



CHRONOLOGY

16 NOVEMBER 2013– 15 FEBRUARY 2014

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16 NOVEMBER 2013

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. al-Waha, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya and al-‘Arub refugee camp (r.c.) nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Jenin at night. Jewish settlers uproot more than 100 olive trees nr. Yatta in the s. West Bank. (MNA 11/17; PCHR 11/21)

Hamas PM Ismail Haniyeh meets with leaders of several Palestinian political factions including **Islamic Jihad** and the **Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)**, but without representation by **Fatah**. Haniyeh suggests the formation of a cmte. to oversee the implementation of the 2012 Cairo and Doha agreements on national reconciliation. In the same meeting, the Hamas authorities decide to reopen Ma’an News Agency’s office in Gaza, 4 mos. after it was shut. (MNA 11/16)

A **Muslim Brotherhood**-led coalition offers negotiations to end the political crisis in **Egypt**, without specifically demanding the reinstatement of deposed Pres. Mohamed

Morsi. The statement also promises further “peaceful opposition.” Meanwhile, gunmen kill an Egyptian police officer in al-Arish in the n. **Sinai**. (AFP, MNA 11/16)

17 NOVEMBER 2013

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. al-Waha, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen**, causing no damage or injuries, but temporarily detaining 2. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in Tulkarm in the morning, in 3 villages nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 3 villages each nr. Hebron and Jenin, 1 village nr. Qalqilya, and in Tulkarm at night. In Abu Dis, **East Jerusalem**, an **IDF** raid sparks clashes, which lead to **Israeli forces** opening fire on students with rubber-coated metal bullets, injuring 40. Also in East Jerusalem, around 100 Jewish Israelis enter **Haram al-Sharif**, led by nationalist activist Yehuda Glick. (MNA 11/17; PCHR 11/21)

The **General Union of Palestinian Teachers** launches a limited strike in the West Bank in protest at the failure of the

Palestinian Authority (PA) to implement previous agreements. The union's secy.-gen., Ahmad Sahwil, says the union is prepared to begin a full, open-ended strike should the PA not meet its demands. They had threatened a strike in early 9/2013, but called it off following an agreement with the PA on 9/5 to raise teachers' salaries by 10%. (MNA 11/17)

Three days before the onset of the 2nd round of negotiations in Geneva over Iran's nuclear program, French pres. François Hollande, along with a delegation of senior officials including FM Laurent Fabius, arrives in Tel Aviv for his 1st official visit to Israel and the o. t. since taking office. (HA 11/18)

18 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, residents of Qusra village nr. Nablus defend their land from settlers uprooting seedlings. **IDF troops** intervene and open fire on the **Palestinians** with rubber-coated metal bullets, injuring 8. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin at night. In **East Jerusalem**, around 80 Israeli security officers enter **Haram al-Sharif** and tour the area. (MNA 11/18; PCHR 11/21)

French pres. Hollande meets with **PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas** in Ramallah and later with **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** in Jerusalem. In a joint press conference with Abbas, Hollande calls for a complete halt to Israeli settlement activity. In a speech to the Knesset in honor of the French leader's visit, Netanyahu invites Abbas to address the Israeli parliament and to recognize Israel as a "Jewish state." He also thanks Hollande for his opposition to a deal with Iran earlier in the month. (AFP, HA, MNA 11/18)

19 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** launch air strikes targeting 2 chicken farms, a border fence tunnel, and an **Islamic Jihad** training site nr. Khan Yunis. There are no injuries reported in any of the attacks. **IDF troops** also conduct a limited incursion in s. Gaza to level land nr. the border fence. The **IDF** also shells agricultural land nr. **Gaza City**, with no damage or casualties. Separately, a **Palestinian** fighter is killed in an accidental explosion in **Gaza City**. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 3 nearby villages and al-'Arub r.c., and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus, and Ramallah at night. Meanwhile, a Palestinian man shot by Israeli forces in 2006 dies of his wounds. Jewish settlers vandalize 2 cars and leave racist graffiti in a village nr. Nablus. (MNA 11/19; PCHR 11/21)

Following the 11/16 decision by Hamas officials, **Ma'an News Agency's** office in Gaza City reopens, following 4 mos. of closure, with the authorities also announcing that Al-Arabiya TV's offices would also reopen. Hamas closed the 2 news organizations on 7/25 after they reported that Muslim Brotherhood officials who had fled Egypt were being sheltered in the Gaza Strip. (MNA 11/19)

UNRWA Under Secy.-Gen. Jeffrey Feltman tells the **UN Security Council (UNSC)** that the agency will be unable to pay salaries to roughly 30,000 employees in 12/2013, including teachers and medical personnel, due to a \$36 m. deficit. Meanwhile, hundreds of **teachers** gathered outside the **High Court of Justice** in Ramallah after the PA appealed to the court with the claim that the limited strike launched on 11/17 was in contravention of labor laws. (AFP, MNA 11/19)

A double suicide bombing kills 23 outside the Iranian embassy in **Beirut**, including an Iranian

diplomat. The attack was claimed by al-Qa'ida linked group **Abdullah Azzam Brigades** that, in a statement, said their demands were the withdrawal of Hizballah forces from Syria and the release of Salafist jihadists from Lebanese jails. Following the bombings, Hizballah's dep. leader Naim Kassem says that the group will not be swayed from its course of support for the Syrian govt. Saudi Arabia condemns the attack as "cowardly." (AFP 11/19; AP, REU 11/20)

Egyptian security forces storm Tahrir Square in **Cairo**, clashing with protesters who had gathered to mark the anniversary of deadly 2011 demonstrations. One person is killed in the confrontation. (AFP 11/19)

20 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 11/21)

At a conference in Sderot, **Israeli FM Avigdor Lieberman** declares that a peace deal with the **Palestinians** is impossible in the foreseeable future. He also claims that ties with the **U.S.** are "deteriorating," and that Israel must "seek other allies with common interests." **Dep. FM Ze'ev Elkin**, speaking in Moscow on a trip for talks with Pres. Vladimir Putin, subsequently tries to downplay his boss' remarks, affirming that "there is no one who can take the place of the Americans." Meanwhile, senior Palestinian official **Nabil Shaath** says that Palestinian negotiators **Saeb Erakat** and **Mohammed Shtayyeh** will remain on a temporary basis until a new team can be formed. (HA, MNA, REU, YA 11/20)

Negotiations between **Iran** and the **P5+1** group of powers resume in **Geneva**, with hopes of reaching an interim accord on confidence-building steps. Optimism is expressed publicly by the likes of **Britain's Foreign Secy. William Hague**, and **Russian**

FM Sergey Lavrov. **Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** delivers a speech in Tehran, in which he says that Iran will not retreat "one iota" from its nuclear rights but says that his country seeks friendly relations with the U.S. Also in his speech, Khamenei describes Israel as "a rabid dog," which provokes an angry response from Israeli PM **Netanyahu** who is in **Russia** to appeal for tougher terms in a nuclear agreement with Iran. (AP, JTA, REU 11/20)

Israel's "**David's Sling**" missile defense system, co-developed with the U.S. and designed to protect the country from potential attack by Syrian and Hizballah-held missiles, passes a 2nd live test. Israeli defense officials say that the system could be deployed in 2014, a year ahead of the Israeli Air Force's official deadline. (HA, REU 11/20)

A suicide car bomb attack kills 11 **Egyptian soldiers** nr. al-Arish in the Sinai Peninsula, wounding 37. Separately, a grenade attack on a checkpoint in Cairo injures 4 **policemen**. Meanwhile, Egyptian authorities close the **Rafah** crossing with Gaza due to a technical fault with the terminal's computers. (AP, MNA, REU 11/20)

21 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank** the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in al-'Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron, and in 1 village each nr. Qalqilya, Salfit, and Tulkarm; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Jericho at night. **IDF** troops also bulldoze Palestinian-owned agricultural land in al-Khadir village nr. Bethlehem as a prelude to expanding a nearby settlement. (Wafa 11/21; PCHR 11/28)

An anonymous Palestinian official says that **senior negotiator Mohammed Shtayyeh** will

not be returning for future talks with Israel, and that **Saeb Erakat** will remain chief Palestinian negotiator. Both men resigned on 11/13 in protest of the lack of progress in the talks; however, Erakat stayed on when Pres. Abbas requested. (MNA 11/21)

The Palestinian **High Court of Justice** rules that the strike launched by the **General Union of Palestinian Teachers** on 11/17 is legal, despite the attempt by the PA on 11/19 to have the court temporarily abrogate their right to strike. **Minister of Education Ali Muhana** calls on the teacher's union to abide by the last agreement with the PA, reached in 9/2013 (see the QU in *JPS* 171 for more on the teacher's strike). (MNA 11/21)

A 2nd day of talks in **Geneva** between reps. from Iran and the **P5+1** ends without a breakthrough, as discussions continue about a potential interim accord. **Iranian FM Mohammad Javad Zarif** tells reporters that the talks are going well but "differences of views" remain. **Iran's Dep. FM Abbas Araghchi** suggests that differences amongst the 6 world powers were complicating efforts. Meanwhile, **U.S. Senate majority leader Harry Reid (D-NV)** says that lawmakers will seek to impose new sanctions on Iran in 12/2013 if there is no deal. (AFP, AP, HA, REU 11/21)

22 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinians** who were close to the border fence nr. Jabaliya r.c., injuring 2. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and at night in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jericho, and Ramallah. The night raid in Ramallah provokes clashes, leaving 1 Palestinian injured with live ammunition. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international**

protesters at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). There are no serious injuries, except in Bil'in (1 wounded by a bullet) and Kafr Qaddum (2 struck by tear gas canisters). Meanwhile, around **200 Jewish settlers** gather outside Yabad village nr. Jenin and burn tires, blocking a road. In **East Jerusalem**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinians** protesting against the occupation nr. Abu Dis, in Qalandia, and in Issawiyya, injuring dozens with rubber-coated metal bullets and stun grenades. Palestinians respond by throwing stones and burning tires. (MNA 11/22; PCHR 11/28)

Israel's **Labor Party** elects former minister **Isaac Herzog** as its new leader, defeating incumbent **Shelly Yachimovich** with 58.5% of the vote compared to the latter's 41.5%. Herzog announces in his victory speech that the Labor Party will not join the governing coalition led by PM Netanyahu. (REU, YA 11/22)

Russian FM Lavrov arrives in Geneva to join diplomats struggling to finalize a deal between **Iran** and the **P5+1** powers, with remaining disputes including Iran's right to produce nuclear fuel, the fate of the Arak heavy-water reactor project, and the extent of sanctions relief. (AP, REU 11/22)

Six large Islamist opposition groups in **Syria** declare a new **Islamic Front**, the biggest alliance of rebel fighters to date. The group is distinct from both the Free Syrian Army (FSA) and the al-Qa'ida-linked factions. (REU 11/22)

Muslim Brotherhood supporters hold protest rallies across **Egypt** to mark 100 days since the mass killings by security forces in 8/2013 (see the QU in *JPS* 169). Clashes with Muslim Brotherhood opponents leave 2 dead, 1 in **Cairo** and 1 in **Suez**. Meanwhile, **Hamas**

PM Hanijeh says that his organization is not breaking ties with Egypt, despite the recent conflict with Cairo's military rulers. (AP, MNA 11/22)

23 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** clash with **Palestinians** trying to stop **Jewish settlers** from stoning cars outside the entrance to Jalazun r.c., wounding 5 with live ammunition and 10 with rubber-coated metal bullets. **IDF troops** also clash with residents of a village nr. Ramallah during a raid, wounding 1 child in the leg with live ammunition. At night, **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Bethlehem; patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Ramallah. In al-Khadir nr. Bethlehem, **Palestinian activists** break a hole through the separation wall alongside Route 60. (MNA 11/23; PCHR 11/28)

Egyptian authorities close the **Rafah** crossing with Gaza for a 2nd consecutive day. (AFP, MNA 11/23)

24 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank** at night, **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 2 nearby villages; Jenin, Jenin r.c., and 1 nearby village; 2 villages nr. Bethlehem; and Balata r.c. nr. Nablus. **IDF troops** also patrol in Tulkarm in the morning, in 3 villages nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and 3 villages nr. Jenin, 2 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. (PCHR 11/28)

Reps. from **Iran** and the **P5+1** reach a deal in Geneva. The "Joint Plan of Action" establishes a 6-mo. interim period, in which the 2 sides swap confidence-building measures to facilitate negotiations over a long-term agreement. Specific measures include a 5% limit on Iran's uranium enrichment, well below the level required for weapons-grade material, and

approximately \$4.2 b. in sanctions relief. (To read the full text of the agreement, see document A1 in *JPS* 171.) The interim deal is endorsed by **Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** and **Pres. Hassan Ruhani**, while **U.S. Pres. Barack Obama** says the agreement cuts off Tehran's possible routes to a nuclear bomb. Separately, reports surface in the media that the U.S. and Iran had been holding secret talks since 3/2013, away from the P5+1 track, reportedly led by **Dep. Secy. of State William Burns**. It is also reported that Obama advised Netanyahu of these talks in 9/2013. (AP, HA, REU 11/24; AP 11/25)

25 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** uproot around 60 olive trees in Tuqu' village nr. Bethlehem, while separately, **Jewish settlers** nr. Nablus attack a house in Burin village, throwing stones and a Molotov cocktail, causing no injuries. (MNA 11/25; PCHR 11/28)

The **Israeli NGO Peace Now** announces that an **Israeli military cmte.** has approved the construction of 829 new homes in West Bank settlements Givat Ze'ev, Nofei Prat, Shilo, Givat Salit, and Nokdim. The planned construction is condemned by **Nabil Abu Rdeineh, aide to PA Pres. Abbas**, as a "policy of escalation aimed at putting obstacles in front of the peace process." (AFP, REU 11/25)

UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon announces that an international peace conference on **Syria** will take place in **Switzerland** on 1/22/14, in an attempt to bring about direct talks between the Syrian govt. and opposition forces. The statement describes 1 of the key goals of the peace talks as "the establishment, based on mutual consent, of a transitional governing body with full executive powers, including over military and security entities." (AP, REU 11/25)

Pres. Obama, speaking during a visit to San Francisco, defends the deal with **Iran**, saying that the U.S. “cannot close the door on diplomacy.” In a clear criticism of those who have attacked the agreement, Obama says that “tough talk and bluster may be the easy thing to do politically, but it’s not the right thing to do for our security.” Meanwhile, **Israeli PM Netanyahu** announces that **national security adviser Yossi Cohen** will visit Washington to discuss the agreement with U.S. officials. In the UK, Foreign Secy. William Hague urges Israel to refrain “from taking any steps that would undermine this agreement.” (REU 11/25; AP 11/26)

26 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** kill 3 **Palestinians** in a raid on Yatta village nr. Hebron. The Israeli military claims that the dead men were suspected of planning an attack in the coming days and belonged to a Salafist terror cell. **Palestinian factions** in Hebron declare a day of mourning. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 1 nearby village at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 5 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. Also in the West Bank, **Jewish settlers** attack a Palestinian home with Molotov cocktails in Burin village nr. Nablus, causing property damage but no injuries. In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** shoot and wound 1 **Palestinian** man nr. the border fence. (JP, MNA 11/26; PCHR 11/28)

Senior Palestinian official Nabil Shaath says that the Palestinian leadership is preparing to join international bodies and ratify agreements such as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, due to the lack of progress in the peace talks. Shaath also confirms that Saeb Erakat’s resignation (11/13) was not accepted by

Pres. Abbas, and thus Erakat continues in a caretaker role. (MNA 11/26)

Israel and the **EU** finalize an agreement to allow Israel’s participation in the Horizon 2020 scientific research project. Following lengthy talks between **Israeli justice minister Tzipi Livni** and **EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton**, a compromise formula is reached. This includes the publication of an appendix stating the applicability of the EU’s funding guidelines approved in 7/2013, which renders ineligible entities based in West Bank settlements, accompanied by an Israeli appendix stating the govt.’s opposition to those guidelines. (HA, REU, ToI 11/26)

Gen. Salim Idriss, leader of the FSA, tells *Al Jazeera* that his group plans to shun the peace conference that UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon announced on 11/25, claiming that “conditions are not suitable” for the talks. Meanwhile, the **Syrian National Coalition (SNC)** issues a statement saying it wants to see progress on the ground through the establishment of humanitarian corridors and a release of political prisoners, before it decides whether to attend the talks. (AP, REU 11/26)

U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry addresses **Congress** in a video message, and places the onus on Iran to prove that their nuclear program is peaceful. In an effort to reassure lawmakers who criticized the 6-mo. interim deal as being too soft on the Iranian govt., Kerry affirms that, should the agreement fall apart, Tehran would face “even tougher sanctions.” Meanwhile, marking his 1st 100 days in office, **Pres. Ruhani** says in a TV interview that Iran’s enemies were now “isolated” following the deal. (AP 11/26; JP 11/27)

Egyptian armed forces kill **Mohammed Hussein Muhareb, the leader of a militant group** in the **Sinai Peninsula**, nr. Shaykh

Zuweid. Muhareb was wanted for various attacks on state security forces. (AP 11/26)

27 NOVEMBER 2013

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Rafah, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen**, causing no injuries, but arresting 2. Demonstrations take place across the **West Bank** in protest of the killing of 3 Palestinians in Yatta the previous day. Demonstrations in Hebron and outside Ofer detention center nr Ramallah lead to clashes with **IDF troops**. Outside Ofer, **Israeli forces** fire live ammunition, rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters, while demonstrators throw stones and set fire to tires. No serious injuries are reported. In Hebron, stone-throwing Palestinians are met with tear gas from Israeli soldiers. Also in the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin at night; patrols in Tulkarm in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. (MNA, Wafa, YA 11/27; PCHR 11/28)

Palestinian chief negotiator Erakat says that Israeli policies, including continued settlement construction and arrest raids have led him to believe that there is no room for progress, hence his resignation on 11/13. Erakat says that the most recent meeting of the Israeli and Palestinian negotiating teams took place on 11/5. Erakat also says that he believes the Russians would become more involved, pointing to Pres. Abbas' scheduled visit to Moscow next month. (HA 11/27)

The Syrian govt. announces that it will attend the UN-sponsored negotiations in 1/2014 (announced 11/25), according to a report by state news agency SANA, but will also resist demands for Pres. Bashar al-Asad to step down. Meanwhile, the **Syrian National Coalition**

pres. Ahmad Jarba, declares that the group will participate in the conference; he hopes it will facilitate the emergence of a transitional govt. (AP, NYT, REU 11/27)

Iranian FM Mohammad Javad Zarif says that construction on building projects at the Arak nuclear facility is allowed as part of the nuclear agreement. **U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Jen Psaki** says in response that, while road or building work might be permissible, any kind of nuclear fuel production or reactor work is not allowed. Meanwhile, **U.S. Pres. Obama** briefs **Saudi Arabia's King Abdallah** on the recent deal with Iran, with the White House saying that the 2 leaders agreed to consult regularly on the efforts of the P5+1 countries to secure a long-term agreement. Separately, **Israeli strategic affairs minister Yuval Steinitz** meets with British officials in Jerusalem to discuss recent developments and Israel's concerns with a potential deal between Iran and the P5+1. (AP 11/27)

28 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, a **Palestinian** teenager dies on her way to hospital after being delayed by a closed Israeli checkpoint en route to Bethlehem. Separately, **Palestinians** and **Israeli soldiers** clash at the entrance to Aida r.c. in Bethlehem, with 3 Palestinians injured, including 1 by live ammunition. An **Israeli toddler** is injured when unknown attackers stone the car she was traveling in, nr. Sur al-Bahir. Meanwhile, around 150 **Jewish settlers** throw stones at **Palestinian** vehicles nr. Bethlehem, causing damage but no injuries. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah at night; patrols in Hebron and nearby al-'Arub r.c. and 2 villages (clashes in all of the above), and 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr.

Hebron, Jenin and Tulkarm at night. (HA, MNA 11/28; PCHR 12/5)

Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics publishes data revealing that the number of West Bank settler housing starts grew by 132% in the 1st 9 mos. of 2013, compared with the same time period in 2012. (JP 11/28)

Yukiya Amano, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), says that **Iran** has invited the agency to inspect the **Arak** heavy-water production plan on 12/8, as part of the new 6-mo. interim deal. Amano also says that the IAEA will need more money to verify the implementation of the deal. (AP, REU 11/28)

29 NOVEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian farmers** working close to the border fence nr. Khan Yunis r.c., causing no injuries. Separately, **IDF troops** open fire on stone-throwing **Palestinians** nr. Jabaliya r.c., wounding 1. In the **West Bank**, a **Palestinian** man dies from wounds inflicted when **Israeli soldiers** shot him in the head on 3/1 with a rubber-coated metal bullet during clashes at the entrance to Qalandia r.c. nr. Ramallah. Following his funeral, there are clashes at Qalandia checkpoint between stone-throwing Palestinian youth and Israeli soldiers who fire live ammunition and tear gas, with 1 Palestinian injured from a bullet to the leg. Separately, in al-‘Izzariya and Abu Dis neighborhoods of East Jerusalem, **IDF troops** shoot and injure 2 **Palestinians** with live ammunition during protests against the death of a Palestinian delayed at a checkpoint en route to hospital the previous day. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in Dura and surrounding area nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in Hebron and al-‘Arub and 5 nearby villages, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian**,

Israeli, and **international** protesters at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 2 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Nabi Salih), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafir Qaddum) and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). There are no serious injuries except in Bil'in, with 2 injured by rubber-coated metal bullets, and in Kafir Qaddum with 2 injured by gas canisters. (MNA 11/29; PCHR 12/5)

A senior but unnamed official within **Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs** tells the media that Israel has been invited to join the **UNHRC's** Western European and Others Group. The development was made possible by Israel ending its boycott of the UNHRC in 10/2013, as well as agreeing to participation in its Universal Periodic Human Rights Review process. On 11/6, ambassadors of the U.K., Australia, Canada, Germany, France, and the U.S. sent a letter to the UN institutions in Geneva to urge the inclusion of Israel in the regional group. (HA, ToI 11/29)

In a **White House statement**, the **Obama administration** confirms it is keeping oil-related sanctions targeting **Iran** in place despite the recently-signed deal. Meanwhile, Tehran's envoy to the IAEA tells the agency's board in Geneva that the implementation of the deal will start by early 1/2014. Separately, Iranian pres. Ruhani says that his country will not decommission its nuclear plants. (AP, FT, REU 11/29)

The **executive council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons** in The Hague rejects a request from **Syria** to convert facilities used to produce chemical weapons to other activities. (NYT 11/29)

Egyptian security forces violently disperse demonstrations in various parts of **Cairo** with tear gas and water cannons, as supporters of ousted pres. Morsi express their opposition to a

new law restricting protests. There are also similar clashes in Giza, Alexandria, and Suez. According to Interior Ministry figures, 10 are wounded and 183 arrested. (AP 11/29)

30 NOVEMBER 2013

In **Israel**, **security forces** in Petah Tikva shoot and kill a **Palestinian worker** from a village nr. Nablus, during a police-led search for Palestinians without permits. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** clash with residents in 1 village nr. Jenin during a raid. In 1 village nr. Ramallah, Jewish settlers attack property and residents who in turn fight back with stone-throwing. As a result, Israeli forces fire tear gas grenades at the Palestinian villagers, causing no serious injuries. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Jenin at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village each nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah at night. In Sur al-Bahir, **East Jerusalem**, a Palestinian family demolishes 3 apartments in an effort to avoid the charges associated with a demolition conducted by the municipality. (MNA 11/30; PCHR 12/5)

Thousands of demonstrators protest against the proposed **Praver Plan** in several locations across Israel, including the Negev village Hura, Haifa, nr. Highway 444 in the "Triangle," Jerusalem, and Jaffa, with a total of 34 arrests nationwide. The largest protest is in **Hura**, where protesters throw stones and the police retaliate. Israeli FM Lieberman harshly attacks the protesters, and says the govt. is "fighting for the lands of the Jewish people." Solidarity protests also take place nr. Ramallah, where Palestinians clash with Israeli forces nr. Beit El settlement, and in Gaza City. (HA, JP, MNA, REU, YA 11/30; ToI 12/2)

Egypt's 50-mbr. constituent assembly votes on 138 articles of the 247-article draft

constitution, limiting the scope of Shari'a law and allowing the army to try civilians in military tribunals. Meanwhile **U.S. Defense Secy. Chuck Hagel** calls **DM Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** to express concern about a new law curbing protests, according to a statement by Dept. of Defense spokesperson Carl Woog. Also in Egypt, **security forces** kill 3 mbrs. of al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, a militant group, in the n. **Sinai** nr. Shaykh Zuweid. (AP, NYT, MNA 11/30)

1 DECEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** shoot at **Palestinian farmers** working close to the perimeter fence nr. Rafah, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 2 villages and al-'Arub r.c. nearby, and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Ramallah at night; patrols in Hebron and al-'Arub r.c. in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli security forces** escort 24 Jewish Israelis at **Haram al-Sharif**, prompting clashes with worshippers. (MNA 12/1; PCHR 12/5)

An anonymous official in **Israeli PM Netanyahu's** office says that the govt. will not be proceeding with the preliminary planning procedures for 24,000 settlement homes, as previously indicated on the Housing Ministry's website. Israeli TV reports that the PA directly appealed to U.S. Secy. of State Kerry about the matter, threatening to quit the negotiations if the tenders were not cancelled. Meanwhile, **PA Pres. Abbas** meets with **opposition leader MK Isaac Herzog** in Ramallah, and tells him he is keen to reach an agreement with Israel. In a statement released after the meeting, Herzog says, "We have a partner that is ready to go the distance for peace and take original, brave steps on core issues." (HA, JP 12/1)

Iranian pres. Ruhani says construction will soon start on a 2nd nuclear power plant, according to local media reports. Meanwhile, **Iranian FM Zarif** meets with his **Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Sabah Khaled al-Sabah**, on his 1st official visit to a Gulf Arab country. Following the meeting, Zarif says that the 6-mo. interim deal with the West is in the Gulf states' interests. (AFP, JP 12/1)

Egyptian security forces violently disperse anti-govt. demonstrators in **Cairo's** Tahrir Square, as the cmte. charged with amending the constitution approves changes to the text in the 2nd day of discussions. The new constitution give women and Christians "suitable representation" and also stipulates there must be elections, either parliamentary or presidential, within 90 days of the document's adoption. The use of military tribunals for civilians is also scaled back, to be permitted only in cases of attacks on military personnel or property. However, the armed forces are given the exclusive right to name the defense minister for the next 2 presidential terms. The draft constitution is now handed over to Egyptian **interim pres. Adly Mansour** who has 1 mo. to call a national referendum. (AP, REU 12/1)

2 DECEMBER 2013

Off the n. coast of the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen**, causing no casualties or damage to the boats. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, and in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jericho in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Jericho at night. Also, **IDF troops** bulldoze a dozen houses and agricultural buildings in the

s. Jordan Valley n. of Jericho, leaving around 50 Palestinians homeless. (MNA 12/2; PCHR 12/5)

Israeli Defense Ministry figures obtained by NGO **Peace Now** show that DM Moshe Ya'alon approved construction of 3,000 housing units in West Bank settlements during the 1st 4 mos. of his term (3–7/2013). (HA 12/2)

The **General Union of Palestinian Teachers** launches an open strike. The union's demands include a 2.03% increase of the cost-of-living salary, which has been deducted since the beginning of 2013. **Abdul-Ghani al-Uweiei, spokesperson for the PA's atty. gen.**, says that the minister of education has asked the atty. gen. to proceed with legal measures against the secy.-gen. of the teachers' union. (MNA 2/12)

The **Israeli army** fires into **Syria** after its troops were shot at in the **occupied Golan Heights**. The original gunfire came from the Syrian side of the border, nr. Qunaytra, but it is unclear if it was intentional. No casualties are reported on either side. Separately, a Syrian mortar shell lands in Majdal Shams in the occupied Golan Heights, causing no casualties. Meanwhile, **UN human rights chief Navi Pillay** says that evidence collected by UN investigators implicates **Pres. Asad** in the commission of war crimes. (HA, REU 2/12)

The **Lebanese govt.** authorizes the army to take charge of security in **Tripoli** for 6 mos., following frequent violent clashes between supporters and opponents of Syria's Pres. Asad. The latest round of fighting saw 12 killed and more than 100 wounded. (AP 12/2)

3 DECEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** clash with residents in a village nr. Qalqilya during a raid, with 1 Palestinian wounded by a tear gas canister striking him on the hand. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and in

1 village and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night; patrols in Tulkarm and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Jenin in the afternoon, and in 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Jenin, and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. **IDF troops** also demolish water wells and tents in 3 locations across the n. Jordan Valley. (MNA 12/3; PCHR 12/5)

A group of **French experts** rules out polonium poisoning as the cause of death for the late Palestinian leader **Yasir Arafat**, differing from the conclusions reached by Swiss scientists last mo. (See document A2 in *JPS* 170 for extended excerpts of the Swiss team’s report.) (AFP 12/3)

Andreas Reinicke, EU special rep. for the Middle East peace process, tells journalists at the European External Action Service in Brussels that at least half the EU’s mbr. states currently support labelling products manufactured in Israeli settlements. (ToI 12/3)

Palestinian UNRWA workers in the West Bank go on strike, protesting low salaries and the agency’s decision to not renew the contracts of 55 workers. (MEMO 12/3)

In a televised interview, **Hizballah leader Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah** accuses **Saudi Arabia** of being behind the suicide bombing attacks that targeted the Iranian Embassy in Beirut on 11/19. He dismisses claims that differences between Saudi Arabia and Iran are sectarian, saying that they are based on Riyadh’s desire to be the dominant regional influence. (AP, DS, REU 12/3)

Israel officially acknowledges for the 1st time that it is providing humanitarian aid along the border fence for victims of **Syria’s** civil war, an announcement made by DM Ya’alon during a visit to the occupied Golan Heights. (AP 12/3)

4 DECEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin and 2 nearby villages, and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in 1 village and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. In **East Jerusalem**, Jewish right-wing activists enter **Haram al-Sharif**, provoking clashes with Palestinian worshippers. (MNA 12/4; PCHR 12/5)

Israeli media reports that the **Ministry of Defense** is preparing to hand over 20,000 dunams of land in Area C to the **PA**, to be used for agricultural and commercial projects. (MNA 12/4)

Hizballah commander Hassan al-Laqqis is shot and killed outside his home in Beirut by unknown assailants. Laqqis had fought in Syria’s civil war. A previously unknown group, **Ahrar al-Sunna Baalbek Brigade**, claimed responsibility for the assassination on Twitter, but the claim could not be verified. In a statement broadcast on al-Manar TV, Hizballah accuses Israel of being behind the killing. Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs then issues a denial. (AFP, DS, REU 12/4)

Israeli television reports that construction of the 245-km (152-mi.) border fence between **Israel** and **Egypt’s** Sinai Peninsula has been completed, 3.5 years after work began. (JP 12/4)

Israel’s Environmental Affairs Minister Amir Peretz flies to Istanbul to attend a 4-day UN-sponsored conference on Mediterranean marine and coastal environment issues. He is the 1st Israeli cabinet minister to visit **Turkey** since the *Mavi Marmara* raid in 2010. (REU 12/4)

5 DECEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin at night;

patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 12/12)

U.S. Secy. of State Kerry arrives in the region and holds talks with **PA Pres. Abbas** in Ramallah to discuss a possible future peace agreement with Israel and the state of the negotiations. A Palestinian negotiator tells the media that Kerry did not present a final proposal and that discussions will continue. Kerry meanwhile affirms that the goal is a “viable Palestinian state.” Kerry also holds talks with **Israeli PM Netanyahu**, where, in addition to discussing the peace process, the U.S. diplomat offers assurances that core sanctions targeting Iran would remain in place throughout the 6-mo. interim period agreed on in Geneva. (REU, WAFA 12/5)

6 DECEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on agricultural lands nr. Khan Yunis, causing no casualties. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot a Palestinian civilian with live ammunition in c. Hebron during a raid. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in Hebron at night; patrols in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel’s separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in, Nabi Salih, Ni’lin), and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). There are no serious injuries except in Kafr Qaddum with 2 injured by tear gas canisters. Meanwhile, **Jewish settlers** vandalize property in a village nr. Nablus, leaving “price-tag” graffiti. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** violently disperse Palestinian worshippers at **Haram al-Sharif**, using tear gas, rubber-coated metal bullets, and stun

grenades, injuring around 40. (MNA 12/6; PCHR 12/12)

As he departs Israel, **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** says that **Israel** and the **Palestinians** are closer than they have been in years to achieving a peace deal. Speaking to reporters at Ben Gurion Airport, Kerry issues an upbeat assessment following 2 days of meetings with **Netanyahu** (who he met on 3 separate occasions) and **Abbas** (who he met once). Kerry says that 160 experts were involved in preparing a security plan presented by **Gen. John Allen** during the trip to both Netanyahu and Abbas (the details of which are not revealed). Separately, **Israeli FM Lieberman** tells the annual Saban Forum at the Brookings Institution in Washington that a deal is unlikely but talks are positive if only for the sake of conflict management. (HA, JTA 12/6)

An explosion targets **IDF troops** patrolling the border fence between the **Israeli-occupied Golan Heights** and Syria, causing no injuries or damage. Army investigations conclude that the blast was from a bomb remotely-detonated as troops passed by. (YA 12/6; AFP 12/7)

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons announces in a statement that it has verified the destruction of **Syria’s** unfilled munitions, as well as the destruction of parts of buildings at weapons production facilities. (AP 12/6)

The **UNGA** approves **Jordan’s** 2-year term on the **UNSC**, taking the place that **Saudi Arabia** rejected on 10/18 as a protest over the UN’s response to the civil war in Syria. Jordan will assume its role on 1/1, having secured 178 votes from the body’s 193 mbrs. (AFP 12/6)

7 DECEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and kill a **Palestinian** child outside Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, in response to a group of Palestinian

youth throwing stones at Beit El settlement. The 14-year-old was shot in the back, and witnesses say that he was not participating in the stone throwing. The IDF conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Qalqilya and Ramallah, and in Jenin, and Jenin r.c. at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Salfit in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village each nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah, and in Tulkarm at night. Also in the West Bank, **Jewish settlers** attack a Palestinian house and its residents in c. Hebron, causing some damage before Israeli forces intervene. Meanwhile, **Palestinians, Israelis**, and **international** activists participate in a demonstration in Nabi Salih to mark the 2nd anniversary of the killing of Mustafa al-Tamimi, a local resident. Israeli forces violently disperse the demonstrators, injuring 1 Palestinian with a live bullet to the jaw. In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** fire shells at **Palestinian** farmers nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. Meanwhile, media reports say that 3 rockets fired from inside Gaza land inside the territory, causing no casualties. (AFP, MNA 12/7; PCHR 12/12)

U.S. Pres. Obama says that the chances of reaching a comprehensive deal with Iran over its disputed nuclear program are 50-50 or worse, in comments made at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. (See document D1 in *JPS* 171 for extended excerpts of Obama's remarks.) Meanwhile, **IAEA spokesperson Behrouz Kamalvandi** says that Tehran is proceeding with testing more efficient uranium enrichment technology, in remarks quoted by state news agency IRNA. (AP, IRNA, REU 12/7)

8 DECEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **farmers** working on agricultural lands nr. Khan

Yunis, causing no casualties. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and Salfit at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, in 3 villages nr. Qalqilya and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in Salfit, al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. (PCHR 12/12)

Dutch PM Mark Rutte cancels a ceremony intended to inaugurate a new container scanner donated by his govt. for Israel's border with the **Gaza Strip** due to the Israeli authorities' opposition to using the machine for resuming exports from Gaza to the West Bank. Meanwhile, the **WHO** releases a statement expressing concern over a humanitarian health crisis in the Gaza Strip due to a shortage in basic supplies. Over 30% of medicines and 50% of medical disposables are out of stock in Gaza. Also, the large generators used to power hospitals during 14-hour power cuts have frequent breakdowns. (HA, MNA 12/8)

UN inspectors have begun their visit to the **Arak** heavy water production plant. Meanwhile, **Pres. Ruhani** tells parliament that the success of the talks has already boosted the country's economy, though he gives no specific figures. (AP 12/8)

9 DECEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on agricultural lands nr. Khan Yunis, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night; patrols in Tulkarm in the morning, in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 4 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 villages and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 12/12)

Israeli PM Netanyahu tells his **Likud-Yisrael Beitenu** faction at the Knesset that the govt. is not on the way to a final-status agreement with the Palestinians, ahead of U.S. Secy. of State Kerry's on 12/11, his 9th trip to the region since taking office. Netanyahu also reportedly rejects the U.S. Gen. John Allen's security plan, saying it was important to maintain Israeli forces on the border shared with Jordan. Meanwhile, **PLO Secy.-Gen. Yasir 'Abid Rabbuh** also rejects the U.S. security proposals, which he says will lead to a "total failure" of Kerry's efforts. Separately, **PA Minister of Prisoners Issa Qarage** says that any delays to the scheduled release of a 3rd group of Palestinian prisoners on 12/29 will be considered a serious blow to the peace process. (AFP, AP, JP 12/9)

Israel, Jordan, and the **PA** sign a water-sharing agreement that includes the proposed construction of a desalination plant in Jordan on the Gulf of Aqaba, and a pilot study for a pipeline linking the Red Sea-Dead Sea. Israel also intends to sell more water from the Sea of Galilee to Jordan and to sell water to the PA at reduced rates. The agreement is signed at the World Bank in Washington. (See document A2 in *JPS* 171 for more on the water-sharing agreement.) (AFP, REU 12/9)

Ahmet Uzumcu, head of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), says that the removal of chemical weapons from **Syria**, scheduled in 2 stages for 12/31 and 2/5/14, may be delayed slightly due to the difficulties of operating during the ongoing violent conflict. (REU 12/9)

Mohamed Badie, leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, appears in a Cairo court for the 1st time since being detained on 8/20. Meanwhile, Egyptian armed forces shoot and kill an Islamist militant nr. Shaykh Zuweidi in the **Sinai Peninsula**, describing him as a leader of **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis**. (AP, JP, REU 12/9)

10 DECEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli troops** open fire on agricultural areas nr. Khan Yunis, causing no casualties. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in addition to 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. Israeli forces also demolish Palestinian-owned structures in the n. Jordan Valley. In **East Jerusalem**, around 100 newly-recruited Israeli soldiers enter **Haram al-Sharif** escorted by police officers. (MNA, PCHR 12/10)

In **Israel**, attackers vandalize a dozen cars and leave racist graffiti in Akbara village nr. Safed. (MNA 12/10)

U.S. Secy. of State Kerry tells the **House Foreign Affairs Cmte.** that the Obama administration is requesting that negotiators be given time to do their jobs in talks with Iran, and for Congress to hold off on passing any new sanctions-related bills. Kerry affirms that it is a "very delicate diplomatic moment." **U.S. Senate Banking Cmte. chmn. Tim Johnson (D-SD)** says he will not back new sanctions legislation at this time. Meanwhile in **Geneva**, **Iranian delegation head Hamid Baedinejad** says that talks with the IAEA are going smoothly. The meeting is also attended by officials from the U.S., China, Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and the EU. (JP, REU 12/10)

U.S. Defense Secy. Hagel meets with the **Qatari emir Shaykh Tamim bin Hamad and DM Hamad bin Ali al-Attiyah**, and signs a 10-year defense cooperation agreement that will govern interaction between U.S. and Qatari forces. (REU 12/10)

11 DECEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Nablus at night. (PCHR 12/12)

After a co-defendant disrupts by shouting anti-govt. slogans, the trial of **Muslim Brotherhood chief Badie** and his deputies ends when the judges step down. The trial started on 12/10. Meanwhile, security forces raid an office of **Al Jazeera** television channel and arrests 11 Qatari citizens. (AFP, REU 12/11)

12 DECEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon. Meanwhile, a Palestinian man from Bethlehem dies of wounds he sustained when he was shot by an Israeli soldier in 2004. (PCHR 12/19)

U.S. Secy. of State Kerry arrives in **Israel** for a visit focused on preparing a “framework agreement,” which will contain principles for a resolution of the main issues being negotiated by Israel and the Palestinians and govern future negotiations. Kerry first visits **Ramallah** for a meeting with **Pres. Abbas**. (AP, HA 12/12)

Israeli PM Netanyahu will halt legislative progress on a bill that would forcibly resettle **Bedouin Palestinian** citizens in the **Negev**, according to former cabinet minister Benny Begin, one of the architects of the plan on which the bill was based. (REU 12/12)

U.S. Treasury Under Secy. for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David Cohen announces that the Obama administration is citing more than a dozen companies and individuals for evading sanctions against **Iran**. In response, Iranian negotiators meeting with reps. from the P5+1 suspend the talks to consult with officials in Tehran. (AFP, AP 12/12)

13 DECEMBER 2013

IDF troops violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel’s separation wall,

settlements, and occupation in 2 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in and Ni’lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). There are no serious injuries. (PCHR 12/19)

U.S. Secy. of State Kerry meets **Israeli PM Netanyahu** in Jerusalem to discuss what the premier describes as how to “advance our goals of peace and security.” Kerry then departs for Vietnam, telling a group of reporters at Ben Gurion Airport that the prisoner release scheduled for 12/29 will go ahead as planned. (AFP, HA, REU 12/13)

A **European Parliament delegation** arrives in **Iran**, the 1st such visit in more than 6 years. The 8-mbr. group will meet with lawmakers and officials in Tehran, as well as dissidents. (AP 12/13)

14 DECEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** shoot and kill a **Palestinian** close to the perimeter fence nr. Khan Yunis. The **IDF** says that the individual ignored warnings to leave a military-designated “no go” area. Separately, **Israeli forces** on the n. perimeter fence shell an open area, causing no injuries. (JP, REU 12/14; PCHR 12/19)

Severe flooding from heavy rains affects large areas of the **Gaza Strip**, with **UNRWA spokesperson Chris Guinness** calling the impacted regions a “disaster area.” There are 96 reported injuries in flood-related incidents, according to the Health Ministry. In response, **Israel** announces that it will permit the import of 450,000 litres of industrial fuel into the Gaza Strip to restart the power plant that shut down 7 weeks ago. (AP, MNA 12/14)

Egyptian interim pres. Adly Mansour announces in a televised speech that a referendum on a new draft constitution will be held in 1/2014. (AFP 12/14)

15 DECEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian farmers** working close to the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya, wounding 1. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Jenin and in Qalqilya and 1 nearby village at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. (PCHR 12/19)

UN OCHA publishes a report estimating that around **10,000 Palestinians in Gaza** have been forced to flee their homes due to flooding, and that 2 have died. **Israel** allows 450,000 litres of fuel into the Gaza Strip, paid for by **Qatar**. Meanwhile, an estimated 20 villages and neighborhoods in the **Nablus district** of the West Bank are without electricity. (AFP, MNA, REU 12/15)

A rogue **Lebanese soldier** shoots and kills 1 **Israeli soldier** along the border, hours after which **Israeli troops** shoot 2 **Lebanese soldiers**, injuring them, in a location nearby. **Israeli DM Ya'alon** declares that Israel sees the Lebanese govt. and Lebanese army as "responsible for what happens on their side." (AP, HA, REU 12/16)

Iranian FM Zarif says that Iranian negotiators will resume talks on its nuclear program with the P5+1 group, after suspending negotiations on 12/12 to protest new U.S. measures targeting companies deemed to be evading sanctions. (AP 12/15)

16 DECEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinian farmers** close to the border fence nr. Jabaliya r.c., wounding 1. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen**, causing no damage or

injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Tulkarm in the morning, and in Tubas and in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Salfit at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and in Qalqilya and 1 nearby village at night. Separately, **Israeli forces** notify Bedouin families nr. Bethlehem that they must evacuate their homes before military exercises are conducted. (MNA 12/16; PCHR 12/19)

Israel opens **Kerem Shalom** crossing with Gaza to allow for entry of fuel and goods, and exit for 7 truckloads of strawberries and flowers bound for **Europe**. Israel also allows cement and gravel for UN projects to enter. (Wafa 12/16)

The EU's Foreign Affairs Council announces that **Israelis** and **Palestinians** will be offered an unprecedented assistance package in the event of a final status peace deal. The incentives, under the bracket of "Special Privileged Partnership," include political, economic, and security support. The EU also says that it is ready to contribute to post-conflict arrangements as part of ensuring any deal's long-term viability. (HA 12/13; Wafa 12/16)

Israeli, Lebanese, and UN military officers meet to defuse tension following fatal cross-border gunfire the previous day. A statement from the **UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)** says that the Lebanese soldier who killed an Israeli soldier was acting alone. Israeli DM Ya'alon says that the Lebanese authorities promised to punish the shooter. (AFP, AP, REU 12/16)

UN emergency relief coordinator Valerie Amos issues an appeal at a meeting of donor countries in Geneva for \$6.5 billion for **Syria** and its neighbors, including Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey, each of which host significant populations of Syrian refugees. Separately, UN High Commissioner for Refugees **António Guterres** cites Turkish officials' estimate that the number of Syrian

refugees in the country will reach 1.5 m. by the end of 2014. (REU 12/16)

The Muslim Brotherhood-led Anti-Coup Alliance in Egypt announces that it will call for a boycott of the constitutional referendum scheduled for 1/2014. **Spokesperson Hamza al-Farawy** says that the group rejects “any vote under military rule.” (AFP 12/16)

EU foreign ministers release a statement pledging to suspend some sanctions on Iran as soon as the **IAEA** verifies that **Tehran** has begun limiting its nuclear activities, in accordance with the 6-mo. interim agreement signed in 11/2013. Meanwhile, **Iranian FM Zarif** calls **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** to protest the expansion of sanctions on 12/12. (AP, REU 12/16)

17 DECEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on **Palestinian farmers** close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus and the nearby Askar r.c. and ‘Ayn Bayt al-Ma’ r.c. at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm in the morning and in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon. Meanwhile, **Israeli forces** confiscate 10 dunams and restrict access to a further 500 dunams of private land in Qusra village nr. Nablus. The land in question lies between the village and illegal settlement outpost Esh Kodesh. Also, Israeli forces hand out evacuation orders to 10 Palestinian families in Barta’a al-Sharqiya village nr. Jenin. (MNA 12/17; PCHR 12/19)

18 DECEMBER 2013

During an arrest raid in the Jenin r.c. in the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** kill 1 **Palestinian** and

wound 6 others. En route to a suspect’s house in the camp, soldiers meet resistance from residents—including the use of an improvised explosive device—and respond with live fire. In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on **Palestinian farmers** close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. (HA, MNA 12/18, PCHR 12/19)

Palestinian chief negotiator Erakat tells reporters in Bayt Jala that the Palestinians and Israelis will require up to 1 more year to complete a peace deal, provided that a framework agreement can be put in place in the coming weeks. Erakat says that the Palestinians are thus prepared to extend talks beyond the 4/2014 deadline. (AP, REU, YA 12/18)

The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Cmte. passes legislation, by a vote of 16–1, that would reform U.S. aid to Egypt, effectively lifting the hold on military aid that was put in place after the 7/2013 military overthrow of Egyptian pres. Morsi. The bill would amend the controversial “coup law” that forbids the transfer of U.S. aid to a country where a democratic govt. has been overthrown by the military; specifically, it would allow the pres. to waive that restriction on the basis of national security, providing that transferred aid supports democratization programs or facilitates new elections. (See congressionalmonitor.org for more on the “Egypt Assistance Reform Act of 2013.”) (AP, REU 12/18)

19 DECEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and kill a **Palestinian** man in Qalqilya during a raid. The IDF says that the man, a Palestinian intelligence officer, opened fire on them first. Locals say he was shot in the back. **PA spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeineh** puts out a press release condemning the killing of 2 Palestinians in 24 hours in Jenin and Qalqilya.

Also, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night; patrols in Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron and Qalqilya at night. (MNA, PCHR, REU, WAFA 12/19)

Reps. from **Iran** resume talks with those of the **P5+1** in **Geneva**, to work on how to put into practice the 6-mo. interim deal reached in 11/2013. Meanwhile, more than a quarter of the **Senate**—13 Democrats and 13 Republicans—cosponsors a new bill that would strengthen sanctions against Iran intensified should Tehran violate the deal **White House spokesperson Jay Carney** says that Obama would veto the new bill if Congress passes it, or any similar measure. (See congressionalmonitor.org for more on the “Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act of 2013.”) (AFP, AP, REU 12/19)

20 DECEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** kill 1 **Palestinian** and wound 1 other close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, after the individuals had approached the fence to collect scrap metal. Separately, **Israeli forces** open fire on civilians nr. Jabaliya r.c. and also nr. Khan Yunis, wounding 2 in each case. In the Jabaliya incident, **Israeli forces** opened fire after **Palestinians** throw stones at border positions. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian fishermen**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages each nr. Bethlehem and Hebron at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the morning, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel’s separation wall, settlements and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in, Nabi Salih, and Ni’lin), and 1

village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). There are no serious injuries reported. (MNA 12/20; PCHR 12/26)

UN-Arab League joint special envoy to Syria Lakhdar Brahimi says that around 30 countries would be invited to the planned peace conference in 1/2014, and that the U.S. and the Syrian opposition oppose Iran’s attendance. (AP 12/20)

21 DECEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on **Palestinian farmers** close to the border fence nr. Khan Yunis, wounding 1. The army says it targeted the group because it was laying an explosive device. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 2 nearby villages at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, in Nablus and Balata r.c., and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Jericho at night. (MNA 12/20; PCHR 12/26)

PA Pres. Abbas holds talks in **Egypt** with foreign ministers from **Arab League** mbr. states about the current state of the peace process. He also meets with **Egyptian interim pres. Mansour** to discuss regional developments and the national reconciliation effort with **Hamas**. (MNA 12/21)

Iran’s Dep. FM Abbas Araghchi says that talks in **Geneva** with reps. of the P5+1 are continuing for a 4th day and making slow progress. According to Araghchi, the issue of uranium enrichment is still a point of contention. (AP, JP 12/21)

22 DECEMBER 2013

In **Israel**, an explosive device detonates on a bus in **Bat Yam**, causing no casualties as the vehicle had been evacuated. Israeli police describe it as a “terrorist attack,” and a Hamas spokesperson in Gaza describes the bombing as

a “heroic act.” No group, however, claims responsibility. In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 1 rocket into s. Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Separately, a rocket fired from inside the Gaza Strip lands in **Egyptian territorial waters** nr. Rafah, causing no injuries. **Hamas authorities** say that the rocket was fired during a training exercise and reached Egypt by mistake. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Jenin and in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Tulkarm; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, in 2 villages and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, and in 2 villages nr. Salfit at night. (AFP, AP, HA, MNA, REU, YA 12/22; PCHR 12/26)

Asst. Secy.-Gen. on Palestinian affairs at the Arab League Mohammad Sbeih says that Kerry intends to present Palestinian and Israeli leaders with a framework peace deal by the end of the month. Sbeih also reveals Abbas’ position on the peace agreement, including refusal of any Israeli military presence in the Jordan Valley, the entirety of East Jerusalem as the capital, limited land swaps of equal value, and no recognition of Israel as a “Jewish state.” (AP, MNA, ToI 12/22)

Reps. from **Iran** and the **P5+1** suspend their talks in Geneva to resume after Christmas. (REU 12/22)

23 DECEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on a **Palestinian** close to the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya, seriously wounding him. The military claims that it targeted a suspect planting an explosive device. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Hebron and in Nablus and Askar r.c. at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. Meanwhile, a Palestinian stabs an Israeli

policemen at Jab’a junction nr. Ramallah, wounding him. (HA, JP, MNA 12/23; PCHR 12/26)

Palestinian chief negotiator Erakat rules out extending peace talks beyond the 9-mo. deadline, claiming that contradictory statements attributed to him had been misunderstood. Erakat also says that there had been no direct peace talks in several weeks, with the sides meeting separately with the Americans to advance the process. (AP, JP, ToI 12/23)

24 DECEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, a **Palestinian** sniper shoots and kills an **Israeli Ministry of Defense contractor** working on the border fence nr. kibbutz Nahal Oz, an attack claimed by the **Popular Resistance Cmtes.** In response, the **Israeli military** launches attacks on 6 separate sites across the **Gaza Strip**, killing **1 child** in al-Maghazi r.c. and wounding a total of 10. Separately, **Israeli forces** open fire on **Palestinians** collecting scrap metal close to the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya, wounding 1 with live ammunition. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. The **IDF** also demolishes 15 houses in Ras Karkar and Dayr Ammar villages nr. Ramallah, as well as properties in Fasayil village in the n. Jordan Valley. Meanwhile, **Palestinians** throw stones at a bus carrying **Israelis** nr. Qalqilya, wounding 1. (HA, MNA, REU 12/24; YA 12/25; PCHR 12/26)

In an attack on a **police headquarters** in **Egypt’s Nile Delta**, a bomb kills 15 people and wounds more than 100. Authorities blame the Muslim Brotherhood, which for their part condemn the attack and deny any connection to it. The attack is subsequently claimed by **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis**. Following the attack, **Dep. PM Hossam Eissa** reads a govt. statement declaring

the **Muslim Brotherhood** a terrorist organization. In response to developments, the **U.S. State Dept.** condemns the bombing but also urges Egypt to have an “inclusive political process,” noting the Brotherhood’s condemnation of the attack. (AP, REU 12/24; AP, REU 12/25)

25 DECEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 1 rocket into s. Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** clash with residents in Tulkarm during a patrol, wounding 1 Palestinian child struck on the head by a stun grenade. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus and 2 nearby villages, and 1 village nr. Jenin at night; patrols in 2 villages and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Nablus at night. (MNA 12/25; PCHR 12/26)

26 DECEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 2 rockets into s. **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. **Israeli PM Netanyahu** holds **Hamas** responsible for any attacks launched from the territory. The **Israeli military** conducts 1 air strike each in Gaza City and nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing some structural damage and wounding 2. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Jenin at night; patrols in Jenin and Hebron in the morning, in Jenin in the afternoon, and in 1 village and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron and in 1 village nr. Jenin at night. Also, a **Jewish settler** driving nr. Salfit hits a **Palestinian** child, seriously injuring him. (AFP, HA, MNA, REU 12/26; PCHR 1/2)

Anonymous **Israeli officials** tell AFP that the govt. will announce plans for new settlement construction next week, to coincide with the scheduled release of Palestinian prisoners on 12/29. In response, **Palestinian chief negotiator**

Erakat warns against such a step, saying that the Palestinians are ready to seek membership in 63 international organizations, including the International Criminal Court. An anonymous senior EU diplomat tells Israeli television that “there will be very little understanding from the European governments” to any such announcement. (AFP, HA, JP 12/26)

27 DECEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** open fire with live ammunition during a raid of Silwad village nr. Ramallah, wounding 4. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Bethlehem at night; patrols in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** nr. Hebron cut down or vandalize around 40 Palestinian-owned olive trees. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel’s separation wall, settlements and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in, Nabi Salih, and Ni’lin). There are no serious injuries, except in Bil’in where 1 is wounded by a bullet and Nabi Salih where 2 are wounded by rubber-coated metal bullets. (MNA 12/27; PCHR 1/2)

U.S. State Dept. spokesperson Jen Psaki says that **Israel** has informed the U.S. that the release of 26 **Palestinian** prisoners will be postponed 1 day, to 12/30. (MNA 12/27)

A car bomb in **Beirut** kills 7 people and wounds more than 50, including **Mohammad Chatah**, former minister and mbr. of the March 14 coalition. **Former PM Saad Hariri** hints that **Hizballah** is behind the attack and **Fares Souaid**, secy.-gen. of **March 14**, calls for the creation of a govt. that excludes Hizballah. (AFP, DS, REU 12/27)

Clashes break out across **Egypt** between supporters of the **Muslim Brotherhood** and **security forces**, 3 are killed and 87 wounded,

with more than 250 arrested. The group's supporters had gathered to protest the gov't.'s classification of the Brotherhood as a terrorist organization on 12/24. (AFP, AP, REU 12/27)

Ali Akbar Velayati, senior adviser to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, calls for new direct talks with the U.S. over Tehran's nuclear program. Separately, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, **Ali Akbar Salehi**, says that the country is building a new generation of centrifuges for uranium enrichment, in what is seen as a gesture toward hard-liners unhappy with the ongoing negotiations with reps. of the P5+1 in Geneva. (AP 12/27)

28 DECEMBER 2013

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

The **U.S. State Dept.** announces that **Secy. of State Kerry** will return to the Middle East next week for separate meetings with **Netanyahu** and **Abbas**, his 10th such trip since 3/2013. (HA, JP, REU 12/28)

29 DECEMBER 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** strike an area nr. al-Maghazi r.c., wounding 2 **Palestinians**. In the **West Bank**, 1 **Palestinian** man dies at a mobile checkpoint nr. Jenin, after soldiers hold up a car en route to a hospital. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 3 nearby villages at night; patrols in Qalqilya in the morning and in 3 villages and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. (MNA 12/29; PCHR 1/2)

The Knesset's Ministerial Cmte. for Legislation advances a proposed law to annex the Jewish settlements in the **Jordan Valley**

by a vote of 8-3. The bill will proceed for consideration by the full Knesset with gov't. backing, despite opposition from Justice Minister Livni and Fin. Min. Yair Lapid. Netanyahu is reported to have advised Likud ministers against voting for the law. Meanwhile, **EU Amb. to Israel Lars Faaborg-Anderson** lodges a protest over the 12/26 decision to build 1,400 new housing units in West Bank settlements. (HA 12/29)

Two Katyusha rockets are fired from within **Lebanon** land nr. **Israeli town Kiryat Shmona**, causing no damage or injuries. Three other rockets fall within Lebanese territory. In response, **Israeli forces** launch 33 shells into the border region of **s. Lebanon**, also causing no injuries. (AP, HA, JP, REU 12/29)

Israel reopens the **Kerem Shalom** border crossing following a 4-day closure, allowing the entry of goods such as industrial fuel to run the **Gaza Strip's** sole power plant, which resumes a cycle of 8 hours on, 8 hours off. In addition, 8 truckloads of strawberries and tomatoes pass through the crossing into Israel; the goods are bound for European markets. (MNA, Wafa 12/29)

U.S. Defense Secy. Hagel speaks on the telephone with **Egypt's DM Abdel Fattah al-Sisi**, and expresses concern about recent developments. Hagel urges for political inclusiveness ahead of the constitutional referendum scheduled for 1/2014. (REU 12/29)

30 DECEMBER 2013

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

Israel releases 26 **Palestinian** prisoners, the 3rd such group freed in conjunction with

understandings reached at the onset of the peace negotiations broached in 7/2013. Three return home to the Gaza Strip, 5 to East Jerusalem, and 18 go home to the West Bank. There are official welcomes for the returning prisoners in both the Gaza Strip and Ramallah. In a separate development, **Palestinian chief negotiator Erakat** says that the peace talks have proved a failure, “foiled” by Israel. Erakat says that the PA should seek membership in international agencies and forums. (HA, MNA 12/30)

Reps. from **Iran** resume talks with their counterparts from the **P5+1** in **Geneva**, to discuss details about the implementation of the landmark nuclear deal signed on 11/24. The talks are a 1-day affair, and negotiations are set to resume in 2014. (REU 12/30)

The **Lebanese army** fires anti-aircraft guns at 2 **Syrian helicopters** it claims violated the country’s air space to fire missiles in a mountainous area nr. the border, resulting in no damage or casualties. (AP 12/30)

31 DECEMBER 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** open fire on **Palestinians** in Aida r.c., wounding 1 child with a rubber-coated metal bullet to the leg. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** torch 3 Palestinian vehicles nr. Beit El settlement in the Ramallah region, leaving “price-tag” graffiti. (MNA 12/31; PCHR 1/2)

1 JANUARY 2014

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** shoot and injure a **Palestinian** child in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem. Israeli forces also demolish a protest tent at a site named “Kanaan” in the Jordan

Valley, arresting 8 activists. **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron and Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in Hebron and the nearby al-‘Arub r.c. at night. (Wafa 1/1; PCHR 1/2)

2 JANUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** shoot a **Palestinian** nr. Jabaliya r.c., who the military says was part of a group damaging the border fence. He dies the next day of his injuries. Later, **Palestinians** fire a rocket into **s. Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, an elderly **Palestinian** man dies after inhaling tear gas fired by **Israeli troops** in Kafr Qaddum village nr. Qalqilya the previous day. The **IDF** conducts house searches in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the morning, 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages al-‘Arub r.c. and al-Fawar r.c.s nr. Hebron at night. (MNA, REU, ToI 1/2; PCHR 1/9)

U.S. Secy. of State Kerry arrives in **Israel** to begin a visit for talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders and ideas for a proposed framework agreement to shape a final deal. It is Kerry’s 10th such trip since taking office. Immediately upon arrival, Kerry meets with **PM Netanyahu** in **Jerusalem**, and the 2 leaders hold a joint press conference. Kerry tells reporters that both sides will “have to make tough decisions.” Netanyahu says that “there is growing doubt in Israel that the Palestinians are committed to peace.” Meanwhile, **PLO Secy.-Gen. Rabbuh** says that the Palestinians are not interested in a “worthless” framework agreement. (HA, JP, REU 1/2)

3 JANUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** launch air strikes on 3 targets, causing no damage or

casualties. Separately, **Israeli forces** open fire on 1 **Palestinian** collecting metal close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, wounding him in the leg. Separately, during a protest, **Israeli forces** wound another **Palestinian** civilian close to the border fence with live ammunition. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Jericho at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements, and occupation in 2 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in and Ni'lin), 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara), and 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum). There are no serious injuries. In **East Jerusalem**, a Palestinian woman attempts, and fails, to stab a border police officer nr. Nablus Gate. (JP, MNA, YA 1/3; PCHR 1/9)

U.S. Secy. of State Kerry meets with **Israeli FM Lieberman** in the morning, before meeting Netanyahu again, and then heads to Ramallah for talks with **PA Pres. Abbas**. Israeli media reports that in discussion with Kerry, Lieberman states his opposition to the return of Palestinian refugees to the West Bank. In Ramallah, meanwhile, Kerry's visit is met with a demonstration by hundreds of Palestinians protesting against the U.S. official and the peace process. (AFP, JP, ToI 1/3)

In **Egypt**, clashes between supporters of ousted pres. Morsi and security forces leave 17 people dead, and 62 wounded, with 17 mbrs. of the security forces also injured. An anonymous govt. official says that 258 protesters were arrested. The violence took place in a number of cities, including Cairo, Giza, Ismailia, Fayoum, and Alexandria. (AP, REU 1/3)

4 JANUARY 2013

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** attack **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 3 villages and al-'Arub. r.c. nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Salfit at night. (PCHR 1/9)

U.S. Secy. of State Kerry conducts further talks with **Pres. Abbas** in Ramallah and **Israeli PM Netanyahu** in Jerusalem, the 3rd day of discussions with Israeli and Palestinian leaders. Speaking in Ramallah, Kerry tells reporters that progress is being made toward a "framework agreement." (AFP, REU, Wafa 1/4)

Egypt's Foreign Ministry summons the **Qatari amb.** in Cairo to protest the Gulf state's recent statement of concern about the increasing number of casualties during anti-coup protests. Qatar also condemned the 12/24 decision to designate the **Muslim Brotherhood** a "terrorist organization." (AP 1/4)

5 JANUARY 2013

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** attack **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Jenin at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Salfit in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, in Salfit and 1 nearby village, and in Hebron in the afternoon, and in 1 village and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron and in Tulkarm at night. (PCHR 1/9)

U.S. Secy. of State Kerry visits **Jordan** and **Saudi Arabia** before returning to Jerusalem, in a day of whistle-stop diplomacy focused on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. In Amman, Kerry meets with Jordan's **King Abdallah II** and **FM Nasser Judeh**, and then with **King**

Abdallah in the Saudi monarch's desert residence. Following 3 days of talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, an anonymous Palestinian official says that Kerry demanded Abbas recognize Israel as the Jewish homeland, in exchange for Israel's acceptance of its pre-1967 borders as the basis for talks. Meanwhile, **Israeli FM Lieberman** tells a meeting of Israeli diplomats that he supports a comprehensive agreement with the Palestinians in the context of U.S.-led negotiations, but also says that he would only accept an agreement including the exchange of land and population, a reference to his longstanding proposal to move a number of Palestinian citizens into a putative Palestinian state. (See document C2 in *JPS* 171 for extended excerpts of Lieberman's remarks.) Separately, Israel's ministerial cmte. on legislation rejects 2 bills proposed by the Labor Party that would have facilitated a two-state solution by placing restrictions on settlement construction and preventing unilateral annexation. (AFP, AP, HA, JP 1/5)

UNRWA workers in the Gaza Strip go on strike over pay and employment conditions, joining West Bank-based UNRWA employees, who went on strike on 12/3. (MNA 1/5)

The **Israeli PM's Office** passes responsibility for creating and implementing govt. development plans for the Bedouin communities in the Negev to the Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry. Until now, the legislative measure set to codify the **Praver Plan** was being overseen by former minister Benny Begin. (ToI 1/3; ToI 1/5)

6 JANUARY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire a rocket into s. Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the n. **West Bank**, a

Palestinian dies at a checkpoint en route to work inside Israel, apparently caused by overcrowding. In Bethlehem, Palestinians throw a pipe bomb at Rachel's Tomb, lightly injuring 1, while separately, Palestinians throw an improvised explosive device at a military base nr. Bethlehem, causing no damage or casualties. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 1 nearby village, in Nablus and nearby Balata r.c., and in 1 village each nr. Tubas and Tulkarm at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm in the morning, and in Tulkarm and 1 village each nr. Hebron and Ramallah at night. **Jewish settlers** attack a school and water reservoir in Urif village nr. Nablus, provoking clashes with **Palestinian** residents. **Israeli forces** arrive and fire tear gas at the **Palestinians**. Separately, **Jewish settlers** attack **Palestinians** nr. Mitzpe Yair in the s. Hebron hills, prompting clashes that leave 4 Israelis and 1 Palestinian lightly injured. (JP, MNA, ToI, YA 1/6; PCHR 1/9)

Israeli authorities publish plans for the construction of 272 new settlement homes in the West Bank, including the 1st ever master plan for **Ofra**, a settlement located 15 km (9 mi.) from the Green Line. **PM Netanyahu** holds a meeting with Likud MKs and tells them that he opposes evacuating settlements in Hebron and Beit El, despite their location outside the major blocs. Meanwhile, **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** departs the region for Washington, assuring that progress has been made. (AFP, HA, JP, REU 1/6)

7 JANUARY 2013

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and house arrests in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, in Nablus and 1 nearby village, 1 village nr. Tulkarm, and in Bethlehem at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm and 1

village nr. Jenin in the morning, in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron and 1 village each nr. Jenin, Ramallah and Tulkarm at night. In al-‘Arub r.c. the raid prompts clashes with residents, and **Israeli forces** injure 15 youth with rubber-coated metal bullets. Meanwhile, around 12 **Jewish settlers** from Esh Kodesh outpost nr. Nablus are detained and beaten by villagers after trespassing. They are later handed over to **Palestinian security forces** who in turn, deliver them over to **Israeli soldiers**. (HA, PNN 1/7; PCHR 1/9)

The **Syrian National Coalition** postpones a vote on whether or not to participate in the planned peace conference next month, despite internal dissent about the best course of action. **Opposition chief negotiator Hadi al-Bahra** says that the vote could happen as early as 1/15. (AP 1/7)

8 JANUARY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, a **Palestinian** is killed by an **Israeli** drone strike, although the Israeli military denies involvement. The **Health Ministry** reports that the **Islamic Jihad** militant was targeted in Gaza City. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 3 nearby villages, Dahaysha r.c. in Bethlehem, and Jenin at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron in the morning, and in al-‘Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. In al-Khadir village nr. Bethlehem, **students** clash with **Israeli soldiers** who fire tear gas. In the **Jordan Valley**, **Israeli forces** demolish Palestinian-owned structures, leaving 25 homeless. Separately, **Jewish settlers** torch 2 **Palestinian** cars and leave “price-tag” graffiti in Madama village nr. Nablus, in an apparent revenge attack for the previous day’s incident involving settlers from Esh Kodesh. (AFP, JP, MNA, PNN 1/8; PCHR 1/9)

PA Pres. Abbas meets with **Jordan’s King Abdallah II** to discuss Kerry’s proposed framework. Abbas says after the meeting that he is keen on coordinating positions with Jordan, while King Abdallah reiterates his country’s support for an independent Palestinian state. (JP, MNA 1/8)

9 JANUARY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** also conduct a limited incursion nr. Khan Yunis to level land. In response, Palestinians from **Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades**, the military wing of the **PFLP**, fire 2 mortar shells at the tanks, causing no damage or injuries. Separately, the military wing of the **DFLP**, the **National Resistance Brigades**, claims responsibility for firing 2 mortar shells at an **Israeli military** position nr. Dayr al-Balah. Later, 3 **Palestinians** are wounded by an **Israeli air strike** nr. Khan Yunis, and 1 child sustains minor injuries. An **Israeli air strike** also targets a training site for **Islamic Jihad’s al-Quds Brigades** nr. Rafah, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shoots and injures 3 Palestinians in Dahaysha r.c. in Bethlehem during clashes sparked by an arrest raid. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Tulkarm in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm in the morning, and in 3 villages and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron at night. (MNA 1/9; PCHR 1/16)

Reps. from **Iran** and the **P5+1** meet in **Geneva** to discuss implementation of the 6-mo. interim deal they agreed to on 11/24, 2 weeks before the deal is due to take effect (on 1/20). The discussions will take 2 days and are being formally held by **Iran’s Dep. FM Araghchi** and **EU senior negotiator Helga Schmid**. (AFP, AP 1/9)

10 JANUARY 2013

In the **West Bank**, **Israeli soldiers** shoot and injure 4 **Palestinians** with live ammunition during clashes in Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus and nearby Balata r.c. in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, Qalqilya and 1 nearby village, and 1 village nr. Hebron at night; patrols in Hebron and 1 nearby village, and Qalqilya in the afternoon. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). There are no serious injuries, except in Bil'in (3 wounded by bullets, 1 wounded by a tear gas canister), Ni'lin (1 wounded by a bullet), Nabi Salih (2 wounded by bullets) and Kafr Qaddum (3 struck by tear gas canisters). (AFP, MNA 1/10; PCHR 1/16)

Israel publishes tenders for 1,400 new homes in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, and also reissues tenders for 582 units in East Jerusalem that had failed to attract bids from contractors. According to NGO Peace Now, today's announcement means that Israel has announced 5,349 new homes since peace talks restarted in 7/2013. (REU 1/10)

11 JANUARY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on **Palestinians** close to the border fence nr. Dayr al-Balah, wounding 1. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Bethlehem and 1 nearby village and Aida r.c., 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village each nr. Ramallah and

Salfit at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. In Jerusalem, a Palestinian stabs an Israeli man nr. the Damascus Gate of the Old City, wounding him. (HA, MNA 1/11; PCHR 1/16)

Former Israeli PM Ariel Sharon dies in Tel Hashomer hospital nr. Tel Aviv, aged 85, following 8 years in a coma. Sharon suffered a stroke in 1/2006 and never regained consciousness. **U.S. Pres. Obama** praises Sharon's dedication to his country and his "unshakable commitment" to Israel's security. (REU 1/11)

12 JANUARY 2013

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** clash with residents in Aida r.c. nr. Bethlehem, causing no serious injuries. At night, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 4 nearby villages, 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah, and in Nablus; patrols in 6 villages nr. Nablus and 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Ramallah. (PCHR 1/16)

PA security forces clash with **residents** outside Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, leaving more than 100 demonstrators and 40 police officers wounded. The confrontations begin when police try to reopen roads blocked as part of protests against the **UNRWA** employees' strike that began 12/3. (HA, REU 1/12)

U.S. Secy. of State Kerry meets with **Arab League foreign ministers** in Paris to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Those attending include PA FM Riad al-Maliki, along with the foreign ministers of Bahrain, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Egypt, and Morocco. (JP, ToI 1/12)

13 JANUARY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 3 rockets into s. Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In response, the **Israeli Air Force** strikes 1 site

each in the c. and s. Gaza Strip, causing damage and moderately wounding 1 child. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** shoot at **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** seizes tents provided by the UN for families whose homes in the Jordan Valley were destroyed by Israel. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Bethlehem and 1 nearby village, 1 village nr. Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Ramallah, al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, and in Tulkarm; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. Meanwhile, Jewish settlers chop down around 50 olive trees nr. Yatta s. of Hebron. Separately, **Palestinian** and **international activists** block the entrance to Elazar settlement nr. Bethlehem, until **Israeli forces** disperse them. There are no injuries but 3 arrests of Palestinian activists. (JP, MNA, Wafa 1/13; PCHR 1/16)

Hizballah leader Shaykh Nasrallah meets with **Iranian FM Zarif** in Beirut to discuss regional developments. Zarif also meets with **Lebanese FM Adnan Mansur**. (YA 1/13)

14 JANUARY 2013

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on open farmland nr. Dayr al-Balah, causing no injuries. Separately, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion nr. Bayt Lahiya to level land. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on Palestinian fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron at night; patrols in al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** throw rocks at a vehicle belonging to the PA Ministry of Health nr. Nablus, causing light injuries. (MNA 1/14; PCHR 1/16)

Reports surface in the Israeli media attributing **Israeli DM Ya’alon** with remarks describing **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** as “obsessive” and “messianic.” The comments, made to associates in private, are condemned by the **U.S. State Dept.** Following a meeting with **Netanyahu**, Ya’alon issues an apologetic statement. The next day, Kerry tells reporters at a press conference in Kuwait that he would not let “one set of comments undermine peace efforts.” (AFP, HA, JP 1/14; HA 1/15)

The PLO Executive Cmte. meets in Ramallah, presided over by **Pres. Abbas**, and releases a statement that says the peace process will likely collapse unless it is based on relevant internationally-recognized terms of reference. (Wafa 1/14)

A referendum is held in Egypt on a new constitution, with the **Muslim Brotherhood** boycotting the vote and holding protests. Some 160,000 soldiers and 200,000 police officers are deployed to secure polling stations. Two small bombs explode, 1 in Cairo and 1 in Mahalla, causing no injuries. Clashes between supporters of **former pres. Morsi** and security forces leave 11 dead in Cairo, Giza, Bani Suef, and Sohag. (AFP, AP, REU 1/14)

15 JANUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 6 rockets toward s. **Israel**. Each is intercepted by the Iron Dome battery, except 1, which lands in an open area, causing no injuries. In response, the **Israeli Air Force** strikes 4 targets in the n. Gaza Strip, moderately wounding 1 woman and 4 children who were hit by shrapnel. Separately, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion nr. Khan Yunis to level land. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on fishermen on 2 occasions, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shoots and

wounds 1 **Palestinian** in Aida r.c. in Bethlehem, during clashes between dozens of youth and soldiers positioned at the n. entrance to the camp. **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in Hebron and 4 nearby villages, and 1 village nr. Jenin at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron and in Jenin and Jenin r.c. at night. **Jewish settlers** set fire to a mosque in Dayr Istya village nr. Salfit, leaving “price-tag” graffiti. Meanwhile, a group of **Palestinians** open fire on an Israeli vehicle nr. Nablus, causing damage but no injuries. (AFP, HA 1/15; MNA, PCHR, ToI 1/16)

In comments delivered after a meeting of PLO leaders in Ramallah, **PLO Secy.-Gen. Rabbuh** says that the peace process with Israel has reached an impasse and accuses **Netanyahu** of “deception and fraud.” Another **PLO official Tayseer Khaled** says that the demand to recognize Israel as a Jewish state is “dangerous.” (JP 1/15)

16 JANUARY 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm in the morning, in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. (PCHR 1/23)

Israeli PM Netanyahu visits **Jordan’s King Abdallah II** in Amman, to discuss developments in the peace process. It is the 1st such meeting since 2/2013, and, according to his office, Netanyahu focused on security arrangements, particularly on the West Bank-Jordan border. (AFP, AP 1/16)

Egyptian state media reports that the new constitution was approved by more than 90% of voters in the referendum held on 1/14, a development seen as likely to advance **DM Sisi** toward a presidential bid. The state news agency voter turnout estimate shows 40% in Cairo and

Alexandria, with only 20–25% turnout in w. and s. provinces. (AP, REU 1/16)

17 JANUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on a group of some 300 **Palestinians** demonstrating in solidarity with farmers denied access to the “no go” zone by the border fence, wounding 2. Meanwhile, **Israeli forces** open fire on **Palestinians** throwing stones at soldiers at the border fence on 2 separate occasions nr. Jabaliya r.c. and Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Palestinians** and **Israeli forces** clash in Bethlehem, a spillover from weeks-long confrontations in Aida r.c. Stone-throwers are confronted by tear gas, but no serious injuries occur. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in Hebron and 3 nearby villages, and in Bethlehem at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in al-‘Arub r.c. at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel’s separation wall, settlements and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in, Nabi Salih, and Ni’lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma’sara). There are no serious injuries, except in Bil’in (5 wounded by bullets, including 1 international), Nabi Salih (2 wounded by bullets) and Kafr Qaddum (1 struck by tear gas canister). In **East Jerusalem**, the **IDF** shoots and wounds 2 Palestinians in clashes with protesters in al-‘Izzariya that begin when local youth try to break a hole in the separation wall. Clashes also spread to Abu Dis. (AFP, MNA 1/17; PCHR 1/23)

Around 20 rockets launched from inside **Syria** land in the **Lebanese** border town of Aarsal, killing 7 and wounding 15. (REU 1/17)

18 JANUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 1 rocket into s. Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire at **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, a **Palestinian** opens fire on the entrance of Migdal Oz settlement nr. Bethlehem, causing no injuries. **Israeli forces** disperse a protest march nr. Jiftlik in the Jordan Valley, after demonstrators temporarily blocked Highway 90. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Bethlehem and in Nablus at night; patrols in 5 villages and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. In **East Jerusalem**, Israeli security forces shoot and seriously wound a Palestinian during clashes in Anata r.c. (MNA, YA 1/18; PCHR 1/23)

Israeli energy minister Silvan Shalom attends a meeting of the **International Renewable Energy Agency** in the **UAE**, the 1st time Israel has sent a minister to such a meeting since the organization began in 2009. (AFP, HA 1/18)

Syrian FM Walid Muallem, in **Moscow** for talks with **Russia's FM Lavrov**, offers a prisoner exchange ahead of proposed peace talks in Switzerland. Meanwhile, the **SNC** agrees to attend the talks, and also says that 3 armed factions—the Soldiers of the Levant, the Syrian Revolutionaries Front, and the Mujahiddin Army—wish to be represented at the conference. (AFP, REU 1/18)

Egyptian authorities confirm that 98% of the voters who participated in the 1/14 referendum supported the approval of the new constitution, with under 40% of the electorate participating. (AP, REU 1/18)

IAEA inspectors arrive in **Tehran** in anticipation of the implementation of the 6-mo.

interim agreement on 1/20. The team is responsible for monitoring compliance and inspecting the Natanz and Fordow nuclear facilities. (AP, REU 1/18)

19 JANUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** kill a senior **Islamic Jihad** operative in an air strike on Jabaliya r.c., wounding 2 (including a child). The **Israeli military** claims the targeted operative was responsible for rocket fire. Two other Israeli air strikes cause some damage but no injuries. **Islamic Jihad** say that strikes on Gaza may lead to the end of the cease-fire broadly observed since 11/2012. Separately, **Israeli forces** open fire on **Palestinian** farmers close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Ramallah, Jenin and 1 nearby village, and in Nablus at night; patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin in the morning, and in Hebron and 2 villages and al-ʿArub r.c. nearby, and in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Tulkarm at night. (MNA, REU 1/19; PCHR 1/23)

Israel's Justice Minister Livni and **Special Envoy Yitzhak Molcho** depart for Washington to meet with **U.S. Secy. of State John Kerry**, to discuss details of his draft framework for a peace agreement. Other attendees of their meeting include **Israeli amb. to the U.S. Ron Dermer** and **U.S. mediator Martin Indyk**. Meanwhile, Israeli radio reports that Netanyahu has told Kerry that he intends to annex a 4th bloc of settlements, adding Beit El-Ofra-Psagot to the Etzion, Ma'ale Adumim and Ariel blocs. (AFP, HA, JP 1/19)

UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon says that he invited **Iran** to the Syria peace talks in

Switzerland and held discussions with **Iranian FM Zarif** about the constructive role the country could play. In response, the U.S. says the invitation should be withdrawn unless Tehran states its support for the 2012 agreement establishing a Syrian transition govt. (i.e., the 6/30/12 Geneva Communiqué). Meanwhile, the **Islamic Front opposition alliance** rejects participation in the talks. (AP, HA, REU 1/19)

20 JANUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 3 rockets into s. **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, arresting 2 and confiscating a boat. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shoots and wounds a **Palestinian** nr. Hebron who the military says charged them. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Jenin, Tulkarm and 1 nearby village, and in 1 village and Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning, and in 1 village and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** and **Palestinians** clash nr. Bayt Furik and Itamar settlement, after settlers enter the village's olive grove. (JP 1/20; PCHR 1/23)

A **rocket** fired from inside Egypt strikes the outskirts of **Israeli resort Eilat**, causing no damage or injuries. It is later claimed by **Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis**. (AFP 1/20; INN 1/21)

UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon withdraws the invitation to Iran to join the Syria peace talks, after the **SNC** threatened to cancel its own participation should reps. from Iran attend. The **UN Secy.-Gen.'s spokesperson Martin Nesirky** says that Ban is dismayed at Iran's refusal to endorse the 6/30/12 Geneva Communiqué, as demanded. Ban later says that he thought he had reached an "oral understanding" with **Iranian FM Zarif**, before extending the

invitation. **Iranian spokesperson Marzieh Afkham** says that Ban's change of mind shows he faced "some pressure." (AP, REU 1/20; AP 1/21)

The 6-mo. interim deal reached by reps. from Iran and the P5+1 on 11/24/13 goes into effect. **Iran** unplugs banks of centrifuges and the **EU** and **U.S.** partially lift sanctions, and focus turns to a new phase of negotiations aimed at securing a permanent agreement. **EU foreign affairs chief Ashton** says she hopes a new round of talks with Tehran could start within a few weeks. The **IAEA** reports that Iran has begun diluting its stockpile of enriched uranium and that enrichment at the Natanz plant is suspended. (AP, REU 1/20)

21 JANUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 3 shells into s. **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. Separately, **Palestinians** detonate a small bomb on the border with Israel, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** shoots and wounds 1 Palestinian with a rubber-coated metal bullet during clashes in Aida r.c. nr. Bethlehem. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and in Nablus and 3 villages nearby and 1 village nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** vandalize 8 **Palestinian** vehicles nr. Nablus, and leave "price-tag" graffiti. (MNA, WAFA 1/21; JP 1/22; PCHR 1/23)

Israel announces plans for 381 housing units in West Bank settlement **Givat Ze'ev** nr. Ramallah. **Israeli NGO Peace Now** also reports that building plans were advanced by the Jerusalem municipality for a new settler-run visitor center in **Silwan**. (AFP, JP 1/21)

A **car bomb** kills 4 people and wounds more than 30 in **Beirut**, striking in a

Hizballah-dominated neighborhood of the city. The attack is claimed by **Jabhat al-Nusra in Lebanon**, assumed to be connected to the Syria-based al-Qa'ida-linked group. (AFP, AP 1/21)

22 JANUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, an **Israeli air strike** kills 2 **Palestinians** in Bayt Hanun, a mbr. of **Islamic Jihad** and the other a mbr. of the **PFLP**.

Meanwhile, **Israeli forces** open fire on farmland nr. Dayr al-Balah, causing no injuries, and separately, open fire on lands nr. Khan Yunis, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** fire tear gas and rubber-coated metal bullets at Palestinians in Bayt Furik nr. Nablus, wounding 1, as residents try to repel Jewish settlers. The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** raid the Abu Dis campus of al-Quds University, firing tear gas and rubber-coated metal bullets after **students** clash with a group of soldiers checking IDs at the entrance. (JP, MNA 1/22; PCHR 1/23)

Israeli NGO Peace Now announces that **Israel** has approved 261 new housing units in 2 West Bank settlements, **Nofei Prat** nr. Jericho and **Ariel**, in the n. It is the 5th such move in the last 2 weeks. (AFP 1/22)

The opposing sides of **Syria's** civil war meet in **Montreux, Switzerland**, as a long-awaited UN peace conference gets underway. The 1st day's agenda is occupied by formal speeches; **Syrian FM Mualllem** and opposition leader **Jarba** both issue strident denunciations of their opponents. **U.S. Secy. of State Kerry** calls the rough start to the talks "a tough and complicated process." Meanwhile, a shell fired from inside **Syria** strikes a home in n. **Lebanon**, wounding 1. (AFP, AP, DS, REU 1/22)

23 JANUARY 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village and

Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm in the morning, and in al-'Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** uproot dozens of trees in Dayr Istya village nr. Salfit. (MNA 1/23; PCHR 1/30)

The UN-sponsored conference on peace in Syria continues into a 2nd day, with no sign of compromise from either side. **Syrian FM Mualllem** says the priority is ending terrorism, and insists on Pres. Asad's legitimacy. Meanwhile, **Syrian opposition leader Jarba** calls on the Syrian govt. to sign the 6/30/12 Geneva Communiqué, an international agreement which called for political transition in Syria. (AFP, REU 1/23)

Gunmen kill 5 **Egyptian police officers** and wound 2 at a checkpoint s. of **Cairo**. (AFP 1/23)

24 JANUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **IDF troops** shoot and kill 1 **Palestinian** and wound 1 more during a protest nr. Jabaliya r.c. against the Israeli-imposed "no go" zone close to the border fence. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, damaging 1 boat but causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). There are no serious injuries, except in Bil'in (2 wounded by bullets), and Kafr Qaddum (3 struck by tear gas

canister and 2 wounded by bullets). **Jewish settlers** assault 2 **Palestinians** nr. Yatta, causing moderate injuries. (MNA 1/24; PCHR 1/30)

Bomb attacks target police in **Cairo**, killing 6 people, including an attack on a security compound. In addition, clashes between **Muslim Brotherhood** supporters and security forces kill 11 people. (AP, REU 1/24)

25 JANUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** kill 1 **Palestinian** and wound 6 when protesters gather at the border fence. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** conduct house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 4 nearby villages, and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Jenin at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning; in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Tulkarm in the afternoon; and in Salfit and 1 nearby village, and al-‘Arub r.c. at night. (REU 1/25; PCHR 1/30)

U.S. Secy. of State Kerry says that he intends to present his framework for final negotiations within a few weeks, according to an Israeli businessman who hears Kerry’s speech at a **Davos** meeting of “Breaking the Impasse,” a conference of Israeli and Palestinian business people. (See document D1 in *JPS* 169 for more on Breaking the Impasse.) In Davos, Kerry meets with **Israeli PM Netanyahu**, who tells Israeli journalists that he has no intention of evacuating any settlements. Meanwhile, the **PLO’s 12-mbr. Executive Cmte.** meets in Ramallah and agrees on recommendations to pursue options in various UN agencies, regardless of the state of the ongoing negotiations, according to **cmte. mbr. Hanna Amirah**. Any recommendations need to be approved by PA Pres. Abbas. (MNA 1/25; HA, JP 1/26)

At the UN-sponsored peace conference in Switzerland, **Syria’s** opposing sides hold their 1st face-to-face meeting, though only speak to each other through **UN-Arab League joint**

special envoy Brahimi. The meeting lasts for 3 hours, with Brahimi describing it as “a good beginning.” Meanwhile, 5 rockets from **Syria** hit the **Hermel** region of **Lebanon**, an attack claimed by **Jabhat al-Nusra in Lebanon** and **Abdullah Azzam Brigades**. There is some damage, but no casualties. (AP, DS, REU 1/25)

Anti-govt. and pro-regime marches in **Cairo** and other Egyptian cities lead to street violence and clashes that kill 29 people. (REU 1/26)

26 JANUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on **Palestinian** farmers close to the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus and 1 village and Balata r.c. nearby, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, in 3 villages each nr. Jenin, 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** attack **Palestinians** nr. Bayt Umar in the s. West Bank, causing no injuries. In **Israel**, police shoot and wound a **Palestinian worker** during a pursuit of Palestinians without work permits. (MNA, WAFA 1/26; PCHR 1/30)

Israel’s Supreme Court rejects an appeal against the construction of a highway set to cut in half the Palestinian East Jerusalem neighborhood **Bayt Safafa**. The court’s rejection of the residents’ appeal removes an obstacle for the highway to go ahead, which will link Jerusalem to the Gush Etzion settlement bloc. (HA 1/26)

Gunmen attack **Egyptian soldiers** in **Sinai**, killing 4 and wounding 11. Meanwhile, **interim pres. Mansour** goes on television and says that the country will hold a presidential vote before parliamentary polls. (AP, MNA 1/26)

27 JANUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** shoot and wound a **Palestinian** nr. Dayr al-Balah close to the border fence after an explosion targets an Israeli military jeep, causing no injuries.

Separately, **Israeli forces** open fire on farmland nr. Khan Yunis, causing no injuries, and in another incident, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion nr. Bayt Hanun and search the area adjacent to the border fence before withdrawing. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Tulkarm at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and in Tulkarm in the morning, 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 6 villages nr. Jenin and 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish a total of 4 Palestinian homes, 2 each in the al-Isawiyya and Bayt Hanina neighborhoods. (AFP, MNA 1/27; PCHR 1/30)

A dispute escalates between **Israeli PM Netanyahu** and **Economy and Trade Minister Naftali Bennett**, with Netanyahu condemning his colleague for “irresponsible” comments, a reference to Bennett’s reported attack on the PM’s suggestion Israeli settlers could live under Palestinian rule. (HA, ToI 1/27)

The **Israeli Air Force** attacks a warehouse of S-300 missile launchers in the **Syrian** city of **Latakia**, according to Syrian opposition groups cited in Israeli media. The Syrian govt. neither confirms nor denies the alleged strike. (JP 1/27)

Egypt’s Supreme Council of the Armed Forces gives **DM Sisi** approval to run for pres., an election he is widely expected to win. (REU 1/27)

28 JANUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion nr. Khan Yunis and level land.

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Nablus and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon. (MNA 1/28; PCHR 1/30)

PA Pres. Abbas says he is willing to accept an Israeli military presence in the West Bank for a 3-year transition period, in the context of a peace deal. He makes the remarks in an interview screened at a security conference in Tel Aviv. (HA, REU 1/28)

U.S. Pres. Obama gives his State of the Union address. In it, he pledges to veto any legislation that would threaten talks with Iran and reassures Israel that the U.S. will always be “at their side.” (See document D2 in *JPS* 171 for extended excerpts of Obama’s speech.) (REU 1/28)

29 JANUARY 2014

In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** shoot and kill a **Palestinian** outside ‘Ayn Yabrud village nr. Ramallah. The military says that the man opened fire on their troops, a claim contradicted by eyewitnesses. Following his funeral, **Palestinians** clash with **Israeli forces** outside Jalazun r.c., home to the deceased. (MNA 1/29; PCHR 1/30)

UN-Arab League joint special envoy Brahimi says peace talks will end as planned on 1/31. Meanwhile, **Syrian pres. Asad’s adviser Bouthaina Shaaban** tells the media that the govt. rejects the opposition’s call for a transitional governing body. (AP 1/29)

30 JANUARY 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Salfit in the morning, and in Jenin and 3 nearby

villages, and 1 village each nr. Hebron and Salfit at night. (PCHR 2/6)

31 JANUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on **Palestinian** protesters close to the border fence nr. Jabaliya, wounding 7. Separately, **Israeli forces** open fire on an open area in the c. Gaza Strip, causing no injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** opens fire on a crowd of a few hundred Palestinian demonstrators outside Jalazun r.c., wounding 14 with live ammunition and 4 with rubber-coated metal bullets. The protest is a response to the killing of a camp resident on 1/29. In addition, **Palestinians** clash with **Israeli forces** nr. Ramallah outside Silwad village, with 1 Palestinian wounded by live ammunition. **IDF troops** detain 2 Palestinians who they say went to the entrance of Nahlilel settlement and set off fireworks. In Bethlehem, amid clashes with **Israeli soldiers**, Palestinian youth throw an improvised explosive device at Rachel's Tomb. The clashes result in 7 arrests. Meanwhile, **hundreds of Palestinian activists** with some internationals go to 'Ayn Hiljeh, an abandoned Palestinian village in the Jordan Valley, as part of a demonstration protesting settlement activities and land confiscation. The **Popular Struggle Coordination Cmte.** says that the step is also aimed at averting reported Israeli intentions to annex the area. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 2 nearby villages, 2 villages nr. Salfit, and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem and Ramallah at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 3 villages in Hebron and 1 village each nr. Qalqilya and Tulkarm at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in,

Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). There are no serious injuries, except in Kafr Qaddum (2 struck by tear gas canisters). (AP, MNA, ToI 1/31; PCHR 2/6)

In Switzerland, the 1st round of UN-sponsored peace negotiations on **Syria** ends with no breakthroughs or even seeming progress in bringing the 2 sides closer together. **UN-Arab League joint special envoy Brahimi**, who is serving as mediator, expresses frustration that even an agreement to allow an aid convoy to reach Homs remained elusive. Opposition delegates say they will return on 2/10, but govt. reps. say they would need to check with Damascus. (REU 1/31)

Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis fires a rocket toward **Eilat** from the **Sinai Peninsula**, which is intercepted by an **Iron Dome** missile defense battery. (YA 1/31)

The **Egyptian military** attacks **militants** in **Shaykh Zuweid, Sinai Peninsula**, with Apache helicopters and ground forces, killing 13. (AP 1/31)

1 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on open areas close to the n. border fence, causing no injuries. Separately, off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire at **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and in al-'Arub r.c. and 2 villages nearby at night; patrols in Hebron in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Jenin at night. (PCHR 2/6)

U.S. Secy. of State Kerry tells the Munich Security Conference that any alternatives to a comprehensive Israeli-Palestinian agreement are unacceptable. Kerry also says that failure is risky for Israel, and observes that "people are talking about boycott." In response, **Israeli**

economy and trade minister Naftali Bennett says that Israel would never submit to economic threats. Meanwhile, on the sidelines of the conference, officials from the **Quartet** of the UN, U.S., Russia and the EU meet to discuss Kerry's efforts. The meeting is chaired by **EU foreign affairs chief Ashton**, and attendees include **Tony Blair** and **UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon**. (INN, REU, YA 1/2)

A **suicide car bomber** kills 4 people at a petrol station in **Hermel**, a **Hizballah** stronghold on the n. **Lebanese** border with **Syria**. (AFP, REU 1/2)

2 FEBRUARY 2014

Off the coast of the **Gaza Strip** nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **Israeli forces** clash with residents in Nabi Salih village nr. Ramallah during a patrol, wounding 2 (1 with rubber-coated metal bullets, 1 struck by a tear gas canister). The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the morning, and in al-'Arub r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron, Qalqilya, Jenin, and Jalazun r.c. n. Ramallah at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, and in 3 villages and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** uproot around 1,200 olive and almond tree seedlings in Sinjil village nr. Ramallah. Meanwhile, activists establish a new protest encampment, named "al-Awda," in the **Jordan Valley** 2 days after activists set up something similar at 'Ayn Hiljeh. (MNA 2/2; PCHR 2/6)

U.S. Secy. of State Kerry and **Israeli PM Netanyahu** talk on the phone about the ongoing negotiations, especially in light of controversy surrounding Kerry's reference to boycotts at the Munich Security Conference on 2/1. Still in Munich, Kerry meets with Israel's Justice Minister **Livni** and **Special Envoy**

Molcho to discuss his framework deal. Meanwhile, **PA Pres. Abbas** calls for a U.S.-led NATO presence in a future Palestinian state to secure the borders. (HA, NYT 2/2)

U.S. Secy. of State Kerry holds a meeting with **Iranian FM Zarif** on the sidelines of the Munich conference, a rare face-to-face encounter that focuses on the ongoing nuclear talks. No details are released about the contents of the discussions. (AFP, AP 2/2)

3 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron in the afternoon, and in Jenin and 1 nearby village, Qalqilya, Tulkarm, and nearby Nur Shams r.c., and 1 village each nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, and Nablus at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the morning, in Hebron in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Qalqilya, Salfit, and Tulkarm at night. (PCHR 2/6)

Unnamed **U.S. officials** tell the *Jerusalem Post* that negotiations will likely require more time than previously anticipated, with the 9-mo. deadline scheduled to end in 4/2014 looming. **Palestinian chief negotiator Erakat** says that in a recent meeting with Kerry, no progress was made and no date set for a framework agreement to be finalized. (JP, MNA 2/3)

4 FEBRUARY 2014

An **Israeli officer** is killed by **friendly fire** nr. the border fence between the Gaza Strip and s. Israel. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** raid the protest village 'Ayn Hiljeh and detain 18 participants. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron and al-Fara'a r.c. nr. Tubas at night; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. During the raid in al-Fara'a r.c., **soldiers** clash with **residents**, leaving 2

Palestinians wounded by live ammunition. In **East Jerusalem**, around **30 Israeli intelligence officers** enter **Haram al-Sharif**, while separately a group of **17 Israelis** enter the compound under armed guard. (HA, MNA 2/4; PCHR 2/6)

U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice tweets in defense of **Secy. of State Kerry**, following criticism from Israeli politicians. Rice states that attacks on Kerry are “totally unfounded and unacceptable” and that the U.S. govt. rejects “efforts to boycott or delegitimize Israel.” Meanwhile, **Hamas official Salah Bardaweel** tells the media that the organization will not accept any agreement that Abbas might sign with Israel. (JP 2/4)

The **U.S. State Dept.** confirms that top Syria diplomat **Amb. Robert Ford** will retire by the end of the month. He has been amb. to Syria since 1/2011, but left Damascus in 2/2012. (AP 2/4)

The **Egyptian army** shoots and kills **21 militants** in 2 villages in c. **Sinai** during a raid on the area. (MNA 2/4)

5 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** expels **35 Palestinian Bedouin families** from their homes in the n. Jordan Valley. The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in al-‘Arub. r.c. nr. Hebron in the afternoon. **Jewish settlers** destroy around 100 olive trees in Wadi Yanun nr. Nablus. Separately, **settlers** assault a **Palestinian** in the village of Turmus ‘Ayya. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli forces** demolish 3 **Palestinian** homes in Bayt Hanina, Sur al-Bahir, and Jabal Mukabir, and compel another man to demolish his own home, leaving 28 homeless. Clashes erupt in Jabal Mukabir, leaving 15 **Palestinians** injured and 7 arrested. (MNA, Wafa 2/5; PCHR 2/6)

The **Jerusalem municipality** approves plans for 558 new housing units in East Jerusalem settlements **Har Homa**, **Neve Ya’acov** and **Pisgat Ze’ev**. The **U.S. State Dept.** condemns the decision, with **spokesperson Jen Psaki** telling the daily press briefing that they oppose “any unilateral actions” that prejudice the creation of “a positive atmosphere for the negotiations.” (JP, REU 2/5)

U.S. Under Secy. of State Wendy Sherman tells the **Senate Foreign Relations Cmte.** that the Obama administration is warning businesses heading to Iran that “Tehran is not open for business” because the “sanctions relief is quite temporary, quite limited, and quite targeted.” Meanwhile, a French business delegation with 116 mbrs. visits Tehran. (AFP 2/5)

6 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 3 rockets into s. **Israel**, causing no damage or casualties. **Israeli forces** conduct a limited incursion nr. Khan Yunis to level land. **Israeli forces** at the border fence also open fire on land nr. al-Qarara village, causing no injuries. There are also 3 separate incidents of **Israeli naval vessels** opening fire on **Palestinian** fishermen off the coast of the Gaza Strip nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** opens fire with live ammunition on al-‘Arub r.c. residents during clashes sparked by a raid, wounding 1. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** uproot around 120 palm trees nr. Jericho because they were not allowed to be planted in Area C. Separately, the **Red Cross** announces it has suspended the supply of tents to **Palestinians** displaced by Israel in the Jordan Valley, in protest at the **IDF’s** confiscation of the materials. The **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Tulkarm in the morning, in Hebron and nearby al-‘Arub r.c., and 1 village nr. Jenin in the

afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Nablus at night. **Jewish settlers** attack **Palestinian** farmers in Qusra village nr. Nablus, causing no injuries. (JP, MNA, WAFA 2/6; PCHR 2/13)

Palestinian chief negotiator Erakat meets with **U.S. envoy Martin Indyk** in Jericho, but no details about the contents of discussions are made public. Meanwhile, **EU foreign affairs chief Ashton** expresses “deep concern” about Israel’s decision to build 558 new settlement housing units in East Jerusalem. (HA, MNA 2/6)

7 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, 1 **Palestinian** dies and 2 are injured in an explosion nr. al-Bureij r.c., while 1 other **Palestinian** dies in another explosion in the same camp, a mbr. of **Hamas’s Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades**. Both are suspected to be “work accidents.” **Israeli forces** open fire on **Palestinian** protesters close to the border fence nr. al-Shuhada’ cemetery in the n. Gaza Strip, wounding 5. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** evicts **Palestinian** activists at the ‘Ayn Hiljeh protest camp in the Jordan Valley, lightly wounding 35. Subsequently, **activists** establish a new protest village in al-Joula in the n. Jordan Valley. The **IDF** clashes with protesters in Jalazun r.c. and in Silwad nr. Ramallah, with 12 wounded by live ammunition in the former, and 10 wounded by rubber-coated metal bullets in the latter. The **IDF** patrols in Nablus and 1 nearby village, 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Nablus at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel’s separation wall, settlements and occupation in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil’in, Nabi Salih, and Ni’lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma’sara). There are no serious injuries, except in Kafr Qaddum

(2 struck by tear gas canisters and 2 with rubber-coated metal bullets) and Nabi Salih (3 struck by tear gas canisters and 1 with a rubber-coated metal bullet). In **East Jerusalem**, clashes between **worshippers** and **Israeli forces** at **Haram al-Sharif** leave 18 injured. (AFP, HA, MNA 2/7; PCHR 2/13)

UNRWA workers end a 2-mo. strike that began 12/3 over low pay and working conditions, news announced by **UNRWA chief Filippo Grandi**. (AFP 2/7)

Australia’s Woodside Petroleum Ltd. takes a 25% stake in **Israel’s** large **Leviathan gas field** in the e. Mediterranean, as Israel takes a step toward becoming a natural gas exporter. (REU 2/7)

8 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 1 rocket into s. **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Jenin and in Hebron at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm and in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 2 villages and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Salfit at night. Also, a Molotov cocktail is thrown at a **settler’s** vehicle nr. Nablus, causing no injuries. Separately, **settlers** uproot around 450 seedlings nr. Ramallah. (HA, MNA 2/8; PCHR 2/13)

The **Egyptian military** demolishes 7 smuggling tunnels under the **Gaza Strip** border, and also, in a separate development, authorities close the **Rafah** crossing after keeping it open for 3 days. During this time, 1,922 people left **Gaza** for **Egypt**, with 1,120 crossing in the other direction. Also, the **Egyptian military** kills 16 suspected militants in air strikes in the **Sinai Peninsula**. (AFP, MNA 2/8; PCHR 2/13)

The IAEA and Iranian officials hold a meeting to continue talks that build on the deal agreed in 11/2013. **Iranian Atomic Energy Organization spokesperson Behrouz Kamalvandi** says the talks went well and the discussions have been extended an additional day. (AFP 2/8)

9 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** wound 2 **Palestinians** in an air strike in Dayr al-Balah. The **IDF** says that the target was **Abdullah Kharti, a Popular Resistance Cmtes. operative** involved in rocket fire. Off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** also open fire on **Palestinian** fishermen, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus and 1 nearby village, and in 1 village each nr. Hebron and Qalqilya at night; patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah in the morning, in Qalqilya and 1 nearby village, and 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jenin and Salfit in the afternoon, and in 2 villages and al-‘Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. **Jewish settlers** uproot around 800 olive tree saplings nr. Ramallah, and in a separately incident, a **settler** assaults a **Palestinian** nr. Bethlehem, moderately wounding him. (MNA, WAFA 2/9; PCHR 2/13)

10 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Palestinians** fire 1 rocket into s. Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Later, a second rocket is fired, also causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 1 nearby village, Nablus, Tubas, 1 village and Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah at night; patrols in 2 villages each nr. Hebron and Ramallah, and in 1 village each nr. Jenin, Salfit, and Tulkarm at night. In **East Jerusalem**,

Jewish extremists vandalize 16 cars in Silwan, and leave “price-tag” graffiti. (HA, ToI 2/10; PCHR 2/13)

A second round of **UN-sponsored** peace talks on Syria gets underway in Switzerland, with no sign of even a modest breakthrough. Meanwhile, **Russia** and **China** frustrate efforts to draw up a **UNSC** res. that would raise the prospect of sanctions against Damascus without unrestricted access for the delivery of humanitarian aid. Reps. from Russia promise to veto the res., saying that it would prepare the way for military strikes against the Syrian govt. Meanwhile, the **OPCW** says in a statement that Syria has shipped a 3rd batch of chemical weapons material out of its territory via an internationally accompanied Norwegian cargo vessel. (AP, MNA, REU 2/10)

The head of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization, **Ali Akbar Salehi**, says that **Tehran** has developed new, more powerful centrifuges, used for enriching uranium. Salehi claims that the development does not violate the 6-mo. interim deal that went into effect on 1/20. Meanwhile, **Pres. Ruhani** states that the country’s doors are open to **IAEA inspectors**. (AFP, JP, REU 2/10)

11 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** conduct air strikes against targets in n. Gaza City and in Nussayrat r.c., where Hamas’s military wing, the Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades, operates a training site. Neither attack caused injuries. Meanwhile, off the coast nr. Bayt Lahiya, **Israeli naval vessels** arrest 3 **Palestinian** fishermen and confiscate 2 boats. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and al-‘Arub r.c. and 1 village nearby at night; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the morning, 1 village nr. Salfit in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village each

nr. Jenin and Tulkarm at night. **Jewish settlers** cut down 150 olive trees in al-Khadir village nr. Bethlehem. (MNA, ToI 2/11; PCHR 2/13)

12 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (PCHR 2/13)

A **Jerusalem** municipality planning cmte. approves the construction of a yeshiva campus in **Shaykh Jarrah**, East Jerusalem. (JP 2/12)

The **EU Parliament's Pres. Martin Schulz** addresses the **Knesset**, and is heckled by some MKs who then walk out during the speech, including Economy and Trade Minister **Bennett** and other mbrs. of the Jewish Home party. Their demonstration is prompted by Schulz's reference to discriminatory Israeli policies. EU officials tell the Israeli media that Schulz is offended and surprised by the frosty reception. (HA, JTA 2/12)

Russia proposes a rival **UNSC** res. on Syria's humanitarian crisis, after promising to veto a Western-Arab drafted res. on 2/10. (AP, REU 2/12)

13 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** shoot and kill 1 **Palestinian** and wound another nr. al-Zaytun e. of Gaza City, close to the border fence. Relatives say that the deceased was collecting gravel to sell, while the **IDF** says that those targeted were tampering with the fence. Separately, **Israeli forces** shoot and wound 1 **Palestinian** who was grazing a camel nr. Rafah, close to the border fence. In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and al-Bireh at night; patrols in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. In **East Jerusalem**, **Israeli security forces** check IDs in Ras al-Amud, prompting clashes with **students**,

causing no injuries. (MNA, REU, Wafa 2/13; PCHR 2/20)

UN-Arab League joint special envoy Brahimi meets with **U.S. Under Secy. of State Wendy Sherman** and **Russia's Dep. FM Gennady Gatilov** in Geneva to discuss the status of the Syrian peace talks. Brahimi tells reporters that both parties affirmed their support for the efforts but also says that "failure is always staring at us in the face." (AP, REU 2/13)

14 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **Gaza Strip**, **Israeli forces** open fire on **Palestinian** demonstrators with live ammunition nr. Jabaliya r.c., close to the border fence, wounding 16, some of whom were also struck by tear gas canisters. The Israeli military claims that hundreds of protesters throw stones at soldiers during the incident. Later, **Palestinians** fire 2 rockets into s. Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the **West Bank**, **IDF troops** clash with **Palestinians** outside the entrance to Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, shooting and wounding 6 protesters with live ammunition. The **IDF** conducts house searches in Bethlehem and 1 village nr. Hebron and Ramallah at night; patrols in Hebron and 1 nearby village in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Hebron and Salfit at night. **IDF troops** violently disperse **Palestinian, Israeli, and international protesters** at weekly demonstrations against Israel's separation wall, settlements and occupation in 2 villages nr. Ramallah (Bil'in and Ni'lin), 1 village nr. Qalqilya (Kafr Qaddum), and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (al-Ma'sara). There are no serious injuries, except in Kafr Qaddum (2 struck by bullets). (HA, MNA 2/14; PCHR 2/20)

Pres. Obama holds a summit with **Jordan's King Abdallah** in Palm Springs, California,

where the 2 discuss the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, Syria, and other regional issues. Obama pledges \$1 billion in loan guarantees for Amman, and renews a 5-year aid package. In Jordan, a **protest** takes place to call for Abdallah to revoke the peace treaty with Israel, with around 1,200 demonstrators affiliated with the local **Muslim Brotherhood** participating. (AFP, AP, REU 2/14)

The spokesperson for the **Syrian opposition, Louay al-Safi**, says that the second round of peace talks in Switzerland have reached a dead end, after a day of separate meetings between **UN-Arab League joint special envoy Brahimi** and the 2 sides. Meanwhile, sources at the **OPCW** say that Syria has relinquished only 11% of its chemical weapons, and is likely to miss the deadline for the stockpile's destruction. (AP, REU 2/14)

15 FEBRUARY 2014

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** opens fire on a **Palestinian** vehicle at a checkpoint nr. Nablus, wounding 1. The **IDF** also violently disperses a demonstration in Tura village nr. Jenin, organized by the **DFLP** to mark its 45th anniversary, wounding 1. The **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jenin, and Tulkarm at night; patrols in 1 village and al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at night. (Wafa 2/15; PCHR 2/20)

Egyptian forces destroy 10 tunnels and 7 homes in **Rafah**, as part of efforts to create a

300–500 meter buffer zone along the border with the Gaza Strip, according to an anonymous official cited by Ma'an News Agency. (MNA 2/15)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
DS	(Daily Star, Beirut)
FT	(Financial Times, London)
HA	(<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
INN	(Israel National News [Internet])
IRNA	(Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran)
JP	(<i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem)
JTA	(Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet])
MEMO	(Middle East Monitor [Internet])
MNA	(Ma'an News Agency, Bethlehem)
NYT	(<i>New York Times</i> , New York)
PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PNN	(Palestine News Network, Ramallah)
REU	(Reuters [Internet])
ToI	(<i>Times of Israel</i> , Jerusalem)
Wafa	(Palestine News Agency [Internet])
YA	(<i>Yedi'ot Aharonot</i> , Tel Aviv)