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- ABOUT GANSO -

GANSO is a project of CARE International, funded by ECHO with the aim of providing the information and analysis the NGO community needs in order to implement humanitarian projects safely.



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GAZA STRIP SUMMARY

This reporting period witnessed a spike in cross-border violence during one weekend (8-10) of particularly heavy activity: a total of 5 Grad-style and 27 HMRs were fired from all governorates (except Rafah) and there were 10 IAF air strikes (7 in the Gaza governorate alone). In total, 10 IAF air strikes and 5 Pal. op. Grad-style and 34 HMRs were recorded throughout the Gaza Strip during this reporting period.

A continuation of targeted killings was also seen, with 3 militants killed and at least 7 related civilian injuries.

IF border fire and incursions continued to be reported; consequently, the border areas remain areas of extremely high risk. Additionally, there was a slight increase in incidents of IF naval fire.

A number of violent family disputes were also reported, with many believed to be related to family legacy issues. These included the killing of two parents by their 22 year old son. He was later apprehended by the de facto authorities.

In total, this reporting period saw 29 civilian injuries and 7 civilian fatalities. This includes 2 civilian injuries from HMRs that dropped short, landing within Palestinian territory.

ABBREVIATIONS KEY

'c', for example 'c200m'.....	<i>circa, shorthand for approximate</i>
BF.....	<i>Border Fire</i>
ERW.....	<i>Explosive Remnants of War</i>
HMG.....	<i>Heavy Machine Gun</i>
HMR.....	<i>Home Made Rocket</i>
IED, ED.....	<i>Improvised Explosive Device, Explosive Device</i>
IF, IAF, INF.....	<i>Israeli Forces, Israeli Air Force, Israeli Naval Force</i>
Pal. ops.....	<i>Palestinian Operatives</i>
RPG.....	<i>Rocket Propelled Grenade</i>
UXO.....	<i>Unexploded Ordnance</i>
E, W, S, N.....	<i>Compass points—East, West, South, North</i>

OF SPECIAL CONCERN

Internal Palestinian Politics:

The long-standing rift between Fatah and Hamas remains an issue of concern. Both parties continue to publicly display good intentions regarding potential unity; however, the formation of a national unity government is unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Hamas' anniversary (14 Dec.) was a show of force with a reported 350,000 attending celebrations in Al-Katiba, central Gaza City. The celebrations concluded without incident. The reporting period also saw speculation about whether Hamas was considering relocating its leadership out of Damascus. According to media reports, this has already begun to take place at a low level. These reports are denied by Hamas' senior leadership. Possible relocation options to keep an eye on include Jordan, Qatar, and Egypt.

Israeli Political Rhetoric:

Recent weeks have seen a number of Israeli military figures discuss the possibility of a wider conflict with Gaza. IF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Benny Gantz was quoted as saying in two recent speeches, "We cannot continue with one round after another," and that the time was "drawing closer" for when the "[t]he IDF will need to [embark on] a significant offensive operation in the Gaza Strip." This increasingly bellicose rhetoric came in the wake of several escalations in cross-border violence in 2011, and coincided with recent gains by Islamist parties in the first stages of Egyptian parliamentary elections.

Despite these concerns, during the weekend spike in violence (8-10 Dec.), Egyptian officials reportedly played a role in restoring calm on both sides.

Two Targeted Killings:

IAF targeted killings continue to be a trigger for spikes in cross-border violence between Israel and the Gaza Strip. This is particularly true for targeted killings aimed at factions other than Hamas. This reporting period saw two attempted targeted killings that failed (8 Dec. in GC and 10 Dec. in NG, respectively). Another targeted killing resulted in the death of an Islamic Jihad operative on the 7th of December. Following that incident, an IAF missile struck a vehicle

carrying two Pal. ops traveling on Omar Al Mukhtar St. at 1310 hrs on the 8th of December. As a result, one Pal. op from Al Qassam Brigades and one from Al Aqsa Brigades were killed; there were also 4 Palestinian civilian injuries.

This incident sparked a weekend spike in violence as mentioned in the Gaza Strip Summary (p. 1). At least 2 civilian fatalities and 15 civilian injuries were reported. During this period (8-10), a total of 23 HMRs, 5 Grads, and 7 IAF air strikes took place.

Family Disputes:

The internal security situation remains unpredictable, though incidents tend to be sporadic and localised. This was highlighted by three violent family disputes in the reporting period. One family dispute in KY resulted in a non-fatal shooting. A separate family dispute in the MA resulted in a non-fatal shooting. A further family dispute in the MA was reported in which a 22 year old male shot and killed both his parents.

Fatalities due to Gas Leaks:

It has been reported that some of the gas that comes through the tunnels is of low quality and has no scent. As a consequence, a gas leak is virtually undetectable. For example, two brothers suffocated to death in NG due to a gas leak.

Upcoming Dates:

The next Monthly Briefings will be on January 11 (Gaza) and Jan 12 (Jerusalem).

New Contact Information:

Please contact GANSO using our new e-mail addresses! GANSO radio room contact details remains the same. (See contact info on pg. 5)

Welcome:

GANSO would like to welcome Lani Frerichs to the team. She is the new analyst and researcher for GANSO. Please contact her with any questions regarding the political situation, special advisories, or general concerns. (See contact info on pg. 5.)

REGIONAL SUMMARIES

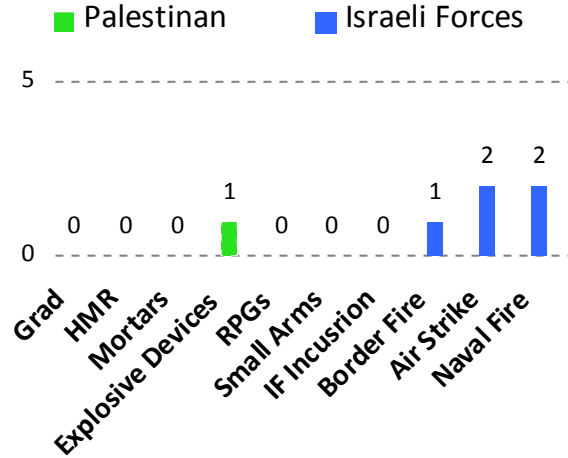
RAFAH

Rafah was relatively quiet during the reporting period with only six incidents of note. The most serious were 2 IAF air strikes on the mornings of the 9 and 10 December targeting an open area west of Rafah and an Al Qassam training site in the Tal Al Sultan neighbourhood, respectively. No injuries or damage were reported in either case.

On 4 December, an IED was detonated in an open area in Al Amour area northeast of Rafah. No injuries or damages were reported.

Three separate cases of gunfire by Israeli forces were reported, two by Israeli naval vessels towards Palestinian fishing boats and one by IF positioned on the border near Gaza's former International Airport.

Lastly, Palestinian Human Rights NGO Al Mezan reported that 5 Palestinians were injured while working in a tunnel under the Gaza/Egypt border on 6 December.

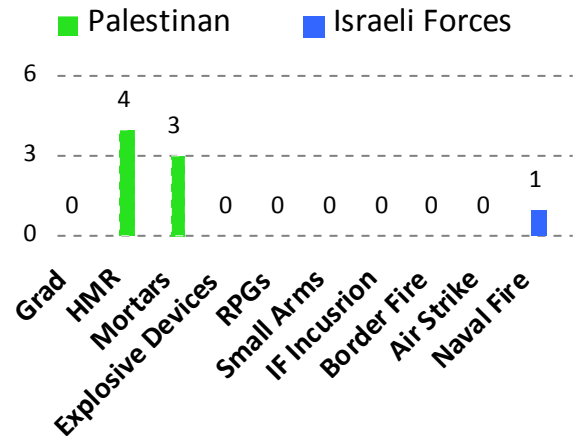


KHAN YUNIS

On three separate occasions, Palestinian operatives fired a total of 4 HMRs and 3 mortars from east of Abasan towards Israeli territory. Of which, at least two of HMRs were claimed by the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC). No damage or injuries were reported as a result of any of the projectiles fired.

Two noteworthy demonstrations were held: in the first, the Popular Front for the Liberation for Palestine (PFLP) protested outside the ICRC office about the detention of Palestinians in Israeli jails; in the second, a funeral procession attended by c700 people was held marking the death of two young children after they drowned in sanitation pools northwest of Al Qatatwa area.

One case of IF naval fire was reported when Palestinian boats were forced to shore off the coast west of Khan Yunis.



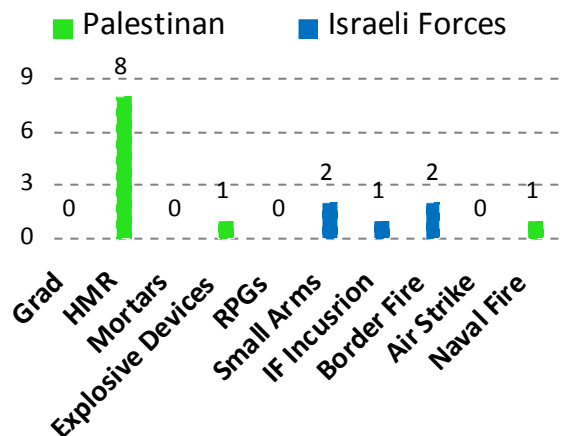
REGIONAL SUMMARIES

MIDDLE AREA

Over the course of three evenings, Pal. ops fired 8 HMRs (1 of which dropped short) towards Israeli territory. Most of the HMRs were fired from around the Al Bureij area.

On 13 Dec, IF conducted an incursion with 4 tanks and 3 bulldozers c300m from the border southeast of Al Bureij. Palestinian operatives detonated an IED near the IFs. In response, IFs fired one tank shell, injuring one Palestinian civilian.

Internally, there were 3 disputes that turned violent: in the first, a disagreement between 2 drivers in Deir Al Balah resulted in one gunshot injury; in the second, a man reportedly shot and killed his parents in the Al Bureij area; in the final case, a family dispute in erupted between brothers in the Al Bureij area resulting in one injury. In all cases, the de facto police have opened investigations.



GAZA

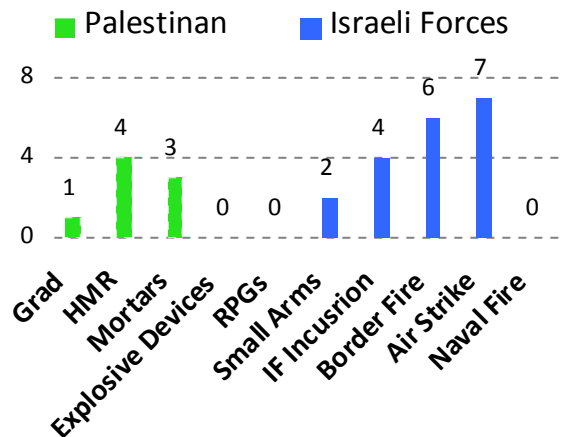
Gaza City witnessed the highest number of IAF air strikes with at least 7 recorded (of a total 10 for the entire reporting period). As a result, 3 Pal. ops were killed and 5 were injured. Additionally, a further 2 Palestinian civilians were killed and at least 18 civilians were injured.

Israeli Forces conducted 4 incursions into Gazan territory, ranging from c50m to up 700m from the border fence; these predominantly affected the area around Karni Industrial Zone. On one occasion, Pal. ops opposed an incursion, firing 3 mortars at IFs. IFs responded with a tank shell, injuring 2 Islamic Jihad operatives.

Six separate incidents of IF border fire were reported, which included the use of gunfire, artillery and tank fire. 1 Palestinian civilian was reportedly injured as a result.

During the same reporting period, Palestinian operatives fired 1 Grad, 4 HMRs, and 3 mortars. Of the HMRs, 1 exploded prematurely and 1 dropped short, striking and severely damaging a Palestinian home in Zaitoun area.

Internally, it was reported an Al Qassam militant was killed during the course of his activities. The exact nature of his death remains unclear.



REGIONAL SUMMARIES

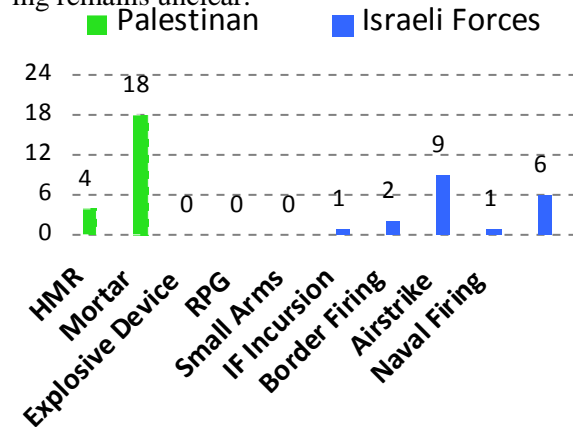
NORTH GAZA

NG saw the highest amount of cross-border violence during the reporting period. A total of 18 HMRs, and significantly, 4 Grad-style rockets were fired towards Israeli territory. Of these, one third of the HMRs (8) either dropped short or exploded prematurely before leaving Palestinian territory. While no damage was recorded in Israeli territory as a result of the rocket fire, Palestinian property was damaged on three separate occasions: on the first, an UNRWA girls school was struck with a rocket, piercing the roof (it is also worthwhile noting that the rocket was launched at 1420hrs in the afternoon, though on a Friday); in the second, the boundary wall of a property in Beit Hanoun was struck causing minor damage; in the final case, a building in Beit Lahiya was hit, injuring 2 Palestinian civilians.

During the same reporting period the IAF conducted 1 air strike on a military base in the Al Karam area, north of Gaza City. In addition, IFs

conducted 2 incursions, one c300m inside the border near Beit Hanoun and the other c100m near the former Erez Industrial Zone. Lastly, there were 9 cases of border fire and 6 of naval fire reported; as a result, 1 Palestinian civilian was injured.

Internally, 2 Palestinians were killed due to a gas leak and 1 Palestinian sustained a non-lethal gunshot wound. The source of the shooting remains unclear.



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