

CHRONOLOGY

16 NOVEMBER 2012–15 FEBRUARY 2013

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16 NOVEMBER 2012

Israel's **Operation Pillar of Defense** against Gaza enters its 3d day, leaving another **11 Palestinians** dead and bringing the **Palestinian** death toll since 11/14 to 30, around 1/3 civilians. Intense levels of **Israeli air strikes** continue, with 40 attacks before dawn and at least 200 overall during the day; reports estimate some 500 targets struck by the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** since the operation began. The **IDF** bombs Gaza's Ministry of Interior building and the offices of **Hamas's acting PM Ismail Haniyeh**. **Palestinian armed groups** fire a total of 190 rockets into Israel, including a rocket that lands in an open area nr. Gush Etzion settlement bloc s. of **Jerusalem**, causing no damage or injuries. The **Israeli cabinet** approves **Israeli DM Ehud Barak's** requests to mobilize 75,000 reservists. **Israel's FM Avigdor Lieberman** states that the 2 goals of the operation are to restore deterrence and destroy long-range missiles. Meanwhile, in the **West Bank**, Palestinians hold demonstrations to protest the attack on Gaza, including a rally of hundreds of **Hamas** activists in Ramallah. **IDF** forces injure dozens of Palestinians in the solidarity protests, seriously wounding 1 man in Kafr Qaddum village nr. Qalqilya with a tear-gas canister to the head. (AP, HA, *Guardian*, JP, MNA 11/16)

Internationally, there is a mixture of support for Israel's actions and caution regarding escalation. The **U.S. Senate** unanimously passes a resolution expressing support for Israel's "right to act in self-defense." **UK foreign secretary William Hague** warns Israel against

staging a ground incursion into Gaza. **Egyptian PM Hesham Kandil** visits the Gaza Strip, during which time Israel temporarily stops its attacks. **Egyptian pres. Mohamed Morsi** condemns Israel's operation and pledges Egyptian support for the Palestinians. Meanwhile, **UN high commissioner for human rights Navi Pillay** condemns Israel's aerial bombardment of Gaza as well as Palestinian rocket fire. (HA, *Guardian*, JP, MNA, REU 11/16)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and 1 village nr. Ramallah, 2 villages nr. Salfit, and 1 village nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in Hebron and 1 nearby village, and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. Israeli soldiers violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals taking part in weekly non-violent demonstrations against the Israeli occupation and land confiscations held in 4 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, al-Nabi Salih, Budrus), 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). There are no serious injuries, except in Bil'in, where 2 Palestinians are wounded by a tear-gas canister and rubber-coated steel bullet respectively, and in Kafr Qaddum, where 1 Palestinian is wounded by a tear-gas canister. (PCHR 11/22)

Egyptian security forces say that **unidentified militants** fire 3 rockets into **Israel** from the **Sinai Peninsula** nr. Rafah. No damage or injuries are reported. (MNA 11/16)

In Amman, **Jordanian protests** over rising fuel prices continue for a 4th day. Protesters clash with **security forces**,

and a rally of several thousand passes off largely peacefully; chants include demands for the departure of **King Abdallah II**. (WP 11/16)

17 NOVEMBER 2012

The **IDF's** attacks on the **Gaza Strip** continue, with reports indicating **nearly 20 more Palestinians killed** and as many as 300 Israeli air strikes during the day. As the **Palestinian** death toll approaches 50, with scores more wounded, Gaza's hospitals feel the strain. **IDF** targets include the private homes of Hamas officials, police buildings, government buildings, and smuggling tunnels. **Israel's interior min. Eli Yishai** says that the goal of the operation is to "send Gaza back to the Middle Ages." **Palestinian armed groups** fire over 70 rockets into Israel, with Israel's Iron Dome defense system intercepting 57 rockets, bringing the total of intercepted projectiles since the start of Operation Pillar of Defense to over 250. Sixteen Israelis are injured. (REU, BBC, HA, MNA 11/17)

Tunisian FM Rafik Abdesslem makes a solidarity visit to the **Gaza Strip**, vowing that his government will take steps in the Arab League and UN to stop Israeli aggression. Most of the diplomatic focus is on tentative Egyptian efforts to mediate a cease-fire. In Cairo, **Egyptian pres. Morsi** holds talks with **Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan**, **Qatar's Emir Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifa al-Thani**, **Hamas leader Khalid Mishal**, and **Islamic Jihad leader Ramadan 'Abdallah Shalah**. **Dep. head of Hamas's politbureau Musa Abu Marzuq** says despite efforts to secure a temporary cease-fire, Israel and Hamas are both far from reaching an agreement. As part of a potential deal, Hamas officials are reported to be demanding an easing of the blockade and an end to the assassination of Hamas leaders. (*Guardian*, MNA, MNA, WP 11/17)

Palestinians demonstrate across the **West Bank** to protest the continued Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip, with **IDF** forces wounding and arresting dozens, including in major clashes nr. Huwara checkpoint outside Nablus. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Salfit, 1 village nr. Ramallah, 2 villages nr.

Qalqilya, Tulkarm, 3 villages nr. Hebron, and al-'Arub refugee camp (r.c.) nr. Hebron, where **IDF** soldiers wound 1 Palestinian with live ammunition in clashes with residents, at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin, 1 village each nr. Hebron, Nablus at night. (MNA 11/17; PCHR 11/22)

18 NOVEMBER 2012

On the 5th day of Israel's **Operation Pillar of Defense**, the **IDF** attacks on the **Gaza Strip** kill **31 Palestinians**, including 10 civilians from the same family (al-Dalou), who die in a single air strike on a 3-story home in Jabalya. The **Palestinian** death toll now stands at 66. The **IDF** also targets a building used by media workers, injuring 6 Quds TV employees. Israel claims it was a legitimate strike on **Hamas** communications infrastructure. Some 80 targets are hit by the **IDF** overnight, with the Israeli military reporting having struck over 1,000 sites across the Gaza Strip since the operation began. **Palestinian rocket fire** into Israel continues, with 2 rockets wounding 7 Israelis in separate incidents. Israel reports that Palestinians have fired around 900 rockets and mortars into Israel since the beginning of the operation, with 1/3 intercepted by Iron Dome. (REU, AFP, MNA, HA 11/18)

In Cairo, **Hamas** officials and an **Israeli delegation** discuss a possible cease-fire through **Egyptian** mediation, though with no sign of a breakthrough. Meanwhile, the **Palestinian Authority (PA)** calls for an emergency **Arab League** summit to address Israel's "aggression." (HA, MNA 11/18)

French FM Laurent Fabius, speaking alongside **Israeli FM Avigdor Lieberman** at a press conference in Jerusalem, says that his government is talking with **Israel**, **Egypt**, and **Qatar** in effort to deescalate the situation. (HA, MNA 11/18)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning and 1 village nr. Jericho in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in Hebron, 2 villages nr. Nablus, and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 11/22)

19 NOVEMBER 2012

The **IDF** strikes another 80 targets, including Gaza's football stadium and smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border. **Gaza's Ministry of Health** says that the Palestinian death toll surpasses 100, including over 30 women and children. The **IDF** puts the death toll at 95, and says 1/3 were civilians. Rescue workers continue to search for 2 missing persons in the rubble of the destroyed al-Dalou family home (see 11/18). **Palestinian armed groups** fire 42 rockets into Israel, bringing the total to 1,128 rockets since Israel's operation began on 11/14; over 300 rockets have been intercepted by Iron Dome, and fewer than 40 have landed in populated areas. (AP, MNA, REU 11/19)

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu rebuffs a **French-Qatari** cease-fire initiative on the grounds that it could interfere with **Egyptian** mediation efforts (see 11/18). **UN secy.-gen. Ban Ki-moon** arrives in Cairo to discuss the cease-fire talks. **Hamas chief Mishal** meets with **Egyptian intelligence officials** in Cairo, with the Egyptian side indicating that a cease-fire is close. **Turkish PM Erdogan** denounces Israel for conducting "terrorist attacks" in Gaza. A coalition of almost 40 international aid agencies issue an urgent call for a cease-fire; Amnesty International calls additionally for an arms embargo on Israel and Hamas. (*Guardian*, HA, WSJ 11/19)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** kills 2 **Palestinians** in separate incidents, as Palestinians continue to protest the attack on Gaza: 1 **Palestinian** from al-Nabi Salih dies of wounds he sustained on 11/17 when the **IDF** opened live fire on demonstrators, and the 2d **Palestinian** is shot dead by **IDF** troops in Hebron, who claimed they felt that their lives were in danger. At night, the **IDF** also conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya, Bethlehem, Tubas and 1 nearby village, 1 village nr. Nablus, al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Hebron. A **Jewish settler** injures a **Palestinian** man in a deliberate hit-and-run nr. Ofra settlement, after a Palestinian demonstration against Israel's Operation Pillar of Defense. (MNA 11/19; PCHR 11/22; OCHA 11/27)

20 NOVEMBER 2012

As Operation Pillar of Defense continues, the **IDF** carries out air strikes on 133 targets across Gaza, killing 31 **Palestinians**, including several children, bringing the Palestinian death toll to 146. The **IDF** says that those killed include 18 **Islamic Jihad** and **Hamas** fighters. **IDF** air strikes kill 3 **Palestinian journalists**, attacks condemned by Reporters Without Borders. **Palestinian armed groups** fire 140 rockets into Israel, killing 1 **IDF soldier** and 1 **Israeli Defense Ministry contractor**, bringing the Israeli death toll to 5. In addition, 2 Israelis are wounded by a rocket strike on a building in s. Israel. The Iron Dome intercepts 51 rockets. Meanwhile, Hamas's **Izzedin al-Qassam Brigades (IQB)** claim responsibility for the killing of 6 **alleged Palestinian collaborators** with Israel in the streets of Gaza City. (AP, HA, MNA, REU 11/20)

U.S. secy. of state Hillary Clinton meets with **Israeli PM Netanyahu** in Jerusalem to urge Israel to deescalate the situation in Gaza. At the press conference afterward, she says that the U.S. is pleased with the success of the Iron Dome defense system. In Cairo, **Hamas chief Mishal** and **Islamic Jihad chief Shalah** meet with **Egyptian intelligence chief Raafat Shehata** in an effort to finalize details of a cease-fire agreement with Israel. Egyptian sources hope that a deal will be signed in Cairo on 11/21 and will include not only an immediate cease-fire, but more long-term negotiation of an easing of Israel's Gaza blockade. The **UN Security Council (UNSC)** convenes to discuss the situation in Gaza and Israel but does not come to any conclusions. **Arab League secy.-gen. Nabil Elaraby** visits Rafah with some 10 Arab foreign ministers to show solidarity with the Palestinians. (AP, *Guardian*, HA 11/20)

In the West Bank, **Palestinians** clash with **IDF** forces at the funerals in Hebron and al-Nabi Salih for the 2 **Palestinians** killed (see 11/19) in demonstrations against Israel's Operation Pillar of Defense. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in Jenin, Tulkarm and 2 nearby villages, Hebron and 2 nearby villages, Bethlehem,

1 nearby village, and Dahayshah r.c. and Aida r.c. (both in Bethlehem) at night. (MNA 11/20; PCHR 11/22)

Jordanian protesters hold rallies across the country and issue a call for a “popular uprising” against the government in light of rising fuel prices and unpopular economic policies. This is the 7th consecutive day of demonstrations. (HA 11/20)

21 NOVEMBER 2012

A Gaza cease-fire comes into effect at 9 P.M. local time, officially bringing an end to Israel’s **Operation Pillar of Defense** after 8 days of attacks, which saw the IDF hit around 1,500 targets and Palestinian armed groups fire around 1,500 projectiles (420 intercepted by Iron Dome). One hundred and fifty-eight Palestinians are dead, an estimated 60% of whom were civilians, while 6 Israelis were killed—4 civilians and 2 soldiers. The cease-fire deal is jointly announced by **Egyptian FM Mohamed Kamel Amr** and U.S. **secy. of state Clinton** at a press conference in Cairo. U.S. **pres. Barack Obama** speaks with **Israeli PM Netanyahu** to commend him on accepting the deal, stating that the U.S. will use the cease-fire to help Israel tackle issues such as weapons smuggling into Gaza. Obama also personally thanks **Egyptian pres. Morsi** for his efforts to secure a truce, comments Clinton echoes at the Cairo press conference, saying Morsi showed responsible leadership. Netanyahu tells the Israeli public that he hopes for an extended cease-fire but that tougher action might be necessary in the future. The cease-fire is not a signed agreement between Israel and Hamas, but includes pledges transmitted via Egypt to end Palestinian rocket and mortar fire and other cross-border attacks into Israel, and Israeli incursions into Gaza and assassinations. The sides also agree to further negotiations mediated by Egypt toward easing the Gaza blockade. **Hamas chief Khalid Mishal** says that Hamas will respect the truce but respond to any Israeli violations, and thanks Egypt for its role in securing the cease-fire. Mishal and Hamas leaders in the **Gaza Strip** mark the cease-fire as a victory for the resistance. The UNSC issues a statement urging both Israel and Hamas to respect the

cease-fire, and deploring the loss of civilian lives during the 8-day exchange. (AFP, *Guardian*, HA, MNA, REU 11/21)

During the day, before the cease-fire is implemented, the **IDF** attacks numerous targets in the **Gaza Strip**, killing around **20 Palestinians**. A **Palestinian-fired** rocket wounds **4 Israeli soldiers**. **Unidentified Palestinians** plant a bomb on a **Tel Aviv** bus, which injures **two dozen Israelis**, mostly lightly or moderately. Numerous groups claim responsibility for the attack, which is praised by Hamas as a natural response to Israeli aggression. In the hours after the cease-fire comes into force, **Palestinians** fire around a dozen rockets from the **Gaza Strip** into **Israel**, causing no injuries. (HA, MNA, REU 11/21)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinian protesters** in numerous locations, as demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza continue. In clashes by Ofer prison nr. Ramallah, the **IDF** shoots **2 Palestinians** in the legs with live ammunition. Serious clashes are reported in Hebron, Nablus, and Ramallah. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus and 2 nearby villages, Balata r.c. in Nablus, Hebron and 3 nearby villages, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 3 villages nr. Ramallah at night. (REU 11/21; PCHR 11/29)

22 NOVEMBER 2012

Israeli leaders defend the 11/21 Gaza cease-fire in the face of strong criticism from politicians like Yesh Atid’s **Yair Lapid** and Kadima’s **Shaul Mofaz**, who believe that the operation had not successfully restored “deterrence.” **DM Barak** asserts that “it is still not time to enter Gaza in a very wide operation and conquer it.” Barak also reveals that Israel dropped 1,000 times as many explosives on the **Gaza Strip** as landed on its soil. **FM Lieberman** (Yisrael Beiteinu) states that Israel will “eventually need to overthrow the Hamas regime.” (INN, JP, REU, YA 11/22)

In Gaza, Palestinian factions organize a major rally in Gaza City to celebrate the cease-fire and call for national reconciliation. On a rare visit to Gaza since the Hamas takeover in 2007, **Fatah Central Comm. mbr. Nabil Shaath** tells the crowds that Israel failed to isolate them

from the West Bank. **PM Ismail Haniyeh** tells the rally that the “resistance fighters changed the rules of the game” but that the fighters should “guard” the truce “as long as Israel respects it.” (AP, MNA 11/22)

Meanwhile, the toll of **Operation Pillar of Defense** continues to climb: an **Israeli soldier** dies from injuries sustained by a Palestinian rocket attack during the operation, becoming the 2d soldier and 6th Israeli to die in the fighting. In the **Gaza Strip**, rescue workers pull the bodies of **2 more Palestinians** from the rubble of the Dalou family home (bombed on 11/18), raising the Palestinian toll to 160. Though the cease-fire generally continues to hold, the **IDF** opens fire on Palestinians who protest at the border fence nr. Khan Yunis, injuring 1 man. (AP, MNA 11/22; PCHR 11/29)

In the West Bank, Israeli authorities transfer **30 Palestinian prisoners** to administrative detention, apparently because of their involvement in solidarity events for Gaza. (MNA 11/22)

The **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Tulkarm in the afternoon; conducts house searches and arrests in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning and in Qalqilya, al-Bireh, Balata r.c. nr. Nablus, 3 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Jenin, 1 village nr. Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Tulkarm, Nur Shams r.c. nr. Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Ramallah, and Bethlehem, 4 nearby villages, and Dahaysha r.c. and al-Azza r.c. (both nr. Bethlehem) at night. Those detained overnight include at least 5 mbrs. of the Palestinian parliament affiliated with **Hamas**. **Right-wing Jewish extremists** chop down 300 olive trees belonging to **Palestinians** nr. Hebron, leaving graffiti nearby reading “price tag” and “regards from Beersheba and Tel Aviv.” (MNA 11/22; MNA, ToI 11/23; PCHR 11/29)

The **European Parliament** passes a resolution expressing support for “Palestine’s bid to become a UN non-member observer.” (EJP 11/22)

The **Lebanese army** disables a rocket aimed at **Israel** and say 2 others were fired but fell short of the border. No group claims responsibility. (REU 11/22)

23 NOVEMBER 2012

During talks in Jerusalem, **U.S. secy. of state Clinton** warns Israeli **PM Netanyahu** not to take extreme measures in

response to the Palestinians’ UN bid expected at the upcoming UN General Assembly (UNGA) session on 11/29, for fear of provoking the **PA’s** collapse. The U.S. specifically urges Israel not to build in the area of the West Bank nr. East Jerusalem known as E1. Meanwhile, aides to **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** say that he has no choice but to seek UN recognition after **Hamas** emerged with its reputation intact or even boosted after Israel’s Operation Pillar of Defense. (HA, JP, AP 11/23)

IDF troops open fire on Palestinians demonstrating nr. the Gaza border, killing **1 Palestinian** and wounding 18. **Palestinian amb. to the UN Riyad Mansour** submits a formal protest to the **UNSC**. In addition, **2 Palestinian fighters** die from their wounds sustained during Operation Pillar of Defense, raising the comprehensive Palestinian death toll to 162. (AP 11/23; PCHR 11/29)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon and in Nablus at night. **Israeli soldiers** violently disperse the weekly nonviolent demonstrations held by Palestinians, Israelis and internationals in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in, Ni’lin, al-Nabi Salih), 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma’sara), and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). There are no serious injuries, except in Bil’in, where **2 Palestinians** are shot in the leg with rubber-coated metal bullets. **Jewish settlers** in the s. Hebron Hills uproot around 400 olive trees belonging to a **Palestinian** farmer. (MNA 11/23; PCHR 11/29)

Senior Israeli officials reveal that **Israel** and **Turkey** have resumed talks on ending the diplomatic crisis between the 2 countries that has dragged on since the attack on the Gaza-bound freedom flotilla in May 2010 (see the Quarterly Update in *JPS* 157). The Israeli sources report a meeting in Geneva in the past week between **Israeli PM Netanyahu’s envoy Yosef Chiechanover** and **Turkish Foreign Ministry undersecretary Feridun Sinirlioglu**. (REU 11/23)

24 NOVEMBER 2012

Khalil Assaf, the chair of the Palestinian Public Freedoms Comm.,

established in order to implement the May 2011 Fatah-Hamas reconciliation deal, announces that **Egypt** will invite all **Palestinian factions** to Cairo to resume national unity talks after the upcoming UN session in New York on 11/29, at which it is expected the Palestinian request for upgraded status will be debated. Separately, **Amin Maqboul**—secy.-gen. of Fatah's legislative body, the **Fatah Revolutionary Council**—says he will lead an 11-mbr. Fatah delegation on a visit to the **Gaza Strip** on 11/23. Meanwhile, **senior Hamas official Abu Marzuq** says Hamas will not oppose **Mahmud Abbas's** UN recognition bid, but believes that it is a waste of time, since "occupation needs resistance, not negotiations." Meanwhile, **Israeli officials** continue to threaten unspecified consequences if Abbas moves forward with the UN bid; Ramallah officials in turn reiterate Abbas's determination to go ahead. (AP, JP, MNA 11/24)

Hamas officials in Gaza say that **Egypt** has notified **PM Haniyeh** that **Israel** has agreed to extend the permitted fishing zone off the Gaza coast from 3 nautical miles (naut. mi.) to 6 naut. mi. and to reduce restrictions on Palestinian farming along the Gaza border (not further specified). However, and though the cease-fire continues to hold, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinian** farmers nr. Bayt Hanun and Jabaliya in the afternoon, causing no injuries. Meanwhile, groups affiliated with the Fatah-affiliated **al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade in Gaza** claim they fired over 500 projectiles during the recent Israeli operation. (REU 11/24; PCHR 11/29)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and 5 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Salfit at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus and 4 villages nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 11/29)

The UN and UK government express their hope that a conference aimed at banning nuclear weapons in the Middle East would take place soon, despite what the U.S. has called a "deep conceptual gap" relating to participants' views on Israel's presumed nuclear arsenal. (REU 11/24)

25 NOVEMBER 2012

UK foreign secretary William Hague urges the U.S. to take a "decisive lead" in **Israeli-Palestinian** peace efforts in coming months, adding that "we're coming to the final chance, maybe, for a two-state solution in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to be successfully resolved." (BBC 11/25)

Fatah Central Comm. mbr. Nabil Shaath announces that the **PA** will release **Hamas**-affiliated detainees as a gesture to boost reconciliation efforts. Hamas officials say they will move to release Fatah prisoners in the Gaza Strip. The leader of the **Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine** Saleh Zeidan reports that **Pres. Mahmud Abbas** will call a meeting of the **PLO Reform Comm.** in Cairo after returning from the UN to revive talks of expanding the PLO to include Hamas and Islamic Jihad as part of a national reconciliation deal. Meanwhile, Hamas officials in Gaza announce plans for Hamas leader **Khalid Mishal** to visit the **Gaza Strip** for the 1st time on 12/5, timed to coincide with the 25th anniversary of Hamas's founding. (MNA, HA 11/25)

Israel successfully tests its David's Sling missile defense system, designed to shoot down midrange missiles. Development of David's Sling, like the Iron Dome long-range missile defense system, has been largely funded by the U.S. (AP 11/25)

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on farmers nr. Bayt Hanun in the morning and again in the afternoon, causing no injuries. The **IDF** also opens fire on **Palestinians** nr. Khan Yunis, lightly wounding 1 man. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning and 5 villages nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 village each nr. Qalqilya and Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus, Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Salfit, 1 village nr. Tubas, and 2 villages nr. Qalqilya at night. Suspected right-wing **Jewish extremists** vandalize 8 cars in the **Palestinian** neighborhood of Shu'fat in occupied East Jerusalem in a "price-tag" attack. (HA, MNA 11/25; PCHR 11/29)

Turkish FM Ahmet Davutoğlu tells CNN that Turkey will not make any concessions in order to resolve the diplomatic crisis with **Israel**, following reports

(11/23) of an informal meeting in Geneva. (HA 11/25)

Gunfire coming from inside Syria hits an Israeli military vehicle in the occupied Golan Heights, causing no injuries. Israel lodges a complaint with the UN in response. (REU 11/25)

26 NOVEMBER 2012

Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas heads to New York ahead of the expected 11/29 UNGA vote on a resolution to upgrade the status of Palestine to a non-member observer state. **PA officials** express optimism about the anticipated level of **European** support, and also say they do not take seriously threats from Israel that the PA will be punished for pursuing the initiative. The Palestinians circulate a revised draft resolution. Behind the scenes, Israeli and U.S. officials press the Palestinians to tone down the wording of the text (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 167 for details). **Israeli diplomatic officials** now say that Israel's response to the bid will depend on what Abbas does with the upgraded status. Meanwhile, Hamas leader **Mishal** telephones Abbas to express Hamas's support for the bid. (JP, HA, MNA, REU 11/26)

Israeli DM Barak (Independence party) announces he will leave political life after the national elections scheduled for 1/22/13. **Likud** primaries are held and result in a win for the more hard-line wing of the party, including an almost guaranteed Knesset seat for far-right activist **Moshe Feiglin**. Mins. Benny Begin, Dan Meridor, and Michael Eitan all fail to make the top 10 places on the party's slate. (HA, REU, ToI 11/26)

Egyptian mediators begin separate talks with **Hamas** and **Israel** about fleshing out and implementing the details of the cease-fire. Palestinian demands reportedly include the opening of more Israeli crossings into the Gaza Strip. (JP, REU 11/26)

In Gaza, **2 Palestinian civilians** die from wounds sustained during Israel's Operation Pillar of Defense, raising the comprehensive Palestinian death toll to 164. During the day, the **IDF** opens fire on Palestinian civilians approaching the border fence nr. Khan Yunis, lightly injuring 1. The **IDF** also opens fire on

Palestinian civilians and farmers staging a march to the border fence e. of Jabalya to protest Israel's imposition of a "no-go" buffer zone, injuring 2. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts late-night house searches and arrest raids in al-Arub r.c. and 1 other village nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Nablus. (MNA 11/26; PCHR 11/29)

27 NOVEMBER 2012

An **Israeli** official tells the media that **U.S.-Israeli** efforts to soften the wording of the Palestinians' resolution for the UNGA have failed, though reports indicate that the **U.S.** is still trying to convince key countries not to support it. Other reports suggest that the **UK** will back the bid if Abbas agrees not to use the upgrade to take Israel to the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague. **France** says it will vote in favor. (*Guardian*, HA, JP, REU 11/27)

Investigators exhume the remains of **Yasser Arafat** in Ramallah in order to seek possible traces of poison. A Palestinian medical team worked with Swiss, French, and Russian forensic teams, before the tomb is resealed. French magistrates opened a murder inquiry into Arafat's death in August, following findings by a Swiss institute of high levels of polonium on Arafat's clothing supplied by his widow Suha, as part of an Al Jazeera investigation. (AFP, REU 11/27)

Former Israeli FM Tzipi Livni announces that she is leaving the Kadima party and will run in the forthcoming elections as the head of a new party, Hatnua. A handful of Kadima MKs resign from the party and are expected to join her new party. (YA 11/27)

In Gaza, a **Fatah** delegation joins Hamas **PM Ismail Haniyeh** for a ceremony to honor families bereaved in Operation Pillar of Defense. Meanwhile, Palestinian factions hold a meeting in Gaza Strip and agree to hold a joint rally raising Palestinian flags to support the UN bid. (MNA 11/27)

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on farmers and civilians nr. Jabalya at the border fence, causing no injuries. The **IDF** opens fire nr. Rafah at Palestinians

nr. the border, wounding 1. The IDF also fires warning shots at Palestinians collecting scrap metal nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin, and conducts house searches and arrest raids in Tulkarm at night. **Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails** launch a 1-day hunger strike in solidarity with long-term hunger strikers Ayman Sharawna and Samer Issawi. (MNA 11/27; PCHR 11/29)

28 NOVEMBER 2012

More than a dozen **European** countries express support for the **Palestinians' UN bid** for statehood recognition. Israeli sources tell the media that Israeli **PM Netanyahu** and **FM Lieberman** are backing down after weeks of threats about the Palestinians' UN bid. In light of the resolution's assured passage, the Israeli government now intends to play down the significance of the vote. (HA, REU 11/28)

Hamas leader **Khalid Mishal** calls for Palestinians to unite through new **PLO** elections that would rebuild the organization to include all factions. (NYT 11/28)

An **Egyptian** official tells the media that the country's security services are planning a crackdown on smuggling tunnels under the border with the **Gaza Strip**—even though, according to the official, tunnels are operating at 5% of the level they were operating at before Operation Pillar of Defense and are mostly being used to bring in construction material. (MNA 11/28)

In the **Gaza Strip**, **1 Palestinian fighter** dies from wounds sustained during Operation Pillar of Defense, bringing the comprehensive Palestinian death toll during the operation to 165. In 3 separate incidents, **IDF** troops on the Gaza border open fire on Palestinians nr. the border fence: 1 civilian is injured e. of Rafah; another Palestinian civilian is wounded nr. Bayt Hanun while he is gathering iron and gravel nr. the border fence; and 7 Palestinians are injured (1 seriously) nr. the border in the c. Gaza Strip in what the IDF claimed was an effort to approach the fence in protest. The IDF also opens fire on Palestinian fishermen at sea nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries, and detains 9 fishermen. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** levels olive

groves and demolishes agricultural structures nr. Hebron; patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning and in 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 2 nearby villages, and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. **Jewish settlers** vandalize at least 20 cars in a **Palestinian** village nr. Ramallah. (MNA 11/28; PCHR 11/29, 12/6)

29 NOVEMBER 2012

The **UNGA** votes to upgrade the **Palestinians'** observer status to that of a non-member state by a significant margin of 138–9, with 41 abstentions (3 countries did not participate). The “no” votes were cast by the U.S., Israel, Panama, Palau, Canada, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, the Czech Republic, and Micronesia. **Israeli PM Netanyahu** describes the vote as “meaningless” and says that the decision “will not further the establishment of a Palestinian state, but will make it more distant.” **U.S. amb. to the UN Susan Rice** calls the resolution “unfortunate and counterproductive.” **Hamas leader Mishal** says that the success of the UN bid should be considered alongside the recent Gaza conflict as a single strategy to empower Palestinians. (AP, JP, REU 11/29)

Israeli naval vessels detain 6 Palestinian fishermen working 5 naut. mi. off the Gaza coast (well within the 6 naut. mi. radius that Israel reportedly approved on 11/24). **IDF** forces make a brief incursion into the Gaza Strip e. of Khan Yunis with military bulldozers to level land. The **IDF** opens fire at **Palestinians** approaching the border fence nr. Jabalya, injuring 1 and also opens fire at civilians and farmers by the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no serious injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin at night, clashing with stone-throwers. (MNA 11/29; PCHR 12/6)

30 NOVEMBER 2012

Israel announces that it will build 3,000 new **settlement** housing units as a response to the successful Palestinian UN vote, as well as advance plans for thousands more units in occupied East Jerusalem and the area known as E1, between Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim

settlement. **White House spokesperson** Tommy Vietor says the Israeli decision is “counterproductive” and makes “it harder to resume direct negotiations or achieve a two-state solution.” **Palestinian pres. Abbas** says he has no immediate plans to take Israel before the ICC in The Hague, but suggests it could be a future option. (AFP, YA, HA, JP 11/30)

U.S. secy. of state Hillary Clinton praises the **PA** in a speech at Brookings Institutions’ Saban Forum 2012 in Washington, D.C., for “building a security force that works every single day with the IDF” and being “nationalistic—but largely secular.” (HA 12/1)

The **Palestinian Ministry of Public Works in the Gaza Strip** announces that the Hamas government will sign an agreement with **Egypt** next week to enable construction materials to enter the territory via the Rafah crossing. (MNA 12/1)

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** fires on Palestinian civilians and farmers close to the border fence in separate incidents nr. Jabalya, Khan Yunis, al-Bureij r.c., and Bayt Hanun; a total of 10 Palestinian civilians are injured. The **IDF** also mortally wounds 1 **Palestinian** civilian nr. Rafah when Israeli forces open fire on dozens of Palestinians nr. the border fence; he dies on 12/1. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, 1 village each nr. Jericho and Hebron in the afternoon, and in Hebron and 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jericho, Ramallah, and Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Ramallah at night. Israeli soldiers violently disperse weekly nonviolent demonstrations held by Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in, Ni’lin, al-Nabi Salih) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma’sara). There are no serious injuries, except in Bil’in, where 1 Palestinian is shot in the hand with a rubber-coated metal bullet, and another Palestinian is wounded in the leg by a tear-gas canister. (PCHR 12/6)

1 DECEMBER 2012

U.S. secy. of state Hillary Clinton criticizes **Israel’s** 11/30 decision to approve 3,000 new housing units in settlements in East Jerusalem and the West

Bank, saying “these activities set back the cause of a negotiated peace.” The **British** and **French** governments also condemn the settlement expansion plan, stating that international confidence in Israel’s desire to make peace is at risk. Meanwhile, **PLO Executive Comm. mbr. Hanan Ashrawi** refers to the decision as a “war crime,” a hint that the PA may consider taking Israel to the ICC. (JP, REU 12/2)

An independent Palestinian source in Gaza says that **Palestinian factions** will open reconciliation talks in Cairo in the next few days, under **Egyptian** auspices. (MNA 12/1)

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on 3 separate occasions on civilians and farmers in the area nr. the border fence, wounding 1 nr. Bayt Hanun and 2 nr. Jabalya. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on 3 fishing boats operating between 2.5 and 3 naut. mi. off the coast, in 1 case arresting 5 **Palestinian fishermen**. Israel’s recent shooting of Palestinians nr. the border fence prompts **Hamas** to complain about Israeli violations of the cease-fire, with spokesperson Sami Abu Zuhri saying that they are discussing the situation with **Egyptian** officials. **Islamic Jihad’s al-Quds Brigades** warns that Israeli cease-fire violations (including shootings along the border, firing on Palestinian fishing boats, and continued use of surveillance aircraft over Gaza) may force a response. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shoots and wounds a **Palestinian** man in Dura village nr. Hebron, after a military patrol is attacked by stone-throwing youths. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. (MNA, REU 12/1; MNA 12/2; PCHR 12/6)

Turkish FM Davutoğlu calls **Israel** a “terrorist state” at a meeting of regional leaders at the Turkish-Arab Cooperation Forum in Istanbul, and urges collective action against Israel. (ToI 12/1)

2 DECEMBER 2012

The **Israeli government** announces it will confiscate the VAT tax revenues it has collected for the **PA** during 11/2012, and use the NIS 460 m. of funds to offset the PA’s debt to Israel’s Electric Corporation. On 11/11, Israel’s fin. min. Yuval

Steinitz had warned of such a measure in response to the UN bid. (HA 12/2)

The Israeli newspaper *Ha'Aretz* reports that **5 senior European ambassadors**—from Britain, France, the EU, Germany, and Holland—have communicated strong opposition to **Israel's** 11/30 plan to expand settlements and develop the E1 area outside of East Jerusalem. An anonymous British diplomat tells the paper that "London is furious with the decision over the E1 corridor." **UN secy.-gen. Ban Ki-moon** describes Israel's plan as an "almost fatal blow" to prospects for peace. **Israeli PM Netanyahu** dismisses the international criticism at the weekly cabinet meeting, saying that Israel "will carry on building in Jerusalem and in all the places that are on the map of Israel's strategic interests." (AFP, HA, REU 12/2)

Addressing 1,000s of Palestinians in Ramallah on his return from the UN, **Palestinian pres. Abbas** says he will resume national reconciliation efforts soon. Jamal Ubeid, a mbr. of **Fatah's** High Comm. in Gaza, announces that **Hamas** will allow 20 senior Fatah mbrs. who fled the Gaza Strip in 2007, when Hamas took over, to return. (AFP, MNA 12/2)

In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** s. of Hebron set fire to a **Palestinian**-owned car and vandalize a Palestinian house. The **IDF** patrols in Jenin, 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, and 1 village each nr. Jericho and Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Salfit at night. (PCHR 12/6)

Syrian rebels open fire on a **Lebanese border patrol** approaching the border, the 1st such clash between the 2 parties. There were no casualties. (REU 12/2)

3 DECEMBER 2012

Britain, Denmark, France, Spain, and Sweden summon the **Israeli ambassadors** to their countries to protest Israel's settlement construction plans. An anonymous senior European diplomat tells the Israeli newspaper *Ha'Aretz* that Britain and France see E1 development as a "red line" and feel Israel is acting ungratefully after the support it received during Operation Pillar of

Defense. **Former U.S. amb. to Israel Dan Kurtzer** tells *Ha'Aretz* that the **Obama admin.** is angry over an Israeli official's suggestion in a recent briefing that Israel generated the E1 plan in anticipation that Obama would refuse to reaffirm Bush's 2004 letter to Sharon (which Israel views as U.S. approval of Israeli settlement expansion in areas it intends to keep under final status; see the Quarterly Update in *JPS* 132), when he entered office in 1/2009, as indeed occurred. Meanwhile, a source in the **Israeli PM's Office** says there will be no retraction of the E1 construction plan. (HA, NYT, YA 12/3)

The **dep. mayor of Jerusalem** reveals that the municipality is expected to give final approval to a new settlement in occupied East Jerusalem called **Givat Hamatos**, the 1st of its kind since Har Homa in 1997. Located between Talpiot and Bayt Safafa, the new settlement will be on the agenda of the planning comm. on 12/19. In addition, **Jewish settlers** occupy a 5-story building in the Har Homa/Jabal Mukabir neighborhood of occupied **East Jerusalem** that had previously been sold to a settler organization. (HA, JP 12/3)

Twelve **Fatah** mbrs. return to the **Gaza Strip** after fleeing in the 2007 conflict with **Hamas**. Returning Fatah mbr. Mahmoud Musleh says that around 450 Fatah mbrs. who fled to countries across the region, as well as to the West Bank, will return once procedures are complete. (MNA 12/3)

PM Ismail Haniyeh appeals to Arab states to help pay for reconstruction of the Gaza Strip following damage inflicted during Operation Pillar of Defense, estimated at \$250–545 m. (REU 12/3)

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** shoots a Palestinian child nr. al-Bureij r.c. close to the border fence, causing minor injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** kills a **Palestinian civilian** when a military jeep hits a car traveling on the Nablus–Ramallah road. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in Jericho and 1 nearby village, 3 villages nr. Ramallah, and 2 villages nr. Jenin later in the day; conducts night-time house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Tulkarm, and in Nablus and Balata r.c. (MNA 12/3; PCHR 12/6)

UN secy.-gen. Ban Ki-moon accuses the **Syrian government** of serious violations of the 1974 agreement separating Israeli and Syrian forces in the **Golan Heights**. In a UNSC report, Ban expresses concern about recent incidents across the cease-fire line, and recommends a 6-mo. extension of the UN peacekeeping force in the Golan Heights. (AP 12/3)

4 DECEMBER 2012

EU diplomats meet in Brussels to discuss the possibility of all 27 EU mbr. states writing to the **Israeli government** to protest recent settlement expansion news. No agreement is reached. **British foreign secretary William Hague** rules out sanctions against Israel, but says further steps would be considered if the expansion plans were not rescinded. In a letter to **UN secy.-gen. Ban** and the **UNSC**, the **Palestinians** accuse Israel of planning further “war crimes” by expanding Jewish settlements, and urge Israel to be held to account. Speaking in Bethlehem, **PA FM Riyad al-Maliki** says that the **PA** will seek to capitalize on the European support to increase international pressure on Israel. (HA, MNA, REU 12/4)

In occupied East Jerusalem, Israeli bulldozers arrive in the Palestinian neighborhood of **al-Tur** to demolish a home located on the premises of a designated national park, but lawyers secure a delay. Also, after 2 yrs. in which the Israeli Interior Ministry demolished no homes, supervisors begin patrols in occupied East Jerusalem to prepare for the resumption of demolitions of “illegally built” homes. (HA 12/4)

Palestinian authorities in Nablus report that Israel is changing procedures at **al-Hamra checkpoint**, controlling Palestinian movement between the n. West Bank and Jordan Valley, so that **Palestinians** will no longer need permits to cross. Meanwhile, the **IDF** demolishes a mosque in a village in the s. Hebron Hills nr. Yatta and 2 structures nr. Nablus. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Jericho, Ramallah, and Tulkarm in the morning, and 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-'Arub r.c.

nr. Hebron and 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. (MNA 12/4; PCHR 12/6)

The **UNGA** approves a resolution 174–6 (with 6 abstentions) calling on **Israel** to join the **Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT)** and open its nuclear program for inspection. Those voting against were Israel, the U.S., Canada, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau. (AP 12/4)

5 DECEMBER 2012

The **Higher Planning Council** of the **IDF's Civil Admin.** meets to advance plans for 3,400 new settlement homes in the **E1** area between Ma'ale Adumim and Jerusalem. Construction is expected to begin in 1–2 years. (HA, JP 12/5)

In Berlin, **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** meets **German chancellor Angela Merkel**, who expresses dismay at settlement expansion. Israeli media reports say that Merkel's message is that Netanyahu must choose between the peace process and establishing a Palestinian state on the one hand, and continued settlement growth and international isolation on the other. Meanwhile, the **E.U.** summons **Israel's amb.** for a meeting, following similar moves by **Britain, Denmark, France, Spain, and Sweden** on 12/3. **Palestinian pres. Abbas** says he is determined to block the proposed settlement construction E1 with all legal and diplomatic means. **Islamic Jihad** issues a warning Israel to expect recent actions, such as settlement expansion and demolitions, to provoke a response. (REU 12/4; AP, HA, MNA, REU 12/5)

Hamas-affiliated Reform and Change mbr. **Nasser al-Shaer** tells Palestinian media that **national reconciliation** is the **PA's** top priority following the successful UN bid. Senior **Hamas** official **Ahmad Yousef** cautions, however, that political instability in Egypt could delay unity talks mediated by Egyptian officials. (MNA 12/5)

In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** uproot around 200 Palestinian-owned olive trees in a village nr. Bethlehem. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho, and 6 villages nr. Hebron at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Tubas, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 village each nr. Nablus, Tulkarm, and Tubas at night. (IMEMC 12/5; PCHR 12/13)

A mortar shell fired during an exchange inside **Syria** accidentally lands inside the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, nr. an **IDF** base, causing no damage or injuries. Israel lodges a formal complaint with the UN. Meanwhile, the **UN Disengagement Observer Force**, deployed in the Golan since 1974 to monitor the Israel-Syria cease-fire, announces that it will reinforce its security due to threats of cross-border violence posed by Syrian rebels. (JP 12/5)

Armed clashes take place in **Tripoli** as **Syria's** civil war continues to spill over into **Lebanon**, with gunmen loyal to opposing sides in the Syrian fighting clashing in the city. The fighting has killed 6 people and wounded around 60 since the beginning of the week, sparked by the deaths on 11/30 of over a dozen Lebanese fighting with the rebels. (AP 12/5)

6 DECEMBER 2012

PLO Executive Comm. mbr. Hanan Ashrawi urges the **EU** to go beyond verbal condemnation of Israeli violations and to take action—such as a full ban on the import of settlement products and reconsidering the EU-Israel Association Agreement—in light of Israel's persistent human rights abuses. (Wafa 12/6)

Canadian FM John Baird says that **PM Stephen Harper** has relayed to **Israeli PM Netanyahu** Canada's opposition to the recent settlement expansion plans. Netanyahu dismisses international anger and says that Israel will keep the area in question under any future peace deal. (AP 12/5; *Globe and Mail* 12/6)

Jordan's King Abdallah II visits Ramallah for talks with **Pres. Mahmud Abbas** and other senior officials, in a high-profile show of support following the successful UN statehood bid (11/29). (AFP 12/6)

In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** attack a **Palestinian** man during an olive harvest s. of Nablus, while **IDF forces** invade Barqa village nr. Nablus and ransack 36 homes. In c. Hebron, **Israeli soldiers** injure 20 **Palestinians** in clashes provoked when soldiers tried to arrest a Palestinian police officer, who resisted (it is unclear why he is wanted). The **IDF** patrols in Salfit and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah in the morning;

1 village each nr. Hebron, Qalqilya, and Salfit in the afternoon; 2 villages nr. Jericho and 1 village each nr. Jenin, Ramallah, and Salfit at night. The IDF also conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. (MNA 12/6; PCHR 12/13)

Speaking after a visit to Damascus, Filippo Grandi, head of the **UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)**, says that parties in **Syria's** civil war must respect the neutrality of Palestinian refugees. He expresses particular concern over the role of the **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC)**, a pro-Asad faction that is strong in the Yarmuk r.c. nr. Damascus. (AP 12/6; AFP 12/7)

7 DECEMBER 2012

International NGO **Human Rights Watch** accuses **Israel** of violating the laws of war during Operation Pillar of Defense with a strike on 11/18/2012 that killed 12 civilians in the **Gaza Strip**. (AP 12/7)

The **UNGA** adopts (129–31) a resolution proposed by **Israel** on tackling poverty through private- and public-sector entrepreneurship. The vote is portrayed by Israel as a diplomatic success coming soon after the Palestinians' statehood bid. (*Globes* 12/9)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Jericho and Qalqilya in the morning, and in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Jericho in the afternoon; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Qalqilya and Salfit in the afternoon, and in Bethlehem and 1 nearby village at night. Israeli soldiers violently disperse weekly nonviolent demonstrations held by Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, al-Nabi Salih) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara); there are no serious injuries. (PCHR 12/13)

8 DECEMBER 2012

Hamas leader Khalid Mishal, visiting the **Gaza Strip** for the 1st time, addresses a huge crowd gathered to mark the anniversary of the founding of the movement. Mishal tells the tens of thousands of supporters that "Palestine is ours from the

river to the sea and from the south to the north. There will be no concession on an inch of the land” and affirms the role of armed resistance. He also urges reconciliation with Fatah, saying that it is time “for ending this chapter of division and build Palestinian unity.” (MNA, REU 12/8)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, in ‘Aqabet Jabir r.c. nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 2 nearby villages, in 1 village nr. Bethlehem, and in al-Azza r.c. nr. Bethlehem at night. (PCHR 12/13)

9 DECEMBER 2012

At an **Arab League** meeting in Doha, **Palestinian pres. Abbas** calls for renewed negotiations with **Israel** for a 6-mo. period, provided that **Israel** freeze all West Bank and East Jerusalem settlement construction during that time. Responding to recent public Palestinian criticism over the increasing cost of living, **Abbas** also calls for an amendment to the 1994 Paris Protocol covering economic relations between **Israel** and the PA. At the meeting, **Qatari PM Shaykh Hamad bin Jassem al-Thani** says that the 2002 Arab peace initiative (offering full normalization for full peace; see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 124) should be reviewed, though **Abbas** urges against withdrawing the initiative. Arab states agree to provide the PA with a monthly “safety net” of \$100 m. to help bridge the PA budget deficit. The PA announces that it hopes to pay civil servants’ salaries for 11/2012 in the coming days. (AFP, JP, MNA, REU, ToI 12/9)

Israeli PM Netanyahu criticizes **PA pres. Abbas** for engaging with Hamas in reconciliation efforts. In Gaza, visiting Hamas leader **Mishal** says that it is time for Hamas and Fatah to put past mistakes behind them, though free and fair Palestinian elections should come first. (MNA, ToI 12/9)

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **Hamas** government releases Abu Hafis al-Maqdisi, leader of **Salafist group Jaysh al-Ummah** (Army of the Nation). The **IDF** fires warning shots at Palestinians collecting gravel and rubble close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, wounding 1. In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** throw stones at Palestinian vehicles in

2 incidents nr. Bethlehem and Hebron, injuring 1 Palestinian woman. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 2 villages nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah at night. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, in Nablus and 2 nearby villages, and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Ramallah at night. (MNA 12/10; PCHR 12/13)

The death toll in clashes in **Tripoli** between Lebanese Sunni and Alawite militias hits at least 17, with over 100 wounded, in the worst case of spill-over violence in **Lebanon** from **Syria’s** civil war. (NYT 12/9)

10 DECEMBER 2012

The **EU** criticizes **Israel’s** settlement expansion plans in a statement released at a meeting of foreign ministers in Brussels. **Sweden’s** FM Carl Bildt says European governments are increasingly frustrated by the settlement policy. The ministers also emphasize that the EU’s agreements with **Israel** only apply to the pre-1967 territory, which a diplomatic source tells the Israeli media could be a sign of future action related to settlement products. (JP, REU 12/10)

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu says that construction plans for the E1 area e. of Jerusalem do not prevent the eventual emergence of a Palestinian state, and repeats the offer of direct talks with Mahmud Abbas “without preconditions.” Meanwhile, **Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat** outlines 3 conditions for a return to talks: (1) agreement that the goal of the peace process is a withdrawal to the 1967 borders; (2) restarting negotiations from the point they were halted; and (3) setting a 6-mo. timetable for agreement on all final-status issues. He adds that **Israel** should halt settlement activity, but does not list it as a condition. (AFP, JP 12/10)

Israel’s Finance Ministry deducts more than \$71 m. from VAT taxes **Israel** collects and holds on the PA’s behalf and transfers it to **Israel’s** Electric Corporation to cover 37% of the PA’s electricity debt. (YA 12/10)

Independent politician **Khalil Assaf** says that the **PA** has officially agreed to

allow **Hamas** to hold a festival in Nablus commemorating the movement's 25th anniversary. (MNA 12/10)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF**, citing military exercises, compels 6 Palestinian families to leave their homes in a village in the n. Jordan Valley. The **IDF** also notifies Palestinian farmers nr. Salfit that the road connecting the village to their fields will be demolished in the next 2 weeks. The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, in 1 village each nr. Jericho and Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem in the afternoon, and in Ramallah and nearby Qaddura r.c. at night. The Ramallah raid targets prisoner support NGO Addameer and the Palestinian NGO Network, as well as the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees. In all 3 cases, soldiers ransack the offices and confiscate equipment, including computer hardware. (Wafa 12/10; MNA 12/10; PCHR 12/13; AP 12/11)

Israeli PM Netanyahu says that **Iran** is getting closer to being able to build a nuclear bomb and that 2013 will be the year to confront the issue. Western diplomats say that Israel is suspected to be behind a series of leaks, intended to increase pressure, about Iranian nuclear weapon experiments. Diplomats say that the P5+1 world powers expect to hold a fresh round of talks with Tehran in early 2013. (JP, *Guardian*, REU 12/10)

11 DECEMBER 2012

Palestinian pres. Abbas says that if **Israel** continues with its settlement plans, then the Palestinian side will consider taking the Jewish state to the **ICC**. Abbas makes his remarks at a news conference in Ankara with **Turkish pres. Abdullah Gul**, who says that Israel is "playing with fire" in its latest move to construct settlement units in Jerusalem and the West Bank. **Israeli FM Avigdor Lieberman** responds by saying that "If the Palestinians want peace—they'll get peace. If they want war—they'll get war." Lieberman also says that any future rocket fire from the Gaza Strip would prompt a full-scale invasion of the territory and that tax revenues will be withheld from the PA until at least 3/2013 in response to the UN decision to upgrade

Palestine's observer status. Israeli media reports that Lieberman has instructed the Foreign Ministry to pursue an international diplomatic campaign portraying Abbas and **Hamas leader Mishal** as fellow rejectionists. (AFP, JP, YA 12/11; REU 12/12)

Israel issues tenders for the construction of 92 homes in Ma'ale Adumim settlement in the West Bank nr. Jerusalem. In **occupied East Jerusalem**, **Israeli police** demolish a **Palestinian home** in al-Tur neighborhood on the grounds it was built without a permit. The house was home to 11 residents and had been inhabited for over 4 yrs. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** opens fire on protesters in Ni'lin village nr. Ramallah, wounding 1 civilian in the leg. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho and 1 area nr. Jenin in the morning, and in al-Fawar r.c. and 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jericho, and Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron and al-'Arub r.c., also nr. Hebron, at night. (AFP, Wafa 12/11; PCHR 12/13)

The **Pentagon** notifies **Congress** that it wants to sell **Israel** around 6,900 tail kits used to convert free-fall bombs into satellite-guided ordnance, a resupply deal worth around \$647 m. (*Bloomberg* 12/11)

12 DECEMBER 2012

Jordan's King Abdallah states that Jordan hopes to host Israeli-Palestinian talks in 2/2013, after U.S. pres. Obama is sworn in and Israeli elections are held. (*al-Hayat*, YA 12/12)

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF** troops make a brief incursion into Gaza around 150 ms. of the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya and open fire on **Palestinians** collecting gravel, wounding 1. In the **West Bank**, suspected **Jewish extremists** carry out separate "price-tag" vandalism attacks on a monastery in Jerusalem and in a village nr. Ramallah. In the West Bank, the **IDF** shoots dead a **Palestinian** teenager in Hebron's Old City at a checkpoint in disputed circumstances. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in and around Hebron and Jenin r.c. (ToI, MNA 12/12; PCHR 12/13)

13 DECEMBER 2012

The **European Parliament** passes a resolution stating that Israel's plan to build 3,000 new settlement housing units in the West Bank and East Jerusalem would make a two-state solution impossible. (Europarl 12/13)

Palestinian pres. Abbas criticizes **Hamas leader Mishal's** 12/8 statements on Palestine "from the river to the sea," emphasizing that "we recognized Israel in 1993" and that Mishal previously approved an agreement between Hamas and Fatah to pursue a two-state solution. Later, **Tzipi Livni** telephones Abbas to congratulate him for criticizing Mishal. Meanwhile, thousands of **Hamas** supporters gather in Nablus to celebrate the movement's 25th anniversary, marking the 1st Hamas rally of its kind permitted by the PA since 2007; some senior **Fatah** officials attend. (HA, MNA 12/13)

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinians** collecting scrap metal close to the border fence nr. Dayr al-Balah, wounding 5. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinians** protesting in Hebron over the **IDF's** killing of a teenager on 12/12; in total, dozens receive medical attention, including 21 **Palestinians** wounded by rubber-coated steel bullets. The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. (MNA 12/13; PCHR 12/20)

14 DECEMBER 2012

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinians** close to the border fence in the s. Gaza Strip (injuring 1) and nr. the border fence nr. Jabalya (injuring 1). In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** s. of Bethlehem uproot 200 olive trees owned by a **Palestinian** from al-Khadir village. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Tulkarm at night. Israeli soldiers attack weekly nonviolent demonstrations held by **Palestinians**, **Israelis**, and **internationals** in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, al-Nabi Salih) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). In Bil'in, 2 **Palestinians** are wounded by rubber-coated steel bullets. **Palestinians**

also hold a demonstration in a village nr. Jenin in solidarity with **Palestinian** hunger-strikers in Israeli prisons. (MNA 12/14; PCHR 12/20)

Israel's **attorney general** indicts **Israeli FM Lieberman** on charges of fraud and breach of trust. (HA 12/14)

The **Arab League's** undersecretary for **Palestinian** affairs says that none of the \$100 m. in pledged assistance to the **PA** for 2012 has been transferred and that no date has been set for the transfer. The **PA** continues to suffer from **Israel's** decision to withhold \$120 m. in tax revenues as a punitive measure following the **UN** bid. Meanwhile, **Palestinian negotiator Mohammed Shtayeh** says that a legal team is studying which international organizations to join in light of the recent status upgrade. (AFP, ToI 12/14)

A group of **Palestinians** releases a video declaring the formation of a new resistance faction based in **Hebron** called the **National Unity Brigades**. (MNA 12/15)

15 DECEMBER 2012

Israeli naval vessels open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** working 6 naut. mi. off the coast nr. al-Waha resort in the n. **Gaza Strip**, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** issues a demolition order for a home in Yatta nr. Hebron. The **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Jenin in the morning. (MNA 12/15; PCHR 12/20)

Palestinian undersecretary of the **Ministry of National Economy Nasser Tahboub** says that the **PA** may go to the sponsors of the **Paris Protocol** to pressure **Israel** to stop holding back tax revenues collected on the **Palestinians'** behalf. (MNA 12/15)

Palestine's Central Elections Commission announces that the 2d stage of local elections in the **West Bank** will take place on 12/22/12, after 78 districts failed to register any candidate in the 1st round (10/20/12, see QU in *JPS* 166). (MNA 12/16)

In Syria, the head of the pro-Asad **PFLP-GC**, **Ahmed Jibril**, leaves the **Yarmuk r.c.** after 12 days of clashes with Syrian rebel forces supported by **Palestinian** fighters known as **Liwa al-Asifah** (Storm Brigade), who have gained ground in the camp. (MNA 12/15)

16 DECEMBER 2012

Israeli naval vessels open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the coast of Gaza nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. The IDF also opens fire on a group of Palestinians working their lands nr. the border fence e. of Khan Yunis, seriously wounding 1 farmer. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** fires tear gas at stone-throwing **Palestinian** youths nr. the entrance of Aida r.c. in Bethlehem, hitting 1 child in the leg with a tear-gas canister. The IDF patrols in Jenin and in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem in the morning and in Nablus, nearby Balata r.c., and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Jenin, and Nablus at night. (PCHR 12/20)

Abdul Salam Siyam, cabinet secy.-gen. of Hamas's government in **Gaza**, says that **Egyptian authorities** have pledged to end a blacklist of Gaza Strip residents who cannot use the **Rafah** crossing. (MNA 12/16)

Palestinian PM Salam Fayyad calls for **West Bank** residents to boycott all **Israeli products**. (REU 12/16)

Israeli FM and dep. PM Lieberman resigns over corruption charges filed against him on 12/14, saying that he hopes to take "the briefest possible leave." He remains chair of Yisrael Beiteinu and 2nd on the joint electoral list with **Likud**. (AP 12/16)

The **Syrian air force** bombs **Yarmuk** r.c. nr. Damascus, killing an estimated 23 persons, all civilians, and sending thousands of **Palestinian refugees** fleeing the camp for safety. (*Guardian*, MNA 12/16)

17 DECEMBER 2012

Israel approves 1,500 new housing units in the Ramat Shlomo settlement in East Jerusalem. The government is expected to approve a total of 6,500 settlement housing units over the next week, including almost 4,000 in Givat Hamatos—a new settlement nr. Bayt Safafa—and 1,000 units in Gilo South. **Palestinian** envoy to the UN **Riyad Mansour** urges permanent members of the UNSC to take action to stop **Israel's** settlement plans in East Jerusalem. (JP, REU, MNA 12/17)

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** working 7 naut. mi. off the **Gaza** coast nr. Wadi Gaza (wounding 1) and nr. al-Waha (causing no injuries). In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shoots and injures a **Palestinian** man in a village nr. Nablus, after Jewish settlers entered the village and clashed with residents. **Israeli** forces also raid Jaba village in the n. West Bank, ransacking several homes and taking photographs of a number of buildings. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Jenin, and Tulkarm and 1 nearby village in the afternoon; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in Salfit, Hebron and 3 nearby villages at night. (MNA 12/17; PCHR 12/20)

Teachers in the **West Bank** go on strike to protest the delay in the payment of their salaries. The **PA** has not set a target date for paying back salaries. Meanwhile, the **PA** civil servants union accuses **Israel** of collective punishment for withholding **Palestinian** tax revenues and calls a strike from 12/18 to the end of the week. (MNA 12/17)

Hamas's Interior Ministry in Gaza says that **Fatah** will be allowed to celebrate its 48th anniversary in Gaza, in order "to promote the atmosphere of unity." (MNA 12/17)

Syrian rebels take control of **Yarmuk** r.c. nr. Damascus after a fierce battle pitting rebels and anti-Asad **Palestinians** against the pro-Asad **PFLP-GC**. **PLO** official in Syria Anwar Abdul-Hadi says that over half the **Palestinian** population of Yarmuk r.c. has fled; **Palestinian** amb. to Syria puts the figure at 95%. (MNA, REU 12/17)

18 DECEMBER 2012

Israel's Housing and Construction Ministry publishes tenders for construction of **West Bank settlement** housing units in Karnei Shomron, Efrat, and Givat Ze'ev as part of the government's decision to build 3,000 new settlement units to punish the **Palestinians** for their successful UN bid. The **U.S.** expresses disappointment with what it calls **Israel's** "pattern of provocative action" with regard to settlement construction, saying the repeated announcements and plans

“run counter to the cause of peace” and put the two-state solution “further at risk.” **Britain, France, Germany and Portugal**—European members of the UNSC—issue a joint statement condemning Israel’s 12/17 decision to construct homes in Ramat Shlomo settlement in occupied East Jerusalem. (ToI, AP, HA 12/18)

IDF forces make a brief incursion into s. **Gaza** to level land along the border fence. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets at Palestinians nr. Aida r.c. in Bethlehem, causing no injuries; this marks the 6th day of confrontations since Israeli forces killed a Palestinian youth in Hebron’s Old City on 12/12. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 each village nr. Bethlehem and Hebron at night. (PNN 12/19; PCHR 12/20)

Israeli military sources say that there are cracks appearing in the co-operation between the **IDF** and the **PA**’s security forces, though the operational relationship remains generally positive. One example of this deterioration is the **PA** security forces stopping **IDF** troops from pursuing their activities on at least 2 occasions in the past few weeks. (YA 12/18)

Reports suggest that more than 1,000 **Palestinian refugees** living in Syria crossed over the border into **Lebanon** in just 24 hours, fleeing fighting in **Yarmuk** r.c. (REU 12/18)

19 DECEMBER 2012

Fourteen of 15 mbrs. of the **UNSC** make statements condemning **Israel**’s settlement construction plans, while the U.S. vows to veto any resolution on the issue. Four separate statements are made by the 8 council mbrs. from the Non-Aligned Movement, the 4 European mbrs., as well as Russia and China. Meanwhile, the **Jerusalem District Planning and Building Comm.** approves the creation of a new Jewish settlement, Givat Hamatos, in the s. of East Jerusalem, not far from Har Homa. In addition, **Israel**’s **Defense Ministry** advances plans to build 523 homes in Giva’ot settlement in the Gush Etzion bloc, though this plan is long-standing and unrelated to the recent high-profile construction announcements tied to the Palestinian bid at the UN. (REU, HA, JP 12/19)

The **IDF** announces that it will issue permits to around 500 **Christian Palestinians** from the Gaza Strip to visit Bethlehem for Christmas. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin, Nur Shams r.c. nr. Tulkarm, 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin, and 2 villages nr. Nablus. (JP 12/19; PCHR 12/20)

Palestinian government employees begin a 2-day general strike to protest a delay in the payment of their wages due to Israel’s withholding of around \$100 m. customs revenue. Around 50,000 workers take part in the strike. Meanwhile, **Palestine Monetary Authority chief Jihad al-Wazir** says that Palestinian banks will lend the **PA** \$100 m., set to be repaid when the **Arab League** delivers its promised financial safety net. (REU 12/19; MNA 12/19)

Israel’s **Central Elections Comm.** votes to disqualify **MK Haneen Zoabi**, from Balad party, from running in the forthcoming elections, a decision based largely on her participation in the 2010 Gaza flotilla. (HA 12/19)

Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas offers to take in **Palestinian refugees** fleeing from fighting in **Syria**, and **UN secy.-gen. Ban Ki-moon** calls on **Israel** to facilitate their entry. Meanwhile, the UN launches its biggest aid appeal to date for **Syria**, estimating that it needs \$1.5 b. to cope with a “dramatically deteriorating humanitarian situation.” Meanwhile, the **Security Council** passes a U.S.-and-Russian-drafted resolution on extending the peacekeeping mission in the demilitarized zone between **Syria** and **Israel**. The resolution expresses concern at the presence of both government and rebel forces in the zone. (MNA 12/18; AP, *Guardian*, UN News Center 12/19)

20 DECEMBER 2012

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinians** in 1 village nr. Jenin and arrests 2 wounded civilians. The **IDF** also patrols in 2 villages nr. Jericho and 3 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in al-’Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, Jericho, and 4 villages nr. Hebron, 2 nr. Tulkarm, and 1 nr. Ramallah at night. **Jewish settlers** from Ma’ale Ephraim settlement nr. Nablus set fire to 2 Palestinian-owned cars. (PCHR 12/27)

Various **Palestinian officials** close to **Pres. Abbas** tell the Associated Press that there are plans to encourage the international isolation of Israel should **Israeli PM Netanyahu** win reelection and the peace process remain stalled. Options being considered include war crimes charges, urging sanctions, and ending security cooperation in the West Bank. **Fatah official Nabil Shaath** tells Palestinian news agency Ma'an that the **PA** will further develop a strategy of boycott and civil disobedience in 2013. In response to these reports, the **Israeli Foreign Ministry** says that Abbas seeks to "incite a confrontation with Israel no matter what." (AP, MNA 12/20; YA 12/21)

The EU's foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton releases a statement expressing strong opposition to **Israel's** "unprecedented expansion of settlements around Jerusalem." Meanwhile, **South Africa's governing party, the African National Congress**, votes at its annual conference to support the Palestinians' Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign. (EU Press Office 12/20; HA 12/21)

Human Rights Watch says that the **IDF's** attacks on the media in the **Gaza Strip** during Operation Pillar of Defense that killed 2 and injured 10 media personnel violated the laws of war. (AP 12/20)

Israeli newspaper *Ha'Aretz* reports that the state has informed the **High Court of Justice** that the **IDF** will reduce the amount of time **Palestinian** minors can be held before they are brought before a judge. (HA 12/20)

An anonymous **Israeli government official** says that **Israel** and **Egypt** are continuing discussions behind the scenes in Cairo, intended to further ease restrictions on the **Gaza Strip** and to prevent a rearming of **Hamas**. (JP 12/21)

Israel's UN amb. Ron Prosor submits a letter to the **Security Council** complaining that **Hizballah** has rearmed with tens of thousands of missiles, in violation of a UN arms embargo. (REU 12/20)

21 DECEMBER 2012

The EU and Russia issue a statement condemning Israeli plans for settlement expansion, citing in particular the

proposed E1 development in East Jerusalem. **Israeli PM Netanyahu** says on Israeli television that he will ignore international condemnation. Meanwhile, adviser to PA pres. Abbas, Nimr Hammad, says that Palestine may complain to the ICC if the UNSC fails to take substantive action over Israeli settlement construction. (JP, MNA, REU 12/21)

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on civilians and farmers protesting the buffer zone in 2 separate incidents: by the border fence nr. Jabalya, injuring 2 (1 seriously), and nr. Bayt Lahiya, wounding 2. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Jericho in the morning, in 1 village each nr. Jericho and Ramallah in the afternoon, and in Jericho, 3 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. Israeli soldiers attack weekly non-violent demonstrations held by Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, al-Nabi Salih) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). There are no serious injuries, except in Bil'in, where 2 Palestinians are wounded with live ammunition. (PCHR 12/27)

Palestinian refugees begin to return to **Yarmuk r.c.** nr. Damascus after a deal was brokered by UN-Arab League peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi's representative Mokhtar Lamani to keep the fighting out of the area. **UNRWA** estimates that around 100,000 of the camp's 150,000 inhabitants fled during recent clashes, many taking refuge in the parks and squares of the capital. (AFP, AP 12/21)

22 DECEMBER 2012

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** attacks a Palestinian funeral procession nr. Hebron, sparking a clash that leaves 5 Palestinians injured. The **IDF** also denies Palestinian farmers access to their land nr. Hebron, injuring 1. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Jenin and 2 villages nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin at night. **Jewish settlers** from Nokdim settlement nr. Bethlehem attack Palestinian shepherds. (MNA 12/22, PCHR 12/27)

In interviews with Israeli television, **PM Benjamin Netanyahu** claims that the **IDF** “inflicted a very heavy blow” on **Hamas** during Operation Pillar of Defense in November 2012 and that the military “is preparing to strike a still-heavier blow.” (ToI 12/22)

PA pres. Abbas says that the **PA** will not allow **Israel** to realize its plans for E1. In addition, Abbas tells the **Fatah Advisory Council** in Ramallah that if settlement construction continues he will consider dissolving the **PA** and asking **Israel** to resume full control of the West Bank. The council meets to discuss matters concerning the future of the party and the **PA**, including the prospect of holding a 7th **Fatah** conference. (HA, JP 12/22, MNA 12/23)

Palestinians in the **West Bank** hold a 2d round of municipal elections as planned (see 12/15). In the 1st round of municipal elections held 10/20/12 (see QU in *JPS* 166), 78 municipalities failed to field any candidate. (MNA 12/21)

23 DECEMBER 2012

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinians** nr. Dayr al-Balah, seriously wounding 2. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 3 villages nr. Qalqilya in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Ramallah, and 1 village nr. Jenin at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin at night. (AP 12/23; PCHR 12/27)

Israeli PM Netanyahu and **DM Barak** receive a briefing from the **IDF**'s Central Command regarding what the army describes as a recent “escalation of Palestinian violence” in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. (JP 12/23)

Turkey lifts its veto of military cooperation between **Israel** and **NATO**, which began in the aftermath of **Israel**'s attack on the Gaza flotilla in 2010. (JP, ToI 12/23)

24 DECEMBER 2012

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and in 2 villages nr.

Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Hebron at night. (PCHR 12/27)

Israel's Jerusalem District Planning and Building Comm. approves 1,200 new apartments in Gilo settlement in **East Jerusalem**. Meanwhile, **Israel's** attorney general Yehuda Weinstein rules that there is no reason to prevent the **Ariel University Center** in the West Bank settlement of the same name from being recognized as an accredited university. In response, **DM Barak** orders the **IDF** command to approve the recommendations made by the Council for Higher Education in Judea and Samaria. Ariel settlement thus gains the 1st official **Israeli** university in the West Bank. (HA 12/24; JP 12/25)

In the run-up to **Israeli** elections, **Israel's** education min. and **Likud** mbr. Gideon Sa'ar says that **Likud** does not support the establishment of a Palestinian state. (YA 12/24)

Human Rights Watch says that Palestinian armed factions violated the laws of war by firing rockets at **Israeli** civilians during Operation Pillar of Defense. (BBC 12/24)

Qatar's Emir Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifa al-Thani tells **PA** pres. Abbas in a phone call that **Qatar** will pay its share of the \$100 m. in aid pledged by the Arab League states. (MNA 12/24)

25 DECEMBER 2012

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning; conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, the Old City of Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Nablus and Tubas at night. (PCHR 12/27)

Israel's min. of strategic affairs Moshe Ya'alon claims that **Egypt** has cracked down on arms smuggling to the **Gaza Strip** since the end of Operation Pillar of Defense. (ToI 12/25)

Israeli PM Netanyahu promises to do even more to strengthen **Israel's** West Bank settlements should he win reelection. He also says that **Likud** will defend the country's security interests in the face of international pressure. (JP 12/25)

Senior Fatah official Nabil Shaath says that **Hamas**, despite its statements on 12/17, is refusing to allow **Fatah** to celebrate its anniversary in both the al-Katiba and al-Saraya Squares in Gaza, citing security pretexts. Meanwhile, the Gaza government announces it will release Fatah detainees convicted of security and criminal offenses. (MNA 12/25)

26 DECEMBER 2012

Israeli media report on an internal **Foreign Ministry** document that predicts that the **EU** will increase efforts in 2013 to pressure **Israel** and the **Palestinians** to reach an agreement. The report suggests that the EU may try to promote the establishment of an actual Palestinian state independent of negotiations with Israel. Other Israeli media report that the **PA** is seeking to join a number of international organizations in the light of their successful UN statehood bid, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Israel's Foreign Ministry is apparently seeking to stymie these efforts through its ambassadors in countries where the organizations' headquarters are located. Meanwhile, Palestinian officials in Ramallah claim that Israel is refusing to renew the VIP cards of several senior PA officials, complicating their ability to move freely around the West Bank and Israel. (HA, JP, ToI 12/26)

Israeli and Palestinian officials confirm that Israel will allow materials for private construction into the **Gaza Strip** for the 1st time since mid-2007. The deal will allow up to 20 trucks of gravel to enter the territory daily through Kerem Shalom crossing in the south. (MNA 12/25; AFP 12/26)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids the Palestinian village of Yatta in the south, sparking a clash with stone-throwing Palestinians; 1 Palestinian is injured when he is hit in the head by a tear-gas canister. The **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm, nearby Nur Shams r.c., and 1 village nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 3 nearby villages, 1 village nr. Bethlehem, and 1 village nr. Jenin at night. (PNN, WAFA 12/26; MNA, PCHR 12/27)

Fatah's Revolutionary Council meets in **Ramallah** to discuss internal and national issues, including the next steps to take following the UN bid and subsequent Israeli settlement expansion. (MNA 12/26)

Anonymous Israeli officials confirm a story in *al-Quds al-Arabi* that **PM Netanyahu** secretly met **Jordan's King Abdallah** in Amman recently (no dates reported) to discuss the risk of **Syria's** chemical weapons falling into the hands of armed Islamist groups. (REU 12/26)

27 DECEMBER 2012

Israeli naval vessels open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** 6 naut. mi. from the **Gaza** shore nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Jericho, 2 villages nr. Hebron, and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. **Jewish settlers** uproot 40 olive trees in Qusra village nr. Nablus. (MNA 12/27; PCHR 1/3)

PA pres. Abbas tells Israeli newspaper *Ha'Aretz* that if both settlement construction and the diplomatic stalemate continue after the forthcoming Israeli elections, he will dismantle the **PA**. He also says that Israel has reduced security cooperation with the PA since the UN vote in 11/2012. Abbas says he does not intend to bring charges against Israel at the ICC in The Hague, at least "as long as there are diplomatic negotiations." Meanwhile, **UK min. for the Middle East Alistair Burt** condemns Israel's plans to expand settlements in East Jerusalem and its official recognition of Ariel University Center as a university in unusually strong terms that refer to the Geneva Conventions. (HA, ToI 12/27)

Kadima chair Shaul Mofaz warns that Israel might be on the brink of a 3d intifada. Israeli media report an increasing number of small-scale clashes between **Palestinians** and the **IDF** in different locations throughout the **West Bank** since the end of Operation Pillar of Defense, including stone-throwing Palestinians attacking Israeli vehicles and IDF troops. (ToI 12/27)

Hamas issues an order banning **Palestinian journalists** in the **Gaza Strip** from working with or giving interviews to the Israeli media, and instructs government officials similarly. Meanwhile, **Fatah** cancels its anniversary celebrations in Gaza, citing Hamas's refusal to agree to their proposed locations for the event. (*Guardian*, MNA 12/27)

In **Syria**, 4 **Palestinians** are killed when **Syrian government forces** shell **Yarmuk r.c.** nr. Damascus, the 1st attack of its kind since the rocketing of the camp on 12/16 that killed at least 25 people. (NYT 12/27; MNA 12/28)

28 DECEMBER 2012

Israeli naval vessels open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** sailing about 6 naut. mi. off the **Gaza** coast nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem, al-Azza r.c. in Bethlehem, and Aida r.c. in Bethlehem at night. **Israeli soldiers** attack weekly nonviolent demonstrations held by **Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals** in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, al-Nabi Salih) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara); there are no serious injuries. (PCHR 1/3)

Fatah announces that its 48th anniversary celebrations will take place in the **Gaza Strip** after all (see 12/27), with **Hamas** officials approving a venue. The government in Gaza releases 26 prisoners, including 6 affiliated with Fatah, as a "gesture" intended to create a positive environment for national reconciliation. (MNA 12/28)

29 DECEMBER 2012

Israeli naval vessels open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the **Gaza** coast nr. al-Waha for the 3d consecutive day, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** nr. Hebron attack farmers working nr. a settlement and drive them from the land. Palestinian and Israeli protesters demonstrate against settlement expansion and the occupation in separate protests in 2 villages nr.

Hebron. In both cases, the **IDF** attacks the protesters, causing no injuries. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Jericho, Ramallah, and Tulkarm in the morning, in 1 village each nr. Jericho and Ramallah in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Jenin at night. (PCHR 1/3)

Egyptian amb. to Lebanon Ashraf Hamdy tells Lebanese media that Cairo intends to forge close relations with **Hizballah**, due to its significance within Lebanese society and the political arena. (JP 12/29)

30 DECEMBER 2012

Israeli security forces evacuate the unauthorized settler outpost of Oz Zion in between Ramallah and Jerusalem, removing right-wing activists who were still on site. (ToI 12/30)

At a meeting of **Israeli ambassadors, Israeli pres. Shimon Peres** praises **PA pres. Abbas** as a leader with whom Israel could make an agreement, describing him as "one of the only leaders in the Arab world to publicly and boldly say that he supports peace and a demilitarized state, and opposes terrorism." (ToI 12/30)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin, 1 village nr. Qalqilya, and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning; in 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Qalqilya, and Ramallah and in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon; and in 'Aqaba r.c. nr. Jericho, Tulkarm and 3 nearby villages, 5 villages nr. Jenin, and 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Ramallah at night. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Nablus at night. (PCHR 1/3)

A team from the **Gaza Strip-based Ministry of Justice** visits **Cairo** for discussions with **Egyptian officials** on the terms of the truce agreement with **Israel** and other matters. Meanwhile, the 1st shipment of gravel for private construction since 2007 enters Gaza (see 12/26). (MNA 12/30; REU 12/30)

Israel's Supreme Court overturns the ban the Central Elections Comm. imposed (see 12/19) on **MK Haneen Zoabi** (Balad) participating in the next elections. (*Guardian* 12/30)

31 DECEMBER 2012

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on Palestinians collecting rubble along the n. border fence, wounding 1 child. **IDF** forces make a brief incursion to Gaza to level land nr. Rafah. In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** uproot around 190 olive trees in Qusra village nr. Nablus and attack villagers. Settlers also enter Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron, set fire to a car and spray “price-tag” graffiti. The **IDF** clash with residents of al-Nabi Salih village nr. Ramallah and Salfit, injuring 2 in the latter. In both cases, clashes begin after forces enter the communities and are met with protests and stone-throwing. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village each nr. Qalqilya and Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Jenin at night. (MNA 12/31, PCHR 1/3)

The **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics** says that the population of Palestinians around the world totalled 11.6 m. in 2012, with 2.7 m. in the West Bank, 1.7 million in the Gaza Strip, 1.4 million in Israel, and around 6 million in the Middle East and worldwide. (MNA 12/31)

Israeli television reports that **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** stands behind his 6/2009 statement of support for the two-state solution, though without directly quoting from the PM. Earlier, Likud MK Tzipi Hotovely said that the PM’s 2009 statement had been a tactical maneuver designed to placate the international community. (ToI 12/31)

1 JANUARY 2013

In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** attack **Palestinian**-owned vehicles in between Bethlehem and Hebron. Settlers also damage around 250 olive trees southeast of Nablus, and later cut down 12 olive trees in Basalta nr. Nablus. In the latter case, Palestinians throw stones at the settlers, who are subsequently protected by **IDF** soldiers, who fire rubber-coated steel bullets and injure 3 Palestinians. The **IDF** also opens fire with live ammunition and rubber-coated steel bullets on Palestinians in Tamoun village nr.

Jenin during clashes sparked by an arrest raid, injuring 30. The **IDF** also opens fire on stone-throwing Palestinian youths who challenge troops entering ‘Urif village nr. Nablus. The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Tulkarm and 2 nr. Jenin at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (MNA 1/1, PCHR 2/1)

Israel’s High Court of Justice gives the state an extended deadline for the demolition of unauthorized settler outpost **Amona** in the c. West Bank, delaying removal until the end of 4/2013. The outpost was set up on the site of a previous outpost of the same name that was evacuated in 2006, and had been slated for evacuation in February. (ToI 1/1)

Israeli newspaper *Ha’Aretz* reports that around 50 residents of **Issawiyya** in East Jerusalem have been arrested over the last month in clashes with security forces. Tensions are linked to the hunger-striking Palestinian prisoner Samer Issawi, who comes from the village. (HA 1/1)

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) registers its opposition to the 12/27 **Hamas**-imposed ban on Palestinian journalists in the **Gaza Strip** working with the Israeli media. (*Guardian* 1/1)

Palestinians demonstrate in **Nablus** against a recent decision to end refugees’ exemption from electricity costs. Around 200 protesters clash with **PA security forces**, angry that a debt-exemption clause is not applicable to non-refugees. (MNA 1/1)

Senior Likud officials speak at a conference in Jerusalem on a “one-state solution,” including Min. Yuli Edelstein, who voices support for the annexation of Area C of the West Bank. Likud politician and Knesset candidate Moshe Feiglin outlines his plan to pay Palestinian families in the West Bank \$500,000 each to emigrate abroad. (*Guardian*, ToI 1/1)

A report in *JTA* indicates that 2 major American Jewish groups—the **American Israel Public Affairs Comm. (AIPAC)** and the **Reform** movement—are in disagreement about how to respond to the **Palestinians’** successful UN bid. AIPAC has supported 2 congressional bids to shut down the **PLO** office in **Washington**,

D.C., while the Reform movement has urged Obama not to punish the Palestinians for the initiative. Both groups, however, are apparently waiting to see if the Palestinians will use their new status to bring Israel before the ICC before backing penalties. (JTA 1/1)

2 JANUARY 2013

Israel announces that the military has completed the main section of the 142-mi. **Israel-Egypt** border fence, a task that took 2½ yrs. at a cost of around \$377 m. **PM Netanyahu**, visiting the fence, says that “tens of thousands” of African migrants (“infiltrators”) will soon be forcibly repatriated. (ToI, AP 1/2)

U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Victoria Nuland says that the **Obama** admin. is urging **Israeli** and **Palestinian** leaders to resume direct talks in 2013 and halt “counter-productive unilateral actions.” (AFP 1/2)

Israeli newspaper *Ha’Aretz* reports that **Israeli authorities** have begun barring **foreign nationals** living and working in the **West Bank** from entering East Jerusalem and Israel by stamping their passports with “Judea and Samaria only.” Some of these people are **Palestinians** born in the West Bank, but whose residency status was rescinded by Israel pre-1994 due to a prolonged stay abroad. (HA 2/1)

The **IDF** orders dozens of **Palestinians** in the Jordan Valley to leave their homes for the duration of military exercises. Bedouin communities say that these temporary evacuation orders have increased in frequency and that they are being pressured to permanently leave the area. (AP 1/2)

Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** enter Jalud village nr. Nablus and clash with residents, injuring 4 Palestinians (including 1 child). Settlers also vandalize a mosque nr. Efrat settlement s. of Bethlehem. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (AP 1/2; PCHR, PNN 1/3)

Following protests on 1/1, the **PA** announces that it will cancel outstanding electricity bill debts for every **West Bank** resident. Those being investigated for electricity theft will not be included in the deal. (MNA 1/2)

3 JANUARY 2013

In a meeting chaired by **Pres. Abbas**, the **PLO Executive Comm.** affirms the need for a UNSC resolution against Israeli settlement construction. Abbas also signs a decree changing the name of the PA to the “State of Palestine,” with all stamps, signs, and official letterheads set to carry the new name. (MNA 1/3; ToI 1/4)

IDF soldiers make a brief incursion into c. **Gaza**, e. of Juhur al-Dik, to level land 100 m inside the border fence. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli undercover forces** launch an arrest raid into Jenin, sparking a clash with a large crowd of stone-throwing Palestinians; troops open fire on the crowd, wounding 1 man in the leg. The **IDF** also patrols in 1 village each nr. Jericho, Ramallah, and Salfit in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Salfit and 1 village each nr. Jenin, Jericho, and Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning and in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Salfit at night. (MNA 1/3; PCHR 1/10)

An anonymous **Israeli security source** says that the **IDF** is planning to escalate arrest raids targeting **Hamas** mbrs. in the **West Bank** due to a “certain awakening” or simmering unrest. (YA 1/3)

Around 30,000 people participate in a festival in **Nablus** to mark **Fatah’s** 48th anniversary. Meanwhile, the movement’s supporters in the **Gaza Strip** begin to gather in preparation for their rally on 1/4. (MNA 1/3)

The Israeli organization Ir Amin reports that in 2012, publication of tenders for **settlement apartments in East Jerusalem** showed a three-fold increase compared to 2011 (rising to 2,386 units), and units approved for future construction a four-fold increase (to 6,932 units). (HA 1/3)

Head of Operations, Logistics, and Property at **Israel’s Defense Ministry**, Bezalel Treiber, says that in light of the war in Syria, the government is looking to improve the border fence with **Syria** and may do the same with **Jordan**, funds permitting. (NYT, ToI 1/3)

Speaking at an annual conference for Israel’s ambassadors abroad, **PM**

Netanyahu says that **Iran** has not yet crossed the "red line" set by Israel on its nuclear program. The same gathering receives a **Foreign Ministry** paper predicting that the **Syrian** civil war has weakened the ability of **Asad** and **Hizballah** to respond in the event of an Israeli attack on Iranian nuclear facilities. (JP, ToI 1/3)

4 JANUARY 2013

PA pres. Abbas's legal adviser Hassan al-Ouri says that the PA's financial crisis may prevent it from joining several international and UN institutions. (MNA 1/4)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning and in al-'Arub r.c. and Ithna r.c. (both nr. Hebron), 5 villages nr. Ramallah, 3 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Bayt Sahur and Aida r.c. in Bethlehem at night. **Israeli soldiers** attack weekly nonviolent demonstrations held by **Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals** in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, al-Nabi Salih), 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). There are no serious injuries, except in Bil'in, where 2 **Palestinians** are wounded with live ammunition. **Jewish settlers** enter al-Manshiya village nr. Bethlehem, vandalize a car, and write "price-tag" graffiti. (PCHR 1/10)

Hundreds of thousands of **Fatah supporters** rally in **Gaza City** to mark the 48th anniversary of the founding of the movement, the 1st such show of support for **Fatah** in Gaza since 2007. **Pres. Abbas** tells the crowds in a televised address that Palestinian national unity is coming soon. Hamas's acting **PM Ismail Haniyeh** calls Abbas to congratulate him on the occasion of the anniversary. Meanwhile, a report in *Ha'Aretz* says that **IDF-PA** security coordination is improving again, and the PA is renewing arrests of **Hamas** and **Islamic Jihad** suspects. (HA, MNA, REU 1/4) *Christian Science Monitor* reports that **Palestinian** support for military operations against **Israel** has registered its most significant jump in 10 years (50.9%, up from 29.3% in 1/2011), spurred by Operation Pillar of Defense, ongoing Israeli settlement expansion, and frustration over a peace

process that has been essentially deadlocked for more than 4 yrs. (CSM 4/1)

Egyptian security forces seize anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles in the **Sinai Peninsula**, weaponry thought by Egyptian security sources to be bound for the **Gaza Strip** via the tunnels. (MNA 1/4)

In Syria, fighting between pro- and anti-government groups resumes in **Yarmuk** r.c. nr. Damascus, ending a short-lived cease-fire (see 12/21) and prompting another wave of Palestinian refugees. (AKH 1/4)

Recently retired Shin Bet chief Yuval Diskin says in an interview with Israeli media that **PM Netanyahu** acted irresponsibly regarding **Iran's** nuclear program and tried to convince him and colleagues to approve an "illegal" decision to attack Iran. (AP 1/4)

5 JANUARY 2013

Undercover Israeli police officers arrest 6 **Palestinian** youths in the **Silwan** neighborhood of East Jerusalem on suspicion of throwing stones and Molotov cocktails at a Jewish settler-owned house. In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on a garbage truck close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, wounding 1 Palestinian. In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** from the unauthorized outpost Esh Kodesh nr. Nablus attack the Palestinian village of Qusra, provoking clashes with residents. In response, the **IDF** deploys troops in the area and fires tear gas and stun grenades at villagers. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, in 1 village nr. Jericho in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 village each nr. al-Bireh and Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in the Old City of Hebron, 1 nearby village, and 1 village nr. Jenin at night. The **IDF** attacks a nonviolent demonstration against the occupation and settlement expansion held by **Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals** in Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron, causing no serious injuries. (MNA 1/5, 1/6; PCHR 1/10)

PA security forces arrest the Hebron-based members of the **National Unity Brigades**, which announced its formation and called for a 3d intifada in a video released on 12/14. (JP 1/5)

Sources tell Palestinian Ma'an news agency that **PLO leaders**, the **Free Syria**

Army, and Syrian government forces are working toward a deal to end the fighting in and blockade of **Yarmuk** r.c. in Damascus, including the withdrawal of rebel fighters and the end to army shelling. (MNA 1/6)

6 JANUARY 2013

PM Salam Fayyad says that the **PA** is in “extreme jeopardy” due to an unprecedented financial crisis caused by **Israel’s** withholding of tax revenues and the subsequent failure of Arab countries to send promised funds. Meanwhile, the union of government employees in the West Bank says it will continue its partial strike to protest salary delays; part of 11/2012’s salaries are still outstanding. (AP, MNA 1/6)

Sixty-two truckloads of gravel enter the **Gaza Strip** via the **Rafah** crossing, part of a shipment from the **Qatari government** intended to help reconstruction. It is the 2d such delivery since 2007, following the entry of building materials via **Rafah** on 12/30. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho in the morning, in 1 village nr. Jericho in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Ramallah, al-Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, and Hebron at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem, Tubas, Nablus and 1 nearby village, and 1 village nr. Hebron. (MNA 1/7; PCHR 1/10)

Jailed Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti says that Palestinians should use mass popular protest to help end the split between the governments in the **West Bank** and **Gaza Strip**, calling for sit-ins in front of **Hamas** and **Fatah** party buildings in Palestine and internationally. (MNA 1/6)

Talks continue among **PLO leaders**, the **Free Syria Army**, and **Syrian regime forces** about **Yarmuk** r.c., without concluding a deal. PLO representatives are demanding that all armed groups, including Palestinian gunmen, withdraw from the camp; that authorities allow food and fuel to enter for residents; and that all parties to respect the neutrality of the camp. (MNA 1/6)

Israeli **PM Netanyahu** vows to build a fortified fence along the border with **Syria** in response to claims that radical Islamist groups have taken over the area

alongside the **occupied Golan Heights**. (AP, REU 1/6)

7 JANUARY 2013

IDF general and head of Central Command Nitzan Alon approves 2 settlement outposts nr. Nablus by combining them into 1 settlement named **Rechalim**. (PCHR 1/10)

In the **West Bank**, **IDF** troops patrol in **Bayt Umar** village nr. Hebron, then fire rubber-coated steel bullets at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, wounding 1 child. The **IDF** also patrols in ‘**Aqabat Jabir** r.c. nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in and around Bethlehem and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 1/10)

Israel’s Shin Bet security service reports that 12/2012 saw a 400% increase in what the organization classifies as “terrorist attacks” in the **West Bank** and **East Jerusalem**. Israeli media promote the statistics as reinforcing recent remarks by **IDF col. Yaniv Alaluf** that a 3d intifada is already underway. **Shin Bet** also says that Palestinians fired 1 mortar from the **Gaza Strip** during the whole of 12/2012. (ToI 1/7)

U.S. pres. Barack Obama nominates Republican **Chuck Hagel** as his next defense secretary and counterterrorism adviser and **John Brennan** as head of the **CIA**. Hagel is expected to meet opposition over his record on **Israel** and **Iran**, while Brennan has faced criticism by human rights groups over his views on mistreatment of prisoners during interrogations. (REU 1/7)

The **Lebanese army** says that the **U.S.** has given 200 armored vehicles to Lebanon in order to support the armed forces’ ability to respond to crises. (REU 1/7)

Israel’s fin. min. Yuval Steinitz visits **Washington, D.C.**, to press U.S. officials to tighten sanctions on **Iran** further and give Tehran a clear ultimatum, backed with a credible military threat, to halt its nuclear program. (AP 1/7; JP 1/8)

8 JANUARY 2013

Unidentified Israeli officials tell the *Jerusalem Post* that unofficial, informal talks under EU auspices are taking place between **Israeli** and **Palestinian**

academics and former political and military leaders. These discrete dialogues are looking at final-status issues like Jerusalem in order to come up with recommendations for steps that could be taken by both sides. (JP, REU 1/8)

Israel's Jerusalem municipality demolishes a **Palestinian** home in **Silwan** in East Jerusalem on the basis that it was built without a permit. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' r.c. nr. Nablus, and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. (WAFA 1/8; PCHR 1/10)

Israel's education min. Gideon Sa'ar convenes an unscheduled meeting of the **Council for Higher Education** in order to officially endorse the university status of Ariel settlement's college. Speaking at **Ariel University** on the same day, **PM Netanyahu** says the settlement will "always remain under Israeli sovereignty." (HA, JP 1/8)

Palestinian PM Salam Fayyad says that the **PA** is on the verge of bankruptcy, but that he is not afraid of popular protests against the **PA** similar to those that took place in 9/2012 (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 166). Fayyad points out that international aid to the **PA** dropped from \$1.8 b. in 2008 to \$1 b. in 2011. (JP 1/8)

PA pres. Abbas appoints the new leadership of the **Fatah** comm. in the **Gaza Strip**, a group tasked with increasing the movement's membership in Gaza. (MNA 1/8)

A **military court** in **Gaza City** sentences **Fatah** military leader Zaki al-Sakani to 15 yrs. in jail on charges of terrorism and illegal possession of explosives and weapons. **Fatah** denounces the verdict. (MNA 1/8)

Pro-Asad Palestinian factions in **Damascus** call for a cease-fire after a month of fighting in **Yarmuk** r.c. A statement signed by the PFLP-GC, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Nidal Front says that Palestinians in Syria must remain "neutral." (AJE, *Guardian* 1/8)

9 JANUARY 2013

PA pres. Abbas and **Hamas leader Khalid Mishal** hold separate meetings with **Egyptian pres. Mohamed Morsi** in

Cairo to discuss ending the split between **Fatah** and **Hamas**. The focus of the talks is on forming a **Palestinian** unity government and holding overdue presidential and parliamentary elections in the **West Bank** and **Gaza Strip**. Hopes are not high that substantial progress will be made on implementing the national reconciliation deal agreed in **Cairo** in 2011. The developments are condemned by **Israeli PM Netanyahu**. (JP, REU 1/9)

PA labor min. Ahmad Majdalani says that the **PA** hopes that forthcoming regional meetings will result in promised aid transfers from Arab countries. Meanwhile, **West Bank public transport workers** go on strike following what they view as an unsatisfactory response from the Transportation Ministry to their demands for a reduction in fuel prices. (MNA 1/8; MNA, WAFA 1/9)

Israeli NGO Peace Now says that the government has legalized the status of unauthorized **settlement** outpost Nofei Nehemia nr. Nablus. (AFP 1/9)

Palestinian human rights group al-Haq says that the death of a **Palestinian** man in **Hamas** custody on 12/27 in the **Gaza Strip** must be thoroughly and transparently investigated. (MNA 1/9)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 4 villages nr. Jenin at night. (PCHR 1/17)

10 JANUARY 2013

The **Egyptian government** announces that **Fatah** and **Hamas** have agreed to start implementing previous reconciliation agreements, following talks between **PA pres. Abbas** and **Hamas leader Mishal** in **Cairo**. Abbas spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudaineh says the 2 sides agreed on the formation of several joint committees, including ones dealing with presidential and parliamentary elections in the **West Bank** and **Gaza Strip**, the formation of a **Palestinian** unity government, and the reconstruction of the **PLO**. (JP 1/10)

Gaza's Minister of Public Works and Housing Yousef Subhi al-Ghariz says that the **United Arab Emirates** has donated \$50 m. to build a housing project for **Palestinians** released from **Israeli** jails. (MNA 1/10)

IDF forces make a brief incursion into n. **Gaza** nr. Bayt Lahiya to level land

200 m inside the border fence. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. **Jewish settlers** from Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablus attack **Palestinians** from 'Urif village; the **IDF** intervenes and opens fire on the **Palestinians**, wounding 1 in the leg with live ammunition. **Jewish settlers** from the Esh Kodesh outpost nr. Nablus open fire on **Palestinians** from Qusra village, wounding 1. **Palestinians** throw rocks at Jewish settler vehicles in the **West Bank**, injuring 3 Israelis in 2 separate incidents. (JP, MNA 1/10; PCHR 1/17)

Masked gunmen claiming affiliation to Fatah parade through **Balata r.c.** in **Nablus** and hold a press conference urging the **PA security forces** to stop imprisoning their members. (MNA 1/10)

The **IDF** closes a section of the highway close to the **Egyptian border** to civilian traffic, citing security concerns related to unrest in the **Sinai Peninsula**. Meanwhile, **Egyptian security forces** arrest 4 men nr. the Libyan border on suspicion of arms smuggling to Sinai—the haul includes anti-aircraft gun rounds, explosives, and RPG launchers. (ToI 1/10)

PA pres. Abbas rejects a conditional **Israeli** offer to let **Palestinian refugees fleeing the civil war in Syria** resettle in the West Bank and Gaza, claiming it would compromise the right of return. (AP 1/10)

11 JANUARY 2013

Hundreds of **Palestinian activists** set up a tent camp they name "Bab al-Shams" ("Gate of the Sun") in the area of the **West Bank** nr. East Jerusalem known as **E1**, land **Israel** has earmarked for further settlement development. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in and around Hebron and the nearby al-'Arub r.c., in Jenin, and in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. **Israeli soldiers** attack weekly nonviolent demonstrations held by **Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals** in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, al-Nabi Salih), 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). There are no

serious injuries, except in al-Nabi Salih, where 1 **Palestinian** is wounded by a rubber-coated steel bullet. **Jewish settlers** from Esh Kodesh outpost destroy over 200 olive trees in Qusra village nr. Nablus. In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinians** in the Israeli-declared buffer zone long the border nr. Jabalya r.c., killing 1 man and wounding another. (MNA, REU 1/11; PCHR 1/17)

Hamas releases a report estimating that 885 **Palestinians** have been killed in **Syria's** civil war, and around 20,000 **Palestinians** have fled to **Lebanon**. (*Daily Star* 1/11)

12 JANUARY 2013

Around 500 members of the **Israeli security forces** forcibly evacuate some 100 **Palestinians** from the **Bab al-Shams** protest camp in the **E1** area nr. Jerusalem (see 1/11). The **Israeli Supreme Court** had issued an injunction to prevent the removal for 6 days, and a police spokesperson claims that the court order allowed for the evacuation of protesters, if not the tents. Israeli newspaper *Ha'Aretz* reports that the tents were put up on private **Palestinian** land, according to the state's own plan for development in **E1**. (HA, REU 1/13)

Also in the **West Bank**, the **IDF** fatally shoots an unarmed **Palestinian** man nr. Hebron as he attempts to cross into **Israel** without a permit for work. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron and 3 villages nr. Bethlehem at night. (MNA 1/12; PCHR 1/17)

Israeli vice premier Moshe Ya'alon of the ruling **Likud** party rules out the possibility of establishing a **Palestinian** state alongside **Israel** in a speech at a regional cultural event. (JP 1/12)

Former Israeli PM Ehud Olmert claims that **PM Netanyahu** wasted around \$3 b. preparing for a war on **Iran** that never took place. (*Observer* 1/13)

13 JANUARY 2013

Israeli newspaper *Yedi'ot Abaronot* reports that the **EU** is preparing a new plan for **Israeli-Palestinian** peace talks, to be presented following the forthcoming **Israeli** elections. The plan reportedly will be detailed and aim to complete

negotiations on core issues during 2013. The initiative is sponsored by the **British** and **French** foreign ministries, but could be adopted by the whole EU. The **PA** subsequently says it is unaware of such a plan. Meanwhile, **Jordan's King Abdallah** tells the French media that his country is working with European countries to restart the stalled negotiations. (AFP, JP 1/13; JP 1/14)

Israeli NGO Peace Now says that **Israel's Defense Ministry** has published plans for around 200 new housing units in the **West Bank** settlement of Rotem in the Jordan Valley. Meanwhile, **PM Netanyahu** tells the cabinet that the government will "not allow anyone to harm the contiguity between Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim," referring to the removal of Palestinian activists from the Bab al-Shams protest camp in the E1 area. (AFP, JP 1/13)

Israeli naval vessels open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the **Gaza** coast nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning and in 1 village each nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin in the afternoon, and in Nablus, Qalqilya, and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, and Nablus at night. (PCHR 1/17)

Armed Palestinians protest in Jenin r.c., demanding the **PA security forces** return confiscated weapons to the resistance. The **PA** vows (1/14) to investigate the demonstration. (MNA 1/14)

Palestinian PM Salam Fayyad meets **Arab League** mbrs. to discuss the **PA's** cash crisis and ways of raising the \$100 m. promised by Arab countries but as yet undelivered. Fayyad claims that the situation may push 1.5 m. Palestinians into poverty. The **Arab League** agrees to form a delegation to press mbr. states to meet their financial obligations to the **PA**. (AP, MNA 1/13)

Senior **IDF** officers brief **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** that **Syrian** armed opposition groups have taken up positions along the border of the Israeli-occupied **Golan Heights**. (JP 1/13)

The **Pentagon** is sending briefings to senators in order to rebut what it calls "myths" about Defense Secretary-designate **Chuck Hagel** in the face of opposition to his appointment, in particular by pro-Israel groups. (WT 1/13)

14 JANUARY 2013

Arab League chief Nabil al-Arabi says that a "new approach" to the **Israeli-Palestinian** conflict is needed, following talks with the pres. of the **European Council Herman Van Rompuy**. Arabi says that the focus should be ending Israel's occupation, "not signing temporary agreements." Meanwhile, **Jordan's King Abdallah** tells an **AIPAC** delegation that the failure to revive peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians is adding to regional tensions. **UN secy.-gen. Ban Ki-moon** also renews his criticism of Israel's plans for settlement construction in the E1 area nr. Jerusalem and calls for the proposed construction to be rescinded. (AFP, AP 1/14)

The **Israeli government** announces that it is advancing plans to invest in so-called national heritage sites, including 9 located in the **West Bank**. (AP 1/14)

Egyptian authorities resume the shipment of **Qatari** fuel into the **Gaza Strip** via an Israeli-controlled crossing after 2 mos. of disruption due to the political unrest. (MNA 1/14)

In **Gaza**, the **IDF** shoots a **Palestinian** farmer in the head nr. Bayt Lahiya, killing him; the Israeli army denies involvement. The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into Gaza e. of Khan Yunis in what the **IDF** described as "routine activity." The **IDF** later reports finding a tunnel leading from the Gaza Strip into Israel. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** demolishes a number of structures in 3 locations s. of Hebron, including a family **home** and shacks used for agricultural work. The **IDF** also patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and Qalqilya at night. (MNA, REU, WAFA 1/14; MNA 1/15; PCHR 1/17)

15 JANUARY 2013

U.S. columnist Jeffrey Goldberg reports that U.S. **pres. Obama** has repeatedly stated in private conversations regarding Israeli settlement expansion in the wake of the Palestinians' UN bid that "**Israel** doesn't know what its own best interests are." Anonymous sources close to **PM Netanyahu** respond that the Israeli leader will continue to resist international pressure. (HA, JP 1/15)

Hundreds of **Palestinian** government workers who have not received a full salary in 3 mos. protest outside **PA PM Fayyad's** office in Ramallah. Meanwhile, **PA security forces** raid Balata r.c. in Nablus looking for the armed men involved in the 1/10 protests against the PA security forces, but make no arrests; masked gunmen fire in the air but not at the PA forces, causing no injuries. (REU 1/15; MNA 1/15)

Israeli Jerusalem municipal authorities and **IDF** soldiers demolish 2 **Palestinian** homes in the **Sur al-Bahir** neighborhood of East Jerusalem, leaving 22 people homeless. In the E1 area just outside East Jerusalem, **Israeli security services** block dozens of **Palestinian** activists who try to reoccupy the Bab al-Shams protest tent encampment. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** fatally shoots a **Palestinian** teenager close to the separation wall by Budrus village nr. Ramallah. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Hebron at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin, Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Nablus at night. (MNA, REU 1/15; PCHR 1/17)

Democrat sens. Chuck Schumer and Barbara Boxer, well-known supporters of Israel, back Obama's nomination of **Chuck Hagel** as the next defense secretary. The nomination has caused a storm of criticism from prominent pro-Israel organizations and Congress mbrs. who are suspicious about Hagel's views on Israel and Iran. (AP 1/15)

16 JANUARY 2013

The **Israeli government** issues tenders for 198 new settlement homes in Hebron and Efrata (Gush Etzion bloc). Meanwhile, the **Jerusalem municipality** approves the planned relocation of the National Defense College to the Mount of Olives. Also, Israeli NGO Peace Now says that approval for settlement plans jumped 300% in 2012, and that under Netanyahu's premiership, 40% of construction starts in settlements were in settlements located outside of the so-called blocs that Israel intends to keep under a final-status agreement. (AP, JP, YA 1/16)

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** fires warning shots at **Palestinians** scavenging for construction materials close to the

border fence in the n. Gaza Strip, causing no injuries. In a separate incident, the **IDF** shells an open area 200 m from the border nr. Bureij, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, The **IDF** raids Aida r.c. in Bethlehem, opening fire on Palestinians with live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, and tear-gas grenades, seriously wounding 1. The **IDF** says that Palestinian protesters threw stones and firebombs at the Separation Wall and Israeli forces. Palestinian news agencies report that the raid was in response to the Palestinians opening a hole in the bottom of the wall nr. Rachel's Tomb. The **IDF** also demolishes sheep barns and sheds nr. Jericho; patrols in Tulkarm and 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jenin, and Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jenin, and Salfit at night. Meanwhile, an **IDF** investigation concludes that Israeli soldiers fired 80 bullets without justification when they mortally wounded a **Palestinian** man in al-Nabi Salih on 11/17 (he died on 11/19). **Jewish settlers** raze land nr. 2 separate settlements in the Jordan Valley and nr. Nablus in preparation for expansion. (MNA, WAFA 1/16; PCHR, PNN 1/17)

Israeli security forces dismantle Palestinian protest camp **Bab al-Shams** in the E1 zone nr. **Jerusalem**, after the **Supreme Court** authorizes the government to dismantle the site. Protesters were removed on 1/12, but the tents had remained. Separately, the High Court of Justice orders the state to refrain from evicting Palestinians from 8 villages in the s. Hebron Hills in an area the **IDF** has designated a firing zone for training. (REU 1/16; AFP, HA 1/17)

Dep. head of Hamas's political bureau Musa Abu Marzuq says that the movement will not agree to dismantle the IQB as part of a prospective reconciliation deal with **Fatah**. He makes the comments in response to recent reports in *al-Quds al-Arabi* that Fatah is demanding Hamas dismantle its armed wing and integrate it into the PA security forces. (ToI 1/16)

The **EU** grants €100 m. to the **PA** and to **UNRWA** to provide essential services in the West Bank. **Palestinian pres. Abbas** announces that **Saudi Arabia** will give the struggling PA \$100 m. to alleviate the PA's financial crisis. (MEMC, REU 1/16)

17 JANUARY 2013

IDF troops on the **Gaza** border fire on **Palestinians** close the border fence in 2 separate incidents nr. Bayt Lahiya and Jabalya, wounding 1 Palestinian in each instance. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the Gaza coast nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** demolishes tents used by over 100 Palestinians in the n. Jordan Valley nr. Tubas; patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 each nr Jericho and Tulkarm in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Jenin at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Jenin at night. **Jewish settlers** uproot almost 100 olive trees belonging to Palestinians from Husan village nr. Bethlehem. (Wafa 1/17; PCHR 1/23)

Following a meeting in Cairo, **Fatah** official **Azzam al-Ahmad** announces that his party and **Hamas** have agreed on a set of principles to implement a reconciliation agreement. The deal includes the resumption of work by 1/30/13 of the Central Elections Commission, Public Freedoms Comm., and Social Reconciliation Comm. (MNA 1/17)

Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas holds a meeting with officials from the PA security forces following recent protests by Fatah-affiliated gunmen in Balata r.c. and Jenin r.c. (see 1/10). Abbas emphasizes that the government has a monopoly on the use of force. In the evening, 10 gunmen from Balata r.c. hand themselves in to PA security forces in Nablus in what Nablus governor Jibrin al-Bakri described as a "deal," but without giving details. (MNA 1/17, 1/18)

Israel's dep. FM Danny Ayalon tells a **Turkish** newspaper that Israel is ready to send a letter of apology to Ankara for the killing of 9 Turkish activists on the *Mavi Marmara* on 5/31/10, similar to the one the **U.S. government** sent to Islamabad over the killing of Pakistani soldiers. (JP 1/17)

18 JANUARY 2013

Islamic Jihad military wing al-Quds Brigades warns that it will respond if **Israel** continues to violate the post-Operation

Pillar of Defense cease-fire agreement. Spokesperson Abu Ahmad says that the group is giving **Egypt** a chance to maintain the terms of the truce. (MNA 1/18)

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinians** close to the border fence nr. Jabalya, wounding 1, and in a similar incident, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinians** close to the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya, injuring 1. The **IDF** also opens fire on **Palestinian fishermen** nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** fatally shoots a Palestinian teenager in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem during clashes in the camp. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Jericho and Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. **Israeli** soldiers attack the weekly nonviolent demonstrations held by **Palestinians**, **Israelis**, and **internationals** in 4 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, al-Nabi Salih, Budrus), 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Hebron (Susia). In total, 3 **Palestinians** in Budrus and 2 in Kafr Qaddum are wounded by rubber-coated steel bullets. In addition, **Palestinian activists** establish a new tent protest village nr. Bayt Ikka close to Jerusalem, calling it al-Karamah ("Dignity"). Around 400 **Palestinians** perform Friday prayers in the open area. (MNA 1/18; PCHR 1/23)

19 JANUARY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire along the border fence nr. Wadi al-Salqa village in c. Gaza, wounding 1 **Palestinian** child. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the Gaza coast nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** for a 2d time in 48 hours destroys tents being used for shelter by shepherds in the n. Jordan Valley community of al-Maleh; the **IDF** also prevents a convoy of humanitarian aid from reaching the village. The **IDF** arrests **Palestinians** and **Israelis** who were part of a group of farmers and activists attempting to access **Palestinian-owned** land alongside the unauthorized settler outpost of Mitzpeh Hair nr. Hebron. The **IDF** also patrols in 2 villages nr. Salfit in the morning, in 3 villages nr. Jenin in the

afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Ramallah, and Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Hebron at night. (972mag, Wafa, XIN 1/19; PCHR 1/23)

Speaking ahead of elections, **Israeli PM Netanyahu** says that the country's enemies want a "weak Israel" and that his priority in a next term in office will be to stop Iran's nuclear program. (REU 1/19)

The day before a major economic conference in Riyadh, **Saudi Arabia's** envoy to the **Arab League** Ahmad Qattan says that the country will contribute \$20 m. each mo. to the **PA** for as long as **Israel** continues to withhold Palestinian tax revenues. (MNA 1/19)

20 JANUARY 2013

In an effort to reopen the Ramallah–Jerusalem road in al-Amari r.c. nr. Ramallah, **Palestinian security forces** open fire on **Palestinians** demonstrating in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israel. Three Palestinian youths are wounded in the legs by live ammunition. (MNA 1/21)

Egyptian security forces seize 1 ton of explosives in the **Sinai Peninsula** allegedly bound for the **Gaza Strip**, the largest single such capture. Local media report that police have seized a total of 5 tons of explosives as well as disassembled rockets and automatic weapons in the last 3 mos.—all apparently headed for Gaza. Egyptian maj. gen. Sameeh Bashadi says that in the past 3 days, 10 Palestinians have been detained after entering Sinai illegally from the Gaza Strip and that a list of Palestinians entering Egypt through the tunnels has been distributed to the Egyptian security forces. (HA, MNA 1/20)

Israeli naval vessels open fire on Palestinian fishermen off the **Gaza** coast nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** storms the al-Karamah protest tent village nr. Bayt Iksa, issues demolition and evacuation orders, and fires stun grenades and tear gas. The **IDF** also patrols in Jenin in the morning, in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Tubas and in 2 villages each nr.

Hebron and Jenin at night. (MNA 1/20; PCHR 1/23)

Palestinian pres. Abbas arrives in **Saudi Arabia** to attend the 3d Arab Economic, Social and Developmental Summit, where he renews his call for urgent financial aid. Meanwhile, Palestinian union chief Bassam Zakarneh announces that PA civil servants will hold protests on 1/21 and strike on 1/23 to protest late payment of salaries. (JP 1/21; MNA 1/20)

Hamas official Ghazi Hammad announces that **Tunisian pres. Moncef Marzouki** will visit the **Gaza Strip** on 2/9, without giving further details. Meanwhile, **Lebanon-based senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan** arrives in the Gaza Strip for the 1st time on a visit of a few days. (AFP 1/20; JP 1/21)

21 JANUARY 2013

Israeli DM Ehud Barak decides to close a gap in the separation fence between Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim settlement, putting Ma'ale Adumim outside the Separation Wall and preventing Palestinians from reaching area E1. (HA 1/21)

IDF troops on the **Gaza** border open fire on **Palestinians** close to the border fence in 2 incidents nr. the Erez crossing (wounding 1) and Jabalya (no injuries). **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the Gaza coast nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** demolishes agricultural sheds, tin-made homes, and a water well s. of Hebron; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin and 2 nearby villages, and 1 village each nr. Hebron and nr. Nablus at night. (MNA 1/21; PCHR 1/23)

Palestinian protesters in **Balata r.c.** nr. Nablus set fire to tires and demonstrate against the PA's detention of Fatah-affiliated gunmen who gave themselves up on 1/17. Requests by Palestinian Council (PC) deputies to visit the detainees have been ignored. (MNA 1/21)

Fatah official Azzam al-Ahmad announces that **Hamas** and **Fatah** will form a tripartite comm. with **Egypt** to implement national reconciliation. Meanwhile, an Egyptian security official confirms that an Egyptian delegation will

soon visit the Gaza Strip to push forward the reconciliation efforts. (MNA 1/21)

The EU announces that **Denmark** and **Holland** agree to jointly contribute around €7.2 m. to the payment of 12/2012 salaries and pensions for more than 80,000 Palestinian civil servants and pensioners in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. (Wafa 1/21)

22 JANUARY 2013

Israel holds parliamentary elections, dealing a significant setback to current **PM Benjamin Netanyahu** and the **Likud-Yisrael Beiteinu** joint ticket. The next **Knesset** will be almost evenly split between the right-wing/religious bloc and centrist/center-left blocs, with the headlines dominated by the rise of centrist party **Yesh Atid** ("There Is a Future") and its leader **Yair Lapid**. The final tally gives 31 seats to **Likud-Yisrael Beiteinu**, 19 to **Yesh Atid**, 15 to a resurgent **Labor** party, 12 to **Naftali Bennett's Jewish Home**, 11 to **Shas**, 7 to **United Torah Judaism**, 6 each to **Meretz** and **Tzipi Livni's party Hatnuah**, 4 each to **United Arab List** and **Hadash**, 3 to **Balad**, and 2 to **Kadima**. Voter turnout overall is high, with the estimated turnout for **Palestinian citizens of Israel** at 56%, according to figures cited by **Army Radio**. At the end of the night, **Netanyahu** says that he sees "many partners" for his "goals" and will seek to assemble "the broadest" coalition possible. (REU, AP 1/22; JP 1/23; JP 1/24)

British foreign secretary William Hague warns that it is almost the last chance to bring about a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and condemns Israeli settlement construction. (REU 1/22)

Israeli naval vessels open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the **Gaza** coast nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** begin work to expand **Halamish** settlement nr. **Ramallah**. The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. **Ramallah** in the morning, and in **al-Bireh** at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in **Hebron** and 1 village each nr. **East Jerusalem** and **Ramallah** at night. (MNA, Wafa 1/22; PCHR 1/23)

Malaysia's PM Najib Razak visits the **Gaza Strip** via the **Rafah** crossing. **Pres. Abbas** criticizes the visit as enhancing the **Fatah-Hamas** division. (MNA, NYT 1/22)

The **Palestinian Journalists Syndicate** and the **PLO's** Information and Culture Department condemn today's arrest of journalists in the **Gaza Strip** by **Hamas** authorities. Most of those detained are affiliated with **Fatah**. (JP 1/22)

23 JANUARY 2013

White House spokesperson Jay Carney responds to a question about the consequences of the Israeli election for peace efforts by restating the administration's call for a resumption of direct negotiations on final-status issues. Meanwhile, the **UN's special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, Robert Serry**, tells a **UNSC** meeting that courageous steps by Israeli and Palestinian leaders are required to save the two-state solution. At the meeting, **Palestinian FM Riyad al-Maliki** sits behind a "State of Palestine" nameplate, drawing criticism from **U.S. amb. Susan Rice**, who says that the U.S. does not recognize the **UNGA** vote in 11/2012 (see *Quarterly Update* in *JPS* 166). After the meeting, **Maliki** says that the Palestinians' decision about whether to go to the **ICC** over **Israel's** settlement construction will depend on what the Israeli government does in the **E1** area nr. **Jerusalem**. (AP, REU, UNNC 1/23)

Israeli naval vessels open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the **Gaza** coast nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. The **IDF** also makes a brief incursion into **Gaza** to a distance of 200 m from the border fence nr. **Bayt Hanun** to level land. In the **West Bank**, **IDF** soldiers open fire on **Palestinians** at the entrance to **al-'Arub** r.c. nr. **Hebron**, killing 1 woman with a shot to the head. Eyewitnesses say the soldiers were traveling in a civilian car. Also, a **Palestinian teenager** shot by the **IDF** during clashes in **Aida** r.c. on 1/18 dies in the hospital. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. **Ramallah** in the morning, in 1 village nr. **Ramallah** in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. **Hebron** at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. **Hebron** and **Jenin** at night. (MNA, PCHR, Wafa 1/23)

Human rights NGO the **Palestinian Center for Human Rights** publishes a list of media workers in the **Gaza Strip** arrested by **Hamas** security services over

the previous 48 hours. Meanwhile, dep. head of Hamas politburo Musa Abu Marzuq says that there is no disagreement within Hamas about Mahmud Abbas heading a unity government. (MNA 1/23)

PA fin. min. Nabil Qassis says that the government's financial crisis is structural, requiring systematic changes in the budget and culture. He reveals that the deficit has now exceeded \$1.4 b. (MNA 1/23)

Jordan holds parliamentary elections, which are boycotted by the **Muslim Brotherhood**-affiliated Islamic Action Front. The boycott is based on claims that the electoral system is biased in favor of rural tribal areas where pro-regime sentiment is highest, in contrast to large, more densely populated urban areas, where pro-Brotherhood views are strong among poor Palestinians. In the election, 1,425 candidates compete for 150 seats, up from 120, in the lower house. **King Abdallah** has agreed to cede some powers to the new legislature, such as choosing the PM and running day-to-day affairs. There are numerous reports of vote-buying and small-scale clashes in Karak governorate and some districts of Amman. The results see pro-government candidates maintain their dominance of the parliament, though 37 Islamist and other government critics win seats in the legislature. (AKH, AP, NYT, REU 1/23; AP, REU 1/24)

The **Lebanese army** states that 12 **Israeli warplanes** violated Lebanese airspace overnight, claiming that the breach of Lebanon's sovereignty is a violation of UN Res. 1701, which was accepted as the basis for the cease-fire that ended the Israeli-Lebanon war of 2006. (*Daily Star* 1/23)

24 JANUARY 2013

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu meets with Yesh Atid leader **Yair Lapid** to have the 1st discussions about forming a coalition. Lapid reportedly sets 2 conditions for joining a governing coalition: (1) a universal draft bill (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 165) and (2) the resumption of peace talks with the Palestinians. Meanwhile, Yisrael Beiteinu leader Avigdor Lieberman says that domestic issues will be the priority of the next government. (HA, YA, JP 1/24)

Secy.-gen. of the PLO Executive Comm. Yasir 'Abid Rabbuh says that **Pres. Abbas** wants to meet and talk with centrist mbrs. of the new Knesset in coming weeks, including newcomers such as Yair Lapid. (YA 1/24)

Nominated U.S. secy. of state **John Kerry** tells his **Senate** confirmation hearing that he intends to invest effort in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and hopes that the Israeli election can help restart talks. (JP 1/24)

Israeli naval vessels open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the **Gaza** coast nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** demolishes 4 homes in 2 communities in the n. Jordan Valley; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Salfit at night. The IDF also patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin, 2 each nr. Jericho and Ramallah, and 1 nr. Tulkarm in the morning; in Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; and in 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho, 2 villages each nr. Jenin and Qalqilya, and 1 village each nr. Jericho and Ramallah at night. (MNA 1/24; PCHR 1/31)

The **International Federation of Journalists** condemns a week of arrests of journalists by **Hamas** security forces in the **Gaza Strip**, and calls for the release of 6 detained media workers. (MNA 1/24)

Israeli security agency **Shin Bet** announces that for the 1st year since 1973, there were no Israeli casualties from a Palestinian attack in the West Bank. The report covering 2012 says that there was an uptick in so-called popular terror in the West Bank, referring to stone-throwing and Molotov cocktails. The report notes that 10 Israelis were killed in security-related incidents during 2012, and that more than 2,500 rockets and mortar shells were fired from the Gaza Strip into Israel. However, Shin Bet reports that since Operation Pillar of Defense in November 2012, no rockets have been fired. The report also records that 8 rockets were fired at Israel from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, and that there were 11 attempts to fire anti-aircraft weaponry at IDF planes, up from just 1 effort in 2011. (HA 1/24)

A number of **Fatah** leaders who fled the **Gaza Strip** during the Fatah-Hamas fighting in 2007 return to the territory, including former PA preventive security

service head in Khan Yunis, Nasser al-Saqq. (MNA 1/24)

UN special rapporteur on human rights and counterterrorism Ben Emmerson announces that the UN is launching an inquiry into the impact on civilians of drone strikes that will focus on 5 locations, including the Palestinian territories. The other 4 are Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, and Yemen. (BBC 1/24)

25 JANUARY 2013

Israeli pres. Shimon Peres meets with **Jordanian King Abdallah II** at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, to discuss restarting peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians. (JP 1/25)

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on Palestinians close to the border fence in 3 separate incidents nr. Jabalya (twice) and nr. Bayt Lahiya, wounding a total of 5. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the Gaza coast nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Palestinian activists** occupy the site of demolished protest village al-Karamah nr. Jerusalem to perform weekly prayers, re-erect tents, and plant olive trees. Activists also stage a demonstration in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails at the entrance to Elazar settlement nr. Bethlehem and are removed by IDF soldiers. The **IDF** also patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in Bethlehem and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. Israeli soldiers attack weekly nonviolent demonstrations held by Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals in 4 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, al-Nabi Salih, Budrus), 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). In total, 5 Palestinians are hit and injured by tear-gas canisters (4 in Bil'in and 1 hit in the head in al-Nabi Salih). (MNA 1/25; PCHR 1/31)

26 JANUARY 2013

Israeli naval vessels open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the **Gaza** coast nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. In

the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the morning, in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 3 villages each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm, and 1 village nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and in Bethlehem, Hebron, Silwan in occupied East Jerusalem, and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. In the **West Bank**, **Palestinian activists** set up a new protest camp called al-Asra in 'Anin village nr. Jenin; the **IDF** forcibly disperses protesters, including the governor of Jenin, Talal Dweikat. (MNA 1/26; PCHR 1/31)

Secy.-gen. of the teachers union, Ahmed Anis, announces that teachers in the **West Bank** will go on strike for 3 days starting on 1/27 to protest irregular salary payments by the **PA**. (MNA 1/26)

27 JANUARY 2013

The **Israeli cabinet** approves (16–3, with 1 abstention) a plan for the Bedouin communities in the **Negev** that would see thousands of so-called unrecognized villages destroyed and their populations forcibly relocated to government-approved towns. The plan covers land-ownership issues, compensation, and investment in the region. The PM's Office calls it a "compromise," but Bedouin activists and human rights campaigners denounce it entirely. (JP 1/27, JP 1/28)

Israeli naval vessels open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the **Gaza** coast nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 nr. Salfit in the afternoon, and in Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in Aida r.c. nr. Bethlehem, Tulkarm, and 1 village each nr. Hebron and Tubas at night. (PCHR 1/31)

Tunisian pres. Moncef Marzouki postpones his visit to the **Gaza Strip** (see 1/20) until 3/2013, following discussion with **Palestinian pres. Abbas**, in order to "allow the path of reconciliation to progress." Meanwhile, spokesperson for the Palestinian reconciliation comm., Abdul Aziz Qudaih, says that Morocco has pledged \$500 m. to support reconciliation efforts, money to be used for compensation payments for those injured or who suffered property damage during

Hamas-Fatah fighting in 2007. (MNA 1/27)

Turkish media report that the country's **dep. min. for energy and natural resources, Murat Mercan**, has told **Israeli Foreign Ministry official Michael Lotem** that Israel's energy cooperation with Cyprus would stand in the way of any proposed Israel-Turkey natural gas pipeline. The unofficial conversation took place during the Eurasian Economic Summit held in Istanbul. (REU 1/27)

28 JANUARY 2013

U.S. pres Obama calls **Israeli PM Netanyahu** to congratulate him on the election results, the 1st foreign leader to do so. Obama tells Netanyahu that he looks forward to working closely with Israel on a "shared agenda for peace and security in the Middle East." (HA 1/28)

The **IDF** opens fire on **unidentified gunmen** attempting to cross the **Israel-Egypt** border fence, injuring 2 who escape. (JP 1/28)

In **East Jerusalem**, **IDF** soldiers demolish 4 buildings and level land in the Silwan neighborhood, sparking clashes with residents. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in Qalqilya, Tulkarm, and 1 village nr. Salfit at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron, Nablus, and 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin at night. (MNA 1/28; PCHR 1/31)

Israeli human rights group **B'Tselem** publishes a report condemning what it calls the illegal use of deadly force by **IDF** soldiers that has resulted in the killing of 56 **Palestinians** in clashes since 2005. (REU 1/28)

Islamic Jihad Khalid al-Batsh, a representative of the Public Freedoms Comm. established by Fatah and Hamas to help the national reconciliation process, says that **Hamas** authorities have agreed to free recently detained Fatah-affiliated journalists. (MNA 1/28)

29 JANUARY 2013

Israel boycotts a periodic review at the **UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**, becoming the 1st country to do so. Israel cut its ties with the UNHRC in 3/2012 after the council approved

a fact-finding mission to investigate Israeli settlements in the West Bank. (JP, REU 1/29)

Palestinian representative to the Arab League Muhammad Sbeih says that an **Arab League** delegation will soon visit the U.S. to submit a proposal for new ideas to move the **Israeli-Palestinian** peace process forward. (MNA 1/29)

A source in the **Israeli PM's Office** says that Israel will renew the transfer of tax revenues to the **PA**, in light of the **PA's** financial crisis. (HA 1/29)

A **Palestinian** man stabs and wounds an Israeli teenager at Tapuach Junction in the **West Bank**, and is subsequently arrested by Israeli security forces. Also in the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, firing tear gas and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinians; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Bethlehem, Jenin, and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Jenin at night. In the case of al-Mughayyir village nr. Jenin, around 400 **IDF** soldiers participate in the raid, conducting house searches in 50 residences, and asking people to stand outside their homes to be photographed holding their ID numbers. In **East Jerusalem**, **IDF** soldiers deliver demolition notices to **Palestinian** families in a neighborhood of Anata village, affecting around 200 people; Israel plans to remove the neighborhood because of its proximity to Anatot military base. In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** shoots and wounds a **Palestinian** collecting scrap metal close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun. The **IDF** also opens fire on Palestinians in another incident nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. (MNA 1/29; JP, MNA 1/30; PCHR 1/31)

The **Lebanese military** reports that **Israeli Air Force** jets flew over Lebanon's airspace for several hours overnight. (HA 1/30)

30 JANUARY 2013

The **EU** missions in **Jerusalem** and **Ramallah** release a statement expressing deep concern over the number of Palestinians killed recently in the **West Bank** and **Gaza Strip**, and also the ongoing incursions by the **IDF** into West Bank Area A (under full **PA** control). **UN humanitarian coordinator in the**

occupied Palestinian territories **James W. Rawley** says he is “seriously concerned” about Palestinian civilian casualties resulting from live fire by IDF soldiers. (EU Press Office, UNNC 1/30)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning and in Bethlehem at night. (PCHR 1/31)

Saudi newspaper *al-Sbarq* reports that in discussions with **King Abdallah of Jordan**, **Hamas chief Khalid Mishal** accepted the idea of a two-state solution, which would mark a significant change in official Hamas policy if reiterated publicly (claims subsequently denied (1/31) by Hamas officials. Previously, Hamas had expressed willingness to observe long-term truce with Israel, but not to recognize Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state. (HA 1/30)

Anonymous **U.S. officials** say that **Israeli warplanes** conducted an air strike inside **Syria** targeting a convoy believed to be transporting anti-aircraft weaponry to **Hizballah** in **Lebanon**. The Syrian government claims that the planes struck a military research center. The Lebanese military say that Israeli warplanes have increased their activity over s. Lebanon in the past week, including at least 12 sorties in the previous 24 hours. (AP, NYT, REU 1/30)

31 JANUARY 2013

A **UNHRC** investigation into **Israel’s** settlements in the West Bank publishes its conclusions, declaring such activity a contravention of the Geneva Convention and thus a potential war crime under the jurisdiction of the ICC. The investigators, led by French judge Christine Chanet, call on Israel to halt settlement expansion and withdraw all settlers. Israel’s Foreign Ministry rejects the report, calling it counterproductive and the result of a “one-sided and biased approach towards Israel.” PLO Executive Comm. member Hanan Ashrawi welcomes the report, saying that the Palestinians are encouraged by its “candid assessment of Israeli violations.” (JP, REU 1/31)

Area council head for the **Gush Etzion settlement bloc** **David Perl** says that the Israeli Defense Ministry has

moved forward plans to build 346 housing units in Tekoa and Nokdim settlements. (JP 1/31)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in ‘Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho and 1 village each nr. Jericho and Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Bethlehem and 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin at night. (PCHR 2/7)

Senior Hamas official Yahya Moussa denies recent reports (see 1/30) that **Khalid Mishal** told **Jordan’s King Abdallah** to inform **U.S. pres. Barack Obama** that Hamas accepts the two-state solution. (MNA 1/31)

Syria and its allies condemn the presumed Israeli attack on a site close to the Lebanese border, which the Syrian military says struck a research center and which Western officials stated was a convoy of anti-aircraft batteries headed toward Lebanon for Hizballah. **Israeli officials** refuse to comment. **Syrian amb. to Lebanon Ali Abdul-Karim Ali** says that the country may choose a “surprise” response to Israeli “aggression,” while Syria also summons the head of the UN peacekeeping mission in the Golan Heights to formally protest the raid. **Russia** says that if reports are confirmed, then the Israeli attack is a violation of the UN Charter and is “unacceptable.” **The Arab League** condemns what it calls Israel’s “cruel aggression,” while Hizballah releases a statement expressing “solidarity” with Syria and calling the strike “barbaric aggression.” (AFP, AP, FT, REU 1/31)

Iran writes a letter to the **International Atomic Energy Agency** to announce its plans to install and operate advanced uranium-enrichment machines. The **U.S.** says that installation of new Iranian centrifuges would be a “provocative step.” (REU 1/31)

Pres. Barack Obama’s nominee for defense secretary, Republican **Chuck Hagel**, is questioned at a **Senate Armed Services Comm.** hearing, and is attacked by Republic lawmakers over his record on Israel and Iran. Hagel repeated his apology for his previous use of the term “Jewish lobby” in a 2006 interview with Aaron David Miller, and says it was wrong to suggest that pro-Israel groups “intimidate” Congress into doing “dumb things.” (AP, JTA, REU 1/31)

1 FEBRUARY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinians** close to the border fence nr. Jabalya, wounding 2. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Ramallah at night. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli soldiers** attack weekly nonviolent demonstrations held by **Palestinians**, **Israelis**, and **internationals** in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, al-Nabi Salih), 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), causing no serious injuries. (PCHR 2/7)

Lebanon reports that **Israeli** warplanes conduct "mock raids" in Lebanese airspace. (AP, JP 2/1)

2 FEBRUARY 2013

Israeli pres. Shimon Peres formally tasks **PM Netanyahu** with forming the next government with a deadline of 28 days. Peres says that it is essential for the next government to tackle the budget deficit, social justice, universal military conscription, and renewed negotiations with the **Palestinians**. Netanyahu emphasizes the need to form as broad a coalition as possible to deal with domestic and international challenges. (HA, JP 2/2)

IDF soldiers attack and evacuate around 200 **Palestinian activists** who had set up a protest camp called al-Manatir in Burin village nr. Nablus, injuring around 20. During the clashes, **Jewish settlers** attack Burin with Molotov cocktails and rocks, and set fire to olive trees. Earlier, **Jewish settlers** shoot a **Palestinian teenager** in the leg in Burin. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 3 villages nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. (MNA 2/2; PCHR 2/7)

3 FEBRUARY 2013

Likud-Yisrael Beiteinu begins talks with **Yair Lapid's** Yesh Atid party over a possible coalition, with the latter

expected to present a lengthy list of demands. (HA 3/2)

Chief PLO negotiator Saeb Erakat says that the **PA** will not return to negotiations until Israel stops settlement construction and releases **Palestinian prisoners**. He also says that there would be no **EU** initiative to resume peace talks without U.S. involvement. Meanwhile, **PM Netanyahu's** aide **Yitzhak Molho** announces he will be stepping down from the **Likud-Yisrael Beiteinu** coalition negotiation team in order to remain as the **PM's** special envoy for peace negotiations with the **Palestinians**. (JP 2/4; HA 2/3)

Israeli naval vessels open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the **Gaza** coast nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. The **IDF** also opens fire on **Palestinians** collecting gravel close to the border fence in the n. **Gaza Strip**, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Nablus governor Jibril al-Bakri** says that the **IDF** has reopened several roads in Nablus that had been closed for 13 yrs. The **IDF** patrols in Jenin in the morning, in 1 village nr. Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 village nr. Jericho, 3 villages nr. Salfit, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Silwan neighborhood in occupied East Jerusalem and 1 village nr. Nablus in the afternoon, and in Qalqilya, Nablus and 3 nearby villages, Bethlehem and 3 nearby villages, al-Bireh. Tulkarm, and Hebron and 3 nearby villages at night. The **IDF** detains 20 **Hamas** mbrs., including an individual involved in national reconciliation efforts. (MNA 2/3; AP 2/4; PCHR 2/7)

Israeli DM Ehud Barak tells a security conference in Munich that Israel means what it says with regard to threats to take preemptive action against its enemies. The comment is taken as hint of admission that Israel was behind the air strike in **Syria**. U.S. officials now say that the attack targeted a weapons shipment bound for **Lebanon** but also caused collateral damage to a nearby research center, an explanation for the discrepancy between accounts of the target (see 1/30, 1/31). Meanwhile, UK newspaper the *Sunday Times* reports that **Israel** is considering establishing a 10-mi. buffer zone inside **Syria** to protect itself from rebels. (AP, JP, WP 2/3)

4 FEBRUARY 2013

A U.S. State Dept.-funded study of Israeli and Palestinian school textbooks is published, concluding that both sides present a one-sided narrative. **Israel's Education Ministry** condemns the research as politically motivated "libel." (AP 2/4) Around 200 **Palestinians** from inside **Israel** and **East Jerusalem** demonstrate outside the prison in **Ramla**, c. **Israel**, in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners inside Israeli jails. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the **Gaza** coast nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. The **IDF** also opens fire on Palestinians collecting gravel in 2 separate incidents nr. Bayt Lahiya and Jabalya, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Salfit in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Jenin at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in Hebron, Tulkarm, and 3 villages each nr. Hebron and Nablus at night. (AFP 2/4; PCHR 2/7)

A delegation from **Saudi Arabia** opens a 752-unit housing project in the **Gaza Strip** that it has funded for families whose homes were destroyed by **Israel**. Construction was overseen by UNRWA. (MNA 2/4)

The **PA fin. min.** announces that public sector workers are being paid the remainder of delayed 12/2012 salaries, the final payment left over from 2012. (MNA 2/4)

5 FEBRUARY 2013

White House spokesperson Jay Carney says that **Pres. Obama** will visit **Israel**, the **West Bank**, and **Jordan** in the spring, but states that Obama will not present a new peace initiative on the trip. (NYT 2/5, HA 2/6)

Israeli security forces demolish a **Palestinian**-owned home in the Bayt Hanina neighborhood of East Jerusalem, leaving 4 families (30 people) homeless. **IDF troops** make 2 brief incursions into **Gaza** nr. Rafah and an area in c. Gaza to level lands and clear lines of sight along the border fence. The **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinians** gathered close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun and on Palestinians collecting gravel close to the

border fence nr. Jabaliya, causing no injuries in either incident. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Bethlehem, al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, and Aida r.c. in Bethlehem at night. **Jewish settlers** set fire to 2 cars in a village nr. Ramallah and leave "price-tag" slogans. (Wafa 2/5; MNA 2/6; PCHR 2/7)

Bulgarian interior min. Tsvetan Tsvetanov accuses **Hizballah** of being behind a bomb attack on a bus of **Israeli tourists** in Burgas on 7/18/12. In response, **U.S. secy. of state John Kerry** and **White House counterterrorism adviser John Brennan** say that the **EU** must take "proactive action" in opposing the Lebanese organization. (AP, REU 2/5)

6 FEBRUARY 2013

Israel's Turkel Comm., which was charged with investigating the 2010 attack on the Gaza-bound Turkish ship **Mavi Marmara**, publishes recommendations of substantial changes in the way that the army approaches possible war crimes committed by its own soldiers. (HA 2/6)

Israel's military advocate gen. Danny Efroni reveals that the **IDF** is examining 70 cases in which noncombatant Palestinian civilians were killed during Operation Pillar of Defense. (YA 2/6)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-Azza r.c. nr. Bethlehem, 2 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm at night. (PCHR 2/7)

A **PA** magistrate's court in Nablus sentences a man to 1 yr. in prison for "extending his tongue" against the **PA** leadership and "fomenting sedition," citing a 50-yr.-old Jordanian law. (JP 2/7)

Dep. Hizballah leader Naim Qassem dismisses **Bulgaria's** 2/5 accusation that it was responsible for the 7/2012 Burgas bombing, saying that Israel was behind the "allegations and incitements." Meanwhile, the Lebanese National News Agency reports that **Israeli jets** carried

out a series of mock raids over s. **Lebanon**. (REU, ToI 2/6)

7 FEBRUARY 2013

Israeli media report that **National Security Adviser Yaakov Amidror** has recently privately warned **PM Benjamin Netanyahu** that settlement construction is causing Israel to lose support even among its strongest allies in the West. Sources in Netanyahu's office do not deny the substance of Amidror's remarks, but say that they should not be seen as a hint that the PM is considering a settlement freeze to help start negotiations. (HA 2/7, 2/8)

Hamas official Izzat al-Rishq says that **Fatah** and **Hamas** will meet in Cairo on 2/10 to discuss the composition of a unity government. On 2/8, the discussion will focus on PLO reform. Meanwhile, an anonymous PA official tells Agence France-Presse that PA security forces have arrested more than 25 **Hamas** mbrs. over the past 48 hours. Earlier in the week, **IDF** forces arrested another 25 **Hamas** mbrs. in the **West Bank**, including 3 mbrs. of the PC from the Hamas-affiliated Reform and Change party. (AFP, MNA 2/7)

Islamic Jihad politburo mbr. **Shaykh Nafith Azzam** says that the group may run in the next elections of the PLO's **Palestine National Council (PNC)** if certain conditions related to the political program, decision-making mechanism, and structure of the PLO are met. Azzam says PNC elections are necessary, particularly as the council represents Palestinians in Palestine and in the diaspora. (MNA 2/7)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village each nr. Jericho and Ramallah, 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 2 villages each nr. Jenin and Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin in the morning. (PCHR 2/14)

8 FEBRUARY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinians** gathered close to the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya and separately nr. Abu Safiya, causing no injuries in either case. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF**

attacks **Palestinian** and **international activists** who built 3 tents on confiscated land e. of Yatta nr. Hebron, demolishing and confiscating the tents. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the morning; in 1 village nr. Jenin, 1 village nr. Tulkarm, and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon; in 3 villages each nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah, and 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jericho at night. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Salfit at night. Israeli soldiers attack weekly nonviolent demonstrations held by Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals in 4 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, al-Nabi Salih, Budrus), 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). In all, 1 Palestinian in Budrus is seriously wounded by a rubber-coated bullet and 2 Palestinians in Kafr Qaddum are moderately injured by tear-gas canisters. (PCHR 2/14)

Hassan al-Ouri, legal adviser to **Palestinian pres. Abbas**, says that the president will pardon a man jailed on 2/6 for insulting the PA leadership. (MNA 2/8)

Palestinian pres. Abbas meets **Islamic Jihad leader Ramadan 'Abdallah Shalah** as part national reconciliation talks in Cairo. (MNA 2/8)

Iran's amb. to **Bulgaria** Gholamreza Bageri says that Iran had nothing to do with the 7/2012 bombing of a bus in Burgas, following accusations by Bulgarian authorities that Hizballah was behind the attack. (REU 2/8)

The **Lebanese military** say that **Israeli jets** conducted mock raids overnight in Lebanese airspace. Meanwhile, a report by Lebanon's amb. to the UN, Nawaf Salam, is published, detailing 54 violations of **UNSC Res. 1701** committed by Israel in 12/2012. (JP, ToI 2/8)

9 FEBRUARY 2013

Palestinian and **international activists** set up a protest tent village named Canaan in the s. **Hebron Hills**, the 5th such encampment in the past few weeks. **IDF** forces attack them and dismantle most of the tents. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, Jewish settlers attack the Palestinian village of 'Azun nr. Qalqilya, prompting clashes with residents. The **IDF** intervenes and opens fire with rubber-coated bullets on Palestinian villagers,

injuring 3. The IDF also patrols in 4 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village each nr. Hebron, Nablus, and Qalqilya at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the morning, in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages each nr. Bethlehem and Jenin and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (HA, MNA 2/9; PCHR 2/14)

Palestinian factions hold a 2d round of talks in **Cairo** after discussions on 2/8 fail to reach an agreement. Sticking points are over elections to the PNC, the PLO's parliament, and over legislative and presidential elections for the PA. (AFP 2/9)

10 FEBRUARY 2013

British newspaper the *Sunday Times* reports that U.S. pres. **Obama** plans during his visit to the region in 3/2013 to offer to increase U.S. pressure on **Iran** in exchange for **Israeli PM Netanyahu** making concessions to the Palestinians. (ToI 2/10)

Palestinian demonstrators—including Israeli Palestinian MK Ahmad Tibi—set up tents in **Bayt Safafa**, East Jerusalem, to protest Israel's construction of a new highway intended to give Jewish settlers quicker access to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. In the **Gaza Strip**, the **Israeli navy** arrests 4 **Palestinian fishermen** working 3 naut. mi. offshore nr. Gaza City. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and in Nablus, Hebron's Old City and 1 village nr. Hebron, Jenin and 1 nearby village, and Silwan in East Jerusalem at night. (MNA 2/10; PCHR 2/14)

Palestinian factions end talks in **Cairo** without reaching an agreement on specific steps forward to achieve national reconciliation. **Fatah** delegation head Azzam al-Ahmad claims that there was consensus on most of the issues, but disagreement on several points regarding an election law for the PNC. (AFP, MNA 2/10)

11 FEBRUARY 2013

U.S. State Dept. spokesperson **Victoria Nuland** says that Secy. of State **John Kerry**, appointed on 2/1, is working to try to free up almost \$700 m. in aid

for the PA held up in Congress. Separate from that figure is an additional \$100 m., which has been released but can only be used on anti-narcotics and law enforcement. (AFP 2/11)

Hamas says that the **Egyptian army** is flooding tunnels between the **Gaza Strip** and **Sinai** used for smuggling, and that there is a reinforced troop presence on the border. Meanwhile, Turkish media reports that **Israel** has agreed to allow **Turkish** trucks to bring building materials into **Gaza** for the construction of a hospital that will be opened by **PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan**. (HA 2/11)

Israeli NGO Peace Now says that **Israel** has given final approval to 90 new homes in Beit El settlement nr. Ramallah. (AFP 2/11)

Israeli naval vessels open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the **Gaza** coast nr. al-Waha, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** destroys 3 structures, including a home, in Bayt Awa village nr. Hebron. The demolitions prompt clashes with residents, and 1 Palestinian is injured from a tear-gas canister to the leg. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Tulkarm in the morning; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Bethlehem and nearby Aida r.c., Tulkarm, 2 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Nablus, Qalqilya, and Tulkarm at night. (MNA 2/11; PCHR 2/14)

Palestinians in the **Gaza Strip** and **West Bank** start registering to vote in preparation for legislative and presidential elections, the dates for which have not been set. Once the process is completed, an election could theoretically be called for 3 mos. later. (REU 2/11)

Two Israeli companies sign an agreement to acquire a 30% stake in exploration rights for gas and oil off **Cyprus's** s. shore to be carried out by U.S. company Noble Energy. Cypriot commerce min. Neoclis Sylikiotis says the deal marks a "new era of Cyprus-Israeli strategic cooperation." (AFP 2/11)

12 FEBRUARY 2013

Australian television channel ABC broadcasts claims that dual **Israeli-Australian citizen Ben Zygiar** committed suicide in a high-security Israeli jail in 2010 after being held for months in great secrecy and known only as "**Prisoner X**."

ABC says that the man had been recruited by **Mossad**. The Israeli government refuses to comment and immediately forces Israeli publications to remove reference to the story from online and print editions. However, a number of MKs refer to the story in the Knesset. (HP, REU 2/12)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Tulkarm in the morning, and in 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Jenin, Jerusalem, Nablus, and Ramallah at night. (PCHR 2/14)

International NGO **Human Rights Watch (HRW)** concludes that at least **18 Israeli air strikes** in Operation Pillar of Defense in November 2012 were in violation of the laws of war, highlighting specific attacks that killed at least 43 Palestinian civilians, including 12 children. (HRW 2/12)

Palestinian Ministry of Finance spokesperson Rami Mahdawi says that **Israel** is still withholding Palestinian tax revenue in breach of the 1994 Paris Protocol. (MNA 2/12)

The **Senate Armed Services Comm.** votes (14–11) along party lines to approve **Pres. Obama's** nomination of **Chuck Hagel** to be the nation's defense secretary, allowing his nomination to advance to the full Senate. Hagel's nomination continues to be fiercely opposed by groups and senators known to have a pro-Israel line. (AP 2/12)

13 FEBRUARY 2013

A district court nr. Tel Aviv publishes an officially sanctioned text regarding "**Prisoner X**," now known to be Australian-Israeli citizen **Ben Zygier** (see 2/12), saying that the man was imprisoned "out of security considerations." (REU 2/13)

In the **West Bank** the **IDF** patrols in Jenin town and r.c. and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in Bethlehem, nearby Aida r.c., 2 villages nr. Jerusalem, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. (PCHR 2/21)

Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas says that an agreement has been reached with **Hamas** to form a unity government headed by Abbas and to hold elections 3 mos. after the **Central Elections Commission** is ready, but claims that Hamas does not want elections to take place yet. (MNA 2/13)

IDF soldiers in the **Golan Heights** shoot and wound a man who approached the border fence with **Syria**. (REU 2/13)

14 FEBRUARY 2013

The **Jerusalem District Court** convicts **Hamas-affiliated PC mbrs. Khalid Abu Arafa and Muhammad Toutah** of membership in a terrorist organization and illegally residing in Israel, following their arrest in 1/2012 after they had stayed 569 days at the Red Cross office in Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 163). (JP 2/14)

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinians** close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, injuring 2. **IDF** soldiers also make a brief incursion into the Gaza Strip nr. Bayt Lahiya to level land, opening fire on surrounding areas as they do so. In the **West Bank**, **IDF** soldiers open fire and wound a **Palestinian** when his car passes over a checkpoint nr. Qalqilya. The **IDF** also patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon and in Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning, and 1 village each nr. Jenin, Ramallah, and Salfit at night. (MNA 2/14; PCHR 2/21)

Republicans vote against the nomination of **Chuck Hagel** as defense secretary in a 58–40 vote in the Senate, delaying his approval and provoking Democrats' anger at what they claim is an unprecedented filibuster. Sixty votes are required to pass a motion to stop debate and move the process on to a vote by the full senate. Another vote is expected later in the month and Obama says he expects the nomination to be approved. (REU 2/14)

15 FEBRUARY 2013

Israel's Channel 2 television station reports that **Israel** and **Hamas** are conducting indirect negotiations through

Egyptian mediators on issues pertaining to easing the blockade of the **Gaza Strip**, including the possible opening of the Rafah crossing to construction materials and other staple items. (JP 2/15)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Jericho and Ramallah in the morning, and in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village each nr. Jericho and Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem and Qalqilya at night. Hundreds of **Palestinians** protest outside **Ofer** prison nr. Ramallah in solidarity with prisoners on hunger strike. PC mbr. **Mustafa Barghouti**, Palestinian MK **Ahmad Tibi**, and Islamic Movement in

Israel leader **Shaykh Raed Salah** attend Friday prayers outside the jail. (MNA 2/15; PCHR 2/21)

Israeli media reports that **Jordan** is in secret talks with officials from **Israel's** Tamar natural gas field about exporting Israeli gas to power a potash plant on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea. (HA 2/15)

Bulgaria expels 3 **Hamas-affiliated PC mbrs.** on a publicized visit to the country, stating that they represent "a serious threat to national security." This is unrelated to the recent claims (2/5) by the Bulgarian government regarding alleged Hizballah involvement in the 7/2012 Burgas bombing. (AP 2/15)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

972Mag	(+972 Magazine [Internet])
AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AKH	(<i>al-Akbbar</i> , Beirut)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
CNN	(Cable News Network [Internet])
EJP	(European Jewish Press [Internet])
HA	(<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
HRW	(Human Rights Watch, International NGO)
IMEMC	(International Middle East Media Center, Bayt Sahur)
INN	(Israel National News [Internet])
JP	(<i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem)
JTA	(Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet])
MNA	(Ma'an News Agency, Bethlehem)
NYT	(<i>New York Times</i> , New York)
OCHA	(United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Weekly Briefing Notes, Jerusalem)
PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PNN	(Palestine News Network, Ramallah)
REU	(Reuters [Internet])
ToI	(<i>Times of Israel</i> , Jerusalem)
UNNC	(UN News Center)
Wafa	(Palestine News Agency [Internet])
WP	(<i>Washington Post</i> , Washington)
WSJ	(<i>Wall Street Journal</i> , New York)
WT	(<i>Washington Times</i> , Washington)
XIN	(Xinhua–New China News Agency, Beijing)
YA	(<i>Yedi'ot Abaronot</i> , Tel Aviv)