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Chronology

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# CHRONOLOGY

16 FEBRUARY–15 MAY 2003

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

*This section is part seventy-eight 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 FEBRUARY

A day after **Hamas** detonated a roadside bomb under a tank, killing 4 Israeli soldiers, the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** announces plans to crack down on **Hamas** in Gaza. In Gaza City, **6 senior Hamas mbrs.** are killed, 3 bystanders are wounded when a car laden with explosives blows up; Hamas accuses Israel of remote detonating the device, assassinating the men. The **IDF** clashes with Palestinians in Nablus during a raid on an office building, leaving **3 Palestinians** dead, 23 wounded; **senior Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) mbr. and PLO Exec. Comm. mbr. Taysir Khalid,** three other Palestinians are arrested in the raid. The **IDF** also fires on Palestinians in Jabaliya, killing **2 Palestinians**, wounding 9; conducts arrest raids in Beitunia (targeting **Hamas**), Tulkarm (targeting **Islamic Jihad**, the *tanzim*); bulldozes 42 dunams (4 dunams = 1 acre) of Palestinian land, 3 structures nr. Aley Sinai settlement. The **Palestinian Authority (PA)** says that Palestinians in n. Bethlehem have received notices fr. the **IDF** that 14 dunams of their land, including the **Rachel's Tomb** area and 40 **Palestinian homes**, will be annexed to Jerusalem as part of the security fence construction. (AP, HA, REU 2/16; VOI 2/16, AYM 2/17 in WNC 2/19; HA, MM, NYT, PM, WP 2/17; LAW, WT 2/18; HA, LAW, PR, WT 2/19; LAW, PCHR 2/20; MEI 2/21; MM 2/24, 2/25; HA 2/28)

## 17 FEBRUARY

**IDF undercover units** ambush, assassinate **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades 2d in command Riyadh Abu Zayd** as he drives nr. Netzarim. The **IDF** also makes a predawn raid on Gaza City to demolish the

**home** of a senior Hamas mbr., fatally shooting **2 Palestinians**, injuring 9 during the operation; opens fire on a group of Palestinians nr. Qalqilya, wounding 1 man riding a horse cart, killing the horse; shuts the **Center for Social Research** in East Jerusalem, claiming it is operating illegally as an arm of the PA; shells residential areas of Rafah, destroying 1 **Palestinian home**; bulldozes another 48 dunams of land nr. Aley Sinai settlement. In Gaza City, around **100,000 Palestinians** take part in funeral marches for 6 senior **Hamas** mbrs. killed on 2/16. (AP, HA, MM, NYT, REU 2/17; LAW, WP, WT 2/18; PR 2/19; LAW, PCHR 2/20; MEI 2/21; MM 2/24)

## 18 FEBRUARY

Overnight, **IDF undercover units** raid Yatta, assassinate wanted **Hamas mbr. Muhammad Muhr**. The **IDF** also fires tear gas into a girls primary school in Hebron, injuring 10s of children; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Nablus, 2 buildings in Rafah refugee camp (r.c.); conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem, Jenin, Rafah (targeting **Islamic Jihad**). Late in the evening, the **IDF** sends 40 tanks, helicopters, troops into Gaza City on a mission to demolish 4 Palestinian buildings, 1 of them a **home**, allegedly containing **Hamas** metal workshops, leaving at least **11 Palestinians** dead, 25 wounded: 3 are bystanders killed when the IDF blows up one building causing the wall of an adjacent structure to collapse on top of them; 3 are **PA general intelligence officers** killed when the IDF fires rockets at their post; 1 is a **Hamas mbr.** who detonates a suicide bomb nr. a tank, causing no injuries; 4 are gunmen attempting to hold back the incursion. The **IDF** also announces plans to build a

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walled corridor surrounding **Rachel's Tomb** in Bethlehem, linking it to Jerusalem and encircling 10s of Palestinian homes, businesses. The **PA** begins deploying 10s of unarmed security personnel in Nablus, called the **Palestinian Authority–Joint Forces** to handle traffic, civilian complaints; the PA says it has not coordinated with **Israel** regarding the force. (AP, HA, LAW 2/18; HA, MM, NYT, PR, WP, WT 2/19; AFP, *al-Quds* 2/19 in WNC 2/20; LAW, MM, NYT, PCHR, WT 2/20; MM 2/24; MEI 3/7)

**Israeli, PA** teams meet with **Quartet** reps. in London to discuss PA reforms, cease-fire talks, Palestinians' humanitarian situation, next steps to adoption of the **road map** plan for resumption of negotiations. The Quartet's **International Task Force for Reform**, the donors' **Ad Hoc Liaison Comm.** meet on the sidelines. (WP 2/19; NYT 2/20; MEI 2/21; AYM 2/21 in WNC 2/27) (see Quarterly Update; Doc. A2)

## 19 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** makes a predawn raid on Nablus, killing **2 Palestinians** (ages 16 and 60), occupying 2 schools and several buildings. In response to the IDF's overnight attack on Gaza, **Hamas** fires **4 Qassam rockets** at the Israeli border town of Sederot, seriously injuring **1 Israeli**, damaging a factory. In Jenin, **al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB) mbr. Shahar Zakarna** is killed, 3 passengers are injured when an explosive device in his car detonates in what is believed to be an assassination. A **Palestinian** held in Israel's Nafha prison in the Negev dies of "medical complications." The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Abasan; demolishes **1 Palestinian home** in Dayr al-Balah, 1 in Khan Yunis. **Israeli police** report the arrest of **2 Druze soldiers, 1 Druze civilian** for stealing 3 machine guns fr. an army depot, selling them to Palestinian militants. (HA, LAW 2/19; LAW, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 2/20; LAW 2/23; MM 2/24; PR 2/26; LAW, PCHR 2/27)

## 20 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** tightens restrictions on Palestinian movement in Gaza, shuts main roads, dividing the Strip into 3 sections; fatally shoots a **wanted *tanzim* mbr.** in Tulkarm in what may be an assassination;

demolishes **1 Palestinian home** in Hebron, 1 in Jamayn, 1 in Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Ramallah, Tamun; fires on residential areas of Rafah. As IDF operations in Nablus continue, a **Palestinian sniper** shoots, wounds an **IDF soldier**. **Palestinians** fire **1 Qassam rocket** at Netzarim settlement, 2 across the Gaza border into Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. **Israel** issues tenders for construction of 126 new housing units in **Efrat settlement**. (HA, REU 2/20; HA 2/21; *al-Quds* 2/21 in WNC 2/24; LAW 2/23; LAW, PCHR 2/27)

After 10 yrs. of federal investigations trying to link him to terrorism, **U.S.** authorities arrest **Palestinian-born U.S. permanent resident Sami al-Arian**, a fmr. University of South Florida professor, on charges of fundraising for **Islamic Jihad**, and "conspiracy to commit murder via suicide attacks." Another 7 individuals are also charged, several of whom are abroad, including Damascus-based **Islamic Jihad head Ramadan Shallah**. Arian has been an active fundraiser for 2 Muslim organization that do social work in the territories; the U.S. alleges that he in fact has laundered and funneled money to Islamic Jihad military activities as the organization's chief financial officer since 1984. (The State Dept. listed Islamic Jihad as a terrorist organization in 1995.) **U.S. Atty. Gen. John Ashcroft** says that provisions of new antiterrorism legislation made the arrest possible. (HA, NYT, WP 2/21; WT 2/22; MM 2/26; MEI 3/7)

## 21 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** fatally shoots **2 Palestinians** attempting to sneak into Israel fr. Gaza; fatally shoots **1 Palestinian** in Tulkarm when he fails to heed orders to halt; opens fire on Palestinian stone throwers in Nablus, injuring 12; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Nablus; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Abud, Tamun, Tura. A **4th Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 2/11. (AP, HA, WT 2/21; HA, NYT, WT 2/22; LAW 2/23; LAW, PCHR 2/27)

**PLO Exec. Comm. gen. secy. and senior PA negotiator Mahmud Abbas** says that the **PA** is calling for a 1-yr. demilitarization of the intifada. The **AMB, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine**

(PFLP) reject the call. (HA 2/21; Interfax 2/21, SA 2/23 in WNC 2/24; NYT 2/23; *al-Quds*, JT 2/24 in WNC 2/25; AYM 2/24 in WNC 2/26)

## 22 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** continues operations in Nablus, conducting arrest raids, firing on demonstrators, killing **2 Palestinian**, wounding 2; demolishes **6 Palestinian homes** in Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Ramallah. (AP, HA 2/22; LAW, NYT 2/23; PR 2/26; LAW, PCHR 2/27)

## 23 FEBRUARY

Overnight, the **IDF** launches a raid on Bayt Hanun that it expects to last for several days, demolishing **5 Palestinian homes**, bulldozing 6 dunams of land, clashing with local Palestinians, killing **7 Palestinians** (1 crushed in his home when it is demolished), wounding 28, detaining a **Palestinian Reuters cameraman** for involvement in "terrorist activity"; during the day, troops commandeer houses as outposts, fortify their positions, patrol streets, destroy bridges and roads, dig trenches, erect barricades. The **IDF** also fatally shoots **3 Palestinians** elsewhere—an armed Palestinian attempting to infiltrate Netzarim settlement, a 15-yr.-old Palestinian on a playground in Khan Yunis, a Palestinian who fails to heed orders to halt; arrests **DFLP Ramallah head Ibrahim Abu Hijla**; bulldozes 24 dunams of land, **2 Palestinian homes** in Rafah; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids in Jenin, Khan Yunis. An **11th Palestinian** dies of injuries received in Nablus on 2/22. A **PFLP sniper** fatally shoots **1 IDF soldier** in Khan Yunis. **Palestinians** fire **3 Qassam rockets** at Sederot, causing no damage. (AP, HA, LAW 2/23; HA, NYT, WP, WT 2/24; NYT, PMC 2/25; PR 2/26; LAW, PCHR 2/27)

## 24 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** pulls out of Beit Hanun without explanation; continues operations in Khan Yunis, demolishing **1 Palestinian home**, conducting searches and arrests, firing on residential areas; conducts arrest raids in Balata r.c., Hebron, Tubas, Tulkarm; demolishes **1 Palestinian home** in Nablus, causing the **Palestinian** owner to have a fatal heart attack. The **Israeli**

**Interior Min.** demolishes **13 bedouin homes** in the Negev, nr. Beersheba. (HA, MM 2/24; HA, NYT, PMC, WT 2/25; LAW, PCHR 2/27)

## 25 FEBRUARY

Violence drops as the worst winter storm in yrs. hits region. The **IDF** fatally shoots a **13-yr.-old Palestinian**, wounds 7 others, demolishes **8 Palestinian homes** in Rafah; bulldozes 7 dunams of land and demolishes **1 Palestinian home** in Khan Yunis, also shelling residential areas; conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem, Jenin, Tulkarm. A **2d Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 2/16. A **Haifa district court** convicts **2 Israeli Arabs** fr. the Galilee on charges of aiding a Palestinian who detonated a suicide bomb on 8/4/02. **Israeli DM Shaul Mofaz** says Israel plans to step up "active defense" in the Strip targeting **Hamas**. (HA, MM 2/25; HA, WP, WT 2/26; LAW, PCHR 2/27)

**U.S. Pres. George W. Bush** warns that he will accept nothing short of "full disarmament" by **Iraq**, he is willing to go to war even without passage of a 2d UNSC res., slated for vote on 3/3. **U.S. diplomats** tell **UNSC mbrs.** that a military attack is inevitable, any attempt to delay would destroy the UN's credibility. (NYT, WP, WT 2/26)

## 26 FEBRUARY

A **Palestinian** wounded by the **IDF** 2 wks. ago deteriorates rapidly, dies after an **Israeli hospital** insisted on transferring him to a Palestinian hospital on 2/25 despite the extreme weather. The **IDF** arrests an **Islamic Jihad mbr.** in the West Bank, blows up a car it says he was rigging as a bomb; blows up **9 Palestinian homes** in Rafah, 1 in Balata r.c. (also destroying 2 nearby homes). An **IDF military court** accuses a Nablus-based **PFLP** cell of plotting to assassinate **Shas leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef**, the **Israeli amb. to Jordan**. A **Tel Aviv court** sentences an **Israeli Arab** to 4 yrs. for transferring arms to the *tanzim*. (HA 2/26; HA, LAW, PCHR, PM 2/27; LAW 3/13)

**Bush** outlines his vision for the Middle East in a post-**Saddam Hussein** environment, arguing that the overthrow of the **Iraqi** pres. and his regime will serve as a catalyst for peace in the region, explicitly linking resolution of the **Israeli-**

**Palestinian conflict** and creation of a “truly democratic Palestinian state” to removing Hussein (HA, NYT, WP, WT 2/27; MENA 2/27 in WNC 2/28; JP, WP 2/28; *al-Quds* 3/2 in WNC 3/5; MM 3/5; WJW 3/6; MEI 3/7) (see Quarterly Update)

## 27 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** raids a branch of the Arab Bank in Azariyya, East Jerusalem, confiscates documents related to bank accounts belonging to **Jerusalem** residents allegedly linked to **Hamas**. A roadside bomb explodes nr. a Jewish settler bus in the West Bank, causing no injuries. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 2/23. (HA, JTA 2/27; PCHR 3/6; LAW 3/13)

The **Knesset** approves (68–48) **Israeli PM Ariel Sharon's** (reelected on 1/28/03) new coalition government. The 68-seat coalition includes the right-wing, pro-settler **National Religious Party** (6 seats), opposed to creation of a Palestinian state; the right-wing, secular nationalist **Shinui** (15 seats), which supports unilateral separation; and the ultraright-wing **National Union Party** (7 seats), which represents Jewish settlers, opposes talks with the Palestinians, and advocates expelling **PA head Yasir Arafat** and Palestinians from the occupied territories and annexing the land. **Acting FM Benjamin Netanyahu (Likud)** becomes finance minister, **acting Finance M Silvan Shalom (Likud)** becomes FM; **Likud's Tshai Hanegbi** (previously under criminal investigation by Israeli police) becomes internal security minister; **Mofaz** remains DM. Sharon says that the economy will be his 1st priority, the peace process his 2d; that the **Palestinians** would have to give up the right of return, agree to Jerusalem remaining the unified capital of Israel, and halt all violence if they want a comprehensive peace. (HA, MM, NYT, WP 2/27; NYT, WP, WT 2/28; MA 2/28 in WNC 3/3; WT 3/1; MEI 3/7) (see Doc. C1)

## 28 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** demolishes 8 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 2/22. (AP 3/1; PCHR 3/6; LAW 3/13)

The **UN** confirms that **Iraq** has begun destroying missiles, which inspectors

determined could fly beyond limits set by UN sanctions. The **White House** declares, however, that disarmament alone is not enough (see 2/25), that the only way for **Iraq** to avoid war is for Hussein to step down as well. (NYT, WP 3/1; HA, NYT, WP, WT 3/2)

## 1 MARCH

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Hebron, targeting the *tanzim*; finds, disables a large roadside bomb nr. Khan Yunis. In retaliation, the **IDF** launches a raid on Khan Yunis late in the evening, killing 2 **Palestinians**, wounding 39, demolishing 6 **Palestinian homes**; 2 **IDF soldiers** are also wounded. The **IDF** also fires on an UNRWA primary school in Khan Yunis, leaving an **11-yr.-old Palestinian** clinically dead. Nr. Erez crossing, a **Jewish settler** deliberately hits a **Palestinian** man with his car, leaving him in a coma, with serious head injuries. (HA, WP, WT 3/2; NYT 3/3; PCHR 3/6; MEI 3/7; PR 3/12; LAW 3/13)

## 2 MARCH

The **IDF** continues its “preemptive operation” in Khan Yunis, blowing up a 7-story apartment building, firing on a hospital, wounding 8 Palestinians inside; **Palestinians** fight back with guns, grenades, causing no injuries; troops pull out in the morning. During funerals for 2 Palestinians killed in Khan Yunis on 3/1, **armed Palestinians** fire in the air, drawing fire fr. **IDF** troop guarding a nearby Jewish settlement, which kills a **9-yr.-old Palestinian boy**. A **2d Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 10/22/02. The **IDF** also fires on residential areas s. of Bethlehem, Rafah; demolishes 9 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem. The **Israel Lands Admin.** demolishes 17 **Israeli Arab homes** in Kafr Qasim. (AP, HA 3/2; HA, NYT 3/3; MM 3/4; PR 3/5; PCHR 3/6; MEI 3/7; LAW 3/13)

## 3 MARCH

The **IDF** makes predawn raids on Bureij r.c., Nussayrat r.c., killing 8 **Palestinians** (mostly in Bureij), leaving at least 40 wounded, barring medical access, blowing up 3 **Palestinian homes** (causing a 4th to collapse, killing 1 pregnant

woman inside, and seriously damaging a mosque), arresting **Hamas Nussayrat head Muhammad Taha**; 2 IDF soldiers are also wounded. The **IDF** also sends troops into the Old City of Nablus, occupying several houses and schools, forcibly evacuating students, conducting arrest raids, firing on stone throwers, fatally shooting **1 Palestinian** (who may have been handcuffed); fires on stone throwers in Tulkarm; demolishes **4 Palestinian homes** in Dayr al-Balah. **Palestinians** fire **5 Qassam rockets** in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. (NYT, PM, WP, WT 3/3; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/4; PR 3/5; PCHR 3/6; MEI 3/7; LAW 3/13)

#### 4 MARCH

The **IDF** raids an Internet café in Jenin in search of an **Islamic Jihad** mbr., fatally shooting **1 Palestinian bystander**, wounding 6, arresting the wanted man, 6 others; fatally shoots a **75-yr.-old Palestinian** farmer riding a donkey through a restricted area nr. Netzarim settlement; fatally shoots a mute **Palestinian** who had stopped to watch Palestinians throw stones at troops in Tulkarm; demolishes **1 Palestinian home** in Hebron, 1 in Rafah. **Jewish settlers** open fire on stone-throwing **Palestinians** in the West Bank, seriously injuring a 14-yr.-old Palestinian boy. The **Israel Lands Admin.** sprays toxic chemicals on 1,500 dunams of bedouin crop land belonging to the unrecognized village of Abda in the Negev. (ADL, MM 3/4; NYT, PM, WP, WT 3/5; PCHR 3/6; LAW 3/13)

#### 5 MARCH

A **Hamas suicide bomber** fr. Hebron detonates a device on a bus in Haifa, killing **14 Israelis**, **1 American**, wounding 40; **Israel** seals the West Bank and Gaza borders until further notice, vows to respond "but not [on] a scale that would disrupt any U.S. preparations for a possible attack on Iraq." Overnight, **Palestinians** also reportedly fire 13 antitank missiles and grenades at **IDF** forces on the Rafah border, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** demolishes **1 Palestinian home** in Nablus, 1 in Qalqilya, a mosque in Rafah r.c. that had been heavily damaged in earlier attacks; conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem, Qalqilya (targeting **Fatah**), Ramallah

(nabbing **senior Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades mbr. Abdallah Barghouti**), Yamun; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis. Late in the evening, the **IDF** launches a major raid into Jabaliya r.c., sending in 50 tanks and helicopters, firing several missiles, killing **3 Palestinians**, wounding 11; fatally shoots **Islamic Jihad mbr. Muhammad al-Asas** in an exchange of gunfire in Bethlehem, leaving 1 IDF soldier wounded. A **Jerusalem court** sentences **Israeli Arab Murad Ajluni** to life plus 20 yrs. for taking part in a 3/02 AMB shooting in Tel Aviv that left 3 Israelis dead. (HA 3/5; Interfax, VOI 3/5 in WNC 3/6; HA, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 3/6; MA 3/6 in WNC 3/7; HA 3/7; LAW, PR 3/13; PCHR 3/13; JPI 3/14)

#### 6 MARCH

The **IDF** continues operations in Jabaliya r.c., demolishing **8 Palestinian homes**, shelling an apartment building and attached store; as firemen fight the blaze and Palestinians gather at the scene, an **IDF** tank fires a shell, possibly containing flechettes, at the crowd, killing **8 Palestinians** (including 1 firefighter, 3 children), wounding more than 60 (including **2 Reuters journalists**; another 60 Palestinians are wounded in Jabaliya during the day); the IDF pulls out of the camp later in the morning. The **IDF** also fatally shoots a **Palestinian** demonstrator in Nablus; fatally shoots a **Palestinian** during an arrest raid in Bethlehem; returns gunfire directed at an IDF patrol outside Hebron, killing a **Palestinian shepherd** tending her flock nearby; demolishes a **Palestinian home** outside Jenin; fires on residential areas of Nablus, al-Qarara. A **13th Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 2/5/03. Late in the evening, the **IDF** fatally shoots a **Palestinian** allegedly attempting to infiltrate Hamra settlement; arrests **Islamic Jihad Jenin head Muhammad Abu Rub. Palestinians** fire **2 Qassam rockets** at Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. (AP, HA, MM, REU 3/6; MENA 3/6 in WNC 3/7; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/7; *al-Quds* 3/7 in WNC 3/10; PR 3/12; LAW, PCHR 3/13; MEI 3/21)

**Arafat** nominates **Abbas** as his candidate for PM. Abbas says he would accept only if it is not merely a symbolic post. The PM's duties have yet to be defined. (HA, MM, NYT 3/7; AYM, *al-Quds*

3/8 in WNC 3/10; PR 3/12; WJW 3/13) (see Quarterly Update)

In a rare speech to the nation, **Bush** prepares the public for imminent war with **Iraq**, claiming that Iraq has trained and financed "al-Qa'ida and al-Qa'ida-type organizations" and is building new missiles and weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) rather than destroying them. (NYT, WP, WT 3/7)

## 7 MARCH

The **IDF** carves out a 4 mi<sup>2</sup> "**security zone**" in **Gaza** around Bayt Hanun, Bayt Lahiya, Jabaliya r.c. to prevent Palestinians fr. firing rockets, mortars into Israel; stations 100 military vehicles in the zone; razes 100 dunams of land; says troops will stay indefinitely. The **IDF** also fatally shoots **3 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** who attempt to infiltrate Netzarim settlement; conducts house searches in Nablus, breaking through walls to move from house to house. In the West Bank, **2 Hamas mbrs.** dressed as yeshiva students infiltrate Kiryat Arba settlement, fatally shoot **2 Jewish settlers**, wounding **6** before being killed by armed settlers. (HA 3/7; NYT, WP, WT 3/8; WP 3/9; PR 3/12; LAW, PCHR, WJW 3/13)

At the UNSC, **UN chief weapons inspector Hans Blix** reports that **Iraq** is cooperating with inspectors, who have yet to find evidence of WMDs; estimates inspections could be completed within wks. **U.S. Secy. of State Colin Powell** replies that Iraq clearly has not met the requirements for cooperation, disarmament set out in UNSC Res. 1441, saying, "There are some people who simply, in my judgment, don't want to see the facts clearly." The **U.S., Britain** submit a draft UNSC res. that would give Iraq until 3/17 to reveal all its WMDs or face retaliation. **France, Germany, Russia** argue for completing UN inspections, saying that lack of progress on the **Israeli-Palestinian conflict** is much more of a threat to the region than Iraq. (WP 3/7; NYT, WP, WT 3/8; NYT 3/9; MM 3/10)

## 8 MARCH

The **IDF** assassinates **senior Hamas political official Ibrahim Maqadama**, the most senior Palestinian to be killed by Israel since the start of the intifada, firing missiles at his car as he drives in Gaza City,

also killing his **3 bodyguards**, injuring a 4th bodyguard and 2 bystanders. **Hamas** fires **4 Qassam rockets** at Sederot, despite the IDF reoccupation of the n. Gaza border area, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** also fatally shoots a **Palestinian** demonstrator in Bayt Lahia; shells residential areas of Jaba, killing **1 Palestinian**; conducts arrest raids in Hebron, Nablus; demolishes **3 Palestinian homes** in Hebron, 1 in Dayr al-Balah, 1 nr. Kefar Darom, 1 in Qabatiyya. An **Israeli** dies of injuries received in the 3/5 Haifa bombing. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received in Jabaliya on 3/6. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba forcibly evict a **Palestinian family** fr. their home in Dayr al-Mahawir, outside Hebron, and occupy the building. (VOI 3/8 in WNC 3/10; HA, NYT, WP, WT 3/9; PM, WT 3/10; PR 3/12; LAW, PCHR 3/13; MEI 3/21)

The **Bush admin.** announces that the U.S. will not release the **road map** until after the **Iraq** crisis is resolved. (NYT 3/9; PR 3/12; *al-Quds* 3/13 in WNC 3/14)

## 9 MARCH

**Israel** vows to step up attacks on **Hamas**, saying "no terrorist chief, with the emphasis on Hamas, will be immune." **Hamas** fires another **4 Qassam rockets** at Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. A **Palestinian sniper** fires on an IDF post outside Gush Katif settlement, wounding **1 IDF soldier**; the **IDF** demolishes **8 Palestinian buildings** that could have provided the sniper cover. The **IDF** also fires on, shells residential areas of Dayr al-Balah, Khan Yunis, Rafah; bulldozes 2.5 dunams of land, **1 Palestinian home** in Khan Yunis. A **Palestinian shepherd** dies when he triggers an explosive device in a field nr. Tulkarm. (HA, WT 3/10; LAW, PCHR 3/13)

## 10 MARCH

The **IDF** pulls out of the **n. Gaza "security zone"** it reoccupied on 3/7, having bulldozed at least 314 dunams of land, demolished **2 Palestinian homes** in Bayt Lahia. The **IDF** fatally shoots **2 AMB mbrs.** planting roadside bombs outside Kefar Darom settlement; shells residential areas of Hebron, killing **1 Palestinian**, destroying his home; demolishes **1 Palestinian home** in Bayt Hanun, 1 in Jenin, 1 in al-Qarara; bulldozes 10 dunams

of Palestinian land nr. Kiryat Arba settlement in Hebron; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Hanun. A **Palestinian gunman** ambushes an **IDF** patrol nr. the Tomb of the Patriarchs/al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, killing **1 IDF soldier**, wounding 5, taking refuge in an apartment building; **Hamas**, the **PFLP** each take responsibility; the IDF evacuates the building, shells and bulldozes it, killing the gunman. A Beit El **military court** sentences a **Fatah mbr.** to 4 consecutive life terms for planning a 3/21/02 suicide bombing in Jerusalem. The **AMB** and military wings of **Hamas**, **Islamic Jihad**, the **PFLP** in Nablus issue a letter warning the **IDF** to withdraw fr. Nablus and other PA areas in 2 wks. or they will resume military operations inside Israel. (HA 3/10; VOI 3/10 in WNC 3/11; HA, MM, NYT 3/11; NYT, PR, WP 3/12; LAW, PCHR 3/13)

The *Reston Connection* (Reston, VA) reports that at a private function last wk. in Virginia, **Rep. James Moran (D-VA)** said, "If it were not for the strong support of the **Jewish community** for this war with **Iraq**, we would not be doing this [i.e., planning for war]. The leaders of the Jewish community are influential enough that they could change the direction of where this is going, and I think they should." Jewish orgs. condemn his comments as "reprehensible and anti-Semitic." **House minority leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)** says Moran's comments "have no place in the Democratic party." (HA, WP 3/11; WJW 3/13; WP 3/15; MEI 3/21; WJW 4/10)

### 11 MARCH

The **IDF** says that it plans to deport fr. Hebron to Gaza several relatives of Muhammad Qawasmi, the 3/5 Haifa suicide bomber, claiming they either knew of or assisted in planning the bombing. An **Israeli** wounded in the 3/5 attack dies of her injuries, bringing the toll to 17. The **IDF** demolishes 5 **Palestinian homes** in al-Mughraqa, 3 in Rafah, 1 in Jenin, 1 in al-Qarara (killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding 3 in the operation); fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Hebron, Nablus (detaining a wheelchair-bound Palestinian); fires shells at an ambulance in Rafah, injuring the driver. The **IDF** also arrests **senior PFLP leader and PLO Exec. Comm. mbr. Adnan Jabir** in Bethlehem, making him

the 4th PLO Exec. Comm. mbr. arrested by the IDF; the others are Taysir Khalid (DFLP), 'Abd al-Rahim Maluah (PFLP), and Raqad Salim (Arab Liberation Front). (HA 3/11; NYT 3/12; LAW, PCHR 3/13)

### 12 MARCH

The **IDF** makes a predawn raid on Saida, imposes a curfew, orders all men ages 15 to 65 to turn themselves in for questioning, exchanges gunfire with **Islamic Jihad mbrs.**, leaving **1 Islamic Jihad mbr.** and **1 IDF soldier** dead, 5 Palestinians and 1 IDF soldier wounded; many Palestinians are still detained at the end of the day. The **IDF** arrests **senior Fatah mbr. Mahmud Hasib** as he leaves a mtg. with **PA Interior M. Hani al-Hassan** in Ramallah, claims Hasib planned several shootings of Israelis. (HA 3/12; VOI 3/12 in WNC 3/13; LAW, NYT, PCHR, WP 3/13)

### 13 MARCH

The **IDF** fatally shoots **2 armed Jewish settler guards** in a friendly fire mishap, mistaking them for Palestinian gunmen; fatally shoots **6 wanted Hamas mbrs.** in a raid on Tamun in what may be an assassination; demolishes 3 **Palestinian homes** in Saida; conducts predawn arrest raids in Azariyya, Nablus, Qabatiyya. A **Palestinian gunman** shoots, wounds **2 Jewish settlers** in East Jerusalem, escapes. The **IDF** arrests **2 Jewish settlers** for seriously beating a **Palestinian shepherd** nr. Nablus; raids a house in a West Bank settlement, confiscating percussion and smoke grenades, flares, ammunition (including heavy machine gun bullets) stolen fr. the IDF. (HA, REU 3/13; VOI 3/13 in WNC 3/14; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/14; MA 3/14 in WNC 3/17; HA, NYT 3/15; PR 3/19; PCHR 3/20)

### 14 MARCH

The **IDF** raids a building in Jenin r.c., killing **local AMB cmdr. Yusif Masharqa**, **4 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** in what may be an assassination; fatally shoots a stone-throwing **Palestinian** in Azun; conducts arrest raids in Hebron, Rafah; fires on residential areas of Rafah; bulldozes 8 dunams of land in Khan Yunis. A **Palestinian gunman** fires on a car traveling a bypass road nr. Adora, lightly



wounding **1 Jewish settler** (HA, MM 3/14; HA, NYT 3/15; *al-Quds* 3/15 in WNC 3/17; PCHR 3/20)

**Bush** says he will not release the **road map** until the PA appoints a “credible” **Palestinian PM** in a “position of real authority.” (HA 3/14; XIN 3/14, MENA, *al-Quds*, XIN 3/15, JT, MA, SA 3/16 in WNC 3/17; *al-Ra'i* 3/15 in WNC 3/18; HA, NYT, WP, WT 3/15; NYT 3/16; MM 3/17; AYM 3/17 in WNC 3/19; MM 3/18; AYM 3/18 in WNC 3/20; PR 3/19; WJW 3/20; MEI 3/21; NYT 3/23) (see 3/8)

After a wk. of outrage over his comments on Jewish political leverage (see 3/10), Rep. **Moran** gives up his House leadership post as mid-Atlantic regional whip for the Democratic Caucus, apologizing for his “insensitive” remarks. The **American Jewish Comm.** says his resignation is “a step in the right direction.” (WP 3/15; WP 3/16; WJW 3/20)

### 15 MARCH

The **IDF** conducts overnight arrest raids in Hebron, Qalqilya; fires at, damages an ambulance in Khan Yunis. The **AMB** fatally shoots **2 Palestinian collaborators** in Nablus. A roadside bomb explodes nr. an **IDF** patrol nr. Dahaniyya, causing no damage or injuries. (HA 3/15; NYT 3/16; PCHR 3/20; MEI 3/21)

### 16 MARCH

An **IDF** bulldozer crushes, kills American **International Solidarity Movement (ISM) worker Rachel Corrie**, part of a group blocking bulldozers fr. demolishing a Palestinian home in Rafah (see the In Perspective section, Seitz report in this issue). The **IDF** also seals the West Bank, Gaza for Purim (3/17–19); fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, killing **1 Palestinian**; fatally shoots a **2d Palestinian** standing in his doorway in Rafah; bulldozes 2 dunams of land, 12 olive trees in Dayr al-Balah; raids areas around Bethlehem, Salfit. **Arafat** cancels the al-Azhar University workers union elections, fearing a landslide victory by **Hamas, Islamic Jihad**. (BBC, LAW 3/16; ITV, MA 3/16 in WNC 3/17; JP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/17; WT 3/18; PR 3/19; PCHR, WJW 3/20; MEI 3/21)

### 17 MARCH

The **IDF** sends 30 tanks, troops into Nussayrat r.c. to capture **wanted Islamic Jihad mbr. Muhammad Saafin**, fatally shooting **7 Palestinians**, including Saafin and a 4-yr.-old girl, and demolishing Saafin's home. The **IDF** also fires on a funeral procession in Khan Yunis, killing **1 Palestinian**, injuring 10s; fires on, seriously damages 2 ambulances in Jabaliya r.c.; raids Balata r.c. (arresting **Fatah Palestinian Council mbr. Hussam Khadir** on charges of “involvement in terrorism,” confiscating his computer), Bayt Lahia (ordering all men btwn. 15 and 40 to turn themselves in, detaining 100s, fatally shooting **4 Palestinians**, including 2 naval police officers); conducts house-to-house searches in Jenin town. In Tulkarm, **2 Fatah mbrs.** are killed, 3 injured in a mysterious explosion. **Hamas** fires **5 Qassam rockets** at Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. (HA, MM 3/17; NYT, WP 3/18; MM 3/19; PCHR 3/20)

After wks. of negotiations with other UNSC mbrs, the **U.S., Britain** abandon efforts to pass a new UN res. on **Iraq**, determining it would certainly fail. In the evening, **Bush** makes an address stating that “**Saddam Hussein** and his sons must leave Iraq within 48 hours. Their refusal to do so will result in military conflict commencing at a time of our choosing,” and urging all foreign nationals, including inspectors and journalists, to leave Iraq immediately for their own safety. (AP 3/17; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/18; IDF Radio, ITV 3/18 in WNC 3/19)

### 18 MARCH

**Senior Hamas mbr. Ali Alan**, an **IDF soldier** are killed in an exchange of gunfire nr. Bethlehem; a 2d IDF soldier is injured. The **IDF** fatally shoots **senior Hamas mbr. Nasir Assida** nr. Nablus in what may be an assassination. A **3d Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 3/17. The **IDF** also demolishes a **Palestinian home** nr. Bethlehem; occupies a Palestinian home, bulldozes 12 dunams of land in Dayr al-Balah. (HA 3/18; NYT, WP 3/19; PCHR 3/20)

The **Palestinian Council (PC)** approves (69–0, with 1 abstention) a bill creating the position of PM. **Arafat** immediately issues a presidential decree officially nominating **Abbas** as PM. (HA

3/18; XIN 3/18 in WNC 3/19; MM, NYT, PR, WT 3/19; MENA, *al-Quds* 3/19 in WNC 3/20) (see Quarterly Update)

### 19 MARCH

As the U.S.'s 48-hr. deadline for Hussein to leave Iraq draws near, **Palestinians** in the West Bank and Gaza, fearing **Israel** will step up attacks and impose stiff closures and curfews as soon as war on Iraq begins, close schools and businesses, hoard provisions, stay inside. **Israel** extends the closure on the territories (imposed 3/17 for Purim) until 3/30. The **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Dayr al-Balah; conducts arrest raids in Jenin, al-Maghazi r.c., Qalqilya, Tulkarm. **AMB** gunmen ambush, fatally shoot a **Jewish settler** driving nr. Jenin. **Israeli police** arrest **3 Israeli Arabs** fr. Acre on suspicion of joining Islamic Jihad, plotting attacks on Israelis. (AFP, JTA 3/19; HA, NYT, PCHR 3/20; PCHR 3/27; HA 4/3)

**Abbas** accepts Arafat's nomination as PM, is given 3 wks. to form a government. (HA, MM 3/19; AYM, Interfax 3/19 in WNC 3/20; HA, NYT, WP 3/20; AYM 3/25, *al-Quds* 3/27 in WNC 3/28) (see Quarterly Update)

Just 90 mins. after the U.S. deadline passes for **Hussein** to leave **Iraq**, the **U.S.** makes a single strike on Baghdad, acting on intelligence of where Hussein, his top officials and sons could be found, assassinated. The strike marks the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, but not the start of the "shock and awe" air campaign that the U.S. previously indicated would launch the war. Iraqi TV airs 2 videos of Hussein that suggest he was unharmed. (MM 3/19; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/20; MM 4/21)

### 20 MARCH

The **IDF** fatally shoots **1 Palestinian** nr. Morag settlement; demolishes **1 Palestinian home** in Bethlehem, **1** in al-Zawayda; raids al-Quds Open University in Ramallah, detaining 300 students for ID checks, holding a number for questioning; conducts arrest raids in Nablus, Qalqilya (targeting **Hamas**). The **PA Preventive Security Forces (PSF)** raid a **Hamas** training exercise nr. Jabaliya r.c., killing **1 Hamas mbr.** Hamas later fires a **Qassam rocket** at a Gaza settlement, causing no damage or injuries. (HA 3/20; NYT 3/23; PCHR 3/27; LAW 3/28)

After dark, **U.S.-led coalition forces** launch missile, helicopter strikes on Basra, Baghdad in the 1st sustained aerial assaults on **Iraq**. Coalition troops are also reportedly operating in w. Iraq to prevent Scud missile strikes on **Israel**. (AP, HA, MM, REU 3/20)

### 21 MARCH

After Friday prayers in Jerusalem, some **Palestinians** demonstrate against the **U.S.-led attack on Iraq**; Israeli police use stun grenades, tear gas to disperse the crowd, causing only light injuries. The **IDF** fires on Palestinians in Qalqilya who defy the 24-hr. curfew to attend Friday prayers, injuring **4**; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Bethlehem; bulldozes **64 dunams** of land nr. Dayr al-Balah. (AFP, HA 3/21; *al-Quds* 3/22 in WNC 3/24; PCHR 3/27; LAW 3/28)

**U.S.-led coalition forces** launch the "shock and awe" air campaign across **Iraq**, intended to precede a major ground offensive toward Baghdad. Ground troops launch operations to capture Umm Qasr, Basra ports and the Rumayla oil field in the south, meeting significant resistance. (CNN 3/21; NYT, WP, WT 3/22)

### 22 MARCH

**Palestinians** report that the **IDF** seems to have been imposing a system of "creeping curfews" over the past few days, placing 24-hr. curfews on an increasing number of areas, including Hebron, Jenin, Qalqilya, Yabad. The **IDF** raids a home in Dayr al-Balah, causing a **Palestinian** to suffer a fatal heart attack; fires on Palestinians violating the curfew in Qalqilya to buy food, injuring **2**; conducts arrest raids nr. Rafah; demolishes a cement factory in Gaza City; bulldozes **15 dunams** of olive groves nr. Shuhada Junction. (PM 3/22; PCHR 3/27; LAW 3/28)

**U.S.-led forces** in **Iraq** stage the largest bombing of Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf War; launch a ground assault on Nasiriyya, pushing north, meeting heavy resistance; continue efforts to secure Basra, Umm Qasr. (NYT, WP 3/23)

### 23 MARCH

The **IDF** fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in al-Bireh, wounding **2**; fires on, wounds a Palestinian nr. an IDF

checkpoint nr. Khan Yunis for no apparent reason; fires on Palestinians at a roadblock outside Ramallah, injuring 2 children; conducts arrest raids in Dayr al-Balah, Rafah (arresting the 5 brothers of 2 wanted men who could not be found). Nr. Katzir, **2 Palestinians** fire on **Jewish settler vehicles**, causing no damage or injuries; **Israeli border police** capture 1 gunman. (HA 3/23; PCHR 3/27; LAW 3/28)

## 24 MARCH

The **IDF** fatally shoots a **14-yr.-old Palestinian** stone thrower in Jenin, wounding a 2d boy; surrounds, seals Ramallah; raids, searches, seals an **orphanage** in Hebron run by an Islamic charity, confiscating documents, computers; conducts arrest raids, fires on residential areas of Jenin late in the evening. The **IDF** also removes an **unauthorized settlement outpost** nr. Hebron, evicting 10 settlers, demolishing 1 structure, removing 3 trailers. An **IDF military court** sentences **3 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** to life in prison for staging attacks that killed Israelis. (PM 3/24; HA, NYT, WT 3/25; NYT 3/26; PCHR 3/27; LAW 3/28)

**Coalition forces in Iraq** continue toward Baghdad, meeting strong resistance in Karbala. Sandstorms slow troops' progress. Clashes are still underway around Basra, in Nasiriyya, and house-to-house fighting is reported in Umm Qasr. (NYT, WP, WT 3/25)

## 25 MARCH

In an apparent assassination, **IDF** undercover units ambush, fire on a car in Bethlehem, fatally shooting **3 Hamas mbrs.** (2 of them, Nadir Jarawish and Ala' Ayad, targets), **1 10-yr.-old bystander**, wounding 3 bystanders. The **IDF** also fatally shoots a stone-throwing **13-yr.-old Palestinian** in Jenin; conducts arrest raids in Jenin, nabbing **local tanzim leader Nidal Narnarya**, 18 others; conducts house-to-house searches in Kubar. (HA 3/25; GS, NYT 3/26; NYT, PCHR 3/27; LAW 3/28)

## 26 MARCH

The **IDF** demolishes **4 Palestinian homes**, bulldozes agricultural land, fires on residential areas in Rafah, injuring 2 Palestinians; conducts arrest raids in Jenin;

closes a **Hamas**-run charity office in Bani Na'im. (HA, PCHR 3/27; AYM 3/27 in WNC 3/28; LAW 3/28; PCHR 4/3)

With **coalition troops** nearing Baghdad, **Iraq's elite Republican Guard** makes its 1st offensives, taking advantage of ongoing sandstorms, which make U.S. air strikes difficult, to send a column of 1,000 military vehicles s. of Baghdad toward Najaf and some 100 military vehicle southeast fr. Basra to engage U.S. and British troops outside those cities. In the evening, 1,000 U.S. paratroopers land in the mountains e. of Mosul to open a northern front. (CNN 3/26)

## 27 MARCH

After a wk.-long lull in violence accompanying the start of war on Iraq, Israeli-Palestinian violence picks up. The **IDF** raids Bayt Hanun, fires missiles at a PSF post, killing **2 PSF officers**, wounding 3 bystanders; fires on, wounds a Palestinian woman tending a garden in Wadi al-Silqa; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis; demolishes a **Palestinian home** outside Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids in Jenin r.c. (targeting **Islamic Jihad**). **Palestinians** fire **2 Qassam rockets** at Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. (AFP, HA 3/27; XIN 3/27 in WNC 3/28; LAW, MM, NYT 3/28; AYM 3/28 in WNC 3/31; PR 4/2; PCHR 4/3)

## 28 MARCH

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Khan Yunis (fatally shooting **1 Palestinian**), Tulkarm r.c. (fatally shooting a **2d Palestinian**); bulldozes 20 dunams of land in, fires on residential areas of Rafah. Israel also reinforces its security presence in East Jerusalem, fearing demonstrations against the war in Iraq after Friday prayers; 30,000 protest in Gaza city, smaller rallies are held in West Bank towns, but nothing is reported in East Jerusalem; the **IDF** fires on demonstrators nr. Qalandia, wounding 2. (HA 3/28; PR 4/2; PCHR 4/3)

## 29 MARCH

The **IDF** opens fire on a crowd of stone-throwing Palestinians in Askar r.c., killing **1 Palestinian** child; harasses **Palestinian fishermen** fishing in a permitted zone off the Gaza coast. (NYT, WP 3/30; PCHR 4/3)

**30 MARCH**

An **Islamic Jihad suicide bomber** detonates a device in Netanya, injuring **38 Israelis**. The **IDF** fatally shoots **2 armed Islamic Jihad mbrs.** nr. an Israeli kibbutz in s. Israel; they apparently sneaked into Israel fr. Gaza. The **IDF** also fatally shoots **3 Palestinians** nr. Bayt Hanun, **1 Palestinian** who strays too close to Netzarim settlement. (MENA 3/30 in WNC 3/31; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/31; PR 4/2; PCHR 4/3; MEI 4/4)

**31 MARCH**

The **IDF** fires on Palestinians nr. an elementary school in Hebron, wounding **3 Palestinian students** (ages 10–13); conducts arrest raids, demolishes a **Palestinian home** and 3 cars in Amari r.c. A leader of the West Bank **AMB** says the group will halt attacks on Israelis inside Israel for the duration of the Iraq war. The **IDF** arrests **3 Israeli Arabs** fr. Jaljulya for running an **Islamic Jihad** explosives lab. A **Haifa court** sentences **2 Israeli Arabs** to 9 consecutive life terms for aiding a suicide bomber in a 4/4/02 attack, sparking riots in the courtroom. (HA 3/31; MM, PCHR 4/3)

**1 APRIL**

The **IDF** blows up 1 **Palestinian home** in Tulkarm, 1 in Amari r.c.; partially demolishes a small mosque, bulldozes 3 grave sites nr. Netzarim settlement; fires at stone-throwing Palestinians in Jenin, Kafr 'Ayn, Qarawat Bani Zaid, injuring a total of 7 (including 1 who is arrested, severely beaten, dumped outside a nearby village); conducts arrest raids targeting Hamas in Hebron. A **Jerusalem court** sentences an **East Jerusalem Palestinian** to 19 yrs. in prison for organizing a "terror cell" comprising mbrs. of the Bethlehem PSF; the alleged cell never staged any attacks. (AP, HA 4/1; VOI 4/2 in WNC 4/3; PCHR 4/3)

A **Nazareth magistrate court** tosses out the 2001 indictment against **Israeli Arab MK Azmi Bishara** for organizing trips for Israeli Arabs to visit family in Syria, ruling the visits were of a humanitarian nature, did not amount to treason for contact with a hostile government, and took place before Bishara was stripped of parliamentary immunity in

11/01, but says it will pursue charges against his aides. (ADL, HA 4/1)

**2 APRIL**

The **IDF** raids Tulkarm r.c., rounds up all males ages 14–40, detains some 2,000, buses them outside of the r.c., bars those released fr. returning home for 3 days, begins house-to-house searches, breaking through walls to move btwn. residences; raids Jenin, firing on residential areas; conducts other arrest raids in Bethlehem, Hebron (targeting **Hamas**); demolishes **3 Palestinian homes** in Amari r.c., 1 in Bayt Hanina, 1 in Hebron; blows up a **Palestinian apartment** in Tulkarm, damaging 2 others. Outside Rafah, an **IDF tank** rolls over, detonates an explosive device, injuring 4 IDF soldiers; in response, the IDF raids Rafah, fatally shooting **4 Palestinians**, wounding 8, demolishing at least 4 **Palestinian homes**; 1 IDF soldier is injured in the raid. A **15-yr.-old Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 3/28. The 1st **Jewish settlers** move into homes in Ras al-Amud/Ma'ale Ha'Zeitim. In the Negev, the **IDF** sprays toxic chemicals on bedouin crops. (GS, HA, PM, PR 4/2; VOI 4/2 in WNC 4/3; ADL, HA, PCHR 4/3; HA, WP 4/4; AFP 4/7 in WNC 4/9; PR 4/9; LAW, PCHR, WJW 4/10)

**3 APRIL**

The **IDF** continues house-to-house searches in Tulkarm r.c.; assassinates **wanted Hamas mbr. Khalid Rayan** (aka Khalid Bakir) in Nablus (there is an exchange of gunfire during an "arrest raid" that wounds 2 IDF soldiers, but soldiers walk up to Rayan's body and shoot him in the head to make sure he is dead); for no apparent reason fatally shoots a **14-yr.-old Palestinian** standing outside his home in Qalqilya; fatally shoots a **Palestinian farmer** working in a field nr. a closed military zone in n. Gaza; demolishes 6 **Palestinian homes** in Sur al-Bahir, 1 in al-Tur; raids Nussayrat r.c., firing on residential areas, conducting house-to-house searches, knocking through walls to move to adjoining buildings; extends indefinitely the closure of **Palestine Polytechnic University** in Hebron, initially shut on 1/15/03. On the 1-yr. anniversary of the launch of Operation Defensive Shield in Jenin town and r.c., **1,000s of Jenin residents**

demonstrate against **Israeli** actions, the U.S.-led war on **Iraq**. **Palestinians** fire 3 mortars at **Jewish settlements** in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. (HA 4/3; WP 4/4; PR 4/9; LAW, PCHR 4/10)

#### 4 APRIL

The **IDF** ends its raid on **Tulkarm r.c.** after arresting **Islamic Jihad head Anwar Aliyan**, demolishing 1 **Palestinian home**; allows male residents to return. The **IDF** also imposes a 24-hr. curfew on Jenin, begins house-to-house searches there; fires on residential areas of Hebron; conducts arrest raids in Nussayrat r.c.; attacks a **soccer team** in Ramallah, beating the coach and players. (HA 4/4; PM, WT 4/5; LAW, PCHR 4/10)

#### 5 APRIL

The **IDF** fatally shoots an **armed Palestinian** attempting to infiltrate Kiryat Arba settlement, then fires on Palestinian residential areas of Hebron in retaliation; also fires on residential areas of Qabatiyya; demolishes 4 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah; occupies 2 Palestinian homes as outposts. The **IDF** shoots, wounds 2 **ISM mbrs.** (1 American, seriously wounded with a gunshot to the face; 1 Dane, shot in the leg) in Jenin; ISM says the pair emerged fr. ISM offices to investigate gunfire (the American wearing a clearly marked reflective vest), saw 2 IDF armored personnel carriers, halted and stood with hands raised for several minutes before they were fired upon. (NYT, WT 4/6; LAW, PCHR, PR 4/10)

#### 6 APRIL

The **IDF** raids Gaza's Massadir village, imposing a curfew, ordering all men ages 20–50 to surrender for questioning, arresting 34; **Palestinians** fr. neighboring villages gather outside Massadir, throw stones at troops, who fire on them, killing 2 **Palestinians**, wounding 14. The **IDF** also confiscates a **Palestinian home** in Hebron, expelling the family; fires on residential areas, demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Balata r.c., Jenin (cutting electricity), al-Yamun. (NYT 4/7; PR 4/9; LAW, PCHR 4/10)

#### 7 APRIL

Overnight, the **IDF** fatally shoots a **Palestinian** who strays too close to Netzarim settlement. The **IDF** also raids Balata r.c., arresting 5 **Islamic Jihad mbrs.**, blowing up their apartment; conducts arrest raids in al-Qarara, Salim, Tulkarm r.c. (targeting **Fatah**); demolishes 4 **Palestinian homes** containing 11 housing units in Issawiyya, 3 in Salim, 1 nr. Nablus. An **Israeli court** sentences an **East Jerusalem Palestinian** to 25 yrs. for firing on Jewish settler vehicles, causing no injuries. **Israel's Finance Min.** awards the Israeli town of Sederot, which has experienced light damage and light injuries fr. Palestinian mortar and rocket attacks, "front line status," which gives residents property and income tax breaks of up to 30% and \$13.5 m. in aid. **Peace Now** reports that **Jewish settlers** have recently established anew or reoccupied at least 6 **unauthorized settlement outposts**. (HA 4/7; MA 4/7 in WNC 4/9; HA, PM 4/8; PR 4/9; LAW, PCHR 4/10)

#### 8 APRIL

The **IDF** assassinates **senior Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades mbr. Sa'ad Arabid** (whom Israel tried to kill in 8/01), firing missiles at his car as he drives through Gaza City, also killing his **bodyguard**, a **3d Hamas mbr.**, 4 **bystanders**, injuring 53 **Palestinians**. **Undercover IDF troops** fatally shoot **wanted Palestinian Badir Yasin** in Salfit in what may be an assassination. The **IDF** also fires on residential areas of Silwan; demolishes 1 **Palestinian home** in Nablus. Inside Israel, a number of knife-wielding **AMB mbrs.** reportedly attack, wound 2 **Israeli security guards** outside Kibbutz Metzger, escape. (GS, HA, PM 4/8; ITV, VOI, XIN 4/8 in WNC 4/9; HA, LAW, MM, NYT, PR, WP, WT 4/9; Interfax, QA 4/9 in WNC 4/10; LAW, PCHR, PM 4/10; QA 4/10 in WNC 4/11; MEI 4/18)

#### 9 APRIL

**Hamas mbrs.** fire 2 **Qassam rockets** toward Sederot (1 lands near the town, the other inside Gaza), causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** then sends tanks into Bayt Hanun, sparking stone-throwing protests by **Palestinians**; the **IDF** fires on demonstrators, killing 5 **Palestinians**,

wounding at least 10. The **IDF** also raids Nur al-Shams r.c.; detains all men, arresting 16, busing others outside the camp; conducts house-to-house searches, breaking through walls; demolishes 1 **Palestinian home**. The **IDF** also demolishes 1 **Palestinian home** in Silwan, 1 in Ramallah; detains, beats 2 **Palestinian cameramen** working for AFP and Reuters for filming troops in Hebron forcing Palestinians to close their stores; conducts arrest raids in Abud. In Jaba', a **bomb** explodes in a **Palestinian high school**, wounding 19 students; although the Jewish militant group **Revenge of the Innocent Babes**, which has staged at least 1 (3/5/02, possibly 9/17/02) similar bombing, claims responsibility for the attack, the **IDF** says it is "confident" that a Palestinian brought the bomb to school. A **12-yr.-old Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. (AFP, HA 4/9; HA, LAW, NYT, PCHR, PM 4/10; QA 4/10 in WNC 4/11; *al-Quds* 4/11 in WNC 4/14; PR 4/16; LAW, PCHR 4/17)

**Coalition forces** secure control of most of Baghdad. By evening, the **U.S.** declares that Hussein's government has "collapsed," but warns that the military struggle may continue for some time, as troops continue to meet significant resistance in some areas. Looting is pervasive in Basra and Baghdad, mostly targeting government buildings, state-owned companies, hotels. (BBC, MM 4/9; NYT, WP, WT 4/10; XIN 4/10 in WNC 4/11; MA 4/11, XIN 4/13 in WNC 4/14; MM 4/14; MEI 4/18; MM 4/22; NYT 4/24)

#### 10 APRIL

In the Jordan Valley, 2 **Palestinian gunmen** (1 **AMB**, 1 **PFLP**) raid an **IDF** base, killing 2 **IDF soldiers**, wounding 9 before being shot dead. Later, in the 2d such incident in 2 days, **IDF** helicopters fire missiles at **Islamic Jihad military leader Mahmud Zatma** as he drives through Gaza City, assassinating him, injuring 15 **Palestinian bystanders** (including 12 children leaving school, 1 woman). In an apparent assassination attempt, **IDF undercover units** raid Tulkarm, fire on a car carrying 3 **AMB mbrs.**, wounding them, killing 1 **bystander**. The **IDF** also signs an order to expel detained West Bank **Islamic Jihad mbr. Muhammad Safuri** (arrested in 8/02) to Gaza; conducts arrest raids in Nablus, nr. Netzarim; shells residential

areas of Rafah; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Ramallah. (HA, MM 4/10; NYT, WP 4/11; PR 4/16; LAW, PCHR 4/17; MEI 4/18)

#### 11 APRIL

The **IDF** shoots **British ISM activist Thomas Hurdall** in Rafah, leaving him brain dead; the Briton was standing btwn. **IDF** soldiers and a group of stone-throwing Palestinian youths when troops opened fire, hitting him in the head. **IDF** helicopters fire missiles at a cemetery in Khan Yunis, injuring 7 Palestinians. The **IDF** also sends troops, 10s of tanks into Bureij, conducting house-to-house searches, arresting at least 4 Palestinians; conducts similar raids in Nablus, Qalandia. **Jewish settlers** shoot at Palestinian farmers working nr. Harsina settlement, wounding 5. (HA 4/11; NYT 4/12; LAW, PCHR 4/17)

"Frenzied looting" continues across **Iraq**, particularly in Baghdad, unchecked by **coalition forces**, spreads to private homes, hospitals, banks. In Washington, **U.S. Secy. of Defense Donald Rumsfeld** strongly criticizes press coverage of the mayhem, saying, "Stuff happens! ... Freedom's untidy. And free people are free to make mistakes, and to commit crimes and do bad things." (NYT, WP WT 4/12; MEI 4/18)

#### 12 APRIL

The **IDF** fires on stone-throwing youths outside Hebron, killing 1 **Palestinian** bystander; fires on a checkpoint outside Khan Yunis for no apparent reason, wounding a Palestinian waiting to cross. A **Palestinian** being chased by **IDF** troops nr. Nablus falls, suffers fatal head injuries. (PR 4/16; LAW, PCHR 4/17)

As **coalition forces** guard the Iraqi Oil Min. in Baghdad, looters ransack the treasures of the **National Museum of Antiquities**, one of the world's greatest repositories of artifacts, destroying what they do not steal. (NYT, WP, WT 4/13; WP 4/14; MEI 4/18)

#### 13 APRIL

**IDF** soldiers fire on, halt, search an ambulance in Burkin, beat and injure 2 paramedics. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Nablus targeting the **PFLP**. A

**Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 4/8. (YA 4/14 in WNC 4/15; LAW, PCHR 4/17; PRCS press release 4/21)

#### 14 APRIL

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Balata r.c., Bayt Hanun, Jenin; shells residential areas of Rafah; blows up a **Palestinian home**, 1 unit in an apartment building in Hebron. An **IDF military court** sentences **4 Hamas mbrs.** each to 29 life terms plus 20 yrs. for involvement in planning the 3/27/02 Netanya bombing. **Jewish settlers** fr. Hebron run over, kill an **11-yr.-old Palestinian**, chase 2 Palestinian school girls; attempt to reestablish a settlement outpost on the road to the Tomb of the Patriarchs/al-Ibrahimi Mosque, but are evacuated by the **IDF**, which declares the area a closed military zone. Other **Jewish settlers** fire on **3 Palestinian cars** in Bayt Hanun. (HA 4/15; PR 4/16; LAW, PCHR 4/17)

**U.S. Special Forces** in Baghdad capture **Palestine Liberation Front leader Muhammad Abbas (Abu Abbas)**. Abbas reportedly had tried to flee to Syria twice but was denied entry; Syria reportedly passed information to the U.S. about his whereabouts. Abbas was convicted in absentia in 1986 by an Italian court for masterminding the 10/85 *Achille Lauro* hijacking, in which an American was killed. **Italy** wants to extradite Abbas to serve his life sentence, but the **U.S.** is debating whether to try him itself. (NYT, WP, WT 4/16; MM, NYT, WP 4/17; PR 4/23; MEI 5/2)

#### 15 APRIL

The **IDF** seals the West Bank, Gaza for Passover; makes an arrest raid in Nablus in which **1 wanted Palestinian, 1 IDF soldier** are killed in an exchange of gunfire; fires rockets fr. a Rafah watchtower, killing **Islamic Jihad military cmdr. 'Abd al-Hamid Abu al-Aysh**, who was allegedly planting a roadside bomb; fatally shoots a **Palestinian** who resists arrest in Hebron; shoots, wounds a Palestinian grazing sheep nr. Qalqilya; conducts other arrest raids in Balata r.c., Bethlehem, Jenin; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Hebron. A **Hamas mbr.** throws grenades, fires on the Qarni crossing and is fatally shot by Israeli security guards; **2 Israeli**

**civilians** are killed in the exchange, at least 1 by Israeli gunfire, 7 are wounded; Hamas says the attack was in retaliation for the 4/8 Arabid assassination. (HA 4/15; NYT, PR, WP, WT 4/16; LAW, PCHR 4/17)

#### 16 APRIL

The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Dayr al-Balah, Rafah, Ramallah; conducts arrest raids in Aida r.c., Burkin, Jenin town and r.c., al-Khadir; bulldozes 5 dunams of land in Dayr al-Balah. **2 Palestinians** die of injuries received earlier (on 2/19, 4/8). IDF chief of staff Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon says that he has ordered the **IDF** to remove **ISM activists** from the territories "for their own benefit" and because they are "creating provocations that injure our freedom of action on the ground." (LAW, PCHR 4/17; GS 4/23; LAW, PCHR 4/24)

#### 17 APRIL

The **IDF** opens fire on stone-throwing Palestinian youths in Rafah (killing **1 Palestinian**), Tulkarm (killing a **2d Palestinian**); fires on residential areas of Jenin town and r.c., Rafah. The **IDF** also reportedly surrounds a hospital in Tulkarm, demanding a wanted man was inside; troops withdraw by noon, apparently deciding he is not inside. A **3d Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 4/8. (VOI, YA 4/17 in WNC 4/18; NYT, WP 4/18; LAW, PCHR 4/24)

#### 18 APRIL

The **IDF** shells residential areas of Khan Yunis. Israeli security arrests **12 Israeli border police** for violent crimes against Palestinians, including 4 detained in connection with the 12/30/02 beating death of a **Palestinian** in Hebron, thought to be the 1st fatality of the Israeli forces' "lottery" (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 127). (NYT, WP 4/19; HA 4/21; LAW, MM, PCHR, WJW 4/24)

#### 19 APRIL

The **IDF** launches a major incursion into Rafah r.c., sending some 35 tanks into the camp fr. 3 directions, killing at least **5 Palestinians**, wounding 30, demolishing 13 buildings (home to **23 Palestinian families**); an **IDF soldier** is killed, 2 are wounded in the operation. An **Islamic**

**Jihad mbr.** infiltrates Shaked settlement, shooting and wounding **2 IDF soldiers, 1 settler guard** before being shot dead by the IDF. The **IDF** also fatally shoots in the head a **Palestinian cameraman for AP**, who was wearing a fluorescent “press” vest and covering clashes in Nablus, also wounding 2 other journalists. (MENA 4/19 in WNC 4/21; NYT, WP 4/20; HA 4/21; PR 4/23; LAW, PCHR, WJW 4/24; HA 5/4)

## 20 APRIL

The **IDF** fires on stone-throwing youths in Qalqilya, killing **1 Palestinian**; fires on residential areas of Rafah. **IDF soldiers** surround the homes of 7 Tulkarm families, threaten to demolish them if their wanted sons do not turn themselves in; 1 Palestinian turns himself in, no homes are destroyed. An **IDF** tank rolls over, destroys an empty ambulance in Rafah.

**Palestinians** report that **Jewish settlers** fr. Shim'a have recently set up a new unauthorized outpost nr. Hebron, moving 5 trailers onto the site. (AYM 4/20 in WNC 4/21; HA, PRCS press release, WP 4/21; PR 4/23; LAW, PCHR 4/24)

## 21 APRIL

The **IDF undercover units** conduct arrest raids in Jenin, shooting and wounding **5 Palestinians**, detaining 4; conduct additional arrest raids in Aida r.c., Balata r.c., Bayt Jalah, Nahalin, Ramallah. The **IDF** also fires rubber bullets at several **Palestinian children** (ages 9–14) allegedly violating a curfew in Hebron, wounding 1; fires live ammunition at a checkpoint nr. Gaza City for no apparent reason, injuring 1 Palestinian child, damaging several vehicles; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; demolishes **2 Palestinian homes** in Bayt Furik, threatens to demolish a 3d house if the son of the family does not turn himself in for questioning; bulldozes 10s of dunams of olive groves in East Jerusalem to make way for a settler bypass road. A **roadside bomb** explodes nr. an **IDF** vehicle in Hebron, causing no damage or injuries. **Hamas** fires **2 Qassam rockets** at Sederot, lightly injuring 1 Israeli. (HA 4/21; HA 4/23; LAW, PCHR 4/24)

**U.S. dir. of the reconstruction of Iraq U.S. Lt. Gen. Jay Garner (ret.)** arrives in Baghdad to begin work. Garner visited **Israel** in 1998 at the expense of the

pro-Israel lobbying group the **Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA)**, has signed a statement blaming the **Palestinians** for Israeli-Palestinian violence, has said that the U.S. needs Israel to project U.S. force in the Middle East. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/22)

## 22 APRIL

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem, Hebron; bulldozes 34 dunams of land in Abasan. The **IDF** also detains an **ISM activist, an Italian journalist** for photographing soldiers detaining Palestinian women, children in Nur al-Shams r.c.—the 1st implementation of a new policy, aimed at ISM in particular, to bar pro-Palestinian activists fr. entering Israel and the territories, deport those already there. (HA 4/23; GS, LAW, PCHR 4/24)

## 23 APRIL

The **IDF** fires on, seriously wounds **Islamic Jihad mbr. Anas Sharita** in an attempt to arrest him in Nablus; conducts arrest raids in Jenin (targeting Islamic Jihad, including 2 mbrs. arrested in a hospital, where 1 was receiving treatment for gunshot wounds), Qalqilya (targeting the **PFLP**); fires on Palestinians at Surda checkpoint nr. Ramallah for no apparent reason, wounding 5; demolishes **5 Palestinian homes** in al-Mughraqa, 1 in Bayt Hanun (also bulldozing 37 dunams of land). Late in the evening, **Hamas mbr. Shibli Tamasi** is killed, 3 Palestinians are wounded in a mysterious explosion in Idna. Palestinians fire a **Qassam rocket** at Sederot, causing no damage or injuries. (HA 4/23; HA, LAW, PCHR 4/24; PR 4/30; LAW, PCHR 5/1)

## 24 APRIL

A **Palestinian suicide bomber** fr. Balata r.c. detonates a device at the Kfar Saba railway station in Israel, killing **1 Israeli security guard**, injuring 13 Israelis. A statement faxed to Reuters claims the **AMB** carried out the act with the help of the **PFLP**, but **AMB's chief spokesman** denies this, saying the attack was staged by Nablus breakaway faction of the **AMB** (see 4/10; Quarterly Update in *JPS* 127). **Israel** says it will not stage a massive retaliation in response. The **IDF** fires on



stone-throwing Palestinian youths in Qarawat Bani Zayt, killing **2 Palestinians**; fires on an elementary school in Qalqilya, injuring 3 students, 1 teacher; shells residential areas of Rafah; bulldozes nearly 300 dunams of land in Bayt Hanun, 34 dunams in Rafah; conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem (targeting **Hamas**), al-Qarara, Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Mitzpeh Yeriho seize a hilltop nr. Jericho as a new outpost, called Givat HaHerut (Liberty Hill), to "prevent invasion" of the area by bedouin shepherds; **Israeli police** urge the settlers to evacuate the site but leave when they refuse. (HA, LAW, MM 4/24; AFP, ITAR-TASS 4/24 in WNC 4/25; NYT, WP, WT 4/25; *al-Quds*, VOI 4/25 in WNC 4/28; PR 4/30; LAW, PCHR, WJW 5/1; MEI 5/2)

## 25 APRIL

An **IDF soldier** is killed by friendly fire nr. Ramallah. **IDF** troops conducting a predawn arrest raid in Jenin are ambushed by **AMB** gunmen, who wound **1 IDF soldier**. The **IDF** continues with the raid, detaining, stripping, searching, questioning 10s of Palestinian men, arresting 12, releasing others in their underwear. The **IDF** also conducts arrest sweeps in Qalqilya, Tulkarm; bulldozes 113 dunams of land in Khuza. The **Palestinian Water Authority** says it has been informed that the **Israeli Infrastructure Min.** will stop supplying al-Bireh, Jenin, Nablus, Tubas, Ramallah, other towns with water and will not allow Palestinians to drill new water wells or maintain existing ones. (AFP, HA 4/25; WT 4/26; LAW, PCHR 5/1)

## 26 APRIL

The **IDF** opens fire on stone-throwing Palestinians outside Balata r.c., wounding 5; bulldozes 40 dunams of land in Abasan, 32 dunams in Khuza, 29 dunams in al-Qarara; blows up **1 Palestinian home** in Qalqilya; conducts arrest raids in Khan Yunis. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 4/19. **International aid workers** in Gaza report that the **IDF** is requiring them to undergo additional security checks on entering and leaving Gaza, causing new delays. (HA 4/26; LAW, PCHR 5/1; AIDA 5/12)

## 27 APRIL

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Hebron, Kafr Ni'ma, Khan Yunis, Ramallah; imposes a curfew on Qalqilya; shells residential areas of Rafah. Late in the evening, at least **20 armed Jewish settlers** accompanied by **Tourism M Benny Elon** attempt to serve eviction papers to 2 Palestinian homes in **East Jerusalem's** Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood that settlers have tried to seize for 1 yr.; settlers beat, seriously injure **4 Palestinians**; **Israeli police** intervene, halt the attack, say they will examine the validity of the eviction warrant, but do not arrest the settlers. The **IDF** "evacuates" an uninhabited unauthorized outpost set up on an deserted **IDF** base nr. Hebron; **Jewish settlers** file a petition delaying the **IDF's** evacuation of a 2d, inhabited outpost nr. Hebron. (HA 4/28; LAW, PCHR 5/1; ICHAD 5/4; PR 5/7)

## 28 APRIL

**IDF undercover units** raid Jenin, arresting **local Islamic Jihad leader Abu Ali Kasi**, 3 associates, killing **1 Palestinian** bystander. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids in Nablus (targeting the **tanzim**, **PFLP**), engaging in an exchange of gunfire that leaves 2 **IDF** soldiers, 1 Palestinian bystander wounded; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Qalqilya; bulldozes 20 dunams of land in Khuza. **Israeli police** charge **4 Druze** fr. n. Israel with conspiring to kidnap an **IDF** soldier. An **Israeli court** orders sealed the Shaykh Jarrah residences attacked by settlers on 4/27, leaving 48 Palestinians homeless. (HA, JTA 4/28; VOI 4/28 in WNC 4/29; LAW, PCHR 5/1)

## 29 APRIL

Just before the PC meets in Ramallah (see below), the **IDF** assassinates **PFLP leader Nidal Salama**, firing rockets at his car as he drives through Khan Yunis, also killing **1 Palestinian bystander**; surrounds the home of, fatally shoots **Bethlehem AMB cmdr. Mahmud Salah** in an apparent assassination, also killing **AMB mbr. Adnan Juayrish**, who was with him; demolishes the **home** of Salah's 2 brothers. Just 2 hrs. after Abbas's new government is confirmed, a **suicide bomber** detonates a device outside a Tel

Aviv nightclub, next to the U.S. emb., killing **2 Israelis**, **1 French woman**, wounding 34 (including at least 1 American); a **2d bomber** escapes when his bomb fails to detonate; **AMB, Hamas** say they jointly planned the operation; both bombers are **British Muslims** (1 of Kashmiri, 1 of Pakistani descent) who apparently entered Israel fr. Gaza on British passports. Commenting on the attack, **Israeli government spokesman Dore Gold** says, "This is really the first test for the new Palestinian government . . . and unfortunately it has turned out to be a complete failure." The **IDF** also fatally shoots a **Palestinian** in Rafah; fires on, wounds **2 Palestinian farmers** working land in Khuza; conducts arrest raids in Jenin. (HA 4/29; BBC, HA, MM, NYT, PR, WP, WT 4/30; Interfax 4/30 in WNC 5/1; LAW, PCHR 5/1; NYT 5/2; JTA 5/6; PR 5/7; JPI 5/9; WP 5/10)

The **PC** approves (69–12, with 3 abstentions) **Abbas's** new government, presented after wks. of debate within **Fatah** (see Quarterly Update). In his inaugural speech **Abbas** states that there is no military solution to the conflict with Israel, rejects "terrorism," pledges to crack down on militant groups and confiscate illegal weapons, demands an independent Palestinian state within 1967 borders, with Jerusalem as its capital, and without Jewish settlements. **Israeli FM Silvan Shalom** cautiously welcomes **Abbas's** words on violence but says his statements on final status are "problematic" and "raise serious questions regarding a readiness to arrive at an agreed-upon resolution." (HA, MM 4/29; MM, NYT, PR, WP, WT 4/30; AYM, Interfax, ITAR-TASS 4/30 in WNC 5/1; SA 4/30, *al-Quds* 5/1 in WNC 5/2; WJW 5/1; AYM 5/1 in WNC 5/5; HA, MM, WJW 5/2; HA 5/5; MEI 5/16) (see Docs. B1, B2)

### 30 APRIL

Overnight, **Jewish settlers** fatally shoot **2 Palestinians** they claim were attempting to infiltrate Elon Moreh settlement. A **Jewish settlement guard** in the Jordan Valley fatally shoots a **60-yr.-old Palestinian** laborer returning from work, whom he believed was attempting to infiltrate the settlement. The **IDF** for no apparent reason fatally shoots a **Palestinian woman** tending livestock nr. Qarni crossing, also killing 4 of her

animals; demolishes 8 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah; conducts arrest raids nr. Jenin; removes another vacant unauthorized settlement outpost nr. Hebron. The **IDF** also detains an **ISM mbr.** in Rafah. (HA 4/30; LAW, PCHR 5/1; HA 5/2; PCHR 5/8)

After **Abbas** and his cabinet are sworn in today, the **U.S.** formally presents **Israel**, the **PA** with the **road map**. (BBC, HA, NYT 4/30; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/1; MA 5/1 in WNC 5/2; MEI 5/16) (see Quarterly Update)

### 1 MAY

The **IDF** stages a major predawn raid on Gaza City, sending in 30 tanks plus helicopter gunships to capture **senior Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades cmdr. Yusuf Abu Hin**, killing **Abu Hin**, **his 2 brothers**, **10 other Palestinians** (including a 2-yr.-old, 2 13-yr.-olds), wounding more than 60, demolishing some 20 **Palestinian homes**; 9 IDF soldiers are also injured. Israel's Gaza cmdr. calls the operation "very successful," blames the **Abu Hin brothers'** failure to surrender for the high death toll. The **IDF** also fatally shoots **2 Palestinians** in Yatta, including **senior AMB mbr. Khalid Makhmra**, in what may be an assassination; fires on residential areas of al-Brazil, Rafah; fires on stone-throwing youths in Bayt Furik, injuring 10; conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, Qalqilya; demolishes **2 Palestinian homes** in Bayt Furik, 1 in Bayt Sira. Late in the evening, a **Palestinian** fires on an **IDF** post nr. Hermesh settlement, causing no injuries; is fatally shot by soldiers. A **Tel Aviv court** convicts a **Nablus *tanzim* mbr.** on 14 counts of murder, conspiracy for organizing 3 fatal attacks on Israelis in 1/02. **International aid workers** in Gaza report that since the 4/30 bombing, the IDF has required them to undergo long (up to 7 hrs.) interviews regarding their activities before entering or leaving the Strip (see 4/26). (BBC, HA, MM 5/1; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/2; PR 5/7; PCHR 5/8; AIDA 5/12)

### 2 MAY

An **IDF** tank opens fire on a British news crew filming IDF demolitions of **2 Palestinian homes** in Rafah, killing **British journalist James Miller**. The **IDF**

also bulldozes 77 dunams of land in Khuza; fires on residential areas of Dayr al-Balah; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Bayt Furik and Qalandia, wounding a total of 10; conducts arrest raids in Khan Yunis. In Gaza City, **10,000s of Palestinians** attend the funeral for Palestinians slain by the IDF during a raid on 5/1, also denouncing **Abbas's** call for a cease-fire, disarmament of Palestinian militant groups. **Britain** arrests **3 women, 2 men** for involvement in the 4/29 Tel Aviv suicide bombing. (AFP 5/2; NYT, PCHR, PM, WP, WT 5/3; PR 5/7; HA, PCHR 5/8)

**Bush** announces that combat operations in **Iraq** have ended; does not officially declare an end to the war, which under the Third Geneva Convention would require the U.S. to release POWs. (NYT 5/2)

### 3 MAY

The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Jenin; conducts arrest raids in Nablus; blows up 3 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah. **Britain** arrests a **6th man** in connection with the 4/29 Tel Aviv bombing. **Israel** says it will step up deportations of **ISM** mbrs. after learning that the 4/29 bombers attended a memorial service for **ISM** activist **Corrie**, killed by the IDF on 3/16; **ISM** said the 2 men never sought to join the group. (AFP 5/3; NYT 5/4; HA 5/5; PCHR 5/8)

### 4 MAY

The **IDF** opens fire on stone-throwing youths in Balata r.c., fatally shooting a **14-yr-old Palestinian** in the head; demolishes 3 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah, 1 in Hebron; storms an elementary school nr. Tulkarm, critically wounding 1 student; shells, fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, hitting a hospital and a school, injuring 3 students in their classrooms; conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem. The **IDF** delays the evacuation of **10 unauthorized settlement outposts**, citing anger and anxiety among the settlers. (VOI 5/4 in WNC 5/5; HA, NYT, WT 5/5; PCHR 5/8)

**Labor leader Amram Mitzna** resigns, citing "intrigue and interference" fr. other party leaders, the party losses in the 1/03 elections. Labor cannot immediately agree on a replacement, further debilitating the

already weak party. (HA, NYT, WP, WT 5/5; MM 5/6, 5/7, 5/8)

### 5 MAY

The **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Hebron; raids **2 medical clinics** in Nablus and Ramallah, destroying computers, vandalizing the offices, stealing equipment, arresting 1 doctor, 1 administrator, 2 paramedics; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; bars several **international aid workers** fr. entering Gaza, without giving a reason (see 5/1); arrests an **East Jerusalem Palestinian** for driving a suicide bomber to West Jerusalem to stage an attack in 2002. **AMB gunmen** fire on a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Ramallah, killing **1 Jewish settler**, wounding 2. (HA, Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees 5/5; NYT 5/6; SA 5/3, MA 5/4 in WNC 5/5; VOI 5/6 in WNC 5/7; NYT 5/7; PCHR 5/8; AIDA 5/12)

### 6 MAY

The **IDF** arrests **2 Palestinian fishermen** who stray into a closed military zone off the coast of Gaza, blows up their boat "as a precautionary measure"; shells residential areas of Khan Yunis. An **Israeli court** upholds an **IDF** order to demolish 120 newly built Palestinian homes in Bayt Sahur; the Palestinian Christian group **Arab Orthodox Housing Project**, which constructed the houses, appeals to the Israeli High Court. (ICHAD, JP 5/6; PCHR 5/8)

**Bush** names **career diplomat Paul Bremer** as presidential envoy to **Iraq** to serve as civilian administrator of Iraq, with seniority over **Garner**. Bush made the change to elicit more financial assistance fr. countries that had been withholding support out of discomfort over the "military hue" of U.S. reconstruction efforts. Since retiring fr. government in 1989, Bremer has worked with **Henry Kissinger's** consulting firm. (NYT, WP, WT 5/7)

### 7 MAY

The **IDF** fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis, fatally shooting an **18-mo.-old Palestinian child** playing outside his home; fatally shoots a **Hamambr.** scouting, according to Hamas, a n. Gaza Jewish settlement for an attack;

fatally shoots a mentally disabled **Palestinian** nr. Khan Yunis when he allegedly fails to obey orders to stop when approaching an IDF roadblock. Wanted **senior Hamas mbr. Amin Manzalawi** is killed in a mysterious explosion in Zawata; Hamas claims the IDF assassinated him. An IDF vehicle hits a civilian car in Tulkarm, killing **1 Palestinian**, injuring **2**. A group of **20 armed Jewish settlers** attack **10 Palestinian farmers**, **2 Israeli** and **5 international peace activists** plowing a field nr. Eli settlement; **IDF soldiers** intervene, tell Palestinians and internationals to leave. **Jewish settlers** break ground for 72 new housing units in Beit El. (HA, ISM press release 5/7; NYT, PCHR 5/8; PR 5/14; PCHR 5/15)

#### 8 MAY

The **IDF** assassinates **senior Hamas mbr. Iyad al-Bik**, whom Israel claims is tied to **al-Qa'ida**, firing 3 missiles at his car as he drives through Gaza City, causing no other injuries. The **IDF** fatally shoots **1 Palestinian** riding a donkey nr. Nablus; fires on residential areas of Rafah, killing **1 Palestinian**; fires on stone-throwing youths in Balata r.c., injuring **5**; bulldozes 30 dunams of land s. of Khan Yunis; raids the Ramallah central bus station, arresting a wanted Hamas mbr.; conducts additional arrest raids in Tulkarm, nearby refugee camps. A **13-yr.-old Palestinian** dies of injuries received on 3/3/03; another **Palestinian** dies of injuries received in 4/29/03. **Palestinian gunmen** fire on an **IDF** patrol nr. Kefar Darom, luring an **IDF** tank to the scene; a **Palestinian suicide bomber** drives up to the tank, detonates a car bomb, killing only himself; no **IDF** soldiers are injured in the incident; the **IDF** demolishes a **PSF** office in retaliation. **Palestinians** fire a mortar at a **Jewish settlement** in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. (BBC, HA, JP 5/8; HA, NYT, WP 5/9; AYM 5/9 in WNC 5/12; PCHR 5/15)

**U.S. officials** say that the 11/02 ruling by a secretive 3-judge federal appeals panel interpreting the 2001 Patriot Act as permitting the use of classified wiretaps and intelligence reports fr. foreign security agencies against terrorism suspects has allowed the **FBI** to intensify greatly its decades old investigations of alleged U.S. supporters of **Hamas**, **Hizballah**.

Investigations reportedly have been focusing on U.S. mosques. (WP 5/8)

#### 9 MAY

The **IDF** demolishes 10 **Palestinian homes**, bulldozes 4 dunams of land and large trees in Dayr al-Balah, nr. the Kefar Darom site of the 5/8 suicide attack on an **IDF** tank; bulldozes 49 dunams of land e. of Bayt Hanun, 15 dunams s. of Khan Yunis; conducts arrest raids in Bethlehem, Hebron, Yanun. The **IDF** also raids the **ISM** offices in Bayt Sahur, surrounding the building with 22 vehicles, detaining 3 **ISM** mbrs. (2 foreign, 1 **Palestinian**), confiscating computers and other equipment. Israel says that information that **2 British suicide bombers** attended a memorial service for **ISM** mbr. Corrie before staging their 4/29 attack raises concerns that "terrorists" could enter Israel posing as **ISM** volunteers. **Israel** announces that henceforth all **foreign nationals** entering Gaza must sign a waiver exempting Israel from any responsibility should they be killed or injured, promising that they will not disrupt military activities. **Hamas** fires 6 **Qassam rockets** at Sederot, lightly injuring **2 Israelis**. **Palestinians** also fire **2 mortars** at Gush Katif settlement, causing no damage or injuries. (AFP, HA 5/9; VOI 5/9 in WNC 5/12; HA, NYT, WT 5/10; PCHR 5/15) (see 5/3)

#### 10 MAY

The **IDF** imposes a tight curfew on Hebron; demolishes 3 **Palestinian homes** in Khan Yunis, 1 in Bayt Hanun; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis; bulldozes 25 dunams of land in Khuza, 20 dunams e. of Bayt Hanun; arrests another **3 ISM volunteers** in Tulkarm; bars **6 foreign aid workers** fr. entering Gaza, without giving a reason (see 5/5). (GS, HA 5/10; AFP, *Arab News* 5/11; AIDA 5/12; PCHR 5/15)

**Powell** arrives in Israel for mtgs. aimed at starting implementation of the **road map** with **Abbas** (who has accepted the plan), **Sharon** (who has not); meets with **FM Shalom**, who reiterates Israel's position that **Abbas** must dismantle militant groups before Israel would take steps to implement the road map. (HA 5/10; XIN 5/10 in WNC 5/12; HA, NYT, WP, WT 5/11; MEI 5/16)

**11 MAY**

The **IDF** places its tightest seal on the Gaza Strip since the al-Aqsa intifada began, barring everyone except diplomats and aid workers fr. entering or exiting (though **9 international aid workers** are denied entry for no reason; see 5/10), requiring journalists to apply for entry and to coordinate their trips with the IDF. International medical relief organization **Médecins du Monde** permanently ends its operations in Gaza, saying IDF measures make it impossible to continue work; numerous other international aid groups suspend Gaza operations. The **IDF** demolishes at least 3 **Palestinian homes** in Rafah, also bulldozing 40 dunams of land; conducts arrest raids in Jenin. **Palestinian gunmen** fire on a vehicle nr. Ofra settlement, killing **1 Jewish settler**; the **AMB**, **PFLP** each claim responsibility. (XIN 5/11; AIDA, HA, MM, NYT 5/12; AYM 5/13 in WNC 5/15; PR 5/14; PCHR 5/15)

**Sharon** presents **Powell** with a plan for a series of limited measures to ease restrictions on Palestinians, releases **63 Palestinian prisoners** as a gesture. Powell asks Israel to accept the road map, but Sharon refuses. Powell then meets with **Abbas** and **PC speaker Ahmad Qurai'**, presses the PA to disarm Palestinian militant groups. Abbas says he will start with dialogue, not force; criticizes Sharon's proposed gestures as mostly symbolic. (MENA, VOI 5/11 in WNC 5/12; SA 5/11, JP, QA 5/12 in WNC 5/13; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/12; AFP 5/13; AYM 5/12 in WNC 5/15; MM, PR 5/14; MEI 5/16)

**12 MAY**

The **IDF** fatally shoots **2 AMB mbrs.** laying a roadside bomb nr. the Rafah border; fatally shoots a **Palestinian** farmer tilling a field nr. Khan Yunis; raids a hospital in Nablus, closing it for 3 hrs., but leaving without arresting anyone; conducts arrest raids in Nablus (targeting the *tanzim*), Qalqilya (targeting the **PFLP**). A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. **Jewish settlers** set up a tent at the site of the fatal 5/5 shooting of a Jewish settler on the Nablus–Ramallah road, vowing to erect a permanent settlement at the location. **Palestinians** fire a mortar at a Jewish settlement in Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. **Israel** releases another **35 Palestinian prisoners**—significantly

less than the 120 Israel had said it would release today. (HA 5/12; NYT, WP 5/13; PCHR 5/15)

**Powell** meets briefly with **Quartet reps.** in Jerusalem before meeting with **Egyptian pres. Husni Mubarak** in Cairo, **King Abdallah of Jordan** in Amman to rally Arab support for a **PA** crackdown on Palestinian militant groups. Powell says that it makes “no difference” whether or not Israel has declared acceptance of the **road map**; the important thing is for both sides to begin implementation. (HA, NYT, WP 5/12; MENA 5/12 in WNC 5/13; HA, WP, WT 5/13)

Late in the evening, on the eve of **Powell's** arrival in **Saudi Arabia**, **suicide bombers** in Riyadh simultaneously detonate 3 car bombs outside residential compounds for foreigners and 1 outside a Saudi-U.S.-owned business, killing **34 persons** (including **8 Americans**, **5 Saudis**), wounding around 200 (including at least 40 Americans), many seriously. Most of the bombers appear to be Saudi, but no group takes responsibility; the U.S., Saudi Arabia suspect **al-Qa'ida**. (BBC, NYT, WP, WT 5/13; NYT, REU, WP, WT 5/14; NYT, WP 5/15)

**13 MAY**

**IDF** undercover units arrest **2 senior Hamas mbrs.** in a raid on Ramallah. The **IDF** also demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Qalqilya; occupies a **Palestinian home** in Dayr al-Balah; blows up a carpentry shop in Nablus; conducts arrest raids in Qalqilya. **Palestinians** fire 3 **Qassam rockets** at Sederot; 1 falls on a factory outside the city, lightly injuring 3 Israelis. **Palestinians** also fire 2 mortars at an IDF base nr. Gush Katif settlement, lightly injuring 9 soldiers, moderately injuring 1; in retaliation, the **IDF** sends more than 100 tanks and armored vehicles, supported by helicopters, into Khan Yunis, shelling residential areas, wounding at least 20 Palestinians, demolishing 26 **Palestinian homes** (leaving 247 Palestinians homeless), damaging another 30. The body of the missing **4/29 British bomber** washes up on shore nr. Tel Aviv; he apparently drowned. (AFP, BBC, HA, JP, MM 5/13; AFP, HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/14; NYT, PCHR 5/15; MM 5/16; HA 5/18, 5/19)

In a predawn raid on Umm al-Fahm, **Israeli police** arrest **15 Israeli Arabs**, all

leading mbrs. of the **Islamic Movement** (which has 2 seats in the Knesset) on charges of laundering millions of dollars for **Hammas** in the guise of raising money for charitable orgs.; police say they do not have proof that the Islamic Movement funded acts of terrorism. (HA, JP, MM 5/13; HA, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/14)

#### 14 MAY

**IDF undercover units** raid Nablus, sparking numerous demonstrations and exchanges of gunfire, in which **wanted AMB mbr. Taysir Shihab** is fatally shot, 20 Palestinians (mostly stone-throwing youths) are injured. The **IDF** also bars **Norwegian special envoy to the Middle East Jakken Bioern Lian** entry to Gaza for a scheduled mtg. with **PA officials** (see 5/11); issues an order expelling a **Palestinian** fr. the al-Mawasi area, where he resides, for 6 mos.; shells a PSF post nr. Netzarim settlement, killing **3 PSF officers**, wounding 2; makes arrest raids in Jenin, sparking clashes that leave a **12-yr.-old Palestinian** dead; conducts additional arrest raids in Qalqilya, Tulkarm; fires on residential areas of Khan Yunis; bulldozes more than 86 dunams e. of Bayt Hanun. **Jewish settlers** evacuate 7 mobile homes fr. an unauthorized outpost nr. Shilo. **Palestinians** fire **2 Qassam rockets** at Sederot and **5 mortars** at Gush Katif settlement, causing no damage or injuries. (AFP, HA, PCHR, REU 5/14; HA, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 5/15)

Israel allows **Islamic Movement northern branch head Shaykh Ra'ed Salah**, 1 of the 15 arrested on 5/13, out of custody for several hrs. to attend the funeral of his father in Umm al-Fahm, which turns into a massive Israeli Arab rally against Israeli government discrimination. (HA 5/15)

#### 15 MAY

The **IDF** launches a major predawn raid on Bayt Hanun, sending 70 tanks and armored vehicles into the area, firing on residential areas, killing **5 Palestinians** (including a **12-yr.-old Palestinian boy** who is allowed to bleed to death over 3 hrs., as the IDF bars access to medical workers), wounding 20, demolishing at least 4 **Palestinian homes**, bulldozing 100s of orange trees, conducting house-to-house searches; says troops plan to stay in the town for several days. The **IDF** also surrounds the adjacent town of Bayt Lahia, Jabaliya r.c. A **Palestinian gunman** opens fire at the Qarni crossing, killing **2 Israeli civilians** before being shot dead by the IDF. Another **Palestinian gunman** fires on a vehicle nr. Neve Tzuf settlement, lightly injuring **1 Jewish settler**. **Palestinians** fire a **Qassam rocket** nr. Jabaliya, which lands in the Negev desert. **Palestinians** across the West Bank, Gaza hold rallies, marches to mark the 55th anniversary of the Nakba. (AFP, AP, HA, JP, WT 5/15; MENA 5/15 in WNC 5/16; HA, MM, NYT, WP 5/16)

#### CHRONOLOGY SOURCE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

ADL	(Adalah, Shafa 'Amr)
AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AIDA	(Association of International Aid Development Agencies, Gaza)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
AYM	( <i>al-Ayyam</i> , Ramallah)
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
BDL	(BADIL Resource Center, Bethlehem)
CNN	(Cable News Network [Internet])
GS	(Gush Shalom, Tel Aviv)
HA	( <i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
ICHAD	(Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, Bayt Sahur)
ITV	(Israel Television Network, Jerusalem)
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])
PMC	(Palestine Media Center [Internet])
PR	( <i>Palestine Report</i> , Jerusalem)
PRCS	(Palestine Red Crescent Society, al-Bireh)
QA	( <i>al-Quds al-Arabi</i> , London)
REU	(Reuters [Internet])
SA	( <i>al-Sharq al-Ausat</i> , London)
VOI	(Voice of Israel, Jerusalem)
WJW	( <i>Washington Jewish Week</i> , Rockville, MD)
WNC	(World News Connection [Internet], Washington)
WP	( <i>Washington Post</i> , Washington)
WT	( <i>Washington Times</i> , Washington)
XIN	(Xinhua—New China News Agency, Beijing)
YA	( <i>Yedi'ot Abaronot</i> , Tel Aviv)



**Palestinians walk on a road dug up by the IDF in Bayt Lahia, 10 March 2003.  
(AFP/Mohammed Saber)**