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CHRONOLOGY

16 NOVEMBER 2010–15 FEBRUARY 2011

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

This section is part 109 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 NOVEMBER

As the quarter opens, **Israel** maintains a tight siege of Gaza aimed at unseating the governing **Hamas** authority, in control since 6/2007. The **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** enforce a 300-meter-deep no-go zone inside the full length of the Gaza border and limits the Palestinian fishing zone off Gaza to 500–1,000 m off the immediate Bayt Lahiya (northern) and Rafah (southern) coasts, and 3 nautical miles elsewhere—restrictions that placed 17% of Gaza's total landmass, including 35% of its viable agricultural areas, and 85% of the maritime areas allocated under the Oslo accords off limits to Palestinians. In the West Bank, governed by the **Fatah-led Palestinian Authority (PA)**, Israel's easing of restrictions on Palestinian movement between major population centers (which began in summer 2009) continues, and IDF operations are relatively low. Overnight, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a homemade Qassam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing damage but no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols without incident in Imatim village nr. Qalqilya. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gil'ad settlement burn 42 Palestinian olive trees nr. Qalqilya. **Jewish settlers** fr. Bet Ayn nr. Hebron set fire to 20 dunams (d.; 4 d. = 1 acre) of Palestinian olive and almond groves. (JP 11/16; PCHR 11/25; OCHA 11/26)

17 NOVEMBER

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu briefs his security cabinet on the latest incentives package offered by the U.S.

in exchange for a 90-day settlement construction freeze aimed at jumpstarting the peace process, which has been stalled since 9/2010. (WP, NYT, WT 11/18) (see Quarterly Update for details)

The **IDF** makes an air strike on a car driving in Gaza City, assassinating **Army of Islam (AOI) cmdr. Islam Yasin** and killing his brother **Muhammad Yasin** (also a mbr. of AOI—a radical Islamist group at odds with Hamas). In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols without incident in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya in the morning and in Tulkarm late at night; conducts synchronized incursions into 2 villages nr. Nablus, searching homes but making no arrests. (NYT 11/18; PCHR 11/25; OCHA 11/26)

18 NOVEMBER

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Lahiya fire on a group of **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. operating 700 m fr. the border (well beyond Israel's self-declared 300-m deep no-go zone), wounding 1. **Palestinians** (possibly AOI mbrs.) fire 3 **mortars** and 1 Qassam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols without incident in Jinsafut village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon. (JP, MNA, YA 11/18; PCHR 11/25; OCHA 11/26)

19 NOVEMBER

Overnight, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 3 Qassam **rockets** and 1 manufactured Grad rocket fr. Gaza into Israel; the Qassams land harmlessly (1 inside Gaza, 2 in Israel), while the Grad strikes nr. a cattle

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farm, causing damage and injuring some livestock. In the afternoon, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 3 mortars into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Later in the afternoon, the **Popular Resistance Comms. (PRCs;** an umbrella group comprising all Gaza factions) fire another 4 mortars into Israel containing white phosphorous scavenged fr. **unexploded IDF ordnance (UXO)**, causing no damage or injuries. **Israel** files an official complaint with the UN over the serious escalation and retaliates in the evening with 4 **air strikes** in and around Bani Suhayla village s. of Khan Yunis, targeting and destroying an **Islamic Jihad** training site, 1 Palestinian home, and an agricultural storehouse, causing heavy collateral damage to another 2d home, and injuring 6 Palestinian civilians (including children ages 2 and 14). Late at night, 2 more **air strikes** destroy a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border. Meanwhile, in the morning, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the abandoned settlement sites nr. the border, wounding 1. Late at night, **IDF** troops make an incursion 1,500 m into al-Shuka in s. Gaza, firing on residential areas to keep Palestinians in their homes, monitoring the area, and withdrawing after 3 hrs.; **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border open heavy fire on the demolished Dahaniyya airport site, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Ni'lin, Nabi Salih/Dayr Nizam nr. Ramallah. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, leaving 5 Palestinians lightly injured (3 by tear gas canisters, 1 by a rubber-coated steel bullet) and 10s suffering tear gas inhalation. (JP, REU, YA 11/19; WP, YA 11/20; PCHR 11/25; OCHA 11/26)

20 NOVEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires tear gas and stun grenades to disperse Palestinians and international activists demonstrating against Israeli land seizures nr. Bayt Umar nr. Hebron, injuring 2 Palestinians

moderately (including an 8-yr.-old) and 6 lightly, and arresting 5 international activists and a 14-yr.-old Palestinian boy; conducts late-night patrols in Bayt Liqya nr. Ramallah (firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no injuries) and Jit nr. Qalqilya (without incident); conducts late-night house searches nr. Hebron, summoning 3 Palestinians for interrogation. (PCHR 11/25; OCHA 11/26)

21 NOVEMBER

Israel approves \$23 m. for a 5-yr. project to renovate and develop the Western Wall Plaza in the Old City. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized morning patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin, setting up checkpoints and checking Palestinian IDs and vehicles but making no arrests; patrols late at night in Qiffin village nr. Tulkarm without incident; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron and nr. Jericho. An **Israeli military court** that convicted 2 IDF soldiers of using a Palestinian boy as a human shield during Operation Cast Lead (OCL) in 2008-9 gives them a 3-mo. suspended sentence and demotion, saying that the soldiers' misconduct had to be balanced against the difficult circumstances they faced during the war. (NYT 11/22; PCHR 11/25; OCHA 11/26)

22 NOVEMBER

The **Knesset** passes (65-33, with 22 absent) a law that would require the government to hold a national referendum before ceding Israeli territory, potentially hindering the government's ability to reach peace deals with Syria and the Palestinians; West Bank lands, which were never annexed by Israel, would not fall under the new requirement. (NYT 11/23)

The **IDF** troops make a brief incursion into c. Gaza to level lands along the border fence east of Bureij refugee camp (r.c.), firing on residential areas to keep Palestinians indoors, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm in the morning without incident; conducts afternoon arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in Jenin, and nr. Bethlehem and Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Shilo settlement nr.

Ramallah, escorted by **IDF** soldiers, expel Palestinian farmers fr. a plot of land adjacent to the settlement. (PCHR 11/25; OCHA 11/26)

23 NOVEMBER

The **Knesset** passes (65-33) the 2d and 3d readings of a bill that would require a public majority referendum vote and the votes of 60 MKs before any Israeli territory could be ceded in a peace agreement. (JAZ 11/23)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized late-night patrols in 3 villages nr. Hebron, searching 1 home but making no arrests. **Jewish settlers** fr. Karnei Shomron settlement burn 3 d. of Palestinian olive trees nr. Qalqilya. In Jerusalem, **Israeli authorities** evict the Palestinian Qara'in family (14 mbrs., including 7 children) fr. their home in Jabal Mukabir and allow **Jewish settlers** to move in and fence off the surrounding property (see Quarterly Update for background). The **UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)** reports that 2 **Palestinian** boys (ages 11 and 12) were killed since 11/19 in a tunnel collapse on the border e. of Jabaliya. (NYT 11/24; PCHR 11/25; OCHA 11/26)

24 NOVEMBER

IDF troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials inside the demolished industrial zone, wounding 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 2 tin houses and 4 sheep pens (killing 15 sheep) in Jiftlik village nr. Jericho; conducts late-night patrols in Jenin town and r.c.; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Umar and Safa nr. Hebron targeting organizers of weekly demonstrations against settlement expansion and land confiscation nr. Karme Tzur; conducts other late-night searches in Za'tar village nr. Hebron, summoning 1 Palestinian for questioning. **Jewish settlers** move into a vacant building in al-Tur in East Jerusalem that they claimed to have purchased in 2005; the Palestinian family was evicted and building sealed in 2009 until the case could be decided by a court (ruling still pending). (PCHR 11/25; NYT 11/26; PCHR 12/2; OCHA 12/3)

25 NOVEMBER

Israeli municipal authorities in Jerusalem demolish 9 Palestinian shops in Hizma village in the East Jerusalem suburbs. The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into n. Gaza to level land along the border fence to clear lines of sight. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a mosque, 1 **Palestinian home**, and 10 storehouses in Khirbat Yazra village nr. Tubas, displacing 15 Palestinians (see Quarterly Update for details); demolishes another **Palestinian home** in Yatta village nr. Hebron, displacing 25 Palestinians; conducts rare daytime arrest raids, searches nr. Jenin, Tulkarm; patrols in Tulkarm and Kharbatha al-Misbah village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, firing rubber-coated steel bullets and beating several stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (PCHR 12/2; OCHA 12/3)

26 NOVEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages southwest of Jenin in the morning. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Ni'lin, Nabi Salih/Dayr Nizam, and al-Ma'sara (nr. Bethlehem). **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, causing no serious injuries. (PCHR 12/2; OCHA 12/3)

27 NOVEMBER

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. Jewish settlement sites and in the demolished Erez industrial zone, wounding 2. **IDF** troops on the Bayt Lahiya coast fire on Palestinian fishing boats off shore, wounding 1 fisherman. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Tulkarm, firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them in 1 incident, causing no reported casualties; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya. (PCHR 12/2; OCHA 12/3)

28 NOVEMBER

Israel allows Gazans to export 2.4 tons of strawberries and 25,000 cut flowers, marking Gaza's first exports since 4/2010; exports of these commodities are permitted through the end of the quarter (see Quarterly Update for details). In 3 separate incidents, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in fmr. settlement sites and the demolished Erez industrial zone, wounding 3. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire a Qassam rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in and around Salfit and in 4 villages nr. Jenin, 3 nr. Qalqilya, and 2 nr. Tulkarm during the day; conducts late-night patrols in Qalqilya; and conducts late-night arrest raids and house searches nr. Bethlehem and Salfit. (AFP, JP 11/28; WP 11/29; PCHR 12/2; OCHA 12/3; NYT 12/17)

29 NOVEMBER

Israel's Jerusalem municipal authorities approve zoning of land in East Jerusalem to accommodate construction of 130 new housing units in Gilo settlement. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at **Palestinians and international activists** staging a nonviolent march to the Erez crossing to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone inside the Gaza border; no injuries are reported. In the West Bank, the **IDF** releases Palestinians arrested on 11/24 for organizing weekly demonstrations outside Karme Tzur, forcing them to sign pledges that they will stay away fr. the settlement; conducts morning patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 2 nr. Tulkarm. (WP 11/30; PCHR, WJW 12/2; OCHA 12/3)

30 NOVEMBER

In 4 separate instances, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. Jewish settlement sites, wounding 5. In the West Bank, **IDF troops and intelligence units** raid the homes of 3 local **Islamic Jihad** leaders in Jenin to "discuss the current political situation" and to question them on their recent detention by PA security forces (PASF);

also raid and search the Dura home of elected **Palestinian Council (PC) mbr. Shaykh Nayif Mahmud al-Rajub** (see Quarterly Update for details); conducts late-night house searches nr. Bethlehem. The **IDF** also demolishes a printing press in Issawiyya nr. Jerusalem, firing rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas and beating stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, seriously injuring 1, lightly injuring 8. (PCHR 12/2; OCHA 12/3)

1 DECEMBER

Responding to an appeal made by **PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas** in 11/2010, **Brazil** recognizes **Palestine** as a state based on 1967 borders. The **Israeli FMin.** opens low-profile talks with other Latin American leaders to prevent them fr. following suit. (WP 12/4; WJW 12/16; JPI 12/17) (see Quarterly Update for details)

Israeli municipal authorities in East Jerusalem demolish 1 **Palestinian home** in al-Tur neighborhood. **IDF** troops on the Gaza border e. of Jabaliya direct at least 17 **artillery shells** and gunfire at armed Palestinians planting explosive devices along the border fence, killing 2 **Islamic Jihad mbrs.**; later makes a brief incursion into the area to level land in the area to clear lines of sight. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in Zayta nr. Tulkarm; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (PCHR 12/2; NYT 12/3; PCHR 12/9; OCHA 12/10)

2 DECEMBER

Israel's Interior Min. reports for the first time that preliminary approval for construction of 625 housing units in East Jerusalem's Pisgat Ze'ev was quietly granted in 11/2010. During the day, the **IDF** makes another incursion into the Gaza area e. of Jabaliya that was shelled on 12/1, firing on the surrounding area but causing no reported injuries. A **Palestinian** is fatally electrocuted in a smuggling tunnel accident on the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Izb'al Jaloud village nr. Qalqilya during the day; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Halamish

settlement nr. Ramallah attempt to storm Nabi Salih village but are removed by IDF troops; later in the day, Palestinian youths throw stones at IDF troops patrolling the area, who respond with tear gas and stun grenades, causing no serious injuries. In n. Israel, **1,000s of Israelis** flee their homes as a **major forest fire** brought on by drought tears through the Mount Carmel forest; at least 36 Israelis are left dead, most of them prison guards racing to evacuate inmates fr. a jail. (NYT, WP 12/3; PCHR 12/9; OCHA 12/10)

3 DECEMBER

As the **Mount Carmel fire** spreads, **Netanyahu** accepts assistance fr. the **PA**, which sends 13 firefighters and several fire trucks to help extinguish blazes nr. the Israeli Palestinian towns of Taibeh and Barta'a; many other countries also send firefighters and equipment. Meanwhile, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the demolished fmr. settlement sites nr. the northern border, injuring 1. Late in the evening, **IDF** troops on the c. Gaza border e. of Dayr al-Balah fire on armed Palestinians operating nr. the border fence, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 4 villages n. and e. of Qalqilya during the day; conducts late-night patrols in Bayt Liqia nr. Ramallah (without incident) and Jenin r.c. (firing stun grenades, causing no injuries); conducts late-night house searches nr. Jenin. **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists in some areas) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Dayr Nizam/Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 2 Palestinians are moderately injured, several are beaten, and 10s suffer tear gas inhalation. (YA 12/3; NYT 12/4; PCHR 12/9; OCHA 12/10)

4 DECEMBER

Twice during the day, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. settlement sites nr. the border fence, wounding 3 Palestinians.

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Jinsafut village nr. Qalqilya during the day and in 4 other villages nr. Qalqilya, 1 nr. Hebron, and 1 nr. Salfit late at night. (PCHR 12/9; OCHA 12/10)

5 DECEMBER

The **Mount Carmel forest fire** (which started on 12/2) is put out, and **Palestinian fire fighters** return to the West Bank; the fire, which destroyed an estimated 40,000 d. of land and left 44 Israelis dead, is the largest in Israeli history. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts daytime patrols in 5 villages nr. Jenin and 4 villages nr. Tulkarm in the evening (firing stun grenades in 1 instance). Twice during the day, 50 **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim settlement nr. Qalqilya attempt to seize a plot of Palestinian agricultural land and drive off the owner, but the **IDF** intervenes and sends them away. (YA 12/5; PCHR 12/9; OCHA 12/10; JTA 12/14; WJW 12/15; YA 12/16; WP 12/27)

6 DECEMBER

Argentina and **Uruguay** recognize **Palestine** as "a free and independent state" within the 1967 borders. **The Israeli FMin.** calls the moves "disappointing" and "regrettable." (JAZ, YA 12/7) (see Quarterly Update for details)

To mark the anniversary of the founding of their movement, **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)** mbrs. fire a Qassam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** fires warning shots at an unidentified Palestinian nr. the Qarni crossing into Gaza, causing no reported injures; restricts animal fodder and wheat imports through the crossing for the rest of the week as punishment. The **IDF** makes an incursion into s. Gaza to level lands along the border fence e. of Khan Yunis, firing on surrounding areas, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 10 **residential structures** belonging to 15 Palestinian families (101 persons, including 42 children), a school, and 2 other small classroom structures, and at least 17 animal shelters in Khirbat Tana nr. Nablus (see Quarterly Update for details). The **IDF** also conducts daytime patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya and 2 e. of Tulkarm; conducts late-night patrols

in Bayt Liqya, firing live ammunition, tear gas, and stun grenades on stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no injuries; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. In Gaza, a **Hamas-affiliated military court** sentences 4 Palestinians to death (3 for a 2007 kidnapping and murder; 1 for collaborating with Israel). (JP, MNA 12/6; OCHA 12/8; PCHR 12/9; OCHA 12/10)

7 DECEMBER

The **White House** abandons efforts to persuade Israel to impose a 90-day settlement construction freeze and takes its generous package of diplomatic and security incentives off the table. The message comes days before senior Israeli and Palestinian negotiators plan to meet in Washington for further talks on the peace process and before U.S. **Secy. of State Hillary Clinton** is scheduled to make a major Middle East policy statement on 12/10. (NYT, WP, WT 12/8) (see Quarterly Update for details)

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion e. of al-Bureij r.c. in c. Gaza to level lands along the border fence, firing on surrounding areas, causing no reported injuries. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire 2 mortars fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Late in the evening, the **IDF** responds with **air strikes** on a poultry farm nr. Khan Yunis (an alleged arms cache) and at a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, **IDF** escorts plain-clothed individuals into Rafat village nr. Salfit in the morning; the group pauses outside the local mosque, pointing at it and taking notes. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron and nr. Nablus, and patrols in Anabta village nr. Tulkarm. In Israel, 47 **state-employed Israeli rabbis** issue an open letter distributed in synagogues and religious journals saying that it is prohibited by the Torah to sell or rent a house or a field in the land of Israel to non-Jews. **Netanyahu** denounces the letter. (JP 12/7; WT, YA 12/8; PCHR 12/9; OCHA 12/10; JPI 12/17)

8 DECEMBER

Israel's security cabinet agrees in principle to allow more exports out of

Gaza and expects details to be fleshed out within the next few days, but there is no serious change before the end of the quarter (see Quarterly Update for details). In the afternoon and early evening, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 6 mortars fr. Gaza into Israel, causing light damage in 1 instance and moderately injuring 1 Israeli in another. The **IDF** makes 4 **air strikes** on al-Mughraqa in c. Gaza, destroying a building used by **Hamas's Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades (IQB)**, a partially constructed home, and a well, causing no reported injuries; makes another **air strike** destroying an IQB building in Gaza City's al-Zaytun neighborhood, damaging several surrounding buildings but causing no serious injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in Kifl Haris nr. Salfit. **Israeli authorities** deport detained **Hamas-affiliated PC mbr. Muhammad Abu Tir**, whose Jerusalem residency status was revoked in 5/2010, to Ramallah (see Quarterly Update for details). (JP, UPI 12/8; JP, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT, YA 12/9; OCHA 12/10; PCHR 12/16; OCHA 12/17)

9 DECEMBER

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. Jewish settlement sites, wounding 2. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire a mortar fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly injuring 1 Israeli private security guard. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts early-morning arrest raids, house searches in Nur Shams r.c. nr. Tulkarm; patrols in Salfit (late evening) and in 3 villages nr. Qalqilya (1 early morning, 2 late night) and 1 nr. Ramallah (late night). **Jewish settlers** fr. Sha'are Tikva settlement nr. Qalqilya dump waste water onto the playgrounds and land surrounding a secondary school in nearby 'Azzun 'Atma village. **Jewish settlers** escorted by **IDF** soldiers enter Kifl Haris village nr. Salfit to pray at Joshua's Tomb, vandalizing a Palestinian car en route. (PCHR 12/16; OCHA 12/17)

10 DECEMBER

In a major speech to the Saban Center in Washington, U.S. Secretary of State **Clinton** says the admin. has concluded that talks on extending the Israeli settlement freeze would come to nothing and

opted to revive shuttle missions between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, trying to get them to discuss all core issues simultaneously and offering U.S. bridging proposals when appropriate. She says **U.S. special envoy George Mitchell** will return to the region within days to begin work. (NYT 12/11; HA 12/14) (see Quarterly Update for details)

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials, wounding 3 in 3 separate instances (1 in the demolished Erez industrial zone and 2 in the fmr. Jewish settlement sites). **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire on agricultural areas nr. Khuza'a village, wounding a Palestinian teenager 800 m fr. the border. In Gaza City's Shuja'iya neighborhood, **2 Palestinian teenagers** are killed when they accidentally trigger unexploded **IDF** UXO. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts early morning arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; conducts patrols in al-Naqura village twice during the day (mid-morning and late at night) and in 5 villages nr. Qalqilya (late at night). **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists in some areas) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Ni'lin, Bayt Umar, and Dayr Nizam/Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 2 Palestinians are injured and 1 Israeli, 1 American, and 1 German are arrested. (PCHR 12/16; OCHA 12/17)

11 DECEMBER

Unidentified Palestinians fire a Qasam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **IDF** troops on the Gaza border e. of al-Bureij r.c. fire artillery shells at **2 Palestinians** who stray nr. the border fence, killing them; the **IDF** prevents the **Palestinian Red Crescent Society** fr. retrieving their bodies for 2 days. In 2 separate incidents, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. Jewish settlement sites, wounding 1. **IDF** troops also fire at Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the border fence n. of Bayt Hanun, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in

Tayasir village nr. Tubas. (JP 12/11; PCHR 12/16; OCHA 12/17)

12 DECEMBER

Abbas convenes the **PLO Exec. Comm.** and **Fatah Central Comm.** to discuss Clinton's 12/10 statements. The leadership says it opposes any negotiations with Israel, direct or indirect, in the absence of a settlement freeze and that any further talks would have to be based on clear, explicit terms of reference, namely a 2-state solution based on 1967 lines. (NYT 12/14)

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. Jewish settlement sites, seriously wounding 1 Palestinian, who is evacuated to an Israeli hospital. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Qalqilya and 2 neighboring villages in the morning. (PCHR 12/16; OCHA 12/17)

13 DECEMBER

U.S. special envoy **Mitchell** returns to the region for a 2-day visit aimed at reviving indirect talks. He says he will urge the Israeli and Palestinian sides to present their final status positions separately to the U.S. in writing so that the U.S. can recommend bridging proposals. (HA 12/13; NYT, WP 12/14) (see Quarterly Update for details)

EU FMs meeting in Brussels say the EU will not recognize a unilateral Palestinian declaration of statehood until "an appropriate time." (WJW 12/14) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In the afternoon, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire a **flechette round** on a group of armed **IQB** mbrs. operating nr. the border fence n. of Bayt Lahiya, wounding 2. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Qalqilya, Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Susia settlement nr. Hebron attack 4 nearby Palestinian homes, beating several Palestinians. (PCHR 12/16; OCHA 12/17)

14 DECEMBER

Israeli officials cancel a ceremony to honor the **Palestinian firefighters** who assisted in battling the Mount Carmel fire last week, after 3 crew mbrs. were refused

permits to enter Israel. In 2 separate incidents, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. Jewish settlement sites, wounding 2 Palestinians. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 5 water wells in Umm al-Daraj village nr. Hebron, saying the wells, some of which were built in the 1950s, were constructed without permits; patrols in al-'Auja village nr. Jericho in the evening; conducts arrest raids, house searches in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli authorities** demolish 2 **Palestinian homes** under construction in Silwan and Sur Bahir. In Gaza City, **10,000s of Hamas supporters** take part in a rally marking the movement's 23d anniversary. (HA 12/14; NYT, WP, WT 12/15; PCHR 12/16; OCHA 12/17)

15 DECEMBER

The **Arab League** says it will support the 12/12 Palestinian decision to suspend direct and indirect negotiations with Israel until the U.S. offers a serious proposal to advance peace. (WP 12/16)

Norway upgrades the status of the PLO representation in Oslo from a "general delegation" to a "diplomatic mission." The head of the office will have ambassador status but will go by the title "chief of mission" and will have no added diplomatic privileges. (YA 12/17) (see Quarterly Update for details)

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. Jewish settlement sites, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dura nr. Hebron and in Tulkarm. The **Jewish holy site of Joseph's Tomb** in Kifl Haris nr. Salfit is vandalized sometime during the day; local Palestinians are suspected. (PCHR 12/16; OCHA, PCHR 12/23)

16 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin, Qalqilya, and Salfit and late-night patrols in Nabi Salih nr. Ramallah. The **IDF** also escorts **Jewish settlers** into Kifl Haris village nr. Salfit to pray at Joseph's Tomb, withdrawing late at night; during the day the

settlers, angry over vandalism at the site on 12/15, vandalize 5 Palestinian tombs and several Palestinian cars. (OCHA, PCHR 12/23)

17 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** confiscates 50 d. of Palestinian land in Bayt Ikhsa, northwest of Jerusalem, for construction of a railway linking Jerusalem and Tel Aviv; closing the 50 d. area also cuts off Palestinian access to 2,000 d. of olive groves. The **IDF** also patrols in several villages nr. Qalqilya and Salfit; conducts house searches in Zabbuba village nr. Jenin, searching for Palestinian youths who threw stones at the separation wall nearby, making no arrests. **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists in some areas) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Dayr Nizam/Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 5 Palestinians are injured, 1 German and 1 Israeli are arrested. **Jewish settlers** beat 2 Palestinian teenagers nr. Jenin; the **IDF** intervenes, ordering the settlers to leave and detaining the teenagers for questioning, releasing them later in the evening. (OCHA, PCHR 12/23)

18 DECEMBER

The **IDF** makes an **air strike** on a group of **Islamic Jihad and PRC mbrs.** preparing to fire a Qassam **rocket** into Israel, killing **5 armed Palestinians.** In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 4 villages (2 nr. Jenin, 1 nr. Qalqilya, 1 nr. Tubas), fences off a plot of Palestinian agricultural land nr. 'Azun village nr. Qalqilya, denying access to farmers. **Jewish settlers** fr. Itamar settlement nr. Nablus beat a Palestinian shepherd grazing his flock nr. the settlement, forcing him to flee; the settlers gather the sheep and set fire to them, killing 12 and maiming 7. (HA, REU 12/18; JP, NYT, WP 12/19; OCHA, PCHR 12/23)

19 DECEMBER

In retaliation for Israeli air strikes on 12/18, the **Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)** and the

PRCs claim responsibility for firing 4–9 **mortars** fr. Gaza toward IDF targets just inside the Israeli border, with at least 4 landing inside Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire on Palestinian shepherds who stray nr. the border fence, wounding 1. In the West Bank, **IDF** troops raid and search homes in Bayt Umar, searching for Palestinians who threw stones at an IDF checkpoint into the village, arresting 1 Palestinian man; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron and nr. Nablus. **Palestinians** accompanied by Israeli and international activists hold a nonviolent demonstration against settlement expansion in Bayt Umar. **IDF** soldiers fire tear gas and stun grenades at the protesters (causing no injuries) and arrest 3 Israelis. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli authorities** force a Palestinian to demolish his own **home** or pay the government nearly \$5,500 for doing the job; the owner had already been fined more than \$26,000 for building without a permit. Inside Israel, **Israeli police** find the body of **American tourist Kristine Luken** stabbed to death in a nature area southwest of Jerusalem, inside Israel, nr. the West Bank border. The woman's friend, American Kaye Susan Wilson, escaped, telling police that she and Luken were ambushed by 2 knife-wielding Arabs who bound and stabbed them. Police say they are classifying the attack as political but have not ruled out criminal motives. (JP 12/19; MNA, NYT, WP, WT 12/20; OCHA, PCHR 12/23)

20 DECEMBER

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. Jewish settlement sites, wounding 1. During the day, the **PRCs** fire 10 **mortars** fr. Gaza toward Israel, with at least 9 landing inside Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Late at night, in response to the recent increase in Palestinian rocket fire, the **IDF** makes an **air strike** on a manned Hamas facility in Khan Yunis, injuring 2 IQB mbrs., marking Israel's 1st targeting of an occupied Hamas facility since OCL ended in 1/2009. Hrs. later, the **IDF** carries out 6 more **air strikes** targeting 2 suspected tunnels nr. the border. Targets include Bayt Lahiya and Jabaliya in n. Gaza (hitting a poultry farm, killing 1,800 chickens), 3 smuggling

tunnels on the Rafah border, and 2 alleged Hamas military sites in s. Gaza (an empty house in Shuka, also destroying a grocery store next door and damaging 2 nearby homes; and an abandoned dairy factory); no injuries are reported. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 4 Palestinian agricultural storehouses nr. Kiryat Arba settlement in Hebron; conducts morning patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 2 nr. Tulkarm; conducts synchronized late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin. (AFP, JP, MNA 12/20; AFP, UPI 12/21; NYT 12/22; OCHA, PCHR 12/23)

21 DECEMBER

AOI mbrs. fire a **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel that lands nr. an empty school nr. Ashqelon, causing light damage and injuring 1 Israeli. In the afternoon, an **IDF** drone makes a **missile strike** on a Hamas building in Rafah, injuring 2 IQB mbrs.; an hr. later, Israeli war planes make 3 **air strikes** on the same site, destroying it but causing no further injuries. **IDF chief of staff Gabi Ashkenazi** warns that the tension along the Gaza border is "fragile and explosive," adding that while small Palestinian groups seem to be behind the recent rocket fire, Israel will hold Hamas responsible. Meanwhile, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. settlement sites, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** in al-Nu'man village nr. East Jerusalem's Har Homa settlement (Jabal Abu Ghunaym), firing tear gas and beating Palestinians who attempt to stop the demolition, moderately injuring 1; the family had already been fined more than \$13,500 for building without a permit. **IDF** troops also patrol in Silat al-Harithiyya nr. Jenin in the afternoon, firing tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them and then raiding several Palestinian homes, summoning 1 Palestinian for questioning. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nur Shams r.c. nr. Tulkarm and nr. Hebron. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli authorities** force a Palestinian to demolish his own **home** in Ras al-Amud or pay the government nearly \$5,500 for doing the job. Israeli authorities demolish a 2d **Palestinian home** in Sur Bahir, southeast of Jerusalem; the family

had already paid nearly \$1,750 for building without a permit. (JP, REU, UPI, YA 12/21; NYT 12/22; OCHA, PCHR 12/23)

22 DECEMBER

Bolivia recognizes an independent **Palestine** within the 1967 borders. (HA 12/22) (see Quarterly Update for details)

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border e. of Jabaliya fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the border fence, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin; fires on a Palestinian car nr. Hebron, wounding 2 unarmed Palestinians and transporting them to a hospital in Israel for treatment. (PCHR 12/23; OCHA 12/31)

23 DECEMBER

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire on Palestinian shepherds who stray nr. the border, killing 1 **Palestinian**; in 3 separate instances fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. Jewish settlement sites, wounding 3. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Qalqilya in the morning, and 3 in the evening. (PCHR 12/30; OCHA 12/31)

24 DECEMBER

Ecuador recognizes **Palestine** as a state based on 1967 borders. (YA 12/25) (see Quarterly Update for details)

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 Qassam **rocket**, 1 mortar fr. Gaza into Israel during the day, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** makes at least 5 **air strikes** on central and s. Gaza, hitting 3 smuggling tunnels and an IQB target, injuring 3 IQB mbrs. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sets up a checkpoint outside Nabi Salih village nr. Ramallah, searching Palestinian vehicles and firing tear gas and rubber-coated steel bullets at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them, moderately wounding 1 Palestinian teenager; conducts afternoon patrols in villages nr. Jenin, Tulkarm; conducts late-night patrols in Tulkarm and a village nr. Jenin. **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists in some areas) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against

the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Dayr Nizam/Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 4 Palestinians and 1 Israeli journalist were injured, and 1 Palestinian and 3 Israelis are arrested. (JP 12/24; AP, AFP, JP 12/25; IDFS 12/26; PCHR 12/30; OCHA 12/31)

25 DECEMBER

IDF troops on the s. Gaza border (deploying tanks and helicopters) exchange fire with Islamic Jihad gunmen in the border area e. of Khan Yunis for several hrs., killing 2 **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of Bayt Lahiya, wounding 1 Palestinian fisherman. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire 2 Qassam **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized afternoon patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin; later patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin, 1 nr. Qalqilya, 1 nr. Ramallah; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah. **Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists** demonstrate against Jewish settlement construction in Hebron, marching to Beit Romano and Avraham Avino settlements; **IDF** soldiers beat 2 Palestinian demonstrators and arrest 2 internationals and 1 Israeli. **Jewish settlers** escorted by **IDF** troops fence off 600 d. of Palestinian land nr. Missa Ya'ir settlement nr. Hebron. (AFP 12/25; WP, WT 12/27; PCHR 12/30; OCHA 12/31)

26 DECEMBER

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the c. Gaza coast, forcing them back to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids 2 school yards nr. Hebron and Jenin in the morning, detaining 2 Palestinian teenagers for throwing stones at passing soldiers; conducts late-night patrols in Jayyus village nr. Qalqilya and in Tulkarm; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c. and nr. Bethlehem and Hebron. **Palestinian, Israeli, and French activists** demonstrate against the **separation wall** nr. Bil'in village and the Qalandia checkpoint into Jerusalem; the **IDF** fires tear gas,

rubber-coated steel bullets, and stun grenades at the protesters (causing no serious injuries) and arrests 9 French activists and a Palestinian press photographer. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gilad settlement nr. Qalqilya vandalize a Palestinian water well and agricultural plot nearby. (PCHR 12/30; OCHA 12/31)

27 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm and in 5 villages nr. Qalqilya, 2 each nr. Jenin and Salfit, and 1 each nr. Jericho, Nablus, Ramallah, and Tulkarm; conducts a late-night raid on the Hebron home of **Hamas-affiliated PC mbr. Muhammad al-Tal**, arresting him (see Quarterly Update for details). **Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists** march to the IDF's Beit El checkpoint outside Ramallah and demand its removal; **IDF** soldiers fire tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets, and stun grenades at the protesters, seriously injuring 1 Palestinian. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablus burn and uproot at least 20 Palestinian olive trees nr. Madama village. (PCHR 12/30; OCHA 12/31)

28 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fires on a **PRC** border patrol unit nr. the Gaza border fence, killing 1 **Hamas mbr.** **Israeli naval forces** detain a fishing boat of the n. Gaza coast, directing it to Ashdod port; the 6 fishermen onboard are released hours later, but their boat is confiscated. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm. (NYT 12/29; PCHR 12/30; OCHA 12/31)

29 DECEMBER

IDF troops on the Gaza border e. of Jabaliya fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the border fence, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a late-night raid on the home of **Hamas-affiliated PC mbr. Khalil Rab'ie** nr. Hebron, arresting him (see Quarterly Update for details). The **IDF** also patrols in Rummana village nr. Jenin, confiscating an unlicensed tractor; makes a late-night raid on a Palestinian store nr. Jenin, confiscating fireworks; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nur

al-Shams r.c. nr. Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Suissa settlement nr. Hebron set fire to 3 Palestinian tents nearby. **Israel's Jerusalem municipal authorities** level several rooms of homes, stores, and poultry farms and swaths of agricultural land in al-Tur village in the East Jerusalem environs. (PCHR 12/30; OCHA 12/31; PCHR 1/6; OCHA 1/7)

Tunisian pres. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali reshuffles his cabinet in response to 11 days of nationwide popular demonstrations against his government. The protests denouncing rising unemployment and the lack of job opportunities for youths began on 12/17, sparked by the attempted suicide of a 26-yr.-old, college-educated street vendor in the southern town of Sidi Bouzid who set himself on fire in despair after police seized produce he was selling without a license. (WT 12/30) (see Quarterly Update for details)

30 DECEMBER

With tensions on the Gaza border rising, **Hamas** secures the pledge of the **major Palestinian factions**, including **Islamic Jihad**, to observe the cease-fire **Hamas** declared in 1/2009 in the wake of OCL. Late in the evening, however, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Zabbuba village nr. Jenin in the afternoon; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. An **Israeli court** hands down a 9-yr. jail sentence to **Israeli Palestinian Ameer Makhoul**, who pled guilty in 10/2010 to spying on behalf of Hizballah as part of a plea deal (see Quarterly Update for background). (JP, WP 12/31; PCHR 1/6; OCHA 1/7)

31 DECEMBER

West Bank **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists in some areas) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Dayr Nizam/Nabi Salih. PA PM **Salam Fayyad**, several PC mbrs., and senior mbrs. of Fatah, the DFLP, and Palestine Liberation Front take part in the Bil'in demonstration. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and

stun grenades at the protesters; 6 Palestinians are injured, 1 seriously. (PCHR 1/6; OCHA 1/7)

1 JANUARY

The **PFLP** fires 4 **mortars** fr. Gaza at IDF targets just inside the Israeli border, only 1 of which lands inside Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Late at night, the **IDF** makes 2 **air strikes** on empty IQB buildings in Jabaliya r.c. (causing heavy damage and injuring a Palestinian in his home nearby) and Nussayrat r.c. (injuring 1 bystander and damaging 2 nearby homes). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Salfit. A **Palestinian woman** fr. the village of Bil'in dies from severe tear gas inhalation on 12/31. (MNA, NYT, WP 1/2; HA 1/5; PCHR 1/6; OCHA 1/7)

2 JANUARY

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 **mortar** fr. Gaza into Israel during the day, causing no damage or injuries. The **DFLP** and **PFLP** claim responsibility for firing several mortars fr. Gaza into Israel late in the evening, but the **IDF** says it detected no launches during that period. Later in the evening, the **IDF** makes at least 2 **air strikes** on a **Hamas** building in n. Gaza and an alleged weapons factory in c. Gaza, wounding 2 Palestinians. In the West Bank, **IDF** troops fatally shoot a **Palestinian man** who approaches a checkpoint nr. Nablus carrying a glass bottle and fails to heed orders to halt, later admitting the man was not carrying anything that could harm soldiers. During the day, the **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Qalqilya and 3 nr. Jenin; raids another village nr. Jenin late at night, searching a home and arresting 1 Palestinian. **Jewish settlers** fr. Revava settlement nr. Salfit attack Palestinian farmers working their land nearby; the **IDF** intervenes, detaining the farmers for 3 hrs. before releasing them. (MNA 1/2; JAZ, NYT 1/3; PCHR 1/6; OCHA 1/7; JPI 1/14)

3 JANUARY

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into s. Gaza e. of Khuza village to level land and clear lines of sight, firing on nearby

residential areas to keep Palestinians away. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Salfit, 2 nr. Qalqilya, 1 nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Ramallah, photographing several homes in Hijja village nr. Qalqilya, stopping several Palestinians on the street in 'Azun village nr. Qalqilya and summoning them for interrogation, and firing rubber bullets and tear gas at stone-throwing youths who confront them in Nabi Salih village nr. Ramallah, arresting 1. Late at night, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli authorities** demolish a **Palestinian home** in Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood. (PCHR 1/6; OCHA 1/7)

4 JANUARY

Israeli naval vessels seize a Palestinian fishing boat off the Gaza coast, detaining but quickly releasing 4 fishermen. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire a **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Late in the evening, the **IDF** makes 2 **air strikes** on an IQB training site nr. Dayr al-Balah (partially damaging a building but causing no injuries) and a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border (injuring 1 Palestinian). In the West Bank, the **IDF** enters al-Ras village in the afternoon, arresting 3 Palestinians off the street; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli authorities** demolish a **Palestinian home** in Bayt Hanina neighborhood. (JP 1/4; AFP, JP, UPI 1/5; PCHR 1/6; OCHA 1/7)

5 JANUARY

During the day, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 7 **mortars**, 1 **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel in 3 barrages, causing no damage or injuries. (JP, UPI 1/5; PCHR 1/6, 1/13; OCHA 1/14)

6 JANUARY

Meeting in Sharm al-Shaykh, Israeli PM **Netanyahu** asks Egyptian pres. **Mubarak** to press the Palestinians to return to "direct, intensive, and serious negotiations," but Mubarak replies that Israel must change its stance on settlement construction if it hopes to reach a final status accord with the Palestinians, blaming Israel for the

latest impasse. Mubarak also cautions Israel against carrying out a major offensive against Gaza over escalating rocket and mortar fire in the past wk. (NYT, WP 1/7)

The **PFLP** fires 3 **mortars** fr. Gaza toward the IDF base at the fmr. Kissufim crossing into Gaza (closed in 8/2005); only 1 shell strikes inside Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** makes synchronized late-night **air strikes** on an IQB building in Gaza City and an open area e. of al-Shuka village in s. Gaza; no injuries are reported in either incident. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm, 5 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 village nr. Jericho during the afternoon. (JP, MNA 1/6, JP, MNA, OCHA 1/7; PCHR 1/13; OCHA 1/14)

7 JANUARY

Chile recognizes "a sovereign **Palestine**," but says the borders must be agreed with Israel. (JP 2/5) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In the West Bank, the **PASF** releases fr. a Hebron jail 6 **Hamas mbrs.** who had been on hunger strike for 43 days, protesting their detention without charge. Hrs. later, late at night, **IDF undercover units** raid Hebron to detain 5 of the 6 men. Storming 1 apartment, undercover units fatally shoot a **66-yr.-old Palestinian man** asleep in his bed, mistaking him for the most wanted of the 5 Hamas mbrs. they sought, who lived in another apartment in the same building. The **IDF** initially says the man ran at soldiers when they entered and soldiers shot in self-defense, but the blood-stained pillow and mattress confirm his wife's story that he was asleep when soldiers entered firing, raising questions about the **IDF's** rules of engagement. **Hamas** accuses the **PA** of colluding with Israel to rearrest the men. **IDF** troops also patrol in villages nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm. Meanwhile, **IDF** troops on the Gaza border shell armed Palestinians laying a roadside bomb nr. the border fence, causing no Palestinian injuries; at least 1 mortar goes astray hitting an **IDF** unit, killing 1 **Israeli soldier** and wounding 4. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire 1 **mortar** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. West Bank **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international

activists in some areas) hold weekly non-violent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Dayr Nizam/Nabi Salih. **Fmr. EU official Luisa Morgantini** and 5 **observers from the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** take part in the Bil'in demonstration. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 4 Palestinians are lightly injured and 1 is arrested. (AFP 1/7; NYT, WP 1/8; PCHR 1/13; OCHA 1/14)

8 JANUARY

Islamic Jihad mbrs. fire 6 **mortars** fr. Gaza at the IDF base at the fmr. Nahal Oz crossing (closed in 1/2010), injuring 3 Thai workers (1 seriously) at a kibbutz nearby. Late in the evening, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 1 **mortar**, 2 **Qassam rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel in 3 barrages; 1 rocket lands nr. a truck, causing light damage and lightly injuring the driver. In the West Bank, **IDF** troops fatally shoot a **Palestinian** who runs toward a checkpoint nr. Nablus (the same one where another Palestinian was fatally shot on 1/2) and ignores orders to halt; the **IDF** says he was carrying a bag that contained a pipe bomb and other explosives, but Palestinian witnesses say he was not carrying anything. The **IDF** also patrols in villages nr. Jenin and Salfit in the morning; conducts late-night arrest raids, searches in and around Qalqilya; conducts late-night patrols in 3 villages nr. Salfit, summoning 2 Palestinians for questioning. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gilad settlement nr. Qalqilya vandalize nearby Palestinian agricultural land and damage a well. **Israeli authorities** conduct late-night arrest raids, house searches in Silwan neighborhood in East Jerusalem. (HA, JP, MNA 1/8; WP, UPI 1/9; NYT 1/11; PCHR 1/13; OCHA 1/14)

9 JANUARY

Israeli crews begin demolishing the fmr. Shepherd Hotel site (built in the 1930s as a villa for the grand mufti of Jerusalem) in East Jerusalem's Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood to make way for a controversial new settlement housing project (see Quarterly Update for details). In Gaza, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 1 **Qassam rocket** into Israel, causing no damage or

injuries. The **IDF** retaliates late at night with at least **5 air strikes** targeting an IQB site in Khan Yunis and the fmr. PA General Intelligence building in Jabaliya, causing damage but no injuries in both incidents. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin, 2 nr. Qalqilya, and 1 nr. Ramallah during the day; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and in Jenin (questioning a local Hamas leader but not detaining him). (JP, UPI 1/9; NYT, WP 1/10; WP 1/11; PCHR 1/13; OCHA 1/14)

10 JANUARY

IDF troops on the Gaza border fatally shoot a **65-yr.-old Palestinian farmer** working his land nr. the border fence. **IDF** troops make a brief incursion into c. Gaza e. of Gaza Valley village to level lands and clear lines of sight, and into the border area n. of Bayt Hanun to issue demolition orders for several structures, firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, injuring 1. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire 4 Qassam **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel in 2 barrages, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** nr. Qalqilya; conducts numerous patrols in villages and open areas around Qalqilya during the day, stopping Palestinians to check IDs and raiding 1 home, but making no arrests; patrols without incident in 2 villages nr. Jenin, 2 nr. Salfit, and 2 nr. Tulkarm in the morning and afternoon; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nabi Salih, Nur Shams r.c. (searching the home of and arresting a PA military intelligence officer, confiscating his computers and cell phones), and Salfit (searching the home of and arresting Hamas-affiliated PC mbr. Omar 'Abd al-Rizk; see Quarterly Update for details). In East Jerusalem, **Israeli authorities** demolish 2 Palestinian stables in al-Tur and Wadi al-Juz neighborhoods. (AP 1/10; NYT 1/11; PCHR 1/13; OCHA 1/14)

11 JANUARY

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 Qassam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Fearing Israel could stage a major retaliation for the recent spike in rocket and mortar fired, **Hamas** once again (see 12/30) appeals to Gaza

factions to observe a cease-fire. Late in the evening, the **IDF** carries out 4 **air strikes** on s. Gaza, assassinating **senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Muhammad Najjar** as he rides a motorcycle and striking an IQB site s. of Gaza City, as well as hitting an Islamic Jihad training site nr. Khan Yunis and a PA naval police building in Nussayrat r.c., causing damage but no injuries. Meanwhile, **Israeli naval vessels** detain 4 Palestinian fishermen sailing off the Gaza coast, releasing 3 and arresting 1. (*Guardian*, NYT, WP 1/12; PCHR 1/13; OCHA 1/14)

12 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 11 **Palestinian homes** (housing 50 individuals, including 30 children), 3 classrooms, 3 barnyards, and 2 tents deemed too close to the **separation wall** in Yatta village nr. Hebron; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm r.c. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli authorities** arrest 3 Palestinian teenagers taking part in a sit-in protest against Israeli Judaization efforts in the al-Bustan quarter of Silwan; demolish a Palestinian vendor's semipermanent stand (in place for 11 yrs.) on Sultan Suleiman Street nr. Damascus Gate, confiscating his goods. (PCHR 1/13; OCHA 1/14; PCHR 1/20; OCHA 1/21)

While **Lebanese PM Sa'ad Hariri** is in Washington meeting with **U.S. Pres. Barack Obama**, **11 cabinet ministers representing Hizballah and its allies (the March 8 coalition)** resign in protest over Hariri's refusal to convene an emergency cabinet session to discuss pending indictments by the UN special tribunal investigating the 2005 assassination of Hariri's father, fmr. PM Rafiq Hariri, which are expected to be issued before the end of the month. They call on **Pres. Michel Suleiman** to form a new government headed by the March 8 alliance. The move plunges Lebanon into its worst political crisis since 5/2008 (when Qatar brokered an agreement to end sectarian clashes that killed 81 Lebanese). (NYT, WP, WT 1/13) (see Quarterly Update for details)

13 JANUARY

After receiving a warning fr. **Egypt** that **Israel** is serious about preventing further rocket and mortar fire fr. Gaza, **Hamas**

authorities hold a 2d mtg. (see 1/11) with smaller factions to urge them to adhere to a cease-fire, then deploys IQB mbrs. along the border and at makeshift checkpoints on roads leading toward the border to deter groups fr. firing into Israel. In the West Bank, the **IDF** steps up patrols dramatically, operating in 8 villages nr. Qalqilya, 3 nr. Jenin, 1 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Tulkarm between late morning and late afternoon, arresting 1 stone-throwing teenager nr. Tulkarm and summoning several residents of Bayt Qad nr. Qalqilya for questioning; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin and Qalqilya. **Jewish settlers** fr. a settlement outpost nr. Nablus attack a Palestinian farmer working his field nearby; when nearby villagers come to the farmers aid, **IDF** troops intervene, firing rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas at the Palestinians, seriously injuring 2 and moderately injuring 1. (NYT, WP 1/14; PCHR 1/20; OCHA 1/21)

In **Tunisia**, opposition forces call for massive antigovernment demonstrations after Friday prayers on 1/14 to demand Pres. Ben Ali's immediate resignation. In the days since 12/29/2010, protests have increasingly come to reflect deep-seated frustration with overall government corruption and lack of political freedom, rather than just economic angst. The major riots that first roiled the countryside have become increasingly violent and spread nationwide, reaching the capital on 1/12 and the key resort city of Hammamet (where Ben Ali and his extended family have residences) on 1/13, leaving at least 30 dead. In effort to quell protests, Ben Ali has simultaneously moved to appease and clamp down on critics, pledging to investigate government corruption and recent "excesses" by the security forces and firing his interior minister (directly responsible for orchestrating the crackdown on demonstrators), but also deploying army units and riot police around Tunis and imposing a nighttime curfew, blaming "foreign terrorists and Islamic radicals capitalizing on the frustrations of the unemployed." Rumors suggest that close relatives of Ben Ali, including billionaire businessman Muhammad Sakher El Materi (his son-in-law and heir apparent), have already fled the country. Today, **Ben Ali** gives a hastily prepared television address. Appearing unsettled, he orders security forces to hold their fire and release jailed protesters, agrees to make other

minor reforms, and pledges to give up the presidency when he turns 75 (in 2014) in keeping with the constitution, but rejects demands to step down immediately and end his 23-yr. authoritarian rule. In a threatening move, however, he withdraws the army fr. Tunis, replacing them with special police and other security forces more loyal to his ruling party. Credible rumors say the shift has come about because **Tunisia's army chief Gen. Rachid Ammar** has refused Ben-Ali's orders to shoot demonstrators. By this date, small protests inspired by **Tunisian demonstrators** have been held in **Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, and Morocco** denouncing unemployment and corruption among the ruling elites, but are not perceived as destabilizing. (NYT, WP 1/13; NYT 1/14, 1/17, 2/24; see also WP 1/10, NYT 1/12)

14 JANUARY

Guyana recognizes a "sovereign **Palestine**," but says borders must be agreed with Israel. (JTA 1/14)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts afternoon patrols in numerous villages around Jenin and Qalqilya; conducts late-night patrols nr. Ramallah; and conducts late-night arrest raids and house searches in Hebron. **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists in some areas) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Dayr Nizam/Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 2 Palestinians (including 1 child), 1 Dutch activist, and 1 Israeli are injured. (PCHR 1/20; OCHA 1/21)

Fearing massive protests later in the day, Tunisia's **Ben Ali** declares a state of emergency in the morning, dissolves his government, and pledges early elections within 6 mos. Within hours, he and his family flee Tunisia for Saudi Arabia, where they are granted asylum. Ben Ali's close ally, **PM Muhammad Ghannouchi**, assumes temporary control, saying he will move the government quickly toward elections. Protesters denounce his attempt to take control and demand his ouster for attempting to perpetuate Ben Ali's corrupt regime, noting that constitutionally power should transfer to the head of parliament.

In Cairo, a small group of **Egyptian protesters** gathers outside the Tunisian emb. in solidarity with Tunisian demonstrators, but also calling Mubarak a “fraud” and calling for his ouster. Police surround and outnumber them, but there is no violence. (NYT, WP 1/15; NYT 2/24)

15 JANUARY

Egyptian authorities blow up a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border, killing **1 Palestinian** and seriously injuring another. In the West Bank, the **IDF**, for a 3d day, steps up patrols in villages around Qalqilya during the daytime; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at Palestinian and international activists conducting a nonviolent march fr. Bayt Umar village to Karme Tzur settlement outside Hebron to protest land confiscations and settlement expansion, injuring **1 Palestinian**; conducts late-night house searches nr. Salfit, summoning **1 Palestinian** for questioning; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (PCHR 1/20; OCHA 1/21)

Tunisia’s Constitutional Comm.

swears in the head of the lower house of parliament, **Fouad Mebazaa**, as the **interim president**. Mebazaa, a Ben Ali ally, immediately taps PM **Ghannouchi** to form a “national unity government in the country’s best interests” within 60 days. Widespread, violent riots across the country continue, denouncing the effective perpetuation of Ben Ali’s regime. (WP 1/16)

16 JANUARY

Unidentified Palestinians fire **3 mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the former settlement sites, wounding **1**. In the West Bank, the **IDF** for a 4th day steps up patrols in villages nr. Qalqilya, also patrolling in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and **1** nr. Jericho; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in ‘Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho. (JP 1/16; PCHR 1/20; OCHA 1/21)

17 JANUARY

Israel’s Jerusalem planning comm. approves construction of 92 housing units

in Talpiot settlement and 32 apartments in Pisgat Ze’ev settlement. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire **1 Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts patrols in 3 villages nr. Qalqilya, 2 nr. Salfit, 1 nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Ramallah during the day and evening; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches, and patrols nr. Hebron, Salfit, and Tulkarm. (YA 1/17; PCHR, WJW 1/20; OCHA 1/21)

Israeli DM Ehud Barak resigns as head of the **Labor party**, taking 4 right-leaning party mbrs. with him to form a “new centrist independence faction” within Netanyahu’s governing coalition. The 8 remaining Labor MKs immediately withdraw fr. the coalition, leaving Netanyahu with a smaller but more stable coalition, controlling 66 of 120 Knesset seats. (NYT, WP, WT 1/18; WJW 1/20; JPI 1/28)

18 JANUARY

Israeli authorities indicate they intend to close the Qarni crossing into Gaza (used to import wheat, animal fodder, and construction aggregates) permanently within weeks and reroute these imports through the Kerem Shalom crossing (see Quarterly Update for details). **OCHA** reports that **Israel** has allowed no grain or fodder imports to Gaza for a week and that wheat reserves are nearly depleted. **Gaza hospital officials** report that because of a dispute between PA Health Min. officials in Ramallah and Gaza, transfers of medical supplies to Gaza hospitals have dropped off dangerously, increasing the number of medical supplies that are totally out of stock in the Strip (see Quarterly Update for details). Meanwhile in Gaza, **armed Palestinians** detonate a buried explosive device inside the northern border as an IDF patrol on the Israeli side passes, causing no casualties. The **IDF troops** fire 7 tank shells at the area, killing **1 Palestinian** and wounding **2**; the IDF claims the men were militants, whereas Palestinians claim they were innocent bystanders scavenging for construction material in the area. **Unidentified Palestinians** later fire **4-5 mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** also makes a brief incursion into n. Gaza to level land and clear lines of sight along the border fence e. of Jabaliya. A **Palestinian** dies of

injuries sustained on 1/15 when **Egyptian authorities** blew up a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized morning patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin; patrols in Hijja village nr. Qalqilya late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. (JP 1/18; WT 1/19; PCHR 1/20; OCHA 1/21)

19 JANUARY

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus and nr. Jenin; conducts late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah. (PCHR 1/20, 1/27; OCHA 1/28)

Lebanon introduces a draft of a major **United Nations Security Council** res. for debate that urges the international community to denounce **Israeli settlement activity**, using wording that artfully pieces together official U.S. statements on settlements to make it harder for the U.S. to object or veto. The **U.S.** ultimately urges **Abbas** to suspend discussion of the draft until a Quartet meeting on 2/5, suggesting the Quartet might issue a statement confirming 1967 borders as the basis of final status negotiations and condemning Israeli settlement construction. (NYT 1/20) (see Quarterly Update for details)

At an Arab economic summit in Sharm al-Shaykh, **Arab leaders** pledge \$2 b. to shore up regional economies and generate jobs in hopes of preventing the spread of antigovernment riots like those in Tunisia. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait each pledges \$500 m., with 11 other states pledging the other \$1 b. Observers say however (see NYT 1/20) that leaders are acting more out of a desire to secure their leaderships than to reform and develop their economies, noting that none of the similar initiatives agreed at the last economic summit in 2009 have been implemented. By this date, numerous self-immolations (some fatal) and antigovernment protests have taken place in **Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen** since the fall of Ben-Ali on 1/14, citing Tunisia as inspiration. In response to the Yemeni riots, the most severe to date, **Pres. Ali Abdullah Saleh** has cut income

taxes in half, imposed price controls on basic goods, raised salaries for the army, and vowed his son will not succeed him, while the **EU** has announced an additional \$19.5 m. in support to Sana'a for poverty programs. Today, an **Egyptian Facebook group** begins calling for massive street protests in Cairo on 1/25 to mark a "day of revolution against torture, poverty, corruption, and unemployment." (WT 1/19; NYT 1/20; NYT, WT 1/25; see also al-Bawaba 1/17; NYT, WP 1/18)

20 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fatally shoots an **armed Islamic Jihad mbr.** who attempts to attack a checkpoint nr. Jenin; conducts daytime patrols in 4 villages nr. Qalqilya, 3 nr. Salfit, and 2 nr. Tulkarm; enters Qalqilya in the afternoon, searching homes but making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (PCHR 1/27; OCHA 1/28)

21 JANUARY

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 **mortar** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning and afternoon patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Salfit (firing rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no serious injuries); patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Tubas; escorts **Jewish settlers** into 2 villages nr. Bethlehem to hold religious services. **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists in some areas) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Dayr Nizam/Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 2 Palestinians are lightly injured. (YA 1/22; PCHR 1/27; OCHA 1/28)

22 JANUARY

In Gaza, 1 **Palestinian** is killed and 2 are injured when they accidentally trigger **IDF UXO** while scavenging for construction materials in Gaza City. **Unidentified**

Palestinians fire a rocket fr. Gaza toward Israel, but it lands inside the Strip, killing **1 Palestinian** civilian and wounding **2 IDF** troops on Gaza border e. of Gaza City shoot and seriously wound a Palestinian farmer tending cows some 2,000 m fr. the border fence, well away fr. the no-go zone. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Bayt Lahiya coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm during the day and in 2 villages nr. Jenin at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches, and extended patrols in Nabi Salih. (PCHR 1/27; OCHA 1/28)

23 JANUARY

Al-Jazeera and Britain's *Guardian* newspaper release a set of documents written by Palestinian officials (the "**Palestine Papers**") that they claim constitutes "the confidential record of 10 years of efforts to seek a peace agreement with Israel." The more than 1,600 pages of documents dating from 1999 to 2010 are mostly from the PLO Negotiation Affairs Dept. (PLONAD) and its successor body, the Negotiations Support Unit (NSU), headed by **chief negotiator Saeb Erakat**, and include memos, emails, maps, minutes from private meetings, accounts of high-level exchanges, strategy papers, and Power Point presentations. The papers apparently were leaked to al-Jazeera by several PLONAD/NSU staff. Timed with the release, al-Jazeera begins a 4-night series (1/23–26) of hour-long programs to discuss the contents of the leaked material thematically: Jerusalem and settlements, refugees and right of return, PA security coordination with Israel, and the negotiations process. (AP, *Globe and Mail*, *Guardian*, JAZ, NYT, REU 1/23; BBC, *Guardian*, HA, MM, NYT, WP 1/24; MM, NYT, WP 1/25; MM 1/26) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** opens fire at a car driving quickly toward a checkpoint nr. Hebron, wounding 2 unarmed Palestinians; conducts daytime incursions into 2 villages nr. Qalqilya searching shops and questioning Palestinians; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem and Qalqilya. **Israeli border police** for unknown reasons enter Haris village nr. Salfit, beating several Palestinians and firing

on 1 man who attempts to flee, wounding a bystander. **Jewish settlers** fr. Carmiel settlement nr. Hebron attack Palestinian shepherds grazing sheep nearby and 2 Italian human rights activists protecting them; the **IDF** intervenes to arrest the 2 Italians. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on settlement nr. Hebron attack a Palestinian family living nr. the settlement, shooting dead a sheep and a dog, attacking cattle, and threatening to shoot 2 children. (PCHR 1/27; OCHA 1/28)

24 JANUARY

IDF troops make a brief incursion into c. Gaza northeast of al-Bureij r.c. to level land and clear lines of sight. In the West Bank, an **IDF undercover unit** enters Nabi Salih in the morning, arresting a 10-yr.-old Palestinian boy for throwing stones. The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm and nr. Jenin. (PCHR 1/27; OCHA 1/28)

With the support of the majority of parliament, **Lebanese pres. Suleiman** taps **Hizbullah's candidate, billionaire Sunni businessman Najib Mikati**, as PM designate to form the next Lebanese government. (NYT, WP 1/25) (see Quarterly Update for details)

25 JANUARY

Ireland upgrades the status of the **Palestinian representation in Dublin** from a "delegation" to a "mission" and grants the mission head ambassador status. It does not recognize Palestine as a state or give the mission greater diplomatic privileges or immunities. **Israel** expresses its "regret." (HA, YA 1/25; WJW 1/27) (see Quarterly Update for details)

OCHA reports that **Israel** has barred the import of industrial fuel for Gaza's electricity plant for 2 weeks and is now internally discussing disconnecting Gaza fr. Israel's electricity and water grid. (Gaza authorities have been able to keep electricity generation at 30% of demand by increasing the amount of fuel smuggling through tunnels fr. Egypt.) **UNRWA** reports that it has suspended 23 approved building projects in Gaza because of Israeli restrictions on gravel imports. Meanwhile, **IDF** troops make 2 brief incursion into Gaza e. of Gaza Valley village and e. of al-Maghazi r.c. to

level land and clear lines of sight. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire 2 Qassam rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. OCHA reports that since 1/19, 3 Palestinians have been injured in tunnel-related accidents (2 crushed transporting construction materials, 1 electrocuted). (JP 1/25; PCHR 1/27; OCHA 1/28)

Some **150,000 Egyptians** of all socioeconomic backgrounds inspired by events in Tunisia answer a week of calls to attend a “day of revolution” antigovernment rally in Cairo’s Tahrir Square today (a national holiday to honor police), bringing blankets, food, and water and vowing to continue protests until **Mubarak** steps down, his government is dissolved, and parliament is disbanded. (The **Muslim Brotherhood** does not participate to allow the voice of the people to stay at the fore.) The government cuts cell phone and Internet service to limit international coverage and mobilization efforts via social networking sites. Late at night, government security forces raided the square firing tear gas and water cannons, beating some demonstrators, and arresting others in an unsuccessful effort to drive them out. After a paroxysm of retaliatory violence that kills 1 police officer and some looting in the National Museum on the square, protesters disengage and mobilize to call for non-violence, notably creating a cordon around the museum to protect it. Parallel protests are held in Alexandria, Suez (where violent clashes kill 2 demonstrators), and several smaller towns, with larger protests called for Friday 1/28. By this date, there have also been several days of protests in **Yemen** calling for Pres. Saleh’s removal, citing economic ills, corruption, and rumors Saleh plans to install his son as his successor. (NYT, WP, WT 1/25; AFP, *al-Masri al-Yawm* 1/26; see also NYT 1/23; AFP 1/26; NYT 1/27)

26 JANUARY

Peru recognizes “a sovereign **Palestine**,” but says the borders must be agreed with Israel. (JP 2/5) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In Gaza, **1,000s of Hamas supporters** burn effigies of **Abbas** and other PA officials, calling them traitors in light of al-Jazeera’s leak of the Palestine Papers. In the West Bank, shortly after al-Najah

University prof. ‘Abdul Sattar Qassem is interviewed by **al-Jazeera** in the Palmedia offices in Nablus regarding the Palestine Papers leak, 5 plain-clothes men (1 armed, 4 unarmed) believed to be **PA General Intelligence** units raid the office looking for Qassem; informed he has already left, the men vandalize the office and damage video equipment. Also in the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in Khara-batha al-Misbah and arrest raids and house searches in Nabi Salih, both nr. Ramallah. **Israeli authorities** say they have arrested **4 West Bank Palestinians** for the murder of an American tourist on 12/19, alleging the murder was in revenge for Israel’s assassination of Hamas’s Mahmud Mabhuh in 1/2010. (NYT, PCHR 1/27; PCHR 2/3; OCHA 2/4)

27 JANUARY

In the West Bank, a **Jewish settler** opens fire on a group of Palestinian youths who throw stones at him as he passes nr. Iraq Burin village nr. Nablus, killing **1 Palestinian teenager**. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar nr. Nablus set fire to a Palestinian car and vandalize a Palestinian home in the nearby village of ‘Ayn Abous. The **IDF** prevents Palestinian farmers guarded by solidarity activists (including PA officials and a rep. of the U.S. consulate) fr. reaching their agricultural land nr. Bet Ayn and Karne Tzur settlements nr. Hebron; patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 1 nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Tulkarm. In East Jerusalem **Jewish settlers** harass Palestinians in Silwan. In Gaza, 2 Palestinian brothers tending sheep nr. Shuka village accidentally trigger **IDF UXO**, killing **1 Palestinian boy** and 2 sheep. (OCHA, WP 1/28; PCHR 2/3; OCHA 2/4)

More than **10,000 Yemenis** rally in Sana’a and 1,000s in other cities around the nation, taking inspiration from anti-government protests in Tunisia and Egypt. The government deploys riot police, but little violence is reported. Government spokesmen state that the regime “strongly respects the democratic right for a peaceful assembly.” Unlike Tunisia and Egypt, where demonstrations were spontaneous and broad based, those in Yemen seem to be made up mostly of students organized by opposition parties. While all protesters highlight poverty, corruption, and lack

of jobs among their grievances, they seem divided on other key goals, with some prioritizing secession for the south and others calling on Pres. Saleh to resign after being in power for more than 30 yrs. (NYT, WP, WT 1/28)

In **Tunisia**, after a spike in violence in the week following Ben Ali's departure on 1/14 (mostly involving desperate Ben Ali loyalists making a final attempt to reassert control) and days of low-level demonstrations (1,000 or fewer protesters) denouncing the high number of Ben Ali loyalists in the new interim government, demonstrations taper off. By this date, the interim government has reduced the curfew and released at least 1,800 political prisoners, with more to be freed soon. Today, a **re-shuffled interim government** with the "clear mission" of guiding "a transition to democracy" is announced and begins work to redraft the constitution and prepare for elections in 6 mos. While most mbrs. of Ben Ali's old cabinet have now stepped down, Ghannouchi retains his post as interim PM but vows he will not run in elections. (NYT 1/27, 1/28; NYT 2/14; see also NYT, WP, WT 1/17; NYT, WP, WT 1/18; NYT 1/19; WP 1/20; WT 1/21; WP 1/26)

28 JANUARY

Paraguay recognizes **Palestine** as independent state on the 1967 borders. (JP 2/5) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In Gaza, **1,000s of Hamas supporters** protest against the PA in light of the Palestine Papers revelations about negotiation concessions, particularly on the right of return. In the West Bank, around **2,000 Palestinians** in Hebron and smaller groups in other cities attend **Fatah**-organized rallies in support of Abbas and against al-Jazeera. Also in the West Bank, **a group of 100 armed Jewish settlers** hiking nr. Khirbat Safa nr. Hebron is confronted by stone-throwing Palestinian youths, prompting 1 **Jewish settler** to open fire, killing 1 **Palestinian teenager** and wounding a 2d, marking the 2d such shooting in 2 days. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yonatan outpost in the East Jerusalem environs attack nearby Palestinian houses; accompanying IDF soldiers fire tear gas and stun grenades to keep Palestinians at a distance, sparking a fire that lightly damages 1 home. Meanwhile in the West Bank,

the **IDF** patrols in villages nr. Ramallah, Tulkarm; enters Jayyus village nr. Qalqilya, searching 1 home but making no arrests.

Palestinians (accompanied by Israeli and international activists in some areas) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in and Ni'lin. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, injuring 2 Palestinians. **PA General Intelligence units** detain leading **Hizb al-Tahrir mbr. Mus'ab Abu Arqub** after Friday prayers in Dura nr. Hebron. (WP 1/29, MNA 1/30; PCHR 2/3; OCHA 2/4)

Across Egypt, **100,000s of protesters** heed the call to observe a "**Friday of rage**" in Egypt, launching massive demonstrations after midday prayers. Protesters burn the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) headquarters in Cairo's Tahrir Square. Police stations and NDP offices are torched in several of Cairo's middle-class neighborhoods and poorer quarters, as well as in Alexandria, Suez, Port Said, Damietta, Damanhour, and other areas of Upper Egypt and Sinai; prisoners in several jails are freed. With regular police already largely having withdrawn fr. the street, not wanting to confront protesters, **Mubarak** sends out security and plain-clothes police who violently clash with demonstrators and target journalists, killing as many as 300 and injuring as many as 2,000. Protesters in Cairo and Alexandria overwhelm the security police by dusk, forcing Mubarak to withdraw them to regroup and send the army and tanks into the cities to impose a curfew; but when protesters ignore the curfew, the army does not act. Later, **Mubarak** appears on state TV and, in effort to appease critics and quell protests, pledges to speed up his program of political and economic reforms, announcing that he has dissolved his cabinet, appointed a new PM to form a new government, and named **military intelligence chief Gen. Omar Suleiman** as his 1st ever VP, but protesters vow to remain in the streets until he steps down. The **U.S.** issues its first warnings that it will review its \$1.56 b. in annual aid to Egypt depending on how events unfold in the coming days, pressing its contacts within the Egyptian army to avoid violence. **Abbas**, however, phones Mubarak to assure him of the **PA's** support for Egypt's security and stability. (IHS Global Insight, Middle East

Research and Information Project, NYT, WP 1/29; MNA 1/30)

In **Jordan**, where criticism of the king is banned, **1,000s of demonstrators** inspired by events in Egypt and Tunisia turn out after Friday prayers in Amman and cities across the kingdom to demand the resignation of **PM Samir al-Rifa'i** and his cabinet, dissolution of the parliament, and a new round of free and fair elections. (The last parliamentary elections held in 11/2010 were widely criticized as fraudulent.) (NYT 1/29; NYT, WP 1/30; WP 2/1; NYT 2/2) (see Quarterly Update for details)

29 JANUARY

In the West Bank, **IDF** soldiers in an observation tower at the entrance to Bayt Umar fire tear gas and percussion grenades at Palestinian mourners leaving the funeral of the Palestinian killed by a settler on 1/28, sparking clashes in which 25 Palestinians are lightly injured and 2 are arrested. The **IDF** also patrols inside Qalqilya in the afternoon and in villages nr. Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Salfit (searching 1 home nr. Salfit, ordering 1 Palestinian to appear for questioning). (PCHR 2/3; OCHA 2/4)

30 JANUARY

In light of domestic security concerns, **Egypt seals its border with Gaza**, causing almost all trade through the smuggling tunnels along the Rafah border to cease, sparking hoarding by Gazans. **Hamas authorities** assure the public that it has enough fuel and food stockpiled to last several days, warning merchants against hiking prices. **OCHA** however—noting that **Israel** continues to cut off all industrial fuel imports to Gaza for a 3d week making Gaza all the more reliant on smuggled fuel—expresses concern that fuel shortages will quickly become a problem, affecting the ability of municipal authorities to provide electricity, water, and sewage treatment. Meanwhile, **Hamas officials** in Gaza report that at least **8 Hamas mbrs.** jailed in Egypt are among those freed during prisons breaks and rioting across Egypt in recent days; at least 2 have already returned to Gaza through smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in a village nr. Tulkarm during the day; conducts late-night arrest raids,

house searches in Hebron and nr. Jenin and Qalqilya (warning the mayor of Jayyus that his house would be turned into an IDF post if stone-throwing at troops fr. the village continued). (AFP, MNA 1/30; PCHR 2/3; OCHA 2/4)

With major protests (10,000s) in **Egypt** continuing unabated and a “march of millions” called for 2/1, the **Obama admin.** calls on **Mubarak** to facilitate a “orderly transition” to a more representative government but does not explicitly call on him to resign, with Secy. **Clinton** stressing “we are not advocating any specific outcome,” but “it needs to be done immediately.” **France** and **Germany** issue similar statements. **Joint Chiefs of Staff head Adm. Mike Mullen** phones **Egyptian military chief of staff Gen. Sami Anan** to express “his appreciation for the continued professionalism of the Egyptian military” in refusing to engage protesters. Amid signs that Mubarak’s regime might really topple, **Egypt’s organized opposition parties**, including the **Muslim Brotherhood**, huddle for most of the day to discuss whether they could project a united front to provide direction and leadership to the popular protest, choosing opposition figure and fmr. IAEA head **Muhammad El-Baradei** (as a nonthreatening figure to the West) to represent the opposition in negotiations with the government over a transition and naming 10 persons they would delegate to an interim unity government. But when El-Baradei speaks in Tahrir Square in the evening, demonstrators reject him, saying the opposition parties do not represent them. Fearing that outside forces could begin smuggling weapons into the country to back an overthrow, **Egypt** seals the Gaza border indefinitely and, with **Israel’s** permission, moves 2 battalions (800 soldiers) into the Sinai for the 1st time since the 1979 peace treaty was reached, requiring the area to be a demilitarized zone. **Israeli officials** hold nearly around-the-clock strategy meetings to discuss the implications for Israel if Mubarak’s government falls, fearing that Mubarak’s overthrow could strengthen Hamas in Gaza and destabilize Jordan, but seeing Mubarak’s appointment of Suleiman, who has overseen Israeli-Hamas prisoner release talks, as a hopeful sign. **Netanyahu** orders officials to stay publicly silent as events play out. (MNA, NYT, WP 1/30; NYT, WP, WT 1/31)

31 JANUARY

Unidentified Palestinians fire 2 Grad rockets fr. Gaza into Israel in 2 barrages; 1 Grad strikes in Netivot, causing minor damage, while the other lands nr. Ofakim, causing no damage or injuries. **Israel** files a formal complaint with the UN regarding the Grad fire. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. settlement sites, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts evening and late-night patrols in village nr. Jenin, Tulkarm, and Ramallah; and conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** gather nr. Bayt Lid juncting nr. Tulkarm to throw stones at Palestinian cars on the Tulkarm-Nablus road, causing no injuries. (PCHR 2/3; OCHA 2/4)

1 FEBRUARY

The **PA**, under heavy criticism for the negotiation details revealed by the Palestine Papers, announces that it will hold **Palestinian municipal, legislative, and presidential elections** as quickly as possible, pledging to set dates within a wk. (NYT 2/2) (see Quarterly Update for details)

UNRWA reports that it has been forced to suspend another 26 Gaza construction projects because of Israeli limits on gravel imports (see 1/25). In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in a village nr. Ramallah in the morning; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c. and nr. Hebron. A **Palestinian court** in Nablus finds a Palestinian guilty of selling land to an Israeli, sentencing him to 10 yrs. in jail. (PCHR 2/3; OCHA 2/4; JPI 2/5)

Jordan's King Abdullah dismisses **PM Samir Rifa'i and his cabinet** in response to widespread protests by Jordanians inspired by demonstrations in Egypt and Tunisia. He taps **Maruf al-Bakhit**, a popular retired general and fmr. amb. to Israel, to form a new cabinet. (NYT, WP 2/2) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In Cairo, **100,000s of Egyptians** join protesters in Tahrir Square for the **March of Millions**, as similar protests are held around the country. (Little violence is reported.) Protesters hold fast to demands that Mubarak resign, rejecting his offers

over the past 2 days to reshuffle his cabinet, to open talks with El-Baradei, and not to seek reelection when his formal term ends in 9/2011. Meanwhile, the **U.S.** and **EU** have stepped up diplomatic efforts to pressure Mubarak to begin an "immediate transitional process leading to democratic elections," without explicitly calling on Mubarak to step down. Mubarak, outraged, today hardens his positions and escalates violence to break up the protests, while the international community steps up diplomatic efforts (especially U.S. talks with Egyptian military figures) to put him in check. (NYT, White House press release, WP, WT 2/1; JP, NYT, WP, WT 2/2; Human Rights Watch press release, NYT, WP, WT 2/3; NYT, WP, WT 2/4; NYT, WP 2/7; see also YA 1/31)

2 FEBRUARY

In retaliation for rocket fire on 1/31, the **IDF** makes an **air strike** on a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** arrests 3 Palestinian children (ages 13–16) for straying nr. the separation wall in Bil'in; makes a late-night raid on a Palestinian home in al-Khadir nr. Bethlehem looking for a 12-yr.-old boy who threw stones at troops earlier in the day, assaulting a boy in the house and knocking him unconscious (he is taken by ambulance to a hospital for evaluation), roughly searching rooms, and allegedly stealing gold; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah. (AFP, YA 2/2; PCHR 2/3, 2/10; OCHA 2/11)

In Ramallah, the **PA**, which had banned anti-Mubarak protests in the West Bank, organizes 100s of Fatah mbrs. into pro-Mubarak demonstrations, with the PA-controlled media denouncing **Egyptian opposition figure El-Baradei** as a war criminal and CIA agent, calling him responsible for the war on Iraq. Later in the day, some 150 Palestinians in Ramallah organize a counterdemonstration in solidarity with the Egyptian people but are beaten and dispersed by **PA riot police**, who arrest 2 journalists and a human rights worker monitoring the rally. To date, the **PFLP** is the only Palestinian faction to come out in support of the Egyptian demonstrators. (JP 2/2; Human Rights Watch press release, NYT, WP, WT 2/3; NYT 2/4; WP 2/7)

Yemen's pres. **Saleh** pledges he will not run again when his term ends in 2013 or appoint his son to succeed him. In the past 10 days, he has also promised to lift the state of emergency imposed since 1992, raised the salaries of soldiers and civil servants, pledged to hire more college graduates, cut income taxes, imposed price controls, extended welfare payments to an additional 500,000 Yemenis, waived college tuition fees for students for the current year, and promised to reopen voter registration to enable some 1.5 m. Yemenis to register to vote. Today, **Obama** issues a statement welcoming Saleh's reform steps. The opposition remains dubious, with many saying Saleh must step down immediately. Hereafter, protests shrink in size (from the 1,000s to the 100s) but increase in frequency, becoming near daily events in Sana'a and Aden through the end of the quarter. (NYT, WP 2/3; NYT 2/4)

3 FEBRUARY

Amid concerns that the Mubarak regime in Egypt might fall, **Israel** begins internal discussion of possibly reclaiming control of the **Philadelphi Corridor** along the Rafah-Gaza border and significantly increasing the military budget and expanding the IDF to defend against any threat fr. Egypt (see Quarterly Update for details). In Gaza City, around **1,000 Hamas supporters** hold a rally outside Egypt's mission offices in solidarity with Egyptian protesters. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 5 villages nr. Qalqilya, 2 nr. Tulkarm, 1 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Jenin; in 2 incidents they are confronted by stone-throwing youths and respond with rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and percussion grenades, causing no serious injuries. (WP, WT 2/4; PCHR 2/10; OCHA 2/11)

4 FEBRUARY

In advance of a major **Quartet** meeting on 2/5, **Netanyahu** announces that Israel has drawn up a package of steps (under discussion with **Quartet special envoy Tony Blair** for months) to encourage infrastructure development and economic growth in the West Bank, Gaza, and Arab areas of East Jerusalem in effort to "enhance stability" by improving the Palestinian quality of life. He stresses, however,

that the package has not yet been offered to the PA. (NYT 2/5; OCHA 2/11) (see Quarterly update for details)

Unidentified Palestinians fire a Qasam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and conducts arrest raids nr. Salfit. **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists in some areas) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Dayr Nizam/Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 2 Palestinians (including 1 journalist) are injured, and 4 unidentified activists are arrested. (HA 2/4; PCHR 2/10; OCHA 2/11)

Despite 2 days of violent clashes initiated by pro-Mubarak elements (at least 8 Egyptians killed and more than 800 injured), massive crowds (**100,000s of Egyptians**) answer the call to turn out after midday Friday prayers to demand for Mubarak's immediate removal. The army redeploys around Tahrir Square to create buffers separating pro- and anti-Mubarak demonstrators to reduce the chance of violent clashes. Though anticipated as the "**Day of Departure**" for Mubarak, he does not step aside. The **U.S.** calls on opposition figures and leaders of the military and society to step forward and bless, if not join, talks between the government and opposition parties. Opposition figures say that while they see "encouraging signs" that Mubarak is seeking a face-saving way to step down, they will not negotiate about a transition until Mubarak has gone. (NYT, WP, WT 2/5)

5 FEBRUARY

The **Quartet** holds a planned meeting in Munich. Backing away fr. making a substantive statement reaffirming 1967 borders as the basis of negotiations and calling on Israel to halt settlement construction (see 1/19), it issues a statement urging Israel and the Palestinians to move quickly toward final status in light of the unrest in Egypt, saying a prolonged impasse would undermine regional stability. (HA 2/5) (see Quarterly Update for details)

IDF troops on the Gaza border e. of Gaza City and n. of Bayt Lahiya fire

warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials nr. the border fence, wounding 3. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning and 1 nr. Jericho late at night; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin in the morning and nr. Hebron, Jenin, and Ramallah late at night. (PCHR 2/10; OCHA 2/11)

6 FEBRUARY

OCHA reports that smuggling through the Rafah tunnels has resumed to 1/29 levels, though the crossing itself remains closed (see 1/30). **Unidentified Palestinians** fire 4 **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel in 2 barrages, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** enters Tulkarm in the morning, deploying nr. a college campus to randomly check IDs, withdrawing hrs. later without making any arrests; patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 2 villages nr. Jenin in the evening, firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them in 1 incident, causing no injuries; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm and nr. Hebron and Qalqilya. (JP 2/6; PCHR 2/10; OCHA 2/11)

7 FEBRUARY

Israel refuses **Egypt's** request to deploy additional forces in the Sinai. (JP 2/7; WJW 2/10) (see 1/30)

IDF troops on the Gaza border e. of Bayt Hanun fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the border fence, forcing them to flee; fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials nr. the border e. of Gaza City, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin, 2 nr. Salfit, 1 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Tulkarm; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin r.c. and nr. Salfit. (PCHR 2/10; OCHA 2/11)

8 FEBRUARY

The **PA** sets 7/9/2011 as the start date for **municipal elections** in the West Bank. (WT 2/9) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In the morning, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 2 **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing light damage but no injuries. In the afternoon, **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** fire 2 more **mortars** into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Late in the evening, the **IDF** retaliates with an **air strike**, destroying an abandoned plastics factory in Gaza City (an alleged weapons manufacturing facility), also damaging a nearby PA Health Min. warehouse used for storing medicine, a textile factory, and a school and lightly injuring 11 Palestinian civilians (including 4 children). An hr. later, the **IDF** makes 2 **air strikes** on an Islamic Jihad training site in Khan Yunis (injuring 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs.) and a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border (no injuries). Also during the day, the **IDF** makes a brief incursion into s. Gaza e. of Shuka village to level lands and clear lines of sight, firing on nearby residential areas to keep Palestinians indoors, causing no injuries. **UNRWA** reports that it has resumed 3 stalled construction projects in Gaza after Israel allowed in 2 large shipments of construction aggregates (see 2/1). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Tubas, in Nablus, and nr. Hebron. (YA 2/9; PCHR 2/10; OCHA 2/11)

Egyptian demonstrators hold the largest rally in Tahrir Square to date and surround the parliament building, rejecting government proposals for an extended transition and demanding Mubarak's immediate removal and dissolution of parliament. Huge demonstrations are also held in Alexandria, Suez, and other cities. **Egyptian labor unions** begin a nationwide general strike to observe a "Week of Steadfastness" with demonstrators. Since 2/4, Mubarak has released some activists arrested since 1/25, allowed government contact with the Muslim Brotherhood for the first time, agreed in principle to lift emergency regulations and allow a free press, formed a legal panel (all Mubarak loyalists) to explore constitutional changes demanded by protesters, announced 15% raises for civil servants and pensioners, and vowed to open corruption investigations of senior government and NDP party officials. Some opposition figures note (e.g., WP 2/7) that some of these steps were significant and might have been enough to appease protesters 2 wks. ago, but that the

mood has shifted significantly since then and these steps are now seen as far too little. Another round of massive demonstrations in Tahrir Square is called for Friday 2/10. In the interim, labor strikes and demonstrations grow and spread nationwide. (NYT, WP, WT 2/8; NYT, WP, WT 2/9; NYT, WP, WT 2/10; see also NYT, WP 2/6; NYT, WP, WT 2/7)

9 FEBRUARY

IDF troops make a brief incursion into c. Gaza e. of Gaza Valley village to level land and clear lines of sight. The **PFLP** claims its mbrs. directed cross-border fire at an **IDF** jeep on the Israeli side of the Gaza border fence e. of Gaza City; the **IDF** says it has no reports of an attack. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 6 residential shelters and 21 animal pens in Khirbat Tana nr. Nablus, displacing 52 Palestinians, including 30 children (see 12/6); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinian youths nr. Nablus; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jericho in the afternoon and nr. Hebron and Tubas late at night. (IDFS, MNA, PCHR 2/10, 2/17; OCHA 2/18)

Jordan's new government, led by PM **Bakhit**, is sworn in. The cabinet includes 1 former Muslim Brotherhood mbr., a leading female activist, and mbrs. of the leftist unionists. (WT 2/10)

10 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Bayt Dajan village nr. Nablus in the morning, photographing several homes, the local council building, and a mosque; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing youths in 1 incident, causing no serious injuries; patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, checking Palestinian IDs but making no arrests. (PCHR 2/17; OCHA 2/18)

Early in the day, **Egyptian military and ruling party officials** announce that **Mubarak** will make a televised address later in the day and "meet the demands of the protesters." The statement's title, "communiqué no. 1 of the army command," and accompanying TV footage showing **DM Field Marshal Hussein**

Tantawi and **military chief of staff Gen. Anan** chairing a meeting of senior army officers without Mubarak or Suleiman present spark rumors that the military has staged a coup. Raising expectations, Gen. Anan and **Gen. Hassan al-Roueini (military cmdr. of Cairo)** separately go to Tahrir Square to tell protesters that "all your demands will be met today." When **Mubarak** gives his statement, however, he only turns over powers to Suleiman temporarily and makes some constitutional amendments, but vows again not to step down before his term expires and that he will oversee the reform process. Suleiman follows with a separate speech telling Egyptians to "go back home and to work. Do not listen to foreign[ers] whose aim is to . . . weaken Egypt." The immediate reaction of protesters listening to the addresses in Tahrir Square is deep anger and frustration, with demonstrators chanting "Leave! Leave! Leave!" as Mubarak's speech unfolds. Senior military officers soon after tell the Egyptian press that the speeches were not seen in advance by the **Supreme Council of the Egyptian Armed Forces** and were "in defiance of the armed forces." (AP, Huffington Post, NYT, WP 2/10; NYT, WP, WT 2/11)

11 FEBRUARY

In East Jerusalem, a group of **Jewish settlers** stabs and beats 2 East Jerusalem Palestinians, killing 1 Palestinian and wounding the other; Israeli authorities confiscate the body of the man killed and return it to the family with orders to hold the burial immediately, with no more than 10 family mbrs. present to prevent rioting (the family complies). In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 nr. Qalqilya, and 2 nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon and evening, and in 1 village nr. Qalqilya late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists in some areas) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Dayr Nizam/Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 3 Palestinians are injured, and 3 are arrested. (PCHR 2/17; OCHA 2/18)

Early in the day, with massive antigovernment protests expected in **Egypt** after Friday's midday prayers, rumors spread that **Mubarak** has left Cairo for his residence in Sharm al-Shaykh under pressure from the army. Soon after, the **Supreme Council of the Egyptian Armed Forces** issues communiqué no. 2 indicating that the military is in effective control of the country and will oversee "the peaceful transfer of authority . . . towards a free democratic community that the people aspire to," and pledging not to take action against protesters for demonstrating against the government. Timed with late-evening prayers, VP **Suleiman** confirms that **Mubarak** has "decided to relieve himself of his position as president and the supreme military council has taken control of the state's affairs," ending the 82-yr.-old leader's 30-yr. rule. Flag-waving crowds in Tahrir Square and nationwide erupt in celebration. (AHR, NYT 2/11; NYT, WP, WT 2/12)

In **Gaza**, 1,000s of Hamas supporters rally to celebrate Mubarak's fall, calling on the next Egyptian government to open the Rafah border and reconsider Egypt's relations with Israel. In the **West Bank**, the **PA** continues to bar rallies in solidarity with Egyptian protesters, but 100s of Palestinians spontaneously honk horns and cheer in the streets when news of Mubarak's exit broadcast. (NYT 2/12)

12 FEBRUARY

The **PLO Exec. Comm.** says it plans to hold **Palestinian legislative and presidential elections** by 9/2011. **Hamas** says it will not participate in local or national elections, saying a national unity agreement must come before a vote. (NYT, WP 2/13; WP 2/16)

IDF troops on the Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials 3 times (twice in the fmr. Jewish settlements nr. the n. border fence, once nr. the border e. of Gaza City), wounding 3 Palestinians. In the West Bank, the **IDF** enters Qalqilya in the morning, patrols streets, setting up a checkpoint, raiding 1 store, and summoning 3 Palestinians for questioning; patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, 1 nr. Salfit in the afternoon and 1 village nr. Qalqilya and 1 nr. Ramallah late at night. In Ramallah,

100s of Palestinians march in support of Egypt's prodemocracy movement. (WP 2/13; PCHR 2/17; OCHA 2/18)

Egypt's Supreme Military Council issues communiqué no. 4 pledging to "meet the legitimate demands of the people" and oversee a quick transition to a "democratic and free" Egypt run by civilians, but says Mubarak's government and institutions will stay on as caretaker in the short term. It also pledges that Egypt will honor its international treaties, including the peace treaty with **Israel**. (**Netanyahu** welcomes the statement.) An opposition coalition called the **Coalition of the Youth of the Revolution** (representing mbrs. of the youth movement credited with rallying the protests, the Muslim Brotherhood, and El-Baradei's umbrella organization) urges protesters to go home, saying it will lead negotiations with the military going forward. The army moves quickly through the end of the quarter to disband parliament, suspend the constitution, and appoint a legitimate constitutional reform comm. (NYT, WP, WT 2/13; NYT, WP, WT 2/14; NYT, WP, WT 2/16)

13 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin, 2 nr. Salfit, and 2 nr. Tulkarm; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya and Salfit. **Jewish settlers** fr. Beit Ayn settlement nr. Hebron uproot 250 Palestinian olive seedlings in nearby Safa village. (PCHR 2/17; OCHA 2/18)

14 FEBRUARY

To demonstrate some accountability in light of the Palestine Papers and to give Abbas the chance to strengthen his base in advance of elections, his cabinet resigns. **Abbas** immediately reappoints **Fayyad** as PM to form a new government. (NYT, WP 2/15) (see Quarterly Update for details)

Israel's Jerusalem municipal authority approves 120 new housing units in Ramot settlement in East Jerusalem. **Israeli authorities** also bulldoze 1 d. of Palestinian fruit trees in Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem. Timed with the swearing-in ceremony of Israel's **new IDF chief of staff Benny Gantz**, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a Qassam rocket

fr. Gaza into Israel; coming after several days of relative calm on the Gaza border, Israel says it interprets the strike as a message fr. the Gaza factions that they will not "make life easy" for Gantz in his new position. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. settlement sites, wounding 1. **OCHA** reports that **Gaza hospitals** have received 2 shipments of medical supplies fr. the **PA Health Min.** in Ramallah in recent days (see 1/18), reducing the number of supplies at zero stock fr. 183 to 150 (out of 480 essential items tracked). In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, 2 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Jericho, firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and percussion grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them in 1 incident, causing no serious injuries; conducts late-

night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, and Jenin. **Jewish settlers** fr. Halamish settlement nr. Ramallah uproot 12 olive seedlings in neighboring Nabi Salih. (JP, YA 2/14; PCHR, WJW 2/17; OCHA 2/18)

15 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning and in Nur al-Shams r.c. and neighboring Tulkarm r.c. late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Ramallah. **OCHA** reports that Israel has announced that the Hawara checkpoint, the main checkpoint controlling access to Nablus, will no longer be staffed; Israel has steadily eased access to Nablus since 6/2009. (PCHR 2/17; OCHA 2/18)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AHR	(<i>al-Abram</i> , Cairo)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
HA	(<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
IDFS	(Israel Defense Force Spokesperson, [Internet])
JAZ	(al-Jazeera Satellite Channel Television, Doha)
JP	(<i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem)
JPI	(<i>Jerusalem Post International Edition</i> , Jerusalem)
JTA	(Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet])
MM	(<i>Mideast Mirror</i> , London)
MNA	(Ma'an News Agency, Bethlehem)
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)
REU	(Reuters [Internet])
UPI	(United Press International [Internet])
WJW	(<i>Washington Jewish Week</i> , Rockville, MD)
WP	(<i>Washington Post</i> , Washington)
WT	(<i>Washington Times</i> , Washington)
YA	(<i>Yedi'ot Abaronot</i> , Tel Aviv)