



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS
JOURNALS + DIGITAL PUBLISHING



Chronology: 16 May–15 August 2009

Author(s): Michele K. Esposito

Source: *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 39, No. 1 (Autumn 2009), pp. 195-212

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

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/jps.2010.XXXIX.1.195>

Accessed: 03/03/2015 11:23

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

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



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

<http://www.jstor.org>

CHRONOLOGY

16 MAY–15 AUGUST 2009

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

This section is part 103 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

As the quarter opens, Israeli-Palestinian cross-border violence in Gaza is moderate and rising, while, in the West Bank, violence remains low. Israel's siege of Gaza, intended to pressure the Hamas government there, enters its 24th month, hampering efforts to maintain basic services and repair infrastructure and other damages fr. Israel's **Operation Cast Lead** (OCL, 12/27/08–1/18/09; see *JPS* 151). **Israel** allows an average of 106 truckloads/day of humanitarian goods and commodities into Gaza through Kerem Shalom crossing 6 days/week (far less than the 500 truckloads/day the UN estimates are necessary to meet Gazans' basic needs); limited fodder and seed through the Qarni crossing; and enough fuel through the Nahal Oz crossing to maintain emergency services and run Gaza's electricity plant at 69% capacity, as well as some cooking gas. Only very limited numbers of medical cases, employees of international organizations, and VIPs are allowed to transit through the Rafah and Erez crossings. Restrictions on Palestinian movement and access in the West Bank remain tight, with some 630 **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** checkpoints and roadblocks dividing the territory into 3 cantons, and strictly limiting Palestinian access to Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley. Today, the **IDF** demolishes a Palestinian **home** in East Jerusalem; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. (OCHA 5/20; PCHR 5/21)

17 MAY

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire on the al-Bura area e. of Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. (OCHA 5/20; PCHR 5/21)

18 MAY

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu begins a 2-day visit to Washington to discuss the peace process, Iran, bilateral relations, and Middle East regional affairs, holding his 1st mtg. with **U.S. pres. Barack Obama** at the White House. Obama privately presses for a total Israeli settlement freeze and endorsement of a 2-state solution, with Netanyahu demurring. The leaders emerge showing no signs of tensions, instead stressing shared goals of preventing Iran fr. developing nuclear weapons and achieving peace btwn. Israel and the Palestinians. (HA, IFM, WP, WT 5/18; NYT, WP, WT 5/19; NYT, WJW 5/21; WP 5/24; NYT 5/29; JPI 6/4; HA 6/11; see also NYT, WP 5/17) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a rare daytime incursion into al-Khadir nr. Bethlehem, raiding 2 secondary schools while classes are in session, holding the students for several hours while searching for a wanted person; no arrests are made. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Arub refugee camp (r.c.) and 3 villages nr. Hebron. (OCHA 5/20; PCHR 5/21)

A 5th round of **Palestinian national unity talks** (5/16–18) ends in Cairo without any progress. (Xinhua–New China News Agency 5/18; NYT 5/20) (see Quarterly Update for details)

19 MAY

Palestinians fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, damaging a house in Sederot but causing no injuries. Late in the evening, **IDF** warplanes make at least 7 air strikes on Gaza, hitting at least 4 smuggling

Journal of Palestine Studies Vol. XXXIX, No. 1 (Autumn 2009), pp. 195–212, ISSN: 0377-919X; electronic ISSN: 1533-8614. © 2010 by the Institute for Palestine Studies. All rights reserved. Please direct all requests for permission to photocopy or reproduce article content through the University of California Press's Rights and Permissions website, at <http://www.ucpressjournals.com/reprintInfo.asp>. DOI: jps.2010.XXXIX.1.195.

tunnels on the Rafah border (3 Palestinians working in tunnels are reported missing); a workshop in al-Daraj neighborhood in Gaza City, destroying it and heavily damaging a nearby marble factory, causing no casualties; a Hamas outpost nr. the border fence with Israel, causing no reported injuries; and a group of armed Palestinians in al-Zaytun neighborhood in Gaza City, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem. (OCHA, WT 5/20; PCHR, WT 5/21)

Palestinian Authority (PA) pres. Mahmud Abbas dissolves **PA PM Salam Fayyad's** government and reappoints it, replacing 8 independent technocrats with **Fatah** members, none of whom are elected members of the Palestinian Council. (MNA 5/19; NYT, WT 5/20; NYT 5/21) (see Quarterly Update for details)

20 MAY

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, detaining 2 fishermen. **IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border fire on Palestinian farmers working their fields nr. Bayt Hanun, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and neighboring Balata r.c., nr. Bethlehem and Jenin. Palestinians report that over the previous wk., the **IDF** has bulldozed Palestinian land in Abu Dis, Azariyya, and al-Sawahara to expand the Container checkpoint south-east of Jerusalem, which obstructs travel btwn. the n. and s. West Bank; has confiscated 300 dunams (d.; 4 d. = 1 acre) of land southwest of Jenin, giving residents 45 days to evacuate. (PCHR 5/21; OCHA, PCHR 5/28)

21 MAY

Israel removes the tiny unauthorized settlement outpost (4 families) of Maoz Ester nr. Ramallah in what is seen by some Israelis (Israel Radio 5/21) as Netanyahu "throwing a bone" to Obama, who urged Netanyahu in their 5/18 mtg. to halt settlement construction. Hrs. later settlers begin to rebuild on the site, which has been evacuated and rebuilt twice before. (Israel Radio News 5/21; NYT, WT 5/22; OCHA, PCHR 5/28)

22 MAY

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops into Gaza to engage a group of armed Palestinians laying a roadside bomb nr. the border fence, fatally shooting 2 **Islamic Jihad mbrs.**; the deaths bring to 22 the number of Gazans killed by the IDF since the 1/18/09 cease-fire. Later in the day, the **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine** detonates a roadside bomb on the Gaza border fence as an IDF patrol passes, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin (firing live ammunition and stun grenades at homes, injuring a Palestinian woman); fires tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians demonstrating against the **separation wall** construction in Bil'in; fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in weekly nonviolent protests against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin (injuring 10 Palestinians, 2 with live ammunition). **Jewish settlers** burn 10s of d. of Palestinian crops nr. Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablus, block firefighters fr. reaching the scene. A **Jewish settler** is found dead nr. Eli settlement btwn. Ramallah and Nablus; the circumstances of his death are unclear. (NYT, WP 5/23; OCHA, PCHR 5/28)

23 MAY

Israeli warplanes drop boxes of leaflets across Gaza announcing that the **IDF** is expanding its **self-declared "buffer zone"** fr. 150 to 300 meters along most of the Gaza border, making more agricultural land inaccessible; 1 box hits a house, injuring a child. In the West Bank, the **IDF** shoots, seriously wounds an unarmed Palestinian teenager who strays nr. Shavei Shomron settlement nr. Nablus; patrols in Nur Shams r.c. nr. Tulkarm, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 3; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin. **Jewish settlers** fr. Elkana settlement nr. Salfit vandalize a Palestinian home and intimidate the residents. (OCHA, PCHR 5/28; OCHA 6/1)

24 MAY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a Palestinian **home** in Issawiyya outside

East Jerusalem; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c., Nablus. (OCHA, PCHR 5/28)

25 MAY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, neighboring al-'Arub r.c., and Tubas. In Jerusalem, several **Jewish settlers** attempt to access the al-Aqsa Mosque compound but are blocked by Palestinians; the **IDF** intervenes, violently beating several Palestinians, arresting 2 Palestinian teenagers, and extracting the settlers. Nr. Hebron, at least **20 Jewish settlers** fr. Bet Yatir and Ma'on attack Palestinian shepherds nearby, moderately injuring 4. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar stone Palestinian cars traveling nearby. (OCHA, PCHR 5/28)

26 MAY

Israeli naval vessels approach within 500 m of Rafah beach, arrest 2 fishermen on 1 of 12 small boats in the area. The **UN** reports that in the previous wk. an 8-yr.-old Palestinian boy in Gaza was injured by unexploded **IDF ordnance (UXO)**; **7 Palestinians** were killed in tunnel-related incidents (6 in collapses, 1 electrocuted); and **unidentified Palestinians** fired "several" rockets and mortars into Israel causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in 4 villages nr. Jenin; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., Balata r.c., in Nablus, and nr. Bethlehem and Hebron. A **Jewish settler** violently beats a Palestinian woman waiting for a taxi nr. Zatar checkpoint outside Nablus; **IDF soldiers** manning the checkpoint observe the beating for 15 min. before intervening and ordering the settler to leave the area. (OCHA, PCHR 5/28)

27 MAY

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishermen off the Bayt Lahiya coast, detaining 2 boats and arresting 4 fishermen. Overnight, in the West Bank, the **IDF** removes 2 settler tent outposts nr. Hebron; settlers vow to reoccupy and expand the sites. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Aqabat Jabir r.c. nr. Jericho, Balata r.c., and Nablus, and

nr. Hebron, Jenin, and Tubas. (NYT, PCHR, WP 5/28; OCHA, PCHR 6/4)

U.S. special envoy George Mitchell meets with **Netanyahu's senior advisers** in Britain to follow up on the issues discussed in the 5/18 Obama-Netanyahu mtg. The Israelis offer a partial settlement freeze that would allow continued construction to accommodate natural growth, but the U.S. continues to demand a stop to all settlement activity. (NYT 5/28; WP 6/2) (see Quarterly Update for details)

28 MAY

Obama receives PA pres. **Abbas** at the White House, praising the PA's security efforts and refusal to join a unity government with **Hamas** until it meets 1/06 Quartet demands to renounce violence and recognize Israel's right to exist, but stressing that the PA must do much more to improve West Bank security. (NYT, WP, WT 5/29) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a pre-dawn raid on caves in the hills nr. Hebron, killing **senior Hamas military cmdr. 'Abd al-Majid Dudin**, wanted by Israel for 14 yrs., in an exchange of gunfire; conducts rare daytime house searches nr. Hebron and Nablus, making no arrests; makes synchronized late-night arrest raids, house searches in 4 villages nr. Jenin. (OCHA 5/28; NYT, WP 5/29; OCHA, PCHR 6/4)

29 MAY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians demonstrating against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, injuring an Associated Press camera man with a tear gas canister. (OCHA, PCHR 6/4)

30 MAY

The **IDF** evacuates the tiny unauthorized outpost of Shvut Ami nr. Nablus; Jewish settlers quickly begin rebuilding the site. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin. (OCHA 6/1; OCHA, PCHR, WJW 6/4)

31 MAY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin. During the day,

as part of an ongoing campaign to arrest Hamas militants (at least 200 already detained) and confiscate their weapons, **PA security forces (PASF)** conduct a late-night raid into Qalqilya to arrest 2 wanted **Hamas** mbrs., sparking a heavy exchange of gunfire that leaves **6 Palestinians** dead (3 PASF officers, 2 Hamas mbrs., and the owner of the building raided) and 4 PASF officers and 1 bystander wounded, marking the deadliest clash in the West Bank btwn. the 2 factions since 6/07. The PASF imposes a day-long curfew on Qalqilya. PA pres. **Abbas**, PM **Fayyad** praise the PASF for doing “their national duty” and vow to “strike with an iron fist against anyone harming the interests of the Palestinian people,” calling Hamas mbrs. “outlaws.” **Hamas supporters in Gaza** take to the streets in protest; Hamas-affiliated police arrest Fatah activists; and the **Hamas leadership** threatens to pull out of national unity talks in Cairo scheduled to resume in 7/09. (NYT, OCHA, WP, WT 6/1; OCHA, PCHR 6/4; *Jerusalem Report* 6/6; WP 6/26)

1 JUNE

In the West Bank, the **IDF** removes several tiny settlement enclaves nr. Nablus, including Nahalat Yosef. In response, around **100 Jewish settlers** fr. nearby Gilad, Keddumim, and Yitzhar rampage through Palestinian areas, burning large plots of Palestinian olive trees and crops, blocking roads, and ambushing a minivan of 15 Palestinian workers (beating and seriously injuring 6). The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Ni’lin, nr. Jenin. (NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 6/2; OCHA, PCHR, WJW 6/4)

Israeli DM **Barak** arrives in Washington for meetings with U.S. officials aimed at defusing the settlement freeze dispute. (National Public Radio 6/1; NYT, WP, WT 6/2; WJW 6/4; WJW 6/11) (see Quarterly Update for details)

2 JUNE

Overnight, in East Jerusalem, an **Israeli gunman** fires on 3 Israeli Palestinians at a bus stop in an apparent hate crime, killing **1 Israeli Palestinian**, seriously wounding the 2d, and missing the 3d before being arrested. In Gaza, **IDF** troops on the

n. Gaza border for no apparent reason fire 4 flechette rounds at a Bedouin village, injuring 2 teenagers. In the West Bank, the **IDF** announces that effective immediately the Atara and al-Tayba checkpoints will no longer be staffed, easing Palestinian movement btwn. the n. West Bank and Ramallah, and btwn. Ramallah and Jericho, respectively; patrols in Ramallah in the morning, halting Palestinians to check their IDs. The UN notes that in the previous wk., the **PASF** for the 1st time arrested more Palestinians in the West Bank than the **IDF**, detaining 122 Palestinians compared to around 80 arrested by the IDF. (OCHA, PCHR, WJW 6/4)

3 JUNE

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire on Palestinian farmers nearly 1,000 m fr. the border fence, wounding 2. A **7-month-old Palestinian boy** dies of respiratory infection that doctors believe could have been successfully treated if Israel had approved requests to transfer him abroad for medical treatment. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized late-night arrest raids and house searches in Jenin town and r.c. and 2 nearby villages; makes other late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Balata r.c. and Nablus, and in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** place 2 mobile homes on a plot of Palestinian land w. of Bethlehem, declaring the establishment of a new outpost. (al-Mezan Center press release, PCHR 6/4; OCHA, PCHR 6/11)

4 JUNE

In Cairo, **Obama** gives a major address calling for a “new beginning” in relations btwn. the U.S. and the Muslim world, acknowledging historic missteps btwn. the two, stressing mutual interests and respect to combat stereotypes. He refers to Israel’s “occupation” as “intolerable” and notes the “daily humiliations—large and small” that Palestinians suffer, but also stresses the U.S.’s “unbreakable bond” with Israel (see Doc. D2). On the sidelines, **Obama** meets privately with **Egyptian pres. Hosni Mubarak** to discuss the peace process and Iran. (IFM 6/4; NYT, WP, WT 6/5; NYT 6/6; NYT 7/10) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes about a third of the Jordan Valley Bedouin community of Khirbat al-Ras al-Ahmar, razing 15 residential structures, 30 animal pens, 18 traditional ovens, displacing 128 Palestinians who have resided in the area since the 1960s, including 66 children, confiscating a tractor and water tank; fires rubber-coated steel bullets at stone-throwing Palestinians demonstrating against the **separation wall** in Bil'in; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. Right-wing **Jewish settlers** send a letter to an IDF general threatening him and his children, and equating soldiers who evacuate settlement outposts with Nazi collaborators. PASF officers and Hamas mbrs. exchange fire in Qalqilya (see 5/31), leaving **2 Hamas mbrs.**, **1 PASF officer** dead. (*Yedi'ot Abaronot* 6/4; NYT 6/5; NYT 6/6; HA 6/8; OCHA, PCHR 6/11)

5 JUNE

Israeli naval vessels halt a Palestinian fishing boat off the Gaza coast w. of Shati' r.c., arresting 6 fishermen. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, and tear gas at Palestinians taking part in a weekly nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin, killing **1 Palestinian** with live ammunition, wounding 7 Palestinians (4 by live ammunition, 2 by tear gas canisters, 1 by rubber-coated steel bullets); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, injuring 3; conducts late-night house searches in Tulkarm and Nur Shams r.c., making no arrests. In Qalqilya, the **PASF** restricts access to the funerals of **2 Hamas mbrs.** killed on 6/4 to prevent them fr. being celebrated as martyrs, but puts up PA-sponsored posters around town commemorating the PASF officers killed in the 5/31 and 6/4 clashes. A **Palestinian boy** dies of injuries sustained in a 1/6/09 **IDF** attack on Jabaliya r.c., during **OCL**. (*Jerusalem Report*, NYT 6/6; OCHA, PCHR 6/11)

6 JUNE

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of Rafah, seriously wounding 1 Palestinian. In the

West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches in Balata r.c., making no arrests. **Jewish settlers** fr. Itamar settlement nr. Nablus burn 20 d. of Palestinian crop land. **Jewish settlers** fr. Bet Ayn settlement nr. Hebron burn nearby Palestinian crop land and uproot olive trees. (OCHA, PCHR 6/11)

7 JUNE

No **Israeli-Palestinian violence** is reported in the West Bank or Gaza. (OCHA, PCHR 6/11)

Lebanon holds parliamentary elections, with the U.S.-allied **March 14th coalition** winning 71 of 128 seats to the **Hizballah-led opposition's** 57 seats in what is seen as a major defeat for Hizballah. After consultations with both sides, **Pres. Michel Suleiman** (6/27) taps **Future Party head Sa'ad Hariri** to form a government. (IFM, NYT, WP, WT 6/8, 6/9; NYT, WT 6/28) (see Quarterly Update for details)

The donors **Ad Hoc Liaison Comm.** opens a 2-day mtg. in Oslo. (United Nations Information Service 6/8; IFM 6/9) (see Quarterly Update for details)

8 JUNE

Before dawn, 10 gunmen fr. the militant Salafist group **Soldiers of the Companions of God (SCG)** approach the Gaza side of the Nahal Oz crossing in several trucks and on 5 horses and begin laying roadside bombs when they are fired upon by **IDF** troops on the Israeli side, sparking an exchange of fire that leaves **4 SCG gunmen** dead; no IDF soldiers are injured. The IDF briefly sends tanks and helicopters into Gaza to clear the area. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes 40 d. of Palestinian agricultural land, 7 wells, and several greenhouses e. of Hebron; patrols in Sa'ir village nr. Hebron at midday, chasing and detaining 4 stone-throwing youths who confront them; conducts synchronized late-night house searches in 'Aida r.c. and al-Duha village nr. Bethlehem. (NYT 6/9; OCHA, PCHR 6/11; JPI 6/19; REU 8/15; OCHA Humanitarian Monitor 8/09)

9 JUNE

In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 1 Palestinian **home** and an addition to a

2d home in East Jerusalem, displacing 15 Palestinians (including 8 children), with 1 family fined \$3,000 for unlicensed construction; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, Nablus and neighboring 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma', and Hizma village northeast of Jerusalem (arresting 3 12-yr.-old Palestinians and a 14-yr.-old), and nr. Jenin. The UN reports that in the previous wk., the **IDF** vacated 3 checkpoints around Qalqilya (including completely dismantling 1: Izbet Jalud) and increased the operating hours of 4 main checkpoints around Nablus (Asira al-Shamaliyya, Bayt Iba, Hawara, Shavei Shomron) to 24 hrs./day 7 days/wk., significantly easing Palestinian travel btwn. Qalqilya and Nablus. The UN also reports that since the 5/31 and 6/4 Fatah-Hamas clashes in Qalqilya, **Hamas police** have arrested 73 Fatah-affiliated Palestinians on charges of "seeking to undermine internal security in Gaza." Meanwhile, the **PASF** has arrested at least 74 Palestinians in the West Bank, making this the 2d wk. that the PASF has arrested more Palestinians than the IDF. (OCHA, PCHR 6/11)

U.S. special envoy **Mitchell** begins a 2-day visit to Israel and Ramallah (his 4th trip to the region) to follow up with Israeli and PA leaders regarding Obama's 6/4 speech. (IFM 6/9; NYT, WT 6/10; NYT, WJW, WT 9/11) (see Quarterly Update for details)

10 JUNE

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, nr. Nablus. **PASF officers** shoot, wound a Palestinian driver who allegedly breaches **Abbas's** motorcade in Ramallah. In Qalqilya, a **15-yr.-old Palestinian boy** is hanged by his family on suspicion of collaborating with Israel. (PCHR 6/11; OCHA, PCHR 6/18)

11 JUNE

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Kafr Haris village nr. Salfit during the afternoon and imposes a curfew in the evening, allowing at least 1,000 Jewish settlers to enter the village to hold religious ceremonies until the morning of 6/12; the **Jewish settlers** spray paint Palestinian homes, break windows, vandalize cars. The **IDF**

also forces a Palestinian family to demolish an addition to their East Jerusalem **home**, threatening them with a \$5,000 fine if the IDF were to implement the demolition order. (OCHA, PCHR 6/18)

12 JUNE

Egyptian authorities demolish 14 smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, stun grenades at Palestinians demonstrating against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); fires tear gas at Palestinians taking part in weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); carries out synchronized, late-night house searches in 4 villages s. and w. of Jenin, making no arrests. (PCHR 6/18)

U.S. special envoy **Mitchell**, on a 2-day trip to Syria, holds a "very positive" meeting with **Syrian pres. Bashar al-Asad** in Damascus to discuss the peace process, bilateral relations, and regional affairs. (NYT, WP, WT 6/14) (see Quarterly Update for details)

13 JUNE

The **IDF** makes air strikes on 2 smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** carries out synchronized, late-night house searches in 4 villages southeast of Jenin, making no arrests. (OCHA, PCHR 6/18)

14 JUNE

Netanyahu gives a major policy speech on Israeli peace and security, drafted as a rebuttal to Obama's 6/4 Cairo address and intended to inject a Zionist narrative (see Doc. C1). In an effort to appease Obama, he for the 1st time agrees to support the creation of a Palestinian state, but only under a host of conditions that would essentially redefine Palestinian sovereignty. (IFM 6/14; NYT, WP, WT 6/15; WJW 6/18; JPI 6/26) (see Quarterly Update for details)

The badly decomposed body of a **Palestinian shepherd** missing since 4/21/09 is found 50 m fr. the n. Gaza border fence nr. Bayt Hanun, raising speculation that he was fatally shot by the **IDF** when he strayed nr. the border. In the West Bank,

the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin (firing on residential areas, causing no injuries), Jerusalem. **Jewish settlers** attack a 10-yr.-old Palestinian boy in Silwan nr. Jerusalem; when the boy's family intervenes, 30 settlement guards fr. settlements in the area join in the attack, beating another 4 Palestinians. A **Palestinian** dies in an Egyptian hospital of injuries received in an **IDF** drone strike on Jabaliya r.c. during **OCL**. (OCHA, PCHR 6/18)

15 JUNE

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm; conducts late-night patrols in Silat al-Harithiyya nr. Jenin, erecting a checkpoint and checking IDs and car registrations. The UN reports that the **IDF** has removed the physical infrastructure of an **IDF** checkpoint at the entrance to Jericho; soldiers remain posted at the site but have not been stopping Palestinian vehicles; the **IDF** has also opened 3 checkpoints nr. Jenin, Jericho, and Nablus (Tayasir, Ma'ale Ephraim, and Hamra, respectively) around the clock. **Jewish settlers** fr. Eli settlement nr. Nablus set fire to nearby Palestinian crop land; the **IDF** observes but refuses to stop the settlers or call firefighters. A **Hamas mbr.** dies in **PA** custody in Hebron, and Hamas accuses the **PASF** of torturing him; the 34-yr.-old man was arrested on charges of money laundering, illegal gun possession, and conspiracy to target **PASF** forces. (JTA, REU 6/15; OCHA, PCHR, WJW 6/18)

16 JUNE

Israeli rights groups Gisha and HaMoked reveal that Israel has tightened restrictions on what qualifies as a "humanitarian reason" for a Gazan to relocate to the West Bank, threatening to reclassify 1,000s of Gazans currently residing in the West Bank as "illegal aliens" at risk of being expelled to Gaza (see Quarterly Update for details). **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, arresting 2 fishermen. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus and nr. Hebron. The UN reports that in the past wk., 2 **Palestinians** were killed in

tunnel-related incidents, 1 in a collapse and 1 electrocuted; 4 were injured. Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights reports that in the past wk. **Hamas-affiliated police** in Gaza seized 674 humanitarian aid kits that were to be distributed to Bayt Hanun residents by an international organization through a local NGO. (NYT 6/17; OCHA, PCHR 6/18; OCHA Humanitarian Monitor 6/09)

17 JUNE

In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 3 Bedouin tents and 15 animal pens in the al-Hilwa area of the n. Jordan Valley, declaring it a closed military zone and ordering residents to leave the area; conducts synchronized late-night house searches in 3 villages s. and w. of Jenin, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus, firing a stun grenade into a Palestinian home, causing a fire that leaves significant damage. (OCHA, PCHR 6/18; OCHA, PCHR 6/25)

Israeli FM Avigdor Lieberman begins his first official visit to the U.S., holding extremely tense talks with **Secy. of State Hillary Clinton** and **national security adviser (NSA) Gen. James Jones** regarding U.S. demands for a complete settlement freeze. (*Financial Times* 6/18) (see Quarterly Update for details)

18 JUNE

In the West Bank, the **IDF** forces 2 Palestinian families to demolish additions to their East Jerusalem **homes**, threatening them with a heavy fine if the **IDF** were to implement the demolition order; conducts synchronized late-night house searches in 3 villages s. and w. of Jenin (different locations than on 6/17), making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm. (OCHA, PCHR 6/25)

19 JUNE

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires tear gas at Palestinian and international activists taking part in a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in al-Ma'sara s. of Bethlehem and beats 2 protesters; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, Nur Shams r.c. (OCHA, PCHR 6/25)

20 JUNE

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires tear gas and stun grenades at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in a nonviolent demonstration against the confiscation of Palestinian land in Wadi Abu al-Rish n. of Hebron to expand Bet Ayn settlement (the scene of heavy settler violence last quarter; see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 152), also violently beating several Palestinians and an international activist; **Jewish settlers** at the scene throw stones at the protesters, injuring a Palestinian photographer covering the incident. Other **Jewish settlers** fr. Bet Ayn uproot 150 Palestinian olive trees nr. the settlement. (OCHA, PCHR 6/25)

21 JUNE

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in al-Bireh, nr. Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** set fire to a tent nr. Hebron in which 3 Palestinian farmers are sleeping; the farmers escape with minor injuries. (OCHA, PCHR 6/25)

22 JUNE

In an address intended as a response to Obama and Netanyahu's recent policy addresses, PA PM **Fayyad** calls for the creation of a Palestinian state within 2 yrs. (WP, WT 6/23; WJW 6/25) (see Doc. B1 and Quarterly Update for details)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** enters al-Shuhada Triangle nr. Jenin in the morning, raiding several brick factories and checking workers' IDs, but making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bil'in, arresting 2 15-yr.-old boys. (OCHA, PCHR 6/25)

23 JUNE

Israel releases **elected Hamas-affiliated speaker of the Palestinian parliament 'Aziz Dwayk**, jailed nearly 3 yrs. before as part of an IDF arrest sweep targeting Hamas leaders in the wake of IDF Cpl. Gilad Shalit's capture; some 40 other Hamas legislators remain in custody. The release raises speculation that a Hamas-Israeli prisoner exchange deal to free Shalit is imminent. A wk. after making public comments

about Arabs that were denounced as racist, **Israeli internal security M Yitzhak Aharonovitch (Yisrael Beitainu)** makes a highly controversial 90-min. visit to the al-Aqsa Mosque compound, including entering the mosque, to "review police deployments" at the site. He says his visit was coordinated with Muslim authorities, which they deny. A similar visit to the compound by Ariel Sharon in 2000 sparked the al-Aqsa intifada. In the West Bank, the **IDF** levels 500 d. of Palestinian land in Issawiyya on the outskirts of Jerusalem to "preserve the natural beauty of the city [i.e., Jerusalem]"; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Avnei Hefetz settlement nr. Tulkarm erect a tent in nearby Kafr Labad village, previously bulldozed by the **IDF**, with the aim of expanding the settlement. (NYT, WP, WT 6/24; OCHA, PCHR 6/25)

24 JUNE

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Bayt Fajjar nr. Bethlehem in the morning, firing on residential areas, causing no injuries; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c., Nablus. The UN reports that by this date the **IDF** has lifted permit requirements on Palestinian vehicles leaving Nablus. (PCHR 6/25; OCHA, PCHR 7/2)

25 JUNE

No Israeli-Palestinian violence is reported. To mark the 3d anniversary of Shalit's capture, **Israeli protesters** block the crossings into Gaza, and Israel's transportation union urges haulers to observe a 1-day boycott on the import of goods to Gaza. **Israel** agrees to limit military incursions into 4 major Palestinian cities (Bethlehem, Jericho, Qalqilya, and Ramallah), allowing the **PASF** to operate there 24 hrs./day, instead of requiring them to remain in barracks fr. midnight to 5:00 A.M. as it had done before. Israel also agrees to remove some West Bank roadblocks and barriers to travel (there are currently more than 600), but no immediate steps are taken on this. (NYT, WJW, WP, WT 6/26; OCHA, PCHR 7/2)

26 JUNE

Israel's Land Registration Office in Ma'ale Adumim settlement recently placed

12 notices in *al-Quds* newspaper announcing the registration of a total of 138,500 d. (2% of West Bank land) nr. the Dead Sea as “state land,” ordering Palestinians to place ownership claims within 45 days or consider the land forfeited (see Quarterly Update for details). In the West Bank, **50 Jewish settlers** fr. a settlement nr. Tulkarm seize a plot of Palestinian land nr. Kafr Labad, erect a tent to establish a new outpost, drive off Palestinian farmers who own the land. For a 2d day, no Israeli-Palestinian violence is reported. (HA, OCHA, PCHR 7/2; OCHA Humanitarian Monitor 7/09)

27 JUNE

Israel allows 350 Palestinians to travel through the Rafah crossing into Egypt, and 1,770 others (mostly returning patients) to travel into Gaza. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires tear gas, stun grenades at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists protesting new restrictions on Palestinian movement in Wadi Abu al-Rish nr. Bet Ayn settlement (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 152), also violently beating 6 protesters (5 Palestinian, 1 Israeli) and a Reuters cameraman, and arresting 15 individuals for “provoking security forces”; conducts late-night house searches nr. Jenin, but makes no arrests. **Jewish settlers** vandalize several Palestinian houses in Hebron. In Silwan village on the outskirts of Jerusalem, several **Jewish settlers** attempt to prevent a Palestinian woman fr. parking nr. several houses they have occupied; when the woman’s family intervenes, settlement guards violently beat them with sticks and gun butts, and fire in the air, injuring 10 Palestinians, 4 of them requiring hospitalization. The UN reports that for the 4th wk. this quarter, the **PASF** arrested more West Bank Palestinians (69) than the **IDF** (46). (OCHA, PCHR 7/2)

28 JUNE

For a 2d day, **Israel** allows a significantly higher number of Palestinians to transit through the Rafah border, most of them medical cases: 568 entering Egypt and 896 entering Gaza. In the West Bank, the **IDF** enters Hebron in the evening and erects a checkpoint nr. Hebron University, checking Palestinians’ IDs but making no

arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Balata r.c. and Nablus, in Bil’in, and nr. Hebron and Jenin. (OCHA, PCHR 7/2)

29 JUNE

For a 3d day, **Israel** allows significant cross-border transit through the Rafah crossing, allowing 600 Palestinians to enter Egypt and 494 to return to Gaza. **IDF troops** on the central Gaza border e. of Gaza Valley, supported by IDF helicopters, engage in a cross-border exchange of fire with **armed Palestinians**; the only casualty is a 12-yr.-old Palestinian boy seriously wounded by IDF fire outside his home, 1,500 m fr. the border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts a rare daytime arrest raid, house searches in Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Balata r.c. and Nablus, in Bil’in, and nr. Jenin and Qalqilya. The **Israeli High Court** approves construction of the 1st 50 of 1,450 housing units in Adam settlement nr. Jerusalem, intended to house families to be resettled fr. the unauthorized outpost of Migron, as agreed btwn. the government and settlers in 11/08 (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 151). (OCHA, PCHR 7/2)

30 JUNE

In Washington, Israeli DM **Barak** presents U.S. envoy **Mitchell** and other U.S. officials with a compromise settlement freeze proposal, offering a “complete freeze” to settlement construction for 3–6 mos., excluding construction already under way and/or in East Jerusalem. (WP 7/1) (see Quarterly Update for details)

The **Israeli navy** halts a ship of international peace activists organized by the **Free Gaza Movement** attempting to sail fr. Cyprus to Gaza with humanitarian supplies to challenge Israel’s blockade; the **IDF** detains the 21 persons on board, including former House rep. Cynthia McKinney (D/Green Party-GA) and Nobel laureate Mairead Corrigan Maguire (all 21 are deported on 7/6). The UN reports that in the previous wk., **1 Palestinian** was killed and 6 were injured in a tunnel collapse on the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** partially demolishes a Palestinian **home** in al-Tur nr. Jerusalem; conducts late-night

arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and Jenin. (IFM, WP, WT 7/1; OCHA, PCHR, WJW 7/2; NYT 7/3; WT 7/7; WJW 7/9)

1 JULY

In the West Bank, **IDF** troops set up an ambush along a bypass road skirting the Zatarra checkpoint s. of Nablus, firing on 4 Palestinian teenagers (ages 15–18) who attempt to evade the checkpoint by way of the road; all 4 are wounded, 2 are evacuated to an Israeli hospital with serious injuries. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., and in Hebron. (PCHR 7/2; OCHA, PCHR 7/9)

2 JULY

In Gaza, **Palestinian gunmen** and **IDF** troops exchange cross-border fire, including Palestinian mortars and IDF tank fire; tank shells hit 2 homes nearby, killing **1 Palestinian girl**, wounding 2 men. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c., Nablus. **Jewish settlers** escorted by **IDF** troops rally at the evacuated Homesh settlement site to protest U.S. calls for a settlement freeze. (PCHR 7/2; WP 7/3; OCHA, PCHR 7/9)

3 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, and tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians demonstrating against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s of Palestinians suffer tear gas inhalation, a number of soldiers are injured by stones); fires stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian and international activists taking part in a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in al-Ma'sara, violently beating 3 Palestinian protesters (including 2 children ages 10 and 12). (OCHA, PCHR 7/9)

4 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bil'in, nr. Hebron. A carload of 5 **Jewish settlers** deliberately attempts to run down a Palestinian teenager walking along a

road nr. Kiryat Arba settlement in Hebron, lightly injuring him. (OCHA, PCHR 7/9)

5 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm r.c. and nr. Jenin. **Israeli police** raid the offices of a Palestinian folklore troupe in East Jerusalem, giving them an order banning upcoming performances scheduled to celebrate the Arab League's declaration of Jerusalem as the Arab cultural capital of 2009 (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 152), saying the show constitutes illegal Palestinian political activity in the city. (OCHA, PCHR 7/9)

6 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** forces a Palestinian family to demolish an addition to their **home** in Bayt Hanina on the outskirts of Jerusalem, threatening them with a \$4,500 fine if the IDF were forced to carry out the order; conducts separate synchronized late-night arrest raids, house searches in villages nr. Jenin and Tulkarm; conducts similar late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bil'in, nr. Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** accompanied by **IDF** troops level 5 d. of Palestinian agricultural land s. of Hebron, install 3 mobile homes and an electricity generator to expand the unauthorized settlement outpost of Avigal. (OCHA, PCHR 7/9)

In London, **Mitchell, Barak** meet briefly to exchange details on a possible settlement freeze, steps toward Arab normalization, and Palestinian efforts to improve security. (NYT, WP 7/7; WT 7/8; WJW 7/9; see also NYT 7/4) (see Quarterly Update for details)

7 JULY

Israel says it has taken significant steps to improve West Bank movement and access, including reducing manned IDF checkpoints and improving wait times at checkpoints, especially around Nablus, also noting that Israeli tour buses are now routinely bringing Israeli Palestinians to Nablus to shop. **Palestinians** and the **UN** confirm that restrictions on movement have been eased considerably in Jericho, Nablus, Qalqilya, and Ramallah; but the

UN notes that there are still 68 manned and 545 unmanned barriers to Palestinian travel across the West Bank. Today, in the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts separate synchronized late-night house searches in villages s. and e. of Tulkarm and w. of Jenin, making no arrests; carries out late-night arrest raids in Balata r.c. and nr. Hebron, Safit, Tulkarm. (WT 7/8; OCHA, PCHR 7/9)

8 JULY

Israel allows the Allenby Bridge crossing btwn. the West Bank and Jordan to remain open 24 hrs./day for a 2-mo. trial period "to increase business activity and improve the lives of Palestinians." Late in the evening, the **IDF** stages synchronized house searches in villages southwest of Jenin, making no arrests. (IFM 7/8; PCHR, WP 7/9; JPI 8/7; OCHA, PCHR 7/16)

9 JULY

Israeli police storm the al-Aqsa Mosque compound, detain employee '**Ali Umar al-Abbassi**, and deposit him on the West Bank side of the Hizma checkpoint, stating he does not have valid Jerusalem residency documents. 'Abbassi was born in Jerusalem and has lived with his family nr. the mosque, where he works, for more than 20 yrs. In the West Bank, **unidentified Palestinians** fire on a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Ofra settlement nr. Ramallah, causing no injuries. In response, the **IDF** conducts search operations in several surrounding villages, imposing a 3-hr. curfew on Baytin, arresting 2 Palestinians. (OCHA, PCHR 7/16)

10 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin, injuring 5 Palestinians (1 by live ammunition, 1 by rubber-coated steel bullet, 3 hit with tear gas canisters); **IDF undercover units** monitoring the rally arrest 2 Palestinian teenagers. The **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Israeli activists and stone-throwing Palestinians protesting the **separation wall** in Bil'in, causing no serious injuries;

IDF undercover units monitoring that demonstration arrest 1 Palestinian, 1 Israeli. Late in the evening, the **IDF** searches houses in Jenin town and r.c., making no arrests. (OCHA, PCHR 7/16)

11 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus; late-night house searches nr. Jenin, making no arrests. (OCHA, PCHR 7/16)

12 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches in Jenin town and r.c., making no arrests. (OCHA, PCHR 7/16)

13 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; conducts late-night house searches w. of Jenin, making no arrests. The **IDF** also demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in the Jerusalem environs (Bayt Hanina, Silwan), displacing at least 8 Palestinians; 1 of the owners had paid around \$17,500 toward a \$20,000 fine levied by Israel for building his home without a permit. (OCHA, PCHR 7/16)

14 JULY

The **IDF** sends troops, bulldozers into n. Gaza to level land along the border nr. Bayt Hanun; troops fire toward nearby residential areas to keep Palestinians indoors, causing no injuries. The UN reports that in the previous wk., 4 Palestinians were injured in tunnel collapses on the Rafah border. The **UN Development Program** reports that it has begun a \$12-m. project to remove the nearly 420,000 tons of rubble created by **OCL**. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Nablus. Palestinians report that in the previous wk., **Israeli authorities** removed remains fr. 300 graves at a Muslim cemetery nr. the Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem to make way for construction of Israel's national Tolerance Museum; the remains were reburied in a mass grave

elsewhere. **Jewish settlers** level 18 d. of Palestinian land nr. Yitzhar settlement, in what local residents fear is an attempt to expand the settlement. (OCHA, PCHR 7/16)

A mysterious explosion levels a building in **Lebanon's** Khirbat Slim, 12 mi. fr. the Israeli border, causing no casualties; Lebanese and Hizballah authorities secure the site, barring access to **UNIFIL** soldiers. **Israel** claims the site housed a **Hizballah** arms cache, indicating that Hizballah is rearming in violation of UN Res. 1701 that ended the 2006 Lebanon war. Hizballah claims that the explosion was caused by unexploded IDF cluster munitions left over fr. the war. (NYT 7/16)

15 JULY

The **IDF** sends troops back into n. Gaza to level more land along the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun (see 7/14). In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 19 Bedouin tents and animal pens along the Ramallah-Jericho road belonging to 7 Bedouin families, displacing 50 Palestinians, including 32 children; conducts late-night house searches in Bethlehem (including the home of **Abbas adviser Brig. Kifah Barakat**, stating that he had "overstepped red lines" in Jerusalem, not further explained), Jenin town and r.c., and Tulkarm r.c., making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c. and Nablus, nr. Hebron and Jenin. **Israel** grants **Israeli Palestinians** permission to travel to Nablus by car for the month-long Nablus shopping festival (ends 8/16); they have previously been allowed to enter Nablus on foot only, leaving their cars at IDF checkpoints at the entrance to the city. (PCHR 7/16; OCHA, PCHR 7/23)

16 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** stages synchronized late-night house searches in villages w. of Jenin, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bil'in. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli authorities** raid the Nidal Center for Community Development, closing it until 8/11/09 for "supporting terror activities" (not further explained); break up a press conference held by al-Hamra Castle hotel, attended by several PA officials, to open an art exhibit celebrating the Arab League's designation

of Jerusalem as the Arab cultural capital of 2009, stating the event constitutes illegal Palestinian political activity in the city (see 7/5). (OCHA, PCHR 7/23)

17 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** declares 300 d. of Palestinian agricultural land e. of Carmiel settlement nr. Hebron a closed military zone; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas, and a foul-smelling spray called "skunk" (not used by the IDF for many mos.; see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 149) at stone-throwing Palestinians protesting the **separation wall** in Bil'in, causing no major injuries; fires tear gas at Palestinian and international activists taking part in a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in al-Ma'sara, violently beating 3 Palestinian demonstrators (including a 14-yr.-old boy); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bil'in, nr. Hebron. (OCHA, CHR 7/23)

18 JULY

The **IDF** forces a Palestinian family to demolish their **home** in Sur Bahir on the outskirts of Jerusalem (displacing 9 persons), threatening them with a heavy fine if the IDF were to implement the demolition order; 4 yrs. ago, the family paid the Jerusalem municipality a \$25,000 fine for the unlicensed building. The **IDF** also fires tear gas, stun grenades at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists staging a nonviolent protest in Wadi Abu al-Rish against the confiscation of local Palestinian land for the expansion of Bet Ayn settlement; IDF troops violently beat 5 Israeli demonstrators, detain 9 others. (OCHA, PCHR 7/23)

Lebanese villagers in Khirbat Slim, site of a 7/14 explosion of a suspected Hizballah arms cache, stone and beat **UNIFIL troops** who attempt to investigate the 7/14 incident, lightly injuring 14 soldiers; the patrol fires in the air to disperse the villagers, causing no injuries, but marking the most serious confrontation btwn. UNIFIL and local Shi'i residents loyal to Hizballah since the 2006 war. (WT 7/19)

19 JULY

For unclear reasons, **IDF troops** make a brief incursion into the outskirts of Gaza

City in the afternoon, shooting and arresting a **Palestinian man**, Ahmad Zuhayr al-Samari (described by Palestinians as mentally unstable), taking him to an Israeli hospital where he is pronounced dead. **Jewish settlers** fr. Bet Ayn vandalize and open fire on Palestinian homes in nearby Khirbat Safa, causing no injuries; **IDF troops** observe but do not intervene. (OCHA, PCHR 7/23)

20 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Tulkarm. The **IDF** also demolishes several structures in 3 small unauthorized settlement outposts. In response, more than **30 Jewish settlers**, some on horseback, rampage through Palestinian areas nr. Nablus, setting fire to fields and olive groves, stoning Palestinian cars, injuring 2 Palestinians. **Jewish settlers** also respond to the IDF demolitions by stoning Palestinian vehicles traveling the Bethlehem-Hebron road; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (WT 7/21; OCHA, PCHR 7/23)

21 JULY

IDF troops briefly enter s. Gaza to bulldoze land along the border fence e. of Abasan, firing on nearby residential areas, wounding 1 Palestinian. **Israeli naval vessels** detain a Palestinian fishing boat off the Bayt Lahiya coast, interrogating and releasing the fishermen. The UN reports that **2 Palestinians** were killed and 6 were injured in tunnel collapses on the Rafah border in the previous wk.; in addition, the body of a **Palestinian** missing since 7/1 has been found in a collapsed smuggling tunnel. In the West Bank, **IDF undercover units** enter Yatta village in a vehicle with Palestinian license plates, raid an auto mechanics shop, arresting 1 Palestinian. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and neighboring 'Askar r.c., and nr. Hebron, Jenin. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar cut down 24 Palestinian olive trees in nearby Burin village. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gilad settlement stone Palestinian cars on the Qalqilya-Nablus road. In Khan Yunis, a **bomb** explodes at the wedding of a **fmr. Fatah-affiliated PA security officer**, injuring

42 Palestinians; no group claims responsibility. (OCHA, PCHR 7/23)

22 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c. and in Tulkarm, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-'Arub r.c. and nr. Hebron. **Hamas police** besiege a building in Khan Yunis, seeking 4 **SCG** mbrs. (see 6/8); the wanted men surrender without incident 4 hrs. later, after the intervention of local clerics. (Associated Press 7/22; PCHR 7/23; OCHA, PCHR 7/30)

23 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Askar r.c. and Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar vandalize nearby Palestinian homes; the **IDF** intervenes to fire tear gas to disperse Palestinians who gather to defend their homes, also severely beating a 10-yr.-old Palestinian boy. **Israeli developers** report that the first occupants have moved into the new, upscale **East Jerusalem settlement** Nof Zion, which straddles the Palestinian neighborhood of Jabal Mukabir. The settlement has 91 units, selling for \$400,000 to \$580,000, a bloc of which has been sold to a group of American Jews fr. Miami. (WJW 7/23; OCHA, PCHR 7/30)

24 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas, and skunk at stone-throwing Palestinians demonstrating against the **separation wall** in Bil'in, causing no serious injuries; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin, injuring 3 Palestinians (2 with head injuries fr. high-velocity tear gas canisters); conducts late-night house searches s. of Jenin, making no arrests. **Jewish settlers** escorted by **IDF** troops begin to fence off a 40 d. plot of Palestinian land in Burin village s. of Nablus for a new settlement outpost; **Israeli police** remove the settlers and instruct Palestinians to file proof of ownership of the

land with Israeli military liaison officers. (OCHA, PCHR 7/30)

25 JULY

No **Israeli-Palestinian violence** is reported in the West Bank or Gaza. (PCHR 7/30)

26 JULY

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of Bayt Lahiya, forcing them to return to shore; 2 hrs. later the navy posts warning signs 500-1,000 m fr. shore warning fishing boats not to sail beyond that point, firing warning shots at boats that pass the line throughout the day. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a rare midday incursion into Silat al-Dahir s. of Jenin, searching homes and arresting 1 Palestinian; conducts late-night house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., making no arrests; stages late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** escorted by **IDF troops** seize a plot of land and a Palestinian home in Shaykh Jarrah in East Jerusalem (the Farhan-Hijazi properties), evicting a Palestinian family and beginning construction on the property; settlers have tried for years to seize the property, resulting in an Israeli court ruling in 2003 that the Palestinian family could remain in the home until the judiciary reached a final verdict, which it has not yet done; the Palestinian family immediately petitions the court to order the settlers to leave. The UN notes that in the previous wk., **Palestinian residents** of an area of Bayt Yatir village btwn. the separation wall and the Green Line nr. Hebron that the IDF declared a closed military zone in 1/09 have had their "permanent resident" permits required to access the area revoked by the **IDF** and replaced with "worker" permits, raising concerns that Israel intends eventually to evict them. (OCHA, PCHR 7/30; OCHA 8/18)

U.S. envoy **Mitchell** stops in Damascus to meet with Syrian pres. **al-Asad**, then heads to Israel for a 3-day visit to meet with PM **Netanyahu** and DM **Barak**, pressing both sides for the revival of the Israeli-Syrian track toward a comprehensive Israeli-Arab peace. Mitchell will also touch base with **Abbas** in Ramallah. (NYT

7/26; WP 7/27) (see Quarterly Update for details)

27 JULY

Israel allows limited diesel and gasoline for personal vehicles into Gaza for the 1st time since 11/2/08. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night searches of homes and shops in Barta'a village w. of Jenin, arresting at least 200 nonresident Palestinian laborers who are staying in the village because it affords shorter commutes to jobs inside Israel; stages late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin and in Balata r.c., al-Fara'a r.c. nr. Tubas. The **IDF** also removes 3 mobile homes fr. a new unauthorized settlement outpost named Inbalim nr. Ma'ale Mikhmas settlement nr. Hebron; settlers scuffle with Israeli border police at the site, injuring 2. An **Israeli court** rules that the **Jewish settlers** that occupied the Farhan-Hijazi properties in Shaykh Jarrah on 7/26 must halt construction on the site until the court reaches a final verdict on ownership; settlers ignore the ruling and keep building. Meanwhile, **Jewish settlers** storm and occupy another Palestinian home in Shaykh Jarrah (the Abu Diyab property), throwing stones at neighboring Palestinian homes fr. the roof before eventually leaving. (OCHA, PCHR 7/30; OCHA 8/18)

U.S. defense secy. Robert Gates begins a 2-day visit to **Israel** to meet with PM **Netanyahu**, DM **Barak**, other Israeli officials regarding bilateral defense concerns, highest among them Iran. In the afternoon, Gates goes to Amman to meet with **King Abdallah of Jordan**. (NYT 7/26; WP 7/27; WP, WT 7/28) (see Quarterly Update for details)

28 JULY

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into Gaza e. of Gaza City to level land nr. the border fence. The UN reports that **9 Palestinians** were killed and 16 injured in tunnel collapses in the previous wk. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** evicted fr. Inbalim on 7/27 set up 3 new mobile homes in Givat Egoz outpost nr. Talmon settlement, also nr. Ramallah. An **Israeli court** reverses its 7/27 temporary injunction on construction

at the Farhan-Hijazi properties in Shaykh Jarrah, ruling that **Jewish settlers** may keep building and living on the site until the next court session to discuss the case on 9/23/09. Meanwhile, **Israeli police** raid 2 other Palestinian homes in Shaykh Jarrah (the Ghawi and Hanun properties) where ownership is contested by Jewish groups, ordering residents to vacate the homes by 8/10/09 or face expulsion; settlers attempt to occupy the Hanun home but are fended off by the family; both families immediately file an appeal to the Israeli High Court. Timed with Mitchell's visit (see 7/26), **Jewish settlers**, as a protest message to Obama, set up **11 new unauthorized settlement outposts**, symbolizing the 11 settlements established by Zionists in the Negev in 1946 in defiance of British prohibition. The settlers hold a press conference inaugurating the new outposts in Neria settlement, established in 1991 to protest a visit by Secy. of State James Baker who was then pressuring Israel to halt settlement construction. (NYT 7/29; OCHA, PCHR 7/30; OCHA 8/18)

U.S. NSA **Jones** and his **chief Middle East adviser Dennis Ross** begin a 3-day trip to **Israel**, with talks focused on Iran. (WP 7/27; NYT 7/29) (see Quarterly Update for details)

29 JULY

Israel approves the import to Gaza of cement and steel for 3 construction projects, including a flour mill. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Ramallah and al-Bireh at midday; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and in Balata r.c., Nablus. In Jerusalem, the **IDF** escorts some **200 Jewish settlers** into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound to hold prayers marking the anniversary of the destruction of the Jewish temple. The **IDF Central Command** issues an order establishing a separate military court for the prosecution of Palestinian children under the age of 16 living in the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem), appointing separate juvenile court judges and requiring youths' trials be held in separate rooms fr. (or at different times than) trials of adults. (NYT, PCHR 7/30; OCHA, PCHR 8/6)

The **Israeli government** releases its comprehensive investigative report into its conduct during **OCL**, concluding that "incessant" Hamas rocket fire into Israel

forced Israel to act and denying any war crimes, though admitting that around a dozen criminal investigations of soldiers' conduct are underway. (IFM 7/30; NYT 7/31) (see Doc. C4)

30 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (OCHA, PCHR 8/6)

31 JULY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas, skunk at stone-throwing Palestinians protesting the **separation wall** in Bil'in; fires stun grenades at Palestinian and international activists taking part in a nonviolent demonstration against the **separation wall** in al-Ma'sara, severely beating 3 international activists and a Palestinian journalist covering the event; conducts synchronized late-night house searches in and n. of Tulkarm, making no arrests; stages other late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Ramallah, Salfit. **Jewish settlers** set up tents on a plot of Palestinian land in Kafr Qaddum village nr. Qalqilya establishing a new unauthorized outpost; settlers tried to occupy the site previously, but the Palestinian owner, who recently died, had won a court ruling evicting them. **Jewish settlers** fr. Harsina and Kiryat Arba settlements occupy a plot of Palestinian land nr. Hebron, erect a tent, and plant trees in an effort to establish a new unauthorized outpost. **Jewish settlers** fr. Karne Tzur nr. Hebron bulldoze large tracks of Palestinian agricultural land and uproot trees nearby to expand the settlement. (OCHA, PCHR 8/6)

1 AUGUST

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Tulkarm, making only 1 arrest. **Jewish settlers** fr. Beit Hadasah in Hebron, wielding sticks and sharp tools, severely beat a Palestinian man who passes by the settlement. **Jewish settlers** fr. Avraham Avino settlement in Hebron destroy water tanks on the roof of a Palestinian home. (OCHA, PCHR 8/6)

2 AUGUST

In the West Bank, the **IDF** opens a major road fr. Hebron to Bayt 'Awwa that passes by Kiryat Arba settlement to Palestinian traffic for the 1st time in 8 yrs. after the High Court rules that closing the road is not necessary to protect the safety of local Jewish settlers; however, 2 road blocks at either end of the road are replaced with permanently staffed IDF checkpoints, and Palestinians wishing to use the road must apply for special IDF permits (as of 8/31 only 22 vehicles and 44 drivers were on the list). The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem and in 'Askar r.c., Balata r.c., and Bil'in. **Israeli police** carry out a pre-dawn eviction of 2 Palestinian families (52 people, including 20 children) fr. the Ghawi and Hanun residences in Shaykh Jarrah (see 7/28), where they have lived for more than 50 yrs., after the High Court rules that the Jewish settlers who claim ownership can move in even while the authenticity of their deeds remains disputed; **Jewish settlers** move in immediately; Britain, the U.S. State Dept., and UN special coordinator for the Middle East Robert Serry issue statements denouncing the action, which in Serry's words, "heighten[s] tensions and undermine[s] international efforts to create conditions for . . . achiev[ing] peace." **Jewish settlers** fr. Harsina settlement nr. Hebron set fire to 10 d. of Palestinian agricultural land nearby in an effort to create territorial linkage btwn. the settlement and a 200 d. plot of land nearby fenced off by the IDF as a closed military zone. (NYT, WP, WT 8/3; OCHA, PCHR, WJW 8/6; OCHA 8/18; OCHA Humanitarian Monitor 8/09)

3 AUGUST

Israel allows 2,597 Palestinians to transit through the Rafah crossing (870 going into Egypt, 1,727 returning to Gaza). In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Sa'ir village nr. Hebron in the evening; conducts late-night house searches in Dura nr. Hebron, making no arrests. The **Knesset** passes (61-45) an Israel Land Administration Law allowing for the privatization of 93% of land inside Israel controlled by the Israeli government, including "state land" and land claimed by Palestinian refugees and held by Israel's Custodian of Absentee Property (see Doc. C2 and Quarterly

Update for details). (Adalah 8/3; JTA 8/5; OCHA, PCHR 8/6; PCHR 8/13)

4 AUGUST

Israel allows 2,631 Palestinians to transit through the Rafah crossing (880 going into Egypt, 1,751 returning to Gaza). The UN reports that in the preceding wk., 2 Gazan boys (ages 8, 10) in al-Bureij r.c. were injured by **UXO** fr. **OCL**; **4 Palestinians** were killed, 5 injured in tunnel collapses along the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches in villages s. of Jenin, making no arrests; stages late-night arrest raids, house searches in Fasayil village n. of Jericho. A **Hamas-affiliated PA prisoner** dies in a Jordanian hospital, where he was transferred by the PASF on 6/30 with severe injuries apparently resulting fr. torture. (OCHA, PCHR 8/6, 8/13)

In Bethlehem, 2,325 delegates fr. the West Bank and 80 countries around the world open **Fatah's** 6th General Conference in Bethlehem to vote on a new party platform and hold elections for party institutions for the 1st time in 20 yrs. (MM, *al-Sharq al-Awsat* 8/4; *al-Ayyam*, MM, MNA, NYT, WP 8/5; MNA 8/8; JPI 8/14) (see Doc. B3 and Quarterly Update for details)

5 AUGUST

Israel allows 1,434 Palestinians to transit through the Rafah crossing (978 going into Egypt, 456 returning to Gaza). In the evening, **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Bayt Lahiya coast, forcing them back to shore. (PCHR 8/6; OCHA, PCHR 8/13)

6 AUGUST

Israel allows 636 Palestinians to transit through the Rafah crossing (618 going into Egypt, 18 returning to Gaza). **Israeli naval vessels** halt and confiscate 2 Palestinian fishing boats operating 600 m off the Rafah coast, taking the fishermen to Ashdod port and returning them to Gaza after interrogation. **IDF** troops make a brief incursion into Gaza nr. Qarni crossing to level at least 60 d. of crops obscuring soldiers' lines of sight into the Strip. In the West Bank, the **IDF** imposes a curfew on Kafr Haris nr. Salfit, patrols streets for

several hrs. before escorting 10s of **Jewish settlers** into the village to visit historic tombs; they all depart late in the evening. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. In East Jerusalem, the **IDF** forces a Palestinian family to demolish their **home** in the Wadi al-Juz neighborhood, threatening to levy a \$2,500 fine if the IDF were to carry out the demolition. (OCHA, PCHR 8/13)

7 AUGUST

Israel allows 973 Palestinians to transit through the Rafah crossing (881 going into Egypt, 92 returning to Gaza). In the West Bank, **IDF troops** catch a Palestinian man attempting to scale the **separation wall** in al-Ram to gain access to Jerusalem to find work; they force the man to stand on top of the wall and jump to the ground, causing him to fracture both legs; they then order him to crawl to a military jeep where they handcuff him before giving him medical attention. The **IDF** also fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas, and skunk at stone-throwing Palestinians protesting the **separation wall** in Bil'in; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian and international activists demonstrating against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin, causing no serious injuries; fire stun grenades and tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists nr. Nablus protesting the IDF's bulldozing of large areas of Palestinian land for the expansion of Brakha settlement. (OCHA, PCHR 8/13)

8 AUGUST

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts evening and late-night arrest raids and house searches nr. Hebron and Jenin. (OCHA, PCHR 8/13)

Abbas, running unopposed, is reelected head of **Fatah** by a majority in a voice vote (65 oppose). Observers report (WT 8/9) that "five stormy days of infighting . . . only highlighted how the U.S.-backed party remains fractured." (NYT, WP, WT 8/9) (see Quarterly Update for details)

9 AUGUST

Palestinians fire 2 **mortars** at the IDF position at the Erez crossing, causing no

damage or injuries. The **IDF** responds late in the evening with 2 air strikes (the 1st since 6/13/09) on a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border, causing no injuries. During the day, **IDF** troops make a brief incursion into central Gaza nr. al-Maghazi r.c. to level land along the border fence. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c. and nr. Hebron, Qalqilya, Salfit. **Jewish settlers** in Hebron beat a Palestinian man. (WP 8/10; OCHA, PCHR, WJW 8/13)

10 AUGUST

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into n. Gaza to bulldoze land along the border fence nr. Bayt Hanun. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized late-night house searches in Jenin town, r.c., and nearby Qabatya, making no arrests. Later at night, the **IDF** stages arrest raids and house searches in Barta'a village nr. Jenin. Armed **Jewish settlers** fr. Suissa settlement nr. Hebron beat a Palestinian shepherd grazing her flock nearby and attempt to steal her sheep; another Palestinian intervenes and is also beaten, but the settlers leave without the sheep. Around 10 **Jewish settlers** ambush a Palestinian car driving on the Ramallah-Nablus road, smash its front window, injuring the driver, who is given medical attention by the IDF. A **Hamas-affiliated PA prisoner** dies in custody in Nablus; the PASF claims the man committed suicide, but the family and human rights organizations demand an independent investigation. (OCHA, PCHR 8/13)

11 AUGUST

The UN reports that 1 **Palestinian** was killed in a tunnel collapse on the Rafah border during the preceding wk. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a late-night incursion into Bayt Dajan nr. Nablus, occupying a home as an observation post; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in villages w. of Jenin. In Jerusalem, **Israeli police** escort **Jewish settlers** into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound to pray. (PCHR 8/13)

12 AUGUST

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches

nr. Hebron, Qalqilya, Salfit. (PCHR 8/13; OCHA, PCHR 8/20)

13 AUGUST

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus, Ramallah. (OCHA, PCHR 8/20)

Human Rights Watch issues a report concluding that during **OCL**, the **IDF** fired on at least 7 groups of civilians carrying white flags, killing 11. (WP 8/14)

14 AUGUST

Israeli naval boats fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast to force them back to shore, seriously wounding a 12-yr.-old Palestinian boy on the beach with a gunshot to the head. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, stun grenades, skunk at stone-throwing Palestinians protesting the **separation wall** in Bil'in; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, percussion grenades at Palestinian and international activists holding nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in al-Ma'sara and Ni'lin, causing no major injuries; conducts late-night house searches in and around Jenin, making no arrests. In Rafah, **Hamas police** and **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades (IQB) mbrs.** attempt to arrest **SCG leader Shaykh 'Abd al-Latif Musa,**

surrounding his mosque during Friday prayers, sparking a 7-hr. battle that leaves **24 Palestinians dead** (12 SCG, 6 Hamas, 6 bystanders), 130 injured (including a boy inside Egyptian Rafah), and 95 SCG supporters under arrest (see Quarterly Update for details). The dead include **Shaykh Musa**, who reportedly commits suicide by detonating an explosives belt, killing **s. Gaza IQB cmdr. Muhammad Jibril Shamali**, who led the raid. (Agence France-Presse 8/14; MNA, NYT, WP, WT 8/16; *Jerusalem Post*, OCHA, PCHR 8/20)

15 AUGUST

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts simultaneous late-night house searches in 2 villages n. of Ramallah, summoning 2 Palestinians for interrogation. Palestinians and international activists attempt to harvest Palestinian crop land declared a closed military zone in what might be a bid to expand Bet Ayn settlement; **IDF** soldiers fire tear gas, stun grenades, and beat some of the protesters, moderately injuring 1 foreign activist and arresting 2. In a similar incident nr. Hebron, Palestinian and international activists attempt to reach land nr. Karme Tzur that settlers attempted to seize on 7/31; the **IDF** chases them off, declaring the area a closed military zone and arresting 2 foreign activists. (OCHA, PCHR 8/20)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

HA	(<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
IFM	(Israeli Foreign Ministry, Jerusalem)
JPI	(<i>Jerusalem Post International Edition</i> , Jerusalem)
JTA	(Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet])
MM	(<i>Mideast Mirror</i> , London)
MNA	(Ma'an News Agency, Bethlehem)
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])
WJW	(<i>Washington Jewish Week</i> , Rockville, MD)
WP	(<i>Washington Post</i> , Washington)
WT	(<i>Washington Times</i> , Washington)