

Inescapable Hell

The Israeli military attack on the Gaza Strip

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Abstract

On May 10, Israel started a large-scale military operation in the Gaza Strip after Palestinian armed factions fired rockets from Gaza towards Israel in response to the Israeli authorities' efforts to forcibly mass displace Palestinians residing in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem. Over the 11 days of the attack, the Israeli air, land, and sea forces carried out a massive military attack on the Gaza Strip, the fourth since 2008. They dropped tons of high-explosive bombs, leaving hundreds dead and wounded.

The attack caused massive destruction to the infrastructure, civilian objects, and homes, many of which were bombed with residents still inside. Many families were wiped out altogether.

The Israeli forces called their military operation «Guardian of the Walls,» while the Palestinian factions called their missile attacks during the same period «Sword of Jerusalem».

The Israeli attack began with violent raids carried out by the Israeli air force, after 6 p.m. on May 10, in various parts of the Gaza Strip, shortly after the Joint Chamber of the Palestinian Resistance Factions announced firing several missiles towards Israeli communities. Some of the rockets targeted Jerusalem.

Violent Israeli bombardment went on non-stop for the following days. At some points, the Israeli raids took place with the participation of more than

150 aircraft, in addition to heavy shelling by the artillery and naval forces. The heavy firepower affected all areas and governorates of the Gaza Strip. This violates international humanitarian law, which prohibits the bombing of civilian objects without regard for the principals of distinction, proportionality, or military necessity.

The intense bombardment led to the killing of dozens of civilians, including women, children and the elderly, in their homes. More than two million Palestinians had come under attack and feared there was no longer a safe place in the Gaza Strip.

About 120,000 Palestinians were forced to flee their homes across Gaza due to the violent missile attacks that mainly targeted the border fence east of the Strip and other areas in Gaza City. Most of them sought refuge in schools belonging to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), while some stayed at their relatives' homes who live in areas they thought safer.

The attacks also extended to government headquarters, residential buildings, and towers housing media headquarters, as well as two schools belonging to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), in addition to damaging health institutions, mosques, educational institutions, streets and infrastructure.

The Israeli military operation stopped after an Egyptian-brokered truce took effect at 2 a.m. on May 21. Intensive interventions were also made by several parties, including the United Nations and the United States of America.

With the ceasefire, the effects of the Israeli attack began to unfold. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the Israeli missiles killed 254 Palestinians, including 66 children, 39 women and 17 elderly, in addition to 1,948 who suffered from various injuries. (According to the field count of Euro-Med Monitor's team, the number of wounded reached 2,212)

Various weapons and ammunition and disproportionate destructive force have been used against Gazans and their properties. These violate the laws related to protecting civilians and their property during times of war, provided by international humanitarian law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which relates to the protection of civilians in wartime. The Israeli forces fired missiles and shells containing tons of explosives in indiscriminate or sometimes planned attacks, without regard to the safety of civilians in the Gaza Strip, which is one of the most crowded and densely populated places in the world.

The legal conclusions of the attacks and their consequences and effects confirm that what Israel did may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. This was exemplified by the bombing of houses whilst their inhabitants were still inside, the indiscriminate bombing and destruction of residential towers containing media headquarters, collective punishment by closing the crossings and the sea, and the bombing the homes of families and neighbors belonging to members of the armed Palestinian factions. In this report, Euro-Med Monitor sheds light on the violations committed

by Israel during its military offensive on the Gaza Strip, including targeting civilian objects and residential homes, deliberately targeting civilians, and killing children and women, as well as reviewing the legal aspect related to this type of violations.



Note: Euro-Med Monitors field team conducted its investigations into the «Guardian of the Walls» operation inside the Gaza Strip only. The team was unable to monitor or document any incidents affected by the Palestinian armed factions' rockets fired towards Israel, as Israel banned Euro-Med Monitor from operating inside Israel.

First: The context of the Israeli attack (chronology of events)

- Since the beginning of Ramadan on April 13, the Israeli authorities have imposed tight restrictions in the vicinity of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem.
- The Israeli forces set up iron barriers in the Damascus Gate area. As a result, clashes erupted between the Israeli forces and the worshippers every evening. At the same time, Israeli settlers announced their intention to organize the largest storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque on Ramadan 28 (May 10). Escalations preceded a series of decisions made by Israeli courts, paving the way for the largest forced displacement operation in recent years.
- On April 15, marking the «Israeli Independence Day», settlers stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Israeli forces stormed the mosque in the evening and forced the worshipers out of it.
- On April 22, Israeli settlers carried out large-scale attacks against Palestinians in East Jerusalem, protected by the Israeli forces. As a result, more than 100 Palestinians were wounded. More violent confrontations followed daily, and dozens of injuries were recorded among Palestinians in the separate neighborhoods of Jerusalem, including the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Sheikh Jarrah neighborhoods.

- On May 4, and against the background of what is happening in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, the supreme military commander of the armed wing of Hamas, Muhammad al-Deif, warned Israel of continuing its measures in Jerusalem and the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, in a rare statement.
- On May 7, more than 200 Palestinians, including five journalists, were injured during a crackdown on thousands of Palestinians in and around the Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- On May 10, Israeli forces stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque again and its environs and carried out massive attacks and crackdowns. The military fired stun grenades and rubber bullets at the worshipers inside the mosque and its squares. As a result, more than 300 Palestinians were injured, including about eight journalists. In the wake of this development and the afternoon of the same day, the armed factions in Gaza warned Israel to withdraw from the Al-Aqsa Mosque and stop the attacks on Jerusalemites by 6 p.m. that day.
- At 6 p.m. on May 10, the Palestinian factions fired volleys of missiles at the cities known as the «Gaza envelope». Some rockets targeted the city of Jerusalem. Massive Israeli raids on the Gaza Strip followed as Israel started the «Guardian of the Walls» operation, which lasted 11 days.

Second: Day-by-day documentation of the military attack on Gaza

On the evening of May 10, the Israeli forces officially announced the start of a military operation against the Gaza Strip, called the «Guardian of the Walls,» which ended on May 21.

The Israeli forces began their attack with violent shelling, focusing on the northern Gaza governorate and Gaza City.

Below is a day-by-day review of the attack:

Day 1: Monday, May 10

The Israeli forces launched more than 56 air raids firing 120 missiles and bombs at many targets. On the other hand, the Palestinian factions announced that they had fired about 100 rockets towards Israel.

On the first day, the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza announced that 21 Palestinians, including nine children, were killed and dozens wounded. The Israeli warplanes also bombed many sites that no one could reach, except for the days after when the bodies of 32 people from three locations in Khan Yunis and Gaza were recovered.

Day 2: Tuesday, 11 May

An Israeli aircraft launched dozens of raids that killed 11 Palestinians, including a woman and her disabled son (who suffered from cerebral palsy),

and wounded dozens. The airstrikes also destroyed the Hanadi residential tower in the southwest of Gaza City, the Al Jawhara residential tower in the center of Gaza City and a private school. The Israeli missile also damaged the al-Jundi al-Majhool tower.

Day 3: Wednesday, 12 May

The Israeli forces launched more than 200 raids in various areas of the Strip. The bombing focused on government headquarters, towers, residential homes, media headquarters and sites of armed factions, killing 33 Palestinians and wounding dozens.

Day 4: Thursday, May 13

Israeli aircraft launched dozens of raids, killing 34 Palestinians, 20 of them in the northern Gaza Strip, in addition to destroying a whole residential neighborhood and other infrastructures.

On this day, the bodies of 14 Palestinians were pulled from the bombing site on the first day in Gaza. The shelling in the northern Gaza Strip triggered a massive displacement of civilians, especially in the Om al-Nasr area.

Day 5: Friday, May 14

Israeli aircraft launched more than 300 raids in various areas of the Gaza Strip, killing 21 Palestinians and wounding dozens. This day saw the destruction of more homes and civilian facilities.

Day 6: Saturday, May 15

Israeli aircraft carried out more than 155 airstrikes, killing 15 Palestinians and wounding dozens. Twelve Palestinians were killed, including eight children and two women. The Gaza Strip also witnessed the demolition of the Al-Galaa Tower in the central Gaza Strip, and the partial destruction of the Andalus and Cairo Towers, southwest of Gaza City, and the destruction of three multi-story houses.

Day 7: Sunday, May 16

The Israeli warplanes launched the most violent bombing since the beginning of the attack on Al-Wehda Street and its residential homes in Al-Rimal neighborhood, west of Gaza City. The raids resulted in the death of 51 Palestinians throughout the Gaza Strip. The attack mass killed 44 people, including 18 children and 13 women, after destroying six residential buildings on Al-Wehda Street with their residents inside without any prior warning.

Day 8: Monday, May 17

The Israeli aircraft carried out dozens of strikes, killing 13 Palestinians and wounding dozens. In addition, two multi-storey commercial buildings were destroyed, the headquarters of the Ministry of Health, the military medical services, a Palestinian institution, the Al-Nahda library and printing press, the Orphans' Care Fund, a bank, and five factories were severely damaged.

Day 9: Tuesday, May 18

An Israeli aircraft carried out more than 165 raids, and the bombing concentrated on the west and east of Gaza City. Three Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded. The day witnessed the destruction of at least 15 homes through direct targeting.

Day 10: Wednesday 19 May

The Israeli aircraft carried out more than 194 raids, along with artillery shelling across land and sea, killing 13 Palestinians, wounding dozens, and destroying 25 homes.

Day 11: Thursday, 20 May

Israeli aircraft launched dozens of raids, killing at least three Palestinians, and wounding dozens while destroying seven homes.

Friday May 21

A simultaneous mutual ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian factions came into effect at 2 a.m. In the morning, several bodies were recovered from under the rubble in Khan Yunis and Gaza, including a dead child whose family had been killed after her home in Gaza, was targeted.

Third: Crimes against the right to life: Killing and injuring victims



A child from the Al-Qolak family bids farewell to a member of his family after the home their family in the center of Gaza City was bombed, on May 16. (Photo: Abdel Rahman Zaqout)

According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the Israeli military attack on the Gaza Strip killed 254 Palestinians, including 66 children, 39 women and 17 elderly citizens and injured 1,948 persons, in Gaza . (The number of injured has reached 2,212, according to Euro-Med Monitor's field count) Euro-Med Monitor's team verified the accuracy of the overall statistics announced by the Ministry of Health by tracking the number of victims arriving at hospitals, checking medical reports, and meeting their families in hospitals during and after the Israeli attack.

The killings carried out by the Israeli army varied, as they included the

bombing of houses with their residents inside, targeting civilians passing in the streets on foot or by vehicles, and targeting civil gatherings in agricultural lands or near homes.

Statistics on the killed:

Table 1 shows the number of the killed in every governorate

Governorate	Killed	Children	Women
Gaza	118	36	19
North Gaza Governorate	73	21	10
Khan Yunis	32	3	3
Deir al-Balah Governorate	20	4	3
Rafah	11	2	4
Total	254	19	19

According to Euro-Med Monitor's follow-up, %46.6 of the dead were killed in Israeli shelling and raids on the Gaza Governorate and its neighborhoods, that killed 118 persons. Most of these people fell in direct raids on residential homes without any prior warning. This caused the deaths of 36 children and 19 women.

In North Gaza governorate, 73 were killed, including 21 children and 10 women. In Khan Yunis governorate 32 were killed, including three women and three children. In the Deir al-Balah Governorate, 20 were killed, including four women and three children. In Rafah governorate, which experienced the least number of attacks, 11 were killed dead, including two children and

four women.

According to the Gaza Ministry of Health, five of those killed suffered from disabilities.

Willful killing is one of the war crimes stipulated in the Rome Statute, which established the International Criminal Court. According to the Statute, the crime of willful killing is based on three elements, namely:

“A- The perpetrator killed one or more persons.

B- Such person or persons were protected by one or more of the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

C- The perpetrator was aware of factual circumstances that establish that protected status.”

According to the legal analysis of dozens of Israeli bombing operations, whether targeting civilians in gatherings or homes and vehicles, these operations were carried out with the aim of deliberate killing without any warning to the residents.

Statistics on the injured:

Table No. (2) shows the distribution of injuries in the Gaza Strip

Governorate	Injured	Women
North Gaza	1,160	426
Gaza	622	160
Khan Yunis	149	43
Rafah	147	41
Deir Al-Balah Governorate	134	44
Total	2,212	19

During the Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip, 2,212 persons were injured, including 714 women. According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, 470 children and 310 women were among the injured, and 60 had critical injuries. The ministry said 400 injuries were made to the upper parts of the body, of which 153 injuries were in the head and neck.

The Israeli missiles caused 1,502 injuries, 106 of them were cases of gas inhalations, and 27 due to the explosion of gas and smoke bombs thrown by the Israeli forces.

The Israeli bombing caused new disabilities, including 10 amputations, 35 quadriplegic and longitudinal paralysis. There are 21 persons still in intensive care.

Accidental loss of life and injury and excessive damage is one of the war crimes stipulated in the Rome Statute, which is based on three elements, namely:

- A- “The perpetrator launched an attack.
- B- The attack was such that it would cause incidental death or injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects or widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment and that such death, injury or damage would be of such an extent as to be clearly excessive in relation to the concrete and direct overall military advantage anticipated.
- C- The perpetrator knew that the attack would cause incidental death or injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects or widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment and that such death, injury or damage would be of such an extent as to be clearly excessive in relation to the concrete and direct overall military advantage anticipated.”

Repeated killing patterns followed by the Israeli forces:

During the attack, the Israeli forces’ killings varied with the participation of various aircrafts (fighter jets, helicopters, and drones), artillery and guided missiles. These operations resulted in the death and injury of hundreds of Palestinians.

One of the most dangerous patterns was the bombing of homes while their residents were inside without prior warning, which wiped out entire families. The following are the most prominent patterns of killing during the 11 days:

1. Killing of whole families

The Israeli forces directly targeted 31 extended families. In 21 cases, the homes of these families were bombed while their residents were inside. These raids resulted in the killing of 98 civilians, including 44 children and 28 women. Among the victims were a man and his wife and children, mothers and their children, or child siblings. There were seven mothers who were killed along with four or three of their children.

The bombing of these homes and buildings came without any warning despite the Israeli forces' knowledge that civilians were inside. The Israeli forces justify these attacks by claiming that they targeted figures belonging to the Palestinian factions. However, field investigations conducted by Euro-Med Monitor showed that the Israeli forces bombed civilian homes with their residents inside without any evidence to suggest they were military activists.

Even if there were military activists in those homes at the time of the attack, this does not justify destroying homes with their residents inside, or entire neighborhoods under the pretext of assassinating military activists. This pattern of practices flagrantly violates the principles of distinction and proportionality. In addition, these attacks were conducted without any military necessity, according to the rules of international humanitarian law.

The “Abu Al-Auf”, “Al-Kulak” and “Al-Efranji” families

One of the most horrific crimes was on Sunday, March 16, at 1:00 p.m., when the Israeli warplanes fired about 50 missiles at buildings, residential homes and roads in the Al-Rimal neighborhood, west of Gaza City. The raids targeted a residential building belonging to the Abu Al-Awf family, another for the Al-Kulak family, and the Ministry of Labor headquarters. The missiles killed 44 civilians, including 18 children and 13 women, while 50 others were wounded, including eight children, and 15 women.



Citizen Shukri Al-Qolak was recovered from under the rubble after Israeli warplanes targeted his house. (Photo: Muhammad Asaad)

The “Abu Hatab” and “Al-Hadidi” families

The incident came a day after the Israeli army bombed the house of “Alaa Muhammad Abdel-Al Abu Hatab,” a 3-story house in the Shati refugee camp, west of Gaza City. The home was destroyed with its residents inside including Alaa’s family, and his sister’s family, who had taken refuge in it after visiting on Eid al-Fitr.

Alaa’s wife, four of their children, his sister and four of her children were killed. Only one five-month-old child survived.

The “Al-Tanani” and “Al-Madhoun” families

At dawn, on May 13, Israeli warplanes bombed a residential neighborhood in the Beit Lahia area in the northern Gaza Strip with about 25 missiles without any warning. This resulted in the destruction of nine buildings and the entire public street. The bombing killed eight citizens, including a whole family.

Hours later, those killed were recovered from under the rubble, and they were:

Raafat Muhammad Ismail Ata al-Tanani, 39; his wife Rawya Fathi Hassan al-Tanani, 36; and their sons Ismail, seven years old, Adham, four years old, Amir, six years old, and Muhammad, three years old; Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Abdullah al-Madhoun, 62; his wife Halima Ali Muhammad al-Madhoun, 65. In addition, 33 civilians were wounded, including 10 children, eight women.

The Israeli army claimed that the bombing targeted a leading figure in

the armed wing of Hamas, but no military activist was recovered from underneath the rubble. This confirms that the Israeli forces devastated an entire residential neighborhood and killed two families after allegedly suspecting the presence of a wanted person.

2. Killings by artillery shelling

The Israeli forces committed numerous killings using indiscriminate artillery shelling of residential compounds. The indiscriminate bombing operations carried out during the 11 days of the Israeli military offensive constitute a clear violation of international humanitarian law standards, especially the principles of distinction, proportionality, and military necessity.

Since the early days of the large-scale Israeli operation in Gaza, Euro-Med Monitor team documented the participation of Israeli air, land, and navy forces in carrying out thousands of intensive attacks. These attacks turned hundreds of homes to rubble, changed the shape of many neighborhoods and wreaked havoc on infrastructure.

The artillery shelling started a day after the Israeli military attack on the northern Gaza Strip. In the next two days, the shelling focused on the Om Al-Nasr area, which caused the death of several civilians, the injury of others, and the displacement of thousands. Then, the shelling extended to include all the eastern and western sides of the Strip from north to south. The artillery bombardment lasted until the ceasefire.

Sometimes, Israeli artillery batteries fired two shells every minute on the

eastern areas of the Gaza Strip, which took place for four hours on Thursday morning, May 20. Some of these shells fell several kilometers from the border fence and caused fires and damage to homes and facilities. The bombing was especially frequent at night and during dawn, causing large explosion that terrified the population, particularly children and women.

On Thursday May 13, artillery shells killed farmer Suhaib Abdul Rahim Awad Ghanem, 25, and injured farmer Yahya Mansour Ghaben, 24. The two of them were working in agricultural lands in the northern Gaza Strip.

On that same evening, the Israeli artillery bombed several areas in the northern Gaza Strip as part of an attack that killed six Palestinians (including a baby boy, a minor girl and three women) and wounded 25 others, including children and women from Om Al-Nasr village. The dead were:

Nisreen Nasser Abu Qleiq, 25, Naama Saleh Salama Ayyash, 47, Hashim Muhammad Ayed al-Zughaib, 20, Sabreen Nasser Muhammad Abu Dayya, 27, the -10month-old infant Muhammad Salama Muhammad Abu Dayya, Fawzia Nasser Muhammad Abu Faris, 17.

3. Killing by targeting moving vehicles

During the attack, the Israeli forces repeatedly bombed cars and motorcycles in the Gaza Strip without any real justification. This caused the death of several civilians.

Targeting a pickup truck distributing gas bottles

On May 12, Israeli warplanes bombed a Peugeot pickup truck distributing household gas bottles while parked on the highway in Beni Suhaila, east of Khan Yunis.

As a result, two civilians were killed, one of whom was the driver, whose body had burned. Eight others were injured, including a child who was paralyzed. The two dead were: Mahmoud Ahmed Abu Amer, 38, who was the driver and had worked in distributing gas for years. The other was Majid Abd Rabbo Mahmoud Abu Saada, 58, from Bani Suhaila, who had stood next to the vehicle while paying for his gas bottle. The rest of the injured had passed near the vehicle or were present in the nearby shops.

There was no justification for targeting the vehicle, as it belonged to a citizen distributing gas bottles for living, and all the victims were civilians.

Bombing a car on Al-Maghribi Street

On May 12, an Israeli warplane bombed a civilian Skoda car traveling on Maghribi Street in central Gaza City, killing six citizens. They were the driver, a passenger and his wife, a citizen in front of his house and two other pedestrians in the area. The dead were: **the driver Mustafa Mazen Salem Kurdiya 32, Saeed Hashem Saeed al-Hattu, 67, his wife Maysoon Zaki Hashem al-Hatu, 55 (their two sons were injured), and Mansour Yusef Hasan al-Dreamli, 66, who was staying in front of his house in the area.**

Also were killed in the incident, **Nader Muhammad Al-Ghazali, 47**, and his nephew **Abd al-Salam Mahmoud Nabih al-Ghazali, 28**.

Four civilians killed by targeting a car in Beit Lahia

On May 12, an Israeli aircraft bombed a civilian car with a single missile near Hamouda Junction, east of Beit Lahiya, North Gaza Governorate, killing four civilians traveling in it, and wounding another. The dead were: **Talaat Jamil Mahmoud Warsh Agha, 34, Atef Abd al-Rahman Jumaa al-Barawi, 47, Nael Khaled Younis al-Barawi, 22, and Wael Mahmoud Faris al-Ghoula, 47**.

Targeting a civilian car in Gaza City

On May 15, Israeli warplanes bombed a civilian Volkswagen in the Al-Nasr neighborhood of Gaza with a single missile, killing **Saeed Khaled Saeed Abu Ghalyoun, 27**.

4. Killing by targeting civilian gatherings

Many Israeli raids targeted civilian gatherings in streets and near homes, which killed and wounded many. The Israeli forces carried out many bombing operations without considering the lives and property of civilians and disregarding the standards of international humanitarian law relating to principles of proportionality and distinction. It was clear that they intended to kill and injure civilians within its policy of collective punishment and deterrence.

Two children belonging to Al-Amor family

On May 12, an Israeli helicopter bombed three children with a missile near the Tamraz station in Al-Fokhari town, southeast of Khan Yunis. As a result, two of them died, while the third was seriously injured. **The two dead were: Ammar Tayseer Mahmoud Al-A'mor, 10, and Hamada Atiyah Abed Al-A'mor, 13. Alyan Munir Ibrahim Al-A'mor, 13, was seriously injured.**

Euro-Med Monitor's investigations showed that an Israeli helicopter fired a missile at the children shortly after they bought groceries for the father of one of them. The father was traumatized from seeing his son bombed and burning before his eyes. It should be noted that the bombing came while the area was calm and there were no gatherings or any military activities.

Killing four civilians in Nuseirat

On May 12, an Israeli aircraft bombed with a single missile a group of civilians in the Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip, killing four of them: **Hamza Mahmoud Al-Hor, 25, Muhammad Abdel Moneim Shaheen, 27, and Muhammad Mu'in al-Qarah, 26, Ahmed Walid Al Talaa, 29.**

Killing two civilians – one of them is a child – in the Sajaiya neighborhood

May 15, Israeli warplanes bombed a gathering of civilians in the vicinity of the Friday Market in the Shejaiya neighborhood in Gaza. As a result, two people were killed, two children Saif al-Din Hani Muhammad Abu al-Ata, 19,

and Muhammad Ahmad Attiya Bahar, 17.

According to field investigations, there was no justification for the bombing carried out by the Israeli forces, which indicates that they only targeted civilian gatherings to inflict harm and kill and prevent any movement of citizens.

5. Killings by gunfire

Two civilians, one of them a child, were shot dead by the Israeli forces in areas near the border fence. The shooting targeted farmers who were working on their farmland.

Killing the child Bashar Samour

On May 12, Israeli army snipers opened fire at a group of farmers in Khuza'a, east of Khan Yunis, killing the 16-year-old child Bashar Ahmed Ibrahim Samour.

According to field investigations, the child was killed without any justification while he was working on agricultural land hundreds of meters away from the separation fence.

Killing farmer Hassan Al-Borno

On May 19, Israeli army snipers opened fire at farmer Hassan Sami Ramadan al-Borno, 63, east of Juhr al-Dik, southeast of Gaza, and wounded him in the chest with a live bullet while he was working on his land. He died immediately.

According to field investigations, Al-Borno was killed without any justification while he was working on his agricultural land hundreds of meters away from the border fence.

Targeting children

During its offensive, the Israeli forces killed 66 children, which is %26 of the total casualties. This refutes the Israeli army's claims that its targets were accurate and focused on militants.

Most of the children died under the rubble of their homes after they were targeted by the Israeli forces. The scene of dead bodies of children being pulled from under the rubble repeated after every house was bombed with its residents inside. In the bombing of the residential community on Al-Wehda Street alone, 18 children were killed at once, most of them were brothers from four families. Many children were also killed while playing near their homes.

The fall of so many dead and wounded children indicates that the Israeli forces did not respect the principles of proportionality, distinction, and military necessity in their offensive on the Gaza Strip as they targeted civilians. These attacks also exemplify the war crimes committed by the Israeli forces during the days of the attack.

Among the dead children were a number of infants as young as a few weeks old. Many fetuses died inside the wombs of their expectant mothers in their last months of pregnancy. These fetuses were not included in the count of

dead children. The raids also caused an unprecedented state of panic among children and exceptional suffering during situations of displacement.

Targeting women

The Israeli forces killed 39 women during the attack, representing %15.4 of the total casualties, which is a high percentage. Children and women represented %41.5 of the total killed during the attack.

For example, on May 12, Israeli warplanes bombed a house in the Al-Amal neighborhood in western Khan Yunis, killing Miami Abdullah Musa Arafa, 49, and her daughter Hadeel Khaled Mahmoud Arafa, 28. Seven citizens were wounded, including a -16year-old child Nagham Ismail Al-Khawalda, paralyzed by the bombing.

In addition to killing and direct injuries, the Israeli bombardment and the high intensity of fire used by the Israeli army left a state of tension and panic, especially among women who had to endure the effects of losing husbands, children, parents and relatives in general.

Killing pregnant women

At least four pregnant women and their unborn babies were killed during the Israeli attack.

- On May 12, Rima Saad, 30, four months pregnant, was killed in an Israeli bombardment targeting her home in the Tal al-Hawa neighborhood, southwest of Gaza City. Her two children Zaid, four years old, and Mariam,

two years old died with her. Her husband was seriously injured.

- On May 13, Walaa Muhammad Ibrahim Aman, 24, six months pregnant, was killed in an Israeli bombardment of a house in the city of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip. Her father, Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Aman, 51, and her two sisters, Hadeel Muhammad Ibrahim Amen, 18, and Warda Muhammad Ibrahim Aman, 22.
- On May 13, Kholoud Fouad Farhan Al-Zamili, 27, a six-month-old pregnant woman, and her two-year-old daughter, Hoor Moamen Jamal Al-Zamili, two years old, were killed in an Israeli bombardment targeting her father's house in Rafah.
- On May 19, Amani Youssef Salha, 29, seven months pregnant; her husband Iyad Abdel Fattah Salha, 35, suffers a disability and their daughter Nagham, two years old, were killed after a missile hit their home in Deir al-Balah.

Targeting people with disabilities

Even people with disabilities were not safe from the Israeli military attack on Gaza. According to the Ministry of Health, five persons with disabilities, including a child, were killed.

- On 11 May, Abdulrahman Yusuf Sobh, 19, suffering from chronic cerebral palsy was killed alongside his mother, Amira Abdulfatah Sobh, 58, by an Israeli airstrike. The bombardment targeted the apartment above them in the Tayba building in the Al-Shati Camp, which caused the roof of their

apartment to collapse. They died immediately.

- On 14 May, Bothaina Mahmoud Issa, six years old, died due to an Israeli bombing next to her house in Jabalia, north of the Gaza Strip, causing her cerebral atrophy after a shrapnel hit the right side of her head.
- On 19 May, Iyad Abdulfatah Salha, 35, a disabled man and his pregnant wife, Amani Yusuf Salha, 29, and their daughter Nagham, two years old, were killed after an Israeli missile targeted their house in Deir Al-Balah.

According to the Palestinian Medical Relief Society and the National Society for Rehabilitation in the Gaza Strip, at least 10 buildings housing people with disabilities were damaged by the Israeli attack on Gaza.

Targeting paramedics and medical facilities



The building of the Palestinian Ministry of Health after Israeli warplanes targeted a building opposite to it on May 18. (Photo: Muhammad Asaad)

The Israeli attack severely damaged 24 medical facilities, including hospitals, clinics and the Ministry of Health headquarters. This attack caused the death of two doctors and wounded many others from the medical staff.

On 15 May, internist Dr. Ayman Tawfeeq Abu Alouf, 50, his wife Reem Khalil Abu Alouf, 41, and their children (Tawfeeq, 17, and Tala, 13) were killed in an Israeli airstrike targeting their house in Gaza. Neurologist Dr. Moeen Ahmad Alaloul, 67, was also killed in an airstrike.

Despite the protection provided by the International Human Law to Medical offices, Israeli fighter jets still targeted them. Due to the siege and

the shutdown of border crossings, the health care system in Gaza suffers a severe deficiency in medical supplies like medicine, bandages, and other hospitals' equipment.

Euro-Med Monitor documented numerous cases of Israeli attacks hindering the work and transportation of ambulance and emergency staff, which blocked roads and prevented safe evacuations after the random airstrikes, especially in northern and eastern Gaza.

For instance, on 11 May, Hajja Hala Jameel Alshawa Care Center was severely damaged, and the Ministry of Health announced it was completely out of service due to an Israeli airstrike. The center specialized in mothers and children's health and provides vaccines for children in the northern Gaza Strip.

On 17 May, the administration building in the Ministry of Health, Al-Remal Martyrs Health center, Al-Amal institute for Orphans and Al-Amal building owned by the institute, containing many special clinics were all severely damaged due to a targeted building in Al-Wehda street, west of Gaza.

On the same day, Qatar Red Crescent Headquarters was bombed by an Israeli airstrike. The headquarters was targeted despite having a clear Red Crescent sign, which is a protected badge according to the International Human Law.

Euro-Med Monitor's investigations confirm that the targeted and damaged medical centers were within the protection of the fourth Geneva

convention; nonetheless, they were suddenly bombarded with no warning. This led to several injuries among the medical staff working there.

Targeting reporters and media organizations

The Israeli forces killed a reporter, injured at least five others in numerous airstrikes on the Gaza Strip, and destroyed more than 33 media headquarters. Those airstrikes violate the safety of reporters and staff in all media organizations considering them civilians protected by the International Human Law.

Killing a reporter and injuring others

On 19 May, Israeli fighter jets targeted the apartment of Yusuf Mohammad Abu Hussien, 33, who is, according to available information, is a reporter at Al-Aqsa radio station belonging to Hamas, with two missiles.

On 13 May, three reporters were injured while covering Israel's heavy bombardment on Om al-Nasr village, north of the Strip. They are Mostafa Hassouna, Mohammad Al-Aloul (both work for Anadolu Agency) and reporter Dawood Abu Al-Kas. The injuries varied between medium and minor.

Destroying media headquarters

The Israeli airstrikes on residential buildings destroyed more than 33 local and foreign media organizations' headquarters, most notably Al-Jazeera and Associated Press.

On 12 May, the Israeli jets targeted the eleventh floor of the Al-Jawhara building, center of Gaza city, with several missiles. This caused massive destruction in all the apartments inside, placing the building on the verge of collapse.

There were other media offices and headquarters in the building, the National Media Agency, Palestine newspaper, New Alaraby newspaper, Alaraby channel, Al-Etejah channel, Nujaba channel, Syria channel, Alkofiya channel, Al-Mamlaka channel, APA local agency, Sabq24 agency, Albawaba24, and the Media Forum.

On 13 May, the Israeli jets bombed and leveled, with four missiles, the Al-Waleed building in the center of Gaza city. The building consists of seven floors and 17 apartments, containing media offices and a local media production company belonging to the disabled reporter Moamen Qureiqi, who lost both legs in a previous Israeli airstrike.

In the same evening, the Israeli jets also bombed and leveled the 14th floor of Al-Shourouq building, which contained media and press offices. Al-hayaa newspaper, Al-Aqsa network, Taif Press, and Palestine Media Production company that provides its services to media channels like Russia Today, Dubai TV channel, were targeted.

On 15 May, the Israeli jets fired several missiles on the Al-Jalaa building next to the Watan building in Al-Jalaa Street in the center of Gaza city. The targeting led to the destruction of the -12floor building, which contains apartments

belonging to media organizations like Al-Jazeera and the Associated Press (AP).

The pattern of destroying buildings like Al-Jawhara, Al-Jalaa, and Al-Shourouq shows that the Israeli forces intentionally targeted local and foreign media and press offices. In a documented phone call between the Al-Jalaa building owner and the Israeli army, the army prevented the media staff from extracting their equipment safely.

Targeting students and educational institutes

The Israeli airstrikes resulted in the deaths of 46 school students and the injury of others, who were targeted either in their homes or nearby.

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education reported that the Israeli airstrikes damaged more than 66 school buildings; 55 kindergartens; 12 universities, colleges, and academies; and two directorates belonging to the Ministry.

Upon ceasefire, the Ministry announced the end of the school year of -2020 2021 for the first to eleventh grades before its due date for many reasons. They included the fact that schools are not yet prepared to operate due to the Israeli attack; the damage to buildings, furniture, and equipment; and the severity of the psychological condition of many students and staff.

All in all, the Israeli attack caused deterioration to children's mental health due to bombing, explosion sounds, and traumatic events like destroyed

buildings and relative's loss. This will severely affect the students' grades and academic achievements, which violates International Human Law since it guarantees the right to learning at all costs and prevents harming civilians.

Fourth: Shelling and destroying civilian objects



Al Shorouk residential tower in the center of Gaza City after it had been targeted by Israeli warplanes on May 12. (Photo: Muhammad Asaad)

The Israeli forces took an approach of intense bombardment through airstrikes, artillery and naval attacks, targeting houses, civilian buildings, and infrastructure, causing damage to well-known landmarks in Gaza city. The Israeli forces also targeted religious sites, including mosques, cemeteries, and endowment facilities. Many media organizations were also targeted and destroyed, especially within the civilian buildings.

Targeting civilian structures is a war crime according to the Rome Statue

and its elements as follows:

1. The perpetrator directed an attack.
2. The object of the attack was civilian objects, that is, objects which are not military objectives.
3. The perpetrator intended such civilian objects to be the object of the attack.

Investigations have confirmed that the Israeli army targeted hundreds of civilian objects with no affiliations to any militant group in Gaza, some of which are houses, government offices, the Qatari Red Crescent Headquarters, schools, and factories.

1. Destroying neighborhoods

The Israeli forces destroyed several neighborhoods using a carpet-bombing strategy to separate blocks from each other. About 160 jets launched a concurrent attack with hundreds of missiles, causing damage that included roads and sub-roads, similar to previous aggressions on Gaza in 2008.

For instance, on 13 May, the Israeli jets bombarded a neighborhood in Beit Lahia, north of the Strip, without a warning, with 25 missiles. The bombing destroyed nine houses where 18 families used to live; the families consisted of 100 people, half of which are children and women. Eight people were killed, and tens of others injured, including a family that was completely wiped out and extracted from the rubble several hours after the bombardment.

2. Shelling and destroying homes

The Israeli forces executed a systematic destructive operation on tens of houses and multi-floor buildings in several places in the Gaza Strip. According to the initial documentation of the Euro-Med Monitor team, the Israeli forces targeted and destroyed 165 buildings, including five towers and other multi-floor buildings.

According to the initial report of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, 1800 housing units were destroyed, 16800 housing units were damaged, five towers were completely leveled, and four others partially damaged.

This massive destruction has deprived thousands of residents, including women and children, of their right to housing. According to Euro-Med Monitor's investigations, most of the destruction of homes carried out by the Israeli forces came within the framework of a policy of collective punishment against the families of military and political activists, in violation of the rules of international humanitarian law and a crime that amounts to a war crime. In many cases, the bombing came without any justification or was based on suspicions, which indicates that the Israeli forces wanted to collectively punish Palestinians.

3. Destroying civilian towers

During the military offensive, the Israeli forces resorted to bombing and destroying multi-story residential towers in Gaza. It was clear that the Israeli

forces wanted to destroy, inflict heavy financial losses and psychological harm on the residents.

Contrary to previous Israeli attacks on the second day of the attack, the Israeli forces began their policy of destroying residential towers. On May 11, Israeli warplanes bombed the Hanadi Tower with several missiles southwest of Gaza City. The tower was demolished and caused severe damage to the buildings and towers adjacent to it. The tower consisted of 14 floors, many residential apartments, institutions, and offices.

Five other towers were bombed and destroyed, while others were damaged. According to Euro-Med Monitor's investigations, each of the towers consisted of many floors, containing residential apartments, offices, companies, or clinics.

These towers were open to the public and had no security obstacles or exceptional procedures, as is usually the case when it comes to military headquarters or facilities belonging to the armed factions.

Moreover, there were no special security measures around these towers after they were bombed, as would be the case if facilities belonging to Palestinian factions get destroyed. This indicates that they were civilian buildings.

There were no indications that these towers stored explosive materials, as they would have successive explosions after the bombing, which did not happen.

However, the Israeli army claimed that some of these towers contained

apartments used by the Palestinian factions. Assuming this was true, this does not justify the destruction of an entire tower. The Israeli army could have targeted the apartments it claimed to be used by the Palestinian factions, especially with high-end advanced technological guided missiles, which Israel did in other cases. Nevertheless, the Israeli army chose to destroy entire towers to cause the heaviest material losses and make civilians pay a heavy price.

Certainly, the Israeli forces used massive firepower in violation of the principle of proportionality and distinction without any military necessity, which represents a major violation of the relevant rules of international humanitarian law.

4. bombing institutions and civil society organizations



Euro-Med Monitor's headquarters in the Gaza Strip after a nearby bombardment

The violent Israeli bombardment during the 11 days of the attack, destroyed the headquarters of dozens of institutions and civil society organizations, causing varying damage to many other headquarters. Among the institutions damaged by the bombing is the headquarter of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor, southwest of Gaza City.

5. Bombing government offices

The Israeli forces bombed dozens of government headquarters and facilities. According to preliminary documentation, the bombings destroyed 74 government headquarters and public facilities, which varied between police headquarters and service facilities, including the Ministry of Labor headquarters, the Ministry of Social Development bases, and the offices of the Internal Security Agency.

The bombing and targeting of government facilities and the facilities of local authorities and authorities have undermined the services provided to citizens, including health services, education, and other basic services such as water supply and sanitation services.

6. Bombing of religious facilities

The Israeli bombing caused the destruction of three mosques: Al-Aklouk Mosque, Abd Al-Razzaq Aqilibo and Omar Bin Al-Khattab, in the northern Gaza Strip. The bombardment also caused partial damage to about 40 other mosques and churches in all governorates of the Strip because of the bombing of houses, buildings and places of worship.

The bombardment also destroyed the Ansar Al-Waqfyah Building in Gaza City, which consists of four floors, including 19 apartments and five shops. The building consisted of several commercial companies and administrative offices.

The Israeli missiles also destroyed the Prophecy Legacy Project, a chain of

endowment stores in the Zaytoun area in Gaza City, and the Al-Nasr Private Joint School.

The headquarters of the North Gaza Directorate of Islamic Awqaf Ministry and the Islamic College in the North Gaza were also damaged.

Six cemeteries were damaged by direct or adjacent bombardment in Gaza City, namely: the cemetery of (Al-Tunisi, Ibn Marwan, Sheikh Shaaban, Al-Sifa, Jabalia Al-Balad, Al-Far).

7. Destroying infrastructure



A main road in west Gaza City after direct targeting by Israeli warplanes (Photo: Muhammad Asaad)

The Israeli forces deliberately and extensively bombed the infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, destroying several kilometers of streets, water, sewage, power, telephone, and Internet networks.

The following damages were recorded in Gaza Governorate alone:

- About 67 streets were damaged with a total area of about 120,000 square meters by airstrikes.
 - 120 linear meters of water pipelines were damaged, bringing the total of damaged water pipelines in the Gaza Strip since the start of the attack to about 6,220 linear meters.
 - 200 linear meters of sewage pipelines were damaged, bringing the total damage of sewage pipelines in the Gaza Strip since the start of the attack to about 10,500 linear meters.
 - 35 linear meters of rainwater drainage pipelines were damaged, bringing the total number in the Strip to about 310 meters.
 - Sewage Station 11 was partially damaged, in addition to Station 1 being out of service as well.
 - Work has stopped at the seawater desalination plant north of the city.
 - Sewage overflow in the affected areas, while a large amount of water received in the sewage Station 1 was discharged directly into the sea.
- These damages were repeated to varying degrees in all parts of the Gaza Strip.

8. Destroying power networks

The power network in the Gaza Strip was subjected to widespread and unprecedented destruction, with losses estimated at millions of dollars because of the Israeli bombardment. The damages included some of the basic components of about six power lines carrying electricity from Israel

to the Strip. The amount of electricity that used to be delivered through these lines is estimated at 75 megawatts. This caused a severe shortage of electricity supply that exists until the date of this report.

The Israeli authorities are still preventing the entry of fuel designated to operate Gaza's sole power plant from the Kerem Shalom crossing. The plant is now operating with limited shipments of fuel secured locally. The limited amount of fuel operates only two generators, with a total capacity of 45-40 megawatts, instead of three generators. The amount of electricity produced before the attack was estimated at 70 megawatts.

The company receives an estimated 90 megawatts from various sources. Depending on these available quantities, the hours of electricity citizens receive in Gaza range from 4-3 hours a day. This threatens the deterioration of many vital sectors in Gaza, especially after the unprecedented repercussions and effects of the attack.

9. Damaging communications and Internet networks

The violent Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip has severely damaged the communications and the Internet networks and destroyed many Internet providers' equipment and devices. This led to disturbances in services to much of the population across the Gaza Strip since the Israeli raids targeted towers and buildings where internet providers were operating.

In addition, dozens of streets were bombed where utility poles carry

communication and Internet wires providing Gaza with internet and communication services. This contributed to the internet connecting getting cut off from many areas.

Euro-Med Monitor talked to Khaled Al-Gamal, an official in the commercial department at the Solution Management Technology Corp. (SMT) which provides fast Internet service (fiber-optic internet). Al-Gamal said the company was destroyed after Israeli warplanes targeted the Al-Jawhara Tower on May 12.

The building contained the company's essentials, he said, adding that initial losses are estimated at 2\$ million after all the equipment and devices were irreparably damaged.

Al-Jamal stated that "this has led to a complete disruption of the service provided to thousands of clients who crucially depend on our services, such as satellite channels, international and local media agencies, and some hospitals".

"Many international news agencies and satellite channels have been harmed by the targeting of the company, as they rely mainly on the fiber-optic internet service to transmit information and directly broadcast current events in the Gaza Strip," he said.

"The continued targeting of commercial buildings that contain Internet companies providing this service will greatly affect the ability of these companies to continue with their work. The continuous bombing of streets and residential neighborhoods inflicted severe damage on the wires and

cables connected to entire residential squares,” Al-Jamal stressed.

He continued, “The real problem lies in the tough measures the Israeli authorities imposed before allowing us to import fiber-optic wires under the pretext that they are dual-use goods. We apply for a permit and wait weeks or months for the approval to come, which will mean the continuation of service interruptions for an unknown period due to Israel’s complications”. Euro-Med Monitor’s team interviewed several freelance journalists who work for local and international agencies. They reported the disruption of their work was due to the interruption of Internet services.

Journalist Mustafa Jihad said he used to work as a reporter for several international news websites, but he lost the ability to communicate with his employers after an Israeli aircraft destroyed the Al-Galaa Tower in the west of Gaza last Saturday.

Jihad added that he had to move to his friend’s house who still has internet. However, he expressed concern about the interruption of services at any moment because Israel continuously targets facilities that contain most of the network and communication equipment.

Internet and communications company Fusion announced in a statement viewed by Euro-Med Monitor that the bombing, which targeted the Al-Jawhara Tower last Wednesday has left thousands in Gaza without internet. This is due to the severe damage the bombs caused to all the Internet equipment inside the building.

In addition, the lines of terrestrial and cellular communications are witnessing increasingly severe damage because of the Israeli attacks. This falls within the framework of isolating Gazans from the outside world and imposing a media blackout.

Fifth: Targeting and destroying economic facilities



Gaza Industrial City after being targeted by Israeli shells during the military attack (Photo: Muhammad Asaad)

The Israeli bombing caused severe damage to the economic sector in the Gaza Strip, whether by direct shelling or by the effects of disruptions to work and the closure of border crossings during the days of the attack.

Euro-Med Monitor documented the destruction or severe damage to more than 525 economic facilities, including 50 factories, according to preliminary and inconclusive data, during the Israeli attack on the Strip.

Negative repercussions directly inflicted Gaza's economic sector due to

the bombardment and destruction of facilities, which led to other indirect effects because of closures caused by continued Israeli attacks.

On May 11, the Israeli forces destroyed the Al-Jalil ice cream factory near the Kuwait Roundabout in the Zeitoun neighborhood, south of Gaza City. Later that day, the forces bombed Abu Al-Khair factory, east of Jabalia, and the Hamada Ceramic Company.

The last three days of the attack (18 - 20 May) witnessed heavy artillery shelling of 13 factories and companies operating in the industrial zone in eastern Gaza City. This led to extensive damage to the area. The attack on the region constitutes a flagrant violation of the protection this area enjoys under its foundation agreements.

The industrial zone is built on an area of 123.5 acres and lies near the Karni crossing. It was established under agreements with the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, and the European Union.

On Monday, March 2021 ,17, Israeli artillery targeted the FOMCO mattress-making factory east of Jabalia. The shells caused a massive fire to erupt in the factory that destroyed large parts of it.

On the following day, May 18, the Israeli artillery targeted Abu Iskandar, a plastic-making factory in the industrial zone. The shells caused fires to erupt inside, and tons of raw materials burned.

Other companies and factories were severely damaged in the attacks such

as the Harb co., Clever co., the Tal Al-Zuhoor co., BSW co., the Al-harir factory for potato chips, the Maatouq ice cream factory, the Ali Al-Wadi factory, and the warehouses of the Bidco co.

The Israeli artillery bombardment on Thursday evening, May 20, destroyed or damaged 13 factories in the industrial zone, including the Siksik factory, the Coca-Cola factory, the Dallol factory, and other factories for wood and cleaning materials.

The artillery shelling contributed to the expansion of the fires, which fed on plastic and wood products inside the targeted factories and complicated the efforts to put them down, which took hours.

Head of the Businessmen Association in Gaza, Ali Al-Hayek, told Euro-Med Monitor that it is difficult at this stage to calculate the number of destroyed or damaged factories and establishments, or to estimate the extent of their losses.

No less than 50 factories, in addition to dozens of shops and other facilities, were completely or partially destroyed due to the continuous Israeli bombing operations, he said.

He stated that there are indirect damages caused by the military attack, including those caused by the state of closure and power cuts.

Verifying the damage inflicted on many economic establishments has been unattainable as these facilities are hard to reach and located in dangerous areas.

The economic sector has already been suffering difficult conditions due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, Israeli blockade, and attacks on Gaza.

The destruction and disruption of factories and economic establishments have pushed thousands into unemployment, which is already sky-rocketing high with a rate of about %49 in the Gaza Strip. This rate increases among youth and graduates to more than %67 due to the ongoing Israeli blockade for nearly 15 years.

• Damages to the agricultural sector

The Israeli military attack has led to vast damages to the agricultural sector, especially agricultural lands and facilities that were bombed and destroyed with hundreds of air and artillery raids.

In addition to the damage caused by the direct bombardment, the emergency inflicted huge losses on hundreds of acres of farms since farmers were unable to maintain them during the days of the attack.

The damages included direct damage to the lands planted with vegetables and fruits, total and partial destruction of agricultural facilities and infrastructure (such as irrigation pipeline networks, wells, water tanks and nurseries).

In addition, severe damages were caused to wheat fields, poultry and cow farms since farmers were unable to maintain them or market their products. Many farmers who had to reach their farms were targeted and killed or injured.

The daily losses of vegetable products and fish that were not exported because of the closure of the border crossings were estimated at half a million dollars.

The Israeli bombing of the warehouses of the Khudair Pharmaceuticals and Agricultural Tools Company in the Beit Lahia area in the northern Gaza Strip caused huge losses estimated at millions. The bombing and fire destroyed the company's headquarters and warehouses.

- **Damages to the fishing sector**

Since the beginning of the offensive, the Israeli army has closed the sea to fishermen, depriving more than 4,000 fishermen of their livelihood. The Israeli warplanes targeted several fishing boats during the attack.

On May 25, the Israeli authorities reopened the sea to fishermen, but only for six nautical miles, instead of the 15 miles before the attack.

Sixth: The worsening humanitarian situation

The Israeli military attack led to a serious deterioration of the humanitarian situation inside the Gaza Strip, as it caused almost complete disruption of life and production, which had serious repercussions, especially for vulnerable groups who depend on providing their families with daily paid jobs.

The intense bombardment, which caused the destruction of hundreds of homes and service facilities, greatly affected electricity, water supplies and sanitation services in many neighborhoods, and portends serious health and environmental repercussions.

During the Israeli attack, tons of waste were accumulated in the Gaza Strip due to the emergency and the risks accompanied in transporting them to the central waste dump in eastern Gaza, as this area is dangerous because of its proximity to the border fence.

Seventh: Mass displacement

As a result of the Israeli artillery shelling and the demolition and bombing of homes and due to fears of ground invasion, about 120,000 Palestinians were forced to flee from their homes to neighborhoods far from the border. The peak of the mass displacement came on May 15. According to Euro-Med Monitor's follow-up, about 50,000 Palestinians resided in 51 shelter

centers set up in north Gaza, central and Rafah governorates, receiving only initial aid from local initiatives that did not meet their minimum needs. In addition, the unsuitable conditions in which they live, such as the lack of water and health services, increased the risks of transmitting COVID19-, which is spreading rapidly in the Gaza Strip.

About 70,000 others took refuge in the homes of their relatives or friends in areas they believe to be safer. However, in some cases, many were killed where they sought refuge like the Al-Hadidi family, who sought refuge at their relatives home in the Al-Shati refugee camp. The home was destroyed with its residents inside and whole family members were killed, except for a five-month-old child.

Eighth: Israeli violations of international humanitarian law during the military offensive

During the 11 days of the military attack on the Gaza Strip, the Israeli forces committed systematic violations of the rules of international humanitarian law and breached Israel's obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and international norms, which all indicate that harming civilians in armed conflicts is a grave violation and war crime.

In addition to committing violations amounting to war crimes such as willful killing of civilians, targeting civilian objects, indiscriminate bombing and forced displacement, the Israeli forces violated the following principles:

- **The principle of distinction**

The Israeli forces systematically violated the principle of distinction during their attack on the Gaza Strip, as they did not distinguish between civilians and members of Palestinian armed factions. It did not differentiate between combatant and non-combatant members of the Palestinian factions.

The Israeli forces deliberately bombed civilian houses, facilities and gatherings, inflicting dozens of deaths, and hundreds of injuries. They also used weapons, including artillery shells that fell indiscriminately on civilian homes, causing casualties and severe material damage.

- **The principle of proportionality**

Israeli forces used excessive force and intense firepower in the densely populated enclave; including simultaneous air, land and naval raids; large-sized bombs and various types of projectiles with enormous destructive capabilities.

These weapons have caused massive destruction and killed dozens, including entire families who were exterminated without any justification.

- **The principle of military necessity**

The Israeli forces resorted to the systematic destruction and targeting of homes and civilian facilities without any military necessity. The destruction of towers and the bombing of homes with their residents inside, are examples of blatant violations that may amount to war crimes.

- **Special protection in armed conflict**

This was represented in targeting health facilities, injuring several medical personnel during their work, as well as impeding the work of ambulance crews.

- **Collective punishment**

At the beginning of the attack on Gaza, the Israeli forces closed the Beit Hanoun/Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings, preventing the travel of patients, and the arrival of goods and fuel, and closed the sea for fishermen to tighten the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip since 2006.

The Israeli bombardment came within the framework of collective

punishment, as they targeted the homes of the families of fallen military activists and destroyed infrastructure. These actions constitute as violations of the Geneva Convention, in particular Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Conclusion and recommendations

Conclusion

In light of this comprehensive presentation of the effects of the Israeli military attack on the Gaza Strip for 11 days, it appears that the Israeli forces:

- * committed crimes that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, such as willful killing; indiscriminate bombing; targeting of civilian objects; excessive incidental loss of life, injury and damage, and collective punishment.

- * massively violated the rules of international humanitarian law, by failing to abide by the principles of distinction and proportionality, military necessity, special protection, and collective punishment, and carrying out attacks for the purposes of collective punishment.

Recommendations:

Based on the contents of this report, Euro-Med Monitor recommends the following:

- The ICC must include the practices committed by Israel in the investigations it recently decided to conduct into previous violations, and work seriously to hold Israeli leaders and soldiers accountable and not allow them to enjoy impunity.

- Adequate compensation for the destroyed and damaged civilian establishments must be guaranteed in a way that ensures the resumption of their work after the disruption.
- The EU must activate all tools of pressure on Israel to stop its continuous violations, including its attacks in East Jerusalem and its attempt to impose a fait accompli by force in favor of the Judaization and displacement of Jerusalemites in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan, which are permanent factors of tension in all Palestinian territories.
- The international community must assume its moral and legal responsibilities and achieve accountability and fairness, to ensure that Israel is held accountable for the crimes it has committed, and that the Palestinians receive protection and justice.
- Immediately work to end the blockade on Gaza and lift the collective punishment from the population and ensure the reconstruction process is provided with sufficient funding, while securing urgent support to help families facing difficulties resulting from the attack.



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