

CHRONOLOGY

16 FEBRUARY–15 MAY 2012

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16 FEBRUARY 2012

Unidentified Palestinians fire 2 homemade Qassam **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In response, **Israeli warplanes** make 2 late-night **air strikes** on a suspected weapons factory in Gaza City, lightly injuring 1 Palestinian. Later, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a 3d rocket into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. A **Palestinian child** is killed in a smuggling tunnel collapse on the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **Israel Defense Force (IDF)** patrols in Tulkarm, 3 villages nr. Qalqilya, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Jericho in the morning; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin (firing tear gas and percussion grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no injuries), 1 nr. Jericho, 1 nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 1 nr. Jenin, 1 nr. Jericho, and 1 nr. Ramallah late at night; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon and nr. Hebron late at night. One of those detained in the West Bank arrest raids is **Hana Shalabi**, an Islamic Jihad mbr. who was released after 2 years in administrative detention in the 10/2011 Hamas-Israel prisoner swap that freed captured IDF soldier Gilad Shalit (see QU in *JPS* 163); she immediately begins a hunger strike to protest her renewed detention without charge. (PCHR 2/23; OCHA 2/24; NYT 4/2)

17 FEBRUARY 2012

IDF troops on the c. Gaza border fire **2 artillery shells** at a Palestinian

Authority security forces (PASF) building e. of al-Bureij refugee camp (r.c.), causing no injuries. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire 3 homemade Qassam **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 5 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 nr. Qalqilya in the morning; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon; patrols in 2 villages nr. Salfit, 1 nr. Ramallah late at night; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin in the morning and in Aqabat Jabir r.c. late at night. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni`lin nr. Ramallah and in Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya; all demonstrations except those in Kafr Qaddum also call for solidarity with **hunger-striking Islamic Jihad prisoner Khader Adnan**, who is on the 63d day of a fast to protest Israel's administrative detention policy. **IDF** soldiers fire live ammunition (Nabi Salih only), rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; a total of 7 Palestinians are injured. (YA 2/17, JP 2/18; PCHR 2/23; OCHA 2/24)

18 FEBRUARY 2012

During the day, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 1 manufactured **Grad rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel (causing no damage or injuries) and 1 homemade Qassam **rocket** (which lands inside Gaza, damaging a Palestinian home,

but causing no reported injuries). Late at night **Israeli warplanes** make 2 **air strikes** targeting 1 Palestinian home in Gaza City (the shell does not explode, but injures 3 Palestinians) and a Hamas training site (causing no injuries, but resulting in extensive damage to an adjacent school). In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 nr. Jenin (summoning 1 Palestinian for questioning by Israeli intelligence), and 1 nr. Qalqilya in the morning; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon; patrols in Jericho late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Ramallah. (JP, YA 2/18; PCHR 2/23; OCHA 2/24)

A meeting of all Palestinian factions set for today at the request of **Palestinian Authority (PA) pres. and Fatah head Mahmud Abbas** and **Hamas leader Khalid Mishal** to endorse several compromises that would facilitate implementation of the 5/2011 Fatah-Hamas unity deal and appointment of a transitional government to take Palestinians toward new elections does not take place because of divisions within Hamas. Senior Hamas members in Gaza are reportedly angry at Mishal and the external leadership for failing to consult adequately with the Gaza leadership over the idea of Abbas serving as both PM and president in the transitional government. (NYT 3/8) (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 164 for details)

19 FEBRUARY 2012

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 Qassam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 nr. Tulkarm, 1 nr. Jenin in the morning; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin (firing tear gas and percussion grenades at stone-throwing youths in 1 instance), 2 nr. Qalqilya, and 1 nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon; and patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin late in the evening; and conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm (targeting Islamic Jihad mbrs.) and 1 nr. Jenin late in the evening. **Jewish settlers** vandalize a Baptist church and 3 cars in East Jerusalem. (JP 2/20; PCHR 2/23; OCHA 2/24; JPI 3/2)

U.S. National Security Adviser Thomas Donilon, Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) chmn. Gen. Michael Dempsey, and **British FM William Hague** are in **Israel** for talks on **Iran** and **Syria**, specifically urging Israel not to launch a preemptive attack on Iran. (WP, WT 2/20; WT 2/29)

20 FEBRUARY 2012

IDF troops make a late-night incursion into s. Gaza, arresting 3 Palestinians trapping birds nr. the border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into al-Am'ari r.c. nr. Ramallah in the morning and detain a Palestinian guard posted outside the Palestinian Red Crescent Society offices; patrols in Qalqilya in the morning; patrols in 2 villages r. Qalqilya and Salfit late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Qalqilya and nr. Tubas, detaining (among others) 2 Palestinians released in the recent prisoner swap that freed IDF Cpl. Gilad Shalit (see QU in *JPS* 163). (PCHR 2/23; OCHA 2/24)

21 FEBRUARY 2012

West Bank Islamic Jihad spokesman Khader Adnan, held in Israeli administrative detention and observing a hunger strike since 12/17, ends his fast after reaching a deal with the Israeli Justice Min. under which authorities agree to not renew his detention order and to release him 3 weeks early (on 4/17/12) provided no new information on his case comes to light. As a result, a meeting of Israel's High Court, set later for the day, is canceled. That hearing could have ordered a broader review of Israeli military courts and the policy of administrative detention, which **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** sought to avoid. Israel is currently holding around 320 Palestinian administrative detainees, down from 800 in 1/2008. Meanwhile, Palestinians demonstrate in solidarity with Adnan outside Ofer prison nr. Ramallah, clashing with IDF soldiers; 4 Palestinians are moderately injured, and 2 are arrested. (NYT, WP, WT 2/22; PCHR 2/23; OCHA 2/24)

Unidentified Palestinians fire a mortar fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at about 75 Palestinian and international demonstrators staging a nonviolent march towards the Erez crossing to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone along the length of the Gaza border; no injuries are reported. **IDF troops** on the Gaza border n. of Bayt Hanun fire warning shots at a smaller group of Palestinians staging a similar nonviolent march to the border, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Jenin and 1 nearby village in the morning; in and around Tulkarm and in 1 village nr. Jenin (firing tear gas and percussion grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no serious injuries) in the afternoon; and I Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Salfit late at night. **IDF undercover units** make a late-night incursion into Anabta village nr. Tulkarm, raiding several homes, cars, and a grocery store, detaining 3 Palestinians. (JP 3/21; PCHR 2/23)

Hamas authorities in Gaza for the 1st time allow 100s Palestinians to demonstrate against the Syrian regime of Pres. Bashar al-Asad. (NYT 2/22)

The **UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)** reports that Egypt is brokering talks in Cairo between **Israel** and **Hamas authorities in Gaza** to increase the amount of fuel Israel allows into Gaza to run Gaza's electricity plan so as to ease rolling blackouts across the Strip. OCHA reports that Israel allowed in more fuel this week, but blackouts are still averaging 8–16 hours/day, compared to 12–18 hrs./day in recent weeks. In 1/2012, Egypt tightened its restrictions on fuel trucks traveling toward the Gaza border area to limit smuggling of fuel through the tunnels under the Rafah border (see Quarterly Update in *JPS* 163). (OCHA 2/24)

22 FEBRUARY 2012

The **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon (firing tear gas and percussion grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no

serious injuries); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in `Ayn Bayt al-Ma'a r.c. nr. Nablus and Qalqilya, and nr. Tulkarm (arresting 1 Palestinian released in the recent prisoner swap that freed IDF Cpl. Shalit). **Israel** approves construction of 600 new settlement housing units in Shiloh settlement, deep in the West Bank. (NYT, PCHR 2/2; PCHR 3/1; OCHA 3/2)

Israel's High Court repeals (6-3) the 2002 Tal Law that exempted ultra-Orthodox Jews who attend yeshivas from mandatory military service; the provision was already set to expire in summer 2012 and Netanyahu had indicated he would not renew it. Some (see WT 2/23) fear the decision could spark a coalition crisis. (NYT, WT 2/23)

Hamas's internal and external leadership hold a 14-hr. meeting in Cairo (2/22) to discuss their differences over the 5/2011 Fatah-Hamas reconciliation agreement. The Gaza leadership makes new demands that Mishal take numerous stands that run contrary to the 5/2011 deal and that Abbas would certainly reject (including demanding that Hamas be allowed to control the PA Interior Min. in the transitional government, to name Abbas's deputy to oversee Gaza during the transition, and to maintain its independent security structure in Gaza. (REU 2/23; JP 2/26)

23 FEBRUARY 2012

Israeli and Palestinian officials issue opposing statements on the content of Israel's principles on borders presented in the Jordanian-sponsored exploratory talks last quarter. Israeli officials say the principles "effectively means a withdrawal from 90% of the West Bank," similar to proposals made by Israel at the 2008 Annapolis conference. Palestinian officials counter that Israel never presented maps or discussed percentages, stating "If they wanted to say 90% they should have said 90%." (WT 2/24)

Jerusalem Post reports that **Naftali Bennett**, former head of PM Netanyahu's office and a former head of the YESHA settlers council who has recently launched a new group called **One State Israel**, has started circulating his proposed solution to the

Israel-Palestine conflict to Israel's political and military elites, who reportedly give it "high praise." His "Israel Stability Initiative," which he describes as "a practical plan for managing the . . . conflict," calls for: (1) Israel unilaterally extending sovereignty over West Bank area C (60% of the West Bank); (2) granting citizenship to the 50,000 (by his estimate; as of 8/2011, OCHA put the figure at 150,000) Palestinians in Area C; (3) full PA "autonomy" in and freedom of movement among West Bank areas A and B; (4) no right of return for Palestinian refugees and no access for Palestinian refugees to areas under PA control; (5) a "full Israeli security umbrella" covering all of the West Bank; (6) the permanent separation of Gaza from the West Bank; and (7) heavy Israeli investment in economic projects in the West Bank that reinforce separation, such as joint industrial zones and separate road networks. (JP 2/23; YA 2/24; *Foreign Policy* online 5/1; see also OCHA, "Displacement and Insecurity in Area C of the West Bank," 8/2011)

Unidentified Palestinians fire

2 Qassam **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In retaliation, **Israeli warplanes** and **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire on open areas e. of Khan Yunis, causing no reported injuries. Late at night, after **unidentified Palestinians** fire another 2 Qassam **rockets** into Israel (causing no damage or injuries), **Israeli warplanes** make 3 **air strikes** on a group of armed Palestinians operating nr. Gaza City and on a Hamas training base in n. Gaza, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, **IDF troops** nr. Hebron uproot 690 trees and bulldoze 22 dunams (d.; 4 d. = 1 acre) of agricultural land, a well and water tank, and 800 meters (m) of fence surrounding the fields, located in Surif village; and demolish a mosque, a school, and 19 shelters in Khirbat Janba bedouin community; conducts daytime patrols in Qalqilya, Tulkarm, 4 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Jenin (accidentally damaging 1 home and a water network when an IDF vehicle gets stuck); conducts afternoon and evening patrols in Qalqilya and 1 nearby village, Tulkarm and 3 nearby villages, and 1 village nr.

Salfit; conducts late night patrols nr. Qalqilya. In Jerusalem, **Israeli police** arrest 7 Palestinians for jeering a group of Jews touring the Temple Mount/al-Aqsa Mosque compound. (JP 2/23; JP, WT, YA 2/24; PCHR 3/1; OCHA 3/2)

PA pres. and Fatah head **Abbas** holds separate meetings in Cairo with Hamas leader **Mishal** and **Hamas's acting PM in Gaza Ismail Haniyeh** (marking their 1st meeting since 2007). Afterward, Fatah officials stated (*Jerusalem Post* 2/26) that Abbas has agreed to Mishal's request to suspend talks on implementation of the 5/2011 Fatah-Hamas unity deal until Hamas resolves its internal disputes. (REU 2/23; JP 2/26)

24 FEBRUARY 2012

In the evening, **IDF troops** on the Gaza border e. of Gaza City fire an **artillery** shell at a Palestinian home but it does not explode, causing damage but no injuries to the 4 adults and 8 children inside. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 nr. Qalqilya and 1 nr. Tulkarm during the day; conducts late-night patrols in Jenin town and r.c., 4 villages nr. Jenin, 2 nr. Qalqilya, 2 nr. Salfit, 1 nr. Tulkarm. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin; demonstrations in Bil'in also call for solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, causing no reported injuries. **Palestinians and international activists** also hold 3 large nonviolent demonstrations and marches in various parts of Hebron to mark the 18th anniversary of the Tomb of the Patriarchs massacre. **IDF** soldiers fire foul-smelling skunk spray, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters. In total, 13 Palestinians are moderately injured and hospitalized 27 are lightly injured and treated by medical crews at the scene, and 2 Palestinians and 1 international are arrested. (PCHR 3/1; OCHA 3/2)

Meanwhile, **Palestinians** responding to rumors (claimed by Israel to be

false) that Israeli security forces plan to escort a group of right-wing Jews onto the al-Aqsa Mosque compound march on the IDF's al-Ram checkpoint into Jerusalem, blocking the access road with burning tires, throwing stones, and setting off fire works, injuring 11 Israeli soldiers and border police. The **IDF** fires live ammunition, tear gas, and percussion grenades at the protesters, killing **1 Palestinian**. (WP 2/27; PCHR 3/1)

Speaking at Friday prayers in Cairo's al-Azhar Mosque, **Hamas's acting PM in Gaza, Haniyeh**, issues the movement's 1st public call supporting the **Syrian opposition**, stating: "I salute all people of the Arab Spring . . . and I salute the heroic people of Syria who are striving for freedom, democracy, and reform." (NYT, WP 2/25; JPI 3/9)

25 FEBRUARY 2012

In the morning, **IDF troops** on the s. Gaza border fire on agricultural areas nr. al-Qarara, causing no damage or injuries. In the evening, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 3 Qassam rockets fr. Gaza into Israeli, causing no damage or injuries. Late at night, **Israeli warplanes** carry out 2 **airstrikes** targeting a factory nr. Rafah and a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 5 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning and in Nabi Saleh (nr. Ramallah) late at night. **Palestinians and international activists** hold a nonviolent demonstration in Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron to protest Israel's confiscation of Palestinian land for the expansion of Karmeit Tzur settlement. The **IDF** beats and fires percussion grenades at protesters, moderately injuring 1 Palestinian. (JP, YA 2/25; *Times of Israel* [online], YA 2/26; PCHR 3/1; OCHA 3/2)

26 FEBRUARY 2012

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire a Qassam rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fences off 21 d. of Palestinian

land belonging to the Qarawat Bani Hassan village n. of Salfit for expansion of Burkan settlement (confiscation orders for the plot were issued in 2011); patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and nr. Qalqilya. Outside Jerusalem, in al-Ram village, **IDF** troops fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and percussion grenades at **Palestinians** holding a nonviolent demonstration against Israeli settlement expansion and construction of the separation wall, moderately injuring 1. (JP 2/26; PCHR 3/1; OCHA 3/2)

27 FEBRUARY 2012

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a major raid into Jenin r.c., surrounding the homes of **local Islamic Jihad leader Mahmoud Sa'adi**, 4 other Islamic Jihad mbrs., and 1 Fatah member, detaining all 6; the 5 Islamic Jihad members are released later in the day. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches, and patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya. A **Jewish settler** fires at Palestinians grazing their sheep nr. Hebron and attempts to steal several sheep. (PCHR 3/1; OCHA 3/2)

Israeli PM **Netanyahu** receives a delegation of senior executives of the **Jewish Federation of North American**, an umbrella group representing a network of Jewish donors across Canada and the U.S., who say they would provide financial and political support to Israel if tension with **Iran** escalate. (JPI 3/9)

28 FEBRUARY 2012

Gaza's power plant shuts down completely for lack of fuel imports—a result of Israeli import restrictions; OCHA reports that because of ongoing fuel and electricity shortages, more than 40% of Gazans have been without running water for the past week and rolling blackouts across the Strip have increased to 18 hrs./day. **Israel** allows the **International Comm. of the Red Cross (ICRC)** to bring in enough fuel to

supply back-up generators at Gaza hospitals for 2 weeks. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire a Qassam rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians and international activists staging a nonviolent march to the Erez crossing to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone along the border; no injuries are reported. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Zabbuba village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, firing on residential areas to keep Palestinians indoors and then firing tear gas at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no serious injuries; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, and nr. Qalqilya and Salfit. **Jewish settlers** enter a Palestinian a Palestinian area n. of Hebron but are followed and removed by Israeli border police. (JP, YA 2/28; PCHR 3/1; OCHA 3/2)

29 FEBRUARY 2012

The **IDF** makes predawn raids on 2 private Palestinian TV stations in Ramallah (al-Watan TV and al-Quds Educational TV), seizing transmitters and other equipment; Israel claims raids came after repeated requests to the stations to stop illegally broadcasting on frequencies that interfere with Israeli broadcasters and aircraft communications; the PA Communications Min., which licenses the stations, and the stations themselves deny receiving complaints or warnings and say they are operating in accordance with Israel-Palestinian accords. The **IDF** also conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho and late-night arrest raids and house searches nr. Jenin. (NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 3/1; PCHR 3/8; OCHA 3/9)

1 MARCH 2012

Israel allows a shipment of fuel for **Gaza's power plant** (shut down on 2/28), allowing 1 of 4 turbines to restart, but reduces the amount of cooking fuel and gasoline, aggravating shortages of these supplies. Gazans across the Strip continue to experience rolling blackouts of 8–16 hrs./day; 40% of Gaza receive

running water for several hrs. once every 4 days. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire 3 Qassam rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 5 villages nr. Jenin, Jericho, Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Tulkarm in the morning; in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah late at night. (JP 3/2; PCHR 3/8; OCHA 3/9)

U.S. Reps. Howard Berman (D-CA) and **Joe Walsh (R-IL)**, along with 50 cosigners from both parties, send a letter urging **U.S. Atty. Gen. Eric Holder** to indict, extradite, and prosecute "Palestinian terrorists" who have killed or wounded American citizens, particularly any Palestinian prisoners released under the 10/2011 and 12/2011 Hamas-Israel prisoner swap that freed Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. The letter states that since the Koby Mandell Act was passed in 2005 allowing the U.S. to try foreigner terrorists who have harmed U.S. citizens abroad, not one Palestinian has been tried though as many as 71 Palestinians attacks (by their count) have left 54 Americans dead and 83 injuring since the 1993 Oslo Accords were signed. (WJW 3/8)

2 MARCH 2012

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 Qassam rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 each nr. Jenin, Qalqilya, and Salfit in the morning; patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; and patrols in Nabi Salih, Tulkarm and 1 nearby village, and 1 village nr. Salfit late at night. **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in and Nabi Salih; demonstrations in Bil'in also call for solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. **IDF** soldiers fire live (Bil'in only) and rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, causing no reported injuries. (YA 3/2; PCHR 3/8; OCHA 3/9)

3 MARCH 2012

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 Qassam rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Jenin in the morning; 1 nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; and in Jenin and 1 nearby village, Tulkarm and 1 nearby village, and 1 village each nr. Jericho, Qalqilya, and Ramallah late at night. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Qalqilya and nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Havat Gilad nr. Qalqilya uproot 35 nearby Palestinian olive trees. (JP 3/3; PCHR 3/8; OCHA 3/9)

4 MARCH 2012

The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jericho and 2 nr. Ramallah in the morning; 1 each nr. Jenin (firing tear gas and percussion grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no serious injuries), Salfit, and Ramallah in the afternoon; and in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 each nr. Qalqilya and Tulkarm late at night. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Arroub r.c., Nablus, 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 nr. Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablus stone a Palestinian taxi traveling the Tulkarm–Ramallah, causing damage but no injuries. (PCHR 3/8; OCHA 3/9)

AIPAC opens its annual 3-day conference in Washington, which focuses this on putting pressure on Obama to take a harder stance toward Iran and to be more supportive of Israel vis-à-vis Iran, including supporting a U.S. military strike. It is AIPAC's largest conference to date, with 13,000 attending (including 1,600 students from 500 campuses and more than 200 college presidents from all 50 states). **Obama**, in his address, states that "now is not the time for bluster." Though he is willing to use "all elements of American power" to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, "diplomacy backed by pressure" (i.e., sanctions) must be allowed time to succeed. Obama also reiterates his support for creation of a Palestinian state and a

negotiated 2-state solution, but otherwise does not discuss the peace process. (NYT 3/4; NYT, WP 3/5; WJW 3/8)

5 MARCH 2012

Obama and **Netanyahu** meet at the White House to discuss **Iran**. Obama reiterates that the U.S. wants time for diplomacy to work but has left all options, including a military strike, on the table. He also says that Israel has the right to act in its own national interests. Afterward, Netanyahu tells a cheering **AIPAC** audience that sanctions have done nothing to slow Iran's progress toward achieving a nuclear weapon and warns that time for diplomacy is running out. Observers say (WP 3/6) Obama's statement "could easily be considered green light for Israeli action. And if Obama is flashing a green light, Israel's advocates in Congress are waving a starter's flag." (NYT, WT 3/6; MA, Raidió Teilifís Éireann, REU, WJW 3/8; OCHA 3/9)

After 6 mos. of negotiation with the UN, **Israel** permits the 1st 2 truckloads of Palestinian exports to the West Bank (date bars for distribution to needy children through the UN's World Food Program) since the beginning of the siege in mid-2007; the UN notes that this does not mark the resumption of regular trade between Gaza and the West Bank. The **IDF** patrols in `Ayn al-Sultan r.c. and 2 villages nr. Jericho, 3 villages nr. Jenin, and 2 nr. Qalqilya during the date; patrols in Tulkarm town and r.c., 2 nearby villages late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron (including Bayt Umar) and Nablus. The Palestinian Center for Human Rights notes (3/8) that 45 Bayt Umar residents (including 20 children) have been arrested by the IDF since 1/1/2012. Dozens of **Palestinians** march to the IDF's Atara checkpoint outside Ramallah to mark the 2d anniversary of the death of a local Palestinian family when a IDF jeep collided with their taxi; **IDF** troops at checkpoint fire tear gas and stun grenades at the marchers who respond by throwing stones; during the exchange, an **IDF soldier** fires a tear gas canister at a Palestinian teenager 20 meters

away, hitting him in the head and fracturing his skull, critically injuring him. (PCHR 3/8)

6 MARCH 2012

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots and tear gas at **Palestinians and international activists** staging a nonviolent march towards the Erez crossing to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone, causing no serious injuries. The **IDF** raids several auto repair shops in Barta'a village nr. Jenin, confiscating 17 cars with Israeli license plates. Nr. Hebron, **2 Palestinian teenagers** are killed and 3 are wounded when then accidentally trigger an **unexploded IDF mortar** shell while scavenging at a refuse dump. OCHA reports that **1 Palestinian** was killed in the previous week in a smuggling tunnel accident on the Rafah border. (PCHR 3/8; OCHA 3/9)

On the morning of Super Tuesday primary voting, the **3 leading Republican presidential candidates (Gingrich, Romney, and Santorum)** address the **AIPAC** conference via satellite, accusing Obama of being weak on Iran and insufficiently supportive of Israel. Sometime today, **Netanyahu** gives **Romney** a personal briefing by phone on the situation in Iran. (NYT 3/7; WJW 3/15; NYT 4/8)

Obama holds a press conference to criticize Republicans and other mbrs. of Congress for "beating the drums of war" against **Iran**, stating: "When I see the casualness with which some of these folks talk about war, I'm reminded of the costs involved in war . . . [T]his is not a game." (NYT 3/7)

7 MARCH 2012

Early in the morning, the **IDF** shuts the Erez border crossing into Gaza and makes a brief incursion into the destroyed Erez industrial zone to repave a road. Also in the morning, **IDF** troops on the c. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians who stray too near the border fence, forcing them to flee. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in Jericho, and late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tubas. (PCHR 3/8; PCHR 3/15; OCHA 3/16)

8 MARCH 2012

Unidentified Palestinians fire **1 mortar** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning patrols in Tulkarm, 1 nearby village, and 3 villages nr. Jenin (firing tear gas and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them in 1 instance). In the afternoon, the **IDF** makes a raid into Yatta nr. Hebron to rearrest a Palestinian who was released in the recent Israeli-Hamas prisoner swap that freed Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, sparking a clash with local Palestinians who attempt to block the arrest; during the raid, 1 IDF soldier is stabbed and wounded and opens fire, killing **1 Palestinian teenager** (a bystander) and wounding another (the perpetrator). Later in the day, the **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Jenin and 1 nr. Ramallah. **Palestinians and international activists** hold a nonviolent march from Qalandia r.c. to the IDF's Qalandia checkpoint to mark International Women's Day, to protest Israeli settlement expansion and land appropriation, and to express solidarity with hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners. The **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and percussion grenades at the marchers as they approach the checkpoint, causing no serious injuries. (JP 3/8; NYT 3/9; PCHR 3/15; OCHA 3/16)

9 MARCH 2012

Israeli drones makes an **air strike** on a car in Gaza City, assassinating **Zuhair al-Qaissi, top military cmdr. the Popular Resistance Comms. (PRCs)** and **senior PRC mbr. Mahmoud Hanani**, and seriously wounding 1 civilian bystander. Israel accuses Qaissi of plotting a cross-border attack similar to the 8/2011 Elat attack from Egypt. In response, **Islamic Jihad and the PRCs** fire at least 6 **Qassam rockets**, 4 **Grads**, and 2 **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Later, Israel carries out 2 more **air strikes** on a rocket-launching team e. of Gaza City, killing **3 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** Late in the evening **Israeli warplanes** make **3 air strikes** on separate targets nr. Gaza City, striking a residential area

(lightly injuring 2 civilians inside their home), targeting a garage under an apartment building (injuring 3 civilians, including a child), and targeting a group of armed Palestinians, killing **1 Islamic Jihad mbr.** In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 6 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning; 3 villages nr. Jenin in the evening (firing tear gas and stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them in 1 instance, causing no injuries); and 1 village nr. Tulkarm late at night. **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and N'lin; demonstrations in Bil'in and Nabi Salih also call for solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. Similar protests area also held in Bayt Dajan nr. Nablus and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya. **IDF** soldiers fire live (Nabi Salih only) and rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, causing no reported injuries; 1 American activist is arrested. **Jewish settlers** fr. Eli settlement nr. Nablus uproot 40 nearby Palestinian olive trees. **Jewish settlers** fr. Metzad settlement nr. Hebron uproot 240 newly planted Palestinian olive and fruit trees nearby. (JP 3/9; NYT, WP, YA 3/10; PCHR 3/15; OCHA 3/16)

As the armed conflict in **Syria** escalates, **Hamas officials** in **Lebanon** meet with **Hizballah leaders** to urge them to back away from supporting the Assad regime, warning that continued support for a regime that kills innocent civilians would undermine Hizballah's reputation. (NYT 4/6)

10 MARCH 2012

Overnight, **Palestinians** fire about 20 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel in retaliation for the Qaissi assassination on 3/9, injuring 3 Israelis (1 seriously); and **Israel** responds with at least 10 **air strikes** on 6 targets (1 each in Dayr al-Balah, Gaza City, and Rafah; 3 in Bayt Lahiya), killing **6 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** and wounding 6. During the day, at least another **4 Palestinians** (all **PRC** mbrs.) are killed, 18 Palestinians are wounded (2 militants and 16 civilians,

including 1 child), and 1 Israeli is injured by cross-border fire. These attacks include 9 **Israel air strikes** on 5 targets (1 in Abassan, 2 in Gaza City, 2 in Rafah), **IDF** cross-border gunfire on unarmed civilian protesters, and another **80 Palestinian rockets and mortars** fired into Israel (exclusively by **Islamic Jihad** and the **PRCs**). Meanwhile, **Gaza's power plant** shuts down completely for lack of fuel imports (see 3/1/12). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning patrols in 4 villages nr. Jenin (synchronized), 2 nr. Jericho (synchronized), and 2 nr. Ramallah; and conducts evening patrols in 2 villages each nr. Jenin, nr. Jericho, and Ramallah and in 1 village nr. Tulkarm. (JP, NYT, YA 3/10; WP 3/11; PCHR 3/15; OCHA 3/16)

11 MARCH 2012

Cross-border fighting in Gaza enters its 3d day. **Palestinians** fire **10s of rockets and mortars** into Israel, damaging an empty school but causing no injuries. **Israel** carries out at least 7 air strikes on 7 targets (1 in Abassan, 3 in Gaza City, 3 in Jabaliya), killing **2 Palestinian civilians** and wounding 33 Palestinians (2 armed Palestinians and 31 civilians, including 12 children and 5 women). **Egypt** unsuccessfully attempts to mediate a cease-fire. **Israeli DM Ehud Barak** acknowledges that **Hamas** has not taken part in the fighting, but notes that Hamas has not tried to rein in **Islamic Jihad** or the **PRCs**. As the fighting continues Islamic Jihad publicly accuses Hamas of failing to protect Gaza. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Jenin (firing tear gas, stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them, causing no injuries); patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin (again firing tear gas, stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them, causing no injuries) and 1 nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon; and conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah and late-night arrest raids and house searches nr. Jenin. Meanwhile, residents of the **illegal settlement outpost of Migron** (49 families; some 300 settlers), who

were informed by Israel's High Court in 2011 that they must vacate and dismantle the outpost (on private Palestinian land nr. Ramallah) by 3/31/12, sign a deal with the government to move the outpost to a plot of state land 2 miles away, near Psagot settlement, where they will be allowed to build permanent homes, effectively creating a new Jewish settlement in Jerusalem's environs. The government then requests that the High Court delay the evacuation until the new homes on the new site are completed (target date 2015). (JP, YA 3/11; JP, WP, WT 3/12; PCHR 3/15; OCHA 3/16; JPI 3/23)

12 MARCH 2012

Gaza fighting continues for a 4th day, with **Israel** carrying out another 9 **air strikes** on 9 targets (1 in Abassan, 3 in Bayt Lahiya, 3 in Gaza City, 1 in al-Qarara, 1 in Rafah), killing 6 **Palestinians** (4 **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. and 2 civilians, including 1 woman) and wounding 5 (2 **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. and 3 civilians, including 2 children). **Islamic Jihad** and the **PRCs** continue to fire **rockets and mortars** into Israel (at least 163 since 3/9), injuring 2 Israelis and damaging 2 buildings. Late in the evening, **Egypt** says it has mediated a cease-fire, but no one on the Israeli or Palestinian side immediately confirms. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm and 1 nr. Ramallah in the morning; conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah and late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. (JP, YA 3/12; NYT, WP, WT, YA 3/13; PCHR 3/15; OCHA 3/16)

13 MARCH 2012

Israel, **Islamic Jihad**, and the **PRCs** announce a Gaza cease-fire brokered by **Egypt**, leaving the comprehensive toll of the 3/9–12 cross-border violence at 24 Palestinians killed (of whom 4 are civilians, including 1 woman) and at least 68 Palestinians (of whom 56 are civilians, including 14 children and 5 women) and at least 6 Israelis injured; the **IDF** launched at least 41 **air strikes**, while Palestinian fired at least 163 rockets (at least 14 of them Grads)

and mortars. **Islamic Jihad** says it will observe the truce so long as Israel suspends assassinations. During the day, **unidentified Palestinians** fire at least 3 **rockets** into Israel, causing no damage or injures. **IDF troops** on the c. Gaza border fire on Palestinian civilians who approach the border fence and throw stones to protest the recent Israeli attacks, wounding 2. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a predawn raid into Hijja village nr. Qalqilya to rearrest a Palestinian prisoner released in the recent prisoner swap that freed **IDF** soldier Gilad Shalit, also arresting the man's 4 brothers. The **IDF** also patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning. **Jewish settlers** bulldoze a plot of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Givat Harosim settlement nr. Nablus. (JP, YA 3/13; NYT, WP 3/14; PCHR 3/15; OCHA 3/16)

14 MARCH 2012

Retaliating for Palestinian rocket fire on 3/13, **Israeli warplanes** carry out 3 **air strikes** on open areas north and southeast of Gaza City and on a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border, in 1 instance causing a brush fire that heavily damages several business and 1 home, but causing no injuries. Later, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets** (1 Qassam, 1 Grad) fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, **IDF** demolishes a car wash facility in Husan village (nr. Bethlehem) that is 200 meters fr. a settler-only bypass road. (JP, PCHR, YA 3/15; PCHR 3/22; OCHA 3/23)

As fighting between Syrian government and opposition forces intensifies, **Hizballah** endorses a **Hamass's** plan to reach out to **Syrian** opposition contacts inside Syria and offer to mediate a cease-fire with the regime, but does not offer to participate itself. **Hamass** and **Hizballah** made a similar joint offer in 4/2011 to mediate a cease-fire but it was rebuffed by the Syrian government. (NYT 4/6)

15 MARCH 2012

Retaliating for Palestinian rocket fire on 3/14, the **IDF** carries out 2 **air strikes** on training sites in Gaza. **Unidentified**

Palestinians fire at least 2 **rockets** in response. No injuries are reported in the exchange. **IDF** soldiers at the Qalandia crossing detain a **Palestinian** leaving Jerusalem for the West Bank, suspecting him of involvement in the stabbing and wounding of an **IDF** soldier on Jerusalem's light rail train earlier in the day. The **IDF** also demolishes a **Palestinian home** and animal farm in Qalqilya; up-roots olive and almond trees on 30 d. of confiscated **Palestinian** agricultural land nr. Hamra settlement (nr. Nablus); patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah (synchronized), 1 nr. Qalqilya, and 1 nr. Tulkarm in the morning; and in 3 villages nr. Jenin (synchronized) and 1 nr. Ramallah late at night. **Palestinian** rights activists report that the health of **administrative detainee Hana Shalabi** is deteriorating after 30 days on hunger strike (see 2/16/12). Dozens of **Palestinians** rally outside Ofer prison in solidarity with her; **IDF** troops fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, stun grenades to disperse them. (JP, YA 3/15; WP, WT 3/16; PCHR 3/22; OCHA 3/23)

After Syrian pres. **Asad** issues a statement reiterating his position that opposition forces must first halt their fire before his forces would cease fire, **Hizballah** chief **Nasrallah** issues a statement saying that both sides should cease fire simultaneously. The statement is seen as **Hizballah's** 1st cautious attempt to tone down its support for the **Asad** regime since Arab Spring protests in Syria began in 1/2011. Days after this, **Nasrallah** calls on **Asad** to undertake "serious and genuine" reform efforts, stating that it is the duty of all "whose hearts are throbbing with sympathy for the Syrian people" to seek a political solution to the problem (a statement seen as a rebuke to Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, which wanted to arm the Syrian opposition forces to overthrow **Asad**). (NYT 4/6)

16 MARCH 2012

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids and searches the home of a **PASF** officer in Qalqilya in the morning, confiscating several cell

phones; patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Qalqilya in the morning and in 1 village in Qalqilya in the afternoon; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; conducts late-night patrols in Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Jenin. **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Kafr Qaddum, and al-Ma'sara nr. Bethlehem; demonstrations in Bil'in also call for solidarity with **Palestinian** prisoners in Israeli jails. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, causing no reported injuries; 2 **Palestinians** are arrested. **Jewish settlers** fr. Esh Kodesh settlement nr. Nablus up-root 220 olive trees on a nearby plot of **Palestinian** land. (YA 3/16; PCHR 3/22; OCHA 3/23)

17 MARCH 2012

Israeli naval vessels fire on **Palestinian** fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast twice today, forcing them to return to shore. In the evening, **IDF troops** on the s. Gaza border fire on **Palestinian** residential and agricultural areas e. of Rafah, seriously wounding a 6-yr.-old **Palestinian** boy inside his home. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Qalqilya in the morning and in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Tulkarm late at night. **Palestinians and international activists** hold a nonviolent demonstration in Bayt Umar to protest nearby settlement expansion; **IDF soldiers** beat several protesters with their gun butts, moderately injuring 2. (PCHR 3/22; OCHA 3/23)

18 MARCH 2012

The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 nr. Ramallah in the morning, 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Jenin late at night. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nabi Salih (in 1 instance, photographing a house and all mbrs. of 1 family but making no arrests) and Salfit and nr. Qalqilya. **Jewish**

settlers fr. Ramat Yisrael settlement outpost in Hebron violently beat a Palestinian teenager who passes nearby, also stealing his glasses and cell phone; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (PCHR 3/22; OCHA 3/23)

19 MARCH 2012

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 Qassam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning patrols in 2 villages each nr. Jenin and Ramallah in the morning and afternoon patrols in Qalqilya and in 2 villages each nr. Jenin, Qalqilya (synchronized), and Tulkarm; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. (JP 3/19; PCHR 3/22; OCHA 3/23)

In Toulouse, **France**, a gunman on a motor scooter opens fire on a Jewish school, killing a **rabbi** and **4 students** (all dual French-Israeli citizens), wounding another 6 students (1 seriously). Authorities say the shooting appears linked to 2 recent shootings of 3 French soldiers in and nr. Toulouse. In those attacks, an assailant believed to be targeting French soldiers of Arab extraction to punish them as traitors for participating in the French military given its involvement in Afghanistan allegedly lured and shot 3 soldiers; 2 of North African origin were killed, whereas a black soldier was wounded. (NYT, WP, WT 3/20)

British FM **Hague** meets with Israel's **Vice PM Dan Meridor** on a 2-day official visit to Israel. Talks cover Iran but focus on economic cooperation. (JPI 3/30)

20 MARCH 2012

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 Qassam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Nr. al-Maghazi r.c., 2 Palestinians are injured when they accidentally trigger **unexploded IDF ordnance** while scavenging for scrap metal. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Tulkarm (2 simultaneously) and 2 in Ramallah in the morning; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nabi Salih and nr. Jenin. **Hunger-striking administrative detainee Hana Shalabi** is "in grave

danger of dying" according to **Physicians for Human Rights-Israel**, which provides her with a doctor. OCHA reports that since 3/14, 4 Palestinians have been injured in smuggling tunnel accidents on the Gaza border. (JP 3/20; WT 3/21; PCHR 3/22; OCHA 3/23)

JSC head Gen. **Dempsey** receives **IDF chief of staff Lt.-Gen. Benny Gantz** in Washington for talks on **Iran and Syria** as part of the regular U.S.-Israel strategic dialogue. Gantz also meets with White House and Defense Dept. officials, but no details are released. (JPI 3/30)

Speaking at a conference on Palestinian refugees in Brussels, **EU foreign policy adviser Catherine Ashton** expresses condolences for the 3/19/12 Jewish deaths in Toulouse and regrets over recent tragedies worldwide that have resulted in child casualties, citing among them Israel's recent air strikes on Gaza (3/9-12) that injured 14 Palestinian children. Israeli PM **Netanyahu** denounces her for making "the comparison between a deliberate massacre of children and defensive, surgical actions." Ashton's spokesman issues a statement saying that her words were "grossly distorted." (NYT 3/21)

21 MARCH 2012

The donors' **Ad Hoc Liaison Comm. (AHLC)** holds a regular semiannual meeting in Brussels to discuss the state of the Palestinian economy, PA budget priorities, and donor assistance. The AHLC expresses concern that the growth of the Palestinian economy slowed significantly in 2011 and that the PA budget deficit has grown dangerously, largely because donor contributions have fallen and Israeli restrictions on Palestinian movement and access have not been adequately reduced. While acknowledging PA efforts to maintain a stable economy, the AHLC warns that the PA cannot be successful without increased donor support and positive actions from Israel. (Europa 3/31)

The **IDF** makes a pre-dawn incursion into n. Gaza to level land and clear lines of sight along the border fence nr. Bayt Lahiya, firing on nearby agricultural areas to keep Palestinians away, causing

no injuries. In the evening, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 1 Qassam rocket and 2 mortars fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Jericho. (YA 3/21; PCHR, YA 3/22; PCHR 3/29; OCHA 3/30)

A **24-yr.-old French man of Algerian descent, Mohammed Merah**, claims responsibility for the shootings in and around Toulouse (see 3/19/12) and barricades himself in his apartment in a tense stand-off that includes exchanges of gunfire, leaving 2 police officers wounded. Merah confirms that he carried out the attacks to protest French foreign intervention in Afghanistan, as well as to avenge the deaths of Palestinian children killed by the IDF in Gaza. While Merah claims to have received al-Qa'ida training and had been on French and U.S. government watch lists, the French authorities believe he acted alone and had no serious link to al-Qa'ida or other groups. (NYT 3/22)

22 MARCH 2012

The **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm, 2 villages nr. Jenin, 2 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Jericho in the morning; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon, firing stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them in 1 instance and stopping a Palestinian boy on the street and briefly detaining him for questioning in the other; conducts late night patrols in 2 villages nr. Jericho, 1 nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Ramallah; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (PCHR 3/29; OCHA 3/30)

The **UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** approves 5 resolutions critical of **Israel**, including a res. (approved 36-1, with 10 abstentions and the U.S. voting against) calling for a UN team to be sent to investigate how Jewish settlements in the West Bank affect Palestinian rights. **Israel** denounces the res., vowing not to cooperate with the mission. Netanyahu's spokesman says the council should deal with "real issues of human rights" instead of harassing Israel. Israel's FMin. threatens to cut off all operation with the UNHRC, accusing

it of "working to satisfy the Palestinians' whims and to harm future chances of reaching an agreement though peaceful means." (WP 3/23; NYT 3/24; JPI 4/6)

A **bipartisan group of 34 U.S. representatives and 10 senators** submits an appropriations request seeking \$2 m. for the **U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation Program** for FY 2013. The program includes such projects as solar thermal plant and smart grid designs for commercial and residential use and is seen as another "vehicle for expanding . . . common interests" between the nations. The Israeli government would match the funding dollar for dollar. (WJW 4/5)

23 MARCH 2012

Israel allows a 2-day supply of diesel fuel into Gaza, allowing **Gaza's power plant** to restart 1 turbine for the 1st time since 3/10/12. **Hamas officials** organize protests in Gaza calling on **Egypt** to resume the transfer of fuel through Gaza's smuggling tunnels. Late at night, an **IDF undercover unit** enters a Palestinian village as part of a training mission and is challenged by 3 stick-wielding Palestinians who think the soldiers are burglars; the soldiers open fire, seriously wounding the 3 Palestinians (including shooting and beating at least 1 after he was severely injured) and delaying medical treatment for 1 hr. before taking them to an Israeli hospital for treatment; **1 Palestinian** later dies. The **IDF** also patrols in 4 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon, firing stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them in 1 instance and stopping to question several boys in the other; conducts late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Salfit and 1 each nr. Hebron, Jericho, and Ramallah. An 8-yr.-old Palestinian boy is seriously injured nr. Nablus when he accidentally triggers **unexploded IDF ordnance** that he found in a field. **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Kafr Qaddum, and al-Ma'sara. **IDF** soldiers beat and fire

rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, injuring 4 Palestinians (3 in al-Ma'sara who are beaten; 1 in Kafr Qaddum who is hit by a tear-gas canister). (NYT 3/24; PCHR 3/29; OCHA 3/30; HA 4/5, 4/26)

Muslim Brotherhood officials in Egypt say they are distancing themselves a bit from **Hamas** and opening new channels of communication with **Fatah** in hopes of pressing Hamas to compromise with Fatah on national unity issues so as to increase pressure on **Israel**. The officials argue that if the 2 Palestinian factions create a untied front with a "newly assertive" Egypt, Egypt will have a better chance of pressuring Israel to make concessions over Palestinian statehood. The Muslim Brotherhood was the top vote-getter in Egyptian recent parliamentary elections after the 2/2011 ouster of fmr. pres. Husni Mubarak. (WP 3/24)

24 MARCH 2012

The **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Tulkarm, 2 nr. Ramallah, and 1 each nr. Jericho and Qalqilya in the morning; 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon; and Jericho and 1 village nr. Qalqilya late at night. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, Nabi Salih, and Nablus. **Palestinian and international activists** hold a nonviolent demonstration in Bayt Umar to protest nearby settlement expansion; **IDF** soldiers beat protesters with their gun butts, injuring 1 Palestinian and 3 internationals. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kefar Etzion nr. Bethlehem uproot 85 olive trees on a nearby plot of Palestinian land. **Jewish settlers** fr. Givat Assaf settlement outpost nr. Ramallah attack and beat 3 Palestinian shepherds from a nearby village, sparking a clash with local villagers who come to the shepherds' rescue; 1 settler opens fire, seriously wounding 1 Palestinian; the **IDF** intervenes, firing tear gas to disperse the Palestinians. (PCHR 3/29; OCHA 3/30)

25 MARCH 2012

The **Israeli High Court** rejects the state's 3/11/12 request to delay the

evacuation of the **unauthorized settlement outpost of Migron** until a new housing at a new site is completed in 2015, ordering it to be dismantled by 8/1/12. An anonymous Israeli official says that the evacuated Migron settlers will likely move to the new site near Psagot immediately and begin work to fulfill the long-term government plan as laid out on 3/11/12. A settlement supporter says, "People close to Netanyahu teased the Peace Now movement [which brought the case on behalf of the Palestinian land owners], we should actually bless them because now we're going to build another settlement which is not disputed legally, and it's going to be much, much larger." (NYT, WP, WT 3/26; WP 3/31; JPI 4/6)

Gaza's power plant shuts down for lack of fuel (see 3/23/12). The **IDF** issues evacuation orders for several Palestinian homes in Hebron that are deemed too close to Susia settlement; patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 nr. Jenin, and 1 in Tulkarm in the morning; patrols in Qalqilya and 2 nearby villages (synchronized), and 1 village each nr. Jenin and Tulkarm in the afternoon; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Bireh (nr. Bethlehem) and nr. Qalqilya; conducts late-night patrols in Salfit and 1 village nr. Jenin. (PCHR 3/29; OCHA 3/30)

26 MARCH 2012

The **IDF** makes a brief early morning incursion into c. Gaza, searching and firing on residential areas in Bureij r.c., but entering no buildings and making no arrests. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 4 tents, 3 barnyards, and 3 residential barracks in a bedouin encampment in al-Maleh in the Jordan Valley; demolishes 2 barnyards nr. Tubas. The **IDF** also patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the evening; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, nr. Bethlehem, and nr. Ramallah (firing on the occupants of 1 raided home, wounding 3 Palestinians); conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya. **Jewish settlers** fr. Brakha settlement nr. Nablus attack

Palestinian farmers working their land nearby; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. **Jewish settlers** escorted by **IDF troops** begin leveling a large area of Palestinian agricultural land in Kafr Lakif village nr. Qalqilya; local Palestinian gather to protest and are informed by the IDF that the area has been approved for construction of an industrial zone; the soldiers agree to suspend the digging until the matter is clarified but bar Palestinians from the site. (PCHR 3/29; OCHA 3/30)

Jailed Fatah tanzim leader Marwan Barghouti issues a statement on the 10th anniversary of his arrest by Israel that is read to a crowd of supporters in Ramallah, stating that “the launch of large-scale popular resistance at this stage serves the cause of our people.” He also calls for “stopping all forms of security and economic coordination [with Israel] in all areas immediately.” (JPI 4/6)

Israel severs working relations with the **UNHRC** over the 3/22/12 res. calling for an investigation into settlements, calling the council biased against Israel. (NYT, WP, WT 3/27; JPI 4/6)

The **U.S. Supreme Court** orders a lower court to decide whether Americans born in **Jerusalem** can claim Israel as their birthplace on their passports. Congress approved legislation in 2002 allowing this, but the executive branch has claimed Congress overstepped its authority by attempting to override the president’s right to set foreign policy. The U.S. officially recognizes Jerusalem as occupied Palestinian territory and does not recognize Israel’s claim to united Jerusalem as its capital. (NYT 3/27; WJW 3/29)

J Street holds its annual conference. **Fmr. Israeli PM Ehud Olmert** gives the keynote speech at the gala dinner, emphasizing that PA pres. **Abbas** “wants peace with Israel and he accepts the existence of Israel as Israel declares itself to be.” (JPI 4/6)

27 MARCH 2012

No Israeli-Palestinian violence is reported. OCHA reports, however, that in the previous week, 2 Palestinian children were injured when they accidentally triggered **unexploded IDF**

ordnance while playing nr. Gaza City (different from those injured on 3/20). (PCHR 3/29; OCHA 3/30)

Israel’s centrist **Kadima party** replaces **Tzipi Livni** as leader, giving the post to **fmr. IDF chief of staff Shaul Mofaz**. (NYT 3/28)

Some 700 mbrs. of the critically pro-Israel lobbying group **J Street** spend the day lobbying Capitol Hill against a military strike on **Iran**. The advocacy day is part of J Street’s annual conference, which this yr. drew 2,500 participants. The conference itself, in addition to focusing on lobbying against a strike on Iran, stressed the importance of supporting a 2-state solution and settlement expansion as undermining peace. (NYT 3/28; WJW 3/29)

28 MARCH 2012

The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya. (PCHR 3/29; OCHA, PCHR 4/5)

29 MARCH 2012

The **IDF** enters s. Gaza in the afternoon to level lands and clear lines of sight along the border e. of Khan Yunis and do not leave until late at night; after dark, the troops are guarded by IDF helicopters overhead, which fire on nearby open and residential areas to keep Palestinians away (no injuries are reported). A separate **IDF** unit makes a brief incursion into s. Gaza e. of Rafah to level land and clear lines of sight. In the evening, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 3 **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in al-Bireh and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jericho and 1 nr. Ramallah in the evening. (JP 3/29; OCHA, PCHR 4/5)

30 MARCH 2012

Weekly Palestinian protests against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion this week coincide with **Land Day**, the annual event to protest Israel’s discriminatory land policies. **Israel** seals the Erez crossing for 2 days (3/30–31), citing

security concerns. **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold their weekly nonviolent demonstrations in Bil'in, Kafr Qaddum, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin (with protests in Bil'in and Ni'lin also calling for reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas). **IDF** soldiers fire live ammunition (Nabi Salih only), rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at these protesters, injuring 11 Palestinians (including a child) and 1 international (4 Palestinians are wounded by live fire in Nabi Salih; the rest are hit by tear-gas canisters in Kafr Qaddum). **Palestinians** hold at least 5 other Land Day rallies in the West Bank (outside Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem, outside Ofer Prison and at 2 points along the separation wall nr. Ramallah, and at the Qalandia crossing n. of Jerusalem). **IDF** soldiers fire live ammunition (Ofer and Qalandia only), rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at these protesters, injuring 19 (including 2 children; at least 7 are hit by live fire and 1 is seriously injured by a tear-gas canister to the head). In Gaza, **Hamas authorities** allow 1,000s of Palestinians to conduct a nonviolent demonstration nearly a mile from the Erez crossing, deploying police to prevent the protesters from marching to the border. Nonetheless, **IDF** troops on the Gaza border fire on the demonstration, killing **1 Palestinian** and wounding 37 (1 seriously; including 16 children). A major protest planned for East Jerusalem does not materialize. Inside Israel, some **2,000 Israeli Palestinians** demonstrate in the Galilee, with no violence reported. (NYT, WP 3/31; OCHA, PCHR 4/5)

Nonviolent Land Day protests are also held in **Jordan** and **Lebanon**. In Lebanon, 100s of Palestinians and Lebanese gather at Beaufort castle, 9 miles fr. the Israeli border, where Lebanese military forces deploy to prevent them fr. marching to the border. In **Jordan**, some 20,000 Palestinians march toward the West Bank border but stop 4 miles. No violence is reported in either case. (NYT, WP 3/31)

The **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Jericho in the morning; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin (firing stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them, causing no injuries) and 1 nr. Qalqilya in the

afternoon; conducts late-night patrols in Jericho and nearby `Ayn al-Sultan r.c., 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 nr. Ramallah. (PCHR 4/5)

31 MARCH 2012

IDF troops on the s. Gaza border e. of Khan Yunis fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers who stray too near the border fence, forcing them to flee. Late at night, **IDF troops** on the c. Gaza border e. of al-Maghazi r.c. fatally shoot a lone **armed Palestinian** digging nr. the border fence. In addition, 4 Palestinians scavenging for scrap metal nr. Rafah are injured when the accidentally trigger **unexploded IDF ordnance**. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning; in Tulkarm and 2 nearby villages, 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, and an open area nr. Jenin (firing in the air, causing no damage or injuries) in the evening; and in 4 villages nr. Qalqilya and 1 nr. Hebron late at night. **Jewish settlers** wielding iron bars attack 4 Palestinians traveling nr. Ramallah, moderately injuring them. Masked **Jewish settlers** fr. Bat Ayin settlement nr. Hebron attack and beat a Palestinian farmer and his family working their land nearby. OCHA, (PCHR 4/5)

1 APRIL 2012

Israel releases **administrative detainee Hana Shalabi**, who spent more than 40 days on hunger strike to protest her detention without trial, and reports her to Gaza (she is from the West Bank). The Palestinian Prisoners Society in Ramallah says that several other Palestinians being held in administrative detention in Israel are now on hunger strike, 2 of them fasting for over a month. (NYT, WP 4/2; OCHA, PCHR 4/5)

In Gaza, **Palestinians** stage a nonviolent protest march to the border fence e. of Abassan to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone; the **IDF** fires warning shots forcing them to flee, causing no injuries. The **IDF** also makes a brief incursion into c. Gaza, searching border areas e. of al-Bureij r.c. for several hours. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the

morning; patrols 2 villages nr Ramallah (firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them in 1 instance, causing no injuries) and 1 nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; and conducting synchronized late-night patrols in Qalqilya and 4 nearby villages; conducting additional late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah; and conducting late-night arrest raids and house searches in Nablus and Tubas, and nr. Jenin and Ramallah. (OCHA, PCHR 4/5)

Tunisia's new government, elected in 10/2011 and led by a coalition headed by the Islamist Ennahda party, says that it cannot normalize relations with **Israel**, stating that "Tunisians' problem is with Zionism, not with Judaism." (WT 4/2)

2 APRIL 2012

Early in the morning, the **IDF** drops leaflets from helicopters over n. Gaza border areas nr. Bayt Lahiya warning that the IDF will use deadly force against anyone approaching the border fence. Late at night, **IDF troops** on the s. Gaza border fire on residential areas of Khan Yunis, damaging a house but causing no injuries. On the Rafah border, **1 Palestinian** is killed and 2 are injured in a smuggling tunnel collapse. In the West Bank, **Israel's Shin Bet** arrests 13 Palestinians fr. al-Am'ari r.c. (including 2 Palestinian Red Crescent Society employees, the goalie of Palestine's Olympic soccer team, and a senior PA intelligence officer) for plotting a series of attacks on IDF soldiers nr. Ramallah, claiming that the prominent mbrs. of the group intended to use their status to perpetrate attacks. The **IDF** seals off a plot of land in the al-Ja'wana area Bayt Furik village (nr. Nablus), confiscating 6 tents and 2 water tanks belonging to local Palestinians; patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (synchronized) and 1 nr. Qalqilya in the morning; patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin, Qalqilya, and Ramallah in the afternoon; and conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Qalqilya and nr. Nablus. A **Palestinian** shot during an arrest raid nr. Ramallah on 3/26 dies of his injuries. (OCHA, PCHR 4/5; JPI 4/13)

The **IDF** issues an eviction order to several **Jewish settler families** who moved into a house in Hebron, near the al-Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs, several days ago that they claim to have purchased fr. the Palestinian owner (who claims the deeds were forged). The IDF cites the settlers for failing to secure the proper permits from the Israeli military to reside in the West Bank, calling their presence "a risk to public order," and ordering them to vacate the building by 3:00 P.M. local time on 4/3. (NYT 4/4, 4/5)

3 APRIL 2012

A **senior Palestinian official** speaking anonymously says that **Israeli and Palestinian negotiators** plan to meet soon, for the 1st time since 1/25/12 in Amman. Meanwhile, **Netanyahu** holds a rare news conference, saying that he still hopes to reach a peace deal with the Palestinians based on a 2-state solution. He states: "I don't want a binational state. . . . For as long as it depends on me, we will ensure the Jewish and democratic character of Israel." (WT 4/4) **Netanyahu** calls on the **Israeli military** to delay the eviction of the **Jewish settler families** who moved into a Hebron house several days ago without securing the proper permits, saying they should be allowed to remain in the house until their case is heard in court; the settlers ignore the IDF's 4/2/12 eviction orders. (NYT 4/4)

The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** rejects a PA request to sign the ICC's founding treaty (the Rome Statute), reaffirming that only internationally recognized states can join the court. The ruling means the automatic rejection of a PA request for the ICC to form a permanent war crimes tribunal to investigate Israeli actions during its 2008–9 Operation Cast Lead offensive against Gaza. The only alternative is for the UNSC to ask for a tribunal. (NYT, WP 4/4)

Late in the evening, **IDF troops** on the c. Gaza border e. of Gaza City fatally shoot a knife-wielding **Palestinian teenager** who approaches the border fence; his family says the boy had made comments about wanting to avenge the death of his sister, who was killed

during Israel's Operation Cast Lead assault on Gaza in 2008–9. In the West Bank, OCHA reports that the **IDF** has removed 5 barriers, gates, and unmanned checkpoints nr. Nablus and Tulkarm that have been in place since 2000–2, greatly improving movement between Nablus and Bayt Dajan and Zawata, and among Tulkarm, Izbat Shufa, and Shufa. The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm and 1 each nr. Jericho and Jenin in the morning; conducts rare daytime arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin; conducts afternoon patrols in 2 villages nr. Jericho and 2 nr. Ramallah (synchronized); conducts late-night patrols in `Ayn al-Sultan r.c., Jericho (twice), Tulkarm, and 1 village each nr. Jenin (firing stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no injuries), Jericho and Salfit; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Umar. (OCHA, PCHR 4/5)

4 APRIL 2012

Israeli and Palestinian officials confirm that discussions are underway for a high-level meeting between Israeli PM Netanyahu and PA PM Salam al-Fayyad after Passover ends on 4/13. Fayyad plans to hand Netanyahu a letter from Abbas, which in its current draft includes Palestinian conditions for a return to negotiations (including Israel halting settlement expansion and accepting 1967 lines the basis for talks) and an enumeration of Israeli actions that the Palestinians find counterproductive to peace. (NYT 4/5)

Israeli security forces evict Jewish settler families fr. a house in Hebron that they occupied ca. 4/2/12. Meanwhile, **Netanyahu** calls on Israel's atty. gen. to "find a solution" for the unauthorized outpost of Ulpana (which he terms a neighborhood of Beit El settlement) in Hebron that an Israeli court ordered demolished by 5/1/12. He also says that he plans to convene a meeting with DM Barak to seek the permits retroactively to legalize 3 other unauthorized settlement outposts (Bruchin, Rachelim, and Sansanna). Separately, **Israel's Housing Min.** issues bids for construction of 800 new settlement

housing units in Har Homa settlement in East Jerusalem. (NYT, PCHR, WT 4/5; OCHA 4/13)

Israel allows a small shipment of diesel fuel for **Gaza's power plant** allowing 1 turbine to restart for the 1st time since 3/25/12, but rolling blackouts remain up to 16 hrs./day across the Strip. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border fire into the abandoned Erez industrial zone late at night, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning and another late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Kafr Qaddum (arresting 20) and nr. Tulkarm. (PCHR 4/5; PCHR 4/12)

5 APRIL 2012

A Grad **rocket** fired fr. the **Egyptian** Sinai lands in nr. Elat in s. **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries, but raising fears ahead of the Passover weekend, when 1,000s of tourists usually visit the resort town. No group claims responsibility. (HA, JP, YA 4/5; WP 4/6; YA 4/7)

The **IDF** makes a day-long incursion into n. Gaza e. of Jabaliya to level land and clear lines of sight; during the operation, troops fire 4 **artillery** shells and direct gunfire at surrounding agricultural areas to keep Palestinians away. **IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border fire into the Erez industrial zone late at night, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning and afternoon; conducts late-night arrest raids, houses searches in Nabi Salih; conducts late-night patrols in Jenin, 1 nearby village, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm. (PCHR 4/12; OCHA 4/13)

Palestinian sources report that in the previous week, the **PASF** arrested university prof. and single mother Ismat Abdul-Khaleq and placed her in solitary confinement over a Facebook posting in which she criticized Abbas's government and called for the PA to be dismantled. She is the 5th prominent Palestinian arrested in the past year for criticizing the PA on Facebook. The others are: Radio Bethlehem 2000 director George Canawait, arrested in 9/2011 for criticizing the PA Health Min.; al-Quds TV employee Mahmdouh Hamara, arrested

in fall 2011 for posting an unflattering picture of Abbas; and journalists Rami Samara and Youssef al-Shayeb, arrested in 2/2012 and 3/2013 respectively, for “defaming public officials” by writing news items on PA corruption. Most of the arrests have been carried out under an 1960 Jordanian law, not the PA press and communications law of 1995. Most of those arrested have been released within 2 weeks. (WP 4/6; NYT 5/7)

6 APRIL 2012

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** patrols in Kafr Qaddum (temporarily occupying 1 house as an observation post) and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; patrols in Kafr Qaddum, Tulkarm. The IDF units patrolling nr. Jenin, nr. Qalqilya, and in Tulkarm fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at Palestinian youths who confront them, causing no serious injuries. **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Kafr Qaddum, Nabi Salih, and Ni'in; protests in Bil'in and Ni'in also call for solidarity with prisoners, while the Bil'in protest additionally calls for national unity. **IDF** soldiers beat and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, injuring 3 Palestinians in Nabi Salih. (PCHR 4/12; OCHA 4/13)

7 APRIL 2012

The **IDF** makes an **air strike** on a Palestinian rocket-launching team e. of Rafah, injuring 2 armed Palestinians. **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** patrols in 6 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Qalqilya in the morning and early afternoon; patrols in Kafr Qaddum in the evening; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin and nr. Qalqilya. (PCHR, WJW 4/12; OCHA 4/13)

8 APRIL 2012

In response for the Israeli air strike on Gaza on 4/7, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 3 **rockets** (including 1 manufactured Grad) fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **IDF troops** on the Gaza border e. of Gaza City fire warning shots at a Palestinian scavenging for scrap metal nr. the border fence, lightly wounding him. **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** patrols in Qalqilya (twice), 1 village nr. Jenin (where troops fire stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no injuries), and 1 village nr. Salfit in the morning; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; patrols in Aqabat Jabir r.c., Jericho and 1 nearby village, Kafr Qaddum, Nablus, and Salfit late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nabi Salih. **Hamas authorities in Gaza** hang 3 Palestinians, 1 convicted of collaborating with Israel and 2 convicted of murder. (JP, YA 4/8; WT 4/9; PCHR 4/12; OCHA 4/13)

The *New York Times* runs a special investigative report on the decades-long relationship between Israeli PM **Netanyahu** and U.S. **presidential candidate Mitt Romney (R-MA)** that began when both worked as corporate advisers at Boston Consulting Group in 1976 and attended weekly brainstorming sessions together. The relationship has continued to the present with the men routinely engaging in “unusually frank exchange[s] of advice on topics like politics, economics, and the Middle East.” Of the friendship, Romney says: “We can almost speak in shorthand. We share common experiences and have a perspective and underpinning which is similar.” Netanyahu also notes their “easy communication.” (NYT 4/8)

9 APRIL 2012

IDF troops make 2 brief incursions into c. Gaza e. of Bureij r.c. and s. Gaza e. of Khan Yunis to leveling land and clear lines of sight along the border fence. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning patrols in 3 villages

nr. Jericho, Qalqilya, and Ramallah; afternoon patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and Ramallah; and late-night patrols in Jericho, Kafr Qaddum, 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, and 1 nr. Qalqilya. (PCHR 4/12; OCHA 4/13)

Egypt's natural gas pipeline to **Israel** is attacked and damaged for the 14th time since the Arab Spring uprising began in 1/2011. (WJW 4/12)

10 APRIL 2012

IDF troops on the s. Gaza border fire on open areas nr. the border fence e. of Khuza' and Khan Yunis, damaging 2 houses but causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in Tulkarm. OCHA reports that since 4/7, 3 Palestinian children have been injured when they accidentally triggered **unexploded IDF ordnance** nr. Rafah and Jabaliya r.c. (PCHR 4/12; OCHA 4/13)

Israel says it plans to prevent the entry of 100s of pro-Palestinian activists expected to fly into Israel's Ben-Gurion airport over the next few days as part of a nonviolent protests called by Palestinian activists. This is the 2d "flytilla" that Palestinians have organize (the 1st was in 7/2011; see QU in *JPS* 161). (WP, WT 4/11)

Iran announces that it has arrested an Israeli-backed "terrorist team" of 15 people (Iranians and foreigners) that planned attacks inside Iran, stating that "heavy bombs, machine guns, handguns, silencers, military and telecommunications equipment, and other terrorist tools" were found on the team. **Israel** declines to comment. (WP 4/11; NYT 5/16)

Israeli pres. Shimon Peres sends a letter to U.S. Pres. **Obama** requesting clemency for **convicted spy for Israel Jonathan Pollard**, citing his declining health. Today, Peres also forwards 2 petitions he has received urging him to seek Pollard's release: 1 signed by 35,000 Israeli citizens (including fm. captive IDF soldier Gilad Shalit) and 1 from 80 Israeli MKs. (WJW 4/12)

11 APRIL 2012

Quartet officials meet in Washington on 4/11 to discuss the status of the peace process, afterward calling on the

Israeli and Palestinian sides to resume talks as soon as possible. **Netanyahu** quickly responds (4/11) with a public appeal to Abbas to resume their direct talks immediately, without preconditions. (JP 4/11; WT 4/13)

The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Tubas. (PCHR 4/12, 4/19; OCHA 4/20)

U.S. Secy. of State Hillary Clinton invokes rarely used powers to override a congressional hold on \$152 m. in assistance to the Palestinians that was placed by Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), the chairwoman of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, to punish PA Pres. Abbas for seeking Palestinian statehood recognition at the UN (see QU in *JPS* 163). The State Dept. argues that the funds "provide critical support to the Palestinian people and those leaders seeking to combat extremism within their society and build a more stable future." (JTA 4/11)

12 APRIL 2012

Palestinian chief negotiator

Saeb Erakat responds to Israel PM **Netanyahu's** 4/11/12 call for an immediate resumption of talks without preconditions by stating that talks would be meaningless unless Israel halted settlement construction, which creates facts on the ground that could supersede a negotiated settlement. He calls on the Quartet to find "a mechanism to compel Israel to stop settlement and to act on the two-state solution." (AFP 4/12; WT 4/13)

The **IDF** conducts morning patrols in 3 villages nr. Jericho (synchronized), 3 villages nr. Ramallah (2 synchronized), and 1 nr. Qalqilya; conducts afternoon patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya; and conducts late-night patrols in Jericho and Nabi Salih. **Jewish settlers** fr. Itamar settlement nr. Nablus attack 5 Palestinian farmers working their land nearby, moderately injuring them; the **IDF** observes and intervenes, detaining the Palestinians for questioning. (PCHR 4/19; OCHA 4/20)

13 APRIL 2012

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** conducts morning patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Qalqilya, afternoon patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm and 1 nr. Jenin; and late-night patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin, 2 nr. Salfit, and 1 nr. Qalqilya. **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Kafr Qaddum, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin; protests in Bil'in and Ni'lin also call for solidarity with prisoners and national unity. **IDF** soldiers fire live ammunition (Nabi Salih only), rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 13 Palestinians (5 in Bil'in, including 1 child; 8 in Nabi Salih, including 1 child) and 2 Israeli activists (in Nabi Salih) were injured. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba in Hebron violently beat 2 Palestinians working their land nearby (1 requires hospitalization) and uproot 10s of olive trees. (PCHR 4/19; OCHA 4/20)

14 APRIL 2012

PRC mbrs. fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza towards Israel, which explodes prematurely inside Gaza, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, **200 Palestinians and international activists** taking part in a bike along the Jordan Valley intended to draw attention to Israeli restrictions on Palestinian movement are blocked by **IDF** as they leave Ouja village to enter Route 90; at least 1 IDF soldier, an officer, is caught by news cameras beating a Danish activist with his M16 and is dismissed from his post and demoted by the Defense Min. "on moral grounds." (In total, 2 Palestinians, including a woman, and 3 internationals, including the Dane, are injured.) A small group of **Palestinians and international activists** hold a weekly nonviolent demonstration in Bayt Umar protesting settlement expansion; the **IDF** beats and fires stun grenades at the protesters, hitting 1 Palestinian woman with a stun grenade, moderately injuring her. The **IDF** also conducts morning patrols in 'Aqabat Jabir r.c., Jericho and

1 nearby village, 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, and 1 each nr. Jenin and Qalqilya; conducts afternoon patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and Jericho; and conducts late-night patrols in Tulkarm and 2 nearby villages, 3 villages nr. Qalqilya, 2 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Jenin. (MNA 4/15; NYT, PCHR 4/19; OCHA 4/20)

15 APRIL 2012

Israel detains all but a few of 100s of pro-Palestinian protesters attempting to enter Israel through Ben-Gurion Airport to attend an anti-occupation rally in Bethlehem. Organizers claim that more than 1,500 supporters booked tickets to Israel, but only 3 make it to Bethlehem. Israel says most were stopped at their point of departure after it gave foreign governments no-fly lists identifying suspected activists. (NYT, WP, WT 4/16; JPI 4/27)

Israeli naval vessels detain a fishing boat that approaches the 3 naut. mi. boundary off the Gaza coast, detaining and questioning 3 fishermen onboard, releasing them by the end of the day, but confiscating their boat. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire at least 1 Qassam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Late at night, an **Israeli warplane** makes an **air strike** on an open area nr. Gaza City, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning patrols inside Jericho and Qalqilya (normally the PA security forces have security control during daylight hours and the IDF stays away), as well as in 1 village nr. Ramallah; conducts afternoon patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya (synchronized), 2 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Jericho; and conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Nachliel settlement nr. Ramallah uproot around 250 olive trees on a nearby plot of Palestinian land. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on settlement nr. Hebron fire at several Palestinian farmers and shepherds working nearby, causing no reported injuries. (JP, YA 4/15; PCHR 4/19; OCHA 4/20)

The *New York Times* reports that around this date, the **PASF** detains 2 prominent Palestinians for posting comments critical of the PA on Facebook: **Palestinian blogger Jamal Abu**

Raihan for posing a satirical column depicting PA Pres. **Abbas** as a donkey and complaining of PA corruption; and **Palestinian journalist Tareq Khamees** for posting a comment in support of others who have recently been arrested for criticizing the PA (also seizing his laptop). By this date, the **PA Atty. Gen. Ahmad al-Mughni** has also ordered PA authorities to block several websites supportive of **Abbas rival, former Gaza security chief Muhammad Dahlan**. (NYT 5/7) (see 4/5/12 and Quarterly Update in *JPS* 164 for details)

16 APRIL 2012

The **IDF** demolishes 4 agricultural storehouses, 6 barnyards, and 3 wells in Rafat village nr. Salfit; bulldoze 3 wells, a water network, and 2 d. of agricultural land in Dura village nr. Hebron to expand an IDF post to better protect local Jewish settlers; patrols in Qalqilya in the morning (see 4/15) and in 4 nearby villages in the evening and late at night. (PCHR 4/19; OCHA 4/20)

17 APRIL 2012

Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat and **PA intelligence chief Majid Faraj** deliver the long-anticipated letter fr. Pres. **Abbas** to Israeli PM **Netanyahu** and his chief negotiator **Yitzhak Molcho** at a meeting in Jerusalem. Netanyahu pledges to respond in writing within 2 wks. While the letter is not released publicly, a draft version was leaked to the press by a Palestinian source on 4/15, with the disclaimer that that the text might change before it was given to Netanyahu (see Doc. ???). Of note: PA PM **Fayyad** had planned to deliver the letter, but pulled out at the last minute. While there is no official comment as to why, various Palestinian sources say (WP 4/18) that **Fayyad** either (1) disagreed with the content of the letter or (2) thought it would be inappropriate for him to hold a high-level meeting with Netanyahu on the same day as an annual rally in support of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. **Fayyad** had opposed early drafts that threatened to dissolve the PA if there was no significant

progress toward peace. The 4/15 draft includes an implied threat, stating: "The PA is no longer as was agreed and this situation cannot continue." (*Times of Israel* 4/15; NYT, WP 4/18)

IDF troops on the s. Gaza border e. of Khan Yunis fire into Gaza for unknown reasons, wounding a Palestinian man in Khuza' village, 2,000 m. from the border (well outside the 300-m. no-go zone). In the West Bank, the **IDF** imposes a late-night curfew on Kafr Haris village nr. Salfit and escorts at least **3,000 Jewish settlers** into the village to perform religious services at a local holy site; the group stays for 6 hrs., attacking and beating Palestinians who venture onto the street; the IDF arrests 1 Palestinian. The **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in Tulkarm, firing tear gas and stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them and searching 1 home. Across the West Bank, **Palestinians** demonstrate in solidarity with the 4,000 Palestinians held in Israeli jails to mark Prisoners Day. **IDF troops** fire live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at 1 group demonstrating outside Ofer prison nr. Ramallah, wounding 2. About 1,200 Palestinian prisoners declare a hunger strike to protest their conditions and detentions without trial. (According to B'Tselem, there are currently about 320 administrative detainees, down from about 800 in 2007.) About 10 Palestinians have already gone on hunger strike, including 2 who have been granted early release (including **Khader Adnan**, who is freed today and **Hana Shalabi**, freed on 4/1) and 2 (**Islamic Jihad mbrs. Bilal Diab and Thaer Halahleh**) who have now been hospitalized after refusing food for more than 40 days. (NYT, WT 4/18; PCHR 4/19; OCHA 4/20; WP 4/24; JPI 4/27)

18 APRIL 2012

Egypt's Grand Mufti Ali Gomaa visits al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem in what he calls an unofficial visit to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and their claim to East Jerusalem. Many Egyptians and Muslims are angry that he broke an unofficial ban by Muslim clerics and Egyptian organizations on visit-

ing areas under Israeli control. (WT 4/19)

Early in the morning, **IDF troops** make a brief incursion into c. Gaza e. of al-Bureij r.c., firing on the surrounding area; no damage or injuries are reported. Also in the morning, **IDF troops** on the s. Gaza border fire on Palestinian houses and agricultural areas in Khuza; a Palestinian woman 1,000 m. from the border is hit in the head with live ammunition and is seriously injured. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 9 residential structures, 6 animal pens in al-Khalayli bedouin community in area C nr. Jerusalem, displacing 54 Palestinians (including 34 children); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tubas; late-night patrols in Jericho. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli authorities** evict 2 Palestinian families fr. their homes in Bayt Hanina, ending a decade-long legal dispute with Jewish settlers over the ownership of the properties. (PCHR 4/19, 4/26; OCHA 4/27)

19 APRIL 2012

The **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm, 2 villages nr. Jenin (in 1 instance firing stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them), 2 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Jericho in the morning; patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin and Ramallah in the afternoon; and conducts synchronized late-night patrols 2 villages nr. Jenin. (PCHR 4/26; OCHA 4/27)

The *Washington Post* runs a special report on **Hamas**, concluding that after 5 yrs. in power in Gaza, the movement is “fast losing popularity” because it has not provided promised services (e.g., stipends for rebuilding homes destroyed in Israel’s Operation Cast Lead, steady supplies of electricity and water) and is increasingly seen as corrupt (e.g., what benefits are available go to Hamas cadres, Hamas officials living better than most and more concerned about keeping their positions of privilege than providing for the people). (WP 4/19)

20 APRIL 2012

The **IDF** conducts morning patrols in Kafr Qaddum (temporarily occupying

1 Palestinian home as an observation post), 2 villages nr. Ramallah (synchronized), and 1 village nr. Tulkarm; conducts afternoon patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and Ramallah; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nabi Salih and late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah. **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil’in, Nabi Salih, and Ni’lin; protests in Bil’in also call for solidarity with prisoners and national unity. **IDF** soldiers fire live ammunition (Nabi Salih only), rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 1 Palestinian moderately injured by a tear gas canister in Ni’lin, and 4 Palestinians and 2 Israeli activists are arrested. (PCHR 4/26; OCHA 4/27)

21 APRIL 2012

In the morning, **IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials in the abandoned Erez industrial zone, forcing them to flee. Later in day, the same **IDF** unit fires live ammunition and then 2 **artillery** shells into the zone, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning patrols in Kafr Qaddum and 1 village nr. Ramallah; afternoon patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and Jericho; and late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Jenin. The **IDF** also conducts an arrest raid and house search nr. Qalqilya. (PCHR 4/26; OCHA 4/27)

22 APRIL 2012

Israeli naval commandos raid a **Liberian ship** off the Gaza coast, suspecting of carrying weapons for “anti-Israeli militants,” but releases it after finding no arms. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire a **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** stages a morning raid into Kafr Ra’i village nr. Jenin, photographing and ordering residents to abandon a protest tent they recently set up to show solidarity with hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners.

The **IDF** also conducts morning patrols in Jericho and 1 nearby village, 2 villages nr. Jenin (in 1 instance firing tear gas and stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them), and 1 each nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah; afternoon patrols in Qalqilya and 3 villages nr. Jenin, Jericho, and Ramallah; late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin; and late-night patrols in Jericho (firing tear gas and stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them) and 1 nearby village. (JP 4/22; WP 4/23; PCHR 4/26; OCHA 4/27)

Israeli PM **Netanyahu** appoints a small ministerial panel (himself, DM Barak, Vice PM Moshe Ya'alon, and Minister-without-Portfolio Benny Begin) intended to legalize **3 unauthorized settlement outposts** (Bruchin, Rachelim, and Sansanna) located on what Israel has classified as "state land" in the West Bank. Netanyahu previously pledged to bring the issue of the 3 outposts (which received initial approval from previous governments in the 1980s and 1990s but were never given final approval or permits for construction) "to the government for approval." Netanyahu says the panel will deal only with these 3 outposts and has no relation to a separate committee, headed by Judge Edmund Levy, that was created earlier in 2012 to "examine the legal issues" of all the unauthorized outposts. However, the wording of the panel's written mandate is potentially broader, stating its role is to "resolve the issues" of "settlements that are now unauthorized outposts and which were constructed years ago on state land with state funds or with initial agreements from state bodies." By this definition, two-thirds of the 105 unauthorized outposts could be retroactively legalized. (JPI 5/4)

The state-operated **Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company** terminates its 2005 contract to ship gas to Israel, stating that **Israel** has not paid its bill in 4 mos. and that the decision to suspend shipments immediately "has nothing to do with anything outside of the commercial relations." Israel denies this, calling the move politically motivated. (NYT, WP 4/23; JPI 5/4)

In Washington, Pres. **Obama** tours the Holocaust Memorial with

Jewish-American Holocaust survivor Elie Weisel, stating in an address afterward that: "Too often the world has failed to prevent the killing of innocents . . . , and we are haunted by the atrocities that we did not stop and the lives we did not save." Weisel follows with comments highly critical of Obama, asking: "How is it that [Syrian pres.] Asad is still in power. How is it that the Holocaust's No. 1 denier, [Iranian pres. Mahmoud] Ahmadinejad, is still a president?" (WT 4/24)

23 APRIL 2012

Unidentified Palestinians fire 2 Qassam **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **IDF troops** make a brief incursion into n. Gaza to level land and clear lines of sight along the border fence n. of Bayt Hanun, occasionally firing on the surrounding area to keep Palestinians away (no injuries reported). In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 2 Palestinian water tanks serving Palestinian agricultural land in area C; bulldozes 1 d. of agricultural land nr. Qalandia (n. of Jerusalem) that was previously confiscated for construction of the **separation wall**; conducts morning patrols in Qalqilya and 1 nearby village, 2 villages each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm, and 1 nr. Jericho; afternoon patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Jenin; late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron; and late-night patrols in Bayt Umar, Birzeit, Jericho and 1 nearby village, Tulkarm, and 2 villages nr. Hebron and Ramallah (firing tear gas and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them). **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablus, escorted by **IDF** troops, throw stones at a Palestinian elementary school in nearby Ourif village; when local Palestinians throw stones back at the settlers, **IDF** soldiers fire tear gas at them to force them to disperse, causing no serious injuries. (JP, YA 4/23; PCHR 4/26; OCHA 4/27)

A Turkish official says that **Turkey** has blocked **NATO** from inviting **Israel** to participate in a NATO summit planned for Chicago in 5/2012 as part of a NATO outreach program to boost ties with

nonmember states. NATO officials deny that the issue was ever discussed. Israel does not comment. (WP 4/24)

24 APRIL 2012

In an op-ed in the *New York Times*, **former lead Israeli peace negotiator Gilead Sher, former Israeli Security Agency head Ami Ayalon, and Israeli entrepreneur Orni Petruschka** (organizers of a new group called **Blue White Future**) argue that since serious Israeli-Palestinian peace talks are unlikely to resume soon, Israel should adopt a “radically new unilateral approach” (which they term “constructive unilateralism”): openly “strive . . . to establish facts on the ground” that would impose a 2-state solution based on 1967 borders with Israel’s desired land swaps “regardless of whether Palestinians leaders have agreed.” The proposed borders would be based on Israel’s separation wall. At the same time, Israel would cease settlement expansion in areas that it does not intend to keep and prepare a plan to relocate settlers (they estimate 100,000) from settlements that would fall under permanent Palestinian control. Relocation would not take place, and the IDF would remain deployed in the West Bank, until the Palestinians signed a formal final-status agreement recognizing Israel’s fait accomplis. They argue that the plan meshes well with the Palestinians’ own constructive unilateralism of late (i.e., Abbas’s mission to gain UN recognition of Palestinian statehood), since it would be easier for Israel to negotiate with the Palestinians state to state. (NYT 4/24)

Netanyahu’s **special ministerial panel examining the future of 3 unauthorized West Bank settlement outposts** legalizes the outposts of Bruchin (pop. 350) and Rachelim (pop. 240) in the north, and Sansanna (pop. 240) in the south, stating that “these communities were founded in the 1990s based on the decisions of a past government.” The panel also calls on the Israeli High Court to put off the 5/1/12 deadline to evacuate 30 homes in Ulpana outpost (constructed on private Palestinian land), which the government describes as a “neighborhood of Beit El” settlement.

UN. Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-Moon calls the decision “illegal under international.”

U.S. State Dept. spokeswoman Victoria Nuland says: “We don’t think this is helpful to the [peace] process, and we don’t accept the legitimacy of continued settlement activity.” (*Forward*, HA, JTA 4/24; NYT, WP 4/25; WP 4/28)

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. They surround and confiscate 1 boat, detaining 2 fishermen. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes a Palestinian barnyard nr. Bethlehem; conducts morning patrols in 4 villages nr. Ramallah (2 synchronized) and 1 nr. Jericho; afternoon patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin, Jericho, and Qalqilya; and late-night patrols in al-Bireh, 2 villages each nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah, and 1 nr. Jenin. **Jewish settlers**, escorted by **IDF troops**, enter Balata village nr. Nablus in the morning to pray at Joseph’s Tomb. (PCHR 4/26)

25 APRIL 2012

The **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in `Aqabat Jabir r.c. and Jericho. (PCHR 4/26, 5/3; OCHA 5/4)

26 APRIL 2012

IDF troops on the s. Gaza border fire toward residential and agricultural areas e. of Rafah, wounding a Palestinian who is 1,000 m. from the border (well beyond the no-go zone). In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts daytime patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Jenin, and late-night patrols in Tulkarm. **Palestinians** rally outside Ofer prison nr. Ramallah to show solidarity with hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners; **IDF troops** fire on the demonstrators, wounding 4. For the 2d time in a week (see 4/24), **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablus, escorted by **IDF** troops, throw stones at a Palestinian elementary school in nearby Ourif village; when local Palestinians throw stones back at the settlers, **IDF** soldiers fire tear gas at them to force them to disperse, causing no serious injuries. **Jewish settlers** accompanied by **IDF troops** raid and occupy a plot of Palestinian

land in Imatin village nr. Qalqilya, arresting 2 Palestinian shepherds on the land. **Jewish settlers** block Palestinian traffic on the Nablus–Ramallah road nr. the IDF's Za'atra checkpoint s. of Nablus. (PCHR 5/3; OCHA 5/4)

PA Communications M Mashhour Abudaka resigns, citing unspecified personal reasons, though many insiders believe (see NYT 5/7) that he is strongly opposed to the recent string of arrests of journalists and public commentators who have criticized **Abbas's** administration, particularly the 2/2012 arrest of journalist Rami Samara for criticizing him personally; Samara was released after 2 weeks. (NYT 5/7) (see 4/5/12, 4/15/12, and Quarterly Update in *JPS* 164 for details)

Jordan's reformist PM, Awn al-Khasawneh, suddenly resigns after only 6 mos. in office in a move seen (e.g., WP 4/27) as reflecting his differences with **King Abdullah** over the pace and extent of government reforms. Abdullah replaces him with veteran politician and close ally **Fayiz Tarawnah**. (WP 4/27)

27 APRIL 2012

The **Israeli government** formally requests that the **Israeli High Court** postpone the 5/1/12 deadline for the evacuation and demolition of Ulpana outpost for 90 days. By 5/8, the High Court has extended the deadline to 7/1/12. (WP 4/28; NYT 5/9)

The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and 2 nr. Ramallah in the evening. **Palestinians** (accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Kafr Qaddum, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin; protests in Bil'in also call for solidarity with prisoners and national unity. **IDF** soldiers beat (Kafr Qaddum only) and fire live ammunition (Nabi Salih only), rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 4 Palestinians are injured (1 in Kafr Qaddum seriously wounded by a

tear gas canister to the head, 1 in Bil'in moderately injured by rubber-coated steel bullets, 1 in Nabi Salih moderately wounded by a tear gas canister, and 1, a TV cameraman, beaten in Kafr Qaddum). (PCHR 5/3; OCHA 5/4)

28 APRIL 2012

The **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Jenin in the morning; in 2 villages nr. Jenin and Ramallah in the afternoon; and in `Ayn al-Sultan r.c., Jericho, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya late at night. **Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists** hold a non-violent demonstration in Bayt Umar protesting settlement expansion; **IDF soldiers** violently beat 1 Israeli activist. (PCHR 5/3; OCHA 5/4)

29 APRIL 2012

Israeli naval vessels halt a Palestinian fishing boat 2 naut. mi. off the Gaza coast, detaining 6 fishermen and confiscating the boat; 5 of the fishermen (all Palestinians) are questioned and released by nightfall; the 6th fisherman (an Egyptian) is arrested. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning patrols in Qalqilya, 3 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 each nr. Jericho and Tulkarm, and 1 nr. Jenin; patrols in 3 villages nr. Tulkarm (2 synchronized) and 1 nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; conducts late-night arrest raids and house searches in and around Hebron, in Jenin, and nr. Tubas; and conducts late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 2 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Jenin. (PCHR 5/3; OCHA 5/4)

Netanyahu says he plans to meet with his coalition partners soon to debate calling early elections for fall 2012, a year ahead of schedule. (WP 4/30)

Addressing a hostile American audience at a conference in New York organized by the *Jerusalem Post*, **fmr. Israeli PM Ehud Olmert** strongly criticizes PM **Netanyahu** for his policies towards the Palestinians, the peace process, and Iran and his dismissive stands towards the U.S. and the international community, characterizing them dangerous and counterproductive. The crowd boos him, shouting "naïve!" and "Neville Chamberlain!" to which he

responds: "I love very much the courage of those who live 10,000 miles away from the State of Israel and . . . [encourage] every possible mistake that will cost lives of Israelis." (NYT 4/30; JPI 5/11)

30 APRIL 2012

The **IDF** makes 3 brief incursions into Gaza (2 areas of n. Gaza nr. Bayt Hanun in the north; 1 area of c. Gaza e. of al-Bureij r.c.) in the morning to level land and clear lines of sight. Late in the evening, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 1 Qassam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 each nr. Jenin, Jericho, and Tulkarm in the morning; patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin, Qalqilya, and Ramallah in the afternoon; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jericho and nr. Jenin and Nablus; and conducts late-night patrols in Kafr Qad-dum, Tulkarm (twice, different sections), and 1 village nr. Qalqilya. (JP 4/30; PCHR 5/3; OCHA 5/4)

1 MAY 2012

Unidentified gunmen fire on the home of **Jenin governor Qaddura Moussa** in apparent effort to assassinate him; the shots miss, but within hours Moussa dies of a heart attack. By 5/9, the **PASF** detains 10s of Palestinians in connection to the shooting but does not make a formal arrest. Those detained include a number of **PASF** officers, raising concerns of fissuring and infighting within the **PASF**. Others worry (see NYT 5/10) that gangs might be attempting to assert local authority. Jenin residents say that instability in Jenin has been growing since the 4/4/11 murder of Jenin's Freedom Theater director, Juliano Mer-Khamis. The decline in Jenin worries Israel and the Quartet, which have considered Jenin a model for transition from Israeli to Palestinian security control. (NYT 5/10)

Israel's Jerusalem municipality submits maps for plans for the massive housing construction (4,010 units, first announced in 10/2011) in Givat Hamatos settlement in s. Jerusalem.

The drawings show new ideas for construction of 9 hotels (1,100 rooms) in the area, intended to make the area a major tourist center that would compete with Bethlehem by capitalizing on its close proximity to Bethlehem's religious sites. Meanwhile, **Israeli authorities** seize a **Palestinian home** in Bayt Hanina, East Jerusalem, and turn it over to a **Jewish settler family** that claims to own the land on which the house sits. (HA, Wafa 5/1; PCHR 5/3, 5/10)

In the morning, **IDF troops** make 2 incursions in to s. Gaza e. of Abassan and al-Qarara to level lands and clear lines of sight. **IDF** troops and a helicopter guarding the unit nr. Abassan fire on surrounding agricultural areas to keep Palestinians away, wounding 1 Palestinian. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire 1 Qassam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Late at night, an **Israeli warplane** fires a missile at a smuggling tunnel on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. OCHA reports that in the previous week, **Israel** granted 60 of 100 applications from **Gazan UN staffers** for 3-month multiple exit permits (rather than time-bound permits for specific events, valid for up to 1 week only). OCHA says this marks 1st time the UN has received so many long-term permits at one time and constitutes a considerable improvement in access for UN Gaza staff. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes 2 cow pens and 2 structures nr. a settler-only bypass road outside Hebron; demolishes a Palestinian home under construction without permits nr. Qalqilya. About **30 Palestinians** rally in solidarity with hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners outside the **IDF's Ofer prison** nr. Ramallah; **IDF troops** fire live ammunition and tear gas at the demonstrators, wounding 3. (WP, YA 5/2; NYT, PCHR 5/3; OCHA 5/4)

The **IDF** ends its probe into the 1/5/2009 shelling of a house in Gaza City during Operation Cast Lead that killed 21 mbrs. of a family that had been ordered by troops on the ground to stay in the home, concluding that the building was not deliberately targeted and therefore the incident did not constitute a war crime. (WP 5/2; NYT 5/3)

2 MAY 2012

In the morning, **IDF troops** make a brief incursion into s. Gaza, firing on areas e. of Khuza'; some bullets hit 2 schools while classes are in session, but cause no injuries. Hours later, an **Israeli helicopter gunship** opens fire on open areas nr. Khuza', causing no injuries. **IDF troops** make a brief incursion into c. Gaza e. of Juhur al-Dik village to level land and clear lines of sight. Late at night, the **IDF** makes a brief incursions into c. Gaza el. of al-Bureij r.c., firing 2 **artillery** shells at open areas, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fills in an agricultural pool serving Palestinian agricultural land nr. Kiryat Arba settlement nr. Hebron; conducts morning patrols in Jericho, 1 nearby village, and 1 village nr. Ramallah; makes late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin; conduct late-night patrols in 4 other villages nr. Jenin (3 synchronized) and 1 nr. Jericho. (PCHR 5/3, 5/10; OCHA 5/11)

Israel's Prison Service say 100s of jailed Palestinians have joined a mass hunger strike in recent days, bringing the total number observing hunger strikes to at least 1,550 (or one-third of the Palestinian prisoner population of 4,700), including **Islamic Jihad's Diab and Halahleh**, who have now gone 64 days without eating. PA Pres. **Abbas** vows to bring the issue of Palestinian administrative detainees before the UN. (PCHR, WT 5/3; NYT 5/4)

3 MAY 2012

Israeli naval vessels fire at Palestinian fishing boats off the s. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning patrols in Jericho and 3 villages nr. Ramallah. In the afternoon, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and Jenin; patrols in Kafr Qaddum and 1 village nr. Ramallah. Late at night, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin; patrols in 4 villages nr. Tulkarm (2 synchronized), and 2 nr. Jericho. In Ramallah, **300 Palestinian women** hold a rally in solidarity with hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails; **IDF troops** fire live ammunition

and tear gas at them wounding 1 and arresting 1. (NYT 5/4; PCHR 5/10; OCHA 5/11)

4 MAY 2012

Israeli naval vessels fire at Palestinian fishing boats off the s. Gaza coast for a 2d night (see 5/3), forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning patrols in Nabi Salih, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Jericho; obstructs a funeral procession in Bayt Umar, prompting a stone-throwing clash in which Israeli soldiers open fire with rubber-coated steel bullets, injuring 1 Palestinian; conducts evening patrols in 2 villages nr. Jericho and Qalqilya; conduct late night raids and house searches in Salfit, summoning 1 Palestinian for questioning; conducts late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and Qalqilya. **Palestinians** accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin; protests in Bil'in and Nabi Salih also call for solidarity with prisoners and national unity. **IDF** soldiers fire live ammunition (Nabi Salih only), rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, causing no serious injuries. Meanwhile, **10s of Palestinians** rally outside Ofer prison to show solidarity with hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners; **IDF troops** fire live ammunition and tear gas at them, wounding 5 (including 1 child). (PCHR 5/10; OCHA 5/11)

5 MAY 2012

Early in the morning and late at night, **Israeli naval vessels** fire at Palestinian fishing boats off the s. Gaza coast (forcing them to return to shore); they halt and confiscate 1 boat, detaining 2 fishermen for questioning before releasing them later in the day. **IDF troops** on the s. Gaza border fire on agricultural areas in al-Qarara, killing a camel. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah (2 synchronized) in the morning; 3 villages nr. Qalqilya and 1 each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm in the afternoon; and 4 villages nr. Jericho,

Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Tulkarm late at night. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Salfit. Dozens of **Palestinians** rally outside Ofer prison to show solidarity with hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners; **IDF** troops fire live ammunition and tear gas at them, wounding 2. (PCHR 5/10; OCHA 5/11)

Under increased international criticism for recent PA arrests of Palestinian journalists and bloggers critical of his administration (e.g., 4/5/12, 4/15/12, 4/26/12), PA Pres. **Abbas** issues a statement ordering all PA agencies to take all steps to ensure the “sacred right” of freedom of expression, including ordering the PA Atty. Gen. **Mughni** to lift the block on websites supporting his political rival, **Muhammad Dahlan**. (NYT 5/7; JPI 5/18)

6 MAY 2012

At the annual **Likud party** convention in Tel Aviv, Israeli PM **Netanyahu** expresses support for holding early elections in 9/2012, stating that waiting until scheduled elections in 10/2013 could “damage the state,” but he does not official call for early elections, as many had expected. Polls show that Netanyahu would likely win by a large margin and gain the leeway to form a more supportive and stable ruling coalition, leading some analysts to speculate (see NYT, WP 5/7) that a strong 9/2012 victory might embolden Netanyahu to stage an Israeli pre-emptive strike on **Iran** before **U.S.** presidential elections in 11/2012. The polls also indicate that the big losers in an early election would be **DM Ehud Barak’s Independence party** (likely to lose its 1 Knesset seat and control of the DMin. portfolio) and the **opposition party Kadima** (likely to lose half of its 28 seats). (NYT, WP 5/7; NYT 5/9)

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into the border area e. of al-Maghazi r.c. in c. Gaza, arresting 2 Palestinians who were attempting to cross into Israel to search for jobs. **Israeli naval vessels** twice fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the s. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts daytime

patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 each nr. Jenin and Qalqilya; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Tubas; and conducts late-night patrols in Bayt Umar, Qalqilya, Tulkarm and 1 nearby village. (PCHR 5/10; OCHA 5/11)

7 MAY 2012

Hours before the Knesset is set to vote on whether to hold early elections, Israeli PM **Netanyahu** and opposition leader, **Kadima party head Shaul Mofaz**, make the surprise announcement that Kadima has agreed to join the governing coalition and that they will form a new unity government rather than send the country to early elections (see 5/6/12). The deal is contingent on meet 3 Kadima demands: (1) that Mofaz becomes a vice PM and “special minister in charge of the process with the Palestinians” (already agreed by Netanyahu); (2) that the Knesset passes legislation requiring all Israeli citizens including the ultra-Orthodox to perform military service if they are to receive government benefits; and (3) that unspecified elections reforms are enacted. With Kadima’s 28 Knesset seats, the coalition deal gives Netanyahu control of 94 of 120 seats in parliament and leaves no single faction in a position to topple the government. The deal is also a benefit to Netanyahu from the standpoint that he can keep Barak, a strong ally on the Iran issue, as DM. Kadima is seen (e.g., NYT 5/9) as being “given a life-line.” (NYT, WP 5/8; NYT, WP 5/9; WJW 5/10; JPI 5/18)

Israel’s High Court rejects appeals for the release of **Islamic Jihad administrative detainees Diab and Halahleh**, who have been on hunger strike for 69 days. The **High Court** also issues a ruling affirming the legal purchase by **Jewish settlers** of a Palestinian home in Jerusalem’s Old City, ordering the Palestinian family to vacate; and ruling ordering a Palestinian to vacate his shop in the Old City, ruling it is a historic Jewish property. A **lower court in Jerusalem** rules that **Jewish settlers** legally purchased a house in Shaykh Jarrah, East Jerusalem, ordering the Palestinian residents to vacate. (NYT 5/8)

The **IDF** raids the offices of the **Palestinian People's Party** and the **Public Comm. against the Annexation Wall** in al-Bireh, confiscating computers, cameras, files, and photos. The **IDF** also conducts daytime patrols in Kafr Qaddum and 1 nearby village; conducts late-night patrols, arrest raids, and house searches in and around Tulkarm (rearresting 1 Palestinian released during the recent prisoner swap that freed captured IDF Cpl. Gilad Shalit). (PCHR 5/10; OCHA 5/11)

8 MAY 2012

The **IDF** bulldozes a 7-km Palestinian road that links Tubas and agricultural areas of Yazra village and a similar agricultural road leading from al-Khadir village (nr. Bethlehem) to outlying farmlands; demolishes a Palestinian restaurant in Bayt Jala (nr. Bethlehem); cuts down and confiscates 350 Palestinian olive trees and demolishes an irrigation network on a plot of land nr. Hebron that Israel has declared state land. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya; conducts late-night patrols in Tulkarm and 1 nearby village. (PCHR 5/10; OCHA 5/11)

9 MAY 2012

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 2 shops and confiscates items from a 3d in the Husan industrial zone nr. Bethlehem; demolishes 2 structures nr. Jenin; conducts daytime patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Arroub r.c., nr. Hebron, and nr. Nablus; conducts late-night patrols in al-Bireh. (JP 5/9; PCHR 5/10, 5/17; OCHA 5/18)

10 MAY 2012

Israeli naval vessels halt and confiscate a Palestinian fishing boat off the n. Gaza coast, briefly detaining 2 fishermen for questioning. In the West Bank, the **IDF** make daytime raids on 2 houses in Kafr Qaddum and nr. Salfit, ordering 2 Palestinians to appear for

questioning; conducts morning patrols in Jenin and 3 villages nr. Ramallah (2 synchronized); conducts afternoon patrols in 2 villages nr. Jericho and 1 each nr. Jenin and Salfit; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin; and conducts late-night patrols in Jericho and 1 nearby village, 1 village nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Ramallah. (PCHR 5/17; OCHA 5/18)

11 MAY 2012

The **IDF** conducts daytime patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 nr. Jericho, and 1 nr. Qalqilya; conducts late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 nr. Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr. Elazar settlement nr. Bethlehem uproot 150 grape saplings from nearby Palestinian land. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Kafr Qaddum Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin; protests in Bil'in and Nabi Salih also call for solidarity with prisoners and national unity. **IDF** soldiers fire live ammunition (Nabi Salih only), rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 10 Palestinian (including 3 journalists) are hit by tear gas canisters in Kafr Qaddum. In addition, 10s of **Palestinians** hold a nonviolent march in Abud village nr. Ramallah in solidarity with the hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners; **IDF troops** manning the checkpoint at the entrance to the village fire live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the demonstrators, seriously injuring 2 Palestinians and arresting 1 Palestinian. A similar demonstration by 10s of **Palestinians** is held outside Ofer prison; the **IDF** fires tear gas to disperse them, hitting 1 demonstrator in the head, seriously wounding him. (PCHR 5/17; OCHA 5/18)

12 MAY 2012

Israeli chief negotiator **Molcho** meets with PA Pres. **Abbas** in Ramallah to deliver PM **Netanyahu's** formal written

response to the Palestinians' 4/17 letter. Anonymous Israeli officials say the letter calls for the immediate resumption of talks without preconditions. (WP 5/13)

Israeli and Palestinian officials confirm that **Egyptian mediators** are trying to broker understandings between **Israel** and hunger-striking Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails to end the strike. (WP 5/13)

The **IDF** conducts daytime patrols in 3 villages nr. Jericho (2 synchronized) and 1 nr. Ramallah; conducts late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah. **Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists** hold a nonviolent demonstration in Bayt Umar protesting settlement expansion; **IDF soldiers** violently beat 3 Palestinian journalists. **PA officials** says that the **PASF** has arrested a suspect, Nizar Ghawadreh, in the shooting that resulted in the 5/1 death of **Jenin governor Moussa**, saying Ghawadreh's motive appeared to be anger over the 4/2012 shooting death of his brother by PA police. **Jewish settlers** confiscate a 6-d. plot of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Bethlehem, barring the owner's access. (NYT 5/13; PCHR 5/17; OCHA 5/18)

13 MAY 2012

The **IDF** conducts daytime patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Umar. **Jewish settlers** fr. Karmeit Zsur nr. Bethlehem attack a Palestinian farmer working his land nearby, beating him and damaging his bulldozer and car; the **IDF** intervenes, ordering the Palestinian to leave. **Jewish settlers** fr. Bat Ayin nr. Hebron uproot 14 trees on a nearby plot of Palestinian land. (PCHR 5/17; OCHA 5/18)

A day after announcing the arrest of a suspect in the 5/1 shooting that resulted in the death of **Jenin governor Moussa**, masked **PASF** officers ambush, blindfold, shackle, and detain **fmr. Jenin al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB) leader Zakariya Zubeidi**, accusing him

of involvement in the shooting. (WP 5/14)

14 MAY 2012

Most **Palestinian hunger strikers** agree to a deal brokered by **Egypt** and **Jordan** to halt their strike in exchange for agreement from Israel: (1) to free 320 administrative detainees at the end of their current 6-mo. sentences, provided no new evidence against them is found; (2) to end solitary confinements; (3) to allow prisoners from Gaza to receive visits from immediate relatives (family visits from Gaza were suspended in 2006 after Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit was captured), and (4) to return the bodies of 100 Palestinians who were killed in fighting in Israel and buried there. **Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank** take to the streets to celebrate. At least 8 Palestinian detainees who went on strike before the mass hunger strike was declared on 4/17 are expected to continue their fasts until they are released—these include **Islamic Jihad's Diab and Halahleh** who have not eaten for 77 days and are hospitalized in critical condition. (NYT, WP 5/15)

Israel allows Gazans to export textiles for the 1st time since mid-2007. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya. (PCHR 5/17; OCHA 5/18)

15 MAY 2012

In the morning, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 1 Qassam rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, about **1,000 Palestinians** hold a Nakba Day rallies nr. Ramallah, clashing with **IDF** troops at the Beitunia and Qalandia checkpoints; 30 Palestinians (including 4 children) are injured and 2 Palestinians and 1 international activist are arrested. The **IDF** patrols in Qalqilya in the morning and again late at night; also patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and Tulkarm. (JP 5/15; WP 5/16; PCHR 5/17; OCHA 5/18)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AFP | (Agence France-Presse, Paris) |
| HA | (<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv) |
| JP | (<i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem) |
| JPI | (<i>Jerusalem Post International Edition</i> , Jerusalem) |
| JTA | (Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet]) |
| MA | (<i>Ma'ariv</i> , Tel Aviv) |
| 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]) |
| Wafa | (Palestine News Agency [Internet]) |
| WJW | (<i>Washington Jewish Week</i> , Rockville, MD) |
| WP | (<i>Washington Post</i> , Washington) |
| WT | (<i>Washington Times</i> , Washington) |
| YA | (<i>Yedi'ot Abaronot</i> , Tel Aviv) |