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CHRONOLOGY

16 MAY-15 AUGUST 2007

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

This section is part ninety-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 MAY

As part of an ongoing crackdown on **Hamas** in Gaza, the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** makes an air strike on a Rafah building controlled by the **Executive Support Force (ESF)**—a branch of the **Palestinian Authority (PA)** Interior Min. loyal to **Hamas-affiliated PM Ismail Haniyeh**—killing **3 ESF mbrs.** and wounding at least 21 ESF mbrs., 3 mbrs. of the **Fatah-affiliated PA Preventive Security Force (PSF)** in a PSF office nearby, 3 bystanders (including 2 journalists). **Hamas mbrs.** fire 12 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting a home in Sederot, moderately injuring 1 Israeli, and hitting a transformer, cutting electricity to 24,000 residents. The **IDF** responds with an air strike on a house nr. Jabaliya refugee camp (r.c.), killing **2 Hamas mbrs.**, wounding 3. **Israeli PM Ehud Olmert** convenes his **security cabinet** which authorizes the IDF to carry out “severe and harsh” attacks on Gaza, including assassinations of resistance leaders, to prevent further rocket fire, effectively ending the 11/26/06 Gaza cease-fire, frequently violated by both sides. Meanwhile in Gaza, factional fighting btwn. **Fatah, Hamas** (ongoing since **PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas [Fatah]** deployed 1,000s of PA security forces under his control without coordinating with either independent **Interior M Hani al-Qawasmi**, who resigned in protest, or **ESF** cmdrs. on the ground) escalates sharply, particularly in Gaza City, leaving at least **20 Palestinians dead**, 10s wounded, and a number of Fatah and Hamas mbrs. kidnapped. Among the incidents: an **Egyptian official** is fatally shot by Fatah mbrs. while walking the streets of Rafah with Fatah and Change and Reform legislators to test the intra-Palestinian cease-fire declared on 5/15; Hamas mbrs.

ambush a PSF vehicle not knowing that it is transporting Hamas detainees, killing 5 Hamas mbrs., 2 PSF mbrs.; Fatah makes a retaliatory strike on an ESF post outside the Interior Min.’s offices in Gaza City, firing rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), killing 4 ESF mbrs.; some 200 Hamas mbrs. attack and occupy the home of **PA internal security head Rashid Abu Shibak** (who is not home at the time), killing at least 4 bodyguards; Hamas mbrs. fire mortars at **Abbas’s** Gaza residence, causing no injuries; Hamas mbrs. fire antitank rockets at the PA General Intelligence base nr. Shati’ r.c. (After Fatah’s attacks today, the ESF, which has largely remained in its barracks, deploys “to respond with all our power” to further attacks.) Among the wounded are 8 Palestinian civilians among 200 who turned out in Gaza City to protest the interfactional violence and who placed themselves btwn. Fatah and Hamas gunmen to prevent further clashes. **Palestinians in Ramallah** observe a 1-day general strike to protest the factional violence. Midday, **Hamas** announces a unilateral cease-fire to begin at 8:00 P.M. local time, and Abbas calls on Fatah mbrs. to follow suit, but gun battles resume within hrs., leaving 2 Fatah mbrs. dead, 10 Palestinians wounded (included in totals above). **Israeli Vice PM Shimon Peres** says that Israel would respond favorably if **Abbas** asked for assistance in quelling the violence. Meanwhile, in the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids in al-Til nr. Tulkarm (deliberately setting fire to a Palestinian **home**, damaging 5 others), neighboring Allar, and in and around Balata r.c. and Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fire on Palestinian homes in Bayt Furik nr. Nablus, causing no injuries; the **IDF** intervenes, removes the settlers. (BBC, HA, REU 5/16; IFM, NYT, WP, WT 5/17; PCHR 5/21; OCHA 5/23; PCHR 5/24)

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17 MAY

The **IDF** makes at least 6 air strikes on Gaza, killing **9 Palestinians**, wounding 10s. Air strikes target an **ESF** barracks outside the Interior Min. (killing **1 ESF mbr.**, wounding at least 21 Palestinians, including at least 10 bystanders); a civilian car (apparently mistaken for a Hamas vehicle) driving nr. Rafah, killing **2 Palestinian children**, wounding their father, 2 siblings; a trailer used to house **ESF** mbrs. guarding **Interior Min. spokesman Khalid Abu Hilal's** home, killing **1 ESF mbr.**, wounding 4; a Hamas base e. of Gaza City nr. Qarni, killing **4 Hamas mbrs.**, **1 bystander** and wounding 4 Hamas mbrs., 2 bystanders; a car in Gaza City, in an apparent attempt to assassinate **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades (IQB) cmdr. Imad Shabanah** and a **2d senior Hamas mbr.**, wounding them, 4 bystanders. The **IDF** reoccupies an area of prime Palestinian agricultural land northeast of Bayt Hanun and northwest of Bayt Lahiya to expand its n. Gaza buffer zone, declaring the area off limits to Palestinian farmers, leveling land; deploys an artillery battery on the n. Gaza border, shelling areas nr. Bayt Lahiya and in Jabaliya r.c. (targeting **Islamic Jihad** mbrs.), causing no injuries; sends tanks into n. Gaza to conduct "limited ground operations" to halt Palestinian rocket fire, occupying buildings in Bayt Lahiya, and later Bayt Hanun and Jabaliya r.c. (The U.S. supports Israel's "right to defend itself.") A Palestinian teenager is injured in Jabaliya r.c. when he accidentally triggers unexploded **IDF** ordnance (**IDF UXO**). **Palestinians** fire at least 17 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, wounding several Israelis and damaging a synagogue, high school, and industrial building. (The **Israeli DMin.** evacuates **900 residents fr. Sederot**, where most rockets have hit, taking them for a "weekend respite" at a recreation center in Netanya; about half of the town's 24,000 residents have left.) In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Salfit, Tulkarm (firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, wounding 2) and in Hebron (also raiding a wedding in Hebron, interrogating celebrants and arresting 3), Nablus; sends troops to patrol in Bayt Fajjar nr. Bethlehem, firing on residential areas and stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, killing **1 Palestinian teenager**, wounding a 2d. Meanwhile, a new **Hamas-Fatah** ceasefire significantly reduces violence in Gaza, though at least **6 Palestinians** are killed in

clashes during the day. The dead include a Hamas mbr. kidnapped, executed by Fatah; a Hamas mbr. killed by a Fatah sniper; 4 Hamas supporters killed, 14 wounded when Fatah forces ambush a funeral for 2 ESF mbrs. killed on 5/16. **Hamas** mbrs. also attack **PA national security forces (NSF)** and **PSF** headquarters in n. Gaza. With the PA security forces unable to guarantee his security, **Abbas** delays plans to go to Gaza today to discuss the interfacional fighting. (AP, HA, REU 5/17; IFM, NYT, WP, WT 5/18; PCHR 5/21; OCHA 5/23; PCHR 5/24)

18 MAY

In Gaza, the **IDF** assassinates **IQB mbrs. Ra'ed Habib and Munir al-Jamal** in an air strike on their car in Gaza City, wounding 6 bystanders; makes 5 other air strikes on **Hamas** and **ESF** targets in Bayt Lahiya, Dayr al-Balah, and Gaza City, wounding 10 bystanders, destroying 2 alleged weapons factories, damaging several homes. In retaliation, **Hamas** fires **17 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, injuring 2 Israelis in Sederot. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishermen off the Gaza City coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Kafr Dan nr. Jenin, wounding 3 Palestinians; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and neighboring Balata r.c.; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists holding a weekly non-violent protest against the **separation wall** in Bil'in nr. Ramallah, injuring 2. **Jewish settlers** scuffle with Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists demonstrating against the wall in Bani Na'im nr. Hebron; the **IDF** intervenes, detaining 5 activists. Meanwhile, **Fatah-Hamas** fighting in Gaza continues, leaving **4 Palestinians** dead and more than a dozen wounded. Incidents include **Abbas's presidential guard** firing RPGs and mortars at the predominantly Hamas Islamic University in Gaza City. A **7-yr-old Palestinian boy** dies of injuries received in the 5/17 Fatah attack on a funeral in Rafah. (AP, WP 5/18; NYT, WP, WT 5/19; PCHR 5/21; OCHA 5/23; PCHR 5/24)

19 MAY

The **IDF** makes 7 air strikes on Gaza, targeting 2 **Hamas** rocket-launching sites in n. Gaza, killing **3 Palestinian shepherds**, **1 Palestinian child**; hitting a car driving

in Gaza City, assassinating **Hamas's Muhiy al-Din al-Sirhi**, also killing **2 civilians** traveling with him; destroying the Gaza City home of Hamas mbr. Imad Dallul in an apparent assassination attempt, wounding him and 3 other Hamas mbrs.; destroying 4 alleged weapons factories in Bayt Hanun, Bayt Lahiya, and Nussayrat r.c., damaging nearby homes. The **IDF** also shells residential areas in Bayt Hanun, injuring a Palestinian woman, 4 children. In Gaza City, 3 Palestinians are injured by **IDF UXO**; 3 Hamas mbrs. are injured when explosives they are handling detonate prematurely. **Hamas** fires an RPG at an IDF bulldozer leveling land along the Gaza border fence, injuring 2 IDF soldiers; fires 5 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, starting a brush fire but causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Tel Rumeida in Hebron beat 2 international peace activists escorting Palestinian children nr. Beit Hadasah settlement. **Jewish settlers** fr. Itamar nr. Nablus burn Palestinian olive trees in nearby Bayt Furik. Meanwhile, at least 6 Palestinians are wounded in factional fighting in Gaza that includes a gun fight btwn. **ESF** and **NSF** mbrs. in Gaza City, a **Hamas** attack on a **PSF** base in Rafah, and **Fatah's** kidnapping and malicious wounding of 2 Hamas mbrs. in Gaza City. **NSF** officers manning several checkpoints reportedly harass observant Muslims, ordering women to remove their head coverings and arresting bearded men on suspicion of being Hamas mbrs., raising public outrage against Fatah. Another Egyptian-brokered cease-fire (involving 3 phone conversations btwn. **Abbas**, Damascus-based **Hamas leader Khalid Mishal**) that was to go into effect at 3:00 P.M. local time is ignored by Hamas and Fatah. (NYT, WP 5/20; PCHR 5/21; OCHA 5/23; PCHR 5/24)

20 MAY

During the day in Gaza, the **IDF** fires on Jabaliya r.c., seriously wounding a Palestinian woman inside her home. In the evening, **Olmert** convenes his **security cabinet**, which authorized the **IDF** to step up attacks on **Hamas**, **Islamic Jihad**. Soon after, the **IDF** makes an air strike targeting **IQB cmdr. Samih Farwanah** in Gaza City, who is at the home of Hamas-affiliated **Change and Reform Palestinian Council (PC) mbr. Khalil al-Haya**, assassinating Farwanah, killing 7 of Haya's relatives, wounding more than 12; fires a missile at **Hamas mbr.**

Nasser Hammuda, biking through Gaza City, wounding him in an apparent assassination attempt; makes an air strike on an alleged Hamas weapons factory in Gaza City, killing 1 **Palestinian security guard**, wounding 3 bystanders; makes an air strike on the home of an **Islamic Jihad** mbr., destroying it and a neighboring meeting hall, causing no injuries; shells residential areas of Bayt Lahiya, heavily damaging 2 homes, wounding 6 Palestinians. **Palestinians** fire at least 12 **rockets**, 2 mortars fr. Gaza into Israel, damaging 2 trucks on the Israeli side of the Qarni crossing but causing no injuries. In Rafah, an al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (**AMB**) mbr. is injured when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Arubb r.c. nr. Hebron and in and around Bethlehem, Jenin town and r.c.; raids 4 TV and radio stations in Nablus seizing computers and broadcasting equipment; begins bulldozing 130 dunams (d.; 4 d. = 1 acre) of apricot and date orchards nr. Artas nr. Bethlehem to make way for the **separation wall**. Under **IDF** escort, **Jewish settlers** fr. Efrat nr. Bethlehem uproot Palestinian trees nr. the settlement. **Jewish settlers** fr. Karme Tzur nr. Hebron unleash an attack dog on a Palestinian farmer working his land nr. the settlement, injuring him. Meanwhile, **Hamas**, **Fatah** observe a cease-fire during the day; stores begin to reopen and residents venture out for the 1st time in a wk. (HA, IFM, NYT, PCHR, WP 5/20; HA, NYT, OCHA, PCHR, WP, WT 5/21; OCHA 5/23; PCHR 5/24)

Overnight, **Lebanese police and soldiers** raid several homes in Tripoli in an attempt to capture a group connected to the tiny militant group, **Fatah al-Islam (FI)**, that was suspected of carrying out a bank robbery on 5/19. The raids spark gun battles that quickly spread throughout the city and to the outskirts of **Nahr al-Barid r.c.** (pop. 40,000), where FI is based. When FI forces leave the camp to ambush and capture nearby army positions, the Lebanese army fires tank shells, mortars into the camp, quickly precipitating massive clashes (including RPG, heavy weapons fire by FI) that continue throughout the day. In total, at least 27 **Lebanese soldiers**, 20 **FI mbrs.**, and 9 **Palestinian civilians** inside the camp are killed and scores are wounded during the day. By nightfall, the army regains control of areas surrounding the camp, seals the camp to prevent militants fr. escaping; cuts water and electricity to the camp to

urge a surrender. **Syria** closes several border crossings n. and w. of Tripoli in reaction. Separately, a **car bomb** explodes nr. a shopping mall in the Christian neighborhood of Achrifyya in Beirut, killing **1 Lebanese woman**, wounding 12; no group claims responsibility. (AP, NYT, REU, WP, WT 5/21; WT 5/24; NYT 6/20, 7/7)

21 MAY

The **IDF** makes air strikes on a car in Bayt Lahiya, assassinating **4 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** (Muhammad Abu Nima, Mahmud Awad, Majid al-Batash, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Hilu); on an alleged weapons factory in Gaza City, damaging several neighboring houses but causing no injuries; on a group of armed Palestinians in al-Bureij r.c., missing them, hitting a building, damaging 7 homes, injuring 4 bystanders (including a 1-yr.-old child). The **IDF** also conducts an arrest raid in Bayt Lahiya. **Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Popular Resistance Comms. (PRCs)** fire **15 rockets** fr. Gaza toward Israel (3 land in Gaza), hitting a car in Sederot, killing **1 Israeli woman** (the 11th killed by Palestinian rocket fire since rockets came into use in 1/02; the previous deadly strike occurred on 11/21/06), wounding 2 men. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, and in Balata r.c. (targeting the **AMB**), Qalqilya, Tulkarm. **Jewish settler teenagers** fr. Karmi'el nr. Hebron throw stones at a bedouin woman nr. Yatta, injuring her. **Fatah mbrs.** shoot, wound **2 Hamas mbrs.** in Khan Yunis and set fire to a library on the campus of the predominantly Hamas College of Science and Technology. An **NSF mbr.** dies of injuries received in clashes with Hamas on 5/16. (NYT, WP, WT 5/22; OCHA, WP 5/23; PCHR 5/24)

The **Lebanese army's** siege of Nahr al-Barid r.c. continues overnight. During the day, fighting is heavy: Army snipers atop buildings surrounding the camp firing on anyone moving in the streets inside, soldiers open machine gun fire on anyone trying to leave the camp; **FI** responds with automatic weapons, mortar fire, anti-aircraft guns; the army responds with artillery, tank fire. (The army also surrounds the volatile 'Ayn al-Hilwa r.c. as a precaution, prompting armed Palestinian factions there to go on alert.) The **UN** secures a brief cease-fire in the afternoon, allowing the evacuation of 16 wounded Palestinian civilians fr. the camp before **FI** breaks the truce. **Lebanese**

PM Fuad Siniora asks the U.S. to expedite \$280 m. in previously pledged military aid to more effectively combat **FI**. After dark, army shelling of Nahr al-Barid increases significantly. In Beirut, another **car bomb** explodes in the predominantly Sunni Verdun area, wounding 6 Lebanese, setting 2 buildings on fire. (AP, NYT, REU 5/21; NYT, WP, WT 5/22; NYT, WP 5/23)

22 MAY

The **IDF** expands military operations in Gaza, making at least 7 air strikes on **Hamas, ESF, and PA General Intelligence** targets in Gaza, targeting 4 suspected arms caches and 3 other sites (including **PA Interior Min.** offices in Rafah), injuring 16 Palestinians, damaging at least 25 Palestinian homes; sending tanks and bulldozers into the Strip to level agricultural land e. of Bayt Hanun; directing heavy machine gun fire at a rocket launching site in n. Gaza; conducting arrest raids in Khuza'a nr. Khan Yunis. Late in the evening, the **IDF** sends troops into Khan Yunis to conduct arrest raids and house searches. **Palestinians** fire **9 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly wounding 2 Israelis. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Bethlehem, and in Hebron, Jericho, Jenin, Qalqilya. **Jewish settlers** vandalize Palestinian vehicles in East Jerusalem. A **Hamas mbr.** is fatally shot by suspected Fatah mbrs. in Khan Yunis. (OCHA, WP 5/23; PCHR 5/24; OCHA 5/30)

Heavy clashes btwn. the **Lebanese army, FI** at Nahr al-Barid r.c. continue for a 3d day. In Tripoli, a lone **FI** suicide bomber, still hiding from the police crackdown on 5/20, detonates a device when police close in on his location, killing only himself. Later in the afternoon, the **Lebanese army** halts its shelling of Nahr al-Barid r.c. in response to a shaky, undeclared cease-fire by **FI**, prompting some 10,000 Palestinians to flee. Palestinians in 'Ayn al-Hilwa r.c. and Rashidiyya r.c. demonstrate against the army's heavy shelling of Nahr al-Barid. (*Independent*, REU 5/22; DS, LBC, MENA, *al-Sbarq al-Awsat, al-Safir* 5/22 in WNC 5/23; NYT, WP, WT 5/23)

23 MAY

The **IDF** makes at least 4 air strikes on Gaza targeting **Hamas**, attempting to assassinate **Hamas mbr. Muhammad Shatat** as he drives in Gaza City (causing no injuries),

hitting 2 suspected weapons caches and 2 money exchanges in Jabaliya r.c. (also destroying a Palestinian home) and Gaza City (wounding 7 Palestinians, including a pregnant woman, 2 children). **Palestinians** fire at least 3 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In Jabaliya, 2 **Abu Rish Brigades mbrs.** (affiliated with Fatah) are injured when explosives they are handling detonate prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem and Nablus, in Qalqilya, and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Ramallah, Salfit, Tulkarm. Meanwhile, **Abbas**, Hamas-affiliated **PA PM Ismail Haniyeh** meet in Gaza to discuss ways of calming intra-Palestinian violence. Abbas also meets with reps. of other factions to urge them to halt rocket fire into Israel. **Unidentified gunmen** fire on the home of a **Fatah** leader in Gaza City, wounding 1 Palestinian. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received in an 5/18 IDF air strike on Gaza City that assassinated 2 Hamas mbrs. (IFM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 5/24; OCHA 5/30; PCHR 5/31)

With the cease-fire at Nahr al-Barid r.c. holding, the **Lebanese army** reinforces troops around the camp. **Palestinian refugees** continue to flee the r.c. during the day, most heading to nearby Biddawi r.c.; at most, half of the 40,000 residents remain. The **UN** warns the camp is still without water, electricity; food supplies are low. The **PLO** says it would not object to the Lebanese army entering the r.c. if necessary; raises the possibility of sending in fighters fr. Palestinian factions who know the layout of the r.c. to roust the **FI mbrs.** **Palestinian leaders in the camp** and local **Islamist figures in Tripoli** attempt to negotiate a **FI** surrender. Meanwhile, a **bomb** explodes in the Druze village of Aley nr. Beirut, wounding 16 Lebanese; no group claims responsibility. (AFP, DS, LBC, OCS 5/23 in WNC 5/24; NYT, WP, WT 5/24; WT 5/25)

24 MAY

In overnight raids, the **IDF**, **Shin Bet** arrest 33 **senior Hamas or Hamas-affiliated political figures** across the West Bank (Jenin, Nablus, Qalqilya, Salfit, Tulkarm), including **PA Education M Nasir al-Sha'ir**, **PA State M Wasfi Kabaha**, at least 3 **PC mbrs.**, 5 mayors, a number of heads of educational and charitable associations. The **IDF** also makes at least 7 air strikes on Gaza, targeting at least 3 **ESF** positions in Gaza City,

Khan Yunis, Rafah, injuring at least 2 **ESF mbrs.** and 13 bystanders; a guard house outside **Haniyeh's** Shati' r.c. home, causing no casualties; the home of a **PRC mbr.** in Jabaliya r.c., hitting an adjacent home instead, wounding 2 Palestinians; an alleged weapons factory in Rafah, wounding 5 bystanders; a Hamas post in Dayr al-Balah, causing no injuries; and a money exchange in Gaza City. The **IDF** also fires on a group of Palestinians on the Bayt Lahiya shore, wounding 1 Palestinian fisherman. **Palestinians** fire 2 **mortars** at the IDF post at Erez (causing no injuries, but light damage that will slow processing of trucks going through the crossing) and at least 12 **rockets** fr. Gaza toward Israel (only 5 land inside Israel, causing light damage but no injuries). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c., Jenin (also searching the offices of the **PA Waqf Min.**, confiscating documents) and nr. Qalqilya, Tulkarm. A **Palestinian woman** dies of injuries received in a 5/17 IDF air strike on Gaza City. A **Hamas mbr.** dies of wounds received in clashes with **Fatah** on 5/13. (BBC, IFM, WP 5/24; NYT, WT 5/25; NYT 5/27; OCHA 5/30; PCHR 5/31)

25 MAY

Overnight and during the day, the **IDF** makes air strikes on 6 **Hamas** and **ESF** targets across Gaza, killing at least 2 **Hamas mbrs.** and wounding 5 bystanders at a rocket launching site in n. Gaza, and hitting a guard post nr. Haniyeh's Shati' r.c. residence for a 2d day (wounding 3 bystanders); other targets are located in Jabaliya r.c., Khan Yunis, and Nussayrat r.c. (leaving a total of 7 bystanders wounded). A 7th **IDF** air strike targets a **PA presidential guard** post nr. Gaza City, causing no casualties. The **IDF** also shoots, wounds a Palestinian woman who strays nr. the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya. **Hamas** fires 6 **rockets** toward Israel, lightly injuring 3 Israelis, causing light damage. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a Palestinian **home** in Qabatya; raids areas of Hebron, Jericho, withdrawing without making arrests; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international peace activists demonstrating in Bil'in against the **separation wall**, injuring 6 and also barring journalists fr. reaching the site. (NYT, WP, WT 5/26; OCHA 5/30; PCHR 5/31)

Expedited **U.S.** military aid (including munitions, night-vision gear, body armor)

begins reaching **Lebanon**, with 5 U.S. military transport planes landing in Beirut. The **Lebanese army** occasionally shells, fires on **FI** positions inside Nahr al-Barid r.c., but the undeclared cease-fire generally holds. (At least 70% of residents have vacated the camp, with the Lebanese government and army encouraging the remainder to leave.) (BBC 5/25; WP, WT 5/26)

26 MAY

For the 10th day, the **IDF** makes at least 7 air strikes on **Hamas** and **ESF** targets across Gaza (Gaza City, Jabaliya, Rafah, Shati'), leaving **5 ESF mbrs.** dead and at least 4 **ESF mbrs.** and 23 bystanders injured. The **IDF** also fires on Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the border fence e. of Gaza City, wounding 1; fires on Palestinian fishermen off the Rafah coast, forcing them to return to shore. **Hamas** fires 12 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly wounding 1 Israeli. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Salfit and in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem, Nablus, Tubas nr. Jenin; raids an elementary school nr. Hebron while classes are in session, searching for stone-throwing youths. In East Jerusalem, **2 Israeli Arab gunmen** fire on an **Israeli border police patrol** in East Jerusalem, wounding 2 border police officers, 2 Israeli private security guards; **both Israeli Arabs, 1 Palestinian bystander** are killed by return fire; the **AMB** takes responsibility for the attack. In Gaza City, **unidentified gunmen** shoot, wound a **Hamas** mbr. Hamas's **Shabanah** dies of injuries sustained when the **IDF** attempted to assassinate him on 5/17. (NYT, WP, WT 5/27; NYT 5/28; OCHA 5/30; PCHR 5/31)

27 MAY

After **Hamas** fires several **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, killing **1 Israeli** and wounding 1 in separate strikes, **Olmert** convenes his **security cabinet** to discuss expanding attacks on Hamas. During the day, the **IDF** reinforces troops in its n. Gaza buffer zone; makes air strikes on **3 ESF** positions in Bayt Lahiya, Jabaliya, Khan Yunis, causing no injuries; bulldozes a **Palestinian home** in n. Gaza; raids and temporarily occupies 4 Palestinian homes in Bayt Hanun; fires on Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the border fence e. of Khan Yunis. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishermen off the Rafah coast for a 2d day, causing no injuries. **Abbas, Egyptian mediators** hold talks with

the **Palestinian factions** aimed at securing a 1-mo. unilateral halt on attacks on Israel fr. Gaza, with hopes that an Israeli cease-fire would follow that could then be extended to the West Bank; the factions demand that the cease-fire include the West Bank fr. the outset. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** outside Jerusalem; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem and Nablus, in Jenin town and r.c. and Jericho (raiding a hospital to arrested a wounded wanted **AMB** mbr., firing on stone-throwing Palestinian youths), nr. Hebron and Salfit. (IFM 5/27; NYT, WP 5/28; OCHA 5/30; PCHR 5/31)

A **bomb** goes off in Beirut's Berbir neighborhood, wounding 4 Lebanese; no group claims responsibility. (NYT 5/28)

28 MAY

During the day, **Palestinians** fire 9 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly injuring 1 Israeli. Late in the evening, the **IDF** makes air strikes on **3 Hamas** targets, damaging at least 20 Palestinian homes and a mosque but causing no reported injuries; conducting arrest raids and temporarily occupying 2 Palestinian homes in Khan Yunis, exchanging fire with armed Palestinians, leaving **2 Hamas mbrs.** dead, 1 bystander seriously wounded. In Bayt Lahiya, 3 Palestinian children are injured by **IDF** UXO. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** in the Old City of Jerusalem, 2 houses just s. of Jerusalem, 2 houses nr. Hebron (for the expansion of Harsina settlement); conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jericho (exchanging fire with wanted **AMB** mbrs., wounding 1 and arresting 2), in and around Nablus and Ramallah (arresting **senior AMB mbr. Khalid Shawish**), and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, Qalqilya. **Fatah, ESF** mbrs. exchange fire in Gaza City, set up rival road blocks and checkpoints to mark off areas of control; no injuries are reported. (NYT 5/29, 5/30; OCHA 5/30; PCHR 5/31)

29 MAY

The **IDF** makes an air strike on a Hamas training facility nr. Jabaliya r.c., killing **2 Hamas mbrs.**; fires at least 4 missiles at another empty training facility in al-Mawasi, destroying it; sends ground troops into areas nr. Jabaliya, shooting and wounding 1 Palestinian. In Nussayrat r.c., **3 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** are killed when a bomb they are making explodes prematurely. In the

West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Ramallah to ambush, assassinate **AMB mbr. Omar 'Abd al-Halim**, wounding 5 bystanders; sends undercover units into Kafr Dan nr. Jenin to ambush, assassinate **Islamic Jihad mbr. 'Id Hisham Khalil**; makes arrest raids in and around Jenin town and r.c. (fatally shooting **Muhammad Marai'**, who announced a wk. ago the formation of a new Fatah splinter group, the Martyr Abu Ammar Brigades, in what may be an assassination) and in Nablus (detaining **Fatah PC mbr. and PA General Intelligence Nablus head Jamal Tirawi**, 3 others), Tulkarm r.c. (al-Haq press release, NYT, OCHA 5/30; NYT, PCHR, WP 5/31)

30 MAY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Jenin and Qalqilya. In Nablus, **AMB** mbrs. shoot, wound 3 alleged Palestinian collaborators. (OCHA 6/6; PCHR 6/7)

31 MAY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba in Hebron raze Palestinian agricultural land nr. the settlement, attack and beat several Palestinians and international peace activists who attempt to stop them; the **IDF** intervenes to detain a Palestinian journalist who arrives on the scene. The **Israeli Housing Min.** issues tenders for 20 new housing units in Karnei Shomron settlement. (OCHA 6/6; PCHR 6/7)

1 JUNE

IDF troops in the n. Gaza buffer zone fatally shoot **2 Palestinian boys** (ages 12, 13), wound a 3d (age 16) who stray nr. their position. The **IDF** also makes an air strike on Khan Yunis, assassinating **Islamic Jihad mbr. Fadi Abu Mustafa**; sends troops into Gaza e. of al-Maghazi to conduct arrest raids and house searches, detaining 2 NSF mbrs. **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** fire 2 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Fawwar r.c. nr. Hebron, Nablus (firing on residential areas and blowing up cement blocks in the Old City, injuring 1 Palestinian, damaging 86 homes, 69 stores, 1 factory, 1 mosque, 1 church, electricity and water installations; the municipality estimates \$75,000 in property

damage); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists conducting their weekly nonviolent protest against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, injuring 4; beats and forcibly disperses 10s of Palestinians and several international peace activists who stage a nonviolent protest in Bani Na'im nr. Hebron against the IDF's declaration of a closed military zone on 1,500 d. of Palestinian land adjacent to Bnei Hefer settlement. In Khan Yunis, **Hammas** mbrs. fire an RPG at a **Fatah** training base, causing no injuries. In Ramallah, **unidentified gunmen** fire on a PA police station, causing no injuries. The **Army of Islam** releases an undated video tape of **BBC reporter Alan Johnston**, kidnapped on 3/12, showing him in good condition. (NYT, WP, WT 6/2; PCHR 6/3; OCHA 6/6; PCHR 6/7)

A day after the **Lebanese government** voted to give the military carte blanche to take action against **FI**, the **Lebanese army** tightens its cordon on Nahr al-Barid r.c., directs heavy artillery barrages on FI sniper posts and 3 positions on the outskirts of the camp, seizing them, and moves into the camp for the 1st time, taking control of limited areas inside the camp. The clashes leave at least **3 Lebanese soldiers, 2 FI mbrs., 14 others inside the r.c.** (FI or civilians) dead and 60 civilians, 18 soldiers wounded. At least 8,000 civilians are still inside the camp. (DS, NYT, WP, WT 6/2)

2 JUNE

The **IDF** fires on Palestinians who stray nr. the central Gaza border fence while collecting scrap metal, wounding 2. **Palestinians** fire 7 rockets fr. Gaza toward Israel; 3 land inside Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, **IDF** undercover units raid a Nablus shop, wounding and capturing a wanted man, fatally shooting **1 Palestinian bystander** (the shop owner's son), wounding a 2d. The **IDF** also clashes with armed Palestinians in Jenin town and r.c., leaving **1 Palestinian gunman** dead; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm; patrols in al-Naqura nr. Nablus (spot checking IDs of schoolchildren), Qarawat Bani Zaid nr. Salfit. In Dayr al-Balah, **2 PA General Intelligence** officers are wounded in an exchange of fire with mbrs. of their own force; no motive is given. **Unidentified gunmen** fire on a **PA police officer** driving in Bayt Lahiya, missing him. (NYT 6/4; OCHA 6/6; PCHR 6/7)

The **Lebanese army** escalates its assault on Nahr al-Barid r.c., making helicopter air strikes on **FI** targets in addition to continuing tank shelling, reportedly to block an escape route fr. the camp to the sea and to destroy the upper floors of buildings used as sniper posts. **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) officials** in the r.c. report that residents still in the camp have been locking houses and barricading neighborhoods to try to isolate and force out **FI** mbrs. The Lebanese army confirms that the camp has been segmented into 3 parts: the first controlled by army fire from outside, the second controlled by refugees denying the militants sanctuary, and the third controlled by **FI**. The army reports **4 soldiers** killed, 10 wounded during the day; casualties inside the camp are unknown. **Lebanese PM Fuad Siniora** pledges that Palestinians who have fled Nahr al-Barid will be allowed to return to the camp and that the camp will be rebuilt. (WT 6/3)

3 JUNE

In Gaza, **Hamis** fires mortars at the **IDF** post at Erez crossing, wounding 4 **IDF** soldiers. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids Jenin, exchanging fire with Palestinian gunmen, killing **Muhammad Farhati**, cmdr. of a joint AMB-Islamic Jihad squad called **Belt of Fire**; conducts additional arrest raids, house searches in Jenin and nr. Bethlehem, Tulkarm; bars members of the **Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH)** fr. patrolling nr. the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs. In Gaza, a **Haniyeh bodyguard** is kidnapped by **Fatah's elite Force 17 mbrs.**, who hold him for 7 hrs., beat him, shave off his eyebrows and beard, shave the number 17 into his hair. In Gaza City, **50 PA TV employees** protest threats by a little-known group, **Swords of Truth**, to its female anchors accused of "destroying Islamic culture" by appearing on broadcasts unveiled and wearing makeup. (WT 6/3; NYT 6/4; OCHA 6/6; PCHR 6/7; NYT 6/9)

Exchanges of fire intensify btwn. the **Lebanese army, FI** at Nahr al-Barid r.c. In 'Ayn al-Hilwa r.c. nr. Sidon, **Jund al-Sham mbrs.** attack soldiers surrounding the camp after hearing news of the death of its senior mbr., Abu Raid, in Nahr al-Barid; **1 soldier, 2 Jund al-Sham mbrs.** are wounded in the fighting, which involves heavy machine gun, automatic weapon, and RPG fire. (NYT, WP, WT 6/4; WT 6/5)

4 JUNE

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops into Rafah and neighboring Shuka, ordering all Palestinian men over age 15 to surrender for ID checks, temporarily detaining 40 for questioning and arresting 4 (2 of them NSF mbrs.); during the day-long raid, the **IDF** occupies several homes as observation posts, bulldozes roads and a **PSF** post. The **IDF** also occupies a 1,000-meter-deep strip of land n. of Bayt Hanun and Bayt Lahiya, partially demolishing 1 Palestinian **home**; bulldozes Palestinian land nr. the Qarni industrial zone. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishermen off the Rafah coast, seriously wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. (OCHA 6/6; PCHR 6/7; NYT 6/10)

The **Lebanese army, FI** continue to trade fire at Nahr al-Barid r.c., with the army reinforcing positions around the camp. The **UNRWA** manages to bring food, water into the camp and to evacuate a few civilians; warns that humanitarian conditions are deteriorating. Meanwhile, clashes btwn. the **Lebanese army, Jund al-Sham** continue overnight at 'Ayn al-Hilwa r.c., leaving **2 Lebanese soldiers, 2 Jund al-Sham mbrs.** dead and several buildings afire; Palestinian officials hold emergency talks with army officers in Sidon, convince **Jund al-Sham** to turn over its positions to other Islamist factions in the camp to ease tensions. Separately, a **bomb** explodes on an empty bus in a Christian suburb e. of Beirut, injuring 10 Lebanese. (NYT, WT 6/5)

5 JUNE

Abbas convenes a special **PC** session to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1967 war and Israeli occupation, warning Palestinians that internal fighting undermines their national aspirations. While **Israel** does not officially mark the day, some **300 Israeli peace activists** in Hebron protest the occupation, exchanging words with **30 Jewish settlers** holding a counterdemonstration. In Gaza, the **IDF** bulldozes Palestinian land nr. al-Maghazi to improve lines of sight. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishermen off the coast of Rafah, forcing them back to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Qabatya (firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at schoolchildren, prompting stone throwing;

more IDF gunfire that leaves 8 Palestinians, including 6 children, wounded). In Gaza, **Ham**, **Fatah** mbrs. exchange fire nr. Qarni crossing, leaving several wounded. **Unidentified gunmen** raid the Gaza City offices of the Palmedia press agency, stealing a computer, TV editing equipment; no group claims responsibility. (OCHA 6/6; NYT, WP, WT 6/6; PCHR 6/7)

6 JUNE

The **IDF** makes 2 air strikes on Palestinians allegedly planting a roadside bomb nr. troops operating in n. Gaza, killing **1 Hamas mbr.**, wounding another. **Ham** fires 3 mortars at the **IDF** post at Erez crossing in response, causing no injuries. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids in al-Qarara nr. Khan Yunis. **IDF** UXO injures an 11-yr.-old Palestinian boy in Bayt Lahiya, 4 Palestinian children in Gaza City. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a predawn raid on an apartment building in Hebron searching for 2 Palestinian men who had thrown objects at their patrol, fatally shooting an innocent **75-yr.-old Palestinian man**, wounding his 66-yr.-old wife and 6 other relatives; the 2 wanted men were later arrested elsewhere. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids in and around Nablus, and in 'Aida r.c. nr. Bethlehem, Halhul nr. Hebron, Jenin, Qabatya, Tulkarm. (al-Jazeera 6/6; NYT, PCHR, WT 6/7; OCHA 6/13; PCHR 6/14)

7 JUNE

In Gaza, **IDF** troops fire on residential areas of Bayt Hanun, wounding 2 Palestinians; conduct arrest raids, house searches in Dayr al-Balah; bulldoze Palestinian land e. of Jabaliya. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c. and in Nablus, Qalqilya. In Rafah, **Fatah** mbrs. fire on an **ESF** patrol, sparking an exchange of gunfire and RPGs that lasts several hrs., leaving **1 Fatah mbr.** dead, 15 Palestinians wounded. In Gaza City, 19 Palestinians are wounded in **inter-factional fighting**. Incidents include suspected **Ham** mbrs. throwing a grenade at a **Fatah** mbr.; unidentified gunmen kidnapping **Ham**-affiliated physician Fuad al-Barawi fr. a graduation ceremony for his brother, a **PA presidential guard** mbr., shooting him 5 times before releasing him. In Dayr al-Balah, unidentified gunmen kidnap, shoot, wound, release a **PA presidential guard**-man. In Khan Yunis, a **Fatah** mbr. is stabbed,

wounded by a **Ham** mbr. (a cousin) in a family dispute with factional overtones. (HA 6/7; WP 6/8; NYT 6/9; OCHA 6/13; PCHR 6/14)

Daily exchanges of fire btwn. the **Lebanese army** and **FI**, ongoing since 6/1, continue at Nahr al-Barid r.c., leaving **1 Lebanese soldier** dead. In the Biqa' Valley, the **Lebanese army** raids a building where 3 sophisticated car bombs are being prepared by a **Saudi** and 2 **Syrian** militants who had fought in Iraq and have ties to **FI**. A **bomb** explodes in a Christian neighborhood of Beirut, killing **1 Lebanese**; no group claims responsibility. (WP 6/8)

8 JUNE

Overnight, **Ham** mbrs. kidnap, shoot, wound, release a **PA presidential guard mbr.** in Gaza City. An appeal made by **Haniyeh** at Friday prayers in Gaza for **Ham** and **Fatah** mbrs. to observe his and Abbas's calls to halt their infighting is ignored as **Fatah**, **Ham** mbrs. exchange fire nr. Gaza City, with **Ham** mbrs. attacking a house where **Fatah** gunmen are suspected of hiding. Meanwhile, the **IDF** makes a major raid on Shuka in s. Gaza, searching, occupying homes as observation posts, ordering all males ages 16–45 to surrender for ID checks, detaining 53 (who are transported to Kerem Shalom crossing for interrogation). **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border trade tank fire for **RPG** fire fr. **Palestinian gunmen**, causing no injuries; fire on a group of Palestinian teenagers hunting birds southeast of Bayt Hanun, wounding and detaining 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires on a group of Palestinians hunting birds nr. Hebron, killing **1 Palestinian**, seriously wounding 1; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and in Balata r.c., Nablus, Tulkarm; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists attending the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, injuring 6; fires rubber-coated steel bullets at Palestinians holding a similar nonviolent protest against the separation wall in Um Salamuna nr. Bethlehem, injuring 2. **Jewish settlers** vandalize a Palestinian cemetery nr. Salfit. (NYT 6/9; OCHA 6/13; PCHR 6/14)

9 JUNE

Four Islamic Jihad and **AMB** gunmen in an armored jeep marked "TV" and "press,"

carrying RPGs and supported by mortar fire, break through the Gaza border fence nr. the Kissufim crossing, engage **IDF** troops for 2 hrs. in what Islamic Jihad describes as an attempt to capture a 2d IDF soldier (Cpl. Gilad Shalit was captured in 6/06 and is still being held); **1 Palestinian** is killed. The **IDF** continues operations in Shuka, bulldozing 33 d. of Palestinian land, exchanging fire with local Hamas mbrs., leaving **1 Hamas mbr.** dead. **Palestinians** detonate a roadside bomb nr. an IDF tank n. of Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and in Jenin town and r.c., Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Hebron severely beat a Palestinian teenager nr. the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs; an ambulance sent to the scene is barred by the **IDF**, stoned by settlers; the IDF arrests the teenager. Separately in Hebron, **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai severely beat a 9-yr.-old Palestinian. In Rafah, **Fatah, Hamas** mbrs. exchange heavy fire (including mortars, RPGs) for several hrs., leaving **2 Palestinians dead**, 38 injured. In Bayt Hanun, **unidentified gunmen** shoot, wound an **NSF** mbr. (IFM, NYT, WP, WT 6/10; NYT 6/11; OCHA 6/13; PCHR 6/14)

The **Lebanese army** escalates attacks on FI, sending special forces and armored personnel carriers into areas around Nahr al-Barid r.c. to root out **FI** mbrs., increasing tank, artillery shelling of FI positions inside the camp to the highest level to date. FI replies with mortar and sniper fire. The army reports **6 soldiers** killed, more than 40 wounded during the day. **FI** reports **4 mbrs.** killed, 6 wounded. At least 60 FI mbrs., 49 soldiers, 20 civilians are thought to have been killed since fighting began on 5/20, but figures for casualties inside the camp cannot be confirmed. (WP, WT 6/10)

10 JUNE

In Gaza, **Fatah-Hamas fighting** that erupted in Rafah on 6/9 escalates sharply, spreading across the Strip (Dayr al-Balah, Gaza City, Jabaliya r.c., Rafah), with 100s of gunmen exchanging RPG and machine gun fire, and sides kidnapping rival mbrs. and setting up security checkpoints, leaving at least **4 Palestinians** dead, 36 wounded (mostly civilians). Incidents include a PA presidential guard mbr. being shot and thrown off an 18-story Gaza City building, the retaliatory abduction and killing of a Hamas cleric, and the murder of an ESF officer by throwing him off a high-rise building. Late in the

evening, **Fatah, Hamas officials** call on their fighters to leave the streets and observe a cease-fire. Meanwhile, in response to the 6/9 Islamic Jihad-AMB attack, the **IDF** makes 3 predawn air strikes on Gaza City, destroying a study center and charitable association run by Islamic Jihad and an alleged AMB weapons depot, wounding 7 bystanders. The **IDF** ends operations in Shuka, releasing all but 6 Palestinians detained at the start of the incursion on 6/8. Citing intra-Palestinian fighting, **Israel** forces the closure of Rafah crossing, barring **EU monitors** fr. reaching the site. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** burn 200 d. of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Tulkarm. (NYT, WP, WT 6/11; OCHA 6/13; PCHR 6/14)

11 JUNE

Despite 6/10 cease-fire appeals, serious **Fatah-Hamas fighting** continues across Gaza, leaving at least **15 Palestinians** dead (all believed to be mbrs. of the 2 factions). After **Egyptian mediators** broker another cease-fire during the day that collapses within hrs., **Abbas, Haniyeh** issue separate calls for a halt to the fighting. Among the most serious incidents: In Shati' r.c., suspected **Fatah mbrs.** fire an RPG at the home of PM **Haniyeh** in a predawn attack, causing damage but no injuries (Haniyeh is not home at the time, though his family is). Later in the day, suspected **Hamas mbrs.** fire a mortar at Pres. **Abbas's** Gaza City residence, causing no injuries. In the afternoon, **Hamas's IQB** makes a series of major coordinated attacks on **Fatah** installations across Gaza, dealing Fatah a significant blow in what is seen (see *Guardian* 6/13) as its 1st attempt to seize power in Gaza. **Fatah security forces** complain that they have not received orders from cmdrs. on how to respond. Other incidents include a separate attack on **Haniyeh's** Gaza City office and the local PC headquarters while the PC is in session, forcing PC mbrs. to flee but causing no injuries; a major **ESF** raid on the home of **senior AMB cmdr. Jamal Abu al-Jidayn**, killing him, **4 bodyguards**; an **ESF** raid on Fatah's main office in Bayt Hanun, confiscating equipment and documents; gun battles in and around Bayt Hanun hospital that leave 4 Fatah mbrs., 1 ESF mbr. dead; a drive-by shooting of the Youth and Sports Min. offices in Gaza City. **Fatah-Hamas fighting** also spreads to the West Bank, where

AMB gunmen attack a **Change and Reform** office in Ramallah, causing no injuries; **unidentified assailants** fire on the Nablus municipal building while a municipal council mtg. is in session (causing no injuries), set fire to the Nablus mayor's car parked outside his home. On the Israeli-Palestinian front, **Palestinians** fire 7 rockets fr. Gaza toward Israel, 4 of which land inside Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** demolishes 2 Palestinian **homes** outside East Jerusalem; conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Aqabat Jabir r.c., Hebron, Nablus, Tulkarm. (WP 6/11; BBC, NYT, WP, WT 6/12; *Guardian*, OCHA 6/13; PCHR 6/14)

As fighting in Nahr al-Barid r.c. continues, a **FI** mortar hits a Lebanese Red Cross vehicle, killing 2 **Red Cross workers**, seriously wounding 1. (WP, WT 6/12)

12 JUNE

In Gaza, **Fatah-Hamas fighting** escalates for the 4th day, leaving at least 24 **armed Palestinians**, 4 **civilians** dead and more than 100 wounded (the highest 1-day total in 18 mos. of factional fighting), as gunmen on both sides continue to ignore appeals by their political leaders to halt the violence. (**Egyptian mediators** try to broker another cease-fire, but the **Hamas delegation** cannot reach the talks because of **Fatah** roadblocks.) By evening, **Hamas** is reported to be in control of most of n. Gaza. During the day, **Hamas gunmen** and **ESF mbrs.** surround secondary **Fatah** and **PA security** posts across Gaza. In light of increasingly coordinated Hamas attacks, **Abbas** accuses **Hamas** of attempting to stage a coup, for the 1st time orders his security forces to defend their positions. Of note: Hamas stages major assaults on **Fatah's** security headquarters in Khan Yunis and Gaza City, where some 200 **Hamas mbrs.** firing mortars and RPGs seize the post from 500 **Fatah fighters**. After dark, 100s of **Hamas gunman** raid a major hill-top NSF post in Jabaliya r.c., using small arms and grenades, taking the post after an intense gunfight that leaves 21 dead and 60 wounded (included in the figures above). **PA presidential guardsmen** fire RPGs at **Haniyeh's** home in what Hamas condemns as an assassination attempt (no one is injured); in retaliation, **Hamas** mbrs. fire mortars toward **Abbas's** Gaza residence, causing no damage or injuries (Abbas is in Ramallah). **Hamas** mbrs. also attack the home of **PSF cmdr. Hassan Muhsin** (not home at

the time), killing his wife, son, daughter, and niece; ransack the vacant home of **PC mbr. Nabil Shaath**; occupy a PA-funded TV station in Gaza City. **Human Rights Watch** issues a statement accusing both factions of war crimes for executing captives and killing bystanders. In the West Bank, **Fatah** and **Hamas** kidnap rival mbrs. (including the **AMB** kidnapping of Hamas-affiliated **Dep. Transportation M Fadi Shabanah**); **PA presidential guardsmen** attack, close a Hamas TV station in Ramallah. **Palestinians in Ramallah** stage a demonstration against the interfactional fighting. On the Israeli-Palestinian front, **Palestinians** fire several **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly injuring 1 Israeli. The **IDF** fires on stone-throwing youths nr. Nablus, wounding an 11-yr.-old Palestinian bystander. More than 1,000 **Jewish settlers**, escorted by the **IDF**, reoccupy the evacuated Homesh settlement site nr. Nablus, closing the local stretch of the Nablus-Jenin road to Palestinian traffic. Inside Israel, the **Israel Lands Authority** demolishes a **home** in the **Israeli Palestinian** neighborhood of al-Jawarish in Ramla built without a permit. (MENA, MNA, OCS, PSCT 6/12 in WNC 6/13; NYT, OCHA, WP, WT 6/13; PCHR 6/14)

13 JUNE

Heavy **Fatah-Hamas** fighting continues in Gaza, leaving at least 21 **Palestinians** dead, 64 wounded. The dead include 2 **local UNRWA workers** caught in the cross-fire, prompting the agency to suspend all but emergency food, medical provision. **Hamas** continues concentrated attacks on **Fatah** security posts, consolidating its hold over n. Gaza, Gaza City (except for the presidential compound and major security compounds), several refugee camps (Bureij, al-Maghazi, Nussayrat), and Khan Yunis and villages to the east; taking control of Gaza's main north-south road. Many **Fatah** and **PA forces loyal to Abbas** reportedly abandon their positions during the day, some surrendering to Hamas gunmen, others destroying their posts so they would not fall into Hamas hands; at least 1 **NSF** battalion runs out of ammunition (other PA units reports shortages); 40 **PA presidential guardsmen** working the Gaza crossing flee across the border to Egypt. **Both factions** have set up an estimated 200 checkpoints across the Strip, searching vehicles and detaining or shooting mbrs. of rival factions. Major incidents of the day include **Hamas's**

forced evacuation and demolition of the **PSF** headquarters in Khan Yunis (killing 5 PSF officers, wounding 10) and the main police station in Gaza City; attack on, occupation of an apartment complex home to **Fatah's Gaza spokesman Mahir Mikdad** and many Fatah officials, killing 8 of Mikdad bodyguards. After dark, Hamas fires mortars at several Fatah posts in Gaza City. Meanwhile, **10s of Gaza City residents** demonstrate for the factions to end fighting; unidentified gunmen fire on the crowd, killing 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, **AMB mbrs.** raid an Islamic film production company in Nablus, kidnap 10 employees, and take them to Balata r.c., exchanging fire with **Hamas gunmen**, causing no reported injuries. Meanwhile, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Nablus, and in Hebron, Qalqilya (where undercover units exchange fire with armed Palestinians, killing 1 **Palestinian gunmen**; troops return hrs. later, fire on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 13 Palestinians). (AP, BBC, OCHA 6/13; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 6/14; PCHR 6/21)

In Beirut, a car bomb kills **anti-Syrian lawmaker Walid Eido** in an apparent assassination, also killing **his son, 2 bodyguards, 6 bystanders** and injuring 11; no group claims responsibility. Eido was a close ally of assassinated Lebanese PM Rafiq Hariri and strongly supported creation of an international tribunal to try suspects in the Hariri assassination. Meanwhile, heavy fighting btwn. the **Lebanese army, FI** continues at Nahr al-Barid r.c., leaving at least **2 Lebanese soldiers** dead. **Israel** steps up overflights of Lebanese territory, further raising tensions. (BBC, NYT, WP, WT 6/14; DS 6/14 in WNC 6/15)

14 JUNE

Hamas presses its offensive in Gaza, taking over all PA ministry offices in Gaza City, securing control of Rafah, forcing **PSF officers** to surrender their Gaza City headquarters (after destroying all equipment, computers, archives; eye-witness reports say Hamas mbrs. summarily execute at least 7 PSF mbrs.) and other main security compounds; capturing and executing **Fatah's n. Gaza cmdr. Samih al-Madhun**. At least **27 Palestinians** are killed (14 of them in the fight for the PSF headquarters), 70 wounded in fighting during the day. Nearly **100 senior Fatah security and admin. officials** flee Gaza for **Egypt** by boat (Egypt has al-

ready returned the 40 PA presidential guards who fled on 6/13). At the same time, the **IDF** occupies hills outside Bayt Lahiya to prevent rocket fire into Israel. With Gaza under almost complete **Hamas** control, **Abbas** declares a **state of emergency**, fires **Haniyeh**, and dissolves the **national unity government**. He also for the first time orders PA/Fatah forces to take offensive action against **Hamas**. Late in the evening, **Hamas** gains control of **Abbas's Gaza City offices**, the only remaining Gaza institution still in the hands of Fatah/the PA. In the West Bank, **PA forces under Abbas's control** begin rounding up **10s of Hamas mbrs.** In and around Nablus and in Jenin, Tulkarm, **masked AMB mbrs.** raid offices affiliated with **Hamas, Change and Reform**, looting and sometimes setting fire to them, exchanging fire with Hamas mbrs., leaving at least 13 Palestinians injured. The **AMB** also abducts 5 **Hamas** mbrs. in Jenin. Meanwhile, Abbas's national security adviser **Muhammad Dahlan** (the U.S. and Israel's hope for restoring order to Gaza) returns from an extended stay in **Egypt**, where he underwent minor surgery, going to Ramallah instead of Gaza to confer with Abbas. Meanwhile, the **IDF** sends an undercover unit into Saida nr. Tulkarm, driving a car with Palestinian license plates, assassinating wanted **AMB mbr. Muhammad Twair** in a drive-by shooting, also wounding 2 bystanders; sends patrols in Ithna nr. Hebron, Kafr Dan and Kafr Ra'i nr. Jenin, firing on residential areas and on stone-throwing youths who confront them, seriously wounding 1 Palestinian. **Jewish settlers** burn 10s of olive trees nr. Tulkarm; the **IDF** bars firefighters fr. reaching the scene. In Gaza, **5 Palestinian children** (ages 10–15) are killed and 4 (ages 9–16) are wounded by **IDF UXO** nr. Shuka while collecting scrap metal; the 8 children are from 3 families: 2 Mansour boys are killed, 2 Hessi boys are killed, and 1 Barbakh boy is killed and 4 are wounded. (AFP, *Jerusalem Post*, MENA, MNA 6/14 in WNC 6/15; AP, BBC, NYT, WP, WT 6/15; WP 6/18; PCHR 6/21)

15 JUNE

Firmly in control of Gaza, **Hamas** declares amnesty for **Fatah leaders**, except National Security Advisor (NSA) **Dahlan**, with the aim of quelling violence, releasing several of the 10 senior Fatah political security officials captured earlier in the day; orders all mbrs. of the PA security forces

in Gaza to continue to report for duty to provide law and order, albeit under Hamas cmdrs. **Hamas** also calls for the immediate release of kidnapped BBC correspondent **Johnston**. With fighting suspended, **Palestinian crowds** loot abandoned Fatah buildings, targeting in particular **Dahlan's** home and **Abbas's** presidential compound; Hamas mbrs. surround and prevent looting at Abbas's Gaza residence. Some violence persists, with a **Fatah mbr.** thrown to his death from a high building by the family of a man he killed earlier; a **Fatah security official** commits suicide after learning that he was on a Hamas wanted list. Meanwhile, **Egypt** reinforces its forces on the border with Gaza with riot police, APCs, and water cannons, fearing that Palestinians will attempt to flee Gaza for Egypt en masse at the first opportunity. **Israel** temporarily opens the Erez crossing to allow **Fatah officials** to escape Gaza for Ramallah. In the West Bank, **Abbas** names **Finance M Salam al-Fayyad** as his new PM, charging him with forming a government; issues a presidential decree suspending articles of the **Basic Law** (the interim Palestinian constitution) requiring the new government to receive a vote of confidence from the PC (currently controlled by the Hamas-affiliated **Change and Reform** party). **Fatah-Hamas** tensions remain high in the West Bank, where heavily armed **Fatah mbrs.** patrol in Ramallah in a show of force; **Fatah mbrs.** ransack **Change and Reform** offices, **Hamas-run** charity organizations in several cities; kidnap at least 9 **Hamas** mbrs. **AMB mbrs.** fatally shoot a **Hamas mbr.** in Nablus. Inside Israel, the **Israel Prisons Service** separates **Fatah, Hamas** detainees to prevent rioting. Meanwhile, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches, patrols in villages around Jenin, firing on residential areas, causing no injuries. In Gaza, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dayr al-Balah; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists attending weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, injuring 2. (AP, HA, WP, QA 6/15; NYT, WP, WT 6/16; Interfax 6/16 in WNC 6/17; PCHR 6/21; NYT 7/9)

16 JUNE

U.S. Consul Gen. Jacob Walles meets with **Abbas** in Ramallah, says that the U.S. is prepared to resume direct aid as soon as **Abbas** swears in a new government that does

not include Hamas, even if it controls only the West Bank; indicates that international sanctions on the PA would also be lifted. **Abbas** issues a presidential decree outlawing the **ESF**, Hamas's **IQB**, all other militias affiliated with Hamas on the grounds that they carried out a "military coup against the Palestinian legitimacy and its government." **Abbas** also angrily rejects offers by **Arab League Secy. Gen. 'Amr Musa** to mediate btwn. him and Damascus-based **Hamas leader Khalid Mishal**, stating that he would not hold a dialogue with "killers." **Olmert** says that Israel will "cooperate fully" with Abbas's new government, calling the new situation "an opportunity." **Israel** says it will allow food, basic supplies into Gaza but otherwise will consider Gaza a "terrorist entity" with which it will not deal. **Haniyeh** says Hamas will not seek to set up a parallel government in Gaza to rival Abbas, though it will assume day-to-day government functions. In Gaza, at least 2 **Fatah mbrs.** are killed in revenge slayings; bodies of 7 **Hamas mbrs.**, 1 **Fatah mbr.** killed in recent fighting are found. **Hamas** mbrs. confiscate weapons fr. **Fatah** mbrs., set up roadblocks nr. crossing points into Israel to prevent Fatah officials fr. fleeing, but **several senior Fatah mbrs.** make it through the Erez crossing, are allowed by Israel to go to the West Bank. Looters break into Yasir Arafat's fmr. residence, kept largely as a museum, and steal many items before Hamas mbrs. secure the building, prevent further thefts. In the West Bank, **AMB mbrs.** temporarily take over the parliament building, several PA ministries in Ramallah, ordering Hamas-affiliated employees to leave and not return, raising Fatah flags; raid the Hebron and Nablus municipal offices, order the **Change and Reform**-dominated municipal council mbrs. to surrender control of the city governments; in Bethlehem, Fatah mbrs. raid and search the homes of elected Change and Reform officials. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin. (MNA, OCS 6/16 in WNC 6/17; NYT, WP, WT 6/17; PCHR 6/21; WP 7/8)

17 JUNE

Abbas swears in a 12-mbr. **emergency cabinet**; issues a presidential decree suspending article 79 of the **Basic Law** allowing the PC to vote out the government by a no-confidence vote and requiring PC approval for all ministerial appointments. The cabinet comprises mostly independent

technocrats, except for **veteran Fatah mbr.** 'Abd al-Raziq Yahiya, named interior minister to control the PA security branches. **Hamas** rejects Abbas's actions as illegal. Both **Hamas** and **Abbas** stress, however, that Gaza and the West Bank must continue to be considered a single administrative and political unit as laid out in the 1993 Oslo Accord, rejecting **Israel's** appeal to the U.S. that they officially be "delinked." In Gaza, some **1,000 Fatah loyalists** encamp at the Erez crossing, requesting transit to the West Bank, afraid to leave the corridor for fear of reprisals. In Khan Yunis, residents report **Hamas mbrs.** going door to door collecting unauthorized weapons. The **Army of Islam** releases a video rejecting **Hamas** demands to release BBC reporter **Johnston**, threatening to kill him if Hamas goes after the group. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah. (AYM, MNA, QA 6/17 in WNC 6/18; NYT, WP, WT 6/18; OCS 6/18 in WNC 6/19; NYT, PCHR 6/21)

18 JUNE

The U.S. and EU end their boycott on aid to and diplomatic contacts with Abbas's PA, pledging to work with and support the emergency government. In Gaza, **Hamas mbrs.** on the Gaza side of the Erez crossing exchange fire with **IDF** soldiers on the Israeli side, trapping in the crossfire some 400 Palestinians hoping to leave Gaza, killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding 11. **Israel** has allowed around **200 Fatah mbrs.** to flee Gaza for the West Bank via Erez. **Egypt** reports that **344 Fatah security mbrs.** have fled Gaza for Egypt; all will be repatriated to the West Bank. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, and nr. Hebron, Jenin; demolishes a Palestinian **home** in East Jerusalem. (AFP, MENA 6/18 in WNC 6/19; NYT, WP, WT 6/19; PCHR 6/21)

Clashes at Nahr al-Barid r.c. btwn. the **Lebanese army**, **FI** continue, with the army resuming shelling of the camp; at least **3 soldiers** are reported killed. In 'Ayn al-Hilwa r.c., **2 Jund al-Sham mbrs.** are killed, 3 are injured when explosives they are handling detonate prematurely. (DS 6/19 in WNC 6/20; NYT, WP, WT 6/19)

19 JUNE

Israel allows 12 trucks with food, medical supplies to enter Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing; evacuates 2 Palestinians

wounded in the crossfire at Erez on 6/18, 3 other Palestinian medical cases; allows Israeli medics to enter Erez to treat the 9 others wounded. Twice during the day, **IDF** troops stationed at the Erez crossing fire toward Palestinians waiting to cross the checkpoint in an attempt to disperse them, wounding another 2. In the West Bank, the **IDF** imposes a curfew on Beita nr. Nablus; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin (exchanging fire with Palestinians, killing **1 AMB mbr.**, **1 Islamic Jihad mbr.**), Qalqilya. **Israeli security officials** announce that they recently arrested **12 PFLP mbrs.** for allegedly plotting to kidnap Americans to secure the release of their leader, Ahmad Saadat, who is currently held by Israel. (NYT, WP 6/20; PCHR 6/21)

20 JUNE

In retaliation for the deaths in Jenin late on 6/19, the **AMB**, **Islamic Jihad** fire at least **6 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel during the day, lightly injuring 1 Israeli; the **IDF** responds with helicopter air strikes on 2 launching sites nr. Bayt Hanun, 1 nr. Erez crossing, causing no reported injuries. **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** also fire 4 RPGs at IDF soldiers nr. Dayr al-Balah and detonate a roadside bomb, causing no injuries. The **IDF** makes a major raid on al-Qarara nr. Khan Yunis, killing **5 Palestinians** (at least 4 of them armed, including at least 2 Hamas mbrs.); 1 IDF soldier is injured. After the UN and **Israeli human rights groups** warn of a humanitarian crisis in Gaza within a mo. if borders are not opened to trade, **Israel** allows shipments of wheat flour into Gaza through Kerem Shalom; also temporarily opens the Erez crossing to allow some 200 foreign nationals, a handful of special medical cases to leave Gaza. Meanwhile, **Egypt** withdraws its security delegation fr. Gaza, orders its amb. to move residence fr. Gaza to Ramallah in what is seen as a political move backing **Abbas** and breaking ties with **Hamas**. **ESF mbrs.** kidnap, fatally shoot a **Fatah mbr.** in Gaza City. **Unidentified gunmen** fire on an **ESF** patrol nr. Nussayrat r.c., causing no injuries. **AMB mbrs.** stage a march in Hebron in support of Abbas. (NYT 6/20; Interfax, MNA, OCS, XIN 6/20 in WNC 6/21; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 6/21; OCHA 6/27; PCHR 6/28)

21 JUNE

In Gaza, the **IDF** bulldozes Palestinian land along the border e. of Jabaliya r.c. In the

West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin and in Balata r.c., Nablus. (PCHR 6/28)

22 JUNE

In Gaza, the **IDF** bulldozes Palestinian land 300 m. inside Gaza n. of Jabaliya r.c., occupying the area. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fatally shoots a **Palestinian** nr. Hebron who allegedly attempted to infiltrate an IDF post; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah, in Jenin town and r.c. (firing on residential areas, wounding a Palestinian woman inside her home), Nablus; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists attending the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, injuring 2 internationals. **Jewish settlers** fr. Rachelim settlement nr. Nablus uproot and cart away 300 Palestinian olive trees fr. nearby Qaryut (the **IDF** secures the return of 140 trees). **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar nr. Nablus cut down 20 Palestinian olive, almond trees in nearby Burkin village. **Jewish settlers** fr. Tekoa nr. Bethlehem set fire to 300 d. of nearby Palestinian agricultural land, including 400 olive trees. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai in Hebron burn 50 nearby Palestinian olive and almond trees. **Suspected Hamas mbrs.** toss a homemade bomb at the **Fatah** offices in Qalqilya, causing damage but no injuries. (WP 6/23; OCHA 6/27; PCHR 6/28)

23 JUNE

In Gaza, the **IDF** sends tanks, troops into al-Qarara, occupying homes as sniper posts, exchanging fire with Palestinians who also fire 15 **mortars** at IDF tanks; no injuries are reported; the IDF withdraws late in the evening. In the West Bank, the **IDF** broadens its crackdown on Hamas, arresting the head of the IQB; sends troops into al-'Aqaba village in the Jordan Valley, raiding the home of the mayor, demanding that he remove a Palestinian flag atop the local school, raiding the school and removing the flag when he refuses; conducts patrols in, fire on residential areas of Nablus, causing no injuries; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus, Tulkarm. An **ESF mbr.** dies of injuries received in a 1/25 **Fatah** attack on his patrol in Jabaliya r.c. (NYT, WP, WT 6/24; OCHA 6/27; PCHR 6/28)

While daily clashes at Nahr al-Barid continue, **Lebanese soldiers** raid an apartment building in Tripoli suspected of housing

an arms cache, resulting in a clash with 6 **suspected FI mbrs.** (3 Saudis, 1 Chechen, 2 Lebanese). During the 10-hr. battle, the 6 **militants**, 2 **bystanders**, 1 **soldier**, 1 **police officer** are killed, 12 soldiers are wounded. (WP 6/24; NYT, WP, WT 6/25)

24 JUNE

After **Islamic Jihad** fires several **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel (causing no reported injuries), the **IDF** makes an air strike on a car in Gaza City assassinating **Islamic Jihad mbr. Hussam Harb**, wounding a 2d **Islamic Jihad mbr.**, 3 bystanders. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Nablus for a night, causing no injuries. Inside Israel, **Israeli security forces** demolish several bedouin homes in Um al-Hiram in the Negev. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received in interfacational violence in Gaza City on 6/13. (WP 6/25; OCHA 6/27; PCHR 6/28)

Outside Metula in s. Lebanon, **unidentified assailants** detonate a car bomb as a **UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)** convoy passes, killing 6 **UNIFIL soldiers** (3 Columbians, 3 Spaniards), wounding 2 in the 1st targeted attack on the international mission since the 2006 Lebanon war. **Amal, Hizballah** denounce the attack, deny involvement. (NYT, WP, WT 6/25; NYT 7/7)

25 JUNE

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Nablus and in Balata r.c., Tubas. The **Palestinian groups** holding **IDF soldier Gilad Shalit** release a video of him to mark the anniversary of his capture in a raid 1 yr. ago in which he urges the Israeli government to agree to a swap of Hamas prisoners for his release. The **Army of Islam** issues a new video of kidnapped **BBC correspondent Johnston** warning that he would be killed if an attempt were made to free him by force. **AMB mbrs.** stage marches in Bayt Ula and Tarqumiyya nr. Hebron in support of Abbas's emergency government. (NYT, WP 6/26; OCHA 6/27; PCHR 6/28)

26 JUNE

Abbas issues a presidential decree banning all militias, including the **AMB**, which vows to ignore the order. Meanwhile, the **IDF** withdraws fr. an area n. of Jabaliya r.c. occupied on 6/22; bulldozes 3 plots of

Palestinian land nr. the Erez crossing, the border fence e. of Dayr al-Balah, and the Sufa crossing. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishermen off the Gaza City coast, forcing them back to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids Jenin r.c., surrounds the home of a wanted **Islamic Jihad** mbr., sparking an exchange of gunfire that leaves **1 Palestinian bystander** (a relative of the wanted man) dead; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c. (firing percussion grenades that spark a fire, damaging a restaurant) and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Beit Hadasah severely beat a 13-yr-old Palestinian boy in Hebron. (OCHA, WP 6/27; PCHR, WP 6/28)

27 JUNE

Overnight, the **IDF** sends tanks and troops, backed by air support, into Gaza City and Khan Yunis in a major day-long ground offensive targeting primarily **Hamas** and **Islamic Jihad**, but also including the **AMB**, arresting 10s of Palestinians, bulldozing 1 Palestinian **home** and 70 dunams of land, and leaving at least **13 Palestinians** (including at least 4 gunmen and 6 civilians, including a 10-yr-old boy) dead, more than 50 Palestinians and at least 2 **IDF** soldiers wounded; **Fatah** and **Hamas** gunmen fight side-by-side against the **IDF**, using small arms and antitank weapons. The **IDF** also makes an air strike on a car in Gaza City, assassinating **Islamic Jihad senior cmdr. Raed Fanuna**; bulldozes Palestinian land on the Gaza side of the Qarni crossing and industrial zone, along the border southeast of Khuza'a in s. Gaza. For a 2d day, the **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishermen off the Gaza City coast, forcing them back to shore. **Islamic Jihad** fires 4 **rockets**, 5 **mortars** fr. Gaza toward the Erez crossing; 2 mortars land on the Gaza side, injuring a Palestinian child; those landing on the Israeli side cause no damage or injuries. In Khan Yunis, a **Palestinian** is killed when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** launches a major arrest campaign in the Old City of Nablus, imposing a curfew, searching homes (occupying at least 7 as sniper posts), taking over local radio stations, searching hospitals; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, nr. Jenin. In Ramallah, **unidentified gunmen** fire on the home of **senior Fatah official Hani al-Hassan**, causing no injuries. In Hebron, **unidentified gunmen** fire on the home of the local **PA General**

Intelligence head, causing no injuries. **Islamic Jihad mbr. Zakariyya al-Tartar** dies of injuries received in a 6/24 **IDF** air strike on his vehicle in Gaza City. (PCHR, WP, WT 6/28; OCHA 7/4; PCHR 7/5)

28 JUNE

The **IDF** continues operations in Nablus, clashing with **AMB** gunmen who detonate explosives as soldiers approach, wounding 10 soldiers; during the incursion, the **IDF** arrests 2 **AMB** mbrs., blows up 1 Palestinian **home**, damages 4 others, and fires on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 15 (ages 12-19). The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron and neighboring Qalqas (detaining 51 Palestinians, including 17 children; releasing 40 later in the day). In Gaza, the **IDF** bulldozes Palestinian land on the Gaza side of the Erez crossing; sends troops into agricultural areas s. of Gaza City, where they clash with Palestinian gunmen, seriously wounding 1. (NYT 6/29; OCHA 7/4; PCHR 7/5)

As part of the ongoing offensive against **FI**, the **Lebanese army** raids a hillside cave outside Tripoli, killing 6 **FI mbrs.**, securing an arms cache. (WP, WT 6/29)

29 JUNE

In Gaza, the **IDF** bulldozes Palestinian land nr. the Qarni industrial zone along the border n. of Bayt Hanun. **Palestinians** fire 7 **mortars** at **IDF** troops operating n. of Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries; fire 4 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fatally shoots 1 **Palestinian** in Nablus before ending a 3-day operation there; bars an ambulance fr. transporting a **Palestinian** seriously injured in a car accident through a checkpoint to reach the nearest hospital in East Jerusalem because he did not have a permit to enter the city, allowing him to die; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Qabatya and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists attending the weekly nonviolent protest against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, injuring 1. (OCHA 7/4; PCHR 7/5)

Nr. Tripoli, **Lebanese soldiers** fire on **Palestinian refugees** who attempt to cross an army checkpoint while staging a protest march toward Nahr al-Barid, seeking to return to their homes. Local **Lebanese youths** also beat marchers. At least 3 **Palestinians**

are killed, up to 50 wounded. (NYT, WP, WT 6/30)

30 JUNE

The **IDF** makes 7 air strikes on **Hamas** and **Islamic Jihad** targets in Gaza, assassinating 3 senior **Islamic Jihad** cmdrs. (Raed Ghannam, Ziyad Ghannam, Muhammad al-Ra'i) and wounding 7 bystanders in a strike on a car in Khan Yunis, killing another 4 **Palestinians** and wounding 2 in a strike on an alleged weapons depot in al-Maghazi r.c., and striking the same site later in the day, heavily damaging 6 nearby homes, wounding 1 bystander. **Palestinians** fire several **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly injuring 1 Israeli, damaging 1 home and 2 other buildings. In Bureij r.c., a **Hamas mbr.** is injured when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely. (NYT, WP, WT 7/1; OCHA 7/4; PCHR 7/5)

1 JULY

In Gaza, **Palestinians** fire 3 **mortars** at **IDF** bulldozers clearing Palestinian land on the Gaza side of the Erez crossing, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** bulldozes Palestinian land nr. the Qarni crossing, along the border e. of Dayr al-Balah. Late in the evening, the **IDF** raids Jenin r.c. in a failed attempt to capture **West Bank AMB leader Zakariya Zubaydi**, fatally shooting **Muhammad Hayja** (his deputy and a local AMB leader). The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Hebron, and in Qalqilya, Tubas. (NYT, WP 7/2; OCHA 7/4; PCHR 7/5)

2 JULY

PA security forces continue targeting Hamas mbrs. in the West Bank for arrest, detaining and quickly releasing **Change and Reform PC mbr. Ahmad al-Hajj Ali**. In Gaza, the **ESF** arrests **Army of Islam spokesman Abu Khattab al-Makdisi**, 2 other **Army of Islam** mbrs. in effort to find kidnapped BBC correspondent **Johnston**; the **Army of Islam** captures several Hamas-affiliated students in retaliation. Meanwhile, in the West Bank, the **IDF** unleashes attack dogs on, then fatally shoots a **15-yr-old Palestinian boy** during an arrest raid in Hebron; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and Nablus, in Qabatya, and nr. Jenin, Qalqilya. A **Jewish settler woman** in Hebron beats a 14-yr-

old Palestinian boy who refuses to give her his puppy; the **IDF** arrests the boy. In Gaza, the **IDF** bulldozes Palestinian land in 2 areas along the n. Gaza border; shoots, wounds a Palestinian who strays nr. the border fence e. of Bayt Hanun. **Israel** announces that **Israeli police** and **Shin Bet** have arrested **11 senior Hamas mbrs.** in Jerusalem for allegedly "recruit[ing] support for Hamas and giv[ing] the organization a foothold on the Temple Mount, in coordination with **Shaykh Raed Salah's Islamic Movement**," and have seized more than \$95,000 in funds allegedly transferred fr. Hamas's Damascus-based leadership; the 11 are all East Jerusalem residents, and 10 have Israeli ID cards. (IFM 7/2; HA, NYT, WP, WT 7/3; NYT, OCHA, WP 7/4; PCHR 7/5)

3 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** imposes restrictions barring Palestinians ages 16–25 from traveling southward through 8 major northern checkpoints (Anabta-Kifriyat tunnel, al-Ras in Tulkarm; Awarta, Hawara, Yitzhar in Nablus; Jit in Qalqilya; Dayr Ballut, Za'atara in Salfit); fatally shoots a **Palestinian teenager** in Hebron, mistaking his toy gun for a real one; raids 3 mosques and a rehabilitation center in Hebron, confiscating documents, books; raids, searches the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions offices in Ramallah; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and in Balata r.c., Nablus, Tulkarm town and r.c. A **Palestinian** dies nr. Um Salamuna when he is run over by a **Jewish settler** bus. In Gaza, the **ESF** deploys heavily in Gaza City's Sabra neighborhood, where **Hamas** believes BBC reporter **Johnston** is being held; detains a number of mbrs. of the **Daghmesh clan** thought to be behind the **Army of Islam**; exchanges fire with **Daghmesh** family mbrs. who refuse to stop at an **ESF** checkpoint, wounding 1 Palestinian bystander. (The **ESF** says that since 7/2, it has detained 20 **Daghmesh** mbrs.; that the **Daghmesh** clan has kidnapped 10 Hamas mbrs. in retaliation.) **Palestinians** fire 3 **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. (HA 7/3; OCHA, WP 7/4; PCHR 7/5)

4 JULY

Overnight, **Hamas** secures the release of BBC reporter **Johnston** fr. the **Army of Islam**, which kidnapped him on 3/12; **Haniyeh** holds a press conference with

Johnston at his Gaza City home, facilitates his transfer to the British Consulate in Jerusalem; **British FM David Miliband** “fully acknowledge[s] the crucial role” played by Hamas and Haniyeh in securing his release. Meanwhile, the **IDF** bulldozes Palestinian land in n. Gaza, reinforces troops inside the border nr. Bayt Hanun (conducting arrest raids, house searches, occupying a Palestinian home, bulldozing land), expanding the **IDF**’s n. Gaza buffer zone. **Islamic Jihad** fires an RPG at an **IDF** jeep on the Israeli side of the border fence nr. Dayr al-Balah; the missile lands inside Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Tulkarm. A **Palestinian teenager** dies of wounds received during a 2004 **IDF** raid on Hebron. (BBC, HA, NYT, WP 7/4; PCHR, WP 7/5; Jewish Telegraphic Agency 7/6; WP 7/8; OCHA 7/11; PCHR 7/12)

5 JULY

The **IDF** launches a major day-long incursion (including infantry, tanks, bulldozers, air support) into areas of Gaza e. of al-Bureij r.c. and al-Maghazi r.c. to “root out terrorist infrastructures,” sparking heavy clashes with local Palestinians and calling in air strikes in support; **11 Palestinian gunmen** are killed (including at least 7 Hamas mbrs., 1 Islamic Jihad mbr.), 2 **IDF** soldiers and 25 Palestinians are wounded, 1 **home** is demolished, 80 d. of olive trees and agricultural land are bulldozed, 1 Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance is confiscated by the **IDF**, and at least 9 of about 70 Palestinians interrogated by troops are sent to Israel for further questioning. (Among the Palestinians wounded is an al-Aqsa TV cameraman, who is repeatedly shot at close range as he lies prone after initially being wounded, leaving him a double amputee; an **IDF** official speaking anonymously states that al-Aqsa TV employees should not be considered bona fide journalists but “Hamas operatives in every respect,” alleging that they gather intelligence and document attacks on Israeli forces for Hamas.) **Islamic Jihad** fires 2 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel during the clashes, causing no damage or injuries. The **PRC** also fires 2 **rockets** fr. Rafah toward Kerem Shalom crossing; 1 explodes on the launcher, injuring 1 **PRC** mbr., while the other lands inside Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm

town and r.c., nr. Qalqilya, and in Jenin town and r.c., Nablus, Tubas. In keeping with a decree issued by PA PM **Fayyad** earlier in the wk. changing the official weekend from Thursday/Friday to Friday/Saturday, Fatah-affiliated PA employees in Gaza attempt to go their workplaces today (Thursday) but are blocked by **ESF** officers who force the ministries to stay closed; Fatah civil servants pledge not to work on Saturday, in keeping with the decree and as a protest against Haniyeh’s provisional government. In Gaza City, **2,000 Palestinians** hold a peaceful demonstration calling on **Fatah, Hamas** to work together. A **PSF officer** dies of injuries received in interfactional clashes in Jabaliya on 6/11. (NYT, WP, WT 7/6; NYT 7/7; WP 7/8; OCHA 7/11; PCHR 7/12)

6 JULY

IDF troops operating in n. Gaza nr. Bayt Hanun capture 8 rocket launchers and rockets. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c., Jenin town and r.c., Nablus; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists holding weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil’in, injuring 3. In Gaza City, **ESF, Islamic Jihad mbrs.** exchange fire, causing no injuries. (NYT 7/7; OCHA 7/11; PCHR 7/12)

7 JULY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Einav nr. Tulkarm burn 100 d. of nearby Palestinian crops. In Gaza City, **3,000 Hamas mbrs.** hold a nonviolent protest march demanding the opening of the Rafah crossing to allow entry to some 6,000 Palestinians stranded in Egypt. (OCHA 7/11; PCHR 7/12)

8 JULY

After 5 days of bulldozing operations to expand the n. Gaza buffer zone (leveling 90 d. of land), the **IDF** withdraws troops fr. the border area n. of Bayt Hanun that were sent in on 7/4. **Hamas** fires 2 **mortars** at **IDF** tanks, bulldozers leveling land inside the Gaza border further south nr. Nahal Oz, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends an undercover unit into Jenin in a civilian vehicle with Palestinian license plates, ambushing and assassinating **Islamic Jihad cmdr. Mahmud Nazzal** as

he drives through town, arresting his 3 passengers (1 wounded); conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and in Balata r.c., Bethlehem, Jenin town and r.c., Nablus, Tubas. **Jewish settlers** place new caravans at the unauthorized settlement outpost of Avigail nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Susia vandalize 2 Palestinian homes in Hebron, uproot several trees. (OCHA 7/11; PCHR 7/12)

9 JULY

The UNRWA announces that because of Israel's continued closure of the Gaza crossing to all but limited humanitarian aid, it must halt about \$93 m. of construction projects in Gaza (including schools, water and sewage treatment facilities, health centers) that employ **121,000 Palestinians** for lack of construction materials; also warns that UNRWA food stocks are running low. **Hamas** says it is willing to allow the **PA presidential guard** to monitor the crossings, but **Israel** says it will not deal with the presidential guard if they operate under Hamas command. **Hamas** demands that **Egypt**, **Israel** allow some **6,000 Palestinians** stranded on the Rafah border without aid or shelter to enter Gaza; **Egypt** says it will allow them through the Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom crossing as a 1-time solution, but Hamas rejects this as an affront to Palestinian sovereignty; **Hamas mbrs.** fire **mortars** at Kerem Shalom in protest, causing light damage but no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Jericho, raiding a billiard club, shooting, wounding, arresting 2 Palestinians; sends undercover units into Burkin nr. Jenin in a civilian vehicle with Palestinian plates to raid a café, arresting 13 Palestinians; conducts other arrest raids, house searches in Nablus, nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. (NYT, WT 7/10; OCHA 7/11; PCHR 7/12)

10 JULY

The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishermen off the coast of Bayt Lahiya, forcing them to return to shore. **Palestinians** fire 10 **mortars** at the IDF post at Kerem Shalom crossing, causing no damage or injuries but prompting Israel to close the transit point, which had been allowing limited food aid into Gaza. Meanwhile, **3,000 Hamas mbrs.** hold a nonviolent demonstration at the Rafah crossing, demanding that Israel allow entry to some 6,000 Palestinians

stranded in Egypt. **Egypt** reinforces border guards on the Rafah border, fearing that **Hamas** mbrs. might try to force open the crossing. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids in and around Nablus (targeting the **Fatah *tanzim***), in Jenin town and r.c., and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Qalqilya. **Fatah officials** complain that in the past 2 wks., **IDF** arrest campaigns in the West Bank have detained at least **300 Fatah mbrs.**, more than offsetting a planned release of 250 Fatah prisoners (see Quarterly Update). (IFM, MNA 7/10; NYT, PCHR 7/12)

11 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Hebron, and in Jenin town and r.c., Qabatya, Qalqilya. In Ramallah, **Fatah-affiliated students** at Birzeit University attack a peaceful sit-in by **pro-Hamas students** protesting political arrests by the PA targeting Hamas; injuries figures are not reported. (PCHR 7/12; OCHA 7/18; PCHR 7/19)

The **Lebanese army** reinforces tanks, armored personnel carriers (APCs), troops around Nahr al-Barid r.c., prompting at least another **400 Palestinian refugees** to flee the camp in fear of a major assault against the remaining **FI** mbrs. (WP 7/12; WP 7/13)

12 JULY

Under intense pressure from human and legal rights groups, **Abbas** temporarily suspends a 7/6 presidential decree expanding the mandate of the **PA security forces** at the expense of the judiciary. Overnight, the **IDF** sends tanks and bulldozers supported by helicopters, drones, warplanes into central Gaza nr. al-Bureij r.c., searching residential areas for weapons and wanted Palestinians, detaining 10s of Palestinians, bulldozing 118 d. of land, clashing with **Hamas** mbrs. who detonate a roadside bomb nr. an IDF vehicle, killing **1 IDF soldier** (the 1st killed by Palestinians since 11/1/06), lightly wounding 2. The **IDF** also makes an air strike on a rocket launching site nr. al-Bureij r.c., injuring 2 **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fatally shoots an **Islamic Jihad gunman** who opened fire on an IDF checkpoint nr. Tulkarm without causing injuries; demolishes 3 Palestinian **homes**, an agricultural warehouse nr. Qalqilya; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and

around Jenin town and r.c., Nablus. In Khan Yunis, **5,000 Fatah mbrs.** stage a march in support of **Abbas**; when they stone an ESF post, **ESF mbrs.** fire in the air to disperse the crowd, wounding 1 Fatah mbr. In Gaza City, **Hamas supporters** hold a sit-in to protest **Abbas's** recent decision to halt salary payments to employees hired after 12/05 (see Quarterly Update). In al-Bureij r.c., **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** kidnap, kill an alleged **Palestinian collaborator**. (AYM 7/12; NYT, WP, WT 7/13; OCHA 7/18; PCHR 7/19)

The **Lebanese army** shells **FI** targets in Nahr al-Barid r.c. fr. land and sea, sparking the heaviest clashes in wks. Additional troops sent into the camp reportedly encounter sniper fire and booby-trapped buildings as they advance deeper into areas controlled by **FI**. At least **4 soldiers** and **1 civilian** are killed, 20 soldiers injured during the day. (NYT, WP, WT 7/13)

13 JULY

With the legal mandate of the PA emergency cabinet set to expire on 6/14, **Abbas** dissolves **Fayyad's** emergency government and quickly reappoints it, with 4 added ministers, as a "caretaker government" to rule indefinitely (see Quarterly Update). The **IDF** sends troops in s. Gaza to reoccupy the Rafah airport site, firing on residential areas of nearby Shuka, wounding 1 Palestinian, withdrawing in the evening; **Hamas** fires **5 mortars** at the troops during the day, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 2) and a similar protest in Wadi Nays nr. Bethlehem (injuring 4). (HA 7/13; NYT, WT 7/14; NYT, WP, WT 7/15; OCHA 7/18; PCHR 7/19)

14 JULY

Palestinians fire **4 mortars**, 1 RPG at IDF troops stationed at the Rafah airport, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts patrols in Nablus. **Jewish settlers** in Hebron attack a Palestinian family, vandalize several homes; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. **Jewish settlers** fr. Otniel nr. Hebron, escorted by **IDF** troops, occupy 30 d. of Palestinian land in nearby Yatta, set up tents and light towers, uproot

10s of Palestinian olive and almond trees to make way for a new unauthorized settlement outpost; the **IDF** also erects an observation tower on the land. The Palestinian rights group **al-Haq** reports that **Abbas's security forces** in the West Bank have detained up to **400 Hamas mbrs.** since Hamas took control of Gaza on 6/15. (NYT 7/15; OCHA 7/18; PCHR 7/19)

15 JULY

In a bid to help **Abbas**, **Israel** removes **178 AMB mbrs.** fr. its wanted list (75% of AMB mbrs. wanted, including **AMB Jenin leader Zakariya Zubaydi**) after they sign pledges to cease all actions against Israel and hand over their weapons to the PA. In Gaza, **Palestinians** fire 2 RPGs at an IDF unit patrolling the border fence nr. al-Bureij, missing the target, causing no damage or injuries; fire **4 mortars** at IDF troops e. of Bayt Hanun, causing no damage or injuries. Around **50 Palestinian merchants** hold a sit-in at the Erez crossing to protest Israel's continued closure. In the West Bank, **Israeli intelligence** summons, arrests 2 Palestinians in Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Otniel continue work to set up a new outpost on land seized on 7/14. **PA employees** recently cut from the PA salary rolls by **Abbas** (see Quarterly Update) begin an open-ended sit-in strike in Gaza City's Unknown Soldier's Park. On the intra-Palestinian front, the **ESF** raids the Gaza City homes of at least a dozen **Army of Islam mbrs.**, arresting 12, all connected to the powerful **Daghmash clan**. A **Palestinian man** dies in a Gaza City hospital after being interrogated by the **IQB**. (HA, NYT, WT 7/16; OCHA 7/18; PCHR 7/19; NYT 7/22; OCHA 7/25)

16 JULY

In Gaza, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a suspected rocket launching site nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. In Dayr al-Balah, 4 Palestinian children are injured by **IDF** UXO. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a Palestinian **home** in al-Tur nr. Jerusalem; orders the closure of a Palestinian barber-shop in Hebron, stating it is too close to Beit Romano settlement; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba beat a 12-yr.-old Palestinian boy. **Jewish settlers** fr. Otniel uproot another 100 Palestinian olive trees nr. the settlement as part of the expansion begun on 7/14. **Jewish settlers** beat a Palestinian farmer

tending his land nr. Qalqilya. (OCHA 7/18; PCHR 7/19; OCHA 7/25)

Unidentified assailants detonate a roadside bomb targeting a **UNIFIL** convoy driving through Tyre, causing no injuries. **Hizballah** condemns the attack. (NYT 7/17) (see 6/24)

17 JULY

Israel releases fmr. Education M **Nasser al-Sha'ir** (arrested 5/24, dismissed by Abbas on 6/14) after he signs a pledge renouncing his ties to Hamas, vowing never to hold an official position representing the group. In Gaza, 2 Palestinian children are injured by a roadside bomb planted nr. an **ESF** post. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 2 Palestinian **homes** nr. Jerusalem (in Anata, Bayt Hanina); conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and Ramallah, nr. Bethlehem, in Hebron. Some **3,500 Jewish settlers** bring construction materials to the Homesh settlement site with the intention of rebuilding the settlement vacated under Israel's 9/05 disengagement plan; settlers set fire to 10s of nearby Palestinian olive trees, vandalize fuel tanks and cars at a nearby Palestinian gas station. The **IDF** closed several main checkpoints (nr. Hebron, Qalqilya, Ramallah) and stretches of Route 60 to block settlers fr. reaching the site, causing major obstacles to Palestinian movement. (OCHA, WT 7/18; PCHR 7/19)

18 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm town and r.c., in Jenin and Qabatya, nr. Bethlehem and Hebron. In Nablus, **female Hamas supporters** demonstrate outside the central police station for the release of their relatives detained by the **PA**. In Gaza, a new **Hamas-affiliated mayor** is appointed to the Bayt Lahiya municipality (no details are reported). (PCHR 7/19; OCHA 7/25; PCHR 7/26)

19 JULY

In Gaza, **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** exchange fire with an **IDF** patrol nr. Khuza'a, causing no injuries. The **IDF** bulldozes Palestinian land along the border e. of al-Maghazi. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a Palestinian **house**, 2 mobile homes, a water reservoir nr. Bethlehem; demolishes 1 **home**, part of a 2d nr. Nablus; conducts arrest raids,

house searches in Jenin, nr. Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Beni Hefer nr. Hebron burn 75 d. of Palestinian olive groves (255 trees) nr. the settlement. In Gaza City, **100 Palestinian vendors** stage a nonviolent march to Haniyeh's office to protest the **ESF's** removal of their stalls along a main Gaza City street to ease traffic congestion. Some **4,500 Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PFLP supporters** (nearly half of them children) stage a nonviolent demonstration at the Rafah crossing, calling on Israel to open the checkpoint to allow entry to Palestinians stranded on the Egyptian side. A new **Hamas-affiliated mayor** is appointed to the al-Bureij r.c. municipality (no details are reported). A **Hamas mbr.** dies of injuries received during the 6/27 **IDF** raid on Gaza City. (OCHA 7/25; PCHR 7/26)

20 JULY

Israel releases **255 Palestinian prisoners**, including **PFLP 2d-in-command 'Abd al-Rahim Malluh**; 85% of those released are Fatah mbrs.; the remainder are fr. smaller parties; none are fr. Hamas (Israel still holds 1 Fatah mbr. after learning that he switched affiliation to Hamas in jail); all had at least 1 yr. left to serve on their sentences. **Palestinians** fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists attending the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, injuring 6; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront troops in 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma'a r.c., wounding 4 teenagers and a 65-yr.-old bystander; closes roads northwest of Nablus to Palestinian traffic to allow more **Jewish settlers** to reach the evacuated Homesh settlement site (en route, settlers damage Palestinian crops and vandalize 2 Palestinian cars, 4 homes). Also nr. Nablus, **Jewish settlers** fr. Gilad severely beat 1 Palestinian in neighboring Fara'ta; **Jewish settlers** fr. Elon Moreh and Yitzhar burn 10s of Palestinian olive trees nr. the settlements. (AP, HA 7/20; NYT, WP, WT 7/21; OCHA 7/25; PCHR 7/26)

21 JULY

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border shoot, seriously wound 2 armed Palestinians nr. the border fence n. of Bayt Lahiya. In the

West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., in al-Khadir nr. Bethlehem. In Nablus, **PA security forces** loyal to Abbas release **Hamas official and senior adviser to fmr. Interior M Qawasmi Ahmad Dolah** (arrested on 7/2); 6 other Hamas officials recently arrested in Nablus have been freed in the past few days. In Gaza, **Hamas** says that it is installing a temporary legal comm. comprising an Islamic law expert, a military court lawyer, and the head of the main prison temporarily to replace the nonfunctioning PA court system. (AP 7/21; WT 7/22; OCHA 7/25; PCHR 7/26)

22 JULY

Overnight, the **IDF** makes a ground incursion into n. Gaza, killing **2 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** in Bayt Hanun, conducting arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Lahiya. During the day, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a car carrying suspected **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. in Gaza City, missing the target, causing damage but no injuries; bulldozes Palestinian land along the border n. of Bayt Lahiya. Later **Islamic Jihad** fires **3 rockets** on Sederot, lightly injuring 1 Israeli, otherwise causing no damage; the **IDF** fires surface-to-surface missiles at the n. Gaza launch site, killing **2 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, Hebron. **Jewish settlers** marching to the abandoned Homesh settlement site vandalize a Palestinian home, set fire to 5 d. of Palestinian crops nr. Nablus. In a separate incident, **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar set fire to 100 Palestinian olive trees nr. Nablus. In Gaza City, **suspected Fatah gunmen** fire on an **ESF** patrol, wounding 1 **ESF** officer. A **PA presidential guardsman** dies of injuries received during Gaza's 6/07 internal clashes. (NYT, WP 7/23; OCHA 7/25; PCHR 7/26)

23 JULY

In Jerusalem, **Israeli police** escort a group of **Jewish settlers** into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound to mark the Tisha B'Av holiday. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'ale Levona nr. Nablus, uproot 30 Palestinian olive trees nr. the settlement. In Rafah, **Fatah al-Yasir mbrs.** raid the office of **Fatah PC mbr. Ashraf Jum'a**, beat Jum'a and 11 of his bodyguards, alleging that Jum'a

removed the names of brigade mbrs. fr. payroll rosters; local **PRC mbrs.** intervened to bring the situation under control. In Jabaliya r.c., **3,000 Hamas supporters** hold a nonviolent protest against Abbas's 7/18 call for early elections. In Khan Yunis, **Hamas mbrs.** remove Fatah officials fr. 3 local centers and educational facilities, installing Hamas-affiliated officials in their place. (NYT 7/24; OCHA 7/25; PCHR 7/26)

24 JULY

The **IDF** makes an air strike on a car in Gaza City suspected to be carrying wanted Palestinians, missing the target and hitting a nearby home, causing heavy damage but no injuries. **Islamic Jihad** fires **10 mortars** at the IDF base at Kissufim crossing, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Hebron, and in Bethlehem, Qalqilya, nr. Hebron and Nablus; raids the offices of a children's charity in Jenin, confiscating documents. For a 2d day in Jerusalem, **Israeli police** escort a group of **Jewish settlers** into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound to mark the Tisha B'Av holiday. A **Jewish settler** fr. Kiryat Arba seriously injures a 10-yr.-old Palestinian boy in a deliberate hit-and-run in Hebron. **Jewish settlers** severely beat a Palestinian teenager nr. Nablus. In Ramallah, **PA presidential guardsmen** halt a car carrying the son and daughter of **jailed Fatah *tanzim* leader Marwan Barghouti** (seen as a potential challenger to Abbas), harass them both, detain and beat the son at the PA headquarters. **Pro-Fatah students** at al-Najah University in Nablus attack, beat **pro-Hamas students** protesting Abbas's ouster of the Haniyeh government, leading to police intervention and an exchange of fire that leaves 3 students wounded, 1 critically. In Gaza City, **10,000 Hamas supporters** stage a nonviolent march to PC headquarters to protest **PA** attacks on Hamas activists and institutions in the West Bank. (OCHA, WP 7/25; PCHR 7/26)

As daily clashes continue at Nahr al-Barid r.c., **FI** kills **3 Lebanese soldiers**—2 by a mortar, 1 by a booby-trapped device. The estimated death toll to date is 120 soldiers, 81 FI members, 41 civilians. (WT 7/25)

25 JULY

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops, armored vehicles into Juhur al-Dik southeast

of Gaza City, occupying 4 Palestinian homes, bulldozing agricultural land, rounding up all males for interrogation, detaining 30 before withdrawing late at night. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids offices of an Islamic charity in Qalqilya, confiscating documents; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin and in al-Bireh, Qalandia. (OCHA 7/25; PCHR 7/26, 8/2)

26 JULY

Overnight, the **IDF** makes a major incursion into areas e. of Khan Yunis, conducting arrest raids and house searches, occupying several homes as observation posts, bulldozing 153 d. of olive and citrus trees, rounding up all males ages 16–50 for questioning (arresting 60), exchanging fire with Palestinians, and making 3 air strikes (killing 2 **Hamas mbrs.**; wounding at least 3 **Hamas**, 3 **Islamic Jihad mbrs.**). During the day, the **IDF** makes 2 more air strikes on Gaza, assassinating **senior Islamic Jihad cmdr. Omar al-Khatib**, 2 **aides (Ahmad al-Balawi, Khalil al-Duayfi)** as they drive in Gaza City, and wounding a Palestinian bystander nr. a suspected rocket launching site Bayt Lahiya. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fatally beats a **16-yr.-old Palestinian** at a checkpoint nr. Bethlehem, claiming he attempted to stab a soldier; sends undercover units into al-Dahariyya nr. Hebron, where they hijack a Palestinian taxi, shoot and seriously wound a Palestinian teenager (no motive is given; the **IDF** transports the boy to an Israeli hospital for treatment); conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Tulkarm, and in Hebron, Jenin town and r.c. (targeting **Islamic Jihad members**), Qalqilya. Overnight, **100s of Jewish settlers** attempt to set up a new, unauthorized settlement outpost on 1,000 d. of Palestinian land nr. Artas outside Bethlehem. (NYT, WT 7/27; OCHA 8/1; PCHR 8/2)

27 JULY

In Gaza, **Islamic Jihad** detonates a roadside bomb nr. an **IDF** convoy patrolling inside Israel nr. Kerem Shalom crossing, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Yabad nr. Jenin (seriously injuring a 13-yr.-old Palestinian boy in an accidental hit-and-run); patrols in Ramallah; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists attending the weekly nonviolent protest against the **separation**

wall in Bil'in, injuring 2; forcibly removes **Jewish settlers** fr. the Homesh settlement site. (OCHA 8/1; PCHR 8/2)

28 JULY

The **IDF** fires into Gaza, wounding 2 **AMB mbrs.**, planting roadside bombs and preparing to fire mortars into Israel, barring ambulances fr. reaching the scene for 6 hrs., allowing them to die; the **AMB** says the men intended to fire mortars to protest a 7/27 decision by **Abbas** to drop references to Palestinian resistance fr. the existing government platform. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah and in Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin town and r.c.; patrols in Kafr Ra'i nr. Jenin. (NYT, WP, WT 7/29; OCHA 8/1; PCHR 8/2)

The **Lebanese army** storms a **FI** building in Nahr al-Barid r.c., killing 8 **militiamen**, stating that a final push against the group is "imminent." Fighting continues, however, through the end of the quarter. (WP, WT 7/29)

29 JULY

Israel begins to allow more than **6,000 Palestinians** stranded on the Egyptian side of the Rafah border to enter Gaza through Erez via the al-Oja cargo crossing s. of Rafah and bus them to Erez (see Quarterly Update); 1 **ailing Palestinian** stranded at the crossing dies. Nr. Khan Yunis, **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** exchange heavy fire with an **IDF** unit patrolling the border inside Israel, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** searches stores, conducts random ID checks in Hebron; patrols in Qalandia. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar set fire to 100 d. of Palestinian olive and almond groves nr. Nablus. (NYT 7/29; WT 7/31; OCHA 8/1; PCHR 8/2)

30 JULY

In Gaza, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a Palestinian taxi in al-Maghazi r.c. in an assassination attempt against 1 **AMB mbr.** and 1 **Islamic Jihad mbr.**, wounding them, the driver, 4 bystanders. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire a **mortar** at the **IDF** post at Erez crossing, causing no damage; an **ESF** unit fires on the mortar crew, sparking a heavy exchange of gunfire that leaves no reported injuries. **Palestinians** also fire an **RPG** across the Gaza border at an **IDF** patrol inside Israel e. of al-Bureij r.c., missing the troops, causing

no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron (bulldozing parts of a cemetery, searching a kindergarten), nr. Jenin. In n. Gaza, **3 Fatah al-Yasir mbrs.** abduct, kill a **PA intelligence officer** in a family dispute with factional overtones; the **ESF** arrests the **3 Fatah al-Yasir mbrs.** (HA 7/30; NYT 7/31; OCHA 8/1; PCHR 8/2)

31 JULY

Late in the evening, the **IDF** sends troops into areas of Gaza n. of Bayt Lahiya, exchanging fire with Palestinians, killing **1 Hamas mbr.**, **1 DFLP mbr.**, wounding a bystander. The **IDF** also demolishes a Palestinian **home** in East Jerusalem. (PCHR 8/2; OCHA 8/8)

1 AUGUST

The **IDF** continues operations in n. Gaza, exchanging fire with Palestinians (who fire at least 1 RPG, causing no injuries), killing **1 DFLP mbr.** and **1 Islamic Jihad mbr.**, wounding 3 Palestinians, bulldozing land; fires a missile fr. a drone at a group of **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. n. of Bayt Hanun suspected of having fired a rocket, causing no injuries; sends tanks, bulldozers into areas nr. Khan Yunis to level land. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids a school, an Islamic organization, a house, a factory in Bayt Sahur nr. Bethlehem, conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and Jenin town and r.c., in Balata r.c. and Nablus, and nr. Nablus, Ramallah, Salfit. The **IDF** also dismantles a low wall (not part of the separation wall) running 25 mi. along roads s. of Hebron, in keeping with a 2/06 Israeli High Court decision that it impeded daily life for Palestinians in 21 rural communities. **Jewish settlers** in Jerusalem attack a Palestinian family in Bayt Safafa, injuring 5 Palestinians, vandalizing their home. In Gaza City, several **Fatah mbrs.** take refuge in the home of an **Islamic Jihad** mbr. while trying to evade arrest by the **ESF** for firing in the air at a wedding; the **ESF** surrounds the home leading to a clash btwn. **ESF** officers and **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. that leaves **2 Islamic Jihad mbrs.**, **1 ESF mbr.** dead and 8 Palestinians wounded; **PRC mbrs.** intervene to stop the fighting and secure the surrender of the **Fatah** and **Islamic Jihad** gunmen. (NYT, PCHR, WP 8/2; NYT 8/3; OCHA 8/8; PCHR 8/9)

2 AUGUST

In Gaza, an **ailing Palestinian** given prior approval to enter Israel for medical treatment dies at Erez crossing after being denied passage by the **IDF** for 2 days. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fatally shoots **local Islamic Jihad leader Raed Abu al-Adass** in a raid on Balata r.c. in what may be an assassination; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jericho, Tulkarm; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall in Bil'in, injuring 4. In Hebron, **2 Jewish settlers** fr. Mitzpe Ya'ir outpost attack a **UN** vehicle carrying 3 **UN** employees and 2 Israeli journalists, breaking the windshield, placing large rocks in front of the tires to prevent it fr. moving, injuring 1 **UN** employee; the **IDF**, **Israeli police** arrest the settlers, who are quickly released on bail. (NYT 8/4; OCHA 8/8; PCHR 8/9)

3 AUGUST

The **IDF** ends operations nr. Bayt Lahiya begun on 7/31, withdrawing troops into an abandoned settlement site on the n. Gaza border; sends tanks and bulldozer, supported by helicopters, into the Rafah airport area to level land (**Islamic Jihad** mbrs. fire a mortar at troops, causing no injuries). In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols, searches houses in Nablus. A **Jewish settler** fr. Gilad nr. Nablus beats a Palestinian man. (OCHA 8/8; PCHR 8/9)

4 AUGUST

The **IDF** makes an air strike on a truck nr. Rafah, targeting 3 **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. for assassination, wounding them, killing **2 Palestinian bystanders**, wounding 12 others. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Hebron and nearby al-Zahiriyya, Nablus, Ramallah and nearby Dayr Ibzis and Kafr Ni'ma. (NYT, WP, WT 8/5; OCHA 8/8; PCHR 8/9)

5 AUGUST

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Hebron, and in Abu Dis nr. Jerusalem, 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma'a (moving from house to house by breaking through walls, as it did during Operation Defensive Shield in 2002;

firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, wounding 1), Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah. Expecting the **IDF** to forcibly evict **2 Jewish settler** families squatting in vacant Palestinian stores in Hebron's wholesale market (in 4/07, the **Israeli High Court** ordered them to vacate the site by 7/27), **100s of Jewish** settlers begin arriving at the site to block the eviction, harassing local Palestinians; among the incidents: a **Jewish settler** fr. Beit Hadasah injures a Palestinian man in a deliberate hit and run; **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba attack, vandalize Palestinian homes, cars; **Jewish settlers** set fire to the Hebron Rehabilitation Comm. offices (previously declared a closed military zone by the IDF). (OCHA 8/8; PCHR 8/9)

6 AUGUST

For unclear reasons, **IDF** troops at the Erez crossing fire on **ESF** troops manning the Palestinian side, killing **1 ESF officer**, wounding a baggage porter. An **IDF** helicopter fires a missile at a suspected rocket launching site nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bars an ailing **75-yr.-old Palestinian woman** living in a village btwn. the Green Line and the **separation wall** fr. crossing a checkpoint at the wall to reach a Jenin hospital, allowing her to die; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm. In ongoing settler violence in Hebron (see 8/5), **Jewish settlers** attack and vandalize Palestinian property in the central market area, set fire to the al-Kayal Mosque, burn a business and 2 Palestinian homes; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. Later in the day, **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba attack, vandalize several Palestinian homes in Hebron. A **Jewish settler security guard** is injured when his car hits a roadside bomb on the settlers-only road to Elon Moreh settlement nr. Nablus. (OCHA 8/8; PCHR 8/9)

7 AUGUST

In Gaza, **2 Palestinian children** (ages 7, 9) are killed nr. Bayt Lahiya when a Palestinian **rocket** fired toward Israel explodes prematurely. Some **3,000 IDF soldiers and border police** forcibly remove **2 Jewish settler families, 100s of settler activists** squatting in vacant Palestinian stores in Hebron's wholesale market (see 8/5, 8/6); **12 IDF soldiers** refuse to take part in the evacuation and are sentenced to 14-28 days military detention; during the eviction, set-

tlers set fire to a Palestinian shop. (HA, NYT, OCHA, WP, WT 8/8; PCHR 8/9)

8 AUGUST

In Gaza, the **IDF** exchanges fire with armed Palestinians nr. the n. Gaza border fence, killing **2 Hamas mbrs.**; fatally shoots an **ESF officer** nr. the Erez crossing, a mentally handicapped **Palestinian** who strays nr. the border fence e. of Dayr al-Balah. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 1 Palestinian home, confiscates a mobile home in Jiftlik nr. Jericho; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus (exchanging fire with Palestinian gunmen, leaving 1 IDF soldier injured) and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Qalqilya. The **IDF** also demolishes a Palestinian **home** in East Jerusalem. (NYT, PCHR 8/9; OCHA 8/15; PCHR 8/16)

9 AUGUST

The **IDF** makes air strikes on a suspected **Islamic Jihad** rocket launch site nr. Rafah airport, sends in troops to occupy and search the area, causing damage but no injuries; fatally shoots an **Islamic Jihad mbr.** laying a roadside bomb nr. an IDF observation tower at the Nahal Oz crossing. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Qalqilya and in Jenin town and r.c.; seals 8 Palestinian shops in the Old City of Hebron nr. Beit Romano settlement, declaring the area a closed military zone. A 15-yr.-old Palestinian is injured by **IDF UXO** nr. Jenin. The **Hamas-led admin. in Gaza** fires **Exec. Dir. Hazza' Abed, Public Relations Dir. Juma' al-Saqqa** of Gaza City's al-Shifa hospital, charging them with financial improprieties and corruption, and arresting Saqqa; **Fatah** claims that the men were removed for political reasons. In Gaza City, **unidentified assailants** detonate an explosive device outside the **Fatal al-Yasir** offices, causing damage but no injuries. (NYT 8/10; OCHA 8/15; PCHR 8/16)

10 AUGUST

In Gaza, the **IDF** fires on Palestinian teenagers who stray nr. the border fence nr. the Qarni industrial zone, wounding 1; exchanges fire with Palestinian gunmen across the Gaza border e. of Gaza City, causing no injuries; withdraws troops fr. the Rafah airport in the evening (see 8/9). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin; fires rubber-coated

steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent protests against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 8) and Um Salamuna (injuring 4). In Jerusalem's Old City, an **Israeli Palestinian** fr. the Galilee grabs a gun from an **Israeli security officer**, shoots and wounds him before being shot dead by another guard; 9 bystanders are wounded. In Bayt Hanun, the **ESF** arrests at least **15 Fatah mbrs.** for firing guns at a wedding; Fatah says there was no gunfire, that the ESF targeted revelers singing pro-Fatah songs; when some **150 women and children** rally outside the local ESF offices to protest the arrests, **ESF officers** fire in the air to disperse the crowd, causing no injuries. In Gaza City, some **20,000 Hamas supporters** march fr. local mosques to the PC headquarters to protest recent PA attacks on Hamas activists in the West Bank. In Halhul nr. Hebron, **suspected Hamas mbrs.** retaliating for the NSF's arrest of 10 Hamas mbrs. earlier in the day, shoot and wound **Halhul police chief Driss Jabari.** (NYT, WP, WT 8/11; NYT 8/12; OCHA 8/15; PCHR 8/16)

11 AUGUST

In Gaza, the **IDF** deploys a helicopter to fire nr. Palestinian farmers working their fields outside Khuza'a, forcing them to leave the area. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c., Nablus and nr. Hebron, Jenin. In Bayt Hanun, **150 Fatah mbrs.** demonstrating against the **ESF's** arrest of 15 supporters on 8/10 and another 17 detained across Gaza overnight, exchange gunfire with ESF mbrs. who attempt to disperse them, leaving 20 Palestinians wounded. **Gaza City and Khan Yunis municipal employees** go on strike to protest nonpayment of their salaries. (NYT, WT 8/12; OCHA 8/15; PCHR 8/16)

12 AUGUST

The last of the **6,374 Palestinians** stranded in Egypt during the Fatah-Hamas fighting and permitted reentry to Gaza cross through Erez (see Quarterly Update). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., and nr. Hebron, Salfit. **Palestinians** throw stones at a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Hebron, lightly injuring 2 settlers. After **Fatah** announces plans for a major "freedom

of expression" rally in Gaza City on 8/13 to protest recent Hamas arrests of Fatah mbrs. at weddings (e.g., 8/1, 8/10), **Hamas** bans "all demonstrations and public gatherings" that do not have official permission. **Gaza medical unions** begin a 3-day strike to protest **Hamas's** firing of 2 al-Shifa Hospital officials on 8/9. (NYT 8/13; NYT, WP 8/14; OCHA 8/15; PCHR 8/16)

13 AUGUST

In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Qabatya to arrest a wanted Palestinian; conducts additional arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Ramallah, and in Jenin town and r.c., Tulkarm; bulldoze **bedouin** tents housing 40 bedouin in al-Hadidiyya in the Jordan Valley. Despite the 8/12 Hamas ban on unauthorized demonstrations, **300 Fatah mbrs.** go forward with a planned protest in Gaza City against the **Hamas** leadership in Gaza (see 8/12); **ESF officers** violently disperse the crowd, seizing cameras fr. journalists and later raiding media outlets to confiscate the politically damaging footage. (NYT, WP 8/14; OCHA 8/15; PCHR 8/16)

14 AUGUST

Overnight in Gaza, the **IDF** launches a major raid on Khan Yunis, Abasan, and al-Qarara, killing a total of **10 Palestinians** (6 Palestinians are killed in exchanges of gunfire; 1 Hamas mbr. and 1 bystander are killed in an air strike; 2 Palestinians are killed when an IDF tank round hits a home), wounding at least 24; rounding up all men ages 15-50 for questioning (detaining 143); occupying and searching Palestinian homes; and bulldozing 80 d. of land, 1 Palestinian **home**, and several greenhouses. The **IDF** launches a smaller raid, land leveling operation in Bayt Lahiya. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a Palestinian **home** in East Jerusalem; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus, nr. Jenin. In Gaza City, **Daghmash family mbrs.** fire on an ESF patrol, killing **2 ESF mbrs.**, wounding 10, sparking clashes btwn. the ESF and **Army of Islam** that lend into the evening, when clan leaders surrender family mbrs. who attacked the patrol. (NYT, OCHA, WP, WT 8/15; PCHR 8/16)

15 AUGUST

Israel cuts off fuel imports into Gaza through the Nahal Oz crossing, citing

“specific terror warnings.” **Palestinians** fire **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly injuring 1 Israeli. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a Palestinian **home** nr. East Jerusalem; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and

around Nablus (1 IDF soldier is wounded when Palestinians detonate an explosive device nr. his patrol), nr. Bethlehem and Hebron. (PCHR 8/16; BBC 8/17; NYT 8/19; OCHA 8/22; PCHR 8/23)

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])
DS	(<i>Daily Star</i> , Beirut)
HA	(<i>Ha’Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
IFM	(Israeli Foreign Ministry, Jerusalem)
LBC	(Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, Beirut)
MENA	(Middle East News Agency, Cairo)
MNA	(Ma’an News Agency, Bethlehem)
NYT	(<i>New York Times</i> , New York)
OCHA	(United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Weekly Briefing Notes, Jerusalem)
OCS	(Open Source Center, [Internet])
PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PSCT	(Palestine Satellite Channel Television, Gaza)
QA	(<i>al-Quds al-Arabi</i> , London)
REU	(Reuters [Internet])
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)