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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 was marked by a return to a general lull in cross-border violence: there were no IAF air strikes, with 10 HMRs and 3 mortars reported.

IF incursions remained the same as in the previous reporting period (3). On 16 Jan., IF E of Nahal Oz (GC) launched several flares into Palestinian territory; one flare landed on a house E of Shujaiyeh, setting the building alight. No injuries were reported.

Rafah: Tunnels continue to claim lives and cause injury in 2012, with 1 killed and another injured due to tunnel collapses.

Khan Yunis: PRC operatives fired 2 mortars towards Israel.

Middle Area: 2 DFLP operatives injured by IF border fire while reportedly attempting to plant explosive devices.

Gaza City: De facto police arrested a suspected drug dealer from the Baker family and several others in Gaza City.

North Gaza: 4 HMRs were fired towards Israeli territory, 2 of which either dropped short or exploded prematurely.

In total, this reporting period saw at least 11 civilian injuries and 2 civilian fatalities.

ABBREVIATIONS KEY

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

OF SPECIAL CONCERN

Internal Palestinian Politics:

The recent electoral successes of Islamist governments in the aftermath of the Arab Spring have arguably given a boost to Hamas' political capital across much of the Arab world. In that spirit, Hamas' PM Haniyeh received a warm reception in several countries on his first trip outside the Gaza Strip in 4 years. In Tunisia, an MP took the opportunity to call the Gazan government the 'legitimate government of Palestine,' a statement which served to heighten tension between Fatah and Hamas officials.

Nevertheless, reconciliation talks continue, with Haniyeh hosting senior Fatah officials at his home in Gaza; however, this reporting period witnessed some roadblocks along the way. Haniyeh's reception in Tunisia—arguably that of a Head of State—was one such stumbling point. A few days prior, a Fatah delegation was reportedly denied entry to Gaza at the Erez Crossing. Differing accounts of the event have also caused some friction.

Palestinian/Israeli Negotiations in Jordan:

Jordanian Foreign Minister Judeh hosted envoys from the Israeli and Palestinian governments to discuss preliminary steps toward reopening negotiations. This marks the first official contact between Palestinian and Israeli officials since October 2010, when the last round of peace negotiations ended. This round is meant to lay the foundation for resuming direct negotiations between the two sides, with each side expected to put forth proposals on security, borders, and other relevant issues.

Al Mezan Staff Assault:

The Gaza-based NGO Al Mezan Center for Human Rights reported an assault on one of its senior staff members (13 Jan). It is the second incident regarding this staff member within two weeks. Al Mezan's press release about the incident can be found [here](#) (short link: <http://goo.gl/jo6Ty>)

De facto police have stated that they opened an investigation.

Erez:

Staffing Issues/Operating Hours Changes

The Erez Crossing Terminal is experiencing ongoing manpower issues. Expect and plan for significant delays as you travel in both directions.

Slight changes to the operating hours have been reported as a result of these issues. The updated hours are as follows: Sunday-Thursday 0800 to 1500; Friday 0800 to 1200. The times are the same for both pedestrian crossing and vehicle transport. Please feel free to call GANSO's Radio Room (see p. 5) for updates as you make your travel plans.

Upcoming Monthly Briefings Dates:

The next Monthly Briefings will be on February 1 (Gaza, English followed by Arabic) and February 2 (Jerusalem, English only).

Contact Info: UN Access Team:

Additionally, please refer to the UN Access Team for concerns related to the Erez Crossing, Ben Gurion Airport, check points and other access-related issues. The UN Access team can be contacted 24/7 on the following hotline number: + 972 (0) 543311850.

They can also be followed on Twitter (@ACUalert).

REGIONAL SUMMARIES

RAFAH

During the reporting period Rafah remained relatively quiet with few incidents of note.

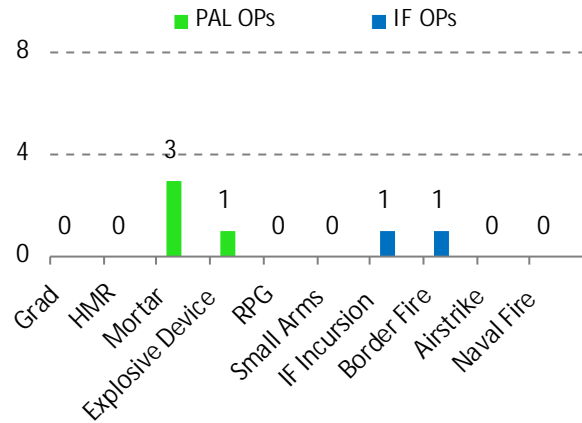
On 9 Jan., unidentified Palestinian operatives fired 3 mortars from Al Shouka area, E of Rafah towards Israeli territory.

Again in the Al Shouka area, IF conducted a c150metre incursion with tanks and a bulldozer before leaving the area .

It is worth highlighting that the Al Shouka area has been an area of high activity in recent months, witnessing not only rocket and mortar fire, but also IF incursions and border fire.

On 14 Jan., an explosive device detonated in the house of the new PRC Secretary General, killing 1 and injuring 4 others—it is unclear. The new PRC-SG was not at home at the time. IF denied any involvement. His predecessor was killed in an IAF air-strike in August of 2011.

On 5 Jan., a tunnel collapsed under the Gaza/Egypt border killing one and injuring another.



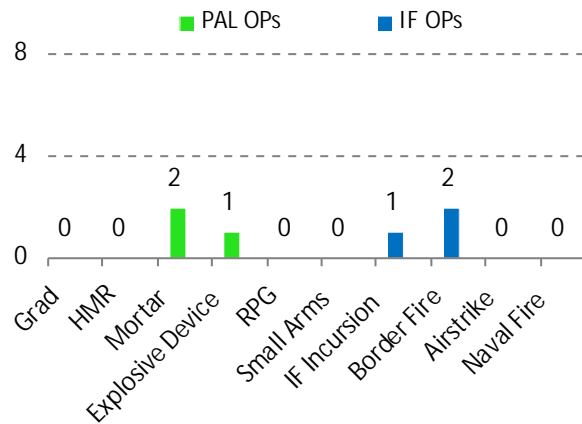
KHAN YUNIS

Khan Yunis was quiet for the second consecutive reporting period.

PRC operatives claimed responsibility for 2 mortars fired towards Israel from Al Fukhkhari area. In response, IF positioned on the border directed HMG fire in the direction of the mortar fire.

On 4 Jan., IFs conducted an incursion c100metres from the border near Al Faraheen area, levelling and excavating the area before returning over the border. Sporadic gunfire was reported during the incursion.

On 10 Jan., a Palestinian child was injured after reportedly handling a hand grenade fuse near his family home in Al Qarara area.



REGIONAL SUMMARIES

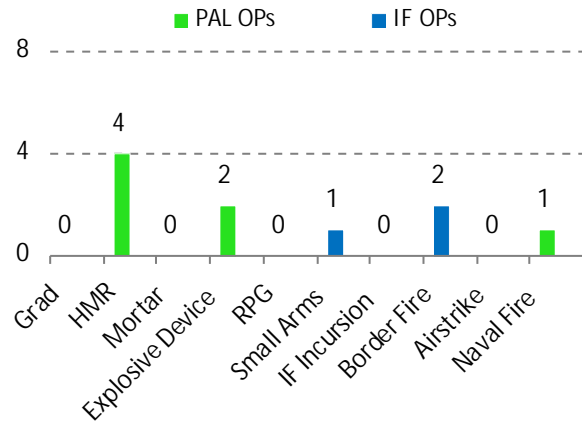
MIDDLE AREA

Unidentified Palestinian operatives fired 4 HMRs towards Israel from Al Bureij Al Maghazi areas; 1 HMR exploded prematurely.

A Palestinian farmer was injured when what was locally reported to have been an improvised IED planted by Palestinian operatives accidentally detonated. In a second IED-related incident, de facto police discovered and detonated a device in a field E of Deir Al Balah. No injuries or damage were reported.

On 12 Jan., 2 DFLP operatives were injured by IF tank fire as they reportedly attempted to plant explosive devices near the border S/E of Al Bureij.

On 13 Jan., a man was injured in a family dispute in Al Mughraqa area. The following day, a family dispute turned violent as those involved exchanged gunfire in Deir Al Balah. No injuries were reported.



GAZA

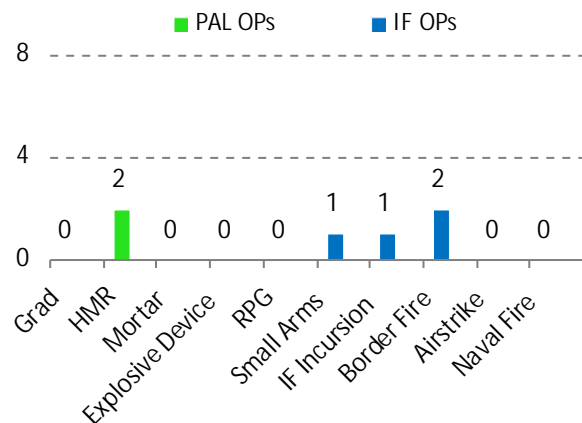
Marking a slight reduction, only 2 HMRs were fired from this governorate, compared to 5 in the previous reporting period. One rocket exploded prematurely.

On 1 Jan., de facto police raided houses belonging to the Baker family, c150metres N/W of Shifa Hospital. Family members threw stones at the police who in turn dispersed the crowd by firing into the air. The stated motive for the raid was to arrest a suspected drug dealer.

On 4 Jan., the car of a former PA officer was burned in Al Sabra area. The motive behind the attack remains unclear.

On 8 Jan., Islamic Jihad reported that one of their operatives was killed during training activities near Gaza City.

On 10 Jan., IF penetrated c150metres into Palestinian territory near the Juice Factory, E of Gaza City. Sporadic gunfire was reported during the incursion.



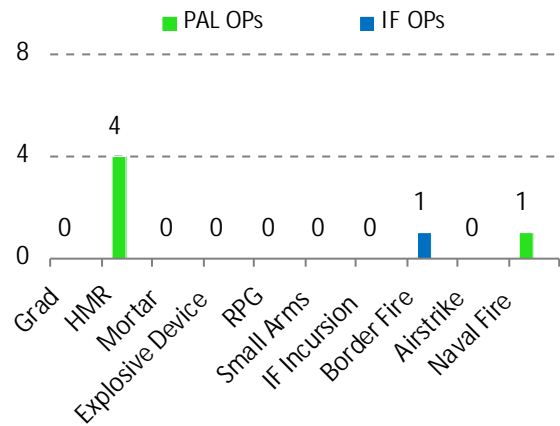
REGIONAL SUMMARIES

NORTH GAZA

Palestinian operatives fired 4 HMRs towards Israel, half of which either exploded prematurely or dropped short. No damage or injuries on either side of the border were reported as a result.

On 2 Jan., IF naval vessels directed gunfire towards Palestinian fishing boats, damaging 1. Four days later IF positioned on the border fired approximately 2 tank shells towards an open area, E of Jabalia.

On 5 Jan., a small crowd of c50 people from the Al Fukhara Project for Scholarships gathered outside an UNRWA school in Jabalia to mark the third anniversary of the Israeli/Gaza conflict, 'Cast Lead'.



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