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Chronology

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CHRONOLOGY

16 AUGUST–15 NOVEMBER 2005

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

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

16 AUGUST

At midnight local time, the grace period runs out for **Jewish settlers in Gaza** to withdraw voluntarily in compliance with **Israeli PM Ariel Sharon's disengagement plan**; at least 50% of the estimated 8,500 settlers have already left, including all settlers fr. Dugit (est. 1990, pop. 70, size 245 dunams [d.; 4 d. = 1 acre].), Nisanit (est. 1980, pop. 1,100, size 1,610 d.), Pe'at Sadeh (est. 1989, pop. 110, size 935 d.), Raffiah Yam (est. 1984, pop. 130, size 574 d.), Shalev (est. 2001, pop. 50). Gaza and the n. West Bank remain closed military zones to Israelis for the duration of disengagement (see 6/30, 8/15). **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** soldiers prepare to forcibly remove the settlers who remain and the estimated **5,000 disengagement protesters** (mostly West Bank settler youth) who snuck into the Strip. Meanwhile in Gaza, the **IDF** searches Palestinian homes nr. Bayt Lahiya, in Wadi al-Silqa; occupies a Palestinian home in Dayr al-Balah as an observation post. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gaza's Gush Katif bloc, burn animal food storage bins in al-Mawasi. In Khan Yunis, **1,000s of Hamas supporters** rally to celebrate the pending disengagement. In the West Bank, the **IDF** detains, beats a 16-yr.-old Palestinian who throws stones at troops outside Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids, house searches in villages around Hebron and in Qabatya nr. Jenin; demolishes an animal farm outside Hebron for construction of the **separation wall**; occupies 1 Palestinian home nr. Hebron, 1 nr. Tulkarm as observation posts. **Jewish settlers** fr. the West Bank settlement of Homesh (to be evacuated under disengagement) occupy, vandalize 2 Palestinian homes nearby; the **IDF** removes them. (BBC, IMEMC, XIN 8/16; PR 8/17; PCHR 8/18)

17 AUGUST

Before dawn the **IDF** moves troops into Gaza en masse to begin the forcible evacuation of **Jewish settlers and disengagement protesters** who have not yet left, begins demolishing settler homes in n. Gaza. By the end of the day, evacuations of Bedolah (est. 1986, pop. 220, size 1,456 d., hrs. to evac. 6), Ganei Tal (est. 1979, pop. 350, size 2,050 d., hrs. to evac. 11), Kerem Atzmona (est. 2001, pop. 24, hrs. to evac. 6), Morag (est. 1972, pop. 220, size 1,300 d., hrs. to evac. 7), Tal Katifa (est. 1992, pop. 60, size 183 d., hrs. to evac. 5) are completed; most residents of Gadid leave voluntarily. Settlers in Atzmona agree to evacuate voluntarily by 8/21, those in Netzarim by 8/22. Settlers who have not arranged their evacuation with the government will be housed temporarily in hotels, mobile homes: e.g., more than half of **Morag's settlers** take up temporary residence in the West Bank settlement of Ofra; **Israel's Jerusalem municipality** temporarily houses **1,000 Neve Dekalim settlers** who have left voluntarily in a Jerusalem hotel. Generally there is little strong resistance; the **IDF** optimistically says it hopes that the evacuations could be completed within days instead of wks., as earlier estimated. During the day, some scuffles btwn. soldiers, settlers are reported; in some areas settlers set fire to tires and in garbage bins to prevent soldiers fr. entering settlements; at least 2 settlers set fire to their homes before leaving. In Morag, a **female IDF soldier** is stabbed with a syringe, lightly injured by a **disengagement protester**. (In total, **13 Israeli soldiers and police** are lightly injured during the day.) Gaza settlers and protesters also attack Palestinians: some **200 Kefar Darom settlers** rampage through nearby Palestinian areas, set fire to

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a Palestinian house; **20 Neve Dekalim settlers** march through al-Mawasi, spread nails on roads to damage Palestinian cars, try to provoke Palestinian residents (the **IDF** intervenes, removes the settlers); other **Jewish settlers** fire on Palestinian homes, vandalize Palestinian greenhouses in the same area. The **IDF** also demolishes a **Palestinian home**, conducts arrest raids in al-Mawasi. Meanwhile, **Palestinians** in Khan Yunis begin returning to their homes on the edge of town facing the settlements, which they had fled since the start of the intifada in 9/00 because of IDF gunfire. **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** in some 50 boats, carrying banners and weapons, hold a seaborne victory parade off Gaza to celebrate disengagement. Some disengagement protests in Israel turn violent: a **disengagement protester** tosses a grenade at an IDF checkpoint in s. Israel, wounding **5 IDF soldiers**; a **female settler** fr. Keddumim in the West Bank sets fire to herself during a demonstration in Netivot, is seriously injured. In the West Bank, a **Jewish settler** fr. Shvut Rachel steals a gun fr. an Israeli security guard at the industrial area of Shilo settlement, fires on Palestinian workers, killing **4 Palestinians**, wounding 1. **Sharon** denounces the attack as “Jewish terror”; **Palestinian Authority (PA) PM Mahmud Abbas** calls on Palestinian factions to maintain calm, refrain fr. retaliation. At Sanur (to be evacuated under disengagement), **600 Jewish settlers** hold an antidisengagement rally. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and in Nur al-Shams refugee camp (r.c.), Tulkarm. Also in Hebron, 4 bedouin children herding goats are injured when they accidentally trigger an unexploded IDF phosphorus shell; the IDF says it uses the shells only in training. A **9-yr.-old Palestinian** dies of injuries received when she accidentally triggered unexploded IDF ordnance nr. Karmil. (Arutz 7, BBC, HA, IMEMC, NYT, REU, *USA Today*, WP, WT, YA 8/17; Voice of Israel, VOP 8/17 in WNC 8/18; BBC, HA, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 8/18; MENA 8/18 in WNC 8/19; NYT 8/20; PCHR, PR 8/25; IMEMC 9/22; HA 11/10)

18 AUGUST

In the morning, the **IDF** says that 70% of **Gaza settlers** have been evacuated, most Gaza residents have not resisted the evacuation, most protests and resistance are by **West Bank settler youth** (and some **American Jewish youth**) who have come to Gaza in recent wks. to block the with-

drawal. During the day, the evacuations of Gan Or (est. 1983, pop. 350, size 1,692 d., hrs. to evac. 5), Kefar Darom (est. 1989, pop. 490, size 276 d., hrs. to evac. 12), Kefar Yam (est. 1983, pop. 15, hrs. to evac. 3), Netzer Hazani (est. 1973, pop. 460, size 250 d., hrs. to evac. 5), Neve Dekalim (est. 1983, pop. 2,700, size 1,443 d., hrs. to evac. 35), Shirat Hayam (est. 2001, pop. 40, hrs. to evac. 5) settlements are completed. An increasing number of settlers set fire to their homes and to greenhouses as they leave to prevent them fr. being turned over to Palestinians. For the 1st time, **1 armed resident** in Kefar Yam, **4 armed disengagement protesters** in Shirat Hayam threaten to shoot IDF soldiers if they follow orders to remove settlers, but only if soldiers fire first; the incidents defuse without violence. Some Shirat Hayam residents also throw rocks at Palestinians in Mawasi as they evacuate. In Kefar Darom, 65 resident families agree to leave, but as many as **2,000 outside protesters** refuse, many of them barricading themselves inside and on the roof of a synagogue; for the 1st time during the disengagement, the **IDF** uses water cannons against protesters and **2 IDF soldiers** refuse to obey their orders, are removed by fellow soldiers; 58 Israelis are injured in clearing the synagogue, including at least 3 IDF soldiers, 27 border police (1 seriously when he falls accidentally); protesters throw paint thinner at **IDF Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Dan Harel**, several soldiers. In Neve Dekalim, some **1,500 disengagement protesters** hole up in 2 synagogues, refusing to leave even after residents have voluntarily evacuated, but are eventually extracted. **Jewish settlers** in s. Gaza spread nails along the coastal road in al-Mawasi to prevent movement of Palestinian vehicles. Meanwhile, **Palestinians** fire a **rocket** at Netzarim (still inhabited), lightly injuring an IDF soldier; **2 mortars** at Gadid settlement (still inhabited), 3 mortars at Morag (evacuated) causing no damage or injuries. **Palestinian gunmen** fire on **IDF** troops nr. Kefar Darom, lightly injuring 1. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in al-Mawasi; fires on residential areas of Bayt Lahiya, seriously injuring 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, **Jewish settlers** fr. Homesh and Sanur attempt to break into a Palestinian home in nearby Asa'sa village; the **IDF** intervenes to stop them. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim throw stones at Palestinian shops, cars nr. Qalqilya. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dura, nr. Tulkarm; confiscates 500 d. of agricultural land nr. Eli settlement nr. Nablus. In Israel,

disengagement protesters block roads nationwide. (AP, BBC, HA, Israeli Radio, ITV 8/18; NYT, WP, WT 8/19; PCHR 8/25)

19 AUGUST

The **IDF** completes the evacuation of Gadid (est. 1982, pop. 350, size 1,600 d., hrs. to evac. 3); halts operations at sundown for the Sabbath, planning to resume on 8/21; starts demolishing homes in Kerem Atzmona; begins digging 8-ft. trench around Gush Katif settlements to prevent Palestinians fr. entering before evacuation is complete. During the day in Gadid, where almost all residents left on 8/17, some **200 disengagement protesters** set fires, erect roadblocks to block troops. **Palestinian gunmen** fire on Gadid, causing no damage or injuries. Also in Gaza, 2 **Hamas** mbrs. are injured when a roadside bomb they are planting explodes prematurely. In the West Bank, **disengagement protesters** set fire to a gas station outside Sanur. **Jewish settlers** take over 2 Palestinian homes nr. Homesh as lookout posts to help non-resident settlers infiltrate the IDF closed military zone to protest the disengagement; the IDF ousts them later in the day. A pig's head, presumably left by disengagement protesters, is found in the Hassan Bek mosque nr. Jaffa. Meanwhile, the **IDF** occupies a 3-story building under construction nr. Kiryat Arba in Hebron, closes 21 stores attached to the building; conducts patrols in Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai in Hebron, throw stones, bottles at Palestinian homes, injuring an 8-yr.-old Palestinian boy. **Jewish settlers** fr. Sha'ar Hatikva nr. Qalqilya throw stones at nearby Palestinian cars, set fire to agricultural land and several greenhouses. **Unidentified gunman** fire on the car of **West Bank Hamas political leader Shaykh Hasan Yusuf**; Yusuf was not in the car, his bodyguards were but are not hurt. (BBC, HA, IDF Radio, ITV, JP 8/19; NYT, WP, WT 8/20; PCHR, PR 8/25)

20 AUGUST

The **IDF** occupies a Palestinian home in Badala nr. Tulkarm as an observation post, demolishes a store next door; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Til nr. Tulkarm; completes a segment of the **separation wall** nr. Qalandia crossing s. of Ramallah. Some **50 armed Jewish settlers** fr. Homesh raid Burqa village, stone Palestinian homes. **Jewish settlers** fr. Beit Hadasah in Hebron attack international peace activists on a soli-

arity visit to Palestinians, lightly injuring 4. (PCHR, PR 8/25)

21 AUGUST

The **IDF** resumes disengagement in Gaza, completing the evacuation of Aley Sinai (est. 1983, pop. 407, size 488 d., hrs. to evac. 8), Atzmona (est. 1982, pop. 646, size 882 d., hrs. to evac. 8), Katif (est. 1985, pop. 404, size 2,000 d., hrs. to evac. 6) during the day; disengagement protesters who had moved back into Dugit in recent days are also removed. **Atzmona settlers** leave willingly when troops arrive. **Katif settlers** set up burning barricades at the entrance to their settlement but leave willingly after holding a final prayer service. In Aley Sinai, 30 remaining settler families leave willingly, but 200 disengagement protesters resist, forcing soldiers to remove them. The **IDF** also begins dismantling settler homes in Dugit, Nisanit, Pe'at Sadeh. A **Palestinian gunman** shoots, wounds an IDF soldier nr. Neve Dekalim. The **Israeli cabinet** approves (16-4) the next phase of disengagement for withdrawal fr. 4 West Bank settlements; the last residents of 2 of these, Ganim (est. 1983, pop. 172) and Qadim (est. 1983, pop. 169), evacuated voluntarily by 8/15. **Sanur settlers** complete handover of their weapons to the IDF. Outside Sanur, **100s of masked settlers** scuffle with **IDF soldiers**, puncture tires of IDF vehicles; around 50 of them attempt to set fire to several nearby Palestinian homes. A **Jewish settler** fr. Alfe Menashe shoots, wounds a Palestinian outside his home, nr. a bypass road nr. Qalqilya. Meanwhile, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin. In Gaza City, at least **200 armed al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB) mbrs.** surround the PC headquarters, demanding jobs, accusing PA officials of corruption; they disperse when **PA security forces** intervene. (HA, IMEMC 8/21; IMEMC, NYT, WT, XIN, YA 8/22; PCHR 8/25)

22 AUGUST

The **IDF** completes the evacuation of **settlers fr. Gaza**, with residents of the last inhabited settlement, Netzarim (est. 1972, pop. 496, size 1,760 d., hrs. to evac. 7), and 300 disengagement protesters leaving willingly after holding final prayer service, with only minor scuffles with soldiers; **Netzarim residents** say they have applied to the Israeli government to move to the West Bank settlement of Ariel. The **IDF** also raids, searches houses in al-Mawasi. Overnight, **10s-**

of armed Jewish settlers protesting disengagement march through at least 8 West Bank Palestinian villages nr. Homesh and Sanur, firing in the air, occupying the rooftops of Palestinian homes, vandalizing property; the **IDF** intervenes to remove them. During the day, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, occupying 2 houses as observation posts; conducts house searches, interrogations nr. Jenin, occupying 2 Palestinian homes as observation posts. **Jewish settlers** fr. Eli stone, lightly injure 2 Palestinians. **Jewish settlers** fr. Einav attack Palestinians, damage Palestinian crops and homes in Ramin village nr. Nablus. A **French sound technician** kidnapped in Gaza on 8/14 turns up at a PA police station in Gaza City; no group claims responsibility, though there are rumors that he was kidnapped by a prominent clan and was released only after Abbas freed 6 family mbrs. fr. jail. (HA, IMEMC, XIN 8/22; HA, NYT, WP, WT 8/23; PCHR, PR 8/25; NYT 8/28)

23 AUGUST

The **IDF completes the settler disengagement in the West Bank** with the evacuation of Homesh (est. 1980, pop. 228, hrs. to evac. 7) and Sanur (est. 1982, pop. 105, hrs. to evac. 8), permitting the **IDF** to withdraw fr. its military positions in the 4 West Bank settlements and in Gaza over the next 2-5 wks. Most residents of the 2 settlements left before disengagement began; those who had remained generally go willingly, but some 2,000 disengagement protesters at the two sites put up mild resistance against some 12,000 soldiers, with **1 female protester** in Homesh stabbing, lightly injuring a female soldier. **IDF** dismantlement of settler homes is underway in 13 of the 25 evacuated settlements; some protesters manage to infiltrate cleared settlements, but the **IDF** removes them again. Elsewhere in the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts house searches, interrogations in Hebron (occupying a school as an observation post) and around Jenin; fires on residential areas nr. Jenin; bulldozes several tents, animal pens set up by bedouin in an **IDF** "training zone" nr. Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim severely beat a Palestinian nr. Qalqilya. (BBC, HA, IMEMC 8/23; NYT, WP, WT 8/24; PCHR, PR 8/25; MEI 9/2)

24 AUGUST

A day after completing disengagement fr. 25 Jewish settlements, **Israel** confirms plans to seize some 1,588 d. of West Bank Pales-

tinian land to complete 10 mi. of **separation wall** around the southern part of Ma'ale Adumim settlement, to add 3,500 housing units there (more than twice the number of units removed under disengagement), to build a police headquarters in the E-1 area btwn. Ma'ale Adumim and Jerusalem. In Gaza, the **IDF** raids, searches, occupies 2 Palestinian homes in Khan Yunis as observation posts; raids, occupies a Palestinian home in Dayr al-Balah. In the West Bank, **IDF undercover units** raid Tulkarm r.c, fatally shooting 'Adil Abu Khalil al-Ghawi (**Islamic Jihad**), Mahmud Ahadib (**AMB**), and Majdi Attiya (**AMB**), also killing 2 bystanders and wounding 3; **local Hamas military cmdr. Ribhi Amara**, also possibly a target, escapes unharmed. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, nr. Jenin, and in Nablus, Qalqilya. In East Jerusalem, a **Palestinian** stabs 2 **ultra-Orthodox British Jews**, killing 1 before escaping. (HA, JP, REU 8/24; VOP 8/24 in WNC 8/25; BBC, HA, JAZ, PCHR, WP, WT 8/25; MENA 8/25 in WNC 8/26; HA, NYT 8/26; *al-Quds* 8/26 in WNC 8/27; HA 8/30; PR 8/31; PCHR 9/1; MEI 9/2; HA 9/7; DS 10/10)

25 AUGUST

Following the 8/24 **IDF** assassinations, Gaza **Palestinians** fire rockets at Sederot and the Negev for the 1st time since disengagement was completed, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus, in and around Hebron, and in al-Khadir nr. Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** rampage through a shopping district of East Jerusalem, vandalizing Palestinian stores, chanting "We don't want Arabs," threatening to expel Palestinians. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai in Hebron stone, vandalize a Palestinian home, tear down a fence outside the home; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (IMEMC 8/25; NYT 8/26; PCHR 9/1)

26 AUGUST

The **IDF** arrests a Palestinian on the Gaza beach in al-Mawasi for no apparent reason; imposes a day-long curfew on 'Azun nr. Qalqilya, searches several homes, arrests 1 Palestinian; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Marda nr. Nablus. A **Jewish settler** who set herself on fire on 8/17 to protest the disengagement dies of her injuries, marking the only fatality of the disengagement process. (WP 8/27; PCHR 9/1)

27 AUGUST

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches, interrogations in Hebron, al-Ma'ni in Gaza; occupies a Palestinian home nr. the Kissufim settler bypass road as an observation post. (PCHR 9/1)

28 AUGUST

Citing retaliation for the 8/24 assassination of an Islamic Jihad mbr., an **Islamic Jihad suicide bomber** detonates a device outside a bus depot in Beersheba, Israel, killing only himself, seriously injuring 2 Israeli security guards, lightly injuring at least 8 other Israelis; **Abbas** quickly denounces the bombing as a "terrorist attack" that undermines Palestinian national interests. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Qalqilya. **Jewish settlers** fr. Karnei Shomron (btwn. Nablus and Qalqilya) throw stones at local Palestinians, lightly injuring 1. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai burn Palestinian olive trees, grape vines in Hebron. (IMEMC 8/28; NYT, WP, WT 8/29; IMEMC 8/30; PR 8/31; PCHR 9/1; MEI 9/2)

29 AUGUST

The **IDF** completes demolition of empty settler homes in Ganim, Qadim; informs the **PA** that the 4 evacuated West Bank settlement sites will remain classified as area C (under full Israeli control). The **AMB, Islamic Jihad** claim joint responsibility for the 8/28 suicide bombing. A **Palestinian gunman** fatally shoots an **IDF soldier** nr. the evacuated Morag settlement. The **IDF** imposes a day-long curfew on, patrols in Fasayil nr. Jericho; conducts house searches in villages around Jenin, nr. Tulkarm. (JAZ 8/29; PR 8/31; PCHR 9/1)

An **Israeli interministerial comm.** decides that the **Israeli Palestinian victims** of the 8/4/05 suicide attack by an **AWOL IDF soldier** in Shafa 'Amr will receive a lump-sum compensation payment fr. the state but will not be recognized as "terror victims," who receive a lifetime monthly government stipend. Israeli law only recognizes as "terror victims" those who were killed by "enemy forces." (HA 8/30; *Guardian* 9/1; HA, MEI 9/2; NYT 10/24)

30 AUGUST

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in camps and villages around

Bethlehem and Tulkarm, nr. Ramallah, in East Jerusalem; demolishes 2 rooms of a Palestinian home nr. Qalqilya for lack of permits. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai burn Palestinian olive trees, almond trees, grape vines in Hebron, also damaging storage buildings. **Jewish settlers** fr. Tene Oranim in the s. West Bank report that 80% of residents have signed a letter to **Sharon** offering to leave their settlement in exchange for the same compensation received by settlers evacuated under the disengagement plan. Armed **AMB mbrs.** march in Ramallah, demanding that the **PA** enforce the rule of law. (IMEMC 8/30; PR 8/31; PCHR 9/1)

31 AUGUST

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and in 'Aida r.c., al-'Aza r.c., Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba surround, heckle, scuffle with a group of European diplomats, Israeli activists making a solidarity visit to Hebron. (YA 8/31; PCHR 9/8)

A day after formally announcing that he will challenge **Sharon** for Likud party leadership in advance of Israeli elections, which must be held by 11/06, **fmr. PM Benjamin Netanyahu** goes to Ma'ale Adumim, where he vows that as PM, he would press for a rapid increase in construction of West Bank settlements, particularly around Jerusalem, including building 5,000 units in Ma'ale Adumim immediately. (NYT, WP, WT 8/31; NYT, WT 9/1; NYT 9/3)

The **Jewish Agency, Israeli DMin.** unveil a program to recruit **100s of young IDF soldiers** who have just completed their mandatory service to travel abroad as "emissaries to Jewish communities in the Diaspora" to persuade Jewish youth abroad to come to Israel for a semester or yr. of academic study. The newly discharged soldiers would receive travel expenses and a stipend to travel for 6-12 mos. The project is estimated to cost \$200 m./yr., with \$50 m. paid by the Jewish Agency, \$50 m. by the government, and the rest by donations to the agency, most of which come from North American Jews, who donate around \$150 m./yr. to the Jewish Agency. (HA 8/31)

1 SEPTEMBER

The **IDF** shoots, wounds 2 Palestinians nr. the evacuated Gush Katif settlement bloc;

conducts arrest raids, house searches in and nr. Hebron. **Israel** deports **2 Palestinian prisoners** who hold Jordanian passports to **Jordan** (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 137). Inside Israel, some **70 ultra-Orthodox Jews** attack, severely beat a Druze man harvesting his vineyard in Bayt Jan in the upper Galilee; **100s of Druze** come to the scene and clash with the Jews, leaving 4 injured; **Israeli police** intervene, separate the groups. (MEMC 9/1; HA 9/2; PCHR 9/8)

2 SEPTEMBER

The **IDF** raids, searches a house in Balata r.c. Some **50 Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba seize a strip of Palestinian land in Hebron's Wad al-Nasara neighborhood, set up tents; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (PCHR 9/8)

3 SEPTEMBER

The **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Askar r.c. overnight. (PCHR 9/8)

4 SEPTEMBER

The **IDF** fires percussion grenades at Palestinian homes nr. Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on in Hebron knock down tents, kill 6 sheep, injure 10, vandalize Palestinian farms nearby; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. In Khan Yunis, **10s of unemployed Palestinians** demonstrate outside a municipal building demanding jobs and better living conditions, scuffle with PA riot police. As part of a plea agmt., **PC mbr. Hussam Khadir (Ind.-Nablus)**, arrested by Israel on 3/17/03, pleads guilty in **Israeli court** to helping finance **AMB** attacks on Israelis. Some **200 PA police** block the Gaza coastal road, fire in the air in a protest demanding higher wages. (REU 9/4; AP, MEMC, NYT, WT 9/5; PCHR 9/8)

5 SEPTEMBER

Israel approves construction of 117 new housing units in Ariel settlement in contravention of the road map. The **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Tulkarm r.c.; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians youths at a flying checkpoint outside Jenin, wounding 1, arresting 1; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and in villages around Nablus, Tulkarm. An explosion destroys the Gaza City home of a Hamas mbr., killing **4 Palestinians**, wounding more than 12; neighbors say the blast

was apparently caused by explosives kept in the home that detonated accidentally. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba throw stones, bottles at Palestinian homes, injuring a 3-yr-old and a 12-yr-old Palestinian child. For a 2d day, **10s of unemployed Palestinians** demonstrate outside a Khan Yunis municipal building demanding jobs and better living conditions, scuffling with and pelting PA riot police with stones, leaving 7 officers, 3 demonstrators injured. (AP 9/5; NYT, REU 9/6; WP 9/7; PCHR 9/8)

10s of PA security forces deploy in Taybeh after **100s** of armed men tied to 1 Muslim family fr. Dayr Jarir burn 13 homes of an extended Christian family there. The disputes stemmed fr. an affair btwn. a Muslim woman and a Christian man and the honor killing of the woman involved. **Christians in Taybeh**, however, fear an undercurrent of anti-Christian sentiment is to blame and could result in wider clashes. (AP 9/5; BBC 9/14)

6 SEPTEMBER

Israeli DM Shaul Mofaz orders IDF cmdrs. to carry out stringent roadblock checks, demanding that troops "show no pity for anyone, even if it causes traffic hold ups and anger." In Gaza, the **IDF** fires on a group of at least 60 stone-throwing Palestinians that attempts to enter the vacated Neve Dekalim site, killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding 3. **Palestinians** in Gaza fire **2 rockets** at the Negev, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Tubas nr. Jenin; imposes a brief curfew on, raids and searches homes in Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; bulldozes 3 d. of Palestinian land at the entrance of Bayt Wazzan nr. Nablus for construction of an IDF checkpoint. (HA, YA 9/6; WP 9/7; NYT, PCHR, WT 9/8)

7 SEPTEMBER

In Gaza, the **PA security forces** enlist **AMB** mbrs. to set up checkpoints around some evacuated Jewish settlements to prevent Palestinians fr. looting. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysha r.c., Hebron (occupying the top floors of 2 houses as observation posts); patrols in, fires on residential areas of Bayt Dajan nr. Nablus. As many as 100 **Palestinian Resistance Comms. (PRCs) gunmen** storm the Gaza City home of **senior Fatah Revolutionary Council mbr. and**

fmr. Gaza public security chief Musa Arafat, kill him, wound 4 bodyguards, kidnap his son Manhal and 3 bodyguards, releasing the bodyguards soon after; Abbas retired Arafat, a powerful and corrupt Gaza figure, fr. his post in 4/05 as part of the security reform process, keeping him on as a security adviser. **Abbas** convenes his national security council, cancels plans to go to New York for the opening of the UN General Assembly session. (AFP, BBC, JAZ, WP, XIN 9/7; CSM, DS, HA, NYT, PCHR, UPI, WP, WT 9/8; AP, CSM 9/9; NYT 9/10; PCHR 9/15)

8 SEPTEMBER

As the IDF completes the demolition of settler and IDF structures in Gaza, Israeli **DM Mofaz** announces that he, as a religious person, cannot order the demolition of synagogues in the Gaza settlements as Israel agreed with the PA (see Quarterly Update). In Gaza, the **IDF** fatally shoots 1 **Palestinian**, wounds a 2d who cut through a perimeter fence of an evacuated settlement; blows up an underground military installation in the evacuated Ganei Tal settlement; dismantles a settler-only bridge linking 2 roads nr. the evacuated Gush Katif bloc; bulldozes land nr. Abasan and al-Qarara for construction of 2 roads, firing on nearby residential areas to keep Palestinians away; also fires on residential areas of Rafah. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches, interrogations in Hebron. The **PA** negotiates the release of **Manhal Arafat** (kidnapped by the PRCs on 9/7). Meanwhile, the **PRCs'** **Salah al-Din Brigades** issues a statement denying responsibility for the Musa Arafat assassination. (HA, IMEMC, Kuwait News Agency [KUNA] 9/8; NYT, WP 9/9; NYT 9/10; HA 9/13, 9/14; HA, PCHR 9/15)

9 SEPTEMBER

The **IDF** blows up its last posts and observation towers in Gaza, completes removal of its equipment in preparation for a handover to the PA; the only settler or IDF structures left standing are the IDF division headquarters nr. Neve Dekalim, which will be turned over to the PA, and the synagogues (see 9/8). In Gaza, the **IDF** shoots, wounds a mentally handicapped Palestinian who strays close to a checkpoint outside Khan Yunis. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Aqaba nr. Jenin; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Qabatya. In Gaza City, **1,000s of Palestinians** attend

Musa Arafat's funeral; **Abbas** was expected to address the ceremony but does not attend because of the high number of gunmen present. The **PRCs** issue a further statement on the assassination, restating that the PRCs as an organization are not responsible but that some PRC mbrs. as individuals carried out the plot, which the PRCs claim was orchestrated by **PA Civil Affairs M Muhammad Dahlan**. (HA 9/9; NYT, WP, WT 9/10; PCHR 9/15)

10 SEPTEMBER

Some **200 Egyptian border police** begin deploying along the Rafah border to prevent smuggling and illegal crossings after the IDF completes its Gaza withdrawal; all 750 will be deployed within 4 days. **IDF** moves into Bayt Furik nr. Nablus, fires on residential areas, then fires on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the troops, wounding 1; conducts house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin. Some **200 armed AMB mbrs.** take over 2 PA buildings in central Gaza demanding jobs. **Masked Palestinian gunmen** kidnap an **Italian journalist** in Dayr al-Balah, release him unharmed several hrs. later without explanation. (HA, JAZ 9/10; HA, NYT, WP, WT 9/11; PCHR 9/15)

11 SEPTEMBER

The **Israeli cabinet** votes (14-2) to complete disengagement without demolishing 19 Gaza synagogues and to declare officially the end of military rule in Gaza. In the evening, the **IDF** holds a flag-lowering ceremony in Gaza, begins pullout of its 6 remaining battalions (5,000-6,000 troops), which should be completed by dawn on 9/12. In the afternoon, the **IDF** fires on Palestinians gathering nr. Khan Yunis to watch the final pullout, wounding 5. A **Jewish settler** fr. Kiryat Arba injures a 24-yr.-old Palestinian woman, a 10-yr.-old Palestinian girl in a hit-and-run in Hebron. (BBC 9/11; NYT, WP, WT 9/12; PCHR 9/15)

12 SEPTEMBER

Just past dawn, the **IDF pulls its last troops out of Gaza**, issues a declaration ending military rule in the Strip. **Palestinians** storm past **PA security forces** to enter the evacuated settlements, scavenging some synagogues and demolished homes for anything that could be sold or used, setting 4 synagogues on fire; the **PA security**

forces bulldoze several synagogues, bar Palestinians fr. ransacking greenhouses (purchased by U.S. philanthropists and given to the PA as economically viable operations to aid the Palestinian economy), but leave a large factory in Kefar Darom unguarded, allowing it to be stripped of equipment. Palestinians also remove IDF roadblocks across Gaza, flock to beaches to swim for the 1st time since the start of the intifada. The **AMB, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Fatah** hold marches and celebrations, with factional flags more numerous than Palestinian flags. **Egyptian border guards** along the Rafah border fatally shoot a **Palestinian** while attempting to control crowds who flock to the crossing; 100s of Palestinians break through the border fence and enter Egypt. The **IDF** fires on Palestinian youths who approach the border fence in Bayt Lahiya, seriously wounding a 13-yr.-old. In the West Bank, the **IDF** imposes an overnight curfew on al-Til, conducting house searches and ID checks, withdrawing late morning; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Qalqilya, Tulkarm; occupies the top floor of a Palestinian home nr. Hebron as an observation post. (AP, JAZ, NYT, REU 9/12; CSM, HA, JT, JTA, NYT, WP, WT 9/13; IMEMC, *Independent* 9/14; BBC, PCHR 9/15)

13 SEPTEMBER

A day after the IDF completes withdrawal fr. Gaza, **Sharon, DM Mofaz** separately vow that **Israel** will “make every effort to direct resources to the development” of West Bank settlement blocs. Meanwhile, **Palestinians** continue looting fmr. Gaza settlement sites for a 2d day, overwhelming **PA security forces** to strip some greenhouses. **Egypt**, daunted by the number of Palestinians seeking to cross the Rafah checkpoint, declares the border open for several days as a good-will gesture, allowing 1,000s on either side of the border to cross; many Palestinians rush to buy Egyptian goods (including food, medicine, sheep for the upcoming Ramadan holidays) that are dramatically cheaper than those in Gaza, and visit family and friends they have not seen in yrs. before the border is resealed. **Israel** criticizes the lax **Egyptian, PA** security; Egypt, the PA blame Israel for failing adequately to coordinate disengagement. **Egyptian border guards** patrolling the border find a smugglers tunnel containing 38 fire arms, 3 rocket propelled grenades (RPGs); the **PA security forces** seize the weapons. **Palestinian**

militant groups hold larger rallies than on 9/12 (including **10,000s of Palestinians** at a Hamas rally in Gaza City), celebrating the disengagement as a victory of the resistance; at Islamic Jihad rallies, mbrs. display their arms, but at Hamas rallies, mbrs. do not; **Abbas** warns that he will no longer tolerate the “chaos of weapons.” In the West Bank, the **IDF** occupies the top floor of a 4-story residential building nr. Hebron as an observation post, fires on stone-throwing youths who challenge the troops, killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding 4; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in ‘Issawiyya, East Jerusalem, nr. French Hill settlement. (HA, NYT, YA 9/13; AFP, IMEMC, *Independent*, NYT 9/14; PCHR 9/15)

14 SEPTEMBER

1,000s of Palestinians continue to cross the Rafah border, while **Egyptian border guards** attempt to assert some control; **PA security forces** do not attempt to block movement; **Hamas** mbrs. blow an opening in the concrete wall on the Palestinian side to facilitate passage. **Hamas mbrs.** disrupt a disengagement celebration at an abandoned settlement site nr. Khan Yunis, attack a Palestinian rap group in protest over their “Western” music. **Abbas** cancels plans to attend another national unity celebration at Neve Dekalim out of concern about gunmen. Meanwhile, the **IDF** raids an Internet café in East Jerusalem, confiscating computers and disks, searches staff and customers; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron; imposes a curfew on Zabbuba nr. Jenin. **Jewish settlers** in Hebron attack Palestinian homes, vehicles in and around the city. (JAZ 9/14; BBC, HA, IMEMC, PCHR, WT 9/15; PCHR 9/22)

15 SEPTEMBER

The **IDF** deploys troops on roads btwn. Nur al-Shams r.c. and Tulkarm, fires on residential areas; during the operation, an IDF jeep hits a Palestinian car, killing **1 Palestinian**, injuring 1. The **IDF** also conducts house searches, patrols streets in Kafr Qaddum; sets up numerous checkpoints, conducts arrest raids in and around Hebron. **Hamas mbrs.** blast more openings in the Gaza border wall to facilitate crossing into Egypt, overwhelming the 750 Egyptian border guards. **Palestinians** across the West Bank demonstrate in front of UN offices,

calling on the UN to intervene to halt **Israel's** construction of the **separation wall**. (IMEMC, WP 9/16; PCHR 9/22)

16 SEPTEMBER

The **PA** begins deploying 100s of security forces along the Gaza border. At the abandoned site of Neve Dekalim, **1,000s of masked, heavily armed Hamas gunmen** hold a victory parade celebrating disengagement. The **IDF** beats, fractures the hand of a **Palestinian cameraman** working for a European news agency covering nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in; imposes a curfew on, searches houses in Zabbuba nr. Jenin; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Aza r.c., Kafr Qaddum, Sa'ir nr. Hebron. (IMEMC 9/16; WP, WT 9/17; PCHR 9/22)

17 SEPTEMBER

750 Egyptian border guards, some **2,500 PA security forces** shut the Rafah crossing, patch breeches in the border walls, ending 5 days of cross-border celebrations; 8 Palestinians, including 3 PA policemen are injured when PA forces open fire to enforce the closure; **Israel** demands the border be sealed for at least 6 mos.; meanwhile, all people, goods to or fr. Egypt will pass through an Israeli-monitored crossing at Kerem Shalom, where Gaza, Egypt, Israel meet. Meanwhile, the **IDF** occupies 2 Palestinian homes in Hebron as military posts; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, Ramallah. Some **50 Jewish settlers** fr. Efrat burn Palestinian grape vines, poison a cow nr. Bethlehem. (AFP, IMEMC 9/17; NYT, WP, WT 9/18; AP 9/19; PCHR 9/22)

18 SEPTEMBER

The **IDF** bulldozes Palestinian land n. of Bayt Hanun, some 200 m. inside Gaza, as part of a plan (drafted before disengagement) to create a buffer zone controlled by the **IDF** along the n. Gaza border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Nablus; imposes a curfew on Budrus nr. Ramallah, patrolling streets, searching homes. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai throw stones, bottles, rotten vegetables at Palestinian homes in Hebron. In Gaza City, **10,000 Hamas supporters** attend a military-style victory parade celebrating disengagement, displaying RPGs, rockets, assault rifles. Also in Gaza City, **PA security**

forces and Hamas mbr. intervene to stop the kidnapping of **1 American, 1 Palestinian journalist** by unknown militants. (JP, REU 9/18; AP, XIN 9/19; PCHR 9/22; HA 9/25)

A 5-day summit on Israeli-Palestinian issues opens in Israel attended by **17 main-line Protestant and Jewish officials**. The summit, organized by American Jewish groups, is aimed at convincing Americans to halt steps toward divestment following a move a yr. ago by the **Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)** to consider divesting church funds fr. 6 corporations undertaking activities that support the Israeli occupation. The **World Council of Churches** issued similar recommendations to its mbrs. in 2/05, followed by the **United Church of Christ** in 7/05, raising serious concerns in Israel and among U.S. Jewish groups. Evangelical Christian groups were not invited to these mtgs., as they are already considered solidly supportive of Israel. (WT 9/17)

19 SEPTEMBER

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in villages around Qalqilya. The **IDF** bulldozes a 450-m strip of Palestinian land in Hebron for construction of a settlers-only bypass road linking Kiryat Arba to an **IDF** post. In Gaza City, **Hamas** holds what it claims is its largest ever armed demonstration to celebrate disengagement. (HA 9/20; PCHR 9/22)

20 SEPTEMBER

The **IDF completes disengagement implementation**, withdrawing its last troops fr. 4 West Bank settlements. **IDF undercover units** raid an auto repair shop in Bethlehem, detain 3 Palestinians, release 2 within several hrs. The **IDF** raids, searches, occupies the top floor of 2 Palestinian homes in Hebron as observation posts; later conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and in nearby al-Arub r.c.; raids the campaign offices of **2 Palestinian municipal elections candidates** in al-Khadir, ordering them to remove Palestinian flags and some campaign materials. (NYT 9/22; PCHR 9/22)

21 SEPTEMBER

Israel's Interior M Ophir Pines-Paz signs an order declaring Gaza foreign territory and the 4 Israeli checkpoints leading

into the Strip international crossings; Israelis and foreign nationals will henceforth have to use passports to cross. The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Aida r.c., nr. Hebron. A **Jewish settler** fr. Pisgat Ze'ev in Jerusalem is reportedly kidnapped in Ramallah, where he has business dealings. (HA, JT, REU 9/23; YA 9/26; NYT 9/27; PCHR 9/29)

22 SEPTEMBER

The **IDF** evacuates Dotan base nr. Jenin, used as a staging area during the evacuation of 4 nearby settlements under disengagement; fires on a group of Palestinian teenagers that enters the base before the pullout is entirely complete, killing **1 Palestinian**; conducts house searches, interrogations in Kafr Qaddum; raids 2 charitable societies in East Jerusalem, forcing out the staff, searching offices, confiscating computers and documents, sealing the buildings. A **17-yr.-old bedouin** injured by unexploded IDF phosphorus shell nr. Hebron on 8/17 dies. (MEMC, JAZ 9/22; WT 9/23; PCHR 9/29; HA, IMEMC 11/10)

23 SEPTEMBER

Overnight, the **IDF** assassinates **3 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** (Ra'id 'Ajaj, Said al-Ashqar, Jamil Ja'ara) in a raid on Tulkarm. In the afternoon, **Islamic Jihad** fires at least **13 rockets** at Sederot, the Negev in retaliation, causing no damage or injuries. At a heavily armed **Hamas** rally in Jabaliya r.c., a Qassam rocket paraded on a truck accidentally explodes in a crowd of 1,000s, killing at least **15 Palestinians** (and perhaps as many as 21), wounding at least 100. **Hamas** accuses the **IDF** of firing missiles at the truck fr. a drone, but **Israel** denies this, the **PA** discounts it, the **Fatah Central Comm.** issues a statement holding Hamas responsible, and most Palestinians see it as an accident. **Israel** allows the **PA** to reopen the Rafah crossing for 48 hrs. to allow the passage of Palestinians with special needs, marking the 1st time the PA has processed travelers crossing an international border. (REU 9/23; NYT, WP, WT 9/24; WP 9/25; CSM 9/26; MEI, PCHR 9/29; DS 10/8)

24 SEPTEMBER

Before dawn, **Islamic Jihad** and **Hamas** fire more than **30 rockets** fr. Gaza at Sederot and the Negev, 3 of which lightly wound

3 Israeli security guards, 2 civilians. Early in the morning, the **IDF** fires missiles fr. helicopters at warehouses and an alleged weapons factory in Gaza City and Jabaliya r.c., marking Israel's 1st military operations against Gaza since disengagement; orders the Rafah crossing shut, saying it will allow humanitarian aid only into Gaza through the Sufa crossing; fires missiles fr. naval vessels at Palestinian fishermen who attempt to go out to sea; drops leaflets on Gaza warning of harsh retaliation against further rocket fire; warns the **PA** that it is responsible for preventing attacks fr. Gaza. **Abbas** meets with **Hamas** officials in Gaza, secures their pledge to halt all armed demonstrations. Hrs. later, **IDF** aircraft fire 5 missiles at 2 cars in n. Gaza, assassinating **2 Hamas mbrs.** (Nafiz Abu Hassanian, Rawad Farhat); 2 other Hamas mbrs. may have been targeted but escape. During the day, **IDF** fighter jets bomb open areas along the n. Gaza border used by Palestinians to launch rockets, while tanks, artillery, infantry gather along the n. Gaza border in preparation for a major operation. Meanwhile, the **IDF** seals the West Bank, fires on Palestinians waiting to cross a checkpoint outside Nablus, wounding **3** (1 seriously); conducts patrols in Jama'in village nr. Nablus; raids 20 houses in Hebron, interrogating and photographing residents. In the evening, **Sharon** convenes his **security cabinet**, which approves an "all-out continuous offensive" called **Operation First Rain**, using artillery, air strikes, assassinations in Gaza, saying that if Palestinian violence continues after several days, the full cabinet will convene to consider sending infantry back into the Strip. (JP, REU, WP, YA 9/24; AP, HA, IMEMC, JAZ, NYT, WP, WT, XIN, YA 9/25; MEI, PCHR 9/29; IDF press release 10/9)

25 SEPTEMBER

Overnight, the **IDF** conducts air strikes on the home of **PRC mbr.** 'Amr Qarmut in Jabaliya r.c. in what may be an assassination attempt (causing damage but no injuries), a **Hamas**-run school in Gaza City (injuring 23 Palestinians), and a cultural center in Bayt Hanun run by the **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)**, causing damage but no injuries; arrests 207 Palestinians (mostly **Hamas** and **Islamic Jihad** mbrs., including **Hamas political leaders Shaykh Hasan Yusuf and Muhammad Ghazzal**) in the largest raids across the West Bank since 2/05. During the day, **Sharon**

says that he has given the IDF "free rein" to act against Palestinians firing rockets. The **IDF** continues to mass troops on the n. Gaza border, breaks the sound barrier over Gaza roughly every 2 hrs., fires artillery shells fr. Nahal Oz into open areas nr. Bayt Hanun as a warning to Palestinians (marking Israel's 1st shelling of Gaza since 1967); fires missiles fr. F-16s at a car s. of Gaza City, assassinating **senior Islamic Jihad leader Muhammad Shaykh Khalil**, **Islamic Jihad mbr. Nassir Barhum**, wounding 4 bystanders. In the evening, **Hamas** agrees to stop rocket attacks immediately. Later, an IDF helicopter gunship strikes 3 targets in Khan Yunis, including the homes of **senior AMB mbrs. Ziyad Abu Hayya and Mahir al-Farra** in what may be assassination attempts, causing heavy damage, injuring 17 Palestinians; the IDF says it is targeting AMB arms storage facilities. A **12-yr.-old Palestinian** wounded in the 9/23 Jabaliya explosion dies, bringing that toll to at least 16. (AFP, AP, HA, IMEMC, JAZ, WP, WT, XIN, YA 9/25; CSM, HA, IMEMC, JP, NYT, WP, WT 9/26; HA 9/27; AFP, DS, MEI, PCHR 9/29)

Today's *Independent* (9/25) reports that a new book by **2 prominent Israeli journalists, Ofer Shelah and Raviv Druker**, states that "at a conference of officers as early as May 2001, **Shaul Mofaz**, now defense minister and then chief of staff, asked for the tape to be switched off before telling them that he wanted a 'price' exacted from the Palestinians of 10 killed a day on each of the army's seven fronts." The book also reports that after 6 IDF soldiers were killed in an ambush in 3/02, "Mofaz personally ordered a revenge operation in which for the first time [*sic*—see "Overview of Israeli Military Operations," Resource File Doc. A, *JPS* 134] Palestinian police officers would be shot, whether they posed a threat or not." (*Independent* 9/25)

26 SEPTEMBER

Israel says that Operation First Rain will continue despite **Hamas's** 9/25 pledge to halt rocket fire and nearly 48 hrs. of Palestinian quiet. Overnight, the IDF continues major arrest sweeps across the West Bank. Before dawn, the **IDF** launches multiple missile strikes in Bayt Hanun, Gaza City, Khan Yunis against alleged weapons factories run by the **AMB, Hamas, PFLP** and in Rafah against the home of **PFLP mbr. Hisham 'Abid Rabbuh** in what may be an assassination attempt, injuring 2 Palestinians (includ-

ing his wife). **Palestinians** fire 1 mortar fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **Jewish settlers** in Hebron attack, beat an Israeli Palestinian and Jewish film crew recording a documentary on human rights abuses by settlers. The **IDF** reports that it has found outside Ramallah the body of a **Jewish settler** reportedly kidnapped in the city on 9/21, has arrested a **Hamas** mbr. in connection. (AFP, IMEMC, NYT, YA 9/26; HA, NYT, WT 9/27; REU 9/28; MEI, PCHR 9/29)

Sharon narrowly survives a challenge to his party leadership by **Netanyahu** when the **Likud Central Comm.** votes down (52%–48%, with 90% of the 3,000 mbrs. voting) a measure to hold early party primaries in 11/05, 6 mos. ahead of schedule. (NYT, WP, WT 9/27)

27 SEPTEMBER

Overnight, the **IDF** conducts more arrest raids across the West Bank; fires missiles fr. F-16s at the Gaza Strip, destroying a bridge in Bayt Hanun allegedly used by Palestinians firing rockets, a money changer's office linked to **Hamas**, and an office building used by **Fatah** in Khan Yunis, causing no injuries. During the day, **Palestinians** fire several **rockets** or **mortars** toward Sederot, 1 of which lands inside the city, causing no damage or injuries; soon after, an **IDF** F-16 fires a missile nr. a housing project in Bayt Hanun, causing no damage or injuries; IDF artillery shells an open area in Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. **Mofaz** warns that **Hamas leaders Ismail Haniyya, Mahmud Zahhar** could be targeted for assassination if there are further rocket strikes fr. Gaza; says Israel will continue striking Gaza until there is "a new reality there." **Islamic Jihad** vows retaliation for the 9/25 assassination of its military cmdr. Khalil, but later, along with **Hamas** and the rest of the factions represented in the **NIHC**, reaffirms commitment to the unilateral truce agreed to by the Palestinian factions in 2/05. **PA Interior M Nasr Yusuf** gives orders for the **PA security forces** to "arrest any armed Palestinian not in uniform." (HA, NYT, REU, WT 9/27; BBC, IMEMC, NYT, PCHR, WP 9/28; PCHR 9/29; MEI 10/12)

28 SEPTEMBER

Overnight, **IDF** helicopters fire missiles at a **Fatah** office and a **PA security forces**

building in Gaza City, a **PFLP** office in Bureij r.c., a bridge in Bayt Hanun, several open fields and empty buildings in n. Gaza; the predawn air strikes on Gaza City cut electricity. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes coordinated raids on at least 8 Islamic charitable institutions in and around Hebron and in Bethlehem, Qalqilya, Tulkarm, sealing the offices and confiscating computers, files, and office equipment. The **IDF** says that it is prepared to bombard civilian areas of Gaza if rocket fire does not cease. The **PA** denounces **Israel** for detaining at least **30 Hamas campaign officials and 17 candidates** in upcoming municipal and legislative elections during the past wk. of arrest raids; **Israel** says it has detained **415 Palestinians** since 9/23, including some 250 Hamas mbrs. **Hamas** affirms responsibility for the killing of an **Israeli** kidnapped on 9/21 and found nr. Ramallah on 9/26, claims that he was a Shin Bet officer. (AFP, AP, JAZ, WP 9/28; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 9/29; WT 10/2; PCHR 10/6; MEI 10/12)

29 SEPTEMBER

Overnight, the **IDF** kills **2 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** (Nidal Khalluf, Samir al-Shalabi) in an exchange of gunfire in Burkin nr. Jenin; fatally shoots **AMB local cmdr. Samir Saadi** in an exchange of gunfire during arrest sweeps nr. Jenin; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, in Tulkarm. In light of Saadi's killing, the **AMB Jenin faction** says it will no longer observe the unilateral truce. **Palestinians** later fire **2 mortars** at an **IDF** post on the Gaza border, causing no damage or injuries. During the day and into the late evening, the **IDF** raids Balata r.c., fatally shoots **2 wanted AMB mbrs.** (Ala' al-Tirawi, Jamal al-Jirmi), wounds 1 in what may be an assassination; seals Madama and Asira nr. Nablus; launches arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Furik, Dahaysha r.c. and nr. Ramallah, Tulkarm. Some **50 Jewish settlers** fr. Bayt Hadassah in Hebron, escorted by **IDF** troops, throw stones, bottles at Palestinian homes in Hebron, seriously injuring 1 Palestinian. (HA 9/29; IMEMC, NYT 9/30; NYT 10/1; PCHR 10/6)

30 SEPTEMBER

The **IDF** continues Operation First Rain, sonic booms over Gaza. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fatally shoots a stone-throwing **13-yr.-old Palestinian boy** in Askar r.c. nr. Nablus; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr.

Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Avraham Avino in Hebron throw stones, bottles at Palestinian homes, shops. (NYT, WT 10/1; AFP, NYT 10/2; PCHR 10/6)

1 OCTOBER

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, nr. Ramallah. A **Jewish settler** injures an 11-yr.-old Palestinian boy in a hit-and-run nr. Qalqilya. (IMEMC 10/1; PCHR 10/6)

2 OCTOBER

The **IDF** officially "suspends" **Operation First Rain**, which began on 9/24, to "see if the Palestinian Authority is willing and capable of taking advantage of the new situation." **PA security forces** clash with **Hamas** mbrs. in Gaza City, with violence spreading to Shati' r.c., leaving **1 PA police officer, 2 Palestinian bystanders** dead, at least 50 Palestinians wounded over several hrs. in the first intra-Palestinian fighting in Gaza since the Israeli withdrawal, sparked when PA security forces allegedly tried to arrest **Muhammad Rantisi**, Hamas activist and son of assassinated Hamas leader 'Abd al-'Aziz Rantisi; during the clashes Hamas mbrs. fire RPGs at 2 PA police stations, PA police run out of ammunition. Separately, shots are fired at the Gaza City home of **Hamas political leader Mahmud Zahhar**, causing damage but no injuries. Late in the evening, the **IDF** launches arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm and in and around Bethlehem, Hebron. **Israeli border police** report that over the previous 2 days they have arrested 1,200 Palestinians in Jerusalem for failing to have travel or work permits. (AFP, IMEMC, YA 10/2; REU, UPI, WP, WT 10/3; HA, REU, WT, XIN 10/4; PCHR 10/6; DS 10/8; MEI 10/12)

The **Israeli FMin.** adopts a new "national image management" strategy to improve Israel's image abroad, "rebranding" it as "cool," "hip," "relevant and modern," by downplaying religion and "avoiding any discussion of the conflict with the Palestinians." (*Forward* 10/14)

3 OCTOBER

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tamun nr. Jenin, fires on stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront the troops, seriously wounding a 13-yr.-old boy; patrols in, fires on residential areas of

Tubas, Tulkarm; later conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tubas, nr. Bethlehem; allows the **PA** to open the Rafah checkpoint for several hrs. to allow Palestinians making the hajj to leave for Saudi Arabia. **Jewish settlers** fr. Alon Shvut nr. Bethlehem uproot 210 Palestinian fruit trees in neighboring Artas. (PCHR 10/6)

4 OCTOBER

The **IDF** bulldozes large areas in Abasan, inside the Gaza border s. of Kissufim crossing. A **Palestinian woman** stabs, wounds an IDF soldier at the Hawara checkpoint outside Nablus before being fatally shot. (IMEMC 10/4; NYT 10/5; NYT, PCHR 10/6; HA 10/25)

5 OCTOBER

The **IDF** continues for a 2d day to bulldoze Palestinian land inside the Gaza border s. of Kissufim crossing. **Unidentified Palestinian gunmen** allegedly wearing PA police uniforms kidnap **2 Hamas mbrs.** in Shati' r.c.; in response, **Hamas mbrs.** detain, seriously beat a **PA general intelligence officer**. In the 2d such incident in 2 days, a **Palestinian** man knifes, wounds an IDF soldier at a checkpoint outside Nablus, is shot, wounded, arrested. (NYT 10/6; MEI 10/12)

6 OCTOBER

The **IDF** raids al-Quds Open University campus in Hebron, holds 52 students and staff for interrogation for 3 hrs. until the **Temporary International Presence in Hebron** intervenes; raids, searches Palestinian homes nr. Nablus, Ramallah; conducts late night arrest raids, house searches in and around Ramallah, nr. Bethlehem. Also in Gaza, **1 Italian, 1 French journalist** are kidnapped, quickly released by **unidentified gunmen** who say they wanted to pressure the PA to address employment issues in the Strip. In Bayt Lahiya, suspected **militant Fatah mbrs.** shoot, wound **PA military intelligence official Bassam Azzam** (who was close to assassinated military intelligence cmdr. Musa Arafat). Later, **suspected Hamas mbrs.** kidnap, shoot, then dump seriously wounded **senior Fatah official Samir al-Juz** in Bayt Lahiya. Soon after, a previously unknown group calling itself the **Omar Bin al-Khattab Brigades (OBKB;** suspected to be made up of disaffected **PA General Intelligence officers** angry over

the 10/2 clashes) kidnaps **senior Hamas mbrs.** (Bassam Obeido, Hassan Safi, Ra'id Raz) in Bethlehem, Hebron, and Tulkarm, stating that "this is a response to Hamas's violations and disregard for law and order and their attacks on security institutions and Palestinian leaders. . . . This is our first response"; Hamas blames elements of **Fatah**; the **AMB** says it is not involved. (HA, IMEMC, JAZ 10/6; *Irish Examiner* 10/7; AFP, NYT 10/8; MEI 10/12; PCHR 10/13)

7 OCTOBER

The **IDF** arrests **fmr. Hamas mbr. and al-Najah University prof. Nasir Sha'ir** of Nablus, who has announced plans to run in legislative elections as an independent; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; fires on residential areas in Hebron. More than **200 PA police** surround, search homes in Yatta, seeking suspected arms smugglers and drug dealers, arresting 30 and confiscating illegal weapons. The **OBKB** releases Hamas mbr. **Raz** (kidnapped in Tulkarm on 10/6), who says his captors beat him but later apologized. (AP, *Irish Examiner* 10/7; AFP 10/8; PCHR 10/13)

8 OCTOBER

The **IDF** allows Palestinian fishermen to resume fishing within 9 nautical mi of the Gaza coast (under the Oslo agmt., they were allowed out 20 nautical mi); erects a series of new checkpoints around Marda nr. Nablus, preventing Palestinian farmers fr. harvesting their olives; fires on a mosque nr. Hebron as evening prayers let out, wounding a 5-yr.-old Palestinian boy; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, Husan nr. Bethlehem. (IMEMC 10/8; PCHR 10/10, 10/13)

9 OCTOBER

The **IDF** reopens Qarni crossing (closed 9/24) for transportation of goods btwn. Gaza and Israel (allowing around 40-50 trucks/day exporting goods fr. Gaza and 250 trucks/day importing goods fr. Israel, the West Bank); fatally shoots a **Palestinian gunman** in Nablus; fatally shoots **3 Palestinians** nr. Dayr al-Balah who attempt to sneak into Israel fr. Gaza to look for work; raids, imposes a curfew on Bayta nr. Nablus, surrounds a mosque, orders worshipers to leave; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and in al-'Aza r.c., al-Khadir. (IDF press release, IMEMC 10/9;

NYT, PCHR, WP, XIN 10/10; PCHR 10/13, 10/20)

10 OCTOBER

The **IDF** reopens the Sufa commercial crossing into Gaza; imposes a curfew on Hawara nr. Nablus, forces stores to close, and surrounds 2 mosques, barring worshippers fr. praying; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin and in Askar r.c., Hebron, Tulkarm town and r.c.; occupies the top floor of a Palestinian home in Hebron as an observation post. **Jewish settlers** fr. Neve Daniel fence off 18 d. of Palestinian land in al-Khadir for construction of an unauthorized settlement outpost. (IMEMC 10/10; PCHR 10/13)

11 OCTOBER

The **IDF** allows the **PA** to open the Rafah crossing for 48 hrs. to allow Palestinians making the hajj to leave for Saudi Arabia. **AMB mbrs.** working in the PA security forces in Tulkarm quit their security jobs in protest over the **PA's** decision to suspend paying some of them without explanation. (AFP, XIN 10/11; PCHR 10/13; OCHA 10/31)

12 OCTOBER

The **IDF** closes the Qarni crossing (reopened on 10/9); begins construction of a 6-m.-high concrete wall 15 m inside the n. Gaza border (see 9/18); conducts arrest raids in and around Hebron (targeting **Hamas**), Nablus, Yatta. **Jewish settlers** fr. Elkana beat, chase off a Palestinian family harvesting their olive trees nr. Salfit. **AMB mbrs.** briefly kidnap an **American journalists**, **British photographer** in Khan Yunis, giving no reason; **Fatah** secures their quick release unharmed. (AFP, IMEMC 10/12; IMEMC, NYT, WP, WT 10/13; PCHR 10/20; OCHA 10/31)

13 OCTOBER

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah (also firing on residential areas). **IDF undercover units** conduct arrest raids in Surif nr. Hebron. **Palestinians** report that in the previous wk., the **IDF** had issued military orders confiscating 60 d. northwest of Nablus for creation of a buffer zone around Shavei Shomron settlement, cutting off another 100 d. from Palestinian access, and declar-

ing the whole area a closed military zone. (PCHR 10/13, 10/20)

14 OCTOBER

The **IDF** reopens the Qarni crossing (closed on 10/12); conducts late-night arrest raids in Bayt Rima nr. Ramallah; reinforces troops around East Jerusalem to check IDs of Palestinians following Friday prayers; bulldozes a hill, small area of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Hamdat settlement nr. Salfit; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Qalqilya. (IMEMC 10/14, 10/16; PCHR 10/20; OCHA 10/31)

15 OCTOBER

The **IDF** continues arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Rima, as well as in Bani Na'im and al-Dahariyya nr. Hebron; rounds up 10s of Palestinians working illegally in Jerusalem. An **IDF soldier** dies of injuries received in an **AMB ambush** nr. Nablus on 1/7/05. **Jewish settlers** fr. Itamar vandalize 2 Palestinian homes in Bayt Furik, fire in the air to intimidate the residents. (IDF press release, IMEMC 10/15; PCHR 10/20)

Israel receives a gift of 300 police dogs fr. an **unnamed U.S. Jewish organization**. The **IDF** says that the dogs will be used during raids on houses of wanted Palestinians. (XIN, YA 10/15)

16 OCTOBER

What the **IDF** describes as an **Israeli "special police unit"** operating outside Jenin ambushes, assassinates wanted **Islamic Jihad military cmdr. Nahid Abu Ghanim**, seriously wounds a bystander. Hrs. later, the **AMB** kills 3 **Jewish settlers**, wounds at least 5 in drive-by shootings outside Gush Etzion settlement nr. Bethlehem and Eli nr. Nablus; the **IDF** seals Bethlehem and Hebron, bars Palestinian traffic in those areas, says arrest raids will increase; **YESHA settlers council** calls on Sharon to close all West Bank roads to Palestinian traffic. During the day, the **IDF** also handcuffs and severely beats a Palestinian shepherd nr. Tulkarm for no apparent reason; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Kafr Qalil nr. Nablus. Late in the evening, the **IDF** launches arrest raids that continue overnight in villages around Hebron, Jenin, Ramallah, Tulkarm. An unnamed **IDF** spokesman confirms that the **IDF** has sent **undercover officers** who can pass as Arabs into the weekly nonviolent

demonstrations against the separation wall in Bil'in to encourage Palestinians to throw stones; troops then use force to disperse crowds. **Jewish settlers** cut down 30 Palestinian olive trees in Salim. (HA, PCHR 10/16; NYT, PM, WP, WT 10/17; CSM, HA 10/18; PCHR 10/20)

17 OCTOBER

In light of the 10/16 AMB attacks, the **IDF** suspends contacts with the **PA**; closes to private Palestinian vehicles 2 stretches of the main north-south artery through the West Bank (Route 60) between Jerusalem and Ramallah and Jerusalem and Hebron; reinforces troops in the s. West Bank, encircling Hebron, Bethlehem; reimposes recently dismantled checkpoints around Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah. The **IDF** also closes the Qarni crossing for half a day; conducts arrest raids targeting the **AMB** in Jenin. Some **40 Jewish settlers** attack Palestinian vehicles on the Bayt Furik-Bayt Dajan road nr. Nablus. **Palestinians** east of Tubas say that the **IDF** had recently fenced off and begun bulldozing 1,000 d. of Palestinian orchards, farmland nr. Rotem for the apparent expansion of the settlement. (HA, IMEMC, JAZ, PM 10/17; HA, CSM, NYT 10/18; PCHR 10/20; OCHA 10/31)

18 OCTOBER

The **IDF** seriously injures a Palestinian woman in a hit-and-run nr. Bayt Fajjar; bulldozes 24 d. of agricultural land, including 150 olive trees, in 'Azun 'Atma; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Aida r.c., Dahaysha r.c., Dura, Kharsa nr. Hebron; moves into and fires on residential areas of Bayt 'Awa nr. Hebron, then fires on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the troops, seriously wounding a 13-yr.-old boy, moderately wounding a 12-yr.-old boy; conducts late-night patrols in Jenin, firing on residential areas. **Palestinians** throw a pipe bomb at an Israeli border police patrol s. of Jerusalem, lightly injuring 3 officers. **Jewish settlers** fr. Elon Moreh set fire to 300 d. of Palestinian olive groves in nearby Salim. A previously unknown group calling itself **Knights of the Storm** (thought to be a Fatah offshoot) claims to have kidnapped 2 Palestinian collaborators in Gaza City, saying they took action when the PA security forces failed to do so. (HA, IMEMC, PM, REU 10/18; WP, WT 10/19; PCHR 10/20)

19 OCTOBER

Israel says it is weighing a plan to bar private Palestinian vehicles fr. using all main roads in the West Bank "to protect Israeli motorists from roadside shootings," drastically to expand the system of settler-only bypass roads and bridges to completely separate Palestinian and Israeli transportation networks within 2 yrs., and to bar all Palestinian workers' entry into Israel within 3 yrs. (see Quarterly Update for details). The **IDF** sends troops backed by tanks, armored personnel carriers into Jenin town and r.c. to conduct arrest raids, house searches; also conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on vandalizes Palestinian homes in Yatta. (AFP, HA, IMEMC, REU 10/19; HA, NYT, PCHR, WT 10/20; HA 10/24; PCHR 10/27)

20 OCTOBER

The **IDF** tightens restrictions on Palestinian movement around Jerusalem, in Hebron citing the Sukkoth holiday; continues arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, as well as in Jaba' nr. Jenin; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians along the Jerusalem-Bethlehem road nr. Kefar Etzion, killing **1 Palestinian**. The **IDF** also ends escorts of Palestinian children in s. Hebron, citing concerns that troops could be drawn into clashes with angry **Jewish settlers** targeting Palestinians for retribution following the 10/16 drive-by shootings; the **IDF** began escorts about 1 yr. ago to protect the children fr. repeated attacks by Jewish settlers fr. Ma'on. **Jewish settlers** fr. Elon Moreh cut down 30 olive trees, burn another 200 in Salim in revenge for the drive-by shootings on 10/16. (HA 10/20; HA, *Independent* 10/21; PCHR 10/27)

Abbas, Bush meet in Washington but do not announce any new initiatives. In a pessimistic statement, Bush cautions that a Palestinian state might not be established by the time he leaves office in 2009. (AFP, REU 10/20; AFP, HA, JTA, NYT, WP, WT 10/21; WT 10/22; YA 10/23; JTA 10/24; DS 10/25) (see Quarterly Update for details)

21 OCTOBER

An **AMB gunman** fires on, damages an **IDF** jeep in Tulkarm, is killed by return fire. The **IDF** fires on stone-throwing Palestinians outside Surif; conduct late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron and nr. Nablus,

Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Elon Moreh cut down another 200 olive trees in Salim (see 10/20). (HA 10/21; HA, NYT, WP 10/22; PCHR 10/27)

22 OCTOBER

The **IDF** fatally shoots an unarmed **Palestinian**, arrests a 2d; both were thought to be planting a roadside bomb nr. Ramallah; acknowledges the error. Citing retaliation for the death of an **AMB** mbr. on 10/21, **AMB gunmen** fire on an **IDF** patrol in Jenin, injuring 2 soldiers. The **IDF** reinforces roadblocks around Nablus, Qalqilya; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and nr. Tulkarm and nr. Hebron, Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Beit Hadasah attack 10s of Palestinian girls on their way to school; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene (see 10/20). (IMEMC 10/22; HA 10/23; PCHR 10/27)

23 OCTOBER

The **IDF** erects 2 observation towers, a military post on the Gaza border east of Khan Yunis nr. Khuza' (cf. 9/8, 10/4); allows the **PA** to open the Rafah crossing for 48 hrs. to allow Palestinians making the hajj to leave for Saudi Arabia; conducts wide-scale arrest raids and house searches in Bayt Furik, Hebron, Ramallah, Tulkarm (also imposing a curfew). The **IDF** reportedly has recently started using a nonlethal crowd dispersal method, firing tightly packed mini bean bags at protesters demonstrating against the separation wall in Bil'in. (AFP 10/23; HA, PCHR 10/27; OCHA 10/31)

24 OCTOBER

Overnight, the **IDF** raids, imposes a curfew on Nur al-Shams r.c. and Tulkarm, fatally shoots **Islamic Jihad West Bank military cmdr. Luay Saadi, Islamic Jihad mbr. Majid Askar** in an apparent assassination; hrs. later, **Islamic Jihad** fires 5 **rockets** fr. Gaza into s. Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** responds with air and artillery strikes on open areas used for rocket launches in n. Gaza, causing no injuries; shelling fr. naval vessels at **PA** security forces sites in n. Gaza, causing no damage or injuries; ongoing mock air raids over Gaza, breaking the sound barrier to harass the population; closure of the Erez, Qarni crossings. During the day, the **IDF** also demolishes 2 stores nr. Jenin, claiming that they "could

be used" to manufacture explosives; conducts arrest raids, house searches around Hebron for a 3d night, as well as nr. Jenin. A **Palestinian gunman** fires on an **IDF** post nr. Halamish settlement nr. Ramallah, causing no damage or injuries; the **IDF** returns heavy fire, killing a Palestinian bystander standing outside his home in neighboring Nabi Salih. (NYT, WP, WT 10/25; HA 10/25; PCHR 10/27)

25 OCTOBER

The **IDF** carries out predawn air strikes on an **AMB** building in n. Gaza (severe damage, no injuries), on an **Islamic Jihad** cultural center in Rafah (damaging the building and 2 nearby houses, injuring 5 bystanders). During the day, the **IDF** launches an air strike on an open area of n. Gaza used for launching rockets (no injuries); conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. **10,000s of Palestinians** attend the funeral for **Islamic Jihad's Saadi** (assassinated on 10/24) in Tulkarm. The **Knights of the Storm** release 2 alleged collaborators it kidnapped in Gaza City on 10/18, shooting each in the leg. Late in the evening, **IDF** fires 12 artillery shells at open areas of n. Gaza (no injuries); declares the al-Masriyin areas of Bayt Hanun a closed military zone, warning Palestinians there not to leave their homes for several hrs.; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, Hebron. **Jewish settlers** throw stones at Palestinian cars on the Ramallah-Nablus road. (HA, REU, WP 10/25; NYT, WP 10/26; PCHR 10/27)

26 OCTOBER

Early in the morning, **Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets** fr. Bayt Hanun into Israel, causing no damage or injuries; **IDF** artillery responds, shelling a road and an open field n. Gaza where Palestinians have launched rockets, causing no injuries. Despite the exchange, the **IDF** partially reopens the Erez and Qarni crossings. In the afternoon, an **Islamic Jihad suicide bomber** retaliating for the 10/24 Saadi assassination detonates a bomb in an open-air market in Hadera, killing 5 **Israelis**, wounding 6 seriously, 14 moderately. **Palestinians** also fire another **rocket** at the Negev (no damage or injuries), a **mortar** at an **IDF** post on the s. Gaza border (no damage or injuries). **Israel** immediately cancels a planned mtg. btwn. Israeli, **PA** cabinet mbrs.; **Sharon** says he will not meet with **Abbas** until he takes

“serious action” against militants. Late in the evening, the **Israeli cabinet** approves **Operation Starting All Over Again**—a “broad and nonstop” offensive (including assassinations) against “terrorism” in the West Bank and Gaza that will continue until “terrorism” ends; says there are no plans for a ground offensive into Gaza at present, but restrictions on Palestinian movement across the West Bank will be tightened, diplomatic offensives will be raised to pressure **Syria** over its hosting of Islamic Jihad in Damascus. Meanwhile, **right-wing Jewish settler youths** occupy abandoned buildings nr. Elon Moreh, Keddumim settlements and site on Worshippers Way in Hebron, declaring new unauthorized outposts. (HA, WP, YA 10/26; HA, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT, YA 10/27; HA 10/28; IMEMC 10/31; PCHR 11/10)

27 OCTOBER

By morning, the **IDF** imposes a general curfew across the West Bank, sealing all Palestinian-controlled areas (including the northern villages of Alar, Qabatya, Sa'ida, al-Til, Yabad, which are considered **Islamic Jihad** strongholds), cutting off the n. West Bank from the rest of the West Bank, barring all Palestinian private vehicles in the n. West Bank; recommends that Palestinians leave the n. Gaza border area nr. Bayt Hanun; reshuts the Erez, Qarni crossings (opened 10/26). Overnight **IDF** air strikes on suspected rocket launching sites in n. Gaza damage a bridge but cause no injuries. During the day, the **IDF** continues mock air raids, sonic booms over Gaza; sends 35 jeeps, Apache helicopters into Jenin to arrest **local Islamic Jihad leader 'Abd al-Halim Izzeddin** (a leading moderate in the group), 3 other Islamic Jihad mbrs.; also arrests the father of the 10/26 bomber, 13 suspected Islamic Jihad mbrs. in raids across the n. West Bank in connection with the Hadera bombing; 3 Hamas mbrs. are also arrested. In addition, the **IDF** clashes with more than **150 radical settler youths** while evacuating **5 unauthorized settlement outposts** nr. Efrat, Elon Moreh, Keddumim, Kiryat Arba, Worshippers Way in Hebron, leaving 1 **IDF** soldier hospitalized. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba harass Palestinians in Hebron. In the evening, the **IDF** assassinates **Islamic Jihad n. Gaza cmdr. Shadi Muhanna, Muhanna deputy Muhammad Qandil, 5 others** (including at least 3 bystanders), wounding 19 in an air strike on Muhanna's car as he drives in Jabaliya r.c. just as evening

prayers let out; also conducts several F-16 air strikes on open areas in n. Gaza (in 1 instance possibly targeting Abu Rish Brigades and Hamas positions in the area, but causing no injuries); conducts patrols, arrest raids, house searches in Dura, Jenin town and r.c., and nearby Kefar Rai. (AP, HA, YA 10/27; CSM, HA, JT, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 10/28; NYT 10/29; PCHR 11/10)

28 OCTOBER

Overnight, the **IDF** deploys an artillery battery outside the s. Gaza Strip (since Operation First Rain, artillery has been positioned in Nahal Oz, outside the n. Gaza); begins massing troops in the Gaza border in case the Israeli cabinet calls for ground operations; conducts arrest raids, house searches in the n. West Bank targeting mostly **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. During the day, the **IDF** begins erecting a massive new checkpoint (the Zaatara checkpoint) s. of Nablus at Tapuach Junction that will sever the Nablus and Jenin districts from the rest of the West Bank, creating a northern West Bank canton; the crossing, which is similar to the Qalandia checkpoint that Israel has said will be treated as an international crossing, was approved by the **IDF Central Command** 9 mos. ago and should begin operation in 2 mos. An **IDF** drone fires on a car in n. Gaza that launched **rockets** toward Sederot (causing no damage), killing **AMB mbr. Majid Nattat**. Soon after, Palestinians fire another **2 rockets** and a **mortar** toward Sederot, and the **IDF** carries out 2 air strikes on 2 roads leading to Bayt Lahiya; no injuries are reported in the exchange. Later, the **IDF** carries out another 3 air strikes on n. Gaza, causing no reported injuries; fires stun grenades to disperse **Palestinians** hoping to cross the al-Ram checkpoint into Jerusalem to mark the final Friday of Ramadan at al-Aqsa mosque. Late in the evening, the **IDF** launches F-16 air strikes on uninhabited areas of n. Gaza; patrols, shoots out street lights in Nablus; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. **Palestinians** then fire an **antitank rocket** at the Erez crossing, causing no damage or injuries. Meanwhile, **10,000s of Palestinians** attend the Gaza funerals of the 7 Palestinians killed in the 10/28 Muhanna assassination; **AMB, Hamas, Islamic Jihad** hold massive armed marches, firing automatic weapons in the air in violation of their agmt. with the **PA** not to carry or use weapons in public. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba, escorted

by IDF soldiers, severely beat 2 Palestinians in Hebron. Separately, **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba vandalize several Palestinian homes in Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai violently beat 2 Palestinian teenagers in Hebron; the IDF intervenes and detains 1 Palestinian. **Mofaz** orders the eviction of **15 Jewish settler families** living in the unauthorized enclave of Amona in Hebron. (AP, CSM, HA, IDF Radio, IMEMC, REU, YA 10/28; NYT, WP, WT 10/29; HA, IMEMC 10/30; OCHA 10/31; PCHR 11/10)

29 OCTOBER

As **Operation Starting All Over Again** continues, **IDF** warplanes launch 12 more air strikes on Gaza, cutting electricity to 1,000s of Palestinian homes, causing serious damage but no injuries; continue conducting sonic booms over the Strip roughly every 20 mins. almost around the clock. The **IDF** also drops leaflets on Gaza warning of more air strikes until there is a "total cessation of terror attacks"; responds to Palestinians firing a **rocket** at Sederot (no damage or injuries) with artillery fire on the launch site in n. Gaza, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches and fires on residential areas in and around Balata r.c., Nablus; Palestinians set fire to 1 IDF vehicle in Nablus during the operation. The **IDF** also fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Dura, wounding 8. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba rampage through Palestinian areas of Hebron, damaging 10s of houses, seriously injuring 1 Palestinian. **Jewish settlers** fr. Carmiel, rampage through Yatta village, damaging 10s of Palestinian homes and 1 car. In Ramallah, **PA police** break up a protest in front of the PA headquarters by **Birzeit University students** demanding the release of **jailed student leader of the Islamic movement at Birzeit, Ala' Barahma**; several students are injured. (ABC News, YA 10/29; AFP, HA, IMEMC, WT, YA 10/30; IMEMC, OCHA 10/31; PCHR 11/10)

30 OCTOBER

Islamic Jihad announces that it will halt all rocket attacks fr. n. Gaza if Israel pledges to cease targeting its mbrs. Hrs. later, the **IDF** raids a house in Qabatya, assassinating **Islamic Jihad mbrs. Jihad Zakarna and Arshad Abu Zayd**, also wounding at least 7 bystanders; **Islamic Jihad** retaliates by firing at least 2 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel,

causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** also sets up 2 new artillery positions outside n. and s. Gaza to deter rocket fire; opens the Rafah checkpoint for several hrs. to allow Palestinians making the hajj to leave for Saudi Arabia. **Shin Bet** reports that it has detained 3 **PRC** "rocket engineers" in the Negev on their way fr. Gaza to the West Bank. In Ramallah, **PA police** fire in the air to disperse **60 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** protesting outside Abbas's residence against the PA's arrest of 4 fellow mbrs. earlier in the wk. **Jewish settlers** fr. Elon Moreh severely beat a 73-yr.-old Palestinian man walking nr. the settlement. (AFP, HA, IMEMC, XIN, YA 10/30; HA, NYT, WP 10/31; PCHR 11/10)

31 OCTOBER

Overnight, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, Jenin town and r.c., Tulkarm and nr. Qalqilya. During the day, the **IDF** reopens the Qarni crossing. Late in the evening, **IDF** artillery fires 6 shells at open areas nr. Khuza' e. of Khan Yunis, causing no injuries; resumes arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, in and around Jenin town and r.c. **Birzeit University students** suspend all classes, demanding the resignation of PA Interior M **Yusuf** over the conduct of the PA police on 10/29, the release of jailed student leader **Barahma**. (OCHA 10/31; PCHR 11/10)

1 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** assassinates **AMB military cmdr. Hassan Madhun, Hamas military cmdr. Fawzi Abu Qara'** in air strikes on their car in Gaza's Jabaliya r.c., wounding 10 bystanders; bans **foreign journalists** fr. entering Gaza; fires on stone-throwing Palestinians in Bil'in; sends 40 tanks supported by helicopters into Jenin town and r.c. to conduct arrest raids and house searches, clashing with Palestinian gunmen, leaving 3 Palestinian bystanders, 1 IDF soldier wounded; conducts major arrest raids in Husan, arresting 10 Palestinian boys ages 16-17; severely beats a West Bank Palestinian in Jerusalem during an ID check. (AFP, *Guardian*, HA, IMEMC 11/1; HA, NYT, WP, WT 11/2; PCHR 11/10)

2 NOVEMBER

IDF troops supported by helicopters continue arrest raids, house searches in villages around Jenin. Late in the evening, the

IDF launches additional raids in al-Fara'a r.c., villages nr. Bethlehem. An **IDF soldier** wounded in Jenin on 11/1 dies. **Hamas** says that in light of the 11/1 Abu Qara assassination, it will not renew the unilateral truce with **Israel** when it expires at the end of 2005. (HA, JTA, REU, YA 11/2; WP 11/3; PCHR 11/10)

3 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** sends 30 jeeps, 2 helicopters into Jenin to arrest wanted **Islamic Jihad** leader Hussam Jaradat, sparking armed clashes in which Jaradat is wounded and youths throw stones; during the exchange soldiers shoot in the head a 12-yr.-old boy carrying a toy gun, seriously wounding him, evacuate him to Haifa for treatment. During the operation, soldiers assault a **Palestinian press team** covering the incident, confiscate their camera. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in villages around Jenin, in Nablus. **Palestinians** fire a **mortar** fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly wounding an **IDF** soldier; the **IDF** artillery fires on n. Gaza in response, causing no injuries. Later, **Palestinians** fire more **mortars**, lightly injuring 5 Israelis; **IDF** artillery, helicopters fire on n. Gaza again, causing no injuries. A **Palestinian** bystander wounded in the 10/30 assassination of 2 **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. dies. (HA 11/3; AFP, NYT 11/4; PCHR 11/10)

4 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** continues arrest raids, house searches in villages around Jenin into the predawn hours; for no apparent reason fires 5 artillery shells at Palestinian homes and fields e. of Khan Yunis, causing damage but no injuries; detains, beats, releases after 6 hrs. an **al-Jazeera cameraman** filming a nonviolent Palestinian demonstration against the separation wall in Bil'in. An **Israeli** comm. responsible for preserving historic sites approves the demolition of the Shepherd Hotel in East Jerusalem (owned by Mufti of Jerusalem Hajj Amin al-Husayni before being converted into a hotel in 1945) to make way for construction of 70 Jewish settlement housing units that would link up different Jewish districts of Jerusalem; the hotel was acquired by **Jewish-American millionaire Irving Moscowitz** in 1985. (AFP, Committee to Protect Journalists press release, IMEMC, *Middle East Times*, Reporters Without Borders press release 11/4; PCHR 11/10)

5 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Qabatya, fires on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, seriously wounding 6 boys ages 14-19; also conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysha r.c., nr. Hebron. **Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets** at an **IDF** post at Erez crossing on the Gaza border, causing no damage or injuries. A **12-yr.-old Palestinian boy** shot in the head by the **IDF** on 11/3 dies of his injuries. (IMEMC, XIN 11/5; NYT, WP 11/6; PM 11/7)

6 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in al-Til, Tubas and nr. Hebron, Qalqilya; begins work on a new section of the **separation wall** southwest of Hebron. **10 armed Jewish settlers** fr. Hebron storm a Palestinian law office in the city, search and set fire to files, causing serious damage. (IMEMC 11/6; PCHR 11/10)

7 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** allows the **PA** to open the Rafah crossing for 4 hrs. to allow humanitarian cases to cross; demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Anata, East Jerusalem for having been built without a permit. Late in the evening, the **IDF** launches major arrest raids, house searches in Qabatya, occupying 13 Palestinian homes as observation posts; also conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm and in Balata r.c., Dura, Hebron, al-Til, Jenin town and camp, neighboring Marka. **Jewish settlers** fr. Harsina nr. Hebron uproot 40 Palestinian olive trees. A mentally handicapped **Palestinian** wounded by **IDF** gunfire nr. al-Mahatin checkpoint nr. Khan Yunis on 9/9 dies. (PCHR 11/10; al-Awda news 11/12)

8 NOVEMBER

Overnight, **Palestinian gunmen** exchange fire with an **IDF undercover unit** that attempts to enter Jenin; no injuries are reported, the undercover unit apparently retreats. During the day, the **IDF** shoots, wounds an **Islamic Jihad** mbr. as he drives outside Nablus when he allegedly evades a checkpoint; fires on a group of Palestinian youths allegedly planting a roadside bomb outside Nablus, killing a **15-yr.-old Palestinian**, wounding 3; fires on residential areas of al-Zawiyya nr. Jenin; shoots, wounds a mentally handicapped Palestinian who

ignores orders to halt nr. a checkpoint outside Qalqilya; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah. (HA, IMEMC 11/8; NYT 11/9; PCHR 11/10)

9 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** fatally shoots a Palestinian, wounds a 2d inside Gaza, alleging they were planting a roadside bomb nr. the Qarni crossing; fatally shoots a **Palestinian** in 'Issawiyya who allegedly attempts to run down a soldier with his car. Late in the evening, the **IDF** launches arrest raids, house searches in Aida r.c. and nr. Bethlehem, Nablus, Qalqilya, Tulkarm; fires on residential areas of Jenin r.c. **Israeli border police** arrest 76 Palestinians, 3 Jordanians in a crackdown on illegal workers entering Jerusalem. **Jewish settlers** throw stones at Palestinian vehicles outside Qalqilya. (IMEMC 11/9; IMEMC, PCHR 11/10; PCHR 11/17)

10 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids in villages around Hebron; patrols in Qabatya, temporarily occupying a Palestinian home as an observation post; begins construction of a new segment of the **separation wall** in East Jerusalem nr. Azariyya; bulldozes land in Kafr Haris nr. Nablus for an observation tower. (IMEMC 11/10; PCHR 11/17)

Vice PM **Peres** loses the Labor party primaries to **Histadrut labor union leader Amir Peretz**, who ran on the promise to end Labor's participation in a coalition government with Likud (to protest Likud's cuts to economic spending and increased privatization) and to push for early elections if he won. (BBC, NYT, WP, WT 11/10; HA, WP, WT, YA 11/11; CSM, HA, JTA 11/14)

11 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** sends troops into, fires on residential areas of Bayta nr. Nablus; patrols, conducts random security checks of Palestinians in Aida r.c. **Armed Jewish settlers** fr. Hebron seize and fence off 160 d. of Palestinian land outside Carmiel settlement for a new unauthorized outpost. **Palestinians** fire a **rocket** toward Sederot, causing no damage or injuries; throw Molotov cocktails at a house in Pisgat Ze'ev, causing moderate damage but no injuries. **Residents of Dayr al-Balah** in central Gaza issue a statement calling on **Hamas** to halt rocket fire on Israel fr. their vicinity after a rocket damaged

a Palestinian home earlier in the wk., urge the **PA security forces** to halt lawlessness in Gaza. (IMEMC 11/11; PCHR 11/17)

12 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** fires on 2 Palestinians nr. the Gaza border fence, killing **1 Palestinian**, while the other flees (the IDF says they were laying a roadside bomb, Palestinian sources say they were attempting to enter Israel to find work); fires on a Palestinian fishing boat that strays out of Palestinian waters off Gaza, seriously wounding 1 Palestinian; raids, seals Waqf offices in Bethlehem, interrogates the employees; conducts arrest raids in Bil'in, Dayr Ishtiyya nr. Nablus, Zabbuba nr. Jenin. **Jewish settlers** fr. Beit Hadasah attack an Israeli peace group on a solidarity visit to Palestinians in Hebron. **Jewish settlers** raid Palestinian olive groves nr. Qalqilya, pick and steal the olives. (IMEMC 11/12; HA 11/13; PCHR 11/17)

13 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** fires on 3 Palestinians nr. Jenin who were allegedly armed, approaching an IDF post; the 3 flee and are chased by IDF soldiers, who track down and fatally shoot 1 of the men, **AMB mbr. Shuju'a Balawi**, and wound the other, finding them unarmed. The **IDF** also eases restrictions on West Bank Palestinian workers' entry to Israel, issuing 8,000 entry permits, and allowing 1,700 West Bank employees of international organizations to enter Israel and Gaza; sends troops supported by helicopters into Jenin to raid a **Hamas** office, arresting 2 Palestinians, including a local Hamas spokesman; tightens restrictions on Palestinian movement around Jerusalem. Late in the evening, the **IDF** sends troops back into Jenin town and r.c., Qabatya (to patrol streets); conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm town and r.c. **Palestinians** fire a **mortar** at an IDF post at Gaza's Qarni crossing, causing no damage or injuries; **IDF** artillery shells open areas of n. Gaza in response, causing no injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba vandalize 2 Palestinian homes in Hebron, lightly injuring a 3-yr.-old Palestinian boy. (AFP, HA, IMEMC 11/13; HA, NYT, YA 11/14; PCHR 11/17)

14 NOVEMBER

Overnight, the **IDF** launches a major raid on Nablus, surrounding and searching houses, assassinating **senior Hamas**

military cmdr. for the n. West Bank, Amjad Hinnawi, and arresting several other Palestinians. The **IDF** also partially demolishes an apartment building in al-Zababda nr. Jenin; imposes a curfew on parts of Hebron, conducts arrest raids and house searches, occupying 1 Palestinian home as an observation post; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Yatta (arresting local **Islamic Jihad** leader Mahmud al-Haddar), nr. Bethlehem. A **Palestinian gunman** fires on a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Halhul, causing damage but no injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Itamar burn 30 Palestinian olive trees in Nablus. In Rafah, gunmen of a previously unknown group called the **Islamic Army** raids and orders closed a PA Central Election Commission (CEC) office, saying that the upcoming parliamentary elections are un-Islamic and a plot by the U.S. and Israel; CEC officials refuse to leave, **PA security forces** arrive, the gunmen leave. (HA 11/14; IMEMC, REU, WP 11/15; PCHR 11/17)

15 NOVEMBER

The **IDF** surrounds, searches the home of a wanted Palestinian in Allar nr. Tulkarm and, not finding him, threatens to demolish the house if he does not surrender; arrests his sister apparently for leverage; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and in Jenin (firing on residential areas), al-Khadir; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Tubas. **Palestinians** in n. Gaza fire an **antitank missile** at an IDF post just inside Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Asfar settlement, escorted by the **IDF**, fence off at least 200 d. of adjacent Palestinian land. (NYT 11/16; PCHR 11/17)

The **Israeli Interior Min.** issues demolition orders for 25 buildings in an unrecognized bedouin village in the Negev. Bedouin scuffle with Israeli policemen attempting to serve the demolition orders, leaving 12 bedouin and 12 police officers injured. (YA 11/15)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
CSM	(<i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , Boston)
DS	(<i>Daily Star</i> , Beirut)
HA	(<i>Ha'aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
IMEMC	(International Middle East Media Center, Bayt Sahur)
ITV	(Israel Television Network, Jerusalem)
JAZ	(al-Jazeera Satellite Channel Television, Doha)
JP	(<i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem)
JT	(<i>Jordan Times</i> , Amman)
JTA	(Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet])
MEI	(<i>Middle East International</i> , London)
MENA	(Middle East News Agency, Cairo)
NYT	(<i>New York Times</i> , New York)
OCHA	(United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Weekly Briefing Notes, Jerusalem)
PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PM	(Palestine Monitor [Internet])
PR	(<i>Palestine Report</i> , Jerusalem)
REU	(Reuters [Internet])
UPI	(United Press International [Internet])
VOP	(Voice of Palestine, Jericho)
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)