

CHRONOLOGY

16 AUGUST–15 NOVEMBER 2012

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16 AUGUST 2012

Jewish settlers destroy 30 olive trees in a Palestinian grove in the south Hebron hills. Suspected **Jewish extremists** firebomb a **Palestinian** taxi traveling nr. Kefar Etzion settlement s. of Bethlehem, injuring the 6 passengers. Israeli PM **Benjamin Netanyahu** subsequently writes to Palestinian Authority (PA) pres. **Mahmud Abbas** to pledge that the perpetrators will be brought to justice. (ToI 8/16; MNA, ToI 8/17)

Israeli pres. Shimon Peres warns against a unilateral Israeli military strike on **Iranian** nuclear facilities. (NYT 8/16; Guardian 8/17)

17 AUGUST 2012

Unidentified Palestinians fire a **rocket** from the **Gaza Strip** into **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into the Gaza Strip nr. Rafah to level land along the border fence in the morning. In the West Bank, the **IDF** reopens a road linking Jericho and the Jordan Valley with cities in the northern West Bank to Palestinians for the 1st time in a decade. (MNA, ToI 8/17; PCHR 8/30)

In Gaza, **Hamas security forces** arrest **Salafist** leader Shaykh Abu Suhaib Rashwan, allegedly linked to the group responsible for the kidnapping and murder of Italian activist **Vittorio Arrigoni** in 2011 (see QU in *JPS* 160). (MNA 8/17)

Egyptian pres. Mohamed Morsi says that **Egypt** will continue to target “terrorists” in the Sinai Peninsula, working with others, including Palestinians. (ToI 8/17)

18 AUGUST 2012

Palestinians fire a **rocket** from the Gaza Strip into Israel overnight, causing no damage or injuries. (MNA 8/19)

19 AUGUST 2012

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into the n. Gaza Strip nr. Bayt Hanun to level land. (PCHR 8/30)

Israeli authorities release **Palestinian lawmaker Khaled Tafesh**, of the Hamas-affiliated Change and Reform bloc, after 7 mos. in administrative detention. (MNA 8/19)

20 AUGUST 2012

The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning. (PCHR 8/30)

UN special coordinator for the Middle East peace process Robert Serry is quoted by the Israeli media as saying that the PA is losing legitimacy due to its inability to achieve political goals. (JP 8/20)

21 AUGUST 2012

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm in the morning and in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** try to set fire to a Palestinian home in a village nr. Nablus in the morning. (MNA 8/21; PCHR 8/30)

22 AUGUST 2012

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm (firing tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians in one case) in the morning, in 1 village nr. Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Hebron, and in Hebron and 1 village nr. Tulkarm; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron, 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp (r.c.), 1 village nr. Nablus, and 1 village in Jenin. **Jewish settlers** try to set fire to 2 cars and write racist slogans in a village nr. Nablus. (MNA 8/22; PCHR 8/30)

Israeli FM Avigdor Lieberman writes to members of the **Quartet**, urging them to call for new elections in the PA and describing **Pres. Abbas** as an obstacle to peace due to his weak mandate and determination to pursue goals in international forums. (HA, ToI 8/22)

European Union (EU) foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton criticizes Israel for its recently announced plans to expand Har Homa settlement in occupied East Jerusalem. (HA, ToI 8/22)

Sectarian clashes between Sunni Muslims and Alawites in **Lebanon** continue, with a death toll of 12 in 3 days of fighting in the northern city of Tripoli. (REU 8/22)

23 AUGUST 2012

The **Egyptian military** resumes the demolition of smuggling tunnels under the Gaza border. (MNA 8/23)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Hebron. (PCHR 8/30)

24 AUGUST 2012

An **Egyptian military** source says that during meetings at the Kerem Shalom crossing, **Israel** and **Egypt** are negotiating over an increase of forces in the Sinai. (MNA 8/24)

In the **Gaza Strip**, the **IDF** arrests 5 Palestinians attempting to cross the border nr. al-Bureij r.c. to look for work in Israel in the morning; the IDF opens fire on an area nr. Khan Yunis at night, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning and in 1 village nr. Jenin at night. (PCHR 8/30)

25 AUGUST 2012

In the Gaza Strip, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on Palestinian fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries; IDF arrests 2 Palestinians at the border nr. al-Bureij r.c. trying to

cross into Israel for work. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Jenin (firing tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians) in the morning; patrols in 4 villages nr. Qalqilya and 2 villages nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Hebron and 2 villages nr. Salfit at night. Palestinians report that **Jewish settlers** destroy crops in 2 villages nr. Ramallah. (MNA 8/25; PCHR 8/30)

26 AUGUST 2012

PA pres. **Mahmud Abbas** says that the plans for Palestine to request non-member observer status in the UN at the General Assembly (UNGA) session in 9/2012 aim to preserve the two-state solution. (Wafa 8/26)

Unidentified Palestinians fire 2 rockets from the **Gaza Strip** into Israel, causing some damage but no injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on Palestinian fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya and also on a group of fishermen 2.5 nautical miles (naut. mi.) offshore, causing no injuries in either incident. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in Qalqilya and 1 nearby village in the afternoon. (PCHR 8/30)

27 AUGUST 2012

Israeli naval vessels open fire on Palestinian fishermen 2.5 naut. mi. offshore in the morning, causing no injuries; the IDF arrests 2 Palestinians trying to cross the border for work nr. al-Bureij r.c. at night. **Palestinians** fire 3 rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel, causing no injuries or damage. In retaliation, the **IDF** fires missiles at 2 locations nr. Gaza City at night, causing no injuries but damaging civilian property including 2 schools. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning; patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Ramallah, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon; patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Jenin, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. The Israeli newspaper *Ha'Aretz* reports that the **IDF** will close the Ras Khamis checkpoint in occupied East Jerusalem, leaving a single exit for the residents of Shu'fat r.c. (HA, MNA 8/27; PCHR 8/30)

A UN report about the **Gaza Strip** says that the territory will be unliveable by 2020 unless urgent action is taken to improve basic infrastructure like water, power, health, and schooling (See Docs in *JPS* 166). (REU 8/27)

28 AUGUST 2012

An **Israeli court in Haifa** rules that the IDF was not responsible for the killing of American activist **Rachel Corrie** in 2003 in the Gaza Strip (see QU in *JPS* 128). (REU 8/28)

Unidentified Palestinians fire a **mortar** and 5 Grad **rockets** from the Gaza Strip into Israel, causing no injuries. (MNA 8/28; 8/29) **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on Palestinian fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries, and arrest 2 men in the morning. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 5 wells and several tents in villages s. of Hebron, and additional property in 1 village nr. Jericho and 2 villages nr. Hebron. (MNA 8/28; PCHR 8/30)

29 AUGUST 2012

IDF troops on the Gaza border nr. Dayr al-Balah open fire on Palestinian farmers working nearby, injuring 1. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Nablus at

night. A group of **Jewish settlers** set fire to a car and spray racist graffiti in a Palestinian village nr. Ramallah. (MNA 8/29; PCHR 8/30, 9/6)

30 AUGUST 2012

Israeli military authorities confiscate Palestinian land in a village nr. Nahalin, close to the Jewish settlement of Beitar Ilit. The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches in 2 villages nr. Hebron. (MNA 8/30; PCHR 9/6)

31 AUGUST 2012

Palestinians fire 2 rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel, 1 causing structural damage to a house in Sderot, but causing no injuries. Later at night, the **IDF** fires missiles at armed Palestinians nr. Gaza City, injuring 3. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho and 1 village nr. Jericho in the morning; opens fire on demonstrators taking part in the weekly protest in al-Nabi Salih village nr. Ramallah, injuring 1 Palestinian. **Jewish settlers** throw stones at a bus nr. Ramallah, injuring 5 Palestinians. (MNA 8/31; PCHR 9/6)

1 SEPTEMBER 2012

The **IDF** launches 2 air strikes nr. Gaza City, injuring 3 armed Palestinians. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning; patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, and 1 village nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin at night. **Jewish settlers** attack a Palestinian-owned vehicle in a village nr. Hebron. (MNA, Wafa 9/1; PCHR 9/6)

2 SEPTEMBER 2012

After several legal delays (see QU in *JPS* 165), **Israeli security forces** evict **Jewish settlers** from **Migron**, an unauthorized settlement outpost nr. Ramallah. Around 50 families are moved out and relocated a short distance away in new housing built by the government for the purpose. Meanwhile, **Jewish settlers** accompanied by police move into a section of a Palestinian home in the **Silwan** neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem, after a court ruling in favor of the settlers' ownership claims. (MNA, REU 9/2)

Israeli naval vessels fire at Palestinian fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya in the afternoon, causing no injuries. **IDF** troops on the Gaza border arrest 3 Palestinians crossing the border fence nr. al-Bureij r.c. in the afternoon to look for work in Israel; open fire nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries, at night. Also at night, the **IDF** makes air strikes on Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades (IQB) training sites nr. Nussayrat r.c., causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho and 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning; patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Jenin, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon; patrols in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Jenin (firing tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians) at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (PCHR 9/6)

3 SEPTEMBER 2012

Unidentified Palestinians fire 3 rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; patrols in 4 villages nr. Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Hebron at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. (MNA 9/3; PCHR 9/6)

4 SEPTEMBER 2012

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Nablus, 1 village nr. Nablus, 1 village nr. Tubas, and 5 villages nr. Hebron at night. Suspected **Jewish extremists** vandalize the Latrun monastery nr. Jerusalem, including spraying pro-settler graffiti. (REU 9/4; PCHR 9/6)

5 SEPTEMBER 2012

In the Gaza Strip, the **IDF** fires a missile at a group of armed Palestinians nr. al-Bureij r.c. at night, killing **3 Palestinian fighters**. In the West Bank, **unknown assailants** shoot dead **Hisham al-Rakh, a colonel in the PA security forces**, nr. Jenin r.c. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Yatta village nr. Hebron, and conducts training and sets up tents nr. the village in the afternoon; patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Nablus, in Balata r.c. in Nablus, and in Dahaysha r.c. nr. Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** destroy dozens of olive trees in a village nr. Nablus. (MNA 9/5; MNA, PCHR 9/6; PCHR 9/13)

6 SEPTEMBER 2012

The **IDF** kills **3 Palestinians** from a small Islamist resistance group in a morning air strike nr. Bayt Hanun. The armed wing of the **Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)** fires **Grad rockets** from Gaza into Israel, causing no injuries. The **IDF** also makes a brief morning incursion into s. Gaza nr. Khan Yunis to level land along the border fence. IDF troops on the Gaza border nr. Jabaliya open fire into Gaza, wounding 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning; in Palestinian-controlled areas of Hebron, 1 village nr. Qalqilya, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon; and in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. (MNA 9/6; PCHR 9/13)

Palestinians angry at rising prices and cost of living protest in West Bank cities, and taxi drivers observe a strike. One demand of demonstrators is that the PA abolish the 1994 Paris Protocol governing economic relations with Israel, claiming that it disproportionately benefits the latter. Some demonstrations call for the resignation of **PA PM Salam Fayyad**. (MNA 9/6)

7 SEPTEMBER 2012

Following recent protests (9/6) **Fatah official Nabil Shaath** says that the resignation of **PA PM Salam Fayyad** would solve nothing, though protests against the difficult economic circumstances are understandable. (MNA 9/7)

Unidentified Palestinians fire 2 rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, in 3 villages nr. Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 3 villages nr. Jericho and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr.

Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** set fire to olive trees in the northern West Bank. (MNA 9/7; PCHR 9/13)

8 SEPTEMBER 2012

An **Egyptian army spokesperson** confirms that Egypt and Israel are coordinating Cairo's operation against militants in the Sinai, in which over 30 people have been killed. (REU 9/8)

Palestinians fire a **rocket** from the Gaza Strip into Israel, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron in the morning; patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon; patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 village nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches in 2 villages nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Jenin at night. **Jewish settlers** from the Esh Kodesh outpost invade the village of Qusra, provoking clashes with Palestinian residents, 15 of whom are injured. (MNA 9/8, 9/9; PCHR 9/13)

Palestinians demonstrating against rising living costs block streets and burn tires in **Ramallah** and **Tulkarm**. (MNA 9/8)

9 SEPTEMBER 2012

Unidentified Palestinians fire a rocket from the Gaza Strip into Israel, damaging a home but causing no injuries. Later, at night, the **IDF** launches 4 air strikes on Gaza, damaging property and wounding 8 Palestinians. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Qalqilya and in Hebron (shooting and wounding 1 Palestinian) at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm and 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. The **Israeli cabinet** approves a 7/17/12 Education Min. decision to upgrade a college in Ariel settlement to a full-fledged university (see QU in *JPS* 165). (*Guardian*, MNA 9/9; PCHR 9/13)

Palestinian demonstrators in Ramallah block traffic and march against economic policies of the PA, calling on Pres. Abbas to resign. (MNA 9/9)

10 SEPTEMBER 2012

Palestinian economic protests continue in the West Bank, with a public transport strike and demonstrations in a number of cities. In Hebron, protesters throw stones at a police station, and Palestinian riot police fire tear gas. (MNA 9/10)

Freedom Theater director and former al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades (AMB) commander Zakaria Zubeidi begins a hunger strike to protest his detention without charge by the **PA** since 5/13/12, in connection with the attack on the late Jenin governor Qaddura Musa, who died of a heart attack shortly after the shooting on 5/1/12 (see QU in *JPS* 164). (MNA 9/10)

Israeli naval vessels fire at Palestinian fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids at night in 1 village nr. Salfit and in al-Nabi Salih village nr. Ramallah, where they fire rubber bullets and tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians, wounding 1. (PCHR 9/13)

11 SEPTEMBER 2012

Palestinian protesters march in Ramallah, calling for the end of the Paris Protocol and against the Oslo accords, in a continuation of the show of anger against rising living costs in the West Bank. **PA PM Salam Fayyad** announces an emergency economic package, including cancelling recent price rises for fuel and cooking gas and a VAT cut. A senior Palestinian trade union official describes the measures as insufficient. Fayyad also calls on donor countries to increase aid to the PA. (*Guardian*, MNA 9/11)

In the Gaza Strip, the **IDF** levels land by the border fence nr. al-Bureij r.c. and Dayr al-Balah in the morning; opens fire from border positions nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries, at night. **Israeli naval vessels** fire on Palestinian fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in Jenin, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah, 1 village nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night. (PCHR 9/13)

12 SEPTEMBER 2012

Unidentified Palestinians fire 2 rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning and in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Nablus and 1 village nr. Hebron. Suspected **Jewish settlers** vandalize a mosque in a village nr. Hebron and try to set cars on fire. (MNA, ToI 9/12; PCHR 9/13, 9/20)

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu orders the transfer of \$60 million in VAT taxes collected on behalf of the **PA**, citing the PA's current economic crisis and protests in the West Bank. (ToI 9/12)

13 SEPTEMBER 2012

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. (PCHR 9/20)

14 SEPTEMBER 2012

The Israeli newspaper *Ha'Aretz* reports that the **Israeli government** is seeking court approval for the construction of settlement homes on privately owned Palestinian land, a development relevant to 44 settlements that were recently revealed to have been erected entirely or partially on private Palestinian land. (HA 9/14)

An Israeli **court** rules in favor of **Jewish settlers** laying claim to a Palestinian home in Hebron, saying it had been legally purchased. (HA 9/14)

In the Gaza Strip, the **IDF** arrests a Palestinian child trying to cross the border fence nr. al-Bureij r.c. in the morning. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the morning. (PCHR 9/20)

15 SEPTEMBER 2012

In Nablus, 100s of **Palestinians** protest against the **PA's** economic policies in a trade union-organized demonstration. (MNA 9/15)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Jenin at night. **Jewish settlers** attack a Palestinian man in a village nr. Nablus. (MNA 9/17; PCHR 9/20)

16 SEPTEMBER 2012

Israeli naval vessels open fire at Palestinian fishermen nr. Khan Yunis, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Jericho, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 9/20)

17 SEPTEMBER 2012

A **Gaza court** convicts several **Palestinians** identified as mbrs. of the Hamas security forces working for a Salafist group of the 2011 killing of Italian activist Vittorio Arrigoni (see QU in *JPS* 160). (MNA 9/17)

A **PA court** in Jericho extends the detention of Freedom Theater director and former AMB commander **Zakaria Zubeidi** by 19 days. In response, Zubeidi renews his hunger strike, which he had previously relaxed. (MNA 9/17)

Israeli naval vessels open fire on Palestinian fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night. **Jewish settlers** assault 3 Palestinian farmers in a village nr. Nablus. (MNA 9/18; PCHR 9/20)

18 SEPTEMBER 2012

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron and in al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron (firing tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians, injuring 1). (PCHR 9/20)

19 SEPTEMBER

The **IDF** makes an air strike on a car traveling in Rafah, assassinating **2 mbrs. of the al-Aqsa Guards Group**, which is closely affiliated with Hamas, and wounding a 3d. Israel alleges that the men were responsible for smuggling explosives into Gaza through the Rafah tunnels and plotting attacks on Israel. In the West Bank, the **IDF** confiscates 60 dunams (d.; 4 d. = 1 acre) of land in Wadi Fukin village nr. Bethlehem; patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm, 1 village nr. Hebron, and ‘Aqabat Jabir r.c. nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (MNA 9/19; MNA, PCHR, REU 9/20; PCHR 9/27)

Hamas and a Palestinian rights groups say that the **PA security forces** have detained dozens of Hamas mbrs. across the West Bank, including 5 Hamas mbrs. in Nablus. (MNA 9/19)

20 SEPTEMBER 2012

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Jenin, and 2 villages nr. Tulkarm (firing tear gas in 1 of them at stone-throwing Palestinians). (MNA 9/20; PCHR 9/27)

Freedom Theater director **Zakaria Zubeidi** suspends a hunger strike after the PA agrees to release him within days. (MNA 9/20)

PLO officials in Yarmuk r.c., an unofficial Palestinian r.c. outside Damascus, report that

Syrian government forces have killed at least 18 **Palestinians** in recent fighting in the area. (MNA 9/20)

21 SEPTEMBER 2012

Three unidentified gunmen enter Israel from the Egyptian Sinai nr. Mount Harif, where Israel's new border fence is currently under construction. They are killed in an exchange of gunfire with IDF soldiers that also leaves **1 IDF soldier** dead. (HA, MNA, REU 9/21)

Palestinian protesters angered at the **EU's** policies toward Israel and Palestine demonstrate under the banner of "Palestinians for Dignity" outside the **Ramallah** offices of the European mission training Palestinian police. (MNA 9/21)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village in Ramallah in the morning; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron in the morning; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; patrols in Hebron, 1 village nr. Jenin, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron, 2 villages nr. Hebron, and al-ʿArub r.c. nr. Hebron. (PCHR 9/27)

Israel's opposition leader **MK Shaul Mofaz** (Kadima) says that Israel will not attack **Iranian** nuclear sites this year and that the U.S. must take the lead in any attack on Iran. (MNA 9/21)

22 SEPTEMBER 2012

Hamas says that **PA** security forces have arrested or summoned for questioning 120 party mbrs. across the West Bank over the last few days. (MNA 9/22)

Israeli naval vessels open fire on Palestinian fishermen nr. Gaza City in the morning, damaging a boat but causing no injuries; attack fishermen in locations nr. Gaza City and Bayt Lahiya in the afternoon, damaging boats but causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya. (PCHR 9/27)

23 SEPTEMBER 2012

Egyptian pres. Mohamed Morsi tells the U.S. media that Egypt's peace deal with **Israel** depends on the Jewish state's policies toward the Palestinians and that the **U.S. government** needs to help create a Palestinian state to reduce anger in the region. (REU 9/23)

The **PA** says that in a village nr. Nablus, its security forces discovered an underground bunker used by **Hamas** mbrs. that contained communications equipment. (MNA 9/23)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning; patrols in 3 villages nr. Salfit, 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, and 1 village nr. Hebron at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Hebron. (PCHR 9/27)

24 SEPTEMBER 2012

An **Israeli court** hands former PM **Ehud Olmert** a suspended jail term and a \$20,000 fine, sparing him a potential prison sentence for his conviction for cronyism in 7/2012. (REU 9/24)

Israel announces a general closure of the **West Bank** and **Gaza Strip** for 48 hrs. during the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on Palestinian fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries, in the morning; the IDF levels ground nr. al-Bureij r.c., and live fire injures 1 Palestinian man. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Qalqilya, and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron at night. (MNA 9/24; PCHR 9/27)

25 SEPTEMBER 2012

Hamas officials reveal that leader **Khalid Mishal** has decided to step down, a decision he announced at a recent meeting in Cairo of Hamas's hierarchy. Mishal will remain in his post until a new leader is chosen through the group's internal election process. (AP 9/25)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron. (PCHR 9/27)

The **Syrian army** fires mortar shells into the Israeli-occupied **Golan Heights**, causing no damage or injuries. The Israeli military says that they were misfired and intended to hit positions inside Syria. (MNA 9/25)

26 SEPTEMBER 2012

Israeli naval vessels open fire on Palestinian fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries, in the morning. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Balata r.c. and Nablus at night. **Jewish settlers** assault a **Palestinian** farmer nr. Jerusalem, causing multiple injuries. The farmer had gone to check his land after reports that settlers had cut down 150 olive trees. (MNA, PCHR 9/27; PCHR 10/4)

27 SEPTEMBER 2012

PA pres. Mahmud Abbas addresses the **UNGA** in New York, announcing as expected that his government will seek non-member observer state status for Palestine (see Doc. B4 in *JPS* 166). Abbas also refers to current Israeli policies as "ethnic cleansing," singling out settlement construction and home demolition for particular criticism. **Hamas** and the **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)** criticize the speech for not offering anything new, but **Fatah** praises it as "historic." **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** also addresses the assembly, notably literally drawing a "red line" on a cartoon of a bomb to illustrate his claim that **Iran** would be capable of making a nuclear weapon within a year. In contrast, U.S. officials play down the notion that Iran is on the brink of achieving a nuclear weapon. Meanwhile, Reuters reports that Iran is making progress in building a research reactor capable of potential weapon material, and Israeli media describe the Netanyahu government as urging the **EU** to impose further sanctions on Iran in light of the economic damage achieved by sanctions to date. (AP, HA, MNA, REU, ToI 9/27)

Israel approves a proposal to allow 5,000 additional entry permits for Palestinian construction and agricultural workers, bringing the total number of work permits issued by Israel to **West Bank Palestinians** to over 45,000. Israel also allows, for the 1st time since 2007, 3 truckloads of furniture to be exported from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank, destined for PA-run schools. This marks the 3d time in 2012 that Israel permitted the passage of goods

from Gaza to the West Bank. Meanwhile Egypt informed Palestinian officials of their intention to ease travel through the Rafah crossing over coming days. (JP, MNA 9/27)

In the West Bank, **Jewish settlers** fr. Beitar Ilit settlement nr. Bethlehem dump sewage water on agriculture lands in the Fukin valley. **Jewish settlers** fr. Brakha settlement nr. Burin village s. of Nablus cut down over 60 olive trees. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jericho, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Ramallah in the afternoon; patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah, 1 village nr. Tulkarm (firing sound bombs), and 1 village nr. Hebron at night; conducts a house raid and summons in Qalqilya in the morning and house raids in 1 village nr. Hebron at night (beating 2 residents, arresting another 2, and firing tear-gas canisters at homes) at night. (PCHR 10/4)

U.S. and Lebanese government officials allege that **Hizballah** has sent military advisers to help the Assad government in Syria. UNRWA estimates that the total number of refugees fleeing Syria will reach 700,000 by the end of 2012. (REU, WP 9/27)

28 SEPTEMBER 2012

PLO Executive Comm. mbr. Hanan Ashrawi said that a **UNGA** vote on Palestinian statehood would likely be held on 11/29/12, the 65th anniversary of the UN partition plan for Palestine, and not postponed until next year's session. **Israeli vice premier Moshe Ya'alon** described Abbas's speech at the UN as proof that the Palestinian leader has no intention of making peace with Israel. (JP 9/28)

In the Gaza Strip, **IDF troops** on the n. Gaza border nr. Bayt Lahiya fire on 2 **Palestinian fishermen** tending their nets on the beach nr. the fence, killing 1 and wounding 1. It is the 1st fisherman fatality recorded since 9/2010. In the West Bank, Palestinians, along with Israeli and international activists, hold weekly nonviolent protests against Israeli land confiscation and settlement expansion in Bil'in nr. Ramallah and Kafr Qaddum nr. Qalqilya, and are attacked by IDF soldiers with tear gas. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts arrest raids and house searches in 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. (IMEMC 9/28; PCHR 10/4; OCHA 10/5)

Jordan names diplomat Walid Obeidat as the new ambassador to **Israel**, a position vacant since 2010, when the previous ambassador was not replaced once his term expired. (AFP 9/28; BBC 10/9)

29 SEPTEMBER 2012

Israel's FM Avigdor Lieberman says that while it was not possible to stop the **UNGA** voting in favor of the **PA's** bid for recognition as a non-member observer state, the Israeli government would "exact a price" from **Abbas** in response. (HA 9/29)

Israel's planning comm. approves establishment of a new Jewish community in the n. Negev in place of the **Bedouin village Umm al-Hieran**, whose roughly 500 residents will be forcibly relocated. (YA 9/29)

Israel releases 2 **Hamas-affiliated mbrs. of the Palestinian Council** after 15 mos. in administrative detention. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Jericho in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Jenin at night. **Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists** protest land confiscation nr. Karne Tzur settlement nr. Hebron. (MNA 9/29; IMEMC 9/30; PCHR 10/4)

30 SEPTEMBER 2012

Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan hosts **Egyptian pres. Mohamed Morsi** and **Hamas chief Khalid Mishal** at a conference of his ruling party. Erdogan, Morsi, and Mishal express their support for the Palestinian and Syrian people in their respective struggles against Israel and the Assad regime. (AP, YA 9/30)

Qatar announces the opening of a diplomatic office in the **Gaza Strip** intended to oversee aid projects funded by the Qatari government. (AP 9/30)

In the West Bank, **Jewish settlers** fr. Daniel settlement establish caravans on the land of al-Khadir village, nr. Bethlehem. The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning; conducts arrest raids and house searches in 1 village nr. Qalqilya. (PCHR 10/4)

1 OCTOBER 2012

PLO chief negotiator Saeb Erakat reveals that the PA is in consultations with Arab countries and others over the text of a draft resolution requesting the **UNGA** accept Palestine as a non-member state. Erakat reiterates that the UN bid is intended to complement rather than harm the peace process. Reports indicate that the U.S. government is lobbying European countries to oppose the Palestinian initiative on the basis that it would be counterproductive and lead to negative consequences, such as sanctions, for the PA. (*Guardian*, MNA 10/1)

Unidentified Palestinians fire a rocket from the **Gaza Strip** into s. Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In East Jerusalem, the **IDF** conducts house searches in Ras al-Amud neighborhood after clashes with local Palestinian youths; troops fire tear gas during the searches, moderately injuring a Palestinian woman. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Jenin and Hebron in the morning, 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, and 2 villages nr. Qalqilya at night. (AFP, IMEMC 10/1; PCHR 10/4; OCHA 10/5)

Palestinian citizens of Israel hold protests across Israel, including a 2,000-strong march in Sakhnin, to mark the 12th anniversary of the killing of 13 Arabs by Israeli **police** during demonstrations in solidarity with the 2d intifada then underway. (AFP 10/1)

Freedom Theater director and former AMB commander **Zakaria Zubeidi** is freed from PA prison after having been charged in connection to a 1/5/12 attack that resulted in the death of former Jenin governor **Qaddura Musa** from a heart attack (see QU in *JPS* 164). (MNA 1/10)

Syrian state television attacks Hamas leader **Khalid Mishal**, accusing him of “selling out” and being ungrateful for Syria’s years of patronage. Hamas closed its headquarters in Damascus earlier in 2012 after refusing to support the regime’s attacks on Syrian protesters and the opposition. (NYT 10/2)

2 OCTOBER 2012

An **Israeli official** announces that PM **Netanyahu** will visit Europe before the end of the year in order to try to persuade leaders to toughen sanctions against **Iran**. (AP, NYT 10/2; MNA, OCHA 10/5)

Hamas authorities in Gaza demolish 12 residential structures nr. Umm Nasir village on the grounds that the land is “state land,” displacing **60 residents** and sparking clashes between police and residents that leave 2 children and 1 woman injured. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border open fire on **Palestinians** scavenging for construction materials nr. the border fence northwest of Bayt Hanun; no injuries are reported. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night; raids a home nr. Hebron in the morning, detaining residents on the 1st floor and using the roof as a military observation point; conducts arrest raids and house searches in 1 village nr. Nablus and 2 villages nr. Hebron. **Over 100 Israelis** marking

the Jewish holiday of Sukkot enter the al-Aqsa compound in Jerusalem, protected by Israeli security forces, sparking confrontations with Palestinian worshippers; no serious injuries are reported. Jewish settlers vandalize/spray graffiti on a Jerusalem monastery. (PCHR 10/4; MNA, OCHA 10/5)

3 OCTOBER 2012

The *Jerusalem Post* reports that **PLO chief negotiator Saeb Erakat** met with **EU mission heads** in Jerusalem last month to ask for help in drafting the resolution for the **UNGA** on the Palestinian non-member state upgrade. (JP 10/3)

The **Danish FM** urges the **EU** to force stores to label products from Israeli settlements in the West Bank, an initiative relating to a decision taken by EU foreign ministers in 5/2012 to enforce existing legislation regarding settlement produce. (HA 10/3)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** confiscates Palestinian farmland in the Fukin valley nr. Bethlehem; photographs Palestinian houses in the Umm Rokba area s. of al-Khadir village nr. Bethlehem, an area nr. a settlement outpost where many homes have been served demolition orders. The **IDF** also raids a school near the al-Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron in the morning and patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron (firing sound bombs and rubber-coated bullets, wounding 1 child); patrols in Tulkarm at night, using stun grenades and tear-gas bombs in response to Palestinian stone-throwing, and in 2 villages nr. Hebron; conducts an arrest raid in 1 village nr. Hebron. (PCHR 10/4)

4 OCTOBER 2012

In the **West Bank**, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (PCHR 10/11)

Jordan's King Abdullah dissolves parliament, a move that paves the way for elections expected early in 2013. (REU 10/4)

5 OCTOBER 2012

A demonstration after Friday prayers at the **al-Aqsa mosque** in Jerusalem devolves into clashes with Israeli police, who use stun grenades against stone-throwing protesters. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the morning, 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, 1 village nr. Hebron (firing stun grenades), and 3 villages nr. Jenin at night; conducts house searches and issues summonses in 2 villages nr. Salfit at night. The **IDF** also attacks a weekly nonviolent protest against settlements and the separation wall in Kufr Qaddum village nr. Qalqilya, causing no serious injuries. **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinians harvesting olives in 1 village nr. Qalqilya and destroy olive trees and vineyards in 1 village nr. Bethlehem. (IMEMC, MNA, NYT 10/5; PCHR 10/11)

6 OCTOBER 2012

Israel's air force shoots down an unmanned drone over the Negev desert. On 10/11, **Hizballah** confirms that it sent the drone, described by leader **Hasan Nasrallah** in a televised speech as a "reconnaissance aircraft" whose parts were manufactured in Iran and assembled in Lebanon. (CNN 10/6; REU 10/11)

Israeli naval vessels off the Gaza coast open fire on Palestinian fishermen in the morning, with no injuries or arrests. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr.

Ramallah in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Ramallah, 1 village nr. Tulkarm, and 1 village nr. Hebron at night; conducts a house search and arrest raid in 1 village nr. Hebron. **Jewish settlers** nr. Hebron and nr. Ramallah attack Palestinian farmers. (PCHR 11/10)

7 OCTOBER 2012

The **IDF** makes an air strike on 2 men on a motorcycle in the s. Gaza Strip nr. Rafah, assassinating 1 mbr. of the **Mujahidin Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem** and wounding the 2d, along with **8 bystanders** (including 3 children, a woman, and an elderly man). Off the Gaza coast, **Israeli naval vessels** twice fire at **Palestinian fishing boats** in the morning, causing no injuries but seizing 4 Palestinians from 1 boat and taking them into detention. At night, **IDF** troops on the s. Gaza border fire shells toward the demolished Dahaniyya airport site, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, establishing a temporary checkpoint later removed; patrols in 1 village nr. Tulkarm and 3 villages nr. Hebron at night. Suspected **Jewish settlers** uproot around 40 olive trees in a village nr. Ramallah. **Jewish settlers** also attack vehicles nr. Hebron (**wounding 1 Palestinian**) and **farmers** in a village nr. Ramallah (**wounding 2 Palestinians**). (MNA, REU 10/7; PCHR 10/11)

8 OCTOBER 2012

Armed Palestinian groups in the Gaza Strip fire an estimated 55 **rockets and mortars** at s. Israel in the morning, causing no injuries. The **IQB** and the **Ansar al-Quds** group claim joint responsibility in retaliation for the **IDF** assassination on 10/7/12. The **IDF** retaliates with air strikes and artillery fire on an area of s. Gaza, wounding a total of 10 Palestinians (4 armed and 6 civilians, including 2 children from the same family), and artillery fire on n. Gaza, damaging a factory but causing no injuries. (JP, NYT, YA 10/8; PCHR 10/11).

In the West Bank, a **Jewish settler** shoots and wounds a Palestinian laborer nr. Bayt Jala, and a group of Jewish settlers attack a Palestinian-owned house nr. Nablus. The **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night, and conducts house searches and arrest raids in Balata r.c. in Nablus and al-Fawar r.c. nr. Hebron. (JP NYT, YA 10/8; PCHR10/11)

9 OCTOBER 2012

Israel's PM **Netanyahu** announces his intention to hold early elections in around 3 mos. time (elections were due to take place in November 2013). (972mag 10/9)

Unidentified Palestinians fire **rockets** from the Gaza Strip into s. Israel during the day, causing no injuries. At night, the **IDF** shells and opens fire at positions in the Gaza Strip, causing no injuries, and fires a missile at a warehouse nr. Bayt Lahiya, destroying it but causing no injuries. An Israeli military source claims that the target was a training camp used by Hamas fighters, and the strike a response to recent rocket fire. The **IDF** also enters the Gaza Strip nr. Rafah at night to level land near the border, directing sporadic shelling and live fire at the surrounding area, causing no injuries. **Palestinian fighters** identified as Salafists fire **rockets** overnight into Israel from Gaza, landing nr. Sderot and Netivot, causing no injuries. (AFP 10/10; PCHR 10/11)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm (firing stun grenades and tear-gas bombs at Palestinians throwing stones) and 1 village nr. Jenin at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 3 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Ramallah (arresting Mohammad Tamimi of the Popular Committee against Settlements in al-Nabi Salih), and 1

village nr. Jenin (questioning Khader Adnan, arrested on 12/17/11 and released after a highly publicized hunger strike) (see QU in *JPS* 164). **Jewish settlers** cut down more than 120 olive trees in a village nr. Nablus, according to PA officials and eyewitnesses. (IDFS10/9; MNA 10/10; PCHR 10/11)

10 OCTOBER 2012

A **PA** spokesperson tells the *Independent* (UK) that international donors have provided only 40% of pledged aid for 2012, meaning that 150,000 PA employees have been warned that it is not known when they will receive their 9/2012 salaries. (*Independent* 10/10)

Hamis official Mahmoud Zahar says that the group is coordinating with other Palestinian factions to respond to Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip. (MNA 10/10)

Israeli naval vessels open fire on Palestinian fishermen off the coast of the Gaza Strip nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries; the IDF fires a missile at a training site for the IQB at night, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** fires tear gas at Palestinians throwing stones after the soldiers appear at a funeral in Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron. The **IDF** patrols in Hebron and 9 villages nr. Hebron at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 5 villages nr. Hebron at night. A **Palestinian** teenager attacks a Jewish settler nr. Beitar Ilit settlement, injuring him. **Jewish settlers** from Shilo settlement destroy 250 olive trees in a village nr. Ramallah. (MNA, ToI 10/10; PCHR 10/11, 10/18)

11 OCTOBER 2012

The **Israeli Prime Minister's Office** announces that new elections will be held on 1/22/13, a day after the U.S. presidential inauguration. A poll carried out for *Ha'Aretz* shows that PM Netanyahu has no serious challenger in the election. (HA, ToI 10/11)

Israeli DM Ehud Barak allows **Jewish settlers** to reoccupy a house in Hebron evacuated in 2008, in light of a 9/13/12 court ruling that the acquisition is legal. Palestinians who claim ownership are expected to appeal the decision. (ToI 10/12)

The **IDF** launches an air strike against a location in the n. Gaza Strip after **unidentified Palestinians** fire 2 rockets into Israel; no injuries are reported in either instance. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho, 1 village nr. Jenin, 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning; in 1 village nr. Jericho in the afternoon; and in 1 village nr. Jenin at night (where they fire tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians). (AFP 10/11; PCHR 10/18)

12 OCTOBER 2012

Israeli newspaper *Yedi'ot Ahronot* reports that in 2010 **Israeli PM Netanyahu** engaged in mos. of secret, U.S.-brokered discussions with **Syria** about a negotiated peace treaty including Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights. The **U.S. State Dept.** confirms that Netanyahu relayed a message to **Syrian pres. Bashar al-Asad**, but Netanyahu denies the accuracy of the story. (HA, NYT, REU, YA 10/12)

Unidentified Palestinians fire a Grad **rocket** from the Gaza Strip into Israel, causing no injuries. **IDF** troops on the Gaza border fire a missile at an olive grove nr. al-Bureij r.c. at night, injuring 1 Palestinian child inside a nearby home, and fire 1 missile at an open area nr. Nussayrat r.c. at night, causing no injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** fire at Palestinian fishermen in the morning, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 2 villages nr. Jenin at night. The **IDF** also uses tear gas against Palestinians, Israelis, and internationals taking part in a

nonviolent protest in Bil'in village nr. Ramallah against the separation wall and settlements. (JP 10/12; IMEMC 10/13; PCHR 10/18)

13 OCTOBER 2012

The **IDF** carries out an air strike on n. Gaza, assassinating **2 armed Palestinians**, at least 1 of whom was from the Salafist group al-Tawhid wal-Jihad and also wounding a child. Earlier, the group claimed responsibility for a rocket that hit the Israeli city of Netivot. In the night, the **IDF** fires a missile at a Hamas training site nr. Gaza City, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Jenin, and 1 village nr. Tulkarm at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Hebron. Suspected **Jewish settlers** burn down olive trees belonging to residents of a village nr. Nablus. (IMEMC, NYT, ToI 10/13; PCHR 10/18)

14 OCTOBER 2012

The **IDF** assassinates **3 Palestinian fighters** in 2 separate air strikes on Khan Yunis in the morning and Dayr al-Balah in the afternoon; 2 of those killed are identified as members of the Popular Resistance Comm. (PRC), which vows to retaliate. In the West Bank, the **IDF** arrests a number of teachers en route to work in 1 village nr. Hebron; patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Hebron in the afternoon (in the latter's case confiscating a tractor); arrests a Palestinian working on his land nr. Hebron in the afternoon; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 village each nr. Hebron and Tulkarm. Those detained include Ayman Nasser, a researcher from Addameer human rights organization. (REU, MNA 10/14; MNA 10/15; PCHR 10/18).

The **UN's Middle East envoy** Robert Serry says that he is alarmed by attacks perpetrated by Jewish settlers against Palestinian farmers and farmland in the West Bank. (ToI 10/14)

15 OCTOBER 2012

Members of the Knesset vote to dissolve the parliament, officially paving the way for early elections, expected in 1/2013. (HA 10/15)

U.S. amb. to the UN Susan Rice says that the Palestinian bid for non-member state observer status would "jeopardize" the peace process and complicate efforts to resume negotiations. Rice also emphasizes the illegitimacy of Israeli settlement activity. (REU 10/15; JP 10/16)

PA pres. Mahmud Abbas holds a meeting in Ramallah with an Israeli delegation involved with the Geneva Initiative, including 6 Knesset mbrs. (IMEMC 10/16)

Hamas reports that 10 of its mbrs. were arrested by **PA security forces** in the West Bank over the previous 24 hrs., with an additional 3 summoned for questioning. (MNA 10/15)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids a school nr. Yalla village in the south Hebron Hills area, detaining students, teachers, and international activists. The **IDF** also raids Bayt Umar village nr. Hebron in the afternoon, firing tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians; at night, the **IDF** raids and imposes a curfew on Azun village nr. Qalqilya that lasts until the next day, and conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Nablus and Balata r.c. The UK newspaper the *Guardian* cites reports by the **UN** and a coalition of Israeli human rights

groups on settler violence during the olive harvest that notes that 850 trees were vandalized in the harvest's 1st week. (*Guardian* 10/15; AIC 10/16; PCHR 10/18)

16 OCTOBER 2012

PA pres. Mahmud Abbas sends a letter to **U.S. pres. Barack Obama** to inform him that if the UN bid is successful, he intends to resume negotiations with Israel. (AFP, HA, REU 10/16)

Qatar announces a \$254 m. plan for reconstruction in the Gaza Strip, the largest such injection of aid since the end of Operation Cast Lead in 1/2009. (REU 10/16)

Israeli government officials say that **Palestinians** deployed an anti-aircraft missile for the 1st time in the Gaza Strip the previous week, missing their target. (AFP 10/16)

Unidentified Palestinians fire 2 **rockets** from Gaza into Israel, 1 of which lands by a house nr. Ashqelon, causing no injuries. The **IDF** fires missiles at an IQB training site in the n. Gaza Strip at night, causing no injuries. **IDF** troops on the Gaza border open fire on Palestinians and internationals staging nonviolent protests nr. Bayt Hanun and the Erez crossing against Israel's imposition of a no-go zone inside the Gaza border, causing no reported injuries. (JP 10/16)

Palestinian and international protesters block a key highway linking Jerusalem and Tel Aviv (Road 443) in the West Bank to protest the uprooting of olive trees by **Jewish settlers**. The **IDF** forces them off the road, firing shock grenades. (AIC, IMEMC 10/16)

PA security forces raid an apartment in **Nablus** and claim to have confiscated documents and weapons belong to the **IQB**. (MNA 10/16)

Israeli coalition party **Yisrael Beiteinu** announces it intends to request that the Central Election Comm. disqualify **Balad** party from the upcoming elections on the grounds that it "supports terror and acts against the existence of Israel as a Jewish, democratic state." A Likud MK submits a similar petition. (JP, YA 10/16)

17 OCTOBER 2012

The *Guardian* reports that **the UK government** is urging the **Palestinian** leadership to delay its UN bid for fear of damaging the peace process. Palestinians are confident of winning a majority, citing figures showing the support of at least 115 countries, and as many as 150, out of 193. (*Guardian* 10/17)

A **Hamis** delegation visits **Cairo** to discuss the threat posed by a jihadist group (reportedly called the Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis group) operating in the Sinai with alleged connections to the Gaza Strip. (*Egypt Independent*, REU 10/17)

The new **ambassadors of Jordan and Egypt** present their credentials to **Israeli pres. Shimon Peres**, with the latter's envoy expressing commitment to existing agreements. (JP 10/18)

Israeli Army Radio reports that the **Israeli cabinet** will adopt (unspecified) recommendations from the Levy report on West Bank settlements, which rejected the idea that Israel's presence in the territories constitutes occupation and concluded that unauthorized outposts should be legalized. Israeli **DM Ehud Barak** opposes the move, citing damage to Israel's diplomatic image abroad. (HA, JP 10/17)

The **union of PA public sector workers** calls for a strike on 10/17 and 10/18 and again the next week to protest the **PA's** failure to pay salaries. (MNA 10/16)

The **IDF** makes air strikes on a location in the n. Gaza Strip at night, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jenin and conducts house searches and arrests in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. (JP 10/18; PCHR 10/24)

18 OCTOBER 2012

Israel transfers tax revenues to the **PA** 2 weeks ahead of schedule in recognition of the economic crisis. The PA fin. min. announces it will pay partial salaries to workers. (MNA 10/18, 10/20)

Israel grants final approval to a plan for 800 new homes in East Jerusalem, meaning an expansion of **Gilo** settlement. (AFP 10/18)

Bedouin citizens of Israel hold a protest outside government offices in Beersheba to call for an end to the pending demolition orders in Bir Hadaj village in the Negev. Meanwhile, Israeli authorities demolish the Bedouin village al-Araqib for the 43rd time. (JP 10/18; MNA 10/19)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya, 3 villages nr. Ramallah, and 2 villages nr. Jenin in the morning; in 2 villages nr. Jericho and 2 villages nr. Hebron in the afternoon; and in al-Bireh, 2 villages nr. Jericho, 1 village nr. Jenin, and 2 villages nr. Hebron (in 1 of which the IDF uses tear gas against stone-throwing Palestinians) at night. In the Gaza Strip, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire at Palestinian fishermen, causing no injuries. (PCHR 10/24)

In a report submitted to the UN Security Council (UNSC), **UN secy.-gen. Ban Ki-moon** calls the **Hizballah** drone sent into Israeli airspace a “reckless provocation,” and criticizes **Israel**’s use of drones and fighter jets in **Lebanese** airspace as a violation of sovereignty. (AP 10/18)

19 OCTOBER 2012

President of the UNGA Vuk Jeremic says that the Palestinian bid for non-member state is likely to succeed, and that it would likely occur in the second half of 11/2012. (REU 10/19)

The **EU** issues an expression of regret over Israel’s decision (see 10/18) to approve 800 new houses in Gilo settlement, East Jerusalem. (MNA 10/19)

Armed Palestinians in the Gaza Strip detonate an improvised explosive device nr. the border fence with Israel, damaging an **IDF** jeep but causing no injuries. IDF troops on the Gaza border open fire on volunteers working on farmland nr. al-Bureij r.c., causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning. (YA 10/19; PCHR 10/24)

A bomb blast in Beirut kills **Wissam al-Hassan**, head of Lebanese domestic intelligence, as well as another 9 people and injuring more than 100. In the aftermath, opposition politicians, including Saad Hariri, blame the Syrian government, and there are demonstrations across the country by Sunni Muslims. **Lebanese PM Najib Mikati** says he suspects the killing was linked to al-Hassan’s role in uncovering Syrian involvement in the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese PM Rafiq Hariri. **Iran** condemns the blast the next day and hints that Israel is responsible. (*Guardian*, NYT, REU 10/19; BBC, REU 10/20)

20 OCTOBER 2012

Palestinians in the West Bank vote in local elections, the 1st elections in 6 yrs. Out of the 353 municipalities, the poll was held in only 92; 181 municipalities form councils without elections due to a lack of candidates. **Hamas** boycotts the elections. The Central Elections Commission reports that around 515,000 Palestinians were registered to vote, of which 55% turned out to vote (by comparison, three-quarters cast ballots in the 2006

parliamentary elections and two-thirds in the 2004 and 2005 municipal elections). **Fatah** has mixed results, partly due to the fact that its own mbrs. ran against each other, some as independents (27 Fatah mbrs. were subsequently expelled from the party for running in non-Fatah lists). (AP, BBC, NYT 10/20; AP, MNA 10/21; see also MNA 10/18; AP 10/19)

Israeli FM Avigdor Lieberman criticizes European countries for their 10/19 opposition to plans for 100s of new homes in Gilo settlement, and **PM Netanyahu** vows to continue construction in East Jerusalem. Meanwhile, the Israeli NGO **Peace Now** reveals government plans to build a military academy on the Mount of Olives in occupied East Jerusalem. (AFP, ToI 10/20; JP 10/21)

The **Israeli navy** intercepts a boat (*Estelle*) of **pro-Palestinian activists** en route to the **Gaza Strip**. The IDF boards the vessel 30 naut. mi. off the Gaza coast and tows it to Ashdod. Separately, **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on Palestinian fishermen, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Jenin and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (BBC 10/21; PCHR 10/24)

21 OCTOBER 2012

The **U.S.** and **Israeli** militaries begin their largest-ever joint exercise, focused on defending Israel from mass missile attacks. (WSJ 10/21)

For the 1st time in 5 yrs., **Israel** permits farmers in the **Gaza Strip** to export spices to Europe. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon, imposing a curfew until the evening and issuing summonses; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and issues summonses in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. Suspected **Jewish settlers** try to torch a **Palestinian** taxi cab in a village nr. Hebron. (JP 10/21, 10/22; PCHR 24/10)

22 OCTOBER 2012

Senior IDF commander Col. Amir Baram tells Israeli television that the army may soon need to enter the **Gaza Strip**, potentially going “house to house,” in order to “maintain deterrence.” (ToI 10/22)

The **IDF** kills **3 armed Palestinians** (including at least 1 Hamas mbr. and 1 PRC mbr.) during an incursion into the **Gaza Strip**. **Armed Palestinians** initially fired mortars at the IDF troops when they entered Gaza, and the IDF responded with air strikes. The IDF also opens fire nr. Bayt Hanun in the morning (causing no injuries) and makes brief incursions into areas nr. Bayt Lahiya and Jabaliya (opening fire but causing no injuries). In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm (firing tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians) and 3 nearby villages at night. (AP, REU 10/22; PCHR 10/24)

Seven people are killed in exchanges of gunfire in **Beirut** and **Tripoli**, in unrest related to the 10/19 assassination of senior intelligence official Wissam al-Hassan. The Lebanese army deploys in order to stop the violence. (NYT, REU 10/22)

23 OCTOBER 2012

Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, accompanied by his wife and the Qatari PM, arrives in the **Gaza Strip**, becoming the 1st head of state to visit since **Hamas** took control of Gaza in 6/2007. The emir inaugurates reconstruction projects worth \$400 mi. and calls on Hamas and Fatah to reconcile. Hamas authorities did not invite Fatah officials to meet the emir, leading some in Fatah to call for a boycott of the emir’s visit. The **U.S.** reacts

cautiously, saying it shares Qatar's "deep concern for the welfare of the Palestinian people." (REU 10/21; MNA 10/22; AFP, BBC 10/23)

PA employees continue to strike over late and incomplete payment of salaries, as the PA cabinet calls on civil servants to go back to work. (MNA 23/10)

Armed mbrs. of the **PFLP** fire a **mortar** at an **IDF** patrol on the **Gaza** border, injuring 1 officer. The **IDF** kills 3 **Hamas mbrs.** it says were preparing to fire rockets into Israel. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire 7 **rockets and mortars** into Israel at night, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Nablus. (AKH, REU, ToI 10/23; PCHR 11/8)

24 OCTOBER 2012

Armed Palestinians fire around **80 rockets and mortars** into Israel, injuring 5 Israelis. The **IDF** retaliates with air strikes, killing **3 armed Palestinians and 1 civilian.** Israel closes the Kerem Shalom and Erez crossings in both directions. A number of Israeli ministers and politicians urge a full-scale attack on the Gaza Strip. (Arutz Sheva, CNN, JP, MNA, REU 10/24)

EU foreign policy chief Ashton begins a visit to Israel and the West Bank, with planned meetings with **Israeli PM Netanyahu** and other officials, as well as with **PA PM Fayyad** and **pres. Abbas.** **Israeli FM Avigdor Lieberman** warns Ashton of the "consequences" of the Palestinians' UN bid. Meanwhile, Abbas says he would be ready for negotiations with Israel immediately after the UN recognizes Palestine as a non-member state. (ToI 10/23; HA, REU 10/24; MNA 10/25)

Palestinians and international activists protest in a supermarket in Sha'ar Binyamin, a **Jewish settlement** in the southern **West Bank,** calling for a boycott of Israeli products. (972mag 10/24)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes agricultural facilities and wells in a village nr. Jenin and an area nr. Hebron; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron. (MNA, Wafa 10/24; PCHR 11/8)

The **Sudanese** government accuses **Israel** of carrying out an air strike on an arms factory in **Khartoum** that killed 2 people. (*Guardian* 10/24; AFP 10/25)

25 OCTOBER 2012

Armed Palestinians fire a **mortar** from the **Gaza Strip** into **Israel,** causing no injuries. Later in the day, an unofficial truce, believed to have been negotiated by **Egyptian intelligence,** takes hold, bringing relative calm after 4 days of **IDF** strikes and Palestinian rocket fire. An aide to Israel's DM Ehud Barak denies any agreement had been reached with Hamas. (ToI 10/25)

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and FM **Avigdor Lieberman** announce that their respective **Likud** and **Yisrael Beiteinu** parties will run together in the upcoming elections. Reports suggest that there would be no rotation of the PM slot and Netanyahu would remain leader. Lieberman tells reporters that the unity deal was first discussed a year ago. **Labor leader Shelley Yacimovich** urges a unification of "centrist" parties to challenge the new alliance. Some analysts claim that the move signals the forming of a "war cabinet" for confronting Iran. (HA, JP 10/25; HA, YA 10/26)

Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula issues a statement of condolences for the deaths of 2 Salafist jihadists killed by the **IDF** in the **Gaza Strip** on 10/13. (JP 10/25)

26 OCTOBER 2012

Israel refuses to confirm or deny whether it bombed 2 sites in **Sudan** in 9/2012 and on 10/23. The latter strike destroyed a weapons factory nr. **Khartoum**, and the Sudanese government accuses Israel of carrying out the attack. (NYT 10/25; JTA 10/26)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Hebron at night. (PCHR 11/8)

27 OCTOBER 2012

Palestinian newspaper *al-Quds al-Arabi* reports that **PA pres. Abbas** has sent letters to world leaders, including U.S. pres. Obama and the heads of EU mbr. states, to ask that they back the Palestinian bid for non-member status at the UNGA. (JP 10/28)

The **Israeli military** carries out an air strike nr. Khan Yunis, killing **1 armed Palestinian**, wounding another. **PRC mbrs.** fire a Grad **rocket** that lands nr. Beersheba, causing no injuries. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire another **2 rockets** into Israel late at night, causing no injuries. A **smuggling tunnel** under the Rafah **border** collapses, killing **3 Palestinians**. An estimated 160 Palestinians have died in the tunnels since 2006. In the West Bank, the **IDF** arrests the secy.-gen. of the Palestinian parliament, Mahmud al-Ramahi, at the Huwwara checkpoint nr. Nablus; he had been released from Israeli jail less than 4 mos. before. (MNA 10/27; JP, REU 10/28)

28 OCTOBER 2012

IQB members fire around **20 rockets** from Gaza into Israel at night, causing no injuries. Also overnight, the **IDF** shells a house nr. al-Bureij r.c. in the Gaza Strip and carries out 2 air strikes on an IQB training site nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in Yatta village nr. Hebron in the morning, attacking a Palestinian man and his daughter outside their home. (YA 10/29; PCHR 11/8)

29 OCTOBER 2012

Palestinian officials confirm that **PA pres. Abbas** will pursue the **UN** bid despite warnings by the U.S. and Israel. (AP 10/29)

Israeli polls show that the **Netanyahu-Lieberman alliance** would not necessarily translate into a gain in votes, though it is likely that a right-wing coalition would emerge with a Knesset majority. (ToI, 972mag 10/29)

The Israeli NGO **Peace Now** states that the Jerusalem municipality has approved plans for a new neighborhood for retired police and soldiers in the East Jerusalem district of Sur al-Bahir. (AFP 10/29)

The Israeli media report that over the previous few months, the Israeli security agency **Shin Bet** has arrested around **30 Hamas activists** in the West Bank on suspicion of rebuilding the organization's infrastructure. (NYT, YA 10/29)

IDF troops on the Gaza border fire shells nr. Gaza's Islamic Martyrs cemetery at night, causing no reported injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 2 villages and the al-Fawar r.c. nearby; invades 1 village nr. Hebron to demolish a home, arresting a resident and firing tear gas and rubber bullets at stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them. (PCHR 11/8)

30 OCTOBER 2012

A **PLO official** tells Reuters that they expect at least 12 “yes” votes from **EU mbr. states** at the UNGA vote in 11/2012 for recognition as a non-member state. (REU 10/30)

Israeli DM Barak says that **Iran** has pulled back from its ambitions of building a nuclear weapon, but that Israel may still have to decide in 2013 whether to launch a military attack. (REU 10/30)

An **Israeli border police officer** is acquitted of causing the death of a 10-yr.-old Palestinian boy shot during a protest in the West Bank village of Ni‘lin in 2008. (HA 10/30)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm in the morning, in 3 villages nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 6 villages nr. Jenin at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 5 nearby villages, and in 4 villages nr. Jenin at night. (PCHR 11/8)

Fighting between the **Syrian military** and the **opposition** spills over into **Yarmuk** Palestinian r.c., with the **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine–General Command** reportedly joining on the side of the army. (AFP 10/30)

31 OCTOBER 2012

PA FM Riyad al-Malki says that 11/15 or 11/29 are possible dates for a UN vote on the Palestinian bid to be recognized as a non-member state, adding that consultations are ongoing for the formation of the draft resolution. (AFP 10/31)

Unidentified armed Palestinians fire 2 rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel, causing no injuries. **IDF** troops on the n. Gaza border open fire nr. Bayt Hanun, causing no injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire at fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Jenin in the afternoon, 2 villages nr. Hebron, and Tulkarm at night. (ToI 10/31; PCHR 11/8)

The Israeli NGO **Peace Now** reports that **Jewish settlers** have set up 2 new settlement outposts with utilities infrastructure in the West Bank for the 1st time since 2005, located nr. Ramallah and Qalqilya. (AFP, JP 10/31)

1 NOVEMBER 2012

PA res. Abbas gives an interview to Israeli television in which he says there will be no 3d intifada and that he will not seek a return to inside Israel’s pre-1967 borders. His comments are welcomed by **Israeli pres. Shimon Peres** but criticized by both **Israeli PM Netanyahu** (who states that Abbas’s words do not match his actions) and by **Gaza Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh**, who calls the remarks “dangerous.” Abbas later clarifies through an adviser that he was not giving up the Palestinian refugees’ right of return, but was being “realistic.” (HA 11/1; AP 11/2; HA, Wafa 11/3)

PLO chief negotiator Saeb Erakat warns that the **U.S.** and **Israel** may impose economic restrictions on the PA after a successful upgrade at the UNGA in 11/2012. (JP 11/1)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 2 structures in a **settler outpost** nr. Yitzhar settlement and claims that that **Jewish settlers** attacked them with stones. The **IDF** also patrols in 7 villages nr. Jenin in the morning, in Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 1 village each nr. Jenin, Jericho, and Ramallah at night; conducts late-night house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron and 1 nr. Qalqilya. (PCHR 11/8; JP 11/1)

2 NOVEMBER 2012

Fatah expresses opposition to a proposal presented to the PLO leadership the previous week by **PM Salam Fayyad** to form a more inclusive factional government, but says it would consider the plan after the UN bid. Meanwhile, **Hamas** says that the **PA security agencies** arrested 2 of its leaders and summoned 3 others for questioning. Islamic Jihad say that PA preventive security arrested 1 of its leaders from Qabatiya village. (MNA 3/11; PNN 11/2)

Suspected **Jewish settlers** vandalize property in a Palestinian village nr. Ramallah with “price tag”–related slogans. (ToI 3/11)

The **IDF** shells an area nr. al-Bureij r.c. in the Gaza Strip in the morning, seriously wounding 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 3 villages nr. Ramallah in the morning, in Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Ramallah at night. (MNA 11/2; PCHR 11/8)

3 NOVEMBER 2012

In East Jerusalem, 2 **Palestinians** stab and wound a Jewish settler; a resident of **Ras al-Amud** is later arrested. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on Palestinian fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya in the Gaza Strip, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 villages nr. Jenin, and 2 villages nr. Qalqilya in the morning; in 3 villages nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon; and in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 villages nr. Jericho, 2 villages nr. Hebron, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. (HA 11/3; PCHR 11/8)

Israel files a complaint with **UN monitors** after 3 **Syrian** tanks enter the demilitarized zone in the occupied **Golan Heights**. (AFP 11/3)

4 NOVEMBER 2012

In Vienna, **Israeli FM Lieberman** holds a meeting with the country’s ambassadors in the EU to plan ways of countering the Palestinians’ UN bid. (YA 11/4)

IDF troops on the Gaza border fatally shoot a **Palestinian man** who approaches the border fence nr. Gaza Valley village; relatives say that he was unarmed, suffered from epilepsy, and often went to the border. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Salfit and 1 village nr. Tulkarm in the afternoon, and in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Jericho at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Jenin r.c. and Azun village nr. Qalqilya at night, arresting 10 residents. Suspected pro-settler **Jewish extremists** vandalize Palestinian-owned vehicles and property in the Jerusalem neighborhood of **Shu‘fat** with “price tag” slogans. (MNA, REU 11/4; PCHR 11/8)

The **United Arab Emirates** donates \$42 mi. to the **PA**. (MNA 11/4)

The **Syrian army** shells opposition forces inside **Yarmuk** Palestinian r.c., reportedly killing at least 20. (*Guardian*, REU 11/4)

5 NOVEMBER 2012

A spokesperson for **PA pres. Abbas** says that the UN bid will go ahead and that direct talks with the Israelis must wait until after the UNGA vote. The head of the **Arab League**, Nabil Elaraby, expresses his support for the initiative. Meanwhile, **Israeli FM Lieberman** is reported by Israeli media to be telling international diplomats of his intention to severely punish the PA if Abbas goes ahead with the UN bid. (REU, AFP 11/5; INN 11/6)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning, and in 1 village nr. Jericho and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Qalqilya, 1 village nr. Bethlehem, 1 village nr. Nablus,

and 1 village nr. Tubas. **Jewish settlers** from Kiryat Arba uproot around 70 Palestinian-owned olive and fruit trees nr. Hebron. In the al-Tur neighborhood of East Jerusalem, **Jewish settlers** attack a Palestinian family, residents of a home that an Israeli court has ruled was sold by a relative to the Elad settler organization. (MNA 11/5; PCHR 11/8)

The **IDF** says that a bullet fired from inside **Syria** hit 1 of its vehicles in the occupied **Golan Heights**, causing no injuries. As fighting between government and opposition forces in Syria continues, **7 Palestinians** are killed in government shelling of **Yarmuk r.c.** (AP 11/5; NYT, MNA 11/5)

6 NOVEMBER 2012

In a meeting with **Russian FM Sergey Lavrov**, **PA pres. Abbas** says that the bid for non-member status at the UN will go ahead. **Israeli PM Netanyahu** convenes his inner cabinet to discuss measures against the PA in response to the UN bid. These punitive actions are reported to include freezing funds to the PA and revoking privileges of senior Palestinian leaders. (JP, ToI 11/6)

A **Turkish court** in Istanbul opens the trial in absentia of **4 former Israeli military commanders** over charges related to the killing of 9 Turkish citizens on the Gaza-bound international aid ship *Mavi Marmara* in 2010 (see QU in JP 164). (REU 11/5)

Israel publishes tenders for over 1,200 new homes in settlements in **occupied East Jerusalem**. The housing units are set for **Pisgat Ze'ev** and **Ramot**, with another 72 units re-offered in **Ariel** settlement in the n. of the West Bank. European governments condemn the move as a hindrance to the peace process. **EU foreign policy chief Ashton** expresses "regret" at the publication. (AFP 11/6; HA 11/7; MNA 11/8)

A bomb explodes along the **Gaza Strip-Israel border fence**, injuring 3 **IDF** soldiers on patrol. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire a **rocket** into Israel, causing no injuries. **Israeli naval vessels** open fire on Palestinian fishermen nr. Bayt Lahiya in the morning, causing no injuries, and shell areas nr. Khan Yunis while leveling an area nr. the border fence; the **IDF** also clears land by the border fence nr. Gaza Valley village at night. In the West Bank, the **IDF** demolishes 2 Palestinian homes and agricultural property in villages nr. Hebron, and hands over demolition orders for 4 other homes; conducts late-night house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron. In East Jerusalem, **Israeli police** conduct an arrest operation in **Shu'fat r.c.**, clashing with local residents; 9 police officers are injured, including 1 who is stabbed. (JP 11/6; MNA 11/7; MNA, PCHR, WAFA 11/8)

An **Israeli military court** sentences **Palestinian activist Bassem Tamimi** to 4 mos. in prison for his participation in a 10/24 demonstration at an Israeli-owned supermarket in the Gush Etzion settlement bloc. (BBC 11/6)

7 NOVEMBER 2012

The **IDF** enters the c. Gaza Strip nr. al-Bureij r.c. with 6 bulldozers and 4 military vehicles; Israeli tank fire during the incursion injures 1 Palestinian man. In the West Bank, the **IDF** serves 40 families with eviction orders in Khirbat Tana village nr. Nablus, declaring that the area is earmarked for a military training zone; enters a village nr. Salfit to order residents out of 20 homes in preparation for demolition (clashing with locals, leaving 6 Palestinians injured, including 2 journalists); patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 2 villages nr. Hebron at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Hebron and 1 village nr. Bethlehem at night. Suspected **Jewish settlers** cut down around 50 Palestinian-owned olive trees in a village nr. Rehelim settlement and leave "price tag" graffiti. (MNA, ToI 11/7; PCHR 11/14)

Syrian security forces seal the Damascus office of Hamas chief Khalid Mishal, abandoned by the Hamas leadership earlier in 2012. (REU 11/7)

8 NOVEMBER 2012

PA pres. Abbas circulates a draft resolution to UN member states, ahead of an expected vote later in the month on upgrading the Palestinian status to that of non-member observer state. The draft text includes the Palestinian commitment to the two-state solution. An anonymous Palestinian official says that **Arab League** foreign ministers will discuss the draft and the timing of the vote in a meeting in Cairo on 11/12–13. **Israeli FM Lieberman** warns of “far-reaching implications” to the UN bid, but Palestinian officials respond with their own threats, such as cancelling the 1994 Paris Protocol, should Israel impose sanctions on the PA after the vote. In meetings with **Quartet envoy Tony Blair** and the **U.S. and French consuls, PLO chief negotiator Saeb Erakat** says the UN bid does not contradict the two-state solution. (AP, REU 11/8; JP, MNA 11/9)

The **IDF** makes a brief incursion into the **Gaza Strip** nr. Khan Yunis, where troops are engaged by **armed PRC mbrs.**; the IDF fatally shoots a **Palestinian boy** during the gun battle. In response, **IQB mbrs.** detonate a bomb near the border fence, damaging an IDF jeep and wounding 1 soldier. In the West Bank, the **IDF** uproots trees on land belonging to Nahalin village nr. Bethlehem; patrols in 2 villages nr. Ramallah, 2 villages nr. Qalqilya, and 4 villages nr. Jenin in the morning; patrols in 1 village nr. Qalqilya, 1 nr. Jenin, and 1 nr. Ramallah (firing rubber bullets and tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians) at night; conducts late-night house searches and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Ramallah. (MNA, REU, YA 11/8; MNA 11/9; PCHR 11/14)

Three mortar shells fired from inside **Syria** land inside the Israeli-occupied **Golan Heights**, causing no injuries. (HA 11/8)

9 NOVEMBER 2012

Israel’s DM Barak says that **Iran** has slowed the timetable for enriching enough uranium to build nuclear weapons, extending Israel’s window of opportunity to strike Iran before it crosses Israel’s “red line” for production by 8 mos. (AP 11/9)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Hebron (firing tear gas at stone-throwing youths) in the morning, and in 2 villages nr. Jenin, 2 villages nr. Ramallah, and 1 village nr. Qalqilya at night. Officials in Palestinian communities in the **Jordan Valley** report that 100s of residents have received orders to evacuate their homes for the duration of an **IDF** training exercise. **Palestinians, Israelis, and international protesters** block the Gush Etzion junction in the southern West Bank, halting traffic for 15 minutes to protest settlements and their road network; 1 activist is arrested. The **IDF** opens fire with stun grenades and tear gas on Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists taking part in the weekly nonviolent demonstration against the settlement in Kafr Qaddum; Palestinian youths reply with stones; no serious injuries are reported. (972mag, MNA 11/9; PCHR 11/14)

10 NOVEMBER 2012

The **PA** denies reports that **Pres. Abbas** is considering postponing the UN bid and confirmed that he will submit the resolution for a vote later in 11/2012. **Israeli fin. min. Yuval Steinitz** says that Israel will stop collecting tax revenues for the PA if Abbas pursues the initiative. (JP, REU, ToI, Wafa 11/10; JP 11/11)

In the Gaza Strip, **armed Palestinians** fire an **anti-tank missile** at an **IDF** jeep on the border, injuring 4 soldiers. The **IDF** shells a residential area nr. Gaza City in response, killing **4 Palestinian civilians**, including 2 teenagers, and wounding 38 Palestinians (1 of whom subsequently dies of their wounds). The **IDF** also fires 2 shells at a village nr. Khan Yunis, injuring 11 civilians; makes an air strike on a group of **Islamic Jihad** mbrs., killing 1. **Unidentified Palestinians** then fire around 30 **rockets and mortars** into Israel, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Hebron, firing tear gas at stone-throwing Palestinians; conducts house search and arrest raids in 1 village nr. Qalqilya in the afternoon and in 1 village nr. Jenin at night. (REU 11/10; JP 11/11; PCHR 11/14)

11 NOVEMBER 2012

The **IDF** carries out air strikes on a number of targets in the **Gaza Strip**, killing **1 armed Palestinian** and wounding a number of civilians. **Palestinian groups** fire around 100 **rockets and mortars** into Israel, causing 3 injuries and structural damage. **Israeli PM Netanyahu** tells the weekly cabinet meeting that the army is prepared to intensify its attacks; a number of ministers urge an escalation in military operations (such as assassinations), as well as other measures, like cutting off electricity. A source in Netanyahu's office says that the PM is preparing international public opinion for a military operation in Gaza. (AP, HA 11/11; JP 11/12; PCHR 11/14)

U.S. pres. Barack Obama tells **PA pres. Abbas** that his administration opposes a Palestinian bid for non-state membership of the UN. Abbas tells a rally in Ramallah marking the anniversary of Yasir Arafat's death that the PA is under huge pressure to stop the UN initiative, but that they would continue regardless, as it is intended to save the two-state solution. (AFP, JP 11/11)

PA pres. Abbas announces that **Russia** will join an international investigation into whether **Yasir Arafat** was murdered. **French** and **Swiss** experts will exhume the late Palestinian leader's body later in the month, after an *Al Jazeera* report in July suggested he was murdered with polonium. (REU 11/11)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah and 1 village nr. Bethlehem (firing rubber bullets and tear gas at children going to school) in the morning; patrols in 2 villages nr. Tulkarm and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Hebron and 1 village nr. Ramallah. **Israeli police** deliver notices to 13 Israeli activists, banning them from taking part in weekly demonstrations in West Bank villages. (972mag 11/11; PCHR 11/14)

Israeli forces fire into **Syria** in what the military calls a warning, after stray munitions from fighting between Syrian troops and rebels hit the Israeli-occupied **Golan Heights**. The incident, described by Israel Radio as the 1st direct engagement of the Syrian military on the Golan since the countries' 1973 war, highlights international fears that Syria's civil war could ignite wider regional conflict. An Israeli security source said the military fired in the direction of a Syrian army mortar crew that had launched a shell that overshot the Golan disengagement fence on Sunday, exploding near a Jewish settlement without causing casualties. (REU 11/11)

12 NOVEMBER 2012

PA pres. Mahmud Abbas confirms that the bid for non-member observer state at the UN will be presented on 11/29. (BBC 11/12)

The **EU**, the **Netherlands**, and **Sweden** donate \$24 mi. to the **PA** to help pay 10/2011 salaries and pensions. (MNA 11/12)

Hamas and Islamic Jihad declare a cease-fire in Gaza, after reported mediation by **Egyptian intelligence officials**. Despite the cease-fire, Palestinian fighters fire 6 **rockets** from Gaza into Israel, causing no injuries—but this marks a huge reduction from the estimated 100 projectiles the previous day. The attacks are claimed by the **PFLP**, the **DFLP**, and the **PRCs**. Israel does not acknowledge the statement by the Palestinian factions. The **IDF** makes air strikes on 3 targets in Gaza, causing no injuries. (JP, REU 11/12; *Daily Star* [Beirut], REU 11/13)

The Israeli newspaper *Ha'Aretz* reports that **Israeli DM Barak** has approved a plan to expand the **Itamar settlement** to 5 times its size by adding 538 homes. Meanwhile, **Israeli authorities** demolish a home in the **East Jerusalem** neighborhood of the **Mount of Olives**, making 8 people homeless. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Ramallah in the morning and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in 2 villages nr. Hebron, 1 village nr. Tulkarm, and 1 village nr. Jenin at night. (HA 11/12; AIC 11/13; PCHR 11/14)

The **IDF** fires tank shells into **Syria** and hits a Syrian military mobile artillery unit, in response to a Syrian mortar shell that struck the occupied **Golan Heights** earlier in the day. (REU 11/12)

13 NOVEMBER 2012

An **IQB mbr.** dies of injuries sustained in an attack earlier on 11/10. His death brings the total number of fatalities in **Gaza** since 11/10 to 7, including 4 civilians, and around 40 wounded (16 Israelis have been injured, including 8 civilians). The 11/12 truce largely holds, though **unidentified Palestinians** fire 3 **rockets** during the day, causing no injuries but in 1 case damaging a greenhouse. The **IDF** strikes targets in the Gaza Strip early in the morning, causing no casualties. Some reports citing Israeli defense officials claim that Israel is considering renewing its assassination of militant leaders. But in a meeting with southern Israeli mayors, Netanyahu says Israel does not expect to embark on significant military action in Gaza or pursue assassinations. (AP, HA, MNA, REU 11/13)

China announces that it will support the **Palestinian** bid for UN observer status, while an EU spokesperson is quoted as saying that a dozen of the **EU mbr. states** will vote in favor. (JTA, REU 11/13)

In the West Bank, **Israeli forces** storm Husan village, w. of Bethlehem, at dawn and demolish an automobile repair shop. The **IDF** also conducts late-night patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho. (Wafa 11/13; PCHR 11/14)

14 NOVEMBER 2012

The **IDF** assassinates **Hamas commander Ahmad Jabari and his bodyguard** and separately kills 7 **other Palestinians** in a number of air strikes on military and civilian targets across the **Gaza Strip**, leaving around 90 wounded. The dead include 2 children and an elderly man. Code-named **Operation Pillar of Cloud** in Hebrew (a Torah reference) and renamed **Operation Pillar of Defense** for foreign audiences, the Israeli military attacks are described as the “beginning” of an effort to increase deterrence and remove Hamas’s rocket-launching capabilities. The **IQB** warns that Israel has “opened the gates of hell” with Jabari’s assassination, and fires dozens of **rockets and mortars** into Israel. They are joined by the **DFLP, Islamic Jihad, PFLP, and PRCs**, all of whom claim responsibility for rocket and mortar fire. In total, over 90 projectiles hit Israel from the Gaza Strip, causing 4 injuries. The Iron Dome rocket-defense system intercepts 30 rockets. Overnight, the **IDF** undertakes air strikes on around 100 sites across the Gaza Strip. **U.S. pres. Obama** calls **Israel PM**

Netanyahu to express his support for Israel's military operation and the country's right to self-defense. Obama also calls **Egyptian pres. Mohamed Morsi** to stress the importance of de-escalation and to pledge to stay in close touch. Egypt strongly condemns Israel's military assault, and **UN secy.-gen. Ban Ki-moon** calls for a cease-fire. The **UNSC** holds an emergency meeting but takes no action. (*Guardian*, REU 11/14; JP, MNA 11/15)

Unidentified assailants fire 4 rockets from **Egypt's Sinai Peninsula** into **Israel**, landing nr. an agricultural community and causing no injuries. (HA 11/14)

In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in 1 village nr. Jericho in the morning, in 1 village nr. Salfit in the afternoon, and in 2 villages nr. Jericho and 1 village nr. Ramallah at night; conducts house searches and arrest raids in Balata r.c. and 1 village nr. Hebron at night. **Palestinians** across the **West Bank** demonstrate to mark the day before the 24th anniversary of the PLO's declaration of independence, blocking roads nr. Bethlehem, Jericho, and Ramallah, and clashing with soldiers at checkpoints in Atara (nr. Ramallah) and Bethlehem. (AFP, PCHR 11/14)

Israeli DM Barak says that almost all the villages nr. the border with the Israeli-occupied **Golan Heights** are now controlled by the **Syrian opposition**. (AP 11/14)

On a 2d day of violent protests in Jordan against price hikes and in general opposition to King Abdullah's regime, **unidentified gunmen** attack 2 police stations, and ensuing clashes leave 1 protester dead—the 1st fatality in Jordanian demonstrations in 2012. (AP 11/15)

15 NOVEMBER 2012

Israel's military assault on the Gaza Strip (**Operation Pillar of Defense**) continues, and projectile fire from **Palestinian factions** into Israel intensifies. The **IDF** kills **9 Palestinians**, bringing the death toll since 11/14 to 19, including 6 children. The IDF claims to have struck a total of 300 "terror activity" sites in the Gaza Strip, deploying air strikes, tank, and naval shelling and destroying 70 unmanned missile launch sites. The **Israeli army** also calls up 30,000 army reservists to prepare for a potential ground invasion. **Three Israelis** are killed by a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip that hits a residential building in Kiryat Malakhi. The **IDF** cites an estimated 270 rockets fired by **Palestinian factions** since the start of the Israeli military assault, with over 100 shot down by the Iron Dome missile defense/intercept system. Meanwhile, the Israeli daily *Ha'Aretz* reports that **Hamas** leader **Ahmad Jabari** was negotiating a permanent truce agreement with Israel just hours before his assassination on 11/14 (see Selections from the Press in *JPS* 166). (BBC, HA, MNA, REU 11/15, 11/16)

Internationally, the **U.S.** continues to show support for Israel's operation, with the **Senate** unanimously passing a resolution backing Israel's right to defend itself (62 senators were cosponsors). **Egypt, Jordan, Russia, and Turkey** all condemn Israel's use of force as disproportionate, while **Hizballah** leader **Hasan Nasrallah** calls on Arab countries to support Hamas. **PA pres. Mahmud Abbas** calls for an urgent **Arab League** meeting, and **Egypt** and **Tunisia** announce plans to send delegations to the Gaza Strip on 11/16 and 11/18 respectively. (*Guardian*, REU, ToI 11/15)

For a 3d night, **Jordanians** in various cities across **Jordan** protest against **King Abdullah** and a reduction in public fuel subsidies. **Islamist opposition groups** vow to keep up the demonstrations. **Gunmen** attack 2 police stations, sparking a clash that leaves 1 attacker dead and 17 people injured (including 13 police officers). (AP, NYT 11/15)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AIC	(Alternative Information Center, Jerusalem)
AKH	(<i>al-Akhbar</i> , Cairo)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
CNN	(Cable News Network [Internet])
HA	(<i>Ha 'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
IDFS	(Israel Defense Force Spokesperson, [Internet])
IMEMC	(International Middle East Media Center, Bayt Sahur)
INN	(Israel National News [Internet])
JP	(<i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem)
JTA	(Jewish Telegraphic Agency [Internet])
MNA	(Ma'an News Agency, Bethlehem)
NYT	(<i>New York Times</i> , New York)
OCHA	(United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Weekly Briefing Notes, Jerusalem)
PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PNN	(Palestine News Network, Ramallah)
REU	(Reuters [Internet])
ToI	(<i>Times of Israel</i> , Jerusalem)
WAFA	(Palestine News Agency [Internet])
WP	(<i>Washington Post</i> , Washington)
WSJ	(<i>Wall Street Journal</i> , New York)
YA	(<i>Yedi'ot Aharonot</i> , Tel Aviv)
972mag	(+972 Magazine)