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JOURNALS + DIGITAL PUBLISHING



Chronology: 16 May—15 August 2011

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Source: *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 41, No. 1 (Autumn 2011), pp. 218-237

Published by: [University of California Press](#) on behalf of the [Institute for Palestine Studies](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/jps.2011.XLI.1.218>

Accessed: 06/03/2015 15:03

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CHRONOLOGY

16 MAY–15 AUGUST 2011

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

This section is part 111 of a chronology begun in JPS 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect North American 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** maintains a tight siege on Gaza, aimed at unseating the governing **Hamas** authority. The **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** enforces a 300-meter 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 Bayt Lahiya and Rafah and 3 naut. mi. elsewhere. In the West Bank, governed by the **Fatah-led Palestinian Authority (PA)**, IDF operations and restrictions on Palestinian movement are relatively low. Today, the **IDF** patrols in Far'un village nr. Tulkarm in the evening, firing tear gas and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, causing no serious injuries; patrols in Jit village nr. Qalqilya late at night. (PCHR 5/19; OCHA 5/20)

In Cairo, **Hamas** and **Fatah** open their first round of talks on implementing their 5/4/11 national reconciliation agreement that would reunite West Bank and Gaza institutions and prepare for new elections. (REU 5/16) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In a speech to the Knesset before leaving for the U.S., **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** lays out his conditions for accepting a Palestinian state, but still does not go far enough to satisfy minimum Palestinian demands, stating that “the root of the conflict is not the absence of a Palestinian state,” but rather “the refusal to recognize a Jewish state.” (HA 5/16; NYT, WT 5/17; WP 5/18; JPI 5/27) (see Quarterly Update for details)

Italy upgrades the status of the **Palestinian representation in Rome** from a

delegation to a full diplomatic mission. (HA 5/16)

17 MAY

In an op-ed in the *New York Times*, **PA pres. Mahmud Abbas** publicly announces plans to put a resolution to the UNGA in 9/2011 calling for recognition of a Palestinian state on 1967 borders and admission of Palestine as a full member of the UN. (NYT 5/17)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols, arrest raids, and house searches in 3 villages nr. Tulkarm. In East Jerusalem, **Jewish settlers** raid a school and beat students in their classrooms. (PCHR 5/19; OCHA 5/20)

At the close of 2 days of extensive talks in Cairo, **Fatah** and **Hamas** agree on a mechanism to implement their unity deal. No details are released. (MENA, WP 5/18)

18 MAY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-'Arub refugee camp (r.c.) nr. Hebron and Kafr Haris nr. Salfit. (PCHR 5/19, 5/26; OCHA 5/27)

19 MAY

U.S. pres. Barack Obama gives a **major speech on the Middle East** meant to reassess U.S. priorities in the region, particularly in light of the recent prodemocracy uprisings (the “Arab Spring”). He speaks extensively about the peace process at the close of the address (including denouncing

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the Palestinian statehood initiative, urging against Hamas participation in a national unity government, and endorsing the 1967 lines with agreed land swaps as the basis of border negotiations) but does not offer a new U.S. peace initiative. **Netanyahu** immediately denounces the reference to 1967 lines, saying they would jeopardize Israeli security. (HA, MNA, MA, NYT, WP, YA 5/19; NYT, WP, WT 5/20) (see Doc. D1, Quarterly Update for details)

Israel's Jerusalem planning commission approves construction of 1,600 new settlement housing units in East Jerusalem (Har Homa/Jabal Abu Ghunaym and Pisgat Ze'ev). In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm, 3 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 village nr. Jenin during the day and in Jericho and Birzeit nr. Ramallah late at night; conducts arrest raids nr. Bethlehem (targeting stone-throwing youths) and Qalqilya. (Wafa, YA 5/19; PCHR 5/26; OCHA 5/27)

20 MAY

Obama and **Netanyahu** hold a difficult but "productive" meeting at the White House to discuss the peace process, particularly their views on the 1967 borders as the basis of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. Afterward, Obama stresses their points of agreement, while Netanyahu criticizes Obama as "unrealistic." (CSM 5/20; NYT, WP 5/21) (see Quarterly Update for details)

IDF troops on the s. Gaza border e. of Abasan fire warning shots at Palestinians staging a nonviolent march to the border fence to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone, wounding 1 Palestinian. Late at night, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border shell and fire on a **Palestinian teenager** nr. the c. Gaza border fence e. of al-Bureij r.c., killing him. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 nr. Salfit, and 1 nr. Tulkarm. Nr. Hebron, 2 Palestinian children are injured when they accidentally trigger unexploded IDF ordnance. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in and Ni'lin nr. Ramallah, Nabi Salih in the north c. West Bank. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, injuring 1

Palestinian and 1 international activist; 10 Israelis and 1 international are arrested. (PCHR 5/26; OCHA 5/27)

21 MAY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in and around Tulkarm and in 1 village nr. Jenin during the day; makes a late-night raid into Kafr Ra'i village nr. Jenin, detaining 2 Palestinians and taking them to a military court in nearby Salem village to testify as witnesses in the case against another Palestinian; makes a late-night raid into Ramallah, searching a home and ordering the owner to appear for questioning. The **IDF** also fires tear gas, stun grenades at **Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists** staging a nonviolent march through Iraq Burin village nr. Nablus to nearby Brakha settlement to protest the settlers' seizure of village lands to expand the settlement. The Israeli human rights group **Peace Now** reports that in late 4/2011, the **Israeli DMin.** approved construction of 294 settlement housing units in Beitar Ilit (south and west of Jerusalem), saying tenders for the construction should be issued soon. (UPI 5/23; PCHR 5/26; OCHA 5/27)

22 MAY

Obama gives a major address to the **American Israel Public Affairs Comm. (AIPAC)**. While he restates his belief that discussion of final borders should take the 1967 lines as the starting point for negotiations, he clarifies that agreed land swaps would be necessary and would certainly result in "a border that is different than the one that existed on June 4, 1967," stating that any controversy over his 5/19 speech was "not based on substance." (JTA, NYT, WP, WT 5/23) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Jericho; patrols in al-Jarushiyya village nr. Tulkarm, randomly stopping cars and checking IDs; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around al-'Arub r.c. and nr. Tulkarm; searches the home of Hamas politburo mbr. Aysha Dar Suleiman in 'Arura village nr. Ramallah, arresting her. **Jewish settlers** heavily damage a Palestinian home located between the Gush Etzion and Efrat settlements nr. Bethlehem.

Jewish settlers fr. Tafuh settlement s. of Nablus attack 3 Palestinian women traveling on the Nablus–Ramallah road. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim settlement uproot 70 olive trees fr. neighboring Kafr Qaddum village. (PCHR 5/26; OCHA 5/27)

23 MAY

Netanyahu addresses AIPAC, leaving aside discussion of the peace process to praise areas of bilateral cooperation. (IFM 5/23; JTA 5/24) (see Quarterly Update for details)

PA PM Salam Fayyad suffers a heart attack while visiting the U.S. for his son's college graduation. He is given immediate catheterization to open a clogged artery and is discharged on 5/25 after 2 days of observation. (NYT, WP 5/24)

A **Palestinian** is killed and another is injured when a smuggling tunnel on Gaza's Rafah border with Egypt collapses. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm in the morning; raids and searches a business in Silat al-Dahir nr. Jenin, without giving cause; conducts late-night patrols in Nabi Salih, firing tear gas and warning shots at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no serious injuries. **Jewish settlers** attempt to set up a new settlement outpost in Jerusalem's E1 development area. (HA 5/23; PCHR 5/26; OCHA 5/27)

24 MAY

Netanyahu is warmly received at a **joint session of Congress**, where he gives a charged speech portraying the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as rooted in the Palestinians' unwillingness to accept a Jewish state, pledging that Israel would make "painful" concessions if the Palestinians accept terms they have long rejected. (IFM 5/24; JTA, NYT, WP, WT 5/25) (see Doc. C3 Quarterly Update for details)

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at farmers working nr. the border n. of Bayt Hanun, forcing them to flee. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin during the day and 1 nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' r.c. and another village nr. Nablus. (PCHR 5/26; OCHA 5/27)

25 MAY

Egypt announces that as of 5/28 the Rafah crossing (closed since 1/29/11) will be open permanently, allowing Palestinians with passports to cross into Egypt from 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. daily, except for Fridays and holidays (see Quarterly Update for background). Several **high-ranking Israeli officials** (including the speaker of the Knesset) attend the dedication ceremony for an apartment complex in East Jerusalem's Ras al-Amud neighborhood as Israel's newest Jewish settlement, Ma'ale HaZeitim. Meanwhile, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at farmers who stray nr. the fence, forcing them to flee. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. (HA, IsRN, JTA, MENA 5/25; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 5/26; PCHR 6/2; OCHA 6/3)

26 MAY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Jericho, 3 villages nr. Qalqilya, and 2 villages nr. Ramallah during the day; in 1 instance (in Bayt Liqya nr. Ramallah), troops fire live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, and tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them, causing no serious injuries. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablus beat a Palestinian shepherd grazing his flock nr. the settlement, severely injuring him. (PCHR 6/2; OCHA 6/3)

27 MAY

The **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 3 nr. Salfit (issuing 1 Palestinian orders to appear for questioning). **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, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters and spray waste water on them, injuring 1 Palestinian and accidentally starting 2 fires damaging 1 Palestinian home and burning an olive grove; 2 Palestinians and 4 internationals are arrested. (PCHR 6/2; OCHA 6/3)

Six members of the Italian contingent of the **UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)** are wounded when their convoy detonates a roadside bomb planted along their route outside Sidon in s. Lebanon. No group takes responsibility. (NYT, WP 5/28; DS 5/29)

28 MAY

Egypt reopens the Rafah crossing as planned, permitting most Palestinians to cross freely for the first time in 4 yrs. (men ages 18–40 are the only group required to secure visas to enter Egypt). **Unidentified Palestinians** fire a homemade Qassam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel for the 1st time since 4/18, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bars Palestinian farmers fr. working their land nr. Bet Ayn settlement nr. Hebron; conducts late-night patrols in Bil'in, sounding sirens and firing stun and flash grenades to intimidate residents; conducts late-night patrols without incident in Qalqilya; makes late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Aqabat Jabir r.c. nr. Jericho and Nur Shams r.c. nr. Tulkarm. The **IDF** also fires tear gas, stun grenades at **Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists** staging a nonviolent march through Iraq Burin village nr. Nablus to nearby Brakha settlement to protest the settlers' seizure of village lands to expand the settlement; 3 internationals are arrested. (AFP 5/28; MNA, NYT, WP 5/29; PCHR 6/2; OCHA 6/3)

In Qatar, **Abbas** briefs **Arab League FMs** on the recent speeches by Obama and Netanyahu. The FMs agree to support the Palestinians' UN statehood bid in absence of a viable alternative. Abbas then goes to Cairo to brief **Egypt's** acting government. (REU, WAFA 5/28; MENA 5/30) (see Quarterly Update for details)

29 MAY

The **IDF** bulldozes 8 wells in Kafr Dan village nr. Jenin; conducts morning patrols in 3 villages nr. Jericho, Ramallah, and Tulkarm; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem. (PCHR 6/2; OCHA 6/3)

30 MAY

The **IDF** conducts a major late-night operation targeting **Islamic Jihad** in and around Jenin, raiding and searching the

homes of at least a dozen local Islamic Jihad figures (arresting all but 1) and raiding, searching, and confiscating the files of 2 charities affiliated with Islamic Jihad. The Jenin offices of the **Palestine People's Party** are also searched. During the day, the **IDF** demolishes a Palestinian construction company building in Jinsafut nr. Qalqilya; sends undercover units in a civilian vehicle with Palestinian license plates into al-Bireh to raid and search a restaurant, arresting 4 Palestinians and seizing surveillance tapes; conducts early morning patrols in Silat al-Dahir nr. Jenin (photographing old houses and alleys), Iraq Burin nr. Nablus (firing rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at stone-throwing youths who confront them, seriously wounding 1), and Tulkarm; conducts afternoon and evening patrols in 'Azun nr. Qalqilya (without incident) and in Bayt Liqya and Nabi Salih (in both cases firing live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no serious injuries); conducts late-night patrols in Alar nr. Tulkarm and late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Azun. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar set fire to Palestinian crops s. of Nablus; the **IDF** hinders Palestinian fire crews from reaching the scene. The **IDF** escorts 1,600 Jewish worshipers to visit Joseph's Tomb in Nablus; some 200 Israelis who did not have authorization for the visit sneak in with the group, refuse to leave, and are forcibly removed by soldiers. (MNA 5/30; PCHR, WJW 6/2; OCHA 6/3)

At a massive rally in Istanbul commemorating the 1st anniversary of Israel's 5/2010 attack on the aid flotilla to Gaza that killed 9 Turkish activists aboard the *Mavi Marmara*, the flotilla organizers, the **U.S.-based Free Gaza Movement (FGM)**, and the **Turkish charity Humanitarian Relief Foundation (known by its Turkish acronym IHH)**, announce plans for at least 1,500 activists and 10 boats to set sail in late 6/2011 as part of the "**Freedom Flotilla II**" to break the Gaza siege. **Israel** denounces the effort as supporting "a designated terrorist group" (**Hamas**) and warns it will use force if necessary to halt the flotilla. (DPA, REU 5/30) (see Quarterly Update for details)

31 MAY

IDF troops make a brief incursion into c. Gaza to level land along the border fence e. of al-Bureij r.c., clearing lines of

sight. **IDF** troops manning the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians and international activists staging a nonviolent march to the border fence to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Jericho and 1 village nr. Ramallah; conducts a midday arrest raid, house search in Hebron. A **Gaza military court** sentences a Palestinian man to death for collaborating with Israel. (PCHR 6/2; OCHA 6/3)

1 JUNE

Hamas officials in Gaza say that since 5/30, **Egypt** has returned a high number of travelers to Gaza and imposed new limitations on the number of Palestinians allowed to enter and exit via the Rafah crossing, keeping the number to between 350 and 400/day entering Egypt (up only slightly from the average 300/day in recent mos.) and effectively undoing Egypt's "permanent opening" (see Quarterly Update for details). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night raids into Dayr al-Ghusun village to arrest **Hamas-affiliate PC mbr.** 'Abd al-Rahman Zidan, into Balata r.c. to arrest **Fatah PC mbr. Yasir al-Badrasawi**, and into Nablus to arrest **local Hamas leader Ghassan Thougan**; conducts other late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem. More than **40,000 Israeli Jews** march through East Jerusalem to mark Jerusalem Day, celebrating Israel's seizure of the Arab part of the city during the 1967 war. (AFP 6/1; JP, REU 6/1; NYT, PCHR, WP 6/2; PCHR 6/9; OCHA 6/10)

2 JUNE

The **Israeli DM** announces that the 1st permanent section of a border fence between Israel and **Egypt** has been completed; Israel expects to finish the 135-mi. fence by mid-2012. In the West Bank, the **IDF** arrests **Hamas-affiliated PC speaker Aziz Dweik** (no location reported); patrols in 5 villages nr. Jenin, Salfit, and Tulkarm during the day, checking IDs and issuing 2 orders to appear for questioning. Some 200 **IDF soldiers and Israeli border police** demolish 4 structures at the unauthorized settlement outpost of Aley Ayin nr. Nablus, sparking clashes with **Jewish settlers** that leave 1 police car destroyed by fire and 6 Israeli border police and 5

settlers injured. **Jewish settlers** fr. Havat Gilad nr. Qalqilya set fire to nearby Palestinian crops; when local farmers try to chase them away, the **IDF** intervenes, firing tear gas and rubber-coated steel bullets and beating the Palestinians, injuring 3. **Israel's Praver Commission** issues its final report on how best to implement the 2008 Goldberg Commission's recommendation that Israel should legalize **unrecognized bedouin villages in the Negev**, so long as their territory does not overlap with existing land settlement plans for the benefit of the Jewish population (see Quarterly Update for details). (HA, JTA 6/2; PCHR 6/9; OCHA 6/10)

3 JUNE

The **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in Anabta village nr. Tulkarm. **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, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters and spray waste water on them, injuring 1 Palestinian journalist. (PCHR 6/9; OCHA 6/10)

4 JUNE

Egypt temporarily closes the Rafah crossing for maintenance; **Hamas officials** in Gaza complain that they were not notified in advance. The **IDF** fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at Palestinians conducting a nonviolent protest march nr. Ramallah, moderately injuring 1 Palestinian with live ammunition; conducts late-night patrols in Nabi Elias nr. Qalqilya, firing flash grenades to intimidate residents. (NYT 6/5; PCHR 6/9; OCHA 6/10)

5 JUNE

On **Naksa Day**, commemorating the 1967 war, **IDF troops** open fire on 100s of **unarmed Palestinian refugees and supporters inside Syria** who try to cross a trench and earthen berm 150 m. on the approach to the border fence nr. the town of Majdal Shams in the occupied Golan Heights. Syrian authorities report 22 killed and more than 350 wounded, possibly

marking the worst violence on the Syrian border since the 1973 war; Israel says the numbers are exaggerated, however. More protests are held inside Syria nr. the border at Qunaytra; the IDF fires tear gas and percussion grenades when protesters begin to march toward the border, but no injuries are reported. In the West Bank, the **IDF** clashes with up to 200 stone-throwing Palestinian protesters at the Qalandia crossing (using tear gas and percussion grenades to disperse them) and blocks Palestinian marchers fr. approaching Elon Moreh settlement nr. Nablus. In Gaza, **Hamas-affiliated police** block 10s (possibly 100s) of demonstrators fr. approaching the Erez crossing. Overall, protests are much smaller than the Nakba Day demonstrations on 5/13–15, with no protests reported in Egypt, Jordan, or Lebanon. Meanwhile, the **IDF** conducts morning patrols in 4 villages nr. Qalqilya, Salfit, and Tulkarm; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Azun and Nur Shams r.c. By this date, the IDF has also arrested **Fatah PC mbr. Hussam Khader** in a raid on Nablus. (AFP, AP, IsRN, KUNA, MNA, The Media Line [online] 6/5; NYT, WP, WT 6/6; PCHR 6/9; OCHA 6/10; WT 6/15; PCHR 6/16; OCHA 6/24)

6 JUNE

In Washington, U.S. Secy. of State **Clinton** holds separate mtgs. with **Israeli and Palestinian negotiators** and **French FM Alain Juppé** to discuss a French proposal to revive peace talks. (AFP, REU 6/6) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In Gaza, **1 Palestinian** is killed when a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border collapses. The **IDF** raids 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' r.c. nr. Nablus to arrest **Hamas-affiliated PC mbr. Ahmad al-Haj Ali**; raids and searches the Hamas-affiliated Change and Reform party offices in Nablus, confiscating a computer and files; raids Anabta's municipal electricity dept., arresting 1 employee; patrols during the day in 3 villages nr. Qalqilya and 1 nr. Jenin; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin and nr. Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Karme Tzur nr. Hebron set fire to 3 dunams (d.; 4 d. = 1 acre) of nearby Palestinian grape arbors and crops. **A small group of Palestinian protesters** attempts to approach the Golan border fence as part of the Naksa commemoration (see 6/5) but

is halted by a **Syrian army** contingent. (NYT, WP 6/7; PCHR 6/9; OCHA 6/10)

In Syria's Yarmuk r.c. near Damascus, **10,000s of angry Palestinian mourners** at the funerals for some of those killed in the Naksa Day clashes on 6/5 attack the **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command (PFLP-GC)** headquarters and drive away **Hamas leader Khalid Mishal** and the **PFLP-GC head Ahmad Jibril**, who had come to express condolences, denouncing camp leaders for inciting the camp youths and putting them in harm's way to be used as "cannon fodder" against Israel. PFLP-GC members open fire on protesters, sparking clashes that leave 14 dead and 43 injured. (MNA, WAFA 6/6; DailyKos.com, DS, Electronic Intifada, HA, Indymedia.com 6/7)

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon's 'Ayn al-Hilwa r.c. also demonstrate (6/6) against the killing of Naksa Day protesters on the Syrian border on 6/5, but it is unclear to what degree the protests are against Israel, Syria, or the Palestinian leadership. (WP 6/7)

7 JUNE

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians and international activists taking part in a nonviolent march to the border fence to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone, moderately injuring 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts separate synchronized morning patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm and in 2 villages nr. Salfit; also patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning and in Jericho and 2 villages nr. Salfit late at night; fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them in Nabi Salih, causing no serious injuries; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Azun. **Jewish settlers** set fire to a mosque in al-Mughayyir nr. Ramallah, spray graffiti that says "Price Tag—Aley Ayin," indicating the attack was in retribution for the IDF's removal of structures at Aley Ayin outpost on 6/2. **Jewish settlers** fr. Carmiel settlement nr. Hebron prevent local Palestinians farmers and shepherds from reaching their land nr. the settlement, stoning the Palestinians and killing several sheep; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (AP, REU 6/7; WP, WT 6/8; PCHR 6/9; OCHA 6/10)

8 JUNE

Egypt reopens the Rafah crossing (closed on 6/4) after reaching an agmt. with **Hamas** to allow 550 Gazans/day to enter Egypt and to extend the crossing's operating hours. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem. (MNA 6/8; MNA, NYT, PCHR 6/9; PCHR 6/16; OCHA 6/24)

9 JUNE

The **IDF** raids 'Azun twice during the day, searching several shops in the morning, then sending in undercover units late at night to raid another business, arresting 1 Palestinian; conducts daytime patrols in 4 villages nr. Qalqilya, 2 nr. Salfit, and 1 nr. each Ramallah and Tulkarm; conducts late-night patrols in Jericho and nr. Jenin and Salfit; and makes a late-night incursion into Jenin to arrest **local Hamas leader Wasfi Qabaha**, telling his family that they detained him because "he did not listen to their advice to stop his activities." In Jerusalem, the **IDF** escorts a group of Jews into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound to pray. (PCHR 6/16; OCHA 6/24)

10 JUNE

In Jerusalem, after Friday prayers, **Palestinians** at the al-Aqsa Mosque angry over Israeli actions at the site on 6/9/11 throw stones at nearby Israeli police, who enter the mosque courtyard and fire tear gas and stun grenades to disperse the demonstrators; no serious injuries are reported. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Qalqilya and 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah during the day and in 4 villages nr. Jenin, Jericho, and Ramallah late at night. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in in, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, causing no serious injuries; 3 Israeli activists are arrested. **Jewish settlers** set up a tent in al-Marj nr. Ramallah and open fire on local Palestinians, seriously wounding 1; the **IDF** removes the settlers. (WP 6/11; PCHR 6/16; OCHA 6/24)

11 JUNE

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza shore, forcing them to return to shore. A **Palestinian** is fatally electrocuted in a smuggling tunnel under the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized daytime patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin; patrols in Bil'in in the afternoon, firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no serious injuries; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem and nr. Hebron. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli police** force Palestinian merchants in a market area to close their stores so right-wing Jewish groups can hold religious services. A **Palestinian** bystander injured when Israel assassinated Hamas leader Said Siyam on 1/15/09 during Operation Cast Lead, dies in an Israeli hospital where he had been receiving treatment since 5/2011. (PCHR 6/16; OCHA 6/24)

12 JUNE

The **IDF** patrols in Qalqilya and a village nr. Salfit during the day; patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin, Qalqilya, and Salfit late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Salfit, firing rubber-coated steel bullets, and tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, injuring 1. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli authorities** begin archaeological excavation work at al-Sultan Pool, a registered Islamic holy site nr. the Old City's walls. (PCHR 6/16; OCHA 6/24)

The **Fatah Central Comm.** expels **fmr. Fatah security chief in Gaza Muhammad Dahlan** for criminal, financial, and other misdealings and "undermining Pres. Abbas." (REU 6/12; NYT 6/14) (see Quarterly Update for details)

13 JUNE

The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya during the day; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Salfit, in Qalqilya, and nr. Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ashkalot settlement nr. Hebron raze 20 d. of Palestinian agricultural land adjacent to the settlement. (PCHR 6/16; OCHA 6/24)

After an extended delay of almost 5 months, **Lebanon's PM Najib Mikati** forms a government, giving **Hizballah** and its allies 18 of 30 seats. (NYT, WP, WT 6/14; Carnegie Middle East Center, WT 6/15) (see Quarterly Update for details)

14 JUNE

In Gaza, 1 Palestinian is injured in a smuggling tunnel accident on the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes the bedouin village of Fasayil al-Wusta in the Jordan Valley, saying it was erected on state land nr. a settler-only bypass road, displacing 103 bedouin (including 63 children); demolishes 2 wells nr. Hebron; patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin and 1 nr. Tulkarm in the morning; arrests **Qalqilya Fatah official Muhammad Walawil** and his brother during the day, without giving cause; raids Tulkarm late at night to arrest 3 Palestinians who had ignored orders to appear before an Israeli military court on 6/13/11 to testify against a Palestinian prisoner. The **IDF** also escorts 8 Israeli MKs on a rare daytime visit to Joseph's Tomb in Nablus, where they publicly call on the government to declare sovereignty over the site. **Jewish settlers** in Hebron vandalize nearby Palestinian homes. (WT 6/15; JPI 6/24)

15 JUNE

IDF troops make a day-long incursion into c. Gaza to level land along the border fence e. of al-Bureij r.c. to clear lines of sight, firing on nearby residential areas to keep Palestinians indoors; no injuries are reported. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire a Qassam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** uses live fire, tear gas, and stun grenades to disperse **Palestinians and Israeli activists** staging a nonviolent march in Dayr Qaddis nr. Ramallah to protest local settlement expansion and construction of the separation wall; 2 Palestinians are wounded with live ammunition, and 1 Israeli activist is arrested. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** fr. Matiyahu settlement nr. Ramallah set fire to 10s of Palestinian olive trees in Bil'in; the **IDF** prevents Palestinian firefighters fr. reaching the site quickly and

directs live fire, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who challenge them (no serious injuries are reported). Israel's **Jerusalem Magistrate's Court** rules that a Palestinian family (the Farhans) cannot be evicted from their home in Shaykh Jarrah, East Jerusalem, where they have lived since 1948 (see Quarterly Update for details). (HA 6/15; JTA, PCHR, YA 6/16; PCHR 6/23; OCHA 6/24)

16 JUNE

Obama's senior Middle East adviser Dennis Ross and acting U.S. special envoy to the peace process **David Hale** make an unannounced visit to the region in effort "to find a formula for talks that would entice the Palestinians to drop their bid for unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state" at the UN in 9/2011. (NYT 6/17) (see Quarterly Update for details)

Overnight, the **IDF** carries out an air strike on a smuggling tunnel on the c. Gaza border with Israel in retaliation for the 6/15 rocket fire, causing no reported injuries. During the day, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a Qassam **rocket** toward Israel, but it lands inside Gaza, hitting a Palestinian home nr. al-Maghazi r.c., injuring 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids the Hebron home of **Hamas-affiliated PC mbr. Samir al-Qadi** and arrests him. The **IDF** also patrols in 5 villages nr. Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Tulkarm during the day and in Jericho, 3 villages nr. Salfit, and 1 nr. Ramallah late at night; raids an auto repair shop in Nabi Elias nr. Qalqilya during the day, questioning but not arresting 2 Palestinians; and conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. The **IDF** also escorts **Jewish settlers** into Kafra Haris to pray at a religious site. (NYT, WP 6/17; PCHR 6/23; OCHA 6/24)

17 JUNE

Israel naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast twice during the day, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Jenin, Qalqilya, and Ramallah during the day (randomly stopping and searching vehicles in 1 instance) and in Jenin and 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah late at night. **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, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, injuring 4 Palestinians; 6 international activists are arrested. (PCHR 6/23; OCHA 6/24)

18 JUNE

The **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Jenin and Ramallah in the morning; makes an arrest raid into Bayt Umar nr. Hebron in the afternoon; patrols in Bil'in in the evening, firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no injuries; and conducts late-night patrols in Birzeit and Tulkarm. **IDF** troops also beat and fire tear gas at Palestinians and international activists taking part in a nonviolent protest march from Bayt Umar to nearby Palestinian lands confiscated for the expansion of Karme Tzur settlement, moderately injuring 2 Palestinians (including a 15-yr.-old boy). **Jewish settlers** fr. Beit Hadasah settlement in Hebron severely beat a Palestinian passing by the settlement; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (PCHR 6/23; OCHA 6/24)

19 JUNE

Israel's homefront command begins a 5-day civil defense drill to test Israel's emergency response to a massive missile attack. The **IDF** shoots, wounds, and arrests a Palestinian nr. the Israeli military liaison office in Qalqilya, claiming he attempted to stab a soldier; enters Tulkarm (area A) in the morning, setting up a checkpoint outside a college and randomly stopping and questioning students, withdrawing later in the day; patrols during the day in 4 villages nr. Jericho and Qalqilya and late at night in Jericho; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem and Tulkarm. (AFP, HA, JTA 6/19; PCHR 6/23; OCHA 6/24)

The **Israeli cabinet** approves moving the **World Zionist Organization's settlement division** from under the control of the Agriculture Min. to under the control of the Prime Minister's Office; the division has an annual budget of \$7.25 m. for developing West Bank settlements (much

of which has gone to unauthorized settlement outposts since 2005) and \$14 m. for developing the Galilee and Negev. (AFP, HA, JTA 6/19)

20 JUNE

IDF troops make a brief incursion into Juhur al-Dik village southeast of Gaza City, searching the area for some time before withdrawing; make a day-long incursion into c. Gaza to level lands along the border fence e. of al-Maghazi r.c. to clear lines of sight. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes 8 houses, several tents, and crop land in Khirbat Bir al-'Abid village nr. Hebron, displacing 50 Palestinians. (PCHR 6/23; OCHA 6/24)

21 JUNE

Israel authorizes UNRWA to construct 1,200 new homes and 18 new schools in Gaza to replace some of the 60,000 Palestinian homes destroyed during the 2008-9 Operation Cast Lead. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Gaza City coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** enters northern Hebron in the morning to photograph 3 shops. (HA 6/21; AP, HA, NYT, WP, WT, YA 6/22; PCHR 6/23; OCHA 6/24)

22 JUNE

Obama's Middle East adviser **Ross** and acting U.S. special envoy **Hale** make their 2d visit to Israel in a wk. (see 6/16) to meet with Netanyahu, Abbas, and their advisers to push for renewal of peace talks. (HA, JTA, MA 6/22) (see Quarterly Update)

Overnight, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a Qassam **rocket** and a **mortar** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Early in the morning, the **IDF** carries out an air strike on a smuggling tunnel on the c. Gaza border in retaliation, hitting a poultry farm and killing 3,500 chicks, but causing no other injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** enters Bayt Sahur nr. Bethlehem in the morning, surrounding the al-Quds Open University campus, randomly stopping and searching students, detaining 1 student and 1 journalist for 2 hrs. before withdrawing; conducts late-night patrols in Burham village nr. Ramallah; and makes

late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jerusalem and Nablus. (AP, HA, NYT, WP, WT, YA 6/22; PCHR 6/23, 6/30; OCHA 7/1)

23 JUNE

Israeli naval vessels fire on and heavily damage a Palestinian fishing boat off the Rafah coast, rescuing the 2 fishermen and taking them to Ashdod port, where they are questioned and returned to Gaza. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 2 barnyards in the Wadi Hassasa area nr. Bethlehem; confiscates a tractor fr. a Palestinian farmer in Wadi Fukin nr. Bethlehem; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah; and conducts daytime arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin. (PCHR 6/30; OCHA 7/1)

Cyprus bans all departures from its seaports to Gaza, warning pro-Palestinian activists connected with the **Freedom Flotilla II** not to use the country as a springboard to challenge Israel's Gaza blockade. (REU 6/23)

24 JUNE

Palestinians in Bil'in hold what they say is their last weekly demonstration against the separation wall, noting that the IDF is set to implement (on 6/26) Israel's High Court decision to remove part of the separation wall that cuts off the village fr. two-thirds of its agricultural land. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) also hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Ni'lin and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, causing no serious injuries. Meanwhile, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Silwan to break up a protest tent in the Bustan quarter, arresting 1 Palestinian; patrols in 3 villages nr. Qalqilya (randomly stopping and questioning residents in 1 instance) and 1 nr. Ramallah in the morning; patrols in Birzeit late at night; and makes a late-night raid on a home nr. Salfit, summoning 1 resident for questioning but making no arrests. **Jewish settlers** fr. Susia nr. Hebron severely beat 4 Palestinian farmers and damage 1 Palestinian vehicle nr. the settlement; the **IDF** escorts the Palestinians to safety but declares the area a closed military zone. **Jewish**

settlers attempt to seize a plot of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Qalqilya, but the Palestinians appeal to the **PA security forces** at the local District Liaison Office, and the **IDF** removes the settlers. (NYT 6/25; WP 6/27; PCHR 6/30; OCHA 7/1)

25 JUNE

Israel's Jerusalem municipal authorities begin work on a car park for the planned Museum of Tolerance, bulldozing 100 graves in the **Mamilla cemetery**. The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah during the day, firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, causing no serious injuries; conducts late-night patrols in 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c. and Jericho; and conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and Tulkarm. (PCHR 6/30; OCHA 7/1)

26 JUNE

The **PLO and Fatah leaderships** meet jointly in Ramallah and formally agree "to approach the UN this coming September to obtain recognition of the State of Palestine on the 1967 borders and Palestinian membership in the international community," given that there are "no new incentives to return to negotiations." (AP 6/26; JTA, *Telegraph* 6/27; HA 6/28)

Israel's Government Press Office sends a letter to accredited foreign correspondents stating that Israel will ban entry for 10 yrs. to any foreign journalist who rides along with the **Freedom Flotilla II**; the **Foreign Press Association** denounces the decision. **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** begins dismantling part of the **separation wall** nr. Bil'in in keeping with a 2007 Israeli High Court ruling that the path of the wall was illegal. OCHA reports that the **IDF** has also begun rerouting a section of the **separation wall** nr. Khirbat Jabara village nr. Tulkarm in keeping with another 2007 Israeli High Court decision (see Quarterly Update for details). The **IDF** also patrols in 3 villages nr. Qalqilya (holding 1 Palestinian teenager for questioning); enters Isawiyya nr. Jerusalem late in the evening, firing tear gas and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them,

injuring and arresting 2 15-yr.-old Palestinian boys; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and Tulkarm. (WP, WT 6/27; PCHR 6/30; OCHA 7/1)

27 JUNE

Israel drops its 6/26 threat to ban foreign journalists amid international condemnation. Nr. Hebron, the **IDF** uses force to disperse Palestinian farmers and international activists who attempt to access 200 d. of Palestinian agricultural land that has been seized for the expansion of Ashkalot settlement, arresting 6; seizes and levels a 2.5-d. area of Palestinian land for construction of an airstrip; levels additional Palestinian land to expand an IDF post; and destroys an irrigation network. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Azun and Salfit (arresting **Hamas-affiliated PC mbr. Nassir 'Abd al-Jawwad**), in and around Hebron, and nr. Nablus. (HA, NYT, WP, WT 6/28; WP 6/29; PCHR 6/30; OCHA 7/1)

28 JUNE

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Hanun fire warning shots at some 80 Palestinians and international activists staging a nonviolent march to the border fence to protest Israel's siege of Gaza; no injuries are reported. In the West Bank, the **IDF** levels 15 d. of agricultural land and up-roots 300 olive trees nr. Salfit, transporting the trees to an unknown location; and conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem. (PCHR 6/30; OCHA 7/1)

29 JUNE

The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Azun. (PCHR 6/30, 7/7; OCHA 7/8)

30 JUNE

Freedom Flotilla II organizers say 2 of their boats have been sabotaged (propeller shafts cut) while docked in Greece and Turkey, delaying the flotilla's departure until early 7/2011 (see Quarterly Update for details); organizers blame Israel, which refuses to confirm or deny responsibility. The **IDF** cuts down 11 Palestinian olive trees to clear lines of sight along a settler-

only bypass road to Aley Zahav settlement nr. Salfit. (WP 7/1; PCHR 7/7; OCHA 7/8)

A senior Fatah official says that **Fatah** and **Hamas** have agreed to delay the formation of a unity government until after the 9/2011 UNGA session out of concern that the international community would be less likely to endorse Palestinian statehood if the PA included Hamas. (Saudi Press Agency 6/29; WP 6/30) (see Quarterly Update for details)

1 JULY

Despite a **Greek** ban on vessels heading to Gaza to discourage the **Freedom Flotilla II**, the U.S. activists' boat *The Audacity of Hope* attempts to leave port but is detained by the Greek coast guard. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bars Palestinian farmers fr. working a 60-d. plot of agricultural land nr. Susia settlement; patrols in 4 villages nr. Jericho, Qalqilya, and Ramallah during the day. A **Palestinian** who was shot by the **IDF** when he apparently failed to heed orders to stop at a checkpoint nr. Hebron on 1/20/11 dies of his injuries in Israel's Hadasah Hospital. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, injuring 2 Palestinians and accidentally starting a fire that burns 200 beehives and 150 olive trees nr. Kafr Qaddum. (NYT, WP 7/2; WP, WT 7/4; PCHR 7/7; OCHA 7/8)

2 JULY

The **IDF** patrols in 'Aqabat Jabir r.c., 'Azun (twice), al-Bireh, and a village nr. Jericho during the day. (PCHR 7/7; OCHA 7/8)

3 JULY

A **Freedom Flotilla II** boat manages to depart from Corsica but is detained before it reaches international waters. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In retaliation, the **IDF** makes an **air strike** on a smuggling tunnel on the n. Gaza border

with Israel, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Hebron and 3 villages nr. Qalqilya during the day, without incident; patrols in Tulkarm in the afternoon, randomly stopping and searching Palestinian vehicles; patrols in 'Azun in the afternoon, detaining 2 Palestinian teenagers for several hours; patrols in Bayt Liqya at night, firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, causing no serious injuries. (AFP 7/3; WP, WT 7/4; JP 7/6; PCHR 7/7; OCHA 7/8)

Fayyad says the PA will pay government employees only half their salaries for 7/2011 because of "the failure of donors, including our Arab brothers, to fulfill their pledges." He calls the situation "without a doubt, the worst financial crisis the [PA] has ever faced." (NYT 7/4; 7/28) (see Quarterly Update for details)

4 JULY

A **Freedom Flotilla II** boat tries to depart in Crete but is turned back by the Greek coast guard. A **Knesset** committee disqualifies (3-5) a bill submitted by Israeli Palestinian MK Ahmad Tibi (United Arab List) that would amend the 3/2011 "Nakba Law" (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 160) to bar state funding to any organizations or authorities that deny the Nakba, arguing that it "rejects Israel as a Jewish and democratic state." (JP 7/4; WP 7/5)

For the 3d time since unrest in **Egypt** began in 1/2011, unknown assailants blow up the natural gas pipeline from Egypt to **Israel** and **Jordan**, cutting supplies. **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** stages separate synchronized morning patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 3 nr. Jenin; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm in the afternoon; patrols in 3 villages nr. Salfit and 1 each nr. Jenin, Ramallah, and Tulkarm (firing tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them nr. Jenin, causing no serious injuries). (JTA, WP 7/5; PCHR 7/7; OCHA 7/8)

5 JULY

A French boat in the **Freedom Flotilla II** secretly departs Greece and is the first boat from the group to make it into

international waters, headed toward Gaza. In the early afternoon, the **IDF** carries out **air strikes** on mbrs. of **Tawhid and Jihad**, a radical Islamist group that claims inspiration from al-Qa'ida and is opposed to Hamas, as they prepare to launch a rocket fr. c. Gaza into Israel, killing **2 armed Palestinians** and wounding 1. Late at night, the **IDF** carries out another **air strike** on armed Palestinians operating e. of Gaza City, lightly wounding 3. **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 late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. **Israel's Jerusalem municipality** approves construction of 900 new housing units in Gilo settlement in East Jerusalem. (HA, JTA, YA 7/5; JP, NYT, WP, WT 7/6; PCHR, WJW 7/7; OCHA 7/8)

6 JULY

The **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm at midday, randomly stopping and questioning Palestinians; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, and Tulkarm and late-night patrols in Bayt Sira nr. Ramallah. (PCHR 7/7, 7/14; OCHA 7/15)

7 JULY

An **IDF** tank patrolling along the Gaza border fence inside Israel triggers a roadside bomb laid by Gazans, leaving 1 soldier lightly injured. The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into s. Gaza to level lands and clear lines of sight along the border fence e. of Abasan. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah. (JP 7/10; PCHR 7/14; OCHA 7/15)

8 JULY

Today **10s of international activists** predominantly from Europe begin flying into Ben-Gurion Airport, taking part in a nonviolent protest action called for by around **40 Palestinian civil society groups** and termed the "**Welcome to Palestine air flotilla**"; **Israel** fears that as many as 700 pro-Palestinian activists may try to flood the airport in hopes of being deported and creating an international media spectacle to embarrass Israel (see Quarterly Update for details). **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** patrols in 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho and 2 villages nr. Ramallah without incident and in Bayt Liqya (firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, causing no serious injuries). **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in al-Ma'sara nr. Bethlehem, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers beat the protesters and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at them, lightly injuring several. (AP 7/8; WP 7/9; PCHR 7/14; JPI, OCHA 7/15)

9 JULY

Israel says it has now detained 118 foreign activists who attempted to enter through Ben-Gurion Airport as part of the **Welcome to Palestine air flotilla**; some activists have made it through airport security and today join separation wall protests n. of Jerusalem. **Suspected Tawhid and Jihad mbrs.** fire 3 Qassam rockets fr. Gaza toward Israel; 2 land harmlessly inside Israel, 1 lands harmlessly in Gaza. In retaliation, the **IDF** carries out an **air strike** on a smuggling tunnel on the n. Gaza border and on a brick factory e. of Gaza City, causing no reported injuries. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Lahiya fire warning shots at a mentally handicapped Palestinian woman who approaches the border fence, wounding her. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah in the afternoon; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya and Salfit. **Palestinians** accompanied by Israeli and international activists stage nonviolent demonstrations in Nabi Salih and Qalandia r.c. nr. Jerusalem to protest the separation wall and settlement activities. **IDF** troops fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, injuring a 14-yr.-old Palestinian. (JP, WP, YA 7/10; PCHR 7/14; OCHA 7/15)

10 JULY

Israel deports the 1st 36 foreign activists (fr. Belgium, Germany, and Spain)

detained as participants in the **Welcome to Palestine air flotilla**; others will be deported as soon as flights are available. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 'Aqabat Jabir r.c. in the morning, Issawiyya in the afternoon (firing tear gas and stun grenades to intimidate residents), and al-Bireh and 5 villages nr. Ramallah and Salfit at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin. (WP 7/11; PCHR 7/14; OCHA 7/15)

The **Israeli cabinet** approves a map demarcating Israel's northern maritime border with **Lebanon** as a move to preserve its economic rights to offshore natural gas reserves. (JPI 7/22; DS 7/27) (see Quarterly Update for details)

11 JULY

At EU urging, the **Quartet** convenes a senior-level mtg. in Washington to discuss issuing a statement on how to jumpstart the peace process, but because of sharp disagreements over a draft prepared by the U.S. in consultation with Israel, the members fail to issue a statement. (AFP 7/11; AP 7/12; WJW 7/14; Foreign Policy [online] 7/22; WJW 8/5) (see Quarterly Update for details)

Unidentified assailants attack **Egypt's** natural gas pipeline to **Israel** and **Jordan** again (see 7/4). In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a grocery store, sheep farm, and garage on land in al-Jib village nr. Jerusalem, strategically located between Givat Ze'ev and Givon settlements; declares a Palestinian olive grove in the Wadi Qana area nr. Salfit a closed military zone and uproots 600 trees; patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 nr. Salfit, and 1 nr. Jenin; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c. and in Qalqilya. The **World Zionist Organization's settlement division** (newly transferred to Netanyahu's control; see 6/19) allocates 54,000 d. of agricultural land to 21 Jewish settlements in Jordan Valley, nearly doubling the total farmland under their control to 110,000 d.; it also increases water allocations to Jewish farmers in the Jordan Valley. (JP 6/28; WP 7/12; PCHR 7/14; OCHA 7/15)

The **Knesset** passes (47-38) into law a bill that would sanction individuals and organizations that call for a boycott of Israel or its settlements, denying them tax breaks and barring them from working for the

government. The Knesset's legal adviser warns, however, that the measure is "borderline illegal" since it strays into the right to free political expression. Human rights groups plan to challenge the law in the High Court within days. (HA, JTA, MNA 7/11; JTA, WJW 7/14; JPI, WP 7/22) (see Quarterly Update for details)

12 JULY

Israel's Interior Min. issues building permits for construction of the **Simon Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance** on the site of the ancient **Mamilla cemetery** in Jerusalem, saying work can begin immediately; Palestinians denounce approval of the plans to desecrate a Muslim historic site. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire 2 Qassam **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly damaging 1 home but causing no injuries. The **IDF** responds with **air strikes** on 2 suspected weapons factories in n. Gaza, causing no reported injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** twice fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a dawn incursion into al-Fara'a r.c. nr. Tubas, fatally shooting a **Palestinian** who flees when he sees approaching troops; patrols in Jericho and 2 villages nr. Ramallah. (YA 7/12; AFP, HA, JTA, YA 7/13; PCHR 7/14; OCHA 7/15; JPI 7/22)

13 JULY

Unidentified Palestinians fire a Qassam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel causing no damage or injuries. In response, the **IDF** carries out **air strikes** on 2 smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border and 1 on the n. Gaza border with Israel, killing 1 **Palestinian** and wounding 5. **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 late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Nablus and late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Nablus. (JP, YA 7/13; PCHR 7/14, 7/20; OCHA 7/22)

14 JULY

Unidentified Palestinians fire a total of 6 Qassam **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel in 3 barrages in the morning, afternoon, and evening, causing no damage or injuries.

In retaliation, the **IDF** makes **air strikes** on 4 Hamas training facilities in Gaza City and Khan Yunis and on 2 smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border, causing no reported injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the c. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 3 nr. Salfit in the morning and in Jericho late at night. (YA 7/14; JP 7/15; PCHR 7/20; OCHA 7/22)

Inspired by the Arab Spring, **10s of young Israelis** set up a tent camp on Rothschild Boulevard, Tel Aviv's high-end shopping district, to protest high housing costs (up 20% compared to summer 2010). (*Guardian*, HA 7/16) (see Quarterly Update for details)

15 JULY

Unidentified Palestinians fire a **mortar** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** makes an air strike e. of Gaza City, wounding an **Islamic Jihad** mbr. preparing to fire a rocket into Israel. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in al-Bireh and 3 villages nr. Jericho and Ramallah during the day and in 1 village nr. Ramallah late in the evening; conducts late-night raids into 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, summoning 5 Palestinians for questioning. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in (for the 1st time since protests there were suspended on 6/24), Kafr Qaddum, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers beat and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, lightly injuring 1 Palestinian; 2 Israeli activists and 1 Palestinian are arrested. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar set fire to nearby Palestinian olive groves, damaging 3,000 trees. In East Jerusalem, up to **4,500 left-wing Israeli activists and Palestinians** march in a show of support for Palestinian statehood organized by the group Shaykh Jarrah Solidarity; an estimated 80% of participants are Israeli Jews and the rest mostly Palestinians fr. Shaykh Jarrah. (JP 7/15; WP 7/16; PCHR 7/20; OCHA 7/22)

16 JULY

Unidentified Palestinians fire 4 **Qassam** rockets fr. Gaza into Israel during

the day (1 early in the morning and 3 late at night), causing no damage or injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. A **Palestinian** is fatally electrocuted in a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires tear gas and stun grenades to disperse Palestinians staging a nonviolent march in Iraq Burin to protest confiscation of their lands for the expansion of local Jewish settlements, causing no serious injuries; conducts daytime patrols in Jericho and 1 village nr. Qalqilya; conducts late-night patrols in Bayt Liqya; and conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (YA 7/16; AFP, JP, JTA, YA 7/17; PCHR 7/20; OCHA 7/22)

17 JULY

The **IDF** makes a day-long incursion into c. Gaza e. of al-Bureij r.c. and a brief nighttime incursion into s. Gaza e. of Khuza to level lands and clear lines of sight. Later, an Israeli drone fires a missile at **Hamas** mbrs., wounding 2 (1 seriously). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Qalqilya and nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Asfar settlement nr. Hebron bulldoze 5 d. of adjacent Palestinian land to expand the settlement. (PCHR 7/20; OCHA 7/22)

18 JULY

Israel issues tenders for construction of **294 new settlement housing** units in Beit ar Ilit nr. Jerusalem and Karnei Shomron nr. Nablus (see 5/21). The **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at mourners attending a funeral in Bayt Umar, sparking stone-throwing clashes that leave 3 Palestinians injured; patrols in al-Til nr. Tulkarm, randomly stopping and searching Palestinian cars; conducts late-night patrols in Tulkarm and late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem and in Jenin. **Jewish settlers** fr. Migron settlement outpost nr. Ramallah stone and beat 3 Palestinian shepherds. (HA 7/18; PCHR 7/20; OCHA 7/22)

19 JULY

The **Israeli navy** intercepts the French **Freedom Flotilla II** boat as it nears Gaza,

boarding it after it refuses orders to change direction; the activists onboard are detained without resistance. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire a **rocket** from Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** responds with **air strikes** on several Hamas targets nr. Gaza City, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** dismantles an irrigation network watering 25 d. of Palestinian agricultural land along a settlers-only bypass road nr. Hebron; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. (AFP, JP, NYT, PCHR, Wafa, WP, WT 7/20; OCHA 7/22)

20 JULY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, searches in Hebron during the day and nr. Hebron, Jenin, and Nablus late at night. The **Knesset** fails to pass (by a vote of 28-57) 2 bills calling for parliamentary inquiries into left-wing NGOs: one bill calls for an investigation of the damage done to the IDF by left-wing NGOs that focus on IDF repression of Palestinians; the other calls for investigating the origins of foreign contributions received by left-wing NGOs. (AFP, HA, JTA 7/20; PCHR 7/21, 7/28; JPI, OCHA 7/29)

21 JULY

In Gaza, a **Palestinian** dies in a smuggling tunnel collapse on the n. Gaza border. The **IDF** patrols in 5 villages nr. Qalqilya, 3 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Jenin, randomly stopping 1 Palestinian, questioning him, and summoning him for interrogation; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya. (PCHR 7/28; OCHA 7/29)

22 JULY

The **IDF** patrols in al-Bireh, 4 villages nr. Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Jericho; enters Ras al-Amud neighborhood in East Jerusalem in the evening, detaining 1 Palestinian teenager for questioning, but releasing him an hr. later; conducts late-night house searches in Kafr Qaddum, summoning 2 Palestinians for questioning. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bayt Umar, Bil'in, Kafr Qaddum, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers beat

and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, lightly injuring 2 Palestinians; 8 Palestinians are arrested. **Jewish settlers** fr. Esh Kodesh settlement outpost nr. Nablus beat a 15-yr.-old Palestinian shepherd and kill 1 sheep. (PCHR 7/28; OCHA 7/29)

23 JULY

During the day, the **IDF** fires tear gas, stun grenades to disperse Palestinians holding a nonviolent demonstration in Iraq Burin to protest Israeli land confiscations, causing no reported injuries; soldiers then erect a checkpoint at the village entrance and declare the area a closed military zone. **Jewish settlers** fr. Halamish settlement nr. Ramallah barricade the entrance to Nabi Salih village and stone Palestinian vehicles; the **IDF** removes the settlers. In the evening, the **IDF** patrols in Bayt Liqya (firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them) and in 1 village nr. Jericho (without incident). (PCHR 7/28; OCHA 7/29)

Across Israel, as many as **30,000 Israelis** inspired by the Arab Spring march to protest housing prices. (WP 7/24; NYT, WP 7/27)

24 JULY

The **IDF** raids a home in Silwan in East Jerusalem in the morning, arresting 1 Palestinian. (PCHR 7/28; OCHA 7/29)

25 JULY

The **IDF** intercepts 2 Palestinians in a rubber dinghy ferrying 10 assault rifles and ammunition across the Dead Sea from Jordan to the West Bank; Israel says it is treating the case as smuggling and not an attempted terrorist attack. The **IDF** also patrols in Nabi Salih in the evening, firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, causing no serious injuries. (JTA 7/25; NYT, WT 7/26; PCHR 7/28; OCHA 7/29)

26 JULY

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into s. Gaza to level lands and clear lines of sight along the border fence e. of al-Qarara.

In the West Bank, the **IDF** begins leveling land for construction of a new segment of the **separation wall** nr. al-Walaja nr. Bethlehem; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin r.c. **Hamas authorities in Gaza** hang 2 Palestinians convicted of collaborating with Israel; the father and son were arrested in 2003 and convicted and sentenced in 2004 by the Fatah-led PA. (WP 7/27; PCHR 7/28; OCHA 7/29)

The **U.S.** for the first time explicitly states that it would veto a UN resolution endorsing Palestinian statehood. (JAZ, NYT 7/27) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In **Lebanon, unidentified assailants** detonate a roadside bomb nr. a **UNIFIL** convoy outside Sidon, wounding 5 French soldiers. **Hizballah** condemns the attack. (AFP, DPA 7/26; WT 7/27; DPA 7/28) (see 5/27)

27 JULY

The **IDF** raids the Freedom Theater in Jenin, arresting 2 Palestinian employees (it is unclear if the raid is connected to the 4/2011 murder of the theater's director, Israeli-Palestinian actor Juliano Mer-Khamis); conducts late-night raids in Silwan in East Jerusalem (arresting a 14-yr.-old boy) and nr. Tulkarm. **Israel sues bedouin residents of al-Araqib** in the Negev for \$500,000 to cover the **IDF's** cost of demolishing their village each time they rebuild it, saying the residents "have not respected legal rulings and continue to build illegally" and the government must protect "the public purse"; since the **IDF** demolished the 45 structures in the village in 7/2010, it has returned to level the village 20 times, but each time the bedouin return to rebuild. (BBC 7/27; PCHR, WP 7/28; OCHA 8/5)

28 JULY

Unidentified Palestinians fire a Qasam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** drops troops from helicopters into an open area nr. Jenin, searching the area for some time before withdrawing; patrols in 4 villages nr. Jericho, Ramallah, and Tulkarm; enters a village nr. Hebron to arrest 2 Palestinian children for hurting cattle on a nearby Jewish settlement; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches

nr. Tubas, detaining **Hamas-affiliated PC mbr. Khalid Abu Tous**. A day after a **PA court** rejected an appeal challenging Fatah's 6/12 decision to expel **Dahlan** from the party, **PA security forces** raid Dahlan's Ramallah home, arresting 23 guards and assistants and confiscating 16 guns, a computer, and 2 cars; Dahlan is currently in Jordan. (AFP, MNA, WAFA, YA 7/28; WP 7/29; PCHR 8/4; OCHA 8/5; see also AFP 7/27)

29 JULY

The **IDF** enters Jericho in the morning to photograph several PA security sites; escorts some 100 Jewish settlers into Bayt Umar to hold religious services; patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning and in Jenin and 2 villages nr. Qalqilya at night. The **IDF** also seals Nabi Salih to prevent residents from holding their weekly demonstration against the separation wall, beating and arresting a Palestinian journalist, but succeeds only in delaying the demonstration. Ultimately, **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Kafr Qaddum, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers beat and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, lightly injuring 3 Palestinians; 3 internationals are arrested. (PCHR 8/4; OCHA 8/5)

30 JULY

Unidentified assailants attack and damage **Egypt's** national gas pipeline to **Israel** for the 3d time in a month and the 5th time since unrest in Egypt erupted in 2/2011 (see 7/11). **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers working nr. the border fence, grazing 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized morning patrols in 4 villages nr. Jenin; patrols in 3 villages nr. Tulkarm, 2 nr. Salfit, and 1 each nr. Jericho and Ramallah; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. In East Jerusalem, the **IDF** enters Silwan at midday, raiding a home and arresting a Palestinian. (JTA 7/31; PCHR 8/4; OCHA 8/5)

As many as **150,000 Israelis** in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem, Beersheba, and 6 other cities protest the high cost of living,

demanding economic reforms, "social justice," and "a welfare state now." In previous days, the Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, said it strongly supports the demonstrations. (WP 7/31; NYT, WP, WT 8/1)

31 JULY

Unidentified Palestinians fire 2 Qassam **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. During the day, the **IDF** raids Jayyus village nr. Qalqilya, firing tear gas and stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no injuries, and raids and searches several homes in 'Azun, making no arrests. In the evening, the **IDF** conducts synchronized raids into 3 villages nr. Salfit, searching homes but making no arrests. Late at night, the **IDF** enters Qalandia r.c., opening fire with live ammunition on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, killing 2 **Palestinians** and wounding 1. The **IDF** also conducts late-night house searches nr. Bethlehem. (AFP 7/31; NYT, WP 8/2; PCHR 8/4; OCHA 8/5)

1 AUGUST

Ramadan begins. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire a Qassam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly injuring 1 bedouin woman. Late at night, the **IDF** retaliates with **air strikes** on a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border and a "terrorist center" in n. Gaza, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** searches a home in Isawiyya in the morning; conducts synchronized raids into 3 villages e. of Qalqilya, searching several homes and summoning 4 Palestinians for interrogation; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Umar. (AFP 8/1; AFP, JP, REU, YA 8/2; PCHR 8/4; OCHA 8/5)

Israeli and Lebanese troops briefly exchange fire across their common border, causing no injuries. Lebanese troops fired first, believing the **IDF** patrol strayed into Lebanese territory, though the **IDF** denies this. (DS 8/1; NYT, WP 8/2; WJW 8/5; JPI 8/12)

2 AUGUST

The **Israeli High Court** orders the government to remove Migron, the largest unauthorized settlement outpost in

the West Bank (300 settlers in 60 mobile homes on private Palestinian land) by the end of 3/2012. In an Israeli military court, **2 Palestinian teenagers** fr. Awarta plead guilty to murdering a Jewish settler family in Itamar on 3/11/11; sentencing is not expected until 9/2011. (AFP, JP, REU 8/2; JTA, WP 8/3; PCHR 8/4; OCHA 8/5; JPI 8/12)

3 AUGUST

The small **Salafist group, Abdullah Azzam Brigades** fires 2 Grad **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing light damage to a road in 1 instance but no injuries. Late at night, the **IDF** retaliates with 2 **air strikes** on alleged Hamas training facilities in Gaza City and 1 on a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border, injuring 2 Palestinian children. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm. (AFP, JTA, PCHR 8/4; PCHR 8/11; OCHA 8/12)

4 AUGUST

The **Obama admin.** invites Palestinian officials to Washington to discuss conditions under which they might drop their UN statehood bid. The **PA** says **chief negotiator Saeb Erakat** and **Abbas spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina** will head to Washington soon. (JP 8/4) (see Quarterly Update)

As a gesture to the PA to mark the start of Ramadan, **Israel** releases **200 Palestinian prisoners** who were set to complete their sentences soon, including **senior Hamas official Shaykh Hassan Yousef** (arrested in 2006 and set for release in 9/2011). At the same time, however, **Israel's Interior Min.** gives final approval for the construction of 930 new settlement housing units in East Jerusalem's Har Homa/Jabal Abu Ghunaym. Meanwhile, the **PA** orders its security forces to prevent violence after the UN vote in 9/2011 and informs Israel of its intention to keep the peace and avoid confrontation. In Gaza, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 2 Qassam **rockets** into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** retaliates late at night with 2 **artillery shells** and 7 **air strikes** on 5 Hamas sites in c. and s. Gaza, injuring 2 Hamas mbrs. and killing 500 chicks at a poultry farm. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, 2

nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Jericho; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm. (AFP, HA, JTA, MNA, Wafa, YA 8/4; PCHR 8/11; OCHA 8/12)

5 AUGUST

Israel announces restrictions on Palestinian access to East Jerusalem for Friday prayers during Ramadan, permitting access only to women over age 35 and men ages 45-50. Israel also deploys 2,000 security forces in the city to enhance security during Friday prayers. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Jenin. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Kafr Qaddum, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers beat and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, causing no injuries; 3 internationals are arrested. (MNA 8/5; PCHR 8/11; OCHA 8/12)

6 AUGUST

The **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Tulkarm, in 1 instance firing rubber-coats steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them; sends troops into Bayt Umar to break up a peaceful rally in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, sparking stone-throwing clashes and arresting 5 Palestinians. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba beat 2 Palestinian teenagers nr. the settlement; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. Later, other **Jewish settlers** in Hebron attack 2 other Palestinian teenagers. (PCHR 8/11; OCHA 8/12)

For the 3d Saturday in a row, Israelis hold massive popular protests across Israel calling for "social justice." As many as **320,000 Israelis** take part, making it the largest demonstration in Israel's history. For the first time, some Israeli Palestinian communities take part, calling for "social justice for all." (ICAHD 8/7; WP 8/8; JPI 8/12) (see Quarterly Update for details)

7 AUGUST

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 Qassam **rocket** and 3 **mortars** fr. Gaza into

Israel during the day, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm and 1 nr. Ramallah in the morning, in Jericho in the afternoon, and in al-Bireh and Birzeit late at night. (JP 8/7; HA, JTA 8/8; PCHR 8/11; OCHA 8/12)

8 AUGUST

The **IDF** patrols in 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c., Nabi Salih, and nearby Qarawat Bani Zaid village during the day; conducts late-night arrest raids, house and shop searches in and around Hebron. (PCHR 8/11; OCHA 8/12)

9 AUGUST

IDF troops on the c. Gaza border e. of Juhur al-Dik fire on a Palestinian shepherd who strays nr. the border fence, wounding her and killing 8 sheep. **Israeli bulldozers** working nr. the fmr. Nahal Oz crossing sever fiber-optic lines providing all mobile, landline, and Internet service to Gaza; Hamas authorities blame the IDF, but the IDF says it was not responsible. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-'Arub r.c. and Bayt Umar. **Jewish settlers** escorted by the **IDF** enter Palestinian areas nr. Bethlehem and in Hebron to hold religious services. (Press TV [Tehran] 8/10; PCHR 8/11; OCHA 8/12)

The U.S. says it is "deeply concerned" by Israel's 8/4 approval of 930 new settlement housing units in Har Homa/Jabal Abu Ghunaym in East Jerusalem, stating "such unilateral actions work against efforts to resume direct negotiations." (WT 8/10)

10 AUGUST

The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (PCHR 8/11, 8/18; OCHA 8/19)

11 AUGUST

Israel's Interior Min. gives final approval for the construction of the 1,600 new housing units in Ramat Shlomo settlement in East Jerusalem that were first announced during U.S. VP Joe Biden's visit to Israel in 3/2010 (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 156). The ministry says it also intends

to give final approval to another 2,700 new units in East Jerusalem's Givat HaMatos and Pisgat Ze'ev settlements in response to the recent popular protests in Israel that have demanded, among other things, more and cheaper housing. The U.S. says "unilateral action of this kind works against our [peace] efforts." Israel's **Peace Now** accuses the government of "exploiting the housing crisis in Israel to promote its settlement policy" with the intention of undermining the peace process. (NYT, WP 8/12; PCHR 8/18; OCHA 8/19)

In Gaza, a **mbr. of Hamas's** Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades is killed in a "mysterious explosion" in Rafah. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning and in 1 nr. Jericho late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah and Tubas. In Nablus, **1,200 international activists** fr. 22 countries take part in a peace rally in solidarity with the Palestinians; the event was organized by Los Angeles Cable International Center in coordination with Nablus's governor. (AFP 8/11)

12 AUGUST

The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning. A Palestinian shepherd is injured in the n. Jordan Valley when he accidentally triggers unexploded IDF ordnance. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Kafr Qaddum, al-Ma'sara, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers beat and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, injuring 3 Palestinian children (ages 9, 10, and 11) in al-Ma'sara and accidentally starting a fire that burns 58 olive trees in Kafr Qaddum; 3 internationals are arrested. (PCHR 8/18; OCHA 8/19)

13 AUGUST

The **IDF** beats and fires tear gas and stun grenades at Palestinians and international activists staging a nonviolent march fr. Bayt Umar to nearby Palestinian lands confiscated for the expansion of Karme Tzur settlement, injuring 2 Palestinians and arresting 1. The **IDF** also patrols in 3 villages w. of Ramallah; conducts late-night

arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem and Nablus. (PCHR 8/18; OCHA 8/19)

Egypt sends 250 tanks and armored vehicles, 1,000 special forces, and 1,000s of police into the n. Sinai (including the Rafah area) to secure the region after a series of attacks on the natural gas pipeline (see 7/30) and increased attacks on Egyptian police by suspected al-Qa'ida-inspired Islamists groups. It is unclear if Israel approved the increased military presence, which is limited under the 1979 peace treaty. (WP 8/14; NYT 8/29)

14 AUGUST

The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho and 1 nr. Ramallah in the morning. (PCHR 8/18; OCHA 8/19)

15 AUGUST

Israel approves construction of 277 new apartments in Ariel settlement deep in the West Bank, which Israel seeks to

retain under final status. The **Quartet** condemns the decision, stating that "unilateral action by either party will not be recognized by the international community." During the day, **IDF** troops on the Gaza border fire on Palestinian fishermen on the beach nr. Bayt Lahiya (wounding 1) and on farmers who stray too nr. the border fence e. of Khuza in s. Gaza (wounding 1). Late in the evening, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 2 **Grad rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Late at night, the **IDF** retaliates with 9 **air strikes** on 3 Hamas training facilities (Gaza City, Khan Yunis, Rafah) and a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border, wounding a 7-yr.-old boy outside his home. Separately, the **IDF** makes an **air strike** on 3 armed Palestinians preparing to fire another rocket into Israel, killing 1 **Hamas mbr.** and seriously wounding 2. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Jericho, Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Tulkarm. (HA, JTA, MNA 8/15; AP, JP, NYT, REU, WP 8/16; MNA, WP 8/17; PCHR 8/18; OCHA 8/19)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
CSM	(<i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , Boston)
DPA	(Deutsche-Pressre Agentur, [Internet])
DS	(<i>Daily Star</i> , Beirut)
HA	(<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
ICAHND	(Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, Bayt Sahur)
IFM	(Israeli Foreign Ministry, Jerusalem)
ISRN	(Israel Radio News [Internet])
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)
MA	(<i>Ma'ariv</i> , Tel Aviv)
MENA	(Middle East News Agency, Cairo)
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)
REU	(Reuters [Internet])
UPI	(United Press International [Internet])
Wafa	(Palestine News Agency [Internet])
WJW	(<i>Washington Jewish Week</i> , Rockville, MD)
WP	(<i>Washington Post</i> , Washington)
YA	(<i>Yedi'ot Abaronot</i> , Tel Aviv)