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Chronology

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CHRONOLOGY

16 FEBRUARY–15 MAY 2005

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

This section is part eighty-four of a chronology begun in JPS 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time (EST). 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 FEBRUARY

The **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya. **Palestinians** fire 2 **mortars** at Morag settlement in s. Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. A **Jewish settler** driving in the n. Jordan Valley hits, seriously injures an 8-yr.-old Palestinian. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on attack, beat several international peace activists escorting Palestinian farmers, shepherds to their land nearby. (NYT, PCHR, WT 2/17; VOI 2/17 in WNC 2/18; PCHR 2/24)

17 FEBRUARY

Citing the relative calm since Palestinian factions and Israel declared an unofficial 1-mo. truce on 1/25 (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 135), the **IDF** says it will stop "punitive" house demolitions against the families of Palestinian suicide bombers and gunmen, though it defends its legal right to reinstate them "if an extreme change in circumstances takes place"; will continue demolitions to clear buffer zones for the IDF and Jewish settlers (85% of home demolitions overall). (AP, BBC 2/17; BBC, NYT, WP 2/18; PCHR 2/24)

18 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** allows 16 **West Bank Palestinians** deported to Gaza to return to their homes; increases the number of Palestinian workers permitted into Israel by one-third to 1,500; shoots, critically wounds a 13-yr.-old Palestinian boy nr. Gaza's Netzarim settlement. A **Jewish settler** fr. Negohot attacks a Palestinian shepherd near the settlement;

IDF troops intervene, arrest the settler. (VOI, VOP 2/18 in WNC 2/19; JP 2/20)

The **IDF** reportedly has begun removing 100s of **bedouin** families fr. shanty towns around its Negev air base with the aim of creating a 5,000-meter buffer zone out of concern that bedouin could acquire anti-aircraft missiles to shoot down Israeli air force planes. 10,000s of bedouin live in 10s of unrecognized villages in the area of the air base, some shanties slated for removal have stood for 22 yrs. (JP 2/18 in WNC 2/19)

19 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Rafah; sends troops into al-Khadir nr. Bethlehem, forces 4 shops to close; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Silwad. A **Palestinian** dies fr. injuries received on 11/19/04 in Nablus. (PR 2/23; PCHR 2/24)

20 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** fatally shoots 2 **Palestinians** in Rafah whom it suspected of smuggling arms; opens the Rafah crossing to Palestinians aged 16–35; fires, shells on residential areas of Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Askar refugee camp (r.c.), Balata r.c., al-Mawasi, Nablus; begins construction of a new **separation wall** segment e. of Jerusalem nr. al-Ram. 5 **armed Jewish settlers** fr. Mitzpe Lakhish nr. Hebron severely beat a 17-yr.-old Palestinian grazing animals on his family property nearby. 10s of **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba rampage through Palestinian areas of Hebron, throwing stones at houses, beating 8 Palestinians. In Rafah, 1 **PA security officer** is killed, 1 is wounded trying to demolish a smugglers'

tunnel. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received in Nablus on 10/27/04. (IMEMC, JP, MENA, VOP 2/20; HA, NYT 2/21; PR 2/23; PCHR 2/24; MM 2/25)

21 FEBRUARY

Israel releases **500 Palestinian prisoners**, all of whom must sign pledges that they "opposed terror" and will not undertake "any activity against the State of Israel"; the **IDF** bars journalists fr. filming prisoners released at Tarqumiyya crossing nr. Hebron, detaining 3 journalists for 1 hr. The **IDF** imposes a curfew, closure on Nahalin village after local Palestinian youths throw stones at Beitar Ilit settlement, lightly injuring a 2-yr.-old child; raids Nablus to arrest a senior **Hamas** mbr. who allegedly was plotting a car bombing against an IDF target; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Umar nr. Hebron; fires on **Palestinians** demonstrating against the **separation wall** nr. Bil'in outside Ramallah, wounding 10. **Jewish settlers** place 5 mobile homes on Palestinian land in al-Rashayda nr. Bethlehem, establishing an unauthorized outpost. (HA, MM 2/211; NYT, WP, WT 2/22; NYT, PR 2/23; PCHR 2/24; MEI 3/4)

22 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** demolishes a 6-story residential building on the Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Yatta nr. Hebron. (OCHA 2/23; PCHR 2/24)

In Geneva, the **World Council of Churches**, the main global body of non-Catholic Christians, urges all 342 mbr. churches to divest fr. companies that profit fr. **Israel's** occupation of Palestinian territories. (HA 2/22; AP, PR 2/23)

23 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** fires on Palestinians waiting to cross a checkpoint into Awarta nr. Nablus, seriously injuring 1 Palestinian; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Ras nr. Tulkarm. **PA security forces** find, destroy 2 smugglers' tunnels on the Rafah border. (VOP 2/23; PCHR 2/24; MM 2/25; PCHR 3/3)

24 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** fires on a group of Palestinians who attempt to sneak into Israel nr. Gaza's

Sufa crossing to find work, killing 1 **Palestinian**, detaining 2; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus. A **Jewish settler** seriously injures a 12-yr.-old Palestinian, a 13-yr.-old Palestinian in a hit-and-run nr. Qalqilya; an Israeli ambulance refuses to evacuate the children to an Israeli hospital, taking them to Nablus instead. **Jewish settlers** fr. Karme Tzur nr. Hebron seize 25 d. of neighboring Palestinian land to expand their settlement. Some 20 **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba seize 15 dunams (d.; 4 dunams = 1 acre) of Palestinian land to build a settler-only road linking the settlement to the Ibrahim Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs, scuffle with Palestinian residents, injuring 3. A **Palestinian** bystander dies of injuries received during the IDF's 1/26 assassination of a Hamas mbr. in Qalqilya. (VOP 2/25; PCHR 3/3)

After the **Palestinian Council (PC)** gives its approval (54-12, with 4 abstentions, 14 not attending), **PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas** swears in **PM Ahmad Qurai's** new cabinet. Abbas says that the cabinet's first main goals will be providing security, reform, holding legislative elections. (AFP, AP, JAZ, MM, PSCT, REU, VOI, VOP 2/24; MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/25; HA, HJ, VOP 2/28; PR 3/2; MEI 3/4) (see Doc. B1)

25 FEBRUARY

A **Palestinian suicide bomber** fr. Dayr al-Ghusun nr. Tulkarm detonates a device outside a Tel Aviv disco, killing 4 **Israelis**, wounding 23. **Israel** and the **PA** immediately blame **Hizballah**, which denies involvement. **Abbas** denounces the attack by "terrorists" who want to "sabotage this process," vows to track down those responsible. **Palestinian factions** deny responsibility, saying they will continue to abide by an unofficial cease-fire. The **IDF** places a curfew on Jericho. Palestinians report that the **IDF** has begun registering the names of all Palestinians traveling to and fr. Nablus through IDF checkpoints. **Palestinians** fire 2 mortars at Neve Dekalim settlement in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. (BBC, JAZ, VOP 2/25, AFP, HA, MA, NYT, PRCS, WP, WT 2/26; al-Arabiyya TV 2/26 in WNC 3/28; HA, JAZ, WP, VOI 2/27; HA, MM 2/28; MM 3/1; OCHA, PR 3/2; PCHR 3/3; MEI 3/4; JPI 3/11)

26 FEBRUARY

A **Damascus-based Islamic Jihad cell** claims responsibility for the 2/25 Tel Aviv

bombing, noting the end of the unofficial 1-mo. truce on 2/25 and stating that Israel had to be punished for cease-fire violations it committed; **Islamic Jihad's leadership in Gaza**, however, denies responsibility, saying the group would continue to abide by an unofficial cease-fire. **Israel** shifts blame to **Syria**, which denies any responsibility, saying Islamic Jihad offices in Damascus have been closed for some time. Meanwhile, the **PA security forces** arrest 2 suspects in Gaza in connection with bombing; **Israeli security forces** arrest at least 5 suspects in Israel. The **IDF** tightens restrictions on Palestinian movement around Hebron; fires on 3 Palestinians attempting to sneak into Israel fr. Gaza to find work, killing 1 **Palestinian**, detaining 2; severely beats 2 Palestinians at a checkpoint at the entrance to al-Til nr. Nablus; places a curfew on Dayr al-Ghusun, hometown of the 2/25 suicide bomber, arrests the bomber's 2 brothers, the village imam; fires on residential areas of Tulkarm town, r.c., and neighboring villages. An **IDF border policeman** shoots, wounds a Palestinian woman in Hebron after she allegedly tries to stab him during a security check. Some 15 **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba, escorted by **IDF** soldiers, severely beat a Palestinian farmer working his land outside Hebron; soldiers arrest the Palestinian, interrogate him before releasing him. **PA security forces** report that they have uncovered, sealed 12 smugglers' tunnels in Rafah since deploying along the Gaza border. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 2/26/04. (HA, JAZ, PRCS, VOI, VOP 2/26; IDF Radio, JAZ, NYT, PRCS, WP 2/27; MM 2/28; MM, PCHR 3/3; MEI 3/4)

27 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** steps up military actions in response to the 2/25 Tel Aviv bombing, placing curfews on Alar, Saida villages nr. Tulkarm; conducts overnight arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm; conducts late night arrest raids, house searches in al-Bireh, nr. Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gil'ad uproot 25 olive trees belonging to Palestinians fr. nearby Jinsafut. The **PA** arrests 2 **Palestinians** in connection with the 2/25 Tel Aviv bombing. (VOP 2/27; WT 2/28; OCHA 3/2; PCHR 3/3)

The **Israel on Campus Coalition**, an umbrella group of some 26 Jewish organizations across the U.S., launches a free hotline for students who "feel intimidated because of their pro-Israel views." The coalition will

track complaints across the country and "offer support teams of faculty, students, and Jewish professionals for complainants who want further aid." (WJW 2/24)

28 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Azun nr. Qalqilya. The **IDF** also imposes a curfew on, conducts searches in the villages of 'Azmut, Dayr al-Hatab, Salim nr. Nablus. **Palestinian gunmen** fire on an Israeli security vehicle patrolling the perimeter of Menorah settlement nr. Modi'in, wounding 2 settler security guards. An **Israeli** wounded in the 2/25 Tel Aviv bombing dies of her injuries. Several **armed Palestinians** break into a Jenin prison, free a relative jailed for robbery. (HA, VOI 2/28; OCHA 3/2; PCHR 3/3)

1 MARCH

Israeli security officials say they now believe that a renegade **Islamic Jihad cell** fr. Jenin, commanded fr. outside the territories, was responsible for the 2/25 bombing. **IDF** severely beats a Palestinian at a checkpoint nr. Hebron; demolishes 10 shops built without permits in Bardala, 'Ayn al-Bayda; blows up a workshop in al-Yamun nr. Jenin that it claimed was a **Hamas** weapons factory; issues military orders for the demolition of 1 Palestinian home, 3 wells in Wadi Fukin nr. Bethlehem; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus, nr. Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'ale Shomron nr. Qalqilya beat a Palestinian. **PA Interior M Nasr Yusuf** takes part in a ceremony in Jenin r.c., marking the opening of a new security headquarters there; **al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB) mbrs.** fire in the air to protest that the PA security services did not coordinate Yusuf's visit with them; Yusuf, **local AMB head Zakariyya Zubaydi** meet at the Jenin headquarters to discuss the issue, with Yusuf saying such incidents would not be tolerated. The **PA** says it has arrested a total of 6 **Palestinians** in connection with the 2/25 Tel Aviv bombing. (MM, VOI, VOP 3/1; PR 3/2; JAZ, VOP 3/2 in WNC 3/3; PCHR 3/3; NYT 3/6)

British PM Tony Blair hosts a 1-day conference aimed at encouraging and supporting **PA** reform, strengthening PA governance in advance of Israel's disengagement fr. Gaza in mid-7/05. The **U.S.**, **EU**, and **World Bank** agree to lead an international effort to coordinate "institutional renewal"

in the Palestinian territories. (AFP, AP, BBC, MM 3/1, ITAR-TASS, JAZ, MENA, VOP 3/1; *Independent*, MM, NYT, PR, WP, WT 3/2; DUS, ITAR-TASS, JP, MENA, *al-Quds al-Arabi*, VOI, VOP 3/2 in WNC 3/3; HA, MM, WJW 3/3; HJ, VOP 3/6 in WNC 3/7; MM 3/9; JPI 3/11; see also WP 2/26) (see Doc. A2, Quarterly Update)

According to the **U.S. State Dept.**'s annual report on human rights, the Palestinian population of Israel and the occupied territories has reached 5.3 m., for the first time exceeding the Israeli Jewish population of 5.2 m. (Electronic Intifada 3/1)

2 MARCH

The **IDF** sends troops into Balata r.c. and Nablus, destroys a Palestinian car; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah; imposes curfews on Abu Dis and Azariyya nr. Jerusalem, searches the College of Science and Technology campus in Abu Dis, checks IDs of all staff mbrs. and students; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin. A **Jewish settler** shoots, wounds a Palestinian nr. Tulkarm. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received in an IDF raid on Jenin r.c. on 1/28/03. (VOP 3/2 in WNC 3/3; PCHR 3/3; OCHA 3/9; PCHR 3/10)

3 MARCH

The **IDF** sends undercover units into Bayt Surik nr. Jerusalem to conduct arrest raids, house searches; temporarily occupies several buildings in Nablus and nearby Salim as observation posts; erects a military observation tower at a crossroads outside Hebron, fires on several passing cars, injuring 3 Palestinians; orders **bedouin** living nr. al-Zawiyya in Salfit district to evacuate the area, which Israel claims as state land. (OCHA 3/9; PCHR 3/10)

4 MARCH

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Mughraqa in central Gaza, Yatta. **Palestinian gunmen** with the **Fatah offshoot al-Awda Brigades** fire on a **PA security office** in Nablus, sparking an exchange of gunfire with security forces that leaves 2 PA officers, 1 bystander wounded. **Unidentified gunmen** fire at the home of **Fatah PC mbr. Jamal Tarifi** in Ramallah, causing damage but no injuries. (WP, WT 3/5; PR 3/9; PCHR 3/10)

5 MARCH

The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Kafr Qalil nr. Nablus, wounding 2 Palestinians; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Ramallah. **PA security forces** raid Dura nr. Hebron, seize bombs and weapons, arrest at least 13 Palestinians. **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinian cave dwellers nr. Hebron; the **IDF** intervenes and disperses the settlers. **Jewish settlers** fr. Tafuh attack, seriously injure an elderly Palestinian farmer working his land nr. Salfit; the IDF intervenes, allows Palestinians to transport the farmer to a hospital, but does not take action against the settlers. A **Jewish settler** parked on a road nr. Nablus fires on a Palestinian taxi that passes by, damaging the car but causing no injuries. **Palestinians** fatally shoot an alleged **Palestinian collaborator** in Ramallah. **Unidentified Palestinians** throw a Molotov cocktail at the home of **PA preventive security officer and Fatah mbr. Jamal Khadayr**, causing damage but no injuries. (NYT, WT 3/6; JP, VOP 3/6 in WNC 3/7; OCHA, PR 3/9; PCHR 3/10, 3/17)

Senior PA, Israeli officials end 2-days of back-channel talks outside London to coordinate Israeli disengagement fr. Gaza and to discuss ways "to support the disengagement process and to take advantage of the opportunity in order to take the peace process further beyond the disengagement." (WT 3/7) (see Quarterly Update)

6 MARCH

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Suissa fence off and begin planting 40 d. of Palestinian land in Yatta, on the eastern side of the settlement. (OCHA, PR 3/9; PCHR 3/10)

7 MARCH

Palestinian gunmen fire on an Israeli border police post nr. the Ibrahim Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, wounding 2. In response, the **IDF** imposes a 24-hr. curfew on Palestinian areas of Hebron (still in place as of 3/12), beats several Palestinians, raids and searches homes, rounds up 200 Palestinians ages 16-40 for interrogation. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Azun, Yatta, Qabatya nr. Jenin. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on attack Palestinians herding sheep outside Hebron,

injuring 3. Rival **PA policemen** clash in Ramallah, leaving **1 PA policeman** dead. (MM 3/7; WT 3/8; OCHA, PR 3/9; PCHR 3/10; IMEMC 3/12)

8 MARCH

The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Rafah; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Simba nr. Hebron; arrests **6 Islamic Jihad** mbrs. in Jenin in connection with the 2/25 Tel Aviv bombing; raids, ransacks the home of a PA police officer in Qalqilya, arrests him and 3 other Palestinians without explanation. Separately, **Shin Bet** announces it has captured a PA policeman wanted in connection with the lynching of 2 IDF reservists in Ramallah in 10/00. Armed **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim nr. Qalqilya bar Palestinian farmers fr. working their fields near the settlement. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai in Hebron attack Palestinian property in Tal Rumayda, causing damage but no injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba threaten Palestinians in Wadi al-Nasara neighborhood, block Palestinians from moving on the road that leads to the Ibrahim Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs. (VOI 3/8; VOP 3/8 in WNC 3/9; HA 3/9; PCHR 3/10; OCHA 3/16; PCHR 3/17)

Syria begins redeploying its troops in **Lebanon** to the Biqa' Valley in preparation for the withdrawal of all 14,000 soldiers and 1,000 intelligence officers. The move comes under international pressure on Syria to comply with UN Res. 1559 in the wake of the 2/14 assassination of fm. Lebanese PM Rafiq Hariri. (JAZ, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/8; AFP, DUS, JAZ, MENA 3/8, JAZ 3/9 in WNC 3/9; MM 3/9; JAZ, MM 3/10; MEI 3/18, 4/1) (see Quarterly Update)

9 MARCH

The **IDF** sends troops into al-Bathan nr. Nablus who surround, open fire on a car carrying 3 Palestinians, wounding 1, arresting all 3 without explanation; later conducts arrest raids in the same area; also conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Yamun nr. Jenin. **Jewish settlers** fr. Asfar uproot more than 55 olive trees belonging to Palestinians in nearby Hebron. The **Ramallah-al-Bireh governorate** removes, bans all pictures, placards, graffiti on building walls in the 2 cities in a "beautification" campaign. (PCHR, *al-Quds* 3/10; OCHA 3/16; PCHR 3/17)

10 MARCH

The **IDF** raids Tulkarm, assassinates **Islamic Jihad mbr. Muhammad Abu Khazna** (Muhammad Abu Khalil) whom Israel alleges planned the 2/25 Tel Aviv bombing; bulldozes his **home**. **Abbas** condemns the raid, saying "just as calm is demanded of us, we also ask that Israel not do things like this." The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids in Nablus. In Ramallah, around **25 armed, masked AMB mbrs.** break into a **Fatah** meeting on reform, fire in air, drive the 1,000 participants out, shouting that they are being ignored by the Fatah leadership. (VOI 3/10; WP, WT 3/11; NYT 3/13; OCHA, PR 3/16; PCHR 3/17; BBC 3/28)

11 MARCH

The **IDF** reinforces troops around East Jerusalem; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin. **Jewish settlers** break into, vandalize the *shari'a* court in Hebron, several nearby Palestinian homes; Israeli police intervene belatedly, disperse but do not detain the settlers. **Jewish settlers** fr. Avraham Avino demolish part of a Palestinian home next to the settlement. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim prevent Palestinian farmers fr. reaching their land in neighboring Kafr Qadim. (PM 3/12; OCHA 3/16; PCHR 3/17; *Independent* 4/21)

12 MARCH

The **IDF** seals Saida and Allar nr. Tulkarm, imposes a curfew, fires on residential areas, conducts arrest raids and house searches; later conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Azun nr. Qalqilya, Baqa' al-Sharqiyya (targeting **Islamic Jihad** mbrs.), Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, al-Nazla and al-Til nr. Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba attack Palestinians nr. the Ibrahim Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs, severely beating 2 Palestinian children ages 10 and 13. In Gaza, **2,500 unemployed Palestinians** storm the PC building, throwing stones at police, breaking windows, demanding that the PA provide jobs and welfare services for the unemployed and poverty stricken. (VOP 3/12; NYT, WP 3/13; OCHA 3/16; PCHR 3/17; PR 3/30)

13 MARCH

The **IDF** fires on 3 Palestinians attempting to sneak into Israel fr. Jabaliya to find

work, seriously wounding 1, lightly injuring 1, while 1 escapes; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Baqa' al-Sharqiyya. The **IDF** also imposes new restrictions on Palestinian movement nr. the Ibrahim Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, erecting an iron gate 30 m away fr. the site, closing the main road leading to the site to Palestinians, checking all Palestinians before allowing them through the gate to the site. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on attack 5 Palestinian shepherds grazing their animals nearby; the **IDF** intervenes, arrests the Palestinians, takes them to Kiryat Arba for interrogation, releases them later. **Israel** authorizes the construction of a "temporary wall" btwn. Jerusalem, the West Bank in areas where the legal disputes to the route of the **separation wall** are still underway; approves a new route for the separation wall around Jerusalem that would annex Ma'ale Adumim settlement, surround Shu'fat r.c. with fences, isolate Palestinian neighborhoods and villages n. of the city, incorporate Bilal Bin Rabah mosque n. of Bethlehem into Jerusalem. At Hebron University, **100s of students supporting Fatah** disrupt a **Hamas** student rally in advance of campus elections, leaving 9 Palestinians injured. (AP, IMEMC 3/13; WT 3/14; OCHA 3/16; PCHR 3/17)

14 MARCH

The **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** in n. Jerusalem to make way for the **separation wall**; fires on Palestinians who halt their car and emerge to survey their agricultural land nr. Tulkarm (lightly injuring 1), takes them to the hospital only after 3 hrs. of questioning; shoots, wounds a Palestinian who strays nr. the **separation wall** nr. Qalqilya; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hazma nr. Jerusalem, Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids Hebron, al-Qarara nr. Khan Yunis, Salim nr. Nablus, Sawahara nr. Jerusalem. **Palestinians** detonate a **roadside bomb** nr. an **IDF** patrol on the Rafah border, causing no injuries. For a 2d day, **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on shoot at, attack Palestinian shepherds grazing their animals nr. the settlement. **Jewish settlers** fr. Almatan nr. Qalqilya uproot 10s of olive trees, bulldoze Palestinian agricultural land in neighboring Kafr Thuluth. A **Jewish settler** injures an 8-yr.-old Palestinian girl in a hit-and-run in Hebron. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. (IMEMC 3/14; OCHA 3/16; PCHR 3/17)

15 MARCH

"In the framework of easing restrictions" on Palestinians, **Israel** rescinds expulsion orders against 4 Palestinians sent to Gaza several yrs. ago, allowing them to return to their homes in the West Bank. The **IDF** shoots, wounds a Palestinian who allegedly "rioted" at a roadblock nr. Qalqilya; raids Budrus nr. Ramallah, fires on stone-throwing youths, wounding 3; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Mughayyir nr. Ramallah, Tayasir nr. Jenin, Tulkarm; places cement blocks across the Bir Nabala-al-Ram road (a major commercial thoroughfare) and on the Dahiyat al-Barid-Qalandia road n. of Jerusalem. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim bar 10s of Palestinian farmers fr. accessing their lands in nearby Kafr Qadim. (VOI, VOP 3/15; JP, OCHA 3/16; PCHR 3/17; IMEMC 3/25)

16 MARCH

Israel transfers **Jericho** to **PA** security control; reporters in the town say there is no real change as a result, only one checkpoint on the main road into town has been removed (replaced by a **PA** checkpoint 500 yds. away, as a sign of the **PA** asserting its control), though all other checkpoints into and out of the city remain in place; reporters covering the transfer say that many Palestinians interviewed during the day did not realize a transfer had occurred. The **IDF** fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Anabta nr. Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Avraham Avino settlement in Hebron attack 1 of the few remaining Palestinian homes in the city's Jewish enclave, demolishing its roof, damaging its foundation, clashing with Israeli police who intervene, injuring 1 officer. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim settlement uproot 45 olive trees belonging to Palestinians fr. nearby Kafr Qadim. (BBC, HA, **IDF** Radio, JAZ, MM, PR, VOI, VOP 3/16; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/17; AFP, ITAR-TASS, PCHR, *al-Quds* 3/17; HA 3/18; HJ 3/19; OCHA, PR 3/23; PCHR 3/24)

17 MARCH

The **IDF** fires on stone-throwing Palestinians nr. Ramallah; shoots, wounds a Palestinian who strays too close to Rafiah Yam settlement in s. Gaza; conducts arrest raids, house searches in the Wadi al-Husayn area of s. Hebron, rounding up all men and holding them for 5 hrs. of interrogation; places

temporary curfews on Bardala and Kardala e. of Jenin, orders all Palestinian males ages 15–60 to surrender for ID checks; also conducts arrest raids in al-Mawasi nr. Khan Yunis. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba beat a Palestinian in Hebron; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (HA 3/18; JP 3/28; OCHA, PR 3/23; PCHR 3/24)

Palestinian factions meeting in Cairo pledge to extend the unofficial truce until the end of 2005, provided that the lull in violence continues and that Israel follows through on its Sharm al-Shaykh pledges to turn over security control of West Bank cities and release a significant number of Palestinian prisoners. **Abbas** and the factions agree to form a comm. to study rebuilding the PLO on new foundations that would allow **Hamas**, **Islamic Jihad** to join. (*Daily Star*, MM, REU 3/17; BBC, HA, MM, NYT, VOP, WP, WT 3/18; JAZ 3/19; AP, JAZ 3/21; PR 3/23; MEI 4/1) (see Quarterly Update)

18 MARCH

The **IDF** imposes a curfew on Allar nr. Tulkarm, raids and occupies a girls school and 4 Palestinian homes as observation sites, detains 10s of Palestinians for interrogation; also conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Azun nr. Qalqilya, Dahariyya nr. Hebron; closes checkpoints into East Jerusalem before Friday prayers, fires tear gas and percussion grenades to disperse Palestinians waiting to cross; beats a Palestinian farmer tilling his land nr. the **separation wall** in Dayr al-'Asal nr. Hebron; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at a nonviolent Palestinian demonstration against the **separation wall** nr. Bil'in, seriously injuring a Palestinian, lightly injuring a foreign journalist with the Associated Press. Some 40 **Jewish rabbinical students** club, stone 8 Palestinian laborers working legally at Nachliel settlement, seriously injuring at least 5; Israeli police intervene but the settlers escape; police sources say the 8 Palestinians were "almost lynched." **Jewish settlers** fr. Brakha settlement nr. Nablus ambush, beat, seriously injure a Palestinian truck driver passing the settlement. **10s of Jewish settlers** fr. Halamish settlement occupy a plot of nearby Palestinian land housing the water spigots controlling the water supply to the settlement and nearby Palestinian villages. **PA security officers** seal a smugglers' tunnel in Rafah; some Palestinians confront the officers with stones, causing no injuries; 1

Palestinian is arrested. (HA, MM 3/18; VOP 3/19; AYM 3/20; OCHA 3/23; PCHR 3/24)

Ma'ariv 3/18 reports that that the **financial officer of the Greek Orthodox Church, Nikolaos Papadimas**, who has power of attorney for **Greek Orthodox Patriarch Irineos**, recently signed a secret deal, without Irineos's permission, to sell the church's Omar Bin Khattab Square property in the Old City of **Jerusalem** to **Jewish investors** fr. abroad and then fled the country with his family, depositing \$1.5 m. in a Tel Aviv bank account. The square is a valuable commercial area inside the Jaffa Gate, where 3 prominent Palestinian hotels and a number of shops are located. Irineos denies that he gave permission for the sale, meaning that, by church bylaws, the sale is void. (JAZ, MA, *al-Quds*, VOP 3/19 in WNC 3/28; HA, VOP 3/23; AP 3/24; NYT 3/25; PR 3/30; *al-Quds*, VOP 4/3 in WNC 4/4; NYT 4/4; *Independent* 5/10; HA 5/15; PR 5/18)

19 MARCH

The **IDF** tightens restrictions on Palestinian movement into Jericho (turned over to PA security control on 3/16); announces plans to install an electronic gate at the entrance to Wadi al-Silqa nr. Dayr al-Balah, near a settler bypass road, to control Palestinian movement in and out; arrests 3 Palestinians attempting to sneak into Israel nr. al-Mintar crossing to find jobs; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Budrus nr. Ramallah, Dayr al-Ghusun, al-Til. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on attack, beat several Palestinian farmers working their land nearby. Several **Palestinian gunmen** raid the PA's Rafah police office, fire shots in the air, free a jailed Palestinian, who was arrested on 3/18 for throwing stones at PA security officers sealing a smugglers' tunnel in Rafah. (AYM 3/20; PCHR 3/24)

20 MARCH

An **Israeli border policeman** fires on a group of Palestinians attempting to circumvent a checkpoint btwn. Jerusalem and Bethlehem, seriously injuring 1. The **IDF** fires on a group of Palestinian children returning home fr. school who apparently stray too close to a **separation wall** construction site, wounding 3; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Saida, Nur al-Shams r.c. (targeting **Islamic Jihad** mbrs.), Tulkarm r.c.; bulldozes 22 d. of land in Surif nr. Hebron for construction of the **separation wall**.

Palestinians fire a **rocket** toward Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. Unidentified **Palestinian gunmen** fire on an **IDF patrol** searching for stolen cars in al-Amari r.c. nr. Ramallah, wounding 2 soldiers seriously, 2 lightly; the IDF seals al-Amari, conducts house searches. A **PA court** sentences **5 Palestinians** to jail terms of 3–5 yrs. for collaborating with Israel. (HA, VOP 3/20; VOI 3/21; OCHA 3/23; PCHR 3/24)

21 MARCH

After further talks btwn. Israeli, PA officials, the **IDF** turns over security control of **Tulkarm**, pledges not to target wanted Palestinians fr. Tulkarm. The **IDF** closes checkpoints into East Jerusalem for several hrs; lifts the curfew on Allar, imposed on 3/18; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Bayt Hanina; fires on residential areas of Burqa nr. Nablus, occupies a Palestinian home as an observation post; raids, searches the **Youth Development Society** in Husan nr. Bethlehem, temporarily detains 4 board mbrs.; bulldozes 2 d. of Waqf land nr. Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem to build a parking lot for busses transporting Jewish worshippers to the site; bulldozes 4 d. of agricultural land e. of Hebron to establish a new military post; uproots 16 olive trees w. of Ramallah for construction of the **separation wall**, turns the trees over to local Palestinians for replanting. (JP 3/21; NYT, WP, WT 3/22; OCHA, PR, WP 3/23; PCHR 3/24)

Israeli PM Ariel Sharon approves the construction of 3,500 new housing units in **Ma'ale Adumim** to link the Jewish settlement to East Jerusalem; claims the building would not violate the road map because the construction was approved in principle in 1999 and the project is of "strategic importance" to Israel. The **PA** protests. The **U.S. State Dept.** refuses to comment. (AP, BBC, REU 3/21; VOP 3/21 in WNC 3/28; JP, MENA, NYT, WP, WT 3/22; CSM, PR 3/23; MM 3/29; MEI 4/1)

22 MARCH

The **IDF**, **PA security officers** hold a ceremony to jointly unlock the gate (set up after the outbreak of the al-Aqsa intifada, locked since 2001) on the Anabta–Tulkarm road, finalizing the transfer of security control over Tulkarm; the IDF sets up a checkpoint 30 m. down the road to check Palestinian IDs; all other checkpoints into and out of the city, all

villages surrounding Tulkarm remain under Israeli control. The **IDF** demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Silwan; uproots 300 olive trees in Surif nr. Hebron for construction of the **separation wall**; issues a military order confiscating a plot of land (exact size not specified) in Nahalin w. of Bethlehem for construction of the **separation wall**, citing the 1950 Absentee Property Law (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 135). **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on spread poisoned food pellets on 30 d. of Palestinians grazing land. The **IDF** says that the **PA security forces** have sealed 18 smuggler's tunnels to date. (HA 3/22; HA, OCHA, PR 3/23; PCHR 3/24)

23 MARCH

The **IDF** seals the West Bank, Gaza for 5 days for the Purim holiday; conducts arrest raids in 'Aba and 'Ayn al-Bayda nr. Jenin, al-Til nr. Tulkarm (temporarily occupying 7 Palestinian homes). (HA 3/23; NYT, PCHR 3/24; PCHR 3/31)

24 MARCH

The **IDF** eases some restrictions on Palestinian movement around Nablus; conducts a late-night raid on Budrus village nr. Ramallah, site of several recent demonstrations against the **separation wall**, rounding up women and children, photographing them; installs 2 new electronic gates at the entrances to the Ibrahim Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs to control Palestinian access (see 3/13); conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron (occupying a Palestinian home as an observation post, then allowing settlers to move in), Husan (occupying a Palestinian home as an IDF post). **Israeli border police** drive through Bil'in village nr. Ramallah, taunting local youths over loudspeakers, saying "All of Bil'in's children are cowards. Let's see you throw stones"; detains a 14-yr.-old boy who throws stones, questions him, releases him 2 mi. fr. the village. In Hebron, a **Jewish settler woman** stops a **9-yr-old Palestinian boy** on his way home fr. school, takes him to Ramat Yishai settlement, and severely beats him with a rock, breaking his teeth, injuring his back and limbs. **Jewish settlers** fr. Avraham Avino attack 4 nearby Palestinian homes, causing damage but no injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba beat, injure an international peace activist in Hebron. (WT, YA 3/25; IMEMC 3/26; OCHA 3/30; PCHR 3/31)

25 MARCH

The **IDF** raids Budrus nr. Ramallah, fires on residential areas, sparking clashes that leave 2 Palestinians injured; sends troops into Salim with military orders to occupy a Palestinian home as an IDF post for 1 mo., confining the 16 family mbrs. to 1 floor; conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Azun; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at a non-violent Palestinian demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 1 Palestinian), Dayr Ballut nr. Nablus (wounding 2 Palestinians). **Palestinians** complain that 100s of people were unable to attend Friday prayers at Hebron's Ibrahim Mosque because of prolonged **IDF** checks at the newly installed electronic gates surrounding the site (see 3/13, 3/24). A **Palestinian** is injured in an explosion in Gaza City, reportedly while preparing a bomb; 3 Palestinians are injured in a similar incident in Khan Yunis. Some 20 **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablus rampage through the nearby village of Asira, breaking windows, throwing stones, beating a 50-yr.-old Palestinian woman; when **IDF** troops come to Yitzhar later in the day to investigate, some 150 settlers throw stones, clash with troops; later in the evening settlers attack Palestinian homes again, causing damage but no injuries; Yitzhar officials say the attackers were "a number of boys" who had gotten drunk for Purim. **Jewish settlers** fr. Otniel nr. Hebron detain 3 Palestinian women, 4 children cultivating olives on their nearby land; hold them at the settlement for 5 hrs., until PA security officials intervene with the IDF to secure their release. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai rampage through Palestinian areas of Hebron for 3 hrs., damaging Palestinian homes but causing no injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba throw stones and bottles at 2 Palestinian homes in Hebron, threaten to burn them. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on attack 10s of Palestinians, 4 international peace activists helping Palestinians clean up poisoned feed that the settlers spread on Palestinian land nr. Yatta on 3/22. (HA 3/26; OCHA 3/30; PCHR 3/31)

26 MARCH

An **IDF** patrol enters Sabastia nr. Nablus, chases a taxi, causing it to crash; denies an ambulance permission to take the injured driver to the hospital, arresting him instead. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, nr. Nablus and Ramallah.

Jewish settlers fr. Gush Katif bar Palestinians fr. traveling the coastal road btwn. Rafah and Khan Yunis, beat 4 Palestinian youths (ages 9–15) on their way to school in al-Mawasi. Some **20,000 Hamas supporters** attend a rally in Nablus marking the anniversary of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin's assassination, launching Hamas's campaign for upcoming legislative council elections. (VOI, VOP 3/27 in WNC 3/28; PR 3/30; JP 3/30 in WNC 3/31; PCHR 3/31).

27 MARCH

The **IDF** for no apparent reason severely beats 3 Palestinians in 3 separate incidents at checkpoints in Hebron; beats, detains a 50-yr.-old Palestinian at a checkpoint outside Tulkarm after a prolonged interrogation; issues military orders for 40 residents of Nahalin village nr. Bethlehem to vacate their 4,000 d. of land nr. the Gush Etzion bloc within 45 days for construction of the **separation wall**. An **Israeli guard** patrolling a separation wall construction site near Bayt 'Awwa fires on, injures a Palestinian who accidentally strays too close to the area. **Jewish settlers** fence off a piece of Palestinian land in Silwad nr. Ramallah for expansion of Ofra settlement. (IMEMC 3/27; OCHA, PR 3/30; PCHR 3/31)

28 MARCH

Overnight, the **IDF** makes a major raid into Jenin, sending in 30 military vehicles and helicopters, fires on residential areas, raids and searches Palestinian homes, detaining at least 9 **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. The **IDF** also shoots, wounds a Palestinian shepherd grazing his flock nr. the **separation wall** in Bayt 'Awwa nr. Hebron; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dahariyya, Fahma nr. Jenin (arresting 3 **PA security officers**), Jama'in and Kafr Qalil nr. Nablus (firing on residential areas, wounding 2 Palestinians inside their home), Surif, Za'atra nr. Hebron. In Gaza City, **Fatah-affiliated lawyer Majid al-Jafari** is moderately injured when an explosive charge planted underneath his parked car explodes; Jafari received death threats after recently announcing his independent candidacy for the local bar association; no group claims responsibility. (OCHA 3/30; PCHR 3/31; OCHA 4/6; *al-Quds* 4/23 in WNC 4/26)

29 MARCH

The **IDF** severely beats an 80-yr.-old Palestinian at a flying checkpoint outside Tulkarm, accusing him of warning wanted Palestinians of the presence of the IDF in the area; arrests **3 unarmed PA traffic policemen** in the Palestinian section of Hebron on charges that they were in a prohibited area; arrests 3 Palestinians in Gaza on suspicion of smuggling arms; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Asira nr Nablus; begins construction of a new 2-km section of the **separation wall** w. of Ramallah. An **AMB** mbr. being pursued by the **IDF** is killed in a car crash in Ramallah. In Rafah, **5 unidentified Palestinians** beat, moderately injure **Hamas municipal elections candidate Azmi Abu Mur**. (PR 3/30; AYM, HJ 3/30 in WNC 3/31; PCHR 3/31; OCHA 4/6)

30 MARCH

The **IDF** erects 10s of new checkpoints around Tulkarm (turned over to PA security control on 3/22), imposes a curfew on the nearby villages of Allar (sparking demonstrations by local residents), Saida (also conducting house searches); conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Azun, and Bayt Umar and Halhul nr. Hebron; informs residents of a house nr. a settler bypass road in Wadi al-Silqa that they will only be allowed to enter and leave their home during three 2-hr. periods each day (see 3/19); begins construction of a new 43-km stretch of the **separation wall** btwn. Tarqumiyya (northwest of Hebron) and Sammu' (southwest of Hebron). **Palestinians** throw stones, a Molotov cocktail at a Jewish settler vehicle Modi'in settlement nr. Ramallah. lightly injuring 3 settlers. After **26 AMB mbrs.** on Israel's wanted list are forced by the **PA** to leave the PA's Ramallah headquarters, where they have been given sanctuary for more than a yr., 6 of them go on a rampage, firing on **Abbas's** office inside the compound while Abbas is there, ransacking several nearby restaurants, causing no injuries. A **PA court** convicts **4 Palestinians** of collaborating with Israel, sentences 3 to jail terms of 3-5 yrs., releases the 4th. (MEMC 3/30; AYM 3/30 in WNC 3/31; MM, NYT, PCHR 3/31; JAZ, VOI 3/31 in WNC 4/1; MM, WP 4/1; OCHA 4/6; PCHR, PR 4/7)

31 MARCH

The **IDF** demolishes **5 Palestinian homes**, 1 shop in Wadi Rahal nr. Bethlehem

for construction of the **separation wall**; raids the home nr. Jenin of the family of a Palestinian arrested several wks. ago, interrogates the family, beats the prisoner's father; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah; erects a new military post, observation tower outside Aley Sinai settlement in Gaza. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba beat a Palestinian farmer working his land nearby, force him to leave, threaten to shoot him if he comes back. **Angry Palestinians** set fire to a **PA police** checkpoint in Tulkarm after officers manning the post fire on a suspected stolen vehicle, wounding at least 1 Palestinian. **Unidentified assailants** torch the cars of several candidates in municipal elections in Gaza. (MEMC 3/31; HA, MM, NYT, WP 4/1; OCHA 4/6; PCHR 4/7)

1 APRIL

IDF soldiers based at Neve Dekalim settlement fire heavy machine guns on residential areas of Khan Yunis, wounding 2 Palestinian children; arrest 4 Palestinians attempting to sneak into Israel e. of Dayr al-Balah to find work; conduct arrest raids, house searches in al-Ras nr. Tulkarm; level 4 d. of agricultural land along a settler bypass road in al-Mawasi. Some **25 AMB gunmen** invade a youth center in Balata r.c., try to disrupt vote counting for elections for the center's board that **Hamas** seemed to be winning (at the time of the break in, 81% of the votes had been tallied, showing a clear victory for Hamas), firing in the air, destroying furniture, declaring the vote invalid. (NYT 4/3; HA 4/4; OCHA 4/6; PCHR, PR 4/7)

2 APRIL

The **IDF** attempts to break up a Land Day demonstration nr. Tulkarm, sparking clashes in which 1 Palestinian is injured; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dayr al-Ghusun, Tubas nr. Jenin uproots 1,500 olive trees nr. Hebron for construction of the **separation wall**; fires steel-coated rubber bullets, tear gas at Palestinians conducting a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Nazlat Issa nr. Tulkarm, wounding 1 Palestinian. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai, escorted by **IDF** soldiers, occupy a **Palestinian home** in Hebron, throw the contents of the home into the street, also rampage through the area damaging several other Palestinian homes. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on and Suissa settlements attack 3 Palestinians working on their lands in nearby

Yatta. (MEMC 4/2, 4/3; OCHA 4/6; PCHR 4/7)

3 APRIL

The **IDF** shoots, wounds, then beats a Palestinian in Hebron for no apparent reason; sends troops into Nablus, erects checkpoints, searches several Palestine Red Crescent Society ambulances; conducts arrest raids in al-Tawani nr. Hebron, Tubas, Yatta; fires steel-coated rubber bullets, tear gas at Palestinians, Israelis, international peace activists conducting a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, injuring an Israeli. (OCHA 4/6; PCHR 4/7)

4 APRIL

The **IDF** demolishes 6 **Palestinian homes** in Bayt Hanina, East Jerusalem; severely beats a Palestinian shepherd herding his flock nr. the **separation wall** outside Hebron; conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Azun, Husan, Marda nr. Nablus, Nabi Elias nr. Qalqilya, al-Ras (drawing maps of several homes), al-Til; patrols inside Tubas. Israel posts an **Israeli border police** company nr. Yitzhar settlement to prevent settler violence against Palestinians. A **Jewish settler** fr. Kiryat Arba shoots, wounds a Palestinian farmer working his field nr. the settlement. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba, escorted by the **IDF**, begin leveling Palestinian land for construction of a bypass road. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim bar 10s of Palestinian farmers fr. neighboring Kafr Qadim fr. reaching their agricultural land. (YA 4/4; OCHA 4/6; PCHR 4/7)

5 APRIL

IDF troops in Hebron beat, temporarily detain 7 **unarmed PA traffic policemen** in the Bab al-Zawiyya district in the Palestinian sector of the city, claiming they were in a prohibited area (see 3/29), beat 3 of the policemen; fire live ammunition, tear gas at Palestinians who attempt to intervene, causing no injuries; fire on residential areas. The **IDF** also raids, searches a house in East Jerusalem, arresting 1 Palestinian; patrols inside Tamun nr. Jenin, randomly checking Palestinian IDs; uproots 100 olive trees in Bil'in for construction of the **separation wall**. For the 2d day, a **Jewish settler** fr. Kiryat Arba shoots, wounds a Palestinian farmer working his nearby field. A **Palestinian Resistance Comm. (PRC)**

gunman shoots, seriously wounds a Jewish settler working in a greenhouse in Morag settlement, claiming the act is in retaliation for recent Israeli violations of the unofficial truce. **Palestinians** detonate a roadside bomb nr. an IDF patrol in Rafah, causing no damage or injuries. **Hamas** complains that the **PA** has recently fired a number of teachers working in PA schools who are Hamas supporters. (AFP, MEMC, YA 4/5; HA, NYT, OCHA, WT 4/6; PCHR 4/7)

6 APRIL

The **IDF** announces that 6 wks. ago it arrested 3 **Palestinians** whom it alleges are **Hizballah** spies. The **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home**, a 2-story residential building, 2 apartments in a 3-story residential building in Bir Nabala northwest of Jerusalem and a 2-story residential building in Azariyya outside Jerusalem; occupies a Palestinian home in Hebron as a military outpost. **Israeli security guards** protecting a settlement wall construction sight nr. Dayr Ballut opens fire on a Palestinian family that arrives (with previous IDF permission) to farm its nearby land, wounding 4. **Jewish settlers** fr. Avraham Avino stone **IDF soldiers** building a wall to protect the home of a Palestinian family driven out by settler harassment (see 3/17, 3/24); 8 settlers are arrested. **Palestinian teachers** observe a day-long strike to protest **PC** inactivity in amending the civil service law to increase teacher salaries. (HA, JTA, REU 4/6; VOI, VOP 4/6 in WNC 4/7; PCHR, WP 4/7; OCHA 4/13; PCHR 4/14)

7 APRIL

The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Rafah; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians outside Nablus, arrests 5 teenagers; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm; declares areas of Palestinian agricultural land east of Tulkarm, nr. Einav settlement, to be a closed military zone. **Jewish settlers** throw stones, eggs at Palestinians in Hebron; the **IDF** responds by ordering Palestinian shops in the area to close, Palestinians to leave. **Palestinians** fire a rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. (HA 4/7; WP 4/8; OCHA 4/13; PCHR 4/14)

8 APRIL

The **IDF** bars Palestinian access to Jerusalem through the Qalandia crossing for

Friday prayers, sparking riots by Palestinians waiting to cross, then fires live ammunition at the crowd, wounding 2; occupies a Palestinian home nr. Ramat Yishai settlement as a military post (the house is near one seized by settlers on 4/2); sends troops into Bil'in, fires on residential areas, checks residents IDs; fires on residential areas of Rafah. **10,000s of Hamas supporters** demonstrate in Gaza City, threatening to end the truce if the **Jewish extremists group Revava** ("The 10,000") follows through on threats to hold a rally at the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem on 4/10. **Israeli authorities** tighten security at the site, prepare to bar Jewish demonstrators fr. entering the area. (WP, WT 4/9; NYT 4/10; OCHA 4/13; MM, PCHR 4/14)

9 APRIL

The **IDF** fatally shoots **3 14-yr.-old Palestinians** playing soccer nr. the Philadelphia Route in Rafah, alleging that the youths strayed into a closed military zone, were acting suspiciously, and may have been involved in arms smuggling. **Hamas**, the **PRCs** retaliate by firing **25 mortars** at nearby Jewish settlements, causing no damage or injuries; **Hamas**, **Islamic Jihad** say the mortar fire is a 1-time response, not a declaration to the end of the truce; the **PA** sends a "strongly worded" letter of protest to Israel saying it views the IDF strike with the "utmost gravity"; the **UNRWA** also protests. The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis; searches a kindergarten in Hebron, holding 80 children in 1 room for more than 90 minutes; raids, searches an Internet café in Qalqilya, interrogates clients, arrests 1; conducts arrest raids and house searches, fires on residential areas of Silwad nr. Ramallah; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Ithna nr. Hebron, Kafr Ni'ma nr. Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai vandalize 4 Palestinian houses in Hebron, severely beat 2 Palestinian teenagers. A group of female **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba break the windows of a Palestinian house in Hebron. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 1/9. (IMEMC 4/9; VOI 4/9, 4/10 in WNC 4/10; NYT, WP, WT 4/10; MM, PRCS 4/11; XIN 4/12; OCHA, PR 4/13; PCHR 4/14; MM 4/18; PR 4/20)

The U.S. group **Yedidim**, an alliance of 1,000s of Baptist churches and Jewish synagogues across the U.S., says it is preparing a series of protests in Gaza before and during Sharon's Crawford visit to protest and block disengagement plans, stating "we are work-

ing right now to send thousands of people, thousands of Zionist Christians. We will go over there and stand in the Gaza Strip with our friends and see what they will do about evicting Americans." Some 5,000 Christian Zionists plan to protest at Crawford on 4/11. (WT 4/9)

10 APRIL

Overnight, **Hamas**, the **PRCs** reportedly fire another 45 mortars, 30 rockets at Jewish settlements in Gaza (lightly damaging 1 house) and the Negev in retaliation for the deaths of 3 Palestinians on 4/9. The **IDF** arrests **Fatah mbr. Firas Tanbur** in Nablus on charges of planning a terrorist attack on behalf of **Hizballah**; Palestinians confront soldiers with stones during the raid; soldiers respond with rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas, injuring 10. The **IDF** also raids, searches an elementary school in, imposes a curfew on al-Asa'sa nr. Jenin; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians nr. Nablus; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin; occupies a Palestinian home in Ramallah as an observation post; sends troops into Aida r.c. to break up a nonviolent protest against threats by Revava to attack al-Aqsa mosque. Some 3,000 **Israeli police** bar a rally at the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif by Revava attended by only 50 right-wing Israelis. **Israel** reports that **Egypt** recently arrested a **Fatah Hawks mbr.** on charges of smuggling Strela surface-to-air missiles into Gaza. (HA, MM, NYT 4/11; XIN 4/12; OCHA, PR 4/13; MM, PCHR 4/14)

11 APRIL

Israeli DM Shaul Mofaz says that Israel will not respond to the barrage of rocket and missile fire following the 4/9 shooting death of 3 Palestinian teenagers, effectively accepting the Palestinian factions' statement that the fire was a 1-time response. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Nablus targeting Palestinians it believes have ties to **Hizballah**, are planning a bombing; fires on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 8 stone-throwers, 2 bystanders; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Nablus. (AP, HA, YA 4/11; OCHA, PR 4/13; PCHR 4/14)

Sharon holds his 11th mtg. with **Bush** in 4 yrs. at Bush's Crawford, TX ranch; the Crawford venue is considered a gesture to "reward Sharon for taking the politically difficult step" of evacuating Gaza settlements

and to highlight the close relationship btwn. the 2 leaders. (HA, MM, REU 4/11; BBC, HA, MM, NYT, REU, WP, WT 4/12; MM, NYT, PR, WP 4/13; AYM, HA, HJ, JP, *Jordan Times* 4/13 in WNC 4/14; MM, WJW 4/14; *Forward*, HA, JPI, MEI, MM 4/15; see also JP 4/6 in WNC 4/7; WP 4/9, NYT 4/10) (see Quarterly Update)

12 APRIL

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Khadir. (NYT 4/13; PCHR 4/14)

13 APRIL

The **IDF** demolishes an **illegal outpost** nr. Kiryat Arba comprising only a makeshift synagogue; the site has been demolished and rebuilt by Jewish settlers on 24 previous occasions. The **IDF** demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Anata in Jerusalem, evacuates another 30 bedouin families fr. tents in the area, saying they are too close to the Anatot IDF base and that some land is needed for construction of the **separation wall**; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c. and Nablus, exchanging gunfire with armed Palestinians, wounding 2. An **IDF** jeep on patrol in Bethlehem accidentally overturns, trapping 4 lightly injured soldiers inside; when **10s of Palestinians** surround, throw stones at the jeep, the soldiers fire live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at the crowd, injuring 4. The **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)** fires 2 **rockets** at an IDF post in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim, guarded by IDF soldiers, bulldoze 30 d. of Palestinian agricultural land for expansion of the settlement. **Unidentified gunmen** fire on the Bir Nabala home, car of proreform **PC mbr. Ahmad Batsh (Fatah-Jerusalem)** causing damage but no injuries. (AP, HA, REU, XIN 4/13; VOI, VOP 4/13 in WNC 4/14; HA, PCHR 4/14; PR 4/20; PCHR 4/21)

14 APRIL

Israel announces plans to build new roads in Gaza parallel to the existing settler bypass roads to ease congestion during the evacuation of settlements in 7/05. The **IDF** sends troops into Balata r.c. who fatally shoot **wanted AMB mbr. Ibrahim Isnayri**, who allegedly has **Hizballah** connections, in disputed circumstances (the IDF says troops

tried to arrest him, but he opened fire and they responded; Palestinian observers say the IDF fired without warning, Isnayri never fired); the **AMB** says he was assassinated and it will take revenge, may stop adhering to the cease-fire; **Abbas** declares it a "serious violation" of the truce. The **IDF** also raids an elementary school in Budrus nr Ramallah, checks employee IDs, leaves without making arrests; raids, fires on homes in Surif nr. Hebron, fires on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 6; raids fields along a settler bypass road nr. Tulkarm, arrests 8 farmers, interrogates and then releases them; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Aza r.c. nr. Bethlehem, Shufa nr. Tulkarm; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Kafr 'Aqab nr. Qalandia for lack of a permit; issues demolition orders for 92 Palestinian homes in Silwan in East Jerusalem for lack of permits. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai attack, beat a Palestinian man, 6 children in Hebron; in a separate incident beat a 12-yr.-old Palestinian girl heading home fr. school, throw stones and bottles at 10s of Palestinian homes in Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Tapuach settlement spread poisoned feed on large areas of Palestinian grazing land outside Nablus (see 3/22). A **Jewish settler** shoots, wounds a Palestinian driving nr. Hebron. (AP, REU, XIN 4/14; IMEMC, MM, NYT 4/15; OCHA, PR 4/20; PCHR 4/21; MEI 4/29)

15 APRIL

The **IDF** moves into al-Fara' r.c., Tubas, Tamun nr. Jenin; erects temporary checkpoints, searches Palestinian vehicles for several hrs. before pulling back. The **IDF** also stops, searches, severely beats 2 Palestinians at a checkpoint in Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Shavei Shomron settlement nr. Nablus throw stones at passing Palestinian vehicles, causing damage but no injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai vandalize several Palestinian homes in Hebron; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (PR 5/21)

16 APRIL

Israel orders the Israeli police in **Jerusalem** to expand their jurisdiction to include Jewish settlement areas north, west, and south of Jerusalem that will eventually be west of the **separation wall** and that **Sharon** plans to annex under final status. The **IDF** sends troops into Qiffin nr. Tulkarm, fires tear gas at 10s of Palestinian children on

their way to school, arrests a 16-yr.-old boy; sends troops into Marda nr. Nablus, fires tear gas at Palestinian children on their way home from school, confiscates a school bag fr. a 13-yr.-old Palestinian; arrests 2 Palestinian farmers working their land nr. Tulkarm for straying too close to the **separation wall**; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hazma nr. Jerusalem, al-Til nr. Tulkarm; raids Dayr al-Balah and arrests 2 Palestinians who allegedly attempted to sneak into Israel to find work. **Palestinian prisoners** in Israeli jails begin a 2-day hunger strike to protest their deteriorating living conditions. (PR 4/20; PCHR 4/21)

17 APRIL

Israel announces that it has arrested 3 **PFLP mbrs.** for allegedly plotting to assassinate **Shas party leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef**. The **IDF** orders 27 **bedouin** to evacuate 3 sites nr. Tubas. **Israel** also opens bidding on 50 plots of land in Elkana settlement nr. Nablus for construction of new homes. The **IDF** issues military orders for the demolition of 3 Palestinian homes, 10 wells, 6 sewage systems outside Yatta for expansion of Carmiel settlement; resumes construction on a segment of the **separation wall** n. of Jerusalem; starts construction of a settler bypass road linking Neve Yaqub settlement to others around Jerusalem; raids Dayr al-Balah for a 2d day, arrests 3 Palestinians who allegedly attempted to sneak into Israel to find work; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Askar r.c. nr. Nablus, Silwad nr. Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** set up 2 new unauthorized outposts nr. Elon Moreh settlement nr. Nablus, nr. Hebron. A **Jewish settler** injures a 12-yr.-old Palestinian child in a hit-and-run nr. Bethlehem. **Palestinians** fire on **IDF** soldiers outside Neve Dekalim settlement, lightly wounding 1. In Jenin, **10s of AMB mbrs.** take over a main intersection, close down a government building, demanding that the PA provide jobs to unemployed militants, fmr. prisoners, relatives of Palestinians killed by the **IDF**. **Palestinian teachers** open a 2-day strike to protest **PC** inactivity in amending the civil service law to increase teacher salaries (see 4/6). (NYT 4/18; MM 4/19; OCHA, PR 4/20; PCHR 4/21)

18 APRIL

The **IDF** issues demolition orders for 10 wells in a **bedouin** area nr. Hebron; imposes a curfew on Burqa nr. Nablus, claiming some-

one fr. the village threw a Molotov cocktail at an **IDF** patrol, causing no injuries; bulldozes Palestinian land and places barbed wire nr. the Erez crossing, fires on a Palestinian farming his land nearby, wounding him; sends troops into al-Arub r.c. nr. Hebron to arrest 2 Palestinian teenagers (ages 14, 16) for throwing stones at passing **IDF** patrols. **PRC gunmen** shoot, wound an **IDF** soldier, an Israeli civilian worker on the Rafah border, saying the **PRCs** are not bound by the truce agreed by the Palestinian factions in 2/8. Armed **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba close roads (several with burning barricades), throw stones at Palestinian houses and cars (damaging 6 homes), uproot olive trees and grapevines. (HA, MM, NYT 4/19; OCHA, PR 4/20; PCHR 4/21)

19 APRIL

IDF soldiers shoot, wound a Palestinian who argues with them at a checkpoint outside Nablus; sends troops into Kafr Qadim nr. Qalqilya to search shops, vehicles. (OCHA 4/20; PCHR 4/21)

20 APRIL

The **IDF** begins removing equipment fr. its base in Gaza's Neve Dekalim settlement in preparation for disengagement; conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem; bars an ambulance transporting a pregnant Palestinian woman in distress fr. crossing a checkpoint nr. Khan Yunis, forcing the woman to give birth and allowing the **baby** to die at the checkpoint; conducts house searches in al-Aza r.c., Bayt Jala, Bayt Tamar nr. Bethlehem. (BBC, IMEMC, REU 4/20; MM, NYT, PCHR 4/21; OCHA 4/27; PCHR 4/28)

21 APRIL

The **IDF** seals the West Bank, Gaza until 4/24 for the Passover holiday; bars Palestinian traffic on the main north-south Gaza road for the day; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah and in Balata r.c. (exchanging fire with Palestinians, wounding 2), Dahariyya nr. Hebron, Jenin (targeting **Islamic Jihad** mbrs.) and nearby Araba, Saida nr. Tulkarm; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, international activists nonviolently protesting the **separation wall** nr. Ramallah, injuring 4 Palestinians, 2 internationals. **Palestinians** detonate a roadside bomb nr. an **IDF** patrol nr. the Qarni crossing, lightly injuring 3 soldiers. In

Gaza City, **100s of PA police officers** loyal to **Civil Affairs M Muhammad Dahlan** gather outside police headquarters in a show of force, to protest **Abbas's** plans to forcibly retire some mbrs. of the security services (see Quarterly Update). (AP 4/22; OCHA 4/27; PCHR 4/28)

22 APRIL

The **IDF** temporarily bars traffic on the main north-south Gaza road for a 2d day; occupies 2 Palestinian homes in the Old City of Hebron as military outposts; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dura; bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Kefar Darom settlement in Gaza; temporarily occupies a Palestinian home nr. Ramallah as an observation post; bulldozes a stand of olive trees along a road nr. Jenin. **Jewish settlers** severely beat 2 Palestinians in Hebron. (IMEMC 4/23; VOP 4/23 in WNC 4/26; OCHA 4/27; PCHR 4/28)

23 APRIL

The **IDF** arrests 7 unarmed Palestinians attempting to sneak into Israel fr. Gaza (5 nr. Kissufim crossing, 2 in central Gaza) to seek work; raids a photo exhibit sponsored by Hamas in Yassid nr. Nablus. A **Palestinian** stabs, lightly injures an IDF soldier outside Ganim settlement, steals his gun. **Palestinians** fire a **Qassam rocket** toward Sederot, causing no damage or injuries; the **IDF** arrests 4 suspects. Senior **Islamic Jihad mbr. Shaykh Khadir** says that Islamic Jihad should reconsider its truce in light of the IDF's alleged assassination of an AMB mbr. in Balata r.c. on 4/14, the upswing in arrest raids targeting Islamic Jihad mbrs. since the 2/25 Tel Aviv bombing. **Jewish settlers** fr. Beit Hadassah in Hebron attack Palestinian students outside a girls' elementary school, injuring 10 (including 3 requiring hospitalization). (IMEMC 4/23; VOI 4/23 in WNC 4/26; HA 4/24; OCHA 4/27; PCHR 4/28)

24 APRIL

The **IDF** extends the seal (see 4/21) on the West Bank and Gaza for a wk.; tightens restrictions on Palestinian movement around Bethlehem; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Araba. A **Palestinian shepherd** is injured when he triggers unexploded IDF ordnance while herding his flock nr. Nablus. **5 Jewish settlers** fr. Elon Moreh severely beat a Palestinian shepherd tending his flock nr. Nablus. **19 Palestinian gunmen** (some

masked, all allegedly fm. mbrs. of the PA security forces) shut down the Gaza coastal road for 2 hrs. to protest Abbas's forced retirement of 100s of security officers, demand they be given their jobs back or new jobs in the PA. (AP, IMEMC 4/24; IMEMC 4/25; AYM 4/25 in WNC 4/26; IMEMC 4/26; OCHA, PR 4/27; PCHR 4/28)

25 APRIL

IDF troops fire on, kill a **Palestinian** taxi driver who hits an **IDF soldier** at a checkpoint nr. Hebron; the soldier is also killed, but the IDF says he may have died fr. IDF gunfire, not from being struck by the car; also says it is unclear whether the Palestinian deliberately tried to run down the soldier. The **IDF** declares closed military zones around Nablus to protect a group of Jewish settlers visiting Joseph's Tomb, arrests 2 Palestinians found in the closed areas; raids Hebron University, detains and interrogates students and staff, searching for wanted Palestinians but apparently not arresting anyone; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dahariyya, Qalqilya; sends troops into Bayt Iba nr. Nablus to remove all campaign advertising for the 5/5 municipal elections; orders an **Agence France-Presse photographer** to stop filming nr. Shu'fat checkpoint outside Jerusalem, beats and detains him for several hours. (IMEMC, PRCS 4/25; BBC, HA, NYT 4/26; NYT, OCHA, PR 4/27; PCHR 4/28)

26 APRIL

The **IDF** closes for 48 hrs. the 2 main checkpoints on the primary north-south Gaza road; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Araba, Hebron. **Palestinians** fire 2 **Qassam rockets** at Sederot and the Negev, causing no damage or injuries. **Jewish settlers** severely beat 3 Palestinians in Hebron. (MA, VOP 4/27 in WNC 4/28; PCHR 4/28, 5/5)

Syria reports that its last troops, intelligence forces have withdraw fr. **Lebanon**. (MM, NYT, WP 4/26; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/27; see also NYT, WP 4/25; MEI 4/29) (see 3/8, Quarterly Update)

27 APRIL

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Askar r.c., Balata r.c., Nablus; raids, searches, interrogates the employees of a flour mill in al-Qarara; fires on residential areas of Rafah. Some **40,000s Jewish settlers** gather in

Gaza's Neve Dekalim settlement to protest Sharon's disengagement plan; during the rally, **Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets**, 3 **mortars** toward the settlement, lightly wounding 2 IDF soldiers. **Jewish settlers** fr. Karnei Shomron uproot 300 Palestinian olive trees nr. the settlement. (JAZ, XIN 4/27; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 4/28; VOP 4/28 in WNC 4/28; WP 4/29; OCHA, PCHR 5/5)

28 APRIL

The **IDF** raids shops, searches Palestinian vehicles Dahariyya, sets fire to 2 of the stores, arrests 1 Palestinian; conducts patrols, sets up checkpoints in villages s. of Tulkarm; imposes a curfew on, conducts patrols in Silat al-Dahir nr. Jenin; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Fawwar r.c. nr. Hebron; evicts 3 bedouin families fr. an area outside Hebron; begins to bulldoze land in Dayr al-Hatab that was confiscated on 3/11. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai severely beat a Palestinian shepherd grazing his flock nearby. **Palestinians** fire an **anti-tank missile** at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, a **mortar** at an IDF post in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. (WT 4/29; HA 4/30; OCHA, PCHR 5/5)

29 APRIL

PA police arrest 2 **AMB mbrs.** in Gaza for firing rockets at Jewish settlements, marking the PA's 1st arrests for truce violations. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai severely beat a 13-yr.-old and a 20-yr.-old Palestinian in separate incidents in Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Suissa launch a series of attacks on Palestinians farming nearby, beating a 60-yr.-old Palestinian woman. **Jewish settlers** fr. Efrat s. of Jerusalem attack several Palestinian farmers tending their fields nr. al-Khadir. (HA, IMEMC 4/29; HA, WT 4/30; OCHA, PCHR 5/5)

30 APRIL

The **IDF** fires on residential areas of al-Fawwar r.c. (injuring 7 Palestinians), temporarily occupies at least 1 home; sends patrols into Tamun nr. Jenin; issues plans for a new settler bypass road south of Qalqilya. **Palestinians** fire a **mortar** at Gush Katif, causing light damage but no injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Brakha throw stones at Palestinian vehicles driving nearby, damaging 7; **IDF** troops intervene, clash with the settlers, who beat up the senior IDF field cmdr.; 8 set-

tlers ultimately are arrested. **Jewish settlers** fr. Einav also throw stones at Palestinian cars, causing no damage or injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Suissa uproot 10 Palestinian olive trees nr. the settlement. (HA, IMEMC, XIN 4/30; PCHR 5/5)

1 MAY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin; fires on residential areas of Rafah. The **IDF** also fires rubber-coated steel bullets at Palestinians conducting a nonviolent protest against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, injuring 10 Palestinians, including a journalist. (WP, WT 5/2; PR 5/4; OCHA, PCHR 5/5)

2 MAY

The **IDF** imposes a curfew, makes a predawn raid on Saida nr. Tulkarm to arrest 2 wanted **Islamic Jihad** mbrs., marking the IDF's 1st reentry of the town since returning it to PA security control on 3/22, sparking an exchange of gunfire that leaves dead wanted **Islamic Jihad mbr. Shafiq 'Abd al-Ghani** and 1 **IDF soldier** (the 1st Israeli killed by a Palestinian since 2/25); 1 **Islamic Jihad mbr.** is wounded, escapes, is later arrested; the **PA** condemns the incursion as a violation of agmts. btwn. the 2 sides; **Israel** denounces the PA for failing to rein in militants. In response, **Islamic Jihad** fires 2 **rockets** at Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** also demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Jabal al-Mukabir and 1 in Sur al-Bahir, both in the Jerusalem municipality; sends troops into Tubas nr. Jenin to search Palestinian vehicles. **Palestinians** fire 3 **mortars** at a Jewish settlement in n. Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. As part of **Abbas's** ongoing anticorruption efforts, **PA security forces** bulldoze 3 seaside homes in Gaza illegally built on public land seized by senior PA security officials. (BBC, HA 5/2; NYT, WP, WT 5/3; MA, VOP 5/3 in WNC 5/4; OCHA, PCHR 5/5)

3 MAY

The **IDF** lifts the seal on most of the West Bank, Gaza imposed on 4/21 (seal remains in effect in the n. West Bank, Erez crossing in Gaza remains closed); conducts arrest raids, house searches in and fires on residential areas of Saffa nr. Ramallah; evacuates, demolishes bedouin shelters nr. a Jewish settlement outside Jenin. **Jewish settlers** fr.

Ramat Yishai vandalize a Palestinian home in Hebron. (VOI 5/3 in WNC 5/4; PCHR 5/5)

4 MAY

The **IDF** sends troops into Bayt Laqia nr. Ramallah to break up a demonstration against the **separation wall**, fires live ammunition at stone-throwing youths, killing a **14-yr.-old and a 15-yr.-old Palestinian** (the IDF rules on 5/20 that the soldiers acted inappropriately); uproots 86 Palestinian olive trees in Bil'in for construction of the **separation wall**. (PCHR, WP 5/5; HA, MM 5/6; OCHA, PR 5/11; HA 5/20; NYT 5/22)

5 MAY

The **IDF** issues military orders to "restore" a 500 d. area nr. Bethlehem to its original state, requiring some 450 olive trees planted since the early 1990s to be uprooted; bulldozes Palestinian land in Sammu' nr. Hebron for construction of the **separation wall**; suspends the cmdr. in charge of troops involved in the fatal shooting of 2 Palestinian teenagers on 5/4. **Palestinians** fire **Qassam rockets** at Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Tapuach nr. Nablus stone Palestinian vehicles driving nearby, injuring 1 Palestinian. An **Islamic Jihad mbr.** dies fr. injuries received in clashes with the IDF on 2 May in Saida. (MM, NYT 5/6; NYT 5/9; OCHA 5/11; PCHR 5/12)

Palestinians in 76 locales in the West Bank and 8 in Gaza participate in the 3d round of **Palestinian municipal elections**. **Fatah** wins 56% of the vote, **Hamas** 33%, independents and smaller parties 11%. (AFP, HA, MM, REU 5/5; BBC, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/6; NYT, WP, WT 5/7; HA 5/8; CSM, HA, MM 5/9; AYM, HJ, *al-Quds*, XIN 5/9 in WNC 5/10; MM 5/10; MEI, MM 5/13) (see Quarterly Update)

6 MAY

The **IDF** imposes a curfew on Silat al-Dahir, searches Palestinian vehicles; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Rashayda nr. Bethlehem. **2 Jewish settlers** fr. Halamish uproot olive trees on nearby Palestinian land, fire in the air and beat a Palestinian who attempts to stop them; the IDF brings the settlers in for questioning later, but releases them. In Rafah, 8 Palestinians are injured in fist-fights and stone-throwing exchanges btwn. **Fatah**, **Hamas**

supporters over claimed irregularities in the 5/5 municipal elections. (MEMC 5/6, 5/7; VOP 5/8 in WNC 5/9; PCHR 5/12)

7 MAY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dayr Ghusun nr. Tulkarm, Dura (also firing on residential areas, wounding 5); conducts patrols in Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim poison a Palestinian well nr. Qalqilya, killing a horse. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai chase Palestinians, vandalize homes, destroy water lines in Hebron, damaging 5 houses. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba severely beat a 7-yr.-old Palestinian boy playing nr. the settlement; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. **Islamic Jihad** kidnaps **3 alleged collaborators** in Saida nr. Tulkarm; claims to execute 1. (MEMC 5/8; VOP 5/8 in WNC 5/9; PR 5/11; PCHR 5/12)

8 MAY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Askara nr. Bethlehem, Burkin nr. Jenin. **Jewish settlers** fr. Neve Dekalim seize 18 d. of Palestinian lands in al-Mawasi in s. Gaza. **Jewish settlers** fr. Avraham Avino chase Palestinians, throw stones at Palestinian homes in Hebron. **PA police** reportedly fire on the car of **Jenin AMB head Muhammad Abu Araj**, hitting him in the leg; AMB mbrs. return fire, without causing injuries. The **IDF** jails the 1st **IDF reservist**, **Arkadi Moter** (who is also a Jewish settler) for refusing to serve in protest of Gaza disengagement. Separately, the IDF places a **Jewish settler**, **Niria Ofen**, in administrative detention until 9/30/05 for suspected militant activity related to disengagement. **Armed AMB mbrs.** shut down the central Gaza **PA Central Election Comm. (CEC)** offices apparently in effort to overturn what they call "fraudulent election returns" in Bureij, Rafah that favor **Hamas**. Later they occupy the CEC offices in Bayt Lahiya, where Hamas already officially had been declared winner, and refuse to leave. (JAZ, MM, NYT, WP 5/9; AP, MM, NYT 5/10; AP, OCHA, PR 5/11; PCHR 5/12)

9 MAY

1,000s of Israeli Palestinians gather at al-Aqsa Mosque in response to threat by **Revava** to raid the compound, perform prayers there. Some **2,000 Israeli police and border guards** close off the streets

to the compound to bar Jews fr. entering and to regulate Palestinian access more closely. Revava mbrs. are successfully prevented fr. reaching the compound; a few incidents are reported of Palestinians throwing stones and the Israeli police firing tear gas and stun grenades, leaving 7 Palestinians injured. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus, nr. Ramallah; issues a military order confiscating Palestinian lands of Hebron for construction of a settler bypass road. **6 Jewish settlers** destroy an electricity tower serving Palestinians in al-Mawasi, throw stones at nearby Palestinian homes. In Jenin, the **PA police** exchange gunfire with local AMB leader **Abu Araj**, his men for a 2d day over Abu Araj's refusal to disarm before entering the local courthouse; no injuries are reported; senior-level PA-AMB mtgs. are held to defuse tensions. In Tulkarm, **armed Palestinians** fire on the **PA police** headquarters after police announce plans to crack down on a car theft and arms dealing gang. (JAZ 5/9; NYT 5/10; PCHR 5/12)

In an independence day interview, **Sharon** officially delays disengagement by 3 wks. (to around 8/15), hinting that if **Hamas** were to win Palestinian legislative elections in 7/05 and take control of the PA, disengagement could be canceled. (XIN 5/9 in WNC 5/10; BBC, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/10; PR 5/11; MEI 5/13)

10 MAY

The **IDF** seals the West Bank, Gaza through 5/14, while Israelis mark their memorial and independence days, and Palestinians observe the Nakba; seals Sammu', al-Rihiyya nr. Hebron for the day; imposes a curfew on Hawara nr. Nablus; tightens restrictions on Palestinian movement on the Ramallah-Nablus road; removes earthen barriers blocking the main road fr. Nablus to the Jordan Valley; raids, searches 2 **CEC offices** in Jerusalem, confiscates documents, arrests 2 employees. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim bar Palestinian farmers fr. reaching their land in Kafr Qadim; the **IDF** says the farmers will henceforth require permits to access the land. (HA, IMEMC, MM 5/10; JTA, OCHA 5/11; PCHR 5/12)

11 MAY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, seriously injuring a 57-yr-old Palestinian woman. **Jewish set-**

tlers attack Palestinian children outside an elementary school in Hebron, injuring 1. (PCHR 5/12; OCHA 5/18)

12 MAY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin and in Hawara nr. Nablus, Hebron; raids, searches, questions the employees of a flour mill in al-Qarara (a different one than raided on 4/27), occupies 1 floor as an observation post; sets up checkpoints in Dura, searches Palestinian vehicles, occupies 2 Palestinian homes as observation posts; raids, temporarily occupies 3 Palestinian homes in Hebron. **4 Jewish settlers** fr. Elon Moreh nr. Nablus bar a 70-yr-old Palestinian farmer fr. reaching his fields in nearby Salim, severely beat him, set fire to 10s of d. of olive trees. **Jewish settlers** fr. Beit Hadassah, Ramat Yishai rampage through Palestinian areas of Hebron, throwing stones, bottles at houses, shops; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. **Jewish settlers** fr. Avraham Avino attempt to break into a Palestinian home that they have tried to annex to the settlement on several previous occasions. A **Palestinian** woman injured during an IDF arrest raid on 5/11 dies of her injuries. (IMEMC 5/13; OCHA, PR 5/18; PCHR 5/19)

13 MAY

The **IDF** sets fire to a grove of 60 olive, almond trees in Bayt Laqia; sends troops into Tubas to patrol streets, search Palestinian vehicles; conducts patrols in Nablus; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Avraham Avino rampage through Palestinian areas of Hebron, vandalizing buildings. **Jewish settlers** fr. Einav set fire to Palestinian agricultural land nr. Tulkarm, destroying 2 d. of crops. (PM 5/13; OCHA 5/13; PCHR 5/19)

14 MAY

The **IDF** fires on residential areas nr. Nablus; conducts arrest raids, house searches in nearby Askar r.c.; raids, searches the Bil'in home of Abdallah Abu Ramah, the coordinator of the local Higher Comm. Against the Annexation Wall, arresting him. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar detain a Palestinian farmer plowing his nearby land at gunpoint, take him to their settlement, beat him, threaten to bury him alive; the **IDF** observes the abduction, beating but only

intervenes when settlers threaten the man's life, ordering him to leave the area and never come back, saying it is a closed military zone. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on set fire to 50 d. of nearby Palestinian crops. **Jewish settlers** fr. Elon Moreh erect a tent on nearby Palestinian farmland. (IMEMC 5/15; OCHA 5/18; PCHR 5/19)

15 MAY

The **IDF** lifts the seal on the West Bank, Gaza (imposed on 5/10); fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, wounding a 12-yr.-old

Palestinian boy; shoots, wounds 2 Palestinians who toss Molotov cocktails at an IDF patrol nr. Ramallah, causing no damage or injuries; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-'Arub r.c. nr Hebron; arrests 3 Palestinians attempting to sneak into Israel fr. Dayr al-Balah to find work. **Palestinians** fire an **anti-tank rocket** at Israeli civilian workers installing a fence along the Philadelphi Route in Rafah, lightly injuring 4; fire 2 **mortars** at Gush Katif, causing no damage or injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on attack, attempt to force 4 Palestinian farmers off their land. (PM 5/15; HA, WP 5/16; OCHA 5/18; PCHR 5/19)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
AYM	(<i>al-Ayyam</i> , Ramallah)
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
CSM	(<i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , Boston)
DUS	(<i>al-Dustur</i> , Amman)
HA	(<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
HJ	(<i>al-Hayat al-Jadida</i> , Ramallah)
IMEMC	(International Middle East Media Center, Bayt Sahur)
JAZ	(al-Jazeera Satellite Channel Television, Doha)
JP	(<i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem)
JPI	(<i>Jerusalem Post International Edition</i> , Jerusalem)
JTA	(Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet])
MA	(<i>Ma'ariv</i> , Tel Aviv)
MEI	(<i>Middle East International</i> , London)
MENA	(Middle East News Agency, Cairo)
MM	(<i>Mideast Mirror</i> , London)
NYT	(<i>New York Times</i> , New York)
PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PM	(Palestine Monitor [Internet])
PR	(<i>Palestine Report</i> , Jerusalem)
PRCS	(Palestine Red Crescent Society [Internet])
PSCT	(Palestine Satellite Channel Television, Gaza)
REU	(Reuters [Internet])
OCHA	(United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Weekly Briefing Notes, Jerusalem)
VOI	(Voice of Israel, Jerusalem)
VOP	(Voice of Palestine, Jericho)
WJW	(<i>Washington Jewish Week</i> , Rockville, MD)
WNC	(World News Connection [Internet], Washington)
WP	(<i>Washington Post</i> , Washington)
WT	(<i>Washington Times</i> , Washington)
XIN	(Xinhua—New China News Agency, Beijing)
YA	(<i>Yedi'ot Abaronot</i> , Tel Aviv)