



CHRONOLOGY

16 MAY–15 AUGUST 2013

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This is part 119 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* 169.

16 MAY 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** uproot more than 1,200 olive tree saplings, raze 40 dunams (4 dunams = 1 acre) of land, and demolish a water tank nr. Nablus. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Jenin, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in Qalqilya and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Hebron in the afternoon, and in 4 villages nr. Jenin, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 village nr. Bethlehem and in Tulkarm at night. (MNA 5/16; PCHR 5/23)

Palestinian Authority (PA) Pres. Mahmud Abbas holds talks in **Cairo** with **Egyptian pres. Mohamed Morsi** about the peace process, and efforts to advance national reconciliation talks between Fatah and Hamas. While in Cairo, Abbas also meets with **Palestinian Islamic Jihad head Ramadan Shallah**. (JP, MNA 5/16)

Armed men kidnap 7 **Egyptian** security officers in the **Sinai**, in between Arish and Rafah. There is no indication of the identity or motives of the kidnappers. (AP, REU 5/16)

17 MAY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shoots and injures a number of **Palestinians** in various clashes. Outside al-Jalazun refugee camp (r.c.) nr. Ramallah, **Palestinians** throw stones over the perimeter fence in the direction of the Beit El settlement, and **IDF troops** shoot and wound 9 with live ammunition, none seriously. In the Abu Dis neighborhood of **East Jerusalem**, **Palestinians** open a small hole in the separation wall during protests marking Nakba Day (5/15), and **IDF** troops respond by opening fire with rubber-coated metal bullets, causing a few, non-serious injuries. In al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, **IDF** troops shoot and wound 2 **Palestinians** with rubber-coated metal bullets after residents throw stones at an army patrol. In Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron, the **IDF** shoots and wounds 1 **Palestinian** with a rubber-coated metal bullet, in clashes sparked by an army patrol. In addition, there are also clashes between **Jewish settlers** and **Palestinians**, after the settlers set fire to lands of Nablus area villages. Separately, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning and patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. Israeli

soldiers also attack regular demonstrations by **Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists** against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and the occupation in al-Shakara area and 4 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Nabi Salih, Budrus, Ni'lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), causing no serious injuries. (MNA 5/17; AFP 5/18; PCHR 5/23)

Egyptian police close the **Rafah** crossing with the **Gaza Strip** in protest at the abduction of 3 of their colleagues along with 4 soldiers the previous day (5/16). (MNA 5/17)

18 MAY 2013

Nr. Damascus gate in **East Jerusalem, Israeli security forces** attack **Palestinians** protesting against Israeli violations at al-Aqsa mosque. There are arrests but no serious injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in the Old City of Hebron, 1 village nr. Bethlehem and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 village each nr. Qalqilya, Ramallah and Tulkarm at night. (MNA 5/18; PCHR 5/23)

Egyptian pres. Mohamed Morsi orders the minister of defense to prepare operations in the **Sinai** to free kidnapped security officials, held by a group seeking the release of Islamist militants. Meanwhile, **Egyptian police** continue to keep **Rafah** crossing closed. (MNA, REU 5/18)

19 MAY 2013

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip, Israeli naval vessels** attack **Palestinian** fishermen at sea nr. Bayt Lahiya, arresting 2. In the **West Bank**, between Ramallah and Dayr Jarir, **Israeli forces** attack **Palestinians** attempting to unblock a road closed by the Israeli military the day before, causing no injuries. **IDF troops** also attack **Palestinians** demonstrating in al-Jalazun r.c. nr.

Ramallah in solidarity with prisoners, injuring 3. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Bethlehem, 2 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Nablus at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. (MNA 5/19; PCHR 5/23)

Egyptian police keep the **Rafah** crossing closed for a 3d consecutive day, and also close the al-Awja border crossing, used to transfer goods between **Egypt** and **Israel**, in protest at the kidnapping of security officers by suspected Islamists. The kidnappers post a video online which shows their 7 captives and urges the govt. to meet their demands. (AP, MNA, REU 5/19)

20 MAY 2013

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry leaves for Oman, on a Middle East trip that will also take him to Jordan, Israel, and the occupied Palestinian territories, his 4th visit to the latter in recent mos. The focus of Kerry's trip is the possible Syria peace conference as well as the Palestinian-Israeli peace process. As Kerry departs, Palestinian chief negotiator **Saeb Erakat** says that they are making every effort for peace talks to succeed, revealing that in the previous 2 mos. Kerry met with **Pres. Abbas** 5 times, Erakat 3 times, and that there are almost weekly telephone conversations. (AFP, AP, REU 5/20)

Israel cancels an official visit by a **UNESCO** delegation, scheduled to inspect historical sites in Jerusalem's Old City. The fact-finding commission was set to spend 5 days in Jerusalem before submitting a report at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Israel's Foreign Ministry claims that the visit has been postponed because the Palestinian side "tried to

make it into a political event.” The visit originated in a 4/23 decision by Israel, the PA, and UNESCO to remove 5 resolutions critical of Israeli actions from the agency’s agenda in exchange for the delegation’s visit. (MNA 5/16; HA 5/20)

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in Tulkarm, Balata r.c. in Nablus, and 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin at night, patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, 1 village each nr. Jenin and Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Salfit, 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah, and in Nablus at night. (PCHR 5/23)

Unidentified gunmen open fire at a police camp and al-Awja border crossing in the **Sinai**, causing no casualties. **Egyptian** police deploy reinforcements in the area. Seven security officials remain kidnapped. (AFP, AP 5/20)

21 MAY 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and injure a **Palestinian** teenager in al-Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah during a demonstration in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners. An **IDF** spokesperson says that soldiers targeted a protester holding a Molotov cocktail; Palestinian witnesses say that the 13-year-old was walking with school friends when targeted. The **IDF** also conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, as well as 1 village each nr. Tubas and Tulkarm at night. Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli forces demolish 4 Palestinian-owned residential buildings. (HA, MNA 5/21; PCHR 5/23)

The **Israeli military** announces that **Palestinian fishermen** will now be able to fish up to 6 miles off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, extending the previous limit of 3 miles that was set in 3/2013. Meanwhile, an official from **Hamas’s** Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that the govt. is willing to close smuggling tunnels once a commercial crossing opens. (HA, MNA 5/21)

The **Syrian army** and **Israeli forces** have a brief exchange of fire over the cease-fire line in the **Golan Heights**. Damascus claims responsibility for firing at Israeli troops, damaging an army jeep but causing no injuries, with the **IDF** returning fire, reportedly destroying an army post but causing no injuries. **IDF Chief of Staff Benny Gantz** warns the Syrian govt. not to conduct any further attacks. (AFP, HA, REU, WP 5/21)

Egyptian forces conduct raids in the n. **Sinai** as the search continues for the kidnapped security officials. Egyptian authorities also keep **Rafah** crossing closed for the 5th consecutive day. (MNA 5/21)

22 MAY 2013

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 2 villages nr. Jenin at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning and in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm at night. (PCHR 5/23)

Kidnappers release 7 **Egyptian security officials** in the Rafah area of the **Sinai**, following talks mediated by Bedouin tribal leaders. Subsequently, Egyptian authorities reopen the **Rafah** crossing. (MNA, REU 5/22)

The **U.S. House of Representative’s Foreign Affairs Cmte.** unanimously approves the “Nuclear Iran Prevention Act of 2013” which

both strengthens existing sanctions on Iran and imposes new sanctions. It is expected to pass the full 435-member chamber where it already has over 300 cosponsors. Meanwhile, the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** reports that **Tehran** is pressing ahead with the construction of a research reactor in Arak. **U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Patrick Ventrell** responds to that report with the claim that Iran is “advancing its enrichment programme in blatant violation of its international obligations.” (AP, REU 5/22)

23 MAY 2013

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry holds separate talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, on his 4th visit to the region in 4 mos. Kerry meets with **Israeli PM Netanyahu**, **Justice Minister Tzipi Livni**, and separately with **Pres. Shimon Peres** in Jerusalem, and then with **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** in Ramallah. Kerry praises Netanyahu for his “seriousness” in looking for ways to return to direct negotiations and expresses optimism but no concrete strategy for moving things forward. Meanwhile, **U.S. Defense Secy. Chuck Hagel** appoints **retired Gen. John Allen** as special envoy on security issues in talks between Israel and the PA. Allen’s final post before retirement from the military was as commander of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. (AP, HA, JP, REU 5/23)

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** conducts an incursion nr. Khan Yunis, moving 300 meters past the border fence and raising land with bulldozers, a common occurrence justified by the military on security grounds. **Israeli naval vessels** also open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr.

Bethlehem at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Salfit in the morning, 1 village nr. Salfit in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Jenin, 1 village nr. Jericho and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. In **East Jerusalem**, 5 cars are vandalized with “price-tag” graffiti. (YA 5/23; PCHR 5/30)

Five are killed and more than 50 wounded in clashes in **Tripoli** between Lebanese **gunmen** from Sunni and Alawite communities. The death toll since the latest bout of fighting in the city began on 5/19 is now at least 18, with more than 170 wounded. The violence is linked to a **Syrian govt.** offensive that is being supported by **Hizballah** fighters. (AP, REU 5/23)

24 MAY 2013

U.S. Secy of State John Kerry leaves Israel after 2 days of meetings saying that discussions had been “productive” but with no obvious sign of a breakthrough. Kerry says that **Netanyahu** and **Abbas** have a week or 2 to make difficult decisions that would allow the resumption of direct negotiations. (HA, REU 5/24)

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** conducts an incursion nr. Khan Yunis, entering 250 meters past the border fence and levelling land. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in the Old City of Hebron at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, 1 village nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Jenin, al-‘Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. both Jericho and Salfit at night. **Israeli soldiers** also attack regular demonstrations by **Palestinians, Israelis**, and **international activists** against Israel’s separation wall, settlements, and the occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in, Ni’lin, Nabi Salih), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma’sara), causing no serious injuries except 2 in Bil’in and 1 in

al-Ma'sara; all injured individuals were struck with tear gas canisters. (MNA 5/24; PCHR 5/30)

25 MAY 2013

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Hebron; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Salfit and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. Also in the West Bank, **Jewish settlers** from Yitzhar settlement destroy around 100 olive trees nr. Nablus. (MNA 5/25; PCHR 5/30)

Egypt's Supreme Constitutional Court rules against elements of an election law passed by the **Muslim Brotherhood**-dominated legislature, sending the bill back to the Upper House for review. Meanwhile, **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** meets **Pres. Mohamed Morsi** on the sidelines of an African Union summit and urges the Egyptian govt. to implement economic reforms necessary to secure a \$4.8 billion **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** loan. (AP, REU 5/25)

Four more people die in clashes between residents of the Sunni Bab el-Tebbaneh district and Alawite area Jabal Mohsen, bringing the death toll over 6 days of fighting in **Tripoli** to 28, with over 200 wounded. Meanwhile, Hizballah head Hassan Nasrallah broadcasts a televised speech saying that the fall of the Bashar al-Asad govt. in Syria would be a disaster for the "resistance" and for Palestine and a victory for U.S. and Israeli interests. (AFP, HA 5/25)

26 MAY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** conducts 2 brief incursions nr. Khan Yunis, in both cases levelling land before withdrawing. In the **West**

Bank, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron, one village each nr. Salfit, Qalqilya, and Jerusalem and in Tulkarm and Jenin at night; patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin in the morning, 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and 2 villages nr. Jericho at night. (PCHR 5/30)

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry reveals a \$4 billion plan to boost the Palestinian economy, speaking at the **World Economic Forum** at the Dead Sea in **Jordan** (see document D1 in *JPS* 169 for more). Kerry also urges Israelis and Palestinians to reach a political agreement, saying that a failure to do so would mean living with "a permanent intifada." **Israeli pres. Shimon Peres** and **PA Pres. Mahmoud Abbas** both address the gathering, with Abbas using his speech to refuse any solution involving "temporary borders." (HA, JP, REU 5/26)

There are reports of **rockets** fired from **s. Lebanon** into **n. Israel**, yet this is subsequently denied by the **IDF**, whose soldiers also fail to find any impact site or evidence of a projectile landing in Israeli territory. Meanwhile, 2 rockets are fired into a Shi'i district of **Beirut**, in an apparent response to **Hizballah chief Hassan Nasrallah's** promise to keep fighting in Syria alongside Asad. **Arab League chief Nabil al-'Arabi** urges Hizballah to withdraw from its role in Syria, saying that to continue would threaten Lebanon's internal unity. (AP, HA, REU 5/26; ToI 5/27; JP 5/28)

27 MAY 2013

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry meets with **Israeli justice minister Tzipi Livni** and **Special Envoy Yitzhak Molcho** in **Amman**, their 4th meeting since Kerry's arrival in the region on 5/23. Kerry also meets with **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** in Amman,

their 3d meeting of the trip, before returning to Washington. Kerry tells reporters before he leaves the region that he expects answers from both Netanyahu and Abbas within one or 2 weeks. (HA 5/27)

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** demolish 3 Palestinian-owned houses and 2 sheds in the Jordan Valley village of al-Jiftlik. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Ramallah, Jenin, and Hebron, as well as al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, 1 village each nr. Qalqilya, Jenin, and Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages each nr. Tulkarm, Ramallah and Qalqilya, and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. In **East Jerusalem**, suspected right-wing Jewish extremists vandalize 15 Palestinian-owned cars in the Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood. (MNA, WAFA 5/27; PCHR 5/30)

During talks in Brussels, **EU foreign ministers** fail to reach agreement on supplying arms to **Syrian rebels** but reinstate sanctions on Damascus and lift an arms embargo for the opposition. Member states like Britain and France are now free to go it alone in sending weapons should they see fit at some point. (NYT, REU 5/27)

28 MAY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron, in al-Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, and in Nablus and Balata r.c. at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, and in Tubas and 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jenin, and Tulkarm at night. (PCHR 5/30)

29 MAY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct 2 brief incursions nr. Khan Yunis and al-Bureij r.c., levelling land alongside the border fence. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Jenin at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Salfit at night. Jewish settlers vandalize Palestinian property in 2 villages in the Jordan Valley and nr. Ramallah, leaving “price-tag” graffiti. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli forces demolish 2 Palestinian-owned homes in Bayt Hanina. (HA, MNA, WAFA 5/29; PCHR 5/30)

The **UN Human Rights Council** passes a resolution by a 36-1 vote (Venezuela was the sole opposing vote). It calls for an urgent investigation into alleged crimes by **Syrian govt. forces** and **Hizballah** fighters in Qusair, and also condemns the role of foreign fighters. The text was drafted by Qatar, Turkey, and the U.S. (AP 5/29)

30 MAY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinians** who threw stones at a routine patrol in al-Khadir village nr. Bethlehem, wounding an 11-year-old with a rubber-coated metal bullet. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin, Qalqilya and Tulkarm in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, and in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Hebron, and Tulkarm and 1 village nearby at night. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli security forces clash with Palestinians in the Abu Dis and Eizariya neighborhoods while conducting arrest raids, detaining 29. Meanwhile, in Israel, **security forces** demolish 11 structures and tents

in Attir and 3 homes in Beer al-Mashash, 2 Bedouin villages in the **Negev**. In the latter case, Israeli police officers fire rubber-coated plastic bullets and tear gas at residents, injuring 5. (MNA 5/30; PCHR 6/5)

Israel's Housing Ministry releases a tender for the construction of 300 new homes in Ramot, a settlement in **East Jerusalem**, and also confirms a decision to sell 797 housing units in Moradot Gilo, another East Jerusalem settlement. A **U.S. State Dept.** spokesperson describes the move as “counterproductive,” while **Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat** says that the announcement sabotages U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry’s efforts to restart peace talks. Israeli officials stress that the announcement is not new construction but a republication of a tender previously issued. (AP, HA 5/30)

Syrian pres. Bashar al-Asad says during an interview with Al-Manar TV that **Russia** is still committed to supplying his country with S-300 air defense missiles. Meanwhile, the **UN Security Council** agrees to add Jabhat al-Nusra, an al-Qa’ida-linked rebel group operating in Syria, to a UN sanctions blacklist that imposes an assets freeze, travel ban, and arms embargo on the associated individuals and entities. (AP, REU 5/30)

31 MAY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinians** throwing stones and Molotov cocktails at an army position in n. Bethlehem, wounding 1. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jenin, Jericho, and Qalqilya at night. Israeli soldiers also attack regular demonstrations by **Palestinians**, **Israelis**, and **international activists** against Israel’s separation wall, settlements, and the occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in,

Ni’lin, Nabi Salih), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma’sara), causing no serious injuries except 4 in Bil’in, all struck with tear gas canisters. In **East Jerusalem**, **Jewish extremists** target Dormition Abbey with “price-tag” graffiti. (YA 5/31; PCHR 6/5)

The **Lebanese** parliament postpones elections, extending its term until 11/2014. Ninety-seven of the 128 total legislators voted in favor of postponing polls scheduled for 6/2013, in light of deteriorating security conditions and political deadlock. (AP, REU 5/31)

The **U.S. Treasury Dept.** imposes sanctions on **Iranian** companies in the petrochemical industry and punishes 5 businesses in 4 other countries for helping to evade the sanctions regime targeting Tehran. (NYT 5/31)

1 JUNE 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF soldiers** positioned at a watchtower shoot and injure 1 Palestinian in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, and Ramallah at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. (MNA 6/1; PCHR 6/5)

Over a dozen **rockets** and **mortar rounds** fired from **Syrian** territory land in **Lebanon**, hitting towns in the n. Bekaa Valley, causing some damage but no injuries. (AP, DS 6/1)

2 JUNE 2013

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry calls **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** to express disapproval over plans for new construction in Ramat and Gilo settlements. Meanwhile, **Jordanian FM Nassar Judeh**, in a joint press conference in Ramallah with **PA FM Riyad**

Malki, announces that Kerry will shortly be in Amman for a 4th visit to Jordan to discuss peace efforts. (AFP, HA 6/2; JP 6/3)

Rami Hamdallah, president of an-Najah University, announces that **Pres. Abbas** has asked him to replace **Salam Fayyad** as prime minister and form a new govt., adding that most ministers will remain in post. Fayyad resigned on 4/13 and has been serving as a caretaker. **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** welcomes the appointment, but the decision is denounced by **Hamas**, whose spokesperson **Fawzi Barhoum** says that Abbas should have implemented the reconciliation deal achieved in Cairo in 5/2013, rather than name his own appointee. Meanwhile, **senior Fatah leaders** Nabil Shaath and Othman Abu Gharbieh arrive in Gaza to take part in talks with representatives of all factions about national reconciliation. (AFP, MNA, REU 6/2; JP 6/3)

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian workers, injuring one farmer with live ammunition as he picks watermelons. Following the incident, an IDF spokesperson says that soldiers shot at Palestinians attempting to damage the border fence. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen** off the coast of the Gaza Strip, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning, and in Hebron, 1 village nr. Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Bethlehem and Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Jenin, 1 village nr. Qalqilya, and 1 village nr. Bethlehem in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and in Jenin, Tulkarm, and 1 village each nr. Ramallah, Jericho, Tulkarm, and Qalqilya at night. (MNA 6/2; PCHR 6/5)

Israeli Air Force planes conduct low-altitude fly-overs in the Bekaa Valley and other parts of e. **Lebanon**. (DS 6/3)

3 JUNE 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and in 1 village each nr. Jenin, Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Tulkarm at night; patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin and in Hebron in the morning, in Jenin in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Jenin, 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Bethlehem, and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. **Jewish settlers** set fire to over 50 acres of Palestinian-owned fields nr. Madama and Burin in the n. West Bank. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli officials deliver a demolition order to a building in the Abu Dis neighborhood, sparking clashes with residents. (MNA 6/3; PCHR 6/5)

The **Obama administration** approves further sanctions targeting **Tehran**, this time in respect to financial institutions involved in significant transactions in the Iranian rial, as well as the Iranian auto industry. The sanctions will go into effect on 7/1. Meanwhile, IAEA head Yukiya Amano tells the agency's 35-nation board that talks with Iran "have been going around in circles." (AP, REU 6/3)

Five people die and at least 19 are wounded in clashes between gunmen of rival neighborhoods Bab al-Tabbaneh and Jabal Mohsein in **Tripoli**. (DS, REU 6/3)

4 JUNE 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** bulldozes 4 houses and 4 barracks nr. Jericho. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinian vehicles in al-Tur neighborhood, causing

damage but no injuries. (PNN 6/4; MNA, PCHR 6/5)

Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas says that he wants to return to direct talks with the Israelis as soon as possible, speaking at a news conference in Ramallah with Maldivian pres. Mohammed Waheed Hassan. However, senior PA officials Hussein al-Sheikh, minister for civilian affairs, and chief negotiator Saeb Erakat warn that failure to recommence negotiations will mean Palestinians returning to international bodies to prosecute Israel, or even dismantling the PA itself. An anonymous senior Israeli official is quoted in *Ha'Aretz* as saying that Abbas has given U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry 2 more weeks to formulate a specific proposal. Meanwhile, Kerry meets with Israeli justice minister Tzipi Livni in Washington to discuss efforts to resume talks. (AP, MNA 6/4; HA, JP, YA 6/5)

Fatah officials Nabil Shaath and Faisal Abu Shahla meet with Hamas officials Imad Alami and Ghazi Hamada in **Gaza City** to discuss national reconciliation. (MNA 6/4)

5 JUNE 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 3 mortar shells across the border into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages, al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Ramallah, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Bethlehem in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (MNA 6/5; PCHR 6/13)

U.S. Pres. Barack Obama chooses **Susan Rice** as his new national security adviser and will nominate **Samantha Power**, a National Security Council staffer, to replace Rice as amb. to the UN. (REU 6/5)

Unidentified persons fire 2 mortar shells into an open area nr. the border between **Syria** and the **Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights**. The **IDF** investigates on which side of the border the shells fell. (YA 6/5)

Anonymous **Jordanian officials** tell the media that the **U.S.** will send anti-missile batteries to Amman in preparation for an annual joint military exercise, some of which will be kept in the country to boost the country's defense capabilities in light of potential spillover from the Syrian civil war. (AP 6/5)

6 JUNE 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in Salfit and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in Jenin and 3 nearby villages in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. Jewish settlers uproot olive trees in Palestinian-owned fields nr. Hebron and in a separate incident attack Palestinian-owned cars with stones nr. Nablus, causing damage but no injuries. (MNA 6/6; PCHR 6/13)

Former president of an-Najah University **Rami Hamdallah** is sworn in as Palestinian PM at a ceremony with Pres. Mahmud Abbas, with the 24-member cabinet remaining mostly the same except for a few changes (such as the appointment of 2 deputy PMs, Ziad Abu Amr and Mohammed Mustafa, and a new fin. min., Shukri Bishara). Hamdallah replaces Salam Fayyad, who resigned in 4/2013. Abbas says that the new govt. is intended to remain until there can be an agreement with Hamas about when to hold elections. (MNA, REU 6/6)

Syrian opposition fighters briefly take control of a **UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)**-operated crossing between Syria and the **Israeli-occupied Golan Heights**,

before it is retaken by the Syrian army. In response, **Austria** says it will withdraw its 380 members of the 1,000-strong UNDOF force. In a separate incident, a **Filipino** peacekeeper is injured when a shell lands at another UNDOF base. It is unclear whether the shell was fired by govt. or opposition forces. (AP, REU 6/6)

7 JUNE 2013

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli navy vessels** detain 2 **Palestinian** fishermen at sea and confiscate their boat. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and in Tubas at night. **Israeli soldiers** also attack regular demonstrations by **Palestinians, Israelis**, and **international activists** against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and the occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, Nabi Salih), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), causing no serious injuries except 1 in Bil'in, struck with a tear gas canister. **Jewish settlers** cut down 20 Palestinian-owned olive trees nr. Hebron, while in a separate incident, settlers vandalize Palestinian homes in the n. West Bank. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli security forces** violently disperse an anti-occupation demonstration marking the anniversary of the 1967 war, causing minor injuries. (MNA, Wafa 6/7; PCHR 6/13)

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres tells a news conference in Geneva that the number of **Syrian refugees** in neighboring countries could double to 3.5 million by the end of the year, with an anticipated half of all Syrians requiring humanitarian aid in the same time frame.

Following the Austrian govt.'s recall of its UNDOF members on 7/6, **Russian pres.**

Vladimir Putin offers to replace all 380 with Russians. UN spokesperson Martin Nesirky says that Putin's offer, while appreciated, cannot be accepted due to the Syria-Israel Disengagement Agreement not permitting the participation of permanent members of the Security Council in UNDOF. (REU 6/7)

8 JUNE 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** destroy **Palestinian** protest village Canaan, constructed on land belonging to the village of al-Jaba nr. Gush Etzion bloc settlements. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya at night. (PCHR 6/13)

9 JUNE 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, Israeli authorities partially open the **Kerem Shalom crossing** to allow entry of 220 truckloads of goods for the commercial, agricultural, and aid sectors. Cooking gas is also pumped through the crossing. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts an arrest raid in 1 village nr. Nablus including the participation of undercover forces. (MNA 6/9; PCHR 6/13)

Israeli NGO Peace Now reveals official govt. figures showing that building of **West Bank settlement homes** hit a 7-year high in the 1st quarter of 2013, with 865 housing starts compared to 313 for the same period in 2012. Meanwhile, **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** emphasizes at a cabinet meeting that his govt. is committed to reaching an agreement that would see the establishment of a demilitarized Palestinian state. (AFP, AP 6/9)

U.S. troops begin military exercises in **Jordan**, with more than 4,500 U.S. soldiers, some 3,000 Jordanians, and 500 British soldiers participating. The drills also involve the

deployment of Patriot missiles and fighter jets, which may be kept by Jordan after the exercises finish. (REU 6/9)

Unidentified assailants shoot and kill an Egyptian counterterrorism officer in **al-Arish** in the **Sinai Peninsula**. (AP 6/9)

10 JUNE 2013

Israeli PM Netanyahu accuses the **Palestinians** of setting preconditions for talks, speaking in a Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Cmte. meeting on the same day that it is reported by Israeli media that **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** will postpone a planned visit to **Israel** and the **West Bank**, with Kerry now likely to arrive within a week to 10 days. Meanwhile, Israeli army radio reports that no new construction projects have been started in **East Jerusalem** since the start of 2013, suggesting that there could be a policy of a “silent freeze.” **Former FM Avigdor Lieberman** responds to the reports by describing the de facto freeze as a “temporary hiatus” designed to allow Kerry’s peace efforts to succeed. (AFP, HA, JP, MNA, ToI 6/10)

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** operating from a watchtower nr. Khan Yunis open fire on gravel collectors working nr. the border fence, wounding 1. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron in the afternoon, and in Nablus, 2 villages nr. Nablus, 2 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Tulkarm and Jenin at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm in the morning, in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Jenin at night. (MNA 6/10; PCHR 6/13)

A **Cairo** court adjourns to 7/6 the retrial of ousted **pres. Husni Mubarak** on charges of corruption and responsibility for the deaths of protesters, and at the same time, release his

2 sons Alaa and Gamal. They remain in detention, however, over other corruption-related cases. (AP 6/10)

11 JUNE 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion nr. Dayr al-Balah, levelling land alongside the border fence. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 4 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Ramallah and in Bethlehem at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning and in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. During a patrol in al-Fara’a r.c. nr. Tubas at night, **IDF troops** clash with stone-throwing youths and wound 5 with rubber-coated metal bullets. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli authorities issue expulsion orders for 8 Palestinian families totalling 53 people in Bayt Hanina. (MNA, WAFA 6/11; PCHR 6/13)

PA Dep. PM Mohammad Mustafa tells a news conference in Ramallah that the PA’s debts total \$4.2 billion, with those owed money including local banks and the Palestinian Pension Fund. (JP, MNA 6/11)

Austria begins withdrawing its peacekeepers from the **Golan Heights**-based UNDOF, with an initial group of some 60 to 80 soldiers departing. (AFP, REU 6/11)

The U.S. Treasury imposes an asset freeze under U.S. jurisdiction on 4 individuals based in West Africa it accuses of fundraising for **Hizballah**. Meanwhile, rockets fired from the Syrian side of the border wound 4 people in the Lebanese town of Hermel. (DS, NYT 6/11)

12 JUNE 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion nr. al-Bureij r.c. and level land close to the border fence. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** demolish 2 homes and a sheep barn in Barta’a, a village nr. Jenin. The **IDF**

conducts house searches and arrest raids in 6 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Nablus and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin at night. (MNA, PNN 6/12; PCHR 6/13)

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu says he is willing to launch direct peace talks with the **Palestinians** without preconditions, speaking at a press conference in Warsaw alongside Polish PM Donald Tusk. Meanwhile, the Israeli media report that plans are going ahead to build 675 new housing units in **Itamar settlement**. (HA, YA 6/12)

Israeli DM Moshe Ya'alon departs to **Washington** for talks with **U.S. Defense Secy. Chuck Hagel**, his 1st such visit since taking office in 3/2013. The 2 men are said to be focusing their discussion on military and intelligence cooperation with regard to Syria. Ya'alon will also meet with U.S. politicians and pro-Israel lobbying group **AIPAC**. (AFP 6/12)

A **Syrian army** helicopter opens fire on a **Lebanese** border town in the e. Bekaa Valley, wounding 2. State news agency SANA says that the helicopter was chasing "terrorist groups." In response, the **Lebanese army** says it will immediately respond to any further such cross-border attacks. (AFP, REU 6/12)

13 JUNE 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** operating from a border fence watchtower nr. Khan Yunis open fire and cause damage to a house. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning and in 1 village nr. Jenin at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Jenin, and 1 village nr. Jericho at night. **Jewish settlers** throw rocks and Molotov cocktails at Palestinian-owned homes and a car nr. Yitzhar

settlement in the n. West Bank. (MNA 6/13; PCHR 6/20)

Israeli officials confirm that plans will proceed to build more than 1,000 new homes in Bruchin and Itamar **settlements**, drawing criticism from the U.S. administration, with **U.S. State Dept.** spokesperson Jen Psaki calling the announcement "unhelpful." Bruchin was granted legal status last year, and its residents will be allowed to construct 550 new houses, while Itamar's will be permitted to construct 537 new homes, in association with the relevant govt. agencies. (AP, REU 6/13)

An estimated 3,000 **protesters** march in **Beersheba** to demonstrate against the proposed Praver Plan, which will displace tens of thousands of **Bedouins** in the **Negev**. Bedouins also conduct a community-wide strike in protest of the Plan. (AFP, YA 6/13)

U.S. Pres. Barack Obama authorizes sending U.S. weapons to **Syrian rebels** for the 1st time. Meanwhile, a statement from the White House says that between 100 and 150 people have died from chemical weapons attacks in Syria. (AP, REU 6/13)

UN spokesperson Martin Nesirky says that the peacekeeping dept. has asked **Austria** to delay to the end of 7/2013 its full troop withdrawal from the **UNDOF** mission in the **Golan Heights** to enable a smooth transition. Separately, the UN also says that Syrians are being killed at an average rate of 5,000 per month, with the overall death toll nearly 93,000. (AP 6/13)

14 JUNE 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** operating from a watchtower on the border fence nr. Dayr al-Balah open fire on a **Palestinian** farmer, injuring him. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon; patrols in

3 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 village nr. Jericho, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the morning, in 1 village nr. Jericho and 3 villages and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. **Israeli soldiers** also attack regular demonstrations by **Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists** against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and the occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, Nabi Salih), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafir Qaddum) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), causing no serious injuries except in Bil'in, with 1 injury from a tear gas canister and 1 from a rubber-coated metal bullet. (MNA 6/14; PCHR 6/20)

Israeli DM Moshe Ya'alon declares that **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry's** effort to restart peace talks has failed and that the **Arab League** proposal is just spin. Ya'alon's remarks are made in an address to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy in Washington, ahead of a meeting with **U.S. Defense Secy. Chuck Hagel**. His remarks are criticized by Israel's Science and Technology Minister Jacob Perry as not conducive to resuming negotiations. (HA, JTA 6/14)

Norway's Dep. DM confirms that **UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon** has asked **Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Denmark** to contribute soldiers to the UNDOF in the Golan Heights, following Austria's withdrawal. Meanwhile, **U.S. Amb. to the UN Susan Rice** says that the Obama administration has determined that sarin gas was used on 3/19 in an attack by the Syrian army in Aleppo and that unidentified chemical weapons were also used on 5/14 and 5/23. Separately, Hizballah leader Hasan Nasrallah declares in a televised speech that his group will continue to fight alongside Syrian pres. Assad and that the decision to intervene had been a calculated one. (AP, DS, HA, REU 6/14)

15 JUNE 2013

Hassan Ruhani wins **Iran's** presidential election, with a voter turnout of around 80%. The win is seen as a victory for moderate elements within the domestic political scene and a defeat for conservative clerical hard-liners. He will assume office on 8/3 when **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** endorses the election results. White House spokesperson Jay Carney says that Obama congratulates Iranians for their courage in voting. (AP, REU 6/15)

In the **West Bank, IDF troops** violently disperse a march by hundreds of **Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists** in Bayt Liqya, nr. Ramallah, as demonstrators attempted to march to the site of 3 villages destroyed in al-Latrun in 1967. There are no serious injuries. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Salfit and Hebron at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Tulkarm, and 1 village nr. Salfit at night. Meanwhile, Jewish settlers set fire to more than 300 olive trees nr. Nablus. (MNA 6/15; PCHR 6/20)

Palestinian protesters in Nablus demonstrate against living costs, demanding a reduction in the Value Added Tax and a subsidy for basic goods. Palestinian People's Party representative Khalid Mansour tells the rally that PA Pres. Abbas should reconsider the Paris Protocol, or even "disavow it completely." (MNA 6/15)

Egyptian pres. Mohamed Morsi says that he has cut all diplomatic ties with Damascus and backs a no-fly zone over Syria, an announcement he makes at a rally in Cairo. (REU 6/15)

16 JUNE 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, Tulkarm, and 1 nearby

village, and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah in the morning, 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 8 villages nr. Jenin, Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. (PCHR 6/20)

Israeli and Palestinian finance ministers Yair Lapid and Shukri Bishara agree on a series of economic cooperation projects during the 1st meeting of its kind since the Israeli election in 3/2013. The initial aim of the discussions is said to be relaunching regular meetings about issues such as crossing points, fuel, and water supplies. (JP 6/16; YA 6/17)

Israel's security cabinet decides to classify the perpetrators of so-called price-tag attacks as an "illegal association," thus strengthening the law enforcement capacity for tackling violence by Jewish extremists. (JP 6/16)

17 JUNE 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Bethlehem, 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, and 1 village nr. Hebron at night; patrols Qalqilya and in 1 village each nr. Salfit, Jenin, and Hebron at night. (PCHR 6/20)

Israel's Economics and Trade Minister Naftali Bennett says that the idea of a Palestinian state is "dead" and urges Israel to annex Area C of the West Bank as soon as possible. In response, **Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat** says that the international community needs to recognize that Israel has declared the end of the two-state solution. However, separately, **Israel's Housing Minister Uri Ariel** says that the govt. has frozen nearly all housing starts in settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, to boost efforts to restart talks. (AFP, JP, REU, YA 6/17)

Reports in **Fiji's** media suggest that the Pacific island will replace some of the **UNDOF**

peacekeepers withdrawn by **Austria** (following previous withdrawals by Croatia and Japan), sending 170 troops by the end of 6/2013. (JP 6/17)

18 JUNE 2013

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Dayr al-Balah, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Jenin and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Jenin, and 1 village and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, at night. In Abu Ghosh village west of Jerusalem, dozens of cars are vandalized with racist graffiti. (HA 6/18; PCHR 6/20)

The **G8** ends a 2-day summit in Northern Ireland with a declaration that backs peace talks in Geneva, which it says should aim to create a transitional coalition govt. for **Syria**. However, the G8 does not agree on a clear statement regarding the future of Syrian pres. Bashar al-Asad. (AP, REU 6/18)

19 JUNE 2013

Palestinians in the **Gaza Strip** fire a rocket intended to hit s. **Israel**, but the projectile lands in an open area inside the Palestinian territory, causing no damage or injuries. Sirens were sounded in Ashkelon and surrounding areas. In response, **Israeli authorities** close the **Kerem Shalom** border crossing. In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinian** farmers in 2 separate incidents nr. Khan Yunis and Dayr al-Balah, causing no injuries. **IDF troops** also open fire on fishermen nr. Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and patrol arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Bethlehem, and Balata r.c. nr. Nablus at

night; patrols in al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron at night. (JP, MNA, YA 6/19; PCHR 6/20)

20 JUNE 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion nr. Khan Yunis to level land by the border fence. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Salfit in the morning, in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jenin and Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Qalqilya at night. Also, **Jewish settlers** throw stones at Palestinian-owned vehicles s. of Nablus, causing damage but no injuries. (MNA, WAFA 6/20; PCHR 6/27)

Palestinian PM Rami Hamdallah submits his resignation to **Pres. Mahmud Abbas**, following a reported dispute over the premier's jurisdiction and limits of powers. There is no immediate response from Abbas's office. Hamdallah was sworn in on 6/6, and his cabinet held only 2 official sessions. (MNA, REU 6/20).

A mortar shell lands in the **Israeli-occupied Golan Heights**, fired by unknown persons from inside Syrian territory, causing no damage or injuries. (AFP, YA 6/20)

21 JUNE 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and in Jenin in the morning, in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon. **Israeli soldiers** also attack regular demonstrations by **Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists** against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and the occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, Nabi Salih), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), causing no serious injuries except in Kafr Qaddum, where 4 are

injured from rubber-coated metal bullets. (PCHR 6/27)

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry embarks on a 12-day trip that will include a return to the **Middle East**. Kerry's itinerary includes Qatar, India, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, and Israel and the West Bank, where he will make his 5th visit since taking office on 2/1. (AP, MNA 6/21)

Supporters of the **Muslim Brotherhood** hold a 100,000-strong rally in **Cairo** in a strong show of support for **Pres. Mohamed Morsi**, ahead of planned protests by the opposition on 6/30. (AP 6/21)

22 JUNE 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. **Jewish settlers** from Brakha nr. Nablus attack Palestinian shepherds nr. Burin village, sparking clashes that are dispersed by the Israeli army, with no serious injuries reported. (MNA 6/22; PCHR 6/27)

Hamas announces the execution of **2 Palestinians** found guilty of spying for Israel, the 1st to be killed since an amnesty offer expired in 4/2013. A total of 16 Palestinians have been executed for spying in the Gaza Strip by Hamas authorities since 6/2007. (REU 6/22)

A meeting of the **Friends of Syria** group in **Doha**, attended by **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry**, produces an agreement to give urgent military support to opposition forces confronting both an Assad regime counteroffensive and jihadist fighters. (REU 6/22)

23 JUNE 2013

Palestinians in the **Gaza Strip** fire 6 rockets into s. **Israel** at night, causing no damage or injuries, with 2 intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defense system. In response, the **Israeli**

Air Force strikes 4 targets in the **Gaza Strip** belonging to **Islamic Jihad**, causing 1 injury and property damage. The Israeli military also closes the **Kerem Shalom** and **Erez** crossings. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus, 2 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village each nr. Tulkarm, Nablus, Ramallah, Jenin, and Jenin r.c. at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah at night. In East Jerusalem, **suspected Jewish extremists** vandalize 2 dozen cars in Bayt Hanina, leaving “price-tag” slogans. (HA, MNA 6/24; PCHR 6/27)

Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas accepts the resignation of **PM Rami Hamdallah**, after failing to persuade him to remain in the post during talks over the weekend. Hamdallah is, however, subsequently designated head of an interim govt., until a replacement can be found. Reports indicate that Hamdallah’s unhappiness over his role in the govt. focused on a dispute with Mohammed Mustafa and Ziad Abu Amr, who had been appointed by Abbas as deputy prime ministers. (HA, JP, REU 6/23)

24 JUNE 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, and in Salfit, Nablus, Qalqilya, Jenin, and 1 village each nr. Nablus, Tulkarm, and Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and in Jenin and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. (PCHR 6/27)

By a vote of 43–40, **Israel’s Knesset** passes the 1st reading of the Praver Law for the development of the **Negev**, which will mean the forced displacement of an estimated 40,000 **Bedouin citizens** (see the Quarterly Update in *JPS* 169 for more on the Praver Law). (JP 6/24)

25 JUNE 2013

In the **West Bank** at night, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-‘Arub r.c.

nr. Hebron, Nablus, 1 village nr. Nablus, and al-Fara‘a r.c. nr. Tubas; patrols in 1 village nr. Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** set fire to olive trees nr. Huwara checkpoint close to Nablus. Meanwhile, Israeli authorities continue the closure of all crossings into the **Gaza Strip** for a 2d day. (MNA, Wafa 6/25; PCHR 6/27)

Israel’s National Security Adviser **Ya‘akov Amidror** resigns from his role over concerns about a possible conflict of interests related to his previous time as an adviser to **Noble Energy**, a U.S.-based company involved in Israel’s natural gas exploration and production on off-shore drilling sites. Amidror will officially leave his post in 11/2013. (HA 6/25)

26 JUNE 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Hebron, Tulkarm, and 1 nearby village, Nablus, Tubas, and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in Jenin and 1 nearby village, and 1 village each in Bethlehem and Hebron. **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinian-owned vehicles nr. Nablus, causing damage but no injuries. Settlers also set fire to olive trees nr. Hawara village. (MNA 6/26; PCHR 6/27)

The **Israeli army** reopens **Kerem Shalom** and **Erez** border crossings into the **Gaza Strip**, closed on 6/23 as a punitive measure following rocket fire. (AFP 6/26)

The **Jerusalem** municipality approves construction permits for 69 new homes in East Jerusalem settlement **Har Homa**, a day before **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** is due to arrive for talks in Israel and the West Bank. (AFP, JP 6/26)

UNESCO’s World Heritage Cmte. in Phnom Penh passes a **Jordanian**-sponsored resolution in an 8–3–10 vote condemning Israeli actions in **Jerusalem**, such as developments of the Western Wall and Temple Mount site, and

resolving to maintain the places of the Old City and Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem on its World Heritage Sites in Danger list. **Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs** criticizes the resolution, saying it is a "dark day for UNESCO." (ToI 6/26)

Austria completes the withdrawal of its **UNDOF** peacekeepers from the **Golan Heights**, with the remaining 70 departing via Israel. (HA 6/26)

Unidentified gunmen kidnap 2 **Egyptian police officers** in the s. **Sinai**, reportedly in revenge for an earlier assault on a Bedouin man by a police officer during a dispute at a petrol station. (Ahram 6/26)

27 JUNE 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **Israeli military** distributes stop work orders in the s. Hebron hills, including for construction on tents and a solar panel provided by the EU for humanitarian reasons. Meanwhile, **Israeli soldiers** carry out demolitions of Palestinian property in Tammun village nr. Jericho, assaulting 2 shepherds defending their property in the latter incident. **IDF troops** shoot and injure 4 **Palestinians** during clashes sparked by an incursion into Qalandia r.c. nr. Ramallah. In another raid, the **IDF** arrests 2 **al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades** members. in Nablus, on the grounds that weapons prohibited in an amnesty agreement were found in their possession. **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Jenin, 3 villages nr. Qalqilya, Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Salfit, 1 village nr. Ramallah; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the morning, and at night in 2 villages nr. Jenin, 1 village nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Tulkarm, and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. (HA, MNA, WAFA 6/27; PCHR 7/4)

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry meets with **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu**, but no

announcement of progress is made; he then goes to Jerusalem for a meeting with **Jordan's King Abdallah II**. (WP 6/27)

The **UN Security Council** renews **UNDOF's** mission in the **Golan Heights** for 6 mos. and also votes to increase both the forces' equipment and its numbers, from around 900 to 1,250. (REU 6/27)

28 JUNE 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and kill a **Palestinian** in Qalandia r.c. nr. Ramallah, during clashes sparked by an **IDF** arrest raid in the camp. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 4 villages nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Salfit at night. **Israeli soldiers** also attack regular demonstrations by **Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists** against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and the occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, Nabi Salih), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), causing no serious injuries except in Bil'in (1 injury from tear gas canister) and Kafr Qaddum (2 injuries from rubber-coated metal bullets). (MNA 6/28; PCHR 7/4)

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry conducts further shuttle diplomacy, holding talks in **Amman** with **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** followed by discussions in **Jerusalem** with **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu**, which are also attended by **Justice Minister Tzipi Livni, National Security Adviser Ya'akov Amidror, and Special Envoy Yitzhak Molcho**. Kerry meets separately with **Israeli pres. Shimon Peres**. Meanwhile, director of the Palestinians' High Coordination Cmte. for Prisoners' Release Amin Shuman says that Israelis and Palestinians have held secret talks about

freeing prisoners detained before 1993. (AFP, HA, MNA, REU 6/28)

Three people are killed and hundreds injured as violent clashes take place between supporters and opponents of **Egyptian pres. Mohamed Morsi**, with the Muslim Brotherhood office ransacked in **Alexandria**. (NYT 6/28)

29 JUNE 2013

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry returns to **Amman** from **Jerusalem** for talks with **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas**, before going back to Jerusalem for another meeting with **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu**. While Jordanian media reports that a joint Israeli, Palestinian, U.S. and Jordanian peace summit is being planned, Israeli and Palestinian officials brief journalists that there is no breakthrough in sight. (HA, MNA, REU, YA 6/29)

In the **West Bank** at night, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya. (PCHR 7/4)

The **EU** announces a €9.95 million contribution to the **PA** for the payment of social allowances to poor Palestinian families in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. (Wafa 6/29)

30 JUNE 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Nablus, Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Ramallah, 1 village nr. Bethlehem and Aida r.c. in Bethlehem at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Bethlehem in the morning, in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Jericho and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. Meanwhile, Jewish settlers set fire to Palestinian-owned land nr. Nablus. (Wafa 6/30; PCHR 7/4)

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry makes one more visit to **Ramallah** in the morning, holding

brief talks with **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas**, their 3d meeting in 3 days. Afterward, Palestinian chief negotiator **Saeb Erekat** says that there had been no breakthrough. Kerry, speaking to reporters in Ben-Gurion Airport on his way to Brunei, sounds a more positive note and cites unspecified "real progress." Kerry departs after 4 days and 13 total hours of talks with Abbas and **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu**. Meanwhile, Netanyahu tells a cabinet meeting that any future agreement with the Palestinians will be submitted for approval in a national referendum. (AFP, HA 6/30)

Israeli media reports that the **Jerusalem Municipality** will advance plans to build 930 new housing units in Har Homa settlement, a development that **Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat** condemns in a Ramallah press conference. (JP 6/30)

Millions of demonstrators take to the streets across **Egypt** on a planned day of protest against the govt. of **Pres. Mohamed Morsi**. As night falls, violent clashes break out between opponents and supporters of Morsi, resulting in 4 deaths. Assaults storm the Cairo headquarters of the **Muslim Brotherhood**, setting it on fire. (REU, WP 6/30)

1 JULY 2013

An anonymous, senior Israeli official says that **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** presented **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** with a proposal for the renewal of direct negotiations during meetings in the past few days. The official did not elaborate on the proposal's contents. With Kerry now in Brunei, Middle East adviser **Frank Lowenstein** and State Dept. legal expert **Jonathan Schwartz** meet with Israel's National Security Adviser **Ya'akov Amidror** and Special Envoy **Yitzhak Molcho** to continue discussions on how to break the deadlock. (HA, JP 7/1; JP 7/2)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages and al-Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, and Jerusalem at night. (PCHR 7/4)

Jerusalem Municipal officials meet with members of the Knesset Finance Cmte. and approve funding for infrastructure construction on housing tenders for 930 homes in **Har Homa settlement**. The work is part of a project approved in 8/2011 for around 1,000 housing units to further the development of Har Homa. Meanwhile, **Israeli DM Moshe Ya'alon** announces that extremist Jewish settlers carrying out so-called price-tag attacks against Palestinians will be designated a “forbidden organization,” enabling security forces to use broader powers in investigating such incidents. The statement comes 2 weeks after the cabinet approved the step. (HA 7/1)

The **Egyptian military** issues a 48-hour ultimatum to **Pres. Mohamed Morsi** to meet the demands of protesters or face the army's intervention, as hundreds of thousands of supporters and opponents of the Muslim Brotherhood-dominated govt. again take to the streets. (AP, REU 7/1)

2 JULY 2013

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli soldiers** shoot and kill a **Palestinian** man in Dura village nr. Hebron in response to stone-throwing at an IDF patrol. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Jenin, 1 village and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin at night. In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion nr. Khan Yunis to level land alongside the border fence. (MNA, REU 7/2; PCHR 7/4)

Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas says he is “optimistic” about **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry's** shuttle diplomacy, in comments he

makes to reporters at a Ramallah press conference with Italian PM Enrico Letta. Meanwhile, **U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Jen Psaki** says in a press conference that no details of the peace talks will be divulged for the time being. In another development, **Israel** and the **PA** agree to form a biweekly committee on economic matters, a decision made in a meeting between **Palestinian FM Shukri Bishara** and **Israeli FM Yair Lapid**. Issues of concern for the committee will include crossings, fuel, and tax. (JP 7/2; MNA 7/3)

Egyptian pres. Mohamed Morsi rejects the **military's** ultimatum to relinquish power, insisting on his democratic legitimacy and warning that any attempt to remove him and his govt. by force will plunge the country into chaos. Both Morsi and the military leadership say they will not back down from a violent confrontation. Violent clashes between supporters and opponents of Morsi in different neighborhoods of **Cairo** result in an estimated 7–11 deaths. Meanwhile, the **Israeli army** issues a statement revealing that the Egyptian military has moved several dozen armored vehicles into the border area nr. the **Gaza Strip** in coordination with Israel, part of efforts to combat security threats in the Sinai. (AP, NYT 7/2)

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry meets with **Russian FM Sergey Lavrov** on the sidelines of a security conference in Brunei and tells reporters afterward that a proposed peace conference on **Syria** will not happen until at least 9/2013. Lavrov also says that Kerry had recognized that “consolidating” the various Syrian opposition forces was the most important task ahead of any possible peace conference. (WP 7/2)

3 JULY 2013

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian**

fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. **IDF troops** also conduct a limited incursion nr. al-Maghazi r.c. in the **Gaza Strip**, reportedly including a bomb detection device. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 8 villages and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Jenin, 2 villages nr. Nablus, and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Ramallah. (PCHR 7/4)

The **Egyptian armed forces chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** announces the ousting of **Pres. Mohamed Morsi** and the suspension of the constitution, as the military’s 48-hour deadline passes without Morsi relinquishing office as demanded. Al-Sisi appoints **Adly Mansour**, head of the constitutional court, as interim president for an indefinite period of time, but says that presidential and parliamentary elections will follow in due course. Al-Sisi makes his address in front of a symbolically-loaded panel featuring religious leaders, **Mohamed El-Baradei**, and a representative of the Tamarod campaign, which drove the anti-Morsi protests. Late at night, a **Muslim Brotherhood** spokesperson says that Morsi is being held in an unknown location, while a military official says that the head and deputy head of the Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated Freedom and Justice Party have been arrested, and that arrest warrants for 300 Brotherhood members have been issued. Following al-Sisi’s announcement, opponents of Morsi celebrate in Tahrir Square, while clashes in Cairo, Alexandria, Marsa Matrouh, and the s. city of Minya kill some 30 people and leaves hundreds wounded. **U.S. Pres. Barack Obama** expresses concern about the military’s actions in a written statement issued by the White House. A U.S. official says that the **State Dept.** has ordered nonessential U.S. diplomats and families of embassy personnel to leave the country. (AP, NYT, REU 7/3, *Guardian* 7/4)

4 JULY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and in 2 villages each nr. Bethlehem and Hebron, Qalqilya, and 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Jenin at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 7/11)

The **Egyptian military** arrests the **Muslim Brotherhood’s Supreme Leader Mohamed Badie** on the grounds of inciting violence. The newly-appointed **interim pres. Adly Mansour** says that the Muslim Brotherhood is part of the people and is welcome to “participate in building the nation.” (*Guardian*, NYT, REU, WP 7/4)

5 JULY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Balata r.c. nr. Nablus and Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. Israeli soldiers also attack regular demonstrations by **Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists** against Israel’s separation wall, settlements, and the occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in, Ni’lin, Nabi Salih), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma’sara), causing no serious injuries except in Bil’in, where there are 2 injuries from rubber-coated metal bullets and 1 injury from a tear gas canister. (PCHR 7/11)

An estimated 30 people die across **Egypt** as supporters of **deposed pres. Mohamed Morsi** protest the military takeover. Twelve die in clashes in **Alexandria**, with 5 dead in **Cairo** as supporters and opponents of the **Muslim Brotherhood** fight in c. neighborhoods. Meanwhile, 5 police officers die in 3 separate attacks in the n. **Sinai** town of al-Arish, and gunmen also open fire on a military intelligence building in Rafah. The Egyptian authorities

close the **Rafah** crossing on the border of the **Gaza Strip** due to the security situation. Separately, the **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdes** group says that it fired 2 rockets at **Eilat** from the Sinai, after Eilat residents report hearing 2 blasts—though searches by Israeli security forces find nothing. (AFP, AP, JP, MNA, REU 7/5)

6 JULY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus, Bethlehem, 3 villages and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, and 2 villages nr. Ramallah; patrols in Hebron and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. Jewish settlers attack Palestinians and their property in the Hawara area nr. Nablus, and also in a separate incident s. of Hebron. (Wafa 7/6; PCHR 7/11)

In **Egypt**, violent clashes continue between supporters of ousted pres. Mohamed Morsi and his opponents and security forces. According to the Egyptian Health Ministry’s statistics, the recent clashes have left over 30 dead and more than 1,000 injured across the country. In the **Sinai**, unidentified assailants set off an explosion on a pipeline taking gas to Jordan. Meanwhile, the **Rafah** crossing on the Gaza border remains closed. **U.S. Defense Secy. Chuck Hagel** continues telephone conversations with the Egyptian military leadership, holding a 2-hour long discussion with Egyptian armed forces chief al-Sisi. Few details are revealed about the contents of the talk, though **Pentagon spokesperson George Little** says in a statement that Hagel emphasized the need for a peaceful civilian transition. (*Guardian*, MNA, NYT, REU, WP 7/6)

The **Syrian National Coalition** chooses **Ahmad Jarba** as its new president after a runoff vote that saw the triumph of a tribal leader from the e. province of Syria with Saudi connections. (REU 7/6)

7 JULY 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF** troops conduct house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Tulkarm, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Jenin at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** pump wastewater onto agricultural land belonging to Palestinian farmers of Wadi Fukin village nr. Bethlehem. (Wafa 7/7; PCHR 7/11)

Assailants attack security checkpoints in the n. **Sinai** towns of Shaykh Zuweid and al-Arish, killing one soldier. An army spokesperson says that preparations are underway for a large-scale operation in the Sinai, to target “terrorist and criminal cells.” The official says that there is coordination between **Egypt** and **Israel** over bringing military forces into the Sinai. In the Israeli media, Israeli army officers serving nr. the Egyptian border report that security coordination is in good shape despite the political turmoil. Meanwhile, **Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Abbas Araghchi** expresses opposition to the Egyptian military’s intervention. (AP, HA, MNA, REU 7/7)

8 JULY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct 2 limited incursions in the s. Gaza Strip to level land alongside the border fence. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Tulkarm in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Jenin at night; patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. **IDF troops** demolish agricultural facilities and residential sheds in 2 locations in the Jordan Valley. (PCHR 7/11; Wafa 7/8)

Egyptian soldiers kill some 50 pro-Morsi supporters camped outside the Republic Guard barracks in **Cairo** where the ousted president is believed to be held. The army claims that they opened fire having 1st been attacked. In the **Sinai**, an armed group attacks an army checkpoint nr. al-Arish and kills 1 Egyptian soldier. The **Rafah** crossing on the Gaza border remains closed, while the Egyptian army works to destroy cross-border tunnels. (Ahrām, AP, MNA, REU, Wafa 7/8)

9 JULY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct 2 limited incursions nr. Khan Yunis to level land alongside the border fence. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin at night. In Eizariya neighborhood in **East Jerusalem**, **Palestinian** protesters smash holes in the separation wall to mark 9 years since the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion on the illegality of the barrier. (MNA 7/9; PCHR 7/11)

Gulf states approve \$8 billion in aid for **Egypt**, as interim pres. Adly Mansour appoints economist **Hazem el-Beblawi** as prime minister. **Saudi Arabia** will give \$5 billion in aid, and the **United Arab Emirates** a further \$3 billion (\$2 billion of the latter come in the form of an interest-free loan). The contributions are a much-needed boost for authorities financially struggling due to a drop in foreign investment. (AP, DS, REU 7/9)

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu confirms the appointment of **Ron Dermer** as the country's new amb. to the U.S. replacing Michael Oren in the fall. Dermer has spent 4 years as a political adviser to Netanyahu and is viewed as a supporter of the Republican Party. (HA, ToI 7/10)

10 JULY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. **IDF troops** also conduct a raid in Nablus, storming university dorms and sparking confrontations with stone-throwing Palestinians, with 2 Palestinians subsequently injured. (MNA 7/10; PCHR 7/11)

Egypt's Public Prosecutor Hisham Barakat orders the arrest of the Muslim Brotherhood's Supreme Leader Mohamed Badie and other senior members of the organization. Meanwhile, Egypt opens its border with the **Gaza Strip** at the **Rafah** crossing for a few hours so patients needing medical treatment abroad, Egyptians, and foreign nationals can leave. (AP, REU, MNA 9/7)

11 JULY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire a rocket into s. **Israel**, which lands in the Negev causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. Jewish settlers cut down more than 1,000 olive trees nr. Nablus. (MNA 7/11; PCHR 7/18)

Israeli PM Netanyahu's office denies Israeli media reports that his cabinet was considering releasing 40 **Palestinian prisoners** as part of efforts to recommence direct negotiations. (ToI 7/11)

12 JULY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. **Israeli soldiers** also attack regular demonstrations by **Palestinians, Israelis**, and **international activists** against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and the occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, Nabi

Salih), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), causing no serious injuries. (PCHR 7/18)

A large demonstration takes place in **Cairo** to demand the reinstatement of ousted **pres. Mohamed Morsi**, a protest that concludes without violent clashes. In the **Sinai**, assailants kill 1 Egyptian police officer with a rocket-propelled grenade at a checkpoint, while separately, Egyptian military helicopters attack suspected militants nr. al-Arish. (MNA, REU, YA 7/12)

13 JULY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village each nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah in the morning, and in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah at night. (PCHR 7/18)

14 JULY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** posted on the border fence open fire on workers collecting scrap metal nr. Bayt Hanun, wounding 1. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon. In **East Jerusalem**, some 180 **Jewish extremists** enter the **al-Aqsa compound** accompanied by dozens of police officers. (MNA 7/14, PCHR 7/18)

Israeli PM Netanyahu telephones **Palestinian pres. Abbas** to extend him Ramadan greetings and expresses his hope that the 2 men can soon sit down for direct negotiations. It is the 1st time the 2 men have spoken since the most recent Israeli elections and since **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** began his most recent push to restart talks. (HA 7/14)

Egypt's interim PM Hazem el-Beblawi fills senior posts in his new cabinet, including former amb. to the U.S. Nabil Fahmy as foreign minister. **Mohamed El-Baradei** is sworn in as vice present. **Egyptian armed forces chief al-Sisi** makes his 1st public remarks since

removing **Morsi**, saying that the armed forces acted according to the people's will. Meanwhile, **U.S. Dep. Secy. of State William Burns** arrives in **Cairo** for 2 days of talks with interim govt. officials and civil society and business leaders. In the n. **Sinai**, assailants attack a bus carrying workers, killing 3 people and wounding 17. (AP, REU 7/14)

15 JULY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (PCHR 7/18)

Palestinian citizens of Israel observe a general strike called for by the High Follow-Up Cmte. and carry out demonstrations to protest the govt.'s proposals for the **Negev** which will force tens of thousands of Bedouin from their homes. Protests a few thousand-strong against the planned demolition of villages take place in **Beersheba** as well as nr. Sakhnin in the **Galilee**. There are also solidarity demonstrations in the **West Bank** cities of Ramallah, Hebron, and Nablus. (HA, JP, YA 7/15)

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry departs Washington for **Amman** for talks with **Jordanian** and **Arab League** officials about the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. There is no plan for a visit to Israel or the West Bank on this trip, his 6th to the region since assuming office on 2/1. (AP, REU 7/15)

In **Cairo**, **U.S. Dep. Secy. of State William Burns** warns the Egyptian military that the country will find it hard to emerge from its crisis if the crackdown on Muslim Brotherhood supporters continues. (AP, NYT 7/15)

16 JULY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion nr. Jabaliya to level land alongside the border fence. In the **West Bank**,

the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon and Tulkarm at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah and injures 2 with rubber-coated metal bullets after opening fire at stone-throwing residents. (PCHR 7/18)

In an article based on leaked documents, *Ha'Aretz* reports that the **EU** will publish on 7/30 a set of new guidelines to restrict the eligibility of Israeli entities based or operating in the occupied territories for EU-funded grants, prizes, and financial instruments (see document A3 in *JPS* 169 for more). With these guidelines, the EU codifies its view of the settlements as illegal under international law. The guidelines are scheduled to go into effect on 1/1/14. The move is welcomed by senior Palestinian officials, with **PLO Executive Cmte. member Hanan Ashrawi** calling it “a significant development in the way the EU countries deal with Israeli occupation.” (HA, JP 7/16)

Assailants attack an **Egyptian** military outpost in the **Sinai**, injuring 6 soldiers and 1 civilian. (AP 7/16)

Seven mortar shells fired from inside **Syrian** territory land in the Israeli-occupied **Golan Heights**, causing no damage or injuries. (HA 7/16)

17 JULY 2013

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing damage but no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Bethlehem and 1 nearby village and in Nablus at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Tulkarm and in Jenin at night. (PCHR 7/18)

Israel advances plans for some 1,071 new homes in **West Bank settlements**, including 732 in Mod'in Ilit and more isolated settlements like Shiloh (17 homes). (AFP, HA 7/17)

Iranian FM Ali Akbar Salehi says that Tehran is ready to resume suspended nuclear talks with the **P5+1** group of world powers (permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany) after **newly elected pres. Hassan Ruhani** takes office in 8/2013. (NYT 7/17)

18 JULY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 2 rockets into s. **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, Nablus, and Jenin r.c. at night; patrols in Tulkarm in the morning, in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Jenin, 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. (YA 7/18; PCHR 7/25)

Anonymous **Palestinian sources inside the PA** squash speculation that a breakthrough in **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry's** attempts to restart peace talks is imminent, with senior **Fatah official Amin Maqbul** telling the media that Israel's refusal to hold negotiations based on the 1967 borders has stymied Kerry's efforts. **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** meets with the PLO leadership in Ramallah to update them on progress in the discussions with Kerry, but no decision is reached on possible resumption. (HA, MNA, REU, WP 7/17)

Assailants attack **Egyptian police officers** in the n. **Sinai**, killing 2 and wounding 2. (AP 7/18)

19 JULY 2013

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry announces at a press conference in **Amman** that direct **Israeli-Palestinian negotiations** will begin as early as the following week in **Washington**. Kerry says details are still being finalized, but that **Israeli justice minister Tzipi Livni** and **Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat** will

travel to the U.S. to hold preliminary talks. Kerry made no mention of any conditions or framework for the talks. **UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon** welcomes the news and commends Kerry for his efforts, as does **EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton**. (HA, JP, MNA, REU 7/19)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 2 nearby villages, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and al-‘Arub r.c. at night. **Israeli soldiers** clash with protesters at regular demonstrations by **Palestinians, Israelis** and **international activists** against Israel’s separation wall, settlements, and the occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in, Ni’lin, Nabi Salih), and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), causing no serious injuries, except in Nabi Saleh, where 1 person is shot and wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet. (MNA 7/19; PCHR 7/25)

Pro-Muslim Brotherhood demonstrators take to the streets across Egypt, and 3 people die in clashes between supporters and opponents of **ousted pres. Morsi**. Meanwhile in the **Sinai**, gunmen launch attacks on Egyptian army posts and police stations, killing 3 civilians when a rocket-propelled grenade struck their home. (AFP, MNA, REU 7/19)

20 JULY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Qalqilya, and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinian shepherds and farmers s. of Hebron. (Wafa 7/20; PCHR 7/25)

Israel’s Minister for International Relations Yuval Steinitz announces that Israel will release some **Palestinian prisoners** as part of the deal

for the resumption of direct talks. The releases will be in stages, but no precise numbers are given at this time. Steinitz also says that Israel has not agreed to resume talks on the basis of any territorial framework. Yet, at the same time, anonymous Palestinian officials brief the media that the U.S. had offered a guarantee that negotiations would be conducted on the basis of the 1967 borders. **Israeli PM Netanyahu** welcomes the resumption of peace talks, which he calls “an essential strategic interest for Israel.” Meanwhile, **Hamas spokesperson Fawzi Barhoum** says that the return to talks is a “disaster” and endangers the prospects for Palestinian national reconciliation. (AP, HA, MNA, REU 7/20)

Egyptian interim pres. Adly Mansour picks a 10-member committee of judges and law professors to propose amendments to the constitution drafted by the ousted Muslim Brotherhood-dominated govt. The team of experts has 30 days to make their proposals, after which a 2d committee of 50 public figures will review the amendments. Following the review, the new constitution will be put to a referendum. Meanwhile, **Jordan’s King Abdallah II** visits Cairo, the 1st head of state to visit Egypt since the army took power. (AFP, AP 7/20)

21 JULY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin in the morning, in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon; patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. Jewish settlers set fire to more than 400 olive trees southwest of Bethlehem. (MNA 7/23; PCHR 7/25)

It is reported that former U.S. amb. to Israel **Martin Indyk** will likely head the U.S. delegation to peace talks. **Senior Fatah official Nabil Shaath** says that a return to direct

negotiations is still subject to conditions, while **Israeli economics and trade minister Naftali Bennett** insists that construction on Jewish settlements will continue regardless. Meanwhile, the Arab League's **Dep. Secy.-Gen. for Palestinian Affairs Mohamed Sabih** says that the body supports the Palestinian stance on resuming talks and that it is sceptical of Israeli intentions. (AFP, *Guardian*, MNA, ToI 7/21)

Gunmen kill 2 **Egyptian soldiers** and a **policeman** in 3 separate attacks in al-Arish in the **Sinai**. (AFP, AP 7/22)

22 JULY 2013

White House spokesperson Jay Carney says that the Obama administration is working to bring together **Israeli** and **Palestinian** officials in the coming weeks to discuss how to commence direct negotiations. Palestinian official **Nabil Abu Rudeineh** says that Israel is still blocking the path to formal talks, claiming that Pres. Abbas had agreed to send a delegation to Washington to continue lower-level preliminary discussions. Meanwhile, **EU foreign ministers** issue a statement welcoming Kerry's announcement that an agreement had been reached (7/19) for establishing a basis for resuming direct negotiations. **Palestinian pres. Abbas** says that any future peace deal with the Israelis be put to a national referendum, while **Israeli PM Netanyahu** says that his govt. will pass a law requiring a referendum on any peace treaty. (AFP, JP, REU 7/22)

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 1 rocket into s. **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. Separately, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion nr. al-Bureij r.c. to level land. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus, and 1 village each nr. Hebron and nr. Salfit at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 3 villages nr. Jenin, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, and

1 village each nr. Hebron, Salfit, and Tulkarm at night. (AFP 7/22; PCHR 7/25)

In Egypt, unidentified assailants kill 6 civilians and security officers in different attacks in **Rafah** and **al-Arish** in the Sinai. (AP, REU 7/22)

Chairman of the House of Representatives Intelligence Cmte. Mike Rogers says that the U.S. administration can move forward with plans to arm **Syrian rebels**, after some concerns were eased. Members of the Senate Intelligence Cmte. had previously voiced worries that arms could end up in the hands of radical Islamist groups, but according to a statement issued by Rogers the White House has since offered reassurances about the proposed supplying of rebels. (REU 7/22)

The **EU** designates the armed wing of **Hizballah** as a foreign terrorist organization, a decision welcomed by Israel but condemned by both the Lebanese group themselves, as well as **Lebanese caretaker FM Adnan Mansour**. The resulting sanctions will restrict Hizballah's ability to use Europe as a financial conduit. (REU 7/22)

23 JULY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-Bireh and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin at night. The raids in al-Bireh provoke clashes, in which 1 Palestinian is injured by rubber-coated metal bullets. (PCHR 7/25)

U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Jen Psaki says that **Secy. of State John Kerry** is finalizing his team for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, but does not confirm or deny reports that former amb. to Israel **Martin Indyk** had been chosen to head the team. (AFP 7/23)

The **U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Cmte.** approves the appointment of Pres. Barack

Obama's nominee for amb. to the UN, **Samantha Power**, by a vote of 16–2. The committee also approves **Victoria Nuland** as an asst. secy. of state for European and Eurasian affairs. (REU 7/23)

Supporters and opponents of ousted **pres. Morsi** clash in **Cairo**, killing 12 people and wounding 86. Meanwhile, an **Egyptian police officer** is shot and killed in the **Sinai**. (MNA, NYT 7/23)

24 JULY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus and Jenin at night. (PCHR 7/25)

In **Damascus**, Syrian govt. forces fire a rocket into **Yarmuk r.c.**, reportedly killing 15 Palestinian civilians. (REU 27/4)

Assailants throw a bomb at security headquarters in **Mansoura, Egypt**, killing 1 and wounding more than a dozen. Meanwhile, **Gen. al-Sisi** calls for demonstrations in support of the ruling military and against “terrorism.” Separately, **U.S. Pres. Barack Obama** halts the scheduled delivery of 4 F-16 fighter planes to the Egyptian Air Force, with the Pentagon's Press Secy. George Little saying that the decision was due to it not being seen as “appropriate” to complete the delivery at this time. (AFP, AP, NYT 7/24)

25 JULY 2013

In the Gaza Strip, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinians collecting wood alongside the border nr. Bayt Hanun, injuring 1. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, and in 3 villages and al-ʿArub r.c. nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Salfit at night. There are clashes in Nablus and Jenin r.c., when Israeli forces enter, with a number of injuries in both cases. In East Jerusalem, Jewish extremists vandalize cars in

the Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood. (MNA, PNN, WAFA 7/25; PCHR 8/1)

Israel's Energy and Water Resources Minister Silvan Shalom says that negotiations between Israelis and the Palestinians will resume on Tuesday in Washington, in remarks made to reporters in Jericho after meeting with Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat for the dedication of a joint industrial zone funded by the Japanese govt. (HA 7/25)

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry makes his 1st official visit to the UN, where he discusses Africa's Great Lakes, Syria, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. (NYT 7/25)

26 JULY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. **Israeli soldiers** also attack regular demonstrations by **Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists** against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and the occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, Nabi Salih), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), causing no serious injuries except in Kafr Qaddum, with 2 injured from rubber-coated metal bullets. (PCHR 8/1)

Clashes in **Cairo** and **Alexandria** between Muslim Brotherhood supporters and security forces and opponents of ousted pres. Morsi kill at least 9 people, with 200 wounded. (REU 7/26)

27 JULY 2013

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip, Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing damage but no injuries. **IDF troops** also open fire on a **Palestinian**

said to be approaching the border fence in the c. Gaza Strip, wounding him in the legs. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in 3 villages nr. Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 8/1)

An anonymous **Palestinian** official says that Israeli and Palestinian negotiators will meet in **Washington** on 7/30 for a round of talks, with the sides led by **Justice Minister Tzipi Livni** and **Saeb Erakat** respectively. (AFP 7/27)

Egyptians security forces kill an estimated 80 people in attacks on supporters of the **Muslim Brotherhood** in **Cairo**, the 2d mass killing of demonstrators in 3 weeks. **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** speaks to senior members of the interim cabinet to express “deep concern.” Meanwhile, Egyptian media report that the armed forces are starting an operation to combat armed militants in the **Sinai**. (AP, NYT, REU, XIN 7/27; AP 7/28)

28 JULY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in the morning, in al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron and Bayt Jala in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Jericho, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Jenin at night. (PCHR 8/1)

The **Israeli cabinet** approves PM Netanyahu’s proposed release of Palestinian prisoners in the context of peace efforts, in a 13–7–2 vote. **Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat** welcomes the decision. The cabinet also decides that any groups carrying out so-called price-tag attacks are illegal organizations in the West Bank. (AFP, HA 7/29)

Egypt’s military says its operation in the **Sinai** has killed 10 gunmen over 2 days, and led to the detention of another 20. (XIN 7/28)

29 JULY 2013

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators hold their 1st direct peace talks since late 2010, beginning with an *iftar* meal at the **U.S. State Dept.** Alongside **Secy. of State John Kerry** and newly-appointed special envoy for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations **Martin Indyk**, Israel is represented by **Justice Minister Tzipi Livni** and **Yitzhak Molcho**, while the Palestinians are represented by **chief negotiator Saeb Erakat** and **Mohammed Shtayyeh**. Talks will continue on 7/30. (HA, JTA, REU 7/29)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin r.c. at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, in al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (PCHR 8/1)

30 JULY 2013

Following a successful evening of talks, **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** holds a press conference in Washington, flanked by **Tzipi Livni** and **Saeb Erakat**, and announces the official resumption of peace negotiations (see document D2 in *JPS* 169 for more). Kerry praises the 2 sides for their engagement and leadership, and announces that there will be a further round of talks within the next 2 weeks. Kerry also says that both sides have agreed to keep the contents of the meetings confidential. (AP, HA 7/30)

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 1 rocket into s. Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-‘Arub r.c. and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Jenin at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in Jenin and 1 nearby village

and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (AFP 7/30; PCHR 8/1)

EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton flies to **Cairo** and visits ousted **pres. Mohamed Morsi**, the 1st outsider to see him since the coup. (REU 7/30)

31 JULY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in 1 village and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. Meanwhile, **Jewish settlers** attack **Palestinian** laborers nr. Yitzhar settlement close to Nablus, causing no injuries. (MNA 7/31; PCHR 8/1)

The **U.S. House of Representatives** passes, by a vote of 400–20, a new bill designed to expand and strengthen the sanctions on Iran. The new sanctions bill, H.R. 850, was passed by the House Foreign Affairs Cmte. on 5/22 (see congressionalmonitor.org for more). (AP 7/31)

1 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (PCHR 8/15)

More than 1,000 protesters participate in the “Day of Rage” demonstrations inside Israel against the proposed Prawer Plan, which is set to displace tens of thousands of Bedouin citizens in the Negev. (HA, MNA 8/1)

U.S. Pres. Barack Obama calls **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** and **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** to urge both leaders to show goodwill and remain focused during the direct negotiations taking place between the 2 sides. (HA 8/1)

2 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night; patrols in Qalqilya in the

morning, and in 1 village nr. Jericho and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. **Israeli soldiers** also attack regular demonstrations by **Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists** against Israel’s separation wall, settlements, and the occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in, Ni’lin, Nabi Salih), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma‘sara), causing no serious injuries. (PCHR 8/15)

U.S. Dep. Secy. of State William Burns visits **Cairo**, his 2d trip since Pres. Morsi was ousted on 7/3, for talks with various interim leaders on resolving the political crisis. (AP 8/2)

3 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron, 1 village nr. Ramallah, 1 village nr. Qalqilya, and 1 village and Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya and in Jenin at night. (PCHR 8/15)

Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat says that Israel will release 104 Palestinian prisoners in 4 stages, with the 1st 26 prisoners set to be released on 8/13. The prisoners to be released have all been serving sentences since before the 1993 Oslo Accord. (MNA 8/3)

Iranian supreme leader Ali Khamenei endorses the presidential election results and **Hassan Ruhani** takes office, promising “constructive interaction with the world.” (REU 8/3)

Egypt’s Interior Ministry warns supporters of ousted pres. Mohamed Morsi to evacuate their protest camps, as **U.S. Dep. Secy. of State William Burns** continues his meetings with political stakeholders on both sides. (AP 8/3)

4 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in Hebron and 2 nearby villages at night. (PCHR 8/15)

The **Israeli govt.** updates the national priority funding list, adding 6 more **West Bank settlements**. The 91 settlements on the list will receive extra development money in the coming year. (REU 8/4)

5 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 5 villages nr. Nablus, Hebron, and nearby al-‘Arub r.c. and 2 villages nr. Bethlehem at night. (PCHR 8/15)

U.S. Sens. John McCain and Lindsey Graham visit **Cairo** in an effort to defuse the political crisis. Accompanied by the **foreign ministers of Qatar and the UAE, U.S. Dep. Secy. of State William Burns** visits jailed Muslim Brotherhood leader Khairat al-Shater. Meanwhile, gunmen shoot and injure 3 Egyptian army officers in **al-Arish, Sinai**. (AP, HA, MNA, REU 5/8)

Samantha Power presents her credentials as U.S. amb. to the UN to Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon, following her endorsement by the Senate on 8/1 in an 87–10 vote. (AP 8/5)

6 AUGUST 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** conduct a limited incursion nr. al-Bureij r.c. and level land alongside the border fence. Also, the **IDF** opens fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing damage and 2 injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron, in Nablus and 1 village nr. Nablus, in Jenin, and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. (Wafa 8/6; PCHR 8/15)

Iran’s Pres. Hassan Ruhani calls for serious negotiations to resolve his country’s conflict with the international community over its nuclear program, in remarks made during his 1st press conference after taking office. (NYT 8/6)

Gunmen open fire on **Egyptian police officers** in al-Arish in the Sinai, killing 1 and wounding 2. (MNA 8/6)

7 AUGUST 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire several rockets into s. Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In response, the **IDF** fire a missile into an open area nr. Bayt Hanun, causing some damage and 1 injury. In the **West Bank**, there are clashes in Jenin and Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron during **IDF** raids, causing 1 injury in Bayt Umar. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (MNA, Wafa 8/7; PCHR 8/15)

An explosion on the **Lebanese** side of the Blue Line wounds 4 **Israeli soldiers** after a patrol crosses over nr. the border town of al-Labbouneh. The UN announces that the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is opening an investigation. (DS, HA, UNNC 8/7)

8 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in Hebron and 1 village nearby at night. (PCHR 8/15)

Israel gives final approval to 1,086 settlement homes in the West Bank, including 920 new units, and 166 being given retroactive legalization, spread over 7 settlements. Palestinian chief negotiator **Saeb Erakat** writes to **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** and complains that settlement construction is making it unlikely that renewed talks can be fruitful, but does not threaten to pull out of the negotiations. U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Jen Psaki tells a press briefing in Washington that the Obama administration is making its concerns known to Israeli PM Netanyahu. (AFP, HA, JTA, REU 8/8)

9 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli soldiers** attack regular demonstrations by **Palestinians**, **Israelis**, and **international activists** against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and the occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, Nabi Salih), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), causing no serious injuries. The demonstration in Bil'in is held in solidarity with Bedouin citizens of Israel resisting the Praver Plan for the Negev, and the demonstration in al-Ma'sara is held in solidarity with Palestinians in Yarmuk r.c. in Syria. (PCHR 8/15)

Supporters of ousted pres. Mohamed Morsi rally across **Egypt**, with dozens injured during clashes. (AFP 8/10)

10 AUGUST 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** shoot and kill an unarmed **Palestinian** nr. al-Bureij r.c. as he attempted to cross the border fence. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Bethlehem in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 8/15)

Five suspected Islamic militants are killed in a drone strike nr. **Rafah** in **Egypt**, in what the group in question, **Ansar Beit al-Maqdis**, as well as anonymous Egyptian officials say was carried out by the **Israeli military**. Israel does not confirm or deny the report, and **DM Moshe Ya'alon** says that Israel "respects full Egyptian sovereignty." The strike also destroyed a rocket launcher directed at Israel. (APF, AP, HA 10/8)

11 AUGUST 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** shoot and injure a **Palestinian** farmer working close to the

border fence nr. Gaza City. The **IDF** also opens fire on **Palestinian** fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Bethlehem, 1 village nr. Hebron, Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Ramallah, and Nablus and Balata r.c. at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Salfit and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 8/15)

The **Israeli govt.** publishes a list of **26 Palestinian prisoners** to be freed in the 1st stage of a planned release of 104 total prisoners in the context of renewed negotiations. Fourteen of the 26 will be deported or sent to the Gaza Strip, and 12 to the West Bank, with most having been jailed between 1985 and 1994. Meanwhile, **Israel** approves nearly 1,200 more settlement homes in **East Jerusalem** and the **West Bank**, an announcement that prompts **Palestinian negotiator Mohammed Shtayyeh** to accuse Israel of trying to destroy the viability of a two-state solution. (BBC, REU, WP 8/11)

The **Egyptian military** kill at least **12 suspected militants** in helicopter strikes in Shaykh Zuweid in the **Sinai**, a group that the army claims was responsible for attacks on Egyptian soldiers and abductions of security officials. (WP 8/11)

12 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon. Jewish settlers attack Palestinian homes and set fire to Palestinian-owned land nr. Nablus, causing damage but no injuries. (Wafa 8/12; PCHR 8/15)

Israel gives final approval to a plan for 890 new homes in **Gilo settlement** in East Jerusalem. **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** says

that recent Israeli announcements of new settlement construction likely will not thwart plans for talks scheduled for later this week. (AP, HA 8/12)

13 AUGUST 2013

Israel releases **26 Palestinian prisoners**, prompting celebrations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, Jerusalem municipality approves 942 settlement units for Gilo. (AFP, AP 8/13)

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 2 rockets with one falling within the territory and the other landing in s. **Israel** but causing no damage or injuries. In response, the **IDF** launches an air strike at night, with no reported injuries or damage. Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, injuring 3. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 villages nr. Nablus, and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. (JP, PNN 8/13; PCHR 8/15)

Israel releases **26 Palestinian prisoners**, prompting celebrations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including fireworks and small rallies. Eleven of those released are welcomed by Pres. Abbas in his presidential compound in Ramallah, while 15 were released directly to the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, the Jerusalem municipality approves 942 settlement units for Gilo. (AFP, AP 8/13)

Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas asks caretaker PM Rami Hamdallah to form a new govt., a task he has 5 weeks to complete. (MNA 8/13)

An Iron Dome anti-missile battery successfully intercepts a rocket launched from the Sinai apparently targeting Eilat. (HA 8/13)

14 AUGUST 2013

Israeli and **Palestinian officials** hold their 1st direct peace talks in 3 years in Jerusalem, a meeting that last for several hours, but the proceedings and details are kept secret. However, the next day, **Palestinian pres. Mahmud Abbas** says that the talks dealt with all final-status issues. (BBC, JP 8/15)

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and surrounding area, Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Bethlehem and Jenin r.c. at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 8/15)

Egyptian security forces launch a large-scale attack on a protest camp of **Muslim Brotherhood** supporters in **Cairo**, sparking clashes in the capital, Alexandria and other cities. More than 600 people are killed by state forces, and thousands are injured. In apparent reprisal attacks, a number of churches across Egypt are attacked and set on fire. **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry** says that the violence had dealt a “serious blow” to political reconciliation efforts, comments echoed by White House spokesperson Josh Earnest. (AP, REU 8/14)

15 AUGUST 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 3 nearby villages at night; patrols in al-‘Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. In Jenin, an **IDF** raid provokes clashes with residents of Jenin. (MNA 8/15; PCHR 8/22)

Muslim Brotherhood supporters take to the streets to protest against the previous day’s protest camp massacre. Arab leaders are divided in their response to the bloody developments in Egypt, with **Turkey**, **Iran**, and **Qatar** condemning the violent crackdown, while **Saudi Arabia** and the **UAE** back the military’s

position. Meanwhile, **gunmen** in the **Sinai** shoot and kill 7 **Egyptian soldiers** at a checkpoint. (JP, MNA, REU 8/15)

A car bomb explodes in s. **Beirut**, killing 20 people and wounding 120. The attack is claimed by a group called **Brigades of Aisha**, which it says was as retaliation for **Hizballah's** intervention in Syria on the side of Pres. Asad. (AP 8/15)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
Ahram	(<i>al-Ahram</i> , Cairo)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
DS	(Daily Star, Beirut)
<i>Guardian</i>	(<i>The Guardian</i> , London)
HA	(<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
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)
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)
XIN	(Xinhua–New China News Agency, Beijing)
YA	(<i>Yedi'ot Aharonot</i> , Tel Aviv)