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# CHRONOLOGY

16 FEBRUARY–15 MAY 2009

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

*This section is part 102 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 opens, **Israel's** near total blockade of Gaza enters its 21st month, since Hamas's takeover of Gaza in 6/07. Israel continues to bar exports fr. Gaza, strictly limit imports, and ban all but VIPs and emergency medical cases fr. transiting the border. Imports include limited commodities and enough staple goods and fuel for electricity, emergency services, and cooking to preclude a humanitarian crisis, but are insufficient to meet daily needs, adequately maintain basic services, or repair the heavy damage fr. Israel's 23-day assault on Gaza, **Operation Cast Lead (OCL)**, which ended on 1/18/09. Today, **Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** respond with 2 air strikes on tunnels on the Rafah border, causing no injuries. In Bayt Lahiya, 1 **Palestinian** scavenging scrap metal is killed, 4 are injured when they accidentally trigger unexploded **IDF ordnance (UXO)**. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes 20 olive trees on a plot of Palestinian land on the s. border of Ni'lin, declaring it a closed military zone; conducts synchronized late-night arrest raids, house searches into Tulkarm, neighboring Nur Shams refugee camp (r.c.), and 5 nearby villages; conducts similar late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron; closes a gate in the **separation wall** nr. Dahiyat al-Barid (located btwn. the separation wall and the Green Line nr. Jerusalem), forcing villagers to travel 1–2 hrs. through the Qalandia crossing to access the rest of the West Bank. The **Israeli government** authorizes the confiscation of 1,700 dunams (d.; 4 d. = 1 acre) of Palestinian land in the villages of al-Ma'sara, Umm Salamuna, and Wadi al-Nas nr. Bethlehem for expansion of Efrat and

Gush Etzion settlements (2,500 new housing units, increasing the settler population there fr. 9,000 to 30,000). (*Mideast Mirror* 2/16; NYT, WP 2/17; OCHA 2/18; PCHR 2/19; OCHA 2/24)

## 17 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** makes air strikes on 10 smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border and a Hamas-affiliated police station in Khan Yunis, which has been bombed repeatedly, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids an Islamic charity in Tulkarm that provides assistance to 1,450 orphans, confiscating computers and documents, and sealing the building; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jayyus (severely beating 3 Palestinians), nr. Tulkarm. (OCHA 2/18; PCHR 2/19; OCHA 2/24)

## 18 FEBRUARY

In Gaza, **UN and Hamas officials** report the theft of a cache of **IDF UXO** fr. OCL that was being held at a storage site guarded by Hamas police; police say unknown individuals stole the explosives when police fled the site fearing an attack by IDF drones operating in the area; the UXO had been collected by Hamas police and turned over to the UN for safe disposal. **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire on Palestinians and international activists working their land nr. the border fence, wounding 1 Palestinian farmer. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Salfit. **Jewish settlers** accompanied by **IDF** troops level land nr. Yatta village s. of Hebron for construction of a settler-only bypass road. (NYT, PCHR 2/19; OCHA 2/24; PCHR 2/26)

**19 FEBRUARY**

The **IDF** makes an incursion into Gaza, injuring 2 armed Palestinians (most likely a rocket-launching squad; see UN report in 2/24 below); shoots, wounds an unarmed Palestinian who strays close to the n. Gaza border fence; makes several air strikes on the Rafah border (injuring 1 Palestinian reporter). **Israel** further restricts the permitted fishing zone off the Gaza coast to 3 nautical miles (see Quarterly Update for details). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Tubas; fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in a nonviolent demonstration against the separation wall in Ni'lin (injuring 4). (Middle East Newsline 2/19; OCHA 2/24, 2/25; PCHR 2/26)

**20 FEBRUARY**

**Palestinians** detonate a roadside bomb nr. the Gaza border fence, sparking an exchange of gunfire with the **IDF** that leaves 2 armed Palestinians dead. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units in a car with Palestinian license plates into Qabatya nr. Jenin to arrest a Palestinian; enters Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron to chase several stone-throwing youths, raiding 2 homes and a store, occupying rooftops, and firing on residential areas, wounding 1 Palestinian, arresting 2; fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin (injuring 9); fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, percussion grenades at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists, some of whom throw stones at IDF troops, taking part in a demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); uproots 70 olive seedlings on a Palestinian plot nr. Efrat settlement nr. Bethlehem; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Fara'a r.c. nr. Tubas, nr. Bethlehem and Jenin. (OCHA 2/24, 2/25; PCHR 2/26)

After nearly 2 wks. of consultations with top 2/10/08 election vote-getters **Tzipi Livni (Kadima)** and **Benjamin Netanyahu (Likud)**, **Israeli pres. Shimon Peres** taps Netanyahu to form a government. Netanyahu quickly opens coalition talks with various parties. (IFM 2/20; NYT,

WP 2/21; WP 2/23; NYT 2/24) (see Quarterly Update for details)

**21 FEBRUARY**

Some 400 Gazans protest on the Rafah border demanding that **Egypt** unilaterally open the crossing into Gaza. Egypt deploys 100s of additional police and border patrol officers along the Rafah border, fearing another breach, as occurred in 1/08 (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 147). On the Rafah border, 5 Palestinians are killed, 3 are injured when a smuggling tunnel collapses. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids and occupies a Palestinian home nr. Bethlehem as an observation post; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Tulkarm. **Israeli security forces** raid a theater in East Jerusalem to prevent a Palestinian folklore troupe fr. performing as part of a series of events billed as celebrating the **Arab League** designation of Jerusalem as the capital of Arab culture for 2009 (see Quarterly Update for details), saying the program violates the ban on Palestinian political activity in the city. (WT 2/22; OCHA 2/24, 2/25; PCHR 2/26)

**Unknown assailants** fire a Katyusha rocket fr. s. Lebanon into n. Israel, lightly injuring 3 Israelis. A 2d rocket lands inside Lebanon, causing no damage or injuries. Israel files a formal complaint with the UN, demanding stepped-up UNIFIL and Lebanese government enforcement in s. Lebanon in keeping with UN Res. 1701's provisions to halt arms smuggling into s. Lebanon and reiterating Israel's right to self-defense. (WJW 2/26)

**22 FEBRUARY**

With Israeli permission, **Egypt** allows Gazan university students with valid travel visas and other foreign passport holders to exit Gaza through the Rafah checkpoint; at least 600 of the 1,000 persons qualified leave the Strip. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a rare morning raid on a factory in Ramallah, questioning workers but making no arrests; takes up positions in Tulkarm at midday, randomly checking Palestinian IDs; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli security forces** forcibly remove a solidarity tent set up on the site of a Palestinian home demolished in 11/08. (WP 2/23; OCHA 2/24, 2/25; PCHR 2/26)

### 23 FEBRUARY

In Gaza, **Palestinians** detonate a road-side bomb nr. the Gaza border fence e. of al-Musaddar village in c. Gaza, causing no reported damage or injuries. The **IDF** sends troops into al-Musaddar in pursuit, exchanging gunfire with the armed Palestinians, calling in 3 air strikes on the area, injuring 2 armed Palestinians, heavily damaging 3 Palestinian homes before withdrawing 90 mins. later. **Palestinians** also fire 2 Qas-sam **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no reported damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a large late-night incursion into Nablus to raid and search a home for weapons, blowing up part of the home, detaining 2 Palestinians for questioning, but finding no weapons; occupying and searching Asia Television offices; blowing the doors off several shops in the old city. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., nr. Bethlehem and Hebron. **Jewish settlers** escorted by **IDF** troops enter Nablus to pray for several hours at the shrine of Prophet Joseph. In the evening, **Jewish settlers** in Hebron cut electricity to Palestinian houses in the center and s. of town, then rampage through the areas, damaging several homes; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (OCHA 2/24, 2/25; PCHR 2/26)

### 24 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, **Israel** reopens a main road to Bani Na'im nr. Hebron (closed since 2001); authorizes the Palestinian Authority (PA) to build an additional 12 police stations across the West Bank (Israel previously approved 20 and the PA has built 19); issues VIP travel permits to 120 high-ranking PA security officers and Palestinian personalities (bringing to about 390 the number of VIP permits issued to date); increases the number of Palestinian workers allowed into Israel (no figures given); allows Israeli Palestinians to visit Nablus and Jenin on weekends (intended to boost those local economies). The **IDF** also levels Palestinian land to expand an **IDF** checkpoint nr. Einav settlement nr. Tulkarm; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, in Hebron, nr. Jenin and Ramallah. In Gaza, **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire on unarmed Palestinians inspecting damaged homes e. of Khuza nr. the border fence, wounding a Palestinian teenager. The UN reports that

**Palestinians** have fired 21 **rockets and mortars** into Israel since 2/18, causing no damage or injuries. A **Palestinian teenager** dies of injuries sustained during the 1/15 **IDF** air strikes that assassinated Gaza's acting interior minister Sa'id Siyam during OCL. (IFM 2/24; OCHA 2/25; PCHR 2/26)

**Israel's new parliament**, elected on 2/10/09, is sworn in. (WP 2/25)

### 25 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** carries out air strikes on smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border in retaliation for Palestinian **rocket** fire on s. Israel; no injuries are reported by either side. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., nr. Hebron. (PCHR, WP 2/26; OCHA 3/3, 3/4; PCHR 3/5)

### 26 FEBRUARY

**Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets** into Israel, causing no injuries. The **IDF** responds with air strikes on 5 smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border, wounding 3 Palestinians (2 of them young children). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches nr. Jenin, but makes no arrests. A **Palestinian teenager** is killed and 2 are wounded when they accidentally trigger **IDF UXO** at a site nr. Tubas used by the **IDF** for live fire exercises. **Israel** begins construction of 65 new housing units on 3.5 d. of Palestinian land in the Arab al-Sawahara neighborhood of East Jerusalem, expanding Talpiot settlement. (HA 2/26; NYT, WP 2/27; OCHA 3/3, 3/4; PCHR 3/5, 4/29)

**U.S. envoy George Mitchell** begins his 2d regional tour with planned stops in Turkey, Israel, Ramallah, and Cairo. He stresses U.S. support for a 2-state solution and a halt to **Israel's** settlement construction. (IFM 2/26; NYT, WP 2/27) (see Quarterly Update for details)

### 27 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes an afternoon raid on a home in Bayt Umar nr. Hebron, occupying the upper floor and roof as an observation post for 4 hrs., firing tear gas at Palestinian children who throw stones at them. The **IDF** also pursues stone-throwing children into al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron at midday, raiding and occupying a

home for several hrs.; fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and percussion grenades at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation). A **Palestinian**, shot and wounded by the **IDF** in Gaza City on 1/13 during OCL, dies. (OCHA 3/3, 3/4; PCHR 3/5)

## 28 FEBRUARY

**Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, both of which land nr. Ashqelon, causing damage but no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes an afternoon incursion into Jayyus village nr. Qalqilya, imposing a curfew and arresting 1 Palestinian; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** uproot 130 trees fr. Palestinian land nr. Qalqilya. (WT 3/1; OCHA 3/3, 3/4; PCHR 3/5)

## 1 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus and neighboring Balata r.c., in Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Tulkarm. (OCHA 3/3, 3/4; PCHR 3/5)

## 2 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** begins work on a new electricity network on Palestinian land to supply **Jewish settlements** n. and s. of Hebron; enters Thinnaba and Izbat al-Jarad villages nr. Tulkarm in the evening, patrolling the streets and firing percussion grenades; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Ramallah, in Nablus, nr. Jenin. The **IDF** also demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Silwan and Sur Bahir in East Jerusalem, displacing 21 Palestinians. (OCHA 3/4; PCHR 3/5; OCHA 3/10)

In Sharm al-Shaykh, **Egypt** and **Norway** host an international donor conference to raise \$2 b. for the reconstruction of Gaza. In total, 75 states pledge more than \$4 b. (WP 3/2; HA, WP, WT 3/3; see also VOA 2/27, WP 3/1) (see Quarterly Update for details)

After attending the donor conference, **U.S. Secy. of State Hillary Clinton** arrives in Israel for 3 days of talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders. (IFM 3/3; NYT, WP, WTW 3/4; NYT, WP 3/5; WT 3/11) (see Quarterly Update for details)

## 3 MARCH

The **IDF** carries out 8 air strikes on the Rafah border in the afternoon and 4 late in the evening, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids and searches a Palestinian home in al-'Arub r.c. in the evening, making no arrests; reenters al-'Arub r.c. hrs. later, firing percussion grenades, partially burning a home; sends troops into Kafr Haris village nr. Salfit, imposing a curfew, barricading entrances to the village, raiding and searching homes, and arresting 1 Palestinian before withdrawing 8 hrs. later; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., nr. Qalqilya. (OCHA 3/4; PCHR 3/5; OCHA 3/10)

## 4 MARCH

Late in the evening, an **IDF** drone carries out an air strike on a car in Gaza's Jabaliya r.c., assassinating **Islamic Jihad senior cmdr. Khalid Shalan**, injuring 1 other Islamic Jihad mbr. riding with him and 2 bystanders. The **IDF** also carries out 2 midday air strikes on the Rafah border, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts daytime arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin; sends troops into Bayt Umar in the evening, occupying the top floor and roof of a Palestinian home as an observation post, firing on Palestinian stone-throwing youths who confront them, seriously injuring 1 Palestinian teenager with a gunshot to the head, arresting 2; conducts synchronized late-night arrest raids in villages around Hebron and Jenin, and additional late-night arrest raids nr. Nablus and Tulkarm. (PCHR 3/5; NYT 3/6; OCHA 3/10, 3/11; PCHR 3/12)

## 5 MARCH

Overnight, the **IDF** makes an air strike on Islamic Jihad mbrs. operating nr. the Gaza border fence e. of al-Maghazi r.c. who fire 2 rocket-propelled grenades (**RPGs**) at the Kissufim IDF base inside Israel (causing no injuries), killing 3 **Islamic Jihad mbrs.**, wounding 1. **Palestinians** fire several **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, damaging a synagogue in Netivot, but causing no injuries. In the afternoon and late evening, the **IDF** makes at least 9 air strikes on the Rafah border, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends troops into Bil'in village during the day, firing toward

stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no reported injuries; conducts evening arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem; conducts similar late-night operations in 'Aqabat Jabir r.c. nr. Jericho and nr. Jenin. In Jerusalem, a **Palestinian construction worker** in a bulldozer rams and flips a police car, pushing it into an empty bus, injuring 2 police officers, before police and bystanders shoot him dead; Israel considers it a terrorist attack, though the man apparently acted on his own. **Jewish settlers** fr. Matityahu settlement nr. Ramallah burn a Palestinian home. (NYT, WP 3/6; OCHA 3/10, 3/11; PCHR 3/12)

### 6 MARCH

In Gaza, the UN reports that **2 Palestinians** have been killed and 3 injured in tunnel collapses on the Rafah border in the past 2 days. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Nablus in the evening, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 1; fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, percussion grenades at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 2), Jayyus (beating 2 women), al-Ma'sara nr. Bethlehem (also beating 2 women), and Ni'lin (injuring 12); makes late-night incursions into Tubas and neighboring al-Fara'a r.c., patrolling streets and firing on residential areas, wounding 2 Palestinians. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar nr. Nablus stone Palestinian cars driving in the area. In Gaza, interfactional fighting breaks out at the funeral in al-Maghazi r.c. for an **Islamic Jihad mbr.** killed by IDF cross-border fire on 3/5; 3 Palestinians are injured. (OCHA 3/10, 3/11; PCHR 3/12)

### 7 MARCH

Overnight, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a car traveling in Bayt Lahiya, assassinating **Islamic Jihad military cmdr. Mahmud Fattuh**, wounding 2 other Islamic Jihad mbrs. Also in Gaza, the **IDF** makes 4 air strikes on the Rafah border in the afternoon and late evening, causing no injuries; makes 2 late-night air strikes on a commercial building in al-Tuffah in Gaza City, destroying it but causing no injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, injuring a Palestinian woman and toddler on shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house

searches in and around Bethlehem, nr. Jenin. (OCHA 3/10, 3/11; PCHR 3/12)

### 8 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends troops into Jayyus nr. Qalqilya in the morning, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, injuring 1; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Tubas. The **IDF** also sends troops into Bayt Hanina n. of Jerusalem in the early morning, raiding the family home of the construction worker responsible for the 3/5 attack in Jerusalem, arresting 5 family members. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar stone Palestinian cars driving in the area, then seal off the road to Palestinian traffic. (OCHA 3/10, 3/11; PCHR 3/12)

### 9 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** issues a military order confiscating 142 d. of land in and around Bil'in and 80 d. of land nr. Yatta settlement nr. Hebron for settlement expansion; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Tubas, in Tulkarm town and r.c., and nr. Bethlehem, Jenin, Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** gather at the vacated settlement site of Homesh, stone passing Palestinian cars. (OCHA 3/10, 3/11; PCHR 3/12)

### 10 MARCH

**IDF** troops on the Gaza border e. of al-Maghazi r.c. fire on residential areas of the camp, wounding 1 Palestinian. Late in the evening, the **IDF** makes 2 air strikes on the Rafah border, causing no reported casualties. **Israeli naval vessels** shell the Bayt Lahiya coast, nearly hitting a police car, injuring 4 Hamas-affiliated police officers. **Palestinians** fire 5 **rockets and mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, all of which land nr. Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. The UN reports that in the previous wk. (including today), **Palestinians** have fired 29 **rockets and mortars** into Israel, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a midday incursion into Bayt Umar nr. Hebron, imposing a curfew, raiding and searching homes, temporarily occupying 3 as observation posts, chasing and firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, seriously beating 1 teenager; sends troops back into Bayt Umar late in the evening, imposing a curfew, raiding and searching 10s of homes and shops,

occupying several as observation posts, heavily damaging several houses, arresting 25 Palestinians; conducts other late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah. (OCHA 3/11; NYT, PCHR 3/12; OCHA 3/17)

### 11 MARCH

**Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **Hamas** denounces the fire, saying it comes at the wrong time as truce talks in Cairo are ongoing. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, forcing them to return to shore. Late in the evening, the **IDF** makes 2 air strikes on Yibna r.c. nr. the Rafah border, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning patrols in Tulkarm; opens fire on 2 Palestinian teenagers throwing stones at Jewish settler vehicles nr. Ramallah, wounding 1, arresting the other; maintains the curfew on, continues occupying and searching homes in Bayt Umar (see 3/10) until withdrawing in the afternoon, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in villages around Jenin, in and around Ramallah, and in Bethlehem. (PCHR 3/12; WT 3/13; OCHA 3/17, 3/18; PCHR 3/19)

### 12 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba and Harsina settlements in Hebron place 6 mobile homes on Palestinian land nr. their settlements to expand them. (OCHA 3/17, 3/18; PCHR 3/19)

### 13 MARCH

The **IDF** sends troops into s. Gaza around midday to patrol inside al-Shuka village nr. Rafah, firing on residential areas, wounding a 13-yr.-old boy. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in a nonviolent protest against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin, hitting **American protester Tristan Anderson** in the head with a tear gas canister, critically injuring him; he is left on a ventilator in an Israeli hospital in "life-threatening" condition; 8 Palestinians are also injured. The **IDF** also fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and percussion grenades at Palestinian, Israeli, and international ac-

tivists taking part in nonviolent protests against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, Burin nr. Nablus, and al-Ma'sara nr. Bethlehem; makes a rare daytime raid into Nazlat Issa nr. Tulkarm, raiding and searching homes, arresting 3 Palestinians; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around 'Askar r.c. and Balata r.c. nr. Nablus, and nr. Jenin and Salfit. (WP 3/13; WP 3/17; OCHA 3/17, 3/18; PCHR 3/19; WP 3/24; JPI 3/27)

### 14 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols inside Husan village nr. Bethlehem in the afternoon, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding a teenager; conducts late-night house searches in al-Yamun nr. Jenin, making no arrests. (OCHA 3/17, 3/18; PCHR 3/19)

### 15 MARCH

The **IDF** opens a main checkpoint at Bayt Ibia nr. Nablus for the 1st time in 8 yrs., as a 1st step toward permanently relocating it (see 3/30 below). **Unidentified gunmen** fatally shoot 2 **Israeli border policemen** driving nr. Massu'a settlement in the Jordan Valley n. of Jericho, marking the 1st Israeli death in the West Bank since 4/25/08; Israel blames Palestinians, and individuals identifying themselves as mbrs. of the **Imad Mughniyah Group**, after the Hizballah military cmdr. assassinated in Damascus by unknown assailants in 2/08, later (3/16) claim responsibility. **Jewish settler groups** in the n. West Bank say Israel's reckless removal of Palestinian checkpoints is to blame for the policemen's deaths; the Israeli government denies any connection. The **IDF** conducts rare daytime arrest raids, house searches in Jalazun r.c.; patrols in Bayt Rima nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 4; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm, and nr. Jenin, Ramallah. Palestinians in Umm Lasfa village southeast of Hebron report that in the past few days, the **IDF** has leveled 500 d. of village land to build 2 km of a new settler bypass road to Carmiel settlement; once completed, the IDF is expected to confiscate 1,000 d. of Palestinian land and displace 13 Palestinian families. (IFM 3/15; AFP, HA, NYT, WP 3/16; OCHA 3/17, 3/18; PCHR, WJW 3/19)

## 16 MARCH

**Gaza's power plant** is forced to shut 1 turbine for lack of spare parts, increasing rolling power outages across the Strip fr. 4–6 hrs./day to 8–12 hrs./day for 3 days until parts are allowed in for the repair. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized late-night arrest raids, house searches in villages around Hebron and Jenin; conducts additional late-night arrest raids, house searches in Silwad nr. Ramallah, nr. Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba settlement seriously beat a Palestinian woman walking nearby; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. A **Palestinian prisoner** dies of apparent torture in Hamas police custody in Gaza. (OCHA 3/17, 3/18; PCHR 3/19; OCHA 4/1)

## 17 MARCH

**Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishermen off the Gaza coast w. of Bayt Lahiya, seriously wounding 1 fisherman. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes the top floor of an apartment building in Bayt Safafa nr. East Jerusalem for being built without a permit, displacing 7 Palestinians; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Askar r.c., and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Qalqilya, Tulkarm. (OCHA 3/24; PCHR 3/19)

## 18 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Qabatya village nr. Jenin at midday in a car with Palestinian license plates to raid a café and arrest a wanted Palestinian; demolishes 4 Palestinian homes in Azariyya nr. Jerusalem, in the E1 area marked for expansion of Ma'ale Adumim settlement, displacing 42 Palestinians. Late in the evening, the **IDF** conducts synchronized late-night incursions into Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah, and Zatarra village nr. Bethlehem to raid and search the homes of **8 senior figures affiliated with Hamas** (fmr. PA Dep. PM and Education M Nasser al-Din al-Sha'ir in Nablus; Reform and Change Palestinian Council legislators Nizar 'Abd al-'Aziz Ramadan and 'Assam Nu'man Salhab in Hebron; Ayman Husayn Darghma in Ramallah; Khalid Tafish Thwayb in Zatarra; Reform and Change office director for Ramallah and al-Bireh Mazin al-Rimawi in Ramallah; senior Hamas leader Adnan Ahed Asfur and al-Najah University prof. Issam Rashid al-

Ashqar in Nablus), arresting them for their "ongoing efforts to restore the administrative branch of the Hamas terror organization in the [West Bank]." The moves come as an Israeli Justice Min. comm. debates limiting the privileges (e.g., visitation, phone calls, study groups) of Hamas prisoners in Israel. Some 40 Hamas-affiliated legislators have been arrested since Shalit's capture in 6/06, most of whom remain in detention. **Hamas** views the moves as Israel's attempts to pressure it to make concessions in the ongoing Cairo prisoner exchange talks (see Quarterly Update for details). The **IDF** conducts additional late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus, and nr. Hebron, Jenin, and Tulkarm. Mbrs. of **Kiryat Arba settlement's** private security service detain a Canadian journalist and a fieldworker for the Israeli human rights group **B'Tselem** as they pass nr. the settlement, holding them until the IDF arrives to question them; they are released 4 hrs. later. (OCHA 3/18; PCHR 3/19; NYT, WP, WT 3/20; OCHA 3/24, 3/25; PCHR 3/26; JPI 4/3)

## 19 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized late-night house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., and in villages around Tulkarm; no arrests are reported. (OCHA 3/24, 3/25; PCHR 3/26)

## 20 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation), Jayyus (injuring 2 Palestinian journalists), al-Ma'sara (beating and lightly injuring a woman and 12-yr.-old child), Ni'lin (injuring 6 Palestinians); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus. (OCHA 3/24, 3/25; PCHR 3/26)

## 21 MARCH

A 200-lb. **car bomb** malfunctions and fails to detonate outside a shopping mall in Haifa, preventing what would have been the 1st car bombing inside Israel since 2002; the car was stolen fr. East Jerusalem; a little-known Israeli Palestinian group called the **Free Men of the Galilee** claims

responsibility, but Israel says it is not certain the claim is valid and is still investigating. **Israeli security forces** break up several **Palestinian events in East Jerusalem** (including dispersing a children's march and popping balloons at a school, dispersing a folklore show at a children's center) marking the **Arab League's** designation of Jerusalem as the capital of Arab culture for 2009, saying the programs violate the ban on Palestinian political activity in the city (see 2/21). The Israeli government has also banned several events planned by the Israeli Palestinian comm. inside Israel to celebrate Jerusalem, including an oud performance and soccer match, claiming they were initiated by the PA to "meddle in Jerusalem." The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin. (IFM, WP 3/22; WP 3/23; OCHA 3/24, 3/25; PCHR 3/26; *Jerusalem Report* 4/27)

## 22 MARCH

**Israel** announces it will lift restrictions on the import of foodstuffs to Gaza, "provided that the source of the shipments is approved by the Israeli authority" (not further clarified). **IDF** troops enter s. Gaza nr. Abasan to bulldoze land along the border fence. Israeli warplanes repeatedly break the sound barrier over Gaza City. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, damaging several and forcing them to return to shore, but causing no injuries. In the West Bank, **IDF** troops demand that a Palestinian move his car, parked nr. the Beit Shalom outpost site evacuated last quarter; when the man refuses, troops scuffle with him, prompting Palestinians nearby to come to his aid; the situation escalates, with IDF troops beating 6 Palestinians and storming and damaging a nearby Palestinian grocery. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. The **Israeli High Court** approves the confiscation of 30 d. of land in Shu'fat r.c. northeast of Jerusalem for construction expansion of an existing IDF checkpoint and extension of the **separation wall** to create a new permanent crossing point into Jerusalem; 30 Palestinian shops are expected to be demolished and at least 45,000 Palestinians are expected to lose direct access to Jerusalem. The local council of **Har Adar settlement** in East Jerusalem issues instructions that Palestinian "laborers are strictly forbidden to move around the community on foot, between the construction sites,"

and must be accompanied at all times by their employer or the employer's representative, stating "this instruction is meant to protect the community's residents"; the **IDF** says it will enforce the order, which the **Association for Civil Rights in Israel** denounces as "a racist instruction based on a general fear of Arabs." Alleging corruption by Fatah-affiliated employees, **Hamas authorities in Gaza** take control of the **PA Referrals Abroad Dept.** which assesses medical cases for specialized treatment in hospitals in the West Bank, Egypt, and Jordan. In response, the **PA Health Min.** in Ramallah and the **Egyptian** government say they will no longer finance the transportation or treatment of medical patients referred by the office and **Israel** says it will not grant travel permits for referrals to exit Gaza. (*Yedi'ot Abaronot* 3/22; WP 3/23; OCHA 3/24, 3/25; PCHR 3/26)

## 23 MARCH

**Israeli naval vessels** shell an open area southwest of Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. Later in the day, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on a Palestinian fishing boat 2 naut. mi. off the Gaza coast, seriously injuring a Palestinian teenager. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm in the morning, withdrawing without incident; conducts synchronized late-night patrols in villages around Jenin, making no raids or arrests; conducts synchronized late-night house searches in villages nr. Hebron and Tulkarm, arresting only 1 Palestinian in Hebron; also conducts late-night house searches in Bethlehem. (OCHA 3/24, 3/25; PCHR 3/26)

**Unidentified assailants** detonate a roadside bomb outside **Mieh Mieh r.c.** in s. **Lebanon** as a convoy carrying **senior Fatah official Kamal Madhat** leaves the camp, killing Madhat, **2 other Fatah mbrs.**, and his **driver** and injuring 3 bodyguards. No group claims responsibility. (NYT, WP 3/24; WT 3/25)

## 24 MARCH

Inside Israel, some **100 supporters of Kahane Chai**, an extreme right-wing Israeli group that has called for removing Arabs fr. Israel by force if necessary, march in the outskirts of the major Israeli Palestinian town of **Umm al-Fahm** under heavy police escort for 30 mins., waving Israeli flags and praising Israel as a Jewish state. Umm al-Fahm

residents hold a counterdemonstration, raising Palestinian flags and throwing stones at the marchers; Israeli police use tear gas, water cannons, percussion grenades to disperse the Palestinians, resulting in fights that leave 16 police officers and 15 demonstrators injured. In Gaza, a 2d **Palestinian** dies of apparent torture in Hamas police custody (see 3/16). **Israel** allows the first shipments of soap and shampoo into Gaza since 10/08. The UN reports that in the previous wk., 2 **Palestinians** were killed and 2 injured in 3 smuggling tunnel collapses on the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus; conducts late-night patrols in Nablus. (BBC 3/24; NYT, OCHA, WP, WT 3/25; NYT, PCHR, WJW 3/26; OCHA 3/31)

### 25 MARCH

**Israeli naval vessels** intercept a Palestinian fishing boat off the Rafah coast, arresting 4 Palestinians (including 2 teenagers). Late at night, the **IDF** enters Abasan in s. Gaza, arresting 1 Palestinian man. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a rare daytime incursion into Araba village nr. Jenin, searching several homes but making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., in 'Askar r.c. and Balata r.c., and nr. Hebron and Salfit. Palestinian sources report that in the previous wk., the **IDF** has leveled large tracts of land s. of Qalqilya (including uprooting 400 olive trees) in preparation for **separation wall** construction. The **IDF** informs residents of the Palestinian village of Azun Atma, nr. the separation wall s. of Qalqilya, that they must obtain special permits fr. the Civil Admin. to be able to travel in the area; informs residents of 4 villages s. of Tulkarm that as of 4/1, the **IDF** will close the sole gate in the separation wall that gives them access to village farmlands located between the wall and the Green Line. (PCHR 3/26; OCHA 3/31, 4/1; PCHR 4/2)

### 26 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized late-night house searches in several villages southeast of Jenin, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Salfit. (OCHA 3/31, 4/1; PCHR 4/2)

The **Sudanese government** reveals (and **U.S. officials** confirm) that in 1/09,

during OCL, an **Israeli aircraft** attacked a truck convoy in the **Sudan** believed to be transporting arms to Gaza, killing at least 39 and perhaps more than 100. (HA 3/26; NYT, Reuters 3/27; WJW 4/2; CounterPunch 4/13) (see Quarterly Update for details)

### 27 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and percussion grenades at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in al-Ma'sara (injuring 4 Palestinians, including 2 reporters), Ni'lin (injuring 4 Palestinians); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin. Palestinians nr. Nablus report that the **IDF** has begun construction of a new settler-only bypass road linking Alia and Hayuval settlements nr. Qaryut village that will destroy an estimated 1,000 d. of Palestinian orchards. (OCHA 3/31, 4/1; IMEMC, PCHR 4/2)

### 28 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** beats and fires tear gas, percussion grenades at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists (including Israeli Palestinian MK Muhammad Baraka) who hold a nonviolent march and sit-in outside al-Shuhada Street in Hebron to mark Palestinian Land Day, injuring 2 fieldworkers fr. B'Tselem and the Palestinian Center for Human Rights. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar attack and run off several Palestinian shepherds grazing flocks nr. the settlement. (OCHA 3/31, 4/1; PCHR 4/2)

### 29 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** begins leveling 78 d. of Palestinian land w. of Nablus for the creation of a new settler-only bypass road to Shavei Shomron settlement. At least 8 **Jewish settlers** severely beat a Palestinian man outside his Silwan home in East Jerusalem. A **Gazan woman** fr. Bayt Lahiya dies in an Egyptian hospital fr. white phosphorus injuries sustained during OCL. (OCHA 3/31, 4/1; PCHR 4/2)

### 30 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires tear gas, percussion grenades at Palestinian farmers to prevent them fr. working their land nr.

the **separation wall** in Jayyus nr. Qalqilya; beats and fires tear gas, percussion grenades at Palestinians holding a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bayt Allam n. of Hebron (injuring 6); makes rare daytime incursions into Dayr Abu Mash'al (raiding a home and arresting 1 Palestinian) and Ni'lin (patrolling streets, firing tear gas at residential areas) nr. Ramallah; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., nr. Hebron. The **IDF** also completes the relocation of its Bayt Ibia checkpoint (see 3/15), allowing Palestinians freer movement between Jenin and Nablus, but places additional restrictions on Jenin residents seeking to travel s. to Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba, angry over an **IDF** decision to allow Palestinians to use the Kiryat Arba Road by the settlement if they live in the immediate area and register their vehicles with the District Coordination Office, vandalize at least 14 Palestinian homes nr. the settlement. **Jewish settlers** fr. Efrat begin bulldozing land nr. Bethlehem for the creation of a settler-only bypass road; **Israel** declared the area state land in 2/09, 1 month after settlers first made attempts to seize the land for a road, and has not responded to appeals by the Palestinian owners. (OCHA 3/31, 4/1; PCHR 4/2)

### 31 MARCH

**IDF** troops fire on armed Palestinians laying a roadside bomb nr. the Israel-Gaza border, sparking a cross-border exchange of gunfire and calling in an air strike, leaving **2 armed Palestinians** dead and 3 armed Palestinians and 1 **IDF** soldier wounded; the **IDF** enters Gaza to clear the area, claiming to find a cache of grenades and an antitank missile. **Palestinians** also fire **2 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The UN reports that in 3/09, a total of 10 Palestinians were killed in tunnel incidents (7 collapses, 2 electrocutions, 1 fall) and 12 were rescued fr. tunnels experiencing unexplained breathing difficulties. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin, Tubas. The UN reports that over the previous wk., the **IDF** has installed a guardrail along 7 km of Road 317 (used by Jewish settlers) nr. Hebron to prevent Palestinian herders fr. crossing the road to access grazing areas. (OCHA, WP 4/1; PCHR 4/2)

The **Knesset** approves (69-45, with 5 Labor MKs who had opposed joining the coalition abstaining, 1 Israeli Palestinian MK

absent) **Netanyahu's** coalition government, which bills itself as representing Israelis who are unhappy with the peace process, worn down by Palestinian rocket fire fr. Gaza, and increasingly worried about the growing regional influence of Iran. (IFM, NYT, WP, WT 4/1; WJW 4/2) (see Quarterly Update for details)

### 1 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Azariyya and Tulkarm, nr. Bethlehem and Jenin. Palestinians report that in the previous wk., the **IDF** continued bulldozing land to expand a settler-only bypass road to Carmiel (see 3/15). (PCHR 4/2; OCHA 4/8; PCHR 4/9)

### 2 APRIL

In the West Bank, an **unidentified assailant** with an ax kills a **13-yr.-old Jewish settler boy** and wounds a 7-yr.-old inside Bet Ayn settlement in the Gush Etzion bloc nr. Bethlehem; several Palestinian groups (including the **al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades**, **Imad Mughniyah Group** [see 3/15], and **Islamic Jihad**) take responsibility; the **IDF** undertakes a manhunt (imposing a curfew on neighboring Khirbat Safa, searching homes, interrogating 10s of Palestinians), believing the attacker, suspected to be a Palestinian who worked in the settlement, may have acted alone; **Jewish settlers** blame the Israeli government for easing restrictions on Palestinian movement. The **IDF** conducts late-night house searches nr. Ramallah, but no arrests are reported. **Jewish settlers** fr. Avraham Avino settlement in Hebron blow the doors off 4 locked Palestinian shops nearby the settlement and occupy them. (NYT, WP, WT 4/3; OCHA 4/8; PCHR, WJW 4/9; JPI 4/17)

### 3 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** continues to impose a curfew on Khirbat Safa and search for the Bet Ayn attacker; patrols in Tulkarm during the day, randomly checking Palestinian IDs, arresting 1 teenager. **Jewish settlers** escorted by **Israeli police** seize a Palestinian home in East Jerusalem's al-Sa'diya quarter, evict the Palestinian family who has lived there for more than 20 yrs., and arrest the father, claiming the house belongs to a Jewish organization; the family

files a claim with the **Israeli High Court**, which rules that settlers may occupy the home until the petition is heard. (OCHA 4/8; CHR 4/9)

#### 4 APRIL

In Gaza, the **IDF** shells armed Hamas mbrs. laying a roadside bomb nr. the Gaza border fence e. of Khan Yunis, killing **2 armed Hamas mbrs.** In the West Bank, the **IDF** withdraws fr. Khirbat Safa and suspends the manhunt for the Bet Ayn attacker, without arresting a suspect, but continues to block all entry and exit fr. the village; patrols in al-Naqura village in the afternoon, withdrawing without incident. Inside Israel, **Israeli police** fatally shoot a **16-yr.-old bedouin girl** after she allegedly fires a pistol toward a border police post. (WP, WT 4/5; OCHA 4/8; PCHR 4/9)

#### 5 APRIL

In the evening, **Israeli security forces** in East Jerusalem surround and violently beat a group of Palestinians holding a sit-in outside a Palestinian home confiscated by Jewish settlers on 4/3. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Khirbat Safa (see 4/4) and nr. Hebron. (OCHA 4/8; PCHR 4/9)

#### 6 APRIL

**Israeli naval vessels** fire on and chase 30 Palestinian fishing boats (69 fishermen) off the n. Gaza coast to force them back to shore, seizing 3 boats, demanding that the 8 crew mbrs. of 1 boat strip naked and jump into the water, then detaining them and taking them to the Ashdod port. In the West Bank, the **IDF** lifts the closure on Khirbat Safa imposed on 4/2 and withdraws fr. the area, but reenters the vicinity later in the day after **Jewish settlers** fr. Bet Ayn fire toward the village, causing no injuries; fires on stone-throwing Palestinian youths nr. Jericho, wounding 1; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Askar r.c., Balata r.c., al-Fara'a r.c., Nablus, Tulkarm, and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Ramallah. **Israeli security forces** demolish a **Palestinian home** in East Jerusalem. (OCHA 4/8; PCHR 4/9)

#### 7 APRIL

The **IDF** imposes a general closure on the West Bank through 4/18 for the Passover holiday, barring all West Bank Palestinian access to East Jerusalem and Israel. **Israeli police** fatally shoot **East Jerusalem Palestinian Iyad Awaysat** when he allegedly attempts to run over 3 officers guarding workers partially demolishing the East Jerusalem **home** of a Palestinian who killed 3 Israelis with a bulldozer in West Jerusalem in 7/08; the shooting (protested by Palestinian witnesses who say Awaysat was only speeding) and demolition spark stone-throwing by some 50 Palestinians against Israeli border police who fire tear gas to disperse them, causing no serious injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Askar r.c., Balata r.c., al-Fara'a r.c., and Nablus for a 2d night, as well as nr. Tulkarm. (NYT, OCHA, WP, WT 4/8; PCHR, WJW 4/9)

#### 8 APRIL

Armed **Jewish settlers** fr. Gush Etzion and Bet Ayn (see 4/2), escorted by **IDF** troops, rampage through the nearby Palestinian village of Khirbat Safa, firing on homes, wounding 6 Palestinians; when Palestinians begin to stone the settlers, **IDF** troops intervene, bringing in reinforcements, occupying 3 homes as staging bases, imposing a curfew, and firing live ammunition, percussion grenades, and tear gas at Palestinians, sparking a 90-min. riot that leaves another 35 Palestinians injured (including 6 wounded by **IDF** gunfire and 3 by settler gunfire). The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin. (AFP 4/8; PCHR, WT 4/9; OCHA 4/15; PCHR 4/16)

#### 9 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches in Qalqilya, but makes no arrests. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba in Hebron set up 2 mobile homes and an electricity generator nr. the vacated Beit Shalom site; **IDF** troops observe but do not intervene. **Jewish settlers** fr. Carmiel s. of Hebron attack 3 Palestinian shepherds (including a pregnant woman) nr. the settlement. **Jewish settlers** fr. Carmiel and nearby Ma'on plant wheat on large areas of Palestinian land nr. the settlements and

build a new road s. of Carmiel in an apparent effort to expand, and possibly link, the settlements (which are 3 km apart). (OCHA 4/15; PCHR 4/16)

#### 10 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and percussion grenades at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 3 Palestinians, including a pregnant woman); fires tear gas and beats several Palestinians at a similar nonviolent demonstration in al-Ma'sara (injuring an Israeli man and a 9-yr.-old Palestinian child). **Jewish settlers** fr. Karnei Shomron and Keddumim nr. Qalqilya force Palestinian farmers off land nr. the settlement, block roads in the area to Palestinian traffic. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai in Hebron stone a Palestinian Red Crescent Society ambulance transporting a patient fr. a hospital to her home, forcing the ambulance back to Hebron hospital; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (OCHA 4/15; PCHR 4/16)

#### 11 APRIL

In Gaza, 5 Palestinians are treated for breathing trouble after working in a tunnel on the Rafah border nr. Brazil r.c. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids, searches, and occupies a Palestinian home nr. Tulkarm as an observation post; troops are still in the home at the end of the day). (OCHA 4/15; PCHR 4/16)

#### 12 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** evacuates a Palestinian home nr. Tulkarm occupied on 4/11; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Khirbat Safa and nr. Hebron, Ramallah. (OCHA 4/15; PCHR 4/16; WJW 4/30)

#### 13 APRIL

**Israeli naval vessels** fire on an unmanned **Palestinian boat** off the Bayt Lahiya coast, causing it to explode, resulting in no injuries; **Israel** claims the boat was full of explosives and Palestinians floated it out to sea in an attempt to attack its ships; there is no independent confirmation, and no group takes responsibility for staging an

attack. **Egyptian border police** demolish 6 smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** stages a late-night raid into Tuqu' village nr. Bethlehem, searching several homes and ordering a number of Palestinians to surrender for questioning, but making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Nablus. In Jerusalem, around **80 Jewish settlers** break into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound to celebrate the Passover festival there, chanting slogans to destroy the mosque and build the Third Temple; mosque guards block the settlers fr. entering the mosque itself; the **IDF** intervenes to arrest a Palestinian journalist covering the incident, charging him with "posing a danger to the Jewish public." (NYT 4/14; OCHA 4/15; PCHR 4/16)

#### 14 APRIL

**Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Bayt Lahiya coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a late-night incursion into Rumana village nr. Jenin, patrolling streets and firing on residential areas, causing no injuries and making no arrests. After the **Israeli High Court** upholds a judgment that 2 East Jerusalem homes (including the one seized on 4/3) belong to Jewish settler groups, **Israeli security forces** evict the 2 Palestinian families who have lived in the homes for years. **PA security forces** in the West Bank report uncovering an explosives lab in a mosque, implying it was run by Hamas; the exact location is not reported. (WT 4/15; PCHR 4/16)

#### 15 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes late-night raids on 2 Palestinian houses nr. Bethlehem, searching them and serving the owners with summons to appear before the Israeli intelligence bureau in Kefar Etzion settlement; makes a late-night raid on a kindergarten in Khirbat Safa to take down a Palestinian flag on the roof. (PCHR 4/16; OCHA 4/22; PCHR 4/23)

#### 16 APRIL

The **IDF** makes an air strike destroying a vacant house in Dayr al-Balah that allegedly was booby trapped; no injuries are reported; the 9-mbr. family vacated the house during OCL. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes

a rare afternoon incursion into Tura al-Gharbiyya nr. Jenin, occupying a home as an observation post (troops are still in the home at the end of the day); patrols in Araba village nr. Jenin, firing on residential areas, raiding and searching several homes, arresting 1 Palestinian. In Jerusalem, Israelis attempt to gain access to the al-Aqsa Mosque compound but are blocked by Palestinians; no injuries or serious violence is reported. In Gaza, a **4-mo.-old Palestinian** dies of injuries sustained during OCL. (WP 4/17; OCHA 4/22; PCHR 4/23)

U.S. envoy **Mitchell** begins a brief 2-day visit to Israel and Ramallah for talks with the new Israeli government and PA officials. This is his 3d tour to the region as envoy. (NYT, WP, WT 4/17; NYT, WP, WT 4/18; WT 4/19; NYT 5/15) (see Quarterly Update for details)

#### 17 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires on Palestinian youths who allegedly try to throw Molotov cocktails at the gate of Beit El settlement nr. Ramallah, killing **1 Palestinian teenager** and wounding another; opens fire on Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, killing **1 Palestinian** (hitting him in the chest with a high-velocity tear gas round at a distance of 20 yds.); sets up a military checkpoint outside the entrance to Sebastia nr. Nablus and checks Palestinian ID cards, withdrawing late in the evening. **Beit Haggai settlement guards** fatally shoot a **Palestinian teenager** in disputed circumstances: settlers say the teen, whose family house and property abut the settlement, crossed a fence into the settlement and tried to stab them; local Palestinians believe settlers shot the boy, unarmed and in his yard, and carried his body into the settlement. The **IDF** also vacates the house in Tura al-Gharbiyya occupied on 4/16. (NYT 4/18; OCHA 4/22; PCHR 4/23)

#### 18 APRIL

**IDF** troops on the Gaza border e. of Dayr al-Balah fire warning shots at a Palestinian farmer who strays nr. the border fence, forcing him to leave without injuring him, but damaging 4 nearby Palestinian homes. **IDF** troops at the Erez crossing fire on a World Vision vehicle carrying a Palestinian driver and a Japanese employee who had been

informed that the **IDF** had approved his exit through the crossing; the 2 men are pinned under **IDF** fire for 15 minutes until the Japanese, using his World Vision shirt as a flag, is able to signal the troops to halt fire; neither man is hurt. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, and nr. Bethlehem, Qalqilya. A **Palestinian** deliberately drives into 2 Israeli border police officers at a checkpoint into Jerusalem, causing no serious injuries, before being halted and arrested. Dozens of **Jewish settlers** gather at the evacuated Homesh settlement site, stone Palestinian vehicles traveling the Jenin-Nablus road. (OCHA 4/22; PCHR 4/23)

#### 19 APRIL

The **IDF** lifts the general closure on the West Bank imposed on 4/7 for Passover. In the West Bank, the **IDF** moves into Kafr Haris village nr. Salfit early in the morning, patrolling streets, occupying homes as observation posts, imposing a curfew, barring Palestinians fr. leaving their homes or entering the area; in the afternoon, the **IDF** escorts some **6,000 Jewish settlers** into the town to hold Passover services at several local shrines; during the 15 hrs. that settlers are in the village, they vandalize Palestinian cars and homes, break windows, and spray graffiti without the **IDF** intervening. The **IDF** also imposes a curfew on, patrols in Tuqu' nr. Bethlehem, stopping vehicles and checking IDs; conducts synchronized late-night arrest raids, house searches in villages around Hebron and Jenin, firing on residential areas, causing no reported injuries; begins work on a new segment of the **separation wall** southwest of Hebron on land belonging to 'Arab al-Ramadin village, leveling land within 65 ft. (20 m) of Palestinian homes; levels 6 d. of Palestinian land in Bayt Umar village n. of Hebron for installation of a new electricity network connecting Kiryat Arba settlement in Hebron with Hadar Beitar settlement nr. Bethlehem. (OCHA 4/22; PCHR 4/23)

#### 20 APRIL

**Israel** announces that 22-yr.-old Khirbat Safa resident Musa al-Teet, detained in late-night arrest raids on 4/12, has confessed to carrying out the 4/2 ax attack in Bet Ayn settlement on his own initiative. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a daytime raid into Khirbat Safa, patrolling streets, firing

live ammunition and percussion grenades at residential areas, raiding and occupying 1 home for 4 hrs. before withdrawing (no injuries or arrests reported); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin (firing on residential areas is reported in 3 locales, causing no injuries). In Gaza, a Palestinian man is severely injured by **IDF UXO** nr. Bayt Lahiya. (OCHA 4/22; PCHR 4/23)

#### 21 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem and nr. Jenin, firing on residential areas but causing no injuries. (OCHA 4/22; PCHR 4/23)

**King Abdallah of Jordan** meets with **U.S. pres. Barack Obama**, special envoy **Mitchell** at the White House. Obama lays out his admin.'s working plan, still in the formulating stage, for jumpstarting the peace process, asking the king to relay a request to the 22-mbr. **Arab League** to amend its 2002 peace initiative "to make it more palatable to Israel," specifically by dropping demands for the Palestinian refugees' right of return and setting a timetable for normalization with Israel. (AP 4/21; WP 4/26; WT 4/30; AP, *al-Quds al-Arabi*, UPI 5/6; NYT 5/12) (see Quarterly Update for details)

#### 22 APRIL

The **IDF** makes a late-night incursion into n. Gaza to level land along the n. border fence nr. Bayt Hanun. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids and demolishes a bedouin encampment in al-Fahm southeast of Nablus, demolishing **8 homes** and livestock pens, confiscating the contents and displacing 50 Palestinians; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in East Jerusalem, displacing a mother, father, and 5 children; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. In keeping with **separation wall** construction work begun on 4/19, the **IDF** declares 4,000 d. of Palestinian land s. of Hebron (belonging to the villages of 'Arab al-Ramadin, Dura, and Dahariyya) a closed military zone. (PCHR 4/23; OCHA, PCHR 4/29)

#### 23 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** halts PA construction of a staging area outside Bethlehem

where Pope Benedict XVI will be received when he visits the city on his upcoming tour (5/8-15), arguing that the plot falls in area C and therefore construction requires coordination with Israeli authorities. The **IDF** also beats several Palestinians holding a nonviolent protest against construction of a new settler-only bypass road nr. Carmiel settlement s. of Hebron (see 4/9), which is expected to displace 13 Palestinian families; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm. Around **20 Jewish settlers** fr. Kefar Etzion nr. Bethlehem chase off a Palestinian farmer working his land nr. the settlement. Nr. Qalqilya, **Jewish settlers** escorted by **IDF** troops prevent Palestinian farmers in Jit village fr. farming their land, vandalize 5 homes in the village. (OCHA, PCHR 4/29)

#### 24 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a rare daytime incursion into Tuqu' village nr. Jenin to arrest Palestinian workers at a construction site located 200-300 m fr. the **separation wall**; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin (injuring 5 Palestinians); severely beats 4 Palestinians (including a 14-yr.-old boy) at a similar nonviolent rally in al-Ma'sara; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar, escorted by **IDF** troops, enter 'Urif village s. of Nablus in the evening; when local Palestinians stone the settlers and troops, the **IDF** calls in reinforcements and fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, and tear gas at the Palestinians, injuring 12 (5 by live ammunition, 6 by rubber-coated steel bullets, 1 hit by a tear gas canister). (OCHA, PCHR 4/29)

#### 25 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a late-night raid on a Palestinian home nr. Qalqilya, demanding to detain a mentally handicapped man for interrogation, seriously beating his 26-yr.-old sister when she protests, damaging items in the home (including a Qur'an), before taking the man into custody. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya, Salfit. An **Israeli Interior Min.** comm. issues a recommendation that the government

annex around 12,000 d. of land to Ma'ale Adumim's settlement boundaries to link Ma'ale Adumim with Kirdar settlement, 3 km to the east; 6,000 new housing units would be built in Kirdar to create territorial contiguity with Ma'ale Adumim, greatly reducing the geographical contiguity between the n. and s. West Bank, and cutting off Palestinian access to Jerusalem. (OCHA, PCHR 4/29; PCHR 5/4)

## 26 APRIL

The **IDF** imposes a general closure on the West Bank through 4/29 for Israel's independence day celebrations, barring all West Bank Palestinians access to East Jerusalem and Israel. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a rare daylight incursion into Rantis village nr. Ramallah, patrolling streets, firing on residential areas, seriously wounding a Palestinian woman; fires on a 62-yr.-old Palestinian man at the Tarquimiyya crossing s. of Hebron when he reportedly ignores orders to stop, wounding him twice in the feet; demolishes a monument in al-Mukabir in East Jerusalem dedicated to **Iyad Awaysat**, killed by the **IDF** in East Jerusalem on 4/7; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Khirbat Safa and Bethlehem, nr. Hebron and Nablus. A **Jewish settler** shoots, seriously wounds a 15-yr.-old Palestinian boy cultivating almonds on his family's land s. of Nablus. At least 15 **Jewish settlers** fr. Bet Ayn settlement ambush and stone 2 Palestinian men (ages 62 and 69) farming land in Bayt Umar village nearby. (PCHR 4/29)

## 27 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids a house in al-Mukabir belonging to the family of construction worker Hussam Dweikat (shot dead on 7/2/08 when he deliberately rammed his bulldozer into a crowd in West Jerusalem), harasses family mbrs., and threatens to arrest Dweikat's father because the family had rebuilt part of the house demolished by the **IDF** in reprisal for the 7/08 attack; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. After mediation by UN agencies, the **PA in Ramallah** and **Hamas authorities in Gaza** reach an understanding regarding control of the Referrals Abroad Dept. (see 3/22) allowing normal operations to resume; the **World Health Organization** estimates that at least 3 patients (and as many as 8) died while waiting for referral documents autho-

rizing their treatment abroad. A **military court in Gaza** sentences 4 Palestinians to death and 3 Palestinians to life with hard labor in the 7/06 death of an Islamic University prof. during interfactional fighting; only 1 of those convicted is currently held by Hamas police; the others escaped when the **IDF** bombed Gaza's central prison on 12/28/08, at the opening of OCL. (OCHA, PCHR 4/29)

## 28 APRIL

The UN reports that in the previous wk., **Palestinians** and the **IDF** exchanged gunfire across the border nr. the Nahal Oz crossing (causing no injuries) and that the **IDF** fired "randomly" into Gaza nr. the Qarni and Sufa crossings (causing no injuries). In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes synchronized daytime raids on 4 villages s. of Jenin, patrolling in the streets, firing live ammunition and percussion grenades at residential areas, causing no injuries and making no arrests. The UN reports that over the previous wk. **Jewish settlers** have razed 200 d. of Palestinian land (including 50 d. of olive groves) w. of Salfit to expand Burkan settlement. A **PA court** sentences **Hebron resident Anwar Breghit** to death by hanging, convicting him of selling private Palestinian land to Israelis when he sold a plot in Bayt Umar village to Karne Tzur settlement; the sentence must be approved by PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas. (NYT, OCHA, PCHR 4/29; PCHR 5/7)

## 29 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Artas village nr. Bethlehem in the evening, randomly checking Palestinian IDs but does not make any arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. **Jewish settlers** stone Palestinian cars driving nr. Qalqilya, damaging 1 car. (OCHA 5/6; PCHR 5/7)

## 30 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin. (OCHA 5/1, 5/6; PCHR 5/7)

## 1 MAY

**Palestinians** fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** responds with at least 1 air strike on a

smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border, causing no injuries. The **IDF** fires on a Palestinian woman grazing sheep nr. the border fence e. of Jabaliya, wounding her. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians taking part in weekly demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, injuring 2; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas on Palestinian, Israeli, and international human rights activists taking part in a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in al-Ma'sara (10s suffer tear gas inhalation) and Ni'lin (injuring 5); conducts late-night house searches in Nablus and neighboring Balata r.c., but makes no arrests. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gilad settlement nr. Qalqilya, escorted by **IDF** troops, attack Palestinian farmers working their land in nearby Jit village, slashing tires of a tractor and ordering the farmers off the land, saying it belonged to them; the **IDF** troops confiscate the agricultural tools of the Palestinians and order them to leave the area, giving the tools to the settlers. (WT 5/3; OCHA 5/6; PCHR 5/7)

#### 2 MAY

**Palestinians** fire several **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** responds with air strikes on several smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border, killing 2 **Palestinians** inside a tunnel. **IDF** troops also make an incursion into Gaza e. of Jabaliya, firing on houses and agricultural areas, while artillery inside Israel shells the area; **IDF** troops withdraw after nearly 5 hrs., causing no reported injuries. **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire on Palestinian farmers working their fields nr. Khuza village nr. the border, lightly wounding 1. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire on Palestinian homes and agricultural land northeast of Bayt Hanun, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem. (WT 5/3; OCHA 5/6; PCHR 5/7)

#### 3 MAY

In Gaza, 3 Palestinians (including a 14-yr.-old boy) are lightly injured when they accidentally trigger **IDF UXO** in the debris of a home in Bayt Lahiya. The **IDF** arrests 3 unarmed Palestinians trying to cross the border e. of al-Maghazi r.c. to look for work in Israel. The **International Comm. of the Red Cross** informs the family of a missing

12-yr.-old boy fr. Jabaliya r.c. that the child was shot and wounded nr. the border fence and is being treated in an Israeli hospital. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron. (OCHA 5/6; PCHR 5/7)

#### 4 MAY

**IDF** troops on the central Gaza border e. of Gaza Valley village fire incendiary shells at agricultural areas nr. the border, burning 200 d. of crop land. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma'a r.c. and Tulkarm town and r.c., and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, and Jenin. (OCHA 5/6; PCHR 5/7)

#### 5 MAY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem; conducts other late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Askar r.c. nr. Nablus and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Qalqilya. **Israel's Jerusalem mayor Nir Barkat** presents to the Interior Min. planning comm. a proposed **master plan for Jerusalem** for the next 20 yrs. (see Quarterly Update for details). (HA, *Jerusalem Post* [Internet edition] 5/5; OCHA 5/6; PCHR 5/7; Ir Amin press release 6/30; HA 7/23)

#### 6 MAY

**Hamas** mbrs. fire 5 **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** retaliates with 3 air strikes on smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border, injuring 4 Palestinians. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fatally shoots a **Palestinian** who tries to take the gun of a soldier posted outside the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs; conducts synchronized late-night house searches in 4 villages nr. Jenin, making no arrests; conducts other late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-'Arub r.c. and Bayt Umar nr. Hebron. (Israel Radio News 5/6; NYT, PCHR 5/7; OCHA 5/13; PCHR 5/14)

#### 7 MAY

**Israeli naval vessels** fire on and detain a Palestinian fishing boat off the coast of n. Gaza, ordering 3 fishermen to strip naked and swim to the gunboat and the 4th fisherman to accompany the gunboat to Ashdod port; the fishermen are released

in the evening. **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire on residential areas of al-Shuka, moderately wounding a Palestinian woman. In the West Bank, an **IDF soldier** is killed in a friendly fire incident nr. Ramallah. The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem. (OCHA 5/13; PCHR 5/14)

At an emergency session in Cairo, the **Arab League states** unanimously reject the **Obama admin.**'s request as relayed by King Abdallah (see 4/21) to amend the 2002 Arab League initiative by dropping demands for the Palestinian right of return as a means of jumpstarting comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace talks. (*Irish Times* 5/8; NYT 5/12; see also AP, UPI 5/6) (see Quarterly Update for details)

### 8 MAY

The **IDF** deploys heavily across the West Bank and seems to scale back house searches and arrest raids in preparation for **Pope Benedict XVI's** 5/8–15 visit (see Quarterly Update for details). Today, the **IDF** fires tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians taking part in the weekly protest against the **separation wall** in Bil'in; disperses Palestinian and Israeli activists holding a nonviolent demonstration against the construction of a new settler-only bypass road nr. Harsina settlement nr. Hebron, beating and lightly injuring 2 Palestinians, arresting 6 Israelis. **Jewish settlers** fr. Harsina damage nearby Palestinian cropland. (OCHA 5/13; PCHR 5/14)

**Pope Benedict XVI** arrives in Jordan at the start of an 8-day tour of holy sites in the Middle East, with additional scheduled stops in Israel, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. (WP 5/9; NYT, WP, WT 5/10; IFM, NYT, WP, WT 5/11–12; NYT, WP, WT 5/13–16) (see Quarterly Update for details)

### 9 MAY

**Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Bayt Lahiya coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, **IDF troops** prevent Palestinian farmers accompanied by Israeli human rights activists fr. reaching a 300 d. plot of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Bet Ayn settlement; the **IDF** has recently restricted Palestinian access to the area, raising concerns that the plot will be annexed to the settlement. (OCHA 5/13; PCHR 5/14)

### 10 MAY

**Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Bayt Lahiya coast for a 2d day, forcing them to return to shore. In the evening, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire on Palestinian homes in Bayt Hanun, causing damage but no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Tubas and in and around Hebron, Jenin. (OCHA 5/13; PCHR 5/14)

### 11 MAY

In the morning, the **IDF** raids the Ambassador Hotel in Shaykh Jarrah in East Jerusalem, shuts down a temporary news bureau set up by the Palestinian Media Center to cover the pope's visit, confiscates documents fr. the news team, and threatens to close the hotel if it allows Palestinian media to work fr. the site again. Late in the evening, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. A **PA court** in Nablus sentences **Hamas mbr. Muhammad Silman Qatanani**, arrested by the PA 10 mos. ago on suspicion of illegal possession of weapons and explosives, to 18 mos. in prison for establishing clandestine Hamas cells with the aim of staging a coup against the **Abbas** government. (OCHA 5/13; PCHR, WJW 5/14)

**Netanyahu** meets with **Egyptian pres. Husni Mubarak** in Sharm al-Shaykh to promote building a regional coalition against Iran, as well as his idea for economic (as opposed to comprehensive) peace with the Palestinians. (WT 5/11; WP 5/12) (see Quarterly Update)

### 12 MAY

The **IDF** sends troops into Gaza to bulldoze land nr. the border fence e. of Jabaliya. The UN reports several previously unreported Gaza incidents that took place between 5/7 and 5/12 (no exact dates given): the **IDF** killed 1 **armed Palestinian** and wounded 1 armed Palestinian and 7 civilians (no details); Palestinians fired "several" **rockets and mortars** into Israel, causing no injuries but damaging 1 house; the **IDF** made several air strikes on Rafah border tunnels in response; there were 6 incidents of **IDF** gunfire and shelling across the border at Palestinian farmers, in 1 case setting 15 d. of wheat ablaze nr. al-Qarara. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a morning incursion

into Qalqilya to raid and search the home of a wanted Palestinian (not at home), arresting his mother. **Jewish settlers** perform religious ceremonies at the vacated Homesh settlement site northwest of Nablus. **Jewish settlers** in Hebron stage a provocative march through the town (fr. Kiryat Arba through Wadi al-Husayn, Wadi al-Nasara, Jabir, al-Salayma, the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs, al-Sahla, and al-Shuhada to Ramat Yishai settlement) in a show of force, vandalizing Palestinian homes and threatening Palestinians along the way; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (OCHA, WP, WT 5/13; PCHR, WJW 5/14)

**13 MAY**

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches in villages around Jenin, but makes no arrests. Palestinians report that over the previous wk. **Jewish settlers** have razed Palestinian land w. of Salfit to expand Burkan settlement (see 4/28); at least another 10 d. have been designated for leveling. (PCHR 5/14; OCHA 5/20; PCHR 5/21)

**14 MAY**

No incidents of Israeli-Palestinian violence are reported. (OCHA 5/20; PCHR 5/21)

**Netanyahu** meets with **King Abdallah** in Amman to promote building a regional coalition against Iran, as well as his idea for economic peace with the Palestinians. (WT 5/15) (see 5/11, Quarterly Update)

**15 MAY**

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians taking part in weekly demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in; fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin (wounding 1 Palestinian with live ammunition, 2 with rubber-coated steel bullets, and 1 with a tear gas canister in the back). (OCHA 5/20; PCHR 5/21)

**CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS**

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
HA	( <i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
IFM	(Israeli Foreign Ministry, Jerusalem)
IMEMC	(International Middle East Media Center, Bayt Sahur)
JPI	( <i>Jerusalem Post International Edition</i> , Jerusalem)
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)
UPI	(United Press International [Internet])
VOA	(Voice of the Arabs, Cairo)
WJW	( <i>Washington Jewish Week</i> , Rockville, MD)
WP	( <i>Washington Post</i> , Washington)
WT	( <i>Washington Times</i> , Washington)