



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS
JOURNALS + DIGITAL PUBLISHING



Chronology: 16 February—15 May 2007

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Source: *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 36, No. 4 (Summer 2007), pp. 217-238

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

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/jps.2007.36.4.217>

Accessed: 03/03/2015 11:03

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CHRONOLOGY

16 FEBRUARY–15 MAY 2007

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

This section is part ninety-four of a chronology begun in JPS 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time (EST). 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 FEBRUARY

As the quarter opened, **Israel** and the **Palestinians** both stated they were observing a cease-fire in Gaza that went into effect on 11/26/06, though near-daily cross-border incidents occurred. Israel's siege of Gaza, in place since **Hamas** took control of the **Palestinian Authority (PA)** on 3/28/06, remained, as did heavy restrictions on Palestinian movement in the West Bank. Today, **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** troops on the n. Gaza border fire on several Palestinians collecting scrap metal nr. the border fence n. of Bayt Lahiya, wounding a 12-yr-old boy. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Aida refugee camp (r.c.) nr. Bethlehem, Azun nr. Qalqilya, Qalandia r.c. (exchanging fire with Palestinian gunmen, leaving 2 IDF soldiers wounded), Tulkarm and nr. Hebron, Jenin; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in and nr. Hebron demonstrating against Israel's new construction at the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount (see 2/6/06 in the Chronology in *JPS* 143); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, percussion grenades at **10s of Palestinians**, as well as **Israeli and international activists**, taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, injuring 8. **Jewish settlers** fr. Tel Rumeida in Hebron occupy a Palestinian home next to the settlement; the **IDF** evicts the settlers but declares the area a closed military zone, barring the Palestinian family fr. returning. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba in Hebron vandalize Palestinian homes, shops; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. A **Fatah mbr.** dies of injuries received in recent clashes in Jabaliya with members of the PA Interior Min.'s predominantly **Hamas Executive Support Force (ESF)**. **PA health sector employ-**

ees in the West Bank begin an open-ended strike to protest the PA's failure to pay their salaries. (OCHA 2/21; PCHR 2/22)

17 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., firing on residential areas, causing no injuries. **Jewish settler children** fr. Ramat Yishai in Hebron chase, beat several Palestinian children; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. **Jewish settlers** fr. Susia nr. Hebron vandalize several Palestinian homes, beat a 65-yr-old Palestinian. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar uproot 170 Palestinian olive trees nr. Nablus. The family of a **Fatah mbr.** who died in Jabaliya on 2/16 sets fire to the home of **Change and Reform Palestinian Council (PC) mbr. Yusif al-Sharafi**, exchanges fire with **ESF mbrs.**, destroying 2 homes but causing no injuries. (OCHA 2/21; PCHR 2/22)

18 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts patrols in Tulkarm, fires tear gas at Palestinian students outside a school; raids shops in Qalqilya, forcing them to close; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and in Nablus, Tulkarm town and r.c. (OCHA 2/21; PCHR 2/22)

19 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into al-Walaja nr. Bethlehem and al-Zababda nr. Jenin, searching homes, confiscating cell phones, arresting 1 Palestinian; conducts additional arrest raids, house searches in Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah,

Qabatya nr. Jenin and nr. Hebron, Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Avraham Avino settlement in Hebron vandalize Palestinian property, beat several Palestinians, seriously injuring a 6-yr.-old Palestinian boy. (OCHA 2/21; PCHR 2/22)

20 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** sends bulldozers into Gaza e. of Dayr al-Balah to level 150 m of Palestinian land along the border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Qalqilya and in Jenin r.c., Qabatya. **Unidentified assailants** kidnap, quickly release unharmed **3 American women** taking photographs outside Balata r.c. nr. Nablus. **Egyptian border guards** in Rafah arrest a **Palestinian** attempting to cross fr. Gaza into Egypt through a smugglers' tunnel carrying an explosive belt; steps up border patrols in response. (NYT, OCHA, WP 2/21; PCHR, WT 2/22)

21 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Jenin r.c., where they assassinate **Islamic Jihad mbr. Mahmud Abu Obeid**, an alleged bomb maker; also sends undercover units into Bayt Jala to arrest a wanted Palestinian; conducts arrest raids in and around Bethlehem and Tulkarm, nr. Hebron, and in Balata r.c. nr. Nablus, Jenin town and r.c.; demolishes a **Palestinian home** northwest of Jerusalem. In Gaza, a **Palestinian** farmer is killed when he accidentally detonates unexploded IDF ordnance. **Palestinians** fire at least **1 rocket** fr. Gaza toward Israel that lands inside Gaza nr. Bayt Lahiya, wounding 6 Palestinians. **Egyptian security forces** conduct raids in Egyptian Rafah, detaining **2 Palestinians** connected to the Palestinian arrested on 2/20, charging them with plotting suicide bombings; Egyptian authorities say they have arrested **23** Palestinians and Egyptians in the n. Sinai in recent days. In Gaza City, **unidentified assailants** detonate an explosive device outside the home of a **PA police officer**, causing damage but no injuries. (IFM 2/21; PCHR, WP 2/22; OCHA 2/28; PCHR 3/1)

22 FEBRUARY

IDF soldiers on the Gaza border fire on Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the border fence e. of Gaza City, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house

searches in Qabatya, Qalqilya, Tulkarm and nr. Jenin; demolishes a poultry farm (killing 1,000 birds), a sheep pen nr. Hebron. (OCHA 2/28; PCHR 3/1)

23 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a communal water cistern nr. Hebron; conducts patrols in Dura nr. Hebron (randomly checking Palestinian IDs), Tulkarm town and r.c. (firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the troops); conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus, Tulkarm town and r.c. and nr. Jenin. **Palestinians** fire **2 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In ongoing raids in Egypt (see 2/21), **Egyptian security forces** discover 1 ton of explosives (mostly TNT recovered from land mines) hidden nr. the border with Gaza that they believe was intended to be smuggled into the Strip; say that they have now arrested **57 Egyptians and Palestinians** believed to be part of a network planning bombings in the Sinai targeting Israeli tourists, but also including **3 Palestinians** who allegedly confess to being mbrs. of **Islamic Jihad** and to plotting to carry out suicide attacks in Israel. On the 2d anniversary of the 1st weekly nonviolent protests in Bil'in against the **separation wall**, **10s of Palestinians and Israeli and international activists** demonstrate; the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, percussion grenades to disperse them, beating some, injuring 13 (including a CNN cameraman). (WP 2/24; NYT 2/25; OCHA 2/28; PCHR 3/1)

24 FEBRUARY

The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishermen off the Gaza coast nr. Dayr al-Balah, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** confiscates 199 dunams (d.; 4 d. = 1 acre) of Palestinian land w. of Jenin nr. Yabad to expand Road 585; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., Nablus, Qabatya, Qalqilya and nr. Hebron, Jenin. In Gaza, **unidentified assailants** detonate an explosive device outside the apartment of **senior PA security officer Col. Sulayman Khadir**, wounding 4 bystanders, causing extensive damage. (OCHA 2/28; PCHR 3/1)

25 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes an overnight raid on Nablus, reportedly

uncovering an **Islamic Jihad** pipe bomb factory in the Old City, exchanging fire with Islamic Jihad mbrs., causing no reported injuries. Troops withdraw and then reenter Nablus before dawn, this time declaring the start of **Operation Hot Winter**—the largest military operation in the West Bank since 7/06 and the largest in Nablus in 3 yrs.—sealing the city, imposing a curfew, taking over TV and radio stations, conducting house-to-house searches, barring access to 2 hospitals, reportedly uncovering a 2d bomb-making factory and finding a LAU hand-held guided missile and launcher (either stolen from the IDF or purchased on the Israeli black market); 2 IDF soldiers, 6 Palestinians are wounded in exchanges of fire; an Associated Press photographer films IDF soldiers forcing a Palestinian man to act as a human shield, leading troops into Palestinian homes—a violation of international and Israeli law. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin. Nr. Hebron, **suspected Palestinian assailants** fatally stab a **Jewish settler**. **Jewish settlers** fr. Avigail nr. Hebron uproot 30 Palestinian olive trees. Overnight in Khan Yunis, **5 Palestinians** are killed, more than 40 wounded in a family feud with factional overtones, raising concerns that intra-Palestinian fighting, which has tapered off since Fatah and Hamas reached a national unity agmt. in Mecca on 2/8 (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 143), might resume: The fighting begins when mbrs. of the **Khawareh clan**, relatives of a **Fatah mbr.** killed in factional fighting on 1/07, fatally shoot **Hamas mbr.** Muhammad Ali Ghalban, whom they blame for his death, sparking exchanges that leave 2 Khawareh relatives, 2 bystanders dead. On the Rafah border, **1 Palestinian** is killed, 6 are injured when a smugglers' tunnel they are digging collapses. **Palestinian workers at Qarni crossing** strike for the day, forcing the crossing to close. **Unidentified gunmen** in Bureij r.c. fire on an **ESF** post, causing no injuries. In Israel, **Israeli police** raid 2 companies in Ramat Gan that do business with companies in Gaza, arresting several employees on suspicion of funneling money to **Hamas, Islamic Jihad**. (AP, HA, NYT, WP, WT 2/25; AP, HA, NYT, WP 2/26; OCHA 2/28; AP, PCHR 3/1; WP 3/3)

26 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** continues operations in Nablus, clashing with Palestinian gunmen, leaving **1**

unarmed Palestinian dead, 8 wounded. During operations, a curfew remains in place, with the IDF bulldozing and damaging several Palestinian homes and shops to widen access to the Old City for IDF vehicles, raiding and searching homes, rounding up 10s of Palestinians for interrogation, continuing to occupy Palestinian TV and radio stations, broadcasting the names of **7 wanted mbrs. of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB)** for whom they are searching, reportedly uncovering another 2 bomb-making labs. The **IDF** also demolishes **6 Palestinian homes** nr. Tulkarm, 3 bedouin shacks nr. Azariyya; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. **Israeli authorities** report that **2 Palestinian teenagers** have been arrested and have confessed to the stabbing death of a settler on 2/25. A **Palestinian** wounded in the family feud in Khan Yunis on 2/25 dies. (NYT, WP 2/27; OCHA 2/28; PCHR 3/1)

27 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** withdraws fr. Nablus, officially suspending (but not ending) **Operation Hot Winter**, which has left 1 Palestinian dead, 5 wanted men (and 10s of other Palestinians) arrested. The **IDF** also detains an Italian film crew in Hebron making a documentary on Palestinian children in the city; conducts arrest raids in and around Hebron, in Jenin, and nr. Bethlehem, Nablus, Qalqilya, Tulkarm. **IDF** troops on the Gaza border e. of Rafah fire on farmers who stray nr. the border fence, causing no injuries. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the Gaza coast nr. Rafah, forcing them to return to shore, causing no damage or injuries. **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** fire 6 **rockets** fr. al-Qarara nr. Khan Yunis toward the IDF post at the Kissufim crossing; 2 rockets land inside Gaza, damaging 2 Palestinian homes, killing some sheep; no damage is reported at Kissufim. (NYT, OCHA, WP 2/28; HA, PCHR 3/1)

28 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Jenin to ambush, assassinate **3 Islamic Jihad mbrs. (West Bank military cmdr. Ashraf Saadi, senior Saraya al-Quds mbr. Mahmud Abu Naa'sa, lower ranking mbr. Ala' Baryaki)**. The **IDF** also sends troops back into Nablus, reviving **Operation Hot Winter**, reimposing a curfew, reoccupying TV and radio stations,

announcing the names of 7 wanted Palestinians being sought; 1 IDF soldier is wounded by a bomb; the IDF reportedly uses an 11-yr-old Palestinian girl and a 15-yr-old Palestinian boy as human shields when searching Palestinian homes. The **IDF** demolishes 2 apartment buildings under construction in al-Tur nr. Jerusalem; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm r.c., nr. Jenin and Salfit; uproots some 500 Palestinian olive, almond trees nr. Bethlehem for construction of the **separation wall**, replanting some nearby. In response to the Jenin assassinations, **Islamic Jihad** fires 5 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Separately, **Palestinians** fire 2 rockets fr. Gaza toward Israel, but both fall inside Gaza nr. Bayt Hanun. **Jewish settlers** nr. Shema nr. Hebron stone a 70-yr-old Palestinian farmer grazing his flock nr. the settlement. In Gaza, **Fatah mbrs.** manning a flying checkpoint nr. Shati' r.c. bar an **ESF** vehicle from passing, sparking an exchange of fire that leaves 1 Fatah mbr. wounded. In Gaza City, a bomb explodes outside the offices of the **Fatah**-affiliated al-Fursan al-Arab Association, causing no injuries; no group takes responsibility. (HA, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 3/1; OCHA 3/7; PCHR 3/8; WT 3/10)

1 MARCH

The **IDF** pulls troops out of Nablus in the afternoon, once again suspending but not declaring an official end to **Operation Hot Winter**; troops raid an apartment building (killing 1 **Palestinian civilian**, arresting 10 wanted men) and exchange fire with Palestinians in a mosque before withdrawing; the **UN** reports that 248 homes, shops in Nablus have been damaged since 2/25. The **IDF** also conducts patrols in Burkin nr. Jenin; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem, Qalqilya; seals the West Bank at midnight local time for the Purim holidays. **Palestinians** fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, damaging a greenhouse but causing no injuries. A **Palestinian gunman** fires on a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Qalqilya, wounding the driver. (AP, HA, REU 3/1; OCHA 3/7; PCHR 3/8)

2 MARCH

Palestinians detonate a roadside bomb nr. an **IDF** bulldozer operating inside Gaza nr. Sufa crossing, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin r.c., in

Nablus, nr. Bethlehem; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, percussion grenades at **10s of Palestinians**, as well as **Israeli and international activists** taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, injuring 15. In Nablus, 2 Palestinians are injured when they accidentally trigger unexploded **IDF** ordnance. (OCHA 3/7; PCHR 3/8)

3 MARCH

The **IDF** sends bulldozers, tanks 150 m into Gaza nr. Bureij r.c. and al-Maghazi r.c. to level land. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, and nr. Jenin, Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** in Hebron conduct a Purim parade through Palestinian neighborhoods, harassing Palestinians, vandalizing Palestinian property; **IDF soldiers** escorting the settlers do not intervene. **Jewish settlers** also block a main road into Bethlehem to Palestinian traffic, harassing Palestinian motorists; the **IDF** intervenes, forcing the settlers to leave. (OCHA 3/7; PCHR 3/8)

4 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts patrols in Qabatya, firing percussion grenades; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus and in Jenin r.c., Tulkarm (also raiding a café, firing on shops and homes). **Jewish settlers** nr. Nablus beat a 61-yr-old Palestinian farmer. (OCHA 3/7; PCHR 3/8)

5 MARCH

Late in the evening, the **IDF** lifts the seal on the West Bank imposed on 3/1. During the day, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Qabatya, Tulkarm town and r.c., and nr. Bethlehem, Jenin. **Egyptian security forces** find, demolish 4 smugglers' tunnels on the Rafah border. In Gaza's Nussayrat r.c., an **Islamic Jihad mbr.** is killed when explosives he is handling explode prematurely. The **Hamas-run PA Education Min.** orders copies of an anthology of Palestinian folk tales (*Speak Bird, Speak Again*, published by the Institute for Palestine Studies) pulled fr. school libraries, destroyed because of mild sexual innuendo, raising concerns among Palestinians that Hamas is using its government control to impose strict Islamic standards on Palestinian society. **ESF, PA, Preventive Security Force (PSF) mbrs.** exchange fire in Gaza City, causing no

injuries. (WT 3/6; OCHA 3/7; HA, PCHR 3/8)

6 MARCH

Late in the evening, **IDF** troops briefly cross into n. Gaza to search the border area nr. Bayt Hanun. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem (also searching 2 schools in Bayt Fajjar and al-Khadir, confiscating computers, files, children's schoolbags, a fax machine), Hebron, Nablus and neighboring Balata r.c., Qalqilya. (OCHA 3/7; PCHR 3/8)

7 MARCH

Overnight the **IDF** raids the **PA Military Intelligence** headquarters in Ramallah, arrests **18 wanted AMB mbrs.** who had been taking refuge there, 50 other PA Military Intelligence officers and employees (most of whom are released after interrogation); the IDF claims that the 18 were funded by **Iran** through **Hizballah** to carry out attacks on Israeli targets but offers no proof. During the day, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border send bulldozers 500 m into the border area nr. Bayt Hanun to level land, while IDF troops in the West Bank seal a Hamas-affiliated social services office and kindergarten in Bayt Fajjar nr. Bethlehem, another charitable society and kindergarten in neighboring al-Khadir. Late in the evening, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Azariyya nr. Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, al-Til nr. Tulkarm, Tulkarm r.c. In Israel, **Israeli police** arrest **Shaykh Raed Salah**, leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel, on suspicion of provocative behavior for attending a rally in East Jerusalem protesting Israel's construction at the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount. In Gaza's Nussayrat r.c., **4 unknown gunmen** kidnap, break the hands of, then release a **PA security officer**. A **PA General Intelligence Service mbr.** dies of injuries sustained in interfactional fighting in Jabaliya on 2/2. (NYT, PCHR 3/8; OCHA 3/14; PCHR 3/15)

8 MARCH

Israel allows the Rafah crossing to Egypt to open for departures for the 1st time since 3/6, sparking a surge by 100s of Palestinians seeking to exit that leaves a **61-yr.-old Palestinian** dead; **PA presidential guardsmen** controlling the exit use clubs, fire at the ground to push back travelers seeking

to exit, wounding 7 and prompting the European Union (EU) observers to close the crossing. The **IDF** also sends bulldozers into Gaza e. of Bureij r.c. to level land. **Palestinians** shut the Sufa crossing to protest the attack today on the Palestinian director of the crossing by unknown gunmen (no injuries reported). In the West Bank, the **IDF** storms a mosque, several houses in Hebron nr. the settler-only bypass road Route 60, threatening to demolish the mosque if there were any more stone-throwing from the area (the IDF cmdr. involved is later suspended for his actions); fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Tubas nr. Jenin, wounding 3 Palestinian teenagers and a 60-yr.-old bystander; shoots, wounds an unarmed Palestinian attempting to cross the separation wall nr. Abu Dis; conduct arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm and nr. Bethlehem, Jenin, Ramallah (firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 2 with live ammunition). **PA security force mbrs.** demonstrate in Gaza City and Bureij r.c. to protest the PA's nonpayment of salaries, local banks' automatic deduction of debts owed from the partial salary payments that are automatically deposited. (WT 3/9; OCHA 3/14; PCHR 3/15)

9 MARCH

IDF troops on the Gaza border e. of Dayr al-Balah fire on 2 unarmed Palestinians attempting to sneak into Israel to find work, killing **1 Palestinian** and arresting the other; fire into s. Gaza at Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the border fence nr. Shuka, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires on homes, businesses, stone-throwing Palestinians in Marda nr. Salfit, causing no injuries; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Qalqilya (firing on stone-throwing Palestinians), villages around Hebron; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, percussion grenades at **10s of Palestinians** as well as **Israeli and international activists** taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, beats others, injuring 20. (OCHA 3/14; PCHR 3/15)

10 MARCH

The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the Bayt Lahiya coast, forcing them to return to port. **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire on Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the border fence e. of al-Qarara

and shell open areas nr. Shuka, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols Far'un nr. Tulkarm, fires on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the troops, causing no injuries; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron; raids the offices of Afaq TV in Nablus, reportedly using Palestinians as human shields; issues military orders confiscating 17 d. in Qalqilya and neighboring Azun for "military purposes." In Jerusalem, a **Palestinian taxi driver** fr. al-Tur in East Jerusalem dies in **Israeli police** custody after being stopped at a checkpoint, being arrested and having his taxi confiscated for driving a Palestinian woman from Jordan who did not have the proper visas, being severely beaten by police; news of the death sparks demonstrations in al-Tur, where Israeli police fire tear gas, percussion grenades at protesters, causing no injuries. **PA Education Min. Nasir Sha'ir** rescinds the ministry's 3/5 ban on a book of Palestinian folklore after a massive public outcry, including a demonstration today in Ramallah, stating that the ban was illegal and imposed without his approval; some 1,500 copies of the book, *Speak Bird, Speak Again*, have been destroyed since the ban was ordered on 3/5. In Gaza, **mbrs. of the Popular Resistance Comms. (PRCs)** stage a peaceful sit-in in front of the Egyptian legation to protest restrictions on Gazans traveling to Egypt. Some **300 newly trained Fatah security members** demonstrate outside the central Gaza governorate offices demanding positions in the PA security forces. In the West Bank, **ESF, Fatah mbrs.** exchange fire in Nablus (no injuries) and Tubas (2 wounded). **Fatah-affiliated PA security force mbrs.** demanding payment of back salaries fire on the PA security headquarters in Jenin, force employees to leave the building, declare it closed. Elsewhere in the West Bank, **suspected Fatah gunmen** fire on the car of a **Change and Reform PC minister**, wounding a bodyguard. (WT 3/11; OCHA 3/14; PCHR 3/15)

11 MARCH

The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, wounding 3 fishermen. **IDF** troops discover, dismantle a roadside bomb nr. the s. Gaza border fence nr. Rafah. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin, in Marda, and nr. Hebron, Tulkarm; fires on a number of Palestinian vegetable traders in Abu Dis who reportedly

ignore orders to halt, seriously wounding 1, denying him medical attention for 40 mins. **Hamas, Fatah mbrs.** clash in Bayt Hanun, leaving a **Hamas cmdr.** dead; the **ESF** closes local roads, damages 4 homes of Fatah mbrs. with explosive devices, sets fire to the local **PA National Security Forces and Force 17 offices** during the clashes; **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** intervene to mediate an end to the fighting. **Unknown assailants** fire a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) at the home of a **Fatah** activist in Bayt Hanun, causing damage but no injuries. (WP 3/12; OCHA 3/14; PCHR 3/15)

12 MARCH

IDF troops at the Sufa crossing fire across the border into Gaza for no apparent reason. **Palestinians** fire an antitank missile at an IDF observation post nr. the Gaza border fence n. of Bayt Hanun, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** patrols, raids stores in Ithna nr. Hebron, firing tear gas and percussion grenades at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront the troops, then raids and searches an elementary school, detaining children, beating several; sends undercover units into Jenin to ambush and arrest a carload of 3 Palestinians; imposes a curfew on Hawara s. of Nablus; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm town and r.c., and in Hebron, Nablus. In Gaza City, **unidentified gunmen** kidnap **BBC correspondent Alan Johnston**. Around **1,000 newly graduated Fatah security mbrs.** demonstrate in Rafah demanding immediate positions in the PA security forces. **ESF, Fatah mbrs.** exchange fire in Bayt Hanun, causing no reported injuries. In Gaza, some **500 family mbrs. of Palestinians held by Israel** hold a rally calling for more PA and international action to secure a prisoner release. (WP 3/12; OCHA 3/14; PCHR 3/15)

13 MARCH

Overnight, the **IDF** revives **Operation Hot Winter** (see 3/1) in Nablus, conducting major house searches, arresting 2 Palestinians but withdrawing in the morning. During the day, **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire on Palestinian farmers who stray near the border fence e. of al-Qarara, causing no injuries; later sends tanks, bulldozers across the border in the same area to level land, discovering and dismantling 2 roadside bombs. Late in the evening, the **IDF**

conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, and nr. Bethlehem, Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Avraham Avino attack Palestinian workers repairing a Palestinian home nearby; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai vandalize Palestinian homes nearby. A **Palestinian gunman** fires on a Jewish settler vehicle driving on the Itamar settlement bypass road nr. Nablus, wounding 1 settler. In Gaza City, **suspected Fatah gunmen** assassinate **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades cmdr. Ala' al-Haddad**; late in the evening, the **ESF** fires an RPG destroying a house in Gaza City in apparent retaliation. **Fatah-ESF** clashes escalate in Bayt Hanun, with **ESF** mbrs. firing an RPG at the home of a Fatah mbr. and Fatah mbrs. retaliating by firing an RPG at the home of a Hamas mbr.; 3 Palestinians are injured. **Hamas spokesman Ghazi Hamad** says that the PA has definite information about who kidnapped BBC correspondent **Johnston** on 3/12, indicating that they are mbrs. of the powerful **Daghmash clan**, which is involved in criminal activity and was responsible for the abduction of 2 Fox News journalists on 8/27/06; says the government is working to secure his release. (HA, NYT, OCHA 3/14; PCHR 3/15)

14 MARCH

The **IDF** demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Sur al-Bahir southeast of Jerusalem; issues military orders confiscating 150 d. of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Jenin for "military purposes"; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin and Tulkarm, nr. Bethlehem and Nablus, and in Marda, Qalqilya. **ESF mbrs.** fire on the home of a local Fatah leader in Bayt Lahiya, killing a **Fatah mbr.** Separately, **Hamas mbrs.** kidnap a **PA General Intelligence officer** in Bayt Lahiya, shoot him in the legs, let him go. In Gaza City, **300 PFLP mbrs.** stage a sit-in outside the Red Cross offices to mark the 1-yr. anniversary of PFLP leader Ahmad Saadat's capture by the IDF in Jericho. (PCHR 3/15; OCHA 3/21; PCHR 3/22)

15 MARCH

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Salfit. In Gaza, **1 Palestinian** is killed when a smugglers' tunnel on the Rafah border collapses. In Jabaliya, 3 Palestinians are injured when explosives

they are handling explode prematurely. (OCHA 3/21; PCHR 3/22)

16 MARCH

IDF troops on the s. Gaza border detain 2 unarmed Palestinians who attempt to sneak into Israel through the border fence e. of al-Maghazi to find work; fire on Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the border fence nr. Shuka, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Qalqilya, nr. Salfit; conducts patrols in Azun e. of Qalqilya, beating stone-throwing Palestinian children, breaking a 13-yr.-old's arm; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, percussion grenades at **10s of Palestinians** as well as **Israeli and international activists** taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, injuring 8. **Jewish settlers** fr. Havat Maon nr. Hebron bulldoze 10 d. of Palestinian agricultural land; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. **Unidentified gunmen** ambush the armored car of **UNRWA dir. John Ging** in an apparent kidnapping attempt as he returns to Gaza through the Erez crossing; fire 14 shots at the car, causing no injuries. In Dayr al-Balah, **suspected Hamas gunmen** ambush a car driven by **PA intelligence officer Hussein Salhi**; pulling Salhi and a 2d intelligence officer, Musa Erjailat, fr. the vehicle; shooting them in the head, killing Salhi, wounding Erjailat. (NYT 3/17; OCHA 3/21; PCHR 3/22)

17 MARCH

The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of Bayt Lahiya, forcing them to return to shore. The **IDF** sends bulldozers into Gaza n. of Bayt Lahiya to level land along the border fence to improve lines of sight. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in Abu Dis nr. East Jerusalem; conducts patrols, fires on residential areas of Jenin town and r.c., Tubas. (OCHA 3/21; PCHR 3/22)

With approval of the **PC, PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas (Fatah)** swears in the first Palestinian national unity government headed by **PM Ismail Haniyeh (Change and Reform)**, in keeping with agreements reached by **Fatah** and **Hamas** in Mecca on 2/8 aimed at halting intra-Palestinian violence. (NYT, WP, WT 3/18; WP 3/19) (see Quarterly Update for details)

18 MARCH

The **IDF** fires on stone-throwing Palestinian youths at the entrance to 'Ayn al-Far'a r.c. nr. Jenin, wounding 1; fires percussion grenades at Palestinians protesting the closure of the main Bayt Iba checkpoint out of Nablus, injuring 3 Palestinians; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Qalqilya, in Balata r.c. (Palestinian militants throw an explosive device at troops during the raid, injuring 1 IDF soldier.) **Egyptian border guards** destroy a smugglers' tunnel on the Rafah border. (OCHA 3/21; PCHR 3/22)

19 MARCH

Overnight, the **Israeli navy** rounds up 14 Palestinian fishing boats, detains 56 fishermen, releases 50 later in the day. A **Hamas sniper** fires across the Gaza border into Israel, wounding an Israeli electrical worker in the 1st armed attack by Hamas since the Gaza cease-fire went into effect 11/26/06. **Hamas mbrs.** also fire 2 **mortars** at the IDF post at Qarni crossing, causing no damage or injuries. **Hamas spokesman Ghazi Hamad** reiterates Hamas's call for mutual calm; **Israel** says that it will continue to abide by the truce but that its patience is wearing thin. In Shati' r.c., an **Islamic Jihad mbr.** is killed, 9 Palestinians are injured when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely. **Egyptian security forces** announce that they have captured a **Hamas mbr.** in the n. Sinai, who allegedly intended to sneak into Israel to stage a suicide bombing. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, firing on stone-throwing Palestinians, wounding 4. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba bar Palestinian worshipers fr. entering al-Ras Mosque in Hebron; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. Separately, 50 **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba, under **IDF** protection, occupy a 4-story Palestinian residential building in Hebron, claiming to have legally purchased it; the owner denies this; officers fr. the **Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH)** ask the settlers to see the purchase documents, but they refuse. A **Jewish settler** fr. Hebron seriously injures a Palestinian man in a deliberate hit and run. In Gaza City, 200 **family mbrs. of Palestinians detained by Israel** hold a sit-in to demand greater PA and international efforts to secure a prisoner release. (al-Mezan, NYT, OCHA, WP, WT 3/20; PCHR 3/22)

20 MARCH

The **IDF** sends bulldozers into Gaza to level land along the border e. of al-Maghazi r.c. The **IDF** also demolishes 3 **Palestinian homes** in Shaykh Jarrah in East Jerusalem, in Halhul nr. Hebron, and in Jit nr. Qalqilya; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Ram n. of Jerusalem, in 'Askar r.c. and Balata nr. Nablus (clashing with Palestinian gunmen, leaving 1 **armed Palestinian** dead), and nr. Bethlehem (where a Palestinian woman is seriously injured by an IDF attack dog), Hebron. In Rafah, 400 **Palestinians** who received UN assistance after their homes were demolished by the IDF stage a solidarity sit-in outside UNRWA offices to protest the 3/16 attack on UNRWA Dir. **Ging's** convoy. (OCHA 3/21; PCHR 3/22; OCHA 3/28)

21 MARCH

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire on Palestinians collecting scrap metal who stray close to the border fence nr. Erez industrial zone, wounding a teenager; fire on a group of Palestinians in the fmr. Aley Sinai settlement nr. the n. Gaza border, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires on stone-throwing youths outside Abud nr. Ramallah, killing a 17-yr.-old **Palestinian**, denying an ambulance access to the scene and confiscating the body. **Fatah, ESF mbrs.** exchange fire in Bayt Lahiya, leaving 1 **Fatah mbr.** dead, 17 Palestinians injured. In Khan Yunis, **unidentified gunmen** shoot, wound 2 **Force 17 mbrs.** (NYT, PCHR 3/22; OCHA 3/28)

22 MARCH

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire on Palestinians collecting scrap metal who stray nr. the border fence n. of Bayt Lahiya, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** partially demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Ibaydiyya nr. Bethlehem; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and neighboring 'Askar r.c., in Bayt Fajjar and Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem, in Hebron, and nr. al-Fawar r.c. (shooting, wounding 1 Palestinian). In Bureij r.c., a **Palestinian** is injured when an explosive device he is handling explodes prematurely. **Fatah, ESF mbrs.** clash in n. Gaza for a 2d day, leaving a 2-yr.-old **Palestinian boy** dead, 6 Palestinians injured. In Gaza City, **ESF mbrs.** exchange fire with a **Fatah-affiliated family**, killing 1 **Palestinian; unidentified gunmen** halt, seize a **UN** vehicle, leaving

the Palestinian UN employee unharmed. Outside Gaza City, a **PRC mbr.** is shot dead in apparent factional violence. In Khan Yunis, **unidentified gunmen** shoot, wound a **PSF officer.** (NYT, WP 3/23; OCHA 3/28; PCHR 3/29)

23 MARCH

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border shoot, wound a 14-yr.-old Palestinian boy who apparently strays nr. the border fence nr. Jabaliya r.c. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** w. of Bethlehem nr. Kefar Etzion settlement; patrols Burkin southwest of Nablus (setting up a checkpoint, checking Palestinian IDs), Tulkarm; fires tear gas, percussion grenades at 10s of Palestinians as well as Israeli and international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, beats others, injuring 8; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians at the Qalandia checkpoint protesting Israeli excavations at the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount, wounding 1. **Jewish settlers** fr. Negohot settlement nr. Hebron stalk, beat, seriously injure an 11-yr.-old Palestinian boy. In Bayt Lahiya, 3 Palestinians are injured in a family feud with factional overtones. In Gaza City, **Hamas mbrs.** fatally shoot a **Fatah mbr.** (OCHA 3/28; PCHR 3/29)

24 MARCH

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire on a group of Palestinians collecting scrap metal nr. the border fence nr. the Erez industrial zone, wounding 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, **IDF** troops patrol in, fire on residential areas of 'Askar r.c. and Nablus, causing no injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba severely beat a 12-yr.-old Palestinian boy; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. **Jewish settlers** fr. Negohot nr. Hebron, attack and injure 2 Palestinians (including a 10-yr.-old boy) in a village nearby. **Fatah-Hamas** clashes leave 6 Palestinians injured in 'Abasan in s. Gaza. In Gaza's Nussayrat r.c., **unidentified gunmen** shoot, wound a **PA presidential guard mbr.** (OCHA 3/28; PCHR 3/29)

25 MARCH

The **IDF** sends tanks, bulldozers into Gaza e. of al-Maghazi r.c. to level land. **Palestinians** fire an RPG at an **IDF** observation post on the Gaza border e. of al-Maghazi r.c., causing

no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron; issues military order seizing 80 d. of Palestinian land nr. Qalqilya for construction of the **separation wall.** A **51-yr.-old Palestinian** is found stabbed to death outside Itamar settlement nr. Nablus in an area controlled and patrolled by the **IDF.** **Fatah, Hamas** exchange fire in Bayt Lahiya, accidentally killing a **4-yr.-old Palestinian child.** (NYT 3/26; OCHA 3/28; PCHR 3/29)

26 MARCH

IDF troops on the Gaza border fire a tank shell at a Gaza municipality truck nr. Juhur al-Dik, injuring 4 municipal workers; send tanks, bulldozers into Gaza nr. Bureij r.c. to level land. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** temporarily occupies several buildings in Nablus, exchanging fire with Palestinian gunmen, leaving 2 **armed Palestinians** dead; patrols in and around Jenin town and r.c.; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, Kafr Dan and Qabatya nr. Jenin, Tulkarm; issues military orders confiscating 10 d. of Palestinian land e. of Tulkarm for military training purposes. In tandem with a visit by U.S. Secy. of State **Condoleezza Rice**, 2,000 **right-wing Jewish settlers and activists** march to and reoccupy the **Homesh** settlement site in the n. West Bank, evacuated during disengagement in 2005, with plans to stay at the site for 2 days and eventually to rebuild the settlement; the main **YESHA settlers group** does not endorse the action; the **IDF** mobilizes 4 brigades to monitor marchers and take action should they or local Palestinians become violent, saying they will forcibly remove the settlers if they do not leave on 3/27 as planned. **Fatah-Hamas** clashes leave 5 Palestinians wounded in Rafah. **Hamas mbrs.** fire an antitank missile at, then occupy the **Fatah**-affiliated Bayt Hanun Sports Club; no injuries are reported. (WT 3/26; NYT, WT 3/27; OCHA 3/28; PCHR 3/29)

27 MARCH

IDF troops on the Gaza border e. of al-Maghazi r.c. fire on Palestinian shepherds who stray nr. the border fence, causing no injuries. **PA security forces** demolish a smugglers' tunnel on the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** exchanges fire with **AMB mbrs.** in Nablus, leaving 2 **wanted**

AMB mbrs. dead; temporarily occupies several buildings in Jenin town and r.c., exchanging fire with local Palestinians, leaving **1 armed Palestinian** dead; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Qalqilya, nr. Nablus; begins work on a new segment of the **separation wall** s. of Wadi Rahan nr. Bethlehem. After heavy rains, the retaining wall of a sewage pond in n. Gaza collapses, flooding the village of Um al-Nasser, killing at least **5 Palestinians** (including 2-yr.-old and 5-yr.-old boys), injuring 20, leaving 333 Palestinian families homeless (the UNRWA sets up a temporary camp); villagers attack newly appointed **PA Interior M Hani al-Qawasmi** when he arrives to survey the damage, forcing him to leave. Also in Gaza, **unidentified gunmen** attack the PA Agriculture Min. offices (causing no injuries), then demand jobs in the PA security forces; **Palestinian Red Crescent Society employees** stage a sit-in outside the **ICRC** headquarters to demand payment of back salaries. (REU 3/27; IMEMC, NYT, OCHA, WP, WT 3/28; PCHR 3/29)

28 MARCH

When **AMB, Islamic Jihad** fire **9 rockets** into Israel, causing no damage or injuries, the **IDF** shells n. Gaza for the 1st time since the 11/26 cease-fire went into effect, wounding **4 Islamic Jihad** mbrs. preparing to fire a rocket into Israel, also killing **1 Palestinian bystander** and wounding 2; Israel says the strike was not intended to signal a change of policy or an escalation. The **IDF** also sends bulldozers into Gaza w. of Rafah to level land along the border fence. In the West Bank, **IDF** demolishes 3 Palestinian businesses, an animal pen in Barta'a nr. Jenin; fires on stone-throwing Palestinian youths nr. the Qalandia checkpoint outside Jerusalem, seriously wounding 1 with a bullet to the head, lightly wounding 3 others; conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Askar r.c., Balata, Nablus, Tulkarm and nr. Hebron, Jenin r.c. (exchanging fire with **AMB mbrs.**, killing **1 AMB mbr.**, wounding 2), Ramallah, Salfit. **Israeli police** in riot gear remove the remaining **450 right-wing Jewish settlers and activists** fr. the Homesh settlement site (see 3/26). **Jewish settlers** stone Palestinian cars nr. Jit Junction nr. Qalqilya, injuring 1 Palestinian. **Jewish settler teenagers** in Hebron ambush, beat a 12-yr.-old Palestinian boy on his way home fr. school. **Private Israeli security contractors** working for Karme Tzur settlement nr. Hebron prevent Pales-

tinian farmers fr. reaching their land nearby, beating 2, confiscating their equipment. Separately, **Jewish settlers** fr. Karme Tzur beat a Palestinian farmer working his land nearby. In Jabaliya r.c., **ESF mbrs.** fire on a car of **Fatah mbrs.**, causing no injuries. In Bayt Hanun, **suspected Fatah gunmen** fire on the car of a **senior Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades mbr.**, seriously injuring him, his wife and 2 children, a bystander. (REU 3/28; NYT, WT 3/29; WP 3/30; OCHA 4/4; PCHR 4/5; NYT 4/8)

29 MARCH

IDF troops on the Gaza border fire on, wound a Palestinian farmer who strays nr. the border fence e. of Jabaliya. In Khan Yunis, a **6-yr.-old Palestinian** is killed, 2 children (ages 2 and 5) are injured when they accidentally trigger an explosive device in their home. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids an internet café in Orayf nr. Nablus, detaining, beating, releasing 2 14-yr.-old Palestinians they accuse of throwing stones; sends undercover units into Ramallah to raid a café, arrest a wanted Palestinian (a bodyguard for Fatah PC mbr. Jamal al-Tirawi); patrols Tubas; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin; fires on stone-throwing youths nr. Jenin, killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding 2; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, percussion grenades at **10s of Palestinians** holding nonviolent protests against the **separation wall** at 2 points along the wall outside Qalqilya, injuring several. A **15-yr.-old Palestinian** injured by IDF fire at the Qalandia checkpoint on 3/28 dies. (OCHA 4/4; PCHR 4/5)

30 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids in al-Til and neighboring 'Allar; fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets at stone-throwing Palestinians demonstrating against Israeli excavations at the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount, wounding 2. In addition to the weekly nonviolent demonstration in Bil'in, **100s of Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists** take part in nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** nr. Bethlehem, Marda, Salfit, Tulkarm; in each case, the **IDF** fires tear gas, percussion grenades to disperse the demonstrators, injuring several. In an evacuated settlement site nr. Khan Yunis, **1 Hamas mbr.** is killed, 9 are wounded when explosives they are handling during

a training exercise accidentally detonate. Nr. Rafah, 3 Palestinians are injured when they accidentally trigger an unexploded **IDF** shell. **Jewish settlers** fr. Beit Hadasah in Hebron chase, severely beat 3 Palestinians (ages 10, 40, 55); the **IDF** intervenes, arrests 1 Palestinian. The **bedouin** residents of the unrecognized village of al-Nasara in the Negev report that over the past 3 wks., **Israel** has issued eviction orders to around 250 residents, declaring plans to build an **IDF** installation on the site of the village. (NYT 3/31; OCHA 4/4; PCHR 4/5)

31 MARCH

The **IDF** sends bulldozers into Gaza e. of Dayr al-Balah to level land. The **IDF** patrols Jenin town and r.c.; conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho. **Palestinians** stone Jewish settler vehicles along bypass Road 443 nr. Bayt 'Ur, lightly injuring 2 settlers. In Hebron, 2 **Jewish settlers** beat a 9-yr.-old Palestinian boy. (OCHA 4/4; PCHR 4/5)

1 APRIL

Israel seals West Bank and Gaza border crossings for the week-long Passover holidays. The **IDF** patrols Silat al-Harithiyya nr. Jenin; sends undercover units into Kafr al-Lubbad nr. Tulkarm to arrest a wanted Palestinian; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-'Aza r.c. nr. Bethlehem, Bayt Fajjar, Qabatya, Rantis nr. Ramallah; issues eviction orders to 70 Palestinian families in Dahiyat al-Salam in East Jerusalem, claiming the land on which they live is owned by a Jewish woman who recently inherited the property and wants them to leave (no documents are provided). (OCHA 4/4; PCHR 4/5)

2 APRIL

The **IDF** sends bulldozers into s. Gaza nr. Wadi Gaza to level land along the border fence to improve lines of sight. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Balata r.c., exchanging fire with Palestinian gunmen, leaving 1 Palestinian wounded; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tubas. **Palestinian journalists** protesting the 3/12 kidnapping of the BBC's **Johnston** begin a 3-day boycott of coverage on the PA and Abbas's office, with some 100 journalists also staging a sit-in outside the PM's office in Gaza City. (NYT, WP 4/3; OCHA 4/4; PCHR 4/5)

3 APRIL

Israeli DM Amir Peretz authorizes the **IDF** to resume "pinpoint operations against terrorists" in Gaza, raising concerns that Israel has plans for a serious **IDF** escalation. **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire on Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the border fence at 2 sites nr. Wadi Gaza, nr. 'Abasan, seriously wounding 2 Palestinian children. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency 4/3; OCHA 4/4; PCHR 4/5)

4 APRIL

IDF soldiers on the Gaza border fatally shoot an **Islamic Jihad mbr.** planting a roadside bomb nr. the border fence n. of Bayt Hanun, wounding 2 Palestinian farmers working a field nearby; troops briefly enter Gaza nr. Bayt Hanun to examine and dismantle the explosive device, but Israel says it was not meant as a breach of the cease-fire. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishermen off the coast of Rafah, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** shoots, wounds a Palestinian attempting to circumvent the Awarta checkpoint nr. Nablus; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin (exchanging gunfire with Palestinian gunmen, leaving 1 **IDF** soldier injured) and in 'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, Nablus, Qalqilya. In addition, the **Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem** issues demolition orders for a playground and six houses in the Muslim Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem on Palestinian land that has been sought by Jewish developers in order to build 30 homes, a synagogue, and a religious school for Jews only. In Rafah, 2 Palestinian children are injured when they accidentally trigger an unexploded **IDF** artillery shell. (Playgrounds for Palestine press release 4/4; PCHR, WP 4/5; OCHA 4/11; PCHR 4/12)

5 APRIL

The **IDF** sends bulldozers into Gaza nr. Bayt Hanun, al-Maghazi r.c. to level land. For a 2d day, the **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, forcing them to return to port. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires on 3 Palestinians nr. Jericho who fail to heed orders to stop, killing 1 **Palestinian**; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** who have been occupying a Palestinian building nr. Kiryat Arba since 3/19 throw bottles and stones at local Palestinians, use trained

dogs to scare Palestinian children; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. A **17-yr.-old Palestinian girl** shot in the head by IDF forces during a raid on Jabaliya r.c. on 10/4/04 dies of her injuries. (NYT 4/6; OCHA 4/11; PCHR 4/12)

6 APRIL

IDF troops on the Gaza border fire on, send a drone to fire missiles at a group of armed Palestinians attempting to cross into Israel e. of Jabaliya, killing **1 armed Palestinian**, wounding 4. For the 3d day, the **IDF** sends bulldozers and tanks into Gaza nr. Bayt Hanun to level land; this time, Palestinian gunmen fire an RPG at a tank, sparking an exchange of gunfire, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends troops into Jenin town and r.c. late in the evening, exchanging fire with Palestinian gunmen who confront the troops, wounding **local AMB leader Zacharia Zubeidi**; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Bireh, Nablus, Qalqilya; fires rubber-coated steel bullets on stone-throwing Palestinians nr. the Qalandia checkpoint, injuring 2; fires rubber-coated steel bullets at 10s of Palestinians and Israeli and international peace activists protest the **separation wall** nr. Bil'in, injuring 14; similarly fires rubber-coated steel bullets on Palestinians, international peace activists protesting the construction of the separation wall nr. Um Salamuna nr. Bethlehem, injuring 8. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai set fire to a Palestinian car in Hebron; the IDF bars fire engines fr. reaching the scene. For a 2d day, **Jewish settlers** occupying a Palestinian building nr. Kiryat Arba throw bottles and stones at local Palestinians, use trained dogs to scare Palestinian children; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. In 'Abasan, **Fatah-Hamas** clashes leave 11 Palestinians wounded. A **Palestinian** wounded in an **IDF** artillery strike on 'Abasan on 9/6/06 dies. (OCHA 4/11; PCHR 4/12)

7 APRIL

IDF helicopters fire on **Islamic Jihad** and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (**DFLP**) **mbrs.** planting roadside bombs along the Gaza border nr. Jabaliya r.c., killing **1 DFLP mbr.**, wound 2 other armed men; the Palestinians fire RPGs, automatic weapons across the border at IDF tanks approaching (perhaps crossing) the border, detonate bombs they had planted,

causing no injuries but marking the heaviest exchanges of fire in Gaza since the 11/26/06 truce. **Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, damaging a factory in Sederot. A Palestinian is injured when a smugglers' tunnel on the Rafah border collapses. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin r.c. (exchanging gunfire with Palestinians who confront the troops, wounding 1), Nablus and nr. Bethlehem, Ramallah, Salfit. A **Palestinian** injured in the **IDF** demolition of a Palestinian home in Rafah on 4/22/04 dies. In Gaza, **Fatah-Hamas** clashes leave 3 Palestinians wounded in Bayt Hanun. (WP 4/7; NYT, WP, WT 4/8; NYT, WT 4/9; OCHA 4/11; PCHR 4/12)

8 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Ramallah. In Hebron, a **Palestinian teenager** stabs, wounds **2 IDF soldiers** nr. the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs before being shot, wounded by soldiers. **Jewish settler teenagers** fr. Tel Rumeida beat, injure a handicapped Palestinian in Hebron. (NYT 4/9; OCHA 4/11; PCHR 4/12)

9 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols, fires on residential areas of Nablus, searching a hospital and detaining an ambulance during the 4-hr. operation; patrols Qabatya. **Palestinians** stone a Jewish settler vehicle on Road 55 nr. Qalqilya, injuring the driver. Outside Gaza City, a Palestinian farmer is injured when he hits an unexploded **IDF** mine. Clashes btwn. **PA security forces** and **unidentified Palestinian gunmen** in Nablus leave 2 Palestinians wounded. (OCHA 4/11; PCHR 4/12)

10 APRIL

The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the Gaza border, damaging 3. **Palestinian gunmen** fire on an IDF observation post on the Gaza border n. of Bayt Hanun; the **IDF** returns fire; no injuries are reported on either side. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysha r.c., Hebron, Nablus, Nahalin nr. Bethlehem. **Shin Bet** announces that in late 3/07, it detained **19 Hamas mbrs.** fr. Qalqilya whom it says have confessed under interrogation to planning

a massive truck bombing in Tel Aviv during the Passover holidays, which end this evening; **Olmert** cites the case as proof that "terrorism is a cornerstone of the new Palestinian government, a government that should be shunned"; **Hamas** officials in Qalqilya deny being part of any plot. **Jewish settler children** fr. Ma'on in Hebron chase, attack a group of Palestinian children (ages 10-12) on their way to school; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. A **Palestinian gunman** shoots, grazes a Jewish settler at a bus stop nr. Qalqilya. In Gaza, **unidentified gunmen** fatally shoot a **PSF officer** in Khan Yunis; **unidentified assailants** kidnap, shoot, wound, release a **PA police officer**; **Jabaliya municipal workers** stage a sit-in outside municipal offices to protest the nonpayment of their salaries. (NYT, OCHA, WP, WT 4/11; PCHR 4/12)

11 APRIL

The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of Rafah, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., in and around Nablus (partially demolishing a **Palestinian home** and firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 3), and nr. Hebron; raids, searches **Change and Reform** offices in Hebron, confiscating computers; raids an **Islamic Jihad** charity in Hebron, sealing the offices, confiscating computers and office equipment; searches another Islamic charity and kindergarten in Hebron, confiscating a computer, files. (PCHR 4/12; OCHA 4/18; PCHR 4/19)

12 APRIL

In 2 incidents, **IDF** troops on the Gaza border nr. Bayt Lahiya and Khuza'a fire on Palestinian farmers working their fields who stray nr. the border fence, causing no injuries. The **IDF** sends an undercover unit to Ramallah to arrest a wanted Palestinian; surrounds an apartment building in al-Bireh, ordering 50 residents to gather for ID checks, searching and damaging the apartment and car of **PA police Col. Mujahid Ahmad**, arresting him; raids, seals an Islamic charity in Tulkarm, confiscating computers, files; conducts other arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. (OCHA 4/18; PCHR 4/19)

13 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Qalqilya (firing on residential areas, wounding 2 Palestinian women inside their homes; blowing up 1 **Palestinian home**) and in Azun, Nablus (also searching the Graduate Cultural Center, confiscating computers, documents); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinians and Israeli and international peace activists protesting the **separation wall** nr. Bil'in (injuring 11), Um Salamuna (injuring 6). The **IDF** suspends its Nablus cmdr. after the Israeli daily *Yedi'ot Abaronot* releases video showing him using 2 Palestinian boys as human shields to guard military vehicles. **Jewish settlers** fr. Eli settlement nr. Nablus fire on Palestinian shepherds nearby to prevent them fr. grazing nr. the settlement, causing no injuries. (NYT, WT 4/14; OCHA 4/18; PCHR 4/19)

14 APRIL

The **IDF** sends 3 tanks, 2 bulldozers into Gaza nr. Bureij r.c. to level land. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols, fires on residential areas of Nablus; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron and nr. Jenin (firing on residential areas, partially demolishing a **Palestinian home**); fires on stone-throwing Palestinians nr. Hebron and Tubas, injuring 6. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on beat a Palestinian farmer, occupy a 16 d. plot of Palestinian land nr. the settlement and set up tents to enlarge the unauthorized settlement outpost, Havat Maon; Palestinian owners of the land complain to the **IDF** and **Israeli police**, which refuse to intervene. In Hebron, **AMB mbrs.** temporarily occupy the local Education Min. offices to protest the PA's choice of a new director (the previous director was arrested by the IDF a week ago). (OCHA 4/18; PCHR 4/19)

15 APRIL

The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishermen off the coast of Rafah, damaging 2 boats but causing no injuries. **Egyptian border police** demolish 2 smugglers' tunnels on the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols Sa'ir nr. Nablus, firing on stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront the troops, wounding 1; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., Tulkarm town and r.c. **Jewish settlers** fr. Eli temporarily occupy a Palestinian

house under construction nearby, leave voluntarily. (NYT, WP, WT 4/16; OCHA 4/18; PCHR 4/19)

16 APRIL

IDF troops on the Gaza border shoot, wound a mentally handicapped Palestinian who strays nr. the border fence n. of Bayt Hanun. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, forcing them to return to shore. In Nussayrat r.c., 2 Palestinians are injured when they accidentally trigger an unexploded **IDF** antitank shell. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Askar r.c., Balata r.c., Nablus, Qalqilya, and nr. Hebron, Jenin. **Jewish settlers** fr. Karme Tzur prevent Palestinian farmers fr. reaching their land nr. the settlement, sparking fist fights btwn. settler and local Palestinian teenagers; the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at the Palestinians, seriously injuring 2. In Gaza City, **Gaza municipal employees** stage a sit-in to protest nonpayment of their salaries. (OCHA 4/18; PCHR 4/19)

17 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Jenin, where they ambush a car driven by **AMB mbr. Ashraf Hanaysha**, assassinating him, arresting 3 Palestinians traveling with him. In apparent retaliation, **AMB gunmen** injure 4 Jewish settlers fr. Mod'in Ilit nr. Ramallah in a drive-by shooting. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Ramallah, and in 'Aida r.c., 'Arub r.c., 'Askar r.c., Balata r.c., Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Eli fire on Palestinian shepherds nearby to prevent them fr. grazing nr. the settlement. A **Jewish settler** fr. the Bethlehem area fires on a group of Palestinian children working in an almond grove, seriously injuring a 13-yr.-old boy with a gunshot to the head. **Jewish settlers** occupying a Palestinian building in Hebron since 3/19 harass local Palestinians. (MM 4/17; NYT, OCHA 4/18; PCHR 4/19)

18 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols, fires on residential areas of Yasuf nr. Nablus, then fires on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the troops, wounding 2; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and Qalqilya, nr. Bethlehem and Hebron, and in Tulkarm town and r.c.

For the 2d day, **Jewish settlers** occupying a Palestinian building in Hebron harass local Palestinians. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gil'ad nr. Qalqilya attack, beat 2 Palestinian women working their land nearby. **Gaza municipal workers** begin a 2-day sit-in to protest nonpayment of their salaries. (PCHR 4/19; OCHA 4/25; PCHR 4/26)

19 APRIL

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Lahiya fire on 2 Palestinian teenagers who stray nr. the border fence, wounding 1. **Palestinians** fire an antitank missile at an **IDF** post along the Gaza border nr. Bayt Hanun; the **IDF** responds with heavy gunfire; no injuries are reported on either side. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishermen off the coast of Nussayrat r.c. and Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. In Rafah, a **Hamas mbr.** is injured when an explosive device he is handling explodes prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** exchanges fire with Palestinian gunmen nr. Ramallah, leaving 2 **IDF** soldiers wounded; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians at Qalandia checkpoint, causing no reported injuries; demolishes 6 **Palestinian homes** (48 residents) nr. Susia settlement, 1 home (16 residents) nr. another Hebron settlement; bulldozes 5 d. of Palestinian olive groves nr. Avigail settlement nr. Hebron; raids the **Change and Reform** offices in Hebron, confiscating computers and files; conducts late-night arrest raids in Jenin town and r.c., Qabatya and nr. Hebron. For the 3d day, **Jewish settlers** occupying a Palestinian home in Hebron vandalize nearby Palestinian homes, attack Palestinian residents, and try to break into several Palestinian homes. **Unidentified Palestinian gunmen** shoot, wound a **PA intelligence officer** in Qalqilya. (NYT 4/20; OCHA 4/25; PCHR 4/26)

20 APRIL

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Furik nr. Nablus (firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, wounding 9), Tubas; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinians and Israeli and international peace activists protesting the **separation wall** nr. Bil'in, injuring 17 (including **Irish Nobel Peace Prize winner Mairead McWayer** and 4 journalists). For a 4th day, **Jewish settlers** occupying a

Palestinian home in Hebron attempt to break into several nearby Palestinian homes, vandalize Palestinian property, beat Palestinian residents. In Gaza, a **Palestinian** is injured when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely. (OCHA 4/25; PCHR 4/26)

21 APRIL

The **IDF** makes an air strike on a rocket-launching site in n. Gaza, killing **1 Palestinian**. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Jenin, where they ambush, fatally shoot **AMB mbrs. Muhammad al-Dumaj and Ahmad al-Issa, Islamic Jihad mbr. Mahmud Ghalail** in an apparent assassination; sends undercover units into Nablus, fatally shooting **2 wanted AMB mbrs.** in an exchange of gunfire, also heavily damaging a Palestinian home; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, in Jenin r.c. (firing on residential areas, fatally shooting a **17-yr.-old Palestinian girl** inside her home), nr. Jenin (fatally shooting a **Palestinian bystander** who steps out on his roof to observe operations). In Gaza, the **Army of Islam** claims responsibility for a bombing at the American International School in n. Gaza; no injuries are reported. **Unidentified gunmen** shoot, wound an **ESF mbr.** nr. Nussayrat r.c. **Unidentified assailants** throw a hand grenade at a **PA General Intelligence** vehicle in Gaza City, missing the vehicle and causing no damage or injuries. (WP 4/22; MM 4/24; OCHA 4/25; PCHR 4/26; NYT 5/10)

22 APRIL

The **IDF** makes an air strike on a car nr. Jabaliya r.c. carrying **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** who had fired rockets toward Israel (causing no damage), missing the vehicle and causing no damage; within the hr., the **IDF** makes a 2d air strike on a car in the same area, killing **1 Palestinian** with no known resistance connections. Citing 9 killings in 2 days, **Hamas's Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades** declares an end to its observance of the 11/26/06 cease-fire, though PM **Haniyeh** says that the PA still has every intention of making it work. During the day, **Palestinians** fire **5 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Ramallah, killing a **15-yr.-old Palestinian boy**; evicts some **80 Palestinians** fr. Haddiyya in the n. Jordan Valley (the Israeli

High Court ruled on 1/3 that they posed a security threat to Jewish settlers in nearby Ro'i settlement; see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 143); confiscates 169 d. of Palestinian land nr. Tulkarm for construction of the **separation wall**; imposes a curfew on Hawara nr. Nablus; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c., Nablus. A **Palestinian gunman** fires on a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Hizma checkpoint into Jerusalem, injuring a settler and a Palestinian bystander. In Jabaliya r.c., **PRC mbrs.** abduct 5 Palestinians, including **2 ESF mbrs.**, exchanging fire with the ESF that leaves 1 of the abductees dead and sparks local demonstrations. In Gaza City, **armed mbrs. of a local clan** attack an **ESF** base, injuring 1 ESF mbr., kidnapping another (who is released later in the day after the PA intervenes). In Khan Yunis, a **PA security officer** is carjacked, wounded by **unidentified assailants**. (WP 4/23; BBC, MM, WT 4/24; OCHA 4/25; PCHR 4/26)

23 APRIL

Palestinians fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In Shati' r.c., **2 Hamas mbrs.** are injured when explosives they are handling detonate prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols, fires on residential areas of Nablus; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and in Qabatya, al-Til. The **PRCs** release 4 Palestinians abducted in Jabaliya r.c. on 4/22, saying the incident, especially the death of a 5th abductee on 4/22, was a "regrettable mistake." (NYT, WP 4/24; OCHA 4/25; PCHR 4/26)

24 APRIL

On the day Israel marks independence day and Palestinians commemorate the Nakba, **Hamas's Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades** fires **6 rockets** and **8 mortars** into Israel, causing no injuries, reiterating that it will no longer abide by the 11/26/06 cease-fire; the **IDF** responds with helicopter air strikes on n. Gaza and fires on an open area e. of Rafah; no damage or injuries are reported on either side. (Also in Gaza, a Palestinian is injured in Jabaliya r.c. while trying to dismantle an unexploded **IDF** shell.) Meanwhile, moderates in **Hamas's political wing** say they are working to preserve the cease-fire. In the West Bank, the **IDF** occupies a Palestinian home in Saffa nr. Ramallah as an observation post; patrols, fires

on residential areas of Nablus; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. Nr. Jenin, 2 Palestinian children (ages 4, 7) are injured when they accidentally trigger unexploded **IDF** ordnance. **Thousands of Jewish settlers** march to the evacuated Homesh settlement site to protest the 2005 disengagement despite the IDF's declaration of the area as a closed military zone; 2 IDF soldiers are injured trying to keep settlers from the site. **Jewish settlers** escorted by **IDF** troops bar Palestinians fr. using a road s. of Jenin for several hrs. (BBC, MM 4/24; IFM, MM, NYT, OCHA, WP 4/25; PCHR 4/26)

25 APRIL

IDF troops on the Gaza border shoot, wound a Palestinian farmer working his field nr. Jabaliya r.c.; fire on a group of Palestinians who stray nr. the border fence e. of al-Maghazi r.c., causing no injuries; send bulldozers, tanks into Gaza to level land along the border fence nr. Rafah. In Jabaliya r.c., 2 Palestinian children are injured when they accidentally trigger an unexploded **IDF** tank shell. In Gaza City, a **Hamas mbr.** dies when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in East Jerusalem; occupies a Palestinian home nr. the Hawara checkpoint into Nablus as an observation post; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, Nablus (Palestinians detonate a roadside bomb nr. an IDF vehicle during the raid, injuring 2 IDF soldiers). Nr. Jenin, 2 Palestinian boys are injured when they accidentally trigger unexploded **IDF** ordnance. The **Foreign Press Association** bureau in Jerusalem organizes a demonstration by foreign reporters outside the Erez crossing into Gaza in support of kidnapped BBC reporter **Johnston**. (REU, WT 4/25; PCHR 4/26; OCHA 5/2; PCHR 5/3)

26 APRIL

In the West Bank, **IDF** troops posted outside Psagot settlement, believing themselves to be under fire, fire on a PA presidential guard unit conducting a policing operation in adjacent al-Bireh, killing 1 **PA presidential guardsman**, wounding 2. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in Aida r.c., Nablus, and nr. Hebron, Qalqilya; issues military orders confiscating 239 d. of agricultural land in Bardala in the n. Jordan Valley, 60 d. nr. Jenin for construction of the **separation wall**. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kefar Tapuach settlement nr. Nablus beat a

Palestinian teenager grazing sheep nearby. **Palestinians** stone a Jewish settler vehicle in Azariyya, lightly injuring 1 settler. (OCHA 5/2; PCHR 5/3)

27 APRIL

Israel allows the Rafah crossing to open for the 1st time since 4/19. Gunfire breaks out among the 5,000 Palestinians waiting to enter Egypt, leaving a **PA presidential guardsman** dead; **UN monitors** overseeing the passage say Israel's closures have left the crossing too crowded to operate. **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire tank shells, heavy machine guns at DFLP mbrs. planning a roadside bomb nr. the border fence, killing 1 **DFLP mbr.** The **IDF** also sends tanks, bulldozers into Gaza to level land along the border fence e. of al-Maghazi r.c. In Bayt Hanun, a **PRC mbr.** is killed when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinians and international and Israeli peace activists holding a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, wounding 6 Palestinians, 1 French activist. Some 200 **Palestinians** fr. villages nr. Bethlehem hold a nonviolent protest in the area against the **separation wall**. A **Jewish settler** fr. Kiryat Arba beats a Palestinian child working in his family's garden; when his father and brother come to his aid, the settler fires at them, causing no injuries; the **IDF** intervenes, beating and arresting the father and older brother for "threatening" the settler. **Jewish settlers** fr. Hebron beat 3 Palestinian shepherds grazing their sheep nearby and 3 peace activists (including an Israeli rabbi) accompanying them for protection. In Israel, 100s of **Palestinian Israeli residents of Jaffa** protest actions by the **Israel Land Administration (ILA)** in the past yr. to evict some 500 Arab families from the al-Ajami and Givat Aliya neighborhoods so as to develop the seafont properties; the ILA calls the Palestinian families "invaders" who built on the sites illegally. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received during an IDF raid on Gaza City on 10/16/06. (HA 4/27; NYT 4/28; OCHA 5/2; PCHR 5/3)

28 APRIL

IDF troops on the Gaza border fatally shoot 3 **Hamas mbrs.** who approach the border fence e. of Gaza City. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishermen off the

Rafah coast, forcing them back to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids, searches an Islamic charity and a prisoners' support group in Ramallah, confiscating documents, damaging computers; patrols, fires on residential areas of Tulkarm, damaging several shops; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jericho and in Qalqilya, Tubas. **Jewish settlers** stone Palestinian vehicles, attack Palestinians nr. the evacuated Homesh settlement site. In Gaza, **unidentified assailants** detonate a small bomb outside a club frequented by **PA traffic police** in Sudaniyya, causing no injuries. (HA 4/28; OCHA 5/2; PCHR 5/3)

29 APRIL

For a 2d day, the **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Askar r.c., Nablus, Tulkarm r.c. In Hebron, **AMB mbrs.** force the closure of a club for fmr. prisoners and an office of the PA Prisoners Affairs Min. to protest the PA's failure to pay pensions to the prisoners and their families. (OCHA 5/2; PCHR 5/3)

30 APRIL

The **IDF** sends troops into Gaza nr. the Sufa crossing to level land in search of tunnels. Also in Gaza, angry **Palestinians** storm the **Egyptian legation** in Gaza City, demanding that Egypt release 5 Palestinians it has jailed without charge for 3 yrs. after they illegally entered Egypt seeking medical treatment (Egypt claims they are **Hamas mbrs.**); PA police force demonstrators out of the building, firing in the air, causing no injuries; **Egypt** denounces the incident. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols, fires on residential areas of Bita nr. Nablus, detaining 3 Palestinian teenagers who threw stones at the troops; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, nr. Tulkarm, and in Balata r.c., Nablus. In Hebron, **unidentified gunmen** fire on the home of the local **PSF** head, causing damage but no injuries. Palestinian **schoolteachers** hold a 1-day strike to protest the PA's failure to pay their salaries. (NYT 5/1; OCHA 5/2; PCHR 5/3)

1 MAY

The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of Nussayrat r.c., forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** shoots, wounds a Palestinian farmer working in his field nr. Ibna; con-

ducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Hebron, and in Jenin town and r.c., Qabatya, Qalqilya. Of note: By this date, the **IDF** has stopped requiring special permits for Palestinians to enter the Jordan Valley, but access is only possible on public transportation through 4 checkpoints. The **PA** says that it has made the 1st formal contact with the kidnappers holding BBC correspondent **Johnston**, confirming he is still alive, but that their demands for his release are unacceptable. **Protesters in cities across Israel** begin to march to Tel Aviv for a major demonstration on 5/3 calling for **Olmert's** resignation in the wake of the Winograd Commission report on Israel's handling of the summer 2006 war on Lebanon (see Quarterly Update for details). (OCHA, WP, WT 5/2; PCHR 5/3)

2 MAY

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire on 2 Palestinians collecting scrap metal nr. the border fence n. of Bayt Lahiya, killing **1 Palestinian**, arresting the other. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm and in Balata r.c., Dura, al-Khadir, Nablus, Qabatya. Also in the West Bank, **10,000s of PA workers** observe a 1-day strike called by the **Fatah-aligned PA Government Employees Union** to protest nonpayment of their salaries. (NYT, PCHR 5/3; OCHA 5/9; PCHR 5/10)

3 MAY

The **IDF** sends bulldozers, tanks into Gaza nr. Sufa crossing to level land; troops also discover and dismantle 2 roadside bombs. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus; patrols areas around Hebron, firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the troops, wounding 2 Palestinians. In Tel Aviv, some **100,000 Israeli demonstrators** demand **Olmert's** resignation for his handling of the 2006 Lebanon war, corruption in his administration, and failure to improve social services and public education. Turnout reportedly is half of what organizers anticipated. (HA, MM 5/3; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/4; HA 5/5; OCHA 5/9; PCHR 5/10)

4 MAY

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border cross into Gaza, arrest 3 Palestinian farmers working their fields nr. the border fence n. of Bayt Lahiya; also sends bulldozers, tanks into

Gaza nr. Nahal Oz to level land. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Silat al-Harithiyya nr. Jenin, seeking Palestinian gunmen who exchanged fire with troops earlier in the day, causing no injuries; they ambush a car, killing **Islamic Jihad mbrs. Mahdi Abu al-Khayr, Khalid Ashur** and a **civilian bystander**. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., Nablus, and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Tulkarm; fires tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades at Palestinians, Israeli and international peace activists conducting their weekly nonviolent protest against the separation wall nr. Bil'in, wounding 3. (WT 5/6; NYT 5/7; OCHA 5/9; PCHR 5/10)

5 MAY

The **IDF** releases 3 Palestinian farmers fr. Bayt Lahiya arrested on 5/4; sends troops into Gaza to level land along the border fence nr. 'Abasan. Retaliating for the death of 2 mbrs. on 5/4, **Islamic Jihad** fires 3 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, damaging a house in Sederot, but causing no injuries; the **IDF** sends troops into Gaza n. of Bayt Lahiya to capture the Islamic Jihad mbrs., wounding and arresting 1. A **Palestinian** is killed in Jabaliya r.c. when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., Nablus, and nr. Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** fr. Eli settlement nr. Nablus occupy a Palestinian home, leave after several hrs. when the **IDF** intervenes. **Jewish settlers** fr. Hebron detain, beat a Palestinian traveling by their settlement. Separately, **Jewish settlers** fr. Bayt Hadasah in Hebron beat an international peace activist escorting a Palestinian woman in the Israeli-controlled section of Hebron (H2). In Tubas, **armed Palestinians** fire on the local Palestinian Detainees Comm. offices, beat the office manager; no motive is stated. (WT 5/6; OCHA 5/9; PCHR 5/10)

6 MAY

Palestinians fire some 7 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting a gas station in Sederot, lightly injuring 2 Israelis. An **Islamic Jihad mbr.** is injured when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends troops into Jenin town and r.c., firing on residential areas and stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 5 Palestinians; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron

and in al-Khadir. **Jewish settlers** fr. Karme Tzur and Kiryat Arba set up a tent on a hill northeast of Halhul, later leave but vow to establish a new settlement on the site; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. **Jewish settlers** fr. Einav nr. Tulkarm set fire to 80 d. of Palestinian olive, almond trees nearby. Nr. Ramallah, **Palestinian gunmen** fire on a convoy delivering gas to a Jewish settlement, wounding an Israeli security guard. Some 70 **Palestinian protesters** thought to be aligned with the **Army of Islam** throw stones, possibly fire at **Fatah lawmaker Majid Abu Shamalah** as he leaves an end-of-the-school-year celebration at a Rafah **UNRWA** school, prompting his bodyguards to open fire, killing 1 of their own and leaving 2 teachers, 2 protesters, and 2 schoolchildren (ages 9, 14) wounded; the attack on the school comes days after the Army of Islam warned the school against holding the celebration, which they condemned for involving "the mixing of adolescent boys and girls, which is forbidden in Islam." **Unidentified gunmen** fire on a **Fatah** base in Bureij r.c., causing no injuries. A **Palestinian** possibly affiliated with the **Army of Islam** orders **UNRWA** employees off an agency minibus in Rafah before tossing a hand grenade inside, damaging it. (*Jerusalem Post* 5/6; NYT 5/7; OCHA 5/9; PCHR 5/10; AHR 5/15)

7 MAY

The **IDF** makes an air strike on a car n. of Bayt Hanun allegedly carrying rockets to fire into Israel; 2 **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** escape unharmed, but a bystander is wounded. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of Bayt Lahiya, forcing them to return to shore. **Palestinians** fire around 4 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel during the day, damaging a home in Sederot, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** enters Bitu nr. Nablus, forces the closure of the local market; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus, nr. Bethlehem (firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 1) and Jenin, and in and around Hebron, Tulkarm; confiscates 10 d. of Palestinian land e. of Qalqilya for construction of a settler bypass road for Keddumim settlement. (NYT 5/8; OCHA 5/9; PCHR 5/10)

8 MAY

The **IDF** demolishes a **home** for Palestinian special needs children in Wadi al-Juz,

East Jerusalem, displacing 7 children, 2 caregivers; demolishes a Palestinian **home** in Issawiyya; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., nr. Hebron, and in Balata r.c., Bethlehem, Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Harish settlement nr. Tulkarm set fire to 170 d. of Palestinian-owned olive, citrus trees. In Rafah, **50 Fatah mbrs.** break into, vandalize, set fire to the empty al-Salafiyya al-Bayan Center. (OCHA 5/9; PCHR 5/10; OCHA 5/16)

9 MAY

The **IDF** fires on Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the Gaza border fence nr. Qarni crossing, wounding 2 (including a 92-yr.-old man); sends troops, dogs into Shuka village nr. Rafah to conduct late-night arrest raids, house searches; sends a bulldozer, tank into Gaza to level land along the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes the **home** of a wanted Palestinian nr. Bethlehem; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Qabatya, Tulkarm and nr. Hebron, Jenin; issues a military order confiscating 369 d. of land nr. Qalqilya, 338 d. of Palestinian land nr. Tubas for "security purposes." (NYT, PCHR, PLO/NAD, WP, WT 5/10; AHR 5/14; OCHA 5/16; PCHR 5/17)

10 MAY

IDF troops on the Gaza border fire on Palestinian agricultural areas e. of Khan Yunis, sparking a fire that destroys a wheat field; discover, disarm a roadside bomb nr. the former Kissufim crossing e. of Khan Yunis. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the Bayt Lahiya coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a predawn raid on Nablus, firing on residential areas and exchanging fire with Palestinian gunmen who confront them, shooting and wounding a pregnant Palestinian woman inside her home, causing her to lose her baby; 2 armed Palestinians, 1 IDF soldier are also wounded. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem (targeting the **AMB**) and in Balata r.c., Tulkarm; issues stop-work orders for 10 Palestinian homes, a mosque in villages nr. Negohot settlement w. of Hebron that would constrain eventual expansion of the settlement. **Israel's Jerusalem Construction and Planning Comm.** approves plans to build 3 new ultra-Orthodox settlements on the outskirts of occupied East Jerusalem to create territorial unity btwn.

Jerusalem and Gush Etzion s. of Bethlehem and btwn. Jerusalem and Beit El n. of Ramallah; the plans call for 20,000 housing units in the new settlements, plus 500 new units for settlers in Abu Dis. **Abbas** deploys **3,000 PA security forces** under his control in Gaza City and n. Gaza as part of a new, high-profile "law and order" campaign meant to undermine **Hamas** (see Quarterly Update for details). In Bureij r.c., **unidentified gunmen** fatally shoot a **Fatah mbr.** in a drive-by attack on a Fatah base. **Unidentified assailants** ambush, kidnap a **PA colonel** driving in Nussayrat r.c.; no group claims responsibility. (PLO/NAD 5/10; MM, NYT 5/11; OCHA 5/16; PCHR 5/17)

11 MAY

The **IDF** sends tanks, bulldozers into Gaza e. of al-Maghazi r.c. to level land along the border fence. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Til; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinians, Israeli and international peace activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, injuring 3 and arresting 10. **Palestinians** also take part in weekly nonviolent protest against the **separation wall** in Wadi Nis nr. Um Salamuna. **Jewish settlers** fr. Susia attack Palestinian farmers and a shepherd working in their fields nearby; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. **Fatah-affiliated PA security forces** deploying in central Gaza on orders (5/10) from Abbas clash with local **Hamas mbrs.** in Gaza City and Jabaliya r.c. in the heaviest Fatah-Hamas fighting in 2 mos., wounding at least 10 Palestinians; Hamas mbrs. also seize several PA police cars, equipment; **ESF mbrs.** do not engage in the fighting. (IMEMC, MM 5/11; NYT 5/12; OCHA 5/16; PCHR 5/17)

12 MAY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gil'ad nr. Qalqilya assault a Palestinian farmer working in her nearby field. In Gaza, **Hamas mbrs.** return PA police cars, equipment seized from Fatah-affiliated PA security forces during clashes on 5/11. (NYT 5/13; PCHR 5/17)

13 MAY

The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of Rafah, forcing

them to return to shore. The **IDF** makes a helicopter rocket strike on a suspected rocket-launching site nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. **Olmert's security cabinet** discusses military options for dealing with continued rocket fire fr. Gaza; no decisions are reached; talks are expected to continue over the next several days. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, nr. Jenin, and in Balata r.c., Nablus. **Israel's Jerusalem authorities** issue an eviction order to the Palestinian al-Ansari Library in Jerusalem (one of the largest collections in Jerusalem with 45,000 books), slating the building for demolition to make way for a train station. A **Jewish settler guard** at Burkan settlement nr. Salfit shoots, wounds a Palestinian driver who routinely transports Palestinian workers to and fr. the settlement; no reason is given. Heavy **Fatah-Hamas** fighting in Gaza escalates, leaving **5 Palestinians** dead (including **AMB cmdr. Bahaa Abu Jarad** and his bodyguard), around 20 wounded. **Egyptian mediators** broker a truce late in the day, but fighting continues. (Ma'an News Agency 5/13; NYT 5/14; OCHA 5/16; PCHR 5/17)

14 MAY

PA Interior M **Qawasmi** resigns in protest of **Abbas's** deployment of Fatah PA forces without coordination with his ministry, but blames both **Hamas** and **Fatah** for failing to take his security reform efforts seriously; **Haniyeh** will assume the post until a replacement is decided. **Fatah-Hamas** clashes continue in Gaza despite a 2d Egyptian-brokered cease-fire agmt. today, leaving **4 Palestinians** dead and raising questions of whether the political leadership of either party has effective control over its military wings. The casualties include **2 AMB mbrs.** killed when **Hamas mbrs.** raid a PA intelligence headquarters and the home of **Fatah spokesman Mahir Miqdad**. Meanwhile in the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Qabatya to conduct arrest raids, house searches; conducts additional arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus,

nr. Hebron, and in Qalqilya, Tulkarm town and r.c.; patrols, fires on residential areas of Anabta nr. Tulkarm. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries he received on 1/31 when he was shot by the **IDF** while attempting to sneak into Israel unarmed to find work. (BBC 5/14; NYT, WT 5/15; OCHA 5/16; PCHR 5/17)

15 MAY

In Gaza, **Fatah-Hamas** fighting intensifies, leaving at least **15 Palestinians** dead. Among the incidents: **PA presidential guardsmen** fatally shoot **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades cmdr. Ibrahim Maniah** nr. Qarni (Hamas claims he was assassinated, Fatah says he died in an exchange of gunfire); in retaliation, **Hamas mbrs.** attack a PA presidential guard training facility at the Qarni crossing with rockets, mortars, and RPGs, also firing on other PA security forces who come to the guardsmen's aid, killing **8 national security officers**. **IDF** troops on the Gaza border nearby fire on 2 guardsmen fleeing the scene toward the border fence, killing 1. Outside Abbas's Gaza City offices, **PA security forces** loyal to Abbas halt, harass, shoot execution-style **2 Palestinian reporters for a pro-Hamas newspaper**. A 12th Palestinian is killed in interfactional fighting in Gaza City. Across the Strip, Palestinian civilians stay in their homes and most stores close, while Fatah and Hamas gunmen take up strategic positions along roads and atop high buildings, and **Egyptian mediators** work to establish a new cease-fire. **PA National Security Adviser Muhammad Dahlan**, currently abroad, orders **500 Fatah-affiliated PSF mbrs.** undergoing training in Egypt to return to Gaza immediately to help defend the pro-Abbas forces; **Israel** gives its consent for the forces to enter. **Hamas** also fires more than **20 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting a house and empty school, seriously wounding 1 Israeli, moderately wounding another. Meanwhile, in the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Hebron. (BBC, HA, NYT, OCHA, WP 5/16; PCHR, WP 5/17; WP 5/18)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AHR	(<i>al-Abram Weekly</i> , Cairo)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
HA	(<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
IFM	(Israeli Foreign Ministry, Jerusalem)

IMEMC	(International Middle East Media Center, Bayt Sahur)
MM	(<i>Mideast Mirror</i> , London)
NYT	(<i>New York Times</i> , New York)
OCHA	(United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Weekly Briefing Notes, Jerusalem)
PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PLONAD	(PLO Negotiation Affairs Dept., Ramallah)
REU	(Reuters [Internet])
WP	(<i>Washington Post</i> , Washington)
WT	(<i>Washington Times</i> , Washington)



Palestinian and international journalists in Gaza City protest the 12 March kidnapping of BBC correspondent Alan Johnstone, 17 March 2007. (Abid Katib/AFP/Getty Images)