Abstract Template

Title: Pollution of the Mediterranean See, Offshore of the Gaza Strip, Palestine: An Environmental Disaster that Must be Ceased

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I. Abstract Body (up to 250 words)

The Gaza Strip (GS) is part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories that belong to Historical Palestine. With an area of only 365 km^2 and a population of more than two millions, the GS is one of the world's most densely populated areas. Being under the Israeli military occupation since June 1967, and under land, air, and sea blockades since June 2007, witnessing four Israeli wars launched in less than 10 years, the GS is a big prison with disastrous living conditions. It has a 40–45 km long coastal line on the Mediterranean Sea (MS), and a coastal shelf of 14 km and 28 km wide in the northern and southern parts, respectively. The Israeli wars on the GS and the ongoing occupation and blockades have severely affected the well-being of its people, and the onshore and offshore environment. The GS's people dump daily 100,000–120,000 m^3 of raw sewage and untreated wastewater (RSUWW) headed directly to the MS, where pollution levels have reached four times the international standard. This is because the Israelis totally destroyed all the GS's wastewater treatment plants. This environmental disaster is reflected on the marine life, polluting the MS and resulting in poisoning its fish and other organisms. The GS's people eat fish poisoned with trace elements and heavy metals originated from the RSUWW gushed into the MS. This paper investigates some of the environmental impacts of this anthropogenic disaster on the marine life of the MS and the public health and the environment.

II. Image:



III. Reference:

1 Efron, S., Fischbach, J.R., and Giordano, G. 2017. Gaza's water and sanitation crisis: The implications for public health. The Institute for National Security Studies, Tel Aviv, Israel.

2. Balofsky, A. 2016. Gazan sewage polluting Mediterranean coast. Breaking Israel News, 4 May.

3. Salem, H.S. 2011. Pollution of coastal areas on the Mediterranean Sea: The Gaza Strip as a case study – A real environmental threat and a big challenge. A paper presented at the Working Meeting of the MIRA Project Expert Group on Decontamination of the Mediterranean (WP7) "Mediterranean Innovation and Research Cooperation Action" (MIRA). Funded by the DG Research of the European Commission MIRA and FP7, Casablanca, Morocco, 27-30 November 2011.

IV. Biography:

Hilmi S. Salem: Has three university degrees (Ph.D., M.Sc., and B.Sc.). Has worked at, and contributed to, academic, industrial, governmental, and nongovernmental institutions in North America, Europe, Australia, and the MENA and WANA (Middle East, North Africa, and West Asia) regions, as well as to UN's organizations. Work interests include: Environmental Science and Engineering; Civil, Hydro- and Geo-Engineering; Oceanography; Fossil and Renewable Energies; and Socioeconomics. He has published more than 170 publications (books; chapters in books; conference presentation; and papers in reputed, peer-reviewed, and well-refereed international journals). He also edited many of UN's works and articles submitted to several journals.

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