



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS
JOURNALS + DIGITAL PUBLISHING



Chronology

Source: *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 32, No. 3 (Spring 2003), pp. 164-185

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

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/jps.2003.32.3.164>

Accessed: 06/03/2015 14:27

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at
<http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



University of California Press and Institute for Palestine Studies are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to Journal of Palestine Studies.

<http://www.jstor.org>

CHRONOLOGY

16 NOVEMBER 2002–15 FEBRUARY 2003

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

This section is part seventy-seven of a chronology begun in JPS 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect 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 NOVEMBER

In response to an **Islamic Jihad** ambush of **Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)** and settler security officers in Hebron on 11/15, the **IDF** sends tanks into Hebron, bulldozes 5 **Palestinian homes** and a 50-dunam olive grove btwn. Kiryat Arba and the Ibrahimī Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs, imposes a curfew, conducts arrest raids, detaining 40 Palestinians. **Right-wing MK Benny Elon** holds a prayer rally of **Jewish settlers** at the site of the ambush; afterward Jewish settlers briefly rampage through Palestinian areas (vandalizing homes with spray-painted messages such as “vengeance” and “every Arab killed—for me it’s a holiday”) until IDF soldiers stop them. The **IDF** also fatally shoots a **Palestinian** in Hebron; fires on Palestinians in Jenin, killing 1 **Palestinian**; shells, fires on residential areas of Nablus, killing 1 **Palestinian**; bulldozes 2 dunams (4 dunams = 1 acre) of Palestinian land, an electricity generator in al-Mughraqa; shells a workshop in Khan Yunis, destroying it; detains, searches a **Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS)** ambulance for 5 hrs., holding the driver for failure to pay a parking ticket. (PM 11/16; NYT, WP, WT 11/17; MM 11/18; AN 11/18 in WNC 11/19; PCHR 11/20; MEI 11/22; PRCS press release 11/23)

17 NOVEMBER

Israeli PM Ariel Sharon visits Hebron, calls for the expanding of Jewish settlements in and around Hebron to create “settlement contiguity” btwn. 4 Jewish enclaves in Hebron, the outlying Kiryat Arba settlement, the Ibrahimī Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs site. In response, **Jewish settlers** declare a new

settlement on the site of the olive grove bulldozed by the IDF on 11/16 and move in 3 shipping containers, tents, cisterns; the **IDF** constructs a 7-ft. concrete wall around the site. **IDF** undercover units attempt to assassinate Riad ‘Abd al-Ghani in Tulkarm, missing him, killing his brother, wounding a 2d brother. The **IDF** fires rockets, tank shells at the **Palestinian Authority’s (PA) Preventive Security Force (PSF)** headquarters complex in Gaza, sends troops in to set fire to 2 buildings, injuring 2 PSF officers, 1 Palestinian journalist. The IDF also fires on Palestinians in Gaza City, Nur al-Shams refugee camp (r.c.); bulldozes 8 dunams of Palestinian land in Bayt Lahia; blows up 2 **Palestinian homes** in Balata r.c.; detains for 2 hrs. a PRCS ambulance carrying Palestinians seriously injured in a car accident; fires on 2 ambulances outside a hospital in Gaza, nr. Shati’ r.c.; detains, searches 6 ambulances, including 1 transporting a patient, for up to 70 mins. at checkpoints. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/18; MENA 11/18 in WNC 11/19; AFP 11/19 in WNC 11/21; PCHR 11/20; WJW 11/21; MEI 11/22; PRCS press release 11/23)

Israeli Arab passenger carrying only a pen knife that he does not wield attempts to hijack an **El Al plane** bound for Istanbul fr. Tel Aviv. He is quickly captured and detained, without injury to any other passengers; says that he intended to hijack the plane to protest Israeli actions against Palestinians, that he is not affiliated with any group. He is described by peers as frail, nervous, eccentric young man with a heart condition, who craves popularity and attention. (MM, NYT 11/18; ATL 11/18 in WNC 11/19; CSM, NYT, WP 11/19; NYT, WJW 11/21; NYT 11/26, 11/27; JPI 11/29)

Journal of Palestine Studies XXXII, no. 3 (Spring 2003), pages 164–185.

ISSN: 0377-919X; online ISSN: 1533-8614.

© 2003 by the Institute for Palestine Studies. All rights reserved.

Send requests for permission to reprint to: Rights and Permissions, University of California Press, Journals Division, 2000 Center St., Ste. 303, Berkeley, CA 94704-1223.

18 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** occupies the Medical Relief Center in Jenin, destroys equipment; bulldozes 9 dunams of Palestinian land in Dayr al-Balah. (PCHR 11/20)

19 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** assassinates **wanted al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB) mbr. Tariq Zaghali** in Tulkarm, also killing **3 Palestinian bystanders**; later **IDF** troops fire on stone-throwing Palestinian youths protesting the assassination, killing a **14-yr.-old Palestinian boy**. The **IDF** also fatally shoots **2 Palestinians** outside Kefar Darom settlement in Gaza; demolishes **9 Palestinian homes** in the Shaykh 'Ajlin neighborhood of Gaza City; raids a clinic in Jenin, destroying medical equipment, barring dialysis patients fr. taking their treatments. In Hebron, **Israeli border police** ambush, hold at gunpoint a group of **15 Palestinian journalists**, seriously beat 1. (NYT, PCHR, WP 11/20; NYT 11/21; REU 11/23; UPMRC 11/27)

The **Labor** party elects **Haifa mayor Amram Mitzna** as its candidate for PM in the 1/28/03 elections. Mitzna takes 54% of the vote over **fmr. Israeli DM Benjamin Ben-Eliezer's** 38% and Labor mbr. **Haim Ramon's** 7%. Mitzna says he will run on a platform calling for immediate, unconditional resumption of peace talks with the Palestinians, withdrawal of settlers from all of Gaza and some of the West Bank, and unilateral withdrawal fr. the West Bank if peace talks fail; says he would withdraw fr. Gaza by the end of 2003 if elected. (MM 11/19; MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/20; MENA 11/20 in WNC 11/21; WT 11/21; JT, MA 11/21 in WNC 11/22; MA 11/22, SA 11/23 in WNC 11/25; JT 11/26 in WNC 11/27; JPI 11/29; AYM 12/13 in WNC 12/16)

20 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** opens fire on stone-throwing Palestinian youths in Tulkarm, killing a **14-yr.-old Palestinian boy**; destroys a **2d Palestinian home** in Hebron; bulldozes 11 dunams of land n. of Rafah. Late in the evening, the **IDF** raids Abasan and Khuza, cuts electricity, demolishes **1 Palestinian home**, fires on 3 ambulances (wounding 2 paramedics), raids the offices of Fatah and the Prisoners Rehabilitation Center (confiscating a computer, files), raids the **fmr. offices of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)**, vandalizing the

vacant building. (PCHR, PM 11/20; NYT, WP 11/21; PRCS press release 11/23; PCHR 11/27)

21 NOVEMBER

A **Palestinian suicide bomber** fr. Bethlehem detonates a device on a bus in Jerusalem, killing **11 Israelis**, wounding 48 (8 of them seriously). **Hamis, Islamic Jihad** both take responsibility, but family, friends of the bomber say he supported Islamic Jihad. **Sharon** convenes his security cabinet; does not invite **fmr. PM and current FM Benjamin Netanyahu**, who is challenging him for the PM candidacy in the upcoming Likud primaries on 11/28. Fearing that Sharon will stage a major retaliatory attack, the **PSF** evacuates its offices in Bethlehem. After the mtg., **Sharon spokesman Raanan Gissin** states that in light of **U.S.** military intentions against **Iraq**, "We are not going to allow any kind of escalation." The **IDF** shells a PA military intelligence post nr. Netzarim settlement, killing **1 PA intelligence officer**; makes a predawn raid on 3 villages nr. Khan Yunis in s. Gaza, demolishing the home of a **senior DFLP mbr.**, firing on residential areas, wounding 4 Palestinians; bulldozes 39 dunams of Palestinian land e. of Dayr al-Balah, 11.5 dunams and several structures nr. Bayt Lahia. (HA, MM, NYT, WP 11/21; ATL, Interfax 11/21 in WNC 11/22; MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/22; QA 11/22, MA 11/24 in WNC 11/25; LAW, PCHR 11/27)

22 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** retakes Bethlehem, which had had only a small troop presence since the **IDF** turned the security of city over to the **PSF** on 8/19/02; imposes a curfew; surrounds the Church of the Nativity to prevent armed Palestinians fr. seeking refuge there; conducts arrest raids, detaining 20 Palestinians; blows up the **house** rented by the family of the 11/21 bomber; encircles nearby Dahaysha r.c.; occupies 15 buildings, including a hospital, orphanage, 2 houses, 6 police stations, the local **PSF** headquarters; occupies as many as 30 Palestinian homes in al-Khadir nr. Bethlehem, expelling the families; raids the home of Israeli **UNRWA worker Allegra Pacheco**, holding her at gunpoint for 2 hrs., arresting her husband. **Senior Irish UNRWA official Iain Hook** is fatally shot inside the UNRWA's Jenin r.c. compound by an **IDF** soldier who mistook his cell phone for a grenade as an **IDF** operation unfolded

nearby to capture wanted **Islamic Jihad mbr. Abdallah Wahash**, who is arrested; an **11-yr.-old Palestinian** throwing stones at the troops is also shot dead. The **IDF** also raids, shells residential areas of, demolishes **2 Palestinian homes** in al-Qarara; bulldozes 8 dunams of land in al-Qarara, 28 dunams s. of Dayr al-Balah; conducts house searches, arrest raids in Satar al-Sharqiyya (targeting **Hamas mbrs.**), Tulkarm. A **Hamas sniper** fatally shoots an **IDF soldier** on patrol nr. Gush Katif settlement. **Palestinians** detonate a roadside bomb nr. the Rafah-Egypt border, injuring **2 IDF soldiers**. Late this evening, **2 Islamic Jihad suicide bombers** detonate their explosives-packed boat next to an **Israeli naval patrol boat** off the coast of Gaza, injuring **4 IDF soldiers**. (HA, MM, NYT, PM, WP, WT 11/22; AFP 11/22 in WNC 11/25; AP, HA, NYT, WP, WT 11/23; NYT, WP 11/24; HA 11/25; NYT, WT 11/26; HA, LAW, PCHR 11/27; CSM, JP, WJW 11/28; HA 12/2; NYT 1/4)

Christian Coalition leaders end a wk.-long solidarity visit to **Israel**, saying they will use their "fact-finding mission" to help galvanize support for Israel in the **U.S.** (WT 11/27)

23 NOVEMBER

In Bethlehem, the **IDF** demolishes **5 Palestinian homes**; continues arrest sweeps in Hebron, Bethlehem, al-Khadir, Tubas netting 22 Palestinians. A **15-yr.-old Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 11/20. (AP, HA 11/23; LAW, PCHR 11/27)

24 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** fires on Palestinians waiting to cross an IDF checkpoint w. of Nablus, killing **1 Palestinian**; conducts house-to-house searches, arrests in Aida r.c., Bayt Umar, Bethlehem, Jit, Tal, Tubas, Tulkarm; raids, fires on residential areas of Rafah, Nablus, Nur al-Shams r.c., Tulkarm; bulldozes 14 dunams of land s. of Dayr al-Balah; raids the al-Ihsan charitable society, Hebron University dean's offices in Hebron, confiscating computers, files; forces at gunpoint a 24-yr.-old Palestinian to undress in the main street of Nablus, bark like a dog. Late in the evening, the **IDF** sends 10s of tanks, armored personnel carriers (APCs) into Qalqilya, imposes a curfew, raids Waqf offices, conducts arrest raids targeting **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)** mbrs. The **UN** sends an envoy to the West Bank to investi-

gate the 11/22 death of a UNRWA official, new charges (11/23) by Israel that Palestinian gunmen were firing from inside the UNRWA's Jenin r.c. compound, prompting the IDF gunfire. (NYT, WT 11/25; WT 11/26; LAW, PCHR 11/27)

25 NOVEMBER

Under pressure fr. the **U.S.** to end its operations in the city quickly, the **IDF** pulls out of main areas of Bethlehem before dawn. The **IDF** also opens fire on 100s of Palestinian schoolchildren who defy the curfew in Nablus to go to classes, throw stones at troops, killing an **8-yr.-old Palestinian boy**, wounding 13; fires on stone-throwing Palestinian youths in Tulkarm, injuring 4; surrounds the PA Supply Min. in Ramallah, orders the surrender of **PSF** officers, who are then arrested; raids the Muslim Society offices, school in Hebron, confiscating files; halts an ambulance in Qalqilya, arrests the patient; conducts arrest raids in Hebron, Sanur. (NYT 11/25; NYT, WP 11/26; LAW, PCHR 11/27; PRCS press release 12/2)

Israel asks the **U.S.** for \$4 b. in new military aid to "defray the costs of fighting terrorism" plus \$10 b. in loan guarantees to support its struggling economy. (HA, WP 11/26; MM, NYT 11/27; MEI 12/6; BBC 12/11)

26 NOVEMBER

Before dawn, the **IDF** raids Dayr al-Balah, demolishes **1 Palestinian home**, fires on an ambulance, wounding a paramedic; sends 200 troops, heavy armor into Dahaysha r.c., conducting house-to-house searches, detaining at least 30 Palestinians; conducts arrest raids elsewhere in the West Bank, including Nablus, detaining at least 25 Palestinians.

Israel also assassinates **AMB Jenin leader Ala' Ahmad Sabbagh** and **Izzeddin al-Qasam Brigades Jenin cmdr. Imad Nasharti**, firing a rocket into a house in Jenin r.c., where they were staying; fires on other residential areas of Jenin r.c., Khan Yunis, Rafah, Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids, bulldozes 5 dunams of land in al-Qarara; conducts arrest raids, demolishes **1 Palestinian home** in Tulkarm. (WP 11/26; HA, LAW, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 11/27; *al-Quds* 11/28 in WNC 11/29)

The **Israel Project**, a group of U.S. political consultants funded by **American Jewish organizations and individual donors**, sends a 6-page memo to pro-Israel leaders

urging them to keep quiet while the **U.S.** pursues a possible war on **Iraq**. (WP 11/27)

27 NOVEMBER

Before dawn, **IDF** helicopters fire 5 missiles at a school in Khan Yunis, extensively damaging it; fatally shoots a **Palestinian drummer** going alley-to-alley in Askar r.c. nr. Nablus despite the curfew to declare the start of the day's Ramadan fast (Ramadan began on 11/6), bars an ambulance fr. reaching him, allowing him to bleed to death. During the day, the **IDF** fatally shoots **1 Palestinian** driving in Bethlehem; holds a Palestinian woman in labor at a Bethlehem checkpoint for 2 hrs., causing her **baby** to die; conducts arrest raids in Balata r.c., Nablus; raids an emergency clinic in Hebron, vandalizing patient files. A **PFLP suicide bomber** detonates a car bomb nr. an IDF post in Gaza, killing himself but causing no other injuries. **Palestinians** fire 5 mortars at Gush Katif settlement, causing no damage or injuries. (LAW, PCHR, PM, UPMRC, WT 11/27; HA, WP 11/28)

Israel's Interior M Eli Yishai announces his decision to strip **Israeli Arab Qays Obeid**, now residing in Lebanon, of his Israeli citizenship for allegedly spying for **Hizballah**, marking the 2d time Yishai has stripped an Israeli Arab of his citizenship. (HA 11/27) (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 126)

28 NOVEMBER

In Mombassa, Kenya, a previously unknown group called the **Government of Universal Palestine in Exile—Army of Palestine**, thought to be connected to **al-Qa'ida**, stages a dual attack marking the 55th anniversary of the 1947 UN partition res., firing 2 missiles at an **Israeli charter jet** carrying 261 Israeli tourists leaving Mombassa airport, missing the plane; simultaneously, **3 suicide bombers** detonate a car bomb outside the lobby of an Israeli-owned hotel, killing **3 Israeli tourists**, **10 Kenyans** (an 11th dies on 12/18), injuring 80, causing extensive damage. Hrs. later in Beit She'an in n. Israel, **2 AMB mbrs** open fire on, toss grenades at a crowd of voters outside the local **Likud** polling station, killing **6 Israelis**, wounding 20 before being fatally shot by Israeli police. **Sharon** convenes a security mtg. to discuss responses; once again does not invite **Netanyahu** (see 11/21). In Hebron, a **4-yr.-old Palestinian** is fatally

wounded by **IDF** gunfire in his home. The **IDF** also shells residential areas of Rafah r.c.; conducts arrest raids in al-Qarara, Tulkarm. In a **Tel Aviv court**, **Israeli Arab Nissim Nasser** pleads guilty to spying for **Hizballah** in exchange for a reduced sentence. (AP, CNN, HA, MM 11/28; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/29; HA, NYT, WP, WT 11/30; AYM 12/2 in WNC 12/6, 12/9; LAW, PCHR 12/3; JT 12/4 in WNC 12/5; JPI, MEI 12/6; WT 12/7; JTA 12/18)

Likud primaries go on despite the day's attacks, with **Sharon** winning (56% to 40%) over **Netanyahu**. (MM 11/28; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/29; NYT 11/30; MEI 12/6; AYM 12/13 in WNC 12/16)

29 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** imposes a curfew on Ramallah; blows up 2 **Palestinian homes** before dawn in Jalbun; conducts arrest raids targeting **AMB**, **Hamis** mbrs. in Nablus; safely detonates a roadside bomb found in East Jerusalem, in an area usually patrolled by Israeli police; safely detonates a 2d explosive device found nr. Baqa' Sharqiyya; fires on residential areas of Bayt Hanun, Dayr al-Balah, Khan Yunis, Tal Zu'rub; conducts arrest raids in al-Qarara; bulldozes 5 dunams of Palestinian land outside Khan Yunis. 2 **Hamis gunmen** open fire inside Dolah settlement in Gaza, wounding 2 Thai workers, 1 Jewish settler; 1 of the gunmen is shot dead. 2 **IDF** soldiers are lightly injured in an exchange of gunfire with a Palestinian nr. Neve Dekalim settlement. **Israeli police** arrest **2 Jews** for stabbing, wounding a **Palestinian** in Jerusalem in an apparent hate crime. (JTA 11/29; HA, NYT, WP 11/30; LAW, PCHR 12/3)

Bush simultaneously imposes and waives a congressionally mandated sanction to "downgrade" the **PLO** office in Washington for at least 180 days, citing the PA for non-compliance with its commitment to work against violence. (NYT 12/3; MM 12/4; WJW 12/5; HA, WT 12/6; MEI 12/20) (see Doc. D1)

30 NOVEMBER

Late in the evening, the **IDF** sends 30 tanks, APCs into Bayt Lahia and nearby Jabaliya r.c.; cuts electricity; demolishes 3 **Palestinian homes** in Bayt Lahia, killing a **70-yr.-old Palestinian man** inside 1 home, fatally shooting a **2d Palestinian** driving nearby, wounding 14. The **IDF** also blocks

n.–s. roads linking Gaza City with n. Gaza towns; fatally shoots **1 Palestinian teenager**, wounds another who travel too close to a Gaza border fence on their way home fr. school; shells residential areas of Rafah. **Palestinians** shoot 2 mortars at 2 Jewish settlements in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. (HA 11/30; NYT, WP, WT 12/1; AFP 12/1 in WNC 12/2; NYT 12/2; LAW, PCHR 12/3)

The **Haifa Municipality** announces it is planning to demolish 54 houses in the Arab neighborhood of Wadi Nisnas in order to pave a highway btwn. Mt. Carmel and government offices in downtown Haifa. (Ta'ayush press release 11/30)

1 DECEMBER

The **IDF** attempts to assassinate **Islamic Jihad's Jabaliya military cmdr. Imad al-Barqawi**, a **2d Islamic Jihad mbr.** who flee their vehicle before it is destroyed by a helicopter gunship; fires on residential areas of Rafah, a Palestinian car nr. Khan Yunis (seriously injuring 1 Palestinian woman); conducts arrest raids in Dayr al-Balah, Yabad; bulldozes 7 dunams of land, 2 wells in al-Mughraqa. (NYT, WT 12/2; LAW, PCHR 12/3; PR 12/4)

2 DECEMBER

The **IDF** opens fire on a Jenin market full of children on their way to school, fatally shooting an **18-yr.-old Palestinian**, wounding 23; fires on a group of Palestinians throwing stones, Molotov cocktails at APCs patrolling central Tulkarm in search of wanted **AMB** mbrs., killing **1 Palestinian bystander**, wounding 18; fires on Palestinians firing a mortar at Nisanit settlement (no damage), killing **1 Palestinian** bystander, wounding 9; fatally shoots an armed **Islamic Jihad mbr.**, dressed in an **IDF** uniform, attempting to infiltrate Netzarim settlement; searches, blows up a clearly marked **UN World Food Program (WFP)** warehouse in Gaza, containing 500 metric tons of food to feed 38,000 needy Palestinians for 1 mo.; bars a **Palestinian** heart-attack victim fr. reaching a hospital in Azariyya, allowing him to die. In Hebron, the **IDF** announces that it plans to demolish 15 **Palestinian homes** to create a bypass road, protective wall linking Kiryat Arba settlement to the Cave of the Patriarchs/al-Ibrahimi Mosque (see 11/17); soldiers search several homes in the area to see if they are inhabited. (LAW, WFP press

release 12/2; LAW, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 12/3; *al-Quds* 12/3 in WNC 12/4; PR, USIS Washington File 12/4; MEI 12/6; AP 12/10; MEI 12/20)

YESHA settlers council chmn. Bentzi Liberman says that settlers are planning to set up new neighborhoods (15–50 units each) in 14 settlements, expand construction in 10s of settlements in the run-up to 1/28/03 elections. The expansions will be funded by the **Housing Min.**, a private developer. (MA 12/3 in WNC 12/4)

3 DECEMBER

IDF soldiers halt a taxi-van in Ramallah, smash its windows, spray it with gunfire, killing a **95-yr.-old Palestinian woman**, wounding a 2d passenger; claim the taxi was moving in a closed military zone. The **IDF** also closes two **District Coordination Offices (DCOs)**, liaisons btwn. the **IDF** and **PSF**, in Jenin and Ramallah; demolishes a **PSF** outpost in al-Qarara; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis. In Hebron, **4 IDF soldiers** detain **5 Palestinians** at a barber-shop, forcibly shave the heads of 2 of them, use 3 as human shields, standing behind them and firing over their shoulders at stone throwers (LAW, PCHR 12/3; NYT, WP, WT 12/4; WT 12/31; WP 1/1; SA 1/13 in WNC 1/14)

4 DECEMBER

The **IDF** assassinates senior **Palestinian Resistance Comm. (PRC) mbr. Mustafa Sabah**, firing 5 missiles at his building in Gaza City; the **IDF** says Sabah is the inventor of the large roadside bombs used on 3 occasions to disable Merkava tanks. The **IDF** also fatally shoots **Islamic Jihad mbrs. Sami Shaver, Ahmad Srour** in an exchange of gunfire nr. Hebron; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Dura; bulldozes 3 dunams of land s. of Khan Yunis; shells residential areas of Tulkarm; fires on a **PSF** outpost in Khan Yunis, causing no injuries; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Qalqilya, Tulkarm. (NYT, WP, WT 12/5; LAW, PCHR 12/11)

5 DECEMBER

The **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** in al-Mughraqa; shoots a deaf and dumb 15-yr.-old Palestinian in Nablus, paralyzing him; conducts arrest raids in Dayr al-Balah, Hebron, Tulkarm; fires on residential areas of Tulkarm; shells residential areas nr. the Egyp-

tian border in Rafah, damaging a PRCS office. (NYT 12/5; LAW, PCHR 12/11)

6 DECEMBER

Before dawn, the day of Id, the **IDF** sends 40 tanks, troops into Bureij r.c., cuts electricity, conducts house-to-house searches aimed at capturing local **PRC leader Ayman Shishniyya**, fires on residential areas, shells and destroys Shishniyya's house and 2 other **Palestinian homes**, killing **10 Palestinians**, including **2 UNRWA workers** (both Palestinians; 1 shot 3 times inside her home), wounding at least 10; Shishniyya is not captured; 1,000s of Palestinians attend the funerals for Bureij victims later in the day.

UNRWA chief Peter Hansen condemns Israel's "indiscriminate use of heavy firepower in a densely populated area," but **IDF** officials say soldiers followed orders limiting their use of heavy weapons. The **IDF** also delays a Palestinian woman in labor fr. reaching a Jenin hospital, causing her **baby** to die; fires on residential areas of Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids in Hebron, Tulkarm. (HA, MM, WP, WT 12/6; AFP 12/6 in WNC 12/7; NYT, WP, WT 12/7; AFP, DUS, MENA 12/8 in WNC 12/9; LAW, MM, PCHR 12/11; PM 12/18)

7 DECEMBER

The **IDF** assassinates **Islamic Jihad mbr. 'Abd al-Hadi Omar** nr. Jenin, also wounding 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs., 2 bystanders; conducts arrest raids in Jenin, al-Til; disarms, arrests a **would-be suicide bomber** wearing a 33 lb. explosives belt nr. Tulkarm; finds, safely defuses a 110 lb. bomb planted by the Gush Katif security fence. (HA, NYT 12/8; LAW, PCHR 12/11)

A day before the UN deadline, **Iraq** turns over a 12,000-page declaration on its biological, chemical, nuclear weapons programs, asserting that it has no weapons of mass destruction. (WP 12/7; NYT, WP, WT 12/8; MM 12/11)

8 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fires on what it initially claims is a group of "Palestinian militants [trying] to infiltrate a Jewish settlement" nr. Khan Yunis, killing a **Palestinian woman**, wounding her 3 children. The **IDF** says it will investigate the incident, stresses that the area is a closed military zone. The **IDF** also bars an ambulance fr. transporting a **Palestinian** heart attack victim to a hospital in Nablus, allowing

him to die. (HA 12/8; NYT, WP, WT 12/9; WP 12/10; LAW, PCHR 12/11; PRCS press release 12/15)

9 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fatally shoots a mentally disabled **Palestinian** riding a donkey nr. Tulkarm when he refuses orders to halt; the man had been detained, released by **IDF** soldiers in the area on numerous occasions. Asked why they fired on someone known to be mentally handicapped, the soldier says, "That's not our problem. We told him to stop and he didn't." The **IDF** also fires on a taxi driving nr. Nablus after dark, during a curfew, killing a **Palestinian woman**, wounding her husband, 3d passenger; fires on an **UNRWA school bus**, injuring 1 Palestinian student; fires rubber-coated steel bullets at Palestinians waiting to cross the Qalandia checkpoint, the Abu Hualy roadblock; demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah r.c.; conducts arrest raids, searches in Bayt Furik, Bayt Rima, Khan Yunis, al-Qarara, Tulkarm. A **3d Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 9/24/02. (NYT, WP 12/10; LAW, PCHR, PR 12/11)

10 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fatally shoots wanted **Hamas mbr. Yasin al-Agha** in Khan Yunis and wanted Palestinian **Usama Badra** in Balata r.c. in what may be assassinations, also demolishing Agha's house; bars a Palestinian woman in labor fr. reaching a hospital in Nablus, allowing her **baby** to die; conducts arrest sweeps in Jenin, Nablus, Qalqilya, al-Qarara, Ramallah; bulldozes 45 dunams of land in al-Qarara. **Israel** says it will not allow **PA head Yasir Arafat** to attend Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem this yr.; Sharon spokesman **Gissin** says Arafat's presence at Christmas Eve ceremonies would be "an offence to humanity and a slap in the face to Christianity." (AP 12/10; *al-Quds* 12/10 in WNC 12/12; LAW, NYT, PCHR 12/11; PM, PR 12/18)

11 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Ramallah; conducts arrest raids in Nablus, Tulkarm. The **IDF** reports that **Palestinians** throw grenades at troops in Gaza throughout the day, causing no injuries. A **Lebanese-born Israeli Arab** is sentenced to 6 yrs. in prison for having contact with **Hizballah** (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 126). The **Is-**

raeli High Court bars the **IDF** fr. starting construction of a settler bypass road linking Kiryat Arba settlement with the Tomb of the Patriarchs/Ibrahimi Mosque. (JTA, LAW, PCHR 12/11; NYT 12/12)

12 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fires flechette shells, live ammunition at **5 unarmed Palestinian laborers** attempting to sneak into Israel nr. the Qarni border crossing, killing them; the IDF says it thought they were attempting to infiltrate Israel to stage an attack. The **IDF** also fires on **2 PFLP mbrs.** attempting to infiltrate a Gush Katif settlement, killing 1, allowing the other to escape; fatally shoots an **armed Palestinian** attempting to infiltrate a kibbutz in Israel; bulldozes **2 Palestinian homes** in Rafah r.c.; bulldozes 3 unoccupied **Palestinian homes**, 4 dunams of land in al-Mughraqa; conducts an arrest raid in Qalqilya. **Palestinian gunmen** fatally shoot **2 IDF soldiers** in Hebron, nr. the cite of the 11/15 Islamic Jihad ambush. (REU 12/12; MM, NYT, WP 12/13; NYT 12/14; MM, PM 12/16; LAW, NYT, PCHR, PR 12/18; MEI 12/20)

13 DECEMBER

The **IDF** breaks into a home in Nur al-Shams r.c., assassinates **Hamas's Tulkarm military cmdr. Tariq 'Abid Rabbuh**, also wounding 5 Palestinian bystanders; assassinates **Hamas mbr. Jadallah Shuka** nr. Bethlehem; demolishes **5 Palestinian homes** in Hebron, 2 nr. Bethlehem, 1 in Bayt Kahil; bulldozes 5 dunams of land, several roads, the main water network in al-Mughraqa; bulldozes some 2.5 dunams of land in Dayr al-Balah; conducts an arrest raid in Qarawat Bani Zaid. An explosion in Bureij r.c. kills a wanted **Islamic Jihad mbr.**, wounds another; the **PSF** suspects the men were preparing a bomb. Some **30,000 Hamas supporters** rally in the Gaza Strip marking the 15th anniversary of the founding of the movement. (JTA 12/13; HA, NYT, WP 12/14; LAW, PCHR 12/18)

14 DECEMBER

The **IDF** imposes a curfew on Nablus, closes local **al-Najah University**, sparking clashes with local students that leave 9 Palestinians injured; demolishes **2 Palestinian homes** nr. Netzarim settlement; bulldozes 41 dunams of land in al-Mughraqa; uproots 150

trees at an al-'Arub agricultural center; conducts arrest raids in al-Bireh, Birzeit, Jenin, and Qarawat Bani Zaid, targeting the **tanzim**, arresting at least 14 Palestinians. (HA 12/14; LAW, PCHR, PR 12/18)

15 DECEMBER

The **IDF** captures **2 armed Hamas mbrs.** originally fr. Gaza attempting to sneak into Israel across the Egyptian border, plotting to kidnap an IDF soldier, take him to Gaza, hold him hostage for the release of detained Hamas cmdrs.; fatally shoots a **Palestinian** in Khan Yunis when he leaves his home during curfew to tend to a donkey wounded by IDF shelling; bulldozes **14 Palestinian homes**, 7 greenhouses in Rafah; fires on residential areas of Brazil r.c., seriously injuring 2 Palestinian girls; detains for 5 hrs. **6 Palestinian journalists** working for foreign news agencies covering a clash in Nablus btwn. IDF soldiers, stone-throwing Palestinians; conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem, Jaba, Nablus. In East Jerusalem, **5 Jewish settlers** attack, beat a Palestinian shop owner, threaten to occupy his store. An **Israeli court** convicts **4 East Jerusalem Palestinians** for participation in 8 **Hamas** attacks, including the 7/02 Hebrew University bombing; **3 other East Jerusalem Palestinians** are indicted on charges of plotting attacks on Israelis, including downing a helicopter nr. the Knesset. (HA 12/15; NYT 12/16; LAW, PCHR 12/18; HA 12/24)

16 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fatally shoots **2 armed Hamas mbrs.** attempting to cross the border fence into Israel; fatally shoots a **Palestinian farmer** who strays too close to Gush Katif settlement; fatally shoots a mentally ill **Palestinian** who approaches an IDF patrol nr. the Egypt-Gaza border; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; sets up barricades, digs trenches around al-Naqura, occupies **1 Palestinian home** as an outpost, further hindering travel btwn. Nablus and Jenin, Tulkarm; bulldozes 5 dunams of olive trees nr. Arrabe; conducts arrest raids in Arrabe, Bethlehem, Jenin, Ramallah. **Israel** announces that Palestinians may resume bus service btwn. West Bank towns for the first time since the start of the al-Aqsa intifada. Buses will operate fr. 6:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., will only transport passengers to the crossing point outside the next city (e.g., a Palestinian would have to take 5 buses to travel the 40 mi. fr. Jenin to Ramal-

lah). (NYT, WP 12/17; LAW, NYT, PCHR, PR 12/18; TJT 12/19; JT 1/1)

17 DECEMBER

The **IDF** shells residential areas of Khan Yunis, killing a **17-yr.-old Palestinian** inside his home; demolishes **6 Palestinian homes**, fires on residential areas in Rafah; fires on stone-throwing students returning fr. school in Nablus during break in the curfew, injuring 9; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Burqa, Dayr al-Balah, Jenin, al-Khadir, Tubas, Tulkarm; searches dorms at Birzeit University. (LAW, NYT, PCHR 12/18)

18 DECEMBER

The **IDF** opens fire on a group of Palestinian youths in Rafah who refuse to disperse, killing a **15-yr.-old Palestinian**; fires on stone-throwing students returning fr. school in Nablus during break in the curfew, injuring 8; bulldozes **6 Palestinian homes**, 5 dunams of olive trees in Rafah. (JTA, LAW, PCHR 12/18; WP 12/19)

19 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fatally shoots an **11-yr.-old Palestinian girl** in her home; fires on stone-throwing Palestinian children in Qalandia r.c., injuring 2 bystanders; conducts arrest raids in Jenin. Under pressure fr. the **U.S.**, the **IDF** also evicts **200 Jewish settlers** fr. a new enclave established in Hebron on the site of the 11/15 Islamic Jihad attack; settlers vow to reestablish the site. An **IDF** APC deliberately rams a Palestinian van nr. Maithalun, killing **1 Palestinian**, injuring a 2d. (MM 12/19; WP 12/20, 12/21; LAW, PCHR 12/25; WJW 12/26; PM 12/27)

Israeli atty. gen. Elyakim Rubinstein asks the **Central Elections Comm.** to bar **MK Azmi Bishara's National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** fr. participating in the 1/03 elections on the grounds that it advocates that Israel should be a state for all its citizens, which implicitly contradicts Israel's founding principle as a Jewish state, and because it supports armed attacks against Israel (a charge Bishara, NDA deny). Section 7(A) of the Basic Law: The Knesset allows the barring of candidates and political parties that deny "the existence of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state." (JTA 12/19; ADL 12/21)

U.S. Secy. of State Colin Powell announces that although the **U.S.** has not finished reading the document, it believes that

Iraq's 12,000-page declaration "totally fails" to meet UN requirements for full disclosure and constitutes "another material breach" of UN res. 1441. (NYT, WP, WT 12/20)

20 DECEMBER

Islamic Jihad gunmen fatally shoot a **Jewish settler rabbi** driving in Gaza. The **IDF** sends tanks into Dayr al-Balah in search of a wanted **AMB** mbr., fatally shoots **1 Palestinian** during the raid; demolishes **3 Palestinian homes** in Dayr al-Balah, 8 in nearby Wadi al-Silqa; blows up **1 Palestinian building** in Nablus that the **IDF** claims was used as a bomb-making lab; fires on residential areas of Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Jalbun, Tulkarm, al-Yamun. **Israeli police** find a package bomb in a mall in Netanya, in n. Israel. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 7/12/02. (AP 12/20; NYT, WP 12/21; WT 12/22; LAW, PCHR 12/25)

U.S. Pres. George W. Bush meets with **Quartet reps. (EU, Russia, UN, U.S.)** at the White House. The Quartet reaffirms its call for creation of a Palestinian state by 2005, completes "99.5%" of the revisions to the draft road map, but the **U.S.** overrules calls by other mbrs. to finalize and endorse the road map. (CNN, MM 12/20; NYT, WP 12/21; AYM 12/22, 12/24 in WNC 12/31; MM 12/23; JP 12/29) (see Quarterly Update; Doc. D3)

21 DECEMBER

A **12-yr.-old Palestinian girl** is killed by stray **IDF** gunfire on the way home fr. school in Rafah. A **Palestinian** attempts to infiltrate Morag settlement in Gaza, throws grenades at **IDF** troops, injuring 1, before being shot dead. The **IDF** shoots, wounds a **3d Palestinian** who ventures too close to Kefar Darom settlement; fires on a Palestinian vehicle driving nr. Dayr al-Balah, injuring the driver. A **PSF officer** is shot, wounded by an **Islamic Jihad mbr.** when he stops the Jihad mbrs. car nr. Bayt Hanun, suspecting it was heading to the border to shoot a mortar into Israel. (NYT, WT 12/22; LAW, PCHR 12/25)

22 DECEMBER

The **IDF** shells residential areas of Rafah; fires at stone-throwing children in Khan Yunis, wounding 1; fires tear gas into an elementary school in Tulkarm while classes are in session; demolishes a **Palestinian home** nr. Hebron; makes arrest raids in Tulkarm. (LAW, PCHR 12/25)

Israel's Interior Minister **Yishai** closes the *Voice of Truth and Freedom*, a newspaper published by the northern branch of the **Islamic Movement**, on the grounds that it is an "almost certain" danger to national security, saying the move "is part of our effort in the war on terror." (HA 12/22, 12/23)

23 DECEMBER

The **IDF** assassinates **wanted Hamas mbrs. Shaman Subuh, Mustafa Baqash** in Jenin; demolishes 8 **Palestinian homes**, 3 brick factories, a dairy farm and damages 18 other homes in Rafah; demolishes 1 home, 3 blacksmith shops in Hebron; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis; bulldozes part of the Silwan Sports Club in East Jerusalem; makes arrest raids in Anabta, Nablus. **Israel** lifts the curfew on Bethlehem for Christmas, says it will provide free public transportation to any **Christian Arabs** in Israel or the territories who want to visit the city in the next few days. (HA 12/23; LAW, NYT 12/24; AFP 12/25 in WNC 12/26; LAW, PCHR 12/25)

The **Israeli Housing Min.** issues tenders to construct 232 new housing units in the ultra-Orthodox West Bank settlement of Emmanuel, even though the settlement is losing residents at the rate of 5% a year. Housing Min. figures show that 1,688 (75%) of the 2,178 tenders for public construction issued between 1/02 and 9/02 were for housing in the territories. Tenders for 28 units in Beitart Ilt, 102 units in Efrat's Givat Hazayit, 76 new units in Ariel, all in the West Bank, were also issued recently. (HA 12/24)

24 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fires a tank shell at a group of Palestinians btwn. Erez, Qarni checkpoints, killing a **14-yr.-old Palestinian**, injuring 3 other youths; fires on stone-throwing Palestinian youths in Khan Yunis, injuring 1 with live ammunition; shoots, injures a **12-yr.-old Palestinian** in Wadi al-Silqa for no apparent reason; bulldozes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Hebron. (HA 12/24; MENA, XIN 12/24 in WNC 12/26; LAW, NYT, PCHR, WT 12/25)

25 DECEMBER

In what may be an assassination, the **IDF** fatally shoots **wanted senior Hamas mbr. Talib Abu Hawash** during a raid in Nablus, allowing him to bleed to death over several hrs. while denying access to ambulances. The **IDF** also fatally shoots a **Palestinian** who strays too near Netzarim settlement; de-

molishes a **Palestinian home** in Bayt Hanina, 5 cow pens in Ramallah. **Palestinians** fire grenades at **IDF** outposts nr. Gush Katif, Rafah, causing no injuries. (LAW, PCHR 12/25; HP, WP, WT 12/26; HA 12/27)

26 DECEMBER

The **IDF** reoccupies Bethlehem following Christmas celebrations, reimposes a 24-hr. curfew on residents; assassinates **local AMB head Jamal Yahya** in Tulkarm; assassinates **Hamas mbr. Bassam Ashqar**, ambushing his car in Ramallah, also killing a **Palestinian bystander**; raids Qabatiyya, assassinating **local Islamic Jihad leader Yusuf Abu Rub**, demolishing his family **house**, arresting **local Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades head Natzir Nazal, senior Hamas mbr. Talal al-Baz**; sends undercover units into a hospital in Ramallah, fatally shooting **wanted Palestinian Samir al-Shamali**, who was working there as a guard, in what may be an assassination, sparking demonstrations, clashes with local residents that leave **1 Palestinian** stone thrower dead; fatally shoots **2 Palestinians** "approaching" Netzarim settlement; fires on demonstrators protesting the curfew in Nablus, killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding 20; raids a village n. of Ramallah, firing stun grenades, causing an elderly **Palestinian** to suffer a fatal heart attack; imposes a curfew on Beitunia, sends 30 tanks into the town; conducts house-to-house searches, arrest raids in Qalqilya; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis. The **PA** accuses **Israel** of stepping up attacks on Palestinians in an effort to scuttle Fatah-Hamas talks in Cairo (see Quarterly Update). The **IDF** also announces that it has begun building 300-yd.-wide buffer zones around several **Jewish settlements** in the West Bank (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 126). **Palestinians** fire **2 mortars** at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, causing damage but no injuries. This evening, **Israeli DM Shaul Mofaz** orders the **IDF** to step up pressure on militant groups in the territories. (HP, LAW, PCHR, PM 12/26; HA, NYT, WP, WT 12/27; AYM, Interfax, ITAR-TASS, *al-Quds* 12/27, *De Standaard* 12/28 in WNC 12/31; NYT, WT 12/28; LAW, PCHR 1/1)

27 DECEMBER

Retaliating for the assassination of Islamic Jihad's Abu Rub on 12/26, **2 Islamic Jihad gunmen** infiltrate Otniel settlement nr. Hebron, fatally shooting **2 Jewish settlers, 2 IDF soldiers**, wounding 9 (mostly soldiers),

before being shot dead by the IDF; the IDF imposes a curfew on Hebron, surrounding area; angry **Jewish settlers** rampage through Palestinian areas of Hebron, attacking cars, houses. The **IDF** arrests an **Israeli Jewish truck driver** at Qarni checkpoint, attempting to smuggle weapons, ammunition into Gaza; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, setting fire to a farm, killing several sheep, chickens; conducts arrest raids in Askar r.c., Tubas. An **IDF gunboat** opens fire on **Palestinian fishing vessels** off the Gaza coast, severely damaging 3 boats. Up to **40,000 Hamas supporters** attend a Hamas rally in Gaza City, marking the 15th anniversary of the movement. (HA 12/27; HA, NYT, WP, WT 12/28; HA 12/30; LAW, PCHR 1/1)

28 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fatally shoots an **8-yr.-old Palestinian girl** in Khan Yunis; fires flechette shells at 2 unarmed Palestinians who stray too near the Israeli border nr. Bayt Hanun, seriously injuring them; fires rubber bullets, stun grenades at Palestinian students protesting in Bethlehem; demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Dura; bulldozes 10 dunams of land nr. Dayr al-Balah. A **car bomb** explodes prematurely in East Jerusalem, lightly injuring the **East Jerusalem Palestinian** driver, who is arrested. **Hamas** mbrs. for the 1st time fire a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) at an **IDF** patrol in Gaza, destroying an armored car, seriously injuring **2 IDF soldiers**. (HA 12/28; BBC, WP, WT 12/29; WP 12/30; LAW, PCHR 1/1; HA 1/14)

29 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Tulkarm, killing an **11-yr.-old Palestinian boy**; bars a **Palestinian** heart attack victim from reaching a hospital in Ramallah, allowing him to die; fires on nonviolent protest march on an IDF checkpoint by 150 **Palestinian, European demonstrators** in Gaza, wounding a **Palestinian cameraman** working for the Associated Press; demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Dura. (BBC, HA, NYT, WP, WT 12/30; LAW, PCHR 1/1)

30 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fatally shoots a **Palestinian** involved in a traffic altercation with an IDF jeep nr. Jenin; occupies 2 medical clinics in Nablus, firing fr. the facilities on stone-throwing Palestinians, killing 1 **Palestinian**; fires on 3 Palestinians allegedly attempting to in-

filtrate the Israeli border fence in the Negev, killing 1 **Palestinian** (2 others escape); fatally beats a **17-yr.-old Palestinian** for violating the curfew in Hebron; demolishes 1 **Palestinian home** in Dura; denies an ailing **Palestinian woman** passage through a checkpoint to a clinic, allowing her to die; conducts arrest raids nr. Tulkarm. **Israeli courts** sentence an **Israeli Arab** taxi driver to 15 yrs. for driving 2 suicide bombers to Tel Aviv, an **East Jerusalem Palestinian** to 6 yrs. for providing Palestinian militants with information used to carry out attacks on Israelis. (HA, JTA 12/30; NYT, WP, WT 12/31; LAW, PCHR, WP 1/1; NYT 1/2; PRCS press release 1/5)

The **Israeli Central Elections Comm.** decides to follow Atty. Gen. **Rubinstein's** 2/19 advice to disqualify Israeli Arab **MK Ahmad Tibi (Ta'a)** fr. running in 1/03 elections on the grounds that he does not support the Jewish character of the State of Israel, supports armed attacks against it (a charge he denies); turns down a similar request to bar **MK 'Abd al-Malik Dahamshe** and his **United Arab List**; rules that **Herut mbr. Baruch Marzel**, the fmr. head of the outlawed **Kach** movement who placed 2d on Herut's slate of MK candidates, can participate in the 1/28 elections. The Knesset bans mbrs. of Kach, which advocates the deportation of Arabs fr. Israel and the occupied territories, from holding parliamentary office. (HA 12/30, 12/31; ADL, HA, MM 1/2; DUS 1/2 in WNC 1/3; MA 1/3 in WNC 1/6; WT 1/8; JPI, NYT 1/10)

31 DECEMBER

The **IDF** fatally shoots 1 **Palestinian** nr. Neve Dekalim settlement; fires on residential areas of Rafah; demolishes 1 **Palestinian home** outside Nablus. In Gaza City, **10,000s of Palestinians** attend a rally marking the 65th anniversary of **Fatah**. (REU 12/31; HA 12/31 in WNC 1/2; LAW, PCHR, WT 1/1)

The **Israeli Central Elections Comm.** decides to follow Atty. Gen. **Rubinstein's** advice to disqualify Israeli Arab **MK Bishara**, his **NDA** list fr. running in 1/03 elections. (HA 12/31; WT 1/1; ADL, MM 1/2; DUS 1/2 in WNC 1/3; MA 1/3 in WNC 1/6; PR, WT 1/8; JPI 1/10)

1 JANUARY

The **IDF** kills 3 **Palestinians** (ages 14 and 15) who approach the Gaza settlements of Aley Sinai, Dugit, Nisanit; fatally shoots a

4th Palestinian "moving btwn. Yitzhar and Emmanuel settlements" nr. Nablus; delays an ambulance carrying a **newborn baby** in need of urgent medical attention, possibly leading to the baby's death; demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Bethlehem, 2 in Dayr al-Balah, 1 each in Bayt Hanina, Khan Yunis, Madama, Nablus; bulldozes 16 dunams of land in Dayr al-Balah. **Palestinians** throw stones at a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Halhul, lightly injuring **1 Jewish settler**. Late this evening, the **IDF** sends tanks, bulldozers into Bureij r.c., Maghazi r.c., Nussayrat r.c. in response to alleged attempts by Palestinians to infiltrate nearby Jewish settlements. (HA, LAW, PCHR 1/1; NYT, WP, WT 1/2; AFP 1/2 in WNC 1/3; MM, WT 1/3; PRCS press release 1/5; PR 1/8)

2 JANUARY

The **IDF** continues operations in Bureij r.c. (searching, vandalizing **PFLP** offices), Maghazi r.c., Nussayrat r.c.; demolishes 25 **Palestinian homes**, bulldozes 7 dunams of land, arrests several Palestinians in Rafah r.c. The **IDF** also bars a **Palestinian woman** in labor fr. crossing a checkpoint to reach a hospital; she gives birth to a healthy baby at the crossing. A **Palestinian gunman** occupies an Israeli house in Maor, nr. the West Bank border, fires once at the 2 occupants before his gun jams and the occupants escape; **Israeli police** surround the home, fatally shoot the gunman. The body of a missing **Israeli businessman** is found in his burnt-out car nr. Tubas; the **AMB** takes responsibility for the killing. A **Palestinian** is killed in a mysterious explosion n. of Ramallah; the **IDF** suspects that a bomb he was carrying exploded prematurely. A **Jewish settler** deliberately hits an elderly **Palestinian** pedestrian with his car in Qalqilya, injuring him. (AP, CNN, HA, PCHR, REU, WP 1/2; AFP 1/2 in WNC 1/3; HA, NYT, WT 1/3; LAW, PCHR, PR 1/8; PCHR 1/9)

3 JANUARY

The **IDF** demolishes 4 **Palestinian homes** nr. Rafah, 1 in Amari r.c., 1 in Hebron; bulldozes 28 dunams of land s. of Rafah. (HA 1/3; HA, JP, WT 1/5; LAW, PCHR 1/8)

4 JANUARY

The **IDF** fires shells at a mentally ill Palestinian who strays too close to the border fence nr. Jabaliya, wounding him; fires on

residential areas of Jenin r.c. and town, Khan Yunis, Ramallah, Rafah r.c.; conducts arrest raids in Ramallah, Tubas; demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Brazil r.c., several hrs. after the **U.S.** expresses concern over Israeli home demolitions; shells the VIP hall at the Rafah border crossing to Egypt, starting a fire that severely damages the building; sends tanks into Qabatiyya, flattening 3 cars. **AMB** mbrs. ambush an **IDF undercover unit** conducting an arrest raid in Jenin; **5 IDF soldiers, 1 AMB mbr.** are wounded. (HA, JP, WT 1/5; LAW, PCHR 1/8)

5 JANUARY

In the 1st suicide bombing in Israel since 11/21/02, **2 AMB suicide bombers** fr. Nablus detonate devices on parallel streets nr. the Tel Aviv bus station during evening rush hr., killing **22 (14 Israelis, 6 foreign workers, 2 remain unidentified and are suspected to be illegal foreign workers),** injuring around 100. (Of note, AMB cells in Gaza, Nablus issue statements claiming the operation, whereas cells in Ramallah disavow responsibility, pledge to continue cease-fire talks.) **Sharon** convenes his security cabinet, including **Netanyahu, Mofaz** to discuss how to respond. Soon afterward, **IDF** helicopters fire 8 missiles at, destroy 3 iron workshops in Gaza City allegedly used as mortar factories, injuring 10 Palestinians; 30 IDF tanks enter Rafah, arrest **senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Hassan Abu 'Armana,** his 2 brothers and demolish their family **home**. During the day, the **IDF** raids a house in Jenin, arresting 3 brothers of a wanted Palestinian, informing the family that the 3 would not be released until the wanted man turns himself in; also raids Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem, Kafr Khalil, Qalqilya. An **IDF** soldier is lightly wounded by a **Palestinian sniper** firing fr. Khan Yunis. (HA, REU 1/5; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/6; QA 1/6, ATL, XIN 1/7 in WNC 1/8; MM, WP 1/7; AYM 1/7, AN, JT, *al-Nabab* 1/8 in WNC 1/9; LAW, PCHR, PR 1/8; WJW 1/9; MEI 1/10; JPI 1/17; MEI 1/24; HA 2/10)

6 JANUARY

In response to the 1/5 AMB bombing, **Israel** says it will bar a **Palestinian delegation** fr. leaving the occupied territories to attend a **Quartet** mtg. on PA reforms in London on 1/14; bar the **PLO Central Comm.** fr. meeting on 1/9 to ratify the constitution of a future Palestinian state, which contains many of the reforms demanded by

Israel, the U.S.; “clamp down” on Palestinian universities, colleges. Meanwhile, the **IDF** fires on residential areas of Bayt Lahia; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Halhul; makes arrest raids in, around Bayt Hanina; demolishes 3 **Palestinian homes** and a store in Khan Yunis, 1 in Bayt Dajan, 1 in Bayt Furik, plus a factory in Gaza City. (MM 1/6; MENA 1/6, ITAR-TASS, QA 1/7 in WNC 1/8; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/7; AYM 1/7, AN, Interfax, ITAR-TASS 1/8 in WNC 1/9; LAW, PCHR, PR 1/8; *al-Quds* 1/8 in WNC 1/10; MM 1/9)

7 JANUARY

IDF undercover units raid al-Maghazi r.c., fatally shoot 2 **AMB mbrs.**, 1 **Islamic Jihad mbr.** The **IDF** demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Khan Yunis, fatally shoots 1 **Palestinian** who comes to observe; severely beats a Palestinian youth for over an hr. in Hebron, until journalists, reps. of the **Temporary International Presence in Hebron** intervene; occupies a **Palestinian home** in Kefar Adun as an **IDF** post; conducts arrest raids in Jenin r.c., Kafr Khalil (targeting **Hamas** mbrs.), Kafr Rai, Naqura. **Israel** closes the Gaza border with Egypt, the West Bank border with Jordan to all **Palestinian men under age 35**. (AFP, HA, JTA 1/7; MENA 1/2 in WNC 1/3; HA 1/3; VOI 1/7 in WNC 1/8; LAW, NYT, PCHR, WP 1/8; REU 1/11)

8 JANUARY

The **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Saida; fires on a crowd of local Palestinians who come to scene to observe, wounding a **17-yr.-old Palestinian**; bars an ambulance fr. reaching the scene for 1.5 hrs., allowing the boy to bleed to death. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in ‘Azun, Bayt Dajan, Jalazun r.c., Jenin; recommends **Israel** order the closure of 3 **Palestinian colleges** (Palestine Polytechnic University and the Islamic College in Hebron, the Islamic College in Abu Dis) for the students’ strong support of **Hamas**, **Islamic Jihad** (see 1/6). **Israel** says it has arrested a **bedouin** for plotting to purchase, smuggle weapons to Palestinians in the territories. An **Israeli court** sentences 7 **Israeli Arabs** (6 of them minors) to 3–25 yrs. in jail for the fatal stabbing of an Israeli woman in Jerusalem on 2/8/02, plotting to carry out other attacks. (HA, LAW, NYT, PCHR 1/8; PRCS press release 1/12)

9 JANUARY

The **IDF** shuts the **DCOs** in Tulkarm and Qalqilya, confiscating all **PSF** weapons. **Israel** argues that with security coordination occurring, it is dangerous to have armed Palestinians in the offices. The **IDF** also fires on residential areas, demolishes the façade of a **Palestinian home** in Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids in Nablus, Tulkarm; conducts house searches in Qalqilya. (HA 1/10; SA 1/13 in WNC 1/14; LAW, PCHR 1/15)

The **Israeli High Court** rules that **MKs Bishara, Tibi**, the **NDA** can participate in 1/28 elections, overturning the 12/30, 12/31 decisions of the Central Elections Comm. The court says it will issue the reasons for its ruling “later.” The court also upholds the comm. decision to allow **Marzel** to run. (ADL, MM 1/9; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/10)

10 JANUARY

The **IDF** fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Aida r.c., killing a **15-yr.-old Palestinian**, wounding 2; blows up a **Palestinian home** in Nablus; fires on residential areas of, bulldozes land outside Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids in Bayt Kahil, Beitunia, Hebron, Jenin, Tamun. The **IDF** also shuts the Nablus **DCO**, leaving the only functioning West Bank **DCO** in Jericho, the only town not re-occupied by **IDF** troops. (HA 1/10; HA, WT 1/11; LAW, PCHR 1/15)

11 JANUARY

In Gaza, 2 **Palestinian children** (ages 12, 14) armed with knives infiltrate Netzarim settlement, are shot at and wounded by a **settler** rabbi, captured by **IDF** troops. The **IDF** erects a new checkpoint at the e. entrance to Askar r.c.; fires on Palestinians who throw stones at the new crossing, killing 1 **Palestinian**, wounding 9. The **IDF** also fires tear gas at Palestinians crossing the Anata–Jerusalem checkpoint, causing 1 **pregnant Palestinian woman** to miscarry; conducts arrest raids in Hebron (targeting **Hamas**), Ramallah (targeting the **PFLP**). An **Islamic Jihad** mbr. is killed, apparently when a grenade he is carrying explodes. The body of a missing **Palestinian** is found nr. Nablus; the **IDF** says he was apparently killed by **IDF** gunfire on 1/1. Late in the evening, the **IDF** sends 50 tanks, bulldozers into Khan Yunis; demolishing around 30 workshops, stores, offices, a clinic; clashes with **Hamas** mbrs., fatally shooting 1 **Palestinian**, wounding 13; bulldozes 9 dunams of

land; conducts arrest sweeps, house searches. The **IDF** also raids Bayt Hanun, demolishing a **Palestinian home**, killing 1 **Palestinian** in the process. (HA 1/11; VOI 1/11 in WNC 1/13; HA, WT 1/12; HA, NYT, WP 1/13; LAW, PCHR, PR 1/15)

12 JANUARY

The **IDF** makes a failed assassination attempt on wanted **Hamas mbrs. Muhammad Abu Shammala, Ra'id al-Attar**, firing missiles fr. a helicopter at their car as they drive past a hospital in Khan Yunis, killing 2 **Palestinian bystanders**, wounding 1; the wanted men escape unharmed. 2 **Palestinian gunmen** infiltrate Moshav Gadish nr. Afula, inside Israel, killing 1 **Israeli civilian**, wounding 1 civilian, 3 border police, before being killed by police. Nr. the s. Negev town of Nitzana, 3 **gunmen** infiltrate the Israeli border, fatally shooting 1 **Israeli**, wounding 3, before 2 gunmen are shot dead by IDF troops and 1 escapes; the **IDF** says the gunmen may have come fr. **Egypt**. A senior **Islamic Jihad mbr.** is killed, a 2d **Islamic Jihad mbr.** is wounded in a mysterious explosion in a home in Nussayrat r.c.; the **IDF** claims they were building a bomb. A **12-yr.-old Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 12/24/02. The **IDF** also bulldozes 10 dunams of land n. of Rafah; occupies an empty house nr. Dayr al-Balah, demolishes a nearby poultry farm. **Jewish settler guards** escorting an oil tanker nr. Hebron fatally shoot 1 **Palestinian. Palestinian children** playing in Askar r.c. accidentally trigger unexploded **IDF** ordnance, leaving 4 of them injured. In response to raids on Bayt Hanun, Khan Yunis on 1/11, **Hamas** fires 3 mortars (possibly Qassam rockets) at the Negev town of Sederot, injuring 2 Israelis "very lightly." **Palestinians in Gaza** note that there has been a sharp increase in the cost of fuel (up 9%) and basic foodstuffs (flour up 53%, cooking oil up 24%, bread up 17%) since 1/1/03; urge the **PA** to subsidize prices. **Hamas spiritual leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin** says Hamas will consider kidnapping Israelis to hold them in exchange for the release of Hamas mbrs. in Israeli custody. (HA, PCHR 1/12; LAW, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP 1/13; HA 1/14; LAW, MM, PCHR 1/15)

13 JANUARY

The **IDF** fatally shoots 2 **Palestinians** who approach a **Jewish settler bus** at Qarni

crossing "in a suspicious manner"; fires on an elderly Palestinian working in his field nr. Gaza City, wounding him; fires on residential areas of Gaza City; bulldozes all secondary roads leading into Bayt Hanun; bulldozes a main road, 45 dunams of land e. of Bayt Hanun; demolishes an alleged bomb-making factory in Ramallah; demolishes 1 **Palestinian home** each in Dayr al-Balah, Ramallah, Tulkarm; erects a new checkpoint at the n. entrance of Dayr al-Balah; conducts arrests raids in Bayt Rima, Kafr Rai, Tulkarm. A **Chinese worker** injured in the 1/5 Tel Aviv attack dies of her injuries, raising that death toll to 23. **Palestinians** fire mortars at an **IDF** post, a **Jewish settlement** in Gaza, causing no injuries. (HA, JTA 1/13; HA, WP 1/14; LAW, PCHR 1/15)

14 JANUARY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Qalqilya, Tulkarm town and r.c., Tubas (capturing **senior Hamas mbr. Salman Daraghma**, who previously escaped an IDF assassination attempt); fatally shoots a **Palestinian** stone thrower in Tulkarm r.c.; fatally shoots a mentally handicapped **Palestinian** during an arrest raid in Qabatiyya when he fails to obey orders to halt, bars medical workers fr. reaching him, allowing him to bleed to death; demolishes 1 **Palestinian home** each in Jenin, Khan Yunis, Silwan; seals 3 **Palestinian homes** in Silwan; shells residential areas of Jenin, damaging 4 homes, destroying 11 stores; bulldozes 20 artesian wells in Qalqilya; conducts arrest raids in Amari r.c., Nablus, Qalqilya, Tulkarm, Urta. **Hamas** issues a statement in Beirut claiming to have received a large number of RPGs (source not identified; see 12/28), made more Qassam rockets. (HA 1/14; MENA 1/14 in WNC 1/15; LAW, PCHR 1/15)

Britain convenes a mtg. on PA reform in London. Reps. of **Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia**, the **Quartet** attend in person; **PA** officials in Gaza, Ramallah attend via video link. The PA briefs participants on reform efforts; Egypt briefs them on Palestinian national unity talks ongoing in Cairo. (HA, WP 1/14; AYM, Interfax, JT, MENA, *al-Quds* 1/14 in WNC 1/15; MM, NYT, PR, WT 1/15; MENA, SA 1/15 in WNC 1/16; QA 1/15, ITAR-TASS 1/16 in WNC 1/17; AYM 1/15, ITAR-TASS, MENA 1/17 in WNC 1/21; PR 1/22; MEI 1/24) (see Quarterly Update)

15 JANUARY

The **IDF** raids the offices and laboratories of **Hebron, Palestine Polytechnic Universities** in Hebron (see 1/8); welds shut doors, gates; declares the schools closed on the grounds that they assisted in the "recruitment, training, and instruction of hundreds of militant activists," including allegedly teaching students how to make bombs. The **IDF** also raids a West Bank branch of the **Arab Bank** outside Jerusalem, demanding the money fr. 4 accounts allegedly used by "terrorists"; reports differ as to whether the bank turned over the \$7,000 in those accounts; fatally shoots a **Palestinian** bystander during an arrest raid in Qabatiyya; fatally shoots a **16-yr.-old Palestinian** violating a predawn curfew in Tulkarm; opens fire on stone-throwing Palestinian youths on their way to school in Tulkarm, killing a 2d **16-yr.-old Palestinian**; bulldozes 4 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah, 3 in Bayt Hanun, 2 in Qabatiyya, 1 in Bayt Fajjar; searches, vandalizes another 9 homes in Rafah; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis. On the 1st anniversary of the **PSF's** preventive arrest of **PFLP Secy.-Gen. Ahmad Saadat, 100s of Palestinians** (including mbrs. of the PLO and Fatah Exec. Comms.) attend rallies in Gaza and Nablus, demanding his immediate release. (LAW, PCHR, PR 1/15; NYT, WP 1/16; *al-Quds* 1/16 in WNC 1/17; Palestine Media Center 1/18; PR 1/22; LAW 1/29)

16 JANUARY

The **IDF** halts a **PRCS ambulance** outside Ramallah, orders medics to unload the vehicle and change the tires, severely beats 1 paramedic, who requires hospitalization; demolishes 2 storage sheds in Jenin; occupies 1 Palestinian home in Iktaba as an outpost; bulldozes 9 dunams of land, a secondary road in Dayr al-Balah; conducts arrest raids in Qalqilya. An **Israeli court** sentences **2 Hamas mbrs.** to 15 consecutive life sentences for participation in an 8/9/01 suicide bombing in Jerusalem. (PRCS press release 1/16; WT 1/17; LAW, PCHR 1/22)

17 JANUARY

Off the Gaza coast, a **Hamas** mbr. in a booby-trapped raft attempts to ram an **Israeli naval patrol boat**, but soldiers fire on the raft, causing it to explode, killing the Hamas mbr., causing no damage. Nr. Hebron **2 Hamas gunmen** attack a lone trailer

marking an illegal hilltop outpost, occupied by a single Jewish settler family; 1 **Palestinian, 1 Jewish settler** (a prominent mbr. of the outlawed **Kach movement**) die in an exchange of gunfire, 3 settlers are wounded, the other Palestinian escapes. Soon after, **Jewish settlers** attack, vandalize Palestinian homes in Hebron. The **IDF** erects a sand barrier around the al-Sayafa area in the n. of the Gaza Strip, closing it off fr. its surroundings; bulldozes 1,500 m² of land, a main road in al-Qarara; conducts arrest raids in Tulkarm; erects a new checkpoint e. of Dayr al-Balah. Some **3,500 Palestinians** attend a **Hamas-led rally** in Gaza City protesting **U.S.** plans to attack **Iraq**. The **IDF** says that it is concerned over the increase in weapons thefts fr. IDF bases during 2002; claims Jewish underworld figures, Israeli Arabs, Palestinians involved. The **IDF** reports that its **undercover units** have been rounding up 20–30 Palestinians/night in raids around the West Bank since 1/14. (HA 1/17; HA, NYT 1/18; NYT, WP, WT 1/20; LAW, PCHR 1/22)

18 JANUARY

The **IDF** tracks, fatally shoots the **2d Hamas gunman** involved in the 1/17 Hebron attack; fatally shoots a **Palestinian** repairing a satellite dish on his roof in Rafah; shells residential areas of Rafah r.c.; bulldozes some 25 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Kefar Darom settlement. **100s of Jewish settlers** attack Palestinians, vandalize property in Hebron for a 2d day, including raiding a Palestinian home, setting fire to the kitchen and a car, assaulting a woman; at least 1 Palestinian requires hospitalization. Armed **Jewish settlers** attack, beat **Palestinian farmers, Israeli and foreign peace activists** attempting to plow Palestinian land outside Hebron, fire in the air, damage and steal farming equipment (including a tractor). (HA 1/18; HA, WT 1/19; LAW, PCHR 1/22; HA 1/27)

19 JANUARY

The **IDF** fires on, shells residential areas of Hebron, Khan Yunis, Nablus; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Bayt Lahia; conducts arrest raids in Jenin. **100s of Jewish settlers** rampage through Hebron for a 3d day, setting fire to Palestinian cars, smashing windows of homes, attacking journalists, smashing their cameras; at least 10 cars, 25 homes have been damaged since 1/17. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received on

1/11. (HA, JP 1/19; NYT, WP 1/20; NYT 1/21; LAW, PCHR 1/22; HA 1/27)

20 JANUARY

The **IDF** raids **al-Quds University** in Ramallah, searches computers and files; demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Hebron, 1 in Bayt Lahia; fires on residential areas of Canada r.c.; conducts arrest raids in al-Bireh, Jenin, Nablus (targeting the **AMB**), Ramallah; bulldozes 80 dunams of land in al-Qarara.

IDF soldiers at Ma'ale Ephraim checkpoint halt a **PRCS ambulance**, search it, confiscate the paramedics' IDs, order 1 paramedic at gunpoint to strip and stand in a garbage pile; when the medic refuses to remove his underwear, a soldier threatens to shoot him in the head, but the medic again refuses and is not harmed; the ambulance is held for another 3 hrs. before being ordered back to Nablus. In a 2d incident nr. Nablus, an **IDF tank** rams its gun barrel into an ambulance transporting a patient, lifts it off the ground, eventually allows it to proceed to the hospital. **Israeli border police** begin confiscating **Palestinian taxis** with Israeli license plates operating in East Jerusalem that are suspected of transporting illegal workers; order taxi drivers to begin checking the work permits of their passengers. (HA, PRCS press release 1/20; MM, PRCS press release 1/21; LAW, PCHR 1/22)

21 JANUARY

The **IDF** bulldozes 63 shops, market stalls in Nazlat Issa, 1 of the only thriving Palestinian commercial centers, located very close to the West Bank border with Israel; maps of Israel's planned security fence show the fence running e. of Nazlat Issa, which would cut off the village fr. the rest of the West Bank. The **IDF** also beats 2 **Palestinian photographers** for international agencies as they try to photograph an IDF jeep driving through Nablus with 2 Palestinian youths clinging to the hood, threaten to kill the journalists if they see the photo published; fires on residential areas of Bayt Lahia; conducts arrest raids (targeting **Hamas**, **Islamic Jihad**) in Hebron, Jenin r.c., Jericho, Nablus, Ramallah; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Yatta, nr. Hebron. **Islamic Jihad** says that 2 of its low-ranking mbrs. have escaped fr. the **IDF's** Ofer detention center in the West Bank. **Israeli border police** halt a suspicious van nr. Umm al-Fahm, just inside the Green Line; the 4 occupants of the car flee

(2 into Israel, 2 into the West Bank); police find 300 kg. of explosives inside. **Shin Bet** arrests the **wife of jailed PFLP leader Saadat** at the Allenby border crossing, on her way to Jordan to fly to Brazil for a conference; gives no reason for her detention. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 3/4/02. (BBC, HA 1/21; HA, LAW, NYT, PCHR, PM, PR, WT 1/22; PM 1/23)

Reversing an 8/18/02 decision, the **Israeli High Court** rules that the **IDF's** "neighborhood procedure" (i.e., sending a Palestinian to warn a wanted individual to surrender to IDF troops waiting nearby) is legal, saying the **IDF** may not force **Palestinians** to act as human shields, but it may use them if they "volunteer." (HA, WT 1/22)

22 JANUARY

The **IDF** demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes**, 2 shacks nr. Ramallah and 2 homes, 1 shack nr. Hebron; blows up a dovecote containing a rifle, homemade pipe bombs, perhaps mortars in Dahaysha r.c.; blows up a storehouse containing chemicals, steel bearings that could possibly be used in manufacturing bombs; conducts arrest raids in the Bethlehem area (targeting **Hamas** mbrs.), Khan Yunis, Ramallah, Tulkarm; fires on residential areas of Rafah. **Palestinians** fire a rocket at a **Jewish settlement** in Gaza, damaging 1 home. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 1/11. (HA, JTA, LAW, PCHR 1/22)

23 JANUARY

Outside Beit Haggai settlement s. of Hebron, 4 **AMB gunmen** fatally shoot 3 **IDF soldiers**. The **IDF** fatally shoots a mentally disabled **Palestinian** in al-Maghazi r.c.; fires on residential areas n. of Ramallah; destroys a 5-story **apartment building** in Gaza City; bulldozes 5 **Palestinian homes** in Brazil r.c., 2 homes and 5 shacks in al-Sayafa, "a number of homes" in Bethlehem, 1 home in Rafah, a **PSF** outpost nr. Netzarim settlement; uproots 500 olive trees nr. Qalqilya; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin, Khan Yunis, Qalqilya, Tulkarm. (REU 1/23; NYT, WP, WT 1/24; LAW, PCHR, PR 1/29)

24 JANUARY

IDF helicopters fire 11 missiles at a metal workshop in Gaza City, destroying it; 2 of the missiles are duds that go astray hitting, damaging an **Anglican church**, a **hospital**. The **IDF** also demolishes 1 **Palestinian**

home in the city. In response, **Hamas** fires **3 Qassam rockets** fr. n. Gaza into the Israeli border town of Sederot, lightly injuring 1 Israeli. Late in the evening, the **IDF** begins to demolish 4 bridges on the main roads linking Bayt Hanun to Gaza City; says the demolitions will facilitate its "control over main transportation axes," ability to prevent Palestinians fr. firing rockets, mortars into Israel; the **IDF** clashes with local Palestinians protesting the demolitions, killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding 14. The **IDF** fires on a group of Palestinians traveling close to a settler bypass road nr. Bayt Iba checkpoint nr. Nablus, killing **2 Palestinians**; fires on residential areas of Beitunia, Ithna, Jenin; demolishes at least 14 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah. The **IDF** also fatally shoots **2 AMB mbrs.** involved in the fatal shooting of 3 IDF soldiers nr. Hebron on 1/23, wounds and captures a 3d, while the 4th escapes. A **Haifa district court** convicts **senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Thabit Mardawi** of responsibility for the deaths of 21 Israelis in several attacks. (AP, HA, MM 1/24; AFP 1/24 in WNC 1/25; AP, HA, NYT, WT 1/25; LAW, NYT, WT 1/26; LAW, PCHR 1/29)

25 JANUARY

The **IDF** completes demolition of 4 bridges linking Bayt Hanun, Gaza City; pulls forces out of Bayt Hanun. Late in the evening, the **IDF** sends tanks, helicopter gunships into central Gaza City in its deepest incursion into Gaza since the al-Aqsa intifada began, marking a major military escalation just 3 days before Israeli elections. **IDF soldiers** clash with **Palestinians** fr. around the area who race to block the incursion, killing **12 Palestinians** (3 of them armed, 2 of them children), injuring at least 40, demolishing 3 **Palestinian homes** and 2 workshops, raiding 10s of buildings and shops. **IDF** troops guarding Gan Or, Neve Dekalim settlements fire on residential areas of Khan Yunis. **Jewish settlers** fire at **2 Palestinians** grazing sheep nr. Mod'in settlement, killing 1. (HA 1/25; AFP 1/25 in WNC 1/31; HA, LAW, NYT, WP, WT 1/26; WP 1/27; ATL 1/27 in WNC 1/28; LAW, PCHR, PR 1/29; MEI 2/7; WP 2/10; MEI 2/21)

Ha'Aretz reports that "several wks. ago" **Sharon** met secretly with **YESHA rabbis**, promised that he would open the **Temple Mount** to Jewish worshippers soon. One rabbi warned Sharon that he came to power in part because of his 9/00 visit to Temple Mount, that he risks losing power if he does

not follow through and reopen the holy site to Jews soon. Sharon says he will "work behind the scenes" to achieve that goal, that he would be interested in joining a growing number of Jewish protesters who circle the Temple Mount once a mo. to protest the ban on Jewish worship at the site. (HA 1/25)

26 JANUARY

IDF operations in Gaza City continue until early morning, destroying much of the central market, 13 workshops, and 6 **Palestinian homes**, injuring 10s of Palestinians. Soon after troops pull out, **Hamas** fires 6 Qassam rockets into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Israel DM **Mofaz** says that the government is considering a full military reoccupation of Gaza. The **IDF** also shells "suspicious figures" nr. the Egypt-Gaza border, killing a **50-yr. old. Palestinian** outside his home, a **7-yr.-old Palestinian** playing in an open field, seriously wounding his 5-yr.-old brother; demolishes a **Palestinian home** nr. Hebron. This evening the **IDF** places a "total closure" on the West Bank and Gaza, confining Palestinians to their towns, villages under curfew until the morning of 1/29, after the 1/28 Israeli elections. The **Shomron military court** sentences an **Islamic Jihad mbr.** to 17 consecutive life sentences for participation in a 6/02 bombing at Megiddo Junction. (HA, LAW, WP 1/26; HA, MM, NYT, WP 1/27; LAW, PCHR, PR 1/29; MEI 2/7)

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, **Powell** says that **Israel** must do more to ease the Palestinian humanitarian situation, offer the **Palestinians** more than a "phony state diced into a thousand different pieces"; that a Palestinian state must be a "real state." (HA 1/26; *al-Quds* 1/27 in WNC 1/29; MM 1/28)

27 JANUARY

The **IDF** fatally shoots **2 Palestinians** nr. Atzmona settlement; conducts arrest raids (targeting **Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PFLP**) in Bethlehem, al-Fahs, Hebron, Jenin, Nablus, al-Qarara, Ramallah, Tufah; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Ras al-Amud, 1 in 'Aqbat Tufah. Late in the evening, **IDF** helicopters fire missiles at the Gaza City home of **senior Hamas mbr. Muhammad Atil**, killing his **2 teenage children**, wounding 11. The **IDF** reports that it has removed fr. his post an **intelligence officer** who "disrupted" a planned air strike in retaliation for

the 1/5 Tel Aviv bombing in order to "prevent harm to innocent Palestinians"; the officer was in possession of, refused to share intelligence information critical to the mission. The **IDF** begins work on a 45-km stretch of the **separation fence** btwn. Kafr Salim and Beit She'an, nr. Jenin. (HA, REU 1/27; HA, NYT, WT 1/28; MA 1/28 in WNC 1/29; LAW, PCHR, PR 1/29; PR 2/5)

Palestinian factions close 4 days of talks in Egypt without reaching an agmt. on a cease-fire and national unity platform. (HA, MM 1/27; MENA 1/27 in WNC 1/28; MENA, SA, XIN 1/28 in WNC 1/29; PCHR, PR 1/29; MM 1/30; MEI 2/21) (see Quarterly Update)

International Atomic Energy Agency, UN inspectors report that **Iraq** has generally cooperated with inspections but has not been proactive; they have found no evidence of biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons but say some questions remain. (MM 1/27; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/28; MM 1/31)

28 JANUARY

The **IDF** sends tanks into Jenin, clashes with residents, killing **4 Palestinians**, wounding **1 Palestinian journalist**; **2 IDF soldiers** are also wounded. The **IDF** demolishes **7 Palestinian homes** in Rafah, **2** in Balata r.c.; bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Jabaliya r.c.; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians protesting the curfew in Nablus, killing **1 Palestinian**; fires on residential areas of Tal al-Sultan. (AP, HA, PM 1/28; LAW, PCHR 1/29)

Sharon and his **Likud** party win a landslide election victory largely at the **Labor** party's expense. Likud gets 38 seats (up fr. 19 in the 2/01 elections; higher even than top projections, which figured Likud would take 32 seats), Labor gets 19 seats (down fr. 25), **Shinui** comes in 3d with 15 seats (up fr. 6), and the ultra-Orthodox **Shas** party gets 11 seats (down fr. 17); **Meretz**, one of Israel's clear-cut peace parties, gets 6 seats (down fr. 10); the far-right **National Union** party, not represented in the last Knesset, gets 7 seats. **Yisra'el Ba'Aliya party head Natan Sharansky** quits the Knesset, **Meretz head Yossi Sarid** resigns as party chmn. in light of their parties' poor showing. During the day, **Israeli police** detain **4 Israeli Arabs** for leading a 15-car caravan around the Galilee, calling for an election boycott. Voter turnout was 68.5%—lowest in Israel's history. Sharon has 42 days to form a majority coalition. The new Knesset will have 40 freshmen MKs. (HA, MM, WP 1/28; HA, MM, NYT, WP,

WT 1/29; AYM, *al-Quds* 1/29 in WNC 1/30; JP, MM, WJW, WP 1/30; JPI 1/31; PR 2/5; MEI 2/7; MM 2/18)

Bush gives State of the Union address, focusing on **Iraq**; says Saddam Hussein has missed his "final chance" by showing "utter contempt" for the UN inspectors; claims Iraq is hiding and amassing weapons of mass destruction (WMDs; including an active nuclear weapons program), deceiving inspectors, aiding **al-Qa'ida**; says the U.S. seeks to work with an international coalition to remove Hussein but will go it alone if necessary, adding that "The liberty we prize is not America's gift to the world; it is God's gift to humanity." Regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict, he says only that the U.S. will continue to work for a "secure **Israel** and a democratic **Palestine**." (NYT, WP, WT 1/29; MM 1/30; MA 1/30 in WNC 1/31; MEI 2/7)

29 JANUARY

The **IDF** lifts the comprehensive curfew on the occupied territories imposed on 1/26; fatally shoots **1 Palestinian** shepherd who leads his flock too near IDF bulldozers leveling 400 dunams of Palestinian crops nr. Jabaliya r.c.; bulldozes land around, fires on residential areas of Tal al-Sultan, wounding 18 Palestinians; reportedly finds, disables 2 bombs planted nr. a Jewish settlement in Gaza, inside a PSF station in Hebron. A **Palestinian gunman** fires at a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Beit El settlement, wounding **2 Jewish settlers**. A **2d Palestinian gunman** shoots, lightly injures an **IDF soldier** outside a Jewish settlement in Gaza; soldiers fire on residential areas nearby in response, wounding 19 Palestinians. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received during the IDF's 1/25 attack on Gaza City. **Jewish settlers** attack **2 international peace activists** who approach Itamar settlement to investigate Palestinian claims that settlers had taken over Palestinian farmland. Settlers beat the activists: steal their phone, camera; take their jackets, shoes, socks, wallets, passports; forcibly take them to Itamar. The **IDF** arrests the activists for trespassing on settler property. An **Israeli court** authorizes Israel's seizure of over \$9 m. fr. the **PA's** frozen funds to pay the Ayalon insurance company to cover claims for cars stolen btwn. 1996 and 2000, allegedly with the PA's knowledge and cooperation. (HA, International Solidarity Movement press release, LAW, PCHR 1/29; HA, NYT 1/30; PR 2/5)

Arafat calls on **Sharon** to immediately resume peace talks in light of his election victory, but Sharon says he will not deal with Palestinians "involved in terror." (HA 1/29; NYT 1/30)

Bush phones **Sharon** to congratulate him on his election victory. Also calling to congratulate Sharon are **Egyptian Pres. Husni Mubarak**, who invites him to reopen peace talks with the Palestinians in Cairo after his new government is formed, and **European Union (EU) pres. Romano Prodi** who urges him to take action on the road map quickly, now that elections are over. (HA, MM 1/30, 1/31; MM 2/5; MEI 2/21)

30 JANUARY

IDF undercover units assassinate **AMB Tulkarm cmdr. Fayiz Jabber**, also killing a **2d AMB mbr.**, wounding 8 bystanders. In Hebron, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids targeting the **AMB**, raiding and searching 3 police stations, several homes and offices (including the Hebron governate, al-Quds university, Islamic charities), closing radio and TV stations, bulldozing stalls in the Hebron market, blocking roads with earthen barriers. The **IDF** also fatally shoots **3 Palestinian** allegedly attempting to fire a Qassam missile into Israel; demolishes **5 Palestinian homes**, a sports center, 2 wells serving 1,000s of Palestinians in Rafah, damaging 27 homes; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Tamun, sparking clashes with local Palestinians, injuring 17; bulldozes 31 dunams of land in Dayr al-Balah; fires on residential areas of Jabaliya, Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids in Dayr al-Balah. An **Israeli court** sentences **2 Israeli Arabs** fr. Nazareth to 5 yrs. in prison for plotting to smuggle arms, stage a suicide bombing in Afula. (HA 1/30; HA 1/31; LAW, PCHR, PR 2/5)

31 JANUARY

IDF undercover units raid a fire station in Jenin, assassinate wanted **Hamas mbr. Iyad Musa**, also killing a **Palestinian firefighter**. **IDF** tanks fire 3 flechette shells at a group of **Palestinian children** playing soccer in a field btwn. Jabaliya and Bayt Hanun, seriously injuring 3, lightly injuring 5 children, 4 adults in nearby homes; the **IDF** says the children setting up goalposts were mistaken for militants preparing to launch Qassam missiles. The **IDF** also demolishes **2 Palestinian homes** in Hebron, 2 in Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Dayr al-Balah, Hebron,

Tulkarm. (HA, PM, REU 1/31; HA, NYT, WT 2/1; HA 2/2, 2/3; REU 2/4; LAW, PCHR 2/5; MEI 2/7)

1 FEBRUARY

Overnight, the **IDF** fatally shoots an armed **DFLP mbr.** en route to attack an **IDF** post; shells residential areas of Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Hebron. During the day, the **IDF** demolishes **4 Palestinian homes** in Rafah. At a checkpoint outside Ramallah, **2 IDF soldiers** reportedly steal more than \$750 fr. **4 Palestinian** commuters. In East Jerusalem, **2 Palestinians** get into an altercation with, stab and wound **3 ultra-Orthodox Jews**, escape. **Jewish settlers** fr. Susia settlement nr. Yatta attack **Palestinians, Israeli peace activists** working farmland the settlers believed was "too near the settlement"; **IDF** soldiers intervene, confiscate the Palestinians' farm equipment. (HA 2/1; NYT 2/2; LAW, PCHR 2/5)

2 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** fires tank shells at a group of **Palestinian farmers** tilling a field nr. Kisufim crossing, killing 2, wounding 1, saying it thought the men were planting a roadside bomb; delays passage through a checkpoint to a hospital to a **Palestinian** heart patient, allowing him to die; demolishes **22 Palestinian homes** in Hebron; fires on residential areas of Dahaysha r.c.; conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem. An **Israeli court** authorizes Israel to seize \$12 m. fr. the **PA's** frozen funds to pay Israel's electric company for power supplied to Gaza districts. (HA, REU 2/2; MM 2/4; LAW, PCHR, PR 2/5; TJT 2/6; MEI 2/7)

3 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** bulldozes **7 Palestinian homes** and an electricity grid in Rafah, 3 homes in Dayr al-Balah; conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis. An **Israeli military court** sentences **Gazan Hamas mbr. Palestinian Nabil Okal**, arrested in 6/00, to 27 yrs. in prison for training with **al-Qa'ida** in Afghanistan, plotting anti-Israeli attacks; he is not accused of being a mbr. of **al-Qa'ida** or of taking any violent action; Okal has denied the charges. **Israel** transfers \$58 m. to the **PA** in VAT revenues. **YESHA settlers council** reports that the West Bank settlement population increased by 6% in 2002, reaching 226,028; has increased by 11.8% over the

past 2 yrs. despite the intifada; **Israel's Interior Min.** confirms the numbers. (HA 2/3; HA, NYT 2/4; LAW, PCHR 2/5; *al-Quds* 2/5 in WNC 2/7; TJT 2/6)

Countries begin recalling their embassy staff fr. **Iraq** in anticipation of a U.S. strike. The **U.S.** strongly urges its citizens to leave the Persian Gulf. (WT 2/4)

4 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** arrests **17 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** in Hebron; claims they planned, carried out anti-Israeli attacks on orders fr. their "head-quarters" in **Syria**; says it is still searching for the cell leader Diab Suwayki, whom it has tried to assassinate twice. The **IDF** also demolishes 5 **Palestinian homes** in, fires on residential areas of Rafah; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Bayt Furik; raids 2 buildings in Ramallah containing medical and law offices, destroying furniture, files; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Tulkarm, seriously injuring a **13-yr.-old Palestinian**; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis r.c.; confiscates 76 Palestinian taxis operating on the Ramallah-Jerusalem road (see 1/20); conducts arrest raids in Balata r.c., Jenin, Nablus. A **Hamas gunman** ambushes, lightly wounds a **Jewish settler** nr. Dayr al-Balah; in response, the **IDF** demolishes 4 **Palestinian homes**, bulldozes 31 dunams of land nr. Kefar Darom. The **IDF** says it has noticed increased efforts by the **PA** to halt the firing of Qassam missiles and planting of bombs in Gaza; says the **PA** stepped up efforts before elections, but has continued them after elections as well. An **Israeli court** orders **Arafat**, the **PA** to pay more than \$10 m. in damages to Israel's Egged bus company for losses caused by Palestinian suicide bombings. (AP, HA, PM, REU 2/4; LAW, PCHR, PR, WP, WT 2/5; TJT, WJW 2/6)

5 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Maghazi r.c., killing a **65-yr.-old Palestinian woman** who refused orders to vacate; raids a PSF office in Qalqilya, fatally shooting **1 PSF officer**, wounding another; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Nablus, killing a **17-yr.-old Palestinian**, and in Tamun, seriously injuring a **13-yr.-old Palestinian**; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, wounding 13 Palestinians; conducts arrest raids, demolishes stalls in the vegetable market in Hebron; conducts arrest raids in Bayt

Awla, Bethlehem, Dayr Dibwan, Ramallah. Late in the evening, **IDF helicopters** open fire on a retirement home attached to a hospital in Gaza City, killing **2 Palestinian medical workers**. **Palestinians** fire 10 mortars at Gush Katif settlement, causing no damage or injuries. (AP, HA, LAW, PCHR, REU 2/5; XIN 2/5 in WNC 2/7; LAW, NYT, WP, WT 2/6; NYT, PM, WP 2/7; DUS 2/7 in WNC 2/10)

Israeli Interior Min. inspectors demolish a mosque in Til al-Malah, an unrecognized **bedouin** village in the Negev. (HA 2/5)

Under "intense pressure from the American administration," **Sharon** holds secret talks with **PC speaker and senior PA negotiator Ahmad Qurai'**, presents him with a plan for a gradual cease-fire and resumption of security coordination. (HA 2/8; WT 2/9; MM, NYT, WT 2/10; JT, QA, *al-Quds*, SA 2/10 in WNC 2/11; MM 2/11; AYM 2/11 in WNC 2/13; PR 2/12; MEI 2/21) (see Quarterly Update)

6 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** fatally shoots a "suspicious" **Palestinian** nr. Tulkarm; fires on residential areas of Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Bayt Furik, al-Til. In a joint **AMB-PFLP** operation, **2 Palestinian gunmen** attack an IDF post nr. Nablus, killing **2 IDF soldiers**, wounding 1 before being shot dead. An **Israeli Arab** stabs, lightly injures an **Israeli policeman** in n. Israel before being shot dead by another officer. Based on information fr. the **IDF** interrogation of **2 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** captured in the West Bank today, **Israeli police** find an explosive belt in the washroom of a mosque in the Israeli-Arab town of Taibeh, which they remove and detonate. (MM, REU 2/6; VOI 2/6 in WNC 2/7; NYT, WP 2/7; HA, NYT 2/8; PR 2/12; PCHR 2/20)

Following up on the Sharon-Qurai' talks on 2/5, **PA Interior M Hani al-Hassan** meets secretly with **Sharon Chief of Staff Dov Weisglass** at the home of **U.S. Amb. to Israel Dan Kurtzer** to discuss possible resumption of Israeli-PA cease-fire talks. (HA, MM 2/10; JT, QA, *al-Quds*, SA 2/10 in WNC 2/11; HA, MM 2/11; PR 2/12; MEI 2/21)

7 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** shells residential areas of Khan Yunis, killing **1 Palestinian**; bulldozes 72 dunams of land nr. Bayt Hanun. (PCHR 2/20)

8 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Nablus, Nur al-Shams r.c. (targeting the **tanzim**), Ramallah (targeting **Hamas**); demolishes 7 **Palestinian homes** in Khan Yunis, 6 in Rafah, 2 in Nablus; bulldozes 36 dunams of land nr. Dayr al-Balah; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 1/7/03. (HA, REU 2/8; PR 2/12; PCHR 2/20)

9 FEBRUARY

Outside Gush Katif settlement, 3 **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** detonate a car bomb nr. an IDF checkpoint, killing themselves, lightly injuring 4 **IDF soldiers**; soldiers open fire on Palestinians waiting to cross the checkpoint, wounding 2. The **IDF** demolishes 8 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah; conducts arrest raids in East Jerusalem; fires on residential areas of Abasan, Khan Yunis, Rafah, Tulkarm. (HA, REU 2/9; HA, NYT, WT 2/10; VOI 2/10 in WNC 2/11; PCHR 2/20)

Israeli pres. Moshe Katsav formally invites **Sharon** to form a coalition government. Sharon accepts, saying that "The new government will have to complete the campaign against terror, remove the terrorist leadership, and create the conditions for the emergence of a new Palestinian leadership with which it will be possible to make real peace." (WT 2/10)

10 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** assassinates wanted **PFLP mbr. Imad Mabruk** in al-'Ayn r.c.; fatally shoots an armed **Palestinian** nr. a Jewish settlement in Gaza; arrests 3 **Hamas mbrs.** nr. Ramallah carrying 44 lbs. of explosives, allegedly en route to stage a suicide bombing; demolishes 1 **Palestinian home** in Rafah, 1 in Sawahara; conducts arrest raids in Kefar Darom, Nablus. A **Palestinian** wounded in Tulkarm on 2/9 dies of his injuries. A roadside bomb explodes nr. an **IDF** patrol in Rafah, causing no injuries. Late in the evening, the **IDF** seals the West Bank, Gaza for 3 days, citing concerns there will be anti-Israeli attacks during the Id al-Adha holiday. (AP, HA 2/10; VOI 2/10 in WNC 2/11; HA, NYT, WT 2/11; VOI 2/11 in WNC 2/12; PR 2/12; PCHR 2/20)

11 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** raids Nablus, fatally shooting a **wanted tanzim** mbr. in what may be an as-

sassination, arresting 6 others; raids Qalqilya, encounters a stone-throwing mob, opens fire on the protesters, killing an **8-yr.-old Palestinian boy**, wounding 9; fatally shoots an armed **Palestinian** nr. Kissufim crossing in Gaza; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Rafah; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c.; conducts arrest raids targeting Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Beitunia, Husan, Jenin, Kafr Qalil; fires on residential areas of al-Qarara, Rafah. A **PFLP gunman** fatally shoots an **IDF officer** in Manger Square in Bethlehem; the IDF sends tanks into the city, declares it a closed military zone. Late this evening, the **IDF** fatally shoots 2 **Palestinians** nr. Dugit settlement. **Israeli police** arrest an **Israeli DMin. supervisor** responsible for overseeing construction of a section of Israel's new security fence on charges of collaborating with building contractors to uproot **Palestinian olive trees**, sell them for profit inside Israel. (HA 2/11; HA, NYT, PR, WP, WT 2/12; VOI 2/12 in WNC 2/13; PCHR 2/20)

12 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** raids a Nablus r.c. in search of **wanted tanzim** mbr. Kamal al-Khatib, fires rockets at his home, killing 1 **Palestinian**, injuring 1; Khatib surrenders. The **IDF** also demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Khan Yunis. A **13-yr.-old Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. (HA 2/13; PCHR 2/20)

13 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** lifts the sealing of the territories imposed on 2/10, but maintains curfews in many areas; fires on a group of **Palestinians** allegedly attempting to plant a roadside bomb nr. Netzarim settlement, killing 2 or 3, capturing 1; fatally shoots 1 **Palestinian** in a separate incident nr. Netzarim; kills 2 **Palestinians** during a demolition operation in Rafah; conducts massive arrest raids targeting **Islamic Jihad, Hamas** in Jenin, Qalqilya, Tulkarm; raids the Jenin courthouse, arresting 2 **Palestinians**. (HA 2/13; PCHR 2/20)

A delegation of 50 **senior American Jewish leaders** (including **Council of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations [CPMAJO] exec. vice dir. Malcolm Hoenlein, fmr. CPMAJO chmn. Ron Lauder**), accompanied by 2 **reps. of Sharon**, meets in Almaty with the leaders of **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan**, as well as senior ministers fr. **Afghanistan**,

Azerbaijan, Turkey and the regional **senior execs. of U.S. energy companies. Israeli diplomats** serving in the region also take part. The Jewish delegation says that its aim is to “begin a dialog of civilizations” with Muslim leaders to head off a “clash of civilizations”; that it is bringing messages of support from **Bush, Powell, Sharon**; that Bush has been “personally involved and supportive in preparations for this mission.” Hoenlein notes that CPMAJO made a similar trip to Uzbekistan in 1996 that led to the establishment of Israeli-Uzbek diplomatic relations in 1997, noting that “sometimes we can have access in places before the Israeli government.” (HA 2/13; see also HA 2/12)

14 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** demolishes 14 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah, 2 in al-Mughraqa; fires on residential areas of Rafah. (PCHR 2/20)

After 6 days of mtgs. in Ramallah with the **Quartet reps.** of the **EU, Russia**, the **UN** (the **U.S.** declines to send a rep.), **Arafat** publicly declares his intention to appoint a PM. (HA, MM, WT 2/14; NYT, WP 2/15; MM

2/17, 2/18, 2/20; MEI 2/21) (see Quarterly Update)

At the **UNSC, UN weapons inspectors** give their 2d report on **Iraq**, saying that they have not found any evidence of WMDs, there is no “convincing evidence” that Iraq is evading inspections, but Iraq has not accounted for all of the weapons it was believed to have held previously. An irate **Powell** reiterates U.S. claims that Iraq is hiding weapons of mass destruction, duping the inspectors. (HA, MM 2/14; NYT, WP, WT 2/15; MEI 2/21)

15 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** raids Tulkarm, arresting **Islamic Jihad cmdr. Mahmud Qunaydi**, his **dep. Fuad Sawalha**; demolishes 4 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah, 3 in Bayt Lahia; fires on residential areas of Rafah. Outside Dugit settlement, **Magach 7-Kfir tank** triggers a large bomb planted by **Hamas**, destroying the tank, killing 4 **IDF soldiers**; in response, the **IDF** demolishes 2 **Palestinian apartment buildings**, several greenhouses, nearby. (HA 2/14; HA 2/15; NYT, WP, WT 2/16; MM 2/17; PCHR 2/20; MEI 2/21)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

ADL	(Adalah, Shafa 'Amr)
AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AN	(Arab News, Riyadh)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
ATL	(Anatolia, Ankara)
AYM	(<i>al-Ayyam</i> , Ramallah)
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
CNN	(Cable News Network [Internet])
CSM	(<i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , Boston)
DUS	(<i>al-Dustur</i> , Amman)
HA	(<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
HP	(Hear Palestine [Internet], Washington)
JP	(<i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem)
JPI	(<i>Jerusalem Post International Edition</i> , Jerusalem)
JT	(<i>Jordan Times</i> , Amman)
JTA	(Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet])
LAW	(Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, Jerusalem)
MA	(<i>Ma'ariv</i> , Tel Aviv)
MEI	(<i>Middle East International</i> , London)
MENA	(Middle East News Agency, Cairo)
MM	(<i>Mideast Mirror</i> , London)
NYT	(<i>New York Times</i> , New York)
PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PM	(Palestine Monitor [Internet])
PR	(<i>Palestine Report</i> , Jerusalem)
QA	(<i>al-Quds al-Arabi</i> , London)
REU	(Reuters [Internet])

- SA (*al-Sbarq al-Awsat*, London)
TJT (*The Jerusalem Times*, East Jerusalem)
UPMRC (Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees, Jerusalem)
USIS (USIS Washington File, Washington)
VOI (Voice of Israel, Jerusalem)
WJW (*Washington Jewish Week*, Rockville, MD)
WNC (World News Connection [Internet], Washington)
WP (*Washington Post*, Washington)
WT (*Washington Times*, Washington)
XIN (Xinhua–New China News Agency, Beijing)



Palestinian women argue with an IDF soldier at the Beit El checkpoint on 3 December, shortly after soldiers opened fire on a taxi at the crossing killing a 95-year-old Palestinian woman. (AFP/Jamal Aruri)