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CHRONOLOGY

16 MAY-15 AUGUST 2008

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

This section is part ninety-nine 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 MAY

Israel's siege of Gaza, imposed after Hamas's takeover of the Strip in 6/07, remains tight. In Gaza, the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** conduct late-night arrest raids, house searches in Shuka nr. Rafah, arresting 3 Palestinians, wounding 1 with live ammunition, bulldozing 8 dunams (d.; 4 d. = 1 acre) of greenhouses and a poultry farm (killing 50,000 chickens). In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Qaryut nr. Nablus, detaining 4 Palestinians (including 3 teenagers) for questioning; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin and Hebron (partially bulldozing a Palestinian home in Bayt Umar); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in n. of Jerusalem nr. Ramallah (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); and beats demonstrators at a similar protest al-Ma'sara nr. Bethlehem (lightly injuring 3). Nr. Nablus, **10s of armed Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar vandalize Palestinian homes in nearby Asira al-Qibliyya. In Gaza City, **unknown assailants** detonate a bomb outside a Catholic school in Gaza City, causing damage but no injuries. (OCHA 5/21; PCHR 5/22)

U.S. pres. George W. Bush ends a 4-day visit to Israel to mark Israel's 60th anniversary (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 148). (NYT, WP, WT 5/17; NYT 5/19)

17 MAY

IDF troops on the c. Gaza border fire on Palestinian farmers working a plot of land nr. al-Maghazi refugee camp (r.c.), causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Dura nr. Hebron, firing on stone-

throwing youths who confront them, causing no reported injuries; conducts daytime arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem and late-night raids, searches in and around Jenin. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba nr. Hebron vandalize nearby Palestinian property; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. For a 2d day, **10s of armed Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar vandalize Palestinian homes in nearby Asira al-Qibliyya. In Gaza's Jabaliya r.c., **Hamas** mbrs. raid a mosque controlled by the Salafist group **al-Kitab wa al-Sunna**, where the imam had denounced (5/16) Hamas in his Friday sermon, and evict at least 5 Palestinian worshippers. (OCHA 5/21; PCHR 5/22)

Bush arrives in Egypt to attend the World Economic Forum meetings, which open on 5/18. Today he meets in Cairo with **PA pres. Mahmud Abbas** to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. (WP 5/18; NYT, WT 5/19)

In Doha, Qatar, **14 of Lebanon's leading politicians** open national unity talks aimed at resolving the ongoing government crisis (see Quarterly Update for details). (WP, WT 5/18)

18 MAY

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishermen off the Rafah coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., nr. Nablus. (OCHA 5/21; PCHR 5/22)

19 MAY

The **IDF** sends tanks, armored vehicles, bulldozers into 2 areas e. of al-Maghazi in c. Gaza and around the Qarni industrial zone to level land. On the Rafah border,

Egyptian border police find, demolish 7 smuggling tunnels. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Ramallah. **Armed Jewish settlers** fr. Dov Neshet nr. Hebron attack Palestinian farmers and shepherds on nearby land, forcing them to flee the area. A **Jewish settler** wounds a Palestinian in a drive-by shooting in Hebron; the **IDF** transports the Palestinian to an Israeli hospital. A dispute erupts btwn. **Hamas, Islamic Jihad** mbrs. over control of a Gaza City mosque; Hamas-affiliated police intervene, dispersing the groups and closing the mosque. (OCHA 5/21; PCHR 5/22)

20 MAY

The **IDF** makes air strikes on a rocket-launching site in n. Gaza (decapitating a **12-yr.-old Palestinian boy**, wounding another child), a group of unidentified armed Palestinians in Gaza City (wounding 4), and a group of Hamas mbrs. in Gaza City (killing **2 Hamas mbrs.**, wounding 3); sends armored vehicles, bulldozers into Gaza to level land around the Qarni industrial zone. **IDF** troops on the central Gaza border nr. Juhur al-Dik exchange fire with armed Palestinians inside Gaza, causing no reported injuries; troops later shell farmers working a field in the same area, killing **1 Palestinian farmer**, wounding 2. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and Nablus, nr. Tulkarm. The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that since 5/16, **Jewish settlers** have seized and leveled 200 d. of Palestinian land around Revava Settlement nr. Salfit for construction of settler-only bypass roads. (OCHA, WP 5/21; PCHR 5/22)

21 MAY

In Gaza, the **IDF** makes an air strike on an empty car in Jabaliya r.c. owned by a member of **Hamas's Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades (IQB)** in an apparent assassination attempt, destroying the car, damaging surrounding homes, causing no reported injuries; sends tanks, troops into areas southeast of Gaza City to bulldoze 200 d. of olive groves. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border shell an alleged rocket-launching site w. of Bayt Lahiya

in n. Gaza, injuring 2 Palestinian children (ages 4, 17) and damaging a house. **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border direct heavy machine gun fire towards residential areas of Abasan, wounding 1 Palestinian inside his home. The **Israeli navy** fires on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids, searches a store in Yatta nr. Hebron, arresting the owner and confiscating a computer; chases and detains 17 Palestinian children who throw stones at an IDF post outside al-Arub r.c. nr. Hebron, questioning and releasing 12, arresting 5; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin. The **IDF** also demolishes a **Palestinian home** in East Jerusalem, displacing a family of 7. **Jewish settlers** fr. Itamar nr. Nablus seize an area of Palestinian land and begin leveling work for construction of a new settler-only bypass road. **Jewish settlers** angry over the removal of an IDF roadblock nr. Hebron demonstrate, block Palestinian traffic. **Israel's Housing min.** issues tenders for construction of 286 new settlement housing units in Beitar Ilit nr. Bethlehem. A **Palestinian teenager** injured during the **IDF's** 4/11/08 raid on al-Bureij r.c. dies (see Chronology in *JPS* 148). (PCHR 5/22; OCHA 5/28; PCHR 5/29)

Israeli police hold a press conference to announce serious new corruption and financial impropriety allegations against **Israeli PM Ehud Olmert** (see Quarterly Update for details). (NYT, WP, WT 5/22; NYT 5/23; MM 6/12; NYT, OCHA, WP, WT 5/28)

Israel, Syria, Turkey announce that Israel and Syria have been holding "serious and continuous" indirect peace talks through **Turkish mediators** since 2/07; high-level Israeli and Syrian negotiating teams are in Istanbul taking part in a preliminary round of indirect negotiations (see Quarterly Update for details). (IFM 5/21; NYT, WP, WT 5/22; NYT 5/23; MM 6/12)

Lebanese political figures holding national unity talks in Doha formally announce that they have reached a comprehensive agmt. ending their 18-mo. political stand-off and paving the way for Gen. Michel Suleiman's election as pres, including agmts. on redistricting Beirut, an electoral law, and allotment of cabinet seats that will give Hizballah veto power over major decisions (see Quarterly Update for details). (MM, NYT, WP 5/21; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/22)

22 MAY

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops into Juhur al-Dik in c. Gaza to raid, search a municipal building and cultural center, firing on surrounding residential areas, killing a **63-yr.-old Palestinian man**, bulldozing the municipal building and 370 d. of agricultural land (including 5 poultry farms, killing 5,000 chickens), ordering all Palestinian men in the area to surrender for questioning, releasing all but one by late evening. During the day, under cover of Palestinian mortar fire, a **Palestinian suicide bomber** detonates a truck bomb on the Palestinian side of the Erez crossing, damaging a passenger tunnel but causing no other casualties; the **IDF** makes a helicopter air strike on a jeep accompanying the truck, killing **1 armed Palestinian**; Israel seals the crossing, which has been opened to limited VIP traffic and extreme medical cases, until repairs can be made; no group takes responsibility for the attack, apparently intended to capture an IDF soldier. Some **5,000 Palestinians** stage a nonviolent march fr. Gaza City to Qarni crossing to protest Israel's ongoing siege; **IDF** troops at the crossing fire on the marchers, killing a **16-yr.-old Palestinian boy**, wounding 16 Palestinians (including 6 youths). **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and Ramallah and in Qabatya nr. Jenin. At least **10 Jewish settlers** fr. Hebron throw stones at Palestinian children and teachers leaving a school, injuring 1 teacher and a 12-yr.-old boy; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (IFM 5/22; WT 5/23; OCHA 5/28; PCHR 5/29)

23 MAY

Overnight in Gaza, the **IDF** sends troops into Khan Yunis to raid and search homes, ordering all Palestinian men over 15 to surrender for questioning, bulldozing 97 d. of agricultural land and damaging 2 homes. During the operation, the **IDF** makes an air strike on armed Palestinians who approach the border fence nearby, killing **3 Hamas mbrs.**, wounding 1; troops withdraw to Israel by midday. The **IDF** also exchanges fire with Islamic Jihad mbrs. on the c. Gaza border, killing **2 Islamic Jihad mbrs.**; fires on Palestinian farmers nr. the Erez crossing in n. Gaza, wounding 1. **Palestinians** fire

2 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing damage to several greenhouses but no injuries. Late at night, **IDF** troops enter al-Qarara n. of Khan Yunis to level 60 d. of land; fire on armed Palestinians who approach them, wounding 2. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Nablus and neighboring Balata r.c., causing damage but no injuries; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c. (firing on residential areas, seriously wounding a 16-yr.-old Palestinian boy), and nr. Hebron, Ramallah; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation) and fires percussion grenades and tear gas at demonstrators at a similar protest in al-Ma'sara. (NYT 5/24; OCHA 5/28; PCHR 5/29)

24 MAY

The **IDF** sends troops, bulldozers into Gaza City, where they demolish a **Palestinian home**, 2 businesses, and 2 agricultural storehouses and arrest 4 Palestinians (all mbrs. of the Hillis clan); also levels previously bulldozed land nr. al-Qarara. Later, **IDF** aircraft fire 2 missiles a group of armed **Hamas** mbrs. e. of Gaza City, wounding 6. **Egyptian border police** find, demolish 12 smuggling tunnels along the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Zayta nr. Tulkarm, firing on residential areas, conducting random ID checks, and arresting 1 Palestinian teenager; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Shima settlement nr. Hebron attack Palestinian shepherds nearby and confiscate 60 sheep, arguing that the Palestinians had been "illegally" grazing their flocks on "state land"; the **IDF** secures the return of the sheep but bars the Palestinians fr. keeping them in the area. (OCHA 5/28; PCHR 5/29)

25 MAY

The **IDF** sends tanks, bulldozers into Gaza nr. al-Qarara to level land for a 2d day. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishermen off the Rafah coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Zayta for a 2d day, firing on residential areas, conducting random ID checks, and arresting 3 Palestinian teenagers; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in

Nablus, nr. Jenin. **Jewish settlers** throw stones at Palestinian vehicles driving nr. Qalqilya, causing no injuries. **Palestinians** throw stones at a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Ramallah, causing no injuries. (OCHA 5/28; PCHR 5/29)

26 MAY

The **IDF** reopens the Erez crossing (closed since a 5/22 bombing) for limited VIP and medical travel; sends troops, bulldozers into al-Bureij r.c. in c. Gaza to level 70 d. of agricultural land. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, and in and around Jenin town and r.c., Nablus. **Jewish settlers** attempt to occupy a plot of Palestinian land nr. Bil'in to establish a new unauthorized outpost; the **IDF** removes the settlers. (OCHA 5/28; PCHR 5/29)

27 MAY

Overnight in Gaza, the **IDF** sends troops into al-Fukhari nr. Khan Yunis and nearby Shuka to raid and search homes, firing on armed Palestinians who confront them, wounding 2 civilians, 1 armed Palestinian. Troops withdraw to Israel early in the morning. The **Israeli navy** detains 6 Palestinian fishing off the Rafah coast, questions and releases 16 fishermen. **Palestinians** fire a rocket toward Israel, but it lands inside Gaza, hitting a home e. of Gaza City, injuring a mother, 2 children. **Egyptian border police** find a cache of more than 1,000 lbs of explosives, including mortars and rockets, on the Egyptian side of the Rafah border. Overnight in the West Bank, the **IDF** sends troops into Qabatya to raid and search homes, 2 schools, a mosque, confiscating money and computers, arresting 10 Palestinians; before withdrawing in late morning, troops fire tear gas at children heading to school, injuring 10. The **IDF** also conducts daytime arrest raids nr. Qalqilya; fires tear gas at Palestinians demonstrating against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin (pop. 5,000) nr. Ramallah, causing no injuries; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Qalqilya, and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. (NYT, OCHA 5/28; PCHR 5/29)

28 MAY

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops back into Shuka (see 5/27) to bulldoze 200 d.

of agricultural land, demolish 4 **Palestinian homes**, and arrest 12 Palestinians; **IDF** aircraft supporting the ground troops fire missiles at 2 groups of armed Palestinians who approach the area, killing 2 **Palestinian gunmen**, wounding 1 civilian. During the day, **IDF** troops stationed at Gaza's Nahal Oz crossing fire on Palestinian children collecting scrap metal nearby, wounding 3.

Israeli naval vessels fire at Palestinian fishing boats off the Bayt Lahiya, Gaza City, and Rafah coasts, forcing them to return to shore.

Palestinians detonate a roadside bomb along the Gaza border e. of Dayr al-Balah as an **IDF** jeep patrolling inside Israel passes, causing no damage or injuries. Late in the evening, the **IDF** sends bulldozers, troops into Bayt Hanun in n. Gaza, conducting house searches, bulldozing 50 d. of agricultural land, detaining several Palestinians for questioning, releasing them, and withdrawing around midnight. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Bethlehem to arrest a wanted Palestinian teenager; conducts evening arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus; conducts similar late-night operations in Nur al-Shams r.c. nr. Tulkarm, and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Ramallah. A **Palestinian civilian** injured in an **IDF** air strike in al-Fukhari on 5/27 dies. In Gaza City, **unidentified assailants** detonate a bomb outside a store previously criticized for "immoral behavior," causing no injuries. (PCHR 5/29; OCHA 6/4; PCHR 6/5)

29 MAY

The **IDF** sends troops, bulldozers into Khuza nr. Khan Yunis, bulldozing 30 d. of land, fatally shooting a **67-yr-old Palestinian woman** who steps outside her home; makes a helicopter air strike on a suspected rocket-launching site nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the c. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Fahma nr. Jenin, causing no reported injuries; conducts late-night house searches in and around Nablus. (OCHA 6/4; PCHR 6/5)

30 MAY

In Gaza, the **IDF** makes an air strike on an agricultural storehouse in al-Qarara, missing the target, damaging a house, causing no injuries. The **IDF** also sends tanks, bulldozers into s. Gaza to level land nr. Khuza. **Several**

1,000 Hamas supporters take part in a nonviolent march fr. Rafah to the Sufa crossing to protest the ongoing siege; **IDF** troops at the crossing fire on them, wounding 6. **Israeli naval vessels** fire at Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah and Bayt Lahiya coasts, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Hebron; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 3); fires tear gas, percussion grenades at a similar protest al-Ma'sara (no injuries reported). **Jewish settlers** fr. several settlements around Hebron attempt to occupy a disused IDF base e. of Bayt Sahur, but are removed by the IDF. In Dayr al-Balah, **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. kidnap, severely beat a mbr. of a rival Islamic Jihad faction. (OCHA 6/4; PCHR 6/5)

31 MAY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Sarra village nr. Nablus, then fires on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 1; patrols in, temporarily seals Dayr Abu Mash'al village nr. Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Havat Gilad outpost nr. Qalqilya attack Palestinian farmers working their land nearby; the **IDF** intervenes, firing rubber-coated steel bullets to disperse the groups, injuring 2 Palestinians, 2 settlers. In Dayr al-Balah, gunfire erupts btwn. rival **Islamic Jihad** factions, wounding 2; Hamas-affiliated police bring the situation under control. (OCHA 6/4; PCHR 6/5)

1 JUNE

Overnight in Gaza, the **IDF** sends troops, bulldozers into Bani Suhayla nr. Khan Yunis, bulldozing 125 d. of agricultural land, several greenhouses, 1 **Palestinian home** before withdrawing in the morning; during the operation, troops fire a tank shell at armed Palestinians approaching the area (wounding 3) and detain 11 Palestinians (including 1 child) for questioning. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem, Qabatya, and nr. Hebron. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli police and intelligence officers** break up a memorial service for the late Palestinian political figure Faisal Husseini, declaring it an illegal political gathering, arresting 4

Palestinians. A **Jewish settler** deliberately drives into a flock of Palestinian sheep nr. Hebron, killing 3 sheep, injuring 2. The **Israeli Housing Min.** says it is moving ahead with previously announced plans to build **884 new Jewish settler housing units** in East Jerusalem's Pisgat Ze'ev (763 units) and Har Homa (121 units) settlements. Meanwhile, in Bayt Furik, angry **Palestinians** demonstrate, throw stones at a Palestinian Authority (PA) police station in Nablus, denouncing the PA's recent confiscation of 86 unlicensed and stolen vehicles, injuring 3 policemen; the **PA police** fire live ammunition and percussion grenades at the protesters and beat several, injuring 8 Palestinians and causing an **elderly Palestinian woman** to have a fatal heart attack. In Gaza's al-Maghazi r.c., **unidentified gunmen** fire on a group of **Hamas** mbrs., who return heavy fire; no injuries are reported. In Gaza's Shati' r.c., a bomb explodes outside a store, causing damage but no injuries; no group takes responsibility. (NYT 6/2; OCHA 6/4; PCHR 6/5; REU 7/14)

2 JUNE

As a goodwill gesture to the **PA**, which recently deployed a new security unit in Jenin, **Israel** begins allowing up to 100 **Israeli Palestinians/day** to travel to Jenin; visitors must return by nightfall and expect to undergo searches and questioning. Also in the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm, nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba hold an outdoor celebration the "unification" of Jerusalem; the **IDF** bars Palestinians fr. using roads in the area. **Palestinians** throw stones at 2 Jewish settler buses in East Jerusalem and nr. Ramallah, causing no injuries. In Gaza, **IDF** tanks, bulldozers level land on the Palestinian side of the Qarni crossing. On the Rafah border, 1 **Palestinian** is killed, 4 are injured when 2 smuggling tunnels collapse. In Gaza City, the acting **Hamas** government organizes a military court that convicts 5 Palestinians on charges of forming an illegal organization in 7/07 and of plotting against the dismissed government of Ismail Haniyeh, sentencing them to unspecified prison terms. (HA 6/2; OCHA 6/4; PCHR 6/5)

3 JUNE

As **Israeli PM Olmert** begins a 3-day visit to Washington (see Quarterly Update),

Israel announces that, in keeping with its Annapolis pledges to ease Palestinian movement, the **IDF** has removed 4 manned checkpoints (improving access to the Jordan Valley, Dead Sea, areas n. of Nablus, s. of Hebron) and 70 unmanned checkpoints (of around 600) across the West Bank, and plans further steps to ease the movement of agricultural goods btwn. the Jordan Valley and the northern West Bank. Israel also pledges to issue new permits to allow 5,000 Palestinian workers to remain overnight in Israel, 500 West Bank Palestinian businessmen to enter Israel, and 130 NGO employees and Palestinian VIPs to travel in and out of Israel more easily; authorizes the PA to set up 20 new police stations for new units undergoing training in Jordan (see Quarterly Update for details). (IFM 6/3)

In Gaza, the **IDF** sends bulldozers into al-Qarara to level 100 d. of agricultural land; support troops fire on surrounding residential areas, wounding 1 Palestinian outside his home. **Palestinian gunmen** fire on an IDF unit patrolling the Israeli side of Gaza's Kissufim crossing (nr. Khan Yunis; closed since Israel's 9/05 disengagement fr. Gaza), wounding 1 soldier. **Palestinians** fire 3 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** uproots 47 olive trees nr. Ni'lin for construction of the **separation wall**; conducts daytime house searches in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c. and nr. Nablus, Ramallah, Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** protesting the lifting of an IDF roadblock in Hebron block Palestinian traffic in parts of the city. **Palestinians** throw stones at Jewish settler vehicles nr. Ramallah, causing no injuries. (OCHA 6/4; PCHR 6/5)

4 JUNE

In Gaza, **Hamas** mbrs. fire 5 mortars at an **IDF** unit that enters Gaza nr. al-Bureij r.c., forcing the soldiers to retreat. **Palestinians** fire 4 **mortars** at the Nahal Oz crossing, seriously injuring a Palestinian worker. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols, sets up checkpoints in Tulkarm during the day; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus, and Tulkarm, nr. Hebron (also raiding, sealing for 3 yrs. an Islamic Charity Society office and kindergarten). The **PA** opens 3 police stations manned by a total of 105 policemen in 3 villages surrounding Jenin (see 6/3). (IFM,

WT 6/4; NYT, PCHR, WP 6/5; *al-Akbbbar* [Cairo] 6/6; OCHA 6/11; PCHR 6/12)

5 JUNE

The **Israeli High Court** rejects a petition by human rights groups challenging the legality of fuel cuts to Gaza on the grounds that Israel, as occupier, is not meeting its obligations to Gazans. Overnight in Gaza, the **IDF** sends troops, bulldozers into Khan Yunis to search homes and offices, demolish 3 **Palestinian homes**, bulldoze 7 d. of land; troops also fire on residential areas, wounding 1 Palestinian. During the day, the **IDF** fires a missile from a drone, hitting a Palestinian house in Khan Yunis, killing a **4-yr-old Palestinian girl**, injuring her mother. **Hamas mbrs.** fire 3 **mortars** into Israel, hitting a factory in Nir Oz, killing 1 **Israeli**, wounding 2. Late in the evening, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a Palestinian police station nr. Bayt Lahiya, destroying the building, wounding 2 police officers, 3 children nearby (ages 1, 6, 13); makes an air strike on a workshop in Gaza City, causing damage but no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 4 Palestinians (including 2 women, 1 child who were bystanders); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. In Hebron, mbrs. of **disputing Palestinian clans** exchange fire in an area nr. a Jewish settlement; **IDF** soldiers protecting the settlement fire on the group, killing 1 **Palestinian**, wounding 2. Also in Hebron, **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba attack and vandalize nearby Palestinian homes, beating a Palestinian teenager. In Gaza, a bomb explodes outside the home of **Hamas's Gaza security chief Said Siyam**, causing damage but no injuries. (NYT, WP, WT 6/6; OCHA 6/11; PCHR 6/12)

6 JUNE

Overnight, the **IDF** sends bulldozers into Khuza to level 45 d. of agricultural land and a poultry farm; sends undercover units into Gaza City, where they fire on a group of Palestinian resistance mbrs. in what may be an assassination attempt, wounding several, then fatally shooting a **Palestinian bystander** who comes to their aid. During the day, the **IDF** levels land along the border fence inside Gaza nr. Rafah. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts house searches

nr. Hebron. Some 300 Palestinian, Israeli, and international peace activists take part in the weekly nonviolent protest in Bil'in against the **separation wall**; many demonstrators were participants at a wk.-long conference held in Bil'in on Palestinian nonviolent resistance that ended today; several, including **European Parliament VP Luisa Morgantini**, **Irish Nobel laureate Mairead Corrigan**, and **Italian judge Julio Toscano** are among those injured when the **IDF** fires tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets to disperse the crowd, lightly injuring 13. The **IDF** also fires tear gas, percussion grenades at a similar protest al-Ma'sara (no injuries reported). **Jewish settlers** fr. Hashmonim fire live ammunition at Palestinians demonstrating against the separation wall in Ni'lin, causing no reported injuries. In Gaza City, **Hamas-affiliated police** attempt to arrest suspected drug dealers, sparking an exchange of gunfire that leaves **4 Palestinians** dead (3 suspects, 1 policeman), 10 policemen wounded. (BBC 6/6; OCHA 6/11; PCHR 6/12)

7 JUNE

IDF troops on the s. Gaza border fire on a Palestinian farmer fixing a water pipeline nr. the border, wounding him. **IDF** troops on the c. Gaza border e. of Gaza City fire a tank shell at a group of armed Palestinians, killing **1 armed Palestinian**, wounding 1. An **IDF** drone fires a missile at a group of armed Palestinians in Abasan nr. Khan Yunis, missing the target, causing no injuries. **IDF** troops level land along the border fence inside Gaza e. of Gaza City. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols, fires percussion grenades in al-Far'a r.c. nr. Tubas, then opens fire on stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them, wounding 2; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, including in al-Far'a r.c. **Jewish settlers** fr. Susia settlement nr. Hebron harass Palestinian farmers, shepherds in nearby Yatta. In Khan Yunis, a bomb explodes outside the home of a fm. **Fatah** mbr. who is now working for the **Hamas**-affiliated police, causing damage but no injuries. (OCHA 6/11; PCHR 6/12)

8 JUNE

In the afternoon, the **IDF** sends troops, bulldozers into Abasan and al-Fukhari, firing on residential areas (wounding 1 Palestinian), leveling 15 d. of agricultural

land. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire on a group of Palestinian civilians and journalists examining an agricultural plot recently bulldozed by the **IDF** nr. al-Bureij r.c., wounding 1 press photographer. **Palestinians** fire a rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly injuring 1 Israeli. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in Ramallah and neighboring al-Bireh; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** begin work on a new unauthorized settlement outpost, Sinsana B, on 200 d. of privately owned Palestinian land nr. Hebron, a short distance fr. the existing unauthorized outpost Sinsana A; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. **Jewish settlers** fr. Havat Ya'ir in Hebron, wielding iron pipes and heavy tools, beat an elderly Palestinian couple and their 32-yr.-old relative grazing sheep nearby, seriously injuring them. In Gaza's Nussayrat r.c., **Hamas-affiliated police** cordon off 2 apartments owned by **PA PM Salam Fayyad's cabinet secy. Sadi al-Krunz (Fatah)**, currently residing in Ramallah. (OCHA 6/11; PCHR 6/12)

9 JUNE

In Gaza, **2 Palestinians** are killed when 2 smuggling tunnels under the Rafah border collapse. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires on Palestinian youths in Hebron, wounding 1; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c. (NYT, WP, WT 6/10; OCHA 6/11; PCHR 6/12)

10 JUNE

Overnight in Gaza, the **IDF** sends troops, bulldozers into Shuka to raid and search homes, arresting 1 Palestinian and remanding him to Israel, bulldozing 31 d. of almond and olive trees before withdrawing in the morning. During the day, the **IDF** fires an artillery shell at a rocket-launching site outside Gaza City, killing **3 Hamas mbrs.**, wounding 2; sends tanks, bulldozers into Gaza to bulldoze 10 d. of olive trees nr. Rafah. **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** fire several **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries; the **IDF** responds with artillery fire, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes an overnight raid into Dayr Abu Mash'al nr. Ramallah, occupying a Palestinian home as a military outpost, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 1 Palestinian teenager; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin, Nablus, and nr.

Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah. A **Palestinian** seriously injured in a smuggling tunnel collapse in Rafah on 6/2 dies. (OCHA, WP 6/11; PCHR 6/12)

11 JUNE

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops, bulldozers into al-Qarara, raiding and occupying several homes, bulldozing 150 d. of agricultural land and 1 **Palestinian home**, damaging 2 mosques, detaining and interrogating 11 Palestinians; during the operation, the IDF fires tank shells at armed Palestinians approaching the area, killing an **8-yr.-old Palestinian girl** and 2 **Hamas mbrs.**, wounding the girl's mother and a 3-yr.-old boy. An **IDF** helicopter fires on an IQB post in Jabaliya r.c., killing a **65-yr.-old Palestinian man** in a shop nearby, wounding his 5-yr.-old granddaughter. **Palestinians** fire 3 mortars fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly injuring 1 Israeli. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., in Nablus. The **IDF** also demolishes 3 **Palestinian homes** in East Jerusalem, displacing 25 Palestinians (including 18 children). **Palestinian youths** throw stones at IDF settler vehicles nr. Ramallah and East Jerusalem, causing no injuries. In Gaza's Nussayrat r.c., a bomb explodes outside a **Hamas** activist's home, causing damage but no injuries. (PCHR, WP 6/12; OCHA 6/18; PCHR 6/19)

Olmert authorizes his **Kadima party** to begin preparations for party primaries as early as late summer 2008 in effort to deter the **Labor party** fr. calling a no-confidence vote over the latest corruption charges against him, a move that could collapse the government and force new elections. (HA 6/11; MM, WP 6/12)

12 JUNE

In Gaza, the **IDF** fatally shoots 2 **armed Palestinians** laying a roadside bomb nr. the border fence n. of Bayt Lahiya; makes an air strike on a group of IQB mbrs. in Khuza, wounding 2; makes a late-night air strike on and fires a surface-to-surface missile across the border at a 2d group of IQB mbrs. nr. Khuza, killing 3 **Hamas mbrs.** An explosion destroys **Hamas field cmdr. Hasan Abu Shaqfa's** Bayt Lahiya home, killing Abu Shaqfa, 4 **other Hamas mbrs.**, a **4-mo.-old girl**, and another **bystander** and damaging several surrounding homes;

Hamas initially says the explosion was caused by an IDF air strike and fires 21 **rockets** (reported by the IDF to include 3 Grad-style rockets) and 22 **mortars** into Israel in response (lightly injuring 1 Israeli), but later (6/14) reports that explosives the Hamas mbrs. were handling detonated prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., in Balata r.c. and al-Far'a r.c. (firing on residential areas, wounding 1 Palestinian), and nr. Hebron. Nr. Nablus, 2 **Jewish settlers** attempt to break into a Palestinian car and shop in Hawara village, are confronted by local Palestinians, whom they then attack with knives and iron bars; the **IDF** arrests the settlers. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/13; WP 6/15; OCHA 6/18; PCHR 6/19)

13 JUNE

Just before **U.S. secy. of state Condoleezza Rice** arrives in Israel for 6/15-16 mtgs. to encourage Israeli-Palestinian negotiations (see Quarterly Update), the **Israeli Housing Min.** announces approval for construction of 1,300 new settlement housing units in Ramat Shlomo in East Jerusalem. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Qalqilya and nr. Salfit; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, percussion grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 2); fires tear gas, percussion grenades at a similar protest al-Ma'sara (injuring 5). **Jewish settlers** enter Nablus to pray at Joseph's Tomb without prior coordination with the IDF; the IDF evacuates and arrests them. The **IDF** also sends tanks into Gaza e. of al-Maghazi r.c. to level land along the border fence. In Gaza's al-Bureij r.c., **Hamas-affiliated police** attempt to arrest 2 wanted **Fatah** mbrs., but are attacked, forced to retreat by neighbors and Fatah supporters; no serious injuries are reported. (WT 6/15; MM 6/16; OCHA 6/18; PCHR 6/19)

14 JUNE

An **IDF** helicopter fires on a group of **Hamas** mbrs. in Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. Later, **Hamas** mbrs. fire 4 rocket-propelled grenades at an IDF patrol along the Gaza border e. of al-Maghazi r.c.; the IDF later sends bulldozers into the area to level land, clear lines of sight. **Hamas** mbrs.

fire 3 mortars fr. Gaza toward Israel, causing no damage or injuries; IDF troops inside Israel direct heavy machine gunfire at the launch site, causing no reported injuries. The **IDF** also conducts a 2d day of land-leveling operations inside the Gaza border e. of al-Maghazi. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Dahaysha r.c. and al-Duha village nr. Bethlehem, then fires on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, wounding 4; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, and in Jenin town and r.c. (raiding a local lawyer's home, confiscating computers and files). (PCHR 6/19)

15 JUNE

In Gaza, **Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets** toward Israel, causing no damage or injuries; the **IDF** directs heavy machine gun fire across the border at the launch site, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysha r.c.; issues a military order confiscating 356 d. of Palestinian land e. of Tubas for construction of an IDF training facility. **Unidentified gunmen** fire on a group of **Hamas-affiliated policemen** outside a police office in Gaza City, causing no injuries. **Hamas-affiliated police** make a 2d attempt to arrest a wanted Fatah mbr. in al-Bureij r.c. (see 6/12), but are again attacked by neighbors and Fatah supporters and are forced to retreat. (OCHA 6/18; PCHR 6/19)

Israeli, Syrian negotiating teams open a 2d round of indirect peace talks in Istanbul. (MM 6/16; AFP; MM, NYT 6/17) (see Quarterly Update for details)

16 JUNE

In Gaza, the **IDF** fatally shoots 3 **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** laying a roadside bomb nr. the border fence e. of Khuza; makes an air strike destroying a workshop in Khan Yunis, causing no injuries; fires on Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the border fence nr. Kerem Shalom crossing, causing no injuries. **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** fire 2 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting a cemetery in Ashqelon, lightly wounding 1 Israeli; the **IDF** makes an air strike on the launch site e. of Gaza City, killing 1 **Islamic Jihad mbr.**, wounding 1. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, forcing them

to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Jenin town and r.c., and nr. Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablus attack and drive off 3 Palestinian shepherds (ages 12, 14, 30) tending a flock nearby, then kill their 3 donkeys. **Unidentified assailants** detonate a roadside bomb nr. a Hamas-affiliated police patrol in Gaza City, causing no injuries. (MM 6/16; NYT 6/17; OCHA 6/18; PCHR 6/19)

17 JUNE

Hamas and Israel agree "in principle" on phased a cease-fire deal for Gaza to begin at 6:00 A.M. local time on 6/19 (11:00 P.M. 6/18 EST) and last for 6 mos. (see Quarterly Update for details). Meanwhile, in Gaza, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a car in Dayr al-Balah carrying 3 mbrs. of the Army of Islam (essentially the militia of the local Daghmash clan) in an apparent assassination attempt, initially missing the car and wounding 3 bystanders, firing a 2d missile that kills **targeted Army of Islam mbr. Salah Salluha**, wounding 2. Later the **IDF** makes an air strike on a car nr. Khan Yunis assassinating 5 **Army of Islam mbrs.** (including Mu'ataz Daghmash, a senior mbr. and brother of the group's leader). Later, **Palestinians** fire up to 10 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin and Nablus, nr. Hebron and Ramallah (MA, HA, YA 6/17; MM, NYT, OCHA; WP 6/18; PCHR 6/19; HA, MM 6/20; NYT 6/22; AYM, *al-Hayat al-Jadida* [Ramallah] 6/23)

18 JUNE

Just before a Gaza cease-fire goes into effect, the **IDF** makes a series of air strikes on Gaza (killing 1 **armed Palestinian**, wounding 1), and **Palestinians** (mostly **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** seeking revenge for IDF killings of its mbrs. in previous days) fire 33 **rockets** and 10 **mortars** into Israel (causing light damage but no injuries); 5 rockets land inside Gaza, wounding 1 armed Palestinian, 2 civilians. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Bethlehem; also makes a major arrest raid in Qalqilya, searching, firing on, and heavily damaging a 3-story apartment building and 2 homes, demolishing 2 **uninhabited Palestinian homes.**

(PCHR, WT 6/19; NYT 6/20; OCHA 6/25; PCHR 6/26)

Israel publicly calls for opening “direct, bilateral” peace talks with **Lebanon**, which says it is not interested (see Quarterly Update for details). (NYT, WP 6/19)

19 JUNE

On the 1st day of the cease-fire in Gaza, no Israeli-Palestinian violence is reported inside the Strip. **Israeli naval vessels**, however, fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of Rafah, forcing them to return to shore. **Hamas** removes armed mbrs. fr. posts along the border with Israel. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Qalqilya; raids several Palestinian homes in Hebron, detains and photographs 30 residents for no apparent reason; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus and in Jenin town and r.c., Qabatya. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar nr. Nablus block a road, stone Palestinian cars driving in the area, burn 800 d. of Palestinian olive groves, stone local Palestinians who attempt to reach the area to put out the fires; the IDF observes but only intervenes to detain Palestinians who arrive to extinguish the fire. **Jewish settlers** fr. Tapuach settlement nr. Salfit burn 48 d. of nearby Palestinian crops. A **Jewish settler** seriously injures a 70-yr.-old Palestinian man in a deliberate hit-and-run along the Qalqilya-Nablus road outside Qalqilya; the IDF evacuates him to an Israeli hospital. In Gaza City, **unidentified gunmen** fire on the offices of a **Hamas**-affiliated newspaper, causing damage but no injuries. In al-Bureij r.c., **Hamas-affiliated police** raid, fire in the air to disperse a wedding party, claiming attendees were playing pro-Fatah songs; no injuries are reported. (MM 6/19; AHR, NYT, WP 6/20; OCHA 6/25; PCHR 6/26)

20 JUNE

IDF soldiers on the c. Gaza boarder e. of al-Maghazi fire on Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the border fence while tending their fields, causing no injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Bayt Lahiya coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** issues a military order confiscating 1,500 d. of Palestinian land in Bayt Hanina for construction of the **separation wall** around Ramot settlement; searches a **Palestine Red Crescent Society** ambulance, a house in Bayt Umar nr. Hebron; fires rubber-coated steel bullets,

tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); severely beats and fires tear gas, percussion grenades at demonstrators at a similar protest al-Ma'sara (injuring 2); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Ramallah (arresting 9 Palestinian teenagers in Jalazun r.c.). **Jewish settlers** fr. Susia attack and beat several Palestinian farmers and shepherds in nearby Yatta, injuring 2. Several hrs. later, **Jewish settlers** fr. Mitzpe Ya'ir nr. Hebron attack Palestinian farmers and shepherds in the same area, injuring 3; the IDF detains the injured Palestinians for questioning. **Unidentified gunmen** shoot, wound 3 **Jewish settlers** hiking nr. Nachliel settlement nr. Ramallah. (OCHA 6/25; PCHR 6/26)

21 JUNE

For a 2d day, **IDF** troops on the c. Gaza border e. of al-Maghazi fire on Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the border fence while tending their fields, causing no injuries; a similar incident occurs along the s. Gaza border e. of Rafah, causing no injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Bayt Lahiya coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids and searches a house and several shops in Hebron; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., in Qabatya, and nr. Hebron, Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Nachliel nr. Ramallah, seeking revenge for the shooting of 3 settlers on 6/20, set fire to an olive tree, destroy 2 greenhouses in a Palestinian village nearby. (OCHA 6/25; PCHR 6/26)

22 JUNE

As the cease-fire in Gaza generally continues to hold, **Israel** increases the amount of food and medicine allowed entry to Gaza by 50%. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah, in and around Jenin town and r.c., Nablus. **Unidentified assailants** burn 100 d. of Palestinian olive groves located on the western side of the **separation wall** nr. Tulkarm. In Gaza City, a bomb explodes outside a local **IQB** leader's home, causing damage but no injuries. (WT 6/23; OCHA 6/25; PCHR 6/26)

23 JUNE

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire on a group of Palestinian children that stray nr. the border fence, wounding a 68-yr.-old Palestinian farmer working his land nearby. **Palestinians** fire 2 mortars fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysha r.c. and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin. (OCHA 6/25; PCHR 6/26)

24 JUNE

The **IDF** makes a predawn raid on an apartment building in Nablus, assassinating **Islamic Jihad** cmdr. **Tariq Abu Ghalil** [Abu Ghalil is a strange name. Not Abu Khalil or perhaps Abu Galil (a "Misrization" of Abu Jalil?)](targeted by the **IDF** on 3 prior occasions) and a **bystander** in an adjacent apartment. In response, **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** in Gaza fire 3 **rockets**, 1 **mortar** fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly injuring 2 Israelis, causing light injuries. **Israel** calls the rocket attacks a "grave violation of the calm," closes all commercial crossing into the Strip, but does not take military action. **Hamas** calls the closure of the crossings a violation of the truce agmt. but says it will maintain the cease-fire. Meanwhile, the **IDF** uproots, replants more than 80 olive trees along the **separation wall** route around Jerusalem (farmers do not expect the trees to survive); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinians demonstrating against **separation wall** construction in Ni'lin nr. Ramallah (injuring 12 Palestinians, including an 11-yr.-old boy); fires rubber-coated steel bullets at residents of Far'un village nr. Tulkarm who hold a protest march to a group of houses slated for **IDF** demolition, wounding a 9-yr.-old Palestinian boy; conducts late-night arrest raids and house searches in and around Hebron, nr. Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Mitzpe Ya'ir nr. Hebron stone and injure 2 Palestinians nr. Yatta. (MM 6/24; MM, NYT, OCHA, WP 6/25; NYT, PCHR, WP 6/26; OCHA 7/2)

On the sidelines of a donors conference in Berlin (see Quarterly Update), U.S. secy. of state **Rice** meets with **Israeli and PA negotiators** and invites them to take part a series of trilateral discussions in New York and Washington beginning in 7/08 in an effort to reach a deal on Palestinian statehood before Bush leaves office. The sides accept

(see Quarterly Update for details). (WP, WT 6/29; NYT 7/29)

25 JUNE

IDF troops on the s. Gaza border open fire on a Palestinian farmer working his field who strays nr. the border fence, wounding him; fires warning shots at another group of farmers working fields nr. Shuka, forcing them to leave the area. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., Nablus. (PCHR 6/26; OCHA 7/2; PCHR 7/3)

26 JUNE

Gaza's border crossings remained sealed for a 3d day. The **IDF** fires warning shots at Palestinian farmers who stray nr. the Gaza border fence e. of Khan Yunis, seriously injuring 2 elderly Palestinians. The **Israeli navy** fires warning shots at fishermen to keep them close to shore. **AMB mbrs.** fire 2 **rockets** into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Hamas's Gaza security chief **Siyam** meets with heads of the various Gaza factions to discuss ways of reacting to **IDF** actions in the West Bank while respecting the Gaza cease-fire. **Islamic Jihad** pledges to coordinate its responses with Hamas. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes an unusual daytime raid into Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron, setting up road blocks, checking IDs, raiding and searching homes, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront troops, killing a **16-yr.-old Palestinian boy**, arresting 1 Palestinian; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and Ramallah, nr. Bethlehem and Jenin, and outside East Jerusalem. **Jewish settlers** fr. Halamish nr. Ramallah burn a Palestinian olive tree. Nr. Jabaliya r.c., **unidentified assailants** detonate a bomb outside a **fmr. PA Preventive Security** officer's home, causing damage but no injuries. (NYT, WT 6/27; MM 6/30; OCHA 7/2; PCHR 7/3)

27 JUNE

Israel keeps Gaza crossings shut for a 4th day, citing rocket fire on 6/26. Today, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 2 **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **Hamas**-affiliated Gaza imams use their Friday sermons to stress that supporting the truce serves the greater interests of the Palestinian people. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house

searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., Nablus; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); fires tear gas, percussion grenades at demonstrators at a similar protest al-Ma'sara (10s suffer tear gas inhalation). (NYT 6/28; NYT 6/30; OCHA 7/2; PCHR 7/3)

28 JUNE

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the c. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets at a funeral procession in Bayt Umar for a teenager killed on 6/26, wounding 2 Palestinians; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tubas (firing on stone-throwing teenagers who confront them, killing a **16-yr.-old Palestinian boy**), nr. Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** ambush and attack a Palestinian taxi driver nr. Keddumim settlement nr. Qalqilya; the **IDF** rescues him. In the 2d such incident (see 6/22), **unidentified assailants** burn 2,000 d. of Palestinian olive groves and crop land w. of the **separation wall** nr. Tulkarm. **Hamas-affiliated police** find and demolish 2 smuggling tunnels in Rafah. In Gaza City, a **bomb** explodes in a market area located behind a Gaza municipal police station, causing damage but no injuries. (OCHA 7/2; PCHR 7/3)

29 JUNE

Israel allows imports of humanitarian goods to Gaza, suspended on 6/24, to resume at a rate about 30% higher than before the truce was agreed, noting **Hamas's** positive reaction to the 6/26 rocket fire by the AMB; imports include diesel fuel, animal feed, frozen meat, fresh produce. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin and Ramallah, nr. Bethlehem. (AYM, MM, NYT 6/30; OCHA 7/2; PCHR 7/3)

30 JUNE

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah. (MM 7/1; OCHA 7/2; PCHR 7/3)

1 JULY

Israel reopens Gaza's border crossings in the morning, saying that overnight its radar detected a Palestinian rocket launched from n. Gaza toward Israel (though admitting it has not found any rocket fragments); **Hamas** denies a rocket was fired, accusing Israel of looking for excuses not to honor the truce agmt. Meanwhile, **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire on 2 Palestinian women working a field nearby, seriously wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires on residential areas of Bayt 'Awa nr. Hebron, then enters to raid and search homes, claiming that barbed wire nr. the **separation wall** nearby had been tampered with, threatening to shoot dead anyone who approaches the wall; sends undercover units into Tulkarm to raid an apartment building, arrest a wanted Palestinian; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and in Dahaysha r.c., Jenin town and r.c., and Tulkarm r.c.; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin (wounding 5). In the 1st such incident reported, **Jewish settlers** fr. Brakha settlement nr. Nablus fire 2 **mortars** toward the nearby Palestinian village of Burin, landing inside a residential area but causing no damage or injuries. (OCHA, WT 7/2; PCHR 7/3)

Syrian and Israeli negotiating teams open a 3d round of indirect peace talks in Istanbul (see Quarterly Update for details). (Israel Radio, MM 7/2)

2 JULY

Palestinian construction worker Hussam Dweikat (who has Israeli residency status in East Jerusalem) commandeers a Caterpillar bulldozer (symbolic, as the IDF uses Caterpillar D9 bulldozers to level Palestinian homes and land in the occupied territories) from the Jerusalem construction site where he works, plows through midday traffic in West Jerusalem's business district, overturning a bus, running over at least 2 cars, killing 3 **Israelis**, injuring more than 40 before a police officer fatally shoots him. Israeli officials believe Dweikat acted alone. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, in Tubas, and nr. Jenin, Nablus (also raiding a mosque and its library, taking computers,

documents, books), Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Massu'a in the Jordan Valley attempt to fence off and confiscate a plot of land in Jiftlik village, but the Palestinian owners drive them away. **Palestinian youths** stone a Jewish settler bus nr. Ramallah, causing damage but no injuries. In Gaza, **1,000s of Palestinians** storm the Rafah crossing, demanding entry to Egypt and throwing stones at Egyptian security forces, who respond by pushing the crowd back with water cannons and tear gas; **Hamas-affiliated police** bring the situation under control. **Hamas-affiliated police** launch a campaign to removed small shops and huts erected along the Gaza shoreline without municipal permission. Nr. Shuka, 2 Palestinian teenagers are injured when they accidentally trigger **IDF** unexploded ordnance (UXO). (AP; BBC, HA, IFM, Israel Radio, MA, MM, PCHR, REU, YA 7/2; NYT, WP, WT 7/3; MM, WP 7/4; OCHA 7/9; PCHR 7/10)

3 JULY

Palestinians fire 1 **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** just outside of Jerusalem, displacing 21 Palestinians (including 11 children); sets up roadblocks and curfews in parts of Kafr Haris nr. Salfit to keep Palestinians away while they escort **Jewish settlers** to Jewish holy sites in the village; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists protesting against **separation wall** construction in Ni'lin, wounding 9; makes a late-night incursion into al-Far'a r.c., patrolling the streets, firing on residential areas, firing on stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them, wounding 13; makes a similar late-night incursion into Jenin town and r.c., patrolling streets, firing on residential areas, causing no injuries. The **Israeli DMin.** approves construction of a yeshiva boarding school in Beit Romano settlement in Hebron. Armed **Jewish settlers** fr. Brakha enter Burin village and open fire on Palestinian homes, causing no injuries (cf. 7/1); the **IDF** removes the settlers. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim throw stones at Palestinian vehicles driving nearby, damaging 4 but causing no injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Halamish settlement sets fire to a Palestinian olive tree in nearby Dayr Nidham. (OCHA 7/9; PCHR 7/10)

4 JULY

In Gaza, 1 Palestinian man is injured when a smuggling tunnel under the Rafah border collapses. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (wounding 2) and fires tear gas, percussion grenades at demonstrators at a similar protest al-Ma'sara (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** enter Nablus to pray at Joseph's Tomb; the **IDF** evacuates them, reprimanding them for not coordinating the visit with the IDF in advance (see 6/13). **Jewish settlers** fr. Shilo nr. Ramallah stone a bus carrying peace activists, causing damage but no injuries. (OCHA 7/9; PCHR 7/10)

5 JULY

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishermen off the Bayt Lahiya coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** blockades, imposes a round-the-clock curfew on Ni'lin nr. Ramallah in what the army calls an "open-ended effort to curb protests" against the **separation wall** (see 5/27); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm and in Jenin town and r.c. and Qabatya. **Jewish settlers** fr. Hebron attack, beat 4 Palestinian farmers; the **IDF** halts the attack only after international peace activists arrive. **Jewish settlers** fr. the unauthorized outpost of Asael nr. Hebron burn 15 d. of Palestinian crop land and kidnap, severely beat a Palestinian, tying him to a telephone pole inside the outpost; the **IDF** bars an ambulance fr. reaching him for over 2 hrs. In Nussayrat r.c., **rival wings of Islamic Jihad's al-Quds Brigade** exchange fire, causing no injuries; **Hamas-affiliated police** bring the situation under control, arresting several Islamic Jihad mbrs. In Rafah, 2 **unidentified gunmen** shoot, wound a fmr. PA police officer. A **Palestinian teenager** injured by **IDF** UXO nr. Shuka on 7/2 dies. (WP 7/6; OCHA 7/9; PCHR 7/10; *Nation* 7/19)

6 JULY

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire on Palestinian farmers, preventing them fr.

reaching their fields nr. the border fence but causing no injuries. In the West Bank, **Ni'lin villagers** defy an IDF curfew to stage peaceful protest marches against the IDF blockade imposed on 7/5; the **IDF** fires tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets at the protesters, lightly injuring around 50. The **IDF** also bulldozes newly paved roads in Ni'lin while the curfew is in place, damaging part of the municipal sewage system; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Tulkarm, and nr. Bethlehem, Jenin, Qalqilya, Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Asfar settlement nr. Bethlehem beat 2 Palestinian shepherds grazing their flocks nearby. In Hebron, local **Jewish settlers** harass a French diplomatic delegation touring the city with Palestinian guides, arguing that settlers should lead the tour because the delegation was on "Israeli land." A carload of **Jewish settlers** fires on a Palestinian taxi nr. Jenin, seriously wounding 1 Palestinian. (WT 7/7; OCHA 7/9; PCHR 7/10)

7 JULY

Israeli DM Ehud Barak signs an order banning 36 foreign nonprofits that have given money to charities run by the **Islamic Charitable Association (ICA)**, which Israel alleges is connected to **Hamas** (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 148), initiating what it vows will be an "unprecedented" military campaign to seal "scores" of offices that had received money from the 36 groups, viewing the action as "essential for the disruption of Hamas operations" in the West Bank. Late at night, the **IDF** raids and seals the first 7 ICA charities in Nablus. During the day, the **IDF** detains 1 Palestinian at a demonstration against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin (see 7/5); a Palestinian girl videotapes soldiers handcuffing, blindfolding, beating the Palestinian, then shooting him at close range with a rubber-coated steel bullet, injuring him; he is treated by a IDF medic and released. Nr. Salfit, an **armed Palestinian** shoots, wounds a Jewish settler fr. nearby Yaqir settlement, is shot dead by an IDF soldier; the IDF later (7/20) alleges that the gunman, Mahmud 'Azi fr. Qarawat Bani Hasan, was the head of the ICA. Late in the evening, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Bireh, nr. Bethlehem and Hebron. Meanwhile, **Palestinians** fire 2 **mortars** from Gaza toward Israel; both land inside the Strip, causing no damage or injuries. (BBC 7/7; IFM, OCHA 7/9; BBC, IFM, PCHR 7/10; AHR 7/20; PCHR 7/24)

8 JULY

After a wk. of almost complete Palestinian quiet in Gaza, **Israel** agrees to an **Egyptian** request to resume limited imports to the Strip, but states that it will henceforth close Gaza's borders for 1 day for each Palestinian rocket fired and allow an extra 5 truckloads of food and 200 tons of cement into Gaza (over the minimum level of humanitarian goods) for each day without rocket fire. After Israel opens its border crossings at noon, **Palestinians** fire 3 **mortars** from Gaza toward Israel; 1 lands in Gaza and 2 in Israel, causing no damage or injuries; Israel does not respond. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Gaza City coast, wounding 1 fisherman and forcing the boats to return to shore. In the West Bank, late in the evening, the **IDF** orders PA security forces in Nablus to return to their barracks, then sends some 130 military vehicles into the city to raid and seal several ICA-run schools, businesses (including a shopping mall, claiming that profits of the mall's owners finance **Hamas** operations, a claim the shop owners deny), charities, and sport clubs, as well as a major medical center, seizing computers, records, cash; **Shin Bet officers** post notices that raided properties have been turned over to the Israeli army for 5 yrs., occupants have a limited time to vacate the premises, and anyone entering the sites after this may be arrested and imprisoned for Hamas collaboration. The **IDF** also raids the al-Bireh municipal center, destroying computers containing vital data, such as land registrations, births, marriages; patrols in al-Far'a r.c. nr. Jenin, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 3 (ages 12, 13, 19); lifts the 24-hr. curfew on Ni'lin that was imposed on 7/5. (AHR, AP, OCHA, WP 7/9; PCHR 7/10, 7/17; AHR 7/21)

9 JULY

The **IDF** conducts additional late-night raids in Nablus, searching, sealing, and confiscating computers and documents fr. several organizations allegedly connected to the ICA, including Afaq TV station, the Union of Palestinian Women Committees (confiscating food donations intended for needy Nablus families), a clinic, a kindergarten (taking 2 buses). The **IDF** sends undercover units driving a car with Palestinian license plates into Kafr Dan nr. Jenin, ambushing a Palestinian car and opening fire,

assassinating **Talal 'Abid**, a wanted mbr. of the **Abu Ammar Brigades** (a Fatah offshoot in Jenin), arresting a 2d Palestinian; sends troops, bulldozers into Hebron to demolish 2 **Palestinian homes** (18 residents) for allegedly harboring wanted individuals, also uprooting trees and heavily damaging a 3d home; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinians demonstrating against the separation wall in Dayr al-Ghusun nr. Tulkarm, injuring several (including 2 journalists); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Brakha fire 6 **mortars** at Burin village and 1 at Madama village, causing no damage or injuries (see 7/1, 7/3). **Israel's Interior Min.** approves construction of **920 new settler housing units** in Har Homa settlement in the Palestinian neighborhood of Jabal Abu Ghunaym in Jerusalem; it is not clear if this figure includes 121 units approved on 6/1. (JP 7/9; PCHR 7/10; WT 7/11; OCHA 7/16; PCHR 7/17; NYT 7/18; AHR 7/21)

10 JULY

The **IDF** fatally shoots a **Palestinian** nr. the Gaza border fence e. of Dayr al-Balah, saying it mistakenly thought he was armed. In retaliation, the **AMB** fires 2 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Later, **Hamas-affiliated police** arrest 7 **AMB mbrs.** for firing the rockets, marking the 1st such arrests by the Hamas leadership in Gaza. **Israel** does not reseal Gaza border crossings or take any military action against the rocket fire. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts daytime arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem; patrols in Tulkarm, conducting random ID checks; makes another late-night raid into Nablus, breaking into the municipal headquarters (confiscating computers and documents fr. the accounting department), searching 4 mosques, confiscating 4 school buses; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Jerusalem. (WP, WT 7/11; OCHA 7/16; PCHR 7/17)

11 JULY

An **unidentified gunman** shoots, wounds 2 **Israeli policemen** in Jerusalem's Old City (1 **policeman** dies of his injuries btwn. 7/23 and 7/30); no group takes responsibility, but Israel says it assumes it was

a nationalist attack by a Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts early morning arrest raids, house searches in Jalazun r.c.; fatally shoots a **50-yr.-old Hamas mbr.** in an alleged exchange of gunfire nr. Yakir settlement nr. Salfit; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation) and al-Ma'sara (wounding 2); fires rubber-coated steel bullets at Palestinians and international activists protesting **IDF bulldozing operations** for construction of the **separation wall** nr. Ni'lin, wounding 5, arresting 4; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., nr. Bethlehem. (WP 7/13; OCHA 7/16; PCHR 7/17)

12 JULY

Palestinians fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel in violation of the cease-fire, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches in and around Nablus, and in Jenin town and r.c., Qabatya. (WP 7/13; OCHA 7/16; PCHR 7/17)

13 JULY

The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and nr. Jenin. **Israeli police** arrest a **Jewish settler** fr. Yitzhar for recent mortar attacks on Burin (see 7/9). (HA 7/13; OCHA 7/16; PCHR 7/17)

14 JULY

Continuing pressure on **Hamas-affiliated institutions** in Nablus, the **IDF** makes another late-night raid into the city, arresting 7 Palestinians, including an assistant to the Hamas-affiliated mayor Adli Yaish (among the 40 Hamas-affiliated politicians arrested in 6/06), a Hamas-affiliated mbr. of the municipal council, a journalist, and senior officers of a hospital, factory, sports club, and women's association. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, nr. Nablus. **Jewish settlers** occupy an abandoned **IDF base** nr. Bayt Sahur in a renewed effort to establish an outpost at the site; the **IDF** allows them to stay overnight. (OCHA 7/16; PCHR 7/17)

15 JULY

The **IDF** demolishes 3 **Palestinian homes** in the East Jerusalem environs (1 in Issawiyya, 2 in Bayt Hanina), displacing 30 Palestinians, including 14 children; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus (including raiding the offices of the International Solidarity Association for Human Rights, confiscating computers and files), in al-Far'a r.c. (firing on stone-throwing youths, wounding 3) and Qalqilya, and nr. Jenin, Ramallah, Tulkarm. (OCHA 7/16; PCHR 7/17)

16 JULY

The **IDF** conducts major late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, firing on residential areas and stone-throwing youths who confront them wounding 2, arresting 30; also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin. (PCHR 7/17; OCHA 7/23; PCHR 7/24)

Israel, Hizballah implement a major prisoner exchange that includes Hizballah's return of the bodies of the 2 IDF soldiers who were captured and killed on 7/06, sparking the 2006 Lebanon war, and Israel release of **Samir Quntar** (convicted by Israel in a 1979 attack that left 5 Israelis dead; see Quarterly Update for details). (HA, IFM, MA, NYT, YA 7/16; AHR, IFM, NYT, WP, WT 7/17)

17 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Qalandia r.c. nr. Jerusalem and nr. Nablus, Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba occupy, set up tents on a plot of Palestinian land in Hebron's Wadi al-Nassara neighborhood to expand an unauthorized outpost set up in a nearby building seized by settlers some time ago; the **IDF** reinforces troops in the area but does not intervene. (OCHA 7/23; PCHR 7/24)

18 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of al-Bireh, Dayr al-Sudan, al-Mazara', and Sinjil nr. Ramallah and Kafr Ra'i nr. Jenin; no injuries are reported. The **IDF** also fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in and Ni'lin (10s suffer tear gas inhala-

tion at both locations). (NYT 7/19; OCHA 7/23; PCHR 7/24)

19 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Jenin town and r.c. The **IDF** fatally shoots a **Syrian drug smuggler**, wounds a 2d when they cross the n. Israel border into the Golan. (WP 7/20; AHR 7/21; OCHA 7/23; PCHR 7/24)

20 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires on Palestinian, Israeli, international activists protesting against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin (10s suffer fr. tear gas inhalation); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus (arresting 26 Palestinians, including **Reform and Change PC mbr. Muna Mansur** and the manager of the Nablus mall targeted on 7/8), nr. Jenin; raids an Islamic charity and kindergarten in Jericho, confiscating computers and documents. (OCHA 7/23; PCHR 7/24)

21 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids, searches shops in Tulkarm; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Qabatya, and nr. Hebron, Jenin. **Armed Jewish settlers** fr. Gilad settlement nr. Qalqilya attack 2 Palestinian farmers, severely beat them, and spray a chemical substance on their faces and bodies, then burn 2 d. of nearby Palestinian olive groves; when local Palestinians arrive to put out the fire, they are fired upon by the settlers (who use live ammunition) and the **IDF** (using rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, percussion grenades). **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba attack Palestinian homes, attempt to break into at least 1 home in the same area where settlers seized a plot of land on 7/17. (OCHA 7/23; PCHR 7/24)

22 JULY

Copying the 7/2 attack in Jerusalem, **Palestinian construction worker Ghassan Abu Teir** (a resident of Jerusalem with no political affiliation) steals a bulldozer and careens down a busy Jerusalem street, ramming cars and a bus, injuring 16 people before being shot dead by an armed Israeli driver. In the West Bank, the **IDF**

conducts late-night house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., Nablus, and nr. Tulkarm. (NYT, OCHA, WP, WT 7/23; PCHR 7/24)

23 JULY

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border shoot, wound a Palestinian collecting scrap metal who strays nr. the border fence. In the West Bank, the **IDF** detain without charge the father of a young girl who filmed **IDF** troops in Ni'lin shooting and wounding a bound Palestinian prisoner on 7/7; fire on residential areas of Bayt Umar nr. Hebron, then fire on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 1; also patrols in, fires on residential areas of Baytin and al-Bireh nr. Ramallah, causing no injuries; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, Qalqilya. (PCHR 7/24; OCHA, PCHR 7/30)

24 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, Jenin town and r.c., Nablus; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Tulkarm, causing no injuries. Some 20 **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar nr. Nablus, angry over the **IDF** removal of a mobile home fr. an unauthorized outpost nearby, attack and damage Palestinian houses and an electricity system in Burin, causing a fire that destroys 200 d. of olive trees. **Israel's Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Comm.** announces that it is revising plans to build a **new Jewish settlement**, Maskiyot, in the n. Jordan Valley, approving an initial 22 housing units for the site. (NYT, WP 7/25; HA 7/26; OCHA, PCHR 7/30)

25 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., Nablus; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation; 1 Israeli journalist is injured) and Ni'lin (5 are injured, including a French journalist). In Gaza, 3 bombs explode next to a car used by the **IQB** parked near a busy Gaza City beach (killing 3 **Hamas mbrs.** and 2 **bystanders**, including a 6-yr-old girl; wounding 17), the

Gaza City home of **Hamas** official Marwan Abu Ras (no injuries), and a café (killing 1 **bystander**), marking one of the most serious upsurges of intra-Palestinian violence since **Hamas** seized control of Gaza in 6/07; **Fatah** denies responsibility for the bombings. (NYT, WP 7/26; OCHA, PCHR 7/30; AHR 8/1)

26 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a major daytime raid into Hebron, surrounding 4 Palestinian homes, bulldozing surrounding areas, directing tank shells and heavy machine gun fire on the buildings, demanding the surrender of a wanted **Hamas mbr.** inside, also firing on stone-throwing Palestinians protesting the operation, wounding a 13-yr-old boy; the operation is ongoing by the end of the day. The **IDF** also patrols in, fires on residential areas of Bayt Umar, then fires on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 4, arresting 5; conducts daytime arrest raids, house searches in Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah and similar nighttime operations in and around Nablus, nr. Hebron. In Gaza, **Hamas-led police** launch a major crackdown on **Fatah** in response to the 7/25 bombings (see Quarterly Update for details), arresting 10s of **Fatah** supporters and searching several **Fatah** offices (including those of PLO Exec. Comm. mbr. Zakariya al-Agha and PC mbr. Ziad Abu 'Amr), while **IQB mbrs.** toss grenades at the home of a Gaza City **Fatah** leader (causing no reported injuries) and set up roadblocks across the Strip; 2 **Hamas mbrs.** wounded in the 7/25 beach bombing die. (WT 7/27; OCHA, PCHR 7/30)

27 JULY

Early in the morning, the **IDF** steps up shelling of a Hebron home surrounded on 7/26, then bulldozes it; the body of **wanted Hamas mbr. Shihab al-Natsha** is found inside and confiscated by the **IDF**. Also in the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and in Jenin town and r.c., Tulkarm; fires tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in a nonviolent protest against the separation wall in Ni'lin, wounding 7. **Jewish settlers** fr. Brakha set fire to 10 d. of Palestinian crops and a house in Burin. **Jewish settlers** burn 50 d. of Palestinian olive groves nr. Qalqilya. (NYT 7/29; OCHA, PCHR 7/30)

28 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** sets up checkpoints, conducts random ID checks in Hebron; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, and nr. Hebron, Jenin. The **IDF** forcibly evicts 70 Palestinians (including 20 children) from a Palestinian **apartment building** in East Jerusalem, then demolishes it, sparking unarmed clashes btwn. local residents and police (no serious injuries are reported). **Fatah-Hamas** tensions over the 7/25 bombings and ongoing Hamas crackdown spread to the West Bank, where **PA security forces** arrest more than **50 Hamas-affiliated activists and academics** in Nablus (including acting mayor Hafiz Shahin; the Hamas-affiliated elected mayor and dep. mayor are in Israeli custody). Sources in Gaza, say **Hamas-affiliated police** have detained around **200 Fatah supporters** since 7/25. Today, Gaza's acting **Hamas** government bans the entry to Gaza of 3 daily newspapers seen as critical of its authority: *al-Ayyam*, *al-Hayat*, *al-Quds*. (NYT 7/29; OCHA, PCHR 7/30)

29 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires live ammunition at a group of children who approach **IDF** bulldozers working on the separation wall nr. Ni'lin while a nonviolent protest at the site winds down, fatally shooting an **11-yr.-old Palestinian boy** in the head; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, and nr. Bethlehem, Jenin. (HA, NYT, OCHA, PCHR, WP, WT 7/30; PCHR 8/7)

Israeli and Syrian negotiators open a 4th round of indirect peace talks in Istanbul (see Quarterly Update for details). (JP, XIN, YA 7/30)

30 JULY

Amid investigations into his criminal wrongdoing, **Olmert** announces that he will not run in the Kadima party elections, now set for 9/17, and will resign as PM as soon as the party picks a new leader. (HA, REU 7/30; NYT, WP, WT 7/31)

Israeli, Palestinian negotiators arrive in Washington for talks under U.S. auspices (see 6/24 and Quarterly Update). (MM 7/30; WP 7/31)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts daytime arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus

and similar late-night operations nr. Nablus and Salfit, and in and around Hebron, Jenin town and r.c., Tubas; sends undercover units in a car with Palestinian license plates into Burqin to abduct a wanted Islamic Jihad mbr.; fires on the funeral for the 11-yr.-old Palestinian boy killed in Ni'lin on 7/29, leaving **1 Palestinian teenager** brain dead, wounding 7 others; takes up positions in Anabta nr. Tulkarm, fires on residential areas, then fires on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, wounding 1 Palestinian. (WP 7/31; OCHA 8/6; PCHR 8/7)

31 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba and a nearby unauthorized outpost in Hebron's Wadi al-Nassara neighborhood (seized on 7/17) attack Palestinians and their homes nearby, injuring 3 Palestinians; set up 2 additional tents at the outpost. (OCHA 8/6; PCHR 8/7)

1 AUGUST

In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids and searches homes nr. Jenin but makes no arrests; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation). **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba and a nearby unauthorized outpost in Wadi al-Nassara attack Palestinian homes for a 2d day, causing damage but no reported injuries. **Jewish settlers** with a bulldozer occupy and level a plot of Palestinian land s. of Bethlehem; the **IDF** removes the settlers. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar nr. Nablus throw a large rock at a passing Palestinian car, seriously injuring a Palestinian woman and lightly injuring her child; the **IDF** evacuates the mother to a hospital in Israel. In Gaza, **Hamas-affiliated police** detain several senior **Fatah** officials in what Hamas calls a response to Fatah's detention of West Bank Hamas loyalists on 7/28. **Egyptian border police** demolish a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border, suffocating **5 Palestinians**. (NYT 8/2; OCHA 8/6; PCHR 8/7; 8/13)

2 AUGUST

In the West Bank, **Jewish settlers** in Hebron attack Palestinians and their

property in Wadi al-Nassara, severely beating 2 Palestinians. Separately, **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba stone Palestinian cars driving nr. the settlement, causing no reported injuries. In Gaza, **Hamas-affiliated police** raid an area of Gaza City controlled by the **Hillis family**, which Hamas has accused of hiding suspects wanted in connection with the 7/25 bombings, sparking violent clashing involving exchanges of mortars and grenades that leave **11 Palestinians** dead (2 policemen, 8 mbrs. of the Hillis clan, 1 bystander) and 88 injured (including 12 children), marking some of the heaviest intra-Palestinian fighting since 6/07. (A **12th Palestinian** dies several days later.) By afternoon, Hamas forces seize control of the 100,000-resident Shijaiyah neighborhood, conduct house-to-house searches for weapons and suspects, arresting 50 people. During the fighting, 188 Fatah mbrs. fr. Gaza, including **clan leader and senior Fatah mbr. Ahmad Hillis**, flee to Nahal Oz crossing, where Israel grants them entry for transit to the West Bank; **Hamas police** fire on the fleeing men, injuring 22, who are treated in Israeli hospitals. **Hamas** also closes a **PFLP** radio station in Gaza for reporting sympathetic to Fatah. (NYT, WP, WT 8/3; WT 8/4; OCHA 8/6; PCHR 8/7; OCHA 8/20)

3 AUGUST

Abbas refuses to grant asylum to **188 Fatah mbrs.** who fled to Israel on 8/2 to escape interfactional fighting, ordering them back to Gaza, stating that a Fatah presence must remain in the Strip. **Israel** repatriates 32 of the 188 today; **Hamas** initially detains them, releases all but 5 before the end of the day. Meanwhile, in the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. (WT 8/4; NYT 8/5; OCHA 8/6; PCHR 8/7)

4 AUGUST

Israel releases Reform and Change PC mbr. **Mansur** (detained without charge in Nablus on 7/20). The **IDF** repatriates to Gaza another 26 of the 188 Fatah mbrs. who fled on 8/2; the PA allows 88 to take asylum in Jericho; 16 who were wounded during their flight remain in Israeli hospitals; the other 24 remain in IDF custody, where they are questioned regarding possible ties to attacks on Israeli targets. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts early-morning house searches in Yatta nr. Hebron, including searching the

home of PC mbr. Khalil al-Rab'i, holding him for questioning; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus and nr. Tubas, Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Taffuh settlement nr. Salfit, beat a Palestinian shepherd and steal 23 sheep, open fire on residential areas nearby. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba beat an elderly Palestinian couple outside their home nr. the unauthorized settlement outpost in Wadi al-Nassara (see 8/1). A **Palestinian teenager** dies of injuries sustained when the **IDF** opened fire on a funeral in Ni'lin on 7/30. (NYT, WP 8/5; OCHA 8/6; PCHR 8/7)

5 AUGUST

Gaza banks report that Israel is blocking the import of currency to the Strip and that banks are now running short of cash to pay public workers' salaries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units in a car with Palestinian license plates into Nablus in an unusual daytime operation (Nablus is ostensibly under PA security control during the day) to arrest a wanted Palestinian. For a 2d day, **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba attack Palestinians and their property nr. Wadi al-Nassara, seriously injuring an 80-yr.-old Palestinian man. Later, nearby, **Jewish settlers** attack a Palestinian home, severely beating a Palestinian couple and their 15-yr.-old child (who lost an eye in a similar settler attack 2 yrs. ago). (OCHA, WT 8/6; PCHR 8/7)

6 AUGUST

Meeting with **Abbas** in Jerusalem, **Olmert** pledges to release **150 Palestinian prisoners** as a gesture to improve the climate of negotiations and support for **Abbas**; the release is tentatively set for 8/25. Today, **Israel** releases **6 Palestinian prisoners** (fulfilling a requirement of the 7/16 prisoner release deal with Hizballah): the 6 include **Hamas-affiliated Nablus mayor Adli Yaish** (see 7/14) and 5 minors arrested for stone-throwing. Meanwhile, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Ramallah to arrest a wanted Palestinian; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, and in and around Jenin town and r.c., Tulkarm (breaking into a taxi company, stealing 3 cars). **Armed Jewish settlers** attempt to enter East Jerusalem's Shu'fat r.c. to establish an unauthorized outpost, claiming ownership of land inside the camp; the **IDF** bars their entry. (AFP, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 8/7; OCHA 8/13; PCHR 8/14)

7 AUGUST

Egyptian border police discover, demolish 20 smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border; smugglers exchange fire with police, leaving 2 **unidentified individuals** dead and 4 wounded inside Egyptian territory. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, percussion grenades at Palestinian, Israeli, and international peace activists taking part in a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin, wounding 7. For a 2d day, **armed Jewish settlers** attempt to enter Shu'fat r.c. to establish an unauthorized outpost; the **IDF** bars their entry. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba dump trash in front of the entrance of Hebron's al-Ras Mosque. **Jewish settlers** fr. Givat Ha'avot settlement in Hebron vandalize 5 nearby Palestinian homes. The **Israeli Interior Min.** approves construction of 400 new settler housing units in Neve Ya'acov settlement n. of Jerusalem, and authorizes tenders to be issued for construction of 286 housing units in Beitar Ilit nr. Bethlehem (approved by the Housing Min. on 5/21) and 130 units in Har Homa in East Jerusalem (some of which may have been approved by the Interior Min. on 7/9). **Israel** also reportedly agrees to transfer settlers living in the unauthorized outpost of Migron nr. Ramallah to another settlement (as yet undecided) where 40 new units would be built to accommodate them. (OCHA 8/13; PCHR 8/14)

8 AUGUST

IDF troops make a late-night incursion into Tulkarm, fire on residential areas and storefronts, causing damage but no injuries. The **IDF** also fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin (wounding 3). At the weekly nonviolent protest against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, **Israeli border police** for the 1st time spray protesters with a foul-smelling liquid they call "skunk" that victims report lingers on the skin, clothes for up to a week. In Gaza City, **Hamas-affiliated police** exchange fire with wanted **Army of Islam mbrs.** during an arrest raid on several houses; no injuries are reported. **PA security forces**, under pressure fr. Israel to launch a campaign to crack down on Hamas that parallels Israel's campaign launched on 7/7, raid and seal for 1 yr. 8 community organizations and ar-

rest 16 employees for alleged affiliation with **Hamas**. (OCHA 8/13; PCHR 8/14; HA 9/5)

9 AUGUST

Jewish settlers attempt to seize a Palestinian home, 12-d. plot of land in East Jerusalem's Bayt Safafa neighborhood for establishment of a new unauthorized outpost but are driven off by local residents. **Jewish settlers** fr. the new outpost in Wadi al-Nassara occupied on 7/17 attack a group of Palestinian women fr. the village, severely beating 1. Later in the day, the same **Jewish settlers** attack several nearby Palestinian homes, steal 4 sheep. (OCHA 8/13; PCHR 8/14)

10 AUGUST

The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Jenin town and r.c., and nr. Hebron. (OCHA 8/13; PCHR 8/14)

11 AUGUST

In Gaza, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 3 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, forcing them to return to shore. On the Rafah border, 3 **Palestinians** are killed when a smuggling tunnel collapses; **Hamas** blames **Egyptian** efforts to seal tunnels using water, gas, explosives for killing 8 Palestinian smugglers since 8/1, calling the tactics irresponsible. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, percussion grenades at Palestinian, Israeli, international peace activists taking part in a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin, wounding 7; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Qabatya and Tubas, nr. Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** in Hebron unsuccessfully attempt to set fire to al-Ras Mosque (see 8/7). (OCHA, WT 8/13; PCHR, WT 8/14)

12 AUGUST

In response to Palestinian rocket fire on 8/11, **Israel** suspends fuel shipments and humanitarian imports to Gaza for 1 day (see 7/8); **Hamas official Mahmud Zahhar** calls those who fired the rocket on 8/11 in violation of the cease-fire traitors and collaborators, reiterating that "there is a consensus by all Palestinian factions

to respect the truce." In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts daytime arrest raids, house searches in Hebron and Tulkarm, and nr. Qalqilya. **Jewish settlers** who occupied (7/17) a plot of Palestinian land in Wadi al-Nassara in Hebron attack a Palestinian home with rocks and bottles, injuring a 13-yr.-old boy. **Armed Jewish settlers** attempt for a 3d time (see 8/6, 8/7) to enter Shu'fat r.c. to establish an unauthorized outpost; the **IDF** bars their entry, arrests 13 settlers. **PA security forces** raid, seal for 1 yr. a school in Hebron, detain the director for alleged affiliation with Hamas (see 8/8). Meanwhile, OCHA reports that Hamas's crackdown on Fatah in Gaza continues, with 465 Fatah supporters arrested and 204 Fatah-affiliated community organizations shut since the 7/25 Gaza City bombings; 279 of the detainees have been released; 34 of the organizations have been allowed to reopen. (OCHA 8/13; PCHR, WT 8/14)

13 AUGUST

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Dahaysha r.c., seriously wounding a Palestinian teenager; conducts daytime arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Jala and nr. Hebron, and similar late-night operations in and around Jenin town and r.c., in Dahaysha r.c. and Nablus (firing on stone-throwing youths, wounding 2), and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, and Salfit; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Anabta nr. Tulkarm, causing no injuries. The **IDF** also demolishes 2 **Palestinian homes** in East Jerusalem's Bayt Hanina neighborhood,

displacing 16 Palestinians (including 11 children). (PCHR 8/14; OCHA 8/20; PCHR 8/21)

14 AUGUST

In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes 6 d. of Palestinian olive groves nr. Jenin; issues a military order seizing a 1,500 sq. m. area of land nr. Ramat Yishai settlement in Hebron for construction of a "road for military purposes"; patrols, fires tear gas at Palestinians in Tulkarm; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international peace activists taking part in a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin, wounding 16; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (OCHA 8/20; PCHR 8/21)

15 AUGUST

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, "skunk" spray at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (injuring 1 Palestinian, 1 German, 2 Americans); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, international activists taking part in a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin (wounding 9); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin and Nablus, in Bethlehem, nr. Hebron. (OCHA 8/20; PCHR 8/21)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------|---|
| AFP | (Agence France-Presse, Paris) |
| AHR | (<i>al-Abram</i> , Cairo) |
| AP | (Associated Press [Internet]) |
| AYM | (<i>al-Ayyam</i> , Ramallah) |
| BBC | (British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet]) |
| HA | (<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv) |
| IFM | (Israeli Foreign Ministry, Jerusalem) |
| JP | (<i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem) |
| MA | (<i>Ma'ariv</i> , Tel Aviv) |
| NYT | (<i>New York Times</i> , New York) |
| OCHA | (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Weekly Briefing Notes, Jerusalem) |
| PCHR | (Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza) |
| REU | (Reuters [Internet]) |
| 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) |