Chronology

16 August–15 November 2011

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This section is part 112 of a chronology begun in JPS 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect North American Eastern Standard Time. 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 AUGUST

As the quarter opens, Israel maintains a tight siege on Hamas-controlled Gaza, imposing a 300-meter no-go zone inside the full length of the Gaza border and limiting 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), Israeli military operations are relatively low. Israeli troops on the Gaza border fatally shoot a mentally handicapped Palestinian teenager who approaches the border fence e. of Dayr al-Balah in c. Gaza. In the West Bank, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) patrols 6 villages nr. Jericho, Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Tulkarm during the day and 2 villages nr. Jenin and Ramallah late at night. An Israeli military court says it is holding Samer Allawi, a senior Palestinian journalist who serves as al-Jazeera satellite network’s Kabul bureau chief, on suspicion of being a Hamas mbr. but has not yet indicted him; the IDF confirms that it detained him on 8/9/11 at a border crossing to Jordan when he attempted leave the West Bank, where he had visited family in Nablus; Allawi denies any Hamas connection. (AFP 8/16; JTA, WP, WT 8/17; PCHR 8/18; OCHA 8/19)

17 AUGUST

The IDF fires warning shots at Palestinian farmers working nr. Bet Ayn settlement nr. Hebron, forcing them to leave the area. (PCHR 8/18; OCHA 8/26)

18 AUGUST

Unidentified assailants armed with heavy weapons and explosives enter s. Israel fr. the Egyptian Sinai and stage coordinated attacks on a bus, several cars, and an IDF patrol, killing 7 Israelis (1 IDF soldier, 6 civilians) and wounding up to 40, marking the deadliest attack on Israel since 3/2008. The attacks begin at midday with gunfire on a bus nr. Elat carrying mostly soldiers fr. a nearby army base; when an IDF unit arrives on the scene, it is quickly ambushed and hit with explosive devices. Within the hour, at least 3 reports of mortar fire fr. Egypt and attacks on civilian vehicles with antitank weapons are reported in the Elat area. Israeli security forces engage in firefights with the infiltrators over the next several hours, killing at least 7 attackers, noting that 3 of the bodies were booby trapped. At one point, IDF troops pursue the attackers into Egypt and clash with Egyptian border guards, killing an Egyptian military officer and 2 Egyptian border police and injuring 2 others. Israel accuses Hamas of sending terrorists fr. Gaza through the Rafah smuggling tunnels into Egypt and then on to Israel, and criticizes Egypt’s inability to secure its borders. The IDF quickly launches 12 air strikes on s. Gaza in retaliation, primarily targeting the Popular Resistance Committees (PRCs)—an umbrella group comprising mbrs. of all Gaza factions, including Fatah and Hamas. In total, 7 Palestinians (including 2 children) are killed and at least 23 Palestinians (including
7 children, 6 women) are wounded. Among the dead are 5 senior PRC members who were targeted for assassination, including PRC leader Kamal Abu Abed al-Nairab, PRC chief military cmdr. Imad Hamad, and a PRC rocket expert. Later in the evening, gunfire erupts again in Elat, killing 1 Israeli border policeman and critically injuring another. The PRCs fire 4 rockets (including at least 1 manufactured Grad rocket) fr. Gaza into Israel, where at least 3 are intercepted by Israel’s Iron Dome missile defense system; no damage or injuries are reported. By late evening, the Israeli DMin. reports no further fire, but says assailants may still be on the loose. Hamas and the PRCs deny any part in the attacks. Egyptian and American analysts (e.g., NYT, WT 8/19) say that “it is not a remote possibility for [Egypt’s radical militant elements] to cross the border and launch attacks against Israeli targets. It makes a lot of sense” given Egypt’s recent crackdown on al-Qa’ida-inspired Islamist militants in the n. Sinai (see 8/13). (AHK, AP, HA, IFM, JP, JTA, MNA, REU, WAFA, YA 8/18; NYT, OCHA, WP, WT 8/19; al-Masri al-Yawm 8/20; JAZ 8/21; PCHR 8/25; OCHA 8/26)

Meanwhile, in the West Bank, the IDF patrols in Bayt Liqya nr. Ramallah during the day and in Jenin, Jericho, and 2 villages nr. Ramallah and Salfit. Jewish settlers fr. Beit El nr. Ramallah enter nearby Dawar al-Qare’ village and set fire to 2 cars. (PCHR 8/25)

19 AUGUST

Cross-border exchanges in Gaza continue overnight and throughout the day. The PRCs, the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB), and a small Salafist group (the Abdullah Azzam Brigades) fire around 17 rockets (including at least 4 Grads) and at least 2 mortars into Israel, seriously injuring 2 Israelis and damaging a religious seminary and a synagogue. The IDF carries out at least 25 air strikes (warplanes and drones) and 5 artillery strikes, killing at least another 7 Palestinians (5 militants and 2 bystanders, including 1 child) and wounding at least 40; the attacks include the targeted assassination of Islamic Jihad’s senior military cmdr. Mu’atzz Quraieq in Gaza City, also killing his brother and 2-yr.-old son. (The other 4 militants killed, including senior PRC cmdr. Samed Abed, apparently were targeted after firing rockets.) Other targets include smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border, the main waste treatment facility in Nussayrat refugee camp (r.c.) in central Gaza, and numerous Hamas facilities and suspected weapons storage facilities across the Strip. With air strikes continuing into the evening, Hamas’s military wing, the Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades (IQB), declares that it no longer considers itself bound by a unilateral cease-fire that had been in place since the end of Israel’s Operation Cast Lead in 1/2009. Israeli officials discuss the possibility of launching an all-out offensive on Gaza. A Hamas mbr. injured in an 8/15/11 Israeli air strike on Gaza dies. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 each nr. Jericho, Qalqilya, and Ramallah. Palestinians (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil’in, Kafir Qaddum, Nîlin, and al-Nabi Salih. IDF soldiers beat and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, injuring 1 Palestinian. (JP, MNA, YA 8/19; NYT, WP 8/20; IMEU, JAZ 8/21; PCHR 8/25; OCHA 8/26; NYT 8/27)

In Cairo, 100s of Egyptians angry over Israel’s killing of 3 soldiers in the Sinai on 8/18 gather outside the Israeli emb., demanding Israel’s amb. be expelled. Egypt’s Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF; the interim military leadership) summons the Israeli amb. to demand an apology and call for an investigation into the killings. The Muslim Brotherhood’s candidate for pres., Abdel Moniem Abou el-Fatouh, calls the incident an Israeli act of war, saying the SCAF should abrogate the 1979 peace treaty. (NYT, WP 8/20)

20 AUGUST

Cross-border violence in Gaza enters its 3d day. Israel conducts 3 drone air strikes and 7 artillery strikes on Gaza, injuring 6 Palestinians (3 militants and 3 bystanders, including a woman and...
child). The PRCs, Islamic Jihad, and Hamas fire as many as 64 rockets (including at least 7 Grads) and 18 mortars, killing 1 Israeli and wounding 6 in Beersheba, lightly injuring 3 Israelis in Ofakim when a rocket hits a house, and injuring 3 Palestinian laborers in Ashdod (2 seriously). Israeli naval vessels fire 3 times on Palestinian fishing boats off the Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. IDF soldiers on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Hanun fire warning shots at Palestinian fishermen on the beach nr. the no-go zone, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF carries out a major late-night raid on Hebron, sending 100 military vehicles into the area fr. 3 directions and rounding up some 120 Palestinians, mostly Hamas members and supporters, marking the largest West Bank arrest operation since 2005; those arrested include Hamas-affiliated Palestinian Council (PC) mbr. Muhammad Abu Jheisha and leading figures of several Hamas-affiliated charities. Jewish settlers fr. Migron outpost nr. Ramallah beat a 12-yr.-old Palestinian boy tending sheep nearby. (JP, YA 8/20; JAZ, JP, NYT, WP 8/21; MNA 8/22; IFM, PCHR 8/25; OCHA 8/26)

In Cairo, crowds outside the Israeli emb. grow steadily into the 1,000s overnight and throughout the day. Israel issues a formal expression of regret for the deaths of the Egyptian soldiers, but Egyptian leaders say it is inadequate. Egypt briefly threatens to recall its amb. fr. Israel, but backs down following international intervention to calm tensions. Israel shelves discussions of a major military strike on Gaza given the crisis with Egypt. (WP 8/20; NYT, WP 8/21; NYT 8/27; WP 8/28)

22 AUGUST

The Gaza cease-fire generally holds, though unidentified Palestinians fire 4 rockets into Israel during the day, causing damage in 1 instance but no injuries. The PRCs now say (see 8/21) that they will abide by the cease-fire because it “serves the interests of the Palestinian people.” In the West Bank, the IDF raids and searches 15 houses in Hebron, arresting 1 Palestinian; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin, 1 each near Qalqilya and Tulkarm. (JTA, YA 8/22; WP 8/23; NYT 8/27)

23 AUGUST

In Doha, PA pres. Mahmud Abbas meets with Arab League FMs and Arab League secy.-gen. Nabil Elaraby to
discuss plans to seek recognition of Palestinian statehood at the UN in 9/2011. Abbas meets on the sidelines with U.S. asst. secy. of state Jeremy Feltman. (WAFA 8/23) (see Quarterly Update for details)

The IDF carries out a late-night **drone missile strike** on a car nr. Rafah, assassinating the head of Islamic Jihad's military wing Isma'il Asmar, injuring a girl nearby. Islamic Jihad responds by firing 4 Qassam rockets and several **mortars** into Israel, lightly wounding an Israeli infant. (Egyptian officials say that a Palestinian rocket fired fr. Rafah landed on the Egyptian side of the border, in Egyptian Rafah, injuring 1 woman.) Israel responds with **2 drone missile strikes** on a suspected rocket-launching team nr. Dayr al-Balah, wounding 2 armed Palestinians. In the West Bank, IDF soldiers enter Tulkarm, randomly stopping Palestinians and checking their IDs; conduct late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. Jewish settlers fr. Bet Ayn nr. Hebron uproot 10s of olive and plum trees on nearby Palestinian land. The Israeli High Court rejects an appeal by residents of al-Walaja who challenged the separation wall route on the grounds that it would cut off the village from Bethlehem, holding that the residents did not prove that the planned route would severely harm the village. (JP, JTA, WAFA, WP, WT 8/24; PCHR, WP 8/25; OCHA 8/26; PCHR 10/27)

### 24 AUGUST

**El Salvador** recognizes Palestine as an independent state. (REU 8/25)

Israel carries out 3 **air strikes** (drone and warplanes) targeting Palestinian rocket-launching teams and smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border, killing 1 **armed Palestinian** and 1 **tunnel worker** and wounding 6 Palestinians (including 1 child). Islamic Jihad mbns. fire at least 20 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, injuring an Israeli child. (PCHR, UPI, YA 8/25; PCHR 9/8; OCHA 9/9)

### 25 AUGUST

Overnight and during the day, the **IDF** carries out multiple air strikes on Gaza in retaliation for the 8/24 rocket fire, hitting smuggling tunnels, a suspected weapons depot, and a rocket-firing team, killing **9 Palestinians** (including at least 4 militants) and wounding 29. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire at least 15 **rockets** (including at least 1 Grad and 9 Qassams) and **mortars** into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Jenin and surrounding villages throughout the evening. Jewish settlers fr. Migron outpost nr. Ramallah set fire to nearby Palestinian olive groves, burning 100 trees. (AP, IDSFS, MNA 8/25; JP, NYT, WAFA, YA 8/26; PCHR 9/8; OCHA 9/9)

### 26 AUGUST

Hamas officials say that all main Gaza factions have agreed to reimpose their cease-fire immediately, while Egyptian mediators work to secure the compliance of smaller factions. Islamic Jihad says it will observe the moratorium as long as Israel also ceases fire. Israel does not comment. Before the new cease-fire goes into effect, the PFLP and **other unidentified Palestinians** fire 1 Grad and 2 Qassam rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Israel does not respond. Israeli DM Barak authorizes construction of a kindergarten in Hebron's Beit Romano settlement, home to some of the most extremist Jewish settlers. Meanwhile, Jewish settlers uproot olive trees in Qasra village nr. Nablus; when local Palestinians try to drive them away, IDF troops intervene, firing tear gas and live ammunition at the Palestinians, seriously injuring 1. The IDF also patrols in Kafr al-Dik village nr. Salfit. Palestinians (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, al-Ma'sara, and Nîlîn, as well as at the Qalandia crossing into Jerusalem. IDF soldiers beat and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, causing no serious injuries, and arrest 2 Palestinians. (AP, MNA, YA 8/26; MNA, WP 8/27; PCHR 9/8; OCHA 9/9)

In Egypt, 100s of protesters rally outside the Israeli emb. after Friday
prayers demanding the expulsion of the amb. (WP 8/28)

27 AUGUST

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 Qassam rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries; Israel does not respond. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and Tulkarm late at night, randomly stopping residents and checking their IDs. Jewish settlers fr. Ramat Yishai in Hebron beat a Palestinian passerby. (JP 8/28; PCHR 9/8; OCHA 9/9)

28 AUGUST

The IDF conducts late-night patrols in the same 2 villages nr. Jenin and Tulkarm that it entered on 8/27. Jewish settlers fr. Beit Hadassah in Hebron vandalize nearby Palestinian homes. (PCHR 9/8; OCHA 9/9)

29 AUGUST

A 21-yr.-old Palestinian fr. Nablus enters Israel, steals a taxi in Tel Aviv, and drives it into a police checkpoint outside a popular nightclub, then stabs several bystanders before being subdued by police; the PA condemns the attack. Unidentified Palestinians fire a Qassam rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In Gaza, a 13-yr.-old Palestinian boy dies of injuries sustained in an IDF drone strike on 8/21. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 2 villages nr. Jericho, 1 each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm. (YA 8/29; NYT 8/30; PCHR 9/8; OCHA 9/9)

30 AUGUST


31 AUGUST

Unidentified Palestinians fire 2 Qassam rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The IDF patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin. (YA 8/31; PCHR 9/8; OCHA 9/9)

1 SEPTEMBER

The IDF patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village each nr. Hebron, Jenin, and Jericho. Jewish settlers cut down 20 Palestinian olive trees nr. Kafr Qaddum village nr. Qalqilya. (PCHR 9/8; OCHA 9/9)

2 SEPTEMBER

The IDF patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Jericho in the morning, and in al-Bireh, 3 villages nr. Tulkarm, 3 nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Ramallah late in the evening; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. Palestinians (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, N'lin, and al-Nabi Salih. IDF soldiers beat and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, causing no serious injuries. (PCHR 9/8; OCHA 9/9)

The UN’s Palmer commission releases its long-delayed investigative report on the 5/2010 Gaza flotilla raid in which 9 Turkish activists attempting to break the siege of Gaza were killed in the IDF raid on the Mavi Marmara. The report concludes that Israel had the legal right to impose a naval blockade of Gaza and to stage an armed raid of the boat, but that the force used by IDF soldiers to subdue protesters was “excessive and unreasonable.” In response, Turkey expels Israel’s amb. and several other senior diplomats, suspends military agreements with Israel, and vows to expand its naval presence in the Mediterranean to protect its ships. (NYT, WP 9/2; HA, NYT, WP 9/3; WP 9/5; NYT, WP 9/7) (see Quarterly Update and Doc. A1)

3 SEPTEMBER

U.S. admin. sources say Pres. Barack Obama’s admin. has “launched a last-ditch diplomatic campaign” to convince the Palestinians to abandon their statehood initiative at the UN by
making it clear that the U.S. will veto and by presenting (soon, via the Quartet) a proposal for renewed talks as an alternative. The sources say that the Quartet proposal is aimed primarily at swaying UN member states to vote against a Palestinian statehood resolution and is not expected to result in a resumption of serious peace talks. (NYT 9/4) (see Quarterly Update for details)

The IDF conducts afternoon and evening patrols in Jenin and 4 nearby villages, 2 village nr. Tulkarm, and 1 nr. Hebron; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. In Israel, as many as 400,000 Israelis turn out nationwide (more than 300,000 in Tel Aviv) for protests calling for social justice. July 14th movement organizers had called for a million-person march today to revive the Saturday protests, which fell off after the 8/18 Elat attack. After the rally, demonstrators begin taking down tent camps, as organizers switch attention to forming local committees to press for social reforms (see Quarterly Update for details). (WP 9/4; PCHR, WJW 9/8; OCHA 9/9; Foreign Policy [Internet] 9/12; see also NYT 9/1)

Egypt, in effort to improve relations with Israel by strengthening border security, begins an operation to close smuggling tunnels under the Rafah border. Meanwhile, the Israeli emb. in Cairo hires contractors to erect a 12-ft. wall around the emb. in effort to deter the 100s (and sometimes 1,000s) of Egyptian who have gathered outside since the 8/18 Elat incident to protest the deaths of 3 Egyptian soldiers. (WP 9/4, 9/5)

4 SEPTEMBER

The IDF patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah during the day; conducts late-night patrols in 3 villages nr. Salit; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Askar r.c. nr. Nablus, nr. Hebron, and nr. Ramallah. A Palestinian is killed in a smuggling tunnel accident on the Rafah border. (PCHR 9/8; OCHA 9/9)

5 SEPTEMBER

Abbas tells a group of 20 left-leaning Israeli intellectuals that the Palestinians want above all to resume negotiations, stating that “no matter what happens at the [UN], we have to return to negotiations,” but also that even if there is a last-minute deal to resume talks, the UN bid will proceed. He confirms that in recent months he met 3 times secretly with Israeli pres. Shimon Peres in Amman, London, and Rome to discuss reviving talks. He also reveals that he met secretly on 8/27/11 with Israeli DM Ehud Barak, who asked him to drop the statehood bid. (NYT 9/6; WJW 9/8; OCHA 9/9)

The IDF carries out an air strike on a house in Nussayrat r.c. in c. Gaza, seriously injuring 1 Palestinian woman. 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 morning house searches in Sirris village nr. Jenin, summoning several Palestinians for interrogation; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah (arresting Hamas-affiliate PC mbr. Muhammad Abu Tair). The IDF razes 3 buildings in Migron outpost, ordered removed by Israel’s High Court; settlers scuffle with the IDF, which arrests 6. Soon after, Jewish settlers set fire to a mosque in a nearby Palestinian village and spray graffiti saying “Migron.” In other apparent reprisals, Jewish settlers fr. Beitar Illit nr. Bethlehem pump wastewater on agricultural lands in nearby Husan and Nahalin villages, damaging 100s of trees and crops; Jewish settlers vandalize a Palestinian home in Hebron; Jewish settlers fr. Shilo settlement set up a roadblock on the Nablus–Ramallah road and stone passing vehicles, seriously damaging 1 car and injuring 1 Palestinian; Jewish settlers fr. Keddeim settlement stone Palestinian vehicles on the Qalqilya–Nablus road, causing light damage but no injuries. In addition, Jewish settlers accompanied by IDF soldiers and border police uproot 88 trees on confiscated Palestinian land in al-Walaja nr. Bethlehem. (NYT, WP 9/6; PCHR 9/8)

6 SEPTEMBER

Obama Middle East adviser Dennis Ross and acting U.S. special envoy to the Middle East peace process David
Hale arrive in the region for 2 days of mtgs. with Israeli and Palestinian officials regarding the Palestinian statehood bid and a possible Quartet plan to revive negotiations. As they meet first with Israeli pres. Benjamin Netanyahu and DM Barak, U.S. secy. of state Hillary Clinton phones Abbas, urging him to "work hard with us to avoid a negative scenario in New York at the end of the month." (AFP, Bloomberg, NYT 9/6; WP 9/7) (see Quarterly Update for details)

Overnight, unidentified Palestinians fire a Qassam rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In retaliation, the IDF carries out an air strike on a suspected weapons depot in Gaza, causing no reported injuries. Later in the day, the IDF makes a brief incursion into s. Gaza nr. Khan Yunis, exchanging fire with PRC mbrs., causing no initial injuries; when the PRcs. fire mortars toward soldiers, the IDF replies with gunfire fr. a helicopter, killing 1 PRC mbr. and wounding 3 bystanders. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm. (IFM 9/6; NYT 9/7; PCHR 9/8; OCHA 9/9)

7 SEPTEMBER

Ross and Hale meet with Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat. Quartet special envoy Tony Blair is also in the region. (Bloomberg 9/6; NYT, WP 9/9)

The IDF makes a predawn raid into Tulkarm r.c., arresting 1 Palestinian; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Qalqilya; conducts late-night patrols in Jericho. Militant Jewish settlers vandalize IDF base nr. Ramallah, damaging 13 vehicles and breaking windows in apparent retaliation for the 9/5 razing of structures at Migron outpost. (PCHR, WP 9/8; PCHR 9/15; OCHA 9/16)

8 SEPTEMBER

Ross and Hale return to the U.S., having failed to secure a last-minute postponement of the Palestinian statehood bid. U.S. officials say they are "at a loss" for how a U.S. veto can now be avoided. Quartet efforts to broker a resumption of talks continue, however. (NYT, WP 9/9) (see Quarterly Update) IDF troops on the s. Gaza border fire toward al-Qarara village, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts daytime patrols in 4 villages nr. Qalqilya, 3 villages northwest of Salfit, and 2 villages southwest of Ramallah; conducts synchronized late-night patrols in 4 villages nr. Tulkarm and additional late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah. In Ramallah, 10s of Palestinians hold the 1st small demonstration in support of the statehood bid, marching to the UN's local headquarters. Jewish settlers fr. Shvut Rachel settlement nr. Nablus set fire to 2 Palestinian cars and vandalize a mosque in nearby Yatma village to protest the IDF's 9/5 removal of structures at Migron outpost. Jewish settlers fr. Yitzhar nr. Nablus uproot 17 olive trees in nearby Hawara village. (NYT, WT 9/9; PCHR 9/15; OCHA 9/16)

9 SEPTEMBER

The IDF conducts daytime patrols in 2 villages nr. Salfit, 1 nr. Qalqilya (firing percussion grenades to intimidate residents), and 1 nr. Ramallah; detains 4 Palestinian children nr. Qalqilya for stone throwing; conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah (fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, causing no serious injuries) and 1 nr. Jenin; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. Palestinians (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Nabl, and al-Nabi Sallih. IDF soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, causing no serious injuries. Jewish settlers fr. Esh Kodesh settlement nr. Nablus uproot 45 olive trees on nearby Palestinian land. (PCHR 9/15; OCHA 9/16)

After Friday prayers, 1,000s of Egyptian protesters besiege the Israeli emb. in Cairo, tear down the wall recently built outside (see 9/3), scale the building to rip down the flag, gain access to the offices, and throw...
documents into the street. Egyptian security forces collect the ambassador, his family, and other staff who are away from the emb. and secure them at the airport for evacuation to Israel. The 6 employees inside the emb. lock themselves in an office and await rescue. Egyptian riot police arrive in 50 APCs and fire tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the protesters, who respond with stones and Molotov cocktails. Heavy clashes continue overnight, with riot police unable to secure the embassy. (WP 9/10; NYT, WP 9/11) (see Quarterly Update for details)

10 SEPTEMBER

IDF troops on the s. Gaza border fire toward Abasan village, causing no injuries; later fire on and detain 3 Palestinian children (2 age 17, 1 age 14) who crossed the border fence into Israel e. of Khan Yunis in effort to find work, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah during the day and in 2 villages nr. Salfit, 1 nr. Jericho, and 1 nr. Ramallah late at night; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah in the afternoon and nr. Hebron late at night. (PCHR 9/15; OCHA 9/16)

After more than 13 hrs. of heavy clashes (in which 2 Egyptians are killed, some 1,200 are injured, and 19 are arrested), Egyptian commandos free the 6 employees trapped in the Israeli emb. in Cairo, and Egyptian riot police manage to disperse protesters. Netanyahu praises Egypt’s efforts to defend embassy staff and pledges to return Israel’s amb. to Cairo soon. (IFM, NYT, WP 9/11; Politico [Internet] 9/13) (see Quarterly Update for details)

11 SEPTEMBER

Isreali naval vessels surround and fire on 2 Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, wounding 2 fishermen, detaining 8, and confiscating the boats; the fishermen are released to Gaza later in the day. Late at night, IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire 2 artillery shells at an open area nr. the border, causing no reported damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 5 villages nr. Qalqilya, 3 nr. Ramallah, and 2 nr. Salfit during the day; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Fawar r.c. and 2 villages nr. Hebron. (PCHR 9/15; OCHA 9/16)

12 SEPTEMBER

Abbas briefs Arab League FMs in Cairo on the Ross-Hale visit. The FMs say that they strongly prefer that the Palestinians seek observer-state status via the UNGA rather than full member-state status via the UNSC so as to avoid a serious confrontation with the U.S., but that they will support whatever he decides to do. Palestinian chief negotiator Erakat says (9/13) that the Palestinians are waiting to hear new proposals being drafted by EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and Quartet envoy Blair before deciding. (Forbes, REU 9/12; NYT, WT 9/13; NYT 9/14; NYT 9/17; JPI 9/23) (see Quarterly Update for details)

IDF troops on the c. Gaza border fire on Juhur al-Dik village, causing damage to a house but no injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts synchronized daytime patrols in 2 villages e. of Qalqilya; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. Jewish settlers set fire to 2 Palestinian cars and vandalize a Palestinian home in Burqa village nr. Ramallah. Jewish settlers fr. Karme Tzur nr. Hebron uproot 160 grape arbors on nearby Palestinian land. Jewish settlers fr. Gil’ad settlement nr. Qalqilya stone Palestinian cars on the Qalqilya–Nablus road, causing no injuries; the IDF intervenes by closing the road to Palestinian traffic for 5 hrs. (PCHR 9/15; OCHA 9/16)

13 SEPTEMBER

EU foreign policy chief Ashton extends her regional visit through at least 9/15 for more talks with Palestinian, Israeli, U.S., and Arab officials regarding the Palestinian statehood bid at the UN and a possible Quartet statement on reviving talks. (Independent, Turkish Weekly [Internet] 9/15) (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 demolishes an auto parts store and a Palestinian home under construction nr. Hebron; patrols in 1 village nr. Saltif in the evening; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya. Jewish settlers fr. Gil’ad settlement stone Palestinian vehicles on the Nablus–Qalqilya road, injuring 1 Palestinian. One of 2 Palestinians who confessed to the 3/11/11 murder of a Jewish family in Itamar is sentenced to life in prison. PA police release on bail Palestinian journalist George Cantawi pending his trial in 10/2011; Cantawi was recently arrested and charged with defamation and slander for criticizing medical services in Bethlehem after PA governor ‘Abd al-Fattah Hamayil filed the complaint and suit against him. (PCHR 9/15; OCHA 9/16; JPI 9/23)

14 SEPTEMBER

Ross and Hale return to the region 9/14–15 to meet with Netanyahu and Abbas. They propose that the Palestinians drop their UN bid in exchange for “some attributes of a state” (e.g., getting aid directly from the World Bank, which gives only to states) or for restarting talks based on 1967 lines but without a settlement freeze (already rejected by Abbas as insufficient). Separately, EU foreign policy chief Ashton and Quartet special envoy Blair suggest that the Palestinians drop their bid in exchange for a Quartet statement outlining a return to peace talks and a UNGA res. endorsing the idea of Palestinian statehood without granting the status of a state. Abbas rejects these as too little too late. (NYT 9/14; NYT, WP 9/16)

The IDF cuts down 135 olive trees in Dayr Istya village nr. Saltif, saying they were planted on state land; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Bireh (raiding the home of Hamas-affiliated PC mbr. Fadil Hamdan, arresting him) and Nablus; conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin. (PCHR 9/15, 9/22; OCHA 9/23)

15 SEPTEMBER

The IDF patrols in 8 villages during the day and evening (2 each nr. Jenin, Ramallah, Saltif, and Tulkarm); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in 5 villages (2 each nr. Jenin and Qalqilya, 1 nr. Tulkarm). Unidentified Jewish settlers burn 2 Palestinian cars in Bayt Furik village nr. Nablus. Jewish settlers fr. Gil’ad settlement burn 150 trees and agricultural land nr. Qalqilya. Jewish settlers fr. Ariel settlement nr. Saltif damage a nearby Palestinian olive grove. Jewish settlers attempt to place a mobile home on the evacuated Homesh settlement site nr. Jenin, but are removed by the IDF. (PCHR 9/22; OCHA 9/23)

16 SEPTEMBER

After meetings with the U.S. and EU envoys and Arab FMs, Abbas declares in a televised address that the Palestinians will ask for full member-state status at the UN, not simply observer-state status. Insiders say Abbas was debating which tack to take until he met again with Ross and Hale who offered no incentives and only threats to get him to drop the plan; outraged by the U.S. posturing, he decided to go for full membership. (NYT 9/17) (see Quarterly Update for details)

The IDF patrols in 9 villages between morning and late evening (4 nr. Ramallah, 2 nr. Tulkarm, 1 each nr. Jenin, Jericho, and Saltif). A Hamas mbr. dies of injuries received in a 1/8/09 IDF drone missile strike on his vehicle in Khan Yunis, during Operation Cast Lead. 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, Nablus, and al-Nabi Salih. IDF soldiers beat and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, moderately injuring 1 Palestinian; 1 Palestinian is arrested and 2 Palestinian journalists are forcibly removed. Armed Jewish settlers fr. Esh Kodesh outpost nr. Nablus attempt to swim in a pond on nearby Palestinian land and open fire on villagers who confront them, wounding 1 before the IDF intervenes, firing tear gas at the Palestinians to disperse them. (PCHR 9/22; OCHA 9/23)
17 SEPTEMBER

Hundreds of Israeli and Palestinian supporters of the UN statehood bid hold a peaceful joint rally on their respective sides of the Qalandia crossing. The IDF patrols in 1 village nr. Nablus in the morning; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin. Jewish settlers fr. Efrat nr. Bethlehem stone a passing Palestinian car, causing serious damage but no injuries. (NYT 9/18; PCHR 9/22; OCHA 9/23)

18 SEPTEMBER


Meeting with Palestine National Council members in Gaza, Hamas’s acting PM Ismail Haniyeh says Hamas strongly supports Palestinian statehood and will not stand in the way of Abbas going to the UN, but is upset that Abbas has not coordinated or consulted with Hamas on the process, which Hamas feels violates the spirit of the 5/2011 national reconciliation accord. (NYT 9/19) (see Quarterly Update for details)

19 SEPTEMBER

Netanyahu announces a last-minute decision to lead the Israeli delegation to the UNGA session. He calls on Abbas to restart negotiations with him in New York that would be continued in Jerusalem and Ramallah upon their return, giving no details on the basis for relaunching talks. Senior Palestinian official Hussam Zumlut reiterates that the Palestinian leadership is ready to consider any “serious and credible” proposal to resume talks, meaning it must include a settlement freeze and acceptance of the terms of reference of the previous agreements. (HA, WP 9/20)

Obama begins a 3-day diplomatic push at the UN in NY, meant to “express our support for a negotiated, two-state solution.” (AFP, WP 9/19)

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore and confiscating several nets left behind. A 14-yo. Palestinian child dies of injuries sustained in an 8/19/11 Israeli air strike on Gaza City. In the West Bank, the IDF uproots 500 olive, fig, and almond trees in Dayr Istiya village nr. Salfit, saying they were planted on state land (see 9/14); patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Qalqilya in the morning; conducts late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Jericho and Salfit; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nur Shams r.c. nr. Tulkarm. Jewish settlers attempt to set up tents on the evacuated Homesh settlement site, but are removed by the IDF. Jewish settlers fr. Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablus burn 10s of dunams of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Asira Qibliyya village. (WT 9/21; PCHR 9/22; OCHA 9/23)

The Israeli emb. in Cairo reopens after a 10-day shutdown, but the amb. has not returned. (NYT 9/20)

20 SEPTEMBER

The IDF makes a brief incursion into n. Gaza nr. Bayt Lahiya, firing indiscriminately but causing no apparent damage or injuries. 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 3 villages w. of Ramallah in the evening. The IDF imposes a curfew on Kafr Haris village nr. Ramallah in the evening. The IDF imposes a curfew on Kafr Haris village nr. Salfit and escorts 10s of Jewish settlers into the village to pray at a Jewish shrine; settlers vandalize Palestinian homes as they leave. In 2 separate incidents, the IDF prevents 10s of Jewish settlers protesting against the Palestinian statehood bid fr. entering Palestinian villages—Ya’bad nr. Jenin and Asira Qibliyya nr. Nablus (see 9/19). In the Asira Qibliyya incident, settlers fr. Yitzhar clash with local Palestinians; the IDF intervenes, firing tear gas at the Palestinians, hitting a 14-yo. Palestinian in the back with a canister, moderately injuring him. Dozens of Palestinians march to the Qalandia crossing to Jerusalem, where they rally in support of the Palestinian statehood bid at the UN; they burn tires and throw stones and bottles at IDF soldiers, who
reply with tear gas; a Palestinian teenager is hit in the head with a tear gas canister and moderately injured. (WT 9/21; PCHR 9/22; OCHA 9/23)

21 SEPTEMBER

Speaking on the 1st day of the UNGA session, Obama rejects the Palestinian statehood bid and gives what some analysts (e.g., WP 9/22) call “his clearest statement of support and sympathy for Israel” and “a retreat from his early ambitions to help broker an enduring peace.” Obama and Clinton each meet separately with Abbas and Netanyahu later in the day. Abbas repeats that the statehood bid is not meant to preclude negotiations, and that the Palestinians hope to resume negotiations as soon as possible, with a settlement freeze and agreement on 1967 lines as the basis of talks. Details of talks with Netanyahu are not released. (NYT, WP, WT 9/22; WP 9/23) (see Quarterly Update for details)

French pres. Nicholas Sarkozy puts forward a last-minute proposal to avert a crisis at the UN, offering to host immediate Israeli-Palestinian talks with broad international mediation and the goal of reaching a comprehensive final status agreement within 1 year, provided that the Palestinians accept observer-state status at the UN and pledge not to “undertake actions incompatible with the continuation of negotiations.” (NYT, WT 9/22) (see Quarterly Update for details)

As the UNGA session opens in New York, 1,000s of Palestinians rally in Ramallah and Nablus in the 1st of 2 big rallies in support of statehood (the other is planned for 9/23). IDF undercover units enter Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron at midday, raiding a carpentry workshop and arresting 1 Palestinian. The IDF blocks at least 50 armed Jewish settlers fr. Mevo Dotan settlement nr. Jenin attempting to enter nearby ‘Araba village. (PCHR 9/22; OCHA 9/30)

22 SEPTEMBER

Quartet reps. work late into the evening to draft a statement outlining a path to resuming Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. (NYT, WP 9/23) (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 Tulkarm in the evening and in Birzeit and 5 villages s. of Jenin late at night. Jewish settlers fr. Ofra settlement nr. Nablus set fire to 40 dunams (d.; 4 d. = 1 acre) of Palestinian olive and fig trees nearby. (PCHR 9/29; OCHA 9/30)

23 SEPTEMBER

Abbas addresses the UNGA and officially submits the papers requesting full UN member-state status. UN secy.-gen. Ban Ki-Moon immediately sends the application to the UNSC. Rotating UNSC head, Lebanese amb. Nawaf Salam, says he will distribute it to UNSC mbrs. on 9/26. (NYT, WP, WT 9/24) (see Doc. B1 and Quarterly Update for details)

Netanyahu also addresses the UNGA session, calling on Abbas to resume talks immediately in New York, again without giving details on the basis or goal of talks. (WP 9/24)

Within 3 hrs. of Abbas’s speech, the Quartet issues a vague statement calling on Israel and the Palestinians to return to talks within a month, with the objective of reaching a final agreement within a year. While Quartet special envoy Blair heralds this as “breakthrough,” UN and U.S. officials say the idea is to delay UNSC consideration of the Palestinian application to the UN on the assumption that if talks are “underway and making progress,” the UNSC would put off a vote in hopes that the parties could reach negotiated agreement. (State Dept. press release 9/23; NYT, WP, WT 9/24) (see Doc. A2 and Quarterly Update for details)

In the West Bank, 1,000s of Palestinians gather in Ramallah’s Clock Tower Square after dark to watch Abbas’s UN address televised live and celebrate the application for statehood. Similar rallies are held across the West Bank, but are banned in Gaza by Hamas authorities, who are angry that Abbas did not consult with Hamas over the process. Observers note (e.g., NYT, WP 9/24) that the “festive mood was tempered with resentment at . . . Obama’s
firm stance against the initiative.” One Palestinian on the street states (WP 9/24): “We are choking on the American double standard. America supported the movements for freedom in Egypt, Tunis, Libya and Yemen, but this stops when it comes to the Palestinian people. We are asking, why?” During the day, the regular weekly protest against the separation wall in Bil’in, al-Nabi Salih, and Ni’lin are turned into rallies in support of the UN statehood initiative; in al-Nabi Salih, Palestinian demonstrators burn Israeli flags and posters of Obama. Similar small rallies are held at Qalandia r.c. The IDF fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and percussion grenades at the demonstrators, causing no serious injuries. (NYT, WP 9/24; PCHR 9/29; OCHA 9/30)

Meanwhile, nr. Kiryat Arba settlement in Hebron, a Palestinian boy is killed in a hit-and-run by a vehicle with Israeli plates. Later in the day in the same area, a Jewish settler man and his infant son, residents of Kiryat Arba, die in a car crash; the IDF says it was an accident, but local settlers accuse the army of covering up a murder, claiming thatvengeful local Palestinians stoned the vehicle causing it to crash. The IDF denies the claims and expresses concern that settlers are attempting to provoke violence on the eve of Abbas’s UN speech. Meanwhile, unarmed Palestinians patrolling the outskirts of Qusra village in the n. West Bank (subject of numerous recent attacks by Jewish settlers fr. Esh Kodesh outpost) throw stones at a group of armed Jewish settlers that try to enter the village, sparking a clash; the IDF intervenes, firing tear gas and live ammunition at the Palestinians, killing 1 Palestinian and wounding 7. The IDF also patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and Salfit in the morning, in Jericho in the afternoon, and in al-Bireh, 2 villages nr. Salfit, and 1 nr. Tulkarm late at night. (NYT, WP 9/24; PCHR 9/29)

24 SEPTEMBER

The IDF patrols in ‘Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho early in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and 2 nr. Ramallah in the afternoon, and 1 nr. Jenin and 1 nr. Tulkarm late at night. Jewish settlers fr. Gil’ad settlement nr. Qalqilya vandalize Palestinian homes in nearby Far’ata village; the IDF intervenes, removing the settlers. In response to the 9/23 Palestinian statehood bid at the UN, Jewish settlers erect racist banners against Arabs at several crossroads, IDF checkpoints, and entrances to Palestinian communities across the West Bank. In Gaza, 2 Palestinians are killed, 7 are injured when gas canisters they were smuggling through a tunnel on the Rafah border explode. (PCHR 9/29; OCHA 9/30)

25 SEPTEMBER


26 SEPTEMBER

In East Jerusalem, IDF undercover units raid a protest tent in Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood, arresting PC mbr. Ahmad ‘Attoun as he prepared to give a press conference on Israeli land confiscations in the Palestinian neighborhood. The IDF conducts afternoon and evening patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin, Qalqilya, and Salfit; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Salfit. Israel releases al-Jazeera Afghanistan bureau chief Samer Allawi (see 8/16) after he agrees to a plea deal in which he is fined and sentenced to time served plus 3 years suspended. (NYT 9/28; PCHR, WJW 9/29; OCHA 9/30)

27 SEPTEMBER

Israel advances plans to build 1,100 Jewish settlement housing units in Gilo in southern East Jerusalem nr. Bethlehem. The U.S. says it is “deeply
disappointed,” and calls the move “counterproductive” to peace. 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 synchronized daytime patrols in 2 villages s. of Jenin; conducts separate patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning and 2 nr. Jenin in the evening. Jewish settlers erect racist banners against Palestinians along the Tulkarm–Nablus road nr. Einav checkpoint. In Gaza, 2 Palestinians working in a smuggling tunnel are killed when Egyptian security forces pump in wastewater to seal the tunnel. (NYT, WP, WT 9/28; PCHR, WJW 9/29; OCHA 9/30)

28 SEPTEMBER

The UNSC refers the Palestinian application for membership to a special comm. (1 diplomat fr. each of the 15 states) for review. The comm. schedules its 1st mtg. for 9/30. If the Palestinians can secure the backing of at least 9 of the 15 UNSC members, the application can proceed via the UNGA even if the U.S. vetoes. At this stage, 6 UNSC mbrs. plan to vote in favor, 5 plan to abstain, 1 (the U.S.) plans to vote against, and 3 are undecided. (NYT 9/29) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In advance of the Jewish New Year, Jewish settlers put up banners on roads leading to settlements that say in Hebrew and Arabic “Next year, Israeli sovereignty over Judea and Samaria” and “This is the Land of Israel.” Meanwhile, the IDF praises the PA security forces for their close coordination to prevent violence surrounding the UNGA session. The IDF also confiscates 148 d. of Palestinian agricultural land in Battir village nr. Bethlehem. (IDFS 9/30; PCHR 10/6; OCHA 10/7)

29 SEPTEMBER

After meeting with the PLO Exec. Comm. in Ramallah, Abbas says that the 9/23 Quartet proposal for resuming talks has “encouraging elements,” but can only be viable if Israel “clearly commits” to 1967 lines with agreed swaps as the basis of talks and imposes a settlement freeze (which Netanyahu has repeatedly rejected). (WP 9/30) (see Quarterly Update for details)

Unidentified Palestinians fire a rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, damaging an empty building; the IDF responds with 2 late-night air strikes on a Hamas training site nr. al-Maghazi r.c. in c. Gaza, causing heavy damage but no injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; conducts synchronized late-night patrols in Jenin town and r.c. and 5 nearby villages. The IDF also announces plans to confiscate 800 d. of Palestinian land in Bayt Umur for a new settler-only bypass road linking Hebron and Bethlehem. Jewish settlers fr. Hebron uproot 50 olive trees and spray paint Stars of David on rocks on Palestinian agricultural land in nearby al-Zahiriyiyya village. (IDFS 9/30; PCHR 10/6; OCHA 10/7)

30 SEPTEMBER

The IDF carries out an air strike on a suspected Palestinian rocket-launching team nr. the n. Gaza border; no rocket fire or injuries are reported. The IDF conducts synchronized afternoon patrols in 3 villages n. of Jenin, evening patrols in 1 village nr Qalqilya, and late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and 2 nr. Salfit. For a 2d week, the weekly nonviolent demonstrations held by Palestinian and international activists in Bil’in, Ni’lin, Kafr Qaddum, and al-Nabi Salih focus on supporting the UN statehood bid. IDF soldiers beat and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, moderately injuring 1 Palestinian. Jewish settlers fr. Anatot settlement nr. East Jerusalem attack and beat a group of activists that come to visit the protest tent of a Palestinian family whose land was confiscated to expand the settlement, seriously injuring 3 people; Israeli border police observe but do not intervene. (IDFS 10/1; PCHR 10/6; OCHA 10/7)

1 OCTOBER

In an apparent assassination attempt, the IDF conducts a drone missile strike
on a Palestinian home in Bayt Hanun in n. Gaza, where IQB mbrs. are meeting, seriously wounding 2 IQB mbrs. and lightly injuring a bystander; Israel claims the IQB mbrs. were tied to Hamas’s rocket program. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts daytime patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah; conducts synchronized late-night patrols in 4 villages nr. Jenin; conducts other evening and late-night patrols in Jericho, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Qalqilya.

Jewish settlers fr. Sham’a settlement nr. Hebron threaten several Palestinian shepherds and seize 150 of their sheep. Jewish settlers fr. Halamish settlement nr. Ramallah set fire to a nearby Palestinian olive grove, burning 50 trees. (PCHR 10/6; OCHA 10/7)

2 OCTOBER

Israel welcomes the 9/23 Quartet initiative to restart talks “without preconditions.” It calls the Palestinian demands (see 9/29) for agreed baselines proof that the Palestinians are not serious about peace, whereas “while Israel has some concerns, it will raise them at the appropriate time.” (NYT, WP 10/3)

The IDF conducts synchronized daytime patrols in 4 villages nr. Ramallah; patrols in Bil’in in the afternoon and Birzeit late evening (both are nr. Ramallah). In Gaza, 1 Palestinian is fatally electrocuted in a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border. (PCHR 10/6; OCHA 10/7)

3 OCTOBER

Inside Israel, Jewish extremists set fire to a mosque in the Israeli Palestinian village of Tuba-Zangaria and scrawl graffiti reading “price tag,” “revenge,” and “Palmer” (in reference to Asher Palmer, the Jewish settler killed in a traffic accident that Jewish settlers claimed was caused by stone-throwing Palestinians; see 9/23). Some 200 angry Palestinian residents march toward a neighboring Jewish town but are blocked by Israeli police who fire tear gas to disperse them; protesters set fire to tires and throw stones at police in response; no serious injuries are reported. Netanyahu denounces the arson, and Israeli pres. Peres and Israel’s 2 chief rabbis visit the mosque in a show of solidarity with the village. IDF troops on the c. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in a landfill nr. the border, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the IDF razes at least 5 d. of Palestinian agricultural land and uproots at least 95 olive and oak trees for construction of an IDF access road in preparation for construction of a new segment of the separation wall in al-Walaja; patrols in Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village nr. Jericho in the afternoon, and inside Jericho late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (NYT, WP 10/4; PCHR 10/6; OCHA 10/7; PCHR 10/27)

4 OCTOBER

Unidentified Palestinians fire 2 Grad rockets toward Israel; 1 lands inside Gaza and the other in Israel, neither causing damage or injuries. The IDF makes a day-long incursion into s. Gaza to level land and clear lines of sight along the border fence e. of al-Qarara and Khan Yunis; helicopters escorting the troops occasionally fire on the surrounding area to keep Palestinians indoors, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF levels 15 d. of Palestinian agriculture land along the separation wall n. of Hebron, including uprooting and confiscating 600 trees, destroying irrigation infrastructure, bulldozing several storehouses and a tent, and confiscating 2 mobile storage structures and 2 generators; bulldozes 3 agricultural storehouses, 5 tents, and several wells in Kafir al-Dik village nr. Salfit. (YA 10/4; PCHR 10/6; OCHA 10/7)

5 OCTOBER

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. A Palestinian dies of injuries he sustained in a 9/24/11 accident in a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border. The IDF conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jerusalem and Hebron. (PCHR 10/6, 10/13; OCHA 10/14)
6 OCTOBER

The IDF makes a day-long incursion into n. Gaza to level land and clear lines of sight along the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya. In the West Bank, the IDF demolishes a Palestinian home and well northwest of Hebron before an Israeli court hears the appeal filed by the owner contesting the demolition orders; bulldozes another 12-d. area of Palestinian agriculture land northwest of Hebron, uprooting and confiscating at least 250 olive and almond trees; patrols in Tulkarm in the morning, in 2 villages nr. Jenin and Tulkarm in the afternoon, and 4 villages nr. Qalqilya and 1 nr. Tulkarm late at night. Jewish settlers fr. Esh Kodesh nr. Nablus uproot at least 210 olive and fig trees fr. nearby Palestinian land. Jewish settlers fr. Gil’ad settlement nr. Qalqilya chase Palestinians harvesting a nearby olive grove; the IDF intervenes to remove the settlers. Israeli police arrest an 18-yr.-old rabbinical student tied to a radical Jewish settler group in connection with the 10/3 Tuba-Zangaria mosque arson. A Palestinian hospitalized since being wounded in an Israeli air strike on Khan Yunis on 5/13/03 dies of his injuries. (WP 10/7; PCHR 10/13; OCHA 10/14)

7 OCTOBER

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 bars Palestinian farmers fr. reclaiming a plot of agricultural land northwest of Hebron, confiscating a bulldozer; the Dutch government had funded the project by the Agricultural Development Association to develop the land. The IDF also conducts 2 sets of synchronized patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon and in 3 villages e. of Qalqilya in the evening; conducts late-night patrols in w villages nr. Jenin and Qalqilya. (PCHR 10/13; OCHA 10/14)

8 OCTOBER

In 3 separate incidents, IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers working fields nr. the border fence, forcing them to flee but causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya in the morning, barring farmers in 1 village fr. harvesting olives; raids a home in open area e. of Qalqilya in the morning in search of 2 wanted Palestinians who are not home, detaining and questioning 4 family members (including 2 children ages 9 and 11) for 5 hrs.; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. (PCHR 10/13; OCHA 10/14)

9 OCTOBER

In 2 separate incidents, IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers working fields nr. the border fence, forcing them to flee but causing no 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 bars Palestinian farmers fr. reclaiming a plot of agricultural land northwest of Hebron, confiscating a bulldozer; the Dutch government had funded the project by the Agricultural Development Association to develop the land. The IDF also conducts 2 sets of synchronized patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon and in 3 villages e. of Qalqilya in the evening; conducts late-night patrols in w villages nr. Jenin and Qalqilya. (PCHR 10/13; OCHA 10/14)

10 OCTOBER

The IDF makes a brief incursion into s. Gaza to level land and clear lines of sight along the border e. of al-Qarara. IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers working their land nr. the border fence, forcing them to flee but causing no injuries. Israeli naval vessels fire on
Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the IDF demolishes a Palestinian house under construction nr. Bethlehem; patrols in Tulkarm in the morning; patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron (including in al-'Arrub r.c.), Jenin, and Qalqilya (arresting 4 Palestinian children ages 15–17). In 2 separate incidents, Jewish settlers fr. Karnei Shomron nr. Qalqilya chase off Palestinians harvesting olives nearby; the IDF intervenes both times, removing the settlers but barring the Palestinians fr. resuming the harvest. (PCHR 10/13; OCHA 10/14)

11 OCTOBER

Israel announces it has signed a prisoner swap agreement in Cairo with Hamas, which agreed to free IDF soldier Gilad Shalit (captured on the Gaza border in 6/2006). In return, Israel will release around 1,072 Palestinian prisoners in 2 stages: the 1st 450 Palestinians would be exchanged for Shalit within a wk.; the remaining 550 or so Palestinians would be freed within 2 mos. In Gaza, 1,000s pour into the streets to celebrate. (NYT, WP, WT 10/12; NYT, WP 10/13; NYT 10/17, 11/6) (see Quarterly Update for details)

Unidentified Palestinians fire a Qassam rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, IDF troops in Hebron violently beat a group of Palestinian children and teachers who refuse new IDF demands to submit to searches before crossing a permanent checkpoint in al-Shuhada Street to reach the Cordoba Elementary School, moderately injuring 7 children (ages 10–15). The IDF also demolishes a newly constructed mosque in Khirbat Yazra nr. Tubas; demolishes 2 Palestinian homes and an animal pen belonging to a bedouin family outside Qalqilya; conducts synchronized late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya. (YA 10/11; PCHR 10/13; OCHA 10/14)

12 OCTOBER

In Hebron, Palestinians protesting the treatment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails throw stones at IDF troops, who respond with rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and percussion grenades; during the mêlée Israeli undercover units grab and beat a Palestinian teenager, shooting and wounding him with live ammunition as he attempts to flee. The IDF also conducts late-night arrest raids in and around Hebron, in Tulkarm and nearby Nur Shams r.c., and nr. Jenin. (PCHR 10/13, 10/20; OCHA 10/21)

13 OCTOBER

The IDF levels 30 d. of Palestinian agriculture land nr. Salfit for the expansion of a settlement outpost, moving 4 mobile homes onto the site; conducts 2 sets of synchronized late-night patrols in 8 villages southwest of Jenin and 3 northeast of Jenin, without searching homes or making arrests. Jewish settlers in Hebron attack and vandalize the Cordoba Elementary School (see 10/11) while classes are in session, violently beating teachers who bar them fr. entering the school; the IDF observes but does not intervene. (PCHR 10/20; OCHA 10/14)

14 OCTOBER

Israel approves formal plans to build an entirely new 2,610-unit Jewish settlement, Givat Hamatos, in southern East Jerusalem with the aim of completely dividing Jerusalem from Bethlehem (see Quarterly Update for details). The IDF conducts synchronized afternoon patrols in the same 2 villages northeast of Jenin they patrolled on 10/13, synchronized late-night patrols in 6 villages btwn. Jenin and Tulkarm, and separate late-night patrols in Jenin (shooting in the air to intimidate residents). The weekly demonstrations by Palestinians and international activists in Bil'in express solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, calling for the release of Fatah's Barghouti and the PFLP's Sa'adat. In Nablus and al-Nabi Salih, Palestinians and international activists rally in support of the Palestinian statehood bid at the UN. In all 4 cases, IDF soldiers beat and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, but no
significant injuries are reported. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gil’ad settlement nr. Qalqilya escorted by **IDF troops** stop a Palestinian family fr. harvesting olives on their land, saying they had exceeded the time allocated by the IDF for the harvesting. (NYT 10/15; PCHR, WJW 10/20; OCHA 10/21; PCHR 10/27; WJW 11/6)

**15 OCTOBER**

The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Salfit and Tulkarm; the **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm and nearby Dayr al-Ghusun village, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Qalqilya late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. (PCHR 10/20; OCHA 10/21)

**16 OCTOBER**

**Palestinians** rally in solidarity with prisoners in Israeli jails, and clash with the **IDF** at a demonstration outside Ofer military prison nr. Ramallah; no serious injuries are reported. Palestinian students and teachers fr. **Cordoba Elementary School** in Hebron hold a sit-in at an IDF checkpoint on al-Shuhada Street to protest new IDF demands that they submit to searches before proceeding to the school (see 10/13); the IDF fires tear gas and beats the protesters to disperse them, lightly injuring 3 children. The **IDF** conducts predawn patrols in Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Tulkarm; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; conducts late-night patrols in open areas e. of Qalqilya, in Jenin, and in nearby Burqin village. (WP 10/17; PCHR 10/20; OCHA 10/21)

**17 OCTOBER**

The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm in the morning (setting up a flying checkpoint and randomly checking Palestinian IDs in 1 village); raids a car repair shop in Barta’a village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, confiscating 10s of cars with Israeli license plates; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. (PCHR 10/20; OCHA 10/21)

**18 OCTOBER**

**Israel** and **Hamas** implement the 1st stage of their prisoner swap, exchanging **IDF Cpl. Shalit** for **477 Palestinian prisoners** (see Quarterly Update for details). In the West Bank, crowds welcoming the returning prisoners wave Hamas flags. (IFM 10/18; NYT, WP, WT 10/19; OCHA 10/21; JPI 11/4)

The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon. (PCHR 10/20; OCHA 10/21)

**19 OCTOBER**

The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinians harvesting olives nr. Salfit, stealing their olives and tools and driving them away. (PCHR 10/20, 10/27; OCHA 10/28)

**20 OCTOBER**

The **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 nr. Qalqilya, 1 nr. Tulkarm during the day; conducts late-night patrols in Jericho, Tulkarm, and Bayt Liqya nr. Ramallah (where stone-throwing Palestinians confront IDF troops, who respond with tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets, and percussion grenades, causing no serious injuries). (PCHR 10/27; OCHA 10/28)

**Libyan leader Mu’ammar Qaddafi** is captured and killed by rebels in Sirte, after a NATO attack in which U.S. drones and French warplanes bomb his convoy. Qaddafi’s son Mutassim and his army chief of staff are also killed. Rebels secure Sirte by the end of the day. (JAZ 10/20; NYT, WP, WT 10/21) (see Quarterly Update for details)

**21 OCTOBER**

The **IDF** conducts morning patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 2 nr. Tulkarm, and late-night patrols in Birzeit nr. Ramallah. The weekly demonstrations by **Palestinians** and international activists in Bil‘in for a 3d week express solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, calling specifically for the release of Fatah’s Barghouti and the PFLP’s Sa’adat. In Ni’lin, **Palestinians** and international activists rally in support of the Palestinian statehood bid at the UN. Demonstrations in Kafr Qaddum protest Israeli land seizures.
In all 3 cases, **IDF** soldiers beat and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, but no significant injuries are reported; 1 Palestinian is arrested in Bil‘in. **Jewish settlers** fr. Esh Kodesh (armed with stones, sharp tools, sticks, and a machine gun) attack and drive off Palestinian farmers and international activists harvesting olives nearby, seriously beating 2 Palestinians (no shots are fired); the **IDF** intervenes, forcing everyone to leave the area. **Jewish settlers** escorted by **IDF** troops expel Palestinians harvesting olives nr. Kafr Qaddum, saying local Palestinians are barred fr. harvesting until they cease their weekly demonstrations against Israeli land seizures. (PCHR 10/27; OCHA 10/28)

### 22 OCTOBER

The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning; conducts late-night house searches nr. Salfit, summoning 1 Palestinian for questioning. **Palestinians** and international activists in Bayt Umar protest against Israeli land seizures; the **IDF** fires tear gas and percussion grenades to disperse them, causing no serious injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Revava settlement nr. Salfit attack Palestinians harvesting olives nearby. (PCHR 10/27; OCHA 10/28)

### 23 OCTOBER

**IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the former Erez industrial zone, forcing them to flee. A **Palestinian** is killed when a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border collapses. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols twice in Tulkarm, as well as in 3 villages nr. Jenin, 2 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Jericho; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Salfit. (PCHR 10/27; OCHA 10/28)

### 24 OCTOBER

**Egypt** announces that it has reached a deal with **Israel** to release suspected spy for Israel **Ilan Grapel** in exchange for 25 Egyptians jailed in Israel for non-security-related offenses. (NYT, WP 10/25) (see Quarterly Update for details)

**IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the former Erez industrial zone, forcing them to flee. A **Palestinian** is killed when a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border collapses. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols twice in Tulkarm, as well as in 3 villages nr. Jenin, 2 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Jericho; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Salfit. (PCHR 10/27; OCHA 10/28)

### 25 OCTOBER

During the day, the **IDF** conducts intensive patrols in Jenin, Tulkarm, and 10 villages between the 2 cities, making no house raids or arrests. In the evening, the **IDF** reenters Jenin, searching a number of homes and arresting 1 teenager; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jericho, 2 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Qalqilya. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli forces** raid and seal 3 offices of the al-Quds Development Association (see 10/23), accusing the group of having ties to Hamas and the PLFP; the association protests, noting that it is licensed to operate by the Israeli government. (PCHR 10/27; OCHA 10/28)

### 26 OCTOBER

**Quartet reps.** hold separate talks with Palestinian and Israeli officials to urge the sides to resume direct talks, but report no progress. (WP 10/27) (see Quarterly Update for details)
Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 Grad rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Late in the evening, the IDF retaliates with 6 air strikes on Gaza, destroying an agricultural storehouse in Wadi al-Silqa in c. Gaza (also damaging 5 homes) and 3 storage sheds in Khan Yunis, and hitting a Hamas training site in Dayr al-Balah in c. Gaza; no injuries are reported. Israeli naval vessels intercept and confiscate a Palestinian fishing boat off the c. Gaza coast, arresting 2 fishermen. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah. (IDFS, PCHR, YA 10/27; PCHR 11/3; OCHA 11/4)

27 OCTOBER

Israel frees 25 Egyptian prisoners at the Taba border crossing with Egypt. Hrs. later, Egypt flies Grapel to Ben-Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. Grapel is expected to return home to the U.S. on 10/28. (NYT, WP, WT 10/28; JPI 11/4)

IDF troops on the s. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinian shepherds grazing animals nr. the abandoned Dahaniyya airport site, wounding 1. Israeli naval vessels fire on a Palestinian fishing boat off the Gaza coast, forcing it to return to shore. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in Jenin and 2 nearby villages, 3 villages nr. Ramallah, and 3 nr. Qalqiliya during the day; patrols in Birzeit, Jericho, and 2 villages nr. Qalqiliya and Tulkarm late at night. (PCHR 11/3; OCHA 11/4)

28 OCTOBER

In a rare interview with Israeli TV, Abbas states, “It was our mistake. . . . It was an Arab mistake as a whole” to reject the 1947 UN partition plan to divide historic Palestine into a Jewish and a Palestinian state. (NYT 10/29)

The IDF conducts daytime patrols in Tulkarm and 1 nearby village, Dura nr. Hebron (firing percussion grenades and unleashing attack dogs to chase off stone-throwing youths; 1 dog attacks a man outside his home, moderately injuring him), 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Ramallah; conducts late-night patrols in Beitunia nr. Ramallah. The weekly demonstrations by Palestinians and international activists in Bil'in for a 4th week express solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, calling for the release of Fatah's Barghouti and the PFLP's Sa'adat. In al-Nabi Salih and N'lin, Palestinians and international activists rally in support of the Palestinian statehood bid at the UN. Demonstrations by Palestinians in Kafr Qaddum protest Israeli land seizures. In all 4 cases, IDF soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, injuring 1 Palestinian in Bil'in. (PCHR 11/3; OCHA 11/4)

29 OCTOBER

During the day, the IDF carries out 3 air strikes on an Islamic Jihad training camp in s. Gaza, killing 5 Islamic Jihad mbrs. allegedly responsible for the rocket fire on 10/26 (including field cmdr. Ahmad Shaykh Khalil) and wounding 3. Over the course of the day, Islamic Jihad responds with a volley of at least 24 rockets and mortars on s. Israel; at least 1 Grad strikes Ashkelon, killing 1 Israeli and wounding 2. Late at night, the IDF carries out another 9 air strikes on 8 Islamic Jihad targets in Gaza City, Bayt Hanun in n. Gaza, Dayr al-Balah in c. Gaza, and Khan Yunis and Rafah in s. Gaza, killing another 4 Islamic Jihad mbrs. and wounding at least 1 Islamic Jihad mbr. and 2 bystanders. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in Tulkarm, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Qalqiliya in the afternoon; conducts late-night patrols in Jericho, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 2 nr. Tulkarm. (YA 10/29; NYT, WP 10/30; PCHR 11/3; OCHA 11/4; JPI 11/11)

30 OCTOBER

In the afternoon, the IDF carries out an air strike on a rocket-launching team in s. Gaza, killing 1 DFLP mbr. and seriously wounding another. By nightfall, Egypt announces it has secured pledges fr. the Palestinian factions to a reimpose the cease-fire. Netanyahu publicly states that “there is no cease-fire,” vowing to attack if
Israel perceives a threat; **Islamic Jihad** says it reserves the right to respond if attacked. Late at night, the **IDF** carries out 3 air strikes targeting members of the armed wing of the Salafist al-Ahrar Movement nr. Khan Yunis, killing 2 al-Ahrar members, and fires 2 drone missiles at another group of armed Palestinians in Jabaliya nr. Gaza, causing no reported injuries. There is no immediate Palestinian retaliation. In the West Bank, the **IDF** daytime patrols in Tulkarm town and r.c., 3 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 nr. Salfit, and 1 each nr. Jenin and Jericho; conducts late-night patrols in Jericho, Salfit (summoning 1 Palestinian for questioning), Tulkarm, and 4 villages nr. Qalqilya (summoning 2 Palestinians for questioning). (AHR, IDFS 10/30; IDF, NYT 10/31; PCHR 11/3; OCHA 11/4)

### 31 October

**Bosnia**, a rotating UNSC mbr., announces that it will abstain from the vote on the Palestinian membership in the UN, making it impossible for the Palestinians to secure the 9 votes needed to approve the application, making a U.S. veto unnecessary. The lack of 9 supporting votes also means the Palestinians cannot ask the UNGA to consider the measure under the Uniting for Peace res. (res. 377). (NYT 11/1) (Quarterly Update for details)

**UNESCO**'s general conference votes (107-14, with 52 abstentions and 20 not present) to approve Palestine's full membership. The **U.S.**, **Israel**, and **Canada** immediately announce they are cutting off funding to the organization. (CNN, HA 10/31; NYT, WT 11/1) (see Quarterly Update for details)

**Unidentified Palestinians** fire 5 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **Israel** prepares to launch a major attack on Gaza in response, but **Egypt** intervenes, saying intelligence indicates it was a small Salafist group that fired the rockets, not Hamas or Islamic Jihad, and asking Israel to wait 24 hrs. before responding to see if the cease-fire will take hold. The **IDF** demolishes 3 **Palestinian homes** in al-Khan al-Ahmar in East Jerusalem; patrols in Tulkarm, 1 nearby village, and 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin and 1 nearby village; conducts late-night patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin, Qalqilya, and Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Migron settlement nr. Ramallah stone an elderly Palestinian woman harvesting olives on her property, moderately injuring her. (IDFS, JP, REU 10/31; HA 11/2; PCHR 11/3; OCHA 11/4; JPI 11/11)

### 1 November

Retaliating for the 10/31 UNESCO vote, **Netanyahu** suspends the transfer of VAT taxes Israel collects on the **PA**'s behalf and orders accelerated construction of 2,000 settlement housing units in East Jerusalem's Har Homa settlement and the nearby West Bank settlements Efrat and Ma'ale Adumim, calling it Israel's “right and obligation” to build in Jerusalem. Meanwhile, Palestinian IP addresses and Palestinian phone networks in the West Bank and Gaza come under “multiple attacks” by computer hackers originating from many countries; the **PA** says the attacks appeared linked to the UNESCO vote and it believes they were “organized by a state” [i.e., Israel]. (HA, NYT, WP 11/2)

The **IDF** drops flyers over Khan Yunis warning residents to stay away fr. the 300-m. no-go zone. **IDF troops** manning the observation towers on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire warning shots at Palestinians and international activists marching toward the border to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone; no casualties are reported. In the evening, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' r.c. nr. Nablus and nr. Jenin; conducts late-night patrols in Jenin. The **Israeli Comm. against House Demolitions (ICHAD)** submits a report to the UN special rapporteurs on Palestine that concludes that Israeli policies in East Jerusalem (e.g., restricting building permits, demolitions, revoking permanent residency status) are forcing Palestinians to flee in what may constitute a war crime. In the West Bank, the **IDF** rearrests senior Hamas official Hassan Yousef in Ramallah for having links to...
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a “terrorist” organization; Yousef was 1st arrested in 2005, was released on 8/4/11 as part of a mass release to ease prison overcrowding. (JP 11/1; PCHR 11/3; OCHA 11/4)

2 NOVEMBER

The IDF makes a brief, pre-dawn incursion into c. Gaza e. of Wadi al-Silqa to level land and clear lines of sight along the border fence. IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the fmr. Erez industrial zone, forcing them to flee. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin. (PCHR 11/3, 11/17; OCHA 11/18)

3 NOVEMBER

IDF troops make a brief incursion into n. Gaza nr. Bayt Lahiya for unknown reasons and are engaged by a Hamas border patrol unit, causing no initial casualties; the IDF troops call in artillery fire, directing at least 4 shells at the surrounding area (forcing local farmers to flee, injuring 2 civilians, and damaging a civilian vehicle), and deploy drones and helicopters to chase and fire missiles at Hamas mbrs., firing at least 3 missiles that kill 2 IQB mbrs. and cause some collateral damage. In the West Bank, the IDF takes down several electricity poles supplying bedouin encampments nr. Havat Maon unauthorized settlement outpost nr. Hebron, stating that no permit was obtained to expand electricity services; patrols in Tulkarm in the morning and 1 village nr. Ramallah late at night. (PCHR 11/17; OCHA 11/18)

4 NOVEMBER

The Israeli navy halts and boards 2 boats (sailing as the “Freedom Waves Flotilla”) carrying 27 international activists and journalists (fr. Ireland, Canada, the U.S., and Australia) attempting to run the Gaza blockade, taking them from international waters off the Gaza coast to Ashdod, where the boats are confiscated and the activists detained; an organizer on 1 boat is tasered by a soldier when he resists orders to leave his cabin and join the other activists being rounded up. Unidentified Palestinians fire a rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in Jericho and 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Jericho late at night. The weekly demonstrations by Palestinians and international activists in Bil’in and al-Nabi Salih support the Palestinian statehood bid at the UN and oppose Israeli occupation and land seizures. Palestinians and international activists demonstrating in Nablus express solidarity with Palestinian prisoners and call for national reconciliation. In all 3 cases, IDF soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, causing no serious injuries; 1 Palestinian in al-Nabi Salih is arrested. (NYT, REU, WP 11/5; Democracy Now 11/8; PCHR 11/17; OCHA 11/18)

5 NOVEMBER

The IDF makes 3 air strikes on a site nr. Khan Yunis, killing 1 Islamic Jihad mbr., and wounding at least 2. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 2 villages nr. Jericho and Ramallah in the morning. (HA, REU, VOA 11/5; PCHR 11/17; OCHA 11/18)

6 NOVEMBER

In retaliation for the Israeli air strikes on 11/5, unidentified Palestinians fire 2 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, injuring a Thai laborer. On the 1st day of ’Id al-Adha, Jewish settlers fr. Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablus uproot 25 olive trees on nearby Palestinian land, spray painting on the branches “Happy ’Id” and “revenge.” (HA, YA 11/6; PCHR 11/17; OCHA 11/18)

7 NOVEMBER

IDF troops on the Gaza border fire on residential areas of al-Qarara in s. Gaza (forcing residents to stay inside but causing no injuries) and fire several artillery shells at a farm nearly 1 km. fr. the border e. of Gaza City, moderately wounding 2 Palestinians working
their land. In the West Bank, the IDF, responding to a complaint from Jewish settlers from Daniel settlement nr. Bethlehem, arrests 3 Palestinian farmers working a plot of land in nearby Artas village, charging them with being “present on a piece of land that is the subject of dispute between the Palestinians and settlers” and fining them $400 each; patrols in 2 village nr. Jenin, in 1 case firing rubber-coated steel bullets and stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no serious injuries. (PCHR 11/17; OCHA 11/18)

**8 NOVEMBER**

The UNSC comm. reviewing the Palestinian membership request issues its final report, stating that mbrs. are dead-locked and unable to reach consensus and therefore cannot make a recommendation, leaving the statehood application effectively dead. France urges the Palestinians to ask the UNGA to upgrade its status to the lesser observer-state status, but the Palestinians have not decided what to do next. (NYT, WP 11/9; WT 11/10) (see Quarterly Update for details)

The IDF carries out 2 late-night air strikes, destroying a greenhouse in the former Jewish settlements n. of Khan Yunis, causing no reported injuries. The IDF patrols in Jericho, neighboring ‘Ayn al-Sultan r.c., and 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning; conducts late-night patrols in Jenin town (firing percussion grenades to intimidate residents) and r.c. (firing rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no injuries), synchronizing these with arrest raids, house searches in 1 village nearby. (PCHR 11/17; OCHA 11/18)

**9 NOVEMBER**

Obama Middle East adviser Ross announces at a lunch with Jewish leaders that he will resign effective 12/2011 to return to work at the pro-Israel Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Sources say his decision reflects “the diminishing chances for a breakthrough in either Iran or the Arab-Israeli peace process” before the 2012 presidential elections. (NYT, WP 11/10)

In retaliation for Israeli air strikes on 11/8, unidentified Palestinians fire 2 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Israeli naval vessels detain a Palestinian fishing boat off the c. Gaza coast, confiscating the boat, detaining 1 man who is a mbr. of the Palestinian naval police, questionning and releasing 2 others. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts afternoon patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho and 2 nr. Ramallah (firing rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, and tear gas at stone-throwing youths in 1 case, causing no serious injuries); patrols in Tulkarm late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (XIN 11/9; PCHR 11/17; OCHA 11/18)

**10 NOVEMBER**

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries; in response the IDF carries out an air strike on a Hamas training post in Khan Yunis, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF confiscates 4 d. of Palestinian agriculture land nr. Hebron for expansion of a settlers-only bypass road; raids a house in Hebron, firing stun grenades and live ammunition, wounding and arresting 1 Palestinian; searches several abandoned houses and photographs an old mosque in Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; conducts 3 synchronized morning patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, and 3 nr. Jenin; conducts other morning patrols in 1 village nr. Salifit and late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 2 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Salifit. Jewish settlers in Hebron set fire to 3 Palestinian vehicles. (PCHR 11/17; OCHA 11/18)

**11 NOVEMBER**

The IDF patrols in Tulkarm and 2 villages nr. Jericho and Ramallah in the morning; conducts 2 sets of synchronized late-night patrols in Tulkarm and 4 villages to the north, and in 6 villages west of Jenin; conducts other late-night patrols in Qalqilya. The weekly demonstrations by Palestinians and international activists in Bi‘in, Ni‘lin,
and al-Nabi Salih support the Palestinian statehood bid at the UN, call for national reconciliation, and oppose Israeli occupation and land seizures. Palestinians and international activists in Kafr Qaddum denounce Israeli land seizures. In all 4 cases, IDF soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, injuring 2 Palestinians in al-Nabi Salih; 1 Palestinian in al-Nabi Salih is arrested. (PCHR 11/17; OCHA 11/18)

12 NOVEMBER

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers working their land nr. the border fence, forcing them to flee. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts daytime patrols in Tulkarm, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Ramallah; conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya; conducts other late-night arrest raids nr. Hebron. The IDF also conducts late-night raids on the homes (in al-Nabi Salih and 2 nr. Ramallah) of 3 Palestinians released in the Shalit prisoner swap, summoning them for questioning. (PCHR 11/17; OCHA 11/18)

13 NOVEMBER

During the day, the IDF raids and searches the home nr. Qalqilya of a Palestinian released in the Shalit prisoner swap and deported to Gaza, making no arrests. Late at night, the IDF raids the homes of another 13 Palestinians released in the prisoner swap and allowed to return to the West Bank (3 in Qalqilya, 2 in Balata r.c. nr. Nablus, 7 in villages nr. Salfit, 1 in a village nr. Jenin), summoning them for questioning; the fmr. prisoner fr. Jenin is given a map of the district delineating boundaries past which he cannot go and a warning not to engage in any security activity. The IDF also begins bulldozing Palestinian agricultural land in ‘Azun ‘Atma village nr. Qalqilya for construction of a “security fence” around Oranit settlement (residents estimate that 40 farmers will be affected); conducts late-night patrols in another 3 villages nr. Salfit, and 2 nr. Tulkarm; conducts additional arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c., Salfit. (PCHR 11/17; OCHA 11/18)

14 NOVEMBER

Over the objections of Israeli DMin. officials, the Israeli cabinet affirms the government’s decision to withhold $100 m. in VAT taxes owed the PA. The DMin. has warned that withholding the PA’s money could undermine the PA’s stability and West Bank security. Meanwhile, overnight, unidentified Palestinians fire a rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In retaliation, the IDF carries out 4 late-night air strikes on the main Palestinian naval police post in Bayt Lahiya, killing 1 Hamas-affiliated naval police officer, wounding 7 officers and 5 civilians in houses nearby (including the French consul, his wife, and a pregnant woman, who miscarries). In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in Tulkarm 3 times during the day; conducts synchronized patrols in 2 villages e. of Qalqilya in the morning; conducts late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and Qalqilya; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah. (YA 11/14; WP 11/15; PCHR 11/17; OCHA 11/18)

15 NOVEMBER

During a regular security briefing to the Knesset, IDF chief of staff Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz says that Israel may need to strike Gaza if rocket fire continues, stating that Israel would initiate an operation before it would allow itself to be “dragged into” one. Later in the day, unidentified Palestinians fire 2 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, damaging an empty kindergarten but causing no injuries. Late at night, the IDF carries out 2 air strikes (warplane and drone) targeting a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border and a group of armed Palestinians nr. Jabaliya, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF demolishes 4 Palestinian homes nr. of Jericho; patrols in al-Bireh and 3 villages nr. Ramallah during the day; conducts late-night house searches nr. Nablus, confiscating computers but making no arrests. Taking inspiration from the U.S. civil rights movement of the 1960s, 6 Palestinian peace...
activists, dubbed the Freedom Riders, board an Israeli commuter bus linking the West Bank Jewish settlements with Jerusalem and are arrested at an IDF checkpoint outside the city. The Israeli Housing Min. launches a major advertising campaign selling 277 subsidized apartments in Ariel settlement nr. Salfit, 743 in Ramot and 130 in Har Homa settlement in Jerusalem, and 164 in Mod’in nr. Ramallah, as well as leasing 213 plots of land zoned for construction in Efrat settlement nr. Bethlehem, 207 in Mod’in, 168 in Har Homa, and 18 in Pisgat Ze’ev in Jerusalem. (JP, WP 11/16; PCHR 11/17; OCHA 11/18)

Chronology Source Abbreviations

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