



The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

Silencing the Press

**Report on Israeli Attacks Against Media Workers in the
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)**



01 August 2011 - 31 December 2012



The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

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The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights is an independent non-profit legal agency based in Gaza city. The Centre was established in April 1995 by a group of Palestinian lawyers and human rights activists in order to protect human rights and promote the rule of law in accordance with international standards, create and develop democratic institutions and an active civil society in Palestine in accordance with internationally accepted standards and practices and support all efforts aimed at enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights according to international law.

The Centre enjoys Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nations. It was granted three international prominent awards for its efforts in the field of human rights:

1. The 1996 French Republic Award on Human Rights; and
2. The 2002 Bruno Kreisky Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Area of Human Rights; and
3. The 2003 International Service Human Rights Award (UNAIS).

The Centre has wide relationships with human rights and civil society organizations throughout the world. It is an affiliate of five international and Arab human rights organizations, which are active in the international arena:

International Commission of Jurists

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), headquartered in Geneva, is a non-governmental organisation in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, UNESCO, and the Council of Europe and the OAU. Founded in 1952, its task is to defend the rule of law throughout the world and to work towards the full observance of the provisions in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. its membership is composed of sixty eminent jurists who are representatives of the different legal systems of the world.

Federation Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme

The Federation Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH) is an international non-governmental organisation dedicated to the world-wide defence of human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. Founded in 1922, FIDH has eighty-nine national affiliates in all regions.

Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network

The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (Euro-Med Network) is a network of human rights organisations and individuals from the Middle East, North Africa and the European Union, established in 1997. The overall objective of the Network is to contribute to the protection of the human rights principles embodied in the Barcelona Declaration of 1995.

International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC)

The International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) is one of the most important international legal bodies. It is specialized in legal and judicial training. It includes more than 30 members of distinguished legal organizations throughout the world, including American Bar Association; Arab Lawyers Union; and Bar Council of England and Wales.

The Arab Organization for Human Rights

It is an NGO founded in 1983. It calls for respect and promotion of human and people rights and fundamental freedoms in the Arab World for all individuals on its land in accordance with international human rights instruments. The Organization signed an agreement with Egypt in May 2000, according to which its headquarter was moved from Limassol in Cyprus to Cairo.



The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights is an independent non-profit non-governmental organisation dedicated to the protection and promotion of human rights, the rule of law, and democratic principles in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

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“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

- 1. “Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.”**
- 2. “Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.”**

Article 19, Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966).

- 1. “Journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians ...”**
- 2. “They shall be protected as such under the Conventions and this protocol, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians...”**

Article 79, Paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions 1949

Introduction

Israeli Occupation Forces have continued to systematically attack local and international media workers,¹ who are interested in covering the area, despite the protection extended to them under international law. These violations are part of the ongoing escalation in war crimes and other violations of the international human rights law and international humanitarian law (IHL) by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians. It is clear that the Israeli practices against media workers, including killings and threats to their personal safety, is part of a well-planned scheme to isolate the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) from the rest of the world and to provide cover for crimes against civilians².

This report is the 15th in an ongoing series of “Silencing the Press” reports issued by the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR). It covers the period from 01 August 2011 – 31 December 2012, and shows a significant escalation of Israeli attacks and violations against media workers in the oPt.

This report aims to document the attacks by Israeli forces and Israeli settlers against media workers. It includes detailed accounts of all Israeli forces' attacks on media workers and media institutions, as documented by PCHR. This documentation is supported by testimonies of victims and eyewitnesses and by field investigations. PCHR's investigations refute many of the Israeli forces' claims regarding certain crimes, including killings³ and opening fire on media workers. PCHR believes that these crimes were committed willfully using excessive lethal force, without taking into consideration the principles of distinction and proportionality, and that these crimes were not justified by military necessity. This report documents 113 attacks by Israeli forces against media workers and media institutions during the reporting period including: violations of media workers' right to life and right to safety and security of person; beating media workers and subjecting them to other means of violence as well as humiliating and degrading treatment; arresting and holding media workers; denying media workers access to certain areas and preventing them from covering certain incidents; confiscation of media equipment and devices; preventing media workers from travelling abroad; raiding the homes of media workers; and destroying equipment and cars of media workers whilst on duty.

Furthermore, Israeli forces' crimes against media workers come to light in this report in the period of the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, "Operation Pillar of Defense," (14 – 21 November 2012), while media workers worked professionally to cover the offensive. These attacks took place in spite of the protection extended to media workers under international law. The most dangerous of these attacks was the Israeli forces' killing of 4 media workers, as well as the targeting of a number of media offices in Gaza City, which resulted in wounding 14 of them.

During the reporting period, another significant aspect was the Israeli forces' attacks against media workers on duty covering peaceful demonstrations organized by dozens of Palestinian civilians and international solidarity activists protesting the confiscation of Palestinian land in the West Bank for the construction of the annexation wall or expansion of Israeli settlements. In many of the documented incidents, media workers sustained serious wounds. On the other hand, the number of violations committed in the Gaza Strip decreased for its particularity after the Israeli unilateral withdrawal from it. Still, a number of violations were documented in the Strip (in previous reports) and were relevant to

¹ Media workers include journalists, reporters, cameramen and workers at press offices.

² The isolation policy adopted by Israeli forces is not limited to attacks and violations against media workers, as Israeli forces, for example, impose severe restrictions on the entry of internationals to the oPt, especially the Gaza Strip. This is also an attempt to isolate the oPt from the world in order to cover its crimes against Palestinian civilians.

³ For more details about killing crimes committed by Israeli forces against media workers, see the series of “Silencing the Press” reports.

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violent dispersal of peaceful demonstrations near the border fence or to the banning of media workers from travelling out of the Gaza Strip through the Israeli-controlled crossings.

Violation of the right to life and the right to safety and security of person are the most significant violations committed by Israeli forces against media workers. PCHR has documented that the Israeli forces killed 15 media workers while on duty in the oPt between 28 September 2000 and 31 December 2012.⁴

During the reporting period, PCHR documented various violations committed against media workers by Israeli forces in the oPt, and they were as follows:

- 4 killing cases, the victims of which were two journalists and two other media professionals;
- 33 shooting incidents, which led to wounding a number of media workers;
- 12 cases in which Israeli forces beat media workers and subjected them to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment;
- 21 cases in which media workers were arrested and detained;
- 9 cases in which media workers were denied their right to carry out their job;
- 8 cases in which press cards and media equipment and material was confiscated;
- 3 cases in which the homes of media workers were raided; and
- 6 cases in which media offices were shelled, raided or searched.

According to PCHR's documentation, between 28 September 2000 and 31 December 2012, Israeli forces violated and carried out 1,475 attacks against media workers. It should be noted that there are dozens of attacks that were not documented; in addition to shooting crimes which resulted in killing media workers as illustrated in the attached table (1). Israeli violations since the outbreak of the al-Aqsa Intifada until 31 December 2012 were as follows:

- 15 cases of killing (a violation of the right to life and personal safety);
- 445 firing cases, in which 333 media workers were wounded;
- 275 cases in which Israeli forces beat media workers and subjected them to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment;
- 337 cases in which media workers were arrested and held;
- 161 cases in which media workers were denied their right to carry out their job;
- 103 cases in which press cards, media equipment and material were confiscated;
- 100 cases in which media institutions were bombarded, raided and searched or closed;
- 15 cases in which media workers were prevented from travelling abroad; and
- 24 cases in which the homes of media workers were raided and searched.

In the light of the above, it is obvious that there is a continued escalation of attacks by Israeli forces against media workers working in the oPt, and there is a significant escalation in violations of the right to life and right to safety and security of person in particular.

No serious investigations have been conducted into attacks by Israeli forces against media workers, in keeping with the overall trend of impunity concerning crimes committed by the Israeli forces against civilians in the oPt.

⁴ The statistics of media workers do not include the deaths mentioned in this report. A number of media workers were killed in conditions unrelated to their work between 28 September 2000 and 31 July 2011. Review **appendix I** titled "Table: Media Workers Killed While on the Job".

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PCHR is deeply concerned about such attacks by the Israeli forces against media workers, and stresses that they are an expression of the excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians, which have led to deaths in some cases. These attacks reflect as well the scale of the killings and destruction carried out by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians and their property.

PCHR has worked on unveiling the crimes and violations committed by Israeli forces against media workers according to a specific categorization depending on the type of attack. These cases were categorized according to the most prominent of violations, especially that many of the cases which were documented by PCHR included multiple violations within one incident.

I: Targeting of media workers and media offices during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip

Israeli forces carried out an offensive on the Gaza Strip, operation "Pillar of Defense," in the period 14 – 21 November 2012, during which they escalated the attacks against media workers, professionals and offices. During the offensive, Israeli forces committed 4 killings, the victims of which were: Ramez Harb, Media Officer of the al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of the Islamic Jihad, in Gaza area; Hussam Salama and Mahmoud al-Koumi, media workers at al-Aqsa Satellite Channel; and Mohammed Bader, a media professional at the media office of the al-Quds Brigades. Furthermore, Israeli forces bombarded and destroyed media offices in Gaza: The main office of al-Quds Satellite Channel in Shawwa and Hosari tower building; the office of the al-Aqsa Television in al-Shorouq tower building; and the office of Ghazzi al-Sourani, a Palestinian writer, in Ne'ma building. As a result of these attacks, 12 media workers were wounded aside from the massive damage inflicted on the offices and their contents. It should be mentioned that the afore-mentioned tower buildings include a large number of media offices of local and international agencies, which sustained extensive material damages. These attacks took place in spite of the protection extended to media workers under international law.

1. Killings

- On 19 November 2012, Israeli warplanes fired 2 missiles at the 3rd floor of al-Shorouq building in the center of Gaza City. The attack targeted the media office of Islamic Jihad, and a result of it, Ramez Najeeb Harb, 36, the media officer of the al-Quds Brigades (the armed wing of Islamic Jihad) was killed and another member of Islamic Jihad was wounded. Israeli forces declared the following day on its official website that they have targeted and killed Ramez Harb. Additionally, 2 journalists in other offices on the same floor suffered from severe suffocation due to the outbreak of fire in the building following the bombardment: Ahmed al-Raizi, 28, correspondent of al-Arabiya News channel; and Mohammed al-Ashqar, from Hona al-Quds Television. PCHR's investigations prove that Harb's role was limited to the media part in al-Quds Brigades, which gives him protection under IHL.
- On 20 November 2012, Hussam Mohammed Salama, 30, and Mahmoud Ali al-Koumi, 29, cameramen of the Gaza-based al-Aqsa Satellite Channel, were killed when the Israeli airplanes targeted the civilian car they were traveling in, which was clearly marked with 'TV'. They were traveling on al-Shifa Street in the west of Gaza City on their way to Shifa Hospital in order to film the admission of victims of Israeli attacks into the hospital. As a result of the attack, the two journalists were instantly killed.
- On the same day, 20 November, Mohammed Abed-Rabboh Bader, 24, a media officer of the al-Quds Brigades, was killed while taking pictures of a number of Palestinians who were near the campus of Palestine Technical College in the north of Deir al-Balah, in the center of the Gaza Strip, after an

Israeli warplane fired a missile towards them. According to PCHR's investigations, Bader's role was limited to the media part in al-Quds Brigades, which gives him protection under IHL.

2. Targeting of media offices

- At approximately 01:35 on 18 November 2012, Israeli warplanes fired 4 missiles at the office of al-Quds Satellite Channel, which is located on the top floor of the 11-storey Shawa and Hussari tower building in Gaza City. The missiles penetrated the roof of the building and exploded inside the office. As a result, 7 journalists and trainees who were in the office were wounded. The wounds of two were described as serious: Khader al-Zahhar, 20, who lost his leg in the attack and sustained shrapnel wounds throughout his body and his condition was described as critical; and Mohammed al-Akhras, 20, who sustained extensive shrapnel wounds. The other persons who were wounded are: Ibrahim Lubbad, 22, Omar al-Efranji, 18, and Hussein al-Madhoun, 22, who sustained bruises throughout their bodies; and Hazem al-Da'our, 25, and Darwish Bulbol, 29, who suffered from temporary suffocation. They were all taken to Shifa Hospital for treatment. Furthermore, the explosion of the missiles resulted in the complete destruction of the office, as the missiles targeted the editing, filming, studio and archive departments, as well as the offices of al-Quds radio station and Ramatan News Agency, located in the same building. It should be mentioned that Shawa and Hussari tower building is crowded with media institutions and satellite channels.
- At approximately 07:00 on 18 November 2012, a single missile was fired at the office of al-Aqsa Television on the 15th floor of al-Shorouq tower building in the center of Gaza city. The missile penetrated to the 14th floor and exploded inside the offices of Palestine Media Production (PMP). As a result, 3 journalists were moderately wounded and were taken to Shifa Hospital for treatment. The wounded journalists were identified as: Mazen Naeem, 27, Correspondent of Press TV, which is one of the international channels that receive services from PMP; and Mohammed al-Sharafi, 30, and Mohammed al-Mubayad, 25, both cameramen of PMP. As a result of the attack, the offices of al-Aqsa Television and PMP sustained severe damages and some partial damages were inflicted upon the offices of Mayadeen Channel, Press TV, Sky News, and Dubai Channel.
- Also on 18 November, media reports indicated that Israeli forces requested international journalists to leave al-Shorouq tower building in Gaza City. It is worth noting that many local and international press and media outlets use these offices, including Fox News, Abu Dhabi Satellite Channel, Dubai Channel, al-Arabiya News Channel, MBC and PMP, which provides media services to many international televisions.
- In the early morning of 18 November, Israeli forces jammed the broadcasts of a number of local radio stations, and broadcast messages on the waves of these stations. Further to this, 4 local news websites were hacked by Israeli forces.
- At approximately 21:50 on 20 November 2012, Israeli warplanes fired two missiles towards the office of Ghazzi Sourani, a Palestinian writer, located on the 6th floor of Ne'ma tower in al-Kenz Street, in the center of Gaza city; as a result, the building sustained partial damages.
- At approximately 02:00 on 21 November 2012, Israeli warplanes fired two missiles at an open area across the street from the Orient/Beach Hotel on Beach Road, where dozens of international journalists and reporters are based. Jarkko Tiitinen, a Finnish freelance journalist, stated to PCHR that the explosion from the first missile caused the electricity supplies to the hotel to be cut. He reported that the second missile caused secondary damage to the hotel building and wounded a staff member of the hotel. All windows and glass doors in the hotel were shattered.

II: Other violations against media workers for local and international media

1. Violation of the Right to Life and Security of Person

In this report, PCHR has documented the continued Israeli violations of the right to life and security of person of media workers, including shootings which led to wounding media workers while in the field. PCHR has documented 16 cases of shooting wounding 21 media workers. These cases include injuries resulting from live bullets, rubber-coated metal bullets, sound bombs and tear gas canisters, and do not include the cases where media workers were wounded during the offensive on the Gaza Strip. Most of the attacks were committed in the West Bank, particularly Jerusalem, border areas or areas close to settlements. They were as follows:

- On 18 September 2011, Mahmoud Elian, a photojournalist of al-Quds Newspaper, sustained a rubber-coated metal bullet wound in the waist while covering clashes between Palestinian youths and Israeli forces in Sho'fat refugee camp in the occupied East Jerusalem. Elian was doing his job from a distance from the clashes, when an Israeli soldier fired at him directly, wounding him in the waist. Elian was taken to a medical center in the camp where he received the necessary treatment.
- On 03 October 2011, photojournalist Atta 'Owisat sustained critical wounds to the head after an extremist Israeli attacked him with a heavy object to the head while covering the activities a group of them were holding in the occupied East Jerusalem. 'Owisat lost consciousness instantly after being hit directly to the head and was taken to Hadasa Ein Kerem Hospital in the city for treatment, where it was found that he sustained a wound in the head that required 5 stitches.
- On 05 October 2011, 3 Palestinian journalists were hit with tear gas canisters that were fired by Israeli soldiers while the journalists were covering the settlers' raid of the yards of al-Aqsa mosque, in the occupied East Jerusalem. The wounded media workers were:
 1. Mo'mar 'Awad, a photojournalist for Xinhua News Agency, hit with a tear gas canister to the abdomen and foot, causing him to sustain a number of burns and bruises.
 2. Ammar Awad, a photojournalist for Reuters News Agency, hit by a tear gas canister to the right foot, which led to its fracture.
 3. Maissa Abu-Ghazala, a freelance journalist, who sustained bruises.
- On 27 January 2012 Mohib Mohammed al-Barghouthy, a photojournalist of al-Hayat al-Jadeeda newspaper, sustained two bullet wounds in both his legs when Israeli forces fired at him while he was covering the forces' assault on the participants of a peaceful demonstration in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah, in the center of the West Bank. Al-Barghouthy was taken to Palestine Health Complex immediately where his wounds were described as moderate.
- Also on 27 January 2012, Mohammed Attya al-Tamimi, a photojournalist of the media office of the Popular Movement against the Construction of the Wall and Settlement Activity in Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah, in the center of the West Bank, was hit by a tear gas canister to his right foot while covering the Israeli forces' attacks on the participants in Nabi Saleh weekly peaceful demonstration against the confiscation of the village's lands for the expansion of settlements.
- On 10 February 2012, Israeli forces fired tear gas canisters at media workers who were covering the forces' assaults on the participants in the weekly peaceful demonstration against the construction of the wall and settlement activity in Nabi Saleh village. As a result, Hamza al-Nu'ayja, a

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photojournalist of TRT, a Turkish channel, was hit by a tear gas canister to the back; and an American journalist called Carlos, who works for the New York Times, was hit by a tear gas canister to the right shoulder. The wounded journalists were treated on the spot by medical crews.

- Also on 10 February 2012, Baker Mohammed Abdel-Haq, a correspondent of the local Nablus TV, was hit with a tear gas canister directly to the abdomen by an Israeli soldier while on duty in Kufor Kadoum village, northeast of Nablus in the north of the West Bank. Abdel-Haq was covering the Israeli forces' attacks against the Palestinian and international participants in a peaceful demonstration that was organized in the village in protest to the continued closure of its eastern entrance by Israeli forces. In his testimony to a PCHR fieldworker, Abdel-Haq said:

"While I was covering the demonstration at noon on Friday, in Kufor Kadoum, northeast of Nablus, Israeli forces, stationed at the eastern entrance of the village, fired large numbers of tear gas canisters at the demonstrators. As a result, I was hit with a tear gas canister directly to the abdomen, even though I was wearing a proof vest, and I passed out instantly. Volunteers took me to a nearby location and I was resuscitated in the field."

- On 11 February 2012, 4 Palestinian journalists were wounded by Israeli rubber-coated bullets while on duty, covering the peaceful demonstration of the families of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails near Ofer prison, southwest of Ramallah. The wounded journalists are:
 1. Essam al-Remawy, a photojournalist of al-Hayat al-Jadeeda newspaper, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the right leg.
 2. Mohammed Turkman, a photojournalist of Reuters News Agency, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the right thigh.
 3. Sarah al-'Adra, a correspondent of Palestine TV, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the right leg.
 4. Burnat Arna'out, who works for Associated Press (AP) News Agency, wounded by a bullet wound to the right thigh.

Dozens of Palestinian civilians and families of prisoners participated in a peaceful demonstration in solidarity with Khader Adnan, an administrative detainee at the time. The demonstration started from Beir Zait University near Ramallah and headed towards Ofer prison.

- On 06 April 2012, Ahmed Jamal Daghlas, a freelance photojournalist, was hit in the head by a tear gas canister that was fired by an Israeli soldier while the Daghlas was on duty in Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah, covering the Israeli assaults against the peaceful demonstration in the village.
- On 11 May 2012, 3 journalists were hit by tear gas canisters fired directly by Israeli soldiers as they were covering the Israeli forces' assault on a peaceful demonstration in Kufor Kadoum village, northeast of Qalqilya. Israeli soldiers beat the demonstrators, and fired tear gas canisters and sound bombs at them. The wounded journalists are:
 1. Ajwad Jaradat, a correspondent for Palestine TV, hit with a tear gas canister to the right leg;
 2. Ja'far Eshtya, a photographer for ASB news agency, hit in the abdomen by a tear gas canister; and
 3. 'Alaa Badarna, a freelance journalist, hit in the abdomen by a tear gas canister.
- On 15 June 2012, Belal Abdel-Salam al-Tamimi, a photographer for the Popular Committee against the Wall, sustained wounds from a rubber-coated metal bullet in the right thigh, while covering the Nabi Saleh peaceful demonstration against the wall and settlement activity and Israeli forces' use of excessive force to disperse them, using live ammunition, rubber-coated metal bullets, tear gas canisters, sound bombs and waste water.

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- On 13 July 2012, an Israeli soldier fired a tear gas canister directly at Haytham Mohammed al-Khatib, a photographer of the Popular Committee against the Wall and Settlement Activity, while on duty in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah, covering Israeli forces' assault on a peaceful demonstration against the wall and settlement activity; as a result, his right hand was wounded.
- On 03 August 2012, Ahsraf Abu-Shawysh, a photojournalist of Pal Media for media production company, was hit in the right leg by a tear gas canister that was fired directly at him by an Israeli soldier while he was covering a peaceful demonstration in Kufor Kadoum village, east of Qalqilya, in protest to the continued closure of the village's eastern entrance. Also, another participant in the demonstration was hit by a tear gas canister.
- On 24 August 2012, David Katzenberg, a Canadian journalist was hit by a tear gas canister to the right hand and leg while covering Israeli forces' excessive use of force against the participants in a peaceful demonstration against the wall and settlement activity in Bil'in, west of Ramallah. Katzenberg received medical treatment in the field by Palestinian crews that were present at the scene.

5. Beating, Humiliation and Inhumane and Degrading Treatment

PCHR has documented 12 cases in which media workers were subjected to beating and other forms of violence and inhumane and degrading treatment by Israeli forces and Israeli settlers.

- On 20 April 2013, Abdel-Salam Tamimi, a photojournalist of the Popular Committee against the Wall and Settlement Activity, was severely beaten by Israeli soldiers while he was on duty in Nabi Saleh village, covering Israeli forces' excessive use of force against the village's weekly peaceful demonstration against the wall and settlement activity. He was intercepted by a number of Israeli soldiers who started beating him and destroyed his camera. Afterwards, Tamimi was taken to the detention center in Ofer prison, where he was detained for a number of hours.
- On 24 July 2012, Iman Abu-Shamsia, cameraman for B'Tselem - The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, was severely beaten by Israeli soldiers while he was covering Tal al-Rmyda neighborhood in Hebron when large numbers of Israeli soldiers moved into it and raided two houses, which are the property of Abu-Eisha family. Furthermore, the soldiers confiscated Abu-Shamsia's camera.
- On 12 December 2012, 4 Palestinian media workers were severely beaten and had tear gas canisters fired directly at them by Israeli soldiers while on duty, as they were covering the killing incident of Mohammed Salyma, who was killed on 11 December by an Israeli soldier in Hebron in the south of the West Bank. The assaulted media workers are: Ma'moun Wazwaz and Yusry al-Jamal, and they are photojournalists for Reuters; Akram al-Natsha, a correspondent for al-Quds Satellite Channel; and Mohammed al-Hur, a freelance journalist. The aforementioned media workers were traveling in a car that was clearly marked with the word "Press" while on their way to the old town of Hebron when an Israeli force intercepted them approximately 500 meters from the town. The soldiers started firing their weapons into the air and pointing their laser rays at the media workers, who stopped their car and showed their press cards. However, the soldiers ordered them to step down from the car and beat them severely. Furthermore, they were forced to take their clothes off in spite of the cold weather. Afterwards, the soldiers fired a number of tear gas canisters at the media workers' feet; thus, they suffered from severe suffocation due to tear gas inhalation.

3. Detention and Holding of Media Workers

During the reporting period, dozens of media workers were detained or held by Israeli forces. PCHR documented 21 cases of detaining or holding media workers.

- On 21 August 2011, at early morning hours, Israeli forces moved into al-Duhaisha refugee camp, south of Bethlehem. They violently raided the house of Usaid Abdul Majid 'Ata al-'Amarna, 26, a journalist working for the al-Aqsa Television. The soldiers searched the house after they held the family and fired indiscriminately inside the house and arrested Usaid. He was released on 28 August 2011 after being subjected to continued interrogation on the nature of his media work and the professional covering of the incidents that occur in the West Bank.
- On 21 August 2011, Israel forces arrested Amer Abu 'Arafa, a correspondent of Shehab News Agency, after Israeli forces raided his house, which is located in Hebron in the south of the West Bank. On 31 August 2011, an Israeli military court issued an order to detain Abu 'Arafa administratively for 6 months.
- On 27 August 2011, Israeli forces detained Louai Sababa, a photojournalist of Maan News Agency, after they confiscated his press card and ID, while he was covering Israeli forces' assaults against a peaceful demonstration in al-Walja village in Bethlehem governorate in the West Bank. Sababa who was detained for approximately an hour, was released later and his cards were returned to him.
- On 18 September 2011, Israeli soldiers detained 3 Palestinian journalists while on duty covering the establishment of a new settlement neighborhood near "Gosh Atzion" settlement, which is established on Palestinian civilians' lands in the south of Bethlehem. The detained media workers are: 1. Mahmoud 'Elian, works for al-Quds newspaper; 2. Fares Redwan, works for Palestine TV; and 3. A Canadian photojournalist. The detention of the journalists lasted for approximately 2 hours.
- On 28 December 2011, Israeli forces arrested journalist Amine Abu Warda (46) after they raided his house, which is located in al-Quds Street in Nablus in the north of the West Bank. The forces transferred Abu Warda to the interrogation facility in "Petah Tikva." On 04 January 2012, Abu Warda was presented before a judge in the Israeli military court in Salem camp, west of Jenin, where his detention was extended by 12 days, pending investigations. On 10 October 2012, Abu Warda was released after having spent 10 months under administrative detention in Israeli jails. It should be mentioned that Abu Warda works as a correspondent of Palestine News Network, the UAE al-Khaleej newspaper, and is a lecturer at al-Najah National University and al-Quds Open University.
- On 03 February 2012, Israeli soldiers detained the crew of Palestine Satellite Channel, which included correspondent Ali Dar Ali; and photojournalist Najib-Allah Sharawna, while they were covering the soldiers' attacks against the peaceful demonstration in Nabi Saleh village against the war and settlement activity. They were detained for 4 hours inside an Israeli military SUV, and were released later.
- On 03 April 2012, Israeli forces arrested Mohammed Anwar Muna, a correspondent to al-Quds Press news website, after they raided his house in Nablus. The forces took him to Hawara detention center, and then to Salem camp, which is established on Palestinian civilians' lands in Jenin. Muna was released on 09 April 2013.
- On 20 April 2012, Israeli forces detained Ali Hamdan Abu-Rahma, a photographer of the Popular Committee against the Wall and Settlement Activity in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah, while he was covering the forces' assaults on the peaceful demonstration against the wall and settlement activities in the village. He was released an hour later.

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- On 13 July 2012, an American journalist, Ben Ehrenreich, a reporter of the New York Times Magazine, was detained by Israeli forces while covering the weekly peaceful demonstration against the wall and settlement activities in Nabi Saleh village. Ehrenreich was detained for 3 hours before he was released.

- On 17 August 2012, 6 Palestinian media workers were detained for several hours, and 4 of them were severely beaten by Israeli soldiers while they were covering the peaceful demonstration against the construction of the wall and settlement activity in Kufor Kadoum village near Qalqilya. The soldiers took the detained journalists to Kedumim military post, which is established on Palestinian civilians' lands in the east of Qalqilya. The forces forced the media workers to sign an oath not to enter Kufor Kadoum village again. The detained and beaten journalists are:
 1. Ja'far Zahed Eshtya, a photojournalist of France Press Agency (A.F.P); his left arm was broken due to the beating;
 2. Baker Mohammed-Sabbah Abdel-Haq, a correspondent and photojournalist of the local Nablus TV; he sustained bruises across his body due to the beating;
 3. Fares Mahmoud Fares, a photojournalist of Ramsat media agency; he sustained bruises across the body;
 4. Nedal Shafiq Eshtya, a photojournalist of a Chinese news agency; he sustained bruises across his body;
 5. Noah Obaid Qadumi, a photojournalist for al-Fajr local TV, located in Tulkarm; and
 6. 'Oday 'Akel Jum'a, a photojournalist of B'Tselem.

- On 31 August 2012, Israeli forces detained Belal Abdel-Salam Tamimi, a photographer for the Popular Committee against the Wall and Settlement Activity, while covering Israeli forces' excessive use of force against the village's peaceful demonstration against the wall and settlement activity in Nabi Saleh. Tamimi, along with 3 other Palestinians including two girls, were taken to Bejnaimn military post, which is established on Palesinians' land in the southeast of Ramallah, under the pretext of entering a closed military area. All detainees were released around midnight after their families paid their bailouts.

- On 23 November 2012, Shakekh Jareh Jaghoub, a photojournalist for Palestine Satellite Channel, was detained and beaten by Israeli forces while he was covering Israeli forces' assaults on a peaceful demonstration against the construction of the wall and settlement activity in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah. Jaghoub had photographed the forces' assaults against Palestinian civilians and international human rights activists who were participating in the demonstration when a number of soldiers intercepted him, detained him and viewed the material he had on the memory card of his camera; he was also severely beaten by the soldiers before being released.

4. Raiding Media Offices

PCHR documented 2 cases in which Israeli forces raided and searched media offices; and these attacks were as follows:

On 29 February 2012, Israeli forces stormed the offices of Watan TV and Al-Quds Educational TV in Ramallah and al-Bireh, searched the offices and confiscated their equipment.

- According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 02:00 Israeli forces stormed the fourth and fifth floors of the building of the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees in Qaddoura refugee camp in the centre of Ramallah, where officers of Watan TV are located. At the time of this raid, 4 staff members were in their office: Abdul Rahman As'ad Dhaher, Production Manager; Ahmed Zaki, Transmission Supervisor; Hamza Salaima, Reporter; and Ibrahim Melhem. The soldiers broke into the place without presenting any search warrant or giving any explanation. During this raid, Israeli soldiers searched each office and confiscated the major transmitter of the station, computers, files and recording tapes, and took them away in carton boxes that they brought with them.

The confiscated materials are: the major transmitter of the station, 9 PCs for the news unit, 2 PCs for the IT unit, a PC for the finance unit, a PC for the head of the personnel, 2 PCs for the production unit, 1 PC for the secretary unit and a laptop. They also confiscated tapes that had the activities and programs of the station, and folders related to the work of the finance unit, as well as projects and contracts with companies and clients.

At approximately 03:30 on the same day, Israeli soldiers stormed offices of Al-Quds Educational TV in al-Quds Streets in al-Bireh. A number of soldiers climbed the fence surrounding the building and jumped into the yard. They used some tools in an attempt to break the lock of the main entrance of the building. When the guard heard violent knocking on the door, he showed up to ensure that the soldiers would not break the door. Nevertheless, he was surprised to find that Israeli soldiers had broken the door of the internet room. They confiscated the major transmitter and left the building. It should be noted that the building of al-Quds Educational TV is comprised of 3 floors, and belongs to al-Quds University.

5. Restrictions on the Freedom of Movement

Restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement are a form of collective punishment of Palestinian civilians in the oPt practiced by Israeli forces, along with the closure that it imposes on the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip. Israeli forces do not allow movement between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, except for very limited and exceptional cases. Media workers face extreme difficulties in covering events, as they cannot reach locations. Restrictions on the movement of media workers include: denial of permission to travel abroad; denial of movement between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; denial of movement from one area to another in the West Bank by military checkpoints; and denial of access to locations where incidents have taken place. Therefore, this type of violations is unlimited and all local and international media workers experience daily hardship due to these restrictions.

i. Denial of Access to Locations of Incidents

According to investigations conducted by PCHR, 9 cases of media workers were denied access to locations of incidents and 8 cases were subjected to confiscation of press cards, equipment and material.

- On 19 August 2011, Israeli forces prevented the al-Jazeera crew, which included correspondent Shireen Abu-'Akla and cameraman Nabil Mazawy from covering the access of worshipers to the al-Aqsa mosque in the occupied East Jerusalem. Abu-Akla was doing a live coverage of the worshipers' arrival at the mosque for the Friday prayer when members of the crew were intercepted by a number of Israeli soldiers who banned them from filming. Also, Mazawy was beaten by Israeli soldiers during their attempt to stop the crew from filming the event.
- On 20 November 2011, Israeli soldiers prevented media workers, Fadi 'Aroury, who works for Xinhua News Agency, and Iyad Jadallah, who works for Wafa – Palestinian News and Information Agency, from completing their work near 'Attara military checkpoint, which is established in the north of Ramallah, in the center of the West Bank. 'Aroury and Jadallah worked on covering the clashes that started between Palestinian youths and Israeli soldiers stationed at the checkpoint, as Israeli soldiers approached them and forced them to stop their work.
- On 23 January 2012, Israeli forces denied local and international media workers access to the northern area of al-'Oja village, northeast of Jericho in the east of the West Bank, under the pretext of it being a closed military area. A large unit of the Israeli forces, accompanied by two military bulldozers, moved into the northern area of al-'Oja village early that morning and bulldozed 9 under-construction-shops.
- On 31 January 2012, Rasem 'Inad 'Obidat, a columnist and social activist from the occupied East Jerusalem, went to al-Maskoubya interrogation center upon receiving a prior summon from Israeli security services. 'Obidat received an order issued by the Israeli GOC Central Command, Avi Mizrahi, banning him from entering “Judea and Samaria” (the West Bank), to ensure the security of the area and civilians.
- On 16 March 2012, Israeli soldiers confiscated Mousa al-Sha'er's camera, who works for AFP, while covering Israeli forces' assaults on the participants in the peaceful demonstration against the construction of the annexation wall in al-Ma'sra village, south of Bethlehem. Al-Sha'er was filming Israeli soldiers' assaults on 4 international human rights activists in the village when his camera was confiscated. The soldiers destroyed the camera and returned it to him.
- On 17 June 2012, Israeli forces prevented journalist Mo'yad al-Ashqar, who works for Maan news agency and AP, from filming in Tulkarm, in the north of the West Bank. Journalist al-Ashqar was covering Israeli forces' incursion into the southern neighborhood of Tulkarm when Israeli soldiers intercepted him and prevented him from filming.
- On 13 December 2012, Israeli forces prevented 4 media workers who work for international media agencies, from doing their job and detained one of them while they were covering the incidents that took place when Israeli forces used excessive force to disperse Palestinian protestors in Hebron in the south of the West Bank. The media workers are: Nasser al-Shuokhy, who works for AP; Hazem Bader, who works for AFP; Abdul-Hafiz al-Hashlamon, who works for the European News Agency (EPA); and 'Ammar 'Awad, who works for Reuters. The media workers were near Tariq Bin Ziad School in Hebron when the soldiers intercepted them and prevented them from filming under the pretext that the area is closed for military purposes. The media workers refused to stop filming; therefore, Israeli soldiers handcuffed Hazem Bader, beat him and detained him for approximately an hour. He was released following AFP's intervention.

Raiding Media Workers' Homes

PCHR documented 3 cases in which Israeli forces raided and searched the homes of Palestinian media workers in the West Bank.

- On 12 January 2012, Israeli forces raided the house of Amine Abdel-'Aziz Abu-Warda, a journalist and a lecturer in the media college at al-Najah National University, which is located in al-Quds Street in Nablus in the north of the West Bank. The forces searched Abu-Warda's house after detaining his family in a room. They confiscated a laptop, a hard drive and papers related to his work.

In the meantime, another unit of the Israeli forces raided Abu-Warda's office, which is located on the 3rd floor of al-Takrouy building in the Western Complex of Nabuls, after breaking into the front gate. The soldiers searched the office and confiscated a laptop, two hard drives and a camera's memory card.

It should be mentioned that Israeli forces had arrested Abu-Warda (46) from his house on 28 December 2011 and took him to "Petah Tikva" interrogation center. On 04 January 2012, Abu Warda was presented before a judge in the Israeli military court in Salem camp, west of Jenin, where his detention was extended to 12 days, pending investigations. On 10 October 2012, Abu Warda was released after having spent 10 months under administrative detention in Israeli jails.

- On 03 June 2012, Israeli forces, accompanied by a number of military vehicles, moved into Doura, in the southwest of Hebron, and raided Shireef al-Rajoub's house, who is a correspondent for al-Aqsa radio. Also, they searched the house and messed with its contents. Israeli forces arrested al-Rajoub before withdrawing from the house.

PCHR's Notes

1. PCHR considers these practices against media workers as part of Israel's ongoing abuse of Palestinian civilians. PCHR also considers it evidence of Israel's disregard for international humanitarian law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.
2. Most attacks by Israeli forces on local and international press agencies were willful and intentional, especially considering that members of the press wore clearly marked attire.
3. PCHR confirms that these attacks were not limited to Palestinian media workers, but internationals as well, even Israelis. These attacks are part of Israel's systematic policy of isolating the oPt so as to allow further illegal action against Palestinian civilians.
4. These attacks are designed to prevent the objective coverage of incidents in the occupied Palestinian territories; thus aiming towards "silencing the press."
5. PCHR calls on the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to meet their obligations under the Convention and immediately provide international protection for the Palestinian people.
6. PCHR calls on all international media to follow-up Israeli violations against Palestinian media workers, and to intervene and exert pressure on Israel to stop its forces' attacks on Palestinians in general and media workers in particular to provide the proper climate for practice of their profession without restriction.

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Appendix I

Media workers Killed by Israeli forces while on Duty
September 2000 – July 2011

#	Name	Age	Place of residence	Job	Date of killing	Place of killing
1.	Mohammed Abdul Karim al-Bishawi	27	Balata refugee camp – Nablus	Cameraman for al-Hayat Newspaper & al-Haq Voice Magazine	31 July 2011	Nablus
2.	Othman Abdul Qader al-Qatnani	24	Askar refugee camp – Nablus	Reporter for the Kuwaiti Kona news agency, working at Nablus Press office	31 July 2001	Nablus
3.	Raffaele Ciriello	42	Italy	Freelance cameraman	11 March 2002	Ramallah
4.	Imad Sobhi Abu Zohra	30	Jenin	Director of al-Nakhil office for press and media	12 July 2002	Jenin
5.	Isam Methqal al-Tallawi	30	Beitunia village – Ramallah	Palestine radio	22 September 2002	Ramallah
6.	Nazih Adel Darwaza	46	Nablus	Cameraman for Palestine and AP	19 April 2003	Nablus
7.	James Miller	34	UK	Owner of Frost Bit company for media production	02 May 2003	Rafah
8.	Mohammed Adel Abu Halima	22	Balata refugee camp – Nablus	Volunteer reporter of al-Najah Voice radio	22 March 2004	Nablus
9.	Fadel Sobhi Shana'a	23	Gaza	Reuters	16 April 2008	Juhr al-Deek village
10.	Omar Abdul Hafez al-Silawi	28	Gaza	Al-Aqsa satellite channel	03 January 2009	Jabalia refugee camp
11.	Basel Ibrahim Faraj	22	Gaza	Algerian TV	06 January 2009	Gaza City
12.	Ramez Najib Harb		Gaza	Media Officier, al-Quds Brigades	19 November 2012	Gaza City
13.	Hussam Mohammed Salama	30	Gaza	Al-Aqsa Satellite Channel	20 November 2012	Gaza City
14.	Mahmoud Ali al-Koumi	29	Gaza	Al-Aqsa Satellite Channel	20 November 2012	Gaza City
15.	Mohammed Abd-Raboh Bader	24	Deir al-Balah	Media Office, al-Quds Brigades	20 November 2012	Deir al-Balah

**Table (1): Israeli Attacks on Media Workers
28 September 2000 – 31 December 2012**

Type of attack	28 31 2000	Sept. Dec.	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Shooting resulting in death	Nil		2	3	2	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	2	Nil	Nil	4	15
Shooting resulting in injuries	22		33	34	8	18	7	26	28	29	23	46	30	29	333
Shooting without causing casualties	4		17	17	6	11	Nil	3	7	10	10	11	1	15	112
Beating and humiliation	9		30	24	9	13	25	40	30	16	20	40	9	10	275
Arrest, detention or interrogation	1		16	62	21	24	23	22	27	37	18	54	17	15	337
Denial of access to certain areas	2		3	2	5	3	3	4	15	17	23	46	31	7	161
Confiscation of media equipment	4		5	32	7	2	Nil	2	1	6	11	18	8	7	103
Attacks on media institutions	4		10	33	4	6	3	8	7	13	6	Nil	Nil	6	100
Denial of travel	Nil		Nil	Nil	5	1	2	Nil	2	1	Nil	1	3	Nil	15
House raids	Nil		Nil	4	3	1	Nil	2	1	3	1	3	4	2	24
Total	46		116	211	70	80	63	107	118	133	114	219	103	95	1475

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