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CHRONOLOGY

16 NOVEMBER 2007–15 FEBRUARY 2008

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

This section is part ninety-seven 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 NOVEMBER

The West Bank and Gaza remain effectively severed from each other following Hamas's takeover of Gaza in 6/07, with **Hamas** controlling Gaza and **Fatah** the West Bank (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 145). Tight Israeli restrictions on Gaza's borders dating from 8/07 remain in place, including reduced fuel imports, a near-total ban on exports, and limited imports of basic goods. **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** roadblocks in the West Bank divide the territory into 3 cantons, and Palestinian access to the Jordan Valley is limited. In Gaza, **30,000 Palestinians** attend a **Hamas**-organized rally in Gaza City to protest ongoing Israeli archaeological excavations nr. al-Aqsa Mosque. Some **1,500 Palestinians** attend a similar Hamas rally in al-Maghazi refugee camp (r.c.), also denouncing the upcoming U.S.-sponsored Annapolis peace summit, tentatively set for 11/26–27. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin, and in 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' r.c. nr. Nablus, Salfit; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in nr. Ramallah (injuring 5). **Jewish settlers** fr. Elon Moreh nr. Nablus set fire to 50 nearby Palestinian olive trees. **Hamas** releases almost all of the approximately **450 Fatah mbrs.** detained during demonstrations in Gaza City on 11/12. (NYT 11/16; OCHA 11/21; PCHR 11/22)

17 NOVEMBER

In an apparent assassination attempt, the **IDF** makes a failed air strike on a car carrying several **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. in Khan

Yunis late in the evening; no casualties are reported. During the day, **Palestinians** fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, damaging several cars but causing no injuries. Some **7,000 Palestinians** attend a **Hamas**-sponsored rally in n. Gaza, protesting ongoing Israeli excavations nr. al-Aqsa Mosque. In the West Bank, **Palestinians** stone Jewish settler vehicles driving nr. Ramallah, damaging 1 but causing no injuries. (OCHA 11/21; PCHR 11/22)

18 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** makes an air strike targeting armed Palestinians nr. Khan Yunis, causing no reported injuries; levels land inside the Gaza border nr. the Erez crossing. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes a Palestinian road and barn in al-Walaja nr. the **separation wall** outside Bethlehem; raids, searches a secondary school in Azun nr. Qalqilya when staff is present but classes are not in session; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin and Nablus, in Abu Dis nr. Jerusalem, and nr. Bethlehem. During the day, the **new PA policing unit in Nablus**, deployed by **Palestinian Authority (PA) PM Mahmud Abbas** on 11/2 to enhance security in keeping with the road map, makes major arrest raids into 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' r.c. (WT 11/19; OCHA 11/21; PCHR 11/22, 11/29)

19 NOVEMBER

In Gaza, an ailing **8-yr.-old Palestinian boy** dies when the **IDF** denies permission to transport him through the Erez crossing to an Israeli hospital despite his having the proper Israeli permits. The **IDF** fires on several **al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB)** mbrs.

attempting to infiltrate the border nr. Bayt Lahiya, killing **2 AMB mbrs.**; raids Khan Yunis, firing on residential areas and then exchanging fire with Palestinian gunmen who confront them, killing **1 Palestinian** (possibly armed), seriously wounding 1 Palestinian civilian, moderately wounding 2 gunmen. **Palestinians** fire 8 **mortars** at **IDF** bulldozers sent into the Erez industrial zone to level land; the **IDF** responds with heavy machine gun fire; no injuries are reported. **Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets** fr. n. Gaza into Israel, causing damage at a cemetery but no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Tubas, partially demolishing a Palestinian **home**, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 9. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar nr. Nablus ambush, stone a Palestinian taxi driving nearby, heavily damaging the car but not injuring the driver. **AMB gunmen** protesting the upcoming Annapolis summit fire on a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Keddumim settlement outside Qalqilya, killing **1 settler**. The **Israeli High Court** rules that the 3/07 purchase by Israelis of a Palestinian house overlooking Kiryat Arba settlement in Hebron was illegal, stating that Israeli police may evict **Jewish settlers** who have since occupied the site. (IFM 11/19; PCHR 11/20; OCHA 11/21; PCHR 11/22, 11/29)

20 NOVEMBER

In Gaza, **IDF** bulldozers, tanks level land at al-Qarara nr. Khan Yunis. **Palestinians** nr. al-Bureij r.c. fire 4 **mortars** toward Israel, but all fall inside the Gaza border. **Palestinians** nr. Rafah fire 3 **mortars** toward Kerem Shalom crossing, causing no damage. In both cases, the **IDF** responds with heavy machine gun fire, causing no reported damage or injuries. **Palestinians** detonate a roadside bomb nr. an IDF patrol inside the Israeli border nr. Kissufim base, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Qalqilya, Ramallah. (OCHA 11/21; PCHR 11/22)

21 NOVEMBER

Israel agrees to allow Gazans to export flowers and strawberries, now at peak harvest, via the Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom crossing. The **IDF** sends troops into Abasan nr. Khan Yunis, where they exchange fire with Palestinian gunmen, wounding 3. A

Palestinian bystander wounded during an 11/19 **IDF** raid on Khan Yunis dies. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Ramallah, and in Jenin town and r.c., Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fire on a Palestinian bus nr. Beit Lid Junction btwn. Nablus and Tulkarm, forcing the bus off the road but causing no injuries. In Jabaliya r.c., **unidentified assailants** blow up a patrol car belonging to the Hamas-affiliated Gaza police (by this date, the Hamas government in Gaza has dissolved the **Executive Support Force**, reorganizing members into 4 units that previously existed under the PA Interior Min.: police, internal security, national security, and naval police; see Quarterly Update for details), causing no injuries. At Ramallah's Birzeit University, a large fight breaks out btwn. student groups affiliated with **Fatah** and the **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)**, leaving 1 student injured; the university suspends classes until 11/26 to contain the violence. (PCHR 11/22; OCHA 11/28; PCHR 11/29)

22 NOVEMBER

Israel allows a shipment of lamb into Gaza through the Sufa crossing (permanently closed as of 10/28/07). The **IDF** fatally shoots an unarmed **Palestinian** (reportedly suicidal) who approaches the border fence nr. Qarni crossing. In the West Bank, the **IDF** uproots a grove of 150 olive trees nr. Salfit. (OCHA 11/28; PCHR 11/29)

23 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** enters the Erez industrial zone on the n. Gaza border and levels the remaining buildings and factories, builds sand berms to block the road from the zone into Gaza, shells Palestinian residential areas near the zone (reportedly using flechette shells), killing **2 Palestinians**. Troops are still operating in the zone at the end of the day. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 2) and al-Ma'sara s. of Ramallah (injuring 4). In Khan Yunis, some **15,000 Hamas supporters** participate in a nonviolent march to protest the upcoming Annapolis summit. (OCHA 11/28; PCHR 11/29)

24 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** fires on a Palestinian fisherman nr. the n. Gaza border, wounding him; fires a missile at armed Palestinians nr. Khan Yunis, missing them. In the West Bank, **7 Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim, angry over the **AMB** shooting of a settler on 11/19, rampage through the nearby Palestinian village of Funduk, vandalizing houses and cars; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. Several **Jewish settlers** occupying the Homesh settlement site in the n.-central West Bank (evacuated under the 2005 disengagement) ambush a Palestinian minibus, beat the 12 passengers (including 5 children ages 18 mos.-7 yrs.). (OCHA 11/28; PCHR 11/29; NYT 12/8)

25 NOVEMBER

IDF troops encamped in the Erez industrial zone since 11/23 fire on local Palestinians who stray nr. the zone, wounding 1. **Palestinians** fire **4 mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** responds with tank fire, wounding 4 armed Palestinians, 2 bystanders. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Tulkarm r.c. to ambush a car carrying **wanted AMB mbrs. Muhammad Qawzah and Mushir Mansouri**, mortally wounding Qawzah (he subsequently bleeds to death over an hr.), wounding Mansouri; conducts arrest raids in and around Nablus, nr. Ramallah (ambushing and detaining Birzeit University student council pres. Fadi Hamad). **Jewish settlers** fr. Beit Hadasah in Hebron vandalize a nearby Palestinian school, breaking windows, breaking down walls, attempting to set fire to the building, uprooting trees outside; settlers have previously tried to occupy the school to establish a new outpost. (NYT 11/26; OCHA 11/28; PCHR 11/29)

26 NOVEMBER

IDF troops in the Erez industrial zone fatally shoot **2 armed Palestinians** laying a roadside bomb nearby, wound and arrest a 3d; fire a shell at Palestinian resistance mbrs. e. of Jabaliya, killing **1 armed Palestinian**, wounding another armed Palestinian, 2 bystanders. **Hamas** mbrs. fire **3 mortars** and a **rocket** fr. n. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries; the **IDF** responds with an air strike on the launch site, killing **1 Hamas mbr.**, wounding 4. As

the Annapolis mtgs. open, at least **15,000 right-wing Israeli demonstrators** protest in Jerusalem against any possible concessions by **Israeli PM Ehud Olmert** to the Palestinians. In Gaza, **Hamas and Islamic Jihad** host a conference on Palestine, attended by Hamas's top leaders (including Ismail Haniyeh, Mahmud Zahar), vowing to "not relinquish a centimeter of Palestine" or recognize Israel's right to exist. (NYT, WP, WT 11/27; OCHA 11/28; PCHR 11/29)

27 NOVEMBER

Following a dinner in Washington on 11/26, **U.S. Pres. George W. Bush** opens a 1-day international summit in support of the peace process in Annapolis, MD. **Israel**, the **PLO** present a "joint understanding" pledging to resume comprehensive negotiations on 12/12, with the goal of concluding a final status agreement by the end of 2008 (see special document section, Quarterly Update for details). (NYT, WP, WT 11/28; WP 11/29)

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops into al-Shuka nr. Rafah, firing on Palestinians who attempt to flee, killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding 3, arresting 10. During the day, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a **Hamas** training camp nr. Khan Yunis, causing damage but no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units in a car with Palestinian license plates into Azun to arrest a wanted Palestinian; troops fire on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, wounding 4. In al-Bureij r.c., **unidentified assailants** detonate a roadside bomb nr. a **Hamas**-affiliated police patrol, seriously injuring 3 policemen and destroying their vehicle. In Gaza City, an estimated **100,000 Hamas supporters** hold a nonviolent protest against the Annapolis summit; around **5,000 Hamas supporters** hold a similar nonviolent protest in Dayr al-Balah. In the West Bank, **PA police** violently disperse (using tear gas, batons, warning shots) 100s of Palestinians attending anti-Annapolis protests sponsored by **Hamas** and the **AMB** in Ramallah (causing no serious injuries) and by **Hizb al-Tahrir** (a small, unarmed pan-Islamic group) in Hebron (killing **1 Hizb al-Tahrir supporter**, wounding 3 other Palestinians). The **Popular Resistance Committees (PRCs)**; a Gaza-based umbrella group comprising mbrs. fr. all factions acting independently) send a bulletin to media outlets, vowing to increase rocket attacks on Israel to protest the summit. Inside Israel, some **10,000 right-wing**

Israelis march to Olmert's home to protest any possible concessions to the Palestinians. (NYT, WP, OCHA 11/28; PCHR 11/29; CSM 1/22)

28 NOVEMBER

Israel announces a further reduction in fuel supplies to Gaza, where 70% of fuel stations reportedly are already closed. The **IDF** withdraws troops who have been stationed in the Erez industrial zone since 11/23 but sends tanks, troops into the Gaza airport site nr. Rafah to level land, withdrawing by evening. The **IDF** makes an air strike on a police post nr. Khan Yunis, killing **1 Hamas-affiliated policeman**, wounding 5; fires on an unarmed Palestinian teenager who strays nr. the border fence e. of Rafah, wounding him; makes late-night air strikes on 2 Hamas border patrols nr. Khan Yunis, killing **4 Hamas mbrs.**, wounding 1. **Palestinians** fire at least **16 rockets and mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing light damage but no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. In Hebron, the **PA security forces** fire on and beat Palestinians taking part in the funeral procession for the **Hizb al-Tahrir** supporter killed in an anti-Annapolis demonstration on 11/27, claiming the funeral had turned into a pro-Islamist rally; at least 60 Palestinians are injured, including 24 requiring hospitalization. (JP, NYT, PCHR, WP 11/29; OCHA 12/5; PCHR 12/6)

29 NOVEMBER

The **Israeli High Court** rules that government fuel cuts to Gaza are legal but delays cuts to Gaza's electricity plants pending further study. The **IDF** sends bulldozers, tanks through the Sufa crossing to search for smuggling tunnels, bulldozing **1 Palestinian home**. At least **10 Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on nr. Hebron block a Palestinian road lining Yatta and Khirbat Tubá; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (NYT 12/1, 12/2; OCHA 12/5; PCHR 12/6)

30 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** makes air strikes on 2 groups of armed Palestinians nr. Abasan, killing **5 Hamas and PRC mbrs.**, wounding 8; sends bulldozers into the Gaza airport site nr. Rafah to level land. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches

in and around Nablus (searching a mosque), nr. Jenin; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 4). (NYT 12/2; OCHA 12/5; PCHR 12/6)

1 DECEMBER

In Gaza, the **IDF** exchanges fire with armed Palestinians on the n. Gaza border, killing **1 Palestinian gunman**; fires a missile at armed Palestinians e. of Gaza City, wounding 4. In the West Bank, the **IDF** imposes a curfew on Marda nr. Salfit, fires on residential areas and on stone-throwing Palestinians who then confront the troops, arresting a 14-yr.-old Palestinian boy. (NYT 12/2; OCHA 12/5; PCHR 12/6)

2 DECEMBER

As gestures to **Abbas** before the Annapolis summit, **Israel** allows **250 Palestinian students** (out of more than 600) with valid foreign student visas to leave Gaza for Egypt via the Erez crossing to resume their studies abroad; makes an "exception" to the closure of the Sufa crossing to allow entry of gravel for an emergency sewage rehabilitation project in n. Gaza. **Hamas mbrs.** engage an **IDF** unit that moves into n. Gaza nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries; the **IDF** returns fire, killing **3 Hamas mbrs.** **Palestinians** fire **mortars** fr. Gaza at an **IDF** base inside Israel, lightly wounding 4 soldiers; the **IDF** responds with tank fire, killing **1 armed Palestinian**, wounding 3 armed Palestinians, 3 bystanders. Late in the evening, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a Hamas training camp nr. Dayr al-Balah, killing **3 Hamas mbrs.** In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires on a Palestinian family picnicking nr. Ramallah, killing **1 Palestinian**; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, nr. Bethlehem. (WT 12/3; OCHA 12/5; PAP, PCHR 12/6)

3 DECEMBER

Israel releases **429 Palestinian prisoners** (overwhelmingly Fatah, but including some mbrs. of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the PFLP; around 20 are fr. Gaza) as a gesture to **Abbas**. **Israel** also allows **150 Palestinian pilgrims** to leave Gaza through the Rafah crossing for the Hajj. The **IDF** conducts

arrest raids in Wadi al-Silqa nr. Dayr al-Balah, shooting and wounding 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tubas and nr. Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah. The **PA** orders **92 Hamas-affiliated charities** in the West Bank to close. (NYT, WP 12/4; OCHA 12/5; PCHR 12/6)

4 DECEMBER

The **PA** deploys a **new 500-mbr. policing unit** in Tulkarm, similar to the recently deployed Nablus unit (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 146), as part of **Abbas's** efforts to expand security control in the West Bank in keeping with the road map. The new unit immediately erects checkpoints around Tulkarm to search for unlicensed guns, stolen vehicles. The **Israeli Housing Min.** issues bids for construction of 307 new housing units in the Jewish settlement of Har Homa in East Jerusalem that would complete a ring of settlements around Jerusalem, making the division of Jerusalem all but impossible. **PA senior negotiator Saeb Erakat** sends an urgent message to **Rice** asking her to intervene to halt the settlement expansion, arguing that it is illegal and undermines efforts made at Annapolis. The UN reports that most public gas stations in Gaza are now closed because of Israeli fuel restrictions. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin r.c. and nr. Hebron, Ramallah. (AP, REU 12/4; OCHA, WP 12/5; PAP, PCHR 12/6; HA 12/20, 1/6; PCHR 1/10)

5 DECEMBER

IDF troops on the Gaza border shell **Hamas mbrs.** preparing to fire a mortar into Israel, killing 2, wounding at least 2. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Bethlehem, where they are confronted by PA security officers who do not realize their identity, sparking an exchange of fire that kills 1 **PA security officer**. **Egypt** allows 2,000 **Gazans** to enter Egypt through the Rafah crossing for the Hajj in a deal arranged by **Hamas** and coordinated with **Saudi Arabia**, angering the **PA**, **Israel**, and the **U.S.** In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin and in Abu Dis outside Jerusalem, Qalqilya. (NYT, PCHR 12/6; NYT 12/11; OCHA 12/12; PCHR 12/13)

6 DECEMBER

IDF troops on the Gaza border fire on Palestinians hunting birds who stray nr. the border fence e. of Jabaliya r.c., killing 1 **Palestinian**. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Susia nr. Hebron uproot 32 Palestinian olive trees. In Gaza City, **unidentified assailants** kidnap, quickly release 3 **Fatah** mbrs. (OCHA 12/12; PCHR 12/13)

7 DECEMBER

Israel allows 27 **Gazans** to enter Egypt through the Rafah crossing for the Hajj. **IDF** troops on the Gaza border fatally shoot a **Palestinian** farmer plowing a field nr. the border fence nr. Khuza in s. Gaza. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya. **Jewish settlers** accompanied by **IDF** soldiers set up tents, raise an Israeli flag on a plot of Palestinian land along Road 60 northeast of Hebron; **Israeli police** remove them. In Gaza City, **unidentified assailants** detonate a bomb outside the former PA National Security Forces headquarters, now controlled by **Hamas**, causing damage but no injuries. Armed **PRC** mbrs. raid, vandalize, steal equipment fr. a **Fatah** office in al-Bureij r.c. Armed **PRC** mbrs. whose salaries have been cut off by Abbas's government raid a youth center in al-Maghazi r.c., fire in the air, demand reinstatement of their salaries; **Hamas-affiliated police** convince them to leave. (OCHA 12/12; PCHR 12/13)

8 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin and in al-Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, Qalqilya, Nablus. In Gaza City, bodyguards of the **Hamas-affiliated police chief** discover, defuse a bomb planted by **unknown assailants** under their jeep. (OCHA 12/12; PCHR 12/13)

9 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., Nablus, and nr. Hebron, Tulkarm. In Gaza City, **unidentified assailants** shoot, wound a **Hamas-affiliated security force mbr.** (OCHA 12/12; PCHR 12/13)

10 DECEMBER

The **IDF** makes a late-night raid into Bayt Hanun, firing on residential areas, clashing with local gunmen, killing **1 Islamic Jihad mbr.**, wounding 3. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into al-Bireh to raid a **Fatah** office, arresting an **AMB mbr.** who was among the 178 granted amnesty in 7/07; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Arubb r.c., al-Fara'a r.c. nr. Tubas, and nr. Hebron, Qalqilya. **Jewish settlers** take over a hilltop nr. Hebron to establish a new outpost (Givat Halhul); the **IDF** removes them by evening. Nr. Gaza's Nussayrat r.c., **Hammas-affiliated police** fire on a car that fails to stop at a checkpoint, wounding a **Hammas** mbr. In a similar incident in Rafah, **Hammas-affiliated security forces** wound a **PRC** mbr. **Unidentified assailants** detonate a bomb nr. a **police** jeep in Gaza City, causing damage but no injuries. (WP 12/11; OCHA 12/12; PCHR 12/13)

11 DECEMBER

UN officials report that **Israel** has now reduced daily fuel imports to **Gaza** by 20% and that, as a result, some **400,000 Gazans** have lost (or have only limited access to) safe drinking water because of lack of fuel to run pumps, water treatment facilities, and generators; vaccinations and medicines have spoiled at some hospitals because of inconsistent power to run refrigerators. Overnight, the **IDF** sends some 30 tanks and APCs supported by helicopters and warplanes into s. Gaza border areas, allegedly to look for rocket-launching sites, clashing with Palestinian gunmen, killing **3 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** and **3 PRC mbrs.**, wounding 13 Palestinians (including 5 civilians), rounding up all males age 15–50 for questioning, detaining 10s, demolishing 1 Palestinian **home**, bulldozing 133 dunams (d.; 4 d. = 1 acre) of land before withdrawing late in the evening. The **IDF** also makes 2 air strikes on rocket-launching sites in n. Gaza, killing **2 Palestinians**. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Jerusalem's Old City; raids the offices of several media outlets in Nablus (including Afaq TV, *al-Nabar*, *al-Quds*) accused of "supporting terrorism," confiscating computers and documents, and clashing with local gunmen, wounding 3. Separately in Nablus, **1 AMB** is killed when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely. (WT 12/11; OCHA, WP 12/12; PCHR 12/13; WP 12/15)

12 DECEMBER

Israel allows a 20 mW generator into Gaza for the electricity plant, along with 13 Egyptian engineers to install it. Responding to the **IDF's** major incursion into s. Gaza on 12/11, **Palestinians** fire **17 rockets**, **4 mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly injuring 1 Israeli. A **Palestinian** is killed when a smuggling tunnel under the Rafah border collapses. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bars a Palestinian woman in labor fr. crossing a checkpoint to reach a Qalqilya hospital, forcing her to give birth at the checkpoint; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin, Qalqilya, Tulkarm. In n. Gaza, fights erupt btwn. a **Fatah-affiliated family** and local **Hammas** mbrs. painting slogans in preparation for **Hammas's** 20th anniversary celebrations; no injuries are reported. (NYT, PCHR 12/13; OCHA 12/19; PCHR 12/27)

As agreed at Annapolis (see 11/27), **Israeli, Palestinian negotiators** meet to open final status talks, but discussions focus on ongoing Israeli settlement activity (see 12/4) and Palestinian rocket fire. No progress is made on core issues (see Quarterly Update for details). (NYT, WT 12/13; NYT 12/24)

13 DECEMBER

Islamic Jihad fires a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, moderately wounding 1 Israeli. Hrs. later, in response, the **IDF** fires a surface-to-surface missile at a car in Gaza City, assassinating a **cmdr. of Islamic Jihad's rocket crews, Sami Tafish**, also killing **1 Islamic Jihad mbr.**, **1 AMB mbr.**, and **1 civilian**. The **IDF** also levels land inside the Gaza border e. of Dayr al-Balah. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units in cars with Palestinian license plates into Jenin r.c. to conduct arrest raids; also conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin. In Gaza City, a **Palestinian prisoner** dies in **Hammas-affiliated police** custody; no details are released. (NYT, WP 12/14; OCHA 12/19; PCHR 12/27)

14 DECEMBER

A **Hammas mbr.** dies nr. the Gaza border n. of Bayt Hanun when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem; shoots, wounds a Palestinian farmer working his land nr. the **separation wall** s. of Hebron; fires

rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 4) and Ma'sara (injuring 2). **Jewish settlers** vandalize Palestinian homes, cars in Burkin nr. Salfit; the **IDF** disperses them. In Gaza City, the **Hamas-affiliated security forces** detain without charge **Omar al-Ghul**, a senior associate of PA PM Salam Fayyad, prominent journalist, and frequent critic of Hamas; **Abbas** denounces the "kidnapping." Also in Gaza City, **3 Fatah supporters** are killed, 35 are wounded by an explosion during a funeral for an AMB mbr. killed in an IDF air strike on 12/13; **police** say a Fatah mbr. accidentally discharged a hand grenade; **Abbas** accuses **Hamas** of causing the explosion, calling it an "assault against all our people." In Khan Yunis, **Fatah** mbrs. stone a **Hamas** vehicle promoting a 20th anniversary rally in Gaza City, sparking a fight, gunfire by the police that leaves 17 injured. (NYT, WP, WT 12/15; OCHA 12/19; PCHR 12/27)

15 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts large-scale arrest raids in Nablus, detaining 25 Palestinians affiliated with **Hamas**, including **Reform and Change PC mbr. Ahmad al-Hajj Ali Mutair**, 2 mbrs. of the municipal council, an al-Najah University dean and 2 professors; bars a Palestinian woman in labor fr. crossing a checkpoint to reach a Qalqilya hospital, forcing her to give birth at the checkpoint (see 12/12 for similar incident). Some **200,000 Hamas supporters** rally peacefully in Gaza City to mark the movement's 20th anniversary. **Suspected Fatah mbrs.** detonate a roadside bomb nr. a bus carrying **Hamas** supporters to the rally; no injuries are reported. The **PA** bans Hamas rallies in the West Bank. In Gaza City, the **Hamas-affiliated security forces** for unknown reasons exchange fire with mbrs. of a **Fatah-affiliated family**, causing no injuries. (WP 12/15; NYT 12/16, 12/17; OCHA 12/19; PCHR 12/27; NYT 12/29)

16 DECEMBER

Israel allows **487 Gazans** to leave Gaza via the Erez crossing for the Hajj; makes an "exceptional" opening of Sufa crossing (closed since 10/28/07) to allow entry of livestock for the upcoming Id al-Adha holiday. **Palestinians** fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza into

Israel, lightly injuring an Israeli child inside a home. In Khan Yunis, a Palestinian teenager is injured when he accidentally triggers a homemade bomb. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Fara'a r.c., nr. Bethlehem. A bomb explodes underneath the empty car of a **Hamas** mbr. in Gaza City, causing no injuries. A dispute erupts btwn. a **Fatah-affiliated family** and **Hamas** mbrs. flying party flags in the family's neighborhood; police intervene to resolve the situation peacefully. (NYT 12/17; OCHA 12/19; PCHR 12/27)

17 DECEMBER

Israel allows another **216 Gazans** to leave Gaza through the Erez crossing for the Hajj (see 12/16); makes another "exceptional" opening of Sufa crossing to allow entry of livestock (85 truckloads of livestock have been allowed in since 12/16). The **IDF** makes air strikes on 2 cars in Gaza City, assassinating **6 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** including **senior cmdr. and master rocket maker Majid Harazin** (who had been on Israel's wanted list for 9 yrs. and targeted for assassination 3 times previously), his **senior lieutenant Jihad Dhahir** in the 1st strike and another **senior rocket designer, Karim Dadu**, in the 2d strike; 5 children are wounded in the 1st strike. In the West Bank, the **IDF** arrests **senior Reform and Change employee Murad Badir Shahin**, raids his Hebron home. (NYT 12/17; WP 12/18; NYT, OCHA 12/19; PCHR 12/27)

18 DECEMBER

The **IDF** makes an air strike on Jabaliya r.c., assassinating **4 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** as they leave a mosque after morning prayers; 5 bystanders are wounded. Later, **Islamic Jihad** fires **rockets and mortars** at the Kerem Shalom crossing in response, causing no damage or injuries; the **IDF** makes a 2d air strike on a Hamas-affiliated police post in s. Gaza, killing **2 Hamas mbrs.** The **IDF** also levels land inside the Gaza border e. of al-Maghazi r.c. In Gaza City, **1,000s of Palestinians** attend the funeral for Islamic Jihad mbrs. assassinated on 12/17. (AP, WT 12/18; NYT, OCHA, WT 12/19; PCHR 12/27)

19 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Aida r.c. nr.

Bethlehem, nr. Qalqilya. (OCHA 12/26; PCHR 12/27)

20 DECEMBER

Overnight, the **IDF** makes an incursion into al-Musaddar in c. Gaza, occupying several homes as operation bases, engaging in heavy clashes with local gunmen, killing **8 Palestinian gunmen**, wounding 21 Palestinians (mostly civilians, including 2 journalists), detaining 50 for questioning, shelling and firing on residential areas, heavily damaging 10 homes, bulldozing 73 d. of olive and citrus groves before withdrawing in the evening; 1 IDF soldier is seriously injured, 2 are lightly injured in the operation. Late in the evening, the **IDF** sends troops into Abasan, clashing with local gunmen, killing **1 Hamas mbr. Palestinians** fire **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, a **Palestinian** attempts to stab an **IDF** soldier at the Hawara checkpoint nr. Nablus, is arrested. A **Hamas mbr.** dies of injuries sustained during the 6/07 interfactional fighting in Gaza. (NYT, WP, WT 12/21; NYT 12/22; OCHA 12/26; PCHR 12/27)

21 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 5) and al-Ma'sara (injuring 3). (NYT 12/22; OCHA 12/26; PCHR 12/27)

22 DECEMBER

The **IDF** levels land inside the Gaza borders of Qarni crossing. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron and nr. Jenin. In Khan Yunis, **unidentified assailants** set fire to the offices of the **Fatah**-affiliated al-Majd Association. A **PFLP mbr.** dies of injuries he sustained 8 mos. ago while preparing an explosive device. (OCHA 12/26; PCHR 12/27)

23 DECEMBER

Israel rejects **Hamas's** latest call (ca. 12/20) via Egypt for a cease-fire, vows to continue "counterterrorist operations" to deter rocket fire. **Dep. PM Haim Ramon** says **Israel's** strategic goal is to overthrow Hamas in Gaza using military and economic pres-

sure. **Islamic Jihad**, declaring that it would not adhere to a truce, fires **5 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, damaging 2 commercial buildings but causing no injuries; another rocket lands inside Gaza, damaging a Palestinian home in Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. Before the 2d post-Annapolis mtg. of the Palestinian and Israeli negotiating teams on 12/24 (see Quarterly Update), **Olmert's government** reopens the Sufa crossing (closed since 10/28/07) for up to 30 trucks/day, but also seeks Knesset approval for \$25 m. to construct 500 **settlement housing units** in Har Homa in Jerusalem and 240 units in Ma'ale Adumim outside of Jerusalem; it is unclear whether the money is for units already approved for construction (see 12/4) or involves new building plans. Meanwhile, in Gaza, the **IDF** fires on unarmed Palestinians (including a child) on their land nr. the border fence e. of Dayr al-Balah, wounding 1; shells a Hamas border patrol e. of al-Bureij r.c., killing **2 Hamas mbrs.** In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (NYT, WT 12/24; NYT 12/25; OCHA 12/26; PCHR 12/27)

24 DECEMBER

As a gesture to **Abbas**, **Israel** allows **450 Gazans** to travel to Bethlehem via the Erez crossing to attend Christmas celebrations. The **IDF** sends 8 armored vehicles into Gaza n. of Jabaliya r.c. under heavy covering fire; no injuries are reported; troops withdraw by evening. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Azun, firing rubber-coated steel bullets at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them, wounding 2 children (ages 6, 16); conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Salfit. **Jewish settlers** fr. Revava nr. Salfit prevent a Palestinian farmer fr. reaching his land nr. the settlement. (NYT 12/25; OCHA 12/26; PCHR 12/27)

25 DECEMBER

In Gaza, 8 Palestinians are injured when a smuggling tunnel under the Rafah border collapses. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** in East Jerusalem; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gilad outpost nr. Nablus attack, beat, mace 3 Palestinians farming their land nearby, breaking the arm of 1. **Jewish settlers** fr. Harsina in Hebron vandalize several

Palestinian homes; the **IDF** intervenes to arrest a B'Tselem field worker who arrives to document the incident. (OCHA 12/26; PCHR 12/27)

26 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and nr. Bethlehem, Tulkarm. A **Hamas mbr.** dies when a smuggling tunnel under the Rafah border collapses. (PCHR 12/27; OCHA 1/2; PCHR 1/3)

27 DECEMBER

The **IDF** makes an air strike on a car in central Gaza, assassinating **Islamic Jihad's central Gaza cmdr. Muhammad Abu Murshud**, wounding 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs. and 3 bystanders; makes an air strike on a car nr. al-Bureij r.c., assassinating **local Islamic Jihad cmdr. Muhammad Ahmad Abu Hassanian**, a **relative** traveling with him, and wounding 6 bystanders (including 2 children). The **IDF** sends troops and bulldozers into Abasan under cover of artillery fire, clashing with local gunmen, killing **1 Hamas and 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs.**, wounding 4 bystanders, demolishing 1 Palestinian **home**, heavily damaging a 2d home, bulldozing several greenhouses, an irrigation network, 20 beehives, and 160 d. of agricultural land. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units in cars with Palestinian license plates into Beitunia nr. Ramallah (where they assassinate **PA presidential guard mbr. Mu'tassim al-Sharif**, whom the IDF says is a wanted **AMB mbr.**), into Jenin r.c. (to arrest a wanted **Islamic Jihad mbr.**); conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm town and r.c. **Israelis** uproot 10s of Palestinian olive trees located on the western side of the **separation wall** in the divided village of Dayr al-Asal nr. Hebron. (REU 12/27; NYT, WP 12/28; OCHA 1/2; PCHR 1/3)

28 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fatally shoots the **bodyguard for PA chief negotiator Ahmad Qurai'** during an arrest raid on his Ramallah home, claiming he supplied weapons to Palestinian factions; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in nonvio-

lent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (lightly injuring 2). **Armed Palestinians** ambush, fatally shoot **2 off-duty IDF soldiers** (settlers fr. Kiryat Arba) hiking nr. Hebron; the soldiers manage to fire back, killing **1 Palestinian gunman**, wounding 1; 2 others are believed to have escaped; responsibility is claimed jointly by the **AMB** and **Islamic Jihad**, and separately by **Islamic Jihad** and **Hamas**; the **PA** immediately denounces the attack. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gush Etzion nr. Bethlehem, angry over the attack, stone Palestinian vehicles driving nr. the settlement, damaging a taxi. In Gaza City, **Hamas-affiliated security forces** raid the Fatah-affiliated al-Azhar University, arresting 40 **Fatah** mbrs., confiscating 100s of banners they are preparing for rallies to mark Fatah's 43d anniversary; prevent a smaller Fatah anniversary rally fr. being held in Nusayrat r.c. **Hamas-affiliated police** raid an area of Bayt Hanun to arrest a wanted **Fatah mbr.**; fire in the air to disperse angry residents who confront them with stones; no injuries are reported. Suspected **Fatah** mbrs. fire on a **Hamas-affiliated** internal security detention center in Gaza City, wounding 2 internal security officers. Some **1,000 Hamas supporters** hold a rally in al-Bureij r.c. to honor Islamic Jihad's Abu Hassanian, assassinated on 12/27. (NYT, WP, WT 12/29; WP 12/30; NYT 1/1; OCHA 1/2; PCHR 1/3)

29 DECEMBER

The **IDF** sends tanks, bulldozers into c. Gaza to level land along the border nr. Abu al-Ajin. **Islamic Jihad mbr. Ibrahim al-Louh**, injured in the 12/27 IDF assassination of central Gaza cmdr. Murshud, dies. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus, nr. Bethlehem. A **Jewish settler** kills a **Palestinian** in a deliberate hit-and-run nr. Bil'in. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba vandalize a Palestinian car. Some **500 Islamic Jihad, PRC mbrs.** rally at the Rafah crossing to protest its continued closure; PRC mbrs. detonate 2 bombs nr. the border wall, causing no damage or injuries. **Hamas-affiliated police** fire warning shots at a busload of **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. who fail to stop at a checkpoint outside al-Bureij r.c., wounding 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs. **Hamas-affiliated police** raid an area of Rafah to arrest wanted **Fatah** mbrs., sparking clashes that leave 3 Fatah mbrs., 1 policeman injured. In Khan Yunis, **Fatah** mbrs. start a brawl with **Hamas-affiliated police** who remove pro-Fatah banners,

leaving 3 Palestinians injured. (OCHA 1/2; PCHR 1/3)

30 DECEMBER

For unclear reasons, **IDF soldiers** at the Erez crossing fire on **700 Palestinians** returning from the Hajj in coordination with Israel and the PA, killing **1 Palestinian woman**, wounding at least 1. Meanwhile, **Palestinian pilgrims** who left Gaza under a deal brokered by **Hamas** (see 12/5) begin to return via Egypt, where **Egypt**, under pressure fr. **Israel**, bars their passage through the Rafah crossing, saying they must go via the Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom crossing; the pilgrims refuse, believing they would be arrested for their Hamas connections. Meanwhile, the **IDF** fires on Hamas mbrs. laying a roadside bomb nr. the s. Gaza border fence, killing **1 Hamas mbr.**, wounding a bystander. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, forcing them to return to shore. **Hamas mbrs.** fire 3 **mortars** fr. Rafah toward the IDF post at Kerem Shalom; the **IDF** responds with heavy gunfire; no injuries are reported. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron (including arresting a 10-yr.-old boy, heavily damaging 1 home), nr. Jenin. **Jewish settlers** throw stones, bottles at Palestinian cars traveling a main road linking Hebron and Bethlehem, damaging 1 car; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. **Hamas-affiliated police** raid an area of Bayt Hanun to arrest a wanted **Fatah** mbr., fire in the air to disperse angry residents who confront them, wounding 2 (see 12/28). A similar confrontation takes place in Khan Yunis, with heavy fire but no injuries reported. Suspected **Fatah** mbrs. fire on a police patrol in Rafah, causing no injuries. (NYT 12/31; OCHA 1/2; PCHR 1/3)

31 DECEMBER

The **IDF** sends armored vehicles, bulldozers into Gaza s. of Bayt Hanun to level land; local **Palestinian gunmen** exchange fire with the troops, leaving no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm town and r.c., nr. Jenin; uproots 100 Palestinian olive trees in al-Rihiyya nr. Hebron, sparking clashes with local Palestinians, injuring 1 boy. In Hebron, **IDF soldiers** angry over the 12/28 death

of 2 settlers raid and vandalize a Palestinian home near the site of the killings, causing damage but no injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gush Etzion stone Palestinian vehicles on roads nr. the settlement, damaging 3. **Fatah mbrs.**, **Hamas-affiliated security forces** clash in Gaza, leaving **5 Palestinians** (2 bystanders, 2 Hamas mbrs., 1 Fatah mbr.) dead, at least 30 injured; clashes start in Khan Yunis and spread to Bayt Lahiya, Dayr al-Balah, Gaza City, Jabaliya r.c., al-Maghazi r.c., Nussayrat r.c., and Rafah. Hamas officials say that the fighting began when Fatah mbrs. opened fire on worshipers leaving a mosque in Khan Yunis, killing a local Hamas figure and a 10-yr.-old boy. Separately, suspected **unidentified assailants** kidnap, assault, release a local Fatah leader in Gaza City; the family accuses Hamas, but Hamas blames internal Fatah disputes. The **2,000 Palestinian pilgrims** denied reentry into Gaza by **Egypt** via the Rafah crossing (see 12/30) riot at a detention camp in al-Arish where Egypt is holding them; no serious injuries are reported. In Rafah, **15,000 Palestinians** protest Egypt's actions. In Battir, nr. Bethlehem, **PFLP** and **Fatah** mbrs. clash; no injuries are reported. (NYT, WP, WT 1/1; OCHA 1/2; PCHR 1/3)

1 JANUARY

IDF troops on the Gaza border e. of al-Bureij r.c. fire on Hamas mbrs. along the border fence, killing **1 Hamas mbr.**, then fire on Palestinians who attempt to evacuate his body, wounding 2 civilians; fatally shoot an **unarmed Palestinian** who strays nr. the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun. The **IDF** also sends tanks, armored vehicles, bulldozers into the Erez industrial zone and into Gaza nr. the Kerem Shalom crossing to level land. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids, searches a school in Hebron, making no arrests; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Arub r.c. and nr. Hebron, Tulkarm. **Israel's Internal Security Min.** bans the East Jerusalem-based **National Commission Against Social Problems** fr. holding its annual mtg. on the grounds that it is affiliated with the **PA**, which is barred fr. conducting official business in the city. **Jewish settlers** fr. Efrat and El Azara set fire to a 700-yr.-old mosque in nearby al-Khadir. **Jewish settlers** place 2 mobile homes on Palestinian land in Bil'in that the Israeli High Court ruled on 9/4/07 should be returned to the village, attack local Palestinians who attempt to stage

a sit-in to block them; **Israeli police** remove the settlers. In Gaza, **Fatah-Hamas** clashes continue overnight, leaving at least another **3 Palestinians** dead and 30 injured. In Nablus, **unidentified gunmen** fire on the car of a **Hamas**-affiliated municipal official, wounding his wife. (REU 1/1; NYT, OCHA, WT 1/2; PCHR 1/3)

2 JANUARY

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops into Gaza City, clashing with local gunmen and calling in air strikes in support, killing **7 Palestinian gunmen** (including 4 Hamas, 2 PRC mbrs.), wounding 4 bystanders. In an apparent assassination attempt, the **IDF** fires a missile at a car nr. Nussayrat r.c. driven by a **senior PRC mbr.**, leaving him unharmed but injuring 3 PRC mbrs. traveling with him. Citing humanitarian concerns, **Egypt** allows **2,152 Palestinian pilgrims**, including at least 1 senior Hamas official, to return to Gaza via the Rafah crossing, angering **Israel**; **1,000s of Hamas supporters** rally at the crossing to welcome the pilgrims home. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes 7 bedouin tents nr. Mikhmas outside Ramallah, displacing 60 Palestinians; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and nr. Bethlehem, Ramallah; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Jenin town and r.c.; occupies a vacant Palestinian home in Kafr Dan nr. Jenin as an observation post; patrols in Tulkarm, firing live ammunition at stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 1 teenager. **Jewish settlers** fr. Matityahu settlement attempt to set up 2 trailers on Palestinian land in Bil'in; the **IDF** removes the settlers. (NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 1/3; OCHA 2/9; PCHR 1/10)

3 JANUARY

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops, tanks, helicopter gunships into Khan Yunis in a major raid, clashing with armed Palestinians (killing at least **2 Hamas mbrs.**, wounding at least 22 Palestinians, including at least 5 children on their way to school), shelling and then bulldozing a **Palestinian home** that allegedly provided cover for gunmen (killing **5 mbrs. of a Palestinian family**, wounding 2 others), bulldozing 29 d. of agricultural land. Early in the morning, **Palestinians** fire a **Grad-type rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, striking nr. Ashqelon, causing no damage or injuries but marking the deepest rocket strike to date; also fire sev-

eral homemade **rockets**, damaging an Israeli home in Sederot. During the day, the **IDF** makes air strikes destroying the **homes** of 2 senior **Islamic Jihad** cmdrs. (previously killed by the IDF), a Gaza City warehouse, and at least 1 other target associated with Islamic Jihad (no casualties are reported in these strikes); makes an air strike on a **Hamas** post in Rafah, killing a **Fatah mbr.** in detention there, wounding 2 Hamas mbrs., 2 bystanders; sends troops into Gaza City, sparking clashes with local gunmen and calling in air strikes in support, killing **1 armed Palestinian**, wounding 2. Overnight, in the West Bank, the **IDF** launches a major raid into Nablus and neighboring 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' r.c., imposing a round-the-clock curfew, sending in at least 70 military vehicles and bulldozers, occupying homes as observation posts, arresting 3 senior **AMB** mbrs., sparking demonstrations, clashing with local Palestinians, leaving 33 injured (many by rubber bullets); the **PA**, which has daytime security control of Nablus, denounces Israel for attempting to undermine its efforts to expand security control before **Bush** arrives in the region on 1/9; the raid is ongoing at the end of the day. The **IDF** also demolishes 12 bedouin tents outside Jericho (displacing 80 Palestinians); issues a military order confiscating 9 d. of Palestinian land nr. Salfit for military purposes; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Far'un nr. Tulkarm, wounding 1 unarmed teenager; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm; bulldozes 20 d. of agricultural land in the central Jordan Valley, claiming it is state land. (NYT, WP, WT 1/4; OCHA 2/9; PCHR 1/10; OCHA 1/30)

4 JANUARY

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops, bulldozers into areas northeast of Bayt Hanun, clashing with local gunmen, killing **2 Hamas mbrs.**, leveling 120 d. of land before withdrawing in late morning. In the West Bank, the **IDF** continues operations in and around Nablus; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 4) and Bayt Umar nr. Hebron (injuring a journalist, 2 protesters). (NYT, WP 1/4; WT 1/5; NYT 1/6; OCHA 2/9; PCHR 1/10)

5 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** ends a 3-day search and arrest campaign in and around Nablus, leaving **1 Palestinian** brain dead, 38 civilians injured (including 19 children), at least 50 Palestinians arrested (mostly Fatah and AMB, but including 1 paramedic, 1 child), 1 store demolished, 123 homes and stores damaged. In Gaza, the **IDF** fires missiles at 2 groups of armed Palestinian nr. the border e. of Gaza City, killing **2 armed Palestinians**, wounding 2. Heavy rain collapses 5 smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border, causing no injuries. (NYT 1/6; OCHA 2/9; PCHR 1/10)

6 JANUARY

In Gaza, the **IDF** sends tanks and bulldozers, supported by air craft, into al-Bureij r.c., clashing with local gunmen, killing **4 Palestinians** (including at least 3 civilians), wounding at least 40 (including at least 3 women, 15 children, 15 gunmen), detaining 60 for questioning, demolishing 1 Palestinian **home**, seriously damaging 10 others, bulldozing 90 d. of olive groves and 20 beehives before withdrawing in the afternoon; 5 IDF soldiers are wounded by an antitank missile fired at their vehicle. **Palestinians** fire 17 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and Jenin town and r.c., and nr. Hebron. A **Palestinian shepherd** is killed when he accidentally triggers an **IDF** landmine in the Jordan Valley. (WP, WT 1/7; OCHA 2/9; PCHR 1/10)

7 JANUARY

In Gaza, the **IDF** exchanges fire with **2 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** (1 a woman) across the border nr. Bayt Hanun, killing both; sends armored vehicles, bulldozers into the Erez industrial zone under cover of heavy fire to level land (no injuries are reported). In Gaza City, 2 **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. are injured when explosives they are handling detonate prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fatally shoots an armed **Islamic Jihad mbr.** who approaches a checkpoint outside Jenin; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in Qalqilya (severely damaging 2 Palestinian **homes**, displacing 16 Palestinians), and nr. Jenin, Nablus. (NYT 1/8; OCHA 2/9; PCHR 1/10)

8 JANUARY

The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats that stray nr. the border with Egypt, sinking 1; armed Palestinians on shore fire toward the navy vessels, prompting the **IDF** to call in helicopter air strikes on a naval police post, damaging it and a nearby mosque; no injuries are reported. The **IDF** sends tanks, bulldozers into Gaza e. of Dayr al-Balah to level land along the border, firing on Palestinian farmers in the area, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Abu Dis, nr. Tulkarm. In Nablus, **11 AMB mbrs.** turn themselves into the PA police, hoping to be granted amnesty by Israel under the terms of Israel's 7/07 amnesty offer to the AMB (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 145); **Israel** does not agree. (OCHA 2/9; PCHR 1/10)

9 JANUARY

Pres. **Bush** begins a 4-day visit to Israel and the West Bank as part of a greater regional tour focused on improving stability in Iraq and confronting the perceived threat from Iran. Advancing the Annapolis peace process is billed as a secondary goal (see Quarterly Update for details). Today, Bush meets with **Olmert**. (NYT, WP, WT 1/10)

Israel imposes a curfew on Palestinian areas surrounding Jerusalem through the end of Bush's visit on 1/12. The **IDF** makes an air strike on Gaza targeting a rocket-launching site s. of Gaza City, killing **1 PRC mbr.**, wounding 5; fires a surface-to-surface missile at a rocket-launching site nr. Bayt Lahiya, striking near a farm, killing a **Palestinian woman and child**, wounding 4 other civilians (including 2 children); shoots, wounds an unarmed Palestinian teenager who strays nr. the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya; makes several ground incursions into Gaza. **Palestinians** fire 20 **rockets, mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing damage but no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes 80 d. of land and 3,200 trees outside Hebron for construction of the **separation wall**; sends undercover units into Qalqilya to arrest a wanted Palestinian; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Tubas. In Gaza, **10,000 Palestinians** attend a protest rally against Bush's visit organized by Hamas. (PCHR, WP, WT 1/10; OCHA 1/16; PCHR 1/17)

10 JANUARY

In Ramallah, **PSF** officers violently disperse (using batons and tear gas) several 100 anti-Bush protesters attending a rally organized by **Hizb al-Tahrir**, injuring more than 25. (WP 1/11; OCHA 1/16; PCHR 1/17; WP 1/22)

After meeting with **Abbas** in Ramallah and for a 2d time with **Olmert** in Jerusalem, **Bush** issues his most comprehensive statement to date on his vision of a final peace agreement (see Doc. D2), saying that Palestinian refugees should receive compensation for the homes and property lost in 1948, but also reiterating statements made in his 4/04 letter to then-PM Ariel Sharon (see Doc. B of the Special Documents in *JPS* 132) that adjustments should be made to the 1967 borders to accommodate major Jewish settlement blocs. (See Quarterly Update for details.) (NYT, WP, WT 1/11)

11 JANUARY

The **IDF** patrols in Aqaba e. of Tubas; raids, searches a home in 'Aqraba nr. Nablus; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 1). **Unidentified assailants** detonate a bomb nr. a police patrol in al-Bureij r.c., wounding 2 Hamas-affiliated policemen. (OCHA 1/16; PCHR 1/17)

12 JANUARY

The **IDF** makes air strikes on a Hamas training camp nr. Khan Yunis, killing 2 **Hamas mbrs.** In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron (firing percussion grenades into 4 stores, starting fires that cause heavy damage), Jenin; patrols in al-Bireh, Asira al-Shamaliyya, Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba rampage through Palestinian areas of Hebron, attacking buildings with iron bars, bottles, stones; the **IDF** intervenes when Palestinian residents confront the settlers, firing tear gas and rubber-coated steel bullets at the Palestinians, wounding 11 and arresting 4. In Bayt Lahiya, **Palestinian gunmen** loot, burn the private **American International School**, leaving fliers claiming that the attack was staged by the previously unknown **Army of Believers—al-Qa'ida Branch on the**

Land of Palestine. (WP 1/13; OCHA 1/16; PCHR 1/17)

13 JANUARY

Israel allows another 180 Gazan students to leave Gaza through the Erez crossing (see 12/2). The **IDF** makes an air strike on a car in Shati' r.c., assassinating **AMB mbrs. Nidal al-Amoudi** and **Mahir al-Mabhuh**, seriously wounding a 3d AMB mbr.; sends tanks, bulldozers into Gaza to level land along the border e. of al-Maghazi r.c. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Jenin, Nablus (searching several apartment buildings); raids, searches cyber cafes in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem; searches homes in Rummana and al-Taybeh nr. Jenin; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm r.c. Work begins on a new 66-unit **Jewish settler** neighborhood in Ras al-Amud in East Jerusalem. (OCHA 1/16; PCHR 1/17)

14 JANUARY

The **IDF** conducts bulldozing operations in the Erez industrial zone. **Egyptian security forces** on the Rafah border demolish a smuggling tunnel, confiscating 4 artillery shells, 20 explosive devices. Another 2 tunnels under the Rafah border collapse, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Azariyya nr. Jerusalem. (OCHA 1/16; PCHR 1/17)

15 JANUARY

The **IDF** makes a major pre-dawn incursion into Gaza City, sending in tanks and helicopters, clashing with local Palestinians, and conducting at least 4 air strikes, leaving at least 17 **Palestinians** dead (5 bystanders; 12 Hamas mbrs., including the son of senior Hamas mbr. Mahmud al-Zahar, whose oldest son was killed when the IDF attempted to assassinate him in 2003), around 55 wounded by the time troops withdraw in the evening. The **IDF** also sends troops into al-Qarara, firing on residential areas, wounding a 71-yr.-old Palestinian man, bulldozing 20 d. of agricultural land before withdrawing in the evening; fires a missile across the border at armed **AMB** mbrs. e. of Gaza City, wounding 4; sends armored vehicles, bulldozers back into the Erez industrial zone (see 1/14) under cover of heavy fire to continue land-leveling operations (no injuries

are reported). In retaliation for the Gaza City incursion, **Palestinians** fire around 25 **mortars** and 25 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting a house, moderately injuring 4 Israelis; Hamas claims responsibility for 17 of the mortars and 3 of the rockets, marking the 1st time since 6/07 that it has fired rockets. A **Hamas gunman** also fires across the border into Israel, killing an **Ecuadorian laborer** on an Israeli farm. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids Qabatya nr. Jenin, fatally shoots **local Islamic Jihad cmdr. Walid Obaydi** in an apparent assassination, also wounding 2 other Palestinians (Obaydi has been on Israel's most wanted list for 7 yrs.; the IDF attempted to assassinate him on 8/9/07 in Jenin r.c.); sends undercover units into Nablus to ambush and arrest a wanted **PFLP mbr.**; conducts separate late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus; bulldozes 40 d. of almond and olive trees, 6 wells nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Beit Hadasah throw Molotov cocktails into a Palestinian home, causing damage; the **IDF** intervenes, detains 2 of the Palestinian homeowner's sons for questioning. (NYT, OCHA, WP, WT 1/16; PCHR 1/17)

16 JANUARY

The **IDF** makes an air strike on Gaza City, targeting a car carrying **PRC** mbrs., hitting another car instead, killing 3 **Palestinian civilians** (including a 5-yr.-old boy), wounding other bystanders; makes an air strike on a car nr. al-Bureij r.c., assassinating **PRC mbrs. Wa'il Ahil and Muhammad Safadi**, wounding 1 bystander; fires a missile across the border at **PRC** mbrs. nr. Jabaliya r.c., seriously wounding 2; for unknown reasons makes an air strike on a tract of agricultural land (exact location not reported), wounding a 65-yr.-old Palestinian man. **Palestinians** fire 50 **rockets** and **mortars** fr. Gaza toward Israel; 19 land inside Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** evicts 5 bedouin families (30 Palestinians) living nr. Jerusalem; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in Silwad nr. Ramallah, nr. Tulkarm; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Nablus; evacuates 2 unauthorized settlement outposts, removing 20 settlers; fires rubber-coated steel bullets at demonstrators in Hebron protesting IDF attacks on Gaza, wounding 4. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim stone Palestinian vehicles traveling on Road 55 nr. Qalqilya, damaging 2. (PCHR, WP 1/17; PCHR 1/19; OCHA 1/23; PCHR 1/24)

17 JANUARY

The **IDF** makes an air strike on a car in Bayt Lahiya, assassinating **PRC cmdr. Raed Abu al-Ful**, also killing a **Palestinian woman** traveling with him; makes an air strike on another car in Bayt Lahiya carrying suspected militants, missing the car, killing a **Palestinian woman and child** nearby, seriously wounding 6 bystanders (including 3 children); makes an air strike on Gaza City, killing 2 **Hamas mbrs.**, wounding 4; fires on unarmed Palestinians who stray nr. the border fence e. of Dayr al-Balah, wounding 1; sends tanks, a bulldozer into Gaza to level land nr. al-Maghazi r.c. and nearby al-Musaddar. **Palestinians** fire about 40 **rockets** fr. Gaza toward Israel, half of which land inside Israel, hitting 2 houses, damaging a road, lightly injuring 4 Israelis. **Olmert** vows to wage "war" on Gaza to stop rocket attacks, orders **Gaza's crossing sealed** completely for several days to punish Gazans. The **PA** warns that escalated IDF offensives in Gaza jeopardize peace talks. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Balata r.c. nr. Nablus, where they surround and fire on a Palestinian home (wounding a 3-yr.-old boy), sparking an exchange of gunfire that leaves 1 **wanted Palestinian** dead, another wounded, 4 Palestinians under arrest; sends undercover units into Tulkarm, detaining 25 Palestinians; conducts additional arrest raids, house searches in villages nr. Tulkarm, Hebron, Ramallah; sends troops into al-Bireh and Jenin to set up roadblocks and conduct ID checks, making no arrests; patrols in 'Aqaba nr. Tubas. An **AMB mbr.** wounded in a 1/15 IDF missile strike dies. (NYT, WP 1/18; NYT, PCHR 1/19; OCHA 1/23; PCHR 1/24)

18 JANUARY

The **IDF** bars all imports into Gaza, including fuel, food, medicine; makes an air strike destroying the empty PA Interior Min. building in Gaza City (heavily damaged in a 7/06 air strike), killing 1 **Palestinian** bystander, wounding 46 (including 3 women, 19 children playing soccer nearby); makes a 2d air strike targeting an alleged rocket-launching squad in Jabaliya r.c., killing 2 **Hamas mbrs.**, wounding 3 bystanders; makes a 3d air strike destroying a Hamas-affiliated security facility in central Gaza; sends troops, bulldozers into Khuza to level lands, firing on residential areas, wounding a 9-yr.-old Palestinian boy; makes a

late-night incursion into areas nr. Jabaliya r.c., raiding 2 Palestinian homes, making 2 air strikes on armed Palestinians who confront them, killing **2 Hamas mbrs.**, wounding 2 bystanders, arresting 8 Palestinians, demolishing **1 Palestinian home**, damaging 3 others, bulldozing 4 d. of olive trees. **Palestinian factions**, including **Hamas**, fire 31 **rockets** fr. Gaza toward Israel; 16 land inside Israel, causing damage but no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 3). A **Hamas mbr.** wounded in an 1/17 IDF air strike on Gaza City dies. (NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 1/19; NYT 1/20; OCHA 1/23; PCHR 1/24)

19 JANUARY

Palestinians fire 3 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Aqraba, nr. Hebron; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Nablus, causing no injuries; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinians holding a nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Zabbuba nr. Jenin, injuring 1, arresting 3. **Dozens of Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba rampage through Palestinian neighborhoods of Hebron, vandalizing homes, beating at least 6 Palestinians (including a journalist covering the incident), damaging 10s of homes; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (PCHR 1/19; NYT 1/20; OCHA 1/23; PCHR 1/24)

20 JANUARY

Gaza's power plant, which supplies up to 43% of Gaza's power, ceases operation after running out of fuel due to Israel's closure. The majority of Gazans, already used to going without power for 4 hrs./day because of Israeli limits on fuel imports, face cuts of 12 hrs./day. Electricity and fuel cuts prevent **Gaza municipal authorities** fr. treating wastewater, forcing them to begin dumping 40 m. liters/day of untreated sewage into the Mediterranean. Reps. of the military wings of **Hamas**, **Islamic Jihad**, and the **PRCs** hold a press conference in Rafah, threaten to use explosives to destroy the Gaza border fence with Egypt if **Egypt** does not take action

within 24 hrs. to reopen the Rafah crossing and ease the siege. Meanwhile, **Israel** allows 70 Gaza medical cases into Israel for treatment. The **IDF** makes an air strike on **AMB mbrs. Ibrahim al-Ghuti** and As'ad Abu Shari'a as they walk across a bridge in Gaza City in an apparent assassination attempt, killing Ghuti, wounding Abu Shari'a and 2 bystanders; makes an incursion into al-Shuka, raiding and searching homes, detaining 100 Palestinians for questioning, releasing all but 8 before withdrawing in the evening; makes at least 1 air strike on n. Gaza, allegedly targeting a rocket launching site, killing **1 Palestinian**; fires a missile across the border e. of Gaza City, wounding 1 Islamic Jihad mbr. **Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing damage but no injuries. In Gaza City, **2,000 Palestinians** organized by the **Palestinian Popular Comm. Against the Siege (PPCAS)** hold a candlelight vigil to protest the Israeli siege; **400 Palestinians** hold a similar rally in Nussayrat r.c. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysha r.c., Hebron, and nr. Ramallah, Tulkarm (heavily damaging a Palestinian **home**, displacing a family of 5). (JP 1/20; JAZ, NYT, WP, WT 1/21; NYT, WP 1/22; OCHA 1/23; PCHR 1/24)

21 JANUARY

The **World Food Program** and **UNRWA**, which distribute food to 887,000 Gazans, say that because of Israel's restrictions on food and fuel imports, they will have to cease operations by 1/24 and 1/25, respectively. Bakeries are expected to run out of flour within days, and meat prices have doubled in the past 10 days. The **UN** reports 40–50% of Gazans no longer have access to running water. In Gaza City, **1,500 Palestinians** attend a **PPCAS** rally urging Israel to lift the siege. **Reform and Change legislators** lead a peaceful demonstration of **1,000 Palestinians** at the Rafah border, appealing to **Egypt** to open the crossing. **Palestinians** fire 8 **rockets** and **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **Egyptian security forces** uncover a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border, exchange gunfire with the tunnel's Egyptian owners, leaving 1 dead, 1 injured. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Hebron; fires on 10s of Palestinians in al-Shaykh nr. Hebron holding a nonviolent protest against Israel's siege of Gaza, wounding 1. A **2d AMB mbr.** wounded in a 1/15 IDF missile strike dies

(see 1/17). (NYT, WP, WT 1/22; OCHA, WP 1/23; PCHR 1/24)

22 JANUARY

With the **UN Security Council** set to open debate on a res. critical of Israel's actions in Gaza, the **Israeli DMin.** authorizes the entry to Gaza of a week's supply of cooking gas, fuel for hospitals and power plants, and 50 trucks of humanitarian aid. Meanwhile, the **IDF** makes an incursion into al-Shuka, firing on residential areas, conducting arrest raids, exchanging fire with local Palestinians, killing **1 armed Palestinian**, wounding 1 Palestinian, arresting 16 (including 3 under age 18). **Palestinians** fire 17 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Some **5,000 Palestinian women** storm the Rafah crossing, demanding that Egypt open it for departure of Palestinians seeking medical care abroad and the import of goods and food; **Egyptian border police** use clubs, water cannon to keep them at bay, injuring 9; **Hamas-affiliated security forces** fire in the air to disrupt the riot, wounding 1 Egyptian policeman. **Palestinian Red Crescent Society employees** across the West Bank stage sit-ins to protest PA salary payment problems. An **Islamic Jihad mbr.** wounded in a 1/20 IDF missile strike e. of Gaza City dies. (IFM, NYT 1/22; NYT, OCHA, WP, WT 1/23; PCHR 1/24)

23 JANUARY

Before dawn, **Hamas mbrs.** detonate explosives at 17 points along the 7-mi.-long Rafah border wall, allowing **10,000s of Palestinians** to stream into Egypt to buy food, fuel, medicine, cement, livestock, and other goods that have been banned by Israel since 6/07; Gazans who have been stranded in Egypt reenter Gaza. (For details on the border breach, see the Quarterly Update.) **Egyptian pres. Husni Mubarak** authorizes border police to stand down, saying Egypt will not be party to starving the Palestinians, but makes it clear that Egypt expects Gazans to return home quickly. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fatally shoot a **Palestinian farmer** working his land northwest of Bayt Lahiya. The **IDF** also levels land inside Gaza northeast of Bayt Hanun, uprooting 350 d. of olive and citrus groves. A Palestinian is injured when 2 **rockets** to be fired into Israel explode at the launch site. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, searches in

and around Hebron (including surrounding and searching a medical clinic, interrogating staff and patients, arresting 2 staff mbrs.), in Balata r.c., and nr. Jenin, Salfit; raids a hospital in Bethlehem, confiscating 3 computers and a diagnostic machine that tests for osteoporosis; returns 200 olive trees to a farmer in Qaryut nr. Nablus who had 300 trees stolen by Jewish settlers fr. Shilo settlement in 6/07. A **Palestinian civilian** dies of injuries received during IDF operations in Nablus on 1/3. (HA, *Independent*, JAZ, NYT 1/23; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 1/24; WP 1/28; OCHA 1/30; PCHR 1/31)

24 JANUARY

With the Rafah border breached, **Israel** halts emergency imports authorized on 1/22, arguing that Gazans can now get food and fuel fr. **Egypt**. Meanwhile, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a car nr. the Rafah border, assassinating **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades mbrs. Zayid 'Abd al-'Aal and Ibrahim al-'Absi**; sends troops into areas e. of Rafah to conduct arrest raids, detaining and taking back to Israel 25 Palestinians possibly connected to the 1/23 border breach. In the West Bank, **2 Palestinians** fr. Bayt Umar nr. Hebron infiltrate Kefar Etzion settlement, stab and wound 3 Jewish settlers before being shot dead by settlement security officers; no group takes responsibility. The **IDF** sends troops into Bayt Umar, fires on residential areas, occupies the homes of the 2 Kefar Etzion attackers, interrogates their families, fires on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, killing **1 Palestinian teenager**, wounding 2 Palestinians; later, **IDF** troops posted at the entrance to the village fire on a funeral procession for 1 of the assailants, injuring 1 mourner. A **Palestinian gunman** fires on Israeli border police outside Shu'fat r.c. nr. Jerusalem, killing **1 Israeli border policeman**, wounding another, escaping unharmed; no group takes responsibility. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in Azun, nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Karme Tzur in Hebron, guarded by **IDF** troops, add 5 mobile homes to an unauthorized outpost nearby in Halhul. (AP 1/24; NYT, WP, WT 1/25; OCHA 1/30; PCHR 1/31)

25 JANUARY

Egyptian border and riot police in armored vehicles make a brief attempt to herd Palestinians back across the Rafah

border into Gaza, firing into the air and using batons, water cannon, tear gas, dogs. They are overwhelmed by the estimated 120,000 Palestinians (many of whom throw stones, injuring 38 policemen), eventually retreating, allowing the crossings to continue. **Hamas** mbrs. use bulldozers to make at least 1 new opening in the Rafah border fence. Meanwhile, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a car in Rafah, assassinating **Hamas's local cmdr. Muhammad Harb** (reportedly in charge of breaching the Rafah border) and **Hamas mbr. Sami al-Hamada**, seriously wounding a 3d **Hamas** mbr. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Umar, clashing with armed Palestinians, killing **1 Palestinian gunman**; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 7; arresting 4, including an American). A **Jewish settler** injures 2 Palestinian men in a deliberate hit-and-run nr. Hebron. **Unidentified assailants** detonate a bomb outside police headquarters in Gaza City, causing no injuries. (NYT, WP, WT 1/26; OCHA 1/30; PCHR 1/31)

26 JANUARY

On the Israeli side of the Erez crossing into Gaza, more than **1,000 Israeli Palestinians and left-wing peace activists** rally to urge Israel to lift the siege on Gaza, while in Gaza City, **100s of Palestinians** hold a parallel demonstration "to join the hands of Israeli and Palestinian peace activists who want to end the siege and all forms of violence." In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron. **Jewish settlers** stone Palestinian vehicles driving on Wadi Qana Road nr. Qalqilya, damaging 1 but causing no injuries. (NYT, WT 1/27; OCHA 1/30; PCHR 1/31)

PFLP founder George Habash dies of a heart attack in Amman at age 82. (AP, NYT, REU, WP, WT 1/27; NYT 1/28)

27 JANUARY

Telling the **Israeli High Court** that Israel must wage "economic warfare" on Gaza, the **Israeli DMin.** announces plans to cut electricity to Gaza by 5% beginning on 2/7 and to continue restricting fuel shipments, though it will allow weekly EU-funded deliv-

eries of industrial fuel to keep Gaza's power plant operating at a level to meet "minimum humanitarian criteria." Meanwhile, **Egypt** blocks deliveries to Egyptian Rafah, hoping that Palestinians will return to Gaza if there is nothing to buy. The **IDF** makes an air strike on a **Hamas-affiliated police post** nr. Rafah, damaging 2 cars, 8 nearby homes, and a mosque but causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and Hebron, in Jenin town and r.c. (WP 1/28; OCHA 1/30; PCHR 1/31)

28 JANUARY

Under pressure fr. **Israel** and the **U.S.** to stop the flow of Palestinians across the Rafah border, **Egypt** deploys 100s of police and plainclothes intelligence officers along the border. **Hamas mbrs.** help Egyptian security forces string bales of razor wire across breaches in the wall; begin coordinating border-crossing operations (e.g., searching travelers, checking IDs) with Egyptian forces. In the West Bank, the **IDF** troops raid Bethlehem, surround the home of a wanted **Islamic Jihad** mbr., and demand his surrender, firing on the house and surrounding residential area to prevent journalists fr. approaching (detaining several), killing **1 Palestinian teenager**, wounding 5 other bystanders; when troops begin to demolish the home, the wanted man surrenders. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and Tulkarm, nr. Nablus and Ramallah, and in Balata r.c., al-Bireh, East Jerusalem. (OCHA, WT 1/30; PCHR 1/31)

29 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in the Old City of Hebron, Jenin. (OCHA 1/29, 1/30; PCHR 1/31)

30 JANUARY

The **Israeli High Court** endorses the **Israeli DMin.**'s 1/27 plan to wage "economic warfare" against Gaza. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., and nr. Nablus, Ramallah; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Nablus, causing no injuries. An Israeli nonprofit group, **Yemin Yehuda**, begins construction of **200 settler housing units** in East Jerusalem's Shimon

Hatzaddik compound (see Quarterly Update for details). **PA civil servants** begin a 2-day strike to protest new PA restrictions on obtaining government services such as ID cards, birth certificates (see Quarterly Update for details). (HA, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 1/31; OCHA 2/6; PCHR 2/7)

31 JANUARY

In Gaza, **Israeli aircraft** fire on agricultural areas nr. Bayt Hanun, wounding a Palestinian civilian. In n. Gaza, 2 Palestinians are injured when a **rocket** fired toward Israel hits a home in Bayt Hanun. In the West Bank, the **IDF** evicts Palestinians fr. 3 homes slated for demolition nr. Tulkarm; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Azun, wounding 1 Palestinian; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Dahaysha r.c. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba beat 2 Palestinian teenagers; the **IDF** arrests the teenagers. (OCHA 2/6; PCHR 2/7)

1 FEBRUARY

In Gaza, **2,000 Palestinians** hold a peaceful demonstration at a sealed breach in the Rafah border to urge Egypt to keep the border open. Outside Rafah, 2 Palestinian teenagers are injured when they accidentally trigger unexploded **IDF** ordnance. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sets up a checkpoint outside a Bayt Umar cemetery to check the IDs of mourners attending the funeral of the 2d Kefar Etzion attacker (see 1/24); later fires percussion grenades, rubber-coated steel bullets at mourners, wounding 6; fires on residential areas of al-Khadir nr. Bethlehem, causing no injuries; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin, northwest of Jerusalem; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 2). **Palestinian children** throw stones at Jewish settler vehicles traveling on Route 55 nr. Azun and Route 60 nr. Hawara, damaging 2 but causing no injuries. Inside Israel, **20,000 Israeli Palestinians** march in Sakhnin to protest a 1/27 government decision not to try police officers who fatally shot **13 Israeli Palestinians** during 10/00 antigovernment demonstrations in Um al-Fahm in solidarity with the intifada. In Gaza City, **Hamas-affiliated police** release Fayyad adviser **Ghul**, arrested on 12/14. (AFP 2/1; NYT, WP 2/2; OCHA 2/6; PCHR 2/7)

2 FEBRUARY

After mtgs. with Egyptian officials in Cairo, **Hamas** announces that the Rafah border will close on 2/3 (see Quarterly Update). Some **2,500 Palestinian women** rally at the Rafah crossing to urge Egypt to keep it open; **10,000 Palestinians** take part in similar nonviolent rally in Gaza City. **Egypt** reports that it has arrested at least **14 armed Palestinians** in the Sinai not far fr. the Rafah border. **Palestinians** fire 6 **rockets** fr. Gaza toward Israel; 1 lands inside Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** distributes fliers in Azun warning that unless local youths stopped throwing stones at Jewish settler vehicles traveling on Route 55 (see 2/1), the army would launch arrest raids, shoot stone-throwers, seal the village's main entrance, and close shops nr. the road; fires on stone-throwing youths in al-Khadir, wounding 3; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, nr. Jenin. (NYT, WP, WT 2/3; OCHA 2/6; PCHR 2/7)

3 FEBRUARY

Egypt and **Hamas** complete resealing of the Rafah border. **Egyptian border police** allow Palestinians still in Egypt to return to Gaza but do not allow any Palestinians into Egypt. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of Bayt Lahiya, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Qabatya to ambush 3 Islamic Jihad mbrs. in an apparent assassination attempt, killing **Islamic Jihad's Ahmad Abu Zaid and Ammar Zakarna**, wounding Naji Nazzal; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in Balata r.c., nr. Bethlehem. (NYT, WP 2/4; OCHA 2/6; PCHR 2/7)

4 FEBRUARY

In Dimona in s. Israel, a **Palestinian suicide bomber** detonates a device in a mall, killing **1 Israeli**, wounding 11; an off-duty Israeli policeman identifies, fatally shoots a **2d bomber** who allegedly planned to set off a 2d device as rescue workers gathered. (For discussion of the dispute over the bombers' identities, see Quarterly Update.) At the Rafah crossing, **Egyptian border police** try to block about 700 Egyptians and Palestinians attempting to cross the border in both directions; travelers throw stones at policemen who respond with tear gas and by firing in the air; as the

riot escalates, **Hamas mbrs.** inside Gaza apparently fire on the Egyptian troops to force a retreat, wounding around 20. In Gaza, the **IDF** makes an air strike on Bayt Lahiya, assassinating **PRC mbr.** 'Amr Qarmout, wounding 1 bystander. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai in Hebron throw stones, empty bottles at a Palestinian father and his 12-yr.-old son, moderately injuring them. **Jewish settlers** fr. Havat Gilad outpost nr. Qalqilya uproot 200 Palestinian olive trees in nearby Jit. (HA, IFM, JAZ, REU 2/4; OCHA 2/6; PCHR 2/7)

5 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** makes an air strike on a police post in Khan Yunis, killing **7 Hamas-affiliated policemen**, wounding 1; makes an incursion into al-Shuka, searching homes, exchanging fire with local gunmen, killing **2 armed Palestinians**, arresting 40 Palestinians; fires across the border toward Palestinian homes and agricultural areas in al-Qarara, damaging several homes but causing no injuries; sends armored vehicles, bulldozers into the Erez industrial zone to level land. **Palestinians** fire **8 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting a factory and a home, injuring 4 Israelis. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts major arrest raids, house searches in Hebron (detaining 30 Palestinians, including 3 journalists) in connection with the 2/4 bombing; also conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around East Jerusalem, nr. Ramallah, and in Nablus, Nur al-Shams r.c. nr. Tulkarm, Qabatya, Silwad. **PA teachers and health workers** begin a 2-day strike to protest new PA restrictions on obtaining government services such as ID cards, birth certificates. In Gaza City, **unidentified assailants** blow up the jeep of a mbr. of the **Hamas-affiliated internal security service**, damaging 2 other vehicles but causing no injuries. (HA, MA, NYT, OCHA, WP, WT, YA 2/6; PCHR 2/7)

6 FEBRUARY

In response to IDF attacks on 2/5, **Palestinians** fire at least 20 **rockets** and **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, injuring 2 Israeli girls (ages 1, 12) playing outside in Kibbutz Beerli. The **IDF** then steps up air strikes and shelling of Hamas targets around Bayt Hanun, Gaza City, Jabaliya r.c., and Khan Yunis, wounding at least 3 Hamas mbrs. and an 80-yr.-old woman. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 2 Palestinian **homes**, 4

bedouin tents, and 2 merchandise stalls in Jiftlik in the Jordan Valley, displacing 29 Palestinians; demolishes 4 tents, 9 animal pens, 2 other structures belonging to **bedouin** families nr. Tubas, displacing 30 Palestinians; bulldozes a room of a home nr. the **separation wall** in Qalqilya; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus and in Hebron (again targeting the homes of the alleged 2/4 bombers), Qabatya, Ramallah, Tulkarm. **Israeli authorities** demolish 1 Palestinian **home** in the Old City of Jerusalem (leaving 30 Palestinians homeless). (PCHR, WP 2/7; OCHA 2/13; PCHR 2/14)

7 FEBRUARY

In keeping with 1/27 pledges, **Israel** cuts electricity to Gaza by 1%; vows further cuts and intensified strikes on Gaza until rocket fire ceases. Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops and tanks, supported by artillery and war planes, into Gaza nr. Jabaliya, killing **1 Hamas mbr.** and **1 Islamic Jihad mbr.** in clashes, killing **4 Hamas mbrs.** in air strikes, wounding at least 4 armed Palestinians. During the day, **IDF** shells hit a school nr. Gaza City, killing a **Palestinian teacher**, wounding 3 students. **Palestinians** fire **7 rockets**, **4 mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, with 1 rocket hitting a home in Sederot, wounding 2 Israelis. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in al-Bireh; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Salfit, Ramallah. **Rival PRC factions** exchange fire in Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. A **Hamas mbr.** dies of injuries sustained in a 2/6 IDF air strike e. of Gaza City. (NYT, WP, WT 2/8; OCHA 2/13; PCHR 2/14)

8 FEBRUARY

Responding to **Israel's** 2/7 electricity cuts, **Palestinians** fire 21 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing slight damage but no injuries. The **IDF** sends tanks, bulldozers into Gaza e. of al-Qarara to level land along the border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends troops into Azun nr. Qalqilya, imposing a curfew, firing on residential areas, conducting arrest raids and house searches (troops are still in the village and the curfew in place at the end of the day); patrols in Tulkarm; 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 demonstration against the

separation wall in Bil'in (injuring 1). (NYT, WP 2/9; OCHA 2/13; PCHR 2/14)

9 FEBRUARY

During the day, the **IDF** makes at least 1 air strike on a rocket-launching site in Gaza, seriously injuring 1 Palestinian. **Islamic Jihad** fires about 20 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, seriously injuring 2 Israeli brothers (ages 8, 19). Late in the evening, the **IDF** makes 4 air strikes on Hamas targets in Gaza: in al-Bureij r.c., assassinating **Hamas cmdr. Muhammad Abu Mtair**; nr. Khan Yunis, destroying a security post and damaging several nearby houses but causing no injuries; in Rafah, destroying 2 factories (alleged weapons depots) and 1 house, damaging 10 other homes, injuring 10 bystanders; in Gaza City, destroying 2 workshops (alleged weapons factories), injuring 13 bystanders (including 7 women, 3 children), damaging several nearby homes and a car. In the West Bank, the **IDF** lifts the curfew on, withdraws fr. Azun; patrols in Tubas; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, firing on residential areas, causing no reported injuries. (IFM, WP 2/10; NYT, WP 2/11; OCHA 2/13; PCHR 2/14)

10 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** sends troops into Gaza City, clashing with local gunmen and calling in an air strike, killing 1 **armed Palestinian**, wounding a 2d. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tubas. A **Palestinian resistance mbr.** wounded by IDF fire in Jabaliya on 2/7 dies. **Palestinian residents of Silwan** in East Jerusalem appeal to the **Israeli High Court** for a temporary stop-work order to halt tunneling under their homes by the **Israeli Antiquities Authority (IAA)** and to block workers from entering their private property. **Israeli police** later arrest 4 Palestinians, including 3 landowners who had filed the appeal, placing them under house arrest for 5 days and charging them with sabotaging the IAA project. Digging at the site resumes under police protection. (International Justice Watch email 2/11; OCHA 2/13; PCHR 2/14)

11 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** makes an incursion into Wadi al-Silqa in central Gaza, searching homes, clashing with local gunmen, wounding 2

armed Palestinians, bulldozing 20 d. of land; makes an air strike targeting a carload of **Hamas** mbrs. in Rafah, causing no injuries but damaging 10 nearby homes; conducts arrest raids in al-Shuka; shoots, wounds a mentally handicapped Palestinian who strays nr. the border fence e. of Dayr al-Balah. In the West Bank, the **IDF** and **Shin Bet** raid 14 money exchanges in Hebron, Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Tulkarm that have allegedly funneled money to "terror operations," arresting 5 owners, seizing millions of dollars, computers, documents. The **IDF** also demolishes a Palestinian **home** in Wadi al-Juz in East Jerusalem; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and Tulkarm, in Qabatya. The **Israeli High Court** rules against a temporary stop-work order for IAA digging in Silwan (see 2/10). (International Justice Watch email 2/11; IDF press release 2/12; OCHA, WT 2/13; PCHR 2/14)

12 FEBRUARY

Overnight, the **IDF** sends 20 armored vehicles with helicopter support into Gaza City, clashing with local gunmen, wounding 7 Palestinians (including at least 2 bystanders). In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units in a car with Palestinian license plates into Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya to raid a store, arrest a wanted Palestinian; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Azun and Jenin town and r.c., and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. (OCHA, WT 2/13; PCHR 2/14)

A **car bomb** explodes in Damascus, assassinating **Hizballah intelligence and external operations head Imad Mughniyah**, injuring 2 others. No group takes responsibility. **Hizballah** blames Israel, which hails his death and distances itself from the attack but does not explicitly deny involvement. (WP 2/13; NYT, WP, WT 2/14)

13 FEBRUARY

For unclear reasons, **IDF** troops on the c. Gaza border shoot in the head, severely wound a 12-yr-old Palestinian boy walking to school in nearby Wadi al-Silqa. The **IDF** also sends bulldozers into the Erez industrial zone to level land. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, nr. Nablus, and in Qabatya, Tulkarm. (PCHR 2/21)

14 FEBRUARY

IDF troops on the Gaza border shell areas n. of Bayt Hanun, hitting and causing heavy damage to 1 Palestinian home, lightly damaging 9 other houses, but causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** continues arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron overnight; patrols in Qabatya before dawn, firing on residential areas, mortally wounding a **58-yr.-old Palestinian** on his way to morning prayers, delaying an ambulance (he subsequently dies); conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm (firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 2), in al-Fawwar r.c. nr. Hebron, nr. Jenin. **PA General Intelligence** officers raid Kubir village nr. Ramallah, arrest 8 Palestinians, including a Hamas-affiliated imam, on charges of possessing illegal arms. (PCHR 2/21; AKH 2/26)

15 FEBRUARY

An explosion destroys the 3-story home of **senior Islamic Jihad military cmdr. Ayman Fayed** in al-Bureij r.c., killing him, his wife and 2 children, and 3 neigh-

bors, wounding at least 50 bystanders (12 critically), badly damaging 10 nearby homes; **Islamic Jihad** accuses Israel of assassinating Fayed in an air strike and vows retaliation, but **Israel** denies carrying out any actions in the area, claiming that rockets kept in the home exploded accidentally; **Hamas-affiliated police** say the cause is unclear. Meanwhile, the **IDF** shells a rocket-launching site nr. Bayt Hanun, hitting and damaging a home nearby, causing no injuries. Nr. al-Qarara, 2 **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. are injured when a mortar they are preparing detonates prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Ramallah and al-Bireh overnight; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Burqa nr. Ramallah; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 1). In Gaza City, **unidentified masked men** raid the **YMCA** and blow up its 8,000-volume library; a 2d bomb is defused; the attack is considered the latest in a string targeting Christian organizations in the Strip. (AFP, AKH, AP 2/15; NYT, WP, WT 2/16; PCHR 2/21)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AKH	(<i>al-Akhbar</i> , Cairo)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
CSM	(<i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , Boston)
HA	(<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
IFM	(Israeli Foreign Ministry, Jerusalem)
JAZ	(al-Jazeera Satellite Channel Television, Doha)
JP	(<i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem)
MA	(<i>Ma'ariv</i> , Tel Aviv)
NYT	(<i>New York Times</i> , New York)
OCHA	(United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Weekly Briefing Notes, Jerusalem)
PAP	(<i>Palestine and Peace</i> , Australia)
PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
REU	(Reuters [Internet])
WP	(<i>Washington Post</i> , Washington)
WT	(<i>Washington Times</i> , Washington)
YA	(<i>Yedi'ot Abarot</i> , Tel Aviv)