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CHRONOLOGY

16 NOVEMBER 2011–15 FEBRUARY 2012

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This is part 113 of a chronology begun in Journal of Palestine Studies (JPS) 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect North American Eastern Standard Time. For a more comprehensive overview of regional and international developments related to the peace process, see the Quarterly Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in JPS 163.

16 NOVEMBER 2011

Israel allows the 1st shipment of construction material for private rebuilding projects in Gaza, to be used to reconstruct 10 factories destroyed by the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** during Operation Cast Lead (OCL) in 2008–9. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Azariyya outside Jerusalem, and nr. Bethlehem and Qalqilya (arresting 4 children ages 13–17); conducts late-night patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin. (NYT, PCHR, WP 11/17; PCHR 11/24; OCHA 11/25)

In **s. Lebanon**, a **bomb** explodes at a hotel in Tyre that is frequented by UN employees, causing damage but no injuries. Minutes later another bomb damages a liquor store in the city, causing no injuries. The UN says it does not believe its employees were targets. (NYT 11/17)

17 NOVEMBER 2011

The **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning; makes a morning raid into Tulkarm city to search the homes of at least 2 mbrs. of the **Palestinian Authority (PA)** security forces; raids Dura nr. Hebron in the afternoon, rearresting a **Palestinian released in the 10/2011 prisoner swap** for IDF Cpl. Gilad Shalit (see Quarterly Update [QU] in *JPS* 162); patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon. Late at night, the **IDF** conducts synchronized patrols and 1 arrest raid in 3 villages s. of Jenin late at night; separate patrols in 1 village nr.

Ramallah; and an arrest raid nr. Hebron. (PCHR 11/24; OCHA 11/25)

A **Hamas-appointed lower court in Gaza** rules that 2 major **banks in Gaza**, the Bank of Palestine and Palestine Islamic Bank, must pay 10s of millions of dollars in fines and back fees for refusing to recognize the Hamas authority's power to levy tax, instead remitting taxes to the West Bank PA. Bank officials boycott the hearings and say they may simply shut down to avoid paying. The ruling is seen as precedent setting and possibly applicable to Gaza's 6 other banks, as well as companies that import fuel and electricity and operate cell phones. (NYT 11/18)

18 NOVEMBER 2011

In Gaza, a **Palestinian** is fatally electrocuted in a smuggling tunnel under the Rafah border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning and late-night patrols in Jericho; conducts daytime patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 each nr. Jenin, Salfit, and Tulkarm. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations in Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin nr. Ramallah and in Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya. While intended mainly to protest Israel's separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion, protesters also chant slogans calling for national reconciliation, Palestinians rights, and the release of Palestinian prisoners. **IDF** soldiers beat and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters,

lightly injuring 3 Palestinians (including a journalist) in Nabi Salih. (PCHR 11/24; OCHA 11/25)

19 NOVEMBER 2011

The **IDF** conducts daytime patrols in Tulkarm and nearby Anata village, as well as in 4 villages nr. Jenin, Jericho, Qalqilya, and Ramallah; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya and Salfit. (PCHR 11/24; OCHA 11/25)

20 NOVEMBER 2011

U.S. Dep. Secy. of State William Burns meets with **PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas** to urge him to revive peace talks with **Israel** and delay formation of a unity government with **Hamas**. (CNN 11/21)

The **IDF** conducts morning patrols in Qalqilya, Salfit, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 village each nr. Jericho and Tulkarm; fires tear gas, stun grenades to disperse a funeral procession nr. Hebron, causing no serious injuries; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin and in Salfit; conducts late-night patrols in Jericho, 2 villages each nr. Ramallah and Tulkarm, and 1 nr. Salfit. **Jewish settlers** in Hebron attack the home of a **Palestinian released in the prisoner swap** deal that freed captured IDF soldier Gilad Shalit in 10/2011, hang posters urging that he be killed, vandalize a grocery store owned by a relative; the **Palestinian**, Hani Jaber, had been sentenced to life in prison for fatally stabbing a settler in 1993. The incidents spark several clashes between the settlers and local Palestinians in which settlers attack and vandalize several more Palestinian homes; the **IDF** intervenes, separating the sides. (WP 11/21; PCHR 11/24; OCHA 11/25)

21 NOVEMBER 2011

U.S. Dep. Secy. of State Burns meets with **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** to discuss ways of reviving peace talks with the Palestinians. U.S. officials say that they are trying to find ways around Palestinian demands for a settlement

freeze in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, but give no details. (NYT 11/22; JPI 12/2)

The **IDF** makes a late-night incursion into s. Gaza, patrolling in and firing on residential areas of Rafah, causing no injuries and making no arrests. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them back to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids and searches the home of a PA police officer nr. Jenin, arresting him; patrols in 7 villages nr. Ramallah, in 1 instance firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinian youths who confront them. (PCHR 11/24; OCHA 11/25)

PA Tourism and Antiquities M Hamdan Taha says that now that Palestine has full membership in **UNESCO** (see QU in *JPS* 162), it is planning to seek world heritage status for the old cities of Hebron and Jericho. An application for Bethlehem is already in the works and is expected to have a better chance now that Palestine has membership. The PA also plans to seek recovery of artifacts looted by Israel, increase funds for preservation and excavations, and use its status to force Israel to stop calling West Bank sites "Israeli antiquities." (WP 11/22)

King Abdallah of Jordan makes an official visit to Ramallah (his 1st in 10 yrs.) to hold talks with PA pres. **Abbas** on their independent efforts to reconcile with Hamas and personally to inform Abbas that Jordan has invited **Damascus-based Hamas leader Khalid Mishal** (barred fr. visiting Jordan since 1999) for an official visit to Amman. The king stresses that any improvement in ties with Hamas is not intended as a move against the PA or as a gesture to Jordan's Islamist opposition. The **U.S.** reportedly has expressed displeasure to Jordan over the Mishal visit and hinted that U.S. aid could be cut if Jordan reconciles with Hamas. (NYT, WP 11/22; JPI 12/2)

22 NOVEMBER 2011

Overnight, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids targeting the **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)** in Jenin, Nablus, and Ramallah, arresting

about 17. In the morning, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 each nr. Jenin (firing flash grenades to intimidate residents) and Jericho. Late in the evening, an **IDF** drone fires a **missile** at a training camp in s. Gaza, causing no reported injuries; the **IDF** makes a brief incursion into Rafah, sporadically firing on residential areas, causing no injuries; and **Israeli naval vessels** fire on a Palestinian fishing boat off the s. Gaza coast, forcing it to return to shore. The **UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)** reports that since 11/16, the **IDF** has bulldozed 130 dunams (d.; 4 d. = 1 acre) of Palestinian agricultural land, uprooted 500 trees, and forced Palestinians to dismantle 9 greenhouses and 7,000 m of irrigation networks to allow the rerouting of the **separation wall** nr. Qalqilya. **OCHA** also reports that since 11/16, the **IDF** has bulldozed 18 d. in the Jericho area and 400 d. in the Salfit area that Israel has claimed as state land. (MNA, XIN 11/22; PCHR 11/24; OCHA 11/25)

23 NOVEMBER 2011

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians hunting for birds in the fmr. Nisanit settlement area nr. the Erez crossing, forcing them to flee. For the 3d straight day, **Israeli naval vessels** fire at Palestinian fishing boats off the s. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore. Late at night, **IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border make a brief incursion into areas n. of Bayt Lahiya, searching the area and opening fire, but causing no reported damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** escorts **Jewish settlers** into Nablus late at night to pray at Joseph's Tomb, raiding several Palestinian homes. (PCHR 11/24; PCHR 12/1; OCHA 12/2)

The **PA** warns that unless **Israel** releases VAT taxes (suspended on 11/1/11 in violation of the 1994 Oslo Accord), it will be unable to pay civil servants salaries on 12/1 (affecting around one-third of Palestinians) and **PA** services would likely be disrupted. **PA PM Salam al-Fayyad** states: "With each passing day, the [PA] becomes weaker, and it is fast approaching the day when it becomes

completely incapacitated." The **UN**, **U.S.**, and **Quartet** have each contacted Israeli PM **Netanyahu** in recent days to urge him to restore the transfers, with **Quartet special envoy Tony Blair** stating today: "Only those who oppose peace and Israeli-Palestinian cooperation benefit from the withholding of PA funds." A Netanyahu aide says that if the PA pledges not to pursue membership in any more UN organizations and backs off planned reconciliation talks with Hamas, Israel would probably restore the transfers, saying, "The idea is to influence Palestinian decision making." (NYT 11/24; WP 11/28)

Smugglers attempting to sneak into Israel fr. Egypt clash with **Egyptian border police** inside Egyptian territory (killing **2 border police**) and then cross into Israel where they exchange fire with **IDF soldiers** (causing no reported injuries) before fleeing back into Egypt and escaping. (WP 12/3)

24 NOVEMBER 2011

Hamas leader Mishal and **PA pres. and Fatah head Abbas** meet for 2 hrs. in Cairo to hold the 1st detailed talks since 8/2011 on implementing their 5/2011 national unity deal (see QU in *JPS* 161). They approve a 2-page document (leaked to AFP on 11/24, which publishes excerpts, but not released publicly) reiterating their commitment to the main elements of the 5/2011 accord, agreeing to observe a truce in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (including halting political arrests), vowing to increase "popular resistance" to oppose Israel's settlement expansion and construction of the separation wall, and pledging that the factions would agree on the "style" of popular resistance and form "a framework to direct it." In an interview with AFP later in the day, **Mishal** clarifies that Hamas believes in both armed and popular resistance, stating "armed struggle is our right. How we use it, and when we use it, is something different." Mishal and Abbas fail, however, to resolve key issues regarding composition of an interim unity government and elections. Though both call the meeting positive, sources say (e.g., WP 11/25) that the meeting "raised new questions about whether the rivals are

serious about working together or just going through the motions.” (AFP 11/24; NHR, NYT, WP, WT 11/25; WP 12/22)

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers working their fields nr. the no-go zone, forcing them to flee. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them back to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF troops** operating in the Hebron area demolish a **mosque**, 2 **Palestinian homes**, a rabbit farm, and a generator and block up a cave used as an agricultural storeroom in Yatta village; demolish 1 **Palestinian home**, 3 wells, and 3 agricultural storehouses in Ithna village; bulldoze a residential tent and an animal pen in Khirbat Susia. The **IDF** also patrols in 5 villages nr. Jenin (1 village is entered twice; 3 villages are entered simultaneously) and 3 villages nr. Qalqilya (2 villages are entered simultaneously). (PCHR 12/1; OCHA 12/2)

25 NOVEMBER 2011

The **IDF** conducts synchronized morning patrols in 2 villages n. of Tulkarm; conducts evening patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and Salfit. **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, also calling for national reconciliation, Palestinians rights, and the release of Palestinian prisoners. **IDF** soldiers beat and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 2 Palestinians in Nabi Salih are moderately injured, 1 hit in the head by a rubber-coated steel bullet and 1 hit in the foot by a tear gas canister. (PCHR 12/1; OCHA 12/2)

26 NOVEMBER 2011

Late at night, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a homemade Qassam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In response, the **IDF** carries out an **air strike** on a training camp w. of Nussayrat refugee camp (r.c.) in central Gaza and 3 **air strikes** on a

greenhouse in Khan Yunis in s. Gaza; no injuries are reported. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a room and water tank of a home nr. Qalqilya for construction of the **separation wall**; conducts late-night patrols in Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** block a road nr. Qalqilya and stone passing Palestinian vehicles. (HA 11/27; PCHR 12/1; OCHA 12/2)

27 NOVEMBER 2011

The **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Salfit and 2 nr. Qalqilya in the morning and afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Ramallah late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus and Salfit. (PCHR 12/1; OCHA 12/2)

28 NOVEMBER 2011

Israeli PM **Netanyahu** says that since the 11/24 Abbas-Mishal meeting seemed more symbolic than substantive and the PLO/PA has not made moves since the 11/1/11 UNESCO vote to gain membership in other UN organizations, he is considering releasing VAT taxes. (NYT 11/29) (see 11/23/11)

King Abdallah of Jordan hosts **Israeli pres. Shimon Peres** in Amman to discuss reviving Israeli-Palestinian talks. (NYT 11/29; JPI 12/9)

Israeli naval vessels fire warning shots at Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, detaining and confiscating the boat, arresting 1 fisherman, and returning another fisherman to Gaza through the Erez crossing. Late at night, **IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border responding to 2 loud explosions inside Gaza in an open area n. of Bayt Lahiya fire into Gaza for 20 mins., causing no reported damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages each nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah and 1 nr. Salfit during the day; conducts late-night patrols in Jericho. An **Israeli military court** convicts a 2d Palestinian teenager fr. Awarta in the murder of 5 Jewish settlers in Itamar on 3/11/11; another Palestinian teen was convicted on 9/13/11. (PCHR 12/1; OCHA 12/2; JPI 12/9)

In the **1st Lebanese-Israeli cross-border attack since 10/2009**, unidentified assailants fire 3 rockets

fr. s. Lebanon into n. Israel, damaging 2 buildings in the western Galilee, but causing no injuries. Israel responds with artillery fire, causing no reported damage or injuries. **UNIFIL** calls for “maximum restraint.” (DS, NYT 11/29; NYT, WP, WT 11/30)

29 NOVEMBER 2011

Iceland recognizes the state of **Palestine** within 1967 borders. (NYT 11/29)

Israeli naval vessels intercept 3 Palestinian fishing boats off the s. Gaza coast, arresting 12 fishermen, confiscating 2 boats, and releasing 1 fisherman and 1 boat. In the West Bank, the **IDF** confiscates 12 d. of Palestinian agricultural land n. of Hebron for construction of the **separation wall**, ordering the owners to remove a well and clear the land of trees within 45 days or face a fine; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah (1 in the morning, 1 late at night); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus, searching a car rental firm, damaging equipment, and confiscating computers, cash, and papers. (PCHR 12/1; OCHA 12/2)

30 NOVEMBER 2011

Israel releases the hold on transferring VAT taxes to the PA “following the cessation of unilateral steps by the [PA],” but warns that it could be reimposed if unilateral steps resume. Anonymous **Palestinian officials** confirm (see WP 12/1) that they have no immediate plans to pursue membership in other UN bodies, though **Abbas** separately states that he remains committed to the Palestinian bid for full member-state status in the UN. (NYT, WP, WT 12/1)

Meanwhile, the **IDF** makes 2 pre-dawn incursions into c. Gaza to patrol in al-Bureij r.c. and al-Maghazi r.c. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Jericho and 1 nearby village, as well as in 4 villages nr. Ramallah during the day. Late at night, the **IDF** stages synchronized late-night arrest raids in and around Jenin, arresting 10 Palestinian men ages 37–70, including **PFLP Central Comm. mbr. Nasser ‘Aziz**; conducts other late-night arrest raids, house

searches in and around Bethlehem, in Tubas, and nr. Nablus and Ramallah (including rearresting a Palestinian freed in the Shalit prisoner exchange). (NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 12/1; PCHR 12/8; OCHA 12/9)

1 DECEMBER 2011

The **IDF** patrols in Jenin and nearby ‘Ayn al-Sultan r.c., 2 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Salfit in the morning; sends undercover units into Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem in the afternoon, arresting 1 Palestinian; conducts evening patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin, 2 nr. Salfit, and 1 nr. Ramallah; carries out late-night arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c. nr. Nablus, in Hebron, and nr. Bethlehem. (PCHR 12/8; OCHA 12/9)

2 DECEMBER 2011

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians hunting birds nr. the no-go zone, forcing them to leave the area. **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 4 villages nr. Ramallah during the day; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem. **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; demonstrations in Bil’in also call for national reconciliation. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 3 Palestinians and 1 Israeli in Bil’in are hit and moderately injured by tear gas canisters; 2 Palestinian journalists (for Associated Press and Palestine TV) and 3 international activists are arrested in Nabi Salih. (PCHR 12/8; OCHA 12/9)

Speaking at the Brookings Institute’s Saban Center in Washington, **U.S.**

Defense Secy. Leon Panetta states that the “firm principles” on which U.S. Middle East policy is based are: (1) the U.S.’s “unshakable” commitment to Israel, (2) maintenance of regional stability, and (3) preventing Iran fr. obtaining

nuclear weapons (by military means if necessary). However, he also says Israel bears significant blame for a peace process that “has been effectively put on hold” and must do more to revive peace talks and improve relations with Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey. (NYT, WP 12/3)

3 DECEMBER 2011

IDF troops on the s. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians who enter the demolished Dahaniyya airport site outside of Rafah, forcing them to flee. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Gaza coast w. of Rafah in the south and w. of Bayt Lahiya in the north, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages each nr. Jenin and Ramallah in the morning and 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and 1 nr. Jenin late at night. The **IDF** also removes mobile homes placed by **Jewish settlers** nr. Itamar settlement nr. Nablus; soon after, **Jewish settlers** fr. nearby Elon Moreh settlement retaliate by kidnapping and beating a 63-yr.-old Palestinian man working his land nearby, releasing him after 2 hrs. In a separate retaliatory attack, **Jewish settlers** beat a Palestinian shepherd nr. Itamar and kill 4 of his sheep. **Palestinians and international activists** in Khirbat Susia nr. Hebron protest recent IDF attacks on residents; the IDF fires tear gas and stun grenades to disperse them; 4 Palestinians and 1 Danish activist are lightly injured, and 1 Palestinian is arrested for trying to raise a Palestinian flag. (PCHR 12/8; OCHA 12/9)

4 DECEMBER 2011

During the day, the **IDF** patrols in Nur al-Shams r.c. and 4 villages nr. Tulkarm, in Ramallah and 3 nearby villages, and in 2 villages nr. Jenin. Late at night, the **IDF** launches arrest raids targeting the **PFLP** in Balata r.c. nr. Nablus, arresting at least 3 PFLP mbrs.; conducts other arrest raids and house searches in Qalqilya, in Tulkarm town and r.c., and nr. Bethlehem. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli security forces** force a Palestinian to demolish his entire home and a 2d Palestinian to demolish a home addition or face fines and fees for

having the IDF demolish them. (PCHR 12/8; OCHA 12/9)

5 DECEMBER 2011

Late in the evening, **IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Hanun fire across the border into open areas in the no-go zone, causing no reported damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes a Palestinian factory nr. Qalqilya and 2 **Palestinian homes** nr. Hebron; raids the Tulkarm offices of the Hamas-affiliated Change and Reform Party late in the evening, confiscating 3 computers and some documents; conducts daytime patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and Qalqilya; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Kafr Qaddum; conducts late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 nr. Qalqilya. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli municipal officials** demolish 2 **Palestinian homes** in Bayt Hanina and Silwan and level a Palestinian barnyard in al-Bustan. (PCHR 12/8; OCHA 12/9)

6 DECEMBER 2011

Israel releases **Hamas-affiliated Palestinian Council (PC) mbr. Ahmad ‘Attoun**, discharging him at the Qalandia crossing and ordering him to Ramallah. Israel revoked ‘Attoun’s Jerusalem residency status in 9/2009 on the grounds that he was affiliated with a “terrorist organization” (i.e., Hamas) and warned him in 5/2010 to leave the city or face deportation to the West Bank (QU in *JPS* 157). He was arrested in East Jerusalem on 9/26/11, when he went to address a protest rally in Shaykh Jarrah, and was charged with “being illegally present in the city.” (MNA 12/6; PCHR 12/8)

Israeli municipal forces in East Jerusalem demolish a **Palestinian home**. **IDF troops** make a brief incursion into al-Shuja'iyya neighborhood in Gaza City, leveling land to clear lines of sight and exchanging gunfire with Palestinians, causing no injuries. Late in the evening the **IDF** carries out 2 **air strikes** at armed Palestinians preparing to fire rockets fr. Gaza City into Israel, the 1st killing 1 **Islamic Jihad mbr.** and wounding 2 in al-Shuja'iyya, and the 2d seriously wounding an unidentified

armed Palestinian in al-Zaytun neighborhood. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin during the day; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus and nearby Balata r.c., detaining around 12 **PFLP** mbrs. (including 1 senior mbr.) and 1 senior **Hamas** mbr. The **IDF** reports that **3 IDF soldiers** have been arrested on suspicion of participating in “price-tag” attacks in the West Bank. **Health officials in Gaza** report that **Gaza’s Central Drug Store** is lacking 120 essential medicines and 140 essential medical supplies, including medicine for the anesthesia, cancer, hemophilia, and kidney dialysis (450 patients); the shortage is the result of poor coordination between the Min. of Health branches in Gaza and the West Bank (where no shortages are reported). (MNA 12/6; DUS, JP, *Taiwan News*, WT 12/7; PCHR, WP 12/8; OCHA 12/9; NYT 12/10; JPI 12/16; OCHA 12/23)

7 DECEMBER 2011

Overnight, **Jewish settlers** set fire to the entrance of a mosque, a car, and a construction vehicle in Burqin village nr. Salfit, moderately damaging the mosque and destroying the 2 vehicles. **IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction material in the demolished Erez industrial zone, forcing them to flee. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids and house searches nr. Hebron, Tulkarm. (PCHR 12/8, 12/15; OCHA 12/16)

Republican presidential candidates Mitt Romney and New Gingrich address the conservative **Republican Jewish Coalition**, criticizing **U.S. Pres. Barack Obama** for his weak and confused foreign policy and mistreatment of Israel. Neither endorses a 2-state solution, even though the Republican Party platform officially supports this. Romney pledges that his 1st trip as pres. would be to Israel. Gingrich promises that he would move the U.S. emb. fr. Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. **Republican candidates Michele Bachmann, John Huntsman, Rick Perry, and Rick Santorum** also address the forum and promise new approaches to the Middle East but do not go into detail. (NYT, WP 12/8)

8 DECEMBER 2011

The **IDF** carries out an **air strike** on a car in a crowded section of Gaza City, assassinating **senior al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB) mbr. Issam al-Batash** and his nephew **Subhi al-Batash, a mbr. of Hamas’s armed wing, the Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades (IQB)**, wounding 4–6 bystanders; Israel claims the 2 men planned to infiltrate Israel and that Issam al-Batash was involved in plotting an AMB–Islamic Jihad suicide bombing in Elat on 1/29/07. Overnight, in the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids targeting the **PFLP** in Hebron, arresting 3; the **IDF spokesman** states that 9 other PFLP mbrs. are arrested in raids in Bethlehem, Jenin, and Qalqilya, but there is no corroboration. During the day, the **IDF** confiscates 150 d. of Palestinian agricultural land nr. the Gush Etzion settlement bloc nr. Bethlehem. Late at night, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 1 each nr. Jenin and Salfit. (AP, HA, IDFS, MNA 12/8; JP, NYT, WP 12/9; PCHR 12/15; OCHA 12/16)

9 DECEMBER 2011

Overnight, **Palestinians** fire 11 **rockets** (including 1 manufactured Grad) fr. Gaza into Israel, retaliating for the 12/8 assassination, causing no damage or injuries. In the morning, **Israel** carries out more **air strikes** on 2 alleged Hamas training sites in Gaza City, killing a **Palestinian bystander and his 12-yr.-old son** and damaging a home, injuring 11 civilians (including 3 children, 2 women); Israel says it regrets the civilian casualties but blames Hamas for operating in densely populated areas. In retaliation, **Palestinians** fire another 6 **rockets** (including 1 Grad) fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Late at night the **IDF** makes an **air strike** on a Hamas training camp in Rafah, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm (firing tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinian youths, causing no serious injuries) and 1 village nr. Salfit in the afternoon; conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Salfit; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem. **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, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers beat and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, seriously injuring 1 Palestinian and lightly injuring 4 others in Nabi Salih. The incident, in which a man throwing a stone at an armored personnel carrier is hit in the head with a tear gas canister at close range, is caught on camera. (JP 12/9; JP, NYT 12/10; IDFS, WP 12/11; PCHR 12/15; OCHA 12/16)

Unidentified assailants detonate a roadside bomb nr. a **UNIFIL** patrol nr. Tyre in s. Lebanon, wounding 5 French UNIFIL soldiers in the 3d such attack in 2011. No group claims responsibility. (NYT 12/10; WP 12/12)

10 DECEMBER 2011

The **IDF** makes 4 late-night **air strikes** on a vacant house belonging to a senior IQB mbr. in Gaza City, heavily damaging a nearby home (alleged to be a weapons depot), seriously injuring 3 bystanders (including children ages 8 and 10). In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Salfit twice in the morning; conducts synchronized patrols in 4 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon; conducts late-night patrols in 3 villages nr. Salfit, 2 nr. Qalqilya, 1 nr. Jenin; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. **Mustafa al-Tamimi**, the **Palestinian** hit in the head with an **IDF** tear gas canister in Nabi Salih on 12/9, dies of his injuries. (IDFS, WP 12/11; PCHR 12/15; OCHA 12/16)

11 DECEMBER 2011

With the completion of a section of the **separation wall** bordering Shu'fat r.c. in East Jerusalem, the **IDF** closes its Shu'fat checkpoint into **Jerusalem** and redirects traffic to a new modern checkpoint (begun in 2009 to serve as a future international crossing into Jerusalem). The move leaves more than 50,000 Palestinians living in Shu'fat r.c. and several surrounding Jerusalem suburbs (Ras Shihada, Ras Khamis, al-Salam,

and part of 'Anata) who hold Jerusalem IDs completely isolated fr. Jerusalem. In the West Bank, the **IDF** clashes with mourners taking part in the funeral for Palestinian activist Mustafa Tamimi (see 12/10), causing no serious injuries; conducts daytime patrols in 3 villages nr. Salfit, 2 nr. Qalqilya, and 1 nr. Jenin; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in Bethlehem, and in Tulkarm; conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya. (PCHR 12/12, 12/15; OCHA 12/16; JPI 12/23)

The **Israeli cabinet** unanimously approves \$160 m. for the next stage of construction of the security fence along the border with **Egypt**, expansion of detention centers, and increased policing of companies that hire illegal workers. Since 1/2006, nearly 50,000 illegal workers, mostly fr. Eritrea and Sudan, have entered Israel via the Sinai, raising concerns among Israelis that the mounting influx of illegal African workers could undermine Israel's Jewish character. (NYT, WP 12/12)

12 DECEMBER 2011

IDF spokesman Maj. Guy Inbar acknowledges that Israel plans to relocate some **2,000 Bedouin** fr. 20 encampments in the hills e. of Jerusalem (in area C) to clear the way for the expansion of Ma'ale Adumim settlement into the E1 zone to link it with Jerusalem. Officially, the government says the relocation plans are part of its broader initiative to "provide the bedouin across the West Bank with sites where they can build legally with access to water, electricity, and government services." Construction in the E1 zone and settlers' preparations for expansion of Ma'ale Adumim into the area have been planned since 2009, but this marks the 1st admission that the government has started logistical planning to remove the Bedouin population fr. the area. Meanwhile, **Israeli DM Ehud Barak** approves establishment of a new 40-unit settlement neighborhood and farm nr. Efrat settlement to expand the Gush Etzion settlement block s. of Bethlehem; the new settlement, to be called **Givat Hadagan**, was approved for development in the

1990s, with plans to build 500 housing units. **Israel** closes the old wooden Muhrabi footbridge (deemed unsafe) used by non-Muslims to reach the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount; the **PA** and **Waqf officials** protest, saying Israel plans to build a larger permanent structure to assert its control over the site, which is holy to both Muslims and Jews. Also in East Jerusalem, the **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Bayt Hanina. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Qalqilya twice in the afternoon; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem and Jenin. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablus vandalize nearby Palestinian homes and cars twice during the day, including throwing a Molotov cocktail at a home. **Jewish settlers** fr. Karnei Shomron nr. Qalqilya stone passing Palestinian vehicles, injuring 3 Palestinians. (HA 12/12; NYT, WP 12/13; PCHR 12/15; OCHA 12/16; HA 12/18)

Israel's new amb. to **Egypt**, Ya'akov Amitai, arrives in Cairo. Israel withdrew its former ambassador for safety reasons on 9/9/11, when Egyptian protesters ransacked the Israeli embassy (see QU in *JPS* 162). (WP 12/13)

13 DECEMBER 2011

Quartet officials open 2 days of meetings in Israel and Ramallah aimed at reviving peace talks. Palestinian advocacy groups note "a growing disconnect between the Quartet talks and the situation on the ground." (NYT 12/14)

Jewish settlers take over several abandoned churches in a closed military zone nr. the Jordanian border to protest **Jordan's** efforts to intervene with the Israeli government over its 12/12 closure of a footbridge used by non-Muslims to reach the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount; **IDF troops** remove them and arrest 17. Other **settlers** block a main West Bank road and stone passing Palestinian vehicles. Later, about **50 Jewish settlers** with inside information of IDF plans to remove the **Mitzpe Yitzhar settlement outpost** nr. Nablus that evening attempt to prevent the evacuation by breaking into an **IDF** base in the West Bank, setting fires, vandalizing vehicles, clashing with

troops, and stoning a senior officer; troops detain 2. PM **Netanyahu** vows to "act aggressively against those harming Israeli soldiers and their commanders"; **DM Ehud Barak** condemns both incidents as "home-grown terror." Late at night, **Jewish settler youths** enter Nablus to pray at Joseph's Tomb, but they do so without the usual coordination with and escort of the IDF and deface a mosque. Meanwhile, **IDF** troops make a brief incursion into c. Gaza to level land and clear lines of sight along the border fence e. of Bureij r.c., firing on surrounding areas to keep Palestinians away, wounding a farmer working his field nearby. **IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinian and international activists staging a nonviolent protest march to the border nr. Bayt Hanun to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone, causing no injuries; also fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction material in the demolished Erez industrial zone, wounding a 14-yr.-old boy. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a late-night raid on the home of **Change and Reform PC mbr. Ayman Daraghme**, arresting him (making him the 24th Hamas-affiliated PC mbr. now in detention); conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Salfit. (NYT, WP, WT 12/14; PCHR 12/15; OCHA 12/16; JPI 12/23)

The **PA Tourism Min.** launches a campaign in Bethlehem coinciding with Christmas called "Palestine Celebrating Hope." Tourism M Kholoud Daibes says the intention is to convey to the estimated 50,000 foreigners visiting Bethlehem for Christmas "that we have hope of having our own independent state, and we need international support for that." The initiative includes special tours of the separation wall around Bethlehem and free postcards of the Church of the Nativity, which tourists can mail at the Manger Square post office with Palestinian stamps. (WT 12/14)

14 DECEMBER 2011

In light of Jewish settler violence against the IDF on 12/12, the **Israeli cabinet** approves several measures against **right-wing Jewish extremists**,

including permitting their detention without trial (administrative detention) and trial in military courts, allowing soldiers in the West Bank to arrest them, and banning them fr. entering the West Bank; it does not label them “terrorists,” which would have allowed security forces even greater leeway to act against them. Hrs. later, **Israeli police** raid a Jerusalem apartment and arrest 6 Israelis for involvement in “recent events” targeting Palestinians and the IDF. In apparent “price-tag” attacks to protest the government moves: **Jewish extremists** set fire to the Nabi Ukasha mosque in West Jerusalem (Israeli authorities have barred Palestinians fr. using the mosque but have allowed Jewish settlers affiliated with the extremist Kach party to use the courtyard as a playground); **Jewish settlers** fr. Burkan settlement set fire to 2 Palestinian cars in nearby Salfit; and **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar set fire to 2 Palestinian cars in nearby Douma village nr. Nablus. (NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 12/15; PCHR 12/22; OCHA 12/23)

Under pressure fr. PA and Jordanian officials, **Israel** reopens the Mughrabi footbridge to the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount (closed on 12/12/11), saying it will reinforce rather than rebuild it. Meanwhile, **IDF troops** on the Gaza border e. of Gaza City fire on a Palestinian who strays too nr. the border fence while hunting birds, moderately wounding him. **IDF** troops in the West Bank conduct late-night arrest raids, house searches in al-Fawar r.c. and Bayt Umar, both nr. Hebron. (NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 12/15; PCHR 12/22; OCHA 12/23)

Addressing **10,000s of Hamas supporters** in Gaza City to mark Hamas’s 24th anniversary, **Hamas acting PM Ismail Haniyeh** says that “Today we say it clearly: Armed resistance and armed struggle are the strategic way to liberate the Palestinian land from the sea to the river,” but that if Israel were to turn over the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, Hamas could take a “temporary” respite “without Israel being recognized and without any concession being made.” Of note: at the rally, the flags of the Arab states are displayed except for **Syria’s**. (NYT 12/15)

The *New York Times* runs a long special report on a 6-yr. **U.S.** investigation

of **Lebanese Canadian Bank** and its suspected role providing financial support to “terrorists.” U.S. officials allege—but refuse to release their evidence—that the investigation revealed that the bank laundered hundreds of millions of dollars fr. **Hizballah** criminal enterprises and that Hizballah had significant ties to Latin American drug cartels. U.S. investigators say the transactions also revealed a pattern “in which entities tied to Hezbollah have been buying up militarily strategic pieces of property in largely Christian areas” of Lebanon. Hizballah calls the claims “politically motivated propaganda.” U.S. admin. sources say that when the connections first came to their attention in fall 2010, some argued that the Hizballah link should be left unstated, but the admin. changed course (1) after Hizballah forced out Saad Hariri as PM and secured appointment of an ally in his place and (2) when the UN tribunal accused Hizballah of involvement in Rafiq Hariri’s assassination. (NYT 12/14)

15 DECEMBER 2011

Overnight the **IDF** removes 2 structures at the unauthorized settlement outpost of Mitzpe Yitzhar. In retaliation, **Jewish settlers** set fire to and spray racist graffiti on a mosque in Burqa village nr. Ramallah. The **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Qalqilya in the morning and in 5 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon and late evening. (NYT, WP 12/16; PCHR 12/22; OCHA 12/23; NYT 1/9)

16 DECEMBER 2011

Israeli naval vessels fire on a Palestinian fishing boat off the n. Gaza shore, moderately wounding 1 Palestinian. Late in the evening, **IDF troops** on the c. Gaza border direct heavy fire on open areas e. of al-Bureij r.c., killing a **Palestinian guard** manning the al-Bureij sewage facility. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin late in the evening; conducts late-night patrols in and around 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, Kafr Qaddum, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers beat and fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; in Kafr Qaddum, 1 Palestinian is injured by a tear gas canister and another is arrested. In Silwan, East Jerusalem, the **IDF** arrests 2 Palestinian teenagers for arguing with a group of **Jewish settlers** who took over a Palestinian swimming hole. (PCHR 12/22; OCHA 12/23)

17 DECEMBER 2011

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza shore, forcing them to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes an early morning incursion into 'Arraba village nr. Jenin, raiding a home and detaining **local Islamic Jihad spokesman Khader Adnan**, placing him under administrative detention; Adnan immediately declares a hunger strike to protest his detention without charge. The **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and Qalqilya; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem. (PCHR 12/22; OCHA 12/23)

18 DECEMBER 2011

The **last U.S. combat troops pull out of Iraq** 2 wks. ahead of Obama's 12/31/11 target date; 1,000s of U.S. diplomats and contractors remain in the country, as well as 150 U.S. soldiers tasked to train Iraqi security forces. (National Public Radio, REU 12/18; NYT 12/19)

Israel frees 550 Palestinian prisoners in the 2d stage of the swap that freed IDF Cpl. Gilad Shalit in 10/2011; 41 are released to Gaza, more than 500 to the West Bank, a few to East Jerusalem and Jordan. Under the terms of the deal, Israel picked which prisoners to free and picked mostly Fatah-affiliated West Bankers as a gesture to **Abbas**; none are mbrs. of Hamas or Islamic Jihad or were involved in killing or wounding anyone; Palestinians complain that "many of those being released were due to get out within months anyway. . . . If Israel had wanted to make

a real good-will gesture, the list would have been totally different." (NYT, WP 12/19)

Stone-throwing Palestinian youths clash with **IDF** at the Beitunia checkpoint where some of the Palestinian prisoners freed by Israel are released, leaving 10s of Palestinians and 1 IDF soldier injured. Elsewhere in the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Jenin in the morning and in 3 villages nr. Jenin, Qalqilya, and Salfit in the evening (firing tear gas at stone-throwing youths in Jenin); makes a brief incursion into Qalqilya where they set up 2 checkpoints, detain 2 **PA security forces** officers for several hours, and summon 1 Palestinian for questioning. **Jewish settlers** block a Palestinian road nr. Moshe Zouhar settlement outpost nr. Qalqilya. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the Gaza City shore, detaining 1 boat and questioning 4 Palestinians (3 are released, 1 is sent to Israel for an unrelated medical issue). **Gaza's Interior Min.** drops requirements for Gazans to register in advance of leaving Gaza through the Rafah crossing. The **Israeli Housing Min.** published tenders for construction of **1,028 Jewish settlement units** in East Jerusalem (500 in Har Homa, 348 in Beitar Ilit, and 180 in Givat Ze'ev). The **Gaza Central Drug Store** receives an urgent shipment of medicine and supplies fr. the West Bank, enough to replenish its stores for several weeks (see 12/6/12). (HA 12/18; NYT, WP 12/19; PCHR 12/22; OCHA 12/23)

IDF chief of staff Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz announces that in light of the dramatically increasing number of covert foreign operations Israel has undertaken in the past year, the **Israeli DMin.** has formed a new operational branch called the **Depth Corps** specifically to handle special operations "deep in enemy territory." The new branch (separate fr. the existing Northern, Southern, and Central Commands) will be headed by former special operations commander Maj. Gen. Shai Avital and will pull and coordinate resources fr. the military's various elite commando units on an ad hoc basis, depending on the mission. While Israel does not confirm or deny covert operations abroad, media reports over the past year have

indicated that Israel has carried out operations in Sudan (targeting arms traffic to Hizballah and Hamas), Iran, Lebanon, and Syria. According to HA, since most recent covert ops have targeted Iran, IDF insiders often refer to the Depth Corps as “**Iran Command.**” (AFP, IHY 12/16; HA 12/18; JPI 2/10) (See “Amos Harel, ‘Appointment of IDF’s New Iran Command Chief Raises Eyebrows’ in Selections from the Press for additional information.)

19 DECEMBER 2011

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 arrest raids, searches in Hebron and 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning; patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and Qalqilya during the day and in and around Jenin town and r.c. late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kfar Assaf settlement outpost nr. Ramallah set fire to 5 Palestinian cars in nearby Bitin village. (PCHR 12/22; OCHA 12/23)

20 DECEMBER 2011

Israeli troops on the n. Gaza border twice fire at suspicious movement in open areas e. of Bayt Hanun, causing no reported injuries. **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 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning and in Tulkarm town and r.c. in the evening, in both cases firing at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no reported injuries. **OCHA** reports that in the previous wk., the **IDF** demolished 10 tents and 5 animal pens in the Bedouin village of Fasayil al-Wusta and 2 animal pens in the neighboring Bedouin village of Fasayil al-Fauqa, both in the Jordan Valley. (PCHR 12/22; OCHA 12/23)

Fatah and **Hamas** announce that, in keeping with their 5/2011 reconciliation deal, they have agreed on formation of a new Central Elections Commission to prepare for presidential and

parliamentary elections. They fail to reach an agreement on formation of a caretaker government to take the Palestinians to elections, postponing further discussion until late 1/2012. (JPI 12/30)

After a UNSC briefing on the Middle East, **14 UNSC mbrs.** criticize the **U.S.** (without naming it directly) for blocking any criticism of **Israel’s** recent approvals for new settlement construction in East Jerusalem and the West Bank and of the increasing settler violence, as well as for threatening to veto any UNSC res. supporting Palestinian statehood. **British UN Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant**, speaking on behalf of the **European UNSC mbrs. (Britain, France, Germany, and Portugal)**, calls recent Israeli settlement and settler actions “devastating” to the 2-state solution, saying “Israel’s security and the realization of the Palestinians’ right to statehood are not opposing goals. On the contrary, they are mutually reinforcing objectives. But they will not be achieved while settlement building and settler violence continues.” Grant also calls on Israel and the Palestinians to send their comprehensive proposals on territory and security to the Quartet as soon as possible. (The Palestinians have already submitted theirs to the Quartet, so this is seen as an added rebuke to Israel, which has not done so.) (HA 12/21, NYT 12/22) (See Doc. A1 for the European UNSC joint statement.)

21 DECEMBER 2011

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials nr. the border, wounding 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes 2 storehouses and 2 wells nr. Salfit; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., and nr. Hebron. (PCHR 12/22, 12/29; OCHA 1/5)

Israel denounces the 12/20 statement by **Britain, France, Germany, and Portugal** at the UNSC, accusing the 4 EU states of interfering in its internal affairs. Israeli FM spokesman Yigal Palmor adds: “We felt that the European statement broke all the diplomatic rules. You aren’t meant to issue such a harsh

statement by surprise, without prior consultation.” (NYT 12/22)

22 DECEMBER 2011

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into n. Gaza in the morning to level lands and clear lines of sight along the border e. of Jabaliya r.c., firing on nearby residential areas to keep Palestinians indoors. In Dura and Ithna villages nr. Hebron, the **IDF** destroys 1 **Palestinian home**, part of 2 other homes, 9 agricultural pools and irrigation networks, 4 water tanks, and 5 wells, also confiscating 15 water pumps and other agricultural equipment. The **IDF** also patrols in 3 villages nr. Qalqilya and 1 nr. Jenin in the evening; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem and neighboring Dahaysha r.c. *Washington Jewish Week* reports that in the previous wk., **Israel's Jerusalem Magistrate's Court** rejected 2 lawsuits demanding the eviction of Palestinian families fr. their Silwan homes; the suits were brought by Eldad, an organization seeking to Judaize Jerusalem in part by settling Jews in the predominantly Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan, nr. the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount. (WJW 12/22; PCHR 12/29; OCHA 1/5)

At the close of 2 days of talks in Cairo, Fatah's **Abbas** and Hamas's **Mishal** agree that they will both sit on the comm. that will prepare for the next elections of the PLO's parliament-in-exile, the **Palestinian National Council (PNC)**, marking a major step toward Hamas joining the PLO. They also agree to form an interim unity government by the end of 1/2012 and to bring elected Hamas-affiliated legislators back into the PA's parliament, the **Palestinian Council (PC)**, in 2/2012. (NYT, AP, WP, WT 12/23; HA 12/28)

Reports indicate that **Hamas** is scaling back its presence in **Syria** because of violence there, but overall feels buoyed by the Arab Spring. **Senior Hamas official Mahmud Zahar** states that Hamas feels strengthened and validated by the popular support shown for Islamist parties in countries affected by the Arab Spring, suggesting that the new Tunisian model of power-sharing among Islamist and secular nationalist

parties could be a model for the Palestinians. (WP 12/22)

23 DECEMBER 2011

In the morning, **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire 3 **artillery shells** into Abasan village, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 1 nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Tulkarm (chasing stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, arresting 1). **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists) hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire live ammunition (Nabi Salih only) rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 1 Palestinian in Nabi Salih is lightly wounded by live ammunition. (PCHR 12/29; OCHA 1/5)

24 DECEMBER 2011

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 **rocket** and 1 **mortar** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** patrols in and around Jenin in the morning; conducts morning and late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya. (YA 12/24; PCHR 12/29; OCHA 1/5)

25 DECEMBER 2011

No **Israeli-Palestinian violence** is reported. (PCHR 12/29; OCHA 1/5)

In his 1st diplomatic trip abroad since 2007, **Hamas's acting PM in Gaza Ismail Haniyeh** begins a 2-wk. regional tour to promote Hamas's interests in light of the Arab Spring, including raising money to rebuild Gaza. He starts in Egypt, with planned stops in Sudan, Qatar, Tunisia, Turkey, and Bahrain. (NYT 12/26)

26 DECEMBER 2011

The **IDF** patrols in 5 villages nr. Jenin and 2 nr. Tulkarm during the day; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm and nr. Hebron. (PCHR 12/29; OCHA 1/5)

27 DECEMBER 2011

In the morning, **IDF** troops on the c. Gaza border fire toward the village of al-Mussaddar, seriously wounding a 12-yr.-old boy on a donkey cart. In the evening, an **Israeli drone** fires a missile at 2 mbrs. of a Salafist group riding a motorcycle in Jabaliya, assassinating **1 Salafist** (Abdullah al-Talbani) and wounding a 2d Salafist and 3 civilian bystanders (including a child). In response, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a **rocket** toward Israel, but it lands inside the Strip, causing no damage or injuries. Late at night, an **Israeli warplane** carries out a 2d **air strike** on a car in Gaza City carrying 4 unidentified Palestinian resistance mbrs., wounding them. The right-wing Israeli **Eldad Foundation** announces plans to build a new tourism center at a disputed archaeological site just outside the Old City in East Jerusalem's Silwan neighborhood. (JP, NYT 12/28; PCHR 12/29; OCHA 1/5)

28 DECEMBER 2011

Anonymous Israeli officials say that 2 wks. ago, **Abbas**, under heavy **Quartet** pressure (especially fr. the U.S.), submitted a proposal for restarting talks that dropped demands that Israel halt settlement construction but demanded that Israel release in exchange 100 Palestinian prisoners jailed since before the Oslo process began. Israel rejected this on the grounds that (1) it would replace 1 precondition with another, and (2) it was vague about whether the talks that would result would be preparatory talks or direct negotiations between Abbas and Netanyahu. There is no official Palestinian, U.S., or Quartet comment on this. Another Israeli official says that Israel is concerned that if talks do not resume by 1/26/12, Abbas would resume Palestinian statehood efforts at the UN, including seeking membership in various UN organizations. (HA 12/28, 1/1)

Late at night, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 4 Qassam **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In response, **Israeli warplanes** carry out **3 air strikes** on a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border and **1 air strike** on

a Hamas training site s. of Gaza City; damage but no injuries are reported. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Azariyya nr. East Jerusalem, in Hebron, and nr. Tulkarm. **Israeli municipal officials in Jerusalem** approve construction of another 130 housing units in Gilo settlement, s. of Jerusalem. (PCHR 12/29; YA 12/30; OCHA, PCHR 1/5)

As of this date, **Congress** has freed up only \$40 m. of the \$192 m. in humanitarian aid to the Palestinians that was frozen in light of the UN bid (see QU in *JPS* 162). USAID and the White House are pressuring Congress to release the rest of the money, calling it "in the interest of the Palestinians, Israel and the United States" to ensure continued development "vital to the establishing and strengthening the foundations necessary for a future Palestinian state." (WP 12/29)

29 DECEMBER 2011

Unidentified Palestinians fire a Qassam **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. On 3 occasions during the day, **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, confiscating 1 boat (arresting 1 fisherman and briefly detaining 2) and forcing the others to return to shore. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin; conducts morning arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya. The independent **Palestinian Center for Human Rights** accuses the **Hamas** authorities in Gaza of harassing **Fatah** mbrs., saying Hamas police have summoned about 50 former mbrs. of the Fatah security forces in since 12/26, questioning them at length, detaining some, and searching some homes. (JP, PCHR 12/29; NYT 12/30; OCHA, PCHR 1/5)

30 DECEMBER 2011

An **Israeli warplane** makes an **air strike** on a rocket-launching team in Gaza, killing **1 AMB mbr.** and wounding 5. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Qalqilya, 1 nr. Jenin. **Palestinians** (sometimes accompanied by Israeli and international activists)

hold weekly nonviolent demonstrations against the separation wall, land confiscations, and settlement expansion in Bil'in, N'lin, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 1 Palestinian in Bil'in is lightly injured. Similar protests are held by Palestinians in Kafr al-Dik nr. Salfit, where the **IDF** plans to expropriate 2,000 d.; no serious injuries are reported (YA 12/30; NYT, WP 12/31; OCHA, PCHR 1/5)

31 DECEMBER 2011

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fatally shoot an **unarmed, suicidal Palestinian** who deliberately approaches the border fence, expecting soldiers to shoot him. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and Salfit after dark; conducts separate late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya, Salfit. (OCHA, PCHR 1/5)

1 JANUARY 2012

Jordan announces that **Israel** and the **Palestinians** have agreed to send their chief negotiators to Jordan on 1/3 to meet with **Quartet** officials. Though the parties stress that the meeting will not be a formal negotiating session, it will mark the 1st time the negotiators have met since 9/2010. The **Quartet** hopes that **Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat** and **Netanyahu's personal emissary Yitzhak Molcho** will present their positions on security and borders and agree on the agenda for future direct talks, technically relaunching negotiations by the **Quartet's** self-imposed 1/26/12 deadline (see QU in *JPS* 162 for background). Erakat says the Palestinian demand for a settlement freeze still stands and that the **Palestinians** have agreed to attend out of respect for Jordan. (HA 1/1; NYT, WP, WT 1/2)

Unidentified Palestinians fire 2 **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries; **Israel** claims the mortars carried white phosphorous that **Palestinians** would have scavenged fr. **Israeli** munitions fired into Gaza during OCL. The **IDF** conducts morning patrols

in 3 villages northwest of Jenin (firing rubber-coated steel bullets at stone-throwing youths in 1 instance, causing no serious injuries); conducts synchronized afternoon patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah; conducts evening patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah (firing rubber-coated steel bullets at stone-throwing youths in 1 instance, causing no serious injuries), and 1 each nr. Jericho and Salfit; conducts late-night patrols in Jericho, Birzeit, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Jenin, Nablus. (JP 1/1, 1/2; OCHA, PCHR 1/5)

2 JANUARY 2012

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Jericho, neighboring 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c., and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning; 2 villages nr. Jericho and Ramallah in the afternoon; and 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 nr. Ramallah late at night. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches, and interrogations in and around Qalqilya, and nr. Hebron, Jenin (arresting senior **Islamic Jihad** mbr. Usama Shalabi), and Tulkarm. **Israeli municipal authorities in Jerusalem** post notices signaling the planned implementation of a 9/2011 decision to confiscate 13 d. East Jerusalem property in Wadi al-Juz located between Hebrew University and the Palestine Archaeological Museum; the decision would displace 170 Palestinian stores employing some 700 workers. (OCHA, PCHR 1/5)

A bill proposed by **MK Danny Danon** passes in the Knesset requiring that any Palestinian prisoner granted early release by the president who commits another crime (misdemeanor or felony) be rearrested and made to serve the remainder of his or her original sentence. (JPI 1/13)

3 JANUARY 2012

In Amman, **Israeli and Palestinian negotiators** meet with **Quartet reps.** (including special envoy Blair) and then with **Jordanian FM Nasser Judeh**. Judeh says that the Palestinian team, as requested, turned over its position papers on security and borders and that

the Israeli team formally received them. The sides have agreed to hold talks “on a continual basis” in Jordan to explore reviving formal negotiations and to observe a media blackout, with only Judeh issuing public statements after the sessions. Israel does not submit its own comprehensive position papers, but pledges “that through this continuing dialogue there will be an Israeli counterproposal or an Israeli response.” (WJW 1/3; NYT, WP 1/4; WT 1/5)

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinians scavenging for construction materials inside the demolished Erez industrial zone, forcing them to flee. **IDF troops** make a brief incursion into s. Gaza to level land and clear lines of sight along the border fence e. of Abasan and Khuza, firing toward nearby residential areas to keep Palestinians indoors (causing no reported injuries). **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 Jenin and (synchronized) in 3 villages nr. Ramallah; conducts evening patrols in Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Jenin; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya. **OCHA** reports that since 12/21, the **IDF** has demolished 25 water-related structures (wells, cisterns, water pools, and water storage tanks) used for domestic and agricultural purposes; 21 were in Hebron governorate, 4 in Salfit governorate. **OCHA** also reports that in the past 2 wks., the **IDF** has demolished the remaining structures on the Palestinian side of the Qarni crossing, which Israel closed on 3/2/11 when the Kerem Shalom crossing became fully operational. (OCHA, PCHR 1/5)

The **Israeli High Court** accepts an agmt. reached between the state and settlers under which the state agrees to suspend plans to demolish immediately 9 structures in the **Ramat Gilad unauthorized settlement outpost**, giving the settlers until 3/2012 to remove the structures themselves. The settlers claim that the state has agreed in exchange to expand the zoning boundaries for nearby Karnei Shomron settlement to include Ramat Gilad (retroactively legalizing the outpost), but the official documents submitted to the court do not say this. (JPI 1/3)

4 JANUARY 2012

The **IDF** makes a morning raid on an auto parts store nr. Hebron, arresting the owner and confiscating a truck; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus and Qalqilya. (PCHR 1/5, 1/12; OCHA 1/13)

5 JANUARY 2012

The **State Dept.** says **Israeli and Palestinian negotiating teams** will hold a 2d round of talks in Amman on 1/9. **Israeli DM Ehud Barak** says that “it is clear that [the position paper handed to Israel by the PA on 1/3] is unacceptable in its present state. . . . Long negotiations await us.” (NYT 1/6, 1/10)

OCHA reports that **Jewish settlers** vandalized more than 10,000 Palestinian olive trees in 2011. The **IDF** demolished 622 structures in the West Bank and East Jerusalem during 2011 (compared to 431 in 2010), displacing 1,094 Palestinians (compared to 594 in 2010). (OCHA 1/5)

Israel temporarily bans **12 Jewish extremists** fr. the West Bank for periods of 3–9 mos. as part of Netanyahu’s crackdown against price-tag attacks. The **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning; in 2 villages nr. Jericho and 1 each nr. Jenin, Qalqilya, and Salfit in the evening; and in al-Bireh, Jericho, 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, and 1 nr. Ramallah late at night. The **IDF** also demolishes 3 **Palestinian homes** nr. Jericho; demolishes 2 Palestinian stonecutters’ workshop (confiscating stones worth more than \$25,500) and a scrap metal shop in Azariyya; enters Hebron during the day to arrest 1 Palestinian. In Gaza, **1 Palestinian** is killed, 1 is injured in a tunnel collapse on the Rafah border. **Gaza’s Central Drug Store** receives a 2d shipment (see 12/18/11) of medicines and medical supplies fr. the West Bank that should cover needs for 5 wks. (WP 1/6; PCHR 1/12; OCHA 1/13)

6 JANUARY 2012

IDF troops on the c. Gaza border fire warning shots at a Palestinian grazing sheep too near the border fence e. of Bureij r.c., wounding her in the foot. In the evening, the **IDF** shells an open

area n. of Jabaliya town; 1 woman is sent to the hospital in shock. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts morning patrols in Jericho, nearby Aqabat Jabir r.c., Qalqilya and 1 nearby village, and 1 village nr. Ramallah; conducts late-night patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin, Ramallah (photographing several houses and old mosques in Um Safa), and 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, Ni'lin, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 3 Palestinians in Bil'in are injured by rubber-coated steel bullets. (PCHR 1/12; OCHA 1/13)

Jerusalem Post International republishes Sudanese media reports claiming that in the previous month, the **Israeli air force** struck at least 2 weapons convoys in **Sudan** believed headed for Gaza. The Sudanese military denies the reports, and Israel declines to comment. The Israeli navy has been operating in the Red Sea in recent years in effort to halt arms smuggling to Hamas and Hizballah. (JPI 1/6)

A computer hacker identifying himself as a **Saudi Arabian teenager** with the handle 0xOmar hacks **3 Israeli credit card companies** and publishes online the credit card data and security information of at least 20,000 Israelis. While unable to confirm the identity of the hacker or hackers, the Israeli government calls it an act of cyberterrorism intended to harm the Israeli economy. (NYT 1/7; WP 1/8; JPI 1/17)

7 JANUARY 2012

Israeli naval vessels seize a Palestinian fishing boat off the s. Gaza coast; hold 4 fishermen for questioning at Ashdod Port, releasing them late in the evening but confiscating their boat. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning; 3 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon (firing tear gas at stone-throwing youths in 1 incident); and 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 each nr. Jenin and Tulkarm late at night. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around

Hebron. **Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists** hold a nonviolent demonstration in Bayt Umar to protest the planned expansion of nearby Kar-me'i Tzur settlement. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, causing no serious injuries. (PCHR 1/12; OCHA 1/13)

8 JANUARY 2012

Israel charges **5 Jewish settlers** for (1) orchestrating the 12/13/11 riot at an IDF base to prevent the removal of Mitzpe Yitzhar outpost and (2) operating a hotline to collect tips on IDF and Israeli police movements in the West Bank and using the information to direct settlers to interfere with IDF operations; they could face 5 yrs. in prison if convicted; 4 of the 5 had restraining orders against them barring their entry to the West Bank. Prosecutors allege that some of the tips received (including regarding the planned evacuation of Mitzpe Yitzhar) were received fr. active-duty IDF soldiers and included classified aerial photos and maps. The charges are brought in a civil court in Jerusalem, despite a recent decision to allow military courts in the West Bank to try such cases. (NYT, WP 1/9)

The **IDF** conducts synchronized morning patrols in Tulkarm and 1 nearby village; conducts other morning patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 nr. Qalqilya; conducts afternoon and evening patrols in 3 villages nr. Qalqilya, 2 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Jenin (firing tear gas and stun grenades at stone-throwing youths, causing no injuries); conducts late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin (synchronized) and 2 nr. Qalqilya; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Salfit. (PCHR 1/12; OCHA 1/13)

9 JANUARY 2012

Palestinian and Israeli peace teams hold a 2d very low-profile meeting in Amman. The sides downplay the meeting, calling them "exploratory sessions," so as not to raise expectations of a negotiating breakthrough. An anonymous Palestinian official says that the Israelis did not offer anything today that

would move the peace process forward. **Judeh** does not issue a formal statement, and Israel refuses to comment. (NYT, WT 1/10)

The **IDF** conducts morning patrols in Qalqilya, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Tulkarm; afternoon patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin (firing tear gas at stone-throwing youths in 1 incident), and 1 nr. Qalqilya; late-night patrols in Tulkarm and nearby Bayt Lid and in 1 village nr. Qalqilya. The **IDF** also enters 'Azzoun village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon to summon for interrogation 3 Palestinians released in the 10/2011 Shalit prisoner swap; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron and nr. Nablus. (PCHR 1/12; OCHA 1/13)

On the day before the New Hampshire primaries, **Republican presidential candidates Ron Paul and Rick Santorum** both stress that the U.S. must maintain close ties with **Israel**. Paul, who opposes all foreign aid, says he is against continuing massive assistance to Israel, stating "I don't believe that I should take money from anybody here and send money to them," saying it sends the message "we own you." Santorum stresses the threat from **Iran**, whereas Paul calls the danger of Iran achieving nuclear weapons "way overblown." (WT 1/10)

The **White House** announces that Pres. **Obama** has tapped his dir. of the Office of Budget and Management, **Jack Lew**, as his new chief of staff, replacing outgoing chief of staff William Daley. **American Jewish organizations** praise the selection of Lew, an Orthodox Jew who is very involved in Jewish events in Washington, stating that since **Dennis Ross's** departure as Obama's chief adviser on the Middle East they had worried that there was no one "left to call in a White House that has hemorrhaged top Jews over the last year or so" that could directly weigh in with the pres. on issues of concern to Israel. (JTA 1/10; WJW 1/12, 1/19)

10 JANUARY 2012

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into n. Gaza to level land and clear lines of sight along the border e. of Jabaliya town. In the West Bank, the **IDF**

bulldozes Palestinian land in Azariyya (just outside Jerusalem) for construction of a "biblical garden"; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin, firing tear gas and percussion grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron. **Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists** hold a nonviolent march fr. Jericho toward Ramallah to highlight freedom of movement issues; the **IDF** blocks the march just outside Jericho and arrests 5 Palestinians. (PCHR 1/12; OCHA 1/13)

Briefing the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Comm., IDF chief of staff **Gantz** says the IDF is preparing for a massive influx of refugees into the **Golan Heights if Syrian pres. Bashar al-Asad** falls, which in the IDF's assessment is "inevitable." He says Israel would try to keep the refugees in a strategic buffer zone between the Golan and Syria, and would likely move Alawite refugees to the divided Alawite city of Ghajar straddling the Lebanon-Israel border to prevent any conflict between Alawis and the Druze population of the Golan. (NYT, WT 1/11)

Meanwhile, the **Knesset** passes an amendment to an existing law to discourage infiltrators that makes it legal to detain illegal migrants and their children for up to 3 yrs. without trial. Though directed at African migrant workers attempting to enter Israel fr. **Egypt**, Israeli rights groups fear the measure could be used to detain refugees fleeing violence in **Syria**. (NYT 1/11)

11 JANUARY 2012

Late at night, the **IDF** raids and searches the Nablus home and office of **jailed Palestinian journalist and al-Najah University professor Amin Abu Warda**, confiscating computers and files; Abu Warda was detained on 12/28/11 and is being held without charge in administrative detention at the IDF's interrogation center in Petah Tikva settlement. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm and nearby Nur al-Shams r.c., in al-Fara'a r.c. nr. Tubas, and nr. Nablus. **Jewish settlers** set fire to 2 Palestinian cars, spray graffiti on a mosque

in Dayr Istya nr. Salfit. A **Gaza court** sentences a Palestinian to death for collaborating with Israel. (PCHR 1/12, 1/19; OCHA 1/20)

12 JANUARY 2012

Abbas says that **Israel** has offered nothing new in talks in Jordan, but that 2 more mtgs. are planned in hopes that the sides can agree on baselines for resuming negotiations before the Quartet's 1/26/12 target date. (NYT 1/13)

Israel's High Court upholds (6-5) a controversial law that bans most Palestinians who marry Israeli citizens fr. obtaining citizenship on the ground this would pose a security threat. **IDF** troops on the c. Gaza border fire 2 **artillery** shells at a group of armed Palestinians nr. the border e. of al-Bureij r.c., moderately wounding 2. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Ramallah and 2 nr. Tulkarm (synchronized) in the morning; in 2 villages nr. Jenin (firing tear gas and percussion grenades at stone-throwing youths in 1 instance), 2 nr. Jericho, and 1 nr. Salfit in the afternoon; and in Birzeit late at night. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nabi Saleh. (WP 1/13; PCHR 1/19; OCHA 1/20)

13 JANUARY 2012

The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning and in Jericho, 1 village nr. Jericho, and 1 nr. Jenin 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, Kafr Qaddum, and Nabi Salih. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters, causing no significant injuries; troops also temporarily occupy 1 Palestinian home in Kafr Qaddum as an observation post, confining the family to a single room. Some 250 **Jewish settlers** escorted by **IDF** soldiers march provocatively through Hebron's Old City before and after conducting prayers at the Tomb of the Patriarch/al-Ibrahimi Mosque; the **IDF** declares surrounding areas a closed

military zone for several hours, preventing Palestinian movement. (PCHR 1/19; OCHA 1/20)

Thai officials say that they have been working with **Israel** for weeks tracking "a group of people who appear to be from the Lebanese group **Hizballah**" who allegedly planned to attack tourist sites frequented by Israelis in mid-1/2012 in response to escalating U.S.-Israeli tensions with **Iran** and that Thai police have detained a **Lebanese man** in connection with the case. The **U.S.** and **Israel** issue warnings of a "real and credible" terrorist threat against Americans and Israelis in Bangkok. **Hizballah** officials deny the allegations as an Israeli fabrication. The suspect later (1/16) leads police to a warehouse containing large quantities of ammonia and fertilizer, commonly used to make bombs. (NYT, WP 1/14; WT 1/17)

14 JANUARY 2012

The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning; conducts synchronized patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin at midday and 1 village nr. Jenin later in the afternoon; and conducts late-night patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Tulkarm. In Gaza, **Hamas-affiliated police** raid a Bayt Lahiya house, beating and detaining 15–20 Palestinians before releasing them later in the day. Palestinian media sources (e.g., Ma'an News Agency 1/17) claim the small group was performing prayers to mark a Shi'i holy day and was targeted because they are Shi'i, but Hamas officials deny this, saying that "police tracked an illegal group with corrupted views that were planning to commit crimes." Palestinian human rights groups demanded an investigation. (MNA 1/17; PCHR 1/19; OCHA 1/20)

15 JANUARY 2012

Palestinian and Israeli negotiators hold a 3d round of preliminary talks in **Jordan**. No details are released. (WP 1/17)

The **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Jenin, 2 nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Salfit during the day; conducts late-night arrest

raids, house searches in 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma'a r.c. nr. Nablus, in Jenin, and nr. Qalqilya (including rearresting 1 Palestinian freed in the 10/2011 Shalit prisoner release). **Jewish settlers** fr. Tal Rumayda settlement in Hebron set fire to a nearby Palestinian vehicle. (PCHR 1/19; OCHA 1/20)

16 JANUARY 2012

The **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm, 2 nearby villages, and 2 villages nr. Qalqilya (briefly detaining several Palestinians for questioning) during the day; patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin. In East Jerusalem's Sur al-Bahir neighborhood, **Israeli municipal authorities** demolish an extension to a Palestinian home, threatening to charge the owner \$40,000 to cover the government's cost of demolition; bulldoze a Palestinian warehouse and sheep pen. A **Gaza court** sentences a Palestinian to death for murder. (PCHR 1/19; OCHA 1/20)

Unidentified hackers disrupt the websites of the **Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE)** and **El Al Airlines** for several hours by overloading them with access attempts. The hacker 0xOmar, who claimed responsibility for hacking more than 20,000 Israeli credit cards on 1/6/12, sent an email to *Yedi'ot Abaronot* on 1/15 warning that "pro-Palestinian cyberattackers called Nightmare" planned to disrupt the sites. (NYT 1/17; JPI 1/27)

17 JANUARY 2012

In Washington for talks with Pres. **Obama**, **King Abdallah of Jordan** tells reporters that he is convinced that Israel and the Palestinians are each making sincere efforts to find a way to jump-start serious peace talks, but cautions there are serious obstacles to overcome and time is running out. Separately, **State Dept. spokeswoman Victoria Nuland** says that the U.S. knows that the 1/26/12 target date for restarting final status negotiations is "out there, [but] we do not want to see it be a rigid sort of straitjacket that chills the atmosphere." In Israel, PM **Netanyahu** tells

lawmakers in a closed mtg. that "the Palestinians have no interest in entering peace talks." (WP 1/17)

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Hanun fire warning shots at Palestinians and international activists staging a nonviolent march to the border fence to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone; no injuries are reported. The **IDF** makes a late-night incursion into al-Shuka village in s. Gaza to arrest a mbr. of the **Islamic Jihad's** al-Quds Brigade. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm in the morning and afternoon; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron, Nablus. (WT 1/15; PCHR 1/19; OCHA 1/20).

Hamas officials announce that the movement's leadership has decided to evacuate their families and most personnel fr. Syria in response to the deteriorating security situation; 3 senior officials (Musa Abu Marzuq, Muhammad Naser, and Izzat Rishiq) will remain in Damascus. Meanwhile, **Hamas's former rep. in London, Mustafa Lidawi**, says that Hamas leader **Mishal** plans to retire as politburo head (a position he has held since 1996) when the organization holds elections in the coming months to allow "a fresh leader to steer Hamas towards a new strategy," but other Hamas officials deny he has made a final decision. (*Guardian*, WT, *al-Watan* 1/18; NYT 1/30)

The **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** formally apologizes to **Israel** for allowing a **Hamas mbr.** to take part in a dialogue in Geneva (ca. 1/14) on Israel's treatment of Palestinian prisoners as part of a Palestinian delegation and vows that Hamas mbrs. will be barred fr. future IPU events. Israel had threatened (1/16) to withdraw fr. the IPU in protest. The IPU is a nongovernmental organization with permanent observer status at the UN. It was formed in 1889 to arbitrate conflicts but has evolved into an organization that promotes democracy and interparliamentary dialogue. (JPI 1/27; see also AFP 1/16)

Israeli hackers bring down the **Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency and the Abu Dhabi Securities and Exchange** websites, release the email addresses and passwords of 89 Saudi university students, and steal and threaten to release the Facebook login

information for 30,000 account holders in Muslim countries in retaliation for the 1/16 denial of service attacks on the TASE and El Al and the 1/6 leak of Israeli credit card information. One of the Israeli hackers, Anonymous 972, issues a statement saying "Usually we do not like to hurt innocent sites, but there is now a cyber war, and every war has victims. . . . Every time an Israeli site get[s] hacked, the same thing will happen to Saudi sites." The Israeli hacker who claims to have the Facebook information, Hannibal Hacker, also claims that he could publish bank account details of 10 million Arabs and the credit card details of 4 million Arabs if cyberattacks on Israel continue. (ZDNet 1/19; HackRead 1/25; JPI 1/27)

18 JANUARY 2012

IDF tanks and aircraft attack Popular Resistance Comm. (PRC) mbrs. planting explosives along the n. Gaza border, killing **2 PRC mbrs.** and wounding 2. Later, **IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers working their fields nr. the border, forcing them to flee, and make a brief incursion into the former Nisanit settlement site to search the area. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. (PCHR, WT 1/19; PCHR 1/26; OCHA 1/27)

19 JANUARY 2012

Thailand officially recognizes **Palestine** as an independent state, becoming the 131st country to do so. (NYT 1/21)

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** detains **Hamas-affiliated PC speaker 'Aziz Dweik** at Jaba' checkpoint nr. Jerusalem, placing him in administrative detention; makes a late-night raid on **Hamas-affiliated Change and Reform PC mbr. Khalid Thwaib's** home in Za'atara village nr. Bethlehem, arresting him and confiscating his computers, phone, and files. The **IDF** also conducts synchronized morning patrols in 2 villages n. of Jericho; conducts other daytime patrols in 3 villages nr Ramallah,

1 nr. Jenin, 1 nr. Jericho; conducts evening patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho; conducts late-night patrols in al-Bireh. (JP 1/19; WT 1/25; PCHR 1/26; OCHA 1/27)

The U.S.'s new **Joint Chiefs of Staff head Gen. Martin Dempsey** begins a 3-day visit to **Israel** for talks on **Iran**, regional security, and military-to-military strategic coordination. He will meet with PM Netanyahu, Pres. Shimon Peres, DM Barak, and senior IDF commanders. (NYT, WT 1/20; NYT, WP 1/21)

Pro-Israel groups (including the Anti-Defamation League [ADL] and American Jewish Committee [AJC]) publicly accuse the **Center for American Progress** (CAP; a Washington-based think tank seen as close to the Obama admin.) of "anti-Semitism," citing several Twitter posts by CAP staffers to their private Twitter accounts referring to "Israel-firsters" (i.e., Americans who put Israel's national interests before America's) and accusing AIPAC of pushing the U.S. toward war with Iran. The ADL and AJC allege that the private Tweets are part of a "very troubling" pattern of "anti-Semitism and borderline anti-Semitism" at CAP. Former AIPAC spokesman Josh Block says that the pro-Israel groups went public with their complaints only after CAP officials ignored a compilation of CAP staffer's writings and public statements that he quietly presented to them in 12/2011 that he said amounted to "outrageous vilification of pro-Israel Americans." CAP says it is "baffled and appalled" by the charges. Some on the left of the pro-Israel spectrum, such as J Street, say the issue is overblown and they suspect that it is being brought forward now "to shut down needed policy debates," cautioning groups such as the ADL and AJC to "tread lightly" with accusations of anti-Semitism or "people won't take you seriously." (WP 1/20)

20 JANUARY 2012

The **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm and 3 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning; in Qalqilya (briefly detaining 2 Palestinians) and 2 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon; in Jericho, Tulkarm (twice), 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, and 1 each nr.

Jenin and Jericho late at night. The **IDF** also conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. **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. **IDF** soldiers fire live ammunition (Nabi Salih only), rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 2 Palestinians are wounded by live ammunition. (PCHR 1/26; OCHA 1/27)

21 JANUARY 2012

In Amman, **Palestinian and Israeli negotiators** meet for the 4th time. Molcho and Erakat clash, when Molcho, without advanced notice, brings a military expert to the talks to lay out security concerns that Israel wants the Palestinians to address in amending their initial security and borders proposals. Erakat balks, stating that the sides are not at the stage of negotiating and Israel was attempting to ambush the Palestinian side. The Palestinian team for the 1st time complains publicly that Israel has not offered its comprehensive position papers on borders and security as requested by the Quartet. Israeli officials say the 3-mo. period for them to produce detailed papers only began running with the 1st meeting on 1/3, and they therefore have until 4/3. The Quartet does not comment. (NYT 1/24, 1/26)

Overnight, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 3 **mortars** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Early in the morning, **Israeli warplanes** make 2 **air strikes** on a group of armed Palestinians nr. al-Shuka in s. Gaza, causing no serious injuries. A smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border collapses, injuring 2 Palestinians. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized morning patrols in 2 villages n. of Ramallah; raids a community center in Hebron, arresting 1 Palestinian involved in organizing local settlement protests; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon and 1 nr. Ramallah late at night. (JP, YA 1/21; PCHR 1/26; OCHA 1/27)

Hamas issues an official statement confirming rumors (see 1/17) that **Mishal** is not seeking another term as head of Hamas's politburo in upcoming internal elections, though some officials suggest that he may be asked to stay on and might agree if this would be seen as an endorsement of his more pragmatic style of leadership. (NYT, WP 1/22)

22 JANUARY 2012

Unidentified Palestinians fire 1 **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** shoots, lightly wounds a Palestinian at the Qalandia checkpoint into Jerusalem, claiming that he ran at soldiers with an iron bar; raids and searches a Palestinian home nr. Jenin at midday, making no arrests; patrols in Jericho (twice), 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 1 nr. Ramallah in the morning; patrols in 3 villages nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c. (also searching a computer store and confiscating computer equipment) and nr. Tulkarm. **Israel** allows the first export of furniture fr. Gaza (18 pieces) since the imposition of the siege in 2007. (JP 1/22; PCHR 1/26; OCHA 1/27)

23 JANUARY 2012

In the morning, **IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border w. of the Erez crossing direct gunfire and 1 **artillery** shell at open areas around the former Nisanit settlement site, causing no reported injuries. **IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Lahiya launch 4 **artillery** shells at open areas near the border, causing no reported injuries. Late at night, **Israeli warplanes** make a total of 7 **air strikes** on greenhouses and open areas nr. the Bayt Lahiya border in the north, a suspected weapons factory in c. Gaza, and a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border, causing no injuries. A **Palestinian civilian** dies of injuries sustained in a 11/14/01 IDF air strike on a UNRWA school in Khan Yunis. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 9 Palestinian stores in al-Oja village in the Jordan Valley, n. of Jericho; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in

and around Ramallah (where they target the home of **Hamas-affiliated Reform and Change PC mbr. 'Abd al-Jabir Fuqaha**, arresting him, summoning his son for interrogation, and confiscating his computer, phone, and files), in Nablus, and nr. Hebron; conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya (summoning 3 Palestinians for interrogation). In East Jerusalem's Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood, **Israeli security forces** raid the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) office and a protest tent outside, detaining **Hamas-affiliated PC mbrs. Muhammad Toutah and Khalid Abu Arafa**, who had been living at the ICRC offices since 6/2010 to protest Israel's 9/2009 decision to revoke their Jerusalem IDs on the grounds that they are affiliated with a "terrorist organization" (i.e., Hamas); Israeli authorities expel them to the West Bank. **Hamas-affiliated PC mbr. Ismail Ashkar** comments, "Every time we move toward reconciliation and reactivating the Palestinian parliament, we see Israel targeting our lawmakers." (AFP, JP, NYT, YA 1/24; WP, WT 1/25; PCHR 1/26; OCHA 1/27)

Israeli embassies and mission in the Hague, Brussels, London, New York, Boston, and Houston receive envelopes containing a suspicious white powder that turns out to be flour, raising fears of an anthrax attack. No one takes responsibility. (DS 1/24; JPI 2/3)

24 JANUARY 2012

In a State of the Union address devoted to domestic affairs, Pres. **Obama** pointedly calls on Syrian pres. **Asad** to realize "that the forces of change cannot be reversed and that human dignity cannot be denied" and urges the international community to "isolate" his regime. He also stresses that the U.S. will not take any options (i.e., a military strike) off the table in dealing with **Iran** and emphasizes "our ironclad commitment—and I mean ironclad—to **Israel's** security." (NYT, WP, WT 1/25; WJW 2/2)

Unidentified Palestinians fire 2 Qassam rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border nr. the

Erez crossing fire warning shots and tear gas at a group of Palestinians and international activists staging a non-violent march to the crossing to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone; no serious injuries are reported. With a sharp increase in the number of Gazans seeking to exit to Egypt through the Rafah border, the **Gaza Interior Min.** reimposes requirements (lifted on 12/18/11) that Gazans register with the ministry before traveling. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 8 **Palestinian homes** in Anata village nr. East Jerusalem, displacing 52 Palestinians, including 29 children; escorts 100s of **Jewish settlers** to pray at Joseph's tomb in Balata village nr. Nablus; patrols in 1 village nr. Salfit in the morning, briefly detaining several Palestinian for questioning; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and Nablus. (JP 1/24; PCHR 1/26; OCHA 1/27)

After a long delay, **Hamas authorities in Gaza** allow the **Central Elections Commission** to open a voter registration office in Gaza to prepare for eventual elections in implementation of the 5/2010 national unity deal. (WP 1/25)

Jordan says **King Abdallah** will receive Hamas leader **Mishal** on 1/29, when he makes his 1st official visit to Jordan in 13 yrs. Officials say that the kingdom will continue to bar Hamas for undertaking political activities on its soil. Analysts view this as: (1) Jordan trying to take a more active diplomatic role and say reopening diplomatic ties with Hamas could be a step toward trying to broker reconciliation btwn. Hamas and Fatah (WP 1/25); and (2) the king engaging with Islamists, who have gained strength regionally during the Arab Spring, to quiet Jordan's own Islamist opposition. (WP, WT 1/25)

Police in **Azerbaijan** arrest several people allegedly linked to an **Iranian-backed Hizballah** cell for plotting an attack against **Israeli amb. to Azerbaijan Michael Lotem** and on a Jewish school in Baku. (JPI 2/3; NHR 2/21)

A **Lebanese court** sentences fmr. brig. gen. **Fayiz Karam** to 2 yrs. in jail (including time served) for giving classified information to **Israel**. Karam, jailed in mid-2009, will be released in 6 mos. (NYT 1/25)

25 JANUARY 2012

Palestinian and Israeli negotiators hold a 5th round of talks in Amman. Molcho verbally outlines Israel's guiding principles on borders and security, offering nothing new and putting nothing in writing. Afterward, **Abbas** meets with **King Abdallah** and issues a statement saying the exploratory talks with Israel have ended without progress; the Palestinians will weigh their next steps in consultation with the **Arab League** at a meeting in Cairo on 2/4 (later moved to 2/12). He says: "If we demarcate the borders, we can return to negotiations, but the Israelis do not want demarcation of borders." **Israel** sticks by its position that Israel technically has until 4/3 to produce position papers (since teams began meeting on 1/3) and that if the Palestinians refuse to continue talks until 4/3, it is they who are walking away from negotiations. **EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton**, already in the region, meets separately with PA Pres. **Abbas** and Israeli PM **Netanyahu** to urge them to keep the talks going, especially pressing Israel to make some kind of confidence-building gesture (she recommends transferring more authority to the PA). Late at night, after these meetings, the Israeli team gives the Palestinians a document (not released) that puts the guiding principles in writing (reportedly including Israeli control over Jerusalem, the Jordan Valley, and almost all settlements); no maps are included. **UN Secy.-Gen. Ban Ki-Moon** says he will make his own visit to the region in the next week to encourage the sides to continue talks. (Wafa 1/25; HA, NYT, WP, WT 1/26; REU, WP 1/27; NYT 1/28; *Asia Times* 1/31)

The **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** adjacent to Carmiel settlement nr. Hebron. A **Palestinian** is killed when he is accidentally buried by a supply of construction gravel being transported through a smuggling tunnel. (PCHR 1/26; OCHA 2/3)

26 JANUARY 2012

The EU's **Ashton** meets again (see 1/25/11) with **Abbas** in Amman to urge him to continue the talks. Afterward,

Jordanian FM Judeh states that no further Israeli-Palestinian talks are scheduled, as the sides need to "assess where we are and how to move to the next stage." Meanwhile, **PLO EC mbr. Hanan Ashrawi** says: "There has been no progress whatsoever. . . . There are no talks anymore. We don't want to be complicit in this game of deception." (HA 1/26, REU, WP 1/27, *Asia Times* 1/31)

IDF troops on the s. Gaza border fire warning shots at Palestinian farmers who stray too nr. the border fence e. of Khan Yunis, forcing them to flee. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 5 villages nr. Ramallah and 2 nr. Jericho in the morning; patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho and 1 nr. Salfit in the afternoon; patrols in Kafr Qaddum late at night; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; escorts Jewish settlers enter Kafr Haris village nr. Salfit late at night to pray at a local shrine. (PCHR 2/2; OCHA 2/3)

27 JANUARY 2012

Late in the evening, **IDF troops** on the c. Gaza border fire 2 **artillery shells** into Gaza City, hitting a home (failing to explode, but causing damage) and a farm (causing no reported injuries). In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Jericho in the morning; patrols in Jericho and 1 nearby village, 5 villages nr. Salfit, and 1 nr. Tulkarm 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, Kafr Qaddum, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin. **IDF** soldiers fire live ammunition (Nabi Salih only), rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters. As a result, 1 Palestinian photographer is injured (rubber-coated steel bullets) in Bil'in; 1 Palestinian cameraman (tear gas canister) and 1 Palestinian demonstrator (live ammunition) are wounded in Nabi Saleh. (PCHR 2/2; OCHA 2/3)

The **Pentagon** says it is rushing to modify the aging amphibious assault ship *USS Ponce*, previously scheduled

for decommission, for dispatch to the Persian Gulf by summer 2012 for use as a large floating staging base for commando teams and a docking station for small high-speed boats and helicopters. The **U.S. Central Command**, which oversees military operations in the Middle East, recommended the move amid concerns about rising tensions with **Iran**, al-Qa'ida in Yemen, and Somali pirates. (WP 1/28)

28 JANUARY 2012

The **IDF** conducts morning patrols in al-Bireh, neighboring al-Am'ari r.c., 3 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 nr. Salfit; conducts late-night patrols in Tulkarm. (PCHR 2/2; OCHA 2/3)

29 JANUARY 2012

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into demolished Dahaniyya airport site in s. Gaza, arresting 2 Palestinians (including 1 Fatah mbr.). The **IDF** conducts morning patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 nr. Tulkarm, and 1 nr. Jericho; conducts afternoon patrols in Tulkarm and 1 nearby village, plus 1 village nr. Ramallah; conducts late-night patrols in al-Bireh, Jericho, 1 village nr. Qalqilya, and 1 nr. Ramallah; conducts late-night house searches nr. Qalqilya. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli police** seal for 30 days a Palestinian charity and a kindergarten with alleged ties to **Hamas**. (PCHR 2/2; OCHA 2/3)

Hamas leader **Mishal** arrives in Amman with **Qatar's crown prince Shaykh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani** and senior Hamas delegation (including his deputy, Musa Abu Marzuq, and 4 other senior officials) to meet with **King Abdallah**. Mishal says **Hamas** is eager to establish "unique relations" with Jordan, would "respect the limits and ceilings of any relationship determined by the two sides," and would seek to maintain the security and stability of Jordan, but he does not say whether Hamas has asked to reopen a Hamas office in Jordan. Most analysts believe (e.g., NYT 1/30) that Hamas will not centralize in 1 new location but will diversify. Cambridge expert Khaled Hroub says, "with newly emerging governments in the

post-Arab Spring era, many of them Islamist, Hamas wants to be hosted and embraced and have offices in these countries." He also argues that this marks a "paradigm shift" in Hamas led by Mishal to embrace the Arab Spring's promotion of nonviolence, which would make it easier for new governments to embrace and support Hamas. (NYT, WP 1/30)

30 JANUARY 2012

In East Jerusalem, the **IDF** demolishes a **Palestinian home** in Bayt Hanina and an addition to a Palestinian home in Shu'fat. In the West Bank, the **IDF** rearrests **Hamas** mbr. Ayman Salama, 1 of the Palestinians released in the 1st stage of 10/2011 prisoner swap that freed IDF Cpl. Gilad Shalit; patrols in Qalqilya (briefly detaining a 13-yr.-old Palestinian who allegedly had a knife; Palestinian officials at the District Liaison Office intervene, securing his release), 1 nearby village, and 3 villages nr. Ramallah during the day; conducts synchronized late-night arrest raids, house searches in Nablus and 2 nearby villages; conducts separate late-night arrest raids, house searches in Kafr Qadum. (PCHR 2/2; OCHA 2/3)

A day before Likud party primaries, Israeli PM **Netanyahu** approves new financial incentives for Jews to move to 70 West Bank settlements deemed "national priority areas" and appoints a committee to "study the status" of unauthorized settlement outposts, which some see as a move to legalize those (the vast majority) that are not built on private Palestinian land. Both steps are widely seen as aimed at appeasing party hardliners. (WP, WT 2/1; WP 2/2)

Hamas's **Haniyeh** begins a 2d regional tour that will include **Qatar**, **Bahrain**, **Kuwait**, and **Iran**. The trip is aimed primarily at raising funds to rebuild Gaza. (MNR 1/30; DS 1/31)

An **Israeli drone** crashes during a test flight. Some suspect that the modified long-range **Heron TP (Eitan)** was being refitted for a possible military strike on **Iran**. The Heron TP is typically fitted with jamming and intelligence equipment; has a 1-ton payload capacity (enough to carry a bunker

busting bomb); and can stay aloft for 40 hrs., travel 4,600 mi., and perform in-flight refueling missions. (WP 1/31)

31 JANUARY 2012

UN Secy.-Gen **Ban** meets with **Jordan's King Abdallah** and FM **Judeh** in Amman to discuss the latest round of Israeli-Palestinian exploratory talks and prospects for continuing discussions. (JPI 2/10)

IDF troops on the n. Gaza border fire warning shots at a group of Palestinians and international activists marching to the Bayt Hanun crossing to protest Israel's imposition of a no-go zone, causing no serious injuries. **IDF troops** on the c. Gaza border fire warning shots at a group of Palestinians trapping birds nr. the border, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, firing tear gas, stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no serious injuries; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin. **Palestinians** and **international and Israeli activists** stage a nonviolent protest march to an **IDF** checkpoint outside Bayt Umar nr. Hebron to mark the 1-yr. anniversary of the killing of a local Palestinian by a settler; **IDF** troops beat and fire stun grenades at the demonstrators, moderately injuring 2 Palestinians and 1 Israeli journalists. **Israeli police** in East Jerusalem issue an order banning Palestinian journalist and Jerusalem resident Rasim Ubeidat fr. entering the West Bank until 7/9/2012; no cause is given. (PCHR 2/2; OCHA 2/3)

Israeli PM **Netanyahu** wins the Likud primaries with 75% of the vote. Some analysts (e.g., WP 2/2) see the move to hold a snap primary as strengthening Netanyahu's base in preparation for possibly calling early elections in 10/2012 (a year ahead of schedule) to give the opposition less time to organize. However, others note (e.g., WP 2/1) that Netanyahu's only challenger, ultranationalist settler Moshe Feiglin, made a strong showing, indicating that many Likud supporters feel Netanyahu is "too soft on peacemaking with the Palestinians." (WP 2/1, 2/2)

1 FEBRUARY 2012

In Jerusalem UN Secy.-Gen. **Ban** urges Israeli PM **Netanyahu** to draft a package of goodwill gestures (including a settlement freeze) to offer in exchange for the Palestinians' agreeing to resume direct talks. He then meets with PA Pres. **Abbas** and PA officials in Ramallah. (NYT, WP 2/2; NYT 2/3; JPI 2/10)

In the evening, **unidentified Palestinians** fire 8 Qassam **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Late at night, the **IDF** directs **artillery** (2 shells) and helicopter gunfire at open areas northeast of Bayt Hanun, causing no reported injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablus stone a Palestinian vehicle driving nearby, breaking a window and hitting a passenger in the head, leaving injuries requiring hospitalization. (HA, JP, YA 2/1; PCHR 2/2; OCHA 2/10)

The *New York Times* reports that for the past 2 weeks, **Palestinians** (including the private sector, unions, elements of Fatah, and youth groups) have been holding demonstrations against **PA PM Salam al-Fayyad** in Ramallah and other cities to protest soaring prices and proposed PA austerity measures, including tax increases, cutbacks on services, and a plan to force retirement on 20,000 civil servants. (Electricity costs, for example, have nearly tripled in the past year.) Protesters demand salary increases and subsidies to compensate for inflation, but the PA faced a \$350 m. budget shortfall for 2011. Even with Israeli transfers of VAT taxes restored, the foreign aid received by the PA is not enough to cover recurrent expenses. The demonstrations have been so heated that Fayyad has suspended imposition of the tax hike until mid-2/2012 and dropped the early retirement proposal, pending talks to ease tensions. (NYT 2/1)

2 FEBRUARY 2012

Israeli warplanes make 6 late-night **air strikes** targeting a smuggling tunnel on the Rafah border in Yibna r.c. (causing no injuries); a home in Rafah (phoning the family 5 mins. in advance to warn them to leave); an open area nr. Khan Yunis (no injuries); a storage

building in Nussayrat r.c. (no injuries); and a grocery store in Bayt Lahiya (damaging 13 nearby buildings; lightly injuring 3 bystanders, including 2 children). **Israeli drones** make **air strikes** on 2 Palestinian homes in Jabaliya (lightly injuring 1 Palestinian; damaging 8 homes, an elementary school nearby). In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes 30 d. of Palestinian land in Jayyus village n. of Qalqilya, in an area where **Jewish settlers** have previously attempted to place mobile homes to expand Tzofim settlement; patrols in 6 villages nr. Ramallah and 2 villages nr. Qalqilya in the morning; and in Tulkarm and 3 nearby villages, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon. The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Qalqilya. (JP 2/3; PCHR 2/9; OCHA 2/10)

UN Secy.-Gen **Ban** makes a brief visit to Gaza to inaugurate a UN-funded housing project. **Relatives of Palestinians jailed in Israel** try to block his entry to the Erez crossing to protest his refusal to meet with them. During the visit, Ban calls on Israel to maintain the cease-fire with Gaza and allow Gaza's borders to open for trade. Later, he addresses the Herzliya conference, telling Israeli officials and analysts to "think carefully about how to empower those on the other side who wish for peace." (WP, WT 2/3)

3 FEBRUARY 2012

The **IDF** patrols in 3 villages n. of Ramallah in the morning. **IDF soldiers and border police** escort **100 Jewish settlers** on a walking tour of the archeological sites in and around Bayt Umar village nr. Bethlehem, firing tear gas and stun grenades at Palestinians who come near. Another team of **IDF soldiers and border police** escort a separate group of **Jewish settlers** on a similar tour of archeological and religious sites in al-Karmil village nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** install 6 mobile homes in Otniel settlement and 2 in Avigal settlement in the same area s. of Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Rotem settlement in the n. Jordan Valley severely beat a Palestinian shepherd nearby; he is found later by an IDF patrol that has the Red Crescent transport him to a hospital in Jenin. **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. **IDF** soldiers fire live ammunition (Nabi Salih only), rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 7 Palestinians (including a child) and 1 international activist are injured in Nabi Salih, and 2 Palestinian journalists are detained for 4 hrs. (PCHR 2/9; OCHA 2/10)

4 FEBRUARY 2012

IDF troops on the Gaza border e. of al-Bureij r.c. arrest 3 Palestinian laborers who attempt to sneak into Israel to find work. The **IDF** enters Araba village nr. Jenin, raids and confiscates materials fr. a protest tent set up in solidarity with **jailed Islamic Jihad spokesman Khader Adnan**, who has been on hunger strike since 12/17/11 to protest his detention without charge; the homes of several protest organizers and participants are also raided and searched. The **IDF** also patrols in 3 villages n. of Ramallah in the morning, in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Salfit and 1 nr. Qalqilya late in the evening. The **IDF** also conducts late-night house searches nr. Salfit.

Jewish settlers fr. Halamish settlement enter nearby Nabi Saleh and set fire to a mosque; the fire is quickly extinguished. (PCHR 2/9; OCHA 2/10)

Unidentified assailants blow up **Egypt's** natural gas pipeline to **Israel** for the 12th time in the past yr. No group takes responsibility. Israel generates 40% of its electricity fr. natural gas, and 43% of that natural gas is supplied by Egypt. (NYT 2/5)

5 FEBRUARY 2012

The **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 nr. Ramallah in the evening; raids, searches, and photographs shops in the Jenin industrial zone; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Qalqilya, in Nablus, and nr. Jenin and Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** fr.

Keddumim settlement nr. Qalqilya escorted by **IDF** troops bulldoze Palestinian land in nearby Kafr Qaddum, plant trees to claim the area. **Jewish settlers** fr. Talmon settlement nr. Ramallah raid the nearby village of al-Janyeh, vandalize 1 car and spray racist and threatening graffiti on homes and cars. (PCHR 2/9; OCHA 2/10)

Hamas officials report that the **last Hamas official in Damascus, Imad al-Alami, has departed Syria** and returned with his family to Gaza via Egypt for the 1st time since Israel deported him fr. Gaza to s. Lebanon in 1991. Hamas describes the closure of the Damascus headquarters as temporary but indefinite. (MNA 2/5; NYT, WP 2/6)

The **Israeli cabinet** unanimously approves a \$2.3 b. project to build a "Red-Med" railway line linking Tel Aviv and Elat to create an Asian-European cargo corridor bypassing the Suez Canal. Israeli official say China has expressed interest in the project. (JPI 2/17)

6 FEBRUARY 2012

Fatah PA pres. **Abbas** and Hamas leader **Mishal** end 2 days of talks in **Qatar** on forming by Fatah-Hamas consensus a transitional government of independent technocrats with a limited mandate to take the Palestinians to new presidential and parliamentary elections and to lead reconstruction of Gaza, as agreed under the 5/2011 national unity deal. To overcome international concerns about Hamas's participation and differences between Fatah and Hamas regarding who should serve as PM (Hamas strongly opposed current **PA PM Salam al-Fayyad**), the sides agree that Abbas would lead the transitional government, serving as both pres. and PM. They stress that the new government "will be a technical one more than a political one" and that diplomacy will rest with the PLO. A meeting of all Palestinian factions is set for 2/18 to endorse the plan. Israeli PM **Netanyahu** immediately denounces Abbas for "joining forces with the enemies of peace." The **EU** and **U.S.** say they look forward to continuing their support of the PA, provided the new government is committed to the Quartet principles of

nonviolence, recognition of Israel, and adherence to existing peace agreements. (NYT, WP 2/6; AP, NYT, WP 2/7; see also MNA 2/5)

Unidentified Palestinians fire a **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In response, **Israeli warplanes** make late-night **air strikes** on open areas nr. the Gaza border n. of Bayt Hanun, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 nr. Salfit; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm and nr. Jenin and Nablus. Just outside East Jerusalem nr. al-Tur, **Israeli border police and an undercover unit** bulldoze 20 d. of Palestinian land, demolishing 2 walls, 3 natural caves, and a water network supplying several Palestinian homes. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba settlement in Hebron escorted by **IDF** troops begin planting trees on 150 d. of nearby Palestinian agricultural land that the IDF previously declared a closed military zone. (PCHR 2/9; OCHA 2/10)

7 FEBRUARY 2012

In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a daytime raid into a village nr. Jenin, searching a store and arresting 1 Palestinian. In Jerusalem, **Jewish vandals** spray graffiti on a Greek Orthodox monastery and school saying "price tag" and "death to Christians." **Jewish settlers** fr. Eli settlement nr. Nablus vandalize and spray racist graffiti on the walls of 2 nearby Palestinian stores and a car. **OCHA** reports that **70% of gas stations in Gaza** have closed because of a sharp reduction in the amount of fuel coming through the Rafah smuggling tunnels in the past 2 wks.; OCHA cites unconfirmed reports as indicating that the sharp decline is a result of new restrictions and fees that Egyptian police have imposed on fuel trucks headed to Egyptian Rafah. (WT 2/8; PCHR 2/9; OCHA 2/10; JPI 2/17)

The **Vatican** announces that **Pope Benedict XVI** will visit **Lebanon** in 9/2012 to issue a statement on the future of the Catholic church in the Middle East and "the plight of Christians in the Muslim-dominated Middle East." (WT 2/8)

8 FEBRUARY 2012

The **IDF** conducts late-night patrols in Tulkarm, 2 villages nr. Jenin; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and neighboring al-Fawar r.c. and in Tubas. (PCHR 2/9, 2/16; OCHA 2/17)

9 FEBRUARY 2012

The **IDF** patrols in 4 villages nr. Ramallah, 3 nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Qalqilya in the morning; in 2 villages nr. Jericho in the afternoon; and in 3 villages nr. Tulkarm, 2 nr. Salfit (synchronized), and 1 each nr. Jenin and Jericho late at night. **Jewish settlers** fr. Keddumim settlement nr. Qalqilya escorted by **IDF** troops plant trees on 15 d. of nearby Palestinian land. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kfar Taffuh settlement nr. Salfit start to fence off 10s of dunams of adjacent Palestinian agricultural land to expand the settlement eastward and southward. **Jewish settlers** fr. Brakha settlement nr. Nablus enter Burin village and stone 4 houses; the **IDF** enters the village to extract the settlers, firing tear gas and stun grenades at Palestinians gathering to defend the houses. (PCHR 2/16; OCHA 2/17)

Islamic Jihad spokesman Khader Adnan, held in administrative detention by Israel since 12/17/11, enters his 55th day of a hunger strike intended to draw attention to Israel's discriminatory criminal justice system, making his hunger strike the longest by a Palestinian prisoner ever recorded. The 33-yr.-old Adnan has lost 60 lbs. and Israeli authorities have hospitalized him, saying his condition is rapidly deteriorating. (WT 2/10)

10 FEBRUARY 2012

In the evening, **unidentified Palestinians** fire a Qassam rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, damaging 2 houses but causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, in Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Jenin (firing stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them in 1 instance) and 1 nr. Qalqilya late at night.

In the afternoon, the **IDF** raids and searches stores nr. Qalqilya and enters al-Zira village nr. Bethlehem in search of Palestinian youths who had stoned a patrol earlier (questioning youths at random, arresting 4). Late at night, the **IDF** patrols in Aqabat Jabir r.c. nr. Jericho, firing live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, wounding 3 Palestinians with live ammunition (2 seriously); enters Jericho and 1 nearby village to serve 3 Palestinians with papers summoning them for questioning. The **IDF** also makes a late-night raid on and search of the Nablus-area home of a Palestinian released in the recent prisoner swap that freed **IDF** Cpl. Gilad Shalit, serving him with orders to appear for questioning; during the raid, a pregnant woman in the home complains of pain and is taken to the hospital, where she miscarries. **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; demonstrations in Bil'in, Nabi Salih, and Ni'lin also call for solidarity with **hunger-striking Islamic Jihad prisoner Khader Adnan**. **IDF** soldiers fire live ammunition (Nabi Salih only), rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at the protesters; 3 Palestinian protesters, 1 Palestinian journalist, and 1 *New York Times* reporter are injured. **Palestinians** in Kafr al-Dik village nr. Salfit hold their first nonviolent protest against recent **IDF** actions in the nearby Dayr Sam'an archeological area that have been interpreted as preliminary steps to annex the area; **IDF troops** fire tear gas and percussion grenades to disperse them, causing no injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Carmiel settlement nr. Hebron escorted by **IDF** troops plant trees on 40 d. of nearby Palestinian agricultural land along a new settler-only bypass road. (JP 2/11; PCHR 2/16; OCHA 2/17)

Hamas's **Haniyeh** arrives in **Iran**. Neither side discusses the visit, hoping to keep a low profile. Arab media reports (see NYT 2/11) say Hamas is

resisting pressure fr. Iran to demonstrate support for **Syria's** Asad. Gulf leaders urged Haniyeh against visiting Iran, but he demurred. (NYT 2/11)

11 FEBRUARY 2012

PA Pres. **Abbas** meets with **Quartet special envoy Blair** in Jordan before leaving for Cairo to meet with Arab League FMs. Blair urges Abbas to continue low-level talks on borders; says he has urged **Israel** to make goodwill gestures to revive talks, including easing security restrictions in the West Bank and releasing prisoners. (UPI, Wafa 2/11; YA 2/12)

Unidentified Palestinians fire a **Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In response, **Israeli warplanes** make 4 late-night **air strikes** on s. Gaza, targeting an open area nr. al-Shuka and **3 Palestinian homes** in Gaza City, al-Qarara, and Rafah (suspected weapons depots and entrances to smuggling tunnels), killing **1 Palestinian civilian**, wounding another, and causing heavy damage. The **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm and 2 villages nr. Jenin in the morning; patrols in another 2 villages nr. Jenin in the afternoon (in 1 instance firing tear gas and stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them); conducts late-night patrols in 1 village each nr. Jenin, Jericho, Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Tulkarm; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya and Ramallah. **Palestinian students at Birzeit University** hold a nonviolent march to Israel's Ofer prison nr. Ramallah to show support for **hunger-striking Islamic Jihad prisoner Khader Adnan**; **IDF** troops outside the prison fire rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, stun grenades at the protesters who reply with stones; 4 journalists and several protesters are lightly injured. **Jewish settlers** fr. Susia settlement in Hebron attack 6 Palestinians planting almond trees on a 20-d. plot nearby (moderately injuring them) and uproot the newly planted seedlings; the **IDF** observes but does not intervene. (JP 2/11, 2/12; PCHR 2/16; OCHA 2/17)

12 FEBRUARY 2012

Abbas asks **Arab League FMs** meet in Cairo to support his decision not

to resume direct peace talks without an Israeli settlement freeze and firm understandings on the basis of talks (including 1967 lines as the basis of final borders). He says he will put his demands in a letter to Netanyahu and if the response is not favorable, he will resume statehood efforts at the UN. (JP, NHR, YA 2/12; WP, WT 2/13)

An **Israeli naval vessel** detains a Palestinian fishing boat off the n. Gaza shore, arresting 2 fishermen and confiscating their boat. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and 1 nr. Ramallah in the morning; in Tulkarm (randomly stopping and questioning people on the street) and 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and Salfit in the afternoon; and in Jericho, neighboring 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c., 2 villages nr. Qalqilya (detaining 3 Palestinian policemen until the local District Coordination Office intervenes to free them), and 1 each nr. Jenin and Salfit (firing percussion grenades to intimidate residents) late at night. The **IDF** also raids a carpentry workshop nr. Qalqilya in the morning, interrogating workers but making no arrests; and conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Qalqilya and Tulkarm. (PCHR 2/16; OCHA 2/17)

Haniyeh meets with **Iran's Pres. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** in Tehran. Khamenei urges Hamas to keep up resistance to Israel and says it is the "duty" of Iran and all Muslims to support the Palestinians. (WT 2/13)

13 FEBRUARY 2012

IDF troops on the c. Gaza border e. of al-Bureij r.c. open fire across the border for 15 mins., causing no reported damage or injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore; they detain and confiscate 2 boats and arrest 2 fishermen. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bulldozes 8 tents (housing 83 Bedouin, including 48 children) and 8 sheep pens and fodder storehouses in Khirbet al-Rahwa s. of Hebron, nr. Tene Oranim settlement; demolishes 7 tents (housing 33 Bedouin, including 10 children) and 6 animal pens in Khirbet Tana and Khirbat Tuwayil in the Jordan Valley; conducts

synchronized evening patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya; conducts late-night arrest raids and house searches in Qalqilya, including rearresting 2 Palestinians released in the recent prisoner swap that freed IDF Cpl. Gilad Shalit. **Palestinians** (including families of prisoners held in Israel) organized by Birzeit students stage a 2d nonviolent march to Ofer prison (see 2/11/12) to show solidarity with **hunger-striking Islamic Jihad prisoner Khader Adnan**, where the IDF again fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades to disperse them; 2 Palestinians are lightly injured. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli municipal workers** escorted by **police and border police** bulldoze a Palestinian playground, recreational center, and 2 other structures in Silwan; demolish a **Palestinian home** in al-Siwana. (PCHR 2/16)

Israel accuses **Iran** of staging 2 bombing attempts today against Israeli diplomatic targets in New Delhi, **India**, and Tbilisi, **Georgia**. In New Delhi, an unidentified motorist slaps a magnetic bomb on an Israeli emb. car in traffic; the bomb detonates, wounding the wife of an Israeli diplomat, her driver, and 2 bystanders. In Tbilisi, an unidentified assailant straps a grenade to a parked Israeli emb. vehicle, but it is discovered and disarmed. The attacks come a month after the assassination of an Iranian nuclear scientist and on the 4th anniversary of the assassination of Hizballah military commander Imad Mughniyah, both thought to have been carried out by Israel's Mossad. No group claims responsibility; Iran denies responsibility. Indian authorities allow Israeli experts to join their investigation. (NYT, WP, WT 2/14; WP 2/15)

14 FEBRUARY 2012

Israeli naval vessels fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the n. Gaza coast, forcing them to return to shore; they detain and confiscate 1 fishing boat and arrest 1 fisherman. Later in the day, **Israeli naval vessels** fire on another group of fishing boats, forcing them to flee, damaging 1 boat, and confiscating 5 trawling nets. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts synchronized patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm in the morning; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the

afternoon (firing tear gas and stun grenades at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no serious injuries); conducts late-night patrols in Nur al-Shams r.c. nr. Tulkarm; and conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus. **Israel's Jerusalem planning comm.** approves plans for the right-wing settler group **Elad** to build a new archeological tourism center in Silwan, East Jerusalem in the Western Wall yard opposite al-Aqsa Mosque. The complex will include offices, museum and conference space, an underground car park, and 2 underground "archeological tunnels" that will run north under the Mughrabi gate and south under the area housing the Umayyad Caliphate palaces (which Israel calls the Temple of Solomon). (JP 2/14; WT 2/15; PCHR 2/16; OCHA 2/17)

Three Iranians are arrested as they flee a mysterious explosion in their **Bangkok** apartment. One of the men throws grenades at a taxi that refuses to stop for him and at approaching police, seriously injuring himself only. The 2d man is arrested at Bangkok airport attempting to leave the country. The 3d makes it out of Thailand but is detained when he lands in Malaysia. **Israel** and the **U.S.** suspect the bombings are linked to the 2/13 Indian and Georgian attacks and earlier incidents in Thailand (see 1/13) and Azerbaijan (see 1/24), but they have no evidence the men were plotting against Israeli or Jewish targets. Thai police and outside experts doubt, but do not rule out, an Israeli connection, saying the operation was very amateurish and the men could have been arms runners or involved in other illegal activity in Bangkok. (NYT, WP 2/15; WP, WT 2/16)

15 FEBRUARY 2012

Unidentified Palestinians fire 5 Qassam **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel during the day, causing no damage or injuries. Late at night, **IDF warplanes** carry out 2 **air strikes** on a Hamas training base in Gaza City, damaging several surrounding homes and injuring 10 Palestinians (including 2 children); and 3 **air strikes** on an Islamic Jihad training camp nr. Nussayrat r.c., causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** stages synchronized late-night

raids on the homes of 3 Hamas-affiliated PC mbrs. (Ibrahim Dahbour, Khalid Abu Hassan, Khalid Yahya) and the Reform and Change party headquarters in Jenin, confiscating computers, documents, cell phones, and videotapes but making no arrests; separately, the IDF makes a late-night raid on the Jenin home of **former Palestinian prisoner Hanaa Shalibi**, who was released in the recent prisoner swap that freed IDF Cpl. Gilad Shalit, rearresting him; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; bars Palestinian

access to 300 d. of agricultural land adjacent to Shilo settlement nr. Ramallah and bulldozes more than 280 olive and fig trees. **Palestinians** organized by Birzeit students stage a 3d nonviolent march to Ofer prison (see 2/11/12, 2/13/12) to show solidarity with **hunger-striking Islamic Jihad prisoner Khader Adnan**; the **IDF** fires rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades to disperse them, lightly injuring 2 Palestinians (including **PC mbr. Mustafa Barghouti**). (IDFS, JP, PCHR 2/16; MNA 2/18)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
CNN	(Cable News Network [Internet])
DS	(<i>Daily Star</i> , Beirut)
DUS	(<i>al-Dustur</i> , Amman)
HA	(<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
IDFS	(Israel Defense Forces Spokesperson [Internet])—IDF in 156–58, IDFS as of 159
IHY	(<i>Israel HaYom</i> , Tel Aviv)
JP	(<i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem)
JPI	(<i>Jerusalem Post International Edition</i> , Jerusalem)
JTA	(Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet])
MNA	(Ma'an News Agency, Bethlehem)
MNR	(al-Manar TV, Beirut)
NHR	(<i>al-Nabar</i> , Beirut)
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])
UPI	(United Press International [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)
XIN	(Xinhua–New China News Agency, Beijing)
YA	(<i>Yedi'ot Abaronot</i> , Tel Aviv)