



# CHRONOLOGY

16 FEBRUARY–15 MAY 2014

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## 16 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israel Defense Forces (IDF) troops** open fire on open land nr. Khan Yunis, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jenin, Nablus, and Salfit at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Salfit, and in Qalqilya and 1 nearby village in the afternoon, in 3 villages and al-‘Arub refugee camp (r.c.) nr. Hebron and 2 villages nr. Ramallah at night. (PCHR 2/20)

**Palestinian Authority (PA) Pres. Mahmud Abbas** tells a group of visiting Israeli students in Ramallah that he does not seek to “flood Israel” with millions of Palestinian refugees or to change the country’s “social composition.” Meanwhile, at an *Al Jazeera* event in Oxford, UK, **Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat** warns that Palestinians will call for a boycott of Israel and turn to international tribunals if the negotiations fail. (MNA, REU, YA 2/16)

In Egypt, a bomb explodes on a bus in **Sinai**, killing 2 **South Korean** tourists and the local driver, and wounding 12. **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis** claims responsibility, and says that a

suicide bomber executed the attack. (AP, REU 2/16; JTA 2/17; REU 2/18)

The **Free Syrian Army (FSA)** announces that it has replaced its leader, **Gen. Selim Idriss**, with **Col. Abdelilah al-Bashir**, a decision prompted by “the ineffectiveness of the command in the past few mos.,” according to an FSA statement issued following a meeting in Gaziantep, Turkey. Meanwhile, **Syrian FM Walid Muallem** accuses the U.S. of creating a “negative climate” for dialogue at the 2d round of talks in Geneva, as the Syrian delegation returns from Switzerland to Damascus. **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** praises the opposition’s “seriousness of purpose,” and criticizes the Syrian govt. for stalling in Geneva and attacking civilians in Syria. On the **Syria-Jordan border**, 10 gunmen from Syria open fire on **Jordanian troops as they patrol**, according to a Jordanian military spokesperson. The soldiers return fire, wounding 7 and arresting 3, while suffering no injuries. (AP, REU 2/16)

**Hizballah’s leader, Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah**, says that his group intends to stay and fight in Syria because Lebanon is threatened by Takfiri

groups. He also urges Arab nations to help a process of Syrian national reconciliation. (DS 2/16)

#### 17 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on farmers working on agricultural land close to the border fence nr. Khan Yunis, causing no injuries. Separately, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion nr. Bayt Hanun to level land. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** demolishes 5 Palestinian-owned structures in Khirbet Yerza in the Jordan Valley, displacing 5 families. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village and Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, and in Nablus, at night; patrols in Hebron and 2 nearby villages in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish 5 structures belonging to the Bedouin al-Jahalin community in al-‘Izzariya, displacing 55. (MNA, Wafa 2/17; PCHR 2/20)

**Iran’s Amb. to Moscow Mehdi Sanaei** says that Tehran is looking to commission Russia to build a 2d nuclear power reactor in exchange for oil shipments, and that negotiations over the exchange began when Russian pres. Vladimir Putin met with Iranian pres. Hassan Ruhani in 9/2013. Meanwhile, **Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** tells a crowd in Tabriz, n. Iran, that while he does not oppose continued talks with the international community, he does not believe they will lead anywhere. (AFP, REU 2/17)

**Jordanian soldiers** shoot and kill a **gunman** who opened fire on their position while attempting to cross the border from **Syria**. (AP 2/17)

**Egyptian forces** shoot and kill 5 fighters reportedly connected to “terrorist” groups in Shaykh Zuwayd and Rafah in n. Sinai,

according to military sources. Meanwhile, security forces also destroy 21 tunnels under the border with the **Gaza Strip**. (MNA 2/18)

#### 18 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on agricultural lands nr. Khan Yunis, causing no injuries, while separately also open fire nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries. **IDF troops** conduct 2 separate limited incursions nr. Khan Yunis to level land. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. Meanwhile, **IDF sources** say that they discovered a large bomb buried nr. the border fence in the s. Gaza Strip, the 4th such device discovered since the beginning of 2014. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron in the afternoon. Jewish settlers uproot 650 olive tree seedlings nr. Ramallah. (HA, MNA 2/18; PCHR 2/20)

**Secy.-Gen. of the Fatah Revolutionary Council Amin Maqboul** says that the group’s reconciliation delegation head **Azzam al-Ahmad** will not travel to the Gaza Strip until Hamas agrees to general elections and the formation of a unity govt. (MNA 2/18)

Two rockets fired from inside **Syria** land inside the **Israeli-occupied Golan Heights**, causing no damage or injuries. (AFP 2/18)

Representatives of **Iran** and the **P5+1** countries begin talks in Vienna to try and reach a comprehensive deal on Tehran’s disputed nuclear program. The P5+1 countries include the U.S., UK, France, China, Russia, and Germany. Bilateral talks between senior U.S. and Iranian officials take place on the sidelines. Under Secy. of State Wendy Sherman heads the U.S. delegation, with Iran’s Dep. FM Abbas

Araghchi co-leading his side's team with **FM Mohammad Javad Zarif**. (AP, REU 2/18)

Jihadist group **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis** issues a statement warning tourists to leave Egypt by 2/20, or face attack by the group's mbrs. (REU 2/18)

#### 19 FEBRUARY 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Rafah, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing damage but no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 4 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night; patrols in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** attack Burin village nr. Nablus, throwing stones at schoolchildren, and assaulting a Palestinian man. **Israeli forces** arrive and fire rubber-coated metal bullets at villagers, causing no injuries. Meanwhile, **Jewish settlers** destroy 700 newly planted olive tree saplings nr. Ramallah, and in another incident, **Jewish settlers** demolish a Palestinian-owned agricultural shed nr. Bethlehem. In **East Jerusalem**, 30 Palestinian-owned vehicles nr. Bayt Safafa are vandalized, with racist "price tag" graffiti left at the scene. (MNA, Wafa 2/19; PCHR 2/20)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** meets with **PA Pres. Abbas** in **Paris** to discuss the ongoing peace negotiations. The meeting was attended by Palestinian chief negotiator **Saeb Erakat**, **PA spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeina**, and **PLO Amb. to France Hayel Fahoum**. **State Dept. spokesperson Jen Psaki** says that the "few hours" spent together were focused on "narrowing the gaps between the parties on a framework for negotiations." **State Dept. dep. spokesperson Marie Harf** also says that Kerry expresses concern in the meeting about recent remarks made by Erakat about a potential

boycott of Israel. Both before and after the meeting, Palestinian officials sound pessimistic about the prospects for a breakthrough, with an unnamed official describing the talks as facing a "real crisis." While in Paris, Kerry also meets with **Jordanian FM Nasser Judeh**. (JP 2/18; AFP, AP, JP, YA 2/19)

On the 2d day of talks in **Vienna**, **Dep. FM Abbas Araghchi** tells Iranian media that representatives of Iran and the P5+1 countries have agreed on an agenda for negotiations and will meet again in Vienna at some point during the 2d half of 3/2014. Earlier, the **U.S. State Dept.** describes the 2d day of talks as "constructive and useful." Meanwhile, Israeli media reports that a U.S. delegation will visit Israel to brief the Israeli govt. on the ongoing talks with Iran. (HA, REU 2/19)

Two suicide bombers attack the Iranian cultural center in Beirut, killing 8 and wounding dozens more. The attack is claimed by the al-Qa'ida-linked **Abdullah Azzam Brigades**, which says the bombing was a response to **Hizballah's** involvement in the Syrian conflict on the side of the govt. (AP, DS, REU 2/19)

#### 20 FEBRUARY 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Rafah, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on **Palestinian** fishing boats, while separately, Israeli forces fire 2 missiles that land close to the Egypt border fence, causing no injuries. Separately, off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, Jewish settlers attack a school in Burim village nr. Nablus. The **settlers**, along with **IDF troops**, subsequently clash with **Palestinians**, leaving 6 villagers injured. Separately, a Molotov cocktail is thrown at a **settler's car** in the same area. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in

Dahaysha r.c. in Bethlehem and Al-‘Ubaydiyya village nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. (MNA 2/20; PCHR 2/27)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** and **PA Pres. Abbas** meet for a 2d day in Paris. An unnamed State Dept. official characterizes the talks as “constructive.” **PA spokesperson Nabil Abu Rundayna** tells Palestinian media that there can be no agreement, whether framework or final, that does not include Arab positions based on international resolutions, in a reference to the 2002 Arab League peace initiative. Meanwhile, **senior Palestinian official Nabil Shaath** says that he held separate, and secret, meetings with diplomats from **Italy, Norway, Austria, and the UK**, to discuss the ongoing negotiations. (AFP, AP, MNA, REU 2/20)

The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** reports that amounts of enriched uranium in Iran’s stockpile have decreased significantly for the 1st time in 4 years, and also confirms that Iran is meeting its commitments under the 6-mo. interim agreement signed in 11/2013. Meanwhile, representatives of **Iran** and the **P5+1** countries end talks with a framework for future negotiations and an agreement to hold their next meeting in Vienna on 3/17. However, little progress is made in this most recent meeting on the question of identifying Iranian concessions to be exchanged for a reduction in sanctions. Separately, **the UK** and **Iran** resume diplomatic relations, which were severed in 11/2011 when students ransacked the British embassy in Tehran. Bilateral relations will now be conducted directly “through non-resident charge d’affaires and officials,” according to a UK Foreign Office spokesperson. (AFP, AP, REU 2/20)

**Egyptian military forces** kill 10 suspected militants in a raid on Shaykh Zuwayd in n.

Sinai, a death toll that officials claim includes senior mbrs. of **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis**. (AP 2/20)

## 21 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on civilians close to the border fence nr. Jabaliya, wounding 13. The civilians had gathered in protests organized to mark the upcoming 20th anniversary of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. Separately, **Israeli soldiers** shoot and wound a **Palestinian** man close to the border fence nr. Jabaliya. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** injure 13 **Palestinians** and detain 5 in clashes in Hebron following protests marking the anniversary of the massacre. There are also demonstrations in Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah and in Silwad village nr. Ramallah, where Israeli soldiers wound 3 and 1, respectively. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem at night; patrols in 2 villages in Hebron at night. In Tuqu‘ village nr. Bethlehem, **IDF troops** shoot and injure 1 Palestinian in clashes sparked by a routine patrol. Also, **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 Bil’in (1 wounded by a bullet, 1 struck by a tear gas canister). In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli security forces detain 6 Palestinians as they exit Haram al-Sharif, following protests against a visit by **Israeli MK Moshe Feiglin (Likud)**. (MNA 2/21; PCHR 2/27)

**PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas** tells journalists in Paris that **U.S. efforts** to facilitate an agreement on a framework for the peace negotiations have

been a failure so far. He also says that **Kerry's** proposals are unacceptable for the Palestinians. Abbas also meets **French pres. Francois Hollande**. (AFP, AP 2/21)

**The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons** meet in The Hague to discuss the mission to **Syria**, with anonymous diplomats saying that the Syrian govt. has submitted a new 100-day plan for the removal of its chemical weapons after missing a deadline on 2/5. (REU 2/21)

## 22 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 2 nearby villages at night, and in 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinian-owned property and vehicles in Jit village nr. Nablus. The settlers are subsequently forced to leave the village when residents confront them. (MNA 2/22; PCHR 2/27)

**The UNSC** passes a resolution on **Syria's** humanitarian crisis, demanding that both the govt. and opposition allow immediate access everywhere in the country for agencies delivering aid. After 2 weeks of negotiations, **Russian** and **Chinese** objections to the original Western and Arab-backed text were overcome with the dropping of a reference to possible sanctions. Instead, the resolution refers to vague "further steps" if the demands are not met. (AP, REU 2/22)

A suicide bomber kills **2 Lebanese soldiers and a civilian**, wounding 17, in an attack on an army checkpoint nr. **Hermel**, a Hizballah stronghold close to the Syrian border. The attack is claimed by the **Jabhat al-Nusra Front in Lebanon**. It is the 3d such attack in recent weeks in Hermel. (AFP, REU 2/22)

**U.S. Under Secy. of State Wendy Sherman** tells reporters in Jerusalem that under a final agreement, **Iran** would be able to maintain a domestic nuclear enrichment program appropriate for its needs. Sherman makes her remarks during a visit for talks with Israel's **Intelligence and Strategic Affairs Minister Yuval Steinitz** and **National Security Adviser Yossi Cohen**. (HA 2/22)

## 23 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Salfit in the morning, and in Hebron and 1 nearby village, and in Nablus and Askar r.c. at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. In Nabi Salih, nr. Ramallah, there are clashes between **IDF troops** and residents, with **2 Palestinians** injured by bullet wounds. (PCHR 2/27)

## 24 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on agricultural lands nr. Khan Yunis, causing no casualties. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shoots and injures 1 Palestinian in clashes with residents of Tuqu' village nr. Bethlehem, confrontations sparked by a routine patrol. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus and 1 nearby housing project, in Ramallah and 1 nearby village, and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the morning, in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. (MNA 2/24; PCHR 2/27)

The **Israeli air force** attacks targets on the **Lebanese** side of the border with Syria,

according to reports in the Arab media, killing a number of **Hizballah** fighters. (HA 2/24)

## 25 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on a 400 persons-strong demonstration nr. the n. border fence, wounding 3. The protest marks the 20th anniversary of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in Bethlehem and Aida r.c., in 1 village nr. Qalqilya and in Tubas at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Salfit and in Hebron in the afternoon. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** enter **Haram al-Sharif** to disperse a few dozen Palestinian worshippers gathered to protest plans by Jewish extremists to raise Israeli flags at the site. **Israeli forces** use rubber-coated metal bullets and stun grenades, while Palestinians throw stones. Meanwhile, a **Palestinian prisoner** assaulted in an Israeli jail in early 2/2014 dies at a Beersheba hospital, according to the family. (MNA, WAFA 2/25; PCHR 2/27)

The **Knesset** holds a debate initiated by **MK Moshe Feiglin (Likud)** on whether to allow Jewish prayer at **Haram al-Sharif**. Arab MKs boycott the discussion, which is purely declaratory and without any legislative impact. (HA, YA 2/25)

The **Israeli air force** strikes a weapons convoy in **Lebanon** nr. the border with **Syria**. The convoy was reportedly transporting surface-to-surface missiles from Syria to **Hizballah**. Responding in a statement, Hizballah describes the attack as “a blatant assault on Lebanon and its sovereignty and its territory,” which the group will respond to at “the time and place” of its choosing. (AP, JP 2/25; REU 2/26)

## 26 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, and in 1 village each nr. Nablus and Ramallah at night; patrols in Nablus in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron and in Nablus at night. (PCHR 2/27)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** says that he hopes, at best, to get Israel and the Palestinians to agree on a framework deal for an extension before the negotiations’ deadline on 4/29, with a final agreement requiring at least another 9 mos. (REU 2/26)

**Jordan’s parliament** votes unanimously to expel the Israeli amb. and recall its own envoy, a vote that is not binding on the cabinet. The move comes after Israeli lawmakers debated a proposal on 2/25 to take control of Haram al-Sharif, which is currently administered by Jordan as per a 1994 treaty with Israel. Meanwhile, the **Arab League** permanent representatives meet for an emergency session to discuss the possibility of filing a complaint to the UNSC regarding recent Israeli attacks on the holy site. (AP, MNA 2/26)

## 27 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and kill a Palestinian named Moataz Washaha in Birzeit nr. Ramallah, after surrounding his family house in an attempt to arrest him. Following the killing, the **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine** states that Washaha was one of their activists, and urges the PA to end security cooperation with Israel. In a protest against the killing of Washaha in al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, **IDF troops** shoot and wound 3 Palestinians. Separately, **hundreds of settlers** visit Joseph’s Tomb nr. Nablus. Palestinians gather to protest the visit, but they are violently dispersed by IDF troops, wounding 3 with rubber-coated metal

bullets. **IDF troops** also disperse an unrelated protest nr. a village n. of Hebron (Safa), injuring 2 Palestinians with rubber-coated metal bullets. In another incident, a petrol bomb is thrown at an Israeli bus nr. Nablus, causing no injuries. In response, **Israeli forces** raid Osarin village, prompting clashes that leave 1 Palestinian injured. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin and Qalqilya at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Salfit in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 1 village and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Salfit and Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Qalqilya, and 1 village nr. Nablus at night. **Jewish settlers** from Ofra set fire to a nearby Palestinian-owned house in Silwad village nr. Ramallah, causing damage but no injuries. They also leave “price tag” graffiti. In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** launch an air strike nr. Bayt Hanun, targeting a rocket launcher, according to military sources. No injuries are reported. (MNA, REU 2/27; PCHR 3/6)

**Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat** says that there is no point in extending negotiations beyond the 4/29 deadline “if Israel, represented by its current govt., continues to disregard international law.” (AFP 2/27)

## 28 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** shoot and kill a **Palestinian** woman named Aminah Qudeih close to the border fence nr. Khan Yunis. Her relatives report she went missing during a wedding party, and that she was mentally ill. A demonstration is subsequently held at the site of Qudeih’s death, and **IDF troops** disperse it with tear gas canisters and warning shots, causing no injuries. During a separate demonstration nr. Bayt Lahiya against Israeli access restrictions in the border area, Israeli forces shoot and wound

1 Palestinian. Meanwhile, **Palestinians** protest at the Rafah border crossing against the Egyptian authorities’ closure of the crossing, a demonstration supported by Hamas officials. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** open fire on protesters nr. Atara checkpoint n. of Birzeit, wounding 5 with live ammunition. During a protest of the Moataz Washaha’s killing the previous day at Rachel’s Tomb nr. Bethlehem, **Israeli soldiers** violently disperse the gathered Palestinians. Separately, there is a demonstration outside the entrance to Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, where **Israeli soldiers** wound 12, including 4 children. The **IDF** patrols in Hebron and 1 nearby village, and 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 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 2 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in and Ni’lin) and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafir Qaddum). There are no serious injuries, except in Bil’in, where 4 are wounded by bullets. Jewish settlers assault 2 Palestinians in Hawara village nr. Nablus, injuring both. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** violently disperse **Palestinians** protesting restrictions on Palestinians worshippers at Haram al-Sharif, causing no serious injuries. Meanwhile, Jewish settlers throw stones at Palestinian cars nr. Ras al-Amud. (AFP, MNA 2/28; PCHR 3/6)

## 1 MARCH 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Qalqilya and in Jalazun r.c. nr.

Ramallah at night; patrols in Salfit and 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning, in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Ramallah in the afternoon, and in 1 village and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, 1 village each nr. Jenin and in Nablus at night.

**Palestinians** partially destroy an unmanned checkpoint nr. Nablus in response to the confiscation of Palestinian lands and killing of Moataz Washaha on 2/27. **Jewish settlers** assault 2 Palestinian shepherds nr. Tuqu' in the Bethlehem region, causing minor injuries. (MNA 3/1; PCHR 3/6)

Two rockets fired from inside **Syrian** territory land on **Mt. Hermon** in n. **Israel**, according to Israeli military sources. The **IDF** attributes the projectiles to stray fire, but according to a senior officer cited by the Israeli media, the IDF is aware of at least 3 separate incidents where Syrian soldiers intentionally targeted Israeli targets. (HA 3/5)

**Iranian pres. Hassan Ruhani** tells his country's defense officials that the decision not to pursue nuclear weapons is a question of principle, not just international treaties. Ruhani is reiterating a policy 1st set in 2005 by **Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei** banning nuclear weapons. (AP 3/1)

**Egypt's new interim govt.** is sworn in. It is the 6th govt. since former pres. Husni Mubarak resigned his position in reaction to the popular uprising in 2011. The priorities of the new cabinet are preparations for the presidential and parliamentary elections, and dealing with the urgent problems facing security and provision of basic services. (AP, REU 3/1)

## 2 MARCH 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin, Tulkarm r.c. nr. Tulkarm and in Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya and

Tulkarm in the morning, in 1 village and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages and al-Fawar and al-Kharub r.c. nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Tulkarm and in Nablus at night. **Palestinians** throw a Molotov cocktail at an Israeli car nr. Tuqu' village in the Bethlehem region, causing no injuries. **Jewish settlers** uproot more than 180 olive saplings nr. Qalqilya. Meanwhile, a **Palestinian** man dies of injuries sustained after being hit by a Jewish settler-driven car nr. Ramallah. (MNA, Wafa 3/2; PCHR 3/6)

**Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** departs for a 6-day visit to the U.S., telling reporters at Ben Gurion Airport that he will continue to reject "pressures" with regard to Iran and the peace negotiations with the Palestinians. *Bloomberg* publishes an interview with **U.S. Pres. Obama** in which he criticizes Israel's "aggressive settlement construction," comments on the difficult choices facing Netanyahu, and warns that without a viable Palestinian state, the U.S.'s "ability to manage the international fallout is going to be limited." (See document D2 in *JPS* 172 for extended excerpts of the interview.) Meanwhile, **Asst. Secy.-Gen. on Palestinian Affairs at the Arab League Mohammad Sbeih** says that the extension of negotiations will be dependent on upcoming discussions between Abbas and Obama. Sbeih adds that any deal would need to be based on the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative. (AFP, *Bloomberg*, MNA 3/2)

## 3 MARCH 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** kill **2 Palestinians** in an air strike in Bayt Hanun, with the IDF saying that the men were on their way to launch rockets into s. Israel. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus and 5 villages and 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' r.c. nearby, and in 3 villages nr.



Hebron and in Tulkarm at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 3 villages and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Jenin at night. (HA, MNA, REU 3/3; PCHR 3/6)

**Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics** publishes new statistics on Israeli settlement construction in the West Bank. According to the data, new construction starts on housing units went from 1,133 in 2012 to 2,534 in 2013, constituting over a 120% increase. Meanwhile, **PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas** says that if U.S. Secy. of State Kerry's framework agreement fails to provide satisfactory answers to core Palestinian issues, he will cease talks and turn to international bodies for recognition of Palestinian statehood, in remarks made during a meeting with the Israeli politician in Ramallah. (JP, REU, YA 3/3)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** meets with **U.S. Pres. Obama** in the Oval Office to discuss Iran's nuclear program and the negotiations with the Palestinians. In a joint press conference, Obama affirms his "absolute commitment" to preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons. Obama also urges the Israeli leader to make "tough decisions" to save the struggling peace negotiations. Meanwhile, speaking at the annual **AIPAC conference** in Washington, **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** assures attendees that the U.S. "will never let the West Bank turn into another Gaza." He also justifies the talks with Iran, saying that "only strong diplomacy can justify more forceful options." (HA, REU, ToI 3/3)

The **Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Cmte.** approves a bill that would, inter alia, raise the threshold for parties to enter the Knesset from 2% to 3.25% of valid votes cast, excluding parties with fewer than 4 seats. The bill will now be sent to the full Knesset for a final reading (see 3/11). This measure would have significant

implications for the 3 Arab parties, which currently have 3 or 4 MKs each. (HA, JP 3/3)

#### 4 MARCH 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm and in Hebron in the morning, in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 3/6)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** gives a speech to the collected 14,000 attendees of the annual American Israel Public Affairs Cmte. (AIPAC) conference in Washington. He urges PA Pres. Abbas to recognize Israel as a Jewish state and "abandon the fantasy" of the Palestinian refugees' returning to modern day Israel. Netanyahu also makes an oblique reference to potential future arrangements in the Jordan Valley, rejecting the use of "foreign peace-keeping forces" as a means of securing Israel. The Israeli PM also condemns the Boycott Divestment Sanctions (BDS) campaign, claiming that anyone supporting a boycott should be "treated exactly as we treat any anti-Semite or bigot." Addressing the question of **Iran**, Netanyahu reiterates his belief that pressure on Tehran should be intensified, not decreased. In response, senior Palestinian official Nabil Shaath says that the speech is tantamount to "an official announcement of a unilateral end to negotiations." **PA spokesperson Rudayna** says that the demand for recognition of Israel as a Jewish state is intended "to waste time and avoid reaching a true, just and viable peace agreement." (AFP, FT, HA, REU 3/4)

In **Egypt**, Cairo's Court of Urgent Matters bans **Hamas** from operating in Egypt, seizing the organization's assets. **Hamas official**

**Bassem Naim** tells *AFP* that the group has no properties to be seized in Egypt, and denounces the court decision as serving the Israeli occupation. (AFP, REU 3/4)

#### 5 MARCH 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 1 rocket into **s. Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Palestinians** throw Molotov cocktails at an **Israeli vehicle** nr. Nablus, causing no injuries, and the **IDF** subsequently imposes a curfew on the villages of Hawara and Bayta. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 2 nearby villages, and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in 3 villages and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, and 3 villages nr. Jericho at night. (MNA 3/5; JP, PCHR 3/6)

Early in the morning, **Israel** intercepts a ship in the **Red Sea** carrying Iranian-made rockets bound for Palestinian groups in the Gaza Strip, according to the Israeli govt. Both **Hamas** and **Islamic Jihad** deny involvement, with the former dismissing Israel’s announcement of the action as a “silly joke.” **White House spokesperson Jay Carney** says that the action would not affect the ongoing diplomatic efforts with Iran regarding the country’s disputed nuclear program. (MNA, REU, ToI 3/5)

**Israeli forces** on the border with Syria open fire on several men. The **IDF** subsequently identifies the targets as **Hizballah** fighters that were trying to plant a bomb on the fence between the **Israeli occupied Golan Heights** and Syrian territory. The Syrian state news agency, meanwhile, reports that Israeli forces fire shells into **Syria**, wounding 7 mbrs. of the security services. The attack is also reported by UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Separately, **Syrian forces** conduct air

strikes on the outskirts of a **Lebanese border town**. (AP, REU 3/5)

The head of the mission charged with destroying Syria’s chemical weapons says that Damascus has accelerated its efforts after several missed deadlines. **Sigrid Kaag** makes the remarks to reporters following a closed-doors update to the **UNSC** where the official said around one-third of the weapons material had already been removed or destroyed. (AP, REU 3/5)

#### 6 MARCH 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm in the morning, and in 2 villages and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. Jewish settlers attack Palestinian farmers nr. Ramallah, seriously wounding 1. (PCHR 3/13)

**Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat** holds talks with U.S. officials in Washington, though U.S. Secy. of State Kerry is in Paris and focused on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Meanwhile, **Israeli FM Avigdor Lieberman** tells Israeli radio that the Palestinians are blocking progress in talks by “setting conditions,” a reference to a demand by Abbas for a settlement construction freeze. (HA, JTA 3/6)

#### 7 MARCH 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Ramallah at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 3 villages 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, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih) and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). There are no serious injuries except in Bil'in, where 1 is struck by a tear gas canister and in Nabi Salih, where 5 are wounded by bullets. (PCHR 3/13)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** tells Israeli television that the govt. would give up "some settlements" in the West Bank as part of a peace agreement, but that he would "ensure the number will be as small as possible," if talks progress that far. Meanwhile, **U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Jen Psaki** tells reporters that the U.S. recognizes Israel as a Jewish state but that Palestinian recognition is not a precondition in peace talks. (JP, REU 3/7)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** visits **Jordan** for talks with **King Abdallah** in **Aqaba** on the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. (AFP, REU 3/7)

In clashes between **Muslim Brotherhood supporters** and **Egyptian security forces** across the country, including **Suez**, **Alexandria**, and **al-Arish**, 3 protesters are killed and 48 wounded. An Egyptian official says 17 police officers are wounded in the clashes in Cairo. (AFP, REU 3/7)

**Iranian Foreign Ministry official Hamid Baidinejad** says that representatives of **Iran** and the **P5+1** countries have held "substantive and useful" talks in **Vienna** in preparation for the next meeting of chief negotiators on 3/18. **EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton** confirms the Iranian official's assessment of the talks, via a statement from her office in Brussels. (AFP, REU 3/7)

In response to the Israeli allegations regarding the ship intercepted in the Red Sea on 3/5, **Iranian FM Zarif** rejects Israeli allegations, calling claims of Iranian involvement a "lie." **Senior Islamic Jihad official Khalid al-Baths**

denies the group's involvement in the seized missile shipment. (AFP, AP, REU 3/7)

## 8 MARCH 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Jabaliya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** raid Yabad village nr. Jenin and residents respond by throwing stones. During the clashes, 1 Palestinian is wounded by a tear gas canister. During a protest in Yatta, nr. Hebron, over the confiscation of land, an **Israeli military vehicle** strikes a **Palestinian child**, seriously injuring her. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus and Balata r.c. at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, in Hebron, and 1 village each. Jenin and Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 1 village and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. (MNA 3/8; PCHR 3/13)

## 9 MARCH 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 1 nearby village, in Nablus and 1 nearby village, and 1 village nr. Jenin; patrols in Qalqilya and 1 nearby village, and in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Tulkarm and in Jenin at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** violently disperse dozens of **Palestinians** planting trees on their land in **Anata** that had been confiscated, causing no serious injuries. (MNA 3/9; PCHR 3/13)

**Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat** says that the **U.S.** gave a commitment that **Israel** will release 30 Palestinian prisoners, as planned, on 3/29. Erakat speaks on his return from Washington, where he says that ideas were

discussed with **U.S. Special Envoy Martin Indyk**. Erakat also emphasizes that the Palestinians will not take any unilateral action at the UN for the duration of the 9-mo. schedule for talks, which ends 4/29. Meanwhile in **Cairo**, **Arab League FMs** meet and release a statement endorsing PA Pres. Abbas's rejection of the Israeli demand for recognition as a Jewish state. Speaking to Israeli media, **PM Netanyahu** says that should both sides accept a U.S.-proposed set of principles for the continuation of talks, negotiations would last at least another year. (HA, REU 3/9)

**EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton**, on a visit to **Tehran**, says that reaching a long-term nuclear deal with Iran would be "difficult and challenging," remarks made at a press conference alongside **Iranian FM Zarif**. Ashton is in Iran for a 2-day visit, the 1st by an EU foreign affairs chief since 2008.

#### 10 MARCH 2014

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and kill a man at the Allenby Bridge crossing on the Jordanian border. The man, a Palestinian-Jordanian judge who worked in Amman, was on his way to visit family in Nablus. The **IDF** initially says that he tried to attack the soldiers. However, many eyewitnesses describe a different version of the events. In response, **PM Netanyahu's office** promises a joint investigation with Jordanian authorities, and expresses regret and sympathies. **Jordanian FM Judeh** condemns the killing, and summons the head of **Israel's mission in Amman**. A protest also takes place outside the Israeli embassy in Amman, where demonstrators call for the annulment of the 2 countries' peace treaty. **IDF troops** also shoot and kill a **Palestinian** in Baytin village nr. Ramallah, in response to a group of Palestinians throwing stones at

vehicles owned by Jewish settlers. The man's relatives say he was tending goats when he was shot. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Qalqilya at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Ramallah in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Qalqilya at night. **Jewish settlers** cut down several trees and saplings in an-Nabi Samuil nr. Jerusalem. Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. al-Sudaniyya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, wounding 2 with rubber-coated metal bullets, and causing damage to the boats and nets. Also, 2 fishermen are arrested. (MNA, REU, WAFA 3/10)

#### 11 MARCH 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** kill 3 **Palestinians** from the **Saraya al-Quds Brigades** (the armed wing of **Islamic Jihad**) in an air strike nr. Khan Yunis, shortly after they had fired a mortar shell toward IDF troops. Later in the day, **Palestinians** fire 1 rocket into s. Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **IDF troops** conduct 2 separate limited incursions nr. Khan Yunis and nr. Rafah alongside the border fence to level land. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen working off the coast nr. Gaza City, and arrest 2, before releasing them later. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** wound an unspecified number of Palestinian youth during clashes nr. al-Azza r.c. in Bethlehem, at a rally organized to protest Israel's recent killing of Palestinians. Separately, **IDF troops** wound 2 **Palestinians** with rubber-coated metal bullets in clashes in Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, after locals throw stones at soldiers conducting a raid. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus and 2 villages and 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' r.c. nearby, and 1 village each nr. Hebron

and Salfit at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron and in Tulkarm at night. (MNA 3/11; PCHR 3/13)

The **Knesset** passes a new law that raises the threshold for entering the parliament from 2% to 3.25% of the vote in a general election. (The bill was previously approved by the cmte. on 3/3.) The bill passes with 67 yeas, though the vote is boycotted by all the opposition parties, including Labor, Shas, and United Arab List-Ta'al. (HA 3/11)

A small homemade bomb explodes in front of the Israeli embassy in **Cairo**, causing no damage or injuries. (REU, ToI 3/11)

## 12 MARCH 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire approximately 70 rockets; 41 of which land in **s. Israel**, causing no damage or injuries, and 3 are intercepted by Iron Dome missile defense batteries. **Islamic Jihad** claims responsibility for the barrage, saying that it is in retaliation for the killing of Palestinians in the last 2 days, including 3 of its mbrs. the previous day. (They also put the number of projectiles fired at 130.) In response, the **Israeli air force** conducts air strikes on 29 targets throughout the Gaza Strip, with the Israeli military saying that Hamas authorities are responsible for any projectile fire emanating from the territory. The Israeli air strikes cause no injuries but inflict significant damage at a number of military training sites operated by the **Saraya al-Quds Brigades** and also by the **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades**. Reacting to the violence, **UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon** condemns the rocket attacks and “urges all actors to exercise maximum restraint.” **PA Pres. Abbas** releases

a statement condemning “Israeli military escalation,” and **PLO senior official Hanan Ashrawi** condemns the killings of Palestinians by Israel over recent days. **U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Psaki** condemns the rocket attacks and reaffirms Israel’s right to defend itself. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** injure 5 Palestinians with live ammunition and rubber-coated metal bullets during clashes with residents in Bayt Umar nr. Hebron. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin, Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, and Nur Shams r.c. nr. Tulkarm at night; patrols in 2 villages and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. (HA, MNA, REU 3/12; PCHR 3/13)

The **Knesset** adopts a new Basic Law by a vote of 68–0 that requires a referendum on any concessions of sovereign territory. It is the 1st new Basic Law since 1992. The territory in question include the occupied **Golan Heights** and **occupied East Jerusalem**, but not the West Bank. The law also states that a treaty with such a territorial dimension can also be approved without a national referendum if more than 80 MKs support it, and if fewer than 61 MKs support it, it will be rejected without a referendum. (JP 3/12)

**Egypt’s military** says it has destroyed 1,370 smuggling tunnels under its border with the **Gaza Strip**, without specifying a precise time scale. Authorities have maintained a heavy military presence in the **Sinai Peninsula** since the military overthrow of the govt. in 7/2013. (AFP 3/12)

## 13 MARCH 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, an **Egyptian-brokered truce** between **Israel** and **Islamic Jihad** is secured. A leader of the Palestinian group, **Khaled al-Batsh**, writes on Facebook that

“intensive Egyptian contacts and efforts” mean a restoration of “the agreement for calm . . . in accordance with understandings reached [on 11/21/12] in Cairo,” a reference to the end of Operation Pillar of Defense. **Hamas Dep. FM Ghazi Hamad** says that Egypt deliberately ignored the govt. in Gaza and communicated directly with Islamic Jihad, a claim corroborated by an anonymous Egyptian security official. Following the cease-fire, the **Popular Resistance Cmte. (PRC)** fires 8 rockets into **s. Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. In response, the Israeli air force conducts air strikes against 4 sites in Rafah and Jabaliya, targeting a PRC training camp and Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades sites, causing damage but no injuries, except in Rafah, where 3 civilians are injured. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** wound 2 **Palestinians** during a clash with mourners at a funeral in Bayt Umar nr. Hebron. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; patrols in 3 villages, al-‘Arub r.c. and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron at night. (AFP, HA, MNA, REU, Wafa 13/3; PCHR 3/20)

**Israeli science minister Yaakov Peri** says that unless **Palestinians** agree to an extension of peace talks, it would be difficult for Israel to go ahead with a scheduled 4th prisoner release. **Israeli FM Lieberman** says that “negotiations should be extended to the end of the year at least.” Separately, **Israeli authorities** approve construction permits for 387 housing units in Ramat Shlomo settlement in **East Jerusalem**, part of the 1,500 unit-plan approved in 2/2012 by the Jerusalem municipality. Meanwhile, **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** tells the **House Foreign Relations Cmte.** that PM Netanyahu’s insistence on a public statement of recognition from the Palestinians of Israel as a Jewish state is “a mistake.” (AIC, AFP 3/13; JP 3/14)

#### 14 MARCH 2014

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and wound a **Palestinian** with live ammunition during a protest at the entrance to Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah. There is also a demonstration against the occupation in Silwad, also nr. Ramallah. During a separate protest in Bayt Umar nr. Hebron, **IDF troops** shoot and injure a **Palestinian**. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin 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 nr. Qalqilya 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 Bil’in (1 international struck by a tear gas canister) and in Kafr Qaddum (4 struck by tear gas canisters). Meanwhile, **Jewish settlers** uproot 30 olive trees close to Yatta nr. Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **IDF troops** clash with residents of Abu Dis and al-‘Izzariya neighborhoods, leaving 35 injured. In addition, thousands of **Palestinian worshippers** pray in the streets after the Israeli authorities prohibit anyone under the age of 40 from praying at Haram al-Sharif. (MNA 3/14; PCHR 3/20)

An explosive device targets an **Israeli military vehicle** patrolling the border with **Lebanon**, causing damage but no injuries. In response, the Israeli army shells a **Hizballah** position. Lebanese sources say that 5 shells hit open terrain, causing no injuries. Despite the IDF’s announcement that the explosion had a “Hizballah connection,” the **Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS)** claim responsibility on Twitter. (HA, NYT 3/14)

**Jordanians** demonstrate in **Amman** nr. the **Israeli embassy**, urging the govt. to annul the 2 countries' peace treaty and expel Israel's amb. The protest takes place following the killing of a Palestinian-Jordanian judge on 3/10 at the Allenby Bridge crossing, and was jointly organized by leftist, Islamist, nationalist, and youth parties. (REU 3/14)

#### 15 MARCH 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. Later, the navy also opens fire on the beach, destroying a fisherman's equipment store. In the **West Bank**, 1 **Israeli soldier** is wounded after being struck by a rock during clashes between **Palestinians** and **Jewish settlers** nr. Nablus. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Qalqilya and Ramallah at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. (MNA 3/15; PCHR 3/20)

#### 16 MARCH 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Khan Yunis, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Nablus at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron and in Tulkarm and 1 nearby village in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Ramallah at night. **Jewish settlers** destroy more than 50 olive trees nr. Nablus. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** enter **Haram al-Sharif** and clashes break out with

Palestinian worshippers, wounding 4 with rubber-coated metal bullets. (MNA 3/16; PCHR 3/20)

**PA Pres. Abbas** meets with **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** in Washington, where, according to an unnamed State Dept. official, Kerry urges him "to make the tough decisions that will be necessary" before the 4/29 deadline for the peace negotiations. The same official describes the talks as "frank and productive." (REU, HA 3/16)

A suicide car bomb attack kills 4 people in **al-Nabi Othman**, a **Lebanese** village nr. the Syrian border. The dead include 2 **Hizballah** mbrs. **Jabhat al-Nusra Front in Lebanon** claims responsibility on Twitter. (AFP 3/16)

#### 17 MARCH 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on an open area nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no damage or injuries. Off the coast nr. Khan Yunis, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** clash with **Palestinians** in Hebron, wounding 4 with rubber-coated metal bullets. Meanwhile, **Palestinians** throw Molotov cocktails at a vehicle driven by a **Jewish settler** nr. Nablus, causing no injuries. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in Hebron and 2 nearby villages and 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in Jenin and 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Qalqilya at night. (MNA 3/17; PCHR 3/20)

**PA Pres. Abbas** meets with **U.S. Pres. Obama** in the White House, with the American leader urging both Abbas and **Israeli PM Netanyahu** to take "risks" for peace. In a joint press conference, Abbas says that a scheduled Israeli release of Palestinian prisoners would

indicate Netanyahu's commitment to the peace negotiations. (AFP, HA 3/17)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** announces a new special envoy for Syria, with career diplomat **Daniel Rubinstein** succeeding the retired **Robert Ford**. (AP 3/17)

#### 18 MARCH 2014

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** clash with **Palestinian** protesters outside Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, causing no serious injuries. During a raid in Tuqu' village nr. Bethlehem, **IDF troops** wound 1 **Palestinian** with live ammunition. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 2 nearby villages at night; patrols in Jenin in the morning, in 1 village and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah in the afternoon, and in 2 villages each nr. Hebron, Ramallah and Tulkarm at night. (MNA 3/18; PCHR 3/20)

**Israel's Economics and Trade Minister Naftali Bennett** says that the 4th and final Palestinian prisoner release is uncertain to take place as scheduled because the peace negotiations are at a standstill. In response, **PA Minister of Prisoner Affairs Issa Qarage** says that any delay would be "political blackmail" and could "foil negotiations." **Israeli chief negotiator Tzipi Livni** also says that the scheduled 3/29 prisoner release is linked to Palestinian willingness to show commitment to an extension of peace talks. (AFP, JP, MNA 3/18)

A roadside bombing wounds 4 **Israeli soldiers** patrolling along the border with **Syria** in the **occupied Golan Heights**, including 1 seriously. **Israeli PM Netanyahu** vows to "act forcefully to preserve Israel's security" in reference to "jihadists and Hizballah elements" operating alongside the border. (AFP, JP, REU 3/18)

Representatives of **Iran** and the **P5+1** countries begin talks in **Vienna**, with **EU foreign affairs chief Ashton** leading the negotiations on behalf of the world powers. Discussions focus on what an unnamed EU official calls the "nitty-gritty" of a deal. (AP, REU 3/17)

In a speech made at Tel Aviv University, **Israeli DM Moshe Ya'alon** says that the U.S. "shows weakness" in various areas around the world, including with regard to Iran, and that U.S. military aid to Israel needs to be seen "in proportion." An **unnamed senior U.S. official** responds, saying that Ya'alon is "undermining" security ties between the 2 countries. (HA 3/18)

#### 19 MARCH 2014

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** shoot and kill a **Palestinian** teenager by the separation wall nr. Hebron. Family and witnesses say the boy was foraging for plants with friends when shot, while an Israeli military spokesperson claims that the deceased was spotted damaging the fence and ignored warnings to move away. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Hebron, and Salfit at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **IDF troops** demolish a Palestinian-owned home in Bayt Hanina, as well as 2 mobile homes and sheep barns in al-Ashraqiya. More than 90 **Israeli army recruits** and some 20 **right-wing Jewish activists** enter and tour **Haram al-Sharif**. (MNA, PNN, REU, 3/19; PCHR 3/20)

The **Jerusalem municipality** approves construction permits for 184 housing units in Israeli settlements in the West Bank, with 144 in Har Homa C, and 40 in Pisgat Ze'ev. (HA, REU 3/19)



In response to the previous day's roadside bombing, the **Israeli air force** conducts air strikes against several **Syrian** military targets, killing 1 soldier and wounding 7. It is unclear which group planted the bomb, but **Israeli DM Ya'alon** says that Israel holds Pres. Bashar al-Asad responsible for "what happen in [his govt.'s] territory." (AP, REU 3/19)

**Israeli DM Ya'alon** telephones **U.S. Defense Secy. Chuck Hagel** to make amends for remarks he made at Tel Aviv University on 3/17, but reports differ on whether or not he makes an explicit apology. Earlier, U.S. Secy. of State Kerry and Israeli PM Netanyahu spoke about the Israeli DM's comments, and Netanyahu addressed the Knesset, saying that the U.S. remains Israel's greatest ally. State Dept. spokesperson Psaki says that "clearly [Ya'alon's] comments were not constructive" and that "it is certainly confusing to us." (HA, JP 3/19)

Meetings in **Vienna** between representatives of **Iran** and the **P5+1 countries** break up without agreement on the issues of uranium enrichment levels and the Arak heavy-water reactor, with the sides agreeing to meet again in Vienna from 4/7 to 4/9. (REU 3/19)

## 20 MARCH 2014

In the **West Bank**, **Palestinians** throw a Molotov cocktail at a **settler** bus nr. Nablus, causing no injuries. In response, the **IDF** imposes a closure on Burin village. **Jewish settlers** attack **Palestinians** nr. Nablus, injuring 2 children. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Nablus in the afternoon, and in Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in Qalqilya in the morning, 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 4 villages and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **far-right MK Moshe Feiglin (Likud)** tours **Haram al-Sharif** with other

activists, prompting clashes between **Palestinian worshippers** and **Israeli forces**. (MNA 3/20; PCHR 3/27)

The **PA Foreign Ministry** says in a statement that it is waiting for word from Pres. Abbas before seeking recognition in international UN agencies. Pursuit of recognition is reportedly dependent on whether or not Israel releases the scheduled 4th batch of prisoners. **PA Pres. Abbas** returns from Washington to Ramallah, where he is received by a large welcoming reception of supporters. (JP, NYT, REU 3/20)

A report by the **IAEA** says that **Iran** is meeting its commitments under the 6-mo. interim deal signed in 11/2013, but has yet to finish work on a planned plant designed to convert uranium gas into an oxide form. (REU 3/21)

## 21 MARCH 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** shoot and wound 2 **Palestinians** participating in a demonstration at the border fence. Separately, **Israeli military authorities** reveal that they have discovered a tunnel under the border with the **Gaza Strip** that, they say, was dug by Hamas. In the **West Bank**, residents of Aida r.c. make a small hole in the separation wall and set an army watchtower on fire with a Molotov cocktail. In ensuing clashes, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian** protesters and an **Italian journalist** is wounded with a rubber-coated metal bullet. In a raid on al-Zabbuda village nr. Jenin, **IDF troops** wound 1 resident who is struck by a tear gas canister. In Silwad nr. Ramallah, **Palestinians** clash with **Israeli soldiers**, and 3 residents are wounded by live ammunition. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 1 nearby village at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and 4 villages nr. Hebron and

Qalqilya 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, Ni'lin and Nabi Salih) and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). In each Bil'in and Kafr Qaddum, 1 is injured by live ammunition. In Nabi Salih, 2 are wounded by rubber-coated metal bullets. In **East Jerusalem, Palestinian worshippers** pray in the streets after Israeli authorities prohibit men younger than 50 from entering **Haram al-Sharif**, a restriction in place to accommodate the Jerusalem marathon. (JP, MNA 3/21; PCHR 3/27)

Responding to the previous day's announcement from the Israeli Interior Ministry, **PA spokesperson Rudayna** says that the peace negotiations have reached an impasse because of ongoing Israeli settlement activity. (AFP 3/21)

**U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Psaki** says that the Obama administration is disappointed by the lack of apology from **Israeli DM Ya'alon**, for his recent criticism of the U.S. on 3/17. Ya'alon subsequently expresses regret at causing offense, but does not apologize or retract his statement, despite reports he had done so in phone conversation to U.S. Defense Secy. Hagel. (REU 3/21)

## 22 MARCH 2014

In the **West Bank, IDF troops** shoot and kill 3 **Palestinians** in Jenin, and wound 11, during the course of an arrest raid targeting 1 of the deceased, a wanted mbr. of the **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades**. The other 2 men are killed when they attempt to recover the body of the 1st. A funeral march for the 3 men attracts more than 10,000 mourners, who chant slogans for revenge, an end to peace talks, and for

Hamas-Fatah reconciliation. In a joint statement, **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades**, the **Fatah-linked al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades**, and **Islamic Jihad's Sayara al-Quds Brigades** threaten a "painful" retaliation, and accuse the **PA** of complicity in the killings. The Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* reports that the security establishment is pointing to "increasing opposition" in recent mos. by residents when soldiers enter refugee camps for raids and other operations. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 3 nearby villages; patrols in Hebron in the morning, and in 2 villages and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Jenin and Tulkarm at night. In **East Jerusalem**, some 150 **Palestinians** protest outside **Damascus Gate**, angry at the deadly raid in Jenin. Subsequent clashes with Israeli security forces result in no injuries. (JP, MNA, REU 3/22; PCHR 2/27)

**PA Pres. Abbas** tells an emergency meeting of the **Fatah Central Cmte.** in Ramallah that he won't make any concessions on the rights of Palestinians rights "regardless of the pressures and threats." Abbas briefs officials on his latest trip to Washington—he returned on 3/20—and the state of the peace talks. The cmte. expresses support for Abbas's positions, including a fully independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. (YA 3/22)

## 23 MARCH 2014

In the **West Bank, IDF troops** shoot and wound 8 **Palestinian** youth with rubber-coated metal bullets in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem, while 2 soldiers sustain moderate injuries. **Palestinians** throw a Molotov cocktail at a settler-driven car nr. Nablus, causing no injuries. In response, **Israeli forces** raid Burin village and fire tear gas at residents. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Balata r.c. nr. Nablus, and

1 village each in Jenin, Ramallah and Tulkarm at night; patrols in Salfit and 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm in the morning, and in 2 villages and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (MNA 3/23; PCHR 3/27)

**PA Pres. Abbas** meets **U.S. Special Envoy Indyk** in Ramallah to discuss the latest developments in the peace process, but no further details are revealed. (MNA, WAFA 3/23)

#### 24 MARCH 2014

**Israeli forces** fire a shell into the **n. Gaza Strip**, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and injure 3 with rubber-coated metal bullets in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Salfit in the afternoon, and in Hebron and 2 nearby villages, in 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' r.c. in Nablus, and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Tulkarm at night; patrols in Salfit and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in Hebron and 1 village and al-Fawar r.c. nearby in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **IDF troops** raid the **al-Quds University** students' dormitory in Abu Dis. Meanwhile, **right-wing Jewish activists** vandalize 45 cars in the Bayt Hanina neighborhood, leaving "price tag" graffiti nearby. Separately, a **Palestinian**-owned shop in Jerusalem is the target of an arson attempt, with anti-Arab slogans left at the scene. (AFP, MNA, WAFA 3/25; PCHR 3/27)

Unnamed **Palestinian officials** tell *Maan* news agency that **PA Pres. Abbas** has agreed to extend peace negotiations if certain conditions are met, namely a settlement construction freeze and the release of more prisoners. A final batch of 30 prisoners is due to be released on 3/29, and **Fatah Central Cmte. mbr. Mohamed**

**Ashtiya** tells the media that without the release, the PA will turn to UN agencies. Meanwhile, *Haaretz* reports that officials working for U.S. Secy. of State Kerry have been visiting Ramallah over the last 2 days. (MNA, HA 3/25)

#### 25 MARCH 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct 2 separate limited incursions nr. Bayt Hanun and Khan Yunis to level land. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and nearby al-'Arub r.c., and 1 village nr. Nablus at night; patrols in Hebron in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 3/25)

In a speech at the **25th Arab League summit in Kuwait**, **PA Pres. Abbas** attacks Israel's attitude toward the peace negotiations, citing violations of international law and bilateral agreements. Abbas specifically refers to settlement construction, the killing of civilians, and attempts to change the status quo at Haram al-Sharif. The Palestinian leader also asserts that an extension of negotiations must be part of a proposal based on the international community's decisions and with a clear timetable. (HA 3/25)

#### 26 MARCH 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Rafah, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire at **Palestinian** fishing boats, injuring 4 and damaging 2 boats. The Israeli military claims that the boats were identified in a "suspected smuggling attempt." In the **West Bank**, residents sent fire to an Israeli watchtower in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem, as a week of clashes continues. Meanwhile, **Israeli bulldozers** level **Palestinian** land in Susia, nr. Hebron. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin at night;

patrols in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. In the al-Tur neighbourhood of **East Jerusalem, Israeli authorities** demolish a **Palestinian** building containing 2 apartments, a mosque, and a medical center. (AFP, MNA 3/26; PCHR 3/27)

**U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** arrives in **Amman** for talks with **King Abdallah** and then **PA Pres. Abbas**, in a last-minute effort aimed at preventing the peace negotiations from collapsing. Kerry also speaks with **Israeli PM Netanyahu** by phone. A Palestinian source cited by *AFP* says that Abbas refuses to discuss a U.S. framework agreement for the continuation of talks unless Israel releases the scheduled 4th batch of Palestinian prisoners on 3/29. Meanwhile, the **Arab League** summit in Kuwait closes with a final declaration by Arab leaders expressing support for Abbas's efforts and rejecting the demand for recognition as a Jewish state. (HA 3/25; AFP, JP 3/26)

The **Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)** announces that more than 49% of the raw materials for **Syria's** poison gas and nerve agent program have been shipped overseas, with the total percentage of chemicals either removed or destroyed standing at 53.6%. (AP 3/26)

## 27 MARCH 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** nr. Bayt Hanun open fire on **Palestinians** demonstrating in the lead-up to Land Day on 3/30, causing no serious injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah in the morning, in Salfit and 2 nearby villages, 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah,

al-Fawar r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron, and in Jericho at night. **Jewish settlers** cut down more than 50 olive trees nr. Nablus. (PCHR 4/3)

## 28 MARCH 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian** protesters throwing stones at military positions on the border fence nr. Jabaliya, wounding 1. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and injure a Palestinian child in Bayt Umar nr. Hebron during a patrol. Israeli soldiers violently disperse a Land Day demonstration in Burin village nr. Nablus, causing no serious injuries. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 1 nearby village in the afternoon; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village each nr. Jenin and 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, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih). There are no serious injuries. (MNA 3/28; PCHR 4/3)

**Fatah Central Cmte. mbr. Jibril Rajub** says that "the Israeli govt. has informed us through the U.S. mediator that it will not abide with its commitment to release the 4th batch of Palestinian prisoners scheduled for [3/29]." Rajub also says that the failure to release the prisoners "will mark the beginning of the efforts in the international community to challenge the legality of the occupation." U.S. efforts designed to extend the negotiations beyond their deadline on 4/29 continue, with **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** continuing conversations with Israeli PM Netanyahu and PA Pres. Abbas

over the phone in Rome, and **U.S. Special Envoy Indyk** conducting further diplomacy in Jerusalem. (AFP, HA, JP 3/28)

**U.S. Pres. Obama** visits **Saudi Arabia** for a fence-mending trip to the key U.S. ally. Obama reassures **King Abdallah** that he would support moderate **Syrian rebels** and reject a bad nuclear deal with **Iran**, during talks in the king's desert camp. U.S. Secy. of State Kerry also travels with the president. It is the 3d official meeting between Obama and Abdallah in 6 years. An unnamed U.S. official says that Washington is considering allowing shipments of portable air defense systems to Syrian rebels as part of efforts to assuage Saudi concerns. (AP, REU 3/28)

**IDF troops** shoot 2 men nr. the border fence separating Syrian-controlled territory from the occupied Golan Heights. The **IDF** subsequently says that the "infiltrators" were seeking to break through the fence, but does not comment on the condition of the men. Israeli media report that the 2 men died at the scene. (AFP, HA, REU 3/28)

### 29 MARCH 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** nr. Jabaliya open fire on **Palestinians** throwing stones at their positions, wounding 1. In separate incidents off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya and Jabaliya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries in either case. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jenin and Qalqilya at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 village and 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho at night. Dozens of **Jewish settlers** throw stones at Palestinian

homes in Hebron, causing no serious injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** violently disperse a **Palestinian** Land Day demonstration outside Damascus Gate, causing no serious injuries. (AFP, MNA 3/29; PCHR 4/3)

### 30 MARCH 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 2 villages and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Jericho at night. A **Jewish settler** opens fire on a car nr. Yitzhar settlement, wounding the Palestinian driver. (PCHR 4/3)

**Land Day demonstrations** take place in Israel, with an estimated 15,000 participants holding rallies against continued discriminatory land and housing policies in the **Galilee** and **Negev**. There are no serious clashes and 2 reported arrests in total. (AFP, JP, YA 3/30)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** tells the weekly meeting of his cabinet that there will be no prisoner release without "receiving something of clear value [in return]." The 4th batch of prisoners was due for release on 3/29. **Israel's Economics and Trade Minister Naftali Bennett**, meanwhile, says Israel does not need to worry about the possibility of the Palestinians going to the UN. Also, **Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat** meets with **U.S. Special Envoy Martin Indyk** in Jerusalem. (HA, MNA, ToI 3/30)

**Israeli DM Moshe Ya'alon** meets with **Chair of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey** in Jerusalem, assuring him that the relationship with the U.S. is a "cornerstone" of Israeli security. (HA 3/30)

**Gunmen** kill 1 **Egyptian officer** and wound 3 others in an attack nr. **Shaykh Zuwayd** in **n. Sinai**. (AP, MNA AP 3/30)

### 31 MARCH 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** nr. Khan Yunis open fire on **Palestinian** demonstrators planting olive trees close to the border fence, causing no injuries. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 4 villages and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah in the morning, and in al-‘Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron and 1 village nr Jericho at night. **Jewish settlers** throw stones at **Palestinian-owned vehicles** nr. Jenin, causing damage but no injuries. Separately, a **Jewish settler** shoots and wounds a **Palestinian** nr. Nablus. (MNA 3/31; PCHR 4/3)

In an unscheduled trip, aimed at salvaging the negotiations, **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** meets in Jerusalem with **Israeli PM Netanyahu** and then **PA Pres. Abbas** in Ramallah. Meanwhile, **Abbas** meets with the **Fatah Executive Cmte.** in Ramallah to discuss latest developments. Imprisoned Palestinian leaders **Marwan Barghouti** and **Ahmed Sa’adat** call the negotiations “fruitless,” and urge the leadership to seek unilateral recognition. Separately, **Jordan’s King Abdallah** holds talks with **Israeli opposition leader MK Isaac Herzog (Labor)** in Amman, with no details provided of the contents of their discussions. (AFP, JP, MNA 3/31)

**Former Israeli PM Ehud Olmert** is convicted of accepting a bribe in relation to a real-estate deal when he was mayor of Jerusalem. (REU 3/31)

**Chair of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey** meets with **IDF Chief of Staff Benny Gantz** in Jerusalem, with discussions including the possibility of

cooperation between Israel and some Gulf States, according to remarks Dempsey makes following the meeting. (HA, NYT 3/31)

### 1 APRIL 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** deploy tear gas and rubber-coated metal bullets against Palestinians in Aida r.c. during clashes, causing no serious injuries. The **IDF** demolishes more than 20 Palestinian-owned structures, including residential tents and animal shelters, in the n. Jordan Valley. Separately, **IDF troops** also demolish a car wash outside Haris village in Salfit district. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Tulkarm at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Jenin at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** clash with **Palestinian students** in **Abu Dis**, after an **IDF** raid. Meanwhile, **Jewish extremists** vandalize 4 cars nr. Beit Shemesh inside Israel, leaving anti-Christian and “price tag” slogans on the walls of Dayr Rafat monastery. (HA, MNA, WAFA 4/1; PCHR 4/3)

The **Israel Lands Authority (ILA)** publishes a tender for 708 residential units in Gilo settlement, a reissuing of a tender 1st issued in 11/2013 and then 1/2014 after they closed without offers. (HA, MNA, YA 4/1)

In the wake of the **ILA’s** announcement of new settlement expansion and the cancelation of the prisoner release over the weekend, **PA Pres. Abbas** announces that he has started the process for Palestinians to seek membership in **15 UN agencies and organizations**, citing Israel’s failure to release Palestinian prisoners as planned. In response to these developments, **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** calls off a 2d visit in

as many days. Speaking in a press conference in Brussels, Kerry urges “both sides to show restraint,” adding that Abbas had given him “his word” that he intends to negotiate until the end of 4/2014. (HA, MNA, REU, YA 4/1)

## 2 APRIL 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon and in al-‘Arub and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** vandalize a **Palestinian-owned car** nr. Nablus. (PCHR 4/3)

**White House spokesperson Josh Earnest** tells reporters that the Obama administration is “disappointed by the unhelpful, unilateral actions” taken by both Israel and the Palestinians “in recent days.” Earnest also says that Kerry is “in close touch with our negotiating team, which remains on the ground in the region to continue discussions with the parties.” **U.S. Special Envoy Martin Indyk** meets separately with **Israeli and Palestinian chief negotiators Tzipi Livni and Saeb Erakat**, though no details are provided of the contents of their discussions. Unnamed U.S. officials say that U.S. negotiators’ efforts to extend negotiations have reached a breaking point, with the White House believing that “the 2 sides need to work their way out of the current impasse.” **Israeli FM Lieberman** says the “ball is in [the Palestinians’] court” with regard to advancing peace efforts. The **Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, meanwhile, publishes a statement confirming Abbas’s decision to sign letters of accession to 15 multilateral treaties the previous day. It explains that the step was directly related to Israel’s refusal to follow through with the 4th and final prisoner release that was scheduled for 3/29. Meanwhile, **Palestinian amb. to the UN**

**Ibrahim Khraishi** says that Palestine could join up to 550 treaties and conventions, adding that the 15 submitted applications will take 3 to 4 mos. for approval. However, at the same time, Palestinian officials also say that if Israel indeed releases the prisoners as part of a framework agreement, the PA will not follow up its applications to join UN institutions. Meanwhile, **U.S. Amb. to the UN Samantha Power** tells a **House of Representatives** panel that a “newly formed U.S.-Israeli team meets monthly to discuss and coordinate responses to possible unilateral actions by the Palestinians at the UN.” Separately, the **Arab League** calls an emergency meeting of FMs for 4/9, in response to the breakdown in talks, at the request of Pres. Abbas. (AFP, HA, MNA, NYT, REU, WAFA 4/2)

## 3 APRIL 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion nr. Rafah to level land close to the border fence. Meanwhile, a **Palestinian** opens fire on **Israeli forces** operating nr. the n. border fence, causing no injuries but some light damage to vehicles. In the evening, **Palestinians** fire 4 rockets into s. **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. Shortly afterward, **Israeli forces** conduct 5 air strikes on targets in the Gaza Strip—including 2 **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades** training sites—causing damage and wounding 2. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and wound 1 **Palestinian** in Nabi Salih, during clashes between residents and soldiers. **Palestinians** throw a Molotov cocktail at an **Israeli military checkpoint** nr. Nablus, causing no injuries. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Nablus in the afternoon and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish mobile

dwellings used by Bedouin families in Jabal al-Baba. In **Jish**, a Palestinian town nr. Safed in **Israel**, right-wing Jewish extremists vandalize around 40 cars, leaving “price tag” graffiti at the site. (HA, JP, MNA 4/3; PCHR 3/10)

An all-night meeting between **U.S. Special Envoy Martin Indyk** and the **Israeli** and **Palestinian** negotiators ends without any breakthrough or resolution to the impasse in negotiations. Reports of the discussions between **Indyk**, **Tzipi Livni**, and **Saeb Erakat** suggest that both sides present demands for the way forward, with the Israelis urging Palestinians to withdraw applications to 15 international conventions, while the Palestinians focus on the so-called core issues, including recognition of the 1967 borders. Separately, the **Jerusalem municipality** approves construction of a visitor’s center for the settler-run “City of David” site in the Silwan neighborhood of East Jerusalem. (AFP, HA, MNA, REU 4/3)

Experts from **Iran** and the **P5+1** countries begin a meeting in **Vienna** to prepare for higher-level negotiations 4/8–9, the 3d round of talks at that level since 2/2014. (REU 4/3)

#### 4 APRIL 2014

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** opens fire on protesters outside Ofer detention center nr. Ramallah, injuring 13 **Palestinians**, 7 with live ammunition and 5 with rubber-coated metal bullets. The demonstration was called to protest Israel’s refusal to release a 4th group of prisoners and approximately 500 participated. **IDF troops** also clash with stone-throwing protesters in Silwad village nr. Ramallah, wounding 2 with live ammunition. The **IDF** patrols in Hebron and 2 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in Hebron and 7 nearby villages, and 1 village each nr. Jericho and Ramallah at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse

**Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel’s separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafir Qaddum) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma’sara). There are no serious injuries. **Jewish settlers** destroy more than 300 grape vines in al-Khadir nr. Bethlehem while separately, **settlers** attack and wound 1 **Palestinian** farmer nr. Nablus. (MNA 4/4; PCHR 4/10)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** says that the U.S. is evaluating its role in the peace process, telling reporters during a visit to Morocco that it is “reality check time,” and that “this is not an open-ended effort.” Unnamed officials speaking to U.S. media say that **Pres. Obama** believes that Kerry’s efforts may be “reaching [their] limit.” Kerry’s remarks are subsequently clarified by **State Dept. dep. spokesperson Marie Harf**, who tells reporters that “there are limits to the amount of time and effort the U.S. can spend if the parties themselves are unwilling to take constructive steps.” In Jerusalem, **U.S. Special Envoy Indyk** meets with **Palestinian chief negotiator Erakat**. Erakat tells journalists that if Israel releases the prisoners as agreed, the Palestinians will not join dozens more conventions that are available to them. “The focus,” Erakat says, is not to “undermine the American efforts.” Separately, Indyk also meets in Jerusalem with Israeli chief negotiator Livni. (AFP, AP, HA, REU, YA 4/4)

#### 5 APRIL 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 1 rocket into **s. Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. Subsequently, the **Israeli air force** conducts air strikes on the **Gaza Strip**, hitting 5 targets, with Hamas officials identifying hits on **Saraya al-Qassam Brigades** training sites. There is also damage to agricultural lands and greenhouses,



but no injuries. In addition, **IDF troops** fire on open land nr. Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries, and also shoot at **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 in 1 village nr. Nablus at night; patrols in Hebron and 1 nearby village and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and in al-'Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Nablus at night. (AFP, HA 4/5; PCHR 4/10)

**EU foreign affairs chief Ashton** says that **European FMs** “support the efforts of U.S. Secy. of State Kerry,” in comments following a 2-day meeting in Athens mainly focused on the Ukraine crisis. Meanwhile, **Israeli chief negotiator Livni** says that the U.S. should change the nature of its “involvement” to be more “facilitators of bilateral negotiations,” as opposed to meeting separately with the 2 sides. (AFP, REU 4/5)

#### 6 APRIL 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire from the border fence on 2 separate occasions, once on open land nr. Khan Yunis, and once on stone-collectors nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** wound 1 **Palestinian** with a tear gas canister during a raid of Aida r.c. in Bethlehem. In Hawara village nr. Nablus, **IDF troops** wound 1 **Palestinian** with live ammunition after, they say, he throws a Molotov cocktail at their vehicle. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron, and in Tulkarm r.c. and Nur Shams r.c. nr. Tulkarm at night; patrols in Salfit, Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem in the afternoon, and

in 3 villages nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Jericho and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (MNA, WAFA 4/6; PCHR 4/10)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** tells his weekly cabinet meeting that his govt. is ready to continue with the peace negotiations but not “at any price,” and also says that “unilateral steps” by the Palestinians “will be answered with unilateral steps on our side.” **PA spokesperson Rudayna** says that “it was Israel who took unilateral steps to thwart the peace process,” referring to the canceled prisoner release and settlement construction. Later, **U.S. Special Envoy Indyk** meets both the Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, discussions which **State Dept. spokesperson Psaki** describes as “serious and constructive.” Meanwhile, Israeli ministers trade accusations about the breakdown in talks, with **Tzipi Livni (Hatnua)** claiming that **Naftali Bennett** and **Uri Ariel**, both of **Jewish Home**, have worked to “torpedo” talks, while Bennett tells the media that the main problem has been Abbas’s refusal to recognize Israel as a Jewish state. (HA, JP, MNA, REU, ToI 4/6)

#### 7 APRIL 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** conduct 3 separate limited incursions nr. Dayr al-Balah, Gaza City, and Juhur al-Dik to level land close to the border fence. **Israeli forces** also open fire on stone-collectors close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. Off the coast nr. Gaza City, Israeli naval vessels shoot at **Palestinian** fishermen on 2 occasions, 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 Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur, and 1 village each nr. Hebron, Nablus, and Ramallah at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and in Hebron in the morning, in Qalqilya and

1 nearby village and 1 village nr. Salfit in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Salfit and 1 village each nr. Hebron and Qalqilya at night. Meanwhile, **Jewish settlers** vandalize an **IDF** jeep in Yitzhar settlement, for the 2nd time in 2 days. In **East Jerusalem**, around 50 **right-wing Jewish activists** tour **Haram al-Sharif**, along with **MK Moshe Feiglin (Likud)**. (JP, MNA 4/7; PCHR 4/10)

**U.S. Special Envoy Martin Indyk** holds a 2d meeting in 2 days in Jerusalem with the Israeli and Palestinian negotiating teams, represented by **Tzipi Livni** and **Yitzhak Molcho**, and **Saeb Erakat** and **Majed Faraj** (head of Palestinian intelligence services) respectively. All reports indicate that the main issues of disagreement remain. **U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Jen Psaki** says that the focus is on “determining whether the process can move forward.” (JP, MNA, REU 4/7)

Clashes between rival fighters in **Mieh Mieh r.c.** nr. Sidon in **s. Lebanon** leave 9 dead and more than 20 injured. The 2 groups involved are **Ansar Allah** and **Shuhada al-Awda**, both led by former mbrs. of Fatah, with the origins of the dispute in a personal disagreement between mbrs. (AFP, REU 4/8)

#### 8 APRIL 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion along the border fence nr. Khan Yunis to level land. Off the coast nr. Khan Yunis, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** demolishes 4 agricultural structures nr. Hebron. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 1 nearby village at night; patrols in al-‘Arub r.c. and 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** attack a **Palestinian-owned** house nr. Yitzhar, causing no injuries. In the

same settlement, **Jewish settlers** clash overnight with Israeli security forces, leaving 6 border guards injured. (REU, Wafa 4/8; PCHR 4/10)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** says in a **Senate Foreign Relations Cmte.** hearing that both Israelis and Palestinians, “whether advertently or inadvertently, wound up in positions where things happened that were unhelpful.” Kerry criticizes the Palestinians’ move to recognize international treaties, but specifies Israel’s prior failure to release Palestinian prisoners and announcement of 700 settlement units as fundamental to “find[ing] ourselves where we are.” Kerry also says that “there are limits to the amount of time” he can put into the negotiations, but adds that he hopes “the parties will be able to find a way back.” Kerry subsequently meets **Pres. Obama** and **VP Joe Biden** for discussions on the status of the peace negotiations. **White House spokesperson Carney** says that “the parties themselves have to make [the relevant choices and decisions].” Meanwhile, **Pres. Abbas** arrives in Cairo for an emergency meeting of **Arab League FMs**, accompanied by **Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat** and **FM Riyad al-Maliki**. Abbas requests \$100 m. per mo. for an economic safety net in case Israel should impose financial sanctions. (AFP, HA, JP, MNA REU 4/8)

In the same Senate Foreign Relations Cmte. hearing, **Secy. of State Kerry** says that he is not optimistic about negotiations between representatives of **Iran** and the **P5+1** countries. He adds that Iran is about 2 mos. away from being able to produce enough material for a nuclear bomb should it decide to do so, though would not necessarily be able to deliver a nuclear weapon. Meanwhile, in **Vienna**, representatives of **Iran** and the **P5+1 countries** meet for 2 days of talks intended to focus on the concrete details of a potential deal. (AP, REU 4/8)

**9 APRIL 2014**

In the **Gaza Strip**, Palestinians fire 1 mortar shell into **s. Israel**, causing minor damage in a residential area but no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** fire tear gas into the Salfit campus of al-Quds Open University during a raid. The IDF conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night; patrols in al-Fawar r.c. and 3 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. **Jewish settlers** throw stones at Palestinian schoolchildren in al-Tuwani nr. Hebron. (MNA, ToI 4/9, PCHR 4/10)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** orders all govt. ministries to cease cooperation with their **Palestinian** counterparts, a measure taken in response to Abbas's request to join 15 international conventions. Netanyahu provides exemptions for **Justice Minister Livni**, Israel's chief peace negotiator, and security officials. Meanwhile, an unnamed senior official in Netanyahu's office tells the *New York Times* that Israel is "deeply disappointed" with U.S. Secy. of State Kerry's attribution of blame for the breakdown of talks, a reference to remarks made a day previously by the senior diplomat to a Senate cmte. **Kerry** meets with **Israeli FM Lieberman** in Washington, holding a joint press conference where both men reaffirm their commitment to the talks. **Israeli economics and trade minister Bennett**, however, urges Netanyahu to proceed with a "plan B," meaning annexation of portions of the West Bank. Meanwhile, the **Arab League meeting in Cairo** ends with a call for Kerry to exert pressure on Israel to fulfil its commitments, while **PA FM Maliki** tells reporters that the FMs agree to provide financial support for the PA should Israel impose sanctions. (HA, MNA, REU, ToI, YA 4/9)

Talks between representatives of **Iran** and the **P5+1 countries in Vienna** conclude. **Iranian FM Zarif** says that both sides agree on "50–60%" of issues, though "the remainders are important ones and diverse." **EU foreign affairs chief Ashton** says that the next round, starting 5/13, would see negotiations "move to the next phase." **Ashton** describes the talks as "substantive and detailed," with "intensive work" required to "overcome the differences ahead." **FM Zarif** also says that Iranian negotiators have stated clearly their stance that none of the nuclear facilities "would be dismantled." In Tehran, meanwhile, **Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei** says that the country's negotiating team should not yield to issues "forced upon them," in remarks made to nuclear scientists. (AFP, AP, REU 4/9)

**10 APRIL 2014**

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on stone-collectors close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, wounding 1. Separately, **IDF troops** shoot and wound 1 **Palestinian** close to the border fence nr. Jabaliya r.c. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** leaves confiscation notices in lands nr. al-Khadir, amounting to 984 dunams. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; patrols in 2 villages nr. Salfit, 1 village nr. Ramallah and in Qalqilya in the morning, in Salfit and 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in Jericho and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **U.S. Reps. Bill Johnson (R-OH)** and **David McKinley (R-WV)** join **Jewish activists** touring **Haram al-Sharif**. (MNA 4/10; PCHR 4/17)

**State Dept. spokesperson Jen Psaki** says that U.S. officials and Israeli and Palestinian

negotiators remain “in intensive” discussions, with the gaps “narrowing” and the goal being “to determine what the path forward is for these negotiations.” She also says that **U.S. Special Envoy Indyk**, who meets again with both sides, would return to Washington for consultations, before returning again to the region. Meanwhile, an anonymous Israeli official says that the govt. will deduct debt payments from tax transfers destined for the **PA**, and limit its bank deposits in Israel. **PA Pres. Abbas** meets with **EU foreign affairs chief Ashton** in **Cairo** to discuss the latest developments and the outcome of the recent **Arab League emergency meeting**. (HA, MNA, REU, YA, Wafa 4/10)

#### 11 APRIL 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinians** close to the border fence on 2 separate occasions, once nr. Jabaliya r.c., injuring 1, and once nr. Khan Yunis, injuring 1. Separately, **IDF troops** stationed on the border open fire on an open area nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 2 villages each nr. Ramallah and Salfit, and in 1 village nr. Qalqilya 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, Ni’lin and Nabi Salih) and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafir Qaddum). There are no serious injuries. (MNA 4/11; PCHR 4/17)

The **PA** formally signs up to the **Geneva Convention**, Swiss FM Pierre-Alain Eltschinger announces. Meanwhile, **U.S. Special Envoy Indyk** returns to the U.S. for Passover break. (AFP, JP 4/11)

#### 12 APRIL 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on agricultural areas nr. Khan Yunis, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, during clashes prompted by an army patrol in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem, **IDF troops** shoot and wound 2 Palestinians. **IDF troops** surround Nabi Salih nr. Ramallah and declare it a “closed military zone.” In subsequent clashes in the town, 2 residents are wounded. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 2 nearby villages at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah in the morning, in Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 2 villages and ‘Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho, and al-‘Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (MNA 4/12; PCHR 4/17)

#### 13 APRIL 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 3 mortar shells toward **IDF troops** operating nr. the border, causing no injuries. The attack is claimed by the **military wing of the Democratic Front of the Liberation of Palestine**. **IDF troops** open fire on stone-collectors close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, wounding 2. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and wound 1 **Palestinian** in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem during a raid. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and in 3 villages nr. Jenin, in Hebron and 1 nearby village, and 1 village nr. Salfit at night; patrols in Tulkarm and 2 villages nr. Qalqilya in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jericho, and in Tulkarm at night. **Jewish settlers** return to a building in Hebron from which they had been evicted more than 5 years ago, following a Supreme Court ruling and approval from **Israeli DM Moshe Ya’alon**. In

**East Jerusalem, Jewish settlers** assault 3 Palestinians in Pisgat Ze'ev. Also, **Israeli security forces** raid **Haram al-Sharif** and violently disperse worshippers. (HA, MNA, ToI, Wafa 4/13; PCHR 4/17)

**Israeli** and **Palestinian negotiators** meet again in **Jerusalem**, this time without the presence of **U.S. Special Envoy Indyk**. The discussions end without signs of progress, with **Israeli chief negotiator Livni** demanding the Palestinians withdraw applications to international treaties, and the Palestinians refusing to do so. (AFP, MNA, YA 4/14)

**Israel's DM Ya'alon** approves the retroactive legalization of Netiv Ha'avot settler outpost in Gush Etzion, built without authorization in 2001. In doing so, Ya'alon declares 984 dunams around the outpost to be "state land." (HA, REU 4/13)

#### 14 APRIL 2014

In the **West Bank**, **Palestinians** shoot and kill an Israeli as he drives nr. Hebron. In Aida r.c. in Bethlehem, a woman dies from tear gas inhalation during clashes with IDF troops in the camp. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in al-Fawar r.c. and 4 villages nr. Hebron at night. In **East Jerusalem**, police prohibit men younger than 50 from worshipping in **Haram al-Sharif**. (AFP, REU 4/14; PCHR 4/17)

#### 15 APRIL 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on stone-collectors close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, wounding 2. Separately, **IDF troops** fire a shell in the Juhur al-Dik area, causing no injuries. Off the coast nr. Bayt

Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** assault a **Palestinian** farmer in al-Khadir nr. Bethlehem. (MNA, Wafa 4/15; PCHR 4/17)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** condemns the killing of an **Israeli** driving nr. Hebron the previous night, and blames the PA for "incitement." **U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Psaki** also condemns the attack and urges "all parties to exercise restraint and avoid any action that would raise tensions." **Hamas PM Ismail Haniyeh**, speaking in Gaza City, praises the shooting attack as bringing "back life to the path of resistance." Meanwhile, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators meet again, without **U.S. Special Envoy Indyk**. (AFP, AP 4/15; JP 4/16)

#### 16 APRIL 2014

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse a **Palestinian** demonstration in Hebron, injuring 7 in the process. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in Jenin and 1 nearby village, and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **hundreds of Israeli forces** raid **Haram al-Sharif** and fire rubber-coated metal bullets at **worshippers** after **Palestinians** throw stones at a group escorted by Israeli police. (JP, MNA, REU 4/16; PCHR 4/17)

**PA Pres. Abbas** meets with a small group of **Knesset** mbrs. (3 Labor, 2 Meretz) in Ramallah, telling them that he is willing to extend negotiations with Israel for another 9 mos., but would want the 1st 3 mos. to focus on defining the borders of the Palestinian state, during which time there would be a settlement

construction freeze. Meanwhile, **PA Religious Affairs Minister Mahmud al-Habash** says that discussions are taking place about the potential dismantling of the PA, and “giving the keys to Israel.” (HA, JP, MNA 4/16)

#### 17 APRIL 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Palestinians** demonstrate across the West Bank and Gaza Strip to mark **Prisoners Day**, with large protests in Hebron, Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah and Gaza City. In Hebron, **IDF troops** violently disperse the protest with live ammunition, injuring 6. Separately, Israeli soldiers fire rubber-coated metal bullets at **Palestinians** in Tuqu’ village nr. Bethlehem, in clashes sparked by a raid. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Hebron at night; patrols in Hebron and 1 nearby village in the morning, in 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Salfit, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 2 villages each nr. Hebron, Jenin and Ramallah, and 1 village each nr. Jericho and Qalqilya at night. (MNA 4/17; PCHR 4/24)

**Israeli** and **Palestinian negotiators** meet in Jerusalem, with **U.S. Special Envoy Martin Indyk** present. The talks break up after 5 hours without agreement or breakthrough. **PA security spokesperson Adnan Dmeiri** describes relations between the 2 sides as being “at the lowest level politically, economically and at a security level.” (AFP, JP, MNA, REU 4/17)

The **IAEA** reports that **Iran** has diluted 75% of its 20%-enriched uranium into less potent forms, with the agency confirming that Tehran is thus far adhering to its commitments made as

part of the 6-mo. interim agreement signed in 11/2013. As a consequence of compliance, **State Dept. spokesperson Harf** confirms that the U.S. is taking steps to release \$450 m. of frozen Iranian funds, while Japan has made 2 more payments totalling \$1 billion to Iran for crude imports. (AP, JP, REU 4/17)

In n. Israel, **IDF troops** cross the Blue Line on the **Lebanese border** and seize 5 shepherds nr. the Shebaa Farms area. While 3 are immediately released, 2 brothers are detained. The Lebanese military says it is working with **UNIFIL** to secure the return of the remaining 2. (DS, MNA 4/18)

#### 18 APRIL 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on **Palestinians** close to the border fence nr. Jabaliya, wounding 1. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** violently disperses **Palestinian** protesters outside of Silwad village nr. Ramallah, causing no injuries. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Salfit, Dahaysha r.c. in Bethlehem, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the morning, in Hebron and in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Salfit in the afternoon, and in al-‘Arub r.c. and 5 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village each nr. Jenin, Jericho, Qalqilya, and Salfit. **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, Ni’lin and Nabi Salih) and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). There are no serious injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** clash with **Palestinians** outside **Haram al-Sharif** after tight restrictions are imposed on worshippers. (MNA 4/18; PCHR 4/24)

**Gaza’s Ministry of Interior** says that **Egyptian authorities** have kept the **Rafah**

crossing closed for a total of 81 days thus far in 2014 (out of a total of 108). Officials also say that the repeated closures of the **Kerem Shalom** crossing over Jewish holidays have led to a severe fuel shortage, with the crossing shut on 4/14, 4/15, and 4/18, and scheduled to be shut again on 4/20–21, 4/25, 5/5–6, and 6/3–4 (along with the routine weekly closures on Fridays and Saturdays). (MNA 4/18)

**Jewish extremists** set fire to the door of a mosque in Umm al-Fahm in Israel, also leaving racist and “price tag” graffiti. (YA 4/18)

**U.S. Special Envoy Indyk** meets separately with **Israeli** and **Palestinian negotiators** in Jerusalem and Jericho respectively. According to an unnamed Palestinian official, he does not present any new proposals. (AFP, ToI 4/18)

**EU foreign affairs chief Ashton** calls on **Israel** to reverse recent steps, such as settlement construction, and expresses “great concern” over a decision this week to declare an area in the Gush Etzion settlement bloc “state land.” Ashton also condemns the recent killing by Palestinians of an Israeli man nr. Hebron. In response, **Israeli FM Lieberman** criticizes Ashton’s remarks, sarcastically commenting that “the EU knows how to identify the world’s critical problems.” (AFP, HA 4/18)

#### 19 APRIL 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Salfit, and in Jenin r.c. at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Ramallah in the afternoon, and in 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Jenin at night. (PCHR 4/24)

The **head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization, Ali Akbar Salehi**, says that representatives of **Iran** and the **P5+1** countries have “virtually agreed” on a proposal to settle

the dispute over the Arak heavy-water nuclear reactor. Salehi also says that Iran has diluted and converted more than 200 kilograms (441 pounds) of enriched uranium. (AFP, HA, REU 4/19)

#### 20 APRIL 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Nablus in the afternoon, and in Hebron and 1 nearby village at night; patrols in al-‘Arub r.c. and 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. Jewish settlers chop down more than 100 olive trees nr. Ramallah. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** and **Palestinians** clash at **Haram al-Sharif**, with 400 police officers firing tear gas and rubber-coated metal bullets, wounding dozens. (AFP, MNA, REU 4/20; PCHR 4/24)

While traveling along the **Egypt-Israel border**, an **IDF** vehicle is struck by a stray bullet during a clash between Egyptian forces and drug smugglers. There are no injuries. (MNA, ToI 4/20)

#### 21 APRIL 2014

In the **Gaza Strip, Palestinians** fire 7 rockets into **s. Israel**, causing no injuries, but 2 strike Sderot and cause light damage. In addition, **Palestinians** fire an anti-tank missile at **Israeli soldiers** patrolling the border fence, causing no damage or injuries. Following these attacks, **IDF troops** conduct 6 air strikes on targets across the Gaza Strip, including Hamas-run training sites, where 2 security officers are injured. There are also strikes on agricultural and farming facilities, causing damage but no injuries. **IDF troops** also fire on open land close to the border fence in separate incidents nr. Jabaliya and Bayt Hanun. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** raid Awarta village nr. Nablus, sparking clashes with

residents, causing no serious injuries. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Jenin at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Nablus in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Salfit, in al-‘Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (MNA 4/21; PCHR 4/24)

**U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Psaki** says that if **PA Pres. Abbas** dissolves the PA, a measure reportedly being discussed among senior Palestinian officials in Ramallah, it would be an “extreme step” with “grave implications.” Psaki also says that Kerry has no plans to return for a last-minute effort to salvage negotiations ahead of the 4/29 deadline. (HA 4/21; JP 4/22)

**Senior Hamas official Musa Abu Marzuq**, head of external affairs, travels from **Egypt** to the **Gaza Strip**, ahead of a scheduled visit to the territory by a PLO delegation from the West Bank. In a confidence-boosting measure, Hamas authorities release 10 Fatah-affiliated prisoners. **Israeli PM Netanyahu** warns Abbas against unity with Hamas, saying that the PA needs “to decide” between peace and Hamas. (AFP, AP, MNA 4/21)

**Jordan’s Foreign Ministry** summons **Israeli amb. Daniel Nevo** to protest the actions of Israeli forces at **Haram al-Sharif** in recent days, calling it a “gross breach of international law and of the peace agreement between the 2 nations.” **Jordanian minister Mohammad al-Momani** says that Amman will take the necessary steps to protect the Islamic and Christian sites in Jerusalem. (ToI, Wafa 4/21)

## 22 APRIL 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** raid Tuqu‘ village nr. Bethlehem, and fire tear gas

and stun grenades without provocation. **IDF troops** fire tear gas and stun grenades in Hebron after a patrol provokes Palestinian stone-throwing. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-Fawar r.c. and 4 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Nablus at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli security forces** raid **Haram al-Sharif** and assault a number of worshippers, causing no serious injuries. At the same time, some 30 **Jewish activists** enter the area. (MNA, Wafa 4/22; PCHR 4/24)

A meeting between **Israeli and Palestinian negotiators**, with **U.S. Special Envoy Indyk**, ends without progress. **PA Pres. Abbas** tells Israeli journalists in Ramallah that he has 3 conditions for continuing negotiations beyond the 4/29 deadline: the release of the 4th group of Palestinian prisoners, including Palestinian citizens of Israel, a settlement construction freeze, and a pledge that the 1st 3 mos. of extended talks focus on the borders of a future Palestinian state. In addition, the **PA cabinet** concludes in its weekly meeting in Ramallah that the demarcation of borders based on the 1967 lines is the key to future successful negotiations. However, an Israeli official tells *AFP* on condition of anonymity that “he who makes such conditions does not want peace.” Meanwhile, **Palestinian chief negotiator Erakat** dismisses the possibility of the PA being dismantled, but says that Israel’s actions “have annulled all the legal, political, security, economic, and operational aspects of the prerogatives of the PA.” (AFP, HA, JP, Wafa 4/22)

A **PLO delegation** arrives in the **Gaza Strip** for talks with Hamas officials about national unity. The delegation includes **independent Palestinian parliamentarian Mustafa Barghouti**. **Azzam al-Ahmad** of Fatah, **Bassam**



**al-Salhi** of the People's Party, businessman **Munib al-Masri**, and Palestinian Arab Front leader **Jamil Shehadeh**. **Ahmad** says that the group came to Gaza "to address the formation of a national consensus govt., elections, and restructuring the PLO to maintain Palestinian unity so we can dedicate our efforts to confronting Israeli occupation." **Hamas PM Ismail Haniyeh** welcomes the group, saying that "we must conclude national reconciliation and end the division so we can have one govt., one political national agenda, and one system." (MNA 4/21; AFP, REU 4/22)

**PA PM Rami Hamdallah** meets with the **Jordanian minister of industry and trade Hatem Hilwani** to discuss economic issues, especially the challenges of development in Area C of the **West Bank**. Hamdallah highlights the importance of Amman's support, especially in light of current economic and political difficulties. (Wafa 4/22)

**Director-Gen. Ahmet Üzümcü** of the **OPCW** says that the **Syrian govt.** has disposed of more than 86% of its total chemical weapons stockpile. (AP 4/22)

## 23 APRIL 2014

In the n. **Gaza Strip**, the **Israeli air force** conducts an air strike, reportedly targeting 2 mbrs. of an armed group on a motorbike, but missing them. **Gaza Ministry of Health spokesperson Ashraf al-Qidra** says that the strike wounded 12 civilians. Subsequently, **Palestinians** fire 3 rockets into s. **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jalazun r.c. and 1 village nr. Ramallah, 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, and Jenin at night; patrols

in 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning, and in al-Fawar r.c. and 2 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Ramallah, and in Jenin and Bethlehem at night. (HA, MNA 4/23; PCHR 4/24)

**PLO** and **Hamas representatives** announce a unity deal to bring an end to more than 7 years of division, in a press conference in Gaza City. The agreement stipulates that **PA Pres. Abbas** will set a date for new elections within 6 mos., emphasizes both parties' commitment to the principles of the **Cairo Agreement** and the **Doha Declaration**, and urges a reactivation of the Palestinian Legislative Council. Pres. Abbas says in a statement that the deal "is backed by the Arab states and the international community, and will boost the position of the Palestinian negotiators to achieve the 2-state solution." In response, **Israeli PM Netanyahu** reiterates his warning to **Abbas** that he must choose between peace with Israel or with Hamas. The Israeli PM also cancels a negotiations meeting scheduled for the evening. Meanwhile, **U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Psaki** says that the U.S. is "disappointed" by the move. Psaki adds that any Palestinian govt. must "unambiguously and explicitly" commit to nonviolence, recognize Israel, and accept previous agreements between the parties. **Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX)**, chair of the Appropriations Subcmte. on State and Foreign Operations, says that the unity deal "puts in jeopardy future U.S. assistance to the PA." (HA, MNA, REU, ToI, Xinhua 4/23)

## 24 APRIL 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries, and arrest 2 fishermen. **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land close to the border fence nr. Khan Yunis. Meanwhile, an

explosive device detonates on the Gaza border nr. Jabaliya in a failed attempt to target Israeli soldiers on patrol. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Bethlehem, and 1 village each nr. Hebron, Qalqilya and Salfit at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Salfit in the afternoon, and in 4 villages nr. Jenin, al-Fawar r.c. and 2 villages each nr. Hebron, Jericho, and Ramallah, and in 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Salfit and Tulkarm at night. (JP, MNA 4/24; PCHR 4/30)

**Israel** announces the suspension of peace talks with the **PA**, following an emergency meeting of PM Netanyahu's top-level cabinet. The decision comes in response to the announcement of a Palestinian unity govt. Israel also says it intends to deploy economic sanctions against the PA. The **PLO executive cmte.** releases a statement in response that describes the announcement as reaffirming Netanyahu's "lack of commitment toward a just settlement and the 2-state solution." Meanwhile, **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** speaks with **PA Pres. Abbas** on the telephone and expresses his disappointment at the reconciliation deal. According to **State Dept. spokesperson Psaki**, he tells Abbas that any Palestinian govt. must support the 3 principles of nonviolence, recognition of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements. Abbas promises Kerry that the govt. will represent his policies. Separately, **senior Fatah official Jibril Rajub** says that the agreement is based on a 2-state solution, while, **Hamas dep. FM Ghazi Hamad** says that the movement wants "a Palestinian state with the 1967 borders." **Hamas PM Ismail Haniyeh** speaks with the **Qatari and Turkish govts.** to request diplomatic and financial support for reconciliation. **UN special coordinator for the peace process Robert Serry** says that he welcomes the unity deal, and that

Abbas had promised him the agreement would proceed on the basis of PLO commitments. (MNA, REU, ToI, YA 4/24; HA 4/25)

#### 25 APRIL 2014

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse a demonstration against the occupation outside Silwad village nr. Ramallah, wounding 1 with live ammunition. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and Dahaysha r.c. at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Qalqilya, and 1 village nr. Ramallah 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 Nabi Salih, where 1 is wounded with live ammunition. In **al-'Izzariya and Abu Dis** neighborhoods of **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli security forces** violently disperse **Palestinians** gathered to demonstrate against recent incursions into **Haram al-Sharif** by Israelis, wounding 3 with rubber-coated metal bullets. (MNA 4/25; PCHR 4/30)

#### 26 APRIL 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, wounding 1. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron and Dahaysha r.c. in Bethlehem at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, 1 village

nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in al-‘Arub r.c. and 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. (MNA 4/26; PCHR 4/30)

**PA Pres. Abbas** says he would be willing to extend negotiations if **Israel** released the last round of prisoners and agreed to a settlement construction freeze, in a televised speech to the **PLO Central Council** in Ramallah. Abbas also says that the unity govt. will “obey my policy,” namely of recognition of Israel and rejecting “violence and terrorism.” **An unnamed Israeli official** tells *AFP* that with his speech, Abbas “administered the coup de grâce to the peace process.” (AFP, MNA, REU 4/26)

#### 27 APRIL 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Salfit in the morning, in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 4 villages nr. Hebron, Nablus and 1 village and Balata r.c. nearby, 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and Tulkarm at night. **Jewish settlers** from Yitzhar chop down an estimated 60 olive trees nr. Nablus. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** violently disperse **Palestinian demonstrators** in al-‘Izzariya, a protest in support of defending al-Aqsa mosque from Jewish extremists. There are no serious injuries. (MNA 4/27; PCHR 4/30)

The **PLO Central Council** in Ramallah adopts a plan to pursue efforts to join 63 UN bodies and international treaties, according to a public statement issued on the final day of a 2-day meeting. Separately, **PA Pres. Abbas** issues a statement to mark Holocaust Day, denouncing the Nazi genocide. **Israeli PM Netanyahu** dismisses the comments during an interview with U.S. television network CBS, and says that Israel will not negotiate with a

Palestinian govt. backed by Hamas. Meanwhile, **IDF Maj.-Gen. Yoav Mordechai** tells a meeting of the **Knesset’s Foreign Affairs and Defense Subcmte. on Judea and Samaria** that construction plans for 19 Palestinian villages in Area C of the West Bank have been frozen in response to the reconciliation deal. In addition, **U.S. Dep. National Security Adviser Tony Blinken** tells *CNN* that the U.S. is ready to suspend aid to the PA if a unity govt. backed by Hamas fails to recognize Israel. **U.S. Special Envoy Indyk** leaves Israel for consultations in Washington. **EU foreign affairs chief Ashton** releases a statement expressing concern over the latest developments in the peace process, and reiterates EU support for the U.S.-led peace talks. She also welcomes the Palestinian unity govt., affirming that it must abide by the principles of nonviolence, recognition of Israel, and commitment to previous agreements. (AFP, JP, REU, Wafa, YA 4/27; HA 4/28)

Remarks made by **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** on 4/25 at a private meeting in Washington are published by the *Daily Beast*, in which he says that without a 2-state solution soon, Israel risks becoming an “apartheid state.” In response, **pro-Israel lobby group AIPAC** says it is “deeply troubled” by the comments. (HA, NYT 4/28)

#### 28 APRIL 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinians** collecting stones close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, wounding 2. **IDF troops** also conduct 2 separate limited incursions in the s. Gaza Strip to level land close to the border fence. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jenin, Qalqilya, and in Nur Shams r.c. in Tulkarm at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in

2 villages each nr. Hebron, Jenin and Tulkarm at night. **Jewish settlers** from Yitzhar destroy around 150 olive trees nr. Nablus. (MNA 4/28; PCHR 4/30)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** releases a personal statement on the State Dept.'s website denying that he believes Israel is an "apartheid state or that it intends to become one," in response to the previous day's reports of his remarks on the subject. (See document D4 in *JPS* 172 for more.) He says that in hindsight, he "would have chosen a different word to describe my firm belief that the only way in the long term to have a Jewish state and 2 nations and 2 peoples living side by side in peace and security is through a 2-state solution." (HA 4/28)

#### 29 APRIL 2014

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** demolish a mosque and 3 houses nr. Nablus on the basis that they had been built without a permit, leaving 30 people homeless. The **IDF** shoots and injures 1 **Palestinian** with live ammunition during clashes prompted by a routine patrol in Nablus. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 1 nearby village, 1 village nr. Bethlehem, and Jenin r.c. at night; patrols in 4 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Jenin at night. (MNA, REU 4/29; PCHR 4/30)

**Jewish extremists** vandalize a mosque and 20 cars in Furaydis, a Palestinian town in n. Israel. Separately, a church on the n. shore of Lake Tiberias is vandalized. Both "price tag" attacks are accompanied by racist graffiti. (JTA, WAFA 4/29)

**PA Pres. Abbas** tells a conference in Ramallah that an extension of negotiations with Israel would require the borders of a future Palestinian state to be defined. Meanwhile, **Israel's Economics and Trade**

**Minister Naftali Bennett** says that Israel would gradually annex Area C of the West Bank in light of the failure of negotiations, and declares that the "Oslo era is over," in remarks made to reporters during a visit to the Gush Etzion settlement bloc s. of Jerusalem. (AFP, JP, WAFA, YA 4/29)

**Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan** says in an interview on U.S. television network CBS that Turkey and Israel could move toward reconciliation within days or weeks, and claims that an agreement has been reached regarding compensation (without specifying exactly what this entails). The **Israeli PM's office** refuses to comment. (JP 4/29)

#### 30 APRIL 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on **Palestinians** collecting scrap metal close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, wounding 1. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** wound 1 **Palestinian** during clashes in Nablus during a patrol designed to protect the movement of **Jewish settlers**. **IDF troops** demolish 2 houses in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, prompting clashes with residents. Three are injured by rubber-coated metal bullets. **IDF troops** also fire tear gas into the grounds of 2 schools in al-Khadir, nr. Bethlehem. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 2 nearby villages, and in 1 village nr. Jenin at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron, in Tulkarm and 1 nearby village, and 1 village nr. Jericho at night. In **Israel**, a car owned by a Palestinian citizen is vandalized, the 6th such hate crime in the town over the last mo. Meanwhile, residents of **Furaydis** hold a general strike to protest the "price tag" attack on 4/29, where racist graffiti was sprayed on a mosque. **Israeli PM Netanyahu** condemns the attack and says that

the govt. is tackling those responsible. (HA, MNA, WAFA 4/30; PCHR 5/8)

**Senior Palestinian official Shaath** says that the Palestinian leadership will look to take action at the international level, in light of the breakdown in negotiations he says were foiled by Israel. (WAFA 4/30)

**Fatah official Azzam al-Ahmad** says that **PA Pres. Abbas** will issue a presidential decree to convene the Palestinian Legislative Council—which has not convened since 2007—while elections will not take place for another 6 mos. **Hamas** and **Fatah** officials reactivate a subcmte. on civil liberties, as part of the implementation of the reconciliation agreement. Topics for the new subcmte. to deal with include the end of a ban on West Bank newspapers in Gaza. Meanwhile, around 1,000 **Hamas supporters** march through **Ramallah**, marking the return of the remains of 2 Hamas fighters killed by Israel in 1998. Speaking to mourners by telephone, **Hamas leader Khalid Mish'al** affirms that the organization's "path is resistance and the rifle," and that Palestinians were in need of a joint, unified strategy to secure the "liberation of our lands and holy sites." (AFP, JP, MEMO, MNA, REU 4/30)

## 1 MAY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 1 rocket into **s. Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. An **IDF spokesperson** says more than 100 projectiles have hit Israel from Gaza this year. **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion to level land close to the border fence nr. Khan Yunis. Off the coast nr. Rafah, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 6 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village

nr. Bethlehem, and Nablus and Balata r.c. at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 village and 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho, and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** uproot 50 olive tree saplings nr. Bethlehem, while separately, **settlers** also stone **Palestinian vehicles** nr. Hebron. (AFP, MNA, WAFA 5/1; PCHR 5/8)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** tells reporters on a trip to Ethiopia that he intends to "pause" and "take a hard look" at the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, given the current impasse. He says he is "convinced that, as each [side] sort of works through the reasons that things began to become more difficult in the final hours, there may be quiet ways within which to begin to work on next steps." He also claims that genuine "progress" was made during the previous 9 mos. (HA, REU 5/1)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** says he intends to seek a new Basic Law anchoring Israel's status as "the nation-state of the Jewish people." Livni, leader of the Hatnua party and Israeli chief negotiator, criticizes the move, but the Jewish Home party, another coalition-mbr., welcomes it. (HA, REU 5/1)

## 2 MAY 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Rafah, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** violently disperses stone-throwing Palestinian protesters in Silwad nr. Ramallah, injuring 1 with live ammunition. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 3 nearby villages, and 1 village each nr. Nablus and Qalqilya at night; patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 3 villages and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 2 villages

nr. Jericho, Nablus and 1 village and Balata r.c. nearby, and 1 village each nr. Jericho and Qalqilya 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, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). There are no serious injuries except in Bil'in (1 struck by a tear gas canister) and in Kafr Qaddum (2 wounded by bullets). (PCHR 5/8)

**Right-wing Jewish extremists** vandalize the tomb of Izzeddin al-Qassam in **Haifa**, leaving "price tag" graffiti that includes the names of U.S. Secy. of State Kerry and Israeli justice minister Livni. (AFP, JP 5/2)

**Palestine** becomes a formal party to **5 international conventions**, banning torture, racial discrimination, promoting women's rights, children's rights, and the rights of the disabled. In response, Israel withdraws the VIP passes of 4 senior Fatah officials— **Nabil Shaath, Tawfik Tirawi, Abbas Zaki and Jibril Rajub**—thereby restricting their status at checkpoints and border crossings to the level of other Palestinian citizens. (AFP, JP, MEMO 5/2)

In **s. Sinai**, 2 suicide bombing attacks target police at a security checkpoint, killing 1 soldier and wounding at least 8. The attacks are claimed by **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis**. (AP, REU 5/2)

### 3 MAY 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Khan Yunis, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts

house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Nablus and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in Salfit and 1 nearby village, al-Fawar r.c. and 3 villages nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Jericho and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Ramallah at night. **Jewish settlers** destroy 35 olive trees in the Gush Etzion settlement bloc s. of Jerusalem, leaving "price tag" graffiti at the scene. Meanwhile in **Israel**, a Palestinian citizen's car is vandalized in **Acre** with "price tag" graffiti. (HA, MNA 5/4; PCHR 5/8)

The **Palestinian Prisoners' Society** says that the number of prisoners on hunger strike against their detention without trial has reached 120, with participating prisoners being held in solitary confinement in the Negev, Ofer, and Megiddo jails. (MNA 5/3)

**Senior Hamas official Musa Abu Marzuq** says that Hamas will not accept the conditions demanded by the **Quartet**, including recognition of Israel, in remarks made at a press conference in Gaza City. Abu Marzuq also says that it is likely Hamas will participate in the proposed Palestinian presidential elections. (AFP, MEMO 5/3)

### 4 MAY 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin r.c. and in 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Hebron and Ramallah at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Ramallah and Salfit in the morning, in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Salfit in the afternoon, and in 4 villages nr. Jenin, al-'Arub r.c. and 3 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. In Israel, 2 vehicles owned by **Palestinian citizens of Israel** are vandalized in **Yokneam**, the 7th and latest such hate

crime in recent weeks. Meanwhile, “price tag” graffiti is left on a building site outside Jerusalem, adjacent to Abu Ghosh. (HA, ToI 5/4; PCHR 5/8)

**Senior Hamas official Abd al-Salam Siyam** says that plans are being made for some 3,000 PA police officers to move to Gaza and join the security forces there. (MNA 5/5)

## 5 MAY 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing damage but no injuries. In the **West Bank**, 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 al-Fawar r.c. and 2 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Ramallah at night. **Jewish settlers** uproot 51 olive tree saplings nr. Ramallah. In **East Jerusalem**, **IDF troops** clash with residents in Issawiya after erecting a temporary checkpoint, injuring 6 with rubber-coated metal bullets. Also, **Israeli forces** attack **Palestinian worshippers** prevented from entering **Haram al-Sharif**, wounding 15. (MNA, WAFA 5/5; PCHR 5/8)

Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* reports that **Martin Indyk** will resign from his position as U.S. special envoy for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in light of the breakdown in negotiations, citing unnamed Israeli officials. Indyk reportedly blames Israel primarily for the failure, specifically highlighting the consequences of settlement construction. (HA, JTA, ToI 5/5)

**PA Pres. Abbas** holds talks with **Hamas leader Khalid Mish'al** in **Doha**, and later meets with **Qatari emir Shaykh Tamim Bin-Hamad al-Thani**. Hamas releases a statement

describing the meeting as “positive.” The Palestinian leaders’ discussions focus on the formation of a Palestinian unity govt., which is expected to be formed within 2 weeks.

Meanwhile, the **Gaza-based Interior Ministry** announces that it has freed 6 prisoners from **Fatah**. (Fatah says that 40 of its mbrs. are still in prison. Hamas puts the number at under 20). Hamas authorities also announce that *al-Quds* newspaper will be distributed once again in the West Bank starting 5/7. **Hamas PM Ismail Haniyeh’s adviser Issa Nashar** urges **Pres. Abbas** to reciprocate the gestures and halt the arrest of Hamas activists in the West Bank. (AFP, JP, MNA, REU 5/5)

An **IAEA** delegation arrives in **Iran** to inspect 2 nuclear sites—Saghand uranium mine and the Ardakan yellow-cake production site— as part of the 7-step plan agreed on by representatives of Iran and the IAEA in 2/2014 to increase transparency over the country’s nuclear activities. (AFP 5/5)

## 6 MAY 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Gaza City, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire at **Palestinian** fishermen, causing damage when 2 boats collide. Meanwhile, **Egyptian naval vessels** temporarily detain 3 **Palestinian** fishermen off the coast of the s. Gaza Strip. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Ramallah at night. (MNA 5/6; PCHR 5/8)

**Palestinian public sector workers** receive their salaries on time, indicating that Israel has not followed through on the threat of withholding customs duties it collects on behalf of the PA. Meanwhile, **PA PM Rami**

**Hamdallah** says that the Palestinians will not resume negotiations unless veteran Palestinian prisoners are released. (IH, REU, WAFA 5/6)

#### 7 MAY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on armed **Palestinians** close to the border fence nr. Dayr al-Balah, injuring 1. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Nablus at night; patrols in al-‘Arub and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. Meanwhile, shots are fired toward a house in West Bank settlement Psagot, causing no injuries. In **Israel**, Jewish extremists leave “price tag” graffiti on a Druze-owned dentistry office in **Yokneam**. In **East Jerusalem**, a separate “price tag” attack targets Vatican-owned offices with graffiti. (AFP, HA, JP, MNA 5/7; PCHR 5/8)

**U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice** arrives in **Jerusalem** and holds a meeting with **Israeli PM Netanyahu** to discuss the Iranian nuclear issue. She also meets **Pres. Shimon Peres**, and **Israel’s National Security Adviser Yossi Cohen**. Rice travels with a team that includes **U.S. Under Secy. of State Wendy Sherman**. Her trip is unrelated to the breakdown in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. (HA 5/7)

**Iranian technical experts** and representatives of the **P5+1** countries hold talks in **New York City**. An anonymous EU official describes them as “useful,” ahead of talks beginning 5/13 aimed at reaching a more comprehensive agreement. (AP, REU 5/7)

#### 8 MAY 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Khan Yunis, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or

injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron and 2 villages nr. Ramallah at night. (PCHR 5/15)

**U.S. Special Envoy Martin Indyk** blames both Israelis and Palestinians for not being ready to make “gut-wrenching compromises necessary to achieve peace,” in remarks made at the Washington Institute for Near East Peace, a D.C.-based think tank. Indyk also says that U.S. Secy. of State Kerry believes defining borders of a Palestinian state and establishing security arrangements for Israel are “essential” for resuming peace talks. (AFP, HA, REU 5/8)

**U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice** meets with **PA Pres. Abbas** in **Ramallah** and tells him that any unity govt. must recognize Israel, renounce violence, and adhere to previous agreements. Meanwhile, Pres. Abbas says in a televised interview that the Palestinians are ready to resume negotiations under the condition that Israel releases the 4th batch of Palestinian prisoners and halts settlement construction for 3 mos. (JP, MNA 5/8)

#### 9 MAY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion close to the border fence nr. Khan Yunis to level land. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian protesters in Silwad nr. Ramallah, injuring 1 with live ammunition. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-‘Arub and 2 villages nr. Hebron, and 2 villages each nr. Qalqilya and Salfit at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 2 villages 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, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih). There are no serious injuries except in Nabi Salih, where 1 is wounded by a bullet. **Palestinian gunmen** fire on **Israeli settlement Migdal Oz** nr. Bethlehem, causing no injuries. Separately, a **Palestinian** throws a small explosive device at a military position nr. Ramallah, causing no injuries. (JP 5/9; PCHR 5/15)

#### 10 MAY 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Ramallah in the morning, 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron and 2 villages nr. Jericho at night. (PCHR 5/15)

**Fatah spokesperson Fayiz Abu Eita** tells the media that reconciliation efforts are making good progress, with talks about the formation of a unity govt. ongoing. (MNA 5/10)

#### 11 MAY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinians** collecting scrap metal close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, wounding 1. Separately, **IDF troops** open fire on agricultural areas nr. Khan Yunis, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Dahaysha r.c. and 1 village nr. Bethlehem, and in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Qalqilya at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Salfit in the morning, in 1 village each nr. Jenin, Ramallah,

and Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in al-Fawar r.c. and 4 villages nr. Hebron, in 2 villages nr. Jenin, 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Ramallah, and in Qalqilya at night. **Jewish settlers** chop down around 70 almond and olive trees and grape vines nr. Hebron. (MNA, Wafa 5/11; PCHR 5/15)

The **IDF** declares the area around the **Qunaytra crossing** in the **occupied Golan Heights** a closed military zone, after intense fighting in the area between Syrian govt. and opposition forces. (HA, REU 5/11)

**Gunmen** shoot and kill 1 **Egyptian soldier** and injure another in al-Jura village nr. Shaykh Zuwayd in n. **Sinai**. (MNA 5/11)

#### 12 MAY 2014

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** demolish 7 buildings, including 5 residential rooms nr. Nablus, displacing 4 families (27 people). The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nur Shams r.c. and 1 village nr. Tulkarm, and in Nablus and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Jenin, and Ramallah at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Jericho, and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Jenin, Ramallah, and Tulkarm at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **Palestinians** reopen a hole in the separation wall in **Abu Dis**, prompting Israeli forces to fire tear gas and stun grenades, injuring 7. (MNA 5/12; PCHR 5/15)

**PA Pres. Abbas** meets a **Hamas** delegation in Ramallah, including '**Aziz Dwayk, the speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council**. This is the 1st meeting between Abbas and Hamas leaders in 2 years. Palestinian sources tell the media that a unity govt. will be announced before the end of 5/2014, and that it will consist of 15–16 ministers. (JP, MEMO 5/12)

At an Israeli Independence Day celebration organized by the Israeli Embassy in **Washington, U.S. National Security Adviser Rice** says that Iran must agree to “verifiable action” to satisfy concerns about its nuclear program, as part of a final deal. Meanwhile, representatives of the **IAEA** and **Iran** hold a meeting to review progress on implementing transparency measures. No details are released. (AP, REU 5/12)

### 13 MAY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip, Israeli forces** open fire on **Palestinian** farmers and metal-collectors close to the border fence nr. Jabaliya, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron in the morning, in 3 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. Jewish settlers assault and injure a Palestinian shepherd nr. Ramallah. Separately, **settlers** vandalize 50 olive trees nr. Bethlehem and leave racist “price tag” graffiti. (PCHR 5/15)

**Fatah official Azzam al-Ahmad** arrives in the **Gaza Strip** for talks with **Hamas** leaders. They focus on selecting technocrats to lead the unity govt. (MNA, REU 5/13)

**Former Israeli PM Olmert** is sentenced to 6 years in jail for taking bribes in a real estate deal during his time as mayor of Jerusalem. (Olmert was convicted on 3/31.) The sentence is widely perceived to end his prospects for a political comeback. (REU 5/13)

**Lakhdar Brahimi** resigns as the **UN and Arab League peace envoy for Syria**, saying that “because of divisions we have not been able to make any progress in the course of 3 years.” **UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon** accepts the resignation “with great regret.” (AFP 5/13)

### 14 MAY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip, IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion close to the border fence nr. Gaza City to level land. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-Fawar r.c., al-‘Arub r.c. and 2 villages nr. Hebron, in Balata r.c. and 1 village nr. Nablus, and in Jalazun r.c. and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in al-‘Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** demolish 3 Palestinian-owned structures in Bayt Hanina, Shu‘fat, and Ras al-Amud. (AFP, MNA 5/14; PCHR 5/15)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** meets with **PA Pres. Abbas** in **London**, where Kerry is attending talks with international partners on Syria and Ukraine. **State Dept. spokesperson Psaki** subsequently says Kerry made it clear that “while the door remains open to peace, it is up to the parties to determine whether they are willing to take the steps necessary to resume negotiations.” (AP 14/5)

**Hamas** and **Fatah officials** meet in **Gaza** to discuss the makeup of a unity govt., with **Hamas chief negotiator Musa Abu Marzuq** saying that talks would be finalized the following week. **PM Ismail Haniyeh** states that Hamas authorities will “clean the road to reconciliation from all obstacles and landmines” and calls on PA authorities in the West Bank “to take the same path and to maintain freedoms.” (HA, MNA 5/14)

Representatives of **Iran** and the **P5+1** countries open negotiations in **Vienna**, with the goal of reaching a final agreement by 7/20. Substantial gaps remain, including on the future of uranium enrichment in Iran. As an initial step, **EU foreign affairs chief Ashton** and **Iranian FM Zarif** meet to put into writing what has already been agreed, as embodied by the 11/2013 interim deal. (HA 5/14)

## 15 MAY 2014

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and kill 2 **Palestinian** teenagers outside Ofer prison nr. Ramallah during protests held on the 66th annual day of Nakba commemoration. There are conflicting reports about whether they are shot with live ammunition or rubber-coated metal bullets. **Thousands of Palestinians** participate in Nakba Day protests across the **West Bank** and **Gaza Strip**, including rallies jointly organized by different political factions. In **Hebron**, **IDF troops** injure 11 **demonstrators** with rubber-coated metal bullets. In **Gaza City**, a large crowd gathers to support of the right of return and to protest continued negotiations with Israel. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli police** violently disperse a rally, injuring 6. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Nablus at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village each nr. Jericho and Qalqilya at night. (AFP, MNA, REU 5/15; PCHR 5/22)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** meets with **Israeli chief negotiator Livni** in **London**, a day after meeting with **PA Pres. Abbas**. The State Dept. describes the meeting as “informal,” and no details of their discussions are released. (ToI 5/15)

## CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AIC	(Alternative Information Center)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
Bloomberg	( <i>Bloomberg</i> [Internet])
DS	( <i>Daily Star</i> , Beirut)
FT	( <i>Financial Times</i> , London)
HA	( <i>Haaretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
IH	( <i>Israel Hayom</i> , Tel Aviv)
JP	( <i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem)
JTA	(Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet])
MEMO	(Middle East Monitor [Internet])
MNA	( <i>Ma'an News Agency</i> , 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])
Xinhua	(Xinhua News Agency, Beijing)
YA	( <i>Yedioth Ahronoth</i> , Tel Aviv)