CHRONOLOGY

16 MAY–15 AUGUST 2003

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This section is part seventy-nine 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 MAY

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) continues operations in Bayt Hanun (see 5/15), where a roadside bomb explodes near an IDF tank, lightly injuring 1 soldier; fatally shoots a mentally disabled Palestinian near Nablus who refuses orders to halt; demolishes 1 Palestinian home in Nablus, 1 in Rafah. Palestinians fire 2 Qassam rockets at Sederot, inside Israel, causing damage but no injuries. In Umun al-Fahm, 100s of Israeli Arabs attend a rally organized by the Islamic Movement to protest the 5/13 arrest of 15 senior members. Israel also banishes a West Bank Palestinian to Gaza for 1 yr., accusing him of having aided his brother in committing “terrorist attacks” (see Quarterly Update in JPS 126). (HA 5/16; PMC, WT 5/17; HA 5/19; LAW, PCHR 5/22)

17 MAY

A Hamas suicide bomber detonates a device in Hebron, killing 6 Jewish settlers, nr. Qalqilya, 2 Palestinian gunmen infiltrate a settlement, wounding 2 Jewish settlers before being killed; no group takes responsibility. The IDF continues operations in Bayt Hanun, fatally shooting an Islamic Jihad member, wounding 24, bulldozing land, firing on residential areas; demolishes 7 Palestinian homes in Rafah refugee camp (r.c.), 2 in al-Mughraqa; bulldozes 120 dunums (= 1 acre) of Palestinian agricultural land in Khan Yunis. The IDF also fires flares e. of Khan Yunis, starting a fire in a wheat field; bars Palestinian firefighters fr. reaching the area, allowing 32 dunums to burn. In Hebron, Jewish settlers beat a pregnant Palestinian, causing her to suffer a miscarriage; set fire to a Palestinian home. (NYT, WP 5/18; MM 5/19; PR 5/21; LAW, PCHR 5/22; NYT 5/30)

Despite the Hebron bombing, new Palestinian Authority (PA) PM Mahmud Abbas, Israeli PM Ariel Sharon meet in Jerusalem regarding the road map, marking their 1st meeting and the 1st senior-level PA-Israeli talks since 9/26/00. Sharon says he cannot accept the road map but offers to redeploy the IDF from 1 (unnamed) West Bank Palestinian city and fr. n. Gaza in exchange for a commitment to crack down on militant groups. (NYT, WP, WT 5/18; MM 5/19; AYM 5/20 in WNC 5/23; NYT, PR 5/21; HA 5/23; al-Musawwar 5/23 in WNC 5/27; HA 5/28; MEI 5/30) (see Quarterly Update)

18 MAY

A Hamas suicide bomber detonates a device on a bus outside French Hill settlement in East Jerusalem, killing 6 Jewish settlers, 1 West Bank Palestinian laborer, wounding 12 settlers; as rescue workers arrive at the scene, a 2d Hamas suicide bomber detonates a device in the area, killing only himself. (Reports indicate that the 2 bombers today and the 1 yesterday were friends fr. Hebron, possibly members of the same soccer team.) The IDF expels Mahmoud al-Safuri, brother of detained Islamic Jihad military cmdr. Haj‘ Ali al-Safuri, fr. Jenin to Gaza for 2 yrs. for allegedly aiding his brother in staging attacks; this is the first such forced transfer since 9/4/02 (see Quarterly Update in JPS 126). The IDF also seals the West Bank, places closures on most villages, cities; continues operations in Bayt Hanun, fatally shooting 1 Palestinian, demolishing 3 Palestinian homes, bulldozing more land, tightening the closure; fatally shoots a 2d Palestinian in Khan Yunis; chases, fires on a group of laborers on their way to work in Israel,
causing 1 Palestinian to suffer a fatal heart attack; bulldozes 120 dunams of land in Abasan; demolishes 10 Palestinian homes in Rafah r.c.. Sharon convenes a cabinet mtg. to discuss responses, overrules calls to expel PA head Yasser Arafat. Palestinian gunmen fatally shoot an alleged collaborator in Nablus. (WT 5/18; ITAR-TASS 5/18 in WNC 5/19; HA, MM, NYT, WP 5/19; MM, PCHR 5/20; HA, MM, PR 5/21; LAW, PCHR 5/22; HA 5/23; al-Haq 5/24; NYT 6/13)

In light of the Jerusalem bombing, Sharon postpones plans to leave for Washington today to meet with Pres. George W. Bush regarding implementation of the road map, convenes his security cabinet to discuss retaliation. (NYT, WP, WT 5/19; VOI 5/20 in WNC 5/21)

19 MAY

A female suicide bomber, Hiha Daraghma, detonates a device in an Afula mall, killing 2 Israeli Jews, 1 Israeli Arab, wounding 48; the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB) and Islamic Jihad each claim responsibility, indicating they may have jointly planned the operation. In Gaza, a 2d Palestinian suicide bomber on a bicycle detonates a device as he passes an IDF jeep outside Kefar Darom, lightly injuring 3 IDF soldiers. The IDF fatally shoots a 13-yr.-old Palestinian boy in Jabaliya r.c.; continues bulldozing land in Bayt Hanun (nearly 800 dunams have been razed since 5/15); demolishes 1 Palestinian home in Hebron, 1 in central Gaza; fires on a high school in Bayt Furik, wounding 1 student; conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah. Palestinians fire 2 Qassam rockets (1 at Sderot, 1 at a Jewish settlement in Gaza), causing no damage or injuries. Israeli police arrest 8 East Jerusalem Palestinians for membership in Hamas and plotting to hijack a bus, kidnap an IDF soldier. (HA, MM 5/19; Interfax, MENA, VOI 5/19 in WNC 5/20; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/20; HP 5/21; QA 5/21 in WNC 5/22; LAW, PCHR 5/22; MEI, NYT 5/30)

20 MAY

The IDF pulls some troops out of Bayt Hanun, where it has demolished 14 Palestinian homes since 5/16; some 600 Palestinians demonstrate against Hamas for firing rockets fr. the Bayt Hanun area, prompting the IDF incursion on 5/15. The IDF also tightens the closure, curfews on Hebron; reinforces troops around Qalqilya, closing the only entrance to the city; issues a confiscation order for 1,700 dunams of land in Nahalin and Husan, w. of Bethlehem, for construction of a new settler bypass road; confiscates a 3-story building, conducts arrest raids in Nahalin; arrests senior PA intelligence official Ahmad Barqawi in Ramallah on suspicion of having himself carried out several attacks on Israelis; delays transportation of a Palestinian heart attack victim to a Jenin hospital, allowing him to die; halts at a road block, beats 2 photojournalists in Bethlehem; demolishes 15 Palestinian homes in Rafah, 2 in Nablus; fires on residential areas of Tal al-Sultan. The IDF also raids the Hebron offices of the international peace group Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT), checks passports and visas of all CPT volunteers, photographs several mbrs.; tells mbrs. they may not go near any Jewish settlement, may not operate in the PA-controlled H1 area of the city, must limit operations in Israeli-controlled H2 (where CPT offices are located), may not return to H2 if they leave. (CPT press release, HA, HP, MM 5/20; HP, WP, WT 5/21; VOI 5/21 in WNC 5/22; HA, LAW, PCHR 5/22; PR 5/28; MEI 5/30)

Bush phones Abbas, then Sharon to tell them that he is still committed to the road map, invites the leaders to send envoys to Washington to discuss implementation. (HA 5/20; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/21)

21 MAY

The IDF sends troops, bulldozers back into Bayt Hanun, digging trenches across several main roads; opens fire on stone-throwing youths in Qarawat Bani Zaid, killing 2 Palestinians; imposes a curfew on Bayt Furik, raids a mosque, confiscating computers; demolishes 1 Palestinian home in Dayr al-Balah, 1 in Nablus; conducts arrest raids in Askar r.c., Hebron, Jenin, Tubas. Israel also demolishes 2 bedouin homes in the unrecognized village of Wadi al-Na'im. (HA, HP 5/21; HA, LAW, NYT, PCHR, WT 5/22; MEI 5/30)

In Washington, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, Asst. Secy. of State for Near East Affairs William Burns hold separate mtgs. with Sharon chief of staff Dov Weisglass, PA Finance M Salam al-Fayyad to try to reach an agmt.
on actions to reduce tensions and start talks. (HA, NYT 5/22; al-Quds 5/23 in WNC 5/27; HA 5/24) (see Quarterly Update)

22 MAY

The IDF reports that in the past 24 hrs., it arrested 1,300 Palestinians for being inside Israel illegally, deported all but 19 to the occupied territories. Today, the IDF opens fire on stone-throwing youths in Yamun, killing a 15-yr.-old Palestinian, wounding 6 others ages 9-14; raids the only emergency medical clinic in the Old City of Nablus, vandalizing the building, destroying medicine; fires on residential areas of Bayt Hanun, injuring 7 children on their way to school; conducts arrest raids in Hebron (targeting Hamas), Silat al-Haratiyya, Silat al-Dahir, Tamun, Tubas, Yabad; digs trenches alongside roads in Araba, Yabad, bulldozes land in Khan Yunis, Rafah. The IDF seizes a boat off the northern coast manned by a Hizballah mbr., and 7 arms smugglers, carrying explosives, detonators. Israel claims that the boat was bound for Egypt, the Hizballah mbr. intended to infiltrate Gaza from there, carrying arms ordered by Arafat. Arafat and Hizballah deny this. The Israeli Housing Min. issues tenders for construction of 502 new housing units in Ma'ale Adumim settlement. Israel announces plans to banish 2 West Bank Hamas mbrs., being held in administrative detention. (HA 5/24; WT 5/25; HP 5/26; PR 5/27, THWR, TSHR 5/28 in WNC 5/27; NYT, WP, WT 5/26; AYM 5/26, QA 5/27 in WNC 5/28; HA, MM, NYT, WP 5/23, JP 5/23 in WNC 5/27; PR 5/28; LAW, PCHR, WJW 5/29)

Abbas opens talks with Hamas, Islamic Jihad leaders on a ceasefire. The groups say they would agree to halt attacks inside Israel if Israel stopped targeting militants. (HA 5/22; HA, WP, WT 5/23; JP, SA 5/23 in WNC 5/27)

23 MAY

Hamas detonates a roadside bomb nr. a Jewish settler bus in Gaza, lightly injuring 8 Jewish settlers. The IDF fatally shoots a mentally disabled Palestinian in Bureij r.c.; shoots, wounds, captures a wanted tanzim mbr. in Tulkarm; demolishes a Palestinian home in Tubas; conducts arrest raids in Jenin. (HA, MM 5/23; al-Haq, WP 5/24; PR 5/28; LAW, PCHR 5/29)

In a carefully coordinated process (see Quarterly Update), U.S. Secy. of State Colin Powell, Rice release a statement saying that Israel has explained its “significant concerns” regarding the road map and that the U.S. will take those concerns into consideration during implementation. Sharon says Israel “is prepared to accept the steps set out in the road map.” (HA, NYT, WP 5/23; MENA 5/23, DUS, QA, al-Quds 5/24, JT, MA 5/25, AYM, SA 5/26 in WNC 5/27; HA, NYT, WP, WT 5/24; al-Quds 5/25 in WNC 5/28; MEI 5/30)

24 MAY

The IDF launches a major operation on Tulkarm city and refugee camp (r.c.), sending in 10s of tanks before dawn, imposing a closure, conducting house-to-house searches, arresting 3 International Solidarity Movement (ISM) activists. 2 AMB mbrs. The IDF also fatally shoots an armed Palestinian attempting to sneak into Israel nr. Bayt Hanun; places curfews on Bayt Rima and Dayr Ghassana, begins demolishing caves there; bulldozes 5 Palestinian homes, 56 dunams of land nr. Khan Yunis; demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in Rafah; fires on residential areas of Balata r.c. Citing “security reasons,” Israel announces plans to banish to Gaza indefinitely 3 West Bank Fatah mbrs., being held in administrative detention. (HA 5/24; WT 5/25; HP 5/26; PR 5/28; LAW, PCHR 5/29)

25 MAY

The IDF continues operations in Bayt Hanun (demolishing 2 factories), Tulkarm r.c. and town; demolishes 1 Palestinian home outside Gaza City, 1 in Hebron; bulldozes 25 dunams nr. Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids in al-Khadir. Palestinians report that since 5/22, the IDF has bulldozed 232 dunams of land s. of Gaza City, btwn. al-Mintar crossing and Shuhada Junction. (HP 5/26; LAW, PCHR 5/29)

26 MAY

The IDF redeployed forces fr. Tulkarm, ending a 2-day operation; fires on stone-throwers in Bayt Furik (injuring 5), Qarawat Bani Zayd (killing an 11-yr.-old Palestinian); fires on 2 Palestinian teenagers who attempt to sneak across the Gaza border into Israel to look for work, killing 1, capturing the other; demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in Dayr al-Balah, 2 in Hebron, 1 in Bayt Hanina; bulldozes 34 dunams in Dayr al-Balah; conducts arrest raids in Khan Yunis, Tamun, Tubas. (HP 5/26; YA 5/26 in WNC 5/27; HA, NYT, WT 5/27; LAW, PCHR 5/29; HA 6/14)

27 MAY

The IDF conducts a predawn raid on Jenin, placing the town under curfew, prompting an exchange of gunfire in which 1 IDF soldier is wounded; fires on a Swiss envoy’s diplomatic vehicle at Erez crossing for no apparent reason, causing damage but no injuries (Switzerland files a formal protest.); fires on stone-throwing youths in Tulkarm, killing 1 Palestinian; demolishes 1 Palestinian home in Bayt Furik, 1 outside Hebron, 1 in al-Til; confiscates 7 dunams of land in Habla, nr. Qalqilya; fires on residential areas of Bayt Furik, Khan Yunis, Tulkarm r.c.; conducts arrest raids in Abu Dis, Balata r.c., Bethlehem, Kafr Dan, Qalqilya, Tubas, Yamun; tightens roadblocks around Ramallah. In Hebron, 5 Palestinian children are injured when they trigger unexploded munitions while playing. Palestinians fire 2 Qassam rockets at Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. While driving in Ramallah, Force 17 officer Mahmud Zayid is fatally shot, possibly in an internal Palestinian dispute; the PA says it has no proof he was deliberately shot by the IDF, though he may have been hit by crossfire. Late in the evening, Palestinian gunmen fire on a Jewish settler bus in Hebron, lightly injuring 1 Jewish settler. A Palestinian dies of injuries received on 5/27. (HA, HP 5/28; YA 5/28 in WNC 5/29; HA, LAW, PCHR 5/29)

28 MAY

The IDF bulldozes 14 dunams of land nr. Khan Yunis, 2 dunams nr. a PA Preventive Security Force (PSF) post in Hebron, some citrus groves outside Gaza City; conducts arrest raids in Beitunia, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, al-Khadir, Nablus, Qalqilya, Ramallah, Tulkarm; fires on residential areas of Beitunia, Ramallah, Tulkarm town and r.c.; demolishes 4 Palestinian homes s. of Rafah, 1 in Bayt Furik, 1 in Tal. Palestinians fire Qassam rockets at Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. While driving in Ramallah, Force 17 officer Mahmud Zayid is fatally shot, possibly in an internal Palestinian dispute; the PA says it has no proof he was deliberately shot by the IDF, though he may have been hit by crossfire. Late in the evening, Palestinian gunmen fire on a Jewish settler bus in Hebron, lightly injuring 1 Jewish settler. A Palestinian dies of injuries received on 5/27. (HA, HP 5/28; YA 5/28 in WNC 5/29; HA, LAW, PCHR 5/29)

29 MAY

The IDF conducts overnight raids in Khan Yunis and Rafah areas, fatally shooting Hamas mbr. Muhammad al-Qidra in al-Qarara in an apparent assassination; continues major arrest raids in Jenin, rounding up all men ages 15 to 40 for questioning; assassinates a wanted tanzim mbr., demolishes a Palestinian home; demolishes 8 Palestinian homes in Rafah r.c., 1 in Khan Yunis. A Reuters photographer is shot, wounded in the leg apparently by Palestinian gunfire while covering a clash in Nablus. (PCHR 5/29; VOI 5/29 in WNC 6/2; AFP, HA, WP, WT 5/30; PCHR 6/5)

Israel’s Jerusalem Municipality submits plans to the Interior Min. for construction of a new Jewish settlement on a hill on the East Jerusalem border with the West Bank, nr. Abu Dis. The settlement, to be called Qidmat Tziyon, would have 230 housing units built by several Jewish donors, primarily American-Jewish millionaire Irvin Moscowitz, who has been involved in numerous other settlement projects. (MA 5/29 in WNC 5/30)

In his 2d mtg. with Abbas, Sharon agrees to make several gestures easing restrictions on Palestinians. The PA says those steps would mark a “genuine effort” by Israel to improve the lives of Palestinians, but would not take the place of ending the occupation. (HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/30; SA 5/30 in WNC 6/2; al-Quds 6/1 in WNC 6/4; WT 6/2; MA 6/2 in WNC 6/3) (see Quarterly Update)
30 MAY

The IDF pulls out of Jenin, demolishing 1 Palestinian home; fatally shoots a Palestinian attempting to enter Israel fr. s. Gaza; conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem, Ramallah. In Rafah, the IDF blows up a Palestinian home, severely damaging 3 others; bulldozes 3 dunams of land; fires on residential areas. Palestinian gunmen fire on a car with Israeli license plates in the Jordan Valley, wounding an Israeli Arab. (HA 5/30; YA 5/30 in WNC 5/30; HA 5/31; PCHR 6/5)

31 MAY

The IDF fires on 2 Palestinians outside Jenin, killing 1; demolishes a Palestinian home outside Khan Yunis; bulldozes 46 dunams of land s. of Gaza City, 6 dunams in Khan Yunis, 6 dunams in Rafah. A Palestinian dies of injuries received on 5/29. (AP, HA 5/31; PCHR 6/5)

1 JUNE

Israel begins implementing some of the 5/29 gestures, lifting the sealing of the West Bank and Gaza in effect since Passover, on 4/15, allowing some 25,000 Palestinian workers into Israel (if they can reach the border given internal closures and roadblocks still in place; only 4,500 of Gaza’s 15,000 permit holders are able to reach a crossing into Israel today). The IDF fatally shoots 1 Palestinian for “acting suspiciously” nr. the Kissufim crossing in Gaza; fatally shoots a 2d Palestinian who walks in front of a tank in Bayt Hanun. Palestinians fire a mortar at Gush Katif, causing no damage or injuries. The Israeli Housing Min. authorizes construction of 2,000 Jewish settlement housing units to begin, says 10,000 units awaits approval. (HA 6/1; VOI, YA 6/1 in WNC 6/2; HP, JP, WT 6/2; WP 6/3; PCHR 6/5)

2 JUNE

The IDF imposes a curfew on Ramallah, closes Qalandia checkpoint based on security concerns; continues to surround all Palestinian cities, making it difficult for Palestinian workers to take advantage of eased permit restrictions for entering Israel (see 6/1). Israel releases Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) head and PLO Exec. Comm. mbr. Taysir Khalid, detained without charge since 2/16. (HA 6/2; MM, NYT, WP 6/3; PR 6/4; PCHR 6/5)

3 JUNE

The IDF launches a predawn raid on Balata r.c. and Hebron, placing the area under curfew, sparking clashes that leave 30 Palestinians wounded. The IDF also fires on a PSF post outside Bayt Hanun, killing a PSF officer; imposes a closure on Nablus; lifts the closure on Ramallah; demolishes a Palestinian home in Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids in Jaba, Kafir Haris. 2 Palestinians die of injuries received earlier. Israel releases some 100 Palestinian detainees, including Ahmad Judara, the longest-serving detainee, jailed in 1975 for staging a bombing that killed 14 Israelis. Kach activists set up 4 new unauthorized settlement outposts in the West Bank. (HA, MM 6/3; NYT, PR, WP, WT 6/4; MA 6/4 in WNC 6/8; PCHR 6/5)

In Sharm al-Shaykh, Bush meets with Abbas and the leaders of Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia for talks on “issues of common interest,” including the peace process, Iraq, international efforts to combat terrorism, economic cooperation. (BBC, MM, WP 6/3; DUS, ITAR-TASS, MENA, XIN 6/3 in WNC 6/4; SARR, THWR 6/3 in WNC 7/10; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/4; QA, al-Quds 6/4 in WNC 6/7; DUS 6/6 in WNC 7/11; THWR 6/6; THWR, TSHR 6/7 in WNC 7/11; MM 6/10) (see Quarterly Update)

4 JUNE

The IDF demolishes 4 Palestinian homes in Rafah, 3 in Yatta; conducts arrest raids in Jenin. In Jerusalem, some 20,000 Jewish settlers demonstrate against the Aqaba summit. Palestinians fire a mortar at a Jewish settlement, a rocket at an IDF post, both in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. In a move deliberately timed with the Aqaba summit, Tourism M Benny Elon begins work to set up offices of the pro-transfer Moledet party in 1 of the 2 Palestinian homes next to the U.S. consulate in East Jerusalem’s Shuykh Jarrah neighborhood that Jewish settlers have been trying to seize for 1 yr. (see 4/27/03). (JP 6/4 in WNC 6/7; HA, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 6/5; PCHR 6/12; PR 6/25)

In Aqaba, Bush meets with Abbas, Sharon, King Abdullah; then meets with Abbas, Sharon only. Afterward, Abbas and
Sharon each give carefully worded statements reiterating their commitments to peace. (HA, MM 6/4; Interfax, ITAR-TASS, JT, MENA, QA, SA 6/4 in WNC 6/7; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/5; DUS, JP, JT, MA, MENA, NHR, QA, al-Quds, al-Ra'i, SA, SFR, Star, YA 6/5 in WNC 6/8; al-Quds 6/5, DUS 6/6 in WNC 6/10; MM 6/6; THWR, TSHR 6/7 in WNC 7/11; JPI 6/13; PR 6/18; JPI 6/20) (see Quarterly Update)

5 JUNE

The IDF lifts the curfew on Jenin, leaving none of the 8 main Palestinian cities under curfew for the 1st time in recent memory, though closures and checkpoints remain in place; conducts arrest raids in Hebron; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah; demolishes 6 Palestinian homes in Rafah. After dark, the IDF raids a house in Tulkarm, fatally shooting wanted Hamas mbrs. ‘Adil Abu Zaytun and Hani Kharyush in what may be an assassination, arresting a 3d. A Palestinian dies of injuries received on 5/27. (HA 6/5; HA, MM, NYT 6/6; Gulf Times 6/7 in WNC 6/10; LAW, PCHR 6/12)

6 JUNE

The IDF halts an ambulance nr. Bayt Iba, arrests a Palestinian being transported; bulldozes 2 dunams of land, conducts arrest raids s. of Khan Yunis; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Bayt Furik. 1,000s of Hamas supporters rally against the road map after Friday prayers in Gaza City, Rafah. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) fires 3 mortars at a Jewish settlement, 1 mortar at an IDF post in Gaza, causing no injuries. (HA 6/5; YA 6/6 in WNC 6/10; WP 6/7; LAW, PCHR 6/12)

7 JUNE

The IDF dismantles 5 unauthorized settlement outposts (all of them uninhabited), announces plans to remove another 9 (only 4 of them inhabited); more than 100 Jewish settlers try to bar soldiers fr. removing a water tower at 1 unpopulated site. Meanwhile, the IDF dismantles 13 Palestinian homes in Bayt Hanun, 1 in the Old City of Hebron; fatally shoots 2 Palestinians allegedly attempting to infiltrate Netzarim settlement; fires on residential areas of Bayt Hanun; raids, imposes a curfew on Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids in Balata r.c.; bulldozes Palestinian land around Askar r.c. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/9; QA, SFR 6/9 in WNC 6/11; NYT 6/10; JP 6/11 in WNC 6/13; LAW, PCHR 6/12)

8 JUNE

The AMB, Hamas, Islamic Jihad take joint responsibility for an attack on Erez Crossing in which 3 Palestinian gunmen dressed in IDF uniforms open fire, killing 4 IDF soldiers, wounding another 4 before being shot dead. In 2 attacks in Hebron, 2 Palestinian gunmen fatally shoot an IDF soldier, wound another before being shot dead; no group claims responsibility for that attack. Meanwhile, the IDF fires on a car outside Yamun, wounding 2 Palestinians. Late in the evening, the IDF raids, imposes curfew on Balata r.c.; bulldozes Palestinian land around Askar r.c. (MM 6/8 in WNC 6/10; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/9; QA, SFR 6/9 in WNC 6/11; NYT 6/10; JP 6/11 in WNC 6/13; LAW, PCHR 6/12)

10 JUNE

The IDF attempts to assassinate, wounds Hamas political leader and chief spokesman ‘Abd al-‘Aziz Rantisi, firing missiles at his car as he drives through Shati’ r.c., killing a bodyguard and a Palestinian woman walking nearby, wounding 27. In a rare acknowledgment, Israel confirms it targeted Rantisi, saying it took the decision after Rantisi called off Hamas cease-fire talks with the PA. Later in the day, IDF helicopters fire missiles at a 2d car in Jabaliya, allegedly targeting 2 Palestinians who fired 5 Qassam rockets at Sderot earlier, causing no damage or injuries; 3 Palestinian bystanders are killed, 30 (including the 2 targets) are wounded. Abbas condemns the Rantisi attack as a “terrorist attack in the full
meaning of the word,” saying it was aimed at sabotaging the road map; Hamas says it is a “declaration of war,” vows to “commit operations that will shake Israel.” The IDF also fatally shoots wanted Palestinian Issam Ibrahim in Jenin in what may be an assassination; fatally shoots 2 Palestinians in s. Gaza; fires on, wounds a Palestinian nr. Morag settlement; fires on residential areas of Hebron, Khan Yunis; bulldozes 5 dunams of land in Jabaliya; conducts arrest raids in Battir, Bayt Iba, Dura, Haris, Hebron, Jericho, Nablus (targeting Hamas), Qatanna, Tulkarm, al-Walaja, Yatta; dismantles another 5 unauthorized settlement outposts, all of them uninhabited. The Israeli High Court blocks the removal of 1 occupied outpost, Havat Gilad, which Israel attempted to dismantle in fall 2002.

**11 JUNE**

A Hamas suicide bomber dressed as an Orthodox Jew detonates a device on a bus in Jerusalem, killing 15 Israelis. 1 Eritrean, injuring more than 60. Israeli DM Shaul Mofaz immediately authorizes the IDF to use “whatever means necessary” to “completely wipe out Hamas,” saying Hamas spiritual leader Shaykh Yasin is a viable target. Half an hr. later, an IDF helicopter fires on a car stuck in a Gaza City traffic jam, assassinating senior Izzeddin al-Qassam mbrs. Titu Massud and Suhayl Abu Nahil, also killing 6 Palestinian bystanders, wounding 35 (including 14 children). In the evening, IDF helicopters strike another car in Gaza City, killing Hamas mbrs. Muhammad Daghamsha and Rawi Abu Kumayl. The IDF also raids Hebron, imposing a curfew, building roads, blocking streets with sand barriers, concrete blocks; demolishes 3 Palestinian homes in Rafah (damaging another 11), 1 in Jaba; fires on a funeral procession outside Khan Yunis, wounding 1. (AP, BBC, HA 6/11; ITAR-TASS, MENA 6/11 in WNC 6/13; LAW, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 6/12; AFP, QA 6/12 in WNC 6/14; PR 6/18; LAW, PCHR 6/19; JPI 6/20; HA 6/25; MEI 6/27)

**12 JUNE**

The IDF assassinates senior Hamas mbrs. Ibrahim Abu Srour, Yasir Taha, firing missiles at their taxi as it drives through Gaza City, also killing Taha’s pregnant wife and infant daughter, the taxi driver, 3 passersby (including 2 toddlers), wounding 29 bystanders. Late in the evening, IDF undercover units assassinate wanted Islamic Jihad mbrs. Fadi Jaradat, Salih Jaradat in Jenin. An Israeli wounded in the 6/11 bus bombing dies, bringing that toll to 17. A Palestinian dies of injuries received in the IDF assassination on 6/11, bringing that toll to 9. Palestinian gunmen fatally shoot an Israeli businessman outside Jenin, fire on Jewish settlers in Hebron, causing no injuries; the AMB, Hamas each claim responsibility. The IDF obstructs streets in the Palestinian section of Hebron by digging trenches, creating rubble berms, also cutting water and electricity lines. (AP, BBC, HA, MM, PCHR 6/12; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/15; PR 6/18; LAW, PCHR 6/19)

**13 JUNE**

The IDF assassinates Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades mbr. Fuad Lidawi, firing missiles at his car as he drives in Gaza City, wounding 28 bystanders (including 11 children); later fires missiles at a warehouse in Gaza City that allegedly contains Qassam missiles, 50 yds. fr. the home of Shaykh Yasin. The IDF blows up a cave in Dayr Ghassana (see 5/24), burying 3 wanted Palestinians, leaving them for dead; local residents dig out, save the men; in retaliation, the IDF raids, vandalizes the village medical clinic. A Palestinian dies of injuries received in the IDF’s 6/12 assassination of Abu Srour and Taha, bringing that toll to 7. An AMB gunman fires on an IDF patrol nr. Karmela Menashe settlement, outside Jenin, fatally shooting 1 IDF soldier, wounding 2. The IDF also demolishes 1 Palestinian home in Dura, 1 in Hebron; bulldozes 3 dunams of land in Dayr al-Balah; places a curfew on, conducts arrest raids in Bayt Sahur; fires on residential areas of Rafah. Palestinians also fire a Qassam rocket at Sederot, damaging a house but causing no injuries. (AFP, HA 6/13; NYT, WP, WT 6/14; VOI 6/14 in WNC 6/17; HP 6/16; PR 6/14; LAW, PCHR 6/19)

In Umm al-Fahm, 100,000s of Israeli Arabs attend a rally in support of Islamic
14 JUNE

The IDF opens fire on stone-throwing youths in Askar r.c., killing 1 Palestinian; bars a Palestinian heart attack victim fr. crossing a checkpoint to reach a hospital, allowing him to die; fires on stone-throwing youths in Askar r.c., injuring 2; fires on residential areas of Hebron, Tulkarm; fires at Palestinians at a roadblock outside Dayr al-Balah for no apparent reason, causing no injuries; demolishes 7 Palestinian homes and 11 greenhouses, bulldozes 57 dunums of land in Rafah; demolishes 3 Palestinian homes, a bird farm, and 3 greenhouses, bulldozes 52 dunums of land in Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids outside Ramallah. (HA 6/13; VOI 6/14 in WNC 6/17; PM, WP 6/15; HP 6/16; LAW, PCHR 6/19)

15 JUNE

The IDF raids Bayt Hanun, killing an AMB mbr., wounding 7 Palestinians; reimposes a curfew on Palestinian areas of Hebron after lifting it for 3 hrs.; bulldozes 39 dunums of land in Bayt Hanun, 12 dunums in Dayr al-Balah; fires on residential areas of Brazil r.c.; conducts arrest raids in Araba, Bethlehem, Hebron. A 7-yr-old Palestinian dies of injuries received in Israel’s attempted assassination of Rantisi on 6/10, bringing that toll to 3; a 2d Palestinian dies of injuries received on 6/8. Palestinians fire Qassam rockets fr. Rafah for the 1st time, causing no damage or injuries. The IDF fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Askar r.c., Balata r.c.; demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in Rafah, 1 in Issawiyya; bulldozes 26 dunums of land in Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Dahaysha r.c., Nablus, Qabatiyya, Qalqilya, Tulkarm; searches homes in Dayr al-Balah, occupying 1 as an IDF post; conducts arrest raids in Hebron, Ramallah. Palestinians reportedly fire an antitank missile at an IDF post in Gaza, injuring 1 soldier, a civilian worker; fire 3 mortars at Gush Katif, causing no damage or injuries. IDF F-16s break the sound barrier over the Gaza Strip throughout the day. Late in the evening, at least 1 Palestinian gunman fires on an Israeli vehicle just inside the Israeli border nr. Qalqilya, killing a 7-yr-old Israeli girl, wounding 3; the AMB, PFLP-GC each claim responsibility. Israeli police detain Mufti of Jerusalem Ikrima Sabri for questioning as part of the investigation into whether the Islamic Movement laundered money for Hamas. The IDF says it has drawn up a list of another 19 unauthorized outposts to be dismantled; of the original list, 10 uninhabited outposts have been removed, while 5 inhabited ones are slated for removal in the next few days. (AP, AP, HA, WP 6/17; VOI, YA 6/17 in WNC 6/19; HA, MM, NYT, PR, WP, WT 6/18; HA, LAW, NYT, PCHR 6/19; JPI 6/27)
Palestinian homes nr. Rafah (also bulldozing 5 dunums of land), 1 in Jenin, 1 nr. Khan Yunis (also bulldozing 3 dunums of land), 1 nr. Nablus; bulldozes a Palestinian gas station in Silwan; conducts arrest raids in Askar r.c., Bayt Lahia, Bethlehem, Hebron; searches homes in Jenin, Qalqilya, Ramallah (including ransacking the home of a Palestinian-American family); fires on residential areas of Bayt Lahia; tightens the closure on Tulkarm. In Hebron, 6 IDF soldiers reportedly severely beat a Palestinian teenager, kicking him, hitting him with their rifle butts. Palestinians fire a Qassam rocket at Native Haasara moshav inside Israel, causing damage but no injuries. A Palestinian dies of injuries received in the 6/10 attempted assassination of Rantisi, bringing that toll to 4. A Tel Aviv court sentences a 17-yr.-old Israeli Arab to 2 yrs. in jail for planning to carry out a suicide bombing; the court says the sentence is light because the boy turned himself in to authorities. (HA, HP 6/18; MENA 6/18 in WNC 6/20; LAW, PCHR, WT 6/19; PCHR 6/20)

19 JUNE

In a 7-hr. operation, the IDF evacuates the 1st inhabited unauthorized settlement outpost, Mitzpe Yitzhar, a particularly militant outpost nr. Nablus, housing 2 settler families: An initial contingent of around 25 unarmed soldiers attempting to remove 2 tents, a few tin shacks, and around 25 unarmed soldiers around a concrete block building is obstructed by 100 Jewish settler youths. The IDF calls in unarmed reinforcements, places closures on surrounding settlements, as 100s of settlers converge on the outpost during the day, scuffling with troops, leaving 30 settlers and soldiers injured; settlers also set fire to Palestinian wheat fields, olive groves in the area in an attempt to disrupt the IDF operation. The IDF also bulldozes 15 dunums of land in Bayt Hanun, 5 dunums in Bayt Lahia, 1 dunum in al-Mughraqa. An Islamic Jihad suicide bomber detonates a device inside a small store in Baysan, inside Israel, killing 1 Israeli. Palestinians fire a Qassam rocket at Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. (HA, MM 6/19; VOI, YA 6/19 in WNC 6/21; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/20; MM 5/23; PR 6/25; MM, PCHR 6/26; MEI 6/27; MA 6/11 in WNC 6/13) (see Settlement Monitor, Quarterly Update)

20 JUNE

Hamas gunmen fire on a vehicle driving nr. Ofra settlement, killing 1 Jewish settler, wounding 3. A bicycle laden with explosives explodes nr. an IDF checkpoint in central Gaza, causing no damage or injuries; soldiers find, disarm a larger roadside bomb nearby. The IDF fatally shoots a mentally disabled Palestinian woman nr. Morag settlement in s. Gaza, later admitting the shooting was a mistake; demolishes a gas station, bulldozes 8 dunums of land nr. Khan Yunis; razes 1 Palestinian home, a poultry farm, 1 dunam of land in Dayr al-Balah; conducts arrest raids in Hebron. Jewish settlers reestablish an unauthorized settlement outpost nr. Neve Tzuf that was evacuated earlier in the wk. (HA, JP 6/20; NYT, WP, WT 6/21; PR 6/25; PCHR 6/26)


21 JUNE

The IDF assassinates senior Hamas mbr. Abdallah Qawasmi, ambushng and shooting at his car as he drives through Hebron; Israel claims Qawasmi plotted the 6/11 Jerusalem bus bombing; Sharon calls the killing a “successful and very important act.” The IDF also bulldozes a Palestinian home, a poultry farm, 3 dunums of land nr. Dayr al-Balah. A Palestinian dies of injuries received during the IDF assassination of Lidawi on 6/13, bringing that toll to 1. (NYT, WP, WT 6/22; VOI 6/22 in WNC 6/24; MM, WP 6/23; AYM 6/23, al-Ra’i 6/24 in WNC 6/26; PR 6/25; PCHR 6/26; MEI 6/27)

22 JUNE

Nr. Bayt Hanun, 4 AMB mbrs. are killed either when a roadside bomb they are planting explodes or when an IDF tank fires on them while they are planting a roadside bomb. In Gaza, a female IDF soldier forces a Palestinian woman to drink fr. a bottle of caustic liquid she is carrying in order to cross the checkpoint; the Palestinian is

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taken to the hospital with severe burns and convulsions, files a complaint; the soldier is arrested by IDF military police. The IDF fatally shoots a Palestinian nr. Morag settlement; demolishes 6 Palestinian homes in Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids, house searches and bulldozes 3 dunams of land n. of Khan Yunis; raids dormitories at Birzeit University, arresting 80 students; fires on residential areas of al-Brazil, Rafah. (ITV 6/22 in WNC 6/24; HA, NYT, WP 6/23; MM 6/24; PR 6/25; PCHR 6/26; AKH 6/26 in WNC 6/28)

23 JUNE

The IDF demolishes a Palestinian home in Jenin; conducts arrest raids in Nablus. Nr. the Negev village of Tal Arad, 5 Israeli policemen attempt to arrest a bedouin youth for throwing stones at cars, sparking a riot by 10s of local bedouin in which the police shoot, wound 3 bedouin; 2 bedouin, 5 policemen are also injured in scuffles. Palestinians fire a Qassam rocket at Sederot, lightly injuring 1 Israeli. Jewish settlers set up a new unauthorized outpost, nr. the site of 1 taken down last wk. Israel bars entry at the Ben-Gurion Airport to a delegation of Belgian, Dutch doctors on a mission to assess the damage to the Palestinian health care system in the West Bank, Gaza. (HA, Medical Fact Finding Mission–Palestine press release 6/23; PCHR, WJW 6/26)

24 JUNE

In a move that Israel claims will save the road map, the IDF arrests more than 130 alleged Hamas mbrs. and supporters in Hebron (including women, elderly men, and 1 pregnant woman, who collapses, is taken to the hospital). 30 Palestinian "terror suspects and their helpers" in Nablus. In its deepest incursion into PA areas in Gaza in recent wks., the IDF sends bulldozers into Khan Yunis and Rafah, firing on residential areas, demolishing 5 Palestinian homes in Rafah, 2 in Khan Yunis, also razing 13 dunams of land. The IDF also finds, disables a booby-trapped bicycle nr. a s. Gaza settlement, a bomb in a car in Ramallah; conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem, Nablus. Palestinians fire 4 mortars at Gaza settlements and 1 Qassam rocket toward the Negev, causing no damage or injuries. The IDF removes 2 tents comprising an unauthorized outpost erected in recent days; meanwhile, Jewish settlers set up 2 new unauthorized outposts elsewhere in the West Bank. A PA general intelligence unit raids, closes the Voice of al-Aqsa radio station in Gaza city. The move apparently aims to curb incitement, though the PA says the station was set up without a permit. (BBC, HA, MM 6/24; HA, NYT, WP, WT 6/25; PCHR, Palestine Information Center 6/26)

Israeli police charge 5 Islamic Movement leaders with "service to an outlawed organization, holding funds belonging to an outlawed organization, and money-laundering," for funneling some $10 m. to Hamas charity groups in the occupied territories fr. abroad. At least 2 of the mbrs., including Islamic Movement leader Ra'ad Salah, are charged with membership in a terrorist organization and contact with a foreign agent (Nabil Mahzomah, an Israeli Arab who was deported to Lebanon in the mid-1980s and allegedly has worked as an agent for Iranian, Lebanese intelligence). The groups they reportedly had contact with were: Charity Coalition (outlawed in 2/02), the al-Aqsa Fund (outlawed in 1992), Interal (outlawed in 1997), the Holy Land Fund (outlawed in 1997). (HA, MM 6/24; HA, NYT, WT 6/25)

25 JUNE

The IDF assassinates wanted Hamas mbr. Akram Abu Sarhana, firing missiles at his taxi as he drives nr. Khan Yunis; of the 4 others in the taxi, 1 Palestinian woman is killed, another wanted Hamas mbr. Muhammad Siyam (possibly the primary target) and 2 other passengers are wounded; around 10 other bystanders are injured; Israel claims the Hamas mbrs. were en route to stage an attack. In Bayt Hamun, 2 Hamas mbrs. are killed, an IDF soldier is wounded in an exchange of gunfire. The IDF also demolishes 5 Palestinian homes in Rafah; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dayr al-Balah, al-Qarara. Based on an intelligence tip, Israeli police in Kafir Qasim arrest 2 West Bank tanzim mbrs., carrying a 5-lb bomb, apparently on their way to Petah Tikva to stage an attack. Palestinians fire a Qassam rocket at Sederot, fire on a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Nablus, fire 5 mortars at settlements in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. Israel says it will begin having fmr. South Lebanon Army (SLA) mbrs. patrol on buses to prevent Palestinian attacks,
arguing that the SLA mbrs. “have special abilities that will help in the identification and apprehension of potential suicide bombers.” (HA, MM 6/25; HA, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 6/26; PCHR 7/3)

26 JUNE

As PA-Israeli talks on an IDF redeployment fr. n. Gaza continue, the IDF demolishes 13 Palestinian homes in Bayt Hanun, bulldozes 54 dunums of land in Bayt Hanun and Jabaliya r.c.; fires on residential areas of Balata r.c., Bayt Hanun; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Tubas, Palestinians waiting to cross a checkpoint nr. Khan Yunis. A Palestinian teenager fatally shoots an Israeli telephone worker in Baqa‘ al-Gharbiyya, inside Israel, and is captured; AMB takes responsibility. Later, in the same area, Israeli police fatally shoot 2 Palestinians, arrest 2 others allegedly carrying explosives. A Palestinian gunman shoots, wounds a Jewish settler driving nr. Bethlehem. Palestinians fire 2 Qassam rockets at Sderot, causing no damage or injuries. The IDF attempts to evacuate settlers fr. 2 unauthorized outposts for the 4th time in 24 hrs. (HA, MM 6/26; NYT, WP 6/27; NYT, WP 7/1; PCHR 7/3)

27 JUNE

Overnight, the IDF raids Jenin, arresting local Hamas cmdr. Wail Aljui. The IDF also raids 2 Palestinian homes in Gaza City, fatally shooting 4 Palestinians, including wanted Hamas mbr. Amran al-Gul in an apparent assassination, also wounding 15 Palestinians, demolishing 3 Palestinian homes, partially destroying another. Hamas mbrs. respond with gunfire, killing 1 IDF soldier, wounding 1. (HA, MM, NYT 6/27; NYT, WP 6/28; PCHR 7/3)

Dahlan, Gilad finalize an agmt. for the IDF to redeploy fr. Bayt Hanun in n. Gaza, share security control of Gaza roads, turn over security control for most of Gaza (except settlements and security zones that make up roughly 35% of the Strip); discussions on an IDF pullout fr. Bethlehem continue. Meanwhile in Cairo, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Fatah finalize a unilateral cease-fire agmt. Formal declarations of the 2 agmts. are expected to be made on 6/29, during Rice’s visit. (Forward, HA, MM 6/27; NYT, WP, WT 6/28) (see 6/14; Quarterly Update)

28 JUNE

The IDF arrests an ailing Palestinian being transported by ambulance to Jordan (with the permission of Israeli, Jordanian authorities) for treatment. The IDF also fires on residential areas of Abasan, Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids in Nablus, Tulkarm. Palestinians fire 5 mortars at Gush Katif, causing no damage or injuries. (HA, NYT 6/29; JP 7/2 in WNC 7/10; PCHR 7/3)

Rice holds talks with Abbas, Dahlan in Jericho on her 1st visit as Bush’s personal envoy on the peace process. (HA 6/28; NYT, WT 6/29; MM 6/30; NYT 7/1; PR 7/2) (see Quarterly Update)

29 JUNE

The IDF conducts arrest raids in al-Bireh, Ramallah. (PM 6/30; PCHR 7/3)

Fatah, Hamas, Islamic Jihad formally announce cease-fires against all Israelis everywhere for a minimum of 3 mos. The DFLP, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) say they will abide by the truce. Hrs. after the announcement, the IDF begins redeploying fr. Bayt Hanun. (AYM 6/29, AYM, al-Quds, SFR 6/30, AFP, MENA, QA, al-Ra‘i 7/1, AYM, MENA, NHR, SFR 7/2, AYM, HA, SFR 7/3, MA 7/4 in WNC 7/10; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/30; PR 7/2; AYM 7/5 in WNC 7/11; MEI 7/11)

30 JUNE

The IDF completes its redeployment fr. Bayt Hanun, opens Gaza’s main north–south road to joint patrols with the PSF, removes many roadblocks and checkpoints in n. Gaza. N. Nablus, AMB gunmen ambush, fatally shoot a Bulgarian who works at a nearby Jewish settlement; the AMB has not signed on to the Hamas–Islamic Jihad–Fatah cease-fire. Israel acknowledgments that for several days, police have been escorting Jews on tours of the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount, despite the government’s failure to reach an agmt. on such visits with the Waqf, the holy site was closed to non-Muslims after Sharon’s controversial visit to the site in 9/01 that sparked the current intifada. Israeli authorities inform residents of Bayt Iqsa, northwest of Jerusalem, that 14,000 dunums of their communal land will be expropriated for construction of a new Jewish settlement to be called Alona. (BBC, HA, MM 6/30; MM,
WP 7/1; PR, WT 7/2; AYM 7/2, al-Quds 7/3, MENA 7/4 in WNC 7/10; PCHR 7/3; REU 7/4; PR 7/9; HA 7/14)

Dahlan, Gilad finalize details for an IDF redeployment fr. Bethlehem, which they set to begin on 7/2. (HA 6/30; HA, NYT, WP 7/1)

1 JULY

The IDF fatally shoots a Palestinian outside Tulkarm, saying the man fired on their post, causing no injuries; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, wounding an 8-yr.-old Palestinian among others; conducting arrest raids in Jenin, Nablus. Palestinians fire mortars at Gush Katif, causing no damage or injuries. (BBC, HA 7/1; JP, NYT, WP 7/2; PCHR 7/3; VOI 7/3 in WNC 7/10)

In Nazareth, Israeli bulldozers tear down the foundation of a mosque on a site adjacent to the Church of the Annunciation over the tomb of a Muslim saint. Muslims, Christians have disputed the construction of the mosque for 6 yrs. In 4/99, PM Ehud Barak gave formal permission for the project, sparking riots and bringing formal protests fr. the Vatican. In 3/02, Sharon ordered a halt to construction. (MM 7/1; MM, NYT, WT 7/2; JP 7/2 in WNC 7/10; JPI 7/11, 7/25)

Abbas, Sharon hold their 3d mtg. to discuss road map implementation; agree to establish 4 comms. to oversee release of Palestinian political prisoners, a halt to Palestinian incitement, security, trade. Sharon says that Arafat may travel to Gaza “as long as he stays there” and if he asks Israel’s permission. (HA, MM 7/1; AYM, MENA 7/1, Interfax, QA 7/2 in WNC 7/10; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/2; MM 7/4; JPI, MEI 7/11)

2 JULY

Israel releases 9 administrative detainees, all arrested during the 6/24 sweep of Hebron, as a goodwill gesture to the PA. The IDF redeployes to the outskirts of Bethlehem, turning security control over to the PSF; the IDF will continue to patrol Bayt Jala, control the area around Rachel’s Tomb (an especially high separation fence around the tomb reportedly is planned), but otherwise vows not to enter the town unless the PA is unable to prevent an imminent attack on Israelis fr. the city. The IDF confiscates 283 dunams of land s. of Khan Yunis, for a new settler bypass road for Morag; enters the offices of the Hebron Rehabilitation Comm. (HRC), orders all HRC reconstruction projects to halt (see Vitullo article in this issue); demolishes a Palestinian home in East Jerusalem; moves the Ganei Tal settlement fence east, bringing 4 Palestinian homes within the settlement’s zone of control. Palestinian gunmen fire on Israeli construction workers building the separation wall nr. Tulkarm, lightly injuring 1 Israeli security guard; fire on an IDF patrol in Nablus, causing no injuries. A roadside bomb explodes along the separation wall nr. Qalkiliya, causing no damage or injuries. (HA, REU 7/2; MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 7/3; al-Quds 7/7 in WNC 7/10; PCHR 7/10; MEI 7/11; HA 7/17)

3 JULY

As gestures to the PA, Israel announces a halt to deporting families of West Bank Palestinian militants to Gaza; releases 34 Palestinian prisoners, including senior Gaza PSF official Sulayman Abu Mutlak who was arrested in early 5/03 and is freed for lack of evidence. Overnight, Palestinians fire an antitank rocket at Kefar Darom, wounding 4 Jewish settlers; the Palestinian resistance comms. (PRCs) and a Rafah-based Fatah offshoot called Abu Rish, neither of which agreed to the cease-fire, claim responsibility; meanwhile, the PSF arrests 4 PRC mbrs., an AMB mbr. in connection with the attack; the IDF shuts Gaza’s main north–south road for 6 hrs. to search for the assailants, without success. Abbas condemns the rocket attack and the 6/30 fatal shooting of a Bulgarian worker as “acts of sabotage.” The PSF also arrests 2 Palestinians in Khan Yunis on charges of firing mortars at Gush Katif on 7/1. The IDF raids Qalqiliya, arresting local AMB head Ibrahim Mansur, fatally shooting his aide Mahmud Shawar (reportedly 1st wounding him in the leg, then executing him with gunshots to the head); the AMB vows to respond within 24 hrs. The IDF also imposes a curfew on, conducts arrest raids in Tulkarm; fires on Palestinians waiting to cross a Khan Yunis checkpoint, wounding 1; bulldozes 8 dunums of Palestinian land nr. Dayr al-Balah. Sharon authorizes Israeli police to crack down on crime among bedouin in s. Israel. (HA, MM 7/3; MA, VOI 7/3, AYM 7/5 in WNC 7/10; NYT, WP, WT 7/4; NYT 7/6; MM 7/8; PR 7/9; PCHR 7/10)
4 JULY

In Gaza's Shati' r.c., PSF officers attempt to arrest 4 PRC mbrs. responsible for rocket fire on 7/3, sparking an exchange of gunfire that leaves 1 PRC mbr. dead, 3 under arrest, at least 1 PSF officer and 1 PRC mbr. wounded. Palestinians fire a mortar and an antitank rocket at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. (NYT, WT 7/6; PCHR 7/10)

5 JULY

The IDF fires on residential areas of Dayr al-Balah; bulldozes 14 dunams of land nr. Rafah. In s. Gaza, 3 Palestinians apparently planting a roadside bomb trigger the device, killing 1, wounding the other 2. Shin Bet produces a list of 100 Palestinian prisoners out of the more than 5,500 (some say up to 8,000) currently held, that it says could be freed without harming Israeli security. (NYT 7/6; PCHR 7/10)

6 JULY

In Gaza City, PA workers begin whitewashing graffiti praising Palestinian militants as part of the road map’s requirements to halt incitement. The PA announces that as of 7/7 it will ban the firing of guns at wedding celebrations, confiscating guns of violators; will begin inspecting cars for licenses and ownership, reportedly in an effort to confiscate and return vehicles stolen fr. Israel. Israel approves the entry to Israel of 1,500 Palestinian workers, 1,500 Palestinian merchants fr. the Bethlehem area. The Israeli cabinet votes (13-9, with 1 abstention) to release some 300 Palestinian prisoners in the coming days; most will be administrative detainees who are children under age 18 or women over 60; none will be mbrs. of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, each prisoner’s case will be reviewed by a monitoring comm. The PA says that the release would be too small to generate support for Abbas. Mofaz holds what he describes as “very positive” talks with Dahan regarding further transfers of cities to PA control. Dahan warns that if Israel blankly excludes all prisoners fr. Palestinian opposition groups fr. release, it would undermine Abbas. Mofaz reportedly says that Israel agrees in principle to the PA rebuilding, reopening Gaza airport. Meanwhile, the IDF halts, searches an ambulance at a checkpoint nr. Qalqilya, arrests a seriously ill Palestinian patient being transported to the hospital for emergency surgery, (MM, NYT 7/7; VOI 7/7, HJ 7/9 in WNC 7/11; NYT 7/8; AYM 7/8 in WNC 7/10; PR 7/9; PCHR, WJW 7/10; MEI, PRCS 7/11; JPI 7/18)

7 JULY

The PSF says it has released 9 PRC mbrs. recently arrested after the commns. agreed to abide by the Hamas-Islamic Jihad cease-fire. The IDF begins construction of a permanent fence in the Old City of Hebron separating the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarch fr. the Palestinian-controlled section of the city; shoots, wounds a Palestinian “acting suspiciously” in Tulkarm; fires on Palestinians who reportedly attack an IDF outpost in s. Gaza, wounding 1; conducts arrest raids in Jenin, detaining 15 Palestinians, including a local Islamic Jihad leader. Late in the evening, an Islamic Jihad suicide bomber detonates a device in a home in Kfar Yavetz, in central Israel nr. the West Bank, killing 1 Israeli; a statement by Islamic Jihad’s Jenin cell says it has broken the cease-fire since Israel has not complied with requirements to free all Palestinian prisoners, but senior Islamic Jihad officials, including chief spokesman in Gaza Muhammad al-Hindi, say the attack was not coordinated with the group’s leadership, which reaffirms its adherence to the cease-fire. Unidentified Palestinians fire on, detonate a roadside bomb nr. workers building Israel’s separation wall nr. Qalqilya, causing no injuries. In separate incidents, the PSF arrests 3 Palestinians nr. the Gaza border with Israel. (BBC, MM, NYT, WT 7/8; MM, NYT, PR, WP 7/9; SFR 7/9 in WNC 7/12; PCHR 7/10; JPI 7/18)

8 JULY

The IDF bulldozes 100 dunams of land southwest of Rafah; detains 4 ISM mbrs. at a “peace camp” set up in Arraboni as a non-violent demonstration against construction of the separation wall; fires on Palestinian residential areas nr. Morag settlement; conducts arrest raids in Hebron, Ramallah. Palestinians fire a mortar at Gush Katif settlement, causing no damage or injuries. (HA, ISM press release 7/9; PCHR 7/10)
9 JULY

IDF undercover units raided a house in Burkin, arrest wanted tanzim cmdr. Iyad Shalayish, fatally shooting his brother and critically wounding his sister-in-law, who live next door, when they come to the window to see what is going on. The IDF also detains, interrogates for 9 hrs. at a local Jewish settlement 3 Palestinian children (ages 10, 11) caught throwing stones nr. Nablus; conducts arrest raids in Ramallah. Shin Bet says it has recently arrested 4 senior Islamic Jihad mbrs. in West Bank raids. Jewish settlers stone a Palestinian car driving nr. Hebron, seriously injuring the driver. (HA, PR 7/9; VOI 7/9 in WNC 7/11; NYT, PCHR, WT 7/10; PR 7/16)

10 JULY

In Dayr al-Ghasun, Palestinians, accompanied by ISM volunteers, for the 1st time attempt to gain access to farmland newly cut off by Israel's separation wall to plant fall crops, but the IDF denies them passage; the wall cuts off 500 farmers fr. 3,000 dunams of village crop land. Nr. Nablus, the IDF arrests 6 ISM mbrs., who remove 2 earthen roadblocks barring Palestinian traffic on a local road. The IDF also issues order for the confiscation of 424 dunams of land n. of Tulkarm (for construction of the separation wall), 100s of dunams of land in al-Khadr (reportedly to expand Ofra settlement); tightens roadblocks around Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah; fires on a PSF post in Rafah, causing no injuries; fires on residential areas of Dayr al-Balah; demolishes a Palestinian home in Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Hebron. Palestinians rally in Khan Yunis to call for Israel's immediate release of Palestinian prisoners. Jewish settlers scuffle with IDF soldiers attempting to evacuate an unauthorized settlement outpost nr. Nablus. A Palestinian boy is hit and killed by a Jewish settler driving nr. Nablus. (AP, HP, ISM press release 7/10; NYT, PMC 7/12; PR 7/16; PCHR 7/24)

11 JULY

Some 3,000 Palestinians attend a Hamas rally in Jabaliya r.c., demanding Israel's immediate release of Palestinian prisoners; Hamas warns that the cease-fire will not hold unless Israel is more forthcoming with concessions. In what the PSF terms a "misunderstanding," Dahan's bodyguards shoot, wound a Hamas mbr. they thought was about to shoot at Dahan's car driving nr. Erez crossing. In response, some Hamas mbrs. set fire to PA cars outside a Gaza City PSF office. In the evening, the PSF sets up roadblocks nr. Gush Katif and Kefar Darom settlements, nr. Khan Yunis and confiscates several weapons found in vehicle searches, which began on 7/7 (see 7/6 announcement above). The IDF captures 4 Palestinians attempting to sneak into Israel to work, wounding 2; demolishes a Palestinian home in Rafah. Armed Jewish settlers halt, search an ambulance outside Nablus. (HA, MM, PRCS 7/11; HA, JP, NYT, WT 7/12; al-Quds 7/13 in WNC 7/16; PM 7/15; PCHR 7/24)

12 JULY

The IDF arrests a suspected Real Irish Republican Army (Real IRA) mbr. at a checkpoint outside Ramallah, alleging that he came to the West Bank to provide explosives training to militant Palestinians; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis (wounding 1 woman in her home), Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Bayt Furik. Jewish settlers establish a new unauthorized outpost nr. Nablus. (BBC, NYT, WP, WT 7/14; VOI 7/14 in WNC 7/16; PM 7/15; MM 7/18; PCHR 7/24)

13 JULY

Hamas, Islamic Jihad issue a joint statement saying that they will not surrender their weapons; they argue that they agreed to a cease-fire to support national unity efforts; a PSF attempt to disarm them would go against unity efforts, removing the basis of the cease-fire agmt. Abbas says he will not order the PSF to disarm the militant groups, though PA police will confiscate unlicensed weapons found during inspections of vehicles at PSF checkpoints. The IDF, PSF launch a joint search for a missing Israeli taxi driver feared kidnapped by Palestinians seeking a prisoner swap. The IDF fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, wounding a woman in her home; conducts arrest raids in Ramallah. Jewish settlers in Hebron attack Palestinians, occupy a Palestinian home and surrounding land. (BBC, WP 7/14; PM 7/15; PR 7/16; PCHR 7/24)

In Ramallah, 10s of Palestinian refugees attack, lightly injure Palestinian pollster Khalil Shikaki, vandalize his
office to prevent him from holding a press conference to release data showing that while 95% of refugees polled wanted Israel to recognize the right of return, only a minority (10% overall; 25% in Lebanon, 13% in the occupied territories, 5% in Jordan) percentage would want to return to their homes in what is now Israel, 54% overall would accept monetary compensation in lieu of return. (HA 7/13; JP, NYT, WP, WT 7/14; PR 7/16; MM 7/28)

14 JULY

The IDF imposes a curfew on Ramallah in its search for an Israeli taxi driver missing since 7/13; the Palestinian prisoners association calls on whoever is holding the man to release him. The IDF also fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah; fires on a PSF post nr. Khan Yunis, causing damage but no injuries; bulldozes a tent, 2 rooms of a home, a bird farm s. of Khan Yunis. The BBC reports that Irishman John Morgan, arrested by the IDF on 7/12, is a journalist and peace activist; Israel acknowledges that he may not be a Real IRA bomb maker, but contends that he is "involved with terrorist organizations in the territories." (Guardian, HA, MM 7/14; BBC, HA, NYT, PM, WP, WT 7/15; PCHR 7/24)

15 JULY

An East Jerusalem Palestinian fatally stabs an Israeli on promenade in Tel Aviv, wounds 2 others, is wounded and captured by police; a statement faxed to Reuters takes responsibility in the name of the AMB, but AMB spokesmen say the group was not involved. Israel says it will release Irishman Morgan, whom it confirms is not a Real IRA mbr. The IDF fires on cars traveling on the main north-south road in Gaza, apparently to halt traffic for passage of a Jewish settler convoy fr. Gush Katif. More than 40 Israeli tour guides file suit in Israeli court against the PA for earnings lost because of intifada violence. (BBC, HA, JTA, MM, WP 7/15; AFP 7/15 in WNC 7/18; NYT, PR, WP, WT 7/16; MM, NYT 7/17; MM 7/18; PCHR 7/24)

16 JULY

The IDF locates missing Israeli taxi driver Eliyahu Goral, bound but unharmened, in a house in Beitunia; says he was seized in East Jerusalem, the victim of a robbery gone awry, not a kidnapping by militant Palestinians. The IDF fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah. (HA, MM, NYT, PR, WP, WT 7/16; PCHR 7/24)

17 JULY

The IDF says that a 21-km section of the separation wall around the n. and s. of Jerusalem should be completed by the end of 7/03. The IDF sends tanks, troops into Ramallah, occupying buildings surrounding Arafat’s headquarters, conducting searches, withdrawing after 2 hrs.; fires on residential areas of Rafah, wounding 1 woman; places a curfew on Tulkarm; bulldozes 2 Palestinian homes in Bayt Rima. Shin Bet arrests 2 Jewish settlers on charges of “security crimes against Palestinians,” places a gag order on the case. (HA, PMC 7/17; HA 7/18; WT 7/19; MM 7/21; JP 7/25 in WNC 7/25; PCHR 7/24)

18 JULY

Israel police acknowledge that they have begun letting obviously religious Jews (e.g., wearing kippas) join tours of the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif; say this is part of a gradual process to reinstate the status quo before the 9/00 Sharon visit to the site that sparked the al-Aqsa intifada. (HA 7/18; HA, MM 7/22)

19 JULY

Mbrs. of the AMB’s Jenin faction pull Jenin mayor Haidar Irshayd fr. his car, beat and kidnap him, alleging he is corrupt and has collaborated with Israel, demanding the PA put him on trial; they release Irshayd after receiving a call fr. an aid to Arafat. Meanwhile, Dahlan announces that the PSF has begun “a large-scale campaign” to bring security to Gaza; the DFLP reports that the PSF has arrested 2 of its mbrs. The IDF fires at a Palestinian farmer who attempts to plant agricultural land previously bulldozed by the IDF, damaging his tractor, forcing him off the land. (XIN 7/19 in WNC 7/22; NYT, WP, WT 7/20; MM 7/21; PCHR 7/24)

20 JULY

An Israeli is stabbed, wounded in Jerusalem, possibly by a Palestinian. Late in the evening, Islamic Jihad mbr. Rami Isleit is killed apparently when a roadside...
bomb he attempts to detonate nr. an IDF patrol outside Jenin malfunctions; no soldiers are injured. (HA 7/21; NYT 7/22; PR 7/23; PCHR 7/24)

Abbas, Sharon meet in advance of their visits to Washington. Abbas demands Israel quickly redeploy fr. 2 more Palestinian cities, make a significant prisoner release, step up removal of unauthorized settlement outposts. Sharon says Israel will not do more until the PA begins to disarm, dismantle militant groups. (HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/21; MM 7/22; MEI 7/25)

21 JULY

The Knesset approves (47-27) Sharon's decree authorizing the removal of all unauthorized settlement outposts constructed in the past 2 yrs. (NYT 7/22)

22 JULY

Israeli border police open fire on an Israeli Arab vehicle nr. the Green Line that they mistakenly believe to be a carload of "terrorists" infiltrating fr. the West Bank, killing 1 Israeli Arab, wounding 1. The IDF conducts arrest raids in Jenin (targeting Islamic Jihad). Israel's Jerusalem police arrest 200 Palestinians fr. Hebron, Nablus for being in Shu'fat r.c., in East Jerusalem, without permits. A group of religious Jews on an Israeli police-escorted tour of the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif attempt to perform rituals there; Israeli police remove the group when Waqf guards attempt to intervene; Arafat calls the tours "provocative," warns serious consequences may be unavoidable if Israel continues to permit such visits. (HA 7/22; HA, NYT, WP 7/23; PCHR 7/24)

23 JULY

At the entrance to Shu'fat r.c., 4 Palestinian youths stab, lightly injure a Jewish settler on a bicycle. The IDF conducts arrest raids in Hebron, but allows the HRC to resume work halted on 7/2. (ITV, VOI, YA 7/25 in WNC 7/29; NYT, WP 7/26; PR 7/30; PCHR 8/7; MEI 8/8)

24 JULY

The IDF conducts arrest raids in Hebron (targeting the AMB), Jenin (targeting Islamic Jihad), Ramallah (targeting the AMB). Israeli border police fatally shoot a bedouin driving in the Negev when he refuses orders to stop; the Israelis suspected him of transporting illegal workers fr. the occupied territories; 10s of angry local residents demonstrate, damage police cars, throw stones at police officers. Unidentified assailants attempt to assassinate PA military intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Musa Arafat, firing a rocket-propelled grenade at his office; the grenade misses, hits a prison, injuring 13 inmates. Israel announces that the Jewish settler population has increased by 5,415 during the 1st half of 2003. (HA, MM 7/24; AFP, WP 7/25; JP 7/27 in WNC 7/30; PR 7/30; PCHR 8/7)

25 JULY

An IDF soldier at a checkpoint opens machine-gun fire on a Palestinian vehicle for no reason, killing a 5-yr-old Palestinian, wounding his 6- and 7-yr.-old sisters; the IDF says it was "an operational error." The IDF imposes additional travel restrictions on residents of Gaza's al-Mawasi area, where all Palestinians are already required to have special magnetic cards to enter or leave; new restrictions bar men ages 16–25 fr. entering or leaving the areas without prior coordination with the IDF, bars all residents fr. carrying objects across checkpoints (foodstuffs will be allowed in 2 days/wk., metal goods 1 day/wk), requires back-to-back hauling of goods (meaning trucks are offloaded at a crossing and goods loaded onto another truck on the opposite side). (MM 7/25; VOI 7/25 in WNC 7/29; NYT, WP 7/26; PR 7/30; PCHR 8/7; MEI 8/8)

Bush meets with Abbas; praises his efforts to halt violence, but says that the onus is on the PA to halt violence. (MM 7/25; NYT, WP 7/26; al-Quds 7/26, 7/27 in WNC 7/29; MM 7/28; AYM 7/28 in WNC 7/31; PR 7/30; WJW 7/31; TJT 8/1 in WNC 8/5; MEI 8/8)

26 JULY

Jewish settlers stone 3 Palestinian homes in Hebron, breaking windows but causing no injuries; the IDF does not intervene. (PR 7/30; PCHR 8/7)

27 JULY

On the eve of Sharon's 7/28 mtg. with Bush in Washington, the IDF removes 6 West Bank checkpoints (3 outside Bethlehem, 2 outside Ramallah, 1 outside...
Hebron), in most cases adding roving checkpoints nearby to search cars, slowing traffic considerably; pledges to release 100 Palestinian prisoners. The IDF also bulldozes a greenhouse, some land in Rafah. (AYM 7/27 in WNC 7/31; MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/28; MM 7/29; UN Office for the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs press release 8/5; PCHR 8/7)

28 JULY

The IDF fires rubber bullets, tear gas at some 200 Palestinians demonstrating against the separation wall w. of Jenin. (NYT, WP 7/29; PCHR 8/7)

29 JULY

The IDF fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah. (PCHR 8/7)

Bush, Sharon meet in Washington. Bush urges Sharon to make gestures to bolster Abbas. Sharon pledges to free 540 Palestinian prisoners, remove a few road blocks, dismantle unauthorized settlement outposts; says he will not do more until the PA begins to dismantle militant groups; rejects Bush’s appeal to halt construction of the separation wall, but says he will slow construction deep in Palestinian areas and add more crossing points. (JP, MM 7/29; BBC, MM, NYT, PR, WP, WT 7/30; AYM, HJ 7/30, IDF Radio, JP, MA, VOI 7/31 in WNC 8/5; JPI, MEI 8/8)

30 JULY

The IDF conducts arrest raids in Hebron (targeting Hamas, Islamic Jihad); fires on farmers working their fields nr. Khan Yunis, forcing them to leave; makes incursions in Nablus; sends troops into Ramallah to halt a marked al-Ayyum vehicle, arrests 4 Palestinian journalists; announces that it has arrested 3 PFLP mbrs. in recent days for plotting an attack on IDF forces in the West Bank. Hamas, Islamic Jihad say their cease-fire may have to be reassessed if the U.S. fails to urge Israel to halt construction of the separation wall. (AP 7/30; PCHR 8/7)

Dahan, Mofaz discuss IDF redeployment fr. Jericho (where the IDF has no presence) and Qalqilya (encircled by the separation wall, with 1 IDF checkpoint providing entry, exit). Dahan rejects the offer as hollow. (HA, IDF Radio, MA, MM, NYT, YA 7/31; VOI 7/31 in WNC 8/1) (see Quarterly Update)

31 JULY

A Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. Israel issues tenders for construction of 22 new housing units in Gaza’s Neve Dekalim settlement; since the beginning of 2003, Israel has issued 687 tenders for new settlement housing units. (HA, MM 7/31; NYT, WT 8/1; PCHR 8/7; AYM 8/7 in WNC 8/14)

The Knesset authorizes (53-25 with 1 abstention) a 1-yr. amendment of the citizenship law to deny citizenship, permanent residency status to Palestinians fr. the territories who marry Israeli citizens, forcing couples to live apart or leave Israel, preventing automatic citizenship of a child born of 1 Palestinian, 1 Israeli parent. Some 21,000 couples are affected. (HA, JP 5/27; PR 5/28; HA 6/18; MM 6/27; HA, MM 7/31; JP 7/31 in WNC 8/1; NYT, WP 8/1; MM 8/4; AYM 8/4 in WNC 8/8; MM 8/5; WT 8/18)

The World Zionist Organization (WZO) plans 30 new Jewish settlements in the Galilee and Negev to offset the rapid bedouin and Israeli Arab growth rates there and “ensure that Israel remains a Jewish state.” (JTA 7/31)

1 AUGUST

The IDF fires rubber bullets, tear gas at 100s of Palestinian and international demonstrators attempting to cut the separation wall nr. Tulkarm; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis. (WP 8/2; PCHR 8/7)

2 AUGUST

In Gaza, 1 Palestinian teenager is killed, 6 are wounded in a mysterious explosion. The IDF searches Palestinian homes in Dayr al-Balah; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis. Arafat orders the PSF to detain 17 AMB mbrs. who have taken refuge in his Ramallah compound to evade Israeli capture; the PA is negotiating with Israel to move the AMB mbrs. to a PA jail in Jericho; 5 AMB mbrs. agree to go, while the other 12 resist, saying they would resume attacks on Israel if the transfer occurs. (XIN 8/2 in WNC 8/5; NYT, WP, WT 8/3; MM 8/4, 8/5; PCHR 8/7)

Hizballah mbr. Ali Hussein Saleh, a driver for the Iranian emb., and a passerby are killed by a car bomb in Beirut. Hizballah
3 AUGUST

The IDF fatally shoots a Palestinian who allegedly fails to stop at a roadblock; places a curfew on Palestinian villages nr. a settler bypass road outside Dayr al-Balah. In apparent reaction to the IDF shooting of a car carrying 3 children on 7/25, AMB gunmen fire on a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Har Gilo settlement, nr. Bethlehem, injuring a Jewish settler, her 3 children. Arafat releases the 17 AMB mbrs. fr. detention in his compound (see 8/2) after they promise to adhere to the cease-fire; the PA says it was unwilling to risk a confrontation with the AMB over the men’s arrest. (HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/4; IDF Radio, VOI, XIN 8/4 in WNC 8/6; MM 8/5; PCHR 8/7; MEI 8/8)

4 AUGUST

The IDF fatally shoots an AMB mbr. nr. Tulkarm who was allegedly planting a roadside bomb; fires on a taxi driving into Nablus, injuring 2 Palestinians; fires on residential areas of Balata r.c., Rafah; arrests 2 Palestinians in East Jerusalem for allegedly aiding suicide bombers who staged attacks in 5/03, 6/03; demolishes a Palestinian home in Masha to make way for the separation wall, arrests 46 ISM mbrs. (including 4 Israelis, 3 Palestinians) protesting the construction. Palestinians fire an antitank rocket at an IDF post on the Rafah border, causing no damage or injuries. Jewish settlers shoot, wound a Palestinian nr. Nablus; begin work on a new unauthorized outpost e. of Hebron. (HA 8/7; NYT, WP, WT 8/8; PCHR 8/8)

Israel publishes a list of 342 Palestinian prisoners it plans to free on 8/6. To protest the lower-than-promised number (see 7/29), Abbas cancels a mtg. with Sharon scheduled for 8/6. (BBC, HA, MM, NYT, WP 8/5; IDF Radio, VOI, XIN, YA 8/5 in WNC 8/7; NYT, WP 8/6; AYM 8/7 in WNC 8/14; MEI 8/8)

5 AUGUST

In Gaza City, a Palestinian boy is killed when he accidentally detonates unexploded IDF ordnance while searching through the rubble of his family home, blown up by the IDF in 5/03. (WT 8/6; PCHR 8/7)

6 AUGUST

Israel releases 335 Palestinian prisoners (see 8/4). The IDF makes a rare raid on Jericho, imposing a 5-hr. curfew; arresting 15 mbrs. of the Palestinian security services for allegedly plotting an attack. Palestinians toss a grenade at Neve Dekalim settlement in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. In Nazareth, Israeli Jewish youths throw stones at Israeli Arab vehicles, damaging 6 cars, lightly injuring 1 woman. (BBC, HA, MM, NYT 8/6; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/7)

7 AUGUST

The IDF removes 3 roadblocks on the Jenin-Jerusalem road; fires on residential areas of al-Quara. In Ramallah, AMB mbrs. abduct, execute an alleged Palestinian collaborator. (HA 8/7; NYT, WP, WT 8/8; PCHR 8/14)

8 AUGUST

IDF troops raid Askar r.c., accompanied by 4 armored personnel carriers, 14 military jeeps, 2 armored bulldozers, and 2 helicopters; surround the apartment building where wanted Hamas mbrs. Hamis Abu Salam, Fayiz al-Sadar live, sparking a fire fight that leaves at least 1 of the Palestinians, 1 IDF soldier dead; shell the 4-story building by helicopter, destroying it; the body of the 2d Palestinian is found in the rubble. The attack, which Hamas considers an assassination, sparks demonstrations in Askar; the IDF fires live ammunition, rubber bullets, tear gas at the crowds, killing 1 Palestinian, wounding 6; a Palestinian, overcome by teargas, dies at a hospital. Nr. Jenin, 3 Palestinian gunmen fire on an IDF outpost, are wounded and arrested. Israel indicts 2 Jewish settlers, arrested on 7/17, on charges of transporting explosives, membership in a “Jewish terror cell.” (AFP, BBC, HA, MM 8/8; VOI, XIN 8/8, MENA, al-Quds 8/10 in WNC 8/12; NYT, WP, WT 8/9; AYM 8/10 in WNC 8/14; PCHR 8/14)

Hizballah, retaliating for the 8/2 car bombing, fires mortars, antitank rockets at an IDF post in the disputed Shaba’ Farms area of the Golan. Israel responds by shelling Hizballah positions by
plane, artillery. No injuries are reported in the exchange. (BBC, HA, MM 8/8; NYT, WP, WT 8/9; Islamic Republic News Agency 8/10 in WNC 8/12) (see Quarterly Update)

9 AUGUST

The IDF conducts arrest raids nr. Nablus, targeting Hamas; fires on residential areas of Dayr al-Balah, Khan Yunis. Palestinians fire 2 mortars at Gush Katif settlement, causing no damage or injuries. (VOI 8/9 in WNC 8/12; PCHR 8/14)

10 AUGUST

The IDF conducts arrest raids in Bayt Furik, nr. Hebron; imposes a curfew on Hebron; fires on residential areas of Dayr al-Balah, Khan Yunis for the 2d night in a row; bulldozes 5 dunams of land in Bayt Hanun. 100s of Druze protest outside the PM's office in Jerusalem against a government plan to unify local authorities, scuffle with police, leaving 14 police officers injured, 20 Druze under arrest. (HA 8/10; WT 8/11; HA 8/12; PCHR 8/14)

Hizballah directs antiaircraft at Israeli planes violating Lebanon's airspace. Shrapnel fr. the missiles lands across the Israeli border in Shlomi, killing 1 Israeli boy, injuring 4. Israeli warplanes strike Hizballah targets in response. (HA 8/10; VOI, YA 8/10 in WNC 8/12; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/11; JP, MA, VOI, YA 8/13 in WNC 8/15; NYT, PCHR, WP 8/14)

Hizballah also conducts antiaircraft at Israeli planes violating Lebanon's airspace. Shrapnel fr. the missiles lands across the Israeli border in Shlomi, killing 1 Israeli boy, injuring 4. Israeli warplanes strike Hizballah targets in response. (HA 8/10; VOI, YA 8/10 in WNC 8/12; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/11; JP, MA, VOI, YA 8/13 in WNC 8/15; NYT, PCHR, WP 8/14)

12 AUGUST

An AMB suicide bomber fr. Nablus detonates a device in a supermarket in Rosh Ha'ayn, just across the West Bank border, inside Israel, killing 1 Israeli, wounding 10; the area was already on alert after the PA informed Israel of reports of a pending attack. Soon after, a Hamas suicide bomber fr. Nablus, retaliating for the IDF killing of 2 Hamas mbrs. on 8/8, detonates a device at a bus stop outside Ariel settlement, killing 1 Jewish settler, wounding 3. Israel freezes the release of another 76 Palestinian prisoners who were to be freed today; seals Azun and Qalqilya to conduct searches for Palestinians who may have aided the bombers, arresting several persons; places a closure on Nablus; otherwise says it will not respond. Abbas, in Qatar, cuts short his visit to the Gulf, heads to Amman, where he condemns the bombings but also Israeli provocations. The IDF demolishes a Palestinian home in the Jabal Mukabir area of East Jerusalem. (BBC, HA, MM 8/12; Interfax, MENA, XIN 8/12 in WNC 8/14; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/13; JP, MA, VOI, YA 8/13 in WNC 8/15; NYT, PCHR, WP 8/14)

13 AUGUST

The IDF demolishes the Askar r.c. home of 1 of the 8/12 suicide bombers; demolishes another 6 Palestinian homes in al-Walaja; conducts late-night arrest raids in Nablus, Qalqilya. The IDF also arrests 3 Jewish settlers fr. Hebron on charges of committing "security crimes"; an Israeli judge places a gag order on the case. A package bomb, possibly placed by Islamic Jihad, explodes outside the PSF office in Shati r.c., causing damage but no injuries. (MENA 8/13 in WNC 8/15; HA, NYT, WP 8/14; HA 8/15)

14 AUGUST

The IDF surrounds, fires on, then shells a car workshop where Islamic Jihad Hebron leader Muhammad Sidr (whom Israel attempted to assassinate in 12/01) is staying, killing him in an apparent assassination; demolishes the Nablus home of the 2d 8/12 suicide bomber. The PSF raids Shati r.c. in Gaza in search of Islamic Jihad mbrs., suspected of detonating a bomb outside PSF offices on 8/13; the raid sparks an exchange of gunfire
that leaves 7 Palestinians, including bystanders, wounded; 1 senior Islamic Jihad mbr. is arrested. Islamic Jihad accuses the PA of complicity in Sidr's assassination. (BBC, HA, MM, PCHR 8/14; NYT, WP, WT 8/15)

Mofaz meets with Dahlan, reiterates Israel’s proposal to turn over control of Jericho, Qalqilya; says it will accelerate the transfer of another city if the PA accepts. (HA, MM 8/15) (see 7/30; Quarterly Update)

Israel: warplanes break the sound barrier over Lebanon’s Biqa’ Valley. Hizballah, after not responding for several days to the flights, fires antiaircraft missiles at them, but directs the missiles northward, to ensure that no shrapnel falls in Israeli territory. (HA 8/15) (see Quarterly Update)

15 AUGUST

The IDF conducts overnight arrest raids in Qalqilya, targeting the PFLP, exchanging gunfire with some wanted men, leaving 1 Palestinian injured; conducts other arrest raids in Nablus, Tamun; demolishes 1 Palestinian home in Balata r.c.; arrests Hebron’s Shaykh Taysir Tamimi after Friday prayers on charges of incitement. The IDF also releases 73 Palestinian prisoners, including 1 woman, most of whom were convicted of being in Israel illegally. Israel eases restrictions on Bethlehem Palestinians’ entry into Israel, says it will allow 2 colleges in Hebron to reopen. (HA, MM8/15; HA 8/18)

Dahlan accepts Mofaz’s proposal to redeploy fr. Jericho and Qalqilya. Israel agrees to consider redeployment fr. Ramallah, Tulkarm. (HA 8/15; HA, NYT, WP, WT 8/16) (see Quarterly Update)

Israel warplanes fly low-level sorties over Syrian pres. Bashar al-Asad’s summer palace in Latakia, on the Syrian coast, as a warning that he must curb Hizballah actions in Lebanon. (HA 8/17) (see Quarterly Update)
A Palestinian boy absorbs (7/1) the damage to his family’s orange grove, uprooted by the IDF during a six-week closure on Bayt Hanun. (Reuters/Reinhard Krause)