowest rate of approval of permit requests (53%) and the highest number of patient deaths (20).
- 105 interventions were on behalf persons on need of humanitarian access for non-medical reasons, which were followed with NGOs in Israel; especially Gisha. Of those, 30 interventions were successful.
- 178 complaints were made to the Palestinian authorities, including 64 complaints concerning arbitrary detention which lead to the release of 12 individuals. 101 complaints were lodged on behalf of persons deprived of their liberty in detention centers in Gaza to resolve them. Of those, 62 interventions were successful.

- Intervention in juvenile justice cases led to a positive precedent with courts and highlighting the risk of suicide in juvenile facilities.
- 135 complaints were followed with the Israeli military authorities concerning incidents that occurred during the Operation Protective Edge in 2017, leading to 2 appeals.
- Al Mezan continued to follow up and assist cases with national courts in France, the Netherlands and Belgium against violations of IHRL and IHL in Gaza. Moreover, the reporting period saw two joint communications submitted to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

#### Advocacy, media and liaison:

- 13 advocacy missions; meetings with UN, EU and member states officials, all missions with partners and networks and focusing on mutually agreed priorities in line with the strategic objectives.
- 26 liaison meetings in Europe and the region, greater coordination and joint action with PHROC and human rights defenders groups.
- Strong exposure of occupation, IHL violations, shrinking space/HRD issues and accountability; including a joint campaign with Visualizing Palestine and Adalah in July.
- Active presence at the Human Rights Council's three sessions in 2017, and interaction with UN special committees, special procedures and treaty bodies, ensuring inputs on the human rights situation in Gaza.
- Revitalizing membership with ESCR-Net and OMCT
- 4 talks at universities in Belgium and Spain,
- 8 public events in Europe, targeting audiences not properly informed about the situation with clarity;
- Al Mezan Director General held over 200 meetings with international and diplomatic missions in Gaza (33 diplomats, 72 UN officials and 92 representatives of international organizations) and briefed about the human rights and humanitarian conditions in Gaza, views concerning third-state obligations, and the trend of shrinking space and attacks on human rights defenders.
- More than 250 interviews (app. 140 TV stations, over 100 radio stations, and 15 journalists writing for local newspapers and/or news websites) with Al Mezan's staff on human rights issues.
- publications and interventions by Al Mezan were mentioned 692 times in Arabic media outlets (43 on TV stations, 16 on radio stations, 131 in newspapers) and 120 times in English media<sup>39</sup> (14 on TV stations, 15 in newspapers)
- Al Mezan Facebook likes crossed five thousand mark this year and twitter feed reaching 3,880 followers.

#### Training/awareness-raising:

- 4,640 direct beneficiaries reached, including 2,803 children and 786 women, through awareness and training activities held in the Gaza Strip.
- During the course of the reporting period 9 training courses, 21 workshops, and 71 awareness sessions were delivered.
- Al Mezan staff delivered 81% of the total training and awareness hours (655 out of 810 hours).
- 28 university student participated in the Pass-the-Word program where they were trained on human rights, IHL, democracy, rule of law, elections, and moderating discussion, and used the acquired skills to deliver 78 awareness-raising sessions to

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<sup>39</sup> For a list of mentions in English media outlets, please visit <http://mezan.org/en/posts-archive/4/Mezan+In+Media/2017>

- their peers in local universities (6 sessions on various human rights topics for 13 groups of students). The sessions reached 213 undergraduate students (122 females, 91 males).
- Al Mezan’s lawyer training received 170 applications to enroll prompting Al Mezan to organize two lawyer trainings in 2017 for two groups (of 36 lawyers each). 70 young lawyers (29 females, 41 males) successfully completed the five-month training course.
  - The Annual Human Rights Award for child art saw approximately 4,000 school children participating. The 36 winners were celebrated in a ceremony and an exhibition attended by 430 people, including parents, teachers, and representative from the Ministry of Education and UNRWA. The ceremony marked the Human Rigyts Day on 10 December.
  - A training was organized for 25 staff members of the Al Rabee’ Juvenile Facility in Gaza, focusing on juvenile justice, child rights and psychosocial support. 90% of the staff had been recently recruited and had a gap in training, which could put minors at risk.
  - 45 juveniles were taken outside the social welfare institution for two-day of awareness-raising and recreational activities, and emotional ventilation sessions for children at Gaza’s sole juvenile rehabilitation facility in a quest to improve the juvenile justice situation in Gaza and focusing on the children in conflict with the law.

#### Information/Communication

- 84 press releases issued in Arabic and 66 in English. 18 joint releases in Arabic, primarily with PHROC, and 26 in English. Further, Al Mezan sent 6 joint letters/appeals.
- A total of 29 reports were published in 2017 (for a breakdown of the reports, refer to 1.2.2 of section 6, achievements as per plan of action).
- Nine position papers (8 in Arabic, 1 in English) on legislative and policy developments influencing human Rights in Israel and Palestine; such as the treatment of hunger strikers in Israel and the cybercrimes law.
- Production of a 40-minute documentary on the occasion of 50 years of occupation, a four-minute video on fishermen in Gaza, and 4 short videos on Palestinian prisoners’ hunger strikes.

### 3. Challenges

<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
Worsening power cuts. Between April and November the supply stands at 2-4 hours per day on average. The crisis has two impacts: pressure on generators and fuel consumption, and diverting time and effort to deal with the crisis and its human rights implications.	More funds allocated for operating and maintaining power generators. Liaison and advocacy to challenge the crisis; whose roots lie in the closure as well as the intra-Palestinian split.
Increasingly shrinking space for civil society and threats to HRDs acting on Israel-Palestine in the region and worldwide.	Increased efforts to consolidate solidarity and consultations with HRDs organizations. Sharing information with various interlocutors about the threats and suitable responses to them.
Negative developments concerning funding of human rights actions in Palestine; partly related to the previous challenge. The reporting year ended with a deficit in the range of USD 80,000	Consultations with donors and partners to devise suitable responses. Increased focus on recruiting project funding to bridge gaps. Planning for actions to ensure timely responses; including possible reduction of spending if need be.

	Incorporating the fundraising strategy. A deficit reduction plan will be introduced in 2018.
Field workers and researchers face difficulties obtaining information from local authorities, especially the Ministry of Health.	Field workers and researchers manage to form a diverse network of sources in hospitals to secure verifiable information, and make extra efforts to verify with people and witnesses.
Growing despair concerning accountability at the domestic level despite the increasing efforts.	Increased campaigning locally and internationally and engaging international mechanisms jointly with local and international actors.
Deepening intra-Palestinian split resulting in increasing violations of human rights and deterioration of living conditions in Gaza, and undermining the rule of law in Palestine.	Greater cooperation with Palestinian human rights organizations and strengthening consultations and coordination mechanisms to respond to the new trends; especially PHROC.
Shortage of staff in the structure.	Revised structure adopted following strategic planning, with a view to maintain the core structure and fill gaps as the funding situation allows. The external evaluation proposes that a review be conducted in June 2018 to gauge the situation.

#### 4. Monitoring and Evaluation

Al Mezan uses various tools for monitoring and evaluation. In 2017, the scheduled external evaluation was conducted by external consultants. The evaluation report was shared with the Board of Directors and with the donor-partners. A full presentation of the report and its findings and recommendations will be conducted for the staff and Board members in February 2018.

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

Participant satisfaction forms, oral evaluations, and pre/post tests are some of the tools employed by the training unit to measure new learning and assess the quality of the implemented activities; for instance, pre/post tests showed an average of 70% new acquired learning among participants in awareness-raising activities in 2017. Advocacy activities are measured against whether target officials and institutions are reached, and whether asks and messages are received positively or find their way in resolutions or statements, and ultimately bring about policy changes.

After reaching certain milestones in the action plan, questionnaires are used to solicit feedback from beneficiaries of certain activities and services. Further, upon the completion of all planned activities for the reporting year, Al Mezan invites a random, representative sample of the beneficiaries for a focus group meeting in January, where an evaluation is conducted to illicit specific information about the results and impact.

In November 2017, the Training and Mass Communication Unit conducted an assessment of the two specialized lawyer trainings, sampling 70 participants. A UNDP questionnaire form was used for this assessment, with 54 respondents out of 70, the results were as follows:

- over 85% of participants felt that the topics covered in training were relevant to their line of work;
- over 90% said that the training improved certain skill that they deem important;
- over 85% were pleased with overall and implementation of the training; and
- 90% were satisfied with the level of knowledge and proficiency of the lecturers.

Similarly, UNDP's legal aid questionnaires were used to solicit feedback from 15 individuals who benefited from Al Mezan legal services in the second half of 2017:

- 85% of legal consultation beneficiaries were satisfied with legal information provided by lawyers and the professionalism of the staff and the time the lawyers took to hear their cases.
- 85% said that they would come to Al Mezan for any future legal consultation.
- 90% were pleased with the ease of access and communication with Al Mezan.  
Some of the comments reflected trust in Al Mezan and the quality of the service, and informing that they would resort to the organization, and recommend the service, if need be.

On 15 January 2018, Al Mezan's units sampled 38 beneficiaries (10 women, 28 men) for the annual internal assessment. They were invited to a focus group meeting at Al Mezan main office in Gaza to provide oral feedback and anonymous written feedback in relation to various activities implemented in 2017. The results were as follows:

- Lawyers who attended Al Mezan specialized lawyer training stressed its uniqueness and significance compared to courses offered by other institution in Gaza.
- Representative of the OHCHR stressed the importance of Al Mezan's monitoring and documentation activities to UN agencies, and stressed the high standards employed by Al Mezan in documentation and verification.
- Journalists expressed appreciation for Al Mezan services, particularly swift interventions into arbitrary detention of journalists and bloggers, and called for continued focus on protection of journalists in armed conflict.
- Representative of Palestinian Fishermen Union expressed his appreciation of the prompt legal aid provided to fishermen who are attacked or detained, and the documentary 'closure' which shed light on the risks fishermen face through video testimonies.
- Farmers put forwards an idea whereby farmers working in the ARA are provided with cameras to document sudden violations (e.g. aerial spraying of chemicals) to be readily available for future advocacy and legal work.
- Representatives of community based organizations working with farmers stressed the significance of A Mezan's publication regarding the aerial spraying of chemicals in the ARA.
- Beneficiaries of Al Mezan's library noted that it is one of only two libraries in Gaza with a significant legal and human rights sources.
- A Palestinian worker who had been detained in Israel and released upon Al Mezan intervention expressed praised the work of Al Mezan's lawyers in Gaza and in Israel, and the swift interventions that led to his acquittal and return to his work at Erez crossing.

## 5. Achievement as per Plan of Action 2017

<b>Strategic Goal 1: To contribute challenging IOF violations of human rights and IHL by peaceful means</b>					
1.1 To promote human rights; including self-determination and the unity of the oPt.					
#	Output	Activity	Indicators	Implemented Activities (January 2017 – December 2017)	Results
1.1.1	Reports and fact sheets on the freedom of movement of persons and goods published.	Issue reports and fact sheets on the freedom of movement for persons and goods.	2 reports issued annually	One report on patients' freedom of movement [refer to 2.2.3 of this table]	Make available well-documented information about violations emanating from closure. Enable legal & advocacy interventions to challenge violations. Support HR and humanitarian responses by international community through sharing data and trends with UN, INGOs and int'l community.
		Publish quarterly statistical reports	4 statistical sheets published annually.	Statistical data on closure of Rafah crossing and Erez crossing published on Al Mezan website in the form of info graphs <sup>40</sup>	
1.1.2	Legal interventions re: the freedom of movement implemented	Provide legal advice to, and file complaints on behalf, of victims of violations	36 complaints annually	Intervention in 369 cases of access to healthcare in the West Bank and Israel, which secured travel permit for 69 patients (40 females, 29 males), whose previous applications had been either delayed or rejected at least once, to access healthcare facilities outside the Gaza Strip. .	Support medical patients, families, students and other people in need of access to hospitals and other ESCR related goods.
1.1.3	Maintain partnership with HR NGOs in the West Bank	Issue joint publications with WB-based partners.	At least 1 publication annually	10 joint monthly reports on arrest of Palestinians by Israeli authorities in oPt in collaboration with NGOs in the West Bank <sup>41</sup>	Strengthen national reporting on HR, Strengthen UN reporting and advocacy.
		Joint submissions and events with UN agencies and ICC	3 joint submissions, statements, letters	Joint written submission with LPHR at HRC Joint written submission with the Civic Coalition in Jerusalem at the HRC Joint oral submission with Adalah and LPHR at HRC Three oral statements at the HRC; two of which joint with LPHR and Diakonia. For more information, please refer to section 3.3.1 of this table.	

<sup>40</sup> Available online in Arabic at <http://mezan.org/posts/54/+%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%B1>

<sup>41</sup> All available in Arabic at <http://mezan.org/post/23288> ; <http://mezan.org/post/23386> ; <http://mezan.org/post/23458> ; <http://mezan.org/post/23623> ; <http://mezan.org/post/23816> ; <http://mezan.org/post/23983> ; <http://mezan.org/post/24056> ; <http://mezan.org/post/24104> ; <http://mezan.org/post/24148> ; <http://mezan.org/post/24254>

1.2 Enhance the legal protection for the residents of the Gaza Strip through legal accountability.					
#	Output	Activity	Indicators	Implemented Activities (January 2017 – December 2017)	Results/Outputs
1.2.1	Legal representation to violations of human rights implemented	Legal representation to persons from Gaza detained in Israel	25 detainees	22 Palestinian detainees (20 males, 2 females) held in Israel received legal representation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9 were detained near the border</li> <li>- 3 fishermen arrested at sea</li> <li>- 4 workers working at Erez crossing</li> <li>- 2 travellers passing via Erez crossing</li> <li>- 2 patients' companions traveling via Erez</li> <li>- 1 patient travelling via Erez crossing</li> </ul>	Legal representation for people from Gaza arrested by IOF secured, especially poor communities.
		Provide legal advice to victims of Israeli violations	200 victims receive legal advice annually	In total 721 Palestinians (479 men, 242 women) directly benefited from legal advice concerning HR violations which can be categorized as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 372 legal advice in relation to Israeli violations,</li> <li>- 304 in relation to violations or at-risk situation concerning the conduct of the Palestinian authorities,</li> <li>- 45 related to violation by non-state actors or individuals.</li> </ul>	Legal remedies for victims and/or people at risk provided.
		Refer victims of Israeli violations to specialized organisations.	30 cases referred annually	105 cases concerning freedom of movement (requests for travel permits through Erez for non-medical matters) were referred to NGOs in Israel, namely Gisha, for legal intervention, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 51 concerning requests to travel through Israel to reach Jordan (13 successful)</li> <li>- 32 concerning right to education (access to educational institutions in the West Bank and Israel) (12 successful)</li> <li>- 9 concerning families' right to visit detainees in Israel (3 successful)</li> <li>- 4 right to practice religion (access to holy sites in Jerusalem and the West Bank)</li> <li>- 3 concerning right to work</li> <li>- 2 concerning cultural and social development (participants travelling to an art competition) (both were successful)</li> </ul>	Specialized legal and other services otherwise unavailable to victims/people at risk secured. Legal protection strengthened.
		Update the database on Palestinian detainees in the Israeli prisons.	Database updated.	Prisoners/detainees database updated with new case files and is helping staff manage the detainees' cases and generate reports.	Analysis made possible for better intervention and better management.

1.2.2	Israeli violations of human rights documented	Document cases of Israeli violations to human rights.	1000 cases of violations documented annually	Documented 372 incidents of IOF violation: 240 shootings (12 killed, including 1 child, and 820 wounded, including 145 children); 70 shelling/airstrikes (17 killed, including 2 children, and 82 people injured, including 15 children); 51 incursions in ARA; 215 assaults/shooting on fishermen (2 killed and 14 wounded, 39 fishermen arrested and 13 boats confiscated);	Violations and risk situations properly documented and inputted in Mezan's database; Reporting, legal interventions and advocacy enabled based on solid information; Trends and patterns of violations better understood.
		Issue periodic and thematic reports on Israeli violations.	2 reports published	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 monthly reports on children in armed conflict</li> <li>- 3 annual report detailing IOF violations IHL, violations in ARA, and violations against fishermen in 2016.</li> <li>- 3 semi-annual report detailing IOF violations IHL, violations in ARA, and violations against fishermen in 2017.</li> <li>- 1 annual report covering violations against children in 2016</li> <li>- Statistics on various forms of violations updated monthly on Al Mezan website and presented in the form of an interactive info-graphs.<sup>42</sup></li> </ul>	Information and analysis about HR and IHL violations made available for media and int'l community and used in advocacy.
		Issue press statements on the Israeli violations	At least 25 press statements annually.	41 press releases issued on Israeli violations with emphasis on IHL. In addition, 12 joint press releases were issued, 5 with PHROC, three with Adalah, one with Human Rights Watch, and one with Adalah and Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid.	HR and IHL violations made public and challenged.
1.2.3	The capacity of lawyers in IHL is strengthened	Lawyer training (IHL, human rights, representation)	1 training course targeting 25 lawyers.	The number of applicants exceeded expectation due to the popularity of the training among young lawyers. Al Mezan received applications from 170 lawyers requesting to enrol in the specialized training. Therefore, Al Mezan launched two trainings running in parallel (with about 36 lawyers in each group) to accommodate the high enrolment. 70 young lawyers (29 females, 41 males) successfully completed the five-month training course, which was concluded on 29 November 2017. The graduates completed 150 training hours focusing on IHRL, IHL and skills not sufficiently covered by curricula of law departments in local universities in Gaza. They also underwent 25 hours of practical training during which field visits to local detention and rehabilitation facilities were conducted.	Capacities of young lawyers built in IHRL, IHL, litigation, international organizations and other areas.

<sup>42</sup> Available in Arabic at: <http://mezan.org/posts/41/احصاءات>



		Allocate 4 lawyers to intern in the legal aid unit	4 lawyers.	Four female lawyers have been training in the Legal Aid Unit and Training Unit, one of whom left for a paid position in the second half of the year. Two lawyers were engaged in day-to-day work of legal aid unit, including dealing with beneficiaries, writing affidavits, and completing complaint forms based on information taken from the plaintiffs. The other two lawyers were involved in the Training Unit daily work and took part in organizing and implementing awareness-raising workshops on right of the child in international law and Palestinian law to a large number of schoolchildren and their teachers.	Young lawyers' capacities and practical experience in HR is built in Gaza.
		Conduct meetings with police officers and directors of rehabilitation/detention centres.	5 meetings annually.	The meetings came in the context of Al Mezan's lawyers periodic visits to prisons and detention centers in the Gaza Strip [refer to 2.2.2 of this table: field visits to prisons] to inspect detention conditions and hear inmates complaints: <b>13 March:</b> meeting with women prison warden in Gaza city <b>19 March:</b> meeting with Abu Ubayda prison warden in North Gaza <b>16 May:</b> meeting with Ansar prison warden in Gaza city <b>21 May:</b> meeting with Al Katiba prison warden in Gaza city <b>19 July:</b> meeting with Asda' prison warden in Khan Younis <b>8 October:</b> meeting with Jabalia camp detention center administrator <b>11 October:</b> meeting with Taiba prison warden <b>9 November:</b> meeting with administrator of Sharqiya police detention center, Khan Younis <b>9 November:</b> meeting with Jabalia detention center administrator <b>14 November:</b> meeting with Rafah detention center administrator <b>26 November:</b> meeting with administrator of Al-Abbas detention center, Gaza City <b>3 December:</b> meeting with administrator of Sheikh Radwan detention center, Gaza City	Coordination with relevant actors and consultations strengthened.
1.2.4	Legal representation and complaints related to the residents of the Gaza Strip are implemented.	Submit complaints on behalf of the victims of Israeli violations to human rights.	50 complaints annually.	Complaints were submitted to Israeli authorities on behalf of victims as follows : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to healthcare (369 complaints) [refer to 1.1.2 of this table]</li> <li>- right to legal papers (follow-up on 6 previous complaints)</li> <li>- right to work (confiscation of boats) (1 complaints and follow-up on 5)</li> <li>- complaints to MAG to investigate the killing of two Palestinians in separate incidents.</li> </ul>	Protection for victims and people at risk against Israeli violations strengthened via legal intervention. Challenging impunity and advocacy to improve protection of civilians in conflict.
		Provide legal aid to victims of torture in the Israeli prisons	5 victims annually.	Al Mezan continued to work on 13 complaints lodged last year to the Maftan department at the Israeli Ministry of Defence concerning torture of 13 Palestinians during interrogation.	Challenge of torture and abuse enhanced for improved protection.

		Legal representation in Israeli courts for victims of human rights violations from Gaza.	1 or 2 cases annually.	<p>On 2 October 2017, Al Mezan lodged a reparation case in Israel on behalf of a victim of torture and ill-treatment who crossed the separation line between Gaza and Israel hoping to find work in Israel to help his poverty-stricken family. The Israeli state prosecution was set to officially respond to court on 10 November 2017, yet on that day the prosecution requested an extension for 30 days, to which the court agreed. After the period elapsed the prosecution requested yet another extension citing lack of cooperation from the Ministry of Defense; the court granted the prosecution a second 30-day extension.</p> <p>In another case, on 2 November 2017, Al Mezan jointly with Adalah filed a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court seeking an order from court to the Israeli military in order to grant Palestinian search and rescue teams access to the buffer zone to continue their search for Palestinians trapped in a tunnel that had been destroyed by the Israeli forces. On 5 November 2017, the two human rights organizations withdrew the petition following the Israeli military announcement that five bodies had been found by its teams and are being held in Israel.</p> <p>Further, the legal unit is still working on three pending cases in Israeli courts (two from 2016 and another one from 2014)</p>	Obstacles introduced by Amendment 8 to the Israeli State Liability Law challenged.
		Submit civil complaints to Israeli defence ministry.	10 complaints annually.	<p>Four civil notifications on behalf of Palestinian protesters who received direct blows to their bodies from teargas canisters fired by Israeli soldiers.</p> <p>Six civil notifications on behalf of Palestinians wounded by Israeli army gunfire, including two children.</p>	Victims' right to seek reparation within two years secured.

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

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

#	Output	Activity	Indicators	Implemented Activities (January 2017 – December 2017)	Results/Outputs
2.1.1	Awareness on HR, democracy and IHL spread on campus by volunteer students	2 trainings for students on HR and IHL and discussion moderation skills.	2 courses for 25 students annually.	First phase of Pass-the-Word program: 9-day training (80 training-hours) for 28 participating college students, including 16 female students, between 20 and 30 April 2017 about human rights, IHL, democracy, rule of law, elections, and moderating discussions.	Capacities of volunteer students built so they contribute to HR awareness on campus.

	Students organize awareness sessions for peer students in universities.	15 educational sessions for 200 students.	Second phase of Pass-the-Word program: University students who successfully finished the first phase of Pass the Word conducted 78 awareness-raising sessions to their peers in local universities (6 sessions on various human rights topics for 13 groups of students). The sessions reached 213 undergraduate students (122 females, 91 males) in Al Azhar University, the Islamic University, University of Palestine, and Israa University	Volunteer students supported into HR activism and help spread awareness via dialogue on campus.
	Conduct educational sessions to school students.	30 sessions, each targeting 30 students annually.	71 lectures/awareness sessions for children and teachers from 71 different schools in the Gaza Strip. A total of 2,157 participants gained basic knowledge of human rights and other related topics (1,036 girls, 932 boys, 93 female teachers, and 69 male teachers)	Awareness in HR spread among hundreds of school children and teachers. Children express HR/IHL by art and their awareness is raised in how it affects their life.
	Conduct art competition for school children on human rights and IHL	1 HR award annually targeting 3000 school children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the second half of 2017, Al Mezan contacted the Ministry of Education (MoE) and UNRWA to handover 5000 drawing sheets to students in their schools.</li> <li>After the closing of the three-week submission period, Al Mezan received 3008 artworks (1858 from the MoE and 1150 from UNRWA-run schools)</li> <li>The award ceremony was held on 7 December 2017 in Gaza City with more than 440 attendees, including the Minister of Education, the Director of UNRWA Operations who honoured the students and opened the artwork gallery after the ceremony.</li> <li>In total 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)</li> </ul>	Local community and media encouraged to view HR through child art via an art exhibition.
	Conduct awareness/training courses on human rights and IHL targeting different sectors of the society.	8 courses annually, each targeting 20 persons.	<p><b>9 March – 6 April:</b> implemented a training in Gaza city for 21 employees of the Al Rabee' social welfare institution on the rights of the child and international and domestic protection mechanisms.</p> <p><b>11 – 17 April:</b> A training course was held for 19 university graduates, including 11 female graduates, on human rights and international humanitarian law in Rafah.</p> <p><b>2-4 October:</b> 36 lawyers (20 female, 16 males) received training on delivering awareness sessions on the topic of democracy as well as domestic and international rules and regulation governing a fair election process.</p> <p><b>9-11 October:</b> 28 university students (16 females, 12 males) participated in training focusing on democracy and fair elections, with focus on local and international laws governing the election process.</p> <p><b>16-17 October:</b> 2-day training to 40 members of Rafah municipal council on electoral participation and Palestinian law governing local council elections.</p>	Awareness in HR, IHL, and protection of civilians enhanced; esp. among at-risk communities.

			<p><b>16-17 October:</b> 2-day training targeting 35 members of KhanYounis municipal council on electoral participation and Palestinian law governing local council elections.</p> <p><b>18-19 October:</b> 2-day training to 36 members of Deir al-Balah municipal council on electoral participation and Palestinian law governing local council elections.</p> <p><b>23-24 October:</b> 2-day training targeting 35 members of Gaza municipal council on electoral participation and Palestinian law governing local council elections.</p> <p><b>25-26 October:</b> 2-day training to 42 members of North Gaza municipal council on electoral participation and Palestinian law governing local council elections.</p>
	Publish awareness posters and brochures on violations.	2 posters and 1 brochure annually.	<p>2 poster (500 copies each) of school children winning artwork on human rights, one depicting violations against fishermen and another on rights of the child.</p> <p>1 brochures (350 copies) on human rights violations throughout the past 50 years of occupation.</p>
	Conduct awareness workshops targeting vulnerable women, teachers and journalists and other groups at risk.	10 awareness workshops annually, each targeting 20.	<p><b>9 February:</b> one workshop for 18 female Student Parliamentarians held UNRWA primary school for girls in Rafah and discussed violations against children and child rights under the Palestinian law.</p> <p><b>13 March:</b> A workshop was held in Ansar prison for 70 female inmates on the rights of inmates under Palestinian legislations</p> <p><b>16 March:</b> workshop for 15 mothers on the Convention of the Rights of the child in collaboration with Al Qattan Foundation.</p> <p><b>3 May:</b> a celebrating of World Press Freedom Day in cooperation with the Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development, attended by 178 activists and journalists, including 47 female journalists/activists.</p> <p><b>17 May:</b> A workshop targeting 26 farmers, including 6 female farmers, in Khuza'a on the protection of civilians under International Humanitarian Law.</p> <p><b>26 July:</b> one workshop for 26 homemakers on the rights of the child.</p> <p><b>19 September:</b> workshop on protection of civilians in armed conflict for 31 fishermen in Khan Younis</p> <p><b>1-2 November:</b> 45 juvenile were taken outside the social welfare institution for two-day of awareness-raising and recreational activities, and emotional ventilation sessions for children at Gaza's sole juvenile rehabilitation center.</p> <p><b>11 December:</b> awareness-raising session at the co-ed Al Zaytoun Elementary School in Gaza City on the rights of the child targeting 40 female members of the school parliament.</p> <p><b>11 December:</b> awareness-raising session for 27 student parliamentarians and parents at Hafsa School in Jabalia refugee camp in North Gaza to mark Human Rights Day.</p>

2.1.2	Violations of human rights by local authorities have been documented.	Document human rights violations by local authorities in Gaza	500 violations have been documented annually.	177 cases/incidents of local violations and risk situations documented and inputted in database, most notable incidents were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9 disputes between families leaving 10 dead, including 5 children;</li> <li>- 50 shootings/misuse of firearms left 17 dead and 73 others injured</li> <li>- 27 explosions resulting from arms malfunction killed 7 and wounded 50</li> <li>- 26 assaults on journalists</li> <li>- 13 violations against freedom of assembly</li> </ul>	Violations and risk situations properly documented and inputted in database; Reporting, legal interventions and advocacy enabled based on information; Trends and patterns of violations better understood. Database on local violations used for reporting, exposure and advocacy.  Violations by Palestinian actors highlighted and challenged locally. Data on ESCR rights gathered for reporting.
		Update the database on the local violations.	Updated database.	Data from questionnaires/briefings on local violations and risk situations inserted to the database.	
		Monthly reports on HR violations committed by local authorities.	12 monthly reports.	12 monthly reports on HR violations by local authorities and the lack of rule of law in Gaza produced.	
		Annual report on HR violations committed by local authorities.	One annual report.	In January 2017, produced report on violations by local authorities in 2016.	
		Press releases on HR violations by local authorities	25 press releases	40 press releases on HR violations by local authorities and other joint press releases with PHROC concerning issues such as freedom of expression, right to peaceful assembly, and death penalty.	
		Interviews to collect information for reports.	20 interviews	11 interviews to collect information for a report on hindering patients access to healthcare outside the Gaza Strip (refer to 2.2.3 of this table): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two interviews with female cancer patients seeking access to healthcare outside Gaza and one interview a victim's family.</li> <li>- Two interviews with the head of Coordination and Liaison Directorate at the Palestinian Ministry of health</li> <li>- One interview with the head of Medical Referrals Directorate.</li> <li>- One interview with the head of oncology department at Al-Rantisi hospital in Gaza city</li> <li>- Two other interviews with officials at the Ministry of Health</li> <li>- Two interviews with psychologists on the psychological impact of lack of access to treatment on patients.</li> </ul>	

				<p>5 interview to collect information for a fact sheet on the impact of Israel’s aerial spraying of chemicals on Palestinian farmland in the ARA (refer to 2.2.3 of this table):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interview with a group of farmers who own/work at farm land in the eastern borders of Middle Gaza district where incidents of aerial spraying had been documented.</li> <li>- Two interviews with officials at the Ministry of Agriculture.</li> <li>- Two interviews with officials at the Ministry of Health.</li> </ul> <p>5 Interviews to collect information for a report on pollution of Gaza Sea (refer to 2.2.3 of this table):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 interviews with officials from Environmental Safety department at the Ministry of Health</li> <li>3 interviews with directors of water and sanitation departments at three different municipalities in the Gaza Strip.</li> </ul> <p>Over 10 interviews to collect information for a study on youth unemployment in Gaza:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 interviews with heads of departments and experts at the Islamic University of Gaza</li> <li>- 3 economist, including an expert from Palestinian Monetary Authority.</li> <li>- 3 officials at the Ministry of Labor</li> </ul> <p>7 interviews to collect information for a report on education sector in Gaza:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3 interviews with officials at the Ministry of Education</li> <li>- 3 interviews with official at UNRWA education department</li> <li>- 1 interview with a lecturer at the education department in the Islamic University of Gaza.</li> </ul> <p>8 interviews to collect information for a factsheet on sanitation problems in North Gaza district:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5 interviews with officials at local councils and municipalities.</li> <li>- 1 interviews with an officials at Costal Municipalities Water Utility</li> <li>- 1 interview with the director of Beit Lahia’s water treatment plant.</li> <li>- 1 interview with the Palestinian Water Authority.</li> </ul>	
2.1.3	Researches on the separation between	Publication on the impact of internal	One publication.	The study addresses justice system in Palestine and sheds light on specific challenges hindering the re-unification of the judiciary based on the views of judges, lawyers and other components of the justice system.	Improved legal protection and legislative monitoring.

	powers have been finalized	split on the judiciary and HR.		Lawyers have produced a final draft which was then revised by Al Mezan's senior lawyer and management, and was also sent to law practitioners outside Al Mezan for their comments. The printing and distribution of the study will take place in early 2018.	
2.1.4	Factsheets, position papers on the legislative reform issued	Position papers/ factsheets on legislative reform	2 papers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Position paper on hunger strike as a legitimate means for resisting unlawful policies.<sup>43</sup></li> <li>- Israeli anti-terrorism law of 2016 enforced against Palestinian detainees from Gaza.<sup>44</sup></li> <li>- Position paper on freedom of expression, freedom of the press and right to in oPt.<sup>45</sup></li> <li>- Position paper on forced feeding measures against Palestinian detainees on hunger strike in Israeli prisons.<sup>46</sup></li> <li>- Joint position paper on forced early-retirement imposed on Gaza's civil servants.<sup>47</sup></li> <li>- Position paper on cybercrime law.<sup>48</sup></li> <li>- Position paper on home visits for prisoners under the Palestinian law.<sup>49</sup></li> <li>- Position paper on conflicting legislations enforced in the West Bank and Gaza, which were enacted since the start of the Palestinian political division.<sup>50</sup></li> </ul>	Improved legal protection and legislative monitoring.
		Conduct workshops on findings of papers.	2 workshops annually.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A workshop on Palestinian detainees and discrimination against them under Israeli laws was held in Gaza City on 12 April 2017, during which Al Mezan's position paper on Israeli Anti-Terrorism Law of 2016 was discussed.</li> <li>- A workshop for legal experts and representative of public servants held in Gaza City on 18 July 2017 to discuss legal and social ramification of forced early-retirement on Gaza's civil servants.</li> <li>- Workshop for prison administrators and legal advisors of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior held in Gaza City on 28 September 2017 to discuss Al Mezan's finding presented in the position paper on home visits for prisoners under Palestinian law.</li> </ul>	

<sup>43</sup> Available online in Arabic at <http://www.mezan.org/post/23543>

<sup>44</sup> Available online in Arabic at <http://www.mezan.org/post/23467>

<sup>45</sup> Available online in Arabic at <http://www.mezan.org/post/23528>

<sup>46</sup> Available online in Arabic at <http://www.mezan.org/post/23620>

<sup>47</sup> Available online in Arabic at <http://www.mezan.org/post/24077>

<sup>48</sup> Available online in Arabic at <http://www.mezan.org/post/24096>

<sup>49</sup> Available online in Arabic at <http://www.mezan.org/post/24311>

<sup>50</sup> Available online in Arabic at <http://www.mezan.org/post/24892>

				- Workshop for legal experts held in Gaza City on 26 October 2017 to discuss recommendation put forward in Al Mezan's position paper on the unification of conflicting Palestinian legislations enacted in Gaza and the West Bank.	
<b>2.2 Strengthening human rights in Palestine, particularly ESCRs.</b>					
#	Output	Activity	Indicators	Implemented Activities (January 2017 – December 2017)	Results/Outputs
2.2.1	Awareness on ESCRs is enhanced	Awareness/training workshops on ESCRs for different sectors of society.	4 workshops annually targeting 100 beneficiaries, 25 each.	<p>5 workshops (one in each district of the Gaza Strip) with university graduates held between 18 and 26 September 2017. Staff met with participants that included both genders, who majored in different academic subjects. 120 graduates – 80 male and 60 female - participated in these meetings. The goal was to discuss distinct forms of and specific reasons behind unemployment among university graduates. Its psychological, social and political consequences, and how it affects the human rights situation in Gaza. The participants reflected on how unemployment affects their lives, and proposed solutions to alleviate and eradicate unemployment during the brainstorming session.</p> <p>1 workshops on 5 December 2017 in Gaza to discuss the rise in recorded incidents of student-on-student fighting in local schools. The Ministry of Education, the Parents' Council of UNRWA Schools, UNICEF, OCHA, Defence for Children International, and a number of researchers and activists attended the workshop.</p> <p>1 workshop on 28 December 2017 to 30 journalists on exposing violations against civilian population, especially peaceful protesters, through HR/IHL-based approach.</p>	Awareness among local communities and people affected by unjust ESCR policies raised ESCR for awareness and mobilisation.
2.2.2	Legal interventions to enhance respect of HR and Palestinian law including ESCR.	Provide legal aid to victims/at-risk people	60 cases received legal aid.	<p>114 cases were taken with the authorities in the Gaza Strip:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Freedom of expression and right to assembly (10 complaints, 3 successful)</li> <li>- Right to private property (3 complaints, 1 successful)</li> <li>- Right to education (1 complaint, successful)</li> <li>- Protection against torture (7 complaints, 5 investigations launched)</li> <li>- Suspicion of medical negligence (4 complaint, 4 investigations launched)</li> <li>- Access to adequate healthcare (11 complaints, 7 successful)</li> <li>- Right to adequate housing (7 complaints, 2 successful)</li> <li>- Right to family life (10 complaints, 8 successful)</li> <li>- Access to salary (3 complaints, 2 successful)</li> <li>- Access to legal papers (4 complaints, 2 successful)</li> <li>- Right to a fair trial (24 complaints, 7 successful)</li> <li>- Freedom of movement (6 complaints, none were successful)</li> <li>- Right to work (3 complaints, none were successful)</li> <li>- Separation of juveniles and adults in detention (3 complaints, all successful)</li> </ul>	Victims receive protection interventions against arbitrary detention, abuse and violations of citizens' rights and ESCR.



				- Others (18 complaints, 4 were successful)	
		Conduct field visits to prisons and criminal rehabilitation centers.	12 field visits annually.	Al Mezan’s lawyers conducted 12 visits to prisons/detention centers in all district of the Gaza and spoke with detainees in police custody or prisons, informed them of basic due process rights. One of the visits was at Gaza sole women prison to implement a workshop for 53 female inmates on their right under Palestinian law.	In the course of the visits, our lawyers took 101 complaints from prisoners, followed them with relevant authorities and resolved 62 of them.
		Conduct Legal representation to victims of arbitrary detention in Gaza	24 victims annually.	Legal interventions in 64 cases of arbitrary detention by authorities in Gaza led to the release of 12 individuals and granting lawyer visitation for 26 others.	Arbitrary detention challenged via legal intervention.
		Strategic litigation before Palestinian courts	One case.	Al Mezan represented a 13-year-old child from a poverty-stricken family accused of robbery before Palestinian court system in Gaza. Al Mezan paid the defendant’s bail during the trial to secure his release from detention until the conclusion of legal proceedings. On 31 November 2017, after four court sessions, the judge ruled in favor of the defendant and acquitted him of the charge.	Violations of human rights by the local authorities challenged at strategic level.
2.2.3	Advocacy efforts on human rights, particularly ESCR on local level have been implemented.	Issue publications on ESCRs (fact sheets, reports, studies)	1 study, 1 report, and 3 factsheets.	<p><b>April:</b> factsheet on the impact of Israel’s aerial spraying of chemicals on Palestinian farmland in ARA.<sup>51</sup></p> <p><b>May:</b> factsheet on the humanitarian conditions in Gaza covering the first quarter of 2017<sup>52</sup></p> <p><b>May:</b> report on Israel’s systematic violations of patients’ right to access life-saving healthcare.<sup>53</sup></p> <p><b>June:</b> report on the environmental repercussions of an increasingly polluted Gaza Sea.<sup>54</sup></p> <p><b>September:</b> factsheet discussing the devastating effects of the electricity crisis in Gaza on agriculture.</p> <p><b>November:</b> a report on the education sector in Gaza with focus on the class sizes in UNRWA and PA schools and measures to be implemented in the near future to curtail further class-overcrowding.</p> <p><b>December:</b> a factsheet on challenges facing water and sanitation facilities in North Gaza</p>	Awareness raised among the public after ESCR research put these issues to scrutiny publicly and in the local media. Improved access to healthcare for people in Gaza.
		Provide technical assistance.	12 beneficiaries annually.	- The ARA core group, comprised of international and local organizations carrying out development and relief activities in ARA, were provided with	International and local organizations informed of

<sup>51</sup> Available online (in Arabic) at <https://mezan.org/post/23462>

<sup>52</sup> Available online (in Arabic) at <https://mezan.org/post/23517>

<sup>53</sup> Available online (in Arabic) at <https://mezan.org/post/23649>

<sup>54</sup> Available online (in Arabic) at <https://mezan.org/post/23793>

				<p>information on violations in the buffer zone in relation to development efforts and right to work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Director of Plant Protection and Quarantine at the Ministry of Agriculture provided with information concerning Israel’s aerial spraying of crops to facilitate effective interventions.</li> <li>- UN FAO officials provided with information on Israel’s aerial spraying of Palestinian farmland in the buffer zone.</li> <li>- Medical Aid for Palestinians provided with details on the complex process patients must follow to be allowed to travel through Erez to reach hospitals in the WB and Israel.</li> <li>- One meeting held with officials at Gaza Municipality to discuss measures to deal with the impact of dumping untreated sewage water into the sea.</li> <li>- Al Mezan encouraged local civil society organizations to implement workshops in districts of the Gaza Strip to raise the issue of polluted sea water and discuss its environmental impact.</li> <li>- In another meeting for the ARA Working Group (subgroup of the Protection Cluster), Al Mezan raised the issue of parents reluctance to enroll their children in schools at the outskirts of the eastern areas and opting to have them enrol into schools in central towns and cities which is contributing to the overcrowding of classes.</li> <li>- A copy of Al Mezan’s report on schools and overcrowded classrooms in Gaza has been handed to the Palestinian Minister of Education on the eve of his meeting with international donors in Gaza.</li> <li>- The findings of the report on schools in Gaza were shared with stakeholders participating in Child protection working group who found the provided information to be relevant and significant for planning of their future interventions.</li> </ul>	<p>situations leading to violations, and local government institutions assisted to rectify situations leading to violations of ESCR due to lack of services or improper performance.</p>
		Conduct public meetings with officials related to issues of ESCRs.	2 meetings	<p><b>25 May:</b> Meet-the-Public session in Gaza to discuss the safety of fishermen and securing their fishing boats/equipment in Gaza port dockyard. 50 fishermen attended the session to present and discuss their concerns with officials from the local government who were also present alongside representative from CSOs and fishermen union.</p> <p><b>28 May:</b> Meet-the-Public session in Rafah to discuss the rapid increase in commercial power generators and aspects of consumer protection. Officials, journalists, and representative of CSOs discussed complaints received from the public and questions about the role of local authorities in protecting civilians against exploitation as the power crisis continues to deepen further than ever. A joint-committee formed by Rafah</p>	<p>Grassroots mobilised and take part in pressuring local authorities to improve ESCR protection.</p>

				municipality, Ministry of Economy, and local police was set up to follow up on complaints from the public.	
<b>2.3 Build the capacity of Al Mezan</b>					
#	Output	Activity	Indicators	Implemented Activities (January 2017 – December 2017)	Results/Outputs
2.3.1	Human resources development strategy developed.	Practical training and coaching of field researchers on filming, film-making and film editing.	One training course.	Due to banning communications and gender mainstreaming consultant from Gaza, and later deporting her at the airport in May, this training stalled; however, sessions have been conducted to sharpen filming and editing skills among field workers.	Staff capacity to produce multimedia materials about HR violations improved.
		Enhance English language speaking capabilities of key staff	One/two training course(s).	Staff member received advanced English language course in Ireland.	Increased ability of the staff to enhance communication and advocacy possibilities.
		Conduct training on digital security and safety for all staff	One/two training course(s)	Training conducted for two staff members in cooperation and support of HRDs organization in Europe.	Increased ability to protect the sensitive information exchanged between co-workers and national and intl. bodies that they deal with.
		Conduct training on internal /external communication for all staff	One/two training course(s)	Due to banning communications and gender mainstreaming consultant from entering Gaza, and later deporting her at the airport in May, Al Mezan could not hold the activity as planned.	Improved communication within the organization for increased efficiency of work and enhanced external communication
		Change existing PCs with new reliable computers and get training on new systems	One training + follow-up sessions	Project to support this activity has been postponed to 2018.	Increased ability to conduct organisation's daily operations in a safe and protected manner.
		Conduct annual retreat.	One annual retreat.	The original plan was for the strategic planning and the annual retreat to be held in Egypt. At the time, political leaks from Egypt were indicating an imminent and rapid resolution of the issues hindering Gazans access to Egypt. Nonetheless, the talk in Cairo did not result in any clear resolution regarding the Rafah border crossing, which remained closed for the most part of the year, hence, Al Mezan held its strategic planning in Gaza which included one day for all staff members to meet outside the regular work environment and discuss their expectation and aspiration in relevance to Al Mezan future strategic plan	Progress in program and plan of action reviewed.

2.3.2	Administrative and financial manuals reviewed/updated.	Final review of the financial/ admin manual.	Updated Financial/ Admin manual reviewed and approved by BoD	The financial and administrative manual has been approved by the BoD and adopted by Al Mezan administration as a guiding document to be followed routinely in daily administrative and financial tasks.	Updated manuals assessed and, if relevant, improved.
		Update the human resources development strategy (HRD).	Human resources development strategy approved (carried on from 2016).	A local consultancy had been hired to develop the HRD strategy and has delivered the final document in the second half of the year after engaging with stakeholders from all levels throughout the period of the consultancy. The HRD strategy has been reviewed and adopted by Al Mezan administration, and its components were included in the center's strategic plan 2018-2020.	Staff capacity building programmed strategically.
2.3.3	Advocacy strategy announced.	Consultants develop advocacy strategy for 2018-2020.	Strategy produced and approved (carried on from 2016).	The contracted consultant held various one-on-one meeting with administration and mid-level staff before incorporating their thoughts and suggestions into the final document. The strategy was titled: the Communication and Advocacy Strategy (CAS). Similar to HRD, components of CAS were also embedded into Al Mezan strategic plan for 2018-2020	Al Mezan's advocacy pooled strategically with clearer goals and targets.
2.3.4	Fundraising strategy announced	Consultants develop fundraising strategy 2018-2020.	Strategy produced and approved (carried on from 2016).	Similar to the two above activities, the Fundraising Strategy has been put together by a consultancy, and components of the approved and adopted strategy will constitute a part of Al Mezan Strategy for 2018-2020.	Fundraising strategy deployed to improve financial stability.
2.3.5.	Evaluation of the 2015-2017 conducted.	A consultant to be hired to make a final evaluation of 2015-17 SP	Consultants identified and recruited, strategy developed.	Al Mezan contracted the Training and Management Institute (TAMI) to carry out the evaluation. The findings has been shared with Al Mezan core program donners.	An evaluation conducted by an external consultant will help pinpoint lessons-learned from 2015-17 and adopt new measures in the next 2018-2020 strategic plan.
2.3.6.	Annual strategic planning meeting with all staff conducted.	A full one or two-day strategic planning meeting with all staff and BoD organised for strategic planning purposes.	Brainstorming sessions with all staff and BoD conducted, ideas developed	Al Mezan contracted the Training and Management Institute (TAMI) to facilitate the strategic planning process. The consultants held one-on-one interviews with members of the BoD and management, several meetings with heads of units and coordinators, and one gathering where all staff members were present. In the meetings, a revised set of strategic objectives were introduced in order to better reflect the nature of Al Mezan work. After the initial meetings a draft was produced and discussed several times with heads of units and their feedback fed into the final version of the strategic	All staff and BoD will brainstorm to express their vision of Al Mezan's activities and work for the coming years. This will help set up clear goals and objectives for the

		Consultant to draft SP 2018-20 taking into consideration the evaluation and staff notes after SPM.	and incorporated into a new SP. SP 2018-2020 developed and approved by BoD	plan which was finalized in late 2017. The Strategic Plan 2018-2020 has been shared with core program donors.	organisation, get a structure in the daily work, and increase motivation.
2.3.7.	Review of organisation's and staff performance	Conduct individual staff interviews about performance and discuss room for improvement/capacity building needs	Staff talks conducted and organisation assessed compared with strategy.	Postponed to 2018 due to the heavy schedule in the end of the year; with strategic planning, evaluation and the urgent need to focus on fundraising by management.	Organisational/staff performance assessed and reviewed for lessons-learned identification and increased efficiency in the future work.

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

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

#	Output	Activity	Indicators	Implemented Activities (January 2017 – December 2017)	Results/Outputs
3.1.1	Publications presenting the role of international community to protect HRs issued.	Media materials on violations of HR and IHL.	2 media materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A short video has been produced based on an interview with a fisherman who experienced a direct attack by the Israeli navy and who later sought Al Mezan's legal services. In the film, he discusses his experience of Israeli navy attacks on fishermen (opening fire, detention at sea, interrogation, and confiscation of boats and fishing equipment).</li> <li>Another short video discussing violations against farmers in the access restricted area has also been produced.</li> <li>350 DVDs of the film 'closure' which marked 50 years of occupation and 10 years of closure and blockade.</li> <li>Printing and distribution of 10,000 copies of office agendas highlighting international and domestic laws pertaining to human rights, with particular focus on international conventions signed by the State of Palestine.</li> </ul>	Awareness on HR and IHL, including the impacts of Gaza's 10-year-old closure, violations increased by using art and multimedia. Awareness on impacts of IHL violations on civilians in Gaza increased.

		Create a photo gallery on 10 years of Gaza's closure.	1 photo gallery.	Postponed due to departing of and unavailability of key consultant.	
		Produce a documentary film on 10 years of Gaza's closure and 50 years of occupation (alone and/or together with PNGO).	One documentary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A tender was announced and bids were received. Subsequently, the project has been awarded to Lama Productions.</li> <li>Interviews were conducted with people from East Jerusalem, WB and Gaza to discuss Israeli imposed restrictions on movement.</li> <li>The film lays out the effects of Israel's 50 years of occupation on the daily life of Palestinians and the evolution of Israel's practical measures that had led to the situation that is visible today.</li> <li>The 40-minute film was titled 'closure' and was screened in Gaza City on 20 November 2017 to 150 dignitaries, human rights defenders, civil society leader, farmers, fishermen, and families of victims.</li> <li>350 brochures and 350 DVD of the film were prepared to be disseminated for attendees of the screening and to relevant stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p>(the film is available at this link, <a href="http://www.mezan.org/post/24308">http://www.mezan.org/post/24308</a> )</p>	
		Press releases to mark international days and occasions	10 Press Releases	press releases issued on special human rights-related occasions: <a href="#">PR on World Press Freedom</a> ; <a href="#">PR on International Women's Day</a> ; <a href="#">PR on International Workers Day</a> (Arabic); <a href="#">PR on the International Day on the Eradication of Racial Discrimination</a> (Arabic); <a href="#">PR on the International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian Journalists</a> ; <a href="#">PR on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</a> ; <a href="#">PR on the Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict</a> ; <a href="#">PR on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women</a> ;	
3.1.2	Information provided to inter-governmental organizations	Briefings and updates in English on the situation of HR in Gaza.	Two briefings on accountability and access to justice.	Joint submission on "honor killings" in Palestine with ICHR to UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Killing, 31 Jan 2017. Joint submission on accountability (27 cases) with Adalah to the High Commissioner for Human Rights under HRC Res 31/35. <sup>55</sup>	Analysis of monitoring and legal intervention enables informed int'l advocacy for stronger statements from the UN, EU and third states.

<sup>55</sup> available online at <http://www.mezan.org/en/post/21503>.

				Joint briefing: Two Years On Accountability. <sup>56</sup> Contribution to UPR briefing to EU member states by EuroMed Rights.	
		Letters on HR/IHL violations to international community.	3 letters annually.	Letter to Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Re: Comprehensive review report on accountability – Israel” 29 May 2017. Joint letter: Al Mezan & CIHRS (not public). Contribution to two submissions to EU coinciding with visits to Brussels by PM Netanyahu and president Abbas. Joint statement on the UNHRC database. 3 joint statements on Jerusalem and the US declaration of moving US embassy.	Positive engagement with stakeholders to highlight violations and ask for action.
		Contribute to/lead joint letters and statements.	5 joint letters and statements.	3 joint letters contributed to in collaboration with PHROC (ESCWA report); EuroMed Rights (human rights defenders issues), FIDH (human rights defenders, CIHRS and FIDH regarding the HRC database, and letter to the Special rapporteurs on OPT and Torture.	Liaison and coordination improved with better outreach and stronger focus on HR and IHL issues influencing human rights in Palestine.
		Translate reports on HR/IHL.	One report.	Report on the situation for Palestinian patients in need of treatment abroad	Larger audiences made aware about HR through increase of available information
		Provide information to UN-agencies regarding HR violations.	Three communications / submissions	Follow up submission to CICCPR, and a second joint follow up submission to CAT on Israel’s report. Presentation at the event of Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in New York. Presentation at the meeting of the UN Special Committee on the Alienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Amman, July 2017. Joint follow up submission on the concluding observations of the Committee Against Torture.	UN bodies informed of violations and analysis for action and better use of UN mechanisms to improve protection and visibility.
3.1.3	The awareness of official missions regarding HR issues enhanced	Field visits to international and diplomatic missions in the Gaza Strip.	3 visits.	A field tour was organized for a photographer/film maker who works on a film on accountability for French TV channel Arte. A field visit organized for Diakonia’s Secretary General to North Gaza. A field tour for two representative of ACT Alliance EU and DanChurchAid in Gaza. A field tour for two Belgian NGOs concerned with the human rights and humanitarian situation in Gaza. A field tour for a Danish reporter about the humanitarian conditions in Gaza.	Int'l actors informed and made aware of IHL/HR violations through exposure and interaction with victims.

<sup>56</sup> Available online at <http://www.mezan.org/en/post/21864>.

		Conduct meetings with international and diplomatic missions in the Gaza Strip.	30 meetings	Over 200 meetings held in Gaza, including meetings with 33 diplomats, 72 UN officials and 92 representatives of international organizations. They were briefed about the human rights and humanitarian's situation in Gaza, and Al Mezan's views concerning third-state obligations. Moreover, 9 meetings were held in the West Bank; including Jerusalem, exceptionally as Al Mezan's director was on medical treatment visits and was able to hold some meetings there.	International actors increased their knowledge and awareness of IHL/HR violations in Gaza, and the situation through briefings and sharing priorities that need attention.
<b>3.2 Spread information about human rights issues internationally</b>					
#	Output	Activity	Indicators	Implemented Activities (January 2017 – December 2017)	Results/Outputs
3.2.1	Networking and coordination with international coalitions for HRs strengthened.	Maintain network memberships and contribute to their work.	Preserve the membership of 10 networks.	<p>Membership preserved in networks/coalitions. Membership at OMCT and the ESCR-Net made more effective through further communications, meetings and joint initiatives on litigations and torture. Eight joint advocacy missions were carried out in collaboration with partner organizations and networks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) April, Stockholm: This mission was organized by our partners Diakonia in cooperation with the Right Livelihood and PHRT-I. It focused on two main issues: shrinking space for civil society and accountability. It included a formal event at the Swedish Parliament on shrinking space. Another event was organized at the Military Academy in Stockholm and focused on the application of IHL in Gaza. Meetings were held at the parliament, the MFA, and with civil society. Three media events were also organized, with an event on radio.</li> <li>2) April, Berlin: This mission was organized in collaboration with Medico International-Germany and Bread for the World. The main event was a public event at Taz Café in Berlin, and focused on shrinking spare. In the event, PHR-I, Al Mezan and Breaking the Silence spoke, with participation from AI-Germany Section. Meetings were also held at the Human Rights Committee and the Parliament; sponsored by the Committee's chairman, the MFA and the Chancellery. The mission received strong media interest; including a documentary by Arte, which was motivated by the problem during the visit of the German Minister of Foreign Affairs to Israel days earlier.</li> <li>3) June, Brussels: This mission focused on 50 years of occupation, and was organized by EuroMed Rights in liaison with Al Mezan, Al-Haq and B'Tselem. two events were also organized by Broderlijk Delen and 11.11.11. It offered six high-level meetings with the European External</li> </ol>	Liaison, solidarity and coordination maintained for stronger intervention and capability to act at UN/EU and individual states' levels.



				<p>Action Service, the European Commission, PSC Ambassadors, the European Parliament, and three public and media event: EuroMed Rights media event, MAMA/COHOM meeting, and a public event at BOZAR. The events were attended by hundreds of people and covered by the media.</p> <p>4) June, Copenhagen: a public event was organized at the Danish Parliament in liaison with DanChurchAid and B'Tselemand was sponsored by Four MPs. It was very well attended (about 150 people) and focused on 50 years of occupation. The meeting offered positive opportunities to liaise with MPs and the organizers, and meetings with EuroMed Rights head office and Dignity MENA director.</p> <p>5) June, Berlin: This mission was organized by the EuroMed Rights Network and focused on the 50 years of occupation and human rights defenders, and was carried out in partnership with JLAC and B'Tselem. The mission involved meetings with civil society, the MFA (attended by the Director of the MENA department), the deputy advisor of the Chancellor, the Human Rights Commissioner, and representatives of the Greens and the CDU.</p> <p>6) July: Amman: Meeting with the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices, It provided a rare chance to testify in person to the Committee and provide information for its regular report. During the visit, a meeting was also held with partners in Amman.</p> <p>7) November, Stockholm: An advocacy mission on 22-24 November; during which meetings with parliament, civil society and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were arranged, with support from Diakonia. On the day before the mission, Al Mezan was invited to speak at the retirement ceremony of the former Secretary General of Diakonia, Mr Bo Fosberg.</p> <p>8) November, Copenhagen: Advocacy mission focused on shrinking space and human rights defenders between 8-9 November 2017 in coordination with EuroMed Rights with support DanChurchAid. The mission included meetings with parliament members, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, civil society, and the media. The mission was also attended by Adalah and B'Tselem.</p>	
	Attend the meetings of HR actors inside and outside Gaza Strip.	4 meetings.	<p>26 January: CIDSE Workshop on forcible displacement, Brussels;</p> <p>21-22 April: EuroMed Working Group on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians meeting, Brussels.</p> <p>15 May: coordination meeting with Frontline and HRDs groups, Brussels.</p> <p>21 June: Side event by Badil, Al-Haq and others at the Human Rights Council.</p> <p>10-11 November: EuroMed Rights PIP WG meeting in Brussels offered networking opportunities with partners, especially Adalah, Al-Haq, CIHRS and LPHR.</p>	Regional and international actors informed on the HR situation in Palestine and the pressing priorities.	

				<p>8 November: Moderation and presentation at the Protect Defenders EU event on human rights defenders in Brussels. AI Mezan was invited by OMCT, where AI Mezan is a member organization, to lead the MENA group and intervene on its behalf. AI Mezan moderated the first session (closed session) and presented the on the panel in the second session (open session).</p> <p>22 November: Talk at an event arranged by 11.11.11 in Gent, Belgium focusing on the human rights situation in Gaza. It was also attended by Gisha.</p> <p>20 December: Addressing 50 high school students involved in a project for better understanding of the situation in Israel and Palestine, with a focus on the human rights situation in Gaza.</p> <p>21 December: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network’s webinar on ESCR in transition and conflict.</p>	
		Contribute to reports and press releases with similar actors.	5 reports.	<p><u>Joint press release with Human Rights Watch on Unlawful Combatants Law and Administrative Detention.</u></p> <p><u>Joint report: Gaza impunity crisis</u>, with Lawyers for Palestinian human rights, UK.</p> <p><u>Joint statement on the power crisis in Gaza</u> (lead).</p> <p>Joint submission to the Special Rapporteur on Torture (under final processing); Joint follow up report to Israel’s report to CAT (jointly with PHR-I, Adalah and PCATI);</p> <p>2 joint (confidential) communications to the OTP, ICC.</p>	Violations exposed and stronger outreach secured through documentation and use of local capabilities.
3.2.2	Interaction with the mechanisms of enforcing law and HRs is strengthened.	Contribute by training HR organizations on using HR mechanisms.	One training/presentation	<p>In addition, two presentations were delivered at training courses as follows:</p> <p>April: Presentation at the Military Academy in Stockholm, Sweden, on the application of IHL in Gaza.</p> <p>May: Two lectures on Israel and Palestine for students of politics and law at the universities of Gent and Mechelen, Belgium.</p>	Contribution to strengthening use of UN mechanisms.
		Conduct meetings with coalitions and Arab networks for HRs.	2 meetings	<p>March/June: two meetings with Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies to discuss strategies around accountability and human rights defenders issues.</p> <p>Meeting with the Arab Organization for Human Rights, based in Cairo, Egypt, to discuss the human rights situation in the region and regional mechanisms.</p>	<p>Liaison and experience sharing with regional human rights actors strengthened.</p> <p>Joint advocacy missions with regional actors.</p>
3.2.3	Advocacy in USA and Latin America is strengthened.	Advocacy mission to the USA.	One mission	<p>29-30 June: United Nations Forum to Mark Fifty Years of Occupation:  <u>Hosted by:</u> Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, at the UN Headquarters, New York City  <u>Panel event participation:</u> “<a href="#">The Gaza Strip: an Integral Part of the State of Palestine</a>”  <u>Side event and the following meetings:</u></p>	Advocacy action coverage of US and UNGA secured.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Strategic Advocacy for Palestinian Human Rights in an Age of Repression” meeting hosted by Center for Constitutional Rights and Adalah – Freedom House rules.</li> <li>- Meetings with DCIP and other social justice partners in the US in attendance. Israel-Palestine NGO Working Group at the United Nations (IPWG) hosted lunch for civil society speakers and friends of IPWG to network and connect during day 2 of the forum</li> </ul>	
3.2.4	Advice to the State of Palestine to enable it to comply with its commitments with ICC is provided.	Conduct mutual meetings with representatives of the state of Palestine.	2 meetings annually.	<p>April: meeting with the Palestinian representation mission to the EU in Brussels to discuss strategies and work with EU bodies.</p> <p>June: meeting with the Palestinian mission to the UN in Geneva to discuss the positions and resolutions around the 35<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Council session.</p> <p>May-June: two meetings with the Palestinian mission in Geneva to deliberate on plans at the HRC session.</p> <p>October: Meeting with the Palestinian mission in Brussels concerning events at the European parliament.</p>	Better coordination and liaison on human rights issues with Palestinian government and diplomats.
3.2.5	Advocacy campaigns to mark 10 years of Gaza’s closure, and 50 years of occupation	Arrange for joint activities with PHROC/PNGO	A set of meetings ahead of the dates in question	<p>Five meetings were held to harmonise national and international advocacy and messaging, and to discuss human rights issues and developments of national significance.</p> <p>Al Mezan took part in the meetings via a Skype link with members in Gaza in four meetings, and was able to attend one meeting personally in Ramallah.</p>	Better coordination and liaison on human rights issues with Palestinian government and diplomats.
<b>3.3 To contribute strengthening enforcement of international law.</b>					
#	Output	Activity	Indicators	Implemented Activities (January 2017 – December 2017)	Results/Outputs
3.3.1	Provide information on HR to inform UN agencies.	Send missions to the human rights council.	3 missions annually.	<p>Four missions were carried out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) March: 34<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Council session in Geneva, attending the Interactive Dialogue and General Debate sessions, presenting two oral interventions, and participating in three side events. Moreover, Seven meetings with OHCHR staff and representatives of member states were held during this mission.<sup>57</sup></li> <li>2) May: Pre-HRC 35 advocacy and info-gathering mission, Geneva, 29-30 May 2017. This mission aimed to lay the ground for advocacy efforts in June, when the HRC session starts and to make sure that the messaging is delivered at a time when states representatives in Geneva are discussing the issues with the capitals. It consisted of nine meetings with 6 member states, the EU mission, OHCHR staff and civil society.</li> </ol>	Interaction with HRC on HR issues strengthened, leading to strong resolutions and follow up. Inform member states of violations/risks and pressure for HR friendly voting.

<sup>57</sup> More information about this session is available at <http://www.mezan.org/en/post/21887>.

			<p>3) June 2017: Human Rights Council 35<sup>th</sup> Session, Geneva, attending the Interactive Dialogue and General Debate sessions, presenting an oral intervention, and participating in one side event. Moreover, five meetings with OHCHR staff and representatives of member states were held during this mission</p> <p>4) September 2017 Human Rights Council 36<sup>th</sup> session. This was a short mission between 23 and 25 September and included attending the General Debate. Al Mezan submitted a joint written statement and a joint Oral Intervention. Meetings were arranged with HCHR staff, UK representative, the Palestine Mission, and civil society; including a strategizing meeting with partners.</p>	
	Present oral and written submissions to the HR council	3 oral and 3 written submissions.	<p>During the HRC sessions, two written submissions and four oral interventions were made, as follows:</p> <p>Written submission: “Normalizing Prolonged Occupation and Fragmentation Demands Practical Steps by the Human Rights Council .”</p> <p>Written submission: led by Al Mezan, joined by LPHR. “Gaza Impunity Crisis: Israel's continued unwillingness to thoroughly and credibly investigate alleged serious violations of international law in the Gaza Strip .”</p> <p>Written submission on the human rights situation in Jerusalem with the Civic Coalition in Jerusalem.</p> <p>Oral statements :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Joint statement with Adalah and LPHR under the General Debate on accountability, which demonstrated Israel’s failure to ensure justice and accountability.<sup>58</sup></li> <li>2) Individual statement under Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the oPt Mr. Lynk concerning human rights defenders,<sup>59</sup></li> <li>3) Endorsement of BADIL and CIHRS (displacement) oral statements under item 7, interactive dialogue.</li> <li>4) Oral Statement: led by Al Mezan, endorsed by Diakonia and LPHR.<sup>60</sup></li> <li>5) Oral intervention on accountability and a joint oral intervention with CIHRS on the database.</li> </ol>	
	Participate in the side events at the HRC.	2 side events.	Al Mezan took part in four side events, co-organized with Badil, the Arab Organization for Human Rights and MAP.	

<sup>58</sup> Available online at <http://www.mezan.org/en/post/218782> .

<sup>59</sup> Available online at <http://www.mezan.org/en/post/21879>.

<sup>60</sup> Available online at <http://mezan.org/en/post/21997>.

				A side event organized by Al Mezan and OMCT was postponed until the 37 <sup>th</sup> session in March 2018 to allow time for a submission to the Special Rapporteur on Torture to be adequately followed up by the SR.	
		Submit joint communications to ICC	2 reports.	Two communications submitted with the NGO coalition. The first communication tackles the broad issues around self-determination and occupation, focusing on the serious issues in the West Bank. <sup>61</sup> The second submission is specific to accountability and an examination of the Israeli justice system's treatment of allegations and complaints against alleged serious violations of IHRL and IHL in the Gaza Strip. <sup>62</sup>	Professional contribution to ICC preliminary examination to help ensure full investigation to improve protection of civilians.
	UN/EU human rights mechanisms approached more effectively.	Provide information/reports of UN/EU about HR in Gaza.	2 submissions	Contribution to joint briefing to EU regarding the EU-PLO Association Agreement on the occasion of the Human Rights Sub-Committee meeting. Contribution to a briefing on shrinking space and attacks on human rights defenders to the EU and UN. Contribution to a briefing note on the occasion of the visit of Palestinian president to Brussels, focusing on Palestinian trends and violations of human rights. Report and update submitted to the Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in oPt.	Feed into existing UN/EU HR mechanisms for targeted priorities.

## 6. Projects 2017:

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

Project Title	Donor	Goals/Objectives	Implemented Activities	Outputs/Outcomes
<b>Protection of Human Rights through legal action and judiciary reform in the oPt</b>	UNDP/PAPP (Rule of Law Program)	<b>Contribute to enhancing the rule of law and legal protection for victims of HR and IHL in Gaza through enforcing domestic and international law,</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legal advice provided to 228 victims (157 men and 71 women) of violations.</li> <li>- Legal advices cases documented and supplemented to computerized database for analysis to pinpoint trends and most recurring types of violations.</li> <li>- Legal interventions in Israel (9 detainees form Gaza were represented before Israeli courts, one complaint demanding return of confiscated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased protection for 121 victims of Israeli violations and 93 victims of risk-situations and misconduct of local authorities.</li> <li>- Analysis of data resulted in statistically backed information showed recurring violations affecting Palestinians in Gaza related to lack of access to health care outside of Gaza. Therefore, Al Mezan has contracted lawyer in Israel to focus exclusively on cases related to access to health care.</li> </ul>

<sup>61</sup> For more details please consult 'JOINT PRESS RELEASE: Palestinian Human Rights Organisations Submit Evidence to the ICC Prosecutor on Crimes Committed in West Bank', available online at <http://mezan.org/en/post/22076>.

<sup>62</sup> For more information, please consult 'Joint Press Release: Israel is Unable and Unwilling to Conduct Genuine Investigations and Prosecutions', available online at <http://mezan.org/en/post/22238>.

Project Title	Donor	Goals/Objectives	Implemented Activities	Outputs/Outcomes
<b>(Duration: 1 February 2017 – 30 April 2017)</b>		<b>building community capacity, and strengthening the independence of the judiciary and juvenile justice.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- fishing boats, and two complaints to investigate targeting of demonstrators)</li> <li>- Internship for three female lawyers at Al Mezan’s Legal Aid Unit</li> <li>- Awareness-raising sessions for 50 female inmates in detention about their rights under Palestinian.</li> <li>- Four-day training (20 hours) for 25 staff of Al Rabee’ Juvenile Institution on Convention on the Right of the Child and obligations of staff in correctional facilities as well as Convention against Torture and CIDT. On the last day of training Al Mezan brought in an experienced psychologist to discuss practices of Al Rabee’ institution staff members, and point out the areas with room for improvement.</li> <li>- Printing and distribution of 10,000 copies of calendar highlighting international and domestic law pertaining to HR, with particular focus on international conventions signed by the State of Palestine.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Intern lawyers have acquired valuable knowledge about HR and IHL, gained substantial work experience and are better qualified to secure positions in the job market, with greater interest in HR and IHL.</li> <li>- Female inmates are better informed of their rights and managed to raise complaints directly to the visiting lawyers who followed up the complaints with the prison officials.</li> <li>- Increased understanding of issues facing staff at juvenile welfare institution for more effective future interventions.</li> <li>- Wide distribution of the agenda at the end of the year is expected to increase awareness about the human rights situation in Palestine, and at the same time point to obligations of the Palestinian Authority pertaining to the international conventions of which Palestine is a signatory.</li> </ul>
<b>Promotion and protection of human rights</b>  <b>(Duration: 1 Sep. 2017 – 28 Feb. 2018)</b>	<b>UNDP/PAP P (Rule of Law Program)</b>	<b>To protect and promote human rights, the pursuance of the rule of law and the realization of democratic principles for the Palestinian people.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legal interventions in Israel (6 detainees from Gaza were represented before Israeli courts)</li> <li>- Legal intervention with Israeli authorities on behalf of 16 patients in need of access to healthcare outside Gaza</li> <li>- Al Mezan lawyers provided legal advice to 113 victims (81 males, 32 females) of violations by Israeli authorities, half of whom were denied of their right to freedom of movement.</li> <li>- Litigation of one case before Israeli court system. (Reparation case).</li> <li>- Training of three young lawyers at Al Mezan</li> <li>- Five-months training course for 35 young lawyers.</li> <li>- One case concerning a juvenile taken to Palestinian court system.</li> <li>- 5 visits to detention centers/prisons to document violations pertaining to prison conditions, and to resolve prisoner’s complaints with relevant authorities.</li> <li>- Implement a two-day training for 45 children from Gaza’s sole juvenile rehabilitation center outside the social welfare institution. The two day included awareness-raising and recreational activities, and emotional ventilation sessions for the children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Al Mezan’s lawyer secured a release order for two detainees after the Israeli prosecution failed to present a bill of indictment to court.</li> <li>- Intervention on behalf of patients secured travel permits for three patients in due time in order not to miss their hospital appointments outside Gaza.</li> <li>- 35 young lawyers (14 females, 21 males) successfully completed the five-month training course, The graduates completed 150 training hours focusing on IHRL, IHL and skills not sufficiently covered by curricula of law departments in local universities in Gaza. They also underwent 25 hours of practical training during which field visits to local detention and rehabilitation facilities were conducted.</li> <li>- Al Mezan represented a 13-year-old child from a poverty-stricken family accused of robbery before Palestinian court system in Gaza. After four court sessions, the judge ruled in favor of the defendant and acquitted him of the charge.</li> <li>- Lawyers inspected the conditions inside the detention centers/prison, met with detainees/prisoners, and listened to their complaints in order to resolve them through mediation with prison authorities; 47 complaints were taken to authorities, of which 27 were resolve.</li> </ul>

Project Title	Donor	Goals/Objectives	Implemented Activities	Outputs/Outcomes
<b>Monitoring and Promotion of IHL in Gaza</b>  <b>(Duration: 1 Jan. 2017 – 31 Dec. 2017)</b>	<b>Diakonia</b>	<b>To monitor IHL and IHRL violations in Gaza, promote awareness about IHL protection of civilians and respect of IHRL among at-risk groups, and inform about impunity for breaches of IHL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legal advice provided for 25 victims of IHL violations. The victims were patients delayed/denied access to healthcare in the WB and Israel</li> <li>- 28 university students (including 16 females) participating in Al Mezan's Pass-the-Word training program received additional 20 hours of training on IHL. In the second phase of the program, the participants conducted 20 IHL awareness-raising session to their peers in local universities (with each session averaging about two hours). The sessions targeted 213 undergraduate students (122 females, 91 males) at universities in Gaza.</li> <li>- 30 law graduates (11 females, 19 males) enrolled in HR training delivered by Al Mezan in Rafah received additional six hours of training on IHL, therewith helping fill the gap that existed within their regular law studies.</li> <li>- 10 awareness -raising workshops (two in every district of the Gaza Strip) on IHL and protection of children in armed conflict for 291 school children and 18 teachers.</li> <li>- Workshop for 32 farmers (6 females, 26 males) who work in ARA on protection of civilians in armed conflicts.</li> <li>- Workshop for 31 fishermen on protection of civilians in armed conflicts.</li> <li>- 20 awareness sessions were held for children and teachers from 20 different schools in the Gaza Strip.</li> <li>- Al Mezan produced and screened a film to commemorate 50 years of Israel's occupation and 10 years of closure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Victims of IHL violations have increased possibility to achieve justice though increased legal interventions provided by AL Mezan outside the project.</li> <li>- Increased knowledge of IHL among university students and law graduates in Gaza</li> <li>- Increased information on IHL violations against at-risk groups (women, farmers, children, fishermen, prisoners).</li> <li>- The society and actors better informed on IHL violations against at-risk groups, and greater awareness about IHL violations, including calls for respect of IHL</li> </ul>
<b>A Right and a Duty: Elections as a Way to Reclaiming Legitimacy</b>  <b>(Duration: Sept.- Oct 2017)</b>	<b>Central Elections Commission -Palestine</b>	<b>Raise awareness of the importance of elections and of electoral participation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 training days were delivered to 70 young lawyers (41 females, 29 males) on legal skills</li> <li>- training for 3 days targeting 28 college students on moderation of awareness sessions on the importance of elections and of electoral participation.</li> <li>- 10-day awareness raising training for 199 members of local councils in the governorates of the Gaza Strip</li> <li>- 10 awareness sessions organized by college students to 135 of their peers at their respective universities</li> <li>- 1000 copies of a notebook containing informational material on elections and electoral participation was printed and distributed.</li> <li>- The 5 municipal libraries of the Gaza Strip were engaged in holding awareness sessions targeting members of local councils in order to advance understanding of civic engagement and electoral process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raised awareness of young lawyers and college students regarding democracy and election.</li> <li>- awareness of local council members raised with regards to electoral process.</li> <li>- Engaging of local civil society institutions in advancing understanding of the electoral process.</li> </ul>

## 8. Admin and Financial issues

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

### Financial situation:

The first modified budget that was shared with donors is USD 999,478. By the middle of the year, the expected funds for 2017 have had to be modified; and went down to approximately USD 802,000. This was caused by two reasons: a long delay in negotiations with one of the core donors: the Norwegian Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority (NRO), who informed that the Norwegian government's funding is undergoing a review. The NRO grant was therefore not included in the expected grant donors for 2017. In addition, the UNDP/PAPP – a consistent project donor over the past several years - informed of strategic planning and assessments activities. The grant from UNDP went down to USD 105,000 from USD 200,000.

These unexpected developments posed a challenges. The expected funds were foreseen differently at the start of the year; prompting Al Mezan to seek smaller amounts from donors who would have committed more funding had the need been clearer at the time of application; such as the HR/IHL Secretariat, who kindly committed funds that would have supported the anticipated gap in full.

In response to this situation, Al Mezan held discussions with donor-partners; updating them about the situation and seeking further support in case it was available. Moreover, a sum of approximately USD 56,000 - funds that were not spent in 2016 from core donors' grants - have been allocated for the budget in 2017 where applicable and following confirmation from the corresponding donors. Nevertheless, without raising new funds to support the budget, a deficit of USD 160,500 was foreseen. Therefore, the following fundraising activities were carried out:

- Reduction of the budget and cutting down expenditure where possible: A modified budget reflecting the cuts was shared with the donors on 17 October 2017 with a total of USD 930,055.
- Consultations with core donors: resulted with a project grant from Medico International-Germany. Later, the HR/IHL Secretariat made available USD 6,700 in par with other partners.
- Seeking project funding: five project applications were made by October 2017. Two of them were successful; however, they were flagged for 2018 and, in relation to one grant, beyond. One of the two projects was approved by the European Instrument for democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and will run for three years. The second is a smaller project to be supported by Heinrich Boll Foundation.
- Seeking emergency funding: five emergency funding applications were made, and all were successful as small budget support grants were approved by a grassroots group in New York (USD 10,000), the European Endowment for Democracy (EUR 14,819), Broederlijk Delen (EUR 10,240), FIDH (EUR 15,000), and EMHRF (EUR 10,000-15,000 to be confirmed in February 2018).

Despite these efforts, it was confirmed that a deficit was only minimized, but not avoided. Our records indicate that there is a deficit of USD 82,000, which will be further confirmed after the external audit is concluded.

The above-mentioned efforts have had a positive effect on the predictions for 2018 and beyond, which have been/will be shared with partners in the context of grant applications.

Finally, the external evaluation report, shared with partners in January 2018, presents a number of useful recommendations concerning the financial aspects at Al Mezan, including the incorporation of the fundraising strategy for the coming three years.



Structure:

The organizational structure was one of the main issues to have been tackled by the external evaluation and strategic planning. Whereas certain vacancies were identified as essential and filled, a new structure was introduced with two principles in mind: 1) maintain the core of the structure that has proven essential for the organization; and 2) consider plans to reduce the staff cost. The new structure was included in the new strategic plan for 2018-20 and was shared with all the partners. The external evaluation recommends that Al Mezan re-visits the structure in light of the outcomes of the fundraising activities in June 2018. This recommendation will be implemented.

Deviations:

Two capacity building activities, filming and editing video materials, and internal and external communication training, were affected due to the banning of Al Mezan's consultant on communications from entering Gaza, with the latter canceled.

Changing existing equipment with hardware with better security has been delayed partly due a delay in project finding flagged for this item.

Positive deviations occurred in this year's lawyer training whereby high enrollment rate encouraged Al Mezan to run two trainings in parallel to accommodate the high demand and almost doubling the number of beneficiaries compared to last year (70 in 2017 compared to 38 in 2016).

With 20 recorded deaths among patients seeking treatment outside Gaza due to restrictions on access to hospitals, the Legal Aid Unit processed a record number of patients cases that exceeded the anticipated number (over 360 cases), with successful access secured for 69 cases; a success rate lower than anticipated.

Capacity building:

Consultancies had been commissioned to build the organizational capacity through devising strategies for fundraising, advocacy and human resources development. The three strategies were concluded, approved and adopted, with their components incorporated into Al Mezan strategic plan 2018-2020.

Since 2017 is the final strategy year, Al Mezan recruited a local consultancy to facilitate the strategic planning and evaluate implementation of the lapsed strategy. This was an alternative to the original plan that sought to implement the strategic planning activities in Egypt to provide an opportunity for rest and respite to the staff. The finalized external evaluation and new strategic plan have been shared with core program donors in January 2018.

Regarding staff capacity building, a senior staff member received advanced English language course in Ireland, and two staff members attended training in digital security for human rights defenders in Europe.

Locally, Al Mezan field workers attended a two-day training on proper documentation of grave violations and collection of supporting evidence in November 2017, and another training on suitable inclusion of vulnerable groups into monitoring of human rights violations organized by Diakonia in July 2017.