

Report on:

Israeli Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen in the Gaza Strip



(01 January – 31 October 2016)

Introduction

This report documents Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip from 01 June to 31 October 2016. This report addresses the suffering of Palestinian fishermen while fishing in the Gaza Sea and Israeli attacks against them. Through this, Israeli forces aim at restricting and preventing them from practicing their right to work and even targeting their livelihood. All of this occurs as part of the continued serious violations carried out by Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip have always suffered from the ongoing attacks by the Israeli navy forces against them. These attacks include chasing fishermen to hinder their work and restricting them; shooting by Israeli gunboats at fishermen resulting in casualties and damage to the fishing boats and equipment; intercepting and confiscating fishing boats; and arresting and attacking fishermen on board in addition to detaining and interrogating them in detention facilities. The Israeli attacks coincide with the collective punishments against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the Israeli naval blockade imposed on the Gaza Sea, denying Palestinian fishermen of freely sailing and fishing

During the past two years, Israeli navy forces have not abided by the ceasefire agreed on by Palestinian armed groups and Israel and brokered by Egypt on 26 August 2014. This agreement allows Palestinian fishermen to sail freely within 6 nautical miles in the Gaza Sea. The Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) documented that all Israeli attacks occurred within the allowed fishing area, so this indicates that the Israeli forces' policy aims at tightening the screws on the Gaza fishermen and targeting their livelihood. The tightening restrictions against fishermen increased after Israeli forces announced on 07 March 2015 via loudspeakers that the allowed fishing area was reduced to 4 nautical miles, warning fishermen of approaching this distance along the Gaza Sea.

Israel's attacks against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip constitute a flagrant violation of international humanitarian and human rights laws, relevant to the protection of civilians and respect for their rights, including every person's right to work, life, liberty and personal security and safety, as codified in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), despite the fact that Israel is a State Party to the Covenant. Furthermore, those attacks occurred in a time where the fishermen did not pose any threat to the Israeli naval troops, as they were doing their job to secure a living.

During the reporting period, the Israeli attacks included 135 incidents; including 7 shelling incidents against fishermen's property and 100 shooting incidents. As a result, 8 fishermen were wounded; 9 fishing boats and nets were damaged. Moreover, PCHR documented 28 chasing incidents against fishing boats, resulting in the arrest of 111 fishermen and confiscation of 32 fishing boats and other pieces of net belonging to the Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip.

Information on Fishing Industry in Gaza: Fishermen and workers in fishing in the Gaza Strip

Fishing industry plays an important role in the agricultural sector, so we find most of the coastal countries mainly depend on fishing industry as an important economic resource. Fishing industry actually contributes to the national domestic product of those countries, meaning development in the economic field in general.

The importance of fishing industry lies in providing the appropriate quantities for locals; meeting the needs of domestic market of fresh fish; contributing to employing large numbers in this industry, including building and maintaining boats, recruiting the seaport workers and using trucks to transfer fish for marketing; in addition to the importance of fish exportation which yields high revenue for the state.

The fishing industry in the Gaza Strip is still unable to actually contribute in the Palestinian national economy as it only contributed by 1.0%¹ in the Domestic Product. This is due to fishermen lacking fishing equipment, Israeli daily attacks against fishermen while fishing, reducing the fishing area and tightening the naval blockade.

During the last two years, the fishing industry witnessed a significant increase in the number of fishermen and workers in fishing in the Gaza Strip. The reasons behind this differ according to the circumstances Gaza Strip experiences, such as lacking job opportunities in other sectors so civilians resort to work in the fishing industry. This explains the increase in the number of Gaza fishermen. According to the General Union of Fishing Workers in the Gaza Strip, the number of fishermen reached 4500 in addition to 1054 traders and 2000 workers in professions related to fishing such as boat manufacture and maintenance, fishing net manufacture, Ice manufacture to preserve fish, and gutting and selling fish.

Fishing Means

Fishermen in the Gaza Strip use approximately 1249 various types of boats, including launches and canoes. These boats are distributed throughout the Gaza Strip as follows: 275 boats in the northern Gaza Strip, 582 boats in Gaza City, 170 boats in the central Gaza Strip, 107 boats in Khan Younis and 115 boats in Rafah.²

¹ The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), Evaluation of the Plant and Animal Production in the oPt, August 2013, P. 31.

² Data from The General Union of Fishing Workers in the Gaza Strip

Fish Production

The dramatic increase in the number of fishermen and boats used in fishing did not lead to any slight increase in the fish production. However, fish production during the last 5 years significantly decreased. This goes back to the continued Israeli attacks against fishermen, including shooting, arresting and chasing them, and limiting the area allowed for sailing and fishing.

Second: Israeli Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen

1. Shooting incidents

Israeli naval forces continued to chase Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Sea and opened fire at them. During the reporting period, 100 shooting incidents were reported within the limited fishing area off the Gaza Strip shores.

2. Eight Fishermen Wounded in Shooting Incidents

The Israeli shooting incidents by Israeli naval forces against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Sea resulted in the injury of 8 fishermen while fishing within the allowed and limited area. The shooting incidents occurred throughout the Gaza shores as follows:

- At approximately 07:00 on 08 April 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off Rafah shore in the southern Gaza Strip, fired live bullets and metal bullets at 2 Palestinian fishing boats manned by 4 fishermen sailing within 5 nautical miles. As a result, Mohammed Jihad Rezeq Mesleh (26) and his brother Bilal (21) sustained wounds throughout their bodies while Ahmed Omer Mohammed al-Bardawil (29) and his brother Eyad (21) were arrested. At approximately 19:00, Israeli authorities released the four fishermen while they kept the two fishing boats under custody.
- At approximately 03:30 on 19 April 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off Rafah shore, south of the Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within about 8 nautical miles. As a result, a fisherman was hit with metal bullets throughout his body. Medical sources classified his condition as moderate. Moreover, the Israeli gunboats chased two of the fishing boats and arrested 5 fishermen on board. The arrested fishermen were identified as Mostafa Mohammed Khalil al-Najar (29), Odai Hasan Khalil al-Najar (20) and Ahmed Kamal Oudah Abu Muhsen (20) and the two brothers Mohammed Jihad Reziq Musleh (26) and Bilal (21). Mohammed Jihad Mesleh said that at approximately 19:00, the arrested fishermen were released.
- At approximately 07:40 on 24 April 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off the shore, northwest of Beit Lahiya, north of the Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. An Israeli gunboat approached a Palestinian fishing boat that was sailing within 3 nautical miles off the Gaza seaport. The boat was manned by Uranus Sharif Mohammed al-Sultan (19) and Ibrahim Ghaleb

Ramadan al-Sultan (23), both from al-Salateen neighborhood in Beit Lahiyah. The Israeli gunboat excessively opened fire at the fishing boat, confiscated it and forced the fishermen on the boat to take off their clothes, jump in the water and swim towards the Israeli gunboat. They then transferred Uranus and Ibrahim to a large gunboat that stationed 300 meter to the north of the scene. Due to the shooting, Uranus was wounded with a bullet to his right leg.

- At approximately 06:50 on 31 May 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off Gaza valley, west of the central Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at the Palestinian fishing boats. The Israeli gunboats surrounded 2 fishing boats sailing within 5 nautical miles. The first boat was manned by Hasan Mohamed Ibrahim Miqdad (31) and his brother Mohamed (29); and Mohamed Bashir Sha'ban Abu Riyalah (21) while the other was manned by Rajab Khaled Abu Riyalah (29) and his brother Khaled (21). All of them are from Gaza City. The Israeli naval soldiers forced the fishermen to take off their clothes, swim towards the rubber boats and then took them to Ashdod Seaport for interrogation. Moreover, the two fishing boats were kept under custody while dozens of fishing net were lost. It should be mentioned that at approximately 19:00 on the same day, the Israeli authorities released the four fishermen while kept both boats under custody. It was later found out that Khaled Rajab Abu Riyalah was hit with a rubber-coated bullet to the abdomen.
- At approximately 19:15 on 19 September 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed offshore, northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 2 nautical miles. As a result, Ahmed Mohamed Zayid (23), from al-Salateen area in Beit Lahia, sustained bullet shrapnel wounds to the abdomen, while his fishing boat sustained damage. According to field investigations, Israeli naval forces heavily fired live bullets at a fishing boat belonging to Zayid, who was along with another fisherman named Ahmed Shawqi Fawzi al-Sultan (22), sailing within 2 nautical miles. As a result, Zayid was wounded and his boat sustained damage. Meanwhile, Ahmed Sultan headed to the shore and called an ambulance to take Zayid to the Indonesian Hospital in Jabaliya refugee camp, where medical sources classified his wounds as serious. Zayid immediately underwent a surgery to extract shrapnel from his body. After that, Zayid medical condition was classified as stable. Fisherman Ahmed Shawqi al-Sultan (23) said to PCHR's fieldworker,

"I have worked as a fisherman for 3 years with my neighbor Ahmed Mohammed Zayid, who owns a fishing boat. At approximately 18:00 on Monday, 19 September 2016, Ahmed and I sailed for fishing. We threw 8 pieces of the fishing net into the water and stationed around 2 nautical miles off al-Waha shore, northwest of Beit Lahia. We were waiting to gather the fishing net after an hour and a half. Meanwhile, we saw an Israeli gunboat sailing at a distance of 1500 meters to the northwestern side. When the gunboat approached us, the Israeli naval soldiers opened fire in the vicinity of our boat, so I attempted to hide. When Ahmed attempted to escape via the boat, he sustained a live bullet wound to the abdomen and fell on the board. I quickly approached the engine and operated, sailing towards the boats berth in al-Sudaniyah area. When I arrived at shore, I asked members of the Civil Defense, who were in the area, to help me to transfer Ahmed

to the hospital. An ambulance arrived at the area and transferred Ahmed to the Indonesian Hospital, where he underwent a surgery for an hour and a half. However, doctors could not get the bullet out of Ahmed's body because it penetrated the colon. Medical sources classified Ahmed's injury as moderate."

- At approximately 01:30 on 30 October 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off al-Sudaniyah shore, north of Gaza, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 2.5 nautical miles. As a result, fisherman Rami Sami Baker (38) from Gaza City sustained a live bullet wound to the right leg while he was in a fishing boat belonging to 'Aziz Baker. Rami was transferred to al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza to receive medical treatment. His injury was classified as moderate.

3. Arrest of 111 Fishermen

In the reporting period, 111 fishermen were arrested in 28 different incidents while they were fishing within 300 meters to 6 nautical miles off the Gaza Shore. Below are some of the arrest incidents as documented by PCHR:

- At approximately 07:30 on 14 January 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off shore, northwest of al-Waha shore in the northern Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. An Israeli gunboat surrounded a Palestinian fishing boat belonging to Zaki Ibrahim Na'im al-Najjar from al-Shati' refugee camp, west of Gaza city. The boat was manned by Zaki's brother Mohammed (27) and husam Mo'een Mohammed Abu Ryalah (18) from Sheikh Redwan neighborhood in Gaza. The soldiers arrested the fishermen and detained the boat. The arrestees were released at approximately 20:00 on the same day, but kept their boat under custody.
- At approximately 00:00 on 27 January 2016, Israeli gunboats surrounded a Palestinian fishing boat manned by 4 fishermen and sailing within .5 nautical miles, west of al-Waha shore, north of Beit Lahia village. The soldiers opened fire at the boat and then arrested the fishermen. They took them to Ashdod Seaport and then detained the boat. The arrestees were identified as Fahed Zeyad Baker (40), Mohammed Saber Baker (22), Na'im Fahed Baker (19) and Tareq 'Alaa' Baker (17). At approximately 21:00 on the same day, all fishermen were released.
- At approximately 10:00 on 29 January 2016, Israeli gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats stationed off al-Sudaniyah shore, north of Gaza city. They surrounded 2 fishing boats sailing within 4 nautical miles and manned by 9 fishermen. As a result of the shooting, the engine of the boat was damaged and broke down. After that, the Israeli soldiers arrested the 9 fishermen and detained the 2 boats. The arrestees were identified as Majed Fadel Baker (56), his sons Fadi (30) and 'Omran (31), Mohammed Zeyad Baker (30), Khalil Jawhar Baker (26), Fadi Suhail Baker (19), his brother Khamis (17), Yusri Nafeth al-Akhsham (22) and Mohammed Nizar Baker (18). At approximately 01:00 on 01 March 2016, the Israeli forces released 8 fishermen while kept 'Omran Majed Baker under arrest.

- At approximately 07:00 on 03 February 2016, Israeli gunboats opened fire at 2 Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 5 nautical miles off Gaza Valley Shore. The first boat was manned by Mohammed Sa'ed al-Sae'idi and his brother Mahmoud (22) while the second one was manned by Sayed Marwn al-Sae'idi (31) and Jihad Sayed Kaskin (20). The Israeli gunboat surrounded the 2 fishing boats and forced the 4 fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the Israeli gunboat. The soldiers then arrested them and detained their boats and fishing equipment. At approximately 21:00 on the same day, the Israeli authorities released 3 fishermen while kept Mahmoud Sa'ed al-Sae'idi under arrest.
- On 07 April 2016, Israeli naval forces arrested 2 fishermen sailing within 3 nautical miles off Deir al-Balah shore in the central Gaza Strip. The fishermen were transferred to Ashdod Seaport where they were questioned. The arrestees were released few hours later.
- At approximately 06:00 on 07 April 2016, Israeli gunboats opened fire at a Palestinian fishing boat sailing within 8 nautical miles off Deir al-Balah Shore in the central Gaza Strip. An Israeli gunboat surrounded a Palestinian fishing boat manned by Ra'ed Khamis Hasan 'Oudah (43) and Eyad 'Abed 'Essa 'Elwan (35). The soldiers then arrested the fishermen and took them to a military site where they were questioned for few hours. At approximately 01:30 the next day, the fishermen were released.
- At approximately 07:00 on 08 April 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off Rafah shore in the southern Gaza Strip, opened fire at 2 Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 5 nautical miles and manned by 4 fishermen. As a result, 2 fishermen sustained metal bullet wounds throughout their bodies and then were arrested by the Israeli forces. The arrestees were identified as Mohammed Jihad Mesleh (26) and his brother Bilal (21). Two other fishermen namely Ahmed Omer al-Bardawil (29) and his brother Eyad (21) were arrested. The Israeli naval forces also detained the 2 boats. At approximately 19:30, Israeli authorities released the 4 fishermen.
- At approximately 19:30 on 09 April 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off al-Waha shore, northwest of Beit Lahia village in the northern Gaza Strip, opened fire in the vicinity of Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 2 nautical miles. The Israeli gunboats surrounded a Palestinian fishing boat manned by Ra'ed Khamis Abu 'Oudah (43) and Eyad 'Abed 'Essa 'Elwan (35). The Israeli soldiers then arrested and took them to Ashdod Seaport where they were questioned. At approximately 23:30 on the same day, the fishermen were released.
- At approximately 03:30 on 19 April 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off Rafah shore in the southern Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. As a result, a fisherman was wounded and a boat belonging to al-Najjar family was damaged and sank. The Israeli gunboats also chased 2 fishing boats and arrested 5 fishermen, who were on board, namely Mustafa Mohammed al-Najjar (29), 'Odai Hasan al-Najjar (20), Ahmed Kamal Abu Muhsen (20), the

brother Mohammed Jihad Meslaeh (26) and Bilal (21). It should be noted that at approximately 19:00 on the same day, the Israeli authorities released the fishermen.

- At approximately 07:40 on 24 April 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed offshore, northwest of al-Waha shore, northwest of Beit Lahia village in the northern Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. An Israeli gunboat surrounded a Palestinian fishing boat sailing within 3 nautical miles belonging to Uranus Sharif al-sultan (19) and Ibrahim Ghaleb al-Sultan (23) from al-Salateen neighborhood in Beit Lahia. As a result, Uranus sustained a live bullet wound to the right leg. The Israeli soldiers ordered the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards a fishing boat stationed about 300 meters to the north of the scene. The soldiers then arrested the fishermen and detained their boat.

Uranus Sharif al-Sultan said to PCHR's fieldworker, *"I have worked as a fisherman for 2 years on a boat belonging to my father. I go to work along with my Uncle Ibrahim Ghaleb al-Sultan. At approximately 04:30 on Sunday, 24 April 2016, we sailed about 3 nautical miles off al-Sefa area, northwest of Beit Lahia village. There were dozens of fishing boats, but the area was quiet. At approximately 07:30, an Israeli gunboat arrived and the soldiers opened fire in the vicinity of the boat. The shooting continued for 5 minutes and then the gunboat withdrew. We quickly collected the fishing nets and sailed towards the shore. However, we were surprised with an Israeli gunboat manned by 5 Israeli naval officers, who heavily opened fire at us. We attempted to flee, but due to the shooting, we were forced to stop. The Israeli gunboat stopped about 30 meters away from our boat and ordered us to take off our clothes, jump into the water and swim towards their boat. They then arrested us and handcuffed and blindfolded us. They then took us to the northwestern area during which we were moved from one boat to another until we arrived at an unknown destination. We were put in an investigation room after we underwent a medical check. I received the proper medical treatment for my right leg that was wounded. Thirty minutes later, we were taken to the investigation room. I was interrogated for 30 minutes as the interrogators took my uncle to another room to question him for an hour. At approximately 19:30 on the same day, we were released, but the Israeli authorities kept our boat under custody."*

- At approximately 13:00 on 26 April 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed offshore, northwest of Beit Lahia village in the northern Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. Two Israeli gunboats surrounded a Palestinian fishing boat sailing within 1 nautical mile belonging to 'Aahed Zeyad Zayed (38). The boat was manned by 'Aahed and Mo'nes 'Abed Zayed (39), from al-Salateen neighborhood, in Beit Lahia village. The soldiers then arrested the fishermen and detained their boat. At approximately 21:00 on the same day, the Israeli authorities released the fishermen.

Fisherman 'Aahed Zeyad Zayed (39) said to PCHR's fieldworker,

"At approximately 12:00 on Thursday, 26 April 2016, Mo'nes Ramadan and I sailed towards al-Waha shore to collect the fishnets that I threw into the water at approximately 07:00. At approximately 13:00, two Israeli gunboats arrived at the area and opened fire at us as our boat was about 1 nautical mile away from the Israeli gunboat. We attempted to flee, but couldn't due to the heavy gunfire. The soldiers then ordered us to take off our clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the Israeli gunboat. We swam for about 30 meters until we reached the gunboat. The soldiers then handcuffed and blindfolded us. They took us to an unknown destination and then moved us to another gunboat where we forced to wear blue clothes. The gunboat sailed for an hour and a half until we reached Ashdod Seaport. We were put in the investigation room and underwent medical check. Our detention continued for 3 hours after which the soldiers took us to another room in Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing. We were interrogated and accused of exceeding the limited fishing area (9 nautical miles). I said to the interrogator that I did not exceed the allowed area for fishing. The investigation continued for 30 minutes after which the Israeli naval forces released us, but kept our boat under custody."

- At approximately 18:30 on 07 May 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed offshore, northwest of al-Waha in the northern Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. An Israeli gunboat surrounded a Palestinian fishing boat belonging to Sharif Mohammed al-sultan and Ramadan Ghaleb al-Sultan sailing 300 meters offshore. The boat was manned by Uranus Sharif Mohammed al-Sultan (19) and Mohammed Ghaleb Ramadan al-Sultan (23), both from al-'Atatrah neighborhood in Beit Lahia village. The soldiers ordered the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the water, and swim towards the Israeli gunboat. The soldiers then arrested them and confiscated their boat. Uranus and Mohammed were interrogated in Ashdod seaport and released at approximately 00:30 on Sunday, 08 May 2016. It should be noted that after the gunboats chased the fishing boat, the fishermen lost eight 50-meter fishing nets.
- At approximately 19:00 on 15 May 2016, while a number of Palestinian fishing boats were sailing within 3 nautical miles off al-Wahah shore, northwest of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, Israeli gunboats stationed near the fishing boats heavily opened fire and fired dozens of shells at the boats. Two Israeli gunboats then surrounded 3 Palestinian fishing boats belonging to the sons of Redwan 'Abdullah Baker and manned by 10 fishermen, including 3 children. The Israeli soldiers forced the fishermen to take their clothes off, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboats. The fishermen were then arrested and taken to Ashdod Seaport for interrogation. The arrested fishermen were identified as:
 1. Khaled Redwan Baker (44) ;
 2. Khamis Redwan Baker (51) ;
 3. Ghaleb Redwan Baker (38) ;
 4. Ahmed Khaled Baker (23) ;

5. Mohammed Khamis Baker (17) ;
6. Jamil Ahmed ‘Adas (17) ;
7. Muhanned ‘Abdel Rahman Baker (24) ;
8. Mohammed Mahmoud Baker (17) ;
9. Adham Ashraf al-Ashwah (23); and
10. Hasan Ibrahim Madi (26).

At approximately 09:30 next day, Israeli forces released 8 fishermen while kept Khamis Baker and Hasan Madi under arrest.

- At approximately 06:20, Israeli gunboats stationed in the sea, northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. An Israeli gunboat approached a fishing boat belonging to Mohammed Ramadan Mohammed Zayed (61), from al-Salateen neighborhood in Beit Lahia, and manned by his brothers Samed (29) and Ibrahim (22), who were sailing 300 meters off the shore. Israeli naval forces arrested the abovementioned fishermen and confiscated their fishing boat.
- At approximately 05:40 on 22 May 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. Two Israeli gunboats approached two Palestinian fishing boats sailing within one nautical mile. One of the fishing boats belonging to Ishaq Mohamed Mohamed Zayid (54) was manned by his sons Rasem (29) and Mohamed (19), while the second boat belonging to Yunis Diab MousaZayid (53) was manned by his sons Saqer (20) and Ayman (18). Israeli forces ordered all of them to take off their clothes, jump into the water, and swim towards the gunboats. They then arrested all of them and took them to an unknown destination.
- At approximately 06:30, Israeli gunboats approached two Palestinian fishing boats sailing 300 meters off the shore, and heavily opened fire at them. One of the fishing boats belonging to As’ad Mohamed al-Sultan (52) was manned by Khalid Mahmoud Ahmed al-Sultan (21), while the second boat belonging to Mahmoud Ahmed Abdullah al-Sultan (47) was manned by his sons Mohamed (23) and Ayman (15). Israeli forces ordered all of them to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboats. They then arrested the fishermen and took them to an unknown destination.
- At approximately 08:10 on 22 May 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed offshore, northwest of al-Waha shore, northwest of Beit Lahia village in the northern Gaza Strip, opened fire at a Palestinian fishing boat sailing within 1 nautical mile. The boat belongs to Kamel Deib Mahmoud al-Anqah (64) and manned by Ahmed Mohamed Mohammed Zayid (32) and his brother Ibrahim (21). The Israeli forces ordered all of them to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboats. They then arrested the abovementioned fishermen and then took them to an unknown destination. The Israeli attack made fishermen lose dozens of fishing nets.

Ahmed Mohammed Zayed (32) said to PCHR's fieldworker:

"At approximately 07:45 on 22 May 2016, after hearing the news of arresting 8 fishermen, including my cousins, my brother and I sailed via a boat belonging to Kamel Deib Mahmoud al-Anqah. We were about 600 meter away from the point where the fishermen were arrested. Two Israeli gunboats sailed towards us and opened fire at us. We attempted to flee, but the gunboats reached us. The Israeli naval officers ordered us to take off our clothes and jump into the water. The shooting caused damage to the boat. When I arrived to the Israeli gunboat, the soldiers put me the boat deck and one of them put his foot on my head. They brought my brother and then moved us to another gunboat where the 8 fishermen, who were previously arrested, were on board. The Israeli forces took us to Ashdod Seaport. I suddenly fainted and the soldiers sprayed water on my face. When we arrived at Ashdod Seaport, the soldiers took us to the investigation room and a doctor made us undergo medical checkup. We stayed for 3 hours in the investigation room and then were taken to a small one. There was a desk, an officer, interrogator and translator. The interrogator asked me why I sailed, accusing me of exceeding the limited fishing area. I said that I was collecting the fishing nets from the sea. The investigation continued for 20 minutes and then I was taken to another room where Zayed, Ibrahim Zayed, Khaled al-Sultan and As'ad al-Sultan were. After that, we all were transferred via a military jeep to Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing where we again were interrogated. The interrogation continued for 30 minutes, and we were released at approximately 20:45."

- At approximately 06:50 on 31 May 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off Gaza valley, west of the central Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at the Palestinian fishing boats. Israeli gunboats surrounded 2 fishing boats sailing within 5 nautical miles. The first boat was manned by Hasan Mohamed Ibrahim Miqdad (31) and his brother Mohamed (29) and Mohamed Bashir Sha'ban Abu Riyalah (21). The second one was manned by Rajab Khalid Rajab Abu Riyalah (29) and his brother Khalid (21). All of the abovementioned fishermen are from Gaza City. The Israeli soldiers forced the fishermen to take off their clothes, swim towards the gunboats, and then took them to Ashdod Seaport. They also kept the fishing boat under custody. The chasing made fishermen lose dozens of fishing nets. It should be noted that at approximately 19:00 on the same day, Israeli forces released Khalid Rajab Abu Riyalah. At approximately 21:00, Israeli forces released the other four fishermen, who were previously arrested, while their fishing boats are still in custody.
- At approximately 06:00, Israeli gunboats stationed northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 5 nautical miles. Two Israeli gunboats approached a fishing boat manned by 3 brothers, who were identified as Khalil (21), Shaher (19) and Mohamed Muhsin Khalil Abu Riyalah (18), from al-Shati' camp, west of Gaza City. Israeli navy forces forced the fishermen to take their clothes off, swim towards an Israeli gunboat and took them to an unknown destination. Late at night, the fishermen were released.
- At approximately 09:00 on 15 June 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off Sheikh 'Ajleen shore, opened fire at 4 Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 6 nautical miles. Israeli gunboats

surrounded the four fishing boats, which were manned by 10 fishermen, and forced the fishermen to jump in the water and swim towards the gunboat. Israeli soldiers then arrested the fishermen and confiscated their boats and fishing equipment. The arrested fishermen were identified as Zayed Zaki Trough (24), his two brothers Isamil (23) and Abdul Latif (21), Fadi Hashem Dabbou (23), Khalil Mustafa Zaqout (20), Fahed Zeyad Hasan Baker (40), his son Zeyad (21), 'Eid Muhsen Baker (26), Rami 'Ezzat Sa'ed Baker (38), and Bayan Khamis Sobhi Baker (21). At approximately 20:00 on the same day, Israeli forces released 8 of the arrested fishermen while kept Zeyad Fahed Baker (21) and Rami 'Ezzat Baker (38) under arrest.

- At approximately 09:40 on 20 July 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off al-Balakhayah area, west of al-Shati refugee camp, northwest of Gaza City, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 2 nautical miles. Two Israeli gunboats approached a fishing boat belonging to Omar “Mohamed Monir” Omar Baker (47) and manned by 4 civilians, who were identified as:
 1. “Mohamed Monir” Omar “Mohamed Monir” Baker (20);
 2. Mohamed Yousef “Mohamed Monir” Baker (17);
 3. Bayan Khamis Subhi Baker (21); and
 4. Omar Yehia Othman Baker (19).

All of the above-mentioned civilians are from al-Shati refugee camp, west of Gaza City. Israeli forces arrested all of them and confiscated the fishing boat.

- At approximately 10:40, 27 July 2016, Israeli forces stationed off al-Waha shore, northwest of Beit Lahia village in the northern Gaza Strip opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. Two Israeli gunboats surrounded a fishing boat sailing within 1.5 nautical miles. The boat was manned by 2 fishermen namely Mohammed Yasin Zayed (22) and Tareq Abdul Bari al-Sultan (21) from al-Salatin neighborhood in Beit Lahia village. The soldiers ordered the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboat. The soldiers then arrested them and confiscated the fishing boat.
- At approximately 06:55 on 27 July 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 1.5 nautical miles. Two Israeli gunboats approached a fishing boat manned by Mohammed Yaseen Ali Zayid (22) and Tareq Abed al-Bari Mohamed al-Sultan (21), both of them from al-Salateen neighborhood in Beit Lahia. Israeli forces obliged the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump in the sea and swim towards a gunboat. The Israeli forces then arrested both fishermen and confiscated their boat.
- At approximately 07:00 on 12 August 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 4 nautical miles. Two Israeli gunboats approached a fishing boat manned by 5 fishermen, who were

identified as Said Jum'a Hasan Baker (47) and his two sons Mahmoud (18) and Ibrahim (16); Yasir Nasir Fadel Baker (24); and Ahmed Mahmoud al-Louh (20). All of the fishermen are from al-Shati' camp, west of Gaza City. The Israeli navy soldiers forced the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the sea and swim towards the two gunboats. After that, the fishermen were arrested and taken to an unknown destination and their fishing boat was confiscated.

- At approximately 09:00 on 15 August 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed in northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 4 nautical miles and chased them. Two Israeli gunboats approached a fishing boat belonging to Nabil Mahmoud Baker manned by 5 fishermen. The fishermen were identified as Ihab Jawad Hasan Baker (38), Mamdouh Nu'man Yusuf Baker (28), Fadi Mahmoud Sa'id Baker (34) and Nael Nabil Mahmoud Baker (30). All of the abovementioned fishermen are Gaza City. Israeli forces forced the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the sea and swim towards the gunboats. After that, they took the fishermen to Ashdod Seaport after confiscating their fishing boat. At approximately 22:00, Israeli forces released the fishermen via Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing, but kept their fishing boat in custody.
- At approximately 19:00 on 21 August 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed offshore northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 1.5 nautical miles. An Israeli gunboat approached a fishing boat belonging to Shareef Mohamed al-'Abed al-Sultan (43), which was manned by the boat owner and Ibrahim Ghalib Ramadan al-Sultan (23), both of them are from al-'Atatrah neighborhood in Beit Lahia. Israeli forces forced the fishermen to take off their clothes, jumped into the sea and then swim towards the gunboat. Israeli forces arrested the fishermen taking them to Ashdod Seaport and confiscating the fishing boat. At approximately 01:00, on Monday, 22 August 2016, Israeli authorities released the fishermen via Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing, while the boat is still in custody.
- At approximately 06:00, on 25 August 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed offshore, northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within one nautical mile. Two Israeli gunboats approached a fishing boat belonging to Abed al-'Aziz Fared Abdullah Sa'dallah (24), which was manned by the fishing boat owner and Mohammed Mohammed Mousa Sa'dallah (68). Both of the abovementioned fishermen are from Jabalia refugee camp. Israeli navy forces forced Mohamed Sa'dallah to sit on the boat deck, while they forced Abed al-'Aziz to take off his clothes, jump into the sea and swim towards the gunboats. After that, the Israeli navy forces left Mohamed Sa'dallah on the fishing boat and took Abed al-'Aziz to an unknown destination. Another Palestinian fishing boat headed towards S'adallah's boat and pulled it to the shore, during which they noticed that the fishing boat engine was damaged due to the Israeli shooting. Moreover, the fishing boat was hit with live bullets, while one of the fishermen was wounded.

The fisherman Mohamed S'adallah said to PCHR's fieldworker,

"On 24 August 2016, I went fishing and so threw around 20 fishing nets into the sea. At approximately 06:00 on Thursday, 25 August 2016, I headed to the sea along with my nephew, Ahmed Farid S'adallah (26), to collect the fishing nets. After that, another fisherman namely Abed al-'Aziz, who was there, helped me reaching the fishing nets that were about 1 nautical mile off al-Waha shore, northwest of Beit Lahia village. When we arrived, I was surprised that 15 fishing nets were cut by the Israeli navy forces. I then collected the rest fishing nets. At approximately 06:00 on the same day, I was surprised that two Israeli gunboats headed towards us and heavily opened fire around the fishing boat, so we fled eastwards. We were forced to stop about 500 meters off the shore due to the heavy shooting. When Israeli gunboats were about 100 meters away from the fishing boat, the Israeli navy forces directly opened fire at the boat and broke down the engine. The Israeli navy forces ordered me to sit on the deck while forced Abed al-'Aziz to take off his clothes, jump into the sea and then swim towards the gunboat. Meanwhile, 'Abed al-'Aziz was screaming out of pain in his left leg and shouting he was wounded. The Israeli forces then took him to an unknown destination. After that, fishermen Mohammed Shehdah S'adallah and his brother 'Ali headed towards me and pulled my boat, whose engine was damaged."

- At approximately 07:45 on 27 August 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed offshore, northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 2 nautical miles. An Israeli gunboat approached a fishing boat belonging to Talal Zaki Taroush (30 and manned by Abed al-Latif Zaki Mostafa Taroush (21) and Ahmed Waheed Hussain Abu Hasan (22). Both of the above-mentioned fishermen are from al-Towam area in Jabalia refugee camp. Israeli navy forces then forced the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the sea and swim towards the gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and taken to Ashdod Seaport, while the fishing boat and 10 fishing nets were confiscated. At approximately 13:00, Israeli forces released the two fishermen while the fishing boat is still in custody.
- At approximately 06:30 on 29 August 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed offshore, northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within one nautical mile. An Israeli gunboat approached a fishing boat, which was manned by Mahdi Mohamed Ibrahim Abu Riyalah (38) and his son, Nafiz (16), both of them are from al-Shati camp, west of Gaza City. Israeli navy forces forced the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the sea and swim towards the gunboat. They also confiscated the fishing boat and fishing nets. Fishermen, who witnessed the incident, said that Israeli gunboats heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 5 nautical miles. The shooting mainly targeted the fishing boat carrying the abovementioned fishermen, who attempted to flee to the east. When the fishermen were sailing within one nautical mile, they were forced to stop due to the heavy gunfire. They were then arrested, and their fishing boat was confiscated.

- At approximately 17:00 on 08 September 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off Deir al-Balah shore in the center of the Gaza Strip, arrested 6 fishermen while sailing within 6 nautical miles. The arrestees were identified as Abdul Mo'ti Rami al-Habil (17), Mohammed Abdul M'oti al-Habil (25), Fayez Ahmed Abu Foul (47), Abdul M'oti Ibrahim al-Habil (18), 'Ali Ayman al-Habil (17), and Ahmed Mohammed al-'Araishi (25). When the Israeli gunboats attacked the fishermen's boat by opening fire at it, the boat engine was damaged and shut off. The soldiers then confiscated the boat.

According to fisherman 'Abed al-Mo'ti Ramy al-Habil (17), who was one of the arrested fishermen, *"At approximately 06:00, I headed along with the fishermen Mohamed Abed al-Mo'ti al-Habeel (25), Fayiz Ahmed Abu Foul (47), 'Abed al-Mo'ti Ibrahim al-Habil (18) and Ali Ayman al-Habil (17) to the Gaza Seaport. The above-mentioned fishermen got on a fishing boat belonging to my grandfather, 'Abed al-Mo'ti al-Habil, and then sailed southwards and started throwing their fishing nets until we reached Rafah shore. When we came back to Deir al-Balah shore, we were surprised with 3 Israeli gunboats firing live bullets and rubber-coated metal bullets at us. As a result, we attempted to flee, but the Israeli naval forces directly opened fire at the boat engine, forcing it to shut off. The Israeli naval forces then surrounded us and told us via loudspeakers to jump into the sea and swim towards the gunboats. As soon as we got on the gunboat, the Israeli soldiers handcuffed us with plastic ties, blindfolded us and then took them to the Ashdod Seaport. We were put in a room and then a doctor came to do the medical checkup. After that, we were questioned as the Israeli officers asked me about my personal data and took photos of me from all sides. They also asked about the names of the boat owner and captain. After the interrogation was over, they replaced the plastic ties with metal cuffs to tie our hands and feet. We were then released and taken by a bus to Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing. It should be noted that the Israeli naval forces confiscated the fishing boat and equipment."*

- At approximately 06:00 on 07 October 2016, Israeli navy forces stationed offshore arrested two fishermen namely Mohammed 'Awwad al-Sa'idi and Mahmoud al-Sa'idi while sailing within 5 nautical miles and confiscated the fishing boat. At approximately 15:00, Israeli forces released Mohammed but kept Mahmoud under arrest and the fishing boat as well.

Mohamed 'Awaad al-Sa'idi (17) said to PCHR's fieldworker,

"At approximately 04:00, I headed along with our cousin Mahmoud al-Sa'idi to the Gaza Seaport for fishing. We got on a fishing boat belonging to Riyadh Abed al-Kareem al-Shrafi. While sailing within 5 nautical miles, 2 Israeli gunboats approached us and ordered us to stop fishing and head frontwards. They then ordered us to take off our clothes, jump into the sea and swim towards one of the two gunboats. They then tied our hands with plastic ties and blindfolded us taking us to the Ashdod Seaport, where we were interrogated. At approximately 15:00, I was released, but my cousin Mahmoud was kept under arrest and the fishing boat as well."

4. Confiscation of Fishing Equipment

During the reporting period, Israeli forces confiscated 32 fishing boats while chasing Palestinian fishing boats sailing in the Gaza Sea.

- On 14 January 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off al-Wahah shore, northwest of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. An Israeli gunboat surrounded a fishing boat belonging to Zaki Ibrhaim Na'im al-Najjar from al-Shati' refugee camp, west of the city. The Israeli forces arrested the 2 fishermen on board and confiscated the boat.
- At approximately 12:00 on 27 January 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off al-Waha Shore, northwest of Beit Lahia, surrounded a fishing boat sailing within 1.5 nautical miles and manned by 4 Palestinian fishermen. The Israeli naval forces opened fire at the fishing boat and arrested the fishermen, who were then taken to Ashdod Seaport. Moreover, the fishing boat was confiscated.
- At approximately 10:00 on 29 January 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off al-Sudaniyia shore, north of Gaza City, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. The Israeli gunboats then surrounded 2 Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 4 nautical miles and manned by 9 fishermen. As a result of the shooting, the engines of the 2 fishing boats were damaged. Furthermore, Israeli naval forces arrested all the fishermen and confiscated the fishing boats.
- At approximately 07:00 on 03 February 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off Gaza Valley opened fire at 2 Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 5 nautical miles. An Israeli gunboat surrounded the fishing boats, and Israeli naval forces forced 4 fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboat. The Israeli naval forces arrested the fishermen and confiscated the 2 fishing boats and other fishing equipment.
- At approximately 07:00 on 08 April 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off Rafah Shore, south of the Gaza Strip, fired rubber-coated metal bullets at 2 Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 5 nautical miles and manned by 4 fishermen. As a result of the shooting, 2 fishermen were wounded. The Israeli naval forces arrested all the fishermen and confiscated the fishing boats.
- At approximately 07:40 on 24 April 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off al-Waha resort, northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. An Israeli gunboat surrounded a fishing boat belongs to Shareef Mohamed al-Sultan and Ramadan Ghalib al-Sultan and sailing within 3 nautical miles. Israeli naval forces obliged the 2 fishermen onboard to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboat stationed 300 meters away from the scene. The 2 fishermen were arrested and their fishing boat was confiscated.

- At approximately 13:00 on 24 April 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed in the sea, northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. Two Israeli gunboats surrounded a fishing boat sailing within one nautical mile and manned by the boat's owner, 'Ahed Ziyad Zayid (38) and Mo'nes Abed Zayid (39). Both of them are from al-Salateen neighborhood in Beit Lahia. Israeli naval forces arrested the fishermen and confiscated the fishing boat.
- At approximately 19:00 on 15 May 2016, while a number of Palestinian fishing boats were sailing within 3 nautical miles off the northern Gaza shore, northwest of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, Israeli gunboats stationed near the fishing boats heavily opened fire and fired dozens of shells at the boats. Two Israeli gunboats then surrounded 3 Palestinian fishing boats belonging to the sons of Redwan 'Abdullah Baker and manned by 10 fishermen, including 3 children. The fishermen were then arrested and taken to Ashdod Seaport for interrogation. Moreover, the Israeli naval forces confiscated 2 fishing boats and sank another one.
- At approximately 06:20 on 17 May 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed in the sea, northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. An Israeli gunboat approached a fishing boat belonging to Mohammed Ramadan Mohammed Zaied (61), from al-Salateen neighborhood in Beit Lahia, and manned by his brothers Samed (29) and Ibrahim (22). The abovementioned civilians were sailing 300 meters off the shore when the Israeli naval forces arrested them and confiscated their fishing boat.
- At approximately 05:40 on 22 May 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off shore, northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. Two Israeli gunboats approached two Palestinian fishing boats sailing within one nautical mile. One of the fishing boats belongs to Ishaq Mohamed Mohammed Zayid (54) and was manned by his sons Rasem (29) and Mohamed (19) while the second boat belongs to Yunis Diab Mousa Zayid (53) and was manned by his sons Saqer (20) and Ayman (18). Israeli forces ordered all of them to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboats. They then arrested all of the abovementioned fishermen and confiscated the fishing boat.
- At approximately 06:30 on 22 May 2016, Israeli gunboats approached two Palestinian fishing boats sailing 300 meters off the shore and heavily opened fire at them. One of the fishing boats belonging to As'ad Mohamed al-Sultan (52) was manned by Khalid Mahmoud Ahmed al-Sultan (21), while the second boat belonging to Mahmoud Ahmed Abdullah al-Sultan (47) was manned by his sons Mohamed (23) and Ayman (15). Israeli forces ordered all of them to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboats. They then arrested all of the abovementioned fishermen and confiscated the fishing boat.
- At approximately 08:10 on 22 May 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off shore, northwest of al-Waha resort, northwest of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, approached a Palestinian fishing boat sailing within one nautical mile and heavily opened fire at it. The fishing boat belonging to

Kamel Deib Mahmoud al-Anqah (64) was manned by 2 fishermen. The Israeli naval forces ordered all of them to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboats. They then arrested all of the abovementioned fishermen and confiscated the fishing boat. The arrested fishermen were identified as Ahmed Mohamed Mohamed Zayid (32) and his brother Ibrahim (21). The shooting made fishermen lose dozens of fishing nets.

- At approximately 19:00 on the same day, Israeli forces released Khalid Rajab Abu Riyalah via Beit Hanoun “Erez” crossing, finding out he was wounded with a live bullet to the right knee and was then taken by a PRCS ambulance to al-Shifa Hospital. During Khaled’s detention period and in spite of transferring him to an Israeli hospital, it turned out that the bullet was still in his knee.
- At approximately 21:00 on the same day, Israeli forces released the other four fishermen, who were previously arrested, while their fishing boats are still in custody. It turned out that Khalid Khalid Abu Riyalah was hit with a rubber-coated metal bullet to the abdomen.
- At approximately 09:00 on 15 June 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off Sheikh ‘Ajleen shore, opened fire at 4 Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 6 nautical miles. Israeli gunboats surrounded the four fishing boats, which was manned by 10 fishermen, and forced them to jump in the water and swim towards the gunboat. Israeli soldiers then arrested the fishermen and confiscated their boats and fishing equipment. The arrested fishermen were identified as Zayid Zaki Taroush (24), and his brother Isma’il; Abed al-Latif (21); Fadi Hashim Dabou (23); Khalil Mostafa Zaqout (20); Fahd Ziyad Hasan Baker (24) and his son Ziyad (21); ‘Eid Muhsen Baker (26); Rami ‘Ezzat Sa’ied Baker (38); and Bayan Khamees Subhi Baker (21). At approximately 20:00 on the same day, Israeli forces released 8 of the arrested fishermen, while kept two under arrest.
- At approximately 09:40 on 20 July 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off al-Balakhayah area, west of al-Shati refugee camp, northwest of Gaza City, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 2 nautical miles. Two Israeli gunboats approached a fishing boat belonging to ‘Omar “Mohamed Monir” ‘Omar Baker (47) and manned by 4 civilians, who were identified as:
 1. “Mohamed Monir” Omar “Mohamed Monir” Baker (20);
 2. Mohamed Yousef “Mohamed Monir” Baker (17);
 3. Bayan Khamis Subhi Baker (21); and
 4. Omar Yehia Othman Baker (19).

All of the above-mentioned are from al-Shati refugee camp, west of Gaza City. Israeli forces arrested all of them and confiscated the fishing boat.

- At approximately 06:55 on 27 July 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 1.5 nautical

miles. Two Israeli gunboats approached a fishing boat manned by Mohammed Yaseen Ali Zayid (22) and Tareq Abed al-Bari Mohamed al-Sultan (21); both of them are from al-Salateen neighborhood in Beit Lahia. Israeli forces forced the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump in the sea and swim towards a gunboat. They then arrested them and confiscated their boat.

- At approximately 10:40 on 27 July 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed in the northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within one nautical mile offshore. Two Israeli gunboats approached a fishing boat belonging to Mahmoud Maher Mohamed Zughrah (25), which was manned by Mohamed Rafat Radwan Baker (30), Mohamed Mahmoud al-Louh (24), Khamis ‘Awad Nimer Zughrah (25), Mostafa Nael Mostafa Baker (20) and Saleem Fayiz Saleem Abu Sadeq (21). All of the abovementioned fishermen are from al-Shati camp, west of the Gaza City. Israeli forces ordered the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the sea, and swim towards the gunboats. They then arrested the fishermen and confiscated their boat. As a result of shooting, another fishing boat belonging to Iyad Rajab Mohamed al-Hesi (38), from al-Shati camp, was seriously damaged, and all the fishing tools and equipment were lost.
- At approximately 07:00 on 12 August 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off shore, northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 4 nautical miles. Two Israeli gunboats approached a fishing boat manned by 5 fishermen, who were identified as Said Jum’a Hasan Baker (47) and his two sons Mahmoud (18) and Ibrahim (16); Yasir Nasir Fadel Baker (24); and Ahmed Mahmoud al-Louh (20). All of the fishermen are from al-Shati’ camp, west of Gaza City. Israeli navy forces forced the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the sea and swim towards the two gunboats. After that, the fishermen were arrested and taken to an unknown destination and their fishing boat was confiscated.
- At approximately 09:00 on 15 August 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed in northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 4 nautical miles and chased them. Two Israeli gunboats approached a fishing boat belonging to Nabil Mahmoud Baker manned by 5 fishermen. The fishermen were identified as Ihab Jawad Hasan Baker (38), Mamdouh Nu’man Yousef Baker (28), Fadi Mahmoud Sa’id Baker (34) and Nael Nabil Mahmoud Baker (30). All of the abovementioned fishermen are from Southern Remal neighbourhood, west of Gaza City, while Khamis Jihad Sa’id al-‘Arishy (24) is from al-Shati’ camp. Israeli forces forced the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the sea and swim towards the gunboats. After that, they took the fishermen to Ashdod Seaport after confiscating their fishing boat. At approximately 22:00, Israeli forces released the fishermen via Beit Hanoun” Erez” crossing, but kept their fishing boat in custody.
- At approximately 19:00 on 21 August 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed offshore, northwest of Beit Lahia in the northern the Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 1.5 nautical miles. An Israeli gunboat approached a fishing boat belonging to Shareef Mohamed al-

‘Abed al-Sultan (43) and manned by the boat owner and Ibrahim Ghalib Ramadan al-Sultan (23), both of them are from al-‘Atatrah neighbourhood in Beit Lahia. Israeli forces forced the fishermen to take off their clothes, jumped into the sea and then swim towards the gunboat. Israeli forces arrested the fishermen taking them to Ashdod Seaport and confiscated the fishing boat. At approximately 01:00, on Monday, 22 August 2016, the Israeli authorities released the fishermen via Beit Hanoun “Erez” crossing, while the boat is still in custody.

- At approximately 07:45 on 27 August 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed offshore, northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 2 nautical miles. An Israeli gunboat approached a fishing boat belonging to Talal Zaki Taroush (30) and manned by Abed al-Latif Zaki Mostafa Taroush (21) and Ahmed Waheed Hussain Abu Hasan (22). Both of the above-mentioned fishermen are from al-Towam area in Jabalia refugee camp. Israeli navy forces then forced the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the sea and swim towards the gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and taken to Ashdod Seaport, while the fishing boat was confiscated and 10 fishing nets as well. At approximately 13:00, Israeli forces released the two fishermen via Beit Hanoun “Erez” crossing, while the fishing boat is still in custody.
- At approximately 06:30 on 29 August 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed offshore, northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within one nautical mile. An Israeli gunboat approached a fishing boat, which was manned by Mahdi Mohamed Ibrahim Abu Riyalah (38) and his son, Nafiz (16), both of them are from al-Shati camp, west of Gaza City. Israeli navy forces forced the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the sea and swim towards the gunboat. They also confiscated the fishing boat and fishing nets.
- At approximately 17:00 on 08 September 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed offshore arrested 6 fishermen while sailing within 6 nautical miles off Deir al-Balah shore, in the central Gaza Strip. The arrested fishermen were identified as ‘Abed al-Mo’ti Ramy al-Habeel (17), Mohamed Abed al-Mo’ti al-Habeel (25), Fayiz Ahmed Abu Foul (47), Abed al-Mo’ti Ibrahim al-Habeel (18), Ali Ayman al-Habeel (17) and Ahmed Mohamed al-‘Araishy. The Israeli gunboats attacked the fishing boat, which was manned by the 6 fishermen and opened fire at it. As a result, the boat engine broke down and the boat was confiscated.
- At approximately 06:00, Israeli naval forces stationed offshore arrested two fishermen while sailing within 5 nautical miles. The arrested fishermen were identified as Mohamed ‘Awaad al-Sa’idy (17) and Mahmoud al-Sa’idy. The Israeli naval forces also confiscated the fishing boat and fishing tools.

5. Damaging Fishing Equipment

Opening fire at and chasing the Palestinian fishing boat by Israeli gunboats resulted in the damage of 9 fishing boats and other fishing equipment. The shooting incidents that led to damaging fishing equipment were as follows:

- At approximately 10:00 on 29 January 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off al-Sudaniya shore, north of Gaza City, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. The Israeli gunboats surrounded 2 fishing boats sailing within 4 nautical miles and manned by 9 fishermen. As a result of shooting, the engines of the fishing boats broke down. Israeli naval forces arrested all the fishermen and confiscated the fishing boats.
- At approximately 03:30 on 19 April 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off Rafah shore, south of the Gaza Strip, opened fire and fired metal bullets at Palestinian fishing boats. As a result, a fisherman was wounded and a fishing boat was drowned in the sea as it was hit with live bullets to the bow when Israeli gunboats chased the fishermen. The fishing boat belonging to al-Najjar family was manned by 5 fishermen, who were then arrested by Israeli naval forces.
- At approximately 08:00 on 01 May 2016, Israeli gunboats chased and opened fire at a Palestinian fishing boat sailing 8 nautical miles off Kha Yunis shore and manned by Mohammed Mesbah Shuhadah (35) and Nedal Haider Abu Oudah. As a result, the boat and the fishing equipment sustained material damage.
- At approximately 19:00 on 15 May 2016, while a number of Palestinian fishing boats were sailing within 3 nautical miles off the northern Gaza shore, northwest of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, Israeli gunboats stationed near the fishing boats heavily opened fire and fired dozens of shells at the boats. Two Israeli gunboats then surrounded 3 Palestinian fishing boats belonging to the sons of Redwan 'Abdullah Baker and manned by 10 fishermen, including 3 children. The fishermen were then arrested and taken to Ashdod Seaport for interrogation. Moreover, Israeli naval forces confiscated 2 fishing boats and drowned another one.
- At approximately 23:00 on 28 June 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed off al-Sudaniya shore, west of Jabalia refugee camp, north of the Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 5 nautical miles and chased them in addition to pumping water into their boats. As a result, an engine, flashlights and generator of a fishing boat belonging to Khamis Saleem Taher Abu Sadeq (59), from al-Shati camp, west of the Gaza City, were damaged. However, other boats managed to pull the targeted boat to the Gaza Seaport.

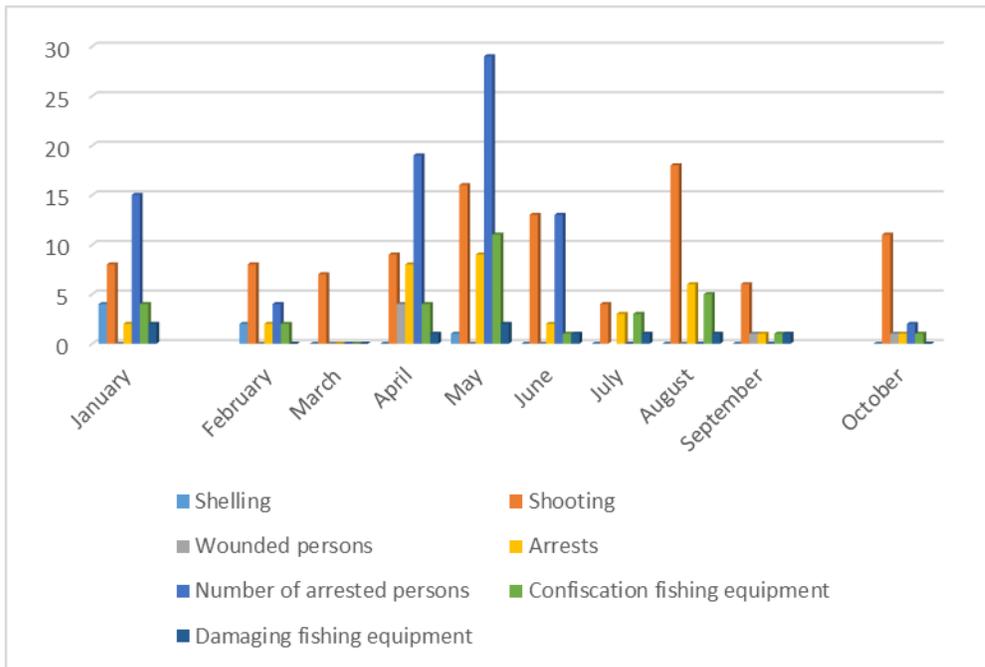
- At approximately 10:40 on 27 July 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed in the northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within one nautical mile offshore. Two Israeli gunboats approached a fishing boat belonging to Mahmoud Maher Mohamed Zughrah (25), which was manned by 6 fishermen. All of the abovementioned fishermen were arrested and the fishing boat was confiscated. As a result of shooting, the boat engine broke down while the fishing tools and equipment were lost.
- At approximately 06:00 on 25 August 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed offshore, northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within one nautical mile. Two Israeli gunboats approached a fishing boat belonging to Abed al-‘Aziz Fared Abdullah Sa’dallah (24) and manned by the fishing boat owner and Mohamed Mohamed Mousa Sa’dallah (68). Both of the abovementioned fishermen are from Jabalia refugee camp. Israeli navy forces forced Mohamed Sa’dallah to lie down on the boat deck, while they forced Abed al-‘Aziz to take off his clothes, jump into the sea and swim towards the gunboats. After that, Israeli navy forces left Mohamed Sa’dallah on the fishing boat and took Abed al-‘Aziz to an unknown destination. Another Palestinian fishing boat headed towards S’adallah’s boat and pulled it to the shore, during which they noticed that the fishing boat engine was damaged due to the Israeli shooting. Moreover, the fishing boat was hit with live bullets.
- At approximately 19:15 on 19 September 2016, Israeli gunboats stationed offshore, northwest of Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 2 nautical miles. As a result of shooting, a boat manned by a fisherman sustained damage.

Table of the Israeli violations against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip from 01 January to 31 October 2016

Month	Shelling	Shooting	Wounded persons	Arrests	Number of arrested persons	Confiscati on fishing equipment	Damaging fishing equipment
January	4	8	-	2	15	4	2
February	2	8	-	2	4	2	-
March	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
April	-	9	4	8	19	4	1

May	1	16	2 persons, including a child	9	29	11	2
June	-	13	-	2	13	1	1
July	-	4		3	12 persons, including a child	3	1
August	-	18	-	6	17 persons, including 2 children	5	1
September	-	6	1	1	6 persons, including 2 children	1	1
October	-	11	1	1	2	1	-
Total	7	100	8	-	117	32	9

Chart of the Israeli violations against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip from 01 January to 31 October 2016



Conclusion

The serious attacks against Palestinian fishermen and the fishing sector by the Israeli naval forces constitute a violation of the international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention. The tightening policy against fishermen, especially related to the freedom of their movement within the Gaza regional water, is a form of collective punishment that is prohibited according to the rules of the international humanitarian law. Moreover, this policy targets civilians' livelihoods.

Israeli practices against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip constitute a violation of all international conventions and agreements relating to the right to work, especially, article 6 (1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which states: "The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right to work, which includes the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses or accepts, and will take appropriate steps to safeguard this right." Moreover, Article 1 (2) of the same Covenant states: "All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence." Article 23 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights assures that "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment." The Israeli practices against the Palestinian fishermen violate the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding the protection of civilians in times of war in particular protection of workers and their rights (article 52), "All measures aiming at creating unemployment or at restricting the opportunities offered to workers in an occupied territory, in order to induce them to work for the Occupying Power, are prohibited."

Israeli practices against fishermen also violate the provisions of Article 6 of the Universal Declaration on Social Progress and Development which states: "Social development requires the assurance to every one of the right to work and the free choice of employment. Social progress and development require the participation of all members of society in productive and socially useful labor.", and article (10) of the same declaration which states: "The assurance at all levels of the right to work and the right of everyone to form trade unions and workers' associations and to bargain collectively; promotion of full productive employment and elimination of unemployment and under-employment; establishment of equitable and favorable conditions of work for all, including the improvement of health and safety conditions; assurance of just remuneration for labor without any discrimination as well as a sufficiently high minimum wage to ensure a decent standard of living; the protection of the consumer."

Therefore, PCHR calls upon:

- The international community, particularly, the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention relevant to the protection of civilians in time of war, to immediately intervene and pressurize the Israeli forces to stop all violations against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip, including allowing them to freely sail and fish in the regional waters of the Gaza Strip.
- the Israeli naval forces to immediately intervene to stop all types of grave violations committed their soldiers against the Palestinian fishermen in the sea, including terror and intimidation of fishermen, shooting at them and confiscation of their boats and fishing equipment.
- The international community to intervene so as to release any equipment and fishing boats which were confiscated previously; in addition to redressing and indemnifying them for the damage resulted from the Israeli attacks.
- The international community to pressurize the Israeli forces to immediately open the crossings, allowing the institutions working in the fishing sector to enter the equipment needed for the maintenance and rehabilitation of the fishing seaports and boats destroyed, importing spare parts and equipment necessary for maintenance works of fishing seaports.
- International and humanitarian organizations to provide the financial and technical support needed for fishermen.