Chronology

16 February–15 May 2001

This section is part seventy of a chronology begun in JPS 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time. For more detail on events related to the peace process, see the Peace Monitor in this issue.

16 February

Israeli-Palestinian clashes, which have left 365 Palestinians, 19 Israeli Arabs, and 58 Israeli soldiers, settlers, and civilians dead, stretch into their 5th mo. The most severe clashes are in Ramallah. 2 Palestinians are killed by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Palestinian Authority (PA) General Intelligence Service (GIS) officer Anwar Mar‘i is stabbed to death by Palestinian assailants nr. Salfit; the PA claims it is an IDF-backed assassination. A 4th Palestinian dies of a heart attack when the IDF delays his passage through a checkpoint to a hospital for over 1 hr. The IDF bulldozes Palestinian land nr. the Rafah border, demolishing 7 Palestinian homes, 10 greenhouses; shells residential areas nr. al-Bireh. (WT 2/17; LAW 2/18; SA 2/19 in WNC 2/21; LAW 2/22)

Outgoing Israeli Labor PM Ehud Barak announces he will join a unity government with Likud's PM-elect Ariel Sharon as DM, pending finalization of the government guidelines and the coalition. (MM 2/16; WT 2/17; AYM 2/17 in WNC 2/22; AYM 2/18 in WNC 2/21; MM 2/19; NYT 2/20)

Hizballah fires mortars at an IDF convoy in the disputed Shaba' Farms area of the occupied Golan Heights, killing 1 soldier, wounding 2. In response, the IDF bombards s. Lebanon, using tanks, artillery, helicopter gunships. (NYT, WP, WT 2/17; MM 2/19–21; WJW 2/22)

The U.S., Britain bomb 5 Iraqi sites, marking the 1st strikes outside the no-fly zones since 12/98, signaling a more confrontational approach to Baghdad in response to the new administration of U.S. Pres. George W. Bush. 3 Iraqi civilians are killed, 25 are injured. France, Turkey, the Arab states condemn the action. (ATL 2/16, ATL, MENA, MIL 2/17, ATL, HJ, JT, al-Quds 2/18, JT, MA, MENA 2/19 in WNC 2/20; NYT, WP 2/17; MIL 2/17, 2/18 in WNC 2/21; NYT, WP, WT 2/18; MM, WP, WT 2/19; MM 2/20; HJ 2/20 in WNC 2/22; MM, WT 2/21; WP 2/22; MIL 2/22 in WNC 2/23; MEI, MM 2/23; al-Quds 2/23 in WNC 2/27; AP, WP 2/25; JP 3/2)

17 February

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 2 Palestinians dead. The IDF bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Miraj settlement in Gaza; shells residential areas of Hebron, Jinin, Khan Yunis, Rafah, Satih Marhaba, Tulkarm. Jewish settlers cut down Palestinian olive groves in Hawara. (HP, LAW 2/18; LAW 2/22)

18 February

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Hebron, Khan Yunis (damaging the UNRWA headquarters). (HP, LAW 2/18; LAW 2/22)

19 February

As Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, Hamas activist Mahmoud Madani is assassinated by IDF soldiers in Balata. The IDF shells residential areas of Bayt Jala, al-Khadr, Tulkarm. (WP 2/20; LAW, WT 2/22; al-Majd 3/12 in WNC 3/13)

An Israeli commission begins public hearings into the death of 13 Israeli Arabs at the hands of Israeli police during clashes in Israel in 10/00. (HA, NYT, WP 2/20; MM, WJW 2/22; WJW 3/1; Newsweek 3/5; WJW 3/15; MM 3/26)

Israel, the U.S. begin a 6-day air defense exercise in Israel, part of the joint military maneuvers that began in 1/01. (WT 2/19) (see Peace Monitor)

20 February

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 1 Palestinian dead—a youth killed in his sleep when an IDF shell strikes his home in Bayt Jala. The IDF says the shelling was a “preventive” measure to discourage
Palestinian sniping at neighboring Gilo settlement. The **IDF** also demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Bayt Umar; shells residential areas of Bayt Sahur, Bethlehem, al-Bireh (extensively damaging a school for the blind). **Jewish settlers** place caravans on a new site nr. Kafr Dik, which has been the target of repeated confiscation attempts since the 1980s, and begin bulldozing the area. **Israel** allows fuel, newspapers into the West Bank, Gaza for the 1st time since it completely sealed the territories on 2/14. (REU, NYT 2/21; HP, NYT 2/22)

Outgoing PM **Barak** pulls out of a coalition deal with PM-elect **Sharon**, officially resigns as Labor party head. Barak blames Sharon for “political intrigue and maneuvering” for allegedly discussing giving **Labor MK Shimon Peres** the DM position behind his back, but nonetheless advises Labor to join a unity government. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/21; MM, NYT, WJW 2/22; MA 2/22 in WNC 2/23; MM 2/23; WJW 3/2; MEI 3/9) (see 2/16)

### 21 FEBRUARY

**Israeli-Palestinian clashes** continue. The **IDF** conducts arrest sweeps in Shu'fat, Surif; bulldozes Palestinian land around Morag settlement. A mysterious car explosion in the PA-controlled section of Hebron causes no injuries. **Jewish settlers** attack, damage a Red Crescent ambulance nr. Ramallah. The **IDF** issues demolition orders for 20 **Palestinian homes** in Bayt Umar (see 2/20), Yaffa. (HP 2/22)

### 22 FEBRUARY

**Israeli-Palestinian clashes** continue. Nr. Ma'ale Adumim settlement, 4 **Palestinian gunmen** ambush a **Jewish settler**'s vehicle, seriously injuring 2 settlers. Palestinians also fire homemade mortars at Netzarim settlement, causing no damage. The **IDF** shells residential areas in Bayt Sahur; seals main roads leading to Dayr al-Balah (destroying a vocational school, a girls' school, 1 home), Jericho, Jinin, Nablus, Tulkarm; conducts arrest sweeps in East Jerusalem, Ras al-Amud; bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Nablus. Palestinians in Jinin, Nablus, Qalqilya note **IDF** reinforcements in their areas. The **IDF** issues a demolition order for a Palestinian clinic in Aqaba nr. Nablus, which 2 wks. prior treated 2 IDF soldiers injured in a car accident. (HP, MM 2/22; HP, WT 2/23; al-Quds, MA 2/23 in WNC 2/26; LAW 3/1)

### 23 FEBRUARY

**Israeli-Palestinian clashes** intensify, leaving 1 **Palestinian** dead. After Palestinians fire 4 homemade mortars at Dugit, Aley Sinai settlements in Gaza overnight, the **IDF** seals the Strip, blocks roads across Gaza to divide the Strip in half, punitively destroys 2 **PA Preventive Security Force (PSF)** outposts. Later in Gaza, 2 large roadside bombs explode on roads used by IDF convoys, lightly injuring 1 soldier. The **IDF** shells Palestinian residential areas in Bayt Lahia (destroying 1 PSF outpost, severely damaging a 2d), al-Bireh, Jinin; bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Bayt Lahia, Nablus, Netzarim Junction; conducts arrest sweeps in Surif. **Israel** says it plans to ease the closure on the West Bank, Gaza further (see 2/20) by allowing food and medicine in, letting agricultural goods out, facilitating the transportation of patients for medical care in Israel. Israel, however, denies exit visas to several **Palestinian Council** (PC) mbrs. who are scheduled to attend an Arab parliamentary conference in the UAE. (HA, HP 2/23; WP, WT 2/24; LAW 3/1)

### 24 FEBRUARY

**Israeli-Palestinian clashes** continue. The **IDF** shells residential areas of Brazil refugee camp, damaging a school. **Israel** says it will begin allowing Palestinians with VIP passes (e.g., PC mbrs.) to travel b/wn. the West Bank and Gaza providing they request permission of the **IDF** in advance, submit to searches. The **PA** says Israel should honor the VIP passes without restrictions as per signed agmts. (MA 2/25 in WNC 2/26; HJ 2/26 in WNC 2/27; LAW 3/1)

**U.S. Secy. of State Colin Powell** arrives in **Egypt** on the 1st leg of a 3-day tour to meet regional leaders, to discuss the Bush administration’s proposal to modify the sanctions regime on **Iraq** to eliminate many economic restrictions, refocus sanctions more narrowly on **Saddam Hussein**’s military. After meeting with **Egyptian pres. Husni Mubarak**, Powell heads to **Israel**, where he confers with **Barak** on bilateral, Israeli-Palestinian relations. Powell will also visit **Ramallah**, **Jordan**, **Kuwait**, **Saudi Arabia**, **Syria**. (NYT, WP, WT 2/25; al-Ra'i 2/25 in WNC 2/27; WP 2/27; MA 3/1 in WNC 3/5; MEI 3/9)

In Amman, **1,000 Jordanians** attend a rally organized by the Jordan professional associations to protest U.S. Secy. of State **Powell**’s visit to the kingdom on 2/25 in light of the U.S. position toward the Palestinians,
Iraq. (JT 2/25 in WNC 2/26; JT 2/26 in WNC 2/27)

25 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. A 2d, ailing Palestinian dies at an IDF checkpoint after soldiers bar him fr. crossing to reach a hospital in Ramallah. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine gun fire on residential areas of Hebron, Qalqilya, Tulkarm. Jewish settlers bulldoze Palestinian land around Ashkalot settlement, place new caravans on the site. Settlers are also reportedly moving boundary fences, adding trailers, bulldozing Palestinian land around Beit Hagay, Gush Etzion, Karme Tzur, Nahal Najhout, Tene settlements. (HP 2/26; HJ 2/26 in WNC 2/27; LAW 3/1)

U.S. Secy. of State Powell meets with Sharon in Israel, PA head Yasir Arafat in Ramallah (marking only the 2d time Israel has allowed Arafat into the West Bank since 9/28/00); urges them to halt violence, re-sume security cooperation, improve Palestinian economic conditions in the West Bank, Gaza; assures Sharon that the U.S. commitment to Israel’s security will remain solid under the Bush administration. Powell then stops in Amman to meet King Abdullah of Jordan, heads on to Kuwait for celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the end of the Gulf War. (AP, HA, REU 2/25; MM, NYT, WP 2/26; JT, MA 2/26 in WNC 2/27; AYM 2/26 in WNC 3/5; HA 2/27; MM 2/28; QA 2/28 in WNC 3/1; MA 3/1, SA 3/4 in WNC 3/5; JP, MEI 3/9)

26 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. A 2d, ailing Palestinian dies at an IDF checkpoint that points, forcing her to take a 3d route; at the 1st checkpoint, soldiers bar her family fr. tal in Nablus. Palestinians detonate 2 roadside bombs nr. IDF convoys in Gaza, wounding 1 soldier. The IDF shells residential areas nr. Bayt Hanun; bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Khan Yunis, Netzarim Junction, Shaykh Ajlin. YESHA settlers council calls on the government to assassinate or expel Arafat. (HP 2/26; NYT, WT 2/27; WT 2/28; WJW 3/1; AYM 3/5 in WNC 3/8; MEI 3/9)

The Labor party central comm. votes (67% to 32%, with more than half of the 1,675 mbrs. not voting) to join a unity govern-ment led by Likud’s Sharon. Likud says it offered Labor 8 cabinet posts (including DM, FM), equal say in determining security and diplomatic policy. (MM 2/26; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/27; HA, MM 2/28; al-Ra’i 2/28 in WNC 3/2; MEI 3/9)

U.S. Secy. of State Powell stops in Saudi Arabia, then heads to Damascus to meet Pres. Hafiz al-Asad, who agrees to funnel Iraq’s revenues fr. oil transported through Syria’s pipeline to the UN oil-for-food program. (MM 2/26; NYT, WP, WT 2/27; MM 2/28; SA 3/4 in WNC 3/5; MEI 3/9; JT 3/9 in WNC 3/11)

The State Dept.’s annual human rights report criticizes Israel for using “excessive force,” committing “numerous serious human rights abuses” against Palestinians; faults PA forces for participating in, or at least failing to prevent, violence. (NYT, WP 2/26; WT 2/28; AYM 2/28 in WNC 3/5; WJW 3/1; MM 3/14)

27 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. The IDF shells residential areas of al-Bireh, Ramallah (dam-aging the PA Local Government Min., 3 homes, 1 apartment block). Israeli police tear down the Damascus Gate market in East Jerusalem, run and frequented mostly by Palestinians. The PA reports that the pri- vate office of PLO Executive Comm. scy.-gen. and PA senior negotiator Mahmoud Abbas has been hit repeatedly by Israeli gunfire over the past few days. (SA 2/27 in WNC 2/28; LAW 3/1)

28 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. 1 Palestinian bleeds to death fr. a non-intifada related injury when the IDF blocks her transportation to a hospital at 2 checkpoints, forcing her to take a 3d route; at the 1st checkpoint, soldiers bar her family fr. walking her through the crossing to a waiting ambulance. In Tel Aviv, Israeli police find, defuse a bomb allegedly planted by a Palestinian. The IDF demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in Rafat. (UPMRC 2/28; Gush Shalom press release, MM 3/1; WP 3/2)

1 MARCH

A Palestinian detonates a bomb in a taxi-van in n. Israel, killing 1 Israeli, wounding himself, 8 other passengers. 1 Pal-estinian dies of injuries received earlier. (NYT, WP, WT 3/2; AYM 3/2 in WNC 3/5; HA 3/25)
2 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 3 Palestinians dead, including a 9-yr.-old boy hit by IDF gunfire inside his home. A 4th Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. The IDF tightens the closure on al-Bireh, Ramallah; shells residential areas of Brazil, Tulkarm. (HP 3/2; LAW, NYT, WP 3/3; LAW, WT 3/4)

Labor selects MK Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, a hawkish fmr. gen., as DM in a unity government with Likud. MK Salah Tarif, a Druze, is appointed minister without portfolio, becoming the 1st non-Jewish cabinet mbr. in Israeli history. PM-elect Sharon negotiates with smaller, right-wing parties to fill out the coalition. (NYT, WP, WT 3/3)

3 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 3 Palestinians dead, including a 9-yr.-old boy hit by IDF gunfire inside his home. A 4th Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. The IDF tightens the closure on al-Bireh, Ramallah; shells residential areas of Brazil, Tulkarm. (HP 3/2; LAW, NYT, WP 3/3; LAW, WT 3/4)

The IDF confirms that it is at residential areas of Rafah, Shaykh Ajlin; “working to widen the margins of the settlement blocs in the Gaza Strip in order to bolster settlers’ security.” (JP [Internet] 3/3; LAW, WP, WT 3/4; MEI 3/9)

4 MARCH


5 MARCH

Noting a 50% decline in sales to the PA since 10/00, the Israel Manufacturers’ Association (IMA) warns that if the PA continues to “boycott” Israeli goods, it will stage a counterboycott. (MA 3/5 in WNC 3/6)

6 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. The IDF confiscates 10s of dunams of land nr. Nablus; in the preceding 2 wks. 300 dunams have been confiscated to expand Aley settlement. (HP 3/6)

7 MARCH

After the Knesset approves his 7-party coalition, Sharon is sworn in as PM of Israel. The Knesset also passes a preliminary budget for 2001, a measure switching back to the 1-ballot voting system. The 7 parties in the unity government are Labor, Likud, One Nation, Shas, National Union Party, Yisrael Ba’Aliya, Yisrael Beiteinu. Sharon’s cabinet is the largest in Israeli history. (HA, JP [Internet], MM 3/7; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/8; MM 3/9; MA, SA 3/9 in WNC 3/13; WT 3/10; WP 4/1)


8 MARCH


Arafat sends a letter to Sharon congratulating him on his swearing in on 3/7, urging him to resume negotiations. Sharon says he might agree to a face-to-face mtg. with Arafat if the relative calm of recent days holds. (MM, WT 3/9; NYT 3/10; JT 3/11, ITAR-TASS 3/12 in WNC 3/15)

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9 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, killing 1 Palestinian. The most severe fighting is around Ramallah, where Palestinians protesting the continued encirclement of Ramallah (see 3/7) clash with IDF soldiers. In Tulkarm, 15,000 Palestinians attend a Hamas rally denouncing Sharon’s inauguration, calling for more suicide bombings in Israel. IDF soldiers outside ‘Ayn Arik nr. Ramallah bar Latin patriarch of Jerusalem Michael Sabbah, several priests fr. entering the village to perform mass. The IDF also shells residential areas of Nablus, Rafah; bulldozes 10 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Kefar Darom; detains several Jewish settlers suspected of shooting a Palestinian. (Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem press release 3/9; NYT, WT 3/10; MM 3/12; LAW 3/17)

10 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. The IDF shells residential areas of Bayt Hanun, Hebron, Nablus. Also in Hebron, Jewish settlers stone Palestinians, beat 3 Palestinian journalists working for AFP. (WP, WT 3/11; LAW 3/17)

The PC holds its 1st full session since the al-Aqsa intifada began. Arafat appeals to the new Israeli government to resume peace talks, acknowledges Israel’s “need for security and safety,” but does not call for a halt to the clashes, as Israeli officials had hoped. (NYT, WP, WT 3/11; JT 3/11 in WNC 3/13; al-Quds 3/11 in WNC 3/15; HA, MM 3/12; MEI 3/23)

11 MARCH

As Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, the IDF further restricts Palestinian movement along roads, especially around Hebron, Ramallah. The IDF demolishes 2 Palestinian cement factories btwn. Netzarim and Qarni crossing to make way for a new settler bypass road. In Hebron, Jewish settlers fire in the air, attack Palestinians and their property. (LAW, MM 3/12; AYM 3/12 in WNC 3/15; MEI 3/23)

12 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. The largest demonstrations are in Ramallah, where 2,000 Palestinian artists, intellectuals stage a nonviolent protest, and students attempt to open the road to Birzeit University, where spring registration begins today. In the ensuing clash soldiers fatally shoot 1 Palestinian who was standing next to Fatah tanzim leader Marwan Barghouti, raising speculation that Barghouti was the target. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Jinin, Rafah, (severely damaging a mosque); bulldozes 4 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Rafah. A Palestinian assailant throws a hand grenade at an IDF post in Gaza, causing no injuries. Israel tightens the siege on Ramallah but eases blockades on Bethlehem, Hebron, Qalqilya, Tulkarm. Later in the day, after shooting nr. Qalqilya, the blockade on Qalqilya is reimposed. (HA 3/12; HA, JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/13; Interfax, MA, MENA 3/13 in WNC 3/14; HA 3/14; WJW 3/15; CSM 3/16; LAW 3/17)

13 MARCH


14 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 2 Palestinians dead. A 3d, ailing Palestinian dies when the IDF detains her at a checkpoint for over 3 hrs. The IDF booby traps an unfinished Palestinian building nr. Psagot settlement to prevent Palestinian snipers fr. entering. A contractor discovers the trap when he arrives to inspect the site and warns the PA, which cannot disable the devices since the site is in area B, under Israeli security control. The IDF also bulldozes 59 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Netzarim settlement, 25 dunams nr. Nahal Oz crossing, 15 dunams nr. Dayr al-Balah; demolishes 16 greenhouses, building nr. Qarni
crossing. (AFP [Internet], AP, LAW 3/14; LAW 3/17; PMC 4/9)

**15 MARCH**

**Israeli-Palestinian clashes** continue. In Hebron, IDF soldiers lob a stun grenade into a schoolyard to disperse a demonstration by elementary school students, injuring 7 children. The IDF detains 3 Force 17 mbrs. on charges of plotting to bomb the IDF headquarters in Jerusalem; demolishes part of a brick factory nr. Qalqilya; bulldozes 61 dunams of land nr. Qarni crossing, 4 dunams nr. Dayr al-Balah. The IDF also removes more roadblocks in the West Bank and Gaza, allows fishermen back into the ocean. (AFP [Internet] 3/15; NYT, WP, WT 3/16; LAW 3/24)

**16 MARCH**

**Israeli-Palestinian clashes** continue, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. Jewish settlers fr. Yitzhar attack a Palestinian taxi nr. Nablus, injuring 3 Palestinians. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Dayr al-Balah, Tulkarm; shuts the Waqf offices, a mosque in Hebron. This evening Israeli, PA security officials meet at Erez to discuss improving security coordination. (MM 3/16; NYT, WT 3/17; MA 3/18 in WNC 3/20; LAW 3/24)

**17 MARCH**

As Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, a 10-yr.-old Palestinian boy is found dead nr. Neve Ya’aqov settlement. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Bayt Hanun, Khan Yunis; conducts an arrest sweep in Ithna village nr. Hebron. **Israeli border police** in Jerusalem detain an al-Ayyam journalist on his way to cover clashes in Ramallah, interrogating him for 2 hrs., confiscating his film. (REU 3/19; MEI 3/23; LAW 3/24)

**18 MARCH**

**Israeli-Palestinian clashes** intensify slightly. For the 1st time, Palestinians fire 3 mortars fr. Gaza into Israel, landing inside an army base nr. Nahal Oz kibbutz, lightly injuring 1 IDF soldier. Sharon reportedly orders the IDF not to respond in advance of his visit to the U.S. The IDF shells residential areas of Khan Yunis, damaging 3 homes. **Jewish settlers** move the boundary markers of Tal Rumayda settlement, confiscating 1 dunam of Palestinian land. (MM 3/19; WJW 3/22; LAW 3/24; MA 3/24 in WNC 3/26)

**19 MARCH**

**Israeli-Palestinian clashes** continue, leaving 2 Palestinians dead. A Jewish settler is killed in a drive-by shooting nr. Bethleham; the IDF reseals the city. Some 600 mbrs. of the Union of Palestinian Women’s Comms. hold a nonviolent march nr. the al-Ram checkpoint, where the IDF fires tear gas and percussion grenades, beating some with their rifles, injuring 15, including Hanan Ashrawi. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Brazil, Khan Yunis, Rafah (hitting an elementary school, injuring 8 children); bulldozes 50 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Bayt Hanun, destroying a PSF post. Nr. Jerusalem, IDF soldiers stop, arrest, beat 2 ambulance drivers returning from a call; the pair are freed after the International Comm. of the Red Cross intervenes. (MM, Palestinian Red Crescent Society press release, REU 3/19; HP, MM, WT 3/20; WJW 3/22; MEI 3/23; LAW 3/24; JP 4/6)

At Manara kibbutz on the Israeli-Lebanese border, residents find the kibbutz’s security head murdered, the kibbutz’s arsenal ransacked, 60 guns stolen. The border fence with Lebanon is intact, so Israel suspects Palestinians or Israeli Arabs. (MM 3/20; WJW 3/22; MA 3/24 in WNC 3/26)

Sharon arrives in Washington for his 1st mtg. with U.S. officials since his inauguration; also addresses the annual American Israel Public Affairs Comm. conference. (MM 3/19; WT 3/20; WJW 3/22; MM 3/23; JP 3/30; NYT 4/19; MEI, WP, WT 4/20; NYT 4/22; MM 4/24; WJW 4/26) (see Peace Monitor)

**20 MARCH**

In Washington, Sharon holds talks with Bush on bilateral and regional issues, outlines his peace ideas, reiterates that he will not negotiate with the PA until all Palestinian violence stops. Bush agrees that Israel cannot negotiate under threat of violence, says that the U.S. will not force peace in the Middle East and that Arafat will not be welcome at the White House until he halts clashes. U.S. officials urge Sharon against approving a plan passed by the Jerusalem municipal comm. today to expand Har Homa/Jabal Abu Ghanaym settlement. (HA, REU 3/20; AFP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/21; HJ 3/21, AYM, MENA 3/23 in WNC 3/26; WJW
21 MARCH


In New York, Sharon warns UN Secy.-Gen. Kofi Annan that sending a UN observer force to the West Bank, Gaza could escalate violence. Annan urges Israel to ease restrictions on Palestinians, halt settlement expansion. (MM 3/21; MM, WT 3/22)

Bush ends the CIA’s role as security mediator btwn. Israel and the PA, saying the sides should cooperate directly. (NYT, WP 3/22; HA 3/23; WJW 3/29) (see Peace Monitor)

The Mitchell Comm. begins a 5-day visit to Israel, the West Bank, Gaza to meet with Palestinian community representatives, Israeli intelligence analysts, doctors, politicians, statisticians. (NYT, WJW, WT 3/22; WT 3/23; NYT 3/26; ATL 3/26 in WNC 3/27; MM 3/27) (see Peace Monitor)

22 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian clashes intensify, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. Sharon returns fr. his trip to the U.S., immediately goes into talks with his security cabinet. The IDF shells residential areas of Brazil, Khan Yunis. Jewish settlers bulldoze 2 olive groves nr. Elazar settlement. (AFP [Internet], HA, MM, WJW 3/22; WT 3/23)

Lebanon passes a law aimed at Palestinian refugees that forbids “anyone who does not have citizenship in a recognized state” from owning property. (al-Safir 3/23)

23 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. The IDF fires a stun grenade at an Amnesty International delegation examining damage nr. Salah al-Din Gate in Gaza. (al-Awda news group 3/24)

Israel reportedly completes plans for a new 6,000-unit settlement s. of Jerusalem, to be called Givaot. (NYT 3/24)

24 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. 100s of reps. of Palestinian NGOs, Arab MKs, and Palestinian solidarity groups fr. inside Israel conduct a nonviolent march to the al-Ram checkpoint in the West Bank. IDF soldiers fire tear gas, percussion grenades, rubber bullets at the crowd; beat many with their rifles to break up the march, injuring 35. Palestinian writers, journalists, Information Min. reps. hold a smaller march to the al-Ram checkpoint in the West Bank, Gaza, where IDF soldiers fire tear gas, rubber bullets at them. The IDF bulldozes 30 dunams of land along the Green Line nr. Khaza. (HA, UPMRC 3/24; HP 3/26; MEI 4/6)

25 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, with the largest clashes in Hebron, Nablus. The IDF says several of its posts in Gaza are hit by homemade Palestinian mortars, causing no injuries. The IDF shells residential areas of Jenin. Jewish settlers attack Palestinians and their property in Hebron, bulldoze Palestinian land nr. Tulkarm to expand Avni Hefetz settlement. In Tulkarm, tanzim mbrs. kidnap an Israeli civilian at gunpoint fr. a local restaurant where he is dining with 3 Israeli Arab friends (see 1/23); PSF officers intervene to free the man. (HP, MM, NYT 3/26)

In advance of the Arab summit (3/27–28), 1,000s of university students across Egypt demonstrate to demand that Arab governments do more to help the Palestinians. (NYT 3/26)

26 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian clashes intensify sharply after a Palestinian sniper fires on a group of Jewish settlers in Hebron, killing a 10-mo.-old girl, wounding her father, brother. In retaliation, Jewish settlers fire guns, the IDF directs shells, heavy machine gun fire on the residential area of Abu Sunayna, where the sniper fire originated, injuring 7 Palestinians. The IDF tells Palestinian residents to evacuate Abu Sunayna or risk a heavy attack. Shooting fr. the Jewish settlement continues, and the IDF clashes with settlers who attempt to occupy Abu Sunayna, but no major attack occurs, few
Palestinians leave. The IDF shoots dead 1 Palestinian in a separate incident; directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Jericho, Gaza. Israeli sappers disarm a bomb in Petah Tikva, inside Israel. (HP 3/26; MM, NYT, WP 3/27; NYT 3/28; MEI 4/6; JP 4/13)

After 2 wks. of marathon negotiations, the Palestinians drop their call for a UN observer force in the West Bank, Gaza—opposed by the U.S.—in favor of a compromise proposal by the EU and nonaligned mbrs., calling for a “mechanism” to protect Palestinians. (WP 3/27; XIN 3/27 in WNC 3/28)

27 MARCH

2 bombs, the 4th and 5th since Sharon’s 2/6 election, explode outside the Jewish settlements of Talpiot, French Hill in East Jerusalem, killing an apparent Palestinian suicide bomber, injuring 35 Israelis. Islamic Jihad takes responsibility for both attacks. Right-wing opposition MKs, Jewish settlers accuse Sharon of not taking Palestinian security seriously and demand retaliation, with Likud Education M Limor Livnat saying Arafat should be targeted. Sharon’s office says Israel will respond “at the time and place we choose.” (AFP [Internet], MM 3/27; ITAR-TASS 3/27 in WNC 3/28; MM, NYT, WP 3/28; WJW 3/29; AFP 3/29 in WNC 3/30; JP, MEI 4/6)

In the West Bank and Gaza, Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. In Hebron, Jewish settlers attempt to storm Abu Sunayna for a 2d day, are pushed back by the IDF (which continues to urge Palestinian residents to evacuate the area). After dark, the settlers set fire to 5 Palestinian-owned stores, 7 cars, Waqf offices in the PA-controlled section of Hebron. Jewish settlers place caravans on confiscated Palestinian land on Mount Jarzim in Nablus. Israel arrests 2 Israeli border policemen for beating, torturing a Palestinian at a checkpoint into Israel earlier today. (MM 3/27; HA, HP, NYT, WP 3/28; AFP [Internet], NYT 3/29; MEI 4/6)


After a week of negotiations on 2 compromise proposals fail, the U.S. vetoes a UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution backing a UN observer force to help protect the Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza. (AP 3/27; XIN 3/27 in WNC 3/28; WP 3/28; MM, NYT, WJW, WT 3/29; al-Quds 3/29 in WNC 3/30; MM 3/30; al-Quds 4/3 in WNC 4/5) (see Peace Monitor)

28 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving a total of 6 Palestinians, 2 Israelis dead. A Palestinian suicide bomber detonates a nail bomb at a bus stop just inside Israel, nr. Qalqilya, killing 2 Israelis, wounding 4. Hamas, and a previously unknown group named the Popular Army Front–Return Battalions claim responsibility. Israeli sappers disarm bombs in the Israeli cities of Petah Tikva, Netanya. This evening, after the Arab summit ends, Sharon orders air, land, sea strikes against Force 17 targets in Dayr al-Balah, Jabaliya, Khan Yunis, Rafah, Ramallah, killing 3 Palestinians, injuring 62. Nr. Beitunia, a Palestinian woman is shot dead by IDF troops. In Rafah, a Palestinian boy is killed when he triggers unexploded IDF ordnance. The IDF reinforces its troop presence around Abu Sunayna in Hebron with 8 tanks, 15 troop carriers, numerous military jeeps and 3 new outposts; shells residential areas in Nablus; confiscates 28 dunams of Palestinian land in Beitunia to expand an IDF post; bulldozes Palestinian land in Mount Jarzim, Wadi Silqa. Israel issues demolition orders for 19 Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem for construction of the “ring road” linking the Jewish settlements around Jerusalem; 658 dunams of Palestinian land is slated to be bulldozed for the project. Jewish settlers attack Palestinians and their property in Bayt Furik, Hebron, Slat Dahir. Settlers fr. Ma’ale Adummim, Kefar Atzion reportedly move into the Israeli controlled section of Hebron to reinforce settlers there. In Hebron, the PSF arrests a local Fatah mbr., for the 3/26 shooting that killed a settler baby. (BBC, CNN, HP, MM, REU 3/28; AFP, ATL 3/28 in WNC 3/29; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/29; AFP, In-


29 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 3 Palestinians dead. Israeli gunships hover over Palestinian territory but do not fire. The IDF directs shelling, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Hebron (especially Abu Sunayna). Jewish settlers in Hebron confiscate 200 dunams of Palestinian land in al-Buwayta, erect a tent; set fire to a Palestinian store in the central market area. (AFP [Internet] 3/29; HP, LAW, WP, WT 3/30)

30 MARCH

After Israel announces it is ending its “policy of restraint,” Israeli-Palestinian clashes intensify sharply, leaving 6 Palestinians dead. Israeli gunships hover over Palestinian territory but do not fire. The IDF directs shelling, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Hebron, in the heaviest barrage there since the beginning of the al-Aqsa intifada. Serious clashes are also reported in Gaza and in Nablus, where 10,000 Palestinians rally to mark Land Day clash with IDF troops, who shoot dead 5 Palestinians. The IDF also directs shelling, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of al-Bireh, Jenin, Rafah, Tulkarm; confiscates 100 dunams of land nr. Qalqilya for a new settlement bypass road. Frustrated with Israeli security checks, Palestinian workers at Erez industrial zone riot, prompting Israel to close the zone—an unprecedented move since the purpose of the zone is to make Palestinians who work there and the businesses that employ them (60% of which are Israeli-owned) immune to closures. (AP, HP, LAW 3/30; NYT, WP, WT 3/31; Sunday Times [London], WT 4/1; HJ 4/1 in WNC 4/5; Globes 4/2 in WNC 4/5)

In Sakhnin, Israel, 10,000 Israeli Arabs participate in a peaceful Land Day rally—the 1st major protest since the 10/00 demonstrations, which were violently suppressed by Israeli police, who, this time, are ordered to intervene only if protesters block major roads. Major Land Day commemorations are also held in Jordan, Lebanon, (HP, MM 3/30; NYT 3/31; JT 4/1 in WNC 4/2)

31 MARCH

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at a high level. 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. In Nablus, 1,000s of Palestinians attend the funeral for 5 Palestinians killed on 3/30. (NYT, WT 4/1)

1 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. Israeli commandos enter a PA-controlled area A for the 1st time, capture 6 Force 17 mbrs.; Israel says more such raids could follow. The PSF reports that the IDF in Gaza has deployed additional tanks and numerous troops to 24 new posts along the length of the Green Line, at key intersections. In Nablus, a Palestinian sniper kills an IDF soldier. 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. In Hebron, the IDF places a curfew on Palestinians as Jewish settlers hold the funeral for a 10-mo.-old baby killed on 3/26. The settlers, many of them armed, march through the city, attacking Palestinian property, calling on Sharon to declare war. They attempt to storm Abu Sunayna but are held back by IDF troops. When 1 settler opens fire, the IDF fires on Abu Sunayna, thinking the shots came fr. Palestinians. The IDF also shells residential areas of Aida refugee camp, Bayt Jala, Bayt Sahur, Nablus, Rafah; demolishes 5 Palestinian homes in Bayt Dajan; bulldozes an olive grove nr. a settler bypass road nr. Salfit, 10 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Qalqilya to expand Alfe Menashe settlement. Israel, however, reopens the Erez industrial zone (see 3/30), allowing 3,000–4,000 Palestinian workers to return to their jobs. (NYT, WP, WT 4/2; Globes, SA 4/2 in WNC 4/3; JP [Internet], MM, WP 4/3; SA 4/3 in WNC 4/5; LAW 4/4; AYM 4/5 in WNC 4/6; MEI 4/6; MM 4/12; JP 4/13)

Sharon secretly dispatches his son, Omri Sharon, and his adviser, Yossi Ginossaur, to Ramallah to discuss resuming security co-ordination, possible cease-fire arrangements with Arafat. (MA 4/3, 4/4 in WNC 4/5; MM 4/4; HA, MM, NYT 4/5; NYT, WP 4/6)

FM Peres arrives in Stockholm where he holds “quiet contacts” with senior PA officials, including PA Planning M Nabil Shaath, on a Jordanian-Egyptian proposal...
2 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue to escalate. In Rafah, the IDF assassinates Islamic Jihad activist Muhammad ‘Abd al-Al, firing wire-guided missiles fr. helicopter gunships at his truck. (2,000 Palestinians attend his funeral later in the day.) After an Islamic Jihad sniper kills an IDF soldier nr. Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem in retaliation, the IDF fires missiles, tank shells, machine guns, grenades at Palestinian residential areas of the city, damaging 15 homes and wounding 8 Palestinians, including a 2-yr.-old girl, 3-mo.-old baby. The IDF also cases open-fire regulations; shells residential areas of Aida camp, Bayt Jala, Nablus; demolishes 1 Palestinian home in al-Khadr, 1 in al-Tur. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) detonates a car bomb nr. an IDF patrol outside Kedumim settlement, causing no injuries. In Hebron, Jewish settlers blow up 4 Palestinian shops; afterward, the IDF bulldozes the buildings, surrounding area to create a buffer around the Abraham Avino settlement. Palestinians fire homemade mortars at the Qarni industrial zone. In Jerusalem, a Palestinian attacks, injures an IDF soldier, steals her M-16. (JP [Internet] 4/2; AFP, MA 4/2 in WNC 4/3; MA 4/2, QA 4/4 in WNC 4/5; HP, JP [Internet], LAW, MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/3; NYT 4/4; MEI 4/6; NYT 4/7)

In Washington, Mubarak briefs Bush on the Jordanian-Egyptian “nonpaper” (see 4/1), urges him to support the proposal and to become more involved in the peace process. Bush says the nonpaper ideas should be discussed; the U.S. can “facilitate” talks b/w Israel, the PA, but it “can’t force a peace.” Bush also urges Egypt to return its amb. to Israel. (MM 4/2; MENA 4/2, JT, MENA, al-Quds 4/3; MENA, al-Ra’i 4/4 in WNC 4/5; JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/3; WJW 4/3; MEI 4/6; MENA 4/6 in WNC 4/9; MENA 4/11 in WNC 4/12; WJW 4/12) (see Peace Monitor)

The State Dept. certifies PLO compliance with the Oslo agreements. for the period 6/16/00-12/15/00, saying PA security coordination with Israel was very high prior to 9/28/00, it is uncertain to what degree PLO or PA officials were actively involved in starting or encouraging violence after 9/28. (JP [Internet] 4/4; MM 4/10; MM 5/2) (see Doc. D1)

3 APRIL

Israel launches 1 of its most severe strikes since 9/28 after Palestinians fire 3 homemade mortars at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, wounding a 10-mo.-old boy. IDF helicopter gunships, tanks shell 4 PA targets in Gaza City and nr. Dayr al-Balah, Khan Yunis, and Rafah, injuring 70 Palestinians, destroying the Force 17 complex at the fnr. Ansar II Israeli prison. Sharon says the strike “exacts a price from those who were supposed to maintain security . . . and didn’t.” Elsewhere in the West Bank and Gaza, the IDF notes an increase in Palestinian drive-by shootings and sniper, grenade, and Molotov cocktail attacks. The IDF also demolishes 7 Palestinian homes in Anata; 2 homes, 1 shed in Azariyya; 1 in Zu’aym. Israel releases 3 Force 17 members abducted fr. area A on 4/1, saying they have no connection to “terrorism.” (HP 4/3; LAW, MM, NYT, PMC, WP 4/4; Interfax 4/4 in WNC 4/5)

4 APRIL

In Athens, Israel, the PA hold their 1st public high-level talks since Sharon took office. Israeli FM Peres, PA Planning M Shaath, PA Local Government M Saeb Erakat discuss the Jordanian-Egyptian nonpaper, agree to resume security talks. Peres reiterates Sharon’s position that negotiations cannot resume until all Palestinian violence ceases but does not reject the nonpaper outright. (BBC, HA, MM 4/4; QA 4/4 in WNC 4/5; HA, MM, NYT, REU, WP 4/5; AYM 4/5 in WNC 4/6; QA 4/5 in WNC 4/12; MEI, MM 4/6) (see Peace Monitor)

This evening, senior PA, Israeli security officials hold talks at the home of U.S. Amb. Martin Indyk in Herzilya, Israel; a CIA official sits in as a “nonparticipant observer” (see 5/21). When the PA team returns to Gaza, IDF troops fire on their convoy as it passes through the Erez crossing, injuring 2 bodyguards. The PA says the IDF attempted to assassinate the security chiefs; the IDF says troops thought they were being shot at fr. the convoy, “acted appropriately.” (BBC, HA 4/4; HA, MM, NYT, REU, WP 4/5; AYM 4/5 in WNC 4/6; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/6; al-Quds 4/6 in WNC 4/9; MM 4/9; MA 4/9 in WNC 4/10; AYM 4/9, XIN 4/10 in WNC 4/11; QA 4/11 in WNC 4/14; MEI 4/20; DUS 4/27 in WNC 4/30)
Meanwhile, **Israeli-Palestinian clashes** continue. **Palestinians** fire homemade mortars at Netzarim settlement, causing no damage. In return, the **IDF** fires mortars at a **PSF** post in Gaza. The IDF also directs heavy machine gun fire at Palestinian residential areas of al-Mughraga. Nr. Hebron, a tank overturns, killing 5 **IDF soldiers**, injuring 1. The **IDF** bulldozes 4 more **Palestinian homes** in Anata; 4 in Hebron; 3 homes, a warehouse, an animal pen in Jenin; 1 home in Bethlehem. In Gaza, **Jewish settlers** fr. Gush Katif, Kefar Darom block Saladin Road, throw stones at Palestinian cars, threaten passengers with machine guns. (LAW, PMC 4/4; NYT 4/5; MM 4/6)

With the escalation of Israeli-Palestinian violence, **Jordan** bans all demonstrations, public rallies in Amman, the scene of pro-Palestinian protests in recent mos. (REU 4/4; JT 4/5 in WNC 4/6)

5 APRIL

**Israeli-Palestinian clashes** continue at a high level, leaving 2 **Palestinians** dead. In Jenin, **senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Iyad Hardan**, wanted by **Israel**, is assassinated when a bomb planted in a public phone he frequently uses explodes. In response to Palestinian mortar fire nr. **Nahal Oz crossing** and nr. **Netiv Haasara kibbutz** inside the Green Line that causes no damage, the **IDF** fires rockets at **PSF** posts and a power station in Gaza, wounding at least 5 Palestinians, destroying 4 buildings, damaging 10 homes, causing blackouts. The **IDF** also bulldozes 100 dunams of Palestinian land in Shaykh Ajlin; begins work on a new settler bypass road linking Beit El settlement with Jerusalem; raids Burqa village, arrests 2 **Palestinians**. **Sharon** announces plans to build another 708 housing units in the **Jewish settlements** of Ma’ale Adumim, Alfe Menashe; the **State Dept.** criticizes the move as “provocative.” Reportedly to ease tensions over the Erez shooting on 4/4, Israel reopens the Rafah border with Egypt, says it will allow 3,000 Palestinian workers into Israel. (LAW 4/5; AFP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/5; MENA, al-Quds 4/6, ITAR-TASS 4/7 in WNC 4/9; MM 4/9; AYM 4/9 in WNC 4/11; al-Quds 4/11 in WNC 4/12; LAW, WJW 4/12; MA 4/17 in WNC 4/18; MEI 4/20)

**Sharon** orders the **Israeli security services** to find ways to let Jews visit the **Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount**. (MENA 4/10 in WNC 4/11; WT 4/11)


6 APRIL

**Israeli-Palestinian clashes** continue. After **Palestinians** fire mortars at Netzarim settlement in Gaza and across the Green Line into Israel, causing no damage, the **IDF** deploys tanks, helicopter gunships to shell 4 **PSF** posts in Gaza. The IDF also demolishes 3 **Palestinian homes**, damages 2 others, bulldozes more than 27 dunams of agricultural land in Shaykh Ajlin; shells residential areas of al-Aza refugee camp. **Israeli commandos** detain 2 **Fatah mbrs.** in area C. (AFP [Internet] 4/6; NYT, WT 4/7; MM 4/9; LAW 4/12)

7 APRIL

**Arafat** phones **Sharon, Peres** to wish them happy Passover, to call on Israel to resume talks. Sharon again demands that Palestinians 1st halt all violence. Meanwhile, **Israeli-Palestinian clashes** continue, with a higher incidence of gunfire on both sides. (MENA 4/7 in WNC 4/9; WT 4/8)

Despite the ban on public gatherings, 200 **Jordanians** stage a rally in Amman to mark the anniversary of the Dayr Yasin massacre, to reaffirm the Palestinians’ right of return. Some 5,000 people attend a right of return rally in **New York**. Similar demonstrations are held in **Australia** (Melbourne, Perth, Sydney), **Canada**, **Holland**, **Italy**, **Japan**, **Lebanon**, the **occupied territories**, **Spain**, **Syria**. (AP 4/7; JT 4/8 in WNC 4/9; JP [Internet] 4/9)

8 APRIL

**Israeli-Palestinian clashes** continue, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. After **Palestinians** fire mortars at **Nahal Oz kibbutz** inside the Green Line, the IDF fires surface-to-surface rockets at Bayt Lahia, hitting a **PSF** post, a **Fatah** headquarters, 2 **Palestinian homes**; injuring 4 passersby; damaging 20 Palestinian homes; causing blackouts. The **IDF** also shells residential areas of Dayr al-Balah, al-Bureij, Khan Yunis. (REU 4/8; HP, MM, PMC, WP 4/9; MEZ 4/10; LAW 4/12)
9 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. After Palestinians fire a mortar at Atzmona settlement in Gaza, causing no injuries, the IDF deploys helicopter gunships to hover over Gaza City. The IDF also directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Beitunia (hitting an elementary school occupied by over 700 students, causing no injuries but no injuries), al-Khadir, Khan Yunis. Israel partially lifts a ban on Palestinian laborers, issuing 3,200 entry permits; expects 1,000 Palestinians to resume jobs in Israel on 4/10. Israel also apologizes for the shooting incident at the Erez crossing on 4/4; however, a U.S.-brokered mtg. btwn. Israeli, PA security officials, planned early in the day, is canceled by the PA. (MM 4/9; WT 4/10; SA, XIN 4/10 in WNC 4/11; LAW 4/12)

10 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 1 Palestinian dead; a 2d Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. After Palestinians fire 3 mortars at Gaza’s Gadid settlement, causing no injuries, the IDF shells the PA naval headquarters, military intelligence headquarters in Gaza, killing 1 PSF doctor at the naval clinic, wounding 18 PSF mbrs., destroying the clinic and an ambulance. Citing the rare daylight strikes on occupied buildings, the PA again refuses to attend a U.S.-brokered security mtg. with Israeli officials (rescheduled fr. 4/9). Sharon asks Israelis questioning his security strategy to trust him, saying, “We know exactly what we’re doing. I have a very clear plan. The plan will be executed, and security will be restored.” The IDF directs heavy machine gun fire at a Force 17 building in Jinin, destroying it. (AFP [Internet], AP, MM, PCHR 4/10; XIN 4/10 in WNC 4/11; HP, NYT, WP 4/11; MA 4/11 in WNC 4/12; QA 4/11 in WNC 4/16; LAW, WJW 4/12; JT 4/12 in WNC 4/13; NYT 4/13)

The PA, the Organization of the Islamic Conference warn Sharon not to allow Jews access to the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount, saying it would be perceived as an attack on Islam and could precipitate a dangerous escalation in violence. 100 mbrs. of the Temple Mount Faithful, an ultranationalist Jewish group, attempt to force their way into the site but are blocked by Israeli police. (AP 4/10; MENA 4/10 in WNC 4/11; WT 4/11; JT 4/12 in WNC 4/13; MENA 4/13 in WNC 4/16; QA 4/26 in WNC 4/30) (see 4/5)

In Washington, Bush receives King Abdallah, who urges the U.S. to become more involved in the peace process, to actively support the Jordanian-Egyptian nonpaper. Bush reiterates that the U.S. will not become more involved in the peace process, that Israel and the PA must take reciprocal steps to halt violence before negotiations can resume. (MM 4/10; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/11; JT 4/11 in WNC 4/12; WJW 4/12; JT 4/13 in WNC 4/16)

11 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at a high level, leaving a total of 4 Palestinians dead; another 2 Palestinians die of injuries received earlier. In the 1st major Israeli ground assault into PA-controlled territory since 9/28, IDF tanks, bulldozers enter Khan Yunis camp (see 12/13) to remove an embankment and structures that Palestinian gunmen allegedly use for cover when firing on adjacent Jewish settlements, demolishing 28 Palestinian homes, part of an apartment building, and an olive grove. The operation clears a 400-yard strip of land, leaves over 360 Palestinians homeless, sparks fierce fighting in which 2 Palestinians are killed, 25–50 are injured. Arafat calls for a halt to 18 PSF mbrs., destroying the clinic and a mortar attacks across the Green Line. At U.S.’s urging, Israeli, PA security teams meet this evening at the home of U.S. amb. Indyk to discuss a cease-fire. They make no progress but agree to meet again on 4/16. After dark, Palestinians fire 4 mortars into Nisnait settlement in Gaza, damaging 1 house, causing no injuries. The IDF shells residential areas of Abu Sunayna, Bayt Hanun, al-Haria Valley. (AFP [Internet], BBC, HP, LAW, MM, PCHR 4/11; AFP 4/11 in WNC 4/11; Interfax, MENA 4/11 in WNC 4/12; HP, JP [Internet], LAW, MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/12; JT, SA 4/12 in WNC 4/13; JP [Internet], NYT, WT 4/13; al-Quds 4/13 in WNC 4/16; MEI, WP 4/20; WP 4/21)

Donors hold an informal Ad-Hoc Liaison Comm. mtg. in Stockholm. The EU agrees to give the PA $9 m./mo. for 6 mos., urges Israel to release $120 m. in taxes owed the PA. (REU 4/13; see also AFP 4/2 in WNC 4/3; MM 4/6) (see Peace Monitor)

12 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 2 Palestinians dead. In Ramallah,
the PA arrests 2 Palestinian collaborators for allegedly working with Israel to assassinate Fatah tanzim leader Nassir Abu Hmeid with a car bomb. The PSF removes the car to its Ramallah headquarters where it blows up as an IDF helicopter hovers overhead. The IDF shells residential areas of Bayt Hanun, Rafah. Jewish settlers demolish part of a Palestinian store in Hebron, attack a school in Bayt Furik, beat senseless a Palestinian nr. Khan Yunis. (HP, REU 4/12; NYT, WP, WT 4/13; WP 4/15; LAW, MEI 4/20)

13 APRIL

Residents of the Israeli Jewish town of Moshav Ahihud begin digging in the cemetery of the destroyed Palestinian village of al-Birwa as part of a project to build a cattle pen linked to the town by a paved road. (MK Azmi Bishara press release 4/14)

In Lebanon, 1,500 Palestinian refugees in al-Bas camp nr. Tyre, 100s of refugees in ‘Ayn al-Hilwa camp nr. Sidon hold demonstrations in support of the al-Aqsa intifada. (Daily Star [Internet] 4/14)

14 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at a high level. In Gaza, IDF tanks, bulldozers enter Rafah; demolish PA military intelligence headquarters, 17 Palestinian homes, 40 stores; damage 13 stores. Over 160 Palestinians are left homeless, 43 are injured. An Egyptian woman on the Egyptian side of the Rafah border is wounded by gunfire. Palestinians fired 2 mortars at Gush Katif settlement, causing no damage. A bomb explodes in the Gaza City home of Muhammad Nassar, a bodyguard for Hamas spiritual leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, killing Nassar, injuring 4; the PA says Nassar was preparing a bomb. Israel admits that the car bomb incident in Ramallah on 4/12 was a “failed attempt” on Fatah’s Abu Hmeid. Inside Israel, 2 bombs explode in Kefar Saba, destroying 2 cars, injuring 1 Palestinian (the alleged assailant). (AFP, REU 4/14; LAW, NYT, WP, WT 4/15; MENA 4/15 in WNC 4/16; MM 4/17; LAW 4/20)

Hizballah fires a missile from Lebanon at an IDF tank in the Shabu Farms area, killing 1 IDF soldier. In retaliation, the IDF carries out air and artillery strikes on Hizballah targets in s. Lebanon. (AFP 4/14; RL 4/14 in WNC 4/16; NYT, WP 4/15; WP 4/16; HJ 4/19 in WNC 4/24; MEI 4/20, 5/4)

15 APRIL

Claiming Syria is responsible for allowing the 4/14 Hizballah attack, Israel conducts late-night air strikes against a Syrian radar station deep inside Lebanon, killing 3 Syrian soldiers, wounding 4. The State Dept. urges all sides to exercise maximum restraint but refuses to condemn Israeli actions, saying “the primary event in this situation is the fact that Hizballah escalated the situation in which we think was a clear provocation.” (BBC, CNN, NYT, USIS Washington File, WP, WT 4/16; JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/17; AFP, Interfax, IRNA, MENA, RL 4/16 in WNC 4/17; MA 4/17 in WNC 4/18; MENA 4/17, IRNA, JT, QA 4/18 in WNC 4/19; MM, WT 4/18; WJW 4/19; MEI, WP 4/20; JP 4/27; MA 4/27 in WNC 4/30)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. The IDF shells residential areas of Hebron, Khan Yunis, Rafah; bulldozes 22 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Qalqilya; conducts arrest raids in Jama’ in, Sawahara al-Sharqiyya. (LAW 4/20)

To protest Israeli raids on Lebanon, Jordanian FM ‘Abd al-Ilah Khatib cancels his planned visit to Tel Aviv on 4/16. (al-Ra’i 4/15 in WNC 4/16; WP 4/16; NYT, WP 4/17; MEI 4/20)

16 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue to escalate, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. 5 Palestinian mortars fr. Gaza land nr. the town of Sederot inside Israel, only 4 mi. fr. Sharon’s farm, causing no damage. Although Hamas claims responsibility, Israel says the PA is “undoubtedly” behind the manufacture of homemade mortars, which Palestinians have increasingly used since late 1/01. After a mtg. of Sharon’s inner cabinet, the IDF carries out 4 hrs. of land, sea, air strikes against PA security posts across the Gaza Strip, hitting Gaza City’s main police headquarters, at least 7 Force 17 posts in Dayr al-Balah, Gaza City, Rafah; 1 PSF officer killed, 36 Palestinians are injured. IDF officials say they are preparing for a “rolling episode.” The IDF sets up roadblocks dividing the Strip into 3 parts; closes the border with Egypt; bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Bayt Hanun (217 dunams destroying 11 Palestinian homes), Rafah; directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Bayt Jala, Bayt Sahur, al-Khadir; occupies 2 Palestinian homes nr. Morag settlement as IDF posts. In the West Bank, the IDF shells residential areas in Aida.

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18 APRIL

At Israeli FM Peres’s urging, Jordanian FM Khathib comes to Tel Aviv as planned (see 4/15). He presents Sharon, Peres with a formal, written version of the Jordanian-Egyptian nonpaper. Sharon tells Khathib the proposal is a “nonstarter,” but Peres says it will be studied. (AP, MM, NYT, WP 4/17; JT 4/17 in WNC 4/18; MM 4/19; MEI 4/20; Economist [Internet] 5/3; MEI 5/4) (see Peace Monitor; Doc. B1)

The Israeli DMin. asks the Finance Min. to release a $936 m. supplement to the DMin. budget to cover the costs of the last 6 mos. of the al-Aqsa intifada. (HA 4/17)

17 APRIL

Overnight, the IDF sends tanks and bulldozers into Gaza to reoccupy a mile-wide strip of PA-controlled territory in the northeastern corner of Gaza, marking the 1st recapture of territory ceded to Palestinian rule under the 1993 Oslo accords. The IDF demolishes PA security sites targeted on 4/16, builds ramparts, sandbags positions around new tank outposts. IDF officials pledge to hold the land “as long as it takes—days, weeks, months”—to ensure Israeli security. Secy. of State Powell publicly rebukes Israel for taking “excessive and disproportionate” action, calls on Israel to withdraw immediately. Bush calls Sharon to urge restraint. Hrs. later, Israel announces that the IDF has completed its mission and is pulling out of area. (AP, LAW, MM, REU 4/17; JP [Internet], NYT, WP, WT 4/18; HI 4/18, AYM, MENA, al-Quds, SA 4/19 in WNC 4/24; MM, WJW 4/19; JP, MEI, MM, NYT, WP 4/20; NYT 4/22; AYM 4/27 in WNC 4/30) (see Peace Monitor)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue elsewhere in Gaza and the West Bank, leaving 3 Palestinians dead. The IDF cuts a deep trench in the main north-south road in Gaza, rendering it impassable; shells residential areas of Aida and al-Aza refugee camps, Bayt Jala, Hebron, Rafah; bulldozes 30 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Qalqilya. (WT 4/18; JT 4/18 in WNC 4/19; WP 4/19; LAW 4/20)

18 APRIL

Israel-Palestinian clashes continue. Hrs. after the IDF completes its pullout of PA-controlled areas of n. Gaza, Palestinians again fire 7 mortars fr. Bayt Hanun toward a Jewish settlement in Gaza and the Erez crossing, causing no damage. The IDF sends tanks, bulldozers back into Bayt Hanun to demolish a PSF post. Bush calls Sharon to urge restraint. Sharp clashes are reported in Bethlehem (where the IDF fires surface-to-surface missiles at a new conference center, a stone cutting factory), nr. Jerusalem. The IDF also bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Gaza airport. (MM 4/18; ATL, MENA 4/18 in WNC 4/19; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/19; AYM, MENA, al-Quds 4/19 in WNC 4/24; WP 4/21)

Israeli FM Peres meets with Arafat economic adviser Muhammad Rashid (Khalid Salam) reportedly to discuss reducing violence, though no details are released. (EFE [Madrid] 4/19 in WNC 4/24; AYM 4/24 in WNC 4/25)

19 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. A mysterious explosion rips through a Force 17 office in Ramallah, injuring 3 officers. Israel denies responsibility, though the attack comes within an hr. of an Israeli inner cabinet mtg. to discuss responses to recent Palestinian violence. The PA acknowledges the explosion came fr. inside the building. Reporters witness mbrs. of different PA security forces scuffling with each other; PA police confiscate reporters’ film, videotape. Later, Palestinian mortars land on both sides for taking “excessive and disproportionate” action, calls on Israel to withdraw immediately. Sharon says Arafat should issue cease-fire or- ders 1st. (AP 4/19; AFP [Internet], HA, WP, WT 4/20; NYT, WT 4/21; al-Quds 4/24 in WNC 4/26; MM 4/27; DUS 4/27 in WNC 4/30)

20 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. After Friday prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque, Palestinians throw stones at an Israeli police station inside the mosque compound. Israel sends 10s of riot police into the compound for the 1st time since 9/00 to disperse the Palestinians, evacuate the officers; 2 officers are hurt, but rioters disperse without the police using force. The IDF removes roadblocks dividing Gaza into 3 sections. (AP, MM 4/20; NYT, WT 4/21; WT 4/22)

Commenting on Powell’s statement on Israel’s reoccupation of part of Gaza on 4/17, Sharon tells the French newspaper Le Figaro that he is “tired of always hearing people say that Israel uses excessive force,” adding that foreign criticism only “encourages Arafat to start shooting at Israeli civilians again.” (WP 4/21)

21 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. The IDF raids another PA-controlled area of Gaza, sending 3 tanks, 2 bulldozers into Rafah to raze a PSF post. Serious clashes are also reported in Qalqilya. At the U.S.’s urging, Israeli, PA security officials resume security talks at Erez, though only limited progress is made. (AP, NYT, WT 4/22; AYM 4/22 in WNC 4/25; NYT, WP 4/23; DUS 4/27 in WNC 4/30)

22 APRIL

A Palestinian suicide bomber kills himself, 1 Israeli civilian and wounds around 40 others at a bus stop in Kefar Saba, outside Tel Aviv. Though the Popular Army Front–Return Battalions claims responsibility, Israeli blames the PA directly. Later, a bomb goes off in Haifa, slightly wounding 3 Israeli police officers. Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue in the West Bank and Gaza, leaving 1 Palestinian, 1 Jewish settler dead. A 3d Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. The IDF takes over a Palestinian home in PA-controlled Dayr al-Balah for use as a new IDF post, displacing a family of 12. (AP 4/22; AP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/23; AN, JT, SA 4/23 in WNC 4/25; al-Quds 4/25 in WNC 4/30)

Israeli FM Peres confirms reports that he has been holding secret talks with PA officials with Sharon’s permission, but he gives no details. PC speaker and PA senior negotiator Ahmad Qurai’ says he and Peres have been discussing the Jordanian-Egyptian nonpaper. (NYT 4/23; AYM 4/24 in WNC 4/25; NYT 4/25)

23 APRIL

A car bomb explodes in Or Yehuda, outside Tel Aviv, lightly injuring 4 Israelis. The PFLP claims responsibility (see 4/2). In the West Bank and Gaza, Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 1 Palestinian dead; a 2d Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. The PSF claims to fire antitank weapons at 7 IDF tanks, 2 bulldozers, foiling their attempt to reenter Rafah to demolish more homes (see 4/14). A roadside bomb explodes outside Ariel settlement, causing no damage. At a funeral for a PSF officer in Gaza, a 12-yr.-old Palestinian boy is shot, 14 Palestinians are wounded when settlers, IDF soldiers at a nearby settlement open fire thinking the PA’s 21-gun salute is gunfire aimed at them. The IDF also directs heavy machine gun fire at Gaza airport. (AP 4/23; Interfax 4/23, MENA, al-Quds 4/24 in WNC 4/25; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/24)

PA and Israeli security officials hold a round of “constructive” talks at the U.S. amb.’s residence in Israel, with CIA participation (see 4/4). Arafat makes a public statement in Arabic that he does not “agree to any form of attack on Israeli or Palestinian civilians.” (AP 4/23; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/24; AP, NYT 4/25; SA 4/25 in WNC 4/26; DUS 4/27 in WNC 4/30; WJW 5/3)

Iran sponsors an NGO conference in support of Palestinian human rights in Tehran. Attendees call on states to take actions in support of the Palestinians (such as providing aid, boycotting Israel) instead of making statements of support. (IRNA 4/23 in WNC 4/25) (see Peace Monitor)

24 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes abate slightly, though 2 Palestinians are killed. Observers note that Palestinian mortar attacks have tapered off since Arafat’s 2d call for a halt on 2/19, though today Palestinians fire 5 mortars at Neve Dekalim settlement and 3 at Gush Katif settlement, causing no damage. The IDF raids the village of Wadi al-Silqa nr. Kefar Darom settlement, ransacks homes, harasses residents, demolishes 1 Palestinian home; directs heavy machine gun fire at al-Sudaniyya, Gaza City. Israel eases the border closing btwn. Egypt, Gaza temporarily but then imposes a 72-hr. closure on the West Bank and


25 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue to abate. In Rafah, 4 Fatah mbrs. are killed, 5 are wounded in a mysterious explosion. Though some reports claim the men were assembling a bomb when it exploded, 1 of the 4 killed, Ramadan Azzam, is also head of Gaza’s popular resistance comms., raising speculation that the explosion was an IDF assassination. Arafat’s Fatah organization denies its mbrs. are involved in bomb making. The IDF bulldozes 50–60 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Dugit settlement, 20 dunams nr. Rafah. (AP, WP 4/25; HJ 4/27 in WNC 4/30; MEI 5/4)

26 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at a lower level, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. (AFP [Internet] 4/26; LAW 5/4)

The Israeli daily Ha’Arezt reports that last wk., Israel issued 2,000 eviction notices to bedouins living in unrecognized villages in the Negev, saying their homes are located in a closed military area. (HA 4/26)

1,000s of Israeli Arabs take part in right of return marches to their destroyed villages to protest Israel’s “independence” day celebrations. (al-Awda news group 4/27)

27 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes escalate after several days of diminution, with the most severe exchanges nr. Qarni crossing and in Qalqilya, Ramallah. The IDF directs shelling, heavy machine gun fire residential areas nr. Khan Yunis, at PSF posts nr. Dayr al-Balah, Jabaliya; bulldozes 15 dunums of Palestinian land in Khan Yunis, 23 dunums in Rafah. Jewish settlers attack Palestinian property in Haris. A roadside bomb explodes nr. a Jewish settlement in Gaza, injuring 1 IDF soldier, 1 settler. The IDF says that in the coming days, it will ease the closure, allow 11,000 Palestinians to return to their jobs in Israel. Israeli, PA security officials hold a round of unproductive talks on halting violence. (alQuds 4/27 in WNC 4/30; WP, WT 4/28; LAW 5/4)

Sharon, Peres meet to draft a formal response to the Jordanian-Egyptian initiative. Sharon says he has “serious reservations about almost every aspect” of the proposal and “substantial changes” must be made before Israel can accept it. (al-Ra’i 4/27 in WNC 4/30; NYT, WP, WT 4/28) (see Peace Monitor)

28 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue to escalate, leaving 1 Palestinian, 1 Jewish settler dead in separate shooting incidents. Claiming revenge for the death of Fatah mbrs. on 4/25, a group calling itself the Four Martyrs fires mortars at a Kefar Darom, Netzer Hazani, and Nisanit settlements in Gaza, wounding 5 settlers (1 seriously) in Netzer Hazani. Fatah denies any connection to the group; Israel blames Arafat directly. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Khan Yunis; bulldozes 100s of dunams of Palestinian nr. Dugit settlement, Khan Yunis; detains 7 Palestinian fishermen at sea. Armed Jewish settlers bar the entrances of Haris, attempt to enter the village, but are blocked by international peace activists who hold them off until Ariel settlement security officers take them away. (NYT, WP, WT 4/29; International Solidarity Movement press release 5/1; LAW 5/4; MEI 5/4)

29 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. A Palestinian suicide bomber detonates a car bomb nr. a Jewish settler school bus in the West Bank, killing himself but causing no other injuries. Palestinians also fire 2 mortars at a Kefar Darom settlement in Gaza. Inside the Green Line, Israeli police find, safely detonate a bomb in Netanya. The IDF shells a PSF office in Gaza, residential areas of Khan Yunis; bulldozes Palestinian land in Khan Yunis; conducts an arrest sweep in Jalazun. Jewish settlers set fire to a Palestinian olive grove in Salfit, destroying 50 trees. (WP 4/30; LAW 5/4)
Arafat orders the popular resistance commns. to disband and their mbrs. (most of whom are Fatah mbrs., some of whom are PSF officers) to “return to their original security positions,” calls senior PSF officer Yasir Zanun (a Fatah mbr. and a leader of the resistance commns.) in for questioning, has the PSF arrest Hamas spokesman ‘Abd al-Aziz Rantisi for statements accusing Arafat of treason for resuming security talks with Israel. Fatah tanzim leader Barghouti. Hamas. Islamic Jihad. the PFLP strongly oppose disbanding the resistance commns. (WP 4/30; AYM 5/1 in WNC 5/3; WJW 5/3; SA 5/3 in WNC 5/4; MEI 5/4 WP 5/7; MEI 5/18)

Israel FM Peres presents Israel’s response to the Jordanian-Egyptian proposal to Mubarak in Cairo, Jordanian FM Khatib in Amman, Egypt, Jordan say they will study Israel’s reservations and proposed changes, but they are not willing to start a new process of “talks about talks.” (MENA 4/29 in WNC 4/30; HA, NYT, WP 4/30; HA, MM 5/1; AYM 5/1 in WNC 5/3; MM 5/2; MEI, MM 5/4) (see Peace Monitor)

30 APRIL

Israeli-Palestinian clashes escalate, leaving a total of 7 Palestinians, 1 Jewish settler dead. In Ramallah, an explosion destroys a home, wounding 5 Palestinians, killing 2 children and a Palestinian wanted by Israel for the 1/18 murder of an Israeli civilian in the West Bank. Israel claims the wanted Palestinian accidentally detonated a bomb he was building; the PA claims the IDF assassinated him. In Gaza, 2 Hamas mbrs. are killed when a bomb in their car, parked in a garage, explodes, destroying the building, wounding 4 bystanders. Israel claims a car bomb exploded prematurely; Hamas, noting that 2 IDF helicopters were reported in the area at the time, claims the IDF assassinated the pair with a remote-controlled device. A Palestinian worker at a Gaza settlement is killed; another is wounded when a bomb in his employer’s car explodes; the IDF claims the men were planting the bomb when it exploded. Palestinian snipers fire on 2 settler vehicles, wounding 1 settler and causing 1 car to crash, killing another settler. Palestinians fire mortars at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, causing no damage. The IDF responds by heavily shelling residential areas of Khan Yunis. Jewish settlers open fire on the Palestinian villages of Bazarim and Burqa, causing no injuries. The IDF also “eases” the blockade on Bethlehem and Qalqiliya, allowing residents “to enter and exit the cities through 1 roadblock for each city after undergoing stringent security checks.” (HA, REU 4/30; LAW, MM, NYT, WT 5/1; NYT 5/2; al-Quds 5/3 in WNC 5/4; LAW 5/4)

In New York, Peres discusses Israel’s position on the Jordanian-Egyptian initiative with UN Secy.-Gen. Annan. (HA 5/1; AYM 5/1 in WNC 5/3; MM, WT 5/2; WJW 5/3; SA 5/3 in WNC 5/7; MEI 5/4)

The State Dept. issues its annual report on global “terrorism,” which notes—but does not support or dismiss—Israeli accusations that PA security officials, Fatah mbrs. have facilitated and/or taken part in attacks against Israelis. (MM 5/1, 5/2; AYM 5/3 in WNC 5/7; al-Abram [Internet] 5/10)

1 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 2 Palestinians, 1 Jewish settler dead. Palestinians fire 2 mortars at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, causing no injuries. Jewish settlers stone Palestinian cars nr. Kedumim settlement, fire on Palestinians in Bazari (injuring 2). The IDF shells residential areas of al-Bireh and Ramallah, damaging offices of the PA Central Bureau of Statistics, the Local Government Min., WAFA news agency; bulldozes Palestinian land in Bayt Hanun. Sharon announces that he has given the IDF “freedom beyond imagining” to act against Palestinians, saying, “There are things we will tell the public about. There are things we will deny, and there are things that will remain hidden forever.” (MM 5/1; NYT, WP 5/2; MA 5/2 in WNC 5/3; LAW, WT 5/4)

2 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. In a predawn strike, IDF bulldozers move into Brazilian camp in PA-controlled Rafah under cover of tank, machine-gun fire to demolish 20 Palestinian homes, killing 1 Palestinian, wounding at least 14, leaving 150 homeless. Israel claims the aim of the 4-hr. assault was to halt sniper fire. (AP, BBC, NYT, REU 5/2; BDL, NYT, WP, WT 5/3; al-Quds 5/3 in WNC 5/4; LAW, MM 5/4; MEI 5/18)

In Washington, Israeli FM Peres discusses with Secy. of State Powell Israel’s position on the Jordanian-Egyptian initiative, urges the U.S. to help arrange a cease-fire. Powell, echoing Israel’s positions, says the U.S. supports the Arab proposal as the “beginning of
a dialogue. But, of course, that dialogue cannot get underway until violence is brought down" significantly; he does not mention the Israeli attack on Brazil hrs. earlier. The State Dept., however, denounces the Brazil attack as "undermin[ing] the efforts to defuse the situation." (MENA 5/2 in WNC 5/3; WP, WT 5/3; MM 5/4) (see Peace Monitor)

At a mtg. of his inner cabinet held in the Jewish settlement of Ofra, Sharon says that he cannot foresee Israel ever ceding sovereignty over the Jordan Valley "from the Jordanian border in the east to the mountain ridges of Judea and Samaria and the Alon Road in the west." (JP [Internet] 5/3; WJW 5/10)

3 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. Jewish settlers attack, beat up several Palestinian farmers nr. Aqraba; fire on Palestinians nr. Hawara, causing no injuries; throw stones at Palestinian cars nr. Shavei Shomron settlement. The IDF shells residential areas in Bayt Hanun. (HJ 5/4; PCHR 5/10; LAW 5/11)

In Washington, Bush Peres discuss the Jordanian-Egyptian initiative. They also address the American Jewish Comm., where Bush says the U.S. and Israeli uses eye to eye on how to handle the peace process; that the IDF will be "steadfast in supporting Israel against terrorism." (AP, NYT 5/4)

The U.S. is voted off the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) for the 1st time since the comm. was established in 1947. (NYT, WP 5/4; NYT, WT 5/5; MM 5/8; WJW 5/10; JT 5/13 in WNC 5/14; MM 5/14; MEI 5/18) (see Peace Monitor)

Lebanon sends a letter to UN Secy.-Gen. Annan protesting his 5/2 proposal to the UNSC to reduce the size of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) contingent when the UNIFIL mandate comes up for renewal in 7/01, arguing that the troops are necessary while tensions in the region remain high. (RL 5/3 in WNC 5/4; MEI 5/4; WT 5/10; MEI 5/18) (see Peace Monitor)

4 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. Palestinians fire 2 mortars at Kefar Aza kibbutz inside the Green Line, causing no damage. The IDF fires 4 tank shells at a PSF post nr. Bayt Hanun in response; also shells residential areas of al-Bireh, Gaza City, Jinin. Jewish settlers fr. Tapuah settlement fire on Palestinians, destroy property in Yasuf; Israeli border police capture, arrest 4 of the settlers. In Bethlehem, 500 Islamic Jihad supporters protest the Jordanian-Egyptian initiative. (WT 5/5; MA 5/7 in WNC 5/8; PCHR 5/10; LAW 5/11)

The Mitchell Comm. gives Israel the PA copies of its preliminary report on the causes of the 7 mos. of clashes. The report targets 3 goals—halting violence, rebuilding confidence, resuming negotiations—though it says the "timing and sequence" of steps must be decided by the parties themselves. (MM 5/4; WT 5/5; HA, NYT, WT 5/6; al-Quds 5/6 in WNC 5/7; HA, NYT, WT 5/7; AYM 5/7, JT 5/8 in WNC 5/9; MM, WT 5/8; WJW 5/11; AN 5/14 in WNC 5/15; MEI 5/18) (see Peace Monitor; Docs. A2, B2, C2, D4)

5 MAY

As Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, the IDF assassinates Islamic Jihad mbr. Ahmad Asad. One Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. The IDF shells 10 mobile trailers used by the GIS in Jericho, injuring 9 GIS mbrs.; shells residential areas in Bayt Hanun, nr. Jericho; begins bulldozing wide tracks of land nr. Yabad for a new settler bypass road. (LAW 5/5; WT 5/6; PCHR 5/10; LAW 5/11; HA 5/16)

Pope John Paul II arrives in Damascus on a 4-day trip to Syria, is greeted by Pres. Asad. (NYT, WT 5/5; AFP 5/7 in WNC 5/8; MM, WP, WT 5/8; MM 5/9; WJW 5/10; MEI 5/18) (see Peace Monitor)

6 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 2 Palestinians dead. In what the IDF says is an effort to silence shooting at its positions, Israeli paratroopers, border police in armored personnel carriers and under cover of IDF tank and machine-gun fire enter PA-controlled Bayt Jala and al-Khadir, where they fire on Palestinian homes for several hrs., killing 1 Palestinian, injuring 23. The IDF also briefly enters and shells residential areas of Tulkarm, killing 1 Palestinian, wounding 9; bulldozes 17 dunams of Palestinian land in Bayt Hanun. Israeli DM Ben-Eliezer says he has given IDF field cmdrs. greater freedom to launch ground attacks into areas under PA control to suppress Palestinian gunfire. In Petah Tikva, Israel, a bomb explodes in a trash bin nr. a bus station, lightly injuring 1 Israeli. (LAW, NYT 5/7; al-Quds 5/7 in WNC 5/8; WP, WT 5/8; PCHR 5/10; LAW 5/11)
7 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 2 Palestinians dead. The IDF opens fire on Khan Yunis, killing a 4-mo-old Palestinian girl inside her home, wounding at least 23 Palestinians, including 10 children. Sharon apologizes for the incident, in which the IDF was responding to 4 mortars fired toward Neve Dekalim settlement that caused no damage. The IDF directs heavy machine gun fire at a car clearing a PA checkpoint nr. Hebron, killing 1 PSF officer, wounding 2. The Israeli navy captures a boat nr. the Israel-Lebanon border carrying a load of weapons, ammunition. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) acknowledges the boat is theirs; the PA denies any connection to the shipment. In the West Bank, the IDF enters 2 towns in area A in pursuit of Palestinians said to have fired on Israeli forces. The U.S. criticizes recent incursions into area A as a “serious escalation.” The IDF also directs heavy machine gun fire on residential areas of Jenin; bulldozes 230 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Khan Yunis, 71 dunams in Gaza City. (AP, LAW 5/7; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/8; al-Quds 5/8 in WNC 5/9; MM 5/9; SA 5/9 in WNC 5/10; PCHR, WJW 5/10; DUS 5/10 in WNC 5/11; AYM 5/11 in WNC 5/14)

8 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. 1 Jewish settler is fatally shot nr. Itamar settlement. 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. IDF bulldozers push 150 yds. into PA-controlled territory nr. Netzarim settlement to demolish Palestinian agricultural land. The IDF also shells residential areas of Tulkarm. (NYT 5/8; WP, WT 5/9; al-Quds 5/9 in WNC 5/10; WJW 5/10; LAW 5/11; MA 5/11 in WNC 5/14)

Dismissing the Mitchell Comm.’s conclusion that settlements are a barrier to peace, Sharon vows to continue expanding Jewish settlements; says settlements are not illegal because they are built “not on occupied territory, but disputed territory.” The State Dept. says Sharon’s plans (announced 5/6) to seek an additional $350 m./yr. for settlement construction “risks further inflaming the already volatile situation . . . and is provocative.” (NYT, WP 5/9; WP 5/10; MEI 5/18)

Israel’s Public Security Min. says it has drawn up a list of 11 offices operated by the PA in East Jerusalem that it plans to close in the near future to “thwart any activity by the PA infringing on our sovereignty in Jerusalem.” (MA 5/8 in WNC 5/9; WJW 5/10; AYM 5/10 in WNC 5/11)

9 MAY

As Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, 2 Jewish settler teenagers (1 of whom is a dual U.S.-Israeli citizen) are found beaten to death in a cave nr. Bethlehem; the pair have been missing since 5/8. Sharon calls the murders a “new escalation,” blames the PA. The IDF detains 15 Palestinians for questioning. YESHA settlers council says the proper response is to accelerate settlement construction, declare Arafat an enemy of the state, bring down the PA. The IDF makes 4 knowledges the boat is theirs; the PA denies any connection to the shipment. In the West Bank, the IDF enters 2 towns in area A to demolish a Palestinian home, shell a PSF post; bulldozing Palestinian land nr. Gaza City; twice entering Bayt Hanun to bulldoze land, a PSF post. Hamas claims responsibility for a roadside bomb on the Egypt-Gaza border that kills 2 Rumanian migrant laborers, wounds 1. The IDF also shells residential areas of Rafah; bulldozes 2 Palestinian homes in Rafah, 200 dunams of agricultural land in al-Qarara; surrounds 15 Palestinian homes (occupied by 150 people) nr. Kefar Darom settlement with barbed wire, seals the area for 7 hrs. In Hebron, Jewish settlers severely beat 3 Palestinians (ages 9, 27, 54). (AFP [Internet], Israel’s Public Security Min. says it has drawn up a list of 11 offices operated by the PA in East Jerusalem that it plans to close in the near future to “thwart any activity by the PA infringing on our sovereignty in Jerusalem.” (MA 5/8 in WNC 5/9; WJW 5/10; AYM 5/10 in WNC 5/11)

10 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. A critically ill Palestinian dies when the IDF bars his transportation through a checkpoint to a hospital; a 2d Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. In retaliation for the death of 2 Rumanian workers on 5/9, the IDF shells Gaza City, targeting and severely damaging Fatah and PSF offices, the PA Transportation Min., PSF central prison, injuring 5 PSF officers, 8 civilians. The IDF also shells residential areas of Rafah; bulldozes 2 Palestinian homes in Rafah, 200 dunams of agricultural land in al-Qarara; surrounds 15 Palestinian homes (occupied by 150 people) nr. Kefar Darom settlement with barbed wire, seals the area for 7 hrs. In Hebron, Jewish settlers severely beat 3 Palestinians (ages 9, 27, 54). (AFP [Internet], LAW, MEZ, PCHR 5/10; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/11; Interfax, QA 5/11 in WNC 5/14; HP 5/12; PCHR 5/17; LAW, MEI 5/18; JP 5/25)
The U.S. House votes (252-165) to pass an amendment to the foreign operations budget that would withhold $244 m. in UN arrears slated for payment in 2002 unless the U.S. regains its seat on the UNCHR. (NYT, WP, WT 5/11; MM 5/14) (see 5/3)

11 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. Overnight, Palestinian assailants throw hand grenades at an IDF post nr. Gaza’s Dayr al-Balah refugee camp. In retaliation, the IDF sends tanks and bulldozers into the camp at dawn, firing 15 shells, demolishing 5 Palestinian homes and a PSF post; the 700-yd. incursion, the deepest into PA-controlled territory since IDF field cmdrs. were given (5/6) free rein to carry them out, leaves 27 Palestinians homeless.

Later, the IDF fires machine guns toward journalists, Palestinians digging through the rubble in search of their possessions. The IDF also directs shells, heavy machine gun fire on residential areas of Bethlehem, Jabaliya, Jericho, Khan Yunis; opens a new settler bypass road linking the Jewish settlements of Mevo Dotan, Homesh, Shaked. A pipe bomb explodes in the Old City of Jerusalem, wounding 2 people. For the 2nd day, Jewish settlers in Hebron attack, injuring 4 Palestinians (ages 3, 6, 13, 37). Settlers also establish a new settlement outpost nr. Kochav Hasachar settlement. (HP 5/12; LAW, NYT, WP, WT 5/13; al-Quds 5/13 in WNC 5/15; PCHR 5/17; LAW, MEI 5/18) (see 5/3)

UN was the source of mortar fire. For the 3rd day, arrears slated for payment in 2002 unless the Jewish settlers in Hebron attack, injure 4 Palestinians (ages 3, 6, 13, 37). Settlers also establish a new settlement outpost nr. Kochav Hasachar settlement. (HP 5/12; LAW, NYT, WP, WT 5/13; al-Quds 5/13 in WNC 5/15; PCHR 5/17; LAW, MEI 5/18)

13 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. Late this evening, the IDF helicopter gunships, naval boats shell PSF posts across the Gaza Strip specifically targeting, destroying at least 8 PSF armored personnel carriers, not aiming at adjacent PSF buildings; 3 PSF officers are wounded. The IDF says the attacks were in response to the “unprecedented number of mortar attacks” (they report 17) on Jewish settlements in Gaza in the preceding wk. The IDF also sends tanks, bulldozers into Rafah to demolish 2 Palestinian homes: 2 other homes are damaged by shelling. (MA 5/13 in WNC 5/14; WP, WT 5/14; PCHR 5/17)

14 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving a total of 7 Palestinians dead. Hrs. before dawn, without warning, the IDF opens fire with M-16s and heavy machine guns on a PSF post in Beitunia, killing 5 PSF officers. Later in the day, 10,000s of Palestinians attend a memorial for the 5 killed in Ramallah. The U.S. says Israel’s actions mark a “very disturbing” escalation. When a Palestinian throws a grenade at an IDF checkpoint nr. Khan Yunis, IDF soldiers open fire on cars waiting to pass through, killing the assailant (who is reportedly wearing an explosive device), 1 bystander, wounding 5 bystanders. The IDF also demolishes a PSF building nr. Tulkarm. Palestinian gunmen fire on Gilo settlement, temple in Jerusalem, wounding 4 Jewish settlers. (LAW, MEZ, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/14; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/15; AN, MENA 5/15 in WNC 5/16; AYM 5/16 in WNC 5/18; PCHR, WP 5/17; LAW, MEI 5/18)

Hizballah fires 5 rockets fr. Lebanon into the Israeli-occupied Shaba’ Farms. The IDF responds by firing mortars at Hizballah targets in s. Lebanon, overflying the area. Neither side reports damage. (RL 5/14 in WNC 5/15; NYT 5/15; MEI 5/18)
15 MAY

Palestinians mark Nakba commemoration day by observing 3 minutes of silence. Large rallies are held in every major Palestinian city in the West Bank and Gaza, after which a recorded message by Arafat is read over loudspeakers. Israeli Arabs hold marches to the sites of their destroyed villages. Marches, rallies are also held in Amman (where 1,000s demonstrate), Cairo, Tehran, Washington. (MM 5/15; IRNA, MENA 5/15 in WNC 5/16; SA 5/15, HJ, JT, al-Quds 5/16 in WNC 5/17; NYT, WP, WT 5/16; WJW 5/17; HA, WP 5/18)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes escalate due to the Nakba anniversary, leaving 5 Palestinians, 1 Israeli settler dead, some 250 Palestinians wounded. In an apparent assassination in Gaza, the IDF fires a tank shell at the car driven by ‘Abd al-Hakim al-Manna, bodyguard of Hamas spiritual leader Shaykh Yasin, killing him and a passenger. In Ramallah, an IDF soldier shoots French TV reporter Bertrand Aguirre, who captures his targeted shooting on video. A Palestinian woman gives birth at an IDF checkpoint when soldiers refuse to let her pass to reach a hospital. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Rafah, Tulkarm. (AP, LAW 5/15; HP, NYT, WP, WT 5/16; PCHR 5/17; CSM 5/18; JP 5/25)

Israel, the PA submit their official responses to the Mitchell Comm., report, generally welcoming the report as a basis for a cease-fire. (MM 5/15; NYT 5/16; AYM 5/16 in WNC 5/18; NYT 5/17) (see Peace Monitor; see Docs. B2, C2)

Israel Reinforces Troops in Shaba’ Farms, directs machine gun fire across the border into Lebanon, flies helicopters along the border area. (RL 5/15 in WNC 5/16)

The Higher Follow-Up Comm. for the Arab Community (HFCAC), composed of Israeli Arab political and community leaders, reports that Israel is restricting the freedoms of Israeli Arabs in light of the al-Aqsa intifada. Israeli Arab journalists, poets have been detained for questioning, warned against “incitement” for writing on the intifada; community activists have received threatening telephone calls fr. police, intelligence officials; Israeli police have opened investigations against 4 Israeli Arab MKs; 1 Israeli Arab has been placed under administrative detention; several Israeli Arabs have had their passports confiscated for taking part in a trip to Syria. (HFCAC press release 5/15)


Chronology Source Abbreviations

AFP (Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AN (Arab News, Riyadh)
ATL (Anatolia, Ankara)
AYM (al-Ayyam, Ramallah)
BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation World Service, Internet)
BDL (BADIL Resource Center, Bethlehem)
CNN (Cable News Network, Internet)
CSM (Christian Science Monitor, Boston)
DUS (al-Dustur, Amman)
HA (Ha’aretz [Internet], Tel Aviv)
HJ (al-Hayat al-Jadida, Ramallah)
HP (Hear Palestine [Internet], Washington)
IRNA (Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran)
JT (Jordan Times, Amman)
LAW (Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, Jerusalem)
MA (Ma’ariv, Tel Aviv)
MEI (Middle East International, London)
MENA (Middle East News Agency, Cairo)
MEZ (al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, Jabaliya)
MIL (Milliyet, Ankara)
Palestinians survey the damage in Khan Yunis, where IDF bulldozers, under cover of tank fire, leveled 30 homes in a predawn raid on 11 April. (AP Photo/Pier Paolo Cito)