



### - The Buffer Zone in the Gaza Strip -

The so-called "buffer zone" is a military no-go area that extends along the entire northern and eastern perimeter of the Gaza Strip's border with Israel, inside Palestinian territory, as well as at sea. The precise areas designated by Israel as "buffer zone" are unknown, yet Israeli policy is typically to enforce access restrictions with live fire.

#### Delineations

##### On land: inside Palestinian territory

- Oslo Accords: **50 metres**
- Second Intifada (2000): **150 metres**
- January 2010, according to Israel: **300 metres**
- In reality: **300 metres - 2 kilometres**

##### At sea: area off coast for Palestinian fishing

- Oslo Accords: **20 nautical miles**
- Bertini Commitment (2002): **12 nautical miles**
- October 2006: **6 nautical miles**
- Since June 2007: **3 nautical miles**

#### Impact

##### On land

- Approximately **27, 000 dunums<sup>1</sup>** of land can only be accessed under high personal risk, as Israeli attacks may result in injury or death of civilians.
- Approximately **30%** of Gaza's agricultural land cannot be worked without severe personal risk, causing the loss of livelihoods.

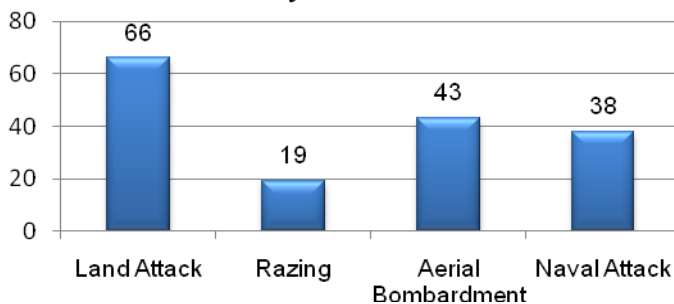
##### At sea

- The fishing industry is severely impacted, as it supports the families of over **3, 600** fishermen who expose themselves to high risk every day at sea.
- The area near the coast is markedly over-fished.
- December 2009: **2** naval attacks, **5** fishermen detained for several hours, **1** fisherman wounded and **1** boat damaged.

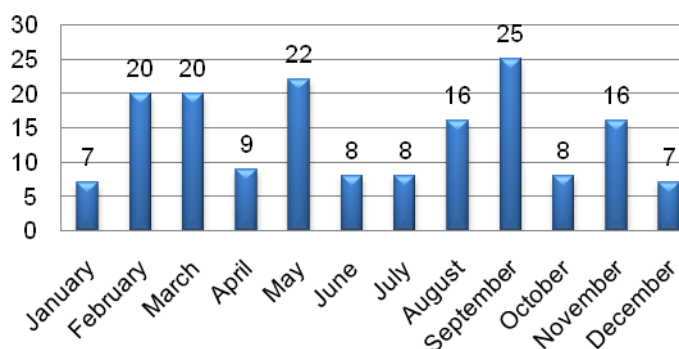
#### Attacks in the Buffer Zone

Following the attacks of 'Operation Cast Lead' Israeli forces carried out **166** Israeli attacks in the Buffer Zone, including the border region with Egypt, in 2009.

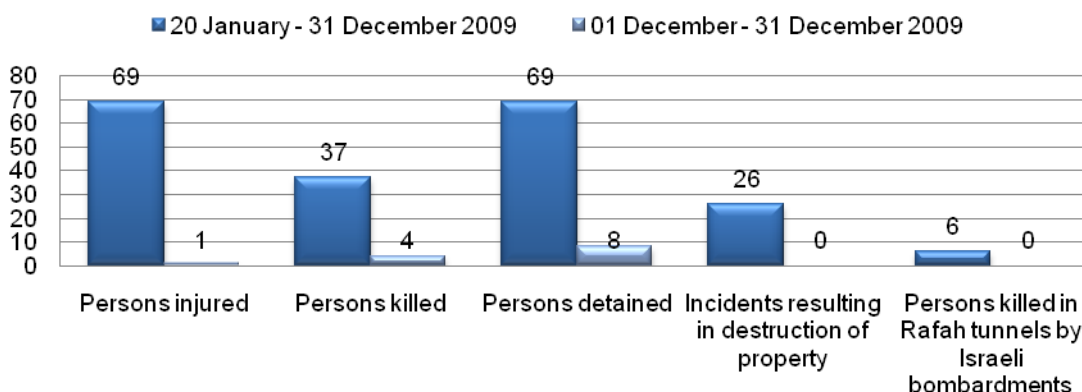
**Buffer Zone Attacks by Type**  
20 January - 31 December 2009



**Buffer Zone Attacks by Month**  
20 January - 31 December 2009



#### Impact of Buffer Zone Attacks



<sup>1</sup> One donum is equal to 1,000 square metres.