

The Buffer Zone in the Gaza Strip

The so-called “buffer zone” is a military no-go area that extends along the entire northern and eastern perimeter of the Gaza Strip's border with Israel, inside Palestinian territory, as well as at sea. The precise areas designated by Israel as “buffer zone” are unknown; changing Israeli policy is typically enforced with live fire.

Dimensions

On land: inside Palestinian territory

- Oslo Accords: **50 nautical miles**
- Second Intifada (2000): **150 metres**
- January 2010, according to Israel: **300 metres**
- In reality: **300 metres - 2 kilometres**

At sea: area off coast for Palestinian fishing

- Oslo Accords: **20 nautical miles**
- Bertini Commitment (2002): **12 nautical miles**
- October 2006: **6 nautical miles**
- Since June 2007: **3 nautical miles**

Impact

On Land

- Approximately **27, 000 dunums** of land can only be accessed under high personal risk, as Israeli attacks may result in injury or death of civilians.
- Approximately **30%** of Gaza's agricultural land cannot be worked without severe personal risk, causing the loss of livelihoods.

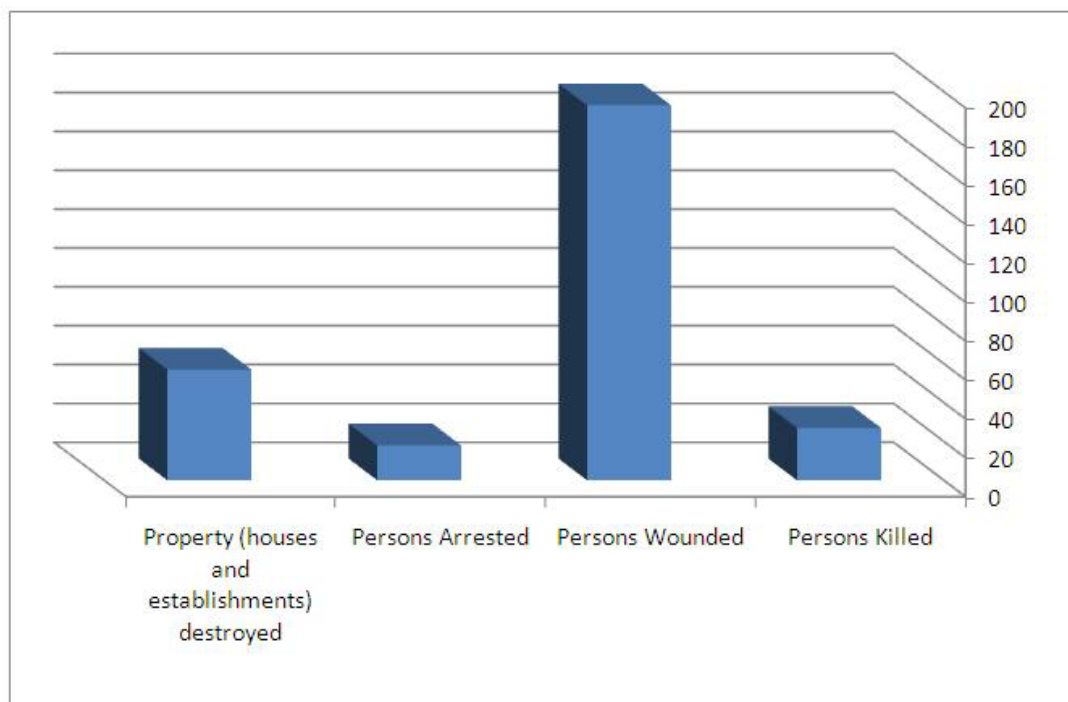
At Sea

- The fishing industry is severely impacted, as it supports the families of over **3, 600** fishermen who expose themselves to high risk every day at sea.
- The area near the coast is markedly over-fished.

Attacks in the buffer zone

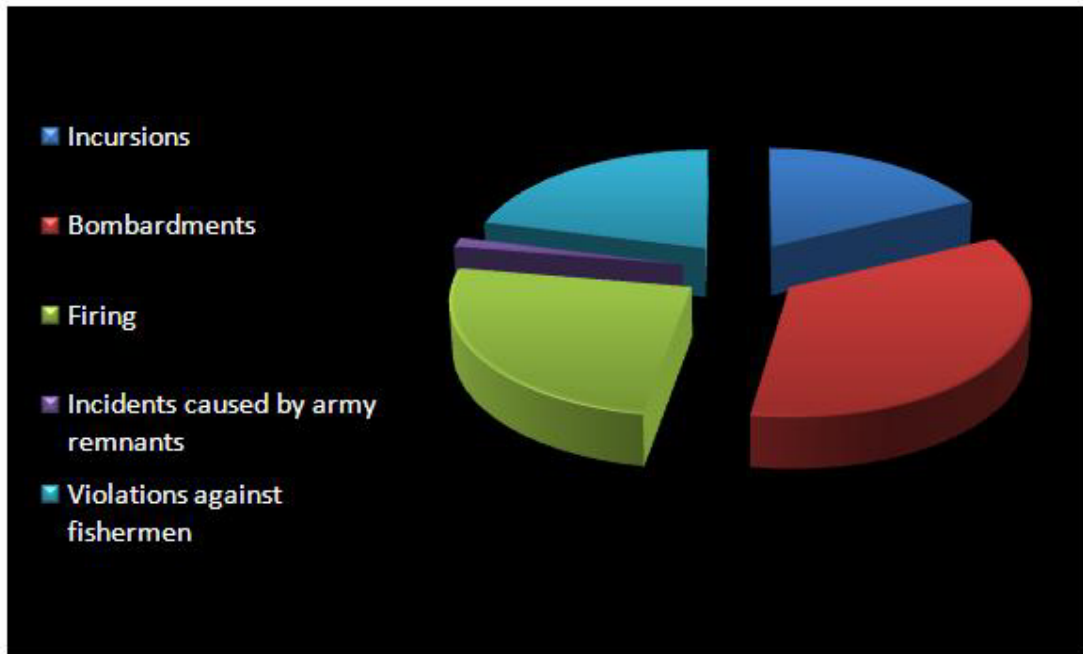
Results of attacks in the buffer zone between 01 January and 31 September 2011

Persons Killed	Persons Wounded	Persons Arrested	Property (houses and establishments) destroyed
27	193	18	57



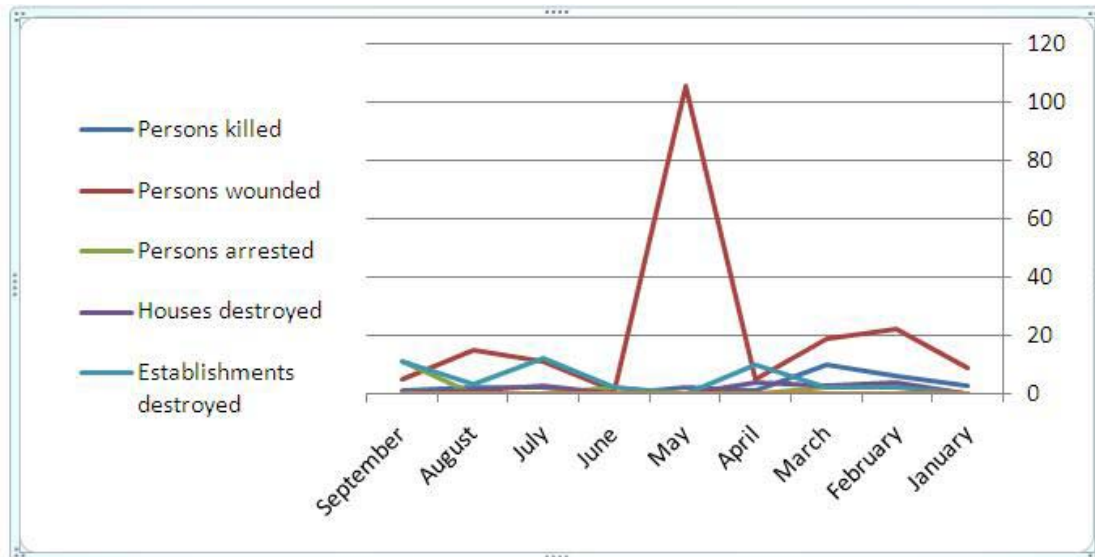
Classification of attacks in the buffer zone between 01 January and 31 September 2011

Incursions	Bombardments	Firing	Incidents caused by army remnants	Violations against fishermen	Total of attacks
27	53	38	2	32	148



Results of attacks in the buffer zone in 2011

Month	Persons killed	Persons wounded	Persons arrested	Houses destroyed	Establishments destroyed	Lands destroyed
January	3	9	-	-	-	-
February	6	22	3	4	2	-
March	10	19	2	3	2	-
April	1	5	-	4	10	-
May	2	106	-	-	-	-
June	-	1	2	-	2	-
July	2	11	-	3	12	-
August	2	15	-	1	3	-
September	1	5	11	-	11	-
Total	27	193	18	15	42	-



Classification of attacks in the buffer zone

Classification of attacks in the buffer zone

Month	Incursions	Bombardments	Firing	Incidents caused by army remnants	Violations against fishermen	Total of attacks
January	4	-	6	2	1	13
February	4	6	12	-	1	23
March	5	15	2	-	5	27
April	2	4	2	-	2	10
May	1	2	7	-	2	12
June	2	1	2	-	4	9
July	3	7	2	-	7	19
August	-	16	4	-	4	24
September	2	2	1	-	6	11
Total	23	53	38	2	32	148

