



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS
JOURNALS + DIGITAL PUBLISHING



CHRONOLOGY

Author(s): Michele K. Esposito

Source: *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 33, No. 3 (Spring 2004), pp. 188-205

Published by: [University of California Press](#) on behalf of the [Institute for Palestine Studies](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/jps.2004.33.3.188>

Accessed: 06/03/2015 14:38

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at
<http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



University of California Press and Institute for Palestine Studies are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to Journal of Palestine Studies.

<http://www.jstor.org>

CHRONOLOGY

16 NOVEMBER 2003–15 FEBRUARY 2004

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

This section is part eighty-one 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

The **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** raids Rafah refugee camp (r.c.), surrounds the home of **Bassam Abu Libdeh** (whom the IDF believes is responsible for digging and renting out smugglers' tunnels to Egypt), opens fire on Abu Libdeh and 2 unarmed men who attempt to flee, killing 1, arresting Abu Libdeh, 4 others; **4 IDF soldiers** are wounded by a roadside bomb, **5 Palestinian homes** are demolished during the raid. (VOP 11/16 in WNC 11/18; NYT 11/17; PR 11/19; PCHR 11/20)

17 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** makes a predawn raid on Tulkarm, sparking an exchange of gunfire that leaves **1 Hamas mbr.** dead, arresting 3 Palestinians, including local **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) leader Nayif Jaradat**; pulls bulldozers out of Bureij r.c., ending a 4-day operation that leveled 55 dunams (4 dunams = 1 acre) of Palestinian land. (HA, XIN 11/17; VOP 11/17 in WNC 11/19; NYT 11/18; PCHR 11/20)

Israeli PM Ariel Sharon meets secretly in Rome with **U.S. National Security Council Middle East adviser Elliott Abrams**, reportedly briefs Abrams on his plans for unilateral actions in the occupied territories. (HA, VOI 11/22 in WNC 11/25; HA, MM 11/24; WP 11/26) (see Quarterly Update)

18 NOVEMBER

An **al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB) gunman** opens fire on an IDF checkpoint outside Jerusalem, killing **2 IDF soldiers**; the gunman escapes toward al-Khadir village; the IDF seals al-Khadir, conducts house-to-house searches, arresting 3 Palestinians. The **IDF** raids Rafah, sparking an exchange of

gunfire that leaves **1 Palestinian** dead and 11 wounded, demolishing **7 Palestinian homes**, damaging 2 others; fires on Palestinians at Qarni and Surda crossings for no apparent reason, wounding 3; shoots, wounds a 16-yr.-old Palestinian who breaks curfew in Asira nr. Nablus; fires on stone-throwing youths in Burqa nr. Nablus, wounding 3; fires on Palestinian farms nr. Netzarim settlement, killing 1 horse, wounding another; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Nablus. The IDF also arrests a **Palestinian farmer** harvesting his olive grove nr. Salfit, threatens to bulldoze the grove and family home if the family returns to the site; 50 mbrs. of **Rabbis for Human Rights, B'Tselem** intervene, harvest the olives for the family, vow to stay on the site, block bulldozing until the issue is resolved. In Gaza, **Palestinians** fire an antitank missile at a **Jewish settler convoy**, causing no damage or injuries. (BBC, HA, ISM press release, MM 11/18; NYT, WP 11/19; VOP 11/19 in WNC 11/21; PCHR 11/20)

19 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** continues operations in Rafah, bulldozing 2 shops, 2 greenhouses; fires on residential areas of Gaza City; conducts house searches, arrest raids in villages around Ramallah, in Salfit. An **IDF soldier** dies of injuries received in the 9/9 Rishon Letzion suicide bombing, bringing that toll to 9. The **Palestinian Authority (PA) Preventive Security Forces (PSF)** arrests 1 of its own officers in connection with the fatal shooting of 2 IDF soldiers on 11/18. **Palestinians** fire 3 **mortars** at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, causing light damage, no injuries. (JP, MM 11/19; VOI, YA 11/19 in WNC 11/21; PCHR, WP 11/20; PCHR 12/4)

A joint task force comprising the **Jewish Agency, Israeli government, IDF**

Journal of Palestine Studies XXXIII, no. 3 (Spring 2004), pages 188–205.

ISSN: 0377-919X; online ISSN: 1533-8614.

© 2004 by the Institute for Palestine Studies. All rights reserved.

Send requests for permission to reprint to: Rights and Permissions, University of California Press, Journals Division, 2000 Center St., Ste. 303, Berkeley, CA 94704-1223.

announces plans to invest tens of millions of dollars in a project to bring Jewish Diaspora youths (ages 18–26) to Israel for yr.-long visits aimed at “reinforcing Jewish identity and Zionist feelings in the Diaspora.” The goal is to bring 20% of Jewish Diaspora youths to Israel by 2010, in hopes that 30% of those would eventually immigrate. (HA 11/19)

20 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** fatally shoots a **Palestinian** who strays too close to Netzarim settlement; bulldozes 3 dunams of land in al-Mughraqa; demolishes a **Palestinian home** nr. Hebron. **Palestinians** detonate a roadside bomb nr. an **IDF** vehicle, damaging it but causing no injuries; fire on an **IDF** position outside the Gush Katif bloc in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries; fire on a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Hebron, damaging it but causing no injuries. (VOI, YA 11/20 in WNC 11/22; PCHR 12/4)

21 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, Nablus; conducts arrest raids nr. Nablus. On the last Friday of Ramadan, **Muslims across the Middle East** hold **Jerusalem Day** rallies in support of the Palestinian claim to Jerusalem. In Tehran, 10,000s of **Iranians** demonstrate; some 10,000 rally in **Bahrain**; 1,000s rally in **Beirut**; **Iraqis** in Baghdad, Najaf hold rallies for the 1st time in yrs., chanting “**Sharon** is God’s enemy! **America** is God’s enemy!” and “No to America!”; in the West Bank, Gaza 1,000s of **Palestinians** protest against the **Geneva Accord**. (HA 11/21; IRNA, VIRI 11/21 in WNC 11/25; NYT 11/22; PCHR 12/4)

22 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** sends armored vehicles, a bulldozer into Jenin, opens fire on stone-throwing youths, killing an **11-yr.-old Palestinian boy**; fatally shoots a **Palestinian** who strays into a closed military zone by the n. border fence in Gaza; conducts searches, arrest raids in Jenin, Ramallah. **AMB gunmen** fr. Jenin fire on an Israeli security vehicle at a **separation wall** construction site nr. Abu Dis, killing **2 Israeli security guards**. (AFP, HA 11/22; VOP 11/22 in WNC 11/25; HA, NYT, WP, WT 11/23; LAW, PCHR 12/4)

23 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** transfers **3 West Bank Palestinian administrative detainees** to Gaza for 2 yrs. for their involvement in Palestinian violence (see Quarterly Update); fires on residential areas of Brazil r.c. , Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids in Tubas nr. Jenin. (BBC 11/24; VOP 11/24 in WNC 11/26; PCHR 12/4)

Sharon tells his **cabinet** that he is considering submitting a plan to cabinet vote for “unilateral steps” in the West Bank and Gaza. Sharon does not confirm leaks to the press that the steps would include dismantling some isolated Jewish settlements, especially in Gaza, as part of a final status deal. (HA 11/23; *Los Angeles Times* 11/24)

24 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Tubas; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis; bulldozes 39 dunams of land in al-Bureij r.c. The **PSF** raids a mosque in Aida r.c. nr. Bethlehem, arresting **Hamas mbrs.** thought to be plotting a suicide bombing. **Shin Bet** arrests **Palestinian hospital worker and chemist Rashid al-Nimr**, cousin of PLO Exec. Comm. mbr. Faruq al-Qaddumi, on charges of selling **Hamas** 6 containers of hydrogen peroxide for use in building bombs, transporting the chemicals by ambulance, evading the **IDF** by hiding in hospitals. (JP 11/25 in WNC 11/27; LAW, PCHR 12/4; JP 12/11 in WNC 12/13)

25 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** conducts house searches, arrest raids in Hebron, Jenin; bulldozes 14 dunams of land in al-Qarara nr. Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids in villages around Hebron, Qalqilya. **Unidentified gunmen** believed to be Palestinian fire on the car of **Nablus mayor and PC mbr. Ghassan al-Shak’a (Fatah)** in an apparent attempt to assassinate him, leaving him unharmed but killing his brother. (al-Jazeera 11/25; PR 12/3; PCHR 12/4; PR 12/10; MEI 1/9)

In a mtg. in Washington with **U.S. National Security Adviser (NSA) Condoleezza Rice**, **Sharon’s chief of staff Dov Weisglass** reportedly lays out a 2-stage plan drafted by **Sharon** for **U.S. Pres. George W. Bush’s** approval that ultimately forsee the fall of **PA PM Ahmad Qurai’s** government, the end of the road map, and Israel’s unilateral declaration of borders,

taking 60% of the West Bank. (MM 11/28, 12/1, 12/5) (see Quarterly Update)

26 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** fatally shoots a **9-yr.-old Palestinian boy** nr. Rafah; fatally shoots **3 Palestinians**, all fr. the same family, who stray too close to a Jewish settlement nr. Rafah, en route to an Id al-Fitr celebration (the IDF admits on 11/27 that the men were innocent passersby); fatally shoots a **5th Palestinian** in Hebron; conducts arrest raids in Jalazun r.c., Jenin. (HA 11/26; MM, PCHR, WP 11/27; VOP 11/26, IDF Radio, VOP 11/27 in WNC 11/29; NYT 11/28; LAW, PCHR 12/4)

27 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Jenin, Rafah; blows up a **Palestinian home** in Hebron. (LAW, PCHR 12/4)

28 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** fatally shoots an unarmed **PSF officer** who enters a closed military zone to bring out a mentally handicapped Palestinian who had mistakenly entered the area; the IDF acknowledges the officer was shot in error. The **IDF** also fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis. (VOP 11/28 in WNC 12/2; WP 11/29; LAW, PCHR 12/4)

29 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** demolishes **3 Palestinian homes** in Rafah; bulldozes 200 Palestinian olive trees in East Jerusalem, clearing the land for **Jewish settlement** expansion; conducts arrest raids in Ramallah. (PR 12/3; LAW, PCHR 12/4)

30 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** conducts searches, arrest raids in Balata r.c., al-Bireh, Jenin, al-Amari r.c.; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Balata r.c., Jenin. An **Islamic Jihad mbr.** is killed when his car mysteriously explodes in s. Gaza in what may be an assassination. A leaflet signed by the **AMB** denounces the **Geneva Accord**, threatening Palestinians who took part in its drafting. At the Rafah-Egypt border crossing, some **200 Palestinians** harass some **50 Palestinian drafters of the Geneva Accord** en route to the Geneva Accord unveiling in Switzerland, hit-

ting and kicking several drafters, causing no serious injuries. (*Daily Star*, JP, NYT 12/1; LAW, PCHR 12/4; PR 12/10)

In Amman, **King Abdallah of Jordan** receives **Qurai'**, agrees to transmit to **Bush** a series of PA ideas for restarting road map implementation when he visits Washington on 12/4. (VOP 11/30 in WNC 12/2; MEI 12/19)

1 DECEMBER

Before dawn, the **IDF** launches a major raid on al-Amari r.c. in Ramallah that lasts 16 hrs., sending in nearly 100 armored vehicles supported by helicopters to attack Hamas targets; the IDF warns the PA before entering Ramallah, promises that no operations will take place nr. **PA head Yasir Arafat's** headquarters. During the raid **3 Hamas mbrs.** and an **11-yr.-old Palestinian boy** are killed, 29 Hamas mbrs. are arrested, 9 youths who throw stones at troops are wounded, **2 Palestinian homes** (1 in al-Amari r.c., 1 in Ramallah) are demolished. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids in Jenin, Qalqilya, Rafah, Tulkarm town and r.c., and villages around Nablus. **Israel** begins construction of a new **Jewish settlement** neighborhood in East Jerusalem called Golden View. (AP, JP, MM, NYT 12/1; VOI, VOP, YA 12/1 in WNC 12/3; NYT, WP 12/2; LAW, PCHR 12/4; MEI 12/5)

In Geneva, some **150 Israelis and Palestinians** involved in the drafting of the unofficial **Geneva Accord** hold a formal unveiling of their peace initiative at a ceremony attended by **fmr. U.S. pres. Jimmy Carter** and addressed by **fmr. Polish pres. Lech Walesa**, **fmr. South African pres. Nelson Mandela**. **Arafat** does not endorse the details of the plan, but issues a statement declaring it a "brave and courageous initiative." **Sharon** continues to denounce it as "subversive." (BBC, HA, MM, NYT 12/1; MENA, QA, VOP 12/1 in WNC 12/3; HA, JP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/2; ITAR-TASS, *Le Monde*, XIN 12/2 in WNC 12/4; PR 12/3; QA 12/3 in WNC 12/6; MM, WJW 12/4; MEI 12/5; PR 12/10; JPI 12/12) (see special document section in *JPS* 130)

In an extensive *New York Times* interview, **Syrian pres. Bashar al-Asad** urges the U.S. to support the resumption of **Israeli-Syrian** peace talks. The U.S. brushes off the overture. (NYT 12/1; VOI, YA 12/1 in WNC 12/3; SANA 12/1, 12/2 in WNC 1/6; MM, WT 12/2; MM 12/3; MA 12/3 in WNC 12/4; MM 12/4; THWR 12/5, THWR, *Tishrin* 12/6 in

WNC 1/9; MM 12/8, 12/10) (see Quarterly Update)

2 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fatally shoots a **Palestinian** outside Ramallah who throws a Molotov cocktail at soldiers; fatally shoots a **2d Palestinian** in an exchange of fire in Jenin; fires on residential areas of Nablus, Rafah, Ramallah; demolishes **2 Palestinian homes** in Jenin, 1 in East Jerusalem, 1 in Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Jenin, Nablus. **Israel** approves construction of 1,720 new housing units in West Bank, Gaza **Jewish settlements**, raising to 2,819 the number of units approved since the road map was announced. (MM 12/2; NYT, PR, WP12/3; LAW, PCHR 12/4)

Israel says it would only seriously consider resuming peace talks with **Syria** if Damascus “renounces terror” (including halting all aid to Hizballah and Palestinian groups) and agrees to resume talks “without preconditions” (i.e., without starting talks fr. the point at which they left off in 3/00). (HA 12/2) (see 12/1, Quarterly Update)

3 DECEMBER

The **IDF** removes 3 roadblocks outside Ramallah; shoots, wounds 2 Palestinians in Balata r.c.; blows up a **Palestinian home** nr. Hebron. (MM 12/3; LAW, MM, PCHR 12/4; PCHR 12/11)

4 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids in Nablus, firing on Palestinian youths who gather to throw stones at the troops. The **Israeli High Court** approves the transfer to Gaza of **12 West Bank Palestinian administrative detainees**; a decision in the case against a 13th detainee is pending (see Quarterly Update). (PCHR 12/4; PR 12/10; PCHR 12/11)

Palestinian factions reopen cease-fire talks in Cairo under **Egyptian** auspices. (MM 12/4; MENA, VOP, XIN 12/4 in WNC 12/6; WP, WT 12/6; MEI 12/19) (see Quarterly Update)

5 DECEMBER

For the 1st time in more than a yr., the **IDF** allows **Palestinian store owners in Hebron** to open their shops, clean their store-

fronts. The **IDF** also fatally shoots **2 Hamas mbrs.** laying a roadside bomb in Gaza; fatally shoots a **Palestinian** baggage handler at the Rafah crossing to Egypt, mistakenly believing he was attacking when he ran to help someone with their luggage; transfers **12 West Bank Palestinian administrative detainees** to Gaza (see Quarterly Update); shells residential areas of Khan Yunis, partially destroying **1 Palestinian home**. (NYT, REU 12/6; NYT 12/8; PCHR 12/11)

6 DECEMBER

The **IDF** erects a new observation tower in Abasan on the e. border of the Gaza Strip nr. Khan Yunis; reinforces a 2d observation tower in nearby Khuza'; conducts arrest raids s. of Hebron. (PCHR 12/11)

7 DECEMBER

The **IDF** erects a new military post in Shaykh Ajlin s. of Gaza City; bulldozes 3 dunams of land nr. Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids in Balata, Nablus, Qabatya, Tulkarm; searches houses in Hebron. **Palestinians** fire a **mortar** at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. (VOI, YA 12/8 in WNC 12/10; PCHR 12/11)

8 DECEMBER

The **IDF** imposes curfews on Salfit, 6 surrounding villages; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, wounding a 10-yr.-old Palestinian girl inside her school; conducts arrest raids in Aida r.c.; seals a **Palestinian home** in East Jerusalem. **Palestinians** fire a **mortar** at Gaza's Gadid settlement, causing no damage or injuries. A **Palestinian prisoner** who suffered a stroke in Israel's Megiddo prison on 12/4 dies; the PA says that he was healthy when he entered prison, that Israel was negligent in delaying his transportation to a hospital. (VOP 12/8 in WNC 12/10; VOI 12/9 in WNC 12/11; PR 12/10; PCHR 12/11)

Palestinian factions end a round of cease-fire talks in Cairo, with the factions refusing to adopt a unilateral cease-fire but expressing a “general readiness” for a comprehensive cease-fire involving Israel. (MENA, QA, VOP, *al-Zaman* [London] 12/8 in WNC 12/10; AYM 12/8, *al-Quds* 12/9 in WNC 12/11; MM, WP 12/9; MM 12/10; QA 12/11 in WNC 12/16; QA 12/12, AYM, SA 12/14 in WNC 12/16; *al-Quds* 12/18 in WNC 12/23; MEI 12/19) (see Quarterly Update)

The **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** passes a nonbinding resolution calling on the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** at the Hague to issue an advisory opinion on the legality of Israel's **separation wall**. (HA 12/8; ITAR-TASS, VOP 12/8 in WNC 12/10; HA, MM, WP 12/9; JP 12/9 in WNC 12/10; PR 12/10; THWR 12/12 in WNC 1/16; MEI 12/19) (see Quarterly Update)

9 DECEMBER

The **IDF** captures an **alleged Palestinian suicide bomber** en route to stage an attack; fatally shoots a stone-throwing **Palestinian** youth in Qalandia; uncovers, destroys a smugglers' tunnel to Egypt in Rafah; fires on residential areas of Rafah. In Hebron, **3 Hamas mbrs.** are killed in a mysterious explosion; the IDF claims they were preparing a bomb, Hamas claims they were assassinated. **Palestinians** toss **grenades** at an IDF patrol in Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Hagay settlement in Hebron seize 10 dunams of land belonging to the Palestinian village of Rihyya. (JTA 12/9; VOI, VOP, YA 12/9 in WNC 12/11; HA 12/10; PR 12/10; VOP 12/10 in WNC 12/12; PCHR 12/11)

10 DECEMBER

The **IDF** blows up a 2d smugglers' tunnel to Egypt in Rafah (see 12/9), demolishing a **Palestinian home**; fires on residential areas of Birzeit, Brazil r.c. **Israeli police** say that in recent days, they have arrested **9 East Jerusalem Palestinians** on suspicion of putting together a Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount security patrol financed by the **PA**. **Jewish settlers** unilaterally evacuate 1 **unauthorized settlement outpost** in the central West Bank; the **IDF** says it has received orders to dismantle another 5. An **Israeli military court** exonerates for lack of evidence **PA General Intelligence officer Musa Shahin**, who was placed in administrative detention in 7/02 for allegedly firing on 2 IDF posts. (HA 12/10; *al-Quds* 12/10 in WNC 12/16; PCHR 12/11)

Islamic Jihad says that it could agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders "on a temporary basis." (VOP 12/10 in WNC 12/12)

A 2-day donors' **Ad Hoc Liaison Comm.** mtg. opens in Rome. (AP, MM 12/10; AFP, VOP 12/10 in WNC 12/12; MM, NYT 12/11; VOP 12/11 in WNC 12/13; *Jerusalem Times* 12/18) (see Quarterly Update)

11 DECEMBER

The **IDF** sends 20 tanks, troops into Rafah to arrest **senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Khalid Qadi**, sparking a gun battle that leaves **6 Palestinians** dead (including **2 Hamas mbrs.**, **3 bystanders**, **1 medic** evacuating the wounded), 20 injured; the IDF captures Qadi, demolishes his plus 8 other **Palestinian homes**. The **IDF** also issues orders barring Israeli citizens fr. entering **Palestinian villages in area B** (technically, parts of the West Bank under PA civil and Israeli security control) as of 12/21; demolishes another **Palestinian home** nr. Hebron; places a curfew on Jenin, fires on residential areas. (MM, NYT, WP 12/11; VOP 12/11 in WNC 12/13; PRCS 12/12; VOP, YA 12/12 in WNC 12/16; PR 12/17; PCHR 12/18; MEI 12/19)

12 DECEMBER

The **IDF** removes sand barriers blocking the main road linking Hebron to Bethlehem that have been in place since the start of the intifada in 9/00, replacing them with a single iron gate and observation tower to control Palestinian traffic; fires on residential areas of Jenin (where a curfew is still in place), Wadi Gaza (on the e. border of the Strip). A group of **Jewish settlers** attempts to visit Joseph's Tomb in Nablus but comes under fire fr. **AMB, Islamic Jihad gunmen**, who wound 7; the **IDF** arrests another 8 settlers for illegally entering a Palestinian area without its knowledge. **Jewish settlers** also fence off 1,750 dunams of Palestinian land outside Ramallah, belonging to Turmus 'Ayya village, fire guns at Palestinians who attempt to reach their olive groves on the land. (AP, HA, BBC 12/12; VOI, YA 12/12 in WNC 12/16; PR 12/17; PCHR 12/18)

Bush signs the **Syria Accountability Act**, which recommends immediate sanctions on Syria. (WT 12/13; SANA, Syrian Arab Television Network 12/13, THWR 12/14 in WNC 1/16; JT, MENA 12/14 in WNC 12/16; *al-Dustur* 12/14 in WNC 12/17; THWR 12/14 in WNC 1/17; MM 12/16) (see Doc. D1, Quarterly Update)

13 DECEMBER

The **IDF** tightens restrictions on Palestinian movement around Nablus, Tulkarm; shuts the only entry point to Qalqilya; opens fire on a taxi in Nablus that reportedly fails to stop for a checkpoint, killing **1 Palestinian** student en route to al-Najah University in

Nablus; shells, fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis. The **IDF** reports that **Palestinians** have fired more than 20 **mortars** at Gush Katif since 12/12, causing light damage, no injuries. (AP 12/13; VOP 12/13 in WNC 12/16; NYT 12/16; PR 12/17; PCHR 12/18; HA 12/20)

14 DECEMBER

The **IDF** places a closure on al-Khadir village nr. Bethlehem; erects a new checkpoint outside Jenin; conducts arrest raids nr. Ramallah, fatally shooting **wanted Islamic Jihad mbr. Riyadh Fakhri Khalifa**, wounding and arresting 2 other wanted men; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis. Late in the evening, the **IDF** fires on **6 Palestinian laborers** attempting to sneak across the Gaza border into Israel, killing 2, arresting 1. (PRCS 12/14; VOP 12/14 in WNC 12/16; PCHR 12/16; PR 12/17; PCHR 12/18)

15 DECEMBER

Overnight and early this morning, the **IDF** demolishes 22 **Palestinian homes** in Khan Yunis that allegedly provided cover for mortar attacks, leaving 178 Palestinians (25 families) homeless; another 6 **Palestinian homes** housing 40 Palestinians (6 families) are heavily damaged. The **IDF** also erects several new roadblocks in the Jenin area; fires on residential areas of Brazil r.c., Hebron, Nablus. The **IDF** also removes **1 uninhabited unauthorized settlement outpost** nr. Nablus, scuffling with **Jewish settlers** who attempt to block the move. (BBC, PCHR 12/15; NYT 12/16; PR 12/17; PCHR 12/18; MEI 12/19)

16 DECEMBER

Israel says it will bar **Arafat** fr. attending Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem for the 3d straight yr. The **IDF** imposes a curfew on, raids Balata r.c., firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, killing a nearby **Palestinian child**, wounding at least 10; sends troops into Halhul nr. Hebron as school lets out, firing on stone-throwing Palestinian children, wounding 1, arresting 1, damaging a clearly marked press vehicle driven by an **AP cameraman**, who says soldiers deliberately opened fire on him with live ammunition; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, in Tulkarm; demolishes a **PSF** post in Dayr al-Balah.

(NYT, PR., WP 12/17; PCHR 12/18; WP 12/22)

After the U.S. capture of **Iraqi pres. Saddam Hussein** on 12/14, **Israel** acknowledges that in 1992 it aborted a plan to assassinate Hussein after **5 IDF soldiers** were killed on 11/5/92 in a training exercise practicing the operation. (MM 12/16; WT 12/17)

17 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Rafah, killing a **16-yr.-old Palestinian**; bars an ambulance fr. crossing a checkpoint to reach a hospital, allowing an ailing **Palestinian** to die; conducts house-to-house searches in Balata r.c. (PCHR 12/18)

18 DECEMBER

The **IDF** makes a major raid into Nablus in a campaign against the "developing terrorist infrastructure" there, killing **4 Palestinians**, including **senior PFLP mbrs. Jibril Awwad and Firas Haneni, Hamas mbr. Majdi Bahish** in what appear to be assassinations, wounding 2. (VOI, VOP, YA 12/18 in WNC 12/20; WP 12/19; PR 12/24; PCHR 12/25)

In a major policy address given to the annual Herzliya Conference on Israeli strength and security, **Sharon** threatens that if **Palestinians** do not show progress on the road map soon, he would end negotiations and unilaterally define Israel's "security lines," taking large areas of the West Bank, keeping all of Jerusalem, and removing a number of **Jewish settlements**. He vows that such steps "will be fully coordinated with the **United States**." (AP, HA, MM, NYT, REU 12/18; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/19; ITAR-TASS, MA, *al-Quds*, YA 12/19, *al-Quds* 12/20, HA, MA, YA 12/21 in WNC 12/23; NYT, WP 12/20; AYM 12/21 in WNC 12/24, 12/25; PR 12/24; *Forward* 12/26; MM 1/6; MEI 1/9) (see Doc. C1, Quarterly Update)

19 DECEMBER

The **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** and 3 greenhouses, bulldozes 3 dunams of land in Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Balata r.c., Beitunia; fires on residential areas of Ramallah. (VOP 12/19 in WNC 12/20; HA, PRCS 12/20; VOP 12/20 in WNC 12/23; PCHR 12/25)

The **ICJ** agrees to give an advisory opinion on the **separation wall**. Invites interested parties to submit any relevant information

on the wall in writing by 1/30, in preparation for oral testimony and hearings beginning 2/23. (ICJ press release 12/19) (see 12/8, Quarterly Update)

20 DECEMBER

The **IDF** continues operations in Balata r.c. for the 5th day, firing on residential areas and stone-throwing youths (wounding 5), demolishing 1 **Palestinian home**; conducts arrest raids nr. Bethlehem; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis. **Palestinians** fire a **mortar** at Gush Katif settlement in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. (PM 12/20; YA 12/21 in WNC 12/23; PR 1/7; PCHR 12/25)

21 DECEMBER

The **IDF** conducts an overnight raid of Nablus, detaining **regional Hamas spokesman Adnan Asfur**; continues house-to-house searches in Balata r.c. for the 6th day, during which a **5-yr.-old Palestinian** playing in his yard is killed by stray gunfire, a **53-yr.-old Palestinian** dies fr. tear gas inhalation during a raid on his home; demolishes 7 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah, also firing on residential areas; begins implementing an order to raze 3,000 dunams of land in and around Tarqumiyya nr. Hebron for Jewish settlement infrastructure; bulldozes 14 dunams of land in Wadi al-Silqa nr. Dayr al-Balah. A **Palestinian** teen dies of injuries received on 12/16. **13 reservists of the IDF elite commando unit Sayaret Matkal** sign an open letter to **Sharon** refusing to serve in the occupied territories, stating, "We have long ago crossed the line between fighting a just cause and oppressing another people." (HA, REU 12/21; IDF Radio 12/21 in WNC 12/23; HA, MM, NYT, PM, PRCS, WP, WT 12/22; MM 12/23; PR 12/24; PCHR 12/25)

22 DECEMBER

Overnight, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Hebron; raids Jenin, searching homes, firing on residential areas. During the day, the **IDF** delays a Palestinian woman in labor at a Nablus checkpoint for over 1 hr., causing the death of her **twins**; imposes a curfew on parts of Hebron; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, Nablus; fires on Palestinians waiting to cross the Abu Huli checkpoint nr. Dayr al-Balah, wounding 5; fires on UNRWA workers repairing waterlines nr. Khan

Yunis, wounding 3; conducts arrest raids nr. Ramallah, bringing to 22 the number of alleged **Hamas** mbrs. arrested in the area over the past wk. In the evening, **2 AMB gunmen** ambush, fatally shoot **2 IDF soldiers** nr. Dayr al-Balah before being shot dead; 5 Palestinian bystanders are wounded by the IDF return fire. Shortly afterward, the **IDF** demolishes 7 **Palestinian homes**, bulldozes 37 dunams of land in nearby Wadi al-Silqa; sends tanks, troops into Rafah to search for smugglers' tunnels, clashing with residents, leaving **2 Palestinians** dead. **Palestinian gunmen** also ambush 2 Jewish settler vehicles traveling fr. Kiryat Arba settlement to Cave of the Patriarchs/Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, wounding an **Israel border patrol officer** escorting the settlers, escape unharmed. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received last wk. (PM 12/22; HA, VOI, VOP 12/22 in WNC 12/24; BBC, HA, NYT, WP, WT 12/23; VOP 12/23 in WNC 12/25; WP 12/24; PCHR 12/25; HA 1/8)

23 DECEMBER

The **IDF** continues operations in Rafah, fatally shooting **8 Palestinians** (including 2-3 armed Palestinians), wounding up to 41, destroying 23 **Palestinian homes** (leaving 765 Palestinians homeless), heavily damaging 16 homes and 2 **UNRWA** centers, occupying several tall buildings as observation posts, uncovering and demolishing 1 smugglers' tunnel. The **IDF** also intensifies operations in Balata r.c. (ongoing for 8 days), expands crackdown to all of Nablus, imposing a 24-hr. curfew, demolishing 1 **Palestinian home**, dividing the city in half with roadblocks. **Palestinians** fire 2 **Qassam rockets** at Nisanit settlement, lightly injuring 2 settlers, damaging a building; 1 at Sederot inside Israel, causing no damage or injuries. (AFP, BBC, HA, NYT, PCHR, PRCS 12/23; VOP 12/23 in WNC 12/25; NYT, PR, WP, WT 12/24; PCHR, WT 12/25; PR 1/7)

24 DECEMBER

The **IDF** pulls troops out of Nablus but continues operations in Balata r.c.; demolishes a 3-story **apartment building** in Rafah; fires on Palestinians attempting to circumvent roadblocks around Bayt Furik nr. Nablus, wounding 1; fires on Palestinian teenagers on their way to school in Hebron, wounding 2; searches buildings in Khan Yunis; bulldozes 50 dunams of land nr. Abu Huli

checkpoint in central Gaza. A **Palestinian** is killed in Nablus when his car mysteriously explodes; the **IDF** alleges he was transporting a car bomb. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received in Rafah on 12/23. (PM 12/24; NYT, PCHR 12/25)

25 DECEMBER

The **IDF** assassinates a **senior Islamic Jihad military leader, Muklid Humayid**, firing a missile at his car as he drives in Gaza City, also killing another **Islamic Jihad mbr.** traveling with him, **3 Palestinian bystanders**, wounding 15. Soon after, a **PFLP suicide bomber** detonates a device at a bus stop in Tel Aviv, killing **4 IDF soldiers, 1 Israeli civilian**, wounding 15 Israelis; the **PFLP** says the attack is in retaliation for the **IDF** assassination of 2 **PFLP mbrs.** on 12/18. The **IDF** also sends troops back into Nablus, imposing a 24-hr. curfew; bars all vehicular traffic btwn. the occupied territories and Israel; conducts arrest raids in Jenin, Wadi al-Silqa; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis; bulldozes 1 **Palestinian home** and 3 dunams of land in Dayr al-Balah, 4 dunams of land in Khan Yunis. (NYT, WP, WT 12/26; HA 12/28; PCHR 1/1; MEI, PCHR 1/9)

26 DECEMBER

Israel says it will retaliate for the 12/25 **PFLP** suicide bombing but will not hit **Hamas** targets, since **Hamas** has refrained fr. attacks inside Israel for several mos. (see Quarterly Update). The **IDF** demolishes the bomber's family **home** in Bayt Furik within hrs. The **IDF** also fires live ammunition at some 200 Israeli, Palestinian, international peace activists staging a nonviolent protest along the **separation wall** nr. Qalqilya, wounding **1 Israeli** (who had just finished 3 yrs. **IDF** service), **1 American**; fires tear gas at another group of protesters at the separation wall west of Ramallah; fires on a funeral process in nr. Khan Yunis (wounding 5 boys, ages 11–18), residential areas of Rafah; conducts arrest raids nr. Khan Yunis; bulldozes 8 dunams of land in al-Qarara. In Gaza, **10,000s of Palestinians** attend the funeral for Islamic Jihad's **Humayid**, assassinated by the **IDF** on 12/25. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 12/25. (WT 12/27; JTA, NYT, PRCS, WP, WT 12/28; CSM 12/29; PCHR, WJW 1/1; MM 1/5; BBC 1/6; JPI 1/8; MEI 1/9)

27 DECEMBER

The **IDF** sends additional tanks, troops into Nablus, making the incursion begun on 12/18 (now dubbed Operation Still Water) the largest into the city in over a yr., firing on stone-throwing youths, killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding 17; closes all roads leading to Tulkarm; erects a number of new roadblocks at entrances to villages around Tulkarm; tightens existing checkpoints, erects 3 new ones around Jenin; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Balata r.c.; bulldozes 85 dunams of olive groves east of al-Bureij r.c.; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, wounding a Palestinian toddler in her home; conducts arrest raids in Dayr al-Balah. The **IDF** also bars 2 bus-loads of international peace activists fr. reaching a 2d day of **separation wall** protests (see 12/26) in Qalqilya, where **1,000s of Palestinians** demonstrate, throw stones at **IDF** troops. **Jewish settlers** place mobile homes on the 2 sites of **unauthorized settlement outposts** previously removed by the **IDF** nr. Hebron. (NYT, WP, WT 12/28; PM 12/29; PCHR 1/1)

28 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fires tank shells at **3 Palestinians** firing **mortars** at Gaza's Netzarim settlement in Gaza, killing them; the mortars cause no damage or injuries. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids nr. Hebron, Qalqilya; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Balata r.c., several structures at an UNRWA school in Dayr al-Balah. **IDF chief of staff Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon** visits the hospitalized **Israeli peace activist** wounded by **IDF** fire on 12/26, says soldiers apparently did not know Israelis were among the demonstrators, promises a full investigation. Some **1,000 Palestinians** in villages around Ramallah hold nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall**. Nr. Hebron, **5 Jewish settlers** severely beat a **Palestinian**. (NYT, PM, WP 12/29; VOI, YA 12/29 in WNC 12/31; PCHR 1/1; MM 1/5; MEI 1/9)

29 DECEMBER

The **IDF** pulls troops out of Nablus, lifts the 24-hr. curfew after a wk. of operations, during which 10s of Palestinians were detained; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, hitting an 8-yr.-old Palestinian in the chest with live ammunition; conducts arrest raids in and around Hebron, in Rafah. **Israeli**

authorities demolish 7 **Israeli Arab homes**, a **mosque** in unrecognized villages in the Negev. Young **Fatah mbrs.** in Rafah waylay, essentially kidnap **Arafat aide Ramzi Khoury**, **Gaza governor Muhammad al-Kidwa** at the border crossing as they return fr. Cairo; take them on a forced 4 hr. tour of the recent IDF destruction in Rafah, protesting the PA's failure to provide for 1,000s of homeless Palestinians. **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinians, Palestinian houses in Hebron. (WT 12/30; PCHR 1/1; MEI 1/9; HA 1/13)

30 DECEMBER

The **IDF** attempts to assassinate **senior Hamas military leader Jamal Jarrah**, firing 2 missiles at his car as he drives in Gaza City, wounding 1 of his passengers, 10 bystanders; the attack marks Israel's 1st targeting of a Hamas figure since 10/20 and comes soon after the IDF's 12/26 declaration that it would not target the group. The **IDF** fires on farmers nr. Morag settlement (killing 1 **Palestinian**), Palestinian workers laying a sewage channel (seriously wounding 1), Palestinians passing nr. an IDF patrol in Ramallah (wounding 6), residential areas of Dayr al-Balah and Rafah (injuring 3); bulldozes 25 dunams of land nr. Dayr al-Balah; conducts house-to-house searches in Nablus, arrest raids in Jenin. A **Jewish settler** driving nr. Hebron hits, injures a **5-yr.-old Palestinian boy**. (HA 12/30; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 12/31; PCHR 1/1)

31 DECEMBER

The **IDF** expels a **West Bank Palestinian administrative detainee** to Gaza (see 12/4); fires on stone-throwing youths outside Nablus, killing 1 **Palestinian**; fires on a group of Israeli, Palestinian, foreign peace activists staging a nonviolent protest along the **separation wall** nr. Budrus, wounding 1 **Israeli**, 10 **Palestinians**, and arresting, deporting 4 **foreigners**; demolishes 5 **Palestinian homes** in Khan Yunis, 2 fences in Hebron; conducts arrest raids in al-Qarara. The **IDF** also orders 1 **Palestinian family** isolated btwn. the **separation wall** and Green Line nr. Qalqilya to evacuate their home because it "is now located in Israel"; a human rights group secures permission for the family to stay while the case is appealed. (HA 12/31; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 1/1; LAW 1/8; PCHR 1/9)

1 JANUARY

The **IDF** fires on Palestinian youths breaking curfew, throwing stones at troops in Nablus, killing a **16-yr.-old Palestinian**; fires on residential areas of al-Qarara; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; imposes a curfew on, reinforces troops in al-Khadir village nr. Hebron; bulldozes 3 dunams of land in al-Qarara, additional land nr. Dayr al-Balah and Gaza City. In Nablus, 2 **IDF soldiers** are wounded by a roadside bomb. (NYT 1/2; LAW 1/8; PCHR 1/9)

2 JANUARY

After completing a stretch of the **separation wall** cutting off Jenin fr. Israel, the **IDF** removes the closure on Jenin, withdraws troops inside the city for the 1st time since 8/03, redeploys troops that have been encircling the city for most of the past 3 yrs. The **IDF** also fatally shoots a **Palestinian** allegedly attempting to lay a roadside bomb outside a Gaza settlement; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Nablus; bulldozes a **Palestinian home** in Hebron; places a curfew on, conducts arrest raids in Dayr al-Balah, Hebron, Jenin, Tulkarm; imposes a curfew on, digs trenches across the entrances to Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron. (WP 1/3; WP, WT 1/4; LAW 1/8; PCHR 1/9)

3 JANUARY

The **IDF** sends armored personnel carriers (APCs) back into Nablus, fatally shooting a **15-yr.-old Palestinian** on the roof of his home, fatally shooting 2 **stone-throwing youths** who challenge the APCs, later directing sniper fire on the funeral procession of the 1st youth, killing a **4th Palestinian** (1 of the pallbearers). The **IDF** also sends a small contingent of troops back into Jenin, reimposes several roadblocks around the city that were lifted on 1/2; bulldozes 5 **Palestinian homes** and 23 dunams of olive trees in al-Qarara, 16 dunams of olive trees nr. al-Bureij r.c.; conducts arrest raids in al-Qarara, Qalqilya; fires on Israeli, Palestinian, foreign peace activists staging a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in the northern West Bank, injuring 1 Israeli, arresting 28 foreigners. (REU 1/3; VOP 1/3 in WNC 1/6; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 1/4; PR 1/7; LAW 1/8; MEI, PCHR 1/9)

4 JANUARY

The **IDF** begins requiring all **visitors to Gaza and the PA-controlled areas of the West Bank (areas A)** to obtain prior written permission for travel fr. the Civil Admin. or face the chance that they may be prosecuted, denied reentry into Israel, or deported; allows **Palestinian workers** in Gaza over age 28 to apply for work visas in Israel (previously workers had to be over age 35). The **IDF** also ends 4 days of bulldozing nr. Dayr al-Balah, during which 8 **Palestinian homes**, 12 dunams of land were razed; fires on residential areas nr. Hebron; fires on Palestinian, foreign peace activists staging a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** nr. Ramallah, injuring 18. **Sharon** orders the removal of another 2 **uninhabited unauthorized settlement outposts**; settlers immediately appeal to the **High Court**. (WP, WT 1/5; MM 1/6; PR 1/7; PCHR 1/9; PR 1/14; PCHR 1/22)

5 JANUARY

The **IDF** continues patrols in Nablus, fires on stone-throwing youths, killing 1 **Palestinian**; demolishes 2 smugglers' tunnels, 2 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah; bulldozes 6 **Palestinian homes**, 46 dunams of land in al-Qarara; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Hebron, 1 Khan Yunis; seals 2 **Palestinian homes** in Wadi al-Silqa. A **Jewish settler** driving nr. Qalandia checkpoint hits 2 **Palestinians**, killing 1. The **IDF** issues confiscation orders for 1,559 dunams of land in Beitunia w. of Ramallah for construction of the **separation wall**. **Palestinians** fire an antitank rocket at an **IDF** patrol in Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. (YA 1/5 in WNC 1/7; NYT 1/6; PR 1/7; PCHR, PM 1/9)

6 JANUARY

The **IDF** withdraws troops to the outskirts of Nablus, ending Operation Still Water, during which a total of 10 **Palestinian homes** were destroyed; demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Dayr al-Balah, 1 in Rafah; bulldozes 53 dunams of land nr. Dayr al-Balah; fences off 120 dunams of land, 2 **Palestinian homes** along a settler bypass road nr. Wadi al-Silqa; conducts arrest raids in Jenin. (PR 1/7; JP, VOP 1/7 in WNC 1/9; PCHR 1/9)

7 JANUARY

IDF soldiers on missions to arrest wanted Palestinians fatally shoot 2 **AMB mbrs.** in Nablus, 1 **Hamas mbr.** in Tulkarm in what may be assassinations. **IDF** troops guarding a Jewish settlement in Gaza fire on residential areas of Rafah, fatally shooting a **Palestinian** inside his home. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids in Nablus and nearby 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' r.c. (MM, REU, PRCS 1/7; JP, VOP, YA 1/7 in WNC 1/9; LAW, NYT, WP 1/8; PCHR 1/9, 1/15)

Hamas spiritual leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin says that Hamas could accept a "temporary peace" or renewable "long-term truce" with **Israel** in exchange for creation of a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders. (HA, MM 1/9; JP, VOI 1/9 in WNC 1/13; *al-Majallah* [London] 1/11 in WNC 1/21) (see 12/10)

8 JANUARY

IDF undercover troops fatally shoot **AMB mbr. As'ad Falah Khaliliyya** in an apparent assassination in Jenin. The **IDF** also stages arrest raids in Qalqilya, in and around Ramallah; demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah. In Gaza, 5 **armed, masked Fatah mbrs.** detain an **al-Arabiyya TV correspondent**. (REU, PCHR 1/8; HA 1/9; HA, PR 1/14; PCHR 1/15)

9 JANUARY

The **IDF** sends troops into Jenin r.c. and town just days after redeploying fr. both, conducting arrest raids (targeting the **AMB, Islamic Jihad**), clashing with Palestinians; troops pull out by the end of the day. The **IDF** also fires on residential areas of Rafah, wounding a 14-yr.-old Palestinian in her home; conducts house searches, arrest raids in Wadi al-Silqa, Nablus, Qabatya. **Israel** reportedly approves changes to the route of the **separation wall**, so that it will run w. of Azun, Baqa' al-Sharqiyya, Khirbat Jabar, and several homes in Tulkarm, all of which were previously slated to be cut off fr. the east; begins work on stretches of the wall outside Hebron and in the Jordan Valley nr. Tubas. (AP, HA 1/9; VOI, VOP 1/9 in WNC 1/13; PCHR 1/15)

10 JANUARY

The **IDF** fires on residential areas and the main market of Balata r.c. (wounding 4) and

on residential areas of Bayt Rima nr. Ramallah, Khan Yunis; conducts house searches, arrest raids in Kafr 'Ayn nr. Ramallah, Yamun nr. Jenin. (PCHR 1/15)

11 JANUARY

The **IDF** intercepts a **Palestinian suicide bomber** (the 16-yr.-old brother of a 15-yr.-old killed by the IDF on 1/3) nr. Nablus; to avoid capture, the bomber detonates his device, killing only himself; no group claims responsibility. The **IDF** fires on stone-throwing Palestinian youths in Beita nr. Nablus, killing **1 Palestinian** bystander. In Tel Aviv, **100,000 right-wing Israeli protesters** (many affiliated with the settler movement) protest against rumored plans by **Sharon** to uproot **Jewish settlements** as part of a unilateral disengagement fr. the occupied territories. (AFP, HA, MM 1/11; NYT 1/12; VOP 1/11 in WNC 1/13; MM 1/13; NYT, PR 1/14; YA 1/14 in WNC 1/16; PCHR 1/15; JPI 1/23)

Right-wing settler activist Baruch Marzel announces a new Israeli political party, the **Jewish National Front**, which advocates the "transfer" of Arab communities to "new locations east of the Jordan River" and pledges "to ensure the immigration of 2 million Jews and the emigration of 2 million Arabs" in the coming yrs. Marzel says that the only group to submit a formal objection to the new party was the **National Religious Party**, which argued that the goals of the 2 parties were too similar. (Itim News Service 1/11)

12 JANUARY

The **IDF** raids Tulkarm r.c., rounding up all inhabitants of 1 section of the camp for questioning, detaining **230 Palestinian men**, allowing women and children to go after 10 hrs.; sends APCs into Rafah, shelling residential areas, wounding 3, demolishing **1 Palestinian home** and 2 stores, severely damaging 5 homes; demolishes another **Palestinian home** nr. Hebron; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Anabta nr. Tulkarm, Asira nr. Nablus, Jaba' nr. Jenin, Kubar nr. Ramallah, Nablus, Qalqilya, Tarqumiyya and Yatta nr. Hebron. **Israel** completes a section of **separation wall** cutting off Abu Dis fr. Jerusalem. Palestinians report that the **IDF** has bulldozed 24 dunams of agricultural land outside Hebron since 1/9, for construction of the wall. (ISM press release 1/12; WT 1/13; PCHR 1/15; WP 2/10)

Sharon makes a statement to the **Knesset** reiterating his intention to disengage unilaterally fr. the occupied territories if the Palestinians do not make concessions soon. The Knesset endorses Sharon's statement by a vote of 51-39. (AFP 1/12; MM 1/13; PR 1/14) (see Quarterly Update)

13 JANUARY

The **IDF** sends troops back into Rafah, demolishing **2 Palestinian homes**, heavily damaging a 3d; conducts arrest raids, surrounding a hospital, in Salfit nr. Nablus; fires on residential areas of Bayt Dajan nr. Nablus, Khan Yunis. An **AMB gunman** fires on a Jewish settler vehicle driving nr. Talmon settlement n. of Ramallah, killing **1 Jewish settler**, wounding 2. The **IDF** bars **386 Palestinians** fr. leaving fr. Rafah for Saudi Arabia to perform the Hajj, citing security concerns. **ISM volunteer Tom Hurndall**, shot by the **IDF** in Rafah on 4/11/03 and left in a coma, dies in London. (PCHR 1/13; AFP, BBC, HA, MM, PR, WP 1/14; PCHR 1/15; JP 1/17)

14 JANUARY

A **female Palestinian suicide bomber** (mother of 2 small children) detonates a device at the Erez crossing, killing **3 IDF soldiers**, **1 Israeli security officer**, wounding 12; Hamas's **Shaykh Yasin** claims responsibility for the attack, saying it was a joint operation with the **AMB**, noting Hamas's 1st use of a female bomber, vowing to escalate attacks. **Israel** seals Gaza, sends home 4,000 Gazan laborers working in the Erez industrial zone. The **IDF** raids Budrus nr. Ramallah, detaining **Ayid and Na'im Morrar**, the **coordinators of the nonviolent protest group Popular Comm. Against the Wall**, which stages rallies against the **separation wall**; places a curfew on Tulkarm r.c., demolishes **3 Palestinian homes** there; raids a nursery in Hebron, confiscating files, demolishing furniture. **Palestinians** fire **2 Qassam rockets** at Erez industrial zone, a mortar at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries in either incident. (AFP, BBC, HA, MM, PRCS 1/14; MNR, VOI, VOP, YA 1/14 in WNC 1/16; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/15; QA 1/15, AYM 1/17 in WNC 1/21; HA 1/19; WT 1/20; MM, PCHR 1/22; JPI, MEI 1/23)

The **World Zionist Organization (WZO)** begins offering **young Israeli couples** up to \$9,000/yr. to move to the

unauthorized settlement outpost of Givat Salit in northern Jordan Valley. (YA 1/14) (see Settlement Monitor)

15 JANUARY

The **IDF** imposes a curfew on Araba w. of Jenin, Far'un s. of Tulkarm; fires on residential areas of Araba; completely demolishes 7 **Palestinian homes**, partially demolishes 1 nr. Kefar Darom settlement outside Dayr al-Balah; bulldozes homes in Rafah previously severely damaged by IDF fire, severing a water main serving the western half of the city; conducts arrest raids and house searches in Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah. **Israeli Environmental Authority** planes spray 1,000 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land in Yatta s. of Hebron with incendiary chemicals, destroying the crops. (VOI 1/16 in WNC 1/21; PCHR 1/22)

16 JANUARY

The **IDF** completely demolishes 3 **Palestinian homes**, bulldozes 9 dunams of land outside Rafah, along the settler bypass road linking Gush Katif and Morag settlements; completely demolishes 6 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah (seriously damaging 2 others), 1 in Khan Yunis; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, Nablus. (PM 1/16; VOP 1/61 in WNC 1/21; LAW, PCHR 1/22)

In Haifa, an **Israeli Arab** finds a bomb placed nr. his car, disarms it. This is the 5th such incident in Haifa in 30 mos.; earlier explosions left 2 Israeli Arabs injured. The **Israeli government** issues an order banning the press fr. discussing a letter sent to the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*, claiming responsibility for some of the incidents. **MK Issam Makhoul** alleges that a Jewish extremist group wrote the letter. (HA 1/27)

17 JANUARY

The **IDF** closes all entrances to Jenin town and r.c., erects more checkpoints around the town; erects new temporary checkpoints outside 5 villages outside Qalqilya; imposes a curfew on al-Til nr. Nablus, demolishes 1 **Palestinian home**; blows up 3 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah; fires on Palestinian vehicles, stone-throwing youths in and around Nablus, in Ramallah; conduct arrest raids, house searches in Hebron; notifies **bedouin families w. of Salfit** that they must leave the area to make room for the **separation wall**. (LAW, PCHR 1/22)

18 JANUARY

Israel reopens the Erez crossing, allowing 3,600 Palestinian laborers to reach their jobs in the Erez industrial zone and Israel. The **IDF** raids a mosque in Hebron, detaining worshippers for 2 hrs.; erects new temporary checkpoints around Tulkarm; closes entrances to Salfit; conducts arrest raids, completely demolishes 1 **Palestinian home** in Yatta, partially demolishes 3 in Rafah; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Anabta, Askar r.c., Dayr al-Balah, Nablus. (WT 1/19; PCHR 1/20; LAW, PCHR 1/22)

19 JANUARY

The **IDF** issues confiscation orders for 700 dunams of Palestinian land (including 10 **Palestinian homes**) in Dayr al-Balah nr. Kefar Darom settlement; for no apparent reason, fires on Palestinians waiting to go through the Erez crossing, wounding 25; fires on residential areas of Rafah, seriously injuring 1 woman outside her home; fires on, seriously wounds a deaf-mute Palestinian woman who strays too close to the separation wall nr. Qalqilya; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, Nablus, Qalqilya, Tulkarm. (PCHR 1/20; VOI, VOP, YA 1/20 in WNC 1/22; LAW, PCHR 1/22)

The **IDF** sends a bulldozer into Lebanese territory to clear mines laid by **Hizballah** along the de facto border. Hizballah shells the bulldozer when it crosses the demarcation fence into Lebanon, killing 1 **IDF soldier**, wounding 2. (HA 1/19; LBC, MNR 1/19 in WNC 1/21; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/20; IDF Radio, MNR 1/20 in WNC 1/22; MM 1/21; IRNA 1/21 in WNC 1/23; MM 1/22, 1/23; NYT 1/29) (see Quarterly Update)

20 JANUARY

The **IDF** sends troops into Rafah to search for smugglers' tunnels, completely demolishes 22 **Palestinian homes**, a **mosque** along the Rafah border with Egypt, heavily damages another 16 homes, leaving 400 Palestinians homeless; raids 2 Palestinian charities in Ramallah, confiscating computers, files; fires stun grenades, tear gas into a high school in Nablus; fires on residential areas of Rafah, wounding 3. The **IDF** also expels a **West Bank Palestinian administrative detainee** to Gaza (see Quarterly Update); conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Askar r.c., Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, Salfit, Ramallah;

bulldozes 5 dunams of land in Bayt Lahia, 2 dunams nr. Kefar Darom; arrests 4 herders nr. Bayt Hanun. **IDF soldiers** scuffle with **Jewish settlers** who protest the removal of a synagogue built by supporters of deceased right-wing **Rabbi Meir Kahane**, the only permanent structure at the **unauthorized settlement outpost** of West Tapuach; soldiers do not attempt to remove trailer homes at the site. **Palestinians** fire 3 **mortars** at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. (AP, HA, MM, PCHR, PRCS 1/20; NYT, PR, WP 1/21; LAW, MM, PCHR 1/22; JPI 1/30)

Israel retaliates for Hizballah's 1/19 shelling of an IDF bulldozer inside s. Lebanon by sending warplanes to strike **Hizballah** targets in s. **Lebanon**. In Washington, **U.S. Secy. of State Colin Powell** accuses Hizballah of deliberately taking action to escalate hostilities with Israel. (HA 1/20; LBC, MNR 1/20 in WNC 1/22; NYT, PR, WP, WT 1/21; WJW 1/22; MNR 1/22 in WNC 1/24) (see Quarterly Update)

21 JANUARY

The **IDF** continues operations in Rafah, firing on stone-throwing youths, shelling residential areas of Rafah, killing 1 **Palestinian woman** in her garden, wounding her 13-yr-old nephew; opens fire on farmers working their fields nr. Khan Yunis, wounding 2; seals a **Palestinian home** in East Jerusalem; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus, Rafah, Tulkarm r.c.; begins construction of the **separation wall** around Kiryat Arba settlement in Hebron, bulldozing a grove of 100 trees. (PM 1/21; HA, LAW, PCHR 1/22; PR 1/28)

The **WZO** urges every **Jewish family in the diaspora** to buy \$50 worth of Israeli products/mo. to help stimulate the Israeli economy, create 20,000 Israeli jobs. (JP 1/21)

22 JANUARY

The **IDF** pulls out of Rafah after 2 days, having found no smugglers' tunnels; conducts arrest raids, fires on stone-throwing Palestinians, blows up a **5-story apartment building** in Nablus; demolishes 2 buildings under construction nr. Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids nr. Khan Yunis. The **IDF** also fires on a group of Palestinian boys that strays too close to the Gaza border fence while hunting for birds, killing an **11-yr.-old Palestinian**, wounding 2 (ages 12, 16); IDF officials say they cannot confirm the death, but state

that soldiers do not issue a warning call or fire warning shots at Palestinians approaching the fence and that "terrorists sometimes [have] dispatched children to test Israeli defenses." (HA 1/22; VOP 1/22 in WNC 1/24; HA, NYT 1/23; PR 1/28; LAW, PCHR 1/29)

Sharon's chief of staff **Weisglass** meets with NSA **Rice** in Washington for further discussions on Sharon's unilateral disengagement plan. (HA, MM 1/22; WP 1/23; JTA 1/26; HA 1/29) (see Quarterly Update)

23 JANUARY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm; fires on residential areas in Rafah. (PCHR 1/29)

24 JANUARY

The **IDF** fatally shoots 2 **alleged AMB mbrs.**, both unarmed, who enter a closed military zone in Gaza; sets up 4 new checkpoints on the main road to Qalqilya; fires on residential areas of Rafah; conducts arrest raids in 'Azun, Khan Yunis. In Hebron, **Jewish settlers, Palestinians** clash, leaving 3 settlers, 2 Palestinians wounded. **Palestinians** fire 2 **antitank missiles** at an IDF patrol nr. Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. (VOI, VOP, YA 1/24 in WNC 1/27; HA, NYT 1/25; PR 1/28; PCHR 1/29)

After 3 yrs. of negotiations via a German mediator, **Israel, Hizballah** conclude a prisoner swap deal under which Israel will release 401 **Palestinian security prisoners, 29 Arab prisoners** (including Lebanon's **Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani**), the bodies of 59 **Lebanese fighters** in exchange for **captured IDF Col. Elhanan Tennenbaum (res.)**, the bodies of 3 **IDF soldiers**. After this 1st phase is completed, Israel, Hizballah will reopen negotiations toward Israel releasing **Lebanese prisoner Samir Kantar** in exchange for information on **downed Israeli pilot Ron Arad**. (HA, Israel Television Network 1/24, AFP, MA, MNR, VIRI, VOP, YA 1/25 in WNC 1/27; HA, NYT, WP, WT 1/25; CSM, HA, MM, NYT 1/26; JP 1/27 in WNC 1/29; MM 1/28) (see Quarterly Update)

25 JANUARY

The **IDF** raids Nabi Salih village nr. Ramallah, rounding up and detaining the 500 residents outside in the rain for 2 hrs., searching homes, photographing and fingerprinting all

men before releasing all residents, withdrawing; conducts a similar but smaller operation in Burqa village nr. Nablus, rounding up residents, firing on homes, arresting 1 man. The **IDF** also erects signs around Qalqilya warning that "any Israeli who enters" the city will be fined \$780; imposes a curfew on, conducts arrest raids in al-'Arub r.c., Nablus; bulldozes 2 dunams of land in Khan Yunis. **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinians in Hebron, injuring 5. (LAW 1/25; LAW, PCHR 1/29)

Hamas leader 'Abd al-Aziz Rantisi proposes a 10 yr. truce with **Israel** in exchange for **Israel's** withdrawal to 1967 borders, stressing that the deal would not include **Hamas's** recognition of **Israel** or an end of the conflict. (REU 1/25; VOP 1/25 in WNC 1/27; HA, WP 1/26) (see 1/7)

26 JANUARY

The **IDF** conducts house searches, arrest raids in Bayt Hanun, Nablus, al-Qarara; bulldozes 67 dunams of land in Dayr al-Balah, 39 dunams in al-Qarara, 7 dunams in Wadi al-Silqa. (VOP 1/26 in WNC 1/28; PCHR 1/29)

27 JANUARY

The **IDF** bulldozes land in East Jerusalem, demolishing 4 walls around homes. (LAW 1/29)

28 JANUARY

The **IDF** makes a major predawn raid into Gaza City, targeting Palestinians who have stepped up attacks on Netzarim settlement in recent wks., sparking clashes that leave 5 **Palestinian gunmen** (4 Islamic Jihad mbrs., 1 Hamas mbr.), 4 **Palestinian bystanders** dead, 7 Palestinians (including an ambulance driver) wounded; **Hamas** fires 2 **Qassam rockets** at Netzarim in response, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** also demolishes 3 **Palestinian homes** nr. Hebron, 1 in al-Qarara; searches homes, bulldozes 1 dunam of land in al-Qarara. In coordination with the **IDF**, **PSF officers** resume patrols in West Bank cities. (MM, PCHR 1/28; VOP 1/28 in WNC 1/30; BBC, HA, LAW, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 1/29; WP 2/11; PCHR 2/12)

29 JANUARY

A **Palestinian suicide bomber** detonates a device on a crowded bus nr. **Sharon's**

official residence in West Jerusalem, killing 10 **Israelis**, wounding 44. The bomber, whom the PA confirms was a Bethlehem **PSF** officer fr. Aida r.c., leaves 2 suicide notes claiming the attack in the name of the **AMB, Hamas**; the **AMB** initially claims responsibility, **Hamas** does so after the 2d letter is released; the groups do not claim joint responsibility, as they have done in the past, raising questions as to who really staged the attack. **Israeli DM Shaul Mofaz** says **Israel** will not routinely seal the territories in the wake of the bombing, so as not to aggravate Palestinians' hardship; will specifically target militant groups. The **IDF** tightens checkpoints around Hebron; conducts house searches, arrest raids in Hebron, Jenin, Nablus. **Hebron Jewish settlers** attack Palestinians in nearby Yatta, forcing 9 **Palestinian families** out of their cave dwellings and mud houses; Hebron settlers reportedly seek to expropriate more than 37,000 dunams in the area for settlement expansion. In a plea agmt., an **Israeli court** sentences to 15 mos. in jail **Havat Maon settlers Yitzhak Paz and Matityahu Shvu**, arrested on 7/17/03 for transporting explosives, plotting a major bombing of a Palestinian school, carrying out 2 bombings at Palestinian schools that resulted in no deaths. (BBC, HA, MM 1/29; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/30; MM 2/3; WJW 2/5; JPI 2/6; *al-Majallah* [London] 2/8 in WNC 2/18; PCHR 2/12; JPI 2/13)

Israel, Hizballah begin to implement the 1st stage of their 2-stage prisoner swap. (BBC, HA, MNR, NYT, WJW, WP, WT 1/29; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/30; MM 2/2; JPI, MEI 2/6; JPI 2/13) (see 1/24, Quarterly Update)

30 JANUARY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem in connection to the 1/29 bombing, but after informing the **PA** of its plans to enter the city and asking the **PSF** to evacuate its posts while the operation is underway; 4 Palestinians are arrested, 10s detained for questioning. The **IDF** also assassinates wanted **Hamas mbr. Jihad Suwayti** in Hebron, raiding a home, shooting him in the head; fatally shoots 1 **AMB mbr.**, 1 **Islamic Jihad mbr.** (both armed) who attempt to infiltrate Gaza's Dugit settlement to stage a joint attack; fatally shoots a 4th **Palestinian** nr. Nablus; demolishes 6 **Palestinian homes** in Ramallah, the home of the 1/29 bomber's family in Aida r.c.; fires on residential

areas of Brazil r.c. (BBC, HA, MM 1/30; NYT, WP, WT 1/31; LAW, PCHR 2/12)

Hizballah, Israel complete implementation of the 1st phase of their prisoner release, open contacts via **Germany** on the 2d phase. (MEI 2/6) (see Quarterly Update)

31 JANUARY

The **IDF** demolishes 9 **Palestinian homes** nr. Ramallah; bulldozes 11 dunams of land nr. Khan Yunis; fires on residential areas of Rafah. (PCHR 2/8, 2/12)

1 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** makes a rare raid into Jericho, fatally shooting wanted **AMB mbr. Shadi Jaradat** in what may be an assassination, wounding several Palestinians, arresting 5, demolishing 3 **Palestinian homes**. (NYT, WP 2/2; PCHR 2/8, 2/12, 2/19)

2 FEBRUARY

Despite Israel's pledge (1/29) not to seal the occupied territories in the wake of the Jerusalem bombing, **Israeli-Arabs** seeking to enter Gaza with pre-arranged permits to celebrate Id al-Adha with relatives report that the **IDF** is blocking all entry to the Strip. The **IDF** assassinates **senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Yasir Abu Aysh**, firing missiles at his family's home in Rafah, also killing **Islamic Jihad mbr. Hussein Abu Aysh** (Yasir's brother), **AMB Rafah leader Majdi Khatib**, **Hamas mbr. Baha' Judah**, wounding 3; Yasir Abu Aysh, who reportedly has been in hiding since he lost both legs and an arm in a mysterious explosion in 2002, had come out of seclusion to visit his family for Id al-Adha. The **IDF** also raids 'Aida r.c. in search of **Bethlehem Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades head Muhammad Abu Odeh**, who fires on IDF soldiers, wounding 4, before being shot dead; the IDF then blows up his family **home**. In Ramallah, 2-3 **armed AMB mbrs.** reportedly storm the offices of **al-Dar newspaper** and **al-Quds TV**, destroying equipment, computers, archives. (HA, NYT, WP, WT 2/3; JP 2/8 in WNC 2/10; *Independent* 2/9; PCHR 2/12)

Sharon says that he has given orders to plan for the "relocation" of **17 of 20 Jewish settlements in Gaza** and **3 Jewish settlements in the West Bank** over the next 2 yrs., with "the assumption that in the future there will be no Jews in Gaza." (BBC, HA, MM 2/2; AP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/3;

VOP 2/3 in WNC 2/5; NYT 2/4; WJW 2/5; JT, *al-Ra'i* 2/8 in WNC 2/10; AYM 2/8 in WNC 2/19; PR 2/11; CSM 2/12; JPI 2/13; AYM 2/17 in WNC 2/20; MEI 2/20) (see 11/23, Quarterly Update)

3 FEBRUARY

IDF soldiers stationed at Gaza's Gadid settlement fire on Palestinian farmers working their fields, wounding 1. (PCHR 2/12)

4 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem (seriously injuring 1 Palestinian arrested), Tubas (targeting the **AMB**); fires on residential areas of Rafah. In Gaza City, **4 PSF mbrs.** storm PA police headquarters in an attempt to assassinate **Gaza PSF head Ghazi Jabali**; Jabali escapes unhurt, **1 PSF officer** is killed, **11 PSF officers and bodyguards** are wounded. (HA, WT 2/5; MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/6; PCHR 2/12)

5 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** assassinates **Hamas mbr. Nasir Abu Shuka** with an exploding cell phone in Bureij r.c.; fatally shoots a **PFLP mbr.** who throws a grenade at an IDF patrol in Rafah; fatally shoots a **Palestinian** youth nr. Netzarim settlement; demolishes a **Palestinian home** nr. Jenin, 1 nr. Ramallah; conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Aza r.c., Balata r.c., Bayt Sahur, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, Nablus; bulldozes 45 dunams of land in Wadi al-Silqa. In Gaza, an **AMB mbr.** is killed by friendly fire during an attempted **AMB** ambush of an IDF patrol. **Palestinians** also fire an antitank rocket at an **IDF** patrol nr. Gaza's Neve Dekalim settlement, causing no damage or injuries. (HA 2/5; WP 2/6; VOP 2/6 in WNC 2/10; PCHR 2/8, 2/12)

6 FEBRUARY

IDF undercover units traveling in cars with Palestinian license plates raid Askar r.c., arrest 4 Palestinians. The **IDF** also begins (without forewarning) requiring special licenses for trucks crossing through al-Hamra checkpoint in the n. Jordan Valley, Tayasir checkpoint outside Jenin; fires on residential areas in Rafah, nr. Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron; orders the confiscation of 220 dunams of Dayr al-Balah land that the IDF has already bulldozed; begins construction of a new

settler bypass road nr. Tulkarm. **Palestinians** fire 2 antitank rockets at an **IDF** convoy in Rafah, wounding 2 soldiers; fire 2 **Qas-sam rockets**, 1 causing heavy damage to a greenhouse in a Gaza settlement, 1 landing outside Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. (HA 2/8; PCHR 2/12)

7 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** assassinates an **Islamic Jihad military cmdr. Aziz Shami**, firing a missile at his car as he drives through Gaza City, also killing a **12-yr.-old Palestinian** walking to school, wounding 2 passengers in Shami's car, 7 bystanders on the street. The **IDF** also fires on a group of Palestinians allegedly attempting to infiltrate Israel fr. Gaza nr. Bureij r.c., mortally wounding a **Palestinian teenager**, allowing him to bleed to death. **Palestinians** detonate a roadside bomb nr. an **IDF** convoy in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. **Hebron Jewish settlers** attack local **Palestinians** with iron bars (seriously injuring 1), break the windows of 4 Palestinian homes to deter them fr. using a road linking al-Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs and Kiryat Arba settlement. (PCHR 2/7; VOP 2/7, MENA, VOP 2/8 in WNC 2/10; HA, NYT, WP, WT 2/8; PR 2/11; PCHR 2/12)

The **PA** hastily convenes a military tribunal to arraign **4 Palestinians** in connection with the 10/15/03 Erez roadside bombing that killed 4 American security officers, charging them with possessing explosives and weapons, planting mines nr. the area of the bombing, but not charging them with the specific bombing that led to those deaths. (JP 2/7; HA, NYT, WP, WT 2/8; *al-Quds* 2/11 in WNC 2/13) (see Quarterly Update)

More than **350 Fatah mbrs.** resign to protest corruption, mismanagement, lack of political direction within the movement. (REU 2/7; NYT, WP, WT 2/8; VOP 2/8 in WNC 2/10; MM 2/9, 2/10; NYT, WJW 2/12; SA 2/13 in WNC 2/18) (see Doc. B)

8 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** raids the Rafah home of **PFLP military cmdr. Ashraf Abu Libdeh**, fatally shooting him in what may be an assassination, also firing on the surrounding area, wounding 21 bystanders, including 9 children, 2 women. In Silwan, East Jerusalem, **16 Jewish settler families** under heavy **Israeli police** guard take over **16 Palestinian homes** they claim to have purchased fr. res-

idents, doubling Silwan's settler population; settlers have taken over a total of 50 homes, schools, archeological sites in the area. An ailing **8-yr.-old Palestinian boy** fr. Habla village dies en route to the hospital when no **IDF** soldiers are present to allow his passage through the **separation wall** to reach a Qalqilya hospital 3 km away, forcing his ambulance to drive 30 km around the wall to reach the hospital. The **Sharon admin.** announces it will shorten the planned route of the **separation wall** to reduce the hardship on Palestinians, gain U.S. support for the project. (Globes, MA 2/8; VOP 2/8 in WNC 2/10; HA, WP, WT 2/9; VOP 2/9 in WNC 2/11; WP 2/10; PR 2/11; PCHR 2/12)

9 FEBRUARY

IDF undercover units driving a car with Palestinian license plates raid Balata r.c., open fire on wanted **PFLP mbr. Samir Khudaysh** without warning, seriously wounding, then arresting him. The **IDF** also fires on a group of armed Palestinians nr. Jenin, killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding 2; surrounds, fires tear gas into a secondary school nr. Hebron; occupies a Palestinian apartment building nr. Jenin as a military post, expelling the 32 residents; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem, Nablus, Tulkarm r.c. and nr. Hebron, Ramallah; raids, searches dorms at al-Najah University in Nablus, arresting 3 students; arrests 6 Palestinian fishermen off the coast of Gaza for fishing in a prohibited area. The **IDF**, accompanied by **Hebron Jewish settlers**, raid Khirbat Janba, outside Hebron; search the caves and mud houses of **36 Palestinian families** (around 350 people), order them to leave the area (see 1/29). (PCHR 2/12)

10 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** bulldozes a **Palestinian home** in Silwan, East Jerusalem; raids, fires on residential areas of Budrus village nr. Ramallah; bulldozes 4 dunams of land in Wadi al-Silqa; conducts arrest raids in 'Aida r.c. (VOP 2/10 in WNC 2/12; PCHR 2/12)

11 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** stages a major raid on Gaza City (reportedly in response to recent attacks on nearby Jewish settlements that caused no injuries), sparking an intense exchange of gunfire with **Hamas, Islamic**

Jihad gunmen, leaving **12 Palestinians** (5 Hamas mbrs., 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs., 2 PSF officers, 3 bystanders) dead and 60 (33 of them children) wounded; no IDF soldiers are injured. In an apparent assassination during the raid, the IDF surrounds the home of **wanted Hamas mbr. Ashraf Abu Hassanain**; orders his family to evacuate; shoots into the home, killing Abu Hassanain and 2 other Hamas mbrs.; blows up the **home** atop their bodies. In response, **Palestinians** fire **2 mortars** at Karnei settlement, **2 Qassam rockets** toward Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** also stages a major incursion into Rafah, fatally shooting **3 Palestinians**, wounding 17 (including 10 children), demolishing **24 Palestinian homes** and 3 schools; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, seriously wounding a 9-yr.-old Palestinian inside his home; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Sahur, in Tulkarm, nr. Nablus; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Wadi al-Silqa. Later in the day, 1,000s of Palestinians attend the funeral for 1 of the Hamas mbrs. killed today, **senior military cmdr. Hani Abu Shukayla**, who had survived 2 previous Israeli assassination attempts. An **IDF warplane** malfunctions, crashes outside Hebron, causing no damage or injuries; the pilot ejects safely. (BBC, HA, MM, PR 2/11; IDF Radio, VOI, VOP, YA 2/11 in WNC 2/13; MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 2/12; *al-Hayat al-Jadida*, *al-Quds* 2/12 in WNC 2/18; PR 2/18; PCHR 2/19; MEI 2/20)

12 FEBRUARY

In an apparent assassination, **IDF** undercover units raid Qarawat Bani Zaid nr. Ramallah, chase and mortally wound **wanted Hamas mbr. Samir Arar**, barring ambulances fr. reaching him for 2 hrs., allowing him to bleed to death. The **IDF** also shells a group of Palestinian boys playing too close to the Rafah-Egypt border fence, killing a **12-yr.-old Palestinian boy**, wounding an 11-yr.-old; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Aida r.c., Bethlehem; imposes curfews on 5 villages nr. Bethlehem. A

Palestinian dies of injuries received during the 2/1 IDF raid on Jericho. (PM 2/12; VOP 2/13 in WNC 2/18; PR 2/18; PCHR 2/19)

Powell says that the **U.S.** is taking **Sharon's** plan for unilateral disengagement seriously, will send senior officials to Israel next wk. to discuss it further. (NYT 2/13; *al-Quds*, VOP 2/14 in WNC 2/18) (see Quarterly Update)

13 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** raids Qabatiyya in search of a suspected car bomber, opens fire on a car driving in the vicinity, killing an innocent **Palestinian**; fires on, wounds, detains 2 Palestinians who stray too close to the Green Line southwest of Hebron; fires on residential areas of Tubas; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Nablus. **Unidentified assailants** believed to be Palestinian set fire to the car of the Palestinian newspaper *al-Hayat al-Jadida's* Gaza bureau chief. (VOP 2/13 in WNC 2/18; NYT 2/14; PR 2/18; PCHR 2/19)

14 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** blows up a **Palestinian home** nr. Jenin; bulldozes a 150 m stretch of land inside a Khan Yunis cemetery, destroying the property boundary wall, several gravesites; conducts arrest raids nr. Jenin; tightens roadblocks around Ramallah, Nablus. In Bethlehem, a **Palestinian child** grazing animals is injured when he accidentally triggers unexploded **IDF** ordnance. (PCHR 2/19)

15 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin; issues confiscation orders for a 15-dunam plot of land adjacent to Negrohot settlement nr. Hebron. Some **200 Palestinian journalists** temporarily occupy the PC building in Gaza to protest several recent mysterious attacks on reporters (e.g., 1/8, 2/2, 2/13). (VOP 2/15 in WNC 2/18; WP 2/16; PR 2/18; PCHR, WJW 2/19)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
AYM	(<i>al-Ayyam</i> , Ramallah)
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
CSM	(<i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , Boston)
HA	(<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)

- IRNA (Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran)
 JP (*Jerusalem Post* [Internet], Jerusalem)
 JPI (*Jerusalem Post International Edition*, Jerusalem)
 JT (*Jordan Times*, Amman)
 JTA (Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet])
 LAW (Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, Jerusalem)
 LBC (Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, Beirut)
 MA (*Ma'ariv*, Tel Aviv)
 MEI (*Middle East International*, London)
 MENA (Middle East News Agency, Cairo)
 MM (*Mideast Mirror*, London)
 MNR (al-Manar TV, Beirut)
 NYT (*New York Times*, New York)
 PCHR (Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
 PM (Palestine Monitor [Internet])
 PR (*Palestine Report*, Jerusalem)
 PRCS (Palestine Red Crescent Society [Internet])
 QA (*al-Quds al-Arabi*, London)
 REU (Reuters [Internet])
 SA (*al-Sharq al-Awsat*, London)
 SANA (Syrian Arab News Agency, Damascus)
 THWR (*al-Thawra*, Damascus)
 VIRI (Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran)
 VOI (Voice of Israel, Jerusalem)
 VOP (Voice of Palestine, Jericho)
 WJW (*Washington Jewish Week*, Rockville, M.D.)
 WNC (World News Connection [Internet], Washington)
 WP (*Washington Post*, Washington)
 WT (*Washington Times*, Washington)
 XIN (Xinhua–New China News Agency, Beijing)
 YA (*Yedi'ot Aharonot*, Tel Aviv)



Palestinians wait to cross an IDF checkpoint outside Nablus, 21 January. (AFP/Jaafar Ashtiyeh)