

Arrested Policing

Damage to the Criminal Justice
Infrastructure in the Gaza Strip during
Operation "Pillar of Cloud"

(15-23 November 2012)



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The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)

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Contents

Introduction	4
Council of Ministers Building, Ar-Rimal, Gaza City	7
Ministry of Interior Civilian Branch, Tel Al-Hawa, Gaza City	13
Abu Khadra Governmental Compound, Gaza City	19
Arafat Police City ('Al-Jawazaat'), Gaza City	25
Governorate Building, Beit Lahia	31
Sheikh Zayid Police Station, Beit Lahia	37
Jabalia Refugee Camp Police Station	43
At-Tuffah Police Station, Gaza City	49
Ar-Rimal ('Al-Abbas') Police Station, Gaza City	55
Ash-Shuja'iya Police Station, Gaza City	61
Khan Yunis Police Headquarters	67
Magistrate Court, Gaza City	73

Introduction

Between 14 and 21 November 2012, an armed conflict took place between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in the Gaza Strip¹, notably the military wings of the Palestinian factions Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) and Islamic Jihad. More than 160 Palestinians and six Israelis were killed in this conflict; at least 971 Palestinians and 239 Israelis were injured. This is in addition to infrastructure damage and material losses on both sides.

Infrastructure pertaining to the criminal justice system of the Palestinian National Authority in the Gaza Strip was particularly hard hit. The criminal justice system encompasses law-enforcement agencies, prosecution bodies, courts and prisons, as well as governmental bodies (such as relevant ministries) setting policies to combat crime and uphold the rule of law. The present report aims to document the damage afflicted on the criminal justice infrastructure in the Gaza Strip during the eight days of the armed conflict. It seeks to take stock of material losses to the relevant public infrastructure and illustrate its impact on the capability of service delivery.

The infrastructure included in this report was selected based on the effective role that an institution or public body plays in the Palestinian criminal justice process. Hence the report includes ministerial infrastructure required for policy development and implementation in relation to criminal justice, such as the building of the Council of Ministers and buildings belonging to the Ministry of Interior. It also includes policing and judicial infrastructure necessary for the direct provision of services to the population, such as police stations² and court buildings. The report excludes government infrastructure that forms part of the security sector but is not directly linked to the provision of criminal justice in the Gaza Strip.³

For the preparation of this report, DCAF reviewed existing public⁴ and internal documentation that it was granted access to by the Palestinian National Authority. DCAF also conducted more than 15 on-site visits and interviews in the period between 29 November and 5 December 2012 to verify the data and information obtained. A DCAF photographer took pictures of all the sites visited.

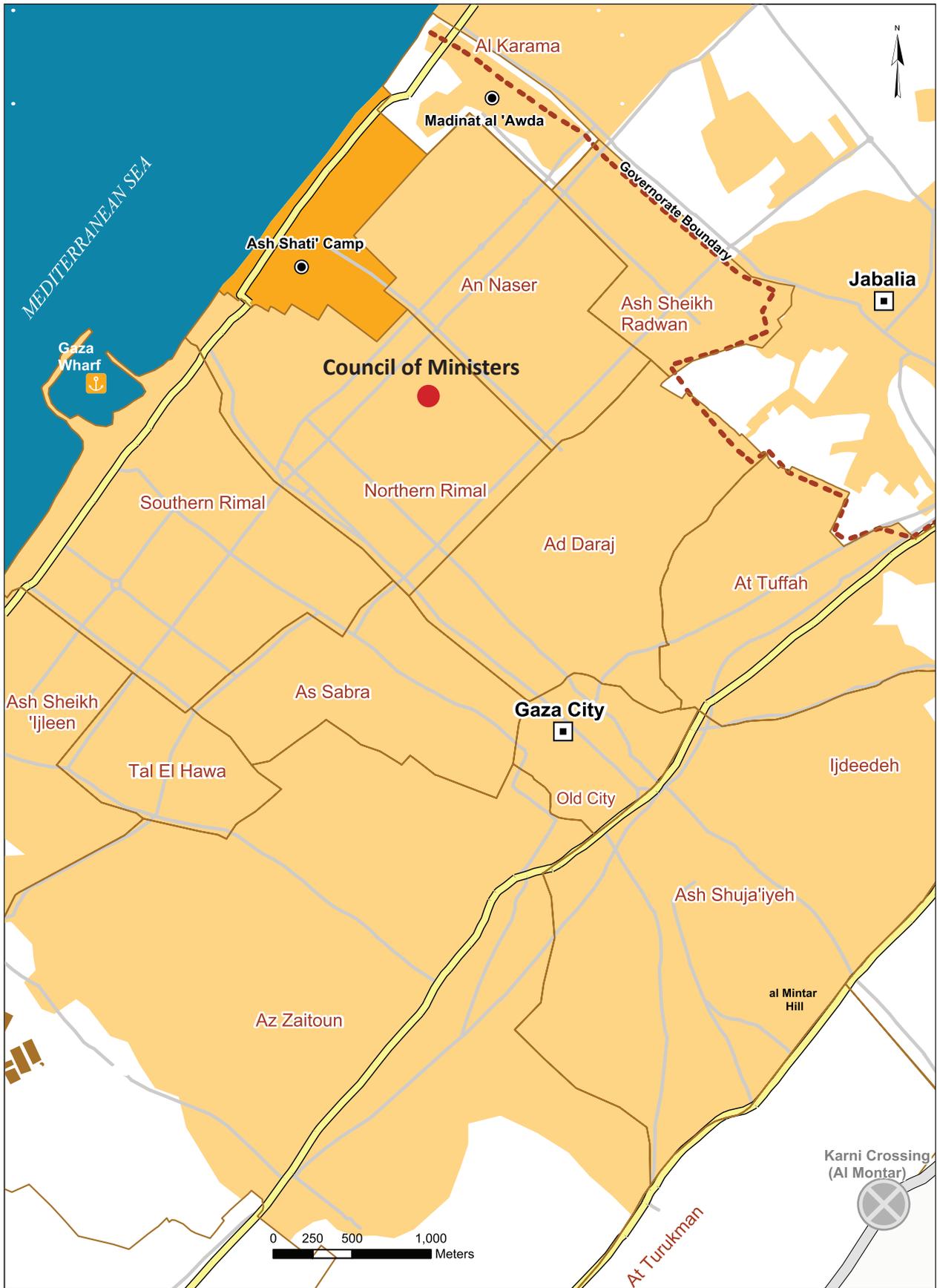
Palestinian citizens in the Gaza Strip expect their authorities to deliver security and justice in an effective, efficient and accountable manner. Palestinian authorities, irrespective of their political leaning, can only fulfill these expectations if they possess the necessary infrastructure and equipment. This report aims to contribute to a better international understanding of the challenges that the Palestinian authorities in the Gaza Strip face in delivering security to their population. It is also hoped that the link between the policy choice of bringing Gaza's policing capabilities to an effective halt and the consequences of this choice will get close scrutiny: "Arrested policing" will inevitably result in new types of insecurity for Palestinian citizens and ultimately also for neighbouring countries. Thus, what type of security the Gaza Strip and the region need, and at what costs, are questions that deserve a wider discussion.





Council of Ministers Ar-Rimal, Gaza City

Map of Gaza Governorate



Source for map: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Council of Ministers, Ar-Rimal, Gaza City

Time and nature of shelling	Saturday, 18 November 2012 05.10: 5 airstrikes (direct targeting)
Function	Office building of the Council of Ministers
Size of infrastructure	4 floor building, 2500 m ²
Type of damage	Complete destruction
Infrastructure destroyed	<p>Office of the Prime Minister, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Department • Minister's Office • Protocol Department • Security Department <p>General-Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Affairs Department • Cabinet Affairs Department • Public Relations Department <p>International Affairs Department</p> <p>Cabinet meeting room</p>
Number of civil servants working in the building	75
Estimated damage	1,200,000 USD (infrastructure) 300,000 USD (office equipment and furniture)



3 December 2012



3 December 2012



3 December 2012



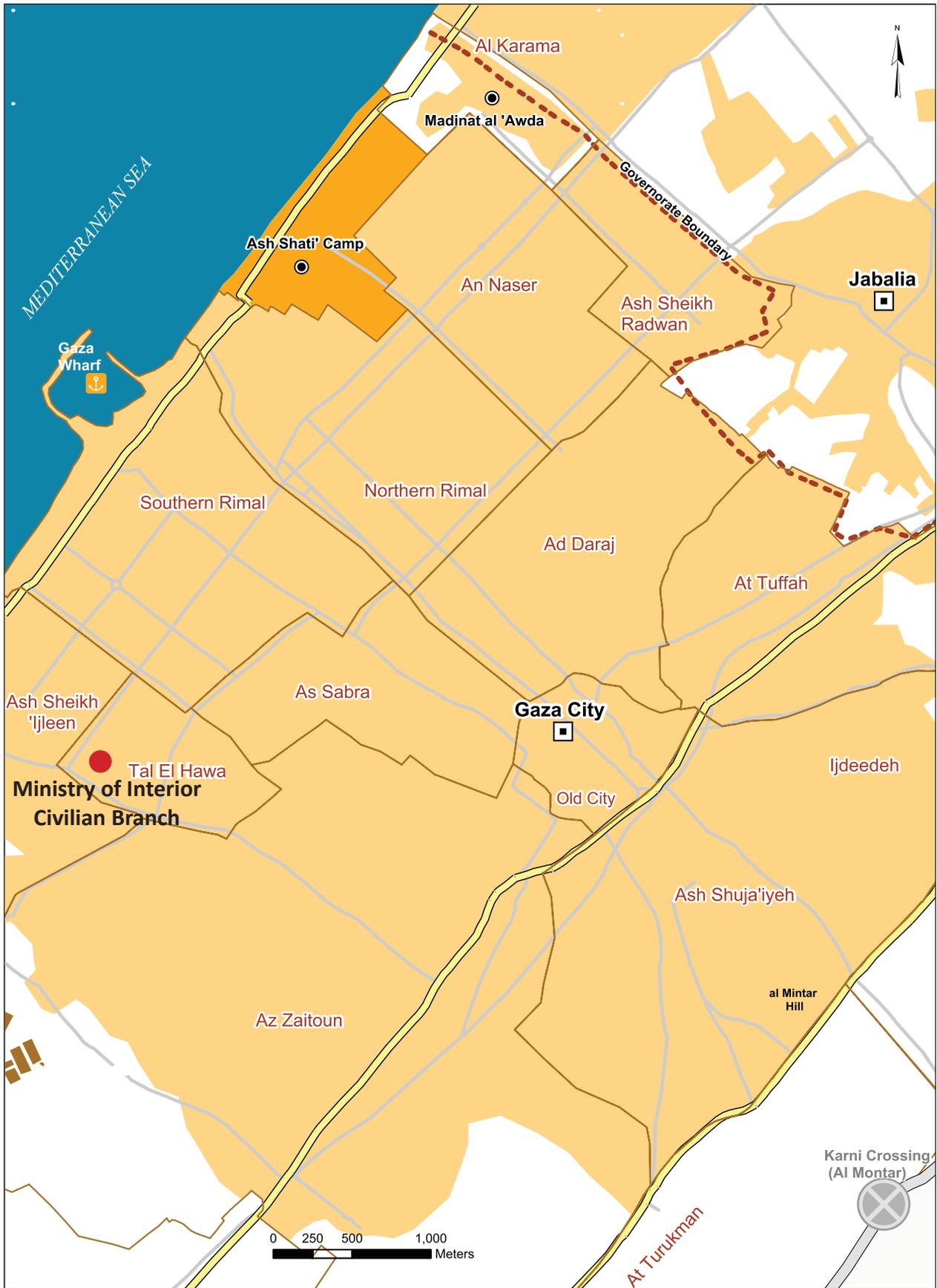
3 December 2012





**Ministry of Interior
Civilian Branch
Tel Al-Hawa, Gaza City**

Map of Gaza Governorate



Source for map: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Ministry of Interior Civilian Branch, Tel Al-Hawa, Gaza City

Time and nature of shelling	Friday, 16 November 2012 05.35: 1 airstrike (direct targeting) 21.35: 5 airstrikes (direct targeting)
Function	Central office building of the civilian branch of the Ministry of Interior
Size of infrastructure	4 floor building, 4100 m ²
Type of damage	Complete destruction
Infrastructure destroyed	Central office building, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Affairs Department • Financial Department • General Affairs and NGOs Department • Human Rights Unit • Internal Control and Complaints Section • Legal Section • Office of the Minister • Office of the Deputy Minister • Passport Section • Personal Status Section (including personal status archive for the Gaza Strip)
Number of civil servants working in the building	400
Estimated damage	2,200,000 USD (infrastructure) 500,000 USD (office equipment and furniture)
Estimated number of population receiving services	1,700,000
Estimated number of citizens requesting services per day	1000



3 December 2012



3 December 2012



3 December 2012



3 December 2012





**Abu Khadra
Governmental
Compound,
Gaza City**

Map of Gaza Governorate



Source for map: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Abu Khadra Governmental Compound, Gaza City

Time and nature of shelling	Wednesday, 21 November 2012 02.00: 8 airstrikes (direct targeting)
Function	Governmental Offices Compound
Size of infrastructure	-
Type of damage	Complete destruction
Infrastructure destroyed	<p>Central office of the Management and Organisation Administration, Ministry of Interior</p> <p>Central office of the Military Financial Administration, Ministry of Interior</p> <p>Central office of the Tribal Affairs Department, Ministry of Interior</p> <p>Headquarters of the Border Authority, Ministry of Interior</p> <p>Headquarters of Internal Security Agency, Ministry of Interior</p> <p>Main building of the Logistics and Supply Administration, Ministry of Interior</p>
Number of police/security personnel & civil servants working in the compound	150
Estimated damage	900,000 USD (infrastructure) 150,000 USD (office equipment and furniture)



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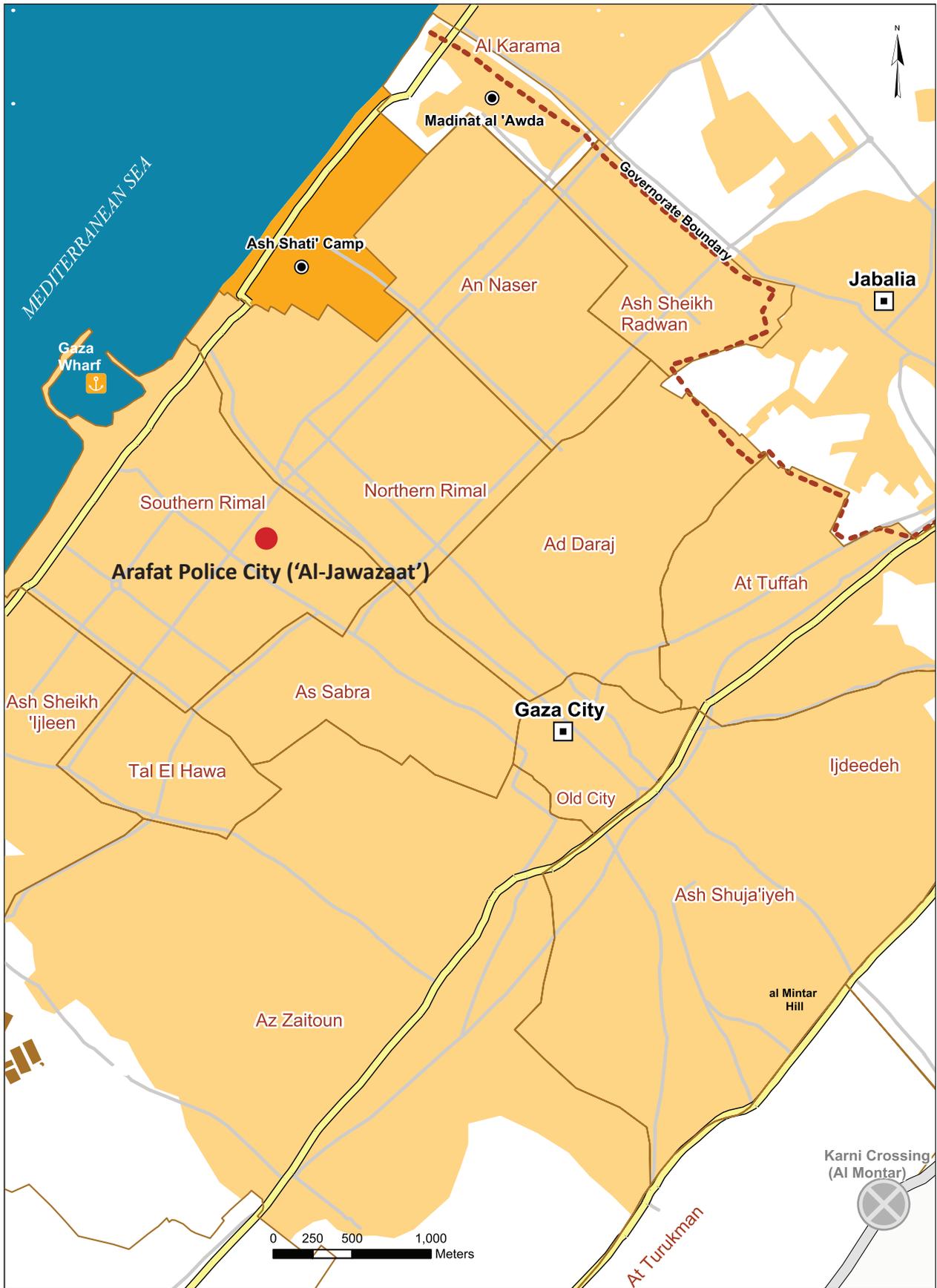
4 December 2012





**Arafat Police City
(‘Al-Jawzaat’)
Gaza City**

Map of Gaza Governorate



Source for map: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Arafat Police City ('Al-Jawzaat'), Gaza City

Time and nature of shelling	Saturday, 17 November 2012 03.30: 5 airstrikes (direct targeting) Sunday, 18 November 2012 00.30: 3 airstrikes (direct targeting)
Function	Police headquarters for the Gaza Strip
Size of infrastructure	Police Headquarters building: 4 floor building, 600m ² Logistics and Supply Department building: 2 floor building, 160m ²
Type of damage	Complete destruction of Police Headquarters building Partial destruction of Logistics and Supply Department building
Infrastructure destroyed	Police Headquarters building ('Al-Jawzaat'), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT Department • Office of the Director-General of the Palestinian Police • Police Archive • Public Relations and Media Department • Women Police Command Logistics and Supply Department building
Number of police personnel serving in the compound	140
Estimated damage	820,000 USD (infrastructure) 320,000 USD (office equipment, furniture, vehicles)
Estimated number of population in police district	No direct services to citizens
Estimated number of citizens requesting services per day	No direct services to citizens
Estimated pretrial detention capacity destroyed	No pretrial detention capacity



3 December 2012



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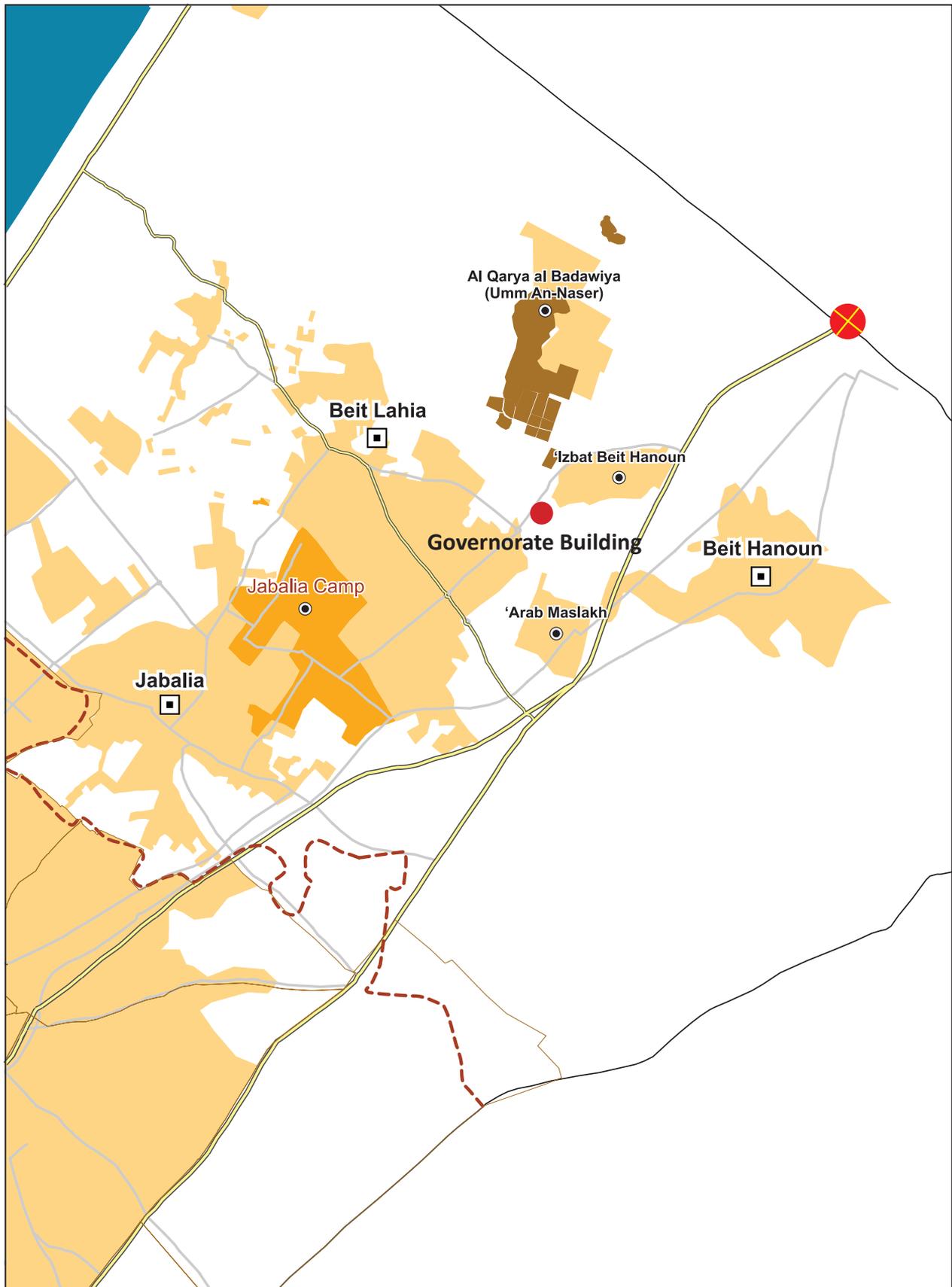




Governorate Building Beit Lahia



Map of Beit Lahia Governorate



Source for map: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Governorate Building, Beit Lahia

Time and nature of shelling	Monday, 19 November 2012 22.45: 2 airstrikes (direct targeting) (one unexploded item)
Function	Temporary police headquarters for the Northern Gaza Governorate
Size of infrastructure	2 floor building, 650 m ²
Type of damage	Complete destruction
Infrastructure destroyed	Governorate Building, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Drugs Section • Complaints Section • Explosive Ordinance Disposal Section • General Investigations Section • Office the Director of the Police in the Governorate • Public Relations Section
Number of police personnel serving in the compound	100
Estimated damage	400,000 USD (infastructure) 160,000 USD (office equipment, furniture, vehicles)
Estimated number of population in police district	350,000
Estimated number of citizens requesting services per day	30
Estimated pretrial detention capacity destroyed	No detention capacity



3 December 2012



3 December 2012



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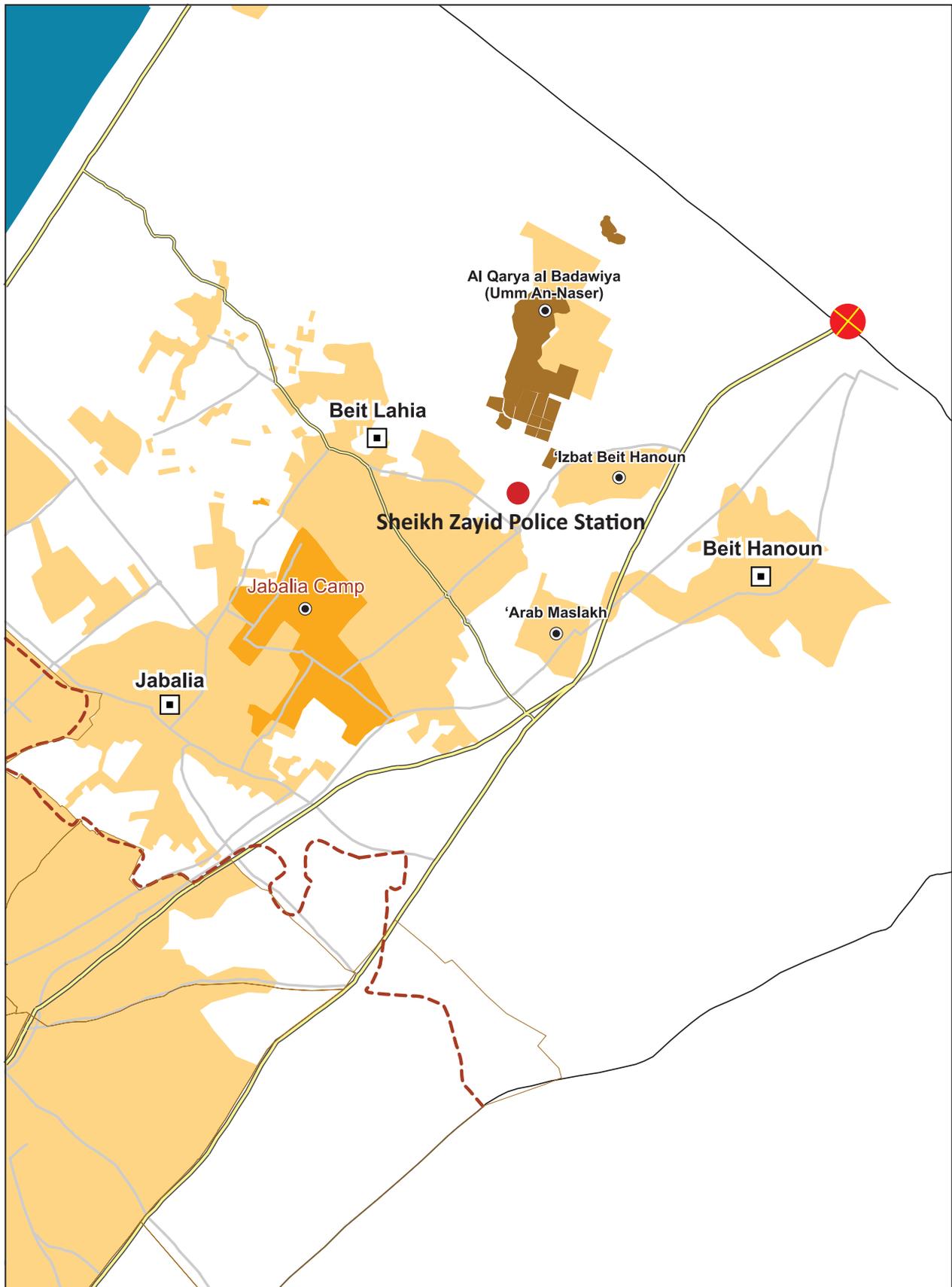
3 December 2012





Sheikh Zayid Police Station Beit Lahia

Map of Beit Lahia Governorate



Source for map: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Sheikh Zayid Police Station, Beit Lahia

Time and nature of shelling	Saturday, 17 November 2012 04.30: 3 airstrikes (direct targeting)
Function	Police station for Izbat Beit Hanoun, Bedouin village, Al-Nada Towers, Al-Huda region, and Sheikh Zayid City
Size of infrastructure	Central building: 2 floor building, 220 m ² Administration building: 1 floor building, 100 m ² Police station mosque: 1 floor building , 50 m ²
Type of damage	Almost complete destruction (part of central building remains)
Infrastructure destroyed	Central building, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Drugs Section • Archive • Complaints Section • General Investigations Section • Interrogation Section • Office of the District Commander • Patrols Section • Police Security Section • Public Relations Section Administration building, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration Section • Logistics and Supply Section Police station mosque
Number of police personnel serving in the compound	80
Estimated damage	60,000 USD (infrastructure) 24,000 USD (office equipment, furniture, vehicles)
Estimated number of population in police district	60,000
Estimated number of citizens requesting services per day	60
Estimated pretrial detention capacity destroyed	20 pretrial detention places



3 December 2012



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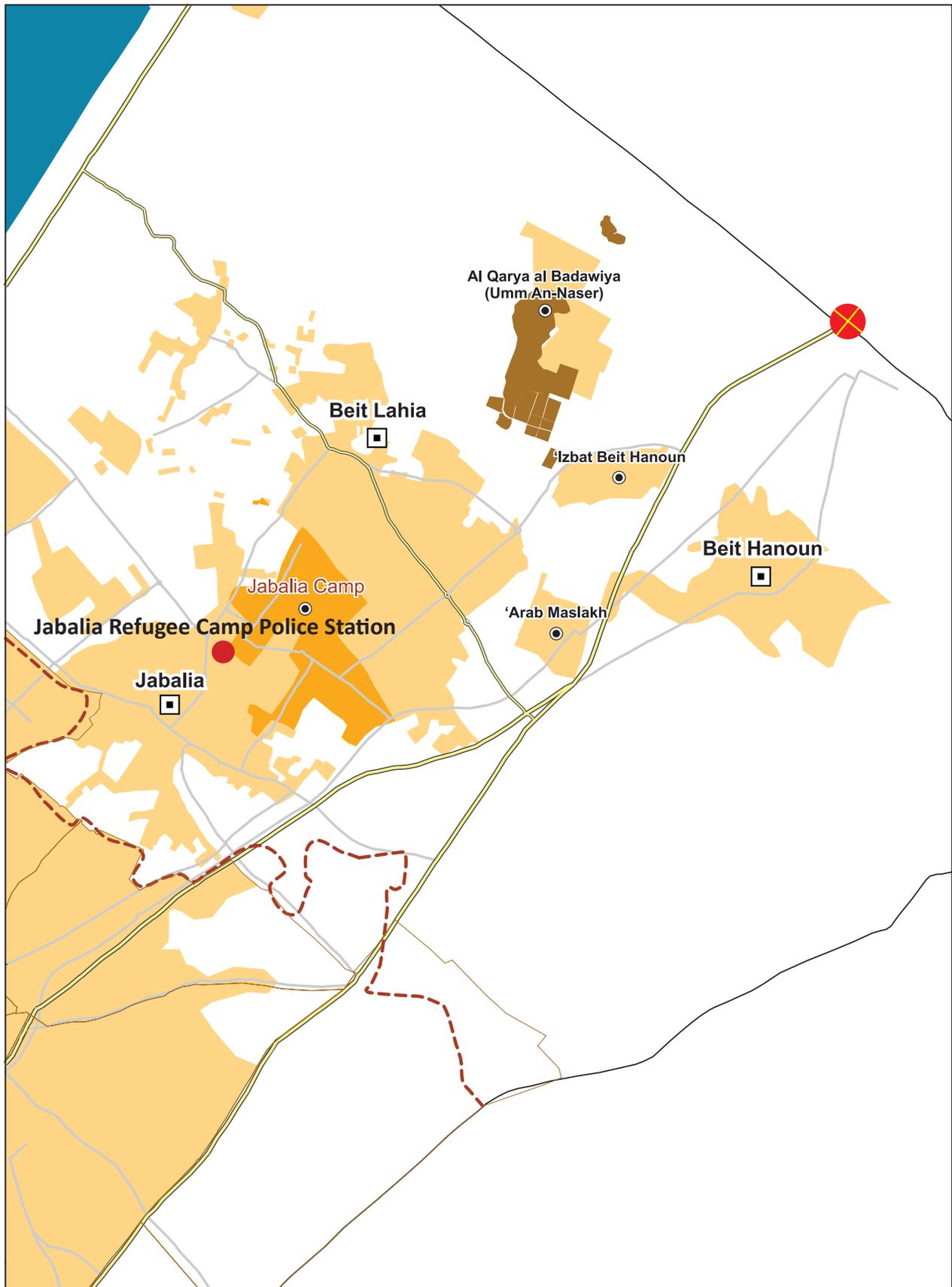
3 December 2012





Jabalia Refugee Camp Police Station

Map of Jabalia Governorate



Source for map: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Jabalia Refugee Camp Police Station

Time and nature of shelling	Sunday, 18 November 2012 07.10: 2 airstrikes (direct targeting)
Function	Police station for Jabaliya Refugee Camp, Jabaliya Municipality, Tel Al-Zaatar, Bir Al-Na'jeh, Duwar Zamu
Size of infrastructure	Central building: 2 floor building, 400 m ² Administration Section building: 2 floor building, 110 m ² Police Patrols Section building: 2 floor building, 80 m ² Anti-Drugs Section building: 2 floor building, 150 m ²
Type of damage	Complete destruction of central building Partial destruction of Administration Section building, Police Patrols building, Anti-Drugs Section building
Infrastructure destroyed	Central building, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaints Section • General Investigations Section • Interrogation Section • Office of the District Commander • Police Security Section • Public Relations Section Administration Section building, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration Section • Archive • Logistics and Supply Section Police Patrols Section building Anti-Drugs Section building
Number of police personnel serving at the station	110
Estimated damage	285,000 USD (infrastructure) 115,000 USD (office equipment, furniture, vehicles)
Estimated number of population in police district	150,000
Estimated number of citizens requesting services per day	150
Estimated pretrial detention capacity destroyed	75 pretrial detention places



3 December 2012



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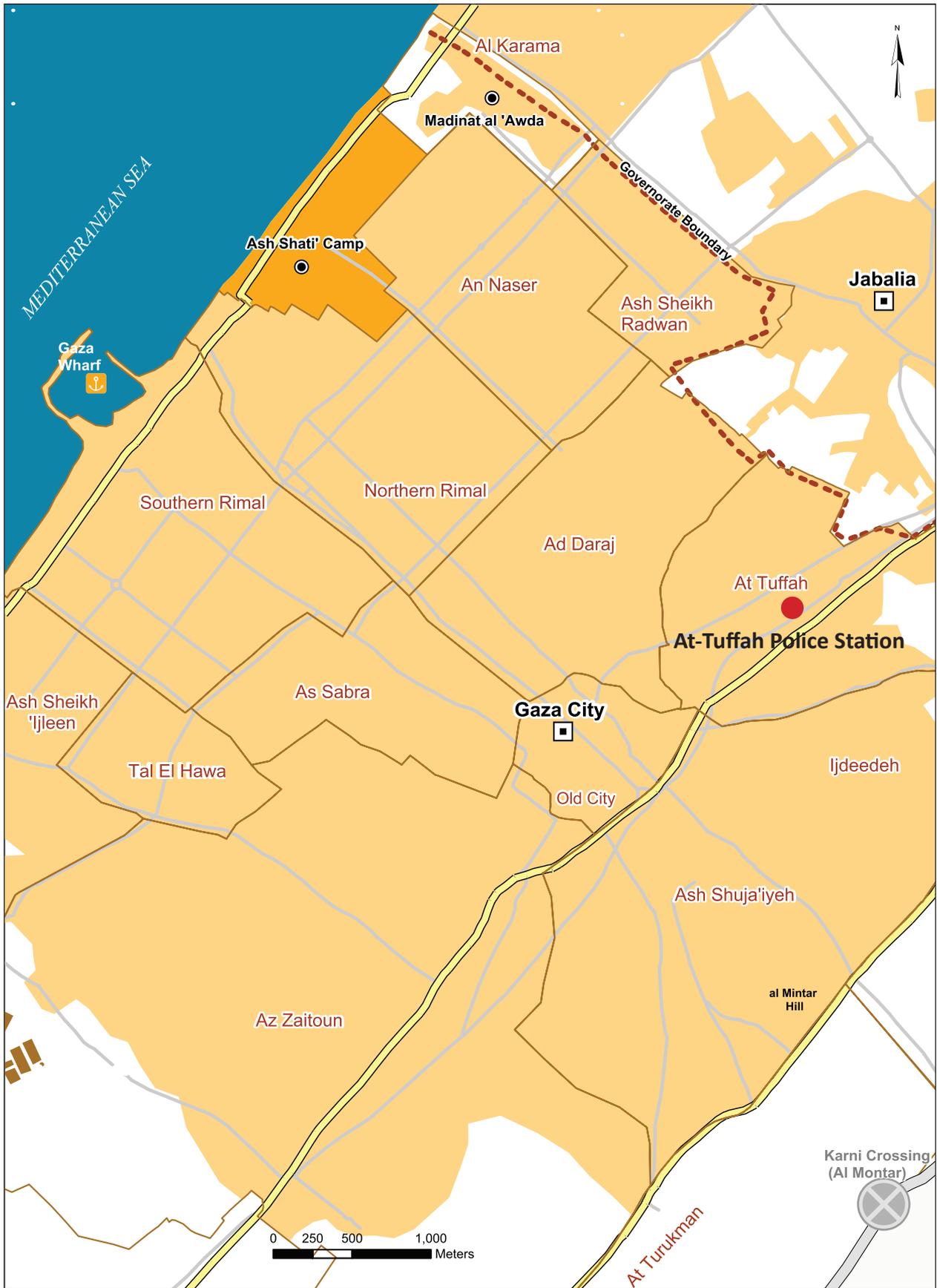
3 December 2012





**At-Tuffah Police
Station
Gaza City**

Map of Gaza City Governorate



Source for map: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

At-Tuffah Police Station, Gaza City

Time and nature of shelling	Sunday, 18 November 2012 07.10: 5 airstrikes (direct targeting)
Function	Police station for At-Tuffah and Ad-Daraj
Size of infrastructure	Roughly 2000 m ²
Type of damage	Complete destruction
Infrastructure destroyed	One floor compound, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration Section • Anti-Drugs Section • Archive • Complaints Section • General Investigations Section • Interrogation Section • Logistics and Supply Section • Office of District Commander • Police Patrols Section • Police Security Section • Public Relations Section
Number of police personnel serving at the station	100
Estimated damage	80,000 USD (infrastructure) 32,000 USD (office equipment, furniture, vehicles)
Estimated number of population in police district	100,000
Estimated number of citizens requesting services per day	200
Estimated pretrial detention capacity destroyed	40 pretrial detention places



3 December 2012



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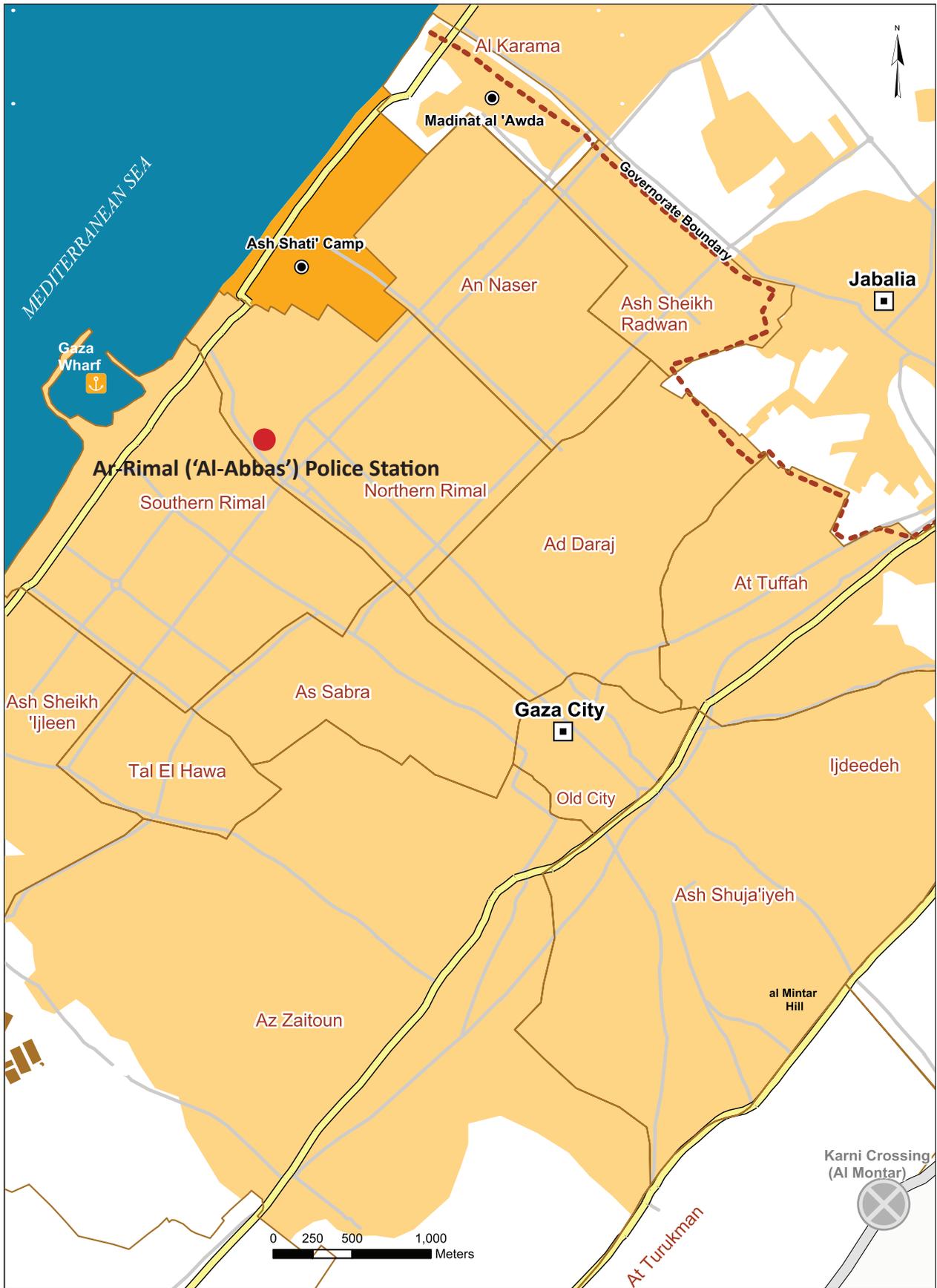
3 December 2012





Ar-Rimal ('Al-Abbas')
Police Station
Gaza City

Map of Gaza Governorate



Source for map: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Ar-Rimal ('Al-Abbas') Police Station, Gaza City

Time and nature of shelling	Monday, 19 November 2012 02.00: 2 airstrikes (direct targeting)
Function	Police station for Southern Ar-Rimal, As-Saraya, Gaza Port, Al-Yarmouk Street, Community College, As-Sabra, Tel Al-Hawa, Sheikh Ajlin
Size of infrastructure	Central building: 3 floor building, 500 m ² General Investigations building: 2 floor building, 160 m ² Detention cells building: 2 floor building, 150 m ²
Type of damage	Complete
Infrastructure destroyed	Central building, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration Section • Archive • Complaints Section • Logistics and Supply Section • Office of the District Commander • Police Patrols Section • Police Security Section • Public Relations Section General Investigations building, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Drugs Section • General Investigations Section Detention cells building: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interrogation Section
Number of police personnel serving in the compound	140
Estimated damage	490,000 USD (infrastructure) 195,000 USD (office equipment, furniture, vehicles)
Estimated number of population in police district	110,000
Estimated number of citizens requesting services per day	150
Estimated pretrial detention capacity destroyed	100 pretrial detention places



3 December 2012



3 December 2012

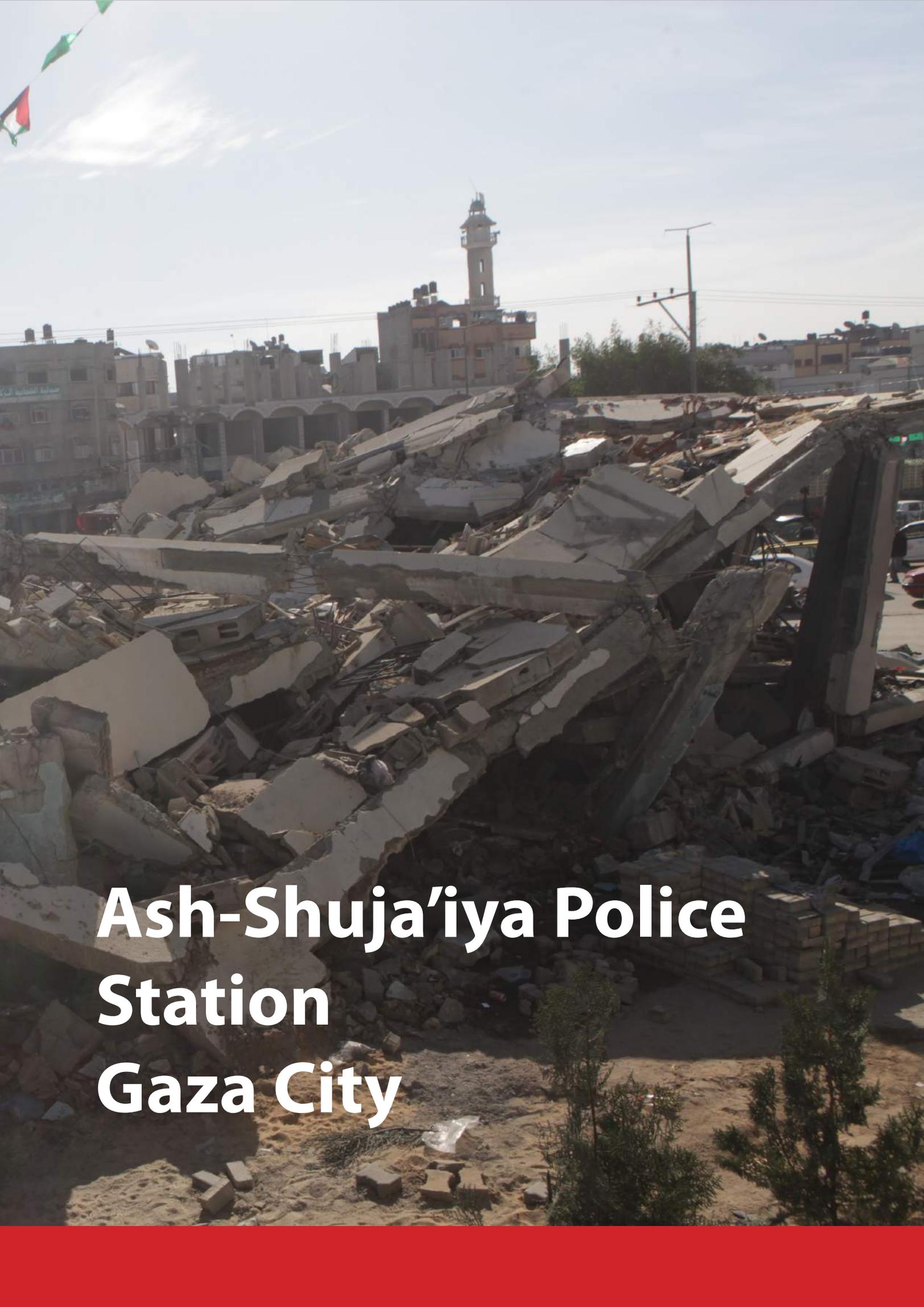


3 December 2012



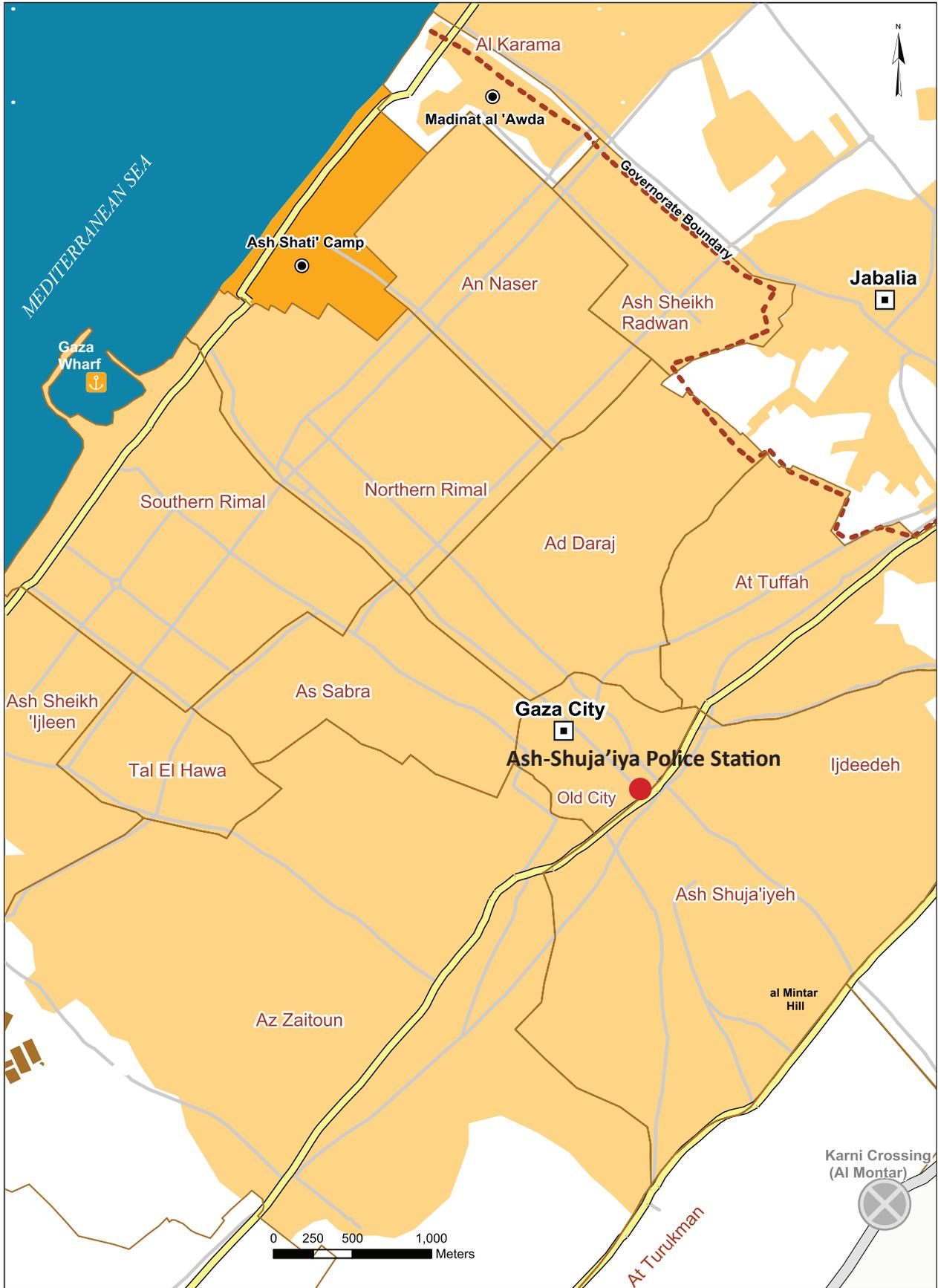
3 December 2012





**Ash-Shuja'iya Police
Station
Gaza City**

Map of Gaza Governorate



Source for map: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Ash-Shuja'iya Police Station, Gaza City

Time and nature of shelling	Monday, 19 November 2012 04.20: 3 airstrikes (direct targeting) (one unexploded item)
Function	Police station for Ash-Shayaiya, Gaza City
Size of infrastructure	Central building: 3 floor building, 750 m ² Administration building: 3 floor building, 280 m ²
Type of damage	Complete destruction
Infrastructure destroyed	Central building, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Drugs Section • General Investigations Section • Interrogation Section • Office of the District Commander • Police Patrols Section • Police Security Section • Women Police Section Administration building, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archive • Administration Section • Complaints Section • Logistics and Supply Section • Public Relation Section
Number of police personnel serving at the station	106
Estimated damage	950,000 USD (infrastructure) 375,000 USD (office equipment, furniture, vehicles)
Estimated number of population in police district	220,000
Estimated number of citizens requesting services per day	500
Estimated pretrial detention capacity destroyed	70 pretrial detention places



3 December 2012



3 December 2012



3 December 2012



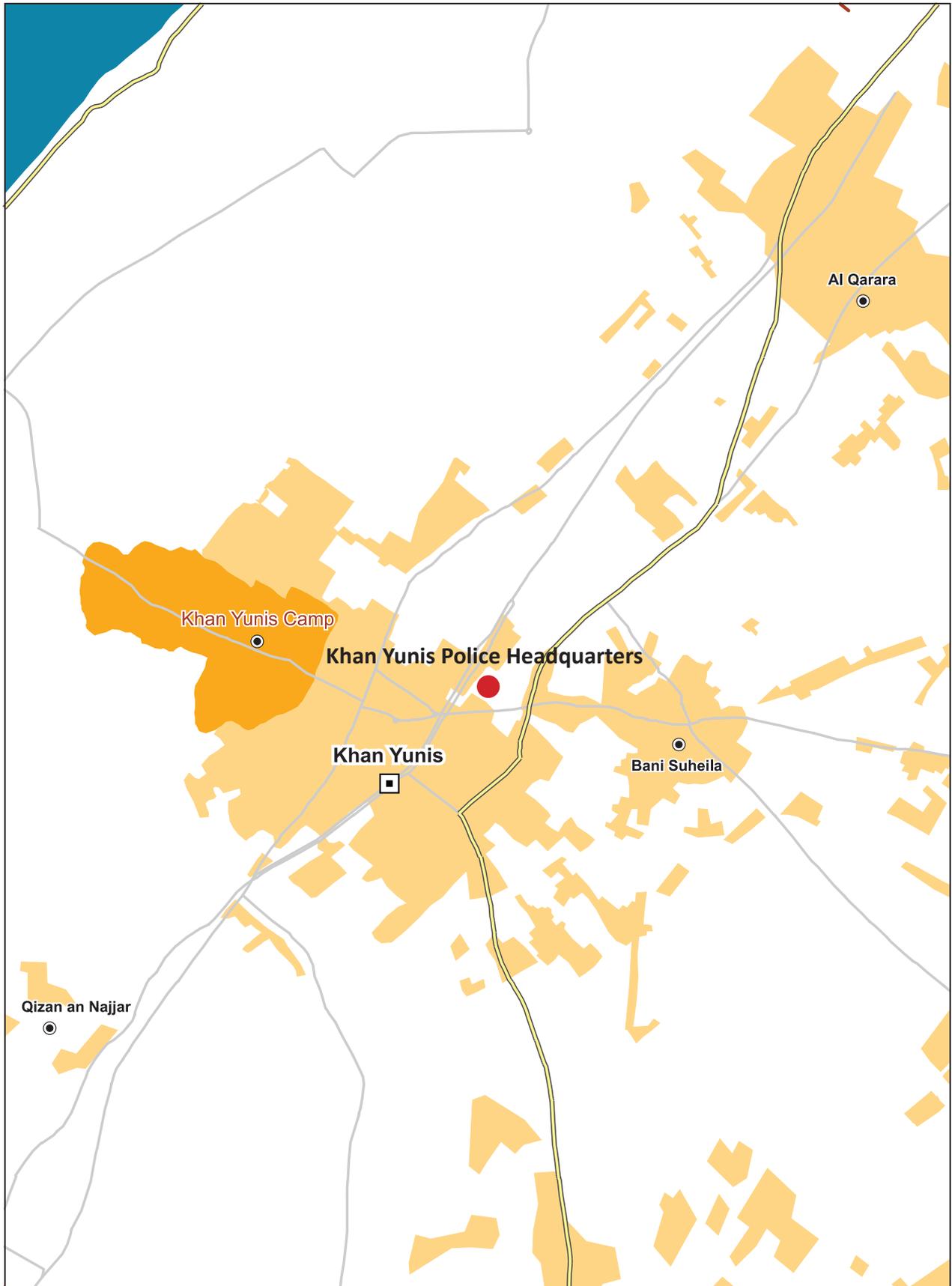
3 December 2012





Khan Yunis Police Headquarters

Map of Khan Yunis Governorate



Source for map: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Khan Yunis Police Headquarters

Time and nature of shelling	Wednesday, 21 November 2012 beginning 00.45: 5 airstrikes over 4 hours (direct targeting)
Function	Police headquarters in Khan Yunis Governorate
Size of infrastructure	Police Leadership building: 2 floor building, 275 m ² General Investigations Section building: 1 floor building, 220 m ² Women Police Section building: 1 floor building, 80 m ² Explosive Ordinance Disposal Section building: 2 floor building, 40 m ²
Type of damage	Almost complete destruction (pre-trial detention facility remaining)
Infrastructure destroyed	Police Leadership building, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration Section • Anti-Drugs Section • Archive • Office of District Commander • Police Patrols Section • Police Security Section • Public Relations Section • Supply and Logistics Section General Investigations Section building, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaints Section • General Investigations Section • Interrogation Section Women Police Section building Explosive Ordinance Disposal Section building
Number of police personnel serving in the compound	200
Estimated damage	284,000 USD (infrastructure) 112,000 USD (office equipment, furniture, vehicles)
Estimated number of population in police district	220,000
Estimated number of citizens requesting services per day	100
Estimated pretrial detention capacity destroyed	None (pre-trial detention facility for 80 detainees remaining)



4 December 2012



4 December 2012



4 December 2012



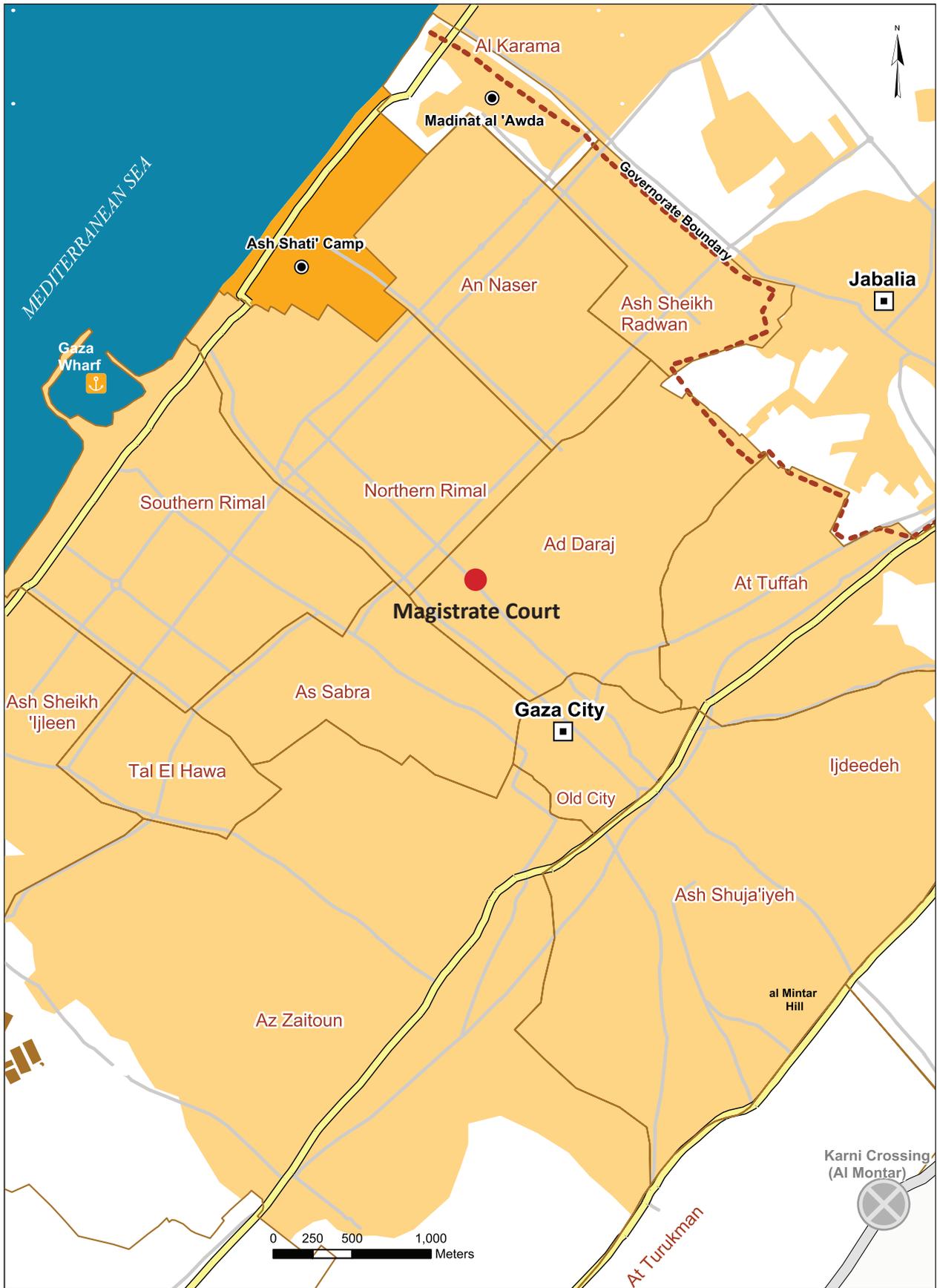
4 December 2012





Magistrate Court, Gaza City

Map of Gaza Governorate



Source for map: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Magistrate Court, Gaza City

Time and nature of shelling	Tuesday, 20 November 2012 05.10: 4 airstrikes at Al-Yarmouk Stadium adjacent to the court building (collateral damage)
Function	Magistrate Court for the Gaza Governorate
Type of damage	Collateral damage
Infrastructure damaged	Legal Section Penal Section Probation Section Archive Section
Estimated refurbishment costs	100,000 USD



4 December 2012



4 December 2012



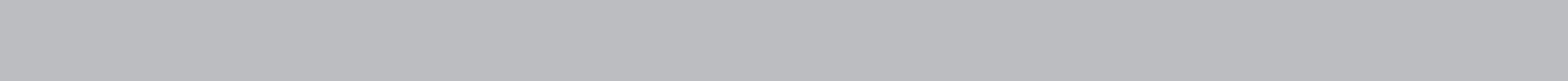
4 December 2012



4 December 2012

Endnotes

- 1 Israel in English named its military action Operation Pillar of Defense. However, in Hebrew the name translates into Operation Pillar of Cloud, referring to the Exodus of the Israelites to the Promised Land described in the Bible (Exodus 13:21-22): 'And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.' Hamas named its military action Operation Stones of Hard Clay (Qur'an 105:3-5) in reference to the repelled attack of an Abyssinian army on Mecca during the year of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad: 'And He sent against them birds in flocks, Striking them with stones of hard clay, And He made them like eaten straw.'
- 2 The operational infrastructure of the Palestinian Police in the Gaza Strip comprises the Police headquarters in Gaza City, 20 police stations or posts (North Gaza Governorate: 5; Gaza City Governorate: 6; Middle Area Governorate: 4; Khan Younis Governorate: 3; Rafah Governorate: 2), and six naval police sites. The Police College, the Training Administration and the Prison Administration (five prisons) are subordinate directly to the Ministry of Interior. Out of the 20 police stations/posts, seven were destroyed during the armed conflict, in addition to the Police headquarters.
- 3 The following sites that fall under this category were destroyed or damaged during the conflict: National Security Forces (Al-Saraya Headquarters, Beit Hanoun, Rafah), Naval Police (As-Sudaniya, Gaza Port, Deir Al-Balah, Nusseirat, Khan Yunis, Rafah), Security and Protection Service (North Gaza Governorate Headquarters).
- 4 Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, The Escalating Israeli Aggression on the Gaza Strip (covering the period from 15:50, 14 Nov 2012 until 18:00, 20 November 2012; Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), New Israeli Military Escalation against the Gaza Strip, Thursday, 15 November 2012, 00:00, Last Updated 15 November 2012, 18:56, Ref: 124/2012; Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), IOF Continue the Offensive on the Gaza Strip, Friday 16 November 2012, 00:00, Last Updated Friday, 16 November, 12:23, Ref: 126/2012; Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), Ongoing Israeli Offensive on Gaza, Saturday, 17 November, 00:00, Ref: 127/2012; Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), Ongoing Israeli Offensive on Gaza, Sunday, 18 November 2012, Last Updated Sunday, 18 November 2012, 14:39, Ref: 129/2012; Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), Ongoing Israeli Offensive on Gaza, Monday, 19 November 2012, 12:00, Last Updated Tuesday, 20 November 2012, 08:00, Ref: 131/2012; Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), Israeli Offensive on Gaza Ongoing for 7th Consecutive Day, Tuesday, 20 November 2012, Last Updated Tuesday, 20 November 2012, 13:48, Ref: 132/2012; Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), Israeli Offensive on Gaza Ongoing for 8th Consecutive Day and Military Operations Escalate, Wednesday, 21 November 2012, 13:00, Last Updated Wednesday, 21 November 2012, 14:15, Ref: 136/2012; Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), Israeli Offensive on Gaza Stopped Following 8 Days of Attacks, Thursday, 22 November 2012, 00:00; Palestinian National Authority, Ministry of Interior, Information Office, Eight Days: Gaza under Fire, 2012.





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