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## CHRONOLOGY

16 MAY–15 AUGUST 2010

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

*This section is part 107 of a chronology begun in JPS 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time (EST). For a more comprehensive overview of events related to the al-Aqsa intifada and of regional and international developments related to the peace process, see the Quarterly Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in this issue.*

### 16 MAY

As the quarter opens, **Israel's** siege of Gaza continues, with Israel barring all exports, most imports except limited humanitarian and consumer goods and small amounts of construction materials for UN-supervised projects, and most cross-border transit by individuals (with very limited exceptions for extreme medical cases, VIPs, and international NGO workers). The **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** enforces a 300-meter-deep no-go zone inside the full length of the Gaza border and limits the Palestinian fishing zone off Gaza to 500–1,000 m off the immediate Bayt Lahiya and Rafah coasts, and 3 nautical miles elsewhere. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids Palestinian municipal inspector offices in al-Gazzazin in Hebron's old city, sealing the office and evicting the staff (unarmed police who maintain public order); fires tear gas to disperse Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists conducting a nonviolent march to the **separation wall** outside Bayt Jala nr. Bethlehem, arresting 8 demonstrators. In Gaza, baton-wielding, **Hamas-affiliated police** beat and evict Palestinians fr. at least **25 homes** in s. Rafah before bulldozing the houses, saying they were built illegally on government land; 31 families (190 individuals) are rendered homeless. (WT 5/17; NYT 5/19; OCHA, PCHR 5/20)

### 17 MAY

**IDF** troops make a brief incursion into the 350-m-deep no-go area inside the s. Gaza border e. of Khan Yunis leveling land to clear lines of sight. In the West Bank,

the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus, Ramallah. **Israeli border officials** bar **renowned American scholar and political activist Noam Chomsky** fr. entering the West Bank via Jordan to give a lecture at Birzeit University, citing security concerns. (NYT 5/18; OCHA, PCHR 5/20; Znet 7/30) (see Quarterly Update for details)

### 18 MAY

**Israel** seals the West Bank and Gaza completely through 5/19 for the Shavuot holidays. For a 2d day, **IDF** troops make a brief incursion into Gaza e. of Khan Yunis to level land in the no-go zone to clear lines of sight. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinian, international activists who stage a nonviolent march to the border fence n. of Bayt Lahiya to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone, causing no injuries. The UN reports that in the previous wk., a Palestinian teenager was seriously injured when he accidentally triggered unexploded IDF ordnance while working his family's farm nr. the Gaza border fence. **Hamas-affiliated police** in Gaza execute **3 Palestinians** convicted of murder. **Jewish settlers** who recently took possession of a Palestinian home in Bayt Safafa in East Jerusalem after winning a 12/09 court verdict beat a 90-yr.-old Palestinian woman and her 4-yr.-old grandson passing nr. the house. The **Palestinian Authority (PA)** circulates a list of 500 products made in Jewish settlements, saying anyone caught selling the goods will be fined and jailed; **Israel** threatens to confiscate VAT taxes collected on the PA's behalf (transferred to the PA monthly) to

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compensate boycotted companies. (JTA 5/18; NYT 5/19; PCHR 5/20; OCHA 5/21)

### 19 MAY

**Ansar al-Sunna**, a Salafist militant group opposed to Hamas, fires a **Qassam** rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** responds with **air strikes** on 2 open areas along the s. Gaza border and on a Hamas training site in central Bayt Hanun in n. Gaza; no casualties are reported, but significant damage to surrounding civilian buildings is noted in Bayt Hanun. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around East Jerusalem and nr. Bethlehem, Ramallah. (JP 5/19; PCHR 5/20; AFP, JP 5/21; OCHA, PCHR 5/27)

**U.S. special envoy George Mitchell** arrives in the region for 2 days of indirect Israeli-Palestinian talks, marking the first full round of “proximity talks” since their launch on 5/9. The sides continue to differ on the agenda for talks and which issues should be negotiated first. (CSM, IFM, WP 5/20; WSJ 5/21) (see Quarterly Update for details)

### 20 MAY

**Israel** releases **Hamas-affiliated Palestinian Council (PC) mbr. Muhammad Abu Tir**, who was among 60 Hamas-affiliated elected officials arrested by Israel after the 6/06 capture of IDF Cpl. Gilad Shalit (of the 60 at least 10 are still in custody). Hrs. later, **Israeli security forces** raid his home in Umm Tuba village s. of Jerusalem and order him to refrain fr. any public celebration of his release. The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Jericho. (AFP 5/20; OCHA, PCHR 5/27)

### 21 MAY

**IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fatally shoot **2 armed Palestinian teenagers** who infiltrate the border fence nr. Abasan; the IDF claims they are mbrs. of **Hamas’s armed-wing, the Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades (IQB)**. The IDF sends troops 800 m into Abasan to raze a Palestinian house under construction, a poultry farm, and 2 dunams (d.; 4 d. = 1 acre) of agricultural land planted with olive and palm trees to

clear lines of site. Later, **IDF** troops and **armed Palestinians** exchange fire across the Gaza border, leaving 1 IDF soldier wounded. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** and land confiscations in Bil’in and Ni’lin nr. Ramallah, Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih in the north central West Bank, and Bayt Jala and al-Ma’sara nr. Bethlehem. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, leaving scores suffering tear gas inhalation, injuring 5 Palestinians, and arresting 11 Israelis and internationals (including an Israeli journalist). (NYT 5/22; OCHA, PCHR 5/27)

In Jerusalem, **Israeli police** inform **4 PC mbrs. fr. the Hamas-affiliated Change and Reform party—Khalid Abu ‘Arafa, Muhammad Abu Tir, Ahmad Atwan, and Muhammad Totah** (all arrested in 6/06 as part of Israel’s round-up of Hamas-affiliated PC mbrs. and recently released after completing their sentences)—that Israel’s High Court has upheld a 9/09 ruling revoking their permanent Jerusalem residency status because their participation in 1/06 Palestinian elections constituted disloyalty to the state, warning that they will be deported to Gaza if they do not leave Jerusalem voluntarily (Abu Tir by 6/19, the others by 7/3). (NYT 5/22; PCHR 5/27; PCHR 6/7)

### 22 MAY

**IDF** troops on the Gaza border nr. the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials fr. destroyed buildings in the Erez industrial zone, wounding 1 Palestinian. The **IDF** shoots and wounds a 2d Palestinian in a similar incident on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Lahiya. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Birzeit, nr. Bethlehem. (OCHA, PCHR 5/27)

### 23 MAY

Based on **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu’s** 5/20 meeting with Mitchell (see 5/19) and a meeting today between Israeli and PA security officials, **Israel** announces plans to relax some restrictions on West

Bank movement and access over the next 2 wks. as a goodwill gesture to support proximity talks. The promised moves include: removing 60 roadblocks (around 10% of total) across the West Bank, various steps to improve Palestinian tourism and trade, and lifting some restrictions on Israeli Palestinians access to the West Bank. (IFM 5/23; JTA 5/24; OCHA, WJW 5/27) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In Gaza, around **20 armed Palestinians** vandalize and set fire to an United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) beachside summer camp for refugee children under construction w. of Gaza City, binding the caretaker and leaving him with a letter threatening UNRWA senior staff; **Hamas** denounces the attack; no group takes responsibility, but previously Islamist extremists have condemned UNRWA for corrupting Gazan youths by introducing them to activities they deem at odds with Islam. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging construction materials fr. former settlement sites nr. Bayt Lahiya, wounding 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids in and around Hebron and neighboring al-'Arub refugee camp (r.c.), in Jenin and Qalqilya, nr. Jericho and Ramallah. (IFM 5/23; NYT 5/24; OCHA, PCHR 5/27; NYT 6/29)

**Israel** begins a 5-day nationwide civil defense exercise to test the preparedness of civilians, emergency services, local authorities in case of war. **Netanyahu** stresses that the drill does not mean Israel is expecting or planning a major security engagement. (NYT 5/24)

#### 24 MAY

**IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border nr. the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging construction materials fr. destroyed buildings in the Erez industrial zone, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** enters Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron late in the evening, raiding and searching houses and randomly checking Palestinian IDs, firing rubber-coated steel bullets at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, injuring 4; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in

Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem, nr. Hebron. (OCHA, PCHR 5/27)

#### 25 MAY

**Unidentified Palestinians** fire **4 mortars** fr. Gaza toward Israel; 3 land inside Israel, causing no damage or injuries, while 1 lands harmlessly in Gaza. Late in the evening, the **IDF** responds with **air strikes** on a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border and on the destroyed Dahaniyya airport site in s. Gaza (causing no injuries), as well as on a Hamas building in Bayt Hanun (destroying it, damaging 26 houses, 23 shops, a clinic, the local municipal building, and a sports club nearby, injuring 15 Palestinian bystanders, and knocking out electricity to some areas). **Unidentified Palestinians** detonate a bomb hidden in a donkey cart by the Gaza border fence as an **IDF** border patrol unit on the Israeli side of the border passes, killing the donkey but causing no IDF injuries. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging construction materials fr. former settlement sites nr. the border twice during the day, causing no injuries; also fire warning shots at farmers who stray nr. the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries. Later, **IDF** troops make an incursion into the n. Gaza buffer zone nr. Bayt Lahiya to search the area, opening fire but causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tubas and nr. Hebron, Nablus. Israel's **Jerusalem District Court** upholds a decision to evacuate and seal the Beit Yonatan building in the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan in East Jerusalem, built without a permit in 2004 by the right-wing group Ateret Cohanim and housing 8 settler families. **Hamas-affiliated police** in Gaza say they have arrested several suspects in the 5/23 UNRWA arson. (HA, JP, JTA, UPI 5/25; JP, YA 5/26; OCHA, PCHR 5/27)

#### 26 MAY

**Unidentified Palestinians** fire **1 Qasam rocket, 2 mortars** fr. Gaza toward Israel, causing no damage or injuries; the mortars land inside Gaza. The **IDF** responds with **air strikes** on the abandoned Dahaniyya airport site and a target in Bayt Hanun in the n. (seriously injuring 2 Palestinians). The **Israeli navy** fires on

Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging construction materials in former settlement sites nr. the border (wounding 1) and in the former Erez industrial zone (wounding 2). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Jala, nr. Hebron. (OCHA, PCHR 5/27; NYT, WP 5/30; PCHR 6/3; OCHA 6/4)

## 27 MAY

**Israel** warns that it will not allow passage to a flotilla of 8 boats organized by the **Free Gaza Movement (FGM)** and a Turkish organization, **Humanitarian Relief Fund (going by the acronym IHH)**, currently en route to Gaza in an effort to defy **Israel's** siege and deliver 10,000 tons of humanitarian aid, saying it will send **Israeli naval commandos** to intercept the boats and escort them to Ashdod port, where the 100s of activists onboard would be deported. The **U.S.** urges restraint. (NYT, WP, WT 5/28) (see Quarterly Update for details)

**IDF** troops on the Gaza border nr. the former Nahal Oz crossing fire on armed Palestinians laying a roadside bomb nr. the border fence, injuring 7; the Palestinians respond with **mortar** fire, causing no injuries. The **IDF** also makes **air strikes**, directs tank fire at an area s. of Qarni crossing in response to mortar fire fr. the area; 2 Palestinian civilians, no Israelis are injured in the exchange. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a predawn raid on a Palestinian home in 'Arab al-Ramadin village nr. Hebron, firing tear gas in the home (8 family mbrs. are evacuated to a medical center for treatment); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron (including arresting a 12-yr.-old boy, who is released on 5/28). (YA 5/28; PCHR 6/3; OCHA 6/4)

**Israel** charges 2 **Israeli Palestinians**, Ameer Makhoul (dir. of Ittijah, a union of Arab organizations in Israel) and Omar Said (also a pro-Arab advocate), with espionage for allegedly passing information on the location of **IDF** facilities to **Hizballah**, a charge the men deny. (WP, WT 5/28)

## 28 MAY

Late at night, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 2 **Qassam rockets** fr. Gaza into

**Israel**, causing damage but no injuries. The **IDF** retaliates with 5 **air strikes** on the Dahaniyya airport site (hitting previously destroyed buildings, causing no injuries) and on a suspected weapons factory in the al-Zaytun neighborhood of Gaza City (destroying it but causing no injuries).

In the West Bank, the **IDF** partly opens Route 443 between Jerusalem and Ramallah to Palestinian traffic for the 1st time in 8 yrs., but Palestinians will still have to go through several checkpoints and will not be allowed to take the road all the way into Ramallah (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 155 for background). **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** and land confiscations in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, leaving scores suffering tear gas inhalation, injuring at least 2 Palestinians, and arresting 4 Israelis.

**Jewish settlers** fr. the unauthorized outpost of Beit Yonatan nr. Silwan retaliating for the 5/25 Jerusalem District Court decision harass a group of Palestinian women, sparking a stone throwing clash between the settlers and local Palestinians; the **IDF** intervenes, firing tear gas and beating back the Palestinians, including a pregnant Palestinian woman who miscarries as a result. **Jewish settlers** fr. Karnei Shomron nr. Qalqilya stone Palestinian vehicles on the Qalqilya-Nablus road, breaking the windows of 1 car, injuring 4 Palestinians. (YA 5/28; NYT, WP 5/29; JP 5/30; PCHR 6/3; OCHA 6/4)

## 29 MAY

In response to the 5/28 rocket fire, the **IDF** carries out 2 **air strikes** on a suspected weapons factory in n. Gaza and a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinians staging a nonviolent march protesting settlement expansion, injuring 2 Palestinians (one a journalist). For a 2d day, **Jewish settlers** fr. Beit Yonatan harass a group of Palestinian children, sparking a stone throwing clash; the **IDF** intervenes, beating back Palestinians, moderately injuring 2. (JP 5/30; PCHR 6/3; OCHA 6/4)



## 30 MAY

**Three Israeli navy missile ships** make first contact with 6 boats fr. the **FGM-IHH flotilla** late at night in international waters, warning them that they are approaching Israeli waters and must either turn around or divert to Ashdod port; the activists respond that they will continue on to Gaza, stating they are unarmed civilians. (The other 2 boats remain in Cyprus because of poor weather.) In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah. (NYT, WT 5/31; PCHR 6/3; OCHA 6/4)

## 31 MAY

Overnight, **Israeli naval commandos** in boats and helicopters easily commandeer 5 small boats in the **FGM-IHH** flotilla to Gaza without incident, but open fire on passengers when they attempt to seize the main vessel (*Mavi Marmara*) sailing with the group, killing **9 Turkish activists** (1 with dual U.S. citizenship); another 53 passengers (23 seriously, including 1 Australian) and 7 Israeli commandos (1 seriously; 1 stabbed, several with gunshot wounds) are injured. The IDF claims commandos acted in self-defense, saying they faced a premeditated attack by passengers; FGM-IHH says passengers were unarmed and nonviolent and at most acted in self-defense. In light of the incident, the **U.S.** cancels a meeting at the White House between **U.S. Pres. Barack Obama** and Israeli PM **Netanyahu** scheduled for 6/1 and issues a statement saying that the U.S. is “deeply concerned by the suffering of civilians in Gaza” and “will continue to engage the Israelis on a daily basis to expand the scope and type of goods allowed into Gaza.” (IFM 5/31; IFM, NYT, WP, WT 6/1; AHR 6/3; JPI 6/11; ITIC 7/6; *Counterpunch* 6/10; JPI 7/16) (see Quarterly Update for details)

Meanwhile, **IDF** troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging construction materials fr. destroyed buildings inside the Erez industrial zone, causing no reported injuries. **Israeli border police** fire tear gas at Palestinian and international activists staging a nonviolent demonstration against Israel’s attack on the flotilla nr. the Qalandia crossing into Jerusalem, hitting an

American activist in the head with a tear gas canister (she loses an eye). (PCHR 6/3; OCHA 6/4; WJW 6/10)

## 1 JUNE

The **U.S.** summons **Israeli amb. Michael Oren** and **national security advisor Uzi Arad** to a 4-hr. mtg. at the White House to discuss how to “contain fallout” fr. the flotilla raid and to find ways for Israel to ease the siege of Gaza without harming Israeli security. Separately, **U.S. Secy. of State Hillary Clinton** phones **Israeli DM Ehud Barak** to urge Israel to be very careful about what it says and does in the coming days to defuse the situation as quickly as possible. (WP 5/27; IFM 6/1; NYT, WJW, WP 7/2)

In light of the 5/31 flotilla incident, **Egypt** says it will open its border with Gaza indefinitely as of 6/2 for unlimited travel for humanitarian purposes, though import of goods will remain restricted per Israeli demands. Overnight, **unidentified Palestinians** fire **1 Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing damage but no injuries. In response, the **IDF** carries out **2 air strikes** and fires 7 tank shells on the launch site nr. Abasan in s. Gaza, killing **2 armed Palestinians**; then sends troops 400 m into Gaza to clear lines of sight in the area. Later in the day, **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. fire **2 Qassam rockets** fr. n. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries; the IDF shells the launch site, killing **3 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** Meanwhile, **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border for unknown reasons fire into al-Shuka neighborhood in Rafah, wounding a 71 yr.-old-Palestinian woman inside her home. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging construction materials inside the Erez industrial zone, causing no reported injuries. The UN reports that in the previous wk., **Hamas** authorities in Gaza for unstated reasons shut down **6 Palestinian NGOs** and confiscated some of their property; UN **special coordinator for Middle East peace Robert Serry** expresses concern over the impact on Palestinian civil society. The UN also reports that in the previous wk., **6 Palestinians** were killed, 12 injured when a gas canister being smuggled through a tunnel on the Rafah border exploded; **1 Palestinian** was killed and 2 were injured

in a separate tunnel collapse. (JP 6/1; NYT 6/2; PCHR 6/3; OCHA 6/4)

## 2 JUNE

As announced on 6/1, **Egypt** opens its side of the Rafah border in both directions to Palestinian medical cases, students, other humanitarian cases with proper travel documents, as well as to foreign passport holders; **1,000s of Gazans** stream to the border crossing in hopes of reaching stores in Egyptian Rafah, but Hamas and Egyptian officials allow fewer than 500 out and fewer than 600 in the first day. (The crossing remains open continuously through the end of the quarter, but average daily numbers allowed to cross are slightly lower than these, with Egypt denying entry to a significant number of Palestinians approved for exit by Hamas.) Twice during the day, **IDF** troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging construction materials inside the Erez industrial zone, wounding 1 Palestinian. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts evening arrest raids in al-Ma'sara. **Jewish settlers** set fire to crop land in 4 Palestinian village nr. Nablus, destroying 450 olive trees and 300 almond trees. (PCHR 6/3; OCHA 6/4)

## 3 JUNE

**Unidentified Palestinians** fire 4 **Qassam rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, a **Jewish settler** opens fire on Palestinian school children picnicking outside the entrance to al-'Arub r.c., wounding 2. **Israeli security forces** raid and search without warrant the Bayt Hanina Club in East Jerusalem; Israeli authorities have repeatedly tried to close the club, claiming it hosts official PA meetings. (Israel prohibits the PA and PLO fr. conducting political activities in East Jerusalem.) (YA 6/3; PCHR 6/10; OCHA 6/11)

## 4 JUNE

**Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against

the **separation wall** and land confiscations in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih, as well as in Nuba village nr. Ramallah. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, leaving scores suffering tear gas inhalation, injuring at least 3 Palestinian protesters and 3 Palestinian and 1 Norwegian journalist, arresting 3 demonstrators (including at least 1 American). (PCHR 6/10; OCHA 6/11)

## 5 JUNE

**Israeli naval commandos** board the FMG-IHH aid boat *Rachel Corrie*, carrying medical supplies and construction materials, off the Gaza coast without incident, guiding it into Ashdod port, detaining 11 activists (including Irish Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mairead Maguire, fmr. UN diplomat Dennis Halliday, and prominent Malaysian writer and parliamentarian Mohd Nizar bin Zakaria) and 8 crew. Meanwhile, in the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah. (IFM, NYT, WP 6/6; PCHR 6/10; OCHA 6/11)

## 6 JUNE

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized late-night arrest raids and house searches in villages n. of Hebron. (PCHR 6/10; OCHA 6/11)

## 7 JUNE

Overnight, the **Israeli navy** acting on "prior intelligence" fatally shoots **5 al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades (AMB) mbrs.** diving off the Gaza coast and the **Palestinian fisherman** manning their boat, wounding and capturing 2 other AMB divers. The **AMB** claims the men were unarmed and on a training mission; Israel claims they were en route to Israel to stage an attack. Later in the day, the **IDF** carries out an **air strike** on the n. Gaza border area, seriously wounding 1 **Hamas** mbr. preparing to launch a Qassam rocket. **IDF** troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging construction materials in the industrial zone, wounding 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around

Hebron, nr. Bethlehem and Jenin. (NYT, WP, WT 6/8; PCHR 6/10; OCHA 6/11; JPI 6/18)

## 8 JUNE

Under U.S. pressure, **Israel** announces that the IDF will conduct an internal investigation of the 5/31 flotilla incident and eases the Gaza blockade slightly, allowing in the 1st shipments of jam, juice, halva, shaving razors since 6/07 and saying that spices such as coriander and cardamom will be allowed in as of 6/10. **IDF** troops on the c. Gaza border e. of Gaza City fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging aggregate fr. destroyed buildings nr. the no-go zone, wounding 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 2 building foundations in Beit El settlement, built in violation of the temporary settlement freeze; settlers throw stones, light bulbs full of paint at Israeli police, who respond with tear gas and arrest 4 protesters. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin. (WP 6/9; NYT, PCHR, WJW 6/10; OCHA 6/11)

## 9 JUNE

**Obama** receives **PA PM Mahmud Abbas** in Washington for talks on bilateral relations and how best to proceed with peace talks in light of the flotilla incident. **Obama**, who has been in regular contact with Netanyahu since the flotilla attack, for the first time publicly proposes that Israel switch fr. a blanket ban on imports to Gaza with a list of exempted items permitted entry and instead allow all imports minus a list of banned items. (WP 6/9; NYT, WP, WT 6/10; WJW 6/17)

The **PA** says it has given **Mitchell** its baseline positions for direct talks with Israel and is prepared to begin direct negotiations once Israel does the same. **Israel**, however, says it will not lay out its negotiating position until direct talks begin "because that would be asking us to negotiate against ourselves." (NYT 6/10)

**IDF** troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging construction materials in the industrial zone, causing no injuries. **IDF** troops make a brief incursion into the s. Gaza border area to level land to clear lines of sight. In the West Bank, the **IDF**

conducts late-night arrests raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron (including surrounding and searching the home of one of the organizers of the local separation wall protests, questioning him for 3 hrs. but not arresting him), Jenin; breaks up **Palestinians and Israeli activists** holding a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in al-Walaja nr. Bethlehem, arresting 1 Palestinian, 2 Israelis. (PCHR 6/10, 6/17; OCHA 6/18)

## 10 JUNE

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in al-Mazra'a village nr. Ramallah at dawn, arresting 1 Palestinian teenager, releasing him later in the day. (PCHR 6/17; OCHA 6/18)

Hrs. before the **Palestinian Central Elections Commission's** deadline to submit electoral lists for municipal elections slated to begin on 7/17, the **PA** postpones municipal elections indefinitely, claiming that they would derail national unity talks with Hamas. Analysts, however, overwhelmingly attribute the decision to **Fatah's** inability to agree on its own slate of candidates and preselection polls indicating that non-Fatah independent candidates were poised to win key races. (JP, NYT, WP 6/11; PCHR 6/15; Huffington Post 6/19, Arab Reform Bulletin 7/21; HA 7/27; see also YA 6/7) (see Quarterly Update for details)

## 11 JUNE

**IDF** soldiers manning a temporary checkpoint in Wadi al-Juz in East Jerusalem open fire on a Palestinian car they claim refused orders to halt, killing 1 **Palestinian** man, wounding his 5-yr.-old son, and severely beating a Palestinian who runs to the scene to provide medical aid. Palestinian witnesses claim the driver turned down a side street before the checkpoint to avoid a scene at the checkpoint, where Palestinian children were throwing stones at the troops; troops then chased the car, ordered it to stop, and willfully shot the driver when he halted and stepped out of the car, wounding him with 3 bullets before shooting him twice more at point-blank range, wounding the child in the initial volley. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international



activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** and land confiscations in Bil'in, Ni'lin, Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih, and al-Ma'sara. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, leaving 10s suffering tear gas inhalation and detaining 3 Palestinian cameramen for foreign news agencies, 1 international activist, and 2 Palestinians (including a main organizer of the al-Ma'sara protest, who is formally arrested after the others are released). (PCHR 6/17; OCHA 6/18)

## 12 JUNE

**IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the former settlement sites nr. the border, wounding 1. (PCHR 6/17; OCHA 6/18)

## 13 JUNE

**IDF** troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the industrial zone, wounding 1 Palestinian. Late in the evening, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. A **Palestinian teenager** is fatally electrocuted in a smuggling tunnel under the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (WP 6/15; PCHR, WJW 6/17; OCHA 6/18)

In addition to the **IDF** internal investigation announced on 6/8, **Israel** names a government-appointed "**independent public commission**" with foreign participation to examine a narrow set of circumstances surrounding the **Gaza flotilla** incident. (IFM 6/13; JTA, NYT 6/14; NYT, WP 6/15) (see Quarterly Update for details)

## 14 JUNE

In the West Bank, **Palestinian gunmen** open fire on an **IDF** border police vehicle nr. Hebron, killing 1 **Israeli border police officer** and wounding 3 in the first fatal shooting attack against Israelis in the West Bank in over 1 yr.; a claim of responsibility and threat of more attacks are issued by a group calling itself the **Freedom**

**Flotilla Martyrs**. Also in the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts 3 separate synchronized late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem and neighboring Dahaysha r.c., al-Far'a r.c. and Tammun village nr. Tubas, Jenin town and r.c. and 2 nearby villages; additional late-night arrest raids, house searches are carried out nr. Salfit, Tubas. In Gaza, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 1 **Qassam rocket** fr. the s. Gaza border area into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** fires 5 artillery shells at the launch site, causing no damage or injuries. Separately, the **IDF** makes a brief incursion into s. Gaza to level land to clear lines of sight. **IDF** troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire on Palestinian scavenging for construction materials in the industrial zone, wounding 1 Palestinian. **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire warning shots at **Palestinians** staging a nonviolent march to the border fence e. of Khan Yunis to protest Israel's no-go zone; no injuries are reported. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. (NYT, YA 6/15; PCHR, WJW 6/17; OCHA 6/18)

## 15 JUNE

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into Khuza village, 400 m into s. Gaza, to level lands to clear lines of sight. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians staging a nonviolent march to the border fence to protest Israel's no-go zone, injuring 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron (including summoning a 7-yr.-old boy for interrogation). The UN reports that in the previous wk., in addition to the teenager killed on 6/13, 1 **Palestinian** was killed in a tunnel collapse on the Rafah border. (PCHR 6/17; OCHA 6/18)

## 16 JUNE

**IDF** troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the industrial zone, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus, nr. Ramallah. In Jerusalem, the **IDF** demolishes 2 Palestinian stores and 1 other structure in Silwan, as well as a garage in al-Thawri

neighborhood. (PCHR 6/17; OCHA 6/18; PCHR 6/24; OCHA 6/25)

### 17 JUNE

After 2 days of heated debate, **Netanyahu's security cabinet**, under heavy international pressure to ease restrictions on Gaza, agrees to increase the amounts of goods already allowed for import and to add some new items to the permitted import list, including allowing import of all foodstuffs and increasing imports of building materials for construction overseen by credible third parties, such as the UN. The strict naval blockade would remain in place. (IFM 6/17; NYT, OCHA, WP 6/18)

**IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire on armed Palestinians operating nr. the border fence, wounding 1. In 2 separate incidents (in the fmr. n. Gaza settlement sites and the Erez industrial zone), **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction goods nr. the border, causing no injuries. In a 3d incident later in the day, **IDF** troops make an incursion into n. Gaza nr. Bayt Lahiya and stay there most of the day to prevent Palestinians fr. entering the area to look for construction materials. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized late-night house searches in villages s. and w. of Jenin, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah. (PCHR 6/24; OCHA 6/25)

### 18 JUNE

**IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction goods in the fmr. settlement sites nr. the border, causing no injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly non-violent demonstrations against the **separation wall** and land confiscations in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, leaving 10s suffering tear gas inhalation, 3 Palestinians injured, 6 Palestinians (including 1 journalist) and 3 Israelis under arrest (all are released by 6/20). A **Jewish settler** driving nr. Hebron stops his car and beats

a Palestinian teenager unconscious with an iron bar, leaving him on the side of the road, where he is found and transported to a hospital by a passing Palestinian. (PCHR 6/24; OCHA 6/25)

### 19 JUNE

In 2 separate incidents (in the fmr. n. Gaza settlement sites and the Erez industrial zone), **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials nr. the border, wounding 2 Palestinians. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus. (PCHR 6/24; OCHA 6/25)

### 20 JUNE

Under continued pressure fr. **Obama** and **Quartet special envoy Tony Blair**, **Israel's security cabinet** agrees in principle to switch fr. a blanket ban on entry of goods to Gaza to a prohibited list of items considered "weapons and war-supporting materiel" and to allow "a significantly greater volume of goods" into the Strip. The easing would affect overland transportation only. The naval blockade and all restrictions on exports and the entry and exit of individuals remain (see Doc. C2 and C3 in this issue). Separately, the **U.S.** and **Israel** announce that the Obama-Netanyahu meeting originally set for 6/1 will be held at the White House on 7/6. In addition, **Mitchell**, who has just returned fr. meetings with the Palestinian (6/18) and Israeli (6/19) peace teams, reports that the sides are ready to consider renewing proximity talks. (NYT, WP 6/21; WP 6/23; JPI 7/9) (see Quarterly Update for details)

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into the no-go zone in n. Gaza to investigate a heavy explosion, searching the area and pulling back into Israel without incident. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at **Palestinians** staging a nonviolent demonstration against the separation wall nr. Bethlehem, also violently beating 3 Palestinian cameramen for Palestinian and foreign news outlets; conducts synchronized late-night patrols in villages w. of Jenin, making no arrests. **Israeli police** in Jerusalem seal the Ilaf Association for Education Support, which provides student loans for some 160 college students,

for allegedly hosting Hamas meetings and thereby supporting a “terrorist organization.” (PCHR 6/24; OCHA 6/25)

## 21 JUNE

**Israel’s Jerusalem Planning Commission** grants preliminary approval for the rezoning and demolition of 22 Palestinian homes in Silwan neighborhood to create an archaeological park, a 1,000-unit Jewish residential area, and tourist zone; the rezoning measure would also retroactively approve Jewish settlers’ Beit Yonatan construction, reaffirmed as illegal by Israel’s Jerusalem District Court on 5/25 (see above). The **State Dept.** denounces the move as undermining proximity talks. Meanwhile, the **IDF** begins large-scale bulldozing of land between Pisgat Ze’ev and Neve Ya’acov settlements just n. of Jerusalem for construction of 600 new settlement housing units that will link the 2 settlements, which it intends to keep under final status. The **IDF** also makes a major late-night incursion into Dayr Samit village nr. Hebron, surrounding and detonating stun grenades around a Palestinian home, blowing off the door, and firing at the windows and roof before raiding the home, beating the residents, and arresting 2 men. Troops then raid and search several surrounding homes, in total arresting 25 mbrs. of the extended al-Adam/al-Hroub clan. The **IDF** also conducts late-night raids and searches nr. Jenin, summoning 7 Palestinians for interrogation. (NYT, WT 6/22; NYT 6/23; PCHR 6/24; OCHA 6/25)

## 22 JUNE

**IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. settlement sites nr. the border, wounding 1 Palestinian teenager. A **Palestinian** is electrocuted in a smuggling tunnel under the Rafah border; 2 Palestinians are injured in a separate tunnel collapse. (PCHR 6/24; OCHA 6/25; PCHR 7/1)

## 23 JUNE

**IDF** troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the industrial zone, wounding 1 Palestinian

teenager. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Azun village nr. Qalqilya and Bayda village nr. Salfit in the morning, without incident; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Dahaysha r.c. Israeli municipal officials in Jerusalem force a Palestinian family in the Old City to demolish their **home** or cover the cost of Israeli authorities demolishing it; the family had already paid \$4,700 in fines for building the house without a permit. (PCHR 6/24; OCHA 6/25; PCHR 7/1; OCHA 7/2)

## 24 JUNE

During the day, **IDF** troops make brief incursion 400 m into Gaza n. of Bayt Hanun and 300 m into s. Gaza nr. Abasan to level land to clear lines of sight. Between midday and evening, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 13 **mortars** and 2 **Qassam rockets** fr. Gaza toward Israel in 4 barrages (6 mortars land inside Gaza), causing no damage or injuries. Late at night, the **IDF** retaliates with **air strikes** on 2 tunnels on the Rafah border and a suspected weapons depot in n. Gaza, killing 2 **Palestinians** (both in the tunnels). In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Surda village n. of Ramallah in the evening without incident; conducts synchronized late-night arrest raids, house searches in villages s. of Nablus; makes similar late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm, nr. Nablus. (YA 6/24; JP 6/25; WP, WT 6/26; PCHR 7/1; OCHA 7/2)

## 25 JUNE

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in al-Bireh without incident; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** and land confiscations in Bil’in, Ni’lin, and Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, leaving 10s suffering tear gas inhalation, injuring at least 2 **Palestinians**. (PCHR 7/1; OCHA 7/2)

## 26 JUNE

**Gaza’s electricity plant** shuts down for lack of fuel; because of the power

deficit and increased summer usage, Palestinians face rolling outages of 12–16 hrs./day. A fire in a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border injures 2 Palestinians. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a late-night raid on and search of a home nr. Hebron, making no arrests. In East Jerusalem, **10s of armed Jewish settlers** storm and attempt to seize a Palestinian home in the disputed Silwan area, but Palestinian residents fend them off. (PCHR 7/1; OCHA 7/2)

## 27 JUNE

In East Jerusalem, some **200 Palestinians** protesting the settler incident in Silwan on 6/26 and the **Jerusalem Planning Commission's** 6/21 preliminary approval for the rezoning and demolition of 22 Palestinian homes demonstrate outside the settlers' Beit Yonatan apartment building. The Palestinians throw stones, bricks, and Molotov cocktails at Israeli police who attempt to disperse them, leaving 6 policemen injured. In the evening, **10s of Jewish settlers** break into the al-Rajabi quarter of Silwan, clashing with local Palestinians and opening fire indiscriminately, causing no serious injuries; IDF troops intervene, firing rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas at the Palestinians, seriously injuring 1 and lightly injuring 10. Meanwhile, **Israel** begins construction of 20 new housing units for Jews at the Shepherd Hotel site in East Jerusalem's Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at **Palestinians and international activists** staging a weekly nonviolent demonstration against the separation wall nr. Bethlehem (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, nr. Nablus. In the 2d such incident in Gaza since 3/2010 (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 156), **Hamas-affiliated police** raid the Palestine Islamic Bank, presenting a warrant for the seizure of all the money (\$16,000) fr. the account of a Hamas-affiliated educational organization whose assets had been frozen by the PA, taking the money at gunpoint when the teller refuses. Officials of the acting Hamas government say a court had ruled that the PA action freezing the organization's assets was illegal. (ITV 6/27; NYT 6/28; PCHR 7/1; OCHA 7/2; JPI 7/9)

## 28 JUNE

U.S. special envoy **Mitchell** returns to the region for 3 days for another round of Israeli-Palestinian proximity talks. No details are released. (NYT, WP 7/1) (see Quarterly Update for details)

**Unidentified Palestinians** fire **1 mortar** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Later, mbrs. of the **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)** fire several **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, targeting an IDF unit patrolling the border inside Israel, damaging a vehicle but causing no injuries; the unit shells the launch site, killing **1 PFLP mbr.** On the n. Gaza border, **IDF** troops fire warning shots at Palestinian, international activists who stage a nonviolent march to the border fence n. of Bayt Lahiya to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone, causing no injuries. Also in Gaza, **Palestinians** believed to be fr. an extremist Islamist group destroy a 2d **UNRWA** summer camp for children nr. Dayr al-Balah, tying up guards, setting a fire, destroying toys and an inflatable pool; another summer camp was destroyed on 5/23. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah. Inside Israel, **Israeli police** indict **7 Israeli Palestinians** arrested in 4/2010 in and nr. Nazareth on charges of supporting al-Qa'ida and plotting attacks on Jews and Christians; no details are released. (YA 6/28; NYT, WT 6/29; PCHR 7/1; OCHA, WJW 7/2)

## 29 JUNE

**IDF** troops make a brief incursion into fmr. n. Gaza settlement sites n. of Bayt Lahiya, searching and patrolling the area for several hours, firing sporadically to deter scavengers (causing no injuries). In Issawiyya, just outside East Jerusalem, the **IDF** begins leveling 200 d. of village land for the creation of a park; the IDF has already razed 460 d. for the project. (PCHR 7/1; OCHA 7/2)

## 30 JUNE

Overnight, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, heavily damaging a factory in Sederot, but causing no injuries; the **IDF** retaliates with **air strikes** on at least 1 smuggling tunnel

on the Rafah border, 1 suspected weapons factory in al-Zaytun, causing no reported injuries. During the day, **IDF** troops reenter (see 6/29) the fmr. n. Gaza settlement sites n. of Bayt Lahiya, firing warning shots at Palestinians scavenging construction materials and forcing them to flee, causing no injuries. **IDF** troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials inside the industrial zone, causing no injuries. **IDF senior officers** take U.S. special envoy **Mitchell** to Kerem Shalom crossing to witness Israel's easing of restrictions on imports to Gaza (up 30% since 6/20), including the transfer of the 1st load of goods fr. the **FGM-IHH flotilla** (see Quarterly Update for details). **Gaza's electricity plant** receives a shipment of industrial fuel allowing it to resume operations after a 4-day halt (the longest complete stoppage of the facility since the beginning of 2010). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Qalqilya and nr. Hebron. In Jerusalem, **Israeli police** arrest PC mbr. **Abu Tir** for being in the city illegally; he was ordered (see 5/21) to leave voluntarily or face expulsion to Gaza. Israeli sources reveal that Israel's **Jerusalem Planning Committee** recently approved construction of 1,400 new hotel rooms in Jabal Mukabir in East Jerusalem. **Israel** begins barring all West Bank Palestinian-made products fr. entering East Jerusalem as of 7/1 on the grounds that they did not meet Israeli standards, though the move is widely seen as retaliation for the PA's boycott on settlement-made goods enacted in 4/2010 (see Quarterly Update for background and details). (IFM, JP, NYT, PCHR, WP, YA 7/1; PCHR 7/7; OCHA 7/9)

### 1 JULY

**Abbas** gives an interview to Israel's 6 leading newspapers to appeal directly to the Israeli people to step up peace efforts, accusing Netanyahu of not being serious about proximity talks and saying that the Palestinians need serious progress on borders and security issues in particular before direct negotiations can begin. **Netanyahu** replies publicly, saying that if the Palestinians are serious about peace they will proceed immediately to direct talks. Separately, **Israeli FM Avigdor Lieberman**

tells the press that Abbas cannot be trusted and that Israelis "don't need to pay for the pleasure of speaking to Abu Mazin" by making gestures. (NYT, WT 7/2)

The **IDF** makes a late-night **air strike** on the Dahaniyya airport site in s. Gaza, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a rare daytime raid into Tulkarm accompanied by **Shin Bet units**, surrounding and searching a home and farm, questioning several Palestinians, but making no arrests; patrols in 'Abwayn village n. of Ramallah in the evening without incident; demolishes 14 tents and huts nr. Tammun and Tubas villages used by itinerant farmers, saying the areas are closed military zones; makes a late-night raid on an Islamic charity in Hebron, searching the offices without sealing them, confiscating anything, or making any arrests. (PCHR 7/7; OCHA 7/9)

### 2 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in Birzeit nr. Ramallah and 'Aqabat Jabir village and 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho, searching 1 home and handing out 1 summons to report for questioning. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** and land confiscations in Bil'in, Ni'lin, Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih, al-Ma'sara, Wadi Rahal s. of Bethlehem. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, leaving 10s suffering tear gas inhalation and 3 Palestinians injured, arresting 2 international activists (released hrs. later after questioning). (PCHR 7/7; OCHA 7/9)

### 3 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** enters Jayyus village nr. Qalqilya at midday, patrolling streets and searching homes, summoning 2 Palestinians for questioning; patrols in Marda village nr. Salfit in the afternoon without incident; conducts a late-night arrest raid and house search in Dayr Nizam. **Palestinians** and international activists hold nonviolent demonstrations against land confiscation and settlement expansion nr. Karame Tzur settlement nr. Hebron and in the Hebron market area; the **IDF**



fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, leaving 10s suffering tear gas inhalation. (PCHR 7/7; OCHA 7/9)

#### 4 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** forces a Palestinian to demolish a room of his home built without a permit or face fines and fees for the IDF to do the job; conducts late-night patrols in 3 villages e. of Tulkarm, making no arrests. (PCHR 7/7; OCHA 7/9)

#### 5 JULY

In an effort to show positive movement on the peace process in advance of Netanyahu's 7/6 meeting with Obama, **Israel** releases its new guidelines for the entry of goods to Gaza in keeping with its 6/20 cabinet decision, issuing 2 lists of (1) prohibited goods, which include all weapons and munitions, and (2) restricted "dual use" items with military or terrorist applications (including many common chemicals and fertilizers, optical equipment, knives). Israel also itemizes 19 permitted construction goods allowed for import only for PA or internationally supervised projects (see Doc. C3 in this issue). Israeli DM **Barak** personally briefs **Abbas**, **Fayyad** on Israel's steps to ease the Gaza blockade and improve security and economic coordination in the West Bank. (NYT, WT 7/6; WJW 7/8; OCHA 7/9)

**IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials 700 m fr. the border, seriously wounding a 13-yr.-old boy. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the c. Gaza coast, seriously wounding a 14-yr.-old boy and damaging the boat. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm and neighboring Dayr al-Ghusun in the morning and Bidya village in the afternoon, making no arrests; enters Kafr Lakif village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, raiding a metal workshop and arresting 2 Palestinians; fires rubber-coated bullets, tear gas, stun grenades at Palestinians holding a nonviolent demonstration against settlement expansion in Bayt Jala (injuring 4, including 1 journalist); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya, Salfit. **Israeli tax authorities**

search Palestinian shops in East Jerusalem's al-Misrara market, seizing the truck of one shop, releasing it later in the day after the owner pays \$13,000 in back taxes. (PCHR 7/7; OCHA 7/9)

#### 6 JULY

**Obama** receives **Netanyahu** at the White House for their 5th mtg. in what is billed as a "make-up visit," with the primary aim to give a public show of unity. Obama pointedly dismisses any notion of a U.S.-Israel rift. Netanyahu urges the U.S. to press Abbas to enter direct negotiations when the PLO's 4-mo. cap on proximity talks ends on 9/9 and before Israel's 10-mo. settlement freeze expires on 9/26, and promises Israel will take its own (undefined) "concrete steps." **PA negotiations advisor Saeb Erakat** says, however, that the onus is on Israel to halt settlement construction and agree to begin talks fr. the point they left off in 10/08 before direct talks can resume (IFM, JTA, WP 7/6; NYT, WP, WT 7/7; JPI 7/16) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes an evening raid into al-'Arub r.c., arresting 1 Palestinian. **Hamas** officials in the West Bank report that the **PA Security Forces (PASF)** have arrested 8 al-Najah University professors and students for alleged ties to a Hamas charity. (PCHR 7/7; OCHA 7/9; PCHR 7/15)

#### 7 JULY

No Israeli-Palestinian violence is reported. (PCHR 7/15; OCHA 7/16)

#### 8 JULY

**IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging construction materials fr. the fmr. Jewish settlement sites nr. the border, wounding 1 Palestinian. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on and detain 1 Palestinian fishing boat off the Bayt Lahiya coast, holding 2 fishermen for several hrs., questioning them and confiscating their boat. (PCHR 7/15; OCHA 7/16)

#### 9 JULY

**Obama** phones **Abbas** to urge him to agree to begin direct negotiations with

**Israel.** Abbas reiterates demands for a comprehensive settlement freeze including East Jerusalem and assurances that all final status issues will be discussed. (White House press release 7/9; WJW 7/15)

In Gaza, **unidentified assailants** break into the Palestinian Liaison Office on the Gaza side of the Erez crossing, stealing copies of medical referral documents and communications equipment used to coordinate transit through the crossing with the Israeli Liaison Office on the Israeli side. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized evening patrols in 3 villages nr. Tulkarm, making no arrests; patrols in a 4th village nr. Tulkarm late at night, making no arrests. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** and land confiscations in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, leaving 10s suffering tear gas inhalation, injuring 2 Palestinians, and arresting 1 Palestinian, 1 Israeli, 1 international activist. (PCHR 7/15; OCHA 7/16)

#### 10 JULY

**IDF** troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials inside the industrial zone, wounding 1 Palestinian teenager. In a similar incident on the n. Gaza border nr. the fmr. Israeli settlement sites, the **IDF** wounds 2 Palestinians (including a 14-yr.-old boy) scavenging for construction materials. In the West Bank, **Palestinians** and international activists hold nonviolent demonstrations against land confiscation and settlement expansion nr. Karme Tzur settlement nr. Hebron and in the Hebron market area; the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters (2 Palestinian are injured, 10s suffer tear gas inhalation). The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (PCHR 7/15; OCHA 7/16)

#### 11 JULY

**Israel** says it will prevent a **Libyan** ship carrying 2,000 tons of food and medical supplies, organized by the

Qaddafi Foundation (run by Libyan leader Mu'ammr Qaddafi's son), fr. running the Gaza blockade. The ship is estimated to be 2 days away fr. the coast. Meanwhile, **IDF** troops make a brief incursion into s. Gaza to level land along the border e. of Khan Yunis to clear lines of sight. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Jericho, Qalqilya, Ramallah. (WT 712; PCHR 7/15; OCHA 7/16)

#### 12 JULY

**IDF** troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials inside the industrial zone, wounding 1 Palestinian. The **IDF** sends troops into the former settlement sites inside the n. Gaza border to patrol the area to keep scavengers away; troops fire on the area but no injuries are reported. **IDF** troops make a brief incursion into s. Gaza to level land along the border e. of al-Qarara to clear lines of sight, shooting and wounding a farmer working his land 700 m fr. the border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends troops into Bidya village nr. Salfit at midday to search several stores, making no arrests; makes an incursion in Hijja village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, patrolling streets and photographing homes before withdrawing without incident; patrols in Shaqba village nr. Ramallah in the evening, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Qalqilya and nr. Ramallah, Salfit, Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** escorted by **IDF** troops enter Awarta village nr. Nablus to hold religious ceremonies. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba nr. Hebron severely beat a 65-yr.-old Palestinian man. (PCHR 7/15; OCHA 7/16)

**IDF Maj. Gen. (ret.) Giora Eiland**, who headed the **Israeli military's** internal inquiry into the 5/31 **Gaza flotilla incident**, releases brief excerpts of his classified 100-page final report to the **IDF** chief of staff concluding that overall the "the entire operation is estimable," praising soldiers for their "professionalism, bravery, and resourcefulness." While the report faults planning for the operation as inadequate (relying "excessively on a single course of action . . . while no alternative courses of action were prepared"), it deems the use of live fire on the passengers "justified." (IFM 7/12; NYT, WP 7/13; JPI 7/23)

**13 JULY**

**Israel** reports that a **Libyan** ship that had threatened to run the Gaza blockade (see 7/11) has diverted toward the **Egyptian** port of al-Arish, defusing a potential crisis; the **Egyptian Red Crescent Society** will take the goods to Gaza through the Rafah terminal. (Israel had been urging Egypt and Italy to intervene with Libya to encourage it to divert the boat.) Meanwhile, **IDF** troops on the c. Gaza border shell residential areas of Gaza Valley village after spotting "suspicious figures" in the area, hitting 1 home, killing 1 **Palestinian woman** and wounding 3 civilians in and around the house. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them back to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Salfit. **Israeli authorities** demolish 6 Palestinian homes in and around East Jerusalem (3 in Issawiyya, 1 in Bayt Hanina, 2 in Jabal Mukabir). (NYT, WP, WT 7/14; PCHR 7/15; OCHA 7/16)

**14 JULY**

**IDF** troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials inside the industrial zone, wounding a 14-yr.-old boy. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes several wells and confiscates irrigation equipment nr. Kiryat Arba and Harsina settlements in Hebron, calling the area a closed military zone; conducts late-night patrols in Birzeit, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. (PCHR 7/15; OCHA, PCHR 7/22)

**15 JULY**

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into s. Gaza to level land along the border e. of al-Qarara, clearing lines of sight. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 2 Palestinian homes, confiscates 1 mobile home, and orders a 4th family to remove their mobile home fr. areas nr. Hebron; makes a late-night incursion into Tulkarm town and r.c., patrolling around and photographing the PA military intelligence headquarters, the main PA security compound, and al-Salam Mosque fr. various angles; conducts

late-night patrols in Qarawat Bani Zaid village nr. Ramallah, making no arrests. An **Israeli military court** convicts an **IDF lt. col. and a subordinate** on charges of shooting and wounding a bound, blindfolded Palestinian at a demonstration against the separation wall in 7/08; they could face prison terms of up to 3 yrs. (NYT, WP 7/16; OCHA, PCHR 7/22)

**16 JULY**

**Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** and land confiscations in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, leaving scores suffering tear gas inhalation, injuring 5 Palestinians (including 2 children ages 12 and 14), and arresting 1 international activist. (OCHA, PCHR 7/22)

**17 JULY**

**Mitchell** returns to the region for 3 days of talks with Israeli and Palestinian peace teams, **Egyptian pres. Husni Mubarak**, and **the crown prince of Abu Dhabi Shaykh Muhammad bin Zayid al-Nahayan** to press Israel and the Palestinians to resume direct talks. After their meeting, **Abbas** says he will begin direct talks with **Israel** if it accepts the 1967 borders as the baseline for negotiations and accepts deployment of international forces to guard them. (UPI 7/17; WP 7/18; AFP 7/19) (see Quarterly Update for details)

**IDF** troops on the northeastern Gaza border fire 3 artillery shells into an open area e. of Jabaliya, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** escorts **Jewish settlers** into Kafr Haris village nr. Salfit late at night to conduct religious ceremonies; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin; conducts late-night patrols in Tulkarm without incident. **Palestinians** and international activists take part in weekly nonviolent demonstrations against land confiscation and settlement expansion nr. Karme Tzur settlement nr. Hebron and outside Beit Romano settlement in Hebron; the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun

grenades at the protesters, leaving 5 Palestinian injured (including 3 journalists), 10s suffering tear gas inhalation, 1 Palestinian cameraman under arrest, 1 international activist detained for questioning (later released). At least 10 **Jewish settlers** attack a Palestinian nr. the al-Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, moderately injuring him; IDF troops observe but only intervene to defend the settlers when Palestinians try to protect the injured man. In Gaza, **Hamas authorities** attempting to boost their Muslim credentials, begin enforcing a ban (announced 1 yr. ago) on women smoking water pipes in public. (NYT 7/18; WP, WT 7/19; OCHA, PCHR 7/22)

### 18 JULY

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into s. Gaza to level lands e. of al-Qarara village to clear lines of sight, firing at Palestinians in the area but causing no injuries. In 2 separate incidents on the Rafah border, **1 Palestinian** is fatally electrocuted in a smuggling tunnel, 4 are injured in a tunnel collapse. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm, nr. Hebron. (OCHA, PCHR 7/22)

### 19 JULY

**Israel** authorizes the transfer of NIS 100 m. (\$25.8 m.) paper currency fr. Palestinian banks in the West Bank to their branches in Gaza plus the replacement of 30 m. damaged shekels; the amounts are 42% of what the **Palestinian Monetary Authority** requested to alleviate the liquidity crisis in Gaza. The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into n. Gaza nr. the fmr. Jewish settlement sites to level land and clear lines of sight, firing on the surrounding area but causing no reported injuries; makes a 2d brief incursion into s. Gaza e. of al-Shuka village to level land 400 m fr. the border to clear lines of sight. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 60 tents and huts in Farasiyya nr. Tubas used by itinerant farmers; bulldozes an irrigation network and pool along a settler bypass road nr. Hebron; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bil'in; conducts late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, making no arrests. (OCHA, PCHR 7/22)

### 20 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning patrols in 2 village nr. Tulkarm, stopping and questioning local residents but making no arrests; makes a late-night incursion into Tulkarm town and r.c., photographing houses surrounding the main PA security compound (see 7/15); conducts late-night patrols in Qalqilya, making no arrests. (OCHA, PCHR 7/22)

### 21 JULY

**IDF** troops make a brief incursion 200 m into n. Gaza n. of Bayt Hanun, firing 5 flechette rounds at a group of Palestinians preparing to fire a rocket, killing **2 Islamic Jihad mbrs.**, wounding 8 Palestinian bystanders (including 5 children between the ages of 4 and 9), and damaging 5 Palestinian homes. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a predawn incursion into Khirbat Qays village nr. Salfit, patrolling streets but making no arrests; makes a morning incursion into Qalqilya, raiding a workshop and arresting 1 Palestinian; demolishes 2 Palestinian **homes** under construction, 3 shops, and 1 barn nr. Ramallah and 1 **house** and barn nr. Hebron; conducts late-night patrols in al-Mazra'a al-Gharbiyya nr. Ramallah, making no arrests. (NYT, OCHA, PCHR, WP 7/22; PCHR 7/29; OCHA 7/30)

### 22 JULY

In the West Bank, **IDF** troops fire on 3 Palestinians nr. Barqan settlement in the n. before dawn, suspecting them of attempting to infiltrate the settlement to stage an attack; **1 Palestinian** is killed, 2 flee and later turn themselves in to the **PASF**, which question and release them, barring them fr. discussing the incident; the **PA** denounces the killing. In the evening, the **IDF** patrols in Anata village n. of Jerusalem without incident. (NYT 7/23; PCHR 7/29; OCHA 7/30)

### 23 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in Jayyus without incident; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold

weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** and land confiscations in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and e. of Hebron. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, leaving scores suffering tear gas inhalation and arresting 6 Palestinians (including 2 journalists for foreign news agencies), 1 Israeli, and fm. vice pres. of the EU Parliament Luisa Morgantini (she is quickly released). (PCHR 7/29; OCHA 7/30)

#### 24 JULY

Unidentified Palestinians fire 5 **rockets** (possibly including 1 manufactured rocket), 2 **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Salfit and 2 villages n. of Tulkarm during the day, making no arrests; conducts synchronized late-night patrols in 6 villages nr. Hebron, withdrawing without incident. **Palestinians** and international activists take part in weekly nonviolent demonstrations against land confiscation and settlement expansion nr. Karne Tzur settlement nr. Hebron and outside Beit Romano settlement in Hebron; the **IDF** fires tear gas and stun grenades at the protesters, leaving 2 Palestinians (including a Reuters cameraman) and 2 international activists injured, and 1 Palestinian under arrest. (YA 7/24; PCHR 7/29; OCHA 7/30)

#### 25 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Salfit, nr. Bethlehem. **Israeli tax authorities** search Palestinian stores in Shu'fat n. of Jerusalem, verifying licenses and documents. (PCHR 7/29; OCHA 7/30)

#### 26 JULY

Overnight, the **IDF** makes 3 **air strikes** on smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border and 1 air strike on an iron pipe store in Nussayrat r.c. in retaliation for Palestinian rocket fire on 7/24, destroying the shop and cutting electricity around Nussayrat, but causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm in the morning, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in

Tulkarm; makes a late-night raid on the Qalqilya home of the **PA Undersecy. for Civil Affairs Ma'ruf Zahran** while he is on vacation in Turkey, searching the home and arresting his son. **Jewish settlers** escorted by **IDF** troops enter Nablus to pray at Joseph's Tomb. In 2 separate incidents nr. Nablus, **Jewish settlers** attack and vandalize Palestinian homes, in 1 case also setting fire to nearby olive groves. (IDF 7/26; PCHR 7/29; OCHA 7/30)

#### 27 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in Tulkarm and 2 villages nr. Jenin, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. In Jerusalem, **Israeli police and municipal authorities** crack down on Palestinian street vendors operating without licenses, confiscating their goods and fining them \$270. Inside Israel, **1,300 Israeli police** evict 300 bedouin fr. the unofficial village of al-Arakib before dawn, then level the village, demolishing 45 structures including homes and chicken coops to make way for the Jewish National Fund to plant a forest. (BBC, JAZ, YA 7/27; HA 7/28; PCHR 7/29; OCHA 7/30; Inter Press Service 8/10; WJW 8/12; NYT 8/26) (see Quarterly Update for details)

#### 28 JULY

**IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Hanun fire on a Palestinian teenager working his family's land nr. the border fence, seriously wounding him. In Gaza's al-Maghazi r.c., 2 Palestinians are injured in a mysterious explosion. (MNA 7/28; PCHR 7/29, 8/5; OCHA 8/13)

#### 29 JULY

**Arab League FMs** meet in Cairo to debate whether to endorse a Palestinian move to direct talks with Israel, as strongly urged by the U.S. despite unresolved Palestinian concerns. The FMs ultimately endorse the idea of direct talks but support **Abbas** and the **PLO's** refusal to open direct talks immediately, stating that when and how direct talks resumed is "a matter for the Palestinian side to decide." **Arab League Secy.-Gen 'Amr Musa** reveals that Abbas today received a letter fr.



**Obama** containing “some guarantees” regarding direct talks but that clarifications were necessary; neither the PA nor the U.S. confirmed the existence of a letter. (JAZ 7/29; NYT, WP 7/30) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In Jerusalem, **Jewish settlers** escorted by **Israeli police** evict an extended Palestinian family (49 individuals, including 22 children) fr. a building in the Old City’s Muslim quarter, claiming ownership of the building. UN special envoy **Serry** denounces the takeover as “provocative . . . at a critical time in the international community’s efforts to move the peace process forward.” The Palestinian tenants appeal their eviction, and the case is referred to an Israeli court. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches Hebron, nr. Bethlehem. (OCHA 7/30; NYT 7/31; PCHR 8/5; OCHA 8/13)

### 30 JULY

**IQB** mbrs. fire 1 manufactured **Grad rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, striking nr. Ashqelon, causing damage but no injuries, marking a serious escalation; the last time Ashqelon was hit by Palestinian rocket fire was in 2/09. Several hrs. later, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 2 **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In response, the **IDF** carries out 3 **air strikes** targeting a training camp for the Hamas-affiliated police in Gaza City (wounding 5 policemen and 16 bystanders, damaging 30 surrounding buildings) and smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border (causing no reported injuries). In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Bayt Liqya village nr. Ramallah at midday without incident; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** and land confiscations in Bil’in (a 45-mbr. Spanish delegation and a 30-mbr. German delegation take part), Ni’lin, and Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, leaving scores suffering tear gas inhalation and arresting 1 Palestinian and 1 international activist. **Jewish settlers** fr. Brakha nr. Nablus set fire to 100 olive trees and large tracks of agricultural land; **IDF** soldiers initially fire tear gas and stun grenades at Palestinian

civil defense workers who attempt to put out the fire, but finally let the firefighters pass more than half an hour later, after the PA liaison dept. intervenes. (HA, JP, YA 7/30; HA, NYT, WP 7/31; IFM, MEZ 8/1; PCHR 8/5; OCHA 8/13)

### 31 JULY

In continued retaliation for the 7/30 Grad strike, the **IDF** carries out a predawn **air strike** on c. Gaza assassinating **senior Hamas military cmdr. and rocket maker Issa Batran**, marking the 1st Israeli assassination in Gaza since Operation Cast Lead (OCL) ended in 1/09. (Israel attempted to assassinate Batran during OCL, making an air strike on his home, killing his wife and 5 of his children.) Later in the day, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, damaging a vacant daycare facility. The **IDF** responds with 2 additional **air strikes** on a smuggling tunnel and an open area in s. Gaza. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. Jewish settlement sites and in the Erez industrial zone, wounding 3 Palestinians. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches in and around Hebron, summoning several Palestinians for interrogation; fires tear gas and stun grenades at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in weekly nonviolent demonstrations against land confiscation and settlement expansion nr. Karme Tzur settlement nr. Hebron. (HA, IDF, YA 7/31; MEZ, NYT, WP 8/1; PCHR 8/5; OCHA 8/13)

### 1 AUGUST

**IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. Jewish settlement sites nr. the border, wounding 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts daytime patrols in 3 villages nr. Salfit and 1 nr. Qalqilya, making no arrests; conducts daytime house searches nr. Hebron, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, nr. Hebron and Nablus; makes another late-night incursion into Salfit, patrolling streets but making no arrests. (PCHR 8/5; OCHA 8/13)

## 2 AUGUST

The Israeli human rights group **Peace Now** issues an 8-mo. assessment of Israel's temporary settlement construction freeze documenting that: (1) construction of at least 600 housing units in over 60 different settlements has begun during the freeze, with at least 492 of those units being constructed in direct violation of the freeze; (2) some 2,000 housing units started before the freeze was implemented on 11/26/09 are currently under construction; and (3) new construction starts during the freeze constitute approximately half of the normal settlement construction pace. (Peace Now press release 8/2)

**Unidentified assailants** fire 5–7 modified **Grad-type rockets** apparently fr. the Egyptian desert toward the Aqaba-Elat resort; 1 rocket lands harmlessly nr. the entrance to the Israeli resort town, 2 land inside Jordan (1 harmlessly, the other striking a taxi outside the InterContinental hotel in Aqaba, killing 1 **Jordanian** and wounding 3), 2 land in the Red Sea. **Israel** believes the rockets were all intended to strike Elat and calls **Hamas** “responsible” for the rocket fire; Hamas denies involvement. (JP 8/2; YT 8/3; WT 8/4; KUNA 8/5; HA 8/6; JPI, OCHA 8/13)

**Israel's Jerusalem municipal authority** approves construction of 40 settlement housing units in Pisgat Ze'ev settlement in East Jerusalem. In the West Bank, the **IDF** dismantles and confiscates a Palestinian irrigation network nr. Hebron; patrols in 2 villages nr. Salfit at midday, making no arrests; arrests 3 Palestinian children (ages 13–14) nr. the separation wall nr. Bil'in; sends undercover units in Jafna village nr. Ramallah late in the evening, raiding 2 Internet cafes and arresting 1 Palestinian; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Qalqilya. In Gaza, **unidentified Palestinians** apparently mishandle explosives in a home in Dayr al-Balah, triggering an explosion that injures 58 Palestinians (including 13 children, 9 women) and damages several surrounding homes. (AP 8/3; PCHR 8/5)

## 3 AUGUST

**IDF** troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging construction materials in

the industrial zone, wounding 1 Palestinian. Late at night, 2 **IDF** drones fire missiles at a group of armed Palestinians nr. the border e. of Abasan, killing 1 **armed Palestinian**, wounding 2. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Salfit before dawn, photographing a PASF building; conducts late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Ramallah, nr. Jericho. (PCHR 8/5; OCHA 8/13)

An **IDF officer**, 3 **Lebanese soldiers**, and 1 **Lebanese journalist** are killed and 1 **IDF** platoon commander is critically wounded in a clash on the s. Lebanon border, marking the most serious confrontation since the 2006 Lebanon war. (IFM, JTA 8/3; IFM, NYT, WP 8/4; NYT 8/5; HA 8/9; JPI 8/13) (see Quarterly Update for details)

## 4 AUGUST

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Nablus. An unnamed **Egyptian** official offering no evidence says that Egypt's preliminary investigation into the 8/2 rocket fire fr. the Egyptian Sinai has determined that “Palestinian factions” fr. Gaza were responsible. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. **Hamas** explicitly denies involvement in the attack, urging Egypt to investigate thoroughly. (PCHR, WT 8/5; PCHR 8/12; OCHA 8/13)

## 5 AUGUST

**Israeli** government bulldozers working overnight begin removing some 300 tombstones in the historic Mamilla cemetery, the disputed West Jerusalem site where the Simon Wiesenthal Center plans to build a “museum of tolerance.” **Waqf officials** denounce the destruction (completed by 8/10) of the headstones which were part of its restoration over the past 7 mos. of graves still in use. Jerusalem municipal officials accuse Palestinians of “a despicable publicity stunt,” calling the tombstones fakes placed on vacant park land to manufacture a dispute. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Silwad nr. Ramallah and al-'Awja village nr. Jericho during the day without incident; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; raids and searches 2 homes in Azun village nr.

Qalqilya, setting up observation posts on their roofs. Before dawn, **Jewish settlers** escorted by **IDF** troops enter Nablus to pray at Joseph's Tomb. **Jewish settlers** in Hebron intercept and stone a car driven by a Palestinian woman transporting her daughter and 3 grandchildren, heavily damaging the car and moderately injuring the woman. (AFP, PCHR 8/12; OCHA 8/13; NYT 8/14)

#### 6 AUGUST

**Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** and land confiscations in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, leaving scores suffering tear gas inhalation, injuring 2 Palestinians, and arresting 1 Israeli activist. Some 20 **Jewish settlers** fr. Harsina nr. Hebron attack 3 Palestinian vehicles parked nearby with rocks and iron bars, heavily damaging them; the **IDF** intervenes when Palestinians emerge fr. their homes to challenge the settlers, beating the Palestinians back into their houses, arresting 2 and moderately injuring 1. (PCHR 8/12; OCHA 8/13)

#### 7 AUGUST

The **Israeli navy** fires warning shots at a Lebanese fishing boat that strays into Israeli territorial waters after it ignores several verbal warnings to turn back. The boat is not damaged and the crew is not harmed. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires tear gas and stun grenades at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in weekly nonviolent demonstrations against land confiscation and settlement expansion nr. Karme Tzur settlement nr. Hebron and nr. Beit Romano settlement in Hebron, beating 2 Palestinian cameramen and 1 U.S. activist. (PCHR, WJW 8/12; OCHA 8/13)

#### 8 AUGUST

In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids and searches several homes in Jayyus in the morning, summoning 2 Palestinians for interrogation; conducts late-night arrest

raids, house searches in Jenin r.c. (PCHR 8/12; OCHA 8/13)

#### 9 AUGUST

**IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border e. of Khan Yunis fire warning shots at Palestinians staging a nonviolent march to the border fence to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone, causing no casualties. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** removes 6 bedouin tents fr. the n. Jordan Valley, saying the area is a closed military zone; patrols in Khirbat al-Misbah village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon without incident. (PCHR 8/12; OCHA 8/13)

#### 10 AUGUST

The UN reports that **Israel** has expanded the Kerem Shalom crossing into Gaza allowing the number of truckloads of goods crossing daily to increase fr. 100 to 250; despite Israel's easing of restrictions since 6/17, imports to Gaza are still only 36% of what they were before Hamas's takeover of Gaza in 6/07. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids and threatens to seal Palestinian stores across fr. the Beit Romano settlement in Hebron (site of weekly protests against Israeli settlement expansion); Palestinian and international activists race to the scene to block the soldiers; the **IDF** arrests 4 Palestinians (released several hrs. later) and 1 international activist (deported). (PCHR 8/12; OCHA 8/13)

#### 11 AUGUST

U.S. special envoy **Mitchell** ends a 2-day visit to the region aimed at securing Israeli and Palestinian agreement to resume direct peace talks by 9/1 based on a letter of assurances fr. the Quartet. After separate talks with **Abbas** in Ramallah and **Netanyahu** in Jerusalem he is unusually upbeat and says he is optimistic that direct talks will resume soon, but gives no details. He leaves **Dep. Asst. Secy. of State for Near Eastern Affairs David Hale** in the region to continue discussions and finalize details of a Quartet statement. (State Dept. daily press briefing, WT 8/11; see also WP 8/10) (see Quarterly Update for details)

The **IDF** announces that for the month of Ramadan (8/10-9/10) it is extending operating hours at some checkpoints along the separation wall in the Bethlehem, Jenin, and Ramallah to facilitate travel to Jerusalem; removing earthen mounds along 3 routes in Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron to improve traffic flow; and issuing an additional 200 visitor permits for nationals of select Arab countries to enter the West Bank. Israel has also, however, limited Palestinian access to Jerusalem during Ramadan to men over 50 and women over 45 years of age. Meanwhile, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, nr. Ramallah. As a goodwill gesture to mark the start of Ramadan, **Hamas** authorities in Gaza release 100 Fatah-affiliated prisoners, while the **PA** in the West Bank releases 8 Hamas-affiliated prisoners (MNA 8/11; PCHR 8/12, 8/19; OCHA 8/20)

#### 12 AUGUST

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into s. Gaza to level land inside the no-go zone e. of Abasan to clear lines of sight. In the Old City of Jerusalem, 4 armed **Jewish settlers** beat a blind Palestinian man; when other Palestinians move to protect the blind man, 10s of **Israeli settlement guards and police** intervene, beating back the Palestinians and arresting 1 (released on 8/14 but expelled fr. the Old City for 15 days). (PCHR 8/19; OCHA 8/20)

#### 13 AUGUST

**Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall**, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Ni'lin, Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih, al-Walaja, and outside Beit Romano settlement in Hebron. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, leaving scores suffering tear gas inhalation, injuring 1 Palestinian and 1 Israeli, and arresting 2 Palestinians, 4 Israelis, and 1 international activist (all released later in the day). **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba vandalize 3 Palestinian homes in Hebron. (PCHR 8/19; OCHA 8/20)

#### 14 AUGUST

**IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging construction materials fr. the fmr. Jewish settlement sites nr. the border, wounding 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Kafr Haris village nr. Salfit in the early morning and late evening, making no arrests; raids Marda village nr. Salfit in the evening, searching 1 home and arresting a 14-yr.-old boy; conducts late-night patrols in 3 villages e. of Tulkarm, 1 village northwest of Salfit, making no arrests. A **Jewish settler** throws a Molotov cocktail at a Palestinian vehicle driving on the Nablus-Qalqilya road, damaging it but causing no injuries. (PCHR 8/19; OCHA 8/20)

**Lebanese security forces** kill 'Abd al-Rahman Awad, a Palestinian leader of the radical Islamist group **Fatah al-Islam**, and his aide **Gazi Faysal Abdullah** in a shootout in the Biqa' Valley. Awad had been on Lebanon's most wanted list since the summer 2007 battle between Fatah al-Islam and the army that destroyed Nahr al-Barid r.c. (see Quarterly Updates in *JPS* 145-46). (WP 8/15)

#### 15 AUGUST

**Netanyahu** and his security cabinet approve construction of a new "student town" within the construction boundaries of Migdalim settlement e. of Nablus that will house 30 Jewish settlers affiliated with Ariel College in Ariel settlement; they also approve construction of 23 school buildings in 8 West Bank settlements to accommodate 600 Jewish settler children; public-use structures such as schools were excluded fr. Israel's temporary West Bank settlement construction ban. Citing the prolonged West Bank calm, the **IDF** removes a small concrete "sniper barrier" running s. of Gilo settlement in East Jerusalem, erected in 2002 and considered the precursor to Israel's separation wall. The **IDF** conducts synchronized late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron and 2 nearby villages; conducts similar late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Tubas. (NYT, WT 8/16; PCHR 8/19; OCHA 8/20)

## CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AHR	( <i>al-Abram Weekly</i> , Cairo)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
CSM	( <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , Boston)
HA	( <i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
IDF	(Israel Defense Forces Spokesperson [Internet])
IFM	(Israeli Foreign Ministry, Jerusalem)
ITIC	(Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, Gelilot, Israel)
ITV	(Israel Television Network, Jerusalem)
JAZ	(al-Jazeera Satellite Channel Television, Doha)
JP	( <i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem)
JPI	( <i>Jerusalem Post International Edition</i> , Jerusalem)
JTA	(Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet])
KUNA	(Kuwait News Agency, Kuwait City)
MEZ	(al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, Jabaliya)
MNA	(Ma'an News Agency, Bethlehem)
NYT	( <i>New York Times</i> , New York)
OCHA	(United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Weekly Briefing Notes, Jerusalem)
PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
UPI	(United Press International [Internet])
WJW	( <i>Washington Jewish Week</i> , Rockville, MD)
WP	( <i>Washington Post</i> , Washington)
WSJ	( <i>Wall Street Journal</i> , New York)
WT	( <i>Washington Times</i> , Washington)
YA	( <i>Yedi'ot Abarot</i> , Tel Aviv)



A Palestinian woman holds up a deed of ownership in front of her demolished house in Rafah, 19 May 2010. This quarter, Hamas security forces demolished at least 26 homes in south Rafah, claiming that they had been built illegally on government land. (Said Khatib/AFP/Getty Images)