CHRONOLOGY

16 AUGUST–15 NOVEMBER 2005

COMPILED BY MICHÈLE K. ESPOSITO

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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 AUGUST

At midnight local time, the grace period runs out for Jewish settlers in Gaza to withdraw voluntarily in compliance with Israeli PM Ariel Sharon’s disengagement plan; at least 50% of the estimated 8,500 settlers have already left, including all settlers fr. Dugit (est. 1990, pop. 70, size 245 dunams [d.; 4 d. = 1 acre]), Nisanit (est. 1980, pop. 1,100, size 1,610 d.), Pe’at Sadeh (est. 1989, pop. 110, size 935 d.), Rafiah Yam (est. 1984, pop. 130, size 574 d.), Shalev (est. 2001, pop. 50). Gaza and the n. West Bank remain closed military zones to Israelis for the duration of disengagement (see 6/30, 8/15).

Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers prepare to forcibly remove the settlers who remain and the estimated 5,000 disengagement protesters (mostly West Bank settler youth) who snuck into the Strip. Meanwhile in Gaza, the IDF searches Palestinian homes nr. Bayt Lahiya, in Wadi al-Silqa; occupies a Palestinian home in Dayr al-Balah as an observation post. Jewish settlers fr. Gaza’s Gush Katif bloc, burn animal food storage bins in al-Mawasi. In Khan Yunis, 1,000s of Hamas supporters rally to celebrate the pending disengagement. In the West Bank, the IDF detains, beats a 16-yr.-old Palestinian who throws stones at troops outside Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids, house searches in villages around Hebron and in Qabatya nr. Jenin; demolishes an animal farm outside Hebron for construction of the separation wall; occupies 1 Palestinian home nr. Hebron, 1 nr. Tulkarm as observation posts. Jewish settlers fr. the West Bank settlement of Homesh (to be evacuated under disengagement) occupy, vandalize 2 Palestinian homes nearby; the IDF removes them. (BBC, IMEMC, XIN 8/16; PR 8/17; PCHR 8/18)

17 AUGUST

Before dawn the IDF moves troops into Gaza en masse to begin the forcible evacuation of Jewish settlers and disengagement protesters who have not yet left, begins demolishing settler homes in n. Gaza. By the end of the day, evacuations of Bedolah (est. 1986, pop. 220, size 1,456 d., hrs. to evac. 6), Ganei Tal (est. 1979, pop. 350, size 2,050 d., hrs. to evac. 11), Kerem Atzmona (est. 2001, pop. 24, hrs. to evac. 6), Morag (est. 1972, pop. 220, size 1,300 d., hrs. to evac. 7), Tal Katifa (est. 1992, pop. 60, size 183 d., hrs. to evac. 5) are completed; most residents of Gadid leave voluntarily. Settlers in Atzmona agree to evacuate voluntarily by 8/21, those in Netzarim by 8/22. Settlers who have not arranged their evacuation with the government will be housed temporarily in hotels, mobile homes: e.g., more than half of Morag’s settlers take up temporary residence in the West Bank settlement of Ofra. Israel’s Jerusalem municipality temporarily houses 1,000 Neve Dekalim settlers who have left voluntarily in a Jerusalem hotel. Generally there is little strong resistance; the IDF optimistically says it hopes that the evacuations could be completed within days instead of wks., as earlier estimated. During the day, some scuffles btwn. soldiers, settlers are reported; in some areas settlers set fire to tires and in garbage bins to prevent soldiers fr. entering settlements; at least 2 settlers set fire to their homes before leaving. In Morag, a female IDF soldier is stabbed with a syringe, lightly injured by a disengagement protester. (In total, 13 Israeli soldiers and police are lightly injured during the day.) Gaza settlers and protesters also attack Palestinians: some 200 Kefar Darom settlers rampage through nearby Palestinian areas, set fire to...
a Palestinian house; 20 Neve Dekalim settlers march through al-Mawsī, spread nails on roads to damage Palestinian cars, try to provoke Palestinian residents (the IDF intervenes, removes the settlers); other Jewish settlers fire on Palestinian homes, vandalize Palestinian greenhouses in the same area. The IDF also demolishes a Palestinian home, conducts arrest raids in al-Mawsī. Meanwhile, Palestinians in Khan Yunis begin returning to their homes on the edge of town facing the settlements, which they had fled since the start of the intifāda in 9/00 because of IDF gunfire. Islamic Jihad members, in some 50 boats, carrying banners and weapons, hold a seaborne victory parade off Gaza to celebrate disengagement. Some disengagement protests in Israel turn violent: a disengagement protester tosses a grenade at an IDF checkpoint in s. Israel, wounding 5 IDF soldiers; a female settler fr. Keddumim in the West Bank sets fire to herself during a demonstration in Netivot, is seriously injured. In the West Bank, a Jewish settler fr. Shvut Rachel steals a gun fr. an Israeli security guard at the industrial area of Shilo settlement, fires on Palestinian workers, killing 4 Palestinians, wounding 1. Sharon denounces the attack as "Jewish terror"; Palestinian Authority (PA) PM Mahmud Abbas calls on Palestinian factions to maintain calm, refrain from retaliation. At Sanur (to be evacuated under disengagement), 600 Jewish settlers hold an antidisengagement rally. The IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and in Nur al-Shams refugee camp (r.c.), Tulkarm. Also in Hebron, 4 bedouin children herding goats are injured when they accidentally trigger an unexploded IDF phosphorus shell; the IDF says it uses the shells only in training. A 9 yr.-old Palestinian dies of injuries received when she accidentally triggered an unexploded IDF ordnance nr. Karmīl. (Arutz 7, BBC, HA, IMEMC, NYT, REU, USA Today, WP, WT, YA 8/17; Voice of Israel, VOP 8/17 in WNC 8/18; BBC, HA, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 8/18; MENA 8/18 in WNC 8/19; NYT 8/20; PCHR, PR 8/25; IMEMC 9/22; HA 11/10)

18 AUGUST

In the morning, the IDF says that 70% of Gaza settlers have been evacuated, most Gaza residents have not resisted the evacuation, most protests and resistance are by West Bank settler youth (and some American Jewish youth) who have come to Gaza in recent wks. to block the withdrawal. During the day, the evacuations of Gan Or (est. 1983, pop. 350, size 1,692 d., hrs. to evac. 5), Kefar Darom (est. 1983, pop. 490, size 276 d., hrs. to evac. 12), Kefar Yam (est. 1983, pop. 15, hrs. to evac. 5), Netzer Hazani (est. 1973, pop. 460, size 250 d., hrs. to evac. 5), Neve Dekalim (est. 1983, pop. 2,700, size 1,443 d., hrs. to evac. 35), Shirat Hayam (est. 2001, pop. 40, hrs. to evac. 5) settlements are completed. An increasing number of settlers set fire to their homes and to greenhouses as they leave to prevent them fr. being turned over to Palestinians. For the 1st time, 1 armed resident in Kefar Yam, 4 armed disengagement protesters in Shirat Hayam threaten to shoot IDF soldiers if they follow orders to remove settlers, but only if soldiers fire first; the incidents defuse without violence. Some Shirat Hayam residents also throw rocks at Palestinians in Mawsī as they evacuate. In Kefar Darom, 65 resident families agree to leave, but as many as 2,000 outside protesters refuse, many of them barricading themselves inside and on the roof of a synagogue; for the 1st time during the disengagement, the IDF uses water cannons against protesters and 2 IDF soldiers refuse to obey their orders, are removed by fellow soldiers; 58 Israelis are injured in clearing the synagogue, including at least 3 IDF soldiers, 27 border police (1 seriously when he falls accidentally); protesters throw paint thinner at IDF Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Dan Harel, several soldiers. In Neve Dekalim, some 1,500 disengagement protesters hole up in 2 synagogues, refusing to leave even after residents have voluntarily evacuated, but are eventually extracted. Jewish settlers in s. Gaza spread nails along the coastal road in al-Mawsī to prevent movement of Palestinian vehicles. Meanwhile, Palestinians fire a rocket at Netzarim (still inhabited), lightly injuring an IDF soldier; 2 mortars at Gadid settlement (still inhabited), 3 mortars at Morag (evacuated) causing no damage or injuries. Palestinian gunmen fire on IDF troops nr. Kefar Darom, lightly injuring 1. The IDF conducts arrest raids in al-Mawsī; fires on residential areas of Bayt Lahiya, seriously injuring 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, Jewish settlers fr. Homesh and Sanur attempt to break into a Palestinian home in nearby Asa‘a village; the IDF intervenes to stop them. Jewish settlers fr. Keddumim throw stones at Palestinian shops, cars nr. Qalqīlyā. The IDF also conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dura, nr. Tulkarm; confiscates 500 d. of agricultural land nr. Eli settlement nr. Nablus. In Israel,
disengagement protesters block roads nationwide. (AP, BBC, HA, Israeli Radio, ITV 8/18; NYT, WP, WT 8/19; PCHR 8/25)

19 AUGUST

The IDF completes the evacuation of Gadid (est. 1982, pop. 350, size 1,600 d., hrs. to evac. 3); halts operations at sundown for the Sabbath, planning to resume on 8/21; starts demolishing homes in Kerem Atzmona; begins digging 8-ft. trench around Gush Katif settlements to prevent Palestinians fr. entering before evacuation is complete. During the day in Gadid, where almost all residents left on 8/17, some 200 disengagement protesters set fires, erect roadblocks to block troops. Palestinian gunmen fire on Gadid, causing no damage or injuries. Also in Gaza, 2 Hamas mbrs. are injured when a roadside bomb they are planting explodes prematurely. In the West Bank, disengagement protesters set fire to a gas station outside Sanur. Jewish settlers take over 2 Palestinian homes nr. Homesh as lookout posts to protest the disengagement. The IDF ousts them later in the day. A pig’s head, presumably left by disengagement protesters, is found in the Hassan Bek military zone to protest the disengagement. Meanwhile, the IDF ousts Netzarim settlers fr. Sha’ar Hatikva nr. Jaffa. A Palestinian gunman shoots, wounds an IDF soldier nr. Neve Dekalim. The Israeli cabinet approves (16–4) the next phase of disengagement for withdrawal fr. 4 West Bank settlements; the last residents of 2 of these, Ganim (est. 1983, pop. 172) and Qadim (est. 1983, pop. 169), evacuated voluntarily by 8/15. Sanur settlers complete handover of their weapons to the IDF.Outside Sanur, 100s of masked settlers scuffle with IDF soldiers, puncture tires of IDF vehicles; around 50 of them attempt to set fire to several nearby Palestinian homes. A Jewish settler fr. Alfe Menashe shoots, wounds a Palestinian outside his home, nr. a bypass road nr. Qalqilya. Meanwhile, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin. In Gaza City, at least 200 armed al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB) mbrs. surround the PC headquarters, demanding jobs, accusing PA officials of corruption; they disperse when PA security forces intervene. (HA, IMEMC 8/21; IMEMC, NYT, WT, XIN, YA 8/22; PCHR 8/25)

20 AUGUST

The IDF occupies a Palestinian home in Badala nr. Tulkarm as an observation post, demolishes a store next door; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Til nr. Tulkarm; completes a segment of the separation wall nr. Qalandia crossing s. of Ramallah. Some 50 armed Jewish settlers fr. Homesh raid Burqa village, stone Palestinian homes. Jewish settlers fr. Beit Hadashah in Hebron attack international peace activists on a solidarity visit to Palestinians, lightly injuring 4. (PCHR, PR 8/25)

21 AUGUST

The IDF resumes disengagement in Gaza, completing the evacuation of Aley Sinai (est. 1983, pop. 407, size 488 d., hrs. to evac. 8), Atzmona (est. 1982, pop. 646, size 882 d., hrs. to evac. 8), Katif (est. 1985, pop. 404, size 2,000 d., hrs. to evac. 6) during the day; disengagement protesters who had moved back into Dugit in recent days are also removed. Atzmona settlers leave willingly when troops arrive. Katif settlers set up burning barricades at the entrance to their settlement but leave willingly after holding a final prayer service. In Aley Sinai, 30 remaining settler families leave willingly, but 200 disengagement protesters resist, forcing soldiers to remove them. The IDF also begins dismantling settler homes in Dugit, Nisanit, Pe’ at Sadeh. A Palestinian gunman shoots, wounds an IDF soldier nr. Neve Dekalim. The Israeli cabinet approves (16–4) the next phase of disengagement for withdrawal fr. 4 West Bank settlements; the last residents of 2 of these, Ganim (est. 1983, pop. 172) and Qadim (est. 1983, pop. 169), evacuated voluntarily by 8/15. Sanur settlers complete handover of their weapons to the IDF. Outside Sanur, 100s of masked settlers scuffle with IDF soldiers, puncture tires of IDF vehicles; around 50 of them attempt to set fire to several nearby Palestinian homes. A Jewish settler fr. Alfe Menashe shoots, wounds a Palestinian outside his home, nr. a bypass road nr. Qalqilya. Meanwhile, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin. In Gaza City, at least 200 armed al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB) mbrs. surround the PC headquarters, demanding jobs, accusing PA officials of corruption; they disperse when PA security forces intervene. (HA, IMEMC 8/21; IMEMC, NYT, WT, XIN, YA 8/22; PCHR 8/25)

22 AUGUST

The IDF completes the evacuation of settlers fr. Gaza, with residents of the last inhabited settlement, Netzarim (est. 1972, pop. 496, size 1,760 d., hrs. to evac. 7), and 300 disengagement protesters leaving willingly after holding final prayer service, with only minor scuffles with soldiers; Netzarim residents say they have applied to the Israeli government to move to the West Bank settlement of Ariel. The IDF also raids, searches houses in al-Mawasi. Overnight, 10s
of armed Jewish settlers protesting disengagement march through at least 8 West Bank Palestinian villages nr. Homesh and Sanur, firing in the air, occupying the rooftops of Palestinian homes, vandalizing property; the IDF intervenes to remove them. During the day, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, occupying 2 houses as observation posts; conducts house searches, interrogations nr. Jenin, occupying 2 Palestinian homes as observation posts. Jewish settlers fr. Eli stone, lightly injure 2 Palestinians. Jewish settlers fr. Einav attack Palestinians, damage Palestinian crops and homes in Ramin village nr. Nablus. A French sound technician kidnapped in Gaza on 8/14 turns up at a PA police station in Gaza City; no group claims responsibility, though there are rumors that he was kidnapped by a prominent clan and was released only after Abbas freed 6 family mbrs. fr. jail. (HA, IMEMC, XIN 8/22; HA, NYT, WP, WT 8/23; PCHR, PR 8/25; NYT 8/28)

23 AUGUST

The IDF completes the settler disengagement in the West Bank with the evacuation of Homesh (est. 1980, pop. 228, hrs. to evac. 7) and Sanur (est. 1982, pop. 105, hrs. to evac. 8), permitting the IDF to withdraw fr. its military positions in the 4 West Bank settlements and in Gaza over the next 2–5 wks. Most residents of the 2 settlements left before disengagement began; those who had remained generally go willingly, but some 2,000 disengagement protesters at the two sites put up mild resistance against some 12,000 soldiers, with 1 female protester in Homesh stabbing, lightly injuring a female soldier. IDF dismantlement of settler homes is underway in 13 of the 25 evacuated settlements; some protesters manage to infiltrate cleared settlements, but the IDF removes them again. Elsewhere in the West Bank, the IDF conducts house searches, interrogations in Hebron (occupying a school as an observation post) and around Jenin; fires on residential areas nr. Jenin; bulldozes several tents, animal pens set up by bedouin in an IDF “training zone” nr. Bethlehem. Jewish settlers fr. Keddumim severely beat a Palestinian nr. Qalqilya. (BBC, HA, IMEMC 8/23; NYT, WP WT 8/24; PCHR, PR 8/25; MEI 9/2)

24 AUGUST

A day after completing disengagement fr. 25 Jewish settlements, Israel confirms plans to seize some 1,588 d. of West Bank Palest-
27 AUGUST

The IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches, interrogations in Hebron, al-Ma‘ni in Gaza; occupies a Palestinian home nr. the Kissufim settler bypass road as an observation post. (PCHR 9/1)

28 AUGUST

Citing retaliation for the 8/24 assassination of an Islamic Jihad mbr., an Islamic Jihad suicide bomber detonates a device outside a bus depot in Beersheba, Israel, killing only himself, seriously injuring 2 Israeli security guards, lightly injuring at least 8 other Israelis; Abbas quickly denounces the bombing as a “terrorist attack” that undermines Palestinian national interests. The IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Qalqilya. Jewish settlers fr. Karnei Shomron (btwn. Nablus and Qalqilya) throw stones at local Palestinians, lightly injuring 1. Jewish settlers fr. Ramat Yishai burn Palestinian olive trees, grape vines in Hebron. (IMEMC 8/28; NYT, WP, WT 8/29; IMEMC 8/30; PR 8/31; PCHR 9/1; MEI 9/2)

29 AUGUST

The IDF completes demolition of empty settler homes in Ganim, Qadim; informs the PA that the 4 evacuated West Bank settlement sites will remain classified as area C (under full Israeli control). The AMB, Islamic Jihad claim joint responsibility for the 8/28 suicide bombing. A Palestinian gunman fatally shoots an IDF soldier nr. the evacuated Morag settlement. The IDF imposes a day-long curfew on, patrols in Fasayil nr. Jericho; conducts house searches in villages around Jenin, nr. Tulkarm. (JAZ 8/29; PR 8/31; PCHR 9/1)

An Israeli interministerial comm. decides that the Israeli Palestinian victims of the 8/4/05 suicide attack by an AWOL IDF soldier in Shafa ‘Amr will receive a lump-sum compensation payment fr. the state but will not be recognized as “terror victims,” who receive a lifetime monthly government stipend. Israeli law only recognizes as “terror victims” those who were killed by “enemy forces.” (HA 8/30; Guardian 9/1; HA, MEI 9/2; NYT 10/24)

30 AUGUST

The IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in camps and villages around Bethlehem and Tulkarm, nr. Ramallah, in East Jerusalem; demolishes 2 rooms of a Palestinian home nr. Qalqilya for lack of permits. Jewish settlers fr. Ramat Yishai burn Palestinian olive trees, almond trees, grape vines in Hebron, also damaging storage buildings. Jewish settlers fr. Tene Oranim in the s. West Bank report that 80% of residents have signed a letter to Sharon offering to leave their settlement in exchange for the same compensation received by settlers evacuated under the disengagement plan. Armed AMB mbrs. march in Ramallah, demanding that the PA enforce the rule of law. (IMEMC 8/30; PR 8/31; PCHR 9/1)

31 AUGUST

The IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and in ‘Aida r.c., al-‘Aza r.c., Tulkarm. Jewish settlers fr. Kiryat Arba surround, heckle, scuffle with a group of European diplomats, Israeli activists making a solidarity visit to Hebron. (YA 8/31; PCHR 9/8)

A day after formally announcing that he will challenge Sharon for Likud party leadership in advance of Israeli elections, which must be held by 11/06, fmr. PM Benjamin Netanyahu goes to Ma‘ale Adumim, where he vows that as PM, he would press for a rapid increase in construction of West Bank settlements, particularly around Jerusalem, including building 5,000 units in Ma‘ale Adumim immediately. (NYT, WT 8/31; NYT, WT 9/1; NYT 9/3)

The Jewish Agency, Israeli DMin. unveil a program to recruit 100s of young IDF soldiers who have just completed their mandatory service to travel abroad as ‘emissaries to Jewish communities in the Diaspora’ to persuade Jewish youth abroad to come to Israel for a semester or yr. of academic study. The newly discharged soldiers would receive travel expenses and a stipend to travel for 6–12 mos. The project is estimated to cost $200 m./yr., with $50 m. paid by the Jewish Agency, $50 m. by the government, and the rest by donations to the agency, most of which come from North American Jews, who donate around $150 m./yr. to the Jewish Agency. (HA 8/31)

1 SEPTEMBER

The IDF shoots, wounds 2 Palestinians nr. the evacuated Gush Katif settlement bloc;
conducts arrest raids, house searches in and nr. Hebron. **Israel** deports 2 **Palestinian prisoners** who hold Jordanian passports to **Jordan** (see Quarterly Update in JPS 137). Inside Israel, some 70 **ultra-Orthodox Jews** attack, severely beat a Druze man harvesting his vineyard in Bayt Jan in the upper Galilee; **100s of Druze** come to the scene and clash with the Jews, leaving 4 injured; **Israeli police** intervene, separate the groups. (IMEMC 9/1; HA 9/2; PCHR 9/8)

**2 SEPTEMBER**

The **IDF** raids, searches a house in Balata r.c. Some 50 Jewish settlers fr. Kiryat Arba seize a strip of Palestinian land in Hebron’s Wad al-Nasara neighborhood, set up tents; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (PCHR 9/8)

**3 SEPTEMBER**

The **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Askar r.c. overnight. (PCHR 9/8)

**4 SEPTEMBER**

The **IDF** fires percussion grenades at Palestinian homes nr. Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma’on in Hebron knock down tents, kill 6 sheep, injure 10, vandalize Palestinian farms nearby; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. In Khan Yunis, **10s of unemployed Palestinians** demonstrate outside a municipal building demanding jobs and better living conditions, scuffling with and pelting PA riot police with stones, leaving 7 officers, 3 demonstrators injured. (AP 9/5; NYT, REU 9/6; WP 9/7; PCHR 9/8)

**5 SEPTEMBER**

**Israel** approves construction of 117 new housing units in Ariel settlement in contravention of the road map. The **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Tulkarm r.c.; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians youths at a flying checkpoint outside Jenin, wounding 1, arresting 1; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and in villages around Nablus, Tulkarm. An explosion destroys the Gaza City home of a Hamas mbr., killing **4 Palestinians**, wounding more than 12; neighbors say the blast was apparently caused by explosives kept in the home that detonated accidentally. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba throw stones, bottles at Palestinian homes, injuring a 5-yr-old and a 1-yr-old Palestinian child. For a 2d day, **10s of unemployed Palestinians** demonstrate outside a Khan Yunis municipal building demanding jobs and better living conditions, scuffling with and pelting PA riot police with stones, leaving 7 officers, 3 demonstrators injured. (AP 9/5; NYT, REU 9/6; WP 9/7; PCHR 9/8)

**10s of PA security forces** deploy in Taybeh after 100s of armed men tied to 1 Muslim family fr. Dayr Jarir burn 13 homes of an extended Christian family there. The disputes stemmed fr. an affair btwn. a Muslim woman and a Christian man and the honor killing of the woman involved. **Christians in Taybeh**, however, fear an undercurrent of anti-Christian sentiment is to blame and could result in wider clashes. (AP 9/5; BBC 9/14)

**6 SEPTEMBER**

**Israeli DM Shaul Mofaz** orders IDF cmdrs. to carry out stringent roadblock checks, demanding that troops “show no pity for anyone, even if it causes traffic hold ups and anger.” In Gaza, the **IDF** fires on a group of at least 60 stone-throwing Palestinians that attempts to enter the vacated Neve Dekalim site, killing 1 **Palestinian**, wounding 3. **Palestinians in Gaza fire 2 rockets** at the Negev, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Tubas nr. Jenin; imposes a brief curfew on, raids and searches homes in Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; bulldozes 3 d. of Palestinian land at the entrance of Bayt Wazzan nr. Nablus for construction of an IDF checkpoint. (HA, YA 9/6; WP 9/7; NYT; PCHR, WT 9/8)

**7 SEPTEMBER**

In Gaza, the **PA security forces** enlist **AMB** mbrs. to set up checkpoints around some evacuated Jewish settlements to prevent Palestinians fr. looting. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysha r.c., Hebron (occupying the top floors of 2 houses as observation posts); patrols in, fires on residential areas of Bayt Dajan nr. Nablus. As many as 100 **Palestinian Resistance Comms. (PRCs)** gunmen storm the Gaza City home of senior Fatah Revolutionary Council mbr. and...
fmr. Gaza public security chief Musa Arafat, kill him, wound 4 bodyguards, kidnap his son Manhal and 3 bodyguards, releasing the bodyguards soon after; Abbas retired Arafat, a powerful and corrupt Gaza figure, fr. his post in 4/05 as part of the security reform process, keeping him on as a security adviser. Abbas convenes his national security council, cancels plans to go to New York for the opening of the UN General Assembly session. (AFP, BBC, JAZ, WP, XIN 9/7; CSM, DS, HA, NYT, PCHR, UPI, WP, WT 9/8; AP, CSM 9/9; NYT 9/10; PCHR 9/15)

8 SEPTEMBER

As the IDF completes the demolition of settler and IDF structures in Gaza, Israeli DM Mofaz announces that he, as a religious person, cannot order the demolition of synagogues in the Gaza settlements as Israel agreed with the PA (see Quarterly Update). In Gaza, the IDF fatally shoots 1 Palestinian, wounds a 2d who cut through a perimeter fence of an evacuated settlement; blows up an underground military installation in the evacuated Ganei Tal settlement; dismantles a settler-only bridge linking 2 roads nr. the evacuated Gush Katif bloc; bulldozes land nr. the evacuated Ganei Tal settlement; dismantles an underground military installation in the fence of an evacuated settlement; blows up a 2d who cut through a perimeter fence of an evacuated settlement; wounds a mentally handicapped Palestinian who strays close to a checkpoint outside Khan Yunis. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin; conducts house searches nr. Aqaba; fires on residential areas of Rafah. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin; patrols nr. the Jewish settler and IDF structures in Gaza, Israeli cabinet votes (14–2) to complete disengagement without demolishing 19 Gaza synagogues and to declare officially the end of military rule in Gaza. In the evening, the IDF holds a flag-lowering ceremony in Gaza, begins pullout of its 6 remaining battalions (5,000–6,000 troops), which should be completed by dawn on 9/12. In the afternoon, the IDF fires on Palestinians gathering nr. Khan Yunis to watch the final pullout, wounding 5. A Jewish settler fr. Kiryat Arba injures a 24-yr-old Palestinian woman, a 10-yr-old Palestinian girl in a hit-and-run in Hebron. (BBC 9/11; NYT, WP, WT 9/11; PCHR 9/15)

9 SEPTEMBER

The IDF blows up its last posts and observation towers in Gaza, completes removal of its equipment in preparation for a handover to the PA; the only settler or IDF structures left standing are the IDF division headquarters nr. Neve Dekalim, which will be turned over to the PA, and the synagogues (see 9/8). In Gaza, the IDF shoots, wounds a mentally handicapped Palestinian who strays close to a checkpoint outside Khan Yunis. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in Aqaba nr. Jenin; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Qabatya. In Gaza City, 1,000s of Palestinians attend Musa Arafat’s funeral; Abbas was expected to address the ceremony but does not attend because of the high number of gunmen present. The PRCs issue a further statement on the assassination, restating that the PRCs as an organization are not responsible but that some PRC mbrs. as individuals carried out the plot, which the PRCs claim was orchestrated by PA Civil Affairs M Muhammad Dahlan. (HA 9/9; NYT, WP, WT 9/10; PCHR 9/15)

10 SEPTEMBER

Some 200 Egyptian border police begin deploying along the Rafah border to prevent smuggling and illegal crossings after the IDF completes its Gaza withdrawal; all 750 will be deployed within 4 days. IDF moves into Bayt Furik nr. Nablus, fires on residential areas, then fires on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the troops, wounding 1; conducts house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin. Some 200 armed AMB mbrs. take over 2 PA buildings in central Gaza demanding jobs. Masked Palestinian gunmen kidnap an Italian journalist in Dayr al-Balah, release him unharmed several hrs. later without explanation. (HA, JAZ 9/10; HA, NYT, WP, WT 9/11; PCHR 9/15)

11 SEPTEMBER

12 SEPTEMBER

Just past dawn, the IDF pulls its last troops out of Gaza, issues a declaration ending military rule in the Strip. Palestinians storm past PA security forces to enter the evacuated settlements, scavenging some synagogues and demolished homes for anything that could be sold or used, setting 4 synagogues on fire; the PA security...
forces bulldoze several synagogues, bar Palestinians fr. ransacking greenhouses (purchased by U.S. philanthropists and given to the PA as economically viable operations to aid the Palestinian economy), but leave a large factory in Kefar Darom unguarded, allowing it to be stripped of equipment. Palestinians also remove IDF roadblocks across Gaza, flock to beaches to swim for the 1st time since the start of the intifada. The AMB, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Fatah hold marches and celebrations, with factional flags more numerous than Palestinian flags. Egyptian border guards along the Rafah border fatally shoot a Palestinian while attempting to control crowds who flock to the crossing; 100s of Palestinians break through the border fence and enter Egypt. The IDF fires on Palestinian youths who approach the border fence in Bayt Lahiya, seriously wounding a 13-yr.-old. In the West Bank, the IDF imposes an overnight curfew on al-Til, conducting house searches and ID checks, withdrawing late morning; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Qalqilya, Tulkarm; occupies the top floor of a Palestinian home nr. Hebron as an observation post. (AP, JAZ, NYT, REU 9/12; CSM, HA, JT, JTA, NYT, WP, WT 9/13; IMEMC, Independent 9/14; BBC, PCHR 9/15)

13 SEPTEMBER

A day after the IDF completes withdrawal fr. Gaza, Sharon, DM Mofaz separately vow that Israel will “make every effort to direct resources to the development” of West Bank settlement blocs. Meanwhile, Palestinians continue looting fmr. Gaza settlement sites for a 2d day, overwhelming PA security forces to strip some greenhouses. Egypt, daunted by the number of Palestinians seeking to cross the Rafah checkpoint, declares the border open for several days as a good-will gesture, allowing 1,000s on either side of the border to cross; many Palestinians rush to buy Egyptian goods (including food, medicine, sheep for the upcoming Ramadan holidays) that are dramatically cheaper than those in Gaza, and visit family and friends they have not seen in yrs. before the border is resealed. Israel criticizes the lax Egyptian. PA security; Egypt, the PA blame Israel for failing adequately to coordinate disengagement. Egyptian border guards patrolling the border find a smugglers tunnel containing 38 fire arms, 3 rocket propelled grenades (RPGs); the PA security forces seize the weapons. Palestinian militant groups hold larger rallies than on 9/12 (including 10,000s of Palestinians at a Hamas rally in Gaza City), celebrating the disengagement as a victory of the resistance; at Islamic Jihad rallies, mbrs. display their arms, but at Hamas rallies, mbrs. do not; Abbas warns that he will no longer tolerate the “chaos of weapons.” In the West Bank, the IDF occupies the top floor of a 4-story residential building nr. Hebron as an observation post, fires on stone-throwing youths who challenge the troops, killing 1 Palestinian, wounding 4; demolishes a Palestinian home in Issawiyya, East Jerusalem, nr. French Hill settlement. (HA, NYT, WA 9/13; AFP, IMEMC, Independent, NYT 9/14; PCHR 9/15)

14 SEPTEMBER

1,000s of Palestinians continue to cross the Rafah border, while Egyptian border guards attempt to assert some control; PA security forces do not attempt to block movement; Hamas mbrs. blow an opening in the concrete wall on the Palestinian side to facilitate passage. Hamas mbrs. disrupt a disengagement celebration at an abandoned settlement site nr. Khan Yunis, attack a Palestinian rap group in protest over their “Western” music. Abbas cancels plans to attend another national unity celebration at Neve Dekalim out of concern about gunfire. Meanwhile, the IDF raids an Internet caf´e in East Jerusalem, confiscating computers and disks, searches staff and customers; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron; imposes a curfew on Zabbuba nr. Jenin. Jewish settlers in Hebron attack Palestinian homes, vehicles in and around the city. (JAZ 9/14; BBC, HA, IMEMC, PCHR, WT 9/15; PCHR 9/22)

15 SEPTEMBER

The IDF deploys troops on roads b/w. Nur al-Shams r.c. and Tulkarm, fires on residential areas; during the operation, an IDF jeep hits a Palestinian car, killing 1 Palestinian, injuring 1. The IDF also conducts house searches, patrols streets in Kafr Qaddum; sets up numerous checkpoints, conducts arrest raids in and around Hebron. Hamas mbrs. blast more openings in the Gaza border wall to facilitate crossing into Egypt, overwhelming the 750 Egyptian border guards. Palestinians across the West Bank demonstrate in front of UN offices,
calling on the UN to intervene to halt Israel’s construction of the separation wall. (IMEMC, WP 9/16; PCHR 9/22)

16 SEPTEMBER

The PA begins deploying 100s of security forces along the Gaza border. At the abandoned site of Neve Dekalim, 1,000s of masked, heavily armed Hamas gunmen hold a victory parade celebrating disengagement. The IDF beats, fractures the hand of a Palestinian cameraman working for a European news agency covering nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall in Bil’in; imposes a curfew on, searches houses in Zabbuba nr. Jenin; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Aza r.c., Kafr Qaddum, Sa’ir nr. Hebron. (IMEMC 9/16; WP, WT 9/17; PCHR 9/22)

17 SEPTEMBER

750 Egyptian border guards, some 2,500 PA security forces shut the Rafah crossing, patch breeches in the border walls, ending 5 days of cross-border celebrations; 8 Palestinians, including 3 PA policemen are injured when PA forces open fire to enforce the closure; Israel demands the border be sealed for at least 6 mos.; meanwhile, all people, goods to or fr. Egypt will pass through an Israeli-monitored crossing at Kerem Shalom, where Gaza, Egypt, Israel meet. Meanwhile, the IDF occupies 2 Palestinian homes in Hebron as military posts; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, Ramallah. Some 50 Jewish settlers fr. Efrat burn Palestinian grape vines, poison a cow nr. Bethlehem. (AFP, IMEMC 9/17; NYT, WP 9/18; AP 9/19; PCHR 9/22)

18 SEPTEMBER

The IDF bulldozes Palestinian land n. of Bayt Hanun, some 200 m. inside Gaza, as part of a plan (drafted before disengagement) to create a buffer zone controlled by the IDF along the n. Gaza border. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in, fires on residential areas of Nablus; imposes a curfew on Budrus nr. Ramallah, patrolling streets, searching homes. Jewish settlers fr. Ramat Yishai throw stones, bottles, rotten vegetables at Palestinian homes in Hebron. In Gaza City, 10,000 Hamas supporters attend a military-style victory parade celebrating disengagement, displaying RPGs, rockets, assault rifles. Also in Gaza City, PA security forces and Hamas mbr. intervene to stop the kidnapping of 1 American, 1 Palestinian journalist by unknown militants. (JP, REU 9/18; AP, XIN 9/19; PCHR 9/22; HA 9/25)

A 5-day summit on Israeli-Palestinian issues opens in Israel attended by 17 mainline Protestant and Jewish officials. The summit, organized by American Jewish groups, is aimed at convincing Americans to halt steps toward divestment following a move a yr. ago by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to consider divesting church funds fr. 6 corporations undertaking activities that support the Israeli occupation. The World Council of Churches issued similar recommendations to its mbrs. in 2/05, followed by the United Church of Christ in 7/05, raising serious concerns in Israel and among U.S. Jewish groups. Evangelical Christian groups were not invited to these mtgs., as they are already considered solidly supportive of Israel. (WT 9/17)

19 SEPTEMBER

The IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in villages around Qalqilya. The IDF bulldozes a 450-m strip of Palestinian land in Hebron for construction of a settlers-only bypass road linking Kiryat Arba to an IDF post. In Gaza City, Hamas holds what it claims is its largest ever armed demonstration to celebrate disengagement. (HA 9/20; PCHR 9/22)

20 SEPTEMBER

The IDF completes disengagement implementation, withdrawing its last troops fr. 4 West Bank settlements. IDF undercover units raid an auto repair shop in Bethlehem, detain 3 Palestinians, release 2 within several hrs. The IDF raids, searches, occupies the top floor of 2 Palestinian homes in Hebron as observation posts; later conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and in nearby al-Arub r.c.; raids the campaign offices of 2 Palestinian municipal elections candidates in al-Khalid, ordering them to remove Palestinian flags and some campaign materials. (NYT 9/22; PCHR 9/22)

21 SEPTEMBER

Israel’s Interior M Ophir Pines-Paz signs an order declaring Gaza foreign territory and the 4 Israeli checkpoints leading
into the Strip international crossings; Israelis and foreign nationals will henceforth have to use passports to cross. The IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in Aida r.c., nr. Hebron. A Jewish settler fr. Pisgat Ze’ev in Jerusalem is reportedly kidnapped in Ramallah, where he has business dealings. (HA, JT, REU 9/23; YA 9/26; NYT 9/27; PCHR 9/29)

22 SEPTEMBER

The IDF evacuates Dotan base nr. Jenin, used as a staging area during the evacuation of 4 nearby settlements under disengagement; fires on a group of Palestinian teenagers that enters the base before the pullout is entirely complete, killing 1 Palestinian; conducts house searches, interrogations in Kafr Qaddum; raids 2 charitable societies in East Jerusalem, forcing out the staff, searching offices, confiscating computers and documents, sealing the buildings. A 17-yr-old bedouin injured by an unexploded IDF phosphorus shell nr. Hebron on 8/17 dies. (IMEMC, JAZ 9/22; WT 9/23; PCHR 9/29; HA, IMEMC 11/10)

23 SEPTEMBER

Overnight, the IDF assassinates 3 Islamic Jihad mbrs. (Ra’id ‘Ajaj, Said al-Ashqar, Jamil Ja’ara) in a raid on Tulkarm. In the afternoon, Islamic Jihad fires at least 13 rockets at Sederot, the Negev in retaliation, causing no damage or injuries. At a heavily armed Hamas rally in Jabaliya r.c., a Qassam rocket paraded on a truck accidentally explodes in a crowd of 1,000s, killing at least 15 Palestinians (and perhaps as many as 21), wounding at least 100. Hamas accuses the IDF of firing missiles at the truck fr. a drone, but Israel denies this, the PA discounts it, the Fatah Central Comm. issues a statement holding Hamas responsible, and most Palestinians see it as an accident. Israel allows the PA to reopen the Rafah crossing for 48 hrs. to allow the passage of Palestinians with special needs, marking the 1st time the PA has processed travelers crossing an international border. (REU 9/23; NYT, WP, WT 9/24, WP 9/25; CSM 9/26; MEI, PCHR 9/29; DS 10/8)

24 SEPTEMBER

Before dawn, Islamic Jihad and Hamas fire more than 30 rockets fr. Gaza at Sederot and the Negev, 5 of which lightly wound 3 Israeli security guards, 2 civilians. Early in the morning, the IDF fires missiles fr. helicopters at warehouses and an alleged weapons factory in Gaza City and Jabaliya r.c., marking Israel’s 1st military operations against Gaza since disengagement; orders the Rafah crossing shut, saying it will allow humanitarian aid only into Gaza through the Sufa crossing; fires missiles fr. naval vessels at Palestinian fishermen who attempt to go out to sea; drops leaflets on Gaza warning of harsh retaliation against further rocket fire; warns the PA that it is responsible for preventing attacks fr. Gaza. Abbas meets with Hamas officials in Gaza, secures their pledge to halt all armed demonstrations. Hrs. later, IDF aircraft fire 5 missiles at 2 cars in n. Gaza, assassinating 2 Hamas mbrs. (Nafiz Abu Hassanian, Rawad Farhat); 2 other Hamas mbrs. may have been targeted but escape. During the day, IDF fighter jets bomb open areas along the n. Gaza border used by Palestinians to launch rockets, while tanks, artillery, infantry gather along the n. Gaza border in preparation for a major operation. Meanwhile, the IDF seals the West Bank, fires on Palestinians waiting to cross a checkpoint outside Nablus, wounding 3 (1 seriously); conducts patrols in Jama’in village nr. Nablus; raids 20 houses in Hebron, interrogating and photographing residents. In the evening, Sharon convenes his security cabinet, which approves an “all-out continuous offensive” called Operation First Rain, using artillery, air strikes, assassinations in Gaza, saying that if Palestinian violence continues after several days, the full cabinet will convene to consider sending infantry back into the Strip. (JP, REU, WP, YA 9/24; AP, HA, IMEMC, JAZ, NYT, WP WT, XIN, YA 9/25; MEI, PCHR 9/29; IDF press release 10/9)

25 SEPTEMBER

Overnight, the IDF conducts air strikes on the home of PRC mbr. ‘Amr Qarmut in Jabaliya r.c. in what may be an assassination attempt (causing damage but no injuries), a Hamas-run school in Gaza City (injuring 23 Palestinians), and a cultural center in Bayt Hanun run by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), causing damage but no injuries; arrests 207 Palestinians (mostly Hamas and Islamic Jihad mbrs., including Hamas political leaders Shaykh Hasan Yusuf and Muhammad Ghazzal) in the largest raids across the West Bank since 2/05. During the day, Sharon...
says that he has given the IDF “free rein” to act against Palestinians firing rockets. The IDF continues to mass troops on the n. Gaza border, breaks the sound barrier over Gaza roughly every 2 hrs., fires artillery shells fr. Nahal Oz into open areas nr. Bayt Hanun as a warning to Palestinians (marking Israel’s 1st shelling of Gaza since 1967); fires missiles fr. F-16s at a car s. of Gaza City, assassinating senior Islamic Jihad leader Muhammad Shaykh Khalil, Islamic Jihad mbr. Nassir Barhum, wounding 4 bystanders. In the evening, Hamas agrees to stop rocket attacks immediately. Later, an IDF helicopter gunship strikes 3 targets in Khan Yunis, including the homes of senior AMB mbrs. Ziyad Abu Hayya and Mahir al-Farra in what may be assassination attempts, causing heavy damage, injuring 17 Palestinians; the IDF says it is targeting AMB arms storage facilities. A 12-yr.-old Palestinian wounded in the 9/23 Jabaliya explosion dies, bringing that toll to at least 16. (AFP, AP, HA, IMEMC, JAZ, WP, WT, XIN, YA 9/25; CSM, HA, IMEMC, JP, NYT, WP, WT 9/26; HA 9/27; AFP, DS, MEI, PCHR 9/29)

Today’s Independent (9/25) reports that a new book by 2 prominent Israeli journalists, Ofer Shelah and Raviv Drucker, states that “at a conference of officers as early as May 2001, Shaul Mofaz, now defense minister and then chief of staff, asked for the tape to be switched off before telling them that he wanted a ‘price’ exacted from the Palestinians of 10 killed a day on each of the army’s seven fronts.” The book also reports that after 6 IDF soldiers were killed in an ambush in 3/02, “Mofaz personally ordered a revenge operation in which for the first time [sic—see “Overview of Israeli Military Operations,” Resource File Doc. A, JPS 13-4] Palestinian police officers would be shot, whether they posed a threat or not.” (Independent 9/25)

26 SEPTEMBER

Israel says that Operation First Rain will continue despite Hamas’s 9/25 pledge to halt rocket fire and nearly 48 hrs. of Palestinian quiet. Overnight, the IDF continues major arrest sweeps across the West Bank. Before dawn, the IDF launches multiple missile strikes in Bayt Hanun, Gaza City, Khan Yunis against alleged weapons factories run by the AMB, Hamas, PFLP and in Rafah against the home of PFLP mbr. Hisham ‘Abid Rabbuh in what may be an assassination attempt, injuring 2 Palestinians (includ-
building in Gaza City, a PFLP office in Buriej r.c., a bridge in Bayt Hanun, several open fields and empty buildings in n. Gaza; the predawn air strikes on Gaza City cut electricity. In the West Bank, the IDF makes coordinated raids on at least 8 Islamic charitable institutions in and around Hebron and in Bethlehem, Qalqilya, Tulkarm, sealing the offices and confiscating computers, files, and office equipment. The IDF says that it is prepared to bombard civilian areas of Gaza if rocket fire does not cease. The PA denounces Israel for detaining at least 30 Hamas campaign officials and 17 candidates in upcoming municipal and legislative elections during the past wk. of arrest raids; Israel says it has detained 415 Palestinians since 9/23, including some 250 Hamas mbrs. Hamas affirms responsibility for the killing of an Israeli kidnapped on 9/21 and found nr. Ramallah on 9/26, claims that he was a Shin Bet officer. (AFP, APJAZ, WP 9/28; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 9/29; WT 10/2; PCHR 10/6; MEI 10/12)

29 SEPTEMBER

Overnight, the IDF kills 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs. (Nidal Khaluf, Samir al-Shalabi) in an exchange of gunfire in Burkin nr. Jenin; fatally shoots AMB local cmdr. Samir Saadi in an exchange of gunfire during arrest sweeps nr. Jenin; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, in Tulkarm. In light of Saadi’s killing, the AMB Jenin faction says it will no longer observe the unilateral truce. Palestinians later fire 2 mortars at an IDF post on the Gaza border, causing no damage or injuries. During the day and into the late evening, the IDF raids Balata r.c., fatally shoots 2 wanted AMB mbrs. (A lãi’ al-Tirawi, Jamal al-Jirmi), wounds 1 in what may be an assassination; seizes Madama and Asira nr. Nablus; launches arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Furik, Dahaysha r.c. and Asira nr. Nablus; launches arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm and in and around Bethlehem, Hebron. Israeli border police report that over the previous 2 days they have arrested 1,200 Palestinians in Jerusalem for failing to have travel or work permits. (AFP, IMEMC, YA 10/2; REU, UPI, WP, WT 10/5; HA, REU, WT, XIN 10/4; PCHR 10/6; DS 10/8; MEI 10/12)

The Israeli FMin. adopts a new “national image management” strategy to improve Israel’s image abroad, “rebranding” it as “cool,” “hip,” “relevant and modern,” by downplaying religion and “avoiding any discussion of the conflict with the Palestinians.” (Forward 10/11)

3 OCTOBER

The IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tamun nr. Jenin, fires on stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront the troops, seriously wounding a 13-yr-old boy; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Hebron. Jewish settlers fr. Avraham Avino in Hebron throw stones, bottles at Palestinian homes, shops. (NYT, WT 10/1; AFP, NYT 10/2; PCHR 10/6)

1 OCTOBER

The IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah. A Jewish settler injures an 11-yr-old Palestinian boy in a hit-and-run nr. Qalqilya. (IMEMC 10/1; PCHR 10/6)

2 OCTOBER

The IDF officially “suspects” Operation First Rain, which began on 9/24, to see if the Palestinian Authority is willing and capable of taking advantage of the new situation.” PA security forces clash with Hamas mbrs. in Gaza City, with violence spreading to Shati’ r.c., leaving 1 PA police officer, 2 Palestinian bystanders dead, at least 50 Palestinians wounded over several hrs. in the first intra-Palestinian fighting in Gaza since the Israeli withdrawal, sparked when PA security forces allegedly tried to arrest Muhammad Rantisi, Hamas activist and son of assassinated Hamas leader ‘Abd al-‘Aziz Rantisi, during the clashes Hamas mbrs. fire RPGs at 2 PA police stations, PA police run out of ammunition. Separately, shots are fired at the Gaza City home of Hamas political leader Mahmud Zahhar, causing damage but no injuries. Late in the evening, the IDF launches arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm and in and around Bethlehem, Hebron. Israeli border police report that over the previous 2 days they have arrested 1,200 Palestinians in Jerusalem for failing to have travel or work permits. (AFP, IMEMC, YA 10/2; REU, UPI, WP, WT 10/5; HA, REU, WT, XIN 10/4; PCHR 10/6; DS 10/8; MEI 10/12)

The Israeli FMin. affirms responsibility for the killing of an Israeli kidnapped on 9/21 and found nr. Ramallah on 9/26, claims that he was a Shin Bet officer. (AFP, APJAZ, WP 9/28; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 9/29; WT 10/2; PCHR 10/6; MEI 10/12)
Tubas, Tulkarm; later conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tubas, nr. Bethlehem; allows the PA to open the Rafah checkpoint for several hrs. to allow Palestinians making the hajj to leave for Saudi Arabia. Jewish settlers fr. Alon Shvut nr. Bethlehem uproot 210 Palestinian fruit trees in neighboring Artas. (PCHR 10/6)

4 OCTOBER

The IDF bulldozes large areas in Abasan, inside the Gaza border s. of Kissufim crossing. A Palestinian woman stabs, wounds an IDF soldier at the Hawara checkpoint outside Nablus before being fatally shot. (IMEMC 10/4; NYT 10/5; NYT, PCHR 10/6; HA 10/25)

5 OCTOBER

The IDF continues for a 2d day to bulldoze Palestinian land inside the Gaza border s. of Kissufim crossing. Unidentified Palestinian gunmen allegedly wearing PA police uniforms kidnap 2 Hamas mbrs. in Shtati r.c.; in response, Hamas mbrs. detain, seriously beat a PA general intelligence officer. In the 2d such incident in 2 days, a Palestinian man knifes, wounds an IDF soldier at a checkpoint outside Nablus, is shot, wounded, arrested. (NYT 10/6; MEI 10/12)

6 OCTOBER

The IDF raids al-Quds Open University campus in Hebron, holds 52 students and staff for interrogation for 3 hrs. until the Temporary International Presence in Hebron intervenes; raids, searches Palestinian homes nr. Nablus, Ramallah; conducts late night arrest raids, house searches in and around Ramallah, nr. Bethlehem. Also in Gaza, 1 Italian, 1 French journalist are kidnapped, quickly released by unidentified gunmen who say they wanted to pressure the PA to address employment issues in the Strip. In Bayt Lahiya, suspected militant Fatah mbrs. shoot, wound PA military intelligence official Bassam Azzam (who was close to assassinated military intelligence cmdr. Musa Arafat). Later, suspected Hamas mbrs., kidnap, shoot, then dump seriously wounded senior Fatah official Samir al-Juz in Bayt Lahiya. Soon after, a previously unknown group calling itself the Omar Bin al-Khattab Brigades (OBKB) suspected to be made up of disaffected PA General Intelligence officers angry over the 10/2 clashes) kidnaps senior Hamas mbrs. (Bassam Obeido, Hassan Safi, Ra’id Raz) in Bethlehem, Hebron, and Tulkarm, stating that “this is a response to Hamas’s violations and disregard for law and order and their attacks on security institutions and Palestinian leaders... This is our first response”; Hamas blames elements of Fatah; the AMB says it is not involved. (HA, IMEMC, JAZ 10/6; Irish Examiner 10/7; AFP, NYT 10/8; MEI 10/12; PCHR 10/13)

8 OCTOBER

The IDF allows Palestinian fishermen to resume fishing within 9 nautical mi of the Gaza coast (under the Oslo agmt., they were allowed out 20 nautical mi); erects a series of new checkpoints around Marda nr. Nablus, preventing Palestinian farmers fr. harvesting their olives; fires on a mosque nr. Hebron as evening prayers let out, wounding a 5-yr.-old Palestinian boy; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and in al-’Aza r.c., al-Khadir. (IDF press release, IMEMC 10/9;
NYT, PCHR, WP, XIN 10/10; PCHR 10/13, 10/20)

10 OCTOBER

The IDF reopens the Sufa commercial crossing into Gaza; imposes a curfew on Hawara nr. Nablus, forces stores to close, and surrounds 2 mosques, barring worshippers fr. praying; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin and in Askar r.c., Hebron, Tulkarm town and r.c.; occupies the top floor of a Palestinian home in Hebron as an observation post. Jewish settlers fr. Neve Daniel fence off 18 d. of Palestinian land in al-Khadir for construction of an unauthorized settlement outpost. (IMEMC 10/10; PCHR 10/13)

11 OCTOBER

The IDF allows the PA to open the Rafah crossing for 48 hrs. to allow Palestinians making the hajj to leave for Saudi Arabia. AMB mbrs. working in the PA security forces in Tulkarm quit their security jobs in protest over the PA’s decision to suspend paying some of them without explanation. (AFP, XIN 10/11; PCHR 10/13; OCHA 10/31)

12 OCTOBER

The IDF closes the Qarni crossing (reopened on 10/9); begins construction of a 6-m.-high concrete wall 15 m inside the n. Gaza border (see 9/18); conducts arrest raids in and around Hebron (targeting Hamas), Nablus, Yatta. Jewish settlers fr. Elkana beat, chase off a Palestinian family harvesting their olive trees nr. Salfit. AMB mbrs. briefly kidnap an American journalist, British photographer in Khan Yunis, giving no reason; Fatah secures their quick release unharmed. (AFP, XIN 10/11; PCHR 10/13; OCHA 10/31)

13 OCTOBER

The IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah (also firing on residential areas). IDF undercover units conduct arrest raids in Surif nr. Hebron. Palestinians report that in the previous wk., the IDF had issued military orders confiscating 60 d. northwest of Nablus for creation of a buffer zone around Shavei Shomron settlement, cutting off another 100 d. from Palestinian access, and declaring the whole area a closed military zone. (PCHR 10/13, 10/20)

14 OCTOBER

The IDF reopens the Qarni crossing (closed on 10/12); conducts late-night arrest raids in Bayt Rima nr. Ramallah; reinforces troops around East Jerusalem to check IDs of Palestinians following Friday prayers; bulldozes a hill, small area of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Hamdat settlement nr. Saltit; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Qalqilya. (IMEMC 10/14, 10/16; PCHR 10/20; OCHA 10/31)

15 OCTOBER

The IDF continues arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Rima, as well as in Bani Na’im and al-Dahariyya nr. Hebron; rounds up 10s of Palestinians working illegally in Jerusalem. An IDF soldier dies of injuries received in an AMB ambush nr. Nablus on 1/7/05. Jewish settlers fr. Itamar vandalize 2 Palestinian homes in Bayt Furik, fire in the air to intimidate the residents. (IDF press release, IMEMC 10/15; PCHR 10/20)

Israel receives a gift of 300 police dogs fr. an unnamed U.S. Jewish organization. The IDF says that the dogs will be used during raids on houses of wanted Palestinians. (XIN, YA 10/15)

16 OCTOBER

What the IDF describes as an Israeli “special police unit” operating outside Jenin ambushes, assassinates wanted Islamic Jihad military cmdr. Nahid Abu Ghanim, seriously wounds a bystander. Hrs. later, the AMB kills 3 Jewish settlers, wounds at least 5 in drive-by shootings outside Gush Etzion settlement nr. Bethlehem and Eli nr. Nablus; the IDF seals Bethlehem and Hebron, bars Palestinian traffic in those areas, says arrest raids will increase; YESHA settlers council calls on Sharon to close all West Bank roads to Palestinian traffic. During the day, the IDF also handcuffs and severely beats a Palestinian shepherd nr. Tulkarm for no apparent reason; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Kafr Qallil nr. Nablus. Late in the evening, the IDF launches arrest raids that continue overnight in villages around Hebron, Jenin, Ramallah, Tulkarm. An unnamed IDF spokesman confirms that the IDF has sent undercover officers who can pass as Arabs into the weekly nonviolent
demonstrations against the separation wall in Bil‘in to encourage Palestinians to throw stones; troops then use force to disperse crowds. Jewish settlers cut down 30 Palestinian olive trees in Salim. (HA, PCHR 10/16; NYT, PM, WP, WT 10/17; CSM, HA 10/18; PCHR 10/20)

17 OCTOBER

In light of the 10/16 AMB attacks, the IDF suspends contacts with the PA; closes to private Palestinian vehicles 2 stretches of the main north-south artery through the West Bank (Route 60) between Jerusalem and Ramallah and Jerusalem and Hebron; reinforces troops in the s. West Bank, encircling Hebron, Bethlehem; reimposes recently dismantled checkpoints around Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah. The IDF also closes the Qarni crossing for half a day; conducts arrest raids targeting the AMB in Jenin. Some 40 Jewish settlers attack Palestinian vehicles on the Bayt Furik–Bayt Dajan road nr. Nablus. Palestinians east of Tubas say that the IDF had recently fenced off and begun bulldozing 1,000 d. of Palestinian orchards, farmland nr. Rotem for the apparent expansion of the settlement. (HA, IMEMC, JAZ, PM 10/17; HA, CSM, NYT 10/18; PCHR 10/20; OCHA 10/31)

18 OCTOBER

The IDF seriously injures a Palestinian woman in a hit-and-run nr. Bayt Fajjar; bulldozes 24 d. of agricultural land, including 150 olive trees, in ‘Azun ‘Atma; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Aida r.c., Dahaysha r.c., Dura, Kharsa nr. Hebron; moves into and fires on residential areas of Bayt ‘Awa nr. Hebron, then fires on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the troops, seriously wounding a 13-yr.-old boy, moderately wounding a 12-yr.-old boy; conducts late-night patrols in Jenin, firing on residential areas. Palestinians throw a pipe bomb at an Israeli border police patrol s. of Jerusalem, lightly injuring 3 officers. Jewish settlers fr. Elon Moreh set fire to 300 d. of Palestinian olive groves in nearby Salim in revenge for the drive-by shootings on 10/16. (HA 10/20; HA, Independent 10/21; PCHR 10/27)

19 OCTOBER

Israel says it is weighing a plan to bar private Palestinian vehicles fr. using all main roads in the West Bank “to protect Israeli motorists from roadside shootings,” drastically to expand the system of settler-only bypass roads and bridges to completely separate Palestinian and Israeli transportation networks within 2 yrs., and to bar all Palestinian workers’ entry into Israel within 3 yrs. (see Quarterly Update for details). The IDF sends troops backed by tanks, armored personnel carriers into Jenin town and r.c. to conduct arrest raids, house searches; also conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron. Jewish settlers fr. Ma’on vandalizes Palestinian homes in Yatta. (AFP, HA, IMEMC, REU 10/19; HA, NYT, PCHR, WT 10/20; HA 10/24; PCHR 10/27)

20 OCTOBER

The IDF tightens restrictions on Palestinian movement around Jerusalem, in Hebron citing the Sukkoth holiday; continues arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, as well as in Jaba’ nr. Jenin; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians along the Jerusalem–Bethlehem road nr. Kefar Etzion, killing 1 Palestinian. The IDF also ends escorts of Palestinian children in s. Hebron, citing concerns that troops could be drawn into clashes with angry Jewish settlers targeting Palestinians for retribution following the 10/16 drive-by shootings; the IDF began escorts about 1 yr. ago to protect the children fr. repeated attacks by Jewish settlers fr. Ma’on. Jewish settlers fr. Elon Moreh cut down 30 olive trees, burn another 200 in Salim in revenge for the drive-by shootings on 10/16. (HA 10/20; HA, Independent 10/21; PCHR 10/27)

Abbas, Bush meet in Washington but do not announce any new initiatives. In a pessimistic statement, Bush cautions that a Palestinian state might not be established by the time he leaves office in 2009. (AFP REU 10/20; AFP, HA, JTA, NYT, WP, WT 10/21; WT 10/22; YA 10/23; JTA 10/24; DS 10/25) (see Quarterly Update for details)

21 OCTOBER

An AMB gunman fires on, damages an IDF jeep in Tulkarm, is killed by return fire. The IDF fires on stone-throwing Palestinians outside Surif; conduct late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron and nr. Nablus,
Ramallah, Jewish settlers fr. Elon Moreh cut down another 200 olive trees in Salim (see 10/20). (HA 10/21; HA, NYT, WP 10/22; PCHR 10/27)

22 OCTOBER

The IDF fatally shoots an unarmed Palestinian, arrests a 2d; both were thought to be planting a roadside bomb nr. Ramallah; acknowledges the error. Citing retaliation for the death of an AMB mbr. on 10/21, AMB gunmen fire on an IDF patrol in Jenin, injuring 2 soldiers. The IDF reinforces road-blocks near Nablus, Qalqilya; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and nr. Tulkarm and nr. Hebron, Ramallah. Jewish settlers fr. Beit Hadash attack 10s of Palestinian girls on their way to school; the IDF observes but does not intervene (see 10/20). (IMEMC 10/22; HA 10/23; PCHR 10/27)

23 OCTOBER

The IDF erects 2 observation towers, a military post on the Gaza border east of Khan Yunis nr. Khuza‘ (cf. 9/8, 10/4); allows a military post on the Gaza border east of 23 OCTOBER 10/27)

10/20). (IMEMC 10/22; HA 10/23; PCHR IDF Palestinian girls on their way to school; theish settlers fr. Beit Hadas attack 10s of nr. Tulkarm and nr. Hebron, Ramallah. Jewish Settlers fr. Beit Hadash attack 10s of Palestinian girls on their way to school; the IDF observes but does not intervene (see 10/20). (IMEMC 10/22; HA 10/23; PCHR 10/27)

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23 OCTOBER

The IDF erects 2 observation towers, a military post on the Gaza border east of Khan Yunis nr. Khuza‘ (cf. 9/8, 10/4); allows the PA to open the Rafah crossing for 48 hrs. to allow Palestinians making the hajj to leave for Saudi Arabia; conducts wide-scale arrest raids and house searches in Bayt Furik, Hebron, Ramallah, Tulkarm (also imposing a curfew). The IDF reportedly has recently started using a nonlethal crowd dispersal method, firing tightly packed mini bean bags at protesters demonstrating against the separation wall in Bil’in. (AFP 10/23; HA, PCHR 10/27; OCHA 10/31)

24 OCTOBER

Overnight, the IDF raids, imposes a curfew on Nurb al-Shams r.c. and Tulkarm, fatally shoots Islamic Jihad West Bank military cmdr. Luay Saadi, Islamic Jihad mbr. Majid Askar in an apparent assassination; hrs. later, Islamic Jihad fires 5 rockets fr. Gaza into s. Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The IDF responds with air and artillery strikes on open areas used for rocket launches in n. Gaza, causing no injuries; shelling fr. naval vessels at PA security forces sites in n. Gaza, causing no damage or injuries; ongoing mock air raids over Gaza, breaking the sound barrier to harass the population; closure of the Erez, Qarni crossings. During the day, the IDF also demolishes 2 stores nr. Jenin, claiming that they ‘could be used’ to manufacture explosives; conducts arrest raids, house searches around Hebron for a 3d night, as well as nr. Jenin. A Palestinian gunman fires on an IDF post nr. Halamish settlement nr. Ramallah, causing no damage or injuries; the IDF returns heavy fire, killing a Palestinian bystander standing outside his home in neighboring Nabi Salih. (NYT, WP WT 10/25; HA 10/25; PCHR 10/27)

25 OCTOBER

The IDF carries out predawn air strikes on an AMB building in n. Gaza (severe damage, no injuries), on an Islamic Jihad cultural center in Rafah (damaging the building and 2 nearby houses, injuring 5 bystanders). During the day, the IDF launches an air strike on an open area of n. Gaza used for launching rockets (no injuries); conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. 10,000s of Palestinians attend the funeral for Islamic Jihad’s Saadi (assassinated on 10/24) in Tulkarm. The Knights of the Storm release 2 alleged collaborators it kidnapped in Gaza City on 10/18, shooting each in the leg. Late in the evening, the IDF fires 12 artillery shells at open areas of n. Gaza (no injuries); declares the al-Masriyin areas of Bayt Hanun a closed military zone, warning Palestinians there not to leave their homes for several hrs.; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, Hebron. Jewish settlers throw stones at Palestinian cars on the Ramallah–Nablus road. (HA, REU, WP 10/25; NYT, WP 10/26; PCHR 10/27)

26 OCTOBER

Early in the morning, Palestinians fire 2 rockets fr. Bayt Hanun into Israel, causing no damage or injuries; IDF artillery responds, shelling a road and an open field nr. Gaza where Palestinians have launched rockets, causing no injuries. Despite the exchange, the IDF partially reopens the Erez and Qarni crossings. In the afternoon, an Islamic Jihad suicide bomber retaliating for the 10/24 Saadi assassination detonates a bomb in an open-air market in Hadera, killing 5 Israelis, wounding 6 seriously, 14 moderately. Palestinians also fire another rocket at the Negev (no damage or injuries), a mortar at an IDF post on the s. Gaza border (no damage or injuries). Israel immediately cancels a planned mtg. btwn. Israeli, PA cabinet mbrs.; Sharon says he will not meet with Abbas until he takes
By morning, the IDF imposes a general curfew across the West Bank, sealing all Palestinian-controlled areas (including the northern villages of Alar, Qabataya, Sa‘ida, al-Til, Yabad, which are considered Islamic Jihad strongholds), cutting off the n. West Bank from the rest of the West Bank, barring all Palestinian private vehicles in the n. West Bank; recommends that Palestinians leave the n. Gaza border area nr. Bayt Hanun, reshuts the Erez, Qarni crossings (opened 10/26). Overnight IDF air strikes on suspected rocket launching sites in n. Gaza damage a bridge but cause no injuries. During the day, the IDF continues mock air raids, sonic booms over Gaza; sends 35 jeeps, Apache helicopters into Jenin to mark the final Friday of Ramadan at al-Aqsa mosque. Late in the evening, the IDF launches F-16 air strikes on open areas in n. Gaza (in 1 instance possibly targeting Abu Rish Brigades and Hamas positions in the area, but causing no injuries); conducts patrols, arrest raids, house searches in Dura, Jenin town and r.c., and nearby Kefar Rai. (AP, HA, YA 10/27; CSM, HA, JT, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 10/28; NYT 10/29; PCHR 11/10)

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29 OCTOBER

As Operation Starting All Over Again continues, IDF warplanes launch 12 more air strikes on Gaza, cutting electricity to 1,000s of Palestinian homes, causing serious damage but no injuries; continue conducting sonic booms over the Strip roughly every 20 mins. almost around the clock. The IDF also drops leaflets on Gaza warning of more air strikes until there is a “total cessation of terror attacks”; responds to Palestinians firing a rocket at Sderot (no damage or injuries) with artillery fire on the launch site in n. Gaza, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches and fires on residential areas in and around Balata r.c., Nablus; Palestinians set fire to 1 IDF vehicle in Nablus during the operation. The IDF also fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Dura, wounding 8. Jewish settlers fr. Kiryat Arba rampage through Palestinian areas of Hebron, damaging 10s of houses, seriously injuring 1 Palestinian. Jewish settlers fr. Carmiel, rampage through Yatta village, damaging 10s of Palestinian homes and 1 car. In Ramallah, PA police break up a protest in front of the PA headquarters by Birzeit University students demanding the release of jailed student leader of the Islamic movement at Birzeit, Ala’ Barahma; several students are injured. (ABC News, YA 10/29; AFP, HA, IMEMC, WT, YA 10/30; IMEMC, OCHA 10/31; PCHR 11/10)

30 OCTOBER

Islamic Jihad announces that it will halt all rocket attacks fr. n. Gaza if Israel pledges to cease targeting its mbns. Hrs. later, the IDF raids a house in Qabatyia, assassinating Islamic Jihad mbns. Jihad Zakarna and Arshad Abu Zayd, also wounding at least 7 bystanders; Islamic Jihad retaliates by firing at least 2 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The IDF also sets up 2 new artillery positions outside n. and s. Gaza to deter rocket fire; opens the Rafah checkpoint for several hrs. to allow Palestinians making the hajj to leave for Saudi Arabia. Shin Bet reports that it has detained 3 PRC “rocket engineers” in the Negev on their way fr. Gaza to the West Bank. In Ramallah, PA police fire in the air to disperse 60 Islamic Jihad mbns., protesting outside Abbas’s residence against the PA’s arrest of 4 fellow mbns. earlier in the wk. Jewish settlers fr. Elon Moreh severely beat a 75-yr.-old Palestinian man walking nr. the settlement. (AFP, HA, IMEMC, XIN, YA 10/30; HA, NYT, WP 10/31; PCHR 11/10)

31 OCTOBER

Overnight, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, Jenin town and r.c., Tulkarm and nr. Qalqilya. During the day, the IDF reopens the Qarni crossing. Late in the evening, IDF artillery fires 6 shells at open areas nr. Khuzu’ e. of Khan Yunis, causing no injuries; resumes arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, in and around Jenin town and r.c. Birzeit University students suspend all classes, demanding the resignation of PA Interior M Yusuf over the conduct of the PA police on 10/29, the release of jailed student leader Barahma. (OCHA 10/31; PCHR 11/10)

1 NOVEMBER

The IDF assassimates AMB military cmdr. Hassan Madhun, Hamas military cmdr. Fawzi Abu Qara’ in air strikes on their car in Gaza’s Jabaliya r.c., wounding 10 bystanders; bans foreign journalists fr. entering Gaza; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Bil’in, sends 40 tanks supported by helicopters into Jenin town and r.c. to conduct arrest raids and house searches, clashing with Palestinian gunmen, leaving 3 Palestinian bystanders, 1 IDF soldier wounded; conducts major arrest raids in Husan, arresting 10 Palestinian boys ages 16–17; severely beats a West Bank Palestinian in Jerusalem during an ID check. (AFP, Guardian, HA, IMEMC 11/1; HA, NYT, WP, WT 11/2; PCHR 11/10)

2 NOVEMBER

IDF troops supported by helicopters continue arrest raids, house searches in villages around Jenin. Late in the evening, the
IDF launches additional raids in al-Fara’a r.c., villages nr. Bethlehem. An IDF soldier wounded in Jenin on 11/1 dies. Hamas says that in light of the 11/1 Abu Qara assassination, it will not renew the unilateral truce with Israel when it expires at the end of 2005. (HA, JTA, REU, YA 11/2; WP 11/3; PCHR 11/10)

3 NOVEMBER

The IDF sends 30 jeeps, 2 helicopters into Jenin to arrest wanted Islamic Jihad leader Hussam Jaradat, sparking armed clashes in which Jaradat is wounded and youths throw stones; during the exchange soldiers shoot in the head a 12-yr.-old boy carrying a toy gun, seriously wounding him, evacuate him to Haifa for treatment. During the operation, soldiers assault a Palestinian press team covering the incident, confiscate their camera. The IDF also conducts arrest raids, house searches in villages around Jenin, in Nablus. Palestinians fire a mortar fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly wounding an IDF soldier; the IDF artillery fires on n. Gaza in response, causing no injuries. Later, Palestinians fire more mortars, lightly injuring 5 Israelis; IDF artillery, helicopters fire on n. Gaza again, causing no injuries. A Palestinian bystander wounded in the 10/30 assassination of 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs. dies. (HA 11/3; AFP, NYT 11/4; PCHR 11/10)

4 NOVEMBER

The IDF continues arrest raids, house searches in villages around Jenin into the predawn hours; for no apparent reason fires 5 artillery shells at Palestinian homes and fields e. of Khan Yunis, causing damage but no injuries; detains, beats, releases after 6 hrs. an al-Jazeera cameraman filming a nonviolent Palestinian demonstration against the separation wall in Bil’in. An Israeli comm. responsible for preserving historic sites approves the demolition of the Shepherd Hotel in East Jerusalem (owned by Mufti of Jerusalem Hajj Amin al-Husayni before being converted into a hotel in 1945) to make way for construction of 70 Jewish settlement housing units that would link up different Jewish districts of Jerusalem; the hotel was acquired by Jewish-American millionaire Irving Moscowitz in 1985. (AFP, Committee to Protect Journalists press release, IMEMC, Middle East Times, Reporters Without Borrers press release 11/4; PCHR 11/10)

5 NOVEMBER

The IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in Qabatya, fires on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, seriously wounding 6 boys ages 14–19; also conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysa r.c., nr. Hebron. Palestinians fire 2 rockets at an IDF post at Erez crossing on the Gaza border, causing no damage or injuries. A 12-yr.-old Palestinian boy shot in the head by the IDF on 11/3 dies of his injuries. (IMEMC, XIN 11/5; NYT, WP 11/6; PM 11/7)

6 NOVEMBER

The IDF conducts arrest raids in al-Til, Tubas and nr. Hebron, Qalqilya; begins work on a new section of the separation wall southwest of Hebron. 10 armed Jewish settlers fr. Hebron storm a Palestinian law office in the city, search and set fire to files, causing serious damage. (IMEMC 11/6; PCHR 11/10)

7 NOVEMBER

The IDF allows the PA to open the Rafah crossing for 4 hrs. to allow humanitarian cases to cross; demolishes a Palestinian home in Anata, East Jerusalem for having been built without a permit. Late in the evening, the IDF launches major arrest raids, house searches in Qabatya, occupying 13 Palestinian homes as observation posts; also conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm and in Balata r.c., Dura, Hebron, al-Til, Jenin town and camp, neighboring Marka. Jewish settlers fr. Harsina nr. Hebron uproot 40 Palestinian olive trees. A mentally handicapped Palestinian wounded by IDF gunfire nr. al-Mahatin checkpoint nr. Khan Yunis on 9/9 dies. (PCHR 11/10; al-Awda news 11/12)

8 NOVEMBER

Overnight, Palestinian gunmen exchange fire with an IDF undercover unit that attempts to enter Jenin; no injuries are reported, the undercover unit apparently retreats. During the day, the IDF shoots, wounds an Islamic Jihad mbr. as he drives outside Nablus when he allegedly evades a checkpoint; fires on a group of Palestinian youths allegedly planting a roadside bomb outside Nablus, killing a 15-yr.-old Palestinian, wounding 3; fires on residential areas of al-Zawiyya nr. Jenin; shoots, wounds a mentally handicapped Palestinian who
ignores orders to halt nr. a checkpoint outside Qalqilya; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah. (HA, IMEMC 11/8; NYT 11/9; PCHR 11/10)

9 NOVEMBER

The IDF fatally shoots a Palestinian, wounds a 2d inside Gaza, alleging they were planting a roadside bomb nr. the Qarni crossing; fatally shoots a Palestinian in 'Issawiyya who allegedly attempts to run down a soldier with his car. Late in the evening, the IDF launches arrest raids, house searches in Aida r.c. and nr. Bethlehem, Nablus, Qalqilya, Tulkarm; fires on residential areas of Jenin r.c. Israeli border police arrest 76 Palestinians, 3 Jordanians in a crackdown on illegal workers entering Jerusalem. Jewish settlers fr. Hebron seize and fence off 160 d. of Palestinian land outside Carmiel settlement for a new unauthorized outpost. Palestinians fire a rocket toward Sderot, causing no damage or injuries; throw Molotov cocktails at a house in Pisgat Ze’ev, causing moderate damage but no injuries. Residents of Dayr al-Balah in central Gaza issue a statement calling on Hamas to halt rocket fire on Israel fr. their vicinity after a rocket damaged a Palestinian home earlier in the wk., urge the PA security forces to halt lawlessness in Gaza. (IMEMC 11/11; PCHR 11/17)

10 NOVEMBER

The IDF conducts arrest raids in villages around Hebron; patrols in Qabatya, temporarily occupying a Palestinian home as an observation post; begins construction of a new segment of the separation wall in East Jerusalem nr. Azariyya; bulldozes land in Kafr Haris nr. Nablus for an observation tower. Vice PM Peres loses the Labor party primaries to Histadrut labor union leader Amir Peretz, who ran on the promise to end Labor’s participation in a coalition government with Likud (to protest Likud’s cuts to economic spending and increased privatization) and to push for early elections if he won. (BBC, NYT, WP, WT 11/10; HA, WP, WT, YA 11/11; CSM, HA, JTA 11/14)

11 NOVEMBER

The IDF sends troops into, fires on residential areas of Bayta nr. Nablus; patrols, conducts random security checks of Palestinians in Aida r.c. Armed Jewish settlers fr. Hebron seize and fence off 160 d. of Palestinian land outside Carmiel settlement for a new unauthorized outpost. Palestinians fire a rocket toward Sderot, causing no damage or injuries; throw Molotov cocktails at a house in Pisgat Ze’ev, causing moderate damage but no injuries. Residents of Dayr al-Balah in central Gaza issue a statement calling on Hamas to halt rocket fire on Israel fr. their vicinity after a rocket damaged a Palestinian home earlier in the wk., urge the PA security forces to halt lawlessness in Gaza. (IMEMC 11/11; PCHR 11/17)

12 NOVEMBER

The IDF fires on 2 Palestinians nr. the Gaza border fence, killing 1 Palestinian, while the other flees (the IDF says they were laying a roadside bomb, Palestinian sources say they were attempting to enter Israel to find work); fires on a Palestinian fishing boat that strays out of Palestinian waters off Gaza, seriously wounding 1 Palestinian; raids, seals Waqf offices in Bethlehem, interrogates the employees; conducts arrest raids in Bil‘in, Dayr Ishtiya nr. Nablus, Zabbuba nr. Jenin. Jewish settlers fr. Beit Hadassah attack an Israeli peace group on a solidarity visit to Palestinians in Hebron. Jewish settlers raid Palestinian olive groves nr. Qalqilya, pick and steal the olives. (IMEMC 11/12; HA 11/13; PCHR 11/17)

13 NOVEMBER

The IDF fires on 3 Palestinians nr. Jenin who were allegedly armed, approaching an IDF post; the 3 flee and are chased by IDF soldiers, who track down and fatally shoot 1 of the men, AMB mbr. Shuju’a Balawi, and wound the other, finding them unarmed. The IDF also eases restrictions on West Bank Palestinian workers’ entry to Israel, issuing 8,000 entry permits, and allowing 1,700 West Bank employees of international organizations to enter Israel and Gaza; sends troops supported by helicopters into Jenin to raid a Hamas office, arresting 2 Palestinians, including a local Hamas spokesman; tightens restrictions on Palestinian movement around Jerusalem. Late in the evening, the IDF sends troops back into Jenin town and r.c., Qabatya (to patrol streets); conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm town and r.c. Palestinians fire a mortar at an IDF post at Gaza’s Qarni crossing, causing no damage or injuries; IDF artillery shells open areas of n. Gaza in response, causing no injuries. Jewish settlers fr. Kiryat Arba vandalize 2 Palestinian homes in Hebron, lightly injuring a 3-yr.-old Palestinian boy. (AFP, HA, IMEMC 11/15; HA, NYT, YA 11/14; PCHR 11/17)

14 NOVEMBER

Overnight, the IDF launches a major raid on Nablus, surrounding and searching houses, assassinating senior Hamas...
military cmdr. for the n. West Bank, Amjad Hinnawi, and arresting several other Palestinians. The IDF also partially demolishes an apartment building in al-Zababda nr. Jenin; imposes a curfew on parts of Hebron, conducts arrest raids and house searches, occupying 1 Palestinian home as an observation post; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Yatta (arresting local Islamic Jihad leader Mahmud al-Haddar), nr. Bethlehem. A Palestinian gunman fires on a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Halhul, causing damage but no injuries. Jewish settlers fr. Itamar burn 30 Palestinian olive trees in Nablus. In Rafat, gunmen of a previously unknown group called the Islamic Army raids and orders closed a PA Central Election Commission (CEC) office, saying that the upcoming parliamentary elections are un-Islamic and a plot by the U.S. and Israel; CEC officials refuse to leave, PA security forces arrive, the gunmen leave. (HA 11/14; IMEMC, REU, WP 11/15; PCHR 11/17)

15 NOVEMBER

The IDF surrounds, searches the home of a wanted Palestinian in Allar nr. Tulkarm and, not finding him, threatens to demolish the house if he does not surrender; arrests his sister apparently for leverage; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and in Jenin (firing on residential areas), al-Khadir; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Tubas. Palestinians in n. Gaza fire an antitank missile at an IDF post just inside Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Jewish settlers fr. Asfar settlement, escorted by the IDF, fence off at least 200 d. of adjacent Palestinian land. (NYT 11/16; PCHR 11/17)

The Israeli Interior Min. issues demolition orders for 25 buildings in an unrecognized bedouin village in the Negev. Bedouin scuffle with Israeli policemen attempting to serve the demolition orders, leaving 12 bedouin and 12 police officers injured. (YA 11/15)