



INDEPENDENT
COMMISSION
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

**The impact of the Israeli
aggression on the rights
of citizens and vital
services in the Gaza Strip**

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May 10-18, 2021

Introduction

In the evening hours of Monday, May 10, 2021, following the escalation of tension between the Palestinian resistance factions and the Israeli occupation authorities, the Israeli occupation forces launched out intensive bombing operations on the Gaza Strip. Tension had reached its peak following attempts of the Israeli occupation police to evacuate homes of a number of Jerusalemite families in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in occupied Jerusalem in favor of settlement associations claiming ownership of these houses, attacking Muslim worshipers in Al-Aqsa Mosque, and trying to expel them to pave the way for settlers to storm the mosque. The next day, Tuesday, May 11, the occupation army announced waging a massive military operation in the Gaza Strip, under the name of "Guardian of the Walls," under the pretext of rocket launching by the Palestinian resistance. The escalating Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip continued until the drafting of this report, causing many civilian casualties, including a large number of children and women. Bombing also caused heavy economic losses, as it affected civilian targets, including residential towers, homes, government buildings, police and security headquarters, institutions, main roads, agricultural land, banks, concrete factories, metal workshops, schools and places of worship. The impact of the Israeli aggression on the rights of citizens in the Gaza Strip is of four aspects: Violations of basic human rights, destruction of infrastructure, undermining economic structures and paralysis or inability to provide vital services.

This report presents brief facts about the aforementioned four aspects. The first aspect addresses the most prominent human rights violations in six points: The right to life and physical integrity, the right to health, the right to housing, the right to education, the right to freedom of journalistic work, and the right to worship. The second aspect addresses the impact of the Israeli aggression on the economic structures in the Gaza Strip (the right to development). The third part outlines the most prominent facts about the destruction of infrastructure. Finally, the report explains how the Israeli aggression paralyzed or disrupted vital services in three points: Government services, electricity service, and telecommunications, and the Internet.

The report covers the period from the start of the aggression until Tuesday evening, May 18, 2021. The report follows a descriptive approach, based on qualitative and quantitative information, obtained from secondary sources, such as reports by human rights centers, government data, and statements, foremost of which is the Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and some statements by media officials.

First: Violations of basic human rights

The Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, which coincided with the imposition of a comprehensive blockade on the Strip, has caused a continuation of the siege that has lasted for fourteen years, resulting in the violation of all the rights of the Palestinian citizens of the Gaza Strip. This report focuses on the most prominent rights subject to violation because of the recent Israeli aggression. These are the right to life and physical integrity, the right to health, the right to housing, the right to education, the right to freedom of journalistic work, and the right to worship. The following is an outline of the most prominent facts available about the violations of these rights during the period covered by the report.

1. The right to life and physical integrity

For the tenth consecutive day (since the start of the aggression (on 5/10/2021) the Israeli occupation forces continued using air force missiles, artillery and tank shells, and naval battleship shells in targeting Palestinian citizens and civilian targets, which constitutes a serious violation of the right to life and physical integrity. Not only because it inflicts injury on victims directly, but it also creates a state of total and collective loss of safety for civilians and renders the entire Gaza Strip an insecure place in which everyone is at imminent risk of losing their lives all the time.

As of Wednesday morning (19/05/2021), the toll of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip reached (219) martyrs. This includes (63) children, (36) women, a journalist, (2) doctors, a disabled person, (16) elderly citizens, and (1,530) injured. The number can still increase in light of the continued Israeli bombing and the ongoing searches under the rubble of buildings that the Israeli occupation army targeted¹. Among the victims were entire families that the Israeli forces killed and wiped out, after targeting their homes suddenly without warning. At the time of drafting this report, the targeting of dozens of these families has been observed. These are; Al-Tanani, Al-Masry, Sherer, Al-Talbani, Arafa, Amen, Issa, Al-Attar, Abu Hatab², and others. Among the victims was the citizen Abed al-Rahman Yusef Subuh, 19 years old, from Al-Shati refugee camp, who suffers from a mental and physical disability, whose body was recovered by civil defense crews and his mother, after the bombing of the building in which they lived, causing the apartment to fall on them³.

¹ The Palestinian Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip, website, <http://www.moh.gov.ps> ./

² The Palestinian Center for Human Rights, on the fifth day of the aggression on Gaza ... state terrorism is manifested and a displacement reminiscent of scenes of the Nakba, press release on May 14, 2021 The Palestinian Center for Human Rights, the escalation of the Israeli aggression on Gaza. Widespread destruction of homes and infrastructure, 33 civilians were killed, including 3 children and 3 women, and 107 civilians were wounded, including 21 women and 44 children, the death toll from the aggression rose to 83, including 17 children and 7 women, and 318 wounded, including 95 children and 61 women, press release On May 13, 2021; The Palestinian Center for Human Rights, targeting residential towers and destroying homes on the heads of their residents and the intensity of the raids on the second day of the aggression on Gaza, press release on May 12

³ The Palestinian Center for Human Rights, a dangerous escalation in the Gaza Strip, killing 26 civilians, including 9 children, a woman and her son with disabilities, and wounding 75 others, including 22 children and 7 women, press release on May 11 <٢٠٢١\shorturl.at/gQ128>

The Al-Tanani family is completely wiped out

The Israeli air force bombed a residential community near the Sheikh Zayed roundabout on the main road of Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip, at dawn on Friday, May 14, 2021, without prior notice. The bombing led to the total destruction of the house of Rabah Al-Madhoun, and the martyrdom of the family of Al-Tanani, and the destruction of their rented apartment. Civil defense crews were able to recover the bodies of the family, consisting of 6 members: the father and the mother, and their four children. The martyrs were: Rafat “Muhammad Ismail” Ata al-Tanani, 39, Rawya Fathi Hassan al-Tanani, 36, and their children: Ismail, 7, Adham, 4, Amir, 6 and Muhammad, 3⁴

Al-Aloul family: He was killed with three of his daughters

The occupation air force bombed the house of Jihad Muhammad Shaban Al-Aloul, 51, consisting of four floors, with three missiles, in the middle of the street of Beit Lahia market in Beit Lahia, without prior notice. This led to the death of 4 citizens, a father, and 3 of his daughters, one of whom was pregnant. The martyrs were Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad Aman, 51, and his daughters: Hadeel Muhammad Ibrahim Aman, 18, Warda Muhammad Ibrahim Aman, 22, and Walaa Muhammad Ibrahim Aman, 24, who was six months pregnant.⁵

The Abu Hatab family massacre: Ten martyrs, most of them children

On Saturday 05/15/2021, the occupation warplanes destroyed a house in Al-Shati’ camp belonging to Abu Hatab family, over the heads of its residents, as they were asleep and without prior notice. The Israeli warplanes bombed the house with several missiles, which led to the death of ten members of Abu Hatab family, who are eight children and two women.

Al-Wehda neighborhood massacre: 42 martyrs, most of them women and children, including two doctors

On Sunday 16/05/2021, without prior notice, the Israeli occupation warplanes bombed five houses in Al-Wehda Street in Gaza City, destroying them over the heads of their residents while they were asleep. The number of victims of this massacre reached 42, including (16) women and (10) children. In addition to the wounding of 50 people with various injuries, most of them were also women and children. Civil defense and ambulance crews are still carrying out searches under the rubble, as the number is expected to rise. Among the martyrs were two doctors working in AL-Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza City. They are Dr. Ayman Abu Al-Auf, dr. Moin Alol.

2. The Right to Health

The Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip began while the health sector in Gaza was suffering from major successive crises. The health sector crises in the Gaza Strip began with the beginning of the Palestinian division and the Israeli blockade on the Gaza Strip

⁴ The Palestinian Center for Human Rights, on the fifth day of the aggression on Gaza ... state terrorism is manifested and a displacement reminiscent of scenes of the Nakba, press release on May 14, 2021

⁵ Same reference

in 2007. The crisis exacerbated by three previous Israeli authorities' aggressive operations in 2008, 2012, and 2014 respectively, as well as their brutal oppression with the use of excessive force against the Great Return Marches, which began on 3/30/2018, marking the 42nd anniversary of Land Day. These marches lasted for several months and resulted in the death of dozens of Palestinian civilians, and the injury of several thousand others, in addition to the depletion of medical resources and a large migration among the medical staff, which created a shortage of trained medical staff. Then the crisis worsened following the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic in the Gaza Strip in August 2020, which led to the occupancy of the majority of intensive care rooms with the infected and depleted the already strained medical resources.

The Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip expressed, in a statement on May 14, 2021, its concern about the targeting of infrastructure and roads in the Gaza Strip, which makes the movement of ambulance crews to transport patients extremely difficult. The aggravation of the power outage crisis, due to the Israeli bombing of various areas and the destruction of electricity transformers, poses a great danger to the hospitals' ability to provide the energy needed to operate their medical equipment. The Gaza Strip is already suffering from a major electricity crisis for many years. This situation puts the lives of patients in the intensive care unit at imminent risk⁶.

The Israeli aggression also contributes to increasing the risk of exposure to the Covid-19 epidemic due to the inability of citizens to follow health prevention instructions in the light of the forcibly displacing the civilians from their homes and crowding them in schools, as places of shelter from the violent Israeli bombing of their residential areas. UNRWA reported that it documented the displacement of about 40 thousand Palestinians in the Gaza Strip from their homes to about 50 UNRWA schools. The escalating Israeli aggression also hinders the efforts of the medical staff to reach Covid-19 patients, who suffer severe symptoms and their lives are at stake due to the severe pressure on hospitals caused by the increasing number of injured people because of the aggression⁷.

The bombing also caused direct damage to some private clinics, medical centers, and primary healthcare clinics. For example, the Ministry of Health announced that the "Hala Al Shawa Center" was completely out of service after the Israeli bombing severely damaged it. It is a maternal and child health care center that provides vaccinations for children. The same applies to the Beit Hanoun and Indonesian Hospitals that suffered damage from the Israeli bombardment⁸. In addition, the Israeli bombardment also targeted the Ministry of Health building and the Rimal Clinic, while the functioning of the central laboratory had to stop as a result, including the Covid-19 test center.

3. The right to housing

⁶ Palestinian Ministry of Health, a press release issued by the Ministry of Health ٢٠٢١/٥/١٤
shorturl.at/uEHV4

⁷ Same reference

⁸ Same reference

The new Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip came, as the process of reconstructing the destruction of the previous Israeli aggression in 2014 was not yet completed. The occupation forces continued their policy of demolishing homes and displacing residents as a political pressure card against the Palestinians. The targeting of citizens' homes began on the first day of the aggression. The frequency of targeting homes increased significantly in the following days, as the targeting included entire residential towers, which Israel leveled with the ground. The occupation, through artillery shelling and spreading rumors of the approaching of its ground entry into the Strip, has also displaced tens of thousands of residents of the border areas from their homes. Many citizens in the border areas have taken refuge in schools, especially UNRWA schools or relatives' homes far from the border area.

According to statistics issued by the Government Information Office on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, the Israeli bombing destroyed 1,174 housing units completely or severely, and 7,073 other units sustained moderate to minor damage. The bombing destroyed 32 towers⁹.

According to UNRWA, the Israeli aggression has caused the displacement of nearly (40) thousand citizens so far, who have sought refuge in 48 schools run by the Agency, and it reported that more than 2,500 people have become homeless after the destruction of their homes¹⁰.

The Israeli bombing also cut off water, sanitation, and electricity services in large residential areas, especially in the northern and northeastern regions of the Gaza Strip, which led to great suffering for the residents there and forced some of them to leave their homes to shelter at the homes of their relatives, or some UNRWA schools in their areas. In recent days, the Israeli occupation army bombed many roads in the Gaza Strip, and the road network near Al-Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza City, which resulted in massive damage to the infrastructure and would impede medical staff in performing their duties, especially the movement of ambulances, as well as civil defense vehicles.

4. The right to education

The Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip began in light of an unprecedented global crisis in education in the Gaza Strip due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as school hours were suspended for varying periods. The bulk of students now receive education through special programs that provide the opportunity for distance learning, which naturally requires the regular availability of electricity and high-quality internet service, both of which are not available in the Gaza Strip due to the Israeli policies towards the Strip. The Gaza Strip also suffers a shortage of schools due to the lack of facilities resulting

⁹ Government Press Office (Gaza), Government Press Office statement, May 18 ٢٠٢١
shorturl.at/aimGY

¹⁰ Radio Voice of Germany (DW) at the following link : shorturl.at/vyzJ9

from the Israeli blockade. The recent Israeli aggression exacerbated the already deteriorating situation of education facilities in the Gaza Strip¹¹.

The Israeli aggression has killed (63) children and injured hundreds of others¹², most of them were schoolchildren. Certainly, injuries will greatly affect students' ability to enroll in the educational process. The government media office in the Gaza Strip also reported severe and partial damage to (57) schools and health facilities, due to the massive Israeli bombing of the Gaza Strip¹³. The massive destruction of the infrastructure affects students' ability to enroll in their schools or adhere to distance education programs, due to long outages of power, telephone lines, and the internet in large areas of the Strip. This comes as many school students are preparing to take final exams, scheduled soon after Eid al-Fitr¹⁴.

5. The right to freedom of journalistic work

The Israeli occupation forces targeted a large number of press institutions and journalists during their aggression on the Gaza Strip. The occupation authorities have consistently targeted journalists and press institutions during their aggressive operations in the Gaza Strip, which reflects a clear desire to subside the role of the media in conveying the truth about their crimes against Palestinian civilians. The Israeli occupation authorities destroyed entire towers, housing many media outlets and offices. The Israeli bombing of these towers over the past few days resulted in the destruction of (33) press offices¹⁵, including (4) media companies. The journalist Yusef Abu Hussein was also martyred at dawn on Wednesday 19/5/2021 after his house was targeted in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City. Abu Hussein works as a broadcaster for the local Al-Aqsa Radio. (3) journalists were wounded, while covering the events of the aggression on Gaza, despite wearing press uniforms and clear distinctive signs¹⁶.

Cases of targeting towers, housing a number of press agencies and offices¹⁷

The occupation warplanes targeted the Al-Jalaa Tower on Saturday afternoon, 05/15/2021, located on Al-Jalaa Street in Al-Wehda neighborhood in Gaza City. The bombing destroyed the tower. The 11 floor -tower includes 60 apartments, including press offices for the most important international news agency, most notably, the American News Agency AP and Al Jazeera Media Network. The tower also includes

¹¹ The Ministry of Education and Higher Education, a press release issued by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Gaza regarding the deliberate bombing of schools and educational institutions by the Zionist occupation, issued on May 13, 2021 <shorturl.at/yAQ12 >

¹² The Palestinian Center for Human Rights, on the fifth day of the aggression on Gaza ... state terrorism is manifested and a displacement reminiscent of scenes of the Nakba, press release on May 14, 2021

¹³ Government Press Office (Gaza), Government Press Office statement, May 18, 2021

¹⁴ According to Mahmoud Matar, a spokesman for the Ministry of Education in Gaza, to the Palestine newspaper, on April 27, 2021, that final exams were scheduled for school students on the first of June, for more information <https://felesteen.ps/p/87245>

¹⁵ Government Press Office (Gaza), Government Press Office statement, May 18, 2021>

¹⁶ The Palestinian Center for Human Rights, targeting journalists is a feature of the ongoing aggression on Gaza. The occupation forces destroy (17) press offices and injure (3) journalists. Press release on May 14 ٢٠٢١ \shorturl.at/adzQ2

¹⁷ Same reference

residential apartments and professional offices for lawyers and doctors. Following this targeting, Reporters Without Borders called for an investigation into Israel's destruction of AL-Jalaa tower in Gaza as a possible war crime. The head of the International Ethical Press Network said that Israel's targeting of international press offices in Gaza amounts to a war crime that deserves accountability.

The occupation warplanes targeted Al-Jawhara Tower, which consists of 11 floors, located at the intersection of Al-Jalaa Street in Al-Wehda, in the center of Gaza City. The shelling caused severe damage to all apartments inside, the tower faced the risk of collapse. In addition to the apartments, the tower contains many press and media institutions, including the National Media Agency; Palestine Newspaper; Al-Araby Al-Jadeed Newspaper; Al-Arabi channel; Iraqi directional satellite channel; Al-Nujaba Satellite TV Syrian satellite; Kufia channel; Kingdom Channel; Local APA Agency, Sabq24 Agency, Media Forum; Gate 24.

The occupation warplanes destroyed the 14- floor Al-Shorouk tower, located on Omar Al-Mukhtar Street in Al-Rimal neighborhood. The bombing destroyed the tower. The tower includes media and press offices, namely: Al-Hayat newspaper; Al Aqsa Network (radio, visual, satellite); Taif Media Foundation; and the PMP company, which provides media production services to many media organizations such as Russia Today, Dubai Satellite Channel, and others.

Journalists were targeted and injured while covering the Israeli bombing

An Israeli drone with a missile targeted the crew of the Turkish Anadolu Agency while they were covering the bombing of the Bedouin village. The shelling resulted in light and medium injuries to some of them. The journalists are Mustafa Hassouna; and Muhammad Al-Aloul; photographers at the Turkish Anadolu Agency and Dawood Abu Al-Kas¹⁸.

6. The right to worship:

The Government Press Office (Gaza) stated, in a statement issued on May 18, 2021, that (8) mosques were completely or severely demolished, and (29) mosques, one church, and Waqf endowment building consisting of five floors and endowment facilities were damaged by the bombing. The direct material losses were estimated at (5) million dollars.

Second: Undermining the economic structures in the Gaza Strip (The Right to Development)

The Gaza Strip has been suffering from a severe and escalating economic crisis due to the Israeli blockade and the Palestinian division since 2007. This crisis has been exacerbated with the repeated Israeli aggressive operations on the Gaza Strip, as the infrastructure of the Strip has been targeted with intense bombing more than once, and many homes, factories, workshops, and shops have been destroyed. The economic

¹⁸ Same reference

crisis has become stifling following the tight restrictions on movement imposed by measures to address the Corona pandemic, as shops and tourist facilities incurred millions of losses during the past months. Unemployment reached extremely high and unprecedented rates in the Gaza Strip, where it was already high, and significantly, even before the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, reaching 43%¹⁹.

The Israeli aggression exacerbated this situation and increased the size of the economic losses in the Gaza Strip. Especially since the Israeli occupation announced the closure of commercial crossings with the Gaza Strip as soon as the aggression began²⁰. The government media office announced in a statement issued at noon, Tuesday, May 18, 2021, that the total losses caused by the continuous Israeli aggression amounted to (243.8) million US dollars²¹. These numbers are increasing, and perhaps multiplying, given the fact that the Israeli aggression continues at an escalating pace.

The agricultural sector has suffered great losses, due to the intense Israeli bombing of agricultural lands, as well as animal farms damaged due to the bombing and the scarcity of fodder due to the closure. The Ministry of Agriculture estimated initial agricultural sector losses at about \$ 5 million²². The damage took the form of direct damage to land cultivated with vegetables and the total or partial destruction of agricultural infrastructure (transmission lines and irrigation networks, in addition to agricultural wells and water reservoirs). Wheatfields, poultry farms, and livestock, in general, suffered imminent danger due to farmers' inability to attend and market, as the occupation deliberately targeted farmers in their land, in addition to closing the crossings²³.

On the other hand, the bombing directly destroyed the headquarters of banks, offices, factories, workshops, and dozens of shops, as the direct losses amounted to (27) million dollars in the economic and commercial establishments, due to the bombing²⁴. This has caused heavy losses to the owners, on the one hand, and on the other hand, caused the loss of the source of livelihood for their workers, in light of unemployment rates described as the highest in the world in the Gaza Strip. Perhaps the most prominent example of this is the destruction of Al-Shorouk Tower, which housed dozens of offices, private clinics, and shops. Its destruction also caused severe damage to dozens of other commercial stores, as it is located in the most vital commercial areas in Gaza

¹⁹ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Palestinian Statistics: Announces the main results of the Labor Force Survey for the fourth quarter of 2020 (October - December, 2020 round), the impact of the Corona pandemic on the labor market
<<http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/postar.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=3918>>

²⁰ The Palestinian Center for Human Rights, the Israeli authorities close the Beit Hanoun border crossing and the Gaza Strip Sea, a press release issued on May 10, 2021 <shorturl.at/otzC8>

²¹ Government Press Office (Gaza), Government Press Office statement, May 14, 2021

²² Ministry of Agriculture (Gaza), Agriculture: The initial losses of the agricultural sector exceed (5 million dollars), <<https://moa.gov.ps/?p=7118>>

²³ Ministry of Agriculture (Gaza), Agriculture: Initial losses of the agricultural sector exceed (2 million dollars), <<https://moa.gov.ps/?p=7112>> The Ministry of Agriculture (Gaza), Agriculture warns of a catastrophe in the animal production sector due to the scarcity of fodder, <<https://moa.gov.ps/?p=7115>>

²⁴ Government Press Office (Gaza), Government Press Office statement, May 18, 2021

City. In addition, nearly 100 vehicles and private transportation were completely and partially damaged, with losses amounting to about (5.5) million dollars²⁵.

The Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip constitutes great and continuous damage to the economy in the Gaza Strip, even after the end of the hostilities, and this effect may last for many months and possibly years. This is due to the time required for the reconstruction process, in addition to the expected Israeli obstacles that may extend the reconstruction process for years. This is also due, in part, to the widespread destruction of the main roads in the Gaza Strip by the occupation authorities, which will make it more difficult for the economy to recover in the Gaza Strip due to the difficulty of movement of people and goods.

Third: Destruction of infrastructure (The Right to Development)

The Gaza Strip suffers from a poor infrastructure because of the Israeli blockade on the Strip and its repeated aggressive operations. The infrastructure has witnessed remarkable progress after the 2014 aggression, as huge resources went into paving main roads in the Gaza Strip. Various municipalities paved many streets and supplied them with water and sanitation. The Israeli aggression came to bring the Gaza Strip back to square one, through the deliberate targeting of infrastructure, especially roads. The government media office estimates the losses in the infrastructure at about (22) million dollars²⁶.

The Israeli warplanes targeted, in a series of violent and successive raids, the main roads and vital streets in the Al-Shejaiya neighborhood. The planes targeted, with dozens of missiles, sporadically parts of the main streets and vital and important roads, as the occupation warplanes targeted the Saraya Junction, located in Omar Al-Mukhtar Street, Abu Khadra Junction, and the Sharia Court Street in central Gaza City. The occupation planes fired several missiles on the main road connecting Tal Al-Hawa and Al-Zaytoun neighborhoods, and the road opposite Alaeddin Station and the Rosary Sisters School on Street "8". Dozens of missiles targeted the road network surrounding the Al-Shifa Medical Complex. The bombing also disrupted the water, sewage, and electricity networks in large areas of the Gaza Strip²⁷.

Fourth: Paralysis or deficit in vital services

The Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip caused paralysis of some vital services and a deficit in others because of the Israeli bombing or complete closure imposed on the Gaza Strip since the start of the aggression. The aggression has caused almost complete paralysis in many government services, especially the security service and services

²⁵ Same reference

²⁶ Same reference

²⁷ The Palestinian Center for Human Rights, on the fifth day of the aggression on Gaza ... state terrorism is manifested and an exodus reminiscent of scenes of the Nakba, press release on May 14, 2021; The Palestinian Center for Human Rights, the escalation of the Israeli aggression on Gaza. Widespread destruction of homes and infrastructure, 33 civilians were killed, including 3 children and 3 women, and 107 civilians were wounded, including 21 women and 44 children, the death toll from the aggression rose to 83, including 17 children and 7 women, and 318 wounded, including 95 children and 61 women, press release Dated May 13, 2021

provided by the judicial facilities (public prosecution and courts), licensing services, and some municipalities and post offices. The Israeli aggression also exacerbated the electricity crisis that has been going on for more than a decade and a half. Finally, the Israeli aggression affected the communication service and the internet greatly, especially in some areas where the bombing destroyed the communication network, and because of the bombing of the headquarters of one of the largest Internet service providers. The following is a review of the most prominent facts about the impact of services in the three mentioned sectors.

1. Government services:

The Israeli occupation forces bombed (73) different government headquarters, including police and security centers, and service sectors, causing losses amounting to \$ 23 million, according to a statement issued by the Government Information Office on Tuesday noon May 18, 2021. Among the most prominent of these headquarters and service sectors are the police headquarters in central Gaza City, the headquarters of the Ministry of Finance. The bombing also targeted the Passport headquarters, the headquarters of the Ministry of Interior and National Security in the Ansar complex west of Gaza City, and the Internal Security headquarters of the Ministry of Interior, in the Sheikh Zayed area. The Israeli shelling also damaged the Sharia court in Gaza and partially destroyed the headquarters of the Public Prosecution and the anti-drug police in Khan Yunis. The occupation forces also destroyed the two-floor building of the administration of licensing that follows the Ministry of Transport and Communications. The bombing operations also caused severe damage to the headquarters of Beit Lahia municipality, as well as the garage, workshop, and its vehicles, and damaged the Beit Lahiya post office and the headquarters of the representatives of the northern Gaza Strip²⁸.

2. Electricity services

The electricity crisis is one of the basic and continuous crises in the Gaza Strip, which began more than 15 years ago, escalated thereafter, and went through peak periods at different times. This crisis usually increases during the escalation of the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip, due to the destruction of power lines and the cutoff of fuel supplies. The Gaza Electricity Company stated, in its statement issued on May 13, 2021, that (4) main electricity lines have been disrupted, accounting for 45% of the electricity received from Israel, equal to (50) megawatts. The company also warned of an imminent stop to the functioning of the power station due to the prevention of the entry of fuel through the Kerem Shalom crossing. The company stated that the current availability of electricity is estimated at about (110-125) megawatts, while the demand

²⁸ The Palestinian Center for Human Rights, on the fifth day of the aggression on Gaza ... state terrorism is manifested and a displacement reminiscent of scenes of the Nakba, press release on May 14, 2021 The Palestinian Center for Human Rights, the escalation of the Israeli aggression on Gaza. Widespread destruction of homes and infrastructure, 33 civilians were killed, including 3 children and 3 women, and 107 civilians were wounded, including 21 women and 44 children, the death toll from the aggression rose to 83, including 17 children and 7 women, and 318 wounded, including 95 children and 61 women, press release On May 13, 2021; The Palestinian Center for Human Rights, targeting residential towers and destroying homes on the heads of their residents and the intensity of the raids on the second day of the aggression on Gaza, press release on May 12

has reached about (400) megawatts. The statement stated that the current crisis is unprecedented and constitutes a sharp and dangerous turning point that threatens the imminent collapse of most vital sectors in Gaza, most notably the health, water, environment, sanitation, and public services sector.

3. Communication and Internet services

The Gaza Strip suffers from poor communication and internet services due to Israeli restrictions on IT and entry of IT equipment. The Israeli aggression caused a further deterioration to the poor communication and internet service, through the Israeli bombing that destroyed communication networks and internet servers. The Government Press Office stated that the losses of the communications and internet sector amounted to (6.1) million dollars because of the aggression on the Gaza Strip²⁹. In the same context, Fusion for Internet and Communications Services stated that the bombing that targeted Al-Jawhara Tower in Gaza City destroyed the equipment of the internet provider, which caused the separation of Internet services from tens of thousands of subscribers in the Gaza Strip. The company expects that it will not be able to restore the service in the near future, due to its inability to compensate for the equipment destroyed due to the comprehensive closure imposed on the Gaza Strip by the Israeli occupation³⁰.

Conclusion

The Independent Commission for Human Rights condemns, with the strongest terms, the Israeli occupation forces' continued escalation of their brutal attacks against Palestinian civilians, use of devastative force against residential homes and other civilian objects, including health facilities, media outlets, places of worship, schools, and commercial, industrial and agricultural establishments. ICHR also denounces the inability of the international community to assume its legal and ethical role to stop war crimes committed by the occupation forces in the Gaza Strip. ICHR especially denounces the position of the American administration that provides impunity to the occupation forces for their crimes, as well as continues the obstruction of the Security Council from issuing a statement. The aforementioned US administration's role encourages the occupation forces to commit more crimes against Palestinian civilians, particularly children and women, to the extent of considering the US administration complicit in the commission of those crimes.

Based on the foregoing, ICHR calls on the international community, including the High Contracting Parties to the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, on the protection of civilians in times of war, to intervene for the urgent and immediate cessation of all aggressive hostilities committed by the Israeli occupation forces in the Gaza Strip, in particular, and in occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank in general.

²⁹ Government Press Office (Gaza), Government Press Office statement, May 14, 2021

³⁰ A statement by Engineer Hani Al-Alami, General Manager of Fusion Internet Services, for some news agencies in the Gaza Strip, for more information <https://www.wattan.net/ar/news/340379.html>