



Chronology

16 NOVEMBER 2016–15 FEBRUARY 2017

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16 NOVEMBER 2016

In the **West Bank**, **Israel Defense Forces (IDF) troops** conduct an early morning raid in Ramallah, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian youths; 3 Palestinians are injured. The IDF arrests 8 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Hebron, Bethlehem, and Tulkarm; and patrols nr. Jenin, Ramallah, and Hebron. Along **Gaza's border**, the **Israeli authorities** prevent a truck from passing through the Kerem Shalom border crossing on the grounds that it contains materials that could be used to build rockets. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya refugee camp (r.c.), causing no damage or injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 6 Palestinians during late-night raids in Jabal Mukabir and Issawiyya. (MNA 11/16; PCHR 11/17; PCHR 11/24)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the 3d of 5 planned days (see Update). (MNA 11/16; OCHA 12/2)

Israel's Knesset passes the 1st reading of the so-called **regulations bill**, which would retroactively authorize **Israeli settlement outposts** in the West Bank (see Update).

Meanwhile, in response to the **Israeli High Court of Justice's** 11/14 reaffirmation of its evacuation order for the illegal **Amona** settlement outpost, the **Jerusalem Municipality** approves demolition orders for 14 Palestinian homes in Bayt Hanina. **Jerusalem mayor Nir Barkat** says that thousands of Palestinian homes in Jerusalem lack proper permits and should be held to the same standard as Amona, adding that "the Amona verdict leaves us no discretion to legalize building offenses." (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, YA 11/16; JP, MNA 11/17)

17 NOVEMBER 2016

In the **West Bank**, **international solidarity activists** establish a protest village in the n. Jordan Valley, called "al-Yasser," in response to Israel's demolition of Palestinian properties in the area. The **IDF** dismantles the village hours later, dispersing the activists. IDF troops arrest 2 Palestinians and issue 2 arrest summons during late-night raids nr. Nablus and Bethlehem, and patrol nr. Hebron throughout the day. **Israeli forces** raid a coal manufacturing facility nr. Jenin, seizing trucks and equipment. **Palestinian youths** open fire on Palestinian

Authority security forces (PASF) troops nr. the al-Fara'a r.c. during a protest against the PA's recent detention of residents of the camp; there are no serious injuries. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** arrest 2 armed Palestinians who snuck through the border fence into Israel (HA, WAFA 11/17; MNA 11/18; PCHR 11/24)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the 4th of 5 planned days (see Update). (MNA 11/17; OCHA 12/2)

18 NOVEMBER 2016

IDF troops violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's settlements, the separation wall, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih), Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, and along Gaza's border nr. al-Bureij r.c.; 1 Palestinian is killed in Gaza and 3 are injured. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** clash with stone-throwing Palestinians outside Tuqu' village nr. Bethlehem; 1 Palestinian is injured. IDF troops issue 2 Palestinians arrest summons during late-night raids nr. Hebron and patrol nr. Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinians during raids in the Old City and Silwan. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on a group of Palestinian youths nr. Gaza City. There are no injuries in either incident. In **Israel**, **thousands of Palestinian citizens of Israel** gather in Kafr Kanna and other villages to protest a bill, approved in a Knesset comm. on 11/13, that would bar mosques from broadcasting the call to prayer (see *JPS* 46 [2]). (HA, MNA, TOI, YA 11/18; PCHR 11/24)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the 5th of 5 planned days (see Update). (MNA 11/18; OCHA 12/2)

19 NOVEMBER 2016

In the **West Bank**, **dozens of Palestinians** gather in c. Ramallah to call for the Israeli authorities to release the body of the Palestinian killed by IDF troops on 11/3. **IDF troops** arrest 6 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during late-night raids nr. Jericho, Qalqilya, Bethlehem, and in Hebron; and patrol nr. Hebron and Nablus. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, armed assailants open fire on an Israeli police vehicle in al-'Izzariya, causing no serious damage. **Israeli forces** raid a students' exhibition at Al-Quds University, and arrest 3 Palestinians during further raids in al-Tur and Issawiyya. (MNA, WAFA 11/19; PCHR 11/24)

20 NOVEMBER 2016

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** confiscate a Palestinian tractor from Ras al-Ahmar village nr. Tubas and deliver stop-work orders for 12 Palestinian projects under construction nr. Hebron. **IDF troops** arrest 5 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Tulkarm, Jenin, and Nablus; and patrol nr. Nablus, Qalqilya, and Hebron. **Unidentified assailants** throw rocks at a bus nr. Bethlehem, breaking a windshield and injuring 3 IDF soldiers. In **East Jerusalem**, **more than 60 Orthodox Jews** tour Haram al-Sharif; Israeli forces arrest 5 who attempt to pray at the sanctuary. **Israeli forces** arrest a Palestinian at an entrance to the Old City, alleging that she was preparing to stab them. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya and later nr. Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. In **n. Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian's home in Hurfish village on the grounds that it violated construction regulations. (MNA, WAFA 11/20; MNA 11/21; PCHR 11/24)

21 NOVEMBER 2016

Approximately 1,000 UNRWA employees go on strike in Gaza City to protest the agency's failure to fill vacant positions and to pay full salaries to many employees (see Update). In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and injure a Palestinian from Bethlehem as he is attempting to cross into Israel for work. They also arrest 5 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Nablus and nr. Ramallah; and patrol nr. Qalqilya and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinians during raids in Silwan. In **Israel**, a **mosque** in Lydda is fined around NIS 726 (approx. \$200) in accordance with Israel's "pollution and nuisance" law for using loudspeakers to broadcast the call to prayer at night. (MNA, Wafa 11/21; MNA 11/22; PCHR 11/24)

The **Israel Land Authority** announces that the **bedouin village Umm al-Hiran** will be demolished on 11/22. The village's residents are to be evacuated and relocated to a nearby municipality to make way for the construction of a new Jewish settlement called Hiran (see Update). (EI 11/23)

22 NOVEMBER 2016

Joint List members of the Knesset (MKs) Basel Ghattas and Ayman Odeh join hundreds of Palestinians in the bedouin village of **Umm al-Hiran** nr. Beersheba, protesting the Israeli authorities' order to evacuate and demolish the village. The Israeli police ultimately delay the day's demolitions, but do not offer a new date (demolitions will take place on 1/18). (HA 11/22; EI 11/23)

Following 2 mos. of drought, a series of **large fires** breaks out nr. Jerusalem, burning 30 homes and causing massive damage (see Update). (HA, MNA 11/24)

IDF troops shoot and kill a Palestinian at Qalandia checkpoint after he allegedly attempts to stab them. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **Israeli settlers** throw Molotov cocktails at a Palestinian home s. of Hebron, causing moderate damage. **IDF troops** arrest 8 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Tulkarm, Hebron, and nr. Nablus; and patrol nr. Hebron and Ramallah. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** complete the demolition of a Palestinian home under construction in al-Tur. They had begun the demolition on 11/10, but stopped when their bulldozer broke down. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, Wafa, YA 11/22; EI 11/23; PCHR 11/24)

23 NOVEMBER 2016

Massive fires rage nr. Jerusalem and in Haifa for a 2d day, causing over 200 incidents of serious damage. Elsewhere in **Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish 3 Palestinian-owned buildings in Lydda. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** patrol nr. Nablus and Hebron, and arrest 3 Palestinians and confiscate 1 car during late-night raids nr. Bethlehem, Jenin, and in Nablus. In **East Jerusalem**, the **Israeli authorities** release the corpse of a Palestinian killed by Israeli forces on 9/30 to his family. Only 15 people are allowed to attend his funeral in the Old City. Meanwhile, **Israeli forces** arrest 4 Palestinians during raids in Silwan. (MNA 11/23; MNA, PCHR 11/24; PCHR 12/1)

24 NOVEMBER 2016

As **massive fires** rage nr. Jerusalem for the 3d day in a row, the PA sends 4 teams of Palestinian fire fighters to assist Israeli disaster relief efforts. Meanwhile, **new fires** break out in the Galilee, Haifa, and nr. the Shavei Shomron settlement in the West Bank. **Israeli forces** arrest 4 Palestinians in n. Israel on suspicion of

arson. Around 60,000 people are evacuated from Haifa. The Israeli authorities declare a state of emergency in Haifa and evacuate 13 neighborhoods. (HA, JP, TOI, YA 11/24)

In the **West Bank, IDF troops** arrest 2 Palestinians during arrest raids nr. Ramallah and Bethlehem, and patrol nr. Hebron throughout the day. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid in Issawiyya. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 11/24; HA 11/25; JTA 11/26; PCHR 12/1)

The **French govt.** publishes new regulations governing goods imported from the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt). They require labels denoting whether or not the goods originated in **Israel's settlements**, rather than just the West Bank (see Update). (HA, JP, TOI 11/24)

25 NOVEMBER 2016

Massive fires continue to burn across Israel and the West Bank for a 4th consecutive day, including new outbreaks nr. Jerusalem, causing serious damage in both Palestinian and Jewish communities. They spread further among Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including Halamish, a settlement near Ramallah, and Ma'ale Adumim. After the fires reach Halamish, the IDF shuts down the entrances to 3 Palestinian villages in the area, including Dayr Nizam. Israeli forces arrest 16 Palestinians across Israel and the West Bank in connection with the fire, including 1 man affiliated with the Northern Branch of the Islamic Movement in Israel. Residents of Haifa are allowed to return to their homes after evacuating the previous day (see Update). (JP, HA, MNA, NYT 11/25)

IDF troops shoot and kill a Palestinian at a checkpoint in Shu'fat r.c. after he allegedly attempts to stab one of them. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday

demonstrations against Israel's settlements, separation wall, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih), and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; there are no serious injuries. **IDF troops** also arrest 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid nr. Salfit, and patrol nr. Qalqilya and Hebron during the day. (JP, MNA, NYT 11/25; TOI 11/25; PCHR 12/1)

26 NOVEMBER 2016

Massive fires continue to rage across Israel and the oPt for the 5th consecutive day. New fires break out in some West Bank Palestinian communities, including Qusin village nr. Nablus. Twelve Israeli settlers are moderately injured by fire in Ma'ale Adumim settlement nr. Jerusalem. There are reports that many of the fires in Israel are under control. After new raids and arrests, the Israeli police are detaining 23 suspects in connection with alleged arson; they have questioned 30 so far. Most are West Bank Palestinians and some are Palestinian citizens of Israel (see Update). (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 11/26; MNA, WAFA, YA 11/27)

Elsewhere in the **West Bank, Israeli forces** close off the environs of al-Ibrahimi Mosque in c. Hebron, clearing space for thousands of Israeli settlers to celebrate a religious holiday at the site. The IDF announces that the area will be closed to Palestinians for 1 week. **IDF troops** arrest 8 Palestinians and brutally assault 1, causing serious injuries, during late-night raids nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, and Nablus; and patrol nr. Salfit and Hebron during the day. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinians during late-night raids in Issawiyya. Along **Gaza's border, IDF troops** arrest 2 Palestinians nr. Eshkol who had crossed the border illegally. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or

injuries. (HA, MNA, WAFA, YA 11/26; MNA, WAFA 11/27; PCHR 12/1)

27 NOVEMBER 2016

Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. Along **Gaza's border, IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian attempting to cross into Israel nr. Bayt Lahiya. They do not inform his family, who will spend the next 2 days searching for him. (The Israeli govt. will release a statement on 12/28 announcing that the man is a Hamas military operative. His family will deny the report, asserting that he has no affiliation with Hamas and that he is mentally unstable.) In the **West Bank, IDF troops** arrest 7 Palestinians during late-night raids in and around Hebron, Bethlehem, and Ramallah; and patrol nr. Qalqilya and Hebron. **Israeli settlers** assault a Palestinian returning from work s. of Jerusalem. He suffers serious injuries, and the settlers flee the scene. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** arrest 7 Palestinians during late-night raids in Silwan, Qalandia r.c., and Qatanna. (MNA 11/27; JP 11/30; PCHR 12/1; HA 12/28; MNA 12/29)

Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) fighters in Syria launch mortars at **IDF troops** patrolling along the border in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, causing no injuries. The IDF returns fire, bombing a car armed with a heavy machine gun. 4 ISIS fighters are reportedly killed. Late at night, **Israeli fighter jets** launch air strikes on an abandoned facility in the Syrian Golan Heights causing damage. (HA, JP, YA 11/27; JP, TOI, YA 11/28)

28 NOVEMBER 2016

In the **West Bank, IDF troops** mistakenly enter Tulkarm and are escorted out by PASF. Some Palestinian youths throw stones at them

as they are leaving, causing 1 minor injury. Meanwhile, **unidentified assailants** open fire on an IDF position nr. Ramallah. The IDF returns fire, but the assailants escape; there are no serious injuries. **IDF troops** arrest 13 Palestinians during late-night raids and house searches nr. Hebron, Salfit, Nablus, Hebron, and Ramallah; and patrol during the day nr. Salfit and Hebron. **Israeli forces** deliver stop-work orders to 6 Palestinian homes under construction s. of Bethlehem. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** arrest 4 Palestinians during late-night raids in Issawiyya. Off **Gaza's coast** early in the morning, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. (JP, MNA, TOI 11/28; PCHR 12/1)

PA foreign minister (FM) Riyad al-Maliki states that Palestinians continue to work on a **draft UN Security Council (UNSC) res.** condemning Israeli settlements that they intend to submit within days. **Israeli prime minister (PM) Benjamin Netanyahu** says he expects U.S. pres. Barack Obama to oppose any new Palestinian effort at the UNSC (see Update). (JP, WAFA 11/28)

29 NOVEMBER 2016

Along **Gaza's border, Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. Rafah. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** arrest 15 Palestinians during raids in and around Tulkarm, Hebron, Ramallah, and Jenin; and patrol nr. Hebron throughout the day. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian structure in Jabal Mukabir and an extension to a Palestinian home in Silwan. They also arrest 3 Palestinians during raids in Issawiyya. (MNA 11/29; PCHR 12/1)

Fatah's 7th General Conference kicks off in Ramallah amid rumors about **PA pres. Mahmoud Abbas's** imminent retirement,

succession of power, and exiled Fatah leader Mohammad Dahlan's possible return to Palestinian politics (see Update). The conference attendees unanimously reelect Abbas as party chair. (AFP, JP, MNA, NYT, TOI, WAFA, YA 11/29)

U.S. secy. of state John Kerry indicates that the Obama admin. is still weighing its options for launching a long-rumored peace push in its final mos. in office. (TOI 12/1)

Israeli fighter jets launch air strikes on a Hezbollah arms convoy w. of Damascus late at night, causing an unknown amount of damage and injuries. (JP, TOI, YA 11/29; HA 11/30)

30 NOVEMBER 2016

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 5 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Hebron and Qalqilya. They also shoot and injure a Palestinian attempting to cross into Israel nr. Bethlehem. Meanwhile, **Coca-Cola** inaugurates its 1st bottling plant in Gaza, kicking off full operations at the \$20m. facility (partial operations began in 4/2016). The plant employs 120 Palestinians from Gaza, and the company plans to employ up to 270 within 3 yrs. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 5 Palestinians during raids in the Old City, Abu Dis, al-Ram, and Sur al-Bahir. (MNA, TOI 11/30; PCHR 12/8)

In his address to **Fatah's 7th General Conference**, PA pres. Abbas proposes the creation of a temporary unity govt. with **Hamas** and invites Hamas to negotiations on overcoming obstacles that have hindered previous reconciliation attempts. (HA, JP, MNA, NYT, YA 11/30; WAFA 12/1)

1 DECEMBER 2016

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 3 Palestinians and issue 2 arrest summons during late-night raids nr. Ramallah and

Hebron; and patrol nr. Hebron throughout the day. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. (MNA, WAFA 12/1; MNA 12/2; PCHR 12/8)

2 DECEMBER 2016

Israeli settlers assault and moderately injure a Palestinian nr. Nablus. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's occupation, settlements, and separation wall in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih), Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, and along Gaza's border nr. al-Bureij r.c.; 1 Palestinian is injured. They also issue 1 Palestinian an arrest summons during a late-night raid nr. Hebron, and patrol during the day nr. Jenin and Hebron. (MNA 12/2; PCHR 12/8)

At the Saban Forum at the Brookings Institute in Washington, **Israeli defense minister (DM) Avigdor Lieberman** says that the Knesset should postpone work on the so-called regulations bill, which would retroactively authorize all of Israel's illegal settlement outposts in the West Bank, including Amona, until U.S. pres.-elect Donald Trump takes office. "The key to the future of the settlements is reaching understandings with the U.S. on this issue," he says. (HA, JP, MNA, YA 12/3)

3 DECEMBER 2016

The bodies of **4 Palestinian workers from Gaza** are discovered in a tunnel leading from Egypt. The Palestinian authorities say that the 4 men died as a result of **Egypt's** intentional flooding of the tunnel with seawater. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** arrest 1 Palestinian man as he crosses the border fence from Gaza into Israel. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest

3 Palestinian during late-night raids nr. Hebron and Ramallah; and patrol during the day nr. Hebron and Nablus. They also violently disperse Palestinians gathering in Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya to protest Israel's separation wall and settlements; there are no serious injuries. In **East Jerusalem, 2 Palestinians** demolish their own homes in Silwan to avoid paying for Israeli demolition crews. (MNA, TOI, Wafa 12/3; JP, MNA, TOI 12/4; PCHR 12/8)

4 DECEMBER 2016

A **Hamas fighter** dies in a tunnel accident nr. Khan Yunis. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on a Palestinian fishing boat nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries. They also arrest 2 of the fishermen and confiscate their boat. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** arrest 6 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, and Jenin, and patrol during the day nr. Salfit, Hebron, and Qalqilya. In East Jerusalem, Israeli forces arrest 7 Palestinians and issue 4 arrest summons during raids in Issawiyya, Sur al-Bahir, Shu'fat r. c., Issawiyya, and Silwan. (MNA, MNA, Wafa 12/4; PCHR 12/8)

Israeli PM Netanyahu and **DM Lieberman** permit the transfer of **5 armored vehicles** from Jordan to the PA because of the deteriorating security situation in the oPt, particularly in Nablus, according to an Israeli spokesperson. The PA has been requesting approval for such transfers for at least 4 years. (MNA, TOI 12/7)

After mos. of negotiations and intracoalition struggle, **Netanyahu** resolves several conflicts over the **illegal Amona settlement outpost**. First, he secures **Atty. Gen. Avichai Mandelblit's** approval for the govt.'s plan to relocate the 40-odd families from Amona to a nearby plot of "abandoned" land. Second, he announces plans to petition the **High Court of**

Justice for a 30-day delay of its evacuation and demolition order to give his govt. time to prepare temporary alternate housing for Amona's residents. Third, he brokers a deal with **Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon** and **Education Minister Naftali Bennett** on the so-called regulations bill, which Bennett is backing in order to retroactively authorize the illegal West Bank settlement outposts, including Amona. Netanyahu and Kahlon agree to reverse their positions and support the bill as long as Clause 7, the provision that specifically addresses Amona, is removed. (HA, JP, TOI, YA 12/4; HA, JP, YA 12/5)

5 DECEMBER 2016

Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** prevent mourning Palestinians from burying a recently deceased woman in the Bab al-Rahma cemetery nr. the Old City. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** arrest 11 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during late-night raids in and around Nablus, Bethlehem, Qalqilya, and Hebron; and patrol nr. Jenin, Hebron, and Qalqilya during the day. (MNA 12/5; MNA 12/6; PCHR 12/8)

The **Israeli police** decide to extend, by 1 hour, the time allotted every day for non-Muslims to visit **Haram al-Sharif**. They are now allowed to access the site from 7:30 A.M. to 11 A.M. (MNA 12/5)

Israel's **Knesset** passes a preliminary reading of a new draft of the **so-called regulations bill** that would retroactively authorize many Israeli settlement outposts, except Amona, which is still scheduled to be evacuated and demolished by 12/25. The bill is expected to receive a 1st reading on 12/7. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, YA 12/5)

6 DECEMBER 2016

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** level 40 dunams (10 acres) of Palestinian land in Jalud village nr. Nablus and demolish 3 homes in Fasayil village nr. Jericho. **IDF troops** conduct raids in Dayr Nizam, the Ramallah-area village that has been closed since 11/25, sparking minor clashes; 2 Israeli soldiers are lightly injured. They also arrest 6 Palestinians and issue 4 arrest summons during raids in and around Bethlehem, Nablus, and Qalqilya, and patrol nr. Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish 3 structures in Silwan. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya r.c.; 4 fishermen are arrested and 1 boat is confiscated. (MNA, Wafa 12/6; MNA 12/7; PCHR 12/8; HA 12/11)

The **Israeli authorities** cancel weekly permits for **elderly Palestinians from Gaza** to visit **Haram al-Sharif**, following reports that some worshippers do not return directly to Gaza after these visits, according to an official at the Palestinian liaison office (see Update). (MNA 12/6)

In the 2d such incident this week, the **IDF** launches missiles at a military airport used by **Syrian govt. troops** nr. **Damascus**, according to the Arab press. Loud explosions rock the facility, but there are no reports of injuries. (HA, JP, YA 12/7)

7 DECEMBER 2016

Two Palestinians die in a **tunnel accident** late at night nr. Gaza City. Hamas claims the 2 men were mbrs. of its group. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** demolish 2 Palestinian car washes n. of Jerusalem. **IDF troops** arrest 12 Palestinians and issue 4 arrest summons during late-night raids in and around Nablus, Hebron, Jenin, and Tulkarm, and patrol nr. Hebron and

Nablus during the day. In and around **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 2 Palestinians during raids in Hizma village and Qalandia r.c. Late at night, they conduct raids in Shu'fat r.c., sparking minor clashes with stone-throwing residents; there are no serious injuries. In **Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish 2 homes in a bedouin village nr. Beersheba. An **Israeli driver** rams a Palestinian worker from Tulkarm while he is walking along a street in Tel Aviv, causing moderate injuries. (MNA, Wafa, YA 12/7; MNA, PCHR 12/8; PCHR 12/15)

A Jerusalem Municipality planning comm. approves the construction of **770 settler residences** in the Gilo settlement in East Jerusalem. City officials say that the plans, initially approved in 2013, were "undergoing routine processes of allocation regarding roads and public spaces." (MNA 12/9)

Israel's Knesset passes a 1st reading of the new draft of the **so-called regulations bill**, which passed a preliminary reading on 12/5 and would retroactively authorize illegal settlement outposts in the West Bank (see Update). (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, YA 12/7; MNA 12/8)

A **senior Israeli official** says that **Israeli PM Netanyahu** has rejected **French pres. François Hollande's** invitation to a mediated meeting with PA pres. Abbas after the next French-organized peace summit, which is set for 12/21. Later, Netanyahu calls Hollande personally to discuss the invitation. He tells the French pres. that he would be happy to meet with Abbas, but only if the conference is canceled. (HA, JP, YA 12/7)

8 DECEMBER 2016

IDF troops shoot and kill a Palestinian youth at a checkpoint nr. Nablus after he allegedly attempts to stab 1 of them. No Israelis are injured. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF**

troops arrest a Palestinian while he is leaving Birzeit village nr. Ramallah, arrest 2 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Ramallah and Bethlehem, and patrol nr. Nablus and Hebron during the day. **Israeli forces** raze Palestinian land in Umm al-Khayr to make room for a new sewage line serving a nearby settlement. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** block the **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)** from hosting a cultural event. Two Palestinian families demolish their own homes in Silwan to avoid paying for Israeli demolition fees. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 12/8; EI 12/9; PCHR 12/15)

Israel's Edu. Min. Bennett says that the **so-called regulations bill**, which passed its first reading on 12/7, will not get its final reading until after **U.S. pres.-elect Trump** is inaugurated on 1/20/2017 (see Update). (JP 12/9)

In response to pressure from the **High Court of Justice**, **Israel's security cabinet** decides to stop returning the corpses of Hamas-affiliated Palestinians who carry out serious attacks against Israelis to their families. They condone the return of other Palestinian assailants' corpses, however. The IDF still supports returning the corpses in general, while **DM Lieberman** supports withholding them as a deterrent. (HA 12/9)

9 DECEMBER 2016

IDF troops violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih), Bayt Umar nr. Hebron, and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** raid several areas nr. Tubas, confiscating a garbage truck and tractors, and delivering

several stop-work orders to Palestinians constructing a power line. They also arrest 1 Palestinian and issue 1 arrest summons during late-night raids nr. Hebron, and patrol nr. Nablus and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** raid a children's center in **Silwan** following reports of stone throwing in the area; they make no arrests. Late at night, they arrest 5 Palestinians during raids in the Old City. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian man as he attempts to cross into Israel. (IMEMC, MNA, TOI 12/9; PCHR 12/15)

The **Israeli govt.** informs the **High Court of Justice** that it has decided to return **7 corpses of Palestinians** killed in violent attacks against Israelis in recent mos., but only if the families agree to certain conditions. The decision comes in response to the families' petitions. The Israeli authorities say that the cases of 3 other corpses must be studied further because of their relation with Hamas and the security cabinet's 12/8 ruling on the matter. (HA, MNA, YA 12/9)

10 DECEMBER 2016

Several hundred right-wing Israelis gather at the **illegal Amona settlement outpost** nr. Ramallah, anticipating the outpost's evacuation, which was ordered to take place by 12/25. They stay in camps at the outpost through the night. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **Israeli settlers** demolish a Palestinian home under construction nr. Nablus overnight. **IDF troops** arrest 4 Palestinians and issue 2 arrest summons during raids in Jenin and nr. Hebron and Ramallah, and patrol during the day nr. Nablus and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli police** arrest a Palestinian in Bayt Hanina after finding weapons in his car. **Israeli forces** also arrest 6 Palestinians during late-night raids in Issawiyya, Hizma, and Silwan. (MNA 12/10; HA, MNA 12/11; PCHR 12/15)

Palestinian and Western officials say that the PA is planning a senior-level delegation to the U.S. next week, led by **Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) secy.-gen. Saeb Erakat**, to discuss bilateral relations and push for U.S. support for a Palestinian-backed **UNSC res.** condemning Israel's settlements (see Update). (HA, JP, MNA 12/10)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the 1st of 3 days, allowing passage in both directions (see Update). (MNA, WAFA 12/10; OCHA 12/15)

11 DECEMBER 2016

IDF troops attempt to enter Jenin without coordinating with the **PASF**. Upon their arrival at a roadblock at an entrance to the city, **PASF** prevent their entrance with guns drawn (under the Oslo Accords, the IDF is barred from entering Area A of the West Bank without the PA's approval). The **IDF** arrests 10 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem, Jenin, and Tulkarm; and patrols nr. Hebron throughout the day. **IDF troops** also arrest a Palestinian in c. Hebron, alleging that he was planning a stabbing attack. **Israeli forces** confiscate a shipping container being used as a restaurant nr. Nablus. The owner had set it up after his nearby restaurant was demolished on 11/3. **Israeli settlers** cut down dozens of olive trees outside Turmus 'Ayya village nr. Ramallah. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Khan Yunis causing no damage or injuries. (JP, WAFA, YA 12/11; PCHR 12/15)

The *Jerusalem Post* reports that **New Zealand** is circulating a **draft UNSC res.** calling for a "firm timetable" for the Israelis and Palestinians to return to negotiations and asking that neither side set "preconditions" for the talks. The draft res. also calls for an end to the Israeli settlement

enterprise and for the Palestinian leadership to end its "incitement to violence against Israeli civilians" (see Update). (JP 12/11)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the 2d of 3 days (see Update). (MNA, WAFA 12/11; OCHA 12/15)

12 DECEMBER 2016

Israeli forces shoot and injure a **Palestinian activist** during a raid in Issawiyya. They open fire when he refuses their order to stop photographing them. Elsewhere in **East Jerusalem**, 82 right-wing Jewish activists tour **Haram al-Sharif**. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** conduct raids in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian residents; 4 Palestinians are injured. They also confiscate personal property and issue 3 arrest summons during raids nr. Ramallah and in Qalqilya and Nablus, and patrol nr. Hebron throughout the day. **Israeli forces** confiscate an irrigation network nr. Hebron. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Gaza City; there are no injuries or damage. (MNA, WAFA 12/12; MNA 12/13; PCHR 12/15)

The **Egyptian** authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the 3d of 3 days (see Update). (MNA, WAFA 12/12; MNA 12/13; OCHA 12/15)

Palestinian officials and their counterparts at the **U.S. State Dept.** meet in Washington and reaffirm their shared commitment to a negotiated 2-state solution, "which is the only way to achieve an enduring peace that meets Israeli and Palestinian security needs and Palestinian aspirations for statehood and sovereignty, end the occupation that began in 1967, and resolve all permanent status issues," according to a joint statement. There is no

official mention of the Palestinians' push for a UNSC res. censuring Israeli settlements, but it is widely suspected that such a res. was the main topic of conversation. (JP, MNA, WAFA 12/13)

Israel's Edu. Min. Bennett says that he has reached a new deal with **PM Netanyahu** and **Atty. Gen. Mandelblit** that will allow residents of the **Amona settlement outpost** to "remain on their hilltop," although they will still be relocated to a nearby plot of land. They will only be given temporary permits to live on the new land, however, with options to renew every 2 years, and the govt. will ask for a 1-mo. postponement of Amona's evacuation to make time for the relocation. (HA, JP, YA 12/12)

13 DECEMBER 2016

IDF troops arrest a Palestinian driver at the Qalandia checkpoint after she allegedly attempts to ram them. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** confiscate 6 computers during a raid on a printing shop in Hebron. Also in the Hebron area, **Israeli forces** confiscate a caravan being used as a medical clinic in the bedouin village al-Markaz, demolish a quarry in al-Samu' village, and deliver stop-work orders to 2 homes under construction nr. the city. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** arrest 23 Palestinians during raids nr. Bethlehem, Nablus, and Ramallah, and patrol nr. Ramallah and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, around 70 right-wing Jewish activists tour **Haram al-Sharif**. **Israeli forces** demolish 2 steel structures and a store in Sur al-Bahir and arrest 2 Palestinians during late-night raids in the Old City. Along **Gaza's border**, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level lands nr. Rafah, and open fire on Palestinian farmland nr. Khan Yunis. (HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 12/13; YA 12/14; PCHR 12/15)

Senior Palestinian officials meet with **U.S. secy. of state Kerry** in Washington. After the meeting, a State Dept. spokesperson says that "nothing's changed about our view" on a UNSC res. condemning Israel's settlements. (USSD 12/12; TOI 12/14)

14 DECEMBER 2016

Israeli forces shoot and kill a Palestinian in the Old City of **East Jerusalem** after he allegedly stabs and injures an Israeli police officer and an Israeli civilian. A Palestinian youth is struck and injured by an Israeli bullet during the incident. Elsewhere in the city, **Israeli forces** demolish a building under construction in Bayt Hanina, arrest 3 Palestinian children on their way home from school nr. the Old City, and arrest 15 more Palestinians during late-night raids in al-Tur, Issawiyya, and Silwan. In the **West Bank**, an **IDF convoy** of more than 20 vehicles raids **Birzeit University's** campus nr. Ramallah, leaving "a great deal of havoc" in their wake, according to a university statement. Several buildings are damaged and many of their contents are destroyed. Separately, after reports of shots fired on an Israeli settler nr. Ramallah, **IDF troops** conduct raids in Nabi Salih, shut down the village's entrance, and assault a group of Palestinian youths at a nearby gas station, causing no serious injuries. **IDF troops** arrest 5 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during late-night raids nr. Hebron, Jenin, and Nablus. (HA, MNA, WAFA, YA 12/14; EI, MNA, PCHR 12/15; PCHR 12/22)

With U.S. attendance in doubt and Israel pledging not to participate, **Palestinian amb. to France Salman al-Herfi** says that the **French govt.** has postponed its planned 12/21 **peace conference** meant to launch a new round of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks until at least 1/2017. The French say that the

postponement will allow them to “make better preparations,” and that, if Israel continues to refuse to attend, the conference will still go forward as planned, according to al-Herfi. (HA, JP, MNA, VOP, YA 12/14)

The residents of the **Amona settlement outpost** vote to reject the deal reached by Israeli **PM Netanyahu** and **Edu. Min. Bennett** on 12/12, fearing that it will get bogged down in the courts because of Palestinian ownership claims on most of the proposed relocation land: “We were willing to accept the destruction of our private homes, and a move from place to place, if only a Jewish community would remain on the hill. But the proposed arrangement does not provide any guarantee or commitment that we will indeed receive an alternative home.” (AS, HA, JP, TOI, YA 12/15)

15 DECEMBER 2016

Along **Gaza’s border**, **IDF troops** open fire on agricultural lands nr. Khan Yunis. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** blocks off roads leading to Bayt Rima and Dayr Abu Mash‘al villages nr. Ramallah, which are nr. the site of the alleged settler-involved shooting on 12/14. **IDF troops** arrest Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Hebron and Salfit, and patrol nr. Nablus and Hebron during the day. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct raids in Hizma overnight, sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents; several Palestinians are injured. Later in the day, **Israeli forces** block Hizma’s main entrance (it will remain blocked through at least 12/18). (MNA, WAFA 12/15; MNA 12/18; PCHR 12/22)

The **UNRWA employees’ union** in Gaza announces that it will escalate its protests against the agency in response to its failure to fill teaching job vacancies this year. UNRWA claims that negotiations are still ongoing, but

the union says that they failed to reach an agreement and that the agency decided to end negotiations (see Update). (MNA 12/16)

In **Tunisia**, a **Hamas-affiliated flight engineer** specializing in drone technology is shot and killed in his car in the city of Sfax. The Tunisian press will report that Israel’s **Mossad** is responsible. (YA 12/16)

16 DECEMBER 2016

An explosion at a **Hamas military site** in Khan Yunis kills 1 Hamas fighter and injures 2 others. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel’s settlements, separation wall, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil‘in, Ni‘lin, and Nabi Salih) and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; there are no serious injuries. They also conduct raids nr. Hebron and patrols nr. Hebron and Salfit. (MNA 12/16; PCHR 12/22)

The **Israeli authorities** hand over **corpses** of 7 West Bank Palestinians killed in confrontations with the IDF in the past 6 mos. to their families. The return is conditioned on the families’ acceptance of several conditions, including fines and limits on the number of mourners at funerals. (HA, MNA, TOI, YA 12/16)

17 DECEMBER 2016

Hundreds of Palestinians attend a funeral in Bayt Umar nr. Hebron for a Palestinian whose corpse was returned by the Israeli authorities on 12/16. After the funeral, Palestinian youths throw stones at **IDF troops** at the village’s entrance, sparking minor clashes; there are no serious injuries. **IDF troops** arrest 4 Palestinians during raids nr. Hebron and Bethlehem, and patrol nr. Hebron and Nablus during the day. In **East Jerusalem**, an argument

between **Israeli settlers** and **Palestinian youths** escalates into a fistfight in Silwan. Israeli forces in the area violently disperse the fight, lightly injuring 1 Palestinian. **Israeli forces** arrest 3 Palestinians and issue 3 arrest summons during raids in the neighborhood after the incident. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmlands nr. Khan Yunis, causing no serious damage or injuries. (MNA 12/17; PCHR 12/22)

French amb. to the UN François Delattre confirms that Paris is postponing the **peace conference** originally planned for 12/21 to sometime in 1/2017. "After nearly a year of efforts, France will hold during [1/2017] an international conference bringing together all the states [seeking] peace," he says (YA 12/17)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for passage in both directions for the 1st of 3 planned days. (MNA, WAFA 12/17)

18 DECEMBER 2016

An **Israeli sniper** shoots and kills a Palestinian youth during major clashes sparked by an IDF raid overnight in Bayt Rima village nr. Ramallah. The IDF temporarily shuts down entrances to the village after the clashes.

Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** conduct raids in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem, sparking minor clashes with stone-throwing residents; 2 Palestinians are injured. They also arrest 5 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Nablus, Hebron, Tulkarm, and Bethlehem, and patrol nr. Hebron throughout the day. **Israeli forces** begin building a road leading to a settlement outpost nr. Nablus. Late at night, armed Palestinians allegedly shoot and injure an Israeli settler driver nr. Rantis village nr. Ramallah. Israeli forces then close the entrances to Rantis and 3 other villages in the area (Rantis

and Shuqba village will be reopened on 1/13). In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct raids nr. the Old City and in Shu'fat r.c., arresting 4 Palestinian youths and shutting down several shops. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya r.c. and later nr. Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. (HA, MNA, WAFA 12/18; MNA, WAFA 12/19; EI 12/20; PCHR 12/22; MNA 1/13)

Residents of the **illegal Amona settlement outpost**, which had been ordered evacuated and demolished by 12/25, vote to accept a new version of a compromise relocation plan proposed by Israeli **PM Netanyahu** and **Edu. Min. Bennett** on 12/12, days after they had rejected a previous version. The proposal will allow 24 of the 40-odd families to relocate to nearby plots of land on the same hilltop. The new deal is contingent on **Israel's High Court** permitting a 1-mo. stay of its evacuation order for Amona (see Update). (HA, JP, MNA, NYT, TOI, YA 12/18; JP 12/19)

The **Egyptian** authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for passage in both directions for the 2d of 3 planned days (see Update). (JP, MNA 12/18; MNA 12/19)

19 DECEMBER 2016

Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops and tanks** open fire on a **Hamas** military site nr. al-Bureij r.c., causing no reported damage or injuries. The IDF says that the attack was ordered in response to shots fired at IDF patrols in the area earlier in the day. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian youth after she allegedly attempts to stab them nr. Qalqilya. They also arrest 4 Palestinians and issue 3 arrest summons during raids nr. Bethlehem, Nablus, Ramallah and Hebron, and patrol nr. Salfit, Ramallah, and Hebron. **Armed gunmen** shoot and injure an

Israeli settler nr. Nablus. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian car dealership in Sheikh Jarrah and arrest 2 Palestinians during raids in Silwan. (HA, JP, MNA, WAFA, YA 12/19; MNA 12/20; PCHR 12/22)

The **Israeli NGO Yesh Din** files a motion with the Custodian of Absentee Property stating that the current relocation plan for the Amona settlement outpost, which the outpost's residents approved on 12/18, is illegal because a section of the proposed relocation site, dubbed Plot 38, is privately owned by Palestinians (see Update). (MNA 12/19; HA, JP, MNA 12/20)

The **Egyptian** authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for passage in both directions for the 3d of 3 planned days. (MNA 12/19)

20 DECEMBER 2016

Along **Gaza's border, IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmers working nr. al-Maghazi r.c. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Khan Yunis. Neither attack causes damage or injuries. In the **West Bank, Israeli forces** deliver stop-work orders to a mosque under construction nr. Bethlehem and close the iron gate leading to Nabi Salih village nr. Ramallah (the punitive village closures nr. Ramallah on this day and on 12/18 stem from the IDF's killing of a Palestinian in Bayt Rima village on 12/18). **IDF troops** arrest 18 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Hebron, Nablus, and Bethlehem, and patrol nr. Hebron during the day. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** conduct raids in Shu'fat r.c., sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents; 5 Palestinians are arrested and there are no serious injuries. They also arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid in Silwan. (MNA, WAFA 12/20; PCHR 12/22)

21 DECEMBER 2016

In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** demolish a room in a Silwan-area home and arrest 7 Palestinians during raids in al-Tur and Shu'fat r.c. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** arrest 10 Palestinians and confiscate equipment from a printing house during late-night raids in and around Hebron, Nablus, Bethlehem, and Tulkarm; and patrol nr. Hebron during the day. Along **Gaza's border, IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian shepherds and bird hunters nr. Khan Yunis, causing no injuries. Meanwhile, **Egyptian forces** deployed along the border fence shoot and injure a Palestinian fisherman working off the coast nr. Rafah. (MNA 12/21; HA, JP, MNA, PCHR, TOI, WAFA, YA 12/22; PCHR 12/29)

Egyptian diplomats formally present a draft res. condemning Israel's settlements (see Doc. A) to the UNSC. It is reportedly a milder version of a draft that the Palestinians circulated in early 12/2016. The UNSC sets a vote for 12/22 (see Update). (AP, BBC, HA 12/22)

22 DECEMBER 2016

Israeli forces **punitively demolish** a Palestinian home in Kafr 'Aqab, n. of Jerusalem, sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents of the area; 1 Palestinian is killed and several are injured. The owner of the home was killed on 10/9 after participating in the drive-by shooting of a crowd of Israelis. Elsewhere in the **West Bank, IDF troops** conduct arrest raids in Balata r.c. nr. Nablus late at night, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; 1 Israeli soldier and 1 Palestinian are injured. They also arrest 2 Palestinians during raids nr. Nablus and Salfit, assault and seriously injure a Palestinian at a checkpoint nr. Nablus, and patrol during the day nr. Hebron and Salfit. An **Israeli settler driver** attempts to ram 2 Palestinian youths

nr. Hebron, causing no injuries. In **Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish the bedouin village al-‘Araqib in the Negev for the 107th time since 2010. (IMEMC, MNA 12/22; PCHR 12/29)

Following high-level contacts between the **Israeli and Egyptian govts.** and massive Israeli pressure against the **draft UNSC res.** Egypt circulated on 12/21, 2 Western diplomats say that the vote set for today has been postponed indefinitely (see Update). Later, 4 mbrs. of the UNSC—**New Zealand, Venezuela, Malaysia, and Senegal**—give Egypt an ultimatum. They tell Cairo that, if it does not call a vote by 12/23, they reserved the right to table the draft themselves. (EI, HA, JP, NBC, REU, TOI, Wafa, YA 12/22; HA, JP, MNA 12/23)

France’s FM Jean-Marc Ayrault announces that the **peace conference** initially set for 12/21 is now scheduled for 1/15/2017, adding that the summit will present conclusions to Israeli PM Netanyahu and PA pres. Abbas in a mediated meeting in the hopes of relaunching peace negotiations. (MNA, TOI 12/23)

After the residents of the **illegal Amona settlement outpost** formally pledge to evacuate their homes peacefully, **Israel’s High Court of Justice** agrees to the govt.’s request for a 45-day postponement of its order for the outpost to be evacuated and demolished by 12/25. (HA, JP, TOI, YA 12/22; MNA 12/24)

23 DECEMBER 2016

A **Palestinian** stabs and injures an Israeli settler inside his home in the Efrat settlement nr. Bethlehem. After the attack, **Israeli forces** crack down on Palestinian villages nr. Bethlehem, setting up mobile checkpoints and clashing with stone-throwing Palestinians in multiple locations; there are no serious injuries. They also violently suppress the annual “Santa Claus March” in Bethlehem, causing no serious

injuries. Elsewhere, a Palestinian youth succumbs to injuries sustained during clashes with the IDF nr. Ramallah on 12/15. **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel’s occupation, separation wall, and settlements in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in, Ni’lin, and Nabi Salih), Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, and along Gaza’s border nr. Gaza City; 4 Palestinians are injured and 1 is arrested. They also arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid nr. Salfit and patrol nr. Nablus and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid in Hizma. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, YA 12/23; MNA 12/24; PCHR 12/29)

The UNSC passes **Res. 2334**, the anti-Israeli settlement measure that Egyptian diplomats circulated on 12/21, with 14 votes in favor and the U.S. abstaining (see Doc. A in Documents and Source Materials). The res. contains no enforcement protocols, but it could facilitate lawsuits against Israel at the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**, sanctions on Israel’s settlement building, and more boycotts of settlement products. (EI, HA, JP, MNA, REU, TOI 12/23; HA, JP, YA 12/24)

After the UNSC vote, **U.S. secy. of state Kerry** says that he plans to “speak further to the vote . . . and share more detailed thoughts, drawn from the experience of the last several years, on the way ahead.” Some of Kerry’s aides say that he intends to lay out a “comprehensive vision for peace.” (YA 12/23; HA 21/24)

The **Israeli authorities** return 9 corpses of Palestinians killed during confrontations with the IDF in the past 6 mos., marking the 2d return of bodies in a week. (MNA, TOI 12/23)

24 DECEMBER 2016

Hundreds of Palestinians attend a joint funeral in Bayt Umar nr. Hebron for 5 of the

Palestinians whose corpses were returned to their families on 12/23. **IDF troops** violently disperse dozens of young mourners who throw stones after the procession; there are no serious injuries. Meanwhile, the **IDF** arrests 6 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Ramallah and Bethlehem, and patrols nr. Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest a Palestinian in the Old City after she is found to be carrying a knife. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmers working nr. Rafah, causing no injuries. (MNA 12/24; PCHR 12/29)

25 DECEMBER 2016

Unidentified assailants open fire on the Israeli settlement of Beit El nr. Ramallah, causing no injuries or damage. Following the shooting, Israeli forces close a main road nr. Ramallah. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 2 Palestinians and issue 2 arrest summons during violent late-night raids nr. Hebron and Tubas, and patrol nr. Salfit and Nablus during the day. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian protesters nr. Gaza City; 1 Palestinian is injured. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 7 Palestinians during late-night raids in Issawiyya, Qatanna, and al-Suwana. (MNA 12/25; PCHR 12/29)

In response to **UNSC Res. 2334** passed on 12/23, **Israeli DM Lieberman** orders the reduction of civil and diplomatic ties with the Palestinians. Israel's defense establishment will, however, continue to coordinate with the Palestinian security apparatus as usual. (HA, JP 12/25; MNA, YA 12/26)

26 DECEMBER 2016

Hundreds of Israeli settlers visit Joseph's Tomb nr. Nablus, sparking clashes between their IDF escort and stone-throwing

Palestinians; 1 Palestinian is injured. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, the **IDF** expands its crackdown on the Ramallah region in the wake of the 12/25 shooting; they set up mobile checkpoints and impose closures around at least 9 villages. IDF troops also arrest 4 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Jenin and Hebron, and patrol during the day nr. Nablus, Hebron, and Salfit. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmers working nr. Dayr al-Balah, causing no serious injuries. (MNA 12/26; PCHR 12/29)

PLO secy.-gen. Erakat announces that the Palestinian leadership plans to follow up on the 12/23 **UNSC res.** condemning Israeli settlements with other measures, including lawsuits against Israel at the **ICC** and new efforts in other **UN** agencies. (Wafa 12/27)

27 DECEMBER 2016

IDF troops conduct raids in and around Nablus, sparking clashes in Balata r.c. and 'Askar r.c.; 4 Palestinians are injured. They arrest 4 Palestinians on further raids in and around Jenin, and patrol nr. Nablus and Hebron during the day. **Israeli forces** demolish a number of agricultural structures and a water tanker nr. Hebron. Along **Gaza's border**, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. Rafah. (MNA, Wafa 12/27; PCHR 12/29)

PA pres. Abbas says he hopes the Paris peace conference set for 1/15 enables the international community to stop Israeli settlement construction. Meanwhile, the **State Dept.** announces that **U.S. secy. of state Kerry** intends to give a major speech on 12/28 outlining principles for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as he had announced on 12/23. In the evening, **Russian FM Sergey Lavrov** reportedly rejects Kerry's request, made via telephone, for the **Middle East Quartet** to

adopt the principles he plans to present. (AP, HA, MNA, NYT, TOI, YA 12/27)

28 DECEMBER 2016

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** closes the 2d major entrance to Shuqba village nr. Ramallah, having closed the first one in the wake of the killing in nearby Bayt Rima on 12/18. **IDF troops** arrest 2 Palestinians during raids nr. Hebron and Ramallah, and patrol nr. Hebron. Late at night, **Israeli settlers** visit Kifl Haris village nr. Salfit to pray at Jewish shrines. Their IDF escort sets up mobile checkpoints and roadblocks to facilitate their visit. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish 3 agricultural containers and a steel structure, as well as parts of a store in Silwan. Approximately 176 right-wing Jewish activists tour **Haram al-Sharif** in the morning; **Israeli forces** meanwhile detain 1 Palestinian guard at the sanctuary. (MNA, WAFA 12/28; MNA, PCHR 12/29; PCHR 1/5)

U.S. secy. of state Kerry gives a speech in Washington outlining his principles for resolving the **Israeli-Palestinian conflict** (see Doc. D1), as he pledged to do in the wake of the UNSC's adoption of anti-settlement **Res. 2334** on 12/23. Citing the so-called regulations bill that is percolating through the Knesset, Kerry says that current trends on the ground, particularly settlement growth and the legalization of settlement outposts, are eliminating the possibility of a 2-state solution, that Jerusalem must be the shared capital of Israel and a future state of Palestine, and that a final agreement must be based on negotiated land swaps, inter alia. **Israeli PM Netanyahu** calls Kerry's speech a "big disappointment" and reiterates his desire for the U.S.-Israel relationship to improve under **Pres.-elect Trump**. Trump himself tweets, "Stay strong,

Israel, JANUARY 20 is approaching fast." **PA pres. Abbas** says that he would be open to restarting peace talks with Israel as long as the Israeli govt. freezes settlement growth and upholds previous agreements. (BBC, EI, HA, JP, MNA, NYT, REU, TOI, WP, YA 12/28)

A **senior PLO official** says that the Palestinian leadership wants the **ICC** to "expedite" its preliminary examination of alleged war crimes committed during Israel's assault on Gaza in 2014 and "proceed to opening a full investigation" into Israeli settlements in the wake of the 12/23 UNSC res. condemning them. (JP 12/28)

29 DECEMBER 2016

IDF troops arrest 3 Palestinians during raids and house searches nr. Hebron, and patrol nr. Hebron, Jenin, and Nablus. (PCHR 1/5)

U.S. dep. national security advisor Ben Rhodes says that the Obama admin. will not allow the UN to pass any res. formalizing the policies U.S. secy. of state Kerry presented on 12/28. Meanwhile, an **Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesperson** says that the position Kerry laid out on 12/28 matches the Egyptian govt.'s. Saudi and Qatari officials make similar laudatory comments. (HA, TOI, WAFA 12/29; NYT, YA 12/30)

30 DECEMBER 2016

IDF troops shoot and injure a Palestinian at Qalandia checkpoint nr. Ramallah after she allegedly attempts to stab them. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, they violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's occupation, separation wall, and settlements in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih), and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 1 Israeli activist is injured and 2 Palestinians are

arrested. The IDF patrols nr. Hebron, Nablus, and Ramallah during the day. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli settlers** take over a Palestinian-owned residential building in Silwan in the morning. Along **Gaza's border, IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmers working nr. Khan Yunis; there are no reported injuries. (HA, JP, MNA, YA 12/30; PCHR 1/5)

Israeli forces return corpses of 2 West Bank Palestinians killed in confrontations with the IDF in the past 2 mos. to their families. (MNA 12/30)

31 DECEMBER 2016

IDF troops arrest 3 Palestinians during an overnight raid nr. Jenin after reports of Palestinians opening fire on Israeli soldiers in the area. They arrest 6 more Palestinians during raids and house searches nr. Qalqilya, Hebron, and Jenin, and patrol nr. Hebron during the day. Elsewhere in the **West Bank, Israeli troops** arrest a group of settlers who spelled out "revenge" in stones nr. the Palestinian village of Susiya. The IDF sets up checkpoints blocking the main entrances to 5 communities nr. Ramallah, including Jalazun r.c. and Abud. (HA, MNA, TOI 12/31; PCHR 1/5)

1 JANUARY 2017

Israeli settlers begin establishing a new settlement nr. Nablus, having brought several mobile homes from the nearby Elon settlement. Elsewhere in the **West Bank, IDF troops** arrest 4 Palestinians during raids nr. Nablus and Hebron; and patrol nr. Qalqilya and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** conduct raids in Hizma village, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; 1 Palestinian is injured. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no serious damage or injuries. Along

Gaza's s. border, Egyptian forces discover and demolish 12 tunnels leading from Gaza into n. Sinai. **IDF troops** stationed along Gaza's e. border nr. Khan Yunis open fire on Palestinian agricultural areas, causing no serious damage. (MNA, WAFA 1/1; MNA 1/2; PCHR 1/5)

Israel's cabinet reaffirms the security cabinet's 12/8 decision to stop returning to their families the corpses of Hamas-affiliated Palestinians who carried out serious attacks against Israelis. The bodies will be buried in a special cemetery instead. The move is meant to compel Hamas to return to Israel the bodies of the 2 IDF soldiers who died during Israel's assault on Gaza in the summer of 2014. (AFP, HA, TOI 1/1)

2 JANUARY 2017

In the **West Bank, Israeli forces** demolish 11 residential structures in the bedouin village of Khan al-Ahmar nr. Jerusalem, displacing 87 people. **Israeli authorities** order the reopening of a road nr. Bethlehem that had been closed 2 weeks ago for security reasons, according to the IDF. **IDF troops** arrest 23 Palestinians, issue 1 arrest summons, assault 2 Palestinians, and confiscate personal property during late-night raids nr. Salfit, Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah, Qalqilya, and Jenin, and patrol nr. Qalqilya, Salfit, and Hebron during the day. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** arrest 8 Palestinians during raids in the Old City and Issawiyya. Along **Gaza's border, IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian agricultural fields nr. Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. (MNA, WAFA 1/2; PCHR 1/5)

PLO Exec. Comm. mbr. Wasel Abu Yousef announces plans for **Russia** to host a **Hamas-Fatah reconciliation** after the 1/15 peace conference in Paris. "The Palestinian leadership wants to demonstrate that it is working on both

the peace process through the Paris conference and reconciliation by way of the Moscow meeting,” he adds. (JP 1/2; TOI 1/3)

3 JANUARY 2017

For the 2d day in a row, **Israeli forces** conduct major demolitions in a bedouin community in the **West Bank**. They destroy 15 structures, including several homes and the only school, in Khirbat Tana nr. Jericho. Elsewhere, **2 Israeli border police officers** are injured in a suspected car-ramming attack nr. Jenin. The alleged assailant flees the scene without being identified. **IDF troops** arrest 18 Palestinians and assault 1 during late-night raids nr. Nablus, Hebron, Jenin, and in Tulkarm, sparking minor clashes in Burin village nr. Hebron (there are no serious injuries). They also patrol during the day nr. Hebron. **Israeli settlers** pray at a holy site outside Kifl Haris village nr. Salfit, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian youths; there are no serious injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct raids in Issawiyya for the 2d day in a row, arresting 2 Palestinians. Off **Gaza’s coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no serious damage or injuries. Along **Gaza’s border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian agricultural lands nr. Rafah, causing no damage. (HA, JP, MNA, WAFA 1/3; MNA, PCHR 1/5)

4 JANUARY 2017

Israeli naval forces confront Palestinian fishing boats off Gaza’s coast nr. Jabaliya r.c. in 2 separate incidents. One boat capsizes in the 2d incident and a fisherman goes missing. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish 2 homes each in Shu’fat and Bayt Hanina. Later, Israeli forces return to Shu’fat to inspect a number of shops, sparking clashes with stone-throwing

youths; there are no serious injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** raze a small swath of Palestinian land nr. Salfit and destroy a number of water wells nr. Bethlehem. They also deliver 19 stop-work orders to Palestinian houses and buildings under construction nr. Salfit. The **IDF** arrests 4 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Hebron and in Tubas, and patrols nr. Salfit and Hebron during the day. (MNA, WAFA 1/4; MNA, PCHR, WAFA 1/5; PCHR 1/12)

An **Israeli military court** in Tel Aviv convicts **IDF soldier Elor Azaria** of manslaughter in connection with his killing of a prone and defenseless Palestinian in c. Hebron on 3/24/2016 (see Update). He will be sentenced in late 2/2017. (HA, JP, MNA, NYT, TOI, WAFA, YA 1/4)

5 JANUARY 2017

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse tens of Palestinians protesting settlement expansion nr. Tubas; 1 Palestinian photojournalist is assaulted and injured. They also conduct raids in Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron, sparking minor clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; there are no serious injuries. The **IDF** issues 1 Palestinian an arrest summons during a late-night raid nr. Hebron, and patrols nr. Hebron during the day. **Israeli forces** deliver stop-work orders to a Palestinian building a home nr. Hebron. Along **Gaza’s border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmers working nr. Gaza City, causing no damage or injuries. In **Israel**, an Israeli stabs and injures a bedouin shopkeeper on a street in Ashdod. (MNA, WAFA, YA 1/5; PCHR 1/12)

Hamas and Fatah officials meet in Doha to discuss Palestinian national reconciliation. They also discuss preparations for a follow-up meeting in Beirut on 1/10. (MNA 1/5)

6 JANUARY 2017

IDF troops violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's occupation, separation wall, and settlements in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih), and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; there are no serious injuries. They also arrest 1 Palestinian during late-night raids nr. Hebron, and patrol nr. Hebron, Salfit, and Ramallah during the day. The IDF removes the checkpoints it imposed on 2 roads leading to Jalazun r.c. and Abud village nr. Ramallah on 12/31. An **Israeli settler driver** rams a Palestinian nr. Nablus, seriously injuring him. (MNA 1/6; PCHR 1/12)

The family of the **Palestinian fisherman** who went missing off Gaza's coast on 1/4 says that he died. His body has not yet been recovered. (MNA, TOI 1/7)

The **Israeli authorities** return the **corpses** of 2 Palestinians to their families in Hebron. The men were killed on 9/16 and 9/17 in c. Hebron. (MNA, TOI 1/6)

7 JANUARY 2017

IDF troops violently disperse Palestinians gathering in Qalqilya to protest the expansion of a nearby settler bypass road; there are no serious injuries. They also conduct raids in Kifl Haris village, establishing checkpoints and imposing a curfew to clear space for Israeli settlers to visit a holy site in the area. The **IDF** arrests 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid nr. Hebron, and patrols nr. Hebron and Salfit during the day. **Masked Israeli settlers** assault a group of Palestinian farmers working s. of Hebron. **Hundreds of Palestinians** gather in c. Hebron for a joint funeral for the 2 Palestinians whose corpses Israel returned on 1/6. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on

Palestinian agricultural areas nr. Khan Yunis, causing no serious damage or injuries. (MNA, WAFA 1/7; HA, MNA 1/8; PCHR 1/12)

8 JANUARY 2017

Israeli forces shoot and kill Fadi al-Qunbar, a Palestinian truck driver, outside the Old City after he rams a group of Israelis, killing 4 IDF soldiers and injuring at least 13 other people. Israeli forces then conduct raids on the alleged attacker's home in Jabal Mukabir, interrogating his family for hours, threatening punitive demolition, and establishing checkpoints in the area. Their prolonged presence in the neighborhood sparks clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; there are no serious injuries. After **Israeli PM Netanyahu** accuses the alleged attacker of supporting **ISIS**, **Israel's security cabinet** decides to use administrative detention against any persons suspected of committing a crime who also identify as supporters of the group. The cabinet also decides to punitively demolish the attacker's home as soon as possible, and to close down the attacker's neighborhood, Jabal Mukabir. Meanwhile, the **attacker's family** says he was motivated by **U.S. pres.-elect Trump's** pledge to move the **U.S. embassy** from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem (see Update). "He was very angry, and said transferring the embassy would lead to war," his cousin says. (HA, MNA, NYT, TOI, YA 1/8; PCHR 1/12)

Elsewhere in **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli settlers** seize control of a residential building in Silwan. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian agricultural lands nr. Gaza City and later nr. Khan Yunis, causing no injuries or damage. In the **West Bank**, **PASF troops** block an IDF jeep from entering Qalqilya. **Israeli settlers** assault and injure a number of Palestinians outside Huwwara village nr. Nablus

and throw stones at Palestinian cars driving nearby. The **IDF** delivers stop-work orders to 11 Palestinian homes under construction nr. Bethlehem. **IDF troops** conduct raids nr. Nablus, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians outside Bayt Furik village; 1 Palestinian is arrested. They arrest 9 more Palestinians during late-night raids in Jenin and nr. Jericho, Hebron, and Ramallah, and patrol nr. Hebron, Salfit, and Nablus. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 1/8; MNA, WAFA 1/9; PCHR 1/12)

Israel's Ministerial Comm. for Legislation unanimously approves a bill that would ban representatives from the anti-occupation group **Breaking the Silence** and other groups that allegedly "defame Israeli soldiers" from speaking in Israeli schools (see Update). (HA, JP 1/9)

9 JANUARY 2017

The **Israeli police** arrest dozens of West Bank Palestinians working in Israel without proper permits. In the **West Bank, Israeli forces** level Palestinian-owned land and demolish a structure nr. Salfit. **IDF troops** arrest 13 Palestinians and demolish personal property during raids nr. Qalqilya and Hebron, and patrol during the day nr. Nablus, Qalqilya, and Hebron. (MNA, MNA, WAFA 1/9; PCHR 1/12)

Israeli interior minister Aryeh Deri revokes the permanent resident status of 13 mbrs. of the East Jerusalem family of the Palestinian who was killed on 1/8 after driving a truck into a crowd of Israelis. At least 5 mbrs. of the attacker's family have been arrested. Meanwhile, **Israeli police** arrest 4 Palestinian youths found scrawling graffiti supporting the 1/8 attack on walls in the Old City. (TOI, YA 1/10)

10 JANUARY 2017

IDF troops shoot and kill a Palestinian during an overnight raid in al-Fara'a r.c. nr. Tubas. The man's family says the soldiers opened fire on the man after he shouted at them, thinking they were petty thieves. An IDF spokesperson says that the soldiers opened fire because the man was approaching them with a knife. Elsewhere in the **West Bank, Israeli forces** demolish a water pipeline serving bedouin communities nr. Tubas. **IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian who allegedly attempts to stab them at an intersection nr. Hebron, and assault an elderly Palestinian woman during a raid in Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya. They also arrest 5 Palestinians during late-night raids in Jenin and nr. Nablus and Hebron, and patrol during the day nr. Nablus and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** conduct raids in Jabal Mukabir, notifying 13 mbrs. of the family of al-Qunbar, the Palestinian driver who rammed a group of Israelis on 1/8, that their residency status has been revoked. Meanwhile, Israeli forces arrest 9 Palestinians during raids in Issawiyya and elsewhere in Jabal Mukabir. Along **Gaza's border, IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian agricultural areas nr. al-Maghazi r.c., causing no serious damage. In **Israel, Israeli forces** demolish 11 Palestinian homes in Qalanswa because they lacked proper building permits, sparking minor clashes with residents of the area; 1 Palestinian is arrested (see Update). (JP, HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 1/10; PCHR 1/12)

Hamas, the PLO, and Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine (PIJ) officials meet in Beirut to discuss the possibility of holding a meeting of the **Palestine National Council (PNC)**, which has not convened since 2009. They conclude that it is necessary for them to hold a PNC meeting with all factions

represented and to implement existing reconciliation agreements. (JP 1/10; JP 1/18)

11 JANUARY 2017

In response to the demolitions in Qalanswa on 1/10, the **Higher Follow-Up Comm. for Arab Citizens of Israel** organizes a **general strike** today. Both the private and public sectors in Palestinian municipalities participate. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** demolish a road leading to al-Buwayb village southeast of Hebron. The **IDF** arrests 3 Palestinians and confiscates personal property during raids nr. Qalqilya and in Hebron and Nablus, and patrols nr. Hebron and Nablus during the day. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish 13 Palestinian structures in Jabal Mukabir, the neighborhood of the Palestinian who drove a truck into a group of Israelis on 1/8. (MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 1/11; PCHR 1/12; PCHR 1/19)

The **Knesset's Internal Affairs and Environment Comm.** approves its 2d and 3d readings of a bill authorizing the govt. to bar supporters of a boycott against Israel or representatives of NGOs endorsing a boycott from entering the country. The bill is cleared for a 2d and 3d reading in the full plenum. Meanwhile, the **Knesset** passes a first reading of a bill that would bar **Breaking the Silence** and other left-wing NGOs from speaking at Israeli schools. (HA, JP, MNA 1/11; JP, TOI 1/12)

12 JANUARY 2017

Along **Gaza's border**, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. Khan Yunis. **IDF** troops open fire on Palestinian agricultural lands nr. Jabaliya r.c., causing no damage. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** deliver stop-work orders to

a Palestinian road and a number of buildings under construction in the n. Jordan Valley. They also demolish a poultry farm in Barta'a village nr. Jenin. After reports of stone throwing in the Salfit area, the **IDF** closes down the entrances to Marda village. **IDF troops** patrol nr. Hebron and Qalqilya. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** cut down tens of olive trees in Sheikh Jarrah to clear space for a road that will connect Israeli settlements in the area. A Palestinian family demolishes its construction materials shop and a number of other structures in Jabal Mukabir to avoid paying Israeli demolition fees. In **Israel**, **Israeli forces** demolish the bedouin village of al-'Araqib in the Negev for the 108th time since 2010. (MNA, WAFA 1/12; PCHR 1/19)

13 JANUARY 2017

IDF troops violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's occupation, separation wall, and settlements in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih), Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, and Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah; 5 Palestinians are injured. They also arrest 2 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during raids nr. Hebron, Ramallah, and Salfit. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** patrol in Hizma village, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; 3 Palestinians are injured. In **Israel**, **thousands of Palestinians** and solidarity activists gather in Qalanswa to protest the Israeli govt.'s demolition of 11 buildings in the town on 1/10. (HA, MNA, YA 1/13; PCHR 1/19)

The **Syrian army** accuses **Israel** of launching an airstrike on a military airport nr. **Damascus** overnight. "Syrian army command and armed forces warn Israel of the repercussions of the flagrant attack and stresses its continued fight

against (this) terrorism and [will] amputate the arms of the perpetrators,” the army says in a statement. Video footage of massive damage at the airport circulates on social media. It’s unclear if the attack resulted in any casualties. (HA, JP, YA 1/13)

14 JANUARY 2017

A **Palestinian youth** succumbs to complications related to a congenital heart defect after the Israeli authorities refuse to permit him passage from Gaza to Israel or the West Bank for medical treatment. Along **Gaza’s border, IDF troops** shoot and injure a Palestinian youth collecting firewood nr. the border fence outside Bayt Lahiya. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** confiscate a Palestinian vehicle during a raid in Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron, sparking minor clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; there are no serious injuries. They also arrest 5 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during raids nr. Hebron and Ramallah, as well as in Jenin, and patrol nr. Salfit and Hebron during the day. **Israeli settlers** assault a Palestinian police officer nr. Nablus, causing minor injuries. Off **Gaza’s coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Gaza City and again nr. Khan Yunis and Bayt Lahiya, injuring 1 fisherman. (MNA, WAFA 1/14; MNA 1/15; PCHR 1/19; MNA 1/22)

PA pres. Abbas inaugurates the new **Palestinian embassy** at the **Vatican** after meeting with **Pope Francis**. The Vatican formally recognized Palestine as a state on 6/26/2015. (AFP, HA, LF, REU, WAFA 1/14)

15 JANUARY 2017

Along **Gaza’s border, unidentified Palestinians** open fire on Israeli forces doing maintenance work on the border fence nr.

Rafah, hitting a military vehicle and causing minor damage. In response, **IDF troops and artillery** fire on a **Hamas** post along the border, causing an unspecified amount of damage. Earlier in the day, **Israeli forces** conducted a limited incursion to level land nr. Khan Yunis. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** violently suppress a Palestinian demonstration in Bethlehem calling for the Israeli authorities to return the corpses of slain Palestinians; there are no serious injuries. They also arrest 14 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Ramallah and Hebron, and patrol nr. Hebron and Qalqilya during the day. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** arrest 9 Palestinians during raids in Jabal Mukabir and Hizma, and assault and arrest 2 Palestinian youths in Silwan. **Israeli settlers** smash furniture and other personal property outside a Palestinian home in Silwan. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA, YA 1/15; PCHR 1/19)

Representatives from more than 70 countries, including **U.S. secy. of state Kerry**, gather in **Paris** for a **conference** aimed at restarting Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. After reportedly intense negotiations, the conferees unanimously agree to a joint declaration calling on both the Palestinians and Israelis to officially restate their commitments to a 2-state solution and to demonstrate that commitment through policies and actions. Conferees also welcome the prospect of closer cooperation between the Middle East Quartet and the Arab League; and agree to meet again within a year; inter alia (see Update for details). (BBC, GDN, HA, JP, MNA, REU, TOI, WAFA, WP, YA 1/15; HA 1/20)

The **Israeli govt.** and the **PA** agree to restart the **Joint Water Comm.** after 6 years of inactivity. The comm. will discuss allocating additional water to the West Bank and Gaza, increasing water sources with new drilling, environmental issues, agricultural water use,

and other hydrological matters. The agreement also gives the PA autonomy to deal with select water projects in the West Bank. (JP, YA 1/15; JP 1/17)

Israel's security cabinet grants **Israeli banks** dealing with **Palestinian banks** immunity from terrorism-related lawsuits in Israel and indemnity from similar suits filed abroad. Two Israeli banks have threatened to end partnerships with Palestinian banks because of the prospect of litigation in the U.S. (see Update). (HA, TOI 1/22)

16 JANUARY 2017

IDF troops clash with stone-throwing Palestinians in Tuqu' nr. Bethlehem; 1 Palestinian is killed and at least 6 are injured. Palestinian witnesses say that IDF soldiers dragged the injured Palestinian away from the clashes unnecessarily, exacerbating his injuries. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** begin uprooting 2,000 olive trees nr. Qalqilya to clear space for a settler bypass road in the area. Dozens of Palestinians and Israeli activists protest the project, and IDF troops arrest 3 people. **IDF troops** conduct raids in Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron, arresting 1 Palestinian, setting fire to a home, and sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian youths; there are no serious injuries. They arrest 4 Palestinians on further raids nr. Jenin, and patrol nr. Salfit and Hebron. **Israeli forces** confiscate 2 tractors nr. Tubas. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya and later nr. Jabaliya r.c.; 5 fishermen are arrested. (IMEMC, MNA, WAFA 1/16; PCHR 1/19)

The **UK** blocks the **EU Foreign Affairs Council** from adopting the 1/15 Paris peace conference's joint declaration, according to European and Israeli diplomats. The UK also

refused to sign the statement on 1/15. **Hungary** and **Lithuania** also reportedly have reservations about endorsing the statement. (HA 1/16)

17 JANUARY 2017

IDF troops shoot and kill a Palestinian at a checkpoint nr. Tulkarm after he allegedly attempts to stab 1 of them. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** conduct raids in Qalandia r.c. late at night, demolishing several small structures and sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents; 6 Palestinians are injured. They also arrest 8 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Hebron and Ramallah, as well as in Nablus; and patrol nr. Salfit and Hebron. **Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian home and an agricultural structure outside Aqraba in the n. Jordan Valley, and raze 2 animal barns and another agricultural structure nr. Nablus. An **Israeli settler driver** rams a Palestinian child in Hebron, causing moderate injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, a Palestinian demolishes his own home in Issawiyya to avoid paying Israeli demolition fees. **Israeli forces** demolish a structure in Jabal Mukabir and arrest 7 Palestinians during raids in Shu'fat r.c. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya r.c. and later nr. Gaza City, injuring 1 fisherman. They also confiscate a number of boats. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian agricultural lands nr. Rafah, causing no serious damage. (HA, JP, MNA, WAFA, YA 1/17; WAFA 1/18; PCHR 1/19)

Concluding 3 days of talks in Moscow, **Hamas and Fatah officials** agree to form a new **Palestinian unity govt.** Under their agreement, the various Palestinian factions, including PIJ, will join the PLO and form a new **Palestine National Council** over the next 2 mos., which

will choose a new PLO Exec. Comm. (HA, JP, TOI 1/17; AJ 1/18)

The Israeli authorities release **Shaykh Raed Salah** from Ramon Prison, where he had served 9 mos. on charges of incitement. Salah was head of the **Northern Branch of the Islamic Movement** in Israel before it was outlawed in 11/2014. (HA, YA 1/17)

18 JANUARY 2017

Israeli forces conduct raids in the **bedouin village of Umm al-Hiran** nr. Beersheba overnight to prepare for demolitions during the day. The raids spark clashes with residents and solidarity activists, including Joint List MKs; 1 bedouin and 1 Israeli police officer are killed. (The Israeli police shoot and kill the bedouin after his vehicle strikes the police officer, killing him. An autopsy of the driver will reveal that he was struck in the leg by a police bullet, causing him to depress the accelerator pedal and strike the officer.) Later, **Israeli forces** demolish 8 homes and 7 agricultural buildings in the village, leading to renewed clashes throughout the day; a number of Palestinians are injured, including Joint List chair Odeh. (HA, MNA, NYT, TOI, YA 1/18)

Dozens of Israeli settlers visit Joseph's Tomb nr. Nablus, sparking clashes between their IDF escort and stone-throwing Palestinians; 1 Palestinian is injured. **Israeli settlers** also damage 12 olive trees outside Turmus 'Ayya village nr. Ramallah, leaving racist graffiti at the site. **IDF troops** arrest 8 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Tulkarm, Hebron, Nablus, and Qalqilya. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmers working nr. Gaza City and agricultural lands nr. Khan Yunis. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Gaza City. There are no injuries reported in any of the

day's incidents. (HA, MNA, NYT, TOI, Wafa, YA 1/18; MNA, PCHR 1/19; PCHR 1/26)

19 JANUARY 2017

Palestinian citizens across Israel observe a day of mourning and protest in response to the killings and demolitions in **Umm al-Hiran** on 1/18. Three days of mourning are planned. **The Higher Follow-Up Comm. for Arab Citizens** of Israel leads a general strike. (MNA, Wafa 1/19)

Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Gaza City, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** demolish 22 Palestinian facilities used as car repair workshops, fruit stands, and car showrooms in Qalandia r.c. **IDF troops** conduct late-night raids in Salfit, sparking minor clashes with stone-throwing residents; there are no serious injuries. They arrest 4 Palestinians during further raids nr. Ramallah and Hebron, and patrol nr. Hebron, Ramallah, and Jenin during the day. **Israeli settlers** assault a Palestinian bus driver while he is driving n. of Jerusalem. (MNA, TOI, Wafa, YA 1/19; MNA 1/20; PCHR 1/26)

20 JANUARY 2017

A **Hamas fighter** dies in a tunnel collapse in s. Gaza. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya r.c., injuring 1 fisherman. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian homes nr. Khan Yunis, injuring 1 youth. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli settlers** uproot around 10 olive trees nr. Ramallah. **Dozens of Palestinians** confront 3 off-duty IDF soldiers and 1 armed Israeli settler in Qusra village nr. Nablus, preventing them from assaulting any residents. **PASF troops** intervene and escort the

Israelis from the village. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's occupation, separation wall, and settlements in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih), Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, and Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah; there are no serious injuries.

Palestinians and solidarity activists also set up a protest tent village nr. the Ma'ale Adumim settlement, which some Israeli lawmakers want to annex now that Donald Trump is the U.S. pres. (see Update). The **IDF** violently dismantles and evacuates the village hours later. Late at night, **IDF troops** arrest 1 Palestinian and issue 1 arrest summons during raids nr. Hebron and Tubas, and patrol nr. Hebron and Salfit. (MNA, TOI, YA 1/20; PCHR 1/26)

Donald Trump is sworn in as the 45th pres. of the U.S. Thousands gather outside the U.S. Capitol to protest or support Trump during his inaugural address, including a handful of **Israeli settlers** who flew to Washington for the occasion. (HA, JP, YA 1/20)

21 JANUARY 2017

Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian land nr. Khan Yunis for the 2d day in a row. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians protesting Israeli settlement growth in Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 2 Palestinians are injured. They also patrol nr. Hebron and Qalqilya. In **Israel**, thousands of Palestinians and solidarity activists gather in Wadi 'Ara to protest the recent demolitions in **Qalanswa** (1/10) and **Umm al-Hiran** (1/18). In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 4 Palestinians during late-night raids in al-Tur. (HA, MNA, TOI, WAFA 1/21; PCHR 1/26)

22 JANUARY 2017

Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 7 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Hebron and Nablus. They also patrol nr. Hebron and Nablus during the day. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 9 Palestinians during late-night raids in Ras al-Amud, Issawiyya, and the Old City. (MNA 1/22; PCHR 1/26)

The **Jerusalem Municipality's Local Planning and Building Comm.** approves the construction of **566 new residences** in Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem. **Israeli PM Netanyahu** reportedly ordered the plans to be put on hold until Donald Trump was sworn in as U.S. pres. on 1/20. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 1/22; MNA 1/23)

At the Israeli cabinet's weekly meeting, **Netanyahu** says that he no longer supports the **so-called regulations bill**, which would retroactively authorize hundreds of illegal settlement outposts in the West Bank. He says "it's possible" that the bill led to the UNSC's res. condemning settlements on 12/23, and that it would be "irresponsible" to advance it further. Netanyahu also argues that a vote on a bill annexing the **Ma'ale Adumim settlement bloc** should be postponed until at least after he meets with U.S. pres. Trump. Jewish Home ministers agree to the postponement only after Netanyahu says he supports lifting restrictions on settlement construction in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. (HA, JP, MNA, YA 1/22)

PA pres. Abbas meets with **Jordan's King Abdullah** in Amman to discuss U.S. pres. Trump's campaign pledge to move the **U.S. embassy** in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. They agree to "take a number of measures" if

the embassy is relocated, according to the official PA news site. (JP, WAFA, YA 1/22)

23 JANUARY 2017

Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, injuring 2 fishermen (1 seriously). Meanwhile, **Israeli aircraft** spray herbicides on Palestinian agricultural fields along the border fence nr. Khan Yunis. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** raid 2 shops in Husan village nr. Bethlehem, confiscating construction materials and tools. They arrest 7 Palestinians during further raids nr. Ramallah, Hebron, and in Tulkarm, and patrol nr. Qalqilya and Hebron. **Israeli forces** demolish an agricultural road, 3 animal shelters, and 3 residential facilities nr. Jericho. **Israeli forces** demolish 9 Palestinian structures nr. Jericho. An **IDF soldier** is injured when a pipe bomb explodes nr. him on a road nr. Ramallah. It's unclear who is responsible for the attack. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** arrest 5 Palestinians during late-night raids in Issawiyya. In **Israel, Palestinian citizens of Israel** travel in a convoy of around 200 vehicles from Qalanswa and Umm al-Hiran to the Knesset building in Jerusalem in protest against the recent home **demolitions** targeting their communities on 1/10 and 1/18. (JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 1/23)

24 JANUARY 2017

An **IDF tank** fires on and destroys a Hamas watchtower nr. al-Maghazi r.c. along Gaza's border. According to the IDF, the attack comes in response to Palestinians allegedly shooting at IDF troops nearby earlier in the day. No further details are made available about the exchange. Also along **Gaza's border, IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmers and bird hunters nr. Khan Yunis and again nr. Gaza City, causing no

injuries. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Khan Yunis, Rafah, and Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli settlers** forcibly shut down a Palestinian shop in the Old City. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** arrest 13 Palestinians, issue 1 arrest summons, and confiscate personal property during late-night raids nr. Ramallah, Hebron, Jenin, and Tulkarm, and patrol nr. Hebron throughout the day. (HA, MNA, PCHR, TOI, WAFA, YA 1/24)

Israeli PM Netanyahu and **DM Lieberman** approve the planning and construction of **2,500 new residences** in Israel's West Bank settlements, including 100 in Beit El, which is outside the major settlement blocs (see Update). (HA, JP, NYT 1/24)

25 JANUARY 2017

IDF troops shoot and kill a Palestinian driver after he allegedly rams his vehicle into a bus stop outside a settlement nr. Ramallah. The IDF later claims a knife was found on the driver. Elsewhere in the **West Bank, Israeli forces** exchange fire with a group of Palestinians nr. Ramallah; 1 Palestinian is injured. It's unclear how the exchange started. They also demolish Palestinian sheds and an animal barn nr. Jericho. **IDF troops** patrol in 'Askar r.c. nr. Nablus late at night, sparking minor clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians; 2 Palestinians are injured. They also arrest 6 Palestinians and confiscate 1 computer during late-night raids nr. Jenin, Ramallah, and in Nablus, and patrol nr. Ramallah and Hebron during the day. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** demolish 2 stores, fences, a parking area, and a garage in Silwan and Shu'fat; and deliver demolition orders to 5 Palestinian homes in Biddu and Qatanna, sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents. There are no serious injuries. They arrest

1 Palestinian during further raids in the Old City. Meanwhile, around 100 right-wing Jewish activists tour **Haram al-Sharif** in the morning. Along **Gaza's border, Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion nr. Rafah to level land. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries. (HA, MNA, TOI, Wafa 1/25; PCHR 1/26; PCHR 2/2)

26 JANUARY 2017

IDF troops conduct raids in Nablus, arresting 3 Palestinians and sparking minor clashes; 2 Palestinians are shot and injured. They also conduct overnight raids in Jenin r.c., arresting 2 Hamas affiliates and sparking a brief fire; 1 Israeli soldier and 3 Palestinians are injured. Additional **IDF** raids in Abud village nr. Ramallah spark more clashes. No one is seriously hurt, and the IDF closes the village's main entrance. After reports of stone-throwing outside Beita village nr. Nablus, the **IDF** seals the village's main entrance (they will unseal it on 1/30). The **IDF** arrests 8 Palestinians on late-night raids nr. Qalqilya, Hebron, and Ramallah, and patrols nr. Hebron and Nablus during the day. **Israeli forces** uproot 500 olive trees nr. Hebron. An **armed Palestinian** opens fire on IDF troops nr. Qalqilya, causing no injuries. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid in Qalandia r.c. and demolish 13 residential and agricultural buildings in bedouin communities nr. al-'Izzariya. Along **Gaza's border, Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. al-Qarara. (HA, MNA, TOI, Wafa, YA 1/26; Wafa 1/30; PCHR 2/2)

The **Jerusalem Municipality** advances plans for **153 settler residences** in Gilo, East Jerusalem. A municipal official says that the

plans were held up for political reasons until U.S. pres. Obama left office on 1/20. (TOI 1/26)

27 JANUARY 2017

IDF troops violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's occupation, separation wall, and settlements in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih), Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, and Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah; there are no serious injuries. They also arrest 3 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Ramallah; and patrol during the day nr. Ramallah and Hebron. **Unidentified assailants** open fire on an Israeli settler's vehicle nr. Ni'lin, causing minor damage. (HA, MNA, 1/27; PCHR 2/2)

The **Israeli authorities** return 2 corpses of Palestinians killed in confrontations with Israeli forces on 1/17 and 6/24/16. (MNA, TOI 1/27)

28 JANUARY 2017

Ten days after Israeli forces demolished 8 homes and 7 agricultural buildings in the **bedouin village of Umm al-Hiran** in the Negev, a Palestinian lawyers' group and an organization of neighboring villages donate 2 mobile homes to the community today (a 3d mobile home, donated by the residents of the city of Jaffa, is expected to arrive on 1/29). In the **West Bank, IDF troops** weld shut the entrance to a metalwork shop in Hebron and demolish the contents of a printing house in Ramallah. They also arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid nr. Ramallah; and patrol during the day nr. Hebron and Salfit. (MNA 1/28; PCHR 2/2)

The **Egyptian authorities** open the **Rafah border crossing** in both directions for humanitarian cases (see Update). (MNA, Wafa 1/28)

29 JANUARY 2017

IDF troops shoot and kill a Palestinian youth and injure 4 others during clashes sparked by an IDF arrest raid in Jenin r.c. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **armed Israeli settlers** detain 2 Palestinian youths at gunpoint outside a settlement nr. Qalqilya. They accuse the youths of planning a stabbing attack. **IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian nr. Ramallah when he is found with a knife. They arrest 7 more Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Ramallah, Tubas, Hebron, and Jenin, and patrol nr. Ramallah and Hebron during the day. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 3 Palestinians during raids in the Old City. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinians approaching the border fence nr. Rafah, causing no injuries. Then they arrest the 2 men. An unknown explosive detonates in Nuseirat r.c., injuring 2 Palestinians. In **Israel**, **Israeli forces** conduct raids in **Umm al-Hiran** in the Negev and prepare to demolish the 2 mobile homes donated to the community on 1/28. (JP, MNA, WAFA, YA 1/29; HA, MNA 1/30; PCHR 2/2)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the 2d day in a row (see Update). (MNA 1/29; MNA 1/30)

Israeli PM Netanyahu says that the **so-called regulations bill**, which would retroactively authorize illegal settlement outposts in the West Bank and which he previously opposed, will be returning to the Knesset on 1/30 for a vote (see Update). The bill needs to pass 2 more readings before it becomes law. (MNA, TOI, YA 1/29)

30 JANUARY 2017

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and injure a Palestinian approaching them at a checkpoint nr. Tulkarm. They also conduct raids in Aida r.c. nr. Bethlehem, sparking

clashes with stone-throwing residents; there are no serious injuries. The **IDF** arrests 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid in Qalqilya, and patrols nr. Qalqilya, Hebron, Salfit, and Ramallah during the day. **Israeli settlers** throw stones at Palestinian cars driving between Ramallah and Nablus, damaging 10 and injuring 1 driver. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** conduct raids in Hizma, arresting 1 Palestinian and sparking clashes with stone-throwing residents; there are no serious injuries. Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** arrest 3 Palestinians attempting to cross into Israel nr. Dayr al-Balah. (MNA, PNN 1/30; PCHR 2/2)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the 3d day in a row (see Update). (MNA 1/31)

Israel's ruling coalition postpones until 2/6 a Knesset vote on the new draft of the **so-called regulations bill**, which would retroactively authorize illegal settlement outposts in the West Bank. (HA, JP 1/30; TOI, YA 1/31)

The **White House** announces that **U.S. pres. Trump** and **Israeli PM Netanyahu** have arranged to hold their first official meeting on 2/15. Netanyahu later says that he plans to coordinate policy on Iran's ballistic missile program with Trump, responding to reports of Iran conducting a missile test on 1/29 (see Update). (HA, JP, TOI 1/30)

31 JANUARY 2017

Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmers working nr. Khan Yunis. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya. There are no injuries in either incident. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** deliver stop-work orders to a Palestinian home and a water pipeline under construction in Kardala village

nr. Tulkarm. They also weld shut a car wash nr. Bethlehem. **IDF troops** arrest 6 Palestinians and issue 2 arrest summons during late-night raids nr. Ramallah, Hebron, Tulkarm, and Nablus, and patrol during the day nr. Qalqilya and Hebron. (MNA, WAFA 1/31; PCHR 2/2)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the 4th and final day in a row (see Update). (MNA 1/31; MNA 2/1)

The **PA cabinet** announces that **municipal elections** will be held in the West Bank and Gaza on 5/13 (they were originally set for 10/8/16; see *JPS* 46 [2] and Update). A **Hamas spokesperson** criticizes the announcement, saying that “elections should take place after disagreements are ended, reconciliation is achieved, and Palestinian institutions in Gaza and the West Bank are united.” (AP, JP, MNA, TOI 1/31)

The **IDF** delivers a notice to the **illegal Amona settlement outpost** overnight, ordering residents to evacuate within 48 hours (midnight on 2/1 is the deadline). Israel’s High Court of Justice previously ordered the outpost demolished by 2/8. During the day, **hundreds of settler youths** flock to Amona to demonstrate in solidarity with its residents. Many of Amona’s residents are planning to resist the IDF’s order because the govt. has failed to implement its side of their 12/22 deal trading a pledge to peacefully evacuate for sanctioned relocation to a nearby plot of land. (HA, JP, MNA, YA 1/31)

Israeli PM Netanyahu and **DM Lieberman** approve the construction of **3,000 residences** in Israel’s West Bank settlements (see Update). Hours earlier, a **joint Knesset comm.** approves the **so-called regulations bill**, clearing it for a 2d and 3d reading in the full plenum on 2/6. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI 1/31; MNA, NYT, TOI, WAFA 2/1)

1 FEBRUARY 2017

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** raze agricultural lands and shut down a Palestinian car wash nr. Bethlehem. **IDF troops** arrest 3 Palestinians and confiscate 2 laptops during late-night raids nr. Nablus and in Tubas, and patrol nr. Qalqilya and Jenin during the day. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** arrest 1 Palestinian during late-night raids in al-‘Izzariya. (MNA, WAFA 2/1; PCHR 2/2; PCHR 2/9)

The **Israeli authorities** return the corpse of a Palestinian youth held since he was killed in an 11/25 confrontation with Israeli forces. (MNA 2/2)

The **IDF** begins evacuating the **illegal Amona settlement outpost** overnight, sparking clashes with residents and hundreds of protesters gathering in solidarity; 13 settlers are arrested, and 2 protesters and 24 soldiers are injured (see Update). Meanwhile, **PM Netanyahu** announces that he has taken preliminary steps to establish a **new settlement** to house the Amona settlers by the end of 3/2017. He has reportedly formed a comm. comprising **DM Lieberman** and reps. from Amona and the PM’s office to advance the plan. Amona’s residents reportedly accept the plan, although some are still defying the Israeli forces attempting to evacuate them from their homes. Separately, Israel’s **High Court of Justice** rejects the Israeli govt.’s plan to relocate the settlers from Amona to nearby plots of land, citing Palestinian ownership claims. (HA, JP, MNA, NYT, TOI, YA 2/1)

2 FEBRUARY 2017

Along **Gaza’s border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian agricultural lands nr. Gaza City. Off **Gaza’s coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya and

again nr. Gaza City. None of the above incidents lead to damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** clash with stone-throwing Palestinians in Nablus; 3 Palestinians are injured. **Israeli forces** shut down a major road nr. Ramallah and keep the Beit El checkpoint closed for a 2d straight day. A **Palestinian driver** crashes her vehicle into an Israeli police car nr. Jerusalem; 3 Israelis and 1 Palestinian are injured. The IDF calls it a ramming attack, but it's unclear whether the collision was intentional. Meanwhile, the **IDF** arrests 1 Palestinian during a late-night raid nr. Tulkarm, and patrols during the day nr. Nablus, Salfit, Hebron, and Ramallah. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** enter Shu'fat r.c. to issue fines to shopkeepers, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian youths; there are no serious injuries. They also arrest 2 Palestinians during raids in Silwan. (HA, JP, MNA, WAFA 2/2; PCHR 2/9)

In its first official statement in response to Israeli settlement announcements, **Donald Trump's White House** says that "while we don't believe the existence of **settlements** is an impediment to peace, the construction of new settlements or the expansion of existing settlements beyond their current borders may not be helpful in achieving that goal" (see Update). (HA, NYT, WAFA 2/3)

3 FEBRUARY 2017

Hundreds of Israeli settlers visit a Jewish holy site nr. Nablus overnight. Their **IDF** escort conducts raids in nearby Awarta village, closing its entrances. Later, **IDF troops** violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's occupation, separation wall, and settlements in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih),

Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, and along Gaza's border nr. al-Bureij r.c.; 1 Palestinian is injured. **IDF troops** also assault and arrest an elderly Palestinian and her grandson during a raid in c. Hebron, and establish a mobile checkpoint nr. Nablus, sparking minor clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians. 1 Palestinian is injured. The **IDF** patrols nr. Qalqilya, Hebron, and Ramallah. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** assault 2 Muslim worshippers as they are leaving **Haram al-Sharif**. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya and later nr. Jabaliya r.c. and Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. (MNA, WAFA 2/3; MNA 2/4; PCHR 2/9)

4 FEBRUARY 2017

A **Hamas fighter** suffers fatal injuries in an "accidental explosion" in n. Gaza, according to Gaza's Ministry of Health. After he dies on 2/5, Hamas will say he was injured during unspecified "preparations." Along **Gaza's border**, **IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmers working nr. Gaza City. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, Rafah, and twice nr. Jabaliya r.c. No injuries are reported in any of these incidents. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 5 Palestinians during raids in Qalqilya, Hebron, and nr. Nablus, and patrol nr. Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Salfit, and Hebron. **Dozens of Israeli settlers** enter Huwwara village nr. Nablus and throw stones at Palestinian vehicles. When they start targeting homes, Palestinian residents drive them from the village. In **Israel**, **around 5,000 Palestinians and Israelis** demonstrate in protest against the recent demolitions in Qalanswa and

Umm al-Hiran. (MNA, WAFA 2/4; HA, MNA 2/5; PCHR 2/9)

The **Israeli authorities** return to his family the **corpse** of the Palestinian killed on 1/25 during an alleged vehicular attack nr. Ramallah. (MNA 2/5)

5 FEBRUARY 2017

Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya and Khan Yunis, causing no injuries. Along **Gaza's border, IDF troops** open fire on Palestinian farmers working nr. Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, a number of right-wing Jewish activists tour **Haram al-Sharif** in the morning, sparking a nonviolent confrontation with Muslim worshippers. Israeli forces arrest 14 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during raids in Jabal Mukabir, al-Tur, Ras al-Amud, Shu'fat r.c., and the Old City. In the **West Bank, IDF troops** conduct raids in Qarawat Bani Hassan village nr. Salfit in the evening, sparking clashes with stone-throwing Palestinian youths; there are no serious injuries. They arrest 11 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during further raids nr. Ramallah, Hebron, and Nablus, and patrol nr. Ramallah, Hebron, and Qalqilya during the day. (JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 2/5; JP, MNA 2/6; PCHR 2/9)

Israel's High Court of Justice delays by 1 mo. the demolition of 9 buildings in the **Ofra settlement** nr. Ramallah. The demolition was set to go forward by 2/8, but the court relented, arguing that a demolition this mo. would put undue burden on the residents, and promising to evacuate them peacefully in exchange for the delay. Meanwhile, thousands of settlers gather in Ofra to protest the planned demolition. (TOI 2/5)

6 FEBRUARY 2017

Unidentified fighters launch a rocket from Gaza into Israel, which lands in an open area nr. Ashqelon, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** then launches 3 rounds of air strikes on open areas and **Hamas** posts nr. Bayt Lahiya, Gaza City, and Khan Yunis, injuring 3 Palestinians and causing extensive damage (1 chicken farm is completely destroyed in Gaza City, killing 1,000 chickens). **IDF troops** stationed along the border fence also open fire on Hamas posts nr. Bayt Hanun, causing bird hunters and farmers to flee the area. Earlier, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land along the border fence in s. Gaza. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank, Israeli forces** deliver stop-work orders to a Palestinian road under construction nr. Tubas. They also confiscate 3 drills. **IDF troops** arrest 11 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Hebron, Jenin, Tulkarm, and Ramallah, and patrol during the day nr. Salfit, Qalqilya, and Ramallah. They also detain a Palestinian TV crew covering settlement growth nr. Nablus. Meanwhile, Palestinians living nr. Nablus discover that **Israeli settlers** have cut down 600 of their almond and olive trees. (HA, JP, MNA, TOI, WAFA 2/6; PCHR 2/9)

The **Israeli Knesset** passes, 60–52, the **so-called regulations bill** into law, retroactively authorizing settlements built “in good faith or at the state's instruction” on privately owned Palestinian land (see Update). **France, Jordan, Turkey, the EU, the UN**, the Palestinians, and the **UK** all denounce the new law, but the U.S. does not offer a direct comment. Instead, a White House spokesperson says that the Trump admin. needs to “have a chance to fully consult

with all parties on the way forward.” (AJ, EI, JP, NYT, TOI 2/6; HA, JP, TOI 2/7)

7 FEBRUARY 2017

Off **Gaza’s coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya and later nr. Khan Yunis. Along Gaza’s border, **IDF troops** open fire on agricultural lands nr. Bayt Hanun and Dayr al-Balah. There are no injuries reported in any of these incidents. In the **West Bank, Israeli forces** demolish 5 Palestinian agricultural structures in Kardala village in the Jordan Valley. **IDF troops** raid a community center in Aida r.c. nr. Bethlehem, confiscating computers and security footage. They also arrest 2 Palestinians during raids nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm, and patrol nr. Qalqilya, Nablus, Ramallah, and Hebron. **Israeli settlers** assault a Palestinian photojournalist with rocks nr. Ramallah. They also damage his car. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** demolish a Palestinian building in Bayt Hanina. (MNA, WAFA 2/7; PCHR 2/9)

8 FEBRUARY 2017

Sinai Province of the Islamic State (SPIS) fighters launch rockets into Israel from n. Sinai late at night. Israel’s Iron Dome missile defense batteries intercept 3 of them; others land in open areas nr. Eilat. No Israelis are injured. SPIS last launched rockets into Israel in 7/2015 (see *JPS* 45 [1]). Later, 2 Palestinians are killed and at least 5 are injured in an air strike targeting the smuggling tunnel they are working in nr. Rafah. The IDF denies carrying out the strike. Palestinian eyewitnesses say they saw an Israeli aircraft launch it, and Palestinian security sources say it was a retaliation for the rocket barrage. (HA, JP 2/8; HA, MNA, WAFA 2/9)

An **Israeli settler driver** rams an elderly Palestinian nr. Bethlehem, causing fatal

injuries. The Palestinian dies later in the day. **Israeli settlers** raze a swath of Palestinian-owned land nr. Nablus overnight. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** arrest 5 Palestinians during raids nr. Hebron and Ramallah, and patrol nr. Hebron. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** demolish a 2d Palestinian building in Bayt Hanina in as many days. They also assault and arrest 4 Palestinian youths in Silwan. Along **Gaza’s border, Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion to level land nr. the Erez border crossing. **IDF troops** also open fire on Palestinian agricultural lands nr. Rafah and Bayt Hanun, causing no serious damage or injuries. Off **Gaza’s coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Jabaliya r.c., causing no damage or injuries. In **Israel, Israeli forces** demolish the bedouin village of al-‘Araqib in the Negev for the 109th time since 2010. (MNA, WAFA 2/8; PCHR 2/9; PCHR 2/16)

In Washington, **PA intelligence chief Majid Faraj** leads a Palestinian delegation in their first face-to-face talks with Trump admin. officials. According to a Palestinian source, they discuss diplomatic issues, particularly Trump’s pledge to move the **U.S. embassy in Israel** to Jerusalem. (AP 2/9; HA, TOI 2/10)

9 FEBRUARY 2017

An **unidentified assailant** armed with a gun and a knife attacks a group of Israelis in a market in Petah Tikva; 6 Israelis are injured. A group of Jewish Israeli bystanders assault a Palestinian bystander who is shouting in Arabic during the incident. Hours later, the **Israeli police** arrest a Palestinian from the Nablus area in connection with the initial attack. Late at night, the IDF conducts raids in the Nablus area, arresting 4 Palestinians related to the alleged Petah Tikva attacker and confiscating

several of their work permits. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest 2 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Ramallah and Nablus; and patrol during the day nr. Hebron. **Israeli settlers** uproot around 400 olive saplings nr. Bethlehem. **Palestinian youths** throw a small explosive device at an IDF post in Aida r.c., sparking clashes with IDF troops in the area; there are no serious injuries and 2 Palestinians are arrested. (HA, MNA, WAFA 2/9; MNA, TOI, WAFA 1/10; MNA 11/11; PCHR 2/16)

PA intelligence chief Faraj wraps up 2 days of talks with U.S. security and intelligence officials in Washington (see Update). (AP 2/9; HA, TOI 2/10)

10 FEBRUARY 2017

A **Palestinian** being held in Israeli custody succumbs to injuries sustained on 11/9 when he was shot at a checkpoint nr. Nablus after allegedly attempting to stab an **Israeli soldier** with a screwdriver. Elsewhere in the **West Bank**, **2 Israeli settlers and 2 Israeli soldiers** attack 3 Palestinian shepherds tending their flocks nr. Nablus; there are no serious injuries. **IDF troops** arrest 1 Palestinian during a raid nr. Jenin, and patrol nr. Hebron and Ramallah. **IDF troops** also violently disperse Palestinians, Israelis, and international activists at Friday demonstrations against Israel's occupation, separation wall, and settlements in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih), and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; 2 Palestinian journalists are injured. (MNA 2/10; MNA 2/11; HA 2/12; PCHR 2/16)

11 FEBRUARY 2017

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** arrest a Palestinian youth at a checkpoint in c. Hebron when she is found to be carrying a knife, and patrol throughout the day nr. Hebron, Qalqilya,

Nablus, Salfit, and Ramallah. They also issue 1 Palestinian an arrest summons during late-night raids nr. Hebron. **Israeli forces** seize a Palestinian's car and water hoses nr. Tubas. **Unidentified assailants** throw stones at Israeli settlers' vehicles driving nr. Bethlehem, injuring 2 settlers. (MNA, TOI 2/11; WAFA 2/12; PCHR 2/16)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** in both directions (see Update). (MNA, TOI, WAFA 2/11)

12 FEBRUARY 2017

An **Israeli** stabs and injures 2 Palestinian street cleaners in Beersheba in the morning. The police say the motive behind the attack was "criminal" and do not offer further details. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** deliver stop-work orders to 16 Palestinian buildings under construction in the n. Jordan Valley. They also arrest 7 Palestinians during arrest raids in and around Qalqilya and Hebron, and patrol nr. Nablus, Ramallah, and Hebron. In **East Jerusalem**, right-wing Jewish activists tour **Haram al-Sharif** in the morning. Israeli forces arrest 9 Palestinians during late-night raids in Jabal Mukabir, the Old City, and Issawiyya. A Palestinian family demolishes their own store in the Old City to avoid paying Israeli demolition fees. Off **Gaza's coast**, **Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya and later nr. Rafah, causing no injuries or damage. Along **Gaza's border**, a fighter with the **Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)** is injured by shrapnel from an Israeli artillery shell, according to the DFLP. The IDF does not comment on the incident, and no further details are available. (MNA, WAFA 2/12; MNA 2/13; PCHR 2/16)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the 2d of 3 planned days (see Update). (MNA 2/12)

13 FEBRUARY 2017

A **Hamas fighter** dies in a tunnel accident in Gaza in the morning. Later, the Palestinian Information Center reports that a 2d Palestinian, a civilian laborer, died in a tunnel today. Reportedly the worker died when **Egyptian authorities** flooded the tunnel. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries or damage. In the **West Bank, Israeli forces** close entrances to a number of villages nr. Bethlehem with mounds of earth and cement blocks (they will reopen the villages on 2/20). The IDF also assaults a Palestinian s. of Hebron. He suffers memory loss, and cannot recall the details of the attack. **IDF troops** arrest 2 Palestinians during raids nr. Jericho and Hebron, and patrol nr. Hebron and Nablus. In **East Jerusalem**, around a dozen right-wing Jewish activists tour **Haram al-Sharif**. Their security escort arrests 2 Islamic Waqf employees. (MNA, WAFA 2/13; PCHR 2/16; MNA 2/20)

The Egyptian authorities open the **Rafah border crossing** for the 3d of 3 planned days (see Update). (MNA, WAFA 2/13)

A **Hamas official** confirms that **Yahya Sinwar**, a senior military official, has been chosen to lead the group in Gaza, replacing **Ismail Haniyeh**, who is angling to replace Khalid Mishal as the overall head of Hamas (see Update). (AJ, HA, NYT, TOI, YA 2/13)

14 FEBRUARY 2017

Israeli forces shut down a landfill in Rujayb village nr. Nablus. They also arrest 12 Palestinians and issue 1 arrest summons during

late-night raids nr. Ramallah, Jenin, Hebron, and Qalqilya, and patrol nr. Hebron. Off **Gaza's coast, Israeli naval forces** open fire on Palestinian fishing boats nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries or damage. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** demolish 3 homes in Issawiyya, including 2 that are under construction. (MNA, WAFA 2/14; PCHR 2/16)

PA pres. Abbas meets with **U.S. CIA dir. Mike Pompeo** in Ramallah. They discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the ongoing conflict in Syria. No further details are released. (HA, JP, TOI 2/15)

An errant missile fired from **Syria** lands in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, causing no damage or injuries. (MNA 2/14)

15 FEBRUARY 2017

The **IDF** imposes several punitive measures on Husan village nr. Bethlehem in response to reports of stone throwing in the area. They bar residents from entering nearby Beitar Ilit settlement, where many work, and confiscate several vehicles. Elsewhere in the **West Bank, Palestinian youths** throw a Molotov cocktail at an IDF patrol in Shuqba village nr. Ramallah, causing no injuries. **IDF troops** arrest 6 Palestinians during late-night raids nr. Qalqilya, Tulkarm, and Jenin, and patrol nr. Ramallah and Nablus. In **East Jerusalem, Israeli forces** demolish 2 homes and a room in a 3d in Hizma, and arrest 4 Palestinians during late-night raids in Silwan and Issawiyya. Along **Gaza's border, IDF troops** open fire on agricultural lands nr. Bayt Hanun. In **Israel, Israeli forces** demolish a home in the Negev bedouin village of al-Za'arurah. (MNA, WAFA 2/15; MNA, PCHR 2/16; PCHR 2/23)

A **Palestinian** in Gaza succumbs to injuries he sustained in a confrontation with IDF troops in 2005. (MNA 2/16)

Chronology

Israeli PM Netanyahu meets with **U.S. pres. Trump** in Washington for the first time. They discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Iran, and other issues related to the Middle East. In a joint press conference, Trump says that both the Israelis and Palestinians must make concessions to reach a final deal. He also says that, although he would prefer a **2-state solution**, he “could live with” either a 1-state or a 2-state solution. The **White House** later issues a statement about the meeting, saying that Trump and Netanyahu “agreed to continue [discussions about settlement construction] and to work out an approach that is consistent with the goal of advancing peace and security.” (AP, EI, HA, JP, NYT 2/15; HA, JP, TOI, WAFA 2/16; ALM 2/19)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse)	AS	(Arutz Sheva)
AJ	(Al Jazeera)	BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service)
ALM	(Al-Monitor)	EI	(Electronic Intifada)
AP	(Associated Press)	GDN	(Guardian)
		HA	(Haaretz)
		IMEMC	(International Middle East Media Center)
		JP	(Jerusalem Post)
		JTA	(Jewish Telegraphic Agency)
		LF	(Le Figaro)
		MNA	(Ma’an News Agency)
		NBC	(National Broadcasting Company)
		NYT	(New York Times)
		OCHA	(UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)
		PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
		PNN	(Palestine News Network)
		REU	(Reuters)
		TOI	(Times of Israel)
		USSD	(U.S. State Department)
		WAFA	(Palestine News Agency)
		WP	(Washington Post)
		YA	(Yedioth Ahronoth)