16 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes, now in their 8th mo., continue, with Israel Defense Forces (IDF) increasingly striking Palestinian targets and entering areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority (PA) without provocation so as to "keep them guessing and [have] them spend more time defending themselves" and with Palestinians stepping up their sniping at soldiers and settlers and firing of mortars (especially in Gaza). To date, around 511 Palestinians, 82 Israelis have been killed. Today, 1 Palestinian is shot dead by IDF troops. The IDF also shells the PA Preventive Security Force (PSF) offices in Jabaliya, Jinin; directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Khan Yunis; sends bulldozers into 2 PA-controlled areas in Gaza, occupying a multistory building in al-Qarara nr. Gush Katif settlement and a factory in Dayr al-Balah. IDF soldiers at a checkpoint on the Nablus–Ramallah road halt a Red Crescent ambulance en route to pick up a critically ill patient, severely beat 3 medics, empty the ambulance and damage supplies; the harassment ends when the International Comm. of the Red Cross (ICRC) intervenes. (AFP [Internet], HP 5/16; MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 5/17; LAW, WT 5/18)

The IDF concedes that the 5/14 attack on a PSF post in Beitunia that left 5 PSF officers dead was a "blunder" and that the area was quiet when soldiers attacked. (WP 5/17; AN, HJ 5/17 in WNC 5/18, 5/21; HA, NYT 5/18)

PA Information M Yasir ‘Abid Rabbuh appeals to Congress to support the recommendations of the Mitchell Comm., the U.S.-led international inquiry into the causes of the al-Aqsa intifada headed by fmr. U.S. sen. George Mitchell. The comm.'s preliminary report (submitted to Israel and the PA on 5/1) suggests a two-pronged approach to restoring calm based on Israel halting all settlement construction, the PA making a 100% effort to halt violence. The comm.'s final report is expected in 1 wk. The State Dept. says Secy. of State Colin Powell is considering meeting with Sharon, Arafat on the sidelines of his trip to Africa, Europe 5/22–30. (WT 5/18) (see Peace Monitor)

In Washington, U.S. Pres. George W. Bush holds a strategy session on the Middle East with his top foreign policy advisers, including Secy. of State Powell, Secy. of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, National Security Adviser (NSA) Condoleeza Rice. Powell advocates using the recommendations of the Mitchell Comm. and the Jordanian-Egyptian initiative as the basis for a cease-fire plan (see Peace Monitor in JPS 120). Both plans call for a full freeze on settlement construction, which admin. officials claim they cannot directly demand from Israeli PM Ariel Sharon. (MM 5/16; MM, NYT 5/17)

17 MAY

Israel's Internal Security M Uzi Landau says Sharon is escalating Israel's response to Palestinian unrest and may resort to "all-out" combat if violence continues. The IDF sends bulldozers into Rafah to demolish several greenhouses; tanks covering the bulldozers fire several shells. The IDF also shells a PSF post in Qalqilya; conducts arrest raids in Aqraba, Nablus. Palestinians fire several mortars at Jewish settlements in Gaza, hitting 1 home but causing no injuries. (Globes 5/17 in WNC 5/18, 5/21; WP, WT 5/18; PCHR 5/24; LAW 5/25)

18 MAY

In Netanya, Israel, a Hamas suicide bomber kills 5 Israelis, injures 110. After dark, Israel sends F-16s to drop 1,100 lb. bombs on PA security targets in Gaza City, Nablus, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, killing 12 Palestinians, wounding 90—marking Israel's 1st use of warplanes against the Palestinian areas since the 1967 war. (Sharon makes the decision to use F-16s in a mtg. with FM Shimon Peres and DM Benjamin Ben-
Eliezer: he has not met with his security cabinet in 3 wks.) An IDF officer is also killed when his car is ambushed in the West Bank. Britain, European Union (EU), Russia, the UN, the U.S. condemn the sharp escalation; urge PA, Israeli leaders to bring violence to a halt. (AP, BBC, HA, JP [Internet], MM, REU 5/18; AFP, Interfax 5/18, al-Quds 5/19, JT, MA, RMC 5/20 in WNC 5/21; LAW, PCHR, NYT, WP, WT 5/19; QA 5/19, El Pais (Madrid) 5/22 in WNC 5/23; HP, NYT, WT 5/20; al-Rai 5/20, MA 5/21 in WNC 5/22; MM 5/21; PCHR 5/24; LAW 5/25; MEI 6/1)

19 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at a high level, leaving 3 Palestinians dead; 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. IDF helicopters shell 5 PSF targets in Jinin, Tulkarm. The IDF also directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of al-Azza refugee camp, Hebron, Jinin, Khan Yunis, Nablus, Rafah. Palestinians fire 4 mortars at Gadid settlement in Gaza, causing no injuries. (LAW 5/19; HP, NYT, WT 5/20; NYT 5/21; PCHR 5/24; LAW 5/25)

The Arab League convenes an FMs mtg. to discuss Israel’s sharp escalation of violence against the Palestinians on 5/18, issues a statement calling on Arab states to halt all political contacts with Israel as long as Israeli violence, blockages continue. (AP 5/19; MENA 5/19, JT, MENA, RMC 5/20 in WNC 5/21; NYT, WT 5/20; JT, al-Quds 5/21 in WNC 5/22; MM 5/22; WJW 5/24; MENA 5/28 in WNC 5/30) (see Peace Monitor)

20 MAY

The IDF shells the home of PSF West Bank head Jibril Rajub, injuring 6 bodyguards; Rajub, his family are home but are not injured. The IDF also directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at al-Rub refugee camp, Bayt Jala, al-Bireh, Hebron, al-Khadir, Ramallah. Jewish settlers establish a new settlement enclave in Nabi Salih, nr. Ramallah; occupy 2 Palestinian shops in Jerusalem’s Old City; set Palestinian wheat fields on fire nr. Hebron. Israel’s Peace Now reports that at least 15 new Jewish settlement sites have been established since Sharon was elected in 2/01. (HP, Peace Now press release 5/20; NYT, PMC, WT 5/21; HA, WP 5/22; HA, MM, NYT 5/23; PCHR 5/24; LAW 5/25; MEI 6/1)


Angry over Sharon’s decision to use F-16s on 5/18 without consulting the full cabinet or security cabinet, the full Israeli cabinet limits the “kitchenette” (Sharon, Peres, Ben-Eliezer) to ordering strikes against 3 types of Palestinian targets without prior approval. (HA 5/21; MA 5/21 in WNC 5/22) (see Peace Monitor)

U.S. VP Dick Cheney states that Israel should stop using American-supplied F-16s against Palestinian targets. Sharon says Israel will use as much military force against the Palestinians as it deems necessary. (MM, NYT, WT 5/21; al-Quds 5/21 in WNC 5/22; QA 5/21 in WNC 5/23; WJW 5/24; MEI 6/1)

21 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 2 Palestinians dead. Under police surveillance, Israelis, Jewish settlers march through Jerusalem to celebrate Jerusalem Day, marking Israel’s capture of East Jerusalem in the 1967 war. IDF helicopter gunships shell PSF post, a factory in Gaza where Israel claims mortars have been made. The IDF also sends tanks into al-Qarara to fire on several Palestinian homes; bulldozes Palestinian agricultural land nr. Netzarim settlement; fires heavy machine guns at residential areas of Bayt Jala, al-Bireh, Hebron, Gaza City, al-Tira. (NYT, WT 5/21; London Press Association 5/21 in WNC 5/22; HP 5/22; NYT 5/23; PCHR 5/24; LAW 5/25; MEI 6/1)

Powell urges Israel, the PA to implement the Mitchell Comm. recommendations by declaring an unconditional ceasefire but does not endorse the comm.’s call for a settlement freeze (saying Israel should “restrain” settlement expansion as a confidence-building measure after violence halts). Powell says he will not meet with Arafat or Sharon as discussed on 5/16; instead charges U.S. Amb. to Jordan William Burns, who has been nominated as asst. secy. of state for Near East affairs, with exploring what confidence-building measures could be employed

22 MAY

U.S. Amb. Martin Indyk, U.S. Consul General Ronald Schliecher hold talks with Sharon on the Mitchell Comm. findings, especially regarding a settlement freeze. Sharon calls for an unconditional cease-fire, which he says must be followed by a 2-mo. “cooling-off period” before any “concessions” can be discussed; orders the IDF to “stop taking the initiative in attacking Palestinians.” The PA says it sees no reason to clamp down on the intifada, make preemptive arrests without some confidence-building gestures fr. Israel. (MM 5/22; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/23; MA 5/23 in WNC 5/24; MM, NYT, PCHR 5/24; MM 5/25; QA 5/25 in WNC 5/29; MEI 6/1)

Although Sharon calls on the IDF to stop instigating attacks, the IDF continues to retaliate for Palestinian actions, responding to “life-threatening” incidents of stone-throwing with live fire, rubber-coated steel bullets, shells, and heavy machine gun fire, particularly at residential areas east of Jerusalem, Hawara, Khan Yunis. The IDF demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem, 1 in al-Mughraqa; bulldozes Palestinian land in Beitunia, Hebron, al-Mughraqa, al-Qarara; erects new posts in al-Qarara, outside Ramallah. 100s of Palestinians stage a nonviolent Arafat protest march in Hebron to protest continued Israeli attacks on medical workers. Also in Hebron, Jewish settlers stone Palestinian cars, and the IDF declares the vegetable market and Old Quarter a closed military zone. Jewish settlers also stone Palestinian cars on the Nablus–Qalqilya road; shoot and wound a Palestinian herder in Tubas, kill 3 sheep.

Palestinians fire 2 mortars at Netzer Hazani settlement in Gaza. 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. (Gush Shalom press release; HP 5/22; NYT, WP 5/23; NYT, PCHR 5/24; LAW 5/25; NYT 6/2)

23 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes abate slightly but are still at a relatively high level, leaving 1 Israeli civilian (a worker on a road crew nr. Ariel settlement) dead in a West Bank shooting. Bush phones Arafat, Sharon to urge both sides to contain violence. Sustained gun battles are reported nr. Gilo settlement outside Jerusalem, in Rafah. Palestinians fire 4 mortars, 12 homemade grenades at targets in Gaza; detonate a roadside bomb in the West Bank. IDF tanks enter 4 PA-controlled areas nr. Khuzza in Gaza to bulldoze agricultural land, shell a PSF Post; conduct an arrest sweep in Attil village. The PSF arrests the Palestinian owner of an iron-casting company on charges of manufacturing mortars. (AP 5/23; WP, MM, NYT, PCHR, WT 5/24)

24 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving 2 Palestinians dead. Palestinians fire mortars at a Jewish settlement in Gaza; in response, the IDF sends 5 tanks into nearby PA-controlled territory. The IDF also shells residential areas of Bayt Jala, Bethlehem; bulldozes 30 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Gaza City. (REU 5/24; WP 5/25; PCHR 6/4)

On the anniversary of the IDF pullout fr. s. Lebanon, Israel shoots down a civilian light aircraft that crosses the border fr. Lebanon, killing the pilot. Israel sends jets into Lebanese airspace to break the sound barrier. (HA, MM 5/24; RL 5/24 in WNC 5/29; NYT, WP, WT 5/25; MEI 6/1)

25 MAY

As Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, 2 Islamic Jihad suicide bombers detonate a car bomb in Hadera, Israel, wounding 67. A Hamas suicide bomber attempts to ram an IDF post in Gaza, but soldiers fire on his approaching vehicle, detonating it; in response, the IDF demolishes a PA police station, shells residential areas of Rafah. Fatah activist Azzam ‘Abd al-Fatah Mezher is killed, 5 Fatah mbrs. are wounded when their car explodes. Israeli says a grenade they were carrying exploded; the PA claims it is an assassination. (NYT, WT, WP 5/26; WT 5/27; MM 5/29; MEI 6/1; PCHR 6/4)

Lebanese celebrating the 1st anniversary of Israel’s withdrawal fr. the south stage demonstrations along the blue line. A demonstrator is wounded when he tries to climb the border fence and is shot by IDF troops. (WP 5/26)

26 MAY

 Israeli-Palestinian clashes diminish. The Popular Front for the Liberation of...
Palestine (PFLP) detonates a car bomb in West Jerusalem, causing no injuries. (NYT, WP, WT 5/27; MM 5/29; MEI 6/1)

The Organization of the Islamic Conference calls on members to suspend diplomatic relations with Israel until it lifts the siege on Palestinian areas. (ATL, IRNA 5/26, IRNA, MENA 5/27 in WNC 5/29; IRNA 5/26, SA 5/28 in WNC 5/30; WP, WT 5/27; HJ 5/27 in WNC 6/1)

27 MAY

Another car bomb explodes in West Jerusalem during the morning rush hour, lightly injuring 2 Israelis. The IDF directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Tubas; bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Khan Yunis. (NYT, WP, WT 5/28; MM 5/29; MEI 6/1; PCHR 6/4)


28 MAY

Burns holds another round of talks with Arafat and Sharon, who agree to resume security talks on 5/29. Arafat reportedly proposes implementing the Mitchell Comm. recommendations over the shortest time possible; his timetable includes forming an international monitoring comm., redeploying IDF troops to their 9/28/00 positions, halting settlement activity, implementing all outstanding Oslo provisions (e.g., 3d further redeployment, prisoner release). He also gives Burns a map showing 18 Jewish settlements that have been established in the West Bank, Gaza since 9/28/00. (CNN, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/29; AYM, SA 6/3 in WNC 6/4)

29 MAY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes leave a total of 3 Palestinians, 3 Jewish settlers dead. In Gaza, 2 Palestinians are shot dead in a failed suicide attack on an IDF post that lightly injures 2 soldiers. The IDF shells residential areas of Khan Yunis, Nablus, Rafah; places a closure on Nablus. A group calling itself the Fatah Hawks briefly detains 2 journalists (1 American, 1 British) in Rafah, The Organization of the Islamic Conference telling them to warn the UK, U.S. that more kidnappings of their nationals could take place if their pro-Israel bias does not cease. Fatah denies involvement in the incident, noting it disbanded its Fatah Hawks wing in the mid-1990s; the PA vows to arrest the perpetrators. Jewish settlers damage Palestinian property, throw stones at Palestinians in Hebron; trespass onto Palestinian property, threaten residents with guns, damage a water system nr. HaHarsina Junction. (BBC, IDF directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Tubas; bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Khan Yunis. (NYT, WP, WT 5/27; MM 5/29; MEI 6/1; PCHR 6/4)

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and stoning Palestinian cars, beating a group of Palestinians nr. Nablus. In Bethlehem, a Palestinian, previously questioned by the PSF for selling land to Israelis, is killed in a drive-by shooting outside his home, raising speculation that Palestinians targeted him as a collaborator. (HA, MM, NYT 6/1; HP 6/2)

In Washington, Israeli pres. Moshe Katsav meets separately with Bush, Powell; asks the U.S. to set a deadline for the Palestinians to halt attacks on Israel. Bush makes no commitment. Afterward, Katsav says Bush did not ask Israel not to retaliate against Palestinian attacks; warns Arafat that he has a “few days, no more” to end the violence or face a sharply escalated IDF military response. Powell phones Arafat and asks him to “implement the Mitchell Comm.’s call for an immediate, unconditional cease-fire.” (JP [Internet] 5/31; WP, WT 6/1; WJW 6/7)


1 JUNE

A Hamas suicide bomber detonates a device outside a nightclub in Tel Aviv, killing 16 Israelis and injuring more than 80, mostly teenage Russian immigrants on a Friday night out. Arafat’s spokesman condemns the attack, calls on all parties to show restraint. The PA orders Palestinians to close offices and stores and return to their homes, fearing a massive retaliation. Israel seals the West Bank and Gaza; reinforces internal closures on all Palestinian population centers, dividing the West Bank into 8 enclaves, Gaza into 4. Meanwhile, Jewish settlers set up a new enclave on Batn al-Masi hill in the West Bank. A Palestinian known for selling land to Jews is found murdered in Bethlehem. (CNN, HA, IGPO, JP [Internet] 6/1; NYT, WP, WT 6/2; MA 6/2, JT, SA 6/3 in WNC 6/4; MM, NYT, WP 6/4; Interfax 6/4 in WNC 6/4; al-Ahram [Internet] 6/9; (CNN, HA, IGPO, JP [Internet] 6/1; NYT, WP, WT 6/2; MA 6/2, JT, SA 6/3 in WNC 6/4; MM, NYT, WP 6/4; Interfax 6/4 in WNC 6/4; WT 6/5; XIN 6/5 in WNC 6/6; al-Abram [Internet] 6/9; JP, MEI 6/15)

2 JUNE

Overnight, international leaders press Israel, the PA to show restraint, deescalate tensions in light of the 6/1 suicide bombing. Powell phones Arafat to warn him to declare a cease-fire and immediately arrest Hamas and Islamic Jihad members, or the U.S. would sever all relations with the PLO and would not intervene with Israel to prevent a massive retaliation. German FM Joschka Fischer, in Israel on other matters, races to Ramallah to meet with Arafat, whom he warns to make a statement in his own words calling for a halt to violence or lose all EU and political and economic support to the PA. During a heated session, Fischer, UN special coordinator Terje Larsen work with Arafat to draft a statement condemning the bombing and ordering an immediate and unconditional cease-fire, which Arafat reads publicly this morning. (MENA 6/2, AFP, Interfax, ITAR-TASS, MENA 6/3 in WNC 6/4; NYT, WT 6/3; MM, NYT, WP 6/4; WP 6/5; XIN 6/5 in WNC 6/6; al-Abram [Internet] 6/9; JP, MEI 6/15)

Meanwhile, Sharon holds a 7-hr. mtg. with his security cabinet to discuss how to respond to the 6/1 bombing. According to an anonymous U.S. admin. official, they draw up plans to “carry out a massive, full-force invasion” of PA-controlled territory lasting up to a wk. After Arafat reads his cease-fire call, the security cabinet places its strike plan in reserve but declares that the IDF will resume instigating actions against Palestinians (see 5/22). (NYT, WT 6/3; JT 6/3 in WNC 6/4; MM, NYT, WP 6/4; Interfax 6/4 in WNC 6/5; MM, WP 6/5; al-Abram [Internet] 6/9; UPI 6/12; JP, MEI 6/15)

Meanwhile, 2 Israelis injured in the 6/1 bombing die, bringing the Israeli toll to 18. Nr. the site of the bombing, 100s of Israeli Jews surround a mosque, chanting “Death to Arabs!” stoning the mosque, breaking windows, trapping some 20 worshipers inside, attacking journalists, setting fire to 2 cars outside. Although the situation builds for hrs., Israeli police look on but do not intervene, saying, “We don’t have enough manpower, and we won’t use tear gas against Jews.” Israelis also gather at the disco where the bombing occurred, carrying signs saying, 10,000s of Palestinians into Jerusalem to attend Faisal Husseini’s funeral in Jerusalem. He is buried in a family tomb in the al-Aqsa Mosque compound. As Israeli police stand back and watch, Palestinians make their largest open display of Palestinian nationalism in the city since 1967. Some Palestinians throw stones at Sharon’s East Jerusalem residence, and a Jewish tourist fires a teargas canister at mourners, but generally the event is peaceful. (AP, HA, YA [Internet] 6/1; MA, Radio France International 6/1, al-Quds 6/2 in WNC 6/4; HP, NYT 6/2; WJW 6/7; JP, MEI 6/15)
“Enough passivity. We want war.” In Jaffa, a mob of Israeli Jews sets fire to a restaurant owned by Israeli Arabs. The IDF tightens internal closures on PA areas, reports only a handful of incidents of sniping at Jewish settlements. Hamas says it will not abide by Arafat’s cease-fire. (HA, NYT, WT 6/3; AN 6/3 in WNC 6/4; NYT, WP 6/4; WP 6/5; HA 6/7; al-Abram [Internet] 6/9; JP, MEI 6/15)

The EU dispatches up to 24 security experts to Bayt Jala, Rafah to monitor the PA’s cease-fire compliance. The experts are coordinated by Alistair Crooke, security adviser to EU special envoy Miguel Moratinos. (MA 6/6 in WNC 6/7; NYT 6/8; AFP 6/8 in WNC 6/11; MA 6/11 in WNC 6/12) (see Peace Monitor)

3 JUNE

A relative calm prevails in the West Bank and Gaza given the exceptionally tight closure. The IDF records only 3 Palestinian shooting incidents. Another Israeli injured in the 6/1 bombing dies, raising the toll to 19. The PA accuses the IDF of attempting to assassinate senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Muhammad Bisharat, 1 of Israel’s most wanted, by detonating a remote-controlled bomb nr. his car in Tulkarm. The IDF fires tank shells at residential areas of Tal al-Sultan; bulldozes 15 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Kefar Darom settlement. Jewish settlers occupy 10s of dunams of Palestinian land nr. Bethlehem. (HP, WP, WT 6/4; PMC 6/6; NYT 7/2)

PA security officials meet with reps. of all Palestinian factions to press Arafat’s cease-fire call. (NYT, WP, WT 6/4; SA 6/5, MENA 6/6 in WNC 6/7; HJ 6/7 in WNC 6/11; MEI 6/15) (see Peace Monitor)

After an “intense internal debate,” the Bush admin. decides not to send a high-level diplomatic mission to work with Israel. PA officials to secure a more durable cease-fire, deciding instead to press Arafat to act more forcefully to suppress violence. Powell praises Israel for its restraint. When asked if he has urged Israel to avoid retaliation, Powell says, “I have not given that direct comment to the Israeli government.” (NYT 6/4; WP 6/6)

4 JUNE

As Israeli-Palestinian clashes pick up slightly, Israel says it is not satisfied with the PA’s cease-fire efforts. A serious exchange of gunfire, grenades, missiles takes place in Rafah, leaving 22 Palestinians, 3 IDF soldiers wounded. Another Israeli injured in the 6/1 bombing dies, raising the toll to 20. The PSE arrests 2 Palestinians in connection to the 6/1 bombing. Palestinians fire 1 mortar in Gaza, causing no damage. The IDF bulldozes 50 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Kefar Darom settlement; shells residential areas of Asira. Jewish settlers shoot at Palestinian homes, vehicles in Hebron, Jenin; attack Palestinians nr. Dahiyat al-Barid, Tulkarm. (AFP [Internet], HP 6/4; NYT, WP, WT 6/5; MM, PMC 6/6; MM 6/11)

In light of today’s Gaza gun battle, the Bush admin. concludes the Israeli-Palestinian situation is on the verge of spinning out of control. After securing Sharon’s consent, the State Dept. announces that CIA Dir. George Tenet will head to the region to seek a more durable cease-fire but emphasizes that the pressure will be on Arafat to demonstrate he is serious. Powell demands the PA arrest Islamists who may be planning attacks, resume security cooperation with Israel. (NYT, WP, WT 6/5; MM, NYT, WP 6/6; JT 6/7 in WNC 6/8; MEI 6/15)

5 JUNE

In Ramallah, senior Fatah mbr. Ashraf Bardawil is injured when a bomb in or nr. his car explodes; IDF helicopters were hovering over the area at the time, raising speculation it was an assassination attempt. The IDF also arrests Majdi Alawna, a senior PA liaison official with Israel in Nablus, on charges of sabotaging cooperation with Israel. (NYT, WP, WT 6/5; MM, NYT, WP 6/6; JT 6/7 in WNC 6/8; MEI 6/15)

6 JUNE

In retaliation for the injury to a settler baby on 6/5, 100s of armed Jewish settlers torch several Palestinian homes in Luban al-Sharqiyya and al-Zawiyah nr. Nablus. When Palestinians confront the settlers, IDF troops fire on them with rubber-coated steel
bullets, seriously wounding several. **1,000s of settlers** rally in Zion Square in Jerusalem to denounce **Sharon**, to demand he declare war on the Palestinians. **Settlers** also attack Palestinians, foreign journalists in Hebron; place 5 caravans on Khililat al-‘Ayn hill nr. al-Khadr to establish a new settlement. The **IDF** confiscates 200 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Ramallah, bulldozes 1,000 olive trees in preparation for a new settler bypass road. **Israel** reopens the Egypt, Jordan border crossings to Palestinians, but not to goods; allows 2,000 Palestinians to return to their jobs in the West Bank, Gaza industrial zones on the borders with Israel. A **Palestinian**, last seen on 4/4 when he was taken into **PSF** custody, is found at an **IDF** checkpoint nr. Bethlehem, claiming to have escaped fr. the PA **General Intelligence Service** fearing he would be killed. (PMC, REU 6/6; MENA 6/6 in WNC 6/7; HA, HP, NYT, WP 6/7; MENA 6/7 in WNC 6/8; AFP [Internet], MM 6/8)

**Tenet** meets with **Egyptian** pres. **Mubarak** in Cairo, with Jordan’s King **Abdallah**. **Burns** in Amman before heading to Israel and the PA areas to meet with **Israelis**, PA officials. (MM, WP, WT 6/6; MENA 6/6 in WNC 6/7; WP 6/7)

7 JUNE

2 **Palestinians** die of injuries received earlier, including senior Fatah mbr. **Bardawil** who was wounded on 6/5 in a possible assassination attempt. The **IDF** directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah; raids 3 PA-controlled areas in Gaza, 1 in Hebron; occupies an uninhabited building in Nablus for use as an IDF post. **Palestinians** fire mortars at 2 Gaza settlements, causing no damage. **Jewish settlers** attempt to set up a new enclave nr. Nablus, where a settler was killed a wk. ago, but the IDF intervenes, declares the area a closed military zone. **IDF troops** bar an ambulance carrying a **Palestinian man** suffering a heart attack fr. crossing a checkpoint to reach a hospital; the man dies en route to the hospital via a 2d, longer path. Troops also bar a **Palestinian woman** in labor from crossing a checkpoint to reach Jericho hospital 40 m. away; after she gives birth, the soldiers allow her to walk through the crossing with her newborn. **Israeli security forces** arrest a number of Palestinians fr. Hebron working illegally inside the Green Line, escort them to Gaza, where they are barred fr. returning to Hebron. (HA, HP 6/8; HA 6/11)

**Tenet** holds preliminary mtgs. with **Sharon** in Tel Aviv, **Arafat** in Ramallah. **Israel** presents two lists of Palestinians it wants arrested immediately: 34 Palestinians who committed anti-Israeli attacks and were released fr. PA prisons since the intifada began; some 300 Palestinians who “participated in the recent violence against military and civilian targets.” The **PA** says it will coordinate with Israel and act on tips to prevent attacks, noting that it has already passed information to Israel regarding 2 possible suicide bombings since 6/1, but will not make preventative arrests without probable cause. (HA, MM 6/7; HJ, MENA, al-Quds, SA 6/7 in WNC 6/8; MM, NYT, WP 6/8; DUS 6/8 in WNC 6/11; NYT 6/9)

In Ramallah, reps. of the **nationalist and Islamist groups** call on **Arafat** to open a “national dialogue” to discuss forming an emergency government that includes all Palestinian factions. (AYM 6/8 in WNC 6/14)

8 JUNE

**Palestinians** fire mortars at **Jewish settlements** in Gaza, causing no damage. A **Palestinian sniper** injures an Israeli civilian driving nr. Ramallah. **2,000 Palestinians** take part in a nonviolent demonstration to reopen the Ramallah–Birzeit road. When demonstrators cross the **IDF** barricades, troops open fire with rubber-coated steel bullets, injuring 17. **Jewish settlers** place caravans on a hill nr. Surf, outside Hebron, in an attempt to establish a new enclave. (HA, NYT, WP, WT 6/6; HP 6/10; MM 6/11)

**Tenet** presents **Israelis**, **PA security officials** with a U.S.-drafted cease-fire plan. Meanwhile, **Burns** meets with Israeli, PA officials (including **Arafat**) to try to reopen a political dialogue. (MM 6/8; ITAR-TASS 6/8 in WNC 6/11; NYT, WP, WT 6/9; NYT, WT 6/10; HJ 6/10, HJ, MENA 6/11 in WNC 6/12; SA 6/10 in WNC 6/13; NYT, WP, WT 6/11; HJ 7/1 in WNC 7/3) (see Peace Monitor)

In Jerusalem, **3,000 Israeli, Palestinian women** hold a rally for peace on the anniversary of the occupation of the West Bank, Gaza. At least 144 similar rallies, vigils are staged in 15 countries, 27 U.S. cities. (Women in Black press release 6/18)

9 JUNE

In Gaza, **3 bedouin women** are killed by **IDF** shelling. **Peres** says the IDF may have
fired at the wrong target when responding to gunfire on Netzarim settlement, an adjacent IDF post. The **IDF** also bulldozes Palestinian land in Dayr al-Balah. **Palestinians** fire rocket grenades at IDF tanks in Rafah, causing no injuries; launch at least 7 mortars at Gush Katif settlement bloc, damaging 1 building, injuring 1 Thai worker. (CNN 6/9; HP, NYT, WP, WT 6/10; HA, MM, NYT, WP 6/11; DUS, HJ 6/11 in WNC 6/12; MEI 6/15)

**Israeli, PA security officials** present their written responses to the U.S. draft cease-fire plan to the U.S. emb. Meanwhile in Cairo, **Tenet** briefs **Mubarak** on his mtgs. with the sides to date. **Burns** continues to meet with **Israeli, PA political officials.** (WP, WT 6/10)

**10 JUNE**

**Palestinians** fire 8 mortars at 2 Jewish settlements in Gaza, damaging greenhouses. A **Palestinian** dies after **IDF** soldiers bar his crossing through a checkpoint to Nablus hospital for kidney dialysis. The **IDF** also bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Kissufim crossing in Gaza and in Abud, Luban al-Sharqiyya, al-Khadr, al-Zawiya in the West Bank. **Jewish settlers** fire on Palestinian cars nr. Alon Moreh settlement. (HP, IGPO, PMC 6/10; MM, NYT 6/11; PMC 6/12)

**Tenet** discusses his cease-fire plan with **PA security officials** in Ramallah, but a 3-way mtg. with **Israeli security officials** is postponed to give the U.S. more time to review both sides’ 6/9 responses. (JT, SA 6/10 in WNC 6/11; WT 6/11; DUS, HJ, MA, al-Ra‘i 6/11 in WNC 6/12)

**11 JUNE**

In the West Bank, **Islamic Jihad activist Imad Abu Thyab** is critically injured when his car explodes. Palestinians suspect it was an assassination attempt by the **IDF**. A **Jewish settler baby** dies of injuries received on 6/5; 1 **Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. An **Israeli government demolition crew**, guarded by 100s of **Israeli police**, bulldozes a **Palestinian home** in East Jerusalem. **Jewish settlers** stone Palestinian ambushing a Palestinian car, killing 1 Palestinian, wounding 3. **Jewish settlers** also bulldoze Palestinian land in East Jerusalem. **Palestinian sniper** wounds a **settler** nr. Ofra settlement. The **IDF** bulldozes Palestinian land in Abud; sets up 5 new observation towers on the Na-
blus–Qalqilya road. For the 3d day, IDF troops surround the homes of 30 Palestinian families nr. Kefar Darom settlement, bulldozing land, destroying electricity and water connections, and placing sand barricades and barbed wire, apparently to pressure them to evacuate so a buffer zone can be created around the settlement. (HP, IDF Radio, MM 6/13; WP, WT 6/14; WJW 6/21; MEI 6/29)

Tenet holds a final mtg. in Tel Aviv with Israeli, PA security officials to set a timetable for implementing the cease-fire, which goes into effect when the mtg. concludes, and to agree on initial steps to be taken within 48 hrs. Follow-up mtgs. will be held by a new trilateral security comm., directed by a CIA official. The PA says it received “a clear U.S. pledge that the U.S. will commit itself to implementing the recommendations of the Mitchell Comm. in their entirety,” that the EU provided similar assurances. Hamas, Islamic Jihad denounce the plan, vow to continue the intifada. (MM, NYT, WP 6/13; AYM, MENA 6/13 in WNC 6/15; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/14; AYM, HJ, DUS, QA, al-Quds, SA 6/14 in WNC 6/15; NYT 6/16; al-Quds 6/21 in WNC 6/22) (see Peace Monitor)

14 JUNE

An IDF intelligence officer is fatally shot by his Palestinian informant, who in turn is shot dead by the officer’s bodyguard. The Brigade of Gilad and Shalhavet takes responsibility for killing 1 Palestinian, wounding 3 in a 2d drive-by shooting. Jewish settlers also attack Palestinians in Sha’ar and Tammun, severely injuring 3. The IDF directs shells and heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Nablus; confiscates 100s of dunams of land nr. Khan Yunis to create a buffer area around Gush Katif bloc, set up a new IDF post; confiscates 10s of dunams nr. al-Mintar crossing; conducts an arrest raid into Nablus. (AP, HP, MM 6/14; MA [Internet], NYT, WP, WT, YA [Internet] 6/15; al-Quds 6/15 in WNC 6/19; AYM 6/18 in WNC 6/20; WJW 6/21)

The PA-Israeli cease-fire implementation begins. The IDF moves tanks out of most PA-controlled areas; moves troops out of Netzarim Junction; reopens major Gaza roads to Palestinian traffic; reopens the Gaza–Egypt border crossing. The IDF does not redeploy forces fr. Nablus, Rafah, and Ramallah, where most of the day’s clashes occur; Sharon says Israel will not lift closures in areas where the cease-fire has not been implemented or has been violated. West Bank PSF head Rajub announces on IDF Radio that Arafat has called on all Palestinian security forces to abide by the cease-fire. (AP 6/14; HA, NYT, WP, WT 6/15)


15 JUNE

Israeli-Palestinian clashes diminish, with neither side reporting any major incidents. The PA reportedly has not arrested any of the top 34 Palestinians wanted by Israel or collected any mortars or illegal weapons, though officials have held mtgs. with Hamas in an effort to keep them fr. staging attacks. (HA 6/15; NYT 6/16; WT 6/17)

The trilateral security comm. convenes its 1st weekly mtg. to assess the initial cease-fire steps. Sides agree to move into stage 2 of the Tenet plan, lasting 5 days, during which further steps would be taken to lift the siege on PA areas and halt violence. Israel opens the Jordan border crossings; increases number of goods allowed into Gaza through the Qarni crossing; resumes delivery of fuel, gas to the PA; allows goods embargoed at ports into PA areas; allows VIP movement into Israel and btwn. the West Bank and Gaza, subject to authorization. (IDF Radio, HA 6/15; NYT 6/16)

16 JUNE

In Rafah, 1 Palestinian boy is killed, 3 are injured when PSF officers, Palestinian citizens try to prevent several Palestinian gunmen fr. firing on Israeli positions. In Gaza, 5 Palestinian stone throwers are wounded by IDF gunfire; the IDF says it was using nonlethal “crowd dispersal methods” in keeping with the cease-fire agmt. Palestinian traffic is reportedly moving freely inside Gaza, but in the West Bank, Israel has eased closures on Hebron, Jericho, Jenin only. (NYT, WT 6/17; NYT, WT 6/18; MM 6/28)

In Gothenburg, Sweden, the EU Ms issue a declaration on the situation in the Middle East, urging Israel and the PA to implement the Tenet cease-fire plan, and Israel to suspend settlement construction and end the siege on Palestinian population centers. (AP 6/17; MM 6/18)
17 JUNE

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at a low level, prompting Israel, the PA to exchange accusations that the other has violated the cease-fire agmt. Islamic Jihad detonates 2 roadside bombs nr. IDF patrols in the West Bank and Gaza, causing no injuries. IDF soldiers fire on Palestinian demonstrators in Khan Yunis, killing a 12-yr.-old Palestinian boy. However, the IDF pulls back troops fr. sensitive points in Gaza; Israeli, PA security teams conduct joint patrols for the 1st time in mos.; IDF, PSF cmdrs. in Gaza jointly oversee IDF efforts to dismantle roadblocks, remove tanks fr. Netzarim Junction. (NYT, WP, WT 6/18; AKH 6/18 in WNC 6/19)

Sharon refuses a UN request to allow FM Peres to join a mtg. b/w Arafat, UN Secy.-Gen. Kofi Annan in Ramallah today, saying there can be no PA-Israeli negotiations without a complete cessation of Palestinian violence. Sharon's decision sparks a sharp exchange with Peres, who supports holding the mtg., during a Knesset session. (AP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/18; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/18)

18 JUNE

Israeli-Palestinian clashes increase slightly. A faction of Fatah claims responsibility for the drive-by shooting deaths of 2 Jewish settlers in the West Bank. In response, the IDF reimposes the blockade on Silat al-Dahr, Tulkarm. Palestinians fire mortars at Israeli targets in Gaza, causing no damage. In Haifa, the IDF disables 4 pipe bombs discovered hidden in a motor bike. The IDF dismantles roadblocks, eases restrictions on Hallul and Qalqiya, but sets up barriers on the Betin–Ayn Yabrud road, tightens the closure on Hebron, confiscates 10s of dunams of Palestinian land nr. Ofra settlement, conducts an arrest sweep in Aqraba. Most secondary routes in the West Bank remain sealed. Jewish settlers burn 10s of dunams of Palestinian fields in Luban al-Gharbiyya; raze agricultural land in al-Zawiyah, attack 3 Palestinian children (ages 8, 11, 13) in Hebron. (PMC 6/18; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/19; NYT, WJW 6/21; MEI 6/29)

28 survivors of the 1982 Sabra-Shatilla massacre in Lebanon bring a war crimes case against Sharon before a Belgian court. Earlier this mo., 2 other survivors submitted a similar case to the same court. (REU 6/18; Guardian, HA, Independent, WP 6/19; MM 6/20; WJW 6/21; AFP [Internet]

19 JUNE

Palestinians fire 5 mortars at Gush Katif settlement in Gaza, causing no damage. Jewish settlers fire on Palestinian homes in Safarin, injuring 1 Palestinian; place 3 mobile strange in Tulkarm, digging 3 trenches around the city; tightens closures on Jinin, Nablus; digs trenches around Tubas. Another Israeli injured in the 6/1 Tel Aviv bombing dies of her injuries, raising the toll fr. the attack to 22. A Palestinian dies of injuries received on 6/17. (MM 6/19; AP, NYT, WP, WT 6/20; WJW 6/21; LAW 6/23)

Israel accuses the PA of failing to act to prevent “terrorism” during the 1st wk. of the cease-fire implementation, declares that the 6-wk. cooling-off period (stage 3 of the Tenet plan) will not begin on 6/20 as scheduled, demands that Sharon “reassess” the cease-fire with the Palestinians. Sharon convenes his security cabinet to discuss the issue. (AP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/20; MM 6/21; DUS 6/25 in WNC 6/27)

Lebanon says that in 6 days, Syria has withdrawn 6,000 troops fr. the Beirut area. Some troops reportedly have redeployed to the Biqa’ Valley, but most have returned to Syria. (NYT 6/20; JT 6/20 in WNC 6/21; Economist [Internet] 6/21; alNabar 6/22 in WNC 6/26; alNabar 26/26 in WNC 6/28; MEI 6/29) (see Peace Monitor)

20 JUNE

IDF soldiers fatally shoot 1 Palestinian at a roadblock nr. Ramallah. (Soldiers say the man was “moving suspiciously,” they fired at his legs but “somehow struck” him in the heart.) IDF sends troops into PA-controlled al-Qarara; flies low-level F-16 sorts over Jinin, breaking the sound barrier; bulldozes 3 Palestinian homes in Gaza City, nr. Netzarim settlement; tightens the closures on Ramallah, Tulkarm (digging more trenches across roads leading to the city). The PSF arrests 2 Palestinians in the shooting death of a Greek monk on 6/12. Inside Israel, a pipe bomb hidden in a trash can explodes in a bus station in Hadera, causing no injuries. A Palestinian sniper kills a Jewish settler nr. Nablus. In response, Jewish settlers enter a nearby Palestinian village, damage buildings, set fire to an olive grove. Settlers

After further talks with his **security cabinet**, Sharon decides not to abandon the Tenet plan but says Arafat has “done nothing” to stop violence, warns that plans for a major military strike are ready but will be held in abeyance for now. Arafat accuses Israel of focusing on isolated incidents while ignoring PA successes in controlling violence; notes that the IDF has not stopped using tanks, machine guns against Palestinians or prevented **Jewish settlers** from harassing, attacking Palestinians. EU, U.S. say the PA is making a noticeable effort but should do more. (AP 6/20; NYT, WP, WT 6/21; DUS 6/25 in WNC 6/27)

At the weekly **trilateral security comm. mtg.**, Israel presents a timetable for the IDF to completely lift its blockades in the West Bank, Gaza and to redeploy to its “self-defense.” (NYT, WP, WT 6/25; MEI to completely lift its blockades in the West Bank, Gaza and to redeploy to its “self-defense.” (NYT, WP, WT 6/25; MEI 6/29)

22 JUNE

In Gaza, **2 IDF soldiers** are killed, 1 is lightly wounded when a **Hamas suicide bomber** lures them toward his jeep and detonates a device, while snipers simultaneously fire on them. The **IDF** responds with heavy machine gun fire, injuring 3 Palestinians; reimposes roadblocks in n. Gaza. The **IDF** enters a PA-controlled area of Gaza to demolish **3 Palestinian homes**; directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Bayt Lahia; conducts an arrest raid in Silat al-Dahr. **Jewish settlers** block 3 West Bank roads,stoning Palestinian cars, setting fire to fields; open fire on Palestinian homes nr. Tulkarm, seriously injuring 1 Palestinian. (MM, PMC 6/22; LAW, NYT, WP, WT 6/23; MEI 6/29)

Shin Bet head **Dichter** gives PSF head Rajub a list of several dozen Palestinians whom he says the **PA** must arrest within 24 hrs. or Israel will act on its own to ensure its “self-defense.” (NYT, WP, WT 6/25; MEI 6/29)

23 JUNE

Low-level **Israeli-Palestinian clashes** continue, leaving **1 Palestinian** dead. In a predawn raid, the **IDF** sends bulldozers and tanks into Rafah, under cover of shells and machine gun fire, to demolish at least **19 Palestinian homes**. **Jewish settlers** close the Hebron–Bethlehem road, attack Palestinian vehicles. The **PA** detains **Islamic Jihad Gaza head Abdallah Shami** for ‘acting against the Palestinian interests’ in criticizing the cease-fire. (LAW 6/23; MEZ, WT 6/24; AFP [Internet] 6/28; MEI 6/29)

24 JUNE

In an apparent **IDF assassination**, **Osama Jawabiri**, a mbr. of the **al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB)** and on Israel’s wanted list, is killed by a bomb planted in a public phone in Nablus; 2 children are wounded. **Israel** complains that none of the wanted Palestinians on the list given to the **PSF** on 6/22 have been arrested, but Arafat says he has arrested a number of militants in recent days, including **Fatah** mbrs. A **2d Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/25; AYM 6/25 in WNC 6/26; DUS 6/25 in WNC 6/27; NYT 6/26; WJW 6/28; MEI 6/29)
25 JUNE

In Hebron, a Fatah sniper, retaliating for the Jawabiri assassination on 6/24, shoots and wounds a 7-yr.-old Jewish settler, sparking a firefight in which 12 Palestinians. 4 IDF soldiers are wounded. In response, the IDF seals, places a curfew on the Palestinian section of Hebron, bulldozes Palestinian land s. of Hebron; Jewish settlers place more caravans at a new illegal outpost site nearby. Jewish settlers also place caravans on Palestinian land nr. Qalqilya, attack Palestinian cars in Wadi al-Juz, cut off water to Palestinian villages nr. Halmish settlement. Palestinians fire on a settler bus nr. Jerusalem. A gunfight erupts nr. Neve Dekalim settlement, wounding an 11-yr.-old Palestinian. The IDF tightens closures on Qalandia, Tulkarm; confiscates 20 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Qalqilya; bulldozes Palestinian land in Tulkarm; continues to impose curfews on Bayt Lahia, Bayt Lid, Safarin. Shin Bet announces that 11 days prior, it captured Aziz Salha, who has confessed under interrogation to being involved in the murder of 2 IDF reservists in Ramallah on 10/12/00. (PMC 6/25; AP, HP, MM, WP, WT 6/26; MA 6/26 in WNC 6/27; MM 6/27; JP 7/6; WP 7/7)

Fmr. U.S. sen. Mitchell, head of the Mitchell Comm., recommends that in order to move the cease-fire forward, Israel should immediately implement a full settlement freeze, the U.S. should invite Arafat to the White House. Meanwhile, in Israel, DM Ben-Eliezer says Israel plans to remove 15 illegal settler outposts that have been set up since the al-Aqsa intifada began, noting that they are a danger to security and cannot be defended adequately. (HA, HP, MM, WT 6/26; MA 6/26 in WNC 6/27; MM, WT 6/27; WJW 6/28)

26 JUNE

Islamic Jihad mbrs. fire on the Jewish enclave of Hebron, causing no injuries; the IDF tightens its closure on the Palestinian section of the city. The IDF also sends 5 armored vehicles into Silat al-Dahir (under curfew for 7 days) to occupy several homes under construction for use as military outposts; confiscates 100s of dunams of Palestinian land nr. Morag settlement; bulldozes Palestinian land in al-Qarara; conduct arrest sweeps in Dayr Istya (occupying 1 home as an observation post), Kfar Dik; reinforces the closure on Nablus by digging a trench across a road, establishing a new checkpoint; re-closes the Birzeit–Ramallah road. Jewish settlers destroy Palestinian olive groves in Bizarya, Burqa, Ras Karkar, Tulkarm; attack a Palestinian farm in Bani Odeh, killing 50 sheep; throw stones at Palestinian cars on the Qalqilya–Nablus road. (HP, MM 6/26; NYT, WT 6/27)

In Washington, Bush, Powell hold “an unusually blunt” mtg. with Sharon on how to proceed with the cease-fire plan. Sharon says he will not move onto the 6-wk. cooling-off stage until violence completely ceases for 10 days; only after 8 wks. of total calm would Israel make any confidence-building gestures. Bush stresses the PA’s progress in reducing violence to date, urges Sharon to be “more receptive” to the cease-fire proposals, recommends that the cooling-off period begin immediately. (AP, MM 6/26; AYM, al-Quds 6/26 in WNC 6/27; BBC, HA, JP Internet, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/27; NYT, WJW, WP 6/28; MA 6/29, 7/1 in WNC 7/2; JP 7/6; see also WP 6/20)

27 JUNE

The IDF directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Rafah, Salim; tightens the closures on Silim, Tulkarm, several villages nr. Ramallah; places new checkpoints at 2 intersections outside Tulkarm, a new observation tower at al-Muntar crossing in Gaza; extends the curfews on PA-areas of Hebron for the 3d day, on Silat al-Dahir for the 8th day; imposes a curfew on Dayr Istya; opens fire on a PSF checkpoint at the entrance to Qalqilya, causing no injuries; conducts an arrest sweep in Abruqin; fires on Palestinian fishermen off the coast of Rafah.

Palestinians fire on Jewish settlers in the West Bank, causing no damage; fire antitank grenades at an IDF post in Gaza and detonate a roadside bomb nr. an IDF patrol nr. Nablus, causing no injuries. Jewish settlers open fire on a bus transporting Palestinian workers, injuring 9; set fire to Palestinian trees in Dayr Istya. A Palestinian, possibly a collaborator, is found shot dead in Qalqilya; 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. (HP, JT [Internet] 6/27; HP, NYT 6/28)

After a brief stop in Egypt to confer with Mubarak and urge him to press Arafat to halt violence, Powell opens mtgs. with Israeli PA officials on strengthening their cease-fire. Powell reiterates that, while the U.S. does not believe that complete quiet is likely or necessary for implementation of
Tenet’s plan to move forward, only Sharon can decide what level of violence is low enough. (MM 6/27; NYT, WP, WT 6/28; WP 7/1; MEI 7/13)

Survivors of the Sabra-Shatila massacre file a suit against Israeli PM Sharon in Lebanese court. (Daily Star [Internet] 6/28; JT 7/29 in WNC 7/30) (see Peace Monitor)

28 JUNE

Israeli-Palestinian violence continues, leaving 1 Jewish settler dead. Palestinians fire 3 large mortars at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, causing no damage. The IDF tightens the closure on Tulkarm; flies helicopters over Bethlehem. Jewish settlers block roads, stone passing Palestinian vehicles nr. Qalqilya; shoot at water tanks on buildings in Ramallah; vandalize Palestinian homes in Silat al-Daher, which is under its 10th day of curfew. (HP 6/28; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/29; Between the Lines 7/01)

After mtg. separately with Arafat and Sharon, Powell announces that the sides have agreed that after 7 days of “complete quiet,” they will observe a 6-wk. cooling-off period, followed by “several mos.” of confidence building, after which negotiations would resume. FM Peres says that if even 1 Palestinian attack takes place during the 7-day or 6-wk. periods, the clock would be reset to zero. At least 3,000 Palestinians rally in Gaza City to protest Powell’s visit. (AP, CNN, USIS Washington File 6/28; XIN 6/28 in WNC 6/29; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/29; HJ 6/29, MENA 6/30, 7/1 in WNC 7/2; AYM 6/30 in WNC 7/6; WP 7/1; MM 7/2; WJW 7/5; MEI 7/13) (see Peace Monitor)

29 JUNE

Palestinians fire up to 6 mortars, several grenades at an IDF post in Gaza, causing no damage. The IDF fires a shell at a Palestinian vehicle in Khan Yunis, injuring 2 Palestinians. Around 1,000 Palestinian demonstrators clash with IDF soldiers at a checkpoint outside al-Bireh. Another serious clash is reported in Tulkarm. The IDF also directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Bayt Sahur, Silat al-Daher; bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Saltif; places a closure on Bayt Furik; tightens the closure on Dayr Istya, Qalqilya; sets up new blockades, checkpoints around Azun, Nablus, Qalqilya. Jewish settlers raze 10s of trees in Dayr Balat, cut off running water to 6 Palestinian villages nr. Nablus. (AFP [Internet], HP 6/29; HP, NYT, WP 6/30)

Around 100 Israeli, international peace activists attempt to reach the Palestinian village of al-Khadir, nr. Bethlehem, where they have planned to set up a “peace camp” with local Palestinians to protest ongoing Israeli violence. The activists are halted outside the village by the IDF, which says the area is a closed military zone, although settlers pass unimpeded. When the activists set up a nonviolent roadblock to settler vehicles, Israeli police arrest the organizers, force the others onto their busses leaving 1 Jewish settler dead. Palestinians and back to Tel Aviv. Inside al-Khadir, 150 Palestinian participants also demonstrate, but the IDF disperses them with gunfire, wounding 4, and imposes a curfew. (Gush Shalom press release 6/29)

On the sidelines of a conference in Lebanon, Arafat, Peres hold talks on maintaining the cease-fire. (RTP Internacional TV [Lebanon] 6/30 in WNC 7/2; AFP [Internet], NYT, WT 7/1; MM 7/2, 7/5)

Hizballah fires rockets at an IDF post in Shaba’ Farms, injuring 2 soldiers. Israel sends warplanes into Lebanese air space 5–6 times. (Daily Star [Internet] 6/30; al-Safir 6/30 in WNC 7/2; WT 7/1; MM, WP, WT 7/2; al-Safir 7/4, SA 7/5 in WNC 7/7; MEI 7/13)

30 JUNE

An Israeli official says that since Israeli-Palestinian violence has continued, the initial 7-day period of Powell’s new cease-fire time line has not yet begun. The IDF directs machine gun fire on residential areas of Silwad; bars Palestinians fr. exiting Qalqilya; begins bulldozing 100s of dunams of Palestinian land n. of Jerusalem for a new 300 m. settler bypass road; blocks, digs trenches across the Bayt Rima–Abud road, roads leading to Jinin fr. the south; sets up a new checkpoint outside Tulkarm. Jewish settlers attempt to set up a new settlement site nr. al-Jamla, n. of Jinin; continue leveling 200 dunams of land nr. Masha for a 70-unit expansion of Elkana settlement. (HP, PMC 6/30; WT 7/1; HP 7/2)

Arafat, Peres meet for a 2d time in Lebanon. (WT 7/1; MM 7/3; MENA 7/3 in WNC 7/6; MM 7/5)

Holding Syria responsible for the 6/29 Hizballah attack, Israeli warplanes fire missiles at a Syrian radar station nr. Baalbeck, Lebanon, wounding 1 Lebanese, 2 Syrian soldiers. The attacks sparks an exchange of rocket fire btw. Hizballah, IDF forces in Shaba’ Farms, causing no injuries. (AP, WT 7/1; MENA, RL 7/1 in WNC 7/2; MM, WP 7/2;
IRNA, MENA 7/1, Interfax, SA 7/2 in WNC
7/3; al-Safir 7/4, SA 7/5 in WNC 7/7)

1 JULY

Israel-Palestinian violence escalates, leaving 5 Palestinians dead. A 6th Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. The IDF assassinates senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Bisharat, firing 8 rockets at his car as he drives nr. Jinin, also killing 2 passengers. The PA charges Israel with a major violation of the cease-fire. The IDF also directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Bethlehem, Rafah. (HP, MM, NYT, WT 7/2; al-Quds 7/2 in WNC 7/3; MM 7/3; QA 7/3; AKH, JT 7/4; AN 7/5 in WNC 7/7; MM 7/4; Economist 7/5; MEI 7/13)

The IDF tightens closures throughout the West Bank; directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Rafah, leaving 2 Palestinians, 1 Israeli civilian dead. Fatalities include a critically ill Palestinian woman who dies at a check-point nr. Ramallah after being held there for 2 hrs. and denied passage to a hospital, and an Israeli fatally shot by a Palestinian in a West Bank market. The PFLP detonates 2 remote-controlled car bombs in Yehud, inside Israel; 4 Israelis are treated for shock. The IDF begins work on a new settlement bypass road nr. Bethlehem; bulldozes 100s of dunams of Palestinian land nr. Gush Etzion where a new settlement enclave was set up 1 mo. ago; confiscates 5 dunams of Silwad land for a helipad serving Ofra settlement; sets up a new checkpoint outside Jinin; tightens roadblocks around Bethlehem, Qalqilya, Tulkarm. Jewish settlers set fire to 5 Palestinian cars in Hebron; burn olive trees nr. Ramin. (HP, MM 7/2; NYT, PMC, WP, WT 7/3; MM 7/4; MEI 7/13)

The U.S. convenes a special mtg. of the trilateral security comm.; reprimands the PA for not doing enough to rein in violence, Israel for resuming "targeted killings." (AP 7/2; NYT, WP, WT 7/3; NYT 7/5)

3 JULY

A Jewish settler is found murdered nr. Hebron. The IDF retaliates by sealing the neighboring villages of Yatta and Yibna and bulldozing homes, cave dwellings, 10s of other structures, wells, olive groves, leaving at least 500 Palestinians homeless. The IDF also bulldozes 30 Palestinian stalls at a market outside Jinin, where a settler was killed on 7/1; orders 4 Palestinian families to evacuate an area in Sawisa, nr. Hebron, then demolishes their tents. This evening, 1,000s of Jewish settlers rally in Tel Aviv to protest the "inadequate" security provided by the Israeli government. After dark, Palestinians toss homemade grenades at an IDF post in Rafah, causing no injuries. (Gush Shalom press release, al-Haq press release, MM 7/3; HP, NYT, WT 7/4; AFP [Internet] 7/5; HA 7/12; MEI 7/13)

Sharon meets with senior cabinet mbrs. to discuss contingency plans should the cease-fire collapse completely. He secures their authorization to step up assassinations. The State Dept. repeats its opposition. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/4; JT 7/4 in WNC 7/7; NYT 7/5)

4 JULY

The IDF tightens closures throughout the West Bank; directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Rafah, at a PSF post outside Qalqilya; demolishes 5 Palestinian homes in Bayt Hanina; establishes new checkpoints outside Qalqilya, Tulkarm; continues demolitions in Yibna (see 7/3), destroying an unknown number of homes, farming structures, cisterns. Palestinian gunmen fire on 2 vehicles traveling along the Israeli border nr. Tulkarm, killing 1 Israeli civilian; 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. (HP 7/4; LAW 7/9)

Israel’s security cabinet selects 26 Palestinians as prime targets for assassination. The UN, the U.S. reiterate their opposition. The PA says Israel is essentially renouncing the U.S. cease-fire arrangement. As the cabinet mtg. takes place, plainclothes gunmen shoot, wound senior Fatah mbr. Hazim Natshes, on Israel’s most wanted list, in an apparent assassination attempt in Hebron. (HA 7/4; AYM, DUS, MA, QA 7/4, MA, MENA 7/5 in WNC 7/7; AP, NYT, WT 7/5; AP 7/6; MEI 7/13; MM 7/18; MA 7/18 in WNC 7/19)

5 JULY

Israel-Palestinian violence continues, leaving 1 Palestinian dead. The PA reports a 6-hr. battle bwn. the IDF, Palestinians in Rafah in which 20 homes are damaged by tank fire, but the IDF claims the damage was caused by Palestinians tossing 50 homemade grenades at an IDF post. Jewish settlers fire on a Palestinian car traveling in the West Bank, wounding 4 Palestinians. Palestinians fire mortars at Dugit settlement in Gaza,
causing no injuries. (BBC, MM 7/5; AFP [Internet] 7/6)

6 JULY

The UN admits that it has misled Israel about the existence of a videotape filmed by the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) 1 day after the 10/7/00 abduction of 3 IDF soldiers in Shaba' Farms that might provide clues to where the soldiers are being held; says it will give Israel the tape but will blur the faces of Hizballah mbrs., since its mandate bars it fr. providing either side with military intelligence. Israel, Lebanon, Hizballah all protest. (WP, WT 7/7; WT 7/8; MM 7/9; MA 7/9 in WNC 7/10; MEI 7/13, 7/27) (see Peace monitor)

7 JULY

Nd. Rafah, IDF troops open fire on stone-throwing Palestinians, killing an 11-yr.-old Palestinian boy. 2 IDF soldiers fr. an IDA will ease its “policy of restraint,” 1 IDF unit passes through a checkpoint. (PMC 7/7; NYT, WT 7/9; NYT 7/10; MEI 7/13)

After an Israeli cabinet mtg. on the security situation, DM Ben-Eliezer says Israel will ease its “policy of restraint,” gauge its re- sponse to “terrorist attacks in terms of their potential to do violence, and not their results.” The cabinet reportedly approves IDF Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz’s revisions to the IDF’s 6/2 assault plan, entitled “The Destruction of the Palestinian Authority and Disarmament of All Armed Forces,” which he recommends be implemented after the next suicide bombing inside Israel that causes heavy casualties. (HA 7/8; MM 7/11; AFP [Internet], CBS News [Internet] 7/12; HA, WP 7/13; REU 7/14; WP 7/16; AN 7/16 in WNC 7/17) (see Peace Monitor)

With Sharon’s permission, Peres meets with Palestinian Council (PC) Speaker Ahmad Qurai’ to discuss the cease-fire. (NYT 7/12; MA 7/17 in WNC 7/18; MM 7/19)

8 JULY

Israel-Palestinian violence continues. The IDF says that overnight Palestinians threw 60 grenades at an IDF post in Rafah, where a Palestinian boy was killed on 7/7, but caused no damage. Following the boy’s funeral today, Palestinians fire on the same IDF post, causing no injuries. Undercover IDF units kidnap senior Hamas mbr. Ayoub Sharawi, wanted by Israel for allegedly “dispatching terrorist cells,” fr. Hebron. The IDF also directs machine gun fire at residential areas of Khan Yunis (injuring 2), Yibna; occupies 2 Palestinian homes in Nabi Saleh as military posts, evicting re- sidents and injuring 12, including 1 Palestinian woman who suffers a miscarriage; bulldozes 40 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Netzarim settlement; sets fire to an olive grove along the Zawata–Bayt Ibia road; fires on a Force-17 post in Hebron. Palestinians detonate a roadside bomb nr. an IDF vehicle outside Hebron, injuring at least 1 soldier; fire on a Jewish settler bus nr. Ramallah, injuring 1 settler. Jewish settlers vandalize Palestinian property, severely beat 3 Palestinians in Hebron; vandalize Palestinian homes, cars in al-Salah; bulldoze land, set fire to cattle pens, damage water wells in al-Musafir. 2 Palestinians are shot, wounded by snipers nr. Abraham Avino settlement in Hebron. The PA sentences Tahir Walid Jabir to life in prison with hard labor for collaborating with Israel. (PMC 7/8; HA, HP, NYT, PMC, WT 7/9; NYT 7/10; MEI 7/13)
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dier dies of injuries received on 7/8. The IDF also directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Bayt Sahur (hitting a PSF post); tightens access to Jerusalem and the closure on Jinin, Tulkarm; places a curfew on Sinjil, fires percussion grenades for no apparent reason. 

Jewish settlers place caravans on confiscated Palestinian land in Ramin to expand Annab settlement; stage a 4-hr. assault on Palestinians, their property in Hebron, also attack journalists who come to cover the incident. Palestinians fire mortars at 2 Gaza settlements, causing no damage.

(HP, LAW, MM 7/9; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/10; PMC, WT 7/11; JT, al-Quds 7/11 in WNC 7/12; HJ, JT 7/12 in WNC 7/13; ATL 7/12 in WNC 7/16; MEI 7/13; HA 7/24)

10 JULY

In a predawn operation, the IDF bulldozes at least 17 Palestinian homes, 12 stores in Rafah refugee camp, leaving 150 Palestinians homeless and sparking a gunfight that leaves 5 Palestinians, 3 IDF soldiers wounded. Terming the demolitions “highly provocative,” the U.S. announces plans to send Dep. Asst. Secy. of State for Near Eastern Affairs David Satterfield to the region to push U.S. cease-fire initiatives. Meanwhile, Palestinians fire a mortar at Nahal Ozi kibbutz, causing no injuries but marking the 1st confirmed mortar attack inside the Green Line since 5/4. A Palestinian woman gives birth at an IDF checkpoint when soldiers deny her passage, the baby dies before reaching a hospital. For the 2d time in 2 days, a Palestinian man dies of a heart attack at an IDF checkpoint when soldiers refuse to allow him passage to a hospital. Jewish settlers set fire to 50 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Avni Hefets settlement. (MEZ, MM, WP 7/10; HP, NYT, PMC, WP, WT 7/11; JT 7/11 in WNC 7/12; HJ, IRNA 7/12 in WNC 7/16; In Focus 7/18) 

11 JULY

Palestinians fire another mortar at Nahal Ozi kibbutz, causing no damage. The IDF fatally shoots a Palestinian passenger in a taxi that passes a checkpoint without stopping. The IDF also shells residential areas of al-Khadir; bulldozes Palestinian trees btw. Abu Dis and Jabal al-Mukabir; tightens the closures on Bethlehem, Nablus. Inside Israel, Israeli police arrest a Palestinian carrying a bomb. The body of a Palestinian suspected of collaborating with Israel is found in a West Bank village. Israel’s Peres says that, although the PA is still not making a 100% effort to halt violence, evidence in recent days suggests that the PSF is taking action against renegade gunmen. Israeli security sources corroborate reports that Arafat has ordered the PSF to place a number of wanted Palestinians in “protective custody” but say Israel considers this “insufficient.” Peres also says that 15 illegal settlement outposts should be dismantled within 2–3 wks. (HA, HP 7/11; NYT, WP 7/12)

The Israeli government orders the demolition of 34 Palestinian homes in al-Midyra, on the border of the Green Line, where Israel intends to create a buffer zone with the West Bank. The Jerusalem Municipality also orders the demolition of 2 more houses and 15 dunams of surrounding land in Shaykh Jarrah, East Jerusalem, for construction of a train line linking West Jerusalem with the Pigtat Ze’ev settlement. (Orient House press release 7/11; PMC 7/12)

12 JULY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes increase sharply. Palestinian gunmen shoot at a vehicle nr. Nablus, wounding 3 Jewish settlers. In retaliation, the IDF temporarily reoccupies a hill inside PA-controlled Nablus and shells PSF buildings in the city, killing 1 PSF officer, wounding 2 officers and a child. The IDF also occupies 3 Palestinian homes in nearby Kafr Khalil, which it does not surrender when troops withdraw fr. Nablus. Outraged settlers attack a nearby Palestinian village, smashing windows of Palestinian cars and an ambulance with stones and rifle butts, burning olive groves. After 1 Jewish settler is killed, 1 is wounded by a Palestinian sniper in Hebron, the IDF shells several Palestinian buildings, destroying a PSF post, injuring 2 PSF officers, up to 92 Palestinian civilians, and cutting off power to the PA-controlled area of the city. Angry settlers stone Palestinian homes, set fire to a garage, 1 car in Hebron; smash taxi windows, slash tires in the nearby Palestinian village of Halhul. (AP 7/12; MM, NYT, WP 7/13; MA, al-Quds 7/13 in WNC 7/16; In Focus 7/18) 

Sharon sends his son Omri to Ramallah to stress to Arafat “the absolute need to stop the terror and violence,” reportedly warns that Israel is prepared to launch a major strike if Palestinian attacks do not cease. (HA, MM, NYT 7/13; WP, WT 7/14; SA 7/14 in WNC 7/17; MM 7/16, 7/19)
13 JULY

Israeli-Palestinian violence escalates, leaving 2 Palestinians dead. After a 2d Jewish settler wounded on 7/12 dies of his injuries, the IDF sends tanks, armored personnel carriers, heavy machine guns into the PA-controlled area of Hebron to fire on 4 Force 17 positions in the midst of Palestinian residential areas, leaving more than 20 Palestinians injured, 10s of houses damaged and triggering a major exchange of gunfire. In Tulkarm, senior Hamas mbr. Fawwaz Badran is killed when his car explodes in an apparent Israeli assassination operation. IDF soldiers see a Palestinian woman place a bomb outside a Jewish settlement in Gaza and run away. When they approach to dismantle the bomb, another Palestinian throws a grenade at them, causing no injuries. Soldiers shoot him dead. The IDF also seizes a Palestinian home in Nabi Salih as a new outpost, fire on an ambulance in Tulkarm. (MM 7/13; WP, WT 7/14; Palestinian Red Crescent Society press release 7/16)

14 JULY

Scattered Israeli-Palestinian violence continues. The IDF occupies the 2d floor of a Palestinian home in Um Safa. (In Focus 7/18)

Dep. Asst. Secy. of State Satterfield begins a 10-day visit to the region to discuss with Israeli, PA officials ways of halting violence. (NYT 7/15; WP 8/7)

15 JULY

The IDF sends tanks into PA-controlled Hebron fr. 3 directions to destroy 5 Force 17 posts, wounding 9 Palestinians. Armed Jewish settlers occupy a Palestinian building in the city, fire on Palestinians, wounding 1. Inside Israel, 2 Palestinians are killed while they are allegedly preparing a bomb nr. the stadium where the Maccabiah Games are scheduled to open today. In Bethlehem, Israeli undercover agents kidnap senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Mahmoud Hamdan. (MM, WP 7/16; MM 7/17; AP 7/21; al-Haq press release 7/23)

In Cairo, Peres, Arafat meet after holding separate talks with Pres. Mubarak on the deteriorating Israeli-Palestinian situation. Peres warns Arafat that Israel will not hold back if there is another major bombing. (ITAR-TASS 7/15 in WNC 7/16, 7/17; MM, WT 7/16; MM 7/19; MENA 7/19 in WNC 7/23)

The Israeli cabinet approves construction of new communities in a vacant Negev area of Halutza Sands, bordering the southeast corner of the Gaza Strip, that the previous government had considered giving to the PA in a land-swap deal as part of a final status agmt. (NYT, WP, WT 7/16)

16 JULY

In response to Palestinian gunfire overnight, IDF tanks enter PA-controlled Hebron before dawn to shell PSF posts, injuring 5 Palestinians. This evening, an Islamic Jihad suicide bomber kills 2 IDF soldiers, wounds 9 others at a bus stop in Binyamina inside Israel. In response, the IDF sends tanks into Jinin, Tulkarm to shell PSF posts there. DM Ben-Eliezer places forces on alert, cancels a trip to Washington for a mtg. with Powell. The PA reiterates its call for a halt to actions inside Israel. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/7; HA 7/18; SA 7/18 in WNC 7/19; MM 7/23; MEI 7/27)

17 JULY

The IDF assassinates Izzeddine al-Qassam Brigades Bethlehem regional cmdr., Omar Saada, firing 2 wire-guided missiles at his home, also killing a Hamas colleague. When neighbors and relatives come to the scene to survey the damage, the IDF fires a 3d missile, killing Saada’s brother (a peace activist) and a 4th Palestinian, wounding 10. The PA arrests 5 Palestinians for allegedly collaborating with Israel on the strike. For the 1st time, West Bank Palestinians fire 2 mortars at the Jewish settlement of Gilo, outside Jerusalem, causing no damage. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at Bayt Jala, Bayt Sahur in response. The IDF also shells residential areas of Qabatiyya (destroying a Force 17 post), Tulkarm; raids al-Arub, Fajar, al-Fawar, Salfit; places a closure on Qalqilya, reinforces troops in the area. Jewish settlers vandalize Palestinian cars in al-Fawar. The IDF says it defused 2 bombs in Tel Aviv, outside a West Bank settlement. (AFP [Internet], BBC, CNN, HP, PMC 7/17; AP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/18; AYM, SA 7/19 in WNC 7/20; AP 7/21; WT 7/23; MEI 7/27)

Sharon phones Bush to urge him to press for a statement strongly condemning Arafat at the upcoming G-8 summit. Sharon also reportedly tells Bush that Israel plans to carry out “preventive operations” in the near future. An hr. later, Sharon receives a call fr. Powell urging Israeli restraint, but, late this
evening, the IDF sends tank, troop reinforcements into the West Bank in its largest deployment since the start of the al-Aqsa intifada, raising speculation that a massive attack is imminent. (MM 7/20)

18 JULY

Israel continues to reinforce its West Bank forces, stationing paratrooper units in areas nr. Bethlehem, Jìnín. Palestinians fire 4 mortars at Netzarim settlement, Nahal Oz kibbutz inside Israel. The IDF flies low-level F-16 sorties, drops thermal balloons over the Gaza Strip; directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at Palestinian residential areas of Hebron, setting 7 Palestinian homes on fire; tightens the closures on Qalqilya, Tulkarm. Jewish settlers reportedly confis- cate several Palestinian homes in the Pal- estinian section of Hebron nr. Kiryat Arba. In Bethlehem, 1,000s of Palestinians hold anti-Israeli demonstrations following the funeral for Hamas’s Saada. 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received on 7/16. (AP, HA, HP 7/18; NYT 7/19)

At a G-8 preparatory mtg. in Rome, the FMs of Britain, France, Germany, Italy insist that dispatching an impartial observer force to the West Bank and Gaza is necessary to restore a lasting cease-fire, renew peace talks. Secy. of State Powell says sending a force is “premature,” since Israel does not approve, but he does not reject the idea outright. (WP, WT 7/19)

19 JULY

Mbrs. of the Comm. for Road Safety, the armed wing of the militant Jewish settler group Kach, spray a Palestinian vehicle with automatic weapons fire, leaving 3 Palestinians dead, 4 wounded. The gunmen then run an IDF roadblock and escape into Israel. In Hebron, the IDF shells Palestinian residential areas, injuring 20, and exchanges gunfire with Force 17, PSF officers, Jewish settlers fire on, try to set lire to several Palestinian homes, causing no injuries. The IDF also directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Bayt Hanun, Bayt Jala. Palestinian gunmen fire on a settler bus nr. Ariel, causing no injuries; the IDF seals 3 nearby Palestinian villages while troops sweep the area. (AP [Internet], AP, MM 7/19; HP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/20; WP, WT 7/21; MA 7/22 in WNC 7/23, 7/24; al-Quds 7/22 in WNC 7/25; MM 7/24; MEI 7/27; JP 8/3)

At the G-8 preparatory mtg. in Rome, FM unanimously adopt a resolution supporting “third-party monitoring” as a means of facilitating a cease-fire, but agree that both Israel, the PA would have to approve. Powell backs the resolution after the wording is changed to call for “third-party monitors” rather than “international observers.” Israel denounces the proposal. (AFP [Internet], AP, BBC, HA 7/19; MM, NYT, REU, WP, WT 7/20; Mena 7/20, AP, Mena 7/22 in WNC 7/23; AYM 7/21 in WNC 7/25; WP 7/23; MEI 7/27) (see Peace Monitor)

20 JULY

In Hebron, 2 explosions rip through a Palestinian home next door to the local Fatah headquarters, killing 2 Palestinians, including Fatah Tanzim leader Raja Abu Rajab, and wounding 10. Fatah claims it was an IDF assassination; Israel accuses Fatah of making false accusations to escalate anti-Israeli demonstrations following the violence. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas in and around Hebron, setting fire to 1 home, injuring 2 Palestinians. Jewish settlers fire on, throw stones at Palestinians driving nr. Ramallah, critically injuring 1; a Palestinian home on fire in Nabi Salih. Palestinians, the IDF exchange gunfire around Gilo-Bayt Jala. (HP 7/20; WP, WT 7/21; HA 7/22; MEI 7/27)

21 JULY

In Genoa, G-8 heads of state endorse the FM statement calling for third-party monitors. (DUS 7/21, MENA 7/22 in WNC 7/23; MM 7/25; al-Quds 7/23 in WNC 7/24; MM 7/24; AP, Mena 7/24 in WNC 7/25; MM 7/25) (see Doc. A3)

22 JULY

Palestinians fire a mortar at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, causing no damage. Afterward, PSF officers attempt to arrest the group at a checkpoint, exchanging gunfire with them, wounding 3. In Haifa, Israeli police arrest a Palestinian for planting a bomb nr. a building complex, dissemble the device. Israel announces that several days prior, the Shin Bet arrested Arafat bodyguard Anis Namura on charges of organizing a group to carry out attacks on Israeli targets in the West Bank. The PA denies Namura is a Force 17 mbr. Palestinians report that the IDF has recently moved more helicopters into Jewish settlements in the
West Bank. (WP 7/22; MM 7/23; REU, WT 7/24; MEI 7/27)

At a Likud Central Comm. mtg. in Tel Aviv, Sharon is criticized for “being soft,” not “crushing” Arafat, the PA. Leading the criticism is fmr. PM Benjamin Netanyahu. (MM, NYT 7/23; MA 7/23 in WNC 7/24; The IDF conducts sweeps in Dayr Istya, MM 7/25, 7/26; MEI 7/27; JP 8/3)

23 JULY

The IDF raids the home of suspected Islamic Jihad mbr. Mustafa Yassin in Anin, fatally shoot him when he allegedly attempts to flee; a would-be Palestinian bomber detained in Haifa on 7/22 named Yassin as his handler during interrogation. The IDF also fatally shoots a Palestinian teenager during clashes nr. a Gaza roadblock. (REU 7/23; MM, WP 7/24; NYT, PMC 7/25; MEI 7/27)

Late this evening in Gaza City, a rally by some 3,000 Palestinians protesting the PA’s recent crackdown on activists per the Tenet plan devolves into clashes with the PSF when 100s of the protesters attack the nearby home of PA military intelligence chief Musa Arafat. Clashes spread to Nusayrat camp. (REU 7/23; AFP [Internet], REU 7/24; RMC 7/24 in WNC 7/25; MM, NYT 7/25; SA 7/26 in WNC 7/27; MEI 7/27)

24 JULY

A Jewish settler is found murdered nr. Ramallah. Palestinians throw 15 grenades at a Rafah checkpoint during the day, causing no injuries. The IDF bulldozes 45 dunams of Palestinian land along the Gaza border nr. Nahal Oz kibbutz. (MM, NYT, WP 7/25)

25 JULY

Israel assassinates senior Hamas mbr. Salah al-Din Darwaza, firing 5 antitank missiles at his car as he drives through Nablus. Armed Jewish settlers fr. Morag attack a PSF post, a residential building in Rafah, sparking an exchange of gunfire involving the IDF and PSF that leaves 3 soldiers injured. The IDF bulldozes the PSF post, surrounding agricultural land. In response, Palestinians fire a mortar at Morag, causing no damage. (LAW 7/25; HP, NYT, WP 7/26; JP 8/3)

At the weekly trilateral security comm. mtg., the PA warns that it will not be able to continue the security mtgs. if Israeli assassinations continue. The PA hands Israel a list of 31 Jewish settlers wanted for carrying out attacks on Palestinians, warning that the PA will take action if Israel does not arrest them. (AFP [Internet], NYT 7/25; MM, WJW 7/26; al-Quds 7/26 in WNC 7/27; SA 7/30 in WNC 7/31)

26 JULY

The IDF conducts sweeps in Dayr Istya, Hussan, and Qalqilya, arresting 11 Palestinians (including 5 Fatah mbrs., 2 PSF officers); at least 5 are released later. A Jewish settler is killed in a drive-by shooting nr. the West Bank settlement of Givon; Palestinian gunmen also fire into Givon, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, 2 roadside bombs explode nr. an IDF vehicle, nr. a settler school bus, causing no injuries. (AFP [Internet], HP 7/26; NYT 7/27)

27 JULY

Israeli-Palestinian violence continues. IDF tanks demolish 2 PSF outposts on the Ramallah–Beirut road, shell and destroy another PSF post nr. Beitunia. (LAW 8/6)

28 JULY

In retaliation for 3 mortars fired at a Jewish settlement in Gaza overnight that caused no damage, IDF helicopters shell a Palestinian building nr. Khan Yunis allegedly used as a mortar factory. The IDF also shuts a main Nablus-Jordan Valley road; sends tanks into PA-controlled Hebron to fire on a PSF outpost, critically wounding 1 PSF officer. The Popular Army Front–Return Battalions (a new group that carried out at least 2 incidents, 3/28, 4/22) publishes a list of 33 Jewish settler leaders it warns could be targeted for assassination. 1,000s of Hamas supporters attend a rally in memory of Salah al-Din Darwaza, assassinated on 7/25. (WT 7/29; LAW 8/6)

29 JULY

Mbrs. of the Israeli ultranationalist group, Temple Mount Faithful, march on the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif to lay a cornerstone for the 3d Temple. Israeli police block the marchers, but Palestinians who gathered at al-Aqsa in anticipation of the group’s attempt to enter the mosque compound throw stones at Jewish worshipers praying at the Wailing Wall, injuring 15. 100s of Israeli police enter the compound, disperse the crowd with tear gas, concussion grenades, injuring 35, arresting 31. IDF soldiers assault 7 press photographers, 1
reporter covering the incident, breaking cameras, confiscating film. Palestinians, IDF troops trade gunfire nr. Ramallah, leaving 3 Palestinians, 2 soldiers wounded; shell residential areas of Hebron, Rafah. A car bomb explodes in a parking garage in Pisgat Ze’ev settlement, causing no injuries. (MENA 7/29 in WNC 7/30; NYT, REU, WP, WT 7/30; JT, MENA, XIN 7/30 in WNC 7/31; AYM 7/30 in WNC 8/2; LAW 8/6)

30 JULY

Nr. Jinin, an explosion kills 6 Fatah mbrs., 3 of whom are on Israel’s most-wanted list, 1 of whom is a PA military intelligence officer. Fatah says they were assassinated by IDF tank fire; Israel claims they were assembling a bomb when it exploded. After Palestinians fire a mortar at Kefar Darom settlement in Gaza, injuring 1 girl, IDF helicopters fire shells at the main PSF headquarters in Gaza City, destroying a building that Israel claims was a mortar factory, injuring 7 PSF officers. The IDF also fatally shoots a PSF officer and an Islamic Jihad mbr. nr. Qarni crossing; directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Hebron, Rafah. A small bomb explodes in a supermarket in Pisgat Ze’ev, and a roadside bomb explodes nr. a Jewish settler bus nr. Ofra, neither causing injuries. Nr. Tulkarm, Palestinian gunmen fire across the Green Line at an Israeli border police car, injuring 3 officers. (AFP [Internet], BBC, NYT, REU, WP, WT 7/30; NYT, WP 7/31; SA 7/31 in WNC 8/1; LAW 8/6; MEI 8/10)

31 JULY

The IDF shells Hamas’ press office in Nablus, killing 8 Palestinians, wounding 7. Among the fatalities are Hamas political leaders Jamal Mansur and Jamal Salim, the targets of assassination and prominent public figures known for running a network of welfare programs and medical clinics. Also killed are Fahim Dawabsha, another Hamas mbr. on Israel’s wanted list; 2 journalists interviewing Mansur; 2 children outside the building. The attack triggers fir-fights, especially around Jerusalem, mortar strikes, and 2 ambushes of Jewish settler vehicles that leave 7 settlers wounded. 100s of Palestinians gather outside the Hamas office to protest. Sharon terms the attack “one of our most important successes.” The State Dept. “strongly deplores” the “highly provocative” incident. Mubarak sends an “urgent letter” to Bush pressing for the U.S. to intervene with Israel. Meanwhile, the IDF demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in Shu’fat; sends tanks, bulldozers into Bayt Sahur to shell residential areas, demolish part of a home, a water network; directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Bayt Jala, Gaza City, al-Khadir, Khan Yunis, Rafah; bulldozes additional land outside Ramallah; conducts arrest sweeps in Bayt Hanina, East Jerusalem, Shu’fat, al-Tur, Wadi al-Juz; sets up new checkpoints nr. Nablus, Ramallah, Zawat; tightens the closures on Salfit, Tulkarm. IDF soldiers also severely beat 2 journalists at a checkpoint nr. Qalandiya; 2 Palestinians are killed in clashes elsewhere. Jewish settlers vandalize Palestinian cars in East Jerusalem. (AP, HP, LA, PMC, REU 7/31; MENA 7/31 in WNC 8/1; MENA 7/31, ATL, JT, MA, MENA, XIN 8/1 in WNC 8/2; NYT, WP, WT 8/1; XIN 8/1, AN 8/2 in WNC 8/3; HP 8/2; MENA 8/4 in WNC 8/6; LAW 8/6; JP, MEI 8/10)

A PA security court sentences 4 Palestinians to death for collaborating with Israel in the assassination of senior Fatah official Thabet Thabet on 12/31/00. A 5th defendant is acquitted. (WT 8/1; AYM 8/4 in WNC 8/10; WT 8/7)

1 AUGUST

In Nablus, 10,000s of Palestinians attend the funeral of those killed in the 7/31 IDF attack in Nablus. Palestinians across Jerusalem, Gaza, the West Bank observe a general strike; marches are held in Jinin, Qalqilya, Ramallah, Tulkarm, refugee camps in Lebanon. Meanwhile, Israel continues to defend the assassination strike, saying it will carry out more such assaults if Israeli lives are at risk. Meanwhile, 1 Palestinian is killed in a severe clash with the IDF in Hebron. The IDF also directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah, Ramallah, Silat Dahir, Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids, searches in Abu Dis, al-Arab, Nablus; reinforces positions around Birzeit, Jinin, Qalqilya, Tulkarm. A pipe bomb explodes in Jerusalem, causing no injuries. Palestinian gunmen kill 3 suspected Palestinian collaborators in Bethlehem, Ramallah. (REU 8/1; HP, NYT, WP, WT 8/2; LAW 8/6; MEI 8/10)

Responding to Mubarak’s urgent appeal (8/1), Bush states that “we’re still very much engaged in the process . . . that we take violence very seriously,” but not indicating that
the U.S. will do more. Egyptian FM Maher says Egypt is “astonished that the United States has not reacted with the necessary firmness to this [latest] Israeli behavior.” (NYT, WP, WT 8/8; AKH 8/8 in WNC 8/10)

The PA suspends participation on the tri-lateral security comm. to protest Israel’s 7/31 strike against Hamas. (WP 8/2, 8/6)

2 AUGUST

The IDF fatally shoots a Palestinian said to be planting a bomb nr. Nablus, sparking a gun battle lasting several hrs., leaving 2 Palestinians wounded. Another Palestinian is caught attempting to plant a bomb on an Israeli bus in Kiryat Shimona. IDF commandos land a helicopter nr. a PSF post nr. Nablus, abduct low-level Fatah mbr. Murad Bisharat, who is released hrs. later. Israel Radio reports that he was kidnapped by mistake; a senior Fatah mbr. was the intended target. Palestinians fire 2 mortars at Kefar Darom settlement in Gaza, causing no damage. In response, the IDF sends 3 tanks into a nearby PA-controlled area. The IDF also directs shells, heavy machine gun fire on residential areas of Bus in Kiryat Shmona. (AP, HA, REU 8/5; NYT, WP 8/5; AYM 8/4 in WNC 8/6; MEI 8/10) (see 7/6)

3 AUGUST

Although the official PA news agency Wafa carries another appeal for a halt to armed attacks against Israel, the clashes continue at a high level. A Palestinian woman carrying a bomb is detained, disarmed at the Tel Aviv central bus depot. Palestinians fire a mortar at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, injuring 1 settler. Fearing massive protests against the 7/31 Nablus attack, Israel places age restrictions on Palestinians attending Friday prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque. Palestinian gunmen fatally shoot a suspected Palestinian collaborator in Bethlehem. PA officials say some 60 suspected collaborators have been arrested in Jenin. (AP, HA, REU 8/3; WP, WT 8/4; MEI 8/10)

After a UN comm. concludes that UNIFIL erred in its handling of the 10/00 video but did not conspire against Israel in bad faith, Secy.-Gen. Annan invites Israel, Lebanon to send officials to New York to view the edited tapes, evidence collected at the scene. (NYT, WP, WT 8/4; NYT 8/8; WJW 8/9; MEI 8/10) (see 7/6)

4 AUGUST

In Ramallah, 2 IDF missiles narrowly miss the car of Fatah tanzim leader Marwan Barghouti in an apparent assassination attempt. Israel claims that a Force 17 mbr., traveling in a 2d vehicle, injured in the attack, was the intended target. Arafat appeals to the U.S., China, the EU, Russia to intervene with Israel to prevent violence fr. spinning out of control. The IDF also destroys a Palestinian olive grove nr. Nablus, 20 dunams of agricultural land in Jericho; shells residential areas nr. Bethlehem. Palestinian gunmen exchange fire with IDF forces outside Gilo settlement. 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. (NYT, PMC, WP, WT 8/5; al-Quds 8/5 in WNC 8/6; LAW, PMC 8/6; MEI 8/10)

In Tel Aviv, 1,000s of Israelis take part in a Peace Now march protesting Israeli violence against Palestinians. (Gush Shalom press release 8/5; NYT, WJW 8/9)

5 AUGUST

The IDF assassinates Hamas student activist ‘Amr Hadiri (also reported as Omar Madiri), firing missiles at his car as he drives in Tulkarm. Also nr. Tulkarm, the IDF fatally shoots a Palestinian allegedly planting a roadside bomb. A Palestinian opens fire outside the Israeli DMin. in Tel Aviv, wounding 8 IDF soldiers, 2 Israeli civilians. The shooter is wounded, captured in his attempt to flee and later dies of his injuries. Palestinians open fire on a Jewish settler family driving in the West Bank, killing 1 pregnant settler, seriously wounding her husband, lightly injuring 2 children. In response, the IDF seals Jericho, Nablus, Qalqilya, Ramallah, Tulkarm, and parts of Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin. IDF helicopters shell the PSF headquarters in Rafah. The Israeli DMin. broadcasts a list of 7 wanted Palestinians (3 Islamic Jihad, 2 Fatah, 1 Hamas, 1 PFLP), vowing to take action against them if the PA does not arrest them immediately. (AFP [Internet], PMC, REU 8/5;
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6 AUGUST

IDF undercover agents kidnap a Palestinian suspected of training to be a suicide bomber. A Jewish settler is killed by Palestinian gunfire near Tapuach settlement. A Palestinian is reportedly beaten to death in IDF custody near Tulkarm. A pregnant Palestinian woman, denied passage through 3 IDF checkpoints to reach a hospital, gives birth in her car. The PA releases a list of 60 Jewish settlers wanted for planning attacks on Palestinians, says that if Israel does not arrest them immediately, it will “deal with them as terrorists.” (AFP [Internet], PMC 8/6; WT 8/7)

The PC forms a subcomm. to draw plans for a unity government with opposition nationalist and Islamist groups. (AYM 8/6 in WNC 8/13; AYM 8/8 in WNC 8/10; JT 8/8, SA 8/10 in WNC 8/13; WT 8/9; AKH 8/10 in WNC 8/14) (see 6/7)

7 AUGUST

Israel eases the IDF’s open-fire restrictions, allowing soldiers to initiate fire on Palestinians who “appear to be preparing an attack.” A Jewish settler is fatally shot outside Tzofim settlement. The IDF seals neighboring Qalqilya in response. The IDF also directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Bethlehem; tightens the closures on Jenin, Khan Yunis, Tulkarm. 2 roadside bombs explode nr. IDF convoys in the West Bank, causing no damage. (PMC, WP, WT 8/8)

The U.S. rejects PA requests to intervene with Israel to prevent the further deterioration of violence and to send international observers to the region immediately, instead dispatching Dep. Asst. Secy. of State Satterfield for a week-long tour of the region. He will discuss regional tensions with officials in Lebanon, Syria, Israel, and the West Bank and Gaza, but will not bring new initiatives. (NYT, WP, WT 8/8; NYT 8/10; JT 8/12 in WNC 8/14)

8 AUGUST

A Palestinian suicide bomber detonates a device at an IDF checkpoint in the West Bank, injuring 3 IDF soldiers. In retaliation for the killing of a settler on 8/7, the IDF places a curfew on ‘Ayn Bus, Jama’in; shells a Force 17 post, a PA military intelligence post in Salfit and a Force 17 office in Asira, destroying the buildings but causing no injuries. The IDF also directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Asira, Jericho; tightens closures on Khan Yunis, Qalqilya, Rafah; reinforces troops around al-Mahatin, Qalqilya; bulldozes 10 dunams of agricultural land in al-Qarara. (AP, HP 8/8; WP 8/9)

9 AUGUST

A Hamas suicide bomber detonates a device at a crowded West Jerusalem pizzeria, killing 13 Israelis. 1 American. 1 Brazilian and wounding at least 90. Afterward, angry Israelis in Jerusalem, Jewish settlers in Hebron attack Palestinians in the streets, with little intervention fr. Israeli police, soldiers. Fearing a massive Israeli strike, Palestinians throughout the occupied territories close offices and stores, take refuge in their homes. Meanwhile, Palestinian gunmen fire on a vehicle nr. Jenin, killing 1 Jewish settler, wounding 3. The IDF directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Bayt Lahia, Jericho, Khan Yunis, Nablus, Rafah; bulldozes a Palestinian home in Gaza. (AP, BBC, HA 8/9; ITAR-TASS, MENA 8/9 in WNC 8/10; NYT, PMC, WP, WT 8/10; JT 8/10 in WNC 8/13; WP 8/11)

Immediately after the bombing, the IDF senior command, Israeli cabinet convene separately to discuss response scenarios. The cabinet agrees to a new strategy of hitting PA targets only with the aim of forcing Arafat to choose between a full cease-fire and destruction of the PA. This evening, Sharon meets with his security cabinet, which also decides to set up new police stations in East Jerusalem. (HA 8/9; CNN, HA, JP [Internet], LAW, NYT, REU, WP, WT 8/10; MENA 8/10 in WNC 8/13; WT 8/11; Times [London] 8/13; WT 8/15)

Late tonight (2:00 A.M. local time), Israel sends F-16s to destroy a PSF post in Ramallah; sends more tanks into Gaza, bulldozing 1 PSF post. Israeli security forces occupy 10 unofficial PLO offices in East Jerusalem, including Orient House (the symbolic PLO FMin.); also detain 8 Orient House employees for questioning, confiscate files, remove the Palestinian flag, raise an Israeli flag. The IDF takes over the Abu Dis mayor’s residence, several surrounding homes Israel claims are used as PA security command centers, marking the 1st reoccupation of sites in area B. Sharon declares that “Orient House will not open again. Ever. We will not
leave Abu Dis." The State Dept. says the actions mark a "political escalation." Russia warns that Israel has crossed a "dangerous line." In response, Israel removes the Israeli flag fr. Orient House. (HA 8/9; CNN, HA, JP [Internet], LAW, NYT, REU, WP, WT 8/10; MENA 8/10 in WNC 8/13; WT 8/11; JT, al-Quds 8/12 in WNC 8/14; Times [London] 8/13; AYM 8/13, SA 8/14 in WNC 8/15; ATL 8/15 in WNC 8/16)

A PA security court in Nablus sentences another Palestinian to death for collaborating with Israel in the 2/19 assassination of Hamas mbr. Mahmud Madani. (Independent [Internet] 8/10)

10 AUGUST
Palestinians, foreign nationals demonstrate outside Orient House to protest the Israeli confiscation. Israeli police break up the rally, beating some protesters, arresting 8. Similar protests are held in Ramallah. Israel claims that senior Hamas mbr. Abdallah Barghouti, 1 of the 7 Palestinians on the list it handed to the PA on 8/5, planned the 8/9 suicide bombing. The IDF demolishes a PSF post in Gaza City, sets up a new checkpoint on the Birzeit–Ramallah road. (International Solidarity Movement press release, Israeli FMMin. press release 8/10; WP, WT 8/11; MEZ 8/15)

11 AUGUST
Demonstrations continue outside Orient House. Israeli police arrest 5 Palestinian demonstrators, 7 foreign nationals. Israel claims that when police seized Orient House, they found arms, explosives. The PA arrests 4 Hamas mbrs., including Abdallah Barghouti (see 8/10), in connection with the 8/9 bombing. (UPI 8/11; NYT, WP, WT 8/12; HP, NYT 8/13; SA 8/13 in WNC 8/14)

12 AUGUST
In Kiryat Motzkin, nr. Haifa, a Palestinian suicide bomber detonates a device outside a cafe, wounding 15 Israelis. Islamic Jihad takes responsibility. The bomber, Muhammad Nasr, was a fmr. PSF guard who quit his job at the Jinin jail after Islamic Jihad leader Iyad Hardan, who had befriended Nasr during his incarceration there, was assassinated on 4/5. Afterward, Israeli Jews attack, severely beat an Israeli Arab family in Haifa. Meanwhile, the IDF directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Hebron, killing a 7-yr.-old Palestinian girl in her home, wounding 19 others; on hearing the news of the girl’s death, the child’s grandmother has a fatal heart attack. The IDF also occupies the Palestinian Telecommunications (Paltel) building in Abu Dis, which handles Palestinian telephone service in the Jerusalem area; Israel says Paltel may continue operations in coordination with IDF officers posted on site. The IDF directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Bethlehem; demolishes a Palestinian home, bulldozes agricultural land in al-Qarara. Jewish settlers uproot a Palestinian olive grove nr. Ma’ale Shomron settlement. Demonstrations continue outside Orient House. Peace Now sponsors a protest vigil outside the PM’s office in Jerusalem. Israeli police set up a new police post at Damascus Gate, new security cameras in several areas in the Old City. (AFP [Internet], IDF press release 8/12; HP, NYT, WP, WT 8/13; MENA, al-Ra’i 8/13 in WNC 8/14; NYT 8/14; MA 8/14 in WNC 8/15; MEZ 8/15; Independent [Internet] 8/16)

Sharon authorizes Peres to open security talks with senior PA officials but requires him to seek special permission to meet with Arafat. (FMMin. press release 8/12; AP, HP, WT 8/13; AYM 8/13 in WNC 8/14; WT 8/14; al-Ra’i 8/16 in WNC 8/17)

In Cairo, FM Maher, Mubarak’s senior adviser Osama Baz meet with Oslo architect and fmr. Israeli MK Yossi Beilin to discuss ways of achieving an Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire, renewing negotiations. (MENA 8/13 in WNC 8/14)

13 AUGUST
Palestinians across the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem observe a general strike. IDF soldiers severely beat mbrs. of an Egyptian TV crew filming the strikes. Qalqilya; fatally shoots 1 Palestinian wanted for killing a Jewish settler on 7/24. The IDF also bars a pregnant Palestinian fr. crossing a checkpoint to reach a hospital to deliver her baby; directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Gaza City, Rafah; shuts the Rafah crossing; reinforces the closures on bomber, who detonates a device directing heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Hebron, killing a 7-yr.-old Palestinian girl in her home, wounding 19 others; on hearing the news of the girl’s death, the child’s grandmother has a fatal heart attack. The IDF also occupies the Palestinian Telecommunications (Paltel) building in Abu Dis, which handles Palestinian telephone service in the Jerusalem area; Israel says Paltel may continue operations in coordination with IDF officers posted on site. The IDF directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Bethlehem; demolishes a Palestinian home, bulldozes agricultural land in al-Qarara. Jewish settlers uproot a Palestinian olive grove nr. Ma’ale Shomron settlement. Demonstrations continue outside Orient House. Peace Now sponsors a protest vigil outside the PM’s office in Jerusalem. Israeli police set up a new police post at Damascus Gate, new security cameras in several areas in the Old City. (AFP [Internet], IDF press release 8/12; HP, NYT, WP, WT 8/13; MENA, al-Ra’i 8/13 in WNC 8/14; NYT 8/14; MA 8/14 in WNC 8/15; MEZ 8/15; Independent [Internet] 8/16)

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local PSF headquarters and a PSF checkpoint; soldiers also occupy the local governor’s office. The PSF, which evacuated the sites hrs. earlier, does not engage the IDF troops; the incursion sparks only isolated exchanges of gunfire, which leave 3 Palestinians wounded. Israel says the move—marking the IDF’s 1st sustained foray into a major PA-controlled city—is to punish the PA for not halting a number of recent suicide bombers who have come fr. Jìnín; it says it has no intention of permanently reoccupying the area. (AP, HA, HP 8/13; CNN, NYT, WP, WT 8/14; ITAR-TASS 8/14 in WNC 8/15; MEZ, NYT, WT 8/15; SA 8/16 in WNC 8/17)

Egypt dispatches a high-level delegation, led by Mubarak advisor Baz, to Washington for 4 days of talks with U.S. officials to urge the U.S. to focus on restarting Israeli-Palestinian negotiations as well as resuming security contacts. (MENA, SA 8/13 in WNC 8/14; WP 8/14; MENA, SA 8/14 in WNC 8/15; NYT 8/16) (see Peace Monitor)

14 AUGUST

Several hrs. after entering Jìnín on 8/13, the IDF withdraws. Significant exchanges of gunfire btwn. Bayt Jala and neighboring Gilo settlement prompt the IDF to reinforce positions around Bayt Jala, Bayt Sahur, Bethlehém during the day, raising speculation that a 2d Jìnín-style operation is planned. The IDF does not move into these towns but does direct heavy machine gun fire at Bayt Jala; occupy 3 buildings outside Bayt Jala; enter, impose curfews on 3 nearby villages in area C. DM Ben-Eliezer says he suspended an incursion after the PA began to restrain gunmen in Bayt Jala. Israel announces it will allow 459 trucks carrying food and fuel to enter Gaza. Overnight, the IDF shells residential areas of Hebron. (CNN, NYT, REU, WT 8/14; AP, HA, IGPO, HP, MEZ, NYT, REU 8/15; NYT, WT 8/16; al-Quds 8/16)

15 AUGUST

The IDF reinforces positions around Bayt Jala in response to an hrs.-long exchange of gunfire btwn. Bayt Jala, Gilo; F-16s also overly the area. In Hebron, Israeli undercover agents assassinate local Fatah tanzim leader Imad Abu Sunayna, who was on Israel’s most-wanted list. Israeli undercover agents also arrest several Islamic Jihad mbrs., in Jìnín; based on their confessions, police reportedly find, disarm a bomb nr. Haifa. A Palestinian sniper shoots, wounds an Israeli truck driver nr. Ma’ale Adumim. The IDF sends tanks into Khan Yunis; conducts arrests raids in al-Arub, Bayt Umar, Baqa’a al-Sharqiyya, Izbat al-Taybi. Armed Jewish settlers block the Nahal—Ramallah road, stone and club Palestinian cars. Demonstrations continue outside Orient House. An alleged Palestinian collaborator dies in PA custody. Israel says it will facilitate the transfer of 17,000 heads of livestock fr. the Elat port to the PA areas over the next few days. (AP, HA, HP, IGPO, MEZ, REU 8/15; Guardian [Internet], NYT, WP 8/16; NYT, WP, WT 8/17)

In Washington, Mubarak advisor Baz holds mtgs. with White House, State Dept., CIA officials, warning that the U.S.’s continued “inaction” in the Middle East could allow extremists to take hold in moderate Arab countries, undermine U.S. prestige. Baz urges the U.S. to more clearly define to both sides in an even-handed way what is needed to proceed with the Mitchell recommendations. (MENA 8/15 in WNC 8/16; NYT 8/16)
Palestinians search for survivors amid the rubble of the PSF’s Nablus headquarters, targeted by Israeli F-16s on 5/18 in retaliation for a suicide bombing. (AP Photo/Nasser Istayeh)