



# CHRONOLOGY

16 FEBRUARY–15 MAY 2015

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This is part 126 of a chronology begun in *Journal of Palestine Studies (JPS)* 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect North American Eastern Standard Time. For a more comprehensive overview of regional and international developments related to the peace process, see the quarterly Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in *JPS* 176.

## 16 FEBRUARY 2015

In **Gaza**, unknown gunmen attempt to assassinate a **Fatah** official in Gaza City, injuring 2 of his bodyguards. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** conduct raids and searches in the “**Gate of Jerusalem**” protest tent camp in Abu Dis, sparking clashes with Palestinian and international activists who were building concrete rooms; 4 Palestinians and 1 international are detained; several activists are lightly injured with rubber-coated metal bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades. That night, **Israel Defense Forces (IDF) troops** return to the camp to demolish and evacuate it, but activists begin rebuilding as soon as the soldiers leave. The camp was first set up on 2/3 to protest the Israeli govt.’s plans to displace Palestinian bedouins in the E1 area (see the Chronology in *JPS* 175). The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 1 village each nr. Nablus and Jenin, in and around Hebron, and nr. Bethlehem, arresting 11 total, including a Palestinian Authority (PA) security officer; patrols in 3 villages nr. Tulkarm and 1 nr. Hebron. **Israeli settlers** accompanied by IDF troops enter Joseph’s Tomb nr. Nablus late at night to

perform religious rites. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli police** accompany a group of **settlers** on a tour of **Haram al-Sharif**. **Israeli authorities** continue to require women entering the area to leave their ID cards at the entrance and submit to interrogation; 3 Palestinian women are arrested. **Israeli forces** conduct house searches and raids in Shaykh Jarrah and al-Tur, arresting 4 Palestinians, issuing summons to 2, and demolishing a wall in al-Tur. (AFP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 2/16; MNA, PNN, WAFA 2/17; IMEMC, PCHR 2/19)

**Israeli authorities** approve the construction of a solid waste landfill on 520 dunams (1 acre equals about 4 dunams) of primarily Palestinian-owned land in **East Jerusalem**; around 120 Palestinian bedouins would be evicted from their homes. Both Palestinian residents and Israelis from the nearby French Hill settlement lodged formal complaints in the weeks ahead of the approval. (MNA 2/17; HA 2/18)

## 17 FEBRUARY 2015

IDF troops on the Gaza border e. of **Gaza City** fire on agricultural land and residences nr. the border fence, causing extensive damage. Later, troops e. of Jabaliya fire warning shots at

Palestinian farmers and shepherds nr. the border fence, causing no injuries or damage. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** uproot dozens of olive trees n. of Tubas; bar Palestinian farmers from accessing their lands s. of Hebron. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 1 village each nr. Salfit and Tulkarm, 2 nr. Nablus, 3 nr. Hebron, Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, Qalqilya, and Jericho, arresting 12 Palestinians and issuing a summons to 1; patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin, Hebron, Qalqilya, and Tulkarm, and 2 nr. Ramallah. **Israeli settlers** assault a Palestinian man nr. Nablus, moderately injuring him. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct house searches in al-Tur, issuing summons to 2 Palestinian children; arrest another Palestinian child in the Old City. (MNA, PNN, WAFA, YA 2/17; PCHR 2/19)

**Palestinian Authority (PA) PM Rami Hamdallah** calls on the U.S. to pressure Israel into unfreezing its monthly **tax revenue** transfers to the PA, which have been punitively withheld since the beginning of 1/2015. The transfers amount to over \$100 m. per mo. and comprise 60–70% of the PA's revenues (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more). **Senior PA official Nabil Shaath** meets with 22 **European Union (EU)** reps. and amb., calling on the EU to play a bigger role in future negotiations with Israel and warning that the PA's financial and political problems could lead to violence. (MNA, WAFA 2/17)

**Israeli authorities** announce that they will begin increasing the number of permits issued to merchants from Gaza to allow them to enter Israel and the West Bank. (AP 2/18)

**Senior EU officials** say that the U.S. has begun limiting information passed to **Israel** regarding the details of the negotiations between **Iran and the P5+1** (China, France, Russia, the UK, U.S., and Germany) because Israeli politicians have been presenting a

distorted view of the talks. (NYT 2/17; TOI 2/18) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for details.)

## 18 FEBRUARY 2015

**IDF troops** on the Gaza border e. of al-Maghazi fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers nr. the border fence, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and raids targeting Hamas in Nur Shams r.c. and Tulkarm r.c., arresting 7 Palestinians; also conducts house searches and raids in and around Nablus, in Balata r.c., and Hebron, arresting 6 Palestinians, including a **PA security officer**; patrols in and around Jenin; confiscates a garbage truck and a tractor nr. Hebron. **Israeli settlers** uproot over 500 olive trees outside Hebron. In Abu Dis, Israeli soldiers enter the rebuilt "**Gate of Jerusalem**" **protest tent camp** (see 2/16) to take pictures and prepare for another round of raids, demolitions, and evacuations. The **PA security forces (PASF)** raid the office of 2 Palestinian Legislative Council mbrs. in Ramallah, arresting the office manager. In **East Jerusalem**, 58 Israeli settlers escorted by 20 Israeli soldiers tour **Haram al-Sharif**. (AFP, MNA, WAFA 2/18; MNA, PCHR, WAFA 2/19; PCHR 2/26)

**Israel's Supreme Court** overturns the Central Election Comm.'s (CEC) 2/12 decision to bar **MK Haneen Zoabi (Balad)** from participating in the 3/17 election. (AFP, HA, TOI, YA 2/18; WAFA 2/19)

**White House and State Dept. spokespersons** confirm that the U.S. is not passing complete information to Israel about the contents of the negotiations between Iran and the P5+1, saying Israel is inaccurately "characterizing our negotiating position." Meanwhile, over 20 Democrats in the **U.S. House of Representatives** sign on to a letter to

Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) asking him to postpone Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's address to Congress until after the Israeli elections on 3/17 (see Special Doc. C in *JPS* 176 for the letter). (POL 1/28; AP, HA, YA 2/18; AFP, HI 2/19)

### 19 FEBRUARY 2015

In **Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish the bedouin village al-ʿAraqib in the Negev for the 81st time since it was 1st targeted in 2010; detain the head of the Prisoners' Families Comm. in Jerusalem, Amjad Abu Asab, at Ben Gurion airport where he was on his way to participate in a conference in Turkey. In **Gaza**, 2 Palestinians are killed in separate incidents in underground tunnels: an Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades (IQB) mbr. dies in a Hamas-operated tunnel w. of Rafah; and, a man dies of accidental electrocution in a smuggling tunnel also nr. Rafah. In the **West Bank**, the IDF patrols in 1 village each nr. Tulkarm, Salfit, and Hebron. **Israeli settlers** destroy 40 olive trees nr. Hebron and, separately, attack a Palestinian nearby, lightly injuring him. In **East Jerusalem**, 78 right-wing Jewish activists tour **Haram al-Sharif**. (MNA, PNN 2/19; PCHR 2/26)

The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** delivers a report on Iran's nuclear program, concluding that the Iranian govt. is still not fully cooperating though it has largely upheld its obligations under the **Joint Plan of Action (JPOA)**, which governs its negotiations with the P5+1. IAEA officials will discuss these issues with Iranian officials in Tehran on 3/9 (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176). (AP, FT, HA, NYT, REU 2/19; REU 2/20)

### 20 FEBRUARY 2015

In **Gaza**, police arrest 2 Palestinians for allegedly planting an explosive outside al-Quds

Open University. In Hebron, hundreds of Palestinians and international activists gather at the entrance to **al-Shuhada Street** (closed since 1994) to protest the occupation. Elsewhere, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 3 areas nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Jalazun r.c.), and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 5 Palestinians are moderately injured by rubber-coated metal bullets. The **IDF** also patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya. Meanwhile, a group of Palestinians stabs a senior Fatah official, Munir al-Jaghoub, several times after Friday prayers outside a mosque nr. Nablus. (MNA, PNN 2/21; MNA 2/22; PCHR 2/26)

In Geneva, **reps. of Iran and the U.S.** meet for a round of bilateral technical negotiations over Iran's disputed nuclear program aimed at narrowing gaps ahead of their 3/31 political accord deadline. (AFP, TOI 2/19) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for details of the talks.)

### 21 FEBRUARY 2015

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli settlers** chop down 35 olive trees nr. Hebron; assault a 10-year-old Palestinian boy as he plays in the snow nearby. (Separately, the IDF arrests a Palestinian playing in the snow in East Jerusalem.) The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya (issuing summons to 6 Palestinians) and 1 nr. Hebron (issuing summons to 3 Palestinians and sparking clashes). (MNA, WAFA 2/21; PCHR 2/26)

### 22 FEBRUARY 2015

**IDF troops** on the Gaza border e. of Rafah fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers working nr. the border fence, causing no

injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in Hebron, 2 villages each nr. Qalqilya and Jenin, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm, arresting 3 Palestinians, and issuing summons to another; patrols in and around Hebron and Jenin, in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, and in 1 nr. Qalqilya, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians nr. Jenin and Qalqilya. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct house searches in Qalandia r.c., the Old City, Silwan, and Issawiyya, arresting 8 Palestinians and sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian youths. They also arrest a Palestinian lawyer alleged to have passed sensitive information from prisoners to Hamas officials. A Palestinian teenager stabs an Orthodox Jewish man nr. the Old City. (MNA, WAFA 2/22, 2/23; PCHR 2/26; JP 3/12)

**Israel's Defense Ministry** announces that it has signed a deal with the **U.S.** to buy 14 F-35 fighter jets, with the option of buying another 17 in the future. Each jet reportedly costs around \$110 m. Israel's cabinet approved the purchase on 12/1/2014. (AP, TOI 2/22)

**Iranian FM Mohammad Javad Zarif** and **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** meet in Geneva for the 1st of 2 days of negotiations over Iran's disputed nuclear program. (AFP, YA 2/19; REU 2/20)

### 23 FEBRUARY 2015

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and kill a Palestinian man during clashes after a late-night arrest raid in Dahaysha r.c.; an Israeli soldier is lightly injured. **IDF troops** clash with Palestinians in Bethlehem and nearby Aida r.c., injuring 12 with tear gas, stun grenades, and live ammunition. They also demolish and evacuate the "**Gate of Jerusalem**" **protest tent camp** in Abu Dis for the 9th time, arresting a Palestinian woman nr. the camp hours later. The **IDF** raids

the Birzeit home of the Palestinian teenager who stabbed an Israeli in East Jerusalem on 2/22. They also conduct raids and house searches in Bethlehem, and 1 village each nr. Nablus and Jenin, arresting 3 Palestinians and issuing summons to 2; patrol in al-Fawar r.c., 2 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 each nr. Jenin and Qalqilya. **Israeli forces** demolish tens of dunams of agricultural land nr. Hebron; seize 2 garbage trucks in a village nearby; begin demolishing a Palestinian's home in another village nr. Hebron. Off the coast of **Gaza** nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian **fishing boats**, causing no damage or injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest a Palestinian lawyer who works on prisoners' issues. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 2/23; HA, MNA, NYT, WAFA, YA 2/24; PCHR 2/26)

The state-owned **Israel Electric Corporation (IEC)** temporarily cuts electricity to 50 Palestinian communities nr. Jenin and Nablus in response to the **PA's** inability to pay its debts. The **PM's** office denies responsibility and involvement in the decision to cut power. The IEC says that the Palestinians owe NIS 1.9 b. (around \$487 m.). Israel's ongoing tax revenue freeze has worsened the **PA's** economic crisis. (HA, NYT, WAFA 2/23; MNA 2/24; WAFA 2/25)

**IDF troops** stationed along the border with Lebanon fire warning shots at 5 farmers approaching the fence nr. the Lebanese Marun al-Ras, causing no damage or injuries. (HA 2/23)

Concluding the trial that began on 1/13, the **New York Federal District Court** delivers a verdict in a case brought under the **U.S. Anti-Terrorism Act** by the families of American victims of 6 attacks in Israel from 2002 to 2004, finding the **PA** and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) liable for \$655.5 m. in damages. The Palestinians intend to appeal the ruling. It is unclear how they could pay the

penalty, with Israel's freeze of monthly tax revenue transfers causing an economic crisis for the PA. If they are unable to pay, the court may order the PA and PLO's assets be seized (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 175 and 176 for more). (AP, NYT, REU 2/23; AFP, EI, MNA, WAFA, YA 2/24; MEMO 2/26)

#### 24 FEBRUARY 2015

In **Gaza, IDF troops** e. of Khan Yunis fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers nr. the border fence, causing no injuries or damage. Off the coast nr. al-Sudaniyya, **Israeli naval forces** fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank, thousands of Palestinians** attend the funeral of the Palestinian who was killed in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem on 2/23. Nr. Hebron, **Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian's home under construction; bar Palestinian shepherds from grazing their livestock outside another village. Also nr. Hebron, the **IDF** conducts house searches in 1 village, arresting 1 Palestinian; patrols in 2 villages. Nearby, an **Israeli settler** hits a Palestinian with his car, moderately injuring him. **Israeli settlers** set fire to a mosque nr. Bethlehem late at night, leaving racist "price-tag" graffiti. In **s. Israel, Israeli forces** demolish 4 homes belonging to a bedouin Palestinian family. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** conduct house searches and raids in Issawiyya and the Old City, arresting 4 Palestinians; they detain 5 Palestinian women as they exit **Haram al-Sharif**. (MNA, WAFA 2/24; HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 2/25; PCHR 2/26)

**PA Dep. PM and National Economy Min. Mustafa Mohammed Mustafa** announces that PA ministers have agreed to nullify the preliminary agreement signed by the private firm Palestine Power Generation Company (PPGC) on 1/5/2014 to import \$1.2 b. worth of

**natural gas** from Israel over 20 years. A PPGC source tells news site al-Araby al-Jadeed that the deal was suspended last summer due to disagreements over certain terms with the consortium formed by Noble Energy and the Delek Group. Mustafa adds that the PA will instead focus efforts on developing natural gas fields off the coast of the Gaza Strip. (AJD 2/25; MEE 2/27; EI 3/8)

The **boycott** of 6 Israeli consumer products companies in the West Bank goes into effect, with enforcement teams visiting shops in Ramallah. Senior Fatah official and chair of the **National Comm. against Israeli Punitive Measures** Mahmoud al-Aloul says that any seized products will be destroyed on 2/25. Al-Aloul announced the boycott on 2/9. It is not sanctioned by the PA. (WAFA 2/25; HA 3/9)

#### 25 FEBRUARY 2015

In **Gaza, IDF troops** e. of Dayr al-Balah fire warning shots at farmers approaching the border fence, causing no injuries or damage. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** on a patrol clash with stone-throwing Palestinians nr. Bethlehem, causing several to suffer from tear gas inhalation. They also arrest a Palestinian during a patrol in c. Hebron, a Palestinian with a mental disability outside Jenin, and a Palestinian woman at a checkpoint nr. Jenin. **Israeli forces** install iron gates at a major checkpoint nr. Bethlehem; demolish a water well nr. Hebron. **Israeli settlers** uproot 100 olive saplings in Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli forces detain 4 Palestinian women as they are leaving **Haram al-Sharif**. An **Israeli settlement security guard** hits a Palestinian girl with his car in Silwan, moderately injuring her. (MNA, WAFA 2/25; MNA, PCHR 2/26)

For the 2d time in a week, the state-owned **IEC** cuts electricity to the Nablus and Jenin

districts of the West Bank for 1 hour, due to the Palestinians' unpaid debts. The IEC warns that, without payment, it will continue with these cuts. (HA, MNA, WAFA 2/25; WAFA 2/26)

**Senior PA official Shaath** tells the Turkish Anadolu Agency that the **PA** recently requested that the **EU** reactivate their revolving fund agreement and provide loans equal to the amount of funds that Israel is freezing in transfers of tax revenues. They signed the agreement in 1995 and activated it twice before, in 1995 and from 1998 to 2001. (MEMO 2/25)

The **EU** and the United Nations Children's Fund (**UNICEF**) announce the completion of the 1st of 4 components of a €10 m.

**desalinization project**—18 km of pipeline—that is set to provide potable water to over 75,000 people in Gaza. (EU press release, WAFA 2/25)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** says that he still intends to address the U.S. Congress on 3/3, despite increasingly urgent protests from the Obama admin. (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more). (AFP, AM, HA, TOI, YA 2/25)

## 26 FEBRUARY 2015

In c. **Gaza**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian homes nr. the border fence, causing damage. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval forces** fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** conduct raids in 1 village each nr. Qalqilya and Bethlehem, sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents in both and arresting 2 in the former. They also patrol in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Qalqilya, and 2 areas nr. Hebron; arrest a Palestinian man nr. of Hebron who attempted to stab an Israeli soldier at a checkpoint; assault a Palestinian at a checkpoint nr. Jenin. The **IDF** violently disperses Palestinian and international activists

nonviolently protesting in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, detaining 2 Palestinians, moderately injuring 2, and lightly injuring several. **Israeli forces** deliver demolition notices to a school and 2 homes in Hebron. **Israeli settlers** deface the walls of a Palestinian school nr. Nablus, leaving price-tag graffiti. Separately, **Israeli settlers** assault a Palestinian youth from another village nr. Nablus, forcing him to remove his clothes in the cold weather. In **East Jerusalem**, Jewish Israelis set fire to a Greek Orthodox seminary and leave price-tag graffiti. An **Israeli court** bans 4 Palestinian women from entering Haram al-Sharif for periods ranging from 10 to 60 days. They were detained on 2/25. (HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA 2/26; MNA 2/28; PCHR 3/5)

The **IEC** agrees to stop cutting power to areas in the West Bank (as it did on 2/23 and 2/25) in exchange for the Israeli govt.'s promise to offset the Palestinians' debts with the tax revenues that it has punitively withheld from the PA since 1/2. The PM's office also announces a deal that will connect **Rawabi**, the 1st planned Palestinian city, to the water grid, enabling new residents to move in to the city. The agreement will also connect several Israeli settlements in the area to the grid. (HA, TOI 2/26; NYT 2/27)

On the 6 mo. anniversary of the 8/16 cease-fire that ended Operation Protective Edge (OPE), **30 UN agencies and other international organizations** in Gaza jointly express their alarm at the slow pace of reconstruction and the dire conditions in the Strip. In their statement, they say, "We must not fail Gaza," and that "since 7/2014, the situation has deteriorated dramatically." (WAFA 2/26)

The **Jordanian and Israeli govts.** sign a deal that will govern the construction of a pipeline to link the Red Sea and the Dead Sea, the 1st phase of a **Dead Sea revitalization project** that has been debated and discussed for over a decade. They plan to begin preparing tenders to offer to

construction companies in the coming weeks. They ultimately plan to build a desalinization plant n. of Aqaba, Jordan. In 12/2013, reps. of Jordan, Israel, and the PA signed a memorandum of understanding at the World Bank to guide their joint efforts on the project. (AFP, TOI 2/26)

## 27 FEBRUARY 2015

Off the coast of **Gaza** nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval forces** fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, hundreds of Jewish Israelis visit a religious site in a Palestinian village nr. Salfit after **IDF troops** raid the village, shut down all the entrances, and force all the stores to close. **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters at demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in c. Hebron, 5 areas nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Nabi Salih, Ni'lin, Silwad, and Jalazun r.c.), and 2 villages nr. Qalqilya (Kafir Qaddum and 'Izbat al-Tabib); 4 Palestinians are detained and 9 are seriously injured, including 1 photojournalist, and 3 Palestinians from live ammunition. **IDF troops** also dismantle and evacuate the rebuilt "**Gate of Jerusalem**" **protest tent camp** in Abu Dis for the 10th time. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 2 nr. Bethlehem, arresting 2 Palestinians and issuing summons to 3; patrols in 1 village each nr. Ramallah, Hebron, and Tulkarm, as well as 2 nr. Jericho. (MNA 2/27, 2/28; PCHR 3/5)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** calls **PA Pres. Mahmoud Abbas** and asks him to refrain from undertaking any further unilateral measures that might jeopardize a return to peace negotiations until after Israel's 3/17 election. (JP 3/1)

**Italy's Chamber of Deputies** passes a nonbinding res., 300–45, calling on the Italian

govt. to recognize the state of Palestine. (TOI 2/27; MNA 2/28)

Ahead of **Israeli PM Netanyahu's** speech to Congress on 3/3, **Israeli opposition leader Isaac Herzog (Labor)** publishes an op-ed in the *New York Times* criticizing Netanyahu for jeopardizing the U.S.-Israel relationship with a partisan controversy over the speech. (BB, NYT, TOI 2/27; HA, TOI, YA 2/28)

**U.S. Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN)** introduces the **Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act**, which would give Congress a 60-day period to review and approve or disapprove any agreement the Obama admin. makes with the rest of the P5+1 and Iran. (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 and <http://congressionalmonitor.org> for details.) (AFP, AP 2/28)

## 28 FEBRUARY 2015

In **Gaza**, a Palestinian is killed when he triggers an unexploded piece of Israeli ordnance nr. Rafah. The man's brother is critically injured. Twice off the coast nr. al-Sudaniyya and Gaza City, **Israeli naval forces** fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing damage but no injuries. **IDF troops** arrest 2 Palestinians nr. Gaza City attempting to cross the border into Israel to find work. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse dozens of Palestinian protesters at a checkpoint nr. Ramallah; 3 Palestinians are injured with live ammunition, tear gas, stun grenades, and rubber-coated metal bullets. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in and around Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah, arresting 3 Palestinians and issuing arrest summons to 6; patrols in 2 villages each nr. Tulkarm and Hebron. They also arrest 1 Palestinian outside a settlement nr. Salfit and 2 at checkpoints in Hebron. **Israeli settlers** destroy 180 olive saplings nr. Hebron and bar Palestinian farmers from tending their lands nr. Nablus.

In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct house searches and raids in Ras al-Amud and al-Tur, sparking minor clashes with Palestinian youth throwing Molotov cocktails. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 2/28; HA, MNA, YA 3/1; PCHR 3/5)

**Egypt's Court of Urgent Matters** designates **Hamas** as a terrorist organization, banning it from Egypt, after having declared the group's armed wing, IQB, as such on 1/31. Hamas criticizes the decision, with 1 official saying it "serves the Israeli occupation." (AJ, AP, BBC, MNA, TOI, YA 2/28; MNA 3/1)

**Iranian FM Zarif** criticizes **Israeli PM Netanyahu's** 3/3 address to the U.S. Congress as an attempt to undermine the negotiations over Iran's nuclear program. (AP, REU, YA 2/28)

## 1 MARCH 2015

In **Gaza**, **Israeli troops** arrest a Palestinian at the Erez border crossing. Meanwhile, thousands of Palestinians gather in Gaza City and Khan Yunis to protest the Egyptian court's 2/28 designation of Hamas as a terrorist organization. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** clash with stone-throwing residents in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem during a raid; 2 Palestinians are injured with live ammunition and 2 are arrested. The **IDF** conducts a house search nr. Ramallah, arresting 1 Palestinian; patrols in 2 villages and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, and 2 villages nr. Ramallah, as well as 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c. and Fasayil r.c. nr. Jericho. **Israeli troops** detain 2 Palestinian shepherds and 2 international activists nr. Hebron. The **IDF** conducts a large-scale drill nr. Hebron, mobilizing around 13,000 reserves to prepare for a possible eruption of unrest in the West Bank. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli authorities order a Palestinian family to evacuate their home in Shaykh Jarrah, pursuant to legal

proceedings that began in 2011. Israeli forces conduct house searches and raids nr. the Old City, arresting 1 Palestinian. (MNA, WAFA, YA 3/1; AFP, MNA, WAFA 3/2; PCHR 3/5)

Similar to his 2/27 call, **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** phones **PA Pres. Abbas** and asks him to refrain from taking "harsh" decisions ahead of the Israeli elections on 3/17. (JP, TOI 3/1; MNA 3/7)

A delegation representing **Islamic Jihad** arrives in Cairo for negotiations with Egyptian officials on the **Rafah border crossing**. They will negotiate until 3/7. (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more.) Meanwhile, **Hamas officials** lobby **Saudi** leadership to apply pressure on the Egyptian govt. to reverse the 2/28 designation of the group as a **terrorist organization**. (HA 3/4)

The annual **American Israel Public Affairs Comm. (AIPAC)** conference begins today, with a record-breaking 16,000 in attendance. The organization's lobbyists will be on Capitol Hill on 3/3 to lobby for the passage of the **Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act** and the **Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act** (see S. 615 and S. 269 at <http://congressionalmonitor.org>). (HA, TOI 3/1, 3/2)

## 2 MARCH 2015

Off the coast of **Gaza** nr. Gaza City, **Israeli naval forces** fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** floods an olive grove outside Bethlehem during a drill. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and raids in 1 village each nr. Tubas, Nablus, and Jenin, arresting 2 Palestinians and sparking clashes nr. Jenin; arrests 5 Palestinians in a village nr. Bethlehem; patrols in 3 villages nr. Hebron, 5 nr. Ramallah, and 2 each nr. Jericho and Qalqilya. A group of Palestinian youth affiliated with **Fatah** steal a

Tnuva milk truck and dump its contents in the middle of al-Manara Square in Ramallah.

Tnuva is 1 of the 6 Israeli companies targeted by the boycott initiated by the **National Comm. against Israeli Punitive Measures** on 2/9.

In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** conduct raids in the Old City and al-'Izzariya, arresting 5 Palestinians and issuing summons to 3. In **n. Israel**, Israeli police arrest 68 Palestinian workers who have been sleeping and laboring in Israel without permits. (MNA, WAFA 3/2; MNA 3/3; PCHR 3/5; HA 3/9)

**Israeli state prosecutors** tell the **High Court of Justice** that they are no longer pursuing the **punitive demolition** of the Silwan home of the Palestinian alleged to have shot and injured **right-wing activist** Yehuda Glick, leader of the messianic Temple Mount movement, on 10/29/2014. The prosecutors argue, instead, for the man's room to be blocked off. (TOI 3/2)

**UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry** meets with Hamas officials in Gaza and proposes a 3–5-year *hudna*, or truce (see the quarterly Update in JPS 176 for details). (AFP, HA 3/2; HA 3/9)

In Washington, **Israeli PM Netanyahu** addresses the AIPAC conference, saying he has a “moral obligation” to warn the **U.S. Congress** on 3/3 of the dangers of a potential deal with Iran. Hours later, **U.S. Pres. Obama** tells Reuters that Netanyahu's trip to the U.S., and the way it was organized, is a distraction, but not “permanently destructive” to the U.S.-Israel relationship. (NYT, YA 3/2; HA 3/3)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** meets with **Iranian FM Zarif** and **Iran's atomic energy chief Ali Akbar Salehi** in Montreux, Switzerland, for 3-day negotiations over **Iran's nuclear weapons program**. (TOI 3/1; REU 3/2)

While in Switzerland, **Kerry** speaks in front of the **UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** in Geneva and urges its mbrs. to end their

“unbalanced focus” on Israel. (AP, JP, NYT, TOI 3/2)

### 3 MARCH 2015

In **Gaza, IDF troops** e. of Gaza City fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers approaching the border fence, causing no injuries. They also arrest a Palestinian man who entered Israel with a knife. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** clash with stone-throwing Palestinians nr. Jenin; 1 Palestinian is shot and injured with live ammunition and another is hospitalized after inhaling tear gas. The IDF also conducts house searches and raids in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, arresting 8 Palestinians; arrests 5 Palestinian children on their way to school in Hebron; patrols in Qalqilya, 2 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 nr. Jenin. **Israeli forces** seal off a stone factory nr. Hebron and seize a truck from the facility. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli forces clash with Palestinians in Silwan, arresting 1. In **s. Israel, Israeli forces** level 25,000 dunams of agricultural land in a Palestinian bedouin village nr. Beersheba. (MNA, WAFA 3/3; MNA, TOI 3/4; PCHR 3/5)

**UN Special Rapporteur Makarim Wibisono** files a report with the **UNHRC** calling on Israel to investigate the killing of over 1,500 Palestinian civilians during OPE. Since Israel barred Wibisono entrance to Gaza, the report is based solely on interviews conducted in Amman and Cairo. (REU 3/3)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** addresses the **U.S. Congress**, warning of the dangers of a deal with Iran on its nuclear program and drawing connections between the Iranian govt. and the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) (see Special Doc. D and the quarterly Update for details). Playing off momentum from the speech, **Senate Majority Leader Mitch**

**McConnell (R-KY)** schedules a floor vote for 3/10 on the **Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act** (see S. 615 and S. 625 at <http://congressionalmonitor.org>). (AFP, HA, JP, MNA, REU, TOI, WAFA, YA 3/3)

#### 4 MARCH 2015

In separate incidents off the coast of **Gaza** nr. al-Sudaniyya and Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval forces** fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing damage but no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** destroy several tents and corrugated tin dwellings in the Jordan Valley. Nr. Nablus, unknown assailants open fire on an **IDF jeep**, causing light damage. The **IDF** increases restrictions at checkpoints nr. Nablus in response. The **IDF** also conducts raids in a village nr. Hebron, arresting 1 Palestinian; patrols in 2 villages nearby. **Israeli settlers** light 2 Palestinian vehicles on fire nr. Ramallah and leave price-tag graffiti in the area. In **East Jerusalem**, 56 Israeli settlers tour **Haram al-Sharif** to commemorate the Jewish holiday Purim. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 3/4; HA, PCHR, TOI 3/5; PCHR 3/12)

The **PA Finance Ministry** confirms that Israel's **freeze on tax revenue transfers** to the PA is continuing for a 3d mo. and that, as a result, the PA can only afford to pay many of its employees 60% of their salaries. Employees who earn less than NIS 2,000 (around \$500) per mo. will be fully paid on 3/5. (MNA, WAFA 3/4)

**Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT)**, Yoav Mordechai, announces that the amount of **water** annually allowed into the Gaza Strip will be doubled from 5 to 10 million m<sup>3</sup>. (HA, MNA, TOI 3/4)

The **Palestinian Central Council (PCC)** meets in Ramallah to discuss several issues, including the PA's economic crisis and the

possibility of suspending or cutting security coordination with Israel. At the request of **PA Pres. Abbas**, they review the interim agreements made with Israel in the 1990s that created the PA. Abbas says that he recently turned down an Israeli offer to unfreeze the transfers of tax revenues in exchange for the Palestinians abandoning their efforts at the International Criminal Court (ICC) (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more). (AFP, JP, TOI, WAFA, YA 3/4)

The day after **Israeli PM Netanyahu's speech** to Congress, **U.S. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV)** says that Congress should not pass new sanctions-related legislation until the negotiators have had a chance to produce an agreement. Also, **10 senators** send a letter to Majority Leader McConnell criticizing his procedural move on 3/3 to circumvent comm. consideration of the **Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act** (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for details). (HA, JTA 3/5)

#### 5 MARCH 2015

In **Gaza**, unknown assailants set fire to a Fatah leader's house in e. Gaza City. Off the coast nr. al-Sudaniyya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing 2 injuries and arresting 4 fishermen. **IDF** troops e. of Gaza City fire on Palestinian homes and agricultural lands in the area, causing damage but no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Nablus, arresting 3 Palestinians; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron; arrests 1 Palestinian nr. Jenin. (MNA, WAFA 3/5; PCHR 3/12)

The **PCC** meets in Ramallah for a 2d day in a row and adopts several major resolutions, including calls to end **security coordination** with Israel, **boycott** all Israeli products, and to

reject recognition of Israel as a Jewish state. The **PLO Exec. Comm.** will execute the decisions made by the council at an appropriate time, according to a statement released at the conference's end. (MNA, NYT, TOI, YA 3/5; HA, JP 3/6) (See Doc. B1 and the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more).

**Israeli officials** announce that Israel will partially resume importing fruits and vegetables from Gaza next week (on 3/12), a practice halted in 2007 after Hamas began governing Gaza. (HA, REU, TOI 3/5)

**Israel's High Court of Justice** issues an injunction temporarily delaying the demolition of 24 under-construction apartments in the **West Bank settlement Beit El**. The apartments were set to be destroyed by 3/8, and the court does not give a new deadline. Meanwhile, the **IDF** temporarily suspends its use of canine units in the West Bank, days after a video depicting an Israeli dog attacking a Palestinian youth on 12/23 proliferated in the media. (TOI, HA 3/6)

In Riyadh, **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** briefs **Saudi Arabia's King Salman**, other officials, and 6 FMs from the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** on the ongoing negotiations on Iran's nuclear program. Kerry says that the U.S. is not seeking a "grand bargain" with Iran. (AFP, AP, JP, MNA, NBC, YA 3/5)

After receiving a letter of protest from a group of Democratic and Independent senators on 3/4, **Majority Leader McConnell** decides to temporarily postpone legislative action on the **Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act** (see S. 615 at <http://congressionalmonitor.org>), in an effort to consolidate bipartisan support. (TOI 3/6)

## 6 MARCH 2015

Off the coast of **Gaza** nr. Gaza City, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on 4 **Palestinian fishing**

**boats**, seriously injuring 1 fisherman, arresting 2, and confiscating 2 boats. (The fisherman will die from his injuries on 3/7.) **IDF troops** e. of Khan Yunis fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers approaching the border fence, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank, Israeli soldiers** clash with stone-throwing Palestinian activists nr. the rebuilt "**Gate of Jerusalem**" **protest tent camp** in Abu Dis; 7 Palestinians are lightly injured with rubber-coated metal bullets. **IDF troops** also violently disperse Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters at demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 5 areas nr. Ramallah (Silwad, Bil'in, Ni 'lin, outside Ofer Prison, and Jalazun r.c.), and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 7 Palestinians are moderately injured and 4 French activists are detained. **Israeli soldiers** open fire on a Palestinian vehicle at a checkpoint n. of Jenin, injuring 2 men; shoot and injure 5 stone-throwing Palestinian youth with live ammunition during clashes sparked when the soldiers patrol in Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah. The **IDF** conducts a house search nr. Ramallah; patrols in 4 villages and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, and 1 nr. Qalqilya. In **East Jerusalem**, a **Palestinian man** rams his car into a group of **Israeli police** in Shaykh Jarrah, injuring 4 officers and 1 Israeli civilian. Israeli police shoot and critically injure the man, as he exits the car with a knife; they arrest him. The Israeli police summon the man's father and brother for interrogation and increase security measures throughout the city. Israeli forces raid the man's home in Ras al-Amud and homes in Silwan, sparking clashes; 2 Palestinians are injured and 2 are arrested. Hours after the attack, unknown assailants deface several gravestones at a Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, YA 3/6; MNA, WAFA 3/7; PCHR 3/12; HA 3/16)

## 7 MARCH 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Khan Yunis fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers nr. the border fence, causing no injuries. A Palestinian is moderately injured when he triggers Israeli unexploded ordnance nr. Rafah. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse over 1,000 Palestinians, mostly women, demonstrating nr. Qalandia to mark International Women's Day, moderately injuring 4. They also violently disperse Palestinian activists as they are removing a metal gate installed at the entrance to a village nr. Bethlehem and a group protesting land expropriation in a village nr. Hebron. **Israeli soldiers** accompanied by **Israeli settlers** violently disperse Palestinians nonviolently protesting s. of Hebron. The **IDF** conducts patrols and house searches in a village nr. Hebron, arresting 2 Palestinians. The **PASF** raids Balata r.c. nr. Nablus, sparking a brief firefight with the wanted Palestinian; 2 bystanders are injured. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct house searches and raids nr. the Old City, arresting 8 Palestinians; disperse a group of Palestinian youth throwing stones at the Jerusalem Light Rail in Shu'fat, arresting 2. **Israeli settlers** assault a Palestinian man in Silwan, moderately injuring him. (AP, JP, MNA, WAFA 3/7; MNA 3/8; PCHR 3/12)

In Cairo, **Islamic Jihad's delegation** departs after 6 days of negotiations with the **Egyptian authorities** on opening the **Rafah border crossing**. According to sources close to the talks, the Egyptians have agreed in principle to completely open the crossing once the violence in the Sinai Peninsula subsides, the **PA unity govt.** has staffed the crossing, and **Hamas** commits to not to interfere in Egyptian affairs. Also, **Egyptian officials** announce that the Rafah crossing will open on 3/9–10. (AFP, MNA 3/7) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more.)

In Paris, **French FM Laurent Fabius**, **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry**, **UK Foreign Secy. Philip Hammond**, **German FM Frank-Walter Steinmeier**, and **EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini** meet to review recent progress in their negotiations with **Iran** over its nuclear program. (TOI 3/6, 3/7; DPA 3/8)

## 8 MARCH 2015

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** assault and detain a mentally disabled Palestinian teenager at a checkpoint nr. Jenin and another Palestinian elsewhere nr. Jenin. **Israeli police** arrest 2 **Israeli settlers** in the Bat Ayin settlement nr. Jerusalem, sparking clashes between the settlers and the **IDF**. **Israeli forces** begin leveling 70 dunams of land outside a Palestinian village nr. Bethlehem; level land nr. Nablus and demolish 300 olive tree seedlings. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in and around Hebron, and nr. Ramallah, arresting 4 Palestinians; patrols in and around Hebron, 1 village nr. Qalqilya, and 3 nr. Ramallah. **Israeli settlers** steal 9 sheep and kill 2 others in a Palestinian's agricultural plot nr. Ramallah. The **PASF** detains over 40 Hamas affiliates in various villages and cities, primarily Hebron, Tulkarm, and Ramallah. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinian women as they are exiting **Haram al-Sharif** and 2 youths as they are playing in Silwan. They also conduct house searches and raids in al-Tur and Beddo village, arresting 8 Palestinians. **Palestinians** throw rocks at settlers' cars in Abu Tor. (WAFA 3/8; HA, JP, MNA, TOI, YA 3/9; PCHR 3/12)

## 9 MARCH 2015

In **Gaza**, **Egyptian authorities** open the Rafah border crossing for the 1st time since

1/22 (it will remain open until 3/10). Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval forces** fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian's home nr. Tulkarm; deliver demolition notices to several residential buildings in a village n. of Jerusalem. The **IDF** conducts a military drill in c. Hebron and soldiers fire tear gas at Palestinian bystanders; house searches and raids in Nablus, 1 village each nr. Qalqilya, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Jenin, arresting 21 Palestinians and issuing arrest summons to 4; patrols in 4 areas nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Hebron. **Israeli settlers** destroy over 40 olive trees nr. Nablus. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** deliver demolition notices to several buildings nr. Qalandia. (JP, MNA, WAFA 3/9; MNA, TOI 3/10; PCHR 3/12)

**Hamas** in Gaza releases a statement criticizing the **PASF's** arrest of over 100 Hamas affiliates in the past 2 weeks, including 40 on 3/8. They accuse the PA unity govt. of using the arrests as retaliation for the detention of **senior Fatah official Mamoun Sweidan** in Gaza over the past few days. (MNA, YA 3/9)

Led by Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR), **47 Republican senators** sign and release an open letter to the leaders of Iran. It says that they will consider any agreement the Obama admin. signs with the P5+1 in their negotiations with **Iran** to be merely an executive agreement, and that such an agreement could be revoked or modified in the future. (See the quarterly Update and Special Doc. G in *JPS* 176 for details.) Meanwhile, **IAEA** officials arrive in **Tehran** for talks on Iran's nuclear program, specifically the results of the IAEA's recent (2/19) report on Iran's compliance with the JPOA, which governs its negotiations with the P5+1. (AFP, AP, JP, MDW, TOI 3/9; AP, TOI 3/10)

## 10 MARCH 2015

In the **West Bank**, a Palestinian man from al-Fara'a r.c. nr. Tubas succumbs to injuries sustained during an **IDF** raid of his home in 2008. **Israeli forces** demolish 5 residences and a sheep barn in a village nr. Hebron; continue leveling land in a village nr. Bethlehem to eventually expand a nearby Israeli industrial zone. **IDF troops** clash with residents of a village n. of Jerusalem and 1 nr. Ramallah, injuring 9 with rubber-coated metal bullets and arresting 4; violently disperse Palestinian students demonstrating outside Ofer Prison in Ramallah, injuring 7 with rubber-coated metal bullets and arresting 1; 2 Israeli soldiers are lightly injured in the ensuing clashes. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and raids in 1 village each nr. Jenin, Hebron, and Qalqilya, as well as in Nablus, arresting 4 Palestinians and issuing arrest summons to 1; patrols in and around Tulkarm, and 1 village nr. Jenin; arrests 2 Palestinians while they are working in an Israeli settlement nr. Bethlehem. **Israeli settlers** erect 8 mobile homes on Palestinian land s. of Nablus, establishing a settlement outpost; throw stones at a Palestinian's car nr. Nablus, causing minor damage. Nr. Nablus, **armed Palestinians** set fire to tires e. of Balata r.c. in protest of the recent **PASF** crackdown in the area. **IDF** troops on the **Gaza** border e. of Khan Yunis fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers working nr. the border fence, causing no injuries. **Israeli forces** also conduct a limited incursion e. of Dayr al-Balah to level land. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** level land in a closed military zone nr. Qalandia, sparking clashes with residents; 9 Palestinians are injured with live ammunition and dozens are lightly injured with rubber-coated metal bullets. **Israeli forces** also level land on the e. outskirts of Issawiyya, clearing the area for construction of an Israeli national park; demolish temporary bedouin shelters that were

funded by the EU. (MNA 3/9; AFP, HA, MNA, WAFA 3/10; AFP, MNA, WAFA 3/11; PCHR 3/12)

A group of **Palestinians in Israeli prisons** cancels its plans, announced on 3/9, to begin a series of demonstrations on 3/10 in protest of the poor conditions. According to Al Jazeera, the move comes after the group makes a preliminary deal with the **Israel Prison Service (IPS)**, allowing for more frequent family visits, but an IPS official will refute the report on 3/11. (AJ 3/10; JP 3/11; PNN 3/12)

In the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, an **IDF officer** is lightly injured from gunfire emanating from Syria nr. Qunaytra. Meanwhile, senior United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (**UNRWA**) official Pierre Krähenbühl accompanies a convoy of aid into **Yarmouk r.c.** in Syria, the 1st shipment of assistance to the camp's 18,000 occupants in 3 mos. (HA, JP, TOI, YA 3/10; MNA 3/11)

In Gaza, the **chair of Qatar's Comm. to Rebuild Gaza, Mohammed al-Emadi** announces a series of new projects to build 1,000 housing units in Gaza, and that the 1st shipment of materials—4 truckloads of cement—arrived from Israel today. They will be funded through disbursements of the \$1 b. Qatar pledged at the 10/12/2014 Gaza reconstruction conference in Cairo. (AFP, NYT 3/10; MEMO, REU 3/11; IMEMC 3/12; YA 3/13)

### 11 MARCH 2015

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** demolish a stone-cutting workshop, a marble factory, and a livestock structure in 3 villages nr. Jenin, and several livestock structures in a village nr. Jerusalem. **Palestinian activists** commandeer a truck carrying Strauss brand ice cream, 1 of 6 Israeli companies targeted by the **National**

**Comm. against Israeli Punitive Measures'** boycott announced on 2/9; the activists smash the boxes of ice cream and set them on fire. (MNA, WAFA 3/11; HA, MNA 3/12)

**Israel's High Court of Justice** rejects a petition to reform the security system at Israeli airports and remove certain discriminatory practices. It was filed by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel in 2007. (HA 3/11)

**Hamas leader Khalid Mishal** meets with the **chairman of Iran's parliament, Ali Larijani**, in Qatar to discuss reconstruction of Gaza and the Egyptian and Israeli blockade (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for details). (TOI 3/11; HA 3/12)

The **Egyptian govt.** will appeal the Court of Urgent Matters' 2/28 designation of **Hamas** as a **terrorist organization**. (AHR, AP 3/11)

### 12 MARCH 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza** border e. of Khuza'a fire warning shots at Palestinians nr. the border fence, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts a house search and raid in a village nr. Hebron, arresting 1 Palestinian; patrols in 2 villages each nr. Tulkarm and Ramallah, 3 nr. Hebron, and 1 nr. Qalqilya. (AP 3/12; REU 3/13; PCHR 3/19)

Reps. of most **PLO** factions release a statement warning about the dangers of excluding the Ramallah-based govt. from talks between **Hamas** and **Israel**, in response to recent rumors about the 2 sides possibly negotiating a long-term cease-fire. (MNA 3/12; ALM 4/14)

**Israel's COGAT Mordechai** says that Israel plans to lift or ease a series of restrictions on Palestinian movement on 3/15 (implementation will be delayed until later in the week of 3/15). Palestinian men over the age of 55 and women over 50 will be allowed to cross into Israel for

daily visits without permits. Also, married Palestinian men over the age of 22 will be able to apply for permits to work in Israel, lowering the minimum age from 24. He also announces the approval of 47 projects in the Gaza Strip to be funded by Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and several European countries. (MNA 3/13; TOI 3/15; MNA 3/17)

### 13 MARCH 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Khan Yunis fire on land nr. the border fence, causing no injuries. Off the coast nr. Gaza City, **Israeli naval vessels** fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 6 areas nr. Ramallah (Silwad, Bil'in, Ni'lin, Nabi Salih, outside Ofer Prison, and Jalazun r.c.), Kisan nr. Bethlehem, and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; a total of 25 protesters are moderately injured. The **IDF** also raids the "**Gate of Jerusalem**" **protest tent camp** in Abu Dis, sparking clashes with Palestinian and international activists; 2 activists are arrested. **IDF troops** conduct house searches and raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya and in and around Hebron, arresting 3 Palestinians and issuing arrest summons to 6; patrols in 4 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 village and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Jenin. **Israeli settlers** assault a Palestinian outside Hebron, lightly injuring him; throw stones at Palestinian cars on a road between Jenin and Nablus, causing minor damage. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli settlers** assault a Palestinian nr. the Old City. (MNA, YA 3/13; MNA, PNN, WAFA 3/14; PCHR 3/19)

On the sidelines of economic talks in Egypt, **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** meets with **Jordan's**

**King Abdullah** and **PA Pres. Abbas** to discuss the PA's economic crisis. At the conference, **Abbas** says, "There is no alternative but to reevaluate the security and economic relations with Israel, so that the PA would restore its role in building and ending the occupation." Kerry reportedly tells Abbas that he will pressure Israel into transferring the tax revenues that it has withheld for 3 mos. (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more). (AFP, JP, TOI 3/13; AFP, JP, WAFA 3/14)

### 14 MARCH 2015

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 9 Palestinians in agricultural areas nr. Jenin. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in and around Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah, issuing arrest summons to 5 Palestinians and sparking light clashes; patrols in 1 village each nr. Ramallah, Hebron, and Jericho, and in nearby 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c. **Israeli settlers** uproot 70 olive trees in a village nr. Hebron and, separately, uproot a number of saplings in a village nr. Bethlehem. (HA, MNA, WAFA 3/14; PCHR 3/19)

**Senior Hamas official Mahmoud al-Zahar** says that PA Pres. Abbas has neglected his obligation to hold **elections** within 6 mos. of the PA unity govt.'s formation of 6/2/2014. Hamas also releases a series of videos purportedly depicting PA agents confessing to sharing information with Israel and admitting responsibility for a series of recent car attacks in Gaza. The **PA** dismisses the claims. (AFP 3/14; AP, EI, JP, MNA 3/15) (See "Intra-Palestinian Dynamics" in the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more.)

### 15 MARCH 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Khan Yunis fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers

approaching the border fence, causing damage but no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in and around Jenin, 4 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 villages and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Nablus, and Salfit, arresting 20 Palestinians; patrols in 2 villages each nr. Qalqilya and Tulkarm, and 1 nr. Hebron. **IDF troops** violently disperse dozens of Palestinian activists demonstrating in a village nr. Nablus and in Jalazun r.c., lightly injuring several and arresting 2. They also assault a Palestinian man at a checkpoint nr. Bethlehem. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli police** assault a Palestinian girl who shouts at right-wing Jewish activists in **Haram al-Sharif**, and arrest 4 other women at the entrance to the sanctuary. The Israeli authorities also deny 8 busloads of Palestinians from the West Bank access to **Haram al-Sharif**. Separately, **Israeli forces** deliver an eviction notice to a Palestinian-rented home in the Old City; conduct raids and house searches in Issawiyya and the Old City, arresting 6 Palestinians. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 3/15; MNA, WAFA 3/16; PCHR 3/19)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** addresses around 25,000 supporters at a campaign rally in Tel Aviv. He promises not to make any territorial concessions to the Palestinians if he is chosen for a 3d consecutive term as PM after the 3/17 election. (HA 3/15; HA, MNA 3/16) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more on the Knesset elections.)

## 16 MARCH 2015

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts a house search and raid in Jericho, arresting 2 Palestinians; patrols in Nablus, al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Jenin. **Israeli settlers** park a group of mobile homes on Palestinian land nr. Nablus, establishing a new settlement

outpost. Elsewhere, Palestinians in a village nr. Ramallah say that the **Israeli authorities** have informed them that they are planning on opening a major road e. of the city, having kept it closed since 2001 (Israeli forces will open the road on 5/25). Israeli authorities also inform farmers nr. Salfit that they plan to demolish 20 olive trees in the area. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces and settlers** surround and attempt to evacuate a Palestinian-rented home in the Old City, but the tenants' lawyer secures a stay on a 3/15 eviction order until 5/2015; small clashes break out. Separately, **Israeli forces** conduct house searches and raids in Issawiyya and Ras al-Amud, arresting 7 Palestinians. (HA, MNA, WAFA 3/16; PCHR 3/19; EI 3/25)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** says that if he is chosen to serve a 3d consecutive term as PM, there will be no Palestinian state, responding to the confusion on 3/8 when his office refuted a Likud Party statement that said he was disavowing his 2009 Bar Ilan speech, in which he 1st came out in favor of the 2-state solution (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more). (AFP, HA, MNA, TOI, YA 3/16)

**Palestinian amb. to Iraq Ahmad Aqil** says that the **Iraqi Higher Judicial Council** has issued a res. applying equal status as Iraqi citizens to Palestinian refugees in Iraq—except for full Iraqi nationality. While it is consistent with existing law protecting the rights of Palestinian refugees that passed under Saddam Hussein, those laws were not thoroughly enforced after his overthrow and around 22,000 Palestinians left Iraq. (MNA 3/16)

**Iranian FM Zarif** and **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry**, along with other reps. of Iran and the U.S., meet in Lausanne, Switzerland, for a week of negotiations on Iran's nuclear program. Zarif travels to Brussels to meet with envoys from several EU mbr. states as well as **EU foreign**

**policy chief Mogherini.** (AFP, JP, TOI 3/16)  
(See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more.)

### 17 MARCH 2015

In **Gaza**, **Israeli authorities** close both the Kerem Shalom and the Erez border crossings. In 2 separate incidents, **IDF troops** stationed e. of Gaza City fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers approaching the border fence, causing damage. Later, **IDF troops** stationed along the n. border open fire on a group of Palestinian farmers, causing damage to a car but no injuries. They also arrest 2 Palestinians nr. the border fence e. of al-Maghazi r.c. **Unknown assailants** set fire to a car belonging to the spokesperson of Gaza's union of civil servants in Gaza City. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Bethlehem, and Ramallah, arresting 2 Palestinians and issuing arrest summons to 1; patrols in 4 villages nr. Hebron, and in and around Tulkarm; evacuates and demolishes the "**Gate of Jerusalem**" protest tent camp in Abu Dis for the 11th time, forcing hundreds of Palestinian and international activists to leave the area and detaining 7. **Israeli forces** demolish a marble factory nr. Jenin. **Israeli settlers** poison a Palestinian family's water tank in Hebron, but it is discovered before anyone is hurt; assault 2 Palestinian farmers outside a town nr. Jenin, injuring both; throw stones at Palestinian vehicles outside a village nr. Jenin, causing damage. A Palestinian drives his car into a group of **IDF troops** in the Gush Etzion settlement bloc, injuring 1; the man is arrested. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 3 Palestinians in **Haram al-Sharif**. They also conduct house searches and raids in Bayt Hanina, Issawiyya, Ras al-Amud, and al-Tur, arresting 8 Palestinians. (JP, MNA, TOI, Wafa 3/17; PCHR 3/19)

National elections are held in **Israel** to determine the makeup of the 20th Knesset. Despite early exit polls predicting a close result, the **Likud** Party wins 30 seats, making it the largest bloc. During the day, Israeli PM Netanyahu attempts to increase voter turnout among his supporters by saying that Palestinian citizens are voting in "droves" and that their participation will lead to a victory for the left-wing factions. (AFP, BBC, HA, JP, NYT, TOI, YA 3/17; HA, JTA, Wafa 3/18) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more on the elections and the U.S. response.)

The **PA** announces that it will operate under an emergency budget for 2015 starting on 4/1, as the economic crisis precipitated by Israel's ongoing tax revenue freeze continues (over \$400 m. is currently being withheld). Employees will continue to receive only partial salaries and govt. offices will receive 50% less funding than in 2014. (REU, TOI 3/17)

Reps. of the **U.S.** and **Iran** continue their negotiations over **Iran's nuclear program** for a 2d day in a row and reportedly discuss the open letter that 47 Republican senators sent to Iran's leaders on 3/9. (AFP, AP, JP, TOI 3/17)

### 18 MARCH 2015

In separate incidents, **IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of al-Bureij r.c. and e. of Khuza'a fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers approaching the border fence, causing damage but no injuries. **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion across the border fence e. of Gaza City. Separately, **IDF troops** dismantle an explosive planted nr. the border fence in n. Gaza. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** demolish a number of structures in the n. Jordan Valley; cut down 150 olive trees nr. Hebron and 300 in a village nr. Nablus. Activists try to rebuild the "**Gate of Jerusalem**" protest tent camp in Abu

Dis, but **IDF troops** raid the site, confiscate their tents, and violently disperse the activists; 6 Palestinians and 1 Israeli are detained. **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian activists demonstrating against the occupation in Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, injuring 4 with live ammunition and 5 with rubber-coated metal bullets. (One of the injured Palestinians will die from his wounds on 3/25.) The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 3 villages nr. Hebron, 1 nr. Ramallah, and Jenin r.c., arresting 11 Palestinians; patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, and 1 each nr. Qalqilya and Jenin. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli settlers** with the support of Israeli forces, move into a Palestinian-owned building and 2 plots of land in Silwan, sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents of the neighborhood. (MNA, TOI, Wafa, YA 3/18; MNA, PCHR, TOI 3/19; HA 3/20; PCHR 3/26)

**U.S. Energy Secy. Ernest Moniz** and **Iranian atomic energy chief Salehi** meet in Lausanne, Switzerland, for a 3d day of bilateral negotiations on technical details relating to Iran's nuclear program. (TOI 3/18)

### 19 MARCH 2015

In **Gaza**, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion nr. Rafah to level land. Off the coast nr. Gaza City, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing damage to 2 boats. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli settlers** uproot 65 olive trees outside Turmus 'Ayya village nr. Ramallah; perform religious rites at a site nr. Nablus, sparking clashes with local Palestinians; enter Isaac's Hall in al-Ibrahimi Mosque in c. Hebron. After **suspected Palestinian assailants** set fire to an Israeli settler's trailer nr. Nablus, the **IDF** imposes a curfew on a nearby Palestinian village and conducts raids and house searches in the area, sparking light clashes with residents. The **IDF** also conducts house

searches in and around Hebron and Tulkarm, arresting 4 Palestinians; patrols in 2 villages each nr. Qalqilya and Jenin. **IDF troops** set up roadblocks and raid a school in a village nr. Jenin, sparking clashes with residents. **Israeli forces** destroy 300 olive trees and demolish 600 m of walls nr. Nablus; confiscate 2 water tanks nr. Tubas. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct raids in Anabta village and in al-Tur, assaulting 1 Palestinian and arresting 2; arrest 4 Palestinian women at an entrance to **Haram al-Sharif**. In **s. Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish several Palestinian bedouins' homes in 3 villages in the Negev, and they surround a home in a 4th village, preparing to demolish it. (AFP, MNA, Wafa 3/19; AFP, MNA 3/20; PCHR 3/26)

In an interview with NBC, **Israeli PM Netanyahu** rolls back his 3/16 assertion that he will block the creation of a Palestinian state if chosen for a 3d consecutive term as PM. Later, **U.S. Pres. Obama** calls Netanyahu to officially congratulate him for his 3/17 victory, but also to discuss his controversial comments. Obama reportedly says that the U.S. will be reassessing its positions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process in light of the PM's new position. (AFP, HA, JP, NBC, REU, TOI 3/19; AFP, TOI, YA 3/20) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more.)

On the 4th day of bilateral negotiations between the **U.S. and Iran** in Lausanne, Switzerland, the *Wall Street Journal* reports that the P5+1 is refusing to compromise on its demand for staggered sanctions relief. (AP, JP, WSJ 3/19; AFP 3/20)

In the **U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Comm.**, chair Corker (R-TN) and ranking mbr. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) agree to delay a comm. vote on the **Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015** until after the P5+1 and Iran's deadline for reaching a political accord at the end of 3/2015.

They schedule a vote for 4/14 (see S. 615 and S. 625 at <http://congressionalmonitor.org>).

## 20 MARCH 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Khan Yunis fire warning shots at 3 Palestinians approaching the border fence, moderately injuring each of them; e. of Jabaliya fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers nr. the border fence, causing no injuries. Off the coast nr. Rafah, **Egyptian naval forces** detain 9 Palestinian fishermen. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 6 areas nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, Nabi Salih, Silwad, Jalazun r.c., and outside Ofer Prison), and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 7 are injured. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah, arresting 1 Palestinian and issuing summons to another; patrols in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, in and around Qalqilya, 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, and 1 nr. Jenin. The **PASF** clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians in Balata r.c. nr. Nablus; 2 young boys are injured in the crossfire. (MNA 3/20, 3/21; PCHR 3/26; MEE 5/6)

**UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon** calls **Israeli PM Netanyahu** and urges him to renew his commitment to the 2-state solution. Meanwhile, the **UN Commission on the Status of Women** approves a res. condemning Israel for the grave situation of Palestinian women under occupation. (MNA, YA 3/20; AP, MNA, TOI 3/21)

The **Palestinian Football Association (PFA)** submits a formal res. to FIFA, the body governing international soccer, calling for the **Israel Football Association (IFA)** to be suspended until Palestinian players and coaches

are allowed to move freely, facilities can be developed without obstruction, Israeli settler soccer clubs are banned from playing in IFA competitions, and the IFA takes "firm action" to eliminate racism in its leagues. The res. is scheduled for a vote at the annual FIFA conference on 5/29. (REU 3/31) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more.)

On the 5th day of bilateral nuclear negotiations between reps. of the **U.S.** and **Iran** in Lausanne, Switzerland, Iran's delegation is forced to return to Tehran 2 days early after Pres. Hassan Rouhani's mother dies. The negotiations will resume on 3/26. Meanwhile, an **IAEA** report on Iran's compliance with the JPOA is leaked to the press. It concludes that Iran is upholding its commitments, including capping uranium enrichment at 5% and holding any "further advances" at its enrichment facilities and the Arak heavy water reactor. Separately, 367 mbrs. of the **U.S. House of Representatives** send a letter to Pres. Obama calling for congressional oversight on any agreement between the **P5+1** and **Iran** to review the proposed sanctions relief. The letter will be released on 3/23. (AP, GDN, REU, TOI 3/20; YA 3/23)

## 21 MARCH 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Jabaliya fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers nr. the border fence, causing damage. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron, 1 each nr. Qalqilya and Jenin, and in al-Bireh, arresting 3 Palestinians; patrols in 3 villages nr. Qalqilya, 1 village and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm; arrests 1 Palestinian in Hebron. **Israeli settlers** open fire on a Palestinian farmer nr. Ramallah, causing no injuries; throw stones at a group of Palestinians

nr. Hebron, injuring 1 child. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct house searches and raids in al-Tur, arresting 2 Palestinian youths. (MNA, WAFA, YA 3/21; HA 3/22; PCHR 3/26)

## 22 MARCH 2015

**Israeli forces** conduct a series of military exercises along the **Gaza border** fence. **IDF troops** e. of Jabaliya and Khan Yunis open fire on agricultural lands nr. the border fence, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 1 village and ‘Ayn Bayt al-Ma’ r.c. nr. Nablus, ‘Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho, 1 village each nr. Qalqilya, Salfit, and Ramallah, as well as in Bethlehem, arresting 6 Palestinians; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya, 3 each nr. Hebron and Ramallah, and 2 nr. Tulkarm. **Israeli settlers** throw stones at 2 Palestinian girls nr. Hebron, injuring 1. In **East Jerusalem**, around 130 right-wing Jewish activists tour **Haram al-Sharif**, and **Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinians in the sanctuary. An unknown Palestinian assailant assaults a Jewish Israeli in the Old City, lightly injuring him. **Israeli forces** deliver demolition notices to several homes in Silwan; raid homes in Jabal Mukabir and Issawiyya, arresting 2 Palestinians. Separately, dozens of Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists gather in the Old City to protest Israeli evictions of Palestinians in the area. (MNA 3/20; AFP, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 3/22; AFP, WAFA 3/23; PCHR 3/26)

## 23 MARCH 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Dayr al-Balah and Jabaliya fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers and agricultural areas nr. the border fence, causing damage. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in and around Qalqilya, 2 villages nr.

Ramallah, 1 village nr. Jenin, and Tulkarm, arresting 4 Palestinians; patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Tulkarm, Qalqilya, and Salfit. **IDF** troops arrest 3 Palestinians at a checkpoint nr. Jerusalem and 2 more at an entrance to the Gush Etzion settlement bloc. **Israeli forces** deliver stop-work orders to Palestinians in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Tubas; demolish a well, a wall, and 10 olive trees in a village nr. Jenin. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 1 Palestinian woman as she is exiting **Haram al-Sharif** and 6 youth playing in the sanctuary. They also conduct house searches and raids in al-Jdayra, arresting 4 youth and sparking light clashes; arrest 2 Palestinian youths in Bayt Hanina. **Israeli authorities** issue demolition orders for 5 Palestinian-owned buildings in Silwan. (MNA, WAFA 3/23; MNA 3/24; PCHR 3/26)

**Swiss amb. to the PA Paul Garnier** visits Gaza to discuss a possible long-term cease-fire between Hamas and Israel. UN Special Coordinator Serry conducted similar meetings in Gaza on 3/2. (MNA 3/23; ALM 4/14)

Fearing that the continued tax revenue freeze could spark an uprising in the West Bank, **Senior IDF officers** say that the **IDF** has issued 10,000 permits for Palestinian laborers in the West Bank and has directed its troops to engage in clashes with Palestinian protesters less frequently. (TOI 3/23; YA 3/24)

**White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough** clarifies the Obama admin.’s response to Israeli PM Netanyahu’s campaign rhetoric and subsequent attempts to defend himself from international criticism in a speech at the **annual J Street conference**. “After the election,” McDonough says, “the PM said that he had not changed his position, but for many in Israel and in the international community, such contradictory comments call into question his commitment to a 2-state solution, as did his

suggestion that the construction of settlements has a strategic purpose of dividing Palestinian communities and his claim that conditions in the larger Middle East must be more stable before a Palestinian state can be established.” (YA 3/23; HA, TOI 3/24)

In Geneva, the **UNHRC** holds its scheduled debate on Israeli violations of Palestinian rights in the oPt. Israel is absent, pursuant to its longtime boycott of the council, but so is the U.S. Israel's FM denies a Reuters report claiming that the U.S. absence stems from the Obama admin.'s recently announced reassessment of its policy on defending Israel in international institutions. Later, **U.S. amb to the UNHRC Keith Harper** confirms that the U.S. has joined the Israeli boycott due to the UNHRC's focus on Israel. (JP, REU, TOI 3/23; JP 3/24)

#### 24 MARCH 2015

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** patrol in a village nr. Tulkarm, sparking clashes with residents; several Palestinians suffer from tear gas inhalation. They also clash with stone-throwing Palestinian youth in a village nr. Ramallah, arresting 2 Palestinians. **Israeli forces** deliver stop-work orders for a water tank and 2 homes under construction in a village nr. Hebron. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in al-Bireh, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm, arresting 5 Palestinians; patrols in Tulkarm and 2 villages nr. Hebron. The **PASF** confiscates 4 truckloads of chicken smuggled into Hebron from nearby Israeli settlements in contravention of the PA's boycott of settlement goods, which started in 4/2010; they arrest several individuals allegedly responsible. In **East Jerusalem**, right-wing Israeli activists tour **Haram al-Sharif**, sparking verbal clashes with Palestinian worshippers. **Israeli forces** pepper spray a Palestinian in

Wadi al-Juz and issue 2 Palestinians arrest summons in raids in al-Tur. (MNA, Wafa 3/24; MNA 3/25; PCHR 3/26)

#### 25 MARCH 2015

In the **West Bank**, a Palestinian man dies from injuries sustained during clashes with **IDF** troops in Jalazun r.c. on 3/18. Another Palestinian succumbs to injuries sustained when he fell off the separation wall nr. Jerusalem last week while trying to cross into Israel for work. **IDF troops** raid a school nr. Ramallah, blocking entrances and exits for 2 hours; patrol in 3 villages nr. Hebron, 1 nr. Tulkarm, and Jenin. They also conduct raids and house searches in al-'Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron, as well as 2 villages nr. Jenin, arresting 5 Palestinians. Off the coast of **Gaza** nr. Gaza City, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing damage but no injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, 78 right-wing Jewish activists tour **Haram al-Sharif**. Meanwhile, **Israeli forces** raid Shu'fat r.c. to detain several youths, sparking clashes with local residents and injuring 3 Palestinians; conduct raids in the Old City, arresting 3 Palestinians. (JP, MNA, REU, TOI, Wafa 3/25; MNA, PCHR 3/26; PCHR 4/2)

**Israeli pres. Reuven Rivlin** meets with **PM Netanyahu** and asks him to form the next govt., after the CEC delivers Rivlin the official results from the 3/17 election (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more). The **Israeli govt.** has temporarily frozen the construction of 1,500 settler residences in Har Homa, East Jerusalem. The PM's office denies a report that the freeze was motivated by U.S. diplomatic concerns. (AFP, HA, JP, TOI, YA 3/25; TOI 3/26)

Hours before leaving office, **IDF Maj. Gen. Nitzan Alon** signs orders that will apply **Israel's penal code** to Palestinians in the West Bank, except for a key amendment exempting people

from criminal charges if they take action “urgently required to ward off someone who breaks into his home, business or farm.” The key amendment would have provided additional protections for Palestinians in confrontations with Israeli settlers. (HA 3/26)

A **PA unity govt.** delegation led by **PM Hamdallah** arrives in Gaza for a planned 3-day visit. Hamdallah meets with local **Fatah** officials as well as senior **Hamas** officials to discuss the reconstruction of Gaza and national reconciliation. They agree to form a joint comm. to cooperate on several issues relating to Gaza. (AFP, JP, MNA, WAFA 3/25)

## 26 MARCH 2015

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** deliver stop-work notices to Palestinian homes and structures in 3 villages nr. Hebron. The **IDF** conducts raids and house searches in 3 villages nr. Ramallah, arresting 1 Palestinian; patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Tulkarm. **Israeli settlers** destroy 1,200 almond and olive trees outside Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct raids in Wadi al-Juz, arresting 1 Palestinian. (MNA, WAFA 3/26; MNA 3/28; PCHR 4/2)

Reps. of the **Joint List** and Palestinian activists begin a 4-day protest march from **unrecognized bedouin villages in the Negev** to the Israeli president’s residence in Jerusalem (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more). Meanwhile, the **Joint List** requests 4 seats on the **Knesset Finance Comm.** in exchange for its allotted seats on the foreign affairs and defense comms., hoping to improve the position of Palestinian citizens of Israel. (HA 3/25; AFP, HA 3/26; HA 3/27)

**U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** and **U.S. Energy Secy. Moniz** meet with **Iranian FM Zarif** and **Iran’s atomic energy chief Salehi** in Lausanne,

Switzerland, for the 1st of 8 days of negotiations on Iran’s nuclear program ahead of their 3/31 deadline for reaching a political accord.

Afterward, **Kerry** calls **Israeli PM Netanyahu** to update him on the negotiations. (AP, HA, TOI 3/26; HA, REU 3/27)

## 27 MARCH 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Khan Yunis fire on a group of Palestinians approaching the border fence, causing 3 to suffer from tear gas inhalation. Separately, **IDF troops** stationed e. of Rafah open fire on agricultural lands nr. the border fence, causing damage. In 2 incidents off the coast nr. Jabaliya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters at demonstrations to commemorate **Land Day**, upcoming on 3/30, and protest Israel’s occupation in 6 areas nr. Ramallah (Bil’in, Ni’lin, Nabi Salih, Silwad, outside Ofer Prison, and Jalazun r.c.), and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 10 Palestinians are moderately injured. The **Israeli soldiers** also cut off a main waterline into Kafr Qaddum, denying the village water for several hours. **IDF troops** also violently disperse Palestinian and international activists gathering in Abu Dis at the site of the “Gate of Jerusalem” protest tent camp. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in and around Hebron, arresting 1 Palestinian; conducts patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 each nr. Jenin and Jericho. (MNA 3/27; PCHR 4/2)

The **Israeli PM’s office** announces that it is unfreezing tax revenue transfers to the PA that it has held as a punitive response to the Palestinian accession to the ICC since 1/2015. A statement announcing the move says that the total will be reduced by an undisclosed amount

to pay portions of the PA's debts to Israeli utility providers, such as the **IEC**. The **PA FM** criticizes the announced deductions, saying in a statement that they are "an unjustified and illegal procedure that could cause complications." (AP, HA, JP, NYT, TOI 3/27; AFP, WAFA 3/28; JP 3/29) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more.)

**French FM Fabius** announces that, now that the 3/17 Israeli election has passed, he plans to explore the prospect of introducing another United Nations Security Council (UNSC) res. laying out parameters for a new round of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for details).

Meanwhile, an **EU spokesperson** announces that **Hamas** will remain a designated terrorist organization pending a decision on an appeal of the General Court's 12/17/2014 removal of Hamas from the list. Similarly, the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, which the U.S. claims funneled money to Hamas, has been removed from the list since it was last published in 7/2014. (AFP, AP, HA, REU, TOI 3/27; AFP 3/28)

The **PA unity govt.** delegation led by **PM Hamdallah** meets with Fatah and Hamas officials in the Gaza Strip, concluding its 3-day trip. (MNA 3/26)

The **Egyptian attorney**, Samir Sabri, who filed the original motion to designate Hamas a terrorist organization in Egypt withdraws his case, saying he hopes to remove "obstacles which Egypt's political leadership might face in serving its role in the Palestinian reconciliation." The **Court of Urgent Matters**, which designated Hamas a terrorist organization 2/28, is expected to reconsider its initial ruling, though it was only in part based on Sabri's motion. (AHR, MNA 3/27)

The 28th regular session of the **UNHRC** concludes today after a mo. of meetings, with

the council having agreed on 3 res. on the Palestinians. They reaffirm the Palestinians' right to self-determination, confirm Palestinian rights to sovereignty over their natural resources, and condemn ongoing settlement growth in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. (TOI 3/27; MNA 3/28)

**PA Pres. Abbas** arrives in Sharm al-Shaykh, Egypt, to participate in an Arab League summit on 3/28 and 3/29. Ahead of the summit, the **Arab League** agrees to send a delegation to Washington to lobby the U.S. Congress and promote the Arab Peace Initiative. (WAFA 2/25; MNA 3/27; HA 3/28)

## 28 MARCH 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Jabaliya fire on Palestinian agricultural land nr. the border fence, causing damage. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** stationed e. of Khan Yunis fire on Palestinian protesters approaching the border fence, causing several to suffer from tear gas inhalation. Off the coast nr. Jabaliya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing no damage. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** briefly detain the gov. of Ramallah and threaten her with "direct targeting" if she continues her participation in the weekly nonviolent protests in Nabi Salih. They also arrest a **senior PA official** at a demonstration in Nabi Salih nr. Ramallah commemorating **Land Day** (upcoming on 3/30). (He will be released on 3/29.) The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 1 village nr. Tulkarm; patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 each nr. Jericho and Hebron. **Israeli settlers** assault 4 Palestinian farmers in another village nr. Hebron, causing no injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct a raid in Silwan late at night. (MNA, WAFA 3/28; MNA 3/29; PCHR 4/2)

The **26th Arab League summit** begins today, with reps. of all the mbrs. as well as **UN Secy.-Gen. Ban**, gathering in Sharm al-Shaykh, Egypt, to discuss the recent violence in Yemen, Palestinian affairs, and other issues. At the summit, **PA Pres. Abbas** says that Israel has not yet released the tax revenues that PM Netanyahu's office said would be unfrozen on 3/27 and that the PA is still set to "to reevaluate our economic, political and security relationship with Israel." (MNA 3/27; AFP, AP, HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA 3/28; JP, JTA 3/29)

## 29 MARCH 2015

On 2 occasions off the coast of **Gaza** nr. Jabaliya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** conduct raids in Bayt Jala village nr. Bethlehem, disrupting Palm Sunday celebrations. The **IDF** also conducts raids and house searches in 3 villages nr. Nablus, 1 village nr. Ramallah, and Jenin, arresting 18 Palestinians; patrols in 2 villages each nr. Jenin and Ramallah, and 1 village each nr. Qalqilya and Jericho. **Israeli forces** deliver a demolition notice to a warehouse nr. Jenin. An **Israeli settler** rams a herd of Palestinian-owned sheep with his car nr. Qalqilya, injuring 29 of them. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** assault a group of Muslim worshippers at **Haram al-Sharif**, then they detain 3. **Israeli forces** also demolish part of a Palestinian's home in the Old City; conduct house searches and raids in Ras al-Amud, Shu'fat, and the Old City, arresting 9 Palestinians. (MNA, WAFA 3/29; PCHR 4/2)

On the 2d day of the **Arab League's 26th annual summit**, the collected ministers agree to form a special comm. to organize the creation of a detailed timetable for the end of Israel's occupation. (AFP, YA 3/29; JP 4/7)

Reps. of the **Joint List** and Palestinian activists conclude their 4-day march from **unrecognized villages in the Negev** to **Pres. Rivlin's** residence in Jerusalem. Although he had earlier agreed to greet them, he is in Singapore for a state funeral. The coalition's chair, Ayman Odeh, delivers a report on Palestinian bedouin communities in the Negev to Rivlin's wife instead. (HA, WAFA 3/29; AFP, HA, WAFA 3/30) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more.)

**EU amb. to Israel Lars Faaborg-Andersen** says that the EU is not currently reassessing its policies regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, despite the recent reports that it is considering new sanctions on Israel's settlements as an incentive for a new round of peace negotiations (see Doc. A2 in *JPS* 176). He adds that the EU supports in principle a UNSC res. calling for a timetable on the Israeli occupation. (TOI 3/30)

Chinese FM Wang Yi, Russian FM Sergey Lavrov, and UK Foreign Secy. Hammond join the 4th consecutive day of negotiations between the **P5+1** and **Iran** in Lausanne, Switzerland. (AFP, ALM, AP, REU 3/29; HA 3/30; NYT 3/31)

## 30 MARCH 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Khan Yunis open fire on Palestinians nr. the border fence gathering to commemorate **Land Day**, injuring 2. In the **West Bank**, thousands of Palestinians gather in several villages and cities for Land Day; **IDF troops** violently disperse protests in villages nr. Nablus and Ramallah, causing a number of Palestinians to suffer tear gas inhalation. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron, 1 nr. Jenin, and Tulkarm, arresting 4 Palestinians; patrols in 5 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 nr. Jericho, and al-'Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron.

**Israeli forces** deliver demolition notices to 7 Palestinian-owned agricultural structures and water wells in a village nr. Nablus and to 7 residential structures in a village nr. Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** violently disperse Palestinians marching through the Old City to commemorate Land Day, injuring 1 and arresting 2. They also arrest 3 Palestinians at **Haram al-Sharif**, 3 in the Old City, and 1 during a house search in Silwan. Meanwhile, **Palestinian citizens of Israel** gather in Jerusalem, Dayr Hanna in the Galilee, and Rahat in the Negev to commemorate Land Day, but the **Arab High Follow-Up Comm.** does not call for a general strike as it did in 2014. (HA, JP, MNA, WAFA, YA 3/30; YA 3/31; PCHR 4/2)

The **Jerusalem Municipality** announces that it has approved tenders to build 142 new residences in the Har Homa settlement in East Jerusalem. Also, the **Interior Ministry's District Planning and Building Comm.** approves a plan to construct over 2,200 new residences for Palestinians in Jabal Mukabir, East Jerusalem, and to retroactively approve hundreds that have already been built in the neighborhood. (WAFA 3/30; TOI 3/31; HA 4/1)

The **PA Ministry of Civil Affairs** announces that it will be providing 1 year of financial support to the approximately 15,000 Palestinian families in Gaza whose homes were destroyed during OPE. The project will be funded by international donors, primarily Arab League mbrs., and will grant families between NIS 1,000 and 1,500 per mo. (\$250 to \$378). (MNA, WAFA 3/30)

A **bipartisan group of 4 U.S. senators** sends a letter to **Pres. Obama** stating their opposition to the admin.'s reported reassessment of its policies regarding Israel and the possible end of U.S. support of Israel in international institutions, such as the UN. (TOI 3/31)

### 31 MARCH 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Dayr al-Balah exchange light fire with unknown Palestinian fighters, causing no injuries. The **IDF** reports that its soldiers fired warning shots when they came under fire. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot tear gas canisters at Palestinian youth in a village nr. Bethlehem, causing no serious injuries. Late at night, they raid the Jenin r.c., sparking clashes with residents; 1 Palestinian is injured and 2 are detained. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and raids in Hebron, arresting 3 Palestinians; constructs a military watchtower in c. Hebron overlooking a Palestinian girls' school. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish the foundations of 3 apartment buildings under construction in Jabal Mukabir and a home in Wadi al-Juz. They also conduct house searches and raids in the Old City, Issawiyya, Jabal Mukabir, and Wadi al-Juz, arresting 14 Palestinians. (HA, JP, MNA, WAFA 3/31; MNA 4/1; PCHR 4/2)

The **PA cabinet** rejects the Israeli govt.'s decision to make deductions from the recently unfrozen (3/27) **tax revenue** transfers to pay off the PA's debts to Israeli utility providers, describing the deduction as collective punishment of Palestinians, a premeditated crime, and a violation of previous agreements. Meanwhile, the PA announces that **Dep. PM and National Economy Min. Mustafa** has resigned from the govt.; no official reasons are offered for his resignation. (AP, MNA, WAFA 3/31)

In Lausanne, Switzerland, **reps. of the P5+1 and Iran** agree to a 1-day extension to today's deadline for reaching a political framework agreement on Iran's nuclear program (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more on the negotiations). (AFP, HA, NYT, TOI 3/31; HA 4/1)

## 1 APRIL 2015

Off the coast of **Gaza** nr. al-Sudaniyya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** confiscate a bulldozer in e. Nablus that Palestinians were using to open a road in the area. Elsewhere, **IDF troops** injure a Palestinian child and confiscate several solar panels in a raid in a bedouin village nr. Abu Dis. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah, 'Askar r.c. nr. Nablus, and al-Fara'a r.c. nr. Tubas, arresting 8 Palestinians and sparking clashes in which 2 more are injured; patrols in 3 villages nr. Hebron during the day. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct a raid in the Old City, arresting 1 Palestinian. (MNA, WAFA 4/1; MNA, PCHR 4/2; PCHR 4/9)

In The Hague, **Palestinian FM Riyad al-Maliki** attends an induction ceremony at the ICC, marking the Palestine's official membership at the court. Meanwhile, a **German delegation** is in Gaza to meet with reps. of Hamas and to discuss the possibility of a long-term cease-fire with Israel. (AFP, HA, JP, MNA, NYT, WAFA 4/1; ALM 4/14)

**PA Finance Min. Shukri Bishara** announces that PA employees earning more than NIS 2,000 (\$515) per mo. will only receive 60% of their salaries for 3/2015 on 4/2, despite the Israeli govt.'s 3/27 pledge to unfreeze the transfers of tax revenues collected on behalf of the PA. This will be the 4th mo. in a row that PA employees have received reduced salaries. (REU, WAFA 4/1)

In **Syria**, fighters affiliated with **ISIS** conduct an assault on **Yarmouk r.c.** outside Damascus. During a day of intense fighting, they take control of large areas of the camp, casting further uncertainty over the fate of the approximately 18,000 Palestinian refugees and

other civilian residents. (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more.) (AFP, MNA 4/1; WAFA 4/2)

**Egypt's cabinet** approves a new res. designed to crack down on smuggling **tunnels** from Gaza into Egypt, which would make tunnel digging, or knowledge of tunnel digging, punishable by life imprisonment and home confiscation. The res. will be passed by presidential decree on 4/12. (HA, MNA 4/3; EN 4/12; TOI 4/13)

In a letter to **U.S. Pres. Obama**, 79 Democratic mbrs. of **Congress** encourage the continued pursuit of a 2-state solution despite Israeli PM Netanyahu's controversial campaign rhetoric. (AFP, JTA, TOI 4/1; POL 4/2)

After a 1-day extension to their 3/31 political framework agreement deadline, **reps. of the P5 +1** and **Iran** agree to another extension until 4/2. (HA, REU, TOI, YA 4/1; HA, REU 4/2)

## 2 APRIL 2015

In the **West Bank**, an **Israeli man** from Beersheba goes missing nr. Hebron. **IDF troops** conduct a number of searches in surrounding villages and set up numerous mobile checkpoints in an effort to find the man and his alleged kidnappers. The man is found alive 10 hours later nr. Hebron, having staged the kidnapping for "romantic purposes." Nr. Salfit, **Israeli forces** demolish 120 olive trees. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 2 villages nr. Jenin, arresting 1; patrols in 6 villages nr. Hebron, 2 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Qalqilya. They also arrest **Palestine Legislative Council (PLC)** member and **PFLP activist Khalida Jarrar** in al-Bireh nr. Ramallah for allegedly violating restrictions on her movement. (She will be ordered to serve 6 mos. administrative detention on 4/5. See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for details.) A Palestinian man stabs an Israeli soldier nr. Nablus after **IDF troops**

detain him and 5 other Palestinians attempting to cross over the separation wall. **Israeli settlers** throw stones at 2 Palestinian houses in a village nr. Nablus, then Israeli troops arrive and arrest the 2 homeowners. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 4/2; JP, MNA 4/3; EI, MNA 4/5; HA 4/6; PCHR 4/9)

On a visit to Hebron, **PA PM Hamdallah** says that **Israel** has still not transferred the recently unfrozen **tax revenues** to the PA as the Israeli PM's office announced it would on 3/27. PA Pres. Abbas threatens to lodge a complaint with the ICC if the Israeli govt. does not transfer the funds. (MNA 4/2; TOI 4/3)

**Israel's Supreme Court** rules in favor of **Palestinian** petitioners hoping to avert an Israeli plan to extend the separation wall through their land nr. Jerusalem. The plan, which has been contested since the IDF ordered it in 2006, would have expropriated of 3,000 dunams of private Palestinian and Vatican-owned land. (AP, MNA, TOI, YA 4/2)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** and **Energy and Water Minister Silvan Shalom** authorize a \$500 m. deal between the Delek Group and Noble Energy (energy companies in control of Israel's offshore Tamar natural gas field) and 2 Jordanian companies that would ship 1.87 b. m<sup>3</sup> of natural gas to Jordan over the next 15 years. (TOI 4/3)

In Lausanne, Switzerland, **reps. of the P5+1 and Iran** extend their 3/31 deadline, then agree on "key parameters" for a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in their negotiations over Iran's nuclear program. They will continue to negotiate on technical details ahead of their 6/30 deadline for a JCPOA. **Pres. Obama** says he will begin talks with congressional leaders to find a way for Congress to play a constructive oversight role in the implementation of the agreement. (AFP, BB, GDN, HA, NYT, POL

4/2; HA, TOI, YA 4/3) (See the quarterly Update and Special Docs. sections in *JPS* 176 for details on the negotiations.)

### 3 APRIL 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Khan Yunis fire warning shots at Palestinians approaching the border fence, injuring 3. Off the coast nr. Jabaliya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 6 areas nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, Nabi Salih, Silwad, outside Ofer Prison, and Jalazun r.c.), and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 4 Palestinians and 1 international are moderately injured and dozens suffer from tear gas inhalation. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Jericho, and in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 4 Palestinians in the Old City. After **Israeli forces** bar a group of right-wing Jewish activists from entering a school in **Haram al-Sharif**, a leader of the activists writes a letter to the Israeli authorities calling for the school to be officially recognized as a synagogue under the Protection of Holy Places Law and for Jews to be allowed to worship there. (MNA 4/3, 4/4; WAFA 4/7; PCHR 4/9)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu** convenes his security cabinet to discuss the 4/2 agreement between the P5+1 and Iran, and the cabinet unanimously opposes the deal. Netanyahu says, "This is a bad deal not just for Israel, this is a bad deal for the region and for the world," and calls for any final deal to require Iran to recognize Israel's right to exist. (AFP, HA, JP, TOI 4/3; REU, TOI 4/4)

#### 4 APRIL 2015

In **Gaza**, hundreds of Palestinians gather in Khan Yunis to demonstrate in solidarity with Palestinians in Yarmouk r.c. outside of Damascus. Off the coast nr. Jabaliya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in Tulkarm, Hebron, Bethlehem and nearby Dahaysha r.c., arresting 5 Palestinians; patrols in Qalqilya, 3 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 nr. Tulkarm. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** violently disperse with live ammunition Palestinians celebrating a soccer victory in Silwan, detaining 5. They also conduct house searches in al-Thawri, arresting 5 Palestinians; arrest 2 others in Ras al-Amud and Silwan. (AFP, MNA 4/5; PCHR 4/9)

In **Syria**, **ISIS** continues to make advances in **Yarmouk r.c.** outside Damascus, after entering the camp on 4/1. According to reports in the media, **ISIS** now controls 70–90% of the camp. (AFP, AP, MNA, REU, Wafa 4/4) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more.)

#### 5 APRIL 2015

Off the coast of **Gaza** nr. Jabaliya and Rafah, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing no damage or injuries. **Hamas authorities** arrest a shaykh in al-Bureij r.c. for alleged support of **ISIS**. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in and around Hebron, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Qalqilya, arresting 5 Palestinians; patrols in 2 villages each nr. Qalqilya and Jericho, and 1 each nr. Ramallah, Hebron, and Tulkarm. An **Israeli soldier** assaults a Palestinian at a checkpoint nr. Bethlehem. **Israeli authorities** close al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron to all Muslim worshippers, allowing Jewish Israelis to enter in celebration of

Passover through 4/6. In Balata r.c. nr. Nablus, Palestinian women gather to protest the **PASF** crackdown in the camp. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** confiscate a number of solar energy cells in a bedouin village. Also, a group of **Israeli settlers** assault a Palestinian youth at a gate to the Old City. (AFP, MNA, Wafa 4/5; AFP 4/6; MNA 4/7; PCHR 4/9)

**PA Pres. Abbas** announces that the **Israeli govt.** transferred NIS 1.37 b. (around \$350 m.) of the NIS 1.8 b. (\$460 m.) in previously frozen **tax revenues**, but that the Palestinians rejected the money in protest of unilateral deductions Israel made to pay the Palestinians' debts to Israeli utility providers (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more). (AFP, AP, JP, REU 4/5)

The **PLO** announces that it will send a delegation to Syria to meet with govt. and rebel leaders to find a resolution for the residents of **Yarmouk r.c.** (see the quarterly Update and Press sections in *JPS* 176 for more on Yarmouk). (AFP, AJ, Wafa, YA 4/5; AFP, AJ, JP 4/6)

#### 6 APRIL 2015

In **Gaza**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion across the border fence to level land nr. Khan Yunis. Later, **Israeli soldiers** nearby open fire on Palestinian agricultural land along the fence, causing damage. Off the coast nr. Rafah, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing no damage or injuries. Separately, Rafah temporarily loses power after a malfunction at the power station in al-Arish in n. Sinai. In the **West Bank**, unknown Palestinian assailants open fire on an Israeli vehicle nr. Nablus, causing no injuries or damage. The **IDF** conducts house searches in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Bethlehem, arresting 3 Palestinians; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron

and 1 nr. Tulkarm. **IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian at a border crossing into Jordan. (MNA 4/6; MNA, TOI 4/7; PCHR 4/9)

**PA FM al-Maliki** says that the Palestinians are providing **ICC** prosecutor Fatou Bensouda additional documents in an effort to expedite her preliminary examination into the situation in the oPt (opened 1/16). He adds that if Bensouda does not open a full investigation, the Palestinians will make “specific referrals” to the court regarding Israel’s settlements and OPE. (MNA, JP 4/6)

After a meeting of **Arab League** FMs in Cairo, **Egyptian FM Sameh Shoukry** says a special comm. of experts will prepare a detailed plan for assisting the Palestinians in their campaign to pass a UNSC res. calling for a timetable on the end of Israeli occupation. He adds that they plan to open dialogue with relevant international parties and that the effort hinges on the U.S., which opposed the Palestinians’ efforts to obtain such a res. in 12/2014. (AP, JP 4/7)

#### 7 APRIL 2015

In the **West Bank**, a Palestinian man stabs 2 Israeli soldiers at a junction nr. Ramallah, critically injuring 1, then the soldiers shoot and kill him. The **IDF** consequently conducts raids in several villages in the area and detains 7 Palestinians. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and raids in and around Hebron, and in Tubas, arresting 7 Palestinians; patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Salfit. **IDF troops** assault a Palestinian man at a mobile checkpoint in Hebron, lightly injuring him. Palestinians throw rocks at 2 Israeli buses nr. Jerusalem, lightly injuring 3 in the 2 incidents. Off the coast of **Gaza** nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing no damage or injuries. In **East**

**Jerusalem, Israeli** forces arrest a Palestinian doctor in Wadi al-Rababa. (Wafa 4/7; HA, JP, MNA, TOI, Wafa, YA 4/8; PCHR 4/9)

Late at night, **PLO delegates** led by **Exec. Comm. mbr. Ahmad Majdalani** meet with Syrian dep. FM Faisal Mekdad in Damascus; Syrian govt. says it is ready to support Palestinian fighters in **Yarmouk r.c.**, outside Damascus. (MNA 4/7; MNA, TOI 4/8) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more.)

**Palestinian envoy to France Hale Fahoum** says the Palestinian leadership supports the recently announced **French initiative** to pass a **UNSC** res. setting parameters for future peace negotiations. (YA 4/7)

**FIFA Pres. Sepp Blatter** says he opposes the Palestinian campaign to suspend Israel from international soccer competition ahead of a meeting with **PFA** head Jibril Rajoub in Cairo. (AFP, REU 4/7)

#### 8 APRIL 2015

Off the n. coast of **Gaza**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, injuring 1 fisherman with rubber-coated metal bullets. In the **West Bank**, **IDF** troops arrest a Palestinian in a village nr. Hebron and another in c. Hebron. Meanwhile, hundreds of **Israeli settlers** perform religious rites at Joseph’s Tomb outside Balata r.c. nr. Nablus, sparking clashes between **IDF** troops and Palestinians in the camp. **Israeli forces** seize around 1,000 dunams of land nr. Hebron for the expansion of a nearby settlement. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** assault 2 guards in **Haram al-Sharif** after they try to intervene in the arrest of a Palestinian woman in the sanctuary. (MNA, Wafa 4/8; PCHR 4/9)

**PA PM Hamdallah** confirms **PA Pres. Abbas’s** earlier announcement that the PA refused reduced tax revenues from Israel after

PM Netanyahu's office announced on 3/27 that it would be unfreezing the transfers. He also says that the Palestinians will lodge an official complaint about the freeze at the ICC. (Wafa 4/8)

As part of a reported deal with **Israel's COGAT**, the **PASF** expands deployments in towns and villages nr. Jerusalem, in Area B. The **PASF** will begin by opening up police stations in the villages. (REU 4/8; AFP, MNA 4/9)

**U.S. Pres. Obama** calls Sens. Corker (R-TN) and Ben Cardin (D-MD), the 2 ranking mbrs. of the **Senate Foreign Relations Comm.**, denouncing Corker's proposed bill that would empower Congress to approve or disapprove of any final agreement made by Iran and the P5+1 (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176). The bill, the **Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act**, is set for a comm. deliberation on 4/14 (see S. 615 at <http://congressionalmonitor.org>). Meanwhile, **Secy. of State Kerry** and **Under Secy. Wendy Sherman** meet with reps. of AIPAC, the American Jewish Comm. (AJC), the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and other pro-Israel U.S. Jewish groups to argue in favor of the agreement with Iran and further diplomacy. (AP 4/8; TOI 4/9; JTA 4/12)

#### 9 APRIL 2015

In the **West Bank**, a Palestinian man dies in a village nr. Hebron of complications related to health issues he developed in Israeli prison. The **IDF** conducts a house search in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, sparking minor clashes; patrols in villages nr. Hebron, Ramallah, Tulkarm, and Jenin. During a patrol nr. Nablus, **IDF troops** assault a Palestinian man accused of throwing stones. **Israeli settlers** raze land nr. Bethlehem in preparation for the construction of a new bypass road. **IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Khan Yunis open fire on Palestinian farmers

and land nr. the border fence, injuring 1. The **union of public workers** begins a general strike in protest of unpaid salaries since 6/2/2014. Meanwhile, several Palestinian parties in Gaza organize a march in solidarity with residents of **Yarmouk r.c.**, outside Damascus. (MNA, Wafa 4/9; MNA 4/10; PCHR 4/16)

In Syria, **14 Palestinian factions** meet in Damascus to discuss the recent **ISIS** attacks on **Yarmouk r.c. PLO Exec. Comm. mbr. Majdalani** says of the meeting, "We agreed that there would be permanent cooperation with the Syrian leadership and the formation of a joint operations room with Syrian govt. forces and the Palestinian factions that have a significant presence in the camp or around it." **Aknaf Bayt al-Maqdis**—the main armed group opposing **ISIS** in the camp, an anti-govt. faction, and a Hamas offshoot—does not participate in the meeting. (BBC 4/9; AFP, AP, MNA, REU 4/10) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for details.)

#### 10 APRIL 2015

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** block a large funeral procession in a village nr. Hebron for the Palestinian man who died on 4/9 from health issues he developed in Israeli prison. The soldiers violently disperse stone-throwing mourners, killing 1 Palestinian and injuring 13 with live ammunition and rubber-coated metal bullets. The **IDF** also violently disperses Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters at weekly nonviolent demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 6 areas nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, Silwad, Nabi Salih, Jalazun r.c., and outside Ofer Prison), Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, and outside an Israeli settlement nr. al-Bireh; 15 Palestinians are moderately injured and 4 are arrested. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 2 villages nr. Nablus,

arresting 2 Palestinians and assaulting 1; patrols in 2 villages each nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah, and 3 nr. Jericho. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, YA 4/10; PCHR 4/16)

The **Palestinian Medical Examination Union** decides to halt the transfer of medical tests to Israeli labs, effectively signing the group on to the **boycott** of Israeli goods and products. (MNA 4/10)

Breaking the Palestinians' nonintervention policy on the Syrian conflict, **Senior Fatah official Tawfiq al-Tirawi** calls for Palestinian fighters in Syria and Lebanon to defend Yarmouk r.c. against ISIS, which launched attacks in the camp on 4/1. Later, **UN Dep. Special Envoy for Syria Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy** flies to Damascus for consultations with the Syrian govt. about Yarmouk. (GDN, MNA 4/10)

#### 11 APRIL 2015

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 nr. Qalqilya, and nr. Nablus, arresting 3 Palestinians; patrols in 3 villages and al-'Arub r. c. nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Qalqilya. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** raid a home in Bayt Deqqa, arresting 1 Palestinian. Later, a number of right-wing Jewish activists enter **Haram al-Sharif** and clash with Palestinian worshippers. (JP, WAFA 4/11; WAFA 4/12)

#### 12 APRIL 2015

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians gathered in a village nr. Ramallah for the funeral of the man killed on 4/7; 22 Palestinians are injured in the ensuing clashes. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in Jenin and 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Hebron, arresting 5 Palestinians and sparking minor clashes; patrols in 1 village nr.

Jericho and 2 nr. Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct raids in Shu'fat, Silwan, and Issawiyya, arresting 9 Palestinians. An **Israeli settler** hits a Palestinian woman with a car outside a gate to **Haram al-Sharif**. In the **Galilee**, **Israeli forces** demolish a home in Kafr Kanna, and then violently disperse hundreds of protesting Palestinians, injuring 6. (WAFA 4/12, 4/13; HA, MNA 4/14)

#### 13 APRIL 2015

In **Gaza**, unknown assailants open fire on trucks at the **Kerem Shalom border crossing**, causing light damage to 1. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Ramallah, Tulkarm r.c. and 1 village nr. Tulkarm, as well as al-'Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron, arresting 18 Palestinians; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin, 1 each nr. Qalqilya and Hebron, and 'Aqabat Jabir r.c. nr. Jericho. Meanwhile, a group of armed men from the **Balata r.c.** shut down a main road in Nablus in protest of the **PASF** crackdown on the camp. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** confiscate the contents of a store in Hizma and demolish a residential building under construction in Wadi al-Juz. They also conduct raids in Silwan, assaulting 2 Palestinians and arresting 3. Meanwhile, the Jordan-funded Islamic Waqf begins renovations at **Haram al-Sharif**, and **Israeli minister Uri Ariel** calls for the project to be halted. In the **Galilee**, Palestinians in Kafr Kanna conduct a general strike in protest of the demolition in the village on 4/12. (MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 4/13; MNA 4/14; PCHR, WAFA 4/16)

**PA Pres. Abbas** meets with **Russian pres. Vladimir Putin** in Moscow to discuss Russian-Palestinian relations, the Middle East peace negotiations, and other issues. (AFP 4/9; AFP, HA, TOI 4/13; REU 4/14)

**U.S. Pres. Obama** meets with several **U.S. Jewish groups** to discuss the “key parameters” announced on 4/2 by the P5+1 and Iran, and their concerns about Israel’s security. The groups include the AJC, ADL, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the Jewish Federations of N. America, AIPAC, and J Street. (HA 4/13; HA, TOI 4/14; JP 4/23)

#### 14 APRIL 2015

In the **Gaza Strip**, a mbr. of Hamas’s armed wing, IQB, dies of injuries sustained in Gaza City on 7/29/2014, during OPE. Also, a 3-story building in Dayr al-Balah collapses after being damaged during OPE last year. Meanwhile, **Egyptian security forces** shoot and injure a Palestinian exiting a tunnel on the Egyptian side of the border nr. Rafah. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** demolish a synagogue in a settlement outpost nr. Hebron early in the morning. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in Nablus, a nearby village, and Balata r.c., arresting 31 Palestinians, most affiliated with Hamas. They also arrest a Palestinian on a raid in al-Fara’a r.c. nr. Jenin and patrol in 3 villages each nr. Hebron and Tulkarm, and 1 nr. Jenin. Nr. **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish a mobile home in Bayt Hanina. In **Israel**, an Israeli man assaults a Palestinian worker from Jenin in a shop in Umm al-Fahm. **Israeli forces** demolish 3 structures in an unrecognized bedouin village in the Negev. (JP, MNA, WAFA 4/14; HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 4/15; HA, PCHR 4/16)

**Israel’s COGAT Mordechai** announces that starting today, Palestinian vehicles from the West Bank will be allowed to enter Jerusalem. In the 1st of 2 planned stages, over 100 Palestinian doctors are allowed to enter. Unrestricted travel for Palestinian businessmen and women will

follow in the next phase. Palestinian cars have been banned from Jerusalem since the onset of the 2d intifada in 2000. (JP, MNA 4/14; HA 4/15)

In **Syria**, Palestinian residents of **Yarmouk r.c.** report that **ISIS** has begun retreating from previously held positions in the camp. Meanwhile, **UNRWA** sets up a distribution mission in a village nr. the camp to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees fleeing Yarmouk. (AFP, WAFA 4/14)

The **U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Comm.** unanimously approves, 19–0, an amended version of the **Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act** (see S. 615 at <http://congressionalmonitor.org>), which would give Congress an opportunity to approve or disapprove of any agreement made between the P5+1 and Iran and increase congressional oversight on verification of the deal. The bill is now available for a vote on the Senate floor. (AP, HA, NYT, POL, REU 4/14; AP, HA, MDW, TOI 4/15) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more.)

#### 15 APRIL 2015

In **Gaza**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion e. of Khan Yunis to level land. Later, troops on the border e. of Khuza’a open fire on agricultural land, causing no damage. Off the coast nr. Gaza City, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** deliver a demolition notice and a stop-work order to 2 Palestinian homes in a village nr. Hebron. Late at night, the **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in al-Bireh, Hebron, and a village nr. Jenin, issuing arrest summons to 4 Palestinians and seizing NIS 2,500 (\$646), as well as various personal effects. In **East Jerusalem**, a Palestinian driver rams a car into 2 Israelis nr. the Old City, killing 1. (The Palestinian man will

be arrested on 4/16.) In **c. Israel, Israeli forces** demolish 5 Palestinian apartments overnight in villages nr. Tel Aviv. (MNA, WAFA 4/15; AFP, HA, JP, MNA, PCHR, TOI, YA 4/16; PCHR 4/23)

In response to the recent demolitions of Palestinian property in Israel on 4/13, 4/14, and today, **Israeli PM Netanyahu** attempts to set up a meeting with Joint List chair Odeh. The **Arab High Follow-Up Comm.** calls for Palestinian citizens of Israel to conduct a general strike on 4/28. Meanwhile, **Israel's Supreme Court** upholds the 7/2011 **Anti-Boycott Law**, which allows for sanctions to be placed against individuals or organizations that call for boycotts against Israel (see Doc. C1 in *JPS* 176). (Adalah, JP 4/15; HA, TOI, YA 4/16; HA 4/17)

#### 16 APRIL 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** arrest 2 Palestinians attempting to cross into Israel nr. Khan Yunis. In the **West Bank, Israeli forces** detain Nablus gov. Akram Rajoub briefly at a checkpoint nr. the city; confiscate 2 cranes from a construction site s. of Nablus. **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians protesting outside Ofer Prison nr. Ramallah ahead of Prisoners' Day on 4/17, injuring 1. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and raids in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Hebron, arresting 2 Palestinians; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 nr. Jericho. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** shoot out the eye of a Palestinian with a sponge-tipped bullet during clashes sparked by a raid in Issawiyya. The man will lose his eye. (JP, MNA, WAFA 4/16; PCHR 4/23)

**Israel's Supreme Court** upholds the 1950 **Absentee Property Law**, which allows the Israeli govt. to seize property in East Jerusalem if its owners live in the West Bank or Gaza. (HA 4/16; IMEMC 4/17; MNA 4/18)

FMs from 16 of the 28 EU mbr. states sign onto a letter to **EU foreign policy chief Mogherini** calling for goods produced in the Israeli settlements to be labeled as such in stores across Europe, reiterating public calls by the EU Council in 5/2012, 12/2012, and 11/2014 as well as a similar letter to the previous EU foreign affairs chief in 4/2013. (HA, TOI, YA 4/16; AFP 4/17) (See Doc. A3 in *JPS* 176 for the full letter.)

#### 17 APRIL 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Khan Yunis fire live ammunition at Palestinians approaching the border fence, injuring 3. Later, an explosive detonates nr. the **PA unity govt.** cabinet's headquarters in Gaza City, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters at demonstrations to commemorate Prisoners' Day, and protesting the occupation in 6 areas nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, Nabi Salih, Silwad, Jalazun r.c., and outside Ofer Prison), and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 9 Palestinians are moderately injured, including a PA minister and a journalist. The **IDF** also violently disperses groups of stone-throwing Palestinian youth in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Ramallah, causing no serious injuries. At night, **IDF troops** conduct house searches and raids in and around Hebron, and al-Bireh, issuing summons to 2 Palestinians and arresting 2; patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin, Hebron, and Ramallah during the day. **Israeli police** shoot and lightly injure a Palestinian youth suspected of theft in a village nr. Jerusalem. The **PASF** conducts raids in and around Bethlehem and Ramallah, arresting over 60 Palestinians. (HA, MNA, TOI 4/17; MNA 4/18; PCHR 4/23)

**PA officials** and **Israel's COGAT Mordechai** reach an agreement for Israel to transfer the full

amount of tax revenues collected on behalf of the PA from 12/2014 through 3/2015—approximately NIS 1.85 b., or \$472 m.—by 4/20. They also agree that a joint Palestinian-Israeli economic comm. will decide what amount should be returned to Israel to pay down Palestinian debts. PA PM Hamdallah pledges to use the funds to pay PA employees the rest of their salaries, which had been reduced while the transfers were frozen. (HA, MNA, NYT, REU, TOI 4/18; AnA, YA 4/19)

#### 18 APRIL 2015

In the **Gaza Strip**, an IQB fighter is killed nr. Rafah by gunfire; no further information is released. Off the coast nr. **Gaza City, Israeli naval forces** open fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing damage. Later, 2 explosions damage several buildings in Gaza City nr. UNRWA headquarters. In the **West Bank**, the IDF conducts nighttime house searches and raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Bethlehem, arresting 2 Palestinians and issuing summons to 3; patrols in 'Aqabat Jabir r.c. nr. Jericho. Meanwhile, the **PASF** conducts raids and house searches in Hebron, arresting 12 Palestinians. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 4/18; JP, TOI, WAFA, YA 4/19; PCHR 4/23)

**Hamas's parliamentary bloc Change and Reform** passes the National Solidarity Tax Law, imposing a new tax on “non-basic” goods being imported into Gaza. Meats, fruits, vegetables, and clothing would all be subject to as much as a 10% tax, but medicine and flour will be exempt. The revenues collected under the new tax policy would be used to pay the salaries of the Hamas-run govt.'s civil servants. (TOI 4/21)

**PA Pres. Abbas** meets with **Joint List head Odeh** and other reps of the Israeli non-Zionist bloc. Abbas passed along an invitation to the next meeting of the Arab League in Doha, Qatar. (TOI, WAFA 4/18)

#### 19 APRIL 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Jabaliya fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers approaching the border fence, causing no damage or injuries. Off the coast nr. Jabaliya and later nr. Khan Yunis, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing damage. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and raids at night in and around Bethlehem, Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Jericho and Jenin, arresting 13 Palestinians; patrols in 5 villages nr. Ramallah and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** deliver demolition notices to 2 Palestinian homes; arrest 4 Palestinians on night raids in Silwan. (WAFA 4/19; EI 4/22; PCHR 4/23)

A **PA unity govt.** delegation travels to Gaza to address the ongoing wage crisis. Inter alia, they are tasked with counting the number of PA employees from before 2007 to determine how many of the Hamas-run govt.'s civil servants hired after 2007 can remain employed. Meanwhile, the **Gaza Chamber of Commerce** organizes a hearing about the National Solidarity Tax Law, which Hamas passed on 4/18 to levy a new import tax on “non-basic” goods. A number of local merchants criticize the new law, saying they will have to reduce their imports. (AFP, TOI 4/19; TOI 4/21, 4/22)

A **PA court** rules corruption charges against **exiled Fatah leader Mohammad Dahlan** “inadmissible,” concluding a high-profile trial that began in 12/2014 (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for details). (AFP, MNA 4/19)

#### 20 APRIL 2015

In **Gaza**, a Palestinian youth dies of an electric shock in a tunnel nr. Rafah. On 3 occasions, **IDF troops** stationed e. of Khan Yunis and e. of Jabaliya fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers approaching the border fence, causing

no injuries. Off the coast nr. Jabaliya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on **Palestinian fishing boats**, causing no damage. In the **West Bank**, an **Israeli military jeep** hits and injures a Palestinian youth nr. Nablus. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in and around Hebron, 1 village nr. Jenin, and nr. Bethlehem, arresting 4 Palestinians and issuing summons to 2; patrols in and around Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Jericho. **Israeli forces** level 18 dunams of land nr. Bethlehem. The **PASF** conducts raids in and around Tubas, arresting 22 Palestinians. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 3 Palestinians walking n. of the city. In **Israel**, an Israeli stabs a Palestinian worker at a construction site nr. Tel Aviv, moderately injuring him. In the **Negev**, **Israeli forces** demolish buildings in 2 bedouin villages nr. Beersheba. (JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 4/20; MNA, WAFA 4/21; PCHR 4/23)

The **PA unity govt. delegation** that arrived in Gaza on 4/19 departs for Ramallah, cutting short the planned weeklong visit that was meant to resolve ongoing issues, including the wage crisis (see the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for details). **PA PM Hamdallah** reportedly orders them to leave in response to Hamas officials' obstructionism and makes plans to visit Gaza himself in 5/2015. (MNA, JP, YA 4/20; MNA 4/21)

## 21 APRIL 2015

In the **Gaza Strip**, Israeli forces conduct simultaneous limited incursions e. of Dayr al-Balah and e. of Khan Yunis to level land. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** deliver demolition notices for a tent and a barn in a village nr. Hebron. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron and a village nr. Ramallah, arresting 6 Palestinians; patrols in Tulkarm, 3 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 each nr.

Jenin, Hebron, and Jericho. An **Israeli settler** rams a car into 4 Palestinian women on a road nr. Qalqilya, injuring all of them. **Israeli settlers** uproot 450 olive trees nr. Salfit; enter Nablus to perform religious rites, sparking minor clashes between their IDF escort and Palestinian youth. (MNA, WAFA 4/21; HA, MNA, TOI 4/22; PCHR 4/23)

The **PA** announces that it will be paying its employees their full salaries for 4/2015 as well as the remaining 40% that was deducted in 1–3/2015 during Israel's tax revenue freeze. (WAFA 4/22)

At a meeting of the **UNSC**, **French** and **British** diplomats urge the council to pass a res. setting parameters for a new round of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. Also, **New Zealand's amb. to the UN Jim McLay** announces that his office is working on a separate draft res. that he plans to propose to the **UNSC**, adding that he hasn't seen the French draft res. (JP, REU 4/21; AFP, AP, RT, TOI 4/22; WAFA 4/23) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more.)

## 22 APRIL 2015

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli settlers** perform religious rites on Palestinian land nr. Jenin late at night. In **East Jerusalem**, around 20 right-wing Jewish activists tour **Haram al-Sharif**; **Israeli forces** detain a Palestinian youth in the sanctuary. Late at night, **Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinians on a raid in al-Tur. (MNA, WAFA 4/22; PCHR 4/29)

In **Birzeit University's student govt. elections**, the party affiliated with **Hamas** wins 26 seats, defeating the **Fatah**-affiliated list, which wins 19. The Hamas-affiliated list last won in 2007. (MNA, TOI 4/22; MNA, WAFA 4/23; HA 4/26; JP 5/9) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for more.)

**Israeli Air Force (IAF) jets** launch air strikes on a Hizballah missile convoy in Syria nr. the border with Lebanon, killing 1 soldier. (HA, TOI 4/25)

**Reps. of Iran and the P5+1** meet in Vienna for 3-day negotiations over Iran's nuclear program ahead of their final accord deadline of 6/30. They open discussions on the remaining issues, including the pace of sanctions relief and verification requirements. This is the 1st round of talks since they agreed on "key parameters" for a final deal on 4/2. (AFP, AP 4/22)

### 23 APRIL 2015

In the **Gaza Strip**, an unknown armed group launches a single rocket into Israel, causing minor damage nr. Sderot. In response, **IDF tanks** fire 3 shells at a vacant Hamas military site nr. Bayt Hanun. Separately, **IDF troops** stationed e. of Khan Yunis open fire on agricultural lands nr. the border fence. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** on a raid in a village nr. Qalqilya clash with several stone-throwing Palestinian youth, causing no serious injuries. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in a village nr. Jenin, delivering summons to 1 Palestinian; patrols in 3 villages nr. Hebron and 1 nr. Tulkarm. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli police** assault 2 Palestinians in the Old City who are walking to pray in **Haram al-Sharif** and arrest 5 others in the area. Meanwhile, light clashes break out in the sanctuary when a number of **right-wing Jewish activists** tour the area. **Israeli forces** conduct raids and patrols in the Old City, Hizma, Silwan, and Shaykh Jarrah, arresting 7 Palestinians and disrupting demonstrations in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners. They also assault a Palestinian youth in al-Tur. Meanwhile, an **Israeli settler** assaults

a Palestinian youth in the Old City, causing minor injuries. (MNA, TOI, WAFA 4/23; HA, TOI, YA 4/24; PCHR 4/29)

**Israeli authorities deny South African education minister Blade Nzimande** an entry visa for his planned 6-day visit to Palestinian universities. Nzimande says that the denial comes in response to recent positions taken by the South African govt. (MNA 4/23; HA 4/24)

At an **Israeli Independence Day** event in Washington, **U.S. VP Joseph R. Biden** announces that 2 of the 14 F-35 fighter jets that the Defense Dept. sold to Israel in mid-2/2015 (announced 2/22) will be delivered in 2016. The rest of the jets will be delivered by 2021. (HA, REU 4/24)

### 24 APRIL 2015

In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli security forces** shoot and kill a Palestinian youth late at night after he allegedly attempts to stab several officers at a checkpoint. Later, they raid the youth's home in al-Tur, assaulting residents with pepper spray. On the **Gaza border**, **IDF troops** stationed e. of Khan Yunis open fire on agricultural lands and farmers nr. the border fence, critically injuring 1 Palestinian youth in the area. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 6 areas nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, Nabi Salih, Silwad, Jalazun r.c., and outside Ofer Prison), and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 11 Palestinians are injured, including 2 seriously and 2 journalists. **Israeli soldiers** arrest a Palestinian farmer nr. Jenin; detain and assault several Palestinian farmers nr. Nablus, injuring 1 seriously. The **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Hebron and 1 nr.

Jenin. (MNA 4/24; HA, MNA, REU, TOI, WAFA, YA 4/25; PCHR 4/29)

**IAF jets** conduct strikes on multiple targets, allegedly Hizballah long-range missile storage sites, in and around a Syrian military base nr. the Syria-Lebanon border, causing damage. (HA, JP, YA 4/25)

## 25 APRIL 2015

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and kill a Palestinian man in c. Hebron after he stabs and injures an Israeli soldier. Late at night, the **IDF** raids several homes owned by the man's family in a village nr. Hebron, issuing 2 arrest summons and confiscating property. During the day, **IDF troops** patrol in 1 village nr. Tulkarm and 2 nr. Ramallah. Nr. Qalqilya, 2 Palestinian children are injured in an explosion of suspected unexploded ordnance. Off the coast of **Gaza** nr. Gaza City, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing damage to 2 boats. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli security forces** clash with stone-throwing residents of al-Tur, Silwan, and Issawiyya hours after the killing of a Palestinian at a checkpoint in the area on 4/24; 26 Palestinians are injured by rubber-coated metal bullets, around 50 suffer tear gas inhalation, and 1 Israeli police officer is hurt. Later in al-Tur, a **Palestinian driver** rams a car into a group of Israeli police officers, injuring 3. (They will arrest the man early on 4/26.) **Israeli forces** conduct late-night raids in Silwan and Jabal Mukabir, arresting 2 Palestinians. (HA, MNA, NYT, TOI, WAFA 4/25; MNA, WAFA, YA 4/26; PCHR 4/29)

## 26 APRIL 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Bayt Hanun shoot and injure a Palestinian man nr.

the border fence. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** e. of al-Maghazi r.c. fire smoke bombs into agricultural lands nr. the border fence. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in Jenin, a village nr. Hebron, and Aida r.c. nr. Bethlehem, arresting 2; patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 nr. Hebron, and in al-Fawar r.c. **Israeli troops** also arrest a Palestinian driving in Aida r.c. and clash with stone-throwing Palestinian youth in a village nr. Qalqilya. **Israeli settlers** throw stones at Palestinian homes in Hebron, causing damage but no injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct raids in Jabal Mukabir, Issawiyya, and the Old City, arresting 7 Palestinians. (MNA, WAFA 4/26; PCHR 4/29)

An **IAF** jet attacks 4 unknown assailants attempting to cross the border from **Syria** into the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights to plant explosives; 3 of the assailants are killed. Hours later, several Arab media outlets release unconfirmed reports that the IAF responded to the attempted explosive attack with air strikes on Hizballah and Syrian army missile batteries nr. the border. (AFP, JP, YA 4/26; HA, JP, YA 4/27)

## 27 APRIL 2015

In **Gaza**, a Palestinian man is killed in a tunnel collapse nr. Rafah. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and critically injure a Palestinian youth by the separation wall nr. Jenin. The young man will succumb to his injuries late at night. They also conduct house searches and raids in Tulkarm, 1 village and al-'Azza r.c. nr. Bethlehem, and 1 village nr. Nablus, arresting 6 Palestinians; patrols in 5 villages nr. Jenin, al-'Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Ramallah, Qalqilya, and Tulkarm. Overnight, **Israeli forces** demolish 4 residential structures in the n.

Jordan Valley and a home nr. Jenin; conduct a large drill nr. Tubas that leads to fire damage on 3,000–4,000 dunams of farmland. **Israeli settlers** chop down over 100 almond, grape, and olive trees outside Hebron. **Unknown Palestinians** throw Molotov cocktails at an Israeli settler's car nr. Nablus, injuring 1 and causing damage. In **East Jerusalem**, hundreds of Palestinians gather in al-Tur for the funeral of the Palestinian youth killed by Israeli forces on 4/24, defying the Israeli attempt to restrict the funeral to 70 mourners. Minor clashes break out with Israeli forces, but there are no serious injuries. (The **Israeli authorities** withheld the teen's body until early this morning and they required his family to pay approximately \$5,000 to get it back.) Meanwhile, **Israeli forces** arrest 5 Palestinian women nr. **Haram al-Sharif**. (Wafa 4/26; JP, MNA, Wafa 4/27; HA, MNA, Wafa 4/28; PCHR 4/29)

The **Israeli govt.** invites tenders for the construction of 77 residences in **Israeli settlements** in East Jerusalem—36 in Neve Yaakov and 41 in Pisgat Ze'ev. (AFP, JTA, REU, Wafa 4/27)

**UN Secy.-Gen. Ban** publishes a summary of a report compiled by an official UN board of inquiry on OPE. The board found that the 7 documented attacks on UN schools during Israel's assault on Gaza in 7–8/2014 led to 44 Palestinian deaths and 227 injuries. It also found that 3 UN facilities were used by Palestinian groups for weapons storage. (HA, MNA 4/27; EI 4/28) (See Doc. R2 in *JPS* 176 for more.)

**Iranian FM Zarif** meets with **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** to continue their negotiations over Iran's nuclear program, on the sidelines of a UN nonproliferation conference in New York. (REU 4/27; AP 4/28)

## 28 APRIL 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Khan Yunis fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers nr. the border fence, causing some damage but no injuries. Off the coast nr. al-Sudaniyya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing no injuries. Also off the coast, IAF jets fire flash bombs nr. Palestinian fishing boats. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** demolish a home nr. Ramallah. **IDF troops** clash with stone-throwing Palestinians in c. Hebron and nr. Nablus, causing a number to suffer from tear gas inhalation. The **IDF** also conducts raids in a village nr. Hebron, arresting 9 Palestinians; patrols in and around Tulkarm, as well as 1 village each nr. Hebron and Qalqilya. An **Israeli settler** rams his car into a Palestinian child s. of Hebron, injuring him. Also, **Israeli settlers** damage water pipes leading to Palestinian homes in c. Hebron, causing minor flooding. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli authorities** ban 4 Palestinians from entering **Haram al-Sharif** for varying amounts of time after 3 are arrested in the sanctuary. In **Tel Aviv**, **thousands of Palestinian citizens of Israel** gather in Rabin Square to protest the housing shortage and home demolitions in their communities. Also, Palestinians across Israel conduct a general strike, responding to a call from the **Arab High Follow-Up Comm.** (AFP, HA, JP, MNA, Wafa 4/28; HA, MNA, PCHR 4/29; HA 4/30; PCHR 5/7)

Fired from **Syria**, 2 mortar shells land in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, causing no injuries. The IDF describes them as "spillover" from the Syrian conflict. (HA, MNA, YA 4/28)

In a letter to **EU foreign policy chief Mogherini**, 59 mbrs. of the European parliament call for the release of **PLC mbr. Jarrar**, who was placed in administrative detention by the IDF on 4/2. (Wafa 4/29)

**29 APRIL 2015**

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Hamas police** disperse over 400 Palestinians gathering in Shuja'iyah to protest delays in reconstruction and national disunity, assaulting several and arresting 7. Off the coast nr. Jabaliya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing no injuries. Separately, the **IDF** returns 15 confiscated fishing boats to Palestinians in Gaza. The leader of the **Palestinian fisherman's union** calls on Israel to give back 60 other confiscated boats, and he recognizes that this is the 1st time boats have ever been returned by sea, which is more convenient for fishermen than the usual overland method. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** demolish a sheep barn in a village nr. Nablus; deliver demolition notices for several water wells nr. Hebron. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 1 village each nr. Jenin, Nablus, and Hebron, arresting 4 Palestinians, including an imam; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct raids in Anata, al-Tur, and Ras al-Amud, arresting 6 Palestinians. (AFP, MNA, NYT, WAFA 4/29; TOI, YA 4/30; PCHR 5/7)

**30 APRIL 2015**

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Rafah open fire on agricultural lands nr. the border fence late at night, causing damage. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli troops** detain 3 Palestinian children accused of throwing stones nr. Nablus. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 2 villages nr. Nablus and 1 nr. Tulkarm, arresting 3 Palestinians; patrols in and around Hebron, and 1 village nr. Ramallah. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** violently disperse Palestinian and international activists protesting the closure of a major road in al-Tur; there are no serious injuries. Separately, they arrest 4 Palestinian children on raids in Wadi al-Juz. (PCHR 5/7)

**1 MAY 2015**

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Rafah fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers approaching the border fence, causing no injuries. Off the coast nr. Gaza City, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 6 areas nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, Nabi Salih, Silwad, Jalazun r.c., and outside Ofer Prison), and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 4 Palestinians suffer moderate bullet wounds. The **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 each nr. Jenin and Jericho. Late at night, **Israeli soldiers** conduct house searches and raids in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Hebron, arresting 2 Palestinians, issuing 2 arrest summons, and sparking minor clashes. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** patrol in Wadi al-Juz, sparking minor clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian youth. (MNA 5/1, 5/2; PCHR 5/7)

In an interview with *Haaretz*, **ICC prosecutor Bensouda** says she is considering war crimes investigations into Palestinians and low-ranking Israeli soldiers. Her comments indicate an expanded scope from previous speculation that only high-level Israeli officials would be targeted. However, she repeats that she is still preliminarily examining evidence and that no investigations have been formally opened. (AFP, HA 5/1)

**2 MAY 2015**

In n. **Gaza**, an IQB fighter dies in a tunnel collapse. Also, **Islamic Jihad** announces that 1 of its fighters was killed today during an unspecified "jihadist mission." Off the coast nr.

Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing no damage or injuries. **IDF troops** stationed along the n. border arrest a Palestinian attempting to cross into Israel; open fire on agricultural areas along the border fence. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse journalists gathering in Bethlehem for a nonviolent march commemorating World Press Freedom Day; several are lightly injured with stun grenades and tear gas. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in and around Hebron, arresting 1 Palestinian; patrols in Tulkarm, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 each nr. Hebron and Qalqilya. A **Palestinian youth** attempts to stab an **IDF soldier** at a checkpoint nr. Hebron, and he is arrested. (JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 5/2; PCHR 5/7)

**Senior Fatah official Amin Maqboul** says that the party has decided to alter the composition of the PA cabinet, swapping up to 6 portfolios. A new minister of the economy is set to be appointed following the resignation of former minister Mustafa. (MNA 5/3)

### 3 MAY 2015

In the **Gaza Strip**, an explosive device goes off in the Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City late at night. **IDF troops** stationed e. of the Gaza Valley arrest 2 Palestinian youth as they attempt to cross into Israel. They order the 2 young men to take off their clothes and will question them at a military site before releasing them on 5/4. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts drills nr. Nablus, causing damage to agricultural land with live ammunition; patrols in 1 village and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, Tulkarm, and 1 village nearby. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinians on a late-night raid in Issawiyya. (MNA, WAFA 5/3)

### 4 MAY 2015

In **Gaza**, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion e. of Jabaliya to level land. **IDF troops** stationed nr. Rafah arrest 3 Palestinians attempting to cross the border into Israel. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing no damage or injuries. A small armed group, with self-proclaimed affiliations to **ISIS**, posts a statement online threatening to “act” against Hamas if certain prisoners are not freed within 72 hours. Hours later, a bomb explodes on the perimeter of Hamas’s security headquarters in Gaza City. The group does not take credit for the bombing, but Hamas police proceed to arrest dozens of the group’s mbrs. and destroy a makeshift mosque-headquarters in Dayr al-Balah. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** set up 12 mobile homes early in the morning on 650 dunams of previously leveled land outside a Palestinian village nr. Bethlehem. Meanwhile, the **IDF** conducts drills in the n. Jordan Valley, causing fire damage on large tracts of agricultural land; patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 each nr. Nablus, Qalqilya, and Jericho. **Israeli forces** also conduct house searches and late-night raids in and around Nablus, Jenin, and 1 village nr. Ramallah, arresting 18 Palestinians and confiscating some of their property. A Palestinian throws a Molotov cocktail at a bus of **Israeli settlers** nr. Nablus, then the **IDF** imposes a curfew on a nearby village. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli security guards** shoot and injure a Palestinian man at a Light Rail station nr. the French Hill settlement, after reportedly mistaking his belt buckle for a knife. (AFP, HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 5/4; AP, MNA 5/5; JP 5/7)

**Israel’s High Court of Justice** approves COGAT’s request to demolish a number of tents and homes in a Palestinian village nr.

Hebron. Approximately 450 Palestinians will be displaced. (MNA 5/4; JP 5/5)

**Israeli FM Avigdor Lieberman** resigns as FM and says his Yisrael Beytenu party will not be joining the ruling coalition of **PM Netanyahu's** next govt. He says that he chose "principles and not portfolios," and that "what's being built is not a national camp, but a govt. that smacks of opportunism." Netanyahu's deadline for forming a coalition is 5/6. (HA, JP, YA 5/4)

Mortar rounds fired from inside **Syria** hit a **UN Disengagement Observer Force** base in the **Israeli-occupied Golan Heights**, injuring 2 international peacekeepers. The IDF says that the fire was not deliberately aimed across the Israeli border. (AFP, REU, TOI 5/4)

## 5 MAY 2015

In the **West Bank**, hundreds of **Israeli settlers** gather nr. Nablus to protest recent attacks by Palestinians, including on 5/4. Late at night, **Israeli settlers** attempt to assault a Palestinian truck driver nr. Nablus, but he escapes. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** assault a PA security officer during a raid in a village nr. Nablus. The **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in 4 villages nr. Hebron and 1 nr. Ramallah, arresting 6 Palestinians; patrols nr. Ramallah and in a village nr. Hebron. They also clash with stone-throwing Palestinians on raids in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli police detain and assault 3 Palestinian women in **Haram al-Sharif** as a group of right-wing Jewish activists tour the sanctuary. Later, **Israeli forces** assault a Palestinian man nr. the Old City. (MNA 5/5; AFP, MNA 5/6; PCHR 5/7)

**Israel's Supreme Court** rejects a petition to abort the state's plans to demolish a bedouin village in the Negev and replace it with a new Jewish town. The bedouin residents of Umm

al-Hiran filed the petition in 11/2013. Around 1,000 bedouins will be relocated when the evictions begin; they plan to appeal the decision. (HA 5/6; NYT 5/16)

A **PLO delegation** meets with Syrian dep. FM Mekdad and other Syrian officials to discuss humanitarian efforts in **Yarmouk r.c.** It is the 2d PLO delegation to travel to Syria for such talks since ISIS fighters entered the camp on 4/1. (AFP 5/5)

**Palestinian prisoner Khader Adnan** launches a hunger strike to demand an end to his administrative detention by Israel. He was arrested on 7/8/2014 and administratively detained for the 10th time in his life. In 2012, he led a high-profile hunger strike in protest of administrative detentions. (MNA 5/14)

## 6 MAY 2015

In **Gaza**, 2 Palestinian children are injured when a piece of **unexploded Israeli ordnance** detonates in e. Gaza City. Off the coast nr. Jabaliya and then nr. Khan Yunis and Dayr al-Balah, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing damage but no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** raze lands and destroy crops in a village nr. Hebron. The IDF conducts late-night raids and house searches in 1 village and al-ʿArub r.c. nr. Hebron, al-Fara'a r.c. nr. Tubas, and Qalqilya, arresting 4 Palestinians; clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian youth in al-Fara'a r.c., injuring 1 Palestinian with live ammunition. In **East Jerusalem**, 20 **Israeli settlers** accompanied by Israeli forces move into 3-residence building in Silwan overnight. (HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA 5/6; PCHR, WAFA 5/7; PCHR 5/14)

Ahead of his midnight deadline, **Israeli PM Netanyahu** announces the formation of a new 61-seat ruling coalition. With hours to go, he signs a coalition deal with the **Jewish Home**

Party, led by Naftali Bennett. (HA, JP, NYT, TOI, YA 5/7) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 for details.)

An **Egyptian court** rejects a lawsuit calling for **Hamas** mbrs. to be banned from entering Egypt. The court's ruling notes that the suit did not give sufficient grounds for such a call. (CP 5/6)

## 7 MAY 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Dayr al-Balah fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers approaching the border fence, causing no injuries. Off the coast nr. Dayr al-Balah, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, damaging 1. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** detain a Palestinian singer while he is shooting a music video at a checkpoint nr. Nablus; patrol in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Ramallah. Overnight, **Israeli forces** demolish a power network in a village nr. Hebron, sparking minor clashes with youth in the area. They also demolish an auto repair shop in a village nr. Bethlehem; set up explosive mines and barbed wire around a water source nr. Hebron. Later, **Israeli forces** confiscate a Palestinian man's car nr. Salfit after detaining him for 3 hours. **Israeli settlers** throw stones at a senior PA official's car nr. Nablus, causing damage. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** deliver demolition orders to 3 Palestinian homes. Light Rail guards assault a Palestinian woman. (MNA, Wafa 5/7; MNA 5/9; PCHR 5/14)

Hours after **Israeli PM Netanyahu** announced the new ruling coalition on 5/6, Jerusalem municipal authorities approve construction of 900 new homes in the Ramat Shlomo neighborhood of **East Jerusalem**. **U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Jeff Rathke** says that the **Obama admin.** is "disappointed" and "concerned" with the announcement. The

**White House**, however, releases a statement congratulating Netanyahu on forming a new govt. Meanwhile, **EU amb. to Israel Faaborg-Andersen** says there is a growing frustration within the EU about the lack of progress between Israel and the Palestinians. (AFP, HA, JP, MNA, Wafa, YA 5/7; AP 5/8; TOI 5/9)

An **EU observer delegation** arrives in Gaza to monitor the Rafah border crossing. (MNA 5/7)

The **U.S. Senate** passes the **Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act** by a vote of 98–1. The bill, which will allow Congress to review and either approve or disapprove of any final agreement made between the P5+1 and Iran, now goes to the House for consideration. **AIPAC** and other major pro-Israel groups laud its passage. (JP, TOI 5/7; TOI 5/8) (See the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176 as well as H.R. 1191 and S. 615 at <http://congressionalmonitor.org> for more.)

## 8 MAY 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Bayt Lahiya fire warning shots at Palestinians walking nr. the border fence, critically injuring 1. Off the coast nr. Gaza City and then nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, injuring 2 fishermen and causing damage. A small armed group, with self-proclaimed affiliations to **ISIS**, fires mortar rounds at a **Hamas** military base; no injuries are reported. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 6 areas nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, Nabi Salih, Silwad, Jalazun r.c., and outside Ofer Prison), and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 9 Palestinians are injured, including 3 photojournalists. The **IDF** also searches a home in a village nr. Hebron late at

night, issuing a summons to a Palestinian; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin, 4 nr. Ramallah, 3 nr. Hebron, and 1 each nr. Tulkarm and Jericho. **Israeli settlers** cut the branches off 3 olive trees nr. Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** enter Silwan and Issawiyya, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian youth; the Israeli soldiers respond with stun grenades and rubber-coated metal bullets. (AFP, JP, MNA, TOI 5/8; MNA 5/9; PCHR 5/14)

### 9 MAY 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Bayt Lahiya open fire on 3 Palestinian farmers nr. the border fence, injuring all 3, including 1 seriously. Twice during the day, **IDF troops** e. of Khan Yunis open fire on agricultural lands nr. the border fence, causing no injuries. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on a Palestinian fishing boat, injuring 2 fishermen; they arrest them and confiscate their boat. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and raids in Hebron, arresting 2 Palestinians affiliated with **Hamas**. They also arrest 2 Palestinians and issue an arrest summons to a 3d on raids in 2 villages nr. Ramallah; patrol in 1 village nr. Qalqilya. **Israeli settlers** assault a Palestinian woman and her children in c. Hebron. (MNA 5/10; PCHR 5/14)

**PLO Exec. Comm. mbr. Majdalani** says that the **Yarmouk r.c.** outside Damascus has returned to relative calm, though “the situation inside the camp is deteriorating and miserable, conditions are difficult by all accounts.” (MNA 5/9)

### 10 MAY 2015

Off the coast of **Gaza** nr. al-Sudaniyya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing no damage or injuries. In the

**West Bank**, **IDF troops** conduct late-night house searches and raids in Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Qalqilya, arresting 6 Palestinians and issuing 3 arrest summons; patrol during the day in and around Tulkarm, 3 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 village and ‘Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho, and 3 villages and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron. They also demolish a Palestinian’s tomb nr. Nablus and confiscate the stones it was built with. **Israeli settlers** bulldoze Palestinian lands nr. Salfit. (MNA, WAFA 5/10; WAFA 5/11; PCHR 5/14)

An **Israeli court** rules that 8 buildings in **East Jerusalem** must be evacuated and demolished, claiming that the properties are not owned by the Palestinian residents; imposes a NIS 49,000 (\$12,650) fine on the residents. A hearing for the case was held on 5/8. (MNA, WAFA 5/11)

### 11 MAY 2015

In **Gaza**, unknown assailants on the Egyptian side of the border shoot and injure a Palestinian driver at the Kerem Shalom border crossing. **IDF troops** on the Gaza border e. of Gaza City open fire on Palestinian lands nr. the border fence, then they enter Gaza and arrest a Palestinian attempting to cross into Israel. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats on 2 occasions, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** on patrols in villages nr. Hebron and Jenin clash with stone-throwing Palestinian youth; 1 Palestinian is injured. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and raids in 1 village each nr. Qalqilya, Jenin, Ramallah, and Hebron, arresting 3 Palestinians and issuing arrest summons to 3; patrols in and Tulkarm, and 2 villages nr. Ramallah. A Palestinian man stabs an **Israeli settler** nr. a settlement e. of Jerusalem, causing moderate injuries. (AFP, HA, JP, MNA 5/11; PCHR 5/14)

**Israel's Defense Ministry** announces that it has signed a contract to purchase 4 new warships from **Germany**. They will be deployed over the next 5 years to defend Israel's offshore natural gas drilling platforms. (HA, YA 5/11)

**Israel's High Court of Justice** rejects a petition calling for the planned route of the upcoming Jerusalem Day parade on 5/17 to be changed to avoid the Muslim Quarter of the Old City. The court calls on the police to arrest any parade participants who shout racist slogans in that area. (HA 5/11; YA 5/12)

### 12 MAY 2015

In **Gaza**, Hamas-hired civil servants in all ministries except schools go on strike, protesting unpaid wages and particularly the PA unity govt.'s recent "recklessness" on the issue, according to a statement issued by a comm. representing the workers. In the **West Bank**, armed Palestinians open fire on PA presidential guards nr. Balata r.c. nr. Nablus, causing no injuries. **IDF troops** arrest 1 Palestinian on a late-night raid in a village nr. Ramallah and another Palestinian in c. Hebron accused of an attempted stabbing; patrol in another village nr. Ramallah. **Israeli forces** demolish 2 buildings in an Israeli settlement nr. Jerusalem after Israeli authorities determine they were built illegally; deliver 2 demolition notices for residential tents under construction nr. Hebron; demolish a wall in a village nr. Ramallah. In **Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish a mosque under construction in a bedouin village nr. Beersheba. (MNA, TOI 5/12; MNA 5/13; PCHR 5/14)

**EU envoy to the Palestinian territories John Gatt-Rutter** says that the EU is working to restart negotiations between **Israel** and the **Palestinians**. (MNA 5/12)

**P5+1** and **Iranian negotiators** meet in Vienna for 4-day negotiations on Iran's nuclear

program. They will be joined by U.S. reps. on 5/13 to continue drafting the main text of a comprehensive, final deal ahead of the 6/30 deadline. (REU 5/5; AFP 5/11; HA 5/12)

**Egyptian pres. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** says that at least 80% of the tunnels between Gaza and Sinai have been destroyed and that the buffer zone being constructed along the border with Gaza has been expanded to 3 km in some places since construction began in 10/2014. (MNA 5/12; TOI 5/13)

### 13 MAY 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Jabaliya open fire on agricultural areas nr. the border fence, causing no damage or injuries. Off the coast nr. Rafah, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing no damage. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli authorities** order the demolition of an electricity grid nr. Nablus. **Israeli forces** deliver demolition orders to a Palestinian agricultural structure and 3 homes nr. Bethlehem; block off all entrances to a nearby village. **IDF troops** confront a group of 4 Palestinians nr. Nablus, assaulting them and arresting 1. The **IDF** conducts late-night raids and house searches in Tulkarm, Hebron, 1 village each nr. Nablus and Tubas, and 2 nr. Bethlehem, arresting 10 Palestinians and issuing an arrest summons to 1; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 each nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah. Meanwhile, thousands of Palestinians march through the streets of Ramallah commemorating the 67th anniversary of the Nakba. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct house searches and raids in al-Ram, arresting 1 Palestinian. (MNA, WAFA 5/13; PCHR 5/14; PCHR 5/21)

**ICC prosecutor Bensouda** says that she has not been provided any official information from either the **Palestinians** or **Israel** relating to Israel's assault on the Gaza Strip in 7–8/2014,

and that, unless that changes, her decision to launch a full investigation will be based on publicly available materials. (AP, JP 5/13)

**Israeli PM Netanyahu's** new govt. presents a document to the Knesset outlining the basic principles binding its ruling coalition. In language similar to that used for the 2009 and 2013 govts., it says that the govt. will work toward a peace agreement with the Palestinians, but it does not specify a 2-state solution. It also notes that "if an agreement of this kind is reached [with the Palestinians], it will be brought for the approval of the cabinet and Knesset, and if necessary, a national referendum as well." (AFP, HA 5/13)

In an interview published today, **U.S. Pres. Obama** says that the U.S. is "taking a hard look" at its positions regarding the **Israeli-Palestinian conflict**, and that the Palestinians "deserve an end to the occupation and the daily indignities that come with it." Obama is hosting several leaders of the GCC countries at a summit in Washington today to discuss regional issues. (AWS, HA, REU 5/13)

The head of the **Palestinian Power and Natural Resources Authority Omar Kittanah** announces that the PA cabinet has approved an initiative to connect the **electricity grid** in the West Bank to **Jordan**. The PA will begin looking for funding for the project, which is estimated to cost \$100 m. It is part of a regional, 3-year initiative to connect the grids of Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, and the oPt. (MNA 5/13)

The **Vatican** announces that it has concluded a treaty that will recognize the **state of Palestine**. (AP, NYT 5/13)

## 14 MAY 2015

In **Gaza**, over 70 Palestinians are injured when police accidentally detonate an

unexploded Israeli rocket in Gaza City. Off the coast nr. Jabaliya, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** clash with Palestinians in a village nr. Ramallah, shooting 3 youths with live ammunition; clash with Palestinians in a village s. of Bethlehem, causing several to suffer from tear gas inhalation. **Israeli settlers** throw stones at Palestinian vehicles nr. Nablus and Bethlehem, causing damage. Late at night, **IDF troops** clash with stone-throwing Palestinian youth in e. Nablus, injuring 19 with live ammunition, rubber-coated metal bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades. The **IDF** raids a barber shop in 'Askar r.c. nr. Nablus and a home nr. Jenin, arresting 1 Palestinian and issuing arrest summons to 2; patrols in and around Jenin, 3 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 each nr. Ramallah and Qalqilya. A Palestinian driver rams his car into 3 Israeli teenagers on a road nr. Bethlehem, injuring all 3; the **IDF** arrests the man an hour later. (HA, JP, MNA, NYT, WAFA 5/14; AFP, MNA 5/15; PCHR 5/21)

**Senior PLO official Wasel Abu Yousef** says that the **Palestinians** will not enter a new round of peace negotiations with **Israel** unless a deadline for the occupation is set. Meanwhile, in Tunisia, **PA Pres. Abbas** says that the Palestinians welcome the **French** efforts to resume Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations and have the **UNSC** pass a corresponding res. (JP, TOI 5/14; JP 5/15)

**Israel's Housing Ministry** issues tenders for the construction of 85 new residences in the Givat Ze'ev settlement, n. of Jerusalem, and 1,500 new hotel rooms in the Jabal Mukabir neighborhood of East Jerusalem. Later, **UN Secy.-Gen. Ban** "strongly deploras" the new settlement announcements over the

past 3 weeks. (AFP, HA, WAFA 5/14; AP, TOI 5/15)

The **U.S. House of Representatives** passes the **Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act** by a vote of 400–25. (It passed in the Senate on 5/7.) The bill now goes to Pres. Obama, and White House spokesperson Josh Earnest says that he intends to sign it into law. (See S. 615 and H.R. 1191 at <http://congressionalmonitor.org> and the quarterly Update in *JPS* 176.) Meanwhile, **Israeli govt. sources** say the govt. will be willing to accept a nuclear deal with Iran in exchange for compensation in other areas from the U.S. (AP, JP, TOI, YA 5/15)

#### 15 MAY 2015

**IDF troops** on the **Gaza border** e. of Gaza City and e. of Khan Yunis open fire with live ammunition on Palestinians nonviolently commemorating Nakba Day nr. the border fence, injuring 3. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters at Nakba Day demonstrations in 5 areas nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Niflin, Nabi Salih, Silwad, and Jalazun r.c.), and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 9 are injured. The **IDF** also clashes with Palestinians commemorating Nakba Day outside Ofer Prison nr. Ramallah and in Nablus; 17 Palestinians are injured by live ammunition and rubber-coated metal bullets. **IDF troops** conduct a late-night house search in a village nr. Hebron, arresting 1 Palestinian; detain 52 Palestinians nr. Ramallah who are trying to cross into Israel to work. They patrol in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and al-Bireh, and 1 nr. Jericho. (MNA, TOI 5/15; MNA 5/16; PCHR 5/21)

**Reps. of the P5+1 and Iran** conclude a round of talks in Vienna on Iran's nuclear program ahead of their 6/30 deadline for a

comprehensive final deal. They will continue their negotiations next week. (REU 5/15)

#### CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

Adalah	Adalah, Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel
AFP	Agence France-Presse
AHR	<i>al-Ahram</i>
AJ	Al Jazeera
AJD	al-Araby al-Jadeed
ALM	Al-Monitor
AM	<i>Atlantic</i>
AnA	Anadolu Agency
AP	Associated Press
AWS	<i>Asharq al-Awsat</i>
BB	<i>Bloomberg Businessweek</i>
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CP	<i>Cairo Post</i>
DPA	Deutsche-Presse Agentur
EN	<i>Egypt Independent</i>
EI	Electronic Intifada
FT	<i>Financial Times</i>
GDN	<i>Guardian</i>
HA	<i>Haaretz</i>
HI	<i>The Hill</i>
IMEMC	International Middle East Media Center
JP	<i>Jerusalem Post</i>
JTA	Jewish Telegraphic Agency
MDW	<i>Mondoweiss</i>
MEE	Middle East Eye
MEMO	Middle East Monitor
MNA	Ma'an News Agency
NBC	National Broadcasting Company
NYT	<i>New York Times</i>
PCHR	Palestinian Center for Human Rights

PNN Palestine News Network  
POL *Politico*  
REU Reuters  
RT RT News

TOI *Times of Israel*  
Wafa Palestine News Agency  
WSJ *Wall Street Journal*  
YA *Yedioth Ahronoth*