CHRONOLOGY

16 NOVEMBER 2000–15 FEBRUARY 2001

This section is part sixty-nine of a chronology begun in JPS 23, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time. For more detail on events related to the peace process, see the Peace Monitor in this issue.

16 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes enter their 50th day, with the internal closure on Palestinian towns in the West Bank still in place. Israeli PM Ehud Barak tells Israelis to prepare for a protracted conflict, threatens to escalate actions against Palestinians. To pressure the Palestinian Authority (PA), Barak suspends plans to transfer $64 m. in taxes and customs duties owed the PA to cover salaries and regular expenses. Overnight, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) shell Fatah offices in Hebron, Jinin. During the day, IDF troops fatally shoot 4 Palestinians, fire on a Palestinian police station. 1 of the 4 Palestinians dies while the IDF blocks an ambulance crew fr. reaching him for 2 hrs. Inside Israel, Israeli Arabs clash with Israeli police officers nr. Saknin, leaving 1 demonstrator slightly injured. IDF West Bank cmdr. Brig. Gen. Benjamin Gantz warns that he “could probably wipe out Bayt Jala in a matter of hrs.” Jewish settlers uproot a Palestinian olive grove nr. Ramallah. During the day, IDF shells various Palestinian villages in the West Bank; blocks, digs trenches ... Palestinian agricultural land along roads, especially in Gaza and nr. Tura in the West Bank. The IDF also demolishes 2 Palestinian brick factories in Gaza. Jewish settlers stone Palestinian cars on the Ramallah–Nablus road. (LAW 11/18; PCHR, NYT, WT 11/19; AIC, MEZ 11/20)

18 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. In Gaza, a PA policeman opens fire on an IDF post outside a Jewish settlement, killing 1 IDF soldier, wounding 2, before being shot dead. In Khan Yunis camp, an explosion at a IDF building injures 4 Force 17 members; Israeli police officers nr. Sakhnin, leaving dead. In Khan Yunis, an explosion at a IDF building injures 4 Force 17 mbrs.; Israeli police officers nr. Sakhnin, leaving dead. In Khan Yunis camp, an explosion at an IDF building injures 4 Force 17 members; Israeli police officers nr. Sakhnin, leaving dead. In Khan Yunis camp, an explosion at a IDF building injures 4 Force 17 members; Israeli police officers nr. Sakhnin, leaving dead. In Khan Yunis camp, an explosion at an IDF building injures 4 Force 17 members; Israeli police officers nr. Sakhnin, leaving dead. In Khan Yunis camp, an explosion at an IDF building injures 4 Force 17 members; Israeli police officers nr. Sakhnin, leaving dead. In Khan Yunis camp, an explosion at a IDF building injures 4 Force 17 members; Israeli police officers nr. Sakhnin, leaving dead.

19 NOVEMBER

With the reinforced closure on Palestinian villages, Israeli-Palestinian clashes abate significantly, although 1 Palestinian is killed. Israel decides not to retaliate for the death of a soldier in Gaza on 11/18. The IDF reinforces barricades and digs trenches across roads at the entrances to al-Bireh, Hebron, Jinin; reinforces hilltop outposts surrounding Bethlehem, Hebron, Jinin, al-Khadr, Nablus, Qalqilya. Armed Jewish settlers chase off Palestinians harvesting their olive groves nr. Tubas. Other settlers uproot Palestinian-owned olive trees nr. Kedumim.

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settlement; open fire on Palestinian cars nr. Nablus, injuring 1. (LAW 11/19; ADM, AIC, NYT, WP, WT 11/20)

In Jordan, an Israeli emb. official is shot, wounded in an apparent assassination attempt. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/20; Tehran Times 11/21 in WNC 11/22; WP 12/6; AFP 12/6 in WNC 12/8)

Lebanese protesters throw stones at IDF troops across the blue line, the UN nonborder separating the 2 countries. IDF troops fire back, injuring 1 protestor. (NYT 11/20; MEI 11/24)

Antinormalization Comm. of the Union of Professional Associations in Jordan releases its blacklist of 22 Jordanian individuals, companies that have advocated normalization with Israel; urges Jordanians to boycott them. (AP 11/19; NYT 11/22; WJW 11/25; MEI 11/22) (see Peace Monitor)

20 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes intensify when Palestinians detonate a large roadside bomb nr. Gaza’s Kefar Darom settlement as an armed school bus escorted by IDF troops passes. 2 Jewish settlers, both adults, are killed and 9 are wounded, including children. Although Arafat denounces the bombing, Barak blames Arafat and Fatah directly, convenes his security cabinet, and orders IDF helicopter gunships, naval vessels to shell at least 12 buildings in Gaza City (including Arafat’s Fatah and PA headquarters. PA Preventive Security Force (PSF) offices, Force 17 offices, Voice of Palestine Radio, a Palestinian TV station), killing 2 Palestinians, injuring 125, hitting 4 private homes, and cutting power to areas of the city. Other helicopter gunships target areas nr. Rafah. Nr. Kefar Darom and in Ramallah, the IDF razes 10s of dunums of Palestinian orchards along the roads so Palestinians will have “no place to hide.” A 3d Palestinian is shot dead by the IDF in the West Bank. Jewish settlers fire on Palestinians harvesting an olive grove nr. Salfit, injuring several Palestinians; uproot an olive grove nr. Qalqilya; fire on Palestinian cars nr. Jinin, injuring 1. (ADM, HA, LAW, MEZ, MM 11/20; RMC 11/20 in WNC 11/21; HA, MEZ, NYT, WP, WT 11/21; Interfax, MA, XIN 11/21 in WNC 11/22; HJ 11/21, AYM 11/22 in WNC 11/24; NYT, WP 11/22; MEI, MM 11/24; AYM 11/24 in WNC 11/29)

The State Dept. for the 1st time since 9/28 states that “Israelis also need to understand that the excessive use of force is not the right way to go.” Special envoy Ross postpones a visit to the region set to begin today. (NYT, WP, WT 11/21; MM 11/22)

Following the Kefar Darom attack, Shas declares it will not renew Barak’s “safety net,” which it agreed to provide until the end of 11/00. With Shas’s support, Barak has survived no-confidence motions since the Knesset reconvened on 10/30. (AFP [Internet] 11/20) (see 11/13)

21 NOVEMBER


Israel informs the U.S. it will delay the start of the Mitchell Comm.’s investigation into the causes of the al-Aqsa intifada because “the timing is wrong.” (MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/22; ATL 11/22 in WNC 11/24; MEI 11/24; WJW 11/30) (see Peace Monitor)

22 NOVEMBER

Israel-Palestinian clashes intensify, leaving 9 Palestinians dead, including senior Fatah official Jamal ‘Abd al-Razik, whose car is ambushed and strafed by IDF troops. Hrs. later, a remote-controlled car bomb explodes during rush hr. in Hadera,
Israel, killing 2 Israelis, injuring 60. Although Arafat denounces the bombing, Barak blames the PA, vows Israel will “get even,” convenes his security cabinet to discuss how to respond; the cabinet recesses without taking a decision. The IDF sends more tanks into Gaza; dismantles the vegetable market in Hebron; bulldozes Palestinian land in Bayt Lahia, Dayr al-Balah, Hebron, Nabuls; demolishes several homes nr. Kefar Darom, Gush Katif; takes over a home in Aja for use as a new base. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire on residential areas of al-Bireh, Rafah (destroying 1 home, damaging 2). Jewish settlers bulldoze Palestinian land and set fire to 2 factories in Tura al-Sharqiyya; bulldoze land nr. Qalqiliya, Salfit; fire on Palestinians nr. Jinin; attack Palestinians in Bayt Ilo, Bayt Rimia, Dayr ‘Amar, Qalqiliya. The PSF successfully removes explosive devices found in schools in Balata camp, Nabuls. (ADM, LAW, MEZ, MM 11/22; AFP 11/22 in WNC 11/24; MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/23; NYT, WP 11/24; MA, al-Quds 11/24 in WNC 11/29; Independent [Internet], JP 12/7; PCHR 12/18; WJW 12/28)

In response to the Hadera bombing, 10,000s of Israelis attend a “Let the Army Win!” rally in Jerusalem’s Zion Square, calling for revenge attacks on Palestinian targets, tougher military action against the Palestinians. (AFP [Internet] 11/22; MM, NYT, WP 11/23; MEI 11/24; WP 11/27; MM 11/28)

At an emergency session of the UN Security Council (UNSC) in New York, Egyptian, Palestinian envoys call for international protection for the Palestinians. The U.S. says the emergency session, the call for international observers are inappropriate, unhelpful. (MM 11/22; JT, XIN 11/22, MENA 11/23 in WNC 11/24; MM 11/30)

The UN Economic and Social Council adopts (21-19 with 11 abstentions) a resolution by the UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) ordering an investigation of Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights during the recent clashes. (MM 11/30)

23 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving at least 2 Palestinians dead, including Hamas mbr. Ibrahim Bani Odeh, who dies when a car bomb rigged by the IDF explodes in Nabuls. The 2d Palestinian is shot dead by the IDF in Gaza after a roadside bomb detonates nr. an IDF patrol. Palestinian gunmen open fire on an IDF post in Gaza, killing 1 IDF soldier. A 2d IDF soldier is killed when a bomb explodes at a District Coordination Office (DCO) in Gaza, where PA-Israeli joint patrols are based. The IDF shells residential areas nr. Rafah border terminal, destroying 1 Palestinian home. (LAW 11/23; LAW, NYT, WP, WT 11/24; HA 12/1; WJW 12/28)

Barak’s security cabinet continues discussions on how to respond to the 11/22 Hadera bombing, rejects a list of Palestinian targets for retaliatory strikes, arguing that air strikes have had little deterrent effect on the Palestinians while damaging Israel’s public image, that Israel should switch to “precision operations against specific targets.” Following the DCO bombing today, Israel evicts PSF officers fr. all DCOS, officially severing all security coordination. Later, however, senior PA and Israeli security officials meet at Erez to discuss ways of halting further escalation of violence. (MM 11/23; MENA 11/23 in WNC 11/24; MA [Internet], NYT, WP, WT, YA 11/24; al-Quds 11/26 in WNC 11/29)

24 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 5 Palestinian dead, including senior Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) mbr. Firas Qasim Saba’na, who is assassinated by IDF troops in Jinin. A 6th Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. In Gaza, clashes erupt when the IDF attempts to remove a roadblock outside Khan Yunis. When the IDF responds to stone throwers with heavy weapons, PA police and Palestinian gunmen fire back, killing 1 IDF soldier. The IDF also shells a Palestinian hotel in Bethlehem “to flush out unhelpful.” Palestinian gunmen fatally shoot a Jewish settler in the West Bank. The IDF bulldozes 18 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Kefar Darom settlement, 35 dunams nr. Netzarim settlement. For the 7th straight wk., Israel bars Palestinians under 45 fr. attending Friday prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque. The IDF says that since 11/22, it has arrested 119 West Bank Palestinians suspected of throwing stones, Molotov cocktails. (AP, LAW 11/24; LAW, NYT, WP, WT 11/25; IsraelWire [Internet] 11/26; PCHR 12/18)

Arafat and Barak agree to resume security coordination during a 3-way phone conversation arranged by Russian pres. Vladimir Putin. Arafat, who is in Moscow on a 1-day visit to meet with Putin, suggests Russia convene a Madrid-style international conference on the peace process, but Barak
rejects the idea. (Interfax, ITAR-TASS 11/24, ITAR-TASS 11/25, HJ, SA 11/26 in WNC 11/29; NYT, REU, WP, WT 11/25; AFP [Internet], MA [Internet] 11/26)

This evening, senior PA and Israeli security officials hold more coordination talks, agree to allow PSF officers back into DCOs. (AYM 11/24, HJ 11/26 in WNC 11/29)

25 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 4 Palestinians dead. In Gaza, IDF shells hit 2 ambulances, wounding 2 Palestinian Health Min. employees. The IDF bulldozes farm land nr. Hebron and directs tank, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas of Aida camp, Bayt Hanun, Bayt Lahia (damaging 5 Palestinian homes, a water pump), Bir al-Hummus, Jinin, Khan Yunis, Sudanhyya, Yatta. Jewish settlers severely beat an ambulance driver nr. Nablus, assault Palestinians in 6 villages in the Nablus area. Overnight, the IDF captures an armed Palestinian crossing into the West Bank fr. Jordan. Israel allows PSF officers to return to DCOs but complains that they are not actively coordinating. In Gaza, Arafat meets with Israeli tourism M Amnon Shahak to discuss security cooperation. (ADM, LAW 11/25; LAW, NYT, WP, WT 11/26; MA 11/26 in WNC 11/29; NYT, WP, YA 11/27; HJ 11/27 in WNC 11/29; WP 11/28)

26 NOVEMBER

After 19 days of recounting votes, Florida certifies Texas gov. George W. Bush as winner of the 11/7 presidential election in the state, giving him the electoral college votes to become president. Lawyers for Democratic rival VP Al Gore plan to challenge the Florida certification, which will drag out the process for at least a wk. (NYT, WP, WT 11/27; MEI 12/22)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. Nr. Qalqilya, IDF snipers fatally shoot 4 Palestinians (each hit 4–11 times). A 5th Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. The IDF shells residential areas in Khan Yunis, damaging 1 home. The IDF also bulldozes 10s of dunams of Palestinian land nr. Dugit settlement, Kefar Darom settlement, Kissufim crossing (destroying 1 home, damaging another), Netzarim Junction, Rafah crossing (destroying 4 storerooms, 6 irrigation systems, 1 well serving 50 families). (LAW 11/26; LAW, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 11/27; PCHR 12/18)

In Cairo, PA, Israeli security officials hold mtgs. on halting the clashes. (YA 11/27)

Hizballah detonates a roadside bomb nr. an IDF convoy in the Shaba’ Farms area of the Golan Heights, killing 1 soldier, injuring 2. Israel responds with air strikes, artillery and machine-gun fire on Hizballah targets in s. Lebanon, wounding 1 Lebanese civilian. (IDF Radio [Internet] 11/26; MM, NYT, WP, WT, YA 11/27; MM 11/28; MEI 12/8)

27 NOVEMBER

On this 1st day of Ramadan, Israeli-Palestinian clashes abate; 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. The PA announces it has arrested 2 Hamas mbrs., in connection with the 11/22 Hadera car bombing. In response, Israel eases restrictions on the passage of goods, fuel through Qarni crossing. The IDF opens heavy machine-gun fire on Bayt Jala in response to Palestinian sniping directed at the neighboring Jewish settlement of Gilo. IDF tanks fire on residential areas of Aida, Bayt Jala, Hebron. Jewish settlers bulldoze 40 dunams of Palestinian crop land nr. Khan Yunis. The IDF bulldozes 68 dunams of land, including 2 homes, nr. Netzarim Junction. (PCHR 11/27; LAW, MA [Internet], WP, WT 11/28; AYM 11/28 in WNC 11/29; PCHR 12/18)

The IDF completes an inquiry into the fatal shooting of 12-yr.-old Muhammad al-Dura in Gaza on 9/30, concluding that it was “quite plausible” that he was killed by PA gunfire. The PA, the France 2 cameraman who taped the incident reject the report. (NYT, WP, WT 11/28; AYM 11/28 in WNC 12/1; WJW 11/30; MM 12/8)

28 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue to abate, though 2 Palestinians are killed and a 3d Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. To mark Ramadan, Israel partially reopens Rafah crossing, says it will transfer some of the money owed the PA. In Gaza, 2 roadside bombs explode nr. IDF patrols, causing no injuries; after 1 explosion, IDF soldiers open fire on nearby Palestinians, injuring 15. The IDF shells residential areas of Aida, Bayt Jala, Hebron, Khan Yunis, and Rafah, injuring 30 Palestinians; bulldozes around 150 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Gush Katif settlement, Khan Yunis, Kissufim crossing, and Qarni crossing in Gaza, leveling a total of 8 homes, an irrigation network. Jewish settlers set fire to

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Palestinian crop land nr. Jinin, fire on a PSF post nr. the bypass road to Keddumim settlement. (HA, LAW; MM 11/28; MENA 11/28 in WNC 11/29; JP [Internet], PCHR, WP 11/29; Hj, al-Quds 11/29 in WNC 12/1; WJW 11/30)

The Knesset convenes to vote on 5 no-confidence motions. Expecting to lose the votes given the expiration of Shas’s safety net. Barak opens by announcing his willingness to hold new elections as early as spring 2001. MKs overwhelmingly approve the motions. (AFP [Internet], MM 11/28; MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/29; WJW 11/30; JT 11/30 in WNC 12/1; AYM, al-Quds 11/30 in WNC 12/7; WJW 12/7; MEI 12/8) (see 11/20)

29 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, killing at least 4 Palestinians. Another 2 Palestinians die of injuries received earlier. Palestinian gunmen critically wound a Jewish settler driving through the West Bank. The IDF bulldozes over 87 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Kissufim crossing, Netzarim Junction; opens fire on residential areas of al-Amal, Hebron, Khan Yunis. (LAW, NYT, PCHR, WT 11/30; PCHR 12/18)

Barak adviser and chief negotiator Gideon Sher meets with Palestinian Council (PC) speaker and senior negotiator Ahmad Qurie in Ramallah. No details are released. (MA [Internet] 12/12)

Likud MK Ariel Sharon says he will challenge Barak for the premiership, but no Likud mbrs. publicly support him, waiting to see if fmr. Likud PM Benjamin Netanyahou, considered a stronger candidate, also announces. (MM 11/29; NYT, WP, WT 11/30; MM 12/4; JP 12/7; MM 12/8) (see 12/9)

30 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving at least 2 Palestinians dead. Nr. Bethlehem, IDF troops fire live ammunition at a Palestinian school, killing 1 student, wounding 10. Nr. Bethlehem, a Jewish settler intentionally hits a Palestinian with his car, killing him. The IDF bulldozes 16 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Netzarim Junction. (LAW 11/30; al-Quds 12/5 in WNC 12/8; PR 12/6; PCHR 12/18)

Barak proposes a sharply scaled-back peace accord that would recognize a Palestinian state on about 30% of the West Bank, plus the 65–70% of Gaza the PA now controls. The PA rejects the offer as a campaign ploy. (MM 11/30; HA, NYT, WP, WT 12/1; MENA, al-Quds 12/1, MENA 12/2 in WNC 12/7; AYM, al-Quds 12/2, MA 12/6 in WNC 12/8; MEI 12/8)

1 DECEMBER

On this 1st Friday of Ramadan, Israel lifts age restrictions on Palestinians attending prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque and places Israeli riot police surrounding the mosque compound under strict orders to avoid actions that could spark riots. The IDF, however, bars West Bank Palestinians from entering East Jerusalem, some Jerusalem Palestinians from entering the Old City. Though there are several stone-throwing incidents after prayers, the police do not respond with gunfire as in previous weeks. Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue in the West Bank and Gaza, leaving 3 Palestinians dead. The IDF fires antitank missiles and heavy machine guns at residential areas in Hebron, Ramallah. Israel partially reopens the Gaza airport (closed since 11/8). (LAW 12/1; NYT, WP, WT 12/2; PCHR, WT 12/3)

2 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 2 Palestinians dead. A 3d Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. IDF tanks fire on residential areas in Hebron, Khan Yunis. (LAW 12/2; LAW, WP, WT 12/3; NYT 1/17)

U.S. Pres. Bill Clinton phones PM Barak to urge him to move ahead with the Mitchell Comm. investigation. U.S. officials describe the 45-min. conversation as “difficult.” (HA, WT, YA 12/3, 12/4; MA 12/4 in WNC 12/8; MM 12/8) (see 12/9)

3 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. The worst fighting is nr. Bethlehem, where armed Jewish settlers fire on Palestinians outside a mosque in Husan, trapping other worshippers inside; IDF soldiers intervene, firing guns and tear gas; the situation devolves into a riot that spreads to al-Khadir. In total, 25–30 Palestinians are injured. After dark, Palestinian snipers for the 1st time in a wk. open fire on Gilo settlement, causing no injuries. The IDF shells neighboring Aida, Bayt Jala in retaliation, destroying 1 home, damaging 10s. The IDF also shells Khan Yunis, bulldozes 14 dunams of agricultural land in the Rafah area; sends more tanks into Gaza. (LAW 12/3; WP, WT 12/4; HJ 12/4 in
4 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes intensify, but no fatalities are reported. IDF helicopter gunships fire missiles at Palestinian gunmen during a 3-hr. battle near Rachel’s Tomb in Bethlehem, which leaves 14 Palestinians injured, 2 Palestinian homes destroyed. In Gaza, the IDF forcibly removes 100 Jewish settlers blocking a road that the army had reopened to Palestinian use. Settlers also stone Palestinian cars, burn a stand of olive trees nr. Nablus. The IDF shells residential areas of Aida, al-Amal, Bayt Jala, Khan Yunis; bulldozes 10s of dunams of Palestinian farm land in Gaza to create a 2d bypass road fr. Qarni crossing to Netzarim settlement; levels land nr. Rafah. Palestinian gunmen fire on an IDF vehicle nr. Jinin, and soldiers return fire; no one is injured. A roadside bomb explodes nr. a bus nr. the Allenby Bridge crossing to Jordan, causing no injuries. (BDL, HA, NYT, WP, WT 12/5; AIC 12/6; WJW 12/7; MEI, NYT 12/8; PCHR 12/18)

5 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 2 Palestinians dead. Palestinian gunmen continue to snipe at Gilo, and the IDF again fires rockets back at Bayt Jala. The IDF also fires on residential areas of Rafah and at Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, injuring 1 fisherman. Jewish settlers in Hebron sever telephone wires, cutting phone service to about 1,000 Palestinians. Settlers also set fire to a Palestinian barn nr. Nablus, killing several goats. The IDF arrests 8 Palestinians in the West Bank village of al-Mughir; bulldozes 10s of dunams of Palestinian land btwn. Netzarim Junction and Qarni crossing, in the Rafah area, nr. Kiswa’s crossing. (LAW 12/5; AIC, IDF Radio [Internet], LAW, NYT, PCHR, WT 12/6; YA 12/7; PCHR 12/18)

The PA’s Qura’ makes a low-key trip to Jerusalem to meet with Israel’s Sher. (MA [Internet] 12/12) (see 11/29)

In Jordan, an Israeli emb. employee is ambushed, shot in the leg. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/6; AFP, JT 12/6 in WNC 12/8; MM, WJW, YA 12/7; DUS, Star 12/7 in WNC 12/12; WT 12/8; MEI 12/22) (see 11/19)

IDF soldiers manning the blue line fire across the border into Lebanon, wounding a Hizballah mbr. manning a checkpoint. IDF soldiers cross the border into Lebanon to treat the man until a UN medical team arrives. (MA 12/6 in WNC 12/8)

6 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, but no fatalities are reported. Israeli Arabs fr. Kafr Kana deliver 200 tons of food, clothing collected fr. Israeli-Arab households to West Bank Palestinians; this is their 2d aid delivery, a 3d is planned for 12/9. (HA 12/7)

7 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, killing at least 1 Palestinian. A 2d Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. In Hebron, IDF troops push, kick, detain Palestinians accompanying UN special envoy Terje Larsen on a tour of the Palestinian section of the city. Larsen says he will report the incident to UN Secy.-Gen. Kofi Annan. The IDF continues to bulldoze lands, structures nr. Netzarim Junction, Dugit settlement. (LAW, WT 12/8; PCHR 12/18)

The PA State Security Court sentences to death Alam Bani Odeh, nephew of as-sassinated Hamas official Ibrahim Bani Odeh, for treason and espionage. Alam, who was arrested on 11/28, reportedly confessed to having been recruited by Shin Bet to monitor his uncle. (LAW 12/11) (see 11/23)

8 DECEMBER

On the 2d Friday of Ramadan and the 13th anniversary of the outbreak of the 1st intifada, Israeli-Palestinian clashes escalate sharply, leaving 7 Palestinians, 2 Jewish settlers, 1 IDF soldier dead. 5 of the Palestinians are killed when IDF tanks open fire on a PSF post nr. Jinin; 15,000 Palestinians march in Jinin to protest. The soldier, 2 settlers are killed in separate incidents nr. Hebron and Jericho in which Palestinian gunmen fire on their vehicles. In response, Barak tightens the blockade on Palestinian villages, which had been eased slightly for Ramadan. 50 Jewish settlers rampage through the Arab section of Hebron, damaging Palestinian property, occupying a Palestinian home. Settlers also attempt to occupy 3 Palestinian homes in...
Banidar, Musharqat al-Fawqan. The IDF bars West Bank Palestinians from reaching East Jerusalem to attend prayers. Tensions erupt into clashes after services, with Israeli police in Jerusalem opening fire on worshippers with tear gas, rubber bullets, and live ammunition, killing at least 1. Serious clashes are also reported in Ramallah. (AP, IDF Radio [Internet], LAW, REU 12/8; NYT, WP, WT 12/9; LAW, NYT 12/10)

For the 1st time in 6 yrs., Israel places an Israeli Arab, Ghassan Athamla of Nazareth, under administrative detention on charges of incitement stemming from clashes between Israeli Jews and Arabs in Nazareth in 10/00. Barak personally signs the order, which is based on secret evidence. (HA 12/8; Adalah press release 1/15)

9 DECEMBER

In a surprise move, Barak announces he will resign on 12/10, call elections for PM only within 2 mos. Barak thus triggers a law that restricts candidates in a special election for PM to current MKs, thereby keeping Likud’s Netanyahu, who leads Barak by 15 points in public opinion polls, out of the race. Netanyahu would only be able to run if the Knesset dissolved itself, forcing general elections. (MENA 12/9, AYM, MENA, RL 12/10 in WNC 12/13; HA, MA [Internet], NYT, WP, WT, YA 12/10; HJ 12/10, al-Quds 12/11, DUS 12/12 in WNC 12/14; MM 12/11; WJW 12/14; JP 12/15; AYM 12/15 in WNC 12/21; MEI 12/22) (see 11/29)

Israel-Palestinian clashes abate due to severe weather that keeps many people indoors. 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. In Hebron, 80 Jewish settlers, armed with machine guns and pistols, attempt to take over 5 Palestinian homes, damage 11 homes, open fire on Palestinians, seriously injuring 1 teenager. The IDF bulldozes 20 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Netzarim Junction, 7 dunams (including 1 home) nr. Gush Katif settlement. (LAW 12/9; NYT, WT 12/10; PCHR 12/18)

10 DECEMBER

Israel-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 2 Palestinians dead, including leading Fatah activist Mahmud Mughrabi, who is shot by IDF troops. Jewish settlers open fire on Palestinians in Bayt Dajan and Bayt Furik, injuring 1. The IDF bulldozes 26 dunams of Palestinian land in the Netzarim area. (LAW 12/10; WT 12/11; WJW 12/28)

In Jerusalem, Israeli FM Shlomo Ben-Ami, chief negotiator Sher, fmr. deputy General Security Services head Yisrael Hasson hold a low-key mtg. with the PA’s senior negotiators PA Local Government M Saeb Erakat. Gaza PSF head Muhammad Dahlan, Information M Yasir ‘Abid Rabbuh. (MA 12/12 in WNC 12/14; AYM 12/14 in WNC 12/18) (see 12/5)

Mbrs. of the Mitchell Comm. arrive in Israel to begin 3 days of initial consultations with Israeli, PA, Egyptian, Jordanian leaders. (WT 12/11; ATM, Der Spiegel, MENA 12/11 in Internet, LAW, NYT, WP, WT 12/9; MA [Internet], NYT, WP 12/12; MENA 12/12 in WNC 12/14; HA, WJW 12/14; Guardian 12/20) (see 12/3)

Mitchell Comm. members arrive in Israel to begin 3 days of initial consultations. For the 1st time in 6 yrs., Israel places an Israeli, PA, Egyptian, Jordanian leaders.

11 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. In Nablus, IDF soldiers assassinate senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Anwar Mahmud in a surprise move, Barak announces he will resign on 12/10, call elections for PM only within 2 mos. Barak thus triggers a law that restricts candidates in a special election for PM to current MKs, thereby keeping Likud’s Netanyahu, who leads Barak by 15 points in public opinion polls, out of the race. Netanyahu would only be able to run if the Knesset dissolved itself, forcing general elections. (MENA 12/9, AYM, MENA, RL 12/10 in WNC 12/13; HA, MA [Internet], NYT, WP, WT, YA 12/10; HJ 12/10, al-Quds 12/11, DUS 12/12 in WNC 12/14; MM 12/11; WJW 12/14; JP 12/15; AYM 12/15 in WNC 12/21; MEI 12/22) (see 11/29)

Israel-Palestinian clashes abate due to severe weather that keeps many people indoors. 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. In Hebron, 80 Jewish settlers, armed with machine guns and pistols, attempt to take over 5 Palestinian homes, damage 11 homes, open fire on Palestinians, seriously injuring 1 teenager. The IDF bulldozes 26 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Netzarim Junction, 7 dunams (including 1 home) nr. Gush Katif settlement. (LAW 12/9; NYT, WT 12/10; PCHR 12/18)

12 DECEMBER

Texas gov. Bush is declared the winner of the 11/7 presidential election. VP Gore concedes. Bush will take office on 1/20/01. (NYT, WP, WT 12/13; HA 12/14; MA, MENA 12/14 in WNC 12/18; MM 12/15; Globes 12/17 in WNC 12/20; MM 12/20) (see 11/26)

Israel-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving at least 3 Palestinians dead. The IDF shoots senior Fatah mbr. Yusif Abu Sawi in another apparent assassination. 2 Palestinians are killed, 15 wounded in...
clashes with the IDF in Khan Yunis, during which the IDF bulldozes more Palestinian land in Dayr al-Balah, damaging 2 Palestinian homes and destroying 2 homes, the foundations of 1 home under construction, a greenhouse, an apiary, and an irrigation system. IDF shelling in Bethlehem damages St. Nicholas’s, St. Michael’s Greek Orthodox churches. (LAW 12/12; MEZ, NYT, WP, WT 12/13; AYM 12/13 in WNC 12/18; PCHR 12/18)

In Rabat, Morocco, U.S. special envoy Ross meets with Arafat to explore whether Arafat is “ready to return” to negotiations with Israel. (MM, WT 12/12; IDF Radio [Internet] 12/13; NYT 12/15; NYT, WP 12/16; NYT 12/29)

13 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 5 Palestinians dead. At 1:00 a.m., the IDF sends a bulldozer protected by armored vehicles into Khan Yunis in Gaza to demolish an earthen embankment (see 11/24). PSF officers open fire on the advancing soldiers, who fire heavy machine guns and tanks shells at the camp, killing 4 PSF officers, injuring 43 Palestinians, damaging 10 homes, igniting fires, cutting electricity. During the 9-hr. battle, frightened Palestinian families pile their goods into cars, flee the area. In Hebron, the IDF assassinates a wanted mbr. of Hamas’s Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades, Abbas al-Iwaywi. (LAW, MEZ 12/13; NYT, WP, WT 12/14; al-Quds 12/14, SA 12/16 in WNC 12/20; MEI 12/22)

14 Jordanian MPs submit a motion for an open debate to review the peace treaty with Israel. (MEI 12/22)

14 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. Hamas’s Hani Abu Bakir is assassinated by IDF troops in Gaza. IDF soldiers, Palestinian gunmen engage in a protracted gunfire outside Morag settlement in Gaza; later, the IDF bulldozes at least 17 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Morag. Palestinians ambush, seriously injure a settler nr. Ramallah. A grenade explodes nr. Gush Katif settlement, causing no injuries. Israel approves the entry of 13,000 Palestinian laborers needed to help bring in the citrus, flower, other crop harvests. (LAW 12/14; HA, NYT, WP, WT 12/15; PCHR 12/18; MA 12/25 in WNC 12/27)

Late this evening, Arafat, Israeli FM Ben-Ami, Israeli chief negotiator Sher hold talks at Erez on resuming peace talks. (REU 12/14; HA, IsRN, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/15)

15 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes escalate, leaving 8 Palestinians dead, including senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Sa’ir al-Khruf, who is assassinated by the IDF. (1 Palestinian dies en route to the hospital when his ambulance is detained by the IDF for over 1 hr.) In Nablus, 20,000 Palestinians attend a funeral for 3 of the dead killed overnight. Israel allows a small number of West Bank, Gaza Palestinians over age 35 to attend Friday prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque. Those who are barred scuffle with Israeli police, who respond with rubber bullets, stun grenades, tear gas. The IDF also places curfews on Salfit, Qasrah to conduct an arrest sweep. IDF orders bulldozer to send heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas in Aida, Qabat Jabir camp, Bayt Jala (damaging an elementary school), al-Bireh, Dayr al-Balah, Nablus, Ramallah (damaging the PA Local Government Min.), Tulkarm; bulldozes Palestinian agricultural land across Gaza, in Qalqilya. In Rafah, the IDF fires a shell at a family protesting the bulldozing of their land, injuring 6 children. Jewish settlers attack Palestinian property around Qalqilya, shoot at Palestinians in Silt al-Thahir (wounding 1). (ADM, LAW 12/15; NYT, WP, WT 12/16; PCHR 12/18; NYT 1/17)

Israel’s Ben-Ami meets with Arafat at Erez to discuss resuming peace talks, holds follow-up mtg. with PA Information M ‘Abid Rabbuh in Tel Aviv. The State Dept. says that midlevel Israeli, PA negotiators may come to Washington the wk. of 12/18. (NYT, WP 12/16) (see 12/10)

In Gaza, more than 30,000 Palestinians attend a Hamas rally in support of continuing the al-Aqsa intifada, against the PA resuming negotiations with Israel. (MEI 12/22)

16 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. The IDF shells residential areas of Bayt Sahur, Hebron, Rafah, damaging a total of 12 homes; bulldozes another 24 dunams of land nr. Morag settlement, destroying 21 greenhouses, several water networks. (MEZ, WP, WT 12/17; PCHR 12/18)

PA negotiators Erakat, Dahlan discuss with Israeli negotiators Ben-Ami, Sher the
17 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 5 Palestinians dead; a 6th Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. In Qalqiliya, senior Fatah mbr. Samih Malabi is killed when his booby-trapped cell phone explodes. A Jewish settler is wounded in a drive-by shooting nr. Jenin. The IDF shells residential areas of Abu Snain, al-Harayik, al-Shaykh, al-Zaytun; demolishes a Palestinian home in Dayr al-Balah. (LAW, MEZ, REU 12/17; LAW, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 12/18; MENA 12/18 in WNC 12/20; NYT 12/19; WJW 12/21; MEI 12/22; WP 1/8)

Israeli-Palestinian negotiators agree to hold separate talks with U.S. officials in Washington in an attempt to revive negotiations. (NYT, WP, WT 12/18)

18 DECEMBER

At Bolling Air Force Base (AFB) in Washington, the U.S. peace team holds separate preliminary mtgs. with the Israeli, the PA teams. (HA, JP, MM 12/18; AYM 12/18 in WNC 12/20; WT 12/19; AYM 12/19 in WNC 12/26; NYT, WP, WT 12/20; WJW 12/21; MEI 12/22) (see Peace Monitor)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving at least 2 Palestinians dead. In Tulkarm, a senior Fatah mbr. is found stabbed to death in what the PA alleges to be another Israeli assassination. In Gaza, a top PSF officer is killed when he attempts to defuse an unexploded IDF shell. In Nablus, Jewish settlers open fire on a Palestinian high school, wounding 2 pupils. The IDF shells residential areas of Bayt Lahia, al-Bireh, Khan Yunis, Rafah; destroys a water network, 2 PSF posts nr. Bayt Lahia; bulldozes 25 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Netzarim. (LAW, PCHR 12/18; MENA 12/18 in WNC 12/20; LAW, NYT 12/19; MEI 12/22)

Israel suspends plans to allow 13,000 Palestinians into Israel to work, since only a handful requested permits. (MA 12/25 in WNC 12/27; MM 1/5) (see 12/14)

A UNSC res. calling for the deployment of 2,000 unarmed UN observers in the West Bank, Gaza fails to get the 9 votes needed to pass. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/19; MM 12/20; al-Ra'i 12/20 in WNC 12/26; WJW 12/21)

19 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, but no fatalities are reported. IDF shells residential areas of Salfit. Jewish settlers attack the Palestinian village of Burin, breaking into several homes, and fire on an elementary school in Hebron. (LAW 12/19; News From Within 12/00)

At Bolling AFB, the U.S. peace team continues separate talks with Israeli, PA negotiators. (MM 12/19; WT 12/20; QA 12/20 in WNC 12/26; MEI 12/22)

The Knesset passes (65-45) a bill amending the election law so Likud's Netanyahu may run for PM, but rejects (49-69) a bill that would dissolve the Knesset, force general elections. Netanyahu says he will not run, since it would be impossible for any PM to work with the current parliament. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/19; NYT, WP 12/20; MEI 12/22; MA 12/22 in WNC 12/27) (see 12/9)

20 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving at least 3 Palestinians dead. A 4th Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. In a "gun battle" nr. Rafah, the IDF shoots dead 2 Palestinians, wounds at least 40 others; no Israelis are injured. (LAW 12/20; LAW, WP 12/21)

After 2 days of talks at Bolling AFB, the U.S. brings PA negotiator Erakat, Israeli negotiator Ben-Ami together at the White House in a mtg. with Clinton, Secy. of State Madeleine Albright. Sides agree to begin direct talks on 12/21. (XIN 12/20 in WNC 12/26; HA, MENL, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/21; al-Quds 12/22 in WNC 12/27)

Arafat goes to Egypt to consult with Mubarak. Israeli Meretz party leader Yossi Sarid is also in Egypt for mtgs. with Mubarak, but there is no indication he meets with Arafat. (MENA 12/20 in WNC 12/21; NYT 12/21)

21 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. 1 Jewish settler is shot dead in a drive-by shooting in the West Bank. The IDF halts an ambulance carrying a wounded Palestinian
to a hospital in Ramallah, forces the ambulance to drive to an IDF post where they arrest the wounded man, detain him for 2 hrs. before transporting him to a hospital inside Israel. (LAW 12/21; WP 12/22; LAW 1/30)

Israel. The PA begin direct negotiations at Bolling AFB. The PA team walks out when Ben-Ami begins talking about Israel annexing 10% of the West Bank in a final agreement (whereas he had earlier said 5%) but agrees to continue talks after conferring privately with Ross. (REU 12/21; HJ, MENA 12/21 in WNC 12/26; WP, WT, YA 12/22; WT 12/23; WT, YA 12/24)

22 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving at least 4 Palestinians dead, including a Palestinian suicide bomber who injures 3 IDF soldiers, 6 Jewish settlers in an attack on a roadside cafe nr. Mehola settlement. The IDF directs tank, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas in Hebron, Gaza, al-Ram. Israel again restricts Palestinians’ access to Jerusalem for Friday prayers. (LAW 12/22; NYT, WP 12/23)

PA-Israeli talks continue at Bolling, with Secy. Albright’s participation. (HA 12/22; WP 12/23)

23 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes abate slightly. 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. The IDF shells residential areas of Khan Yunis, damaging 10s of homes; raids a school, several shops in Jinin, firing tear gas. (LAW 12/24)

Clinton, Albright hold a 2d mtg. with Ben-Ami, Erekat at the White House. Clinton presents the teams with proposed “parameters” for a final status agreement based on his understanding of the points of accord reached at Camp David. Clinton requests Arafat, Barak tell him by 12/27 if they accept the parameters as a basis for further negotiations, in which case he will invite them to Washington. (HA, WP, WT 12/23; MA [Internet], NYT, WP, WT 12/24; AYM, al-Quds 12/24, HJ 12/25 in WNC 12/27; WP 12/25; MEI 1/12) (see Doc. D1; Peace Monitor)

24 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue to abate, possibly due to rainy weather, Ramadan celebrations (which are greatly scaled back). 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. (LAW 12/24; WT 12/25)

Arafat flies into Bethlehem fr. Amman to attend Christmas mass, marking his 1st trip to the West Bank since clashes began on 9/28. (WP, WT 12/25; Polish Radio 1 12/25 in WNC 12/27; HA 12/26)

25 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes abate significantly for the 2d day. No fatalities, major clashes are reported. (WT 12/26)

Barak says Israel is prepared to accept Clinton’s parameters (see 12/23) without changes if the PA does the same; his security cabinet will issue a formal reply on 12/27. The PA Negotiation Affairs Comm., begins 2 days of debate on the U.S. proposals. Clinton phones Egyptian pres. Mubarak to discuss the proposals before Mubarak meets with Arafat later in the day. (MENA, XIN 12/25 in WNC 12/27; MA [Internet], NYT, WT, YA 12/26; AYM, al-Quds 12/26 in WNC 12/28; AYM 12/26, SA 12/31 in WNC 1/2; NYT, WT 12/28; NYT 12/29)

King Abdallah warns “elements within Jordan as well as outside it” not to exploit the al-Aqsa intifada to try to destabilize the kingdom, says the army is prepared for confrontation. (IsRN 12/25; al-Ra’i 12/25 in WNC 12/28; MENL 12/28; MEI 1/12)

26 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes abate further. Noting a reduction in Palestinian sniping at IDF and settler vehicles, the IDF eases the internal closure, removing some roadblocks. Israeli dep. DM Ephraim Sneh announces that Barak has approved plans to erect a 45-mi. security fence (cement walls, rail, ramparts) along the Green Line to block the movement of Palestinians into Israel. (HA, YA 12/26; WJW 12/28; JP [Internet] 1/1; WT 1/3)

With Arafat’s, Barak’s authorization, Israeli tourism M Shahak, Barak adviser Yossi Ginossaur, PA senior negotiator Qurai’ open secret talks in New York aimed at narrowing the gaps in their positions on the Clinton parameters to the point where 3-way talks among Arafat, Barak, Clinton could be held. Unnamed U.S. officials participate. (MA [Internet] 12/28, 12/31)

27 DECEMBER

Ramadan ends. As a gesture to Hamas, the PA releases spokesman ‘Abd al-Aziz Rantisi, who was detained on 10/18. (NYT 12/28; SA 1/2 in WNC 1/3)
Barak conditionally accepts Clinton’s 12/23 peace proposals as a basis for discussion but says Israel seeks clarification on some points. Arafat says the PA cannot accept or reject the proposals without additional information, forwards Clinton a list of clarifying questions. Clinton phones the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia to urge them to press Arafat to accept the parameters. (AFP, MENA 12/27 in WNC 12/28; XIN 12/27, MENA 12/28 in WNC 1/2; AP, NYT, WP, WT 12/28; AYM 1/3 in WNC 1/8)

28 DECEMBER

As Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, 2 bombs explode on a bus in Tel Aviv, injuring 13 Israelis, and a roadside bomb detonates in Gaza, killing 1 IDF soldier, 1 Israeli border policeman, injuring 2 other soldiers. Israel seals the borders of the West Bank, Gaza. Jewish settlers attack Palestinian homes nr. Hebron. The IDF bulldozes 115 dunams of agricultural land nr. Bayt Hanun. (REU 12/28; NYT, WP, WT 12/29; WT 12/30; PCHR 1/6)

Pres. Clinton tells Arafat he sees no point in further discussion with the PA until Arafat accepts the 12/23 parameters, stating the U.S. will not reply to the PA’s 12/27 letter. Clinton phones the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Russia, Saudi Arabia to urge them to back the parameters. (MENL 12/28; MENA 12/28, SA 12/31 in WNC 1/2; HA, MA [Internet], NYT, WP, WT, YA 12/29; YA 1/10)

Three days of secret PA-Israeli talks on the Clinton parameters end in a deadlock. (MA [Internet] 12/28, 12/31) (see 12/26)

IDF soldiers shoot across the blue line with Lebanon, injuring 5 Lebanese civilians, including 1 child. (MEI 1/12)

29 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. In Gaza, a PSF officer is killed when the IDF shells his post in response to gunfire directed at troops bulldozing 76 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land in nearby Khan Yunis. (NYT, WP, WT 12/30; PCHR 1/6)

30 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. IDF directs heavy machine-gun fire at Dahaysha camp, Khaza, Rafah; bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Bayt Hanun, Khan Yunis. Jewish settlers clash with Palestinians outside Nahalin village, around Hebron; attack Palestinian cars outside Tsouh settlement. (HP 12/31; PCHR 1/6)

On the blue line with Lebanon, the IDF shoots, kills 1 Lebanese protester, wounds several whom troops say were attempting to scale the border fence. (WP, WT 12/31; RL 12/31 in WNC 1/2)

31 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 2 Palestinians, 2 Jewish settlers dead. Nr. Ramallah, Palestinian gunmen ambush the car of Jewish settler leader Benjamin Kahane (son of late anti-Arab extremist rabbi Meir Kahane), killing him, his wife, injuring 5 of their 6 children. The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade claims responsibility.

The funeral procession through Jerusalem, attended by 20,000 Israelis, turns into a riot, with Jews smashing storefronts of Palestinian shops, seeking out and beating Palestinians, injuring 10 Israeli riot police. Hrs. after the Kahane shooting, the IDF assassinates senior Fatah official Thabet Thabet, gunning him down outside his home in Tulkarm. The 2d Palestinian is killed in a drive-by shooting by settlers. Israel closes the Rafah crossing. IDF directs tank, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas of Amari refugee camp, Beitunia, al-Bireh, Khan Yunis, Rafah, al-Salam, Satih Marhaba. Machine-gun fire fr. Psagot settlement damages the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) headquarters in al-Bireh. (PRCS press release, WP 12/31; HA, IsRN, LAW, WP, WT, YA 1/1; MENA 1/2 in WNC 1/3; WJW 1/4; JP 1/5; PCHR 1/6; WP 1/8; MEI 1/12)

1 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, killing 5 Palestinians. A car bomb explodes in the Israeli town of Netanya, lightly injuring 39, seriously injuring 1 (the suspected perpetrator); Hamas claims responsibility. Israel shuts Gaza airport completely, tightens the internal closure on the West Bank, Gaza. The IDF demolishes 3 Palestinian homes nr. Kefar Darom settlement as part of work on a new settler bypass road; bulldozes agricultural land nr. Morag settlement; fires on residential areas of al-Matahin Junction, Rafah. 1,500 Jewish settlers blockade several West Bank roads, occupy a hilltop nr. where Kahane’s car was ambushed on 12/31 to set up a “protest encampment.” (AP, HA, JP [Internet], MA [Internet], NYT, WP, WT 1/1; MEI 1/12)
ternet, UPI 1/1; LAW, NYT, WP, WT 1/2; PCHR 1/6; WT 1/10)

The White House announces that Arafat, Clinton will meet in Washington on 1/2. (MENA 1/1 in WNC 1/2; NYT, WP, WT 1/2; AYM, SA 1/2 in WNC 1/3)

According to British government files made public today, on 9/19/70, King Hussein of Jordan asked, through Britain and the U.S., for Israeli air raids on the Syrian army, which was supporting Palestinian factions during the Black September revolt. Israeli PM Golda Meir’s response is not noted, but intervention by the Israelis was ultimately unnecessary, when Jordanian forces defeated the Palestinians. (NYT 1/2; WT 1/3; WJW 1/4)

2 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes subside slightly, though 1 Palestinian is killed. When 2 roadside bombs explode nr. Dugit settlement in Gaza, injuring 1 IDF soldier in a passing convoy, the soldiers fire at “suspicious points” in the area, killing a Palestinian farmer working his field. Palestinian snipers fire on a vehicle nr. Ramallah, injuring 2 Jewish settlers. IDF troops bar the passage of 2 ambulances to al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City. The IDF shells residential areas of Bab al-Zawiyah, Bir al-Hummus, al-Mighraqa, al-Shaykh; bulldozes 75 dunams of agricultural land nr. Bayt Lahia, 35 dunams nr. Kefar Darom settlement; demolishes at least 1 Palestinian home. (NYT 1/3; AYM 1/4 in WNC 1/8; PCHR 1/6; MEI 1/12)

Arafat arrives in Washington, meets with the Egyptian, Saudi Arabian ambvs. before entering 2 rounds of talks with Clinton, who presses Arafat to accept his 12/23 proposals and focuses on what the PA can do to halt the clashes. Arafat also meets with CIA Dir. George Tenet, agrees to resume the tripartite (Israel, PA, U.S.) security comm. (REU 1/2; AYM 1/2 in WNC 1/3; AP, HA, NYT, WP, WT 1/3; AYM 1/3, 1/4, SA 1/7 in WNC 1/8; JT, MA, QA, SA 1/4 in WNC 1/5; MEI 1/12)

A Lebanese gunman fires across the blue line at an IDF post, injuring an Israeli workman.

3 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. Jewish settlers fr. Harsina shoot at nearby Palestinian homes. The IDF tightens the internal closure; directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire on residential areas in Khan Yunis (damaging 3 Palestinian homes, 3 commercial buildings), Rafah; razes 137 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Dugit settlement (destroying 10 homes, 6 irrigation networks, 4 greenhouses, 2 cars), 5 dunams nr. the Rafah border (destroying 1 greenhouse, damaging several others). (HJ 1/4 in WNC 1/8; PCHR 1/12)

In a final mtg. with Clinton, Arafat agrees “with reservations” to accept the 12/23 parameters, promises to take steps to curb the clashes. U.S. mediators plan to work with PA, Israeli negotiators to narrow differences on the parameters. If sufficient progress is made, Clinton will bring both sides together for a last attempt to finalize a comprehensive permanent status agmt. (MM 1/3; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/4; MA, SA 1/4 in WNC 1/5; Arab News [Jeddah], AYM, al-Quds 1/4 in WNC 1/8; JP, MEI 1/12)

Barak says he has given up on reaching a comprehensive final status agmt. before the 2/6 election, Israel is on “strategic alert for war.” (MA [Internet], MM, YA 1/3; Star 1/3 in WNC 1/5; HA 1/4)

Hizballah fires 7 mortars at an IDF post in the Shaba’ Farms area, causing no damage. The IDF fires 44 tank, mortar shells at s. Lebanon, forcing a Lebanese family to flee their home. (MENA 1/3 in WNC 1/4; Daily Star [Internet] 1/8; WP 1/30)

4 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue to abate, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. The IDF demolishes 4 Palestinian homes nr. Dugit settlement; fires on an ambulance nr. Khan Yunis, preventing its passage to al-Shifa hospital; directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas in Khan Yunis (damaging 4 Palestinian homes, cutting electricity). Rafah (damaging 6 Palestinian homes). (REU 1/4; WT 1/6; PCHR 1/12)

Israeli chief negotiator Sher arrives in Washington for mtgs. with the U.S., peace team. (MM, NYT, WP 1/4; MM, WP, WT 1/5; NYT, WP, WT 1/6)

In Cairo, Arafat briefs Mubarak, the Arab League on his mtgs. with Clinton. The Arab League endorses Arafat’s conditional acceptance of the U.S. proposals. (MM 1/4; MENA, RMC 1/4 in WNC 1/5; AYM 1/4, SA, al-Safir 1/5 in WNC 1/8; MA [Internet], MM, NYT, WP 1/5; MEI 1/12)
5 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at a low level, leaving 2 Palestinians dead. Israel says it will have to “see if the trend continues” before it can resume negotiations with the PA. 1,000s of Palestinians in Nablus, Ramallah, Tulkarm protest Arafat’s acceptance of the Clinton parameters. The IDF moves the Maccabim crossing point on the Green Line a few hundred m. east into the West Bank. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas in Bayt Hanun, Dahaysia camp, Hebron, al-Khadir, Khan Yunis, Rafah, Tulkarm; razes 77 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Bayt Lahia (destroying 2 homes), 96 dunams nr. Dugit settlement (demolishing 10 homes). Jewish settlers block roads nr. Nablus. (AFP [Internet] 1/5; HP, WT 1/6; MENL 1/7; LAW 1/8; MEI, PCHR 1/12)

6 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas of Khan Yunis, damaging 20 Palestinian homes, 10 commercial and government buildings; bulldozes 3 dunams of Palestinian land nr. the Rafah border, closing 5 roads used by Palestinian farmers to reach their land. (PCHR 1/12)

7 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 2 Palestinians dead. The IDF shells residential areas in al-Bireh, Jinin, Khan Yunis; bulldozes 10 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land along roads leading to Netzarim Junction. (LAW, NYT, WT 1/8; HP 1/9; HA 1/10; MEI, PCHR 1/12; NYT 1/17)

In Cairo, CIA Dir. Tenet meets with Gaza PSF head Dahlan, West Bank PSF head Jibril Rajub, Israeli military intelligence dir. Avi Dichter on reviving security cooperation, halting violence. (IRNA 1/7 in WNC 1/8; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/8; MENA 1/8 in WNC 1/9; MM 1/9; MENA 1/10 in WNC 1/11)

8 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 2 Palestinians dead. When a bus of Jewish settlers, 2 IDF escort jeeps enter a Palestinian village nr. Jinin, students fr. a nearby school throw stones at the bus; settlers, soldiers open fire on the school and adjacent houses, killing 1 Palestinian. The 2d Palestinian is shot by Jewish settlers during clashes in Kafr Haris. Palestinian snipers fire on at least 4 Jewish settler vehicles nr. Nablus and Ramallah, causing no injuries. The IDF shells residential areas of al-Bireh, Jinin, Khan Yunis, al-Maghrqa, Tal al-Sultan; razes 58 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Dugit settlement (destroying 1 storage building, 11 greenhouses, 4 wells, 1 irrigation network), 55 dunams nr. Netzarim settlement (demolishing 2 homes). (HP, LAW 1/9; PCHR 1/12; MM 1/16; AFP [Internet] 1/18)

CIA Dir. Tenet holds another round of talks with PA, Israeli, Egyptian security officials. The sides reportedly agreed to an 8-point proposal, drafted by Tenet, for reducing tensions. (AFP [Internet], MM, REU 1/8; MENA 1/8 in WNC 1/9; SA 1/9 in WNC 1/10; MM 1/10; SA 1/10 in WNC 1/11; AYM, QA 1/10, AYM 1/11 in WNC 1/16; MENL 1/12)

100,000–250,000 Israelis, mostly right-wing, religious Jews, attend a rally at the Wailing Wall sponsored by MK Natan Sharansky’s Yisrael Ba’Aliya party to “pledge allegiance” to a united capital of Jerusalem, to oppose Clinton’s parameters for a peace agmt. (AFP [Internet] 1/8; AYM 1/8 in WNC 1/9; MM, NYT, WP 1/9; MM 1/10; WJW 1/11, 1/18; JP 1/19, 1/26, 2/2)

9 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 2 Palestinians dead; 1 dies en route to the hospital by car after the IDF bars an ambulance fr. reaching the scene. Nr. Jinin, IDF soldiers fire 3 shots toward a marked Vatican car carrying the Catholic Bishop Boulos Marcuzzo. A roadside bomb explodes nr. an IDF post outside Jabaliya, causing no damage; in response, the IDF shells residential areas of Jabaliya, destroying 1 building. The IDF also shells residential areas in Khan Yunis (damaging 7 Palestinian homes), fires on 1 ambulance nr. Gaza City, delays a 2d ambulance fr. reaching a wounded Palestinian for 20 mins. The IDF also begins work on a new 100 m. settlement road to link Kefar Darom with its greenhouses, bulldozing 72 dunams of Palestinian land and dividing a Palestinian farm in half. (Latin Patriarchate press release, LAW 1/9; IsRN, WT 1/10; NYT, PCHR 1/12; WJW 1/18)

Israeli, PA security officials agree to resume low-level security contacts. Arafat, Israel’s Shahak meet to discuss reviving negotiations in light of progress on security.
(HA, MA [Internet], YA 1/10; SA 1/10 in WNC 1/11; NYT 1/12)

The Mitchell Comm. technical staff arrives in Israel to begin their research. The staff refuses to sign an Israeli document requiring them to have an Israeli rep. present at all stages of testimony, to coordinate any planned tours of Israel or the PA areas with the FMIn. (YA 1/9) (see 12/10)

10 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, but no fatalities are reported. The IDF raids several Palestinian homes in Husan, arresting 4 youths; fires tear gas at Palestinian schools in Bethlehem, Jenin; sets fire to a Palestinian factory in Tulkarm; bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Salfit; tightens the closure on Hebron; directs shelling, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas s. of Gaza City and in al-Shaykh, Tulkarm; bulldozes 59 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Dug’it settlement; and orders a Palestinian family living nr. the settlement to evacuate their home. (HP 1/11; PCHR 1/12)

11 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes abate significantly. Israel reopens the Gaza-Egypt, West Bank-Jordan crossings; reopens Gaza airport, the main north-south road in Gaza; lifts the blockade on Jenin, Qalqiliya; reinstates travel privileges for some Palestinian VIPs. An Israeli civilian discovers, neutralizes a remote controlled bomb in Mea Sherim, West Jerusalem. The IDF shells residential areas of al-Gharbi. (MM, YA 1/11; MENL, MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/12; JT 1/12; MENA 1/14 in WNC 1/18; LAW, WJW 1/18)

Late this evening at Erez, Israel, the PA resume high-level final status talks. Each side sends 5 negotiators: Ben-Ami, Shahak, Sher for Israel; Dahlan, Erakat, Qurai’ for the PA. (HP, MM 1/11; MA 1/11 in WNC 1/16; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/12; NYT, WP 1/13; al-Quds 1/13, 1/14 in WNC 1/18)

PA State Security Court sentences Majdi Makawi, arrested 12/16, to death for al-Gharbiyya, arrest 4 Palestinians, including treason and espionage for his role in the assassination of Jamal ‘Abd al-Razik on 11/22. (LAW 1/12)

12 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at a low level. Israel notes that in recent days Palestinian demonstrations and incidents of Palestinian gunfire and roadside bombs have decreased substantially. Nonetheless, 1 Palestinian, senior Fatah mbr. Shakkir Hassouna, is fatally shot by IDF troops in Hebron. The IDF also shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; bulldozes agricultural land nr. Hebron. (MM 1/12; LAW, NYT 1/13; LAW 1/18; WP 1/24)

13 JANUARY

Arafat, Israeli MK and fmr. PM Shimon Peres hold talks in Gaza on halting violence, reaching a peace agmt. (NYT, WP, WT 1/14; AYM 1/15 in WNC 1/18; Arab News [Jeddah] 1/15 in WNC 1/19)

Israel denounces the Mitchell Comm. technical team for visiting the Haram al-Sharif/ Temple Mount without the accompaniment of an Israeli rep., without coordinating with the FMIn. (MA [Internet] 1/16; HA, MM 1/18) (see 1/9)

The PA executes Majdi Makawi, Alam Bani Odeh for collaborating with Israel in the assassinations of Jamal ‘Abd al-Razik (11/22), Ibrahim Bani Odeh (11/23). Later, a PA military court finds another 4 Palestinians guilty of collaboration, sentences 2 to death. (NYT, WP, WT 1/14; AYM 1/14 in WNC 1/20, 1/22; AP, MM 1/15; al-Quds 1/15 in WNC 1/18; MM 1/17; HJ 1/17 in WNC 1/19; JT 1/19 in WNC 1/22; HJ 1/19 in WNC 1/26; JP 1/26; WP 2/2) (see 12/7, 1/11)

14 JANUARY

Israel breaks off talks with the PA after a Jewish settler, missing since 1/13, is found fatally shot nr. Khan Yunis. The IDF rescues the Gaza Strip, closing the Rafah and Qarni crossings, shutting the airport, cutting water and electricity to Khan Yunis, and reblocking Gaza’s main north-south road. Jewish settlers rampage through areas of Khan Yunis, setting fire to Palestinian homes, fields, greenhouses; demolishing irrigation systems; vandalizing other Palestinian homes; shooting guns into the air. The IDF does not intervene for 90 mins. In the West Bank, IDF troops fatally shoot 1 Palestinian. Israeli forces raid a Palestinian home in Sawahara al-Gharbinya, arrest 4 Palestinians, including a 14-yr.-old girl. (AP, HA, MM, NYT, WP, YA 1/15; XIN 1/15 in WNC 1/18; HA 1/16; LAW, YA 1/16; al-Quds 1/16 in WNC 1/20; al-Quds 1/17 in WNC 1/19; WJW 1/18; JP, MEI 1/26)

15 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. In Khan Yunis, Jewish settlers continue to
vandalize Palestinian property in retaliation for the killing of a settler discovered on 1/14. The IDF bulldozes the Palestinian orchards nowhere the murdered settler was found, and settlers set up an encampment there as a “Zionist response” to the killing. The IDF also conducts arrest sweeps in Dahiyat Barid, al-Ram. Jewish settlers overturn Palestinian stalls in the Hebron market. (MM, YA 1/16; WP 1/17; al-Quds 1/17 in WNC 1/19; HP, LAW, WJW 1/18; MEI 1/26)

PA senior negotiator Qurai’ meets with Israeli FM Ben-Ami to prepare for the resumption of Israeli-PA talks on 1/16. Arafat meets with Israeli negotiator Shahak to discuss the refugee issue. (AP 1/15; AYM 1/15 in WNC 1/18; IsRN, MM 1/16; SA 1/17 in WNC 1/19; MENA 1/18 in WNC 1/20)

The PA offers amnesty to any Palestinian collaborators who turn themselves in within the next 45 days. (AP 1/15; YA 1/16; al-Quds 1/18 in WNC 1/20)

Jordanian PM Ali Abu Raghib meets with reps. of political parties and professional associations for talks on the impact of the al-Aqsa intifada on Jordan; urges them not to take actions “harmful to the kingdom’s economy and national unity,” such as fighting normalization with Israel. (JT 1/17 in WNC 1/19; JT 1/26, QA 1/27 in WNC 1/29) (see 11/19)

16 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. Jewish settlers raid Aqraba, bar Palestinians fr. entering or leaving Bayt Furik while they perform religious ceremonies. The IDF issues approval for Jewish settlers to carry out armed patrols to ensure their safety. The IDF also conducts arrest sweeps in Dahiyat Barid, al-Ram; shells Halhul; bulldozes agricultural land nr. Nablus. (IsRN, MM 1/16; al-Quds 1/17 in WNC 1/19; HP, LAW 1/18)

At Erez, Israel, the PA resume high-level talks on tightening security coordination, Palestinians’ need for territorial contiguity. They agree on steps to ease the closure on Gaza but fail to resolve key territorial issues. (MM 1/16; MA [Internet], WP, WT 1/17; SA 1/17 in WNC 1/19)

17 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. Israel eases the closure on Gaza, partially reopens the Gaza airport, Rafah and Qarni crossings, key roads. In Gaza, 3 masked gunmen assassinate Palestinian Broadcasting Corp. (PBC) head Hisham Makki, notorious for his corruption, close ties with Arafat. Israel, the PA concur that the gunmen were probably Palestinian. Jewish settlers continue to attack Palestinian property in Khan Yunis, as they have since 1/14. Armed settlers also bar Palestinians fr. leaving or entering Bayt Furik for a 2d day. The IDF conducts arrest sweeps in Dahiyat Barid, al-Ram, Silat Dahir; further restricts movement b/n Jerusalem and Bethlehem/Hebron, arresting 60 Palestinian laborers returning fr. Jerusalem; redirects shells, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas in Tulkarm; bulldozes agricultural land nr. Nablus. (IsRN, MM 1/17; MENA 1/17 in WNC 1/19; HP, LAW, NYT, WP, WT 1/18; NYT, WP 1/19; WJW 1/25; MA 1/25 in WNC 1/26; MEI, MM 1/26; JT [Internet] 2/1)

In Cairo, Arafat meets Israeli FM Ben-Ami, tells him the PA is ready to hold marathon talks aimed at reaching a peace agmt., or at least drafting a document citing agmts. with reps. of political parties and professional associations for talks on the impact of the al-Aqsa intifada on Jordan; urges them not to take actions “harmful to the kingdom’s economy and national unity,” such as fighting normalization with Israel. (JT 1/17 in WNC 1/19; JT 1/26, QA 1/27 in WNC 1/29) (see 11/19)

18 JANUARY

As Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, the body of an Israeli boy is found in Ramallah. Ofir Rahum had started an Internet relationship with a Palestinian girl, had arranged to meet her nr. Ramallah earlier in the wk., carrying a large sum of money. Israel partially reopens Gaza airport. The IDF tightens the blockade on Halhul, arresting more than 30 Palestinians, confiscating 2 Palestinian homes for use as IDF posts. Jewish settlers attack Palestinian stores in Hebron. (HP 1/18; NYT 1/19; NYT, WP 1/20; NYT 1/21; WJW 1/25)

Sharon offers his plan for a long-term interim agmt. with the PA under which a Palestinian state would be created in the 40–42% of the West Bank (areas A and B) currently under PA control. (HA, MM 1/18; MA [Internet], MM, YA 1/19; HJ 1/19, AYM 1/20 in WNC 1/26; SA 1/22 in WNC 1/23)
19 JANUARY

A day before he leaves office, Clinton issues open letters to Israeli, Palestinian people lecturing each side on its responsibility to keep pushing for a comprehensive peace agmt. (WP, WT 1/20; WJW 1/25)

Israel resumes construction of a security fence along the blue line with Lebanon. (MA 1/19 in WNC 1/22; MEI 2/9)

20 JANUARY

George W. Bush is sworn in as pres. of the U.S. 3 hrs. before the inauguration, Clinton makes a final farewell call to Barak. (MENA 1/20, al-Quds 1/21 in WNC 1/22; AYM 1/20 in WNC 1/23, 1/26; MM 1/22, 1/24; HJ 1/25 in WNC 1/30; MEI, MM 1/26)

After mtg. with his security cabinet, Barak announces Israel's acceptance of Arafat's offer to enter marathon negotiations on 1/21 in Egypt. (NYT, WP, WT, YA 1/21; AYM 1/21 in WNC 1/22)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at a low level. Israel credits the PA with keeping the number of incidents down over the past few days. (YA 1/21)

21 JANUARY

In Taba, Egypt, Israel, the PA open marathon negotiations on a comprehensive final status agmt., spend the day discussing ground rules for talks, which will be based on Clinton's parameters. There is no Egyptian or U.S. mediation. (IsRN 1/21; MM, NYT, WP 1/22; MENA 1/22 in WNC 1/23; al-Quds 1/23 in WNC 1/24; WP 1/23; MEI 1/26) (see Peace Monitor)

Israel suspends cooperation with the Mitchell Comm., over the technical experts' 1/13 visit to Jerusalem, demands the comm. get a new mandate fr. the Bush administration. (HA, NYT 1/22; al-Quds 1/22 in WNC 1/24; BDL 1/31; WJW 2/8) (see 1/17)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at a low level, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. With Israeli industry in need of workers, Barak instructs the IDF to revive plans to allow 16,000 Palestinian laborers into jobs in Israel. (JP [Internet] 1/22; MENA 1/22 in WNC 1/23; MEI 1/26; al-Ahram [Internet] 1/28) (see 12/18)

22 JANUARY

In Taba, Israel, PA teams divide into 4 working groups on Jerusalem, borders, security guarantees, refugees; they exchange maps and working papers. The PA team issues a statement criticizing Clinton for “mistakes and failures” in earlier negotiations. (MM, HA, YA 1/22; MENA 1/22 in WNC 1/23; AYM, MENA 1/22 in WNC 1/24; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/23; MEI 1/26) (see Doc. B3)

Is Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. Hamas takes responsibility for a roadside bombing today in Gaza that injures 1 IDF soldier. The IDF arrests 3 Palestinians from Shu'fat. (NYT, WP 1/23; ADM 2/5)

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer announces that Pres. Bush will begin looking into moving the U.S. emb. to Jerusalem the U.S. 3 hrs. before the inauguration, but gives no further details. (HA 1/22; WJW 1/25) (see Peace Monitor)

In Amman, the Jordan professional associations' antinormalization comm. publishes its 2d “list of shame,” naming companies and individuals who have or are engaging in normalizing activities or promoting normalization with Israel. (DUS 1/25 in WNC 1/26; MM 1/26; JT 1/26 in WNC 1/29; FAV, MM 1/29; JT 1/29 in WNC 1/30; WT 1/31; JT 1/31 in WNC 2/1; JT 2/2 in WNC 2/5; MEI 2/9) (see 1/15; Peace Monitor)

23 JANUARY

Israel recalls negotiators fr. Taba, suspends all contacts with the PA after Palestinian gunmen kidnap, murder 2 Israeli civilians in Tulkarm; an Israeli Arab-colleague is released. Hamas' s military wing Iz-zeddine al-Qassam Brigades takes responsibility, but the Hamas political wing denies it. The PA condemns the murder, saying no civilians, Israeli or Palestinian, should be targeted. Jewish settlers blockade the Attara–Birzeit road, attack Palestinian cars. (MENA 1/23 in WNC 1/24; HJ 1/23, MENA 1/24 in WNC 1/26; MM, NYT, WP 1/24; IsRN, NYT, WP 1/25; al-Quds 1/25 in WNC 1/26; SA 1/25 in WNC 1/29; NYT 1/26; AYM 1/26 in WNC 1/29; SA 2/1 in WNC 2/5; ADM 2/5)

24 JANUARY

Is Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. 2 Palestinians are shot dead in Gaza. A 3d Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. An ailing Palestinian dies after the car rushing her to a Ramallah hospital is delayed 45 minutes at an IDF checkpoint. Another Palestinian woman gives birth at an IDF checkpoint after being held there 4 hrs. Around Morag settlement nr. Khan Yunis, the IDF re-inforces troops, bulldozes 10 dunams of Pal-
estinian land. The IDF also tightens the closure on Tulkarm, reseals the Rafah crossing, shells Palestinian residential areas nr. Netzarim settlement. Jewish settlers halt and damage a Palestinian car, threaten the driver nr. Aley settlement; set up a check-point nr. Ashkalot settlement to stop, search Palestinian cars. (MENA 1/24 in WNC 1/26; HP 1/25; NYT, WP 1/26; ADM 2/5; WP 2/16)

The new Bush administration takes its 1st step in defining its Middle East diplomacy by having its regional amb.s. contact Israel and the PA to urge them to resume the Taban talks, to request briefings on the talks. Israel agrees to resume the talks on 1/25. (NYT, WP, WT 1/25)

Aides to PM candidate Sharon arrive in Vienna to meet with top Arafat aide Muhammad Rashid (Khalid Salam). Sharon says mtgs. are to stress to the PA that he will not hold peace talks until all Palestinian violence ceases. (HP, IDF Radio [Internet], IsRN, MM, YA 1/25; MA [Internet], MM, NYT 1/26; QA, SA 1/26 in WNC 1/29; AYM 1/28 in WNC 1/30; Die Presse [Vienna] 1/31 in WNC 2/1; MA 2/1 in WNC 2/5)

25 JANUARY

Israel, the PA resume talks in Taban. The sides reportedly compare maps. PA maps reportedly show settlements left in 2% of the West Bank, whereas Israeli maps show settlements on 5% of the West Bank. (MM 1/25; AP, NYT, WP, WT 1/26; al-Quds 1/26 in WNC 1/29)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. An Israeli taxi driver is fatally shot at a checkpoint nr. Qalandiyya camp, where he dropped off a carload of Palestinian laborers. Outside Ramallah, Palestinian ambulance driver, his aide responding to a call are detained for more than 1 hr., severely beaten by IDF soldiers; when a 2d ambulance comes upon the scene, the soldiers detain the 2 medics for 20 mins. before allowing them to take their colleagues to a hospital, where 1 is placed in intensive care. The IDF opens tank, heavy machine-gun fire on residential areas of Satih Marhaba. (HP, MENL 1/25; NYT, WP, WT, YA 1/26; LAW 2/3; ADM 2/5)

26 JANUARY

Israel, the PA teams hold several rounds of talks, alternating btwn. Taba, Elat. Mts. break this evening for the Jewish Sabbath, are expected to resume tomorrow night. (AP, MM 1/26; MENA 1/26, MENA, al-Quds 1/27 in WNC 1/29; NYT, WP, WT 1/27)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. The IDF fires warning shots at a 20-mbr. EU parliamentary delegation visiting Khan Yunis; the EU files a formal complaint. Jewish settlers beat up Palestinian street vendors in Hebron. (AFP [Internet] 1/26)

Responding to an attack on the Shaba' Farms area by Hizballah, Israel shells Leba-

27 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at the same low level as in the past 2 wks. The IDF bulldozes 8 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Bayt Lahia, 10 dunams nr. Netzarim Junction (demolishing 1 Palestinian home); shells residential areas of Khan Yunis. IDF soldiers detain a Palestinian man at a road-block nr. Jinin, handcuff and severely beat him. (MEZ 1/29; LAW 2/3; ADM 2/5)

In Taban, Israel, the PA end 6 days of talks; issue a joint statement saying they have made substantial progress on each of the issues discussed, they will not be able to finalize an agmt. by the 2/6 elections. They hope to resume talks following the elections, quickly bridge remaining gaps. (AP, REU 1/27; AFP, MENA 1/27, AYM 1/29 in WNC 1/29; NYT, WP, WT 1/28; AYM 1/28 in WNC 1/30; MM 1/29; AYM 1/29 in WNC 2/5)

Despite statements that talks will not be resumed until after elections, Israel confirms that Barak is exploring holding a mtg. with Arafat to formulate a joint statement that could be issued before 2/6. (AP, REU 1/27; NYT, WP, WT 1/28; AYM 1/29 in WNC 1/29) (see Peace Monitor)

IDF troops in the Shaba' Farms area shoot dead 2 PFLP-GC mbrs. on the border inside Lebanon. (Tebran Times 1/30 in WNC 1/31; WT 1/31; WJW 2/1; MM 2/2; SA 2/4 in WNC 2/5; MEI 2/9)

28 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. Another ailing Palestinian dies en route to a Nablus hospital when her family’s car is turned back fr. an IDF checkpoint, forced to take a longer route to the hospital. A group of IDF soldiers in the Israeli-controlled section of Hebron assault a 14-yr-old Palestinian whom they thought was making fun of them, beating him for 30 mins., leaving him unconscious. The IDF shells residential areas
in Khan Yunis and Rafah, nr. Netzarim settlement, along Gaza’s Salah al-Din road (destroying a Palestinian gas station); bulldozes 55 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land in Bayt Lahia to build a new settler bypass road linking the settlements of Dugit, Aley Sinai. (MEZ, WP 1/29; al-Abram [Internet] 2/1; LAW 2/3; ADM 2/5)

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Arafat gives a speech condemning Israel’s military action against Palestinians. In Israel, Barak, angry over Arafat’s words, vows there will be no further talks with the PA before elections. (AFP 1/28 in WNC 1/29; MM, NYT, WP, WT, YA 1/29; al-Quds 1/29 in WNC 1/30; NYT, WP 1/30; al-Quds 1/30 in WNC 2/1; AYM 1/30 in WNC 2/5; al-Nabar 2/1 in WNC 2/15) (see 1/27)

29 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 1 Palestinian, 1 Jewish settler dead. The IDF detains 5 Palestinians traveling in a minibus outside Khan Yunis, takes them to Netzarim settlement for interrogation, after which 1 is arrested, 4 are released. The IDF also shells Palestinian residential areas nr. Erez (destroying a PSF building, a gas station), in Khan Yunis, nr. Netzarim settlement. Jewish settlers bulldoze Palestinian land around Ariel settlement, move the settlement fence to incorporate the new land. (AP 1/29; MEZ, NYT, WP 1/30; al-Abram [Internet] 2/1; LAW 2/3; ADM 2/5)

30 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at the same low level. However, 2 serious incidents are apparently staged by Palestinians: a mortar is fired at Netzarim settlement, causing no injuries; assailants attempt to deliver a bomb by donkey, but the bomb does not go off. An ailing Palestinian dies en route to a Nablus hospital when his family’s car is detained at an IDF checkpoint for 30 mins. before being turned back, halted at a 2d checkpoint for 40 mins., turned back again, and forced to take a 3d route. The IDF also confiscates, begins bulldozing 3,500 dunams of land bwn. Ramallah, Nablus owned by 43 Palestinian families; fires tear gas into a school in Silwan; shells residential areas in Bayt Rima, Khan Yunis. Jewish settlers bulldoze Palestinian land nr. Salfit, move trailers onto the land to create a new settlement enclave. (YA 1/31; LAW 2/3; ADM 2/5)

31 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at the same low level, leaving 2 Palestinians dead. The IDF reimposes the closure on PA-controlled Hebron, which had been eased, after Jewish settlers attack Palestinians and their property, firing on homes, vandalizing stores, destroying produce stands. (LAW 2/3; ADM 2/5)

1 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 1 Palestinian, 1 Israeli civilian, 1 Jewish settler dead. The IDF raids a secondary school nr. Jinin, forcing children to evacuate the building, then firing on nearby houses fr. the school. The IDF also blockades Silwan, bulldozes surrounding Palestinian olive groves, denies Red Crescent medical teams fr. entering. (WP 2/2; NYT 2/3; ADM 2/5)

2 FEBRUARY

Fearing an escalation of Israeli-Palestinian clashes because of a planned funeral march today fr. Jerusalem to a West Bank settlement for a Jewish settler killed 2/1, the IDF tightens the encirclement of all West Bank towns excluding Jericho and Qalqilya. 100s of Palestinians rally in Nablus to protest. The Israeli DMin. orders the IDF to identify roads that have been the target of frequent Palestinian attacks, allow Palestinians to travel those roads only by public transportation. The IDF also steps up patrols along roads during peak hrs. 1 Palestinian dies from injuries received earlier. (JP [Internet] 2/2; NYT 2/3; HA 2/4; LAW 2/8)

The IDF begins bulldozing an area outside Bayt Sahur in Jerusalem for work on a new road. In 1998, Israel’s Jerusalem municipality approved the site for one of the few new developments for Palestinians in the city, the 150-unit Mazmoriyya housing project. (Palestinian Center for Rapprochement Between People press release 2/2)

The UN reports that Israel appears to be extending its border fence into Lebanon beyond the divided border village of Ghajar, effectively annexing 400 m². Israel vows to halt the construction, move the fence. (HA 2/2; NYT 2/3; MEI 2/9) (see 1/19)
3 FEBRUARY

*Israeli-Palestinian clashes* continue at a low level. 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. (LAW 2/8)

4 FEBRUARY

*Israeli-Palestinian clashes* continue at a low level, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. The IDF demolishes 2 Palestinian homes, parts of 2 factories nr. Netzarim Junction. (LAW 2/8)

U.S. Secy. of State Colin Powell says the Bush administration will continue to examine moving the U.S. emb. fr. Tel Aviv to Jerusalem but currently believes making the move would damage the U.S.'s ability to act as mediator in peace talks. (WT 2/5; SA 2/7 in WNC 2/13) (see 1/22)

5 FEBRUARY

*Israeli-Palestinian clashes* continue. Nr. Rafah border, a Palestinian sniper fatally shoots an IDF soldier. The IDF seals the border with Egypt, closes the Gaza airport, shells areas around Rafah. The IDF also demolishes 4 Palestinian homes nr. Netzarim Junction; bulldozes 40 dunams of Palestinian land to expand Gush Etzion settlement. 1 Palestinian dies of a heart attack when the IDF blocks his transportation to Nablus hospital. (HA 2/5; WP 2/6; LAW 2/8)

6 FEBRUARY

As expected, Likud MK Sharon wins the Israeli elections for PM by a landslide, taking 62.4% of the vote (78% in Greater Jerusalem), with voter turnout the lowest in Israeli history (59.1% overall, 18% in Arab areas).

Barak concedes defeat; vows to retire fr. politics, resign as head of the Labor party and as MK. (HA, MM 2/6; AFP Internet, LAW, MM, NYT, REU, WP, WT 2/7; AFP, AYM, MA, MENA, *al-Quds* 2/7 in WNC 2/9; HJ 2/7, AYM, JT, MENA 2/8 in WNC 2/12; MM, NYT, WJW 2/8; MEI 2/9)

*Israeli-Palestinian clashes* heat up somewhat, leaving 78 Palestinians injured but causing no fatalities. Israel seals the West Bank, Gaza during the elections. After Sharon's victory is announced, Jewish settlers place 5 caravans on land in PA-controlled Hebron, nr. Karme Tzur settlement. (AP, HP, WP 2/7; LAW 2/8)

U.S. Secy. of State Powell phones the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria to urge restraint following Sharon's election victory, asks them to avoid provocitive actions while Sharon is forming a government, to judge Sharon based on his actions as PM, not his past. (WP 2/8)

7 FEBRUARY

*Israeli-Palestinian clashes* continue to escalate; 100s are reported injured, but none are killed. The closure on the West Bank, Gaza remains in place. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas in PA-controlled Hebron, Khan Yunis; opens fire on 2 primary schools in Hebron, wounding 3 students; bulldozes Palestinian agricultural land nr. Dayr al-Balah Junction, destroying several greenhouses and water wells. (HP 2/7; LAW 2/8)

PM-elect Sharon visits the Wailing Wall, declares Barak's Camp David concessions null and void, vows he will never allow shared sovereignty over *Jerusalem*. (NYT, WP, WT 2/8)

Arafat sends a letter to Sharon congratulating him on his election, expressing hope that negotiations will resume soon from the point they left off at Taba on 1/27; Sharon's office reiterates that all Palestinian violence must cease before talks begin; that even when talks begin, Israel will not seek a comprehensive peace but rather an interim deal exchanging a small amount of land and economic benefits for a nonbelligerency pact. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/8; NYT 2/9)

8 FEBRUARY

*Israeli-Palestinian clashes* continue. A remote-controlled car bomb goes off in Mea Sherim, West Jerusalem, injuring 1 Israeli; IDF soldiers raid Marda village, entering homes, photographing and interrogating Palestinian men, harassing their families. The IDF shells residential areas in al-Bireh and Satih Marhaba, damaging or destroying 3 Palestinian homes, 15 apartments, *al-Hayat al-Jadida* offices, the Red Crescent headquarters. (LAW 2/8; MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/9; QA 2/9 in WNC 2/13)

The Bush administration formally abandons Clinton's 12/23 peace proposals, saying they belonged to the fmr. pres. and are irrelevant now that Sharon has been elected PM of Israel. Barak also sends a letter to Bush stating that proposals raised by Pres. Clinton at Camp David and afterward are no longer binding. Secy. of State Powell says the Bush administration will look at the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the context of its
impact on the region, not as an isolated issue. Incoming National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice says future negotiations should be left to the Israelis, Palestinians.

**Bush.** Powell phone Arafat for the 1st time, urge him to reduce violence. Sharon says he is encouraged by the U.S. actions. (HA, JP [Internet], NYT, WP 2/9; AFP 2/9 in WNC 2/13; NYT, WT 2/10; HJ 2/12 in WNC 2/15)

**9 FEBRUARY**

Israeli-Palestinian clashes intensify, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. The IDF shells residential areas of al-Bireh, severely damaging the Local Government Min., Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Fatah High Command offices. (WP, WT 2/10)

Arafat phones Sharon to congratulate him, expresses hopes peace talks could resume soon, mentions the economic hardship in the West Bank and Gaza. Sharon says he will only take steps to lift the blockade if the PA halts violence and rearrests Islamists released fr. PA jails in the past 4 mos. (Chicago Tribune [Internet], NYT, WP 2/10)

PM-elect Sharon meets with outgoing PM Barak, who has yet to officially resign as head of Labor, and offers him position of DM in a unity government. Labor MK Peres would be offered the role of FM. Barak, Peres do not reject the offers. (MM 2/9; NYT, WP 2/10; WT 2/11; WJW 2/15)

In a Sharq al-Awsat interview published today, Syrian pres. Bashar al-Asad says Syria’s peace terms have not changed, he would resume talks with any Israeli PM who is serious about reaching an agmt., he is willing to meet with Arafat if there is a clear objective and agenda. (MM 2/9; SA 2/9 in WNC 2/13; SA 2/14 in WNC 2/15)

**10 FEBRUARY**

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. A grenade explodes nr. an IDF post on the Rafah border, and a mortar lands in Netzarim settlement, causing no injuries but marking a Palestinian escalation. The IDF presents 22 Palestinian families in Gaza’s Mawasi district with evacuation orders, saying their houses will be demolished for “security reasons” on 2/11. (Gush Shalom press release 2/10; WT 2/11; al-Quds 2/11 in WNC 2/13)

UNHRC fact-finding commission arrives in Gaza to begin its 8-day inquiry into the causes of the al-Aqsa intifada, meets with Arafat. (PCHR, WT 2/11; WT 2/12; HJ 2/12 in WNC 2/13) (see 1/17)

**11 FEBRUARY**

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 1 Jewish settler dead. Jewish settlers place trailers in new locations, establishing new settlement enclaves. Palestinians step up attacks on Jewish settlements, firing on Gilo fr. Bayt Jala for the 1st time in more than a mo., detonating a roadside bomb nr. an IDF convoy outside Kefar Darom settlement, but causing no injuries.

IDF soldiers return to Mawasi, “ advise” 22 Palestinian families to leave immediately. The IDF shells homes, seal the area (see 2/10); bulldozers arrive but leave after several hrs. when residents refuse to evacuate. (Gush Shalom press release, NYT, WP 2/12; NYT 2/13)

A PA military court sentences to death Palestinian Musallam for abetting the IDF by passing information to Israeli soldiers, deliberately firing on IDF soldiers to provide them with a pretext to retaliate. (LAW, NYT 2/12)

Labor MK Peres says he would be willing to serve as FM in a unity government under Sharon. Labor MKs Yossi Beilin, Ben-Ami, Yael Dayan denounce his position; PM Barak, who has yet to officially resign as head of Labor (see 2/9), offers him position of ending a 25-yr. Knesset career. (Guardian [Internet] 2/12)

**12 FEBRUARY**

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 2 Palestinians dead. Palestinians step up attacks on Jewish settlements, with Fatah’s Bethlehem branch issuing a leaflet calling on Palestinians to target Gilo specifically, but cause no injuries; Palestinians reportedly fire an antitank missile that causes no damage. The IDF directs heavy machine-gun, rocket-propelled grenade fire at residential areas of Khan Yunis, forcing many families to flee their homes, severely damaging 20 homes, a mosque; directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas of Aida camp, al-Azza camp, Be’itinia, al-Bireh, al-Khadir, Ramallah, al-Tuffah (destroying 11 Palestinian homes, 1 Red Crescent ambulance); bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Kefar Darom settlement, demolishing 2 Palestinian homes. Israeli officials tell the press there were never plans to demolish Palestinian homes in Mawasi (see 2/11), the IDF informs the 22 families. Israel reopens Gaza airport for 1 wk. to allow Palestinians to fly to Saudi Arabia for the hajj. (Gush Sha-
A Likud spokesman says Sharon, Barak have agreed on most guidelines for a national unity government, including a joint peace platform aiming only at reaching an interim agmt. with the PA and an agmt. that no new settlements would be built, though existing ones would be expanded. (HA, NYT, WP, WT 2/13, 2/16)

13 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes escalate to their highest point in recent wks. after the IDF assassinates Force 17 cmdr. Massud Ayyad, firing 4 air-to-surface rockets at his car as he drove through Jabaliya. Israel claims Ayyad led a Gaza-based cell of Hizballah, which it asserts had been ordered by Iran to take up operations in the West Bank, Gaza. Barak, who personally ordered the assassination, publicly congratulates the IDF. A 2d Palestinian, 14 yrs. old, is fatally shot in a separate incident. Hot spots are in Bethlehem, Gaza, Hebron, Ramallah. The IDF orders 4 schools in al-Khadir shut for 2 wks.; bulldozes 5,000 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land in Halhul; directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire on residential areas of Bayt Sahur (damaging the YMCA), al-Bireh, Khan Yunis, Tulkarm.

Jewish settlers place caravans on Palestinian land nr. Surayf. (AP, LAW, REU 2/13; NYT, WP, WT 2/14; MENA 2/14 in WNC 2/15; NYT 2/15)

14 FEBRUARY

A Palestinian bus driver with Israeli security service clearance to transport Palestinian workers to their jobs in Israel drops off his passengers in Holon, then rams his vehicle into a bus stop full of Israelis, killing 7 IDF soldiers, 1 Israeli civilian, severely injuring 17 Israelis, mostly soldiers. In response, Israel seals the West Bank border with Jordan, the Gaza border with Egypt; closes Gaza airport; tightens the closure on Palestinian villages; suspends VIP travel privileges for PA officials. (HA, REU 2/14; AFP, ATL, MENA 2/14 in WNC 2/15; NYT, WP, WT 2/15)

15 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving at least 1 Palestinian dead. Palestinians fire 2 mortars at a Netzarim settlement, causing no damage. (NYT, WP 2/16)
Seif al-Tirawi, 7, tries to retrieve a toy from the wreckage of his family’s demolished house in Rafat, West Bank, 28 February 2001. (AP Photo/Nasser Nasser)