

# **AL MEZAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**





Photo: Journalist/ Mohammad Al-Baba

# A SPECIAL REPORT ON ISRAEL'S RESTRICTIONS ON PALESTINIAN RIGHT OF MOVEMENT AT RAFAH CROSSING

GAZA, 8 February 2003



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#### AL MEZAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: A Brief Preview

**Al Mezan Center for Human Rights** is a Palestinian Non-governmental non-partisan organization with its HQ based in the refugee camp of Jabalia. Al Mezan's mandate might be précised as follows:

"to promote, protect and prevent violations of human rights in general and ESC rights in particular, to provide efficient aid to those victims of such violations, and to enhance, substantially, the quality of life for the marginalized sectors of the Gaza Strip community.

Aims: As these conditions worsen, the need for constructive sustained action to prevent the collapse of Palestinian society altogether becomes even more urgent. The Mission of the Mezan Center for Human Rights, based in the Jabaliya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, is to work to provide a secure and long-lasting foundation for the provision of human rights on all levels. While al-Mezan must confront the daily violations of political rights especially given the current international situation, its long term aim is to encourage and develop economic, social, and cultural rights (ESC). It acts not only as a monitoring and documentation center for rights abuses, but perhaps even more importantly, as a vehicle through which legal aid and advocacy, fieldwork, education and consciousness-raising on such fundamental issues as basic human rights, democracy, and international humanitarian law takes place on a daily basis.

Focus Groups & Organization: Al-Mezan targets all levels of society including the most marginalized groups (women, children, the elderly, the disabled, the unemployed) through a series of thoughtfully focused public lectures and seminars, training sessions, and open debate and consensus-building forums. It provides free legal aid and advice for all members of the community, individually and collectively, and has full-time fieldworkers living in each of the major regions within the Gaza Strip who are therefore able to establish important personal contacts and networks while providing essential documentation of daily rights violations which is then made available at the Center's main office. In addition to these key activities, Al-Mezan works with numerous NGOs and international rights organizations in order to encourage the broadest possible cooperation both within and outside of the OPTs.

It is indeed no exaggeration to say that the future of Palestinian civil society depends on the efforts and success of organizations such as Al-Mezan especially in such critical times as these.

4. Structural Outline & Contact Information: Al-Mezan has four key units and a library that is currently being expanded. Each unit consists of a unit coordinator and qualified, professional staff members. Unit descriptions and goals are described below.

### a. Monitoring and Documentation (fieldwork) Unit

This unit aims to monitor and document human rights violations in the OPTs, whatever the party of violation is. The unit's focus shifted towards civil and political rights owing to the massive Israeli violations of these rights since the beginning of the al- Aqsa Intifada. However, its principle aim is to focus on economic, social, and cultural rights.

The role of this unit is crucial for the other units, which base their programs on the information it provides. The Fieldwork Unit monitors human rights violations according to scientific standards so that they can be used in the Center's reports and studies. The Fieldwork Unit keeps close, day-to-day communication with the local community and NGOs.

#### b. Legal Aid Unit

One of the most effective ways Al-Mezan promotes human rights in the OPTS is by providing legal aid and advice for individuals or groups whose rights have been violated. Legal aid and advice are free for anyone requiring these services. Under normal circumstances, the unit concentrates on aiding victims of ESC rights violations, especially among the most marginalized groups in the Palestinian community.



Additionally, the Legal Aid Unit aims to help establish a legal system that respects human rights standards and upholds democratic principles consistent with the rule of law and the separation of powers. To achieve this purpose, the unit keeps in continuous contact with the Palestinian Legislative Council and follows up all draft laws in order to assure they comply with human rights standards.

The unit aims at raising legal consciousness, especially among lawyers who are expected to carry out an active role in the protection of human rights. To this end, the unit conducts an annual six-month training course for lawyers.

### c. Training and Mass Communication Unit

Training is one of the most effective and necessary ways Al-Mezan can promote human rights and democracy in the OPTs. This unit aims to raise human rights awareness among all Palestinians, particularly marginalized groups such as refugees, women, children, and the disabled. By making people more aware of their fundamental rights, Al-Mezan can promote grassroots democratic values and the demand that these rights be upheld.

The unit conducts free training courses, lectures, seminars and workshops on ESC rights. Palestinian scholars and activists, together with the Center's professional staff, are invited to take part in these activities. The unit also supervises 'Pass the Word' program, in which university students raise their fellows' awareness after the unit equips them with the necessary knowledge and tools.

The 'Face the Public' program designed and supervised by the unit, further addresses ESC rights issues. Through this program, 'Face the Public' facilitators offer Palestinian citizens the chance to meet directly with officials to discuss their problems and needs. By creating a basis for popular accountability, Al-Mezan hopes gradually to improve Palestinian living conditions.

The Training and Mass Communication Unit is also concerned with public relations and works with local, national, and international organizations and media in this regard.

### d. Technical Assistance and Advocacy Unit

The Technical Assistance and Advocacy Unit's mission is twofold. First, the unit aims to conduct scientific research on ESC rights in the OPTs and to prepare reports accordingly. Secondly, the unit will follow up the results of its studies through various channels. It hopes to make its findings available to individuals and organizations both nationally and internationally.

The 'Budget Analysis Project' supervised by the unit is a unique tool meant to assure better rights-related services in the OPTs. This project aims to analyze the Palestinian Authority's budget from a human rights perspective and to assess budget allocation in accordance with community needs and priorities. Through advocacy and in cooperation with scholars, NGOs, and activists, the unit seeks to change the PA's policies regarding education, health care, housing, etc.

#### e. Documents Library

The Center is developing a human rights library that will be used as an information center for Al-Mezan staff, researchers, students, and the public. The library contains numerous national, regional and international law texts, and primary and secondary sources relating to international law, human rights, democracy, development, and socio-economic issues, including studies related to women. These sources will be available in both Arabic and English.



### INTRODUCTION

Since its occupation of the Palestinian Occupied Territories (OPT)- in the aftermath of Israel's Six-Day-War in 1967- Israel has systematically violated the human rights of the Palestinian population of these territories, breaching its obligations under international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. In 1993 the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Government of Israel signed the Oslo Agreement, which required that Israel redeploy [move out from city centers, but remain near settlements and other 'strategic' locations] its forces in the OPT. Israel pulled out from the major towns and refugee camps, but kept its control over the majority of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. In addition, Israel's control of borders, crossing points, and other areas, continued.

A final-status was due to be reached within five years after the signing of the agreement. Palestinians hoped that the negotiations would lead them to an independent state in the OPT. However the negotiations took much longer than this and hope for the desired result began to diminish. It was widely believed among Palestinians that Israel was not serious and rather was trying to extend its period of control in the OPT. Meanwhile, the economic and social conditions in the Palestinian territories were deteriorated as the rates of unemployment and poverty increased, particularly in the densely-populated Gaza Strip.

On 28 September 2000, Ariel Sharon, the leader of Israeli opposition then, visited the Al Aqsa Mosque, the most important Islamic site in the OPT. Palestinians protested in Jerusalem and within the next day Israeli forces killed five Palestinians at the Mosque. Palestinian protests increased in the following days, which began the Al Aqsa *Intifada* (uprising). Israel's violations increased to a great extent and the crimes committed by the IOF became more frequent and ruthless. The IOF used a variety of collective punishment procedures to deter Palestinians. For twenty-eight months the OPT was under a comprehensive siege restricting people's movement and making daily life very difficult. Systematically the army destroyed homes, uprooted trees and bulldozed agricultural land. Educational, religious and economic establishments were also, wantonly, targeted. Worse than that, tens of thousands of Palestinians were killed or wounded due to the excessive and lethal force used against them.

Israel has systematically been violating Palestinians human rights since its occupation of the OPT. Nevertheless, its crimes against Palestinian civilians and their property increased since the outbreak of the Al Aqsa *Intifada*. As a result of various collective punishment procedures taken by the IOF in twenty-eight months of the *Intifada*, tens of thousands of Palestinians were killed and wounded. The IOF demolished thousands of homes, razed large areas of cultivated land, and destroyed and ruined water wells. In addition, a comprehensive siege was imposed, both around and inside the OPT, since 9 October 2000, affecting all aspects of civilian life.

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights reported the outrageous impacts of the siege and closure imposed on the Palestinian territories in previous reports. This report aims to draw more attention to



the suffering of Palestinian civilians as a result of the procedures employed by Israel at the Rafah Crossing Point (RCP); the only outlet to the outside world in the Gaza Strip, and which is subject to frequent Israeli closures. The report was developed in the light of the substantial documentation of Israeli procedures in the Crossing Point by Al Mezan. It provides a general background on the Gaza Strip in terms of location, population and border crossing points.

#### 1. THE GAZA STRIP, BACKGROUND

The Gaza Strip is a narrow, rectangular area located on the Mediterranean. It is located in the south of Palestine and occupies an area of 365 sq/km. It is about 45 km long, and 7.5 km across in the north, and 12 km across in the south. There are five Palestinian Districts/Governorates in the Gaza Strip: Gaza North District, Gaza District, Middle District, Khan Yunis District and Rafah District. Gaza will be populated with around 1,300,000 people by the end of 2021. It is a well-known fact that the Gaza Strip is one of the most densely-populated areas in the world<sup>2</sup>, and that the birth-rate is indeed the highest in the world.<sup>3</sup>

### 1.1 BORDER CROSSING POINTS AROUND GAZA:

There are five crossing points around the Gaza Strip; four of them are between Gaza and Israel. Palestinians were permitted to use three crossing points for travel, one was used for trade only, and another was only for trade and workers. Following is brief detail on each point:

- RAFAH/AL-AWDA CROSSING (RCP): Located in the south of Rafah on the border with Egypt. This crossing is the only one that does not lead to Israel in the Gaza Strip. There used to be two sections in this crossing, one is for passengers and the other is for trade. Israel closed the latter since the beginning of the *Intifada*.
- **SOFA CROSSING:** Located in the east of Rafah on the border with Israel, this crossing is used for trade, especially construction materials, and workers who enter Israel on a daily basis. On 9 October 2000, the IOF closed this crossing. It is still closed.
- AL MUNTAR/CARNI CROSSING: This is the main trade crossing in the Gaza Strip. It is located in the east of Gaza City, and has been closed since 9 October 2000.
- **BEIT HANUN/EREZ CROSSING**: The biggest crossing in the Gaza Strip, hosting passage for workers, travelers, trade, and the safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank<sup>4</sup>. It is

<sup>1</sup> According to the estimates of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Counting, 2000.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The *CIA World Factbook 2001* indicates that the population density of the Gaza Strip is 3273 persons per square kilometer. This can be compared, for instance, to Israel where there are 286 persons per square kilometer. The CIA Handbook describes the Gaza Strip as the sixth most densely-populated place in the world, after Macau, Monaco, Singapore, Hong Kong and Gibraltar. See Geo.Hive.com, http://212.204.253.230/charts/pop\_density.php

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The fertility rate in Gaza was quoted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics Population, Housing and Establishment Census 1997 as 6.8. The fertility rate for the Gaza Strip generally is deemed to be the highest in the world. See Pocket Book of Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Population, Housing and Establishment Census, 1997, January 2000, Ramallah, Palestine.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> According to the agreements between the Palestinian Authority and Israel a safe passage road was opened between Gaza and the West Bank in October 23, 1999. It was closed in October 9, 2000.



located in the north of the Strip. Traveler passage has been prohibited since 9 October 2000. Only diplomats, foreigners and a few thousand workers are permitted to enter Israel from this passage.

- GAZA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (GIA): Located in the southeast of Rafah, south of the Gaza Strip, (GIA) was the only airport in the OPT. The airport was closed, and has been destroyed several times over by the IOF since 9 October 2000. Planes were allowed to use it for a few days sometimes. However, on 6 February 2001, IOF prevented any planes from using it. It is still closed until this day.

Among these five crossing points, RCP is the only outlet for Palestinians who wish to travel abroad.

RCP is located on the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. Since its establishment on 25 April 1982, about three years after the Camp David Agreement between Egypt and Israel, the crossing has been operated by Israel. Before this date, another crossing point was located in the town of Al Areesh, north of Sinai. Israel allowed humanitarian cases to cross to Egypt in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In late 1993, after the Oslo Agreement was signed by the PLO and the Government of Israel, the crossing point was reorganized to allow common Palestinian-Israeli supervision. In August 1994 the Palestinian flag was inside the crossing and a small Palestinian staff worked in it. Three months later, there was a Palestinian administration working under the provisions of the Cairo Agreement.

### 1.2 THE MANAGEMENT IN RCP:

According to the Cairo Agreement between the PA and Israel, Israel kept absolute control over the security in the RCP. The PA has partial supervision in it. Article 10.b of the agreement states that (1) "Israel takes complete responsibility for the entire point, including the security of the point" (2) "an Israeli General Director takes the responsibility of the management and security of the point" (3) "the General Director has two deputy directors; one of them is Israeli who will be administer the Israeli part. Israeli responsibility is limited to the Israeli part of the point".

Under the same agreement, the Israeli administration can prohibit the passage of those Palestinians who do not permanently live in the OPT. All of the passengers pass an Israeli monitor before they reach the Palestinian part, and Israeli staff grants or denies permission for their passage. Under Article 10(f) of the Cairo Agreement "in the Palestinian part of the point each party has the authority to prevent the passage of persons who do not live in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank"; and the Israeli party is capable of verifying the identification of the Palestinians who live in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, as well, under paragraph (d)1 of the Agreement, which provides "the first passage is used by the Palestinians residing the Gaza Strip and Jericho. These passengers have to pass a Palestinian monitor to verify their identification and an Israeli officer indirectly verifies their identification from behind a window".

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Referring to Rafah Crossing Point.



Moreover, Israel is authorized to detain and question the Palestinian travelers who are residing the OPT and must inform the Palestinian party later. Article 10(e) provides that "in case of suspecting a passenger... each party may question him/her inside the investigation area at his part in the point," and by the end of the same Article, Israel keeps its right to arrest any suspect. "Had the suspicion not proved false by the end of the questioning, the suspect may be arrested after informing the other party. In case that the Israeli party makes the arrest, a Palestinian police officer is invited to meet with the suspect." As indicated in these texts, Israel kept full control over RCP, while the Palestinian party has a few administration responsibilities, but without any decisive authority. In spite of this fact, Israel stopped the work by the Agreement since the outbreak of the Al Aqsa Intifada. The Palestinian staff was not allowed in the RCP, except for eight workers and three drivers, and after personal search only, on 7 July 2001. The Israelis took entire control over the passage.

### 1.3 PASSENGERS MOVEMENT IN RCP:

Since it was opened in 1982, RCP has been open 24 hours every day, all year, except for two holidays. Before 28 September 2000, between 1,200 and 1,500 people on average passed the crossing daily. In the summers the number was doubled, as Palestinians who live abroad came on vacation. However, after 28 September 2000, Israel closed all the crossing points and imposed restrictions on Palestinian movement as a collective punishment procedure. The RCP was not an exemption. It has been partially closed or, less frequently, completely closed in the face of Palestinian travelers.

On 17 January 2001 Israel prohibited the Palestinian staff entry to work in the RCP. This decision still holds until this day, except for the fact that eleven cleaners and bus drivers, in the best circumstances, have been allowed in since July 7, 2001. The Crossing has only been operating for seven hours a day, and it works in a one-way direction. This means that Palestinians are allowed to pass to Egypt for some time, and then they are allowed from Egypt for the rest of the time. According to Al- Mezan's documentation of the status of the right to freedom of movement in RCP, an average of 250 travelers use the RCP per day, compared with an average of the 1500 travelers who used it before 28 September 2000. Since 28 September 2000, Israel closed the RCP completely for 155 days and allowed the passage of those passengers who are returning from Egypt for only 27 days. The crossing was opened for pilgrims who travel to Mecca during the pilgrimage seasons 2001 and 2002 for 13 days.

Worse than that, Israel announced that Palestinians who are 16 through 35 years old would not be allowed to pass the RCP (and all the other crossing points in the OPT) on 6 January 2003, whatever the purpose of their travel was. Both men and women were included. On 9 January 2003, women were allowed to travel. It is not clear when Israel will lift the ban on men's travel.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Before 28 September 2000, the number of Palestinian personnel inside the crossing was 45, working in various departments.



#### 2. IMPACT OF THE RESTRICTIONS ON PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT:

The right to free movement is internationally recognized for all human beings without any kind of discrimination, and it should be protected, unless there are legitimate legal constraints on a certain individuals' right to movement under the law. Nevertheless, Israel has been violating Palestinians' right to free movement for a long time. As mentioned above in this report, Palestinian civilians are prohibited from free travel either for leisure or for other practical purposes such as education, trade, medical care, etc. Even those who are allowed to travel are subject to degrading Israeli treatment. Such violations of Palestinian's right to free movement resulted in violations of other basic rights such as education, health and work, especially as the OPT lacks high technologies for medicines and education. Also Palestinian's right to work and family reunification have been infringed by the Israeli procedures. The following section provides several affidavits taken from victims of Israeli violations at the RCP.

### 2.1 OUTRAGES UPON PERSONAL DIGNITY AND DEGRADING TREATMENT:

Israel's procedures and restrictions on Palestinian movement in the RCP constitute degrading treatment of civilians under occupation. In numerous occasions the closing of the crossing left hundreds of civilians waiting for long times at the Egyptian border, where there are no decent places for sleep or hygiene. Even in the cases when hundreds of Palestinians were stuck, the IOF continued to allow the same low number of passengers to go through. On January 1, 2003, about 600 people had to stay at the crossing for several nights before they were allowed in. Many of these people find themselves restricted at the Al Hikir checkpoint<sup>7</sup> in the middle of the Gaza Strip for times varied between one hour or one day after they pass in through RCP, or on their way out to travel. People are usually asked to wait for an unlimited amount of time. Many people are told they are not allowed to travel without any right to know the reasons.

#### 2.2 IMPACT ON EDUCATION:

There are thousands of Palestinians in university study abroad. In times of closure, these students are denied access in or out of the Gaza Strip. Israel's recent decision to ban Palestinians aged 16 through 35 prevented hundreds of students from joining their universities abroad, especially as the majority of these students are in this age group. Al Mezan's fieldworkers met with numerous students who were prevented from travel. One of them delivered the following affidavit:

"My name is Abdullah Rashwan and I am 20-years-old from Rafah. I was accepted in an undergraduate program at the Nasr University for Science and Technology in Egypt last year. I could not join the program due to money troubles, but managed to join the second semester early this year. I traveled to Egypt and finished the registration and returned on 3 January 2003 as the semester starts in February. I have been trying to travel again for four days. I need to travel as I should arrange

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> For grater details on this checkpoint please consult Al Mezan Center for Human Rights special report on the outrages upon personal dignity at Israeli checkpoints in the Gaza Strip



for my accommodation before the semester starts. I was shocked by the Israeli decision that Palestinians aged 16 through 35 were not allowed to travel. I go to the Rafah Crossing every day hoping that I can pass. If this procedure continues, I will not be able to join my university, and I will lose the fees that I have already paid."

Other students fear that they will be obstructed on their way back home, especially if the crossing closes when they are on the Egyptian side. Many of them fear to return so are unable to spend vacations with their families for this reason. The following statement was delivered by a student who was trying to travel and join his university:

"My name is Muhammad Abu Dhahir, 20-years-old from the refugee camp of Jabalia. I returned from Wein, Austria, after I had finished my preparatory year at 'Uniwien' University. I have been trying to get through to Egypt since 19 March 2001. Today is 25 March and I am still here. I have met numerous students who suffer the same problem. We have contacted the Palestinian department that is responsible for contacting the Israelis and asked them to intervene, but they informed us that the Israelis are preventing all humanitarian cases from travel. If this situation continues, I will miss the next semester at the university."

### 2.3 IMPACT ON CIVILIAN LIFE:

Since Israel announced its recent decision banning Palestinian travel, as mentioned above, numerous Palestinians who need medical and hospital care abroad were denied access to Egypt, so therefore, to any other country. It should be noted that these cases cannot find proper care in the Gaza Strip and that the obstruction of their travel, even for one day, could threaten their life. Al Mezan fieldworkers documented the case of Issam Anwar Akeela, aged 20, from Gaza City. Akeela suffers advanced kidney trouble and needs urgent hospital care in Egypt. He tried to travel on Thursday, 16 January but was restricted even though the Palestinian Ministry of Health contacted the Israeli administration of the crossing point and reported his humanitarian case.

On 9 January 2003, Shadi Ahmad Musallam, aged 25, was in an ambulance returning to the Gaza Strip after he had a surgery abroad. He was restricted for hours at the Israeli side. When he was finally allowed in, he was dead.

The Israeli procedures at the RCP have especially been threatening to the life of the elderly. In many cases elderly Palestinians died trying to pass. Al Mezan documented two of these cases.

Khalil Ibrahim Ahmad, aged 62, died inside the RCP on 22 October 2002, after a long period of waiting and trying to get into the Gaza Strip. On 30 June 2001, a 64-year-old woman, Fatima Muhammad ash-Shrafi, died after days of waiting at the Egyptian side of the RCP. She had to wait there because the Israelis did not allow hundreds of Palestinians to enter the Gaza Strip for several days. Ash-Shrafi died inside the RCP and was buried in Gaza.

#### 2.4 IMPACT ON PALESTINIAN RIGHT TO WORK



The unemployment rate of the Gaza Strip has now reached over 65% of the entire labor force. Only a few Palestinians were permitted to enter Israel for work while the majority of the workers who used to work in Israel or in the OPT lost their jobs. There are thousands of Palestinians who work abroad, especially in the Arab Gulf States. Those workers suffer from the Israeli procedures at the RCP every time they travel. Many of them were restricted to travel when their visas or vacation ended. Hasan Atallah Abdullah, aged 35, from Rafah delivered the following sworn statement to Al Mezan:

"I work in the United Arab Emirates and support my extended family (22 people) who live in Rafah. After two years abroad, I decided to visit my family and returned on 25 July 2002 to spend the vacation with my family. I decided to return to UAE and my flight was due on 11 January 2003. I was shocked by Israel's decision banning Palestinians between 16 and 36 travels, which means that I will be stuck in Gaza and jeopardize my job. If this decision continues, I will loose my visa in UAE, which expires on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. I am terribly worried that my family would suffer if I loose my work."

#### 2.5 IMPACT ON PALESTINIAN RIGHT TO WORSHIP

Israel's sieges on the OPT comprise violations of Palestinians' rights to worship. For example, Palestinians who live in the Gaza Strip have not been allowed to visit the Al Aqsa Mosque, East Jerusalem, since the outbreak of the current *Intifada*. Besides, Israel's most recent procedures at the RCP imposed even more constraints on Palestinians who wish to go on a pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

RCP is the only outlet for Palestinian pilgrims since the Israeli closure of the Gaza International Airport on 6 February 2001. Pilgrims have to travel to Egypt first and then to Mecca. The pilgrimage season began in February this year, so pilgrims had to leave the Gaza Strip on January 24<sup>th</sup> at the latest. About 6,000 Palestinians were due to travel to Mecca this year. Of these, Israel banned 1,600 from travel. They banned them, citing either 'security' reasons, or because they fell in the 16 through 35 years old age bracket, according to the above mentioned Israeli order. Al Mezan Center for Human Rights monitored pilgrim movement in the RCP. The following table shows the number of Palestinian pilgrims and those who were restricted from travel at the RCP:

Date	No. of pilgrims who reached RCP	No. of pilgrims banned for security claims	No. of pilgrims banned for age	No. of pilgrims who passed RCP
24 Jan. 2003	363	19	44	300
25 Jan. 2003	370	34	12	324
26 Jan. 2003	505	46	9	450
27 Jan. 2003	1,022	72	0	950
28 Jan. 2003	1,152	77	20	1,055
29 Jan. 2003	996	52	11	933



4 Feb. 2003	352	0	26	326
6 & 7 Feb. 2003	396	290	0	106
Total	5,144	590	122	4,444

Israel issued the Palestinian Authority a list of pilgrims they would not allow through the RCP if they were to reach it. The grounds on which Israel prohibited their travel was not announced. Nevertheless, numerous pilgrims whose names were not on the list were sent back to Gaza from the RCP. It should be noted that most of the pilgrims whose names were on the list cancelled their travel and try to go through the RCP. The above table mentions the number of the pilgrims who went to the point and were sent back<sup>8</sup>. Moreover, a large number of the pilgrims from the parents of Palestinian martyrs were sent back from the point<sup>9</sup>.

#### 2.6 ARRESTING PALESTINIANS AT RAFAH CROSSING

As mentioned above, Israel has abundant security advantages in the RCP. This includes detaining any 'suspects' and questioning them, and also arresting them. Israel's misuse of such authority is obvious as the IOF arbitrarily arrests Palestinian travelers at the RCP. Al Mezan recorded a significant increase in the number of Palestinians who were arrested at the RCP. The center did not find any case in which the IOF informed the victims of the reasons for the arrest. The following cases provide greater details on the detention of Palestinians at the RCP as they were documented by Al Mezan:

- 1. Imad Umar Mahmoud Qishta is a Palestinian student at the College of Aviation in Egypt. Qishta was arrested at the RCP on 19 April 2002 while he was returning to Gaza. He was released after eighteen days without any charges. He was not told of any reason behind his detention and was not taken to court.
- 2. A second recent case is the case of Umar Muhammad Abu al-Atta, an M.A. candidate in a Sudanese university. Atta was arrested on 12 January 2003 at the RCP. Atta was on his way back to the Gaza Strip when the Israeli security services arrested him. In his affidavit to Al Mezan he said that he was released on 20 January 2003 without being charged or told of any reasons behind his arrest.
- 3. In an affidavit given to Al Mezan, 53-year-old Shihadeh Abu Jazar from Rafah said: "On 1 January 2003 my son and I were on our way home returning from a medical trip in Egypt. I suffered from troubles in the retina caused by diabetes and I was referred to a hospital in Egypt by the Palestinian Ministry of Health. Once I arrived at the crossing point in Rafah, I noticed that hundreds of Palestinians were waiting at the Egyptian side. I was allowed to pass soon by the Egyptian guards due to my sickness. At the Israeli side my luggage and identification were searched, and an Israeli officer asked me to leave through a special gate. I told him that my son was with me and that I wanted

<sup>8</sup> For further details please consult Appendix A at in this report.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> A list of pilgrims who are martyrs parents and were denied access to Mecca is provided in Appendix B in this report.



to wait for him. The officer told me that I could wait. I waited from 11 am until 3 pm and nobody talked to me about my son, so I asked a Palestinian young man to try to look for him. Soon, he came back and told me my son was detained in the crossing. I kept waiting until Israeli officers came and told me I had to leave the crossing. I left in the last bus and when I reached the Palestinian side, I reported on my son's detention to Palestinian officers. I went home hoping that my son would come home, but he did not; he was arrested".

4. On 7 January 2003, 37-year-old Abdul Wahab Fayiz ash-Sharafi was on his way to Egypt with his uncle who required heart surgery there. On his way back, on 1 February 2003, ash-Sharafi was arrested in the RCP. Ash-Sharafi was traveling with his uncle because the IOF prevented his under-36 year old son from accompanying the sick uncle. Ash-Sharafi was not informed of any charges against him and he had never been arrested before that day.

### 2.7 COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT OF CIVILIANS

Israel's claims that the procedures in RCP, closing it or decreasing its working hours, are only for security reasons. Nevertheless, these claims of security are not convincing and Al Mezan believes that these procedures constitute collective punishment procedures against Palestinian civilians. Between 1982 and 1993, when the RCP was under complete Israeli control, it was always open 24 hours per day and all year.

Also, Israel kept full security control on the crossing and employed tight security precautions, including the use of high-technology equipment to search people and luggage. Smuggling any prohibited materials proved impossible for a very long time. Moreover, as mentioned above, arresting Palestinian passengers on such a scale and so arbitrarily started only after the outbreak of the current Intifada. Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority did not interfere to stop detentions and only sought the identification of the detained. What Israel intends by employing these procedures is in serious question and maintaining security does not seem the correct answer. Israeli citizens do not travel through RCP, and the crossing area is well-protected by the Israeli army who has fired at many Palestinian cars and individuals in the area in the past. In his affidavit to Al Mezan, Muhammad Jihad Abdul Fatah Abu Umar said that the IOF opened fire on his family while they were in a car waiting for the crossing to open in the early morning hours. The family had to leave their mid-Gaza Strip home in the Al Maghazi Refugee Camp early in the day to ensure that they would arrive in Rafah on time, otherwise they would not be able to travel. Abu Umar was wounded from Israeli fire on 8 May 2002 and could not travel. Al Mezan believes that the Israeli procedures in Rafah Crossing aim at punishing the Palestinian population collectively and not to ensure the security for its troops and citizens.

### 3. STANDING OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

In light of Israel's 35-year occupation of the West Bank, which includes East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, Israel, as an occupying power, is obliged to observe the provisions of two instruments: the 1907 Hague Regulations and the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons



in Time of War from 1949. Regarding the former, despite the fact that Israel has not ratified the Regulations, Israeli High Court jurisprudence affirms that they are binding upon Israel as customary international law. 10

As far as the Fourth Geneva Convention is concerned, Israel has advanced many legal arguments to the effect that this is not binding upon Israel. Such arguments have been discussed at length elsewhere11. It is reasonable to contend that the entire international community, the UN Security Council, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, puts forth the view that the Fourth Geneva Convention is applicable to Israel's occupation. Furthermore, a conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, which took place in Geneva in July 1999 (boycotted by Israel), reaffirmed the applicability of the Convention to Israel. 12 The statement of common understanding which was adopted by the High Contracting Parties "reaffirmed the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem," and "the need for full respect for the provisions of the said Convention in that Territory." Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions requires High Contracting Parties, "to respect and to ensure respect for the present Convention in all circumstances," a requirement that includes the duty to endeavor to bring another High Contracting party to respect the Geneva Conventions when it is responsible for breaches.

On the basis that the Fourth Geneva Convention is without doubt applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, civilians have the status of "protected persons." The same Convention prohibits the collective punishment of civilians. Article 3(1) of the Convention provides that each contracting Party undertakes to treat civilians and non-combatants humanely and without any adverse distinction in all circumstances. The same Article states that certain acts shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever, and these acts include, *inter alia*, "outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment." Article 21 in the same Convention establishes for respect and protection of vehicles conveying wounded and sick civilians and the maternity cases. Moreover, Article 33 states that no protected person shall be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed. Also, collective penalty is prohibited under the same Article. The High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention are under obligation to search for persons who have ordered or committed grave breaches, as described in the Convention, and to bring them before its own courts.

This report indicates that Israel has systematically violated its obligations under the principles of international humanitarian law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention. The international community holds the responsibility to fulfill its obligations and ensure respect for the Convention in the OPT.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See Suleiman Tawfiq Ayyub et al. v Minister of Defense et al, Israeli High Court Judgment 606/78 at 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> See Roberts, "Prolonged Military Occupation," in Playfair (ed) *Administration of Occupied Territories* (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1999).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The UN General Assembly resolution calling for the meeting of the High Contracting Parties was adopted by a vote of 115 in favour with two (Israel and the USA) against and five abstentions.



#### 4. APPLICABLE HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS:

Notwithstanding the application of humanitarian law to the OPT, human rights standards also apply. Human rights law and humanitarian law are distinct, but nevertheless, interrelated bodies of law. <sup>13</sup> Israel ratified most of the human rights conventions, and, hence, undertook the responsibility to respect Human Rights Law. As such Israel must respect human rights standards in all the areas of its jurisdiction, which includes all of the West Bank and Gaza because Israeli occupation and control remain to this day, in spite of the existence of the Palestinian Authority inside Area A. All of the occupied territories are under Israeli jurisdiction and human rights standards are applicable to them. <sup>14</sup>

Applicable human rights standards include those set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 12 of which sets out the right to freedom of movement and travel. Article 12(2) states that "Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own." By way of Article 2 in the same Covenant, States Parties to the Covenant undertake to respect and ensure all individuals (without any kind of distinction) within their jurisdiction, the rights, all the rights, in the Covenant. This also mandates integrity for human rights, i.e. the fact that human rights are integrated and non-divisible.

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights views the Israeli practices in the RCP as infringements of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, particularly to Article 12, which mandates the right to freedom of movement and travel, and Article 6 which requires respect for humanitarian law, "even in time of public emergency which threatens the life of the nation."

Israel's restriction of Palestinian pilgrims' access to Mecca is a violation of Article 18 in the same Covenant, which mandates the right to thought and practice of religion. Also applicable to the case of Israel's restrictions in the RCP is Article 13 in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESC), which provides that States Parties to the Covenant undertake to respect the right to education. "Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all...," the same article proceeds. It is clear that the IOF has committed, and continues to commit, violations at RCP against Palestinians' right to education, as laid out above in this report. Finally, Article 6 of the ICESC mandates the right to work, also violated by IOF procedures in RCP.

The reality of Israel's violations of human rights in the OPT necessitates all United Nations human rights bodies, particularly the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council, the States Parties to the ICCPR and ICESC, and human rights organizations, to hold Israel accountable for serious breaches of its obligations. These bodies are obliged, by Human Rights Law, to ensure respect and protection for Palestinian human rights. Al Mezan believes the international community's intervention to end Israel's violations is most urgent now in order to enable Palestinians to practice their rights, which are internationally recognized as legitimate.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Al Mezan Center for Human Rights and the Arab Committee for Human Rights Report, "One of Our Greatest Successes," by Angela Gaff.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> "Human Rights Culture- Universality of Principles and Means of Inheriting," a group of lectures and workshops organized by the Middle East Council of Churches, given by Issam Younis.



#### CONCLUSION

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights considers Israel's practices in the RCP as a source of suffering to the civilian population of the OPT. The prohibition and restriction of Palestinian movement and travel constitute an apartheid-like oppression and degradation, which contradicts Israel's claim of undertaking a peaceful approach with its neighbors. The affidavits and testimonies above prove that the Israeli occupation uses racist procedures and discrimination against Palestinian civilians, although Israel presents itself as a democracy to the international community.

Al Mezan sees that Israel's procedures in the RCP constitute only part of its massive violations of human rights, in contravention to its obligations under the Human Rights Law and the Humanitarian Law, especially those pursuant to its ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Israel's constant and continuing violations constitute disregard of the Human Rights Law and standards.

The Center emphasizes that Israel's acts in the RCP are alarming indicators of possible further violations and highlights the fact that Israel's violations are in part allowed by the international community's tendency to address the Israeli occupation and Palestinian rights from a political perspective, which contravenes their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

As such, and in light of the facts this report puts forth, Al Mezan undertakes an urgent appeal to the international community to intervene immediately in order to protect the civilian population and ensure Israel's respect for its obligations under human rights law and the Fourth Geneva Convention, especially bringing those who ordered or perpetrated war crimes, to justice. It is also the international community's responsibility to enforce United Nations resolutions in relation to the Palestinian cause, and to stop allowing Israel to act as if it were a state above the law, which undermines the legitimacy of the United Nations and perpetuates a double standard regarding the implementation of UN Resolutions.

### **APPENDIX**

I. A table that lists the names of Palestinian pilgrims who were denied access to

Mecca by the Israeli Occupation Forces

### Name

- 1. Ihab Abdul Khaliq Tafish
- 2. Iman Arafat Ahmad
- 3. Ayman Ahmad al-Kurd
- 4. Ayman Yusif an-Najar
- 5. Amal Shihdeh Najar
- 6. Ameen Muhammad Nufal
- 7. Amal Ahmad Msallam

- 8. Amal Muhammad an-Na'ami
- 9. Amna Madi al-Bana
- Amna Mahmud Mitliq
- 11. Amna Abdul Wahab al Masri
- 12. Anwar Uthman Dahruj
- 13. Insaf Hamdan Najar
- 14. Asia Sulaiman Iqdeeh
- 15. Asmaa Hamdi Matar



16.	Asmaa Shihdeh Tayib	76.	Hatim Sulaiman Abu Museeb
17.	Ismail Abu M'iliq	77.	Khadir Muhammad Afana
18.	Asmihan Rajab Abu Samra	78.	Haydar Sulaiman Hammad
19.	Ismail Jabir Ijlis	79.	Hussain Ismail Syam
20.	Is'af Ijlis Dalul	80.	Hussain Muhammad al-Baz
21.	l'timad Ata al-Qadi	81.	Hikmat Muhammad Basous
22.	Badee'a Muhammad Safadi	82.	Khalil Umar Bal'awi
23.	Jamal Ahmad Dababish	83.	Khalil Ja'far Hajaj
24.	Jad Fayiz Bahar	84.	Khamis Ribhi Badawi
25.	Ghalyeh Abid Khudari	85.	Kahlil Khamis ad-Dayeh
26.	Jihan Muhammad Ahmad	86.	Hussain Jum'a Bakhit
27.	Jawahir Ibrahim Azizeh	87.	Hussain Ibrahim Duwidar
28.	Jum'a Sha'ban Yunis	88.	Tariq Amir as-Sa'afin
29.	Jamal Talab al-Gharawli	89.	Tariq Ahlii as-sa aliii Tariq Abdul Aziz al-Buji
30.	Jamal Muhammad al-Hun	90.	Yasir Abid Abu Zayid
31.	Junoub Sulaiman al-Jilawi	90. 91.	Yusif Abdu Hadi as-Saifi
31. 32.		91.	Kamil Zuhdi Kamil
33.	Dyab Issa Radi Dunia Naeem Sharaf	93.	Kamil Saeed Hasaballah
		93. 94.	
34.	Dalal Khalil al-Ghul Hala Khamis Ghannam	94. 95.	Naeem Muhammad Khadir
35.			Kamil Muhammad Radi
36.	Hashim Abdul Qadir Abu Hashim	96.	Labiba Salim Abu Sha'ban
37.	Ibrahim Muhammad Bulbul	97.	Mazin Jum'a al-Ghul
38.	Ibrahim Fathi Nadeem	98.	Mazin Jum'a al-Rafat
39.	Ahmad Hasan Sadra	99.	Mazin Faisal Barbakh
40.	Ahmad Daif Abu Samahdana	100.	Muhammad Salameh Ghawanmeh
41.	Ahmad Ramadan Abdullah	101.	•
42.	Ahmad Ali Haydar	102.	Muhammad Saeed Libad
43.	Ahmad al-Abid al-Kurd	103.	Muhammad Ahmad Libad
44.	Ahmad Abdul Majeed Akasha	104.	Muhammad Ahmad al-Louh
45.	Ahmad Musa Sukar	105.	Muhammad Ahmad Msabeh
46.	Ayman Yusif Hijazi	106.	Muhammad Sha'ban al-Qirim
47.	Akram Hussain Abu Khalid	107.	Muhammad Malahi Ishbeer
48.	Iman Ahmad Abu Naja	108.	
49.	Iman Ahmad Dhafir	109.	
50.	Amal Jabir Ismail	110.	• •
51.	Usama Ahmad Shahin	111.	
52.	Ismail Udeh al-Qudiri	112.	Muhammad Ahmad Abu Shamaleh
53.	Ismail Abdullah Ulwan	113.	Muhammad Radwan Abu Sha'ban
54.	Ismail Muhammad Aqil	114.	Muhammad Udeh Agha
55.	Ismail Mahmud Safadi	115.	Muhammad Ali Darwish
56.	As'ad Muhammad Dawud	116.	Muhammad Ibrahim Habib
57.	As'ad Musbah Ashur	117.	Muhammad Ja'far Hasanain
58.	As'ad Humus Arbeed	118.	Muhammad Ismail Bursh
59.	Jabir Muhammad Qishta	119.	Muhammad Abdullah Najar
60.	Jabir Khalil Abu Louz	120.	Muhammad Muhammad Uwaini
61.	Jabir Ahmad Abdullah	121.	Muhammad Sulaiman Attar
62.	Jabir Salman Eid	122.	Muhammad Abdul Majeed Issa
63.	Judeh Humus Nasr	123.	Muhammad Udeh Shabat
64.	Jamal Salim Haboush	124.	Muhammad Saeed al-Masri
65.	Ghasan Hashim Iskaik	125.	Mahmud Salim Abu Mustafa
66.	Ja'far Shakir Shahin	126.	Mahmud Ali Jahjuh
67.	Dawud Abdul Fatah Hasan	127.	Mahmud Ali al-Yazuri
68.	Hani Jabir Abu Hani	128.	Mahmud Ahmad Rusrus
69.	Jamal Abdullah Taramsi	129.	Mahmud zayid ash-Shurafa
70.	Wafi Salim Asaliyeh	130.	Muhsin Yusif ash-Shurafa
71.	Zahir Abid Shurafa	131.	Muneer Muhammad al-Jalees
72	Zuheer Mahmud Ahu Na'na'	132	

72.

73.

74.

75.

Zuheer Mahmud Abu Na'na'

Zyad Ibrahim Abu Abduh

Khalid Musa ar-Ryati

Khalid Abdullah Abu Talha

135. Marwan Abdul Wahab al-Assar

133. Mu'awad Saeed aj-Jirbeh134. Marwan Atyeh at-Tibi

132. Basheer Ali Mihriz



136.	Mirshid Muhammad Abu Hajhuj	196.	Nabeel Ya'qoub Hamatu
137.	Naji Antar al-Agha	197.	
138.	,	198.	Naeem Ahmad Khadir
139.	Muhammad Abdullah Abu Hashish	199.	Nasir Subhi 'Ar'eer
140.	Muhammad Hasan Wadi	200.	
141.	Muhammad Salih Khudari	201.	
142.	Muhammad Mahmud Libad	202.	Sulaiman Isleem al-Qadi
143.	Muhammad Ahmad Abdul Hadi	203.	Salman Sulaiman Abu Aziz
144.	Muhammad Hasan Abdul Al	204.	Samih Ahmad al-'Amudi
144. 145.		204.	Nafith Mdriris Abu Uakal
145. 146.	Muna Abdul Majeed Hamatu	205.	
	Ibrahim Abid Abu Zaid		
147.		207.	
148.		208.	
149.		209.	
150.	,	210.	•
151.		211.	
152.	,	212.	,
153.	Khadijeh Mustafa Jibreel	213.	,
154.	Husni Awad al-Laham	214.	'Adil Muhammad Abu Khudiar
155.	Khalil Ibrahim Hamudeh	215.	
156.	Hilmi Mansour Qishta	216.	Abdul Basit Udeh Abdul Hadi
157.	Hifsa Mahdi al-Farra	217.	Abdul Hadi Muhammad an-Namruti
158.	Yasir Amir Adasi	218.	Abdul Halim Muhammad Abu Hasna
159.	Kamil Hamdan Madi	219.	Abdul Hamid Jum'a al-Aileh
160.	Muhammad Khalil Abu Hashim	220.	Abdul Karim Muhammad ash-Sharafi
161.	Muhammad Zeidan Abu Zuhri	221.	Abdul Salam Abdul Majid Abu Nada
162.	Muhammad Sulaiman Abu Aziz	222.	
163.	Muhammad Mahmud Daloul	223.	Abdul Salam Yusif Daloul
164.	Muhammad Abdul Qadir al-Agad	224.	
165.	Muhammad Sha'ban Abu Tabeekh	225.	
166.	Mahmud Ibrahim Basaleh	226.	Abdul Rahman Talib az-Zatmeh
167.	Mahmud Khalil Mihsin	227.	Abdullah Salman Abu Hasira
168.	Mustafa Zayid Wafi	228.	Abdulla Salim Shurab
169.	Nafith Ahmad Taluli	229.	
170.		230.	
171.		231.	
172.	•	232.	Issa Musa Ahil
173.	Naeem Muhammad Abu Khamash	233.	Issa Abdul Rahim Abdul Hadi
174.	Sumaya Hamid Nufal	234.	'Ala' Jihad al-Whisi
175.	•	235.	Ali Hasan Abu Sa'da
175. 176.		236.	
170.		230.	, i
178. 179.	•	238. 239.	
	Nasrah Hasan Abu Amsha		
180.	Sifyan Muhammad Abu Rideh	240.	Sabir Hasan Harara
181.	•	241.	Ismail Abdullah Ulwan
182.	Itaf Salman Abu Khamash	242.	Khadir Muhammad Afana
183.	,	243.	
184.		244.	Majdi Faisal Barbakh
185.		245.	Musa Ibrahim Abu Daqa
186.		246.	Mahmud Ahmad Rusrus
187.	Fakhryeh Khalil Abu Haseera	247.	Muhsin Yusif Ismail
188.	Farha Awwad Abu Sayyah	248.	Munir Muhammad al-Ghaleed
189.	Sabira Barham al-Faleet	249.	Muneer Ali Mihriz
190.	Fathyeh Abdullah as-Saraj	250.	Mu'awad Saeed al-Jadbeh
191.	Subhyeh Tawfiq al-'Ashi	251.	Saeed Ibrahim Mansour
192.	Ra'id Fayiz Juha	252.	Abdul Halim Muhammad Abu Hasna
193.	Na'il Muhammad Afana	253.	Adnan Salim Abu Nimir
194.	Nasir Nu'man Ashur	254.	Atta Kamal ash-Shinbari
195.	Nabeel Abdul Rahman Ahmad	255.	Ryad Shihadeh Abu Sultan



256.	Shifa Ahmad Issa	316.	Abid Rabuh Ibrahim Khalafallah
257.	Shareef Nabil Haboub	317.	Abdullah Muhammad Hamad
258.		318.	
259.		319.	•
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260.	•	320.	
261.	•	321.	
262.	Tahani Fawzi Halawa	322.	
263.	Tahsin Eid an-Nahal	323.	Atta Ali Sha'at
264.	Tamam Yusif Nufal	324.	Atyat Sadiq Hilis
265.	Salah ad-Din Khadir Haboub	325.	
266.		326.	•
267.		327.	,
268.	•	328.	•
269.	,	329.	
270.		330.	,
271.		331.	Fatima Faraj Habib
272.	Taysir Ayish an-Najar	332.	Fatima Sha'ban al-Amudi
273.	Ni'meh Ahmad Abu Siteh	333.	Fayqa Muhammad Jindyeh
274.	Sakteh Ali Abu Mustafa	334.	
275.		335.	<i>y</i> ,
276.		336.	<i>y</i> ,
277.			Fahmi Nafith Abu Salim
278.	•	338.	, ·
279.		339.	,
280.		340.	,
281.	Suhaila Ibrahim Abu Udeh	341.	Fawzyeh Mahmud al-Qayim
282.	Sudan Ismail as-Salihi	342.	Fatima Hamid al-'Ajab
283.	Sulaiman Abdullah Abu Mustafa	343.	Fayruz Abdul Rahman ad-Dayeh
284.	Sumaya Shihdeh Abu Tibi	344.	Fathyeh Abdul Qadir Abu Han
285.		345.	
286.	Sawsan Hasan Libad	346.	•
287.		347.	
288.	•	348.	
289.		349.	,
290.	•	3 <del>4</del> 9.	•
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291.		351.	
292.		352.	
293.	•	353.	
294.	Sa'da Abdullah Abu Zayid	354.	Ra'd Yusif al-Imari
295.	Sa'da Eid al-Ghoul	355.	Radya Rasheed Abu Matar
296.	Sa'dyeh Ahmad Bakhit	356.	Ra'isa Muhammad Dahlan
297.	Sa'dyeh Kamal al-Hatu	357.	Ranya Muhammad Libad
298.	Sa'dyeh Ali Ayid	358.	Rabah Atalah Abu Hayeh
299.	Saeed Muhammad al-Bilbisi	359.	
300.	Sarhan Saleem Abu Sarhan	360.	
301.	Thuraya Muhammad al-Kurd	361.	Rihab Hamada Zakari
302.	Sit-Ikhwitha Abu Amsha	362.	
			,
303.	•	363.	
304.	Arif Ahmad az-Za'aneen	364.	Ramadan Fayiq al-Hayik
305.	Abdul Dayim Khalil Abu Nada	365.	Randa Muhammad Hassan
306.	Abdul Karim Muhammad Salih	366.	Rasmi Muhammad an-Najar
307.	Abdul Karim Muhammad al-Issi	367.	Rasmyeh Salim Iqdeeh
308.	Abdul Karim Hamdan al-Lulu	368.	Sha'ban Muhammad al-Ashqar
309.	Abdul Karim Muhammad Salman	369.	Huda Abdul Qadir Dawud
310.	Abdullah Mahmud Abu Mustafa	370.	Hayjar Sha'ban Shalayil
311.		371.	Hana' Ahmad al-Hayik
312.		372.	Hisham Mustafa al-Ghoul
313.	•	373.	
314.		373. 374.	,
31 <del>4</del> . 315.	Abid Rabuh Salama al-Jilawi	37 <del>4</del> . 375.	
515.	ADIG NADUH GAIAHIA AI-JIIAWI	575.	Zania Muhammau Daluul



376.	Zyad Muhammad al-Akhras	425.	Zahiyeh Muhammad at-Ta'ban
377.	Zyad Atta as-Surani	426.	Ahmad Sultan Abu Zayid
378.	Zaina Hasan Abu Harb	427.	Ahmad Muhammad Abu Zaydeh
379.	Zainab Muhammad al-Astal	428.	Ahmad Deib Jabr
380.	Zakyeh Salih al-Arbeed	429.	Ahmad Sulaiman an-Na'ami
381.	Zarifa Ismail al-Mabhuh	430.	Ahmad Ali al-Imari
382.	Khalid Shihdeh Abu Yaseen	431.	Ahmad Ismail Faris
383.	Khalid Muhammad Abdullah	432.	Ahmad Hamza Shihadeh
384.	Khalid Ahmad Iqdeeh	433.	Aya Umar Tabatibi
385.	Khadija Ali Taramsi	434.	Muneer Ibrahim an-Nahal
386.	Khadra Ahmad Khalafallah	435.	Musa Ismail al-Bashiti
387.	Hikmat Muhammad Hasan	436.	Musa Saeed Haddad
388.	Hikmat Rajab Abu Misbah	437.	Mustaf Ali Haddad
389.	Khalil Ahmad Mitliq	438.	Mahbuba Anees I'liwa
390.	Halima Abdul Fatah al-Ghoul	439.	Muhammad Salman Abu Bulbul
391.	Halima Zuhdi Dwidar	440.	Muhammad Ahmad Abu Zayid
392.	Halima Abdul Qadir Muhammad	441.	Muhammad Ismail al-Mghari
393.	Halima Muhammad Safi	442.	Mahmud Mahmud Zaqout
394.	Hilmi Ismail Iyyad	443.	Mahmud Shihadeh Tabash
395.	Hammad Hasan at-Ta'ban	444.	Maymuna Shihadeh Nufal
396.	Hamdyeh Saleem Abu Zahr	445.	Taysir Ahmad Abdul Hadi
397.	Khamis Jawad Tafish	446.	Muneera Abdul Majeed as-Silik
398.	Hanan Muhammad Bal'awi	447.	Mufeeda Khadir al-Akhras
399.	Hanan Jabir an-Nuwiri	448.	Marwan Abdul Aziz an-Nabris
400.	Hussain Muhammad al-Qarashli	449.	Miryam Abdullah Abu al-Ineen
401.	Hasan Ahmad al-'Ajab	450.	Miryam Salim Abu Mustafa
402.	Khitam Khalil al-Hilu	451.	Miryam Hamdan al-Masri
403.	Khitam Abdul Rahman al-Muqayad	452.	Miryam Hamdan Abdul Hadi
404.	Khitam Muhammad al-Uthmani	453.	Miryam Khalil Abid
405.	Talal Muhammad Dawud	454.	Miryam Abdul Malik Safi
406.	Yasir Harb al-Faq'awi	455.	Miryam Hasan Rayash
407.	Yunis Ahmad Ashur	456.	Na'il Atta Shareef
408.	Yusif Shukri Yusif	457.	Nadia Mahmud Khalafallah
409.	Yusif Muhammad Nijim	458.	Nadia Muhammad al-Lalu
410.	Yusif Abdul Aziz al-Kahlut	459.	Nahid Hasan an-Nahal
411.	Yihia Ahmad Shafi	460.	Nasir Fayid al-Aydi
412.	Kamleh Salim Abu an-Naja	461.	Nabeel Muhammad Ayoub
413.	Kawthar Yihia Nasir	462.	Nabeela Salameh al-Issi
414.	Kayan Hamada an-Najar	463.	Nabeela Mustafa Sawali
415.	Kifah Abdul Qadir Dawud	464.	Najla' Muhammad Abdul Raheem
416.	Majid Muhammad Malfuh	465.	Nida' Ibrahim al-Bashiti
417.	Majid Naeem Samour	466.	Nidal Ahmad Zayarti
418.	Mdalaleh Muhammad Salman	467.	Naheel Muhammad Abu Sarhan
419.	Muzayan Abdul Qadir aj-Jirjawi	468. 460	Nawal Abdullah al-Agha
420.	Harba Khadir al-Radee'	469.	Nawal Ismail al-Issi
421. 422.	Ibrahim Ahmad Hamid Ibrahim Deib Abdul Rahman	470. 471.	Nawwar I'beed Abu Samra
422. 423.	Ibtisam Ismail al-Bilbisi	471. 472.	Nadhmyeh Muhammad Hammad Nimir Muhammad Hijazi
423. 424.	Ibtisam Salim Madani	412.	INITIII IVIUHAHIIHAU FIIJAZI
744.	ibusani Janin Wayani		



II. A table that lists the names of pilgrims, from the relatives of martyrs, who were denied access to Mecca by the Israeli Occupation Forces

#### Name

- 1. Nahid Abdul Qadir Jarbou'
- 2. Aysha Shakir Jarbou'
- 3. Wajiha Sulaiman Barhoum
- 4. Anwar Ahmad Killab
- 5. Muhammad Subhi Abu Ni'meh
- 6. Yusif Hameed as-Sufi
- 7. Tawfeeg Khalil Barbakh
- 8. Ni'meh İbrahim Abu Namus
- 9. Rifqa Salim Abu Namus
- 10. Taghrid Saeed Abu Sitteh
- 11. Khalid Zaki aj-Jazzar
- 12. Sabira Bakhit Buhdar
- 13. Abdul Qadir Udeh Buhdar
- 14. Sabah Attyeh Abdul Wahab
- 15. Fathi Ahmad Abdul Wahab
- 16. Ni'meh Muhammad al-Attar
- 17. Radwan Zaki al-Attar
- 18. Muhammad Mrazeeg ash-Shair
- 19. Awatif Muhammad ash-Shair
- 20. Munira Khalil as-Saigali
- 21. Nawal Tawfig Iswilih
- 22. Shu'aib Muhammad Iswilih
- 23. Muhammad Yusif Abdul Jawad
- 24. Mahdyeh Rushdi Abdul Jawad
- 25. Fatima Hasan Abu Hasna
- 26. Abdul Halim Muhammad Abu Hasna
- 27. Khalid Hammad Dihilz
- 28. Ruwayda Muhammad Dihilz
- 29. Manar Sameeh Hassan
- 30. Inshirah Ali Hamad
- 31. Saeed Abdul Raheem Hamad
- 32. Fakhri Sabir Abu Libdeh
- 33. Rida Hasan an-Nawajha
- 34. Rayqa Ayyad ad-Dbari
- 35. Sumaya Abdullah Abu Hasanain
- 36. Sulaiman Ahmad Abu Hasanain
- 37. Thuraya Muhammad Younis
- 38. Salah Jum'a Younis
- 39. Khadijeh Hasan Abu Rukbeh
- 40. Muhammad Muhammad Abu Rukbeh
- 41. Aziza Ubaid as-Soufi
- 42. Hamdi Attallah as-Soufi
- 43. Itiwa Hamdan Abu Riziq
- 44. Rajab Itiwa Abu Riziq
- 45. Ibtisam Hasan al-Azzazi
- 46. Shadi Taysir al-Azzazi
- 47. Iman Mustafa Awaja
- 48. Dawah Eid Abu Shabab
- 49. Siham Sabir al-Aydi
- 50. Basheer Muhammad al-Aydi
- 51. Fatima Nadi M'ammar
- 52. Hussain Lafi M'ammar
- 53. Abdul Ghani Muhammad Abu Jamous
- 54. Miryam Fraij Abu Jamous
- 55. Ahmad Abdullah ash-Sha'ir

- 56. Yusri Hamdan an-Nims
- 57. Sulaiman Abdul Majeed an-Nims
- 58. Sameera Shukri Judeh
- 59. Ali Saeed Judeh
- 60. Diya' Salim Abu Amr
- 61. Ahmad Muhammad Kabaia
- 62. Nafith Abid Fattuh
- 63. Aysha Hamid Abu Taha
- 64. Muhammad Mustafa al-Aswad
- 65. Subhyeh Abdul Hadi al-Aswad
- 66. Abdul Rahman Hasan al-Muqayad
- 67. Alia as-Sayid Abu Athreh
- 68. Baha' Ahmad Abu Athreh
- 69. Ni'meh Muhammad al-Akhras
- 70. Musa Hasan al-Akhras
- 71. Abdul Rahmn Hasan al-Mqayad
- 72. Samia Yihia Arafat
- 73. Huda Nassar Abu Dhahir
- 74. Ghasan Mustafa an-Najar
- 75. Tawfiq Abdullah Abu Shamaleh
- 76. Nihad Saeed Abu Shamaleh
- 77. Ibrahim Muhammad Abu Tair
- 78. Yusra Shihdeh Abu Tair
- 79. Hussain Ahmad an-Najar
- 80. Ni'meh Sulaiman an-Najar
- 81. Handa Hamdan Abu Hamad
- 82. Samir Muhammad Abu Hamad
- 83. Ahmad Muhammad Subih
- 84. Anan Ali az-Zrai'i
- 85. Sana' Muhammad Abu Tair
- 86. Abdul Rahman Shihdeh Abu Tair
- 87. Akram Muhammad as-Saigali
- 88. Zakyeh Muhammad Iqdeeh
- 89. Khaldyeh Khalil Iqdeeh
- 90. Aziza Ibrahim Issa
- 91. Inas Muhammad as-Sabbagh
- 92. Mahmud Hussain al-Bashiti
- 93. Hikmat Sulaiman al-Bashiti
- 94. Rugaya Ali al-Qasas
- 95. Sabah Salih al-Qasas
- 96. Khadir Amir Ashur
- 97. Hussain Muhammad Kawari'
- 98. Amna Muhammad Kawari'
- 99. Tawfiq Yusif as-S'aidni
- 100. Nahla Hamudeh Hirzallah
- 101. Sa'dyeh Abdul Gani al-Farra
- 102. Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman Abu Daqqa
- 103. Abdul Karim Abdul Rahman Abu

#### Daqqa

- 104. Ghazi Khalil an-Najjar
- 105. Abdullah Muhammad an-Najjar
- 106. Amani Abdul Rahim Hamdan
- 107. Ahmad Yusif Hamdan
- 108. Ahmad Yusif Abu Luli
- 109. Manar Yusif Abu Riziq



- 110. Khalid Muhammad Salah
- 111. Malkyeh Hammad Salah
- 112. Fatima Fayiz Abu Reedeh
- 113. Imad Hamdan Abu 'Abid
- 114. Salha Arafat Abu 'Abid
- 115. Rasmyeh Saeed Wadi
- 116. Shihdeh Mahmud Iqdeeh
- 117. Salman Ahmad Abu Mitliq
- 118. Maliha Jum'a Abu Mitliq
- 119. Sa'dyeh Muhammad al-Bahabsa
- 120. Sami Ataya al-Bahabsa
- 121. Fuad Muhammad Shagfeh
- 122. Talal Salman an-Najar
- 123. Widad Sulaiman an-Najar
- 124. Basima Abdul Majeed Abdul Ghafour
- 125. Sabah Muhammad al-Bagari
- 126. Abdul Latif Muhammad al-Bagari
- 127. Nawal Ibrahi, Abu al-Jidyan
- 128. Muhammad Nayif Ikhzeeq
- 129. Safyeh Hasan al-Masar'a
- 130. Awad Ismail al-'Ar'eer
- 131. Ahmad Salim Abu Khusa
- 132. Husni Fraih al-Msaddar
- 133. Zaki Mahmud Abu T'aima
- 134. Aysheh Salman Abu Khusa
- 135. Mahmud Yusif Udeh
- 136. Fatima Sha'ban Abu T'aima
- 137. Zainab Nimir Hamada
- 138. Widad Mislih Wadi
- 139. Latifeh Mahmud al-Mabhuh
- 140. Ahmad Lafi Msallam
- 141. Nadreh Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad
- 142. Nayif Khamis Radwan
- 143. Ali Hasan Hamdan
- 144. Sabir Salim Abu Skhaileh
- 145. Mwafaq Muhammad al-Alami
- 146. Muhammad Kamil at-Tatar
- 147. Suhail Yusif at-Tatar
- 148. Muhammad Hussain al-Mabhuh
- 149. Fatima Ahmad Hasuneh
- 150. Fikryeh Abdul Aziz al-Qum'
- 151. Wardeh Sha'ban al-Bul
- 152. Ra'fat Yusif Shalayil
- 153. Khalil Ibrahim Abu Safyeh
- 154. Rajab Ahmad Issa
- 155. Farhaneh Amir Abu Safveh
- 156. Kifa Muhammad Shihadeh
- 157. Abeer Sulaiman Abu Hwaishil
- 158. Talal Ahmad Abu Awn
- 159. Sa'da Yasir Hamad
- 160. Yasir Muhammad Hamad
- 161. Tha'ir Ibrahim Ahmad
- 162. Wisam Nafith Abu Dalal
- 163. Fayiz Mustafa Shihadeh
- 164. Tahyeh Muhammad Sulaiman
- 165. Najat Zaki Shabit
- 166. Ibtisam Ali Hamdan
- 167. Mustafa Mahmud al-Hasanat
- 168. Amira Abdullah al-Hasanat
- 169. Shihdeh Ismail al-'Ar'eer

- 170. Hayat Saleem at-Talalqa
- 171. Mukaram Ali Ikhzeeq
- 172. Rafeeg Muhammad Abu al-Qari'
- 173. Ibrahim Sabri Abu Shammas
- 174. Musa Sulaiman Abu Shinara
- 175. Muhammad Sulaiman Abu Hasanain
- 176. Salma Hisham aj-Jmasi
- 177. Rida Khalil Hasuneh
- 178. Abdul Nasir Rajab Ashur
- 179. Muhammad Muhammad Younis
- 180. Tamam Saleem al-Awawdeh
- 181. Amal Abdul Aziz Issa
- 182. Hanan Hasan Iz ad-Din
- 183. Ubaida Hamad as-Soufi
- 184. Mahdi Ismail Kafineh
- 185. Dalal Muhammad al-Abeet
- 186. Mhanna Abdul Jawad Atallah
- 187. Hasan Muhammad Hindawi
- 188. Miryam Mahmud Abu Ubaid
- 189. Fayzeh Ahmad al-Awawdeh
- 190. Salim Abdul Hadi Thabit
- 191. Fu'ad Fathi Hamada
- 192. Fayzeh Mahmud Zaghra
- 193. Hilal Salim Ahmad
- 194. Miryam Ahmad Ahmad
- 195. Ahmad Muhammad al-A'raj
- 196. Fatima Ahmad al-A'raj
- 197. Yihia Khalil Insiwi
- 198. Sabri Muhammad al-Hasanat
- 199. Nayfeh Abdul Aziz al-Burdini
- 200. Mahmud Ismail al-Burdini
- 201. Naji Mahmud Hasanain
- 202. Miryam Mustafa al-Ashqar
- 203. Khadra Ibrahim Abu Mustafa
- 204. Halimeh Muhammad Udeh
- 205. Awad Hussain al-Masar'i
- 206. Ra'iseh Mirshid Basheer 207. Tawfiq Ahmad Basheer
- 208. Halimeh Abdullah Abu Iskhaileh 209. Tahani Salim Khalil
- 210. Shihadeh Mansour al-Umrani
- 211. Ni'meh Muhammad al-Imrani
- 212. Fatima Nimir Iskhaileh
- 213. Muhammad Saleem Hasuneh
- 214. Samia Muhammad Hasuneh
- 215. Sameeha Harb Mislih
- 216. Muhammad Salman Salman
- 217. Mamduh Ahmad al-Masri
- 218. Amal Hasan Za'rur 219. Ahmad Muhammad Ja'rur
- 220. Mahmud Muhammad Abu Ubaid
- 221. Izzat Ibrahim Shabit
- 222. Wafa' Ibrahim Abu Ubaid
- 223. Yusif Abdul Latif Abu Sharar
- 224. Hasan Khadir Abu Ubaid
- 225. Ra'id Hamdan Abu 'Assi
- 226. Shareef Sarhan ad-Dreemly
- 227. Samara Ramadan Lulu 228. Anwar Ribhi Lulu
- 229. Miryam Ubaid as-S'idni



230	Harha	Sulaiman	al-Awawdeh
ZJU.	пагра	Sulailliali	al-Awawuell

231. Saleem Ahmad 'Abid

232. Inshirah Abdul Raziq Salman

233. Hiyam Darwish Ashur

234. Abdul Rahman Saeed Mahdi

235. Ammuneh Ismail Sagir

236. Abdul Karim Abdul Latif al-Ashqar

237. Ahmad Khalid Hasuneh

238. Rashiqa Abdul Halim Judeh

239. Sameeer Amin Judeh

240. Maha Abdul Wahab Sagir

241. Farhaneh Sulaiman al-Msaddar

242. Jabir Waheed Ayish

243. Yusri Abdul Karim Ayish

244. Ibrahim Ahmad al-Awawdeh

245. Ibrahim Ashur al-Batsh

246. Muhammad Ali Abu Shihadeh

247. Halimeh Rasheed Abu 'Assi

248. Fatima Nimir Imad

249. Abidrabbu Muhammad Imad

250. Musa Mahmud Salih

251. Aisheh Shihadeh Salih

252. Ghanimeh Abdullah an-Nithir

253. Saeed Khalil al-Qumu'

254. Sabah Salih as-Skafi

255. I'timad Abdul Rahman Iz ad-Din

256. Amna Muhammad al-Qasas

257. Muhammad Mahmud Hasuneh

258. Fatima Mahmud Iz ad-Din

259. Nawal Ali az-Zarai'i

260. 'Aisheh Abdul Salam Issa

261. Wasfi Muhammad an-Nithir

262. Mahir Sallam al-Bul

263. Huda Saeed Msallam

264. Ra'isa Abdullah Salah

265. Abdul Nasir Muhammad Rajab

266. Ra'id Abdul Rahman Iz ad-Din

267. Muhammad Atiyeh Abu al-Jidyan

268. Fatima Muhammad Abu al-Qari'

269. Iman Darwish Abu al-Qumsan

270. Ala' ad-Din al-Barrawi

271. Muna Ahmad Issa

### AL MEZAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

AL-MEZAN Center for Human Rights is a non-governmental Palestinian organization, established in 1999. It is located in Jabalia refugee camp, the biggest refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. AL-MEZAN is concerned with the human rights situation in Palestine. It seeks to establish respect for the internationally accepted standards of human rights and the basic freedoms. It also seeks to establish respect for the rule of the law.

The center concentrates on economic, social, and cultural rights.

### For further information, kindly contract Al-Mezan at the following address:

### Jabalia Office:

P.O. Box: 2714, Jabalia Refugee Camp, Main St., Gaza, Palestine

Tel.: 972-8-2453555 Fax: 972-8-2453554

#### Gaza Office:

Gaza Office, Gaza City, Umar Bin Abd Al-Aziz Street

Tel.: 972-8-2820447 / 2 E-mail: info@mezan.org Web site: www.mezan.org