



**A Report on the Mapping Research on  
Palestinian and International Organizations  
which Monitor and Document the  
Perpetrated Violations in Jerusalem, Old City  
of Hebron and the Access Restricted Area in  
the Gaza Strip**

**Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue  
and Democracy- MIFTAH**

A Report on the Mapping Research on Palestinian and International Organizations  
which Monitor and Document the Perpetrated Violations in Jerusalem, Old City of  
Hebron, and the Access Restricted Area in the Gaza Strip

“Youth Human Rights Defenders” Project

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## **MIFTAH Foreword**

In line with its strategic approach to empower and activate Palestinian social groups in disseminating awareness on international human rights standards and promoting adherence of all stakeholders, the Palestinian Initiative for Global Dialogue and Democracy- MIFTAH conducted a mapping research of Palestinian and international organizations that monitor and document human rights violations in Palestine in general and in east Jerusalem, the Old City of Hebron and the Access Restricted Area in the Gaza Strip in particular. The goal of the research is to promote concerted efforts among human rights institutions, avoid repetition of interventions and any duplication of results, and to showcase the lack of information and facts pertaining to the violation of rights in certain areas in the West Bank including Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

This research is part of MIFTAH's EU-funded project "Youth as Human Rights Defenders", which seeks to revive the role of Palestinian youth in promoting the implementation of human rights conventions and agreements in occupied Palestine in east Jerusalem, the Old City of Hebron and the Access Restricted Area in the Gaza Strip to provide national and international organizations with facts and statistics on human rights violations in the targeted areas. To this effect, it seeks to highlight the ongoing measures and policies of the occupation and contribute to disseminating the Palestinian narrative at the international level.

To this end, MIFTAH prepared a detailed report that showcases the monitoring and documentation of violations in the targeted area in cooperation with "New Vision" company. The report underlined priorities in documentation, the systems and mechanisms for monitoring and documentation, means of utilizing information, relations and networking, building coalitions and the difficulties and gaps faced by human rights organizations.

In light of MIFTAH's interest in expanding the human rights groundwork for the monitoring and documentation of Israeli occupation violations in the West Bank, including east Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, and in line with institutions working in the field of human rights, MIFTAH seeks to build and work with these institutions to develop mechanisms for human rights defenders to monitor and document violations.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of this research from MIFTAH, New Vision, institutions included in the research, members of the project's steering committee and the EU.

Ibtisam Husary

MIFTAH Executive Director

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH) is currently implementing a project titled “**Youth as Human Rights Defenders**”. This project extends over three years with funding from the European Union. The project is in line with MIFTAH’s strategic directions towards the empowerment and mobilization of the various components of Palestinian society in accordance with international human rights standards.

MIFTAH is currently aiming to establish a network of human rights defenders comprised of Media and Law school graduates and to train them on the mechanisms of monitoring and documenting the violations committed in Jerusalem, Hebron and the Access Restricted Area in the Gaza Strip, as well as providing them with the necessary skills in this field.

In order to achieve this aim, a mapping research was conducted with the organizations working in the field of monitoring and documenting human rights violations in Palestine.

### Research Objectives:

1. Specify the mechanisms and systems of monitoring and documenting violations in the targeted areas in order to determine the concentrated rights during the documentation of violations, as well as building a crystal-clear work foundation in order to avoid the duplication of interventions and achieve better results.
2. Expand the bases of communication and coordination between the various organizations in order to unify and consolidate their efforts and achieve integration in the mechanisms of monitoring and documenting human rights violations.
3. Become more familiarized with the fields of action of human rights organizations, as well as specifying the difficulties faced by these organizations and identifying the existing gaps.

### Research Sample:

1. The sample consists of Palestinian, foreign and Israeli human rights organizations working in the field of monitoring and documenting human rights violations in the various political and social spheres. The total number of these organizations was 29, and they were distributed geographically as follows:-

#### Geographic Distribution of the Research Sample

Area	Number
Jerusalem	11
Ramallah	8
Hebron	6
Gaza Strip	3
Bethlehem	1

Total	29
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### **Research Methodology:**

In order to achieve the desired objectives, the mapping research was implemented by conducting interviews with officers from 27 different organizations which work in the field of monitoring and documenting human rights violations.

### **The Main Focus Points of the Research:**

1. Introductory and demographic information about human rights organizations.
2. The fields of action of human rights organizations.
3. The priorities of the documented human rights violations and their implications on the marginalized groups.
4. The systems and mechanisms of monitoring and documentation.
5. The use of information.
6. The relationship, networking, and building of coalitions with partner organizations.
7. The difficulties and gaps witnessed by human rights organizations.
8. Results and recommendations.

### **Results and Recommendations:**

#### Results:

1. The results of the study showed that the majority of organizations focus primarily on civil and political rights and afterwards they focus on the social and economic rights. As for the rights of the marginalized groups, they are only the point of focus of specialized organizations such as the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) and Defense for Children International (DCI) – Palestine. The documentations made by most of the organizations in relation to violations against marginalized groups are usually done in an implied manner (not straightforward). These documentations usually come as part of the general documentation of violations without focusing on these violations in a detailed manner and without distinguishing them from other types of violations.
2. The study showed that the majority of Palestinian organizations monitor and document the Israeli and Palestinian violations. On the other hand, the main focus of foreign and Israeli organizations is to document the Israeli violations; and especially in Jerusalem, Hebron, Gaza Strip and Area "C", and these organizations are not based in the Palestinian Authority (PA) areas, such as the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories ("Btselem") and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).
3. With regard to documenting the violations committed in the targeted areas of this study, **the results showed that the main focus is to document the Israeli Occupation Authorities' violations of civil and**

**political rights**; and especially forced displacement, arrests, assaults by settlers, collective punishment, house demolitions, family reunification of children, the shooting of fire on fishermen and the confiscation of their tools and equipment, and the prevention of farmers from reaching their lands.

4. A weakness was seen in monitoring and documenting the violation of social, economic and cultural rights, such as the right to education, the right to work and have a decent living, and the rights of women.
5. As for the **monitoring and documentation mechanisms**, the results showed the absence of a unified mechanism for documenting violations (including the unified forms and procedures), and it was seen that all the organizations use their own databases and programs. This makes it difficult for other organizations to use these databases.
6. With regard to **the human and financial capabilities of organizations**, the results showed that these organizations suffer from a lack of funding and their staff members do not have sufficient experience in international advocacy and mobilization. The members also have a limited experience in documenting the violations of the international agreements which were signed by the Palestinian Authority.
7. **With regard to cooperation and networking between human rights organizations**, the results showed that, in general, the relations between these organizations tend to be competitive instead of being complementary. Also, the exchange of information between these organizations is usually limited without enough details, hence making the information not useful. Moreover, there is the absence of a network that includes the various human rights organizations with a crystal-clear vision, objectives and executive plans. Furthermore, there is weak coordination between these organizations - and especially when the work is conducted in far-away places, and these organizations are not sufficiently benefiting from each others' capabilities.

### Recommendations:

Based on the research results, the main recommendations are as follows:-

1. To become more concerned with the economic, social and cultural rights; and especially the right to education, right to work and right to health, including the rights of marginalized groups.
2. To adopt a unified mechanism for monitoring and documenting violations, and it is preferable to adopt a mechanism which is similar to those which are used by international organizations (including the various forms). Also, the researchers must be well-prepared and trained on how to use this mechanism. Moreover, there should be the establishment of a specialized center for building databases related to

violations, and to have that center provide easily-accessible information to the various parties.

3. To establish a coalition of Palestinian human rights organizations which formulates a national plan that includes clear and specific goals and their mechanisms of implementation. This coalition should also provide the necessary funding, distribute functions among its members and assess their performance in a periodic manner.
4. To train the staff of human rights organizations in international advocacy and mobilization and the documentation of violations of international agreements; and especially those which were signed by the Palestinian Authority.

## **2. INTRODUCTION:**

The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH) is currently implementing a project titled "Youth as Human Rights Defenders". This project is funded by the European Union and is in line with MIFTAH's strategic directions towards the empowerment and mobilization of the various components of Palestinian society in spreading awareness of international human rights standards and enhancing the commitment of all relevant parties to these standards.

The aim of MIFTAH in this project is to enhance the implementation of human rights agreements - and especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - in east Jerusalem, the Access Restricted Area in the Gaza Strip, and the Old City of Hebron.

Within this framework, a mapping research was conducted vis-à-vis the Palestinian, Israeli and international organizations which monitor and document human rights violations in Palestine with a special focus on the targeted areas.

The research aims to determine the mechanisms and systems of monitoring and documenting violations in the targeted areas in order to specify the rights that must be focused on during the documentation of violations. Also, the research seeks to build a crystal-clear work foundation in order to avoid the duplication of interventions and achieve better results, as well as becoming familiarized with the fields of action of human rights organizations and identifying the difficulties and gaps witnessed by these organizations.

On this basis, there will be the establishment of the "Human Rights Defenders" network whose members will be armed with the necessary skills, knowledge and tools which will enable them to monitor and document human rights violations inside their societies. These members will also be trained on the mechanisms of monitoring and documenting the human rights violations suffered by the citizens of the targeted areas. The training will be done in cooperation with the grassroots organizations which monitor human rights violations, and there will be the establishment of special databases related to violations and the periodic issuance of reports pertaining to violations.

The results of the mapping research will include an overview of the fields of action of human rights organizations and their capabilities in terms of the number of offices and areas of coverage. This overview will also discuss the violations which are perpetrated in the targeted areas that are adequately covered, and there will be an examination of whether the multiplier effects are properly analyzed with regard to the marginalized and vulnerable groups of women, children and persons with disabilities. An overview will also be presented regarding the mechanisms and methodologies for monitoring and documentation in terms of the sources of information and the applied methods and means for monitoring and documenting violations, along with the ways of using information and the systems used by organizations for preparing databases.

The report also discusses the relations of networking and cooperation between the various local human rights organizations and between them and foreign organizations, grassroots organizations and governmental ones, respectively. These organizations' membership in local, regional and international human rights forums, networks and coalitions will also be discussed.

Furthermore, the report mentions the difficulties faced by human rights organizations in monitoring and documentation. It also discusses the gaps witnessed by organizations in terms of their financial and human capabilities, the impact of the Israeli Occupation's policies and procedures, the quality of information and the gaps resulting from the current mechanisms of cooperation between the different human rights organizations. Additionally, the report examines the impact of the Palestinian laws and legislations on monitoring and documentation, as well as the provision of protection.

Based on the research results, a discussion will take place with the organizations that monitor and document the violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for the purpose of synergistically reaching a higher degree of complementarity in the mechanisms of monitoring violations in the targeted areas.

### **3. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS STATUS IN PALESTINE:**

Since the Occupation of 1967, the Palestinian Territory has witnessed flagrant Israeli violations of the International Human Rights Law and the International Humanitarian Law against Palestinians in all aspects of life. International and Palestinian human rights organizations started operating in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) since the seventies and eighties of the last century, and these organizations quickly spread in Palestine with the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) witnessed an escalation of Israeli violations and repressive measures including land confiscation, the displacement of civilians, house demolitions, the building of settlements, control over the water sources, the killing of Palestinian civilians from all groups (children, youth and women alike), mass arrests (including administrative detentions without pressing any charges on detainees), the increased detention of children in recent years, restriction of the freedom of movement of Palestinian citizens and preventing them from reaching different parts of the Palestinian Territory, establishment of military checkpoints, imposition of military closures and closing down and breaking into media, cultural and educational institutions (including universities) and the destruction of schools.

With the outbreak of the First Intifada in 1987, the Israeli military started intensifying its policies and measures against Palestinian civilians; and this included killings, breaking bones, the policy of deportation, establishment of detention camps for administrative detainees (such as the Negev desert detention camp), and the imposition of blockades and curfews on different population centers in the West Bank.

After the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993 between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the State of Israel, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was established and the Occupied Territory's administration was divided between the two parties. Israel was given authority over most of the Occupied Territory and the PNA was given administrative and security powers over the Palestinian cities and was allowed to establish an elected Legislative Council.

In addition to monitoring and documenting the violations of Israeli Occupation authorities since the seventies of the last century (by human rights organizations like Al-Haq and the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center/JLAC), new types of documented human rights violations started arising in Palestine. This included the various types of violations by the Palestinian Authority which held its first Presidential and Legislative Council elections in 1996. The work of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) involved the issuance of laws and legislations, monitoring the Palestinian legislations and checking their degree of adherence to human rights, as well as monitoring and documenting the human rights violations committed by the Palestinian Authority (and especially torture inside Palestinian prisons). The work of the PLC also included monitoring the human rights violations perpetrated by the Israeli Occupation authorities, such

as land confiscation, the building of settlements, the siege on Jerusalem, the policy of house demolitions, and forced displacement. Among the most serious violations of the Israeli Occupation were the aggressive military wars on the Gaza Strip in 2008/2009 which led to severe human casualties, as well as the wars of 2012 and 2014 which resulted in killing large numbers of Palestinian civilians including children and women, along with the destruction of Gaza's infrastructure. Another serious violation by Israel was its incursion into the West Bank in 2002 and its night raids, killings and arrests in Palestinian cities and villages which fall under the Palestinian Authority's area of control.

The role of human rights organizations in Palestine grew in prominence in more than one aspect. For example, there emerged some organizations which were particularly concerned with the social and legal rights of women and children. Also, several foreign human rights organizations started functioning in Palestine, such as "Amnesty International" which works in the field of human rights monitoring, documentation, mobilization and advocacy; "Human Rights Watch" which closely observes the implementation of international humanitarian standards through its monitoring, documentation, advocacy and mobilization; and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) which provides assistance to residents who are threatened with deportation and monitors and documents the violations related to land and house ownership. The NRC has a large presence in major Palestinian cities; and especially in the Gaza Strip, Ramallah, Jerusalem and Hebron.

The activities run by human rights organizations are considered a tool of pressure on the Palestinian Authority with its various services and institutions in order to protect the human rights of Palestinians. This is done on different levels such as the legislations and procedures, the spreading of awareness, capacity building in the field of human rights, the organization of lobbying and advocacy campaigns in the local and international arena, attendance of hearing sessions related to the Israeli Occupation's human rights violations, and exerting pressure on the Israeli Occupation to cease its violations of Palestinian human rights.

### **The Internal Palestinian Division and the Absent Role of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)**

The political division between Fatah and Hamas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 2007 led to the freezing of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). This prevented it from issuing laws and restricted its role through issuing Presidential decrees, and it also prevented it from monitoring the performance of the government's executive bodies and its civil and security organizations. This enabled an environment which is conducive to human rights violations, such as political arrests, restriction of the freedom of expression, harassment of journalists, implementation of the death penalty in the Gaza Strip, and the imposition of penalties on employees.

The issuance of Presidential decrees also gave the Palestinian government the power to adopt measures which violate human rights principles, good governance standards (and especially the separation of powers, transparency, accountability and public participation) and laws (such as the Cybercrime Law

and the “Law of the Grand Criminal Court”). These measures and laws were formulated without the relevant parties’ participation in drafting them, hence leading to poor performance and the absence of transparency and clarity in these laws’ issuance and adoption. This in turn led to an additional burden and pressure in the work of human rights organizations.

### **The Palestinian Authority and the UN’s Recognition of the Palestinian State**

In 2012, the State of Palestine received recognition from 138 members of the United Nations General Assembly as a “non-member Observer state”. The consequent result of this was the following:-

- 1. The Accession of Palestine to International Conventions and Treaties:** The State of Palestine signed more than fifty international conventions; the most important of which are the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, United Nations Convention against Torture, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Convention on the Political Rights of Women, Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (also called “The Fourth Geneva Convention”), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and other conventions.

The accession of Palestine to these conventions requires “an internal national commitment to harmonize the Palestinian laws with all the clauses of the signed international conventions, and to provide the necessary administrative and legal instruments and means for this purpose and an international commitment to it. This also obliges the Palestinian state to present international periodic reports about the aspects which are covered in each convention; and especially the measures related to human rights”.<sup>1</sup>

- 2. The Accession of Palestine to International Organizations:** Palestine has joined 33 international United Nations organizations; some of which it has joined with full membership, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), World Trade Organization (WTO), International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol). Palestine also joined other organizations as an observer member, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

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<sup>1</sup> ميرفت رشموي، خبيرة في مجال القانون الدولي، الموقع الإلكتروني لمعهد الحقوق العامة، جامعة بيرزيت، 2014. [Arabic source]

As mentioned previously, the Palestinian scene witnessed some dramatic developments in the field of human rights, such as the intensified violations of the Israeli Occupation authorities and those which are committed by the Palestinian Authority through its different institutions. These challenges require the exerting of greater efforts by human rights organizations in order to put an end to these violations by introducing various programs and projects which seek to improve the human rights status of Palestinians.

#### **4. HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN PALESTINE:**

The concerns about defending human rights have passed through several stages which saw great tensions between jurists and politicians. This led to the prohibition of discrimination in the Customary International Law and the ratification of anti-discrimination conventions and other conventions which explicitly prescribe the basic rights which must be enjoyed by all the marginalized and vulnerable groups inside the society such as children, women and persons with disabilities. These concerns also led to setting the right to self-determination as a precondition for enjoying any rights, and they have led to positive developments like the use of the mechanisms stated in the United Nations Charter; such as the two Special Rapporteurs and the overall periodic presentation.

The work of monitoring and documenting human rights violations in Palestine started in the 1970s through a number of international organizations (such as the Quakers Society in 1974 and Al-Haq organization in 1977 which started as a branch of the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva). Moreover, these organizations were providing legal services to the victims of violations perpetrated by the Israeli Occupation authorities.

The action for Human Rights saw a great development in Palestine with the outbreak of the First Intifada in 1987. This period witnessed the concern of Israeli human rights organizations such as the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories (“Btselem”) in 1989, as well as international missions for investigating the practices of the Israeli Occupation.

The signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993 between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the State of Israel led to significant administrative, legal, political and security changes which affected the various aspects of life in the Palestinian society. This encompassed the laws, legislations, procedures and practices of the Palestinian Authority institutions. This period saw a great increase in the number of human rights organizations; and especially after the Palestinian Legislative Council ratified the “Law of Charitable Associations” which paved the way for registering these organizations as non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Moreover, there was the establishment of the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) as a semi-governmental organization after a Decree was issued by the late President Yasser Arafat on the date of 30/9/1993. Also, there was the stipulation of Article (31) of the Palestinian Basic Law which was ratified by the Palestinian Legislative Council in 1997 and was issued and published in the Palestinian Gazette in 2002.

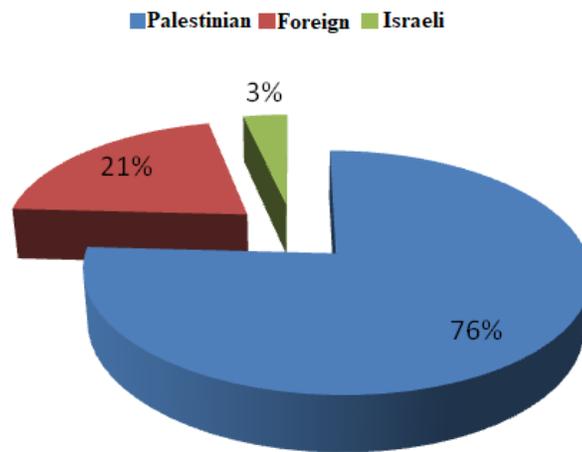
New fields of action emerged, such as monitoring the Palestinian legislations, observing their degree of adherence to human rights, and monitoring and documenting the human rights violations of the Palestinian Authority; and especially torture inside Palestinian prisons. Moreover, it was very important to keep monitoring the violations of the Israeli Occupation authorities such as land confiscation, settlement expansion, etc.

Human rights organizations perform a number of activities, such as monitoring and documenting human rights violations, organizing local and international advocacy campaigns, preparing periodic and specialized reports, and participating in international conferences related to human rights. These organizations now play a prominent role by being **pressure groups** which influence the organizations and bodies of the United Nations, as well as influencing the official positions of governments and the international public opinion through parliaments, unions and regional human rights organizations that support the rights of the Palestinian people.

**The Origin of Human Rights Organizations:**

The results of the mapping showed that 76% of human rights organizations are Palestinian, 21% of them are foreign and 3% are Israeli, as illustrated in the figure below.

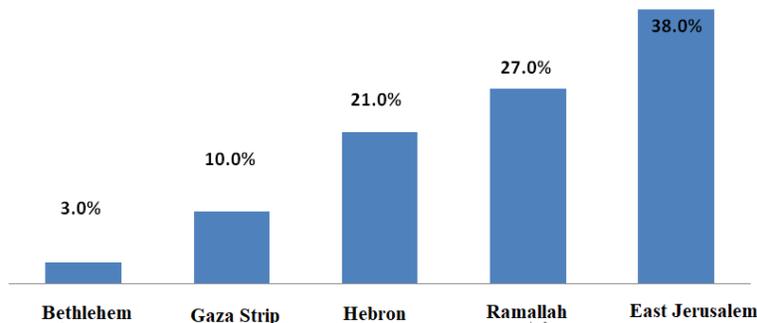
**Origins of Human Rights Organizations**



**The Headquarters of the Organizations:**

The results of the study showed that 38% of the human rights organizations have their headquarters (main offices) in Jerusalem, 27% of them are based in Ramallah, 21% in Hebron, 10% in the Gaza Strip and 3% are headquartered in Bethlehem as seen in the table below:

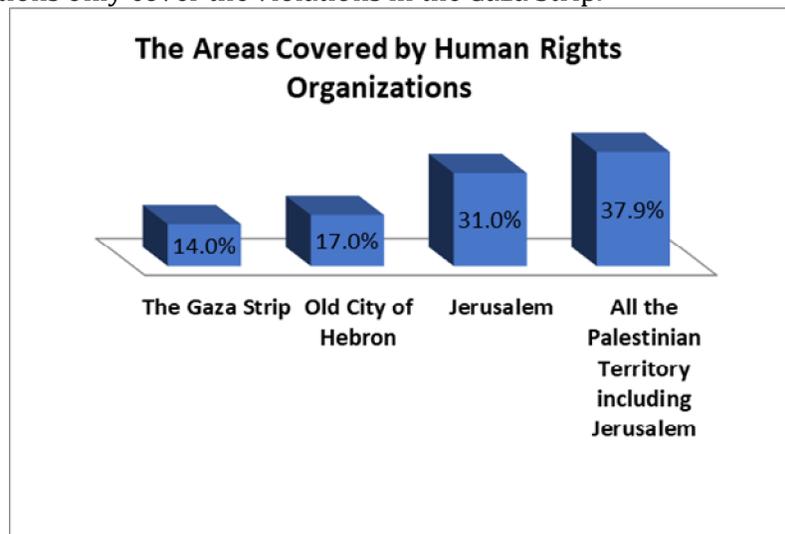
**Geographic Distribution of Headquarters of Organizations**



With regard to the **branches and offices of human rights organizations**, more than half of them (55%) do not have any branches or offices in the Palestinian areas and they rely on their field researchers to cover their activities. The Independent Commission for Human Rights/ICHR (also called the “Ombudsman Office”) is the only organization which has offices in all of the major cities in Palestine. The foreign human rights organizations operate from their offices in east Jerusalem, except for Human Rights Watch whose temporary headquarters is in Ramallah and they are waiting to receive a license from the Israeli authorities to move their offices to Jerusalem.

### **The Work Areas of Human Rights Organizations:**

The human rights organizations carry out their activities in the various Palestinian areas through field researchers or by cooperating with each other. This is especially true in the case of the Gaza Strip which is under a heavy blockade and the Israeli authorities deny entry to it (as in the case of Human Rights Watch and other organizations). The results of the study showed that approximately 38% of the organizations cover the violations in all areas of the Palestinian Territory including Jerusalem (see the figure below), whereas 31% of these organizations only cover the Israeli violations in Jerusalem, 17% highlight the perpetrated violations in the Old City of Hebron, and 14% of these organizations only cover the violations in the Gaza Strip.



## 5. FIELDS OF ACTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

The number of organizations working in the field of human rights in Palestine saw an increase compared to the period which preceded the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority (the previous period was subject to the laws and military orders of the Israeli Occupation authorities). Today, there are tens of human rights organizations working in Palestine, most of which are non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which are officially registered at the Ministry of Interior, along with some governmental bodies like the “Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission” and the “Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs”.

However, this study focuses on 29 local, international and Israeli human rights organizations working in several human rights fields. The most important of these fields are the monitoring and documentation of violations committed by Israel and the Palestinian Authority institutions, provision of legal aid to the victims of violations, and lobbying and exerting pressure to make amendments in the laws and legislations which contravene the human rights rules and principles; and especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The following is a table which specifies the fields of action of the human rights organizations: -

**Fields of Action of the Human Rights Organizations**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Fields of Action</b>
1	World Health Organization (WHO)	Provision of technical assistance to the Palestinian Ministry of Health and monitoring the right to health in terms of patients' access and medical transfers which are done from the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem.
2	Community Action Center (CAC)	Provision of legal assistance, community outreach and international advocacy.
3	Burj al-Luq Luq	A community action organization which conducts temporary projects for raising awareness and training in the field of human rights. Its work does not include the monitoring and documentation of violations except in special cases or as part of community programs.
4	The African Community Society	This is a community action organization which runs temporary projects for raising awareness and training in the field of human rights. Its work does not include the monitoring and documentation of violations except in special cases or as part of community programs.
5	Wadi Hilweh Information Center	The monitoring and documentation of the Israeli Occupation's violations in Jerusalem.
6	Jerusalem Center for Social and Economic Rights (JCSEER)	Legal defense, raising awareness, and the preparation of studies and researches.
7	Palestinian Vision Organization (PalVision)	A youth organization which focuses on economic empowerment, political and social participation, and evaluation. PalVision conducts temporary projects for raising awareness and training in the field of human rights. Its work does not include the monitoring and documentation of violations except in special cases or

		as part of community programs.
8	Defense for Children International (DCI) – Palestine	The rights of children.
9	Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association	Serving prisoners and detainees in Israeli and PA prisons, the provision of free legal services for the defense of inmates, legal and human rights counselling, monitoring and documentation of the violations committed against prisoners and their families, lobbying, advocacy, raising awareness, and training.
10	Amnesty International	Mobilization and advocacy campaigns for human rights on the basis of well-documented researches and studies.
11	The Independent Commission for Human Rights/ICHR (also called the “Ombudsman Office”)	-The receipt of complaints, as well as training and raising awareness. -Studies, researches and media activities.
12	Al-Quds Human Rights Clinic/Al-Quds University	- This legal clinic is among the centers of the Faculty of Law in Al-Quds University. Work is done in a practical manner as part of an academic course in Human Rights (Faculty of Law). - Documents the violations of the Israeli Occupation in the southern part of Jerusalem. - Focuses on house demolitions in Bedouin-inhabited areas, as well as forced displacement. - Covers the violations of the right to education, freedom of movement, freedom of expression, and the conducted arrests.
13	Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA)	The defense of media freedoms.
14	Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC)	Legal representation for the victims of human rights violations (whether by Israel or the Palestinian Authority) in the West Bank and Jerusalem (house demolitions and forced displacements), as well as in the Gaza Strip (such as the issues involving the delivery of Palestinian corpses).
15	Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC)	- Provides legal and social services to battered women. - Provides protection to women’s safe houses. - Capacity building and raising awareness. - Local and international advocacy. - Holding Israel accountable for human rights violations in international forums and platforms.
16	Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories (“Btselem”)	- The monitoring and documentation of Israeli violations, such as the confiscation of water resources, checkpoints, killings, arrests, house demolitions, forced displacement and other committed violations. - The preparation of reports, studies and statistical information related to the above-mentioned matters.
17	Al-Haq Organization	The monitoring and documentation of human rights violations committed by Israel and the Palestinian Authority, mobilization and advocacy programs alongside local and international parties, and the

		conducting of researches and studies.
18	Human Rights Watch	-Monitoring the implementation of international humanitarian standards. - Each year there is a special focus on a particular topic (such as the perpetrated killings).
19	The Governor's Office in the Old City of Hebron	- The monitoring of violations and the collection of important information through the complaint form. - The follow-up of the various developments in the Old City of Hebron. - Provision of assistance (in cash and in kind) to the residents. - The establishment of developmental programs.
20	Save the Children	The protection of children, children's education and children's rights.
21	Hebron Defense Committee	Popular resistance and the documentation of violations.
22	Human Rights Defenders	Documentation of the Occupation's violations and verifying the accuracy of information in Hebron.
23	Christian Peacemaker Teams	Human rights observers on checkpoints (especially during study days), preparing reports on house demolitions, holding visits to the houses of residents, and social networking in Hebron.
24	Land Research Center (LRC)	Rehabilitating the families whose houses were destroyed, development of lands in order to protect them from confiscation, monitoring the Israeli violations related to lands and residences (settlements and the wall), defending cases pertaining to house demolitions and confiscations, in addition to advocacy and mobilization activities.
25	Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ)	The monitoring and documentation of Israeli violations related to land confiscation, settlements, assaults on Palestinian lands, establishment of Israeli colonies and house demolitions, and the preparation of periodic reports related to these violations.
26	Women's Affairs Center (WAC)	The monitoring and documentation of women's rights violations; and especially in relation to their right to inheritance and their right to decision-making and economic independence.
27	Al Mizan Center for Human Rights	Enhancing the respect and protection of human rights; and especially the economic, cultural and social rights in the Gaza Strip.
28	Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR)	The monitoring and documentation of human rights violations and the legal aid and counselling of victims. Also, this centre has a specialized unit for women's rights. Moreover, the centre prepares studies and researches on economic and social rights and the degree of compatibility between the Palestinian legislations and international standards.
29	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	- The provision of legal services and humanitarian aid to Palestinians who are threatened with forced displacement, as well as educational development projects. - Its main fields of focus include: The right to one's land, the right of residence, right to ownership, and the illegal measures of the Israeli Occupation and settlers (except for the issue of killings and detentions).

## The Fields of Action of Human Rights Organizations:

With regard to the **fields of action of human rights organizations**, it was found out that these organizations work in more than one field. The results of the study show that about 97% of these organizations work in the field of monitoring and documenting violations, 86% of them conduct mobilization and advocacy activities, 79% of them prepare and distribute statistical data, information and studies on the local level, 79% of them do the same on the regional level, 76% of the organizations prepare researches and studies, 69% of them work on developing policies and legislations, and 69% work on preparing and distributing statistical data, information and studies on the international level as seen in the figure below:



## The Fields of Monitoring and Documenting Human Rights Violations:

Currently, there is the monitoring and documentation of the violations of rights that were enshrined in the International Humanitarian Law which prohibits the violation of civilians' rights and the changing of the surrounding environment since it considers any state of war to be a temporary phase. Also, monitoring and documentation are being done for all the violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the rights of marginalized groups. It should be noted that the **civil and political rights** include: the right to life, the right to one's opinion and expression, the right of peaceful assembly, gender equality in civil and political rights, and that no one shall be subjected to torture or cruel treatment. On the other hand, the rights of the International Covenant on **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** include: the right to a decent living (including the right to have adequate housing), the right to work, the right to form trade unions, the right to protect one's family, the right to education, the right of everyone to be free from hunger, and the right of everyone to take part in cultural life. As for the **rights of marginalized groups**, they include women's rights, children's rights, and the rights of persons with disabilities. These rights were regulated by international conventions pertaining to the rights of each respective group (Convention on the

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) in order to bridge the gap that results from the normative framework which directly discriminates against these groups.

**The Documentation of Violations of International Conventions:**

The results of the study show that **the human rights organizations work on documenting and monitoring one or more fields**, and it was seen that 82% of organizations document the violations of civil and political rights, 71% of them document the violations of economic, social and cultural rights, and 68% of them document the violations of the rights of marginalized groups. Please see the following figure for more detail:



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**The Documentation of Violations committed by the Israeli Occupation and the Palestinian Authority Security Services:**

The vast majority of human rights organizations monitor violations regardless of whether they were committed by Israeli or Palestinian Authority security services. For example, monitoring is being done on the escalated Israeli violations related to Palestinian lands and many other aspects. At the same time, these organizations monitor the violations committed by the Palestinian Authority security services; whether in the legislations which violate the international conventions and treaties signed by the Palestinian Authority, or in their political arrests, prevention of peaceful assembly, and torture in prisons.

The study results showed that 45% of the organizations only monitor and document the Israeli violations, 6% of them monitor and document the violations by the PA security services, and 48% of them monitor and document the violations of both parties. This means that 54% of the human rights

organizations monitor and document the violations of the Palestinian Authority, whereas 93% of them monitor and document the violations committed by Israel, as seen in the figure below:

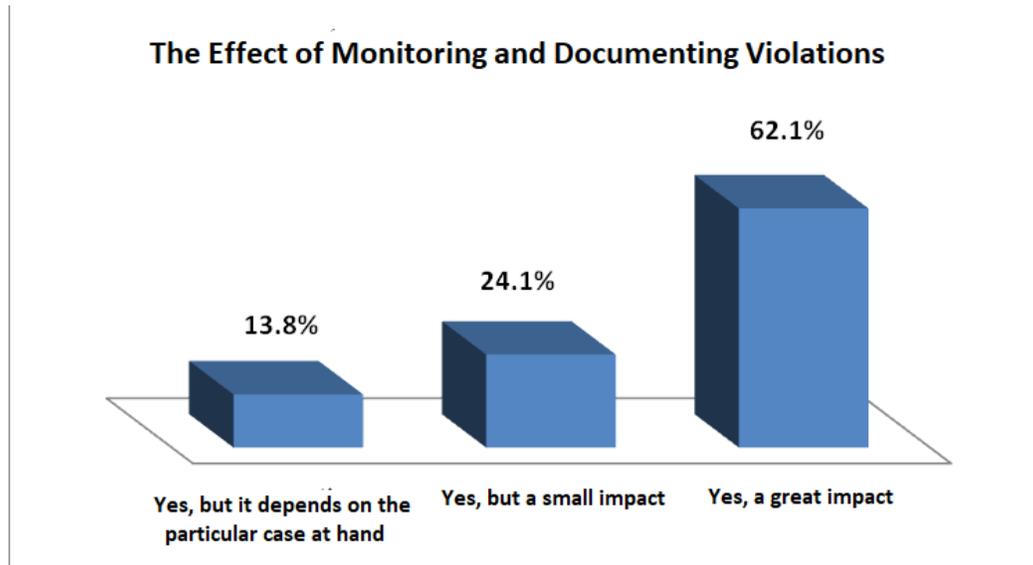


### **The Effect of Monitoring and Documenting Human Rights Violations**

The monitoring and documentation process is now gaining great importance. This is because of its crystal-clear impact on the local, international and regional levels. It is also worth noting that the effect of monitoring and documentation is not quick and instantaneous but will rather be reflected in the long run. For example, the documentation of the Israeli violations and practices against the “Great March of Return” in the Gaza Strip had a very positive effect; and especially when it showed the whole world the killings of children, paramedics and persons with disabilities. Also, the Palestinian security services’ violent attacks on the peaceful protest in Ramallah that demanded the lifting of sanctions on the Gaza Strip inflamed the local and international public opinions; and this led the PA to change its policies and measures for handling future protests.

The study shows that more than 62% of organizations see that monitoring and documentation have a great impact, 24% of them think that monitoring and documentation have a small impact, and 14% see that the impact of monitoring and documentation depends on the particular case at hand and the selection of the right time for lobbying and mobilization like the case involving the killing of children in the Gaza Strip during the “Great March of Return”. It is also worth noting that the effect of monitoring and documentation is greater on the Palestinian Authority (PA) compared to Israel because of the latter’s reluctance to yield to pressure. For example, the monitoring of the violations committed by the Palestinian Authority security services against the protest for lifting the sanctions on the Gaza Strip led to the PA’s refraining from these violations after

that event. The same thing applies to the lobbying and advocacy activities related to the Palestinian Cybercrime Law. Also, the Israeli Occupation authorities backed down from destroying the “Susa” population center (as stated by the Head of Documentation at Btselem organization) because of the monitoring and documentation which produced immense pressures; and especially from the European Union. The effect of monitoring and documentation is demonstrated in the figure below:-



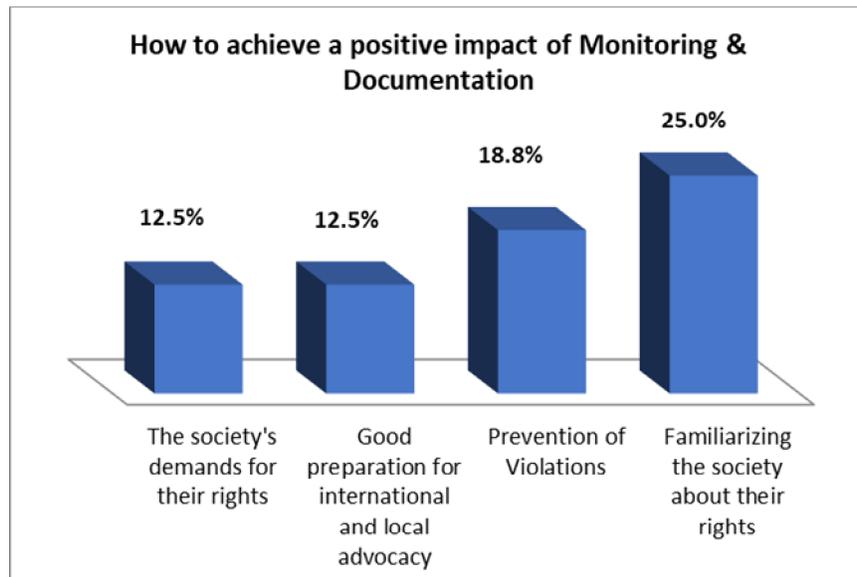
The monitoring and documentation of violations are important for the following reasons:-

1. They contribute in familiarizing the different community groups about their rights.
2. They lead to the reduction of violations.
3. They help in becoming better prepared for human rights advocacy campaigns.
4. They encourage and motivate the victims of violations to claim their rights in different cases.
5. They are considered an important tool for legal accountability and the prosecution of parties which perpetrate violations, offences and crimes.
6. They show the international community the violations committed by the Israeli Occupation against Palestinians with the use of well-documented reports.
7. They allow the influential international and regional organizations to exert pressure on the Israeli authorities to put an end to their policies and measures of human rights violations in Palestine.
8. They have led to divestment by some foreign companies from Israeli settlements. For example, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement has played a prominent role in the economic, academic and cultural boycott of Israel on many official and popular levels in Europe and other parts of the world.
9. They have often led to Israel’s backing down from violations (such as their sudden reluctance to destroy the “Susa” village), and they have also

led to the non-implementation of the death penalty (capital punishment) in the Gaza Strip.

10. They are considered important documents and scientific references for the relevant parties in various ministries and organizations in the process of changing their policies.
11. They have led to a positive change in women's rights; and especially after the signing of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

In this respect, it is important to note that the results of the monitoring and documentation process are not direct ones, but one can build upon them as illustrated in the following figure:



## 6. THE PRIORITIES OF THE DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEIR EFFECT ON MARGINALIZED GROUPS

This section of the study discusses the priorities of the documented human rights violations in east Jerusalem, Old City of Hebron and the Access Restricted Area in the Gaza Strip. This section also examines the effect of these priorities on marginalized groups such as women, children and persons with disabilities. The three aforementioned geographical areas are among the most vulnerable areas in the face of flagrant Israeli violations of human rights in recent years, such as the use of excessive force. Also, these areas are subjected to fierce Israeli attacks by the Israeli forces for the purpose of killing, forced displacement and the confiscation of lands and properties.

The contents of this study focus extensively on marginalized groups (such as children, women, persons with disabilities and elderly persons) because these groups are socially and economically vulnerable within the normative framework which governs the political system, limits their participation and does not take their different needs into consideration. Therefore, these groups suffer the greatest harm from the violations committed by Israel and the Palestinian Authority security services.

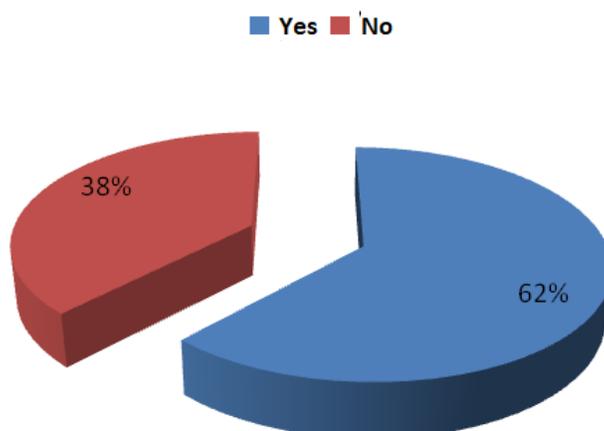
Some of the human rights organizations deliberately focus on these marginalized groups; such as **women** (Women's Affairs Center (WAC) in Gaza and the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) in Ramallah), **children** (Defense for Children International (DCI) – Palestine) and **persons with disabilities** (e.g. QADER for Community Development and the Stars of Hope Society). Other organizations have shown an implicit concern for the suffering of these groups from the committed violations.

### **Organizations that Monitor the Perpetrated Violations against Women**

The study results showed that 62% of human rights organizations monitor and document the violations committed against women. The vast majority of these organizations monitor women's rights violations in an implicit manner; such as Al-Haq organization and the Independent Commission for Human Rights/ICHR which monitor and document the cases of women who are detained in PA prisons. Also, the Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA) monitors the violations against female journalists whose professional rights are violated. Furthermore, Addameer Association monitors and documents the violations of female detainees' rights in Israeli prisons. On the other hand, 38% of organizations do not monitor or document the violations committed against women (see the figure below):

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**Percentage of Organizations which focus on Women's Rights**




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Among the main monitored issues are the violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The results show that the main cases which were covered by the monitoring and documentation activities were as follows: the right to work and the enjoyment of political and civil rights (17% of the covered cases), cases involving gender equality, justice, women's rights and the Personal Status Law (11% of the covered cases), whereas 6% of the cases covered the right to inheritance, Israeli violations, the right to life, the right to decision-making, freedom of opinion and expression, violation of female journalists' and media persons' rights, the right of residence, forced displacement, sexual harassment, registration of children and family reunification. Please see the table below for more detail:

**The Relative Distribution of the Covered Cases involving Women's Rights Violations**

The rights which were covered	%
<b>The right to work</b>	%17
<b>The enjoyment of political and civil rights</b>	
<b>Gender equality and justice</b>	%11
<b>The legal and social rights of women</b>	
<b>Women's rights related to mental, economic and social empowerment</b>	
<b>Personal Status Law</b>	

	%6
<b>Confiscation of buildings and the breaking into or destruction of houses</b>	
<b>Issues related to the killing of women</b>	
<b>Israeli violations of women's rights</b>	
<b>Women's right to inheritance</b>	
<b>Women's right to decision-making</b>	
<b>The right to life</b>	
<b>The right to one's opinion and expression</b>	
<b>Enhancement of women's roles in the society - leadership positions</b>	
<b>Gender-related aspects</b>	
<b>Violation of the freedom of the press</b>	
<b>The right of residence</b>	
<b>Forced displacement</b>	
<b>Registration of children (family reunification)</b>	
<b>Empowerment of women</b>	
<b>Sexual harassment cases</b>	
<b>Violence against women</b>	

### **Organizations that Monitor the Perpetrated Violations against Children**

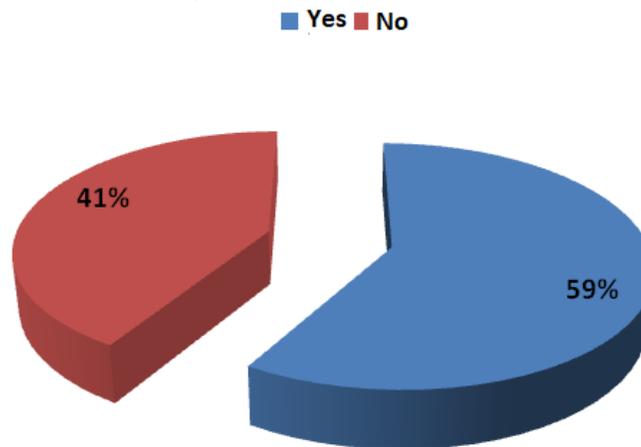
Palestinian children are exposed to different kinds of Israeli violations, such as the shooting of fire by Israeli soldiers for the aim of killing or injuring Palestinian children, the arrest and torture of Palestinian children, detention of children in detention centers which do not meet the minimum acceptable conditions of human rights, imposition of cruel penalties, harsh sentences and substantial fines, forced displacement, and depriving children of the right of residence. For example, in the Old City of Hebron, children are prohibited from standing on the rooftops and balconies of houses; and especially during the holidays. Also, the Israeli Occupation raises fear in the hearts of Palestinian children through wild dogs, intentional attempts to run over children by cars and the use of teargas and sound bombs against them. Moreover, the Occupation destroys Palestinian schools (especially in the Bedouin-inhabited areas of Jerusalem) and violates the children's right to education.

The study results show that 59% of human rights organizations monitor the violations of children's rights. Among them are some specialized organizations like Save the Children and Defense for Children International (DCI) – Palestine. Other organizations monitor children's rights violations in an implicit manner and based on the significance of each respective case (such as the work of Al

Mezan Center related to the intentional killing of children in Gaza, and Addameer Association's monitoring of children's detention and the violation of their rights). Follow-up is also being done with regard to UNRWA's recent decision and its implications on the basic rights of children, such as the right to education and right to health, but the related monitoring and documentation have not been done yet).

On the other hand, 41% of human rights organizations do not focus on children's rights as seen in the figure below:

**Percentage of Organizations that Focus on Children's Rights**

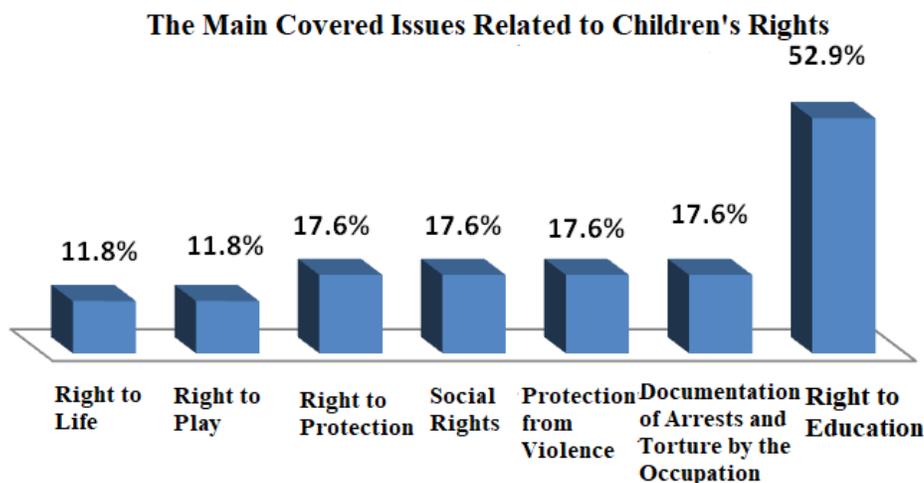


The study results show that **more than half (52%) of the monitored children's rights cases were related to the right to education**; and especially in Jerusalem, Area "C" [which is under Israeli control], Bedouin-inhabited areas, and marginalized areas. The main children's rights violations include the destruction of Palestinian schools, restriction of movement through military checkpoints, prevention of students from reaching their schools and universities, and the addition of new checkpoints in the roads which lead to universities (such as Al-Quds University in Abu Dis). In the Old City of Hebron, the Israeli soldiers frequently prevent Palestinian students from reaching their schools, and they sometimes break into their schools and cause havoc. Among the most important organizations monitoring these cases are Save the Children, Defense for Children International (DCI) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). In this context, it was seen that there is a strong link between the specializations and fields of action of human rights organizations. For example, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) monitors forced displacements, provides assistance to refugees, monitors school demolitions and helps students in Bedouin-inhabited areas (as well as other areas), whereas the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) monitors the governmental actions of amending their legislations related to the right to education. B'tselem organization also monitors similar violations.

The following are some of the assaults that were monitored and observed:-

- Physical and verbal threats and assaults on children.
- The prevention of movement and transport.
- Arrests and detentions.
- Humiliating searches and the throwing of school books to the ground.

On the other hand, approximately 18% of the covered cases related to children’s rights had to do with **arrests and torture in Israeli prisons**, another 18% of the cases involved children’s **safety and protection from violence**, 18% were related to **social rights**, 18% had to do with **the right to protection**, 12% of the covered cases were related to **the right to play**, and 12% of cases were related to **the right to life**. Moreover, 6% of the covered cases were related to several issues, such as **the right of children to receive care and support, the right of receiving legal assistance and pleading at Israeli courts, the right of identity and inheritance, issues related to discrimination between Palestinian and Israeli children, and the children’s right to health and nutrition**. Please see the figure below for more detail:



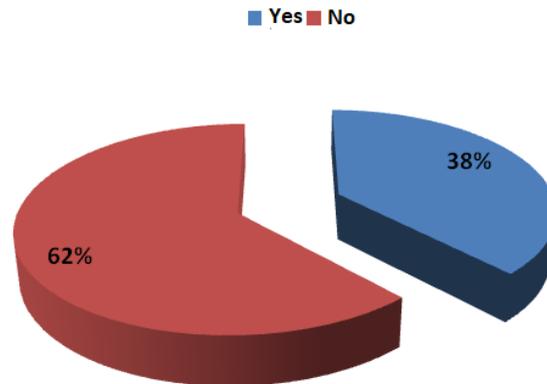
### **Organizations that Monitor the Perpetrated Violations against Persons with Disabilities:**

Persons with disabilities are often subjected to societal violations which contravene the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and especially the right to work, right to education and the right to social protection. Moreover, these persons are exposed to Israeli violations and they are often targeted by killings, injuring and detentions.

As a result of the violation of disabled persons’ rights, a number of human rights organizations monitor and document the perpetrated violations against them. The study results show that 38% of human rights organizations cover the

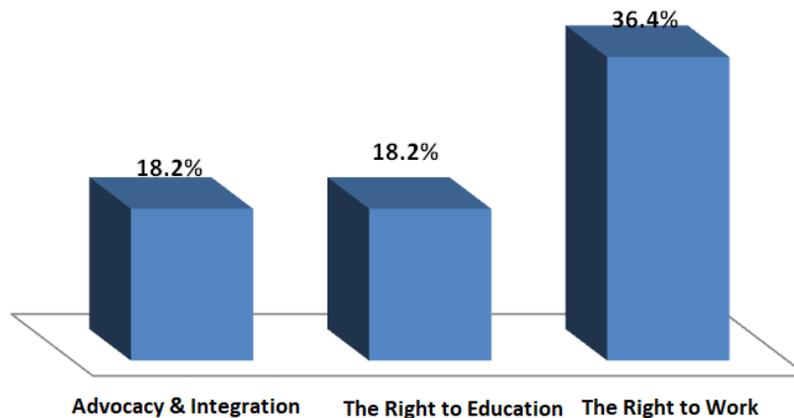
violations against disabled persons in an implied manner (not as a main program), whereas 62% of human rights organizations do not do so (see the figure below). In the Gaza Strip, monitoring and documentation are being done for the violations against persons with disabilities as a result of war or the shooting of fire by Israeli soldiers on Palestinian civilians. However, this does not include the naturally disabled persons since this falls within the area of specialization of the Ministry of Health.

**Percentage of Organizations that focus on Disabled Persons' Rights**



The study also shows that about 36% of the monitored cases related to persons with disabilities had to do with the right to work, 18% of the covered cases were related to the right to education, and 18% of them were related to advocacy and integration issues. Moreover, 9% of the covered cases were related to the following: the right to life, right to social protection, equality and non-discrimination, documentation of health/medical negligence, the suitability of the locations, integration of disabled women inside the society, and the improvement of work conditions [for disabled persons]. See the figure below for more detail:

**The Main Covered Issues related to Persons with Disabilities**



## **The Multiplier Effect and the Importance of Monitoring and Documenting Violations related to Marginalized Groups:**

The study results show that the importance of monitoring and documenting violations related to marginalized groups lies in the positive impact that results from them. These monitoring and documenting activities lead to the following:

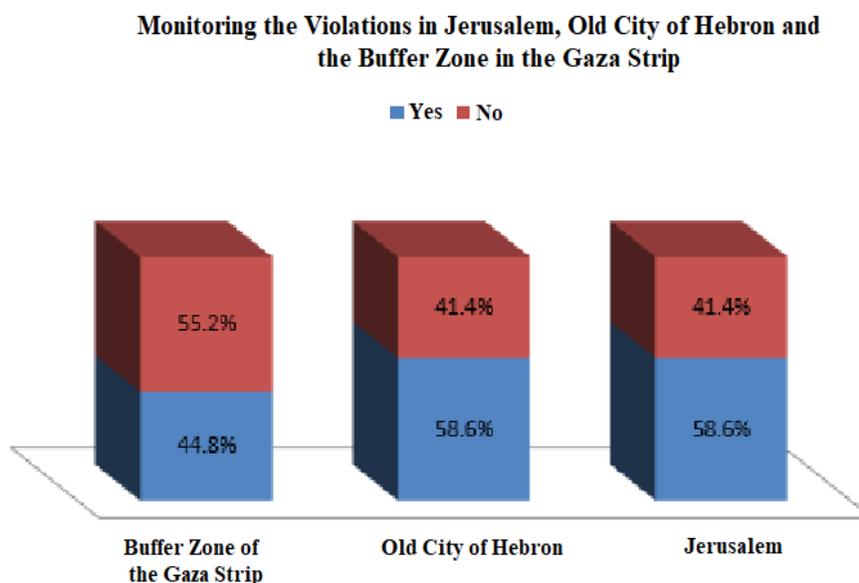
1. Familiarizing the local society about the rights of marginalized groups through the implementation of advocacy campaigns.
2. Discussing the problems of marginalized groups in front of the general public opinion in order to help solve these problems.
3. These monitoring and documentation activities have contributed to the provision of assistance and aid to marginalized groups.
4. Holding the decision-makers responsible for the implementation of international conventions related to marginalized groups.
5. Changing and amending policies for the benefit of marginalized groups.
6. The provision of protection to marginalized groups.
7. The inclusion of marginalized groups in the social security system.

## **Monitoring the Violations in east Jerusalem, Old City of Hebron and the Access Restricted Area in the Gaza Strip:**

East Jerusalem, the Old City of Hebron and the Buffer Zone of the Gaza Strip are currently undergoing grave human rights violations due to their systematic targeting by the Israeli occupation. This leads to fierce and repressive measures by the Israeli authorities and settlers since the three aforementioned areas are sensitive points of friction with the Israeli Military, settlers and Police. The main violations witnessed in these areas are killings, forced displacement, depriving people of their right of residence, night arrests and house raids, in addition to the policies of geographic and demographic isolation from the Palestinian environment. These areas also witness numerous attacks by settlers on religious sites. Among the results of the Occupation's policies and practices are the violation of the economic, social and cultural rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. These violations also have serious multiplier effects on the weak and marginalized segments of society; including women, children and persons with disabilities, thus violating the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities).

The human rights organizations have expressed their great concern for monitoring and documenting Israeli violations in these areas. The results of this study showed that 59% of human rights organizations monitor the Israeli violations in Jerusalem and 59% of them monitor the violations in the Old City of Hebron. Meanwhile, 45% of these organizations monitor the Israeli violations in the Access Restricted Area in the Gaza Strip. The reason behind the lower number of organizations which cover the Gaza Strip buffer zone is the blockade on the Gaza Strip and the denial of access to human rights personnel; and

especially from the organizations which operate in the West Bank and international organizations like the Human Rights Watch. This is shown in the following figure:



The main violations which were documented in these areas, and which highly affect the marginalized groups, are related to the right to life, right to education, right to work and the right to have a decent living. These violations negatively affect the political, civil, social, economic and cultural rights of marginalized groups. Please see the following table for more detail:

Area	Violations	Their effect on marginalized groups
Jerusalem	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Forced displacement.</li> <li>2. Revocation of IDs.</li> <li>3. Racial discrimination between Israelis and Palestinians.</li> <li>4. Issues related to the family reunification of children and women.</li> <li>5. Collective punishment such as the destruction of schools.</li> <li>6. The right of residence.</li> <li>7. Children's right to life</li> <li>8. Children's freedom from torture.</li> <li>9. Violations related to the Annexation and Expansion Wall, the isolation of villages, and preventing residents from the freedom of movement.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Children's feeling of the lack of safety and protection.</li> <li>2. Children's deprivation of their basic right to education, thus increasing the school dropout rates.</li> <li>3. The violation of the freedom of movement has led to a negative impact on social and economic rights.</li> <li>4. Depriving families (including women and children) of their right to residential ownership.</li> <li>5. Children's feelings of fear, lack of security and psychological tensions as a result of the policies of torture and house raids.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Children's right to education.</li> <li>11. House demolitions.</li> <li>12. The right to register newly-born children.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. The division of families as a result of family reunification issues. the policy of residency and ID revocation (especially for children) and the imposition of restrictions on the registration of newborn children.</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hebron</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assaults by Israeli settlers.</li> <li>2. The military closure of the area.</li> <li>3. Restriction of the freedom of movement and transport.</li> <li>4. The Israeli settlers' assaults on local Palestinian residents.</li> <li>5. Physical and verbal threats and assaults on children.</li> <li>6. The confiscation and seizure of Palestinian houses.</li> <li>7. Discrimination between Palestinian children and the children of Israeli settlers.</li> <li>8. Violation of the right to education and breaking into schools and causing havoc inside them, as well as preventing children from reaching their schools.</li> <li>9. Terrifying children by using wild dogs.</li> <li>10. Intentional attempts to run over children by cars.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Depriving children of their right to life.</li> <li>2. Depriving women and children of their right to residence.</li> <li>3. The children's constant feelings of fear and tension.</li> <li>4. Children's deprivation of the right to play and prohibiting them from standing on the rooftops and balconies of houses; and especially during the holidays.</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Access Restricted Area in the Gaza Strip</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Violation of the right to work and the right to have a decent living.</li> <li>2. The shooting of fire and killing Palestinian fishermen.</li> <li>3. Confiscation of Palestinian fishermen's tools and equipment.</li> <li>4. Restriction of the freedom of movement and limiting the fishing area to a very small space.</li> <li>5. Collective punishment and blockades.</li> <li>6. Preventing farmers from reaching their lands.</li> <li>7. Detaining the bodies of</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Depriving female farmers of working on their land, thus affecting their economic condition, social security and protection from violence.</li> <li>2. The children's constant feelings of fear and tension.</li> <li>3. Negative social and economic effects on families (including women and children).</li> </ol>

	<p>deceased Palestinians.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>8. The excessive use of force.</li><li>9. The spraying of toxic pesticides on Palestinian agricultural lands.</li><li>10. The sweeping and destruction of agricultural lands.</li><li>11. The violation of the right to health for the patients who need to travel abroad to receive medical treatment.</li><li>12. Israel's violations of the right of residence and the right to education, house demolitions, sweeping of lands, and the incursions and violation of the buffer zone.</li><li>13. Violations related to labour rights.</li><li>14. Violation of the families' right to protection; and especially the children and mothers.</li></ol>	
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## 7. THE SYSTEMS AND MECHANISMS OF MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION

During the performance of their various activities, human rights organizations monitor and document violations with the use of professional and scientific systems and procedures. This methodology is used to produce credible and good-quality information since this is a key element for all human rights fields. This includes the preparation of reports, the provision of testimonials to local and international organizations and parties, and the provision of legal aid and assistance to the victims of violations.

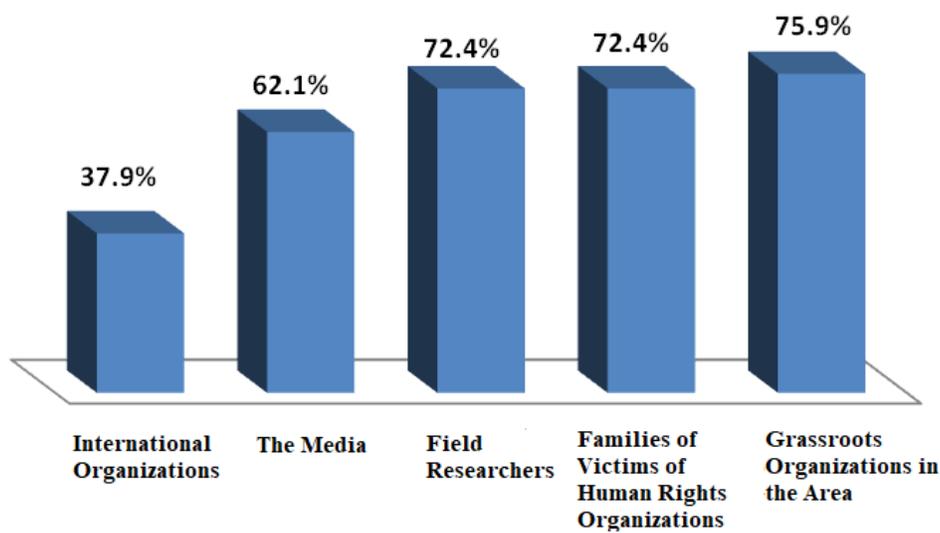
This section of the study discusses the systems and mechanisms used by human rights organizations for the monitoring and documentation of violations. These systems and mechanisms include the selection of the best sources of information related to violations, the mechanisms of collecting information and the preparation of database systems for recording violations.

### **The Sources of Information Collected by Human Rights Organizations**

There are different sources of information used by human rights organizations for monitoring and documenting violations, and oftentimes there is the use of one or more sources to obtain crystal-clear and accurate information. These sources include the grassroots organizations working in different population centers, the reports of victims' families with regard to violations, field researchers, the media, and Palestinian Authority institutions (e.g. the ministries, public organizations, municipalities, and governmental and non-governmental bodies).

The study results showed that **grassroots organizations** in different population centers (such as the local councils, youth associations and women's associations) are used as sources of information by 76% of human rights organizations, whereas the **families of victims of human rights violations** are used as sources of information by 72% of organizations. The **field researchers** are also used as sources of information by 72% of organizations. As for **the media**, it is used as a source of information by 62% of human rights organizations, whereas the **international organizations** are used as a source of information by only 38% of organizations (see the figure below). The reason behind this small percentage is the limited information related to human rights violations and the international organizations' reliance on Palestinian organizations in obtaining and sharing information. It is also worth noting that the Palestinian organizations have special researchers and staff for obtaining information. However, important information is also obtained from international organizations; and especially the information issued by official organizations including Israeli ones (such as the Israeli Civil Administration). Moreover, **social media websites** are used as sources of information by 3.4% of organizations, and **mobile phone apps** also have the same percentage (3.4%).

### Sources of Information

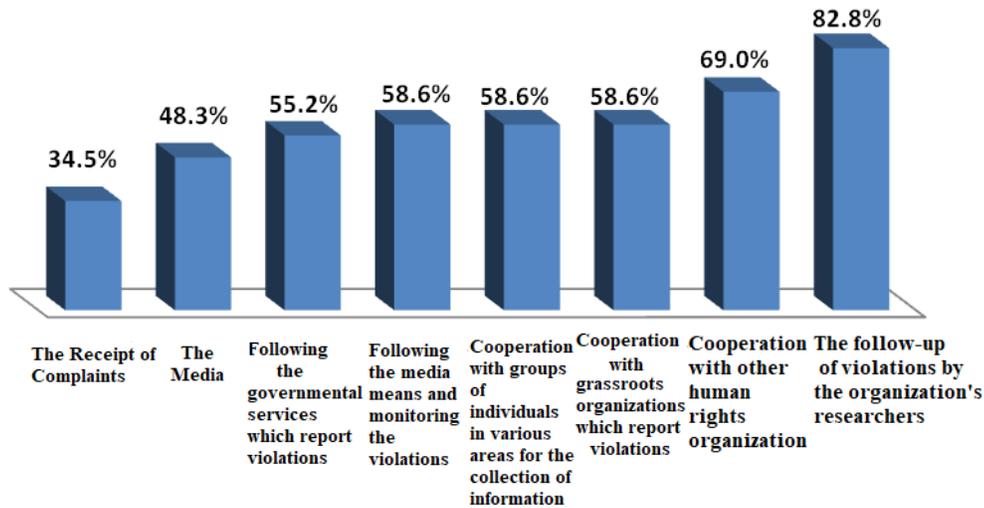


#### **The Collection of Information:**

Human rights organizations collect information by using a number of methods and means from various sources, such as receiving complaints from the families of victims, media sources, reports of field researchers, grassroots and human rights organizations, and other methods that help in obtaining accurate information.

The results of the study indicated that 83% of human rights organizations depend on the follow-up and monitoring by field researchers in their collection of information; and especially since these researchers are well-trained and qualified and possess the necessary skills for obtaining and documenting information. Also, 69% of these organizations cooperate with other human rights organizations (and especially with West Bank and Gaza Strip organizations) for collecting information. Moreover, 58% of organizations cooperate with grassroots organizations to receive reports on violations, and the same percentage [58%] applies to their cooperation with groups of individuals in various areas for the collection of information. Additionally, 58% of organizations follow the media means for collecting information about violations. On the other hand, 55% of organizations collect information through governmental organizations that report on violations, and 35% of these organizations collect information through the received complaints. Human rights organizations also use other sources of information, such as the popular committees in the areas close to the Annexation and Expansion Wall, reports of international organizations, and volunteers from different areas. Please see the following figure for more detail:

### The Methods and Means of Collecting Information

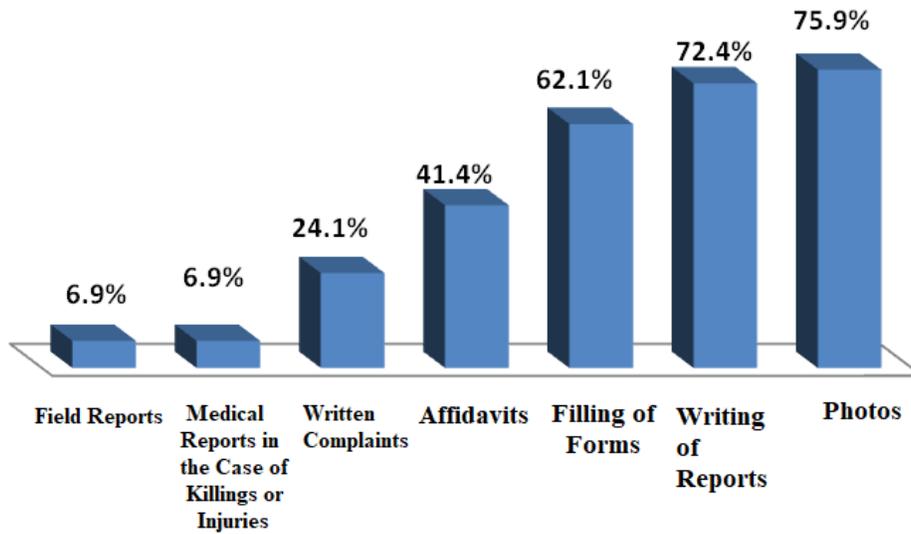


### The Ways of Documenting Information:

Human rights organizations rely on different mechanisms to document the perpetrated violations, including photos of different types, field reports, complaint forms, affidavits, and official documents and testimonials such as medical reports, military orders, official governmental decisions and experts' testimonials.

The study results show that 76% of human rights organizations use photos to document human rights violations, 72% of them write reports to document violations, and 62% rely on the filling of forms to document violations (see the figure below). Also, 41% of human rights organizations use affidavits and 24% use the complaints submitted by victims for the documentation of violations. Furthermore, 7% of human rights organizations use the official medical reports and testimonials and the testimonials of experts for documenting violations, and a similar percentage (7%) use the reports of field researchers for documenting violations.

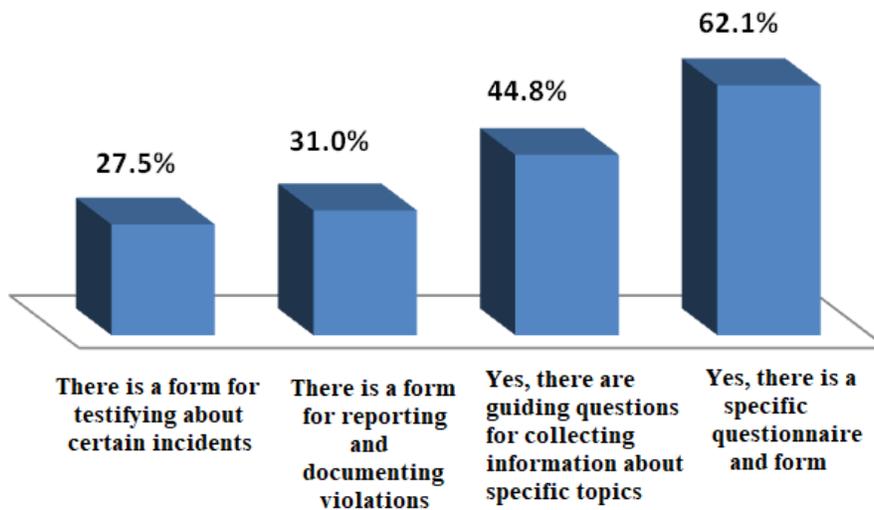
### Mechanisms of Documenting Information



### The Utilized Tools for Collecting Information:

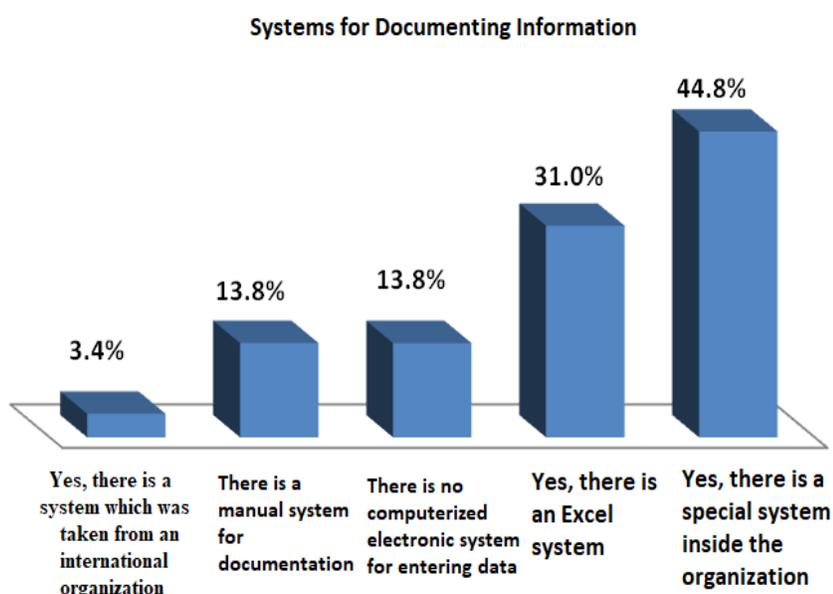
The study shows clearly that the human rights organizations use different tools for collecting information. 62% of these organizations use questionnaires or surveys for collecting information, 45% of them use guiding questions related to specific topics, and 31% use special forms for reporting and documenting violations. Meanwhile 28% of these organizations use a form for testimonials for collecting information (see the following figure):

### Utilized Tools for Collecting Information



## Database Preparation:

The results of the study showed that the majority of human rights organizations prepare their own databases but use different programs and software for databases. 45% of these organizations prepare special internally-created computerized databases for the documentation of violations, whereas 31% of them use the Excel program. Meanwhile, 14% of these organizations use the manual method for documenting violations, and 3% of them have an electronic system that was taken from an international organization as in the case of Al-Haq organization for defending human rights. It is worth noting that 14% of human rights organizations do not have a computerized electronic system for documenting information (see the figure below):



Among the most organizations using a **special internally-created database system** are: Defense for Children International (DCI) – Palestine, Amnesty International, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), Human Rights Clinic of Al-Quds University, Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC), and Al-Haq organization.

On the other hand, the Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) and Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association use **the Excel program**.

## **8. THE USE OF INFORMATION**

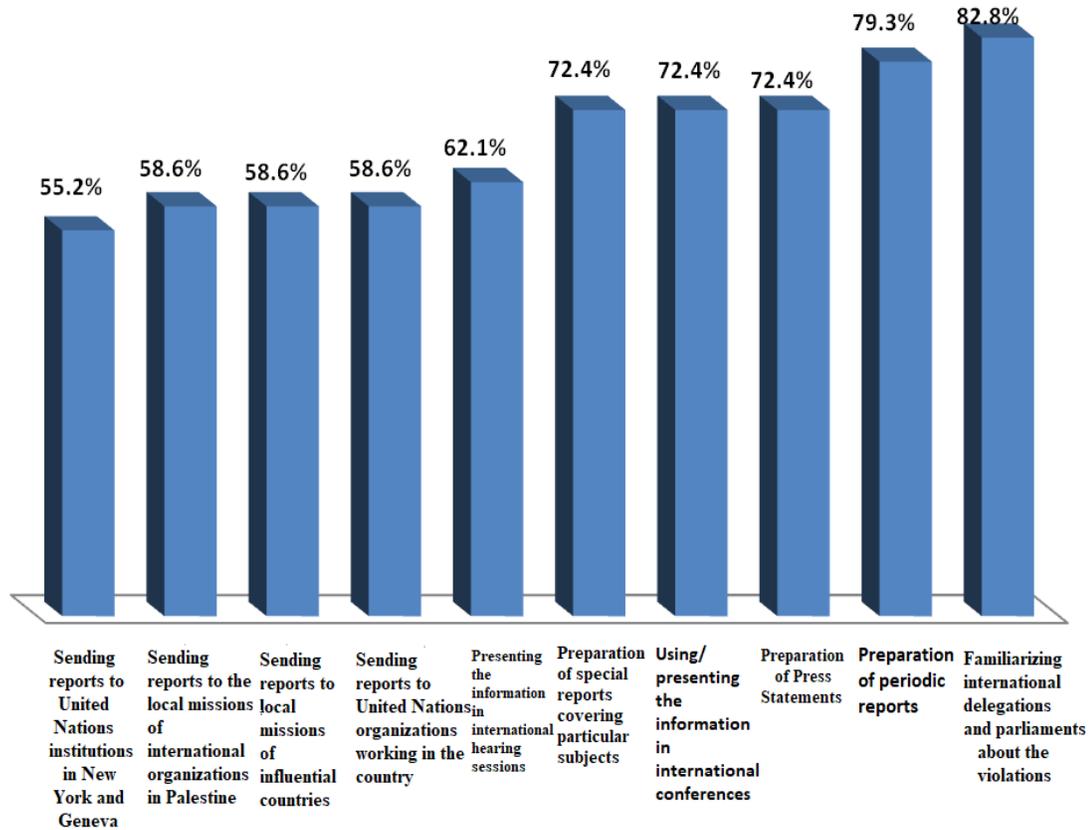
This section of the study discusses the ways of using the information obtained by human rights organizations in relation to the monitored and documented human rights violations on both the local and/or international levels. Also, there will be an explanation of the ways of using this information in the media, international conferences, preparation of periodic and specialized reports, and the sending of information to specialized parties in the Palestinian National Authority (whether in the judicial system, Presidential Bureau, or the Cabinet).

### **The Use of Information on the International Level:**

The study results show that 83% of human rights organizations use the obtained information to familiarize the members and delegations of international parliaments about the perpetrated violations, 79% of them use this information in preparing international reports in a periodic manner, and 72% of the organizations use the information in preparing press releases. Moreover, the violation-related information is used by 72% of organizations in international conferences and also in the preparation of special reports covering particular subjects. Additionally, 62% of human rights organizations use this information in international hearing sessions, and 59% of them send it [in the form of reports] to United Nations organizations working in the country, local missions of influential countries, and local missions of international organizations in Palestine. It is also worth mentioning that this information is used by 55% of organizations in reports that are sent to United Nations institutions in New York and Geneva.

With regard to **the resorting of human rights organizations to the Israeli courts**, 28% of human rights organizations resort to Israeli courts (especially in Jerusalem) to follow up cases related to insurance, house demolitions and family reunification or to file lawsuits against the Israeli Civil and Military Administration in Beit El. However, most organizations stopped filing a lawsuit against that administration because of the latter's unresponsiveness and the failure to make any significant achievements. Also, very few human rights organizations (only 3%) resort to Palestinian courts.

### The Use of Information on the International Level



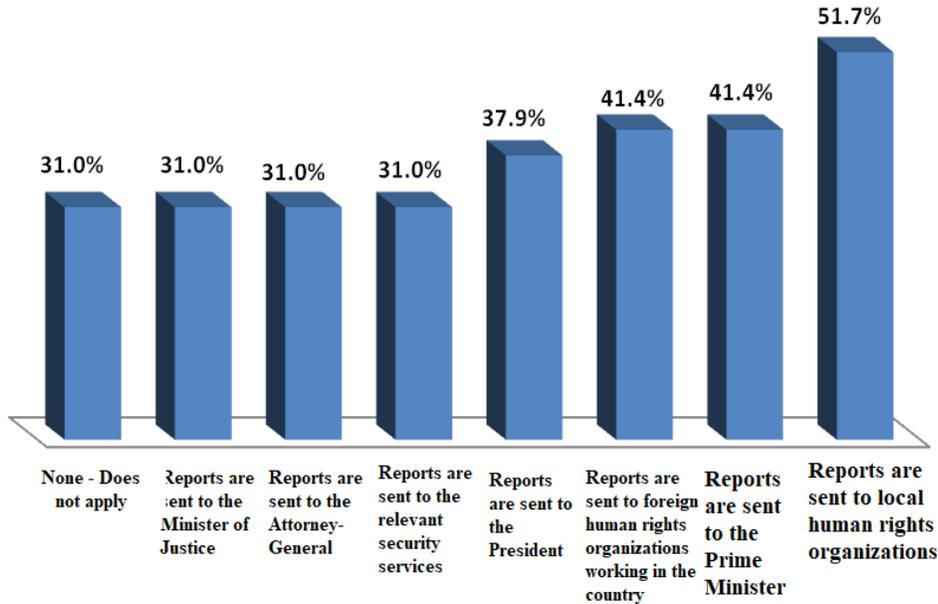
### The Use of Information on the Governmental and Local Community Levels:

With regard to using information on the local level, the results show that 52% of organizations send their information (in the form of reports) to local human rights organizations, 41% of them send information to the Prime Minister, and 41% send their information to foreign human rights organizations working in the country. Also, 38% of the organizations send information (in the form of reports) to the Presidential Bureau, and 31% of them send information to the relevant security services, Attorney General’s Office (AGO) and the Minister of Justice, respectively. However, a very small percentage of organizations (only 3%) send their information (in the form of reports) to the Minister of Health, Minister of Interior, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Media outlets.

Also, it is worth noting that 31% of organizations do not send any reports/information to the Palestinian government (see the figure below) since many organizations monitor the violations taking place only in Jerusalem, and they provide legal aid and assistance to the victims of these violations. Also, the relationship between these organizations (i.e. the 31%) and the Palestinian Authority (PA) government and security services is either weak or non-existing.

Moreover, these organizations do not cover the violations taking place in the PA areas, and they focus solely on Israeli violations in the areas controlled by Israel, such as Jerusalem and Area “C”. These organizations include the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories (“Btselem”) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

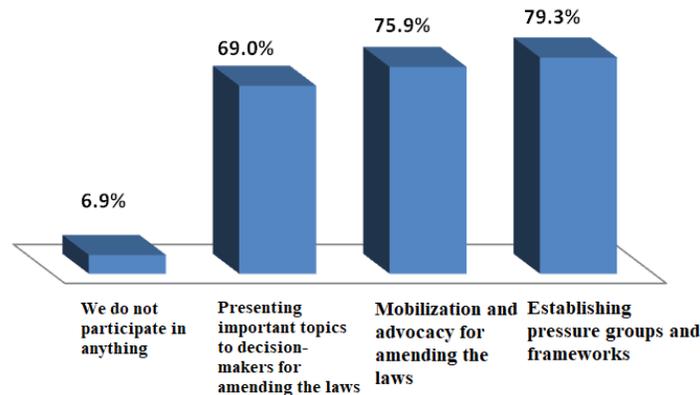
**The Use of Information on the Local Level**



**Additional Uses of Information:**

Human rights organizations also benefit from their information in other programs and projects. The study results show that 79% of organizations use their information to establish pressure groups and frameworks in cooperation with other organizations (see the figure below), 76% of organizations use their information for mobilization and advocacy activities for amending the laws, and 69% of them use their information in the presentation of important topics to decision-makers for amending the laws.

**Additional Uses of Information**



## 9. NETWORKING AND BUILDING COALITIONS WITH PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

This part of the study discusses the relationships of networking and building coalitions with partner organizations working in the field of human rights on both the local or international level. This is very important because it enhances the role of human rights organizations in different aspects of human rights; such as monitoring, documentation, lobbying, advocacy, preparation of reports and other fields of action.

The following is an overview of the results of networking and building relations with international organizations, local human rights organizations, grassroots organizations and governmental ones.

### Membership in Local and International Coalitions, Forums and Unions:

Human rights organizations are linked to networks of local, regional and international organizations through their membership in civil society and human rights networks, coalitions and forums. The following table provides some details about this:

#### Membership in Local, Regional and International Unions and Coalitions

Organization	Local Coalitions	Regional Coalitions	International Coalitions
Defense for Children International – Palestine Section	Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC)	Not a member in any regional coalitions.	Defense for Children International
Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO).</li> <li>2. Palestinian Coalition Against Torture.</li> <li>3. Palestinian Civic Coalition for the Monitoring of Legislations.</li> <li>4. Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC).</li> <li>5. Coalition for the Defense of Rights and Freedoms.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regional Forum for Monitoring Places of Detention and Prevention of Torture.</li> <li>2. Regional Coalition Against the Death Penalty.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. World Organization Against Torture.</li> <li>2. International Coalition Against the Policy of Isolation.</li> </ol>
Amnesty International	Coalition for the Protection of Humanitarian and Human Rights Organizations (for the	Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EuroMed)	

	exchange of information and the adoption of strong stances).		
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Not a member	Not a member	Not a member
Al-Quds Human Rights Clinic/Al-Quds University	National Campaign for the Right to Education	Not a member	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Independent Commission for Human Rights/ICHR (the Ombudsman Office)	A member of all the local coalitions	A member of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions	1. An "A-Level" member of the Asia Pacific Forum. 2. Network of Ombudsman Offices of North Africa and Europe.
Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA)	Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO).	Not a member	The Global Network for Defending and Promoting Free Expression (IFEX)
Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC)	1. Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC). 2. Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO). 3. Palestinian Coalition Against Torture. 4. Civic Coalition for the Reform and Enhancement of the Judiciary.	Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EuroMed)	
Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC)	- Palestinian Forum Against Violence. - National Committee for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325.	1. Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EuroMed). 2. Karama network. 3. Salma network. 4. Aisha network.	
Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories ("Btselem")		Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EuroMed).	International Federation for Human Rights
Al-Haq	Palestinian Human	Euro-	Member of:

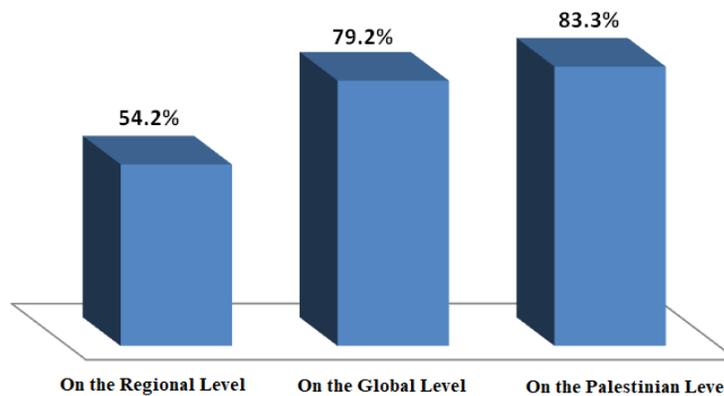
Organization for Defending Human Rights	Rights Organizations Council (PHROC)	Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EuroMed).	i. the International Federation for Human Rights, ii. the local branch of the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva, and iii. Habitat International Coalition.
Al Mizan Center for Human Rights	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN).</li> <li>2. Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC).</li> <li>3. Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Member of the MENA (Middle East North Africa) Network for Preventing the Use of Child Soldiers and Small Arms.</li> <li>2. Member of the Regional Network Against the Proliferation and Abuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EuroMed).</li> <li>2. Member and founder of the International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR Network), New York.</li> <li>3. Member of the Habitat International Coalition – Housing and Land Rights Network.</li> <li>4. Member of the Working Group pursuant to UNSCR 1612 in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).</li> <li>5. Member of the United Against Torture (UAT) Coalition.</li> <li>6. Member of the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT/<i>Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture</i>).</li> </ol>
Palestinian Centre for Human Rights	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC).</li> <li>2. Palestinian Non-Governmental</li> </ol>	Member of the Arab Organization for Human Rights	1. Member of the International Human Rights Commission, Geneva.

	Organizations Network (PNGO).		2. Member of the International Federation for Human Rights
Women's Affairs Center (WAC)	1. Adalah network. 2. Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO). 3. Al-Muntada Coalition.	Aisha Network (Arab Women's Forum).	
Land Research Center (LRC)	Network of Agricultural Organizations.	- Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED). - Arab Network for the Conservation of Residences.	- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) - Friends of the Earth International. - International Union for the Conservation of Nature.
Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ)	-Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO). - Food Security Working Group. - Environmental Working Group. - Water Sector Working Group. - Agriculture Sector Working Group.	- Arab Network for Food Sovereignty. - Arab NGO Network.	1. Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). 2. International Union for the Conservation of Nature. 3. International NGO Forum.
Wadi Hilweh Information Center	Not a member	Not a member	Protection Cluster
The African Community Society	Union of Charitable Societies	Not a member	Not a member
World Health Organization (WHO)	Member of all the Health-related committees and coalitions as necessary.		United Nations Organizations

The results of the study showed that 83% of the organizations are members in local and international unions and forums, whereas 17% of them are not members in any forums and unions. Among the organizations which are members in local and international forums, 83% are members in local forums and coalitions, such as the **Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC)**, the **Palestinian Coalition Against Torture** and the **Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO)**, whereas 79% of them

are part of global coalitions and 54% are members of regional organizations; and especially the Euro-Med (Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network) (see the figure below). For example, **Al-Haq Organization for Defending Human Rights** is a member of the International Federation for Human Rights, the local branch of the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva, and the Habitat International Coalition. Furthermore, Defense for Children International (DCI) – Palestine is a branch of Defense for Children International. It is also worth noting that several international organizations working in Palestine have branches in many countries across the world.

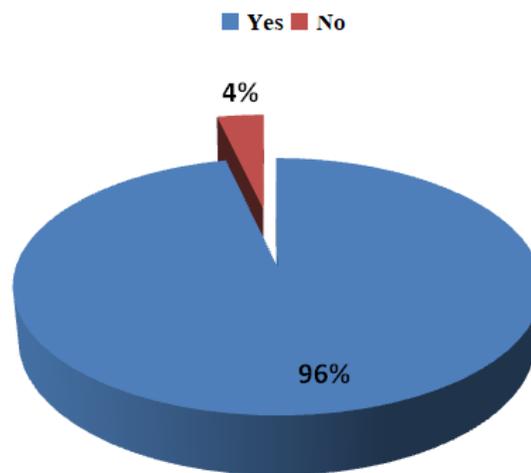
**Membership in Local and International Forums and Coalitions**



**Cooperation, Networking and Building Coalitions with International Organizations:**

The study results show that the majority of local organizations (as many as 96%) cooperate with foreign organizations, as seen in the figure below:

**Cooperation between Foreign and Local Organizations**



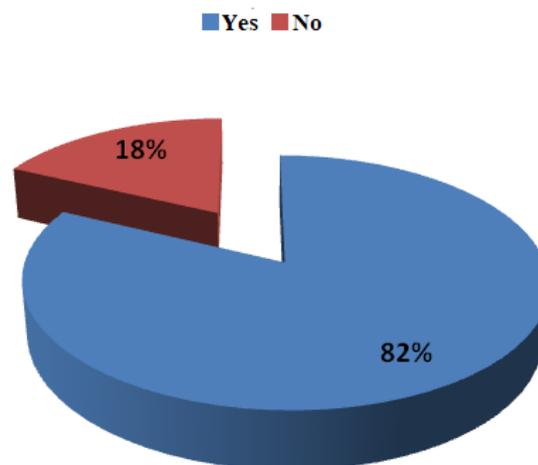
Most of the cooperation involves organizing international advocacy campaigns, the exchange of information, assistance in managing social media campaigns, coordination, execution of projects, and the implementation of protocols against torture and arrests (cooperation between the Independent Commission for Human Rights/ICHR and the European Union in the hearing sessions related to Israeli violations; cooperation between Al-Haq organization and the Italian-based “Cooperation for the Development of Emerging Countries”/COSPE for the implementation of an approximately three-year project; cooperation between the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center/JLAC, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs/OCHA and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for the exchange of experiences, training and advocacy; and the the cooperation between the Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling/WCLAC and a number of international organizations in the preparation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women/CEDAW report).

### **Cooperation, Networking and Building Coalitions with Local Human Rights Organizations**

Human rights organizations in Palestine play a prominent role inside the Palestinian society and enhance their influence on human rights policies on the international level (by mutual coordination and cooperation in the preparation of reports for international organizations participating in conferences) and the local level (by forming local coalitions and networks for amending laws and legislations like the Cybercrime Law, Law of the Grand Criminal Court and the Palestinian Social Security Act, as well as monitoring and documenting violations and running advocacy campaigns against the human rights violations committed by Palestinian security services).

The results of the study show that 82% of local human rights organizations cooperate with each other, as seen in the following figure:

**Cooperation between Local Human Rights Organizations**

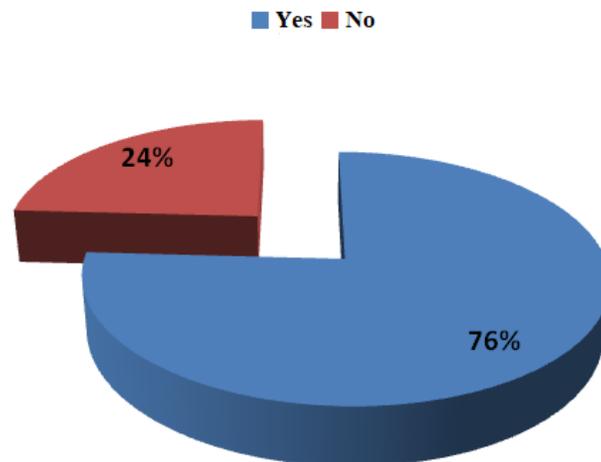


This cooperation takes place in different fields, such as the exchange of information in the areas which are inaccessible by some organizations (e.g. the cooperation between Al-Haq organization, Al-Mezan Center and the Palestinian Center for Human Rights in Gaza). The cooperation between local human rights organizations also includes the field of training. For example, the Monitoring and Documentation Unit of the Human Rights Clinic of Al-Quds University cooperates with Al-Haq and Addameer organizations in training Law students. Moreover, there is cooperation between the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC), the Community Action Center (CAC) and the Society of St. Yves in filing lawsuits in Israeli courts against house demolition orders, revocation of residency and family reunification issues. Cooperation between local organizations also takes place through special forums and coalitions, such as the cooperation between the Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) and human rights organizations in the framework of the “Palestinian Coalition Against Violence”.

### **Cooperation, Networking and Building Coalitions with Grassroots Organizations**

Human rights organizations greatly rely on grassroots organizations in the implementation of their various projects and programs. The results of the study show that 76% of human rights organizations cooperate with grassroots organizations (see the figure below).

**Cooperation between Grassroots Organizations**



Grassroots organizations include local councils, women’s associations, youth clubs and developmental organizations in various areas (such as medical centers), as well as agricultural committees, children’s societies and organizations, and cultural centers.

In order to broaden the popular cooperation between human rights organizations and the local community, a number of organizations established volunteer groups in different areas; and they trained and prepared the group

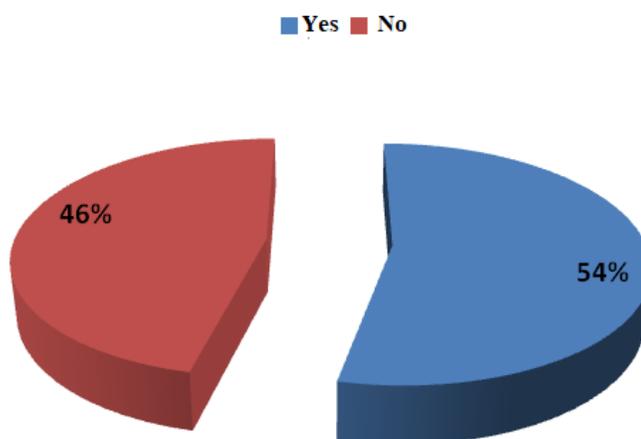
members in monitoring and documenting human rights violations, as well as familiarizing them about the International Humanitarian Law (an example of this is the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center/JLAC).

Cooperation with grassroots organizations also takes place in the provision of information, documentation of human rights violations in closed areas which are inaccessible by the researchers of human rights organizations, and the implementation of joint programs and projects (such as the cooperation between Defense for Children International- Palestine and Yafa Cultural Center in Balata Refugee Camp). Cooperation also takes place with grassroots organizations for the exchange of knowledge and experiences. For example, the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC) cooperates with the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) and the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC) in the writing of expert reports on the Israeli violations related to lands and farmers. Moreover, experts from Engineering associations contribute in the writing of reports related to house demolitions and their resulting damages. Foreign human rights organizations working in Palestine also cooperate with grassroots organizations. For example, Amnesty International cooperates with the Popular Resistance Committees and the popular committees of refugee camps in monitoring and documenting the Israeli Military's violations in the areas close to the Annexation and Expansion Wall.

### **Cooperation, Networking and Building Coalitions with Governmental Institutions**

The results of the study indicated that 54% of human rights organizations cooperate with governmental institutions (see the following figure):

**Cooperation between Human Rights Organizations and Governmental Organizations**



The relationship between human rights organizations and governmental institutions is a rather fluctuating one (sometimes it is positive but oftentimes it is negative) depending on the general situation in the country. For example, the

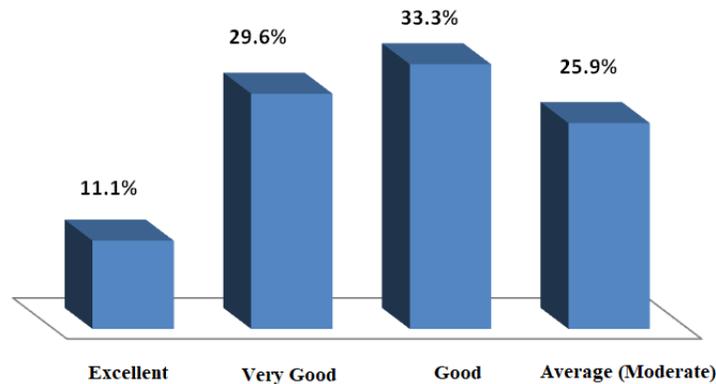
Palestinian government requests the cooperation of human rights organizations in its preparation of periodic reports to United Nations organizations and its joint reports on Israeli violations in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). Also, a number of these organizations (and especially the foreign ones) cooperate with governmental bodies like the “Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission” and the “Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs” in the follow-up of prisoners’ cases. Cooperation with governmental institutions also takes place in the training and capacity building of employees from Palestinian institutions and security services in the fields of monitoring, documentation and the ways of dealing with inmates inside detention centers. For example, there is current cooperation with the Ministry of Interior to establish a national mechanism promoting the government’s commitment to prohibit torture.

However, the relationship between human rights organizations and Palestinian governmental institutions becomes negative when the government ratifies laws and legislations which violate the principles of human rights; and especially after Palestine’s signing of many international conventions and treaties and its accession to several international organizations. In this respect, the human rights organizations have led a campaign to pressure the Palestinian government to amend the Palestinian Cybercrime Law, Social Security Act and the Law of the Grand Criminal Court. According to the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC), approximately 60 court cases have been filed against the Palestinian government at the High Court of Justice. However, these cases have not been considered and no court resolutions were issued in their regard. Also, many human rights organizations exert pressure on the Palestinian government to back down from its unfair measures against civilians such as political arrests; procedures for limiting the freedom of opinion and expression; and the use of violence in breaking up peaceful assemblies and protests (like the recent case in Ramallah). This was embarrassing for the Palestinian government in front of the local and international public opinion, and it is another reason why the majority of human rights organizations do not resort to the Palestinian courts to file lawsuits against the violations committed by the governmental services and institutions.

### **Assessment of the Level of Cooperation between Human Rights Organizations**

With regard to the level of cooperation between human rights organizations working in Palestine, the study results show that 33% of organizations see that the level of cooperation is good and 30% see it as very good. However, 26% of organizations see that the level of cooperation between human rights organizations is average (moderate), and only 11% consider it excellent (see the following figure).

Assessment of the Cooperation between Human Rights Organizations

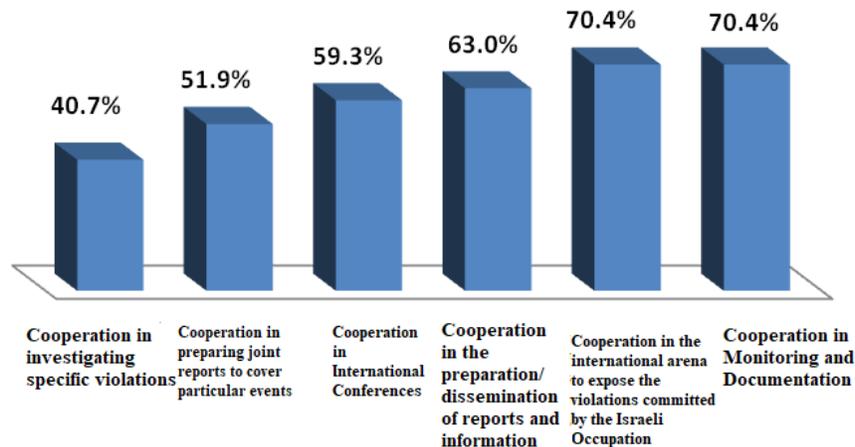


The reason behind assessing the level of cooperation between human rights organizations as “excellent” and “very good” is their cooperation in the preparation of joint reports, organization of advocacy campaigns, and training and capacity building. On the other hand, the reason behind assessing the level of cooperation between human rights organizations as “good” or “average” is the competition between organizations instead of complementarity, lack of exchanging precise and detailed information, and the aim of some organizations to take over rather than to participate.

### The Fields of Cooperation

There are several fields and forms of cooperation between the different organizations. The results of the study showed that there is 70% cooperation in the field of monitoring and documentation; 70% cooperation in the international arena to expose the violations committed by the Israeli Occupation; 63% cooperation in the preparation/dissemination of reports and information; and 59% cooperation in international conferences. Also, there is 52% cooperation in preparing joint reports to cover particular events, and 41% cooperation in investigating specific violations (see the figure below).

The Forms of Cooperation between Human Rights Organizations



## 10. THE DIFFICULTIES AND GAPS WITNESSED BY HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

This section of the study discusses the difficulties and gaps faced by human rights organizations on different levels such as: the internal institutional and financial level, the availability of international expertise, the systems, the needed techniques for providing high-quality information, and/or the external level such as the practices and procedures of the Occupation authorities, the Palestinian laws and legislations, and the mechanisms of cooperation with local and international organizations.

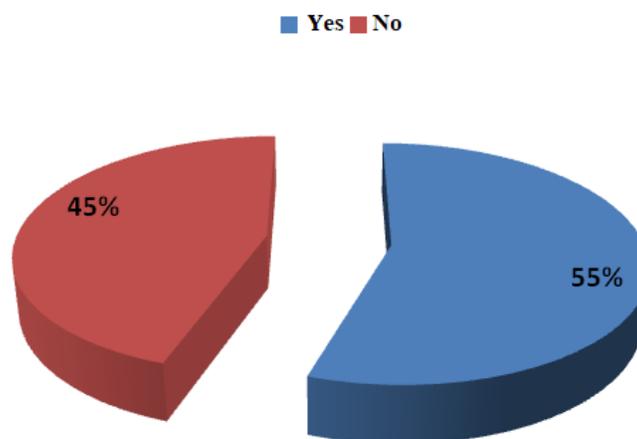
### The Gaps and Difficulties on the Internal Level:

The work of organizations involves the provision of the necessary financial, human and technical capabilities to implement the various projects and programs in a way which best suits the nature of the organizational work.

However, since the human rights organizations (and especially the Palestinian ones) are Not-for-Profit organizations, they depend solely on external support and funding and most of them employ human resources separately for each project (based on the needed qualifications of each respective project). Moreover, there is a need to provide good technical and logistical systems for performing the organizational work with great efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and continuity.

The results of the study showed that 55% of organizations have internal gaps such as the non-availability of sufficient funds and shortage of staff in some areas (and especially in Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip). This increases the work pressure of field researchers; and especially in urgent cases (see the following figure).

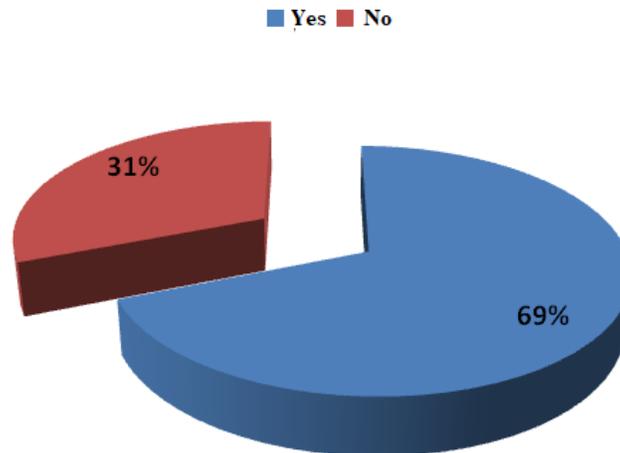
**Percentage of Internal Gaps in Human Rights Organizations**



## The Israeli Procedures and Hurdles against Human Rights Organizations

The study results show that 69% of human rights organizations see that the Israeli procedures present one of the greatest challenges for them due to Israel's repressive practices and measures against them (see the figure below).

**Gaps resulting from the Israeli Procedures against Human Rights Organizations**



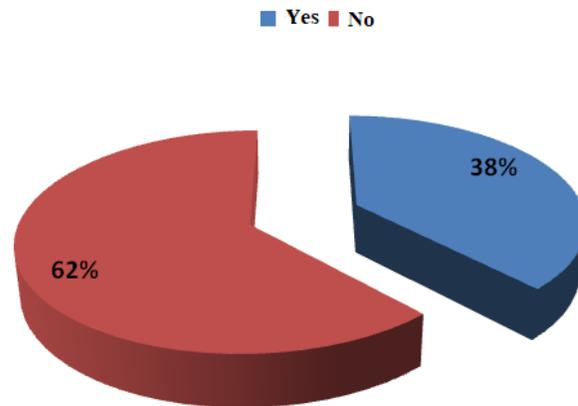
The Occupation authorities practice different repressive measures against human rights organizations, such as:-

1. Pressuring the external donors to stop funding human rights organizations (such as Al-Haq organization for defending human rights and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights).
2. The closing down of several areas and considering them “closed military zones” (as is the case in “Tel Rumeida” in Hebron), and the establishment of military checkpoints and preventing the researchers of local human rights organizations from entering the closed zones.
3. The back-to-back laws, legislations and military orders make it difficult for human rights organizations to perform their work; and this increases their workloads and pressure (Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center/JLAC).
4. It is difficult to document Israeli violations during their perpetration of assaults; and especially in remote and marginalized areas like the Bedouin-inhabited ones (Human Rights Clinic of Al-Quds University).
5. Not giving enough time for advocates to interview detainees in Israeli prisons and document their statements and testimonies about the suffered violations (Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association).
6. Not allowing experts and specialists to enter the Gaza Strip to conduct investigations about the weapons that were used to curb the “Great March of Return” (Human Rights Watch).

## **The Gaps and Difficulties in the Relations with the Palestinian Authority**

The study results showed that 62% of human rights organizations face difficulties (gaps) in their work as a result of the procedures of Palestinian Authority institutions (see the following figure).

**Gaps in the relations between Human Rights Organizations and the Palestinian Authority**



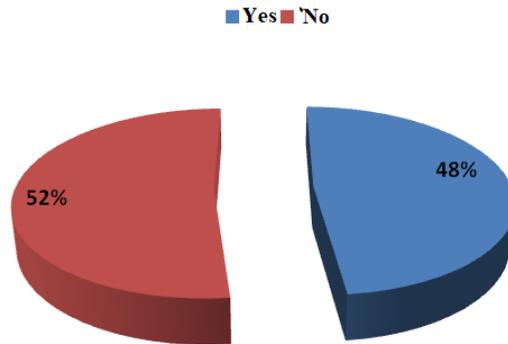
### **These difficulties are summarized as follows:-**

1. The Palestinian laws and legislations limit the freedom of opinion and expression and do not adhere to the international conventions and treaties (and especially after the President's ratification of these conventions).
2. The restriction of information about the violations committed by the Palestinian Authority security services; such as political arrests and the censorship of meetings between political detainees and representatives of human rights organizations.
3. Revoking the residency of field researchers during their coverage of important events.
4. Absence of the "Right to Information Act", thus making it difficult to monitor and document violations.

### **Gaps in the Quality of Documentation:**

Human rights organizations sometimes have poor quality of documentation and occasionally they fail to reach clear and accurate information. The results of the study showed that 48% of human rights organizations have gaps in the quality of monitoring and documentation (see the figure below):

### The Gap in the Quality of Monitoring and Documentation

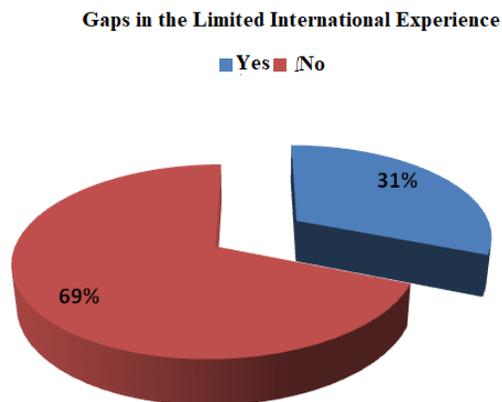


The reasons behind the poor quality of monitoring and documentation are as follows:-

1. The difficulty of reaching closed military areas in order to document the committed violations; and especially in the Old City of Hebron.
2. Insufficient funding, the inability to employ qualified field researchers, and reliance on other sources of information, such as telephone calls.
3. Not permitting international investigation committees and technical experts to enter some areas (especially the Gaza Strip) to obtain information about the different kinds of weapons that led to the excessive number of murdered civilians; and this led to the poor quality of information and analysis.
4. The unwillingness of many victims' families to make any statements or provide any clear information about the violations suffered by their family members.

### Gaps in the Limited International Experience:

The study results showed that 31% of human rights organizations suffer from the gap of limited international experience in monitoring and documentation, whereas 69% of organizations do not suffer from such a gap (see the following figure).



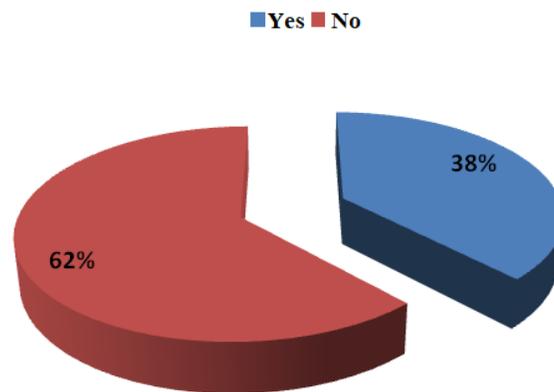
This gap was relatively small because a number of organizations have a good experience in the field of Human Rights and have gained good international experiences in monitoring and documentation, and also because the foreign organizations working in Palestine perform their monitoring and documentation activities in accordance with international standards (whereas they are assisted by world experts to reach clear and accurate information).

According to some organizations, the current gap in international experience is because of the limited number of experts who are specialized in the international conventions and treaties that were signed by the Palestinian Authority, and also because of the lack of international experiences in the field of Human Rights Advocacy.

### **The Gap in the Mechanisms of Cooperation between Organizations:**

The study results showed a gap of 38% in the mechanisms of cooperation and the building of coalitions between human rights organizations, whereas 62% of them do not suffer from such as gap (see the figure below).

**Gap in the Mechanisms of Cooperation between Human Rights Organizations**



This gap was relatively low because of the forming of different national coalitions between human rights organizations, the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC), the Palestinian Coalition Against Torture, as well as other coalitions which include a number of human rights organizations and play a prominent role in the exchange of information and expertise and the organizing of advocacy and lobbying campaigns in several fields.

Some parties mentioned that the reasons behind the existing gap are: the non-complementary work of the organizations, the attempt of strong organizations to take over the others, absence of a national action plan which divides roles between organizations, and the absence of unified collective action in some advocacy campaigns.

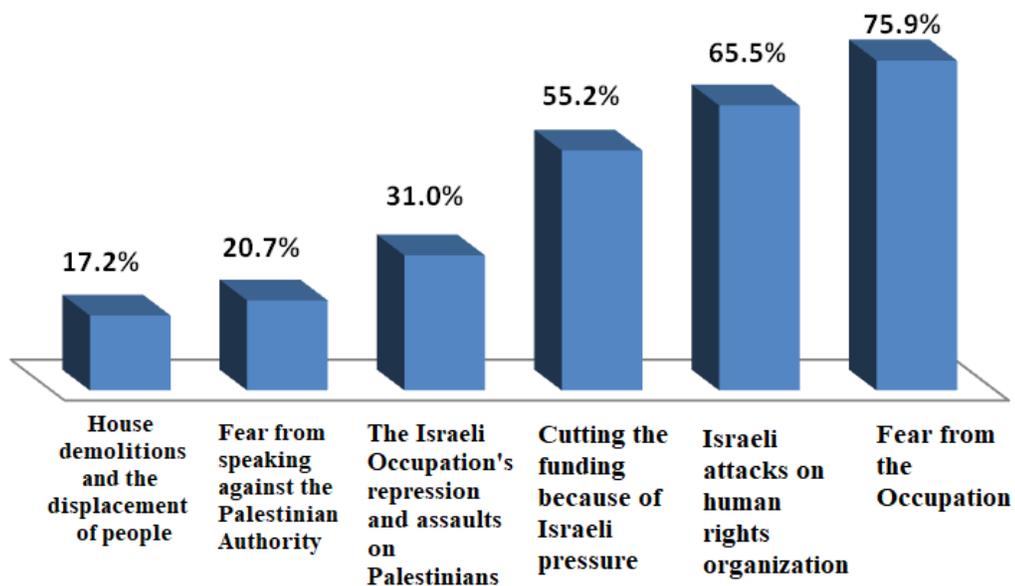
Cooperation between organizations only takes place for short periods of time, e.g. after the stipulation of an unfair law or policy or following a great escalation in the committed violations. On the other hand, long-term cooperation (which starts from the phase of planning to solve the problematic issues) is not very strong. Additionally, there is weak coordination inside the networks that include a large number of civil society organizations in their ranks.

**The Difficulties faced by Human Rights Organizations:**

Human rights organizations face a number of difficulties during the implementation of monitoring and documentation activities; and especially because of the practices of the Israeli Occupation.

The study results showed that 76% of human rights organizations face a difficulty in disclosing and presenting statements or testimonials against the Israeli violations because of their fear from the Israeli Occupation. Also, 66% of these organizations see that the Israeli attacks on human rights organizations present a great difficulty that impedes their work. Moreover, 55% of organizations face difficulties as a result of cutting their funding because of Israeli pressure, and 31% face difficulties because of the Occupation authorities' repression and assaults on Palestinians. Additionally, 21% of organizations are afraid to speak against the Palestinian Authority, and 17% of them face difficulties because of house demolitions and the displacement of people. Other difficulties were also mentioned, such as being afraid of having one's work permit revoked, the closing down of press offices in the Gaza Strip by the Hamas authorities, the fear of battered women from speaking out against the violence that they experience, and the reluctance of many laborers to speak about their rights because they are afraid of being terminated from work. Please see the following diagram for more detail.

**The Difficulties Faced by Human Rights Organizations**



## 11. RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### **The Results:**

Based on the analysis of information and data resulting from the mapping research, the results can be categorized as follows:-

### **Fields of Action for Human Rights. The results were as follows:-**

- The majority of human rights organizations focus on civil and political rights and after that the social and economic rights. However, focus on the rights of marginalized groups is only made by specialized organizations such as the Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) and Defense for Children International (DCI) – Palestine. The documentations made by most organizations in relation to violations against marginalized groups are only done in an implied manner (not straightforward), and these documentations usually come as part of the general documentation of violations without focusing on these violations in a particular manner.
- The majority of Palestinian organizations work on monitoring and documenting Israeli and Palestinian violations. On the other hand, the work focus of foreign and Israeli organizations is to document the Israeli violations; and especially in Jerusalem, Hebron, Gaza Strip and Area “C”.

### **The Monitored Violations in the Targeted Areas of this Study, and the Violations which are Not Monitored or Have Poor Monitoring:**

Area	Violations which are Documented	Violations which are Not Documented or Have Poor Documentation:
Hebron	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assaults by Israeli settlers.</li> <li>2. The military closure of the area.</li> <li>3. Restriction of the freedom of movement and transport.</li> <li>4. The Israeli settlers’ assaults on local Palestinian residents.</li> <li>5. The confiscation and seizure of Palestinian houses.</li> <li>6. Discrimination between Palestinian children and the children of Israeli settlers.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Right to education.</li> <li>2. Right to work.</li> <li>3. Right to have a decent living.</li> </ol>
Jerusalem	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Forced displacement.</li> <li>2. Revocation of IDs.</li> <li>3. Racial discrimination between Israelis and Palestinians.</li> <li>4. Issues related to the family reunification of children and women.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Violations against women; it was seen that there is no real concern about documenting the violations faced by women. These violations are only documented as part of</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Collective punishment such as the destruction of schools.</li> <li>6. The right of residence.</li> <li>7. Children's right to life</li> <li>8. Children's freedom from torture.</li> <li>9. Violations related to the Annexation and Expansion Wall, the isolation of villages, and preventing residents from the freedom of movement.</li> <li>10. Children's right to education.</li> <li>11. House demolitions.</li> </ol>	<p>short projects and nothing more, and they are mainly done for cases related to family reunification and the registration of children since they are considered among the important issues which must be monitored and solved (Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) and the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC)).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The violations related to residency rights in Jerusalem are not being sufficiently documented.</li> <li>3. The documentation of collective punishment is only being done momentarily and nothing more.</li> <li>4. The documentation of arrests based on political opinions (such as writing posts on Facebook) is not being done properly.</li> </ol>
<p><b>The Gaza Strip</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The shooting of fire and killing Palestinian fishermen.</li> <li>2. Confiscation of Palestinian fishermen's tools and equipment.</li> <li>3. Restriction of the freedom of movement and limiting the fishing area to a very small space.</li> <li>4. Collective punishment and blockades.</li> <li>5. Preventing farmers from reaching their lands.</li> <li>6. Detaining the bodies of deceased Palestinians.</li> <li>7. The excessive use of force.</li> <li>8. The spraying of toxic pesticides on Palestinian agricultural lands.</li> <li>9. The sweeping and destruction of agricultural lands.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Economic and social violations.</li> <li>2. Violations related to education, health and labor.</li> </ol>

**On the Level of Monitoring and Documentation Mechanisms:**

1. The absence of a unified mechanism for documenting violations; including the different forms and procedures.

2. Each organization is using a different database system for reporting violations; and this makes it difficult to be used by other organizations.

### **On the Organizational Level:**

1. Insufficient funding for organizational programs and projects, which presents a threat to the survival of organizations and leads to a shortage of field researchers. This also has a negative impact on the quality of information and analysis.
2. Limited experience in international mobilization and advocacy.
3. Insufficient experience in documenting the violations of the conventions which were signed by the Palestinian National Authority.

### **On the Level of Cooperation and Networking:**

1. The relations between organizations are usually competitive instead of being complementary.
2. The limited exchange of information and without much detail, therefore not benefiting from the information.
3. The absence of a network that includes the different human rights organizations with a crystal-clear vision and objectives and the presence of executive plans.
4. Weak coordination between the organizations (especially when working in isolated areas) and not benefiting from each other's' capabilities.

### **The Recommendations:**

1. To become more concerned with the economic, social and cultural rights; and especially the right to education, right to work, right to health and the rights of marginalized groups (especially women's rights, such as the women's right to protection from violence and things pertaining to the Personal Status Law, and children's rights like the right to education, right to protection, right to nutrition and health services, and the right to play).
2. To adopt a unified mechanism for monitoring and documenting violations; and it is preferable to adopt a mechanism which is similar to those which are used by international organizations (including the various forms). Also, the researchers must be well-prepared and trained on how to use this mechanism.
3. To establish a specialized center for building databases related to violations, and to have that center provide easily-accessible information to various parties.
4. To establish a coalition of Palestinian human rights organizations which formulates a national plan that includes clear and specific goals and their mechanisms of implementation. This coalition should also provide the necessary funding, distribute functions among its members and assess their performance in a periodic manner.

5. To establish, train and qualify volunteer groups for monitoring and documenting the different violations in the various areas (including the military closed areas) in order to overcome the Israeli procedures and provide high-quality information.
6. To benefit from the cooperation experiences of different organizations in the exchange of information (e.g. the relations of cooperation between Al-Haq, Al-Mezan and the Palestinian Center for Human Rights in Gaza).
7. To train the staff of human rights organizations in international mobilization and advocacy.
8. To train and prepare the human rights organizations in the documentation of violations of international conventions; and especially those which were signed by the Palestinian Authority.
9. The use of modern technological means of documentation (including Mobile Phone Apps) in order to swiftly provide correct and accurate information.
10. To help the victims of violations by following up and referring their cases to the competent legal, social, economic and educational authorities after monitoring and documenting their suffered violations in order to make a real impact on their quality of life.

**End of Report**