



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS
JOURNALS + DIGITAL PUBLISHING



Chronology: 16 February—15 May 2010

Source: *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 39, No. 4 (Summer 2010), pp. 185-205

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.4.185>

Accessed: 27/02/2015 11:50

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 FEBRUARY–15 MAY 2010

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

This section is part 106 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 FEBRUARY

As the quarter opens, **Israel's** siege of Gaza continues, with Israel barring all exports, all but limited humanitarian imports, and most cross-border transit by individuals (with very limited exceptions for extreme medical cases, VIPs, and international NGO workers). The **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** enforces a 300-meter-deep no-go zone along the full length of the Gaza border and limits the Palestinian fishing zone off Gaza to 500–1,000 m off the immediate Bayt Lahiya and Rafah coasts, and 3 nautical miles elsewhere. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, nr. Tubas. (PCHR 2/18)

17 FEBRUARY

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire on Palestinians scavenging building materials fr. destroyed buildings n. of Bayt Lahiya, forcing them to flee but causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a livestock pen nr. Kiryat Arba settlement after the settlers filed a petition with the **IDF** asking for it to be removed; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Am'ari refugee camp (r.c.) nr. al-Bireh and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Nablus. (PCHR 2/18, 2/24; OCHA 2/25)

18 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** makes a day-long incursion into c. Gaza to level land inside the no-go zone e. of al-Maghazi and al-Musaddar, demolishing 3 **Palestinian homes**

(displacing 13 residents), leveling 17 dunams (d.; 4 d. = 1 acre) of agricultural land, exchanging gunfire with armed Palestinians throughout the day (no injuries reported). In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Bayt Sira village w. of Ramallah in the evening, firing rubber-coated steel bullets at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no injuries; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Ramallah. (OCHA 2/18; PCHR 2/24; OCHA 2/25)

19 FEBRUARY

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists (including **Palestinian Authority [PA] PM Salam Fayyad, PA communications advisor Sabri Saydam, Fatah Central Comm. mbr. Nabil Shaath, PLO Exec. Comm. mbr. Taysir Khalid, Palestinian National Initiative party head Mustafa Barghouti, and the mayor of Geneva**), some of whom throw stones at **IDF** troops, taking part in a nonviolent march to the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian and international activists, some of whom throw stones at **IDF** troops, taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, stun grenades at Palestinians staging a nonviolent march to land located between Dayr Nizam and al-Nabi Salih recently confiscated for the expansion of Halamish

Journal of Palestine Studies Vol. XXXIX, No. 4 (Summer 2010), pp. 185–205, 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.4.185.

settlement (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); conducts late-night patrols in Rumana village w. of Jenin. **Hamas** accuses **Fatah** of links to the 1/20/10 assassination of **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades founder Mahmud al-Mabhuh**, saying that 2 Palestinian suspects in custody in Dubai in connection with the assassination, Anwar Shhaybar and Ahmad Hassanayn, were former Fatah security officers and current employees of a senior Fatah official. Fatah denies the accusation. (NYT 2/20; PCHR 2/24; OCHA 2/25)

20 FEBRUARY

In Gaza, **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border e. of al-Qarara exchange cross-border fire with **armed Palestinians**, causing no reported injuries; **Israeli naval vessels** then shell the area, injuring 3 armed Palestinians, damaging a mosque. **IDF** troops in observation towers on the Gaza border e. of Jabaliya fire on Palestinian farmers working land 400 m fr. the border (outside Israel's no-go zone), forcing them to leave. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. Late in the evening, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire at Palestinian homes in Bayt Hanun for 40 mins., causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** opens fire on a Palestinian vehicle driving nr. Husan village w. of Bethlehem, wounding 3 Palestinians (ages 17–21), claiming they fired on an IDF patrol; fires tear gas, stun grenades at Palestinians attempting to reach their agricultural land inside a closed military zone nr. Hebron, injuring an 8-yr.-old Palestinian boy; raids and seals (until 2/28) 2 Palestinian organizations in Sur Bahir nr. Jerusalem; imposes a late-night curfew on, conducts house searches in al-Zubaydat village nr. Jericho. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba settlement in Hebron throw stones and bottles at Palestinian houses in nearby Wadi Husayn, injuring a 7-yr.-old Palestinian boy. **Jewish settlers** fr. Shilo settlement n. of Ramallah seize 10 d. of Palestinian agricultural land to expand their settlement. (PCHR 2/24; OCHA 2/25)

21 FEBRUARY

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire on Palestinians scavenging construction

material from destroyed buildings 400 m fr. the border, forcing them to flee; no injuries are reported. Shortly after, the same **IDF** unit shells the area where the Palestinians had been scavenging as well as a Palestinian home in Bayt Lahiya, causing damage but no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Bayt Rima nr. Ramallah during the day; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. Some **50 Jewish settlers** break into the ancient Na'aran synagogue in Palestinian-controlled area A in Jericho to hold religious services, declaring their hopes of "renewing Jewish settlement in Jericho" (see Quarterly Update for details); the **IDF** removes the settlers, arresting at least 35. **Jewish settlers** escorted by **IDF** troops enter Kafr Haris village n. of Salfit to perform Jewish prayers at monuments in the village. (HA 2/22; PCHR 2/24; OCHA 2/25)

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu adds 2 key West Bank Jewish shrines, the Tomb of the Patriarchs (known as al-Ibrahimi Mosque to Palestinians) in the center of Hebron and Rachel's Tomb just inside Bethlehem, to Israel's national heritage sites, allocating \$1 m. for their maintenance and repair as part of a \$100 m. project to refurbish and link 150 national heritage sites, creating a "historical biblical trail [to] educate the next generation about Jewish and Zionist history." The **PA** condemns the action. (IFM 2/21; PCHR, WT 2/22; NYT 2/23; JPI 3/4) (see Quarterly Update for details)

22 FEBRUARY

Palestinians protesting Netanyahu's 2/21 decision to add sites in Bethlehem and Hebron to Israel's national heritage roster clash with **IDF** troop in Hebron; no serious injuries are reported. **IDF** troops conduct late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Fara'a r.c. s. of Tubas and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah. In Gaza, the **IDF** makes a day-long incursion to level land along the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Lahiya to clear lines of sight. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablus uproot 45 Palestinian olive trees in nearby Burin village; the **IDF** imposes a curfew on the village while the settlers work. Palestinians report (PCHR 2/24) that in the previous wk. **Israel's Jerusalem planning comm.** convened to discuss a plan to build 549

settlement housing units on 153 d. of Bayt Safafa land s. of Jerusalem as part of a 4-stage settlement expansion plan, though no decisions were taken; the plan (several parts of which were approved before Netanyahu declared a temporary settlement freeze in 11/09; see Quarterly Update for background) is aimed at reinforcing the separation of Jerusalem from the s. West Bank. (NYT, WT 2/23; PCHR 2/24; OCHA 2/25)

23 FEBRUARY

In the West Bank, low-level clashes between **Palestinian protesters** and the **IDF** continue in Hebron for a 2d day, with no serious injuries reported. The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm. The UN reports that in the previous wk., the **IDF** demolished 1 Palestinian **home** nr. Hebron; **1 Palestinian** died of electrocution in a smuggling tunnel nr. the Rafah border. (PCHR 2/24; OCHA 2/25; NYT 2/26; PCHR 3/4)

24 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion 700 m into the al-Fukhari area of s. Gaza to level 60 d. of agricultural land. In the West Bank, low-level clashes between **Palestinian protesters** and the **IDF** continue in Hebron for a 3d day, with no serious injuries reported. The **IDF** demolishes 6 wells w. of Jenin that provide water to 47 greenhouses and 456 d. of agricultural land; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Ramallah. (NYT 2/26; OCHA, PCHR 3/4)

25 FEBRUARY

IDF troops on the Gaza border n. of Bayt Lahiya fire on Palestinians scavenging bricks, iron bars from demolished buildings nearby, forcing them to flee; no injuries are reported. Late at night, the **IDF** moves 200 m in to s. Gaza nr. the destroyed Dahaniyya airport site, exchanging fire with armed Palestinians, severely wounding 1. In the West Bank, low-level clashes between Palestinian protesters and the **IDF** continue in Hebron for a 4th day, with no serious injuries reported. (NYT 2/26; OCHA, PCHR 3/4)

26 FEBRUARY

The **IDF** imposes a general closure on the West Bank through 3/1 for the Purim holiday. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists, some of whom throw stones at **IDF** troops, taking part in a non-violent march to the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian and international activists, some of whom throw stones at **IDF** troops, taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, stun grenades at Palestinians fr. al-Nabi Salih staging a nonviolent march to protest land confiscations (injuring 3); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, stun grenades at Palestinians attempting to plant on s. Asira village land s. of Nablus slated for confiscation by the **IDF** for settlement expansion (10s suffer tear gas inhalation). (OCHA, PCHR 3/4)

27 FEBRUARY

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Lahiya shoot, wound, detain 1 unarmed Palestinian man attempting to sneak into Israel to find work; they return him to Gaza in an ambulance through the Erez crossing later in the day. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin. (OCHA, PCHR 3/4)

28 FEBRUARY

IDF troops make an incursion 500 m into Gaza nr. Wadi al-Silqa village to level 9 d. of agricultural land. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Am'ari r.c., Jenin. In Jerusalem, **Israeli security forces** seal entrances of Jerusalem's Old City to Palestinians, deploy 200 security officers inside the al-Aqsa Mosque compound (locking the doors of the mosque and corralling Palestinian worshipers), escort 500 Jewish settlers to pray at the site for Purim; when some **20 masked Palestinians** inside the compound stone tourists below the wall, **Israeli riot police** fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, stun grenades at the Palestinians in the compound, injuring 6; Israeli

police escort settlers away around noon, but small clashes continue in alleyways around the mosque, leaving 10s more Palestinians and 4 Israeli police lightly injured and at least 7 Palestinians under arrest. Israel's **Jerusalem district court** orders Palestinian resident of Jerusalem Mansur Abu Gharbiyya expelled for 2 yrs. for "participating in public activities" (not further specified). (NYT, WT 3/1; OCHA, PCHR 3/4)

1 MARCH

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire 2 artillery shells at open areas nr. al-Nada housing project, causing no damage or injuries. Later, **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Lahiya fire 4 flechette rounds at armed Palestinians operating 700 m fr. the border, killing **1 armed Palestinian**, wounding 1. **IDF** troops at the Erez crossing fire into Gaza at Palestinians demonstrating against Israel's imposition of a 300-m no-go zone along the length of the Gaza border, causing no injuries. **Hamas authorities** in Gaza extend for 15 days the detention of **British journalist Paul Martin**, detained (2/14) on suspicion of security offenses based on his testimony in a trial in Gaza on behalf of a Palestinian accused of collaboration with Israel. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jericho. **PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas** holds his weekly cabinet session in Hebron instead of Ramallah to protest Israel's decision to include the Tomb of the Patriarchs/al-Ibrahimi Mosque (located in Hebron) and Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem as Israeli national heritage sites, calling the move contrary to international law. (NYT 3/2; OCHA, PCHR 3/4)

2 MARCH

Israeli mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat unveils a plan to demolish 10s of Palestinian homes built without permits in al-Bustan in the Silwan area of East Jerusalem to make way for a tourist center (offering the Palestinians new apartments over retail space to be constructed, which they reject) but delays the plan at the last minute at the request of PM **Netanyahu**, who tells Barkat to continue efforts to negotiate an amicable deal with Palestinian residents.

In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends troops covered by helicopters into several villages w. of Jenin in search of **2 Islamic Jihad** mbrs., surrounding and searching relatives' homes, making no arrests; resumes work on a segment of the **separation wall** in Bayt Jala nr. Bethlehem (suspended for 3 yrs.) where 300 d. of agricultural land and 2,000 olive trees are slated to be razed; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm, nr. Ramallah. (WT 3/3; OCHA, PCHR 3/4; JPI 3/19)

3 MARCH

After the **Arab League** endorses the idea of indirect Israeli-Palestinian peace talks for a 4-mo. preliminary period, **U.S. special envoy George Mitchell** announces that he will head back to the region in several days to secure the formal agreement of Israel and the Palestinians to relaunch peace talks, suspended since Israel launched Operation Cast Lead (OCL) against Gaza in 12/08. (NYT, WP, WT 3/4)

IDF troops make a brief incursion 500 m into n. Gaza nr. Bayt Lahiya to level land to clear lines of sight. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a late-night incursion into Beitunia w. of Ramallah, patrolling streets and firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no reported injuries; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., nr. Bethlehem and Ramallah. The **IDF** reports that it called off a raid on a West Bank village after a soldier posted the time and place of the planned operation on Facebook; the soldier was court-martialed and sentenced to 10 days in prison. (PCHR, WT 3/4; OCHA, PCHR 3/11)

4 MARCH

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Hanun fire on Palestinian residential areas 800 m inside the Strip, causing no injuries. Late at night, **Israeli naval vessels** intercept a Palestinian fishing boat off the Rafah coast, detaining 3 fishermen (they are released on 3/5 after questioning). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin. Gaza's **Hamas**-run government bans male hairstylists fr. working in women's beauty salons; analysts (e.g., WT 3/5) view

it as evidence that Hamas is coming under increasing pressure from radical Islamist groups to prove its Muslim credentials. (WP, WT 3/5; OCHA, PCHR 3/11)

5 MARCH

IDF troops stationed on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing into Gaza fire on Palestinians scavenging bricks from demolished buildings inside the former Erez industrial zone forcing them to flee, causing no injuries. **Palestinians** hold protests across the West Bank and East Jerusalem after Friday prayers to denounce Israel's decision to include West Bank holy sites on Israel's national heritage register; clashes with the **IDF** (which include the IDF storming the al-Aqsa Mosque compound, firing tear gas and stun grenades to disperse worshippers) leave 2 Palestinians seriously injured (1 at the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount; the other in al-Nabi Salih), and 50 Palestinians and 15 Israeli riot police lightly injured. The **IDF** also fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists, some of whom throw stones at IDF troops, taking part in a nonviolent march to the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian and international activists, some of whom throw stones at IDF troops, taking part in protests against the **separation wall** in Ni'lin (3 Palestinians are injured, including an 11-yr.-old child); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, stun grenades at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists staging a nonviolent protest against settlement expansion nr. Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih (injuring 6); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. In Gaza, **4,000 Palestinians** attend a **Hamas** rally calling on the **PA** to "unleash the resistance" over the holy sites controversy. (NYT, WP 3/6; OCHA, PCHR 3/11)

6 MARCH

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Aqabat Jabir r.c., nr. Jericho and Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Brakha nr. Nablus, escorted by **IDF** troops, attempt to enter nearby Iraq Burin village; IDF troops fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at

stone-throwing Palestinians who attempt to block them, injuring 4. (OCHA, PCHR 3/11)

7 MARCH

In light of the 3/3 Arab League endorsement, the **PLO Exec. Comm.** gives its blessing for **Abbas** to open indirect talks with **Israel** mediated by the **U.S.**, but warns that it would not endorse continuing the talks past 4 mos. unless at least the outlines of a border agreement were achieved and would not agree to a start to direct talks until Israel imposed a comprehensive settlement freeze, including East Jerusalem. **Israel** accepted indirect talks last wk. (NYT, WP, WT 3/8)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian and international activists who stage a nonviolent march outside Bayt Jala and attempt to plant trees on land slated for confiscation for the **separation wall**, injuring 5 Palestinians (including 3 journalists); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Anata r.c. nr. Jerusalem, Hebron. (OCHA, PCHR 3/11)

8 MARCH

U.S. VP Joe Biden begins a 4-day trip aimed at boosting the peace process and reassuring Israel on Iran, marking the highest level visit to the region to date by an Obama admin. official. Timed with his arrival, special envoy **Mitchell** formally announces that Israel and the Palestinians have agreed to hold indirect talks, while stating that the structure and scope of the talks has not been agreed. (To date, **Israel** has insisted that proximity talks deal only with procedural issues, while Palestinians want all issues, especially borders, discussed.) He also calls on both sides "to refrain from any statements or actions which may inflame tensions or prejudice the outcome of these talks." While **Mitchell** is meeting with **Abbas** in Ramallah, however, **Israel** announces construction of 112 new settlement housing units in the West Bank settlement of Beitar Ilit w. of Bethlehem, part of a planned 300-unit project (the foundations for the other units had already been poured when the 10-mo. construction freeze went into effect, automatically exempting them). Israel says

that the empty site poses a safety hazard and that construction to address "safety problems for . . . projects started before the freeze" is not a violation of the freeze. (NYT, WP, WT 3/9)

In the West Bank, **IDF** troops raid a school in Azun village nr. Qalqilya, claiming students had thrown stones at their unit, attempting to arrest 1 boy; the headmaster bars the boy's removal from the school and asks the Israeli-Palestinian liaison department to intervene; the soldiers leave the school after 2 hrs. of mediation, without making any arrests. The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, nr. Bethlehem. In Hebron, a **15-yr.-old Jewish settler** assaults 2 Palestinian boys (ages 11, 12) on their way home from school; the IDF observes but only intervenes when the settler boy cuts his hand when he tried to take a birdcage away from the Palestinian boys, arresting the Palestinians but releasing them on bail hrs. later. (JP 3/8; OCHA, PCHR 3/11)

9 MARCH

Biden spends the 1st full day of his visit in Israel meeting with Israeli pres. Shimon Peres, visiting Yad Vashem (the Holocaust memorial museum) and Mount Herzl national cemetery, and giving addresses highlighting the U.S.'s "absolute, total, unvarnished commitment to Israel's security" and admiration of the Israeli people. Late in the afternoon, **Israel's interior M Eliyahu Yishai** (Shas) announces approval of 1,600 new settlement housing units in Ramat Shlomo in East Jerusalem, in a move that threatens to scuttle the new peace initiative announced on 3/8. Initially unsure of how to react, Biden ultimately issues a statement "condemning" Israel's move for undermining the peace process (see Quarterly Update for details). (IFM, JTA 3/9; NYT, WP, WT 3/10; IFM 3/11; JPI 3/19)

No Israeli-Palestinian violence is reported. The UN reports that since 3/3, **2 Palestinians** have been killed in tunnel incidents (1 collapse, 1 electrocution). (OCHA, PCHR 3/11)

10 MARCH

Biden spends the day in the West Bank, meeting with **Abbas** and **Fayyad**. After receiving assurances that the U.S. will press

Israel to reverse the 3/9 Ramat Shlomo decision, the PA indicates that it will move forward with plans for indirect talks with Israel. Meanwhile, **Israeli officials** stress that Israel will never cede Jerusalem and will build unimpeded within Jerusalem's municipal borders. The **Arab League** reconvenes to discuss the situation and withdraws support for proximity talks, phoning **Abbas** to urge against negotiations. Abbas consequently informs the U.S. that the Palestinians cannot restart talks with Israel until the approval of the 1,600 housing units is rescinded. (IFM, JTA 3/10; NYT, WP, WT 3/11; NYT 3/29)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** sets up a checkpoint at the entrance to Rumana in the morning, checking Palestinian vehicles and arresting 1 Palestinian. **Israel** also authorizes the UN to send bomb disposal units into Gaza to identify and disarm unexploded IDF ordnance fr. OCL; the UN says the operation may take several months. (JTA 3/10; NYT, PCHR 3/11; OCHA, PCHR 3/18)

11 MARCH

Biden wraps up his trip to Israel with a big speech to the Israeli public at Tel Aviv University, underscoring American solidarity with Israel. He reiterates U.S. disapproval of the Ramat Shlomo housing plan because it "undermined the trust required for productive negotiations," but accepts what he calls "significant" assurances from Netanyahu that the construction will not break ground for years, expressing hope that negotiations would "resolve this and other outstanding issues" before construction could begin. He then heads to Jordan. Separately, **Netanyahu** issues a statement apologizing for the "unfortunate timing" of the Ramat Shlomo announcement, but notably not apologizing for the construction itself. At the same time, **Israel's Jerusalem municipality** announces plans to build 1,000s of settlement housing units e. and s. of Jerusalem in areas Israel intends to keep under final status, including 3,000 units each in Gilo and Givat Matosim, 1,500 units each in Har Homa and Pisgat Ze'ev, 1,200 units in Ramot, 600 in Armona Netseev, 450 in Neve Ya'acov, and 144 in Olive Mount. The U.S. does not comment. **Abbas** warns **Biden** by phone that the PA cannot start proximity talks

until Israel reverses the construction approval. (JTA 3/11; NYT, WP, WT 3/12)

In Ramallah, at least 1 **PA** security official and 1 **Fatah Central Comm.** member take part in a ceremony in Ramallah naming a public square after Dalal Mughrabi, a 19-yr.-old Fatah member who in 1978 led a squad from Lebanon that sailed to Israel where they staged attacks killing 1 American and 38 Israelis before being shot dead; **Netanyahu** denounces the official Fatah and PA participation as incitement undermining the peace process. Late in the evening, the **IDF** patrols in Ramallah, firing rubber-coated steel bullets at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them, causing no injuries; carries out late-night house searches in Jenin town and r.c., making no arrests. In Gaza, the little-known Salafist group **Ansar al-Sunna** fires a **Qassam rocket** into Israel, causing no damage or injuries but marking the 1st incidence of rocket fire since 2/12. Later in the day, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 2 more **Qassams** toward Israel, but they land harmlessly inside Gaza. Late at night, the **IDF** makes an air strike on a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border, causing no injuries. **Hamas** authorities in Gaza release **British journalist Paul Martin**, held for 25 days on suspicion of security offenses (see 3/1). (NYT, YA 3/12; OCHA, PCHR 3/18)

12 MARCH

In a 45-min. phone conversation, **U.S. secy. of state Hillary Clinton** sharply rebukes **Netanyahu** for the 3/9 Ramat Shlomo construction approval, demanding that Israel prove its desire to seek peace by revoking the plans, stating that the U.S. viewed his apology for the timing of the announcement alone as inadequate. She lists several additional steps the U.S. expects Israel to take to support the peace process and warns of consequences if Israel does not comply; no details are made public (State Dept. press release 3/12; WP 3/13; HA 3/15) (see Quarterly Update for details)

The **IDF** makes a day-long incursion 200 m into Gaza e. of Jabaliya, later moving s. toward Gaza City, to level land along the border fence to clear lines of sight. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Hanun fire on Palestinians scavenging

construction materials from destroyed buildings, forcing them to flee, causing no injuries. Late in the evening, the **IDF** makes air strikes on a suspected weapons lab in Khan Yunis in retaliation for Palestinian rocket fire on 3/11, causing no reported injuries; **Israeli naval vessels** fire on a Palestinian fishing boat off the Bayt Lahiya coast, forcing it to return to shore. **Israel**, fearing serious Palestinian protests after Friday prayers over the 3/9 Ramat Shlomo construction approval, imposes a general closure on the West Bank through 3/16 and deploys extra units of riot police around Jerusalem; no violence is reported. In an effort to halt weekly Palestinian protests against the **separation wall**, the **IDF** issues a military order declaring Bil'in and Ni'lin closed military zones on Fridays until 8/17. Today the order is ignored: Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists stage a nonviolent march to the **separation wall** in Bil'in and a protest against the wall in Ni'lin, where some of them throw stones at IDF troops. In both cases, **IDF** troops fire rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas (injuring 2 Palestinians in Bil'in; arresting 1 Palestinian, 1 Israeli in Ni'lin). The **IDF** also fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists staging a nonviolent protest against settlement expansion nr. Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih (injuring 18); fires stun grenades and beats Palestinian and international activists demonstrating against the separation wall in al-Ma'sara village s. of Bethlehem (injuring 2 Palestinians). **Jewish settlers** fr. Eli nr. Nablus uproot 40 Palestinian olive trees in nearby Qaryut village. (YA 3/12; OCHA, PCHR 3/18)

13 MARCH

Unidentified Palestinians fire a **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists protesting the **separation wall** and settlement construction in Bayt Umar nr. Hebron (injuring 2 Palestinian journalists, arresting 2 other Palestinian journalists and 2 Israelis); closes the Qalandia checkpoint and fires on stone-throwing Palestinians attempting to march to Jerusalem to mark International Women's Day (injuring

5 women); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Bireh, Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem. (YA 3/17; OCHA, PCHR 3/18)

14 MARCH

The **IDF** sends units into Ramallah to detain **senior Hamas official Maher Audi**, wanted in connection with the death of 10 Israelis; the **PA** does not immediately comment on the **IDF's** raid into Palestinian-controlled area A without coordination with the **PA**. The **IDF** also closes the Atara checkpoint to Birzeit village to prevent Birzeit University students from staging a march to Jerusalem to protest Israeli Judaization efforts there, firing live ammunition and rubber-coated steel bullets toward stone-throwing students, injuring 3 (2 with shrapnel from live ammunition); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah. (WT 3/15; OCHA, PCHR 3/18)

15 MARCH

Israel officially inaugurates a rebuilt synagogue in Jerusalem's Old City, raising tensions with Palestinians and the U.S., which see the timing as politically incorrect; no violence occurs, however. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah. (NYT 3/16; OCHA, PCHR 3/18)

16 MARCH

Facing increasing bipartisan pressure to tone down criticism of Israel, Secy. **Clinton** reiterates the U.S. call for Israel to demonstrate its "full commitment" to the peace process but assures that the U.S.-Israel relationship is not threatened, emphasizing the administration's "absolute commitment to Israel's security" and the U.S.'s "close, unshakable bond" with Israel. **Netanyahu** immediately welcomes Clinton's "warm words" but says nothing about the U.S. demands. Meanwhile, **Israel** issues bids for construction of 309 settlement housing units in Neve Ya'acov in East Jerusalem (NYT, WP, WT 3/17) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In Gaza, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 2 mortars toward Israel, which land harmlessly in Gaza. **IDF** troops on the n.

Gaza border nr. Bayt Lahiya fire in the air to disperse Gazans staging a nonviolent march to the border fence to protest Israel's no-go zone. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Madama village nr. Nablus late in the evening, firing stun grenades, arresting 3 Palestinians; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. In East Jerusalem, **100s of Palestinians** protest Israel's efforts to Judaize East Jerusalem in light of the 3/15 synagogue opening in the Old City and the 3/9 Ramat Shlomo announcement, throwing stones at Israeli forces, who respond with rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas; 166 Palestinians are injured (at least 10 seriously), 60 arrested; 15 Israeli police are also injured. Separately, **Israeli police** storm a small section of Jerusalem's Old City known as the African quarter, raiding and searching homes, firing tear gas, detaining 5 Palestinians (including 1 child and 1 journalist). Protests spread to the rest of the West Bank, with clashes between Palestinians and the **IDF** reported in Bethlehem, Hebron, and Ramallah, leaving another 23 Palestinians, 2 **IDF** soldiers, and 2 Jewish settlers injured. (JP 3/16; NYT, WP, WT 3/17; OCHA, PCHR 3/18)

17 MARCH

Late in the evening, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Meanwhile, **Israel** lifts the seal on the West Bank imposed on 3/12 and eases restrictions on Palestinians accessing al-Aqsa Mosque; Palestinian demonstrations in the city fall off. **IDF** troops manning a checkpoint at the entrance to Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron chase stone-throwing youths into the village and fire on them with rubber-coated steel bullets, moderately injuring a 14-yr.-old Palestinian boy. The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. (YA 3/17; NYT, PCHR 3/18; OCHA, PCHR 3/25)

18 MARCH

After 3 days of talks with his 7-mbr. security cabinet, **Netanyahu** phones **Clinton** (a day later than the State Dept. had expected) to offer Israel's own package of "mutual confidence building" gestures to be made by Israel and the Palestinians.

Neither side details the offer, but the U.S. says that the offer is sufficient enough to warrant sending special envoy **Mitchell** back to the region on 3/21 hopefully to launch proximity talks. At the same time, however, **Israel's Jerusalem municipality** approves construction of 20 new settlement housing units in East Jerusalem's Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood. (NYT, WP, WT 3/19; WP 3/20; OCHA, PCHR 3/25) (see Quarterly Update for details)

Ansar al-Sunna fires a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, killing a **Thai laborer** working at a kibbutz near the Gaza border, marking the 1st fatal rocket strike since OCL. Another **rocket** fired by **unidentified Palestinians** earlier in the day caused no damage or injuries. **Israel** vows strong retaliation. Meanwhile, **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border e. of Khan Yunis fire on Palestinians staging a nonviolent march to the border fence to protest Israel's imposition of a 300-m no-go zone, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** carries out late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron (searching a number of homes of Palestinians involved in organizing protests against the **separation wall**, without making arrests). **Jewish settlers** fr. Eli nr. Nablus uproot 25 nearby Palestinian olive trees. (JP, NYT, WP, WT 3/19; HA, YA 3/20; OCHA, PCHR 3/25)

19 MARCH

Overnight, the **IDF** carries out 6 air strikes on smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border, 2 open areas nr. Khan Yunis, and a metal workshop in Gaza City in retaliation for the fatal 3/18 rocket strike; 2 Palestinian civilians are wounded in Rafah. After **unidentified Palestinians** fire another **Qassam rocket** into Israel during the day (causing no damage or injuries), the **IDF** carries out air strikes on a Hamas facility nr. Dahaniyya airport (11 Palestinians injured) and on smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border (injuring 14). In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists staging nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation), Budrus village nr. Ramallah (1 Palestinian injured; 3 Palestinians, including 2 journalists arrested), Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih (11 Palestinians injured), and

Ni'lin (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); protesters in Ni'lin throw stones at IDF troops, but the other demonstrations are nonviolent. Palestinians also demonstrate against the **separation wall** at the Qalandia checkpoint, setting fire to tires and throwing stones and bottles at IDF troops, who respond with rubber-coated steel-bullets, injuring 3 and arresting 1. The **IDF** also carries out late-night arrest raids, house searches in Qalandia r.c. nr. Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** burn a wooded area of Palestinian land nr. Bet Ayn settlement nr. Hebron. (JP, NYT, YA 3/19; HA, WP 3/20; OCHA, PCHR 3/25)

At a meeting in Moscow, the **Quartet** issues a strong statement "condemning" Israel's Ramat Shlomo construction plan, "recalling that the annexation of East Jerusalem is not recognized by the international community," and reiterating that Israel was obligated irrespective of Palestinian reciprocity to "freeze all settlement activity, including natural growth, dismantle outposts erected since March 2001; and to refrain from demolitions and evictions in East Jerusalem." (WP 3/19, 3/20; NYT 3/21)

20 MARCH

Unidentified Palestinians fire 4 **Qassam rockets** toward Israel during the day; 3 land in open areas inside Israel (causing no injuries) and the 4th lands harmlessly inside Gaza. **IDF** troops enter the Erez industrial zone to chase away Palestinians scavenging for building materials amid the debris of destroyed buildings, detaining 17 (including 4 children) and confiscating 4 carts of goods (15 of the Palestinians are released on 3/21; the other 2 are arrested). In the West Bank, **Jewish settlers** fr. Bra'kha attempt to enter the nearby village of Iraq Burin nr. Nablus, sparking a clash with Palestinian villagers who attempt to fend them off; the IDF intervenes, firing rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas, killing a **16-yr.-old Palestinian**, and seriously wounding a 2d Palestinian. (YA 3/20; HA, NYT, WP 3/21; OCHA, PCHR 3/25)

21 MARCH

Unidentified Palestinians fire a **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** responds with an air strike on a smuggling tunnel on the

Rafah border, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fatally shoots **2 Palestinian farmers** in a field nr. Nablus who allegedly tried to attack soldiers with an ax and pitchforks; there are no independent witnesses to the incident. The **IDF** also announces plans to seize 49 d. of Palestinian land in Beitunia for construction of a new checkpoint on Route 443 as a step to reopening the road to Palestinian traffic in accordance with an Israeli High Court ruling; conducts late-night house searches in al-Bireh but makes no arrests. A **Palestinian** dies of head injuries sustained in clashes with the **IDF** in Iraq Burin on 3/20. (NYT, WP, WT 3/20; OCHA, PCHR 3/25)

22 MARCH

Clinton, Netanyahu both address the APAC conference in Washington and then hold an 80-min. meeting on the sidelines to discuss recent tensions. In the evening, Netanyahu holds a working dinner with **Biden** on bilateral relations. (JTA 3/22; JTA, NYT, WP, WT 3/23; WJW 3/25; JPI 4/2) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In Gaza, **1 IDF soldier** is killed by friendly fire when **IDF** infantry and tank units on the Gaza border are mobilized to halt 3 unarmed Palestinians nr. the border fence, and the tank crew accidentally fires on the infantry unit on the Israeli side of the border; the Palestinians are not injured. After **unidentified Palestinians** fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries, the **IDF** makes an air strike on an alleged weapons depot in Gaza City, destroying it and lightly injuring 8 Palestinian civilians (including 1 woman and 2 children). Later in the evening, **unidentified Palestinians** fire another rocket toward Israel, but it lands harmlessly nr. the Erez crossing. Late in the evening, **IDF** troops on the central Gaza border e. of Dayr al-Balah shoot, wound an unarmed Palestinian outside his home 500 m fr. the border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Fara'a r.c. nr. Tubas. (HA, JP, NYT, YA 3/23; OCHA, PCHR, WJW 3/25)

23 MARCH

In the morning, **Netanyahu** tours Capitol Hill, where he is greeted warmly. He then meets for 2 hrs. at the White House

with Pres. **Obama**, who reportedly makes tough demands of Israel to put the peace process back on track. After a 90-min. sidebar with his advisors, Netanyahu makes a counterproposal that is rejected by Obama. (NYT, WP, WT 3/24; NYT, WP 3/25; JPI, NYT 3/26) (see Quarterly Update for details)

Unidentified Palestinians fire a **Qas-sam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In retaliation, the **IDF** carries out an air strike on a suspected weapons depot nr. Jabaliya r.c., damaging a nearby home but causing no injuries. The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into the Erez industrial zone to level land and clear lines of sight. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. several settlements beat Palestinian farmers working their land in Sinjil village n. of Ramallah; the **IDF** intervenes, declaring the area a closed military zone and forcing settlers and Palestinians to leave. (JP, YA 3/23; JP 3/24; OCHA, PCHR 3/25)

24 MARCH

Netanyahu clears his schedule to hold additional talks with U.S. admin. officials aimed at drafting a "blueprint" covering issues (including construction in Jerusalem) that need to be resolved before proximity talks can go forward. Netanyahu would take the plan to his government, while Mitchell would take it to the Palestinians and Arab leaders. A final draft of the blueprint is not agreed to, however. (NYT, WP 3/25) (see Quarterly Update for details)

Obama sits in on a **National Security Agency** brainstorming session weighing the pros and cons of the U.S. offering its own peace proposal to break the Israeli-Palestinian impasse. (NYT, WP 4/8) (see Quarterly Update for details)

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border make a brief incursion 800 m across the border to disperse Palestinians scavenging for construction materials from destroyed buildings, arresting 5. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (PCHR 3/25; OCHA, PCHR 4/1)

25 MARCH

Netanyahu returns to Israel without an agreed draft blueprint. Though he is

welcomed home by a small group of supporters with signs saying “Obama, No You Can’t” and “Netanyahu Stand Strong,” he reportedly feels “humiliated” by **Obama** and is “truly stunned by the Obama administration’s unprecedented willingness to criticize Israel over building in the annexed part of Jerusalem.” (NYT, WP 3/26) (see Quarterly Update for details)

IDF troops on the s. Gaza border fire on Palestinians scavenging for construction materials nr. the Sufa crossing site 150 m fr. the border, wounding 1; a 15-yr.-old Palestinian boy is wounded in a similar incident on the n. Gaza border. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, seriously wounding 1 fisherman. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c. (OCHA, PCHR 4/1)

26 MARCH

IDF troops on the s. Gaza border fire on armed Palestinians laying a roadside bomb nr. the border fence e. of Khan Yunis. When Palestinians return fire, the troops enter the Strip in pursuit, triggering at least 1 buried device and drawing Palestinian mortar fire, which prompts the **IDF** to move several tanks and armed bulldozers into Gaza, shelling areas outside Khan Yunis. The exchange leaves **2 armed Palestinians, 1 Palestinian bystander, and 2 IDF soldiers** dead and 3 **IDF** soldiers and 6 Palestinians (including at least 2 civilians, one a 13-yr.-old boy) wounded, marking the 1st deadly exchange of fire in Gaza since OCL ended on 1/18/09. The **al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, Islamic Jihad**, and a group calling itself **Palestinian Taliban** (believed to be a radical Salafist splinter group opposed to Hamas) claim their fighters were involved in the initial border incident; the **Izzedin al-Qassam Brigades** claims responsibility for ambushing and firing mortars at **IDF** troops once they entered Gaza, causing the **IDF** casualties. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in weekly demonstrations against the **separation wall** and settlement expansion in Bil’in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation; 1 Israeli is arrested), Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih (2 Palestinians

injured), and Ni’lin (10s suffer tear gas inhalation). (JP 3/27; WP 3/28; OCHA, PCHR 4/1; PCHR 4/8)

27 MARCH

Overnight, the **IDF** bulldozes 31 d. of agricultural and **1 Palestinian home** e. of Khan Yunis in the area where clashes occurred on 3/26; by midday, the **IDF** withdraws tanks and armored bulldozers sent into s. Gaza on 3/26. In the morning, **unidentified Palestinians** fire **2 Qassam rockets** toward Israel; 1 lands inside Gaza and the other in an open area inside Israel, neither causing injuries; Israel does not immediately respond. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus. (JP, YA 3/27; OCHA, PCHR 4/1)

28 MARCH

The **Arab League** ends 2 days of talks in Libya to debate whether to re-endorse proximity talks without reaching an agreement, though members renew support for the 2002 Arab League initiative offering full normalization for full peace. (WP 3/29; WJW 4/1) (see Quarterly Update for details)

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into s. Gaza e. of Abasan to level land along the border fence to clear lines of sight. In the West Bank, 10s of Palestinians, Christian clerics, and international activists take part in a nonviolent march from Bethlehem to the main **IDF** checkpoint to Jerusalem to protest Israeli restrictions on Christians entering Jerusalem today, Palm Sunday; **IDF** troops beat marchers, arrest 12 Palestinians (including **Fatah Central Comm.** mbr. Abbas Zaki; all are released on 4/1) and 4 internationals (releasing them later in the day), and seal the Gilo crossing to Jerusalem (including to medical cases and tourists) through 3/31. (OCHA, PCHR 4/1)

29 MARCH

Israel imposes a general closure on the West Bank through 4/6 for Passover. The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into s. Gaza e. of al-Qarara to level land along the border fence to clear lines of sight. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches in ‘Aqabat Jabir r.c., summoning

2 Palestinians for interrogation. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire a **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries; the **IDF** does not immediately respond. (YA 3/29; OCHA, PCHR 4/1)

30 MARCH

The UN reports that the **IDF** has tightened its open-fire rules in the West Bank, no longer allowing soldiers to fire in the air or at stone-throwing Palestinians; allowing fire only when Molotov cocktails are thrown at civilian cars or when soldiers have requested and received permission from commanders. **IDF** troops on the Gaza border e. of al-Maghazi r.c. fire on Palestinians staging a peaceful march to the border fence to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone, wounding 1 Palestinian; 3 Palestinians are wounded in a similar incident at the border fence e. of Khan Yunis. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists conducting a nonviolent march to the **separation wall** outside Budrus village nr. Ramallah, injuring 3 Palestinians; conducts an evening arrest raid into Dayr Istya village nr. Salfit; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Azza r.c. and Dayshaysha r.c., both nr. Bethlehem. (WP 3/31; OCHA, PCHR 4/1; WJW 4/8; JPI 4/16)

31 MARCH

IDF troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire on Palestinians scavenging construction materials from the industrial zone, forcing them to flee but causing no casualties. **IDF** troops make a brief incursion 300 m into Gaza e. of al-Qarara to level land to clear lines of sight. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late night arrest raids, house searches in al-Am'ari r.c. nr. Ramallah, Bethlehem, Dayr Nizam. Palestinians report that in the previous wk. the **IDF** confiscated 2.5 d. of land in Awarta village nr. Nablus for construction of a new military outpost. (PCHR 4/1; PCHR 4/8; OCHA 4/15)

1 APRIL

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, causing no reported damage or injuries.

IDF snipers fire into Gaza near the beach w. of Bayt Lahiya, causing some residents of the al-Sudaniyya neighborhood to evacuate for safety. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire at least 1 **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing damage but no injuries. A **Jewish settler** kills a **Palestinian teenager** in a deliberate hit-and-run nr. Ramallah. (AFP, CSM, JAZ, NYT, YA 4/2; WP 4/3; PCHR 4/8; OCHA 4/15)

2 APRIL

In response to recent escalating rocket and mortar fire, **IDF** warplanes and helicopters carry out 7 early morning air strikes on 2 caravans nr. Khan Yunis (no injuries), a cheese factory in Gaza City (injuring 3 Palestinian children nearby), and a metal foundry in Nussayrat r.c. (no injuries) that Israel claims were weapons factories and arms depots, warning of broader retaliation if rocket attacks continue. The **U.S.** urges both sides to display restraint. Hrs. later, **Hamas** issues a statement saying it is working with Gaza factions to reimpose the cease-fire with Israel before it escalates out of control, but also condemns the Israeli air strikes for aggravating the situation and calls on the international community to press Israel to keep retaliation in check. (**Salafist groups opposed to Hamas** refuse to participate in the cease-fire.) In the West Bank, **Palestinians** stone a settler vehicle outside Hawara village nr. Nablus, causing it to crash (no word on injuries); the **IDF** sends troops into Hawara in pursuit of the stone throwers, arresting 1 Palestinian. The **IDF** also fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in nonviolent weekly demonstrations against the separation wall and settlement expansion in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation; 1 Israeli is arrested), Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih (3 Palestinians injured), al-Ma'sara (where only Palestinians demonstrated; 4 injured), and Ni'lin (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya. (AFP, JAZ, NYT, YA 4/2; NYT, WP 4/3; YA 4/7; PCHR 4/8; OCHA 4/15)

3 APRIL

The **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine** fires a **mortar** fr. Gaza

into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian students protesting the fatal hit-and-run of a Palestinian by a settler on 4/1 (no injuries, 1 arrested); also fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinians fr. Iraq Burin staging a nonviolent protest against settlement expansion (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hawara (see 4/2) and nr. Hebron. (*Gulf Times*, YA 4/4; PCHR 4/8; OCHA 4/15)

4 APRIL

Israel allows the 1st commercial import of clothing and shoes (10 truckloads) into Gaza since 6/07 (previously Israel has allowed some of these items in as humanitarian aid shipments). Late in the evening, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli security forces** raid a Palestinian butcher shop without giving cause, damaging equipment, beating and arresting 6 family members and a 14-yr.-old family friend (all released by 4/6), spraying tear gas inside, and sealing the store. The **IDF** also patrols in al-Bireh in the evening, making no arrests. (YA 4/4; WT 4/5; PCHR 4/8; OCHA 4/15)

5 APRIL

Islamic Jihad pledges to halt its rocket fire fr. Gaza into Israel. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes an afternoon raid into Bayt Fajjar nr. Bethlehem, arresting 3 Palestinians; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Aida r.c. and al-Azza r.c., both nr. Bethlehem (HA, YA 4/7; PCHR 4/8; OCHA 4/15)

6 APRIL

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians staging a nonviolent march to the border to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone, causing no casualties. A **Palestinian** is killed in a smuggling tunnel collapse on the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. an unauthorized outpost in Shaykh Jarrah in East Jerusalem

assault local Palestinians and international activists; the **IDF** removes the settlers fr. the area. (PCHR 4/8; OCHA 4/15)

7 APRIL

The **IDF** makes a day-long incursion 500 m inside the Gaza border e. of Jabaliya and Gaza City to level land to clear lines of sight. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire 6 **mortars** toward Israel, but all land inside Gaza, 1 hitting a home, injuring 6 Palestinians (1 seriously). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Ramallah. (BBC, HA, YA 4/7; PCHR 4/8; OCHA, PCHR 4/15)

8 APRIL

The **IDF** makes a day-long incursion into Gaza along the border e. of al-Qarara, leveling land to clear lines of sight; during the operation, the **IDF** moves tanks into the area, firing several shells, damaging 2 Palestinian homes but causing no injuries. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire at least 3 **mortars** and 2 **rocket-propelled grenades** at an **IDF** unit patrolling the c. Gaza border inside Israel, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a late-night incursion into al-Ma'sara, raiding the home of 2 local organizers of weekly demonstrations against the **separation wall**, interrogating them, accusing them of incitement, and warning them against holding more protests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem and nr. Jenin. Some 5,000 **Jewish settlers** guarded by **IDF** troops enter Kafr Haris village nr. Salfit, enter Islamic sites, vandalize homes; the **IDF** seals and restricts Palestinian movement inside the village while the settlers are present. (HA 4/8; OCHA, PCHR 4/15)

9 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in nonviolent weekly demonstrations against the separation wall in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation; 1 Israeli arrested) and Ni'lin (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, international activists, some of whom

throw stones, taking part in weekly demonstrations against settlement expansion in Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih (7 Palestinians injured); conducts late-night patrols in Bayt Liqya nr. Ramallah, making no arrests. (OCHA, PCHR 4/15)

10 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires tear gas, stun grenades at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in a non-violent march in 'Ayn al-Bayda nr. Hebron to protest the **separation wall** and settlement activities, arresting 6 Palestinians (including a journalist) and 5 internationals (all released on bail by 4/12); conducts synchronized late-night arrest raids, house searches in Aida, al-Azza, and Dahaysha refugee camps nr. Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** fr. Shilo nr. Ramallah attack, damage a Palestinian car driving nearby, causing no injuries. (OCHA, PCHR 4/15)

11 APRIL

In Gaza, **Islamic Jihad** says that **Hamas-affiliated police** have recently detained several of its fighters as well as mbrs. of other factions and made them sign pledges that they would not stage cross-border attacks on Israel. In the West Bank, an **IDF** military order goes into effect under which anyone living in the West Bank without a proper Israeli permit (not clarified) could face expulsion within as little as 3 days or face 7 yrs. in prison (see Quarterly Update and Selections from the Press for details). The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jericho, Ramallah. (AP, HA 4/11; NYT, WP 4/12; WT 4/14; OCHA, PCHR 4/15; OCHA 4/19)

12 APRIL

IDF troops on the s. Gaza border e. of Khan Yunis fire warning shots at Palestinians conducting a nonviolent march to the border fence to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone, causing no casualties. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire stun grenades across the border into Umm Nasir village, causing no damage or injuries. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire 2 **Qas-sam rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank,

IDF troops surround an elementary school in Azun village nr. Qalqilya and request permission of the headmaster to search classrooms for children wanted for throwing stones at their vehicles: the headmaster refuses, and the soldiers do not press the issue. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah; escorts bus-loads of **Jewish settlers** to Joseph's Tomb nr. Nablus to pray, fires on stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them, causing no injuries. (JP 4/12; OCHA, PCHR 4/15)

13 APRIL

IDF tanks and helicopters on the c. Gaza border fire into the Strip at a group of armed Palestinians laying explosive devices along the border, killing 2 **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** and wounding 3; troops then send bulldozers 400 m into the area to level land and clear lines of sight. Late in the evening, **Hamas-affiliated police** move into the Rafah border area and order Palestinians to shut smuggling tunnel operations until further notice, allowing operators to retrieve food and other perishable goods from the tunnels before cordoning off the area. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 1 **Palestinian home** nr. Salfit; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin, Ramallah, Tulkarm. Armed **Jewish settlers** fr. Karme Tzur nr. Hebron assault a Palestinian family working the land nearby, firing in the air to scare them off the land. (WP, WT 4/14; OCHA, PCHR, WP 4/15)

14 APRIL

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion 250 m into Gaza e. of Jabaliya to level land along the border to clear lines of sight. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 1 **Palestinian home** nr. Bethlehem; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Askar r.c. nr. Nablus, al-Fara'a r.c. nr. Tubas and nr. Bethlehem, Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** vandalize a Palestinian mosque, burn 3 Palestinian cars in Hawara village. (PCHR, WP 4/15; OCHA, PCHR 4/22)

15 APRIL

Israel allows 3 truckloads of aluminum, 3 of wood into Gaza for the 1st time since

6/07 and 10/08, respectively. Late at night, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** seizes 7 d. of Palestinian land nr. Ramat Yishai settlement in Hebron claiming security reasons; makes a late-night incursion into al-Ma'sara, raiding and searching the home of a local organizer of weekly protests against the separation wall, threatening to arrest him if he continues to organize demonstrations. **Hamas** authorities in Gaza execute **2 Palestinians** convicted in a Hamas military court of collaborating with Israel in the assassination of several resistance fighters, marking the 1st executions since Hamas took control of Gaza in 6/07. (JP 4/15; NYT, WT 4/16; OCHA, PCHR 4/22)

16 APRIL

IDF troops make an incursion into the no-go zone e. of Gaza City and are immediately fired upon by armed Palestinians, sparking an exchange in which **1 armed Palestinian** is killed. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids, searches a Palestinian home in al-Walajah village nr. Bethlehem at midday, arresting 3 Palestinians; fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in nonviolent demonstrations against the **separation wall** in Bil'in and against settlement expansion in Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih (10s suffer tear gas inhalation at both locations); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, international activists, some of whom throw stones at **IDF** troops, protesting the **separation wall** in Ni'lin (10s suffer tear gas inhalation). **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim nr. Nablus set fire to 2 Palestinian cars in nearby Jinsafut village. (OCHA, PCHR 4/22)

17 APRIL

Israel imposes a general closure on the West Bank through 4/20 for Israel's memorial and independence days. In the West Bank, the **IDF** enters Bayt Umar nr. Hebron at midday to break up a demonstration in support of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and beating some demonstrators, seriously injuring 2 teenagers. The

IDF also conducts synchronized late-night arrest raids in Aida r.c., al-Azza r.c. and al-Duha village nr. Bethlehem; conducts separate late-night arrest raids, house searches in 'Askar r.c., Hawara, and al-Thawri neighborhood in East Jerusalem. (OCHA, PCHR 4/22)

18 APRIL

No Israeli-Palestinian violence is reported. (OCHA, PCHR 4/22)

19 APRIL

No Israeli-Palestinian violence is reported, marking the first 2-day stretch without violence since the outbreak of the al-Aqsa intifada in 9/00. (OCHA, PCHR 4/22)

20 APRIL

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire on Palestinians scavenging construction materials fr. former settlement sites nr. the border, wounding 1; fire warning shots at Palestinians staging a nonviolent march to the border fence n. of Bayt Lahiya to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone, causing no reported injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Bayt Lahiya coast, forcing them to return to shore. Late in the evening, **IDF** tanks on the c. Gaza border e. of Wadi al-Silqa fire at least 15 shells at open areas nr. the border; no injuries are reported. The UN reports that **1 Palestinian** was killed and 3 were injured in 2 separate tunnel incidents since 4/14 (1 collapse, 1 explosion of fuel canisters being smuggled). (OCHA, PCHR 4/22)

21 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin town and r.c., in Bil'in, and nr. Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ariel settlement nr. Salfit throw stones at passing Palestinian vehicles, causing no injuries. (PCHR 4/22; OCHA, PCHR 4/29)

22 APRIL

IDF troops make a brief incursion into the s. Gaza border area e. of Abasan and

Khuza to level lands and clear lines of sight. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts early morning arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem; makes a late-night incursion into Bayt Umar, raiding the homes of Palestinians involved in organizing local **separation wall** protests, firing stun grenades and tear gas in homes, breaking widows, arresting 5 Palestinians (4 are released on 4/25); conducts other late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. the Gush Etzion settlement blocks n. of Hebron pump settlement wastewater into nearby Palestinian land in Bayt Umar, flooding 70 d. of grape vines and washing away 300 m of stone fences; the **PA Agriculture Min.** believes the land will need to be treated for 2 yrs. before it can be used to grow crops for human consumption. (OCHA, PCHR 4/29)

23 APRIL

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya. Palestinians of Bil'in host an international conference calling for peaceful popular resistance against the **separation wall**. Afterward, participants (including **EU special envoy Marc Otte** and more than 20 other Arab and foreign diplomats) march peacefully toward the wall; **IDF** troops fire rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at demonstrators injuring 7 (5 Palestinians, including 2 journalists; 1 Israeli; 1 international) and arresting 5 (3 Israelis, including 1 journalist; 1 American; 1 Palestinian). The **IDF** also fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, international activists, some of whom throw stones at **IDF** troops, taking part in weekly protests against the wall in Ni'lin (4 Palestinians injured); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas, and skunk (a foul-smelling liquid) at peaceful Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in weekly demonstrations against settlement expansion in Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih. **Jewish settlers** uproot 20 olive trees nr. Salfit. (OCHA, PCHR 4/29)

24 APRIL

IDF troops on the c. Gaza border fire on Palestinian, international activists taking part in a nonviolent march to the border

fence e. of al-Maghazi r.c. to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone, wounding 2 Palestinians, 1 international (from Malta) with live ammunition. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized late-night house searches in 5 villages south of Jenin, making no arrests; conducts other late-night house searches nr. Bethlehem, ordering 1 Palestinian to surrender for interrogation. **Palestinians** in Hebron stage a nonviolent march and sit-in outside Beit Romano settlement to protest settlement activity in the city; **Jewish settlers** move in to break up the demonstration but the **IDF** blocks them and disperses the Palestinians, arresting 3. (OCHA, PCHR, *Times of Malta* 4/29)

25 APRIL

IDF troops make 2 brief incursions into the s. Gaza no-go area nr. al-Qarara and Abasan, leveling lands to clear lines of sight, firing on residential areas during the operations to keep Palestinians indoors (no injuries reported). **IDF** troops on the Israeli side of the Erez crossing fire on Palestinians scavenging construction materials in the destroyed Erez industrial zone, forcing them to flee but causing no injuries. **Israeli intelligence officers** arrest an ailing Palestinian given permission to enter Israel through the Erez crossing for medical treatment; his family believes the permission to travel was granted as a ploy to capture him. In the West Bank, the **IDF** occupies a Palestinian home nr. Jenin as a military barrack; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Salfit. With Israeli police approval and under police protection, **Jewish settlers** stage a march through Silwan in East Jerusalem to protest "illegal" Palestinian construction (i.e., without permits); police fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the settlers; at least 29 Palestinians, 2 Israeli policemen are injured. (OCHA, PCHR 4/29)

26 APRIL

Overnight, the **IDF** makes an incursion into Bayt Awa nr. Hebron, surrounding a home in which a wanted **Hamas mbr.**, **Ali Swaiti**, is hiding, occupying several nearby homes as observation posts, firing stun grenades into the home, firing on and demolishing the home with Swaiti

still inside, killing him; during the operation, local Palestinians throw stones at the troops, who then fire on them with rubber-coated steel bullets, injuring 5 and arresting 3. Palestinians consider Swaiti's death an assassination, since he could have been captured by troops. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem. **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians conducting a nonviolent march to the border fence e. of Khan Yunis to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone, causing no injuries. (OCHA, PCHR 4/29)

27 APRIL

IDF troops enter the Erez industrial zone on the n. Gaza border, firing on Palestinians scavenging construction material fr. destroyed buildings, causing no injuries; troops pull back into Israel in the afternoon. The UN reports that 1 Palestinian has been injured in a tunnel collapse on the Rafah border since 4/21. In the West Bank, the **IDF** occupies a Palestinian home nr. Hebron as an observation post; conducts synchronized late-night house searches in 3 villages southeast of Jenin, making no arrests; conducts other late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. The UN reports that in the previous wk., **Israeli Jerusalem municipal authorities** demolished 1 **Palestinian home** in the Bayt Hanina neighborhood for construction of the "eastern ring road" (a settler-only bypass road connecting n. West Bank settlements to West Jerusalem). (OCHA, PCHR 4/29)

28 APRIL

IDF troops on the Israeli side of Gaza's former Nahal Oz crossing fire on Palestinian, international activists, some of whom throw stones at **IDF** troops, taking part in a march to the border fence to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone, killing a **15-yr.-old Palestinian**. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem, Ni'lin and nr. Jenin, Jericho. (PCHR 4/29; OCHA, PCHR 5/6)

29 APRIL

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

Salfit. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar escorted by **IDF** troops enter Hawara, vandalize 3 Palestinian homes. (OCHA, PCHR 5/6)

30 APRIL

Secy. **Clinton** announces that the **Arab League** is expected to meet on 5/1 to re-endorse proximity talks and that special envoy **Mitchell** will return to the region within days with plans to open indirect negotiations. U.S. officials say **Abbas** has agreed to resume talks after receiving a letter of assurances fr. Pres. **Obama** (not officially confirmed or released). (NYT, WP 5/1) (see Quarterly Update for details)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation; 2 Palestinian and 1 Irish journalist are detained) and against settlement expansion in Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih (2 Palestinians are injured; 4 Palestinians, 1 Israeli are detained); also fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, and tear gas at Palestinian, international activists, some of whom throw stones at **IDF** troops, taking part in weekly protests against the wall in Ni'lin (10s suffer tear gas inhalation). **Jewish settlers** fr. Gil'ad nr. Qalqilya uproot 30 Palestinian olive trees nearby. (OCHA, PCHR 5/6)

1 MAY

Arab League FMs meeting in Cairo at Palestinian request re-endorse plans to begin proximity talks but stress that the Palestinians should not move to direct negotiations until Israel stops all settlement construction beyond the 1967 borders. (NYT 5/2; WT 5/3)

The **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, international activists staging a nonviolent march protesting Israel's **separation wall** and settlement activity in Hebron (no serious injuries reported); conducts synchronized late-night house searches in 5 villages northeast and 1 village southwest of Jenin, making no arrests; conducts other late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tubas, nr. Ramallah. (OCHA, PCHR 5/6)

2 MAY

IDF troops enter the n. Gaza no-go zone nr. Bayt Lahiya to fire on Palestinians (some well over 300 m away fr. the border) scavenging the former Aley Sinai and Dugit settlement sites for construction materials, wounding 1. **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** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, international activists staging a nonviolent march to the **separation wall** outside Bayt Jala nr. Bethlehem, injuring 4 Palestinians (including 1 journalist); conducts late-night patrols in Kfairet village southeast of Jenin, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. In East Jerusalem, **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba in Hebron and from settlements nr. Bethlehem, escorted by **IDF** troops, take over a Palestinian home (belonging to the Salah family, who has lived there since 1967) in keeping with a 12/15/09 court order that ruled in favor of a Kiryat Arba settler who claimed to have purchased the property in 1991. (OCHA, PCHR 5/6)

3 MAY

U.S. special envoy **Mitchell** arrives in the region to secure formal PA-Israeli agreement to open proximity talks, but the **PA** says Israel must halt all new settlement construction and evictions of Palestinians during the 4-mo. duration of negotiations, while **Israel** says the PA must halt all incitement, especially its boycott of settlement-made goods. (NYT, WT 5/4; WJW 5/6) (see Quarterly Update for details)

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** destroys several structures in Shavei Shomron settlement built in violation of the 10-mo. settlement freeze; conducts synchronized late-night arrest raids, house searches in 3 villages nr. Hebron. (NYT 5/5; OCHA, PCHR 5/6)

4 MAY

Israel deports to the Gaza Strip 2 Gazans found living illegally in Beersheba;

the **IDF** sends them through the Israeli side of the Erez crossing but the men refuse to move through to the 150-m transit area to the Palestinian side, demanding they be allowed to return to Israel; **IDF** troops fire warning shots at them for more than 2 hrs. before forcing them to enter Gaza. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Bayt Lahiya coast, forcing them to return to shore. The UN reports that since 4/28, **1 Palestinian** has been killed in a tunnel collapse and **4 Palestinians** have been killed and 9 injured when they were overcome by gas fumes while smuggling fuel through a tunnel. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes **1 Palestinian home** nr. the **separation wall** southwest of Bethlehem, leaving 8 Palestinians homeless; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. **Jewish settlers** set a fire destroying a mosque in Luban al-Sharqiyya nr. Nablus, an act **Abbas** says may jeopardize proximity talks. **Jewish settlers** also set fire to a Palestinian olive grove outside Hawara. The attacks are thought to be in response to the **IDF** demolition of structures in Shavei Shomron settlement on 5/2—part of the settlers price-tag doctrine to retaliate against Palestinians (and occasionally the **IDF**) in reaction to any attempt to curb settlement activity. (NYT, WP 5/5; OCHA, PCHR 5/6)

5 MAY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids, searches a Palestinian home in Jiftlik village nr. Jericho early in the morning, making no arrests; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches northwest of Jerusalem and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, Ramallah. (PCHR 5/6; OCHA, PCHR 5/13)

6 MAY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires stun grenades, tear gas and beats several Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in a nonviolent march to the **separation wall** outside al-Walajah village nr. Bethlehem, injuring 11 demonstrators and arresting 4 (3 Palestinians, 1 international; all are released on bail by evening); conducts synchronized late-night house searches in 2 villages northwest of

Ramallah, making no arrests. **Jewish settlers** in Shaykh Jarrah in East Jerusalem beat 2 Palestinian children (ages 8 and 12); **Israeli security forces** observe but do not intervene. In a separate incident, a **Jewish settler** in East Jerusalem beats 2 Palestinian women, fleeing when other Palestinians intervene. **Jewish settlers** burn tires on the Nablus–Ramallah road to deter Palestinian traffic. (OCHA, PCHR 5/13)

7 MAY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, international activists taking part in a nonviolent march to Karme Tzur settlement to protest Israeli settlement activity in Hebron; troops chase protesters into Bayt Umar village, firing at least 4 tear gas canisters into a Palestinian home, where a **7-mo.-old Palestinian girl** is overcome by the fumes and later dies at a hospital. The **IDF** also fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation; 3 Palestinians, 2 Israelis, and 1 American are detained) and against settlement expansion in Dayr Nizam/al-Nabi Salih (10s suffer tear gas inhalation; 2 Palestinians, including a 12-yr.-old boy, are detained); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, and tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinian, international activists taking part in weekly protests against the wall in Ni'lin (10s suffer tear gas inhalation); conducts late-night patrols in Fasayil village n. of Jericho, making no arrests. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim throw stones at Palestinian vehicles traveling the Nablus–Qalqilya road, causing no injuries. (OCHA, PCHR 5/13)

8 MAY

After 5 days of talks with U.S. envoy **Mitchell**, **Israel** and the **PLO Exec. Comm.** formally agree to launch 4 mos. of proximity talks, marking the first peace talks since 12/08. (WT 5/3)

Unidentified Palestinians fire a **Qasam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets,

tear gas at Palestinian, international activists taking part in a nonviolent march to confiscated Palestinian land outside Bra-kha settlement to protest Israeli settlement activity around Nablus, injuring 1 Palestinian; conducts synchronized late-night patrols in 2 villages n. of Ramallah, making no arrests; conducts other late-night house searches nr. Tubas, making no arrests. In Hebron, **Jewish settlers** spray wastewater at Palestinians holding a nonviolent demonstration calling for the reopening of al-Shuhada Street to Palestinian civilians; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (YA 5/8; IDF 5/10; OCHA, PCHR 5/13)

9 MAY

Proximity talks begin with 1 day of **Mitchell** shuttling between **Israeli and Palestinian negotiators**, securing Israeli and Palestinian pledges to refrain from actions that hinder peace as talks move forward and starting discussion on more substantive issues (see Quarterly Update for details). Late in the day, he returns to Washington, praising the positive atmosphere of the first day of talks. From Washington, the U.S. warns that “if either takes significant actions during the proximity talks that we judge would seriously undermine trust, we will respond to hold them accountable and ensure that negotiations continue.” (CSM, IFM 5/9; HA, NYT, WP 5/10)

The **IDF** carries out 2 air strikes on 2 smuggling tunnels on the Rafah border in retaliation for rocket fire on 5/8, causing no injuries. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Lahiya fire on Palestinian farmers working their land 500 m fr. the border fence, forcing them to leave but causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts a late-night raid on a Palestinian home nr. Bethlehem, demanding that 1 resident turn himself in for interrogation. At least 1 **Jewish settler** fr. Gil'ad nr. Qalqilya sets fire to 3 d. of nearby Palestinian crop land. (IDF 5/10; OCHA, PCHR 5/13)

10 MAY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem. In Israel, the **IDF censor** reports that several wks. ago authorities

arrested **Israeli Palestinians Ameer Makhoul and Omar Said**, mbrs. of Israel's **Balad party**, on charges of spying and making contact with **Hizballah**. Lawyers for the men say Israel's espionage laws are overly broad and the government construes e-mail conversations with anyone in Lebanon as being contact with Hizballah. (NYT 5/11; OCHA, PCHR, WJW 5/13)

11 MAY

Egyptian naval forces fire on a Palestinian fishing boat fr. Gaza that strays nr. Egyptian territorial waters, killing **1 Palestinian fisherman**, wounding 3. The UN reports that **1 Palestinian** has been killed in a tunnel collapse on the Rafah border since 5/4. **Israel's Peace Now** reports that construction has begun of 14 new Jewish homes in Ras al-Amud in East Jerusalem. The **PA** informs the **U.S.**, calling the construction a violation of Israel's pledges at the start of proximity talks. **Israel** says the homes are being built privately and the government has no authority to stop it. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Bayt Umar village in the afternoon, firing live ammunition at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them, wounding 1; makes a late-night raid on a Palestinian home in Bil'in, summoning 1 resident for interrogation; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Salfit, arresting 11 Palestinian teenagers. **Israel's Jerusalem municipality** orders Palestinian business owners to evacuate a 3 d. plot of land nr. the U.S. consulate, saying it is state-owned land; the order is not immediately enforced. (OCHA, PCHR, WJW 5/13)

12 MAY

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Fara'a r.c. (PCHR 5/13; OCHA, PCHR 5/20)

13 MAY

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

Jenin town and r.c., and nr. Ramallah. A **Jewish settler** driving on the Ramallah-Nablus road stops his car and opens fire with a semiautomatic gun on 4 Palestinian teenagers who threw stones at his car, firing 14–17 rounds, killing a **16-yr.-old Palestinian boy**. (OCHA, PCHR 5/20)

14 MAY

IDF troops on the Gaza border e. of Jabaliya fatally shoot an unarmed **76-yr.-old Palestinian man** fr. Bayt Lahiya as he deliberately walks toward the border fence; family mbrs. cannot explain his actions but say he did not have mental problems. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, tear gas at Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall in Bil'in (10s suffer tear gas inhalation; 1 Palestinian journalist is arrested); fires rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades, and tear gas at Palestinian, international activists, some of whom throw stones at IDF troops, taking part in weekly protests against the wall in Ni'lin (10s suffer tear gas inhalation). (WP 5/15; OCHA, PCHR 5/20)

15 MAY

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire on Palestinians scavenging construction materials fr. the fmr. Aley Sinai and Nisanit settlement sites, wounding 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas at Palestinian, international activists conducting a nonviolent march to confiscated Palestinian land outside Brakha settlement to protest Israeli settlement activity around Nablus (10s suffer from tear gas inhalation); prevents Palestinians staging a nonviolent march against Israeli settlement activity in Hebron fr. reaching Beit Romano as planned (no injuries reported; 1 Palestinian arrested, released on bail); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Ni'lin. (OCHA, PCHR 5/20)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

- AFP (Agence France-Presse, Paris)
- AP (Associated Press [Internet])
- BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
- CSM (*Christian Science Monitor*, Boston)
- HA (*Ha'Aretz* [Internet], Tel Aviv)
- IDF (Israel Defense Forces Spokesperson [Internet])
- IFM (Israeli Foreign Ministry, Jerusalem)
- JAZ (al-Jazeera Satellite Channel Television, Doha)
- JP (*Jerusalem Post* [Internet], Jerusalem)
- JPI (*Jerusalem Post International Edition*, Jerusalem)
- JTA (Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet])
- NYT (*New York Times*, New York)
- OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Weekly Briefing Notes, Jerusalem)
- PCHR (Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
- WJW (*Washington Jewish Week*, Rockville, MD)
- WP (*Washington Post*, Washington)
- WT (*Washington Times*, Washington)
- YA (*Yedi'ot Abaronot*, Tel Aviv)



Palestinian customs police in Bethlehem destroy a truckload of melons grown in an Israeli settlement, 4 April 2010. This quarter, Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas signed a law criminalizing the sale of settlement-made goods in Palestinian Authority areas. (Musa al-Shaer/AFP/Getty Images)