This section is part seventy-three of a chronology begun in JPS 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time. For a more comprehensive overview of events related to the al-Aqsa intifada and of regional and international developments related to the peace process, see the Quarterly Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in this issue.

16 NOVEMBER

Ramadan begins. Despite pleas fr. Muslim nations, the U.S. continues its “war against terror” in Afghanistan. In Jerusalem, Israel bars younger Palestinian men access to the al-Aqsa Mosque, citing security reasons. (AP 11/16; NYT 11/17)

The Israel Defense Force (IDF) enters 2 areas of Gaza controlled by the Palestinian Authority (PA), bulldozes Palestinian agricultural land, destroys a PA Preventive Security Force (PSF) post. In Jenin, 2,000 Palestinians protest outside a PSF office for the 3d day, demanding the release of senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Muhammad Tawalbi, arrested by the PSF on 11/14. Clashes are also reported in al-Bireh. (AP 11/16; WT 11/17; LAW 11/26)

17 NOVEMBER

The IDF withdraws fr. Tulkarm, leaving Jenin the only 1 of 6 major PA-controlled towns still reoccupied by the IDF following the assassination of Israel’s Tourism M Rehavam Ze’evi by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) on 10/17. A closure on Tulkarm, however, remains in place. The IDF also conducts an arrest raid in Yabud. (WP 11/18; LAW 11/26)

18 NOVEMBER

The IDF finds, accidentally triggers a bomb outside the King David Hotel in Jerusalem just before Israeli PM Ariel Sharon is to meet there with a European Union (EU) delegation; no injuries are reported. The IDF also moves troops 200 yds. into PA-controlled territory nr. Bayt Lahia, kills 2 armed Palestinians it claims were heading toward nearby Dugit settlement; the PA says the men were mbrs. of the Palestinian naval police on patrol. 2 other Palestinians die of injuries received earlier. (NYT, WP 11/19; NYT 11/20; LAW 11/26)

Journal of Palestine Studies XXXI, no. 3 (Spring 2002), pp. 172-194.
21 NOVEMBER

The IDF raids a village outside Tulkarm, captures PSF officer Samir Kayid and his brother. A Palestinian dies of a heart attack at an IDF checkpoint in Gaza after soldiers bar his ambulance fr. taking him to a hospital. The IDF also raids the PA Interior Min. offices in Azariyya, confiscating files; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis (damaging a school), Rafah, Tal Sultan; demolishes a Palestinian home in Hebron; reinforces closures in n. Gaza, Hebron. (HP, NYT, WT 11/22; LAW 11/26)

22 NOVEMBER

In Khan Yunis, 5 Palestinian schoolboys are killed in a mysterious explosion. The IDF raids Azariyya, shuts a PSF office, 2 PA Interior Min. offices; shells residential areas of Bayt Hanun. Nr. Tulkarm, 3 armed Palestinians drive a jeep through the gates of a factory run by Jewish settlers, opening fire, wounding 2 workers. (HP, MEZ 11/22; MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/23; WP 11/24; MENA 11/24 in WNC 11/27; HA 11/25; JT 11/25 in WNC 11/28; MM 11/27; MEI 12/7)

23 NOVEMBER

On the eve of the new U.S. mission to the region, the IDF assassinates senior Izzed-din al-Qassam Brigades head Mahmud Abu Hanud, firing a missile at his car nr. Nablus; 2 other Hamas mbrs. are killed. In the West Bank, 2 Palestinians are killed in an explosion; the PA says they were hit by a tank shell, the IDF claims they were preparing a bomb. The IDF also fires on a civilian car nr. the Rafah crossing, killing 1 Palestinian, wounding another; opens fire on stone throwers in Gaza, killing a 7th Palestinian. Palestinians fire a mortar at Neve Dekalim, causing damage but no injuries. (AP, HA 11/23; MEZ, NYT, WP, WT 11/24; AFP 11/24 in WNC 11/27; JP [Internet], REU, YA 11/25; DUS, al-Quds 11/25 in WNC 11/28; MM 11/26; MEI 12/7)

24 NOVEMBER

Israel admits that 5 Palestinian boys killed by an explosion on 11/22 accidentally triggered a bomb planted by the IDF and intended for Palestinian gunmen. In Nablus, 50,000 Palestinians attend the funeral for Hamas’s Abu Hanud. In retaliation for Abu Hanud’s assassination, Hamas fires mortars at Kefar Darom settlement, killing 1 IDF soldier, wounding 2. In response to 5 explosions along the Rafah-Egypt border, the IDF shells Palestinian residential areas of Rafah. (MENA 11/24 in WNC 11/27; NYT, WP, WT 11/25; NYT 11/26; PMC 11/28; MM 12/20; NYT 12/21)

25 NOVEMBER

IDF soldiers guarding Rachel’s Tomb in Bethlehem open fire on stone-throwing Palestinian youths, killing a 13-yr.-old Palestinian boy. In retaliation for the 11/24 mortar attack on Kefar Darom, the IDF shells, destroys the PA military intelligence office in Khan Yunis, a naval police post in Sudaniiyya, and a Fatah office in Dayr al-Balah, injuring 3; bulldozers demolish 3 Palestinian homes in Dayr al-Balah. The IDF also directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Bayt Lahia, Khan Yunis, Rafah, Tal Sultan. Palestinians fire 8 mortars at Gush Katif, causing no damage; detonate a roadside bomb nr. Hebron, causing no damage. (PMC 11/25; HP, HA, NYT, WT 11/26)

26 NOVEMBER

The IDF withdraws fr. Jinin. A Hamas suicide bomber detonates a device nr. the Erez crossing in n. Gaza, wounding 2 Israeli border policemen. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Khan Yunis, injuring 6 children; conducts arrest raids in Dayr al-Balah; tightens the closure on Tulkarm, digging ditches across roads, bulldozing agricultural land around the city. (HP 11/26; AP, HP, NYT, WP 11/27; NYT 11/28)


27 NOVEMBER

In Afula, Israel, 2 Palestinian gunmen (1 fr. Islamic Jihad, 1 fr. the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade [AMB]) open fire on a crowd, killing 2 Israelis, wounding 14 before being shot dead. Sharon, taking U.S. envoys Burns and Zinni on a helicopter tour of the West Bank and Gaza at the time, redirects the chopper to overfly the scene of the attack. Later, a Palestinian sniper fatally shoots a Jewish settler driving in Gaza, wounds 3 others, is then killed by the IDF.
The PA condemns the attacks; PA head Yasir Arafat issues a statement pledging to make a “100% effort” toward achieving a cease-fire. Meanwhile, the IDF steps up strikes on residential areas of Khan Yunis; tightens access to Jerusalem. (HP, MM 11/27; AP, HA, NY, NYT, WP, WT 11/28; AFP, AYM, al-Quds 11/28 in WNC 11/29; JP 12/7)

28 NOVEMBER

The IDF shoots, kills 1 Palestinian nr. a crossing into Israel. Palestinian gunmen fire on Gilo; the IDF returns fire on Bayt Jala; no casualties are reported. Nr. Nablus, the IDF bulldozes roads, agricultural lands; a Jewish settler intentionally hits a Palestinian with his car, killing him. Jewish settlers fr. Kedumim uproot 150 Palestinian olive trees in Jit; settlers fr. Ofra bulldoze Palestinian land around their settlement. The PSF begins an arrest campaign targeting Islamic Jihad, arresting 7 mb/rs., questioning 22 Palestinians affiliated with the group. (PMC 11/28; HP, LAW, NY, WP, WT 11/29; XIN 12/1 in WNC 12/3)

Special envoys Burns, Zinni meet with Arafat in Ramallah; tour the West Bank with U.S. officials to see refugee camps, the effect of Israel’s military siege and settlement construction on Palestinians. Meanwhile, Sharon publicly restates his demand for 7 days of complete Palestinian quiet before Israel would take steps to implement the Tenet plan. (MM 11/28; AP, NY, WP, WT 11/29)

29 NOVEMBER

As U.S. envoy Zinni meets with PA officials, an Islamic Jihad suicide bomber detonates a device on a bus in Hadera, Israel, killing 3 Israelis, wounding 7. The bomber reportedly boarded the bus in the Israeli Arab town of Umm al-Fahm. A Palestinian gunman also kills 1 IDF soldier in a drive-by shooting at a West Bank checkpoint. The IDF opens fire on a Palestinian car at a Jordan Valley checkpoint, killing 2 Palestinians who “acted suspiciously” by making a U-turn to avoid the congested crossing. The IDF also opens fire on a French delegation (135 politicians, journalists, intellectuals) touring homes demolished by the IDF in Khan Yunis; seals Hebron; sets up more roadblocks, especially on the road to Bethlehem; tightens the closure on Tulkarm, bulldozing areas along the Green Line; raids a Palestinian factory nr. Qarni; crossing, confiscating electrical equipment; directs heavy machine gun fire on residential areas of Jinin; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis. Jewish settlers, under IDF protection, place caravans on a new settlement site nr. Dayr al-Balah. (AFP, HP 11/29; AFP, AP, HP, MM, NY, WT 11/30; al-Quds 11/30 in WNC 12/3; LAW 12/5)

Sharon arrives in the U.S. on an official visit, accuses Arafat of having built a “coalition of terror” against Israel. (MM 11/30; NYT 12/1)

30 NOVEMBER

In response to the 11/29 Hadera bombing, Israeli DM Benjamin Ben-Eliezer authorizes the IDF to step up assassinations, tighten blockades on PA areas. The IDF encircles, takes up positions just inside PA-controlled areas of Jinin, Nablus, Tulkarm; directs machine gun fire at residential areas of Beitunia, Nablus; sends bulldozers into al-Bireh, temporarily occupies the roof of the PA Min. of Planning and International Cooperation while land in front of the building is razed; conducts an arrest raid in Hebron. 1,000 Palestinians demonstrate in Ramallah, 8 are injured when the IDF fires on the crowd. (MM 11/30; PMC, NY, WP, WT 12/1; LAW 12/5)

1 DECEMBER

During the day, IDF troops surrounding Jinin fatally shoot 2 Palestinians. The IDF sends tanks, troops into Dura to arrest 5 Palestinians, including 4 PSF officers. U.S. envoy Zinni tours Gaza with PA officials. Late this evening, 2 Hamas suicide bombers stage a synchronized attack in Jerusalem’s Ben Yehuda market. Soon after, a car bomb explodes nearby. In total, 10 Israelis are killed, around 180 are injured. The PA immediately condemns the attacks, saying it will do everything possible to arrest those responsible. Sharon announces he will cut point. The IDF opens fire on a Palestinian car at a Jordan Valley checkpoint, killing 2 Palestinians who “acted suspiciously” by making a U-turn to avoid the congested crossing. The IDF also opens fire on a French delegation (135 politicians, journalists, intellectuals) touring homes demolished by the IDF in Khan Yunis; seals Hebron; sets up more roadblocks, especially on the road to Bethlehem; tightens the closure on Tulkarm, bulldozing areas along the Green Line; raids a Palestinian factory nr. Qarni; crossing, confiscating electrical equipment; directs heavy machine gun fire on residential areas of Jinin; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis.
2 DECEMBER

A Hamas suicide bomber detonates a powerful device on a bus in Haifa, killing 14 Israelis, 1 Filipino, and injuring more than 40. Arafat condemns the attack, outlawing “any movement, organization, or gathering” that does not abide by his cease-fire order, orders confiscation of illegal weapons, reiterates plans for a crackdown, saying that around 90 Palestinians have already been arrested. Israel dismisses the arrests as “a stunt,” seals PA areas, bans all Palestinian vehicular traffic, shells residential areas of Jinin. In one of several similar incidents in the Bethlehem area, 20 PSF officers attempting to arrest journalist Issa Zawahara, who has ties to Islamic Jihad, are chased off by an angry crowd of Palestinians. Arafat later meets with PA security heads, convenes the Palestinian Council (PC) to discuss the recent attacks. (AFP, AP, HA 12/2; AFP, ATL, Interfax, LPA, XIN 12/2 in WNC 12/3; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/3; DUS, MA 12/3 in WNC 12/4; WT 12/4; AYM 12/4 in WNC 12/5; LAW 12/5; WJW 12/6; MEI 12/7; JP 12/14)

Sharon, Bush meet at the White House. Sharon says he does not expect Arafat to take serious steps to arrest those responsible for recent suicide attacks, says Israel will “do what we have to do to protect our citizens.” Neither Bush nor U.S. officials urge Israeli restraint. (JP [Internet] 12/2; LPA 12/2 in WNC 12/3; MM, WP, WT 12/3; WT 12/4; VIRI 12/4 in WNC 12/5; MM 12/5)

Meanwhile, Hamas also takes responsibility for a drive-by shooting in Gaza, which leaves 1 Jewish settler dead. In the Jordan Valley, 7 settlers are wounded in a 2d drive-by shooting. Palestinians in Bayt Jala fire on Gilo, injuring 2 settlers. Armed Jewish settlers accost Palestinians in Hizma. An Israeli security guard outside an East Jerusalem bank fatally shoots a Palestinian, apparently fearing that he was about to stage an attack. The IDF fatally shoots 4 Palestinians nr. a Jinin checkpoint, 1 Palestinian in Tulkarm; fires a tank shell at a Palestinian in Qabatiyya, killing him. The IDF also directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Aida, Jinin, Khan Yunis, Salim; conducts arrest raids in Abu Dis, Azariyya, Burqa. In Gaza, some 1,000 Hamas supporters rally in support of continued attacks on Israeli targets. In Nablus, 300 Palestinians attend a rally against political arrests sponsored by the National and Islamic Higher Comm. for the Follow-up of the Intifada (NIHC). (HA 12/2; XIN 12/2 in WNC 12/3; PMC, REU, WP 12/3; LAW 12/5)

3 DECEMBER

Upon his return fr. the U.S., Sharon meets with his security cabinet, then his full cabinet to discuss how to respond to the 12/1–2 attacks. The full cabinet votes to declare the PA “an entity that supports terrorism,” adds Force 17 (Arafat’s “presidential guard”) to its list of terrorist groups, authorizes Sharon to escalate military action. FM Shimon Peres, other Labor MKs walk out of the cabinet mtg. in protest but do not formally withdraw fr. the governing coalition. (AP, CNN, HA, MM 12/3; MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/4; MM, WJW 12/6; MEI 12/7; MA 12/7 in WNC 12/12; WP 12/9)

While the cabinet meets, the PSF continues to arrest mbrs. of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, risking confrontations with hostile Palestinian crowds. Arafat also orders the arrest of Hamas spiritual leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, but when PSF officers arrive around midnight, crowds of Palestinians force them to retreat. The PSF says it has arrested more than 100 Palestinians since 12/2. Arafat asks Peres for a 4-day grace period, during which he vows he would crack down on opposition groups. Israel refuses, dismissing the arrests as a “show for international consumption.” The U.S. says the PA must “root out the infrastructure of the groups that support terrorists.” (HA 12/3; NYT, WP, WT 12/4; AKH 12/4 in WNC 12/5; MEI 12/7; MA 12/7 in WNC 12/11; WT 12/10)

Soon after the cabinet mtg., the IDF launches air raids against Arafat’s headquarters and other PA sites around Gaza City, destroying the PSF barracks, Arafat’s 2 personal helicopters, injuring 12 Palestinians; sends tanks into Gaza airport to bulldoze runways; sends troops into Ramallah to surround the PA’s West Bank headquarters, where Arafat is staying. In Jinin, U.S.-supplied F-16s destroy the Palestinian governate building, jail, PSF headquarters. The IDF also fatally shoots 1 Palestinian nr. Jinin; raids Beitunia, attacking several homes and arresting an Arafat adviser, several Islamic Jihad mbrs. In Bethlehem, Fatah mbrs. Rafat al-Bajali and Nidal al-Dirbani, both on Israel’s wanted list, are killed in a mysterious explosion thought to be an IDF assassination. White House spokesman Ari Fleischer says Israel “obviously has the right to defend itself. The president under-
stands that very clearly.” (AFP, AP, CNN, HA 12/3; XIN 12/3 in WNC 12/4; MENA 12/3, AN, MA 12/4 in WNC 12/5; HA, HP, NYT, WP, WT 12/4; HP, LAW 12/5; AYM 12/5 in WNC 12/7; AYM 12/6, al-Safrir 12/7 in WNC 12/11; MEI 12/7; WJW 12/14; MEI 12/21)

4 DECEMBER

Israel strikes PA targets for a 2d day, shelling Arafat’s Ramallah compound (though not hitting the building housing his office, where he is staying), sending F-16s to hit PSF. Force 17 offices in Gaza City. The IDF also shells PSF, Force 17, PA military intelligence offices in Bayt Lahia, Jabaliya, Khan Yunis, Salfit, Qalqilya, and Tulkarm and the Information Min. offices in Ramallah; re-occupies the village of Iktaba and areas of al-Bireh, Nablus, Ramallah; fires on the home of PLO Exec. Comm. mbr. Ghassan Shaka’. A total of 3 Palestinians are killed, more than 150 wounded, including 60 schoolchildren; a 4th Palestinian, an ill baby, dies when the IDF prevents his transportation through a checkpoint to a hospital. The PA dismisses Tulkarm’s PSF head Brig. Gen. Mahmud Awadala for releasing prisoners fr. Tulkarm’s jail, including 6 Islamic Jihad mbrs., in fear that the IDF would shell the prison. (AFP, AP, HA, HP, MEZ, MM, NYT, PMC, WP, WT 12/4; MENA 12/4 in WNC 12/5; HP, LAW, MM 12/5).

5 DECEMBER

Due to severe weather, violence tapers off noticeably, though an Islamic Jihad suicide bomber lightly injures 5 Israelis outside a hotel in Jerusalem. The IDF demolishes 2 Palestinian homes, a water network in Rafah, nr. Morag settlement; directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Jinin, Nablus, Rafah; confiscates Palestinian land in Dayr al-Balah; reinforces positions around Nablus, Qalqilya. In the afternoon, Israel, which had already curtailed operations due to the weather, announces it is halting strikes on PA targets for 12 hrs. to give Arafat a chance to demonstrate he is cracking down on opposition groups; names 36 Palestinians it wants arrested immediately, vowing to resume strikes on the morning of 12/6 unless the PA shows progress. Meanwhile, in a briefing to Likud MKs, Sharon vows to step up Israel’s assassination campaign, bans all Palestinian vehicles on interurban West Bank roads, bars Arafat fr. leaving Ramallah, bans VIP pass.

5 DECEMBER

Israel resumes attacks on PA targets, with F-16s dropping bombs on a PSF post in Gaza, injuring 18 Palestinians. Under the force of continued Palestinian demonstrations, PSF pulls back fr. Shaykh Yasin’s house. The NIHIC ultimately brokers an informal agmt. btwn. Hamas and the PA under which Yasin agrees to observe a “voluntary house arrest,” leaving only to attend prayer services at a nearby mosque. Sharon claims PA is not making a serious effort to arrest wanted Palestinians. In Gaza, Palestinians fire 6 mortars at 2 Jewish settlements and 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs.; a 2d Palestinian dies of a heart attack at an IDF checkpoint when soldiers refuse him passage to a hospital. A Palestinian woman gives birth at an IDF checkpoint when soldiers refuse to let her ambulance pass. Fatah stages a pro-Arafat rally in Gaza, but only 1,000 Palestinians take part. (NYT, WP, WT 12/7; al-Quds 12/7 in WNC 12/11; MM 12/10; IRNA 12/10 in WNC 12/12; NYT 12/21)

Egyptian FM Ahmad Maher meets with Sharon. Arafat in a new cease-fire effort, presses Israel to relax its demand for a 7-day quiet period. Instead, Sharon hands Maher a list of demands to transmit to Arafat. U.S. envoy Zinni also meets with Arafat. (HA 12/6; MENA 12/6 in WNC 12/7; WT 12/7; MENA 12/7, 12/9 in WNC 12/11; AKH 12/13 in WNC 12/17; MEI 12/21; MEI 2/8; al-Majallab 2/9 in WNC 2/11)
7 DECEMBER

Israel continues strikes on PA targets, damaging al-Azhar University buildings. Palestinian Bank offices, the UNRWA school for the blind. In the West Bank, the IDF ambushes, fatally shoots 2 Palestinians. The funeral for a Hamas mbr. killed outside Shaykh Yasin’s house on 12/5 turns into an anti-Arafat protest. The PA bars the press fr. covering a large pro-Hamas rally in Hebron. (AFP, REU 12/7; NYT, REU, WT 12/8; WP 12/9; LAW 12/12)

At Zinni’s request, CIA, PA, Israeli security officials hold a “heated” trilateral security comm. mtg. in Tel Aviv. Separately, Ben-Eliezer meets with Arafat financial adviser Muhammad Rashid to discuss ways of achieving a cease-fire. (NYT, WP, WT 12/8; MENA 12/8, MA 12/9 in WNC 12/11; HA, WT 12/9)

8 DECEMBER

Israel continues to strike PA targets, destroying offices of Force 17, the PA General Intelligence Service. PSF in Rafah. The IDF fatally shoots 4 Palestinians in the West Bank; 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. An Israeli dies of injuries received in the 12/1 Jerusalem bombing. The IDF also enters PA-controlled Rafah to bulldoze 2 PSF posts; directs heavy machine gun fire on residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah. Palestinians fire a mortar at Gush Katif settlement, causing no injuries. In Jerusalem 500 Israelis attend a Peace Now protest against Israeli military actions. (NYT, WP 12/8; WP, WT 12/9; MM 12/10; LAW 12/12)

9 DECEMBER

Hamas suicide bomber detonates a device in a Haifa bus station, lightly injuring 11 Israelis. During a predawn arrest raid in Anabta that nets some 25 Islamic Jihad suspects, the IDF opens fire on 2 cars of PSF officers (1 marked, 1 civilian), killing 4 PSF officers, wounding 2; blows up 1 Palestinian home. The IDF also fatally shoots 1 Palestinian taxi driver at a crossing in Jinin; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah. Palestinian gunmen ambush a car in the West Bank, seriously injuring a Jewish settler. (BBC, WP 12/9; MENA 12/9 in WNC 12/11; NYT, WP, WT 12/10; AYM 12/10 in WNC 12/12; LAW 12/12)

U.S. envoy Zinni convenes another unproductive trilateral security comm. mtg.; warns Israel, the PA that if they do not make serious efforts to implement a cease-fire within 48 hrs., he will call off his mission. In Gaza, the AMB, Hamas, Islamic Jihad issue a signed statement offering to suspend suicide bombings and gunfire inside Israel, if Israel stops assassinations, bombardment of Palestinian areas. The IDF dismisses the offer. (BBC, HA 12/9; JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/10; MM 12/11; AYM 12/11 in WNC 12/13; al-Quds 12/13 in WNC 12/14; MEI 12/21)

In a signal to the Palestinians, Sharon convenes his weekly cabinet mtg. at the IDF’s West Bank headquarters. At his request the inner cabinet approves an escalation of attacks on PA security installations. (BBC, HA 12/9; WT 12/10; Guardian 12/19)

10 DECEMBER

The IDF attempts to assassinate senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Muhammad Sidir by firing missiles at his car in Hebron; Sidir is injured, 2 Palestinian children are killed, 6 others are injured. (1 of the dead, 5 of the injured are bystanders.) A 3d Palestinian is killed in al-Bireh by an IDF tank shell. The IDF also shells, destroys a PSF headquarters in n. Gaza; enters Rafah to bulldoze 3 Palestinian homes; uproots 200 olive trees in Sinjil. Palestinians fire a mortar at a settlement in Gaza, lightly injuring 1 Jewish settler. Jewish settlers in Hebron severely beat 2 Palestinian girls. Palestinians, Israeli peace activists stage a nonviolent protest at an IDF roadblock in Qalandia. (HP, LAW, MM 12/10; AP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/11; WT 12/12; AYM 12/12 in WNC 12/13; HA, LAW 12/13)

Arafat, Sharon meet separately with Zinni, urge him not to cut his trip short. Powell says that Zinni will indeed stay, that he never really intended to leave but just wanted to pressure the sides to act. (AP, MM, NYT, WT 12/11) (see 12/9)

In Washington, Bush hosts the White House’s 1st menorah-lighting and Hanukkah party. Speaking privately with American Jewish leaders, Bush reportedly assails Arafat and the State Dept., identifies with Sharon, says that winning the war on terror means getting rid of groups like Hamas, Hizballah. (MM 12/12; MM, WJW 12/13; NYT 12/14; AYM 12/14 in WNC 12/17; WP 12/15; JT [Internet] 12/19; JP 2/1)

In Brussels, EU FMs call on Arafat to dismantle the “terrorist networks” of Hamas and Islamic Jihad; to declare, in Arabic, the end to the “armed intifada.” Also call on
Israel to halt assassinations, settlement expansion, attacks on the Palestinian infrastructure. (AFP 12/10; NYT, WT 12/11; IRNA, MA, SA 12/11 in WNC 12/12; AFP, MM, WT 12/12; Le Monde 12/12 in WNC 12/13; DUS 12/12 in WNC 12/14; MEI 12/21)

11 DECEMBER

The IDF helicopters strike a Force 17 office, electricity grid, residential areas in Khan Yunis, killing 2 Palestinians, cutting power to the camp. IDF troops then open fire on rescue workers, Palestinians gathered to observe the damage, killing a 3d Palestinian, wounding 20. The IDF also shoots at a car nr. a West Bank checkpoint, killing 2 Palestinians. (LAW, NYT, WP, WT 12/12; HP 12/13)

Zinni convenes another mtg. of the tri-lateral security comm.; says the PA must “destroys the infrastructure of the terrorist organizations” that have carried out recent attacks on Israelis. (MM 12/11; MA 12/11 in WNC 12/12; AP, NYT, WP, WT 12/12; AYM Sudan, Tulkarm, al-Zahra; bulldozes Palestinian land in Rafah. A total of 4 Palestinians are killed during the day; shells strike the Friends Boys School, damaging 3 classrooms. In Gaza City, 2 Israeli border police nr. a Jewish settler bus outside Emmanuel are runover, shot dead by the IDF. In Gaza, 2 Hamas suicide bombers detonate devices outside a Jewish settlement, wounding 4. Sharon severs all contacts with the PA. declares Arafat “irrelevant,” says Israel will no longer wait for the PA to “wipe out terror networks” but will do the job itself. The IDF immediately begins F-16 air strikes on targets in al-Bireh, Gaza City, Jenin, Nablus, Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, killing 1 Palestinian; tightens its encirclement of major Palestinian population centers; enters Jenin’s area A with tanks, injuring 19 Palestinians before withdrawing; fires on a funeral procession in Khan Yunis, injuring 3. The Israeli inner cabinet agrees to “rapidly deploy” the IDF for “massive and continuous” operations “in cities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.” Arafat orders the closure of all Hamas, Islamic Jihad offices, schools, clinics. (AP, LAW, MEZ, PMC 12/12; AFP, AP, HA, HP, JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WJW, WP, WT 12/13; AFP, MENA, XIN 12/13 in WNC 12/14; ATL 12/13 in WNC 12/17; JP, JT [Internet], MM 12/14, 12/17, 12/18; JP, MEI 12/21)

13 DECEMBER

The IDF cuts electricity to Gaza City, Ramallah; sends tanks and F-16s to shell the control tower at Gaza airport, the PA naval police offices in Bayt Lahia, and Fatah offices nr. Gaza City, Ramallah, and Jinin; blows up the main radio, TV transmitters in Ramallah; bulldozes the Palestinian Media Center offices in Ramallah; occupies the home of Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti (who is not there at the time); makes incursions into PA-controlled areas of Bayt Hanun, Bayt Lahia, Beitunia, Jinin, Nablus, Ramallah, Sudaniyya, Tulkarm, al-Zahra; bulldozes Palestinian land in Rafah. A total of 4 Palestinians are killed during the day; shells strike the Friends Boys School, damaging 3 classrooms. In Gaza City, 2 Israeli missiles land nr. a mosque while Hamas spiritual leader Shaykh Yasin, Hamas spokesman Mahmoud Zahar are inside. Israel declares that the Zinni cease-fire talks are over, though Zinni had already planned to leave on 12/14 for Jordan and Egypt, then return to Washington. (AP, HP, MM, NYT, WP 12/13; MENA 12/13 in WNC 12/14; JP, HA, HP, NYT, WP, WT 12/14; HA 12/16; LAW, PCHR 12/19; MEI 12/21)

14 DECEMBER

The IDF kills 8 Palestinians in clashes (including 6 PSF officers in Salfit, 2 Palestinians nr. Qarni crossing); conducts arrest sweeps in Asira Shamaliyya, Dura, Hebron, Nablus, Salfit, Tal, arresting at least 50 Palestinians; demolishes 3 Palestinian homes in Salfit, 36 in Khan Yunis (leaving more than 350 people homeless); occupies 3 homes in Salfit, 1 home in Khan Yunis as military posts; sends tanks, bulldozers into Tamun in the West Bank. In retaliation for mortar fire, Israeli F-16s drop bombs on a Force 17 complex, a PSF office in Gaza City, injuring 7 Palestinians. Eyewitnesses in Salfit say at least 2 of the PSF officers killed were disarmed by IDF soldiers, told to lie on
the ground, then were fatally shot by soldiers. Palestinians in and around Ramallah, al-Bireh say they are suffering shortages of medicine, basic foods due to the ongoing IDF encirclement of the area. The IDF pulls out of Fatah *tanzim* leader Barghouti’s house in Ramallah (see 12/13). (AP, HP, *Jerusalem Times* 12/14; NYT, WP, WT 12/15; HA, WT 12/16; LAW, PCHR 12/19)


**15 DECEMBER**

In response to mortar fire on settlements in Gaza and across the border into Israel, which caused no damage, the IDF raids Bayt Hanun, bulldozing 5 Palestinian homes. 3 PSF posts, the local Fatah headquarters and killing 4 Palestinians, wounding 70, arresting 15 before withdrawing. After troops fatally shoot a 5th Palestinian allegedly attempting to infiltrate a Jewish settlement in Gaza, the IDF sends tanks into Rafah. The IDF also bulldozes the Nablus–Tubas road; confiscates a Palestinian home in Ramallah as an IDF outpost; breaks into the Voice of al-Quds radio station, damaging equipment; confiscating broadcasting gear; fires at a Red Crescent ambulance, wounding the driver; reinforces positions outside Bayt Lahia, Jabaliya. The PA closes 4 Hamas, Islamic Jihad offices in Gaza. (NYT, WP, WT 12/16; LAW, PCHR 12/19; MEI 12/21)

**16 DECEMBER**

In a televised address, Arafat again urges Palestinians to halt attacks on Israeli targets, especially suicide bombings; vows that “any violation . . . will be seen as a trespass of our supreme national interest. . . [and] will be penalized firmly and strongly.” Arafat also notes that he has already declared illegal the military wings of Hamas, Islamic Jihad (see 12/2). The PA says it has shut at least 25 Hamas, Islamic Jihad offices in the preceding 3 days, including the groups’ newspapers. The U.S. says the PA must now take “all the steps it can to bring to justice those responsible for terrorist attacks and to destroy the organizations that would launch future attacks.” (HA 12/16; MENA 12/16 in WNC 12/17; AFP, AP, HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/17; Interfax, XIN 12/17 in WNC 12/18; MM 12/18; QA 12/18 in WNC 12/19; MA 12/18 in WNC 12/21; AP 12/19; MEI 12/21; HA 12/24)

After Arafat’s speech, Palestinians fire a mortar at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, causing no damage. The IDF shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; occupies 3 Palestinian homes in Shaykh Ajlin, Shufa as military outposts. 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received on 12/8. The *Israeli cabinet* approves a request by the Agricultural Min. to issue work permits for 6,000 Palestinians to enter Israel to help with harvests. (HA 12/16; AFP, AP, HA, NYT, WP, WT 12/17; AP, LAW, PCHR 12/19; HA 12/24)

**17 DECEMBER**

All Palestinian factions agree to halt attacks inside Israel, for 1 wk., conditional on Israel suspending assassinations; Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the PFLP reject calls to halt attacks on Israeli targets in the West Bank, Gaza. Hrs. later, IDF helicopters fire 2 missiles at the car of Islamic Jihad’s Sidir in Hebron in a 2d assassination attempt. Sidir jumps fr. his car before the missiles strike, receiving only minor injuries, but 2 cars behind his are destroyed, killing 2 Palestinian children, injuring at least 2 adults. Also in Hebron, the IDF fatally shoots wanted Hamas mbr. Yakub Idkaydik; 2 other Palestinians are shot dead in Gaza, Nablus. Israeli police bar PLO Jerusalem affairs official Sari Nusseibeh from holding a reception for foreign dignitaries in Jerusalem, marking the end of Ramadan; detain him for 2 hrs. of questioning. The U.S. denounces the action as “provocative.” Palestinian gunmen ambush 2 vehicles in the West Bank, injuring 3 Jewish settlers. (AFP, AP, MM 12/17; AFP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/18; *Guardian*, LAW, PCHR 12/19; WJW 12/20; HA, MEI 12/21; JT [Internet] 12/25)

**18 DECEMBER**

The PA continues to close Hamas offices, says it has arrested more than 180 Palestinians since 12/2. Israel says it is not enough; more senior mbrs. of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and individuals on Israel’s most-wanted list must be apprehended. The Dem-
ocratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) says it will not adhere to Arafat’s cease-fire call. Palestinians toss a grenade at an IDF post on the Gaza-Egypt border, causing no injuries; the IDF directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Rafah in response. The IDF also fires on a PSF post nr. Jinin, wounding 1 PSF officer. (LAW, NYT, PCHR, WP 12/19; MM, WJW 12/20)

19 DECEMBER

The PA says it has arrested 15 PSF officers on suspicion of having taken part in attacks on Israelis. In Gaza, the PSF attempts to arrest Hamas spokesman ‘Abd al-Aziz Rantisi, but 100s of Hamas mbrs. and supporters surround Rantisi’s home, engage in a gun battle with PSF officers. The PSF also closes a shop in Gaza that allegedly made homemade mortars. A senior Hamas official says that the group has taken a decision to halt suicide operations in Israel but does not intend to announce it publicly. Nr. Tubas, a Palestinian shepherd is seriously injured when he steps on a land mine thought to have been buried by the IDF (see 11/22). (AFP, LAW, PCHR 12/19; NYT, WP 12/20; WP 12/21, 12/22)

Israeli, PA security officials hold talks on possible new security arrangements in the West Bank. (NYT 12/20; WT 12/21)

20 DECEMBER

IDF forces pull back fr. parts of Nablus, Ramallah but reenter them later in the day. In Tal, IDF soldiers fire on protesters who assemble to block tanks fr. reentering Nablus, killing 1 Palestinian. The IDF also shells residential areas of Nablus, causing 1 Palestinian to die of a heart attack; conducts arrest raids in Hebron, Karawat Bani Zayd. In Gaza, the PSF again attempts to take Hamas spokesman Rantisi into custody but clashes with 100s of Hamas mbrs. and supporters, leaving 15 rioters and PSF officers injured. Israel says attempts to arrest Rantisi were designed to fail. Later in Gaza, the PSF fires on a group of Islamic Jihad mbrs. preparing to launch a mortar at a Jewish settlement, killing 1 Palestinian. (AFP, MM 12/20; NYT, WP 12/21; AYM, al-Quds 12/22 in WNC 12/26; PCHR 12/26)

In Washington, Zinni briefs Powell on his talks with Israel. The U.S. says it will send Zinni back to the region once it sees “sustained and decisive” action by both sides toward halting violence, noting that the PA in particular must do more to “combat terror and violence.” (USIS Washington File 12/20; MENA 12/21 in WNC 12/26)

21 DECEMBER

Hamas agrees in writing to suspend suicide bombings in Israel, mortar attacks on Israeli targets for the sake of Palestinian unity (see 12/19). Islamic Jihad also agrees to a temporary halt to suicide bombings. Meanwhile in Gaza, 1000s of Palestinians attend the funeral for an Islamic Jihad mbr. killed on 12/20. As the funeral procession passes, the PSF headquarters in Jabaliya, masked Islamic Jihad mbrs. smash a police car, open fire on PSF officers, sparking a riot involving 1,000s of Palestinians and an exchange of gunfire that leaves at least 6 Palestinians (all civilians) dead, more than 80 injured. Later, 60 of Gaza’s local leaders hold an emergency mtg. to discuss arrangements to prevent further intra-Palestinian clashes. Following Friday prayers in Ramallah, reps. of all Palestinian factions, followed by 100s of Palestinians, stage a peaceful unity march on occupying IDF tanks, but the march turns violent when a few demonstrators throw stones at the tanks, the IDF fires rubber-coated steel bullets on demonstrators, injuring 2. (AFP, HA 12/21; MA, VIRI 12/21, AYM 12/22, 12/24 in WNC 12/26; LAW, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 12/22; WP 12/23; NYT 12/24; SA 12/26 in WNC 12/27; AYM, SA 12/27 in WNC 12/28)

22 DECEMBER

In n. Gaza, the PSF arrests the head of Islamic Jihad’s military wing, Shadi Muhana, and his senior aide, Mahmud Judeh. The IDF fires on a PSF checkpoint nr. Jinin, injuring 1 PSF officer, 1 Palestinian bystander; conducts an arrest raid in Gaza City. A Jewish settler driving nr. Qalqilya but clashes with 100s of Hamas mbrs. and supporters, leaving 15 rioters and PSF officers injured. Israel says attempts to arrest Rantisi were designed to fail. Later in Gaza, the PSF fires rubber-coated steel bullets on demonstrators, injuring 2. (AFP, HA 12/21; MA, VIRI 12/21, AYM 12/22, 12/24 in WNC 12/26; LAW, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 12/22; WP 12/23; NYT 12/24; SA 12/26 in WNC 12/27; AYM, SA 12/27 in WNC 12/28)

23 DECEMBER

The Israeli press leaks news that Peres, PC speaker Ahmad Qurai’ have drafted a “letter of understanding” under which Israel would recognize a Palestinian state within 2 mos. as part of an interim agmt. following full implementation of the Tenet and Mitchell plans. Arafat, Sharon say the draft is un-
workable as is; they expect Peres, Qurai' to continue their mtgs. (HA, YA 12/23; HA, WP 12/24; AYM, JT, MENA, QA 12/24 in WNC 12/26; NYT 12/25; AYM, MA 12/26 in WNC 12/27; HA, WJW 12/27; MENA 12/27 in WNC 12/28; JT Interntnl 12/28; AYM 12/28 in WNC 12/31; AYM 12/29 in WNC 1/2; MM 2/13) (see Quarterly Update)

The **IDF** fires tear gas, rubber bullets to disperse a peaceful demonstration of 1,000s of Palestinians, 100s of international NGO reps. in Ramallah, wounding 6 Palestinians. The **IDF** also fires 10s of percussion grenades at residential areas of Khan Yunis. (PMC 12/23; PCHR 12/26)

24 DECEMBER

Sharon denies Arafat permission to leave Ramallah to attend Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem. Instead, a delegation of prominent Christian leaders goes to Ramallah to visit Arafat. The Vatican denounced Israel’s action as “arbitrary.” In protest, the AMB ambushes a car outside Nablus, seriously injuring 1 Jewish settler.

The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Hebron, Khan Yunis. (Interfax, ITAR-TASS, JT, MENA 12/24, AFP, AKH, MENA, alQuds 12/25 in WNC 12/26; BBC, NYT, WP, WT 12/25; PCHR, WT 12/26)

25 DECEMBER

Unidentified gunmen reportedly fire across the Jordanian border into Israel, n. of Beit Shean, wounding 2 Israeli border patrolmen. The assailants then fire on, throw grenades at **IDF soldiers** who respond to the scene, killing 1 **IDF soldier**, wounding 2. **IDF** helicopters strafe the border area and no-man’s-land, killing 2 gunmen, entering Jordanian territory after obtaining the permission of the Jordanian security liaison. No group claims responsibility. Amman denies the gunmen are Jordanian, saying there is no proof they infiltrated fr. the kingdom. (BBC, CNN, REU 12/25; NYT, WP, WT 12/26; AYM 12/27 in WNC 12/28; QA 12/27, JT 12/28 in WNC 12/31; WJW 1/3)

Meanwhile, some 20 **IDF** tanks, armored personnel carriers (APCs) temporarily enter Tamun in area A to arrest 7 Hamas mbrs. The **IDF** also fires on Palestinian fishing boats off Gaza, on residential areas of Rafah, but lifts the encirclement of Jericho, reporting a drop in violence there. (BBC, CNN, REU 12/25; NYT, PCHR, WT 12/26; AP, WT 12/27)

26 DECEMBER

During clashes nr. Jinin, 1 Palestinian is killed, a mosque is partially damaged by **IDF** helicopter gunfire. The **IDF** also seizes a Palestinian home nr. Jinin as an outpost; sends 300 soldiers into Azun in area A in a predawn raid to arrest 17 Palestinians; fires on bedouin collecting firewood nr. Nissani settlement, wounding an 8-yr.-old child. (PCHR, REU 12/26; NYT, WP, WT 12/27)

**Israeli, PA security officials** meet at Erez crossing. Israel says the PA may repair Gaza airport (though Israel will continue to bar Arafat fr. leaving Ramallah), extends the hours of the Rafah crossing to Egypt, eases restrictions on Palestinian businessmen entering Israel. (NYT, WP, WT 12/27)

27 DECEMBER

Israel says it will ease travel of Christian pilgrims (fr. the territories, Israel, abroad) to Bethlehem but says Arafat still may not leave Ramallah. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in the PA-controlled section of Hebron (arresting 8 Palestinians) and in Rafah (occupying 6 Palestinian homes); fires on residential areas of Nablus. In Ramallah, the **IDF** fires tear gas, sound grenades, rubber bullets at 1,000s of Palestinians and 350 foreign peace activists protesting the Israeli siege, injuring 15 Palestinians, 10 foreigners. The **PSF** shuts 2 metal workshops in Gaza that allegedly made homemade mortars for Hamas. (AP 12/27; WT 12/28; PCHR 1/2)

28 DECEMBER

In Gaza, the **IDF** fatally shoots Islamic Jihad mbr. Mahmud al-Burai, allegedly en route to stage a suicide attack on Netzarim settlement; a 2d Islamic Jihad mbr. gets away. The body of a Jewish settler missing for a wk. is found in a cave nr. Jaba in the West Bank. The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Brazil refugee camp, Tal al-Sultan; eases the closure on Bethlehem. (REU 12/28; NYT, WP, WT 12/29; WT 12/30; LAW, PCHR 1/2)

More than 700 Israeli, Palestinian peace activists march in Jerusalem in support of an independent Palestinian state, renewal of peace talks. In Ramallah, the **IDF** fires live ammunition, rubber bullets, tear gas to disperse peaceful demonstrators, injuring 5. (GS, NYT, WP 12/29; PCHR 1/2)
29 DECEMBER

The PSF arrests 3 Islamic Jihad mbrs. who may have participated in a foiled attack on Netzarim on 12/28; 4 PFLP mbrs., who may have been involved in the 10/17 Ze’evi assassination. (Israel claims that the PFLP mbrs. had nothing to do with the murder.) Nr. Ramallah, unidentified assailants fire on a Jewish settler bus, causing no injuries. (HA, WT 12/30)

A group of 250 Jewish, Arab Israeli peace activists delivers 2 tons of food, clothing to the Palestinian village of Bayt Umar, which has been closed by an IDF military blockade for more than 1 yr. IDF soldiers manning the Surda checkpoint on the Bethlehem–Birzeit road push, shove, kick, aim rifles, and fire tear gas and percussion grenades at around 100 mbrs. of an ad hoc group of foreign civilians known as International Checkpoint Watch, who position themselves at the crossing as nonviolent observers to protect Palestinians traveling the route. (GS 12/29; NYT 12/30)

30 DECEMBER

The IDF reports that Palestinian attacks have dropped 50% since Arafat’s 12/16 cease-fire call, are down to an average of 11 incidents/day. Sharon, however, is still calling for 7 days of complete quiet before negotiations can resume. Israeli officials say the reduction since 12/16 does not warrant an easing of restrictions on Palestinians. (NYT 12/31; AKH, AYM, al-Quds 12/31 in WNC 1/2)

The IDF fatally shoots a total of 6 Palestinians in 2 separate incidents nr. Jewish settlements in Gaza. Among the dead is Ismail Abu al-Qumsan, a senior mbr. of the popular resistance comms. (PRCs) (see Peace Monitor in JPS 120). The IDF also shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; bulldozes a sewerage network, telephone cables in Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids in Qalqilya, Tulkarm. The PSF says it has arrested 3 DFLP mbrs., 2 Hamas mbrs., a PFLP mbr. for planning attacks on Israeli targets. The PA also says it has tried 5 PSF officers for involvement in attacks on Israelis, sentenced them to 18 mos.; has fired 2 other PSF officers, sentenced 1 of them to a yr. in prison for “anti-Israeli activities.” Jewish settlers confiscate Palestinian farmland, uproot an olive grove to expand Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablus. (HA 12/30; NYT, PMC, WT 12/31; LAW, PCHR 1/2; al-Quds 1/2 in WNC 1/3; PR 1/9; MEI 1/11)

The IDF declares the Kefar Etzion settlement checkpoint a closed military zone until 1/9 so as to prevent a delegation of 300 foreign nationals from traveling to Hebron on a solidarity visit to meet with Palestinians there. (EU parliament press release 12/30)

31 DECEMBER

The IDF raids Qalandia, arresting 5 Hamas mbrs.; evacuates, seals a Palestinian school nr. Tulkarm. Ignoring Arafat’s cease-fire pleas, the PRCs vow retaliation for the IDF’s killing of 6 Palestinians on 12/30. Some 2,000 Palestinians, 300 foreign nationals, and 100s of Israelis take part in a day of nonviolent protests against the ongoing Israeli siege. (AFP 12/31; WT 1/1; LAW, WP 1/2)

Sharon denies Israeli pres. Moshe Katzav’s request for permission to appear before the PC and offer a cease-fire bid. (AP 12/31; AP, JP [Internet], WT 1/1; WP, WT 1/2; MA 1/2 in WNC 1/3; HA, MM 1/3; MEI 1/11)

1 JANUARY

In Gaza, IDF undercover units capture Palestinian Riad Ayad, wanted for firing mortars at Jewish settlements. The IDF also conducts an arrest raid in Qabatiyya, detaining 4 Hamas mbrs., including most-wanted mbr. Nasir Zarkana; shells residential areas nr. Khan Yunis. Israel bans all PA passport holders fr. entering, exiting Israel through Ben-Gurion airport. (AP, NYT, PCHR, PMC, WP 1/2; PR 1/17)

The U.S. announces that in light of the relative calm on the Israeli-Palestinian front, special envoy Zinni will return to the region on 1/3 for a 4-day visit to urge the sides to begin implementing the Tenet cease-fire steps. Sharon says he still demands 7 days of complete quiet before resuming talks with the PA; claims that the recent decline in violence is due more to an Israeli crackdown than to any effort by Arafat. (AP, NYT, WP, WT 1/2; al-Quds 1/2 in WNC 1/3; HA 1/3)

2 JANUARY

Acceding to U.S. requests, the IDF agrees to ease blockades on some villages in the West Bank, Gaza. By the end of the day, however, Peres, the PA complain that all closures are still in place. Israeli authorities arrest Palestinian human rights advocate
Mustafa Barghouti twice, beat him once after he holds a briefing in East Jerusalem for EU diplomats on the effects of Israeli closures on Palestinian health conditions. The IDF also places a curfew on, conducts arrest raids in Abu Dis, detaining 6 Palestinians. (AFP, HA, LAW, PCHR, REU 1/2; AN, HA, NYT 1/3; AFP 1/3 in WNC 1/4; MEI 1/11)

3 JANUARY
The IDF eases the closures on Bethlehem, Hebron, Jinn, Nablus, Qalqilya, Tulkarm; arrests 5 Palestinians in Hebron, a 6th in Kfar Ruman; fires on residential areas of Tal al-Sultan. The PSF arrests 3 Islamic Jihad mbrs. for alleging plotting an attack during Zinni’s visit, which begins this day. The IDF turns over the bodies of 3 Palestinian teenagers killed on 12/30; photos of the corpses clearly show that autopsies were performed on the bodies, prompting protests, accusations of mistreatment fr. the PA. (PCHR, MM 1/3; JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP 1/4; AYM 1/4, al-Quds 1/5 in WNC 1/7; LAW, PCHR, PR 1/9; the above mentioned photos are at www.ccmeep.org/specialphotos.htm)

Zinni meets with Sharon, urges Israel to freeze expansion of settlements in light of sharply reduced Palestinian violence. Sharon claims that the PA’s crackdown has been superficial, demands that the PA take harsher action against militant groups. (MM 1/3; AYM, al-Quds 1/3 in WNC 1/4; JP [Internet], MM, WP 1/4; QA, al-Quds 1/4 in WNC 1/7; MEI 1/11)

4 JANUARY
Just 15 minutes into Zinni’s 1st mtg. of his tour with Arafat, Israel announces that at dawn on 1/3 it captured a cargo ship, the Karine A, loaded with 50 tons of weapons en route fr. Iran to the PA. The PA, Iran deny involvement. (AFP 1/4; AYM, al-Quds, VIRI 1/4, VIRI 1/6 in WNC 1/7; JP [Internet], NYT, WP, WT 1/5; HA 1/6; MM 1/7, 1/9; AYM 1/9 in WNC 1/10; WJW 1/10; MEI 1/11; AKH 1/11 in WNC 1/14; MENA 1/14 in WNC 1/15; WT 1/15; JP 1/18; MEI 1/25) (see Quarterly Update)

IDF undercover units raid Tal, killing 1 Hamas mbr., arresting 2 who allegedly were planning an attack on a Jewish settlement; Palestinian sources, however, identify the dead man as a PSF officer. The IDF also fires tear gas, rubber bullets to disperse a peaceful Palestinian demonstration in Ramallah, injuring 2 journalists, 3 demonstrators; fires on residential areas of Rafah. An armed Jewish settler severely beats a Palestinian telephone repairman fixing a line nr. Hebron. (MM 1/4; NYT, WP 1/5; al-Ra‘i 1/5 in WNC 1/7; LAW, PCHR 1/9)

5 JANUARY
Israel reports evidence it says links Arafat, his close associates Adil Mughrabi, Fuad Shubaki, and Fathi Razim, Hizballah, Iran, and others to the Karine A. Hizballah denies any involvement. (NYT, WP, WT 1/6; MM 1/7)

Meanwhile, the PSF arrests senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Fawaz Khulayif on charges of being involved in shooting attacks on Israelis, wounds 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs. during his capture; also arrests National Islamic Salvation Party (NISP) secy. gen. Jamal Talab Salih. The IDF critically wounds a Palestinian in a shooting incident, tests, accusations of being involved in shooting attacks during Zinni’s visit, which begins this day. The IDF also sets up new checkpoints around Nablus. (WT 1/6; Radio Monte Carlo 1/6 in WNC 1/7; LAW 1/9; al-Quds 1/17 in WNC 1/22)

6 JANUARY
Zinni hosts a trilateral security comm. mtg. Israel, the PA argue over the Karine A affair and Israel’s ongoing siege of PA areas but agree to strengthen security coordination. Zinni then leaves for Washington to brief admin. officials before returning to the region on 1/18 for a 3rd round of mediation. (JP [Internet] 1/6; al-Quds 1/6 in WNC 1/7; NYT, WP 1/7; MENA, al-Quds 1/8 in WNC 1/9)

Some 200 PSF officers conduct an arrest sweep of Jinn, detaining 6 Islamic Jihad mbrs., including Ali Safuri, 1 of Israel’s most wanted. The IDF enters a Palestinian hospital in Hebron, interrogates patients for an hr.; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; searches several Palestinian homes in al-Ras; bulldozes 17 dunams of Palestinian olive trees nr. Morag settlement; tightens blockades on Nablus, Ramallah. Armed Jewish settlers protesting the IDF’s initial steps to ease restrictions on Palestinians block the Jerusalem–Hebron road, threaten to shoot Palestinian motorists, uproot 100 olive trees nr. Qalqilya. (NYT, WP, WT 1/7; LAW, PCHR 1/9)
The IDF conducts arrest raids in Tulkarm. (PCHR 1/9)

In an interview arranged by Israeli military officials for selected news outlets, Karine A captain Omar Akawi says he is a Fatah "soldier" who "obeyed orders" issued by the PA. The PA continues to deny involvement. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/8; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/9; al-Quds 1/10 in WNC 1/14; MEI 1/11)

8 JANUARY

The IDF sends tanks into Bayt Lahia for 1 hr., withdraws without incident; conducts another arrest raid in Tulkarm. Armed, plainclothes PSF officers attempt to arrest a wanted Hamas mbr. when he arrives for work at a UN clinic in Gaza. When the man flees, the officers open fire, chase him into the clinic, and continue to fire, wounding 3 bystanders and the wanted man, who escapes. The UN protests the PSF’s handling of the incident. (REU 1/8; PCHR 1/9)

9 JANUARY

In the first deadly Palestinian attack since 12/25, 2 armed Palestinians cross the border into s. Israel, attack an IDF outpost with guns and grenades, killing 4 IDF soldiers, wounding 2 before being shot dead. The IDF claims the assailants were mbrs. of the PA naval police, but Hamas claims responsibility, saying it staged the attack to punish Israel for capturing the Karine A. The PA condemns the attack. The Israeli inner cabinet meets to discuss how to respond. Afterward, the IDF takes over 2 PSF posts in Rafah, nr. where the Hamas mbrs. infiltrated Israel; raids the PA naval police offices in al-Mawasi, confiscates weapons. An ailing Palestinian dies at Rafah border en route to an Egyptian hospital when the IDF delays his ambulance at the crossing for several hrs. (AFP, AP, JP [Internet], LAW, MM, PCHR 1/9; AP, HA, MM, NYT, WP 1/10; SA 1/11 in WNC 1/14; al-Quds 1/14 in WNC 1/15; MEI 1/25)

In Washington, Israeli intelligence, military officials brief U.S. officials on their Karine A evidence. The U.S. says evidence indicates the PA, Fatah were involved but does not implicate Arafat directly. (AFP, MM, NYT 1/9; NYT, WP, WT 1/10; MM 1/11; JT 1/11 in WNC 1/14)

10 JANUARY

In a predawn operation, the IDF sends tanks, bulldozers into Rafah to demolish at least 54 Palestinian houses, damaging another 20, leaving some 650 Palestinians homeless. Israel claims the houses were used by "terrorists" to shoot at IDF troops, hide tunnels used for smuggling arms fr. Egypt. (The UN, U.S. condemn the demolitions, which bring the total number of Palestinian homes in Rafah demolished by the IDF in the past yr. to about 200; another 200 houses have been damaged, 69 stores destroyed, 520 acres of agricultural land bulldozed.) In response, Islamic Jihad says it is dropping its pledge to halt attacks inside Israel. The IDF also takes over another 3 PSF posts, demolishes a sewage network nr. Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids nr. Rafah crossing. The PSF announces that it has arrested 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs., including 1 of Israel’s most wanted. (AP, HA 1/10; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/11; QA, al-Quds 1/11 in WNC 1/14; HA 1/12; B'Tselem press release 1/13; MM 1/14; LAW, PCHR 1/16; AYM 1/16 in WNC 1/22; al-Quds 1/22 in WNC 1/24; MEI 1/25)

Sharon vows not to resume contacts with the PA until it arrests the Palestinians behind the Karine A arms shipment. (AP, JP [Internet], MM, WP, WT 1/11)

11 JANUARY

The PSF announces that it has arrested Shubaki, Mughrabi in connection with the Karine A; has issued a warrant for Razim, who is believed to be in Jordan. Israel, dismissing the arrests as insufficient, shells PA naval targets in Gaza and residential areas of Rafah, destroying 19 Palestinian houses, damaging another 100, injuring 8 Palestinians, leaving up to 850 homeless; bulldozes the remaining Gaza airport runways; shells, destroys the main sewerage network serving Khan Yunis, Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Nablus, Rafah; closes the main southern road in Gaza. The IDF also fires tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets to disperse a peaceful Palestinian demonstration in Ramallah, injuring 2. (AFP, HA, MM, NYT, REU, WP, WT 1/11; NYT, WP, WT 1/12; QA, al-Ra’i 1/12 in WNC 1/14; Amnesty International press release, MM 1/14; LAW, PCHR 1/16; MA 1/16 in WNC 1/17; al-Quds 1/22 in WNC 1/24)
12 JANUARY

Correcting its 1/11 statement, the PSF says it has only arrested Shubaki in connection with the Karine A. Mughrabi, Razim are apparently abroad. In the 4th day of reprisals for the 1/9 Hamas attack, the IDF shells a PA naval police office in Gaza City, confiscates several fishing boats, bulldozes a warehouse; sends naval commandos to blow a hole in Arafat’s yacht, anchored at the base; demolishes 7 Palestinian houses in Rafah, injuring 8 Palestinians; bulldozes olive trees, conducts arrest raids in Qalqilya, Tulkarm. (NYT, WP, WT 1/13; LAW 1/16; JP 1/25; NYT 1/29)

13 JANUARY

The Israeli navy arrests 4 Palestinian fishermen angling in the permitted area off the Gaza coast. The IDF conducts arrest raids in Qalqilya; confiscates 149 dunams of Bayt Sahur land for a settler bypass road. The PSF continues to arrest Hamas, Islamic Jihad cadres in Gaza, including the owner of a workshop in Shati’ that made homemade mortars. (AYM 1/13 in WNC 1/14; LAW, PCHR 1/16)

14 JANUARY

The IDF assassinates wanted AMB mbr. Ra’id Karmi, detonating a bomb as he leaves his Tulkarm hideout. (The IDF attempted to assassinate him on 9/6/01.) The AMB cancels its observance of Arafat’s cease-fire, vows revenge. Hrs. later, AMB mbrs. ambush IDF soldiers nr. a Jewish settlement outside Tulkarm, killing 1 soldier, wounding a 2d. The IDF also bulldozes 9 Palestinian homes in Issawiyya in occupied East Jerusalem, slating another 10 for demolition. The U.S. says that while it understands Israel’s need “to ensure its self-defense,” it considers the house demolitions “provocative.” (LAW, MM 1/14; AFP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/15; LAW, MM, PCHR 1/16; AYM 1/16 in WNC 1/17; al-Quds 1/16 in WNC 1/22; NYT 1/23; WJW 1/24; MEI 1/25)

15 JANUARY

AMB gunmen ambush, abduct, fatally shoot a Jewish settler nr. Bayt Sahur. Unidentified Palestinian gunmen fatally shoot a 2d Jewish settler, wound a 3d nr. Givat Ze’ev. Both settlers killed are U.S. passport holders. The IDF tightens blockades around Bethlehem, Ramallah; conducts arrest raids in Qalqilya. Jewish settlers uproot an olive grove nr. Keddumim. The PSF arrests PFLP head Ahmad Saadat in Ramallah after luring him to a mtg. with PA West Bank intelligence chief Tawfiq Tirawi: Israel claims the arrest was only meant to impress a visiting U.S. congressional delegation. In Bethlehem, Gaza City, and Ramallah, 100s of Palestinians gather to protest Saadat’s arrest. The PSF also shuts the Gaza City office of Risala, the NISP’s newspaper. (AFP, BBC 1/15; AFP, JP, LAW, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 1/16; HA, MM, NYT, WP 1/17; al-Quds 1/17 in WNC 1/18; al-Safir 1/18; al-Nahar 1/19 in WNC 1/22; MEI 1/25)

16 JANUARY

A Palestinian is fatally shot while driving through the West Bank, possibly by Palestinian gunmen who mistook him for a Jewish settler. The IDF conducts arrest raids in Batir, Nahalin. The PFLP organizes demonstrations in Bethlehem, Ramallah demanding the PA release Saadat. (MM, PCHR 1/16; JP [Internet], WT 1/17; al-Quds 1/20 in WNC 1/22)

17 JANUARY

Early in the morning, the Israeli inner cabinet orders the IDF to seal Bethlehem, Jinin, Nablus, Qalqilya, Tulkarm. The IDF also fatally shoots wanted AMB mbr. Khamis Abdallah in an apparent assassination in Nablus; fires a tank shell at 3 teenagers trying to sneak across the Gaza border into Israel to work, killing 1 Palestinian, wounding 2. In the evening, an AMB gunman opens fire with an M-16 on a bat mitzvah celebration in Hadera, Israel, killing 6 Israelis, wounding at least 25 before being beaten unconscious by the celebrants and then fatally shot by an Israeli policeman. In retaliation, the IDF sends 20 tanks, APCs, paratroopers into Ramallah to tighten the encirclement of Arafat’s headquarters to within 100 yds., placing Arafat under de facto house arrest; sends F-16s to shell PA Interior Min., administrative, and security offices in Tulkarm, killing 2 PSF officers, injuring 60 officers and civilians, damaging 20 homes and 50 stores; reinforces troops nr. Jinin, fatally shooting 1 Palestinian. (AP 1/17; LAW, MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/18; AFP, Interfax 1/18
in WNC 1/22; CNN, WP, WT 1/19; MM 1/21; PCHR 1/23; WJW 1/24; JP, MEI 1/25; JP 2/1)

18 JANUARY

In retaliation for the 1/17 AMB attack, IDF soldiers in Ramallah confiscate the archives of Voice of Palestine, blow up the radio’s 5-story building in Ramallah; search the home of PA intelligence chief Tirawi; search, occupy the Episcopal Diocese’s Arab Evangelical School. When Palestinian youths throw stones at IDF tanks surrounding Arafat’s headquarters, troops respond with live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, and tear gas, injuring 15. Some 4,000 Palestinians also hold a nonviolent march in the city to protest the IDF presence. Elsewhere in the West Bank, wanted AMB mbr. Faraj Hani Odeh Nazzal is fatally shot in what is thought to be an IDF assassination. The IDF also shells residential areas of Nablus. Palestinian gunmen fire on Gilo. (Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem press release, LAW, MM 1/18; BBC, LAW, NYT, WP, WT 1/19; AYM 1/19 in WNC 1/22; MM 1/21; AKH 1/21 in WNC 1/23; PCHR 1/23; WJW 1/24; MEI 1/25)

In the Negev, 200 bedouin protest against an Israeli Interior Min. order to raze illegally built homes in their community. Many of the tin shanties were built by bedouin who served in the IDF, were recently discharged. (HA 1/19)

19 JANUARY

The IDF continues to reinforce blockades around major Palestinian cities, towns. Palestinians in Ikrama report some 70 IDF tanks moving toward Tulkarm. Arafat appeals to the international community to intervene with Israel. warning that the situation in the territories is extremely dangerous. (WT 1/20)

20 JANUARY

1,000s of Palestinians in Gaza City, 100s of Palestinians in Ramallah march in support of Arafat, protesting his confinement in Ramallah. The DFLP says it will resume attacks on Israeli targets. IDF troops fire on Palestinians who throw stones at a tank that gets stuck in a narrow Ramallah street; 1 IDF soldier, 12 Palestinians are injured. The IDF also directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Nablus; conducts an arrest raid in Bani Suhayla. (AP 1/20; WP, WT 1/21; PCHR 1/26)

21 JANUARY

In its largest military operation in the West Bank and Gaza since 1967, Israel sends a large number of IDF infantry, tanks, APCs, armored bulldozers into Tulkarm in a predawn operation to totally reoccupy the city, taking control of the city center, occupying buildings (including a college, the mayor’s home) and apartments as observer posts, hoisting Israeli flags, imposing a 24-hr. curfew, conducting house-to-house searches, detaining at least 30 Palestinians. The IDF reportedly responds to “scattered resistance,” leaving 2 Palestinians dead, 15 wounded. IDF soldiers also fire on 2 ambulances coming to the aid of the wounded, seriously injuring 1 ambulance driver. Israel says the operation will last “only a few days.” The IDF also sends tanks deep into PA-controlled Nablus: directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Ramallah; conducts an arrest raid in Nahalin. Senior IDF officials suggest that Israel is preparing to make more deep incursions into PA areas “to destroy more infrastructure and to kill more terrorists.” The IDF also bulldozes Palestinian land along bypass road 60 outside Hebron. Some 40 Palestinians attempt to block the bulldozers but are confronted by armed Jewish settlers who fire in the air and beat the Palestinians, seriously injuring 1 Palestinian. The PA releases NISP head Salih (arrested 1/5). (MM, WP 1/21, 1/22; al-Quds 1/23 in WNC 1/30; MEI 1/25; PCHR 1/26; JP 2/1)

The Israeli Arab legal center Adalah formally asks Israeli atty. gen. Elyakim Rubenstein to reconsider his recent decision not to compel the Custodian for Absentees’ Property to comply with the 1998 freedom of information act and to release data on the moveable property of Palestinian refugees seized by Israel in 1948. Rubenstein rejected the request on the ground that it would damage Israel’s foreign relations, require excessive time and resources to comply. Adalah first submitted its request in 1999. The atty. gen.’s office ignored 15 follow-up requests for a decision b/w 1999–2002. (Adalah press release 1/28)

22 JANUARY

The IDF raids an alleged explosives factory in Nablus, killing most-wanted Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades West Bank head Yusif Suragji and 3 other Hamas mbrs.; the PA claims they were assassinated. Hamas vows to launch an “all-out war”
Hamas spokesman ‘Abd al-‘Aziz claims that the PA is actively tipping off the IDF to the location of Hamas operatives, granting the IDF entry to PA areas; threatens that Hamas will make sure the “conspirators . . . pay the price.” In Nablus, 2,000 Palestinians angry over the deaths march on the local PA headquarters and PSF office demanding the release of 28 detained Hamas mbrs., torching 3 PSF cars. PSF officers shoot tear gas, stun grenades at the crowd, fire their weapons in the air, killing 1 Palestinian. To calm tensions, the PSF “temporarily” releases the brother of 1 of the Hamas mbrs. killed this day so he may attend the funeral. IDF withdraws to the outskirts of Tulkarm after a massive 24-hr. incursion but also fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis. In Ramallah, 1 IDF soldier is killed by IDF machine gun fire; the army says it is investigating the incident. (CNN, HA, MM 1/22; HA, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 1/23; MEI 1/25)

23 JANUARY

2 Israelis wounded in the 1/22 AMB attack die. In Nablus, 15,000 angry Palestinians attend the funeral of 3 of 4 Hamas mbrs. killed by the IDF on 1/22, demand revenge. Israeli bars officials of the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem fr. leaving Israel to attend the Vatican’s Day of Prayer for Peace in Italy. (AP, MM 1/23; WP, WT 1/24)

The IDF announces the results of its investigation into the 12/30 death of 3 Palestinians, whose mutilated bodies were not turned over to the PA until 1/3, raising suspicions that the 3 had been tortured and autopsied without permission. The IDF admits that the tank shells fired at the teenagers were packed with (banned internationally) flechettes and that 1 body was then driven over by a tank. (PCHR 1/30) (see 1/3)

The U.S. steps up pressure on the PA: The White House blames continuing violence on the Palestinians, says cease-fire efforts were derailed by the “arms shipment received and paid for by the Palestinian Authority,” and states that the “justifying of the targeting of innocents in return for land is an argument for terrorism.” The State Dept. says there is no excuse for the PA “not taking effective steps to stop that terrorism.” Powell phones Arafat to demand his full reports on the Karine A affair. (AP 1/23; AP, NYT, WJW, WT 1/24; NYT, WP 1/25)

Hizballah fires mortars, rockets at 3 IDF posts in the occupied Shaba' Farms region of the Golan Heights, causing no damage or injuries. The IDF responds by conducting air strikes against Hizballah targets in s. Lebanon. (MM, WP 1/24; alNabar 1/24 in WNC 1/25; MM 1/29, 1/30; alSafir 2/7 in WNC 2/11)

24 JANUARY

The IDF assassinates senior Hamas mbr. Adli Hamdan (Bakr Hamdan). firing missiles at his car in Khan Yunis, injuring 2 passengers. Another 5 Palestinians are killed in separate incidents, including a PA intelligence officer fatally shot by the IDF in Ramallah. A 6th Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. In Hebron, the IDF raids, occupies a Palestinian bakery, shooting, wounding, detaining 1 Palestinian. The IDF also conducts arrest sweeps in the Bethlehem area, Tulkarm; occupies a Palestinian home in al-Khadir as an observation post. (LAW, NYT, WP 1/25; PCHR 1/30)

The U.S. invites Sharon to come to Washington to meet with Bush on 2/7. The White House also issues a statement regarding Israel's confinement of Arafat to his office in Ramallah, saying, “The president understands the reason that Israel has taken the action that it takes, and it is up to Chairman Arafat to demonstrate the leadership to combat terrorism.” Bush meets with senior national security advisers to reassess U.S. Middle East policy. Some senior admin. officials (including VP Dick Cheney, Defense Secy. Donald Rumsfeld) are reportedly leaning toward sanctioning or severing ties with Arafat, the PA/PLO. (MM, WJW 1/24; AP, CNN, JP International, MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/25; alQuds 1/26, DUS 1/27 in WNC 1/28; MM 1/28)

25 JANUARY

An Islamic Jihad suicide bomber detonates a device on a street in Tel Aviv, wounding at least 18 Israelis, 3 of them critically. 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. In Gaza, the IDF reports that Hamas fired locally made Qassam-1 rockets at Erez crossing, causing no injuries. In retaliation, the IDF launches F-16 air strikes on PA security targets in Gaza City and Tulkarm, injuring at least 7 Palestinians. The IDF also shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; bull-
dozes 600 m² of Palestinian land in Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids in Nablus. In Ramallah, 1,000s of Palestinians rally in support of Arafat. The IDF pulls out of Tira and occupies on 1/17. (AP 1/25; NYT, WP, WT 1/26; JT [Internet] 1/27; PCHR 1/30)

56 officers, soldiers in the IDF combat reserves publish a petition in Ha'aretz publicly refusing to “fight beyond the Green Line for the purpose of occupying, deporting, destroying, blockading, killing, starving, and humiliating an entire people.” (HA 1/25; HA 1/28; WP 1/29; WT 1/30; BBC, MM, WMJW 1/31; MA 2/1 in WNC 2/4; NYT 2/2; MM 2/4; MM, NYT 2/5; MEI 2/8) (see Doc. C4)

Senior White House, State Dept., CIA, Pentagon officials meet again to discuss the possibility of severing ties with Arafat, the PA/PLO. Bush, his advisers decide to increase public criticism of Arafat and to “re-double” efforts to get Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia to put pressure on Arafat. (AP, HA, MM, WP 1/25; WP, WT 1/26; alQuds 1/26, DUS 1/27 in WNC 1/28; MM 1/28; AKH 1/28 in WNC 1/29; HA 1/29; MA, alQuds 2/1 in WNC 2/4)

26 JANUARY

In Ramallah, IDF soldiers shoot, seriously wound a Hamas mbr. at a checkpoint, bar an ambulance fr. reaching him for 45 mins., allowing him to bleed to death. The PA terms the incident an assassination. In the West Bank, Palestinian gunmen fatally shoot a Jewish settler driving in the West Bank. Some 2,000 Palestinians in Ramallah, 1,000s of Palestinians in Bethlehem rally against Israel’s continued confinement of Arafat, vowing to continue the intifada despite his cease-fire appeals. The IDF also shells 3 PSF posts nr. Jabaliya; arrests 3 PSF officers in Jinin. (REU 1/26; JT [Internet], NYT, WT 1/27; PCHR 1/30)

Israeli Arabs hold demonstrations in Sakhnin protesting Israeli military actions. (alQuds 1/28 in WNC 1/29)

27 JANUARY

A female Palestinian suicide bomber detonates a device in West Jerusalem, killing 1 Israeli, wounding 2 seriously, 5 moderately. This marks the 1st suicide bombing carried out by a Palestinian woman, though 2 women have been caught placing bombs previously during the al-Aqsa intifada. A release faxed to Hizbollah’s TV station in Lebanon identifies the woman by name and as a Palestinian Hamas mbr. from Nablus University, but neither the school nor the PA can find a woman by that name; no women are reported missing. In response, the Israeli air force flies low-level sorties over Gaza City, breaking the sound barrier, shattering windows. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Khan Yunis, Nablus. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/28; DUS, MA 1/28 in WNC 1/29; Guardian [Internet] 1/29; NYT 1/30; SA 2/2 in WNC 2/4; JP 2/8)

MK Salah Tarif, Israel’s 1st Arab cabinet mbr., resigns, saying he can no longer effectively perform his job in light of an announcement the preceding wk. that Atty. Gen. Rubenstein planned to lift his immunity and indict him for fraud. Tarif has consistently denied charges, first raised in 2001, that he gave $5,000 to an Interior M official to obtain citizenship papers for a Palestinian businessman. (WP, WT 1/28)

Israeli Arabs hold a demonstration in Umm al-Fahm protesting Israeli aggression against the Palestinians. (alQuds 1/28 in WNC 1/29)

28 JANUARY

A Palestinian driver crashes through an IDF checkpoint on the Green Line nr. Qalqilya, injuring 1 soldier; commandeers a 2d car fr. an Israeli couple; continues to Tel Aviv, where he hits, injures an Israeli policeman and is fatally shot by security personnel and bystanders. Meanwhile, the IDF fires on residential areas of Dayr al-Balah, Nablus. (JP [Internet], MM 1/28; NYT, WT 1/29; PCHR 1/30)

Israel’s Internal Security M Uzi Landau presents to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Comm. his ministry’s new “Enveloping Jerusalem” plan to ring West Jerusalem with barriers to prevent West Bank Palestinians fr. entering. (HA, JP [Internet] 1/28; BBC, MM 1/29; MM, NYT, WT 1/30; WMJW 1/31; CSM 2/6; JP 2/8) (see Quarterly Update)

29 JANUARY

The IDF sends tanks, troops into Artas village, nr. Bethlehem, to detain wanted Islamic Jihad mbr. Omar Ayish. In the process the IDF wounds 4 Palestinians; throws a grenade into the Ayish home, causing damage but no injuries; leaves a trail of cars crushed and overturned by tanks. In response to the raid, Palestinian gunmen fire
on Gilo fr. Bayt Jala, lightly injuring 1 Jewish settler. IDF soldiers detain and beat a Red Crescent doctor, ambulance driver at a checkpoint in Nablus. The doctor is released after several hrs. but the driver is kept in custody. (AP 1/29; NYT, PCHR 1/30)

Omri Sharon, the PM’s son, meets Arafat in Ramallah to arrange a secret mtg. btwn. Sharon, senior PA officials in Jerusalem for 1/30. (SA 2/3 in WNC 2/4; MM 2/4)

In his State of the Union address, Bush calls Iran, Iraq, North Korea an “axis of evil, aiming to threaten the peace of the world”; also refers to a “terrorist underworld, including groups like Hamas, Hizballah, [and] Islamic Jihad.” (HA, NYT, WP, WT 1/30; MM 1/31; MM 2/1; MA 2/1 in WNC 2/4; JP, MEI 2/8)

30 JANUARY

Palestinian collaborator Murad Abu al-Asal detonates a suicide bomb nr. Taibeh, Israel, injuring his 2 Shin Bet handlers. A 2d Palestinian dies of injuries received on 1/21. The IDF conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem, East Jerusalem, Nablus, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, detaining 9 Palestinians fr. Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PFLP; shells residential areas of Tulkarm. (HA, MM, PCHR 1/30; NYT, WT 1/31; MA 1/31 in WNC 2/4; LAW 2/6)

The Israeli cabinet approves the Enveloping Jerusalem plan. (WP, WT 1/31) (see 1/28)

The Palestinian woman who carried out a suicide bombing on 1/27 is identified as Wafa Idriss, a Red Crescent volunteer medical worker who reportedly was distraught over the Palestinian casualties inflicted by the IDF. Most recently, a boy she treated, who had been shot by the IDF and left in a coma, died on 1/25. AMB claims she was “one of our female fighters,” but family and friends say she had no connection to the group; she also was not religious, never attended al-Najah University. Her brother, Khalil Idriss, is a local Fatah leader wanted by Israel. (AP, REU 1/30; HA, NYT, Red Crescent press release, WP 1/31; SA 2/2 in WNC 2/4; WT 2/3; JP 2/8; WP 2/9; NYT 2/11)

Sharon meets secretly in Jerusalem with Qurai’, PA senior negotiator Mahmoud Abbas, Arafat economic adviser Muhammad Rashid, marking his 1st mtg. with PA officials since his election in 2/01; reportedly says he accepts the idea of an interim agmt. along the lines of the Peres-Qurai’ plan, with implementation taking 7 yrs. (XIN 2/1, AYM, al-Ra’i 2/2 in WNC 2/4; NYT, WP, WT 2/2; AFP, JP [Internl] 2/3; MM, NYT, WT 2/4; AYM 2/4 in WNC 2/6; WP, WT 2/5; MA 2/9 in WNC 2/11)

Ben-Eliezer meets with Egyptian pres. Husni Mubarak in Sharm al-Shaykh, says Israel currently sees no partner for peace on Omri Sharon, the PM’s son, meets Arafat in Ramallah to arrange a secret mtg. btwn. Sharon, senior PA officials in Jerusalem for 1/30. (SA 2/3 in WNC 2/4; MM 2/4) In his State of the Union address, Bush calls Iran, Iraq, North Korea an “axis of evil, aiming to threaten the peace of the world”; also refers to a “terrorist underworld, including groups like Hamas, Hizballah, [and] Islamic Jihad.” (HA, NYT, WP, WT 1/30; MM 1/31; MM 2/1; MA 2/1 in WNC 2/4; JP, MEI 2/8)

31 JANUARY

In Gaza, the IDF fatally shoots 2 Hamas mbrs. who detonated a roadside bomb nr. a bus carrying Thai laborers to a Jewish settlement, causing no damage or injuries. Nr. Nablus, a Jewish settler, angry over Palestinian youths throwing stones at his car, stops and shoots 1 of the youths at point blank range, killing him. A 4th Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. Palestinians fire 3 mortars at Gush Katif, causing some damage but no injuries. In Azariyya, the IDF closes the PA Information Min.’s temporary offices (opened after the IDF shut the main offices on 11/21), the al-Quds Open University Student Union office. The IDF also shells residential areas of al-Bireh, Ramallah; conducts arrest raids in Azun, Khan Yunis, Ramallah; detains 10 Palestinians at a Gaza checkpoint. (AP 1/31; BBC, NYT, WT 2/1; LAW, PCHR 2/6)

In an interview with Ma’ariv, Sharon says that he regrets that Israel did not kill Arafat in Beirut in 1982. The State Dept. says that the U.S. does not have “any particular comment” on Sharon’s statement. (MA 1/31 in WNC 2/1; BBC, MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/1)

1 FEBRUARY

Palestinians fire mortars at an IDF checkpoint, detonate a bomb outside Kefar Darom settlement in Gaza, causing no damage. In response, the IDF shells the PA naval police headquarters in Dayr al-Balah, residential areas of Khan Yunis; sends tanks, troops into Khan Yunis for 3 hrs. to conduct extensive searches. The IDF also conducts arrest raids in Abu Dis, Azariyya, 15,000 Palestinians in Gaza City and 2,000 Palestinians in Nablus rally in support of Arafat. The PFLP announces it is suspending its membership in the PLO in protest over the PSF’s continued detention of Saadat. (WP
2 FEBRUARY

The IDF conducts arrest raids in Jinin, shells residential areas of Dayr al-Balah. (AFP 2/2 in WNC 2/4; LAW 2/6)

Syria rejects Israel's 1/30 appeal for a resumption of peace talks, saying that the offer is a "maneuver to pressure the Palestinians." (al-Safir 2/2 in WNC 2/4)

3 FEBRUARY

Senior Fatah mbr. Imad Assaf is seriously injured in a mysterious explosion in Dahaysha; the PA accuses Israel of attempting to assassinate him. Palestinians fire 2 mortars at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, causing no damage. In response, the IDF directs heavy machine gun fire on residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah (leaving 1 Palestinian clinically dead). The IDF also fires tear gas, concussion grenades to disperse a peaceful protest by Palestinians, international peace activists in Ramallah; conducts arrest raids in Osrin, firing on Palestinian homes; bulldozes Palestinian agricultural land along secondary roads in the Bethlehem, Jinin area; imposes closures on 10 villages around Ramallah. (HP 2/3; AFP 2/3 in WNC 2/4; NYT, PCHR 2/6; LAW 2/6)

In a New York Times op-ed, Arafat outlines the Palestinians' vision of peace as a 2-state solution, with an independent Palestinian state in all of the West Bank and Gaza, and a secure Israel within its 1967 borders. He also affirms that any solution to the refugee issue must consider Israel's demographic concerns and denounces "attacks carried out by terrorist groups against Israeli civilians." (HA, JP [Internet], NYT 2/3; AP, HA, NYT, WT 2/4; JT, MA, MM, QA, al-Quds 2/5 in WNC 2/6; PR 2/6; MEI 2/8) (see Docs. B1, B2)

4 FEBRUARY

The IDF fires missiles at a car traveling nr. Rafah, killing 5 DFLP mbrs. Israeli security sources say 1 of those killed, Ayman Bihdari, was targeted for assassination for his role in organizing the 8/25/01 raid on a Gaza IDF post that left 3 soldiers dead. The DFLP vows retaliation. The IDF also demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in Issawiyya; shells an alleged Palestinian mortar factory in Jabaliya. Nr. Nablus, Palestinian gunmen fire on a car with Israeli license plates, wounding an Israeli Arab B’Tselem employee on the job collecting information on human rights violations by the IDF. (BBC, LAW, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 2/4; XIN 2/4 in WNC 2/5; MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/5; LAW, PCHR 2/6)

5 FEBRUARY

The IDF directs shells, heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Khan Yunis, Qarni, Rafah, Wadi al-Siqla; occupies a Palestinian home, bulldozes land in Dayr al-Balah; conducts arrest raids in Dayr al-Balah, Dayr al-Sharaf, Hebron, Tal; fires on a Palestinian boat off Gaza, wounding 1 fisherman; places new roadblocks on the roads linking Nablus with Qalqilya, Tulkarm. Palestinians fire 3 mortars at Gush Katif settlement causing no damage. The IDF reports that incidents of Palestinian violence are up to an average of 17/day (see 12/30). 1 Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. (HA, HP 2/5; LAW, PCHR 2/6; PCHR 2/13)

In Jinin, a mob of more than 1,000 Palestinians, enraged by reduced sentences handed down by a judge, storms a makeshift PA security courtroom and executes 3 Palestinians convicted of murdering a popular PSF officer over an intrafamily feud; 100 PSF officers surrounding the building are unable to fend off the mob. Since 9/01, the IDF has demolished Jinin's 2 police headquarters, its security headquarters, 2 prisons, the governor's administrative offices, and its military courtroom, leaving the PA without a secure compound to hold the controversial trial. The military court sought to move the trial to Jericho but could not due to Israeli closures. (AP, HA 2/5; MM, NYT, WP 2/6)

In New York, Ben-Eliezer says that Arafat is not a partner for peace; urges the U.S. to open talks with more "realistic" Palestinians who could form an alternative leadership. He also alleges that Israel has new intelligence information that al-Qa'ida mbrs., have been relocating to Lebanon to join forces with Hizballah, says he will encourage the U.S. to target Hizballah in its war on terror when he meets with officials in Washington on 2/6. (XIN 2/5 in WNC 2/8; AP, HA 2/6; MM 2/7; al-Quds 2/16 in WNC 2/19)

6 FEBRUARY

An Israeli bus driver coming fr. Ma'ale Adumim stops at an Israeli checkpoint into Jerusalem, warns border police of a suspi-
cious passenger on board. Israeli border police scuffle with and detain a Palestinian passenger wearing an explosive device, which is defused by bomb experts. Later, a Hamas gunman dressed as an IDF soldier infiltrates a home in the West Bank settlement of Hamra, fatally shoots 2 Jewish settlers, 1 IDF soldier, wounds 4 settlers before being shot dead by soldiers. In response, IDF F-16s bomb 2 prisons in Nablus, injuring 11 Palestinians. During the strikes, wardens release 25 Hamas, Islamic Jihad prisoners (including 2 of Israel's most wanted, Islamic Jihad mbrs. Mahmoud Tawalba, Ali Safuri) for their safety but keep 103 suspected collaborators in custody. The IDF also captures a vehicle truck on Jinnin-Nablus road loaded with 8 Qassam-2 missiles and a launcher; fatally shoots 1 Palestinian who threw a hand grenade at an IDF post on the Rafah border; demolishes 3 Palestinian homes in Bayt Hanina and Shufat; arrests 3 Palestinian fishermen off the Gaza coast, confiscates their boats. The IDF also raids, confiscates the files of and closes the East Jerusalem offices of 2 NGOs that represent Palestinian interests: the Arab Studies Society's Land Research Center, the Welfare Association's Multisectoral and Technical Offices. (AP, LAW 2/6; MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/7; NYT, WP, WT 2/8; NYT 2/9; MA 2/10 in WNC 2/11; MA 2/11 in WNC 2/12; PCHR 2/13; HA 2/17)

In a report to Congress, CIA Dir. George Tenet identifies several "terrorist groups"—including Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the PFLP—that have no ties to al-Qa'ida but could be future U.S. targets because they have "displayed anti-U.S. sentiments" and have threatened U.S. interests overseas. (WP 2/10)

7 FEBRUARY

The IDF fires missiles at a PA prison in Nablus for a 2d time; fires tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets at demonstrators outside Arafat's Ramallah headquarters, wounding 3; begins bulldozing Palestinian land in Za'atra for creation of a new settler bypass road. In Jinnin, 10s of armed Palestinians raid a makeshift PA jail in an apartment building, freeing 10–15 detainees without meeting resistance. Israel extends the closure of Oriental House for 6 mos. (MM 2/7; NYT, WT 2/8; NYT 2/9; GS 2/12; LAW, PCHR 2/13)

Sharon meets with Bush in Washington for the 4th time in less than a yr.; says Arafat is an obstacle to peace, who ideally should be replaced. Bush says the U.S. will not sever ties with Arafat but will keep pressure on him to halt Palestinian violence. Sharon also asks Bush to give Israel the $800 m. in aid that the Clinton admin. promised Israel to cover costs of its withdrawal fr. Lebanon. (MM 2/7; al-Quds 2/7, XIN 2/8, al-Ra'i 2/9 in WNC 2/11; HA, JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/8; HA 2/10)

8 FEBRUARY

In Jerusalem, a group of Palestinian teenagers fatally stabs an Israeli woman. Israeli police shoot at, captured 4 of the teenagers, 1 of whom dies at the scene. Police say the 14-yr.-old boy dropped dead of no apparent cause; witnesses say he was beaten, perhaps shot by soldiers. In n. Israel, a car mysteriously explodes killing 2 Palestinians; the IDF claims they were Islamic Jihad mbrs. en route to stage a car bombing. The IDF again fires tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets at demonstrators nr. Arafat's Ramallah headquarters, injuring 6; conducts arrest raids in Birzeit and in Tamun, where troops detain 7, wound 10 with live ammunition, occupy 12 Palestinian homes as IDF outposts, uproot 150 olive trees. The PA again calls for adherence to Arafat's cease-fire. At a pro-Hamas rally in Jabaliya attended by more than 10,000 Palestinians, Hamas spokesman Rantisi vows more suicide attacks against Israel, says that anyone who seeks to stop the intifada "wants to tear us apart." The NIHC organizes a separate protest march fr. Shati' to the PC building in Gaza City, denouncing biased U.S. policy, calling on Arab states to take a strong, unified stand on the Palestinian situation. (AYM 2/8 in WNC 2/11; NYT, WP, WT 2/9; LAW, PCHR 2/13; MA 2/15 in WNC 2/19)

9 FEBRUARY

Palestinian gunmen fire on a settler vehicle nr. Ariel, killing 1 Jewish settler, wounding another. The IDF shells residential areas of Tulkarm; occupies a commercial building in al-Bireh as an outpost. (NYT, WP 2/10; LAW 2/9; PCHR 2/13)

The EU endorses a draft plan by France, based on the Peres-Qurai' ideas, that calls for Palestinian elections and the immediate creation of a Palestinian state followed by state-to-state negotiations on an Israeli withdrawal, final settlement. Israel rejects the idea; the PA accepts it. (CNN 2/9; AFP 2/9, MENA 2/10 in WNC 2/11; NYT, WT 2/10;
10 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** conducts a predawn arrest raid in Nablus’s Askar refugee camp, detaining at least 3 **Palestinians**, seizing 1 **Palestinian apartment** as an observation post, and exchanging gunfire with residents, leaving 1 soldier wounded. The **IDF** conducts another predawn arrest raid in Dayr al-Balah, shelling residential areas, occupying 2 **Palestinian homes** as observation posts. In Beersheba, 2 **Hamas gunmen** open fire outside an **IDF** base, killing 2 **IDF soldiers**, wounding 4 before being shot dead by troops. In response, the **IDF** F-16s drop bombs on a **PSF** headquarters in Gaza and Ansar 2 prison; helicopter gunships fire missiles on targets around Gaza City and Jabaliya, injuring 20 Palestinians, including employees of the **UN Special Coordinator’s Office (UNSCO)**, which is damaged in the attack. **UNESCO** protests. Later, **Palestinians** fire 2 objects fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no injuries; at least 1 of the devices leaves a 7-ft. hole, leading the **IDF** to suspect that it was a **Qassam-2** rocket, rather than a mortar, which would mark the 1st time Palestinians have fired one of the homemade missiles. The **IDF** later reports it has confiscated 3 empty rocket launchers in Gaza.

**Jewish settlers** severely beat a Palestinian teenager nr. Tal Rumayda; beat, rob another teenager nr. Nablus; bulldoze 12 dunams of olive groves nr. Antalia settlement. (MEZ, WP 2/10; XIN 2/10 in WNC 2/11; MM, NYT, WP 2/11; CSM 2/12; JT 2/12 in WNC 2/13; LAW, PCHR 2/13; MEI 2/22)

Sharon returns fr. the U.S., immediately calls for a mtg. of his **inner cabinet** to discuss how to respond to recent Palestinian attacks. (NYT 2/11)

The **State Dept.** confirms that Powell has received correspondence fr. Arafat regarding the **Karine A** affair, saying he was not involved but that as leader of the PA, he will take responsibility for the incident, punish those responsible. (WT 2/11; NYT 2/12, 2/14)

An **IDF** autopsy performed in the presence of a **Palestinian doctor** confirms that the 14-yr.-old Palestinian who died in Jerusalem on 2/8 was killed by an **IDF** bullet. (LAW 2/10, 2/13)

**11 FEBRUARY**

The **IDF** sends 20 tanks into Nablus, declares a curfew, and retakes Joseph’s Tomb, a Jewish shrine abandoned by Israel during the 1st mo. of the al-Aqsa intifada. At midday, as schools are letting out, **IDF F-16s**, helicopters strike a **PSF** compound in Gaza City, injuring at least 40 Palestinians. After the bombing, 100s of **Palestinians** race to the jail inside the **PSF** compound, demanding the release of prisoners, fearing the jail would be hit next. **PSF officers** fire in the air to disperse the crowd and quickly begin transferring prisoners to detention elsewhere, but several prisoners escape or are freed in the melee. Later, some 300 **Palestinians** storm the **PSF** jail in Hebron, freeing 16 **Hamas**, **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. **Israel** says the Gaza strikes are part of a “rolling response” to the “new level of threat” presented by **Hamas’s** use of 1 or 2 **Qassam-2** rockets on 2/10. 1 **Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 2/3. (MM, WT 2/11; AP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/12; JT 2/12 in WNC 2/13; QA 2/12 in WNC 2/14; LAW, PCHR 2/13)

During a mtg. with his top aides, **Arafat** demands to know why **PSF West Bank head Jibril Rajub**’s men had permitted the prisoners’ release. According to reports confirmed by unnamed PA officials, Arafat then drew a gun on Rajub, accusing him of trying to replace him. Aides separated the pair, defusing the situation. (QA, al-Quds 2/13 in WNC 2/14; MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/14; MENA 2/14 in WNC 2/15; MM 2/15)

**12 FEBRUARY**

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Hebron (killing 1 **Palestinian**, demolishing 1 **Palestinian home**), al-Ram, Ramallah. A 2d **Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. The **IDF** shuts the main north–south roads in Gaza, dividing the Strip into three sections; reoccupies the town of Tamun, nr. Jinin, missing the settlement completely, causing no damage or injuries. In response, the **IDF** temporarily seizes the Palestinian towns of Bayt Hanun, Bayt Lahia, and Dayr al-Balah as well as Jabaliya refugee
camp in Gaza; conducts searches, detaining at least 12 Palestinians; exchanges gunfire with Palestinians, leaving 5 PSF officers dead; bars international agencies fr. sending officials to observe the operation. The IDF also sends tanks into Jinin briefly; flies F-16s over Nablus all day; conducts arrest raids around Jinin; bulldozes 15 dunams of Palestinian land nr. al-Maghazi. A 6th Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. (AFP, HP, LAW, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP 2/13; MM, WP, WT 2/14; MM 2/15; MEI 2/22)

14 FEBRUARY

In Gaza, Palestinian gunmen ambush a Jewish settler convoy escorted by IDF trucks heading to Netzarim, detonating a roadside bomb and opening fire but causing no injuries. When the IDF sends in a tank for support, the gunmen detonate a shaped charge underneath it, killing 3 IDF soldiers, wounding 2. This marks the 1st time Palestinians have destroyed an IDF tank. The Salahadin Brigade (reportedly a relatively recently formalized “military wing” of the PRCs in s. and central Gaza) takes responsibility. Palestinians also throw 2 pipe bombs at an Israeli border police post in Hebron. (AP, BBC, HA, JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/15; MA 2/15 in WNC 2/19; MEI 2/22)

In the Negev, the IDF dusts 12,000 dunams of bedouin crops with poison, claiming they were illegally planted on state land. (HA 2/14; MA 2/18 in WNC 2/19; WP 3/20)

15 FEBRUARY

In response to the Salahadin Brigades attack on 2/14, IDF F-16s twice bomb the PSF headquarters in Jabaliya, killing 1 PSF officer, wounding 30 Palestinians. IDF commandos raid Saida, killing 1 Islamic Jihad mbr., arresting 4 others, razing Palestinian agricultural land, bulldozing 1 Palestinian home; during the demolition, a wall of the home collapses on a senior IDF undercover officer, killing him. Nr. Ramallah, AMB mbrs. fire on an IDF post, killing 1 soldier. In Ramallah, 100s of DFLP, PFLP supporters rally outside Arafat’s Ramallah compound, calling for the release of Palestinians held by the PA without charge. (BBC 2/15; AFP 2/15 in WNC 2/19; NYT, WP, WT 2/16; WP 2/17; PCHR 2/21)
Palestinians search for their belongings in the rubble of their homes in Rafah refugee camp, where the IDF razed more than 54 houses on 10 January. (AFP Photo/Fayez Nureldine)