

HUMANITARIAN BULLETIN

occupied Palestinian territory

JANUARY 2019



HIGHLIGHTS

- Nearly 200 Palestinian families in East Jerusalem face eviction cases by Israeli settler organizations.
- Mandate of international monitors in the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron city (H2) terminated, exacerbating the vulnerability of some 7,000 Palestinians.
- Expected improvement in the livelihoods of some 2,000 fishers following an expansion of the fishing zone along part of Gaza's coast.
- Food assistance to some 27,000 poor Palestinians in the Gaza Strip suspended due to lack of funding.



© Photo by OCHA
Palestinian fishers preparing their nets on the shore of Gaza. December 2018.

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Israel expands fishing limits to 12 nautical miles amidst a rise in protection concerns8

OVERVIEW

The humanitarian vulnerability of Palestinians, as a result of Israeli policies and practices regarding settlements, was exacerbated by a number of developments during January. On 26 January, Israeli settlers, reportedly from the settlement outpost of Adei-Ad, raided Al Mughayyir village near Ramallah, where they shot and killed a 38-year-old Palestinian man, and injured another nine. Israeli authorities have opened a criminal investigation of the case. In recent years, Al Mughayyir (some 3,000 residents) has been the target of systematic attacks and harassment from nearby settlements outposts, which have undermined the safety and livelihoods of the Palestinian residents. Although the approximately 100 settlements outposts throughout the West Bank have been established without official Israeli authorization or building permits, in December 2018, the government endorsed a bill to advance the retroactive “legalization” of 66 of these settlements (including Adei-Ad) within two years; in the interim period they would be provided with funding and services, alongside a freezing in the implementation of demolition orders.

As detailed in an article in this Bulletin, settlers are also behind a legal case to evict 32 members of an extended Palestinian family from their home in East Jerusalem, which ended in January with a ruling in favour of the settlers. The forcible transfer of protected persons in an occupied territory is a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Under an Israeli law enacted in 1970, Israelis may pursue claims to land and property allegedly owned by Jews in East Jerusalem prior to the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948: this has been employed by settler organizations to take control of properties within Palestinian neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem.

Also in January, the Israeli government announced that the mandate of Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH), will not be renewed. TIPH is the only organization documenting incidents and providing protective presence in the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron city (H2) that was authorized to access any part of H2 on foot and with vehicles, at any time. A recent household survey conducted by OCHA in the settlement area of H2, home to some 7,000 Palestinians, indicates that nearly 70 per cent of Palestinian families have been exposed to settler violence and harassment in the past three years. TIPH's departure is likely to increase the vulnerability of Palestinians in this area, exacerbating the coercive environment exerted on them.

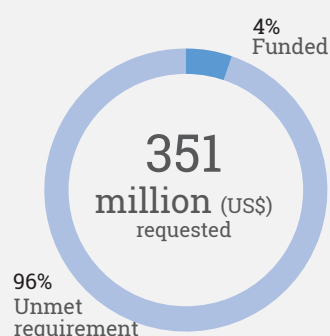
JANUARY FIGURES

| | |
|--|-------|
| Palestinians killed (direct conflict) | 9 |
| Palestinians injured (direct conflict) | 1,684 |
| Israelis killed (direct conflict) | 0 |
| Israelis injured (direct conflict) | 7 |
| Structures demolished in the West Bank | 40 |
| People displaced in the West Bank | 44 |

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN 2019

351 million (US\$)
requested

4% funded



In Gaza, high levels of unemployment, poverty and food insecurity have been increasing at the same time as significant shortfalls in donor support are undermining the ability of humanitarian actors to effectively respond to increasing need: recent funding cuts have forced the World Food Programme to suspend food assistance to some 27,000 people and to reduce rations to another 166,000 beneficiaries. In a positive development, on 27 January, the Humanitarian Coordinator and the chairman of the Qatari Gaza Reconstruction Committee signed an agreement regarding some US\$ 20 million funding for cash-for-work programmes in Gaza, which will go some way towards alleviating the dire economic situation in Gaza.

Also in January, for the first time since 2000, Israel expanded the fishing limit up to 12 nautical miles (NM) in the middle area off the Gaza coast, although access along the northern and southern areas continue to be restricted to six NM, citing security concerns; 20 NM was the fishing limit agreed under the Oslo Accords. Potentially, the expansion should allow Gaza fishers access to a wider variety and higher quality of fish, whilst reviving the flagging fishing industry. However, given the methods used by the Israeli navy to enforce the fishing limits, including the opening of fire, the detention of fishers and the requisition of boats, at times even within the approved areas, Gaza fishers are discouraged from fully exploiting the permitted limits.

“Despite the tireless efforts of Egypt and the UN, hopes for a genuine intra-Palestinian reconciliation are fading by the day as the sides blame each other for the lack of progress. As ever, ordinary Palestinians bear the brunt of that suffering.”

Special Coordinator Mladenov

The dire living conditions in Gaza have been further affected by the closure of the Egyptian-controlled crossing of Rafah for exiting passengers, following the withdrawal of the Palestinian Authority (PA) personnel from the crossing on 7 January. Coupled with the Israeli blockade, this renders almost two million people in Gaza ‘locked in’. Additionally, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights reported that over 5,000 public employees in Gaza had their January salaries withheld by the PA, in the context of further deterioration in the internal Palestinian divide. As pointed out by Special Coordinator Mladenov in his 22 January briefing to the Security Council, “despite the tireless efforts of Egypt and the United Nations, hopes for a genuine intra-Palestinian reconciliation are fading by the day as the sides blame each other for the lack of progress. As ever, ordinary Palestinians bear the brunt of that suffering.”



Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) at Israeli manned checkpoint (H2) Hebron. February 2018.

IMMINENT EVICTION OF PALESTINIAN FAMILY IN EAST JERUSALEM

UN Humanitarian Coordinator calls for a halt to the eviction

Recent developments in East Jerusalem place an extended Palestinian refugee family from Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood at risk of imminent forced eviction, following a lengthy legal struggle with an Israeli settler organization. Thirty-two members of the Sabbagh family currently reside in the family home, including six children; at least 19 additional people would be affected by the loss of their family home. This eviction may amount to a forcible transfer, which is a grave breach of the fourth Geneva Convention. Forced evictions contrary to international law also violate the right to adequate housing and the right to privacy, and may be incompatible with other human rights.¹

On 15 November 2018, the Israeli Supreme Court dismissed a lawsuit filed by the Sabbagh and the neighbouring Hammad family, which had challenged a previous ruling that the land on which their homes are located is owned by two Israeli organizations.² On 3 January 2019, the Sabbagh family were notified by the Israeli Law Enforcement and Collection Authority that they had until 23 January to vacate their home, otherwise they would face eviction by force. Although the legal process is now exhausted, on 14 January, the authorities accepted a request to temporally delay the eviction on procedural grounds.

On 22 January, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territory, Jamie McGoldrick, together with other UN officials and NGO partners, visited the Sabbagh family and [called](#) for a halt to the eviction.

The Sabbagh family eviction may amount to a forcible transfer, which is a grave breach of the fourth Geneva Convention.

Eviction through judicial means

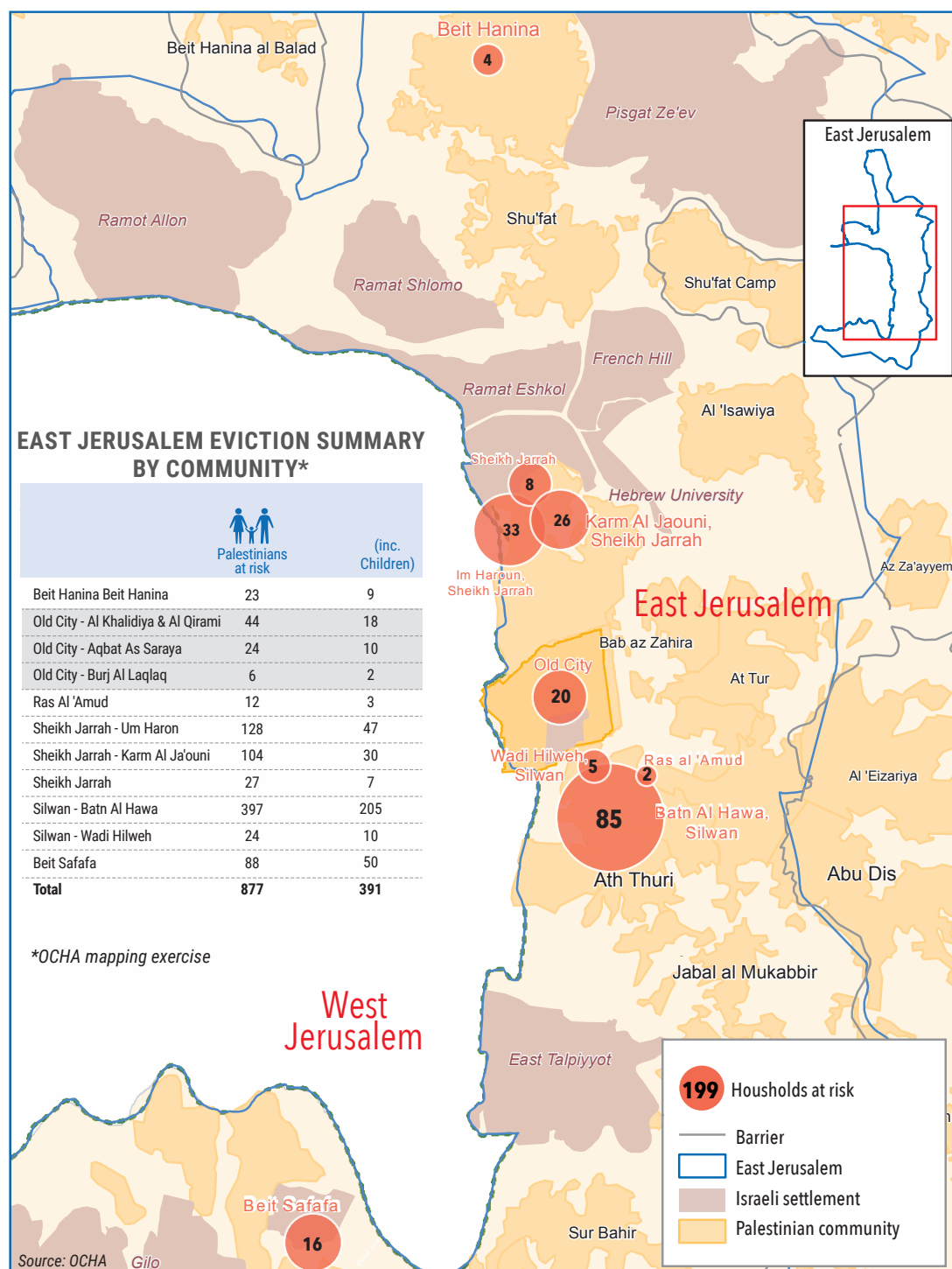
The Sabbagh and Hammad families lost their family homes in Jaffa and Haifa respectively, as a result of the first Arab-Israeli war of 1948. In 1956, following an agreement between the Kingdom of Jordan and UNRWA, they were among 28 Palestine refugee families who were accommodated in a housing project in the Karm Al Jaouni area of Sheikh Jarrah. Prior to 1948, Jewish families had lived in Sheikh Jarrah but also fled in the context of the 1948 hostilities, and were subsequently compensated for their loss of their homes by the Israeli government.



Mr. Sabbagh standing in front of the family house, December 2018.

MAP1:

EAST JERUSALEM: PALESTINIANS AT RISK OF EVICTION



In 1967, Israel occupied and subsequently annexed East Jerusalem and in 1970 enacted the Legal and Administrative Matters Law, whereby Israelis may pursue claims to land and property allegedly owned by Jews in East Jerusalem prior to the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Palestine refugees, such as the Sabbagh family, are denied the right to reclaim land and property in what is now Israel, although their original home in Jaffa still stands.

Pursuant to the 1970 law, two Israeli organizations registered the land in Karm Al Jaouni in their name, based on Ottoman land documents, although the authenticity of these deeds is contested by the Palestinian families. These organizations in turn sold their rights in the area to Nahalat Shimon International, a private company registered in the United States, which has filed multiple lawsuits over the years to evict Palestinian families from Sheikh Jarrah.

THE STATUS OF EAST JERUSALEM IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

In 1967, Israel occupied East Jerusalem and unilaterally annexed it and surrounding areas to its territory. However, the annexation is not recognized by the international community, with the UN Security Council repeatedly declaring all legislative measures and actions taken by Israel to alter the character and status of Jerusalem to be null and void.³

Sheikh Jarrah a centre for settler activity in East Jerusalem

In recent decades, Israeli settler organizations, with the support of the Israeli authorities, have taken control of properties within Palestinian neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem, and established a number of settlement compounds there.⁴ In addition to Sheikh Jarrah, such settlements are concentrated in the Muslim and Christian quarters of the Old City, Silwan, At-Tur (Mount of Olives), Wadi Joz, Ras al 'Amud, and Jabal al Mukabbir. A [survey](#) carried out by OCHA in 2016 indicated that there were 180 Palestinian households in East Jerusalem that had eviction cases filed against them, the majority initiated by settler organizations.⁵ Since then, eight of these households, comprising 43 people, including 19 children, have been evicted from their homes in Beit Hanina, Silwan, the Old City and Sheikh Jarrah. New eviction cases have also been filed against Palestinian families since then; as of January 2019, it is estimated that 199 Palestinian households now have eviction cases filed against them, placing 877 people, including 391 children, at risk of displacement.

Sheikh Jarrah is a [key target for settlement activity](#) owing to its strategic proximity to the 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line) and to the Old City (*see map 1*).⁶ The area is already the site of a number of Israeli government institutions, including the police and border police headquarters, the Ministry of Justice, and the new national insurance building. The Shepherd Hotel was expropriated by the Israeli authorities in 1967: a new settlement has been constructed on the site. On another plot of land in Sheikh Jarrah, the Amana Association, a settler organization, has constructed a new building and moved its headquarters there in August 2018, (*see map 2*).⁷

Fifty-five Palestinians, including 20 children, have already been forcibly evicted from their homes in the Karm Al Jaouni area by Israeli authorities since late 2008, without compensation or provision made for alternative housing, based on claims the properties had been owned by Jewish individuals or associations prior to 1948.⁸ Their homes were immediately handed over to Israeli settlers, despite the buildings concerned having been constructed in 1956, subsequent to the period in which the Israeli organizations allegedly owned the land.

As of 31 January, a total of 26 households in Karm al Jaouni, comprising around 100 people (30 per cent of them children) have eviction cases filed against them by Israeli settler organizations, primarily based on alleged non-payment of outstanding rent, the building of extensions without the required building permits, and claims that the families are responsible for disturbances and threatening behaviour against their neighbours.

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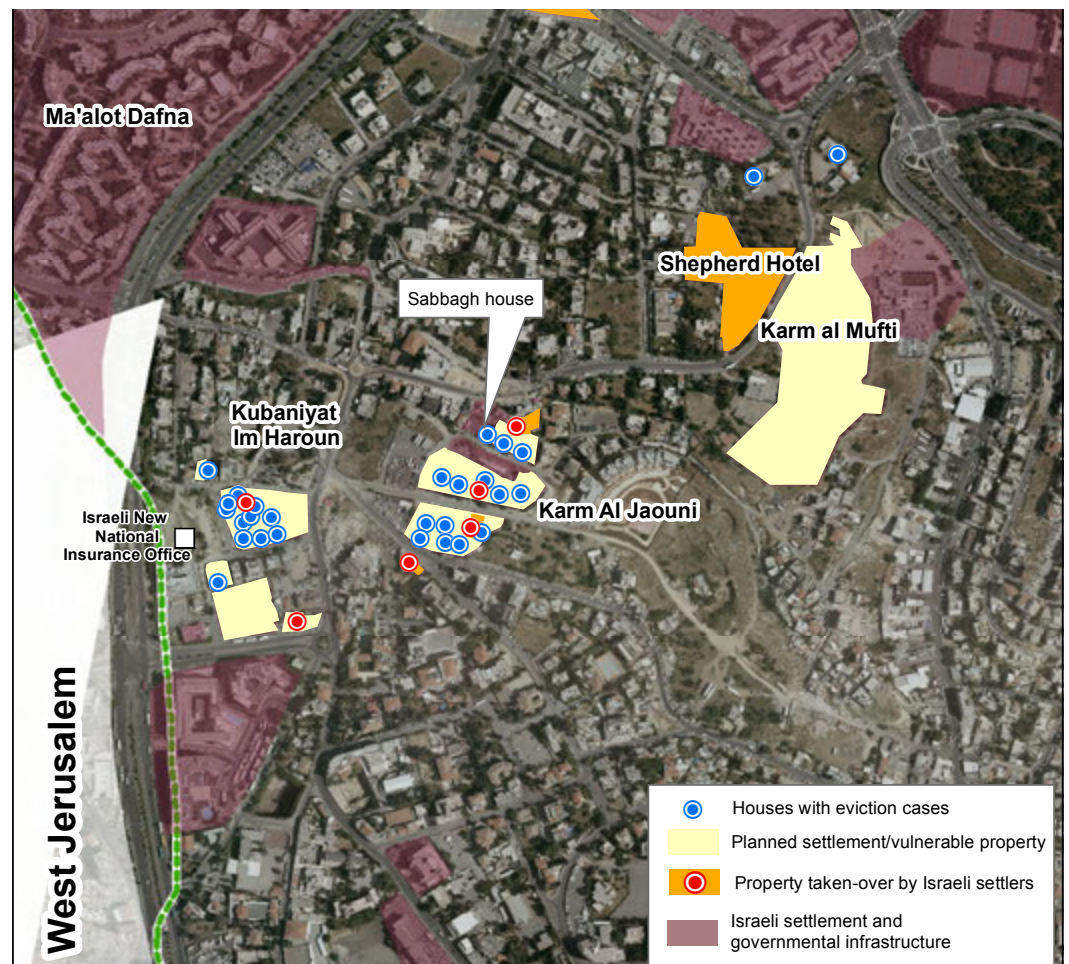
According to plans submitted to the Jerusalem municipality, the settlers ultimately intend to demolish all properties in Karm Al Jaouni to make way for a new Israeli settlement comprising at least 200 housing units.⁹

Settler organizations have also targeted Kubaniyat Im Haroun in the west of Sheikh Jarrah.¹⁰ In September 2017, the Shamasneh family, who had lived in their home in this area since 1964 was evicted following a legal ruling and the house was handed over to Israeli settlers. In July 2017, the Jerusalem Regional Planning Committee discussed plans for new settlement units, including four plans for Kubaniyat Im Haroun. Two of the plans envisage the demolition of two residential buildings, placing 17 Palestinian households with 74 people at risk of displacement. Concurrently, individual eviction cases have been filed against 35 households in the area with a population of some 140 people of whom more than a third are children.¹¹

MAP2:

SHEIKH JARRAH: SETTLEMENTS AND PALESTINIANS AT RISK OF DISPLACEMENT - 2019

Settlers ultimately intend to demolish all properties in Karm Al Jaouni to make way for a new Israeli settlement comprising at least 200 housing units.



Impact of eviction on Palestinian families

The evictions have grave physical, social, economic and emotional impact on the Palestinian families concerned. In addition to depriving the family of a home – its main asset and source of physical and economic security – evictions frequently result in disruption in livelihoods, increased poverty and a reduced standard of living.¹² The high legal fees families incur when defending their case in court further strain

their already meagre financial resources. The impact on children is particularly devastating, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety and diminished academic achievement.

The establishment of settlement compounds in the heart of Palestinian areas also generate a coercive environment on the daily lives of Palestinians residing in the vicinity of these compounds, and creates pressure on them to leave. The main elements of this environment include increased tension, violence and arrests; restrictions on movement and access, particularly during Jewish holidays; and a reduction on privacy due to the presence of private security guards and surveillance cameras.¹³

BETWEEN REFUGEE-HOOD AND THE IMMINENT THREAT OF FORCED EVICTION: THE CASE OF HIDAYA AL SABBAGH

My name is Hidayat Al Sabbagh. I was born in Khan Yunis, in the Gaza Strip, in 1959. My 60th birthday is next month, on 24 February. My family was forced to flee from Jaffa to Gaza as a result of the 1948 war. I left Gaza in the mid-1980s and got married to Usama Al Sabbagh. Since then, I have been living in this house in Sheikh Jarrah. This has been my home for 34 years and it's where I gave birth to my four sons and three daughters. This is where my mother-in-law lived with me, and was like a second mother to me until she passed away in the early 1990s, and where my husband passed away more than eight years ago.



I have built a family here, having left my parents and two children from my former marriage in Gaza. The last time I was able to visit them was more than eight years ago. For 21 years, I worked at a kindergarten in Dar al Tifel al Arabi School, within walking distance from my house. Following several unsuccessful attempts, I was able to have my family unification application approved and received a Jerusalem identification card in 1991. Our house is modest, with two bedrooms, a toilet, two small sitting rooms, and a kitchen. We tried over the years to fix the water leakage and other issues despite our very limited financial means. Still, it is unimaginable to us that we would be forced to leave. I will stay and I will resist. But will we succeed or will our rights be lost?

I suffer from diabetes and high blood pressure. I had an operation scheduled on 16 January to have platinum placed in my foot, but they couldn't perform it due to my very high blood pressure. My health has been deteriorating due to the anxiety, sadness, and stress I live under all the time. If they re-schedule my operation, I'd have to stay in the hospital for a while and I don't know how many days that would be. But I cannot leave my house, not now. I cannot go to the hospital, only to come back and find my family out on the street. What can I say? I am speechless.

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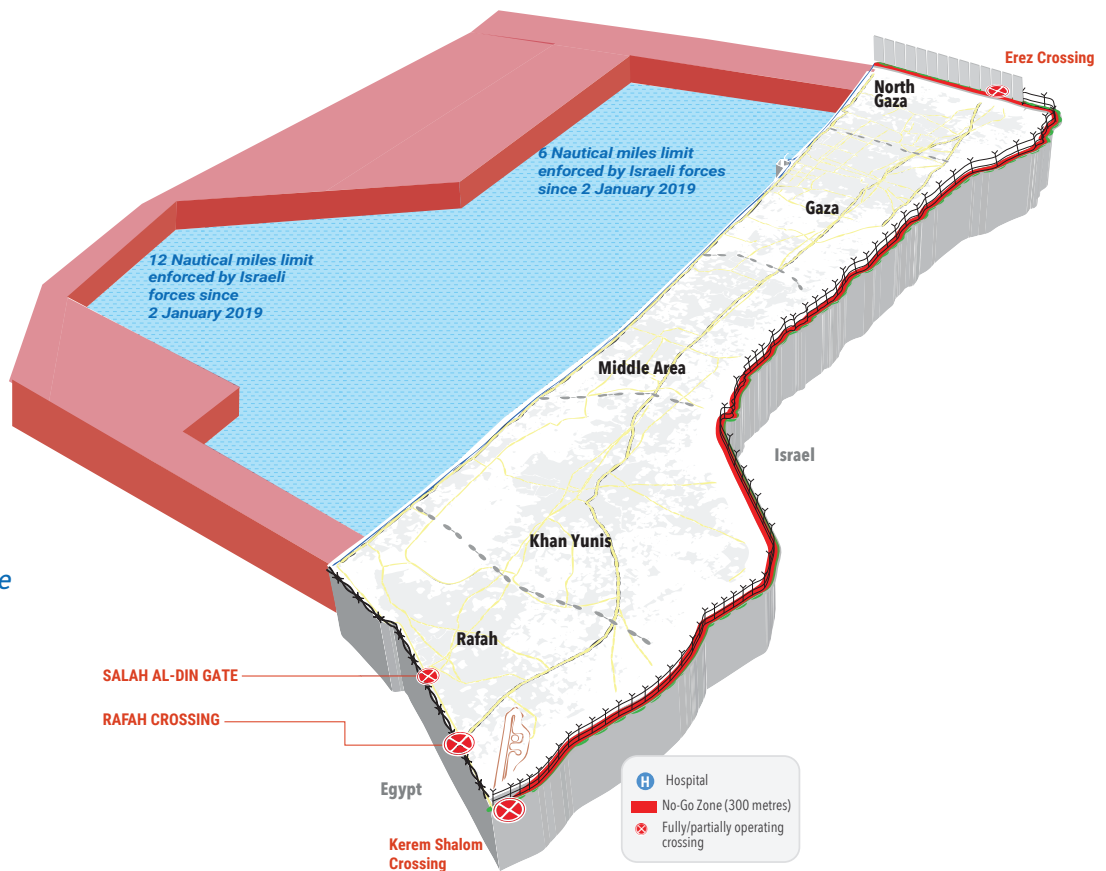


The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has contributed to this item

ISRAEL EXPANDS FISHING LIMITS TO 12 NAUTICAL MILES AMIDST A RISE IN PROTECTION CONCERNS

In a positive development, as of 2 January 2019, for the first time since 2000, Israel has partially expanded the fishing limits up to 12 nautical miles (NM) in the middle area off the Gaza coast. However, access along the northern and southern areas continue to be restricted by Israel, citing security concerns, to six nautical miles (NM), well below the 20 NM agreed under the Oslo Accords.¹⁴ In addition to access restrictions, Palestinian fishers remain subject to significant protection concerns, with the number of fisher injuries and shooting incidents rising significantly in 2018.¹⁵

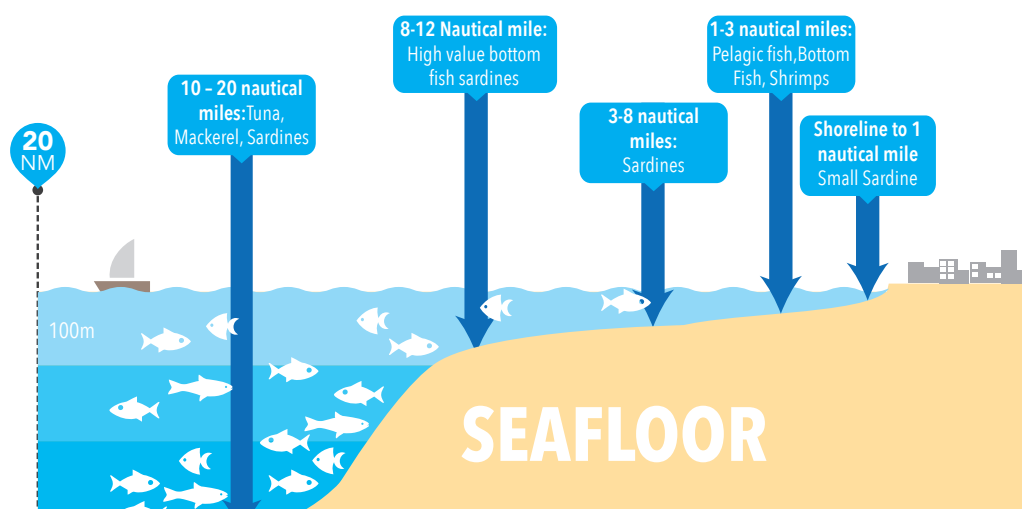
PERMISSIBLE FISHING AREA: 2019



Israel expanded the fishing limits up to 12 nautical miles (NM) in the middle area off the Gaza coast. Access along the northern and southern areas continue to six NM

Fish is a major source of protein, micronutrients and essential fatty acids, and a regular supply at affordable market prices is essential for providing nutritional diversity to Gazan diets. There is a direct correlation between distance from the coast and the quantity and value of the catch, the further out to sea fishers can go, the deeper the water and the higher the value of the fish caught: From eight to 12 NM, where the seafloor can descend to 100 metres, there is a higher availability of bottom fish and more profitable sardines. At 12 NM and beyond, the sea floor is sandy and the depth increases gradually to about 700 metres: creating the most opportune habitat for catching a variety of higher value and quality fish such as tuna and mackerel.¹⁶

TYPE OF FISH CATCH BY SEA DEPTH AND DISTANCE FROM THE COAST



In the period between the 1994 Oslo agreement until 2000, the fishing limit stood at 12 NM. The distance since then has fluctuated from a high of nine NM to as low as three NM, with no fishing permitted at all during escalations of hostilities. Following the August 2014 ceasefire, Israel set the fishing limit at six NM, with an extension to nine NM along the southern coast (between Deir Al Balah and Rafah) twice a year during the sardine season, from April to June and from September to November.¹⁷ These seasonal extensions have significantly increased the total catch, which reached their highest levels since 1999. However, the catch has remained mainly limited to low-value sardines.

These access restrictions, combined with other factors, including Israeli restrictions on imports and exports, and the inconsistent availability of electricity, have undermined the development of the fisheries sector in Gaza. This has affected the income and livelihood of fishers, greatly reducing the supply of fish available for local consumption.¹⁸ Currently only 2,000 out of 3,617 fishers registered by the Ministry of Agriculture in Gaza are considered 'regularly active'.¹⁹ Provided that the recently introduced expansion continues, and is respected by the Israeli navy, there is hope that a tangible improvement in the variety and profitability of the fish catch can be achieved, potentially reviving the fishing industry as a sustainable source of income. Despite the limited size of the fishing sector, given the extremely high levels of unemployment (54.9 per cent during the third quarter of 2018) and food insecurity (68 per cent in 2018) in the Gaza Strip, the revival of this sector may have a significant impact.

Provided that the recently introduced expansion continues, and is respected there is hope that a tangible improvement potentially reviving the fishing industry as a sustainable source of income.

SUPPORTING THE FISHING SECTOR

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is currently supporting the fishing sector by establishing offshore cage culture farms, with a capacity of producing 150 tons of fish per year. FAO is also providing the necessary training and skills to the sector so that members can manage the projects as a social business. The project aims to generate additional income sources for the Gazan fishery sector and improve the availability of diverse and high quality fish for local consumption. It is forecasted to produce revenues within two years of its establishments for the benefit of 2,000 Gazan fishers.

Rise in the number of Palestinian injuries and detentions amidst continuing protection concerns

The recent expansion of the fishing limits has taken place amidst ongoing protection concerns. These relate to the practice of the Israeli navy, and to a lesser extent the Egyptian navy, of enforcing fishing limits by the opening of live fire at fishing boats, resulting in casualties and damage; forcing fishers to jump into the sea and swim towards Israeli vessels, where they are detained; and confiscation of boats and fishing equipment.

Two Palestinian fishers were killed by Israeli naval forces in 2017, as well as in 2018. Two Palestinian fishers were also killed by Egyptian naval forces in 2018. The number of Palestinian fisher injuries witnessed a 43 per cent increase, from 14 to 20, in the same years.²⁰ The number of shooting incidents increased by 41 per cent, 231 to 325, and the number of fishers detained increased by 141 per cent, 39 to 94, over the same period. According to fishers' testimonies, many of these incidents have taken place within the fishing limits permitted by the Israeli authorities, and without prior warning, potentially discouraging fishers from fully exploiting the permissible fishing area.

In 2018 the number of Palestinian fisher injuries increased by 43 per cent, while shooting incidents increased by 41 per cent, and the number of fishers detained increased by 141 per cent, compared to 2017.

'GREAT MARCH OF RETURN' DEMONSTRATIONS IN PROTEST OF BLOCKADE AT SEA CONTINUE

Demonstrations at sea in the context of the 'Great March of Return', with the expressed aim of breaking the Israeli-imposed blockade at sea, resumed on 28 January 2019. They had been suspended for some four weeks due to the weather and because of challenges in accessing the area where the demonstrations are organized. The demonstrations have been organized on a weekly basis on Mondays near Beit Lahiya, close to the Israeli border, and also included occasional launches of flotillas towards the fishing limits.

The first flotilla, referred to by the organizers as the "Flotilla of Freedom", was launched on 29 March 2018. According to the organizers, the first two flotillas included medical patients and students and set off for Turkey. All the flotillas were intercepted²¹ and turned back by Israeli naval forces.

The demonstrations (including the flotillas) were met with Israeli forces firing tear gas canisters, as well as rubber and live bullets, leading to the killing of three Palestinian men, and the injury of 959 others, including 241 children, between 29 March 2018 and 31 January 2019.



Palestinian demonstration on the beach near the fence, protesting against the naval blockade, September 2018.

In 2018, Israeli naval forces also confiscated 23 fishing boats, a 77 per cent increase over those confiscated in 2017 (13 fishing boats). Following the intervention of various human rights organizations, on 29 November 2018, the Israeli authorities released a total of 25 fishing boats, including some confiscated in previous years. However, many boats and equipment were severely damaged and some were released without their engines.

19-YEAR-OLD MOHAMMAD SHOT WITHIN THE ISRAELI PERMITTED FISHING LIMITS

Fishing has been Falah Abu Riyala's occupation for the past 20 years. Like many others, Falah passed down his trade to his eldest son, nineteen-year-old Mohammad, and together they operated a boat to support their family of eleven members.

On 15 December 2018, Mohammed was fishing along with his cousin, when they heard shooting, and discovered that they were the target of the Israeli navy. He said:

"On that day, we were sailing at 9 NM in Wadi Gaza area, within the Israeli permitted fishing limits, as we had done the entire past week, when all of a sudden the Israeli navy started shooting at us! We turned back but they continued to chase after us. While continuing to shoot they called on us to stop the boat. We were within 2 NM from the coast when the boat stopped after they shot the engine. At that point we were both shot."

Mohammad received a bullet in his leg while his cousin was shot with a rubber bullet. The Israeli navy detained both of them, confiscated the boat and transported the two injured fishers to an Israeli hospital. The following day they were transferred to Shifa hospital in Gaza, through the Erez crossing, along with a medical report by the Israeli hospital advising against the immediate removal of the bullet shrapnel in Mohammad's leg in order to avoid causing extensive damage.

Mohammed had nine pieces of shrapnel in his leg, and was not able to walk for a month, let alone go fishing.

"My son is injured and can't leave the house and I'm now unemployed after my boat was confiscated." Falah explained.

Falah's family was getting by from the income generated through their fishing activities, as well as the food assistance they were receiving from UNRWA as registered Palestine Refugees. Following the incident, Falah has incurred many debts that he is unable to repay, while he continues to wait for his boat to be released.

"I wish we were compensated for the boat or we could have our boat back. This boat used to be the only source of livelihood for four families, including my uncle and his sons and my grandfather who are all now unemployed," Mohammad explained.

"I wish we were compensated for the boat or we could have our boat back. This boat used to be the only source of livelihood for four families, including my uncle and his sons and my grandfather who are all now unemployed,"

ENDNOTES

1. [Statement](#) by Jamie McGoldrick (Humanitarian Coordinator), Gwyn Lewis (Director of West Bank Operations for UNRWA), James Heenan (Head of OHCHR in the occupied Palestinian territory) and Kate O'Rourke (Country Director of the Norwegian Refugee Council), on 22 January
2. The families' appeal to have an extended panel of judges review the case was rejected on 10 January 2019.
3. See, *inter alia*, Security Council resolutions 252, 267, 471, 476 and 478.
4. Palestinian houses have been transferred to settler organizations by various means. In some cases, as is the case in Sheikh Jarrah, settlers have pursued court cases to evict the Palestinian residents, on the grounds that the land was owned by Jewish individuals or associations in East Jerusalem prior to 1948. In other cases, the Absentee Property Law of 1950 was applied: this law, which was devised to formalize the expropriation of the land and property of Palestinians who were expelled or fled during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, has been applied to East Jerusalem since 1967. Settler organizations have also had some success at purchasing land and property directly from Palestinian owners, due to the economically depressed situation in many of the affected neighbourhoods. According to Israeli statistics, it is estimated that some 3,500 Israelis currently live in these settlements. Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, *Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem*, 2018 Edition, Chapter III, Table III/5
5. [East Jerusalem: Palestinians at risk of eviction](#).
6. See OCHA, [The Case of Sheikh Jarrah: Updated Version](#), October 2010.
7. Amana moves its Head Quarters to East Jerusalem, Ynet, 23 August 2018.
8. This includes the Al Kurd family, which was evicted in November 2008; the Hanoun and Al Ghawi families, which were evicted in 2002 and, having reclaimed their homes in 2006, again in August 2009; and the Rifqa Al Kurd family, which lost part of its home to the settler groups in November 2009. In addition, a fourth home was already taken over by settlers in 1967.
9. This includes at least 200 residential units according to Town Plan Scheme 12705, which was submitted to the Jerusalem Local Planning and Building Committee in January 2008. See *Seizing Control of Space in East Jerusalem* (M. Margalit, June 2010) and *Evictions and Settlement Plans in Sheikh Jarrah: the Case of Shimon HaTzadik* (Ir Amim, June 2009).
10. Similar to the situation in Karm Al Jaouni, there has been an ongoing ownership dispute in this area between the Palestinian residents and the Israeli Administrator General acting on behalf of Israeli individuals, who claim to have owned the land before 1948, and other Jewish owners. The majority of Palestinian residents in this area are refugees living in generally dilapidated housing conditions with more than one nuclear family living in each house. A protracted legal battle came to an end in September 2010 when the Israeli Supreme Court ruled in favour of the Administrator General and other Jewish individuals. The Administrator General is the legal entity that serves as a trustee of any property in East Jerusalem which, prior to Israel's occupation and annexation of the area in 1967, was held by the Jordanian Custodian of Enemy Property.
11. There are also plans for a nine-storey building to house the Or Shameach Yeshiva campus (also known as the Glassman campus) and an additional six-storey office building. Although these plans target empty plots of land and do not entail evictions, they will further change the demographic character of the neighbourhood and create a contiguous belt of settlement units and Israeli government buildings throughout Sheikh Jarrah.
12. See also: Norwegian Refugee Council, *The Economic Impact of Displacement*, April 2015.
13. See OCHA: Humanitarian impact of settlements in Palestinian neighbourhoods of East Jerusalem: the coercive environment.
14. Under the 1995 Interim Agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, Israel agreed to extend fishing activities to 20 nautical miles (NM), Annex I. However, 12 NM is the furthest that Israel, citing security concerns, have permitted Gaza fishers to access. In 2002, as part of the Bertini Commitments, Israel announced expanding the fishing zone to 12 NM but this was not implemented.
15. Protection of Civilians database, OCHA
16. FAO, Overview of the Gaza Strip's Fisheries Sector, February 2012.
17. According to the Fisheries Department, official announcements by Israel permitting the seasonal expansions started in 2016 but, in practice, the seasonal expansions have been permitted since 2014.
18. Fishing is also affected by the restriction on the import of materials that are required to maintain fishing boats and nets, but are classified as 'dual use items', i.e. materials that could also have a military use. This represents a major constraint for the economic viability of the sector. Also important is the limited and irregular availability of electricity, which is indispensable for water desalination, ice production and refrigeration, needed to preserve the fish.
19. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017.
20. Figures provided by Al Mezan Centre.
21. The flotillas launched on 29 April 2018 and 10 July 2018 were seized, and those on board arrested. The majority were later released through the Erez crossing.