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CHRONOLOGY

16 NOVEMBER 2009–15 FEBRUARY 2010

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This section is part 105 of a chronology begun in JPS 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time (EST). For a more comprehensive overview of events related to the al-Aqsa intifada and of regional and international developments related to the peace process, see the Quarterly Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in this issue.

16 NOVEMBER

As the quarter opens, **Israel's** siege of Gaza continues, with Israel barring all exports, all but limited humanitarian imports, and most cross-border transit by individuals (with very limited exceptions for extreme medical cases, VIPs, and international NGO workers). Violence in the West Bank is low and restrictions on Palestinian movement between major population centers have eased noticeably. Israeli-Palestinian peace talks are on hold as **Palestinian Authority (PA) Pres. Mahmud Abbas** refuses to resume negotiations until Israel implements a comprehensive settlement freeze (which Israel rejects). Today in Gaza, 4 Palestinians are injured when a smuggling tunnel under the Rafah border collapses. In the West Bank, the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Tubas, in Bayt Fajjar nr. Bethlehem, and in Qalandia refugee camp (r.c.) nr. Ramallah. Of note, **6 IDF soldiers** refuse orders to dismantle structures at an unauthorized settlement outpost; they are relieved of duty pending a court-martial hearing. (NYT 11/17; OCHA, WP 11/18; PCHR 11/19)

17 NOVEMBER

The **Israeli Interior Min.** approves construction of 900 new housing units in Gilo settlement in East Jerusalem, precipitating sharp criticism from the **White House** not only for the Gilo project but for “the continued pattern of evictions and demolitions of Palestinian homes” in Jerusalem; **UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon** “deplores” the decision. In the West Bank, the

IDF conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron (evicting 1 Palestinian family from their home, occupying it as an observation post), Jericho, Nablus. In the Jerusalem environs, **Israeli forces** demolish 2 **Palestinian homes** (1 in Wadi Qaddum, housing 30 Palestinians; 1 in Bayt Hanina, displacing 11 Palestinians). (IFM, NYT, OCHA, PLO/NAD, WP, WT 11/18; PCHR 11/19)

18 NOVEMBER

New York State assemblyman Dov Hikind leads a delegation of **50 Jewish Americans** to lay the cornerstone of a new settlement housing project (Nof Zion) in the Palestinian neighborhood of Jabal Mukabir in East Jerusalem (see Quarterly Update for details). Meanwhile, the **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** and store in Issawiyya (14 residents) on the outskirts of Jerusalem, 4 Palestinian structures in other Arab areas of East Jerusalem, including Silwan. In the West Bank, the **IDF** searches greenhouses nr. Jenin, looking for unlicensed wells; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm and nr. Jenin. Also in East Jerusalem, an **Israeli youth** stabs, wounds a **Palestinian laborer** in Ramat Eshkol settlement. The **IDF** also makes 2 incursions into s. Gaza nr. Abasan and Khuza to bulldoze land along the border fence, clearing lines of sight. Late in the day, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a **rocket** into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In response, the **IDF** makes air strikes on 2 smuggling tunnels along the Rafah border (injuring 1 Palestinian) and on a Hamas training site in Khan Yunis (destroying

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2 structures). (NYT, XIN 11/19; PCHR 11/25; JPI 11/27)

19 NOVEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** stages synchronized late-night raids on the homes of 5 PA intelligence officers in villages nr. Nablus and Salfit, detaining the men (including the **PA's Salfit regional intelligence cmdr. Lt. Col. Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid Bani Fadil**), marking Israel's first arrest of senior PA security officials in 3 yrs.; the IDF also relays to the PA a request to turn over a 6th intelligence officer, but the PA does not comply; the Israeli DMin. confirms the arrests but refuses to comment, with Palestinian security sources speculating (YA 11/20) that Israel was pressuring the PA to back off investigation of a suspected collaborator; all 5 are released on 11/20 after talks between Israel and the PA. The **IDF** also stages synchronized late-night house searches in 3 villages w. of Jenin, making no arrests. **IDF undercover units** traveling in a car with Palestinian license plates enter Bil'in village, arrest a Palestinian on an Israeli wanted list. (YA 11/20; OCHA, PCHR 11/25)

20 NOVEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians taking part in weekly protests against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation) and against Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin (injuring 3 Palestinians); fires stun grenades and tear gas at Palestinian and international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in al-Ma'sara s. of Bethlehem (injuring 3 Palestinians, including a 9-yr.-old boy); conducts late-night arrest raids on several coffee shops nr. Qalqilya, detaining 3 PA security officers and 3 teenagers (including a 14-yr.-old boy). In Hebron, **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on in Hebron beat 4 Palestinian youths tending sheep nearby, chasing them off the land; **Jewish settlers** fr. Carmiel attack and vandalize a Palestinian home nearby, attempting to drive the Palestinian family off the land. (OCHA, PCHR 11/25)

21 NOVEMBER

In Gaza, unidentified Palestinians fire a **rocket** into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** retaliates with air strikes on 2 suspected weapons factories and a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border, injuring 8 Palestinians (2 seriously, 2 moderately, 4 lightly) and damaging another 2 factories and 4 homes nearby. Hrs. later, **Hamas** announces that it has secured renewed pledges from all Gaza factions to halt all rocket and mortar fire toward Israel, to preserve the stability in Gaza and prevent further Israeli retaliation, though the factions say they will respond to any IDF incursion into Gaza. (YA 11/21; HA, WT 11/22; WT 11/23; OCHA, PCHR 11/25; WJW 11/26)

22 NOVEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a late-night incursion into Bayt Liqiya nr. Ramallah, patrolling the streets and firing rubber-coated steel bullets at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no reported injuries; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Qalqilya. (OCHA, PCHR 11/25)

23 NOVEMBER

Unidentified Palestinians fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Late in the evening, the **IDF** carries out air strikes on smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border in retaliation, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya; conducts late-night patrols inside Jenin town. **Jewish settlers** stone Palestinian vehicles traveling on the Nablus-Qalqilya road nr. Havat Gilad settlement. The UN reports that in the previous wk., **2 Palestinian militants** were killed mishandling explosives, and **1 Palestinian** was killed and 1 injured in a smuggling tunnel collapse on the Rafah border. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency 11/23; OCHA, PCHR 11/25)

24 NOVEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Salfit and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin. (OCHA, PCHR 11/25; PCHR 12/3)

25 NOVEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Qalqilya and nr. Nablus, Salfit. (PCHR 12/3; OCHA 12/9)

Netanyahu declares a 10-mo. halt to all new residential housing approvals and construction in West Bank settlements, though building in East Jerusalem and work on 2,900 West Bank housing units currently under construction and any "public buildings essential for normal life" (e.g., schools, synagogues) in West Bank settlements would proceed. The **U.S.** welcomes this move as "significant." **PA PM Salam Fayyad** says that the offer is not enough, the PA insists on a total settlement freeze. (IFM 11/25; NYT, WP, WT 11/26)

26 NOVEMBER

Israeli DM Ehud Barak issues the necessary military order freezing all new settlement building in line with Netanyahu's 11/25 statement and simultaneously approves construction of 28 public and educational buildings in West Bank settlements, to be completed by 9/2010. In the West Bank, a **Palestinian** stabs 2 Jewish settler women outside Kiryat Arba settlement in Hebron; **IDF** soldiers shoot and wound the Palestinian, and another **Jewish settler** deliberately drives over him repeatedly with his car as soldiers look on without intervening; the Palestinian is seriously injured but not killed. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim nr. Nablus till a 70-dunam (d.; 4 d. = 1 acre) plot of Palestinian land 1,500 meters fr. the settlement as a first step toward annexing it to the settlement. (NYT 11/28; PCHR 12/3; OCHA 12/9)

27 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** makes an air strike on a group of armed mbrs. of the **Soldiers of the Companions of God (SCG)** in n. Gaza who were preparing to fire a rocket into Israel, wounding 4 SCG mbrs. (1 seriously); though the SCG is a rival of **Hamas**, Israel says it holds Hamas responsible for the foiled attack. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians and nonviolent international

and Israeli activists taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation). (NYT 11/28; PCHR 12/3; OCHA 12/9)

28 NOVEMBER

Israeli naval vessels off the n. Gaza coast fire on Palestinian fishing boats that approach the boundary of the permitted fishing zone (reduced to 500-1,000 m as of 7/26/09), causing no reported injuries. (PCHR 12/3; OCHA 12/9)

29 NOVEMBER

Netanyahu authorizes construction of 29 housing units in Kedar settlement s. of Jerusalem, saying those units had been approved before the 11/25 settlement freeze. For a 2d day, **Israeli naval vessels** off the n. Gaza coast fire on Palestinian fishing boats that approach the boundary of the permitted fishing zone, causing no reported injuries. (PCHR 12/3; OCHA 12/9)

30 NOVEMBER

For a 3d day, **Israeli naval vessels** off the n. Gaza coast fire on Palestinian fishing boats that approach the boundary of the permitted fishing zone, causing no reported injuries. **IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border also make a brief incursion e. of Jabaliya r.c. to level land along the border fence to clear lines of sight. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts rare daytime arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron. Some **50 Jewish settlers** fr. Yit-zhar nr. Nablus, escorted by **IDF** troops attack a group of Palestinians gathering olive trees that had been uprooted by settlers 3 wks. before, vandalize a nearby Palestinian home. (PCHR 12/3; OCHA 12/9)

1 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts rare daytime arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron for a 2d day; makes a late-night incursion into Bayt Qad village nr. Jenin, searching an agricultural facility, arresting 1 Palestinian. **Jewish settlers** at several sites across the West Bank scuffle with **new Israeli building inspectors** hired by the DMin. to enforce Israel's 10-mo.

settlement building freeze (see 11/25); no major violence or injuries are reported. In East Jerusalem, **Jewish settlers** escorted by Israeli police and private security guards take possession of an addition to a Palestinian home in Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood, removing the Palestinian family's furniture, after receiving a court ruling that the property is legally owned by a Jewish organization (see Quarterly Update for details). Local Palestinians scuffle with the Jewish settlers, leaving 1 settler and 1 Palestinian injured. **UN Secy.-Gen. Ban** denounces **Israel's** "provocative actions." (NYT, WT 12/2; NYT, PCHR, WJW 12/3; OCHA 12/9)

2 DECEMBER

The **Israeli government** approves construction of 84 structures in West Bank settlements despite the 11/25 freeze. Meanwhile, **Israel** makes its 1st arrests in enforcing its 10-mo. ban on new Jewish settlement construction, briefly detaining the mayor of Bet Arye settlement and 2 Jewish settlers in Elon Moreh when they confront police escorting building inspectors delivering stop-work orders. Israeli security officials say inspectors have handed out 60 stop-work orders since beginning on 11/30. **YESHA settlement council leaders** attend a high-profile ceremony to start construction of a new synagogue in Efrat settlement, vowing they will continue to settle the West Bank with or without government support. Also in the West Bank, the **IDF** makes unusual daytime arrest raids nr. Jenin; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border shoot, wound, detain 1 Palestinian nr. the border fence outside Bayt Lahiya. (NYT, PCHR 12/3; OCHA 12/9; PCHR 12/10)

3 DECEMBER

Netanyahu summons **West Bank settlement leaders** to a meeting at his office to appeal to them to observe the 10-mo. construction freeze, but they refuse, vowing to continue to bar entry into settlements to inspectors searching for illegal construction. The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** evict a Palestinian family from their home in Shaykh Jarrah in East

Jerusalem, citing a 10/09 Israeli court ruling that the land on which the home sits belongs to a settler organization (see Quarterly Update for details); a settler family moves into the home under guard of the IDF and a private Israeli security company. (NYT 12/4; OCHA 12/9; PCHR 12/10)

4 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians and non-violent international (and, in the case of Bil'in, Israeli) activists taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation) and Ni'lin (moderately injuring 1 Palestinian); fires stun grenades and tear gas at Palestinian and international activists taking part in a nonviolent protest against the **separation wall** in al-Ma'sara, also beating several protesters (moderately injuring 1 Palestinian); conducts late-night house searches in and around Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar attempt to occupy 2 Palestinian homes nearby but are fended off by stone-throwing Palestinians. (OCHA 12/9; PCHR 12/10)

5 DECEMBER

In East Jerusalem, the **IDF** forces a **Palestinian** to demolish his **home** or face a fine (amount not reported). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin. (OCHA 12/9; PCHR 12/10)

6 DECEMBER

The Gaza-based **Palestinian Center for Human Rights** reports that **Gaza's Hamas-run Interior Min.** has started requiring Palestinians wishing to exit Gaza to obtain an exit permit from the ministry's new Office of Travel Registration, with Hamas-affiliated police already enforcing the order on Palestinians exiting through the Erez crossing, but notably not at the Rafah crossing. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron (in 1 case severely beating several family members and allegedly stealing money and gold from 1 family). **Jewish settlers** fr. Efrat nr. Bethlehem burn at least 50 newly planted

Palestinian olive trees in nearby Umm Salamuna village. (OCHA 12/9; PCHR 12/10)

7 DECEMBER

Jewish settlers launch an organized campaign of civil disobedience to protest Netanyahu's settlement freeze, blocking traffic at major intersections leading into Jerusalem. Israeli police quickly disperse them without violence, but settlers say they plan to keep up such actions randomly over the coming days to frustrate the government. Meanwhile, **IDF undercover units** stage a major late-night raid on a Nablus apartment building, arresting Palestinian Salah al-Bukhari, wanted since 2001. The **IDF** also stages late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and nr. Bethlehem, Nablus, Salfit, Tulkarm. **Hamas-affiliated police** manning the Gaza side of the Erez crossing block the exit of **37 Palestinian medical patients** granted permission by Israel to leave the Strip, stating they have not obtained the proper exit visa from Gaza's Interior Min. (see 12/6). (OCHA 12/9; WJW, PCHR 12/10)

8 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and neighboring 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' r.c. The **PA** declares a boycott against Israeli goods made in Jewish settlements, with **National Economy M Hassan Abu-Libdeh** saying the government has already confiscated \$1 m. worth of settlement-made products (see Quarterly Update for details). The UN reports that since 11/25, **1 Palestinian** has been killed in a smuggling tunnel collapse on the Rafah border and **1 Palestinian** has been killed and 4 injured (including a 14-yr.-old boy) mishandling explosives. (OCHA, WT 12/9; PCHR 12/10)

9 DECEMBER

Some **10,000 Jewish settlers** protest the 10-mo. settlement freeze outside Netanyahu's Jerusalem residence. Also in Jerusalem, Palestinians in Shaykh Jarrah report that in the previous wk., **Jewish settlers** have slashed the tires of 19 Palestinian vehicles in the neighborhood. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest

raids, house searches in Balata r.c. nr. Nablus and Ramallah. The **Israeli High Court** rejects a petition by a Palestinian student at Bethlehem University that challenged her deportation from the West Bank to Gaza in 10/09 because her legal address was in Gaza and she did not have an Israeli permit to live in the West Bank. (NYT, PCHR, WP 12/10; OCHA, PCHR 12/16)

10 DECEMBER

The **IDF** conducts military exercises in the Golan Heights. Meanwhile, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border make a brief incursion to detain 2 Palestinian teenagers scavenging for scrap metal from destroyed buildings nr. the border fence n. of Bayt Hanun, holding them for 12 hrs. of interrogation before releasing them. **Israel** allows Gazans to export 1 truckload of carnations (30,000 flowers), marking the first exports permitted since 4/27/09. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids Khirbat Tana village, located in area C northeast of Nablus and w. of Mehola settlement, early in the morning, searching several homes and confiscating 4 tractors, stating the area is a closed military zone (see Quarterly Update for details). The **IDF** also shuts the Shavei Shomron checkpoint on the Jenin-Nablus route for road repair work that is expected to take 9 mos.; the closure creates long delays for Palestinians traveling between Jenin and the s. West Bank. **Jewish settlers** fr. Revava northwest of Salfit brutally beat a 13-yr.-old Palestinian child; the **IDF** evacuates the child to an Israeli hospital. (NYT 12/11; OCHA, PCHR 12/16)

11 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians and non-violent international (and, in the case of Bil'in, Israeli) activists taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation) and Ni'lin (moderately injuring 3 Palestinians); fires stun grenades and tear gas at Palestinian and international activists taking part in a nonviolent protest against the **separation wall** in al-Ma'sara, also beating several protesters (moderately injuring 2 Palestinians); makes a late-night incursion into Jenin r.c., patrolling streets for several hrs. and firing

stun grenades, causing no injuries. **Jewish settlers** vandalize a mosque in Yasuf village nr. Nablus, burning prayer rugs and Qur'ans, leaving behind Hebrew graffiti protesting Netanyahu's 10-mo. settlement freeze. (WP 12/12; WT 12/13; NYT 12/14; OCHA, PCHR 12/16)

12 DECEMBER

Before dawn, unidentified **Palestinians** fire several **mortars** or antitank missiles toward IDF troops on the central Gaza border inside Israel, causing no damage or injuries; the **IDF** returns fire, fatally shooting 1 **Palestinian** civilian outside his home in al-Bureij r.c., some 700 m from the border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, Nablus. (OCHA, PCHR 12/16)

13 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts rare daytime arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem, Tubas, and nr. Nablus. Late in the evening, 2 **IDF** soldiers enter the al-Aqsa Mosque compound, violently beating and insulting a guard who asks them to remove their shoes. In Hebron, **Jewish settlers** brutally beat a 13-yr.-old Palestinian boy on his way home from school; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (OCHA, PCHR 12/16)

Israeli DM **Barak** orders government funding to be revoked from a yeshiva in Har Brakha settlement after the yeshiva's head rabbi encourages his students to refuse orders to evacuate unauthorized settlement outposts. Meanwhile, the **Israeli cabinet** approves (21-5) changes to Israel's map of national priority areas to include several isolated West Bank settlements, including several right-wing settlements (including Kiryat Arba and Kedumim) that have led protests against Netanyahu's settlement freeze. These newly designated areas will be entitled to millions of dollars in additional government financing. (NYT, WT 12/14)

14 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized late-night house searches in 4 villages south and west of Jenin,

arresting only 1 Palestinian; conducts other late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Qalqilya. **Palestinians** in Yasuf receive **Israel's chief rabbi Yona Metzger**, who requested permission to make an official visit to condemn the 12/11 arson and vandalism attack on the village mosque by Jewish settlers. In Gaza, **10,000s of Palestinians** rally to mark **Hamas's 22d anniversary**. In the West Bank, the **PA security forces (PASF)** begin rounding up Hamas mbrs. to prevent anniversary rallies there. (NYT, WP, WT 12/15; OCHA, PCHR 12/16; WJW 12/17)

15 DECEMBER

Israeli naval vessels intercept a Palestinian fishing boat that approaches the boundary of the permitted fishing zone off the Bayt Lahiya coast, damaging the boat, forcing the fishermen to jump into the sea, and then detaining them, taking them to Ashdod port in Israel for several hrs. of questioning, before releasing them to Gaza. A smuggling tunnel under the Rafah border collapses, killing 3 **Palestinians**. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Nablus. In East Jerusalem, **Palestinians** in Silwan report that during the previous wk., Israeli workers and archeologists resumed work on 2 archeological tunnels under the city leading to the al-Aqsa Mosque (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 154). A group of right-wing Jews breaks into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound to hold prayers marking Hanukkah, but Waqf officials ask Israeli police to intervene, and police remove them peacefully. **Jewish settlers** in East Jerusalem celebrating Hanukkah attack a number of Palestinian shops and residents in the Old City; **Israeli security forces** observe but do not intervene. The **PASF** crackdown on **Hamas** mbrs. in the West Bank winds down today, with the UN reporting at least 80 and as many as 300 detained. The **Israeli High Court** rules that a 2007-imposed ban on family visits by Gazans to Palestinians held in Israeli jails is valid. (OCHA, PCHR 12/16; PCHR 12/23; HA 12/31)

16 DECEMBER

For the 1st time since 11/23, **Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel,

causing no damage or injuries; the **IDF** does not retaliate—an indication that Israel believes the cease-fire pledge that Hamas secured fr. the other Gaza factions on 11/21 is generally holding. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem and nr. Qalqilya, making no arrests. **Jewish settlers** fr. Shilo nr. Ramallah, escorted by **IDF** troops, attack Palestinian farmers working their fields nearby; the soldiers order the farmers to leave the area. (OCHA, PCHR 12/23; YA 12/30)

17 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in Rumana nr. Jenin, arresting 2 16-yr.-old Palestinians who are out on the street; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli authorities** issue fines of thousands of dollars and demolition orders for 9 Palestinian homes and 1 mosque in Jabal Mukabir neighborhood. **Israeli security forces** break up Palestinians holding a public gathering at Damascus Gate to mark the formal end of the Arab League's designation of Jerusalem as the Arab cultural capital for 2009; at least 6 Palestinians are arrested for illegal political activity in Jerusalem, and several are beaten. (OCHA, PCHR 12/23)

18 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a rare daytime raid on 2 houses in the center of Hebron, violently beating several Palestinians (moderately injuring 5), detaining 4 for questioning, ultimately arresting 1; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians and nonviolent international (and, in the case of Bil'in, Israeli) activists taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Bil'in and Ni'lin (10s suffer tear gas inhalation at both sites); fires stun grenades and tear gas at Palestinian and international activists taking part in a nonviolent protest against the **separation wall** in al-Ma'sara, also beating several protesters (moderately injuring 1 Palestinian); conducts late-night house searches in Tubas and nr. Jenin, making no arrests. (OCHA, PCHR 12/23)

19 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches in Bil'in, arresting 2 Palestinians involved in the weekly demonstrations against the **separation wall**, including artist Ibrahim Bernat (who makes portraits from rubber bullets, tear gas, and stun grenade canisters fired by IDF troops against demonstrators), confiscating his portrait collection. A **Jewish settler** fr. Gush Etzion nr. Bethlehem fires on 5 Palestinian farmers working land in Safa village nr. Hebron that settlers have previously tried to seize; no injuries are reported; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. **Jewish settlers** fr. Shilo stone Palestinian vehicles driving on the Ramallah-Nablus road nr. the settlement, causing no injuries; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (OCHA, PCHR 12/23)

20 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in al-'Arub r.c. nr. Hebron late in the evening, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, arresting a 14-yr.-old Palestinian boy; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c. and nr. Hebron, Jenin. (OCHA, PCHR 12/23)

The **IDF** admits that in the 1990s **government forensic pathologists** harvested organs from dead bodies (including those of Palestinians, IDF soldiers, and foreign workers) without permission, but says the practice was stopped "a decade ago." The admission comes after an U.S. academic released a copy of an interview from 2000 with the head of Israel's Abu Kabir forensic institute in which the physician admitted the harvesting. (WP, WT 12/21; WJW 12/24)

21 DECEMBER

Egyptian security officials acknowledge that they are building an underground steel barrier along the Rafah border to prevent smuggling (see Quarterly Update for details). In the West Bank, the **IDF** ceases permanent staffing of the major Bayt Ibia checkpoint at the w. entrance to Nablus (established in 2001), easing Palestinian access to the city; conducts late-night house searches nr. Hebron, making no arrests; makes late-night arrest raids

in Qalqilya. The **PASF** arrests 15 **Hamas** mbrs. across the West Bank and fires on a car carrying **Hizb al-Tahrir**'s senior spokesman, arresting him; no explanation is given. (NYT 12/22; NYT, OCHA, PCHR 12/23; WT 1/6)

22 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** stages synchronized late-night house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., making no arrests; conducts other late-night arrest raids, house searches n. of Jerusalem. The UN reports that in the previous wk., **1 alleged Hamas mbr.** was killed and another wounded mishandling explosives in Gaza; 1 Palestinian was electrocuted and injured in a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border. (OCHA, PCHR 12/23; PCHR 12/30)

After 2 days of intensive talks and a meeting that stretches overnight, **Netanyahu** is unable to secure cabinet approval for a German deal endorsed by **Hamas** to release some 1,000 Palestinian prisoners for the release of captured IDF soldier Cpl. Gilad Shalit. DM **Barak** tells the press that freeing Shalit is still a "top priority" but "not at any price." (WP 12/22; WT 12/23; JPI 1/1) (see Quarterly Update for details)

23 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a gas station and grocery store in Qusra village nr. Nablus, saying Palestinian youths had used the buildings as cover to throw stones at passing IDF troops; conducts late-night house searches nr. Hebron and Jenin, and in Balata r.c. and Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, but makes only 2 arrests. (PCHR 12/30; OCHA 1/6)

24 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** stages synchronized late-night house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., arresting 1 Palestinian; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Fara'a r.c. nr. Tubas and nr. Hebron, Ramallah. A **Jewish settler** is fatally shot while driving nr. Nablus; a caller to a Palestinian radio station claims the attack was carried out by the Fatah-offshoot **al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades (AMB)**. **Jewish settlers**, implementing their "price-tag doctrine" of retaliation,

vandalize Palestinian homes and block Palestinian traffic nr. Yitzhar settlement s. of Nablus; bar Palestinian traffic, stone and vandalize Palestinian vehicles, and uproot 100s of Palestinian trees nr. Shavei Shomron settlement, home to the deceased settler; attempt to prevent a Palestinian bus fr. passing through the Einav checkpoint nr. Tulkarm. (NYT 12/25; PCHR 12/30; OCHA 1/6)

25 DECEMBER

Late in the evening, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Hanun fire on a group of unarmed Palestinian laborers attempting to cross into Israel to find work, calling in a helicopter air strike 20 mins. later, killing **3 Palestinians** and wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians and nonviolent international (and, in the case of Bil'in, Israeli) activists taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Bil'in and Ni'lin (10s suffer tear gas inhalation at both sites); fires stun grenades and tear gas at Palestinian and international activists taking part in a nonviolent protest against the **separation wall** in al-Ma'sara, also beating several protesters (moderately injuring 2 Palestinian children, ages 10 and 13); conducts late-night house searches in al-'Arub r.c. (occupying 1 home as an observation post) and nr. Jenin, making no arrests. The **PASF** in Nablus detains and interrogates some 150 Palestinians in connection with the fatal shooting of a settler on 12/24. (PCHR 12/30; OCHA 1/6)

26 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, **IDF undercover units** raid the Nablus homes of **3 AMB mbrs.** (Nadir al-Sarkaji, Ghassan Abu Sharikh, and 'Anan Sobeh) allegedly behind the fatal shooting of a settler on 12/24, killing all 3 and wounding 1 bystander. The deaths constitute assassinations, as the men could have been detained: 2 of them are called to surrender and are fatally shot as they leave their homes unarmed; in the 3d case, soldiers enter the home, and when the wanted man refuses to exit a closet and surrender, soldiers rig the closet door with explosives and detonate the charge, killing him. **IDF**

soldiers surrounding the buildings fire tear gas to disperse stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them, hitting 2 (ages 12 and 19) with tear gas canisters, injuring them. PA PM **Fayyad** denounces the IDF's failure to coordinate the raids with the Dayton-trained PASF units responsible for security in Nablus, which were in the process of conducting a police investigation of the 12/24 killing. **IDF** troops in the West Bank also conduct late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Nablus. (NYT, WP, WT 12/27; JPI 12/28; PCHR 12/30; OCHA 1/6)

Hamas officials in **Lebanon** confirm that **2 senior Hamas bodyguards** and a **3d person** (possibly a Hamas mbr.) were killed and 5 people wounded late on 12/26 in a large explosion at a Hamas office in the Dahiya neighborhood of s. Beirut (Hizballah's stronghold). (HA 12/26; Associated Press, *Wall Street Journal*, WT, XIN 12/27; AFP, Kuwait News Agency, Middle East News Agency, MNA, YA 12/28; MNA, *al-Nabar*, *al-Sharq al-Awsat* 1/6) (See Quarterly Update for details)

27 DECEMBER

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin. A **Jewish settler** fr. Carmiel opens fire on a Palestinian woman grazing sheep nr. the settlement, missing her; **IDF** police detain the woman and interrogate her at Kiryat Arba settlement before releasing her. (PCHR 12/30; OCHA 1/6)

28 DECEMBER

Israel announces approval of **692 new settlement housing units** in East Jerusalem (Har Homa, Neve Ya'acov, Pisgat Ze'ev); the **EU**, **U.S.**, and **PA** criticize the move. **IDF** troops make a brief incursion into Gaza n. of Bayt Hanun to level land along the border fence to clear lines of sight. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats approaching the boundary of the permitted fishing zone, wounding 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late night arrest raids, house searches in Bil'in and nr. Nablus. (PLONAD 12/28; NYT, WP, WT 12/29; PCHR 12/30; WJW 12/31; OCHA 1/6)

29 DECEMBER

Some **1,000 international activists** gather in **Egypt** in preparation for a 12/31 solidarity march to the Rafah border to mark the 1-yr. anniversary of Operation Cast Lead (OCL) and bring tens of thousands of dollars of humanitarian aid into Gaza, but Egypt vows to keep the border closed. French activists protest outside the French emb. in Cairo, while American activists visit the U.S. emb. **Israel** allows 3 container shipments of glass into Gaza for the first time since 6/07; says it will allow 3 containers of glass per day for 5 days a week for the next month (a total of 81 containers are allowed in as of 2/9, about 90 percent of what Israel had pledged). In the West Bank, **Jewish settlers** fr. Bet Ayn nr. Hebron attempt to force 2 Palestinian shepherds grazing their sheep on nearby Palestinian land to leave the area; when they refuse, 1 settler opens fire, hitting 1 shepherd in the shoulder; the **IDF** arrests both Palestinians while they are receiving medical care from paramedics. (NYT, PCHR 12/30; OCHA, PCHR 1/6; OCHA 2/11)

In Cairo, **Mubarak** and **Netanyahu** hold a 3-hr. mtg. to discuss the peace process. Afterward, **Egyptian FM Ahmad Abu al-Ghayt** publicly praises Netanyahu for raising new ideas for advancing the peace process. (NYT 12/30; HA 12/31; AFP, *al-Dustur* 1/5) (see Quarterly Update for details)

The **Lebanese army** directs symbolic anti-aircraft fire at 4 Israeli warplanes that violate Lebanese air space in s. Lebanon. (WT 12/30)

30 DECEMBER

Unidentified Palestinians fire a **mortar** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries, marking the 1st cross-border Palestinian fire since 12/16. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in PA-controlled areas just n. of Ramallah at midday, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Fara'a r.c. and nr. Nablus. (JP, YA 12/30; OCHA, PCHR 1/6)

31 DECEMBER

Mbrs. of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) claim

responsibility for firing 2 manufactured Grad **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel; the missiles hit nr. Netivot, causing no damage or injuries. **Egypt** allows a token delegation of around **85 international activists** to cross into Gaza to demonstrate with Gazans for an end to Israel's siege, while in Cairo, Egyptian authorities disperse **another 1,000 international activists** calling on Egypt and Israel to open the Gaza border. Inside Israel, about **1,000 Israeli Palestinian and Jewish peace activists** march to the Erez crossing in solidarity with the internationals in Egypt. **Israeli police** arrest a Jewish settler teenager connected to the outlawed right-wing group Kahane Chai suspected in the 12/11 arson of a mosque in Yasuf. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 2 animal shelters on a Palestinian farm located nr. an unauthorized Israeli settlement outpost northeast of Hebron, saying they had been erected illegally; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Shavei Shomron and Einav settlements set up an outpost on a hill nr. Nablus overlooking the spot where a settler was ambushed and killed on 12/24. **Jewish settlers** at another settlement outpost northwest of Hebron raze 1,500 d. of surrounding Palestinian agricultural land, saying they plan to build a park and swimming pools. (JP 12/31; NYT, WP 1/1; HA 1/2; OCHA, PCHR 1/6; WJW 1/7)

1 JANUARY

Overnight, the **IDF** carries out air strikes on smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border in retaliation for the PFLP's 12/31 Grad strikes, lightly injuring 4 Palestinians. Later in the day, after the **Popular Resistance Committees (PRCs)** fire at least 2 mortars toward the Kerem Shalom crossing (the IDF records 2, while the PRCs claim 5; only 1 lands inside Israel, causing no damage or injuries), the **IDF** carries out air strikes on an open area e. of Jabaliya in n. Gaza and on a farm in al-Qarara in s. Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. Of note: **Israel** permanently closes the **Nahal Oz crossing**, meaning that with the exception of the grain belt operating at Qarni crossing, Kerem Shalom will be the sole transit point for goods coming in and out of Gaza; all fuel shipments will also henceforth go through Kerem Shalom. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires

rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians and nonviolent international (and, in the case of Bil'in, Israeli) activists taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 1 Palestinian) and Ni'lin (injuring 2 Palestinians); prevents Palestinian and international activists fr. planting trees on Palestinian land declared a closed military zone by the IDF, confiscating the trees; patrols in al-'Arub r.c. in the evening, stopping and questioning a group of Palestinian children, arresting 3 teenagers; conducts synchronized late-night house searches in 3 villages southwest of Jenin, making no arrests; later makes a raid on a 4th village in the same area, also making no arrests. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yakir nr. Salfit stone a Palestinian car driving on the road to Qalqilya, injuring 2 Palestinians. (YA 1/1; HA 1/2; OCHA, PCHR 1/6)

2 JANUARY

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. (OCHA, PCHR 1/6)

3 JANUARY

Late in the evening, the **IDF** makes an incursion into n. Gaza to level land along the border fence n. of Bayt Lahiya to clear lines of sight; during the operation a "heavy explosion" and gunfire are heard; no casualties are reported and the IDF does not comment on the incident, suggesting that troops may have accidentally triggered an explosive device buried by Palestinian militants. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house raids nr. Hebron and in al-'Arub r.c., Jenin town and r.c. (OCHA, PCHR 1/6)

4 JANUARY

An **IDF** drone fires a missile at **PFLP** mbrs. nr. the Gaza border fence e. of Jabaliya, killing 2 **PFLP mbrs.**, wounding a 3d. In the West Bank, the **IDF** removes an earthen barrier blocking the northern entrance to Halhul n. of Hebron that has been a major impediment to Palestinian movement along Route 60, the main road in the s. West Bank; demolishes 5 structures on a Palestinian farm nr. Bethlehem;

conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jerusalem, Ramallah. (OCHA, PCHR 1/6)

5 JANUARY

Israel approves the construction of a new Jewish settlement neighborhood in Jerusalem funded by **U.S. settler financier Irving Moskowitz** to build 4 apartment buildings (24 units total) on East Jerusalem's Mount of Olives, creating Israeli territorial contiguity between Mount Scopus and the Mount of Olives, completely surrounding the Old City of Jerusalem with Jewish settlements; the **U.S.** issues a stern protest stating the project harms the peace process. Early in the morning, the **IDF** makes 2 incursions into s. Gaza nr. Abasan and Khuza to bulldoze land to clear lines of sight. Later, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a **rocket** into Israel, causing no damage or injuries; the **IDF** immediately carries out an air strike on smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border (causing no reported injuries). Later, the **IDF** carries out an air strike in s. Gaza nr. al-Qarara on a group of **PRC mbrs.** preparing to fire a rocket, killing **1 PRC mbr.** and wounding 3 others. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Palestinian areas of Hebron in the morning and in nearby Sa'ir village in the afternoon. (Globes 1/5; JP, OCHA, PCHR, WP, WT 1/6; PCHR 1/14; JPI 1/15)

6 JANUARY

Egyptian border police clash with **100s of Palestinians** protesting Egypt's refusal to allow a humanitarian aid convoy through the Rafah crossing into Gaza without Israel's permission and Egyptian plans to build an underground steel wall to deter smuggling tunnels, leaving **1 Egyptian soldier** fatally shot, 10s of Palestinians injured. In Gaza, a **PRC mbr.** injured in the 1/5 Israeli air strike on al-Qarara dies. The UN reports that since 12/23, **1 Palestinian** has been killed in a smuggling tunnel collapse on the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a late-night incursion into Zabuba village nr. Jenin, patrolling streets but making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches n. of Jerusalem. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gilad nr. Qalqilya attack Palestinian farmers working their nearby land. (OCHA 1/6, 1/13; PCHR 1/14)

7 JANUARY

In the morning, the **Israeli air force** drops leaflets over Gaza warning residents that they will be shot if they approach closer than 300 m to the Gaza border fence; a map showing the no-go zones places the southern villages of Abasan and Khuza within the no-go area. Claiming retaliation for the 1/5 IDF air strike that killed 2 of its mbrs., the **PRCs** fire at least **10 mortars** toward the Kerem Shalom crossing (3 land inside Gaza), causing no damage or injuries. **Israel** shuts the Kerem Shalom crossing through 1/9 in response. Later, **unidentified Palestinians** fire an antitank weapon across the border at an IDF patrol operating inside Israel e. of Jaba-liya, causing no damage or injuries; the IDF directs artillery fire (6 shells) at the launch site causing no injuries. Late in the day, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a **manufactured Grad-type rocket** that lands nr. Ashqelon, causing no damage or injuries. (IFM, YA 1/7; JP, NYT, WP 1/8; OCHA 1/13; PCHR 1/14)

8 JANUARY

Overnight, in retaliation for the 1/7 Grad strike nr. Ashqelon, the **IDF** makes air strikes on a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border (killing **3 Palestinians**, including a 15-yr.-old boy, and wounding 2), suspected weapons factories in the Shaykh Ajlin and al-Zaytun neighborhoods of Gaza City (causing no injuries but marking the 1st Israeli air strikes on Gaza City since OCL), and sites in al-Qarara in s. Gaza (initially hitting an open area, damaging a house; then targeting and destroying 2 other **Palestinian homes**, whose residents had fled after the initial strike close by; no injuries reported). During the day, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 2 more **rockets** toward Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians and nonviolent international (and, in the case of Bil'in, Israeli) activists taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 2 Palestinians) and Ni'lin (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); conducts late-night house searches in al-Fara'a r.c. and nr. Jenin, making no arrests. (JP 1/8; NYT 1/9; OCHA 1/13; PCHR 1/14)

9 JANUARY

Unidentified Palestinians fire a **mortar** fr. s. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin, and Ramallah, arresting only 1 Palestinian nr. Hebron. Some **30 Jewish settlers** fr. Bet Ayn attack Palestinian farmers working their nearby fields. (HA, YA 1/9; OCHA 1/13; PCHR 1/14)

10 JANUARY

Netanyahu and his cabinet approve plans to build 2 barriers rigged with surveillance equipment along approximately half of Israel's 150-mi. border with Egypt to prevent illegal border crossings; 1 segment will be nr. the Rafah border with Gaza, the other will be nr. Elat; construction is expected to take several years and cost NIS \$1 b. In the afternoon, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 4 **mortars** toward Israel, but all land inside Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. In the evening, the **IDF** carries out an air strike on a group of Islamic Jihad mbrs. nr. the c. Gaza border e. of Dayr al-Balah as they are preparing to fire a rocket into Israel, killing **3 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** (including senior field cmdr. Awad Abu Nasir). In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes the only elementary school, **11 Palestinian homes**, 10 animal pens, and a greenhouse in Khirbat Tana, displacing at least 120 Palestinians (mostly children) and marking the apparent first stage of Israel's implementation of a 2/09 court order to raze the village (see 12/10/09); demolishes another **Palestinian home** in al-Tur nr. East Jerusalem; conducts late-night house searches in several villages around Jenin and nr. Hebron and Tubas, making no arrests; conducts similar late-night searches in the al-Bustan quarter of Silwan in East Jerusalem, beating and detaining 4 Palestinian children (ages 11–13) for 11 hrs. of questioning before releasing them. (HA, IFM, JP, Reuters, YA 1/10; NYT, WP, WT 1/11; NYT, WT 1/12; OCHA 1/13; PCHR, WJW 1/14; JPI 1/29)

11 JANUARY

In Gaza, **Hamas** officials confirm that **1 Hamas mbr.** was killed and 3 injured in an explosion in n. Gaza caused by

mishandled explosives. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids an elementary school in Bayt Za'ta and several homes in al-'Arub r.c., both n. of Hebron, questioning children regarding stone-throwing at IDF jeeps operating in the area, arresting 2 children (ages 14 and 17) in al-'Arub r.c.; makes an incursion into al-Bireh in the evening, surrounding a mosque and checking the IDs of worshipers, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bil'in and Ni'lin (arresting Palestinian organizers of the weekly demonstrations against the **separation wall**) and nr. Hebron, Tubas. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gil'ad attack Palestinian farmers working their nearby land. (NYT 1/12; OCHA 1/13; PCHR 1/14)

12 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** moves into Safa village n. of Hebron in the morning, attacking Palestinian farmers planting trees on their land nr. Bet Ayn settlement, firing rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them, injuring 3 (including a 5-yr.-old boy); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin. (OCHA 1/13; PCHR 1/14)

13 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a pre-dawn incursion into al-'Ubaydiyya village e. of Bethlehem, patrolling in the streets and randomly checking Palestinian IDs, making no arrests; levels 3 d. of Palestinian olive trees n. of Hebron, citing security reasons; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Fara'a r.c., and nr. Hebron, Tulkarm. The UN reports that since 1/6, **2 Palestinians** have been killed in tunnel collapses on the Rafah border. (OCHA 1/13; PCHR 1/14; OCHA 1/20; PCHR 1/21)

14 JANUARY

The **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** in East Jerusalem, displacing 8 Palestinians. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches in al-Ma'sara, targeting homes of Palestinians involved in organizing local protests against the **separation wall**, but making no arrests; conducts similar late-night house

searches nr. Jenin, making no arrests. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gil'ad vandalize Palestinian farm equipment and cars in nearby Imatin village. **Jewish settlers** fr. Havat Maon nr. Hebron uproot 70 Palestinian olive trees in nearby al-Twana village. (OCHA 1/20; PCHR 1/21)

In **Jordan**, **unidentified assailants** detonate a roadside bomb nr. a convoy of **Israeli diplomats** heading home for the weekend, causing no injuries. Israeli amb. Daniel Nevo was not in the convoy. No one takes responsibility. (NYT, WP 1/15)

15 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians and nonviolent international (and, in the case of Bil'in, Israeli) activists taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 8 Palestinians, including 2 journalists) and Ni'lin (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); fires tear gas, stun grenades at Palestinian and international activists holding a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in al-Ma'sara (no injuries reported). Late in the evening, the **PASF** conducts arrest raids in Hebron, Nablus, Tubas, and Tulkarm, arresting at least 15 senior West Bank **Hamas** officials and local council heads affiliated with Hamas, in 1 incident sparking a heavy exchange of gunfire, causing no reported injuries. (YA 1/16; OCHA 1/20; PCHR 1/21)

16 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** stages synchronized late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' r.c. and Balata r.c. nr. Nablus; conducts similar late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. A 12-yr.-old Palestinian boy is seriously injured when he accidentally triggers **IDF** unexploded ordnance (UXO) s. of Hebron. **Jewish settlers** in Shaykh Jarrah in East Jerusalem beat a Palestinian teenager; **Israeli police** observe but do not intervene. (OCHA 1/20; PCHR 1/21)

17 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in

Ni'lin and n. of Jerusalem. (OCHA 1/20; PCHR 1/21)

18 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a brief incursion into Jenin r.c., setting up an observation point outside a Palestinian home, firing tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets at stone-throwing youths who approach them, injuring 1; stages synchronized late-night arrest raids, house searches in villages around Jenin; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus and nr. Hebron. In East Jerusalem, Israeli work on an archeological tunnel from Silwan to the Old City causes a road outside Silwan to collapse. (OCHA 1/20; PCHR 1/21)

19 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** nr. Adam settlement just n. of Jerusalem; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron and nr. Jenin. **Jewish settlers** escorted by **IDF** troops enter Awarta village nr. Nablus in the evening to hold religious services at an ancient Jewish gravesite, also smashing and vandalizing several Palestinian tombstones in a Palestinian cemetery. The UN reports that in the previous wk., 7 Palestinians were injured in tunnel collapses on the Rafah border. (OCHA 1/20; PCHR 1/21; WP 1/22)

20 JANUARY

Israel deports **Americans Jared Maslin** (chief English editor for the Bethlehem-based Palestinian news agency Ma'an) and **Faith Rowold** (a volunteer with a Lutheran Church group in Jerusalem) to the U.S. on visa violations after having detained them the preceding wk. at Ben-Gurion Airport; Palestinians and NGOs operating in the occupied territories view Maslin's deportation in particular as further evidence that Israel is stepping up its crackdown on individuals and organizations, especially ones with foreign funding, that promote Palestinian interests. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus, Ni'lin, and nr. Hebron. (PCHR, WP 1/21; OCHA 1/27; PCHR 1/28)

Syrian-based **senior Hamas commander Mahmud al-Mabhuh**, a founder

of Hamas's Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades, is found murdered in his hotel room in Dubai. Hamas accuses **Israel** of assassinating him, but Israel refuses to comment. (NYT, WP 1/30; JPI 2/11; NYT, WT 2/16) (see Quarterly Update for details)

21 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Ramallah. (OCHA 1/27; PCHR 1/28)

U.S. special envoy George Mitchell begins a 3-day visit to Israel and Ramallah in his latest effort to jumpstart the peace process. (WT 1/22) (see Quarterly Update for details)

22 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians and non-violent international (and, in the case of Bil'in, Israeli) activists taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Bil'in and Ni'lin (10s suffer tear gas inhalation at both sites); fires tear gas, stun grenades at Palestinian and international activists holding a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in al-Ma'sara (no injuries reported); fires rubber-coated steel bullets at Palestinians holding a nonviolent protest march fr. the outskirts of Ramallah to their agricultural lands that are now within a closed military zone surrounding Halamish settlement (4 are wounded); conducts late-night house searches in Ni'lin, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (OCHA 1/27; PCHR 1/28)

23 JANUARY

Israeli naval vessels off the n. Gaza coast fire on Palestinian fishing boats, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Ni'lin. **Jewish settlers** fr. Brakha s. of Nablus attempt to raid nearby Iraq Burin village but are fended off by Palestinian residents; **IDF** troops intervene, firing rubber-coated steel bullets at Palestinians to disperse them (injuring 1 Palestinian). **Jewish settlers** fr. Halamish nr. Ramallah uproot 15 nearby Palestinian olive trees. (OCHA 1/27; PCHR 1/28)

24 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized late-night house searches in and around Tubas, making no arrests; conducts similar late-night searches without making arrests in Bethlehem; conducts late-night arrest raids nr. Jenin. An **Israeli municipal court in Jerusalem** orders the **IDF** to pay more than \$117,000 in compensation to **Jewish settlers** from the illegal settlement outpost of Yad Ya'ir nr. Ramallah, which the IDF removed in 9/08; the judge rules that the IDF contravened a last-minute High Court order to delay demolition; the IDF says it will appeal. (HA 1/25; OCHA 1/27; PCHR 1/28)

25 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes late-night incursions into Jenin city and nearby Jalbun village, patrolling streets, but making no arrests. An **Israeli municipal court in Jerusalem** rules that **Jewish settlers** may take possession of the top floor of a **Palestinian home** in Aqabat al-Saraya in the Old City of Jerusalem (see Quarterly Update for details). (OCHA 1/27; PCHR 1/28; OCHA 2/4)

26 JANUARY

Israeli naval vessels off the n. Gaza coast fire on Palestinian fishing boats, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on raid al-Twana village (see 1/14), clashing with Palestinian villagers; the **IDF** intervenes to protect the settlers, violently beating 1 Palestinian. (OCHA 1/27; PCHR 1/28)

27 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a late-night incursion into Qalqilya, patrolling streets and randomly checking IDs, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids and house searches in al-'Arub r.c., Bil'in, al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron, Nablus and nearby 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' r.c., as well as nr. Jenin, Jericho. **Jewish settlers** rally at the evacuated Homesh settlement site northwest of Nablus, throw stones at passing Palestinian vehicles, beat 1 local

Palestinian farmer. The UN reports that since 1/20, the **PASF** has arrested 6 aides to Hamas-affiliated Palestinian Council speaker 'Aziz Dwayk. (PCHR 1/28; OCHA, PCHR 2/4)

28 JANUARY

In the afternoon, **IDF** troops make an incursion into s. Gaza, leveling agricultural land 250 m fr. the border fence in Khuza village, firing on residential areas but causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires tear gas, stun grenades to break up a tree-planting ceremony in Burin village attended by PA Agriculture Min. officials. The **IDF** also delivers military orders to several Palestinian families in Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron declaring 150 d. of vil- lage land as off-limits state-owned land; **Jewish settlers** fr. nearby Bet Ayn have repeatedly attempted to seize the same lands. (OCHA, PCHR 2/4)

In an interview with *al-Jazeera*, a **Ben-Gurion University doctoral student** shares his dissertation research on **Israel's** confiscation and destruction of **Palestinian books during the 1948 war**. The researcher estimates that Israeli authorities collected 10,000s of Arabic books from Pal- estinian homes and towns conquered dur- ing the war, selling or giving away around half of them and destroying some 27,000 others as a "security threat" to the new state. Hebrew University was given 1,000s of the texts, some 6,000 of which are avail- able through the university library, while 1,000s others may be in the library's ware- houses, uncatalogued and inaccessible to the public. (*al-Jazeera*, YA 1/28)

29 JANUARY

The **IDF** reports that 2 explosive de- vices apparently targeting Israeli naval vessels exploded off the Israeli coast, caus- ing no damage or injuries; no group takes responsibility. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes an afternoon incursion into Bayt Umar village, searching 4 houses, but mak- ing no arrests; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at stone- throwing Palestinians and nonviolent in- ternational activists taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); seals the en- trances to Ni'lin village so international

activists cannot take part in weekly dem- onstrations against the **separation wall** there, then beats and fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, stun grenades at Pal- estinian protesters (several are injured); for a 2d time (see 1/22) fires rubber-coated steel bullets at Palestinians holding a non- violent protest march fr. the outskirts of Ramallah to their agricultural lands that are now within a closed military zone sur- rounding Halamish settlement (10s suffer tear gas inhalation). Jewish settlers act- ing on a 1/25 municipal court ruling oc- cupy the 2d floor of a Palestinian home in Aqabat al-Saraya in Jerusalem. (NYT 2/3; OCHA, PCHR 2/4)

30 JANUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes an incursion into Bayt Umar for a 2d day, sealing entrances to the village, patrolling streets, and firing tear gas and stun gre- nades at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them (injuring 1). Respond- ing to IDF military orders issued on 1/28, **Bayt Umar residents** along with Israeli and international activists stage a nonvio- lent march to the 150 d. declared off-limits by the IDF to hold a tree-planting cere- mony, but **IDF** troops block them. (OCHA, PCHR 2/4)

31 JANUARY

IDF troops on the c. Gaza border fire artillery shells at Gaza City's municipal waste treatment facility, causing no inju- ries but forcing employees to flee, disrupt- ing service. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron and nr. Nablus. **Israeli minister without portfolio Benny Be- gin** attends the groundbreaking ceremony for a new settlement project to expand Bet Hagay settlement nr. Hebron, adding 10 new units; Begin stresses that government approval for the project was issued weeks before Netanyahu declared his 11/25 set- tlement freeze. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba accompanied by **IDF** forces enter al-Buqa'a village e. of Hebron to plant 200 trees as an initial step toward confiscating the land; when some 40 Palestinian resi- dents attempt to block the settlers, the IDF imposes a closure and intervenes to drive them away and guard the settlers (beating

and arresting 1 Palestinian teenager, injuring 4 other Palestinians. (OCHA, PCHR 2/4)

1 FEBRUARY

Israeli authorities find 2 explosive devices washed up on Israeli beaches; no injuries are reported. **Islamic Jihad** says that, in cooperation with the **AMB** and **PRCs**, it released a total of 8 devices in Gaza's waters in retaliation for Israel's alleged assassination of Hamas cmdr. **Mab-huh**. The IDF says 2 explosions off the coast on 1/29 may be related. **IDF** troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire into the Erez industrial zone to drive away Palestinians searching the rubble for scrap metal. Later in the afternoon, **IDF** troops on the Gaza border e. of Gaza City fire on residential areas inside the Strip for no apparent reason, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem and nr. Jenin. (NYT, WP, WT 2/3; OCHA, PCHR 2/4)

2 FEBRUARY

Unidentified Palestinians fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Late at night, the **IDF** carries out 6 air strikes on smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border and abandoned buildings at the destroyed Dahaniyya airport site, causing no reported injuries. Meanwhile, **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the s. Gaza coast, then deploy small Zodiac boats to chase some fishermen, destroying or confiscating their nets. A smuggling tunnel collapses on the Rafah border killing **1 Palestinian** civilian, injuring 3. The UN reports that since 1/27, another **2 Palestinians** have been killed in tunnel incidents (1 in a collapse, 1 by electrocution). In the West Bank, the **IDF** enters Khirbat Jabara village s. of Tulkarm in the morning, sealing the village, checking IDs, and stopping 10s of vehicles; troops withdraw in the evening, without making any arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bil'in (targeting individuals involved in demonstrations against the **separation wall**) and Nablus. The UN reports that since 1/27, the **IDF** has removed 24 obstacles to Palestinian travel in Hebron district (21 earthen

mounds, 2 road blocks, 1 locked gate), noticeably improving Palestinian movement along Route 60 (550 manned and unmanned barriers are still in place across the West Bank). (HA, NYT, WP, YA 2/3; OCHA, PCHR 2/4)

PA PM **Fayyad** gives a major address at **Israel's** annual Herzliya policy conference. Fayyad's 30-min. speech aims to explain the Palestinian historical narrative and stresses the need for a "political horizon" for Palestinian statehood. Israeli DM **Barak** addresses the same panel, focusing his comments on regional security threats. Both stress the importance of a 2-state solution, with Barak stating that Israel risks becoming "an apartheid state par excellence" if it does not accept Palestinian statehood. (WP 2/3; *Ma'ariv* 2/5)

3 FEBRUARY

For a 2d day, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the morning, the **IDF** makes a brief incursion into Gaza to level land along the border fence e. of Jabaliya. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin. (JP, YA 2/3; PCHR 2/4; OCHA, PCHR 2/11)

4 FEBRUARY

In Gaza, an **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** jeep is damaged by a roadside explosion along a route nr. the Erez crossing; no injuries are reported. **Hamas** rejects speculation that the explosion was caused by a roadside bomb, alleging the jeep accidentally triggered IDF UXO fr. OCL; no group claims responsibility. The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into s. Gaza to level land in the no-go zone e. of Khan Yunis to clear lines of sight. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a rare daytime incursion into Bayt Ula village nr. Hebron, raiding a furniture company and arresting 2 Palestinians; stages 1 late-night arrest raid nr. Hebron, followed several hrs. later by synchronized arrest raids, house searches in 3 other villages nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Revava nr. Salfit bulldoze 50 d. of nearby Palestinian olive groves and agricultural land, fence off 24 d., block off 3 roads leading to the area, and install mobile homes to expand the settlement. **Jewish**

settlers fr. Adi Ad nr. Nablus place 4 mobile homes on a nearby plot of Palestinian land to create a new settlement outpost. (WT 2/5; OCHA, PCHR 2/11)

5 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians and non-violent international activists taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Bil'in and at peaceful Palestinian protesters demonstrating against planned land confiscations in Dayr Nizam and al-Nabi Salih both northwest of Ramallah (10s suffer tear gas inhalation at all 3 sites). **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba and Harsina settlements nr. Hebron uproot 80 Palestinian-owned grapevines along a nearby settler-only bypass road. (OCHA, PCHR 2/11)

6 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a rare daytime incursion into Bayt Umar village, 1 of the 4 Hebron-area villages raided on 2/4, setting up a checkpoint in the center of town and chasing away Palestinians; they withdraw after 3 hrs. without staging any raids or making any arrests. Late at night, the **IDF** raids an apartment building in al-Bireh nr. Ramallah that houses international activists working with the International Solidarity Movement, searching for individuals "known to have been involved in illegal riots that interfered with Israeli security operations [e.g., weekly **separation wall** protests]," checking visas and passports, and arresting 1 Spanish journalist and 1 Australian activist. The **PA** calls (2/7) the arrest raid a violation of the Oslo interim accords, which gave the PA full security and civil control of Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Brakha escorted by **IDF** troops attempt to enter Iraq Burin village; soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at 10s of Palestinians who try to block their entry, injuring 3. (OCHA, PCHR 2/11)

7 FEBRUARY

Unidentified Palestinians fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishermen off the

n. Gaza coast, halting and seizing 2 boats, holding 4 fishermen for several hrs. of questioning before releasing them. In the West Bank, **IDF** troops surround and seal Shu'fat r.c. nr. East Jerusalem in the evening, imposing a curfew. The **IDF** also makes a rare daytime incursion into Ithna village nr. Hebron, searching the home of a wanted Palestinian, without making any arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jericho and in al-Bireh (including searching the home of al-Bireh's mayor, arresting his wife). (YA 2/7; WT 2/8; OCHA, PCHR 2/11)

8 FEBRUARY

Israeli Interior M Eli Yishai grants retroactive approval to a 7-story settler-occupied building in the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan in East Jerusalem that **Israel's High Court** ruled illegal in 7/09. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Hanun fire across the border to disperse a peaceful Palestinian demonstration against Israel's self-declared no-go zone inside the Gaza border (no injuries reported). In the West Bank, **IDF** troops covered by helicopters escort Israeli tax authorities into Shu'fat r.c. (sealed on 2/7), raiding 10s of homes and shops and several medical centers, arresting 60 Palestinians, and allowing tax authorities to confiscate furniture (see Quarterly Update for details). Troops fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, injuring 2 Palestinian journalists. The **IDF** evacuates late at night. The **IDF** also sets up a checkpoint at the entrance of Khirbat Jabara s. of Tulkarm in the morning, sealing the village and leveling land around the new checkpoint; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., and nr. Hebron. (WT 2/10; PCHR 2/11; MNA 2/22)

9 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** and **Israeli tax authorities** reenter Shu'fat r.c. (see 2/7–8), confiscating 10s of cars, arresting at least another 30 individuals (the UN puts the total number arrested at 92), and firing live warning shots at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them, wounding a 14-yr.-old boy. The **IDF** also makes an

incursion into Zayta al-Sha'rawiyya village northwest of Tulkarm to arrest 3 14-yr.-old Palestinian boys as they leave school for lunch. Some 50 **Jewish settlers** fr. Brakha attempt to drive 2 Palestinian shepherds off adjacent Palestinian land in Iraq Burin village; after stone-throwing villagers come to the shepherds' defense and drive off the settlers, settlement security guards return to the scene and open fire on the Palestinians, wounding 1. Late in the evening, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border for unknown reasons open fire on an open area of the Bayt Lahiya beach, causing no damage or injuries. Almost simultaneously, the **IDF** carries out air strikes, and a drone fires a missile at the Dahaniyya airport site in s. Gaza, causing no reported injuries; **Israel** says the air strikes are in response to Palestinian rocket fire over the past several days (see 2/2, 2/3, 2/7), though no rocket fire was reported today. Soon after, **Israeli naval vessels** fire on a Palestinian boat off the n. Gaza coast, forcing it to return to shore. (OCHA, PCHR 2/11; MNA 2/22)

10 FEBRUARY

In the morning, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Lahiya fire on Palestinians collecting scrap metal from destroyed sites nr. the border fence (no injuries are reported). In the West Bank, an **off-duty Palestinian policeman** (not in uniform) stabs, kills an **IDF soldier** parked in a jeep at a junction s. of Nablus in Israeli-controlled area C and is detained by an Israeli security guard from a nearby Jewish settlement; PA Pres. **Abbas** denounces the attack, urging Palestinians to participate only in nonviolent protests against Israel. In response, the **IDF** raids, searches several Palestinian houses and the assailant's home in al-Khiljan village southwest of Jenin, confiscating computers and cell phones, and arresting 6 Palestinians, including 4 of his brothers. The **IDF** also fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas to disperse Palestinians and international activists planting 500 olive trees on Palestinian land slated for Israeli confiscation in Bayt Umar village nr. Karme Tzur settlement; levels Palestinian land nr. Bayt Sahur for construction of an IDF observation post; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem, Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah (arresting 20 Palestinians, all between the ages of 15 and 18), and nr.

Hebron. (NYT, OCHA, PCHR, WP 2/11; OCHA, PCHR 2/18)

11 FEBRUARY

Early in the morning, **IDF** troops on the Gaza border e. of Gaza City open fire and direct artillery strikes on armed Palestinians operating nr. Juhur al-Dik village, killing 1 **armed Palestinian** and hitting a Palestinian home and lightly injuring 3 girls (ages 5-12), then making a brief incursion 400 m into the area. Around the same time, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Lahiya make a brief incursion to arrest 6 Palestinians collecting scrap material fr. destroyed homes and a brick factory nr. the border (they are released after 12 hrs. of questioning). Several hrs. later, the **IDF** makes an air strike on Gaza killing **Islamic Jihad mbr. Faris Jabir**, who Israel claims was part of a squad preparing an attack on the Qarni border crossing. (Palestinians notably do not claim his death as an assassination.) In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes 6 wells and 5 agricultural storehouses nr. the **separation wall** northwest of Hebron, confiscating electrical generators and irrigation equipment. Two yrs. after **Israel's High Court** ruled that a section of the **separation wall** in Bil'in must be rerouted, the **IDF** begins work to move the barrier; residents welcome the change but stress that it falls far short of their demands that the wall be removed altogether. (NYT, WT 2/12; NYT 2/13; OCHA, PCHR 2/18)

12 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, a **41-yr.-old Palestinian** crosses paths with 6 **IDF** soldiers on foot patrol in the center of Hebron who order him to halt; when he keeps walking, a soldier shoots him in the leg, and when he hobbles away seeking cover, the entire patrol opens fire hitting him 5 times; the soldiers prevent paramedics from treating him at the scene, pulling him into an armored personnel carrier; the IDF later reports that he died.

The **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians and nonviolent international activists taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets,

stun grenades, tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin, also beats several protesters (2 international activists and 1 Palestinian reporter are beaten and arrested); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, stun grenades at 10s of Palestinians fr. Dayr Nizam and al-Nabi Salih attempting to plant seedlings on village land that is slated for confiscation nr. Halamish settlement (no injuries reported). (WP 2/13; OCHA, PCHR 2/18)

13 FEBRUARY

IDF troops on the Gaza border e. of Jabaliya fire on Palestinian farmers nr. the border fence, forcing them to flee (no injuries reported). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin. (OCHA, PCHR 2/18)

14 FEBRUARY

Israeli naval vessels fire on, surround 2 Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to sail to Ashdod port,

confiscating the boats, arresting 3 fishermen, and returning 1 to Gaza through the Erez crossing. **IDF** troops on the c. Gaza border fire on an unarmed Palestinian teenager who strays into the 300 m. buffer zone e. of Gaza Valley village, moderately wounding him. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and in Bethlehem, Nablus. **Hamas** police in Gaza detain **BBC reporter Paul Martin** for 15 days of questioning on suspicion of unspecified security offenses. Martin was testifying on behalf of **Muhammad Abu Muayliq**, a fmr. member of the Abu Rish Brigades (a Fatah offshoot) on trial in a Hamas military court for collaboration with Israel, and was arrested in the courtroom during the trial when Abu Muayliq allegedly implicated him in "violating Palestinian law and security in Gaza." (NYT 2/16; OCHA, PCHR 2/18)

15 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (PCHR 2/18)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|--------|---|
| AFP | (Agence France-Presse, Paris) |
| HA | (<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv) |
| IFM | (Israeli Foreign Ministry, Jerusalem) |
| JP | (<i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem) |
| JPI | (<i>Jerusalem Post International Edition</i> , Jerusalem) |
| 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) |
| PLONAD | (PLO Negotiation Affairs Dept., Ramallah) |
| WJW | (<i>Washington Jewish Week</i> , Rockville, MD) |
| WP | (<i>Washington Post</i> , Washington) |
| WT | (<i>Washington Times</i> , Washington) |
| XIN | (Xinhua-New China News Agency, Beijing) |
| YA | (<i>Yedi'ot Abaronot</i> , Tel Aviv) |