

Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences

Following disengagement from the Gaza Strip in September 2005, Israel has unilaterally and illegally established a so-called “buffer zone”, an area prohibited to Palestinians along the land and sea borders of the Gaza Strip. The precise area designated by Israel as a “buffer zone” is unknown and Israeli policy is typically enforced with live fire. The establishment of the ‘buffer zone’ is illegal under both Israeli and international law.

Preventing Palestinians from access to their land, and fishing areas, violates numerous provisions of international human rights law, including the right to work, the right to the highest attainable standard of living, and the right to the highest attainable standard of health. Enforcing the “buffer zone” by means of live fire often results in, *inter alia*, the war crimes of direct targeting of civilians and indiscriminate attacks.

Dimensions

On land: inside Palestinian territory:

At sea, area off coast for Palestinian fishing:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Intifada (2000): 150 metres • According to Israel (2010) : 300 metres • In reality:
Minimum: 300 metres to approximately 2 kilometres • Approximately 17% of the total territory of the Gaza Strip | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oslo Accords (1994): 20 nautical miles (NM) • Bertini Commitment (2002): 12 NM • October 2006: 6 NM • End of 2007 : 3 NM • 1.5 NM in the north along the maritime boundary with Israel • 1 NM in the south along the maritime boundary with Egypt |
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Impact

On Land:

At Sea:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 27,000 dunums, 35% of the Gaza Strip's agricultural land can only be accessed under high personal risk, as Israeli attacks may result in injury or death of civilians. • 95% of the restricted area is arable land • After the evacuation of settlements (2005) and Operation Cast Lead (2008-2009) the majority of Palestinians families abandoned their land and houses. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palestinians are totally prevented from accessing 85% of the maritime areas in reference to 1994 Gaza Jericho Agreement. • Approximately 3,700 fishermen expose themselves to high risk every day at sea. • Approximately 8,200 persons are working in fishing industry. • Approximately 65,000 persons, including individuals in the fishing industry and their dependents are affected by the “buffer zone” restrictions at sea. • The area near the coast is markedly over-fished. |
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AttacksMarch 2012

Attacks	Total	Within Land "buffer zone"	Within Maritime "buffer zone"
Shelling	3	3	0
Shooting	4	1	2
Incursions	7	4	3
Land leveling	1	1	0
Total of incident	15	9	6

* These numbers do not represent all the incursions which took place in the sea, only the ones reported so often those were shooting or/and attacks were reported.

Consequences of attacks**a. Deaths and Injuries**March 2012

CONSEQUENCES	Total	Within Land "buffer zone"	Within Maritime "buffer zone"
Deaths of Persons	3	3	0
Minors	1	1	0
Women	1	1	0
Injuries of Persons	48	48	0
Minors	28	28	0
Women	7	7	0

b. Property related violationsMarch 2012

CONSEQUENCES	Total	Within Land "buffer zone"	Within Maritime "buffer zone"
Property damaged	0	0	0
Property confiscated	0	0	0
Dunums razed	1	1	0

c. DetentionMarch 2012

CONSEQUENCES	Total	Within Land "buffer zone"	Within Maritime "buffer zone"
Total persons detained	1	1	0

Minors detained	0	0	0
Women detained	0	0	0