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Chronology

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# CHRONOLOGY

16 NOVEMBER 2001–15 FEBRUARY 2002

*This section is part seventy-three of a chronology begun in JPS 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time. For a more comprehensive overview of events related to the al-Aqsa intifada and of regional and international developments related to the peace process, see the Quarterly Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in this issue.*

## 16 NOVEMBER

**Ramadan** begins. Despite pleas fr. Muslim nations, the **U.S.** continues its “war against terror” in **Afghanistan**. In Jerusalem, **Israel** bars younger **Palestinian men** access to the al-Aqsa Mosque, citing security reasons. (AP 11/16; NYT 11/17)

The **Israel Defense Force (IDF)** enters 2 areas of Gaza controlled by the **Palestinian Authority (PA)**, bulldozes Palestinian agricultural land, destroys a **PA Preventive Security Force (PSF)** post. In Jinin, **2,000 Palestinians** protest outside a **PSF** office for the 3d day, demanding the release of **senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Muhammad Tawalbi**, arrested by the PSF on 11/14. Clashes are also reported in al-Bireh. (AP 11/16; WT 11/17; LAW 11/26)

## 17 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** withdraws fr. **Tulkarm**, leaving Jinin the only 1 of 6 major PA-controlled towns still reoccupied by the IDF following the assassination of Israel’s **Tourism M Rehavam Ze’evi** by the **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)** on 10/17. A closure on Tulkarm, however, remains in place. The **IDF** also conducts an arrest raid in Yabad. (WP 11/18; LAW 11/26)

## 18 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** finds, accidentally triggers a bomb outside the King David Hotel in Jerusalem just before **Israeli PM Ariel Sharon** is to meet there with a **European Union (EU) delegation**; no injuries are reported. The **IDF** also moves troops 200 yds. into PA-controlled territory nr. Bayt Lahia, kills **2 armed Palestinians** it claims were heading toward nearby **Dugit settlement**; the **PA** says the men were mbrs. of the Palestinian naval police on patrol. **2 other Palestinians** die of injuries received earlier. (NYT, WP 11/19; NYT 11/20; LAW 11/26)

## 19 NOVEMBER

In Louisville, **U.S. Secy. of State Colin Powell** gives the 1st major policy speech on the Middle East by the **George W. Bush admin.**, announcing plans to send 2 envoys (**retired Gen. Anthony Zinni, Asst. Secy. of State for Near East Affairs William Burns**) to the region to help broker an Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire based on the 6/11/01 **Tenet cease-fire plan** (see Doc. D2 in JPS 121) and the 5/20/01 **Mitchell Comm. recommendations** (see Doc. A2 in JPS 120), which calls for a halt to violence, confidence-building measures, a return to negotiations. (HA, MM 11/19; XIN 11/19 in WNC 11/20; AFP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/20; AYM, DUS, MENA, *al-Quds, al-Ra’i*, SA 11/20 in WNC 11/21; AYM 11/20, IRNA, QA 11/21, ATL, SA 11/22 in WNC 11/23; AYM 11/22 in WNC 11/28; MEI, MM 11/23; WP 11/25) (see Doc. D3 in JPS 122)

The **IDF** kills **2 Palestinians** planting a roadside bomb in the West Bank; sends tanks into Rafah refugee camp to bulldoze **4 Palestinian homes**, injuring 1 Palestinian; sends tanks, bulldozers into Bayt Hanun for several hrs. **Palestinian** gunmen fire on a vehicle nr. Shavei Shomron settlement, injuring **3 Jewish settlers**. (NYT, WT 11/20; LAW 11/26)

## 20 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** fatally shoots **1 Palestinian** nr. Nablus. The **IDF** demolishes **18 Palestinian homes** in a Rafah refugee camp, claiming they were used as cover for Palestinian gunmen. The **IDF** also sends troops, bulldozers into PA-controlled areas nr. Netzarim, firing shells and heavy machine guns at residential areas and leveling more than 25 acres of land. (AP, PMC 11/20; WP, WT 11/21)

## 21 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** raids a village outside Tulkarm, captures **PSF officer Samir Kayid** and his brother. A **Palestinian** dies of a heart attack at an **IDF** checkpoint in Gaza after soldiers bar his ambulance fr. taking him to a hospital. The **IDF** also raids the **PA Interior Min. offices** in Azariyya, confiscating files; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis (damaging a school), Rafah, Tal Sultan; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Hebron; reinforces closures in n. Gaza, Hebron. (HP, NYT, WT 11/22; LAW 11/26)

## 22 NOVEMBER

In Khan Yunis, **5 Palestinian school-boys** are killed in a mysterious explosion. The **IDF** raids Azariyya, shuts a **PSF** office, **2 PA Interior Min.** offices; shells residential areas of Bayt Hanun. Nr. Tulkarm, **3 armed Palestinians** drive a jeep through the gates of a factory run by **Jewish settlers**, opening fire, wounding 2 workers. (HP, MEZ 11/22; MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/23; WP 11/24; MENA 11/24 in WNC 11/27; HA 11/25; JT 11/25 in WNC 11/28; MM 11/27; MEI 12/7)

## 23 NOVEMBER

On the eve of the new U.S. mission to the region, the **IDF** assassinates **senior Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades head Mahmud Abu Hanud**, firing a missile at his car nr. Nablus; **2 other Hamas mbrs.** are killed. In the West Bank, **2 Palestinians** are killed in an explosion; the PA says they were hit by a tank shell, the **IDF** claims they were preparing a bomb. The **IDF** also fires on a civilian car nr. the Rafah crossing, killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding another; opens fire on stone throwers in Gaza, killing a **7th Palestinian**. **Palestinians** fire a mortar at Neve Dekalim, causing damage but no injuries. (AP, HA 11/23; MEZ, NYT, WP, WT 11/24; AFP 11/24 in WNC 11/27; JP [Internet], REU, YA 11/25; DUS, *al-Quds* 11/25 in WNC 11/28; MM 11/26; MEI 12/7)

## 24 NOVEMBER

**Israel** admits that **5 Palestinian boys** killed by an explosion on 11/22 accidentally triggered a bomb planted by the **IDF** and intended for Palestinian gunmen. In Nablus, **50,000 Palestinians** attend the funeral for Hamas's **Abu Hanud**. In retaliation for Abu Hanud's assassination, **Hamas** fires mortars at Kefar Darom settlement, killing **1 IDF sol-**

**dier**, wounding 2. In response to 5 explosions along the Rafah-Egypt border, the **IDF** shells Palestinian residential areas of Rafah. (MENA 11/24 in WNC 11/27; NYT, WP, WT 11/25; NYT 11/26; PMC 11/28; MM 12/20; NYT 12/21)

## 25 NOVEMBER

**IDF soldiers** guarding Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem open fire on stone-throwing Palestinian youths, killing a **13-yr.-old Palestinian boy**. In retaliation for the 11/24 mortar attack on Kefar Darom, the **IDF** shells, destroys the **PA military intelligence** office in Khan Yunis, a **naval police** post in Sudaniyya, and a **Fatah** office in Dayr al-Balah, injuring 3; bulldozers demolish 3 **Palestinian homes** in Dayr al-Balah. The **IDF** also directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Bayt Lahia, Khan Yunis, Rafah, Tal Sultan. **Palestinians** fire 8 mortars at Gush Katif, causing no damage; detonate a roadside bomb nr. Hebron, causing no damage. (PMC 11/25; HP, HA, NYT, WT 11/26)

## 26 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** withdraws fr. Jinin. A **Hamas suicide bomber** detonates a device nr. the Erez crossing in n. Gaza, wounding **2 Israeli border policemen**. The **IDF** directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Khan Yunis, injuring 6 children; conducts arrest raids in Dayr al-Balah; tightens the closure on Tulkarm, digging ditches across roads, bulldozing agricultural land around the city. (HP 11/26; AP, HP, NYT, WP 11/27; NYT 11/28)

Special envoys **Burns**, **Zinni** arrive in Israel to begin work toward a cease-fire. (HA, MM, WP 11/26; AYM 11/26, 11/27 in WNC 11/28; JP [Internet], NYT 11/27; WJW 11/29; *al-Quds* 11/29 in WNC 11/30; *Le Monde* 11/30 in WNC 12/3; JP 12/7)

## 27 NOVEMBER

In Afula, Israel, **2 Palestinian gunmen** (1 fr. **Islamic Jihad**, 1 fr. the **al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade [AMB]**) open fire on a crowd, killing **2 Israelis**, wounding 14 before being shot dead. **Sharon**, taking U.S. envoys **Burns** and **Zinni** on a helicopter tour of the West Bank and Gaza at the time, redirects the chopper to overfly the scene of the attack. Later, a **Palestinian sniper** fatally shoots a **Jewish settler** driving in Gaza, wounds 3 others, is then killed by the **IDF**.

The **PA** condemns the attacks; **PA head Yasir Arafat** issues a statement pledging to make a “100% effort” toward achieving a cease-fire. Meanwhile, the **IDF** steps up strikes on residential areas of Khan Yunis; tightens access to Jerusalem. (HP, MM 11/27; AP, HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/28; AFP, AYM, *al-Quds* 11/28 in WNC 11/29; JP 12/7)

## 28 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** shoots, kills **1 Palestinian** nr. a crossing into Israel. **Palestinian gunmen** fire on Gilo; the **IDF** returns fire on Bayt Jala; no casualties are reported. Nr. Nablus, the **IDF** bulldozes roads, agricultural lands; a **Jewish settler** intentionally hits a **Palestinian** with his car, killing him. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim uproot 150 Palestinian olive trees in Jit; settlers fr. Ofra bulldoze Palestinian land around their settlement. The **PSF** begins an arrest campaign targeting **Islamic Jihad**, arresting 7 mbrs., questioning 22 Palestinians affiliated with the group. (PMC 11/28; HP, LAW, NYT, WP, WT 11/29; XIN 12/1 in WNC 12/3)

Special envoys **Burns**, **Zinni** meet with **Arafat** in Ramallah; tour the West Bank with U.S. officials to see refugee camps, the effect of Israel's military siege and settlement construction on Palestinians. Meanwhile, **Sharon** publicly restates his demand for 7 days of complete Palestinian quiet before Israel would take steps to implement the Tenet plan. (MM 11/28; AP, NYT, WP, WT 11/29)

## 29 NOVEMBER

As U.S. envoy **Zinni** meets with **PA officials**, an **Islamic Jihad suicide bomber** detonates a device on a bus in Hadera, Israel, killing **3 Israelis**, wounding 7. The bomber reportedly boarded the bus in the Israeli Arab town of Umm al-Fahm. A **Palestinian gunman** also kills **1 IDF soldier** in a drive-by shooting at a West Bank checkpoint. The **IDF** opens fire on a Palestinian car at a Jordan Valley checkpoint, killing **2 Palestinians** who “acted suspiciously” by making a U-turn to avoid the congested crossing. The **IDF** also opens fire on a **French delegation** (135 politicians, journalists, intellectuals) touring homes demolished by the IDF in Khan Yunis; seals Hebron; sets up more roadblocks, especially on the road to Bethlehem; tightens the closure on Tulkarm, bulldozing areas along the Green Line; raids a Palestinian factory nr. Qarni

crossing, confiscating electrical equipment; directs heavy machine gun fire on residential areas of Jinin; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis. **Jewish settlers**, under **IDF** protection, place caravans on a new settlement site nr. Dayr al-Balah. (AFP, HP 11/29; AFP, AP, HP, MM, NYT, WT 11/30; *al-Quds* 11/30 in WNC 12/3; LAW 12/5)

**Sharon** arrives in the **U.S.** on an official visit, accuses **Arafat** of having built a “coalition of terror” against Israel. (MM 11/30; NYT 12/1)

## 30 NOVEMBER

In response to the 11/29 Hadera bombing, **Israeli DM Benjamin Ben-Eliezer** authorizes the IDF to step up assassinations, tighten blockades on **PA** areas. The **IDF** encircles, takes up positions just inside PA-controlled areas of Jinin, Nablus, Tulkarm; directs machine gun fire at residential areas of Beitunia, Nablus; sends bulldozers into al-Bireh, temporarily occupies the roof of the **PA Min. of Planning and International Cooperation** while land in front of the building is razed; conducts an arrest raid in Hebron. **1,000 Palestinians** demonstrate in Ramallah, 8 are injured when the **IDF** fires on the crowd. (MM 11/30; PMC, NYT, WP, WT 12/1; LAW 12/5)

## 1 DECEMBER

During the day, **IDF** troops surrounding Jinin fatally shoot **2 Palestinians**. The IDF sends tanks, troops into Dura to arrest 5 Palestinians, including 4 **PSF** officers. U.S. envoy **Zinni** tours Gaza with **PA** officials. Late this evening, **2 Hamas suicide bombers** stage a synchronized attack in Jerusalem's Ben Yehuda market. Soon after, a **car bomb** explodes nearby. In total, **10 Israelis** are killed, around 180 are injured. The **PA** immediately condemns the attacks, saying it will do everything possible to arrest those responsible. **Sharon** announces he will cut short his visit to the U.S., meeting with **Bush** in Washington on 12/2, instead of 12/3. **Bush** demands that **Arafat** immediately punish organizations that were behind, support the attacks. **Britain**, the **EU**, **France**, **Germany**, **Italy**, **Russia** make similar demands. (AP, PMC 12/1; QA 12/1 in WNC 12/4; NYT, WP, WT 12/2; AFP 12/2 in WNC 12/3; WP, WT 12/3; LAW 2/5; WJW 12/6; MEI 12/7; JP 12/14)

## 2 DECEMBER

A **Hamas suicide bomber** detonates a powerful device on a bus in Haifa, killing **14 Israelis**, **1 Filipino**, and injuring more than 40. **Arafat** condemns the attack, outlaws "any movement, organization, or gathering" that does not abide by his cease-fire order, orders confiscation of illegal weapons, reiterates plans for a crackdown, saying that around **90 Palestinians** have already been arrested. **Israel** dismisses the arrests as "a stunt," seals PA areas, bans all Palestinian vehicular traffic, shells residential areas of Jinin. In one of several similar incidents in the Bethlehem area, **20 PSF officers** attempting to arrest **journalist Issa Zawahara**, who has ties to **Islamic Jihad**, are chased off by an **angry crowd of Palestinians**. **Arafat** later meets with **PA security heads**, convenes the **Palestinian Council (PC)** to discuss the recent attacks. (AFP, AP, HA 12/2; AFP, ATL, Interfax, LPA, XIN 12/2 in WNC 12/3; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/3; DUS, MA 12/3 in WNC 12/4; WT 12/4; AYM 12/4 in WNC 12/5; LAW 12/5; WJW 12/6; MEI 12/7; JP 12/14)

**Sharon, Bush** meet at the White House. Sharon says he does not expect **Arafat** to take serious steps to arrest those responsible for recent suicide attacks, says Israel will "do what we have to do to protect our citizens." Neither Bush nor U.S. officials urge Israeli restraint. (JP [Internet] 12/2; LPA 12/2 in WNC 12/3; MM, WP, WT 12/3; WT 12/4; VIRI 12/4 in WNC 12/5; MM 12/5)

Meanwhile, **Hamas** also takes responsibility for a drive-by shooting in Gaza, which leaves **1 Jewish settler** dead. In the Jordan Valley, 7 settlers are wounded in a 2d drive-by shooting. **Palestinians** in Bayt Jala fire on Gilo, injuring 2 settlers. Armed **Jewish settlers** accost Palestinians in Hizma. An **Israeli security guard** outside an East Jerusalem bank fatally shoots a **Palestinian**, apparently fearing that he was about to stage an attack. The **IDF** fatally shoots **4 Palestinians** nr. a Jinin checkpoint, **1 Palestinian** in Tulkarm; fires a tank shell at a **Palestinian** in Qabatiyya, killing him. The **IDF** also directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Aida, Jinin, Khan Yunis, Salim; conducts arrest raids in Abu Dis, Azariyya, Burqa. In Gaza, some **1,000 Hamas supporters** rally in support of continued attacks on Israeli targets. In Nablus, **300 Palestinians** attend a rally against political arrests sponsored by the **National and Islamic Higher Comm. for the Follow-up**

**of the Intifada (NIHC)**. (HA 12/2; XIN 12/2 in WNC 12/3; PMC, REU, WP 12/3; LAW 12/5)

## 3 DECEMBER

Upon his return fr. the U.S., **Sharon** meets with his **security cabinet**, then his **full cabinet** to discuss how to respond to the 12/1–2 attacks. The full cabinet votes to declare the **PA** "an entity that supports terrorism," adds **Force 17** (Arafat's "presidential guard") to its list of terrorist groups, authorizes Sharon to escalate military action. **FM Shimon Peres**, other **Labor MKs** walk out of the cabinet mtg. in protest but do not formally withdraw fr. the governing coalition. (AP, CNN, HA, MM 12/3; MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/4; MM, WJW 12/6; MEI 12/7; MA 12/7 in WNC 12/12; WP 12/9)

While the cabinet meets, the **PSF** continues to arrest mbrs. of **Hamas** and **Islamic Jihad**, risking confrontations with **hostile Palestinian crowds**. Arafat also orders the arrest of **Hamas spiritual leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin**, but when **PSF** officers arrive around midnight, crowds of Palestinians force them to retreat. The PSF says it has arrested more than 100 Palestinians since 12/2. **Arafat** asks **Peres** for a 4-day grace period, during which he vows he would crack down on opposition groups. **Israel** refuses, dismissing the arrests as a "show for international consumption." The **U.S.** says the **PA** must "root out the infrastructure of the groups that support terrorists." (HA 12/3; NYT, WP, WT 12/4; AKH 12/4 in WNC 12/5; MEI 12/7; MA 12/7 in WNC 12/11; WT 12/10)

Soon after the cabinet mtg., the **IDF** launches air raids against Arafat's headquarters and other **PA** sites around Gaza City, destroying the PSF barracks, Arafat's 2 personal helicopters, injuring 12 Palestinians; sends tanks into **Gaza airport** to bulldoze runways; sends troops into Ramallah to surround the PA's West Bank headquarters, where **Arafat** is staying. In Jinin, U.S.-supplied **F-16s** destroy the Palestinian governate building, jail, PSF headquarters. The **IDF** also fatally shoots **1 Palestinian** nr. Jinin; raids Beitunia, attacking several homes and arresting an **Arafat adviser**, several **Islamic Jihad mbrs**. In Bethlehem, **Fatah mbrs. Rafat al-Bajali** and **Nidal al-Dirbani**, both on Israel's wanted list, are killed in a mysterious explosion thought to be an **IDF** assassination. **White House spokesman Ari Fleischer** says **Israel** "obviously has the right to defend itself. The president under-

stands that very clearly." (AFP, AP, CNN, HA 12/3; XIN 12/3 in WNC 12/4; MENA 12/3, AN, MA 12/4 in WNC 12/5; HA, HP, NYT, WP, WT 12/4; HP, LAW 12/5; AYM 12/5 in WNC 12/7; AYM 12/6, *al-Safir* 12/7 in WNC 12/11; MEI 12/7; WJW 12/14; MEI 12/21)

#### 4 DECEMBER

Israel strikes PA targets for a 2d day, shelling Arafat's Ramallah compound (though not hitting the building housing his office, where he is staying), sending F-16s to hit PSF, Force 17 offices in Gaza City. The IDF also shells PSF, Force 17, PA military intelligence offices in Bayt Lahia, Jabaliya, Khan Yunis, Salfit, Qalqilya, and Tulkarm and the Information Min. offices in Ramallah; re-occupies the village of Iktaba and areas of al-Bireh, Nablus, Ramallah; fires on the home of PLO Exec. Comm. mbr. Ghassan Shaka'. A total of 3 Palestinians are killed, more than 150 wounded, including 60 schoolchildren; a 4th Palestinian, an ill baby, dies when the IDF prevents his transportation through a checkpoint to a hospital. The PA dismisses Tulkarm's PSF head Brig. Gen. Mahmud Awadala for releasing prisoners fr. Tulkarm's jail, including 6 Islamic Jihad mbrs., in fear that the IDF would shell the prison. (AFP, AP, HA, HP, MEZ, MM, NYT, PMC, WP, WT 12/4; MENA 12/4 in WNC 12/5; HP, LAW, MM 12/5)

#### 5 DECEMBER

Due to severe weather, violence tapers off noticeably, though an Islamic Jihad suicide bomber lightly injures 5 Israelis outside a hotel in Jerusalem. The IDF demolishes 2 Palestinian homes, a water network in Rafah, nr. Morag settlement; directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Jinin, Nablus, Rafah; confiscates Palestinian land in Dayr al-Balah; reinforces positions around Nablus, Qalqilya. In the afternoon, Israel, which had already curtailed operations due to the weather, announces it is halting strikes on PA targets for 12 hrs. to give Arafat a chance to demonstrate he is cracking down on opposition groups; names 36 Palestinians it wants arrested immediately, vowing to resume strikes on the morning of 12/6 unless the PA shows progress. Meanwhile, in a briefing to Likud MKs, Sharon vows to step up Israel's assassination campaign, bans all Palestinian vehicles on interurban West Bank roads, bars Arafat fr. leaving Ramallah, bans VIP pas-

sage for PA officials, promises continued attacks on PA military and symbolic targets. Late in the evening, the IDF raids the PA Central Bureau of Statistics, vandalizing the building and confiscating computers, financial records, raw survey data (especially on political and social issues), and the names and addresses of survey respondents. Attempting again to implement Arafat's 12/3 arrest order, the PSF takes up positions around the Gaza City home of Hamas's Shaykh Yasin, confiscates his car, cuts his telephone service. In reaction, 100s of Palestinians converge on Yasin's home to challenge the PSF; the sides exchange gunfire leaving 1 Hamas mbr. dead, 2 wounded. A Palestinian dies of injuries received on 11/28. (AP, HA, HP, JP [Internet], LAW, MM 12/5; LPA, XIN 12/5 in WNC 12/6; AFP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/6; MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/7; PR 12/12; WP 12/21)

#### 6 DECEMBER

Israel resumes attacks on PA targets, with F-16s dropping bombs on a PSF post in Gaza, injuring 18 Palestinians. Under the force of continued Palestinian demonstrations, PSF pulls back fr. Shaykh Yasin's house. The NIHC ultimately brokers an informal agmt. btwn. Hamas and the PA under which Yasin agrees to observe a "voluntary house arrest," leaving only to attend prayer services at a nearby mosque. Sharon claims PA is not making a serious effort to arrest wanted Palestinians. In Gaza, Palestinians fire 6 mortars at 2 Jewish settlements and toss grenades at an IDF post, causing no injuries. The IDF returns fire, killing 1 Palestinian; a 2d Palestinian dies of a heart attack at an IDF checkpoint when soldiers refuse him passage to a hospital. A Palestinian woman gives birth at an IDF checkpoint when soldiers refuse to let her ambulance pass. Fatah stages a pro-Arafat rally in Gaza, but only 1,000 Palestinians take part. (NYT, WP, WT 12/7; *al-Quds* 12/7 in WNC 12/11; MM 12/10; IRNA 12/10 in WNC 12/12; NYT 12/21)

Egyptian FM Ahmad Maher meets with Sharon, Arafat in a new cease-fire effort, presses Israel to relax its demand for a 7-day quiet period. Instead, Sharon hands Maher a list of demands to transmit to Arafat. U.S. envoy Zinni also meets with Arafat. (HA 12/6; MENA 12/6 in WNC 12/7; WT 12/7; MENA 12/7, 12/9 in WNC 12/11; AKH 12/13 in WNC 12/17; MEI 12/21; MEI 2/8; *al-Majallah* 2/9 in WNC 2/11)

## 7 DECEMBER

**Israel** continues strikes on **PA** targets, damaging al-Azhar University buildings, Palestine Bank offices, the UNRWA school for the blind. In the West Bank, the **IDF** ambushes, fatally shoots **2 Palestinians**. The funeral for a **Hamas** mbr. killed outside Shaykh Yasin's house on 12/5 turns into an anti-Arafat protest. The **PA** bars the press fr. covering a large pro-**Hamas** rally in Hebron. (AFP, REU 12/7; NYT, REU, WT 12/8; WP 12/9; LAW 12/12)

At Zinni's request, **CIA**, **PA**, **Israeli** security officials hold a "heated" **trilateral security comm.** mtg. in Tel Aviv. Separately, **Ben-Eliezer** meets with **Arafat financial adviser Muhammad Rashid** to discuss ways of achieving a cease-fire. (NYT, WP, WT 12/8; MENA 12/8, MA 12/9 in WNC 12/11; HA, WT 12/9)

## 8 DECEMBER

**Israel** continues to strike **PA** targets, destroying offices of **Force 17**, the **PA General Intelligence Service**, **PSF** in Rafah. The **IDF** fatally shoots **4 Palestinians** in the West Bank; **1 Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. An **Israeli** dies of injuries received in the 12/1 Jerusalem bombing. The **IDF** also enters PA-controlled Rafah to bulldoze **2 PSF** posts; directs heavy machine gun fire on residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah. **Palestinians** fire a mortar at Gush Katif settlement, causing no injuries. In Jerusalem **500 Israelis** attend a Peace Now protest against Israeli military actions. (NYT, WP 12/8; WP, WT 12/9; MM 12/10; LAW 12/12)

## 9 DECEMBER

**Hamas suicide bomber** detonates a device in a Haifa bus station, lightly injuring 11 Israelis. During a predawn arrest raid in Anabta that nets some **25 Islamic Jihad** suspects, the **IDF** opens fire on 2 cars of **PSF** officers (1 marked, 1 civilian), killing **4 PSF officers**, wounding 2; blows up 1 **Palestinian home**. The **IDF** also fatally shoots 1 **Palestinian** taxi driver at a crossing in Jinin; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah. **Palestinian gunmen** ambush a car in the West Bank, seriously injuring a **Jewish settler**. (BBC, WP 12/9; MENA 12/9 in WNC 12/11; NYT, WP, WT 12/10; AYM 12/10 in WNC 12/12; LAW 12/12)

U.S. envoy **Zinni** convenes another unproductive **trilateral security comm.** mtg.; warns **Israel**, the **PA** that if they do not

make serious efforts to implement a cease-fire within 48 hrs., he will call off his mission. In Gaza, the **AMB**, **Hamas**, **Islamic Jihad** issue a signed statement offering to suspend suicide bombings and gunfire inside Israel, if Israel stops assassinations, bombardment of Palestinian areas. The **IDF** dismisses the offer. (BBC, HA 12/9; JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/10; MM 12/11; AYM 12/11 in WNC 12/13; *al-Quds* 12/13 in WNC 12/14; MEI 12/21)

In a signal to the Palestinians, **Sharon** convenes his weekly **cabinet** mtg. at the **IDF's** West Bank headquarters. At his request the **inner cabinet** approves an escalation of attacks on PA security installations. (BBC, HA 12/9; WT 12/10; *Guardian* 12/19)

## 10 DECEMBER

The **IDF** attempts to assassinate **senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Muhammad Sidir** by firing missiles at his car in Hebron; Sidir is injured, **2 Palestinian children** are killed, 6 others are injured. (1 of the dead, 5 of the injured are bystanders.) A **3d Palestinian** is killed in al-Bireh by an **IDF** tank shell. The **IDF** also shells, destroys a **PSF** headquarters in n. Gaza; enters Rafah to bulldoze **3 Palestinian homes**; uproots 200 olive trees in Sinjil. **Palestinians** fire a mortar at a settlement in Gaza, lightly injuring 1 **Jewish settler**. **Jewish settlers** in Hebron severely beat **2 Palestinian girls**. **Palestinians, Israeli peace activists** stage a nonviolent protest at an **IDF** roadblock in Qalandia. (HP, LAW, MM 12/10; AP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/11; WT 12/12; AYM 12/12 in WNC 12/13; HA, LAW 12/13)

**Arafat, Sharon** meet separately with **Zinni**, urge him not to cut his trip short. **Powell** says that Zinni will indeed stay, that he never really intended to leave but just wanted to pressure the sides to act. (AP, MM, NYT, WT 12/11) (see 12/9)

In Washington, **Bush** hosts the White House's 1st menorah-lighting and Hanukkah party. Speaking privately with **American Jewish leaders**, Bush reportedly assails **Arafat** and the **State Dept.**, identifies with **Sharon**, says that winning the war on terror means getting rid of groups like **Hamas**, **Hizballah**. (MM 12/12; MM, WJW 12/13; NYT 12/14; AYM 12/14 in WNC 12/17; WP 12/15; JT [Internet] 12/19; JP 2/1)

In Brussels, **EU FMs** call on **Arafat** to dismantle the "terrorist networks" of **Hamas** and **Islamic Jihad**; to declare, in Arabic, the end to the "armed intifada." Also call on

**Israel** to halt assassinations, settlement expansion, attacks on the Palestinian infrastructure. (AFP 12/10; NYT, WT 12/11; IRNA, MA, SA 12/11 in WNC 12/12; AFP, MM, WT 12/12; *Le Monde* 12/12 in WNC 12/13; DUS 12/12 in WNC 12/14; MEI 12/21)

## 11 DECEMBER

**IDF** helicopters strike a **Force 17** office, electricity grid, residential areas in Khan Yunis, killing **2 Palestinians**, cutting power to the camp. **IDF** troops then open fire on rescue workers, Palestinians gathered to observe the damage, killing a **3d Palestinian**, wounding 20. The **IDF** also shoots at a car nr. a West Bank checkpoint, killing **2 Palestinians**. (LAW, NYT, WP, WT 12/12; HP 12/13)

**Zinni** convenes another mtg. of the **trilateral security comm.**; says the **PA** must “destroy the infrastructure of the terrorist organizations” that have carried out recent attacks on Israelis. (MM 12/11; MA 12/11 in WNC 12/12; AP, NYT, WP, WT 12/12; AYM 12/12 in WNC 12/13; NYT 12/13; AKH, *al-Quds* 12/14 in WNC 12/17; MM 12/19)

## 12 DECEMBER

Overnight, **IDF** helicopters rocket a residential area of Khan Yunis, killing **4 Palestinians**, wounding 21, destroying **2 Force 17** buildings. In the evening, **AMB, Hamas gunmen** jointly detonate a roadside bomb nr. a Jewish settler bus outside Emmanuel settlement nr. Nablus, then open fire on the bus, 2 cars traveling with it, the medical workers who come to the scene, killing **9 Jewish settlers, 1 Israeli border police officer**, wounding 30; **1 Hamas mbr.** is run over, shot dead by the **IDF**. In Gaza, **2 Hamas suicide bombers** detonate devices outside a Jewish settlement, wounding 4. **Sharon** severs all contacts with the **PA**, declares **Arafat** “irrelevant,” says Israel will no longer wait for the **PA** to “wipe out terror networks” but will do the job itself. The **IDF** immediately begins **F-16** air strikes on targets in al-Bireh, Gaza City, Jinin, Nablus, Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, killing **1 Palestinian**; tightens its encirclement of major Palestinian population centers; enters Jinin’s area A with tanks, injuring 19 Palestinians before withdrawing; fires on a funeral procession in Khan Yunis, injuring 3. The **Israeli inner cabinet** agrees to “rapidly deploy” the **IDF** for “massive and continuous” operations “in cities in the West Bank and

Gaza Strip.” **Arafat** orders the closure of all **Hamas, Islamic Jihad** offices, schools, clinics. (AP, LAW, MEZ, PMC 12/12; AFP, AP, HA, HP, JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WJW, WP, WT 12/13; AFP, MENA, XIN 12/13 in WNC 12/14; ATL 12/13 in WNC 12/17; JP, JT [Internet], MM 12/14, 12/17, 12/18; JP, MEI 12/21)

## 13 DECEMBER

The **IDF** cuts electricity to Gaza City, Ramallah; sends tanks and **F-16s** to shell the control tower at Gaza airport, the **PA** headquarters in Gaza City and Ramallah (**Arafat** is unharmed), the **PA naval police** offices in Bayt Lahia, and **PSF** and **Fatah** offices nr. Gaza City, Ramallah, and Jinin; blows up the main radio, TV transmitters in Ramallah; bulldozes the Palestinian Media Center offices in Ramallah; occupies the home of **Fatah tanzim leader Marwan Barghouti** (who is not there at the time); makes incursions into PA-controlled areas of Bayt Hanun, Bayt Lahia, Beitunia, Jinin, Nablus, Ramallah, Sudaniyya, Tulkarm, al-Zahra; bulldozes Palestinian land in Rafah. A total of **4 Palestinians** are killed during the day; shells strike the Friends Boys School, damaging 3 classrooms. In Gaza City, 2 Israeli missiles land nr. a mosque while Hamas spiritual leader **Shaykh Yasin, Hamas spokesman Mahmud Zahar** are inside. **Israel** declares that the Zinni cease-fire talks are over, though **Zinni** had already planned to leave on 12/14 for Jordan and Egypt, then return to Washington. (AP, HP, MM, NYT, WP 12/13; MENA 12/13 in WNC 12/14; JP, HA, HP, NYT, WP, WT 12/14; HA 12/16; LAW, PCHR 12/19; MEI 12/21)

## 14 DECEMBER

The **IDF** kills **8 Palestinians** in clashes (including **6 PSF officers** in Salfit, 2 Palestinians nr. Qarni crossing); conducts arrest sweeps in Asira Shamaliyya, Dura, Hebron, Nablus, Salfit, Tal, arresting at least **50 Palestinians**; demolishes **3 Palestinian homes** in Salfit, 36 in Khan Yunis (leaving more than 350 people homeless); occupies 3 homes in Salfit, 1 home in Khan Yunis as military posts; sends tanks, bulldozers into Tamun in the West Bank. In retaliation for mortar fire, Israeli **F-16s** drop bombs on a **Force 17** complex, a **PSF** office in Gaza City, injuring 7 Palestinians. Eyewitnesses in Salfit say at least 2 of the **PSF** officers killed were disarmed by **IDF** soldiers, told to lie on



the ground, then were fatally shot by soldiers. Palestinians in and around Ramallah, al-Bireh say they are suffering shortages of medicine, basic foods due to the ongoing IDF encirclement of the area. The **IDF** pulls out of Fatah *tanzim* leader **Barghouti's** house in Ramallah (see 12/13). (AP, HP, *Jerusalem Times* 12/14; NYT, WP, WT 12/15; HA, WT 12/16; LAW, PCHR 12/19)

The mayor of the Jewish town of **Upper Nazareth** announces plans to enlarge its jurisdiction by 3,700 dunams for construction of new neighborhoods, shopping centers. The 3,700 dunams will come fr. land expropriated in 1976 fr. the Arab town of **'Ayn Mahil**. The preceding wk., Upper Nazareth authorities bulldozed 2,000 old growth olive trees on confiscated **'Ayn Mahil** land for a new Jewish neighborhood that will be linked to Upper Nazareth. (Arab Association for Human Rights press release 12/15)

## 15 DECEMBER

In response to mortar fire on settlements in Gaza and across the border into Israel, which caused no damage, the **IDF** raids Bayt Hanun, bulldozing 5 **Palestinian homes**, 3 **PSF** posts, the local **Fatah** headquarters and killing 4 **Palestinians**, wounding 70, arresting 15 before withdrawing. After troops fatally shoot a 5th **Palestinian** allegedly attempting to infiltrate a **Jewish settlement** in Gaza, the IDF sends tanks into Rafah. The **IDF** also bulldozes the Nablus–Tubas road; confiscates a **Palestinian home** in Ramallah as an IDF outpost; breaks into the Voice of al-Quds radio station, damaging equipment, confiscating broadcasting gear; fires at a Red Crescent ambulance, wounding the driver; reinforces positions outside Bayt Lahia, Jabaliya. The **PA** closes 4 **Hamas, Islamic Jihad** offices in Gaza. (NYT, WP, WT 12/16; LAW, PCHR 12/19; MEI 12/21)

## 16 DECEMBER

In a televised address, **Arafat** again urges Palestinians to halt attacks on Israeli targets, especially suicide bombings; vows that “any violation . . . will be seen as a trespass of our supreme national interest. . . [and] will be penalized firmly and strongly.” Arafat also notes that he has already declared illegal the military wings of **Hamas, Islamic Jihad** (see 12/2). The **PA** says it has shut at least 25 **Hamas, Islamic Jihad** offices in the preceding 3 days, including the groups’ newspapers. The **U.S.** says the PA must now take

“all the steps it can to bring to justice those responsible for terrorist attacks and to destroy the organizations that would launch future attacks.” (HA 12/16; MENA 12/16 in WNC 12/17; AFP, AP, HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/17; Interfax, XIN 12/17 in WNC 12/18; MM 12/18; QA 12/18 in WNC 12/19; MA 12/18 in WNC 12/21; AP 12/19; MEI 12/21; HA 12/24)

After Arafat’s speech, **Palestinians** fire a mortar at a **Jewish settlement** in Gaza, causing no damage. The **IDF** shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; occupies 3 **Palestinian homes** in Shaykh Ajlin, Shufa as military outposts. 1 **Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 12/8. The **Israeli cabinet** approves a request by the Agricultural Min. to issue work permits for 6,000 **Palestinians** to enter Israel to help with harvests. (HA 12/16; AFP, AP, HA, NYT, WP, WT 12/17; AP, LAW, PCHR 12/19; HA 12/24)

## 17 DECEMBER

All **Palestinian factions** agree to halt attacks inside Israel, for 1 wk., conditional on **Israel** suspending assassinations; **Hamas, Islamic Jihad**, the **PFLP** reject calls to halt attacks on Israeli targets in the West Bank, Gaza. Hrs. later, **IDF** helicopters fire 2 missiles at the car of Islamic Jihad’s **Sidir** in Hebron in a 2d assassination attempt. Sidir jumps fr. his car before the missiles strike, receiving only minor injuries, but 2 cars behind his are destroyed, killing 2 **Palestinian children**, injuring at least 2 adults. Also in Hebron, the **IDF** fatally shoots **wanted Hamas mbr. Yakub Idkaydik**; 2 other **Palestinians** are shot dead in Gaza, Nablus. **Israeli police bar PLO Jerusalem affairs official Sari Nusseibeh** from holding a reception for foreign dignitaries in Jerusalem, marking the end of Ramadan; detain him for 2 hrs. of questioning. The **U.S.** denounces the action as “provocative.” **Palestinian gunmen** ambush 2 vehicles in the West Bank, injuring 3 **Jewish settlers**. (AFP, AP, MM 12/17; AFP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/18; *Guardian*, LAW, PCHR 12/19; WJW 12/20; HA, MEI 12/21; JT [Internet] 12/25)

## 18 DECEMBER

The **PA** continues to close **Hamas** offices, says it has arrested more than 180 Palestinians since 12/2. **Israel** says it is not enough; more senior mbrs. of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and individuals on Israel’s most-wanted list must be apprehended. The **Dem-**

**ocratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)** says it will not adhere to Arafat's cease-fire call. **Palestinians** toss a grenade at an **IDF** post on the Gaza-Egypt border, causing no injuries; the **IDF** directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Rafah in response. The **IDF** also fires on a **PSF** post nr. Jinin, wounding 1 PSF officer. (LAW, NYT, PCHR, WP 12/19; MM, WJW 12/20)

## 19 DECEMBER

The **PA** says it has arrested **15 PSF officers** on suspicion of having taken part in attacks on Israelis. In Gaza, the **PSF** attempts to arrest **Hamas spokesman 'Abd al-'Aziz Rantisi**, but **100s of Hamas mbrs. and supporters** surround Rantisi's home, engage in a gun battle with PSF officers. The **PSF** also closes a shop in Gaza that allegedly made homemade mortars. A senior **Hamas** official says that the group has taken a decision to halt suicide operations in Israel but does not intend to announce it publicly. Nr. Tubas, a **Palestinian shepherd** is seriously injured when he steps on a land mine thought to have been buried by the **IDF** (see 11/22). (AFP, LAW, PCHR 12/19; NYT, WP 12/20; WP 12/21, 12/22)

**Israeli, PA security officials** hold talks on possible new security arrangements in the West Bank. (NYT 12/20; WT 12/21)

## 20 DECEMBER

**IDF** forces pull back fr. parts of Nablus, Ramallah but reenter them later in the day. In Tal, **IDF** soldiers fire on protesters who assemble to block tanks fr. reentering Nablus, killing **1 Palestinian**. The **IDF** also shells residential areas of Nablus, causing **1 Palestinian** to die of a heart attack; conducts arrest raids in Hebron, Karawat Bani Zayd. In Gaza, the **PSF** again attempts to take Hamas spokesman **Rantisi** into custody but clashes with **100s of Hamas mbrs. and supporters**, leaving 15 rioters and PSF officers injured. **Israel** says attempts to arrest Rantisi were designed to fail. Later in Gaza, the **PSF** fires on a group of **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. preparing to launch a mortar at a Jewish settlement, killing **1 Palestinian**. (AFP, MM 12/20; NYT, WP, WT 12/21; AYM, *al-Quds* 12/22 in WNC 12/26; PCHR 12/26)

In Washington, **Zinni** briefs **Powell** on his talks with **Israel**, the **PA**. Afterward, the **U.S.** says it will send Zinni back to the region once it sees "sustained and decisive" ac-

tion by both sides toward halting violence, noting that the **PA** in particular must do more to "combat terror and violence." (USIS Washington File 12/20; MENA 12/21 in WNC 12/26)

## 21 DECEMBER

**Hamas** agrees in writing to suspend suicide bombings in Israel, mortar attacks on Israeli targets for the sake of Palestinian unity (see 12/19). **Islamic Jihad** also agrees to a temporary halt to suicide bombings. Meanwhile in Gaza, **100s of Palestinians** attend the funeral for an Islamic Jihad mbr. killed on 12/20. As the funeral procession passes, the PSF headquarters in Jabaliya, masked **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. smash a police car, open fire on **PSF** officers, sparking a riot involving **1,000s of Palestinians** and an exchange of gunfire that leaves at least **6 Palestinians** (all civilians) dead, more than 80 injured. Later, 60 of Gaza's local leaders hold an emergency mtg. to discuss arrangements to prevent further intra-Palestinian clashes. Following Friday prayers in Ramallah, reps. of **all Palestinian factions**, followed by **100s of Palestinians**, stage a peaceful unity march on occupying **IDF** tanks, but the march turns violent when a few demonstrators throw stones at the tanks, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets on demonstrators, injuring 2. (AFP, HA 12/21; MA, VIRI 12/21, AYM 12/22, 12/24 in WNC 12/26; LAW, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 12/22; WP 12/23; NYT 12/24; SA 12/26 in WNC 12/27; AYM, SA 12/27 in WNC 12/28)

## 22 DECEMBER

In n. Gaza, the **PSF** arrests the **head of Islamic Jihad's military wing, Shadi Muhana**, and his **senior aide, Mahmud Judeh**. The **IDF** fires on a **PSF** checkpoint nr. Jinin, injuring 1 PSF officer, 1 Palestinian bystander; conducts an arrest raid in Gaza City. A **Jewish settler** driving nr. Qalqilya hits, seriously injures a **Palestinian** man. **1 Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 12/11. (PMC, WT 12/23; PCHR 12/26)

## 23 DECEMBER

The Israeli press leaks news that **Peres, PC speaker Ahmad Qurai'** have drafted a "letter of understanding" under which Israel would recognize a Palestinian state within 2 mos. as part of an interim agmt. following full implementation of the Tenet and Mitchell plans. **Arafat, Sharon** say the draft is un-

workable as is; they expect Peres, Qurai' to continue their mtgs. (HA, YA 12/23; HA, WP 12/24; AYM, JT, MENA, QA 12/24 in WNC 12/26; NYT 12/25; AYM, MA 12/26 in WNC 12/27; HA, WJW 12/27; MENA 12/27 in WNC 12/28; JT [Internet] 12/28; AYM 12/28 in WNC 12/31; AYM 12/29 in WNC 1/2; MM 2/13) (see Quarterly Update)

The **IDF** fires tear gas, rubber bullets to disperse a peaceful demonstration of **1,000s of Palestinians, 100s of international NGO reps.** in Ramallah, wounding 6 Palestinians. The **IDF** also fires 10s of percussion grenades at residential areas of Khan Yunis. (PMC 12/23; PCHR 12/26)

## 24 DECEMBER

**Sharon** denies **Arafat** permission to leave Ramallah to attend Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem. Instead, a delegation of prominent **Christian leaders** goes to Ramallah to visit Arafat. The **Vatican** denounces Israel's action as "arbitrary." In protest, the **AMB** ambushes a car outside Nablus, seriously injuring **1 Jewish settler**. The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Hebron, Khan Yunis. (Interfax, ITAR-TASS, JT, MENA 12/24, AFP, AKH, MENA, *al-Quds* 12/25 in WNC 12/26; BBC, NYT, WP, WT 12/25; PCHR, WT 12/26)

## 25 DECEMBER

**Unidentified gunmen** reportedly fire across the **Jordanian** border into **Israel**, n. of Beit Shean, wounding **2 Israeli border patrolmen**. The assailants then fire on, throw grenades at **IDF soldiers** who respond to the scene, killing **1 IDF soldier**, wounding 2. IDF helicopters strafe the border area and no-man's-land, killing 2 gunmen, entering Jordanian territory after obtaining the permission of the Jordanian security liaison. No group claims responsibility. Amman denies the gunmen are Jordanian, saying there is no proof they infiltrated fr. the kingdom. (BBC, CNN, REU 12/25; NYT, WP, WT 12/26; AYM 12/27 in WNC 12/28; QA 12/27, JT 12/28 in WNC 12/31; WJW 1/3)

Meanwhile, some **20 IDF** tanks, armored personnel carriers (APCs) temporarily enter Tamun in area A to arrest 7 **Hamas** mbrs. The **IDF** also fires on Palestinian fishing boats off Gaza, on residential areas of Rafah, but lifts the encirclement of Jericho, reporting a drop in violence there. (BBC, CNN, REU 12/25; NYT, PCHR, WT 12/26; AP, WT 12/27)

## 26 DECEMBER

During clashes nr. Jinin, **1 Palestinian** is killed, a mosque is partially damaged by **IDF** helicopter gunfire. The **IDF** also seizes a **Palestinian home** nr. Jinin as an outpost; sends 300 soldiers into Azun in area A in a predawn raid to arrest 17 Palestinians; fires on bedouin collecting firewood nr. Nissanit settlement, wounding an 8-yr.-old child. (PCHR, REU 12/26; NYT, WP, WT 12/27)

**Israeli, PA security officials** meet at Erez crossing. Israel says the PA may repair Gaza airport (though Israel will continue to bar **Arafat** fr. leaving Ramallah), extends the hours of the Rafah crossing to Egypt, eases restrictions on Palestinian businessmen entering Israel. (NYT, WP, WT 12/27)

## 27 DECEMBER

**Israel** says it will ease travel of **Christian pilgrims** (fr. the territories, Israel, abroad) to Bethlehem but says **Arafat** still may not leave Ramallah. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in the PA-controlled section of Hebron (arresting 8 Palestinians) and in Rafah (occupying **6 Palestinian homes**); fires on residential areas of Nablus. In Ramallah, the **IDF** fires tear gas, sound grenades, rubber bullets at **1,000s of Palestinians** and **350 foreign peace activists** protesting the Israeli siege, injuring 15 Palestinians, 10 foreigners. The **PSF** shuts 2 metal workshops in Gaza that allegedly made homemade mortars for **Hamas**. (AP 12/27; WT 12/28; PCHR 1/2)

## 28 DECEMBER

In Gaza, the **IDF** fatally shoots **Islamic Jihad mbr. Mahmud al-Burai**, allegedly en route to stage a suicide attack on Netzarim settlement; a 2d Islamic Jihad mbr. gets away. The body of a **Jewish settler** missing for a wk. is found in a cave nr. Jaba in the West Bank. The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Brazil refugee camp, Tal al-Sultan; eases the closure on Bethlehem. (REU 12/28; NYT, WP, WT 12/29; WT 12/30; LAW, PCHR 1/2)

More than **700 Israeli, Palestinian peace activists** march in Jerusalem in support of an independent Palestinian state, renewal of peace talks. In Ramallah, the **IDF** fires live ammunition, rubber bullets, tear gas to disperse peaceful demonstrators, injuring 5. (GS, NYT, WP 12/29; PCHR 1/2)

## 29 DECEMBER

The **PSF** arrests **3 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** who may have participated in a foiled attack on Netzarim on 12/28, **4 PFLP mbrs.** who may have been involved in the 10/17 Ze'evi assassination. (**Israel** claims that the PFLP mbrs. had nothing to do with the murder.) Nr. Ramallah, unidentified assailants fire on a **Jewish settler bus**, causing no injuries. (HA, WT 12/30)

A group of **250 Jewish, Arab Israeli peace activists** delivers 2 tons of food, clothing to the Palestinian village of Bayt Umar, which has been closed by an IDF military blockade for more than 1 yr. **IDF** soldiers manning the Surda checkpoint on the Bethlehem–Birzeit road push, shove, kick, aim rifles, and fire tear gas and percussion grenades at around **100 mbrs. of an ad hoc group of foreign civilians** known as **International Checkpoint Watch**, who position themselves at the crossing as nonviolent observers to protect Palestinians traveling the route. (GS 12/29; NYT 12/30)

## 30 DECEMBER

The **IDF** reports that Palestinian attacks have dropped 50% since **Arafat's** 12/16 cease-fire call, are down to an average of 11 incidents/day. **Sharon**, however, is still calling for 7 days of complete quiet before negotiations can resume. Israeli officials say the reduction since 12/16 does not warrant an easing of restrictions on Palestinians. (NYT 12/31; AKH, AYM, *al-Quds* 12/31 in WNC 1/2)

The **IDF** fatally shoots a total of **6 Palestinians** in 2 separate incidents nr. **Jewish settlements** in Gaza. Among the dead is **Ismaïl Abu al-Qumsan**, a senior mbr. of the **popular resistance comms. (PRCs)** (see Peace Monitor in *JPS* 120). The **IDF** also shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; bulldozes a sewerage network, telephone cables in Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids in Qalqilya, Tulkarm. The **PSF** says it has arrested **3 DFLP mbrs., 2 Hamas mbrs., a PFLP mbr.** for planning attacks on Israeli targets. The **PA** also says it has tried **5 PSF officers** for involvement in attacks on Israelis, sentenced them to 18 mos.; has fired 2 other PSF officers, sentenced 1 of them to a yr. in prison for "anti-Israeli activities." **Jewish settlers** confiscate Palestinian farmland, uproot an olive grove to expand Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablus. (HA 12/30; NYT, PMC, WT 12/31;

LAW, PCHR 1/2; *al-Quds* 1/2 in WNC 1/3; PR 1/9; MEI 1/11)

The **IDF** declares the Kefar Etzion settlement checkpoint a closed military zone until 1/9 so as to prevent a **delegation of 300 foreign nationals** from traveling to Hebron on a solidarity visit to meet with Palestinians there. (EU parliament press release 12/30)

## 31 DECEMBER

The **IDF** raids Qalandia, arresting 5 **Hamas** mbrs.; evacuates, seals a Palestinian school nr. Tulkarm. Ignoring Arafat's cease-fire pleas, the **PRCs** vow retaliation for the **IDF's** killing of 6 Palestinians on 12/30. Some **2,000 Palestinians, 300 foreign nationals**, and **100s of Israelis** take part in a day of nonviolent protests against the ongoing Israeli siege. (AFP 12/31; WT 1/1; LAW, WP 1/2)

**Sharon** denies **Israeli pres. Moshe Katsav's** request for permission to appear before the **PC** and offer a cease-fire bid. (AP 12/31; AP, JP [Internet], WT 1/1; WP, WT 1/2; MA 1/2 in WNC 1/3; HA, MM 1/3; MEI 1/11)

## 1 JANUARY

In Gaza, **IDF** undercover units capture Palestinian **Riad Ayad**, wanted for firing mortars at Jewish settlements. The **IDF** also conducts an arrest raid in Qabatiyya, detaining 4 **Hamas** mbrs., including most-wanted mbr. **Nasir Zarkana**; shells residential areas nr. Khan Yunis. **Israel** bans all **PA passport holders** fr. entering, exiting Israel through Ben-Gurion airport. (AP, NYT, PCHR, PMC, WP 1/2; PR 1/17)

The **U.S.** announces that in light of the relative calm on the Israeli-Palestinian front, special envoy **Zinni** will return to the region on 1/3 for a 4-day visit to urge the sides to begin implementing the Tenet cease-fire steps. **Sharon** says he still demands 7 days of complete quiet before resuming talks with the **PA**; claims that the recent decline in violence is due more to an Israeli crackdown than to any effort by Arafat. (AP, NYT, WP, WT 1/2; *al-Quds* 1/2 in WNC 1/3; HA 1/3)

## 2 JANUARY

Acceding to **U.S.** requests, the **IDF** agrees to ease blockades on some villages in the West Bank, Gaza. By the end of the day, however, **Peres**, the **PA** complain that all closures are still in place. **Israeli** authorities arrest **Palestinian human rights advocate**

**Mustafa Barghouti** twice, beat him once after he holds a briefing in East Jerusalem for **EU diplomats** on the effects of Israeli closures on Palestinian health conditions. The **IDF** also places a curfew on, conducts arrest raids in Abu Dis, detaining 6 Palestinians. (AFP, HA, LAW, PCHR, REU 1/2; AN, HA, NYT 1/3; AFP 1/3 in WNC 1/4; MEI 1/11)

### 3 JANUARY

The **IDF** eases the closures on Bethlehem, Hebron, Jinin, Nablus, Qalqilya, Tulkarm; arrests **5 Palestinians** in Hebron, a 6th in Kfar Ruman; fires on residential areas of Tal al-Sultan. The **PSF** arrests **3 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** for alleging plotting an attack during Zinni's visit, which begins this day. The **IDF** turns over the bodies of **3 Palestinian teenagers** killed on 12/30; photos of the corpses clearly show that autopsies were performed on the bodies, prompting protests, accusations of mistreatment fr. the PA. (PCHR, MM 1/3; JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP 1/4; AYM 1/4, *al-Quds* 1/5 in WNC 1/7; LAW, PCHR, PR 1/9; the above mentioned photos are at [www.cmeep.org/specialphotos.htm](http://www.cmeep.org/specialphotos.htm))

**Zinni** meets with **Sharon**, urges Israel to freeze expansion of **settlements** in light of sharply reduced Palestinian violence.

**Sharon** claims that the **PA's** crackdown has been superficial, demands that the PA take harsher action against militant groups. (MM 1/3; AYM, *al-Quds* 1/3 in WNC 1/4; JP [Internet], MM, WP 1/4; QA, *al-Quds* 1/4 in WNC 1/7; MEI 1/11)

### 4 JANUARY

Just 15 minutes into **Zinni's** 1st mtg. of his tour with **Arafat**, **Israel** announces that at dawn on 1/3 it captured a cargo ship, the **Karine A**, loaded with 50 tons of weapons en route fr. **Iran** to the **PA**. The **PA**, **Iran** deny involvement. (AFP 1/4; AYM, *al-Quds*, VIRI 1/4, VIRI 1/6 in WNC 1/7; JP [Internet], NYT, WP, WT 1/5; HA 1/6; MM 1/7, 1/9; AYM 1/9 in WNC 1/10; WJW 1/10; MEI 1/11; AKH 1/11 in WNC 1/14; MENA 1/14 in WNC 1/15; WT 1/15; JP 1/18; MEI 1/25) (see Quarterly Update)

**IDF undercover units** raid Tal, killing **1 Hamas mbr.**, arresting 2 who allegedly were planning an attack on a Jewish settlement; Palestinian sources, however, identify the dead man as a **PSF** officer. The **IDF** also fires tear gas, rubber bullets to disperse a peaceful Palestinian demonstration in Ramallah, injuring **2 journalists**, 3 demonstrators;

fires on residential areas of Rafah. An armed **Jewish settler** severely beats a **Palestinian** telephone repairman fixing a line nr. Hebron. (MM 1/4; NYT, WP 1/5; *al-Ra'i* 1/5 in WNC 1/7; LAW, PCHR 1/9)

### 5 JANUARY

**Israel** reports evidence it says links **Arafat**, his close associates **Adil Mughrabi**, **Fuad Shubaki**, and **Fathi Razim**, **Hizballah**, **Iran**, and others to the **Karine A**. Hizballah denies any involvement. (NYT, WP, WT 1/6; MM 1/7)

Meanwhile, the **PSF** arrests **senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Fawaz Khulayif** on charges of being involved in shooting attacks on Israelis, wounds 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs. during his capture; also arrests **National Islamic Salvation Party (NISP) secy. gen. Jamal Talab Salih**. The **IDF** critically wounds a Palestinian in a shooting incident, halts the ambulance transporting him to the hospital, takes him to an undisclosed location for several hrs. of questioning before releasing him to the hospital in critical condition. The **IDF** also sets up new checkpoints around Nablus. (WT 1/6; Radio Monte Carlo 1/6 in WNC 1/7; LAW 1/9; *al-Quds* 1/17 in WNC 1/22)

### 6 JANUARY

**Zinni** hosts a **trilateral security comm.** mtg. **Israel**, the **PA** argue over the **Karine A** affair and Israel's ongoing siege of PA areas but agree to strengthen security coordination. Zinni then leaves for Washington to brief admin. officials before returning to the region on 1/18 for a 3d round of mediation. (JP [Internet] 1/6; *al-Quds* 1/6 in WNC 1/7; NYT, WP 1/7; MENA, *al-Quds* 1/8 in WNC 1/9)

Some 200 **PSF** officers conduct an arrest sweep of Jinin, detaining **6 Islamic Jihad mbrs.**, including **Ali Safuri**, 1 of Israel's most wanted. The **IDF** enters a Palestinian hospital in Hebron, interrogates patients for an hr.; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; searches several Palestinian homes in al-Ras; bulldozes 17 dunams of Palestinian olive trees nr. Morag settlement; tightens blockades on Nablus, Ramallah. Armed **Jewish settlers** protesting the IDF's initial steps to ease restrictions on Palestinians block the Jerusalem-Hebron road, threaten to shoot Palestinian motorists, uproot 100 olive trees nr. Qalqilya. (NYT, WP, WT 1/7; LAW, PCHR 1/9)

## 7 JANUARY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Tulkarm. (PCHR 1/9)

In an interview arranged by **Israeli military officials** for selected news outlets, **Karine A** captain **Omar Akawi** says he is a **Fatah** "soldier" who "obeyed orders" issued by the **PA**. The **PA** continues to deny involvement. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/8; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/9; *al-Quds* 1/10 in WNC 1/14; MEI 1/11)

## 8 JANUARY

The **IDF** sends tanks into Bayt Lahia for 1 hr., withdraws without incident; conducts another arrest raid in Tulkarm. Armed, plain-clothes **PSF** officers attempt to arrest a **wanted Hamas mbr.** when he arrives for work at a UN clinic in Gaza. When the man flees, the officers open fire, chase him into the clinic, and continue to fire, wounding 3 bystanders and the wanted man, who escapes. The **UN** protests the **PSF's** handling of the incident. (REU 1/8; PCHR 1/9)

## 9 JANUARY

In the first deadly Palestinian attack since 12/25, **2 armed Palestinians** cross the border into s. Israel, attack an **IDF** outpost with guns and grenades, killing **4 IDF soldiers**, wounding 2 before being shot dead. The **IDF** claims the assailants were mbrs. of the **PA naval police**, but **Hamas** claims responsibility, saying it staged the attack to punish Israel for capturing the **Karine A**. The **PA** condemns the attack. The **Israeli inner cabinet** meets to discuss how to respond. Afterward, the **IDF** takes over **2 PSF** posts in Rafah, nr. where the **Hamas** mbrs. infiltrated Israel; raids the **PA** naval police offices in al-Mawasi, confiscates weapons. An ailing **Palestinian** dies at Rafah border en route to an Egyptian hospital when the **IDF** delays his ambulance at the crossing for several hrs. (AFP, AP, JP [Internet], LAW, MM, PCHR 1/9; AP, HA, MM, NYT, WP 1/10; SA 1/11 in WNC 1/14; *al-Quds* 1/14 in WNC 1/15; MEI 1/25)

In Washington, **Israeli intelligence, military officials** brief **U.S. officials** on their **Karine A** evidence. The **U.S.** says evidence indicates the **PA, Fatah** were involved but does not implicate **Arafat** directly. (AFP, MM, NYT 1/9; NYT, WP, WT 1/10; MM 1/11; JT 1/11 in WNC 1/14)

## 10 JANUARY

In a predawn operation, the **IDF** sends tanks, bulldozers into Rafah to demolish at least 54 **Palestinian houses**, damaging another 20, leaving some 650 Palestinians homeless. **Israel** claims the houses were used by "terrorists" to shoot at **IDF** troops, hide tunnels used for smuggling arms fr. Egypt. (The **UN, U.S.** condemn the demolitions, which bring the total number of Palestinian homes in Rafah demolished by the **IDF** in the past yr. to about 200; another 200 houses have been damaged, 69 stores destroyed, 520 acres of agricultural land bulldozed.) In response, **Islamic Jihad** says it is dropping its pledge to halt attacks inside **Israel**. The **IDF** also takes over another 3 **PSF** posts, demolishes a sewage network nr. Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids nr. Rafah crossing. The **PSF** announces that it has arrested **2 Islamic Jihad mbrs.**, including 1 of Israel's most wanted. (AP, HA 1/10; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/11; QA, *al-Quds* 1/11 in WNC 1/14; HA 1/12; B'Tselem press release 1/13; MM 1/14; LAW, PCHR 1/16; AYM 1/16 in WNC 1/22; *al-Quds* 1/22 in WNC 1/24; MEI 1/25)

**Sharon** vows not to resume contacts with the **PA** until it arrests the Palestinians behind the **Karine A** arms shipment. (AP, JP [Internet], MM, WP, WT 1/11)

## 11 JANUARY

The **PSF** announces that it has arrested **Shubaki, Mughrabi** in connection with the **Karine A**; has issued a warrant for **Razim**, who is believed to be in Jordan. **Israel**, dismissing the arrests as insufficient, shells **PA** naval targets in Gaza and residential areas of Rafah, destroying **19 Palestinian houses**, damaging another 100, injuring 8 Palestinians, leaving up to 850 homeless; bulldozes the remaining **Gaza airport** runways; shells, destroys the main sewerage network serving Khan Yunis, Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Nablus, Rafah; closes the main southern road in Gaza. The **IDF** also fires tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets to disperse a peaceful Palestinian demonstration in Ramallah, injuring 2. (AFP, HA, MM, NYT, REU, WP, WT 1/11; NYT, WP, WT 1/12; QA, *al-Ra'i* 1/12 in WNC 1/14; Amnesty International press release, MM 1/14; LAW, PCHR 1/16; MA 1/16 in WNC 1/17; *al-Quds* 1/22 in WNC 1/24)

**12 JANUARY**

Correcting its 1/11 statement, the **PSF** says it has only arrested **Shubaki** in connection with the **Karine A**; **Mughrabi**, **Razim** are apparently abroad. In the 4th day of reprisals for the 1/9 Hamas attack, the **IDF** shells a **PA naval police** office in Gaza City, confiscates several fishing boats, bulldozes a warehouse; sends naval commandos to blow a hole in **Arafat's** yacht, anchored at the base; demolishes 7 **Palestinian houses** in Rafah, injuring 8 Palestinians; bulldozes olive trees, conducts arrest raids in Qalqilya, Tulkarm. (NYT, WP, WT 1/13; LAW 1/16; JP 1/25; NYT 1/29)

**13 JANUARY**

The **Israeli navy** arrests 4 **Palestinian fishermen** angling in the permitted area off the Gaza coast. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Qalqilya; confiscates 149 dunams of Bayt Sahur land for a settler bypass road. The **PSF** continues to arrest **Hamas, Islamic Jihad** cadres in Gaza, including the owner of a workshop in Shati' that made home-made mortars. (AYM 1/13 in WNC 1/14; LAW, PCHR 1/16)

**14 JANUARY**

The **IDF** assassinates wanted **AMB mbr. Ra'id Karmi**, detonating a bomb as he leaves his Tulkarm hideout. (The IDF attempted to assassinate him on 9/6/01.) The **AMB** cancels its observance of Arafat's cease-fire, vows revenge. Hrs. later, **AMB** mbrs. ambush IDF soldiers nr. a Jewish settlement outside Tulkarm, killing 1 **soldier**, wounding a 2d. The **IDF** also bulldozes 9 **Palestinian homes** in Issawiyya in occupied **East Jerusalem**, slating another 10 for demolition. The **U.S.** says that while it understands Israel's need "to ensure its self-defense," it considers the house demolitions "provocative." (LAW, MM 1/14; AFP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/15; LAW, MM, PCHR 1/16; AYM 1/16 in WNC 1/17; *al-Quds* 1/16 in WNC 1/22; NYT 1/23; WJW 1/24; MEI 1/25)

**15 JANUARY**

**AMB** gunmen ambush, abduct, fatally shoot a **Jewish settler** nr. Bayt Sahur. Unidentified Palestinian gunmen fatally shoot a **2d Jewish settler**, wound a 3d nr. Givat Ze'ev. Both settlers killed are **U.S.** passport holders. The **IDF** tightens blockades around Bethlehem, Ramallah; conducts arrest raids in

Qalqilya. **Jewish settlers** uproot an olive grove nr. Keddumim. The **PSF** arrests **PFLP head Ahmad Saadat** in Ramallah after luring him to a mtg. with **PA West Bank intelligence chief Tawfiq Tirawi**; **Israel** claims the arrest was only meant to impress a visiting **U.S. congressional delegation**. In Bethlehem, Gaza City, and Ramallah, **100s of Palestinians** gather to protest Saadat's arrest. Demonstrators outside Arafat's office in Ramallah denounce Tirawi as a collaborator. The **PSF** also shuts the Gaza City office of *al-Risala*, the **NISP's** newspaper. (AFP, BBC 1/15; AFP, JP, LAW, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 1/16; HA, MM, NYT, WP 1/17; *al-Quds* 1/17 in WNC 1/18; *al-Safir* 1/18; *al-Nabhar* 1/19 in WNC 1/22; MEI 1/25)

In light of increasing violence, the **U.S.** places **Zinni's** 3d trip to the region, set to begin on 1/18, on hold. (WT 1/16; MM 1/21)

**16 JANUARY**

A **Palestinian** is fatally shot while driving through the West Bank, possibly by Palestinian gunmen who mistook him for a Jewish settler. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Batfir, Nahalin. The **PFLP** organizes demonstrations in Bethlehem, Ramallah demanding the PA release **Saadat**. (MM, PCHR 1/16; JP [Internet], WT 1/17; *al-Quds* 1/20 in WNC 1/22)

**17 JANUARY**

Early in the morning, the **Israeli inner cabinet** orders the **IDF** to seal Bethlehem, Jinin, Nablus, Qalqilya, Tulkarm. The **IDF** also fatally shoots wanted **AMB mbr. Khamis Abdallah** in an apparent assassination in Nablus; fires a tank shell at 3 teenagers trying to sneak across the Gaza border into Israel to work, killing 1 **Palestinian**, wounding 2. In the evening, an **AMB gunman** opens fire with an M-16 on a bat mitzvah celebration in Hadera, Israel, killing 6 **Israelis**, wounding at least 25 before being beaten unconscious by the celebrants and then fatally shot by an **Israeli policeman**. In retaliation, the **IDF** sends 20 tanks, APCs, paratroopers into Ramallah to tighten the encirclement of Arafat's headquarters to within 100 yds., placing **Arafat** under de facto house arrest; sends **F-16s** to shell PA Interior Min., administrative, and security offices in Tulkarm, killing 2 **PSF officers**, injuring 61 officers and civilians, damaging 20 homes and 50 stores; reinforces troops nr. Jinin, fatally shooting 1 **Palestinian**. (AP 1/17; LAW, MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/18; AFP, Interfax 1/18)

in WNC 1/22; CNN, WP, WT 1/19; MM 1/21; PCHR 1/23; WJW 1/24; JP, MEI 1/25; JP 2/1)

## 18 JANUARY

In retaliation for the 1/17 AMB attack, **IDF** soldiers in Ramallah confiscate the archives of **Voice of Palestine**, blow up the radio's 5-story building in Ramallah; search the home of PA intelligence chief **Tirawi**; search, occupy the Episcopal Diocese's Arab Evangelical School. When **Palestinian youths** throw stones at **IDF** tanks surrounding Arafat's headquarters, troops respond with live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, and tear gas, injuring 15. Some **4,000 Palestinians** also hold a nonviolent march in the city to protest the **IDF** presence. Elsewhere in the West Bank, wanted **AMB mbr. Faraj Hani Odeh Nazal** is fatally shot in what is thought to be an **IDF** assassination. The **IDF** also shells residential areas of Nablus. **Palestinian gunmen** fire on Gilo. (Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem press release, LAW, MM 1/18; BBC, LAW, NYT, WP, WT 1/19; AYM 1/19 in WNC 1/22; MM 1/21; AKH 1/21 in WNC 1/23; PCHR 1/23; WJW 1/24; MEI 1/25)

In the Negev, **200 bedouin** protest against an **Israeli Interior Min.** order to raze illegally built homes in their community. Many of the tin shanties were built by bedouin who served in the **IDF**, were recently discharged. (HA 1/19)

## 19 JANUARY

The **IDF** continues to reinforce blockades around major Palestinian cities, towns. Palestinians in Ikrama report some 70 **IDF** tanks moving toward Tulkarm. **Arafat** appeals to the international community to intervene with **Israel**, warning that the situation in the territories is extremely dangerous. (WT 1/20)

## 20 JANUARY

**1,000s of Palestinians** in Gaza City, **100s of Palestinians** in Ramallah march in support of **Arafat**, protesting his confinement in Ramallah. The **DFLP** says it will resume attacks on Israeli targets. **IDF** troops fire on **Palestinians** who throw stones at a tank that gets stuck in a narrow Ramallah street; 1 **IDF** soldier, 12 **Palestinians** are injured. The **IDF** also directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Nablus; conducts an arrest raid in Bani Suhayla. (AP 1/20; WP, WT 1/21; PCHR 1/26)

## 21 JANUARY

In its largest military operation in the West Bank and Gaza since 1967, **Israel** sends a large number of **IDF** infantry, tanks, APCs, armored bulldozers into **Tulkarm** in a predawn operation to totally reoccupy the city, taking control of the city center, occupying buildings (including a college, the mayor's home) and apartments as observer posts, hoisting Israeli flags, imposing a 24-hr. curfew, conducting house-to-house searches, detaining at least 30 **Palestinians**. The **IDF** reportedly responds to "scattered resistance," leaving **2 Palestinians** dead, 15 wounded. **IDF** soldiers also fire on 2 ambulances coming to the aid of the wounded, seriously injuring 1 ambulance driver. **Israel** says the operation will last "only a few days." The **IDF** also sends tanks deep into PA-controlled **Nablus**; directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Ramallah; conducts an arrest raid in Nahalin. **Senior IDF officials** suggest that **Israel** is preparing to make more deep incursions into PA areas "to destroy more infrastructure and to kill more terrorists." The **IDF** also bulldozes **Palestinian** land along bypass road 60 outside Hebron. Some 40 **Palestinians** attempt to block the bulldozers but are confronted by armed **Jewish settlers** who fire in the air and beat the **Palestinians**, seriously injuring 1 **Palestinian**. The **PA** releases NISP head **Salih** (arrested 1/5). (MM, WP 1/21, 1/22; *al-Quds* 1/23 in WNC 1/30; MEI 1/25; PCHR 1/26; JP 2/1)

The **Israeli Arab** legal center **Adalah** formally asks **Israeli atty. gen. Elyakim Rubenstein** to reconsider his recent decision not to compel the **Custodian for Absentees' Property** to comply with the 1998 freedom of information act and to release data on the moveable property of **Palestinian** refugees seized by **Israel** in 1948. **Rubenstein** rejected the request on the ground that it would damage **Israel's** foreign relations, require excessive time and resources to comply. **Adalah** first submitted its request in 1999. The atty. gen.'s office ignored 15 follow-up requests for a decision btwn. 1999–2002. (*Adalah* press release 1/28)

## 22 JANUARY

The **IDF** raids an alleged explosives factory in Nablus, killing most-wanted **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades West Bank head Yusif Suragji** and **3 other Hamas mbrs.**; the **PA** claims they were assassinated. **Hamas** vows to launch an "all-out war"



against Israel. In retaliation, an **AMB gunman** opens fire in West Jerusalem, wounding 16 Israelis before being fatally shot by Israeli police. **Hamas spokesman 'Abd al-'Aziz** claims that the **PA** is actively tipping off the **IDF** to the location of Hamas operatives, granting the **IDF** entry to **PA** areas; threatens that Hamas will make sure the "conspirators . . . pay the price." In Nablus, **2,000 Palestinians** angry over the deaths march on the local **PA** headquarters and **PSF** office demanding the release of 28 detained Hamas mbrs., torching 3 **PSF** cars. **PSF** officers shoot tear gas, stun grenades at the crowd, fire their weapons in the air, killing **1 Palestinian**. To calm tensions, the **PSF** "temporarily" releases the brother of 1 of the Hamas mbrs. killed this day so he may attend the funeral. **IDF** withdraws to the outskirts of **Tulkarm** after a massive 24-hr. incursion but also fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis. In Ramallah, **1 IDF soldier** is killed by **IDF** machine gun fire; the army says it is investigating the incident. (CNN, HA, MM 1/22; HA, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 1/23; MEI 1/25)

### 23 JANUARY

**2 Israelis** wounded in the 1/22 **AMB** attack die. In Nablus, **15,000 angry Palestinians** attend the funeral of 3 of 4 **Hamas** mbrs. killed by the **IDF** on 1/22, demand revenge. **Israel** bars officials of the **Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem** fr. leaving **Israel** to attend the Vatican's Day of Prayer for Peace in Italy. (AP, MM 1/23; WP, WT 1/24)

The **IDF** announces the results of its investigation into the 12/30 death of **3 Palestinians**, whose mutilated bodies were not turned over to the **PA** until 1/3, raising suspicions that the 3 had been tortured and autopsied without permission. The **IDF** admits that the tank shells fired at the teenagers were packed with (banned internationally) flechettes and that 1 body was then driven over by a tank. (PCHR 1/30) (see 1/3)

The **U.S.** steps up pressure on the **PA**: The **White House** blames continuing violence on the Palestinians, says cease-fire efforts were derailed by the "arms shipment received and paid for by the Palestinian Authority," and states that the "justifying of the targeting of innocents in return for land is an argument for terrorism." The **State Dept.** says there is no excuse for the **PA** "not taking effective steps to stop that terrorism." **Powell** phones **Arafat** to demand his full re-

port on the **Karine A** affair. (AP 1/23; AP, NYT, WJW, WT 1/24; NYT, WP 1/25)

**Hizballah** fires mortars, rockets at 3 **IDF** posts in the occupied Shaba' Farms region of the Golan Heights, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** responds by conducting air strikes against **Hizballah** targets in **s. Lebanon**. (MM, WP 1/24; *al-Nabarr* 1/24 in WNC 1/25; MM 1/29, 1/30; *al-Safir* 2/7 in WNC 2/11)

### 24 JANUARY

The **IDF** assassinates **senior Hamas mbr. Adli Hamdan (Bakr Hamdan)**, firing missiles at his car in Khan Yunis, injuring 2 passengers. Another **5 Palestinians** are killed in separate incidents, including a **PA intelligence officer** fatally shot by the **IDF** in Ramallah. A **6th Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. In Hebron, the **IDF** raids, occupies a Palestinian bakery, shooting, wounding, detaining 1 Palestinian. The **IDF** also conducts arrest sweeps in the Bethlehem area, **Tulkarm**; occupies a **Palestinian home** in al-Khadir as an observation post. (LAW, NYT, WP 1/25; PCHR 1/30)

The **U.S.** invites **Sharon** to come to Washington to meet with **Bush** on 2/7. The **White House** also issues a statement regarding **Israel's** confinement of **Arafat** to his office in Ramallah, saying, "The president understands the reason that **Israel** has taken the action that it takes, and it is up to Chairman **Arafat** to demonstrate the leadership to combat terrorism." **Bush** meets with senior **national security advisers** to reassess **U.S.** Middle East policy. Some senior admin. officials (including **VP Dick Cheney**, **Defense Secy. Donald Rumsfeld**) are reportedly leaning toward sanctioning or severing ties with **Arafat**, the **PA/PLO**. (MM, WJW 1/24; AP, CNN, JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/25; *al-Quds* 1/26, DUS 1/27 in WNC 1/28; MM 1/28)

### 25 JANUARY

An **Islamic Jihad suicide bomber** detonates a device on a street in Tel Aviv, wounding at least **18 Israelis**, 3 of them critically. **1 Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. In Gaza, the **IDF** reports that **Hamas** fired locally made **Qassam-1** rockets at Erez crossing, causing no injuries. In retaliation, the **IDF** launches **F-16** air strikes on **PA** security targets in Gaza City and **Tulkarm**, injuring at least **7 Palestinians**. The **IDF** also shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; bull-

dozes 600 m<sup>2</sup> of Palestinian land in Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids in Nablus. In Ramallah, **1,000s of Palestinians** rally in support of **Arafat**. The **IDF** pulls out of Tira neighborhood in Ramallah, which it reoccupied on 1/17. (AP 1/25; NYT, WP, WT 1/26; JT [Internet] 1/27; PCHR 1/30)

**56 officers, soldiers in the IDF combat reserves** publish a petition in *Ha'Aretz* publicly refusing to "fight beyond the Green Line for the purpose of occupying, deporting, destroying, blockading, killing, starving, and humiliating an entire people." (HA 1/25; HA 1/28; WP 1/29; WT 1/30; BBC, MM, WJW 1/31; MA 2/1 in WNC 2/4; NYT 2/2; MM 2/4; MM, NYT 2/5; MEI 2/8) (see Doc. C4)

**Senior White House, State Dept., CIA, Pentagon officials** meet again to discuss the possibility of severing ties with **Arafat**, the **PA/PLO**. Bush, his advisers decide to increase public criticism of Arafat and to "redouble" efforts to get **Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia** to put pressure on Arafat. (AP, HA, MM, WP 1/25; WP, WT 1/26; *al-Quds* 1/26, DUS 1/27 in WNC 1/28; MM 1/28; AKH 1/28 in WNC 1/29; HA 1/29; MA, *al-Quds* 2/1 in WNC 2/4)

## 26 JANUARY

In Ramallah, **IDF** soldiers shoot, seriously wound a **Hamas** mbr. at a checkpoint, bar an ambulance fr. reaching him for 45 mins., allowing him to bleed to death. The **PA** terms the incident an assassination. In the West Bank, **Palestinian gunmen** fatally shoot a **Jewish settler** driving in the West Bank. Some **2,000 Palestinians** in Ramallah, **1,000s of Palestinians** in Bethlehem rally against Israel's continued confinement of **Arafat**, vowing to continue the intifada despite his cease-fire appeals. The IDF also shells 3 **PSF** posts nr. Jabaliya; arrests 3 **PSF officers** in Jinin. (REU 1/26; JT [Internet], NYT, WT 1/27; PCHR 1/30)

**Israeli Arabs** hold demonstrations in Sakhnin protesting Israel's military actions. (*al-Quds* 1/28 in WNC 1/29)

## 27 JANUARY

A **female Palestinian suicide bomber** detonates a device in West Jerusalem, killing **1 Israeli**, wounding 2 seriously, 5 moderately. This marks the 1st suicide bombing carried out by a Palestinian woman, though 2 women have been caught placing bombs previously during the al-Aqsa intifada. A release faxed to **Hizballah's** TV station in Leb-

anon identifies the woman by name and as a Palestinian **Hamas** mbr. from Nablus University, but neither the school nor the PA can find a woman by that name; no women are reported missing. In response, the **Israeli air force** flies low-level sorties over Gaza City, breaking the sound barrier, shattering windows. The **IDF** directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Khan Yunis, Nablus. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/28; DUS, MA 1/28 in WNC 1/29; *Guardian* [Internet] 1/29; NYT 1/30; SA 2/2 in WNC 2/4; JP 2/8)

**MK Salah Tarif**, Israel's 1st Arab cabinet mbr., resigns, saying he can no longer effectively perform his job in light of an announcement the preceding wk. that Atty. Gen. **Rubenstein** planned to lift his immunity and indict him for fraud. Tarif has consistently denied charges, first raised in 2001, that he gave \$5,000 to an Interior M official to obtain citizenship papers for a Palestinian businessman. (WP, WT 1/28)

**Israeli Arabs** hold a demonstration in Umm al-Fahm protesting Israeli aggression against the Palestinians. (*al-Quds* 1/28 in WNC 1/29)

## 28 JANUARY

A **Palestinian** driver crashes through an **IDF** checkpoint on the Green Line nr. Qalqilya, injuring 1 soldier; commandeers a 2d car fr. an Israeli couple; continues to Tel Aviv, where he hits, injures an Israeli policeman and is fatally shot by security personnel and bystanders. Meanwhile, the **IDF** fires on residential areas of Dayr al-Balah, Nablus. (JP [Internet], MM 1/28; NYT, WT 1/29; PCHR 1/30)

**Israel's Internal Security M Uzi Landau** presents to the **Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Comm.** his ministry's new "Enveloping Jerusalem" plan to ring **West Jerusalem** with barriers to prevent West Bank Palestinians fr. entering. (HA, JP [Internet] 1/28; BBC, MM 1/29; MM, NYT, WT 1/30; WJW 1/31; CSM 2/6; JP 2/8) (see Quarterly Update)

## 29 JANUARY

The **IDF** sends tanks, troops into Artas village, nr. Bethlehem, to detain **wanted Islamic Jihad mbr. Omar Ayish**. In the process the IDF wounds 4 Palestinians; throws a grenade into the Ayish home, causing damage but no injuries; leaves a trail of cars crushed and overturned by tanks. In response to the raid, **Palestinian gunmen** fire

on Gilo fr. Bayt Jala, lightly injuring 1 Jewish settler. **IDF** soldiers detain and beat a **Red Crescent doctor, ambulance driver** at a checkpoint in Nablus. The doctor is released after several hrs. but the driver is kept in custody. (AP 1/29; NYT, PCHR 1/30)

**Omri Sharon**, the PM's son, meets **Arafat** in Ramallah to arrange a secret mtg. btwn. **Sharon**, senior **PA officials** in Jerusalem for 1/30. (SA 2/3 in WNC 2/4; MM 2/4)

In his State of the Union address, **Bush** calls **Iran, Iraq, North Korea** an "axis of evil, arming to threaten the peace of the world"; also refers to a "terrorist underworld, including groups like **Hamas, Hizballah**, [and] **Islamic Jihad**." (HA, NYT, WP, WT 1/30; MM 1/31; MM 2/1; MA 2/1 in WNC 2/4; JP, MEI 2/8)

### 30 JANUARY

**Palestinian collaborator Murad Abu al-Asal** detonates a suicide bomb nr. Taibeh, Israel, injuring his **2 Shin Bet handlers**. A **2d Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 1/21. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem, East Jerusalem, Nablus, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, detaining 9 Palestinians fr. **Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PFLP**; shells residential areas of Tulkarm. (HA, MM, PCHR 1/30; NYT, WT 1/31; MA 1/31 in WNC 2/4; LAW 2/6)

The **Israeli cabinet** approves the **Enveloping Jerusalem** plan. (WP, WT 1/31) (see 1/28)

The **Palestinian woman** who carried out a suicide bombing on 1/27 is identified as **Wafa Idriss**, a **Red Crescent** volunteer medical worker who reportedly was distraught over the Palestinian casualties inflicted by the **IDF**. Most recently, a boy she treated, who had been shot by the **IDF** and left in a coma, died on 1/25. **AMB** claims she was "one of our female fighters," but family and friends say she had no connection to the group; she also was not religious, never attended **al-Najah University**. Her brother, Khalil Idris, is a local **Fatah** leader wanted by Israel. (AP, REU 1/30; HA, NYT, Red Crescent press release, WP 1/31; SA 2/2 in WNC 2/4; WT 2/3; JP 2/8; WP 2/9; NYT 2/11)

**Sharon** meets secretly in Jerusalem with **Qurai'**, **PA senior negotiator Mahmud Abbas**, **Arafat economic adviser Muhammad Rashid**, marking his 1st mtg. with PA officials since his election in 2/01; reportedly says he accepts the idea of an interim agmt. along the lines of the **Peres-Qurai'** plan, with implementation taking 7 yrs. (XIN 2/1,

AYM, *al-Ra'i* 2/2 in WNC 2/4; NYT, WP, WT 2/2; AFP, JP [Internet] 2/3; MM, NYT, WT 2/4; AYM 2/4 in WNC 2/6; WP, WT 2/5; MA 2/9 in WNC 2/11)

**Ben-Eliezer** meets with **Egyptian pres. Husni Mubarak** in Sharm al-Shaykh, says **Israel** currently sees no partner for peace on the Palestinian side, asks Egypt to inform Damascus that Israel is ready to renew peace talks with **Syria**. (HA, MM 1/30; MENA 1/30 in WNC 1/31; WT 1/31; MM 2/1; MENA 2/5 in WNC 2/6; MM 2/7)

### 31 JANUARY

In Gaza, the **IDF** fatally shoots **2 Hamas mbrs.** who detonated a roadside bomb nr. a bus carrying Thai laborers to a **Jewish settlement**, causing no damage or injuries. Nr. Nablus, a **Jewish settler**, angry over **Palestinian youths** throwing stones at his car, stops and shoots 1 of the youths at point blank range, killing him. A **4th Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. **Palestinians** fire 3 mortars at Gush Katif, causing some damage but no injuries. In Azariyya, the **IDF** closes the **PA Information Min.**'s temporary offices (opened after the **IDF** shut the main offices on 11/21), the al-Quds Open University Student Union office. The **IDF** also shells residential areas of al-Bireh, Ramallah; conducts arrest raids in Azun, Khan Yunis, Ramallah; detains 10 Palestinians at a Gaza checkpoint. (AP 1/31; BBC, NYT, WT 2/1; LAW, PCHR 2/6)

In an interview with *Ma'ariv*, **Sharon** says that he regrets that Israel did not kill **Arafat** in Beirut in 1982. The **State Dept.** says that the U.S. does not have "any particular comment" on Sharon's statement. (MA 1/31 in WNC 2/1; BBC, MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/1)

### 1 FEBRUARY

**Palestinians** fire mortars at an **IDF** checkpoint, detonate a bomb outside Kefar Darom settlement in Gaza, causing no damage. In response, the **IDF** shells the **PA naval police headquarters** in Dayr al-Balah, residential areas of Khan Yunis; sends tanks, troops into Khan Yunis for 3 hrs. to conduct extensive searches. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids in Abu Dis, Azariyya. Some **2,000 Palestinians** in Gaza City and **15,000 Palestinians** in Nablus rally in support of **Arafat**. The **PFLP** announces it is suspending its membership in the **PLO** in protest over the PSF's continued detention of **Saadat**. (WP

2/2; AFP 2/2 in WNC 2/4; NYT, WT 2/3; SA 2/3 in WNC 2/4; PCHR 2/4; LAW 2/6)

## 2 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Jinin, shells residential areas of Dayr al-Balah. (AFP 2/2 in WNC 2/4; LAW 2/6)

**Syria** rejects **Israel's** 1/30 appeal for a resumption of peace talks, saying that the offer is a "maneuver to pressure the Palestinians." (*al-Safir* 2/2 in WNC 2/4)

## 3 FEBRUARY

**Senior Fatah mbr. Imad Assaf** is seriously injured in a mysterious explosion in Dahaysha; the **PA** accuses **Israel** of attempting to assassinate him. **Palestinians** fire 2 mortars at a **Jewish settlement** in Gaza, causing no damage. In response, the **IDF** directs heavy machine gun fire on residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah (leaving **1 Palestinian** clinically dead). The **IDF** also fires tear gas, concussion grenades to disperse a peaceful protest by Palestinians, international peace activists in Ramallah; conducts arrest raids in Osrin, firing on Palestinian homes; bulldozes Palestinian agricultural land along secondary roads in the Bethlehem, Jinin areas; imposes closures on 10 villages around Ramallah. (HP 2/3; AFP 2/3 in WNC 2/4; NYT, PCHR, WT 2/4; LAW 2/6)

In a *New York Times* op-ed, **Arafat** outlines the Palestinians' vision of peace as a 2-state solution, with an independent Palestinian state in all of the West Bank and Gaza, and a secure **Israel** within its 1967 borders. He also affirms that any solution to the refugee issue must consider Israel's demographic concerns and denounces "attacks carried out by terrorist groups against Israeli civilians." (HA, JP [Internet, NYT 2/3; AP, HA, NYT, WT 2/4; JT, MA, MM, QA, *al-Quds* 2/5 in WNC 2/6; PR 2/6; MEI 2/8) (see Docs. B1, B2)

## 4 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** fires missiles at a car traveling nr. Rafah, killing **5 DFLP mbrs.** Israeli security sources say 1 of those killed, Ayman Bihdari, was targeted for assassination for his role in organizing the 8/25/01 raid on a Gaza IDF post that left 3 soldiers dead. The DFLP vows retaliation. The **IDF** also demolishes **2 Palestinian homes** in Issawiyya; shells an alleged Palestinian mortar factory in Jabaliya. Nr. Nablus, **Palestinian gunmen** fire on a car with Israeli license plates, wounding an

**Israeli Arab** B'Tselem employee on the job collecting information on human rights violations by the IDF. (BBC, LAW, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 2/4; XIN 2/4 in WNC 2/5; MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/5; LAW, PCHR 2/6)

## 5 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Khan Yunis, Qarni, Rafah, Wadi al-Silqa; occupies a **Palestinian home**, bulldozes land in Dayr al-Balah; conducts arrest raids in Dayr al-Balah, Dayr al-Sharaf, Hebron, Tal; fires on a Palestinian boat off Gaza, wounding 1 fisherman; places new roadblocks on the roads linking Nablus with Qalqilya, Tulkarm. **Palestinians** fire 3 mortars at Gush Katif settlement causing no damage. The **IDF** reports that incidents of Palestinian violence are up to an average of 17/day (see 12/30). **1 Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. (HA, HP 2/5; LAW, PCHR 2/6; PCHR 2/13)

In Jinin, a mob of more than **1,000 Palestinians**, enraged by reduced sentences handed down by a judge, storms a makeshift **PA security courtroom** and executes **3 Palestinians** convicted of murdering a popular **PSF officer** over an intrafamily feud; **100 PSF** officers surrounding the building are unable to fend off the mob. Since 9/01, the **IDF** has demolished Jinin's 2 police headquarters, its security headquarters, 2 prisons, the governor's administrative offices, and its military courtroom, leaving the PA without a secure compound to hold the controversial trial. The military court sought to move the trial to Jericho but could not due to Israeli closures. (AP, HA 2/5; MM, NYT, WP 2/6)

In New York, **Ben-Eliezer** says that **Arafat** is not a partner for peace; urges the **U.S.** to open talks with more "realistic" Palestinians who could form an alternative leadership. He also alleges that Israel has new intelligence information that **al-Qa'ida mbrs.** have been relocating to **Lebanon** to join forces with **Hizballah**; says he will encourage the **U.S.** to target Hizballah in its war on terror when he meets with officials in Washington on 2/6. (XIN 2/5 in WNC 2/8; AP, HA 2/6; MM 2/7; *al-Quds* 2/16 in WNC 2/19)

## 6 FEBRUARY

An **Israeli bus driver** coming fr. Ma'ale Adumim stops at an Israeli checkpoint into **Jerusalem**, warns border police of a suspi-

cious passenger on board. **Israeli border police** scuffle with and detain a **Palestinian** passenger wearing an explosive device, which is defused by bomb experts. Later, a **Hamas gunman** dressed as an **IDF** soldier infiltrates a home in the West Bank settlement of Hamra, fatally shoots **2 Jewish settlers**, **1 IDF soldier**, wounds 4 settlers before being shot dead by soldiers. In response, **IDF F-16s** bomb 2 prisons in Nablus, injuring 11 Palestinians. During the strikes, wardens release **25 Hamas, Islamic Jihad prisoners** (including 2 of Israel's most wanted, **Islamic Jihad mbrs. Mahmud Tawalba, Ali Safuri**) for their safety but keep **103 suspected collaborators** in custody. The **IDF** also captures a vegetable truck on Jinin–Nablus road loaded with 8 **Qassam-2** missiles and a launcher; fatally shoots **1 Palestinian** who threw a hand grenade at an **IDF** post on the Rafah border; demolishes **3 Palestinian homes** in Bayt Hanina and Shu'fat; arrests 3 Palestinian fishermen off the Gaza coast, confiscates their boats. The **IDF** also raids, confiscates the files of and closes the East Jerusalem offices of **2 NGOs** that represent Palestinian interests: the Arab Studies Society's Land Research Center, the Welfare Association's Multisectoral and Technical Offices. (AP, LAW 2/6; MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/7; NYT, WP, WT 2/8; NYT 2/9; MA 2/10 in WNC 2/11; MA 2/11 in WNC 2/12; PCHR 2/13; HA 2/17)

In a report to Congress, **CIA Dir. George Tenet** identifies several "terrorist groups"—including **Hamas, Islamic Jihad**, the **PFLP**—that have no ties to al-Qa'ida but could be future **U.S.** targets because they have "displayed anti-U.S. sentiments" and have threatened U.S. interests overseas. (WP 2/10)

## 7 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** fires missiles at a PA prison in Nablus for a 2d time; fires tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets at demonstrators outside **Arafat's** Ramallah headquarters, wounding 3; begins bulldozing Palestinian land in Za'atra for creation of a new settler bypass road. In Jinin, **10s of armed Palestinians** raid a makeshift **PA** jail in an apartment building, freeing 10–15 detainees without meeting resistance. **Israel** extends the closure of **Orient House** for 6 mos. (MM 2/7; NYT, WT 2/8; NYT 2/9; GS 2/12; LAW, PCHR 2/13)

**Sharon** meets with **Bush** in Washington for the 4th time in less than a yr.; says **Arafat** is an obstacle to peace, who ideally

should be replaced. **Bush** says the U.S. will not sever ties with **Arafat** but will keep pressure on him to halt Palestinian violence. **Sharon** also asks **Bush** to give Israel the \$800 m. in aid that the Clinton admin. promised Israel to cover costs of its withdrawal fr. Lebanon. (MM 2/7; *al-Quds* 2/7, XIN 2/8, *al-Ra'i* 2/9 in WNC 2/11; HA, JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/8; HA 2/10)

## 8 FEBRUARY

In Jerusalem, a group of **Palestinian teenagers** fatally stabs an **Israeli woman**. **Israeli** police shoot at, captured 4 of the teenagers, 1 of whom dies at the scene. Police say the **14-yr.-old boy** dropped dead of no apparent cause; witnesses say he was beaten, perhaps shot by soldiers. In n. Israel, a car mysteriously explodes killing **2 Palestinians**; the **IDF** claims they were **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. en route to stage a car bombing. The **IDF** again fires tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets at demonstrators nr. **Arafat's** Ramallah headquarters, injuring 6; conducts arrest raids in Birzeit and in Tamun, where troops detain 7, wound 10 with live ammunition, occupy **12 Palestinian homes** as **IDF** outposts, uproot 150 olive trees. The **PA** again calls for adherence to **Arafat's** cease-fire. At a pro-**Hamas** rally in Jabaliya attended by more than **10,000 Palestinians**, **Hamas** spokesman **Rantisi** vows more suicide attacks against Israel, says that anyone who seeks to stop the intifada "wants to tear us apart." The **NIHC** organizes a separate protest march fr. Shati' to the PC building in Gaza City, denouncing biased **U.S.** policy, calling on **Arab states** to take a strong, unified stand on the Palestinian situation. (AYM 2/8 in WNC 2/11; NYT, WP, WT 2/9; LAW, PCHR 2/13; MA 2/15 in WNC 2/19)

## 9 FEBRUARY

**Palestinian gunmen** fire on a settler vehicle nr. Ariel, killing **1 Jewish settler**, wounding another. The **IDF** shells residential areas of Tulkarm; occupies a commercial building in al-Bireh as an outpost. (NYT, WP 2/10; LAW 2/9; PCHR 2/13)

The **EU** endorses a draft plan by **France**, based on the **Peres-Qurai'** ideas, that calls for Palestinian elections and the immediate creation of a Palestinian state followed by state-to-state negotiations on an Israeli withdrawal, final settlement. **Israel** rejects the idea; the **PA** accepts it. (CNN 2/9; AFP 2/9, MENA 2/10 in WNC 2/11; NYT, WT 2/10;

MM 2/11; AN 2/11 in WNC 2/12; JP [Internet] 2/12; MM, WP 2/15; MEI 2/22; WP 2/25)

## 10 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** conducts a predawn arrest raid in **Nablus's** Askar refugee camp, detaining at least **3 Palestinians**, seizing **1 Palestinian apartment** as an observation post, and exchanging gunfire with residents, leaving **1** soldier wounded. The **IDF** conducts another predawn arrest raid in **Dayr al-Balah**, shelling residential areas, occupying **2 Palestinian homes** as observation posts. In Beersheba, **2 Hamas gunmen** open fire outside an **IDF** base, killing **2 IDF soldiers**, wounding **4** before being shot dead by troops. In response, the **IDF F-16s** drop bombs on a **PSF** headquarters in Gaza and Ansar 2 prison; helicopter gunships fire missiles on targets around Gaza City and Jabaliya, injuring **20** Palestinians, including employees of the **UN Special Coordinator's Office (UNSCO)**, which is damaged in the attack. UNSCO protests. Later, **Palestinians** fire **2** objects fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no injuries; at least **1** of the devices leaves a **7-ft.** hole, leading the **IDF** to suspect that it was a **Qassam-2** rocket, rather than a mortar, which would mark the **1st** time **Palestinians** have fired one of the homemade missiles. The **IDF** later reports it has confiscated **3** empty rocket launchers in Gaza.

**Jewish settlers** severely beat a Palestinian teenager nr. Tal Rumayda; beat, rob another teenager nr. Nablus; bulldoze **12** dunams of olive groves nr. Antalia settlement. (MEZ, WP 2/10; XIN 2/10 in WNC 2/11; MM, NYT, WP 2/11; CSM 2/12; JT 2/12 in WNC 2/13; LAW, PCHR 2/13; MEI 2/22)

**Sharon** returns fr. the U.S., immediately calls for a mtg. of his **inner cabinet** to discuss how to respond to recent Palestinian attacks. (NYT 2/11)

The **State Dept.** confirms that **Powell** has received correspondence fr. **Arafat** regarding the **Karine A** affair, saying he was not involved but that as leader of the PA, he will take responsibility for the incident, punish those responsible. (WT 2/11; NYT 2/12, 2/14)

An **IDF** autopsy performed in the presence of a **Palestinian doctor** confirms that the **14-yr.-old Palestinian** who died in Jerusalem on 2/8 was killed by an **IDF** bullet. (LAW 2/10, 2/13)

## 11 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** sends **20** tanks into Nablus, declares a curfew, and retakes **Joseph's Tomb**, a Jewish shrine abandoned by Israel during the **1st** mo. of the al-Aqsa intifada. At midday, as schools are letting out, **IDF F-16s**, helicopters strike a **PSF** compound in Gaza City, injuring at least **40** Palestinians. After the bombing, **100s of Palestinians** race to the jail inside the **PSF** compound, demanding the release of prisoners, fearing the jail would be hit next. **PSF officers** fire in the air to disperse the crowd and quickly begin transferring prisoners to detention elsewhere, but **several prisoners** escape or are freed in the melee. Later, some **300 Palestinians** storm the **PSF jail** in Hebron, freeing **16 Hamas, Islamic Jihad** mbrs. **Israel** says the Gaza strikes are part of a "rolling response" to the "new level of threat" presented by **Hamas's** use of **1** or **2 Qassam-2** rockets on 2/10. **1 Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 2/3. (MM, WT 2/11; AP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/12; JT 2/12 in WNC 2/13; QA 2/12 in WNC 2/14; LAW, PCHR 2/13)

During a mtg. with his top aides, **Arafat**, furious over the storming of the **PSF jail** in Hebron, demands to know why **PSF West Bank head Jibril Rajub's** men had permitted the prisoners' release. According to reports confirmed by unnamed PA officials, **Arafat** then drew a gun on **Rajub**, accused him of trying to replace him. Aides separated the pair, defusing the situation. (QA, *al-Quds* 2/13 in WNC 2/14; MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/14; MENA 2/14 in WNC 2/15; MM 2/15)

## 12 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Hebron (killing **1 Palestinian**, demolishing **1 Palestinian home**), al-Ram, Ramallah. A **2d Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. The **IDF** shuts the main north-south roads in Gaza, dividing the Strip into three sections; reoccupies the town of Tamun, nr. Jinin, turning a nearby **PSF** checkpoint into an **IDF** roadblock. (HP 2/12; AP, LAW, PCHR, WT 2/13; JT 2/14 in WNC 2/15)

## 13 FEBRUARY

Overnight, **Hamas** fires **2 Qassam-2** rockets at a **Jewish settlement** in the West Bank, missing the settlement completely, causing no damage or injuries. In response, the **IDF** temporarily seizes the Palestinian towns of **Bayt Hanun, Bayt Lahia**, and **Dayr al-Balah** as well as **Jabaliya** refugee

camp in Gaza; conducts searches, detaining at least 12 Palestinians; exchanges gunfire with Palestinians, leaving **5 PSF officers** dead; bars international agencies fr. sending officials to observe the operation. The **IDF** also sends tanks into Jinin briefly; flies **F-16s** over Nablus all day; conducts arrest raids around Jinin; bulldozes 15 dunams of Palestinian land nr. al-Maghazi. A **6th Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. (AFP, HP, LAW, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP 2/13; MM, WP, WT 2/14; MM 2/15; MEI 2/22)

#### 14 FEBRUARY

In Gaza, **Palestinian gunmen** ambush a **Jewish settler** convoy escorted by IDF trucks heading to Netzarim, detonating a roadside bomb and opening fire but causing no injuries. When the IDF sends in a tank for support, the gunmen detonate a shaped charge underneath it, killing **3 IDF soldiers**, wounding 2. This marks the 1st time Palestinians have destroyed an IDF tank. The **Salahadin Brigade** (reportedly a relatively recently formalized "military wing" of the PRCs in s. and central Gaza) takes responsibility. **Palestinians** also throw 2 pipe bombs

at an Israeli border police post in Hebron. (AP, BBC, HA, JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/15; MA 2/15 in WNC 2/19; MEI 2/22)

In the Negev, the **IDF** dusts 12,000 dunams of **bedouin** crops with poison, claiming they were illegally planted on state land. (HA 2/14; MA 2/18 in WNC 2/19; WP 3/20)

#### 15 FEBRUARY

In response to the Salahadin Brigades attack on 2/14, **IDF F-16s** twice bomb the PSF headquarters in Jabaliya, killing **1 PSF officer**, wounding 30 Palestinians. **IDF commandos** raid Saida, killing **1 Islamic Jihad mbr.**, arresting 4 others, razing Palestinian agricultural land, bulldozing 1 **Palestinian home**; during the demolition, a wall of the home collapses on a **senior IDF undercover officer**, killing him. Nr. Ramallah, **AMB** mbrs. fire on an **IDF** post, killing **1 soldier**. In Ramallah, **100s of DFLP, PFLP supporters** rally outside **Arafat's** Ramallah compound, calling for the release of Palestinians held by the PA without charge. (BBC 2/15; AFP 2/15 in WNC 2/19; NYT, WP, WT 2/16; WP 2/17; PCHR 2/21)

#### CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AKH	( <i>al-Akbbar</i> , Cairo)
AN	(Arab News, Riyadh)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
ATL	(Anatolia, Ankara)
AYM	( <i>al-Ayyam</i> , Ramallah)
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
CNN	(Cable News Network [Internet])
CSM	( <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , Boston)
DUS	( <i>al-Dustur</i> , Amman)
GS	(Gush Shalom, Tel Aviv)
HA	( <i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
HP	(Hear Palestine [Internet], Washington)
IRNA	(Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran)
JP	( <i>Jerusalem Post International Edition</i> , Jerusalem)
JT	( <i>Jordan Times</i> , Amman)
LAW	(Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, Jerusalem)
LPA	(London Press Association, London)
MA	( <i>Ma'ariv</i> , Tel Aviv)
MEI	( <i>Middle East International</i> , London)
MENA	(Middle East News Agency, Cairo)
MEZ	(al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, Jabaliya)
MM	( <i>Mideast Mirror</i> , London)
NYT	( <i>New York Times</i> , New York)
PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PMC	(Palestine Media Center [Internet])
PR	( <i>Palestine Report</i> , Jerusalem)

- QA (*al-Quds al-Arabi*, London)  
REU (Reuters [Internet])  
SA (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, London)  
VIRI (Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran)  
WJW (*Washington Jewish Week*, Rockville, MD)  
WNC (World News Connection [Internet], Washington)  
WP (*Washington Post*, Washington)  
WT (*Washington Times*, Washington)  
XIN (Xinhua–New China News Agency, Beijing)  
YA (*Yedi'ot Abaronot*, Tel Aviv)

Chronology compiled by Michele K. Esposito



**Palestinians search for their belongings in the rubble of their homes in Rafah refugee camp, where the IDF razed more than 54 houses on 10 January. (AFP Photo/Fayez Nureldine)**