CHRONOLOGY

16 MAY–15 AUGUST 2004

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This section is part eighty-two 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

As Israeli-Palestinian tensions continue to run high in Gaza, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) fatally shoots 3 Palestinians who enter a closed military zone nr. Gaza’s border with Israel; fires missiles at 3 sites in Gaza City (the local Fatah headquarters, Hamas’s al-Risala newspaper, an electrical transformer), cutting electricity to part of the city, wounding at least 3 Palestinian children. Gaza crossings into Israel remain closed for the 8th consecutive week.

Rejecting a 5/15 petition by a Palestinian human rights group, the Israeli High Court says the IDF may widen the Philadelphi Route buffer zone along the Gaza border with Egypt, potentially demolishing 100s of Palestinian homes, ruling that the army has a “real, imminent need” to do so. The IDF announces over loudspeakers in Rafah’s Bloc O section, where much bulldozing has occurred, that Palestinians have 24 hrs. to evacuate their homes; fires on residential areas to encourage Palestinians to leave. The International Comm. of the Red Cross begins setting up a tent camp in Rafah able to provide emergency housing for 1,500 Palestinians left homeless by IDF bulldozing operations in the past wk. and those fleeing in fear of further demolitions. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysha refugee camp (r.c.) nr. Bethlehem, begins bulldozing 45 dunams (4 dunams = 1 acre) of Palestinian land nr. Jerusalem for a new segment of the separation wall. (AFP, NYT, WP 5/16; AFP, MM, NYT 5/17; VOP 5/17 in WNC 5/19; NYT, PCHR, WP 5/18; PR 5/19; PCHR 5/20; JPI, MEI 5/28)

18 MAY

In the pre-dawn hours, the IDF imposes a 24-hr. curfew, begins house-to-house searches in the Tal al-Sultan neighborhood of Rafah bordering the Philadelphi Route, occupies some buildings as observation posts; begins digging a trench to separate a section of Rafah r.c. fr. the rest of the camp, demolishing at least 3 Palestinian homes, cutting water and electricity supplies. Around daybreak, the IDF begins bulldozing operations, launches 3 missile strikes inside Rafah: the 1st killing 3 Hamas mbrs., wounding military offensive against Palestinian militants, dubbed Operation Rainbow. Tanks, armored personnel carriers, armored bulldozers, helicopters, troops ring the city, firing on any traffic attempting to enter or exit. Many residents nr. the Philadelphi Route evacuate their homes, taking their belongings with them. IDF troops also fire on the area to encourage Palestinians to leave. In Gaza City, the IDF fires missiles at offices of Fatah, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, causing damage but no reported injuries. The IDF also imposes a curfew on Silwad nr. Ramallah, fires on stone-throwing youths, killing 1 Palestinian; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c. nr. Nablus, Bethlehem, Yatta nr. Hebron; demolishes 3 Palestinian homes nr. Hebron for construction of the separation wall; evacuates the unauthorized settlement outpost Mitzpe Yitzhar nr. Nablus; arrests an Israeli Arab fr. Um al-Fahm for allegedly plotting with Hamas to stage attacks inside Israel. (AFP, HA, MM, WP 5/17; VOI, VOP 5/17 in WNC 5/19; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 5/18; PR 5/19; PCHR 5/20; JPI, MEI 5/28)
5 gunmen and bystanders; the 2d killing 1 Hamas mbr. laying a roadside bomb nr. a mosque where Palestinians are leaving dawn prayers, also killing 5 bystanders, wounding several others, starting a fire that severely damages the mosque; the 3d hitting a residential area, killing 7 Palestinians (many in their homes), wounding at least 16. The IDF reports killing at least 3 more Palestinians, demolishing at least another 9 Palestinian homes during the day. A 20th Palestinian reportedly dies when explosives he is handling detonate. At least 2 ambulances are deliberately targeted by IDF snipers. The IDF also fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis. In the West Bank, the IDF ambushes, assassinates wanted al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB) mbr. Muhammad Obeid as he drives nr. Sanur nr. Jenin, also wounding his passenger; raids Jenin r.c., fatally shoots wanted AMB mbr. Ahmad Judah in an apparent assassination, wounding a 2d Palestinian; fatally shoots an AMB mbr., a Palestinian gunman in separate incidents in Nablus; conducts arrest raids targeting Hamas in Tulkarm; orders the confiscation of 380 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Bethlehem for construction of the separation wall. A Palestinian dies of injuries received in 4/04. (BBC, HA, MM, NYT, PCHR, PRCS, PM, WP 5/18; ITAR-TASS, ITV, MENA, PSCT, VOI, VOP, XIN 5/18 in WNC 5/20; HA, NYT, PR, WP, WT 5/19; PCHR 5/20; NYT 5/21; PR 5/26)

19 MAY

IDF expands operations in Rafah to Brazil r.c. and al-Salam neighborhood. IDF helicopters fire 4 missiles at some 3,000 Palestinians, mostly school children, staging a peaceful march fr. neighboring Shabura to Rafah’s Tal al-Sultan neighborhood in protest against the incursion, killing at least 8 Palestinians, wounding more than 60; Israel apologizes for the deaths, saying “warning shots” went astray, but says Operation Rainbow will continue. Also in Rafah, the IDF fires a missile at 5 Palestinian gunmen, killing them all; fatally shoots a 13-yr.-old Palestinian boy who leaves his home under curfew to get water for his family; continues house-to-house searches; orders all Palestinian males between ages 16 and 50 to gather in a local school, transfers them to bases at nearby Jewish settlements for interrogation, releases most by sunset; demolishes at least 5 Palestinian homes. In the West Bank, the IDF shells an apartment building in Askar r.c. nr. Nablus, claiming that wanted Palestinians were hiding inside but finding none. (HA, MM, YA 5/19; HA, MM, NYT, PCHR, REU, WP WT 5/20; HJ, Interfax, XIN 5/20 in WNC 5/22; CSM, MM, NYT 5/21; WP 5/25; PR 5/26; PCHR 5/27)

20 MAY

The IDF continues Operation Rainbow, moving deeper into Rafah, killing 8 Palestinians (including Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades local cmdr. Khalid Abu Azna, who is assassinated in a helicopter air strike), detaining 70, bulldozing at least 1 Palestinian home, knocking down a small zoo (killing some animals, freeing others); the IDF admits it has found no smugglers’ tunnels since the start of the operation. The IDF also assassinates Qalqilya Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades leader Mazin Yasin; opens fire on stone-throwing youths in Hebron (killing a 13-yr.-old Palestinian), Qalqilya; conducts arrest raids in Jenin, Khan Yunis, Qalqilya. Another 13-yr.-old Palestinian dies of injuries sustained during the 5/11 IDF raid on Gaza City. An Israeli court convicts West Bank Fatah secy., Palestinian Council (PC) mbr., and tanzim leader Marwan Barghouti on 5 counts of murder in connection with 3 AMB shooting attacks in 2001–2, acquits him on 21 other counts for lack of evidence; Barghouti was detained in 4/02. (MM, REU 5/20; HA, ITAR-TASS, JP, MA, VOI, VOP, YA 5/20 in WNC 5/22; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/21; PR 5/26; PCHR, WJW 5/27; MEI 5/28; PR 6/2)

21 MAY

The IDF begins redeploying troops to the outskirts of parts of Rafah (Brazil r.c., Tal al-Sultan), but bulldozes 298 dunams of agricultural land and 1 Palestinian home in the Tal al-Sultan area. The UN begins moving 10,000 gallons of emergency water supplies into Rafah. The IDF also conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem and in Nablus, Qalqilya; bulldozes a road, 4 dunams of land nr. Khan Yunis; fires on residential areas nr. Khan Yunis, Qalqilya, Tulkarm. An 18-yr.-old Palestinian dies of injuries received during the 5/12 IDF raid on Gaza City. A 2d Palestinian dies of injuries received during the 5/15 IDF raid on Rafah. (AP MM, WP 5/21; VOI 5/21 in WNC 5/25; WT 5/22; PCHR 5/27)
22 MAY

The IDF sends reinforcements into Rafah, fatally shoots a 3-yr.-old Palestinian girl, bulldozes 311 dunams of agricultural land along Salah al-Din Street, demolishes 4 Palestinian homes completely, damages 5, finds its 1st smugglers’ tunnel since operations resumed on 5/17. The UN now estimates that as many as 60 Palestinian homes have been demolished since 5/17. Tanks continue to surround Tal al-Sultan; troops allow an UNRWA convoy to bring in emergency food supplies, water, blankets into the neighborhood, but bar private relief groups. In the West Bank, the IDF raids Yabad nr. Jenin, imposes a curfew, fires on residential areas. Nr. Nablus, a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) suicide bomber detonates a device at an IDF checkpoint outside a Jewish settlement, killing himself, wounding 3 Palestinians, 1 IDF soldier. A Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. (VOI, VOP 5/22 in WNC 5/25; NYT, WP, WT 5/23; PR 5/26; PCHR, WP 5/27)

23 MAY

IDF bulldozing operations continue in Rafah. The IDF also reopens the Erez industrial zone to Palestinian workers over age 30; burns a grove of 80 almond trees nr. Tal Rumayda settlement in Hebron; fires on Palestinian farmers tending an orchard nr. Tulkarm, seriously injuring 1; fires on residential areas, demolishes a workshop in Dura nr. Hebron; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids nr. Jenin. In Nablus, 3 Hamas mbrs. are killed when something explodes in or nr. their car in what may be an assassination. The IDF raids the UNRWA offices in Jenin, fires a shot at senior project manager Paul Wolstenholme, handcuffs and blindfolds him, holds him for 3 hrs., threatening him with violence; IDF officials later apologize. (PSCT, VOI, VOP 5/23 in WNC 5/25; NYT, WP, WT 5/25; PR 5/26; PCHR, WP 5/27; MEI 5/28)

24 MAY

During the day, the IDF continues operations in Rafah, bulldozing 5 Palestinian houses completely, redeploying tanks surrounding Tal al-Sultan away fr. the area (bulldozing 120 dunams of agricultural land before leaving), moving tanks and bulldozers into Brazil r.c., firing on residential areas. The IDF withdraws fr. Rafah after sundown, effectively ending Operation Rainbow, saying that since 5/17 it found 3 tunnels and demolished 56 “structures” that allegedly had provided cover for Palestinian gunmen, that it will regroup and resume operations soon. After the pullback, the IDF fires on a funeral in Rafah, seriously injuring several Palestinians. The IDF also raids Balata r.c., fires on stone-throwing youths, killing 1 Palestinian. (JTA, MM, NYT, PM, REU 5/24; MENA, VOI 5/24 in WNC 5/26; AP, NYT, WP, WT 5/25; MM, PR 5/26; PCHR 5/27; JPI 6/4)

Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Sulayman meets separately with Israeli PM Ariel Sharon, Palestinian Authority (PA) head Yasser Arafat to present them with a list of conditions that Egypt would require to be in place before it would agree to retrain Palestinian security forces to assume security control in Gaza under Sharon’s disengagement plan. (MM 5/24; MENA, VOI, YA 5/24 in WNC 5/26; AP, MM, NYT, REU, WT 5/25; MENA, VOP 5/25 in WNC 5/27; WP 5/26; AYM 5/26, AYM, VOP 5/27 in WNC 6/1; NYT, WP 5/28; VOP 5/31 in WNC 6/1; NYT, WP 5/28; VOP 5/31 in WNC 6/2) (see Quarterly Update)

25 MAY

The IDF conducts predawn arrest raids, house searches in Jenin, several villages around Bethlehem and Hebron; raids a bakery nr. Jerusalem, arresting 5 Palestinian workers fr. ‘Ayn Bayt al-Ma’ r.c. nr. Nablus; bulldozes 95 dunams of land along a settler bypass road between Karni crossing and Shuhada Junction nr. Gaza City, 12 dunams outside Khan Yunis. (MENA 5/25 in WNC 5/27; PCHR 5/27)

26 MAY

The IDF fatally shoots a mentally handicapped Palestinian who strays into a closed military zone nr. Khan Yunis; fires on residential areas of Nablus, Rafah (killing 1 Palestinian), Tulkarm r.c.; bulldozes 95 dunams of land along a settler bypass road between Karni crossing and Shuhada Junction nr. Gaza City. 12 dunams outside Khan Yunis. (MENA 5/25 in WNC 5/27; PCHR 5/27)

27 MAY

The IDF demolishes 1 Palestinian home, bulldozes 14 dunams of agricultural
land nr. Khan Yunis; demolishes a Palestinian home in Brazil r.c.; conducts arrest raids in Balata r.c., Bethlehem, al-Fawwar r.c., Hebron, Nablus, and the villages of Tura and Zinna in the n. West Bank; shells residential areas of Rafah; fires on residential areas of Nablus. (VOI 5/28 in WNC 6/1; PCHR 6/3)

28 MAY

A Palestinian suicide bomber detonates a car bomb at the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, killing only himself, lightly injuring 2 IDF soldiers. The IDF fatally shoots a Palestinian, wounds a 2d nr. Dayr al-Balah; bulldozes tents and tin shacks housing 95 Palestinians nr. a settler bypass road leading to Gaza’s Gush Katif bloc; bulldozes 12 dunams of land in Wadi al-Silqa nr. Dayr al-Balah, 9 dunums nr. the Rafah crossing; fires on residential areas of Dayr al-Balah; imposes a curfew on, conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jaba’ nr. Jenin; confiscates 5,500 m² of agricultural land nr. Salit, located bwn. the separation wall and the Green Line, that provides income for some 60 Palestinian families. In Hebron, 15 Jewish settlers fr. Kiryat Arba, escorted by IDF troops, attack Palestinian homes. A Palestinian dies of injuries received during the IDF raid on Rafah on 5/20. (VOI 5/28 in WNC 6/1; NYT 5/29; PCHR 6/3)

29 MAY

The IDF closes all checkpoints around Nablus; raids neighboring Balata r.c., where Palestinian gunmen fatally shoot 1 IDF soldier; bulldozes 25 Palestinian homes in Rafah. The IDF also stages a late night raid on Tulkarm r.c., firing on residential areas. During the raid, there is an explosion on the main road through the camp that injures 1 Palestinian, who is evacuated to a local hospital. The IDF raids the hospital, arrests the injured man. Overnight, the IDF also halts, searches car outside Arafat’s Ramallah compound, arresting 3 Palestinians, including a bodyguard of PLO Exec. Comm. secy. and fmr. PM Mahmud Abbas. (WP 5/30; WP 6/1; HA 6/2; PCHR 6/3)

30 MAY

The IDF assassinates Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades leader Wa’il Nassar, firing missiles at his motorcycle as he drives through Gaza City, also killing his top assistant Muhammad Sarsur (riding with him) and 1 bystander, wounding 9 bystanders. The IDF opens checkpoints around Nablus to Palestinians over age 35; fires on farmers working a field outside Gaza’s Gadid settlement, wounding 1; demolishes a Palestinian home in Husan nr. Bethlehem; raids Ramallah, firing on residential areas, raiding the shari’a court, arresting 1 Palestinian, wounding 4; conducts arrest raids nr. Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm. 3 Jewish settlers fr. Tekoa nr. Bethlehem beat, seriously injure a Palestinian farmer grazing sheep nr. the settlement. Jewish settlers fr. Hebron, escorted by IDF troops, throw stones, bottles at local Palestinians, their homes. (NYT, WP WT 5/30; VOI, VOP 5/30 in WNC 6/1; MM 6/1; PR 6/2; PCHR 6/3; al-Quds 6/5 in WNC 6/5)

31 MAY

The IDF opens the Qarni commercial crossing (closed since the 5/14 Ashdod port bombings) for transportation of goods fr. Israel into Gaza only; conducts arrest raids nr. Bethlehem, Hebron; fires on Palestinians who confront troops searching several Palestinian men, injuring 2; fires on residential areas of Balata r.c.; demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in al-Qarara nr. Khan Yunis; seizes around 400 dunams of land in Jinata nr. Bethlehem for construction of a settler bypass road that will divide the village in half. (VOI 5/31 in WNC 6/2; PCHR 6/3)

1 JUNE

The IDF shells Tal al-Sultan, hitting an UNRWA school, injuring 2 students in their classroom; raids Qabatyia nr. Jenin, surrounding and firing on a home sheltering a wanted AMB mbr., then firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, killing 1 Palestinian, wounding 5, arresting the wanted man; demolishes 8 Palestinian homes, 7 shops, 2 poultry farms completely, 6 homes partially in Rafah; demolishes a Palestinian home in Hazma nr. East Jerusalem; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around ‘Ayn Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho, Bayt Sahur nr. Bethlehem, Qalqilya, Nablus, Tulkarm; fires on residential areas of Abasan nr. Khan Yunis, Rafah; fires on a mentally handicapped Palestinian who strays into a closed military zone, wounding him; dynamites an apartment in Tulkarm, severely damaging 3 other units in the building; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah. Palestinians fire 2 Qassam rockets into Israel, damaging
a building in an industrial park in Sderot but causing no injuries. Some 130 PA security officers and personnel hold a sit-in outside the Force 17 offices in Dayr al-Baláh to protest corruption and mistreatment by their superiors and their impossible working conditions, saying it is impossible to do their jobs for lack of equipment, training, means of communications. (AP, HA 6/1; VOP 6/1 in WNC 6/3; UNRWA press release 6/2; PCHR 6/3; PR 6/9; MEI 6/11)

2 JUNE

The IDF demolishes 4 Palestinian homes in Anata, 2 in Sur al-Bahir for construction of the separation wall nr. East Jerusalem; demolishes another Palestinian home in Brazil r.c.; bulldozes 50 dunums of agricultural land nr. Qalqilya for a new settler bypass road to a small settler enclave nr. Alfe Menashe settlement; conducts arrest raids in Nablus and nr. Bethlehem, Ramallah. (VOP 6/2 in WNC 6/4; MM, PCHR, PM 6/5; IDF Radio, VOI, VOP 6/5 in WNC 6/5; PCHR 6/10)

3 JUNE

The IDF demolishes 18 Palestinian homes in Rafah; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Bayt Laqía nr. Ramallah, residential areas of Rafah; conducts arrest raids, house searches in villages around Bethlehem. IDF fires nr. Khan Yunis, sparking a fire in a wheat field that destroys 2 dunums of crops; confiscates 11.5 dunums of Palestinian land in Bayt Jala for construction of the separation wall; strings barbwire along the western part of al-Khadir outside Bethlehem, cutting off residents from their outlying farmlands; similarly cuts off the southern part of Husan nr. Bethlehem by bulldozing large areas of agricultural land. (MM 6/5; VOI, VOP 6/5 in WNC 6/5; PCHR 6/10)

4 JUNE

The IDF imposes a curfew on Ramallah, raids and searches an apartment building, arrests 5 Birzeit University students; demolishes 3 Palestinian homes in Hebron for construction of the separation wall; bulldozes land in al-Qarara in apparent preparation for a new IDF post; bulldozes 10 dunums of agricultural land in Wadi al-Silqa; fires on residential areas nr. Gaza’s Morag settlement; conducts arrest raids nr. Hebron, Nablus. (VOI 6/5 in WNC 6/8; PCHR 6/10)

5 JUNE

The IDF raids, occupies a Palestinian home in Dayr al-Baláh; raids Balata r.c., firing on houses, stone-throwing youths who confront the troops; shells residential areas of Rafah; conducts arrest raids nr. Hebron, Nablus. Jewish settlers fr. Kiryat Arba severely beat a 14-yr.-old Palestinian girl in Hebron. (XIN 6/6; PCHR 6/10)

6 JUNE

The IDF blocks all branch roads leading to the main Jerusalem-Ramallah road; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Qalandia r.c., fatally shooting a wheelchair-bound Palestinian; fatally shoots a Palestinian in a cemetery nr. Gaza’s Neve Dekalim, suspecting he might attack; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis (seriously wounding a Palestinian woman inside her home), Rafah r.c.; raids Balata r.c., firing on houses, stone-throwing youths who confront troops, injuring 4; begins work on a new segment of the separation wall around Jerusalem nr. Safit; conducts arrest raids in Balata r.c., Dayr Ghassana nr. Ramallah, Nablus, Tamun nr. Jenin. Palestinians detonate a roadside bomb nr. an IDF patrol in central Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. Jewish settlers in Hebron raze a 1.5 dunam Palestinian garden nr. the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs. Jewish settlers fr. Gil’ad nr. Qalqilya fire on a herd of Palestinian sheep, killing several; the IDF arrests 2 Palestinians who confront the settlers in protest. An Israeli court sentences Fatah’s Barghouti to 5 life terms plus 40 yrs. for conspiracy and membership in a “terror” organization (see 5/20). (XIN 6/6; MENA, VOI, VOP 6/6 in WNC 6/8; NYT, WP, WT 6/7; MA, VOI, VOP 6/7 in WNC 6/9; HA 6/8; PR 6/9; PCHR 6/10; MEI 6/11)

Sharon’s cabinet endorses (14-7) his revised Gaza disengagement plan to withdraw fr. all settlements in Gaza, 4 in the West Bank in 4 stages, each requiring cabinet approval. (HA 6/6; al-Quds 6/6, ITAR-TASS 6/7 in WNC 6/10; NYT, WP, WT 6/7; VOI 6/7 in WNC 6/9; PR 6/9; MM 6/10; Forward 6/11) (see Quarterly Update)

7 JUNE

The IDF fatally shoots a mentally handicapped Palestinian who ignores orders to halt nr. Tulkarm; fires on Palestinian, Israeli, international peace activists staging a nonviolent protest against the separation wall nr.
Qalqilya, wound a 14-yr-old Palestinian with live ammunition; strings a new fence along an 800-m section of a settler bypass road nr. Khan Yunis, leaving a Palestinian family trapped in their home in the 70-m narrow lane created btw. the old and new fences; raids, seals an Islamic charitable organization in Tulkarm, confiscating $11,000 of checks to aid poor families, $1,000 in cash, stamps, computer and office equipment; searches a house, bulldozes 500 m² of land nr. Dayr al-Balah; conducts arrest raids in Anabta, Arub r.c., Hebron, Nablus. (VOI, YA 6/7 in WNC 6/9; HA 6/8; PCHR 6/10)

8 JUNE

The IDF fires missiles at 2 car repair shops (suspected weapons factories) in Gaza’s Shatti r.c., destroying them, causing no injuries; begins bulldozing work on al-Quds University campus in Abu Dis for construction of the separation wall around Jerusalem, breaking agreements not to build on university land; demolishes a Palestinian home in Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Dahaysha r.c., Jenin, al-Khadir; fires on Palestinian, Israeli, international demonstrators staging a nonviolent protest against the separation wall nr. Qalqilya, wounding 2 Palestinians (1 with live ammunition); fires on residential areas nr. Khan Yunis, Ramallah. Palestinians fire a Qassam rocket into Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. In response, the IDF shells a Gaza City building housing a Hamas office, causing a fire, wounding 2 Palestinians. Israel says that all 187 Israeli businesses will be withdrawn fr. the Erez Industrial Zone for their own protection, leaving some 5,000 Palestinians unemployed. Jewish settlers fr. Kiryat Arba, escorted by IDF soldiers, throw stones at Palestinians in Hebron. (Globes, Qol Yisra’el Radio 6/8; VOA, VOP 6/8 in WNC 6/10; HA, MM, NYT, WP 6/9; VOI, YA 6/9 in WNC 6/11; PCHR 6/10)

9 JUNE

In Bayt Hanun, the IDF shells residential areas, occupies a vacated Palestinian home as an observation post, clashes with suspected Hamas mbrs, wounding 2 and mortally wounding 1 Palestinian, bars ambulances fr. reaching him, allowing him to bleed to death. The IDF also fatally shoots a wanted AMB mbr. in a raid on Jenin; occupies a vacant Palestinian home in Shaykh Ajlín nr. Gaza City as an observation post, bulldozes 10 dunams of surrounding land; fires on residential areas of Nablus, Rafah; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, Ramallah, and in Nablus, Qalqilya, Tulkarm, Wadi al-Silqa. Jewish settlers fr. Yitzhar steal a herd of sheep fr. local Palestinians; when Israeli police intervene to secure the sheep and return them to the Palestinians, the settlers attack and beat the Palestinians; Israeli police call in reinforcements, arrest 5 settlers. (VOI, VOP 6/9 in WNC 6/11; PCHR 6/10; VOI 6/10 in WNC 6/12; PCHR 6/17)

10 JUNE

The IDF fatally shoots a 14-yr-old Palestinian in Nablus, an 18-yr-old Palestinian in Bethlehem; occupies a Palestinian home, fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Bayt Fajjar nr. Bethlehem, mortally wounding 1 Palestinian bystander, barring others fr. removing him to an ambulance, allowing him to bleed to death; bulldozes 5 Palestinian homes, 200 dunams of citrus groves in Bayt Hanun; demolishes a Palestinian home in Bayt Surik in n. Jerusalem; bulldozes 16 dunams of land in al-Qarara, 13 dunams and an irrigation network in Wadi al-Silqa; conducts arrest raids in Hebron, Jenin (where Palestinian gunmen fire on troops, injuring 1 IDF soldier) and nr. Ramallah; fires tear gas, rubber bullets at Palestinian, Israeli, international peace activists staging a nonviolent demonstration against the separation wall nr. Salit, injuring 50. IDF undercover units raid a wedding in Ramallah, arrest 3 wanted Hamas mbrs., 1 of whom is the groom. Hamas distributes $100,000 in aid to 87 families fr. the Zaytun section of Gaza City whose homes were damaged or demolished during the 5/11-13 IDF raids there. (VOI, YA 6/10 in WNC 6/12; NYT, WP 6/11; VOA, VOP 6/11 in WNC 6/15; PCHR 6/17)

11 JUNE

The IDF fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, al-Qarara, evacuates, demolishes tin shacks in al-Qarara housing 95 Palestinians; bulldozes 10 dunams of agricultural land in Wadi al-Silqa; conducts arrest raids nr. Hebron, Ramallah. Palestinians fire an antitank rocket at an IDF patrol nr. Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. (VOI 6/11 in WNC 6/15; PCHR 6/17)
12 JUNE

The IDF raids, fires on residential areas of Jenin town and r.c., exchanges gunfire with Palestinian gunmen, leaving 1 Palestinian wounded; Palestinians claim the IDF raid targeted local AMB leader Zakariyya Zubaydi for assassination, but the IDF denies this. The IDF also conducts arrest raids nr. Nablus, Tulkarm and in al-Bireh, Hebron. (VOP 6/12 in WNC 6/15; PCHR 6/17)

13 JUNE

The IDF fires on residential areas of Rafah, wounding a 9-mo.-old baby; razes a Palestinian home, 65 dunams of agricultural land in al-Qarara; bulldozes 1.5 dunams of citrus trees, a telephone network in Dayr al-Balah; fires tear gas, live ammunition at Palestinian, Israeli, international peace activists protesting against the separation wall nr. Qalqilya, injuring a Palestinian cameraman working for Agence France-Presse and a South African protester, arresting an American; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Askar r.c., Bethlehem, Husan, Jenin town and r.c., al-Mughraira, Qalqilya, Ramallah, Yatta. The IDF also begins removing 40 earthen mounds, gates blocking Palestinian roads in the West Bank, easing Palestinian movement slightly; flying roadblocks, checkpoints at the entrances to towns and villages—the main barriers to Palestinians' free movement—will remain. (XIN 6/13; PCHR 6/17)

14 JUNE

The IDF assassinates AMB Balata r.c. cmdr. Khalid Marshud, firing missiles at his taxi in Nablus, also killing the taxi driver, seriously wounding 2 bystanders. The IDF also eases a curfew on Nablus, allowing Palestinians over age 30 to exit and enter; demolishes 3 Palestinian homes in Bethlehem, 2 in al-Qarara (also bulldozing 6 dunams of land); conducts arrest raids in Aida r.c. nr. Bethlehem, Nablus, Tulkarm. Wanted Hamas mbr. Awni Taha is killed in a mysterious explosion inside his Gaza City home, apparently while preparing explosives. Palestinians fire 2 Qassam rockets at Sderot, causing no damage or injuries. PA Education M Na'im al-Humus says that the IDF recently sent letters to several Palestinian colleges and universities warning that they could be shut down if they continue “incitement activities.” (XIN 6/13; PCHR 6/17)

15 JUNE

The IDF raids Balata r.c., takes up sniper positions atop a number of houses, fires on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, fatally shooting 1 Palestinian inside his home; conducts house searches in the Old City of Nablus, blowing the doors off 8 houses and 53 shops, detonating explosives to clear an alley blocked by barrels they fear could be booby trapped, damaging a church and a mosque; demolishes 15 Palestinian homes s. of Ramallah for construction of the separation wall; conducts arrest raids in Anabta, Nablus, al-Ram and nr. Bethlehem. Palestinians fire an anti-tank round at an IDF patrol in Gaza, lightly injuring 2 soldiers. (VOI, VOP 6/15 in WNC 6/17; NYT 6/16; VOI, VOP 6/16 in WNC 6/18; PCHR 6/17)

16 JUNE

IDF undercover units raid Jenin, assassinate AMB mbr. Majid al-Sa'adi, also fatally shooting a Palestinian bystander. The IDF also demolishes 3 Palestinian homes in Wadi al-Silqa; fires on protesting youths in Balata r.c. (seriously injuring 3), residential areas of Rafah; conducts arrest raids in al-Bireh, al-Duha nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, Tulkarm. Wanted Hamas mbr. Awni Taha is killed in a mysterious explosion inside his Gaza City home, apparently while preparing explosives. Palestinians fire 2 Qassam rockets at Sderot, causing no damage or injuries. PA Education M Na'im al-Humus says that the IDF recently sent letters to several Palestinian colleges and universities warning that they could be shut down if they continue “incitement activities.” (XIN 6/16; VOI, VOP 6/16 in WNC 6/18; NYT, PCHR 6/17; HA 6/18; VOP 6/16 in WNC 6/18; NYT 6/20; PR 6/25; PCHR 6/24)

17 JUNE

The IDF partially reopened the Erez crossing into Israel for the 1st time since 3/15, issuing permits for 513 Palestinian workers over age 35 (though only around two-thirds are able to enter Israel because of prolonged searches). The IDF also sends tanks, troops into Palestinian residential areas nr. Gaza’s Netzarim settlement, creating sand berms around 4 Palestinian homes, causing some damage to the buildings, destroying a well and a bird farm; conducts arrest raids in
The Palestinian Resistance Comms. (PRCs) fire a new Nasser 3 rocket, with a longer range than the Qassam 2, at Sederot, causing minor damage to a wall, garden shed; also fire 2 mortars at Gaza’s Kefar Darom settlement, causing no damage or injuries. The IDF fires missiles at 2 metal workshops (suspected Hamas weapons factories) in Gaza City, destroying the buildings but causing no injuries. The IDF also bulldozes 77 dunams of agricultural land in Bayt Hanun, 37 dunams nr. Khan Yunis; demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in al-Qarara, 1 in Rafah; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis; raids a home in Hebron, severely beating 25 residents; razes a grove of 400 olive trees in s. Nablus for construction of a new separation wall segment. (VOP 6/17 in WNC 6/19; PCHR 6/24)

18 JUNE

The Palestinian Resistance Comms. (PRCs) fire 3 missiles at 2 metal workshops (suspected Hamas weapons factories) in Gaza City, destroying the buildings but causing no injuries. The IDF also bulldozes 77 dunams of agricultural land in Bayt Hanun, 37 dunams nr. Khan Yunis; demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in al-Qarara, 1 in Rafah; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis; raids a home in Hebron, severely beating 25 residents; razes a grove of 400 olive trees in s. Nablus for construction of a new separation wall segment. (VOP 6/17 in WNC 6/19; PCHR 6/24)

19 JUNE

The IDF fires 3 missiles at a metal workshop (suspected Hamas weapons factory) in al-Maghazi, destroying the building, injuring 1 Palestinian; conducts arrest raids in Hebron; for no apparent reason fires on a Palestinian vehicle driving nr. Nablus, wounding 1 passenger; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem, Qalandia. 100s of Palestinians made homeless by IDF bulldozing operations in Rafah begin a sit-in outside the local PA offices to protest inadequate PA assistance to homeless families. (WP, WT 6/20; PCHR 6/24; PR 6/30)

20 JUNE

The IDF confiscates work permits of 10s of Rafah Palestinians with jobs inside Israel; fires on Palestinians in a Khan Yunis cemetery nr. Gadid settlement, wounding 1; conducts arrest raids and house searches nr. Hebron and in Khan Yunis, al-Qarara; fires on residential areas of al-Qarara. (PCHR 6/24)

21 JUNE

The IDF fires on a delegation of British, UN officials touring the destruction in Rafah, causing no injuries; Britain lodges a formal complaint with Israel. Nr. Salfit, the IDF also fires a new type of gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international peace activists staging a nonviolent protest against the separation wall, sending some 50 protesters to the hospital with severe convulsions, temporary blackouts, impaired vision, difficulty breathing; troops then raid a local hospital that treated the injured, beat medical workers. The IDF also fires on residential areas of Dayr al-Balah, Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids and house searches, demolishes 2 Palestinian homes, severely damages 11 in Wadi al-Silqa; Palestinians fire a mortar at Kefar Darom settlement, killing a Thai worker in a greenhouse; fire a Qassam rocket toward Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Unidentified assailants fire 25 shots at the empty, parked car of senior Fatah mbr. and Arafat loyalist Hani al-Hassan; Hassan blames Palestinian collaborators. (JTA 6/21; VOI 6/21 in WNC 6/23; MM 6/22; PR 6/25; PCHR 6/24; NYT 6/25)

22 JUNE

The IDF sends tanks, bulldozers into Bayt Hanun to raze 300 dunams of olive groves, side roads allegedly used by Palestinians who fire rockets at Sederot; fatally shoots 2 armed AMB mbrrs. who confront the IDF patrol, wounding a 3d; fires on residential areas, mortally wounding a Palestinian, bar-ring an ambulance fr. reaching him, allowing him to bleed to death; searches homes. The IDF also raids al-Quds Open University campus in Yatta, interrogates 10s of students, fires on stone-throwing students, wounding 3; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Nablus, Salfit; issues confiscation orders for 300 dunams of Palestinian land s. of Nablus for construction of the separation wall; fires on Palestinian residential areas nr. Gaza’s Morag settlement; fires on Palestinian, Israeli, international peace activists staging a nonviolent protest against the separation wall nr. Azariyya. (JP, VOI 6/22 in WNC 6/24; HA, NYT, PR 6/23; PCHR 6/24)
23 JUNE

The IDF raids Nablus, fatally shoots local Islamic Jihad military cmdr. Shadi Salim in an apparent assassination, severely beats a 2d Palestinian. The IDF also conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysha r.c. and nr. Ramallah, Tulkarm; fatally shoots a Palestinian who allegedly attempts to infiltrate Gaza’s Gan Or settlement; fires on residential areas of Rafah. Palestinians detonate a roadside bomb nr. an IDF patrol in Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. A Palestinian dies of injuries received during the 7/22 IDF raid on Bayt Hanun; a 2d Palestinian dies of injuries received during the 5/18 IDF raid on Rafah. (HA 6/23; VOI, VOP 6/23 in WNC 6/26; PR 6/30; PCHR 7/1)

Egyptian envoy Sulayman presents Arafat, PA PM Ahmad Qurai’, Sharon with a detailed timetable for moving forward with Sharon’s disengagement plan in a way that would link disengagement to the road map, a comprehensive cease-fire. (AP, MM 6/24; MENA, VOI, VOP 6/24 in WNC 6/25; MM 6/24; AYM, VOP 6/24 in WNC 6/25; NYT 6/25; PCHR 6/24; PR 6/30; PCHR 7/1)

24 JUNE

The IDF fatally shoots 2 armed Palestinians who allegedly attempt to attack an IDF post nr. Gaza’s Dugit settlement; imposes an around-the-clock curfew on Palestinian areas of Hebron; arrests an ambulance driver transporting an ailing child at a checkpoint nr. Qalqilya; fires on, shells residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah. The IDF also launches a major raid on Nablus to “clear the casbah of Palestinian fugitives,” surrounding refugee camps in search of 7 wanted AMB mbrs., sending in 100s of troops, taking over more than 12 buildings; conducts house searches, arrest raids in Dayr al-Balah, Hebron and nr. Tulkarm; evacuates an apartment building in Bethlehem, then blows up 1 unit, severely damaging several others; bulldozes 1 Palestinian home, some olive trees in the n. Gaza Strip. Homeless Palestinians end their sit-in strike (begun 6/19) after the PC announces plans to build some homes for the homeless. (VOI, VOP 6/24 in WNC 6/26; MM, NYT 6/25; NYT 6/26; PR 6/30; PCHR 7/1)

25 JUNE

The IDF continues its major raid on Nablus, fatally shooting 2 Palestinians who confront troops, injuring at least 18; bulldozes 2 Palestinian homes, 34 dunams nr. Rafah. (MM 6/25; NYT, WT 6/26; PCHR 7/1)

26 JUNE

In ongoing operations in Nablus, the IDF finds 5 wanted AMB mbrs., it has been hunting since 6/24 (including Nablus head Nayif Abu Sharq) hiding in a house with Islamic Jihad West Bank cmdr. Fadi al-Balhti (also known as Shaykh Ibrahim) and Hamas local cmdr. Jafar al-Masri; opens fire and tosses grenades into their hiding space, assassinating all 7. In a separate incident in Nablus, the IDF fatally shoots AMB mbr. Nidal Wawi in an apparent assassination. The IDF also fires on residential areas of Rafah; fires rubber bullets at Palestinian, Israeli, international peace activists holding a nonviolent demonstration against the wall n. of Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids in Abasan nr. Khan Yunis, Hebron. (REU 6/26; NYT, WT 6/27; HA 6/28; PR 6/30; PCHR, WJW 7/1; PR 7/7; MEI 7/9)

27 JUNE

The IDF closes the Erez crossing to Palestinians, which was partially reopened on 6/17; pulls out of Nablus, ending operations that began on 6/24; lifts the curfew on Palestinian areas of Hebron imposed on 6/24. Hamas mbrs. dig a tunnel underneath an IDF outpost in Gaza; detonate an explosive device, collapsing part of the concrete building, killing 1 IDF soldier, injuring at least 4; exchange fire with troops who come to the rescue; 2 Palestinian bystanders (a PA Preventive Security Force [PSF] officer, a 15-yr.-old Palestinian boy) are killed by IDF return gunfire. In response, the IDF fires 10 missiles at 2 metal workshops (alleged weapons factories) in Gaza City, destroying the buildings, causing “no major injuries.” The IDF also fires on a Palestinian truck approaching a checkpoint nr. Khan Yunis, killing 1 Palestinian. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/28; XIN 6/28 in WNC 7/1; PR 6/30; PCHR 7/1; PCHR 7/22)

28 JUNE

Hamas fires 5 Qassam rockets into Sderot, killing an Israeli man and a 3-yr.-old boy, seriously injuring the boy’s mother in the 1st fatal Palestinian rocket attack inside Israel. Sharon convenes his security cabinet, which declares that the IDF...
will respond with “harsher measures than in the past” in Gaza. During the day, the IDF blows up 2 abandoned 5-story apartment buildings in al-Qarara hiding the entrance of the tunnel to the IDF post attacked on 6/27; bulldozes 21 Palestinian homes, 101 dunams of agricultural land; demolishes a cement factory. The IDF also fatally shoots a mentally handicapped Palestinian who enters a closed military zone nr. Rafah; rocks the empty at-Jil press office in Gaza City, injuring 2 bystanders; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah. Late in the evening, IDF tanks roll into Bayt Hanan in n. Gaza, launching Operation Active Shield, allegedly meant to prevent Qassam rocket fire. In the West Bank, the IDF destroys 80 wells in Yamun nr. Jenin; fires on residential areas of Jenin town and r.c.; conducts arrest raids nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, Ramallah. An Israeli businessman who frequently travels to the West Bank is found fatally shot in Bayt Rima nr. Ramallah; the AMB claims responsibility, alleging that he conducted illegal business with corrupt PA officials. (MM 6/28; VOP, MA, VOI 6/29 in WNC 7/1; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/29; MM, PR 6/30; PCHR 7/1; MEI 7/9)

29 JUNE

Despite continuing IDF operations in Bayt Hanun, Palestinians fire 5 Qassam rockets fr. the area at Sderot, lightly injuring 1 Israeli. In Bayt Hanun, the IDF fatally shoots a 15-yr.-old Palestinian standing on a roof; bulldozes a main road through the town; a Hamas mbr. is killed when a roadside bomb he is planting detonates prematurely. The IDF also expands Bayt Hanun operations to include Jabaliya r.c.; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah; conducts house searches, arrest raids nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, Qalqilya. Jewish settlers uproot Palestinian trees along the road leading to their unauthorized settlement outpost of Ma'ale Shomron nr. Qalqilya. A Palestinian teenager dies of injuries received on 6/20. (VOI, VOP 6/29 in WNC 7/1; MM, NYT, PR, WP, WT 6/30; PCHR 7/1)

30 JUNE

The IDF continues operations in Bayt Hanun, fatally shooting an alleged Hamas mbr., bulldozing roads. The IDF also bulldozes 15 Palestinian homes, 15 dunams of land nr. Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids and house searches in, fires on residential areas of Nablus. Palestinians fire a mortar at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, causing light damage but no injuries. The Israeli High Court rules in favor of 7 village councils n. of Jerusalem that a 30 km separation wall segment violates Palestinians’ rights, recommends that the IDF come up with a revised route (see Doc. C1). (BBC, HA, JTA, MM, REU 6/30; MA, VOI, VOP 6/30 in WNC 7/2; MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 7/1; al-Quds 7/1 in WNC 7/9; MM, NYT 7/2; MM 7/7; HA, PCHR 7/8; MEI 7/9)

1 JULY

The IDF continues operations in Bayt Hanun, announcing plans to create a buffer zone around the town to prevent rocket fire, firing missiles into residential areas (killing 3 Palestinians, injuring 21), bulldozing at least 100 dunams of olive and citrus trees; raids Rafah allegedly to search for more smugglers tunnels, demolishes 7 Palestinian homes completely and 5 partially, severely damages 15 shops; makes a rare incursion into Jericho with some 40 military vehicles, reinforced by helicopters, declaring the town a closed military zone, demolishing 1 Palestinian home, arresting some 35 Palestinians; partially demolishes 2 Palestinian homes, a mosque, a garage, a bird farm in al-Qarara; exchanges gunfire with Palestinian militants in Gaza City, wounding 5; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, Biddu and Qutna nr. Ramallah, Jericho, al-Mughraqa. Nur al-Shams r.c. nr. Tulkarm; fires live ammunition, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international peace activists staging a nonviolent protest against the separation wall in Dayr Ballut nr. Qalqilya, lightly injuring 10s. (JTA, MM 7/1; IDF Radio, VOI, VOP 7/1 in WNC 7/3; IDF Radio, VOI, VOP 7/1 in WNC 7/5; HA, NYT 7/2; PCHR 7/8)

2 JULY

The IDF fatally shoots a Palestinian standing in his doorway during continuing operations in Bayt Hanun; fatally shoots a mentally handicapped 60-yr.-old Palestinian who strays into a closed military zone nr. Gaza’s Netzer Hazani settlement nr. Khan Yunis; fatally shoots a 3d Palestinian who allegedly attempts to infiltrate a Jewish settlement nr. Nablus; fires on stone-throwing youths in Balata r.c.; fires on residential areas, bulldozes 100s of dunams in Khan Yunis. The AMB executes an alleged collaborator and known child molester in a square in

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Qalqilya. A **15-yr.-old Palestinian** dies of injuries received during IDF operations in Bayt Hanun on 7/1. (MM 7/2; VOI 7/2, VOP 7/5 in WNC 7/9; WP, WT 7/5; HA 7/4; PR 7/7; PCHR 7/8; MEI 7/9)

### 3 JULY

The IDF fatally shoots a **9-yr.-old Palestinian in continuing operations in Bayt Hanun**, a stone-throwing **Palestinian** in Balata r.c.; conducts arrest raids in, bulldozes a mosque and surrounding agricultural land in al-Qarara (sec 7/1); conducts arrest raids nr. Jenin; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, starting fires that seriously damage 2 houses. **AMB** gunmen ambush, fatally shoot **1 Jewish settler** on a West Bank road. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. (AFP 7/3; PRCS 7/4; VOI 7/4 in WNC 7/9; WP 7/5; PCHR 7/8)

### 4 JULY

The IDF fires on stone-throwing youths in Bayt Hanun (killing an **18-yr.-old Palestinian**). Rafah (killing a **2d Palestinian**, wounding a woman in her home), Ramallah; rockets 2 metal foundries (allegedly Hamas weapons factories) in Gaza City, wounding 2 armed Palestinians, cutting electricity to parts of the city; demolishes a **Palestinian home** nr. Nablus; fires on residential areas of Ramallah; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. In Jerusalem, **Israeli police** fatally shoot a **Palestinian** who attempts to flee on foot after allegedly trying to run down an officer with his van. (VOI, VOP 7/4, VOI 7/5 in WNC 7/9; NYT, WP XIN 7/5; PR 7/7; PCHR 7/8)

**Prominent Jewish residents of Ashkelon ask Mayor Roni Mahatzri to ban Israeli Arabs, bedouin fr. staying overnight in the city, attending the city’s entertainment venues, complaining that ‘bedouin and Israeli Arabs from the north of the country employed in the city’s construction sites hang out with local [Jewish] girls’” in the evenings. (HA 7/4; PR 7/7)

### 5 JULY

The IDF sends tanks, helicopters, troops into Rafah allegedly in search of smugglers’ tunnels, fires on residential areas; stages a major raid into Jenin to arrest wanted **AMB mbr. Khalid al-Hawi**, ultimately killing him in a shootout outside his home; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis (killing a **Palestinian child** in his bed), fires on residential areas of Rafah; bulldozes 500 dunams of citrus trees east of Jabaliya r.c.; demolishes **3 Palestinian homes**, a farm nr. Hebron for construction of the **separation wall**; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, Jenin, Qalqilya, al-Qarara. A **15-yr.-old Palestinian girl** dies of injuries received during an IDF raid on Rafah a wk. ago. (XIN 7/5; VOI, VOP 7/5, VOP 7/6 in WNC 7/9; WT 7/6; PR 7/7; PCHR 7/8)

### 6 JULY

In continuing operations in Nablus, the IDF makes a predawn raid on a residential building, orders residents to evacuate, and immediately shoots the 1st **2 Palestinians** who emerge—a Nablus University professor and his 16-yr.-old son—in an apparent botched assassination attempt. Later during the same maneuver, the IDF fatally shoots **PFLP West Bank military cmdr. Yamun Faraj, senior PFLP cmdr. Amjad Hanani** in an exchange of gunfire, in which an **IDF officer** is also killed, 3 IDF soldiers are wounded. In nearby Balata r.c., a **wanted Palestinian Wail Araysha** is killed in a mysterious explosion in his car. In Gaza, **2 armed Palestinians** open fire on, throw grenades at an IDF jeep, wounding **2 IDF soldiers**; the soldiers return fire, killing both Palestinians. In Bayt Hanun, the IDF bulldozes at least 400 dunams of citrus trees, a **Palestinian home**, part of a cement factory; fires on stone-throwing youths; conducts arrest raids. The **IDF** also demolishes **4 Palestinian homes** and a shop in Brazil r.c., 1 home in Wadi al-Silqa; conducts arrest raids in and around Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah; fires on residential areas of Rafah. (HA, PCHR, WT 7/6; VOI, VOP 7/6, 7/7 in WNC 7/9; NYT, PR, WP 7/7; PCHR 7/8; MEI 7/9; HA 7/23; PR 8/4)

### 7 JULY

An **IDF** drone fires a missile at a Palestinian car in Gaza City; the **3 Hamas mbrs.** in the car escape the assassination attempt unharmed, but 3 Palestinian bystanders are wounded. The **IDF** also assassinates **wanted AMB mbr. Issam Mahamid**, fatally shooting him as he walks in Balata r.c.; bulldozes 240 dunams of citrus trees east of Jabaliya r.c.; fires on residential areas of Rafah, seriously wounding a 4-yr.-old boy in the head. **Palestinians** fire **2 Qassam rockets** at Sderot, causing no damage or injuries. (VOI
8 JULY

Before dawn, the IDF raids Khan Yunis, demolishes 30 Palestinian homes, severely damages 10 others. During the day in Bayt Hanun, the IDF exchanges heavy gunfire with Palestinians, leaving 5 Palestinian gunmen (including Hamas local cmdr. Nahid Abu Odeh, 3 AMB mbrs.) and 2 Palestinian bystanders dead, several wounded; 7 IDF soldiers are also injured, 1 seriously. The IDF raids Nablus, surrounds a residential building nr. al-Najah University, detains all residents, posts snipers on surrounding buildings, fires on residential areas, throws percussion grenades at journalists who arrive on the scene. The IDF raids the PA Religious Affairs Min. offices in Jenin and a religious organization in Qalqilya, causing heavy damage to the buildings, confiscating documents, sealing the offices for 2 yrs. The IDF also fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah; demolishes 1 Palestinian home in Bayt Furik nr. Nablus, 1 nr. Jenin. Islamic Jihad detonates a roadside bomb nr. an IDF jeep outside Gaza’s Morag settlement, injuring 5 IDF soldiers. (HA, MM 7/8; VOI, VOP, XIN 7/8 in WNC 7/9; MM, WP 7/9; PR 7/14; PCHR 7/15)

9 JULY

The IDF raids a section of Gaza City nr. Netzarim settlement, occupies an abandoned house, shells a house (causing extensive damage but no injuries), bulldozes 20 dunams of land. The IDF also bulldozes 4 Palestinian homes, 2 “animal farms,” 45 dunams of land, an irrigation network in Khan Yunis; razes 10s of dunums of citrus trees nr. Bayt Lahia; conducts house searches, arrest raids in Jenin r.c., Qalqilya. A Palestinian fires on, tosses a grenade at an IDF post nr. Bayt Hanun (causing damage but no injuries), escapes. (VOI 7/9 in WNC 7/13; PCHR 7/15).

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) issues its nonbinding opinion on the separation wall, ruling (14-1, with only American judge Thomas Buergenthal dissenting) that segments built on occupied Palestinian territory violate international law and should be removed or not built. (HA, JT, WP, WT 7/9; AYM, Interfax, ITAR-TASS, VOP 7/9, AN, DUS, HJ, MENA, al-Quds, al-Ra‘i, VOP, XIN 7/10 in WNC 7/13; NYT, WP, WT 7/10; AYM 7/11, 7/13 in WNC 7/16; HJ 7/11, AN, JT, SA, VOP 7/12 in WNC 7/14; JTA, MM 7/12; Asia Times, MA, MM 7/13; al-Quds 7/13 in WNC 7/15; al-Ra‘i 7/13 in WNC 7/21; PR 7/14; MEI 7/23) (see Docs. A3, D2)

10 JULY

In continuing operations in the Bayt Hanun area, the IDF fires on residential areas of Bayt Hanun; shells residential areas nr. Jabaliya. The IDF also fires on residential areas of Rafah, fatally shooting a 16-yr-old Palestinian girl inside her home; conducts arrest raids in Tulkarm. Nr. Gaza City, 3 PRC mbrs. are killed when their car mysteriously explodes, also killing a Palestinian bystander, in what may be an assassination. Palestinians fire 2 Qassam rockets at the Negev, causing some damage to 1 home in a kibbutz; detonate a roadside bomb nr. an IDF vehicle in southern Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. (PSCT, VOI, VOP 7/10 in WNC 7/13; NYT 7/11; VOI 7/11 in WNC 7/13; PCHR 7/15)

11 JULY

A parcel bomb explodes next to a Tel Aviv bus stop, killing 1 IDF soldier, wounding 20 Israelis, marking the 1st fatal bombing inside Israel since the 3/14 Ashdod bombings; AMB takes responsibility. Sharon, stressing that the bombing proves the need for the separation wall, calls the bombing the “first murder sponsored by the International Court of Justice.” Palestinians also fire an antitank missile at Gaza’s Atzmona settlement, causing no damage or injuries. The IDF demolishes 1 Palestinian home and a factory, fires on residential areas in Bayt Hanun; demolishes a Palestinian home in Qabatya. (VOI 7/11 in WNC 7/13; MM, NYT, WT 7/12; PR 7/14; PCHR 7/15; MEI 7/25)

12 JULY

The IDF raids Khan Yunis, bulldozes a Palestinian home that the IDF claims is a “militant gun post,” killing 1 wheelchair-bound Palestinian trapped inside, despite pleas fr. his family to halt the demolition; the IDF demolishes another 30 Palestinian homes completely, 3 partially during the day. The IDF also demolishes a factory, bulldozes land, searches homes in Bayt Hanun; demolishes 1 Palestinian home in Dahaysha r.c., 1 in Jenin, 1 nr. Ramallah; conducts arrest raids, house searches

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nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Qalqilya, Ramallah. Palestinians fire a Qassam rocket at the Negev, detonate a roadside bomb nr. an IDF patrol in Rafah, in neither case causing damage or injuries. (NYT 7/12; VOI, VOP 7/12 in WNC 7/14; NYT 7/13; VOI 7/13 in WNC 7/15; PR 7/14; PCHR 7/15)

13 JULY

The IDF raids Jenin, fatally shoots local Islamic Jihad cmdr. Numan Tahayna in an assassination, also searches a hospital; conducts arrest raids, searches houses, bulldozes 159 dunams in al-Qarara; conducts arrest raids in Wadi al-Silqa, detaining 50 men and boys, taking them to an IDF base for questioning, releasing all but 5, plus bulldozing 1 Palestinian home, 51 dunams of land; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Aida r.c., Bayt Iqsa nr. Ramallah, al-Bireh, Dayr Sharaf nr. Nablus, Hebron, Jayous nr. Qalqilya; fires missiles at a workshop in Gaza City, completely destroying it; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, al-Maghazi. Palestinians fire a Qassam rocket at Gush Katif (causing light damage but no injuries), an antitank rocket at an IDF post in Rafah, in neither case causing damage or injuries. A Jewish settler deliberately runs into an elderly Palestinian man with his car nr. Bethlehem, killing him. (VOI, VOP 7/13 in WNC 7/15; NYT, PR, WT 7/14; VOP 7/14 in WNC 7/16; PCHR 7/15)

14 JULY

The IDF fires on a 12-truck UN convoy delivering humanitarian aid to Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; fires on residential areas of Rafah; demolishes 5 Palestinian homes in Jenin; conducts arrest raids in and around Hebron as well as in al-Aruba, Balata r.c., Ramallah. (XIN 7/14; VOP 7/14 in WNC 7/16; PCHR, PM 7/15; VOP 7/15 in WNC 7/21; PR 7/21)

15 JULY

The IDF assassinates wanted senior Hamas mbr. Malik al-Din, fatally shooting him as he emerges fr. his Hebron home to surrender; tightens restrictions on Palestinians traveling the Tulkarm-Nablus road nr. Einav settlement; demolishes a Palestinian home in Khan Yunis, fires on residential areas of Jenin, Tulkarm r.c., Rafah, Yihna nr. Hebron; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bayt ‘Awa nr. Hebron. Bethlehem, al-Bireh, Dajuhsra r.c., Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Tulkarm, Yatta. (MA 7/15; MA, VOI, VOP 7/15, VOP 7/16 in WNC 7/21; PR 7/21; PCHR 7/22)

16 JULY

The IDF demolishes 3 brick factories, bulldozes agricultural land in continuing operations in Bayt Hanun; fires on residential areas of Rafah, Tulkarm r.c.; bulldozes 50 dunams of land nr. Jabaliya; conducts arrest raids nr. Tulkarm and in Araba, Qabata. Armed PRC mbrs. ambush, kidnap Gaza police chief Ghazi Jabali, exchanging gunfire with this bodyguards, wounding 2; parade him through the streets of al-Bureij r.c., accusing him of stealing $22 m. in public funds; release him unharmed. Mbrs. of the Abu Rish Brigades (ARB; a Fatah offshoot) kidnap 4 French citizens, hold them hostage at a Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) office in Khan Yunis for several hrs., demanding that the PA fire corrupt security officials, before releasing them unharmed. Separately, ARB mbrs. kidnap Palestinian security official Khalid Abu al-Ula in Khan Yunis, free him by the end of the day. In the evening, Gaza’s PSF head Rashid Abu Shibli, Gaza’s General Intelligence chief Amin al-Hindi resign, citing ‘the state of anarchy and chaos’ in Gaza, the PA’s refusal to implement reforms, but Arafat refuses to accept their resignations. (NYT 7/16; VOI 7/16, HJ, VOI 7/17, AYM, HA, MA, al-Ra’i, YA 7/18, SA 7/19 in WNC 7/21; WP, NYT, WT 7/17; AYM 7/18, JP 7/20 in WNC 7/22; MM 7/19; DUS 7/19, AYM 7/20 in WNC 7/23; HA 7/20; NYT, PR 7/21; PCHR, WP 7/22; MEI 7/23; JPI 7/30; PR 8/4; AYM 8/6 in WNC 8/10)

17 JULY

The IDF raids Saida village nr. Tulkarm, killing local Hamas cmdr. Basil Abu Sha’b, local AMB cmdr. Sahir Ajjaj in what may be assassinations; fatally shoots a stone-throwing Palestinian in Balata r.c.; fires on residential areas of Dayr al-Balah, Rafah. Suspected Fatah gunmen fr. Nablus fire on a jeep outside ‘Ayn Bayt al-Ma’ r.c. thought mistakenly to be driven by rival Fatah mbrs., injuring 2 Palestinians. Armed PFLP mbrs., exchange fire with armed PA intelligence and Force 17 officers guarding a Palestinian collaborator (responsible for the deaths of 2 PFLP cmdrs. in and IDF raid
on 7/6 being held in the Nablus governate office; no injuries are reported. (PR 7/21; PCHR, PM 7/22; HA 7/25)

In light of the 7/16 kidnappings, Arafat declares a state of emergency in Gaza; issues a decree for a ‘temporary restructuring’ of the security forces into 3 branches: public security, with his distant cousin Musa Arafat as its new head; police, with Arafat loyalist Saeb Ajiz as its new head; general intelligence, with Amin al-Hindi, a loyalist increasingly critical of Arafat, maintaining leadership of the dept. Soon after, 1,000s of armed, masked Palestinians gather outside the PC headquarters in Gaza to protest the appointment of Musa Arafat, whom they say is corrupt, as cronism. Qurai’ resigns, citing the lack of true reform; Arafat rejects his resignation. (NYT, WP, XIN 7/17; MENA, PSCT, VOI, VOP 7/17, AYM, HA, MA, XIN, YA 7/18, JP 7/19 in WNC 7/21; AYM 7/18, JP 7/20 in WNC 7/22; al-Quds 7/18; DUS 7/19 in WNC 7/23; NYT, WP WT 7/18; MM 7/19; HA, MM 7/20; PR 7/21; WP 7/22; MEI 7/23; AYM 8/6 in WNC 8/10) (see Quarterly Update)

18 JULY

The IDF closes the Rafah crossing to Egypt indefinitely; citing security concerns; conducts an overnight raid into Saida nr. Tulkarm, firing on residential areas, rounding up residents for questioning, exchanging fire with Palestinian gunmen, killing 2 wanted Palestinians; conducts house searches in Bizariyya in the West Bank, causing a 57-yr.-old Palestinian woman to suffer a fatal heart attack; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Dayr al-Balah, Hebron, Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Tulkarm; continues bulldozing operations in Bayt Hanun, demolishing 2 Palestinian homes; starts bulldozing Palestinian agricultural land for construction of a new road fr. Erez Crossing to the e. of Bayt Lahia. Palestinians fire a Qassam rocket at the Negev, causing no damage or injuries. (VOI 7/19 in WNC 7/21; PR 7/21; PCHR, PM 7/22)

To calm protests in Gaza, Arafat named Brig. Gen. ‘Abd al-Zaqiq al-Majayda as head of public security for the West Bank and Gaza, making him Musa Arafat’s superior. The AMB, National and Islamic Higher Coordinating Comm. for the Intifada (NIHC) say the change is insufficient, only true reforms and halt to corruption will improve conditions in Gaza. Qurai’ says his resignation stands. (BBC, MM 7/19; AN, al-Quds 7/18 in WNC 7/21; NYT, WP WT 7/20; JAZ, SA, VOP 7/20 in WNC 7/22; SA 7/21 in WNC 7/23; PR 7/23; MEI 7/23)

20 JULY

The IDF shells a house in Gaza’s Shatti r.c. in an attempt to assassinate PRC n. Gaza cmdr. ‘Abd al-Karim al-Quka, who, along with 4 Palestinians, is injured. The IDF also denies an ailing 60-yr.-old Palestinian passage through a checkpoint to a Nablus hospital, allowing him to die; continues bulldozing operations in Bayt Hanun, demolishing 2 PSF posts; demolishes 3 Palestinian homes, 26 shops, an olive oil factory in Bart nr. Jenin for construction of the separation wall, firing on stone-throwing Palestinians.
who confront the troops, injuring 6; fires on residential areas of Nablus; conducts arrest raids, house searches in villages around Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah and in Anata, Hebron. **Palestinians** fire 2 Qassam rockets into the Negev, causing no damage or injuries. An **unknown assailant** shoots, seriously wounds Executive Authority (EA) **mbr.** and **fmr. information M Nabil ‘Amr** twice in the leg in an attempted assassination, firing through a window at ‘Amr, inside his Ramallah home. ‘Amr, who has previously called for reforms in the PA, had just returned home from a TV interview in which he criticized Arafat’s performance. (BBC, WP 7/20; VOI 7/20 in WNC 7/22; MM, NYT, PR, REU, WT 7/21; JAZ 7/21 in WNC 7/23; CSM, PCHR, PM 7/22; DUS, HJ 7/23 in WNC 7/27; al-Ra’i 7/24 in WNC 7/29; VOP 7/29 in WNC 7/31; AYM 7/30 in WNC 8/3; MM 8/3; PR 8/4)

**21 JULY**

The **IDF** bulldozes a main street, a deserted **Palestinian home**, water and sewerage networks nr. Bayt Hanun; fires on residential areas of Dayr al-Balah. Late in the evening, the **IDF** sends troops, military vehicles, helicopters into Rafah, firing on residential areas, demolishing 18 **Palestinian homes**; fires missiles at a workshop in Khan Yunis, destroying it. **Palestinians** fire a Qassam rocket into a Negev kibbutz, damaging a home but causing no injuries. **Armed AMB mbrs.** kidnap **Nablus local governate head Fadil Shuli**; accuse him of collaboration with Israel, corruption, failing to provide local security; release him after several hrs. without explanation. (JTA, MA, MM, PR 7/21; JAZ, VOI 7/21 in WNC 7/23; PR 7/28)

The **PC** votes to support the recommendations of a report prepared by a recently appointed special **comm. on the political and security situation in the Palestinian territories**, urging Arafat to accept Qurai’s resignation, appoint a new government with expanded powers that could restore stability in Gaza, undertake comprehensive reforms. (MM 7/21; JAZ, VOP 7/21 in WNC 7/23; NYT, WP WT 7/22; HJ 7/23 in WNC 7/31; NYT 7/26) (see Doc. B)

**22 JULY**

The **IDF** assassinates **Islamic Jihad mbrs. ‘Abd al-Ra’uf Abu ‘Assi, Hazim Irhayim**, firing missiles at their car as they drive through Gaza City, injuring 1 bystander; sends troops into Nablus, sparking stone-throwing, then firing on protesters, wounding 5; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Yatta; bulldozes a **Palestinian home**, 6 dunams of land nr. Khan Yunis; fires on residential areas nr. Nablus and in Ramallah, Rafah; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bayt ‘Umar nr. Hebron, Jenin, Ramallah. In ongoing operations in Bayt Hanun, the **IDF** raids the offices of an agricultural cooperative society, bulldozes a factory, bulldozes more than 6 dunams of land. Some 10,000 **Palestinians** (including a significant number of armed, masked men, likely AMB) hold a pro-reform rally outside the PC headquarters in Gaza. (REU 7/22; JAZ, VOP 7/22 in WNC 7/24; MM, WP WT 7/23; YA 7/23 in WNC 7/27; WT 7/24; PCHR 7/29)

**23 JULY**

The **IDF** expands operations in Bayt Hanun; fires on residential areas of Rafah, damaging a number of rooms in a nearby hospital, injuring 1 patient; demolishes 5 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Hebron, Rafah, Tubas, Yatta. In Bayt Hanun, a Palestinian family attempts to stop 4 **armed AMB mbrs.** fr. launching a Qassam rocket fr. their property; 1 AMB mbr. fires on the family, killing a 15-yr-old **Palestinian boy**, wounding 2 others. (VOI, VOP, YA 7/23 in WNC 7/27; NYT 7/24; PCHR 7/29)

**24 JULY**

The **IDF** fatally shoots a 16-yr-old **Palestinian** standing on the roof of his home in Bayt Hanun; sends troops into Nablus, sparking stone-throwing, then firing on demonstrators, wounding 1; fires on Palestinian residential areas of Hebron; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dahiysa r.c., Dayr al-Balah, Tubas, Yatta. In Gaza, unidentified **armed Palestinians** raid, set fire to a PA police station in Gaza City, causing serious damage; 20 **armed AMB mbrs.** take over the Local Government Min. offices in Khan Yunis, demanding the reinstatement of at least 11 AMB mbrs. fired fr. their security jobs and the dismissal of **Musa Arafat**, leaving after the PA pledges to look into reinstating those fired. In Ramallah, Palestinians rally in support of Arafat. In his 1st appearance since intra-Palestinian violence in Gaza began on 7/16, Arafat denies he is facing a
crisis, dismisses Qurai’s attempt to resign, pledges to carry out reforms. (NYT, WP, WT 7/25; PCHR 7/29)

25 JULY

IDF undercover units assassinate local AMB mbrs. Hani Awayda, Mahdi Tanbur in Tulkarm, opening fire on them as they sit in an outdoor café, also killing 4 bystanders, wounding a 3d AMB mbr. IDF helicopters rocket a Gaza City building (the IDF claims it is a Hamas workshop; Palestinians say it is the home of a Hamas mbr.) twice during the day, wounding 4 Palestinians, destroying the building. The IDF also expands operations in Bayt Hanun, searching homes and a medical clinic (temporarily detaining some patients and staff), bulldozing 300 dunams; fatally shoots a 50-yr.-old mentally handicapped Palestinian woman who enters a closed military zone nr. Rafah (the same woman was wounded in a similar incident in the area on 9/8/02; see Chronology in JPS 126); begins digging a trench around the Rafah border crossing; fires on residential areas of Bayt Rima, Khan Yunis; bulldozes 5 farm buildings, 5 dunams of land nr. Khan Yunis. Palestinians fire a mortar, an antitank rocket at Gaza’s Neve Dekalim settlement, slightly wounding 6 Israeli children. Jewish settler leaders rally 10,000s of Israelis (organizers say 200,000, police say 70,000; mostly settlers, ultra-Orthodox) to form a human chain stretching 56-mi. fr. Nisanit settlement in n. Gaza to the Western Wall in Jerusalem to protest plans for an Israeli withdrawal fr. Gaza. (JAZ, VOI, VOP, YA 7/25 in WNC 7/27; HA, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 7/26; VOP 7/26 in WNC 7/28; PR 7/28; PCHR 7/29)

26 JULY

The IDF sends troops into Bayta nr. Nablus, sparking stone-throwing, then firing on protesters, wounding 1; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis (fatally shooting an 11-yr.-old Palestinian girl in the courtyard of her home and wounding 5 others, including a farmer in a field 300 m away), Rafah; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah. The IDF also beats, detains an off-duty but uniformed Palestinian paramedic attempting to aid an ailing Palestinian in a broken-down taxi outside Nablus; the International Comm. of the Red Cross intervenes to secure his release. Elsewhere in the West Bank, an IDF soldier severely beats in the head with his rifle butt a Palestinian student who steps out of line at a checkpoint; Israeli women volunteering with Checkpoint Watch peel group intervene, saving his life. (VOI 7/26 in WNC 7/28; PM 7/27; VOI 7/27 in WNC 7/29; PR 7/28; MM, PCHR 7/29)

27 JULY

In the predawn hrs., the IDF sends troops, military vehicles, helicopters into Gaza City; occupies and searches several buildings, sparking heavy clashes with Palestinians, killing 1 armed Palestinian, 1 bystander; withdraws later in the morning. In ongoing operations in Bayt Hanun, the IDF raids, severely damages a school, bulldozes additional land. The IDF also fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, severely injuring a Palestinian inspecting the remains of his demolished home; bulldozes 7 Palestinian homes in Khan Yunis, 1 in Tulkarm; fires on residential areas of Tulkarm r.c.; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah and in Nablus, Tubas. The Israeli Agriculture Min. orders the planting of 72,000 olive trees around West Bank Jewish settlements so that “ownership of the trees will be in Jewish hands only and would prevent transfer of lands to Palestinian hands in the future.” (PM 7/27; NYT, PR, YA 7/28; PCHR 7/29)

Qurai rescinds his 7/17 resignation after Arafat orders the PC to refer corruption cases to the PA general prosecutor for possible legal action and promises (without a timetable) to permanently consolidate security forces into 3 bodies, give the PM more authority over PA police. (SA, VOP 7/27 in WNC 7/29; MM, NYT, PR, WP WT 7/28; DUS 7/28, AYM 7/29 in WNC 8/5; WJW 7/29; AYM 8/6 in WNC 8/10)

28 JULY

The IDF continues bulldozing operations in Bayt Hanun, also firing on residential areas, partially demolishing a Palestinian home. During the day, the IDF also raids the Shaykh Ajlin neighborhood of Gaza City, occupying 1 Palestinian home as an observa tion post, demolishing a 4-story commercial building, bulldozing 100 dunums of land; bulldozes a Palestinian home, a bird farm, 12 dunums of land in Rafah; demolishes a Palestinian home in Bayt Laqia; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, wounding a staff member inside a local hospital with...
several live bullets; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Arube r.c., Bayt Laqia, Jenin, Tubas. Late in the evening, the IDF sends troops, military vehicles, helicopters into Rafah, shelling residential areas, blowing up 3 Palestinian homes; occupies a Palestinian home in Dayr al-Balah. Palestinians report that the IDF is currently issuing permits for up to 2,800 Palestinians/day to enter Israel through Erez, but that only around 1,500 qualified Palestinians/day are able to reach the crossing because of other IDF restrictions on Palestinian travel. Palestinians hold rallies across Gaza in solidarity with Bayt Hanun residents, denounce PA inaction to halt the IDF siege that began on 6/28; protesters, armed AMB mbrs. block the Erez Crossing to prevent PA Social Affairs M Intisar al-Wazir, Education M Na‘im Abu al-Hummus fr. entering Gaza fr. the West Bank to take part in the rallies. Arafat accepts the resignation of PA coastal police chief Juma‘ Ghali, who earlier resigned to protest Musa Arafat’s appointment. (PCHR 7/29; PR 8/4; PCHR 8/5; MEI 7/23)

29 JULY

The IDF assassinates ARB Rafah cmdr. ‘Amr Abu Sitta and his dep. Zaki Abu Zarqa, firing a missile at their car as they drive in Rafah; fatally shoots Islamic Jihad Tulkarm cmdr. Zahir Ashqar in an exchange of gunfire during an arrest raid in Tulkarm. The IDF also tightens access to Bayt Hanun; steps up bulldozing in Jabaliya r.c.; demolishes 18 Palestinian homes in Rafah; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; fires on residential areas of Dayr al-Balah, Rafah; conducts arrest raids, house searches in ‘Azun and al-Zawiyya nr. Qalqilya, Bayta, Dahiyya r.c.; Tubas, Tulkarm r.c. An AMB mbr., an Islamic Jihad mbr. are killed in an explosion outside Gaza’s Netzer Hazani settlement, reportedly when laying a roadside bomb. Palestinians fire 2 Qassam rockets at Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. (MM 7/29; MENA, VOI 7/29 in WNC 7/31; NYT, WP 7/30; PR 8/4; PCHR 8/5)

30 JULY

The IDF fires on a funeral procession for ARB head Abu Sitta in Khan Yunis, killing a 12-yr-old Palestinian boy, wounding 7; fatally shoots 4 Palestinians laying a roadside bomb nr. an Israeli border fence e. of al-Bureij r.c.; sends troops into Nablus, sparking stone-throwing, then firing on demonstrators, wounding 1 stone-thrower, 1 bystander; fires missiles at a 5-story building in Gaza City owned by the family of a female suicide bomber, demolishing the structure, injuring 2 Palestinians; raids a wedding party in Bayt Jala, arrests 2 guests; fires on residential areas of Rafah; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bayta, the central Gaza Strip. Palestinians fire 4 Qassam rockets at Sederot, bringing the total number of rockets fired at the town in the past 3 days to 14; none caused damage or injuries. Palestinian, Israeli, international peace activists begin a 3-wk. Freedom March to protest the separation wall; the march begins in Zababda nr. Jenin and plans to end in Jerusalem on 8/19. (VOI, VOP 7/30 in WNC 8/3; NYT, WT 7/31; WT 8/1; PR 8/4; PCHR 8/5)

31 JULY

The IDF sends troops into Balata r.c., sparking stone-throwing then firing on demonstrators, wounding 1; fires warning shots at 100s of Palestinian women, children marching to protest the ongoing military operations, wounding 1 child; fires on residential areas of Rafah; bulldozes a plot of agricultural land in Jabaliya r.c.; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Wadi al-Silqa. In Nablus, 6 Palestinians (1 of them armed; reportedly mbrs. of an AMB splinter group) kidnap 3 foreign church workers (1 American, 1 British, 1 Irish); the PA General Intelligence secures their release, the kidnappers escape, no motive is given. Separately, 12 armed mbrs. of the AMB Jenin faction raid, set fire to the empty office of newly appointed Jenin governor Qaddura Musa and the local PA General Intelligence headquarters, demanding that the PA do more to support “the wanted fighters, the prisoners, and the injured.” Palestinians fire a Qassam rocket at the Negev, causing no damage or injuries. (ITV, JAZ, VOP, XIN, YA 7/31, VOP 8/1 in WNC 8/3; WP, WT 8/1; PR 8/4; PCHR 8/5)

1 AUGUST

In continuing operations in Bayt Hanun, the IDF fires on residential areas, fences off a 46-dunam plot of land nr. the Erez crossing that was previously bulldozed. During the day, the IDF also fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis (wounding a staff mbr. inside a local hospital, a Palestinian inside his...
home), Rafah; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Aida r.c., Tulkarm, Yatta; demolishes several “civilian structures” in al-Walaja village northwest of Bayt Jala for construction of a separation wall segment around Bethlehem; announces plans to seize a total of 4,980 dunams of land in the Hebron area for construction of the separation wall. Late in the evening, the IDF sends troops, military vehicles, helicopters into Khan Yunis, shellowing and firing on residential areas, killing a Palestinian woman inside her home, demolishing 8 Palestinian homes. (PR 8/4; PCHR 8/5)

2 AUGUST

The IDF fatally shoots 2 AMB mbrs., 1 Islamic Jihad mbr. who approach Gaza’s Aley Sinai settlement; raids a bedouin encampment northwest of Jerusalem, ordering them to leave the area within 10 days to make way for separation wall construction; bulldozes 80 dunams of land nr. al-Walaja for construction of the separation wall; fires on residential areas of Ayn Bayt al-Ma’ r.c., Bayt Lahia, Rafah; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, nr. Jenin, and in Hebron, Nablus, Qalqilya, Tulkarm camp. In Gaza City, a Palestinian police officer tosses 2 grenades into a jail cell holding alleged collaborators, wounding 7, who are taken to al-Shifa hospital; 1 Palestinian dies of his injuries; 2 others are later killed by masked Hamas gunmen who storm the hospital’s intensive care unit. Palestinians fire 2 Qassam rockets at Sederot, causing some damage. An ailing Palestinian woman dies after being barred by Israel fr. leaving Gaza to receive medical treatment in Egypt, despite intervention by the PA Health Min. The Israeli DMin. approves plans to build 600 new housing units in Ma’ale Adumim settlement (see Settlement Monitor). (MM, REU 8/2; VOI 8/2 in WNC 8/4; MA 8/2 in WNC 8/4; MM, NYT, WP 8/3; VOP 8/3 in WNC 8/5; PR 8/4; AP, IDF Radio, MA, PCHR 8/5; NYT 8/6; al-Quds 8/6 in WNC 8/10; WP 8/26)

3 AUGUST

The IDF makes a massive predawn raid on Rafah, sending in nearly 300 military vehicles and helicopters, shelling residential areas, raiding and searching homes, occupying several as observation posts, demolishing 10 Palestinian homes, exchanging gunfire with Palestinian gunmen. During the day, Palestinians detonate a roadside bomb nr. an IDF bulldozer in Rafah but misjudge the placement of the device, inadvertently killing 3 Palestinians, wounding at least 10 (including a Reuters cameraman). In ongoing operations in Bayt Hanun, the IDF fires on residential areas, on Palestinians attempting to enter the town; demolishes 1 Palestinian home. Hamas warns that it will step up rocket attacks on Sderot unless the IDF withdraws fr. Bayt Hanun. The IDF also shoots, wounds, arrests a Palestinian in Hebron who reportedly failed to obey orders to stop; demolishes a Palestinian home, a bird farm, several agricultural warehouses and water tanks nr. Qalqilya for construction of the separation wall; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem and nr. Hebron, Jenin. (VOI 8/3 in WNC 8/5; NYT, PR, WP 8/4; PCHR 8/5; PR 8/11)

4 AUGUST

The IDF sends tanks fr. Bayt Hanun to the Jabaliya r.c., sparking clashes with armed Palestinians that leave 3 Palestinians dead (including a 10-yr.-old bystander), at least 36 wounded. The IDF continues bulldozing operations in Rafah, exchanging gunfire with mbrs. of the local resistance, killing 1 armed Palestinian, demolishing another 12 Palestinian homes and 4 shops, damaging a mosque, local infrastructure before pulling out in the evening; 1 tunnel reportedly is found. Elsewhere in Rafah, the IDF fires on residential areas, moderately wounding a 4-yr.-old Palestinian boy inside his home, seriously injuring a Palestinian driving 100s of meters away. The IDF sends undercover units into Nablus to secure, search a commercial building, sparking stone-throwing; undercover units fire on the protesters, fatally shooting a Palestinian bystander, intensifying the clashes; the IDF sends some 20 uniformed soldiers in to extricate the undercover unit, during which soldiers shoot, wound 3 Palestinians, including seriously injuring a child. The IDF also fires on residential areas of al-Qarara; raids the Islamic Charitable Association offices in Bani Na’im nr. Hebron, confiscating computers and files, vandalizing and sealing the offices; demolishes a Palestinian home in Dahaysha r.c.; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and nr. Hebron, and in al-Bireh, Nablus. (PR 8/4; VOP 8/4 in WNC 8/5; HA, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 8/5; PCHR 8/12)
5 AUGUST

The IDF pulls out of Bayt Hanun, pulls back from the outskirts of Jabaliya r.c., ending Operation Active Shield, revealing the widespread destruction (including an estimated 3,900 dunams bulldozed, 10,000s of trees razed) wrought since it entered and sealed the area on 6/28. At the Bayt Hanun municipal office, 6 armed, masked AMB mbrs. break up a news conference called by 3 PC mbrs. to discuss the pullout, denounce the PA for failing to do anything while the area was under siege. After the pullout, Palestinians fire at least 7 Qassam rockets toward Sderot and the Negev, causing no damage or injuries. The IDF also fires on, shells residential areas of Khan Yunis (wounding a Palestinian inside a hospital nearby, seriously damaging a home), nr. Gaza City; fires on, demolishes 3 Palestinian homes in Khuzu nr. Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem, Halhul nr. Hebron, Ramallah. A 12-yr.-old Palestinian dies of injuries received earlier. Some 150 Jewish settlers erect tents on a new unauthorized settlement outpost nr. Hebron, harass local Palestinians. Sharon orders 3,700 acres of Palestinian land to be annexed to Ma’a’le Adumim settlement for construction of a new neighborhood, linking the settlement to Jerusalem 4 mi. to the west (see Settlement Monitor). (AP, BBC, HA, MA, MM, REU 8/5; VOI, VOP 8/5 in WNC 8/7; VOI 8/5 in WNC 8/10; AFP, MM, NYT, WT 8/6; al-Quds 8/6 in WNC 8/10; PR 8/11; PCHR 8/12; NYT 8/18)

6 AUGUST

The IDF reopens the Rafah checkpoint where some 2,500 Palestinians have been stranded on the Egyptian border since 7/18; some 1,400 enter today; it is expected to take 2 more days for all 2,500 to cross. The IDF also fatally shoots an Islamic Jihad mbr. attempting to lay a roadside bomb outside a Gaza settlement; fatally shoots wanted Hamas mbr. Muhammad Balasma nr. Nablus in what may be an assassination; fatally shoots a Palestinian teenager nr. the Qaruni crossing into Israel; fires on residential areas of Rafah; demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in Dahaya r.c.; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem, Hebron, several villages around Jenin. (BBC, MM 8/6; VOI, VOP 8/6, YA 8/7 in WNC 8/10; NYT, WP, WT 8/7; NYT 8/8; PR 8/11; PCHR 8/12)

7 AUGUST

The IDF send troops into Nablus and neighboring Bayt Furik, firing on stone-throwing youths, shells residential areas, wounding 5; fires on Palestinians waiting to cross a checkpoint e. of Jerusalem, wounding 1; shells residential areas of Rafah; fires on residential areas of Balata r.c., Brazil r.c., Dayr Ghassan nr. Ramallah, Tulkarm; fires on a PSF observation post in Rafah, injuring 1 PSF officer; demolishes a Palestinian home in Bethlehem, 1 in Dahaysha r.c.; raids, checks identification of everyone in a PSF office nr. Hebron. (VOI 8/8 in WNC 8/10; PCHR 8/12)

PA Planning M Nabil Qassi resigns to accept a position as pres. of Birzeit University. Arafat does not immediately name a replacement. (PSCT 8/7 in WNC 8/10; NYT, WP, XIN 8/8; PR 8/11)

8 AUGUST

Overnight, the IDF sends troops, military vehicles into Rafah, demolishing 3 Palestinian homes, firing on residential areas. The IDF also sends troops into al-Qarara under heavy shelling, injuring 4 Palestinians, bulldozing 5 dunams of land; expels to Gaza fr. Jericho a Palestinian woman married to a Jericho resident, their 2 children, arguing that her Gaza residency card means that she has been living in the West Bank illegally. (XIN 8/8; PCHR 8/12)

9 AUGUST

The IDF resumes work (halted by Israeli court order in late 2002) on a settler bypass road in Hebron linking Kiryat Arba settlement to the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs, demolishing 3600-yr.-old historic buildings (including 11 residential apartments); local Jewish settlers harass Palestinians in the area. The IDF also continues operations in Rafah begun overnight, demolishing 12 Palestinian homes; uproots 130 dunams of citrus groves s. of Gaza City; raids the offices of the al-Islah Islamic Association in Bethlehem, confiscating computers, files; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, al-Qarra; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem, Qalqilya, Yatta. Jewish settlers burn 60 olive trees in Marda village nr. Salit. A 12-yr.-old Palestinian shot by the IDF in Khan Yunis on 8/7 dies of his injuries. (HA, PM 8/10; PR 8/11; PCHR 8/12)
10 AUGUST

The IDF sends troops into Nablus, Tulkarm r.c., sparking stone-throwing by youths, then opening fire, shelling residential areas, withdrawing. Later in the day, the IDF again fires on stone-throwing youths in Nablus, killing a Palestinian teenager, wounding 10. During the day, the IDF also fires on stone-throwing youths in Balata r.c.; conducts arrest raids, house searches in villages outside Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Qalqilya; resumes bulldozing begun 2 wks. ago in Wadi Rahal e. of Bethlehem for construction of a settler bypass road. Late in the evening, the IDF sends troops, heavy vehicles into Khan Yunis, bulldozing 3 Palestinian homes and several dunams of land, firing on and shelling residential areas; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. Palestinian gunmen fire on a Jewish settler bus nr. Barqan settlement, lightly injuring 2 Jewish settlers. (HA 8/10; PR, WP, WT 8/11; PCHR 8/12)

11 AUGUST

A medium-sized bomb left by the AMB Jenin faction in a bag nr. the Qalandia checkpoint n. of Jerusalem explodes, killing 2 Palestinians and injuring 6 Israeli border police officers (2 seriously, 1 moderately), 10 Palestinians (including a 6-yr.-old in a coma). The IDF continues a major raid on Khan Yunis, demolishing 13 Palestinian homes, firing missiles at a residential neighborhood “to deter gunmen,” wounding 12 Palestinians; fires on stone-throwing youths in Balata r.c., killing 1 Palestinian; fires on residential areas of Rafah, seriously injuring a 5-yr.-old girl; conducts raids in and around Hebron; demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in Jerusalem. Israel bars entry at Ben-Gurion Airport to British journalist Eva Jasciewicz, who appeals her deportation, is jailed pending a court ruling (see Quarterly Update). (HA, XIN 8/11; JP, VOI, YA 8/11 in WNC 8/13; MM, NYT, PCHR, PR, WP, WT 8/12)

12 AUGUST

The IDF makes a predawn raid on Rafah, shelling residential areas, demolishing 10 Palestinian homes and a carpentry workshop; during the operation, 1 IDF soldier is wounded by a Palestinian sniper. Later in the day in Rafah, the IDF deliberately fires on a PRCS ambulance. 5 uniformed doctors, 2 uniformed nurses, a clearly identified driver distributing first aid kits (donated by Germany) to Palestinians made homeless by IDF demolitions in an attempt to scare them away, causing no injuries. In Nablus, the IDF detains 3 BBC journalists, a Palestinian doctor who attempt to enter an apartment for a prescheduled interview with a resident, not realizing that the building had been occupied as an IDF observation post; the IDF releases them with an apology after 3 hrs. of questioning. The IDF also bulldozes 100 dunams of land in Mujhraqa nr. Netzarin settlement, destroying 5 wells and related irrigation works; conducts arrest raids in Balata r.c., Tulkarm; raids the Islamic Charitable Association of Hebron, confiscating computers and office equipment, scaling the offices; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis; conducts house searches, arrest raids in Tulkarm and villages nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. Late in the evening, the IDF raids Gaza City’s Zaytun neighborhood, searching homes, shelling and firing on residential areas. (AFP, HA, PM, XIN 7/12; HA 8/13; PR 8/18; PCHR 8/19)

13 AUGUST

An AMB gunman ambushes, fatally shoots a Jewish settler security chief patrolling around Itamar settlement in the West Bank, is then shot dead by other security guards; the IDF later blows up the gunman’s home in nearby Bayt Furik. The IDF also continues operations in Gaza City, bulldozing 700 dunams of land, demolishing several Palestinian homes, firing on Palestinians, wounding 4 before withdrawing later in the day; fires on residential areas of Aida r.c., Bayt Furik, Tal al-Sultan, Yatta; raids, fires on stone-throwing youths in Balata r.c., Tulkarm r.c. and town; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Khadir, Bayt Sahur; shells an electricity tower in Rafah, cutting electricity to some neighborhoods and Brazil r.c. The IDF also fires warning shots at a Spanish emb. vehicle at the Abu Huli checkpoint in Gaza; Spain lodges a formal complaint, saying it had received Israeli approval for the trip. (NYT, WP 8/14; PCHR 8/19)

The 20th summer Olympics opens in Athens. Palestine is represented by 2 track-and-field athletes, 1 swimmer. The International Olympic Comm. (IOC) 1st recognized Palestine in 1934, but rescinded recognition in 1948, when it recognized Israel. After the signing of the Oslo Accord in 1993, the IOC recognized Palestine again. Palestinian teams...
have competed in the summer Olympics in Atlanta (1996) and Sydney (2000). (PR 8/18, 8/25).

14 AUGUST

The IDF shells, directs heavy machine gun fire at residential areas of Brazil r.c., Khan Yunis, Rafah (wounding 1 woman inside her home); sends troops into Balata r.c., Nablus under cover of shelling, fires on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 6; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, Yatta. A 13-yr.-old Palestinian dies of injuries received during the 8/8–9 IDF raid on Rafah. A newspaper runs an ad signed by 144 prominent Palestinians, demanding government reform, new elections. More than 100 unemployed Palestinian university graduates temporarily occupy a PA building in Gaza, demanding the PA find them jobs. Jewish settlers fr. Ramat Yishai throw stones at, lightly injure a 15-yr.-old Palestinian in Hebron. (HA, WT 8/14; WP 8/15; PR 8/18; PCHR 8/19)

15 AUGUST

The IDF surrounds an area of Wadi al-Silqa, orders all men ages 16–50 to assemble in a field, holds them for 3 hrs.s., checks their IDs, releases them; for a 2d day sends troops into Balata r.c., Nablus under cover of shelling, fires on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, seriously injuring 2 stone throwers and a passerby; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah. In East Jerusalem, IDF soldiers fatally shoot a Palestinian who attempts to stab a soldier at a checkpoint. Some 1,700 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails begin a hunger strike, citing 57 demands for improved conditions. (PM, XIN 8/15; MM 8/16; MENA, VOI, VOP 8/17 in WNC 8/19; MM, PR 8/18; MM, PCHR 8/19)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP (Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AN (Arab News, Riyadh)
AP (Associated Press [Internet])
AYM (al-Ayyam, Ramallah)
BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
CSM (Christian Science Monitor, Boston)
DUS (al-Dustur, Amman)
HA (Ha’Aretz [Internet], Tel Aviv)
HJ (al-Hayat al-Jadida, Ramallah)
ITV (Israel Television Network, Jerusalem)
JAZ (al-Jazeera Satellite Channel Television, Doha)
JP (Jerusalem Post [Internet], Jerusalem)
JPI (Jerusalem Post International Edition, Jerusalem)
JT (Jordan Times, Amman)
JTA (Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet])
MA (Ma’ariv, Tel Aviv)
MEI (Middle East International, London)
MENA (Middle East News Agency, Cairo)
MM (Middle East Mirror, London)
NYT (New York Times, New York)
PCHR (Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PM (Palestine Monitor [Internet])
PR (Palestine Report, Jerusalem)
PRCS (Palestinian Red Crescent Society [Internet])
PSCT (Palestine Satellite Channel Television, Gaza)
REU (Reuters [Internet])
SA (al-Sharq al-Awsat, London)
VOI (Voice of Israel, Jerusalem)
VOP (Voice of Palestine, Jericho)
WJW (Washington Jewish Week, Rockville, MD)
WNC (World News Connection [Internet], Washington)
WP (Washington Post, Washington)
WT (Washington Times, Washington)
XIN (Xinhua–New China News Agency, Beijing)
YA (Yedi’ot Abaronot, Tel Aviv)