

Report

Israeli Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen

1 November 2017 – 30 April 2019

Introduction

This report addresses the serious violations committed by Israeli naval forces against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip. It also sheds light on fishermen's daily suffering while at work and the daily attacks against them that aim at restricting their movement, denying their right to work and to secure their livelihoods.

The report also documents the Israeli forces' attacks against fishermen in the Gaza Strip from 01 November 2017 to 30 April 2019. The continued acts of chasing and shooting at Palestinian fishermen by Israeli naval forces stationed off the Gaza waters resulted in many killings and injuries among fishermen, as well as damage to their equipment. Moreover, dozens of fishermen were arrested and investigated after their fishing boats and nets were confiscated, despite posing no danger to the Israeli naval forces.

The Israeli authorities continued to impose naval blockade on the Gaza Strip shores and deny fishermen access to areas where fish breed. During the reporting period and until 31 March 2019, the de-facto approved fishing area was between three- nine nautical miles. The restricted fishing area denied fishermen from fishing freely, gravely deteriorating the economic and social conditions of at least 4,000 fishermen registered at the Fishermen's Syndicate and 1,000 workers in other associated professions.

At the beginning of April 2019, the Israeli authorities declared the expansion of the fishing area from six to 15 nautical miles off the Gaza Strip shore for the first time since 2000. The data documented following the expansion of the fishing zone indicate that no significant impact happened in fishermen's work, particularly for production. This is due to several reasons: a. the systematic Israeli policy targeting fishermen within the allowed fishing area; b. the restrictions on importing necessary fishing equipment; and limiting the expansion of fishing area to the area beyond Gaza Valley (Centre Gaza Strip to the south), which are non-breeding fishing areas due to the sandy nature and fragile environmental conditions.

Additionally, Israeli authorities continued to impose restrictions on importing necessary equipment for fishermen to sail farther than 15 nautical miles, such as transmission gears, fiberglass, steel cables and spare parts. The Israeli authorities classifies these materials as "dual-use materials" that can be used for military objectives.

Denial of entry of spare parts necessary for manufacturing and repairing boats led to paralyzing the boat industry. Only a few number of workshops continue to repair boats while the boat-manufacturing industry has completely stopped. This is also amplified by the financial vulnerability of fishermen in light of depriving them from fishing freely as well as destroying and confiscating their fishing boats.

The Israeli forces' attacks continued against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip, violating their right to life and bodily integrity, arresting dozens, as well as confiscating and damaging their fishing boats and nets. Although the Israeli authorities expanded the fishing area in April 2019 to 6 – 12 nautical miles, the Israeli naval forces continued to chase and open fire at fishermen and endangering their lives.

PCHR documented 434 shooting incidents against fishermen while at sea. As a result, two fishermen were killed, 22 others were injured; also, 15 fishing boats and fishing nets belonging to two fishermen were damaged. The chasing incidents led to arresting 121 fishermen, detaining 25 fishing boats and confiscating fishing nets belonging to two fishermen in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli practices against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip are considered a serious violation of international treaties and agreements, which affirm the right to work, particularly the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The right of all members of society to productive and useful work is also emphasized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development. The Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen contradict with the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in times of war and emphasizes the necessary to protect workers and their rights.

I. Gaza Strip Fishing Sector

The fishing sector’s contribution to the local Palestinian economy in the Gaza Strip continues to be limited due to several reasons, including: the Israeli naval blockade; the limited fishing area; the daily Israeli attacks against fishermen while at sea; and inadequate resources caused by extreme economic and social conditions.

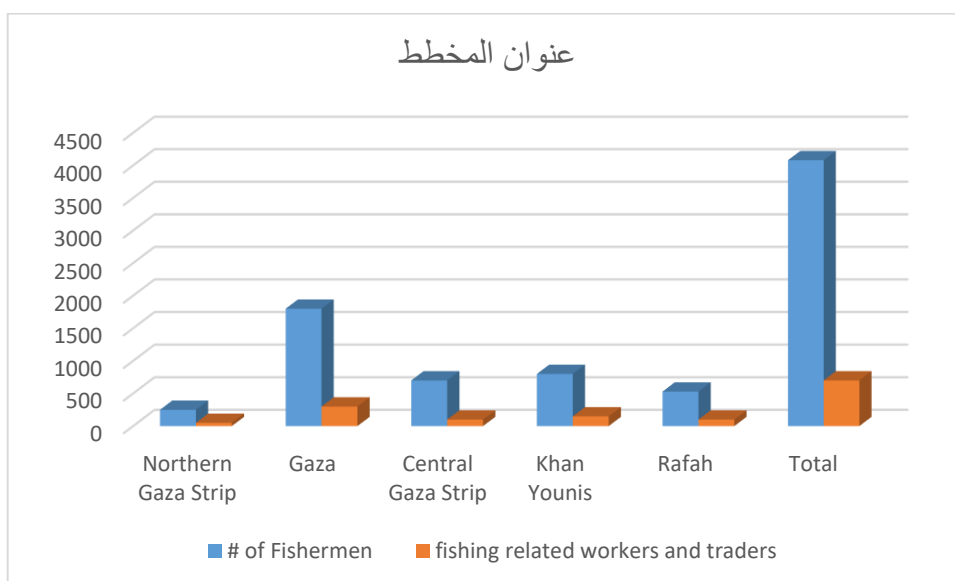
1. Fishermen and workers in the fishing industry

During the last three years, the fishing sector witnessed a noticeable increase in the number of fishermen in the Gaza Strip, primarily due to the lack of job opportunities in other sectors, which forced civilians to seek work in the fishing sector. According to the General Union of Fishing Workers in the Gaza Strip, there are 4,080 fishermen and 700 traders and workers in fishing related professions such as manufacturing and repairing boats, preparing fishing nets, ice manufacturing as well as cleaning and selling the fish.

Table (1): Number of fishermen distributed by governorate

Area	# of Fishermen	fishing related workers and traders
Northern Gaza Strip	250	50
Gaza	1,800	300
Central Gaza Strip	700	100
Khan Younis	800	150
Rafah	530	100
Total	4,080	700

Figure (1): Number of fishermen distributed by governorates



2. Fishing Tools and Equipment

There are two types of boats used in the Gaza Strip:

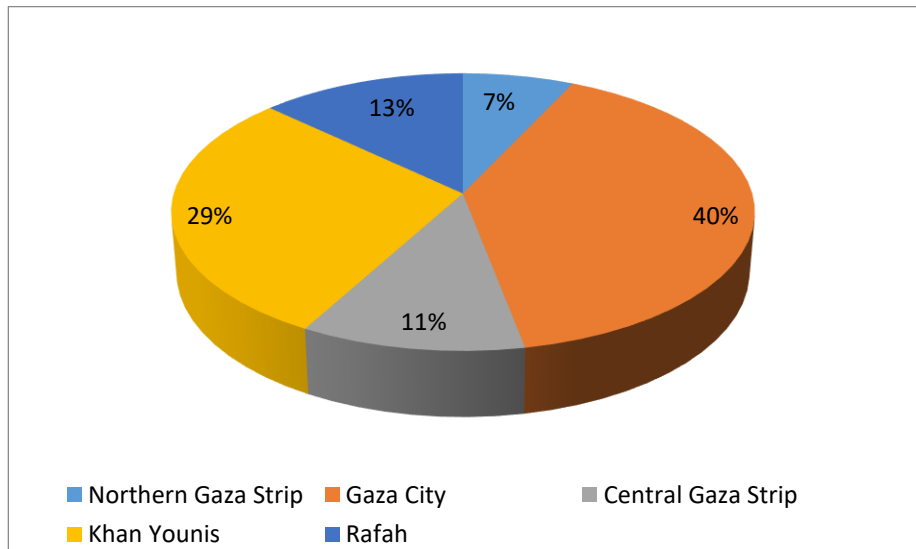
1. Launches: 20 - 24 meters long and with a 150 – 500 hp engine
2. Skiffs: 6.5 - 7.5 meters long with an external engine of 9 - 55 hp.

The number of fishing boats is estimated to be 1,200 fishing boats: 85 fishing boats in the northern Gaza Strip, 485 in Gaza City, 126 in the central Gaza Strip, 348 in Khan Younis and 156 in Rafah according to the General Union of Fishing Workers in the Gaza Strip.

Table (2): Fishing boats distributed by Gaza Strip governorate

Area	Number of Boats and Launches	Classification of means of fishing
Northern Gaza Strip	85	85 skiffs
Gaza	485	85 launches – 400 skiffs
Central Gaza Strip	126	1 launches – 125 skiffs
Khan Younis	348	8 launches – 340 skiffs
Rafah	156	6 launches – 150 skiffs
Total	1200	100 launches – 1100 skiffs

Figure (2): Fishing boats distributed by Gaza Strip governorate



3. Fish Production

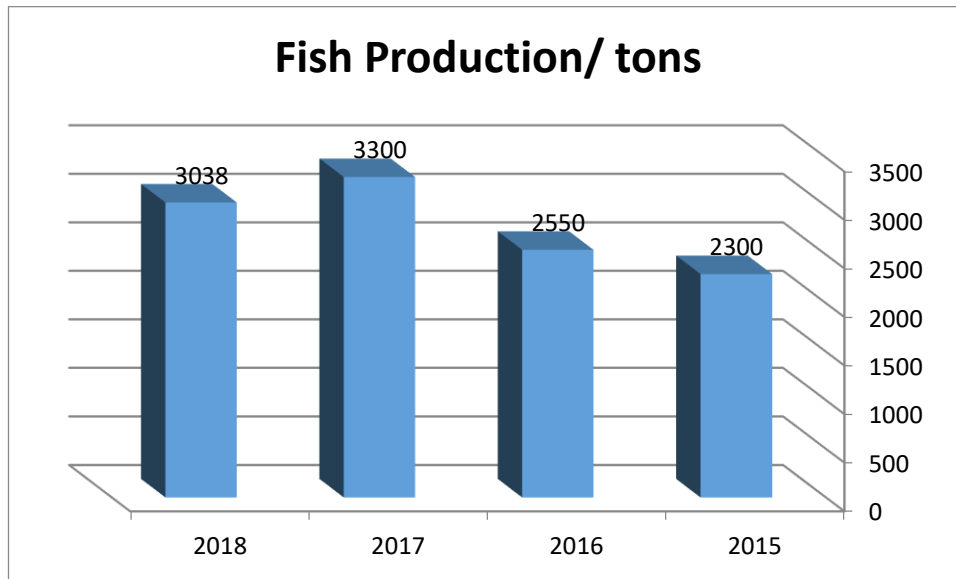
Despite the increase in the number of fishermen and fishing boats, fish production noticeably declined during the last 4 years, in comparison to the years before the imposition of the Israeli naval blockade, as it produced 5,000 tons of fish in 2007. This was due to Israeli forces' continued attacks targeting fishermen and systematic minimization of the fishing area.

Below is an overview of the amount of fish production in the Gaza Strip from 2015 – 2018, according to the General Union of Fishing Workers in Gaza governorates:

Table (3) Fish production in the Gaza Strip in the past 4 years

Year	Fish Production/ tons
2015	2,300
2016	2,550
2017	3,300
2018	3,038

Diagram (3) Fish production in the Gaza Strip in the past years



The decrease in fish production during the Israeli naval blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip and Israeli authorities' ban on fish export from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank and Israel, caused deterioration to a once flourishing Fish sector.

In 2014, Israeli authorities allowed exporting limited amounts of fish to the West Bank under extreme restrictions; however, low production prevented exporting large amounts that would reflect economically. According to PCHR's information from the Fish Wealth Sector at the Ministry of Agriculture, the amount of exported fish to the West Bank was 11.5 tons in 2016; 47.4 tons in 2017 and 251 tons in 2018.

Engineer ‘Ala’a al-Farra, from the Fish Wealth Sector at the Ministry of Agriculture, stated that speaking about fish export from the Gaza Strip is useless in light of the Israeli restrictions imposed on fishermen's work, depriving them from fishing freely and not enabling them to fish economically viable quantities that would make the Gaza Strip population satisfied and export the overflow. Al-Farra added that the consumption rate per capita of fish in the Gaza strip does not exceed 3 kilos annually while the world consumption rate per capita is about 11 kilos annually.

Second: Ongoing Naval Blockade and Depriving Fishermen from fishing

Israeli authorities continue its naval blockade on the Gaza Strip shore with systematic reductions of the allowed fishing area for fishermen and depriving them from approaching areas where fish breed. During the reporting period until 31 March 2019, Israeli authorities

reduced the fishing area to three nautical miles, claiming that this decision was taken in response to the Great March of Return and flying incendiary kites and balloons towards the areas adjacent to the Gaza Strip.

Reducing the fishing area prevented fishermen from working freely and gravely deteriorated the economic and social conditions of at least 4,080 fishermen registered at the Fishermen's Syndicate and 700 in fishing related work such as repairing boats, wholesale and retail sale and cleaning fish. Estimations indicate that fishermen and fishing related workers support about 26,790 other persons (according to the Average household size that consists of 5.7 persons in Gaza). The scarcity of fish in areas where Israeli forces allow fishing forced fishermen to stop daily fishing. The sources of the Fishermen's Syndicate indicate that 50% of fishermen (there are only 2,000 fishermen) fish daily while the other half go fishing once a week or monthly because the income does not cover the operating costs.

On 01 April 2019, Israeli authorities announced increasing the fishing areas from six to 15 nautical miles off the Gaza strip shore, in an unprecedented decision and for the first time since 2000. This decision was part of the agreement between the Palestinian factions and Israel under Egyptian sponsorship in late March 2019. The expanded areas were as follows:

- from al-Waha to fishermen's port to 6 nautical miles;
- 12 nautical miles from Gaza Seaport to Gaza Valley;
- 15 nautical miles from Gaza Valley to Khan Younis; and
- 12 nautical miles from Khan Younis to Rafah borders.

At approximately 05:00 on 30 April 2019, Israeli forces informed the Palestinian side of reducing the fishing area to six nautical miles few weeks after allowing fishermen to fish on 15 nautical miles off the Gaza Strip Sea.

PCHR's follow-up indicates that Israeli authorities did not change their policy towards fishermen despite the partially increased the fishing area as daily attacks continued against fishermen sailing within the allowed fishing area.

Large numbers of fishermen confirmed to PCHR's fieldworker that expanding the fishing area alone would not increase production as Israeli forces continue to chase and open fire at them threatening their lives, as well as being subject to random arrests and confiscate of property in the area from 6 - 15 nautical miles. It should be highlighted that these attacks were also carried out within the parameters of the former fishing area from three to nine nautical miles before the enactment of the expansion decision in early April 2019.

Hisham Baker, Head of the Tawfiq Cooperative Society for Fishermen, stated that Israeli authorities' expansion of fishing area from the center to the south of the Gaza Strip requires extra costs such as fuel and workers. In addition, the area lack fish due to its sandy nature. Baker added that expanding the fishing are to 20 nautical miles off the Gaza Strip shore from the north to the south is the appropriate area economically for fishermen as fish breed there. The Israeli forces deliberately divided the sea to many parts to make fishermen's suffering continue and not provide serious facilitations that would contribute to increasing the fish production.

In conclusion, it is clear that the expansion did not make a difference in fishermen's work, especially in terms of increasing production. This was due to many reasons: Israeli forces' continued targeting of fishermen in the allowed fishing area, ongoing restrictions imposed on fishing equipment, expanding the fishing areas classified as non-breeding fishing areas, and ongoing ban of fishermen to fish in areas where fish breeds, considering that the distance of 20 nautical miles is the appropriate area for fishermen.

III. Restrictions on Import of Fishing Equipment

Israeli forces continue imposing restrictions on the entry of fishing equipment in the Gaza Strip, practically depriving fishermen from sailing up to 15 nautical miles due to the lack of necessary equipment that would enable them to sail for long distances.

The fishing equipment banned from entry to the Gaza Strip include: high power engines (more than 40 hp), gears, fishing nets, dozens of vital materials necessary for the constant repairing of boats, including fiberglass, steel cables and spare parts for repairing. The Israeli authorities classify this equipment as "dual-use materials" that can be used for military objects according to the Israeli authorities' classification.

Due to the lack of fishing equipment, there are about 200 skiffs and 5 launches that are broken. Israeli forces continued to ban the import of fishing equipment despite fishermen's demands through the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). In the past 2 years, MOA held several meetings with the Israeli Liaison and demanded an end to the ban on the entry of fishing equipment. Despite promises from the Israeli side to consider their demands, the ban continues.

According to Mr. Zakaria Baker, Fishermen Committee Coordinator at the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, in order for the expansion of the fishing area to reflect on production, necessary equipment for distance sailing and fishing in deep waters should be made available in Gaza. He also mentioned that only three boats in the Gaza Strip could sail up to 15 nautical miles in the sea.

Hisham Baker, Head of the Tawfiq Cooperative Society for Fishermen, stated that the continued ban on the entry of fishing equipment required for repairing broken boats made hundreds of fishermen unemployed as they lost their work equipment due to damages and their inability to repair it or buy an alternative. Mr. Baker added that this ban prevented fishermen from benefiting from a project designated towards repairing fishing boats carried out by an international organization in Gaza. The organization replaced the fiberglass with an alternative material in repairing broken boats. However, this material is not suitable for the boats' work in sea and expires after one year of using it.

According to PCHR's documentation, the ban on the import of spare parts required for repairing boats led to the closure of dozens of small industry businesses. Boat manufacturing has completely stopped due to the ban on the entry of engines, gears, fiberglass and other materials required for manufacturing boats.

According to the statement made by a number of industry workers to PCHR, fishermen are focused on boat repair due to the lack of sufficient materials for manufacturing boats in addition to fishermen's inability to bear the cost of building new boats. The ban also doubled the prices of spare parts and raw materials. For example, the price of the fiberglass package has risen from NIS 200 to 1200. This made it impossible for fishermen to buy new boats especially with the Israeli ban on distance sailing. Furthermore, Israeli forces continue to chase, cause damage and confiscate fishermen's boats.

Fourth: Israeli Forces' Attacks of Fishermen While fishing

During the reported period, the Israeli naval forces continued their attacks against fishermen in the Gaza Strip; most prominent of which is the Israeli naval forces continuous invasion to the boundaries of the Gaza Strip sea and attacks against fishermen. These attacks include heavily shooting at their boats in an attempt to cause fear among fishermen and force them to sail away, preventing them from fishing freely and safely. After confiscating fishermen's boats, the Israeli forces insult and humiliate fishermen in a manner that jeopardizes their bodily safety and lives.

Dozens of fishermen were killed and injured while others were arrested and their boats and fishing nets confiscated by the Israeli naval forces. The majority of these attacks were unjustifiable and done without a prior notice for fishermen.

Israeli naval forces chased, attacked and arrested Palestinian fishermen and their boats and forced them to sail towards Ashdod Seaport. The gunboats were present off the Gaza Strip governorates.

According to PCHR's documentation, most of the shooting incidents were in the area allowed for fishing between three and 9 nautical miles where fishermen posed no threat or danger to the Israeli naval forces' lives. Terrifying and shooting fishermen while at work forced them to flee, with disastrous effects on fishermen's lives and their families as their inability to work safely ransacked their economic and social conditions.

Despite the Israeli expansion of the fishing area since early April 2019, Israeli gunboats continued to chase and open fire at fishermen, posing their lives to danger within the parameters of the new area (6 -15 nautical miles).

PCHR documented 434 shooting incidents at fishermen while at sea. As a result, two were killed and 22 injured; also, 15 fishing boats were confiscated and fishing nets belonging to two fishermen were ruined. Moreover, 121 fishermen were arrested, 25 fishing boats confiscated and fishing nets belonging to two fishermen were detained.

1. Two Fishermen Killed while Fishing off Gaza and Beit Lahia Shores

Israeli forces chased and killed two fishermen despite being in the area allowed for fishing in the Gaza Strip Sea in a flagrant violation of the right to life, security and safety for Palestinian fishermen.

Israeli Forces Killed Isamil Saleh Abu Ryalah, 3 Nautical Miles off Gaza Shore

On 25 February 2018, Israeli shooting at Palestinian fishermen resulted in the killing of two fishermen and injuring two others, who were arrested and their boat was confiscated.

Mahmoud 'Adel Abu Ryala (19), one of those injured, said to PCHR's fieldworker that at approximately 15:30 on Sunday, 25 February 2018, Israeli gunboats chased and opened fire at a fishing boat sailing within 3 nautical miles off Gaza shore manned by Mahmoud and Ismail Saleh Abu Ryalah (18) and 'Ahed Hasan Abu 'Ali (24). As a result, Isamil was shot with a live bullet to the head and died; Mahmoud was shot with a rubber bullet to the leg and 'Ahed was hit with a rubber bullet to the leg, in addition, their boat was damaged. The Israeli soldiers ordered them to take off their clothes and swim towards the gunboat. Mahmoud and 'Ahed were then arrested and interrogated by Israeli forces and later released approximately 08:00 on the same day.

Nawaf Ahmed Mohammed al-'Attar Killed while Fishing off Beit Lahia Shore

On 14 November 2018, Israeli naval soldiers stationed near Zikim Training Base along the border fence opened fire at a group of fishermen while fishing off Beit Lahia shore, northwest of the Gaza Strip, causing the death of one fisherman.

According to PCHR's investigations, at approximately 14:30 on Wednesday, 14 November 2018, a group of Palestinian amateur fishermen threw their fishing nets in the Beit Lahia Sea around hundred meters off the northern Gaza Strip shore in front of Israeli Zikim Military Base that is located at the end of the coastal border fence of the northern Gaza strip. Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers opened fire at the fishermen, wounding Nawaf Ahmed Mohammed al-‘Attar (23) with a bullet to the pelvis. As a result, a number of fishermen took him outside the water amidst a state of panic and fear and called an ambulance to transfer him to the hospital. The ambulance arrived on the main road in front of the shore and took al-‘Attar, who passed away few minutes later after he bled so much. His dead body was taken to the Indonesian Hospital in Jabalia. It should be mentioned that the abovementioned group of fishermen who gathered to fish were only amateurs and not registered at the Fishermen’s Syndicate. They were fishing in that area using nets that are only for fishing mullets in its season that coincides this time of the year.

2. Twenty-Two Fishermen Injured While Fishing

The Israeli forces daily chasing and shooting at Palestinian fishermen caused various injuries to 22 fishermen. Following are the shooting incidents:

- At approximately 13:00 on 06 November 2017, Israeli gunboats stationed northwest of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip opened fire and chased Palestinian boats sailing within four nautical miles. As a result, a fishing boat belonging to Mohammed 'Ali Othman Meqdad (25), who was on board along with his brother Hasan (28), from al-Shati’ refugee camp, west of Gaza city, sustained damage. In addition, Mohammed was hit with a live bullet to the left knee in addition to several rubber bullets to the right thigh and right foot joint while his brother Hasan was shot with a rubber bullet to the right thigh.
- At approximately 10:15 on 08 November 2017, Israeli gunboats stationed northwest of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, opened fire at a Palestinian fishing boat belonging to Mohammed Khalid Ibrahim al-Habil (28), from al-Shati’ refugee camp, west of Gaza. Moreover, Ahmed Mohammed al-‘Araishi (25), from the same camp, sustained a rubber bullet wound to the right hand.
- At approximately 09:00 on 29 December 2017, Israeli gunboats stationed northwest of Beit Lahia in northern Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at a fishing boat sailing within 2 nautical miles manned by Shawqi Saqer "Mohammed Monir" Bakr (20) and Sameh Haider al-Quqa (35), from al-Shati' refugee camp, west of Gaza City. As a result, Shawqi and Sameh were injured.

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- At approximately 12:00 on 08 January 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed northwest of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at a fishing boat belonging to Mohammed Omer Tawfi al-Najjar (43) and manned by Jihad Suhail Hasan Murad (25) and Mustafa Mohammed Mustafa Murad (18), from al-Shati' refugee camp, west of Gaza City. The shooting at the boat that was sailing within 4 nautical miles, resulted in the injury of Jihad Murad , who was shot with 6 rubber bullets to the chest and legs.
 - At approximately 06:30 on 11 February 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed northwest of Beit Lahia in northern Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at a fishing boat sailing within 1 nautical miles. The boat was manned by Tareq Abdul Bri Mohammed al-Sultan (22) and Aa'ed Nizar Mohammed al-Sultan (22), from al-Salatin neighborhood. The Israeli shooting resulted in injuring Tareq al-Sultan with two rubber bullets to both legs while al-Sultan was shot with four rubber bullets to both legs and abdomen.
 - At approximately 10:15 on 21 February 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed northwest of Beit Lahia in northern Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire and chased Palestinian-fishing boats sailing within three nautical miles. As a result, 'Itaf 'Ahed Sobhi Baker (34), from al-Shati refugee camp, sustained minor wounds after being shot with a rubber bullet to the head.
 - At approximately 15:30 on 25 February 2018, Israeli naval forces heavily opened fire at a Palestinian fishing boat sailing within three nautical miles off Gaza shore. As a result, 'Ahed Hasan Abu 'Ali (24), was hit with a rubber bullet to the leg and Mahmoud 'Adel Abu Ryalah (19), from Gaza city, was hit with a rubber bullet to the leg. Moreover, Isamil Abu Ryala (18) was killed after being hit with a live bullet to the head.
 - At approximately 05:00 on 12 March 2018, Israeli gunboats chased a fired sound bombs and tear gas canisters at three fishing boats sailing within six nautical miles off Rafah shore, south of the Gaza Strip, and operated by 11 fishermen. After surrounding the fishing boats, the soldiers got into the 3 boats, threatened the fishermen using firearms and then transformed them to the gunboats. The fishermen were blindfolded and then taken to a detention center. Furthermore, 3 fishermen were injured and they were identified as:
 1. Mohammed Farahat 'Aqel 'Ashour (27), was hit with a rubber bullet to the right leg.
 2. Mohammed Shaker Motawe'a Meqdad (20), sustained wounds in the shoulder and right arm after dogs attacked him.
 3. Ahmed Ziyad Husein al-Bardawil (15) was beaten with batons to the lower extremities.

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- At approximately 06:15 on 11 October 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed northwest of Beit Lahia in northern Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at a fishing boat sailing within 1 nautical mile and manned by 'Oudai Abdul Bari Mohammed al-Sultan (27) and his brother Saddam (24), from al-Salateen neighborhood. As a result, 'Oudai al-Sultan was hit with rubber bullets to the chest and left arm, causing fracture to the arm.
 - At approximately 10:30 on 15 December 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off Gaza shore, opened fire at a Palestinian fishing boat sailing within 2 nautical miles and operated by Mohammed Falah Mohammed Abu Ryalah (19) and Mohammed Salah Mohammed Abu Ryalah (27), from Gaza City. As a result, Mohammed Falah Abu Ryalah was hit with a live bullet to the left leg while Mohammed Salah Abu Ryalah was hit with a rubber bullet to the waist. They were detained by Israeli forces and transferred to Barzilai Medical Center for treatment.
 - At approximately 21:00 on 20 February 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed southern of the Gaza Strip, opened fire at a fishing boat belonging to Tareq Abdul Razeq Baker, from Gaza City, and operated by Haitam (27) and 'Awad (22). As a result, Haitham and 'Awad were injured and taken to Barzilai Medical Center for treatment.
 - At approximately 09:00 on 08 March 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed northwest of Beit Lahia in northern Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within three nautical miles and chased them. Its owner, Yasser Suleiman Yusuf Baker (31), and his brother Tamer (27) in addition to Walid Mohsen 'Eid Baker (24) and Yusri Zakaria Sa'ed Baker (21) from al-Shati refugee camp, west of Gaza City, manned the boat. The Israeli soldiers ordered the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into water and swim towards the fishing boat. The fishermen were then arrested and taken to Ashdod Seaport in Israel and the fishing boat was confiscated. Israeli authorities released the four fishermen at approximately 18:00 on the same day through Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing in northern Gaza Strip while kept the fishing boat under confiscation. The four fishermen sustained minor to moderate wounds after being hit with rubber bullets throughout their bodies. They received medical treatment in al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.
 - At approximately 09:30 on 22 March 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed northwest of Beit Lahia in northern Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within one nautical mile and chased them. As a result, Mohammed Sa'ad Abdul Rahman Baker (54) and his son Mahmoud (21), from al-Shati refugee camp, west of Gaza City,

were hit with rubber bullets throughout their bodies. As a result, of shooting, the boat engine was damaged and fishermen were forced to flee fearing for their lives.

- At approximately 05:30 on 14 April 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed northwest of Beit Lahia in northern Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire and chased Palestinian-fishing boats sailing within three nautical miles. As a result, fisherman Yusuf Amin Rushdi Abu Wardah (23), from Jabalia, sustained moderate wounds after being shot with rubber bullets to the head, back, neck and abdomen. He was taken to the Indonesian hospital in Jabalia. It should be noted that the fishing boat belongs to Ramadan Saleh Abu Wardah.

3. 121 Fishermen Arrested while Fishing

During the reporting period, Israeli naval forces chased dozens of Palestinian fishermen while sailing and arrested 121 of them, including five children.

The arrests were as follows:

- At approximately 13:00, on 06 November 2017, Israeli gunboats stationed off Beit Lahia shore in northern Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at a fishing boat belonging to Mohamed 'Ali Othman Miqdad (25), who was on board along with his brother Hasan (28). The Israeli naval soldiers ordered them to take off their clothes, jump into water and swim towards the military gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and then taken to Ashdod Seaport while their boat and equipment were confiscated.
- At approximately 17:40, on 03 December 2017, Israeli gunboats stationed off Beit Lahia shore of in the northern Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at a fishing boat sailing within 4 nautical miles and belonging to Khamis Saleem Taher Abu Sadiq (60). The fishing boat was manned by five fishermen identified as Said Naser Said Halabi (27), Sami Nabil Saleem Abu Sadiq (30), Mohammed Ahmed Ameen Abu Sadiq (25), Ayman Ahmed Khalil Tolba (27), and his brother Ihab (16), all of them from al-Shati refugee camp. The Israeli naval soldiers ordered the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into water, and swim towards the military gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and the fishing boat was confiscated.
- On 21 December 2017, Israeli gunboats stationed off Beit Lahia shore in northern Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire and surrounded a fishing boat sailing within 300 nautical miles off the northern coastal enclave. The boat that belongs to Ghaleb Ramadan Hasan al-Sultan (69) was manned by his son Mohammed (21), from al-Salateen neighborhood, and Oranus Sharif Mohammed al-Sultan (21), from al-'Atatrah neighborhood. The Israeli naval forces ordered the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into water, and swim towards the military gunboat. The fishermen were then arrested.

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- At approximately 09:00, on 29 December 2017, Israeli gunboats stationed off Beit Lahia shore, heavily opened fire at a fishing boat sailing within 2.5 nautical miles. The fishing boat was manned by Shawqi Saqir "Mohammed Monir" Baker (20) and Sameh Haidar al-Qouqa (35), from al-Shati' refugee camp, west of Gaza City. The Israeli naval forces ordered the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into water, and swim towards the military gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and then taken to an unknown destination.
 - At approximately 12:00, on 08 January 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, opened heavy fire at a Palestinian fishing boat sailing within 4 nautical miles and at least 1500 meters from the northern coastal enclave. The boat belongs to Mohamed Omar Tawfiq al-Najjar (43), who was on board with Jihad Suhail Hasan Murad (25) and Mostafa Mohamed Mostafa Murad (18). The Israeli naval soldiers forced them to take off their clothes, jumped into the water and swim towards the Israeli gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and then taken to Ashdod seaport in Israel while the boat was confiscated.
 - At approximately 09:00, on 09 January 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, opened heavy fire at two fishing boats sailing within 5 nautical miles and at least 1500 meters from the northern coastal enclave with Israel. The first boat belongs to Ahmed 'Awad al-Sayed al-Sa'idy (39), who was on board with Mo'men Jamal al-Nu'man (28) and Mohamed 'Awad al-Sa'idy (10). The second boat belongs to Akram Mohamed Abu Foul (33), who was on board with his son Mohammed (10) and Mohammed Mahmoud Mustafa Abu Jayyab (26). The Israeli naval soldiers forced the fishermen to take off their clothes, jumped into the water and swim towards the Israeli gunboats. The fishermen were arrested and then taken to Ashdod Seaport in Israel while the fishing boats were confiscated.
 - At approximately 06:30, on 11 February 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, opened heavy fire at Palestinian fishing boats and then surrounded one of them sailing within one nautical mile and at least 1200 meters from the northern coastal enclave. The fishing boat was manned by Tareq Abed al-Bari Mohamed al-Sultan (22) and 'Aied Nizar Mohamed al-Sultan (22), who were forced to take off their clothes, jump in the sea and swim towards the gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and then taken to Ashdod seaport.
 - On 25 February 2018, Israeli naval forces severely damaged a fishing boat sailing within 3 nautical miles off Gaza City shore with live ammunition. The boat was manned by 3 fishermen, Isma'il Abu Riyalah who was fatally shot with a live bullet to the head; Mahmoud Abu Riyalah and 'Ahed Hasan Abu 'Ali who were both shot in the leg with rubber bullets. The Israeli naval forces ordered Mahmoud and 'Ahed to take off their clothes, swim towards the military gunboat and arrested them.

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- At approximately 05:00, on 12 March 2018, Israeli gunboats chased three Palestinian fishing boats sailing within six nautical miles off Rafah shore. Israeli naval forces fired sound and smoke bombs at the fishing boats and then arrested 11 fishermen, including a child. The arrestees were identified as ‘ Adel Ibrahim Meqdad (23); his brothers ‘Ala’a (21) and Mohammed (25); Ibrahim ‘Adel Meqdad (23); his brother Mohammed (33); Mohammed Na’mat Meqdad (33); Mohammed Farhat ‘Ashour (27); Ahmed Mohammed Tabasi (29); Amin Sa’adi Jom’ah (24); Mohammed Shaker Meqdad (20) and Ahmed Ziyad al-Bardawil (15).
 - At approximately 06:15, on 24 May 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, surrounded a fishing boat sailing within 3 nautical miles. Rasem Ishaq Mohamed Zayid (31) and his brother Mohamed (21), who were forced to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim, manned the boat towards the military gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and then taken to an unknown destination while the fishing boat was confiscated.
 - At approximately 09:30, on 23 June 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, surrounded a fishing boat sailing within 2 nautical miles and at least 1200 meters from the northern coastal enclave. The boat belongs to Kamel Deeb Mahmoud al-Anqah (66), who was on board with his sons Haitham (28) and Ahmed (25) and fisherman Mohammed Mahmoud Ahmed al-Sultan (25). Israeli naval forces ordered the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into water and swim towards the military gunboat. Ahmed and Mahmoud al-Anqah and Mohammed al-Sultan were arrested and then taken to Ashdod Seaport for interrogation.
 - At approximately 08:00, on 12 August 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, surrounded a fishing boat sailing within two nautical miles and belonging to Nasser Fadel Hasan Baker (55). Nasser and his sons operated the fishing boat: Yasser (26), Fadel (19); and Mubarak (15), and his brother, Hassan (32). Israeli naval soldiers ordered them to take off their clothes and swim towards the military gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and then taken to an unknown destination.
 - On 16 August 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, surrounded two fishing boats sailing within 1 nautical mile and at least 1500 meters south of the northern coastal enclave with Israel. Ra’fat Mohammed ‘Ali al-Sultan (48) and Tawfiq Sa’eed Ashour al-Sultan (50) manned the first boat while Mohammed Ahmed Mohammed Zayed (58) and his son Tamer (35) operated the second. Israeli naval soldiers ordered the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and the 2 boats and equipment were confiscated.

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- At approximately 06:40, on 26 August 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, surrounded a fishing boat sailing within 2 nautical miles and at least 1200 meters south of the northern coastal enclave with Israel. The boat, property of Hasan Mohamed al-‘Abed al-Sultan (47), was manned by Uranus Sharif Mohammed al-Sultan (22) and Hasan Mahmoud ‘Abed al-Malek al-Sultan (23). Israeli naval soldiers ordered the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and the boat was confiscated.
 - At approximately 22:15, on 01 September 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off Dir al-Balah shore in the central Gaza Strip, chased a fishing boat sailing within 8 nautical miles and belonging to Mohamed Sa’ied Abu Riylah. The boat was manned by 6 fishermen identified as Zaki Ibrahim al-Najjar (36); Ahmed Sa’id Abu Riyalah (23); Mahmoud Jihad Abu ‘Odah (31); Mohammed Jihad Abu ‘Odah (42); Jihad Mohammed Abu ‘Odah (21) and Mohammed Bahjat Abu ‘Odah (26). All of them were arrested and taken to an unknown destination.
 - At approximately 10:20, on 13 September 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed off al-Shaiekh ‘Ajleen shore, west of Gaza City, surrounded a fishing boat manned by 3 fishermen: ‘Emran Mohamed Subhi Baker (20) and Mohamed ‘Abed al-Razeq Baker (47) and his son Mohamed (20). Israeli naval soldiers ordered them to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and then taken to an unknown destination.
 - At approximately 06:15, on 06 October 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, surrounded a fishing boat sailing within 2 nautical miles and at least 2000 meters south of the northern coastal enclave with Israel. The boat was manned by Safwat Zayid Mahmoud (20) and his brother Ref’at (29), who were then forced to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and taken to Ashdod seaport.
 - At approximately 06:15, on 11 October 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, surrounded a fishing boat sailing within 1 nautical mile and at least 2000 meters south of the northern coastal enclave with Israel. The boat was manned by ‘Odai ‘Abed al-Bari Mohamed al-Sultan (27) and his brother Saddam (24), who were forced to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and then taken to an unknown destination.
 - At approximately 04:45, on 20 October 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, surrounded a fishing boat sailing within 3 nautical miles and at least 3 kilometers south of the northern coastal enclave with Israel. The boat was manned by Kareem Waheed Hussain Abu Hassan

- (29) and his brother Mohamed (27), who were later forced to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and taken to Ashdod seaport while the boat was confiscated.
- At approximately 06:00, on 23 October 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, surrounded a fishing boat sailing within 2 nautical miles and at least 3000 meters south of the northern coastal enclave with Israel. The fishing boat was manned by ‘Awad Nafeth Abdul Malek al-sultan (22) and Ahmed ‘Emad Mahmoud Siyam (21), who were later forced to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and taken to Ashdod seaport while the boat was confiscated.
 - At approximately 08:00, on 23 November 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, surrounded a fishing boat sailing within 2 nautical miles and at least 2000 meters from the northern coastal enclave with Israel. The boat, property of Member of Fishermen Syndicate Ramadan Ghaleb Ramadan al-Sultan (43), was operated by Mohammed Ghaleb Ramadan al-Sultan (25), Yusuf Farid Abdullah Sa’adallah (33) and Fares Ahmed Mohammed Sa’adallah (17). Israeli naval forces forced them to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and then taken to Ashdod seaport while their boat was confiscated.
 - At approximately 11:30, on 10 December 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed offshore, west of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, surrounded a fishing boat manned by Naser Ahmed Jameel al-Nada (23) and Mohamed Jasem Mohamed Siyam (18). Israeli naval soldiers ordered the fishermen to swim towards the gunboats, arrested them and drowned the boat.
 - At approximately 07:30, on 15 December 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off Gaza shore, surrounded a fishing boat sailing within six nautical miles. Mohamed Saleh Abu Riyalah (31) and his brother ‘Atif (17), who were later forced to swim towards the gunboats, manned the boat. The fishermen were arrested and taken to Ashdod seaport while the boat was confiscated.
 - At approximately 10:30, on 15 December 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off Gaza shore, surrounded a fishing boat sailing within 2 nautical miles. Mohamed Falah Abu Riyalah (19) and Mohamed Salah Mohamed Abu Riyalah (27), who were forced to swim towards the gunboats, operated the boat. The fishermen were arrested and taken to Ashkelon seaport while the boat was confiscated.
 - At approximately 10:00, on 01 January 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, surrounded a fishing boat

sailing within 6 nautical miles. The boat was manned by ‘Isa Ahmed Jamil al-Shrafi (68) and his son, Basil (28), who were forced to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and taken to Ashkelon seaport while the boat was confiscated.

- At approximately 13:30, on 10 January 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, surrounded a fishing boat sailing within 3 nautical miles. Mohamed Mahmoud Muneeb Ishkontana (22) and his brother (21) operated the boat, property of Khaled Mohamed Miqdad. Israeli naval forces forced them to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and taken to Ashdod seaport while the boat was confiscated.
- At approximately 23:30, on 19 January 2019, the family of fisherman, Mohammed Jaber Hussam Mohammed Baker (21) lost news of their son and news of a fishing boat belonging to his father with its equipment after in vain searching for him in the waters. Moreover, Mohammed’s father said that his family received a call at approximately 08:40, on Monday, 21 January 2019, from an Israeli Intelligence officer, confirming that the Israeli authorities arrested his son two day prior. The officer added that Mohammed Jaber was arrested from the northern Gaza Strip.
- At approximately 21:00, on 20 February 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed off Khan Yunis shore in the southern Gaza Strip, surrounded 2 fishing boats sailing within 11 nautical miles. The boats were manned by 4 fishermen: Hitham Tareq ‘Abed al-Razeq Baker (27), ‘Awad Tareq ‘Abed al-Razeq Baker (22), Khader Marwan al-Sa’idy (30), and Mohamed Sa’eed al-Sa’idy (27). All of them were later arrested.
- At approximately 09:00, on 08 March 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, opened heavy fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within three nautical miles and chased them. The Israeli gunboats surrounded a fishing boat manned by Yasser Soliman Yussuf Baker (31), Tamer Soliman Yussuf Baker (27), Waleed Mohssen ‘Eid Baker (24), and Yossry Zakaria Sa’ed Baker (21), who were forced to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards a military gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and then taken to Ashdod seaport while the boat was kept in custody. Moreover, at approximately 18:00 on Friday, 08 March 2019, the Israeli authorities released the fishermen via Beit Hanoun Erez Crossing and kept the fishing boat in custody. It should be mentioned that the four fishermen were hit with rubber bullets throughout their bodies and then taken to al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza, where their wounds were deemed minor and moderate.

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- At approximately 08:45, on 10 March 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, opened heavy fire at Palestinian fishing boats, chased them and then surrounded a boat sailing within 1.5 nautical mile .The boat was manned Hussam Khader Khalil Barakat (22), who was forced to take off his clothes and jump into the water. Hussam was arrested and the fishing boat was kept in custody.
 - At approximately 06:45, on 11 March 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, opened heavy fire at Palestinian fishing boats, chased them and then surrounded a boat sailing within one nautical miles. Hassan Akram Diab Zayed (31) and Moahmmed Adnan Moahmmed al-Sultan (28), who were forced to take off their clothes, jump into water and swim, manned the boat towards a military gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and then taken to an unknown destination while the boat was confiscated.

4. Confiscating 25 Boats and other Fishing Equipment

During the reporting period, Israeli naval forces attacked and chased Palestinian fishing boats and forced them to sail towards Ashdod seaport, where they confiscated their boats and fishing equipment, despite sailing within the allowed fishing area. Twenty-five boats were confiscated, in addition to dozens of equipment such as fishing nests and others. The confiscation incidents were as follows:

- At approximately 13:00, on 06 November 2017, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, confiscated a fishing boat sailing within 4 nautical miles and belonging to Mohamed ‘Ali Othman Miqdad (25), who was on board with his brother Hasan (25). The boat’s equipment was confiscated as well.
- At approximately 10:15, on 08 November 2017, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, confiscated a fishing boat sailing within 4 nautical miles and belonging to Mohamed Khaled Ibrahim al-Habeel (28).
- At approximately 17:40, on 03 November 2017, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, confiscated a fishing boat sailing within 4 nautical miles and belonging to Khamis Saleem Taher Abu Sadeq (60). Khamis was on board with 5 other fishermen namely Sayed Nasser Sayed al-Halabi (27), Sami Nabil Salim Abu al-Sadeq (30), Mohammed Ahmed Amin Abu al-Sadeq (25), Ayman Ahmed Khalil Talba (35), and his brother Ehab (16).

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- At approximately 12:00, on 08 January 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, confiscated a fishing boat sailing within 4 nautical miles and at least 1500 meters from the northern coastal enclave. The boat belongs to Mohamed ‘Omar Tawfiq al-Najjar (43), who was on board with Jihad Suhail Hasan Murad (25) and Mostafa Mohamed Mostafa Murad (18).

 - At approximately 09:00, on 09 January 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, confiscated 2 fishing boats sailing within 5 nautical miles and at least 1500 meters from the northern coastal enclave with Israel. The first boat belongs Ahmed ‘Awad al-Sayed al-Sa’idy (39), who was on board with Jamal al-Nu’man (28) and Mohamed ‘Awad al-Sa’idy (10). The second boat belongs to Akram Mohamed Abu Foul (33), who was on board with his son Mohammed (10) and Mohammed Mahmoud Mustafa Abu Jyyab (26). The Israeli naval soldiers forced the fishermen to take off their clothes, jumped into the water and swim towards the Israeli gunboats. The fishermen were then arrested and taken to Ashdod Seaport in Israel while the boats were confiscated.

 - At approximately 06:15, on 24 May 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, confiscated a fishing boat sailing within 3 nautical miles. Rasem Ishaq Mohamed Zayid (31) and his brother Mohamed (21) operated the boat. The fishermen were then arrested and taken to an unknown destination while the boats were confiscated.

 - At approximately 06:55, on 16 August 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, heavily opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats and chased them. The Israeli gunboats surrounded 2 fishing boats; the first was manned by Ra’fat Mohammed ‘Ali al-Sultan (48) and Tawfiq Sa’eed Ashour al-Sultan (50), while the second was manned by Mohammed Ahmed Mohammed Zayed (58) and his son Tamer (35). The 2 boats were sailing within 1 nautical mile and at least 1500 meters south of the northern coastal enclave. The Israeli naval soldiers ordered the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and the 2 boats and equipment were confiscated.

 - At approximately 06:40, on 26 August 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, confiscated a fishing boat belonging to Hasan Mohamed al-‘Abed al-Sultan (47), who was on board with Oranous Shareef Mohamed al-Sultan (22) and Hasan Mahmoud ‘Abed al-Malek al-Sultan (23).

The boat was sailing within 2 nautical miles and at least 1200 meters from the northern coastal enclave with Israel.

- At approximately 10:20, on 13 September 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off al-Shiekh ‘Ajleen shore, west of Gaza, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. The Israeli gunboats then surrounded a boat was manned by ‘Emran Mohamed Subhi Baker (20), and Mohamed ‘Abed al-Razeq Baker (47) with his son Mohamed (20). The Israeli naval soldiers ordered them to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and taken to an unknown destination while the boat was confiscated.
- At approximately 04:45, on 20 October 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, confiscated a fishing boat manned by Kareem Waheed Hussain Abu Hassan (29) and his brother Mohamed (27). The boat was sailing within 3 nautical miles and at least 3 kilometers south of the northern coastal enclave with Israel. The Israeli naval soldiers ordered the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and taken to Ashdod seaport while the boat was confiscated.
- At approximately 06:00, on 23 October 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, confiscated a fishing boat manned by ‘Awad Nafez ‘Abed al-Malek al-Sultan (22) and Ahmed ‘Emad Mahmoud Siyam (21). The boat was sailing within 2 nautical miles and at least 3000 meters south of the northern coastal enclave with Israel. The fishermen were arrested and taken to Ashdod seaport while the boat was confiscated.
- At approximately 08:00, on 23 November 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, confiscated a fishing boat belonging to Ramadan Ghaleb al-Sultan (43), Member of Fishermen Syndicate in the northern Gaza Strip. The boat was manned by 3 fishermen, including a child, namely Mohammed Ghaleb Ramadan al-Sultan (25), Yusuf Farid Abdullah Sa’adallah (33) and Fares Ahmed Mohammed Sa’adallah (17). The boat was sailing within 2 nautical miles and at least 2000 meters from the northern coastal enclave. The Israeli naval soldiers forced the fishermen to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the Israeli gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and taken to Ashdod Seaport while the boat was confiscated.
- At approximately 07:30, on 15 December 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off Gaza Shore, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats and surrounded one of them sailing within six nautical miles. Mohamed Saleh Abu Riyalah (31) and his brother ‘Atif (17), who

were forced to take swim towards the Israeli gunboat, manned the boat. The fishermen were arrested and taken to Ashdod Seaport while the boat was confiscated.

- At approximately 10:00, on 01 January 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, confiscated a fishing boat sailing within 6 nautical miles. The boat was manned by ‘Issa Ahmed Jameel al-Shrafi (68) and his son Basel (28), who were forced to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards the Israeli gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and taken to Ashdod Seaport while the boat was confiscated.
- At approximately 13:30, on 10 January 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, confiscated a fishing boat sailing within three nautical miles and belonging to Khaled Mohamed Miqdad. Mohamed Mahmoud Moneeb Ishkontanah (22) and his brother Mahmoud (21), who were forced to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim, manned the boat towards the Israeli gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and taken to Ashdod Seaport while the boat was confiscated.
- At approximately 23:30, on 19 January 2019, the family of fisherman, Mohammed Jaber Hussam Mohammed Baker (21) lost news of their son and news of a fishing boat belonging to his father with its equipment after in vain searching for him in the waters. Moreover, Mohammed’s father said that his family received a call at approximately 08:40, on Monday, 21 January 2019, from a person identified himself as an Israeli Intelligence officer, confirming that the Israeli authorities arrested his son Mohammed two days ago. The officer added that they arrested Mohammed Jaber from the northern Gaza Strip, which confirms that the boat is also under custody.
- At approximately 21:00, on 20 February 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed off Khan Yunis shore in the southern Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 11 nautical miles. The Israeli gunboats surrounded 2 boats; the first boat belongs to Tareq ‘Abed al-Razeq Baker, who was on board with his 2 sons Hitham (27) and ‘Awad (22), while the second boat belongs to Khader Marwan al-Sa’idy (30), who was on board with Mohamed Sa’ied al-Sa’idy (27). The fishermen were arrested while the boats were confiscated.
- At approximately 09:00, on 08 March 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 3 nautical miles and chased them. The Israeli gunboats then surrounded a boat manned by Waleed Mohssen ‘Eid Baker (24), Yossry Zakaria Sa’ed Baker (21), Yasser Soliman Yussuf Baker (31), and his brother Tamer (27), who were forced to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards one of the gunboats. The fishermen were arrested and then taken to Ashdod seaport while the boat was confiscated. At approximately 18:00 on Friday, 08 March 2019, the Israeli

authorities released the arrested fishermen and kept their fishing boat in custody. It should be mentioned that the four fishermen were hit with rubber bullets in different parts of their bodies and were taken to al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza, where doctors classified their wounds between minor and moderate.

- At approximately 08:45, on 10 March 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 1-1.5 nautical miles and chased them. The Israeli gunboats then surrounded one of them manned by Hussam Khader Khalil Barakat (22), who was forced to take off his clothes and jump into the water. Hussam was then arrested and taken to Ashdod seaport; the fishing boat was confiscated. At approximately 20:30 on the same day, Husam was released; the fishing boat was kept in custody. The fishermen were forced to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards a military gunboat.

5. Damaging Fishing Equipment and 15 Fishing Boats

Opening fire at and chasing the Palestinian fishing boat by Israeli gunboats resulted in the damage of 15 fishing boats and other fishing equipment. The shooting incidents that led to damaging fishing equipment were as follows:

- At approximately 10:15, on 08 November 2017, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 4 nautical miles. The Israeli gunboats then surrounded one of them belonging to Mohamed Khaled Ibrahim al-Habeel (28), who was allowed after 30 minutes to return to the Gaza Seaport. Additionally, Ahmed Mohammed al-‘Araishi (25) sustained a metal bullet wound to the right hand and the boat was hit with several live bullets, lead to losing fishing nets.
- On 25 February 2018, Israeli gunboats chased a Palestinian fishing boat manned by Isma’il Saleh Abu Riyalah (18) and ‘Ahed Hasan Abu Ali (24). The fishing boat was sailing within 3 nautical miles off Gaza City shore when the Israeli naval forces heavily opened fire at it. As a result, Isma’il Saleh Abu Riyalah was hit with a live bullet to the head and then succumbed to his wounds, while Mahmoud Abu Riyalah was hit with a rubber bullet to the leg. Additionally, ‘Ahed Hasan Abu ‘Ali was hit with a rubber bullet to the leg and the fishing boat sustained damage.
- On 03 June 2018, several Palestinian fishing boats sustained damage after the Israeli warplanes targeted a nearby military site. According to PCHR’s follow-up, at approximately 05:20, Israeli warplanes fired 2 missiles at a firth established in al-Waha resort, northwest of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip; the attack was repeated at approximately 05:25. As a result, the firth and other boats sustained serious material damage.

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- At approximately 09:30, on 23 June 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats and then surrounded one of them belonging to Kamel Daib Mahmoud al-Anqah (66). Kamel was on board with his sons Hitham (28), Ahmed (25), Mahmoud (21), as well as Mohamed Ahmed al-Sultan (25). The boat was sailing within 2 nautical miles and at least 1200 meters from the northern coastal enclave. Israeli naval forces ordered the fishermen to take their clothes off, jump into the water and swim towards a military gunboat. The boat and its engine sustained severe damage during the attack.
 - At approximately 17:00, on 30 August 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off al-Sodaniyia shore in the northern Gaza Strip, pumped water towards a fishing boat sailing within 3 nautical miles and belonging to Nafriz Salah, who was on board with Ahmed Nafiz Salah and his brother Musbah. As a result, the boat was drowned and severely damaged.
 - At approximately 06:15, on 11 October 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, opened heavy fire at Palestinian fishing boats and then surrounded one of them sailing within one nautical mile and at least 2000 meters south of the northern coastal enclave. ‘Odai Abdul Bari Mohammed al-Sultan (27) and his brother Saddam (24) manned the boat. The shooting caused serious damage to the boat and some halls in the structure.
 - At approximately 11:30, on 10 December 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off Rafah shore the southern Gaza Strip, opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 3 nautical miles and chased them. The gunboats surrounded a fishing boat manned by Nasser Ahmed Jamil al-Nada (23) and Mohammed Jasem Mohammed Saidam (18). The Israeli naval soldiers forced the fishermen to swim towards the gunboats and then arrested them; the boat was drowned.
 - At approximately 10:00, on 25 December 2018, Israeli gunboats stationed off Rafah shore the southern Gaza Strip, opened fire and pumped water at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within 3 nautical miles and chased them. As a result, 2 fishing boats were drowned; one of them was manned by Tariq Ziyad ‘Ali Siam (26); his brother, Mohammed (23); and his cousin Ahmed Sa’id Siyam (24) while the other boat was manned by Nader Isma’il Ahmed Shalouf (24) and Anas Suboh (20). After drowning the boat, a number of fishermen sailed there and saved the five fishermen.
 - At approximately 06:45, on 11 March 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, opened heavy fire at Palestinian fishing boats and chased them. The Israeli gunboats then surrounded a fishing boat manned by Hasan Akram Diyab Zayid (31) and Mohamed ‘Adnan Mohamed al-Sultan (28), who were forced to take off their clothes, jump into the water and swim towards a military gunboat. The fishermen were arrested and taken to an unknown destination while the boat was confiscated. Jihad al-Sultan, head of the fishermen’s union of fishing workers in the northern Gaza Strip, said that the

fishermen were arrested while sailing within one nautical mile and then released at approximately 14:30 via Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing. It should be noted that the boat was shot with 7 live bullets without confiscating it.

- At approximately 09:30, on 22 March 2019, Israeli gunboats stationed off the northwestern shore of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, opened heavy fire at Palestinian fishing boats sailing within one nautical mile and chased them. As a result, Mohamed Sa'd 'Abed al-Rahman Baker (54) and his son Mahmoud (21) were hit with rubber bullets throughout their bodies. Moreover, the boat's engine sustained damage.

Conclusion

The continued Israeli naval attacks against Palestinian fishermen and the fishing sector violate the rules of international humanitarian law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention. Additionally, the systematic restrictions on fishermen's freedom of movement constitute a form of collective punishment, prohibited under the international humanitarian law (IHL) as it compromises their means of livelihood.

The Israeli practices against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip violate international conventions and treaties that stress the right to work. Article 6.1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) stipulates that *"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."* It is also affirmed under Article 1.2 of the same convention, *"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."*

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) has also placed great emphasis on the right to work under Article 23.1: "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment;" as well as, *Article 6 which addresses social progress and development in relation to the right to work: "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."* Furthermore, *the continued attacks on the fishing sector are considered a breach of Article 10 of UDHR, "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."*

Additionally, the Israeli systematic policies against Palestinian fishermen contradict with the rules of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, especially Article 52 which stipulates that "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."

In light of the above, PCHR calls upon the:

- International Community, especially the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, to intervene immediately and pressurize Israeli authorities to cease all violations against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip, and allow them to sail and fish freely within their regional waters;
- International community to intervene immediately with the Israeli military to stop terrorizing fishermen at sea, including all shootings and confiscation of their boats and equipment;
- International Community to intervene quickly to release all property confiscated by Israeli naval forces including fishing boats and equipment; and to compensate them for material losses caused by these attacks;
- International Community to put pressure on the Israeli military forces to immediately open border crossings, and allow import of equipment and spare parts necessary for the rehabilitation and maintenance of damaged fishing boats and facilities; and
- International and humanitarian organizations to provide material and technical aid for the fishing sector.