



## Israeli Occupying Forces Kill 21 Palestinians in March 2019

### Al-Haq Field Report March 2019

- 21 Palestinian, including five children, killed. Of these, one was killed by an unidentified explosive object.
- 23 structures, homes and public and private properties demolished.
- 54 people, including 23 children and two persons with disabilities, displaced.

#### Killings

In March 2019, 21 Palestinians were killed in the most significant escalation since the beginning of 2019. These were:

**Amir Mahmoud Darraj**, a 22-year-old resident of Kharbatha al-Misbah village in western Ramallah, and **Yousef Raed Anqawi**, 20-year-old resident of Beit Sira village in western Ramallah. At around 4:00 am on Monday, 4 March 2019, Darraj and Anqawi’s car collided with an Israeli military vehicle during a raid into Kafr Ni'ma village. Immediately after the collision, the sound of one bullet was heard being fired. Almost four minutes later, another six rounds were heard being fired. It was not possible to ascertain what had happened due to poor visibility on account of darkness. The Israeli occupying forces (IOF) claimed that the young men “deliberately” rammed into the Israeli military vehicle. Hence, soldiers killed two passengers and arrested another, who, as at the time of reporting continues to be detained.

On Wednesday evening, 6 March 2019, **Seif al-Din Imad Abu Zeid**, a 15-year-old boy from Gaza city, sustained a bullet wound in the head while participating in night protests. Abu Zeid was standing 300 metres from the perimeter fence east of Al-Zaytun neighbourhood east of Gaza city. The boy succumbed to his wounds the next day at dawn on 7 March 2019.

On 8 March 2019, at around 5:25 pm on Friday, Israeli soldiers positioned behind sand barricades along the fence east of Al-Shoka town in eastern Rafah shot **Tamer Khaled Arafat**, a 22-year-old resident of Rafah city, with a live bullet in the head. Together with dozens of protestors, Arafat participated in the 50<sup>th</sup> week of the Great Return March protests. He was standing and watching events from about 50 metres from the fence. He was evacuated to a medical trauma stabilisation point of the Ministry of Health near to the Al-Awda (return) camp. As he was in critical health condition, he



was transferred to the Gaza European Hospital in Khan Yunis. Efforts to revive him by doctors failed.

On Sunday, 10 March 2019, the IOF killed **Salameh Salah Ka'abneh**, a 22-year-old resident of Fasayil village, allegedly because he had refused orders to stop at a checkpoint set up by the Israeli police on Road 90 north of Fasayil village. An Israeli police officer opened fire on and killed Ka'abneh. Two other young passengers, who were also travelling in the car, fled the scene.

On Monday, 11 March 2019, **Mousa Mohammed Mousa**, a 23-year-old resident of Deir a-Balah, died of wounds sustained while participating in the Great Return March protests east of Al-Bureij refugee camp in Central Gaza. According to field investigations, at around 4:30 pm on Friday, 10 March 2019, Mousa sustained a bullet wound in the stomach while he was about 100 metres away from the fence. He was evacuated to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital and immediately admitted to the operating room. Mousa was placed in intensive care until he was pronounced dead by the hospital.

At around 3:50 am on Monday, 11 March 2019, **Bassam Sami Safi**, a 22-year-old resident of Khan Yunis refugee camp, died of wounds sustained after being hit by a gas canister in the head by the IOF, while participating in the Great Return March protests east of Khuza'a in eastern Khan Yunis. According to Al-Haq investigations, at around 4:00 pm on Friday, 22 February 2019, a gas canister hit Safi directly in the head while he was 150-200 metres away from the fence southeast of the return camp in Khuza'a town in eastern Khan Yunis. Safi was standing, doing nothing, among a group of protestors. He was relocated to the Gaza European Hospital in Khan Yunis, where he was admitted to the intensive care unit due to critical wounds. Injuries caused a skull fracture and brain haemorrhage. Safi continued to receive medical treatment until he was pronounced dead.

On Tuesday, 12 March 2019, during their raid into Salfit city, the IOF shot **Mohammed Jamil Shahin**, a resident of Salfit city, with a live bullet, which went through his chest and heart. Shahin was with his friends near to the Al-Shuhada' roundabout about 150 metres south of the Al-Madina al-Munawwara roundabout on the same street. Shahin was standing, watching the protests against the IOF. He did not participate in the protests.

At around 12:40 pm on Tuesday, 12 March 2019, Israeli soldiers opened fire on and killed **Yasser Mohammed al-Shuweiki**, a 40-year-old resident of Hebron city, inside the settlement compound in Al-Rajabi house, so-called Beit HaShalom by Israeli settlers, east of Hebron city. The IOF claimed that Al-Shuweiki attempted to carry out a stabbing attack.



At around 11:07 pm on Tuesday, 19 March 2019, the IOF opened fire on and killed **Raed Hashem Hamdan** and **Ziyad Imad al-Nouri**, both 20-year-old residents of Nablus city. They had been driving a red Peugeot 106 along a side street connecting Askar al-Balad area in the north, to Amman Street in the south, in the vicinity of Al-Ghawi road junction east of Nablus city. Israeli infantry soldiers were hiding behind the walls of residential buildings and commercial premises at the entrance to the side street, which leads to Amman Street in the south, when they opened fire. Later, with its bucket, an Israeli military Caterpillar wheel loader dragged, pushed and overturned the red car several times for 20 metres to the north of the shooting site near to Fattoum residential building. Both wounded young men were still inside the car. This was confirmed by an eye witness, who heard them moaning of pain. The wheel loader smashed the car and dragged it back to the south for almost 20 metres. Once more, about a dozen Israeli soldiers opened live fire on the car from a distance of around five metres. Shortly after, Israeli soldiers surrounded and directed portable searchlights at the red car. The bodies were taken out, put on the ground at a distance of about two metres from the car, placed in black plastic bags, and transported to a military vehicle.

The red car, in which both young men were travelling, was confiscated. It was carried in the bucket of the wheel loader, which headed to Amman Street and then to Al-Hisba Street east of Nablus city. The bodies were taken to the Huwwara military camp south of Nablus city. On several occasions, an ambulance of the Palestine Red Crescent Society attempted to reach the victims along Amman Street. However, the Israeli soldiers denied access to, and opened live fire on, the ambulance, damaging its front end. Israeli soldiers fired rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters. They also opened fire on a white Skoda Fabia car, which was arriving from Al-Far'a area, directly hitting the windshield and rear window. The driver, a Palestinian police officer, was injured by glass shrapnel in the eyes. He was evacuated to the Rafidia public hospital, and then transferred to the Al-Najah Hospital in Nablus city due to injury in the retina. In the morning, the IOF handed over the bodies.

On Tuesday evening, 19 March 2019, the IOF besieged **Omar Amin Abu Layla**, a 17-year-old resident of Al-Zawiya town in Salfit governorate, in a heritage building in Abwein town. For several minutes, the Israeli forces fired shells and live ammunition intensively on the building. Later, the IOF announced that they had killed Abu Layla, whom they alleged had killed an Israeli settler and soldier on the Ariel junction earlier on 17 March 2019.

On Wednesday, 20 March 2019, the IOF opened fire and killed **Ahmed Mahmoud Manassrah**, a 22-year-old resident of Wadi Fukin village. Manassrah was offering help to a family, who were attempting to transport the injured husband to hospital.



Israeli soldiers positioned on a military tower opened fire when Manassrah tried to start the family's car in order to move it away from the tower. The incident took place at the traffic lights near to Al-Nashash checkpoint in Al-Khadr town, south of Bethlehem city. The checkpoint is about 30 metres from Road 60 (settler bypass road), which connects the cities of Bethlehem and Hebron.

On 22 March 2019, **Jihad Khaled Hararah**, a 24-year-old resident of Gaza city, died of a bullet wound in the head while participating in the Great Return March protests east of Gaza city. Hararah was about 50 metres away from the fence and posing no imminent threat to the IOF.

On 23 March 2019, **Habib Hamzah al-Masri**, a 24-year-old resident of Beit Hanun town, sustained a bullet wound in the chest while participating in night protests east of Beit Hanun town. Al-Masri succumbed to his wounds at dawn on the next day, 24 March 2019.

At around 5:20 pm on Friday, 22 March 2019, **Nidhal Abdul Karim Shatat**, 29, sustained a bullet wound in the chest by Israeli soldiers positioned behind sand barricades along the fence, east of Al-Bureij refugee camp in Central Gaza. Participating in the 51<sup>st</sup> week of the Great Return March protests, Shatat was about 50 metres away from the fence together with a number of protestors. He was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.

At around 6:00 am on Saturday, 30 March 2019, **Mohammed Jihad Sa'd**, a 20-year-old resident of Al-Mansoura Street, Al-Shuja'iya neighbourhood, in Gaza city, sustained a bullet wound in the back when was about 100 metres away from the fence. Sa'd had already been wounded several times in the Great Return March protests, and was recovering from a bullet wound in the leg. Sa'd was on crutches and did not take part in any activity, instead he watched events at approximately 100 metres distance from the fence. At around 6:00 am, after a military jeep arrived, a soldier got off the jeep, took a sniper position, and fired live ammunition, hitting Sa'd in the left side of his back while he was trying to leave the area. Sa'd posed no imminent threat to the soldier. In spite of attempts to revive him, Sa'd succumbed to his wounds and died almost an hour and a half later.

At around 3:00 pm on Saturday, 30 March 2019, **Adham Nidal Amarah**, a 17-year-old resident of Al-Shaghaf neighbourhood east of Gaza city, died of serious injuries in the lower jaw. Amarah was wounded about 150 metres from the fence in the Malakah area east of Gaza city. The injury was caused by an explosive object. Doctors confirmed that it was difficult to definitely determine the nature of the wounds in the boy's face and the cause of injury due to extensive lacerations and fractures in the



lower jaw. According to doctors, the wound was wide open and caused by an explosive object.

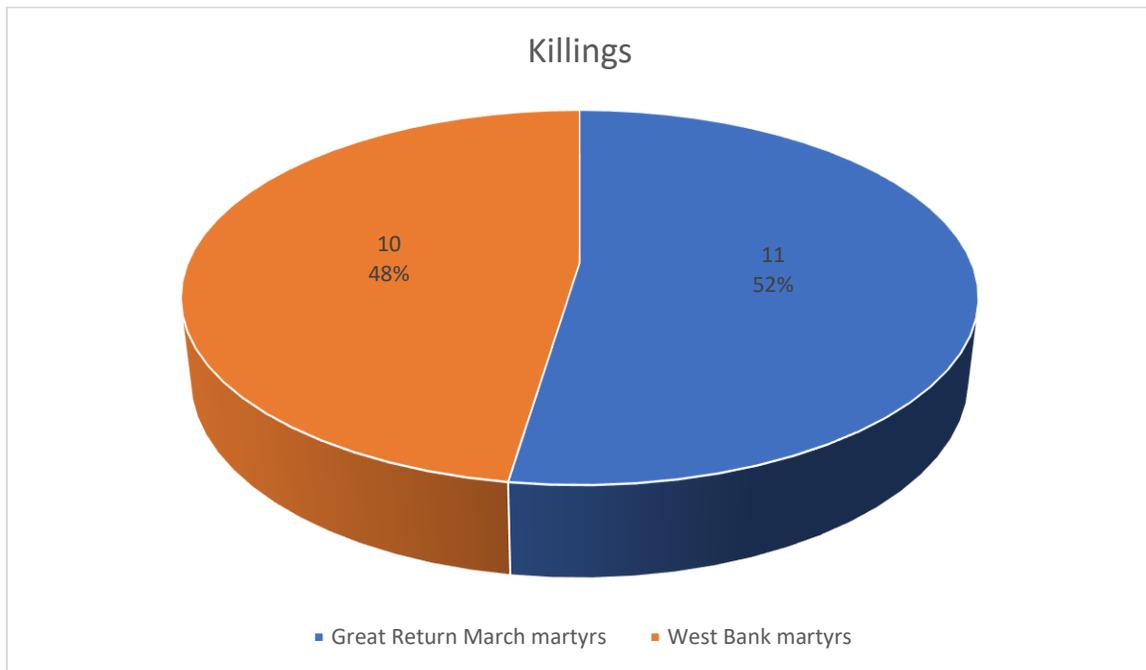
At around 7:05 am on Wednesday, 27 March 2019, during an Israeli raid into Al-Duheisha refugee camp, a soldier shot **Sajed Abdul Hakeem Mizher**, a 17-year-old resident of Al-Duheisha refugee camp, with a live bullet in the lower part of the stomach. Mizher was trying to approach and offer first aid to an injured person. Later on that day, Mizher died from his injuries (For more information, see [Al-Haq Special Report](#)).

At around 2:15 pm on Saturday, 30 March 2019, Israeli soldiers positioned behind sand barricades along the fence east of Khuza'a town in eastern Khan Yunis opened fire on and injured **Bilal Mahmoud al-Najjar**, a 16-year-old boy from Bani Suheila town, in the chest. Al-Najjar was participating in the one-year commemoration of the Great Return March protests, which also marked the anniversary of the Land Day. He was standing about 50 metres from the fence, but was injured while attempting to approach the fence with three other children. Al-Najjar posed no imminent threat to the soldiers. He was evacuated to the medical trauma stabilisation point, and then to the Algerian Hospital in Abasan al-Kabira town. Later, he was transferred to the Gaza European Hospital in Khan Yunis. Having been placed in intensive care, Al-Najjar was pronounced dead at around 10:00 pm the same day.

At around 3:30 pm on Saturday, 30 March 2019, **Tamer Hashem Abu al-Kheir**, a 19-year-old resident of Hamad city in Khan Yunis, sustained a critical bullet wound in the chest while participating in the one-year commemoration of the Great Return March protests in the Khuza'a border area east of Khan Yunis. Abu al-Kheir was transported to the Gaza European Hospital in Khan Yunis and admitted to the operating room, where doctors attempted to revive him. At around 7:00 pm Abu al-Kheir was pronounced dead.

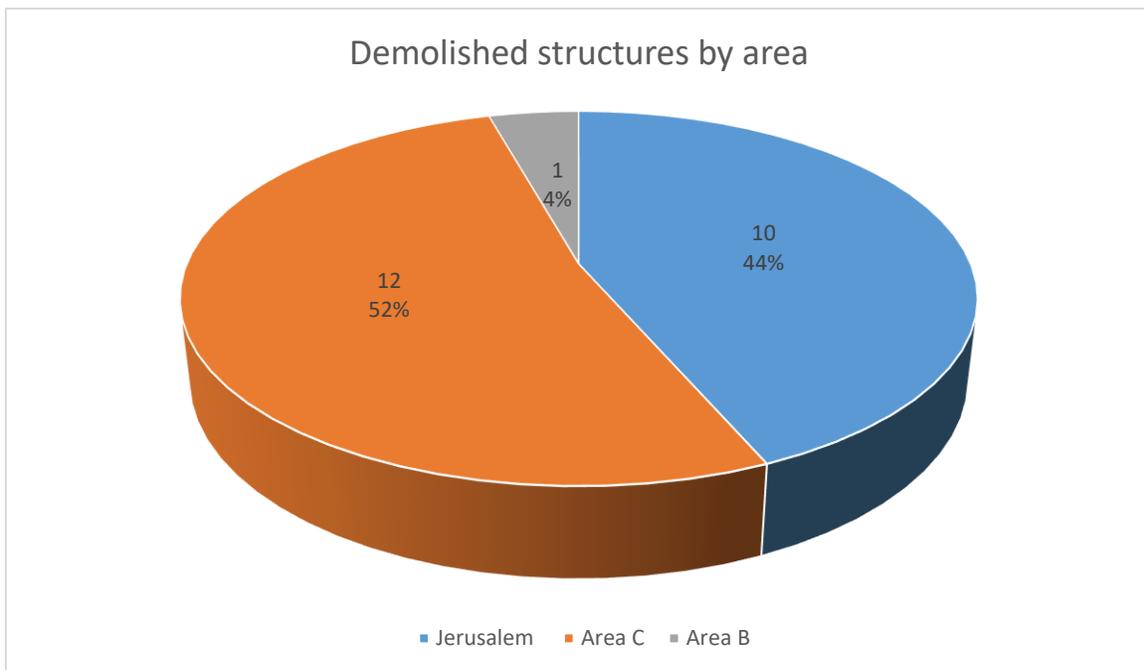
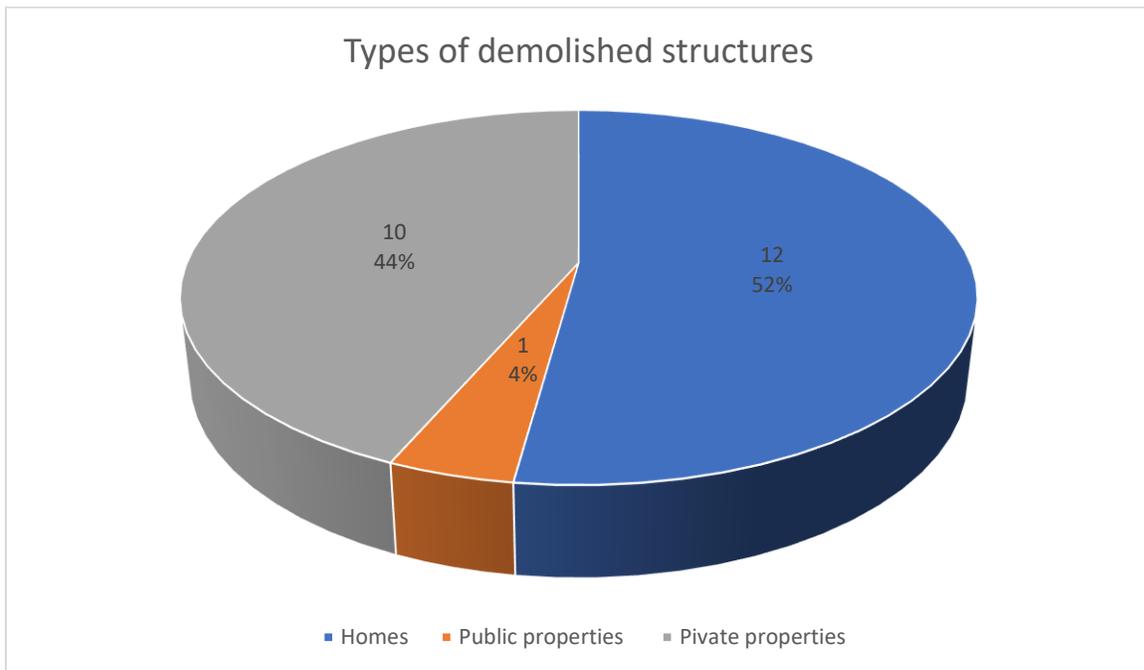
Figures show that out of the 21 martyrs, five were children, reflecting a sharp increase compared to previous months. For example, 11 Palestinians were killed while participating in the Great Return March protests and 10 in the West Bank. The bodies of Amir Darraj and Yousef Anqawi, continue to be withheld by the IOF and therefore their injuries cannot yet be verified. However, the other bodies recovered clearly showed that injuries were sustained in the upper parts of bodies, indicative of a shoot-to-kill policy.

Since the beginning of the January 2019 and until 31 March 2019, the IOF killed 38 Palestinians.



## Demolitions

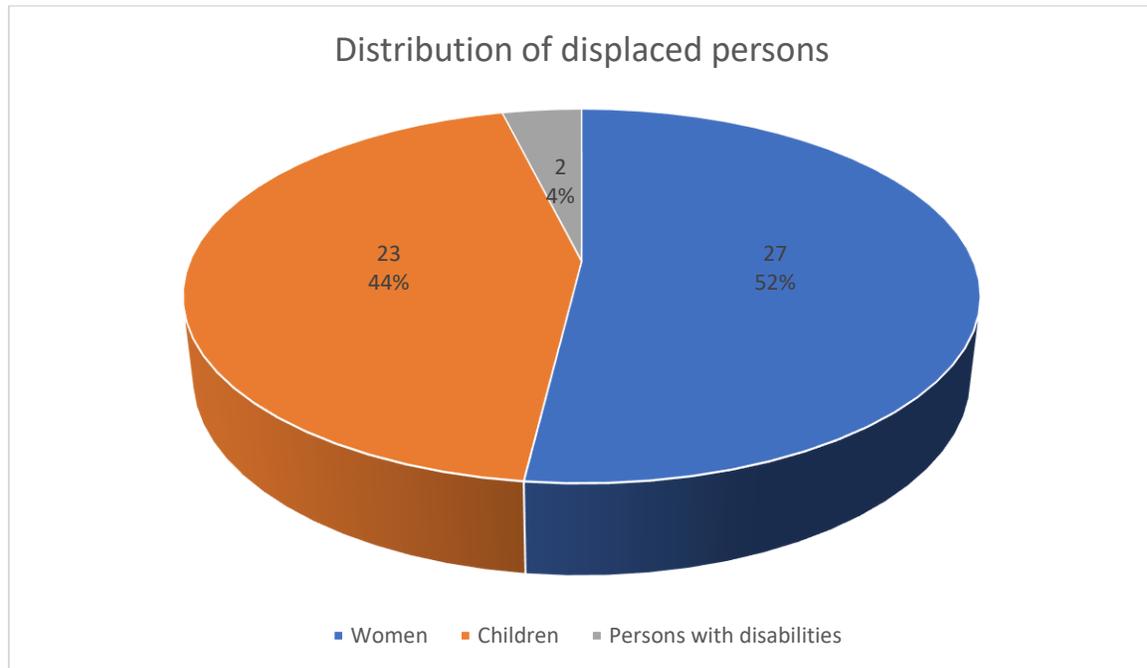
In March 2019, citing the lack of building permits, the IOF demolished 23 structures across the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), including 12 homes, one mosque, and 10 private properties. Of these, one home was demolished on punitive grounds. Twelve of the 21 targeted structures were located in Area C and 10 within the Jerusalem municipal borders. According to data collected by Al-Haq, the majority of demolitions were carried out in the morning, maintaining the current trend.



In relation to the 12 demolished structures, two families were displaced for a second time after their homes were demolished. Of all affected structures, nine were houses and three Bedouin dwellings. All these were located in the vicinity of the settlements, settlement planned areas or settler bypass roads. Five families were unable to remove their belongings prior to demolitions. While three demolished structures were under

construction, all other homes were inhabited. Al-Haq documented the use of Hyundai, Caterpillar, JCB and Volvo equipment to demolish the structures.

Demolitions resulted in the displacement of 54 persons, including 27 women, 23 children, and two persons with disabilities.



Of the 10 private properties, one structure was demolished for the second time. In five private properties, personal belongings were damaged because the owners were not able to remove their personal property from the demolished structures. Additionally, five of the 10 private properties served as a main source of livelihood for the affected families. At least three owners were not given an opportunity to challenge demolition orders. Challenges filed by others, who were given this chance, were in vain as the Israeli court system gives deference to the Israeli occupying authorities.

### Other Israeli violations

Al-Haq documented 107 other violations committed by the IOF across the OPT. These included specific patterns of violations, namely, attacks against persons, physical assaults, injuries, arrests, movement restrictions, attacks against private and public property, searches, confiscation and destruction of property, and raids. While Israeli settlers carried out 23 abuses, the Israeli army and various military agencies committed all other violations.



## **Violations by the Palestinian Authority and de facto authority in the Gaza Strip**

Al-Haq documented 172 violations during March 2019. Compared to previous months, abuses marked a significant increase due to the persecution of the popular movement in Gaza. Most notably, Al-Haq documented 34 incidents of arbitrary detention. In addition, abuses included ill treatment and/or torture (22), physical assault (32), attacks against peaceful assemblies (36), and seizure of electronic devices (6). Another 42 violations involved restrictions on media outlets and social media networks, verbal abuses, summonses to security agencies, arbitrary dismissal from employment, etc.

Violations were committed by a number of government bodies, including security agencies, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Abuses were mainly perpetrated by the Preventive Security (16), Police in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (112), General Intelligence (12), Internal Security (20), Field Control personnel (1), joint security forces (2), Al-Qassam Brigades (3), and Ministry of *Waqf* (2).