

CHRONOLOGY

16 FEBRUARY–15 MAY 2013

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This is part 118 of a chronology begun in Journal of Palestine Studies (JPS) 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect North American Eastern Standard Time. For a more comprehensive overview of regional and international developments related to the peace process, see the Quarterly Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in JPS 168.

16 FEBRUARY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrests in Hebron in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 2/21)

The **Palestinian Central Elections Commission (CEC)** announces that 155,000 people in the **Gaza Strip** (79% of eligible voters) have registered to vote in planned legislative elections, with 2 days remaining until the electoral roll closes. The CEC says that 76% of eligible West Bank voters are on the roll. The voter registration drive is the necessary step towards as yet unscheduled elections, should **Fatah** and **Hamas** agree on how to proceed and with several outstanding issues that could cause a delay (see Quarterly Update for details). (MNA 2/16)

European Union foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton issues a statement calling on **Israel** to improve conditions for **Palestinian** prisoners, noting “with concern” the case of 4 particular inmates on long-standing hunger strikes. (REU 2/16)

IDF soldiers provide medical assistance to 7 injured **Syrian** nationals they discover nr. the border fence in the occupied **Golan Heights**. The injured men reportedly are rebels fleeing fighting against forces loyal to **Syrian pres. Bashar al-Asad**. (HA 2/16)

Hizballah leader Hasan Nasrallah makes a speech from an undisclosed location stating that his group does not need support from **Syria** or **Iran** for any

future battle against **Israel**. The comments are seen as a reference to claims that **Israel's** 1/30 attack on **Syria** targeted a weapons convoy destined for **Hizballah** (see Chronology for *JPS* 167). (REU 2/16)

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei says that the country does not want to build nuclear arms but that if they did, no country could stop them. Khamenei also promises revenge on **Israel** for the death of Revolutionary Guards commander **Hessam Khoshnevis**, also called **Hassan Shateri** in some news accounts, who was killed in **Syria** close to the **Lebanese border** by rebel fighters that **Tehran** accuses of working to advance U.S. and **Israeli** interests. (REU 2/16)

17 FEBRUARY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. **Jenin** in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. **Jericho**, **Ramallah**, and **Salfit** at night; conducts house searches and arrests in 2 villages nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. **Salfit** and 1 village each nr. Hebron, **Qalqilya**, **Tulkarm**, and **Aida** refugee camp (r.c.) in **Bethlehem** at night. Schools across the **West Bank** are on strike to protest the failure of the **Palestinian Authority (PA)** to pay 1/2013 wages, with a second day of industrial action planned for later in the week. (MNA 2/16; PCHR 2/21)

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu tells **Likud** ministers that he intends to create a broad coalition following **January's** elections in order to advance negotiations with the **Palestinians** from a position of strength. (AP, HA 2/17)

Israeli security officials visit **Cairo** for the second time in a week to discuss the regional security situation with **Egyptian intelligence officials**. Items for discussion include the security situation in Sinai and the indirect talks with Hamas. **Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya** confirms that the organization is indeed conducting indirect talks with **Israel** over the details of the cease-fire deal that ended **Israel's Operation Pillar of Defense** in 11/2012, including possibly allowing the entry of Qatari-donated construction materials to **Gaza** and the export of Gaza's agricultural products to **Israel**. (MNA, ToI 2/17)

Hizballah forces controlling 8 Syrian border villages expand into other adjacent villages, prompting the fighting between **Hizballah** fighters and **Free Syrian Army** rebels in Syrian territory nr. the Lebanese border. (AP, REU 2/17)

18 FEBRUARY 2013

Palestinians protest in **Bethlehem**, **Hebron** and **Ramallah** in solidarity with hunger-striking prisoners in **Israeli** jails. In al-Khader village nr. Bethlehem, **Palestinians** demonstrate by Route 60, until they are violently dispersed by **Israeli** soldiers. The **IDF** also clashes with **Palestinians** nr. al-'Arub r.c. north of Hebron, shooting 1 **Palestinian** in the leg; 1 **IDF** soldier is moderately injured. **Palestinians** throw stones in Hebron and on Highway 446 nr. Ramallah; no one is injured in these clashes. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon [see above], and in Bethlehem and 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli** naval vessels open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the coast of northern Gaza, wounding 2. (HA, MNA 2/18; PCHR 2/21)

The **PA's director of custom taxes and VAT Ahmad al-Hilou** says that **Israel** is still withholding tax revenues from the PA, a step taken in 11/2012 as a response to the successful UN bid (see JPS 167). A meeting between PA and **Israeli** officials to discuss transferring 1/2013 tax revenues is set for 2/28. (MNA 2/18)

Egyptian security officials say that a delegation from **Cairo** will visit **Israel** for talks on the Gaza cease-fire and border restrictions, and will present

a demand for **Israel** to allow commercial goods to enter Gaza via the Rafah crossing. The visit comes a day after an **Israeli** delegation visited **Cairo**. (MNA 2/18)

The **Turkish** media report that **Israel** has supplied electronic warfare systems to the **Turkish** military, the first such exchange since the deadly attack on the *Mavi Marama* in 5/2010. An **Israeli** defense source says that the deal came about after American pressure and due to an **Israeli** desire to improve relations with **Turkey**. (HA 2/18)

European Union foreign ministers announce that the sanctions regime against **Syria** will remain the same, with the addition of an amendment allowing for the supply of "non-lethal support and technical assistance for the protection of civilians"—wording intended to further aid rebels, but stopping short of a push by **Britain** and **France** to make support for the rebels more explicit. (AP 2/18)

19 FEBRUARY 2013

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu signs a coalition agreement with **Tzipi Livni's Hatnua** party, under which Livni will become Justice Minister as well as heading the government's negotiations team with the **Palestinians**. (HA, ToI 2/20)

Palestinians hold demonstrations in the **West Bank**, as an estimated 800 **Palestinian** prisoners declare a one-day fast in solidarity with long-term hunger striking prisoners being held as administrative detainees. Some 200 protesters clash with **Israeli soldiers** in the northern West Bank city, Hawara, causing no serious injuries. Meanwhile, **UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon** expresses concern at the ongoing **Palestinian** hunger strike, saying that "those detained should be charged and face trial with judicial guarantees in accordance with international standards, or be promptly released. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin and nr. Tulkarm in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Tulkarm, al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Hebron, Aida r.c. and al-Dheisha r.c. in Bethlehem at night. The **Israeli navy** arrests 2 **Palestinian fishermen** off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, nr. Bayt Lahiya. The **IDF** also conducts 2 incursions into

the Gaza Strip, nr. Jabaliya and nr. Khan Yunis, levelling land in both cases. (AP, MNA, REU 2/19; PCHR 2/21)

Head of the PA's borders and crossing department Nathmi Muhanna announces that the **European Union** will fund expansion of the Kerem Shalom crossing into Gaza in order to increase its capacity to 500 truckloads per day (up from its current 300). Muhanna also says that **Israel** has informed his department of their intention to allow entry of new empty domestic gas cylinders into the Gaza Strip, as well as new fuel trucks, and the installation of a new phone and Internet line from Israel to the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, Yousef Rizka, adviser to **Hamas PM Ismail Haniyeh**, says that the **Egyptian authorities** are flooding smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border with sewage water. (MNA 2/19)

Israeli security officials visit **Cairo** for the second time in a week to discuss the Gaza cease-fire with their Egyptian counterparts. An unnamed **Hamas** official says that the talks are focused on "humanitarian issues," not politics. (MNA 2/19)

20 FEBRUARY 2013

PA senior negotiation officials Saeb Erekat and **Mohammed Eshtaya** arrive in **Washington D.C.** to update the **Obama admin.** about the PA's current position on talks with **Israel**. They are expected to discuss conditions for a resumption of talks—settlement construction freeze and prisoner release—with **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry**. The PA officials will also ask **Pres. Obama** to present his own initiative to restart negotiations. (ToI 2/17; REU 2/19)

Palestinian journalists hold a sit-in protest outside the Ofer detention center as an **Israeli military court** hears the cases of detained Palestinian journalist Amir Abu Arafah and cartoonist Muhammad Sabanah. Israeli forces violently disperse the protesters, causing no serious injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** from Esh Kodesh settlement outpost vandalize cars in Qusra village nr. Nablus. In a separate incident in the same village, the **IDF** demolishes an electricity grid in Qusra village nr. Nablus, provoking clashes with local residents. The **IDF** opens fire and wounds 2.

The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and in 1 village each nr. Bethelehem, Hebron, and Jenin. (MNA 2/20; MNA, PCHR 2/21)

Hamas Minister of Economy Alaa Rafati says that **Egypt's** crackdown on cross-border tunnels will fail if no alternative methods for importing produce are presented. Rafati says that the authorities in **Gaza** have told **Cairo** a number of times that an official commercial route should be opened along the border. (MNA 2/20)

21 FEBRUARY 2013

In the **West Bank**, tensions continue over hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners: Near Ramallah, 29 **Palestinian protesters** are injured by rubber-coated steel bullets in clashes with the **IDF**. There are also clashes at Huwara checkpoint nr. Nabus, causing no serious injuries. Meanwhile, a **Jerusalem court** sentences hunger-striker **Samer Issawi** to 8 months in prison for violating the terms of his 10/2011 amnesty deal. Issawi gets credit for time served and is scheduled for release in 3/2013. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm at night. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin at night. Jewish settlers vandalize some 70 Palestinian-owned trees nr. Hebron. Palestinian and international activists demonstrate nr. Hebron to call for the opening of a route closed for the past 12 years linking Hebron city with three nearby villages; the **IDF** violently disperses them, causing no serious injuries. In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF** forces carry out a limited incursion into the border area nr. Khan Yunis to level farmland and clear lines of sight. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the north Gaza coast, causing no serious injuries, and then again on fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing one moderate injury. (MNA 2/21; PCHR 2/28)

The **union of West Bank teachers** declares a day's general strike across the territory in response to recent remarks by the **PA finance minister** about reductions in due salary increases, as well as "fragmented" monthly wages that have

left public sector workers without their full salaries for more than three months. (MNA 2/20)

Israel's Energy Ministry reveals that it is granting U.S. company Genie Energy a license to explore for oil and gas in the occupied **Golan Heights**. (FT 2/21)

A report by the **International Atomic Energy Agency** (IAEA) says that **Iran** has begun installing advanced centrifuges at its main uranium enrichment plant that could enable Tehran to speed up its accumulation of material needed for a nuclear weapon. The IAEA report also says that since 12/2012, Iran has been converting refined uranium to powder for the production of reactor fuel. (HA, REU 2/21)

22 FEBRUARY 2013

Across the **West Bank**, clashes continue between the **IDF** and **Palestinians** protesting in solidarity with **prisoners** in Israeli jails. In **Jerusalem's Old City**, Palestinian youths and Israeli police clash after Friday prayers, with Israeli security forces briefly entering the **al-Aqsa Mosque** compound. **Palestinians** protest outside Ofer detention center nr. Ramallah, at Huwara checkpoint nr. Nablus, in Abud village nr. Ramallah (where 4 are wounded including one seriously), at Jalama checkpoint nr. Jenin, and in Tulkarm and nearby 'Anabta village. In all cases, the **IDF** violently disperses the protests with tear gas, rubber-coated metal bullets and live ammunition, though no serious injuries are reported. The largest protest is in **Hebron**, where around 1,500 **Palestinians** clash with **IDF** forces and 1 **Palestinian** man is shot in the foot. In addition, **Palestinian** and international activists demonstrate in the center of Hebron for the opening of Shuhada Street. The **IDF** violently disperses the demonstrators, causing 3 moderate injuries with rubber-coated metal bullets. **Israeli soldiers** also attack regular demonstrations by **Palestinians**, **Israelis** and international activists against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and the occupation in 4 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, al-Nabi Salih, Budrus, Ni'lin), 2 villages nr. Qalqilya (Kafar Qaddum, Jajyous) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). Injuries include, 1 **Palestinian** is wounded from a tear gas canister

to the head in Bil'in and 8 **Palestinians** wounded by rubber-coated metal bullets (5 in Budrus and 3 in al-Nabi Salih). The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning; in al-Fawar refugee camp nr. Hebron (clashes but no serious injuries reported) and Qalqilya in the afternoon; and in 2 villages each nr. Jericho and Qalqilya, and 1 village each nr. Jenin, Ramallah, and Tulkarm at night. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon. In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinians** close to the border fence in 2 incidents: nr. Bayt Hanun (wounding 2) and nr. Jabaliya (wounding 1). **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on fishermen working off the north Gaza coast, causing no injuries or damage. (MNA 2/22, PCHR 2/28)

23 FEBRUARY 2013

Palestinian prisoner Arafat Jaradat dies in Israel's **Megido prison**, following a reported heart attack. **Palestinian** officials immediately call for an international investigation into the circumstances of his death. (MNA, REU 2/23)

PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas says in an interview with al-Arabiya TV that he and **Hamas leader Khalid Mishal** are in agreement about the need for a peaceful intifada. **Pres. Abbas** says that **PA security forces** in the **West Bank** are arresting **Palestinians** who smuggle weapons from **Israel**. Meanwhile, in an example of such a raid, **Hamas** says that **PA security forces** arrested 8 members of their organization in the **West Bank**. (JP, MNA 2/23)

Jewish settlers shoot 2 **Palestinians** in Kusra village in the northern **West Bank**, leaving one in serious condition. Clashes began when settlers entered village land. Meanwhile, **Jewish settlers** from Susiya nr. Hebron attack **Palestinian** farmers. When **Israeli** soldiers arrive, they declare the area a closed military zone and arrest 2 **Palestinians**. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 village each nr. Jericho, and Qalqilya. At night, the **IDF** patrols 1 village nr. Ramallah and conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya. West of Yatta nr. Hebron, **Israeli soldiers** violently disperse **Palestinian** and international activists protesting settlement expansion, causing no

serious injuries. Off the north coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on Palestinian fishermen, causing no injuries or damage. (AP 2/23; PCHR 2/28)

24 FEBRUARY 2013

Palestinians respond to the 2/23 death of prisoner **Arafat Jaradat** with **demonstrations** across the **West Bank** and **Gaza Strip**, while around 4,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails launch hunger-strikes in protest. At a press conference in Ramallah, **Palestinian officials** claim that Jaradat died from torture, based on evidence presented by **PA chief pathologist Saber Aloul**, who attended the autopsy. At the protests by Ofer detention center nr. Ramallah, **Israeli soldiers** wound 26 **Palestinian protesters** with rubber-coated metal bullets and live ammunition. At least 2 other Palestinians are wounded by live fire in Aida r.c. (nr. Bethlehem) and al-'Arub r.c. (nr. Hebron). Meanwhile, **Jewish settlers** uproot more than 50 olive trees in Bayt Awwa village nr. Hebron. Jewish settlers from Esh Kodesh attack a house nr. Qusra village, prompting clashes with villagers; the IDF intervenes to violently disperse the Palestinians. At night, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah; and conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-Bireh, Hebron, 1 village each nr. Jenin, Hebron, and Jenin. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the north Gaza coast nr. al-Waha on 2 separate occasions, causing no serious injuries or damage. (HA, MNA 2/24; PCHR 2/28)

To ease tensions in the West Bank over the 2/23 Jaradat killing, **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** authorizes the transfer to the PA of its tax revenues for 1/2013. He also sends a message to the **Palestinian Authority** through negotiations liaison official **Yitzhak Molcho** reportedly (JP 2/24) stating that the PA now (in light of the tax transfer) has no "excuse not to enforce calm on the ground." (JP 2/24; MNA 2/25)

25 FEBRUARY 2013

IDF soldiers shoot and wound 2 **Palestinian teenagers**, 1 seriously, in

clashes between the army and protesters nr. Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem. **Palestinians** throwing stones at Israeli cars on a road nr. Beitar Illit settlement lightly injure an Israeli child. Hundreds of Palestinian protesters demonstrating in solidarity with hunger-striking prisoners march to Ofer prison nr. Ramallah and clash with Israeli forces, who wound 11 with rubber-coated metal bullets. **IDF soldiers** shoot and wound 1 **Palestinian** at demonstrations in Tulkarm, and **IDF soldiers** open fire and wound 2 at demonstrations in Taqou' village nr. Bethlehem. **Israeli soldiers** arrest 19 **Palestinian schoolchildren** in Til village nr. Nablus and take them to Hawara detention facility, releasing them after around 5 hours. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Hebron, al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, and in 1 village nr. Nablus in the afternoon (clashes in all three, no serious injuries), in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** opens fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the north Gaza coast, causing no injuries or damage. (MNA, 2/25; HA 2/26; PCHR 2/28)

PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas meets with his security chiefs and orders them to enforce calm in the **West Bank**. Meanwhile, in a press briefing **U.S. deputy State Dept. spokesperson Patrick Ventrell** calls on Israelis and Palestinians to "exercise maximum restraint" and "refrain from provocative actions that could destabilize conditions on the ground." (AFP 2/25; HA 2/26)

Israel carries out a successful test of its upgraded Arrow III missile interceptor in, a joint project with the U.S. **Missile Defense Agency**. (HA 2/25)

26 FEBRUARY 2013

The **UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry** warns that "the two-state solution is now on life support" and that 2013 is a "critical year." Meanwhile, **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** says that **Pres. Barack Obama** will not bring a new peace initiative with him on his planned visit to the region in 3/2013. (HA, REU 2/26)

The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB) claims responsibility for a single rocket

fired into **Israel** from the **Gaza Strip**, which causes no casualties or damage. The group says the rocket is in retaliation for the death of Arafat Jaradat in Israeli detention. Israel responds by closing the Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in and around Hebron and al-Fawar r.c. during the day, causing no serious injuries. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Nablus in the afternoon, and in and around Bethlehem and Aida r.c. and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. Meanwhile, more than 200 activists and residents of Bayt Safafa in East Jerusalem protest plans for an extension of the Begin Highway that will run through the neighborhood. (HA, JP, REU 2/26; HA 2/27; PCHR 2/28)

The **Palestinian Authority** announces that it has paid the remainder of 1/2013 salaries owed PA civil servants. (MNA 2/26)

The **U.S. Senate** confirms **Chuck Hagel** as the new **defense secy.** in a 58-41 vote. Only four Republicans voted to confirm his nomination, reflecting the controversy over Hagel's appointment (see JPS 167). (REU 2/26)

Iran and the **P5+1 group** (permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany) begin two days of talks in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the first such meeting since 7/2012 (see QU 165). (AP, REU 2/26)

27 FEBRUARY 2013

A report by the **European Union's** consuls general in East Jerusalem and Ramallah is leaked, revealing that the diplomats have urged the EU to implement economic sanctions against **Israeli settlements** in the **West Bank** and East Jerusalem. The recommendations include that the EU "prevent, discourage and raise awareness" of direct investments by European companies in settlements. A previous leaked report (see JPS 163) had warned that Israeli settlement activities were "closing the window" on the 2-state solution, and encouraged the EU to look at ways of stopping "financial transactions in support of settlement activity." (AP, HA 2/27)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Hebron at night; conducts house searches and

arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 2/28)

The **Israeli military** reports that an errant **mortar** fired from inside **Syria** has landed in the occupied **Golan Heights**, causing no casualties. (AP, NYT 2/27)

At talks in **Kazakhstan**, **Iran's top official Saeed Jalili** praises an offer of international concessions that would both allow Tehran to keep a limited amount of highly enriched uranium and also lead to the removal of some trade sanctions. Meanwhile, **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** says Iran should be threatened with intensified sanctions and military measures—while in **Washington**, **House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce** introduces a bipartisan bill to move the U.S. to work with the European Union in cutting Iran's access to the euro (See H.R. 850 on Congressionalmonitor.org for more). (AP, REU 2/27)

28 FEBRUARY 2013

In the **West Bank**, **Palestinian** protesters clash with **IDF soldiers** nr. Huwara checkpoint south of Nablus, causing no injuries. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron, 3 villages each nr. Jenin, and nr. Tulkarm in the morning, in 1 village nr. Hebron and in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon (clashes in the latter, no injuries). At night, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem and in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron. (MNA 2/28; PCHR 3/7)

The **Syrian government**, still fighting a bitter civil war, sends letters of complaint to the **UN Security Council** and **UN secy.-gen.** to protest **Israel's** recent decision to go ahead with gas exploration in the occupied **Golan Heights**. (AP, REU 2/28)

U.S. Senators introduce a bipartisan-backed resolution endorsing American military support (not further defined) for **Israel** if it were to attack **Iran** in self-defense (see S. Res. 65 on Congressionalmonitor.org for more). (AP 2/28)

1 MARCH 2013

Palestinians across the **West Bank** rally after Friday prayers to protest the 2/23 death of **Arafat Jaradat** in Israeli

detention, clashing with the IDF in many locations. **IDF soldiers** use live fire and rubber-coated metal bullets against protesters at Qalandia checkpoint (injuring 6 Palestinians, including 1 seriously) and outside the Ofer detention center nr. Ramallah (injuring fifteen) Israeli soldiers also open fire on **Palestinian boys** throwing stones nr. al-Jazloun r.c. north of Ramallah, seriously injuring 1. In Hebron, Palestinians demonstrate to mark the anniversary of the 1994 massacre of Palestinian worshippers by a Jewish settler at the Ibrahim Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs, leading to clashes with the IDF that leave 2 Palestinians injured. Meanwhile, **IDF forces** violently disperse Palestinian, Israeli and international protesters at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements and occupation in 4 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, al-Nabi Salih, Budrus, and Ni'lin), 2 villages nr. Qalqilya (Jayyous and Kafr Qaddum), 1 village nr. Salfit (Burqin), 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), and on a road south of Hebron. There are 11 injuries total; 5 in Bil'in, 4 in al-Nabi Salih, and 2 in Budrus. **PA PM Salam Fayyad** attends the protest in Bil'in. The **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village nr. Tulkarm and in the center of Hebron in the afternoon (clashes in latter, 1 wounded), and in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Silwan, al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF soldiers** open fire on **Palestinians** picnicking close to the border fence nr. Jabaliya r.c., injuring 3. Later in the day, **IDF soldiers** open fire on **Palestinians** close to the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya, injuring 1. (JP, MNA 3/1; PCHR 3/7)

U.S. Pres. Barack Obama phones **Russian pres. Vladimir Putin**, to discuss **Iran** and **Syria**. The White House says Putin and Obama agree to hold talks in 6/2013 on the sidelines of a meeting of leading industrial nations in **Northern Ireland**. (AP 3/1)

2 MARCH 2013

Israeli pres. Shimon Peres gives **PM Benjamin Netanyahu** 2 more weeks to form a new government, after the initial 28-day period passes without a successful

coalition agreement being reached. (HA, REU 3/2)

Israel's Transportation Ministry announces that new **Palestinian-only bus lines** will soon operate between locations in the **West Bank** and central **Israel**. Israel presents the plan as a gesture to ease travel arrangements for Palestinian day laborers, but critics denounce the plan as de facto "segregation," noting that Jewish settlers have voiced complaints about sharing buses with Palestinian workers. (YA 3/2; HA 3/3)

In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** from Havat Maon attack **Palestinian farmers** nr. Yatta south of Hebron. When **Israeli soldiers** arrive, they declare the area a closed military zone and arrest 1 **Palestinian** teenager. The **IDF** patrols in al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon, provoking clashes that cause no serious injuries. At night, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Tulkarm; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 2 nearby villages and in 1 each village nr. Jenin and Nablus. (PCHR 3/7)

An Israeli diplomatic source reveals that **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** and **Jordan's King Abdullah II** met in Jordan last week to discuss the peace process. No further details are revealed. (AFP 3/2)

Several **mortars** fired from inside **Syria** land in the Israeli-occupied **Golan Heights**, causing no injuries or damage. **Israel** says that it assumes the mortars were misfired, but nonetheless files a complaint with the UN (HA 3/2)

3 MARCH 2013

The **PA** reports that **Jewish settlers** from Elon Moreh have erected a new outpost east of Nablus consisting of 10 mobile homes and an access road. Meanwhile, **Israeli police** report that 56 so-called "**price tag**" attacks against **Palestinians** occurred in Jerusalem and the surrounding area over the past year, but no charges have been filed in any of the incidents. The number of attacks is up from 28 recorded cases in 2011. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jericho in the morning, in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon (clashes, no injuries), and in Jericho,

nearby 'Aqaba r.c., and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in Bethlehem, al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (MNA, ToI 3/3; PCHR 3/7)

The **American Israel Public Affairs Cmte.** (AIPAC) begins its annual conference in **Washington D.C.**, featuring a morning appearance by **Israel's amb. to the U.S. Michael Oren.** (WP 3/4)

4 MARCH 2013

PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas meets with **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** in **Saudi Arabia** to discuss regional developments, the first such meeting between the two men since Kerry replaced Hillary Clinton. Abbas requests **Washington** pressure Israel to adopt a settlement construction freeze and release **Palestinian** prisoners as a condition for the resumption of peace talks. Kerry's regional tour does not include a visit to Israel or the o.t. this time. (JP 3/4)

Hamas keeps the Kerem Shalom crossing closed reportedly due to a dispute over the collection of customs revenue with the Palestinian company operating the terminal. **Israel** shut the crossing on 2/26 after a rocket was fired out of the **Gaza Strip** into southern Israel. (MNA 3/4)

IDF forces make a brief incursion into Gaza to level land and clear lines of sight along the border fence nr. Juhr al-Dik. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon (where there are clashes, but no injuries). At night, the **IDF** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Hebron and 2 villages each nr. Nablus and Qalqilya. (PCHR 3/6)

U.S. VP Joe Biden tells the **American Israel Public Affairs Cmte.** (AIPAC) policy conference in Washington that sanctions and diplomacy must be exhausted before the U.S. would consider using force to attack **Iran's** nuclear program. (AP, REU 3/4)

5 MARCH 2013

Israeli media reports that **PM Benjamin Netanyahu** may adopt a package of "goodwill gestures" ahead of **U.S. Pres.**

Obama's upcoming visit, including transferring responsibility for 2 **West Bank** roads to the **PA**, releasing **Fatah** prisoners, and approving building plans for Palestinian villages in **Area C** currently considered illegal. Netanyahu's office denies the reports and says that any practical steps would only be taken if the Palestinian leadership returns to talks without conditions. (MNA, ToI 3/5)

In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** uproot around 100 olive trees in Nahalin village nr. Bethlehem. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in Nablus, 1 village nr. Bethlehem, Aida r.c. in Bethlehem, 3 villages nr. Hebron and 2 villages nr. Jenin at night. (AP 3/5; PCHR 3/6)

Israeli security service **Shin Bet** publishes statistics indicating a 70% increase in violent attacks by **Palestinians** in the occupied territories during 2/2013 (138 incidents) compared to 1/2013 (83 incidents), most of which were the throwing of Molotov cocktails. (HA 3/5; XIN 8/6)

Hamas reports that **PA** security forces arrested 66 of the movement's supporters in the West Bank during 2/2013, and summoned another 38 for interrogation. A senior Hamas official in the Gaza Strip says that **PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas** had "sold the reconciliation in return for an American smile." (JP 3/5)

A week after assuming office, **U.S. Defense Secy. Chuck Hagel** hosts **Israeli DM Ehud Barak** at the **Pentagon** for talks on **Iran** and **Syria**, among other topics. Hagel assures Barak that there would be no interruption of funding for Israeli defense systems like Iron Dome, Arrow and David's Sling, even as the looming sequester looks set to cost Israel around \$155 million in defense assistance. (HA, JTA 3/5)

6 MARCH 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the morning, and conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron and 2 villages nr. Jenin at night. (PCHR 3/7)

Syrian rebels detain 21 **UN peacekeepers** from the **UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)** that monitors the Israeli-Syrian divide along the **Golan Heights** from posts inside Syria. The

UNSC demands their immediate release. Meanwhile, Arab foreign ministers formally hand over Syria's seat in the **Arab League** to the opposition coalition. (AP, NYT, REU 3/6)

7 MARCH 2013

A **Palestinian** man dies of wounds sustained when **IDF forces** shot him in the head with a rubber-coated metal bullet on 2/22 in **Abud** village during protests in solidarity with prisoners in Israeli jails. **IDF forces** violently disperse **Palestinians** holding a sit-in outside Ofer prison nr. Ramallah to demand the release of hunger-striking Palestinian administrative detainees being held by **Israel** without charge. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Salfit in the morning; 1 al-Fawar r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 village nr. Salfit in the afternoon; and in 2 villages nr. Jenin at night. **IDF soldiers** also conduct house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Salfit in the afternoon and in 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. Meanwhile, **IDF forces** hand out 26 demolition orders, including for 10 homes, in Khallet Athaba, a village nr. Yatta in the southern West Bank. In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** conducts an incursion nr. Dayr al-Balah, levelling land along the border fence. (MNA 3/7; PCHR 3/14)

8 MARCH 2013

There are violent clashes between **IDF soldiers** and **Palestinian demonstrators** across the **West Bank**. After the funeral of a man killed by the **IDF** in Abud village nr. Ramallah, demonstrators clash with **IDF soldiers**, who fire tear gas canisters and rubber-coated metal bullets, causing no serious injuries. In Jerusalem, Israeli police and Palestinians clash after Friday prayers at the **al-Aqsa Mosque** compound, with no serious injuries. In Hebron, **IDF soldiers** clash with stone-throwing youths, and seriously injure 3 civilians. In al-Mazra'a al-Qibliya village nr. Ramallah, an **IDF** patrol fires on stone-throwing youths with live ammunition, wounding 3. Meanwhile, **Jewish settlers** attack a **Palestinian** shepherd close to al-Mughayyir village nr. Ramallah, killing 5

of his sheep. In ensuing clashes, **IDF soldiers** injure 4 Palestinian civilians. Also, Jewish settlers uproot around 100 olive trees south of Nablus and leave "**price tag**" graffiti in Issawiyya village. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Jenin, 1 village nr. Jericho and 2 villages nr. Ramallah at night. **IDF soldiers** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. **IDF soldiers** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists taking part in weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the Israeli occupation and land confiscations held in 2 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin), 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), al-Haraiek area nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Jayyous). There are no serious injuries except in Bil'in, where 3 Palestinians are injured by rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters. **IDF soldiers** also clash with protesters at various locations who are demonstrating in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners, including in Bayt Ummar nr. Hebron, Bayt Laqiya nr. Ramallah, al-Khader and Taqq'a nr. Bethlehem, and Qalqilya; no serious injuries are reported. **Israeli naval vessels** off the **Gaza** coast open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** nr. Rafah, causing no damage or casualties. **IDF forces** open fire on Palestinians picnicking close to the Gaza border fence nr. Jabaliya, seriously wounding 1. (MNA, REU 3/8; PCHR 3/14)

9 MARCH 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Jericho and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem and in 1 village nr. Salfit at night. (PCHR 3/14)

For the first time in **Jordan's** history, the prime minister is elected by a vote of parliament instead of being appointed by the king. The new **PM Abdullah Ensour**, who had served as **King Abdullah's** caretaker PM since the previous government was dissolved in 10/2012, should serve a 4-year term. (AP 3/9)

Syrian rebels release the **UNDOF peacekeepers** they captured on 3/6 and

transferred them to Jordan in good health. (REU 3/9)

10 MARCH 2013

The head of **IDF Central Command Maj. Gen. Nitzan Alon** orders that fences nr. Ofra and Adam settlements will be removed, 3 months after a deadline the IDF had committed to at **Israel's High Court of Justice**. The unauthorized sections of fence are blocking **Palestinian** farmers from their land. The **IDF** will defend the settlements with patrols instead. (HA 3/10)

In the **West Bank** the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem, in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, in 3 villages nr. Hebron, in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 in village nr. Tulkarm at night. (PCHR 3/14)

Yasser al-Wadia, the general coordinator for independent Palestinian political figures, says that Palestinian faction officials, including representatives of **Hamas** and **Fatah**, will meet in 4/2013 for renewed **national unity talks** with **Egyptian** mediation. (MNA 3/10)

11 MARCH 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 village each nr. Hebron and Nablus at night. The **IDF** orders 15 **Palestinian families** in the southern West Bank nr. Sa'ir to evacuate their homes on the grounds that the area is a closed military zone. (MNA 3/11; PCHR 3/14)

12 MARCH 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF forces shoot and kill 1 Palestinian civilian** and wound 8 others during clashes sparked by an **IDF** raid in al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron. An Israeli military spokesperson says that soldiers had initially been attacked by a Molotov cocktail on a nearby road. The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Jenin and nr. Tulkarm at night.

Jewish settlers uproot 121 olive trees in Qaryut village nr. Nablus. In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinian** farmers and gravel collectors close to the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries. (MNA 3/12; HA, MNA 3/13; PCHR 3/14)

Lebanese security officials say clashes between rival factions in 'Ayn al-Hilwa r.c. have left 1 person dead and 13 injured. The violence began when a member of **Fatah al-Islam** was shot and wounded on 3/11 in what was reportedly a personal dispute. The fatality came from Fatah. (AP 3/12)

13 MARCH 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinians** protesting the killing of a man in **al-Fawar** r.c. on 3/12, injuring 4 with rubber-coated steel bullets. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and nr. Ramallah at night. In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF forces** conduct an incursion nr. Khan Yunis with bulldozers, levelling land alongside the border fence in Abasan nr. Khan Yunis. (MNA 3/13; PCHR 3/14)

Jerusalem's municipal Planning and Building Committee removes from its agenda two construction plans for the expansion of Har Homa settlement and a waste infrastructure project for Ma'ale Adumim settlement. The decision comes a week before the arrival of **U.S. Pres. Barack Obama** and is understood to have been taken to avoid diplomatic friction. (JP 3/14)

The **World Bank** transfers \$60.5 million to the **PA** from the **Palestinian Reform and Development Plan Multi-Donor Trust Fund** (PRDP-MDTF), a budget support mechanism that, in this instance, is channelling money from the **UK** and **Norway** to support urgent **PA** budget needs. (Wafa 3/13)

Hamas authorities in the **Gaza Strip** launch an amnesty campaign for collaborators with **Israel**, saying that anyone who turns themselves in by 4/11 will not be interrogated or imprisoned. Meanwhile, **Hamas** also denies claims by Israeli security service **Shin Bet** that it is trying to set up cells in the **West Bank**. (*Guardian*, MNA 3/13)

14 MARCH 2013

IDF troops manning a watchtower nr. Tulkarm shoot and seriously injure a **Palestinian** teenager. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho in the morning and in 1 village nr. Jenin at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 4 villages nr. Hebron, 2 nr. Jenin, and 1 each nr. Salfit and Tulkarm. (MNA 3/14; PCHR 3/21)

In an interview with Israeli television, **U.S. Pres. Barack Obama** says that **Israel** can no longer rely on a “a few [Arab] autocrats” to maintain regional stability and security, and that the Jewish state has “an interest in being able to speak to the Arab street.” Meanwhile, **White House deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes** confirms that Obama will not introduce a new peace initiative during his Middle East visit next week. In a meeting in Moscow with **Russian pres. Vladimir Putin**, **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** says he hopes that peace talks would resume later this year, though the chances remain slim. (AP, *Guardian*, REU 3/14)

The **Palestinian Central Election Commission** announces that the 36 West Bank municipalities where voting was postponed from the original 10/20/12 and 11/24/12 elections (see QU 166 and QU 167) due to court decisions, resignation of council members, and other factors will hold local elections on 6/1. (MNA 3/14)

The **International Monetary Fund** warns that the **PA's** fiscal situation is “increasingly precarious” and urges action from donors to help reduce the significant budget deficit. The IMF projects a financing gap of about \$400 million for 2013 and notes that unemployment increased to almost a quarter of the labor force by the end of 2012. (AFP, REU 3/14)

U.S. Pres. Barack Obama tells Israeli media that **Washington** considers a nuclear **Iran** to be a “red line” with all options on the table to stop it. Obama says that **U.S. intelligence** believes that it would take over a year for Iran to develop a nuclear weapon. (AP 3/14; HA 3/15)

An anonymous Western diplomat says that following the recent detention (3/6) and release (3/9) of 21 UN observers by

Syrian rebels, the **UNDOF** has stopped conducting patrols. (AP, REU 3/14)

15 MARCH 2013

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu finalizes a deal to form a new coalition government comprising of his joint Likud-Yisrael Beiteinu list, **Yesh Atid** (19 seats), **Bayit Yehudi** (12 seats), and **Hatnua** (6 seats), giving the Likud leader control of 68 Knesset seats (out of 120). For the first time in a decade, an Israeli coalition government does not include any ultra-Orthodox parties. (BBC, REU 3/15)

A **Palestinian** man dies from heart problems brought on by inhaling tear gas fired by the **IDF** during clashes 3 weeks ago. After his funeral in al-Ram nr. Jerusalem, **Palestinians** clash with **IDF** forces (no serious injuries reported). In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning; in Hebron, al-Fawar r.c. and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon; and 1 in village nr. Jericho and 1 village nr. Tulkam at night. **IDF soldiers** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon and in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. The regular weekly nonviolent demonstrations by Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals against the Israeli occupation this week also express solidarity with Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. The demonstrations are also more widespread than usual (cf. 3/8), occurring in 5 villages nr. Ramallah (Abud, Bayt Liqia, Bilin, Budrus, Ni'lin), 2 villages nr. Bethlehem (al-Khader, al-Ma'sara), Shuhada Street in Hebron, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). The **IDF** violently disperses the demonstrations, but no serious injuries are reported. (MNA 3/15; PCHR 3/21)

16 MARCH 2013

White House spokesman Josh Earnest says that **U.S. Pres. Barack Obama** will be looking for “serious commitments” from **Israeli PM Netanyahu** and **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** when he meets with them both separately on his trip to the region next week. (JP 3/16)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Jenin, 2 nr. Ramallah, and

1 nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Tulkarm, al-'Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron, al-Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem, and 1 village each nr. Jenin and. Salfit at night. (PCHR 3/21)

17 MARCH 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron and 1 nr. Tulkarm at night. (PCHR 3/21)

Israel's new housing minister Uri Ariel (Bayit Yehudi), himself the founder of a number of settlements, rejects the idea of a construction freeze in West Bank settlements, pledging to "build in Judea and Samaria." (ToI 3/17)

The **European Union** reveals that it contributed around €20.8 million (\$27.2 million) to the **PA** to cover the payment of 2/2012 salaries and pensions of over 80,000 Palestinians in the **West Bank** and the **Gaza Strip**, funding channelled through the donors' **PEGASE mechanism**. (WAFA 3/17)

Iranian authorities indict 18 suspects on charges related to the killing of nuclear scientists—attacks Tehran has claimed are linked to **Mossad**, the **CIA**, and **MI6**. (AP 3/17)

18 MARCH 2013

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's new coalition government officially takes office. Speaking in the **Knesset**, Netanyahu says that **Israel** is ready for a "historic compromise" with the Palestinians. (JP, REU, WP 3/18)

In the **West Bank**, unidentified **Palestinians** open fire on and injure a **Jewish settler** at a bus stop nr. Nablus. The **IDF** patrols in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-'Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Nablus at night. (AP 3/18; PCHR 3/21)

A **UN Human Rights Council** (UNHRC) fact-finding mission releases its report on **Israel's West Bank settlements**, describing them as a "creeping form of annexation," and calling on **Israel** to cease construction immediately and "initiate a process of withdrawal." The report, presented by mission leader **Christine Chanet**, urges the international community to cut economic links

with the settlements. The **U.S.** refuses to take part in the Council's debate. Meanwhile, **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay** states that **Israeli settler violence** "continues to be perpetrated with impunity," and further notes that excessive force by the **IDF** has resulted in **Palestinian** fatalities. (AFP, HA, JP, UNNC 3/18)

Lebanon reports that **Israeli war-planes** entered **Lebanese airspace** earlier in the day. **Israel** routinely conducts aerial surveillance over **Lebanon** even though this explicitly violates the 2006 **Israel-Hizballah** cease-fire agreement laid out in UN Res. 1701. (AP 3/18) **Iran** and **P5+1 group nuclear experts** meet in **Istanbul** to review proposals put forward during the last round of talks in **Kazakhstan** (2/26-27). (AFP, XIN 3/18)

19 MARCH 2013

The day before **U.S. Pres. Obama** arrives in **Israel**, the **IDF** and **Israeli police** raze 6 structures in 2 unauthorized **Jewish settler** outposts in the **West Bank** (**Oz Zion** and **Ramat Migron**). In retaliation, **Jewish settlers** vandalize 18 **Palestinian** cars and a bus in **Nablus**. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin at night. (MNA, YA 3/19; PCHR 3/21)

Palestinian PM Salam Fayyad and **EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton** sign a deal in **Brussels** for the **EU** to provide \$9 million of new funding for **Palestinian** development, aimed at supporting the **Palestinian** presence in **West Bank Area C** (under full **Israeli** civilian and security control). **Fayyad** and his delegation then attend the annual meeting of the **Ad Hoc Liaison Committee** (AHLC)—the main donor body responsible for formulating broad policy for development assistance to the **Palestinians**. There he presents a paper on how the **Israeli** occupation affects the **Palestinian** economy. Donors are asked by the **Palestinian** delegation to protect projects in **Area C** and are told how irregularities in aid transfers to the **PA** and **Israel's** withholding of tax revenue have worsened a financial crisis. After talks, **Norwegian FM** and **AHLC head Epsen Barth Eide** says that progress was made

towards securing the \$1.2 billion needed to fund the PA this year (see QU 168). (AFP, MNA 3/18; HA 3/19)

A **World Bank** report warns of the continued deterioration of the **Palestinian economy**, citing Israeli-imposed restrictions and the impact of closures (See Docs in *JPS* 168). The report also notes a drop in donor funding, and the PA's large debts to banks and suppliers. Palestinian gross domestic product grew 6.1% in the first three quarters of 2012, down from an 11% average in 2010 and 2011. (HA 3/12)

20 MARCH 2013

U.S. Pres. Barack Obama arrives in **Israel** and holds talks with **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu**. At their news conference, Obama says that a "strong and secure Jewish state" is key to a lasting peace, "alongside a strong Palestinian state." Obama also promises to do "what is necessary" to stop **Iran** obtaining a nuclear weapon. Meanwhile, the *New York Times* reports on a leaked document from the **Palestinians' Negotiations Affairs Department** that indicates an apparent willingness by **Pres. Mahmud Abbas** to soften the demand that Israel publicly pledge to halt settlement construction before resumption of negotiations, instead accepting a secret, or de facto, freeze. (AP, MNA, REU 3/20)

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF soldiers** open fire in two locations nr. Khan Yunis from positions along the border fence, causing no casualties. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in Hebron in the morning (briefly detaining over a dozen Palestinian children for throwing stones at troops) and in al-Bireh at night. (PCHR 3/21)

To mark Obama's visit, around 100 **Palestinian activists** set up a tent camp east of Jerusalem to draw attention to Israeli settlement activities. **Israeli security forces** immediately surround the camp. Palestinians also rally in Ramallah, ahead of the U.S. president's visit. (MNA, REU, JP 3/20)

Fatah sources in **Gaza** report that **Hamas security services** have summoned 7 Fatah members for interrogation (but they are not arrested). (MNA 3/20)

21 MARCH 2013

U.S. Pres. Barack Obama meets with **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** in Ramallah, discussions that Palestinian officials later characterize as disappointing in regards to positions on settlements and prisoners. Obama then delivers a speech to Israeli students in which he says further settlement construction is "counterproductive" to peace efforts, and urges the Arab world to "take steps toward normalizing relations" with **Israel** (See Documents in *JPS* 168 for excerpts). In **Gaza**, **Hamas PM Ismail Haniyeh** dismisses Obama's visit and says "American policies perpetuate the Israeli occupation." (JP, MNA, REU 3/21)

Palestinian militants fire rockets from the **Gaza Strip** into **Israel**, damaging 1 home in Sederot but causing no injuries. A small Islamist group called **Mujahidin Shura Council** claim responsibility for the launch, having previously claimed a 6/2013 attack on Israel from the Sinai. In response, the **Israeli military** announces that it is reducing the permitted fishing zone for **Palestinians** in Gaza to 3 naut. miles, as well as closing Kerem Shalom crossing. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (JP, MNA, REU 3/21; PCHR 3/28)

A court in **Cyprus** convicts **Hizballah** member **Hossam Taleb Yaccoub** of plotting against Israeli interests on the island. Yaccoub was arrested on 7/13/12 after a tip off by **Israeli intelligence**. (REU 3/21)

Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei delivers a speech at the Shrine of Imam Reza in which he indicates openness to nuclear talks but is not optimistic about success. He also says that international sanctions have failed to isolate **Iran**. (WP 3/21)

22 MARCH 2013

IDF forces shoot and injure 2 **Palestinians** during clashes in Anata nr. Jerusalem. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in Hebron, in al-'Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1

village nr. Ramallah at night. **IDF soldiers** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals taking part in nonviolent demonstrations in multiple villages against the Israeli occupation and in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners. Protesters are dispersed in 5 villages nr. Ramallah (Abud, Bayt Laqiya, Bil'in, al-Nabi Salih, Ni'lin), al-Haraiek nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafir Qaddum), and at Ofer prison nr. Ramallah. There are no serious injuries, except in Abud (2 wounded) and in al-Haraiek (1 wounded). (MNA 3/22; PCHR 3/28)

U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Victoria Nuland says that the **Obama admin.** has unblocked almost \$500 million in aid—including \$200 million in direct budget support—to the **PA**, previously frozen by **Congress** in October 2011 as a response to the **UN statehood bid** (see QU 162). According to Nuland, the White House also notified Congress in late 2/2013 that it seeks a further \$200 million to fund USAID projects for the Palestinians. In response, **Palestinian Labor Minister Ahmad Majdalani** says that the PA's financial crisis is not over. (AFP 3/22; MNA 3/23)

Hamis authorities complain to **Egypt** about **Israel's** 3/21 decision to restrict Palestinian fishermen off the coast of **Gaza**. The government in Gaza also reportedly arrests 2 members of the **Mujahidin Shura Council**, which claimed responsibility for the 3/21 **rocket attack** on Israel. (Tol 3/22)

Under pressure from **Pres. Obama** to restore normal ties with **Turkey**, **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** phones **Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan** to apologize for "mistakes made" during the IDF's attack on a Gaza-bound flotilla in 2010, when 9 Turks (including one U.S. dual national) were killed aboard the *Mavi Marmara* (see QU 157). They agree to dispatch envoys to each other's countries. After coordinating this diplomatic breakthrough, **Pres. Obama** leaves for **Jordan**. (NYT 3/23)

U.S. Pres. Barack Obama meets with **Jordan's King Abdullah II** in **Amman** for talks primarily on the Syrian civil war and the refugee crisis. **Pres. Obama** pledges to work to supply Jordanian authorities with \$200 million extra assistance to care for the estimated 460,000

Syrian refugees who have crossed the border seeking refuge. (REU 3/22)

Lebanese PM Najib Mikati resigns due to divisions within the government about elections later in the year and to protest the cabinet's refusal to extend the tenure of the national police chief, a figure perceived by the Sunni community as sympathetic to their interests. (AP 3/22)

23 MARCH 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Tulkarm, and in 1 village each nr. Jenin, Ramallah, and Salfit at night. Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen**, enforcing the new 3 naut. mile fishing limit imposed by Israel. (MNA 3/23; PCHR 3/28)

U.S. Pres. Barack Obama flies back to **Washington**, leaving **Secy. of State John Kerry** in the region for further talks aimed at reviving peace talks with **PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas** in **Amman** and also **PM Benjamin Netanyahu**. (MNA 3/23; HA, YA 3/24)

Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that stronger relations with **Israel** will aid the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and help speed the fall of **Syrian pres. Bashar al-Asad**. **PM Benjamin Netanyahu** also cites the Syrian crisis as a reason for his decision to improve relations with **Ankara**. (HA 3/23)

24 MARCH 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 nr. Nablus at night. Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire twice on **Palestinian fishermen** nr. al-Waha resort, causing no injuries or damage. (PCHR 3/28)

Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas and **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** meet in **Amman**, following which **PLO Chief Negotiator Saeb Erekat** reiterates the Palestinian opposition to a resumption of negotiations without a complete halt to settlement construction and release of Palestinian prisoners. (JP 3/24)

The **Israeli government** asks the **High Court of Justice** to delay by at least

90 days the evacuation of the unauthorized **West Bank outpost Amona** scheduled for the end of 4/2013. (JP 3/24)

IDF forces fire into **Syria** and destroy a machine gun position from where shots had been fired at Israeli soldiers twice in the previous 24 hours. (AP, REU 3/24)

25 MARCH 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Jericho and nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Jericho and in al-Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin at night. Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** twice open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries or damage. (PCHR 3/28)

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's office announces that the **Finance Ministry** has been instructed to restart regular monthly tax transfers to the **PA**, but there was no indication these would be backdated to cover outstanding amounts. (REU 3/25)

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) says that **Israel** has doubled the rate of overflights in **Lebanese airspace** in 2013 so far, compared to the same period in 2012. (DS 3/25)

26 MARCH 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem, in Hebron, and in 1 village nr. Nablus at night. (PCHR 3/28)

The **Arab League** approves a **Qatari** proposal to set up a \$1 billion fund for **East Jerusalem** to "maintain the Arab and Islamic character of the city and reinforce the steadfastness of its people." **Saudi Arabia's Islamic Development Bank** will manage the fund. The Israeli government condemns the decision. At the same meeting, **Qatari emir Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani** calls for a mini-summit on **Palestinian national reconciliation** to be held in **Cairo** as soon as possible, remarked welcomed by both the **PA** and **Hamas**. Also at the **Arab**

League meeting, **Syrian opposition leader Sheikh Moaz al-Khatib** takes the country's vacant seat for the first time. (JP, NYT, REU 3/26)

PM Salam Fayyad presents a draft budget for the **PA** of \$3.9 billion, with \$1.4 billion having to come from foreign aid. The government debates the proposed budget. (MNA 3/26)

27 MARCH 2013

Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat says that a delegation of Arab ministers, including the foreign ministers of **Palestine, Qatar, Jordan, and Egypt**, will go to **Washington** to discuss the **Arab Peace Initiative** with the **Obama admin.** and offer a joint position on the peace process. (MNA 3/27)

In Hebron, **IDF forces** shoot and injure a 12-year-old **Palestinian** boy during clashes. Meanwhile, the **IDF** arrests 4 **Hamas** leaders, including **Palestinian Council member Mohammed Natshah**, in Hebron. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in Hebron in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Jenin at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. (MNA, HA 3/27; PCHR 3/28)

Israeli medics treat 7 wounded **Syrians** who approached the border with the occupied **Golan Heights**, one of whom dies in an Israeli hospital. Meanwhile, the **UN Security Council** warns of violations of the cease-fire line between **Israel and Syria** (e.g. 2/27, 3/2, 3/6, 3/24), and the risk posed to **UN peacekeepers**. (HA, REU 3/27)

28 MARCH 2013

Israel reopens the Kerem Shalom and Erez crossings on the border with the **Gaza Strip** that were closed on 3/21 because of Palestinian rocket fire. **Israeli navy vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the **Gaza** coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries or damage. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron and in Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Jericho, Ramallah, and Tulkarm at night. The **IDF** also conducts house searches

and arrest raids in Hebron in the morning. Israeli media report that the **IDF** has arrested around 50 **Palestinians** during the last two months for suspected involvement in a **Fatah**-affiliated resistance cell in Bayt Fajjar, a West Bank village nr. Bethlehem. (HA, MNA 3/28; PCHR 4/4)

Fatah official Yahya Rabah says that **Egypt** will host initial consultations with **Fatah** and **Hamas** in order to relaunch national reconciliation talks, and attempt to move beyond discussions and on to implementation. (MNA 3/28)

29 MARCH 2013

Hundreds of **Palestinians** clash with **IDF** forces in **Hebron**, with **Israel** increasing the presence of security forces in the city ahead of a day of demonstrations commemorating **Land Day** and in support of Palestinian prisoners. **Land Day** is an annual event remembering the killing of **Palestinian** citizens of Israel by Israeli security forces in 1976 during protests against land expropriation. In the clashes, **IDF soldiers** open fire and injure 2 **Palestinians**. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in Hebron (2 seriously wounded by bullets), 1 village nr. Hebron, and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Jericho and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin in the afternoon. **IDF soldiers** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals taking part in nonviolent demonstrations in multiple villages across the West Bank against the Israeli occupation in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners. Demonstrations are held in 4 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, al-Nabi Salih, Bayt Laqiya), 1 village nr. Salfit (Burqin), 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), al-Haraiek nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). (MNA 3/29; PCHR 4/4)

30 MARCH 2013

Palestinians commemorating **Land Day** clash with **IDF** forces across the **West Bank**, including in Bayt Ummar nr. Hebron, Jayyous nr. Qalqilya, al-Khader nr. Bethlehem, at the main Bethlehem

checkpoint, and at Qalandia. No serious injuries are reported. Meanwhile, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah in the morning, and in 3 villages in Ramallah, 2 each nr. Hebron and Jenin, and 1 nr. Jericho at night. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the coast of **Gaza** nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. (REU 3/30; PCHR 4/4)

Israeli media report that the **Israeli government** is urging the **Egyptian** authorities to send **Cairo's** ambassador back to **Tel Aviv**. The ambassador was recalled in 11/2012 as a protest against Israel's **Operation Pillar of Defense**. (MNA 3/30)

31 MARCH 2013

Dozens of **right-wing Jewish activists** visit the **al-Aqsa Mosque** compound in **Jerusalem**, prompting clashes with Palestinian worshippers, some of whom are arrested by Israeli police. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Tulkarm, 2 nr. Hebron, and 1 each nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah at night. (MNA 3/31; PCHR 4/4)

Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas and **Jordan's King Abdullah II** sign an agreement in **Amman** to defend **Jerusalem** and its Islamic and Christian holy sites, though no specific details are given beyond general "coordination" of efforts. (MNA 3/31)

Natural gas from the **Tamar** reservoir in the Mediterranean Sea begins to flow into **Israel** via **Ashdod**. **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** welcomes this as a step towards "energy independence." (NYT 3/31)

Egyptian media report that **Hamas PM Ismail Haniyeh** meets with **Egyptian intelligence chief Rifaat Shehata** to discuss Palestinian reconciliation and the cease-fire with Israel. (AP 3/31)

1 APRIL 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and nearby al-'Arub r.c. in 2 villages nr. Bethlehem, and in 1 nr. Jenin at night. (PCHR 4/4)

The **Hamas-controlled Education Min.** in **Gaza** announces that men will be barred from teaching at girls' schools, and separate classes for boys and girls from the age of 9 years old will be mandatory. (REU 4/1)

The head of **Hizballah's executive council Sayyed Hashem Safieddine** accuses the **U.S. government** of interfering in Lebanese affairs—though without giving any specific details or allegations—and attacks a “destructive American project against Syria and the entire region.” (DS 4/1)

2 APRIL 2013

Palestinian prisoner Maysara Abuhamdieh dies in Israeli jail from complications caused by terminal cancer, prompting clashes between **protesters and IDF forces in Hebron**. The **Palestinian Prisoners' Committee** blames **Israel** for Abuhamdieh's death, saying that he did not receive adequate medical treatment. **Gaza's** tiny Salafist group, the **Mujahidin Shura Council**, fires 3 mortars towards Israel, claiming retaliation for Abuhamdieh's death; 2 of the mortars fall within Gaza. In retaliation, the **IDF** makes 2 nighttime **airstrikes** nr. Bayt Lahiya. No injuries are reported in either incident. Meanwhile, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, and in and around Hebron in the afternoon; conducts house searches and arrest raids in and around Bethlehem and nearby Dahaysha r.c., in and around Hebron, in Jenin, and in 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. (HA 4/2; Tol, YA 4/3; PCHR 4/4)

Hamas' Shura Council elects **Khalid Mishal** as politburo head for the fourth time, according to **Egyptian** officials. The secret election is conducted in a Cairo hotel. (MNA 4/2)

Israeli forces and unidentified armed persons in **Syria** briefly exchange fire across the demarcation line on the **Golan Heights**. The **IDF** reports no injuries or damage on its side, but claim that its return of fire scored a “direct hit.” (AP, REU 4/2)

3 APRIL 2013

Israeli newspaper *Ma'ariv* reports that **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** is planning to visit **Jerusalem** and **Ramallah**

“once every two weeks” in a bid to revive peace talks. His third trip to the region in 2 weeks (3/4, 3/24) begins 4/6. (AFP, AP 4/3)

Israeli soldiers stationed at a military post **shoot and kill a Palestinian teenager** nr. Tulkarm, after what the **IDF** says was a firebomb attack (an account disputed by witnesses). A **Fatah**-called general strike is observed in Hebron and East Jerusalem, as protests continue following the death of prisoner **Maysara Abuhamdieh**. **Palestinians** protesting the death clash with **IDF forces** in and around Hebron, in Nablus and Tulkarm, nr. Bethlehem, and outside Ofer prison nr. Ramallah (where 7 are injured with rubber bullets). In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in and around Hebron and nearby al-'Arub r.c. in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-'Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron, in 1 village nr. Ramallah, and in Tulkarm at night. **Unidentified Palestinian militants** fire 2 rockets from **Gaza** into **Israel**, causing no injuries or damage. (HA, MNA 4/3; HA, PCHR 4/4)

A source in the office of **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** says that special envoy to **Turkey Joseph Ciecchanover** and **National Security Adviser Yaakov Amidror** will go to **Ankara** on 4/11 for the start of talks on restoring Turkish-Israeli ties. (HA 4/3)

U.S. and Jordanian officials say that the two countries are training **Syrian opposition forces** that could be used to establish a future buffer zone alongside Syria's southern border. (WP 4/3)

4 APRIL 2013

Anonymous Israeli and Palestinian officials say that **PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas** has agreed to suspend unilateral measures against **Israel** in UN agencies for 2–3 months to facilitate **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry's** efforts to restart negotiations. At the same time, Abbas reportedly has told Kerry that Israel must present a map of the proposed future borders of a Palestinian state to prove its seriousness. (HA 4/4)

For the third consecutive day, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a **rocket** from **Gaza** into **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. **Palestinians** clash with

IDF forces in the West Bank in continued demonstrations sparked by the death of prisoner Abuhamdieh. In Hebron, the **IDF** injures 21 Palestinians with rubber-coated metal bullets, and in al-Khader nr. Bethlehem, 2 Palestinians are also injured. In Bayt Laqiya nr. Ramallah, **IDF soldiers** violently disperse a demonstration and seriously injure 1. In addition, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Jericho and Tulkarm in the morning; in and around Hebron and al-'Arub r.c. in the afternoon; and in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. The **IDF** also conducts late-night house searches and arrest raids in and around Hebron and nr. Jenin at night. (JP, MNA 4/4; PCHR 4/11)

The **United Nations Relief and Works Agency** (UNRWA) says it is suspending operations in the **Gaza Strip** after protesters storm its headquarters, following the agency's decision on 4/1 to stop some of its cash handouts citing a funding shortfall. (REU 4/4)

5 APRIL 2013

IDF soldiers shoot and seriously injure a **Palestinian** teenager during a protest at al-Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah. **IDF forces** shoot and injure 5 **Palestinians** during clashes in Hebron, with another 15 injured in confrontations in the wider Hebron area as demonstrations continue following the death of a Palestinian prisoner in Israeli custody, and the **IDF** also shoots and injures 1 Palestinian in protests in al-Khader nr. Bethlehem. **IDF soldiers** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals taking part in nonviolent demonstrations in multiple villages against the Israeli occupation in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners. Demonstrations are held in 4 villages nr. Ramallah (Bayt Laqiya, Bil'in, al-Nabi Salih, Ni'lin), al-Haraiek nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), 2 villages nr. Bethlehem (al-Khader, al-Ma'sara), and at Hawara checkpoint nr. Nablus. There are no serious injuries. The **IDF** also patrols in al-'Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Salfit in the afternoon; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jericho, and 1 each nr. Jenin, Ramallah, and nr. Salfit at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem at night. (MNA 4/5; PCHR 4/11)

6 APRIL 2013

IDF forces and Palestinians continue to clash in demonstrations across the **West Bank and East Jerusalem**, including in al-Khader nr. Bethlehem, where **IDF soldiers** shoot and seriously injure a woman. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and 4 villages nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron, 3 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Bethlehem, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF forces** open fire on houses and agricultural lands nr. Khan Yunis, causing no injuries. (MNA 4/6; JP 4/7; PCHR 4/11)

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry arrives in **Turkey** at the start of a regional tour, his third since assuming office in 2/2013 (previous trips were 3/4 and 3/24). His talks in **Ankara** are expected to focus on the **Syria** crisis and encouraging the Turkish government to further the improvement of relations with **Israel**. (AFP, REU 4/6)

Tammam Salam is elected by parliament as **Lebanon's** new prime minister, securing 124 of 128 votes. Salam, former minister of culture 2008–2009, replaces Najib Mikati, who resigned on 3/22. (NYT 4/6)

7 APRIL 2013

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry meets with **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** in Ramallah, and reportedly offers him incentives for a return to direct negotiations with **Israel**. Palestinian sources say that offers include ensuring that Israel does not withhold transfer of tax revenues again and possibly expanding the **PA's** jurisdiction to parts of **West Bank Area C** (under Israeli civil and security control). In addition, a Palestinian official claims that Kerry expresses interest in reviving the **Arab Peace Initiative of 2002**, which offered Israel full normalization for Israel's complete withdrawal from the o.t. (including the Golan). (AP, MNA, REU 4/7)

Unidentified Palestinians fire 3 **rockets** from the **Gaza Strip**, with 1 landing in the Negev causing no damage or injuries and 2 landing inside Gaza. Meanwhile, **Israeli naval vessels** open

fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the north Gaza coast, causing no injuries or damage. In the **West Bank**, **IDF forces** shoot and seriously injure a **Palestinian** child during a protest in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem; another **Palestinian** is injured by the **IDF** during a demonstration in Um Rokba nr. Bethlehem. The **IDF** also patrols in Tulkarm in the morning, in 1 village nr. Hebron and 2 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-'Arub r.c., and 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. In another incident, **Jewish settlers** vandalize a mosque in in the Palestinian village of Tekoa nr. Bethlehem, leaving price-tag graffiti on the walls. (AFP, HA 4/7; PCHR 4/11)

8 APRIL 2013

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry meets with **Israeli pres. Shimon Peres** to discuss efforts to restart the peace process. Meanwhile, **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** arrives in Doha for a meeting organized by the **Arab League** and chaired by senior **Qatari** officials to plan a delegation to the UN in New York to revive negotiations. (HA, MNA 4/8)

Israel closes the **Kerem Shalom** goods crossing into **Gaza** in response to the 4/7 rocket fire. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the Gaza coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF forces** shoot and seriously injure a **Palestinian** photographer during clashes in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem, and also shoot and injure a Palestinian construction worker in Madama village nr. Nablus. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, in Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and in Qalqilya and 1 nearby village, and 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Jenin at night. **IDF forces** also conduct house searches and arrest raids in and around Jenin and Tulkarm, nr. Hebron, in Dahaysha r.c. in Bethlehem, and nr. Qalqilya and Salfit. (JP, MNA 4/8; PCHR 4/11)

UNRWA announces that it is reopening its **Gaza Strip**-based food distribution centers after last week's suspension (4/4). (REU 4/8)

9 APRIL 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shoots and injures 2 **Palestinians**, including 1 child, during clashes in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Nablus in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in and around Hebron and neighboring al-'Arub r.c., in Nablus, and 1 village each nr. al-Bireh and Tulkarm at night. In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF forces** enter by the border fence nr. Khan Yunis and level land. (PCHR 4/11)

10 APRIL 2013

Palestinian PM Salam Fayyad offers his resignation to **Pres. Mahmud Abbas** following a long rift between the two over policy and internal authority, but there are no immediate details from either office on steps going forward. (REU 4/10)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shoots and injures 2 **Palestinians** (in al-Khader) and 1 **international activist** (in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem) during separate clashes. The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Jericho and Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in and around Nablus, in Tulkarm and Aida r.c. nr. Bethlehem, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the north Gaza coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** also makes a brief incursion into the Gaza Strip nr. Khan Yunis to level land and clear lines of sight. (MNA 4/10; PCHR 4/11)

Fatah Central Committee member Azzam al-Ahmed and **Hamas' politburo deputy head Musa Abu Marzouk** resume talks in **Cairo** to discuss implementation of previous reconciliation agreements. (JP 4/10)

11 APRIL 2013

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry, on his last day in the region, meets with **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** to discuss reviving negotiations. Afterward, some sources say that **Israel** has agreed

to silently adopt construction freeze outside of the major settlement blocs, while other Israeli government sources say that Israel has refused to adopt any confidence building measures at all pre-negotiations. One anonymous Israeli official says that Netanyahu opposed Kerry's proposal to resume talks based on initially discussing border and security issues only. (HA, YA 4/11)

A scheduled meeting between **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** and **PM Salam Fayyad** to discuss the latter's 4/10 resignation is postponed under **European** and **American** pressure, according to Palestinian officials. An anonymous U.S. State Department official dismisses the idea that Fayyad is really resigning. (AFP, JP 4/11; HA 4/12)

IDF forces make a brief incursion into **Gaza** nr. Khan Yunis to level land and clear lines of sight. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shoots and injures a disabled **Palestinian** man in Hebron during an arrest operation in the city. The **IDF** shoots and injures 4 **Palestinians** with rubber-coated metal bullets in al-Khader nr. Bethlehem during clashes. **Jewish settlers** from Netzah Binyamin outpost nr. Efrat settlement seriously assault a **Palestinian** man working on his land in Silwad village, sparking clashes between residents and settlers. **IDF forces** violently disperse the Palestinians, shooting and injuring 1 Palestinian with rubber-coated metal bullets. **Jewish settlers** cut down or damage around 100 olive trees and grape vines on Palestinian-owned land nr. Hebron. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Jericho and Ramallah in the morning, 2 villages each nr. Jenin, and Ramallah, and 1 village nr. Salfit in the afternoon, and 2 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Salfit at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 each nr. Bethlehem and Hebron at night. (HA, MNA, Wafa 4/11; PCHR 4/18)

A delegation of **Israeli security** and **diplomatic officials** arrives in **Egypt** for discussions with their Egyptian counterparts on the situation in **Sinai** and indirect talks with **Hamas**. (MNA 4/11)

12 APRIL 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in al-'Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron,

and in 1 village nr. Jericho in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Jenin and 1 nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 1 nr. Ramallah at night. **IDF soldiers** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals taking part in nonviolent demonstrations against both the Israeli occupation as well as in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners. Demonstrations are held in 4 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, al-Nabi Salih, Ni'lin, Abud), al-Haraiek nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qad-dum), 2 villages nr. Bethlehem (al-Khader, al-Ma'sara), and in Hebron. There are no serious injuries, except 2 in Bil'in (hit by tear gas canisters) and 1 in al-Khader (rubber-coated metal bullet). (PCHR 4/18)

The **IDF** fires artillery into **Syria** after shots were fired at Israeli troops in the occupied **Golan Heights** causing no damage or injuries. According to the Israeli military, the return fire scored a "direct hit." (REU 4/12)

13 APRIL 2013

Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas accepts the 4/10 resignation of **PM Salam Fayyad**, despite international pressure for him to stay on. Abbas asks Fayyad to remain as caretaker PM until a replacement is appointed. **Secretary of Fatah's revolutionary council Amin Makhoul** welcomes the resignation, saying that Fayyad's government had failed to solve pressing economic problems. **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry**, speaking in **Tokyo**, says he would have preferred Fayyad to stay on and expresses hope that Abbas will appoint the "right person" to work with all parties and "establish confidence." Meanwhile, **Hamas** officials claim that Fayyad's departure is not at all connected to the national reconciliation process, though **Senior Leader of Islamic Jihad Khalid al-Batsh** says that Fayyad's resignation presents an opportunity to form a unity government headed by Abbas. (MNA, REU, Wafa 4/13; AFP, MNA 4/14)

Israeli naval vessels twice open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the **Gaza** coast, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF forces** shoot and injure 3 **Palestinians** during clashes

in Bayt Ummar nr. Hebron. The **IDF** patrols in al-'Arub r.c. in Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-Azza r.c. in Bethlehem, 2 villages each nr. Bethlehem and Ramallah, and 1 village nr. Jenin at night. (MNA 4/13; PCHR 4/18)

APRIL 14 2013

Israeli naval vessels twice open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen off the n. Gaza coast, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Palestinians** clash with **IDF forces** in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem, with demonstrators throwing Molotov cocktails at a military watchtower in the separation wall. In al-Khader nr. Bethlehem, **IDF forces** shoot and injure 3 **Palestinians** with rubber-coated metal bullets in clashes. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in Qalqilya, 2 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Nablus, Salfit, and Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem in the morning, 1 village nr. Bethlehem in the afternoon, and in Hebron and nearby al-'Arub.r.c. in Jenin r.c., in Jenin, and in Tulkarm at night. (MNA 4/14; PCHR 4/18)

Israel's Military Advocate General announces that there will be no criminal investigation of **Israel's** 11/18/12 **air-strike** on Gaza during **Operation Pillar of Defense** that killed 12 **Palestinian civilians**—including 10 members of the same family. (REU 4/14)

Lebanese pres. Michel Suleiman criticizes **Israel's** continued routine violations of his country's airspace (see 3/19) and urges the international community to end these breaches of United Nations Resolution 1701. (DS 4/14)

15 APRIL 2013

IDF troops in a watchtower on the Gaza border open fire on **Palestinian** farmers who stray close to the border fence nr. al-Buraij r.c., seriously injuring 1. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the n. Gaza coast, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF forces** shoot and injure 6 **Palestinians** with rubber-coated metal bullets during clashes in al-Khader

nr. Bethlehem. The **IDF** patrols in Qalqilya and 2 villages nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Balata r.c. in Nablus and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (MNA 4/15; AFP, MNA 4/16; PCHR 4/18)

UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry praises outgoing **Palestinian PM Salam Fayyad**, following the latter's resignation (effective 4/13). Serry reaffirms the necessity of a negotiated two-state solution, and says that Fayyad "had to contend with circumstances that kept constraining the success of the state building agenda" that is now "at serious risk." Meanwhile, **Fatah Central Committee member Azzam al-Ahmad** says that Abbas must form a national unity government and set a date for elections, in the light of Fayyad's resignation. (AFP, WAFA 4/15)

16 APRIL 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in and around Hebron and in 1 village nr. Jenin at night. (PCHR 4/18)

Bloomberg reports that for the first time, the regular budget for the **Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency** contains funds to buy new Iron Dome missile defense systems for **Israel**. \$395.9 million is budgeted for the purpose in fiscal years 2014-15, in what is described by an Agency spokesperson as "new money," coming on top of \$486 million requested by the White House and Congress (making a total of \$882 million). (Bloomberg 4/16)

17 APRIL 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF soldiers** and **Palestinians** clash in al-Khader nr. Bethlehem (4 serious injuries), in Bayt Ummar nr. Hebron (6 injuries), and in Ramallah (1 injury). The **IDF** patrols in al-Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, Tulkarm, and 1 village nr. Hebron at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Tubas, Jenin, al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. (PCHR 4/18)

The **Mujahidin Shura Council**, which has previously fired projectiles from the **Gaza Strip** into **Israel** (3/21, 4/2), claims responsibility for firing 2 **Grad rockets** from the **Egyptian Sinai** that hit the Israeli resort city of **Eilat**, causing no damage or injuries. The group states that the attack was intended to demonstrate solidarity with **Palestinian** prisoners in Israeli jails. (NYT, REU, YA 4/17)

The **U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee** adopts Senate Resolution 65 (S. Res. 65), introduced on 2/28, which stipulates that **Washington** will support **Israel**—though no specific are given—in the event that it takes military action against **Iran** (see Congressionalmonitor.org for more). (YA 4/17)

18 APRIL 2013

Unidentified Palestinians fire 2 **rockets** from the **Gaza Strip** into **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** violently disperse dozens of **Palestinian** protesters in al-Khader nr. Bethlehem, causing no serious injuries. The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in al-Bireh, al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 2 villages nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem, 1 village nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Jenin, and 1 village nr. Salfit at night. (REU, YA, MNA 4/18; PCHR 4/25)

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry tells the **House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee** that the “window for a two-state solution is shutting” and that the chance to create a Palestinian state alongside **Israel** will be lost in 1–2 years. (Guardian 4/18)

Officials from a dozen **Palestinian factions** including the **PFLP**, **DFLP** and **Islamic Jihad**—but excluding **Hamas** and **Fatah**—meet in **Gaza City** to discuss the resignation of Salam Fayyad. In a subsequent news conference, the factions say **Pres. Mahmud Abbas** should immediately start forming a Palestinian unity government of technocrats to be sworn in within three weeks. The government should then set a date for presidential, parliamentary, and **Palestinian National Council** elections. (MNA 4/18)

Anonymous diplomats say that **Iran** and the **International Atomic Energy Agency** have agreed to discussions in mid-5/2013. Meanwhile, **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** tells the **U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee** that he was disappointed by the failure of talks in **Kazakhstan** but that a diplomatic solution to the dispute with **Iran** is still the best option. (AP 4/18)

19 APRIL 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 3 villages each nr. Jenin, and nr. Ramallah, 1 village each nr. Jericho, and nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in Nablus, 2 villages nr. Nablus and 1 nr. Bethlehem at night. During nonviolent demonstrations against the Israeli occupation and in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners, Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals are violently dispersed by **IDF soldiers** in 4 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, al-Nabi Salih, Ni'lin, Silwad), 2 villages nr. Bethlehem (al-Khader, al-Ma'sara), and in al-Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah. There are no serious injuries, except in Silwad (3) and al-Jalazun (3). (PCHR 4/25)

Newly re-elected Hamas leader Khalid Mishal convenes senior **Hamas officials** in **Qatar** to discuss, among other issues, prospects for forming a national unity government in the wake of **PA PM Salam Fayyad's** 4/13 resignation, and ways of pressuring **Israel** to free Palestinian prisoners. Meanwhile, **Pres. Mahmud Abbas** says he will launch talks in the near future on forming a new cabinet. (AFP, MNA 4/19)

20 APRIL 2013

Unidentified Palestinians fire a **rocket** from **Gaza** into **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Hebron and 1 nr. Qalqilya at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids at night in Hebron, 3 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Tulkarm. (YA 4/21; PCHR 4/25)

A letter sent on 4/12 from 13 of 27 **European foreign ministers to Catherine Ashton** is published, expressing support for labelling products from Israeli settlements and asking Ashton to formulate guidelines. (HA 4/20)

21 APRIL 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the morning, in 3 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village each nr. Ramallah and nr. Tulkarm at night. At night, **IDF soldiers** conduct house searches and arrest raids in al-Azza r.c. in Bethlehem, Aida r.c. in Bethlehem, 1 village nr. Bethlehem, 2 villages nr. Hebron, and 2 villages nr. Jenin. (PCHR 4/25)

U.S. Defense Secy. Chuck Hagel begins a Middle East tour in **Israel**, where he is expected to have meetings with **Pres. Shimon Peres, PM Benjamin Netanyahu, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz** and **DM Moshe Ya'alon**. Hagel will discuss **Iran, Syria**, and also the sale of U.S. military equipment to Israel. Hagel's weeklong tour of the region will also include **Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt** and the **United Arab Emirates**. (HA, NYT 4/20; WP 4/21)

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry meets **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** in **Istanbul** to continue discussions about restarting negotiations, particularly a proposal to focus on boosting the Palestinian economy. **Palestinian amb. to Turkey Nabil Maarouf** says that the meeting fails to make any substantial progress with regards to Palestinian conditions for resuming negotiations. **Secy. Kerry** says that restored ties between **Turkey** and **Israel** can allow both countries to work with **Washington** on **Iran** and **Syria**. Kerry asks **Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan** to delay his planned trip to the Gaza Strip in order not to disrupt efforts to improve Turkish-Israeli relations. **Secy. Kerry** also attends a major meeting between the Syrian opposition and its main 11 foreign supporters. After the meeting, **Secy. Kerry** says that Washington will double its nonlethal aid to the **Syrian opposition** to \$250 million, support that will be funnelled through the rebels' **Supreme Military Council**. (AFP 4/20; MNA, NYT, REU 4/21; JP 4/22)

22 APRIL 2013

Palestinian prisoner and administrative detainee Samer al-Issawi agrees to end his hunger strike—which has lasted for more than 8 months and inspired widespread Palestinian protest in solidarity—in exchange for an early release. At one such rally today, **IDF soldiers** clash with residents in Abu Dis, East Jerusalem, shooting and injuring 1. In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** destroy hundreds of almond and olive trees in Bayt Dajan nr. Nablus, while in Dayr Jarir nr. Ramallah, settlers attack Palestinian property and set fire to 10 vehicles. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Jericho, 3 villages nr. Jenin, 1 village nr. Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Salfit and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. **IDF soldiers** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin and in 1 village nr. Jericho at night. The **IDF** conduct a ground incursion close to the border nr. Bayt Hanun and level land. (REU, Wafa 4/22; MNA 4/23; PCHR 4/25)

An **Israeli delegation** meets their **Turkish** counterparts in **Ankara** to discuss ways of improving bilateral relations, including the question of financial compensation by **Israel** to the families of Turkish activists killed on the *Mavi Mar-mara* in 2010. (JP 4/21)

Al-Abram cites Palestinian government sources claiming that **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** has asked **Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan** that **Turkey** play a more prominent role in the drive for national reconciliation between **Fatah** and **Hamas**. (HA 4/22)

U.S. Defense Secy. Chuck Hagel announces an arms deal with **Israel** at a press conference in **Tel Aviv** alongside **Israeli DM Moshe Ya'alon**. The sale includes V-22 Osprey helicopter-plane aircraft, refueling tankers, advanced radars for fighter jets, and advanced missiles that target air defenses. During their remarks, Ya'alon tacitly confirms that Israel was responsible for a 1/30 air strike on an army convoy in **Syria**, saying that Israel has already acted to stop weapons falling into **Hizballah's** hands: "When they crossed this red line, we acted." (AFP, JP 4/22)

23 APRIL 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** uproots over 1,300 olive trees in the village of Susiya in the southern Hebron hills. The **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, and in Jenin, Tulkarm, and 4 villages nr. Tulkarm at night. **IDF soldiers** conduct house searches and arrest raids at night in 1 village nr. Bethlehem in the morning, and in Hebron, 1 village nr. Hebron, al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, and in 1 village nr. Bethlehem. (MNA 4/23; PCHR 4/25)

Israeli officials claims to have evidence the **Syrian government** has used chemical weapons and thus crossed **U.S. Pres. Obama's** so-called "red line," though they do not give details. In response, **White House press secy. Jay Carney** says that the administration is still looking for "conclusive evidence, if it exists." (NYT 4/23)

24 APRIL 2013

IDF soldiers demolish a residential building and 3 shops in the al-Tur neighborhood of East Jerusalem on the grounds that they lacked construction permits. In the **West Bank**, **IDF soldiers** demolish 3 homes in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron. In the Jordan Valley, **IDF soldiers** inform 100 families in Wadi al-Malih that they must temporarily relocate to make space for military training. **IDF forces** also open fire on 2 **Palestinians** trying to damage the separation wall nr. Jalbun northeast of Jenin, injuring 1. The **IDF** patrols in Jenin and 2 villages nr. Jenin in the morning, 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in Jenin, 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in Hebron, 1 village nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Jenin, and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. Meanwhile, the **IDF** makes a brief incursion into northern **Gaza** nr. Bayt Hanun to level land and clear lines of sight along the border fence. (MNA, WAFA 4/24; PCHR 4/25)

The **PA** agrees to postpone the presentation of 5 resolutions condemning Israeli policies to the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** executive board in **Paris**. As part of the **Russia** and

U.S.-brokered agreement between the PA and Israel (with the help of **Jordan** and **Brazil**), **UNESCO** experts will survey a number of sites in Jerusalem. (JP 4/24)

25 APRIL 2013

The **IDF** shoots and injures 1 **Palestinian** during clashes in Abu Dis, East Jerusalem, sparked by a visit to the neighborhood by an Israeli intelligence officer. In the **West Bank**, **IDF forces** uproot around 700 olive trees in a village nr. Jenin. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 3 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village each nr. Qalqilya, nr. Ramallah and nr. Tulkarm at night. **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in Hebron in the afternoon. The **IDF** makes an incursion into **Gaza** nr. Khan Yunis to level land and clear lines of sight along the border fence. (MNA, PCHR, WAFA 4/25; PCHR 5/2)

The **Israeli air force** shoots down an unmanned aerial vehicle over the Mediterranean Sea as it approaches the Israeli coast from the direction of **Lebanon**. No group claims responsibility, and **Hizbullah** specifically denies involvement. (REU 4/25)

Israeli newspaper *Ha'Aretz* claims that the **Obama admin.** aims to host a Middle East peace summit in **Washington** in 6/2013, bringing together Israeli **PM Benjamin Netanyahu**, **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas**, and **Jordan's King Abdullah II**. **U.S. officials** deny the report. (HA 4/25)

26 APRIL 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF soldiers** demolish 2 structures in Oz Zion, a **Jewish settlement outpost** nr. Ramallah. The **IDF** also patrols in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron and 2 villages nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. **IDF soldiers** violently disperse **Palestinians**, **Israelis**, and **internationals** taking part in nonviolent demonstrations against the Israeli occupation and in solidarity with **Palestinian prisoners**. The demonstrations are held in 4 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, al-Nabi Salih, Budrus), 1 village nr. Bethlehem

(al-Ma'sara), 1 village nr. Hebron (Bayt Ummar), al-Haraiek area nr. Hebron, al-Shakara area nr. Ramallah, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafir Qaddum); 1 Palestinian is seriously injured in Kafir Qaddum by a tear gas canister to the head. **IDF troops** on the Gaza border e. of Jabaliya r.c. shoot and wound 1 Palestinian in the **Gaza Strip**. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the north Gaza coast and also off the south Gaza coast off Khan Yunis: no damage or injuries reported. (AFP, MNA 4/26; PCHR 5/2)

The **European Union** missions in Ramallah and Jerusalem express serious concern over **Israel's** demolition of 22 structures across 8 locations in the **West Bank** and **East Jerusalem** earlier in the week that displaced 28 **Palestinians**. The EU statement notes that some of the destroyed structures were funded by member states. (JP 4/27)

U.S. Pres. Barack Obama hosts **Jordan's King Abdullah II** at the White House, with discussions to include the Syrian crisis, as well as **Jordan's** political and economic developments. Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office before the meeting, **Pres. Obama** says he would respond "prudently" and "deliberately" to solid evidence **Syria** has used chemical weapons, a development he describes as a "game changer" for Washington (see 4/23 above). (AFP, AP, REU, NYT 4/26)

27 APRIL 2013

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 **Grad rocket** fr. **Gaza** into southern **Israel** at night, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** retaliates with **air strikes** on 2 sites in the southern Gaza Strip, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank** the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. At night, **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in al-Azza r.c. in Bethlehem at night. (HA, JP 4/28; PCHR 5/2)

Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas calls on all factions to cooperate with him to form a government of technocrats and to set a date for elections. **Hamas spokesperson Sami Abu Zuhri** says that there has been no consultation with the movement so far and warns against unilateral steps. (MNA 4/27)

28 APRIL 2013

Israeli media report that **Israel's Economy and Trade Min. Naftali Bennett** is pushing for a Basic Law to be passed requiring a national referendum on any potential future peace treaty with the Palestinians. (JP 4/28)

Israel's Supreme Court grants the government's 3/24 request to postpone the evacuation of unauthorized settler outpost **Amona**, and sets the new date for 7/15. In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** fires warning shots at a group of **Palestinians** close to the border fence nr. Jabaliya r.c., injuring 1. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the coast nr. Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Ramallah at night, and 1 village each nr. Hebron, nr. Jenin, nr. Qalqilya at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in Dahaysha r.c. in Bethlehem at night. (HA, PCHR 4/28)

29 APRIL 2013

In **Washington**, **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** and **VP Joe Biden** meet with senior Arab officials including the **Bahraini, Egyptian, Jordanian** and **Qatari FMs**, and representatives from the **PA, Arab League, Lebanon**, and **Saudi Arabia** for talks on the peace process. **Qatari PM Shaykh Hamad Bin Jassem al-Thani**, speaking on behalf of the **Arab League** delegation, cites the possibility of a border agreement that includes mutually agree and minor land swaps between the Israelis and the Palestinians. **Kerry** affirms the importance of the **2002 Arab Peace Initiative** that promised full normalization for **Israel's** complete withdrawal from the occupied territories (including the Golan). (AP, REU 29/4)

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 **rocket** from **Gaza** into **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. In response to recent rocket fire (see also 4/27), **Israel** closes the Kerem Shalom commercial crossing, further restricts movement through the Erez crossing to "humanitarian cases," though it cancels visits for Gazan families of Palestinians jailed in **Israel** (VIPs were

the only others allowed to cross Gaza). **Israeli naval vessels** fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the south Gaza coast east of Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF soldiers** evict several hundred Bedouin from Wadi al-Malih village in the Jordan Valley after declaring the area a live fire training zone (see 4/24). Meanwhile, **Israel** demolishes 4 Palestinian apartments in the al-Tur neighborhood of East Jerusalem, as well as a water well and utility room in the al-Fawar r.c. in Hebron. The **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Tulkarm in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon. At night, **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in Dahaysha r.c. in Bethlehem, in Hebron, in 5 villages nr. Hebron, in Nablus, and in 1 village nr. Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinians in Bayt Furik village nr. Nablus, injuring 2. (AFP, MNA REU 4/29; PCHR 5/2)

UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon urges the **Syrian government** to allow experts into the country to investigate reports of alleged use of chemical weapons. **Damascus** wants any investigation limited to a 3/2013 incident nr. Aleppo while Ban wants to also include a 12/2012 incident in **Homs**. (see 4/24) (AP 4/29)

30 APRIL 2013

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry welcomes the **Arab League's** expression of support for reviving peace talks made the previous day, describing it as a "very big step forward." An Israeli official welcomes the development, but says that the framework will not be a starting point for talks. **Justice Minister Tzipi Livni** says that the **Arab League** proposal represents encouragement for the **Palestinians** that they have regional support for a negotiated agreement. **PLO Chief Negotiator Saeb Erekat** says that the **Arab League's** support for land swaps is nothing new. Meanwhile, **Israel's Construction and Housing Minister Uri Ariel** says that his party, **Bayit Yehudi**, will not back a 2013 budget that does not include full funding for **West Bank** settlement construction projects. (NYT 4/29; MNA, JP 4/30)

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** makes an **air strike** nr. Rafah assassinating **Hitham al-Mishal**, whom **Israel** accuses

of being a Salafist militant responsible for arms manufacturing. In response, **Hamas** urges **Egypt** to ensure that Israel stays committed to the truce deal signed at the end of **Operation Pillar of Defense** in 11/2012 (see QU 167). **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** twice, once off the central Gaza coast nr. Dayr al-Balah and once off the south Gaza coast nr. Rafah, in the latter case causing damage and 1 injury. **IDF forces** also make a brief incursion into central Gaza nr. Juhr al-Dikto level land and clear lines of sight along the border fence. In the **West Bank**, a **Palestinian** fatally stabs a **Jewish settler** from Yitzhar at a Tapuach junction bus stop. In retaliation, **Jewish settlers** riot and attack **Palestinians** across the West Bank, including blocking roads and throwing stones at passing vehicles. Overall, the Palestinian civil defense report 57 fires across the West Bank caused by settlers, with damage to hundreds of olive and almond trees. In the most serious incident, **Jewish settlers** from Yitzhar settlement attack a mosque in Urif village and try to set it on fire; and stone a bus carrying Palestinian schoolchildren, injuring 2. The attack on Urif sparks clashes between **IDF forces** and Palestinians, leaving 4 Palestinians injured. Meanwhile, the **IDF** patrols in Hebron and 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in Bethlehem and Tulkarm at night. (HA, MNA 4/30; MNA 5/1; PCHR 5/2)

UNRWA estimates that 235,000 **Palestinian refugees** have been displaced inside Syria during the ongoing civil war. (AP, WAFA 4/30)

1 MAY 2013

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu says that **Israel** will only accept a peace agreement with the Palestinians "that will prevent Israel from becoming a binational state, but will provide stability and security." Meanwhile, **Palestinian FM Riyad al-Maliki** confirms that the **PA** has promised the U.S. that it will freeze efforts to join **United Nations** agencies or turn to the **International Criminal Court** as a "gesture" for the peace process. (HA, JP 5/1)

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into southern **Gaza** to level land and clear lines of site along the border fence nr. Khan Yunis. **Israeli naval vessels** twice open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the Gaza coast, once nr. Rafah and once nr. Dayr al-Balah, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in Hebron in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon. At night, **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Jericho, and 1 village nr. Salfit. (MNA 5/1; PCHR 5/2)

Hamas reports that **PA security forces** have arrested 5 **Hamas** members in Hebron, Ramallah and Qalqilya. (MNA 5/1)

2 MAY 2013

In a meeting with **Swiss FM Didier Burkhalter**, **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** says that he intends to bring any proposed peace agreement with the Palestinians to a national referendum. Meanwhile, Israeli sources suggest that **PM Netanyahu** is afraid that **Israel's** negotiation position would be undermined if **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** accepts the **Arab League's** recent statement on borders and territorial exchange (see 4/29). **Hamas leader Khalid Mishal** rejects the **Arab League** endorsement of land swaps, and claims that the proposal is designed to find economic peace between Arab states and **Israel**. Meanwhile, **Israel's Justice Minister Tzipi Livni** and Netanyahu's negotiation adviser **Yitzhak Molcho** arrive in **Washington** to discuss peace process issues with Kerry. (AP, HA, MNA 5/2)

Unidentified Palestinians fire 2 **mortars** from **Gaza** into **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. **Hamas** deploys **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigade (IQB)** members nr. along the border fence to prevent rocket fire. Meanwhile, the **IDF** make a brief incursion into Gaza nr. Bayt Hanun to level land and clear lines of sight along the border fence. In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** cut down over 50 olive trees in Dayr Jarir village nr. Ramallah. **IDF forces** attack a Palestinian funeral procession in Bayt Ummar village nr. Hebron, shooting and injuring 3 mourners. The **IDF** patrols in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 3 villages nr. Hebron,

1 village nr. Jenin, 2 villages nr. Jericho and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. At night, **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Bethlehem at night. (AA, MNA, Tol, YA 5/2; PCHR 6/9)

Hamas authorities in **Gaza** say that they have arrested 6 **Salafists** on suspicion of stealing weapons and plotting attacks. The **Mujahidin Shura Council** calls on the government to stop the detention campaign against its members. (MNA 5/2; PCHR 5/9)

Israel's High Court orders **DM Moshe Ya'alon** to halt construction of the separation wall nr. the West Bank village of Batir, in response to a petition submitted by residents and **Friends of the Earth Middle East**. (HA, MNA 5/2)

3 MAY 2013

The **Israeli Air Force** makes an **air-strike** in **Syria**. **U.S. officials** say that the target was weapons, rather than a building or installation. An anonymous Israeli official subsequently says that the target was a shipment of missiles intended for **Hizballah**, believed to include a Syrian-produced surface-to-surface guided weapon. Meanwhile, Lebanese sources report several sorties by Israeli air force planes in **Lebanese airspace**, breaches of sovereignty which are condemned by **Pres. Michel Suleiman**. (HA 5/3; AP, REU 5/4)

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF forces** open fire on **Palestinians** picnicking close to the border fence nr. Jabaliya, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Hebron in the afternoon (injuring 4 Palestinians in clashes), and in 1 village each nr. Hebron, nr. Jenin, nr. Qalqilya, nr. Ramallah and 3 villages nr. Salfit at night. Also at night, **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon and 1 village nr. Salfit. **IDF soldiers** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals taking part in weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the Israeli occupation and in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners. Demonstrations are held in 4 villages nr. Ramallah (Budrus, Bil'in, al-Nabi Salih, Ni'lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafir Qaddum), 2 villages nr. Bethlehem

(al-Khader, al-Ma'sara), and al-Shakara area nr. Ramallah. There are no serious injuries, except 1 in in Budrus and 2 in al-Nabi Salih. (PCHR 5/9)

4 MAY 2013

In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** block access to a **Palestinian** village nr. Ramallah in a protest against a perceived deterioration in security conditions, sparking clashes with around 100 residents that leave 2 Jewish settlers and 1 Palestinian injured. Meanwhile, the **IDF** patrols in al-'Arub r.c., 1 village nr. Salfit and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. Also at night, **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem and 2 villages nr. Ramallah. (HA 5/5; PCHR 5/9)

5 MAY 2013

The **Israeli air force** strikes a site nr. **Damascus**, in a new air strike on what unnamed Western intelligence sources say was a shipment of advanced, Iranian-made missiles heading to **Hizballah** in **Lebanon**. **Israeli officials** later stress that the **airstrikes** are aimed at Hizballah rather than destabilizing or undermining **Pres. Bashar al-Asad's** regime. The **Syrian government** accuses **Israel** of "gross aggression" and says that the strike "opens a door to all options." The opposition **Syrian National Coalition** also condemns the strike, saying that Israel is "taking advantage" of the conflict. A **U.S. intelligence official** says that **Washington** was not given any forewarning of the air raid. **Iran's** Foreign Min. states that countries in the region should oppose the "assault," while the **Iran's** army ground forces commander Ahmad Reza Pourdastan says Tehran is ready to support its ally. **Egypt** condemns the airstrikes, as does the **Lebanese pres. Michel Suleiman**. The **Arab League** demands that the **UN Security Council** act to end Israeli attacks on **Syria**, though without suggesting any specific measures. (*Guardian*, HA, JP, MNA, REU, YA 5/5; AP, REU 5/6)

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF forces** open fire on **Palestinian** gravel and metal collectors close to the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr.

Tulkarm in the morning, 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Salfit in the afternoon, and in al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron and 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. Also at night, **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem, 1 village nr. Hebron, and 2 villages nr. Jenin. (PCHR 5/9)

6 MAY 2013

In Jerusalem, **Israeli** and **Turkish officials** reach an unspecified draft agreement in to end the diplomatic stand off. The Turkish delegation, headed by **FMin. undersecretary Feridun Sinirlioğlu**, is the most senior such delegation since **Israel's** 2010 attack on the *Mavi Marmara* aid flotilla to **Gaza** (see QU 157). **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's** office publishes a statement saying further clarifications are required on certain subjects, though gives no further details (HA 5/5; JP 5/6)

Israel's Ministerial Committee on Legislation approves a bill for the development of the **Negev**, known as the **Praver-Begin** plan, which would result in the forced displacement of tens of thousands of **Palestinian Bedouin citizens of Israel**. (MNA 5/6)

The **Yesh Atid** party, the second largest in the ruling coalition, decides to oppose **Economy and Trade Minister Naftali Bennett's** proposal, first offered at the end of April, to pass a Basic Law requiring a referendum before any peace treaty with the Palestinians is signed. (YA 5/6)

Israeli naval vessels twice open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the north **Gaza** coast, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Jenin, 1 village nr. Ramallah and 2 villages nr. Salfit at night. Also at night, **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem, 1 village nr. Bethlehem and 3 villages nr. Hebron. (PCHR 5/9)

7 MAY 2013

Two small **rockets** and later a **mortar** land in the Israeli-occupied **Golan Heights**, causing no damage or injuries. While the **IDF** says the fire is "accidental

spillover" from the Syrian civil war, rather than intentional, the **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command** says that **Syrian government** has given the Damascus-based group permission to attack Israeli targets in the Golan Heights. **Syrian pres. Bashar al-Asad** says that **Syria** is capable of facing **Israel**, but does not suggest Damascus will retaliate for the recent Israeli **air strikes** (e.g., 5/5). **Hizballah's deputy head Naim Qassem** says that the Israeli attacks aim to boost the opposition fighters and does not comment on claims that missiles bound for the Lebanese group were the target. Meanwhile, **Syrian rebel faction the Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade** says that it is holding 4 Filipino **UN peacekeepers** it detained on the Syrian side of the cease-fire line between Syria and the occupied Golan Heights, claiming that fighting had endangered the observers. (AP, JP, REU, WP 5/7)

Israeli officials say that **PM Benjamin Netanyahu** has promised **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** to "rein in" settlement construction until mid-6/2013 in the context of renewed efforts to resume negotiations. (HA 5/7)

Israeli naval vessels open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the north **Gaza** coast, causing no damage or injuries. In East Jerusalem, some 40 right-wing Israelis enter the **al-Aqsa Mosque** compound protected by Israeli security forces, sparking clashes with Palestinian worshippers. In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** attack **Palestinian** vehicles and agricultural land nr. Nablus, causing no injuries. The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. Also at night, **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in Nablus, 1 village nr. Nablus, 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Tulkarm. (MNA, WAFA 5/7; PCHR 5/9)

8 MAY 2013

Israel's Justice Minister Tzipi Livni meets with **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** in Rome, following a meeting last week in **Washington** that discussed the possibility of reviving Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. **U.S. Pres. Barack Obama**

speaks with **PM Benjamin Netanyahu** by phone to discuss the peace process. Meanwhile, **Israeli authorities** approve construction of 296 new settlement **housing units** in Beit El settlement nr. Ramallah. (JP 5/8; JP, MNA 5/9)

In Jerusalem, **Jewish settlers** accompanied by **Israeli security forces** enter the **al-Aqsa Mosque compound** for the second consecutive day, preventing Muslim worshippers from freely accessing the site. Meanwhile, Israeli police detain **Jerusalem Mufti Mohammed Hussein** for a few hours over his role in clashes the previous day. In the **West Bank**, **IDF forces** demolish 3 **Palestinian** homes in al-Auja village nr. Jericho. **IDF undercover units** conduct a raid nr. Jenin, arresting **PA Preventive Security officer Mohammed Ahmed Zakarna**, who received an amnesty a few years ago for his participation in the **al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades**. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. **IDF troops** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Jenin and in Tulkarm at night. **IDF forces** make 2 brief incursions into **Gaza** to level land and clear lines of sight along the border nr. Jabaliya and Bayt Hanun. (AFP, MNA 5/8; PCHR 5/9)

Israeli human rights organization **B'Tselem** publishes a report that says **Israel** killed 87 **Palestinian civilians** in **Operation Pillar of Defense** in 11/2012, 80% of whom died in the second half of the operation. (JP 5/9)

Egyptian theologian and prominent Islamist cleric Yusuf al-Qaradawi enters the **Gaza Strip** on a high-profile official visit to the **Hamas** government, welcomed and hosted by **PM Ismail Haniyeh** (AFP 5/8)

Jordan's parliament votes in favor of petitioning the government to expel **Israeli amb. Daniel Nevo** and recalling **Jordan's amb.** to Israel to protest recent unrest involving Jewish settlers entering the **al-Aqsa Mosque** compound (see 5/7) Ultimately, **Jordan's Interior Min. Hussein al-Majali** only summons Nevo to convey an official protest. (AFP 5/8)

Professor Stephen Hawking of Cambridge University pulls out of a conference in Israel in 6/2013 hosted by **Pres.**

Shimon Peres, citing the **Palestinian** boycott call. Israeli **FM spokesman Yigal Palmor** says that “never has a scientist of this stature boycotted Israel.” (NYT 5/8)

The UN relocates peacekeepers from an observation post in the al-Jamla area of the **Golan Heights** cease-fire zone, following the most recent abduction of Filipino troops on 5/7. (AFP 5/8)

9 MAY 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF forces** demolish 10 commercial properties nr. Jenin. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin and nr. Qalqilya in the morning, in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 4 villages nr. Jenin and 2 villages nr. Ramallah at night. Also at night, **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya. (MNA 5/9; PCHR 5/10)

Palestinian amb. to Egypt Barakat al-Farra says that **Palestine** has called an emergency meeting of **Arab League** representatives to discuss recent clashes in **al-Aqsa Mosque** compound (see 3/8). (MNA 5/9)

Hamas says that **PA security forces** arrest 9 of its members in Hebron, Nablus, Qalqilya, and Ramallah. (MNA 5/9)

Hizballah leader Hasan Nasrallah says that **Syria** will supply the organization with “game-changing” weapons, following recent Israeli **air strikes**, and that **Hizballah** would help other groups looking to liberate the Syrian **Golan Heights** from Israeli occupation. Meanwhile, **deputy Syrian FM Faisal Miqdad** says that his country will “respond immediately” to any further Israeli attack in its territory. (AFP 5/9; DS 5/10)

10 MAY 2013

The **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinians** demonstrating against continued settler violations in Bayt Ummar village nr. Hebron, injuring 20 with rubber-coated steel bullets, including 1 man shot in the head. The **IDF** also shoots **Palestinian** protesters demonstrating against the **IDF's** closure of the main entrance of Silwad village nr. Ramallah, injuring 14, while in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 2 **Israeli soldiers** are wounded by **Palestinians** during confrontations in the camp. There are

also clashes between **Palestinians** and the **IDF** at Huwara checkpoint nr. Nablus as **Palestinians** protest recent violence in the **al Aqsa Mosque** compound, with no serious injuries. Separately, **IDF soldiers** violently disperse **Palestinians**, **Israelis**, and **internationals** taking part in nonviolent demonstrations in multiple villages against the Israeli occupation in solidarity with **Palestinian** prisoners. Demonstrations are held in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, al-Nabi Salih, Nilin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), and al-Shakara area nr. Ramallah. There is 1 serious injury in al-Shakara, 1 in Bil'in, and 2 in al-Nabi Salih. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya and 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Hebron (injuring 3 during clashes) and 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon. Then at night, **IDF soldiers** patrol in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Jenin and 2 villages nr. Ramallah; conduct house searches and arrest raids in Hebron, 3 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Qalqilya. Meanwhile, **Jewish settlers** uproot around 70 olive trees in al-Tawani village nr. Hebron. (MNA 5/10; PCHR 5/16)

11 MAY 2013

Dozens of **Jewish settlers** from Yitzhar settlement enter Burin village nr. Nablus and clash with **Palestinians**. The **IDF** intervenes, violently dispersing the **Palestinian** residents with tear gas and rubber-coated metal bullets, but causing no serious injuries. **Jewish settlers** also enter Urif village nr. Nablus and clash with **Palestinian** residents, causing no serious injuries. In the **West Bank** at night, the **IDF** patrols in Jericho, 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron, 3 villages nr. Jenin, in Nablus, 1 village nr. Nablus, 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Tulkarm. (AFP 5/11; PCHR 5/16)

The **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC)** says that it is forming combat units to recapture the Israeli-occupied **Golan Heights**. The announcement comes after **Syrian pres. Bashar al-Asad** and **Hizballah** indicated that they would support such operations. (REU 5/11)

PLO Secy.-Gen. Fathi Abu al-Ardat says that at least 55,000 Palestinian refugees have fled **Syria** to **Lebanon** since the civil unrest in Syria began. (DS 5/11)

12 MAY 2013

The **Fatah Central Committee** accepts the **Arab League's** latest proposal (4/29) authorizing land swaps with **Israel** and welcomes U.S. efforts to revive the peace process. Meanwhile, **Israeli opposition leader Shelly Yachimovich (Labor)** meets with **PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas** in Ramallah and expresses her support for a two-state solution. (JP, HA 5/12)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin in the morning, 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Jericho at night. **IDF soldiers** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Jenin, and in Qalqilya. (PCHR 5/16)

Israeli newspaper *Ha'Aretz* speculates that **Israel** has opened a new diplomatic mission in the **Gulf**, based on its examination of Finance Ministry budget allocations for 2014. (HA 5/12)

The **Yarmouk Martyrs' Brigade** releases the 4 Filipino UN **peacekeepers** it captured last week (5/7) on the **Syria** side of the **Golan Heights** demarcation line. (REU 5/12)

13 MAY 2013

Israeli media, citing anonymous government officials, reports that issuance of tenders for construction of 1,500 new settlement housing units in **Ramat Shlomo settlement** in **East Jerusalem** have been delayed for at least 3 weeks for "political reasons" related to the peace process. (JP 5/13)

In the **West Bank**, **Jewish settlers** attack **Palestinian** property and agricultural lands in 2 villages nr. Nablus, causing damage but no injuries. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (MNA 5/13; PCHR 5/16)

Turkish media report that **Ankara** is close to agreement with **Israel** over joint energy projects involving the natural gas discoveries off Israel's coast. (JP 5/13)

14 MAY 2013

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu arrives in **Russia** for talks with **Pres. Vladimir Putin** about the peace process and regional developments, including **Syria**. Netanyahu asks Putin not to supply S-300 anti-aircraft missiles to Bashar al-Asad's regime. (HA 5/14)

The **International Criminal Court's prosecutor Fatou Bensouda** says she will open a preliminary examination into **Israel's** 2010 attack on the **Gaza-bound Mavi Marmara** aid flotilla, following a referral from Comoros, to which one of the vessels raided was registered. (REU 5/14)

Thousands of **Palestinians** hold Nakba Day rallies in cities across the **West Bank**; the **IDF** violently disperses protesters in al-Khader, causing no serious injuries. The **IDF** also patrols in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, injuring 1 **Palestinian** in clashes. **Jewish settlers** uproot around 150 trees south of Nablus and also set fire to Palestinian agricultural lands in Bayt Furik village nr. Nablus. There is also a "price tag" attack in in Umm al-Qutuf village in Wadi Ara, a **Palestinian** village inside the Green Line, in which suspected **Jewish extremists** vandalize a mosque and 3 vehicles. (JTA, MNA, Wafa 5/14; PCHR 5/16)

Fatah and **Hamas** representatives hold reconciliation talks in **Cairo**. **Hamas official Moussa Abu Marzouq** says the sides have pledged to complete formation of a long-anticipated unity government within 3 months (see QU 168 for details). (JP, MNA 5/14)

Egypt's upper house holds a special session to discuss recent clashes (5/7) in **al-Aqsa Mosque** and demands the immediate expulsion of **Israeli ambassador Ya'akov Amitai** in protest, but the government takes no immediate action. (ToI 5/14)

15 MAY 2013

Unidentified Palestinians fire a **rocket** from **Gaza** into **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. **IDF forces** and

Palestinians clash across the **West Bank** and East Jerusalem on Nakba Day, with 25 Palestinians arrested and 6 Israeli security forces injured in and around Jerusalem's Old City. In al-'Aqba village nr. Hebron, **unidentified Palestinians** throw a Molotov cocktail at an **IDF** jeep, destroying it and injuring 4 soldiers. In another incident in the nearby village of al-Tabaqa, **IDF forces** briefly detain more than 45 children. As part of Nakba Day-related protests, **IDF forces** violently disperse **Palestinian** demonstrators at Qalandia and Bitunia nr. Jerusalem, Ofer nr. Ramallah, Kufor Kaddoum nr. Qalqilya, and open fire on Palestinians in al-Khader nr. Bethlehem (injuring 12). In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in al-'Arub r.c. in the morning, and in Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and

arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron and in Tubas at night. (AFP, HA, JP, MNA, YA 5/15; PCHR 5/16)

Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas arrives in **Cairo** for talks with **Egyptian pres. Mohamed Morsi** about the **Arab League's** recent visit (4/29) to **Washington** and **Palestinian** national reconciliation moves. (MNA 5/15)

After 2 years of internal discussions, **senior Fatah members** operating in their own personal capacity issue a document calling for the establishment of one democratic country between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. (HA 5/17)

Mortars fired from inside **Syria** land in the Mount Hermon area of the Israeli-occupied **Golan Heights**, causing no damage or injuries. (HA 5/15)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AA	(Asharq Al-Awsat, London)
AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AKH	(<i>al-Akbbar</i> , Beirut)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
CNN	(Cable News Network [Internet])
DS	(Daily Star, Beirut)
HA	(<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
IMEMC	(International Middle East Media Center, Bayt Sahur)
INN	(Israel National News [Internet])
JP	(<i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem)
JTA	(Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet])
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)
PNN	(Palestine News Network, Ramallah)
REU	(Reuters [Internet])
ToI	(<i>Times of Israel</i> , Jerusalem)
UNNC	(UN News Center)
Wafa	(Palestine News Agency [Internet])
WP	(<i>Washington Post</i> , Washington)
WSJ	(<i>Wall Street Journal</i> , New York)
XIN	(Xinhua–New China News Agency, Beijing)
YA	(<i>Yedi'ot Abaronot</i> , Tel Aviv)