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CHRONOLOGY

16 FEBRUARY–15 MAY 2008

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

This section is part ninety-eight of a chronology begun in JPS 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time (EST). For a more comprehensive overview of events related to the al-Aqsa intifada and of regional and international developments related to the peace process, see the Quarterly Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in this issue.

16 FEBRUARY

As the quarter opened, **Israeli** and **Palestinian Authority (PA)** negotiating teams created at the 11/07 Annapolis summit were holding regular meetings to discuss final status (see Quarterly Update for details). **Israel**, meanwhile, maintained an extremely tight seal on Gaza following Hamas's 1/23–2/3 breach of the Gaza-Egypt border (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 147); no exports were permitted and only very limited humanitarian imports were allowed. During the day, the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** makes a ground incursion into Rafah, clashing with local gunmen, killing **1 Hamas mbr.**, wounding 7 Palestinians (including 1 bystander). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Ayn al-Sultan refugee camp (r.c.) nr. Jericho, nr. Nablus. A **Palestinian resistance mbr.** wounded during a 2/11 IDF raid on Wadi al-Silqa dies. An **Islamic Jihad mbr.** dies of injuries sustained on 2/15 when a mortar he was preparing exploded prematurely. (WP 2/17; OCHA 2/20; PCHR 2/21; OCHA 3/4)

17 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** makes a predawn incursion into al-Shuka in s. Gaza, exchanging fire with local Palestinians, leaving **3 Hamas mbrs. and 1 mbr. of the Popular Resistance Committees (PRCs)** dead, more than 20 Palestinians wounded (including "several" gunmen), 1 IDF soldier seriously injured; at least 80 Palestinians are detained for questioning before the IDF withdraws in the afternoon. The **IDF** also sends armored vehicles, bulldozers into areas n. of Bayt Lahiya in n. Gaza to level land. After a **Palestinian rocket** hits a home in Sederot later in the

day (causing no injuries), **Israeli PM Ehud Olmert** gives the IDF a "free hand" to operate against militants in Gaza, stating that Gazans would "not be allowed to live normal lives" as long as Israelis are targeted by rocket fire. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm town and r.c., in Abu Dis nr. East Jerusalem and Nablus, nr. Jenin; fences off farmlands along a settler-only bypass road nr. Azun, nr. Nablus to prevent Palestinian youths fr. stoning passing Jewish settler vehicles. Nr. Hebron, a Palestinian boy is injured when he accidentally triggers unexploded ordnance (UXO) left by the **IDF**. (NYT, WP 2/18; OCHA 2/20; PCHR 2/21)

18 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** sends armored vehicles, bulldozers into the Erez industrial zone to level land. **Palestinians** fire at least **15 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing damage but no injuries. **Egypt** sends **334 Gazans** it has rounded up since the border was reclosed on 2/3 back to the Strip through the Rafah crossing; another 150 Gazans are being held at a youth hostel in al-Arish. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries sustained during the 2/17 IDF raid on al-Shuka. (WT 2/19; OCHA 2/20; PCHR 2/21)

19 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** sends troops to Dayr al-Balah and Wadi al-Silqa in central (c.) Gaza, exchanging fire with local Palestinians, killing an **11-yr.-old Palestinian boy**; fatally shoots a **Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) mbr.** planting a roadside bomb nr. the Gaza border fence. In n. Gaza, 3

Palestinians are injured when a **rocket** fired toward Israel lands inside the Strip. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm and in Hebron, Jenin (raiding a Hamas-affiliated charity, confiscating computers and files). (NYT, OCHA, WP 2/20; PCHR 2/21)

20 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units in a car with Palestinian license plates into Tulkarm to raid a café, detaining 13 Palestinians, releasing most (including a 14-yr.-old boy) later in the day; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, nr. Nablus. **Unidentified gunmen** fire on the home of a senior **Hamas** mbr. in Gaza City, causing no injuries. (PCHR 2/21; OCHA 2/27; PCHR 2/28)

21 FEBRUARY

Gaza's Health Min. and the **Palestinian Red Crescent Society** in Rafah report that most of their ambulances have stopped running for lack of fuel. The **IDF** makes a late-night air strike on a group of Palestinians nr. the Gaza border e. of al-Maghazi, killing **2 armed Palestinians**. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Tulkarm, causing no injuries; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem. (PCHR 2/21; OCHA 2/27; PCHR 2/28)

22 FEBRUARY

IDF troops on the Gaza border e. of Gaza City fire a missile at a group of armed Palestinians nr. the border, wounding 1 armed Palestinian, 1 Palestinian teenager outside his home nearby. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' r.c. nr. Nablus (arresting **senior Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] mbr. Majdi Mabruk**) and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Tulkarm; breaks the windows of several Palestinian cars parked nr. a Hebron building occupied by Jewish settlers for the past yr., stating the vehicles posed a threat to the settlers; 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 6). **Hamas-affiliated imam Majid Barghouti** (age 44), who was among 8 Palestinians arrested by the PA in a raid

nr. Ramallah on 2/14, dies in **PA General Intelligence** custody in Ramallah of apparent torture; **PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas** puts West Bank security forces on high alert, orders an investigation. (JP 2/23; WP 2/24; *al-Akbbbar* [Cairo] 2/26; OCHA 2/27; PCHR 2/28)

23 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** shells a suspected rocket-launching site nr. Bayt Hanun in n. Gaza, killing **3 Palestinian civilians** sitting outside a house. **Palestinians** fire **4 mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols, conducts random ID checks in Anabta nr. Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, and in Hebron, Qabatya, nr. Jenin. (NYT, WP 2/24; OCHA 2/27; PCHR 2/28)

24 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** makes an incursion into al-Shuka in s. Gaza, raiding and searching homes, clashing with local gunmen, killing **1 armed Palestinian**, detaining 50 Palestinians for questioning, arresting 3 and transporting them to Israel. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, Nablus, and nr. Jenin, Tulkarm. In Dayr al-Balah, **Hamas-affiliated police** raid the Prisoners' Association building, confiscate documents and furniture. (NYT 2/25; OCHA 2/27; PCHR 2/28)

25 FEBRUARY

Overnight, the **IDF** makes air strikes on suspected rocket-launching sites in n. Gaza, killing **2 Hamas mbrs.**, **1 unidentified armed Palestinian**, **2 bystanders**. Across Gaza, several thousand Palestinians take part in a nonviolent march to the border with Israel to urge an end to the siege; **Hamas-affiliated security forces** block demonstrators fr. reaching the Erez crossing. After the rally, some Palestinian youths gather at Erez and throw stones toward IDF positions, burn tires; the **IDF** fires on them, wounding **2. Palestinians** fire **11 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, seriously injuring a 10-yr.-old Israeli boy in Sederot. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Nablus in a truck with Palestinian license plates, raiding a shop, firing on those inside, wounding 2 Palestinians, arresting 6 (including a 16-yr.-old boy); conducts rare arrest raids, house

searches in Jericho. (IFM, JP, NYT 2/25; NYT, WT 2/26; OCHA 2/27; PCHR 2/28)

26 FEBRUARY

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops into Hebron to search the offices of several schools, youth centers, orphanages (housing some 1,000 children) owned by the **Islamic Charitable Association (ICA)**, issuing an order declaring the ICA an illegal organization affiliated with **Hamas**, demanding that the buildings be vacated and turned over to the IDF for a 3-yr. period by 4/8, and stating that anyone remaining in the buildings will be considered to be admitting membership in Hamas and thereby subject to 5-yr. imprisonment; soldiers immediately confiscate 2 buses, a car, computers, appliances, furniture, documents; the ICA, a major philanthropic group founded in 1962 that runs many schools, nurseries, bakeries, and other services for the poor across the West Bank, denies Hamas affiliation. During the day, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., Ramallah. In East Jerusalem, the **IDF** demolishes a Palestinian **home**. Meanwhile, in s. Gaza, the **IDF** sends troops into al-Qarara, firing on residential areas, killing **1 Palestinian civilian**. (OCHA, WP 2/27; PCHR 2/28; *al-Abram Weekly* [Cairo] 4/18)

27 FEBRUARY

In the morning, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a minivan nr. Khan Yunis, assassinating **5 Hamas mbrs.** and wounding 1 allegedly responsible for the Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades' rocket program; makes air strikes on a 2d Hamas vehicle, missing it, allowing the targets to escape. Also in the morning, **IDF** troops on the Gaza border nr. al-Bureij r.c. fire on a group of Palestinian children who stray nr. the border fence, wounding 1. In response to the air strikes, **Hamas** fires **25 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, killing **1 Israeli**, wounding 2, and damaging a home and factory in Sederot. The **IDF** responds with air and artillery strikes on suspected rocket-launching sites nr. Jabaliya r.c. and Gaza City, killing **1 Islamic Jihad mbr.**, **3 Palestinian civilians** (including boys ages 12, 13), wounding 12 (including 5 children ages 8-14); fires across the border, wounding a Palestinian in al-Shuka. In response, **Palestinians** fire another **15 rockets**, causing no damage or injuries. In the evening, **IDF** warplanes drop 3 guided

missiles on Gaza's Interior Min. building (empty at the time), destroying it, killing a **6-mo.-old Palestinian baby**, wounding more than 25 Palestinians; also launch air strikes on at least 4 other sites in Gaza City and Khan Yunis suspected of manufacturing rockets, causing no reported injuries. An **Islamic Jihad mbr.** dies when a roadside bomb he is laying nr. the border fence e. of al-Bureij r.c. explodes prematurely. **Gaza municipal authorities** warn all Gazans to boil their water to prevent disease, reporting that waterworks still receiving electricity have run out of chlorine to treat sewage; Israel last allowed the import of chlorine on 1/21. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Nablus, where they ambush and fatally shoot wanted **al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB) mbr. Ibrahim Masimi** in an apparent assassination, wounding and arresting 4 AMB mbrs. and a construction worker nearby; Masimi and 2 of the wounded AMB mbrs. were among those granted amnesty by Israel in 7/07. The **IDF** also patrols in, fires on residential areas of Balata r.c., exchanging fire with local gunmen, killing **2 armed Palestinians**, wounding 2; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, and nr. Jenin, Ramallah, Tulkarm. (BBC 2/27; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 2/28; PCHR 3/6; WP 4/10)

28 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** launches **Operation Hot Winter** (also called Operation Warm Winter) targeting Gaza's "terrorist infrastructure," making more than 20 air strikes, mostly on n. and c. Gaza, killing **20 Palestinians** (including at least 2 unarmed adults and 5 children, including 4 boys ages 8-14 playing soccer in Jabaliya town), wounding more than 50 (including at least 14 children, 5 women). One of the air strikes targets a Hamas-affiliated police post nr. the home of **Hamas's Ismail Haniyeh** in Shati' r.c., killing 2 police officers. Another levels the labor syndicate headquarters in Gaza City. The **IDF** and **Gaza militants** also continue to trade heavy fire across the border, with Palestinians firing at least 31 **rockets** and 15 **mortars**, injuring 2 Israelis. Israel alleges that the rockets include 8 Grads fired by **Hamas**, 2 of which hit a house and cemetery in Ashqelon; none causes injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires on Palestinians in Salfit holding a nonviolent protest against the IDF attacks on Gaza, wounding 2; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr.

Bethlehem, Hebron. (BBC, *al-Dustur* [Amman], REU 2/28; NYT, WP, WT 2/29; PCHR 3/6)

29 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** continues Operation Hot Winter with air strikes on n. and c. Gaza (targeting alleged weapons stores and factories) and gunfire across the border into n. Gaza. **Senior Hamas cmdr. Eyad al-Ashram** (assassinated in Jabaliya) and **2 Palestinian civilians** (including 1 child) are killed and around 45 Palestinians (including 10 children, 5 women) are wounded. **Palestinians** fire **13 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting a house, lightly injuring 1 Israeli; 1 rocket lands inside Gaza, hitting a home, killing a **3-yr.-old Palestinian boy** and wounding 2 other children. Five Palestinians are wounded when a rocket they are preparing to launch into Israel explodes prematurely. A **Palestinian** wounded in Israeli attacks on 2/28 dies. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem; 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 (10s suffer from tear gas inhalation). **Hamas-affiliated police** break into a **Fatah-affiliated youth club** in Nussayrat r.c., confiscating documents and furniture. (BBC, WP, YA 2/29; NYT, WP 3/1; PCHR 3/6)

1 MARCH

The **IDF** intensifies Operation Hot Winter overnight, sending large numbers of ground troops into the Jabaliya area, Bayt Hanun, Gaza City, marking Israel's largest ground incursion into n. Gaza since 2005. As Palestinians across the Strip hunker down in their homes, IDF troops accompanied by tanks, helicopters, warplanes conduct house-to-house searches for weapons in the Jabaliya area, clashing with local gunmen, occupying homes as staging areas, directing tank fire at residential and commercial buildings, rounding up 10s of Palestinians for questioning, bulldozing electricity and telephone cables. The IDF also continues intensive air strikes across Gaza, destroying a mosque frequented by Hamas security forces and the Gaza City home of an Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades cmdr. (he survives, but 6 family mbrs. are killed), as well as alleged weapons

stores and several police stations. At least **62 Palestinians** (29 civilians, including at least 15 children, 7 women; 25 militants; 8 Hamas-affiliated police officers) are killed and at least 175 wounded (including 44 children, 6 women, 1 paramedic) during the day, marking the Palestinians' highest 1-day toll since the outbreak of the al-Aqsa intifada in 2000; **2 IDF soldiers** are also killed and 7 injured in the heavy fighting, some of them by roadside bombs planted by the Palestinian factions in anticipation of an incursion. **Palestinians** fire around **24 rockets** into Israel (the IDF claims 7 are Grad rockets fired by **Hamas**), lightly wounding 6 Israelis (including a woman, 2 children) nr. Ashqelon. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Bayt Jala nr. Bethlehem, firing tear gas at the local PA police headquarters for no apparent reason; fires on Palestinians nr. Hebron demonstrating against Operation Hot Winter, wounding 1 with live ammunition; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. Also nr. Hebron, a Palestinian teenager is injured when an explosive device he attempts to throw at an IDF observation tower explodes prematurely. (NYT, WP, WT 3/2; PCHR 3/6)

2 MARCH

Abbas suspends peace talks with **Israel** to protest Operation Hot Winter. Overnight, the **IDF** makes air strikes destroying **Haniyeh's** vacant office in Gaza City and Change and Reform offices in Khan Yunis. During the day, **IDF** assaults kill at least **21 Palestinians** (including at least 7 civilians, including 3 children; 5 militants; 2 Hamas-affiliated policemen); 4 IDF soldiers are wounded. **Palestinians** fire about **33 rockets** (3 of them Grads, according to the IDF) fr. Gaza into Israel, causing damage but no injuries. **Egypt** opens its border to allow transportation of wounded Palestinians to Egyptian hospitals, but Palestinian hospitals report that many patients are too badly injured to be moved. Late in the evening (9:00 P.M. EST; 4:00 A.M. on 3/3 local time), the IDF withdraws ground troops fr. the Jabaliya area, substantially reducing the scope of Operation Hot Winter. Meanwhile, across the West Bank, **1,000s of Palestinians** protest the Israeli strikes on Gaza (in Ramallah, 100s of Palestinians waving Hamas banners rally outside the Muqata'a). The **IDF** fires on 3 protests nr. Hebron, killing a **14-yr.-old Palestinian** and wounding a total of 16 Palestinians

(including 10 teenagers); patrols in, fires on residential areas of Hijja nr. Qalqilya, seriously wounding 1 Palestinian; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in Nablus, nr. Jenin. (WP 3/2; HA, NYT, WP, WT 3/3; PCHR 3/6)

3 MARCH

Overnight, the **IDF** makes several air strikes on Gaza, killing **5 Hamas mbrs.** before withdrawing ground troops fr. Gaza in the morning, stating that it is suspending **Operation Hot Winter** during **U.S. Secy. of State Condoleezza Rice's** upcoming 3/4-5 visit. The toll for the 5-day operation is at least 110 Palestinians (half of them civilians, including at least 24 children; Hamas says it lost 37 mbrs.; Islamic Jihad and the PRCs say they lost 15) and 3 Israelis dead (1 civilian inside Israel, 2 IDF soldiers in Gaza), and nearly 400 Palestinians injured (most of them civilians). In addition, **21 Palestinian homes** were destroyed (leaving 147 Gazans homeless) and 88 heavily damaged (affecting 616 Gazans), 90 dunams (d.; 4 d. = 1 acre) of agricultural land was bulldozed, and 80 Palestinians were detained for questioning (at least 5 were remanded to Israel). Palestinians fired more than 200 **rockets** (allegedly including 21 Grads). The **IDF**, however, makes more air strikes during the day, killing another **3 Palestinians** (at least 2 of them civilians, including a child), destroying the Palestinian Council (PC) headquarters in Gaza City. **Palestinians** fire 18 **rockets** (allegedly including 1 Grad) into Israel, causing damage but no injuries; 1 rocket lands inside Gaza, hitting a home, wounding 2 Palestinians. In the West Bank, **1,000s of Palestinians** demonstrate against Operation Hot Winter; a **Jewish settler** fr. Talmon B settlement nr. Ramallah fires on demonstrators in nearby al-Mazra'a, killing a **Palestinian teenager**; **IDF** soldiers fire on another protest nr. Hebron, wounding 2 Palestinians. The **IDF** also exchanges fire with Palestinian gunmen nr. Bethlehem, wounding 3; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Nablus. (BBC, NYT, PCHR, REU, WP 3/3; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/4; PCHR 3/6; OCHA 4/18)

4 MARCH

Overnight, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a suspected rocket-launching site in n. Gaza, killing **1 Palestinian**. During the day,

the **IDF** makes a 2d air strike, killing another **Palestinian**; briefly sends 25 armored vehicles into Wadi al-Silqa in c. Gaza to surround the home of **senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Yusuf Samiri**, who flees and is killed in an exchange of fire with troops; troops also fire on Samiri's home, killing a **Palestinian infant**, wounding 4 Palestinians (including a woman and child). The **IDF** also sends tanks and bulldozers into s. Gaza to level land nr. the Rafah airport site, firing on surrounding areas, causing no reported injuries. **Palestinians** fire 8 **rockets** and **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing damage but no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** searches PA Education Min. offices in Nablus; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., in Qalqilya, nr. Hebron. Inside Israel, **Israeli Palestinians** in Umm al-Fahm protest Operation Hot Winter. (WT 3/4; NYT, WP, WT 3/5; PCHR 3/6)

5 MARCH

Israel sends troops to the unauthorized settlement outpost of Esh Kodesh e. of Ramallah to disconnect a water pipe, highlighting the move as evidence that it is taking steps against outposts as requested by the **U.S.**; within hours, settlers reconnect the pipe and restore water service. Also in the West Bank, the **IDF** fires on Palestinians in Bil'in demonstrating against Operation Hot Winter, wounding 1; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c. (a **72-yr.-old Palestinian woman** dies of a heart attack when soldiers raid her home), nr. Jenin. **Unidentified gunmen** fire on a car with Israeli license plates nr. Hebron, killing a **Palestinian** man, wounding an Israeli civilian. In Gaza, **Islamic Jihad** and the **PFLP** fire 2 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. (NYT, PCHR 3/6; OCHA 3/12; PCHR 3/13)

6 MARCH

Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Sulayman secures a pledge by **Hamas, Islamic Jihad** to suspend rocket fire fr. Gaza unilaterally while he works to obtain a more formal bilateral cease-fire agmt. with **Israel**. In Jerusalem, an armed **Palestinian** enters the library of Mercuz Harav, Israel's leading Zionist yeshiva and the ideological home of the far-right religious settler movement, and opens fire on students with an AK-47, killing **8 Israelis** and wounding 9 before an IDF soldier and 2 undercover

policemen enter the building and shoot him dead; Israeli security officials identify the attacker as a bus driver for the school and an East Jerusalem resident who apparently acted alone. Israeli police later raid Jabal Mukabir neighborhood, detaining 9 Palestinians for questioning. In Gaza, **Islamic Jihad**, **Hamas** mbrs. ambush an IDF patrol that enters Gaza through the Kissufim crossing, detonating a roadside bomb and firing on the vehicle, killing **1 IDF soldier**, wounding at least 1. In response, the **IDF** shells an Islamic Jihad site nr. al-Qarara, killing **3 Islamic Jihad mbrs.**; makes an air strike on an Islamic Jihad rocket-launching site nr. Dayr al-Balah, killing **1 Islamic Jihad mbr.** A **5th Islamic Jihad mbr.** is killed when a rocket he is preparing to fire into Israel explodes prematurely. The **IDF** also bulldozes land inside the Gaza border fence e. of al-Qarara. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishermen off the Rafah coast, heavily damaging 1 boat, causing no injuries. **Palestinians** fire 7 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, damaging 2 houses, lightly injuring 1 Israeli. **Egypt** begins replacing some stretches of barbed wire along the Rafah border with a 10-ft.-high stone and concrete wall. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes the Bethlehem **home** of a wanted Palestinian; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm r.c., nr. Jenin (raiding and sealing al-Majd TV and al-Salam Press offices for allegedly aiding Islamic Jihad), Salfit. (HA, IFM 3/6; AP, HA, NYT, WP, WT 3/7; NYT, WP 3/8; OCHA 3/12; PCHR 3/13)

7 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes **3 Palestinian homes** nr. Qalqilya; 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 (10s suffer from tear gas inhalation). **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar nr. Nablus throw stones at the car of **PC mbr. Siham Thabit** as she drives nearby, lightly injuring her. (OCHA 3/12; PCHR 3/13)

8 MARCH

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border shoot, wound a mentally handicapped Palestinian who strays nr. the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya. The **IDF** also bulldozes land inside the Gaza border fence e. of al-Maghazi r.c.

The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the s. Gaza coast, seriously wounding 1 fisherman. **Egyptian border police** discover, demolish 6 smuggling tunnels along the Rafah border. (OCHA 3/12; PCHR 3/13)

9 MARCH

Israel announces plans to build 750 new houses in East Jerusalem's Pisgat Ze'ev settlement and 350 homes in Givat Ze'ev settlement just n. of Jerusalem, stating that the construction "is consistent with our long-standing position that building within the large settlement blocs, which will stay part of Israel in any final status agreement." **Israel's Jerusalem Municipality** approves construction of a new settlement neighborhood of 400 housing units in the Nabi Yaqub neighborhood n. of East Jerusalem. The **Israeli DMin.** reaches a deal with **Jewish settler leaders** for the removal of several unauthorized settlement outposts in exchange for approval of new construction in approved settlements. **Jewish settlers** fr. Hebron rally in East Jerusalem, calling for revenge against Palestinians for the 3/6 Mercuz Harav attack and threatening to raid Jabal Mukabir, where the gunman lived; **Israeli police** intervene to prevent a rampage. Meanwhile, the **IDF** raids a Palestinian elementary school in Hawara, nr. Nablus, while classes are in session, claiming that students threw stones at an IDF patrol; raids the PA civil defense headquarters in Ramallah, arresting an **AMB** mbr. staying there overnight as part of the 7/07 amnesty deal btwn. Israel and the AMB; conducts late-night arrest raids in and around Bethlehem, in Nablus town and r.c., nr. Tulkarm. An **IDF soldier** dies of injuries sustained in a 3/6 roadside bombing inside Gaza. (NYT, WT 3/10; OCHA 3/12; PCHR 3/13)

10 MARCH

As a unilateral Palestinian cease-fire seems to hold in Gaza (see 3/6), Israeli PM **Olmert** publicly states that if Palestinian rocket fire resumes "we will shoot. If it will not, we will have no reason to shoot." **IDF** troops on the Gaza border fire on agricultural areas nr. Abasan nr. Khan Yunis, wounding a Palestinian farmer tending his field. In the West Bank, the **IDF** occupies a Palestinian home in Marda nr. Nablus as an observation post; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus.

A **Palestinian civilian** wounded in a 3/1 IDF air strike on Gaza City during Operation Hot Winter dies. (NYT, WP 3/11; OCHA 3/12; NYT, PCHR 3/13)

11 MARCH

The **PFLP** fires a rocket (the IDF alleges a Grad) fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting nr. Ashqelon, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes 4 **Palestinian homes** (displacing 31 Palestinians) nr. Tubas, another 4 **homes** in Bayt Dajan in the Jordan Valley (also displacing 31 Palestinians), 2 bedouin tents nr. Hebron, and 2 shops in Qalqilya; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Abu Dis and Jabal Mukabir nr. Jerusalem, Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, Qalqilya (firing on residential areas, wounding 7 Palestinians, including a woman and 5 children), and Qabatya, as well as nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, Nablus. (IFM, NYT, OCHA 3/12; PCHR 3/13)

12 MARCH

Hamas's **Haniyeh** publicly offers **Israel** a comprehensive cease-fire deal covering the West Bank and Gaza in exchange for a lifting of the siege of Gaza and a halt to all Israeli "assassinations, killings, and raids." The **Israeli government** does not officially reply, but hrs. later in the West Bank, **IDF** undercover units in Bethlehem ambush, assassinate **Islamic Jihad's Bethlehem cmdr. Muhammad Shihada, senior AMB mbr. Ahmad Balbul**, and 2 **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** driving with them. The **IDF** also sends troops into Sa'ida village nr. Tulkarm in search of **Islamic Jihad's Tulkarm cmdr. Salih Karouir**, wounding him in an exchange of fire and then shooting him in the head execution style. In an "initial response," **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. in Gaza resume **rocket** fire into Israel, damaging 1 building. The **IDF** also conducts house searches nr. Hebron, firing on stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them, wounding 2; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, Nablus, Tulkarm, as well as in Qabatya, Qalqilya, and nr. Bethlehem, Jenin. In Gaza, 1 **Palestinian** is killed, 5 are injured when a smuggling tunnel they are renovating collapses; 1 **Palestinian** is killed when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely. (BBC, IFM 3/12; NYT, PCHR, WT 3/13; OCHA, PCHR 3/19)

13 MARCH

The **IDF** resumes air strikes on rocket-launching sites in Gaza, citing the need to respond to 15 rockets, 10 mortars fired by **Islamic Jihad** fr. Gaza into Israel (causing light damage but no injuries) since the **IDF** assassinations on 3/12. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts daytime arrest raids, house searches in and around Qalqilya and in Tulkarm and neighboring Nur al-Shams r.c.; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin. In Bethlehem, **1,000s of Palestinians** from all factions observe a general strike and attend the funeral for 4 **Islamic Jihad** and **AMB** mbrs. assassinated on 3/12 in a massive show of unity and protest against Israel's ongoing attacks since the 11/07 Annapolis conference. A **Palestinian** shepherd is critically injured when he accidentally triggers **IDF** UXO nr. Jericho. **Jewish settlers** fr. Beit Hadasah in Hebron attack a Palestinian elementary school, demolishing a wall and several structures for the ongoing expansion of the school, attempt to occupy the school, beat a Palestinian security guard; the **IDF** removes the settlers. **Israel's Jerusalem Planning Comm.** gives preliminary approval for construction of **2,200 Jewish settler housing units** in Givat Hamatos in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Bayt Safafa. In al-Bureij r.c., **unidentified assailants** kidnap an **Islamic Jihad** mbr. (BBC 3/13; NYT 3/14; OCHA, PCHR 3/19)

14 MARCH

In n. Gaza, **Palestinian** machine-gun fire hits an **IDF** helicopter, causing damage but no injuries, marking the 1st time an Israeli aircraft has been hit by Palestinian fire. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Tubas, wounding 1 Palestinian; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Qabatya, 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 2). (ITV, YA 3/14; NYT 3/15; OCHA, PCHR 3/19)

15 MARCH

The **IDF** shells a rocket-launching site in Gaza City and makes an air strike on a 2d rocket-launching site nr. Bayt Lahiya, killing

3 Islamic Jihad mbrs., wounding at least 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs. and 2 civilians; bulldozes land along the border fence e. of al-Maghazi r.c. **Palestinians** fire 3 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem, nr. Qalqilya. Overnight, in Jerusalem, Israeli authorities hand the body of the 3/6 Mercuz Harav attacker over to his family in Jabal Mukabir for a predawn burial, hoping to prevent clashes surrounding his burial. When news breaks, however, **10s of right-wing Jewish settlers** storm Jabal Mukabir, evading police barricades, clashing with riot police, throwing stones at Palestinian homes on the rim of the neighborhood. Nearby, **100s of right-wing Jewish settlers** hold a protest rally demanding the expulsion of Palestinian citizens of Israel, scuffle with police. In total, 20 protesters are arrested; 1 protester, 1 policeman are injured. (WT 3/16; OCHA, PCHR 3/19)

16 MARCH

In Gaza, the **IDF** bulldozes land on the Palestinian side of the Qarni industrial zone. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., and nr. Hebron, Nablus. An **Islamic Jihad mbr.** wounded in an air strike on a rocket-launching site nr. Bayt Lahiya on 3/15 dies. (OCHA, PCHR 3/19)

17 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jericho; in and around Jenin, Nablus, Qalqilya; nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Tulkarm. The **IDF** also raids a clinic and 2 community centers in al-Fara'a r.c. nr. Tubas, confiscating computers. **Jewish settlers** fr. Shilo nr. Ramallah uproot, burn 200 Palestinian olive trees. (OCHA, PCHR 3/19)

18 MARCH

The **IDF** makes an air strike on Bayt Lahiya in a failed attempt to assassinate **Islamic Jihad mbrs. Ihab Abu Jarad, Nidal Shaqura, and Muhammad al-Za'nin** as they walk in a crowded residential area, wounding the 3, as well as 6 bystanders, including 2 children and a mentally disabled person; bulldozes land on the Palestinian side of the Qarni industrial zone (for a 2d day), nr. the border fence e. of Dayr al-Balah.

Late at night, the **IDF** sends troops into Bayt Hanun, raiding a home and arresting 7 mbrs. of a Palestinian family. An **IDF** special forces unit attempts an incursion into al-Bureij r.c. but is forced to retreat by Palestinian gunmen firing machine guns and mortars; no injuries are reported. **Egyptian border police** find separate caches of 40 landmines, 500 kg of explosives nr. the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Bethlehem and Jenin town and r.c., and nr. Hebron, Tubas, Tulkarm. (OCHA, PCHR 3/19; PCHR 3/27)

19 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes a large area of Palestinian land southwest of Hebron for construction of a settlers-only bypass road; bulldozes 7 **Palestinian homes** nr. Hebron, 5 nr. Jerusalem (built without permits), 1 nr. Jenin (located nr. the **separation wall**); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Jenin r.c. and Qabatya, and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. **Jewish settlers** vandalize a Palestinian home nr. Nablus; the **IDF** intervenes to remove them. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received in an earlier **IDF** air strike on Gaza. (OCHA 3/26; PCHR 3/27)

20 MARCH

IDF troops on the Gaza border fire on agricultural areas along the border nr. al-Qarara, killing a **Palestinian farmer**; bulldoze land on the Palestinian side of the Qarni crossing. On the Rafah border, 2 smuggling tunnels collapse, killing 1 **Palestinian**, injuring 3. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 5 **Palestinian homes** in 3 villages s. of Hebron to build a settlers-only bypass road and possibly to expand Susia settlement; patrols in al-Bireh and Ramallah, spot-checking Palestinian IDs; enters Beita nr. Nablus, imposes a curfew, fires on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, wounding and arresting 1 Palestinian, arresting a 2d; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, Jenin town and r.c., Nablus. (OCHA 3/26; PCHR 3/27)

21 MARCH

In Gaza, **IDF** bulldozes land on the Palestinian side of the Qarni crossing, along the border fence e. of al-Maghazi r.c. A smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border collapses, killing

2 Palestinians. In the West Bank, the **IDF** 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). **Jewish settlers** celebrating Purim in Hebron vandalize a Palestinian school, other property and attack local Palestinians; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (OCHA 3/26; PCHR 3/27)

22 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** enters Azun nr. Qalqilya, imposes a curfew, fires on residential areas (wounding 1 Palestinian), searching several homes but making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c. (breaking into the offices of an Islamic charity, confiscating a computer, documents), nr. Nablus. For a 2d day, **Jewish settlers** in Hebron vandalize Palestinian property and attack local Palestinians; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (OCHA 3/26; PCHR 3/27)

23 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts daytime arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin and late-night raids, searches in and around Tubas, in 'Aqbat Jabir r.c. and 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho. For a 3d day, **Jewish settlers** in Hebron vandalize Palestinian property and attack local Palestinians; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene; 3 Palestinians have been injured since 3/21. **Jewish settlers** fr. Eli nr. Nablus kidnap 2 Palestinian boys herding sheep nr. the settlement, release them hrs. later after **PA security forces** request **IDF** intervention. **Jewish settlers** in Efrat nr. Bethlehem begin construction of 3 apartment buildings (54 units). In Khan Yunis, **Hamas** officials dismiss the **Fatah**-affiliated admin. officer at the College of Science and Technology and name a pro-Hamas officer to replace him, sparking a fight with local Fatah supporters; police intervene to disperse the crowd, with no injuries reported; classes are suspended until the issue can be resolved btwn. Hamas and Fatah. **Islamic Jihad mbr. Nidal Shaqqura**, wounded in an **IDF** assassination attempt on 3/18, dies of his injuries. (OCHA 3/26; PCHR 3/27)

24 MARCH

IDF troops enter Gaza to level lands nr. the border fence nr. al-Qarara, fire on nearby residential areas, killing a **60-yr.-old Palestinian** outside his home. **IDF** troops on the c. Gaza border fire on residential areas nr. Wadi al-Silqa, wounding a 4-yr.-old Palestinian boy playing outside his home. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Qabatya and in and around Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus. (OCHA 3/26; PCHR 3/27)

25 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Hebron; conducts daytime arrest raids, house searches, ID spot-checks in Qiffin nr. Tulkarm; fires on 2 Palestinian teenagers attempting to bypass the Hawara checkpoint nr. Nablus, seriously wounding 1, arresting both; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem, Jenin, Qalqilya and nr. Hebron, Ramallah, Tulkarm. (OCHA 3/26; PCHR 3/27)

26 MARCH

In Gaza, **IDF** troops enter al-Qarara, bulldoze 4 **Palestinian homes**, animal pens, 93 d. of agricultural land; also bulldoze areas along the separation wall e. of al-Bureij, al-Maghazi. **Palestinians** fire at least 1 **rocket** fr. Gaza toward Israel that lands inside Gaza, hitting a home, seriously injuring 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Ramallah, nr. Bethlehem and Tulkarm, in Hebron, Jenin town and r.c., Nablus. **Unidentified gunmen** shoot, wound a **Hamas**-affiliated police officer in Dayr al-Balah. In Gaza City, **5,000 NGO reps. and citizens** rally to call on the factions to implement a national unity government. (PCHR 3/27; OCHA 4/2; PCHR 4/3)

27 MARCH

In Gaza, the **IDF** sends troops into al-Qarara, where they exchange fire with local gunmen, killing 1 **armed Palestinian**, wounding 2. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends an undercover unit into Tulkarm r.c., to raid a café in search of a wanted Palestinian, but withdraws without finding him; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Azariyya e. of Jerusalem.

A **Jewish settler woman** fr. Taffuh settlement nr. Qalqilya beats a Palestinian woman waiting at a bus stop nr. the settlement. **Jewish settlers** fr. Havat Ma'on nr. Hebron fire on a Palestinian shepherd and sheep nearby, injuring 2 sheep. In Hebron, **Palestinian Polytechnic University** suspends classes after a dispute on the student council sparks unarmed clashes btwn. **Fatah** and **PFLP** student groups. (OCHA 4/2; PCHR 4/3)

28 MARCH

IDF troops inside Israel fatally shoot an **armed Palestinian** who approaches the s. Gaza border. The **IDF** also bulldozes 5 d. of Palestinian land inside the border fence nr. Wadi al-Silqa; later conducts arrest raids, house searches in Wadi al-Silqa, detaining 3 Palestinians. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches in and around Nablus but makes no arrests; 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 8, including 3 children). **Jewish settlers** fr. Efrat uproot 100 Palestinian olive trees to make way for new construction begun on 3/23. **Palestinians** stone Jewish settler vehicles nr. Ramallah, causing no injuries. In n. Gaza, **50,000 Hamas**, **Islamic Jihad**, and **Fatah al-Yasir** (an AMB offshoot) supporters hold a peaceful demonstration calling on the Arab League summit assembling in Damascus to find a way to break Israel's siege of Gaza (see Quarterly Update). In Jabaliya r.c., **2,000 Palestinians** attend a rally organized by **Islamic Jihad** to call on **Fatah** and **Hamas** to form a unity government. (OCHA 4/2; PCHR 4/3)

29 MARCH

In Gaza, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a group of armed Palestinians nr. Jabaliya r.c., killing **2 Palestinian resistance mbrs.**, wounding 2; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches (using dogs) in Wadi al-Silqa. **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire on agricultural areas nr. Khuza e. of Khan Yunis, wounding a Palestinian farmer working his field. In the West Bank, the **IDF** surrounds a girls' orphanage in Hebron for 40 mins., withdraws without making arrests (see 2/26); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Amari r.c. nr. Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Elkana nr. Salfit vandalize

a Palestinian home nr. the settlement (the family has been attacked 10s of times by Elkana settlers trying to force them to leave the area). (OCHA 4/2; PCHR 4/3)

30 MARCH

In Gaza, a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border collapses, injuring 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., Nablus and nr. Hebron, Ramallah; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinians conducting a non-violent march fr. Dayr Qaddas nr. Ramallah to the **separation wall** to mark Land Day (wounding 1). **Palestinians** throw stones at Jewish settler vehicles nr. Jerusalem and Ramallah, causing no injuries. (OCHA 4/2; PCHR 4/3)

31 MARCH

In Gaza, **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dayr al-Balah, exchanging fire with local gunmen, killing **2 armed Palestinians**, wounding a 3d, arresting 14 Palestinians; helicopter gunships fire on agricultural areas nr. Khuza; later, the **IDF** sends bulldozers into the area to level 193 d. of cropland, also destroying an irrigation network, 200 beehives. The UN reports that in 3/08, at least **4 ailing Palestinians** died as a direct result of Israel's closure on Gaza barring access to adequate medical treatment. In the West Bank, the **IDF** arrests 4 Palestinian teenagers (ages 13-17) who stray nr. the **separation wall** nr. Tulkarm; raids a construction site in Marda nr. Salfit, checking workers' IDs but making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c. (including raiding an Islamic charity, confiscating a computer and documents). **Israel's Jerusalem Planning Comm.** gives preliminary approval for construction of 600 new Jewish settler housing units in Pisgat Ze'ev settlement. **Jewish settlers** fr. Rachel settlement nr. Nablus beat an 80-yr.-old Palestinian farmer working his nearby land. A **15-yr.-old Jewish settler** fr. Shiloh settlement nr. Hebron fatally shoots a **Palestinian** who approaches him at a bus stop outside the settlement; says the Palestinian was acting suspiciously, carrying a knife. At Gaza's al-Azhar University, pro-**Fatah** students beat a group of pro-**Hamas** students rallying to mark the 4th anniversary of Israel's assassination of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin; Hamas-affiliated

police intervene, using clubs to break up the fights, injuring several students. (NYT 4/1; OCHA 4/2; PCHR 4/3; OCHA 4/18)

1 APRIL

The **IDF** sends troops into c. Gaza, where they clash with local gunmen, killing **2 Hamas mbrs.**; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Hanun. **Palestinians** fire **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, wounding 2 Israelis. In Dayr al-Balah, a Palestinian is injured when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids in Jenin town and r.c. (firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 1) and Ramallah, in and around Nablus and Tulkarm, and nr. Bethlehem. Lawyers secure a 7-day freeze on **IDF** closure orders issued on 2/26 against **ICA** properties in Hebron. (NYT, OCHA 4/2; PCHR 4/3)

2 APRIL

In Gaza, the **IDF** bulldozes 24 d. of olive groves and a small Gaza police outpost nr. al-Maghazi r.c. **Egyptian border police** discover, demolish a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Anata nr. Jerusalem; occupies a Palestinian home nr. Jenin as a military outpost; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm and in al-Bireh (raiding and searching the municipal building, rounding up 2 municipal employees fr. their homes and bringing them to the offices to log onto password-protected computers), Ramallah (raiding the chamber of commerce offices), Jericho. The **Israeli Housing Min.** presents **Olmert** with a proposal for construction of 1,900 new Jewish settler housing units across the West Bank in 2008: 682 units in Beitar Ilit nr. Bethlehem, 510 units in Givat Ze'ev n. of Jerusalem, 302 units in Ma'ale Adumim e. of Jerusalem, 160 units in Binyamin settlement n. of Jerusalem, 158 units in Efrat nr. Bethlehem, and 48 units each in Ariel nr. Salfit and Kiryat Arba in Hebron. **Palestinians** throw stones at Jewish settler vehicles nr. Nablus; the **settlers** respond by shooting, killing 3 Palestinian sheep nearby. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim nr. Qalqilya stone Palestinian vehicles driving nearby, causing no reported injuries. **PA security forces** impose a night curfew on Kafr Thuluth nr. Qalqilya to prevent clashes btwn. feuding

families (the curfew is still in place as of 4/8). (PCHR 4/3; OCHA, PCHR 4/9)

3 APRIL

Israel says it has completed removal of 50 West Bank roadblocks, as pledged to Secy. Rice on 3/30 during her visit; the **PA** says it has seen no changes and asks the **State Dept.** to verify (see Quarterly Update). Meanwhile, in Gaza, the **IDF** sends troops into al-Qarara, where they clash with **Islamic Jihad** gunmen, wounding 4 Islamic Jihad mbrs., 2 civilians, reportedly using several Palestinians as human shields, bulldozing 58 d. of crop land and olive trees. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires on residential areas, demolishes a monument to Yasir Arafat in Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; patrols in Hebron (shooting, wounding 1 Palestinian who allegedly tries to seize a gun fr. a soldier); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin. A **Jewish settler** driving nr. Nablus injures a Palestinian in a deliberate hit and run. **Jewish settlers** nr. Nablus break into a Palestinian nursery, steal irrigation pipes, vandalize a car. (WT 4/4; OCHA, PCHR 4/9)

4 APRIL

Palestinian gunmen in n. Gaza shoot across the border at an Israeli government delegation leading a Canadian group on a tour of Sederot, seriously wounding an aide to Israel's Public Security M Avi Dichter; the **IDF** returns fire, causing no reported injuries; several Palestinian groups claim responsibility including the AMB, Hamas, and 2 little-known Islamist groups: the Army of the Nation, and Protectors of the Homeland (which claims to be inspired by al-Qa'ida). Separately, the **IDF** sends troops into al-Bureij r.c., where they clash with local gunmen (wounding a Palestinian girl inside her home), shell a Palestinian home (causing extensive damage but no injuries), arrest 1 Palestinian, temporarily detain 2 children (ages 12, 17); bulldozes 40 d. of citrus trees inside the Gaza border e. of Bayt Hanun. In al-Qarara, 2 Palestinians are injured when explosives they are handling detonate prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** 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 (10s suffer tear gas inhalation), beat Palestinian demonstrators

at a similar demonstration in al-Masa'ra nr. Bethlehem (injuring 2 children, ages 6 and 7). In Nablus, **12 AMB mbrs.** who had agreed to remain in PA custody overnight as part of a 7/07 amnesty deal with Israel flee Jnaid prison, claiming they were severely beaten by **PA security forces**; they refuse to return to the jail but pledge to respect the cease-fire. (HA 4/4; NYT, WP, WT 4/5; OCHA, PCHR 4/9)

5 APRIL

In Gaza, the **IDF** fires on a mortar-launching site e. of Jabaliya, causing no injuries; later directs tank and machine-gun fire on farmers who arrive to work fields in the same area, killing **1 Palestinian farmer**, wounding a 2d. Nr. al-Qarara, 2 Palestinian children (ages 14, 17) are seriously injured when they accidentally trigger IDF UXO. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem. (OCHA, PCHR 4/9)

6 APRIL

In Gaza, the **IDF** sends troops into al-Bureij r.c., fires 6 tank shells at a Palestinian home, destroying the 2d floor but causing no reported injuries (cf. 4/4). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Qalqilya, nr. Bethlehem. (OCHA, PCHR 4/9)

7 APRIL

Under U.S. pressure, **Abbas** meets with **Olmert** for the 1st time since he suspended final status talks on 3/2 to protest Operation Hot Winter; pledges to continue negotiations "without interruption." The last Abbas-Olmert mtg. was on 2/19. (NYT 4/8) (See Quarterly Update.)

In Gaza, the **IDF** bulldozes 17 d. of Palestinian agricultural land inside the Gaza border e. of Bayt Hanun. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Jenin town and r.c., and nr. Hebron. A **Jewish settler** fr. Elon Moreh driving a bus nr. Nablus deliberately runs down a **15-yr.-old Palestinian shepherd**, killing the boy, his donkey, 8 sheep. Citing **Abbas's** failure to achieve any gains to date for the Palestinians, **AMB Jenin cmdr. Zakariya Zubaydi** and **several other AMB mbrs.** say they will no longer agree to stay in PA custody overnight as they agreed in 7/07 to receive amnesty

from Israel; **Zubaydi** does not threaten to resume resistance operations. (HA, WT 4/8; OCHA, PCHR 4/9)

8 APRIL

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops into Gaza City, arresting 3 Palestinians; expands the incursion in the morning, firing artillery shells at a car carrying resistance mbrs. (killing **1 armed Palestinian**, wounding 1), and bulldozing a mosque, 3 stores, a transmission tower, 10 d. of olive groves, a bird farm (killing 1,500 birds), several smaller animal pens, 85 beehives before withdrawing in the evening. The **IDF** also fires on, arrests a Palestinian farmer working his land nr. the border fence e. of Khan Yunis; makes a late-night incursion into Khan Yunis, where troops clash with local gunmen, leaving **1 IDF soldier, 1 Hamas mbr.** dead and arresting 5 Palestinians (including a child). **Palestinians** fire 3 rockets, 32 mortars fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Jenin town and r.c. and Qalqilya (also raiding, sealing an Islamic charity, library, supermarket, and press; searching al-Quds Open University), and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Tulkarm. (IFM 4/8; OCHA, PCHR 4/9; NYT, WP 4/10)

9 APRIL

Four Palestinian gunmen representing **Islamic Jihad**, the **PRCs**, and the **Mujahidin Brigades** (an **AMB** offshoot) raid the Nahal Oz fuel depot on the Gaza-Israel border under cover of mortar fire, killing 2 **Israeli civilian workers; IDF soldiers** on site return fire, killing **2 gunmen**; 2 escape back into Gaza. The **IDF** retaliates with air strikes and artillery fire, killing a **3d Palestinian gunman, 4 Palestinian civilians**, wounding 2 armed Palestinians, 6 civilians (including 2 children), demolishing a **Palestinian home**. **Israel** also closes Nahal Oz until it reviews security procedures (Gaza's electricity plant has enough fuel to last until 4/13). In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Bayt Hanina in East Jerusalem, displacing 7 Palestinians (including 5 children); patrols in Bayt Rima nr. Ramallah, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 1; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and Nablus, in Qalqilya and Tubas, and nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm, nr.

Salfit. **Jewish settlers** stone a Palestinian family nr. Ramallah, injuring 2 women. **Jewish settlers** fr. Brakha nr. Nablus uproot Palestinian olive trees, vandalize a Palestinian home nearby. (AP, BBC, HA, IFM, *Ma'ariv* [Tel Aviv], REU, YA 4/9; NYT, WP, WT 4/10; WP 4/11; OCHA 3/16; PCHR 4/17)

10 APRIL

In Gaza, the **IDF** makes 2 air strikes on Khuza, killing 2 **armed Palestinians**. An Islamic Jihad mbr. is injured when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** seals a sewing factory in Hebron associated with the **ICA** (see 2/26); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., and nr. Hebron (firing on stone-throwing youths in Taffuh, wounding 4 ages 13–16), Ramallah, Tulkarm. (OCHA 3/16; PCHR 4/17)

11 APRIL

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops and tanks into Gaza's al-Bureij r.c. for a daylong operation, firing on residential areas, searching homes (reportedly using Palestinians as human shields), and clashing with local resistance mbrs. (making at least 1 air strike), killing 7 **Palestinians** (6 of them civilians, including boys ages 12, 15), wounding 27 (including at least 18 civilians, 2 gunmen), detaining 20, and bulldozing 3 **Palestinian homes**, 30 d. of agricultural land. The **IDF** also conducts air strikes on Khan Yunis, killing 3 **Hamas mbrs.** In refugee camps across Gaza, **1,000s of Palestinians** take part in peaceful rallies organized by **Hamas**, calling on Israel to end the siege. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Qabatya and nr. Hebron, 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 (10s suffer tear gas inhalation) and beat Palestinian demonstrators at a similar demonstration in al-Masa'ra nr. Bethlehem (injuring 3). (NYT, WT 3/12; OCHA 3/16; PCHR 4/17)

12 APRIL

IDF troops on the c. Gaza border fire a shell into Gaza City, injuring a Palestinian teenager; bulldoze land e. of Gaza City, firing on surrounding residential areas, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the

IDF conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c. and Nablus, in Bethlehem and Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, and nr. Hebron. **Hebron University** suspends classes following unarmed clashes btwn. **Fatah**, **Hamas** student groups that leave 12 students injured; **PA security forces** surround the campus. (OCHA 3/16; PCHR 4/17)

13 APRIL

In Gaza, the **IDF** makes an air strike on the Gaza City home of **AMB cmdr. Muhammad Hijazi** in what may be a failed assassination attempt, missing the building and hitting a neighboring home, injuring a Palestinian woman; bulldozes land along the border fence e. of Dayr al-Balah, Jabaliya r.c. Also in Jabaliya r.c., 2 **Hamas mbrs.** are seriously injured, 1 **Palestinian teenager** is killed when explosives they are handling detonate prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** imposes a curfew on, patrols in Hawara nr. Nablus, withdrawing in the evening but not lifting the curfew. During the curfew, local **Jewish settlers** enter the village and vandalize Palestinian homes. The **IDF** also raids, searches the Hebron home of **PC mbr. Nayif al-Rajub** (among those Hamas-affiliated PC mbrs. detained by Israel as well as the religious affairs minister in Haniyeh's original cabinet); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., and in Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gilad nr. Qalqilya stone Palestinian cars driving past the settlement, causing damage to several but no injuries. (OCHA 3/16; PCHR 4/17)

14 APRIL

The **IDF** makes an air strike assassinating **DFLP military cmdr. Ibrahim Abu Olba** as he walks in Bayt Lahiya, wounding 2 bystanders, including a child; bulldozes land on the Palestinian side of the Nahal Oz crossing. In the West Bank, the **IDF** blocks 4 buses transporting Palestinian children home from a school outing deep in the West Bank to Azun Atma village (located between the **separation wall** and the Green Line), firing on angry parents gathered on the village side of the wall awaiting their children's return, wounding 4, arresting 2, and imposing a curfew on the village until the morning of 4/15, when the buses are allowed to pass. The **IDF** also demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Anata in East Jerusalem, displacing

10 Palestinians (including 4 children); conducts arrest raids, house searches during the day nr. Salfit and late at night in Hebron, nr. Jenin. **Jewish settlers** gather nr. the Hawara checkpoint s. of Nablus, stone Palestinian vehicles, causing no injuries; the **IDF** does not intervene. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gilad uproot 30 Palestinian almond trees in nearby al-Til. (OCHA 3/16; PCHR 4/17)

15 APRIL

Overnight in Gaza the **IDF** makes an incursion into Wadi al-Silqa, raiding and searching homes, bulldozing 4 **Palestinian homes**, exchanging fire with local gunmen, wounding 2 armed Palestinians. During the day, the **IDF** raids al-Qarara, ordering all males aged 16 and older to surrender for interrogation, arresting 5 Palestinians (including the primary target: **Abu Rish Brigades cmdr. Ala' Abu Madif**, whom Israel claims received military training in **Iran**), firing on residential areas (wounding a Palestinian father and infant), bulldozing 113 d. of agricultural land, and damaging water, electricity, and phone networks before withdrawing late at night. Late at night, the **IDF** makes an air strike assassinating **Islamic Jihad's Nussayrat cmdr. Abdallah al-Ghussayn** as he drives through Jabaliya r.c., wounding another **Islamic Jihad** mbr. with him; for no known reason makes a helicopter air strike targeting a 4th-floor apartment in a Bayt Lahiya apartment building, causing heavy damage and lightly injuring a 3-mo.-old girl. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Beth-lehem and in and around Jenin town and r.c., Nablus. A fmr. **PA intelligence officer** in c. Gaza is killed; a previously unknown group called **Country's Honor** claims responsibility. (OCHA 3/16; PCHR 4/17; IFM 5/19)

16 APRIL

Israel resumes shipments (suspended 4/9) of industrial gasoline for Gaza's power plant but continues to suspend gasoline and diesel for cars and generators. The **UNOCHA** calls the fuel supplies for the power plant "insufficient" and urges Israel to resume shipment of all forms of fuel, saying that schools and clinics are unable to function normally without regular transportation. Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops into areas e. of Gaza City, sparking clashes that leave 4 **armed Palestinians** dead and 1 **IDF** soldier,

4 **armed Palestinians** wounded. In the morning, **Hamas and Islamic Jihad mbrs.** stage a diversion nr. the Nahal Oz crossing to lure **IDF** soldiers into Gaza, ambushing the unit once it enters the Strip, killing 3 **IDF soldiers**; the **IDF** responds with tank fire and air strikes, killing 4 **Hamas and Islamic Jihad mbrs.** The **IDF** increases tank fire, air strikes on Palestinian targets throughout the day, killing 14 **Palestinian civilians**, including 11 in a helicopter air strike on a mosque in Juhur al-Dik in c. Gaza, and Reuters cameraman Fadel Shana'a (his clearly marked Reuters press vehicle is hit directly by a flechette tank shell), wounding 34 (including 17 children, 1 woman); 2 **IDF** soldiers are also wounded. The **IDF** also bulldozes 6 **Palestinian homes**, 200 d. of agricultural land in Juhur al-Dik. An **IDF** infantry unit crosses into Gaza nr. Bayt Lahiya to engage armed Palestinians in the area, fires on a car of Palestinian farmers trying to fleeing the area, killing 1 **Palestinian farmer**, wounding 2. **Palestinians** fire 10 **rockets**, 2 **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel during the day, causing no damage or injuries; 1 rocket fired toward Israel lands nr. Jabaliya r.c., injuring 2 Palestinians. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin r.c. (firing on residential areas, arresting an **AMB** mbr. granted amnesty by Israel in 7/07) during the day, and late at night in and around Jenin and Tulkarm, in Nablus, and nr. Hebron. In the evening (8:30 P.M. EST; 2:30 A.M. on 4/17 local time), **IDF** undercover units ambush a car in Qabatya, assassinating **local Islamic Jihad cmdr. Bilal Zaalah** (also reported as Bilal Kmayer) and a 2d **Islamic Jihad mbr.** (BBC, IFM, OCHA, REU 4/16; HA, NYT, PCHR, WP 4/17; OCHA 4/23; PCHR 4/24)

17 APRIL

The **IDF** fires on **PRC mbrs.** nr. the Gaza border nr. Jabaliya r.c., killing 1 **PRC mbr.** Later, the **IDF** closes the Kerem Shalom crossing after fatally shooting an **armed Palestinian** who approached the area; closes the Nahal Oz crossing after Palestinian snipers fire on **IDF** troops there, causing no injuries. In Gaza City, 1,000s of **Palestinians** attend the funeral for Reuters cameraman Shana'a, killed on 4/16. In Rafah, 1 **Islamic Jihad mbr.** accidentally triggers explosives kept in his home, injuring himself, 2 bystanders. **Two Hamas mbrs.** die of injuries sustained on 4/13 when explosives they were handling detonated prematurely.

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., and nr. Bethlehem, Nablus. (OCHA 4/17; NYT, WP 4/18; OCHA 4/23; PCHR 4/24)

18 APRIL

IDF troops make a late-night incursion into Gaza City, clashing with local armed Palestinians, killing 1, wounding 3. **Palestinians** fire 4 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing damage but no injuries; 1 rocket fired toward Israel lands nr. a home outside Bayt Lahiya, injuring 2 Palestinians, including a 5-yr.-old girl. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids Balata r.c., surrounds a home where **AMB mbr. Hani al-Kabi** is staying, fatally shoots him when he resists arrest; until recently, Kabi voluntarily stayed in a PA jail overnight as part of the 7/07 AMB amnesty deal with Israel. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (wounding a journalist covering the protest) and al-Masa'ra (injuring 3, including a 9-yr.-old girl). (CSM 4/18; AP, NYT 4/19; NYT 4/20; OCHA 4/23; PCHR 4/24)

19 APRIL

Under cover of morning fog and mortar fire, 3 **Hamas suicide bombers** driving explosive-laden vehicles (an old PA armored vehicle, 2 trucks painted to resemble IDF jeeps) break through the perimeter fence at the Kerem Shalom crossing, detonating the cars as IDF soldiers approach, wounding 13 soldiers (3 moderately, 10 lightly); the **IDF** makes a helicopter air strike on a civilian car it claims is connected to the attack, killing 1 **Palestinian civilian**, wounding 4. Half an hour later, **IDF** tanks reportedly fire on another vehicle that approaches another Gaza crossing, causing no injuries. During the day, the **IDF** also conducts air strikes on Jabaliya, killing 4 **armed Palestinians** and a **Hamas-affiliated police officer**, wounding 2 armed Palestinians; shells, destroys an empty armored vehicle in Abasan previously belonging to the PA police but seized by Hamas in the 7/07 fighting, wounding 3 bystanders, including a child. In Rafah, an **Islamic Jihad mbr.** is injured when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely.

An **Islamic Jihad mbr.** injured in a similar incident on 4/17 dies. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids a mall in Hebron, giving store owners notice that their properties will be confiscated in 2 days (a children's library and clinic associated with the **ICA** are located in the mall). In Hebron, an 8-yr.-old Palestinian boy being chased by a group of **Jewish settlers** falls and breaks his arm. (NYT, WP 4/20; OCHA 4/23; PCHR 4/24)

20 APRIL

In Gaza, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a **Palestinian civilian** leaving a Bayt Hanun house, killing him instantly and wounding 3 bystanders; **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades mbr. Sami al-Dibari**, the dead man's brother, apparently was the intended assassination target. The **IDF** also bulldozes 33 d. of agricultural land, a water network, 4 greenhouses in Khuza, also damaging a home; bulldozes additional land nr. al-Maghazi r.c.; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bayt Hanun. In Gaza City, 2 **Hamas** mbrs. are injured when explosives they are handling detonate prematurely. Also in Gaza, 2 **Palestinian teenagers** die of injuries received during **IDF** attacks on 4/16. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Azun nr. Qalqilya, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 1; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Bireh, nr. Jenin. (WP 4/21; PCHR 4/24)

21 APRIL

In Gaza, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a group of armed Palestinians approaching the border nr. Bayt Lahiya, killing 3 **armed Palestinians**. **Palestinians** fire at least 1 **rocket** toward Israel; it lands inside Gaza, injuring a Palestinian civilian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and Nablus, nr. Tulkarm, and in al-Bireh, Jenin town and r.c., Qabatya. (OCHA 4/23; PCHR 4/24)

22 APRIL

In Gaza, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a car carrying 2 **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades** mbrs. nr. Khan Yunis, missing it, wounding 6 bystanders. **Gazan PC mbrs.** erect a tent in front of the PC headquarters in Gaza City, begin a hunger strike to protest Israel's ongoing siege. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires on stone-throwing Palestinian

youths outside Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem, wounding 5 with live ammunition; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Qabatya, and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Qalqilya, Tulkarm. **Israel** bars access to the Jordan River to 15,000 Christians making a pilgrimage to Jesus's baptismal cite to mark Orthodox Christian Holy Week, keeping them behind a fence 30 ft. fr. the river. **Birzeit University** student council elections allot 25 seats to **Fatah**, 19 to **Hamas**, 5 each to the **PFLP** and a joint **Islamic Jihad/People's Party** list. Students clash over the results, prompting the university to close the campus until tensions cool. (OCHA, WT 4/23; PCHR 4/24)

23 APRIL

In Gaza, the **IDF** makes a late-night air strike on a group of **Hamas** mbrs. in Khan Yunis, missing them, hitting an apartment building, causing no injuries; makes a late-night incursion into Bayt Hanun, under cover of aircraft that fire on several groups of Palestinians and buildings, killing a **55-yr.-old Palestinian** in his home, seriously wounding another Palestinian, demolishing several greenhouses, damaging 5 homes. A Palestinian shepherd is injured when he accidentally triggers a landmine e. of Jabaliya r.c. In the West Bank, the **IDF** shoots, wounds an unarmed Palestinian who strays nr. the **separation wall** northwest of Jerusalem; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, in Anata e. of Jerusalem and Qabatya, and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Qalqilya. **Jewish settlers** fr. Karnei Shomron nr. Tulkarm stone Palestinian cars passing by the settlement, damaging 1. (PCHR 4/24; OCHA, PCHR 4/30)

24 APRIL

UNRWA suspends operations in Gaza citing lack of fuel because of Israel's blockade, stating that more than 700,000 Palestinians will not receive food aid as a result. Operation of **UNRWA** schools, clinics are also affected; because of fuel cuts, 12 municipalities and solid waste management councils have stopped all operations, affecting at least 500,000 Gazans. Early in the morning, the **IDF** send troops under cover of aircraft into Abasan to level land, making an air strike on a group of armed Palestinians, wounding 2 gunmen, 2 bystanders. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches

nr. Tulkarm (no arrests are reported). **Jewish settlers** enter the Homesh settlement site (evacuated by the **IDF** in 2005), attack a Palestinian shepherd nearby, kill 2 of his sheep, steal 2. **Unidentified assailants** kidnap a fmr. PA security officer (Fatah affiliated) fr. his home in Nussayrat r.c., severely beat him. (WP, WT 4/25; OCHA, PCHR 4/30; see also UNRWA and OCHA press releases 4/23)

25 APRIL

At the Rafah and Erez crossings, **1,000s of Palestinians** take part in nonviolent rallies calling on Israel to lift the siege. Late at night, the **IDF** makes an incursion into Bayt Hanun, surrounding and then making an air strike on the home of a wanted **Hamas** mbr., causing a fire and then shooting at occupants as they flee, seriously wounding a mother and teenage daughter, barring ambulances fr. reaching the area for 4 hrs. (during which time the **girl** dies); the **IDF** trades fire with Palestinian resistance mbrs. during the incursion, wounding 2 gunmen, 3 bystanders; the wanted Palestinian is not captured. In the West Bank, a **Palestinian sniper** fatally shoots **2 Israeli security guards** at a factory in the Nitzani Shalom industrial zone nr. the separation wall, escapes; several groups including **Hamas** claim responsibility. The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem, al-Bireh; 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 (10s suffer tear gas inhalation) and beat demonstrators at a similar protest al-Masa'ra (lightly injuring 3). **Jewish settlers** fr. Taffuh settlement nr. Salfit enter the nearby village of Yasuf and fire on Palestinians, wounding 1. (WP 4/26; NYT 4/27; OCHA, PCHR 4/30)

26 APRIL

In Gaza, the **IDF** continues the incursion into Bayt Hanun begun on 4/25, demolishing the **home** of the **Hamas** mbr. targeted on 4/25, leveling surrounding land before withdrawing in the early morning. The **IDF** also sends troops into Bayt Lahiya, to seize and take to Israel **local Hamas leader Hasan Marouf**, trading heavy gunfire with local Palestinians and firing on Marouf's home, killing his **14-yr.-old daughter**. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids an orphanage for girls, a

2d sewing factory in Hebron owned by the **ICA** (see 4/11), reiterating its 2/26 decision to evict residents and seal the sites for 3 yrs. if they are not vacated and turned over to the IDF within 24 hrs. (the ICA ignores the orders); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Jenin, Qalqilya. In Jerusalem, **Israeli police** barricade gates into the Old City, forcibly bar **Orthodox Palestinian worshippers** fr. reaching the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the St. Jacob Cathedral to perform Holy Saturday services to mark Orthodox Easter (cf. 4/22), beating and arresting several worshippers, while allowing Jewish worshippers to enter the Old City for Pesach celebrations. (Arab Orthodox Institute in East Jerusalem press release, *al-Quds*, WP 4/27; OCHA, PCHR 4/30)

27 APRIL

Overnight, in Gaza, the **IDF** launches an incursion into Dayr al-Balah, occupying and searching homes, detaining 40 Palestinians (releasing them all on 4/28), and bulldozing 6 **Palestinian homes**, 200 d. of olive groves, 30 beehives, and an animal pen (killing 60 sheep), also heavily damaging 3 homes before withdrawing late at night. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Ramallah, in Bethlehem, nr. Qalqilya. (OCHA, PCHR 4/30)

28 APRIL

In Gaza, the **IDF** sends tanks, armored vehicles, bulldozers, and helicopters into Bayt Hanun, exchanging fire with local armed men and making air strikes on residential areas, leaving a total of **8 Palestinians** dead, 17 Palestinians and 1 IDF soldier wounded; most casualties are the result of a missile that hits a home, killing a **Palestinian woman**, **4 of her children** (ages 18 mos. to 5 yrs.), an unrelated **teenager**, and wounding 10 bystanders (including 2 more of the woman's children). **Palestinians** fire **7 rockets**, **9 mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing light damage but no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids and searches a car repair shop in Hebron, confiscating 3 cars; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and Tulkarm, in Qalqilya, and nr. Hebron. As **Israel** begins preparations to move its Jerusalem police headquarters from the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Ras al-Amud to the controversial new E-1

site in occupied East Jerusalem, police officials sign an agmt. giving a **right-wing Jewish settler group** the right to occupy the vacant Ras al-Amud building, which will serve as the nucleus of a new Jewish settlement; the settlers have already filed with the Jerusalem Planning Comm. to construct 110 housing units on the site. In addition, the **Israeli High Court** rejects a petition by **Palestinians in al-'Aqaba village** nr. Tubas seeking repeal of an IDF order for the demolition of 60% of the village's homes and confiscation of all but 100 d. of the village 3,000 d. of land, supporting the **IDF's** position that the land is "strategically important" to the military. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba vandalize Palestinian homes and cars in Hebron. (HA, IFM, PCHR 4/28; NYT, WP, WT 4/29; OCHA, PCHR 4/30)

29 APRIL

UNRWA resumes food aid in Gaza after **Israel** allows a special delivery to UNRWA of a 5-day supply of fuel. **Palestinians** fire several **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing damage but no injuries. **Egyptian border guards** discover, demolish 5 smuggling tunnels along the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids and seals for 3 yrs. a sewing factory in Hebron owned by the **ICA** (see 4/26); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c. and Nablus, in Abu Dis and Azariyya nr. Jerusalem, and nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba vandalize 11 Palestinian cars nr. the settlement. (IFM 4/29; AP; OCHA, PCHR 4/30; PCHR 5/8)

30 APRIL

The **IDF** makes an air strike on a workshop in Rafah, assassinating **Islamic Jihad's al-Quds Brigade leader 'Awad al-Qiq** (whom the IDF attempted to assassinate on 10/5/07), injuring 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs., 2 children; sends tanks, bulldozers into Juhur al-Dik to level land. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, forcing them to return to shore, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas in Fahama and Yabad nr. Jenin; imposes a curfew on Kafr Haris nr. Salfit to allow **Jewish settlers** to conduct ceremonies at a religious site in the village; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Aza r.c. nr. Bethlehem, Jenin town and r.c. In East Jerusalem, **scores of Israeli Jewish teenagers** gather

at the Pisgat Ze'ev mall, summoned by an instant message to their cell phones urging those "with Jewish blood" to meet up to form a mob to attack local **Israeli Arabs** who allegedly "hang in our area" and "whistle at the girls, curse, threaten little kids"; the mob beats and stabs 2 Palestinian teenagers, seriously injuring them; around 20 teenagers take part in the beating, while 80-100 others watch; police arrest and charge 11. (AP 4/30; OCHA 5/7; PCHR 5/8; HA 5/29)

1 MAY

Overnight, the **IDF** sends tanks and troops into Abasan to search homes (reportedly using some Palestinians as human shields), exchanging fire (including tank shells) with local gunmen (killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding 1), detaining 21 (releasing them in the evening), and bulldozing 225 d. of agricultural land, a greenhouse, an irrigation system before withdrawing late at night. The **IDF** also makes an air strike on Rafah, assassinating **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades cmdr. Nafiz Mansur**, who allegedly had a role in the capture of IDF Cpl. Gilad Shalit, as he walks through town, seriously wounding a 15-yr.-old bystander, damaging several surrounding homes. **IDF soldiers** at the Kerem Shalom crossing fire on Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the border fence, causing no reported injuries. **Palestinians** fire 30 **rockets, mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., Tulkarm and nr. Hebron. In Gaza City, mbrs. of a **PRC** faction raid and steal office equipment fr. the offices of a rival PRC faction. (NYT 5/2; OCHA 5/7; PCHR 5/8)

2 MAY

IDF soldiers manning the Sufa crossing fire on nearby Palestinian residential areas, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Nablus, causing no injuries; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c. and Nablus, and nr. Hebron and 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 (10s suffer tear gas inhalation) and beat demonstrators at a similar protest in al-Masa'ra (lightly injuring 3). In Hebron, a

Jewish settler rams his car into the convoy of the U.S. envoy overseeing road map compliance, **Gen. William Fraser**, causing damage but no injuries, while other settlers demonstrate against his visit; Fraser's delegation cuts its visit short. Outside Ramallah, **15 Jewish settlers** fr. Yad Ta'ir attack, beat, threaten to shoot 2 Palestinian families picnicking; they flee when 1 of the Palestinians warns him that he is a UN employee, pointing to his car, which has a UN emblem. Nr. Hebron, **3 Jewish settlers** attack several Palestinians; international peace activists intervene to protect the Palestinians, prompting more settlers to join the attack; the **IDF** intervenes, ordering the Palestinians to leave the area. In n. Gaza, **Hamas-affiliated police** attempt to break up a dispute btwn. rival **PFLP** factions, sparking an exchange of fire that leaves 1 policeman, 1 **PFLP** mbr. wounded. In Rafah, **DFLP, Hamas** mbrs. exchange fire, killing **1 Palestinian bystander**, wounding a 2d. **Islamic Jihad mbr. Ussama al-Houbi** dies of injuries sustained in the 4/30 IDF assassination of Islamic Jihad's Qiq. (HA 5/2; OCHA 5/7; PCHR 5/8)

3 MAY

In Gaza, the **IDF** sends tanks, bulldozers into Juhur al-Dik, areas n. of Rafah to bulldoze land. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Tulkarm, and nr. Jenin. **Israel** announces plans to construct several new housing units in Har Brakha settlement nr. Nablus on 229 d. of Palestinian land fr. neighboring Burin village. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar nr. Nablus vandalize a nearby Palestinian home, set fire to Palestinian crops, beat Palestinians who come to put out the fire. A new contingent of **500 PA security officers** trained in Jordan takes up patrols in Jenin, adding to the 150 police officers already there in what the PA has dubbed "Operation Smile and Hope" (see Quarterly Update). In Jabaliya r.c., a **Fatah mbr.** is injured by an explosive device left outside his door; no group claims responsibility. (NYT, WT 5/4; OCHA 5/7; PCHR 5/8)

4 MAY

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops into Khuza, imposing a curfew, firing on residential areas (killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding 2 inside their homes), exchanging gunfire with armed Palestinians (wounding 3),

arresting 2 Palestinians, and bulldozing 106 d. of agricultural land, 1 **Palestinian home**, 4 greenhouses, 2 poultry farms before withdrawing late in the morning. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, forcing them to return to shore but causing no reported damage or injuries. **Palestinians** fire at least 3 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing damage but no injuries; fire 1 **mortar** at Nahal Oz crossing while an emergency fuel shipment to UNRWA is being transferred into Gaza, prompting the Israelis to close the terminal. In the West Bank, the **IDF** removes the tiny **unauthorized settlement outpost of Hazon David** nr. Kiryat Arba; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gil'ad Farm outpost nr. Qalqilya attack a Palestinian shepherd, steal a sheep. (NYT 5/5; OCHA 5/7; PCHR 5/8)

5 MAY

Israel delivers fuel to **UNRWA** in Gaza to keep UN operations going (see 5/4). The **IDF** sends troops, bulldozers into Abasan, imposing a curfew, firing on residential areas (causing damage but no injuries), bulldozing 3 d. of land before withdrawing in the afternoon; makes a late-night incursion into Bayt Lahiya to raid and search several homes, arresting 3 Palestinians and remanding them to Israel. Also late at night, **IDF** troops on the Gaza border e. of Bayt Lahiya fire on a group of armed Palestinians nr. the border, killing 1 **Hamas mbr.**, wounding 1. A smuggling tunnel under the Rafah border collapses, killing 1 **Palestinian**, injuring 4. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Hebron. (WP 5/6; OCHA 5/7; PCHR 5/8)

6 MAY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends an undercover unit into Nablus in cars with Palestinian license plates to arrest 2 Palestinians drinking tea outside a home; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in Jenin town and r.c. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba beat a local Palestinian. Meanwhile, the **PA's new Jenin security force** makes a predawn incursion into Qabatyia, an **Islamic Jihad** stronghold, clashing with local gunmen, critically wounding a Palestinian student with a gunshot to the head and shooting 2

Islamic Jihad mbrs. in the legs (see Quarterly Update). (OCHA, WP, WT 5/7; PCHR 5/8)

The **Lebanese government** declares illegal a private telephone network covering s. and e. Lebanon run by **Hizballah**, calling it a threat to national security; also removes **Brig. Gen. Wafiq Shuqeir** as security chief at Beirut International Airport for his alleged Hizballah sympathies. (BBC 5/7; *Independent* 5/8; Paul Salem, "Hizbollah Attempts Coup D'Etat," Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, May 2008; Hizballah spokesman Haj Hussein Khalil press conference, al-Manar TV [Beirut] 5/12; *Asia Times* 5/13) (see Quarterly Update)

7 MAY

Israel begins wk.-long celebrations leading up to its 60th anniversary on 5/14, while Palestinians solemnly prepare to mark the Nakba; more than a dozen foreign heads of state, including **U.S. Pres. George W. Bush**, plan to make official visits to Israel in the next wk. Overnight, in Gaza, **IDF** tanks and troops raid Abasan under cover of air support, cutting electricity to the area, exchanging heavy fire with Palestinian gunmen, making numerous air strikes and firing tank shells in the densely populated residential area, killing 1 **armed Palestinian** and 1 **Palestinian civilian** (a woman killed when soldiers detonate explosives outside her door and storm her home, detaining her children, ages 2-12, in a room for 6 hrs. before releasing them), wounding 19 armed men and 4 civilians (including 1 woman, 2 children), arresting 60 Palestinians (55 are released on 5/8), demolishing 2 **Palestinian homes**, and bulldozing large areas of agricultural land before withdrawing late in the evening. The **IDF** also makes an air strike on a group of armed Palestinians in Jabaliya r.c., killing 1 **Palestinian resistance mbr.**, seriously wounding a 2d. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (PCHR, WP 5/8; PCHR 5/15)

Hizballah mbrs. and their supporters in **Amal** and the **Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP)** set up roadblocks leading to Beirut International Airport, other major roads in an effort to press the government to reverse its 5/6 decisions. They clash with gunmen affiliated with **Saad Hariri's Future Movement**, leaving 5 civilians, 2 soldiers wounded. (NYT, WP 5/8) (see Quarterly Update)

8 MAY

In Gaza, a **Palestinian teenager** shot by the **IDF** during its 5/7 Abasan raid dies. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. As has occurred on numerous occasions since Israel's 2005 disengagement, **100s of Jewish settlers** temporarily set up tents at the site of the evacuated Homesh settlement in the c. West Bank, vowing to rebuild the settlement and challenge any government efforts to remove additional settlements; the **IDF** closes off Palestinian traffic to the area and observes but does not intervene. (PCHR 5/15)

Hizballah leader Hasan Nasrallah makes a speech accusing **Lebanese PM Fuad Siniora's government** of launching a war against Hizballah, warning of increased conflict if the 5/6 decisions are not reversed. Soon after, Hizballah sends more gunmen into Beirut's streets and clashes intensify, especially in the mixed Sunni-Shi'i neighborhoods of Mazra'a and Ras al-Naba'a, and include machine gun and RPG fire, leaving **6 Lebanese dead**, 8 wounded. (BBC 5/8; NYT, WP, WT 5/9; *Asia Times* 5/13) (see Quarterly Update)

9 MAY

Hamas mbrs. fire **4 mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, killing **1 Israeli civilian**, wounding 3, in what may be the 1st fatal Palestinian mortar strike. The **IDF** retaliates with air strikes on Gaza Interior Min. security offices in Rafah (killing **2 Hamas-affiliated security officers**, wounding 5 civilians) and a naval police post on the s. Gaza shore (killing **3 policemen**). In a mysterious incident northeast of Jerusalem, Ofra **settlement guards** fire on 2 Palestinians whom they claim approached the settlement fence carrying a hunting rifle, killing **1 Palestinian** and detaining the other, turning him over to the **IDF**, which quickly seals the area; later, the **AMB** claims responsibility for an attack on Ofra but says the man killed was an innocent bystander and that its mbrs. escaped unharmed. Also in the West Bank, the **IDF** 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 (10s suffer tear gas inhalation) and beat demonstrators at a similar protest al-Masa'ra (lightly injuring 3). (WP 5/10; NYT 5/11; PCHR 5/15)

Hizballah and its allies take control of streets in west Beirut, attacking and shutting down media outlets owned by **Saad Hariri's Future Movement**, as the army steps aside, saying soldiers will keep peace but not take sides. Hizballah also takes over several government offices, but immediately turns them over to army. Clashes abate somewhat after **Hariri** orders his forces not to fight. (BBC 5/9; NYT, WP, WT 5/10; *Los Angeles Times* 5/12; NYT 5/18) (see Quarterly Update)

10 MAY

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops, bulldozers into Khuza, exchanging fire with local gunmen (wounding 1) and bulldozing 62 d. of agricultural land, 20 greenhouses before withdrawing in the early morning. **Palestinians** shut down 2 of 3 turbines at Gaza's power plant for lack of fuel. **Hamas mbrs.** fire **15 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing damage but no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Jaba' nr. Jenin, firing on stone-throwing youths who then confront the troops, wounding 6; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international peace activists holding a non-violent demonstration nr. Tulkarm against Israeli restrictions on Palestinian movement, injuring 2 demonstrators and 2 journalists covering the event; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (NYT, WT 5/11; PCHR 5/15)

Hizballah begins to pull back from areas captured on 5/9. Army commander Gen. Michel Suleiman **orders** all gunmen to leave the street, but some **Future Movement** supporters angry over their perceived loss in Beirut attack Hizballah and SSNP offices in n. Lebanon and the Biqa' Valley, leaving **12 Lebanese dead** (at least 11 of them SSNP mbrs.), 20 wounded; heavy clashes are also reported in Tripoli (btwn. supporters of **Future Movement** and Alawi mbrs. of the **Arab Democratic Party** seeking to settle Sunni-Alawi scores fr. the 1980s). (WT 5/10; NYT, WP 5/11; see also REU 5/8) (see Quarterly Update)

11 MAY

Gaza's power plant shuts down completely for lack of fuel. A **Palestinian teenager** (brother of the teenager who died on 5/8) succumbs to injuries sustained during the **IDF's** 5/7 raid on Abasan. In the West

Bank, the **IDF** imposes a 1-day curfew on Azun nr. Qalqilya; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., nr. Hebron. (WP 5/12; PCHR 5/15)

In Beirut, calm prevails but many roads remain closed and some **Hizballah** mbrs. continue to patrol streets. **Hizballah** and **Jumblatt supporters** exchange fire in the villages of Aley, Kayfun, and Shuwayfat s. of Beirut. Hizballah sends fighters convoys toward Druze leader Walid Jumblatt's stronghold in the Chouf mountains, but they are ambushed en route by Druze militias fighters (some of whom had supported the opposition and stood with Hizballah until it moved deep into the Chouf, then switched sides to defend the Druze heartland), withdrawing with heavy casualties. (NYT, WP, WT 5/12; NYT 5/16; NYT, WP 5/18) (see Quarterly Update)

12 MAY

Islamic Jihad mbrs. fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, killing an **Israeli**. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units in cars with Palestinian license plates into Bayt Eiba nr. Nablus, where they surround a Palestinian home, order all occupants to surrender (which they do), arrest 2 wanted **AMB** mbrs. (1 of whom was among the **AMB** mbrs. granted amnesty by Israel in 7/07); patrols in al-'Arub r.c., firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no injuries but arresting 1; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, Jenin town and r.c. (NYT, WP 5/13; PCHR 5/15)

The **Arab League** sends a high-level delegation to **Lebanon** to discuss the political crisis. With scattered fighting continuing, the **Lebanese army** warns that it will begin using force to quell clashes if a cease-fire does not hold. Lebanese security officials say that as many as **62 Lebanese** have died and 198 have been injured since clashes erupted on 5/6. (NYT, WP 5/13; NYT 5/16; NYT, WP 5/18) (see Quarterly Update)

13 MAY

Overnight, the **IDF** makes an incursion into Khuza, bulldozing 225 d. of agricultural land, 41 greenhouses, at least 150 beehives. During the day, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a group of Hamas mbr. in al-Qarara, killing **1 Hamas mbr.**, seriously wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes 2 d. of Palestinian land nr. a settlers-only bypass road

s. of Hebron to erect a military post; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Abu Dis and Nablus, and nr. Hebron (targeting the home of a journalist, arresting him). (PCHR 5/15)

14 MAY

Overnight, the **IDF** makes an incursion into Abasan, raiding and searching homes, occupying several as operational bases, making air strikes on local gunmen who confront them (killing **1 Hamas mbr.**, seriously wounding 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs. and 1 Hamas mbr.), demolishing 1 **Palestinian home**, bulldozing 110 d. of agricultural land and 4 poultry farms, arresting 4 Palestinians before withdrawing late in the evening. The **IDF** also makes an early-morning incursion into Jabaliya town, fatally shooting a **Palestinian civilian** riding a bicycle for no apparent reason, exchanging fire with local gunmen (killing **1 armed Palestinian**, **1 bystander**), hitting 3 Palestinian homes with tank fire (injuring 3 Palestinian civilians). Later, **Palestinians** fire a Grad-type **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, striking a shopping mall in Ashqelon, wounding 16 Israelis, 3 of them seriously; several groups, excluding **Hamas**, claim responsibility. Late in the evening, the **IDF** makes an air strike on Gaza City, killing **2 Palestinian resistance mbrs.** Meanwhile, in the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem and Nablus, and in Qalqilya. (NYT, PCHR, WP 5/15; PCHR 5/22)

15 MAY

Palestinians in Israel and the occupied territories commemorate the Nakba by visiting the sites of Palestinian villages destroyed in 1948, holding somber rallies and moments of silence, and, in Qalandia r.c., releasing 1,000s of black balloons (1 for each day since the State of Israel was declared). In Gaza, the **IDF** begins digging a trench (around 300 ft. long, 10 ft. wide, 15 ft. deep) fr. an IDF post e. of Abasan to Khuza, firing on nearby residential areas, causing no reported injuries. **IDF** troops at the Erez crossing fire bullets, tear gas at 100s of Palestinians staging a nonviolent protest against the Israeli siege. **IDF** troops on the c. Gaza border e. of Juhur al-Dik fire on 3 Palestinian girls who stray nr. the border fence, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Taqou' nr. Bethlehem; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus. A

Palestinian civilian wounded during the 5/4 IDF incursion into Khuza dies. (CNN 5/15; PCHR 5/22)

Under a deal brokered by the **Arab League**, the **Hizballah-led opposition** and **Lebanon's ruling coalition** agree to open talks in **Qatar** on 5/16 to negotiate an

agmt. on a cabinet and new electoral law, to be followed by election of consensus pres. candidate **Gen. Michel Suleiman**. Hizballah removes roadblocks leading to Beirut airport, allowing some flights to resume in the evening. (BBC 5/15; NYT, WP, WT 5/16; WP 5/18) (see Quarterly Update)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
CNN	(Cable News Network [Internet])
CSM	(<i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , Boston)
HA	(<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
IFM	(Israeli Foreign Ministry, Jerusalem)
ITV	(Israel Television Network, Jerusalem)
JP	(<i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem)
MM	(<i>Mideast Mirror</i> , London)
NYT	(<i>New York Times</i> , New York)
OCHA	(United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Weekly Briefing Notes, Jerusalem)
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 Abaronot</i> , Tel Aviv)