



# CHRONOLOGY

16 AUGUST–15 NOVEMBER 2013

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This is part 119 of a chronology begun in *Journal of Palestine Studies (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 peace process, see the Quarterly Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in *JPS* 169.

## 16 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night, patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). There are no serious injuries. (PCHR 8/22)

More than 170 people die in violent confrontations across **Egypt** between **Muslim Brotherhood** supporters, security forces, and supporters of the military coup. According to Interior Ministry figures, some 1,000 people are arrested. (AP, REU 8/17)

## 17 AUGUST 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** arrest 3 Palestinians swimming off the coast of Bayt Lahiya. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts

house searches and arrest raids in Bethlehem and 2 nearby villages, and 2 villages nr. Jenin at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in Nablus and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (PCHR 8/22)

The **IDF** fires a surface-to-surface missile at a **Syrian army post** after 3 shells land inside the **Israeli-occupied Golan Heights**, causing no damage or injuries. The Israeli army retaliation destroys the Syrian military position but causes no casualties. (AFP, JP 8/17)

**Egypt's PM Hazem el-Bablawi** proposes disbanding the **Muslim Brotherhood**. Meanwhile, clashes continue in **Cairo** between supporters of ousted Pres. Mohamed Morsi and security forces. On the border with the **Gaza Strip**, **Egyptian authorities** briefly open the Rafah crossing for "humanitarian cases" and stranded "international travellers." (AFP, REU 8/17)

**EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton** telephones new **Iranian FM Mohammad Javad Zarif** to congratulate him on his appointment, telling him that the **P5+1 group**—the 5 permanent mbrs. of the UNSC plus Germany—is ready to "work with the new Iranian

negotiating team” as soon as they are appointed. (AFP 8/17, JP 8/18)

### 18 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Qalqilya, and in 3 villages, as well as al-‘Arub refugee camp (r.c.) nr. Hebron, 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Jenin, and Qalqilya at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Nablus and 1 village nr. Jenin at night. **Jewish settlers** from Migron outpost attack a **Palestinian shepherd** on his village land, severely wounding him and killing 2 sheep. (PCHR 8/22; YA 8/18)

The **PLO Executive Cmte.** meets in Ramallah, speaking out against recent Israeli settlement construction announcements and threatening to go to international bodies in search of redress. The cmte. also says it holds the **U.S. administration** responsible for failing to stop Israel’s settlement activity during the renewed peace talks. Meanwhile, **Palestinian Authority (PA) PM Rami Hamdallah** signs an agreement with **U.S. Consul General in Jerusalem Michael Ratney** in which the U.S. will pay \$148 million to support the PA’s budget. (JP, MNA, WAFA 8/18)

A meeting takes place in the **Gaza Strip** between **Hamas** and **Fatah leaders** to discuss the possibility of holding presidential and legislative elections. However, on the same day, Fatah accuses Hamas authorities in Gaza of targeting its mbrs. for detention and harassment. Meanwhile, PA forces arrest 6 Hamas mbrs. in the West Bank. (MNA 8/18)

The **U.S. State Dept.** puts financing for economic programs directly involving the **Egyptian govt. on hold**, in the 1st real indication that the Obama administration will cut or curtail aid to the country in response to the military coup. Meanwhile, clashes continue in **Egypt**, with security forces killing at least

36 prisoners through suffocation after firing tear gas into a prison truck. The estimated death toll for 4 days of unrest in the country stands at around 900, with an estimated 70 police officers also killed. (AP, NYT 8/18)

A **UN team** tasked with investigating alleged use of chemical weapons arrives in **Damascus** and visits 3 specific sites. (AP, NYT 8/18)

### 19 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and injure a **Palestinian** with live ammunition during clashes prompted by soldiers raiding the village of Jaba’ nr. Jenin. There are also clashes but no injuries during an IDF raid of Jenin r.c. The **IDF** conducts additional house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 1 nearby village, Qalqilya and Jenin in the afternoon, and in Nablus at night, patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Qalqilya and Tulkarm at night. The **IDF** also demolishes 11 residential tents home to more than 50 Bedouin Palestinians in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of **Bayt Hanina**. (MNA, WAFA 8/19; PCHR 8/22)

**Pres. Mahmud Abbas** meets with **U.S. peace process envoy Martin Indyk** in Ramallah to discuss the latest developments. (WAFA 8/19)

An **Egyptian court** orders the release of former pres. **Husni Mubarak** after he was cleared by a prosecutor in a corruption case. However, there is an outstanding retrial on charges of complicity in the murder of protesters during the 2011 revolution that deposed him. Meanwhile, **Egyptian security forces** arrest **Muslim Brotherhood head Mohamed Badie**, who was charged in 7/2013 with inciting the murder of protesters. **UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon** calls for the release of **Pres. Morsi** and says that “the political space for the Muslim Brotherhood should be expanded.” (NYT, REU 8/19)

Unnamed diplomats accredited to the UN's **International Atomic Energy Agency** (IAEA) say that **Iran** seems to be continuing to convert quantities of uranium gas into reactor fuel, thus holding back growth of the stockpile deemed most sensitive by the international community. (REU 9/18)

## 20 AUGUST 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian children** close to the border fence nr. Jabaliya r.c., wounding 2. The **IDF** also opens fire on **Palestinian fishermen** working nr. Gaza City, injuring none but causing damage to their boats. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shoots and kills 1 Palestinian and wounds 2 others in Jenin r.c. after opening fire in clashes sparked by an arrest raid. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin, 1 village nr. Nablus, and in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem. During clashes in Dahaysha, the **IDF** wounds 1 Palestinian with a rubber-coated metal bullet. **IDF troops** also demolish 15 structures of **Bedouin** residents in the n. **Jordan Valley**, including residential sheds and animal barns. (MNA, REU, WAFA 8/20; PCHR 8/22)

**Israeli and Palestinian negotiating teams** meet in **Jerusalem** to continue discussions taking place following the resumption of official peace talks. **U.S. envoy to the peace process Martin Indyk** joins the teams, following the previous session that lacked a U.S. presence. The Israeli delegation is headed by **Tzipi Livni** and **Yitzhak Molcho**, while the Palestinian side is led by **Saeb Erakat** and **Mohammed Shtayyeh**. **Livni** tells Israeli media that both sides have agreed on not sharing details of their discussions to build trust. (AFP, AP, HA 8/20)

**Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Abbas Araqchi** hints that Tehran's FM

**Mohammad Javad Zarif** is poised to take over as negotiator in talks over the country's nuclear program. Previous negotiator Saeed Jalili was one of the more conservative candidates defeated in the June 14 presidential election. (AP, NYT 8/20)

**Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan** accuses Israel of being involved in the military coup that removed **Pres. Morsi** in Egypt, though offers only a reference to a meeting between French intellectual Bernard-Henri Levy and Tzipi Livni as evidence of his claim. The Egyptian cabinet rejects the comments as baseless, and Erdogan's remarks are also condemned by White House spokesperson Josh Earnest as "offensive." (AP, REU 8/20)

## 21 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF forces** shoot and injure 1 **Palestinian** in clashes provoked by an IDF arrest raid in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nur Shams r.c. nr. Tulkarm at night; patrols in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, Jenin, and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. Inside Israel, suspected Jewish extremists vandalize a monastery nr. Beit Shemesh and leave "price-tag" graffiti. (WAFA 8/21; PCHR 8/22)

**Senior PLO official Hanan Ashrawi** says that the **Palestinians** may turn to **UN bodies** in response to Israeli settlement construction even before the current peace negotiations have come to a conclusion. In remarks made during a tour of East Jerusalem settlements, Ashrawi tells journalists "if Israel does not stop, then we have to move." Meanwhile, **Israel's High Court of Justice** rules that 30 structures in the **Amana** outpost in the West Bank should be demolished, but gives no evacuation date and leaves room for an appeal. (AP, JP 8/21)

A suspected chemical weapons attack takes place in Ghouta, a rebel-held suburb of

**Damascus**, with wildly differing claims of fatalities (from a few hundred to over 1,000). Opposition forces blame the Bashar al-Asad regime, a claim denied by the govt. The **UNSC** holds an emergency meeting in response and calls for clarity, welcoming **Ban Ki-moon's** call for a prompt investigation by UN inspectors. The U.S.-France-UK-drafted res. was changed to accommodate objections from Russia and China. (AFP, REU 8/21)

**EU FMs** meet for an emergency session in response to events in **Egypt** and agree to suspend the sale of security equipment and arms. EU foreign policy chief **Catherine Ashton** says that "recent actions of the military have been disproportionate." (NYT 8/19; AFP 8/21)

## 22 AUGUST 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries or damage to vessels. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shoots and injures a Palestinian in Dahaysha r.c. in Bethlehem after troops entered the camp, provoking clashes. **IDF** troops also clash with residents in Jaba' village nr. Jenin during a patrol, with Palestinian youth throwing stones and soldiers responding with rubber-coated metal bullets. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night, patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah in the morning, 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Jenin at night. (PCHR 8/29; Wafa 8/22)

**Palestinian officials** say that **U.S. envoy Martin Indyk** and his team have not attended any of the negotiating sessions thus far at the request of the **Israelis**. Both **Yasir 'Abid Rabbuh** and **Hanan Ashrawi** claim that **Israel** intends for the lack of U.S. participation in the

3 meetings, since the resumption of talks to strengthen Israel's power over the Palestinians. Meanwhile, **Pres. Mahmud Abbas** meets with a delegation from the Israeli party **Meretz** in Ramallah, telling them that signing a peace agreement will mean the "end of the conflict" and that a future Palestinian state would agree to be demilitarized. Abbas also tells the Israeli politicians that the Palestinian leadership is unhappy with the slow pace of negotiations. (HA, JP, ToI 8/22)

Suspected mbrs. of the al-Qa'ida-linked **Brigades of Abdullah Azzam** fire 4 rockets from s. **Lebanon** into n. **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries (and with 1 intercepted by Iron Dome missile defense batteries). The **IDF** says it views the attack as an isolated incident, and attributes it to "global jihad" elements. On 8/27, the brigades appear to directly claim responsibility for the attack via a statement published on the Twitter account of a Salafist cleric known to be affiliated with the group. Meanwhile, gunmen in **Tripoli** open fire and kill 3 outside the home of Hizballah supporter. (AP, HA, REU 8/22; YA 8/27)

**Israel's Strategic Affairs Minister Yuval Steinitz** says that the govt. believes that **Syrian forces** are responsible for a chemical weapons attack that reportedly killed hundreds of people in Ghouta, a rebel-controlled suburb of Damascus. Meanwhile, **Syria's dep. PM** says that foreign fighters and their international supporters are to blame for the attack. **Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Alexander Lukashevich** says that his govt. urges the Syrian authorities and the UN to agree on chemical weapons experts visiting the site of the alleged attack. (AP, AFP, REU 8/22)

**Former Egyptian pres. Husni Mubarak** is released from a prison cell and moved to house arrest at a military hospital. (NYT 8/22)

### 23 AUGUST 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts night patrols in 1 village each nr. Qalqilya and Tulkarm. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni'in), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). There are no serious injuries, except in Bil'in (3 wounded by live ammunition) and Kafr Qaddum (2 struck by tear gas canisters). (PCHR 8/29)

In the **Gaza Strip**, hundreds of Palestinians march in protest of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks; the demonstration was organized by **Hamas** and **Islamic Jihad**. (AFP 8/23)

The **IDF** conducts an **air strike** against a base of the **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC)** s. of **Beirut**, in response to the rocket launch the previous day—despite that attack being claimed by and attributed to another group entirely. A Lebanese security source claims that the site is also used by Islamist militants. The air raid causes no casualties or serious damage. **Lebanese pres. Michel Suleiman** condemns the Israeli strike and orders his diplomats to file a complaint about the attack with the UNSC. **Israeli DM Moshe Ya'alon** says that the Israeli govt. holds their Lebanese counterparts responsible for the rocket fire emanating from its territory. Outside of 2 Sunni mosques, twin bombs kill at least 42 people in **Tripoli**; no one claims responsibility for the attack. (AFP, AP, DS, HA, JP, REU, WP 8/23)

**UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon** repeats his desire for both **Syrian govt. and rebel forces**

to permit an inspectors team to investigate the site of an alleged chemical weapons attack. Meanwhile, the **British govt.** adds its voice to those ascribing responsibility for the attack to govt. forces. **Moscow** publishes a statement calling for an independent investigation and saying that **FM Sergey Lavrov** and **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** had spoken about the situation and that both parties had a “mutual interest” in calling for a UN investigation. In an interview on CNN, **U.S. pres. Barack Obama** plays down the possibility of a rapid military intervention by the U.S. in Syria, saying how important a legal mandate from the UN and international coalition of support would be. (Guardian, REU 22/8)

Protests take place across **Egypt** by **Muslim Brotherhood** supporters and other opponents of the coup, though rallies were small and scattered. One person is killed by security forces in the Nile Delta town of Tanta, with official Health Ministry reports saying 54 people are wounded in Cairo and 2 Delta provinces. Meanwhile, speaking on CNN, **U.S. pres. Barack Obama** says that cutting off aid to Egypt “may not reverse what the interim govt. does.” (AP, REU 8/23)

### 24 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jericho at night. (PCHR 8/29)

**Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** says that there is “nothing” stopping him from meeting personally with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu “at the right time,” remarks he makes in a press conference in Ramallah with visiting **French FM Laurent Fabius**. (HA, JP 8/24)

**Egyptian authorities** open the border crossing with the **Gaza Strip** at **Rafah** for 4 hours, with 650 entering the Palestinian enclave, and some 300 exiting to Egypt. (MNA, REU 8/24)

**U.S. Defense Secy. Chuck Hagel** tells reporters at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur that the Pentagon is ready to carry out a military attack on **Syria** should the pres. order it. In Damascus, 3 hospitals report 355 deaths after an alleged chemical weapons attack last Wednesday (8/21), according to Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF). (REU 8/24)

### 25 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon and in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Salfit at night, patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village each nr. Jericho, Ramallah and Tulkarm in the morning, in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Salfit at night. **Israeli bulldozers** level privately-owned Palestinian land nr. **Nablus** to enlarge an illegal settlement outpost. In Jerusalem, dozens of **right-wing Jewish activists** enter the **al-Aqsa** compound and held discussions on the possibility of building a Jewish temple there. (MNA 8/25, PCHR 8/29)

The **Jerusalem Municipality** approves a budget for a NIS 62.4 million extension of the Ramat Shlomo settlement, adding some 1,600 housing units. Other projects approved include a NIS 20 million budget for developing a national park at the settler-owned "City of David" project in the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan. Half of that latter budget will come from the prime minister's office. Meanwhile, **Israel's Housing and Construction Minister Uri Ariel** dedicates 2 new neighborhoods of

160 homes in the West Bank settlement Keddumim and says that a two-state solution will never happen. (AP, HA, JP 8/25)

**Israel's cabinet** unanimously approves the appointment of **Yossi Cohen** as the new head of the **National Security Council** (NSC). Cohen, who spent 3 decades working for Mossad, replaces Yaakov Amidror. (YA 8/25)

**Syria** agrees to allow **UN inspectors** to visit the site of a suspected chemical weapons attack in Ghouta, a Damascus suburb. The **U.S. State Dept.** says that **Secy. of State John Kerry** told his counterparts in Britain, France, Russia, and Canada in a round of phone calls that there is "very little doubt" the Syrian govt. is responsible for gassing its own citizens. An unnamed administration official tells the media that despite this near certainty in Washington, the pres. still hasn't decided how to respond. **Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Alexander Lukashevich** says that the U.S. and its allies should await the findings of the UN inspection team and avoid military action. (AP, REU, 8/25)

Three leaders of the **Muslim Brotherhood** in **Egypt**, including the organization's **Supreme Guide Mohamed Badie** did not appear in court on the 1st day of their separate trials, apparently due to security reasons. The judge adjourns proceedings until 10/29. The charges are of inciting lethal violence during the events leading up to the military coup. (REU 8/25)

### 26 AUGUST 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, and level land before withdrawing. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and kill 3 Palestinian civilians and wound 18 others including 5 children during an arrest raid in **Qalandia r.c.** nr. Jerusalem. One of those killed

was an **UNRWA** employee, the agency reveals. The IDF claims that its forces were met by a rioting crowd of some 1,500 camp residents throwing stones and petrol bombs. In Aida r.c. nr. Bethlehem, IDF troops shoot and wound 2 Palestinians with rubber-coated metal bullets during protests against the deaths in Qalandia. Meanwhile, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night, patrols in Tulkarm in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Jericho in the afternoon, and in Jenin at night. In a raid on Sanur village nr. Jenin, **IDF** troops clash with residents, shooting and wounding 2 Palestinians with rubber-coated metal bullets. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli forces demolish 2 homes in al-Tur. (AFP, HA, MNA, REU 8/26; PCHR 8/29)

In response to the killings in Qalandia, an **unnamed Palestinian official** tells news agencies that talks scheduled for today are canceled. However, **U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Marie Harf** categorically denies that any meeting was canceled. Israeli television subsequently reports that Israeli and Palestinian officials had met in the morning before the news broke of the Qalandia raid. An unnamed Palestinian official also subsequently confirms to Xinhua News Agency that the 2 teams met in Saeb Erakat's house in Jericho. Meanwhile, **Egyptian FM Nabil Fahmi** holds talks with **Pres. Abbas** in **Ramallah**, and relays a message from **interim Egyptian pres. Adly Mansour**, thanking Abbas for supporting the military coup that ousted Morsi. (HA, JP, REU 8/26; MNA 8/28)

An **Israeli delegation** headed by **outgoing National Security Adviser Yaakov Amidror** arrives in **Washington** for high-level talks with **U.S. officials**. Discussions are expected to focus on Syria, the Iranian nuclear program and

future talks with Tehran, and the role of Hezbollah in the Syrian civil war. **U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice** is coordinating talks on the U.S. side. (HA 8/26)

**UN chemical weapons inspectors** visit 1 of the sites in **Syria** allegedly targeted last week by chemical weapons. The convoy came under sniper fire on the initial attempt, but the team successfully visited the Damascus suburb Ghouta. The UN team's work includes collecting samples of munitions fragments and debris and taking testimonies. Meanwhile, **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** says that **Pres. Obama** believes there must be "accountability" for those using "the world's most heinous weapons," and that the pres. is consulting with allies about how best to act. (AP, REU, WP 8/26)

## 27 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** conducted a number of incursions in Hebron and villages in the surrounding area, provoking clashes in a number of locations. The **IDF** fires rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters at stone-throwing **Palestinians** in al-Fawar r.c., the center of Hebron, al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, an area e. of al-'Arub r.c., and the Hawara area. In the Hawara area nr. Hebron, live ammunition is used, and **IDF troops** shoot and wound a Palestinian youth. Separately, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night and patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **Jewish extremists** vandalize 10 cars in Bayt Safafa, also leaving "price-tag" graffiti on walls nearby. (HA 8/27; PCHR 8/29)

A **Palestinian** is killed in disputed circumstances in 'Askar r.c. nr. Nablus, as **Palestinian security forces** conduct a raid to apprehend a different, wanted man. Local residents insist that Amjad Odeh was shot in the head by a gunshot from a Preventive Security

Force mbr., but **Nablus governor Jibrin al-Bakri** suggests that the victim may have been shot by the wanted gunmen in an example of accidental crossfire. Following Odeh's death, many Palestinians attack security forces, and residents of al-Fara'a r.c. shut the main Nablus-Tubas road with burning tires. In Nablus itself, youth target PA vehicles and property. (MNA 8/2)

The **U.S.** and **French governments** say they are in a position for a strike on **Syria**, while the **Arab League** adds its support for punitive action and blames the Asad regime for the recent chemical weapons attack. However, the Arab League does not back a retaliatory military strike. With a divided **UNSC**, the U.S. and its allies face the prospect of going it alone with regard to military action. (AP, NYT 27/8)

Clashes in the s. **Egyptian** city of Beni Suef between supporters of ousted pres. Morsi, supporters of the military, and security forces result in the death of 2 Muslim Brotherhood mbrs. by live ammunition. (REU 8/27)

## 28 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and wound a **Palestinian** nr. Hebron as he was trying to cross the separation wall to reach work inside the Green Line. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Bethlehem and 1 nearby village at night, and patrols in 2 villages and al-'Arub r.c. nr Hebron also at night. (MNA 8/28; PCHR 8/29)

**U.S. State Dept. dep. spokesperson Marie Harf** says that a res. condemning the **Syrian govt.**'s alleged use of poison gas has stalled in the **UNSC** due to **Russian** opposition. Meanwhile, **Israel** orders a small-scale mobilization of reservists and deploys a missile shield in the n. by way of precautions ahead of a possible U.S.-led strike against Syria.

Despite these measures, an unnamed senior **IDF** official tells the media that the actual likelihood of a Syrian retaliatory strike on Israel remains low. (AFP, REU, YA 8/28)

Unnamed diplomats tell the *Associated Press* that **Iran** and the **IAEA** have agreed to restart talks on 9/27, with the focus on the agency's efforts to gain satisfactory access at the Parchin military site. (AP 8/28)

**Egyptian authorities** detain more than 60 **Muslim Brotherhood** supporters and activists in a single day, according to relatives of the group's leaders. (AP 8/28)

## 29 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Nablus at night, and patrols in Tulkarm and 1 nearby village at night. In **East Jerusalem**, around 70 **Jewish extremists** accompanied by 40 mbrs. of the security forces enter the **al-Aqsa** compound, including the Dome of the Rock and the old mosque of al-Aqsa. (MNA 8/29; PCHR 9/5)

**U.S. pres. Obama's** push for military action against **Syria** suffers a significant blow as the **British Parliament** votes against participation with a 285-272 vote that saw many Conservative MPs voting with the Labor opposition. Following the defeat, **PM David Cameron** acknowledges that Britain will now not take part in any attack on Syria. Meanwhile, **Syria's Pres. Asad** vows that his country "will defend itself" against any military strikes, and **Iran's army chief of staff Gen. Hassa Firouzabadi** tells the media that any attack on Syria "will drive the Zionists to the edge of fire." (AFP, AP, Guardian, REU 8/29)

The **Egyptian army** kills 2 and detains 16 nr. **al-Arish** in what security sources describe as



a targeted attack on “terrorist” outposts. (MNA 8/29)

The **IAEA** reports that **Iran** has prepared more than 1,000 advanced uranium enriching machines for start-up, but also says that Tehran has pushed back the time frame for a new reactor to come online. (AP 8/29)

### 30 AUGUST 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire from the border and wound a Palestinian farmer working close to the fence nr. Jabaliya r.c. In the **West Bank**, the IDF patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel’s separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in, Nabi Salih, and Ni’lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafir Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma’sara). There are no serious injuries, except in Bil’in, where 2 are struck by tear gas canisters. (MNA 8/30; PCHR 9/5)

**Israel’s Central Bureau of Statistics** publishes data showing that the number of **settler housing** starts in the **West Bank** rose by 141.5% in the 1st half of 2013, compared to the same period in 2012. (JP 8/30)

The **Obama administration** intensifies its public case for military action against Syria with the release of what it presents as evidence that the **Syrian govt.** has used chemical weapons against civilians on a number of occasions, including the attack last week. **Pres. Obama** and **Secy. of State Kerry** make separate statements condemning the Asad regime but committing the U.S. to only a limited retaliatory action. Meanwhile, according to an unnamed State Dept. official, Kerry speaks with the FMs of Britain, Egypt, Germany, the Netherlands,

New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. (AP, REU 8/30)

Thousands of **supporters** of ousted **pres. Morsi** march in Cairo and other cities across Egypt in protest at the military coup. According to a security source, the day’s protests leave 6 dead and more than 50 injured. (REU 8/30)

### 31 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, a **Palestinian** dies in the hospital of wounds sustained by **IDF** fire in Jenin r.c. during a raid on the camp on 8/20. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night, and patrols in al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, Qalqilya and 1 nearby village at night. (PCHR 9/5)

**U.S. Pres. Obama** decides to seek the backing of **Congress** for any attack on Syria, a significant development which he announces in the White House Rose Garden. Such a step delays a potentially imminent strike and has potential to prevent it altogether. **Secy. of State John Kerry** assures leaders of the **Syrian opposition** and **Saudi Arabia FM Prince Saud al-Faisal** that Pres. Obama remains determined to hold the Asad regime to account. Meanwhile, **UN chemical weapons experts** leave Syria for Lebanon and then fly back to Rotterdam. The team conducted 4 days of inspections and return to the Netherlands with samples for testing. (AP, NYT, REU, WSJ 31/8)

### 1 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion nr. Juhur al-Dik, where they level land close to the border fence and then withdraw. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** injures 5 Palestinians nr. Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah during clashes which result from Palestinians trying to stop Jewish settlers throwing stones at cars nr. the camp. The IDF conducts house

searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Bethlehem, Qalqilya and 1 nearby village, Nablus, and Jenin r.c. at night. They patrol in al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in Tulkarm and 1 nearby village, as well as 1 village nr. Jenin at night. (MNA, WAFA 9/1; PCHR 9/5)

**U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Jen Psaki** confirms that U.S. peace process envoy **Martin Indyk** participated in 1 of the sets of meetings between Israelis and Palestinians that have taken place since the resumption of talks in 7/2013 (though without specifying which one). Meanwhile, **Palestinian PM Rami Hamdallah** says that a 2d group of Palestinian prisoners could be freed by Israel by the end of 9/2013. (JP, REU 9/1)

**Secy. of State John Kerry** tells U.S. television networks that the govt. has proof sarin gas was used in a recent Damascus chemical weapons attack, urging **Congress** to vote for military action against the Asad regime. Meanwhile, the **Syrian opposition** coalition issues a statement asking Congress to approve the strike. In France, **Interior Minister Manuel Valls** says that his govt. would not go it alone in Syria and will wait for the decision by the U.S. Congress. (AFP, AP, REU 9/1)

**Egypt's chief prosecutor** orders ousted **pres. Morsi** and 14 other Muslim Brotherhood leaders to stand trial on charges including inciting violence and murder. The new regime also names a constituent assembly and gives it 60 days to review amendments that would erase articles brought in by the Brotherhood and other Islamic parties last year. (NYT, REU 9/1)

## 2 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. Two explosions target an **IDF** patrol operating adjacent to the Gaza

border nr. Qarni crossing, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** demolish residential and agricultural **Palestinian**-owned structures in the **Jordan Valley**, clashing with residents and injuring 5. There are also clashes in Nablus during an **IDF** arrest raid, leaving 2 Palestinians injured. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin and 2 nearby villages, Hebron and 2 nearby villages at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Hebron at night. (MNA, ToI, WAFA 9/2; PCHR 9/5)

**Pres. Obama's** hopes of persuading the **U.S. Congress** to support military action against **Syria** are dealt a blow with **Democratic lawmakers** expressing scepticism following a briefing with Obama's national security aides, according to Rep. Jim Moran. However, Obama picks up support from Republican sens. John McCain and Lindsey Graham. (REU 9/2)

An **Egyptian govt.-backed judicial panel** recommends the dissolution of the Muslim Brotherhood as a legally registered nongovernment organization (NGO). It is a nonbinding decision. (Guardian, REU 9/2)

## 3 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries or damage to the vessels. **IDF** troops also conduct a limited incursion in land close to the border fence nr. Khan Yunis before withdrawing. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night, and patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon and in al-'Arub r.c., 1 village nr. Hebron, and in 2 villages nr. Jenin at night.

In **East Jerusalem**, IDF troops clash with residents in Abu Dis after protests against the arrest of a cancer patient. Separately, Israeli police ban 10 Palestinians from attending prayers at **al-Aqsa mosque** when Jewish extremists plan to visit the compound. Police also arrest **Shaykh Raed Salah**, leader of the n. Islamic Movement in Israel, on suspicion of incitement. Salah refuses bail conditions that would keep him 30 km away from al-Aqsa for 30 days and remains in jail. (JP, MNA, Wafa 9/3; PCHR 9/5)

**Palestinian and Israeli negotiators** meet for a 5th round of peace talks in **Jerusalem**. **PA FM Riyad al-Maliki** tells the media that **Abbas** is seeking to arrange a meeting with **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** to express doubts about the nature of the talks and dissatisfaction at **U.S. envoy Martin Indyk's** limited participation thus far. Meanwhile, **Arab League Secy.-Gen. spokesperson Nassif Hetti** tells reporters that an Arab ministerial delegation will meet Kerry in Rome on Sunday to discuss the peace process. (AFP, JP, MNA 9/3)

**The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Cmte.** reaches an agreement on a draft authorization for the use of military force against the Syrian govt., with conditions narrower than those requested by **Pres. Obama**. The draft sets a 60-day time limit on any U.S. action with a conditional single 30-day extension possible. There is also a provision banning the use of ground forces. Speaking to the cmte., **Defense Secy. Chuck Hagel** says that the pres.'s national security team is now convinced that taking military action against the Assad regime targets would be the right course of action. Hagel also reveals that Obama approved plans in 1/2013 to give lethal aid to Syrian rebels, the 1st time such a decision has been made public. Meanwhile, pro-Israel/Jewish community groups such as the **American Israel Public Affairs Cmte.** (AIPAC)

and the **Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations** back the administration's call for a strike on Syria, following a conference call with Obama's security advisers. In another development, **UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon** affirms that the use of force is only legal as self-defense or with UNSC authorization. (AP, *Guardian*, JTA, REU, WP 9/3)

An **Egyptian military court in Suez** hands down sentences ranging from 5 years to life to around **50 Muslim Brotherhood mbrs.** convicted of violence against the army, in relation to the events of 8/14 (when security forces massacred anti-coup protesters in Cairo). Meanwhile, **Egyptian helicopter gunships** kill 8 suspected **militants** and wound 15 others in air strikes in the Sinai Peninsula nr. the Rafah border with the Gaza Strip. (AFP, AP, REU, NYT 9/3)

#### 4 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. In **East Jerusalem**, there are clashes in Abu Dis between Palestinians and Israeli forces who conduct a raid and enter the Al-Quds university campus. Meanwhile, **right-wing Jewish extremists** enter the al-Aqsa compound, prompting clashes with Palestinians, with Israeli security forces dispersing the crowds and arresting 7 Palestinians. Separately, **Shaykh Raed Salah** is released on bail, though Salah says he does not intend to respect the order banning him from Jerusalem. (HA, MNA 9/4; PCHR 9/5)

According to an anonymous Palestinian official speaking to the *Associated Press*, **Israel** intends to leave numerous settlements and military bases in the West Bank to set up a provisional Palestinian state. Meanwhile, **aide to Pres. Abbas, Yasir 'Abid Rabbuh** tells Palestinian media that the talks are proving

pointless and making no progress, and will fail to do so, without serious U.S. pressure. (AP, REU 9/4)

**The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Cmte.** narrowly backs, 10–7, a compromise res. authorizing the use of military force in Syria. The full Senate will vote next week, and the House of Representatives must also approve the measure. Meanwhile, **Russian pres. Putin** says Moscow does not rule out approving a strike against Syria if there is clear evidence of the Asad regime’s culpability for the use of chemical weapons. (AP, REU 9/4)

**Pres. Obama’s national security aides** have recommended that the U.S. suspend military and economic assistance to **Egypt** in response to the military coup, according to unnamed U.S. officials speaking to the media. (AP, REU 9/4)

#### 5 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, a mbr. of **Hamas’s military wing Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades** dies in circumstances that were not disclosed, but suggest an accident during training or preparation for a mission. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night, and patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Salfit in the afternoon. (MNA 5/9; PCHR 9/12)

**Fatah Central Cmte. mbr. Nabil Shaath** tells Palestinian media that the leadership will not accept proposed temporary solutions in the West Bank, and claims Israel has yet to put any offers on the table in negotiations. Shaath says the 2 sides have spent almost 6 weeks presenting issues like borders and security, and that Israel insists on maintaining control of the Jordan River. **Israel’s Prime Minister’s Office** refuses to comment on leaks in the press, including suggestions that Israel suggested the

establishment of a temporary Palestinian state in 60% of the West Bank. (HA, MNA 9/5)

**U.S. Pres. Obama** meets **Russian pres. Putin** at the **G20 summit** in **St. Petersburg**, where they are due to discuss pressing issues such as Syria and the global economy. (REU 9/5)

**Iran’s Pres. Hassan Ruhani** says that the Foreign Ministry will take over the running of talks with the international community over the nuclear program, but without specifying a chief negotiator. Meanwhile, **State Dept. spokesperson Jen Psaki** says that Washington hopes Tehran will “engage substantively” with global powers to find a solution to the crisis and issues with IAEA inspections. (AFP, REU 9/5)

#### 6 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in al-‘Arub r.c., al-Fawar r.c., and 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Salfit at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel’s separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in, Nabi Salih, and Ni’lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma’sara). There are no serious injuries (except in Kafr Qaddum where 3 are struck by tear gas canisters). In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli security forces** raid the **al-Aqsa compound** and disperse worshippers with stun grenades, after Palestinians threw stones at plainclothes policemen who entered the area. Fifteen Palestinians are arrested, while Israeli police say 2 officers are injured while an al-Aqsa medical official says 55 injuries were treated among Palestinians. (MNA, REU 9/6; PCHR 9/12)

**PA Minister of Prisoner Affairs Issa Qaraqe** announces that the remaining

prisoner releases by Israel will take place on 10/29, 12/29, and 03/28. (MNA 9/6)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** travels to **Europe** on a trip intended to lobby for support for a strike on Syria, as well as discuss the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and meet with **PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas** in **London**, before returning to Washington. The itinerary also takes him to **Lithuania**—current holder of the presidency of the Council of the EU—and France. (AFP 9/5; AP 9/6)

**U.S. Pres. Obama** persuades 10 other leaders from the **G20** nations to co-sign a statement urging a strong international response to the alleged use of chemical weapons by the **Syrian govt.**, though the text does not explicitly endorse military action. Meanwhile, an unnamed State Dept. official tells the media that a strike on Syria would not fundamentally alter the balance of forces on the ground in the country's civil war. (NYT, REU 9/6)

**Supporters of ousted pres. Morsi** clash with security forces and those who back the military in protests across **Egypt**. Two are killed nationwide, and dozens injured. There are demonstrations in Cairo, Alexandria, Suez, Fayoum, Damanhour, and a number of other towns and cities. (AFP, REU 9/6)

## 7 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian** laborers attempting to cross the separation wall nr. Hebron, wounding 2. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-'Arub r.c. and 2 villages nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Jenin at night. In al-'Arub r.c., Israeli forces detain more than 30 Palestinians after a petrol bomb is thrown at a military watchtower nr. the camp. (MNA 9/7; PCHR 9/12)

**EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton** says that the EU will ensure new funding

guidelines regarding **West Bank settlements** will not harm relations with Israel, speaking in **Vilnius, Lithuania**, after a meeting with **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry**. Ashton says the guidelines will be implemented "sensitively." Kerry urges the EU to postpone altogether the new restrictions. (HA, REU 9/7)

**U.S. Pres. Obama** uses his weekly radio and internet address to reassure Americans of the necessity and limits of a military strike on **Syria**. A recent poll showed that only 19% of the U.S. public supports an intervention. An **AIPAC** source tells the media that the Israel lobby organization plans to send 250 activists to lobby lawmakers in Washington during the coming week, to push for support for a military strike on Syria. Meanwhile, EU FMs meeting in Lithuania blame the Asad regime for the use of chemical weapons but do not endorse military action. (AP, REU 9/7)

The **Egyptian military** launches a major offensive against **Islamist militants** in the n. **Sinai**, deploying helicopter gunships and armored vehicles in an attack that kills 9 fighters and wounds another 20. Fifteen are arrested, and 2 Egyptian soldiers are also killed. Egyptian authorities also close the **Rafah** crossing with the **Gaza Strip**, citing "security concerns." (AP, MNA, REU 9/7)

## 8 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli troops** clash with residents in Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron during a patrol, with 2 Palestinians wounded by shrapnel of a sound bomb and a bullet respectively. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Nablus in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Salfit and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Ramallah at night; patrols

in 1 village nr. Jenin at night. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli forces fire rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas at Al-Quds university students in Abu Dis after staff prevented soldiers from entering the campus. (MNA 9/8; PCHR 9/12)

**U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** meets with **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** in London, their 1st such talks since direct negotiations recommenced. Earlier, Kerry holds talks with **Arab League** officials—including the FMs of **Egypt, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia**—in **Paris**, after which Kerry affirms the “commitment” of both sides to “continuing the talks.” The Arab League’s Peace Initiative Cmte. also expresses support for U.S. efforts to promote the direct talks. Meanwhile, **Israeli officials** protest Palestinian media leaks concerning the talks in complaints made to Washington. (AFP, JTA 9/8)

Following discussions in Paris, **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** says that **Arab League ministers** have agreed on the need for an international response to the alleged use of chemical weapons by the Asad regime. Kerry says that a number of countries immediately signed the statement produced at the G20 talks, but only names Saudi Arabia. (AFP 9/8)

**Egyptian forces** continue their **Sinai** offensive, killing 11 suspected Islamist fighters and arresting 10. (AP 9/8)

## 9 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. **Jewish settlers** from Beit El nr. Ramallah throw stones at Palestinian vehicles, while in a separate incident, settlers uproot some 40 Palestinian olive trees in the s. Hebron hills. In **East Jerusalem**, Jerusalem municipality-owned bulldozers level lands to

make a trench between Issawiyya village and French Hill settlement, at the request of the latter’s residents. (MNA 9/9; PCHR 9/12)

**Palestinian official Nabil Shaath** tells the media that **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** had “guaranteed us in writing” that talks would start from the 1967 lines, with State Dept. spokesperson Marie Harf subsequently denying such a document. (NYT 9/9)

The **EU** announces a €52 million assistance package to help **PA** development schemes, such as municipal infrastructure projects and private sector-led economic initiatives. The aid is the final part of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument assistance, with the total contributed to the Palestinians in 2013 now standing at €300 million. (MNA 9/9)

**Russian FM Sergey Lavrov** makes a statement calling for military action against **Syria** to be averted through a plan for the internationally coordinated destruction of Damascus’s chemical weapons’ arsenal. The dramatic intervention is welcomed as a possible breakthrough by **Pres. Obama**, who faces opposition in Congress and among the public to any U.S. military intervention. **Democratic Senate leader Harry Reid** postpones a scheduled test vote for lawmakers to assess the Russian plan. **Syrian FM Walid Muallem** welcomes the Russian proposal as a way of preventing “an American aggression.” (AFP, AP, REU 9/9)

The **Egyptian military’s** offensive in the **Sinai** continues, with security forces killing a further 9 militants and arresting 10 nr. Rafah. In 2 separate incidents in c. Sinai, gunmen open fire and wound 3 soldiers. In addition, Egyptian forces destroy 6 smuggling tunnels under the Egypt-Gaza border located n. of **Rafah**, with an Egyptian official claiming that more than 90% of the smuggling tunnels have now been destroyed. As part of the operation, Egypt’s

military claims to have seized caches of weapons including a mortar belonging to Palestinian Islamic Jihad. (AFP, AP, MNA, REU 9/9)

### 10 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the s. **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** confiscate 2 fishing boats nr. Rafah. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron, Tulkarm, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night; patrols in Jenin and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. In al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, **IDF troops** detain 13 Palestinians. In **East Jerusalem**, suspected **Jewish extremists** vandalize 3 buses and leave “price-tag” graffiti in Silwan, while separately dozens of Jewish right-wing activists enter the al-Aqsa mosque compound under police protection. (MNA 9/10; PCHR 9/12)

**Israeli Foreign Ministry officials** meet with **senior EU officials** to discuss the new settlement guidelines, and end by resolving to meet again to continue the discussions. Following the meeting, both sides issue upbeat assessments of the dialogue. (JP 9/10)

**U.S. Pres. Obama** says in a speech at the White House that he has asked **Congressional leaders** to postpone a vote authorizing force while a “diplomatic path” is pursued, a reference to a Russian proposal to achieve the destruction of **Syria’s** chemical weapons stockpile. In response to Moscow’s proposal, France pushes for a UN res. that would be under Chapter 7 and threaten “serious consequences” for non-compliance—a framework immediately rejected by Russia. The Syrian govt., meanwhile, accepts the Russian idea. (AFP, AP, NYT, REU 9/10)

### 11 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Jenin and

al-Fawar and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night; patrols in Nablus, 3 villages nr. Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. In Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron, the IDF attacks a funeral procession, sparking clashes where 2 Palestinians are injured by rubber-coated metal bullets. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli troops** demolish residential and agricultural structures in al-Za’ayem village, displacing around 35 people. In addition, Israel’s Housing Minister Uri Ariel visits the al-Aqsa mosque compound under police protection, heading a tour group of around 100 rightist Jewish activists. (MNA, WAFA 9/11; PCHR 9/12)

The 5 permanent mbrs. of the **UNSC** meet at Russia’s UN mission to discuss the contents of a new res. on the securing and dismantling of Syria’s chemical weapons. Meanwhile, **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** and **Russian FM Sergey Lavrov** speak by phone the day before heading to Geneva for talks with experts about the practicalities of the Russian proposal. France, for its part, aligns itself with the U.S. position of insisting that a military option remains on the table but that the diplomatic process will be prioritized. (AFP, AP, REU 9/11)

Three attacks including 2 car bombs kill 11 people and injure more than 15 in the **Sinai**, as the army continues its offensive against Islamist militants, including **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis**. The dead include 9 Egyptian officers targeted at the intelligence headquarters in Rafah. Meanwhile, **Israeli officials** arrive in **Cairo** on a private jet for discussions with Egyptians security officials expected to focus on events in the Sinai. (MNA, REU 9/11)

**U.S. Amb. Joseph Macmanus** tells a meeting of the **IAEA** that there are “troubling developments” in Iran’s nuclear program amid concerns that **Tehran** is stalling on achieving any progress in negotiations with the international community. **Iran’s FM**

**Mohammad Javad Zarif** says that Iran's nuclear work could take place under international safeguards but would not just go away. (REU 9/11)

### 12 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion along the border fence nr. Khan Yunis to level land, before withdrawing. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** opens fire on Palestinians protesting the arrival of 1,400 Jewish worshippers at Joseph's Tomb in Nablus, injuring 7. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Jenin at night. The **IDF** also demolishes 4 Palestinian-owned commercial structures in Barta'a village nr. Jenin. (HA, MNA 9/12; PCHR 9/19)

**PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas** meets with **EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton** in Paris, as well as **French pres. Francois Hollande**, discussing with both the peace process. (WAFY 9/12)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** meets **Russian FM Sergey Lavrov** in Geneva to discuss Moscow's proposal of securing and destroying Syria's chemical weapons stockpile, talks that were described by Kerry afterward as "constructive." **Israeli Strategic Affairs Minister Yuval Steinitz** expresses cautious support for the plan, speaking to Israeli media. Meanwhile, 3 stray mortar shells land in the **Israeli-occupied Golan Heights**, causing no damage or injuries. (AFP, AP, JP, REU 9/12)

**Egyptian interim pres. Adly Mansour** extends a nationwide state of emergency for a further 2 mos. On the **Rafah** border, 2 Egyptian army tanks cross the initial border fence on the Egyptian side for the 1st time. Meanwhile, Egyptian authorities close the Rafah crossing

for the 2d day due to unrest in the **Sinai**. (AFP, AP, MNA 9/12)

**Iranian Amb. to the IAEA Reza Najafi** says that Tehran will cooperate with the agency to "overcome existing issues once and for all," speaking at his 1st board meeting. Distinct from the P5+1 (permanent mbrs. of the UNSC plus Germany) talks, the IAEA has held 10 rounds of talks since early 2012 to resume inspections into suspected weapon research. (REU 9/12)

### 13 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the morning; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin), and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). There are no serious injuries. (PCHR 9/19)

**U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** and **Russian FM Sergey Lavrov** meet the **UN's Special Envoy on Syria Lakhdar Brahimi** in Geneva, to discuss both plans for an international peace conference, as well as the more pressing question of a plan to neutralize Syria's chemical weapons stockpile. Following the meeting, Brahimi says he hopes to have a 2d peace conference sometime in 10/2013. Meanwhile, the **Syrian opposition National Coalition** (SNC) says it will appoint a provisional PM to boost its international credibility, an announcement made on the 1st day of a meeting of the 115-mbr. group. (AP, REU 9/13)

There are clashes across **Egypt** between supporters and opponents of ousted pres. Morsi, while the military continues its offensive against Islamist militants in the Sinai Peninsula,



where 3 soldiers are wounded in 3 separate villages. There are 2 reported deaths in Alexandria and Beni Suef, with demonstrations also taking place in Cairo among others. (AP, REU 9/13)

**Iranian nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi** announces that the country has reduced its stock of 20 percent-enriched uranium by converting it to reactor fuel, news judged to aimed at easing tensions with the West. (AP 9/13)

#### 14 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Jenin at night; patrols in Hebron and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. (PCHR 9/19)

**U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** and **Russian FM Sergey Lavrov** conclude a deal on the removal of **Syrian pres. Asad’s** chemical arsenal as a means of averting a U.S. military strike on regime targets. The agreement obliges Asad to account for his stockpile within a week, and permit international inspectors destroy the weapons by mid-2014. Head of the Free Syrian Army Gen. Selim Idriss rejects the deal. Meanwhile, the Syrian National Council elects Ahmad Tomeh to be the opposition’s provisional PM. (AFP, NYT, REU 9/14)

#### 15 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion nr. Jabaliya r.c. along the border fence. They level land and then withdraw, opening fire sporadically but causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 3 nearby villages, in 1 village each nr. Salfit and Bethlehem at night; patrols in al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (PCHR 9/19)

**U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** arrives in **Jerusalem** for a quick visit intended to brief **Israeli PM Netanyahu** on the Syrian situation, as well as discuss the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. After the meeting, Kerry admits that with regard to the peace process, “the road ahead is not easy” but is “worth traveling.” Kerry affirms in remarks to the media that “the threat of force is real” if Syria does not abide by the agreement. Meanwhile, 17 coalition MKs, including 5 dep. ministers, co-sign a letter for PM Netanyahu, urging him not to agree to any deal that involves handing over land to the PA. (HA, JP, WP 9/15)

**Egyptian military spokesperson Ahmed Ali** announces that the army has destroyed 152 tunnels on the Egypt-Gaza border since the end of 7/2013. Ali also says that 309 have been arrested so far during the Sinai offensive, with 100 Egyptian soldiers killed since the July coup (he did not give figures for number of militants killed). Ali also claims that there is some coordination between groups based in the Sinai and in the Gaza Strip, though does not name Hamas directly. Meanwhile, **Egyptian naval forces** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen off the coast of the Gaza Strip nr. Rafah, arresting 2. (AFP, AP, HA, REU 15/9)

#### 16 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli troops** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 villages nr. Tulkarm and Qalqilya at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Bethlehem and 1 village nr. Bethlehem in the morning. **Israeli forces** also demolish a Palestinian village in the Jordan Valley, destroying around a dozen residential structures as well as 2 dozen other structures. Dozens of

residents of Khirbat Makhul are left homeless. (MNA 9/16; PCHR 9/19)

The Israeli media reports that **PM Netanyahu** is unhappy with **Justice Minister and chief negotiator Tzipi Livni**, who is apparently undermining his position in talks with the Palestinians. Livni reportedly is willing to remove all IDF troops from the **Jordan Valley**, something Netanyahu will not countenance. Meanwhile, **PA Pres. Abbas** says that Israel will have no presence along the future border of a Palestinian state with Jordan. (INN, JP 9/16)

**The U.S., Britain, and France** issue a joint warning to **Syrian pres. Asad** that there would be consequences should he fail to comply with the international community's demand he hand over his entire chemical weapon stockpile. Meanwhile, **UN human rights investigator Karen Koning Abuzayd** says that war crimes attributed to the Syrian opposition are largely being carried out by foreign fighters. Also today, **Turkish warplanes** shoot down a **Syrian helicopter** after it crossed the border, according to the Turkish military. (AP, REU 9/16)

**Egyptian forces** storm Delga in c. Minya province, seizing control from supporters of ousted pres. Morsi and arresting more than 50 persons. Meanwhile, in the n. Sinai Peninsula, assailants hit a police bus with a roadside bomb, wounding 9, and then kill 1 of those who jumped clear. (AFP, AP, MNA 9/16)

### 17 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct 2 separate, limited incursions nr. Khan Yunis, leveling land along the border fence before withdrawing. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shoots and kills a **Palestinian** in Jenin r.c., and wounds 4 others in subsequent clashes. Islam al-Tubasi was killed when Israeli soldiers raided his house and shot him. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah and

Nablus at night; patrols in 1 village and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, and in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (MNA 9/17; PCHR 9/19)

For the 1st time in 6 years, **Israel** will allow entry into the **Gaza Strip** of a limited quantity of construction materials intended for private projects, according to separate reports by crossings director Nazmi Muhanna and an unnamed Israeli defense official. Three hundred and fifty trucks of cement, steel and concrete will cross into the territory weekly. (REU, WAFA 9/17)

**PA Pres. Abbas** meets in **Ramallah** with **U.S. peace process envoy Martin Indyk**, where the 2 assess the outcome of previous rounds of negotiations (8 meetings in total). Meanwhile, **PLO Secy.-Gen. Yasir 'Abid Rabbuh** tells Palestinian media that the "indicators" of the talks have thus far been negative. (JP 9/17)

**Diplomats from the U.S., Britain, Russia, France, and China** begin talks in New York on a draft res. that will implement the proposed plan to rid **Syria** of chemical weapons. **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** insists that the agreement with Moscow must be backed up by the threat of force in the case of noncompliance, talking to reporters on **Capitol Hill**. Russia, meanwhile, says that a res. will not allow the use of force. (AP, REU 9/17)

### 18 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct an incursion close to the border fence in the n. of the territory, and are met by resistance from **Palestinian fighters**—1 of whom is injured. Meanwhile, unidentified **Palestinians** fire a **Qassam rocket** into s. **Israel** at night, which causes no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and Nablus at night; patrols in 1 village and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **IDF**

**troops** enter the **al-Aqsa mosque** compound and denied Palestinians access—meanwhile, a group of ultra-Orthodox Jews are allowed entry. (MNA 9/18; PCHR, YA 9/19)

**Iranian pres. Hassan Ruhani** vows in an interview on U.S. television that Tehran will never develop nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, **White House spokesperson Jay Carney** reveals that **Pres. Obama** has exchanged letters with Pres. Ruhani and told him that the U.S. is ready to resolve the dispute but that there is a need to act with urgency. (AP, REU 9/18)

**Egypt** partially reopens the border crossing at **Rafah** with the Gaza Strip, after a week's closure following an attack on the Egyptian military facilities nearby. (REU 9/18)

### 19 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in Hebron and 2 nearby villages and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. In Hebron, **IDF** soldiers clash with students, firing rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas. (Wafa 9/19; PCHR 9/26)

**Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat** writes to U.S. Secy. of State Kerry, Russian FM Lavrov, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon to warn them that Israel's actions in East Jerusalem are undermining peace talks. (Wafa 9/19)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** calls on the **UNSC** not to waste any more time in moving to approve the plan for removing Syria's chemical weapons. Earlier, **Russian pres. Putin** says that his country has "every reason" to believe that the chemical weapons attack in Damascus was carried out by the rebels as a "provocation." (AP 9/19)

**Gunmen** shoot dead an **Egyptian** police maj.-gen. and wound 9 other policemen and

soldiers in clashes on the outskirts of Cairo, after state forces try to arrest suspects involved in the killing of police officers. (AP, REU 9/19)

### 20 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinians** walking close to the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya, wounding 2. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Jericho and Jenin at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin), and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). There are no serious injuries, except in Kafr Qaddum, where 5 are injured (4 struck by tear gas canisters, including 1 international, and 1 hit by a live bullet). (MNA 9/20; PCHR 9/26)

An Arab-introduced res. at the **IAEA's** annual conference in Vienna to censure Israel's refusal to allow international oversight of its nuclear weapons is voted down 43–54–32 (and another 30 countries were absent during the vote). (AP 9/20)

**The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)** says that **Syria** has given details of some of its arsenal but still needs to fill in the gaps by next week to satisfy the timetable proposed by the Russian-U.S. plan. (REU 9/20)

**White House dep. spokesperson Josh Earnest** says that the Obama administration is ready to engage in talks with Iran "on the basis of mutual respect" about the country's nuclear program. (REU 9/20)

**Egyptian police** arrest some 87 wanted men in a village nr. Cairo, while separately, gunmen target 3 military vehicles in Rafah, injuring

3 soldiers. Security forces say they also arrested 15 Salafist militants in villages in the n. Sinai. (AFP, AP, MNA 9/20)

### 21 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the body of an **Israeli soldier** murdered in Qalqilya is discovered. The **Palestinian** responsible reportedly tells Israeli interrogators that he was acting in response to the incarceration by Israel of his brother since 2003. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in Nablus and 1 nearby village, 1 village nr. Bethlehem and 1 village nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, 2 villages nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Ramallah at night. (HA 9/21; PCHR 9/26)

The **OPCW** says that it has now received information over **Syria's** chemical weapons stockpile sufficient to meet the 1st deadline of the international community plan. (AP 9/21)

**Egyptian security forces** raid several locations in the n. **Sinai**, arresting more than a dozen suspected militants. According to an AFP tally, in the past 2 mos., the army has killed some 100 Islamist militants, while 58 policemen, 21 soldiers, and 17 civilians have also died at the hands of the jihadist groups. Meanwhile, authorities close the Rafah crossing again, due to the security conditions. (AFP, AP, MNA 9/21)

### 22 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, a **Palestinian** sniper shoots and kills an **Israeli soldier** at a checkpoint in Hebron. Subsequently, **IDF troops** place the city under lockdown, and raid numerous homes. **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinians throwing stones in c. Hebron, wounding 1 with a rubber-coated metal bullet.

Elsewhere, **Jewish settlers** nr. Qalqilya move into Palestinian-owned lands and destroy some 30 olive trees and damage equipment. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron in the morning, and in Hebron and 2 nearby villages, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 village nr. Jenin and Qalqilya at night; patrols in 3 villages nr. Tulkarm in the morning, in 3 villages nr. Jenin, 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and Salfit and 1 nearby village in the afternoon, and in Jenin and 1 nearby village, 1 village nr. Tulkarm and Hebron at night. (MNA 9/22; PCHR 9/26)

**Israel** permits the 1st delivery into the **Gaza Strip** of cement and steel for use by the private sector since 2007, with 70 trucks entering, according to PA official Raed Fattouh. (MNA 9/22)

Unidentified **gunmen** open fire on an **Israeli army patrol** operating close to the border with **Syria** in the **Israeli-occupied Golan Heights**. The IDF returns fire to the source. There are no reports of damage or casualties on either side. Meanwhile, **Pres. Asad** praises the role of **China** and **Russia**, in an interview with Chinese television, and says he is not worried about a draft res. submitted by the U.S., UK, and France. Separately, **SNC head Ahmad Jarba** writes to the **UNSC** to say his opposition group is prepared to attend a proposed Geneva conference if the aim of the talks is to establish a transitional govt. (REU, ToI 9/22)

### 23 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** open fire with rubber-coated bullets and stun grenades on stone-throwing Palestinians in Hebron. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Salfit at night; patrols in al-Bireh in the morning, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** destroy

20 dunams of land nr. Nablus, while separately, settlers set fire to dozens of olive trees also nr. Nablus. (AFP, MNA, PNN 9/23; PCHR 9/26)

**IDF Chief of Staff Benny Gantz** says that the killing of 2 Israeli soldiers in the last 3 days does not reflect a general trend, and that the 2 incidents are isolated and unrelated. The Israeli media reports disquiet from security sources about the performance of the PA's security forces in light of the recent events. (HA 9/24)

An **Egyptian** court bans the activities of the **Muslim Brotherhood** as an NGO and orders its funds seized. **U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Jen Psaki** says that Washington will wait to see how such a decision will be implemented and urges all parties to embrace an inclusive political process. Egypt's interim govt. subsequently says it is no rush to dismantle the Brotherhood and prefers for a ruling from a higher tribunal. (AP, REU 9/23; AP 9/24)

#### 24 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct 2 separate limited incursions nr. Khan Yunis and Dayr al-Balah, in both cases leveling land along the border fence before withdrawing. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah and Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, Hebron and 1 nearby village in the afternoon, and in Hebron and 3 nearby villages and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah at night. In **Jerusalem**, **Israeli security forces** clash with Palestinians, wounding around 40 with rubber-coated metal bullets and stun grenades. (MNA 9/24; PCHR 9/26)

Both **U.S. Pres. Obama** and **Iranian pres. Hassan Ruhani** address the **UNGA** in New York. The 2 men struck optimistic notes but also gave no idea of any specific concessions necessary to secure a breakthrough in the

impasse over Tehran's nuclear program. However, there is no direct meeting or handshake between the 2 leaders. Ruhani says he is prepared to engage in "time-bound and results-oriented" nuclear talks, in a talk boycotted by Israeli officials. **Israeli PM Netanyahu** says that Ruhani's gestures toward the West are a deceptive "smoke screen," in remarks broadcast on Israeli television. (AP, HA, REU, YA 9/24)

An unnamed **U.S. State Dept. official** says that **Kerry** and **Lavrov** worked in a "constructive spirit" on a draft res. about **Syria's** chemical arms but that more work is needed. A sticking point remains whether, and how, the proposed UNSC res. will hold Syria accountable should it fail to comply. (AP, REU 9/24)

#### 25 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli troops** enter Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah and open fire on Palestinians, injuring 3 with live ammunition. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Jericho at night. In Jerusalem, security forces raid the al-Aqsa mosque compound in response to stone-throwing from Palestinians. (MNA, YA 9/25; PCHR 9/26)

**U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** says that **Israel** and the **Palestinians** have agreed to intensify the peace talks and increase the U.S. role. Kerry describes 2 tracks: 1 among the 2 sides' negotiators, and another among Abbas, Netanyahu, Kerry, and Pres. Obama. (HA, REU 9/25)

Unnamed **Western diplomats** claim that envoys from the **U.S., Russia, France, China, and Britain** have come to an agreement on the basis of a res. on **Syria's** chemical weapons, something denied by Russian sources.

Meanwhile, UN spokesperson **Martin Nesirky** says chemical weapons experts will investigate 3 alleged incidents of chemical weapons use earlier this year in Syria, and seek information on 3 alleged incidents in 8/2013. (AP, REU 9/25)

### 26 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 1 nearby village in the afternoon; patrols in 1 village each nr. Jericho and Ramallah. In **Jerusalem**, **Israeli security forces** accompany **Jewish right-wing activists** as they enter the **al-Aqsa mosque** compound. According to reports, more than 700 ultra-Orthodox Jews have entered the compound to celebrate Sukkot since last Wednesday. (MNA 9/26; PCHR 10/3)

**PA pres. Abbas** addresses the **UNGA** and describes the current peace talks as a “last chance.” He urges international pressure to stop settlement construction, and says that the aim is to reach a permanent agreement within 9 mos., rejecting the possibility of a “temporary” arrangement. (AFP, AP, HA 9/26)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** and **Iranian FM Zarif** hold one-on-one talks at the **UN**, the highest level direct discussions in a generation. Zarif also discusses the nuclear issue with his counterparts from the UK, China, France, Germany, and Russia, as well as Kerry. The talks are widely described as positive, with Kerry calling the meeting “very constructive” but with many questions remaining. (AP, REU 9/26)

The **U.S.** and **Russia** reach agreement on a draft UN res. designed to rid Syria of its chemical weapons. The compromise makes the measure legally binding but avoids automatic recourse to military force by way of enforcement, instead requiring another res. under Chapter 7 to be passed. (AP, REU 9/26)

### 27 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 1 **rocket** into s. **Israel** which causes no damage or injuries. In addition, **Israeli troops** fire upon a demonstration that approaches the border fence, as part of protests in solidarity with **Palestinians** facing restricted access to al-Aqsa mosque, injuring 5. In the **West Bank**, hundreds of **Palestinians** clash with **Israeli troops** as part of demonstrations marking the 13th anniversary of the 2d intifada. In al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, the **IDF** opens fire with rubber-coated metal bullets, hitting a child and blinding her in 1 eye. In c. Hebron, more than 200 **Palestinians** throw stones at Israeli soldiers, who injure 23 **Palestinians** with live ammunition and rubber-coated metal bullets. There is also a protest outside Ofer prison nr. Ramallah, and in the Nablus area at Hawara checkpoint (where 1 person is injured with a rubber-coated metal bullet to the head). The **IDF** also conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin and Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah at night. **Jewish settlers** set fire to 2 **Palestinian** vehicles nr. Beit El settlement n. of Ramallah. In **East Jerusalem**, **Palestinian** youths smash a hole in the separation wall in Abu Dis before Israeli forces arrive and violently disperse them. Outside the Old City nr. Damascus Gate, **Palestinians** throw stones at police officers. (JP, MNA, NYT 9/28; PCHR 10/3)

**Diplomats** from the **Quartet** meet on the sidelines of the **UNGA** in New York and issue a statement calling on both sides to take “every possible step” to make the current negotiations a success. **Envoy Tony Blair** says that the meeting heard of initiatives accompanying peace talks to boost the **Palestinian** economy. The **Quartet** reps. were also joined by **Tzipi**

**Livni** and **Saeb Erakat** in their capacities as lead negotiators for their respective sides. (AP, JP 9/28)

The **UNSC** votes unanimously for a res. that will see **Syria's** chemical weapons stockpile secured and destroyed. Kerry says that the res. shows diplomacy is able to “peacefully defuse the worst weapons of war,” adding that destruction of the arsenal will begin in 11/2013 and run through to mid-2014. The council also backs a road map for political transition in Syria, and calls for an international conference to be convened “as soon as possible.” (AP, ToI, REU 9/27)

**U.S. Pres. Obama** and **Iranian pres. Ruhani** speak on the telephone, the highest-level contact between the 2 countries since 1979. Obama, in comments at the White House, and Ruhani, via a Twitter account, said that both are committed to solving the nuclear issue. (REU 9/27)

### 28 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus and Balata r.c., ‘Askar r.c. and 1 village nearby, 1 village each nr. Hebron, Qalqilya and Ramallah, and in Bethlehem at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 1 village and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Nablus, Ramallah, and Jenin at night. (PCHR 10/3)

**Egyptian FM Nabil Fahmy** says that the interim stage of the post-coup govt. should end by spring 2014, with parliamentary and presidential elections due to take place. There is also a new constitution to be voted on. Meanwhile, Egyptian authorities reopen the Rafah crossing for 4 hours, with 370 people going in and out. Thirty-five trucks of construction materials from Qatar also entered. (MNA, REU 9/28)

**Hizballah** fighters clash with residents in Baalbek, with at least 3 killed and 6 wounded, with fighting beginning at a checkpoint manned by the group. Security forces are deployed to restore calm, and the next day, Hizballah hands over control of 2 checkpoints to the army. (AP 9/28, 9/29)

### 29 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Bethlehem and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin, Qalqilya and Ramallah in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Tulkrum and in Qalqilya at night. (PCHR 10/3)

**Iran's FM Zarif** tells an interview on U.S. television that Iran would open its nuclear facilities to international inspectors as part of negotiations with the U.S., and in return demands an end to economic sanctions. Zarif repeats that Iran is not interested in acquiring nuclear weapons. **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** says that a deal could be reached relatively quickly and greatly improve bilateral relations. (AP, LA Times, REU 9/28)

**Gunmen** attack an **Egyptian** police station in al-Arish, injuring 1. (MNA 9/29)

### 30 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** shoot and kill a **Palestinian** civilian, wounding another, from al-Bureij r.c. as they attempt to cross the border fence, according to his family, looking for work. **IDF troops** also open fire on open land nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jenin and Ramallah at night; patrols in al-‘Arub r.c. and 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. (AFP, HA 9/30; PCHR 10/3)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** meets with **U.S. pres. Obama** in Washington, and urges him to step

up sanctions targeting Iran at the same time as negotiations continue. Obama tells Netanyahu that the U.S. will not ease sanctions prematurely and stands ready to resort to military action if the need arises. (HA, REU 9/30)

**Gunmen** kill 3 policemen and a soldier in in the **Sinai** in 3 separate attacks in al-Arish and Ismailia. (REU 9/30)

### 1 OCTOBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols nr. Tulkarm at night. In **East Jerusalem**, suspected **Jewish extremists** vandalize a Christian cemetery in Silwan, and left racist slogans on the perimeter walls. (MNA 10/1; PCHR 10/3)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** addresses the **UNGA** with a focus on Iran, and dismisses efforts at a diplomatic thaw by new Pres. Ruhani as a trick by a “wolf in sheep’s clothing.” Netanyahu says Israel is prepared to go it alone in resisting what he says is Tehran’s drive to acquire a nuclear weapon. (AP, REU 10/1)

**Inspectors from OPCW** arrive in **Damascus** to begin the mission of dismantling and destroying Syria’s chemical weapons capacity and arsenal. (AP 10/1)

**Egypt’s army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** calls for a quick transition to elections in an address to military officials. Meanwhile, around 100 protesters gather in Tahrir Square and chant anti-coup slogans. In the **Sinai**, 3 Egyptian police officers are injured by a roadside IED between Rafah and al-Arish, while Egyptian authorities announce that the Rafah crossing is open until Friday to allow Hajj pilgrims and humanitarian cases to cross. (MNA, REU 1/10)

### 2 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** shoot and injure a **Palestinian** farmer after they open fire from the border fence nr. Gaza City. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches

and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in 1 village and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. Also, overnight **Israeli troops** demolish the Jordan Valley community Makhoul, a village 1st destroyed on 9/16. (MNA, WAFA 10/2; PCHR 10/3)

Unnamed **Palestinian officials** say that hundreds of **PA forces** have deployed in the Jenin district, in responses to tensions rising in recent mos. that has included attacks on PA offices. (AP 10/2)

**Egyptian security forces** and **Muslim Brotherhood** supporters exchange gunfire in Suez, with 1 student dying in the clashes. (REU 10/2)

Two hundred and thirty **Iranian parliamentarians**, from a total of 290, issue a joint statement expressing support for **Pres. Ruhani’s** diplomatic efforts at the UN and internationally, including seeking a res. to the nuclear crisis. (REU 10/2)

### 3 OCTOBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** conduct 2 separate incursions nr. Khan Yunis and in the c. Gaza Strip to level land by the border fence. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron, Nablus and ‘Ayn Bayt al-Ma’ r.c. and 2 nearby villages at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin at night. Jewish settlers destroy 50 olive trees in the s. Hebron hills. In **East Jerusalem**, Palestinian activists drill a hole in the separation wall nr. Abu Dis. (MNA 10/3; PCHR 10/10)

**Israeli and Palestinian negotiators** meet for the 1st time after a hiatus of about 2 weeks, discussions attended by **U.S. envoy Martin Indyk**. (HA, REU, JTA 3/10)

### 4 OCTOBER 2013

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron



at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Qalqilya in the afternoon, 3 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **IDF troops** open fire with live ammunition and rubber-coated metal bullets on Palestinian protesters in al-Ram, injuring 9. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). There are no serious injuries, except in Bil'in where 4 are injured (2 by rubber-coated metal bullets and 2 by tear gas canisters). (MNA 10/4; PCHR 10/10)

**PA Pres. Abbas** meets with **U.S. peace process envoy Martin Indyk** in Ramallah, to discuss efforts to create a positive climate for the ongoing but stuttering peace talks. (JP 10/4)

**Supporters of ousted pres. Morsi** demonstrate attempt to march into Tahrir Square, **Cairo**, with the Egyptian military keeping them out with force, including live ammunition. Clashes in other neighborhoods kill at least 4. (AP, REU 10/4)

## 5 OCTOBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **Palestinian gunmen** open fire on Psagot settlement nr. al-Bireh, wounding 1 child. **Israeli soldiers and settlers** attack residents in Burin village nr. Nablus, and in a patrol in al-Bireh, **IDF troops** shoot and injure 1 **Palestinian** with a rubber-coated metal bullet. The IDF conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Bethlehem at night; in al-'Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. Jewish settlers damage 120 olive trees nr. Nablus, while in a separate incident, settlers throw stones at Palestinian houses nr. Ramallah. (HA, MNA 10/5; PCHR 10/10)

**PA security forces** raid Jenin r.c. and arrest a number of residents, including **Islamic Jihad** activists. (JP 10/5)

**Egypt** allows Hajj pilgrims from the **Gaza Strip** to exit through the Rafah border crossing, and around 100 Palestinians are permitted to return to Gaza from the Egyptian side. Meanwhile, **Egypt's Maj.-Gen. Ahmad Ibrahim** says that the military has demolished 1,055 smuggling tunnels under the border with Gaza since 1/2011, with 794 of them destroyed in 2013. (MNA 10/5)

**Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** gives his support to Pres. Ruhani's diplomatic opening to the U.S., but says he does not trust Washington as a negotiating partner. (REU 10/5)

## 6 OCTOBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Jenin and Salfit at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. Jewish settlers raze agricultural land nr. Salfit. (MNA 10/16; PCHR 10/10)

Clashes across **Egypt** between supporters and opponents of ousted pres. Morsi end with at least 51 people dead, while the Interior Ministry says that 423 were arrested. (REU 10/6)

**Inspectors from the OPCW** begin their mission to destroy Syria's chemical weapons arsenal, overseeing Syrian forces as they destroy equipment and munitions. (REU 10/16)

## 7 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. Bayt Lahiya, and also open fire on open land nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and injure a **Palestinian** nr. 'Azun 'Atma village in the n. West Bank, after soldiers identified a group

attempting to cross the separation wall. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-Bireh in the morning, and in Hebron and 1 nearby village and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning and in 1 village nr. Jericho and in Tulkarm at night. (MNA 10/7; PCHR 10/10)

**Israeli and Palestinian negotiators** meet in **Jerusalem** for the 9th time since the resumption of talks in 7/2013. No details are provided about this particular meeting. (HA 10/7)

In the **Sinai**, 3 police officers are killed and at least 53 injured in a car bomb targeting a security facility. In Ismailia, gunmen kill 5 soldiers at a checkpoint. The overall death toll from a day of militants' attacks and street fighting between supporters and opponents of ousted pres. Morsi is more than 50. Meanwhile, **Interim Pres. Adly Mansour** visits **Saudi Arabia** and meets **DM and Crown Prince Salman**. (AP, MNA, REU 10/7)

## 8 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on open land nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Jericho and Nablus at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Nablus in the morning, and in Tulkarm, Jenin (clashes, 1 injury) and 2 nearby villages at night and 1 village nr. Jericho. (PCHR 10/10)

**Hamas chief Khalid Mish'al** meets **Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan** in Ankara to discuss national reconciliation and the general situation in the Gaza Strip, with no public statement from either men forthcoming. (MNA 10/8)

**Gunmen** shoot and kill 1 **Egyptian** soldier in Port Said, while Egyptian security forces

raid Shaykh Zuweid and al-Arish, detaining dozens. (MNA 10/8)

## 9 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. **IDF troops** also open fire on open land nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shoots and wounds a student in al-Khadir village nr. Bethlehem with a rubber-coated metal bullet. **Jewish settlers** set fire to agricultural land nr. Nablus and then attack a school in nearby Qaryut village, causing no injuries. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols 1 village nr. Bethlehem in the morning, and in Hebron and 1 nearby village at night. (MNA 10/9; PCHR 10/10)

**Jerusalem municipality** approves the construction of 58 housing units in Pisgat Ze'ev settlement, an announcement slammed by the **PA** as a further "obstacle on the road to peace." (JP, MNA 10/9)

The **Obama administration** announces a freeze on military assistance to **Egypt**, with the aid being withheld including Apache helicopters and tank kits, as well as cash assistance to the govt. There is no precise figure given for the value of the cuts, but it is several hundred million dollars. (JP, REU 10/9)

**Two IDF soldiers** are hurt when 2 mortar shells fired from **Syrian territory** lands in the **Israeli-occupied Golan Heights**. In response, the **IDF** destroys a **Syrian** cannon, though also say that the shelling was errant rather than intentional. (ToI, YA 10/9)

## 10 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **Israeli troops** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya,

causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, an **Israeli settler** is killed and his wife wounded, when they are attacked by a **Palestinian** outside their home in the n. Jordan Valley. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Jenin, Ramallah and Tulkarm at night. **Jewish settlers** torch 3 Palestinian cars in Burqa village nr. Ramallah and leave racist graffiti on the wall of the mosque. In East Jerusalem, Jewish right-wing activists enter the al-Aqsa mosque compound to perform religious rituals. (MNA 10/10; REU, JP 10/11; PCHR 10/24)

**Israel's FM Yair Lapid** meets with **U.S. VP Joe Biden, Treasury Secy. Jack Lew** and **White House Middle East Coordinator Phil Gordon** at the White House. The meeting focuses on developments regarding Iran, negotiations with the Palestinians, and the need to strengthen economic ties with the latter. (YA 10/11)

Speaking at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** says that the cuts in aid to **Egypt** will not have much impact in the country, that it is not a "withdrawal" from relations with Cairo, and that the aid could be restored should "credible progress" be made in restoring an inclusive govt. **Egyptian** military spokesperson Col. Ahmed Mohammed Ali declines to comment, but the **Foreign Ministry** calls the decision "flawed . . . in terms of content and timing." Meanwhile, a suicide attack on a military checkpoint nr. al-Arish kills 4 soldiers and wounds 5 others. (AFP, AP, MNA, REU 10/10)

### 11 OCTOBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Jericho at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli,**

**and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafir Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). There are no serious injuries. (PCHR 10/24)

**PA Pres. Abbas** tells Palestinian television that the PA is considering an appeal to the **UNSC** in light of what he describes as "serious Israeli violations, especially in Jerusalem and at the Temple Mount." Abbas also expresses concern that the PA would be unable to pay the salary for all its employees for 11/2013, without further international aid. (HA 10/11; MNA 10/12)

There are protests in **Egypt** as Muslim Brotherhood supporters continue to demonstrate against the military-backed interim govt. There is 1 reported death, in the Nile Delta province, with clashes also reported in Alexandria and Cairo. (REU 10/12)

### 12 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 3 villages and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Jericho at night. Jewish settlers attack residents of Susia village nr. Hebron while they were picking olives, injuring 3. (MNA, Wafa 10/12; PCHR 10/24)

**Jenin gov. Talal Dweikat** says that the **Palestinian National Security Services** have detained nearly 100 people in the n. West Bank as part of a drive to tackle disorder in light of a recent spate of protests and violent targeting of PA buildings. PA forces deployed in Jenin on 10/4 to crackdown on disorder that

followed the killing of Islam al-Tubasi in 9/2013. (MNA 10/12)

Iran's official news agency IRNA reports that **Iranian FM Zarif** will lead the nuclear negotiation team at a new round of talk with the **P5+1** group on 10/15–16, but will only attend the opening session before handing over to **Dep. FM Abbas Araqchi**. The U.S. delegation is reportedly set to include **Undersecy. of State Wendy Sherman**—who will lead the team—as well as sanctions expert **Adam Szubin**, the director of the Treasury Dept.'s Office of Foreign Assets Control, or OFAC. Meanwhile, **Israeli PM Netanyahu** calls the leaders of France and Britain and urges them not to ease sanctions on Tehran, according to an Israeli govt. official. (AFP, AP, REU 10/12)

### 13 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian fishermen in 2 separate incidents nr. Dayr al-Balah and Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries in either case. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in Tulkram r.c. and 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, and 1 village each nr. Hebron and Ramallah at night; patrols in 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Ramallah at night. Meanwhile, the **IDF** announces the discovery of a so-called “terror tunnel” running from inside the **Gaza Strip** under the border fence into Israel, which it claims was established by **Hamas**. Following the announcement, Israel freezes the entry of construction materials into the Gaza Strip. (AFP, MNA 10/13; PCHR 10/24)

### 14 OCTOBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. There are

reports from locals that in Bayt Awa village nr. Hebron, **Palestinians** attacked Israeli watchtowers with stones and petrol bombs, where soldiers responded with tear gas grenades. Some 30 **Jewish settlers** attack a Palestinian vehicle nr. Nablus, whose driver managed to escape without injury. (MNA 10/14; PCHR 10/24)

The **Obama administration** is urged by **U.S. lawmakers** not to relieve the pressure on Iran, a day before a new round of **P5+1** talks, in a letter signed by a group of 6 Democratic and 4 Republican sens. The sens. say they are open to suspending new sanctions only if Tehran takes significant steps in slowing its nuclear program. Signatories to the letter include Robert Menendez (D-NJ), chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Cmte., and Republicans John McCain and Lindsey Graham. (REU 10/14)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** and **UN envoy for Syria Lakhdar Brahimi** tell reporters that an international conference to set up a transitional govt. must be organized and held urgently, in remarks following a meeting at the home of the U.S. amb. to Britain. (AP 10/14)

### 15 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on an open area close to the border fence nr. Jabaliya r.c., causing no damage or injuries. **IDF troops** also conduct a limited incursion nr. Khan Yunis to level land nr. the border fence. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in al-'Arub r.c. at night. (PCHR 10/23)

A new round of **P5+1** talks get underway, with Iranian negotiators presenting a plan to break the deadlock. Following the day's discussions, no parties to the talks reveal any details of the proposal. However, the Iranians' presentation was followed by what was subsequently described by **EU spokesperson Michael Mann** as the 1st detailed technical talks

of their kind. **U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Jen Psaki** echoed these cautiously optimistic comments, saying there was enough information “to have technical discussions.” Israel’s security cabinet, meanwhile, releases a statement warning the P5+1 group against any partial agreement with Tehran and urging them not to prematurely ease sanctions. (AP, NYT, REU 10/15)

### 16 OCTOBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Jericho at night. **Jewish settlers** throw stones at **Palestinian** vehicles nr. Nablus, damaging around 20 cars. (MNA 10/16; PCHR 10/23)

Talks between **Iran** and the **P5+1** group end with negotiators sounding positive about a follow-up round set for 11/7–8 in Geneva, and speaking of progress in addressing concerns about Tehran’s nuclear program. However, 1 source of disagreement between the sides, according to **U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Jen Psaki**, is what sanctions relief might be provided if Iran took concrete steps demanded by the international community regarding the nuclear work. (AFP, AP, REU 10/16)

The **Turkish army** fires on what it describes as **al-Qa’ida-linked militants** in n. **Syria**, after the latter accidentally fired a mortar shell into Turkey’s territory. (REU 10/16)

### 17 OCTOBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli troops** shoot dead a **Palestinian** bulldozer driver who smashed through the gate of an army base in between Jerusalem and Ramallah. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Jericho and Ramallah in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah at

night. **IDF** troops also attack a funeral in Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron, injuring 2 with rubber-coated metal bullets. (HA, REU 10/17; PCHR 10/24)

**PA Pres. Abbas’s spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudayna** says that the Palestinians reject any Israeli plan to retain a security presence on any part of the West Bank or East Jerusalem in the event of an agreement to establish a Palestinian state. Abu Rudayna specifies that this is applicable to the Jordan Valley. (JP 10/17)

**Syrian dep. PM Qadri Jamil** says that an international conference known as “Geneva 2” is planned for 11/23–24, but this is denied by **UN Peace Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi** who says that no date has yet been set. (REU 10/17)

An unnamed **Obama administration official** says that the U.S. is contemplating an easing of sanctions through unfreezing funds if **Tehran** takes specific steps to curb its nuclear program. Another anonymous Western official says that the conversations were the most candid and detailed they had seen in 2 years. (NYT, REU 10/17)

### 18 OCTOBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Qalqilya at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel’s separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in, Nabi Salih, and Ni’lin), and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). There are no serious injuries. (PCHR 10/24)

**Saudi Arabia** announces, via a **Foreign Ministry** statement, that it will decline to take up its seat on the **UNSC** in a show of frustration and anger at the body’s failure to take effective

action with regard to the Syrian civil war and other Middle East issues. (REU 10/18)

### 19 OCTOBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and injure 1 **Palestinian** nr. Hebron with live ammunition, as he was reportedly seen “damaging the security fence” (according to Israeli military sources). The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Bethlehem and 1 nearby village and Dahaysha r.c., 2 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Qalqilya, Ramallah and Tulkarm at night. Jewish settlers chop down more than 100 olive trees nr. Nablus. (MNA 10/19; PCHR 10/24)

**PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas** tells German television that despite the reports, the negotiations with Israel have not reached a dead end. Asked whether a lack of Palestinian national unit complicated the possibility of reaching a deal, Abbas says he speaks for the entire Palestinian people. Meanwhile, **Hamas PM Ismail Haniyeh** calls for a “popular uprising” in the West Bank, and a renewal of resistance, as well as urging Palestinians to reject new negotiations with Israel for fear of jeopardizing the Palestinian issue. (MNA, ToI 12/19)

A **suicide bomber** blows himself up in a car in an **Egyptian military intelligence** facility nr. **Ismailia** and 2 other explosive-laden cars also detonate. The attack injures 4. (AFP, MNA 12/19)

Israeli media report that **U.S. officials** have told their **Israeli counterparts** that **Iran** made “no serious proposals” during the Geneva talks this past week, a verdict apparently echoed by British officials, too. (ToI 12/19)

### 20 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion nr. Dayr al-Balah to level land

close to the border fence. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron and Nablus at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho in the morning, in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Ramallah, Qalqilya and Tulkarm at night. Unknown assailants throw a petrol bomb at a **Jewish settler’s** car nr. Nablus, causing no injuries. (MNA 10/20; PCHR 10/24)

**Hamas’s armed wing Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades** claims direct responsibility for digging the tunnel under the Gaza-Israel border recently exposed by the IDF. Meanwhile, Israeli authorities open **Kerem Shalom** border crossing for truckloads of imports including commercial commodities and limited amounts of fuel and gas for domestic use. Construction material is not part of the consignment. (MNA, REU 10/20)

**Journalists** demonstrate in **Ramallah** to demand the reopening of the Gaza Strip offices of Ma’an News Agency and Al-Arabiya, which have been shut since the summer. Meanwhile, the **PA Public Workers’ Union** announces a general strike to begin on Wednesday in all govt. offices in the West Bank, due to an industrial dispute about rising living costs requiring a commensurate increase in wages. (MNA 10/12)

**Gunmen** shoot dead 3 people including a child outside a Coptic church in **Cairo**, opening fire on congregation mbrs. as they leave the church. In the **Sinai**, gunmen attack **Egyptian security forces** nr. Shaykh Zuweid in the Sinai, injuring 3. Meanwhile, some 3,000 student supporters of ousted pres. Morsi protest in **Al-Azhar University**, with security forces using tear gas to disperse demonstrators and arresting 11. (AFP, AP, MNA, REU 10/20)

## 21 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. Also, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion nr. Gaza City to level land close to the border fence. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Tubas in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Salfit, and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jenin and Salfit in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jenin and Ramallah, and in Qalqilya at night. In **East Jerusalem**, an **Israeli security guard** is stabbed in Silwan, prompting Israeli security forces to patrol the community and clash with residents. (MNA 10/21; PCHR 10/24)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** says that **Israeli-Palestinian talks** are intensifying with “core issues . . . on the table.” He makes the remarks in a joint press conference with **Qatari FM Khaled al-Attiyah** after meeting with **Arab League officials** in Paris. It is also announced that Qatar has agreed to provide \$150 million in debt relief to the PA. Kerry praises what he calls the Arab League’s “remarkable commitment” to advancing the peace process. (AFP, REU 10/21)

**Syrian pres. al-Asad** says that “the factors are not yet in place” for an international peace conference known as “Geneva 2” intended to secure a political transition and settlement to the civil war. Asad, talking to Lebanese television, questions what groups will be present and their claims to be legitimate reps. of the Syrian people. Meanwhile, **chief of the OPCW Sigrid Kaag** says in Damascus that the Syrian govt. has thus far “fully cooperated” in the destruction of its chemical weapons arsenal. (AFP 10/21–22)

## 22 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct 2 separate limited incursions to level land close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun and Khan Yunis. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** kill 1 armed Palestinian after he sought refuge in a cave nr. Bayt Liqya village, a man wanted for his alleged role in an attack on an Israeli bus during “Operation Pillar of Defense” in 11/2012. In addition, a **Palestinian** run over by a **settler car** in Qalqilya on 10/15 dies in hospital from his injuries. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, and in Hebron and 3 nearby villages at night. In Qabatya nr. Jenin, **IDF troops** set up a flying checkpoint at the entrance to the village where around 20 soldiers check IDs and inspect vehicles. Residents throw stones and soldiers fire tear gas, causing no reported injuries. Also in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** temporarily displace 17 families in the n. **Jordan Valley** on the basis of conducting military drills. Jewish settlers nr. Bethlehem uproot 80 olive seedlings, and other settlers nr. Bethlehem pump sewage water on agricultural lands, while in a further separate incident nr. Bethlehem, settlers throw stones at Palestinian vehicles, causing minor damage. **Settlers** nr. Qalqilya uproot more than 50 olive trees, while separately, settlers from Yitzhar assault a Palestinian farmer from Burin village nr. Nablus. (MNA 10/22; PCHR 10/24)

**PA Pres. Abbas** warns that the **Palestinians** will not accept Israeli control over a border with Jordan and that it could be a deal breaker. Speaking on a visit to **Lithuania**, Abbas also praises EU demands that Israel stops settlement construction. (AFP 10/23)

Reps. of 11 countries from the “**Friends of Syria**” group meet in **London** to encourage the

Syrian opposition to join talks under the proposed “Geneva 2” framework. However, **SNC head Ahmed Jarba** tells a news conference following the meeting that their conditions included the impossibility of Asad being allowed to remain in power. The SNC says it will continue internal discussions about whether or not to attend the proposed peace conference. (REU 10/22)

### 23 OCTOBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin and Qalqilya; patrols in Tulkarm in the morning, and in Jericho and 1 village and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. Jewish settlers attack a Palestinian family home in Burin village nr. Nablus, causing no serious damage or injuries. (MNA 10/23; PCHR 10/24)

**Palestinian pres. Abbas** meets with **European Council pres. Herman van Rompuy** in **Brussels** and demands that European companies end all business with settlements. Meanwhile, speaking to a German newspaper, Abbas says that the lack of progress in negotiations is in part due to Netanyahu’s insistence on starting from scratch. Meanwhile, **Arab League spokesperson Nasif Hata** emerges from a meeting in Paris with U.S. Secy. of State Kerry to say that the body is not optimistic about the renewed peace talks. (AFP, AP, JP 10/23)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** holds extensive talks with **Israeli PM Netanyahu in Rome**, with discussions focusing on the peace process, Iran, and Syria. Kerry is particularly keen to seek answers from Netanyahu on Israel’s positions vis-à-vis a final settlement with the Palestinians, during 7 hours of talks. Since negotiations began on 7/29, 13 Israeli-Palestinian meetings have taken place, 3 of them in the previous 5 days. (HA, REU 10/23)

In **Lebanon**, 3 days of fighting in **Tripoli** between supporters and opponents of Syrian pres. Asad have killed 2 and wounded 33. (AFP 10/23)

### 24 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. **IDF troops** also conduct a limited incursion nr. al-Maghazi in c. Gaza to level land, before withdrawing. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Jericho and Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in Tulkarm and 1 nearby village, and 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jenin and Ramallah at night. **Jewish settlers** attack farmers in Burin village nr. Nablus, injuring 1. In **East Jerusalem**, **Jewish right-wing extremists** escorted by Israeli police tour the **al-Aqsa compound**. (MNA 10/24; PCHR 10/31)

An unnamed **Israeli official** confirms that the govt. will press ahead with plans to build in the so-called **settlement blocs** and **East Jerusalem**, claiming that such construction is in accordance with agreements reached as talks recommended. Meanwhile, the *Financial Times* reports that the **PA** has sent letters to 50 countries urging them to clamp down on companies doing business with West Bank settlements, citing an unnamed Palestinian official. (HA, FT, REU 10/24)

The **White House** hosts a meeting of **Senate** cmt. leaders’ aides as part of a drive to get new sanctions targeting **Iran** delayed. At the same time, **dep. national security adviser to Pres. Obama Ben Rhodes** tells a conference in Washington that the U.S. will not be easing sanctions until Tehran takes “concrete steps.” (REU 10/24)

**Gunmen** kill an **Egyptian** policeman in al-Arish, while separately, an explosive device injures 2 border guards nr. Rafah. (MNA 10/24)



## 25 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, unidentified suspects plan explosives on a car of a Popular Resistance Cmte. leader, but the car blows up without causing injuries. In the n. **West Bank**, a **Palestinian** throws an improvised explosive device at an Israeli settler bus nr. Ya'bad village, causing no injuries. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin and Salfit at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. Jewish settlers vandalize more than 30 olive trees nr. Nablus. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). There are no serious injuries, except in Bil'in where 1 person is injured by a rubber-coated metal bullet, and in Kafr Qaddum, where 2 are struck by tear gas canisters. (MNA 10/25; PCHR 10/31)

Thousands of supporters of ousted pres. Morsi march in **Cairo**, ahead of his expected court appearance on 11/4. There are clashes in Alexandria and Suez, where police disperse crowds with tear gas. (AP, REU 10/25)

## 26 OCTOBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Ramallah and 1 village nr. Jenin at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin in the afternoon, and in 4 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Qalqilya at night. **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinian farmers nr. Ramallah, injuring 1. Separately,

**Jewish settlers** set fire to around 70 olive trees nr. Bethlehem. (PCHR 10/31)

**Egyptian security forces** detain dozens of suspected **Islamist militants** in Sinai villages in the al-Arish area, also confiscating weapons, explosives, and other equipment. Meanwhile, the **United Arab Emirates** announces that it is increasing its aid to **Egypt's** interim govt. to a total of \$4.9 billion in new loans, fuel supplies, and other forms of assistance. (AP, MNA 10/26)

## 27 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 3 nearby villages, Tulkarm and 1 nearby village, and in 1 village each nr. Nablus and Tubas at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon. (PCHR 10/31)

The **Israeli cabinet** confirms a decision to free **26 Palestinian prisoners** as part of an arrangement agreed in 8/2013 to free 104 prisoners in 4 stages. The prisoners are all serving time for violence committed before the 1993 interim accord. Meanwhile, **PM Netanyahu** also tells the cabinet that in negotiations with the Palestinians, Israel ascribes "importance to the unity of Jerusalem" as well as the denial of the right of return. (REU 10/27; JP 10/28)

An unnamed senior **Israeli official** says that Netanyahu has decided Israel will renew its cooperation with the **UN Human Rights Council** after an 18-month boycott, thus meaning that Israeli diplomats will participate in the periodical hearing scheduled for 10/29 in Geneva. The decision comes after reports of private warnings by Germany that Israel will risk a diplomatic backlash if it stays away. (HA 10/27; AFP 10/28)

The panel amending **Egypt's** constitution begins to vote on the proposed changes, with only 3 articles from an eventual total of 189 amended articles passing by consensus by midday. Meanwhile, Egyptian authorities close the **Rafah** crossing with the Gaza Strip for the 2d day in a row, after around 1,500 Hajj pilgrims returned on Friday and some 400 other Palestinians were allowed to leave. (MNA 10/27; AP 10/27)

The **OPCW** says that **Syria** has submitted a formal declaration of its chemical weapons program 3 days prior to the deadline. (NYT 10/27)

### 28 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 2 rockets at Ashkelon, causing no damage or injuries, with 1 intercepted by Iron Dome. In response, the **IDF** strikes a training site for the Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades nr. Gaza City, with no casualties reported. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Nablus, Qalqilya and Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Salfit and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. **Jewish settlers** stone Palestinian vehicles nr. Bethlehem, causing no injuries. (JP, REU 10/28; PCHR 10/31)

**Inspectors** from the **OPCW** in **Syria** miss a tight deadline, visiting 21 of 23 sites due to security hazards as they move around the country. The **chief of the agency Ahmet Uzumcu** says in his report to the UNSC that the inspectors have corroborated the information provided by the Syrian govt. in 37 of 41 facilities. (AP 10/28)

### 29 OCTOBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and injure a **Palestinian** in Tuqu' village nr.

Bethlehem with live ammunition. The troops entered the village firing gunshots after a petrol bomb was thrown at a settler bus traveling on the main road in the village (causing no injuries). The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the morning, in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and in Tulkarm and 1 nearby village, and in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin at night. In East Jerusalem, Israeli security forces demolish a four-storey building home to 20 people in Bayt Hanina. (MNA 10/29; PCHR 10/31)

**Israel** frees 26 **Palestinian** prisoners, who are welcomed by **Pres. Abbas** in Ramallah, **PM Hamdallah**, and other cabinet mbrs. Five of the 26 are released to the **Gaza Strip**, where thousands greet the freed men at the Erez crossing. (HA, REU 10/29)

**Israel** appears before the **UN Human Rights Council** to face claims of discriminatory policies and breaches of international law. Israel's dep. atty. gen. accuses the council of subjecting Israel to disproportional and politically motivated scrutiny. (AFP 10/29)

Negotiators from **Iran** and the **IAEA** both release positive statements following talks, with a new meeting set for 11/11 in Tehran. No details are provided, but the IAEA spoke of a "very productive meeting" while **Iranian negotiator Reza Najafi** spoke of a "new chapter of cooperation." (AP 10/29)

### 30 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion nr. Bayt Hanun to level land close to the border fence. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli troops** shoot and kill a **Palestinian** in Qabatya village nr. Jenin, during clashes sparked by an arrest raid. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Bethlehem and nearby Dahaysha r.c., in al-Bireh, and

1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli security forces** demolish a 3-story building containing shops and residential apartments, home to 8 family mbrs. It is the 2d such demolition in Bayt Hanina in consecutive days. (MNA, PCHR 10/30)

**Israel** announces the construction of 1,500 new homes in the East Jerusalem settlement of **Ramat Shlomo**, following shortly after the Palestinian prisoners release. The govt. also advances plans for a national park on the slopes of **Mount Scopus** and the establishment of a visitor's center in the settler-run "City of David" national park in **Silwan**. Israeli officials brief that both the U.S. and Palestinians knew in advance that such announcements of construction would accompany prisoner releases. **Likud dep. minister Ophir Akunis** also claims that there was approval for plans for 2,000 further units in settlements outside the blocs. **UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon** calls the news "an obstacle to peace," while **U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Jen Psaki** responds by saying that the administration views "continued settlement activity" do not serve to "create a positive environment for the negotiations." **PA Pres. Abbas spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudayna** says that the move "destroys the peace process." (AFP, JP, YA 10/30)

Unnamed **Western and Arab diplomats** are reported as saying that it is unlikely the "Geneva 2" conference about the future of **Syria** will take place in 11/2013, as previously mooted. One of the main complications is the question of representation of the opposition, with opinions divided about whether the **SNC** should be the umbrella under which the opposition enters the negotiations. (REU 10/30)

### 31 OCTOBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** kills 4 mbrs. of **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades** in 2 separate incidents. First, **IDF troops** working to close a tunnel on both sides of the border are targeted by an explosion, wounding 5 soldiers. Returning fire, they kill 1 **Palestinian**. Subsequently, the **Israeli Air Force (IAF)** bombs another tunnel, killing 3 **Palestinians** who were inside. In addition, **IDF troops** along the border nr. Jabaliya r.c. open fire on an open area, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Palestinian gunmen** open fire on a **settler** vehicle close to Hawara checkpoint nr. Nablus, causing no injuries. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village each nr. Nablus and Jenin at night; patrols in 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon. **Jewish settlers** vandalize around 300 olive trees nr. Qalqilya. Meanwhile, suspected **Jewish settlers** attack a Palestinian truck driver, as well as 2 Israeli soldiers at the entrance to Bet Ayn settlement. (HA, MNA ToI, YA 10/31; PCHR 11/7)

Reports emerge that **Palestinian negotiators Saeb Erakat and Mohammed Shtayyeh** have handed in their resignation letters to **PA Pres. Abbas**, in response to what the 2 describe as Israel's lack of commitment to the peace process. However, **PLO official Wassel Abu Yousef** denies that any such resignation had taken place. At a meeting of the PLO executive cmte, Abbas says that the Palestinian leadership will take steps in response to Israeli settlement construction, but without specifying exactly what. (HA, JP, MNA, ToI 10/31)

The **IAF** attacks a shipment of missiles located at a **Syrian military base**, a strike confirmed by an anonymous Obama administration official. The air strike targets

missiles at a base nr. **Latakia** thought to be en route to **Hizballah**. Meanwhile, the **OPCW** announces that **Syria** has met a deadline in the internationally mandated disarmament program, with equipment and production facilities rendered inoperable. (AP, REU 10/31)

**U.S. VP Joe Biden** and other administration officials work to convince lawmakers to hold off from passing further sanctions targeting Iran, to let the current efforts to secure a negotiated solution have some breathing space. Comments by sens. emerging from the private briefing with **Senate Democratic leaders** and **Republican and Democratic mbrs. of the Senate Banking Cmte.** indicate that the Obama administration had done enough to convince many of the need to wait. (AP, REU 10/31)

#### 1 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **Popular Resistance Cmte.** and **PFLP** claim responsibility for several **rockets and mortar shells** fired into s. **Israel** and at Israeli military positions nr. Khan Yunis. However, the **Israeli army** says that no rockets landed in Israeli territory. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). There are no serious injuries, except in Bil'in (3 injured with live ammunition) and Nabi Salih (1 injured with a rubber-coated metal bullet). In **East Jerusalem**, municipal officials and security forces distribute demolishing orders for dozens of apartments in Ras Khamis and Ras Shahada. At the entrance to Shu'fat r.c., protests by

Palestinians against demolitions are violently dispersed by **IDF** troops. (MNA 11/1; PCHR 11/7)

The **Gaza Strip's** sole power plant shuts its generators due to fuel shortage, meaning that Palestinians could experience 12 hours of daily blackouts. Fuel supplies have diminished following an Egyptian crackdown on smuggling tunnels, and the inability of the authorities in Gaza to pay for PA-delivered fuel with an imposed tax, according to **chair of the Gaza Energy Authority, Fathy Asheik-Khalil**. The plant produces up to 65 megawatts, while Israel supplies the Gaza Strip with a further 120 and Egypt with 27. (MNA, REU 11/1)

Unnamed **Israeli officials** cited by Israeli media express anger at the **White House** for confirming that it was the **IAF** which attacked a Syrian military base nr. Latakia. The Israeli govt. typically refrains from officially acknowledging responsibility for such attacks. However, **M Gilad Erdan** tells the media that Israel will not allow advanced weapons to be transferred to Hizballah. (REU, ToI 11/1)

**Thousands of pro-Muslim Brotherhood supporters** march in the streets in Cairo ahead of the anticipated trial of ousted pres. Morsi. In Alexandria, police break up clashes between pro- and anti-Brotherhood protesters. (AP 11/1)

#### 2 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 3 nearby villages, in Ramallah and 1 nearby village at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 4 villages nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 11/7)

Anonymous **Palestinian officials** tell Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* that they are deeply

disappointed with the lack of active U.S. involvement in the negotiations, a state of affairs they claim allows to Israel to be “acting freely.” (HA 11/2)

**Egyptian authorities** reopen the border crossing with **Gaza** at **Rafah**, in both directions. (MNA 11/2)

### 3 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jenin, Jerusalem, Nablus, and Ramallah at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 11/7)

**Israel** issues tenders for the construction of more than 1,700 homes, shortly ahead of a visit by **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry**. The tenders are part of 3,500 homes whose planned construction was announced after the latest prisoner release. The tenders are for homes in East Jerusalem settlements Ramat Shlomo and Gilo, as well as West Bank settlements like Elkana, Ma’ale Adumim, and Beitar Ilit. There is also 196 homes planned for Karnei Shomron, a settlement outside the “blocs” Israel expects to keep in any future deal. Separately, Israeli media report that **PM Netanyahu** intends to build a separation barrier between the West Bank and Jordan, as part of the govt.’s plans to maintain an Israeli presence in the Jordan Valley. Responding to developments, **Pres. Abbas spokesperson Abu Rudayna** says that the decision to build a fence along the border with Jordan is aimed at undermining Kerry’s upcoming mission, while **PLO mbr. Wassel Abu Yousef** slams the settlement tenders and says the PLO is considering how to get UN action against these decisions. **Kerry**, in Egypt, responds to a question at a press conference with **FM Nabil Fahmy** by saying that settlement construction disturbs “people’s perceptions of whether . . . we’re

moving in the right direction.” (AFP, JP, MNA, REU, ToI 11/3)

**U.S. Undersecy. of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman** assures **Israel** that Obama has not offered any sanctions relief to **Iran** and that Israeli security is a priority of the administration. Speaking to Israeli television, Sherman says that the U.S. may offer temporary, limited sanctions relief as part of the diplomatic process while leaving core oil and banking sanctions in place. (HA, JP 11/3)

In **Egypt**, **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** expresses optimism about a return to democracy, and describes Cairo as a vital partner of Washington. Unnamed **senior State Dept. officials** say that Kerry did not discuss ousted pres. Morsi’s trial in meetings with **Pres. Adly Mansour** and **Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi**. (REU 11/3)

### 4 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on an open area nr. Bayt Hanun from the border fence, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Qalqilya, in Nablus, and in Salfit at night; patrols in Tulkarm in the morning, in 1 village each nr. Qalqilya and Salfit in the afternoon. (PCHR 11/7)

At a meeting of senior **Fatah** mbrs., **Pres. Abbas** warns that the link Israel has created between the release of prisoners and the approval of settlement construction could derail the entire negotiations process, which he says has shown no signs of progress thus far. (HA 11/5)

The trial of ousted **Egyptian pres. Morsi** begins and is almost immediately postponed, as Morsi and other Muslim Brotherhood leaders on trial shout slogans and make speeches against the coup and the legitimacy of the

proceedings. Meanwhile, **Egyptian military forces** shoot dead 3 gunmen trying to prepare an IED nr. **Rafah**. (AP, MNA, REU 11/4)

At a press conference in **Saudi Arabia**, visiting **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** stands with **Saudi FM Prince Saud al-Faisal** as both men promise their countries will work together on difficult issues like Iran, Syria, and Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. (AP 11/4)

### 5 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** positioned at the separation wall fire on stone-throwing Palestinian children nr. Qatanna village in **East Jerusalem**, seriously wounding 1 with a rubber-coated metal bullet. The **IDF** conducts house searches in Hebron and al-‘Arub r.c. nearby, in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in Tulkarm in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (PCHR 11/7)

According to unnamed Palestinian officials, **Israeli and Palestinian negotiators** hold talks that break down in an argument over settlement construction, just hours before **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** arrives in **Jerusalem**. The talks are the sides’ 16th such meeting, and **U.S. envoy Martin Indyk** also participates. On arrival, Kerry says that while the talks are experiencing difficulties, he still believes it is possible to reach an agreement. Israeli media report that Israeli negotiators have told their Palestinian counterparts that the separation wall will serve as the border of the future Palestinian state. (AFP, HA, MNA, REU 11/6)

**UN and Arab League envoy to Syria Lakhdar Brahimi** meets **Russian dep. FMs Gennady Gatilov and Mikhail Bogdanov** and **U.S. Undersecy. of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman** to discuss preparations for a long-delayed peace conference known as

“Geneva 2.” Reps. of China, France, and Britain join the meeting later. However, the talks end without a set date. (AFP 11/6)

### 6 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Nablus, in 1 village and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, and in Tulkarm at night; patrols in 1 village and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Nablus and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. (PCHR 11/7)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** meets **Palestinian pres. Abbas** in Bethlehem and subsequently urges Israel to limit settlement construction. Kerry affirms that the position of the U.S. is that the settlements are “illegitimate,” and also announces a contribution of \$75 million in aid to the Palestinians, with a focus on job creation. Both before and after the talks with Abbas, Kerry meets Netanyahu where the Israeli PM accuses Palestinians of creating “artificial crises.” (AFP, AP, JP, REU 11/6)

**Yisrael Beitanu leader Avigdor Lieberman** is acquitted of corruption charges, with Netanyahu quickly congratulating him and welcoming him back to the govt. It is expected that Lieberman will resume his position as FM next week. (JP, REU 11/6)

Widow of Yasir Arafat, **Suha Arafat**, says her late husband was poisoned with radioactive plutonium, after she receives the results of Swiss forensic tests conducted on the Palestinian leader’s corpse. (REU 11/6)

**National Security Council spokesperson Bernadette Meehan** announces that the Obama administration will look to a “phased approach” in relation to the negotiations with **Iran** over its nuclear program, offering “limited and reversible” sanctions relief in exchange for steps being taken by Tehran. (HA 11/7)

## 7 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion nr. Jabaliya r.c. and level land close to the border zone, and also open fire on farmers, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** kill 2 **Palestinians** in separate incidents at checkpoints; 1st, at Za'atra nr. Nablus, where a Palestinian shoots fireworks at soldiers and is shot dead, and 2d, at Container checkpoint nr. Bethlehem where Israeli soldiers say a Palestinian attempted to attack them. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Tulkam in the afternoon, and in 2 villages and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** vandalize **Palestinian** cars nr. Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli security forces** close 2 offices of charities it says are cover for Hamas activities. (JP, MNA 11/7; PCHR 11/14)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** heads to **Amman**, **Jordan**, and holds talks with **King Abdallah** and **FM Nasser Judeh**, with the king praising the “trust” Kerry has among all sides in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. At a joint press conference with Judeh, Kerry says that Israeli and Palestinians leaders had reaffirmed to him their commitment to negotiations. Later that day, Kerry holds another round of talks with Abbas, in Amman. In media interviews, he also reveals he will return the next day for another meeting with Netanyahu, an unplanned addition to the trip. In an interview broadcast on Israeli television, Kerry warns that without a peace deal, Israel could face a 3d intifada and “increasing isolation” and “delegitimization.” (AFP, AP, REU 11/7)

**Swiss scientists** say that tests show **Yasir Arafat** died with high levels of radioactive polonium in his body, but do not say that this

was definitively the cause of death. Palestinian officials demand an international investigation into the “killing” of their former leader, according to PLO official Wassel Abu Yousef. (AFP, BBC, REU 11/7)

**Diplomats** from **Iran** and the **P5+1** group begin talks in Geneva, coordinated by the **EU's Catherine Ashton**, in an attempt to work out the details of a deal to end the dispute over Tehran's nuclear program. (HA, REU 11/7)

An unnamed diplomat says that **Jordan** will replace **Saudi Arabia** on the **UNSC** for a 2-year term, after Riyadh rejects the position out of anger with the body's inability to take what it deems appropriate action with regard to issues like Syria and Israeli-Palestinian relations. (AP 11/8)

## 8 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and injure 1 **Palestinian** in clashes nr. Abu Dis, while separately, **Palestinians** throw a petrol bomb at a settler car nr. Bethlehem, injuring 2 Israelis. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin in the morning, in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 2 villages and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Bethlehem and in Salfit at night; patrols in Hebron in the afternoon. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). There are no serious injuries. (JP, MNA 11/8; PCHR 11/14)

The **U.S.** and **Israel** both miss a deadline to repay debts to **UNESCO**, thus triggering an automatic loss of voting rights. Both countries have not paid their dues to the agency since

Palestine was admitted as a mbr. in 2011. (AP, REU 11/8)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** departs Israel after a tense meeting with **Netanyahu** at Ben Gurion Airport where the Israeli PM expresses strong protest at the emerging potential deal with Iran, views he subsequently airs in a press conference. Later, **Pres. Obama** calls Netanyahu himself to try and assuage his doubts, according to a press release issued by the White House. (HA, REU 11/8)

Supporters of ousted **pres. Morsi** hold another day of demonstrations across Egypt, with 2 killed in **Cairo** in fighting between Brotherhood mbrs. and residents, and other protests in cities like Suez and Alexandria. Meanwhile, Egyptian authorities close the **Rafah** border crossing with Gaza until further notice. (AP, MNA 11/8)

#### 9 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and in Bethlehem and 1 nearby village and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Jenin and in 1 village nr. Salfit at night. **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinians in Burin village nr. Nablus, with **Israeli soldiers** subsequently also attacking residents with tear gas and stun grenades. (MNA 11/9; PCHR 11/14)

**PA Pres. Abbas** meets in **Amman** with **Jordan's FM Nasser Judeh** for routine talks about the latest developments in the peace process. (Wafa 11/9)

Talks with **Iran** in **Geneva** end late Saturday without a deal, but with all sides agreed on the need to resume discussions on 11/20. **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** says that "significant progress"

had been made on remaining points of difference. An unnamed senior **Israeli official** responds by saying that his govt. will campaign hard against a deal viewed as very bad for Israel. (AP, JP, REU 11/9)

#### 10 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, wounding 1. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in Bethlehem and 1 nearby village, 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah, and in Nablus and Tulkarm at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin in the afternoon. (PCHR 11/14)

**Israel's cabinet** approves the destruction of a Bedouin village in the **Negev** to be replaced by a religious Jewish settlement Hiran. The cabinet also approves the return of **Avigdor Lieberman** to the position of FM following his acquittal on corruption charges. (HA, ToI 11/10)

**U.S. officials** led by **Undersecy. of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman** arrive in **Jerusalem** to brief the **Netanyahu** govt. on the latest developments with regard to talks with Iran. Netanyahu tells his cabinet that over the weekend he spoke with **Pres. Obama**, **Russian pres. Putin**, **French pres. Francois Hollande**, **German chancellor Angela Merkel**, and **British PM David Cameron** to lobby them on the Israeli position vis-à-vis Iran. (HA, ToI 11/10)

**Gunmen** kill 2 **Egyptian** soldiers in an attack on a military facility nr. **Ismailia**. (JP 11/11)

#### 11 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas at Palestinians during routine patrols in Hebron and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, after residents throw stones at



soldiers. In Hebron, 1 child is injured by a tear gas canister to the head. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Bethlehem, 1 village each nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah and in Nablus at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Salfit and Hebron, and in Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in Hebron and 2 nearby villages and al-Fawar r.c. at night. (PCHR 11/14)

**Avigdor Lieberman** is officially sworn in as FM at the **Knesset**, days after his acquittal in a Jerusalem court on charges of corruption, following a 62–17 vote in favor of his reinstatement. (JP 11/11)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** says in a news conference during a visit to the **United Arab Emirates** that he hopes an agreement on **Iran's** nuclear program will be signed within mos. Separately, Iran and the **IAEA** sign a deal to allow nuclear inspectors “managed access” to 2 sites within 3 mos., following talks by the agency’s chief **Yukiya Amano** in Tehran. Meanwhile, Britain announces the appointment of a nonresident chargé d’affaires to Iran, 2 years after the embassy in Tehran was ransacked by protesters. (AP, REU 11/11)

The **Egyptian military** kills 2 and arrests 5 in fighting in **Sinai**. (JP 11/11)

## 12 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village and al-Fawar and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli security forces** demolish a Palestinian family’s mobile home in Bayt Hanina. (MNA 11/12; PCHR 11/14)

**Israel's Housing Ministry** has issued tenders for drawing up construction plans for some 24,000 new settlement homes in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, it is claimed by NGO Peace

Now. The plans include 1,200 housing units for the E-1 area nr. Jerusalem. However, soon after the announcement, **PM Netanyahu** halts the move and says that **Housing Minister Uri Ariel** had drawn up the plans without any advance coordination. Netanyahu claims that the preliminary plans damage Israel’s international standing and ability to assert itself with regard to Iran. (AP, REU 11/12)

## 13 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on and wound **Palestinians** in 2 separate incidents; 1 nr. Khan Yunis, a civilian close to the border fence, and 2 nr. al-Musaddar, hitting a farmer. **IDF troops** also conduct a limited incursion in the c. Gaza Strip to level land close to the border fence. In **Israel**, a **Palestinian** from Jenin stabs to death an **Israeli soldier** on a bus in Afula, later telling investigators that he was motivated to avenge the imprisonment of his relatives. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shoots and injures a **Palestinian** with live ammunition during clashes nr. Rachel’s Tomb in Bethlehem. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon (that of the killer of an IDF soldier on the bus), and in Hebron and 2 nearby villages, and 2 villages nr. Jenin at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning, Hebron and 1 nearby village in the afternoon. **Jewish settlers** set fire to a **Palestinian** home nr. Ramallah and leave “price-tag” graffiti, in reference to the earlier killing of an Israeli soldier. (HA, MNA 11/13; PCHR 11/14)

The **Palestinian negotiating team** resign in protest at Israeli settlement construction, **Pres. Abbas** announces. **Negotiator Mohammed Shtayyeh** says that the move had not yet been accepted by Abbas. An unnamed Palestinian official says that there are no immediate plans for new peace talks, in light of the development.

In response, **U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Jen Psaki** notes that Abbas remains committed to a 9-month time frame peace process. Meanwhile, the **Knesset Finance Cmte.** authorizes NIS 36 million by way of compensation to settler councils for the 2009 construction freeze. (AFP, HA, MNA, REU 11/13)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** and **VP Joe Biden** brief the **Senate Banking Cmte.** and ask them to hold back on new sanctions targeting **Tehran** to allow talks with Iran to proceed in a productive atmosphere. (AP 11/13)

#### 14 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion nr. Khan Yunis, to level land close to the border fence. In response, **Palestinians** fire several mortar shells at the soldiers with 2 landing inside **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries, an attack claimed by **Palestinian Islamic Jihad**. In response, **the IAF** conducts an air strike against 2 sites in open land, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron and in Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 2 villages and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. Israeli forces also cut down 100 olive trees in Ya‘bad nr. Jenin. (AFP, JP, MNA 11/14; PCHR 11/21)

**White House National Security Adviser Susan Rice** attributes in part “increased tensions on the ground” in Israel and the oPt to “recent settlement announcements,” in remarks to the Middle East Institute think tank in Washington. Rice affirms that the U.S. “does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlement activity.” (ToI 11/15)

**Russian pres. Vladimir Putin** and **Syrian pres. Bashar al-Asad** discuss plans for the proposed “Geneva 2” peace conference during a telephone call. No significant details are divulged. (REU 11/14)

#### 15 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin the morning, in 1 village and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning, and in Qalqilya and Hebron in the afternoon. In Dura, nr. Hebron, **IDF troops** shoot and injure 1 Palestinian after opening fire on Palestinian demonstrators in clashes in the village. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel’s separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil‘in, Nabi Salih, and Ni‘lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma‘sara). There are no serious injuries, except in Kafr Qaddum, where 4 are injured by rubber-coated metal bullets. In **East Jerusalem**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian** demonstrators in al-‘Izzariya, wounding 3 with live ammunition. Separately, **Palestinian activists** make a 10-meter hole in the separation wall nr. Bir Nabala, while another group of activists cut barbed wire around Ofer prison nr. Ramallah. (MNA 11/15; PCHR 11/21)

The **OPCW** meets a deadline for reaching a detailed plan and timetable for the destruction of **Syria’s** chemical weapons arsenal, publishing a statement saying that the mission will be completed no later than 6/30/14. The “most critical” chemicals will be removed by 12/21/13, according to the plan. (BBC, REU 11/15)

## CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
DS	(Daily Star, Beirut)
FT	(Financial Times, London)
Guardian	(The Guardian, London)
HA	( <i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
INN	(Israel National News [Internet])
JP	( <i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem)
JTA	(Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet])
MNA	(Ma'an News Agency, Bethlehem)
NYT	( <i>New York Times</i> , New York)
PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PNN	(Palestine News Network, Ramallah)
REU	(Reuters [Internet])
ToI	( <i>Times of Israel</i> , Jerusalem)
Wafa	(Palestine News Agency [Internet])
WP	( <i>Washington Post</i> , Washington)
WSJ	( <i>Wall Street Journal</i> , New York)
YA	( <i>Yedi'ot Aharonot</i> , Tel Aviv)