



# Chronology

16 FEBRUARY–15 MAY 2017

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This is part 134 of a chronology begun in *JPS* 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect North American Eastern Standard Time. For a more comprehensive overview of regional and international developments related to the Palestinians and Israel, see the quarterly Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in *JPS* 46 (4).

## 16 FEBRUARY 2017

In the **West Bank**, **Israel Defense Forces (IDF) troops** arrest 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid in Qalqilya and patrol during the day nr. Nablus and Hebron. (Wafa 2/17; PCHR 2/23)

**Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** meets with **U.S. vice-pres. Mike Pence** in Washington. They discuss a mechanism to put limits on Israeli settlement growth, possibly in response to U.S. pres. Donald Trump's comment on 2/15, when he told Netanyahu, "I'd like to see you hold back on settlements for a little bit. We'll work something out." (TOI 2/16)

In response to Trump's ambiguous comments on the subject on 2/15, **U.S. amb. to the UN Nikki Haley** says that the Trump admin. still supports a 2-state solution, "but we are thinking outside the box as well" (see Update). (HA, REU, TOI 2/16; HA 2/17)

## 17 FEBRUARY 2017

**IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday

demonstrations against Israel's occupation, separation wall, and settlements in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Nabi Salih, Bil'in, and Ni'lin), Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, and in c. Hebron; there are no serious injuries. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 5 Palestinians, issue 1 arrest summons, damage property at a library during raids nr. Salfit and Hebron, and patrol during the day nr. Hebron. **Israeli settlers** throw stones at a Palestinian family's flock of sheep, killing 1 animal, in the n. Jordan Valley. In **East Jerusalem**, a **Palestinian family** demolishes their own home in Silwan to avoid paying Israeli demolition fees. (MNA 2/17; HA 2/18; PCHR 2/23)

Upon his return to Israel from Washington, **Israeli PM Netanyahu** says that his 2/15 meeting with U.S. pres. Trump was "excellent" and that "it will have a large impact on our security." Meanwhile, **Israeli DM Avigdor Lieberman** calls on other Israeli officials to "cool down" talk of annexing the West Bank and building settlements, saying "we cannot progress without understandings with the U.S." (JP, TOI 2/17)

## 18 FEBRUARY 2017

Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Gaza City, causing no damage or injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, a **Palestinian family** demolishes their own home in Jabal Mukabir to avoid paying Israeli demolition fees. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli settlers** threaten to harm a group of Palestinian shepherds over an ongoing land dispute in the n. Jordan Valley. **IDF troops** patrol in Qalqilya, firing tear gas canisters that injure a Palestinian baby. They also arrest 7 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Bethlehem and Ramallah, and patrol nr. Nablus and Ramallah throughout the day. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 2/18; MNA 2/19; JP 2/20; PCHR 2/23)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** to allow Palestinians in Egypt to enter Gaza (see Update). (MNA 2/18; MNA 2/19)

## 19 FEBRUARY 2017

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** on patrol in Bizarya village nr. Nablus open fire on Palestinian youths walking home from school, injuring 1. It is unclear why they opened fire. **IDF troops** deliver demolition orders to more than 40 homes and a makeshift school in the Bedouin community Khan al-Ahmar n. of **Jerusalem**, arrest 11 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Ramallah, Jenin, Hebron, Nablus, and Qalqilya; shoot and injure 2 Palestinians during an arrest raid nr. Ramallah; and patrol during the day nr. Nablus and Hebron. **Israeli forces** seal the entrances to 4 villages nr. Ramallah without explanation. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian

agricultural lands nr. Khan Yunis. (MNA, WAFA 2/19; PCHR 2/23)

The **Egyptian army** announces that it has discovered and destroyed a "central tunnel" leading from the n. Sinai Peninsula into Gaza that it claims was being used by a "terrorist group." (MNA 2/20)

At Israel's weekly cabinet meeting, **PM Netanyahu** says that the new Trump admin. shares Israel's view of regional threats to Israel, and strategies for Israel to improve its relations with select Arab states. Netanyahu also says that the govt. will need to find a new housing solution for the 40-odd families that were evacuated from the **illegal Amona settlement outpost**, since Trump might oppose the plan to build a new settlement (see Update). (HA, JP, TOI 2/19; HA 2/20)

## 20 FEBRUARY 2017

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** imposes heightened precautions at checkpoints in the Ramallah area, causing traffic jams across the region. It's unclear why security is tightened. **IDF troops** also weld shut the door to a home and arrest 9 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Nablus, Hebron, Ramallah, and in Qalqilya; and patrol nr. Hebron during the day. **Israeli forces** demolish a water pipeline nr. Tubas and a residential structure in Khan al-Ahmar village nr. Jerusalem. In **East Jerusalem**, 74 right-wing Jewish activists tour **Haram al-Sharif** in the morning. **Israeli forces** arrest 7 Palestinians during raids in Issawiyya and Shu'fat refugee camp (r.c.). Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya and again nr. Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. (MNA, WAFA 2/20; PCHR 2/23)

**Israel's Knesset** passes a new law requiring private businesses that choose not to sell

products or services to Israel's **settlements** in the West Bank or East Jerusalem to display signage indicating that on their premises. Businesses that fail to display proper signage will be fined. **Member of the Knesset (MK) Shuli Moalem-Refaeli (Jewish Home)**, who proposed the legislation, says, "businesses that choose to discriminate against consumers who live in Judea and Samaria, in outlying areas or in Arab communities will be obligated to inform their customers in advance. If they fear being put on customers' blacklists, they should them treat all equally." (HA 2/20; MNA, TOI 2/21)

## 21 FEBRUARY 2017

**IDF troops** conduct raids in al-Duha village nr. Bethlehem, issuing arrest summons to 2 Palestinians and sparking clashes with stone-throwing youths; there are no serious injuries. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, IDF troops confiscate 2 cars, destroy personal property, and arrest 14 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Jenin, Hebron, Bethlehem, and Nablus; and patrol nr. Nablus, Salfit, and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 3 Palestinians who allegedly threw stones in the Old City. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya and Jabaliya r.c.; 1 fisherman is hit in the back and seriously injured (he and 4 other fishermen are arrested). (JP, MNA 2/21; PCHR 2/23)

The **Tel Aviv military court** sentences Elor Azariya, the IDF soldier who killed an injured Palestinian execution-style on 3/24/2016 in c. Hebron, to 18 mos. in prison, the minimum sentence allowed under his 1/4/2017 conviction on charges of manslaughter, and also demotes him to the rank of private (see Update). (HA, JP, MNA, NYT, TOI 2/21)

## 22 FEBRUARY 2017

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 10 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Hebron, Ramallah, and Jenin; and patrol nr. Hebron and Jenin. They also terminate the work permits of 15 Palestinians in Bayt Umar nr. Hebron in response to reports of stone throwing in recent days. The IDF threatens to revoke more permits if the unrest continues. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian home in Bayt Hanina overnight after preventing the family from removing their possessions. (JP, MNA, WAFA 2/22; PCHR 2/23; PCHR 3/2)

## 23 FEBRUARY 2017

**Around 1,200 Jewish settlers** visit Joseph's Tomb outside Nablus in the morning, sparking clashes between their IDF escort and stone-throwing Palestinians from nearby Balata r.c.; 2 Palestinians and 1 IDF soldier are injured. Another IDF soldier is injured when unidentified assailants throw an explosive device at his patrol nr. Joseph's Tomb. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid nr. Ramallah and patrol nr. Hebron and Ramallah during the day. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya and again nr. Gaza City, causing no damage or injuries. Along **Gaza's border**, **Israeli forces** conduct 2 limited incursions to level land nr. Dayr al-Balah and Khan Yunis. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli education ministry officials** shut down the 1-year-old al-Nukhba School in Sur al-Bahir due to its alleged ties with **Hamas**. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 2/23; PCHR 3/2)

In a press conference following his meeting with Israeli PM Netanyahu, **U.S. pres. Trump** says "I like the 2-state solution," marking the

first time he has explicitly supported the traditional U.S. approach to resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. “But I am satisfied with whatever both parties agree with,” he adds. (HA, REU, TOI 2/24)

#### 24 FEBRUARY 2017

**Three Palestinians** are killed and 5 are injured while repairing a **smuggling tunnel** in s. Gaza. Also along **Gaza’s border, IDF troops** open fire on a group of Palestinian youths nr. Gaza City, injuring 1. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel’s occupation, separation wall, and settlements in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Nabi Salih, Bil’in, and Ni’lin), Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, c. Hebron, and along Gaza’s border nr. Gaza City; 2 Palestinians are injured. They also arrest 1 Palestinian and issue 1 arrest summons during late-night raids nr. Ramallah and Hebron, and patrol nr. Hebron during the day. Two Palestinian youths are injured when a piece of **unexploded Israeli ordnance** detonates in c. Hebron. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** conduct a raid in Issawiyya while many residents are attending a funeral, sparking minor clashes with a number of mourners; there are no serious injuries. (MNA, 2/24; MNA, TOI 2/25; PCHR 3/2)

#### 25 FEBRUARY 2017

In the **West Bank, Israeli forces** close the entrance to ’Usarin village nr. Nablus after reports of a Palestinian attack on settler infrastructure in the area. **IDF troops** arrest 6 Palestinians during raids nr. Salfit, Ramallah, and Qalqilya; and patrol nr. Nablus, Ramallah, and Hebron. Along **Gaza’s border, IDF troops** open fire on agricultural lands nr. Khan Yunis. (MNA, WAFA 2/25; PCHR 3/2)

Along the **Israeli-Lebanese border, IDF troops** deploy tear gas and smoke grenades to disperse dozens of Lebanese protesting Israel’s recent installation of surveillance in the area. There are no serious injuries. (HA 2/25)

#### 26 FEBRUARY 2017

**IDF troops** raid a secondary school in Tuqu’ village nr. Bethlehem. They remove allegedly inciting posters and shoot pepper spray at some of the teachers, lightly injuring 3. Elsewhere in the **West Bank, IDF troops** arrest 14 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Hebron, Salfit, Qalqilya, Nablus, Jericho, and Ramallah; and patrol nr. Hebron during the day. Off **Gaza’s coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In **Israel, Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian-owned home in Kafr Kassim. (MNA 2/26; PCHR 3/1)

#### 27 FEBRUARY 2017

**Armed fighters** in Gaza fire a rocket into Israel, which lands in an open area, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** then launches retaliatory air strikes and artillery salvos on at least 5 Hamas sites in c. and s. Gaza, injuring 5 Palestinians and causing damage (see Update). Off **Gaza’s coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** shoot and injure a Palestinian at Qalandia checkpoint, claiming that she was moving in a “suspicious manner.” They also conduct raids in and around Jenin, sparking clashes with stone-throwing youths; there are no serious injuries. **IDF troops** confiscate security footage, arrest 1 Palestinian, and issue 8 arrest summons during raids nr. Jenin, Salfit, Hebron, and Bethlehem; and patrol nr. Hebron. **Israeli forces** confiscate 4

Palestinian vehicles nr. Tubas. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** conduct raids in Shu'fat r.c., sparking clashes with stone-throwing youths; 2 Palestinians are injured. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, 2/27; PCHR 3/2)

The **Egyptian authorities** refuse **senior Palestinian Authority (PA) official Jibril Rajoub** entry into Egypt for an Arab League meeting on terrorism and extremism (see Update). Rajoub does not respond publicly; the Palestinian delegation withdraws from the meeting in protest. Egyptian officials will later say that Rajoub's name was on a no-entry list, but will not give any further explanation. (HA, REU 2/28; ALM 3/10)

## 28 FEBRUARY 2017

**IDF troops** evacuate 9 homes slated for demolition in the **West Bank settlement of Ofra** and disperse hundreds of settler youths gathering to protest the move; 11 soldiers sustain light injuries and 2 settlers are arrested. Elsewhere in the **West Bank, IDF troops** shoot and injure a Palestinian at Huwwara checkpoint nr. Nablus overnight, accusing him of ignoring their commands. They also violently disperse Palestinian students from Birzeit University gathering outside Ofer Prison nr. Ramallah in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners; 6 youths are arrested. The **IDF** arrests 2 Palestinians during raids nr. Nablus, Ramallah, and Hebron; and patrols nr. Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, and Hebron. **Israeli settlers** block a major road nr. Nablus and throw stones at any Palestinian vehicle that approaches. **Armed Palestinians** open fire on an IDF patrol nr. Bethlehem overnight, lightly injuring 1 soldier. In **Israel, Israeli forces** demolish several structures in the Bedouin communities Rahat and Ksifih nr. Beersheba. (HA, JP, MNA, WAFA 2/28; MNA, WAFA 3/1; PCHR 3/2)

The **PA cabinet** decides to hold the **municipal elections** scheduled for 5/13 in the West Bank only, indefinitely postponing elections in Gaza. A Hamas spokesperson calls the decision a "recipe for division." Today's decision follows a meeting between PA PM Rami Hamdallah and the head of the **Central Elections Commission (CEC)**, in which they agreed that Hamas's reticence to participate in the elections would make it difficult to prepare for balloting in Gaza (see Update). (JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 2/28)

**Israel's State Comptroller Joseph Shapira** releases his report on the Israeli govt.'s decision-making during **Operation Protective Edge (OPE)**, the IDF's codename for its summer 2014 assault on Gaza (see *JPS* 44 [1, 2]). The report concludes that PM Netanyahu and then-DM Moshe Ya'alon concealed key information about the war from ministers in the lead-up to the assault; they did not fully explore diplomatic means of de-escalating tension with Hamas and the other armed groups in Gaza. Additionally, the report said that the Israeli govt. had no set policies or strategies for dealing with Gaza; Israel's cabinet had not held a single meaningful conversation about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza for 16 mos. prior to the assault; the IDF failed to destroy all of Hamas's tunnels (only around half were destroyed); and that the IDF did not have specific orders or techniques for dealing with tunnels. The IDF rejects the accusation that it failed to collect sufficient intelligence, but acknowledges that there was room for improvement. Netanyahu criticizes the report, calling OPE a "great success." (HA, JP, TOI 2/28)

## 1 MARCH 2017

An **Israeli settler** shoots and kills a Palestinian youth at a settlement outpost nr.

Hebron after the Palestinian allegedly sneaks into the settler's home, then stabs and lightly injures him. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** raid a printing shop in Tulkarm, destroying much of its contents and confiscating the printer. They arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid nr. Ramallah, and close the entrances to Marda village nr. Salfit following reports of stone throwing in the area. The IDF also violently disperses Palestinian students marching to the Beit El checkpoint to protest the detention of 6 of their classmates; there are no serious injuries. The IDF arrest 13 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Nablus, Hebron, Tubas, and Bethlehem. Meanwhile, **Israeli forces** bulldoze 9 homes in the Ofra settlement, after having evacuated it on 2/28. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish a 2-level apartment building in Issawiyya, displacing 30 Palestinians. Along **Gaza's border**, **Israeli forces** conduct limited incursions to level land nr. Bayt Hanun and nr. Dayr al-Balah. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya r.c., causing no damage or injuries. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 3/1; MNA, PCHR 3/2; PCHR 3/9)

**Unidentified persons** fire a rocket into s. Israel from Gaza. It lands in an open area nr. Ashqelon, causing no damage or injuries. **Hamas** then evacuates several military positions anticipating Israeli retaliation. (HA, JP 3/1)

**Fatah vice-chair Mahmoud al-Aloul**, in his first interview since his 2/15 appointment to the post, says that a 1-state solution "in which everyone lives equally" would be "acceptable," but that he doubts **Israel** would accept such a res. to the conflict. He also comments on recent PA communications with the **Trump admin.** "It is still not clear to us what will be the U.S.

policy in the coming period," he says. (SA, TOI 3/1)

**U.S. dep. asst. secy. of state Erin Barclay** says that the **Trump admin.** is reviewing the U.S. relationship with the **UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** with an eye toward ending the council's "obsession with Israel." She says that "in order for this council to have any credibility, let alone success, it must move away from its unbalanced and unproductive positions." **Israeli PM Netanyahu** has reportedly raised the UNHRC issue with the Trump admin. (HA, JP, REU 3/1; HA, JP 3/2)

## 2 MARCH 2017

Less than 24 hours after unidentified fighters fired a rocket from Gaza into Israel, **Hamas fighters** open fire on an IDF patrol nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing minor damage to 1 vehicle, according to the IDF. The **IDF** then launches a retaliatory air strike and several artillery salvos at Hamas positions along the border. The amount of damage caused is unclear. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** conduct raids in Zabbuba village nr. Jenin overnight, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; there are no serious injuries. IDF troops conduct more raids nr. Qalqilya, confiscating 32 water pipes from a construction site; and patrol nr. Hebron and Salfit throughout the day. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid in Silwan. In **Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian home under construction in Kafr Kassim. They also conduct raids in **Umm al-Hiran** nr. Beersheba, leading residents to fear that more demolitions are imminent (Israeli forces demolished a number of structures in the village on 1/18). (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 3/2; PCHR 3/9)

### 3 MARCH 2017

**IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's occupation, separation wall, and settlements in 4 areas nr. Ramallah (Nabi Salih, Bil'in, Ni'lin, and outside Ofer Prison), Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, and along Gaza's border nr. Bayt Lahiya; 4 Palestinians, including 1 journalist, are injured. **IDF troops** also disperse Palestinians clashing with **Israeli settlers** at a well nr. Nabi Salih. It's unclear what caused the clashes; there are no serious injuries. They also patrol nr. Jenin, Nablus, and Hebron throughout the day. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** shoot and injure 2 Palestinian youths who reportedly got lost nr. Bayt Lahiya, arrest 3 Palestinian youths attempting to cross into Israel nr. Ashqelon, and open fire on Palestinian shepherds working nr. Khan Yunis. (AFP, MNA, WAFA 3/3; PCHR 3/9)

### 4 MARCH 2017

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian youth in c. Hebron alleging that he was planning a stabbing attack. They arrest 2 more Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Hebron, and patrol during the day nr. Nablus, Hebron, Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Salfit. **Israeli settlers** uproot 15 olive tree seedlings and spray herbicide on 7 others outside Yatta village nr. Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, Palestinian youths throw stones at Israeli police in Silwan, injuring 1 officer. **Israeli forces** assault and detain 5 Palestinians on their way home from a prison visit in s. Israel. (MNA, TOI 3/4; MNA 3/8; PCHR 3/9)

### 5 MARCH 2017

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 2 Palestinians nr. Nablus for allegedly possessing

a knife and planning a stabbing attack. They arrest 9 more Palestinians and issue 2 arrest summons during late-night raids nr. Qalqilya, Jenin, Hebron, and Bethlehem; and patrol nr. Hebron, Salfit, and Ramallah during the day. The Israeli authorities deliver demolition orders to 44 homes and other buildings in the **Bedouin village Khan al-Ahmar** in the n. Jordan Valley. Residents are given 7 days to leave their homes. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 5 Palestinians at mobile checkpoints in Issawiyya. Along **Gaza's border**, Israeli forces conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. Khan Yunis. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. (MNA 3/5; JP 3/6; PCHR 3/9)

A **Palestinian prisoner** held by the PA dies after 2 days on hunger strike. It's unclear why he went on strike, but the PA has come under fire recently for its alleged mistreatment of detainees. (MNA 3/6)

### 6 MARCH 2017

**IDF troops** conduct a raid on a house in al-Bireh nr. Ramallah in which they shoot and kill Basel al-Araj, a prominent Palestinian activist. Two other Palestinians are injured in confrontations with Israeli forces following the raid (see Update for more on al-Araj). Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shut down a workshop nr. Nablus, arrest 7 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Jenin, and patrol nr. Salfit and Hebron. **Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian home under construction in s. Hebron. **Israeli settlers** assault Palestinian farmers nr. Nablus, injuring 2. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct overnight raids in Issawiyya, sparking minor clashes with stone-throwing youths; 5 Palestinians are arrested and 3 are issued

arrest summons. Meanwhile, Palestinian youths gather outside the Jerusalem Municipality complex nr. the **Old City** to protest the Israeli authorities' closure of their school in Sur al-Bahir on 2/23. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmers working nr. Dayr al-Balah, causing no damage or injuries. Israeli forces conduct a limited incursion to level land nearby. (EI, HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 3/6; PCHR 3/9)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the first of 3 planned days, allowing Palestinians to enter and exit Gaza (see Update). (MNA 3/6)

**Israel's Knesset** passes a law barring foreign nationals who call for economic, cultural, or academic boycotts of Israel or "area under its control," such as Israel's settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt), from receiving entry visas or residency rights. The interior minister is granted the right to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis (see Update for details). (HA, JP, NYT 3/7)

## 7 MARCH 2017

In the **West Bank**, a **Palestinian hitchhiker** stabs and injures an Israeli settler driver who picked him up nr. Bethlehem. **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians outside the Ofer Prison nr. Ramallah protesting the 3/6 killing of Basel al-Araj and PA security coordination with Israel; 8 Palestinians are arrested. IDF troops also set up mobile checkpoints around the Bethlehem area in the evening, confiscate personal property, and arrest 8 Palestinians during raids in and around Hebron and Nablus; and patrol nr. Nablus and Hebron. Along **Gaza's border**, **Israeli forces** dismantle an explosive device nr. Jabaliya r.c. Around the same time, Israeli forces shell an **Islamic Jihad in Palestine** (PIJ) post nearby, injuring

1 Palestinian, according to PIJ. The IDF says it will look into a connection between the incidents. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing no damage or injuries. In **Israel**, the **Israeli authorities** deliver demolition orders to several homes in the Bedouin village Rakhama nr. Beersheba. (JP, MNA, WAFA, YA 3/7; MNA 3/8; PCHR 3/9)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the 2d of 3 planned days (see Update). (MNA, WAFA 3/6)

During the **U.S. State Dept.**'s first press briefing under the **Trump admin.**, a **spokesperson** says that the dept. is "working closely" with Trump on his new Middle East policy and that the admin. is working with **Israel** to figure out "what exactly it would look like" for Israel to restrict settlement growth (see Update). (USSD, JP, TOI 3/7; AFP, HA 3/8)

## 8 MARCH 2017

In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 3 Islamic Waqf officials at **Haram al-Sharif**, alleging that they refused to comply with orders related to Israeli restoration efforts at the sanctuary. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 15 Palestinians during raids nr. Hebron, Salfit, Nablus, Tulkarm, and Ramallah. They also temporarily detain U.S.-Israeli anti-occupation activist Jeff Halper at the Ma'ale Adumim settlement, following a complaint that he possesses "materials related to [the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement]." Halper, a cofounder of the **Israeli Comm. Against House Demolitions**, was leading a tour of the oPt. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. (WAFA 3/8; PCHR 3/9; PCHR 3/16)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the 3d of 3 planned days (see Update). (WAFA 3/8; HA 3/14)

## 9 MARCH 2017

**Fighters** launch 2 rockets from Gaza toward Israel, which fall short of the border, causing no damage or injuries. The **Fatah-affiliated al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades** claims responsibility for the attack, the group's first since Israel's 2014 assault on Gaza. In response, the **IDF** fires artillery shells at several sites in s. Gaza late at night, causing damage. In the **West Bank, Israeli settlers** uproot dozens of olive trees and spray herbicides on Palestinian crops outside Yatta village nr. Hebron. **IDF troops** patrol nr. Nablus, Qalqilya, Hebron, and Ramallah during the day. In **Israel, Israeli forces** demolish the Bedouin village al-'Araqib for the 110th time since 2010, and arrest 15 Palestinians who allegedly crossed into Israel illegally during raids in the Galilee. (MNA, WAFA 3/9; JP, MNA, TOI 3/10; PCHR 3/16)

The Israeli authorities close the **Erez border crossing** into Gaza for the **Jewish Purim holiday**, which ends on 3/12. This marks the 2d year in a row the Israeli authorities have closed Erez for Purim. (HA, MNA, TOI 3/9)

The **U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Comm.** approves U.S. pres. Trump's nominee for amb. to Israel, **David Friedman**, for a confirmation vote in the Senate by a vote of 12 to 9 (see Update for more on Friedman). (EI, HA 3/9)

## 10 MARCH 2017

**IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's occupation, separation wall, and settlements in 4 villages nr. Ramallah (Nabi Salih, Bil'in, Silwad, and Ni'lin),

Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, c. Hebron, and along Gaza's border nr. Gaza City; 2 Palestinians are injured and 1 is arrested. They also patrol nr. Hebron during the day. Meanwhile, Israeli authorities shut down all border crossings between Israel and the West Bank. They are set to re-open after the **Jewish Purim holiday** on 3/12. (MNA, WAFA 3/10; PCHR 3/16)

**U.S. pres. Trump** speaks with **PA pres. Mahmoud Abbas** by phone, marking their first official contact since Trump's inauguration on 1/20. He formally invites Abbas to the White House to "relaunch the peace process," according to a PA spokesperson. (HA, JP, MNA, NYT 3/10; YA 3/12)

## 11 MARCH 2017

In the **West Bank, IDF troops** conduct raids in Birzeit nr. Ramallah, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; there are no serious injuries. They also arrest a Palestinian in c. Hebron when he is found to be carrying a knife. The **IDF** arrests 3 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Nablus and Ramallah; and patrols during the day nr. Qalqilya, Hebron, and Ramallah. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** conduct raids in Bayt Hanina, arresting a Palestinian novelist whose new book they allege to have incited violence. They release her later in the day after she pays NIS 10,000 (approx. \$2,700) in bail. A Palestinian family demolishes its own home outside the **Old City** to avoid paying Israeli demolition fees. In **Israel, around 3,000 Palestinian citizens** march through Kabul village in the Galilee to protest the so-called muezzin bill, which passed a preliminary reading in the Knesset on 3/8 (see Update). (MNA, TOI, WAFA 3/11; MNA 3/12; PCHR 3/16)

An **IDF spokesperson** announces a 24-hour extension to the **Purim** closure of crossings in and out of the West Bank and Gaza. Only humanitarian, medical, and exceptional cases will be allowed to cross between Gaza and the West Bank until 3/13. (HA, JP, MNA 3/11)

## 12 MARCH 2017

**IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian youth in c. Hebron for allegedly planning a stabbing attack. Palestinian witnesses film the scene, and their footage shows Israeli soldiers preparing to plant a knife on the youth as grounds for his arrest. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 5 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Jenin, Ramallah, and Hebron; and patrol nr. Nablus, Qalqilya, Salfit, and Hebron. **Israeli settlers** uproot around 140 olive trees from Palestinian villages s. of Nablus. **PA security forces (PASF)** violently suppress demonstrations in Ramallah and Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem against the PA security coordination with Israel that led to the IDF killing of Basel al-Araj, Palestinian activist, on 3/6; at least 11 Palestinians are injured, including al-Araj's father, and prominent hunger striker Khader Adnan is arrested (see Update for more on al-Araj). (JP, MNA, Wafa 3/12; MNA 3/13; PCHR 3/16)

Two days after he spoke with **U.S. pres. Trump** by phone for around 10 minutes, **PA pres. Abbas** says that Trump "promised his full commitment to peace and to the 2-state solution." Abbas and his advisors are reportedly pleased with Trump's position on the issue. (JP, TOI 3/12)

## 13 MARCH 2017

**Israeli police** shoot and kill a Palestinian youth outside the **Old City of Jerusalem** after

he allegedly stabs and injures 2 of them. Israeli forces then raid the alleged attacker's home in Jabal Mukabir, sparking minor clashes with residents of the area; 5 Palestinians are arrested. Elsewhere in **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 8 Palestinians during raids in Silwan. In the **West Bank**, **hundreds of Palestinians** gather in Ramallah to protest the **PASF's** violent assault on protesters on 3/12, and to call for **PA pres. Abbas** to end security coordination with Israel and resign. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** arrest 13 Palestinians during raids nr. Jenin, Hebron, Nablus, and Bethlehem; and patrol nr. Hebron and Ramallah. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** arrest 3 Palestinians attempting to cross into Israel. (HA, IMEMC, JP, MNA, TOI, Wafa 3/13; EI 3/14; PCHR 3/16)

The **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)** announces that it will not be participating in the **municipal elections** set for 5/13 in protest of the PA's repression of demonstrations against security coordination on 3/12. Meanwhile, a PA spokesperson announces that Ramallah's chief of police Abd al-Latif al-Qaddumi has resigned, but denies that his resignation is coming as a result of the 3/12 protests against PA security coordination with Israel, which were held outside a court in Ramallah and violently dispersed by PA security forces. **PM Hamdallah** announces that he has appointed a fact-finding comm. to look into the events at the 3/12 protests. (MNA 3/13; JP 3/14)

Jason Greenblatt, **U.S. pres. Trump's** special representative for international negotiations, meets with **Israeli PM Netanyahu** in Jerusalem for 5 hours. According to a joint statement, they discussed **settlements** "in the hope of working out an approach that is consistent with the goal of advancing peace and security." Later, Greenblatt meets with senior Palestinian officials in Ramallah, who tell him they are

interested in the Trump admin. presenting its own plan for a peace deal. Greenblatt is set to remain in Israel and the oPt all week for more meetings, including with **PA pres. Abbas** on 3/14. (ALM, HA, JP 3/13; HA, NYT, TOI, WAFA 3/14)

#### 14 MARCH 2017

In the West Bank, **IDF troops** patrol nr. Nablus, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian youths; 1 Palestinian is injured. They conduct further patrols nr. Hebron and Ramallah; and arrest 9 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Hebron, Ramallah, and Nablus. In **East Jerusalem, Palestinian schools** go on strike to protest the closure of al-Nukhba School on 2/23 and the Jerusalem Municipality's 12/2016 decision to align its vacation calendar with the Israeli school calendar. **Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian home under construction in Issawiyya as well as 2 rooms in a Palestinian home in Silwan; arrest 7 Palestinians during raids in Hizma and Issawiyya; and shut down a dept. of the Arab Studies Society in Bayt Hanina because of alleged affiliation with the **PA** (it will be reopened on 3/16). Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In **West Jerusalem, Israeli forces** violently disperse Palestinians protesting Israeli demolitions of Palestinian property outside the finance ministry's headquarters; there are no serious injuries. In **s. Israel**, the **Israel Land Authority (ILA)** demolishes crops in a Bedouin-owned field nr. Beersheba. (HA, MNA, PLONAD, TOI, WAFA 3/14; PCHR 3/16; MNA 3/17)

The **Israeli Knesset** approves amendments to the **Basic Law** barring politicians from running for office if they are known to "support

terrorism," if they do not recognize Israel as a Jewish and democratic state, or if they incite racism or support armed resistance against Israel (see Update). In response, Joint List MK Ahmad Tibi says "there is a tendency in recent Knessets in which MKs from the right wing compete with themselves over which bill they can present to exclude authentic representatives of the Arab population." (KNE, WAFA 3/15)

**PA pres. Abbas** meets with **U.S. special representative for international negotiations Greenblatt** in Ramallah. Abbas tells him that "under [U.S.] **pres. Trump's** leadership a historic peace deal is possible," according to a U.S. statement. Meanwhile, **Israeli PM Netanyahu** comments on his 3/13 meeting with Greenblatt, saying that "we're in a process, but it's a process of mutual dialogue, authentic and honest in the positive sense." The process is "not yet visible to the media," he adds. (MNA, NYT, HA, TOI 3/14)

#### 15 MARCH 2017

**Fighters** fire a projectile from Gaza into s. Israel, which lands in an open area, causing no damage or injuries. **Israeli forces** conduct air strikes on 2 Hamas sites in n. Gaza late at night, causing damage to electricity infrastructure in the area. (JP, MNA 3/15; MNA, WAFA 3/16)

**IDF troops** shoot and injure a Palestinian driver after she allegedly attempts to carry out a ramming attack nr. Bethlehem. They also conduct raids in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem overnight, sparking clashes with stone-throwing youths; 5 Palestinians are injured. Also nr. Bethlehem, Israeli soldiers shoot and injure a Palestinian attempting to pass through a gap in the separation wall, and deliver stop-work orders to 2 Palestinian homes under construction. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**,

**IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian youth in c. Hebron for allegedly possessing a knife. They also arrest 11 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Ramallah, Hebron, Nablus, and Tubas; and patrol nr. Nablus and Hebron during the day. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian home in Silwan. Approximately 42 right-wing Jewish activists tour **Haram al-Sharif**. Along **Gaza's border**, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. Gaza City. For a 2d day in a row, the ILA demolishes crops in a Bedouin-owned field nr. Beersheba. (MNA, Wafa 3/15; PCHR 3/16; PCHR 3/23)

#### 16 MARCH 2017

Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Gaza City, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli settlers** throw stones at a Palestinian school in Burin village nr. Nablus, causing no injuries or damage; uproot around 90 grapevine seedlings outside Bethlehem; and assault a Palestinian taxi driver nr. Jerusalem. The **IDF** patrols nr. Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Hebron during the day. In **East Jerusalem**, Dep. Knesset Speaker Moshe Feiglin tours **Haram al-Sharif** with a group of right-wing Jewish activists in the morning. In **West Jerusalem**, **2 Jewish Israelis** assault and moderately injure a Palestinian taxi driver. In **s. Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish a home in the Bedouin community Umm Batin nr. Beersheba. (MNA, Wafa 3/16; MNA 3/17; PCHR 3/23)

Ahead of his 2d meeting with **U.S. envoy Greenblatt** this week, **Israeli PM Netanyahu** says, "We are in the midst of a process of dialogue with the White House and our intention is to reach an agreed-upon policy regarding settlement construction. Agreed-upon for us, of course, not just for the [U.S.]

side." Netanyahu and Greenblatt then make progress on the issue, pledging to continue contacts next week, according to a joint statement. Separately, Greenblatt meets with leaders of the **Yesha Council**, an umbrella organization for settlement municipalities. (HA, JP 3/16; JP 3/17)

**Hamas** announces the formation of a **new comm.** to administer Gaza. It will comprise mbrs. of the Hamas-affiliated Palestinian Legislative Council bloc and other senior officials. "Hamas has not formed a substitute govt. to replace the [PA] consensus govt.," according to senior Hamas official Salah Bardawil. "A governmental administrative comm. was formed, not an actual govt. [The comm.] aims to organize the work of state institutions, and any minister from Ramallah is welcome to come to Gaza and do his job, and the comm. will be at his service," he adds. (ALM 3/22)

**Israeli DM Lieberman** names the Palestinian National Fund a terrorist organization due to its "continuous and sustained support of entities responsible for serious terrorist activity against Israel." The PA fund is primarily used to disburse payments to Palestinians imprisoned in Israel on terrorism-related charges, and to assist prisoners' families. **PA pres. Abbas** calls the move "an Israeli attempt to impede, destroy, and belittle" the ongoing U.S.-led peace-making effort (see Update). (JP, TOI 3/16)

#### 17 MARCH 2017

**IDF troops** open fire on 2 Palestinian youths, killing 1 and moderately injuring the other, in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron after they allegedly throw firebombs at Israeli settlers' cars nearby. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and

international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's occupation, separation wall, and settlements in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Nabi Salih, Bil'in, and Ni'lin) and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 2 Israeli activists are injured. They also patrol nr. Nablus, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; 1 Palestinian is moderately injured. The **IDF** conducts further patrols in and around Qalqilya, Jericho, and Ramallah. **Israeli settlers** uproot around 75 olive tree seedlings nr. Nablus. **Palestinian youths** throw stones at **3 Israeli settlers** who enter Qalandia r.c.; the IDF then escorts the settlers out of the camp. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian attempting to cross into Israel. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. (HA, JP, MNA 3/17; PCHR 3/23)

### 18 MARCH 2017

**Palestinian fighters** launch 3 rockets from Gaza toward Israel overnight; 2 fall short of the border and 1 lands in an open area nr. Ashqelon, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** conducts retaliatory air strikes on Hamas posts in Gaza City and nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing damage. Later in the day, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian agricultural lands along the border fence nr. Khan Yunis. In the **West Bank**, **hundreds of Palestinians** march through al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in mourning for the Palestinian killed in the camp on 3/17. When some mourners throw stones at an IDF post, Israeli soldiers violently disperse the demonstration; 5 Palestinians are injured. The IDF then conducts raids in the camp, detaining several Palestinians. **IDF troops** arrest 14 more Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Hebron, Ramallah, and Bethlehem.

**Israeli settlers** throw stones at a Palestinian's car nr. Hebron, damaging the windshield. (JP, MNA, WAFA 3/18; PCHR 3/23)

### 19 MARCH 2017

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** deliver a stop-work order to a Palestinian home under renovation e. of Hebron and a demolition order for another home under construction in nearby Bayt Umar. They also assault and arrest a Palestinian youth during a raid outside a secondary school nr. Nablus and detain a Palestinian child in c. Hebron. **IDF troops** arrest 4 more Palestinians and issue 2 arrest summons during late-night raids nr. Tulkarm, Ramallah, Qalqilya, and Jericho. **PASF troops** conduct raids in Balata r.c. nr. Nablus, arresting 1 Palestinian civilian and sparking a brief firefight with armed residents of the camp; 1 PASF member is killed and another is injured. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian agricultural land nr. Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. (WAFA 3/19; MNA, WAFA 3/20; MNA 3/21; MNA, PCHR 3/23)

An **Israeli delegation** arrives in Washington for a week of talks with the Trump admin. on settlement construction. Israeli amb. to the U.S. Ron Dermer will join the delegates. (JP 3/19)

### 20 MARCH 2017

Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, an **Israeli settler driver** rams an elderly Palestinian nr. Nablus, causing moderate injuries. The **IDF** delivers confiscation orders to the Palestinian owners of 169 dunams (42 acres) of farmland nr. Qalqilya and stop-work orders to 7 Palestinian homes under construction in

Kafr al-Dik nr. Salfit. IDF troops arrest 6 Palestinians and confiscate a tractor during raids nr. Ramallah, Jericho, and Tubas; and patrol nr. Hebron during the day. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** demolish 2 residential buildings in Jabal Mukabir. (MNA, WAFA 3/20; MNA, WAFA 3/21; PCHR 3/23)

**PA pres. Abbas** meets with **Egyptian pres. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** in Cairo to discuss regional affairs and the prospect of holding a regional peace conference to kick off a new round of peace talks. Al-Sisi reportedly tells Abbas that the Palestinian question will remain a high priority in Cairo (see Update). (TOI, WAFA 3/20; MNA, WAFA 3/21)

The **U.S. State Dept.** announces that the U.S. will be boycotting the **UNHRC's** discussion of Israel at its 34th session this week, also known as **Agenda Item 7**. "The U.S. strongly and unequivocally opposes the existence of the UNHRC's Agenda Item 7," the State Dept. statement reads. (JP, TOI, USSD 3/20)

## 21 MARCH 2017

Haaretz reports that **Israel's Strategic Affairs Min. Gilad Erdan** has been working for 7 mos. to advance a proposal to build a database of Israeli citizens who promote and support the **BDS campaigns** against Israel or its settlements in the oPt (see Update). He has already established an intelligence unit to collect such information on foreign activists. **Atty. Gen. Avichai Mandelblit** reportedly opposes the proposal, even if the information is culled from open sources such as the media and social networks. In response to the report, **U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Mark Toner** says that while the U.S. opposes boycotts, it supports freedom of expression "even in cases where we do not necessarily agree with the political views espoused." (HA, JP, USSD 3/21; HA 3/22)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** says that the ongoing talks between **Israeli and U.S. officials** in Washington this week will not touch on the settlements in East Jerusalem. An Israeli official says that one of the topics under discussion is Netanyahu's pledge to build an entirely new settlement to house the residents of the illegal Amona settlement outpost, which was evacuated and demolished in early 2/2017 (see Update in *JPS* 46 [3]). (HA, TOI 3/21; HA 3/22)

## 22 MARCH 2017

**Israeli forces** positioned along Gaza's border fire artillery shells at 3 Palestinians nr. Rafah; 1 is killed and the other 2 are injured. The IDF says the soldiers fired after "detect[ing] 2 suspects." The incident comes hours after the IDF carried out a major military exercise in the area. Elsewhere along Gaza's border, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. Khan Yunis. Off Gaza's coast, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** punitively seal with concrete the Jabal Mukabir home of the Palestinian killed in a confrontation with Israeli soldiers on 1/7. In the **West Bank, Israeli forces** demolish 2 agricultural sheds outside Jericho and uproot a number of trees in Aida r.c. nr. Bethlehem. **IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian in s. Hebron when he is found with to be carrying a knife, and arrest 3 more Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm. **Israeli settlers** assault Palestinian farmers working outside Burin nr. Nablus, lightly injuring 1. (EI, JP, MNA, WAFA 3/22; MNA, PCHR 3/23; PCHR 3/30)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** says that "there has been significant progress" in the ongoing talks between **Israeli and U.S. officials** in Washington this week. They are reportedly

working toward a mutual understanding on Israeli settlement growth (see Update). (HA, JP, TOI 3/22)

### 23 MARCH 2017

**IDF troops** open fire on a Palestinian vehicle driving outside Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, killing 1 Palestinian youth and seriously injuring the other 3 occupants (1 of the youths will succumb to his injuries on 4/10). IDF troops then shut down a major checkpoint nearby and violently disperse Palestinians from the camp gathering to protest the shooting; there are no serious injuries. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shuts down several checkpoints in n. Hebron in response to stone throwing in the area. **Israeli forces** raid and damage the contents of 2 Palestinian printing shops in Tulkarm, and arrest 5 Palestinians during raids nr. Salfit and in Hebron; and patrol nr. Nablus and Hebron. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** arrest 2 Palestinian fishermen and confiscate their boat nr. Gaza City. Later, they open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya r.c., causing no damage or injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, an **Israeli police officer** assaults and injures several Palestinians in Wadi al-Juz after 1 of them reportedly rammed him with a car. (HA, MNA, Wafa 3/23; EI, MNA 3/24; PCHR 3/30)

Concluding 4 days of talks in Washington, **Israeli and U.S. officials** release a joint statement saying that the Israeli govt. intends to take the Trump admin.'s concerns regarding **settlement activity** in the oPt "into consideration." They do not reach a broader agreement on the subject (see Update). The talks were focused on "concrete, nr.-term measures to improve the overall climate in order to advance the prospects for a genuine and lasting peace between Israel and the

Palestinians," including steps Israel could take to improve the economic situation in the oPt and the need to bring humanitarian relief to Gaza. (NYT, WP 3/23; HA 3/24; HA 3/26)

The **U.S. Senate** confirms **Friedman** as the new amb. to Israel in 52–46 vote (see Update). Only 2 Democrats vote in favor of U.S. pres. Trump's nominee: Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Joe Manchin (D-WV). (CNN, HA, JP, TOI 3/23)

### 24 MARCH 2017

**IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's occupation, separation wall, settlements, and killing of a Palestinian youth in Jalazun r.c. on 3/23 in 5 villages nr. Ramallah (Nabi Salih, Bil'in, Kafr Malik, al-Mughayyir, and Ni'lin), Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, and in c. Hebron; 5 Palestinians are injured. They also arrest 2 Palestinians during raids nr. Ramallah and Nablus and patrol nr. Nablus and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, Palestinians conduct a sit-in outside the gates of **al-Aqsa Mosque** to protest Israel's withholding of corpses of Palestinians killed in confrontations with the IDF. Israeli forces then impose heightened security restrictions at **Haram al-Sharif**, searching youths in the area and denying many Palestinians access to the sanctuary. Separately, Israeli forces arrest 4 Palestinians during raids in the Old City. In **Israel**, **4 Jewish Israelis** stab and seriously injure a Palestinian citizen of Israel nr. his home in Nahariya. (MNA 3/24; MNA 3/25; PCHR 3/30)

Unidentified assailants shoot and kill senior Hamas military official and former Israeli prisoner Mazen Fuqaha in s. Gaza City. In a statement released later in the day, Hamas implies that **Israel** was likely behind the killing

(see Update for more on Fuqaha). (HA, JP, TOI 3/24; MNA 3/25)

**UN special coordinator Nickolay Mladenov** tells the UN Security Council that Israel has not complied with UNSC Res. 2334, which passed on 12/23/2016 (see Update in *JPS* 46 [3]). Israeli settlement construction has increased in the past 3 mos., despite the resolution's call for a halt in such activity, according to Mladenov. Meanwhile, the **UNHRC** adopts 4 res. on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: the first calls on mbr.-states to avoid ties with Israel's settlements in the oPt, the 2d reaffirms the Palestinians' right to self-determination, the 3d concerns human rights in the oPt, and the 4th condemns Israel for violating the human rights of Syrian Druze of the Golan Heights (see Update). (HA, JP, TOI 3/24; WAFA 3/25)

#### 25 MARCH 2017

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** conduct raids in Bayt Umar nr. Hebron overnight, sparking minor clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; there are no serious injuries. They also arrest 5 Palestinians and confiscate a drone during raids nr. Hebron, Jenin, and Tulkarm; and patrol in and around Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, a Palestinian tears down the roof of his own home to avoid paying Israeli demolition fees. **Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinians during raids in Ras al-Amud and al-Sawana. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. (MNA, WAFA 3/25; PCHR 3/30)

At the funeral of **Hamas cmdr. Fuqaha** in Gaza City, thousands of **Hamas** mbrs. and supporters call for revenge against Israel for its alleged role in his killing on 3/24. Senior Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya says that "Fuqaha didn't have enemies, and Israel is

the only beneficiary in his assassination." Also, Hamas's military wing, **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades**, releases a statement threatening to "respond in a manner that befits [Fuqaha's] position." (HA, YA 3/25)

#### 26 MARCH 2017

Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian agricultural lands nr. Khan Yunis, causing no major damage. Off Gaza's coast, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Khan Yunis, causing no injuries or damage. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 7 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during late-night raids nr. Hebron, Tulkarm, and Ramallah; and patrol nr. Salfit and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, 53 right-wing Jewish activists tour **Haram al-Sharif**. (MNA, WAFA 3/26; PCHR 3/30)

Amid the ongoing investigation of the 3/24 killing of senior Hamas military cmdr. Fuqaha, the **Hamas-run interior ministry in Gaza** indefinitely shuts down the Erez border crossing, except for humanitarian cases; orders all fishermen to return to the shore; and shuts down the Rafah border crossing into Egypt. (Most of these restrictions will remain in place through 4/6.) The Kerem Shalom border crossing remains open. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI 3/26; MNA 4/6)

A spokesperson for the residents of the **Amona settlement outpost** warns that if the Israeli govt. does not build them a new settlement, as PM Netanyahu promised before Amona's evacuation and demolition in 2/2017 (see *JPS* 46 [3]), they will "have to unilaterally move onto the [designated] land" and build it themselves. The spokesperson is likely responding to reports in the Israeli press about Israel-U.S. talks in Washington last week, and specifically an unconfirmed report that the U.S.

may condone the Amona replacement in exchange for other limitations on settlement growth. (JP 3/26; JP 3/27)

## 27 MARCH 2017

**IDF troops** clash with stone-throwing Palestinian youths at a checkpoint outside Ramallah; 2 Palestinians are lightly injured. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, IDF troops arrest a Palestinian allegedly planning a stabbing attack at Huwwara checkpoint nr. Nablus, arrest 7 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Jenin, Hebron, Tubas, Ramallah, and Nablus; and patrol during the day in and around Qalqilya and Hebron. **Israeli forces** demolish a residential structure nr. Jericho. **Palestinian youths** throw stones at an IDF vehicle that reportedly entered Sa'ir village nr. Hebron by accident. PASF and IDF troops then enter the village to escort the vehicle out. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 4 Islamic Waqf guards at **Haram al-Sharif** after they prevent an Israeli archaeologist from removing several stones from the sanctuary. The Israeli police escort the archaeologist and his colleagues out of the sanctuary and arrest 6 more guards during late-night raids across the city. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 3/27; HA, MNA 3/28; PCHR 3/30)

After closing it on 3/26, the **Hamas-run Ministry of Interior in Gaza** conditionally re-opens the **Erez border crossing** this morning. Medical patients, families visiting prisoners in Israel, women of all ages, and men between the ages of 15 and 45 are allowed to exit Gaza, and all are able to enter, as long as they possess the appropriate permissions. Meanwhile, **Hamas's Atty. Gen. Ismail Jaber** issues a **gag order** on the publication of any information relating to the investigation into the killing of senior military cmdr. **Fuqaha** on 3/24. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI 3/27)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** has decided to reassess his ban on Israeli MKs and ministers visiting **Haram al-Sharif**, according to reports in the Israeli press today. Any change in the current policy would come after a 3-mo. assessment period. Netanyahu instituted the ban in 10/2015 during the *habba*, the surge of Palestinian resistance, random attacks, and protests that began in Jerusalem in 9/2015. (JP, TOI 3/27; MNA 3/29)

## 28 MARCH 2017

In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish 2 Palestinian buildings under construction in Issawiyya. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 1 Palestinian and demolish the contents of a workshop during raids nr. Nablus and Hebron; and patrol nr. Hebron and Nablus. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian agricultural lands nr. Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. (MNA, WAFA, WAFA 3/28; PCHR 3/30)

A **PA commission of inquiry** established to investigate the **PASF's** repression of protests in c. Ramallah and Dahaysha r.c. on 3/12 finds that the Palestinian troops violated PA regulations and acted disproportionately, although they maintained a "high level of self-control." The commission recommends punishments for several PASF officers who used excessive violence (**PA PM Hamdallah** will accept the commission's recommendations on 3/29). (MNA 3/28; MNA, WAFA 3/29)

## 29 MARCH 2017

**Israeli forces** shoot and kill a Palestinian after she allegedly attempts to stab 1 of them with a pair of scissors outside the Old City. Elsewhere in **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish 2 Palestinian homes in Jabal Mukabir

and arrest 3 Palestinians during late-night raids in Issawiyya and Anata r.c. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** raid a secondary school in Burin village nr. Nablus, arresting 1 student; arrest 5 Palestinians during further raids in and around Tubas, Hebron, and Ramallah; and patrol nr. Jenin and Hebron. A late-night IDF raid in Tubas sparks clashes with stone-throwing residents; 1 Palestinian is injured. **Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian home under construction nr. Bethlehem. **Israeli settlers** assault several Palestinian farmers working their lands nr. Qalqilya; there are no serious injuries. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. (EI, HA, JP, MNA, WAFA 3/29; MNA, PCHR 3/30; PCHR 4/6)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** instructs the Foreign Ministry to reduce by \$2 m. the amount of funds Israel transfers annually to the **UN** in response to "hostile proposals concerning Israel adopted by the **UNHRC** [on 3/24]," according to a Foreign Ministry spokesperson. The money will go instead to development programs in countries that support Israel in international forums (see Update). (HA, JP 3/29)

### 30 MARCH 2017

Palestinians gather across the West Bank to commemorate **Land Day**. **IDF troops** violently disperse them in Bethlehem, Madama village nr. Nablus, and several other areas; at least 16 Palestinians are injured and at least 4 are arrested. Meanwhile, **Israeli forces** raze around 20 dunams (5 acres) of land nr. Salfit to make way for the expansion of a settlement industrial zone. **IDF troops** arrest 6 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Salfit; and patrol nr. Nablus and Hebron during the day. In **East Jerusalem**, **Muslim**

**worshippers** verbally confront dozens of Jewish settlers touring **Haram al-Sharif**; there are no arrests or violence. **Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinians during late-night raids in Qalandia r.c. (MNA, WAFA 3/30; PCHR 4/6)

In a meeting with his security cabinet, **Israeli PM Netanyahu** announces a new policy to manage **settlement growth**: the Israeli govt. will continue construction in previously developed areas, when permissible, and adjacent areas, when not permissible; allow construction on the closest land possible to developed areas when neither adjacent nor permissible land is available; and bar the creation of any new settlement outposts. The PM insists that the new policy is not based on an understanding with the **Trump admin.**, although it comes a week after an Israeli delegation's visit to Washington for talks on settlement growth. Netanyahu also says that 900 dunams (approx. 222 acres) nr. the Eli settlement have been declared state land and that final approval has been given to market 2,000 new homes in existing settlements (these 2,000 are among the 5,700 advanced in the 3 weeks following U.S. pres. Trump's inauguration on 1/20; see *JPS* 46 [3]). (HA, JP, TOI 3/30; HA, TOI 4/2)

**Israel's security cabinet** announces its unanimous approval of a **new Israeli settlement** n. of Ramallah to house the former residents of the **illegal Amona settlement outpost**, which was evacuated and demolished in early 2/2017 (see Update for details and *JPS* 46 [3] for background on Amona). The approval reflects PM Netanyahu's promise to build the former residents a new settlement. (NYT 3/30; HA, JP, TOI 3/31)

### 31 MARCH 2017

**IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday

demonstrations against Israel's occupation, separation wall, and settlements in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Nabi Salih, Bil'in, and Ni'lin) and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 4 Palestinians are injured. Later in the day, **IDF troops** shoot and injure a Palestinian youth after he throws a Molotov cocktail at a settler's car driving nr. Ni'lin. They seal the village after the incident. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian in c. Hebron when he is found to be carrying a knife, and patrol nr. Jenin and Hebron. (MNA, TOI 3/31; MNA 4/1; PCHR 4/6)

### 1 APRIL 2017

**Israeli forces** shoot and kill a Palestinian youth in the **Old City of Jerusalem** after he allegedly stabs and injures 3 Israelis. Palestinian witnesses say that the police could have apprehended the assailant without killing him. The Israeli police then shut down the entrances to the Old City, sparking clashes with Palestinian youths; 2 Palestinians are injured, 1 is arrested, and several shop owners are issued arrest summons. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian agricultural lands nr. Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** raze 15 dunams (approx. 4 acres) of Palestinian-owned land nr. Bethlehem to clear space for the expansion of settlement infrastructure in the area. They also shift the location of their cement roadblocks in c. Hebron, expanding IDF-controlled territory by several meters. **IDF troops** arrest 8 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Hebron, Bethlehem, and Tulkarm, as well as in Nablus; and patrol during the day in and around Nablus and Hebron. **Israeli settlers** approach the outskirts of Burin village nr. Nablus, sparking minor clashes between their IDF escort and stone-throwing Palestinians;

there are no serious injuries. (HA, JP, MNA, WAFA 4/1; HA, MNA 4/2; PCHR 4/6)

### 2 APRIL 2017

In **East Jerusalem**, 67 Jewish settlers tour **Haram al-Sharif**. Meanwhile, **Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinian children playing in al-Bustan. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** raid the Nablus-area home of the Palestinian killed in East Jerusalem on 4/1 and interrogate his family mbrs. They also arrest a Palestinian allegedly planning a stabbing attack at an IDF post outside Zuffin settlement nr. Qalqilya; arrest 6 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Ramallah, Hebron, and Bethlehem; and patrol during the day nr. Hebron and Nablus. (HA, MNA, WAFA 4/2; PCHR 4/6)

**Jerusalem district police cmdr. Doron Turgeman** says that security in the city will likely be increased around **Passover**, which is set to begin on 4/10. "Holidays and festivals over the years have caused higher tensions and sensitivity and are a preferred period for attacks," he says. (TOI 4/2)

### 3 APRIL 2017

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** uproot 150 olive trees nr. Salfit because they were "damaging the natural view and values of the [nearby] natural resort," according to an IDF spokesperson. **IDF troops** also arrest 12 Palestinians during raids nr. Tulkarm, Hebron, Jenin, and Ramallah. During a raid in Jalazun r. c., Palestinian youths throw stones at the Israeli soldiers, sparking minor clashes; 3 Palestinians are arrested. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinians during late-night raids in Shu'fat r.c. and Qatanna. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on agricultural lands nr.

Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. (MNA, WAFA 4/3; MNA 4/4; PCHR 4/6)

**Human Rights Watch (HRW)** releases a report on Israel and the oPt, concluding that the Israeli govt. is systematically limiting human rights workers' access to the Gaza Strip, which restricts their ability to document rights abuses and violations of international law. HRW says that it has only been able to get permission for 1 delegation of foreign staff to visit Gaza since 2008, in 9/2016. (HA, HRW, JP, TOI 4/3)

#### 4 APRIL 2017

In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish 3 apartment buildings, an agricultural shed, and 5 retaining walls in al-Za'ayem village on the outskirts of the city. They also arrest 7 Palestinians during late-night raids in Silwan, Sheikh Jarrah, Qalandia r.c., and al-Tur. A **Palestinian** demolishes his own home in Bayt Hanina to avoid paying Israeli demolition fees. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** confiscate a Palestinian mobile home nr. Nablus. **IDF troops** arrest 7 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Bethlehem and Jenin, and patrol nr. Hebron during the day. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian homes and agricultural land nr. Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. Israeli drones spray pesticides on Palestinian lands nearby. (MNA, WAFA 4/4; HA 4/5; PCHR 4/6)

A **Hamas spokesperson** calls on alleged Palestinian collaborators with Israel to give up information relating to the 3/24 killing of **senior Hamas military cmdr. Fuqaha**. Hamas is giving alleged collaborators a week, starting today, to come forward in exchange for "full legal and physical protections, as well as a discreet undertaking of the matter." The spokesperson calls it a "week of repentance." (JP, MNA 4/4)

#### 5 APRIL 2017

**IDF troops** conduct raids in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem overnight, arresting 3 Palestinians and sparking clashes with stone-throwing youths; 1 Palestinian is critically injured. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** raze around 100 dunams (approx. 25 acres) of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Bethlehem and demolish 3 residential structures and 4 tents nr. Salfit. **IDF troops** arrest 16 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during late-night raids in and around Hebron, Tulkarm, Bethlehem, and Nablus. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** ban 2 Islamic Waqf guards from **Haram al-Sharif** for 6 mos., and 3 other Palestinians from the sanctuary for 3 mos. They don't give a reason for the bans. **Israeli forces** also arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid in Shu'fat r.c. Along **Gaza's border**, **Israeli forces** spray pesticides on Palestinian agricultural areas nr. Khan Yunis for the 2d day in a row; and conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. Jabaliya r.c. Off Gaza's coast, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya r.c., causing no damage or injuries. In **Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish the Bedouin village al-'Araqib for the 111th time since 2010. (HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA 4/5; JP 4/11; PCHR 4/13)

The **Israeli govt.** and **PA** sign an agreement to allow Palestinian mobile service providers to offer **3G** to their customers in the oPt. The IDF's **Coordinator of Govt. Activities in the Territories (COGAT)** releases a statement explaining that the deal is meant to strengthen the Palestinian economy. Prior to today's agreement, the Israeli authorities were barring Palestinian companies from offering 3G due to security concerns. In 11/2015, Israel and the PA signed a similar agreement to enable 3G access in the oPt, but it was never implemented. (MNA 4/5)

**6 APRIL 2017**

A **Palestinian driver** allegedly rams his car into 2 IDF troops at Ofra junction nr. Ramallah, killing 1 and injuring the other. IDF troops open fire on the vehicle, injuring the driver. The IDF then freezes the work permits of the driver's family and, late at night, raids the Silwad homes of some other relatives, detaining 4. Israeli soldiers also measure the driver's home, threatening punitive demolition. **Israeli settlers**, meanwhile, congregate on a road nr. the site of the alleged ramming, calling for revenge and blocking traffic. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **unidentified assailants** open fire on an IDF post nr. Ramallah late at night, causing no damage or injuries. **IDF troops** arrest 5 Palestinians during late-night raids in Nablus and nr. Bethlehem, and patrol nr. Hebron during the day. Along **Gaza's border**, **Israeli forces** conduct 2 limited incursions to level land nr. Bayt Lahiya and Bayt Hanun. (HA, JP, MNA, WAFA 4/6; MNA 4/7; PCHR 4/13)

**Hamas** executes 3 Palestinians accused of collaborating with Israel outside a police compound in Gaza City. They were sentenced to death mos. ago, long before the killing of senior Hamas military cmdr. **Fuqaha** on 3/24 and the ensuing investigation. (AP, JP, MNA, TOI 4/6)

The **Hamas-run interior ministry in Gaza** lifts the restrictions on the Erez border crossing, the Rafah border crossing, and Palestinian fishermen that it imposed on 3/26 in the wake of the 3/24 killing of Fuqaha. (JP, MNA 4/6; MNA 4/7)

**7 APRIL 2017**

**IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday

demonstrations against Israel's occupation, separation wall, and settlements in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Nabi Salih, Bil'in, and Ni'lin) and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 2 Palestinians are injured. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid in Bethlehem; and patrol nr. Nablus and Hebron during the day. An **Israeli settler driver** allegedly rams 2 Palestinians outside Hebron, causing minor injuries. **Israeli settlers** throw stones at a Palestinian family's flock in the n. Jordan Valley, killing 1 sheep and injuring a goat. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian shepherds working nr. Gaza City, causing no injuries. (MNA 4/7; HA 4/10; PCHR 4/13)

The **Israeli authorities** announce that they will be closing crossings to and from the West Bank and Gaza during the upcoming **Passover holiday**. The closure will last from midnight on 4/9 until midnight on 4/17, and only exceptional cases will be allowed to exit the territories, including humanitarian situations and Palestinian Christians hoping to enter Jerusalem to celebrate Easter. (JP, TOI 4/7; MNA 4/8; JP 4/9; TOI 4/10)

**8 APRIL 2017**

**Thousands of PA employees in Gaza** gather in Gaza City to protest the PA's recent decision to cut their salaries by at least 30%. (The cuts were not made public until 4/4; see Update for details.) In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct raids across the city, arresting 10 Palestinians and issuing orders banning 30 others from **Haram al-Sharif** for periods ranging from 15 days to 6 mos. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** confiscate building materials from a workshop and arrest 2 Palestinians during raids nr. Hebron. (MNA, TOI 4/8; MNA, TOI, WAFA 4/9; PCHR 4/13)

### 9 APRIL 2017

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** ransack and shut down a Palestinian metal workshop nr. Hebron. They also arrest 4 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Ramallah, Jenin, and Hebron; and patrol during the day nr. Hebron and Nablus. In **Gaza**, interior ministry security forces raid the **PLO** office in Gaza City, conducting a search for undisclosed reasons. (MNA, WAFA 4/9)

### 10 APRIL 2017

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** temporarily shuts down all entrances into Hebron around midday without providing an official reason. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian youths throwing stones at a settlement nr. Ramallah, causing no injuries; and patrol nr. Hebron and Salfit. **Israeli settlers** uproot 310 olive trees outside Mukhmas village nr. Jerusalem. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** search **Haram al-Sharif** after arresting a Palestinian outside the sanctuary; and arrest 3 Palestinians during raids in Silwan and the Old City. (MNA, WAFA 4/10; MNA 4/11; PCHR 4/13)

A **Palestinian youth** succumbs to injuries sustained in a confrontation with Israeli forces nr. Jalazun r.c. on 3/23. (EI, MNA, WAFA 4/10; PCHR 4/13)

**Sinai Province of the Islamic State fighters** fire a rocket from the n. Sinai Peninsula into s. Israel, which hits a greenhouse in the Eshkol region, causing no serious damage or injuries. The launch comes hours after Israeli authorities announced the closure of the **Taba border crossing** from Israel to Egypt over suspicions about such an attack (see Update). (HA, JP, MNA, TOI 4/10)

**PA FM Riyad al-Maliki** says that the Palestinians will be sending a high-level

delegation to Washington in 2 weeks to prepare for **PA pres. Abbas's** meeting with **U.S. pres. Trump** on 5/3. "The main goal here is to reach understandings that would make the president's visit a success . . . with positive results that would serve the Palestinian cause," he says. (WAFA 4/10)

### 11 APRIL 2017

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** uproot 18 olive trees nr. Salfit to clear space for the construction of a new water supply network for nearby settlements. **IDF troops** patrol in Bayt Umar nr. Hebron, sparking minor clashes with stone-throwing youths; there are no injuries. They also arrest 5 Palestinians during raids nr. Hebron and Bethlehem, and patrol in and around Hebron during the day. In **East Jerusalem**, more than 40 Palestinians banned from **Haram al-Sharif** gather outside the sanctuary in protest while approx. 300 right-wing Jewish activists tour the area. Meanwhile, **Israeli forces** arrest 7 Palestinians during raids in the Old City. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** arrest 2 Palestinians attempting to cross into Israel nr. Rafah. (MNA, WAFA 4/11; MNA 4/12; PCHR 4/13)

### 12 APRIL 2017

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 9 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Ramallah, Hebron, Qalqilya, and Bethlehem. (PCHR 4/13; PCHR 4/20)

### 13 APRIL 2017

**IDF troops** conduct raids in Abu Dis nr. Jerusalem, sparking clashes with students at Al-Quds University; 6 students are injured. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** raid the Silwad home of the family of the Palestinian

driver who allegedly rammed and killed an Israeli on 4/6. They confiscate NIS 85,000 (approx. \$23,000) and a vehicle during raids nr. Jenin; and patrol nr. Ramallah and Hebron. Along **Gaza's border**, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. Khan Yunis and arrest a Palestinian attempting to cross into Israel nr. Jabaliya r.c. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya r.c. and again nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** ban 7 Palestinians from **Haram al-Sharif** for periods as long as 6 mos. (They have banned more than 40 Palestinians from the sanctuary in the past few weeks.) Meanwhile, **385 Jewish settlers** tour the sanctuary; when a handful of them perform religious rites, guards escort them from the area. (JP, MNA, TOI, Wafa 4/13; PCHR 4/20)

**PA pres. Abbas** says that he may take “unprecedented steps” to end the **Hamas-Fatah rivalry** that prevents the PA from taking control of Gaza. “These days, we are in a dangerous and tough situation that requires decisive steps, and we are [ready] to take these decisive steps. Therefore, we are going to take unprecedented steps in the coming days to end the division,” he says. Some analysts say that Abbas's moves come in response to Hamas's 3/16 announcement of the formation of a new comm. to administer Gaza. (TOI 4/13)

The **Gaza-based Ministry of Interior** announces that it will begin accepting applications for jobs in the security forces from female Palestinians. The change in policy marks the first time females will be hired as security forces since 2014. (MNA 4/13)

In Beijing, **PA FM al-Maliki** calls on China to play a more active role in the Palestinian peace effort, including support for Palestinian initiatives in international forums. **China's FM Wang Yi** says that the fact that the Palestinians

do not have a sovereign state yet is a “terrible injustice.” (HA, REU, Wafa 4/13)

**Human Rights Watch (HRW)** calls on the **Egyptian govt.** to “immediately disclose” whether or not it is detaining the 4 Palestinian men, all reportedly **Hamas** affiliates from Gaza, who were abducted on 8/19/2015 as they traveled by bus from the Rafah border crossing to Cairo. HRW says that Al Jazeera published a photograph purporting to show 2 of the men in a Cairo facility in 8/2016. The report reads, “incommunicado detention violates basic protections for both civilians and fighters under Egypt's code of criminal procedure, which requires authorities to bring criminal suspects in front of a prosecutor within 24 hours and prosecutors to charge the detainee based on evidence or release the person immediately. It also violates international law, which requires that all detainees, regardless of their particular status, be brought ‘promptly’ (i.e., within days) before a judicial officer or equivalent to review the legality and necessity of their detention.” (HRW 4/13)

#### 14 APRIL 2017

**Israeli forces** arrest a mentally unstable Palestinian after he stabs and kills a UK woman on the **Jerusalem Light Rail** nr. the Old City. Elsewhere in **Jerusalem**, **Israeli police** arrest 4 Muslim worshippers when they attempt to stop Jewish settlers from praying at **Haram al-Sharif**. They arrest 10 more as they are exiting the sanctuary, and also arrest 2 Palestinians during raids in Shu'fat. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian at a checkpoint outside Nabi Salih after he is found to be carrying a knife. Meanwhile, they violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's occupation, separation wall, settlements,

and withholding of Palestinian corpses in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Nabi Salih, Bil'in, and Ni'lin), Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, and Bethlehem; 4 Palestinians are injured. They also establish a mobile checkpoint e. of Tubas, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; 4 Palestinians are injured. The IDF patrols nr. Hebron during the day. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya r.c., causing no injuries or damage. Along **Gaza's border, IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmers nr. Juhur al-Dik and again nr. Khan Yunis, causing no injuries. (HA, JP, MNA, NYT, TOI, WAFA 4/14; HA 4/15; PCHR 4/20)

The **Israeli authorities** open the **Kerem Shalom border crossing** to allow fuel to enter Gaza. They closed the crossing for **Passover** on 4/9, and are set to shut it down again from 4/15 through 4/17. (MNA 4/14)

The **Gaza Electricity Distribution Company (GEDCO)** temporarily cuts off power throughout the region in protest of "unfair measures" imposed on the people of Gaza, including the reduction of former PA employees' salaries (see Update). (MNA 4/14)

#### 15 APRIL 2017

**PASF troops** temporarily detain 2 undercover Israeli soldiers conducting a raid in Nablus. They are released hours later. Elsewhere in the **West Bank, IDF troops** arrest 2 Palestinians during a late-night raid nr. Bethlehem; and patrol nr. Nablus and Hebron. They also violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at a protest in Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 1 Palestinian is injured. **Israeli settlers** throw stones at Palestinian homes in Burin village nr. Nablus, sparking minor clashes between their IDF escort and Palestinian youths; there are no

serious injuries. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. (MNA, TOI 4/15; HA 4/16; PCHR 4/20)

#### 16 APRIL 2017

**Gaza's sole power plant** runs out of fuel for the 2d time this year, plunging the region into a renewed power cut crisis (see Update for details and *JPS* 46 [3] for more on the previous shutdown). As a result, GEDCO will only be able to distribute 133 MW of power per day, far less than the 450–500 needed. (AFP, TOI 4/16)

Along **Gaza's border, Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. al-Bureij r.c. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** arrest 1 Palestinian during late-night raids nr. Hebron; and patrol during the day nr. Hebron and Qalqilya. In **East Jerusalem, the Israeli authorities** ban 12 Palestinians from entering **Haram al-Sharif** for 80 days (they have now banned more than 50 Palestinians from the sanctuary in recent weeks). Meanwhile, **517 Jewish settlers** tour the sanctuary; 3 are arrested for praying. Israeli forces arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid in Qutna. (MNA, WAFA 4/16; PCHR 4/20)

#### 17 APRIL 2017

Marking **Palestinian Prisoners' Day**, approx. 1,500 Palestinian prisoners embark on a **mass hunger strike** organized by **Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti** under the banner of "freedom and dignity" (see Update). Meanwhile, **thousands of Palestinians** gather across the West Bank and East Jerusalem to mark Palestinian Prisoners' Day and show solidarity with the hunger strikers. **Israeli forces** violently disperse protests outside the Ofer Prison nr. Ramallah, in Bethlehem, and in

Abu Dis and al-‘Izzariya, arresting 4 Palestinians and injuring at least 11. (EI, HA, MNA, REU, TOI, WAFA 4/17; MNA 4/18)

A  **Hamas fighter**  dies in a tunnel collapse along Gaza’s border. No details about his death are made public. Off  **Gaza’s coast, Israeli naval forces**  open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Gaza City, causing no damage or injuries. In the  **West Bank, IDF troops**  raid 2 bookstores in Hebron overnight, confiscating materials and sealing them off in response to alleged incitement. The IDF also shuts down the entrances to Tell village s. of Nablus, following reports of stone throwing in the area; arrests 3 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Bethlehem and Ramallah, and patrols during the day nr. Hebron and Nablus. (JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 4/17; WAFA 4/19; PCHR 4/20)

#### 18 APRIL 2017

The  **Israel Prison Service (IPS)**  suspends the family visitation rights of the Palestinian prisoners who went on  **hunger strike**  on 4/17 (see Update). IPS has also reportedly confiscated the phones, clothes, and sheets of 7 prisoners who joined the strike; and denied lawyer Jawad Boulus’s request to visit his client  **Marwan Barghouti** , the Fatah leader who is credited with organizing the strike and who is being held in solitary confinement. Meanwhile,  **dozens of Fatah supporters**  set up a tent in Tuqu’ nr. Bethlehem to show solidarity with the prisoners. Palestinian citizens of Israel set up a similar tent in Umm al-Fahm, and a Palestinian family in Salfit goes on hunger strike in solidarity with their imprisoned relatives. (JP, MNA, WAFA 4/18)

In  **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces**  demolish 2 residential trailers in Jabal Mukabir. In the  **West Bank, IDF troops**  arrest 3 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during late-night

raids nr. Hebron; and patrol nr. the city throughout the day. Along  **Gaza’s border, IDF troops**  open fire on Palestinian agricultural areas nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no major damage. (MNA, PCHR 4/20)

#### 19 APRIL 2017

**IDF troops**  shoot and kill a Palestinian driver at a junction nr. the Gush Etzion settlement after his car collides with the back of a bus, injuring an Israeli settler. The IDF describes the driver as an “assailant,” despite photographic evidence to the contrary. IDF troops raid the alleged attacker’s home nr. Jerusalem late at night, issuing arrest summons to his mother and 2 brothers. Meanwhile, the  **IDF**  arrests 3 Palestinians during late-night raids in Nablus, Qalqilya, and nr. Hebron; and patrols nr. Hebron throughout the day. Off  **Gaza’s coast, Israeli naval forces**  open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. Along  **Gaza’s border,**  Israeli forces conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. Rafah. In  **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces**  destroy a set of iron gates guarding a Palestinian commercial area, remove the doors of a car wash in Issawiyya, and arrest 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid in Abu Dis. (EI, HA, JP, MNA, YA 4/19; MNA, PCHR 4/20; PCHR 4/27)

**Palestinian women**  incarcerated at Israel’s Hasharon Prison launch protests in solidarity with the 1,500-plus Palestinian prisoners who declared a  **mass hunger strike**  on 4/17 (dubbed the Dignity Strike).  **IPS forces**  raid Section 14 of Ofer Prison nr. Ramallah, conducting searches and destroying the belongings of some prisoners. Separately, an  **IPS legal advisor**  informs  **Fatah leader Barghouti’s lawyers**  that they will be allowed to visit their client soon. They were reportedly denied access on 4/18.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces violently disperse Palestinians marching through Abu Dis, East Jerusalem, in solidarity with the prisoners. (MNA 4/19; HA 4/20)

## 20 APRIL 2017

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians gathering outside Ofer Prison in solidarity with the 1,500-plus Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike (see Update); 1 protester is injured. Later, a number of **Israeli settlers** hold a barbeque outside the prison to taunt the hunger strikers. Elsewhere, **IDF troops** arrest 3 Palestinians during raids nr. Jericho and in Hebron, and patrol nr. Ramallah during the day. An **Israeli settler driver** allegedly rams a Palestinian youth nr. Bethlehem, moderately injuring her. Late at night, **hundreds of settlers** visit a Jewish holy site nr. Salfit. Their IDF escort had established checkpoints prior to the visit, blocking Palestinian traffic in the area. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct raids in Abu Dis, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian students; there are no serious injuries. Along **Gaza's border**, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. al-Bureij r.c. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya r.c., causing no damage or injuries. In **Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish a home under construction in the Bedouin village al-Sayyid. (MNA, Wafa 4/20; JP, MNA 4/21)

## 21 APRIL 2017

**IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's occupation, separation wall, and settlements, and in solidarity with the 1,500-plus Palestinian

prisoners on hunger strike in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Nabi Salih, Bil'in, and Ni'lin), Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, and in al-Azza r.c. nr. Bethlehem; at least 9 Palestinians and 1 Israeli activist are injured. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** issue 1 Palestinian an arrest summons during a late-night raid in Beit Sahour, and patrol nr. Hebron and Nablus during the day. **Israeli settlers** assault a group of international solidarity activists accompanying Palestinian shepherds nr. Ramallah, causing no serious injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinians during raids in Issawiyya. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian shepherds working nr. Juhur al-Dik, causing no injuries, and on Palestinian agricultural land nr. Khan Yunis, causing no damage. (HA, JP, MNA, Wafa 4/21; PCHR 4/27)

The **Israeli authorities** re-open the **Taba border crossing**, allowing Israeli citizens to cross into Egypt by land for the first time since 4/10 (see Update). However, Israel's counterterrorism bureau warns, "the threat to Israelis in Sinai remains serious, concrete, and imminent." (HA, JP, TOI 4/21)

Three projectiles fired from inside **Syria** land in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, causing no serious damage or injuries. The **IDF** "target[s]" the source of the attacks, but a spokesperson does not say how and it is not reported in the media. (JP, MNA 4/21; HA 4/22)

## 22 APRIL 2017

**Approximately 100 Israeli settlers** smash windows and attempt to break into a home in 'Urif village nr. Nablus before Palestinian residents of the village force them away. **IDF troops** then violently disperse the residents of 'Urif; 4 Palestinians and 1 IDF soldier are

injured. **Israeli settlers** also throw stones at Palestinian homes and vehicles in nearby Huwwara, lightly injuring 1 Palestinian and causing no serious damage. Meanwhile, the **IDF** arrests 11 Palestinians and issues 4 arrest summons during raids in and around Bethlehem and Tulkarm; and patrols nr. Hebron, Qalqilya, and Nablus during the day. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** shoot and injure 1 Palestinian during a violent raid in al-Issawiyya late at night. (HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA 4/22; JP, MNA, TOI 4/23; PCHR 4/27)

A **group of Fatah-affiliated prisoners** in Israel's Ramon Prison join the Dignity Strike that approx. 1,500 prisoners declared on 4/17. The **IPS** moves several **PFLP leaders** to solitary confinement. Meanwhile, **hundreds of Palestinians** gather across Gaza, Israel, and the West Bank to demonstrate in solidarity with the prisoners. Israeli police violently suppress protests in Silwan; 1 Palestinian is injured. (EI, HA, MNA, WAFA 4/22; JP, TOI 4/23)

### 23 APRIL 2017

A **West Bank Palestinian** stabs and injures 4 people in Tel Aviv before the Israeli police arrest him. Hours after the attack, **COGAT** suspends single-day work permits granted to various organizations and groups to allow Palestinians to enter Israel and begins an investigation into the matter. The alleged attacker hailed from Nablus and obtained one such permit from a group called Natural Peace Tours, which facilitates relationships between individual Israelis and Palestinians. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 4/23)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shuts down the main entrance to a group of villages nr. Ramallah. It's unclear what prompted the closure. **IDF troops** shoot and injure 3 Palestinians during clashes sparked by reports

of stone throwing in Kafr Malik village nr. Ramallah; establish mobile checkpoints outside Bayt Umar, sparking further clashes (there are no serious injuries). Meanwhile, **IDF troops** arrest 6 Palestinians and issue 2 arrest summons during late-night raids nr. Ramallah and Hebron, and patrol nr. Hebron throughout the day. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 1 Palestinian and issue 1 arrest summons during raids in Silwan. An **Israeli settler driver** allegedly rams and injures 2 Palestinian youths s. of the city, sparking minor clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinians in the area; there are no serious injuries. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 4/23; PCHR 4/27)

The **International Comm. of the Red Cross (ICRC)** announces that it may consider the Palestinian prisoners' demand for increased family visits, which they made in the context of the Dignity Strike (see Update). The ICRC used to coordinate 2 family visits per prisoner per mo. In 5/2016, however, the organization reduced the monthly visits to 1 due to an increased number of "no-shows" on the part of the families, according to an ICRC spokesperson. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians marching from c. Ramallah to the Beit El checkpoint in solidarity with the prisoners; 3 Palestinians are injured. (TOI 4/23)

**Israeli forces** launch an air strike on a pro-Syrian govt. militia group nr. Qunaytra in the Golan Heights, killing 3 soldiers, according to a statement from the group. The IDF does not comment on the strike. (HA, JP, TOI 4/23)

### 24 APRIL 2017

**IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian at Qalandia checkpoint after she allegedly stabs and injures 1 of them. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, they arrest 7 Palestinians and issue 2 arrest

summons during raids nr. Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Nablus; and patrol nr. Hebron and Qalqilya. **Israeli settlers** raze a small plot of Palestinian agricultural land outside al-Khadir village nr. Bethlehem. In **Gaza**, 2 Palestinians are injured in an accidental explosion at a **Hamas** military site. (HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA 4/24; TOI 4/26; PCHR 4/27)

The **Jerusalem Municipality** files for public review of a plan to confiscate 1,300 m<sup>2</sup> nr. **Haram al-Sharif** to build a visitor center. The **Israeli NGO Peace Now** will report on the plan on 4/25, saying that “dragged by settler organizations, the Israeli govt. is willing to go out of its way to approve this sensitive plan through a highly unusual procedure.” (MNA 4/25; PCN 4/25)

#### 25 APRIL 2017

**Two Palestinian children** are killed when they accidentally trigger a piece of unexploded Israeli ordnance in al-Zarnuq village nr. Beersheba. Elsewhere in **Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish the Bedouin village al-‘Araqib for the 112th time since 2010. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** violently disperses Palestinians gathering outside Qalandia r.c. in solidarity with the 1,500-plus Palestinian prisoners on **hunger strike** since 4/17 (the Dignity Strike); 4 Palestinians are injured. **IDF troops** shoot and critically injure a Palestinian outside Huwwara village nr. Nablus after he allegedly attempts to stab 1 of them. They also conduct raids in Rumana nr. Jenin and Nabi Salih nr. Ramallah, sparking minor clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians in each; there are no serious injuries. The **IDF** arrests 2 Palestinians during further raids nr. Nablus and Hebron, and patrols nr. Qalqilya and Hebron. **Israeli forces** demolish several structures in the Jenin-area village of ‘Araba and 6 food stands in Ni‘lin nr.

Ramallah. **Israeli settlers** set 100 Palestinian olive trees on fire outside Bayt Tamir nr. Bethlehem. Off **Gaza’s coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 4/25; PCHR 4/27)

**Israel’s Housing Ministry** has revived plans for the construction of **10,000 housing units** in a Jewish settlement in the West Bank nr. Qalandia, according to a report today in *Haaretz*. The Israeli press says that the construction was approved years ago, but later frozen because of pressure from **former U.S. pres. Barack Obama**. The plans are reportedly to be unveiled in 5/2017. (HA, TOI 4/25; WAFA 4/26)

#### 26 APRIL 2017

**IDF troops** shoot and critically injure a Palestinian youth at the Huwwara checkpoint nr. Nablus after he allegedly attempts to stab 1 of them. Meanwhile, a Palestinian vehicle is found burned and vandalized outside nearby Huwwara village. It was presumably the target of an overnight **price-tag attack**. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** set up mobile checkpoints and fire stun grenades in Kifl Haris village nr. Salfit to clear the way for Israeli settlers to visit a Jewish holy site in the area. They also arrest a Palestinian at a checkpoint in c. Hebron when she is allegedly found to be carrying a knife, arrest 11 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Nablus, Tubas, Hebron, Bethlehem, and Qalqilya; and patrol nr. Nablus and Hebron during the day. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** patrol in Shu‘fat r.c., sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; 3 Palestinians are injured. They also arrest 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid in Issawiyya. The **Israeli authorities** shut down an event entitled “Palestine under the Israeli

Culture of Incitement,” because to the planned participation of some low-level **PA** officials. Off **Gaza’s coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. Along **Gaza’s border, IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmers and shepherds working nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. In **Gaza, 2 PIJ fighters** are injured in an accident at a “resistance post,” according to the Gaza-based Health Ministry (1 critically). (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 4/26; MNA, PCHR 4/27; PCHR 5/4)

#### 27 APRIL 2017

**Israeli forces** shell a Hamas military post along **Gaza’s border** nr. Dayr al-Balah, causing no injuries, in response to shots fired at an IDF patrol in the area earlier in the day. In the **West Bank, hundreds of Israeli settlers** visit Joseph’s Tomb nr. Nablus overnight, sparking clashes between their IDF escort and Palestinian youths from nearby Balata r.c.; there are no serious injuries. Elsewhere, **Israeli settlers** assault and moderately injure a Palestinian nr. Jenin and damage his car. **Israeli forces** demolish water pipelines serving Bardala village in the n. Jordan Valley as well as 3 structures in illegal settlement outposts nr. Ramallah. **IDF troops** arrest 5 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Bethlehem and Jenin, and patrol nr. Hebron during the day. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 4/27; PCHR 5/4)

Public and private Palestinian institutions across the West Bank and Gaza observe a **general strike** in solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners who have been on **hunger strike** since 4/17. Approximately 500 mbrs. of PIJ declare a 1-day hunger strike in solidarity as well. Meanwhile, **Israeli settlers** open fire on Palestinian protesters marching through

al-Bireh in solidarity with the prisoners; there are no serious injuries. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** violently disperse Palestinians at a sit-in in Issawiyya and a solidarity march in Shu‘fat r.c.; there are no serious injuries. (JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 4/27; MNA 4/28)

The **PA** informs the Israeli govt. that it will no longer be paying for the **electricity** that Israel supplies to the **Gaza Strip**, marking a major change in the PA’s policy toward **Hamas’s** control over Gaza. The move comes amid an escalating electricity shortage in Gaza (see Update), and also follows reports that **PA pres. Abbas** has been planning to increase pressure on Hamas to give up control of the Gaza Strip. The PA generally pays Israel about NIS 40 m. (approx. \$11 m.) per mo. to provide Gaza with around 30% of the electricity it requires. Israel takes the electricity fees out of the taxes it collects on behalf of the PA. Meanwhile, **UN coordinator for humanitarian aid and development activities Robert Piper** approves the release of \$500,000 to buy emergency power for hospitals in the **Gaza Strip**. (BBC, HA, JP, MNA, TOI 4/27)

Five missiles strike ammunition depots nr. the **Damascus International Airport** overnight, causing damage but no reported injuries. Syria’s official news agency blames Israel for the strike. The IDF does not comment. Later in the day, **Israeli forces** shoot down an unmanned aircraft that flew into Israeli airspace from Syria. (HA, JP, NYT 4/27)

#### 28 APRIL 2017

Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists gather across the West Bank to mark a “**Day Of Rage**” in solidarity with the 1,500-plus Palestinian prisoners who have been on **hunger strike** since 4/16. **IDF troops** violently disperse protests outside Ofer Prison

nr. Nablus, at the Qalandia checkpoint, and in and around Hebron; tens of Palestinians are injured. **Unidentified assailants** throw stones at Israeli settlers' vehicles outside Sinjil village nr. Ramallah, causing minor damage. The IDF then detains a number of Palestinians and confiscates 12 vehicles in the village. IDF troops patrol nr. Qalqilya, sparking clashes with stone-throwing youths; 1 Palestinian is injured. They also arrest 3 Palestinians on late-night raids nr. Tulkarm, and patrol nr. Nablus and Hebron during the day. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 4/28; PCHR 5/4)

**Israel's Construction Minister Yoav Galant** says that plans to build 25,000 new homes in Jerusalem, including 15,000 outside the pre-1967 armistice lines, are back on the table. The plans were suspended while **Obama** was U.S. pres., and some Israeli officials say that a formal announcement may coincide with **U.S. pres. Trump's** proposed visit to Israel in late 5/2017. (JP, TOI 4/28)

The **U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency** announces that the State Dept. has approved a "possible foreign military sale" of 13 76mm naval guns and a variety of naval maintenance tools to **Israel** for an estimated price of \$440 m. "This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic regional partner that has been, and continues to be, an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East," the press release reads. (JP 4/29)

## 29 APRIL 2017

**Israeli settlers** throw stones at Palestinians and their homes on the outskirts of 'Urif village nr. Nablus, injuring 1 homeowner and sparking minor clashes; there are no serious

injuries. **IDF troops** patrol in Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron, sparking clashes with stone-throwing youths; there are no serious injuries. They also violently disperse Palestinians protesting the Israeli occupation in Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya (2 protesters are injured); arrest 13 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Tulkarm, Nablus, Hebron, and Bethlehem; and patrol nr. Qalqilya, Nablus, and Hebron during the day. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** arrest 15 Palestinians during late-night raids in Issawiyya. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Gaza City, causing no damage or injuries. (MNA, WAFA 4/29)

The **Israeli authorities** shut down border crossings to and from the West Bank and Gaza Strip this evening, with an exception for humanitarian cases. They plan to keep the crossings closed until 5/2, **Israel's Independence Day**. (MNA, TOI 4/29; HA, JP 4/30; PCHR 5/4)

Approximately 100 Palestinian prisoners join the **Dignity Strike** that 1,500 of their fellow hunger-striking prisoners declared on 4/17 (the IPS says that there are only around 1,200 participating). Meanwhile, Israeli forces forcibly disperse Palestinians holding a sit-in in c. Bethlehem in solidarity with the prisoners. The **Palestinian Journalists Syndicate** later says that 13 journalists were injured covering the sit-in. (MNA, 4/29; MNA 4/30)

## 30 APRIL 2017

In the **West Bank**, an **Israeli settler driver** allegedly rams a Palestinian youth in Hebron, causing moderate injuries. **Israeli settlers** block the main highway between Nablus and Ramallah, following the stone-throwing incident in the area on 4/28. **IDF troops**

conduct raids in Jenin r.c., sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents: 1 Palestinian is injured. The **IDF** arrests 2 Palestinians and confiscate 1 car during further raids nr. Ramallah and Hebron, and patrols nr. Nablus and Hebron. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Gaza City, causing no damage or injuries (2 fishermen are arrested). Along **Gaza's border, Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. Dayr al-Balah, and also open fire on agricultural land nr. Khan Yunis, causing no damage. (MNA, WAFA 4/30; HA 5/1; PCHR 5/4)

Employees of the Palestinian telecom companies Jawwal and Paltel organize a **sit-in** in Ramallah in solidarity with the 1,500-plus Palestinian prisoners who have been observing the Dignity Strike since 4/17. **IDF troops** fire tear gas canisters at a group of Palestinians holding a similar sit-in nr. Nablus, sparking minor clashes; there are no serious injuries. (MNA 4/30; MNA 5/1)

## 1 MAY 2017

**IDF troops** conduct raids in Dayr Nizam village nr. Ramallah, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; 1 Palestinian is injured. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, they arrest 2 Palestinians during raids nr. Hebron; and patrol nr. Hebron and Nablus. **Israeli settlers** hang dozens of Israeli flags on the walls of **al-Ibrahimi Mosque** in c. Hebron in commemoration of **Israel's Independence Day**, which starts in the evening. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinians during raids in al-Tur. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Dayr al-Balah and again nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. (MNA 5/1; MNA 5/2; PCHR 5/4)

**Israeli forces** disperse Palestinians gathering at Damascus Gate in Jerusalem for a protest in solidarity with the 1,500-plus hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners who have been observing the **Dignity Strike** since 4/17; 1 Palestinian is arrested. A number of Palestinian factions organize a solidarity sit-in in Ramallah as well. (MNA, TOI 5/1)

In Doha, **Hamas** unveils a new platform, titled "Document of General Principles and Policies," including provisions accepting the notion of a Palestinian state with borders based on the pre-1967 armistice lines and calling for resistance to Israel, rather than a war against Jews (see Update for details on this new " Hamas charter"). (HA, MEMO, MNA, NYT 5/1; EI, HA, WAFA 5/2)

## 2 MAY 2017

**Israeli police** shoot and kill an Israeli settler after he allegedly attempts to stab 1 of them on the East Jerusalem side of the Hizma checkpoint. They reportedly mistook the settler for a Palestinian. Israeli forces later find the settler's suicide note, showing that he intentionally attacked them with the goal of being killed. Elsewhere in **East Jerusalem**, approx. 90 right-wing Jewish activists tour **Haram al-Sharif** in the morning, marking **Israel's Independence Day**. Israeli forces arrest 13 Palestinians during late-night raids in Sur al-Bahir, Silwan, and al-Tur. In the **West Bank, Israeli settlers** destroy a Palestinian well in al-Khadir nr. Bethlehem. Israeli forces level Palestinian land nr. Salfit to clear the area for settlers from nearby Ariel. **IDF troops** establish a checkpoint nr. Nablus, sparking minor clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; there are no serious injuries. They also arrest 3 Palestinians during a raid nr. Bethlehem and patrol nr. Qalqilya. Off **Gaza's coast**,

**Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya on 2 separate occasions, causing no damage or injuries. Along **Gaza's border**, Israeli forces open fire on Palestinian farmers and shepherds working nr. al-Bureij r.c., causing no injuries; and conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. Khan Yunis late at night. In Israel, thousands of Palestinians participate in the "**March of Return**" at the site of the depopulated al-Kabri village in the Galilee to highlight the rights of Palestinian refugees and commemorate the **Nakba**. (HA, WAFA 5/2; MNA 5/3; PCHR 5/4)

A **former Palestinian prisoner** dies of kidney failure at a hospital nr. Ramallah. He developed kidney issues as a result of medical negligence while he was in Israeli prison, according to the head of the PA's prisoners' affairs comm., Issa Qaraqa. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 5/2)

### 3 MAY 2017

**Israeli forces** arrest a Palestinian at a checkpoint in Shu'fat r.c. after he allegedly attempts to stab 1 of them, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, 3 Israeli settlers go missing in the Hebron region. The IDF then shuts down checkpoints and conducts raids across the region, including in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, where they spark minor clashes; 2 Palestinians are injured. Meanwhile, further IDF raids nr. Qalqilya spark clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; there are no serious injuries. The IDF arrests 8 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Tulkarm, Ramallah, Hebron, Nablus, and Bethlehem; and patrols nr. Nablus and Hebron throughout the day. An **Israeli settler driver** rams a Palestinian child in Yatta village nr. Hebron, moderately injuring him. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Gaza City,

causing no injuries or damage. In **Gaza**, **Hamas forces** arrest several **local Fatah leaders** across the region and issue arrest summons to a number of others. The arrests come hours ahead of a Fatah-planned march in solidarity with the 1,500-some Palestinians on hunger strike (see Update). (MNA, TOI, WAFA 5/3; PCHR 5/4; PCHR 5/11)

**PA pres. Abbas** meets with **U.S. pres. Trump** at the White House in Washington. They commit to a new Israeli-Palestinian peace effort, and Abbas reaffirms the Palestinian preference for a 2-state solution based on the pre-1967 armistice lines (see Update). Trump says he is ready to do "whatever is necessary" to achieve peace, but that the U.S. can only serve as "mediator, arbitrator, and facilitator" because any agreement would have to be directly negotiated between the 2 parties. (HA, JP, NYT, POL, TOI, WAFA, WHPO, WP 5/3; HA, WAFA 5/4)

Following a petition to the **High Court of Justice** from the Israeli NGO Adalah, the **IPS** announces that it will allow the 1,500-plus hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners observing the **Dignity Strike** since 4/17 to meet with their lawyers. The announcement comes absent a High Court ruling, but after a hearing at the court, in which the justices appeared to support Adalah's position. Previously, lawyers were only given access to prisoners at Ofer and Ashqelon Prisons. (HA, JP, WAFA 5/3; MNA 5/5)

The **Israeli authorities** announce the temporary expansion of the **fishing zone** off Gaza's s. coast, from 6 to 9 naut. mi. They do not offer an end date (see Update and *JPS* 47 [1] for more). (MNA, TOI 5/3)

### 4 MAY 2017

**IDF troops** shoot and injure a Palestinian at a checkpoint in c. Hebron after he

allegedly attempts to stab 1 of them.

Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** fire tear gas and stun grenades inside the grounds of a hospital complex in Ramallah, sparking minor clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; there are no serious injuries. The IDF says that the troops entered the hospital's grounds to break up a crowd forming there. IDF troops also violently suppress Palestinian journalists protesting in solidarity with the 1,500-plus hunger striking Palestinian prisoners observing the Dignity Strike in Bethlehem and outside Ofer Prison nr. Ramallah; 5 journalists are injured. Israeli forces arrest 5 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Bethlehem, Nablus, and Qalqilya; and patrol nr. Jenin, Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Hebron during the day. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish 3 homes in al-Walaja village and 1 each in al-Tur, Sur al-Bahir, and Issawiyya. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya r.c., causing no damage or injuries. In **s. Israel**, Israeli forces demolish a home in Tel al-Sabi village. The owner has rebuilt his home 10 times in the past 2 years. (HA, JP, MNA, WAFA 5/4; MNA 5/5; PCHR 5/11)

A **PIJ fighter** succumbs to injuries he sustained in an accident at a "resistance post" in Gaza on 4/26. (MNA 5/4)

The White House officially confirms that **Pres. Trump** plans to visit Israel and the oPt on 5/22–23 in the context of his efforts to restart Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations. The Saudi newspaper *al-Hayat* will report on 5/5 that the **White House** refused an Israeli request to delay the visit until 6/2017, which would coincide with the 50th anniversary of the 1967 war. Other sources say that Trump feared the proposed timing would cast him as a biased mediator. (HA 5/4; AH, HA 5/6)

## 5 MAY 2017

Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists hold protests across the West Bank in solidarity with the 1,500-plus Palestinian prisoners who have been on hunger strike since 4/17. IDF troops violently disperse them in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih), Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, 2 villages nr. Nablus (Beita and 'Azmout), and Bayt Umar nr. Hebron; at least 9 Palestinians are injured and 1 is arrested. The IDF also patrols in al-Mughayyir nr. Ramallah, sparking minor clashes (there are no serious injuries); arrests 2 Palestinians during raids nr. Ramallah and in Nablus; and patrols nr. Hebron and Salfit. Meanwhile, **dozens of Israeli settlers** gather in Tuqu' nr. Bethlehem, blocking the village's main road, to protest recent alleged incidents of Palestinians throwing stones at their property. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya r.c., causing no damage or injuries. (MNA 5/5; PCHR 5/11)

## 6 MAY 2017

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** seals all the entrances to Beita nr. Nablus, sparking clashes in the village for a 2d day in a row; 1 Palestinian is injured. Residents of Beita later gather for more demonstrations in solidarity with the 1,500-plus prisoners on hunger strike since 4/17. The IDF violently disperses them again, as well as breaking up a similar protest in c. Bethlehem; there are no serious injuries. **IDF troops** confiscate a bulldozer nr. Jericho; arrest 3 Palestinians and issue 2 arrest summons during late-night raids nr. Bethlehem and Hebron; and patrol nr. Hebron, Qalqilya, and Ramallah. The IDF violently disperses Palestinian protesters demonstrating against the

occupation and in solidarity with the prisoners on hunger strike in Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya and s. of Bethlehem (1 Palestinian is injured and 2 are arrested). In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** arrest 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid nr. the Old City. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya refugee camp and Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. (MNA 5/6; PCHR 5/11)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the first of 3 planned days (see Update). (MNA 5/6)

**Hamas** elects **senior official Ismail Haniyeh** to replace **Khalid Mishal** as the head of its political bureau. "We are all certain that the new leadership will lead the organization wisely for the benefit of the Palestinian people," Mishal says. Haniyeh was widely seen as the frontrunner to replace Mishal after it became clear earlier this year that Mishal intended to step down (see Update and *JPS* 46 [3]). (HA, MNA, NYT, TOI 5/6)

## 7 MAY 2017

**Israeli forces** shoot and kill a Palestinian youth in the **Old City of Jerusalem** after she allegedly attempts to stab an Israeli police officer at Damascus Gate, causing no injuries. Palestinian witnesses say that she did not pose a threat to the police, and that she was "executed in cold blood." Elsewhere in **East Jerusalem**, the **Israeli police** open a new station in Shu'fat r.c. It's the first of 5 new stations planned across East Jerusalem as part of the NIS 1 b. plan to increase security announced in 8/2016 (see *JPS* 46 [1]). Meanwhile, **Israeli forces** arrest 6 Palestinians during late-night raids in Silwan and the Old City. Along **Gaza's border, Israeli forces** conduct limited incursions to level land nr.

Dayr al-Balah and Khan Yunis. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval** forces open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank, Israeli settlers** assault Palestinian farmers protesting the expansion of a settler bypass road nr. Ramallah; there are no serious injuries. **IDF troops** confiscate surveillance tapes, arrest 8 Palestinians, and issue 2 arrest summons during late-night raids in and around Bethlehem, Qalqilya, and Hebron; and patrol nr. Nablus and Hebron during the day. (HA, MNA 5/7; MNA 5/8; PCHR 5/11)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the 2d of 3 planned days (see Update). They also announce that the crossing will be open an additional day on 5/9. (WAFA 5/7)

**The IPS** releases footage, taken on 4/27 and 5/5, purportedly showing **Marwan Barghouti** eating cookies and candy in his prison cell. Barghouti, the **Fatah** leader who organized the Dignity Strike (see Update), is currently being held at Kishon Prison. Some IPS sources say that they provided him with the food to see if they could get him to break his strike. Barghouti's lawyer and various Palestinian leaders dismiss the videos as forgeries. (JP, NYT, TOI 5/7; HA 5/8)

**Israel's Ministerial Comm. for Legislation** approves a new version of the so-called **nation-state bill**, which would cancel Arabic's status as an "official language" of Israel and codify Israel's status as the "national home of the Jewish people" (see Update). Disagreements over previous drafts of this bill led to the dissolution of the Knesset and national elections in 3/2015 (see *JPS* 44 [3, 4]). Unlike earlier drafts, the version approved today does not subordinate Israel's democracy to its Jewish character. (HA, JP, TOI 5/7)

**8 MAY 2017**

Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, injuring 1 fisherman. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 14 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during late-night raids in and around Tulkarm, Nablus, Bethlehem, Hebron, and Qalqilya; and patrol nr. Hebron. **Palestinian youths** throw stones at an IDF post nr. Ramallah, sparking minor clashes; 1 Palestinian is injured. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 4 Palestinians during late-night raids in Shaykh Sa'ad. (MNA 5/8; PCHR 5/11)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the 3d day in a row (see Update). (Wafa 5/7)

**9 MAY 2017**

Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya on 2 separate occasions and later nr. Jabaliya r. c., causing no injuries. Along **Gaza's border**, **Israeli forces** spray Palestinian farmlands nr. Rafah with herbicides overnight and conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. Khan Yunis late at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli settlers** spray price-tag graffiti and slash the tires of at least 17 Palestinian vehicles overnight in Shu'fat. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** demolish 4 Palestinian structures in Jiftlik nr. Jericho. **IDF troops** arrest 3 Birzeit University students during late-night raids nr. Ramallah. The arrests come hours before student elections are set to take place on 5/10. They also arrest 2 Palestinians during further raids nr. Ramallah; and patrol in Qalqilya, and nr. Salfit and Hebron. (HA, MNA, Wafa 5/9; MNA 5/10; PCHR 5/11)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the 4th and final day in a row (see Update). (MNA 5/9)

**10 MAY 2017**

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli settlers** set fire to Palestinian olive groves nr. Nablus, causing some damage before Palestinian residents of the area contain the blaze. **IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian allegedly carrying pipe bombs at a checkpoint nr. Ramallah, and 9 more Palestinians during raids in and around Bethlehem and Tulkarm. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid in Qalandia r.c. In **s. Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish 5 structures in the Bedouin village Sa'wa. (JP, Wafa 5/10; PCHR 5/18)

**Israel's Knesset** passes a preliminary reading of the so-called **nation-state bill**, which the Ministerial Comm. for Legislation approved on 5/7 (see above and Update for details). The Constitution, Law, and Justice Comm. will now prepare it for a first reading in the full plenum. (HA, KNE 5/10)

**11 MAY 2017**

**IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians demonstrating in solidarity with the 1,500-plus hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners observing the Dignity Strike, in c. Ramallah, outside an IDF post nr. Beit El, and at Huwwara nr. Nablus; at least 4 Palestinians are injured. Meanwhile, the IDF arrests 2 Palestinians and issues 1 arrest summons during raids nr. Bethlehem, Tulkarm, Hebron, and Ramallah; and patrols nr. Hebron. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya r.c., causing no damage or injuries. (Wafa 5/11; PCHR 5/18)

**12 MAY 2017**

**IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's occupation,

separation wall, and settlements, and in solidarity with the 1,500-plus hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners observing the Dignity Strike, in 5 areas nr. Ramallah (Nabi Salih, Bil'in, Ni'lin, Silwad, and al-Bireh), Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, Bayt Umar nr. Hebron, and Nablus; 1 Palestinian is killed and at least 66 are injured. Meanwhile, the IDF arrests 1 Palestinian during a raid nr. Hebron, and patrols nr. the city throughout the day. **Israeli settlers** throw stones at a vehicle belonging to the chief of the Palestinian police in Ramallah, causing minor damage. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 5/12; MNA 5/13; PCHR 5/18)

### 13 MAY 2017

**Israeli forces** shoot and kill a Jordanian citizen outside the Old City of Jerusalem after he allegedly stabs and injures an Israeli police officer. A Jordanian govt. spokesperson later demands that Israel provide all details surrounding the incident, calling the killing a "heinous crime." In the **West Bank, IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian in c. Hebron when she is found to be carrying a knife. The IDF conducts a late-night raid in Jenin r.c., arresting 2 Palestinians and sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents; 1 Palestinian is injured. They arrest 4 Palestinians on further raids in and around Qalqilya, Bethlehem, and Ramallah. (JT, MNA, WAFA 5/13; HA, MNA 5/14; PCHR 5/18)

Palestinians across the West Bank head to the polls to elect new local representatives (see Update). Independent candidates win 65% of the contested seats, **Fatah**-affiliated lists win 27.6%, and **DFLP** lists win 2.77%. **Hamas**, the **PIJ**, and the **PFLP** all boycott the elections. Voter turnout is recorded at 53.4%, roughly matching the 2012 municipal elections,

according to the CEC. (AJ, MNA 5/13; MNA 5/14; WAFA 5/15)

### 14 MAY 2017

In the **West Bank, IDF troops** arrest 5 Palestinians and confiscate 1 car during late-night raids nr. Qalqilya, Hebron, and Bethlehem; and patrol nr. Hebron and Nablus during the day. Meanwhile, **Palestinian activists** block several roads leading into Ramallah with piles of stones in solidarity with the prisoners who have been on hunger strike since 4/17. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** deliver demolition orders to 4 Palestinian homes in al-Matar, sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents; there are no serious injuries. They also arrest 2 Palestinians during a raid in Ras al-Amud. Along **Gaza's border, Israeli forces** conduct limited incursions to level land nr. Dayr al-Balah and again nr. Khan Yunis. (MNA, WAFA 5/14; PCHR 5/18)

### 15 MAY 2017

Thousands of Palestinians gather at rallies across the West Bank to commemorate the 69th anniversary of the **Nakba**. **IDF troops** violently disperse demonstrators in Bethlehem and 2 areas nr. Ramallah (the Beit El checkpoint and Nabi Salih); at least 15 Palestinians are injured. The IDF also shuts down the Beit El checkpoint later in the day. For a 2d day in a row, **Palestinian activists** block several roads nr. Ramallah in solidarity with the more than 1,500 Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike. Meanwhile, **Israeli forces** begin leveling land nr. Hebron in preparation for the construction of a new IDF watchtower. IDF troops conduct raids in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem late at night, arresting 3 Palestinians

and sparking clashes; 2 Palestinians are injured. They also arrest 16 Palestinians and issue 2 arrest summons during further raids nr. Jericho, Hebron, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Qalqilya, and Nablus; and patrol nr. Hebron and Qalqilya during the day. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** assault and arrest a Palestinian nr. Hizma and arrest 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid in Silwan. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya r.c. on 2 separate occasions, seriously injuring 1 fisherman (he succumbs to his injuries later in the day). They confiscate 2 boats and arrest 6 fishermen. (JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 5/15; PCHR 5/18)

#### CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse)	CNN	(Cable News Network)
AH	(Al-Hayat)	EI	(Electronic Intifada)
AJ	(Al Jazeera)	HA	(Haaretz)
ALM	(Al-Monitor)	HRW	(Human Rights Watch)
AP	(Associated Press)	IMEMC	(International Middle East Media Center)
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service)	JP	(Jerusalem Post)
		JT	(Jordan Times)
		KNE	(Israeli Knesset)
		MEMO	(Middle East Monitor)
		MNA	(Ma'an News Agency)
		NYT	(New York Times)
		PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights)
		PCN	(Peace Now)
		PLONAD	(PLO Negotiation Affairs Dept.)
		POL	(Politico)
		REU	(Reuters)
		SA	(Asharq al-Awsat)
		TOI	(Times of Israel)
		USSD	(U.S. State Department)
		WAFA	(Palestine News Agency)
		WHPO	(White House Press Office)
		WP	(Washington Post)
		YA	(Yedioth Ahronoth)