The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights
Consultative status with the ECOSOC of the United Nations
Affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists – Geneva
Affiliate of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) – Paris
Member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network – Copenhagen
Member of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) - Stockholm
Member of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights – Cairo
The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights
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.
Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

The Centre is an independent Palestinian human rights organization based in Gaza City. The Centre enjoys Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nation. It is an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists-Geneva, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) – Pairs, member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network - Copenhagen, member of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) – Stockholm, and member of the Arab Organization for Human Rights – Cairo. It is a recipient of the 1996 French Republic Award on Human Rights, the 2002 Bruno Kreisky Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Area of Human Rights and the 2003 International Service Human Rights Award (UNAIS). The Centre was established in 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, while promoting democratic culture within Palestinian society.
- Support all the efforts aimed at enabling the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights in regard to self-determination and independence in accordance with international Law and UN resolutions.

The work of the Centre is conducted through documentation and investigation of human rights violations, provision of legal aid and counseling for both individuals and groups, and preparation of research articles relevant to such issues as the human rights situation and the rule of law. The Centre also provides comments on Palestinian Draft Laws and urges the adoption of legislation that incorporates international human rights standards and basic democratic principles. To achieve its goals, the Centre has recruited a committed staff of well-known human rights lawyers and activists.

The Philosophy of the Centre’s Work

The Centre determined after a thorough legal assessment of the peace accords signed by the PLO and the Israeli government that the occupation would continue both physically and legally. According to these agreements Israel has redeployed its forces inside the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, while Israeli settlements and military installations maintain their presence in Palestinian territory. The major legal aspects of the Israeli occupation remain in place. Israeli military orders that safeguard Israeli control over the Palestinian people and their land remain valid in accordance with the peace agreement. The Israeli military court is still functioning and to this day thousands of Palestinians languish in Israeli prisons. The essential elements of the Palestinian issue remain unresolved - the right to self-determination, the right to an independent Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and the right to remove illegal Israeli settlements from the Occupied Territories. All of these constitute basic unfulfilled rights of the Palestinian people. In light of this wide-ranging disregard for Palestinian rights, the Centre concludes it must continue its work to protect Palestinian human rights from ongoing violations by the Israeli government and courts.

The peace accords and the major political changes resulting from the agreement, including the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in part of the Occupied Territories, has led to a vital and active role for the Centre in protecting civil and political rights and in promoting the development of democratic institutions, an active civil society, and a democratic legal system in Palestine.
Work Units of the Centre
The Centre is composed of specialised working units which carry out their activities in an autonomous but integrated manner.

Field Work Unit
The field work is considered the basic activity of the Centre. Well-trained field workers located in different areas of the Gaza Strip obtain accurate and documented legal information on human rights violations in the Gaza Strip. They gather information in the field from victims and witnesses of human rights violations. The information is received by the coordinator of the unit and other researchers to verify accuracy. Through the field workers’ presence in the field the Centre has been able to maintain close contacts with the community. In this way, the community is able to influence the work of the Centre and the Centre is able to meet the community’s interests and demands.

Legal Unit
This unit is composed primarily of a team of lawyers who give free legal aid and counselling to individuals and groups. The unit also carries out legal intervention with concerned bodies and makes legal representations before courts in cases that involve broad principles of human rights that affect not just the individual before the court but the community as a whole. Furthermore, the unit attempts to support the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.

Democratic Development Unit
This unit specialises in the promotion of democracy and the promotion of civil society and the rule of law. The unit’s team carries out research and organises workshops and seminars to discuss issues on human rights and democracy. The unit’s team also prepares comments on draft laws prepared by the Palestinian Authority in an effort to influence the decision-making process and the adoption of democratic laws. The unit has been also involved in providing training on human rights and democracy for youth groups.

Economic and Social Rights Unit
This unit seeks to ensure the importance of economic and social rights through research and study. Such work is particularly important because it tends to be neglected, to some extent, by other human rights organisations. To achieve its goals the unit conducts studies, workshops, and seminars that focus attention on economic and social rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The unit seeks to develop recommendations and standards for each of these rights to be fulfilled in the Palestinian situation. Moreover, the unit reviews and assesses the legislation and draft laws pertaining to these rights adopted by the Palestinian Authority in an effort to secure legislation that is in harmony with international standards. The unit further seeks to provide an informative training base for governmental and non-governmental personnel who are empowered to set plans and implement programs and policies relevant to these rights. The goal of such training is to help bring economic and social rights into alignment with the standards accepted internationally and to ensure the maximum degree of implementation of these rights.

Woman Rights Unit
This Unit was established as a pilot project in May of 1997 for one year, renewable upon assessment of its accomplishments. The initial project was established after a thorough and comprehensive study of the conditions of Palestinian women and the work of women’s institutions in the Gaza Strip. The Unit aims to provide legal aid for women and women’s organisations. Intervention on behalf of women in Shari’a courts is included in its mandate. The Unit further aims to raise awareness of women’s rights established by international human rights conventions and to raise the awareness of Palestinian women in regard to their
rights under local law. Finally, the Unit is carrying out studies on Palestinian women and the law, while supporting the amendment of local laws inconsistent with women’s rights.

**The Training Unit**
The Training Unit is a main instrument in PCHR’s work in disseminating and developing a human rights culture, and promoting democratic concepts in the local community with all its various segments. The Unit organizes and holds training courses and workshops in order to develop theoretical knowledge and provide professional skills that can contribute to a real change in the behavior of the society, which in turn can promote respect for, and protection of human rights and participation in community building. The target groups of the training courses and workshops are particularly the youth, including university students, activists of political parties, lawyers, media, union members, and other civil society groups.

**The Library**
The Centre has established a specialised legal library in subjects related to local and international law, human rights, and democracy. The library includes books and periodicals in both Arabic and English and includes all Palestinian laws and Israeli military orders. Documents pertaining to laws of neighbouring Arab countries are also available. Furthermore, the library includes a variety of books and periodicals detailing the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The library is open for the free use of researchers, academics, and students.

**Funding of the Centre**
The Centre is funded by the generous contributions of a number of international non-governmental organizations in the fields of human rights, democracy, and social justice and a number of Governments which has friendly relationships with the Palestinian people. PCHR highly appreciates the contributions of funding organizations, especially:

1. The Swedish International Commission of Jurists - Sweden
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4. Open Society Fund - U.S.A
5. Christian Aid – U.K
6. Dan Church Aid - Denmark
7. Grassroots International - U.S.A
8. European Commission
9. Representative Office of Norway
10. General Consulate of France - Jerusalem
11. Ireland Aid - The Official Overseas Development Assistance Programme of the Irish Government
12. Kvinna Till Kvinna – Sweden
13. Al Quds Association Malaga – Spain
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Raji Sourani
Jaber Weshah
Iyad Alami
Hamdi Shaqqura

Director General
Raji Sourani

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights is an independent legal body dedicated to the protection of human rights, the promotion of the rule of law, and the upholding of democratic principles in the Occupied Territories. Most of the Centre’s activities and interests concentrate on the Gaza Strip due to the restriction on movement between the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed by the Israeli government and its military apparatus.

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2005

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Annual Report 2005

This report is the outcome of PCHR's activities in 2005. PCHR has published annual reports since 1997.

PCHR's 2005 Annual Report is divided into two sections:

- **Part One** provides a comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) from 1 January to 31 December 2005. It is divided into two sub-sections:
  1) Violations of international human rights and humanitarian law perpetrated by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) in the OPT; and
  2) Human rights violations perpetrated by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and obstacles to democratic reform.

- **Part Two** documents all PCHR’s activities from 1 January to 31 December 2005.

PCHR's 2005 financial report, which is prepared by an independent professional auditing institution, is not included here. The completion of the financial report is outside of PCHR's control, so PCHR has decided to publish its 2005 Annual Report without any delay, and the financial report will be published once it is completed.

PCHR hopes that this report will contribute to the struggle for human rights by providing a comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in the OPT. It also hopes that relevant parties will follow the recommendations mentioned in this report, especially those recommendations which are directed at the international community and the PNA. This report serves as a guide for PCHR's future work and also reflects PCHR's strong belief in the importance of transparency for a non-profit, non-governmental organization that provides services to the community. It should also serve as a call for victims of human rights violations to approach PCHR for advice and assistance.
PART ONE:

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
Summary

On 9 January 2005, Mr. Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) was elected as the new President of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in the second presidential election to be held since the establishment of the PNA in 1994. This election, which was described by all local and international observers as a true expression of the Palestinian people's will, constituted a positive and important step on the process of the peaceful and constitutional transition of authority following the sudden death of the late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on 11 November 2004. Contrary to many expectations that chaos and conflict would spread following the death of their leader, Palestinians allowed the law and institutional government to triumph and displayed a distinguished example of the peaceful and institutional transition of authority in spite of the challenges facing a people who are under occupation.

There were hopes that this positive development would be followed by other basic steps that would push forward democratic reform following years of stagnation, including holding the legislative elections on 17 July 2005, as was decided by a presidential decree issued by the interim president of the PNA, Rawhi Fattouh, on 7 January 2005. There were also hopes that Palestinians would be able, for the first time since the establishment of the PNA, to select their local representatives through local council elections, a process which started in late December 2004 and was expected to be completed in 3 phases, thus putting an end to the policy of appointments that had been followed by the PNA.

Palestinians received the year 2005 with great expectation that the peaceful transition of authority would positively affect the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). They hoped that these positive developments would manifest themselves at the internal level in favor of reinforcing the rule of law, institutional government, ending the state of security chaos and stopping human rights violations. There were hopes also that these developments would contribute to stopping war crimes being perpetrated by Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) throughout the OPT since September 2000, especially as the new Palestinian leadership was able to reach a declaration in February 2005 of a truce by all Palestinian national and Islamic factions, under which these factions stopped military attacks on Israeli targets.

However, hopes for an improvement in the human rights situation, whether with regard to violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law perpetrated by IOF against Palestinian civilians and property or concerning Palestinian violations of human rights and democratic reform, soon vanished. There is further evidence that Israel has continued to commit crimes against Palestinian civilians, in spite of the change in the Palestinian leadership, and that the Israeli claim of the nonexistence of a Palestinian partner was only a pretext to taking more unilateral steps and creating new facts on the ground in order to annex more Palestinian land and undermine the possibility of establishing a viable Palestinian

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1 It is important to note that at the end of 2005, preparations started to hold legislative elections as scheduled on 25 January 2006, and despite the deterioration in the internal security situation, Palestinian President Mahmoud 'Abbas expressed his strong commitment to holding these elections on the scheduled date.
state. Although killings committed by IOF against Palestinian civilians notably decreased in comparison with the preceding five years, IOF continued, if not escalated at times, to commit willful killings, including extra-judicial executions. They also continued to increasingly confiscate land for the purposes of settlement expansion and the construction of the Annexation Wall in the West Bank. There was a notable decrease in the destruction of civilian property, particularly houses. However, IOF tightened the internal and external siege imposed on the OPT and imposed additional restrictions in the movement of Palestinian civilians.

There were many developments related to violations of human rights perpetrated by IOF against Palestinian civilians and property in 2005. The most notable development was the unilateral Disengagement Plan implemented in the the Gaza Strip by the Israeli government. In September 2005, IOF dismantled all Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip (21 settlements) and 4 others in the northern West Bank. This development in itself constituted a positive development, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where the positioning of settlements, and the associated IOF military network, on more than 40% of its land came to an end. The PNA gained control over all areas classified as areas B and C under the Interim Agreements of 1994 and 1995. Nevertheless, this important development did not come in the framework of Israel's respect for its obligations under international law, nor was it a declaration by IOF of the end of their occupation of the Gaza Strip and the evacuated settlements in the northern Gaza Strip. It was rather a part of a unilateral strategic plan to redesign Israel's presence in the OPT, to create and impose facts that conform to its strategic visions and goals. Under this plan, Israel withdrew its occupation forces and settlers from the Gaza Strip, but maintained control over its air, sea and border crossings, thus leaving the essence of its occupation of the Gaza Strip untouched. Facts on the ground reveal the reality of the Disengagement Plan and prove PCHR's position first cited in a position paper it issued in 2004 that the plan is merely a form of redeployment of IOF around the Gaza Strip and does not end the occupation - rather it reinforces it. These facts contradict the political position of the PNA and most national and Islamic factions that dealt with the plan as a liberation of the Gaza Strip and an end to occupation. These factions competed with each other in claiming this “victory”, in order to further their own political ambitions.

The implementation of the Disengagement Plan was accompanied by unprecedented restrictions on movement between the Gaza Strip and the outside world. All border crossings, including Rafah International Crossing Point, the sole outlet of the Gaza Strip to the outside world, were closed for 80 days, beginning on 7 September 2005. On 15 November 2005, the Palestinian and Israeli sides reached an agreement regarding the border crossings of the Gaza Strip, according to which Rafah International Crossing Point was reopened on 25 November 2005. Although restrictions on the movement of Palestinians between the Gaza Strip and the outside world was eased, the agreement maintained effective control of IOF over the crossing point and the movement of persons and goods between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. According to the agreement, the crossing point would by operated under direct international supervision and Israeli control via monitoring cameras. Those who have

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2 Areas C are under full control of IOF, and areas B are under Israeli security control while civil authorities are in the hands of the PNA.
the right to travel through the crossing point are Palestinians who have national numbers (identity cards), which are decided by IOF rather than by the PNA. IOF decides the legal status of Palestinians as permanent residents of the OPT or visitors. As a result, thousands of Palestinian families are deprived of possibility of seeing each other. These facts are further evidence of IOF's control over the movement of Palestinians through Rafah International Crossing Point.

The agreement would allow Palestinians to export Gaza Strip agricultural products through Karni (al-Mentar) crossing and the Rafah International Crossing Point. Furthermore, the Kerem Shalom crossing point would be opened for Palestinian imports. However, Israeli clearance firms would hold responsibility for carrying out customs clearance. Thus, IOF have reinforced their control over the economy of the Gaza Strip, by maintaining direct control over importation and exportation.

Under the agreement, IOF would allow bus convoys for goods and passengers between the Gaza Strip and West Bank, starting on 15 December 2005, and on 15 January 2006, IOF would allow truck convoys to move between the two areas. In addition, the agreement included stipulations to draft a plan to reduce restrictions on movement within the West Bank, starting on 31 December 2005. It also allowed the commencement of the construction of the Gaza sea port, and a trilateral committee would be set up to draft security and operational arrangements before the port would open. Finally, the agreement stipulated that discussions on the reopening of Gaza International Airport would continue. Nevertheless, by the end of the year, Israeli authorities had not committed to most provisions of the agreement and nothing had changed with regard to the movement of persons and goods between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Before, during and after the implementation of the Disengagement Plan, IOF continued to perpetrate violations of human rights against Palestinian civilians and property throughout the OPT, while the international community remained silent under the pretext of not pressuring Israel and providing an appropriate atmosphere for its Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to implement his plan. Facts on the ground reveal the real goals of the plan and how Sharon exploited the international support to implement it in order to achieve strategic goals in the West Bank, including expropriating more of its land and transforming Palestinian communities into cantons through settlement expansion and accelerated construction of the Annexation Wall. These facts represent the other face of Sharon's plan.

In 2005, Israel, its occupation forces and settlers continued to establish new settlements and expand existing ones, confiscating more Palestinian land in the West Bank for the purposes of settlement expansion and the establishment of bypass roads for settlers. In March 2005, Israeli sources revealed that the Israeli government had approved two plans to build 3500 housing units between East Jerusalem and "Ma'ale Adumim" settlement to the east. These plans would expand the aforementioned settlement towards East Jerusalem and would prevent geographical contiguity of any future Palestinian state. In December 2005, the Israeli Ministry of Construction and Housing put out tenders to build 228 new housing units in West Bank settlements. The tenders included 150 units in "Betar Elite" settlement and 78 units in "Efrat" settlement in Bethlehem. According to media sources, since the beginning of 2005
the ministry had submitted tenders for the construction of 1131 housing units in the West Bank.\textsuperscript{4}

In 2005, IOF continued to construct the Annexation Wall inside West Bank territory in violation of international humanitarian law and the Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice in Hague on 9 July 2004. Construction was particularly aggressive in occupied East Jerusalem in 2005, while it also continued in other Palestinian districts, especially in Bethlehem and Hebron. IOF continued also to construct walls around large settlement in the West Bank, such as "Ariel" settlement, south of Nablus, whose wall stretches 22 kilometers into West Bank land. The Israeli government made slight changes to the route of the Wall, but maintained its original plans to annex large settlement to Israel, such as "Ariel" which is the largest settlement in the northern West Bank and "Gush Etzion" settlement bloc between Bethlehem and Hebron. Under these changes, the length of the Wall upon its completion will be 670 kilometers (the previous planned length before changes was 720 kilometers). The length of the Wall actually following the Green Line (the line 1949 armistice line between Israel and the West Bank) will be 135 kilometers instead of the previously planned 48 kilometers. By the end of 2005, IOF had constructed at least 200 kilometers of the Wall. On completion of the Wall, according to public Israeli plans, more than half of the West Bank's area will have been effectively annexed to Israel.

In 2005, IOF consistently used disproportionate and indiscriminate force during their operations in civilian areas throughout the OPT. Attacks by IOF impacted on Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip before and after the implementation of the Disengagement Plan. At the end of the year, IOF declared the establishment of a buffer zone in the northern Gaza Strip. Unarmed Palestinian civilians were killed as a result of shelling in residential areas; during Israeli military incursions into Palestinian areas; as a result of extra-judicial executions; during demonstrations; at Israeli military checkpoints; and also during periods of relative calm. In 2005, 207 Palestinians died as a result of actions by IOF and settlers. IOF continued to disregard the principles of proportionality and distinction in its actions in the OPT, resulting in the death of 187 unarmed civilians, who were killed whilst posing no threat to Israeli soldiers or settlers. Of the civilians killed, 46 were children and 7 were women. In addition, hundreds of Palestinians were wounded by IOF, including 129 in the Gaza Strip. Thus, the number of Palestinians killed by IOF and settlers since the beginning of current Intifada has increased to 2,936, including 651 children and 106 women. In addition, tens of thousands of Palestinians, including 8,662 in the Gaza Strip, have been wounded since September 2000. Hundreds of those wounded sustained permanent disabilities.

Extra-judicial executions constitute a blatant form of willful killing committed by IOF against Palestinian civilians, predetermined and approved by the Israeli political and judiciary establishments. Despite the truce declared by the Palestinian national and Islamic factions at the beginning of 2005, IOF committed more extra-judicial executions even if at a lower rate than was witnessed in the previous 5 years. They escalated such attacks in the last quarter of 2005. According to PCHR's documentation, in 2005, IOF carried out 18 extra-judicial execution operations, in

\textsuperscript{4} see \url{http://www.haaretzdaily.com}, 27 December 2005.
which 44 Palestinians were killed. Of those killed, 32 were targeted persons, and 12, including 6 children, were non-targeted civilian bystanders. In addition, 17 Palestinians were injured. A total of 236 extra-judicial execution operations were conducted by IOF between 29 September 2000 and 31 December 2005. A total of 515 Palestinians (17.5% of the total number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces in the same period) were killed in these attacks. Of those killed, 171, including 51 children, were non-targeted civilian bystanders.

By the end of 2005, at least 9,000 Palestinians, including about 300 children and 100 women, were still in Israeli custody in detention facilities throughout Israel and in settlements and other military bases in the OPT. Of those detainees, at least 700 were being held under administrative detention orders. In the last quarters of 2005, IOF waged massive arrest campaigns in the West Bank, which targeted hundreds of Palestinian civilians, especially supporters of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The largest of these campaigns was conducted at the end of September 2005, when IOF arrested at least 300 Palestinian civilians, including prominent religious, political, social, academic and media figures. It also included members of university student councils and candidates for the third phase of the local council elections, which were held in the West Bank on 29 September 2005.

In 2005, PCHR received increased reports regarding various methods of interrogation used against Palestinian detainees, including minors, held in Israeli jails and detention centers both inside Israel and in the OPT. The methods used constitute torture and ill treatment as defined both in the Convention against Torture and other international instruments. These methods include: Shabeh for long periods (often up to 48 hours); tight handcuffing; tying the hands and legs with plastic chains that cause severe pain; blindfolding and slapping; sleep deprivation for long periods; solitary confinement; compulsory standing for long hours. Alongside these physical method of torture, authorities also used verbal intimidation and abuse.

The last quarter of 2005 witnessed worrying developments regarding Palestinian prisoners from the Gaza Strip, following the implementation of the Disengagement Plan and the declaration of an end to the military government in the Gaza Strip. IOF abolished the military court and the military prosecution office at Erez [Checkpoint and military base] in the northern Gaza Strip and transferred all cases related to Palestinian prisoners from the Gaza Strip to Beir al-Saba [Beer Sheva] Court inside Israel and the civil Attorney General. In an attempt to overcome international legal standards and thus justify continued detention of Palestinian prisoners, Israel invented the concept of the "illegal combatant" to describe Palestinian prisoners, who are in fact civilians protected under the Fourth Geneva Convention, and consequently justify their detention in accordance with a special law called "Illegal Combatants" issued in 2002. According to this law, the IOF Chief of Staff has the authority to issue an arrest warrant against a person if there is a basis to assume that such person is "an illegal combatant". On 31 October 2005, the Israeli Knesset approved in the first reading an amendment of the "Law Regulating Criminal Procedures (Authorities of Implementation and Regulation Related to Security Offences by Non-Citizens)". The amendment now allowed the Israeli General Security Service to detain Palestinians

Shabeh entails shackling the detainee's hands and legs to a small chair, angled to slant forward so that the detainee cannot sit in a stable position.
from the Gaza Strip for 96 instead of 24 hours before bringing them to court; prevented these Palestinians from receiving any visitors for 50 instead of 21 days; and allowed judges to extend the period of detention without the presence of detainees. This draft law includes granting wider authority to interrogators in order to interrogate citizens from the Gaza Strip. In addition to attempting to legally justify the interrogation of detainees from the Gaza Strip, these amendments constitute a flagrant violation of human rights and reflect racist attitudes towards Palestinian citizens, who will be subject to the Israeli Penal Law, but with wider powers being granted to interrogators.

In 2005, IOF continued to impose a total closure on the OPT as a form of collective punishment against Palestinian civilians. They continued to impose severe restrictions on freedom of movement of people and goods between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. IOF imposed restrictions on entry and exit to the OPT at al-Karama International Crossing Point on the Jordanian border and Rafah International Crossing Point on the Egyptian border, the only outlets of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip respectively to the outside world. They also imposed restrictions at border crossings between the OPT and Israel, limiting the movement of Palestinian civilians between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, preventing students from the Gaza Strip from attending their universities in the West Bank; preventing family visitations; depriving hundreds of patients from the Gaza Strip of access to medical treatment in hospitals in the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem; and depriving Palestinian civilians of access to Islamic and Christian sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron.

Many Palestinian civilians, including medical cases, have been prevented from entering Israel. IOF have also imposed more complicated restrictions on internal movement in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Hundreds of checkpoints have been placed at the entrances of Palestinian communities in the West Bank in order to restrict the movement of Palestinian civilians from one community to another.

In light of the increasing number of Palestinian civilians who are victims of attacks by IOF, Israel made efforts to prevent Palestinian civilian victims from being compensated through the Israeli judiciary. On 27 July 2005, the Israeli Knesset approved amendment No.5 to the Civil Wrongs Law effectively stopping Palestinians in the OPT from seeking compensation in Israeli courts, on the basis of their residency. The amendment is contrary to Israel’s international law obligations and demonstrates again the impunity that is granted to IOF by Israel. On 1 September 2005, nine human rights organizations in Israel and the OPT, including PCHR, filed a petition to the Israeli High Court demanding that the Court declare void the amendments to the Civil Wrongs Law. In the petition, the organizations emphasized that the Law grossly violates the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, which apply in the OPT. The petitioners also argued that the articles of the Law de facto terminate monitoring of the Israeli military’s activities in the OPT and discourage investigating and bringing those responsible for cases of death or injury before the courts. As a result, the Law is both immoral and racist. The Law thus violates the fundamental rights to life, equality, dignity and property, as well as the constitutional right of access to the courts.

6 IOF have continued to close the "Safe Passage" between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank since the beginning of the al-Aqsa Intifada. The "Safe Passage" was opened in October 1999 according to the Wye River Memorandum of 1998 between the PNA and Israel. It was operated for one year only.
In 2005, the impunity granted by Israel to IOF in the OPT was further evidenced. On 15 November 2005, the Israeli military southern command court acquitted an officer in the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) of charges relating to the killing of 13-year-old Iman al-Hams; the illegal use of his weapon; and the obstruction of court proceedings. This Israeli court ruling strongly evidences the lack of justice in the Israeli judiciary system, especially the military judiciary. Investigations are usually conducted by IOF and cases are referred then to the military judiciary, thus undermining the credibility of investigations and court rulings on them. Hundreds of complaints submitted to the Israeli courts by human rights organizations, including PCHR, on behalf of victims have been ignored, and only a few cases have been seriously investigated. In this context, B'Tselem, the Israeli Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, published statistics on 27 June 2005 which demonstrated that the Israeli police conducted investigations into 108 cases of killing and injuring Palestinians in the OPT out of thousands of similar cases. B’Tselem also found that indictments were handed out in just 19 cases, leading to two soldiers being convicted of killing Palestinians.

Denial of justice for Palestinian civilians is deeply rooted in the Israeli judiciary system, particularly the military judiciary. PCHR believes that the Israeli judiciary is used to provide a legal cover for crimes committed by IOF against Palestinian civilians and to avoid direct reference to international justice under the pretext of having a just Israeli judiciary.

Consequently and due to the exhaustion of national judicial mechanisms (in this case the Israeli judicial system), PCHR, in cooperation with international legal organizations, resorted to international legal mechanisms in an attempt to prosecute Israeli war criminals before the international judiciary. On 8 December 2005, the Center for Constitutional Rights and PCHR brought a class action lawsuit against Avi Dichter, the former Director of Israel’s General Security Service, on behalf of the Palestinians who were killed or injured in a 2002 air strike in Gaza. The attack occurred just before midnight on July 22, 2002, when IOF dropped a one-ton bomb on al-Daraj, a residential neighborhood in Gaza City in OPT. The attack killed seven adults and eight children. In September 2005, PCHR, built a file of evidence with the help of Hickman & Rose Solicitors to pursue a case against Major General Doron Almog (retired) accusing him of perpetrating grave breaches of the Forth Geneva Convention, while he was the GOC Southern Commander of IOF.

At the Palestinian level, in spite of the notable development in the process of democratic reform, including holding the presidential election and the elections for most local councils, this process faced many restrictions and obstructions by the PNA. Further human rights violations were also recorded, particularly in the context of the deterioration in internal security and the proliferation and misuse of weapons, which impacted on the rule of law.

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7 Iman al-Hams, 13, from Rafah, was killed on 5 October 2004, when IOF positioned in a military post on the Egyptian border, south of Rafah, opened fire at her, as she was walking with her schoolbag.
8 For more details about these cases, see the report of the International and Legal Units in this report.
As mentioned above, there were hopes that the PNA would move forward in the process of democratic reform by holding the legislative elections as planned on 17 July 2005, as well as completing the local council elections. These were started in late December 2004 and were decided to be held in stages, the last of which was due to be completed by the end of 2005. However, the legislative elections were not held on the specified date and were postponed until 25 January 2006, and 2005 also ended without all stages of elections being completed.

The legislative elections were postponed for legal reasons related to the non-drafting of the new electoral law and others related to the implementation of the Disengagement Plan in the Gaza Strip. However, it was clear that internal conflicts in the Fatah movement, the PNA ruling party, were an undisclosed essential element in the postponement of these elections. In April 2005, PCHR expressed concerns that the legislative elections may not be held on the specified date as the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) failed to approve the new electoral law, 3 months before the specified date for holding these elections. The approval of this law was necessary to allow the Central Election Commission (CEC) to conclude its preparations to hold these elections.9 On 3 June 2005, President Mahmoud Abbas issued a presidential decree that canceled the specified date of elections and decided that a new date would be specified for holding the elections upon the completion of necessary legal procedures.

On 13 August 2005, the Elections Law No. (9) of 2005 was ratified. It was published in the PNA official gazette on 18 August 2005. The new law expressed the political pluralism of Palestinian society. It increased the number of PLC members to 132 instead of 88. It adopted a mixed system of elections, under which 50% of members would be elected directly in electoral constituencies and the other 50% of members would be elected under the system of proportional representation (the list system), where the Palestinian territory is considered as one single electoral constituency. Positive discrimination in favor of women was adopted under the new law.

On 20 August 2005, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas issued a presidential decree specifying Wednesday, 25 January 2006, as a date for holding the legislative elections. At this report was being written, the legislative elections were held on time. International and local observers these elections were free, fair and impressive. PCHR monitored these elections in cooperation with 30 NGOs.10

In 2005, notable developments concerning local council elections took place, as the PNA continued its efforts to hold these elections in stages. PCHR considers these efforts positive, but expresses its reservations towards some practices, which obstructed the completion of these elections in 2005. According to the Palestinian cabinet's decision on 10 May 2004, local council elections would be held in three stages, starting in August 2004 and ending within one year, where circumstances allowed. However, these elections were rescheduled to be held in five stages, four of which were held between December 2004 and December 2005.

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9 For more details, see PCHR's press release on 10 April 2005.
10 Full coverage of these elections and their indications do not fall in the framework of this report, which covers 2005 only.
The first stage of local council elections was held in two phases on 23 December 2004 and 27 January 2005, and included 36 local councils. The first phase included 26 local councils in the West Bank, while the second included 10 local councils in the Gaza Strip. PCHR monitored the second phase, which was held in the Gaza Strip. It concluded that these elections were fair and transparent.

The second stage of elections of local councils was held on 5 May 2005. It included 76 local councils in the West Bank and 8 in the Gaza Strip. As an accredited monitoring organization, PCHR monitored the elections that were held in the Gaza Strip and concluded that the elections were fair and transparent. PCHR observers recorded a number of violations by competing parties or by candidates and their supporters. However, the electoral process was conducted peacefully and without major problems that might have damaged the integrity of the results. PCHR closely observed developments and tensions related to elections in a number of local communities. PCHR also monitored the legal challenges submitted to the electoral court by the Faith for al-Aqsa List [Fatah movement] against the Higher Committee for Local Elections (HCLE) and the district election commissions in Rafah, al-Boreij, Beit Lahia and al-Mughraqa, where the Change and Reform List [Hamas] had won the majority. The court ordered the repetition of elections in a number of polling centers in Rafah, al-Boreij and Beit Lahia. After close monitoring of the court sessions, PCHR expressed its shock at testimonies articulated by a number of officials of the executive offices of the HCLE, in a way that contradicted the results declared by the Committee, and supported demands to cancel the results and repeat the elections. PCHR pointed out that the violations mentioned in local communities, where the Change and Reform List had won the majority of votes, were not any-more serious than those recorded in other communities, where the Faith for al-Aqsa List had won the majority of votes - such as 'Abasan village. Neither were they more serious than violations recorded in the first stage of local elections, held on 27 January 2005, and the presidential election, which was held on 9 January 2005.

According to the court ruling, the HCLE specified Wednesday, 1 June 2005, as the day for repeating elections in a number of polling centers and stations in the aforementioned three local communities. However, the HCLE later postponed repeated elections to an unspecified date, as Hamas decided to boycott these elections. Since that time, this issue has remained outstanding, and it is not clear how it will be settled.

The first and second stages of elections demonstrated failures in Law No. (5) of 1996 for Election of Local Bodies Councils according to which these elections were held. In August 2005, the PNA passed Law No. (10) of 2005 for Election of Local Bodies Councils, which adopts the principle of proportional representation instead of the principle of proportional majority adopted in the old law. Amending the law quickly was not unrelated to the results of the first and second stages of elections, in which Hamas had won the majority of votes in some towns, especially the larger ones such as Rafah, Qalqilya, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahia. These amendments met demands by many civil society organizations, including PCHR, to adopt the principle of proportional representation. However, amending the law in such a quick manner was not driven by an absolute belief by legislators of the need to adopt a modern law, rather it was driven by future fears of elections, in which Hamas might win a
majority, and to ensure future representation for the ruling party, Fatah, in local councils.

The third and fourth stages of local council elections were held in accordance with the new law. The third stage included 104 local councils in the West Bank. PCHR criticized the exclusion of local councils in the Gaza Strip from this stage.

On 15 December 2005, the fourth stage of local council elections was held. It included 37 local councils in the West Bank and 3 others in the Gaza Strip. By the end of the fourth stage, elections had been held for 265 local councils in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. According to sources in the Ministry of Local Government, elections for 59 local councils, including Gaza, Khan Yunis, Jabalya and Nusseirat, which were supposed to be included in the fourth stage, had been postponed indefinitely.

2005 witnessed more Palestinian violations of human rights, for which the PNA are directly or indirectly responsible. The state of security chaos and the proliferation and misuse of weapons have constituted an outstanding challenge at the Palestinian internal level. Many attacks on the rule of law have been recorded, threatening the security and safety of Palestinian civilians. Such attacks have also included attacks on public and private property and killings resulting from the misuse of weapons; storing explosives in civilian populated areas; or using weapons and explosives during armed rallies by resistance groups. According to PCHR's documentation, 130 Palestinians (39 in the West Bank and 91 in the Gaza Strip) were killed in crimes and incidents that took place in the context of the spreading state of security chaos and the proliferation and misuse of weapons. In addition, at least 550 Palestinians were injured in the Gaza Strip. These figures demonstrate the serious deterioration in the security situation in the Gaza Strip. Regrettably, some law enforcement law officials, persons linked with Palestinian security services and armed groups affiliated to the ruling party were involved in these incidents. The Palestinian Attorney General failed to investigate these crimes and bring their perpetrators to justice, which contributed to further deterioration in the state of security chaos in 2005, which threatened not only the security and safety of Palestinian civilians, but also the legitimacy of the PNA.

PCHR is increasingly concerned over the pattern of kidnappings that escalated in the OPT in 2005. The PNA has failed to take effective measures to fight such crimes and bring their perpetrators to justice. In 2005, at least 18 internationals were kidnapped in 10 separate incidents. Although all hostages were released without being hurt, such crimes reflect the state of security chaos and attacks on the rule of law in the PNA controlled areas. The kidnappers in all these incidents have not been prosecuted, even though their identities are known. PCHR has evidence that the PNA even succumbed to the kidnappers' demands in a number of these cases.

Following a 3-year suspension, the PNA resumed implementing death sentences in 2005, which raises deep concerns as dozens of civilians were sentenced to death in the past years and are still pending the implementation of these sentences. In 2005, the PNA carried out 5 death sentences in Gaza within a 6-week period. Four prisoners, who had been sentenced to death a few years previously, were executed on 12 June 2005, and a fifth prisoner was executed on 27 July 2005. According to PCHR's documentation, the PNA has carried out 13 death sentences since its establishment in
1994 and a further nine prisoners have been killed in other circumstances, including extra-judicial executions by gunmen who attacked prisons and court houses. Palestinian courts have handed down 73 death sentences since 1994.

It is significant that the State Security Court, which was established by the PNA in 1995, issued the majority of death sentences. PCHR has consistently criticised the existence of this court which lacks minimum standards for a fair trial – security officers act as judges; trials are summary and do not allow time for defense cases to be formed; verdicts and sentences delivered are not subject to appeal; and the law applicable in the court is unconstitutional. PCHR has called for the abolition of this court and a review of its sentences by civil courts. In a step that was welcomed by PCHR, the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas issued a decision on 22 June 2005 to retry those persons who were sentenced by State Security Courts before the civil Judiciary. On 27 July 2003, the Palestinian Minster of Justice issued a decision abolishing the State Security Court system. PCHR welcomed the decision believing that this step would contribute to the promotion of the independence of the Palestinian judiciary and called upon the Palestinian President to issue a decree to entirely abolish the courts and cancel Presidential Decree No. 49 (1995), which established the courts.

Illegal arrests, including political arrests, have constituted a major violation of human rights perpetrated by the PNA since its establishment in 1994. A number of citizens have been arrested without legal warrants, and their detention has continued in violation of court rulings ordering their release. In 2005, illegal arrests, including political ones, continued - although at a lower pace. According to PCHR's estimation, at least 50 people have been detained in detention facilities of the PNA for political reasons. In the majority of these cases, citizens are detained for various reasons without charges, without being presented to courts and without appropriate legal procedures being followed.

Continued illegal arrests and challenges of court rulings were part of efforts to undermine the judiciary, as in 2005, several developments undermining the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary took place. These developments included the failure of efforts made by the committee established by the PNA President on 14 March 2005 to develop the judiciary, and efforts made by the Executive – in cooperation with the PLC – to undermine the independence of the judiciary through enacting a new judicial authority law that undermines the authorities of the Higher Judiciary Council. On 9 November 2005, a new judicial authority law (Law No. 15 of 2005) was ratified without consulting the Higher Judiciary Council, in violation of the Palestinian Basic Law. On 14 November 2005, PCHR challenged the constitutionality of this law before the High Constitutional Court. On 27 November 2005, the Court decided that the law was unconstitutional and invalid from that date on. PCHR welcomed this decision, which constituted a precedent in the Palestinian judiciary. PCHR also considered the decision a triumph for the principle of the independence of the judiciary, as it put a stop to efforts made to undermine the Palestinian judiciary.

The PLC continued its work in 2005, in spite of attacks launched by IOF on the Palestinian people and their institutions, including restrictions imposed on the

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11 The concerned law is the PLO Revolutionary Penal Law, which is not applicable in the OPT.
movement of PLC members between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and from various areas in the West Bank to PLC headquarters in Ramallah. Consequently, the PLC was not able to hold regular sessions and was forced to use video conferences to hold its sessions. Although there was a slight improvement in the PLC's performance in comparison with previous years, the PLC's performance in 2005 at the levels of legislation and accountability was disappointing. Failures of the PLC can be summed up in the following:

1. The end of the legal term of the PLC since 1999, which necessitates holding new parliamentary elections to renew the PLC's legitimacy.

2. Professional duality of PLC members, as some of them occupied executive positions and obtained financial rewards in violation of Law No. (10) of 2004 on the Rights and Duties of PLC Members, which allows them to be ministers but prohibits them from being "members of any consultative, supervisory or administrative body of any State agency".

3. The absence of PLC members from sessions; a number of important laws were approved with the presence of a limited number of PLC members.

4. Putting individual interests and personal considerations above the legislative process.

In 2005, there was a notable increase in violations of the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. These violations were perpetrated not only by official bodies, but also by armed groups in the context of the state of security chaos and the proliferation and misuse of weapons. A number of international journalists were kidnapped. A journalist was arrested and another was violently beaten by PNA security officials. In addition, the Ministry of Interior issued a number of decisions and instructions that imposed restrictions on the media, including the declaration issued on 29 July 2005 prohibiting the publication of news related to the Palestinian National Security Forces and police without informing the Ministry of Interior.

PCHR is concerned over extra-judicially killing of Palestinians killed as alleged collaborators with IOF. PCHR documented 7 killings in 2005; all of which took place in the West Bank, compared to 22 in 2004. It seems that the judicial developments with regard to the treatment of the issue of collaboration with foreign forces have contributed to the decrease in the number of Palestinian killed on this ground. The Gaza First Instance Court, which was established in accordance with Decision 130 issued by the Higher Judiciary Council on 3 May 2004, has continued to consider cases of collaboration with foreign forces. It has considered dozens of such cases. The establishment and operation of this court reinforces the rule of law and ensures the non-recurrence of extra-judicial killings based on collaboration with foreign forces.
**Recommendations**

This section details PCHR's recommendations to the international community and the PNA. PCHR hopes that the international community will take PCHR's recommendations into consideration and take effective steps to enforce international law. PCHR also hopes that the PNA will work towards realizing these recommendations in the context of its responsibilities.

**Recommendations to the International Community**

1. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to fulfill their legal obligations, including to ensure Israel's respect for the Convention in the OPT in accordance with Article 1. PCHR believes that the international silence towards the grave breaches of the Convention which are perpetrated by IOF in the OPT serves to encourage Israel to act as a state above law and results in the perpetration of more grave breaches.

2. PCHR reminds the international community and the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention that the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip remains effective in its physical and legal forms despite the implementation of the Disengagement Plan, which is a form of redeployment of IOF rather an end to occupation in the Gaza Strip.

3. PCHR believes that the High Contracting Parties are responsible for searching for and prosecuting Israeli responsible for grave breaches, some of which have been defined as war crimes, as the Israeli judiciary does not prosecute them and has even provided legal cover for these individuals in many cases.

4. PCHR calls upon international civil society organizations, including human rights organizations, bar associations and solidarity groups, to lobby for governmental action in respect of bringing Israelis responsible for the violations of international law to justice.

5. PCHR calls upon the international community to take effective steps to dismantle the Annexation Wall being constructed inside West Bank territory. PCHR particularly calls upon the United Nations to take measures that conform to the Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice, the highest international judicial body, in 2004, which considers the Wall illegal.

6. PCHR calls upon the European Union to activate Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, which provides that both sides must respect human rights as a precondition for economic cooperation between the EU states and Israel. PCHR also calls upon all states to prohibit import of goods produced in illegal Israeli settlements in the OPT.

7. As Israel and its occupation forces have continued to impose severe restrictions on access of international solidarity groups to the OPT and Israel, PCHR calls for ensuring the freedom of movement of international delegations visiting the OPT similar to the freedom enjoyed by Israeli citizens abroad.

8. PCHR reiterates that any political settlement not based on international human rights law and humanitarian law cannot lead to a peaceful and just solution of the Palestinian cause. Rather, such a settlement can only lead to further suffering and instability in the region. PCHR calls upon governments and civil society organizations to implement international law at the Palestinian level.
**Recommendations to the PNA**

1. PCHR calls for taking effective measures to enhance the rule of law, end the state of security chaos and investigate relevant crimes, including the kidnappings of internationals, and bring their perpetrators to justice.
2. PCHR calls for holding elections for the remaining local councils as soon as possible, and concluding a formula acceptable to all concerned political factions to repeat elections of the local councils of Rafah, al-Boreij and Beit Lahia. PCHR suggests repeating the whole elections in these communities in accordance with the new law, according to which the third and fourth stages of local elections were held.
3. PCHR calls upon the PNA to adhere to international human rights standards and make sure that all measures it takes conform to international human rights standards and respect basic rights of citizens.
4. PCHR calls for a presidential decree to be issued to actually abolish State Security Courts, as the decision taken by the Palestinian Minister of Justice abolishing these courts has not been sufficient.
5. PCHR calls for abstaining from implementing death sentences and abolishing the death penalty in the Palestinian legislation.
6. PCHR calls for ensuring the independence of the judiciary, including through the enforcement of court rulings.
7. PCHR calls for judicial monitoring of prisons and detention facilities to ensure an end to illegal arrests.
8. PCHR calls for ensuring the right to freedom of expression, reconsidering related laws, including the Press Law of 1995, and enacting a law to organize the work of private televisions and radios.
Section 1:

Israeli Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law


**Excessive Use of Force, Killings and other Violations of the Right to Life**

In 2005, 207 Palestinians died as a result of actions by IOF and settlers. IOF continued to disregard the principles of proportionality and distinction in its actions in the OPT, resulting in the death of 187 unarmed civilians, who were killed whilst posing no threat to Israeli soldiers or settlers.\(^\text{12}\)

Unarmed civilians were killed as a result of shelling of residential areas; during Israeli military incursions into Palestinian areas; as a result of extra-judicial executions; during demonstrations; at Israeli military checkpoints; and even in times of complete quiet. Of the civilians killed, 46 were children and 7 were women. In addition, hundreds of Palestinians were wounded by IOF, including 129 in the Gaza Strip. Thus, the number of Palestinians killed by IOF and settlers since the beginning of current Intifada has increased to 2,936, including 651 children and 106 women. In addition, tens of thousands of Palestinians, including 8,662 in the Gaza Strip, have been wounded since September 2000. Hundreds of those wounded sustained permanent disabilities.

A relative decrease in the number of Palestinians killed by IOF and settlers was seen in 2005 in comparison to 2004, in which 835 persons were killed, including 667 civilians. This is attributed to the truce declared by Palestinian national and Islamic factions in February 2005 and the implementation of the unilateral Israeli Disengagement Plan in the Gaza Strip in September 2005. Nevertheless, IOF continued to perpetrate violations of human rights against Palestinian civilians in the OPT. In this context, IOF continued attacks against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in the last quarter of 2005; more Palestinians were extra-judicially executed by IOF.

**Diagram (1): Geographical Distribution of Palestinian Civilians Killed by IOF in 2005**

![Diagram showing distribution of civilians killed by IOF between West Bank and Gaza Strip.](image)

These numbers show an almost equal distribution of Palestinians killed by IOF in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, 96 Palestinian civilians were killed (51% of the total number of civilians killed in the OPT) and in the Gaza Strip, 91 Palestinian civilians were killed (49% of the total number of dead in the OPT). The higher number of Palestinian civilians killed in the West Bank in 2005 can be

\(^\text{12}\) In 2005, 4 Palestinian civilians were killed by Israeli settlers in the West Bank.
attributed to the implementation of the Disengagement Plan in the Gaza Strip, according to which IOF were redeployed around the Gaza Strip, thus direct frictions with the Palestinian civilian populations decreased. In the West Bank, the human rights situations remained the same as in previous years.

Diagram (2): Monthly Distribution of Palestinian Civilians Killed by IOF in 2005

Diagram (2) demonstrates the number of Palestinian civilians killed in each month of the year. The highest number of civilians killed in 2005 was in January, when 45 civilians, including 7 children, were killed. Six of these were children from the same family and were killed when IOF shelled the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Lahia. In other months of the year, the number of Palestinian civilians killed by IOF ranged between 2 as in March and 24 as in July.

Diagram (3): Geographical Distribution of Palestinian Civilians Killed by IOF in 2005 (By Districts)

Diagram (3) demonstrates that Palestinian civilians were killed in all Palestinian districts, excluding Jericho. The highest numbers of fatalities were in Nablus and Northern Gaza, where 28 and 27 civilians were killed respectively. This can be attributed to repeated incursions by IOF into these two districts.
Diagram (4): Causes of Palestinian Civilian Deaths in 2005 Resulting from Israeli Actions

Diagram (4) above shows that 127 Palestinian civilians (68% of the victims) were killed by live bullets fired by IOF, while 45 civilians (24% of the victims) were killed by shrapnel from missiles and shells launched by Israeli fighter planes, helicopter gunships and tanks. In addition, 15 civilians (8%) were killed in other circumstances, including being run down by settler cars, collapse of buildings during military incursions or inhaling tear gas.

Diagram (5): Distribution of Fatalities Caused by Live Bullets

Diagram (5) shows the distribution, according to the location of the wounds, of the total of 187 Palestinian civilians, who were killed by live bullets fired by IOF in 2005. Of these, 50 civilians (26.7%) were shot to the head or the neck, and 48 civilians (25.7%) were shot to the chest and the abdomen. In addition, 88 persons (47%) were shot in other parts of the body, and one civilian (0.6%) was shot in the limbs.

Extra-Judicial Executions

Extra-judicial executions constitute the most blatant form of willful killing committed by IOF against Palestinian civilians, predetermined and approved by the Israeli
political and judiciary establishments. Despite the truce declared by the Palestinian national and Islamic factions at the beginning of 2005, IOF committed further extra-judicial executions, although at a lower pace than was witnessed in the previous 5 years. They escalated such attacks in the last quarter of 2005.\(^\text{13}\)

Israel uses the term "targeted killing" to describe this type of crime. It claims that it targets wanted persons, who pose a threat to the security of the State of Israel, when it fails to arrest them from inside areas controlled by the Palestinian National Authority. Extra-judicial executions involve executing a person without trial and without allowing him/her to defend him/herself and as such constitute a war crime under the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949. This policy also violates international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966. Israel's claims are void as IOF have retained direct control over the areas controlled by the Palestinian National Authority, especially in the West Bank, so IOF can arrest Palestinians who are allegedly wanted instead of killing them.\(^\text{14}\)

IOF employ various means to commit extra-judicial executions, mainly aerial attacks on civilian buildings, such as houses, and transportation vehicles. They also use elite undercover units disguised in Palestinian civilian clothes to find and kill wanted Palestinians.

Such crimes are committed without taking into consideration that they may also threaten the lives of non-targeted Palestinian civilians. There are many instances in which IOF targeted and executed a person or a number of persons, without taking into consideration the lives of other people who were present at the scene.\(^\text{15}\)

In 2005, IOF carried out 18 extra-judicial execution operations, in which 44 Palestinians were killed. Of those killed, 32 were targeted persons, and 12, including, 6 children, were non-targeted civilian bystanders. In addition, 17 Palestinians were injured. A total of 236 extra-judicial execution operations were conducted by IOF between 29 September 2000 and 31 December 2005. A total of 515 Palestinians (17.5% of the total number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces in the same period) were killed in these attacks. Of those killed, 171, including 51 children, were non-targeted civilian bystanders. In the West Bank, 216 targeted persons and 69 civilian bystanders were killed. In the Gaza Strip, 128 targeted persons and 102 civilian bystanders were killed, and 326 others were injured.

\(^\text{13}\) For more details about the latest Israeli official statements regarding extra-judicial executions, see PCHR's press release on 9 November 2005, which condemned statements by the Israeli Prime Minster Ariel Sharon and the Israeli Military Chief of Staff Dan Halutz at a meeting of the Committee of Foreign and Defence Affairs at the Israeli Knesset on 8 November 2005. Halutz claimed that the policy of "targeted killing" [extra-judicial executions] proved its efficiency in deterring terrorist activities." The Israeli daily newspaper Ha'aretz quoted Sharon as saying that "targeted killing and military pressure on terrorist organizations will continue." For more details about these statements, see www.haaretzdaily.com, 8 November 2005.

\(^\text{14}\) For instance, on 23 October 2005, IOF stopped a car in Tulkarm refugee camp in the northern West Bank. They forced the driver, 28-year-old Majed Sameer al-Ashqar, out of the car and shot him dead. For more details about this crime, see PCHR's press release on 24 October 2005.

\(^\text{15}\) For example, on 27 October 2005, an IOF aircraft launched missiles at a civilian car, in which 4 persons, including a member of the Islamic Jihad, were traveling near the entrance to Jabalya refugee camp. The four passengers and 3 passing children were killed, and 19 others, including 7 children, were injured.
Killing of Palestinian Children

Children are granted a range of special protections under international human rights instruments and the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly article 147. In 2005, 46 Palestinian children (26 in the Gaza Strip and 20 in the West Bank) were killed by IOF. This figure constitutes 24.5% of the total number of Palestinian civilians killed by IOF in 2005. Thus, the number of Palestinian children killed by IOF between 29 September 2000 and 31 December 2005 increased to 651, approximately 22% of the total number of Palestinian civilians killed by IOF in the same period. These children were killed as a result of the excessive use of force by IOF. According to PCHR’s documentation, many of these children were willfully killed by IOF when they did not pose any threat to the lives of Israeli soldiers. For instance, in October 2005, an Israeli soldier shot dead 'Udai Tantawi, 13, from 'Askar refugee camp near Nablus. Investigations conducted by IOF proved that the child did not pose any threat to the lives of Israeli soldiers and that the Israeli soldier used excessive force against him.16

This crime is one in a series of similar ones committed by IOF against Palestinian children in 2005. On 31 January 2005, IOF opened fire at an UNRWA elementary school in Rafah. Two Palestinian schoolchildren were wounded while they were about to enter their classrooms: 11-year-old Nouran Eyad Deeb was seriously wounded by a live bullet to the head and 8-year-old 'Aaesha 'Essam al-Khatib, was wounded by a live bullet to the right hand. The two children were evacuated to Abu Yousef al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah, but the first child died a few minutes later. This crime was not the first of its kind as on 12 October 2004, IOF killed Ghadeer Jaber Mukheimer, 11, from Khan Yunis, while she was in her classroom.

On 4 January 2005, IOF killed 7 Palestinian children, including 2 brothers, by a tank shell in the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Lahia. Six of the children are from the Ghaben family. This attack is further evidence of the disregard for the lives of Palestinian civilians and the excessive and indiscriminate use of force by IOF. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, IOF positioned in military posts between "Elli Sinai" and "Nissanit" settlements to the north of Beit Lahia fired a tank shell at Palestinian agricultural areas located to the south of the fence separating the two settlements from Beit Lahia. The shell directly hit a number of Palestinian children who were farming their land. Seven children, including 2 brothers, were killed:

1. Hani Mohammed Kamel Ghaben, 17;
2. Mohammed Hassan Mousa Ghaben, 17;
3. Rajeh Ghassan Kamel Ghaben, 10;
4. Jaber 'Abdullah Ghaben, 16;
5. Bassam Kamel Mohammed Ghaben, 17;
6. Mahmoud Kamel Mohammed Ghaben, 12; and

In addition, 7 civilians, including 5 children, were injured. The children who were wounded were:

1. Islam Hassan al-Da'bala, 17, wounded by shrapnel throughout the body;

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2. Tha'er 'Ali Abu Banat, 15, wounded by shrapnel throughout the body;
3. Ibrahim 'Abdul Fattah al-Kaseeh, 13, lacerations to the legs;
4. 'Emad Yousef al-Kaseeh, 16, lacerations to the legs; and
5. 'Eissa Ramadan Ghalia, 11, lacerations to the legs.

According to PCHR, 57 Palestinian children (8.7% of the total number of children killed by IOF since the beginning of the Intifada) were killed during extra-judicial executions committed by IOF against Palestinian civilians. In 2005, 7 children were killed during extra-judicial executions committed by IOF against Palestinian civilians. For instance, on 27 October 2005, an Israeli drone that was flying over the northern Gaza Strip launched a missile at a civilian car, which was traveling on al-Turk road towards Jabalya refugee camp. Four Palestinians were traveling in the car. The missile hit the car directly and destroyed it. The four passengers were instantly killed. Three civilian bystanders, all of them children, were also killed. In addition, 19 civilian bystanders, including 7 children, were injured; the injuries of 3 of them were described by medical sources as serious. The three children who were killed in the street were identified as:
1. Rami Riad 'Assaf, 17;
2. Karam Mohammed Abu Naji, 14; and

PCHR's investigations refuted the IOF's claim that the high number of casualties was attributed to explosives that were being transported by the car, which caused several explosions as soon as the car was attacked. According to eyewitnesses, only one explosion was heard, which resulted from the missile launched by the Israeli drone. The missile hit the center of the car and shrapnel from it spread into the street, which was crowded at the time.

On 24 August 2006, IOF extra-judicially executed 5 unarmed Palestinian civilians, including 3 children, in Tulkarm refugee camp. One of the victims was allegedly wanted by IOF. An undercover unit of IOF moved into Tulkarm refugee camp using a civilian car. The car stopped near al-Qaisi supermarket in the center of the refugee camp. Six armed persons wearing civilian clothes got out of the car. They moved towards 6 Palestinian civilians who were sitting in the area and fired at them. Two civilians were instantly killed; one of them was wanted by IOF. Members of the undercover unit fired also at 5 other civilians who were sitting a few meters away. Two other civilians were killed. A fifth civilian was seriously wounded and he died later. Three of the victims were children and were identified as:
1. Mahmoud Mohammed Isma'il Hudaib, 16, hit by 4 live bullets to the chest and the thighs;
2. Anas Ma'rouf 'Assaf Abu Zaina, 17, hit by two live bullets to the chest and the abdomen; and
3. Mohammed Tariq 'Abdul Latif 'Othman, 17, hit by 5 live bullets to the chest and the abdomen.

Extra-judicial executions committed by IOF against Palestinian civilians demonstrate IOF's disregard for the lives of Palestinian civilians, including children. The international community and the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention have remained silent towards such disregard, and international will to develop mechanisms to stop such actions has remained absent. Such international
failure to act against such crimes has encouraged IOF to further disregard the lives of Palestinian children wherever they are throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The use of sonic booms by IOF against Palestinian civilians in September and October 2005 further evidences Israel's disregard for Palestinian children, particularly their mental health. In a letter sent to the Israeli Defense Minister on 28 October 2005, the UN Special Coordinator for Middle East Peace Process, Alvaro De Soto, expressed his utmost concern for the impacts of the use of sonic booms on Palestinian children. Based on a report by the World Health Organization, he pointed out that sonic booms, intensively used by Israel against Palestinian civilians in September and October 2005, caused psychological disorders in Palestinian children who were terrified by these booms. Sonic booms also damaged civilian property.

Using Palestinian Civilians as Human Shields in Military Operations

On 6 October 2005, the Israeli High Court ruled that it was illegal for IOF to use Palestinian civilians as human shields during military actions. The decision followed a petition filed by a number of human rights organizations 2002. The petition documented the IOF's use of Palestinian civilians as human shields since the beginning of the second Intifada, primarily during IOF operations carried out in Palestinian population centers. The true test of this ruling will be in its implementation.

Using civilians as human shields in military operations is prohibited under international humanitarian law.17

IOF have continued to use Palestinian civilians as human shields during military operations in the OPT. Since the beginning of the current Intifada in September 2000, IOF have forced Palestinian civilians, including children and women, to carry out tasks that posed threats to their lives, including:

1) Walking in front of Israeli troops to shield them from gunfire, explosives or other attacks.
2) Accompanying Israeli troops in their movement from one place to another.
3) Entering houses and other Palestinian properties before Israeli troops during Israeli house raids that aim at searching for wanted Palestinians.
4) Approaching homes and requesting the residents leave their properties.
5) Removing suspicious objects from roads.

On 5 May 2002, the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel (Addalah), on behalf of six other human rights organizations, submitted a petition to the Israeli High Court demanding that the court order IOF to stop using Palestinian civilians as human shields. Two days later, the Israeli Attorney General's Office submitted a response to this request. The State's response implicitly confirmed the IOF's use of these practices and claimed that IOF decided to prohibit the use of civilians as human shields. In light of this response, the court did not decide on the case and left the door open for the use of Palestinian civilians as human shields during military operations,

17 Article 28 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prescribes that "the presence of a protected person may not be used to render certain points or areas immune from military operations." Article 51 of the Convention provides that "the Occupying Power may not compel protected persons to serve in its armed or auxiliary forces..." Article 147 of the Convention further defines “willfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body …” as a grave breach of the Convention.
which IOF calls "the neighbor procedure," when deemed necessary by an IOF field officer.

On 14 August 2002, Nidal Abu Mohsen, 19, was killed while being used as a human shield during the course of a military operation in Tubas village near Jenin in the north of West Bank. Abu Mohsen was compelled by IOF to wear a bulletproof suit and knock on a neighbor's door, where a member of Hamas was hiding. The Hamas member exchanged fire with IOF.

On 18 August 2002, in response to Addalah's petition, the Israeli High Court granted a temporary injunction preventing IOF from using Palestinian civilians as human shields and/or hostages through the "neighbor procedure". However, IOF did not comply with this injunction and continued to use Palestinian civilians as human shields during military operations.

In August 2003, the Israeli High Court cancelled this temporary injunction and accepted new instruction by the Israeli army regarding limited use of Palestinian civilians through the "early warning procedure", under which civilians are used upon their approval. Thus, IOF were granted cover by the highest judicial body to use Palestinian civilians during military operations.
Settlement Activities and Attacks by Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

In September 2005, IOF evacuated the 21 Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip, in addition to 4 small settlements in the northern West Bank. This development was positive as it put an end to the direct control of IOF over at least 40% of the total area of the Gaza Strip. The PNA had control over areas that were classified as areas B and C according the Palestinian–Israeli Interim Agreements of 1994 and 1995. However, this positive development did not come in the context of Israel's respect for its obligations under the international law. Neither did it represent an end of Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank. It was rather a part of a unilateral Israeli strategic plan to serve the creation of facts on the ground that fit its strategic goals. Under this plan, Israel evacuated its occupation forces and settlers from the Gaza Strip, but maintained its control over the Gaza Strip's air space, sea and border crossings, thus preserving the essence of occupation. The implementation of the plan was accompanied by intensified settlement activities throughout the West Bank and confiscation of large areas of Palestinian land for the purpose of settlement expansion. In 2005, Israeli settlers escalated their attacks on Palestinian civilians and property throughout the OPT, including the Gaza Strip, before and during the implementation of the Israeli Disengagement Plan.

Israeli settlement activities in the OPT clearly violate international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention. Article 49 of the Convention provides that “the Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies”. However, successive Israeli governments have supported settlement activities through providing financial, legal and administrative means to encourage their Jewish population to live in settlements established in the OPT. Israel has seized large areas of land in the OPT, devoting them for settlement activities. In spite of the evacuation of settlements in the Gaza Strip, around 350,000–400,000 Israeli settlers have continued to live in at least 130 settlements in the West Bank. Nearly half of these settlers live in settlements inside and around occupied East Jerusalem. IOF have continued to make efforts to Judaize the city.

In the past four decades, Israel has created an apartheid system, the only one of its kind in the world. Israeli settlers enjoy all privileges, care and protection, whereas Palestinian areas remain persecuted and strangled. Israeli settlements occupy large areas of Palestinian land, but only a small portion of this land is under settlement construction. The other portions of land are devoted to the creation of buffer zones around settlements, establishing bypass roads for the transportation of settlers, and for future strategic expansion. Palestinian civilians living in communities located near Israeli settlements are subject to severe Israeli practices, which seek to force them to leave their land, especially as IOF have continued to construct the Annexation Wall in the West Bank, which has seized large areas of Palestinian land.

18 Areas C were under full Israeli control, and areas B were under Israeli security control and Palestinian civil control.
19 According to a study made by an Israeli human rights organization, settlements stand on 1.7% of the West Bank land, but effectively control 41.9% of the area of the West Bank. For more details, see: B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, Land Grab: Israel's settlement Policy in the West Bank, May 2002.
In 2005, Israeli settlement activities continued throughout the OPT to create new facts on the ground. Israel continued to establish new settlements, expand existing ones and establish bypass roads on Palestinian land. In March 2005, Israeli sources revealed that the Israeli government approved two plans to build 3500 housing units between East Jerusalem and “Ma’ale Adumim” settlement to the east. These plans will expand the aforementioned settlement towards East Jerusalem and will prevent geographical contiguity between the north and south of the West Bank.

On Monday, 26 December 2005, the Israeli Ministry of Construction and Housing put out tenders to build 228 new housing units in West Bank settlements. The tenders included 150 units in “Betar Elite” settlement and 78 units in “Efrat” settlement in Bethlehem. The Israeli Peace Now group stated that since the beginning of 2005 the ministry had submitted tenders for the construction of 1131 housing units in the West Bank.

In addition, there are dozens of unlicensed settlement outposts in the West Bank, which have been established by the settlers themselves. In January 2005, a report on “illegal” settlement outposts prepared by the Israeli attorney Thalia Sason commissioned by the Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, at least 120 settlement outposts have been established in the past 10 years. These outposts received support from the State of Israel through the Defense Ministry, the army, the Civil Administration and the Ministries of Infrastructure, Education, Industry, Commerce, Finance, Housing and Religions. According to the Israeli daily Haaretz, there were at least 196 attempts by settlers in the first half of 2005 to establish unlicensed settlement outposts, and one third of these attempts took place a few months following a declaration by the Israeli government that it had destroyed 39 illegal settlement outposts.

Attacks by Israeli Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

In 2005, Israeli settler attacks against Palestinian civilians and property continued. Such attacks included shootings, running down civilians with vehicles and destruction of or damage to civilian property. In 2005, 5 Palestinian civilian were killed by Israeli settlers in the OPT and a number of others were injured. This brings the number of Palestinian civilians killed by settlers to 35 since the beginning of the current Intifada in September 2000.

On 17 August 2005, an Israeli settler killed 4 Palestinian workers in “Shilo” settlement, southwest of Nablus. According to information available to PCHR, Mohammed ‘Ali Hassan Mansour, 49, from Kufor al-Jaleel village near Nablus, and Khalil Mohammed Ra’ouf Welaiwel, 40, from Qalqilya, were traveling in an Israeli vehicle from their work place in “Shilo” settlement to their homes. The driver, who

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20 On 20 March, the Israeli daily Haaretz reported that new aerial surveys made by the Israeli Defense Ministry demonstrated intensified settlement activities in the West Bank between Summer 2004 and the beginning of 2005.
21 In a meeting with US Jewish figures, the Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon vowed to link “Ma’ale Adumim” settlement with Jerusalem, see the Israeli daily Haaretz, 19 September 2005.
22 The Israeli daily Haaretz, 27 December 2005.
23 Haaretz, 6 June 2005.
was an Israeli settler called Ashir Weisgen, 40, from “Shavot Rachel” settlement, stopped the vehicle and went towards the guard of the industrial zone of “Shilo” settlement. He drank water and stole the guard’s gun. Soon after, he ran back towards his vehicle and opened fire at the two Palestinian workers from a very close range. The two workers were instantly killed. Then, the settler ran into the industrial zone and opened fire at a number of Palestinian workers who were waiting for a vehicle to transport them out of the settlement. One of these workers, Bassam Mousa Tawafsha, 40, from Senjil village near Ramallah, was killed. Two other workers were also wounded: Ussama Mousa Tawafsha, 30, from Senjil village and Rawhi Abu Hani, 35, from Qaryout village near Nablus. The two were evacuated to an Israeli hospital, but the former was later pronounced dead.

On 6 August 2005, an Israeli settler opened fire at a civilian car that was transporting a number of Palestinian workers from their work places inside Israel to their homes in Hebron in the West Bank. Two workers were wounded: Mahmoud Hassan al-‘Adam, 24, seriously wounded by a live bullet that that entered the right shoulder and exited the chest; and Kamal Ahmed al-‘Adam, 34, wounded by a live bullet to the back. On the same day, a number of Israeli settlers in settlement posts in the centre of Hebron attacked 16-year-old Anas Zuhair al-Bayed. He sustained injuries to the mouth, the neck and the right leg, and bruises throughout the body.

On 13 November 2005, a number of Israeli settlers from the Jewish School in “Kiryat Arba” settlement, east of Hebron, attacked a number of houses in Wad al-Husain neighborhood using stones, iron bars and empty and explosive bottles. A Palestinian child, 3-year-old Nour Suleiman Abu Su’aifan was seriously injured in the left foot. Two houses were also damaged.

Israeli settlers also launched dozens of attacks on Palestinian civilian property in 2005. On 24 January 2005, a number of Israeli settlers living in settlement posts in the center of Hebron launched a series of attacks on Palestinian civilian and property in the old town of Hebron. According to eyewitnesses, the settlers threw stones at a number of houses and shops, damaging them.

On 16 May 2005, Israeli settlers living in “Kedumim” settlement, northeast of Qalqilya, escorted by IOF, razed 30 dunums of agricultural land planted with olives owned by ‘Abdul Latif Mohammed Abu Daya in the neighboring Kufor Qaddoum village, in order to expand the aforementioned settlement.

On 9 July 2005, a number of Israeli settlers moved from the “Avraham Avino” settlement post in the old town of Hebron and attacked Palestinian houses in al-Sahla Street and near the Ibrahimi mosque with stones and empty bottles. A number of houses belonging to the families of Abu Hadid, al-Muhtasseb, al-Salaima and Sayed Ahmed were damaged.

On 19 August 2005, a number of Israeli settlers from “Sha’ar Hatekva”, southeast of Qalqilya, attacked Palestinian civilian property in the neighboring ‘Azzoun ‘Atma village. They threw stones at Palestinian civilian cars and set fire to areas of agricultural land and a number of greenhouses.
On 2 September 2002, about 50 settlers, most of whom were armed, from the “Kiryat Arba” settlement, southeast of Hebron, stormed a tract of land belong to Mahmoud al-Bouti Jaber in the Wad al-Nasara neighborhood to the south. They seized the land and set up tents and umbrellas in preparation for establishing a settlement post. IOF did not intervene to stop this attack.

On 4 September 2005, 12 Israeli settlers armed with pistols, knives and iron bars, moved from “Ma’oun” settlement to the southeast of Yatta village, south of Hebron. They attacked tents and cattle farms belonging to a number of Palestinian civilians in the Khalayel al-‘Adra area to the west of the aforementioned settlement. They killed 6 sheep, injured 10 others and damaged the farms.
Annexation Wall in the West Bank

IOF have continued to construct the Annexation Wall inside the occupied West Bank, in violation of international humanitarian law and the Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice in Hague on 9 July 2004. In 2005, the construction was mainly focused around occupied East Jerusalem, in spite of the petitions submitted to courts by Palestinian civilians living in villages located around the town, whose properties were destroyed or confiscated. IOF also continued to construct sections of the wall in other Palestinian districts, especially Bethlehem and Hebron, and near large settlements, such as “Ariel” near Nablus. The construction in “Ariel” took place at least 22 kilometers inside West Bank Territory.

As the Israeli government declared its unilateral Disengagement Plan from the Gaza Strip, the Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and other ministers unleashed plans of settlement expansion in the West Bank, and acceleration of construction of the Annexation Wall around occupied East Jerusalem. They decided to complete the construction of the Wall around the city either by the end of 2005 or March 2006. Thus, Israel has decided the future of the occupied city and has effectively annexed it in violation of international humanitarian law.

The construction of the Wall by IOF in the OPT violates a general principle of international humanitarian law that the occupying power is prohibited from changing the nature of the territory it occupies except for military necessities or unless it is deemed beneficial for the population of the occupied territories. The construction of the Wall is not beneficial for the Palestinian population and can never be justified as a military necessity, contrary to Israeli claims of its security necessity.

On 1 December 2005, the Israeli Minister of Justice Tzipi Livni stated that “the Israeli High Court issue judicial rulings to decide the borders of Israel through the separating fence.” This statement contradicts the Israeli attorney general’s office, which has repeatedly claimed that the Wall is being constructed for security purposes rather than political ones and that it is a temporary means to protect security.24

PCHR has emphasized since Israel started to construct the Annexation Wall in the West Bank that the Wall represents the most recent and blatant form of the Israeli policy of territorial expansion. It also violates international humanitarian law in that it effectively seeks to disrupt the geographical contiguity of the West Bank and, more dangerously, to annex occupied Palestinian land to Israel. Moreover, the methods used by IOF in the construction of the Wall violate international human rights law and international humanitarian law, particularly the Forth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, whose article 147 prohibits extensive destruction and appropriation of property.

On 9 July 2004, the International Court of Justice in the Hague issued its advisory opinion regarding the legal consequences of the Wall being constructed by Israel in the OPT, including Jerusalem, in response to a request by a UN General Assembly

24 The Israeli attorney general's office admitted for the first time in its response to a petition submitted by residents of ‘Azzoun village, north of Qalqilya that not only security considerations decide the route of the Wall. It also demanded the Israeli High Court to approve the original route of the Wall, claiming that changing the route would be "too costly." For more details, see Haaretz, 4 July 2005.
resolution on 8 December 2004. The Court ruled the wall being constructed by Israel in the OPT, including Jerusalem, violates international law. The court also decided that Israel is obliged to stop its violations of international law, stop the construction of the wall, tear down the sections already constructed, abolish all relevant legislations and orders and compensate Palestinians harmed during the construction of the wall. On 20 July 2004, the UN General Assembly issued a resolution calling on Israel to comply with legal obligations included in the Advisory Opinion. However, Israel has refused to accept the Advisory Opinion and has continued to construct the Wall disregarding international resolutions. The Israeli judiciary has also been supportive in its rulings to the expansionist settlement activities and other human rights violations perpetrated by IOF against Palestinian civilians and their property.

Since the start of the construction of the Annexation Wall, the Israeli High Court as a body for petition has been under question. Palestinians damaged by the construction of the Wall appealed to the Court, rejecting the confiscation of their land for the purpose of the construction of the Wall or the isolation of their land behind the Wall and denial of access to their land. The Court rejected these appeals and often issued decisions supporting the construction of the Wall, taking into consideration the “humanitarian needs” of the Palestinian population. Thus, the Court supports the construction of the Wall in the OPT in violation of the international law, but called for minimizing the resulting suffering, as cited in its ruling on 30 June 2004 with regard to the case of Beit Sourik village, northwest of Jerusalem. On 15 September 2005, the Israeli High Court gave the Israeli government and IOF a green light to continue the construction of the Annexation Wall inside West Bank territory. The Court claimed that “Israel as a matter of principle has the authority to construct the Wall in the West Bank for security reasons.” This decision would impact 44 petitions against the construction of the Wall submitted to the court.

**Chronology of Developments in 2005**

On 20 February 2005, the Israeli cabinet approved new plans for the route of the wall. According to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the new plans would result in the annexation of areas in the West Bank territory to Israel, not including East Jerusalem, which had been already annexed. Major settlements, where most of the 240,000 settlers live, would be annexed to Israel, such as “Ariel” settlement, the largest settlement in the northern West Bank, “Gush Etzion” settlement block, southwest of Bethlehem, and “Ma’ale Adumim” settlement bloc, east of Jerusalem. Under these plans, the length of the Wall once it is completed would be 670 kilometers instead of the previously planned 720 kilometers. The Wall would follow the Green Line (1949 armistice line between the West Bank and Israel) for 135 kilometers, instead of the previously planned 48 kilometers coinciding with the Green Line. According to a report submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, John Dugard, to the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly, the construction of the Wall around the settlements of “Ariel”, “Ma’ale Adumim” and “Gush Etzion” would annex nearly 10% of the West Bank territory to Israel, in addition to the already annexed 12.7%. The areas behind the Wall would include 170,000 Israeli settlers, not including settlers in East Jerusalem, and 49,000 Palestinians living in 39 villages.
The report also indicated that 213 kilometers of the Wall had been constructed, from the northwestern border of the West Bank to “Alkanah” settlement in the center, in addition to two sections in Jerusalem. Construction was taking place between “Alkanah” settlement and Jerusalem, around “Ariel” settlement, inside and around East Jerusalem, and from “Gush Etzion” settlement block to “Mitzoday Yihuda” settlement at the southern border of the West Bank. IOF had also completed the construction of the northern section of the Wall, which extends from Jenin to the northeastern Jordan Valley at the northern border of the West Bank. Although IOF have not started to construct the section of the Wall along the western border of the Jordan River, this section is included in Israeli plans for the construction of the Wall. Once the construction of all sections of the Wall has been completed, over half the area of the West Bank will be annexed to Israel.

With the transformation of Qalandya checkpoint, south of Ramallah, into a “border” crossing at the end of 2005, IOF have effectively divided the West Bank into three isolated parts: the north, the center and the south. IOF are also currently establishing another “border” crossing at Za’tara intersection, south of Nablus. This crossing is expected to be operated at the beginning of 2006. The establishment of these crossings, while the Wall is being constructed, falls under Israeli plans seeking to isolate Palestinian communities, annex large area of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and undermine any possibility to establish a viable Palestinian state.

Contrary to claims by the Israeli government that it will allow Palestinian farmers to reach their agricultural land located behind the Wall, and allow Palestinians living in communities isolated by the Wall to have access to hospitals, workplaces and educational institutions in Palestinian towns, IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinians. Palestinian farmers whose agricultural land is located behind the Wall are obliged by IOF to obtain special permits to reach their land under strict conditions. IOF often abstain from issuing such permits, especially at times of total closure on the OPT, and close gates accessing land behind the Wall.

Several villages have been isolated behind the Wall. One of these villages is ‘Azzoun ‘Atma village, which clearly illustrates the suffering of Palestinian civilians who find themselves on the Israeli side of the Wall. Residents of the village move towards Palestinian areas at the other side of the Wall through iron gates established in the Wall, which are controlled by IOF. These gates are opened for limited hours only each day. In 2005, IOF prevented medical crews on several occasions from entering ‘Azzoun ‘Atma village. They also prevented at least 100 students from the neighboring Beit Ameen village from reaching their school in ‘Azzoun ‘Atma village.

Another example of the suffering resulting from the Wall is Jebara village, south of Tulkarm, which has been isolated behind the Wall. On 11 June 2005, Ahmed Mas’oud Marzouq ‘Othman, 56, from Jebara village died due to the obstruction of his evacuation to the hospital by the IOF. He suffered from a heart attack. The village is located to the west of the Wall and movement to and from it is only permitted through an iron gate established in the Wall.
The case of Hani ‘Aamer, 48, a father of 6 children from Masha village south of Qalqilya, is another example of the suffering incurred by Palestinian civilians as a result of the construction of the Wall. IOF have besieged the house with a fence, isolating it from the remainder of the village. He has not been allowed to leave or come back to the house without prior permission. He has not been allowed to host guests, or repair/rebuild his house.

**Isolation of East Jerusalem**

Since the beginning of the first Palestinian Intifada, IOF have imposed severe restrictions on the access of Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to occupied East Jerusalem. They have forced Palestinians to obtain special permits, which they issue, as a precondition to being allowed to enter the city. IOF have adopted policies that seek to Judaize the city. Following the outbreak of the current al-Aqsa Intifada, IOF imposed additional restrictions on Palestinian civilians wishing to enter the city for medical care, work, education and worship. They have also imposed restrictions on the work of national institutions as their staff members have not been able to reach their work places and clients have not been able to reach these institutions. As a result, a number of institutions were forces to open branch offices outside the city in order to be able to serve their clients. Once the section of the Annexation Wall being constructed around the city is completed, the city will be totally isolated from Palestinian areas, and IOF will totally control the movement to and from the city through border crossings, such as Qalandya between Ramallah and Jerusalem; and Gilo between Bethlehem and Jerusalem; and other small crossings such as Haza and Sho’fat, east of Jerusalem; and al-‘Eizariya, southeast of the city.

On 13 March 2005, the Israeli government approved the new route of the wall around Jerusalem, under which neighborhoods and villages located to the north of the city will be isolated and Shu’fat refugee camp will be surrounded by fences. The new route would also annex “Maale Adumim” settlement, east of the city, and Bilal Ben Rabah mosque, north of Bethlehem, to the boundaries of Jerusalem. It would also isolate the villages of Kufor ‘Aqab and al-Ram and the areas of Dahiat al-Barid and Samiramees, north of the city, where more than 90,000 Palestinians live. The Israeli government decided also to isolate So’fat refugee camp, east of the city, where at least 30,000 Palestinian live, from the city with a barbed wire fence. In the meantime, IOF have isolated 9 villages located to the northwest of Jerusalem: Beit Sourik; Beit Ajza; Beit Diqqu; Nabi Samuel; Beit Eksa; Biddu; al-Qebia; Qutna; and Beit ‘Anan. At least 30,000 Palestinians live in these villages. Thus, at least 150,000 Palestinians would be forced to be separate from East Jerusalem.

The Annexation Wall has left Kufor ‘Aqab village, north of Jerusalem, which was annexed to Jerusalem, outside the Israeli imposed boundaries of the city. Residents of the village have Israeli identity cards. The Wall has also isolated al-Ram village and Dahiat al-Barid suburb, north of Jerusalem. At least 60,000 Palestinians, nearly half of them holding Israeli identity cards, live in these two areas.
As the construction of the Wall is expected to be completed soon, totally isolating Jerusalem, hundreds of Palestinians living in al-Ram village and Dahiat al-Barid suburb have started to move back to East Jerusalem. Most of these Palestinians are young couples who have been separated from their families living in Jerusalem. According to Israeli classifications, the eastern parts of al-Ram village and Dahiat al-Barid suburb are located in the West Bank, whereas the western parts are part of Jerusalem.

Impacts of the Construction of the Annexation Wall around Jerusalem

- **Land Confiscation and Isolation**

With the construction of the Annexation Wall around Jerusalem, Israeli measures to isolate the city have become more complicated. In 2005, IOF accelerated the construction of the Wall around the city in order to complete it as soon as possible and thus implement decisions taken by the Israeli political and security establishments.

- **Denial of Rights of the Palestinian Civilian Population**

Israeli illegal and arbitrary measures in East Jerusalem lead to violations of civil, political, economic and social rights of the Palestinian civilian population.

1. **Violation of the Right to Citizenship:** The construction of the Annexation Wall around Jerusalem falls under Israeli policies aimed at the Judaization and the annexation of the city with the least Palestinian population. These policies seek to make the Palestinian population constitute only 22% of the total population of the city, according to the Israeli ministerial committee for Jerusalem’s affairs. In the past years, the Israeli government has implemented instructions issued by the Israeli Ministry of Interior that Palestinians must prove their permanent residence in the city, a measure known as “the center of life”. Every Palestinian living in Jerusalem must prove that he has lived in the city in the past seven years, when he/she refers to any Israeli official body, otherwise, he/she will lose his/her Israeli identity card. It is worth noting that IOF imposed Israeli identity cards on the Palestinian population in the city following its occupation in 1967 in the context of measures aimed at the annexation of the city. These measures have resulted in the dispersion of families and denial of the rights of families to receive social services and medical care, which are enjoyed by residents of Jerusalem.

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed its concern at the effect of the directive of the Ministry of the Interior, according to which Palestinians may lose their right to live in the city if they cannot prove that East Jerusalem has been their "centre of life" for the past seven years. The Committee also regretted a serious lack of transparency in the application of the directive. In its comment on Israel’s preliminary report on the rights prescribed by articles 1-15 of the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee noted with concern that this policy is being applied retroactively both to Palestinians who live abroad and to those who live in the West Bank or in nearby Jerusalem suburbs, but not to Israeli Jews or to foreign Jews who are permanent residents of East
Jerusalem. This system has resulted in, *inter alia*, the separation of Arab families and the denial of their right to social services and health care, including maternity care for Arab women, which are privileges linked to residency status in Jerusalem. The Committee was deeply concerned that the implementation of a quota system for the reunification of Palestinian families affected by this residency law involves long delays and does not meet the needs of all divided families. Similarly, the granting of residency status is often a long process and, as a result, many children are separated from at least one of their parents and spouses are not able to live together.25

2. **Violation of the Right of Education:** The construction of the Wall violates the Palestinian right of education. In addition to Hind al-Husseini College for Social sciences, belonging to the al-Quds University, there are many private schools in the city, where Palestinians wish to educate their children. Israeli official sources estimate that approximately 3,655 students who have Israeli identity cards will be isolated behind the Wall, but Palestinian sources consider this figure too small. At least 700 teachers who have Palestinian identity cards are prohibited from entering Jerusalem to reach their jobs at private schools and those of the Islamic Endowments Bureau. The Coordinator of the Private Education Supervision Committee in Jerusalem, Demitri Deliani, stated that IOF have continued to prevent at least 700 teachers from reaching their work places in Jerusalem. He added that IOF agreed to issue permits for 255 teachers to enter the city, but they issued only eight permits.

3. **Violation of the Right to Health Care:** There are several hospitals in Jerusalem which provide medical services not available in hospitals in the West Bank. Palestinians who have Israeli identity cards receive medical services at medical centers incorporated in the Israeli health insurance system. Palestinians living in the West Bank, and residents of the city who have been isolated behind the Wall, are deprived of these services.

4. **Violation of the Right to Work:** Following the outbreak of the current Intifada and the accompanying restrictions on movement, many Palestinians lost their jobs at Palestinian institutions in the city. Others have taken the risk and entered the city without permits, but once the construction of the Wall is completed, they will not be able to enter the city and will lose their jobs. The construction of the Wall will also impact the operation of hospitals and medical centers in the city, as many of their staff members are from the West Bank and need permits to enter the city.

5. **Violation of the Right of Worship:** Thousands of Palestinian Muslims and Christians have been prevented from reaching religious sites in Jerusalem, especially during religious occasions. According to information available to PCHR, at least half a million Muslims used to attend the last Friday Prayer of Ramadan at al-Aqsa Mosque before the current Intifada. In Ramadan last year, the number of attendees was less than one quarter of this figure. The

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same principle applies to Palestinian Christians with regard to Christian sites in the city.
Ongoing Policy of Total Closure and Violation of the Right to Freedom of Movement

In 2005, IOF continued to impose a total closure on the OPT, as a form of collective punishment against Palestinian civilians. They continued to impose severe restrictions on the freedom of movement of people and goods between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including arbitrary denials or delays imposed on travel between communities, between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. IOF imposed restrictions on entry and exit to the OPT at al-Karama International Crossing Point on the Jordanian border and Rafah International Crossing Point on the Egyptian border, the only outlets of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip respectively to the outside world. They also imposed restrictions at border crossings between the OPT and Israel, preventing hundreds of Palestinian patients from receiving medical care in the West Bank (including occupied East Jerusalem), students from the Gaza Strip from attending their universities in the West Bank, and worshippers from reaching religious sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron.

IOF have also continued to prevent the majority of Palestinian civilians, including medical cases, from entering Israel. With regard to internal movement, IOF continued to impose severe restrictions at hundreds of military checkpoints established at the entrances to Palestinian towns, villages and refugee camps. In the Gaza Strip, IOF repeatedly divided the Gaza Strip into 3 separate zones by completely closing checkpoints erected on the main road in the Strip. Since the implementation of the "Disengagement Plan" in September 2005, IOF have transformed the Gaza Strip into a big prison and have held its economy in a stranglehold.

On 12 September 2005, IOF concluded the implementation of the "Disengagement Plan." They evacuated all settlements throughout the Gaza Strip and redeployed outside, but they imposed a comprehensive closure on the Gaza Strip. All military checkpoints that stood on the main and branch roads were dismantled, thus easing internal movement. However, IOF have maintained their control over border crossings of the Gaza Strip, thus controlling travel abroad.

On 15 November 2005, it was announced that the PNA and Israel had reached an agreement on the border crossings of the Gaza Strip. Under the agreement of 25 November 2005, the Rafah International Crossing Point, on the Egyptian border in the south of the Gaza Strip, would be opened for civilian travel to Egypt and the rest of the world. The Palestinians and European Union (EU) observers would run the Palestinian side of the crossing point. In addition, the EU observers would transmit live images to a joint control room several kilometers away. Palestinian and Israeli security officers would view the camera feeds and monitor the crossing point from there.

26 IOF destroyed the runway of Gaza International Airport at the beginning of the current Intifada, completely stopping operation of the airport. The airport had been operated according to the Israeli–Palestinian Interim Agreements.
27 IOF have continued to prevent the "Safe Passage" between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank since the beginning of the current Intifada. The "Safe Passage" was opened in October 1999 according to the Wye River Memorandum of Understandings between the PNA and Israel in 1998.
28 The policy of closure adopted by IOF often disrupts PCHR's activities, as PCHR staff members are sometimes prevented from moving inside the OPT or traveling abroad.
The agreement allows Palestinians to export Gaza Strip agricultural products through Karni (al-Mentar) crossing and the Rafah International Crossing Point. Furthermore, the Kerem Shalom crossing point would be opened for Palestinian imports. However, customs clearance would be carried out by Israeli clearance firms.

Under the agreement, IOF would allow bus convoys for goods and passengers between the Gaza Strip and West Bank, starting on 15 December 2005, and on 15 January 2006, IOF would allow truck convoys to move between the two areas. In addition, the agreement included stipulations to draft a plan to reduce restrictions on movement within the West Bank, starting on 31 December 2005. It also allowed the commencement of the construction of the Gaza sea port, and a trilateral committee would be set up to draft security and operational arrangements before the port opened. Finally, the agreement stipulated that discussions on the reopening of the Gaza International Airport would continue.29

It is worth noting that Rafah International Crossing Point, the sole outlet of the Gaza Strip to the outside world, was closed 80 days prior to its re-operation. IOF had reopened it sporadically to allow Palestinians trapped on the Egyptian side of the crossing point to travel back to the Gaza Strip and to allow some medical cases, students and pilgrims to travel abroad. The closure of the crossing point had severely impacted the Palestinian civilian population of the Gaza Strip. Many Palestinian civilians, including women and children, had been trapped on the Egyptian side of the crossing point for long periods of time and under severe humanitarian conditions, lacking basic services.

The agreement maintains the de facto IOF control over Rafah International Crossing Point; it does not guarantee free interaction with the outside world; and the IOF will continue to control the civilian and commercial movement between the Gaza Strip and West Bank. The field conditions in the Gaza Strip prove that IOF have continued to control movement to and from the Gaza Strip. This agreement reinforces the IOF control over, and occupation of the Gaza Strip, which has not ended with the implementation of the “Disengagement Plan.” The agreement reinforces the current deprivation of tens of thousands of Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip, who do not have ID cards, of their right to travel and meet family members abroad.30 The agreement strengthens the Israeli control over the Gaza Strip economy, and hinders attempts to develop the economy. This is achieved through controlling the movement of imports and exports, which can be stopped by IOF in light of any field developments or under security claims. The IOF's bad will, regarding the facilitation of movement and travel, is proven by the delay in re-opening Gaza International Airport, which requires only a few months for renovation and operational readiness. The seaport, whose construction is permitted to begin according to the agreement, will need more than two years before it becomes ready for operation.

IOF have continued to restrict access to occupied East Jerusalem for residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. As a result, Palestinians have been denied access to advanced medical care provided by hospitals in East Jerusalem, to family, education,

29 By the end of the year, IOF had not committed to the agreement as many of its provisions had not bee implemented.
30 IOF have authority to decide the legal status of Palestinians, whether they are permanent residents of the OPT or visitors. They have the authority to issue identity cards for Palestinians.
to work and to religious sites in the city. The construction of the Annexation Wall around East Jerusalem will establish a permanent barrier for Palestinians seeking to enter occupied East Jerusalem.

In the West Bank, IOF have continued to construct the Annexation Wall adding more restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. The Wall has isolated occupied East Jerusalem from its suburbs, villages and the remainder of the West Bank. The movement of thousands of Palestinian civilians living in villages isolated by the Wall has been controlled by IOF through iron gates established in the Wall.

In the last week of 2005, IOF declared the transformation of Qalandya checkpoint, south of Ramallah, into a border crossing between Jerusalem and Ramallah. IOF are currently establishing a similar border crossing at Za'tara checkpoint, south of Nablus in the northern West Bank. The operation of these two crossings will divide the West Bank into 3 separate zones and add additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. It will also affect the economic, educational and health conditions in the West Bank.

Palestinian civilians passing through military checkpoints often face degrading and inhumane treatment by IOF, which sometimes prevent Palestinian civilians from crossing these checkpoints. IOF also conduct humiliating checks on Palestinian civilians and carry out beatings. In several occasions, IOF opened fire at Palestinian civilians who had resorted to using alternative roads to avoid such restrictions at military checkpoints.

The policy of closure is a form of collective punishment prohibited by international humanitarian law. Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention specifically prohibits punishment of protected persons for offences they have not personally committed. It also prohibits collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or terrorism. IOF have implemented these restrictions in an entirely disproportionate and excessive manner. The closure policy has been implemented as a means of punishment, intimidation and retaliation against Palestinian civilians. Article 12 (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights prescribes that "everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence."

The policy of closure and restrictions on freedom of movement has had severe repercussions for the fundamental rights of Palestinians. The restrictions have directly contributed to the ongoing economic crisis in the OPT, including the disintegration of all major industries and economic sectors. The economic crisis, together with the restriction on entry of goods including foodstuffs and medical supplies, has severely affected rights to health and education.

IOF have continued to prohibit family visitation for Palestinian prisoners detained in Israeli jails. They have also continued to prevent Palestinian lawyers from visiting prisoners, who have been increasingly subject to cruel and inhuman treatment by IOF.
Torture and Ill-Treatment of Palestinian Detainees

By the end of 2005, at least 9,000 Palestinians, including about 300 children and 200 women, were still in Israeli custody in detention facilities throughout Israel and in settlements and other military bases in the OPT. Most arrests have taken place during house raids, especially in the West Bank, and Israeli incursions into Palestinian towns, villages and refugee camps throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Hundreds of Palestinians were also arrested at Israeli military checkpoints and roadblocks erected on roads and at entrances to Palestinian communities; at border crossings with Egypt and Jordan; and at crossings into Israel or inside Israel. In the last quarter of 2005, IOF carried out massive arrest campaigns in the West Bank. Hundreds of Palestinian civilians, especially supporters of Hamas and Islamic Jihad were arrested. The largest of these arrest campaigns took place at the end of September, when IOF arrested at least 300 Palestinian civilians, including religious, political, academic, media figures; members of university student councils, and candidates for the third stage of the local council elections, which were held on 29 September 2005.

IOF have transferred most of these prisoners out of the OPT to jails and detention centers inside Israel in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Article 76 of the Convention provides that “protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein.”

Detention conditions for Palestinians in Israeli custody continue to violate the fundamental rights of detainees. Palestinian prisoners have reported poor ventilation, overcrowding, lack of adequate sanitation facilities, poor food and water supplies and denial of appropriate medical care. IOF forces have also continued to deny or delay access to legal counsel and relatives, in violation of the minimum standard rules for the treatment of prisoners.

The detention conditions for Palestinians in Israeli custody are expected to further deteriorate in light of the serious developments that took place in 2005, especially with regard to 600 Palestinian prisoners from the Gaza Strip. In September 2005, IOF started to file bills of indictment against a number of Palestinian detainees from the Gaza Strip, who had been arrested in the previous two months, before Ber al-Saba (Beer Sheva) Court, inside Israel after they had closed the military court at the Beit Hanoun Checkpoint (Erez). This new measure coincides with the implementation of the unilateral Israeli "Disengagement Plan," and strongly indicates that IOF will continue to arrest Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and bring them to Israeli courts.\(^\text{31}\)

In another attempt to overcome international legal standards in order to justify continued detention of Palestinian prisoners, Israel invented the concept of the "illegal combatant" to describe Palestinian prisoners who are in fact civilians, entitled to protection under the Fourth Geneva Convention, and consequently justify their detention in accordance with a special law called "Illegal Combatants" issued in 2002. According to this law, the IOF Chief of Staff has the authority to issue an arrest warrant against a person if there is a basis to assume that such person is "an illegal combatant".

\(^{31}\) See PCHR's press release on 11 September 2005.
In another development, in October 2005, the Israeli government started to draft a law, "Law Regulating Criminal Procedures (Authorities of Implementation and Regulation Related to Security Offences by Non-Citizens)," which aims to regulate authorities granted to interrogators to interrogate non-citizens. The law was approved by the Knesset in the first reading on 31 October 2005. It grants the Israeli General Security Services the authority to detain "suspects" for 96 instead of 24 hours before presenting them to court. It also denies suspects their right to legal counsel for 50 instead of 21 days, and allows judges to extend the period of detention of suspects without the accused appearing before court. According to the memorandum of this draft law, with the end of the Israeli military government in the Gaza Strip, interrogators have no longer any authority to interrogate citizens from the Gaza Strip. Additionally, authorities granted to interrogators under military orders are wider than those prescribed under this draft law. Thus, this draft law includes granting wider authorities to interrogators in order to interrogate citizens from the Gaza Strip, especially with regard to the extension of the interrogation period before presenting a suspect before a judge, increasing the period of extended detention authorized for judges and the possibility of extending the period of detention by a court without the presence of a detainee. In addition to attempting to legally justify the interrogation of detainees from the Gaza Strip, these propositions constitute a flagrant violation of human rights and reflect racial attitudes towards Palestinian citizens, who will be subject to the Israeli Penal Law, but with wider authorities being granted to interrogators.

The Israeli political, judicial, legislative and military establishments have conspired to facilitate the use of methods that violate international standards in the treatment of prisoners. It is clear that Israel has the intention to maintain the file of Palestinian prisoners from the Gaza Strip open, in violation of article 77 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. This prescribes that "Protected persons who have been accused of offences or convicted by the courts in occupied territory shall be handed over at the close of occupation, with the relevant records, to the authorities of the liberated territory." A further indication that Israeli occupation has not ended in Gaza.

Torture and Ill-Treatment

In 2005, PCHR received continued reports regarding various methods of interrogation used against Palestinian detainees, including minors, held in Israeli jails and detention centers, which constitute torture and ill treatment as defined both in the Convention against Torture and other international instruments. These methods include: Shabeh\(^{32}\) for long periods (often up to 48 hours); tightened handcuffing; tying the hands and legs with plastic chains that cause severe pain; blindfolding and slapping; sleep deprivation for long periods; solitary confinement; compulsory standing for long periods; and verbally abusive behaviour.

Torture and ill-treatment, including inhumane conditions of detention, constitute violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention. Torture is a grave breach of international humanitarian law, namely a war crime. The international prohibition on torture is a \textit{jus cogens} norm and

\(^{32}\text{Shabeh} \text{ entails} \text{ shackling the detainee's hands and legs to a} \text{ small chair, angled to slant forward so that the detainee cannot sit in a stable position.} \)
cannot be deviated from under any circumstances, as confirmed in article 2 of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: “No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture.”

**Administrative Detention**

Administrative detention has been used by IOF to arrest and detain Palestinians without charge or trial for long periods. Current administrative detention orders permit for periods of detention of up to 6 months that are indefinitely renewable without reference to charge or trial. These orders are issued by Israeli district military commanders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. By the end of 2005, at least 700 Palestinians were still in custody under administrative detention orders issued by IOF. Administrative detention violates the Fourth Geneva Convention, whose article 78 prohibits the use of this measure as a form of punishment, which should only be used as an exceptional measure for "imperative reasons of security".

With the implementation of the concept of "illegitimate combatant", Israel would maintain the essence of administrative detention, but in a new guise to overcome international law. In this context, PCHR is gravely concerned over the cases of Riad Sa'di 'Ayad, 32, and Hassan Mas'oud 'Ayad, 33, both from Gaza, who have been held under administrative detention. The IOF Chief of Staff issued decisions ordering their continued detention considering them "illegal combatants". Riad 'Ayad was arrested by IOF on 1 January 2002, and on 17 March 2002, he was placed under a renewable 6-month administrative detention. He has been detained without any charge. With regard to Hassan 'Ayad, he was arrested by IOF on 24 January 2003, and he was placed under a renewable 6-month administrative detention without any charge on 24 February 2003. On 12 September 2005, the same day of the declaration of the end of Israeli military government in the Gaza Strip, the IOF Chief of Staff ordered to continue the detention of Riad and Hassan in accordance with the aforementioned law, instead of releasing them like three other prisoners from the Gaza Strip, who had been held in administrative detention.

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33 This excludes East Jerusalem, where the orders are issued by the Israeli Defense Minister, as in Israeli cities.
Demolition of Palestinian Houses as a Means of Punishment and Deterrence

Since the beginning of the current Intifada in September 2000, IOF have demolished Palestinian houses and razed areas of Palestinian agricultural land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under the pretext of confronting attacks by Palestinian gunmen against Israeli targets. Under this policy, they have targeted most Palestinian houses located near Israeli settlements, or in areas of armed attacks, claiming that these houses were used by Palestinian gunmen to launch attacks on IOF posts and Israeli settlements, and so these actions have been “military necessities.” Israel depends in its claims on its own interpretations of international humanitarian law, considering that the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949 grants the occupying power the right to respond to all threats posed to its forces in military operations zones. This interpretation, even if accepted, does not exempt the occupying power, according to the Convention, from its legal obligations towards civilians and their property. The Convention obligates the occupying power, during military operations, to protect the lives and property of civilian. This obligation applies to Israel as an occupying power and a party to the Convention. However, Israel, during military operations, has disregarded the lives and property of Palestinian civilians in the OPT. Most of the house demolitions carried out by IOF in the OPT have been retaliatory. In the majority of cases, Israeli occupying forces impose an atmosphere of terror during house demolitions. IOF, reinforced with tanks and bulldozers, regularly encroach into targeted areas at night. They fire live bullets and tank shells in an apparent attempt to force civilians to evacuate the area. They then demolish houses, leaving civilians with no choice but to leave the area and abandon their property. IOF demolish dozens of houses and sometimes endanger the lives of Palestinian civilians living in these houses. Thus, house demolition is a form of collective punishment that violates the Fourth Geneva Convention; Palestinian civilians are punished for offences they do not commit.

The international community has exerted pressure on the Israeli government to stop this policy, which has disastrous impacts on Palestinian civilians. As a result of such pressure, the Israeli government took a decision in February 2005 to stop the house demolition policy adopted by IOF against families of Palestinians who carried out, planned or facilitated attacks against Israeli targets in the OPT or inside Israel, or against houses that harbor those Palestinians.\footnote{For more details, see: \url{http://www.arabnet.com/article.asp?did=127430.EN}} IOF had adopted this policy since the beginning of the current Intifada in the context of “combating terrorism and its infrastructure”. For example, on 13 January 2005, IOF moved into Qarawat Bani Zaid village, northwest of Ramallah. They planted explosives inside a 180-square-meter, 2-storey house belonging to Majed Rebhi ‘Arar. They then destroyed the house, rendering eight people homeless. Two Palestinians who had been hiding in the house were killed by IOF on the preceding day. The owner was also arrested. In spite of the Israeli government’s decision, IOF have continued to demolish Palestinian houses even though the number of houses demolished by IOF in 2005 was small in comparison with previous years. Most house demolitions in 2005 took place during
incursions into Palestinian communities, or under the pretext of unlicensed construction, especially in East Jerusalem.\textsuperscript{35}

On 5 July 2005, IOF moved into Kherbat Tana area to the east of Beit Fourik village, east of Nablus. They demolished 17 houses, rendering at least 200 Palestinian civilians including 150 children, homeless. They also destroyed an elementary school. The houses and the school were located nearly 6 kilometers away from “Makhora” settlement. On 15 January 2005, IOF conducted a wide scale incursion into the Gaza Strip. They razed 41 dunums\textsuperscript{36} of agricultural land in al-Boreij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, and demolished 3 houses in Khan Yunis town in the southern Gaza Strip. On 14 and 16 January 2005, IOF destroyed two civilian facilities in Deir al-Balah and Beit Lahia respectively. On 27 December 2005, IOF demolished a 130-square-meter house belonging to Nabil Mohammed al-‘Emwasi, in which 7 individuals lived, in Beit Hanina suburb, north of East Jerusalem. IOF did not allow residents of the house to vacate their belongings. IOF claimed that the house was built without a license.

In addition to destruction of Palestinian houses, PCHR has documented dozens of cases in which civilian facilities and houses were damaged by the Israeli shelling. For example, on 29 May 2005, IOF warplanes fired three missiles at Tal al-Za’tar area in the northern Gaza Strip. The missile exploded near al-Bashir mosque, nearly 3500 meters away from the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. The mosque was damaged, but no casualties were reported. IOF claimed that this attack targeted a number of members of Islamic Jihad who were attempting to launch rockets at Israeli settlements but they survived the attack. At the same time, IOF warplanes launched a missile at Jabalya refugee camp. The missile hit a room in Sameer Isma'il Killab's house, where eight people live. No casualties among the 6 residents of the house were reported.

\textsuperscript{35} IOF prevent Palestinians living in East Jerusalem from building houses without licenses from Israeli authorities. IOF impose severe limitations on the issuing of such licenses, and Palestinians are deprived of obtaining such licenses. IOF demolish Palestinian houses in East Jerusalem claiming that they are built without licenses, in the context of a policy aimed at Judaizing the city.

\textsuperscript{36} 1 dunum is equal to 1000 square meters.
Racist Amendments to the Israeli Civil Wrongs Law to Deprive Palestinian Victims of Their Right to Seek Compensation

In an attempt to cement the already existing laws, which discriminate against Palestinians, on 27 July 2005, the Israeli Knesset passed Amendment No. 5 to the Civil Wrongs (Liability of State) Law. The amendment effectively stops Palestinians in the OPT from seeking compensation in Israeli courts on the basis of their residence. The amendment is contrary to Israel’s international law obligations and demonstrates again the impunity that is granted to IOF by Israel.

These amendments to the Civil Wrongs Law came in the context of a systematic pattern of previous limitations on the ability of Palestinians from the OPT to claim for injury and damage inflicted by IOF. In a previous amendment in 2002, the Israeli Knesset ensured that compensation claims would be out of reach for most Palestinians through an expanded definition of what Israel calls “war time actions” and strict procedural amendments. However, under this 2002 amendment, Palestinians broadly retained the right, under these severe restrictions, to claim compensation in the Israeli court system.

Amendments to the Civil Wrongs Law approved by the Knesset, which entered into force on 10 August 2005, would prohibit, with retroactive effect back to September 2000, a national of an “enemy state”, a member of a “terrorist” organisation or a person who suffered injury or damage in a “conflict zone” by the IOF from launching a compensation case in the Israeli legal system. The law defines a “conflict zone” as area outside the State of Israel that has been declared so by the Israeli Minister of Defence. It is clear that this broad term will be used to stop Palestinians from seeking compensation in the future.

PCHR is concerned that the amendments grant complete discretion to the Minister of Defence and even allow the Minister to determine an area a “conflict zone” after a Palestinian has filed a complaint. This will eradicate the 1000s of cases for which PCHR has collected evidence and built legal files for throughout the Intifada.

In an attempt to cover up the wholesale denial of access to justice for Palestinians, the law sets out some exceptions: (1) injury in a traffic accident in which a soldier/driver was convicted; and (2) abuse of Palestinian detainees/prisoners in Israeli jails.

The law goes on to create an ‘Exceptions Committee’ appointed by the Minister of Defence which will allow the Minister to propose exceptional amounts of money in exceptional cases. No criteria are stipulated to define what amounts to an “exceptional” violation of a Palestinian’s basic rights. Awards made in “exceptional” cases are outside any legal framework and allow the claimant no right of appeal to a Court. The awards never constitute an admission of wrongdoing on the part of the IOF. PCHR is concerned that this amendment has codified the impunity granted by the military and judicial system to their soldiers throughout this belligerent occupation.

The amended law is contrary to Israel’s legal responsibility as a state subject to international law. It once again demonstrates that Israel does not respect the obligations placed upon States. Israel has an obligation to provide an effective
remedy to those within its jurisdiction that have been victims of human rights violations by the IOF.

These amendments are contrary to international humanitarian law and Israeli’s responsibility as an ‘Occupying Power’. International humanitarian law governs situations of occupation and Article 3 of the Hague Regulations of 1907 (Annexed to the Fourth Hague Convention) provides that “A belligerent party which violates the provisions of the said Regulations shall, if the case demands, be liable to pay compensation. It shall be responsible for all acts committed by persons forming part of its armed forces”. The Hague Regulations are widely considered customary international law (including by the Israeli High Court of Justice) and thus binding on all States.

Furthermore, the law is contrary to international human rights instruments to which Israel is a party to including Article 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Article 2(3) provides “Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes: (a) to ensure that any person whose rights or freedoms are herein recognized are violated shall have an effective remedy, notwithstanding that the violation has been committed by persons acting in an official capacity.”

Consequently, nine human rights organizations in Israel and the OPT, including PCHR, filed a petition to the Israeli High Court demanding that the Court declare void the amendments to the Civil Wrongs (Liability of the State) Law. In the petition, the organizations emphasized that the Law grossly violates the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, which apply in the OPT. The petitioners further argued that the Law sends out a dangerous and extreme message that the lives and rights of those injured in a “Conflict Zone” have no value, as the courts will not come to their aid, and those who caused their injuries will face no punishment. As a result, the Law is both immoral and racist. The petitioners also argued that the articles of the Law de facto terminate monitoring of the Israeli military’s activities in the OPT, and discourage investigating and bringing those responsible for cases of death or injury before the courts. This includes cases in which damage was caused by the random or deliberate opening of fire; torture and abuse; and looting and theft of civilian property. The Law thus violates the fundamental rights to life, equality, dignity and property, as well as the constitutional right of access to the courts.

The Israeli High Court decided that the petition would be considered in February 2006, as the amendments to the law entered into force on 10 August 2005, according to which a 6-month period was decided to specify the operation zones where Palestinians are deprived of compensation for damage incurred by them. PCHR demands the Israeli High Court to accept the petition submitted by the nine human rights organizations and declare void the amendments to the Civil Wrongs Law, as a first step to removing all administrative restrictions and complications imposed on the rights of victims of Israeli war crimes to demand compensation from the Israeli

37 The petition was submitted by HaMoked, Adalah, ACRI, Al-Haq (West Bank), The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (Gaza Strip), B’Tselem, Physicians for Human Rights, The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, Rabbis for Human Rights, by Addalah Attorneys Hassan Jabareen and Orna Kohn, Hamoked Attorney Gil Gan-Mor, and ACRI Attorney Dan Yakir.
government. In this context, PCHR asserts that Israel has legal obligations towards Palestinian civilians under international law. PCHR also demands compensation for the families of 2936 Palestinian civilians, including 651 children, who were killed by IOF between September 2000 and the end of 2005, and thousands of families whose houses were destroyed or damaged.
Impunity

On Tuesday, 15 November 2005, the Israeli military southern command court acquitted an IOF officer of charges relating to the killing of 13-year-old Iman al-Hams; the illegal use of his weapon; and the obstruction of court proceedings. Iman al-Hams, 13, from Rafah, was killed on 5 October 2004, when IOF positioned in a military post on the Egyptian border, south of Rafah, opened fire at her, as she was walking with her schoolbag. The case received wide-spread attention when an Israeli soldier, working in the aforementioned post, confessed that his officer had "confirmed the kill" and shot the girl multiple times from a close range, after she had already been hit by IOF gunfire and was lying on the ground. Consequently, the Israeli military prosecutor initiated an investigation into the case. Moshe Ya'lon, the former Israeli military Chief of Staff, supported the officer's claim that the shooting of the girl had coincided with shooting at the military post by Palestinian gunmen. As the Israeli newspapers published more details about the case, however, the officer was arrested under charges of providing false testimonies. On 22 November 2004, the Israeli military prosecutor presented an indictment against the officer and the military court extended his detention for two months in an open military post. On 23 November 2004, the Israeli media showed a video tape in which the officer was seen moving towards the child, who was lying on the ground, and shooting at her multiple times. On 9 December 2004, the officer was charged with the illegal use of his weapon. The Israeli military court released the officer on 6 February 2005, when the witness and other soldiers held back their testimonies, which had stated that they saw the officer shooting at the child. The witnesses and other soldiers claimed that they had lied during the investigation in order to get rid of this officer.

This Israeli court ruling strongly evidences the lack of justice in the Israeli judiciary system, especially the military judiciary. Investigations are usually conducted by IOF and cases are referred then to the military judiciary, thus undermining the credibility of investigations and court rulings on them. Since the outset of the current Palestinian Intifada in September 2000, 2908 Palestinians, including 651 children, have been killed by IOF. Hundreds of complaints submitted to the Israeli courts by human rights organizations, including PCHR, on behalf of victims have been ignored, and only a few cases have been seriously investigated. In this context, B'Tselem, the Israeli Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, published on 27 June 2005, statistics which demonstrated that the Israeli police conducted investigations into 108 cases of killing and injuring Palestinians in the OPT out of thousands of similar cases, and that bills of indictments were submitted in just 19 cases. Only two soldiers were convicted of killing Palestinians.

One of the significant examples that indicates how investigations into cases of killing or injuring civilians in the OPT are dealt with by IOF was a decision taken by an Israeli military judge in April 2005, acquitting an Israeli soldier of charges relating to the killing of James Miller, a British journalist. The military claimed that there was not "enough evidence to prove his connection to the killing." Miller was killed by IOF in May 2003 in Rafah, while he was working in the area.

In 2003, an Israeli soldier was acquitted of charges related to the killing of Rachel Corrie, an American peace activist, who was run down by an IOF bulldozer in Rafah in March 2003, while she was attempting to stop the demolition of Palestinian homes.
by IOF. The investigation into the incident conducted by IOF concluded that Corrie was killed "when she obstructed the operations of bulldozers" and that she was hit "when she attempted to climb the bulldozer." The investigation also concluded that Corrie's death "was not a result of a direct action by the bulldozer rather because of a hill of sand pushed by the bulldozer, which covered her, so there is no reason to take disciplinary measures against the soldiers who were involved in the incident."

These cases are a clear indicator of the impunity afforded to Israeli soldiers in the OPT, which encourages them to perpetrate more crimes against Palestinian civilians and property and to act freely, without being accountable.

The latest of such crimes took place in Jenin on 3 November 2005, when IOF fired at 11-year-old Ahmed al-Khatib when was playing with his friends on the first day of the Eid al-Fitr. He was wounded by two live bullets to the head and the abdomen. The child died from his injuries in an Israeli Hospital on 5 November. IOF claimed that the child was killed by mistake, as the soldiers thought that a toy gun he was holding was a real gun, and so they shot him. The child's father refuted this claim and asserted that his child was not holding a toy gun. There is no indication that IOF have initiated a serious investigation into this case.

13-year-old 'Adli Tantawi, from 'Askar refugee camp in Nablus, was shot dead by IOF on 2 October 2005, while he was near his home. IOF claimed that they shot him because they suspected him of shooting at them. However, preliminary investigations conducted by IOF proved that the shooting was in violation of instructions, which had stated that the child was not armed and did not pose any threat to the lives of Israeli soldiers (according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, 2 October 2005). The Israeli "Civil Administration" phoned the family and apologized for the death of the child, promising to initiate an investigation into his death. However, there has been no indication that IOF have initiated an investigation into the child's death.

It is worth noting that the most severe sentence issued against an Israeli soldier, convicted of killing civilians during the Intifada, was that issued against a soldier who was convicted of killing Thomas Hurndall in Rafah in April 2003; the soldier was sentenced to 8 years in prison. Sentences against soldiers are very rare in these cases.
Efforts to Prosecute Israeli War Criminals before the International Judiciary

Denial of justice for Palestinian civilians is deeply rooted in the Israeli judicial system in general, and the military judiciary in particular. Through it long experience, PCHR has concluded that the Israeli judiciary is used to provide legal cover for IOF to commit war crimes against Palestinian civilians, and that it is a means used to avoid resorting to international justice directly under the pretext of the existence of a just Israeli national judiciary.

In light of these facts, and following the exhaustion of national legal means (in this case the Israeli ones), PCHR, in cooperation with a number of international legal and human rights organizations, has resorted to international legal means to prosecute Israeli war criminals. On 8 December 2005, the Center for Constitutional Rights and PCHR brought a class action lawsuit before the US Judiciary in New York against Avi Dichter, the former Director of Israel’s General Security Service (GSS), on behalf of the Palestinians who were killed or injured in a 2002 air strike in Gaza. The attack occurred just before midnight on July 22, 2002, when IOF dropped a one-ton bomb on al-Daraj, a residential neighborhood in Gaza City in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The attack killed seven adults and eight children. In September 2005, PCHR, acting for victims in Gaza, built a file of evidence with the help of Hickman & Rose Solicitors to pursue a case against Major General Doron Almog (retired) in the UK for grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention while he was GOC Southern Commander. On 10 September 2005, the Chief London Magistrate Timothy Workman issued a warrant to arrest Almog on suspicion of committing a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention 1949 (which is a criminal offence in the UK under the Geneva Conventions Act 1957). The alleged offence was committed as part of Israel’s belligerent occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. On 11 September 2005, Almog spent some time ‘airside’ at Heathrow airport before taking a return flight to Israel. He had learned that he was facing arrest by British police

PCHR believes that a number of leaks occurred, which allowed Doron Almog to evade arrest and return to Israel hours after he had landed in the UK, and asserts that it will continue its efforts to prosecute Israeli war criminals before the international justice. PCHR calls upon all international and regional human rights organizations to support these efforts. PCHR followed up with the utmost concern media reports that Israel pressured for amendment of the British laws in order to avoid the prosecution of Israeli war criminals before the UK judiciary. PCHR calls upon the UK and all High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention not to surrender to the Israeli pressure and to fulfil their legal and moral obligations under the Convention to prosecute all those who are responsible for war crimes.

38 In November 2005, the Israeli daily Yedioth Aharonot reported that a number of secret meetings were held between a senior Israeli diplomatic and judicial delegation and officials of the British government in London to abolish the arrests warrants issued against Israeli war criminals and amend the British law related to issuing arrest warrants against war criminals. The newspaper asserted, according to senior British sources, that the British Government intended to surrender to the Israeli pressure and amend relevant British laws.
Section 2:

Palestinian Violations of Human Rights and Obstacles to Democratic Reforms
**Election Year in the PNA: Achievements and Shortcomings**

The year 2005 was “elections year” for Palestinians in the OPT. After the smooth transition of power following the death of President Arafat in November 2004, a number of key developments took place in the democratic reform process of the PNA during 2005. However, this process was marred by a number of shortcomings by the PNA.

The presidential election was held on 9 January 2005. This election reflected the will of the Palestinian people to exercise their right to vote and despite a few problems encountered on polling day, the overall integrity of the election was not affected. A number of further democratic measures were scheduled to follow this important development. These included the PLC elections scheduled to take place on 17 July 2005, to allow the election of a new PLC in place of the existing council, whose term had officially ended back in May 1999. In addition, the remaining stages of local council elections, which had started in December 2004, were scheduled to be held at various stages throughout 2005. The PLC elections were not held as planned in July 2005 and were delayed until 25 January 2006. The local council elections were rescheduled a number of times and, by the end of the year, elections had not taken place in all councils as had been planned.

**Presidential Election**

The former Palestinian President, Yaser Arafat, died on 11 November 2004. Following the sudden death of the President, the Palestinian leadership embarked on a series of important and historic steps in order to achieve a peaceful transition of power. This process culminated with the announcement by the caretaker president, Mr. Rawhi Fattouh, that a Presidential election would be held on 9 January 2006. The Presidential election, in all its stages, was an historic landmark for the Palestinian people, despite the negative environment stemming from the Israeli military occupation and war crimes against Palestinian civilians. Palestinians cast their votes on polling day as a demonstration of their defiance against the occupation, as well as a demonstration of their determination to exercise their democratic rights despite the occupation.

As part of its efforts to support democratic reforms, PCHR cooperated with 26 civil society organizations in monitoring all stages of the electoral process. Three hundred monitors were used in this campaign. In addition, monitoring reports from all polling centers in the Gaza Strip indicated that the elections were conducted in a peaceful manner, reflecting a high degree of organization. Nonetheless, some violations were registered. These violations were committed by the CEC and by supporters of candidates and parties. Nonetheless, the Presidential election was carried out in a fair and transparent manner overall, and the registered violations did not undermine the overall integrity of the democratic process.

**Postponement of the PLC Elections**

On 8 January 2005 and on the eve of the Presidential election, the interim president, Mr. Rawhi Fattouh, issued Presidential Decree #5 of 2005 calling for legislative elections. Article 1 of the decree stated, “The Palestinian people in Jerusalem, the
West Bank and the Gaza Strip are invited to participate in free and direct elections to elect members of the Palestinian Legislative Council on Sunday, 17 July 2005.”

PCHR welcomed this step and considered it an important development in the Palestinian democratic reform process, especially after the Presidential election of January 2005, the first stage of local council elections and the scheduling of the remaining stages of local council elections had taken place. However, the Centre did become concerned about the feasibility of holding the PLC elections on the planned date, in light of the PLC’s reluctance to pass the new general elections law just 3 months before the elections were due to be held. The passing of this law was a precondition in order to allow the CEC to start preparations for the elections.39

The proposed elections law contained significant changes and amendments to the Palestinian elections system that had been operating under the General Elections Law issued by a Presidential Decree back in December 1995 (before the inception of the PLC in March 1996). At the forefront of these changes was the adoption of a mixed system, where two-thirds of the PLC members would be elected by a majority [first-past the post] system and one-third by a proportional system.

At the time, PCHR considered the mixed system to be a positive change to the Palestinian electoral system. The Centre considered the proposed system more representative of Palestinian plurality. However, the Centre and other civil society organizations requested additional amendments. They requested that at least half the PLC members should be elected by the proportional system, in line with understandings reached between the PNA and Palestinian parties in Cairo in March 2005.

On 3 June 2005, President Mahmoud Abbas issued a Presidential Decree canceling the PLC elections on 17 July 2005 and giving provision for a new date for elections to be set, once all legal preparations and all national consultations had been completed. PCHR expressed concern at delaying the PLC elections without setting a new date immediately. This concern was expressed, while also fully understanding that the month and a half remaining before the scheduled election date would be reached, was insufficient time to allow all preparations to be conducted, even if the elections law was passed immediately. Although the delay was attributed to legal issues and to the implementation of the Israeli disengagement plan from the Gaza Strip, the internal problems within the ruling Fatah party also played an important role in this decision.

On 13 August 2005, Law #9 of 2005 relating to elections was passed. It was published in the Palestinian Legal Journal on 18 August 2005. Article 3.1 of the new law adopted the mixed system, with 50% of PLC members elected through a majority system and the other 50% through a proportional system. Article 3.2 raised the number of PLC members to 132. The 66 members elected through the majority system were to be distributed over 16 electoral districts, each getting a quota in accordance with its population, with a minimum of one seat. A Presidential Decree reserved six seats for Christians. The other 66 members were to be elected through proportional representation and considered the OPT as one electoral district.

39 For more information, refer to PCHR’s press release dated 10 April 2005.
The new law gave women better representation than under the previous law. Article 4 stated, “Each list competing in the proportional system quota must include one woman in the first 3 slots, one woman in the next 4 slots and one woman in each subsequent 5 slots.”

On 20 August 2005, President Mahmoud Abbas issued a Presidential Decree stipulating that elections for PLC members would be held in Jerusalem and all other governorates on Wednesday, 25 January 2006. The elections were held as scheduled, while this report was being compiled. International and local monitors, including PCHR, who organized a monitoring campaign in cooperation with 30 other civil society institutions, concluded that the elections were fair. The elections were an impressive show of democratic practice in the OPT.40

Incomplete Local Council Elections

The year 2005 witnessed important developments on the local elections front. The PNA continued to implement its plan to hold local council elections in stages. PCHR viewed this development positively, despite some of the later measures that hindered completion of all stages before the end of the year.

The Palestinian Cabinet decided on 10 May 2004, “to hold local council elections in 3 stages starting in August 2004 and ending within a year, if the conditions permit as such.” Contrary to this decision, the elections were reorganized in five stages but from December 2004 until the end of 2005, only four stages were held.

The first stage was carried out in two phases, on 23 December 2004 and 27 January 2005, and included 36 local councils. The elections on 23 December 2004 were held in 26 West Bank communities and the second phase in January 2005 was held in 10 Gaza Strip communities.

PCHR was involved in monitoring all stages of the elections held in the Gaza Strip. In this regard, the Centre trained 73 monitors who were distributed in the 10 contested council districts. These monitors were part of the PCHR team that had monitored the Presidential election on 9 January 2005. In addition, seven PCHR staff members supervised the monitors. The Centre issued a preliminary assessment of the elections. Monitoring reports and questionnaires from every polling station indicated that the polling and vote count processes had been conducted in an orderly and peaceful manner. In addition, all phases were fair in all polling stations. In March 2005, the Centre issued the final report on monitoring for polling and vote counting. The final report reiterated the findings of the preliminary assessment.

The second stage of local elections was held on 5 May 2005. It included 84 local councils, 8 in the Gaza Strip and 76 in the West Bank. PCHR exercised its monitoring role in all stages of the electoral process and issued a preliminary assessment of the elections on 8 May 2005. The Centre was satisfied with the polling and vote counting processes. In addition, the elections were completely transparent, with candidates and their representatives present for all stages. Nonetheless, the

40 Complete coverage of the elections and their implications on democratic development are outside the scope of this report, which covers only the human rights situation in the OPT during the year 2005.
preliminary report registered a number of violations by competing parties, candidates and supporters. However, polling and vote counting were conducted without any significant problems, which would have affected the overall integrity of the elections and the results. In June 2005, PCHR issued the final report on the local council elections held on 5 May 2005. The report findings were similar to those of the preliminary assessment.

PCHR followed, with concern, the post-election developments in a number of districts. The candidates in the pro-Fatah “Al-Aqsa Loyalty List” challenged the results and submitted appeals against the Central Election Committee and district election committees in Rafah, El-Bureij, Beit Lahia and Al-Mughraga. The pro-Hamas “Change and Reform List” had won the elections in these councils. The court agreed to look into the appeals submitted in three of the four districts, rejecting the appeal for the Al-Mughraga area.

The court held a few sessions to listen to lawyers from both sides and to witnesses from the executive office of the CEC. The court decided to hold a rerun of the elections in some polling stations in Rafah, Beit Lahia and El-Bureij on 1 June 2005.

Following monitoring of the court sessions, especially in Rafah, PCHR was surprised by a number of testimonies made by the executive office of the CEC that contradicted the publicly announced results by the same office. These testimonies served to support the call for declaring the elections result void. PCHR views the violations that took place in the disputed areas won by the pro-Hamas “Change and Reform List” as no different from the violations registered in New Abasan, which was won by the pro-Fatah list. In addition, these violations were no different to those registered during the local elections held on 27 January 2005 or the Presidential election held on 9 January 2005.

The CEC decided on 1 June 2005 as the date to hold a rerun of elections in the three communities. However, the CEC decided later to postpone the rerun indefinitely due to the rejection by Hamas to participate in the rerun. This issue is still pending and it is not yet clear how it will be resolved.

The results of the first and second stage of local council elections exposed deficiencies in Law #5 of 1996, on local council elections, and its subsequent amendments. In August 2005, the PNA approved Law #10 of 2005 on local council elections. The new law adopted the proportional system. However, it should be noted that the change to the law was not unrelated to the gains made by pro-Hamas lists in large communities such as Qalqilya, Rafah, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahia in previous elections. Nonetheless, these changes comply with the many demands made by civil society organizations, including PCHR, that included adopting a proportional system. However, the fact remains that the changes were not made because legislators were convinced of the importance of passing a modern law. Rather, changes were made as a result of future concerns based on victories by Hamas in previous elections. The changes ensured the future representation of Fatah, the ruling party in the PNA.

The third and fourth stages of local council elections were held under the new election law. On 29 September 2005, the third stage was held in 104 West Bank communities.
At the time, PCHR criticized leaving outstanding Gaza Strip communities out of the stage. The fourth and final stage, which was to include the remaining local councils, was scheduled to take place before the end of the year. However, on 13 October 2005, Palestinian Minister of Local Government, Khaled El-Qawasmi, announced that the Cabinet had decided to hold the fourth stage on 15 December 2005 in 44 West Bank communities and 3 small Gaza Strip communities. The remaining 59 communities were to be postponed to a fifth stage, without setting the date for when the elections would take place. The fifth stage would include cities such as Gaza City, Khan Yunis, Jabalya, and Nuseirat.

On 15 December 2005, the fourth stage of local council elections was held in 40 communities. PCHR monitored the elections in the three contested councils in the Gaza Strip. Monitoring reports indicated that the elections were held in an organized and peaceful manner. Polling and vote counting processes were fair in all polling stations. The violations that were registered did not affect the overall integrity of the elections.

With the end of the fourth stage of local council elections, 265 communities in the OPT had new councils elected and 59 remained without elections.

Work of the Higher Committee for Local Elections

The Higher Committee for Local Elections (HCLE) is the administrative body that manages the local council elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Committee oversaw the four election stages that were held between December 2004 and December 2005. According to Article 72 of Law #10 of 2005 on local council elections, “The HCLE conducts all tasks assigned to it by the CEC, as stipulated in this law, up to the end of December 2005. The CEC conducts these tasks after that date.” However, the HCLE did not end its functions in this regard at the end of December 2005, making the excuse that all election stages had not yet been completed, since one outstanding stage remained to be held. This is a violation of the law. In addition, the Ministry of Local Government requested amendment of the law to extend the functioning of the HCLE until completion of the last stage of local council elections. The PLC passed a law amending Article 72 of Law #5 on local council elections. The amendment extended the mandate of the HCLE until the completion of the last stage of local elections. However, this amendment had not been passed into law by the end of the year.

PCHR looks forward to completing the local council elections without any further delay in the remaining communities. In addition, the Centre looks forward to an acceptable resolution of the outstanding issues concerning the local elections in Rafah, Beit Lahia and El-Bureij. However, it should be noted that Law #5 of 1996, the legal umbrella for the first two stages of local elections, has now been replaced by Law #10 of 2005. Thus, the rerun in these communities cannot be held according to the new law, which adopts proportional representation, nor can they be held according to the majority system of the old law. To overcome this obstacle, the Centre recommends a complete rerun of the elections in these areas under the new law, to be included in the fifth and final stage of local elections.
Deteriorating Security Chaos and Proliferation and Misuse of Weapons

Security chaos and the proliferation of small arms has become one of the key internal Palestinian challenges. This phenomenon manifests itself in a wide range of transgressions against the rule of law and vigilante justice that targets people’s lives, security and property, as well as public and private institutions. In addition, it incorporates the misuse of weapons by Palestinian resistance factions, in the form of storage accidents, use of weapons during rallies and parades, and accidents occurring during operations against Israel. The year 2005 ended with more internal security chaos and proliferation of small arms, which have endangered the security and safety of citizens in an unprecedented way.

Clashes between clans and families have increased. Some Palestinian security officers were killed by Palestinians. The kidnapping of internationals and locals escalated, especially in the Gaza Strip. Attacks against institutions, governmental buildings and the offices of international missions increased. In addition, the incidents involving the misuse of weapons by resistance factions increased. PCHR statistics indicate that 130 Palestinians lost their lives as a result of crimes and incidents classified under problems relating to “security chaos and proliferation of small arms”. These victims included 39 in the West Bank and 91 in the Gaza Strip. The number of injured indicates the dangerous level which this deterioration in internal security has reached, especially in the Gaza Strip. During 2005, more than 550 Palestinians were injured in these incidents.

PCHR considers two main issues when dealing with this phenomenon. The first is to examine the role of official bodies and individuals in these crimes. The second is to examine and assess the performance of relevant official bodies, in relation to fulfilling their responsibilities to investigate these crimes and bring the perpetrators to justice.

PCHR investigations and documentation indicate that many of these incidents have actually involved law enforcement personnel, affiliates of security branches and armed groups affiliated with the ruling party. In addition, investigations have exposed the failure of the Attorney-General’s office to investigate crimes and bring the perpetrators to justice. During the past year, this failure has had a direct impact on the deteriorating security situation, threatening civilians’ security, as well as undermining the legitimacy of the PNA as a whole.

Armed Clashes between Palestinian Resistance Factions and Law Enforcement Officials

A number of clashes took place during 2005 between Palestinian security forces and armed personnel affiliated with different political parties, particularly Hamas. These clashes led to deaths and injuries among innocent civilians, as well as damage to a number of institutions and property belonging to both sides.

The most notable incident took place on 14 July 2005, when members of the Izzedeen El-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, came under fire from Palestinian security forces after firing rockets into Israel from the northern Gaza Strip. Five members of the group were injured. Clashes erupted between armed Hamas members and Palestinian security forces in the north and center of the Gaza Strip. These
clashes led to the death of three children and the injury of 46 others, among them 3 security personnel. In addition, two vehicles from the Palestinian Military Intelligence were burned.

On 19 July 2005, Palestinian Preventive Security attempted to detain a commander from the Izzedeen El-Qassam Brigades near his home in Jabalya refugee camp. He managed to escape in his car. The Preventive Security force pursued him, however, and fired at him, causing minor injuries. He was transferred to Al-Wada Hospital in the Tal E’Za’tar area, in the northeast of the camp. Over the next two days, clashes took place between armed Hamas members and security personnel. Six members of the Preventive Security were injured in addition to five bystanders, including two policemen. Two members of Hamas were also injured. Offices of three institutions, thought to be affiliated with Hamas, were set on fire. Four cars, including one belonging to a Fatah activist, were also burned.

On 2 October 2005, clashes between armed Hamas members and Palestinian police led to the death of three civilians and the injury of 43 others, most of whom were children. PCHR’s investigations indicate that a confrontation between a Hamas member and Palestinian security personnel took place near the Bank of Palestine branch located in Nasser Street in Gaza City. The confrontation escalated into armed clashes between the Police and members of the Izzedeen Al-Qassam Brigades, which were called to the area. Two people from both sides were injured. A child was seriously injured by a speeding Police car heading towards the area. The clashes spread to the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood and Beach Camp. Hamas members attacked the Sheikh Radwan Police station with gunfire and hand grenades. The exchange of fire led to the death of Heyam Mohammad Nasser, a 30-year old civilian, caused by a bullet injury to the heart. Armed Hamas members also attacked the Beach Camp Police station. They fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a power transformer in the area, cutting the power to the camp off. In addition, they attacked the police station with gunfire, grenades and rocket-propelled grenades. Major Ali Hasan Mekkawi, 35, was killed by a bullet to the head. In addition, the civilian Omar Mohammad El-Shanti, 22, was killed by a bullet to the head as he tried to get out of the area where clashes were taking place. A number of people were injured, including members of Hamas and some policemen.

Attacks on Officials

There were additional attacks on PNA officials during the year 2005, including judges, law enforcement personnel and security officials. In the most notable incident, gunmen attacked the house of General Mousa Arafat on 7 September 2005. Arafat was the former director of Military Intelligence and the military advisor for President Mahmoud Abbas. The gunmen attacked his house in the Tal El-Hawa neighborhood of Gaza City. They attacked the guards and bound them following a gun battle that left three guards injured. The attackers then stormed the house and forced the General to come outside. They fired at him from point blank range, killing him immediately. They then took the body to a main street and fired at the dead man’s head, shattering his skull. The attackers also kidnapped Arafat’s son, Manhal (38), who is an officer in the Military Intelligence. He was later released.
On 1 August 2005, unknown assailants threw a hand grenade at the house of the Attorney-General, Mr. Hussein Abu Asi, in Gaza City. He was in the house at the time. The explosion led to damage to the wall of the house but no injuries were sustained.

On 2 August 2005, unknown assailants detonated an explosive device in front of the house of Chief Justice Zuheir Sourani, near Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. The entrance to the house was partially destroyed and the windows of nearby houses were damaged. The Chief Justice’s family was inside the house at the time but no one was injured.

**Kidnapping of Internationals**

PCHR condemns the increase in kidnappings of internationals in the Gaza Strip, particularly in light of the absence of any substantive action by the PNA to confront this new phenomenon, including the failure by the Attorney-General to investigate these crimes and bring the perpetrators to justice. PCHR’s documentation indicates that the number of kidnappings of internationals during the past year was 18. All of the victims were subsequently released. However, the continuation of this phenomenon is a stark example of the internal security chaos and disregard for the rule of law in the Gaza Strip, which is taking place alongside little serious effort by the authorities to pursue the perpetrators of these crimes. It is noted that the perpetrators of past kidnappings have not been brought to justice, despite their identities being known. Furthermore, the Centre has evidence indicating that the PNA has fulfilled the demands of kidnappers in some cases.

Kidnapping internationals has had a negative effect on the Palestinian people and their cause. In addition, it has deprived the Gaza Strip of people who had previously been providing invaluable services to the Palestinian people, including workers in international organizations such as the UN and ICRC, humanitarian and relief organizations, journalists and human rights activists. These crimes serve to fulfill what the Israeli occupation has been trying to do for years: to prevent or restrict the entry of internationals into the Gaza Strip, in order to ensure that there are no witnesses of the Israeli war crimes against civilians.

**Attacks on Institutions, Governmental Buildings and NGO Offices**

A number of governmental buildings, NGO offices and offices of international missions came under the attack of Palestinian gunmen during 2005. The PNA and its security branches themselves started to feel the impact of their own reluctance to enforce the rule of law and take any deterrent action against the perpetrators of public order crimes. In a very clear example, gunmen stormed the Gaza Central Prison building on 10 February 2005. The building is the headquarters of security forces in the center of Gaza City. The attackers, who fired heavily into the air, passed through the perimeter guard and reached the prison holding cells. They killed two prisoners: Tha’er Mustafa Jouda, 35, and Jihad Subhi El-Masar’I, 30. Both were being detained for murders committed against family members of the assailants. They took a third prisoner, Salman Abu Yousef, 26, and took him to the central part of the Gaza Strip, where they killed him. Five policemen were injured in the attack. The police
managed to detain seven attackers after surrounding them inside the building but they were later released.

Al-Azhar University in Gaza was subject to a number of attacks. The most notable was that carried out by a group of university students and graduates on 11 October 2005. They stormed the weekly meeting of the University Council and assaulted the University Dean, Dr. Adnan El-Khalidi, and a number of other deans. The assailants forced them to leave the University. Study at the University was suspended until November 2005, following the attack.

On 2 May 2005, the Court of First Instance in Gaza was attacked by the relatives of two people who had been convicted of collaboration and sentenced to a term of imprisonment. The Judge, Fahmi El-Najjar, sustained bruises in this left hand as a result.

On 14 August 2005, three people wearing civilian clothes and armed with pistols attacked the Sharia Court building in the Zakat building in Rafedia, Nablus. They entered the office of Judge Azzam Wahid Ahed El-Kharraz, 59, insulted him and fired bullets in the office. A Court staff member, Ibrahim Mousa Dweikat, 28, was injured by shrapnel in his right foot and left thigh.

The offices of the Central Election Committee (CEC) were subjected to a series of attacks, perpetrated mostly by armed groups of Fatah. Most of the attacks occurred in the Gaza Strip, against the backdrop of internal disputes within Fatah. The last attack in 2005 took place on 28 December. Gunmen from the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, the armed wing of Fatah, stormed the CEC offices in Rafah, Khan Yunis, Deir El-Balah and Gaza City. They forced CEC staff to close the offices at gunpoint.\footnote{Refer to the PCHR press release on this issue, dated 28 December 2005.} Similar attacks took place on 13 December, when gunmen of the same group stormed the CEC offices in Rafah, Khan Yunis, Deir El-Balah, Gaza and Nablus. They forced staff out of the buildings at gunpoint. In addition, the CEC office in Rafah came under attack on 14 November by a group calling itself the “Islamic Army”. In addition, an armed group attacked the CEC office in the central part of the Strip on 8 May 2005.\footnote{Refer to PCHR press releases on these issues, dated 9 May, 14 November, 12 December and 13 December 2005.}

NGO’s were also subject to attack. Unidentified assailants attacked the offices of Al-Resala Newspaper in Gaza on 14 January 2005, causing significant damage. In addition, on 31 May 2005, the offices of the Culture and Free Thought Association in Khan Yunis came under attack as a result of cultural and social activities organized by the association for children and youth.

**Armed Clan Disputes**

2005 was the worst year witnessed to date with respect to the number of casualties caused by clashes between different clans and families. These clashes form part of general problems relating security chaos and illegal proliferation of small arms, alongside the absence of effective measures by the PNA to confront the deteriorating situation. In December 2005, 7 civilians were killed and more than 40 injured,
including 5 children, in armed clashes between the Al-Masri and El-Kafarna families in Beit Hanoun, in the northern Gaza Strip. This was one of a number of family feuds that led to 23 deaths and dozens of injuries during the year.43

**Misuse of Weapons by Palestinian Resistance**

A number of Palestinian civilians lost their lives during 2005 as a result of mistakes made by Palestinian resistance factions or the accidental explosion of stored weapons in inhabited areas. For example, Yaser Adnan El-Ashqar, 6, was killed on 2 August 2005 after sustaining shrapnel injuries all over his body from a rocket that landed in a house in Beit Hanoun. The rocket, fired by Palestinian resistance groups, was intended to hit Israeli targets northeast of the Strip. Nine other civilians, including five children, were also injured in the incident. Adnan El-Ashqar, Yaser’s father, was among the injured. He died two days later.

On 5 September 2005, a large explosion occurred at a house in the crowded Sheja’eya neighborhood, in the east of Gaza City. The explosion was caused by a fire that broke out in the house, which was being used by resistance groups to store explosive devices, and the blaze led to the detonation of a number of these devices. Four people were killed and 35 were injured, including 8 seriously, in the incident. The house where the explosives were stored was completely destroyed and a heavy damage was sustained in 3 nearby houses.

On 29 September 2005, 21 people were killed, including 11 children, as a result of an explosion which occurred during a rally organized by Hamas in Jabalya. The Attorney-General’s investigation indicated that the rally, attended by prominent Hamas leaders, included a military parade by the Izzedeen El-Qassam Brigades, the movement’s military wing. The parade was taking place when the explosion occurred, which, according to the Attorney-General, was caused by rockets which had been mounted on a jeep that was part of the parade.

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43 For more details, please refer to PCHR’s press releases dated 15 June and 7 July 2005.
Death Penalty

The PNA resumed the implementation of the death penalty in 2005, after a 3-year suspension. This is a worrying development in light of the fact that dozens of death-row prisoners have been sentenced over the past 10 years and are currently in prison.

The PNA carried out 5 executions over a period of 6 weeks in 2005. All took place in Gaza. On 12 June 2005, and without prior notice, 4 death row prisoners were executed. All 4 had been sentenced to death a few years previously:

1- Mohammad Dawuod El-Khawaja, 24, from Beach Camp. He was sentenced to death on 12 September 2000 by the State Security Court for killing Mustafa Baruod on 5 September 2005. He was executed by a firing squad in the Police Headquarters building in Gaza City.

2- Wael Sha’ban El-Shobaki, 33, from Gaza City. He was sentenced to death on 15 March 1996 by the Central Gaza Court for murdering Suheil El-Sayyed. He was hanged in Gaza Central Prison.

3- Odeh Mahmoud Abu Azab, 27, from Khan Yunis. He was sentenced to death on 31 October 1995 by the Central Gaza Court for kidnapping and murdering a citizen. He was hanged in Gaza Central Prison.

4- Salah Khalil Musallam, 27, from Khan Yunis. He was sentenced to death on 25 January 1996 by the Higher Criminal Court for murder and theft. He was hanged in Gaza Central Prison.


PCHR’s documentation indicates that the number of death penalty sentences carried out rose to 13 since 1994. In addition, 9 death row inmates were extra-judicially executed during attacks on prisons and courts. A total of 73 death sentences have been issued by Palestinian courts since 1994.

On 7 February 2005, PCHR sent a letter to President Abbas requesting him to use his constitutional authority to refrain from approving the death penalty and therefore prevent implementation of this inhumane punishment, which is a flagrant violation of human rights. In the letter, the Centre pointed to international trends to abolish the death penalty, which has proven to be an ineffective deterrent against crime in the countries where it is currently implemented.

It is noted that the majority of death sentences were issued by State Security Courts, formed by the PNA in 1995. The Centre has criticized these courts in the past, as they lack the basic requirements to ensure a fair trial – security officers act as judges; trials are summary and do not allow time for defense cases to be formed; verdicts and sentences delivered are not subject to appeal; and the law applicable in the court is unconstitutional. PCHR requested the closure of these courts and the retrial in civil courts of all those convicted through the State Security Courts.\(^{44}\)

\(^{44}\) Refer to the PCHR press release on 12 June 2005.
On 22 June 2005, President Abbas issued a Presidential Decree stipulating the retrial in civil courts of all those convicted in State Security Courts. PCHR welcomed this decision. In addition, sources in the Attorney-General’s office and the First Instance Court in Gaza stated that the files of 11 death row inmates sentenced in State Security Courts have been transferred for retrial in civilian courts. The first civil court session for these cases was scheduled for 16 February 2006. It is noted that PCHR has adopted the cases of a number of these inmates. In addition, a day before the President’s decree on 21 June 2005, the Centre sent a letter to the Minister of Justice requesting him to take legal steps to try two death row inmates in civil courts.

PCHR reiterates its position against the death penalty, considering it an inhumane punishment and a violation of the right to life. In addition, it does not deter crimes in the countries which still implement this sentence. The Centre asks the PNA to stop implementing this punishment and to remove it from Palestinian legislation.
Illegal Arrests

Illegal detention, including politically motivated detentions, have constituted one of the main human rights violations perpetrated by the PNA since its establishment in 1994. This type of violation includes all arrests and detentions against citizens, which are carried out in violation of the law. It includes arrests without prior judicial notice and detention in violation of court decisions stipulating release of detainees. PCHR views these illegal detentions as a flagrant violation of Palestinian law, including the Basic Law and Penal Code, and a violation of human rights principles, especially the Convention on Civil and Political Rights.

PCHR has monitored the illegal detention file since its establishment in 1995. Hundreds of illegal detention cases against Palestinian civilians have been documented. The Centre provided legal assistance to these cases and represented them in Palestinian courts. Throughout 2005, illegal detentions continued, particularly political arrests, although at a somewhat lower rate than in previous years. PCHR does not have accurate information as to the number of political detainees currently in PNA jails. However, estimates indicate that more than 50 Palestinian political prisoners are detained by the PNA. In the majority of these cases, these civilians are being held under different pretexts and without due legal process, without charges filed against them and without trial. In addition, some of these detainees have been subjected to torture while in detention.

PCHR received statements from Palestinian civilians who have confirmed that they were subjected to torture during their detention in PNA jails. For example, 2 Palestinians detained on 3 October 2005 by Palestinian security were subjected to severe beatings with guns and were forced to stand for prolonged periods. One of them sustained severe wounds all over his body as a result of beatings endured.

The illegal detention of civilians continued despite dozens of court decisions over the past few years, issued by the Palestinian High of Justice, demanding their release. In most cases, the executive authority disregards these decisions, violating Palestinian law, international standards and conventions outlawing illegal detention.

The Secretary-General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Ahmad Sa’dat, is still detained today. He is the most notable example of the executive authority’s disregard of the decisions of Palestinian courts. On 3 June 2002, the Palestinian High Court of Justice issued a decision to release Sa’dat after it was established that his arrest on 15 January 2002 and subsequent detention in Jericho were illegal, and violate Palestinian law. Despite this decision, the executive authority refuses to release Sa’dat for various unfounded reasons.

PCHR condemns the continued illegal detention of Sa’dat and scores of other civilians in PNA prisons. These detentions violate Palestinian law, international standards and conventions on human rights. The Centre calls upon the executive authority to respect the decisions of Palestinian courts and to implement them.

45 The detention took place against the backdrop of clashes between Palestinian security forces and armed Hamas members in Gaza City on 2 October 2005. For more information, refer to the Center’s press release dated 3 October 2005.
immediately. This is an essential step towards establishing the rule of law and ensuring that citizens enjoy their basic rights, as set out in the Palestinian Basic Law and in international human rights conventions and norms.
**Undermining the Independence of the Judiciary and Attempts to Dominate the Judicial Authority**

Two separate issues - illegal detention and disregard of judicial decisions – have culminated to form one type of infringement against the judiciary, with 2005 witnessing important and serious developments regarding the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law. The most important of these was the failure of the committee formed by the President on 14 March 2005 to develop the judicial system. In addition, the executive authority, complicit with the PLC, continued to subvert the independence of the judiciary by passing a new Judicial Authority law that reduced the jurisdiction of the Higher Council of the Judiciary.

Three years ago, and as part of general reforms, the PNA passed Judicial Authority Law #1 of 2002. At the time, the law was considered a qualitative step towards establishing a division of authority and the independence of the judiciary from the interference of the executive authority. President Arafat issued Presidential Decree #8 on 14 May 2003, stipulating the establishment of the Higher Council of the Judiciary. PCHR welcomed this step and considered it a positive development towards restructuring the judicial system on professional grounds, as well as ensuring the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law. However, on the practical front, there was no notable improvement in the performance of the judicial system. The old problems persisted: continued interference of the executive authority in judicial matters; lack of monitoring of the various prisons and detention centers; continuation of illegal detention; lack of implementation of judicial orders and decisions; and lack of a forensic laboratory and pathology unit that are necessary to ensure a fair civil court system. In addition, the past 3 years witnessed conflicts over jurisdiction between the Ministry of Justice and the Higher Council of the Judiciary. These conflicts provided an opportunity for the executive authority and the PLC to infringe upon the independence of the judiciary.

President Mahmoud Abbas issued a Presidential Decree on 14 March 2005, stipulating the formation of a committee to develop the judiciary and justice, and to devise mechanisms for reform of the judicial system. The committee consisted of: the President of the Higher Council of the Judiciary, the Minister of Planning, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of the Interior, the Head of the Legal Committee in the PLC, the Head of the Bar Association, the Head of General Personnel Council, a representative of the Independent Commission for Citizen’s Rights, and Dr. K’meil Mansour in the capacity of secretary-general of the committee.

The committee worked on preparation of a new judicial authority law to ensure the independence of the judiciary and stop interference in the judiciary by the executive authority. However, the committee was surprised, as was the Higher Council of the Judiciary, with the approval by the President of Law #15 of 2005 on the Judicial Authority. The law was signed on 11 October 2005, without referring to the Higher Council of the Judiciary. This was considered an infringement by the executive authority and the PLC on the authority of the Higher Council of the Judiciary. This

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46 The late President Arafat signed the law on 14 May 2002. It was published in the Palestinian Legal Journal on 18 May 2002.
development forced Dr. K’meil Mansour, the secretary general of the committee to develop the judiciary and justice, to submit his resignation; thus halting the committee’s work indefinitely.

Articles 36, 65 and 103 of the new law violate the Basic Law, amended on 13 August 2003, particularly articles 100 and 107. These two articles stipulate that any legislation relevant to the judicial system must be referred to the Higher Council of the Judiciary. In addition, these two articles indicate that the appointment of the Attorney-General must be based on a nomination by the Higher Council of the Judiciary.

On 14 November 2005, PCHR submitted an appeal against the new judicial authority law to the Higher Constitutional Court. The appeal was based on the violations within the new judicial authority law of the amended Basic Law, which serves as the constitution of the PNA. The Higher Constitutional Court held its first session on the case on 19 November 2005. The court decided to delay the case until 26 November 2005, in order to inform representatives of the two defendants about the court session date and the appeal. The representatives were the Attorney-General, on behalf of the President of the PNA, and the PLC Speaker, representing the PLC.

In the court session of 26 November 2005, the Attorney-General’s office pushed for dropping the case on the basis of form and content. However, the court panel rejected the form objections and decided to look into the content of the appeal. The Attorney-General’s office denied neglecting the Higher Council of the Judiciary and not taking its opinion in to account. They claimed that consulting the Higher Council of the Judiciary meant informing it of the law but not necessarily implementing its recommendations. The Attorney-General’s office admitted that article 65 of the new law violates article 107 of the amended Basic Law. Yet, the office claimed that the PLC is working on amending article 107 of the Basic Law in order to conform with article 65 of the new judicial authority law.

PCHR’s lawyers replied to the Attorney-General’s office argument and refuted the points raised against the appeal. In addition, the Center’s lawyers presented written documentation to the effect that article 65 of the new judicial authority law violates article 107 of the amended Basic Law; and that articles 36 and 103 of the new judicial authority law are a constitutional violation of article 100 of the amended Basic Law.

The Higher Constitutional Court held a session on 27 November 2005 to consider the appeal under its constitutional jurisdiction. The court convened under Judge Sa’ada El-Dajani, and with the assistance of Judges Yehya Abu Shahla, Fawzi Abu Watfa, Amin Wafi, and Mazen Sesalem. The first defendant, the President of the PNA, was represented by the Assistant Attorney-General, Munir El-Oqabi. In addition, the representative of the second defendant, the PLC, was absent. The court decided that the new judicial authority law was unconstitutional. The decision stated, “In the name of the Arab Palestinian people, the verdict is: the court decided that the Judicial Authority Law #15 of 2005, published in issue 60 of the Palestinian Legal Journal of 9 November 2005, is unconstitutional. The court considers this law as if it was never passed, as per the decision issued and declared publicly in the session of Sunday, 27 November 2005.”
PCHR welcomed the decision of the Higher Constitutional Court and considered it a legal precedent in the Palestinian judicial system. It was a victory for the principle of the independence of the judiciary, as it put an end to attempts aimed at undermining the Palestinian judiciary. In addition, the decision enhanced the principle of separation of authorities.
Weak Performance of the Legislature and Continued Functioning of PLC Members without Electoral Mandate

The PLC continued to function throughout 2005, under difficult conditions resulting from the policy of collective punishment, imposed by IOF against the Palestinian people and their institutions. This policy includes closure and internal restrictions on the movement of PLC members between the Gaza Strip and West Bank, and prevention of West Bank PLC members from reaching the PLC in Ramallah. This is a direct result of Israeli policies to cut off the West Bank and transform it into isolated Bantustans. The PLC could not hold its sessions regularly and was forced to function using “video conference” technology in order to overcome movement restrictions. In addition, PLC committees held separate sessions in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Despite registering some performance improvement in comparison to previous years, the overall PLC performance was disappointing, especially in the areas of legislation and monitoring. The key failures and deficiencies in the PLC performance were:

- The end of the legal term of the PLC since 1999, which necessitates holding new parliamentary elections to renew the PLC’s legitimacy.
- The prolonged vacancy of 4 PLC seats, which had become free as a result of resignation and death. There was no serious effort to fill these vacancies, as is required under the law.
- Dual responsibility of PLC members. A number of PLC members held paid executive functions, in clear violation of Law #10 of 2004 on the duties and rights of PLC members. This law states that, other than the post of Cabinet Minister, “A (PLC) member cannot be a member in any consultant, supervision, or administrative council in any governmental institution.”
- Absenteeism by PLC members from sessions and the act of leaving sessions shortly after convening. A number of laws were passed and important decisions taken with a limited number of members in attendance. This included a 20-member session which passed the 2005 budget law, approving the report of the Budget, Monitoring, and Legal Committees on the smuggling of Egyptian cement to the Israeli market. The recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee, formed on 14 July 2004, on monitoring the political and field situation in the Gaza Strip, were passed with only 37 PLC members in attendance.
- Prioritization of personal interests and considerations during the legislative process.

On 11 December 2005, PCHR issued its 8th report on 'Monitoring the Performance of the PLC'. It included an evaluation of the PLC performance with regard to its legislative, monitoring and accountability functions during its session from 11 March 2004 to 9 March 2005. The report pointed to the deficiencies mentioned above. In addition, the report included a number of recommendations to develop the work of the PLC, such as:

- PNA adherence to the scheduled date for legislative elections, 25 January 2005, in order to elect new representatives of the Palestinian people and to re-establish confidence in the Council that was formed more than 9 years ago, and which has since lost its legitimacy and legal mandate.
- PLC formulation of mechanisms to ensure that the executive authority approves laws that have been suspended up to now and to ensure that the executive does not ignore laws passed by the Council.
- PLC formulation of new and modern Palestinian laws, including a review of unapproved legislation drafted before the establishment of the PLC in 1996, such as the Publications Law for the year 1995.
- PLC monitoring of the laws approved by the executive authority, to ensure their correct implementation and to guarantee the fulfillment of their intended aims.
- PLC follow-up on the findings of commissions of inquiry formed by the Council itself. Efforts by PLC to make the executive adhere to all the findings of investigations and to publish these findings for purposes of informing the public.
- Enhance transparency of the Council’s work and facilitate access to information about the Council, through:
  - Live broadcast of all sessions.
  - Development of the PLC’s web site and updating of it regularly.
  - Provision of the minutes of PLC sessions to the public.
- Take steps to put an end to dual legislative and executive (except Cabinet Minister positions) responsibilities for members, since a number of PLC members also head PNA bodies.
- Ensure that PLC members attend sessions and are not absent without valid reason. In addition, end the practice of leaving sessions shortly after they have convened. These practices undermine the sessions’ content and purpose.
Violation of the Right to Freedom of Expression

2005 witnessed a serious deterioration in violations against Palestinian civilians’ rights to freedom of expression and to peaceful assembly. These violations were not limited to those made by official institutions. They extended to include dangerous violations perpetrated by armed groups and individuals, as a result of the ongoing security chaos and proliferation of small arms. As previously stated, the most notable form of security chaos was the kidnapping of internationals, especially journalists, in an attempt to force the PNA to fulfill private or political demands.

On the legal front, the year 2005 did not see any developments on the legal framework governing the exercise of freedom of expression in the PNA areas. The laws and decrees issued by the PNA restricting this right remained effective. Although the Palestinian Constitution, the Basic Law amended in 2003, guarantees the right of freedom of expression, this right continues to be restricted. The publication's law issued by a Presidential Decree in 1995, prior to establishing the PLC, remains effective. This law has not been presented to the PLC for review or amendment. In addition, Presidential Decree #3 of 1998, on strengthening national unity and preventing incitement, is still effective. On 21 July 1998, President Arafat ordered that this decree be renewed. It is noted that this decree is a dangerous infringement on the right to freedom of expression and places additional restrictions on the exercise of this right. In this regard, PCHR calls upon the PLC to review the publication's law for the year 1995 and to amend it. In addition, the Centre calls for cancellation of all decisions and decrees that violate the Basic Law and other relevant international conventions.

The Palestinian Ministry of Interior issued a number of decisions and statements, which breach general freedom of expression and particularly place restrictions on journalists, including:

- Announcement by the Ministry of Interior and National Security on 29 June 2005, which requested that all media organizations refrain from using terms such as security chaos and weapons chaos. The Ministry considered these terms to have catastrophic political implications on the image of the Palestinian people internationally, on the legitimacy of its just struggle and also on the ability of the PNA to rule, by putting the PNA’s international legitimacy under question.

- Announcement by the Ministry of Interior and National Security on 2 July 2005, stressing the necessity of obtaining prior permission from the Ministry before taking photographs of members of Palestinian security forces, while they are carrying out certain operations.

- Statement issued by the Ministry of Interior and National Security on 4 July 2005 entitled, “Call to Journalists to Deal with Palestinian Issues Objectively.” It called upon journalists and media organizations to stop all forms of subjective handling of Palestinian issues. It warned journalists against “politicization” and working to serve narrow political interests.

- Statement issued by the Ministry of Interior and National Security on 16 July 2005 entitled, “The Ministry of Interior and National Security will not Stand Idle against Slander, Charges of Treason and Charges of Betrayal.” The statement stressed the Ministry’s rejection of the “war of slander, charges of treason and charges of betrayal waged by Hamas and its media against
Palestinian security, police and the Ministry of Interior.” The statement pointed to the role of the pro-Hamas Al-Aqsa radio station in this campaign through its, “continuous call to stoke the fire of conflict and to undermine national unity, in a flagrant breach of the law and professional ethics.” The statement threatened Hamas and its media outlets with harsh measures if they did not stop “this destructive and frivolous process”.

- Announcement issued by the Ministry of Interior and National Security on 29 July 2005 banning the publication of any form of news (print, radio or television) related to Palestinian National Security Forces and the Police, without informing the press office in the Ministry.

PCHR documented a number of violations of the right of freedom of expression during 2005:

**Violations by Official Bodies**

On 13 February 2005, the General Investigations Department in the Police detained the journalist Abed Rabbo Shana’a, a photographer for Reuters and Palestinian television, in Khan Yunis. He was detained for taking footage of Palestinian police dispersing demonstrators protesting outside the municipality building in the city, against the death of an electrician during an accident at work. The protestors threw stones at the building during the demonstration.

On 23 May 2005, Policemen severely beat the journalist Mahmoud Obeid, a cameraman working for Al-Jazeera Satellite station, and his soundman, Ala Abu Samhadana. They were recording confrontations between Hamas and Fatah supporters in the vicinity of Al-Aqsa University in Gaza City.

On 14 July 2005, Palestinian security forces prevented the Hamas spokesman, Sami Abu Zuhri, from being interviewed by Al-Jazeera Satellite station to comment on confrontations in the Gaza Strip. The security forces tried to prevent him from entering the building where the Al-Jazeera studio was. After discussions with the officer in charge, he was allowed to enter. However, he did not participate in the scheduled broadcast.

**Violations by Unofficial Parties**

On 18 January 2005, masked gunmen kidnapped two Spanish journalists working in the western part of Khan Yunis refugee camp. The journalists were Ramon Lobo and Carmin Saubo from El Pais newspaper. They were held for about 90 minutes in a house in the camp.

On 13 February 2005, the journalists Abdel Naser Abu Own, Emad Nour and Mohammad Qannita, all working with Al-Quds radio station, were severely beaten by armed gunmen. The statement from Abu Own to PCHR indicates that the group was beaten with guns in an effort to force them into a house. They three were subjected to insults and beatings inside the house. They were taken for examination to Shifa Hospital after their release. They had sustained bruising and cuts all over their bodies. The journalists went to El-Abbas police station and submitted a complaint against the attackers, who they identified by name. Abu Own stated that the attack came against
the backdrop of a dispute between them and the administration of “Horreya” radio station, where they had worked before going to Al-Quds radio station.

On 31 May 2005, 3 masked gunmen stormed the offices of the Culture and Free Thought Association in Khan Yunis, Al-Amal neighborhood. They detained the night watchman in his room at gunpoint. They then destroyed the windows of the “Builders of Tomorrow” and “Child Culture” centers, which are run by the association. They set fire to the offices, which resulted in the administration office and the computer laboratory being burnt down. Other areas of the building were also damaged. The gunmen left the area and civil defense teams were called in to extinguish the fire.

On 14 August 2005, unidentified gunmen kidnapped a French journalist. PCHR’s investigation indicates that the gunmen intercepted a civilian car carrying 4 journalists near the Gaza International Hotel, in the west of Gaza City. They kidnapped the French journalist Mohammad El-Wati, a soundman for the French Channel 2. He is of Arab descent. He was held for 9 days without his location or the identity of the kidnappers being known. He was released on 22 August 2005.

On 5 September 2005, Ramatan news agency cameraman, Zakareya Abu Harbeed, was taking footage of the aftermath of a large explosion in a house in the Sheja’eya neighborhood of Gaza City, when a group of civilians confronted him, telling him not to take photographs and to leave the area. They pointed a powerful water hose from a firefighter truck at him. His camera and the footage were ruined.

On 10 September 2005, the Italian journalist Lorenze Kremonzini, 30, from Koreri Dela Siera newspaper, was kidnapped by gunmen in Deir El-Balah. PCHR’s investigation indicates that 4 gunmen in a Mercedes car intercepted another Mercedes carrying 4 people, including the journalist and his translator, near the Palestine Technical College in Deir El-Balah. They forced the journalist out of the car and took him to an unknown location in Nuseirat refugee camp, in the center of the Gaza Strip. It was later learned that the kidnappers were members of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, the armed wing of Fatah. Shortly before the kidnapping, Kremonzini had conducted an interview with them about members of their group storming the building of the Governorate of the Central District and the offices of the Ministry of Interior in Deir El-Balah. He was released at 21:30 on the evening of the same day.

On 18 September 2005, unknown gunmen kidnapped two journalists working for the Associated Press. One was from South Africa and the other was Palestinian. They were kidnapped from their residence, near the house of President Mahmoud Abbas in Gaza City. The guards of the President’s house chased the kidnappers and surrounded them in the Samer area in the center of Gaza City. The kidnappers threatened to kill the journalists if the security forces came near. At the same time, members of the Izzedeen El-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, intervened and assisted the security forces. The kidnappers fled the area, leaving behind the journalists and their vehicle.
Cases of Extra-Judicial Execution of Palestinians Suspected of Collaboration with Israel

The issue of collaboration with Israel has continued to be a problem in the year 2005. A number of Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel were extra-judicially executed by Palestinians in 2005. PCHR does not have clear information about the number of victims who have been executed in this manner throughout the year. However, information from local newspapers and from the field, coupled with statements issued by political parties and their armed wings, indicates that there were 7 cases of such executions, compared to 22 during 2004.

It seems the judicial developments regarding those charged with collaborating with foreign powers has had an effect on reducing this phenomenon in the Gaza Strip, where no one was extra-judicially executed for collaboration throughout the year. The First Instance Court in Gaza, formed in accordance with Decision 130 of the Higher Council of the Judiciary on 3 May 2004, looks into cases of collaboration with foreign powers. The court has held dozens of sessions involving cases of Palestinians charged with collaborating with foreign powers. The continuation of this court’s work, without external interference, will strengthen the role of the judiciary in handling these cases. This is a first step towards strengthening the rule of law and towards ensuring that citizens are not extra-judicially executed for collaboration.

PCHR welcomes efforts to strengthen the role of the judiciary with regard to dealing with cases of citizens charged with collaboration. This is in line with the Center’s position that collaborators with the occupation are part of the occupation’s infrastructure and constitute one of its most dangerous tools within Palestinian society. Collaborators contribute to the continuous perpetration of crimes by the IOF against the Palestinian people and, as such, Center’s position on the crimes of collaborators is no different from its position on the crimes of the occupation. They are war crimes that must be punished alongside those perpetrated by the leaders and soldiers of the IOF. Whereas the task of pursuing war criminals from among IOF commanders and soldiers is an international duty, the pursuit of the occupation’s collaborators and their trial is a Palestinian duty. This duty must be taken seriously and the PNA holds the full responsibility for fulfilling this in accordance with the rule of law.

PCHR rejects any negligence by the PNA with regard to opening all files on collaborators and taking legal action against them. However, all guarantees of a fair trial must also be ensured when dealing with collaborators. The rule of law must be affirmed and there should be no leniency shown to those breaking the law. The Centre views the continuation of extra-judicial executions of suspected collaborators, without the perpetrators being brought to justice, as further enhancing the security chaos and undermining the rule of law in PNA areas. Thus, the Centre calls upon the PNA to take all necessary steps to ensure that this phenomenon is brought to an end and to enhance the role of the First Instance Court in Gaza, as the official judicial body entitled to look into cases of suspected collaboration, without any interference from other parties.
PART TWO:

PCHR'S ACTIVITIES IN 2005
Introduction

The previous section of this report has detailed the human rights situation in the OPT throughout 2005 and helps to explain the complicated environment in which PCHR works. Although the new year of 2005 brought great optimism and expectation, given the positive developments relating to the peaceful transition of authority in the PNA, the optimism and expectation soon faded. Violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by IOF continued and more violations of human rights were recorded from the Palestinian side.

Under these circumstances, PCHR committed to implement its plans and activities for 2005, with a flexibility to allow adaptation to field developments and emergent issues.

This section of the report details PCHR's activities in 2005. It details the activities of PCHR's units, participation in regional and international activities, receiving visiting delegations and interviews with the media. It also highlights PCHR's publications in 2005 and PCHR's web site.

PCHR Becomes an Organizational Member of ILAC

On 6 October 2005, the council of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) decided to accept PCHR as an organizational member of the Consortium. In his letter sent to Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, Mr. Christian Ahlond, Executive Director of ILAC stated, "ILAC is proud to be able to include your organization among its members and wishes to express its admiration for your tireless work to respect and promote the rule of law under the most difficult circumstances." The Stockholm-based ILAC is one of the most important international legal bodies. It includes more than 30 members of distinguished legal organizations throughout the world, including the American Bar Association; the Arab Lawyers Union; the Bar Council of England and Wales; the Canadian Bar Association; the Council of Bars and Law Societies of the European Union; the Norwegian Bar Association; the Bar Association of India; and the Swedish Bar Association.

PCHR is pleased to be included as a member of this pioneer international legal organization, especially as this inclusion coincided with the 10th anniversary of the establishment of PCHR. ILAC has been the sixth international and regional organization to include PCHR as a member since its establishment in 1995. PCHR is also a member of the International Commission of Jurists – Geneva; the International Federation for Human Rights – Paris; the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network – Copenhagen; the International Union of Democratic Lawyers – Paris; and the Arab Organization for Human Rights – Cairo. It has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. PCHR's membership in these international and regional bodies is an indication of its activeness and credibility in serving Palestinian human rights issues.

PCHR Is Awarded Two New International Prizes

In appreciation of its efforts in defending human rights, PCHR received two new international prizes in 2005. On 4 December 2005, the Union of Municipalities of the Sun Beaches in Malaga, Spain, awarded PCHR the Solidarity Prize on the occasion of
On 27 May 2005, the Women and Children’s Rights Unit received the souvenir emblem of the government of Malaga. The unit head, Mona al-Shawa, received the emblem during a meeting with the Governor of Malaga.

Since its establishment, PCHR has been awarded three other international prizes for its achievements in the area of human rights: the French Republic Human Rights Award (1996); the Bruno Kreisky Prize for Outstanding Achievements in the Area of Human Rights (2002); and the International Service Human Rights Award (2003).
Activities of PCHR's Units

This section details the activities undertaken by each unit in 2005. Each unit prepared its own report, which was reviewed by PCHR's Program Committee and Board of Directors.

Legal Aid Unit

The unit worked on all activities included in its annual plan for 2005 and made efforts to complete all of these activities. The unit also intensified its efforts, in cooperation with a number of international legal organizations, to prosecute Israeli war criminals before the international judiciary. Although this activity was not included in the 2005 annual plan, PCHR decided to proceed with it, as Israeli legal mechanisms had been exhausted and it was clear that impunity was still being granted to Israeli war criminals under the Israeli legal system.

Activities as set out in 2005 Annual Plan:
1) Legal aid for victims of Israeli violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.
2) Legal aid for victims of violations of human rights and misuse of authority by the Palestinian Authority.
3) Legal documentation of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.
4) Contribution to international advocacy projects.
5) Raising awareness of legal rights.

### 1) Legal Aid for Victims of Israeli Violations of International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law

**Verifiable Indicators**

1.1) Representing Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and providing legal aid and consultation to their families.
1.2) Providing legal consultations to victims.
1.3) Submitting legal complaints on behalf of victims to concerned bodies.
1.4) Representing victims before the Israeli judiciary.
1.5) Investigating war crimes and human rights violations.

1.1) Representing Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails and Providing Legal Aid and Consultation to Their Families

In 2005, the unit continued to provide legal aid to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. Services provided included:

- Determination of location of detention;
- Visits by lawyers, particularly during interrogation;
- Representation of prisoners before Israeli military courts;
- Assisting families to get permission to attend court hearings; and
- Monitoring and taking appropriate action with regard to prisoners’ health and conditions of detention.
In 2005, the unit followed cases of 277 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. In 2005, the unit noted the following patterns:

- The number of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails has continued to increase.
- Israeli occupation authorities have continued to prevent lawyers from visiting clients in Israeli jails; in 2005, the unit submitted 14 petitions to the Israeli High Court in respect of these restrictions.
- Israeli military courts continued to issue sentences against Palestinian prisoners, which are disproportionate to the charges.
- Health and detention conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails have remained poor.
- Israeli occupying forces have continued to deny prisoners of their right to family visitations.
- A Palestinian prisoner, 18-year-old Jawad 'Aadel Abu Mughassib, from Deir al-Balah, died in mysterious circumstances in Ansar detention facility inside Israel on 28 July 2005.
- Use of administrative detention orders has continued; the unit pursued 22 cases of administrative detention in 2005, including 19 cases from 2004.

**Means of Verification**

- The unit provided legal aid to 277 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails in 2005.
- 47 prisoners, whose cases were pursued by the unit, including 20 administrative detainees, were released.
- Payment of bail for a number of prisoners through a delegated PCHR lawyer, in cases where their families were unable to do so.
- The unit pursued the cases of 6 ill prisoners and PCHR lawyers visited them in detention facilities.
- PCHR lawyers visited a number of Israeli jails, including Oufar, the Negev and Ashkelon.
- The unit followed up the health and detention conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, including the fire resulting from an electricity failure in the Negev prison on 24 July 2005, which destroyed the personal belongings of at least 240 prisoners.
- The unit succeeded in getting copies of indictment bills and court rulings issued against a number of ex-prisoners.
- The unit submitted 3 complaints to the Israeli military prosecutor concerning the use of torture against 3 Palestinian prisoners during interrogation in Ashkelon prison.
- The unit submitted an appeal concerning testimonies taken from prisoners in Hebrew and submitted to courts.
- The unit submitted a complaint to the Israeli military legal advisor concerning the prevention of a lawyer from visiting Ahmed Zayed al-Shurafa, detained by IOF.
- The unit submitted a complaint to both the Israeli military legal advisor and the Public Committee against Torture in Israel concerning the use of torture against 'Ali Dawas during interrogation at Ashkelon prison.
- The unit was able to retrieve 3 fishing boats belonging to released prisoners: Ramadan Salah; Ahmed Joma'a al-Qar'ani; and Hussam Mohammed al-Habbash.
- The unit continued to pursue the case of Riad and Hassan 'Ayad, who are considered by IOF to be “illegitimate combatants”.
A number of families were able to visit Palestinian prisoners detained in Israeli jails after the unit submitted a number of complaints to the Israeli military legal advisor.

1.2) Submitting Legal Complaints to the Israeli Authorities and Judiciary

The unit has continued to receive complaints from Palestinian civilians, who have been subjected to Israeli violations of human rights.

Mean of Verification

- In 2005, the unit received 2,164 clients and provided them with 1,093 legal consultations.
- The increasing number of clients is an indication of the satisfaction of previous clients with the legal aid provided to them by the unit.

1.3) Submitting Legal Complaints on Behalf of Victims to Concerned Bodies

In 2005, the unit pursued 794 complaints from Palestinian civilians, who had been subjected to Israeli violations of human rights. This number includes 113 complaints regarding cases of killing, injury, torture and destruction of property; 647 complaints in relation to freedom of movement; 15 complaints regarding detention of victims’ bodies; 8 complaints relating to attacks on Palestinian fishermen; and 11 other complaints.

Complaints Regarding Cases of Killing, Injuries and Destruction and Seizure of Property

With regard to cases of killing, injuries and destruction and seizure of property, the unit submitted 113 complaints on behalf of victims to the Israeli military legal advisor, the military prosecutor and the compensation officer of the Israeli Defense Ministry.

Table (1): Complaints Regarding Cases of Killing, Injuries and Destruction and Seizure of Property and Results of Pursuits in 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject of Complaint</th>
<th>Number of Complaints</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land leveling and destruction of agricultural facilities</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Still being pursued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total house demolition</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Still being pursued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killing</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Still being pursued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injuries</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Still being pursued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destruction and seizure of private property</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Still being pursued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torture</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Still being pursued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelling of workshops</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Still being pursued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>113</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition, the unit sent 107 written notices to the Israeli Defense Ministry in 2005, in accordance with amendments made on 24 July 2002 to the compensation law.

**Complaints Regarding Freedom of Movement**

The unit continued to provide legal aid for Palestinian civilians with regard to restrictions imposed on their freedom of movement. The unit pursued 647 complaints relating to this issue in 2005, including 316 from 2004. The unit submitted complaints to the Israeli military legal advisor. The unit submitted appeals to the Israeli High Court in respect of 5 of these complaints, in addition to a number of complaints that were submitted in cooperation with Physicians for Human Rights – Israel, and Hamoked – the Center for the Defense of the Individual.

**Table (2): Complaints Regarding Freedom of Movement and Results of Pursuits in 2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject of Complaint</th>
<th>Number of Complaints</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denial of family visitation to prisoners</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>32 positive responses, 7 negative responses, 5 are still being pursued and 101 have received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denial of travel for medical treatment</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>8 positive responses, 3 negative responses, 23 are still being pursued and 20 have received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denial of travel for other purposes</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>67 positive responses, 23 negative responses, 1 neutral response, 32 are still being pursued, 2 were cancelled, 5 are pending interviews and 86 have received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denial of renewal of magnetic cards and cancellation of permits</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>26 positive responses, 41 negative responses, 17 are still being pursued and 49 have received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denial of entry into Israel</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>3 positive responses, 5 negative responses, 2 are still being pursued and 29 have received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denial of entry into the Gaza Strip</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1 positive response and 10 have received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denial of access of civilians to their homes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>These have received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family reunion</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4 negative responses and 4 have received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denial of travel to the West Bank</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1 positive, 1 negative, 2 are still being pursued and 13 have received no response.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Denying families of deportees access to visit the Gaza Strip | 8 | 1 positive and 7 have received no response.
Application to travel back to the West Bank | 1 | Positive
Unlawful transfer of Palestinians from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip | 4 | These have received no response.
Total | 647 | 140 positive, 84 negative, 86 are still being pursued, 1 neutral, 5 are pending checking interviews, two were cancelled and 329 have received no response.

Complaints Regarding Attacks on Fishermen

In 2005, the unit pursued 8 complaints from 2004 regarding attacks on Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip.

Table (3): Complaints Regarding Attacks on Fishermen and Results of Pursuits in 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject of Complaint</th>
<th>Number of Complaint</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detention of fishing boats and equipment</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3 positive and 2 negative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destruction of fishing boats</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Negative response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confiscation of fishing equipment</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3 positive, 4 negative and 1 has received no response.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complaints Regarding the Return of Victims’ Bodies

In 2005, the unit pursued 15 cases to request the return of victims’ bodies, including some cases from previous years. IOF have continued to hold the bodies of some Palestinians, refusing to deliver them to their families for burial.

Other Complaints

In 2005, the unit submitted 11 complaints to Israeli authorities regarding other issues:

- The unit submitted a complaint regarding the evacuation of Palestinian civilians from their homes in Beit Lahia, which were intended for demolition by IOF.
- The unit submitted a complaint concerning the denial of access of Korean engineers to the Gaza Strip to fix medical equipment.
- The unit submitted a complaint concerning the denial of access of a Palestinian patient to medical care in Israel.
- The unit submitted a complaint to the Association for Civil Rights in Israel to obtain identity cards for Zaki al-’Amoudi’s sons.
• The unit submitted a complaint to the Israeli military legal advisor to lift the siege imposed on the al-Sayafa area in the northern Gaza Strip.
• The unit submitted a complaint to the Israeli military advisor concerning four houses that had been besieged by IOF.
• The unit submitted a complaint to the Israeli military prosecution to allow a Palestinian civilian, Ahmed al-Harbawi, to enter Israel.
• The unit sent a letter to inquire about an account in an Israeli bank.
• The unit made efforts to retrieve the personal belongings of an ex-prisoner, Mahmoud al-Sha'er, from Ashkelon prison.
• The file of a Palestinian civilian, who had been wounded by IOF during the first Intifada, was reviewed by a lawyer in the unit.
• The unit continued its efforts to pursue the case of a worker who had died inside Israel.

Means of Verification

o On 9 January 2005, the unit received a letter from the compensation officer at the Israeli Defense Ministry, expressing willingness to negotiate the case of Sayed Abu Safar, who had been killed by IOF near his house in the Bedouin Village in the northern Gaza Strip on 28 November 2004.

o The unit reached a financial settlement regarding compensation for the family of Mahmoud Hassan Ahmed al-Talalqa, who was killed by IOF in 2004. This case was the first to receive compensation from IOF, since the beginning of the current Intifada, and constituted a precedent following the amendments made to the Israeli Civil Wrongs Law, which deny Palestinian civilians compensation for damages incurred to them by IOF.

o On 13 February 2005, IOF delivered the bodies of 15 Palestinians that had been held by IOF to their families in the Gaza Strip. The unit pursued 8 of these cases.

o The unit received two positive responses from the Israeli military legal advisor; the first regarding the evacuation of houses by IOF and the second regarding 4 houses that had been besieged by IOF.

o The unit was able to retrieve 3250 Jordanian Dinars that had been confiscated from Mohammed Khalil Noufal and €5000 that had been confiscated from 'Alaa' al-Din al-Jamasi.

o The unit received 5 responses from the compensation officer at the Israeli Defense Ministry, stating that the cases raised by the unit were being considered as the amendments to the Israeli Civil Wrongs Law entered into force on 10 August 2005. The law decided on a 6-month period during which it would specify cases, where Palestinian civilians would be denied compensation for damages incurred by IOF. The responses stated that these cases would be decided on following the prescribed period.

o The unit received a response from the Israeli military legal advisor concerning the prohibition of a number of Palestinian civilians from entering Israel. The response stated that they should refer to the Palestinian liaison, since a special committee had been formed to consider their cases.

o There was an increase in the number of responses received by the unit to its complaints. In 2005, the unit received 728 responses to its complaints.
Table (4): Responses Received by the Unit from Israeli Authorities in 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concerned Party</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal military advisor (Gaza Strip)</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compensation officer at Defense Ministry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israeli military prosecutor</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military police</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airport authority</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israeli prosecution</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israeli military legal advisor (West Bank)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>143</strong></td>
<td><strong>231</strong></td>
<td><strong>354</strong></td>
<td><strong>728</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.4) Claims before the Israeli Judiciary

*Israeli High Court*

In 2005, the unit submitted 17 petitions to the Israeli High Court in Jerusalem through Israeli lawyers retained and instructed by PCHR, including 11 appeals from 2004, which continued into 2005.

Table (5): Appeals Submitted by the Unit to the Israeli High Court in 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number of Appeals</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cancellation of amendments to the Civil Wrongs Law</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>This petition was submitted in cooperation with a number of human rights organizations in Israel and the OPT against amendments to the Civil Wrongs Law, which deny compensation for Palestinian civilians for damages incurred to them by IOF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definition of &quot;military necessity&quot; in the context of house demolitions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>The court rejected the petition, on the grounds that there was no intention to demolish homes without “military necessity”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom of movement</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10 positive and 4 negative</td>
<td>Allowing a number of Palestinians to travel through Rafah International Crossing Point.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
House demolitions  | 1  | A response that there was no intention to demolish houses.

Total  | 17  | 10 positive, 5 negative, 1 still being pursued and 1 decision that there was no intention to demolish houses.

### Compensation Cases before Israeli Courts

In 2005, the unit filed 14 cases against the State of Israel demanding compensation for damages incurred to Palestinian civilians by IOF:

- The demolition of a house belonging to Zaina al-Zurai'ei by IOF on 18 May 2004.
- Killing of 2 on-duty nurses by IOF in Gaza on 5 February 2003.
- Injuring of Nemer Abu 'As'ous by IOF on 7 November 2003.
- Detention and damage of goods belonging to 'Emad Qeshta by IOF on 28 November 2003.
- Killing of Sayed Au Safra near his house in the Bedouin Village, in the northern Gaza Strip, on 28 November 2003.
- Killing of 2 children, while they were on the roof of their home in Rafah, by IOF on 18 May 2004.
- Running down of 'Alaa' Hassan al-Hourani, after he had fallen from a tractor inside an Israeli settlement in the Gaza Strip on 21 February 2005.
- Torturing of Khaled Joma'a al-Shami during interrogation by IOF, which resulted in him being unable to work.
- Detention and damage of goods belonging to Mohammed Hussein Qudaih by IOF at Rafah International Crossing Point.
- Destruction of 8 houses belonging to the 'Awad family by IOF.

In addition, the unit pursued 28 cases carried over from 2004.
1.5) Investigating Violations of Human Rights

The unit also investigated a number of human rights violations in cooperation with other PCHR units. In 2005, the unit conducted preliminary investigations into dozens of human rights violations perpetrated by IOF against Palestinian civilians.

2) Legal Aid and Consultation for Victims of Violations of Human Rights by the Palestinian Authority

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verifiable Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1) Representation of victims before Palestinian courts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2) Provision of legal consultations to victims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3) Submission of complaints and appeals for investigations into human rights violations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.1) Representation of Victims before Palestinian Courts

In 2005, the unit pursued 19 cases before Palestinian courts, including 4 from 2004, following the exhaustion of all available legal means with concerned bodies:

- 3 cases of compensation before the Gaza Court of First Instance concerning the deaths of 3 prisoners in Gaza Central Prison.
- Two petitions to the High Court of Justice concerning the illegal detention of Palestinians.
- 14 petitions concerning the misuse of authority.

The Constitutional Court

On 14 November 2005, the unit submitted a challenge to the Constitutional Court against the Judicial Authority Law, which was ratified by the President of the PNA on 10 November 2005, as it violates the Amended Basic Law, which serves as the constitution.

Means of Verification

- The unit pursued 16 cases before the Palestinian High Court of Justice.
- The unit pursued 3 cases before the Gaza Court of First Instance.
- The unit achieved a number of judicial precedents, such as the ruling by the Constitutional Court that amendments to the Judicial Authority Law were unconstitutional.
- The financial rights of an employee were obtained.
- Decisions on these cases were as shown in the table below.
Table (6): Cases Pursued by the Unit before the Palestinian High Court of Justice in 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Representing detainees before courts</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 positive responses</td>
<td>The court decided to cancel the case as the two detainees were released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representing employees before courts</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2 positive responses, 3 negative responses, 1 neutral and 4 are still ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenging the decrease of funds for insurance and retirement</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appealing against the non-registration of a charitable society by the Ministry of Interior</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An appeal concerning the graduation of a university student</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compensation for the deaths of 3 prisoners in Gaza Central Prison</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>The case is being considered by the Gaza Court of First Instance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>19</strong></td>
<td><strong>4 positive responses, 3 negative responses, 1 neutral and 11 are ongoing</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2) Providing Legal Consultation to Victims

In 2005, the unit received clients requesting legal assistance in respect of violations of human rights perpetrated by the Palestinian Authority, its security services and other state agents.

**Means of Verification**

- The unit received at least 830 clients and provided them with 525 legal consultations.
- This high number may indicate that PCHR’s status as a human rights legal agency is well established and respected.
2.3) Submitting Complaints and Appeals for Investigations into Human Rights Violations

In 2005, the unit pursued 157 complaints and appeals on behalf of Palestinians with regard to the misuse of authority, including 47 that had been pursued since 2004. This number includes 38 complaints to the Attorney General and 119 complaints and appeals to ministries and other official bodies.

Table (7): Complaints Submitted to the Attorney General in 2005 with Respect to the Misuse of Authority

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Result of Pursuit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unlawful detention</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1 positive response and 5 have received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An arrest warrant issued by the prosecutor in Deir al-Balah</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 positive response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violation of legal orders</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder of a lecturer at his office in al-Azhar University</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1 negative response, 2 are still being pursued and 8 have received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attacks on private property</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The death of a patient due to medical negligence</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The deaths of twins due to medical negligence</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1 positive response and 5 have received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attacks on journalists</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder of prisoners in Gaza Central Prison</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial rights</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shooting at lawyers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>38</strong></td>
<td><strong>3 positive responses, 1 negative response, no response to 32, and 2 are still being pursued</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (8): Complaints and Appeals Submitted by the Unit to Other Official Bodies in 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official Body</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Personnel Council</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1 positive response, 7 negative responses, 1 is still being pursued and 26 have received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1 positive response, 1 negative response, and 7 have received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Justice</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Interior</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipality of Gaza</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 neutral response and the other has received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabinet</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Election Commission</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of National Economy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Judiciary Council</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 positive response and the other has received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 positive response and the other has received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Finance</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1 positive response, 27 have received no response and one is still being pursued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Azhar University</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Public Works</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 negative responses, 1 neutral and 1 has received no response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNRWA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestine Airlines</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director General of Palestine Airlines</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Corporation of Insurance and Severance Pay</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Post and Communications</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Authority</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Labor</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President of the PNA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Azhar Religious Institute</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and Human Rights Committee at the PLC</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestine Broadcasting Corporation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>119</strong></td>
<td>5 positive responses, 10 negative responses, 3 neutral responses, 3 are still being pursued and 99 have not received any response.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Means of Verification**

- The unit submitted 156 complaints and appeals.
- The unit received 26 responses, including 8 positive.
- 6 prisoners, who had been illegally detained by the Military Intelligence Service, were released.

3) **Legal Documentation of Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law**

**Verifiable Indicator**

3.1) Creating files on Israeli violations of human rights, including war crimes.
3.2) Creating files on Palestinian violations of human rights.
3.1) Creating Files on Israeli Violations of Human Rights, Including War Crimes

In 2005, the unit documented 113 legal files on Israeli violations of international human rights and humanitarian law as shown in table (9) below.

**Table (9): Legal Files Prepared by the Unit on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in 2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Number of Files</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land leveling</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete house demolition</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killing</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injuries</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destruction and seizure of property</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torture</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destruction of workshops</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>113</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2) Creating Files on Palestinian Violations of Human Rights

In 2005, the unit documented 16 legal files on Palestinian violations of human rights as shown in table (10) below.

**Table (10): Legal Files Prepared by the Unit on Palestinian Violations of Human Rights in 2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Number of Files</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unlawful detention</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attacks on people and property</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violations of legal orders</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killings</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder of 3 prisoners in Gaza Central Prison</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attacks on 3 journalists</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4) Contribution to International Advocacy Projects

**Verifiable Indicators**

4.1) Contribution to PCHR's interventions with UN bodies.
4.2) Testifying before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices.
4.3) Submitting complaints to UN bodies.
4.4) Provision of assistance to international organizations and inquiry missions.
4.1) Contribution to PCHR's Interventions with UN Bodies

On 9 February 2005, the unit cooperated with the International Unit to write an intervention on Israeli violations against Palestinian children in the OPT, which was submitted to the UN Special Rapporteur on Children.

4.2) Testifying before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices

On 26 June 2005, the unit director, Iyad Alami, testified before the United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, which held sessions in Cairo. In his testimony, Alami focused on human rights violations perpetrated by IOF against Palestinian prisoners and difficulties of access to justice for victims of human rights violations under existing Israeli laws, which limit redemption and compensation for those victims.

4.3) Submitting Complaints to UN Bodies

No complaints were submitted by the unit to UN bodies in 2005.

4.4) Providing Assistance to International Organizations and Inquiry Missions

In 2005, the unit provided assistance to a number of international human rights organizations, which were interested in the human rights situation in the OPT:

- 13 February: The UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories and an accompanying delegation.
- 24 February: A delegation from the ICRC.
- 1 March: A delegation from Hickman & Rose Solicitors in the UK.
- 12 April: A delegation from the Center for Constitutional Rights.
- 24 April: A delegation from Amnesty International.
- 8 June: A European consular delegation.
- 11-12 December: A delegation from the International Legal Assistance Consortium.

5) Raising Awareness of Legal Rights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1) Legal consultation with clients.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2) Participation in training activities organized by PCHR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3) Organization of workshops</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.1) Legal Consultation with Clients

Legal consultation is a means of raising awareness of legal rights. Legal consultations were made through referrals from PCHR’s offices in Gaza City, Jabalya and Khan Yunis. In 2005, 2,869 individuals referred to the unit for basic legal consultations. The unit lawyers provided 1,541 legal consultations on various issues, including
workers' rights, family disputes, the freedom of movement and the detention conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

**Means of Verification**

- There was an increase in the number of legal consultations provided by the unit (1541).

**5.2) Participation in Training Activities Organized by PCHR**

The unit contributed to seven training courses organized by PCHR. Staff members of the unit delivered lectures on legal rights and the concept of the rule of law.

**5.3) Organizing Workshop**

In 2005, the unit organized three workshops on the impacts of amendments to the Judicial Authority Law on the independence of the judiciary. A number of judges and interested people participated in these workshops. The first two workshops were held at PCHR's office in Gaza City on 13 February and 10 October 2005 respectively, and the third was held at Gaza International Hotel on 26 October 2005.

**6) Other Activities Not Included in the Annual Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verifiable Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.1) Claims before national judiciary in the USA and the UK.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3) Meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4) Participation in conferences and workshops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.5) Supervising the conference for the establishment of a Union of Palestinian Workers inside Israel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.6) Networking with Arab human rights organizations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**6.1) Claims before National Judiciary in the USA and the UK**

In 2005, PCHR filed cases before the national judiciary in the USA and the UK to investigate and prosecute Israeli officials responsible for grave breaches of international humanitarian law in the OPT.

**US Judiciary**

- The unit filed a case against Caterpillar Inc. before the US judiciary, demanding compensation for the deaths of a number of people, which occurred when IOF demolished houses in the OPT.
- The unit, in cooperation with the Center for Constitutional Rights, brought a class action lawsuit against Avi Dichter, the former Director of Israel’s General Security Service (GSS), on behalf of Palestinians who had been killed or injured in a 2002 air strike in Gaza. The attack occurred just before midnight on 22 July 2002, when the IOF dropped a one-ton bomb on al-Daraj, a residential neighborhood in Gaza City.
**UK Judiciary**

The unit filed a number of cases before the UK judiciary to prosecute Israeli war criminals:
- The case regarding the deaths of members of the Matar family in an IOF air strike on al-Daraj neighborhood in Gaza City.
- The case regarding the death of Mahmoud Abdul Rahman al-Madhoun and two other children in Beit Lahia.
- The case regarding the death of Nuha al-Maqadma and the injury of her family, as a result of the demolition of a neighboring house.
- The case regarding the torture of Khaled al-Shami in an Israeli jail.
- The case regarding the destruction of an apartment building in Nablus.

**Means of Verification**

- On 10 September 2005, Chief London Magistrate Timothy Workman issued a warrant to arrest Major General Doron Almog (retired) on suspicion of committing a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The alleged offence was committed as part of Israel’s belligerent occupation of the OPT.
- This issue has a particular Palestinian, Israeli and international legal interest.
- Raising this issue may deter many individuals from committing war crimes, as it may result in prosecution before the international judiciary.

6.2) **Assisting Palestinians Requiring Medical Treatment**

The unit helped secure access to appropriate medical treatment for a number of Palestinians who were unable to pay for treatment that is only available outside the Gaza Strip. In 2005, the unit, in cooperation with Physicians for Human Rights in Israel, provided this service to 31 Palestinian patients. The clients received appropriate medical treatment in medical facilities inside Israel.

**Means of Verification**

- 31 patients received the appropriate and necessary medical treatment for their particular medical conditions.
- Positive reaction from these clients and their families.

6.3) **Meetings**

In 2005, the unit held a number of meetings with various organizations and people:

1. A meeting with the ICRC focusing on occupation and its definition.
2. A meeting with the Human Rights Committee at the Palestine Bar Association.
3. A meeting with Lawyers without Borders – Belgium – to discuss issues of particular interest for lawyers.
4. A meeting with students from UNRWA preparatory schools to provide them with information on PCHR and its goals and activities.
5. A meeting with the Head of the Higher Judiciary Council and a number of judges of the High Court of Justice to discuss some legal problems.
6. A meeting with the Legal Advisor of the Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs, 'Omar Abu Zaida, and Director of the Office of the Minister of Prisoners' Affairs, Ma'ath al-Hanafi, to discuss issues related to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

7. A meeting with the Head of the Criminal Court – Second Bureau, Fahmi al-Najjar, following an attack on him during a court session.

8. A meeting with the ICRC Media Officer, Eyad Nasser, to discuss the family visitation program for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Means of Verification

- PCHR lawyers have strong professional relations with various organizations and professional people.
- Director of the unit, Eyad Alami, was selected as Deputy Head of the Human Rights Committee at the Palestine Bar Association.
- Positive feedback from meetings.
- The unit issued a press release condemning the attack on the Head of the Criminal Court – Second Bureau, Fahmi al-Najjar.

6.4) Participation in Conferences and Workshops

In 2005, the unit's staff members participated in a number of conferences and workshops:

1. A workshop organized by the Ministry of Justice regarding the draft law on land planned for evacuation by IOF.
2. A workshop organized by the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizen's Rights on the draft law on land.
3. A workshop organized by the Palestinian Legislative Council on the draft law on land.
4. A conference in Brussels on the globalization of justice and international law and the protection of fundamental rights.
5. A conference organized by Defense for Children International – Palestine Section – on Palestinian children being held in prisons.
6. A workshop organized by the ICRC on international humanitarian law.
7. A training course organized by Lawyers without Borders on racial discrimination.

Means of Verification

- The unit's staff members gained more professional expertise.
- The unit submitted an intervention on criminal justice in the PNA controlled areas at the conference on the globalization of justice, which was held in Brussels.
- The unit established strong relations with other legal organizations.

6.5) Supervising the Conference for the Establishment of a Union of Palestinian Workers inside Israel

On 28 May 2005, the unit supervised the conference for the establishment of the Union of Palestinian Workers inside Israel. The union's bylaw and other issues were discussed in the conference. The conference was attended by 48 workers and 9 of these were selected to be members of the board of directors.
Means of Verification

- Members of the union welcomed PCHR's participation in their conference.
- PCHR has a high profile in the region.

6.6) Networking with Arab Human Rights Organizations

PCHR has strong relations with Arab human rights organizations. In this context, the unit sent two letters to the Secretary General of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights:

1. Inquiring about the health conditions of Palestinians detained by the Egyptian authorities.
2. Asking for humanitarian aid to a Palestinian woman living in Cairo, who was experiencing health and financial problems.

Means of Verification

- PCHR has strong relations with Arab human rights organizations.
- Positive feedback from these organizations.
Democratic Development Unit

The unit was able to implement all the activities included in its 2005 annual plan, although some minor changes were necessary in order to take events on the ground in the OPT into account. In 2005, the unit was involved in monitoring all stages of Palestinian elections. It also focused on the Palestinian internal situation and attacks on the rule of law in the OPT. Activities included in the 2005 annual plan are detailed below and their implementation is measured through verifiable indicators and means of verification.

Activities as set out in 2005 Annual Plan

1) Documentation and reporting on violations of civil and political rights.
2) Monitoring the performance of the Palestinian Legislative Council and urging it to assume its full responsibilities.
3) Encouragement of dialogue and promotion of democratic values in Palestinian society.
4) Encouraging adoption of legislation based on democracy and respect for human rights.
5) Encouraging the holding of free and fair democratic elections

1) Documentation and Reporting Violations of Civil and Political Rights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verifiable Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2) Periodic reports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3) Report on violations of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly under the PNA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4) Press releases on violations of civil and political rights according to developments on the ground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5) Contribution to PCHR's interventions at UN bodies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1) PCHR's Annual Report

This is a comprehensive report prepared by the unit each year that focuses on the human rights situation in the OPT and provides recommendations to parties involved in violations of human rights. It is an important document for those who are interested in the human rights situation in the OPT. The report is widely circulated locally (Palestinian National Authority institutions, NGOs, partisan entities, academics and jurists) and internationally (diplomatic missions to the Palestinian National Authority and Israel, governments, the United Nations and international human rights organizations).

Means of Verification

- The report was published in April 2005 and the unit prepared a summary of the report, which was published and circulated independently.
- The report provided a comprehensive overview on the human rights situation in the OPT in 2004.
- Publication of the report was reported in the local and Arab media.
1.2) Periodic Reports

In light of the political and field developments in the OPT, following the declared truce between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, and following discussion at PCHR's Program Committee on 20 March 2005, some changes to the unit's priorities and activities took place in the first half of the year. In this context, the writing of periodic reports on extra-judicial executions and attacks on journalists was postponed in order to facilitate work on the issue of Palestinian elections.

1.3) Report on Violations of the Rights to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly

This is a series of reports that highlight violations of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly under the PNA.

*Means of Verification*

- In October 2004, the unit published the fifth report of this series, which covers the period from 1 September 2004 to 30 September 2005.
- PCHR has carried out comprehensive documentation of these violations.
- The local media covered the publication of this report.
- The publication of this report serves to enhance the struggle against violations of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

1.4) Press Releases on Violations of Civil and Political Rights According to Developments on the Ground

The unit wrote many of the press releases issued by PCHR on issues relating to violations of civil and political rights. Some of these press releases focused on the deterioration of internal security, the misuse of weapons and the kidnappings of both internationals and Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Other press releases focused on other important issues, such as elections, violations of the right to freedom of expression and the death penalty.

*Means of Verification*

- The unit wrote 45 press releases.
- These press releases were reported by the local media.
- PCHR has an up to date and comprehensive database of violations included in the unit's reports.
- These press releases contributed to ending certain violations, including the postponement of the implementation of death sentences, and the decision taken by the President of the PNA to retrial those, who had previously been convicted by state security courts, before civil courts.
1.5) Contribution to PCHR’s Interventions at UN Bodies

On 26 June, the unit director testified before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices, which held a session in Cairo.

2) Monitoring the Performance of the Palestinian Legislative Council and Urging it to Assume its Full Responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verifiable Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1) Report on the evaluation of the Palestinian Legislative Council’s (PLC) performance (the 8th report).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2) Report on other activities (interviews, public meetings and attending PLC’s sessions).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.1) Report on the Evaluation of the Palestinian Legislative Council’s Performance (the 8th Report)

This series of reports is the outcome of PCHR's activities in monitoring the PLC's performance over each of its terms. These reports focus on failures in the PLC's performance, especially in light of the executive's control over it. They also provide some recommendations, which seek to promote the status and role of the legislature in the Palestinian political system. PCHR is the only Palestinian organization that publishes such reports.

2.2) Report on Other Activities

- The unit staff members attend all PLC sessions in Gaza City and write reports on these. The PLC sessions are often held in Ramallah and due to the total closure imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip, PLC members from the Gaza Strip participate in these sessions through videoconference.
- The unit staff members regularly visit offices of the PLC in Gaza City in order to follow up on developments relating to legislation.
- The unit staff members call and meet with PLC members to inquire about developments relating to legislation.
- The unit has copies of all PLC publications.

Means of Verification

- The 8th report of this series was published in December 2005, covering the PLC’s 8th term (March 2004 – March 2005).\(^{47}\)
- The report was reported by the media.
- The report was widely circulated, including to PLC members.
- The unit staff members made more than 50 phone calls and meetings with PLC members.
- The unit staff members conducted at least 40 visits to the PLC.
- The unit has extensive information about the PLC’s performance, including reports on its sessions.

\(^{47}\) The first report of this series was published in 1998, covering the PLC’s first and second terms (March 1996 – March 1998).
3) Encouraging Dialogue and Promotion of Democratic Values in Palestinian Society

**Verifiable Indicator**

Report on activities.

The unit's efforts in 2005 focused on issues relating to elections, the internal security situation and the struggle to abolish the death penalty. In this context, the unit organized a discussion group on elections and participated in activities conducted by civil society organizations throughout the Gaza Strip. The unit also contributed to training activities organized by PCHR's Training Unit and took part in several interviews with the media.

### 3.1) Discussion Group on Elections and Their Indications

On 12 February 2005, the unit organized a discussion group on elections and their indications. Representatives of the Central Election Commission, civil society organizations, political factions, PLC members, journalists and interested people attended the discussion. In two working sessions, the participants discussed the indications and legal framework of elections. The discussion group was an occasion for PCHR to express its reservations concerning the draft electoral law, which was later approved.

### 3.2) Participation in Similar Activities Organized by Civil Society Organizations

The unit staff members participated in dozens of activities organized by Palestinian civil society organizations but only those in which the unit’s staff members were speakers will be highlighted in this section. Such activities serve to strengthen relations between PCHR and other civil society organizations.

**Participation of the Unit Staff Members as Speakers in Activities Organized by Civil Society Organizations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1 February</td>
<td>The Palestinian political system</td>
<td>Gaza Group for Culture and Development</td>
<td>Gaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>7 March</td>
<td>An intervention on the amended electoral law at a meeting on the legislative elections and their legal and technical indications</td>
<td>The Central Election Commission and Youth Development Society</td>
<td>'Abasan, Khan Yunis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>Elections and their role in promoting democracy in Palestinian society</td>
<td>Arab Intellectual Forum, Jerusalem</td>
<td>Palestine Red Crescent Society, Gaza</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

101
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Organizers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>4 May</td>
<td>The importance of elections and youth participation</td>
<td>Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Palestinian Society for Human Development, The Palestinian Society for Human Development, Gaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>26 May</td>
<td>Draft electoral law</td>
<td>The Civil Forum, Gaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>27 August</td>
<td>The future internal situation and politics following elections</td>
<td>Arab Intellectual Forum, Jerusalem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>29 November</td>
<td>Women's right to vote</td>
<td>Al-Majd Women's Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>22 December</td>
<td>Elections as a starting point for democratic reform</td>
<td>Ad-Dameer – Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.3) Training on Democracy and Human Rights

The unit participated in a number of training programs organized by PCHR's Training Unit, delivering lectures on democracy. It also cooperated with the Training Unit in the training of observers to monitor the Palestinian elections. In 2005, the unit delivered 19 lectures accounting for 30 training hours in training programs organized by the Training Unit. These programs were organized in Gaza, the northern Gaza Strip, Khan Yunis, Rafah and the central Gaza Strip. Training courses focused on democracy and political participation, including women's political participation.

### 3.4) Media Activities Relating to Promotion of Democracy and Awareness of Civil and Political Rights

The unit’s staff members were interviewed by local, Arab and international media on issues related to democracy and human rights. In 2005, the number of these interviews was 23.

#### Media Interviews

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names of Journalists and Media Organizations</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>6 January</td>
<td>Abu Dhabi Satellite Channel</td>
<td>Presidential election</td>
<td>Live interview on al-Madar News program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

48 These figures do not include training courses for election observers, which were organized by the unit in cooperation with the Training Unit.

49 For more details about these programs, see the section of the Training Unit's activities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Source/Channel</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. 9 January</td>
<td>Al-Salam Radio</td>
<td>Presidential election</td>
<td>Phone interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 10 January</td>
<td>Germany Radio</td>
<td>Presidential election</td>
<td>Phone interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 27 January</td>
<td>France Radio 2</td>
<td>Local elections</td>
<td>Phone interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 6 April</td>
<td>Watan Television, Ramallah</td>
<td>Security chaos</td>
<td>Phone interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. 6 May</td>
<td>Al-Arabiya News Channel</td>
<td>Local elections</td>
<td>Live interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. 6 May</td>
<td>Abu Dhabi Satellite Channel</td>
<td>Local elections</td>
<td>Live interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. 9 May</td>
<td>Al-Shabab Radio, Gaza</td>
<td>Local elections</td>
<td>Live dialogue program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. 9 May</td>
<td>'Abdul Ghani al-Shami</td>
<td>Local elections</td>
<td>Phone interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. 12 June</td>
<td>Christina Hausen, New York Times</td>
<td>Death penalty</td>
<td>Phone interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. 12 June</td>
<td>Associated Press</td>
<td>Death penalty</td>
<td>Television interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. 12 June</td>
<td>Sa'id al-Ghazali, the Independent</td>
<td>Death penalty</td>
<td>Phone interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. 12 June</td>
<td>Al-Salam Radio</td>
<td>Death penalty</td>
<td>Phone interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. 15 June</td>
<td>Wadee 'Awawda, al-Khaleej newspaper, UAE</td>
<td>Security chaos</td>
<td>Phone interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. 16 June</td>
<td>Dominique Sobiera, Catalonia Radio, Paula Merkader, Dutch Radio</td>
<td>Death penalty</td>
<td>Phone interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. 18 June</td>
<td>Al-Quds Radio, Gaza</td>
<td>Security chaos</td>
<td>Live dialogue program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. 4 July</td>
<td>Palestine Television</td>
<td>Security chaos</td>
<td>Live dialogue program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. 9 July</td>
<td>Palestinian Workers Radio, Gaza</td>
<td>Death penalty</td>
<td>Live dialogue program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. 18 July</td>
<td>Laura King, Bureau Chief, Los Angeles Times</td>
<td>The Disengagement Plan</td>
<td>Office interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. 7 August</td>
<td>Leila al-Haddad, al-Jazeera</td>
<td>Security chaos</td>
<td>Phone interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. 18 December</td>
<td>Hidenori Sato, Jerusalem Bureau Chief, The Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan</td>
<td>Security chaos and legislative elections</td>
<td>Office interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. 18 December</td>
<td>Palestine Television</td>
<td>Security chaos</td>
<td>Live dialogue program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. 28 December</td>
<td>David Andros, Mother Jones Magazine</td>
<td>Legislative elections</td>
<td>Phone interview</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Means of Verification

- The unit organized one discussion group, which was attended by at least 200 people, 35% of whom were women.
- The unit delivered 19 lectures (30 training hours) at training programs organized by PCHR's Training Unit.
- The unit’s staff members were speakers at nine meetings organized by other civil society organizations.
- On 3 August, the unit head, the director of PCHR and the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit head received thankful letters from the Palestinian Journalist Bloc in appreciation of their efforts to raise the awareness of the local society about the rights and role of journalists in the context of a project implemented by the bloc.
- The number of media interviews made with the unit’s staff members was 23.
- Activities against the death penalty and efforts to retrial those who have been convicted by state security courts proved fruitful, as the death penalty was temporarily halted and the President of the PNA took a decision to retrial those who had previously been convicted by state security courts before the civil courts.
- Activities against the proliferation and misuse of weapons are part of community efforts to create public opinion and pressure against internal violence and security chaos.

4) Encouragement of Adoption of Legislation Based on Democratic Principles and Respect for Human Rights

Verifiable Indicator

Report on activities.

The unit continued to carry out this activity, with a special focus on lobbying for the amendment of laws relating to the organization of Palestinian elections. To this end, the unit organized a number of meetings to discuss the issue of elections, as outlined previously in this section. In addition, the unit sent three letters to the President of the PNA, Mahmoud 'Abbas:

- On 7 February 2005, the unit, in cooperation with the Legal Aid Unit, sent a letter to President 'Abbas concerning efforts to amend the Judicial Authority Law and emphasizing PCHR's position in support of the independence of the judiciary.
- On 7 February 2005, the unit sent a letter to President 'Abbas encouraging the abolishment of the death penalty and outlining the need to take serious action against the misuse of weapons and the security chaos.
- On 6 June 2005, the unit sent a letter to President 'Abbas urging for the enactment of a new electoral law and stressing the importance of holding the legislative elections on the planned date. The letter explained PCHR's position towards the second stage of elections of local councils.

Means of Verification

- A number of draft laws, which PCHR and other community groups made efforts to endorse, were enacted:
Approving Elections Law No. 9 of 2005 on 13 August 2005, which conformed with many of PCHR's demands, including proportional representation and the allocation of a quota for women.

Approving Law No. 10 of 2005 for Elections of Local Bodies Councils, which conformed with many of PCHR's demands, including proportional representation and the allocation of a quota for women.

5) Encouraging the Holding of Free and Fair Elections

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A large portion of the unit's activities in 2005 was devoted to elections. The unit monitored the presidential election, which was held in January 2005, in cooperation with dozens of NGOs. The unit also monitored the various stages of local council elections in the Gaza Strip, which were held in 2005. By the end of the year, the unit had almost completed preparations to monitor the legislative council elections, which were to be held on 25 January 2006, in a monitoring campaign led by PCHR and including dozens of other NGOs.

5.1) Monitoring of the Presidential Election

PCHR, through the Democratic Development Unit, led a campaign to monitor the presidential election, which was held on 9 January 2005, in cooperation with a number of NGOs, including al-Dameer - Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association and the Women's Affairs Center. Preparations to monitor the presidential election began before the end of 2004. The Annual Report of 2004 details related activities until 31 December 2004. Activities conducted by the unit in 2005 included:

- The unit provided observers in cooperation with 26 other NGOs.
- The unit monitored the electoral campaign, which ended on 7 January 2005.
- The unit issued a report on 9 January 2005, outlining conclusions regarding the monitoring of the electoral campaign.
- The unit monitored the polling and counting of votes on 9 January 2005, through 287 observers.
- The unit intervened with the Central Elections Commission with regard to violations by speaking out against violations and writing letters outlining violations to relevant bodies.
- The unit issued a preliminary evaluation on the polling and counting of votes on 10 January 2005.
- The unit held three meetings in order to acknowledge the efforts of the observers and to award them with certificates.
- The unit issued a final report evaluating the polling and counting of votes on 7 February 2005.
- The unit cooperated and met with international observers.

Means of Verification

- PCHR played a major role as an election monitoring group. It formed a monitoring body in cooperation with 26 other NGOs throughout the Gaza Strip,
including the Palestine Bar Association, al-Dameer – Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association, the Women's Affairs Center and the Canaan Institute.

- Monitoring was highly organized and PCHR observers were present in all polling centers throughout the Gaza Strip.
- PCHR demonstrated a high level of professionalism in all reports produced. These reports were commended by the Central Elections Commission and circulated to NGOs, public figures and political parties.
- 98 observers were female, constituting 34% of the total number of observers.
- PCHR was successful in establishing a group of election observers that would be in a position to contribute to PCHR's future campaigns to monitor elections.
- Efforts made by PCHR, its partners and other local and international observers in monitoring demonstrated the transparency, fairness and credibility of the electoral process.
- The Central Elections Commission responded positively to PCHR's notes regarding the electoral process.

5.2) Monitoring of Local Council Elections

The unit monitored local council elections that were held at various stages throughout 2005. By the end of the year, four of the five stages of these elections had been held. The unit monitored the three stages of elections that were held in the Gaza Strip (the first, the second and the fourth stages). The third stage of elections was limited to the West Bank.

5.2.1) Monitoring of Elections for 10 Local Councils in the Gaza Strip on 27 January (the First Stage)

Activities included:
- The unit selected and trained 80 observers, including 20 women, to monitor these elections.
- The unit monitored the polling and counting of votes on 27 January.
- The unit issued a preliminary evaluation of the electoral process on 28 January.
- The unit held a meeting to acknowledge the efforts of the observers on 3 February.
- The unit issued a final report evaluating the electoral process on 13 March. A copy of the report was sent to the Higher Committee for Local Elections, the body which organizes the local council elections.

5.2.2) Monitoring of Elections for 8 Local Councils in the Gaza Strip on 5 May (the Second Stage)

Activities included:
- The unit selected 110 observers, including 41 women, to monitor these elections. This number included 28 new observers, who were trained by the unit in cooperation with the Training Unit.
- The unit applied to the Higher Committee for Local Elections to accredit 48 observers who were new or whose accreditation cards had expired.
- The unit monitored the election campaigns during the period from 21 April to 4 May.
- The unit monitored the polling and counting of votes on 5 May.
• The unit intervened with the Higher Committee for Local Elections to stop violations of the rules of polling and counting of votes.
• The Field Work Unit cooperated with the unit in its efforts to monitor these elections, as field workers in Rafah, Khan Yunis, Central Gaza and Northern Gaza supervised observation teams in the eight communities where elections were held.
• The unit issued a preliminary evaluation of the electoral process. It its evaluation, the unit concluded that elections were fair and transparent in spite of the many reported violations. There was a strong debate over these elections, as the Fatah movement challenged the impartiality of elections and the district election commissions in Rafah, al-Boreij and Beit Lahia. This challenge was made one day before the declaration of official results. PCHR called upon the Higher Committee for Local Elections not to succumb to pressure that could impact its credibility.
• The unit held two meetings to acknowledge the efforts of the observers; one in Gaza on 17 May and the other in Rafah on 18 May.
• The unit issued a final report evaluating the second stage of elections of local councils. The report was published in June.

5.2.3) Cooperation with International Observation Teams

• On 23 April, the unit director met with a delegation from the National Democratic Institute (NDI), which monitored the elections. He briefed the delegations on the local council elections and PCHR's role in monitoring these elections. Members of the delegation were assisted by a number of PCHR observers.
• On 3 May, the unit met with a delegation from the NDI. Members of the delegation were provided with PCHR's notes concerning the electoral process.

5.2.4) Developments Concerning Challenges against the Results of Elections

• In cooperation with the Legal Aid Unit and the Field Work Unit, the unit followed up on developments following polling day, including challenges submitted against the results of elections in Rafah, al-Boreij and Beit Lahia and related court rulings.
• These and other previous efforts served as a basis to establish PCHR's position, which was expressed in a press release issued on 18 May. PCHR expressed reservations at testimonies by officials of the Higher Committee for Local Elections criticizing the performance of the Committee.
• The unit sent a letter to Palestinian President Mahmoud 'Abbas on 6 June, outlining PCHR's position on developments following the second stage of elections.

5.2.5) Preparations to Monitor Rerun of Elections in a Number of Polling Stations in Rafah, al-Boreij and Beit Lahia

The unit selected 54 observers to monitor the rerun of elections in Rafah, Al-Boreij and Beit Lahia, due to be held on 1 June, following a decision to re-hold elections in these areas, and made all necessary preparations for monitoring. Concerned political parties agreed to postpone these elections for one month. However, by the end of 2005, it still had not been possible to hold these elections.
5.2.6) Monitoring of the Elections for 3 Local Councils in the Gaza Strip on 15 September (the Fourth Stage)

Activities included:
- The unit selected 19 observers, one for each polling station, but the Higher Committee for Local Elections accredited only 6 observers, including two women. Two observers were devoted to each electoral constituency, as the Committee imposed limitations on local observation.
- The observers were trained to monitor these elections.
- The unit observed the whole electoral process, including the registration of voters, nomination for candidature, election campaigning, polling and the counting of votes, in cooperation with the Field Work Unit.
- The unit issued a report evaluating these elections.

Means of Verification

- PCHR played a major role as a local observation body.
- Monitoring was highly organized and PCHR observers were present in all polling stations throughout the Gaza Strip.
- 196 observers, including 63 women, participated in the monitoring of the three stages of local council elections in the Gaza Strip.
- Reports written by the unit drew a clear and transparent picture of the electoral process.
- PCHR was successful in establishing a group of election observers that would be in a position to contribute to PCHR's future campaigns to monitor elections.
- The inclusion of women in monitoring campaigns served to promote the status of women. It is part of overall efforts made by the unit, and by PCHR in general, to empower women in the OPT.

5.3) Monitoring of Legislative Elections

By the end of 2005, the unit had almost completed preparations to monitor the legislative elections, which would be held on 25 January 2005, in cooperation with dozens of other NGOs, including al-Dameer – Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association, the Palestine Bar Association and the Women's Affairs Center. For this purpose, the unit selected 500 observers, half of whom were women, to monitor these elections. By the end of 2005, the unit and the Training Unit had trained 265 of these observers. Most of the other observers had been previously trained to participate in PCHR's campaigns to monitor the presidential election and local council elections.

Activities in preparation for the monitoring of the legislative elections included:
- The unit held a consultative meeting with representatives from at least 40 civil society organizations in the Gaza Strip on 23 May, to discuss organising a campaign to monitor the elections.
- The unit, in cooperation with the Training Unit, selected at least 500 observers, half of whom were women, to monitor these elections.
- The unit, in cooperation with the Training Unit, held 5 meetings with observers in October and November to discuss the procedures for their accreditation by the Central Elections Commission.
• The unit trained the observers, in cooperation with the Training Unit.\textsuperscript{50}
• The unit issued a number of press releases relating to the legislative elections.
• The unit held meetings with international observers.

\textit{Means of Verification}

\begin{itemize}
\item 500 trained observers, half of whom were women, are now qualified to monitor elections.
\item There was a clear picture given of the steps taken by the Central Election Commission concerning the legislative elections.
\end{itemize}

\textsuperscript{50} For more details, see Training Unit section
Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Unit

In 2005, the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Unit continued to monitor and document violations of economic, social and cultural rights in the OPT, particularly the Gaza Strip, as set out in its 2005 annual plan. Despite continuous Israeli violations in the Gaza Strip that imposed themselves on the unit's agenda, the unit was able to carry out the activities included in its 2005 annual plan. The unit continued to write periodic reports and studies on violations of economic, social and cultural rights perpetrated by IOF. It also continued its efforts to promote economic, social and cultural rights in Palestinian society.

The unit was able to continue its fundamental activities, including preparation of a number of regular reports on economic, social, and cultural rights; holding public workshops; and participation in other PCHR activities and activities organized by other civil society groups in the Gaza Strip. The unit also promoted its activities at the media and community levels.

Activities as set out in 2005 Annual Plan

1) Documenting violations of economic, social and cultural rights.
2) Raising awareness of economic, social, and cultural rights.

1) Documenting violations of economic, social and cultural rights

Verifiable Indicators
Publications:
1.1) Closure Update: a report on the impact of Israeli closure of the Gaza Strip on economic, social and cultural rights.
1.2) Uprooting Palestinian Trees and Leveling Agricultural Land.
1.3) A study on the rehabilitation of victims of violations of the right to adequate housing (housing compounds of those Palestinians whose houses were destroyed in the Gaza Strip).
1.4) A report on the economic and social impacts of the IOF's redeployment in the Gaza Strip on the right to work.
1.5) A report on Israeli attacks on Palestinian medical personnel (the third report).
1.6) Reports from 2004.
1.7) Press Releases on violations of economic, social and cultural rights.


The unit issued the 46th of these updates in July 2005, detailing the impact of the Israeli military closure of the Gaza Strip on economic, social and cultural rights. The report covers the period from 1 July 2004 to 31 May 2005.

Means of Verification

- The report was published.
- The unit issued a press release on its publication.
- The publication of the report was covered by the local media.
- The report was widely circulated.
o The report was completely or partially published on a number of local web pages.
o The unit staff members were interviewed by the media on issues covered by the report.

1.2) Uprooting Palestinian Trees and Leveling Agricultural Land: Report #11

Report #11 of this series was issued by the unit in June 2005, detailing land leveling and destruction of agricultural land in the Gaza Strip by IOF during the period from 1 May 2004 to 31 May 2005.

Means of Verification

o The report was published.
o The unit issued a press release on its publication.
o The publication of the report was covered by the local media.
o The report was widely circulated.
o The report was completely or partially published on a number of local web pages.
o PCHR used statistics and information included in the report in its international interventions.
o The unit’s staff members were interviewed by the media on issues covered by the report.
o A number of governmental organizations used the information included in the report.
o A number of university students used the report in writing research papers on relevant issues.

1.3) A Study on the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violations of the Right to Adequate Housing (Housing Compounds of Palestinians Whose Houses Were Destroyed in the Gaza Strip)

The unit has prepared a study on the rehabilitation of victims of violations of the right to adequate housing in the Gaza Strip. The study is expected to be published in January 2006. The study focuses on efforts to rehabilitate victims of violations of the right to adequate housing and the conformity of housing projects designed for them with international standards on the right to adequate housing.

Means of Verification

o The study was completed.
o The unit has not been able yet to verify the effects of the study.

1.4) A Report on the Economic and Social Impacts of the IOF's Redeployment in the Gaza Strip on the Right to Work

The unit has been working on this report throughout 2005. It is expected to be published at the beginning of 2006.
1.5) **A Report on Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Medical Personnel (the third report)**

This report covers the period from 1 September 2002 to 31 December 2004 and details attacks by IOF on Palestinian medical personnel, while carrying out their humanitarian mission in the OPT. It also details the impacts of the closure imposed by IOF on the OPT on the work of Palestinian medical personnel and the right to health. It was published in August 2005.

**Means of Verification**

- The report was published.
- The unit issued a press release on its publication.
- The publication of the report was covered by the local media.
- The report was widely circulated.
- The report was completely or partially published on a number of local web pages.
- PCHR used statistics and information included in the report in its international interventions.
- The unit’s staff members were interviewed by the media on issues covered by the report.
- A number of governmental organizations used the information included in the report.
- A number of university students used the information included in the report in their research activities.

1.6) **Reports from 2004**

**Report on Israeli Violations of Palestinian Cultural Rights During the al-Aqsa Intifada**

The unit has completed this report, which details Israeli violations of Palestinian cultural rights during the al-Aqsa Intifada, including impacts of Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians on Palestinian cultural life and activities, and Israeli attacks on historic and religious site. It has been published on PCHR's web site and is expected to be published in print form in January 2006.

**Report on Israeli Violations of the Right of Palestinians to Free Worship**

This report focuses on Israeli violations of the right to free worship in the OPT. The unit updated this report, which is expected to be published at the beginning of 2006, and the unit was involved in other activities relating to this issue in 2005.

1.7) **Press Releases on Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

The unit wrote a number of PCHR’s press releases on issues relevant to economic, social and cultural rights, mostly by IOF, including the destruction of civilian property.
Means of Verification

- The unit wrote 17 press releases on violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.
- The publication of these press releases was covered by the local press.
- They were widely circulated.
- They were completely or partially published on a number of local web pages.
- The unit’s staff members were interviewed by the media on issues covered by these press releases.

Other Publications

- The unit issued a brief report on the impact of the closure imposed on the OPT, especially the Gaza Strip, on the economic and social conditions of Palestinian civilians. It was used in PCHR's 2005 Annual Report.
- The units issued a training booklet on the right to adequate housing in international human rights instruments. The booklet defines the concept of the right to adequate housing in international human rights instruments and details obligations of states in this regard. It was published in June 2005.
- The unit wrote a report on Jewish synagogues in the Gaza Strip in light of the debate that emerged regarding these synagogues following the implementation of the Israeli "Disengagement Plan".
- The unit wrote a working paper on the right to receive basic services, which was presented at a workshop organized by the unit on 22 June 2005 on the role of municipalities in providing basic services to citizens.
- The unit prepared a study of the Palestinian higher education under the Palestinian National Authority. This study was completed at the end of 2004. It was submitted to PCHR's Program Committee for comments at the beginning of 2005. It was published in March 2005.
- The unit wrote a report on the Israeli decision to prevent Palestinians aged between 16 and 35 from traveling through Rafah International Crossing Point. The report was published on 16 September 2004.
- The unit has written a booklet on the right to adequate housing under international human rights standards, in a series of booklets aimed at raising awareness on economic, social and cultural rights. The booklet will be submitted to PCHR's Program Committee for comments.

Means of Verification

- The reports were published.
- Information included in these reports were used in PCHR's monthly newsletter, al-Mentar.
- The reports were widely circulated.
- PCHR used statistics and information included in the report in its international interventions.
- The unit’s staff members were interviewed by the media on issues covered by the report.
- The Ministry of Education and Palestinian universities requested more copies of the study.
o A number of academics demonstrated interest in the study, which was discussed in a lecture at the al-Aqsa University.
o A number of local governmental and non-governmental organizations used the information included in the reports.

2) Raising Awareness of Economic, Social, and Cultural rights

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In 2005, the unit continued its efforts to raise the awareness of economic, social and cultural rights in the OPT, particularly in the Gaza Strip. It has a database of violations of these rights, including: violations of the rights to education; attacks on fishermen; attacks on industrial facilities; closure; attacks on medical personnel; Palestinians killed at Israeli military checkpoints; attacks on disabled Palestinians; and the destruction of historic, cultural and religious sites. The unit also continued activities to support these rights through bilateral and multilateral meetings; workshops; media activities; training activities organized by PCHR; and participation in awareness raising activities organized by PCHR and other institutions.

2.1) Bilateral and Multilateral Meetings

The unit participated in meetings with visiting delegations, escorted them on field tours and organized meetings for them with victims of Israeli violations of human rights.

- On 8 January 2005, the unit director escorted a delegation from the Ford Foundation on a field tour to Rafah and Khan Yunis. The delegation witnessed the destruction incurred to civilian property in both towns.
- On 8 February 2005, the unit director escorted a 5-member delegation on a field tour to Rafah and Khan Yunis. Members of the delegations met with a number of families whose houses had been demolished by IOF.
- On 15 June 2005, the unit director escorted an Australian diplomatic delegation on a field tour to Rafah. Members of the delegation witnessed the destruction incurred to civilian property in the town.
- On 12 November 2005, the unit director escorted a delegation from Christian Aid on a field tour to Rafah and the al-Mawasi area, following the implementation of the "Disengagement Plan." Members of the delegation witnessed the destruction incurred to houses in Rafah.
- On 5 October 2005, the unit head accompanied a commission from the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network in meetings with representatives from the PNA and NGOs. The commission was visiting Gaza in order to write a report on the situation following the implementation of the "Disengagement Plan". The commission's visit continued until 7 October 2005, during which time, the unit heads escorted its members on various field tours throughout the Gaza Strip.

2.2) Workshops

- On 12 June 2005, the unit organized a workshop on the General Retirement Law, No.7 of 2005. The workshop was held at PCHR's office in Gaza City. Dr. Sa'di
al-Krunz, Head of the Budget and Financial Affairs Committee at the Palestinian Legislative Council; Hijazi al-Qershalli, the Legal Advisor of the General Personnel Council; a number of members of the Association of the Retired; and a number of employees of the public sector participated in the workshop. The participants discussed the law and called upon the executive, the legislature and beneficiaries to contribute to effective monitoring of the implementation of the law.

- On 22 June 2005, the unit organized a workshop on the role of municipalities in providing basic services, taking Deir al-Balah as an example. The workshop was held at Deir al-Balah Service Club. The mayor of Deir al-Balah; current and former members of the municipal council; representatives from various NGOs; and a number of other interested people participated in this workshop. At the conclusion of the workshop, the attendees held a discussion, in which they complained of the continued suffering of citizens in Deir al-Balah due to the shortage of basic services, especially drinking water and adequate facilities at the beach. The attendees called also upon the Palestinian National Authority, especially the Ministry of Local Government, to increase budgets devoted to municipalities in order to give them the means to carry out their duties properly with regard to providing basic services. They also called for equality in provision of drinking water, without depriving any area of water. They further called for allowing citizens to participate in the process of decision making, particularly with regard to basic services provided by the Municipality. During the workshop, the unit head submitted a working paper on the right to receive basic services.

- On 24 July 2005, the unit organized a workshop at PCHR's office in Gaza City on women's right to health, in the context of efforts to promote women's economic, social and cultural rights. Representatives from the Ministry of Health, UNRWA Health Department, NGOs and women's organizations participated in the workshops. The workshop discussed mechanisms to promote women's right to health and the allocation of budgets specifically for women's health and development. The participants concluded a number of recommendations, including provision of free health services for women; enhancement of the cooperation and coordination involved in provision of health services; contribution to strategic plans to promote women's right to health; and focusing on the role of the media in raising the awareness of girls.

- On 24 November 2005, the unit organized a workshop entitled “Developing Mechanisms of Fighting Poverty: An Evaluation of the Palestinian Experience”. The workshop was organized as part of PCHR's efforts to reinforce the economic, social and cultural rights of Palestinians, particularly the right to an adequate standard of living. Representatives from the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs attended the workshop alongside academics, development experts and representatives from NGO’s working in the fields of development, health, relief and human rights. A number of issues regarding the particular Palestinian experience in this area were raised at the workshop. The workshop ended with a discussion on the importance of developing mechanisms to fight poverty, develop governmental and NGO plans and strategies, and rebuild trust between governmental and non-governmental institutions. These issues are essential in order to aid the creation of a relationship of transparency and
cooperation between the two sides. With the assistance of international donors and within this new relationship, both sides would be in a position to more effectively plan, implement and evaluate developmental initiatives to fight poverty and protect the poorest within the society. The participants called for facilitation of administrative and financial reforms in the PNA.

- On 19 December 2005, the unit organized a workshop on “The Right to Higher Education: Role of the Student Body in Supporting and Protecting the Academic Process in Al-Azhar University in Gaza.” Representatives from al-Azhar University student parties and independents attended the workshop. The workshop aimed to highlight the role of the student body in protecting the academic process at Al-Azhar University. This was essential in light of developments that had suspended work at the university. The representatives from different student blocs presented their viewpoints on the academic process at the university. They welcomed the resumption of lectures at the university and the formation of a new board of trustees for the university. In addition, they discussed the problems and obstacles facing the university’s students. These included outside intervention in university affairs by security forces; security chaos inside the campus; the spread of weapons in and around the university; deteriorating educational levels; lack of extra-curricular activities; attacks on university teachers; and the lack of proper implementation of university laws.

**Means of Verification**

- The unit issued press releases on these workshops.
- The workshops were reported in local newspapers.
- The unit staff members were interviewed by the local, Arab and international media on issues relating to economic, social and cultural rights.
- The unit’s staff members were invited to attend similar activities organized by other institutions.
- These workshops enhanced the unit's relations with a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- Other institutions demonstrated increasing interest in organizing joint workshops on issues relating to economic, social and cultural rights.
- Demands by governmental and non-governmental organizations to obtain the unit's publications notably increased.

**2.3) Media and Public Relations Activities**

The unit’s staff members were interviewed by local and international media on issues relating to economic, social and cultural rights:

- On 25 January 2005, the unit head was interviewed by journalist Wafaa 'Eissa on the impacts of house demolitions on Palestinian civilians. The journalist also used some of PCHR's publications.
- On 25 January 2005, the unit head was interviewed by journalist Shireen Khalifa on Palestinian communications. The journalist also received some of PCHR's publications.
On 15 February 2005, the unit head was interviewed by Sahar al-Duraimalli from the Arab Institution for Press and Publication on the unlawful transfer of Palestinians, particularly from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip.

On 15 February 2005, the unit head was interviewed by journalist Rawia Abu Nada on international humanitarian law.

On 28 February 2005, the unit head was interviewed by the Palestinian–Lebanese Brotherhood Association on economic and social conditions in the OPT.

On 28 February 2005, the unit head was interviewed by al-Aqsa Radio in Gaza on the rights of the disabled.

On 9 April 2005, the unit head was interviewed by Timothy Siedel and Christi Siedel from the Mennonite Committee on economic and social conditions and the "Disengagement Plan" in the Gaza Strip.

On 17 June 2005, the unit head was interviewed by Palestine Radio on the impacts of the "Disengagement Plan" on the human rights situation in the OPT.

On 28 June 2005, the unit head was interviewed by Palestine Radio on the implementation of the amended Civil Service Law.

On 26 July 2005, the unit head was interviewed by journalist Shireen Khalifa on the implementation of the Civil Service Law.

On 29 October 2005, the unit head was interviewed by a journalist from the Washington Post on incidents at al-Azhar University in Gaza, which led to its closure.

2.4) Training Activities through Training Unit

The unit effectively contributed to training activities organized by PCHR's Training Unit, including discussion of training programs with the unit head and delivering lectures at training courses. In 2005, the unit delivered 22 lectures (33 hours) on issues relating to economic, social and cultural rights, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the right to development; and women's economic, social and cultural rights.

2.5) Participation in Raising Awareness Activities Organized by Other Institutions

- On 2 January 2005, the unit head delivered a lecture at Gaza Elementary School on human rights education to 35 teachers.
- On 12 January 2005, the unit head and a researcher from the unit, Bassam Abu Hashish, participated in a workshop organized by the Palestinian NGO Network on the executive bill of the Law on Charitable Societies and NGOs.
- On 13 January 2005, the unit head submitted an intervention on the enforcement of rights of the disabled at a workshop organized by Future Palestine.
- On 17 January 2005, the unit head participated in a workshop on activation of resources for children organized by the Cana'an Institute.
- On 31 January 2005, the unit head participated in a workshop organized by the National Corporation for Development and Services in Palestine to establish a committee to prepare for the first public conference in Rafah.
- On 13 February 2005, unit researcher Bassam Abu Hashshih participated in a workshop on the Law on Charitable Societies and NGOs, No. 1 of 2000, organized by the Palestinian NGO Network.
• On 14 February 2005, the unit head participated in a complementary workshop organized by the Cana'an Institute on activation of resources for children.
• On 15 February 2005, the unit head submitted an intervention on the rights of the disabled to education and work organized by the Association of Visually Disabled Graduates.
• On 19 February 2005, the unit head submitted an intervention on the rule of law in the Palestinian society organized by the Palestinian Youth League at the offices of the State Information Service.
• On 20 February 2005, the unit head submitted an intervention on the role of civil society groups and human rights organizations in stopping attacks on the rule of law at a workshop organized by the Palestinian Journalists Bloc in Rafah.
• On 28 February 2005, the unit head participated in a workshop organized by the Cana'an Institute on activation of resources for children.
• On 7 March 2005, the unit head participated in a workshop on women's economic, social and cultural rights organized by al-Aqsa University in Gaza.
• On 13 March 2005, unit researcher, Bassam Abu Hashish, participated in a workshop on administrative skills organized by the Union of Palestinian Female Graduates.
• On 31 May 2005, the unit head submitted an intervention on the right to water in international human rights instruments, during discussions on a film exploring the issue of water shown at the Ministry of Culture.

Means of Verification

o The unit’s staff members were interviewed by local, Arab and international media on issues relating to economic, social and cultural rights.

o The unit’s staff members met with a number of the Palestinian executive and legislature members, during workshops and conferences organized by the unit or other organizations, and discussed issues relating to lobbying for the adoption of policies and legislation that promote economic and social rights.

o The unit’s staff members effectively participated in activities organized by other civil society organizations, including conferences, workshops and training programs. There was an increase in the number of invitations received by the unit to participate in such activities and promote coordination with other civil society organizations.

o The unit staff members increasingly escorted visiting international delegations on field tours in the Gaza Strip.
Field Work Unit

In 2005, the Field Work Unit continued to monitor and document the human rights situation throughout the OPT, including Jerusalem. It also carried out other activities aimed to promote PCHR's role in the local community. It is worth noting that IOF implemented the Disengagement Plan from the Gaza Strip in September 2005. However, human rights violations perpetrated by IOF against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip did not stop, so the unit continued to monitor and report on such violations.

Activities as set out in 2005 Annual Plan

1) Documentation of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the OPT.
2) Violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by IOF.
3) Palestinian violations of human rights.
4) Strengthening community relations.
5) Reporting on Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the OPT.
6) Escorting international delegations on field visits.

1) Documentation of Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law in the OPT:

Verifiable Indicator
Reports on activities

1.1) Documentation of Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law by IOF

1.1.1) Field Visits and First-Hand Information

Field workers conduct visits to the sites of violations of human rights, despite the dangers often existing in these areas. During field visits, field workers are often subject to warning shots fired by Israeli soldiers. On average, each field worker can make 2-3 field visits each day.

Means of Verification

- Field workers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank conducted more than 2,500 field visits in 2005.

1.1.2) Interviews with Victims and/or Their Families and Eyewitnesses

Field workers usually conduct interviews with several people on each violation reported in order to verify the accuracy of information. Eyewitnesses are very important in drawing a clear and real picture of each violation, especially when field workers are not able to reach immediately after a violation has taken place, due to the safety risks involved. Field workers have to work hard in this regard, as they must interview as many people as possible to ensure the accuracy of information, and interviews are generally very time consuming.
Means of Verification

- Field workers made at least 1,500 interviews with victims and eyewitnesses.
- Field workers gathered at least 1,000 testimonies from victims and eyewitnesses.

1.1.3) Completion of Forms for Reports on Violations of Human Rights

These forms are designed to gather clear and accurate information that is later entered into the database. Each form requests basic details on the incident, its location, timing, victims and witnesses. Field workers are required to complete a form for each violation they report. Many incidents will require a number of different individual reports.

Means of Verification

- Field workers filled in 1,543 forms in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank covering the following categories of violations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Killings</th>
<th>Injuries</th>
<th>Land leveling</th>
<th>House demolition</th>
<th>Facility demolition</th>
<th>Arrests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gaza Strip</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bank</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>853</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: In 2005, IOF accelerated the construction of the Annexation Wall in the West Bank and escalated settlement expansion activities. For this purpose, they razed hundreds of dunums of agricultural land and demolished many houses. These practices were all documented by field workers in the West Bank but the field workers were often unable to complete related forms, due to the tightened siege imposed by IOF on Palestinian communities.

1.1.4) Collating Photographic/Video Evidence

Field workers are required to take photographs or video footages of the scenes of violations wherever possible. Photographic or video evidence can provide a valuable record of incidents for both legal and historical records.

Means of Verification

- Hundreds of photographs were filed by field workers in 2004.
- Video recordings were made of the evacuation of Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip and the accompanying attacks against Palestinian civilians.
- Selected photographs were used in PCHR's publications and webpage.
- Many of these photographs were used by a number of UNRWA schools and some human rights organizations.
- Some video recordings were played for visiting international delegations, especially at PCHR's branch offices.
1.1.5) Collating Other Documentation Related to Human Rights Violations

Documents, including medical reports, ownership documents, personal photographs and maps, are also necessary evidence for the legal and historical recording of incidents.

*Means of Verification*

- Hundreds of documents were filed and transferred to other PCHR’s units.
- Many of these documents were used by PCHR’s Legal Aid Unit.

1.1.6) Writing Reports on Human Rights Violations

Field workers wrote detailed reports on human rights violations, in which eyewitness testimonies and the field workers’ notes were included, in order to give a comprehensive description of violations.

*Means of Verification*

- Field workers wrote at least 1,500 field reports on human rights violations.

1.1.7) Creating Files on Specific Violations Perpetrated by the Israel Military for Transfer to PCHR’s Legal Unit

The unit creates individual files on specific violations perpetrated by IOF. This includes killings, injuries, land leveling and house demolition. Human rights violations are classified according to the type of violation and these files include documentation and physical evidence, such as testimonies, maps, photographs and medical reports.

*Means of Verification*

- All human rights violations are filed.
- Files were transferred to other PCHR’s units.
- The unit answered at least 120 inquiries by human rights, development and other organizations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip using these files.

1.1.8) Monitoring IOF Redeployment from the Gaza Strip and the Evacuation of 4 Settlements in the West Bank

The unit closely monitored the IOF redeployment from the Gaza Strip and the evacuation of 4 settlements in the West Bank, including attacks on Palestinian civilians and the siege imposed on Palestinian communities that accompanied the implementation of the Israeli Disengagement Plan.

*Means of Verification*

- The unit wrote 10 detailed reports (Live from the Field).
- These reports were used by journalists and other interested people.
1.2) Documentation of Palestinian Violations of Human Rights

1.2.1) Field Visits and First-Hand Information

Field workers conducted field visits to the scenes of incidents, police stations and hospitals to obtain further information on incidents. They interviewed eyewitnesses. Field workers also monitored trials at courts.

**Means of Verification**

- Field workers conducted hundreds of field visits in 2005.
- They monitored a number of trials at civil and military courts.

1.2.2) Interviews with Victims and/or Families and Eyewitnesses

Field workers are required to conduct interviews with several people regarding each incident in order to verify/cross-check information. Difficulties in obtaining accurate and detailed statements include witnesses' fears of reprisals.

**Means of Verification**

- Field workers conducted at least 1,000 interviews with victims and eyewitnesses.
- Field workers gathered at least 500 testimonies from victims and eyewitnesses.

1.2.3) Completion of Forms for Reports on Violations of Human Rights

Special forms for reports on killing and injuries were designed for completion by field workers in such cases.

**Means of Verification**

- 130 forms on killings in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and 528 forms on injuries in the Gaza Strip\(^{51}\) were completed and entered into the database in 2005.
- For cases involving killings in the West Bank, a special table was designed instead of using the database, due to difficulties faced in accessing the location of incidents in the West Bank and due to the small number of staff members in the West Bank; 79 cases of killing were documented.
- Dozens of forms on the registration of voters were completed.

1.2.4) Collating Photographic/Video Evidence

This activity was explained previously in this section.

**Means of Verification**

- Field workers collated many photographs.
- Some of these photographs were used in PCHR's monthly newsletter, *al-Mentar*.

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\(^{51}\) Field workers were not able to collate accurate information concerning the number of injuries in the West Bank due its large area and the travel restrictions imposed by IOF in the area.
1.2.5) Collating Other Documentation Related to Human Rights Violations

Documents, including medical reports, ownership documents, personal photographs and maps, are also necessary evidence for the legal and historical recording of incidents.

Means of Verification

- Field workers collated documents, including statements by political factions, medical reports, recordings and personal identification details.
- These documents were transferred to other PCHR’s unit.

1.2.6) Writing reports on Human Rights Violations

Field workers write detailed reports on human rights violations, in which eyewitnesses’ testimonies and the field workers’ notes are included, to give a comprehensive description of violations.

Means of Verification

- Field workers wrote at least 1,000 reports on human rights violations.

1.2.7) Creating Files of Specific Violations Perpetrated by the Palestinian National Authority for Transfer to Other PCHR Units

The unit creates files on human rights violations that are classified according to the type of violation, such as sentences issued by civil and military courts, arbitrary arrests, misuse of weapons, medical negligence, honor killings. Files were also created on the unit's experience in monitoring the presidential election and the local council elections in some communities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Means of Verification

- Files are included in research and publications by other PCHR units.
- Files are included in research and publications by other human rights organizations.

1.2.8) Monitoring the Presidential Election

The unit head and field workers were accredited as members of PCHR’s observation team to monitor the Palestinian presidential election, which were held on 9 January 2005. Field workers also supervised PCHR observers, who monitored the second, third and fourth stages of the local council elections in the Gaza Strip.

Means of Verification

- Field workers supervised PCHR observers who monitored the elections.
- Field workers wrote important notes, when completing the forms designed for the purpose of monitoring the registration of voters.
Completed forms were transferred to PCHR's Democratic Development Unit. They were used in reports prepared by Democratic Development Unit on the registration of voters.

1.3) Maintaining Database of Violations of Human Rights in the OPT

1.3.1) Entering Information into a Database

A secretary enters information collated by field workers on Israeli violations of human rights into PCHR database under the unit head's supervision. The unit’s staff members enter information on Palestinian violations of human rights into the database.

1.3.2) Cooperation with Other PCHR's Units

The unit continues to supply field information to other PCHR units to be used in research and reports.

1.3.3) Monitoring Accuracy of Field Information/PCHR Database

The unit head makes continuous comparisons with field information collated by other human rights organizations operating in these locations in order to monitor the accuracy of PCHR’s field information, including the database.

1.3.4) Using Scanners to Save Files

In 2005, the unit started to use scanners in order to save documents and reports on PCHR's network, making this information readily available to all PCHR staff members.

Means of Verification

- The database is well organized and available.
- The unit uses the database to answer inquiries by other PCHR units and interested institutions and individuals; the unit received at least 400 phone calls requiring information.
- It has become easier to access necessary information.
- The database is used in PCHR's annual reports.

2) Strengthening Community Relations

Verifiable Indicator

Report on activities.

2.1) Meetings and Contacts with Victims of Human Rights Violations

Field workers meet with victims of human rights violations, providing them with information about the services provided by PCHR and encouraging them to go to PCHR’s offices to receive appropriate legal aid and assistance.
Means of Verification

- Dozens of victims refer to PCHR’s Legal Aid Unit through field workers.
- Field workers in Rafah and Khan Yunis assisted the Legal Aid Unit in pursuing two files on the demolition of houses of residents in the area.
- Field workers in the West Bank assisted the Legal Aid Unit in pursuing a file on the demolition of an apartment building in Nablus and another on the killing of 5 children in Tulkarm.

2.2) Media Activities

The unit staff members were interviewed by local and international media on violations of human rights perpetrated by IOF. In 2005, the unit conducted 20 interviews.

### Media Interviews Conducted by the Unit in 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names of Journalists and Media Organizations</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Staff Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 January</td>
<td>Aljazeera</td>
<td>Targeting Palestinian children</td>
<td>Ibtissam Zaqqout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 January</td>
<td>Afaq Television, Nablus</td>
<td>PCHR's role in monitoring the presidential election</td>
<td>Sameeh Muhsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 February</td>
<td>Palestine Radio</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
<td>Ibtissam Zaqqout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 March</td>
<td>Al-Hayat newspaper, London</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
<td>Ibtissam Zaqqout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 March</td>
<td>Al-Mahabba Radio, Nablus</td>
<td>PCHR's role in monitoring Israeli violations of human rights</td>
<td>Sameeh Muhsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>Nablus Television</td>
<td>PCHR's activities</td>
<td>Ra'fat Abu Khader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 April</td>
<td>Palestine Radio</td>
<td>Movement at Rafah International Crossing Point</td>
<td>Ibtissam Zaqqout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 April</td>
<td>French Press</td>
<td>The state of security chaos and misuse of weapons</td>
<td>Ibtissam Zaqqout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 April</td>
<td>Palestine News Agency (Wafa)</td>
<td>Restrictions on movement at Israeli military checkpoints in the southern Gaza Strip</td>
<td>Tasser Abdul Ghafour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 April</td>
<td>Women's Affairs Center</td>
<td>Violence against women and early marriage</td>
<td>Ibtissam Zaqqout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 May</td>
<td>Palestine Radio</td>
<td>Israeli violations of human rights since the Cairo agreements in March 2005</td>
<td>Ibtissam Zaqqout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 May</td>
<td>Palestine Radio</td>
<td>Israeli violations of human rights in Khan Yunis</td>
<td>Yasser Abdul Ghafour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 June</td>
<td>Nablus Television</td>
<td>Impacts of the construction of the Annexation Wall around Jerusalem</td>
<td>Sameeh Muhsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Author</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 June</td>
<td>Palestine News Agency (Wafa)</td>
<td>Israeli violations of human rights in the al-Mawasi area in Khan Yunis</td>
<td>Yasser Abdul Ghafour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 June</td>
<td>Palestine Radio</td>
<td>Israeli violations of the right to freedom of movement at Rafah International Crossing Point</td>
<td>Ibtissam Zaqqout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 June</td>
<td>Palestine Radio</td>
<td>Attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinian civilians in the al-Mawasi area of Khan Yunis</td>
<td>Yasser Abdul Ghafour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 July</td>
<td>Al-Mahabba Radio, Nablus</td>
<td>The state of security chaos</td>
<td>Sameeh Muhsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 August</td>
<td>Palestine Radio</td>
<td>Israeli military redeployment from the Gaza Strip</td>
<td>Ibtissam Zaqqout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 September</td>
<td>Amwaj Radio, Ramallah</td>
<td>Violence in Palestinian higher education institutions</td>
<td>Sameeh Muhsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 September</td>
<td>Together News Agency</td>
<td>The kidnapping of three internationals</td>
<td>Yasser Abdul Ghafour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Means of verification**

- These interviews were reported in the media.

**2.3) Contribution to the Circulation of PCHR's Publications**

A number of field workers contributed to the circulation of PCHR's publications.

**Means of Verification**

- The field worker in the central Gaza Strip circulated all PCHR publications in the area.
- The mailing list for PCHR's publication was amended according to needs.

**2.4) Participation in Community Activities**

Field workers participated in a number of workshops and conferences organized by other organizations and assisted other PCHR units in the organization of a number of workshops.

- Field workers participated in most workshops and meetings on the legislative and local elections and the Israeli Disengagement. They also participated in all training courses organized by PCHR on monitoring the elections.
- On 2 January 2005, field worker Sameeh Muhsen participated in a round-table meeting organized by the Coalition for Transparency and Accountability (Aman) in Ramallah on the implementation of the mixed electoral system.
- On 4 January 2005, field worker Sameeh Muhsen participated in a round-table meeting organized by Aman in Ramallah on the role of civil society organizations in monitoring the elections.
• In February 2005, field worker Smaeeh Muhsen participated in a training course organized by al-Haq in Ramallah on international mechanisms for the protection of human rights.
• In March 2005, field worker Fahmi Shaheen participated in a training course organized by al-Haq in Ramallah on international humanitarian law.
• In April 2005, field worker Khaled Yassin participated in a training course organized by al-Haq in Ramallah on international humanitarian law.
• On 3 May 2005, field worker Sameeh Muhsen presented a working paper on the role of civil society organizations in monitoring the elections at a workshop organized by Life Makers Center in Jenin.
• In July 2005, field workers Fahmi Shaheen and Khaled Yassin participated in a training course organized by al-Haq in Ramallah on international humanitarian law.
• On 28 June 2005, field worker Khaled Yassin participated in a training course organized by the Center for Equality and the Independence of the Judiciary in Ramallah on how to submit legal challenges.
• On 5 August 2005, the unit director Ibtissam Zaqqout presented a working paper on mechanisms to encourage women to participate in elections of local councils organized in al-Qarara by the Palestinian Center for Community Conflict Resolution.
• On 19 September 2005, field worker Sameeh Muhsen participated in a regional conference on democratic reform and the role of the civil society, which was held in Yemen. During his visit to Yemen, Muhsen participated in a number of other meetings and activities.
• On 30 January 2005, field worker Khaled Yassin participated in a training course for trainers organized by al-Haq in Ramallah.
• On 30 November 2005, field worker Sameeh Muhsen participated in a workshop on issues of higher education organized by the Ramallah Human Rights Studies.
• On 12 December 2005, field worker Sameeh Muhsen participated in a training course on the effects of the absence of human rights on ethnic minorities.
• In the period 27-29 December 2005, field workers in the Gaza Strip participated in a training course on international humanitarian law organized by the ICRC in Gaza City.

Means of Verification

o PCHR was present in various community activities.
o The performance and skills of field workers notably developed.
o Field workers are able to deliver lectures in training courses organized by civil society organizations.

3) Reporting on Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the OPT

Verifiable Indicators

3.1) Weekly Report on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPT
3.2) Press Releases on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPT
3.1) **Weekly Report on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in the OPT**

The unit head prepares weekly reports on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPT. The weekly reports are based on information collated each week by the field workers and aims to provide a comprehensive account of Israeli violations of human rights of Palestinians throughout the OPT each week. They are published each Thursday.

**Means of Verification**

- The unit prepared 51 weekly reports in 2004.
- These reports are published on PCHR’s web page and are distributed by email.
- They are often covered by the local media.
- Increasing demands to obtain copies of these reports.
- Follow-up inquiries for further information on incidents described in the reports. The unit head received dozens of inquiries from a number of organizations working in the Gaza Strip.

3.2) **Press Releases on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in the OPT**

The unit staff members prepare press releases on specific incidents as they occur. Press releases are issued on events that are of particular significance.

**Means of Verification**

- The unit prepared at least 25 press releases in 2005, including 22 on Israeli violations of human rights in the OPT.
- Press releases are published on PCHR’s web page and distributed by email.
- Press releases are often covered by local and international media.

4) **Escorting International Delegations on Field Visits**

In 2005, the unit staff members escorted visiting international delegations and individuals on visits to locations throughout the Gaza Strip and provide on the spot briefings on recent incidents.

**Means of Verification**

- In 2005, the unit staff members escorted at least 20 visiting international delegations on field visits throughout the Gaza Strip.
Training Unit

In 2005, the unit carried out activities detailed in its annual plan. The unit also carried out a number of activities which were not included in its annual plan, in order to adapt to developments and urgent needs created by the complicated political, security and field situation in the OPT, especially the Gaza Strip.

Human rights violations perpetrated by IOF in the OPT have negatively impacted training on human rights and democracy in the region, due to the failure of the international community to stop such violations. This failure has increasingly made ordinary people feel that human rights and democracy are subject to political considerations and interests, supported by double standards. The closures imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip in the first three quarters of 2005 often created difficulties, when attempting to reach certain target groups, and sometimes forced the unit to postpone or even cancel training courses.

The unit, in cooperation with the Democratic Development Unit, was also involved in arranging the campaign to monitor the Palestinian presidential election and local council elections, which were held in 2005, and the legislative elections which planned for 25 January 2006. The two units organized a number of training courses for PCHR observers participating in the monitoring of these elections. Many of these observers were selected from those who had previously participated in training courses organized by the unit.

In 2005, the unit organized 27 training courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Number of Courses</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
<th>Number of Training Hours</th>
<th>Women’s Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>13 courses set out in the plan</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>3 courses on the plan with community organizations</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>11 courses on the plan related to monitoring over elections</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This was instead of the 20 proposed in the 2005 annual plan and a number of planned training programs for newly graduated lawyers and women were substituted for programs for teachers and election observers. The unit was also forced to postpone 5 external training courses that were supposed to be held abroad in cooperation with a number of Arab organizations, due to the restrictions imposed by IOF on travel, especially preventing Palestinians aged between 16 and 35 from traveling.

The unit conducted training programs in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNRWA and 3 other NGOs, and a total of 758 individuals representing 110 centers, societies, unions and institutions participated in these programs. A number of trainers from PCHR units and trainers from other organizations contributed to the training courses organized by the unit.
Activities as Set out in 2005 Annual Plan

1) Provision of training courses on human rights, democracy, the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary.
2) Training PCHR staff members on human rights and democracy.
3) Maintaining contacts with trainees and establishing an alumni organization.
4) Maintaining relations with civil society organizations through training activities.

1) Provision of Training Courses on Human Rights, Democracy, the Rule of Law and the Independence of the Judiciary

This activity includes a number of sub-activities that target different groups. The unit made slight changes to these sub-activities to meet the new political, security and field developments in 2005.

In 2005, the unit organized 27 training courses instead of 18 as set out in the plan for this activity. The number of participants in these courses was 758, 49% of whom were women.

The unit adopted a number of means to evaluate the effectiveness of training courses:

- Holding meetings with participants at the beginning of each course in order to identify their expectations and meetings at the end of each course in order to measure to what extent these expectations are realized and to allow participants to make suggestions.
- Preparing a questionnaire for each lecture at training courses.
- Notes of the unit head on the behavior of participants during each course which last for 5-7 days.
- The participants' initiatives at the end of a training course.

Effects of training were similar for the first three means of verification, but differed in the fourth means of verification. Similar effects are shown together in the table below, while the fourth indicator will be detailed separately for each sub-activity.

**Similar Effects of Training**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Means of Verification</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Comparison between the participants' expectations at the beginning of training courses and the outcome and suggestions and at the end of the courses</td>
<td>The participants identified the following expectations at the beginning of the course:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Acquiring new information on human rights and international humanitarian law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Acquiring knowledge about the role of religions, particularly Islam, in the modern human rights system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Acquiring information on human rights teaching methods at schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Making new contacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Comparing the status of Palestinian women with CEDAW.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Acquiring information on the role of</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NGOs, particularly PCHR, in protecting and promoting human rights and democracy.

The participants evaluated the courses as follows:
- They acquired new information on human rights and international humanitarian law.
- They made new contacts.
- They acquired new information on human rights teaching at schools.
- They acquired information on the role of religions, particularly Islam, in promoting human rights.
- They concluded that Palestinian women still do not enjoy many of the right prescribed in CEDAW.
- They gained greater understanding of the role of NGOs, particularly PCHR, in protecting and promoting human rights.

The participants suggested the following:
- Holding more similar training courses.
- Holding specialized training courses on the rights of the child.
- Holding training courses specifically on methods of human rights teaching.
- Providing school libraries with PCHR’s publications.

2. **A questionnaire for each lecture at training courses**

The questionnaire explained the following:
- The contents of lectures were appropriate to the trainees’ expectations.
- The trainers were qualified and efficient.
- Training methods varied.
- Interaction between trainers and trainees and between the trainees and the contents of training courses enhanced.

3. **Change of the trainees' behaviors**

The unit head, who attended all lectures, noticed the following:
- Trainees demonstrated increased respect for discussion and other opinions.
- Trainees demonstrated increased abilities to express themselves.
- Attendance increased on the last days of courses.
1.1) Training Courses in Coordination with the Palestinian Ministry of Youth and Sports

The unit organized 8 training courses, instead of 5 as set out in the annual plan, in coordination with the Palestinian Ministry of Youth and Sports throughout the Gaza Strip. The target group included members of the Ministry’s youth committees, which include university students and members of youth centers and unions. The courses were held in the 5 districts of the Gaza Strip. The courses focused on human rights instruments, including: the International Declaration of Human Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; CEDAW; and international humanitarian law, and issues relating to democracy and civil society, including: democratic practice; the rule of law; the independence of the judiciary; and the role of NGOs in protecting human rights.

Training Courses Organized in Coordination with the Palestinian Ministry of Youth and Sports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Number of Trainees</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Training Hours</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Female Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Northern Gaza</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>PCHR's office in Jabalya</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19-24 Feb.</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Gaza</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>PCHR's office in Gaza</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5-10 Mar.</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Deir al-Balah</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Deir al-Balah Service Center</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19-24 Mar.</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Rafah</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>Sharek Youth Forum in Rafah</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>26-31 Mar.</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Khan Yunis</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>PCHR’s office in Khan Yunis</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9-14 Apr.</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Rafah</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Sharek Youth Forum</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>26 Mar. – 2 Apr.</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Lebanese – Palestinian Brotherhood</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>The society’s office and PCHR’s office in Gaza</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>27 Feb. – 3 Mar.</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Union of University Graduates</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>PCHR’s office in Khan Yunis</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>27 Sep. – 2 Oct.</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following training, the trainees took the following initiatives:
- Trainees made an initiative to organize 3 training courses in Gaza, Khan Yunis and Gaza.
- Three trainees were involved in activities to raise awareness on human rights.
- Many trainees participated in PCHR’s activities, such as the wall painting on the Palestinian Prisoners’ Day in Deir al-Balah.
- A number of trainees informed about human rights violations in their areas.
- 29 trainees joined PCHR’s campaign to monitor the elections for the local council of Rafah; at least 120 were selected to join PCHR’s campaign to monitor the legislative elections on 25 January 2006; and at least 30 trainees worked as election observers for other NGOs in the Gaza Strip.
• The unit received invitations from institutions, where trainees are active, to deliver lectures.

1.2) Six Training Courses in Coordination with UNRWA Education Department

The unit organizes these courses in coordination with the UNRWA education department according to a timetable agreed upon with the coordinator of the UNRWA Human Rights Program. The contents of these courses include human rights instruments, such as the International Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other issues, such as the importance of human rights education, the role of individuals and NGOs in protecting and promoting human rights, student mediation, conflict resolution UNRWA's human rights education strategies. The target group includes teachers and deputy directors of UNRWA schools. In 2005, the unit organized 5 training courses, instead of 6, throughout the Gaza Strip due to the closure imposed by IOF on the southern Gaza Strip. The sixth course was replaced by a training course for the Lebanese–Palestinian Brotherhood Association. The number of participants was 115, 23% of whom were women. These training courses included 75 training hours.

### Training Courses Organized in Coordination with UNRWA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Target Group</th>
<th>Number of Trainees</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Training Hours</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Female Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Administrative and educational staff of UNRWA Vocational Training Center</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>UNRWA</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17-19 Apr.</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Administrative and educational staff of UNRWA Vocational Training Center</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>UNRWA Vocational Training Center, Gaza</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9-11 Jul.</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Administrative and educational staff of UNRWA Vocational Training Center</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>UNRWA Vocational Training Center, Gaza</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12-14 Jul.</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Teachers of Salah al-Din Preparatory School for Boys in Gaza</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>The school</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>29-31 Aug.</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Teachers of al-Ma'mouniya Preparatory School for Girls in Gaza</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>The school</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>29-31 Aug.</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following training, the trainees took the following initiatives:
• The unit received invitations from several human rights committees at schools to deliver lectures to teachers and the local community in Khan Yunis and Northern Gaza.
Three human rights committees were established at schools where training courses were organized.

Simple competitions on human rights were organized for students.

Simple periodicals on human rights, to which students contributed, were issued by human rights committees at schools.

1.3) Three Specialized Training Courses on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

The unit organizes training courses on issues included in CEDAW. The content of these courses includes several issues, such as the historical development of women's rights, the concept of discrimination against women, women's civil and political rights, women's political participation, women's economic rights, women’s legal rights, violence against women and gender issues.

In 2005, the unit organized the three training courses on CEDAW set out in the unit's 2005 annual plan. The target groups were activists in the field of women’s rights and staff members of women’s organizations. The number of participants was 76. The training courses included 57 training hours and were organized in Gaza, Khan Yunis and Rafah. The female participation in these courses was 100%.

PCHR was the pioneering organization in organizing training courses on CEDAW. PCHR began to organize specialized training courses on women's rights following increasing demands from human rights activists and women’s organizations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Target Group</th>
<th>Number of Trainees</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Training Hours</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Female Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Members of Palestinian Female University Graduates Society</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Offices of the society</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>25 Sep. – 2 Oct.</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Activists from women’s organizations in Khan Yunis</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>PCHR’s office in Khan Yunis</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>27 Nov. – 1 Dec.</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Activists from community groups in Rafah</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Sharek Youth Forum in Rafah</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>27 Nov. – 1 Dec.</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following training, the trainees took the following initiatives:

- 30 trainees joined PCHR’s campaign to monitor the legislative elections on 25 January 2006.
- The unit coordinated with a number of trainees to host discussion groups and lectures on women’s rights at their institutions.
- The Women and Children’s Rights unit provided legal consultations to a number of trainees on family law.
1.4) Three Training Courses for Young Lawyers in Coordination with the Palestine Bar Association

The unit organizes special training courses for newly graduated lawyers in coordination with Palestine Bar Association. It was not possible to organize these training courses in 2005, as lawyers were busy with the elections of the board of the Bar Association and the unit was involved in PCHR’s campaign to monitor elections. These courses were postponed until 2006.

1.5) Two Special Training Courses Abroad in Coordination with Arab Organizations

Although the unit was prepared to organize this course, it was proved impossible due to the restrictions imposed by IOF on the travel of Palestinians, and particularly the prohibition on travel for Palestinians aged between 16 and 35.

1.6) Press Releases on the Units’ Activities

In 2005, the unit issued 8 press releases on its activities, and wrote 4 reports for PCHR’s monthly newsletter, al-Mentar, on its activities. The unit’s activities were reported in local newspapers and news agencies.

1.7) Training Courses Not Set out in the Unit's 2005 Annual Plan

The unit makes it annual plan flexible in order to allow it to carry out additional activities, when implementation of planned activities becomes difficult or impossible due to new circumstances.

A Training Courses in Coordination with Civil Society Organizations

The unit organized 3 courses in coordination with civil society organizations. These courses were detailed previously in this section. The first course was organized in Rafah, the second was organized in coordination with the Lebanese–Palestinian Brotherhood Association in Gaza and the third was organized in coordination with the Union of University Graduates in Khan Yunis.

B Training Courses for Participants in PCHR's Campaign to Monitor the Palestinian Elections

As PCHR, through its Democratic Development Unit, started to prepare for monitoring the Palestinian presidential election, PCHR decided to recruit a number of individuals who had received training on human rights and democracy at PCHR to participate in monitoring the election. Consequently, the unit, in cooperation with Democratic Development Unit, prepared for monitoring the three stages of local council elections held in 2005, and the legislative elections planned for 25 January 2006 as follows:

- Lists of individuals who had participated in training course organized by the unit were checked to select the required number of observers to participate in PCHR's campaign to monitor elections.
The nominees were called for 13 meetings in order to assess their abilities to participate in PCHR's campaign.
The unit and the Democratic Development unit organized 11 intensive training courses for 319 nominees, 53% of whom were women, which focused on elections and monitoring, but also taking into consideration that the nominees had already participated in training courses on human rights and democracy.

Training Courses on Election Observation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Target Group</th>
<th>Number of Trainees</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Training Hours</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Female Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Participants in PCHR's campaign to monitor the presidential election in Gaza</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Palestinian NGO Network and PCHR's offices in Gaza City</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3-4 Jan.</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Participants in PCHR's campaign to monitor elections of local councils</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Sharek Youth Forum in Rafah</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12-13 Apr.</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Participants in PCHR's campaign to monitor legislative elections</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Sharek Youth Forum in Rafah</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11-12 Dec.</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Participants in PCHR's campaign to monitor legislative elections</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>PCHR’s office in Khan Yunis</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11-12 Dec.</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Participants in PCHR's campaign to monitor legislative elections</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Sharek Youth Forum in Khan Yunis</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13-14 Dec.</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Participants in PCHR's campaign to monitor legislative elections</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>PCHR's office in Khan Yunis</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13-14 Dec.</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Participants in PCHR's campaign to monitor legislative elections</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Deir al-Balah Service Center</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20-21 Dec.</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Participants in PCHR's campaign to monitor legislative elections</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Handicapped Rehabilitation Society, Nusairat</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21-22 Dec.</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Participants in PCHR's campaign to monitor legislative elections</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>PCHR’s office in Gaza</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25-26 Dec.</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10. Participants in PCHR’s campaign to monitor legislative elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>PCHR’s office in Gaza</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>27-28 Dec.</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Participants in PCHR’s campaign to monitor legislative elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>PCHR’s office in Gaza</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>28-29 Dec.</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) Training PCHR Staff Members on Human Rights and Democracy

This activity focused on providing PCHR training staff with updated information on techniques of training and delivering lectures to other staff members, as some of them work in technical jobs and so do not have extensive knowledge on human rights and democracy issues.

2.1) Providing PCHR Training Staff with Updated Information on Techniques of Training

It was agreed with PCHR’s administration to equip the unit with modern technology for training activities, such as a digital projector, laptop and Microsoft Power Point, and to train the training staff on their use by the beginning of 2006.

2.2) Organizing Lectures for PCHR Staff on Human Rights

In 2005, two staff members participated in training courses organized by the unit. It was not possible to hold the planned course on gender and its incorporation into units’ activities in 2005 due to the lack of necessary funding. This course will be held in 2006, as the necessary funds are now available.

3) Maintaining Contacts with Trainees and Establishing an Alumni Organization

3.1) Creating Files of Contact Details of Trainees

The unit has started to make a full list of all participants in the training courses. In 2005, the unit filed the contact details of 552 trainees. The list includes names, places of residence, work places, telephone and fax numbers, e-mails, the coordinating institutions, as well as the date and location of courses.

3.2) Periodic Meetings with Trainees and Encouraging Them to Be Members of an Alumni Body

The unit continued its efforts to establish an alumni body of individuals who have received training at PCHR. However, the unit was unable, for reasons out of its control, to officially declare the establishment of the alumni body, although the main steps towards creating this group have already been taken. The unit laid foundations for establishing this body through the following steps:

- The unit spoke to dozens of persons who had already received training at PCHR and presented the idea of the alumni body to them. They welcomed the idea.
• Three persons who had previously received training at PCHR started to work on projects relating to human rights.
• Many trainees participated in PCHR’s activities, including the wall painting on the Palestinian Prisoners’ Day and workshops. They also invited PCHR staff members to deliver lectures in activities they had organized.
• The unit prepared a brochure to introduce the alumni body, including its goals, membership conditions and advantages, etc.
• 125 trainees throughout the Gaza Strip (25 in each of the five governorates) were selected to make up the core of the alumni body.

4) Maintaining Relations with Civil Society Organizations through Training Activities

The unit contributes to the promotion of PCHR’s relations with civil society organizations, through participating in training activities organized by these organizations. The unit also receives many invitations from governmental and non-governmental organizations requesting it to organize training courses for their members, to deliver lectures or to design training programs. This demand shows the respect and recognition that exists among civil society groups for PCHR’s professionalism in delivering training courses.

The unit was fully committed to its priority activities in 2005 and was not able to accept many of the invitations received from other organizations to participate in external training activities. The unit prioritized those external activities that were most in line with its own mandate.

4.1) Training Courses

The unit organized 3 training courses in coordination with civil society organizations, as outlined previously in this section. These courses came as an outcome of activities already carried out by the unit.

4.2) Technical Assistance

• The unit provided technical assistance to the Palestine Red Crescent Society in order to design a training course on human rights and democracy for participants in the Work for Food Project. This training program included 11 training courses throughout the Gaza Strip.
• The unit hosted two training days (24 February and 5 April) on human rights and democracy for university students, organized by the Center for Conflict Resolution and Social Reconciliation (Wifaq).
• The unit hosted a training course organized by Mithaq Association and the Voice of the Society for members of Mithaq Association. The course was held from 27 July to 2 August 2005 and ran from 09:00 to 16:00 on each of the six days. The number of trainees involved was 27, including a number of disabled persons.
4.3) **Contribution to Training Courses Organized by Other Civil Society Organizations**

- Between 23 February and 6 April 2005, the unit head was the facilitator for 5 training sessions and workshops organized by the Women’s Affairs Center on women in international human rights instruments. These courses were organized in the context of the Palestinian Female Students Empowerment Project. The number of participants involved in these meetings was 27.
- On 24 February and 5 April 2005, the unit head was the facilitator for two training days (8 hours) hosted by PCHT and organized by the Center for Conflict Resolution and Social Reconciliation (Wifaq) for university students. The number of trainees involved was 40.
- On 16 January 2005, the unit head delivered a lecture on the rights of the child at the Tamer Institution in Gaza City. The number of participants was 25.
- On 23 July 2005, the unit head delivered a lecture on human rights, democracy and elections at the Union of Palestinian University Female Graduates in Gaza City. The number of participants was 35.
- On 10 and 11 September 2005, the unit head was the facilitator for two training sessions organized by Together News Agency on the Palestinian elections. The two sessions focused on the principle of elections; historical background of elections; the amended Palestinian electoral law; stages of the electoral process; and electoral violations. The two sessions were held at the offices of the Union of Journalists in Gaza City. The participants included 20 journalists.
- On invitation from the human rights committees at UNRWA schools, the unit delivered two lectures on the rights of the child: the first was in Khan Yunis on 17 November and the second was in Beit Hanoun on 26 November. The number of participants was at least 60.
- On invitation from the Palestine Red Crescent Society, the unit head delivered 6 lectures on democracy in the context of a program organized by the society for university students from 19 to 30 November 2005. These lectures were held throughout the Gaza Strip. The number of participants was at least 180.
- On invitation from the Central Media Bureau at the Ministry of Interior and National Security, the unit head delivered a lecture on 27 December 2005 on the rights and duties of security officers and human rights. The attendees included 20 security officers.
- On 20 January 2004, the unit head delivered a lecture on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in a training course organized by the Development Training and Family Rehabilitation Center in the central Gaza Strip town of Deir al-Balah, in which 22 women participated.
Women’s and Children’s Rights Unit

In 2005, the unit carried out all activities included in its 2005 annual plan. On several occasions, the unit carried out activities not included in its annual plan, but without affecting its regular work and in a way that served to achieve the goals specified by the unit in its annual plan.

Activities as set out in 2005 Annual Plan
1) Legal aid for women and women’s organizations.
2) Legal awareness for women and children of their rights, as protected under domestic and international legislation and human rights instruments.
3) Lobbying for incorporation of international standards relevant to women and children in laws and draft laws.
4) Cooperation with local, regional and international women's organizations.
5) Participation in Monitoring of the Presidential election.

1) Legal Aid for Women and Women’s Institutions

Verifiable Indicator
Report on activities.

1.1) Representation of Women before Sharia’ and Civil Courts

The unit continued to represent women before Sharia’ and civil courts. In 2005, the unit pursued 448 cases in Sharia’ courts and 4 cases in civil courts. The following tables detail the cases pursued by the unit and the results achieved.

Table (1): Sharia’ Court Cases Pursued by the Unit in 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alimony/Maintenance</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delayed dowry and rights to household property</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separation</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access rights to children</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custody rights</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child support</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case involving woman being forced to stay with husband</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s right to deceased husband’s property</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>452</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table (2): Results of Cases Followed by the Unit before Sharia’ Courts in 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rulings</th>
<th>Under-consideration</th>
<th>Reconciled</th>
<th>Cancelled</th>
<th>Postponed to 2006</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>246</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>502</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: In addition to these cases, the unit continued to pursue 50 cases from 2004 before the Sharia’ court.
Introduction of Legal Aid in PCHR's Branch Offices in Jabalya and Khan Yunis

In 2005, the unit sought to introduce legal aid at PCHR's branch offices in Jabalya and Khan Yunis. The unit advertised the new provision of legal services by the unit in these offices and also the days on which the unit lawyers are present at PCHR's offices in Jabalya and Khan Yunis in order to receive clients. In 2005, PCHR's branch offices in Jabalya received 99 cases. With regard to PCHR's branch office in Khan Yunis, provision of legal aid faced extreme difficulties until the middle of September, as a result of the repeated closures imposed by IOF on the southern Gaza Strip, which prevented lawyers from travelling to Khan Yunis. Following the implementation of the Disengagement Plan in the Gaza Strip, the unit sought to activate the legal aid program in the south. To this end, the unit staff members visited women's organizations to inform them about the services provided by the unit and the days on which the unit lawyers are present at PCHR's office in Khan Yunis. These efforts proved fruitful in the last quarter of 2005.

1.2) Providing Legal Consultation for Women

In 2005, the unit provided 210 legal consultations to women in person or by telephone.

1.3) Legal Aid for Female Prisoners

No legal aid was provided to female prisoners in 2005.

1.4) Legal Aid for Women Who Are Victims of Violence

In 2005, the unit provided legal assistance to 65 women who were subject to violence.

1.5) Interventions with Official Bodies

Sharia' Courts

In 2005, the unit continued to promote its relations with official bodies, especially the Sharia' courts and judges. It held meetings with the Chief Judge and other judges of the Sharia' court in order to discuss various issues.

On 17 March 2005, the unit head Mona Shawa, the unit lawyers, Hanan Matar and Sameer Hasaniya, and Agnitha Hegel from the Swedish Kvinna Till Kvinna met with Sheikh Maher Khudair, Chief Judge of the Sharia' Appeal Court. Sheikh Khudair talked about the work of Sharia' courts. He also highly commended the cooperation and coordination between PCHR and Sharia' courts.

1.6) Cooperation with Female Police

In 2005, the unit sought to cooperate and coordinate with the female police, particularly its administration, to discuss possible future activities, such as organizing training courses on human rights and women's rights for members of the female police, which is included in the unit's plan for 2006. The unit head, Monaz Shawa, and the unit lawyer, Hanan Matar, met with Major Einas Shalabi, chief of the female
police, and discussed with her possible coordination and cooperation with the female police. The unit's staff members briefed Major Shalabi on PCHR's activities and the Women's Rights Unit. Major Shalabi welcomed coordination with PCHR and highly appreciated the activities carried out by the unit. The unit received Major Shalabi at a workshop organized by the unit on legal protection mechanisms for women who are victims of violence. She talked about the female police's role in the protection of women who are victims of violence.

Means of Verification

- In 2005, the unit worked on 452 cases, representing 448 cases in Sharia' courts and 4 cases in civil courts, and provided 210 legal consultations. This caseload represents an increase of 40% over 2004.
- The number of cases in which positive rulings were achieved was 246.
- The number of cases referred to the unit by the Sharia' court and women's institutions was 85.
- The unit pursued 99 cases and provided 63 legal consultations at PCHR's offices in Jabalya.
- The unit pursued 13 cases and provided 42 legal consultations at PCHR's offices in Khan Yunis.
- The unit pursued 65 cases of women who are victims of violence.
- The unit faced some difficulties in providing legal services at PCHR's offices in Khan Yunis, as a result of repeated closures of Israeli military checkpoints on the road leading to the southern Gaza Strip. With the implementation of the Israeli Disengagement Plan in September 2005, these difficulties ceased.
- The unit opened the door for cooperation and coordination with the Palestinian female police.

2) Legal Awareness for Women and Children of Their Rights, as Protected Under Local Laws and Human Rights Instruments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verifiable Indicator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report on activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.1) Organizing Legal Awareness Lectures on the Rights of Women and Children

- The unit implemented the field legal awareness and assistance project for women in cooperation with the Swedish Kvinna Till Kvinna from 1 January to 31 December 2005. This stage included organizing 40 lectures on violence against women, with a special focus on the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1993.
- The unit organized 45 lectures on Family Law (marriage contracts, divorce and the right to separation by a court ruling).
- The unit organized 13 lectures on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The unit cooperated with new civil society organizations.
- The unit had access to marginalized areas.
Means of Verification

- In 2005, the unit organized 98 lectures to raise the legal awareness of women.
- 2,940 women attended these lectures.
- 123 women referred to the unit for legal aid after having attended these lectures.
- The unit provided 230 on-the-spot legal consultations to women during these lectures.
- These lectures were organized in cooperation with 49 institutions throughout the Gaza Strip, including governmental organizations and women's centers at UNRWA.
- 13 lectures were organized following invitations from 10 organizations: the Middle East Council of Churches; the Municipality of Khan Yunis; the Voice of the Society; Future Builders; al-Lud Female Preparatory School; Shafa Amru Secondary School; Deir Yassin School; Khan Yunis Secondary School A; and Khan Yunis Secondary School B.
- The unit organized lectures at schools on the rights of women and children.
- 40 lectures were organized in the context of a joint project with the Swedish Kvinna Till Kvinna in coordination with 29 local community organizations.

### Table (6): Geographical Distribution of Lectures Organized by the Unit in the Gaza Strip

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Southern Gaza Strip</th>
<th>Central Gaza Strip</th>
<th>Gaza City</th>
<th>Northern Gaza Strip</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2) Contribution to Training Courses Organized by PCHR's Training Unit

The unit contributed to 12 training courses on democracy and human rights and CEDAW organized by PCHR's Training Unit. During these courses, the unit supervised 24 training sessions on democracy and human rights. It also organized 3 training courses, which included 20 training sessions, on CEDAW. In 2005, a number of training sessions were devoted to gender issues.

2.3) Cooperation with the Media

The unit firmly believes that the media plays a vitally important role in raising awareness of women and children’s legal rights in Palestinian society. Consequently, in 2005, the unit made efforts to further develop cooperation with the local media.

Press Interviews

1. On 17 February, the unit head was interviewed by journalist Mohammed Kuraizem on subject of women's work at banks.
2. On 22 June, unit lawyers Hanan Matar and Sameer Hasaniya were interviewed by journalist Majida al-Balbissi, on the subject of child custody. The interview was published in the Arab Woman Magazine on 23 June 2005.
3. On 21 July, unit lawyer Sameer Hasaniya was interviewed by Wa'el Banat from the Arab Woman Magazine on the issue of community violence against widows of men killed during the Intifada.
4. On 24 July, the unit head was interviewed by 'Abdul Rahman Abu Kwaik from al-Karmel Media Office on the subject of the Israeli view of Palestinian children.
5. On 24 August, the unit head was interviewed by journalist Majida al-Balbissi on the issues of draft family law.

Radio Interviews

On 26 January, unit lawyer Hanan Matar participated in an episode of We Have a Word, a program broadcasted by al-Horriya Radio in Gaza.
On 3 February, unit lawyer Hanan Matar participated in an episode of Women's Affairs on discrimination against woman, a program broadcasted by the Workers Radio in Gaza.
On 2 March, unit lawyer Hanan Matar participated in the Voice of the Society, a program broadcasted by Alwan Radio in Gaza, on the issue of child support.
On 6 April, the unit head was interviewed by Palestine Radio on Palestinian Children’s day.
On 22 June, the unit head was interviewed by Women's Papers, a program broadcasted by al-Horriya Radio in Gaza.
On 13 July, unit lawyer Sameer Hasaniya participated in the Voice of Society, a program broadcasted by Alwan Radio in Gaza, on the issue of raising the legal awareness of women.
On 12 December, Women and the Society, a program broadcasted by Alwan Radio in Gaza, interviewed unit lawyer Hanan Matar on violence against women.

Television Interviews

On 17 December, al-Jazeera Satellite Channel interviewed the unit director on political participation of women during a conference on new visions of political participation. The interview was broadcasted on 18 December.

Means of Verification

- The unit participated in 5 press interviews.
- The unit participated in 7 radio interviews.
- The unit participated in one television interview.

2.4) Awareness Raising Publications

The unit reprinted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1993, as part of a legal awareness project implemented by the unit on violence against women.

2.5) A Poster on International Women's Day

The unit prepared a poster for the occasion of International Women’s Day on 8 March.

Means of Verification

- Copies of the Declaration were distributed in lectures.
- 2,000 copies of the poster were published and circulated.
Copies of the poster were circulated to governmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly those which are interested in women's rights.

Copies of the poster were circulated in celebration of International Women's Day.

2.6) A Workshop on Legal Protection Mechanisms for Victims of Violence against Women

The unit organized a workshop entitled "Legal Protection Mechanisms for Victims of Violence against Women." This workshop was organized on the occasion of the 16 Days Campaign on the subject of Violence against Women. The campaign started on 25 November, which marks the international day for highlighting the issue of Violence against Women, and continued until 10 December 2005. In the first session of the workshop, unit lawyer Hanan Matar discussed violence against women in the context of international human rights instruments. Counselor Suleiman al-Dahdouh, Deputy Head of the Council of Legislations and Legal Opinions, submitted a working paper on the protection of women from violence under Palestinian law. Ms. Hala Manna', a researcher at the Women's Affairs Center, submitted a working paper, in which she attributed violence against women to the system of customs and traditions in Palestinian society. In the second session of the workshop, Ms. Manal Abu Muhaisen, a lawyer at the Women's Empowerment Project of the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, asserted that the main reason of violence against women was the lack of legal protection for women who are subjected to physical violence, either inside or outside the family. Ms. Salwa Hudaib, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, submitted a working paper on the ministry's role in efforts against violence against women. Major Eina Shalabi, director of the female police in Gaza, talked about the role of female police in the protection of women against violence.

Means of Verification

35 representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations participated in the workshop.

The female police, represented by its chief, participated in the workshop, which created an opportunity for the participants to learn about the role and work of female police.

The workshop opened the door for cooperation between women's and community organizations and the female police.

The workshop was an opportunity to network with the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

The workshop was concluded with a number of recommendations:

1. Shelters should be established for victims of violence and a number of laws should be reconsidered.

2. There is a need to raise the awareness of society for the need to put an end for violence against women, which violates international human rights instruments.

3. All segments of society should cooperate to prevent violence against women.

4. There is a need to provide booklets to explain relevant laws.

5. Participants called for holding similar meetings, which contribute to the enhancement of cooperation and coordination among community and women's organizations.
3) Lobbying for the Incorporation of International Standards on Women and Children’s Rights in Domestic Laws, Including Draft Legislation

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The unit made critical comments on a number draft laws discussed at the Palestinian Legislative Council in an effort to incorporate international standards relating to women and children’s rights:

- **Juveniles Law**: Unit lawyer Sameer Hasaniya participated in the meetings of the special committee to draft the Juveniles Law, which included representatives from the Council of Legislations and Legal Opinions, the Attorney General's Office and the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood. PCHR was the only NGO to join the meetings of the committee.

- **Family Law**: Governmental and non-governmental organizations were greatly interested in the draft Family Law, which was presented to civil society organizations by the Council of Legislations and Legal Opinions during a workshop held on 17 August. The unit staff members participated in this workshop, in which the participants presented their notes on the draft law. The unit is currently reviewing the draft law for comment. Any comments will be sent to the Council of Legislations and Legal Opinions.

- **The Law regarding the Association for Development and Management of Orphans' Funds**: Unit lawyer Hanan Matar attended the session of the Palestinian Legislative Council, which discussed the draft law.

**Means of Verification**

- PCHR, represented by the unit, was the only NGO to participate in drafting the Juveniles Law.

4) Coordination and Cooperation with Local, Regional and International Women's Organizations

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The unit carried out this activity through meetings with women's organizations and participation in meetings and workshops organized by local, regional and international women's organizations. In 2005, the unit networked with international women’s organizations and opened the door for new kinds of activities, as it cooperated with the Women’s Center for Legal and Social Consultation and al-Haq Institution, in the preparation of the preliminary NGOs report on Israel’s implementation of CEDAW in the OPT.
4.1) Participation in the Preparation of Preliminary NGOs Report on Israel’s Implementation of CEDAW in the OPT

The unit, representing PCHR, contributed to the production of this report in cooperation with al-Haq Institution and the Women’s Center for Legal and Social Consultation. The report, which was submitted to the preparatory working group in January 2005, included issues to which CEDAW applies, including violence against women, female prisoners, restrictions on movement, family reunion, rural women and house demolitions.

Means of Verification

- The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women raised a number of questions with Israel concerning issues included in the report, including the impacts of closures, curfews, restrictions on movement and the impacts of the destruction of schools’ infrastructure on the rights of girls to Education. It also demanded that Israel provide statistics on the education of girls in the OPT and the measures it has taken to provide them with the opportunity to have access to educational institutions in the context of the continuing conflict, the increased violence and the construction of the Annexation Wall in the OPT.
- The Committee also asked Israel about the impacts of closures and curfews on the access of Palestinian civilians to medical care, food and water.

4.2) Participation in Local Activities

The unit staff members participated in a number of local meetings, workshops and conferences that it was invited to attend:

1. On 7 March, unit lawyer Hanan Matar participated in activities organized by the College of Media at al-Aqsa University in Gaza City on International Women’s Day. She talked about the legal issues relating to the problem of violence against women.
2. On 7 March, unit lawyer Sameer Hasaniya participated in a public meeting organized by the Voice of the Society on Family Law.
3. On 1 July, the unit director attended a meeting that gathered a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations with Professor Paolo Sergio, the UN Representative on Violence against Children. She submitted an intervention on the subject of early marriage in Palestinian society as a form of violence against girls.
4. On 20 November, the unit head participated in a workshop organized by the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on past achievements and future aspirations of women’s organizations. She was the facilitator for the session on women’s rights. Following the workshop, the unit head met with the Minister of Women’s Affairs, Zaheera Kamal, briefed her on the unit’s activities and discussed future cooperation and coordination between the unit and the ministry.
5. On 7 December, the unit head submitted a working paper on the political and social rights of women between locality and universality at a conference on future visions of political participation, which was organized by the Voice of the Society.
4.3) Participation in Meetings of the National Campaign to Encourage Women’s Participation in Elections

This campaign combines a number of human rights and women’s organizations, including PCHR, represented by the unit. The campaign focused in 2005 on efforts to encourage women to participate in local council elections. It also issued a leaflet to advertise the campaign and its goals. In 2005, the unit organized a series of meetings with members of the Palestinian Legislative Council to gain support for the campaign.

One of the major activities of the campaign in 2005 was the meeting between its members and Palestinian President Mahoud ‘Abbas on 29 August. The unit director attended this meeting. The campaign called upon President ‘Abbas not to ratify the amended election law for local bodies councils, particularly with regard to article 17, in order to ensure the representation of women in elections. The meeting was positive, as President ‘Abbas expressed support for women’s demands and recommended the Palestinian Legislative Council to hold an urgent session to discuss this issue. A delegation from the campaign met also with the Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Rawhi Fattouh, to call on him to hold a session to discuss amendments to the law, but he refused, on the grounds that it was important not to delay holding the elections.

4.4) Cooperation with International and Regional Organizations

Al-Quds Association for Cooperation with the Arab World

In 2005, the unit opened the door for cooperation with the al-Quds Association for Cooperation with the Arab World in Malaga, Spain, through participating in a number of activities that the unit was invited to attend. During these activities, the unit’s efforts to serve women in the Gaza Strip were outlined, and future cooperation and coordination between the unit and women’s organizations in Andalusia were discussed.

In this context, Luna Abu Swaireh, delegated by the unit, participated in a number of activities in Malaga and Sevilla in the period from 8 to 12 March 2005, on the occasion of the International Women’s Day. She delivered a number of lectures on the suffering of Palestinian women under the Israeli occupation. She also participated in a number of marches organized for this occasion.

From 24 to 28 August 2005, the unit head visited Andalusia. The visit aimed to discuss cooperation with women’s organizations in Spain and explain the unit’s activities. This visit included a number of activities. The unit head met with a speaker from the Andalusia Parliament and discussed with her the issues of political participation of women in Spain. The unit head also briefed the speaker on the suffering of women in the OPT and their role in the Palestinian political life, highlighting their struggle to obtain their political rights.

Amnesty International

In February 2005, Amnesty International published a special report on women in the OPT. The report raised international interest in this issues. It included an interview
with the unit head on restrictions imposed by IOF on movement and their impacts on women.

In the context of cooperation between PCHR and Amnesty International, Donatella Rovera, from Amnesty International, met with the unit staff members on 27 April 2005. The meeting discussed a number of issues, including Amnesty International’s report and Sharia courts, before a meeting with Sheikh Tayseer al-Tamimi, Chief Judge of the Sharia Courts.

Kvinna Till Kvinna, Sweden

The unit has a partnership relation with the Swedish NGO Kvinna Till Kvinna, which assists women in times of conflicts. The unit cooperated with the Swedish organization in a joint project in 2002 and 2004. In 2005, the unit cooperated with Kvinna Till Kvinna in a joint project to raise the legal awareness of women on the issue of violence against women (see above).

On 16 and 17 March 2005, Agnitha Hegel, a representative from Kvinna Till Kvinna in Jerusalem, visited PCHR. The unit arranged a visit for her to the Sharia Court. She met with Sheikh Maher Khudair, Head of the Sharia Appeal Court. The unit also arranged a meeting for her with Sheikh Tayseer al-Tamimi, Chief Judge of Sharia Courts in Jerusalem. The unit sought to brief delegates of the organization who visited the Gaza Strip on Israeli violations of human rights and organized field tours for them. On 16 June 2005, the unit, in coordination with the Field Work Unit, arranged a field tour for the organization’s delegates in Rafah, where they saw the demolished houses in the area.

Regional Activities

- On 4 and 5 March 2005, the unit head participated in a conference on rights and gender organised by Palestinian NGOs, which was held in Amman, in cooperation with the International Institute for Women’s Solidarity in Jordan.
- On 28 and 29 June 2005, unit lawyer Hanan Matar participated in a consultative meeting in Cairo on the subject of violence against children, following an invitation from the Arab Council for Children and Development to attend

5) Participation in Elections Monitoring

The unit staff members participated in the campaign organized by PCHR, in cooperation with a number of civil society organizations, to monitor the Palestinian presidential election, which were held on 9 January 2005.
International Unit

Introduction

As the history of the OPT in 2005 goes to press, it will undoubtedly include three significant events. The first of these would be the Palestinian presidential election. The second the unilateral redeployment (‘disengagement’) plan – one of the major challenges faced by the International Unit, and PCHR, in 2005. The third, and in many ways most significant for PCHR, was the escape of Major General Doron Almog from the Anti-Terror unit of the Metropolitan Police in the United Kingdom.

The International Unit played a central role in the PCHR response to the first two issues. The unit’s staff not only monitored elections across the Gaza Strip but also organised, facilitated and played host to the international monitoring delegations which visited the Centre.

During the unilateral redeployment of Israeli soldiers from the Gaza Strip, the International Unit had already been responsible for the development and formulation of the PCHR strategy. The unit was then a key element in producing the daily field reports, written in conjunction with the Fieldwork Unit, as well as responding to the varied requests of the media, which as anticipated, came after the implementation of the redeployment rather then during.

Finally, the biggest event of the year for the International Unit, and for PCHR, was the decision by Judge Timothy Workman, in England, to issue an arrest warrant for the suspect in a number of war crimes cases, Major General Doron Almog. It was the first time an arrest warrant has been issued for an Israeli soldier. This immense legal precedent was combined with the dramatic decision of high ranking Israeli diplomats to participate in perverting the court of justice (a serious offence in the UK system) by warning Almog not to disembark from the airplane he was traveling in, when it had landed on British soil, in order to prevent his arrest.

As illustrated in this Annual Report, the incident received international media attention and shook the Israeli authorities to the core. The International Unit was at the centre of the initial negotiations with British law firm Hickman and Rose and the staff in the unit was heavily involved in day-to-day communications. Of course, the final congratulations go to Raji Sourani, Iyad Alami, Kate Maynard and Daniel Machover.

Overall, the year posed an even bigger set of challenges than usually faced in Gaza. The continued isolation of the Strip was combined with the ongoing Israeli onslaught – despite the Hudna (cease-fire) by the Palestinian resistance. Combined with this, the deterioration in the internal security situation placed international staff members under considerable risk. This hit very close to home when one of the seven kidnappings actually involved a former PCHR staff member, who had spent that day visiting the Centre. The Centre’s efforts to intervene in this, and all kidnappings, bore some fruit but the threat level remained high for staff members, particularly given the decision of the UN to evacuate its international staff.
In general terms, the International Unit has performed well. Major disappointments include the failure to carry out even more work during the Gaza redeployment, in two respects in particular. Firstly, the failure during the process itself to enhance cooperation with Israeli NGOs, as had been planned. Secondly, and perhaps the biggest failure of this year, the disappointment in failing to bring together the requisite strands for a special project to monitor the effects of the redeployment on ESC rights. Despite considerable effort and hours of work from various PCHR Units, with external assistance from different sources, this ultimately came to nothing. Other errors were broadly technical, administrative and minor and were corrected where possible.

In terms of the more negative outcomes over the course of the year, the International Unit has not failed to carry out any of the activities listed in its 2005 Annual Plan. In fact it has carried out considerably more activities than planned, especially given that much of the unit’s work remains behind the scenes and unpublished.

Furthermore, no specific negative outcome can be elucidated from the activities of 2005. However this situation is likely to change as 2006, an entirely more unpredictable year in the OPT, may bring an abundance of negative results to the many ambitious activities planned.

The following report is the starting point of the movement, within the entire Centre, towards an outcome-based system of reporting. The three-year plan of the International Unit, developed in the third quarter of this year, was designed with an outcome-based approach in mind. Consequently, in future reports a full outcome based system will be used for reporting – unlike the limited approach used in this report.

In general terms the outlook for 2006 in the OPT is poor. The continued failure of the international community, in particular the High Contracting Parties, to take specific action to end the occupation or to reel Israel into line with internationally agreed standards of behaviour, has been a constant feature of this occupation. Now as the Annexation Wall is essentially a fait accomplis, the Gaza Strip is likely to remain isolated and the likelihood of the Palestinians exercising their right to self-determination is rapidly deteriorating. Combined with this are the genuine fears regarding the rise of social conservatism across the OPT – in particular in relation to women’s place in society and their internationally accorded rights. It would be a disappointment of monumental proportions, if the Palestinians do ever realise their national aspirations, if they were to cast away the value of possessing freedom by eliminating it for more than half of the population. However the hypocrisy of the international community, the impunity accorded to Israel’s violations of international law and the tolerance of the subversion of the democratic process by the PNA all combine together to weave doubtful and uncertain attitudes towards the rule of law and democracy. Little wonder, when faced with these factors, that people turn to reactionary forces.

Perhaps the only hope lies in the further development of a strong Palestinian civil society, of a clear message from the Israeli left that occupation is illegal and must end, and strong action by the High Contracting Parties that will assist in ending Israel’s role as one of the world’s leading rogue states.
1. Intervention at UN Bodies

**Activity: Committee on Inalienable Rights of Palestinian People**
- Staff from the International Unit attended the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People on the topic of “Implementation Mechanisms for the ICJ AO” in Geneva.

**Outcome:**
- Considerable information, ideas and knowledge were gained, which were included in PCHR’s key policy document, to date, on the ICJ AO addressed to the High Contracting Parties.

**Activity: Intervention to CEDAW** (unplanned activity)
- PCHR International Unit and Women’s Unit, al Haq and WCLAC produced and submitted a joint intervention to CEDAW on Israel and also submitted joint questions to the Committee on key issues.

**Outcome:**
- The CEDAW report included many of the key ideas contained within the shadow report although, disappointingly, it hinted that the occupation of the Gaza Strip may not be in existence in the aftermath of ‘disengagement’ - this was an issue not addressed by the shadow report.

**Activity: Intervention to UN Expert on Violence Against Children** (unplanned activity)
- Staff from the unit conducted considerable fieldwork, to a forensic level, which was compiled into a report submitted to the UN Expert on Violence Against Children- on the issue of IOF Killings of Children in the Gaza Strip - while Raji Sourani and Mona al Shawa made oral interventions. The report will be submitted to other bodies with investigative capacities.

**Outcome:**
- PCHR was the only organisation in the Gaza Strip to produce and present the UN Expert with a report on this key issue. The report was used by Raji Sourani in his oral intervention to the UN expert.

**Activity: Coordination with Palestinian, Israeli, International NGOs.**
- PCHR made a strategic decision not to attend the session of the Commission.
- An oral submission under item 8 was coordinated with al Haq and FIDH.
- Written intervention with WCLAC and al Haq to CEDAW – WCLAC attended the CEDAW meeting in New York.
- “Committee on the Inalienable Rights” was also attended by Israeli, International and Palestinian NGOs.
- Staff attended a number of OCHA briefings in Gaza and Jerusalem regarding the ‘disengagement’.
2. Interventions at Non-UN Forum

Activity: Madrid Summit on Terrorism
- The Unit had planned to participate in this massive international conference through the submission of an intervention. However this proved to be impossible, due to time constraints and the fact that it coincided with the “Committee on the Inalienable Rights”.

Outcome:
- Despite this failure the unit has used some of the Summit’s findings (in support of democracy and human rights as the main methods of countering terrorism) in its address to the High Contracting Parties and in oral advocacy work.

Activity: EU-Israel Association Agreement
- See Section 3 on International Legal Work for primary details.

3. International Legal Work

Activity: Maintenance of Contacts with current International Legal Partners
- The unit continued to maintain contacts with current legal partners both in the stages of establishing new cases and concluding previous cases. This included phone calls with Swiss lawyers and an informal meeting with a UK lawyer (during a trip to London with Raji Sourani). Staff in the unit have also had primary responsibility for maintenance of contacts with regard to new cases opened by PCHR.
- UK Legal partners, Hickman and Rose, presented files to the police and to the courts in a number of cases.

Outcome:
- The Swiss government changed the law on international jurisdiction in their country in order to stop the progress of PCHR’s case. There is a possibility of moving the case to Germany.
- The first arrest warrant was issued against Maj-Gen Doron Almog by a British judge, on the issue of the demolition of 59 homes in Rafah.
- Almog escaped because of the decision by the Israeli Ambassador and Military Attaché at the London embassy to pervert the court of justice.
- Over 50 newspaper articles were written about the incident. It was front-page news in the UK’s Guardian for two days. It was also featured on more than one occasion in the (London) Times, Newsweek, the BBC website, the Scotsman. In terms of the Israeli press, it was featured on a number of occasions in Haaretz, Yediot Aranoth, Jerusalem Post. The PCHR website includes a sample selection of key articles.
- Amnesty International issued an excellent press release in support of the action.
- FIDH wrote to senior British government officials calling for them to support further action.
- Ariel Sharon told Tony Blair that he would not go to the UK because he feared arrest and had “heard bad things about the British prison system.”
- Jack Straw apologised to Silvan Shalom for any “discomfort” caused to Doron Almog – the British Foreign Secretary failed to apologise to the
Palestinian civilians who suffered discomfort when their homes were bombed/demolished and family members were killed.

- Ami Ayalon, another accused war criminal, cancelled his trip to the UK for fear of arrest.
- The likelihood of the UK law being changed to suit the Israeli authorities has increased. (potential negative outcome)
- Lawyers from a variety of other countries, both inside and outside the EU area, contacted PCHR looking to develop similar files.
- Lawyers from some Israeli groups claimed responsibility for the matter and there is apossibility that laws may be changed in Israel to target these organisations and individuals. (potential negative outcome)

Activity: Determining new appropriate partners

- Work began with the New York based Centre for Constitutional Rights. Discussions have taken place with some lawyers in Germany regarding the former Swiss cases.

Outcome:

- 5 new cases on key issues have been launched in the UK and some progress is being made.
- A case was launched in the USA, in partnership with the Centre for Constitutional Rights representing the family of Rachel Corrie, against Caterpillar, Inc. Staff in the International Unit have summarised the publicly available documents of this case to make it available and accessible for the public. However the case was dismissed by a US Court.
- Two Civil Lawsuits were launched in the USA against Israeli generals who will have to attend Court to answer claims for damages on behalf of Palestinian civilians represented by PCHR.
- No decisions have been made about the possibility of cases in Germany or other jurisdictions.

Activity: Preparation of Materials to Levels Appropriate for Use in International Legal Cases

- The unit has invested considerable time in preparing, sending and filing all case materials in both the new UK cases and the USA case.

Outcome:

- Substantial progress is being made in the UK cases due to the quality of the material compiled by staff in the International Unit
- Substantial progress is being made in the Caterpillar, Inc. case due to the quality of the material compiled by staff in the International Unit.

4. International Media Activities

Activity: Maintaining and Expanding Contacts with International Media

- This activity must be viewed in the context of the unique occasion of the elections and also in the context of PCHR’s other activities.
- Elections: With assistance of partners during the election time, the International Unit was able to coordinate an intensive media campaign which focused on the UK and the Netherlands.
• The Unit has continued to try to increase the circulation of PCHR’s documentation, particularly Press Releases, Position Papers and Reports. To this end, the *Electronic Intifada* has distributed over 85% of all PCHR’s documents through its webpage and mailing list.

• The unit organised a meeting among heads of UN Agencies, the International Media and International NGOs, which included a briefing session and a request for feedback on PCHR’s public image and the Centre’s representation of the work it carries out. The meeting was originally designed to counter some concerns about PCHR’s language by the Independent Evaluation Team, which visited PCHR in 2004.

• As part of this effort to increase circulation and impact, the unit has redesigned the format of all PCHR’s Press Releases and Weekly Reports.

• Staff in the unit wrote and distributed a survey on PCHR’s website.

• Staff in the International Unit redesigned and rewrote the new PCHR website, which includes focused campaigning information, as well as a new special section on Women’s Rights.

• Staff in the unit hired a web-designer to complete a new site by August 2005.

• Staff in the unit produced 5 Press Releases which were widely distributed and 1 “Live from the Field” Report on Disengagement.

• Staff in the unit wrote 1 Internet article and 1 newspaper article during the reporting period.

• The International Unit designed PCHR’s disengagement strategy – including the media strategy.

• The PCHR website was updated to ensure that it remained ‘topical’ – new campaigns and sections were added as appropriate.

Outcome:

• PCHR’s Court action during the Presidential election was widely quoted on the Wire Services in the London *Independent* and *The Guardian*.

• Distribution by *Electronic Intifada* has allowed PCHR to extend its messages to 5,000 additional people.

• The feedback from the International Consultative Meeting was extraordinarily positive and the changes made in format of Press Releases and in the Website arose from this meeting.

• PCHR’s Press Release on Caterpillar, Inc. spawned a new PCHR campaign of which legal cases have been an integral part.

• The Press Release on the IOF’s X-Ray machine was researched in cooperation with Liberty (UK). PCHR was the *first* organisation to establish the actual purpose of the machine being used at Rafah. This breakthrough resulted in: an article in a local Palestinian newspaper, an interview by the Deputy director on *al Jazeera* and, ultimately, formed part of a successful campaign in which the IOF stopped using the machine.

• The Press Release on the Israeli Compensation Law formed part of and resulted in a worldwide civil society campaign in which FIDH, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch released public statements.

• PCHR established a disengagement “incident room” which could field enquiries 24 hours a day from the media about disengagement. PCHR partners are aware of this and prepared to utilise PCHR during the disengagement process.
5. Donors and Funding

Activity: Maintaining Contacts with International Donors, including writing reports and proposals
- The International Unit continued to be the only source of donor reporting from within the Centre.
- Staff in the Unit edited the 2004, 196 page, English Language edition of the PCHR Annual Activities and Human Rights report.
- Staff continued to produce quarterly briefings for Christian Aid and quarterly reports for Kvinna till Kvinna.
- Staff continued to produce reports for Dan Church Aid, including the assessment of the 2 year grant, the special DCA Logical Framework.
- Staff wrote the funding proposal for Development Cooperation Ireland.
- Staff wrote a supplementary funding application to KtK and to the Norwegian Representative Office.
- Staff continued to work through NOVIB, as leader of donor consortium.
- Staff organised and participated in the PCHR NGO and governmental donor consortia.

Outcome:
- Reports continued to be issued – though many deadlines were missed.
- Annual Report was printed and distributed on mailing list and website as well as 500 printed copies.
- CA and KtK reports delivered within satisfactory timeframe.
- DCA reports delivered late.
- DCI offer PCHR another 1 year funding contract as opposed to the 3 years applied for.
- Both KtK and the Norwegian Representative Office accepted supplementary funding applications.
- NGO and government donors gained clearer understanding of PCHR’s functions.

Activity: Searching for new sources of funding
- Staff wrote a proposal for the P.L.C. election-monitoring project and distributed it widely.
- Staff followed up contacts made in 2004 with organisations such as Trocaire (who funded the Presidential election monitoring project).
- Staff attended the Medical Aid for Palestinians UK dinner with Raji Sourani, in which some contacts from the Arab world were sought.
- Staff coordinated proposal and participation of PCHR in € 3.8 million EU project entitled “Empowering the Palestinian Judiciary”.
- With the assistance of NOVIB, International Unit staff wrote one successful application for the EU EIDHR for the Legal Unit and DDU. (€ 380,000)
- Staff provided commentary on the successful EIDHR application drafted by PCHR’s Fundraiser in partnership with NOVIB on the Death Penalty. (€ 300,000)
- Staff in the Unit played a key role in the successful PCHR effort to secure a new funding grant from NOVIB.
Outcome:
- The Austrian Representative Office has made a provisional commitment to fund the PLC election-monitoring project.
- Three additional EU grants and a new 3-year commitment from NOVIB were achieved.

Activity: *Visits to the USA to make contacts with new donors*
- Not yet carried out.

Activity: *Hire a new fundraiser on a two-year contract*
- Extensive hiring process carried out with telephone interviews to Sierra Leone, USA, UK and Ramallah.
- Staff traveled to Jerusalem and to the UK to make the final assessment.

Outcome:
- New fundraiser successfully hired on a 2-year contract.

Activity: *Follow-up on implementation of evaluation report*
- An International Consultative Meeting was organised – please see section 4 for activity/outcome assessment.

6. Editing of PCHR’s English-Language publications

Activity: *Weekly Reports/Press Releases/Specialised Reports/Web Page*
- All publications successfully edited – some minor negative criticisms received and alterations made as appropriate.
- For further details about changes to Press Releases/Weekly Reports/Website format please see section 4.

Outcome:
- PCHR’s reports are read widely and written to a native-speaker level of English, which significantly aids the process of communication and education.

7. Developing Cooperation with NGOs/INGOs

Activity: *Developing cooperation with Palestinian NGOs/Joint International Advocacy Strategies.*
- The Unit has failed to develop any comprehensive advocacy strategies with other Palestinian NGOs. One meeting took place between PCHR, al Haq and HRW to discuss the possibility of joint advocacy on the death penalty. It had been hoped to develop a strategy on the Wall.
- However some cooperation has taken place between al Haq and PCHR, al Dameer (Gaza) and WCLAC on reports, advocacy and interventions (see section 1). Information sharing and cooperation remains good.
Outcome:
- See section 1 on UN interventions.

Activity: Developing relations with Human Rights organisations and lawyers in Israel.
- The Unit has maintained excellent relations with B’Tselem, Hamoked, ACRI, PCATI through numerous meetings in Israel. The Unit has coordinated the PCHR strategy and response to the Amendment to the Civil Tort Act in Israel. This included a number of Press Releases and staff from the International Unit attended a joint advocacy trip to the Knesset with the PCHR Legal Unit. Significant coordination also took place at the conference on the “Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People”, as well as making substantial efforts to bring Israeli NGOs to the Gaza Strip.

Outcome:
- Excellent joint Israeli/Palestinian NGO cooperation on Israeli Compensation Law case, with superb information sharing and regular discussions about advocacy options and strategies.

Activity: Developing Cooperation with INGOs.
- With FIDH, PCHR continues to feed directly into their advocacy programme and was responsible for (i) writing the OMCT/FIDH report section on human rights defenders on the OPT (ii) contributing to and editing a FIDH Press Release on Jerusalem (iii) contributing to and editing a FIDH Press Release on the Compensation Law. The Unit also submitted an intervention requesting assistance during the Gaza disengagement plan.
- With Amnesty International, the Unit held meetings with AI staff during their regular trips to Gaza and has exchanged considerable information via e-mail on issues including the compensation law and prisoners’ status.
- With Human Rights Watch, the International Unit works closely with the HRW Jerusalem based researcher and has held meetings planning advocacy on the death penalty and on the compensation law.
- Staff from the Unit attended the Palestine working group of the Euro-Med HR Network and has continued to try to focus on key advocacy aims at this forum.
- International Unit re-wrote a paper, and then held discussions, about the Euro-Med Network Paper on Human Rights and Peace Plans.
- Election – enhanced cooperation: during the Presidential election the Unit facilitated and hosted huge numbers of NGOs. Close partners, such as FIDH, NOVIB and Christian Aid, were at the core of this, as were dozens of other NGOs who received briefings, including the National Democratic Institute (NDI).
- Staff assisted in hosting at least 11 delegations from INGOs, a number of whom were taken on tours of the Gaza Strip.
- A number of key cases of human rights defenders were brought to the attention of Front Line.
- NOVIB used PCHR information on Human Rights Defenders in their advocacy work.
Staff cooperated closely with the UN agencies, the EU and the ICRC regarding safety and security of internationals inside the Gaza Strip.

Outcome:
- PCHR, al Haq and FIDH produced written interventions to the UNHRC in 2005.
- FIDH will send a mission of enquiry to Gaza for disengagement.
- FIDH wrote a private letter to Israeli PM Sharon about passage of HRDs through Rafah crossing, based on information jointly supplied by PCHR and Al Dameer.
- FIDH/AI/HRW all released numerous statements regarding civil compensation law.
- CA published a piece by staff in the International Unit during the unilateral Israeli redeployment.
- Thanks to cooperation with NOVIB Oxfam, a piece about Raji Sourani written by staff in the International Unit and Novib was published in their magazine People Making Change.
- Front Line wrote urgent actions and published one newspaper advertisement in the Irish Times about HRDs in the OPT.
- Front Line Palestine: Threats, Killings and Other forms of Intimidation of Human Rights Defenders – a joint report with PCHR - at printers at time of writing this report.
- Dutch government given information by NOVIB which came from PCHR.

Activity: Development of Emergency Response for large-scale HR violations
- International Unit developed PCHR’s disengagement strategy and circulated to key advocacy partners to assist with their work.

Outcome:
- PCHR is well prepared for long and short-term possibilities of disengagement plan in respect of advocacy and information sharing.

8. Research and Publications

Activity: Reports, Position Papers and misc. publications
- Position Paper: Securing the Wall from International Law: An Initial Response to the Israeli State Attorney.
- Children’s Rights in Intifada: Series Study drawn up and presented to UN Expert on Violence Against Children, during his visit to Gaza Strip. Entitled Confirm the Kill: IOF Killings of Children in the al Aqsa Intifada.
- Produced 3 Fact Sheets on the Gaza ‘Disengagement’ Plan.
- Implementation not Impunity: International Law Still not Being Implemented in the OPT – Memorandum to the HCPs One Year After the ICJ AO. (published July 9th 2005)
• Staff solicited, compiled and prepared submissions for publication in a book celebrating PCHR’s Tenth birthday, which will be published in 2006, and participated heavily in the design process.
• See also cooperation with INGOs for details of report on Human Rights Defenders.

Outcome:
• *Response to the Israeli Attorney* received a wide response, particularly from civil society, who used it in their advocacy work as it contained translations unique to PCHR of the Israeli response.
• ‘Disengagement’ fact sheets will form central part of PCHR’s advocacy work in conducting briefings to governments and media and are accessible from website.
Participation in International and Regional Conferences and Meetings

In 2005, PCHR received invitations to participate in several international and regional conferences and meetings. Despite the severe restrictions imposed by IOF on the freedom of movement of Palestinian civilians to and from the Gaza Strip, PCHR made efforts to meet some of these invitations in the contexts of its efforts to demonstrate the real face of the Israeli occupation and expose human rights violations perpetrated by IOF against Palestinian civilians.

PCHR’s participation in such events was limited by the ongoing restrictions on freedom of movement imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip. External travel in particular was subject to arbitrary denials, delays and conditions of passage, particularly the prohibition of travel of Palestinians aged between 16 and 35, all of which resulted in reduced participation by PCHR staff in international and regional events held outside the Gaza Strip. In some cases, PCHR was forced to send other people to represent its staff in these to conferences and meetings.

Meetings of the Fund for Palestinian Legal Aid - Lebanon

On 3 and 4 January 2005, PCHR, represented by its Deputy Director, Jaber Wishah, participated in the meetings of the Fund for Palestinian Legal Aid in Beirut. These meetings discussed the conditions of Palestinian and Arab prisoners in Israeli jails and practices of Israeli interrogators and prison officials against them.

World Social Forum – Brazil

From 26 to 31 January 2005, Deputy Director of PCHR, Jaber Wishah, attended the meetings of the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre in Brazil. During his visit to Brazil, Wishah held a number of meetings with several international figures in Sao Paolo on 22 and 23 January and in Porto Alegre during from 26 to 31 January 2005.

Meeting on Palestine – Vienna

PCHR, represented by Pierre Charpentiere, a staff member from the International Unit, participated in a meeting organized by the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network in Vienna on 4 February 2005 to discuss the situation in the OPT. The meetings discussed several issues, including the issue of Palestinian refugees and the human rights situation in Europe and Palestine. Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, was not able to attend the meeting due to the closure imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip.

International Conference on Human Rights and Conflict in the Middle East – Vienna

On 5 and 6 February 2005, PCHR participated in an international conference on human rights and conflict in the Middle East organized by the Bruno Kreisky Foundation. PCHR was represented by Pierre Charpentiere, a staff member from the International Unit, as Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani was not able to travel due to the closure imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip. The conference discussed several issues, including historical experiences on human rights and conflicts, NGOs, international
humanitarian law and the Palestinian–Israeli conflict, European policy and the formation of human rights structure, and international law and human rights in the Middle East.

**Workshop on the Juristic and Gender Approach of NGOs – Jordan**

On 4 and 5 February 2005, the Head of the Women's Rights Unit, Mona al-Shawa, participated in a workshop held in Amman on the juristic and gender approach of NGOs. The workshop, in which 14 Palestinian NGOs participated, was organized by the regional office of Amnesty International, in cooperation with the International Institute for Women's Solidarity. The workshop aimed at building the capacity of Palestinian NGOs in the field of incorporation of the juristic and gender approach in their activities. It was organized in the context of the International Campaign against Violence against Women launched by Amnesty International in March 2004.

**Discussion Group on National Human Rights Organizations in the Arab World – Egypt**

On 6 and 7 March 2005, Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, participated in a discussion group on national human rights organizations in the Arab World, organized by the National Council for Human Rights and the UN Commission on Human Rights, in cooperation with the Arab League of States and the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. The discussion group looked at the human rights situation in the Arab World and the role of national human rights organizations.

**UN International Meeting on Palestine – Geneva**

On 8 and 9 March 2005, Eoin Murray, Head of the International Unit, participated in a meeting organized by the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The meeting discussed the implementation of the Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice concerning the Annexation Wall, and the roles of governments and NGOs.

**International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security – Spain**

From 8 to 11 March 2005, the Director of PCHR, participated in the International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security, which was held in Spain on the first anniversary of the terrorist attack on passenger trains in Spain. The summit sought to put together a joint agenda on how democratic societies can face terrorism. Sourani explained the Palestinian view on terrorism and its definition.

**Discussion Groups and Lectures in Spain**

From 8 to 12 March 2005, on invitation from al-Quds Association for Cooperation with the Arab World, PCHR attended a number of discussion groups and lectures that were held in celebration of International Women's Day in Spain. PCHR was represented by a non-staff member, Luna Abu Swaireh, due to the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip. Abu Swaireh delivered a number of lectures on the activities of PCHR’s Women and Children’s Rights Unit. She also explained the suffering of
Palestinian women under occupation in a lecture especially directed to Spanish women, to inform them about Palestinian women and their struggle.

**Seminar on Globalization of Justice**

From 10 to 13 March 2005, PCHR participated in a seminar titled "Globalization of Justice: International Law and Protection of Fundamental Rights," organized by Lawyers without Borders in Brussels. PCHR was represented by a lawyer from the Legal Aid Unit, Ibrahim Sourani. Sourani submitted an intervention on criminal justice in the OPT under the PNA, highlighting the Israeli occupation's role in the increase of crimes; laws that regulate arrest and detention procedures; pursuing criminal cases; negative aspects of the Oslo Accords with regard to the law and criminal justice.

**Annual Ceremony of Medical Aid for Palestinians – UK**

On 10 and 11 March 2005, Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, visited the UK on invitation from Medical Aid for Palestinians. On 11 March, Sourani joined the annual reception organized by the organization as an honorary guest. During the reception, Sourani talked about the human rights situation in the OPT and PCHR's positions towards relevant developments.

**Meeting of the FIDH Executive Bureau – France**

On 12 and 13 March 2005, Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, participated in the meeting of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) in Paris. The meeting discussed reports on activities, and terrorism and human rights. It is worth noting the Sourani is the Vice-President of FIDH.

**Meetings of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees of the Arab Organization for Human Rights – Egypt**

Director of PCHR visited Cairo from 23 to 25 April 2005. On 23 April, Sourani participated in the meeting of the Arab Organization for Human Rights. On 24 and 25 April, Sourani participated in the meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Organization. These meetings discussed the human rights situation in the OPT and the Organization's activities in 2004.

**Meetings in Cairo**

On 27 and 28 April 2005, a delegation of the FIDH that included Edris al-Yazami, Secretary of FIDH, and Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR and Vice-President of FIDH, held a number of meetings with prominent figures in Cairo. On 27 April, the delegation met with the Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister and the Deputy Director and Secretary General of the National Council for Human Rights. On 28 April, the delegation met with Dr. Abdul Ahad Jamal al-Din, Head of the Human Rights Committee at the Egyptian Parliament, and Dr. Amru Mousa, Secretary General of the Arab League of States.
Conference of Solidarity with the Palestinian People – France

From 7 to 9 May 2005, PCHR participated in the conference organized by Solidarity with the Palestinian People in Paris. Due to the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip by IOF, PCHR was represented by a non-staff member, Luna Abu Swaireh, who detailed the human rights situation in the OPT, as well as PCHR's positions and demands in this regard: an end to the Israeli occupation of the OPT; the enforcement of international humanitarian law; the implementation of the Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice concerning the construction of the Annexation Wall in the OPT; and the real face of the Israeli Disengagement Plan in the Gaza Strip as part of Sharon's strategy to drive the attention away from Israeli practices in Palestine.

Meetings in Spain

On invitation from the al-Quds Association for Cooperation with the Arab World, the Head of the Women and Children’s Rights Unit, Mona Shawa, visited Spain from 23 to 28 May 2005, to establish relations and networks with Spanish NGOs. During her visit, Shawa held meetings with members of Women's Support in Malaga; members of the al-Quds Association for Cooperation with the Arab World; the Mayor of Malaga; the Governor of Malaga; and a speaker from the Andalusia Parliament. During these meetings, Shawa talked about PCHR's activities and the nature of activities conducted by the Women and Children’s Rights Unit. In addition, Shawa delivered a number of lectures on the suffering of Palestinian women and the activities conducted by the Women and Children’s Rights Unit. During her visit, Shawa received an award from the Governor of Malaga in appreciation of efforts made by the Women and Children’s Rights Unit. Shawa presented PCHR's souvenir emblem to the Governor of Malaga.

Discussion on the International Criminal Court and the Iraqi Criminal Court – Jordan

From 27 to 29 May 2005, Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, participated in a discussion organized by FIDH in Amman on the International Criminal Court and the Iraqi Criminal Court for Crimes against Humanity. The discussion took the form of two separate sessions on issues relating to the International Criminal Court, in the context of national and international justice and the criticism directed by a number of international and regional human rights organizations against the Iraqi Criminal Court for Crimes against Humanity. Sourani headed the first session in his capacity as the Vice-President of FIDH.

Meeting of the General Assembly of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers – France

On 10 June 2005, Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, participated in the meeting of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers in France. The meeting discussed the development of an international campaign in favor of Palestine. During the meeting, in which activists from all over the world participated, Sourani talked about developments related to the human rights situation in the OPT.
Euro-Mediterranean Forum – Spain

From 16 to 19 June 2005, Deputy Director of PCHR, Jaber Wishah, participated in meetings of the Euro-Mediterranean Forum in Barcelona. In the context of these meetings, four conferences were organized military conflicts and occupations and peace; democracy, citizenship and human rights; the rights of immigrants and refugees; and water. Wishah spoke at the second conference. He also participated in a peaceful demonstration organized by the forum against war and occupation, and in support for Palestine and Iraq.

Regional Consultative Meeting on Violence against Children – Egypt

From 27 to 29 June 2005, PCHR participated in the regional consultative meeting organized by the Arab Council of Childhood and Development on the study made by the UN Secretary General on violence against children. PCHR was represented in the meeting by a lawyer from Women and Children’s Rights Unit, Hanan Matar. The meeting discussed several issues, including: UN study on violence against children; violence against children in the family; violence against children at schools; violence against children during armed conflicts; violence against children in children’s shelters/homes; and violence against children in society.

Testifying before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices – Egypt

On 26 and 27 June 2005, a PCHR delegation testified before the United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, which held sessions in Cairo. Lawyer Iyad Alami, Head of the Legal Aid Unit, and Hamdi Shaqqura, Head of the Democratic Development Unit, submitted PCHR’s testimony. In his testimony, Alami focused on the absence of justice in the Israeli judicial system when a claim is related to Palestinian civilians living in the OPT. Shaqqura provided detailed information about house demolitions and collective punishment measures practiced by IOF against Palestinian civilians.

Meeting of the International Bureau of FIDH – France

On 1 and 2 July 2005, Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, in his capacity as the Vice-President of FIDH, participated in the meetings of the International Bureau of FIDH, which were held in Paris.

Workshop on Protection of Civilians – Lebanon

On 2 and 3 July 2005, PCHR participated in a workshop organized in Beirut on protection of civilians. The workshop discussed the international approach for protection of civilians; the regional approach for the protection of civilians; the national approaches for the protection of civilians in Palestine and Iraq; the national approaches in Egypt, Algeria, the Arab Gulf States and Yemen for the protection of civilians; and dealing with armed groups. PCHR was represented in the workshop by Iyad Alami, Head of the Legal Aid Unit, who talked about the national approach for
the protection of civilians in Palestine, highlighting PCHR's position and experience with regard to the protection of civilians.

**UN Conference of Civil Society in Support of Middle East Peace – France**

On 12 and 13 July 2005, Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, participated in the UN Conference of Civil Society in Support of Middle East Peace, which was held in Paris. The conference aimed to offer an opportunity to civil society organizations from all regions of the world to discuss the situation in the OPT, including Jerusalem, and develop action-oriented proposals in support of Middle Eastern peace. The conference discussed a number of issues, including: the roles of civil society organizations; strategies for mobilization of public opinion; strategies to incorporate governments; European civil society and support for Middle Eastern peace; cooperation with the UN; campaigns for support of the Middle Eastern peace; and activation of civil society's initiatives.

**Arab Regional Consultative Meeting on International Criminal Court – Yemen**

On 13 and 14 August 2005, Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, on invitation from the Arab Sister Forum for Human Rights, participated in the Arab Regional Consultative Meeting on the International Criminal Court, which was held in Sana'a. The meeting aimed to coordinate the endorsement of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, exchanging information and thoughts on the stand of Middle Eastern and North African countries and studying the challenges that hinder endorsement and implementation of the Statute. Sourani who headed the first session of the meeting talked about the conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, which constitute a motive to support the International Criminal Court, pointing that the greatest challenge facing the Court is the bilateral agreements concluded between the United States and other countries to protect its citizens.

**Workshop on Restrictions Imposed on Activities of NGOs – Netherlands**

From 5 to 7 July 2005, Hamdi Shaqqura, Director of Democratic Development Unit, participated in a workshop organized by NOVIB for its partners in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus to deal with restrictions imposed on activities of NGOs. The workshop was held in the Hague.

**Meeting of the European NGOs Coordination Committee on the Palestinian Cause – Brussels**

On 8 October 2005, the European NGOs Coordination Committee held a meeting in Brussels on the Palestinian cause. Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, submitted a working paper, which was read on his behalf as he was not able to travel due to the closure imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip. The paper discussed the human rights situation in the OPT, especially in the Gaza Strip following the implementation of the Disengagement Plan, and PCHR's positions towards developments in Palestine.
**Discussion Group – India**

On 22 and 23 October 2005, Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, participated in a discussion group organized by the Coalition for the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons with a working paper that was read on his behalf, as he was unable to travel. In his paper, Sourani discussed the Israeli unilateral redeployment from the Gaza Strip, the future of the OPT and the responsibilities of the international community in this regard.

**Conference on the Palestinian Cause in International Law – UK**

On 26 and 27 November 2005, Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, participated in a conference organized by the Institute of Middle Eastern and African Studies in London on the Palestinian cause in international law. He delivered a speech on the legal status of the Gaza Strip following the implementation of the Israeli Disengagement Plan, emphasizing that the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip is still effective in its physical and legal form. Sourani also discussed the Palestinian–Israeli agreement on border crossings, which maintains Israeli control over border crossing under international observation. Sourani further highlighted the goals of the Israeli Disengagement Plan, including moving the attention away from the essence of the Palestinian–Israeli conflict and creating irreversible facts on the ground in the West Bank.

**Meeting of the FIDH International Bureau – Paris**

From 2 to 4 December 2005, Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, participated in the meeting of the International Bureau of FIDH in Paris.

**International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People – Brussels**

On 3 December 2005, Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, participated in activities of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People organized by the Palestinian–Belgian Society in Brussels. These activities included three workshops on Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails; economic and social impacts of the Israeli Disengagement Plan; the Euro-Israel Association Agreement and European policy. Sourani spoke in the second workshop on the economic and social impacts of the Israeli Disengagement Plan.

**Seminar on Elections Monitoring – Cairo**

From 4 to 8 December 2005, Hamdi Shaqqura, Head of Democratic Development Unit, participated in a round table program for Arab activists on the subjects of elections monitoring and electoral reform, organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI). Shaqqura was also a member of a commission of 10 experts in democracy established by the NDI and the Egyptian governments to survey the public environment during the elections as part of the NDI’s activities.
Annual Meeting of the Coalition for Peace – Rome

On invitation from Ms. Alexandra Macozni, Secretary General of the Coalition for Peace, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, delivered a speech at the annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Coalition. At least 200 members of this organization from around the world and Ms. Luisa Morgantini, a Member of the European Parliament, attended the meeting. In his speech, Mr. Sourani first talked about the Palestinian parliamentary elections, which were due to be held on 25 January 2005. Sourani asserted that the unilateral disengagement plan implemented by Israel in the Gaza Strip was an attempt to promote the idea of the lack of a Palestinian political partner. It has undoubtedly proven since that Israel was and is still an occupying power in the Gaza Strip, as it controls the lives of Gaza’s Palestinian civilian population. Mr. Sourani then spoke about the operation of the Rafah International Crossing Point, which Israel controls, through international monitoring teams and video cameras.

Meeting of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers – Rome

During his visit to Rome, Raji Sourani held an extensive meeting at the offices of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers. He talked about the situation in the OPT and PCHR's joint efforts with its partners to prosecute those suspected of committing war crimes against Palestinian civilians before the international judiciary in London, New York and Bern. It is worth noting that Mr. Sourani is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Union of Democratic Lawyers in Paris.

Meeting at the British Foreign Ministry

Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, Daniel Machover and Ms. Emily Thornbury, a Member of the British Parliament, held a meeting with Mr. Richard Bradley, Director of the Judicial Cooperation Department at the British Interior Ministry, along with his aide Ms. Claire Field and Mr. Murphy from the British Foreign Ministry. The legal team was mainly interested in the two visits by two Israeli delegations to the British Foreign Ministry and Interior Ministry after a British court had issued an arrest warrant against General Doron Almog. The legal team criticized Mr. Jack Straw's statement, in which he apologized for the arrest warrant. The team asserted that this statement undermines the rule of law in the United Kingdom as a democratic country. Mr. Sourani asserted that the United Kingdom as a High Contracting Party to the Fourth Geneva Convention is obliged to act to ensure the rule of law practically and legally, and that none of its official bodies should act above the law. He further asserted that there is a need to apply justice without selectivity or politicization.
Visiting International Delegations and Figures

PCHR pays special attention to activities related to receiving international delegations and figures, as part of its efforts to provide the international community with a comprehensive overview and explanation of violations of human rights perpetrated by IOF in the OPT. PCHR organizes visits for these delegations and figures throughout the Gaza Strip, giving them the opportunity to meet victims of human rights violations. These delegations and people include politicians, diplomats, representatives of the United Nations bodies and human rights organizations and journalists.

In 2005, PCHR received many visitors. During some of these visits, PCHR escorted delegations on field visits to areas of the Gaza Strip most affected by the policies and practices of IOF. Since 2003, Israeli authorities have imposed unprecedented restrictions on access for internationals to the Gaza Strip.

Director of the ICRC

On 12 January 2005, PCHR received the Director of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Gaza, Juan Coderaue. He met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, who discussed with him the human rights situation in the OPT and cooperation and coordination between PCHR and the ICRC.

Observers from the EU Election Observation Mission

On 26 January 2005, PCHR received four observers from the EU Observation Mission for the Palestinian presidential election. The visitors met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, who discussed with them the presidential election, PCHR's notes and preparations for monitoring of local council elections.

Swedish Consul for Political Affairs

On 27 January 2005, PCHR received Ann Mawe, the Swedish Consul for Political Affairs, accompanied by Sofia Zitouni, from the Swedish Consulate. The two diplomats met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, who briefed them on the human rights situation in the OPT.

Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the Situation of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

On 13 February 2005, PCHR received the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the Situation of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, John Dugard at its offices in Gaza City. Dugard met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, who briefed him on Israeli violations of human rights and their impacts on the lives of Palestinian Civilians.

Representative of Switzerland to the PNA

On 15 February 2005, PCHR received a Swiss delegation that included the Swiss Representative to the PNA, Jean-Jacques Joris, and two staff members from the
representative office. The delegation met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, at PCHR's offices in Gaza City. Sourani briefed the delegation on the human rights situation in the OPT and PCHR's position towards the Israeli Disengagement Plan from the Gaza Strip. He also talked about the Palestinian presidential election and the local council elections, highlighting PCHR's role in the monitoring of these elections.

**A Delegation from the Scottish Church**

On 15 February 2005, PCHR received a two-member delegation from the Scottish Church. The director of PCHR met with the delegation and briefed them on Israeli violations of human rights and their impacts on the lives of Palestinian civilians.

**Social Development Specialist at the World Bank**

On 19 February 2005, PCHR received Dr. Tanja Hohe, social development specialist at the World Bank. Dr. Hohe met with the Deputy Director of PCHR, Jaber Wishah, and the Head of the Democratic Development Unit, Hamdi Shaqqura. They briefed her on the human rights situation in the OPT and the economic and social impacts of the Israeli Disengagement Plan. The also emphasized the need to increase the aid provided by the World Bank to the Palestinian people and warned of any step that could be taken by the World Bank, which may legitimize the occupation, including claims regarding the World Bank's intention to buy Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip.

**A Delegation from the YMCA**

On 19 February 2005, PCHR received at its offices in Gaza City a two-member delegation from the YMCA. The delegation, which was accompanied by Mousa Saba, Director of YMCA in the Gaza Strip, and Eissa Saba, Director of the Canaan Institute, met with Jaber Wishah, Deputy Director of PCHR. Weshah briefed the delegation on the human rights situation in the OPT.

**Austrian Representative to the PNA**

On 10 March 2005, PCHR received the Austrian Representative to the PNA, Leon Hard Moll, at its offices in Gaza City. He met with the Director of PCHR, Jaber Wishah, who briefed him on the human rights situation in the OPT.

**A Delegation from the International Labor Organization**

On 6 April 2005, PCHR received a 6-member delegation from the International Labor Organization. The delegation met with Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, at PCHR's offices in Gaza City. Sourani briefed the delegation on the human rights situation in the OPT and the impacts of Israeli violations of economic and social rights on certain sectors of the Palestinian population, such as workers and traders.

**Norwegian Deputy Minister of Development and Cooperation**

On 7 April 2005, PCHR received the Norwegian Deputy Minister of Development and Cooperation, Leiv Lunde, at its offices in Gaza City. He met with the Director of
PCHR, Raji Sourani, who briefed him on the human rights situation in the OPT and the impacts of Israeli violations of human rights on the lives of Palestinian civilians.

**Swedish Consul for Political Affairs**

On 13 April 2005, PCHR received at its office the Swedish Consul for Political Affairs, Ann Mawe. Mawe met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, who spoke during the meeting about Israeli violations of human rights and their impacts on the lives of Palestinian civilians.

**A Delegation from Palestine 33 and Palestine 24**

On 18 April 2005, PCHR received at its offices in Gaza City a delegation from Palestine 33 and Palestine 24. The delegation met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, who spoke during the meeting about the human rights situation in the OPT. The delegation, escorted by a number of PCHR's staff members, were also given a tour in the al-Mawasi area of the southern Gaza Strip and the al-Sayafa area of the northern Gaza Strip, which had been under a strict Israeli siege at the time. Members of the delegation met with a number of residents from the two areas, who talked about their suffering as a result of Israeli practices against them.

**A Delegation of International Election Observers from the National Democratic Institute**

On 23 April 2005, PCHR received at its offices in Gaza City a 4-member delegation of international election observers from the National Democratic Institute (NDI). Members of the delegation met with the Head of the Democratic Development Unit and the supervisor for PCHR's campaign for monitoring Palestinian elections, Hamdi Shaqqura. During the meeting, Shaqqura talked about the human rights situation in the OPT and PCHR's role in monitoring the presidential election and local council elections.

**A Delegation of International Election Observers from NDI**

On 3 May 2005, PCHR received at its offices in Gaza City a 20-member delegation of international election observers from the NDI. Members of the delegation met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, and the Head of the Democratic Development Unit, Hamdi Shaqqura, who briefed them on PCHR's efforts in monitoring the electoral process.

**European Commission Official**

On 12 May 2005, PCHR received at its offices in Gaza City Yasmine Rockenfeller, Task Manager of Social Sector, European Commission.

**A Delegation from Friends of Sabeel**

On 21 May 2005, PCHR received at its offices in Gaza City a delegation from Canadian Friends of Sabeel. Members of the delegation met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, who briefed them on the human rights situation in the OPT.
An American Church Delegation

On 24 May 2005, PCHR received at its offices in Gaza City a 9-member American church delegation. Members of the delegation met with the Deputy Director of PCHR, Jaber Wishah, who briefed them on the human rights situation in the OPT and the impacts of Israeli violations of human rights on the lives of Palestinian civilians.

A Delegation from the Carter Center for Human Rights

On 24 May 2005, PCHR received a 3-member delegation from the Carter Center for Human Rights. Members of the delegation met with the Deputy Director of PCHR, Jaber Wishah, who briefed them on human rights violations perpetrated by IOF against Palestinian civilians, including house demolitions, land leveling, extra-judicial executions, shelling and arrests.

Coordinator of the Housing and Land Network, Habitat International Coalition

On 28 May 2005, PCHR received at its offices in Gaza City Joseph Shakla, Coordinator of the Housing and Land Network, Habitat International Coalition. He met with the Deputy Director of PCHR, Jaber Wishah, who briefed him on human rights violations perpetrated by IOF against Palestinian civilians, particularly house demolitions.

Australian Consul and Representative of Australia to the PNA

On 15 June 2005, PCHR received the Australian Consul, Tony Pobjie, and the Representative of Australia to the PNA, Glenn Miles. The two visitors met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, who briefed them on the human rights situation in the OPT.

French Vice Consul

On 15 June 2005, PCHR received the French Vice Consul at its offices in Gaza City. He met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, who briefed him on the human rights situation in the OPT.

A Delegation from Medicins Du Monde

On 28 June 2005, PCHR received a delegation from Medicins Du Monde. Members of the delegation met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, who briefed them on the living conditions of Palestinian civilians and their suffering resulting from Israeli violations of human rights.

A Delegation from the European Youth Union

On 4 July 2005, PCHR received a 30-member delegation from the European Youth Union. Members of the delegation met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, who briefed them on the human rights situation in the OPT and human rights violations perpetrated by IOF against Palestinian civilians.
**Director of the ICRC in Gaza**

On 5 July 2005, PCHR received at its offices in Gaza City Juan Coderaue, the Director of the ICRC in Gaza. He met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani. They discussed several issues, including the living conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and coordination and cooperation between PCHR and the ICRC.

**A Delegation from the EU and the Quartet**

On 20 August 2005, PCHR received at its offices in Gaza City John Cagayer, Director of the Middle East Section at the EU, and Christine Burger, a member of the Quartet committee for withdrawal.

**A Belgian Parliamentary Delegation**

On 1 September 2005, PCHR received a Belgian parliamentary delegation. PCHR's staff members briefed members of the delegation on the human rights situation in the OPT. Then, members of the delegation were given a field tour in the Gaza Strip and witnessed the damage resulting from Israeli military operations. They also met with a number of Palestinian civilians, who had been impacted by Israeli attacks.

**Attaché of the Spanish Consulate**

On 6 September 2005, PCHR received at its office in Gaza City Diego Barjo Mogado, the Attaché of the Spanish Consulate. He met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, who briefed him on the human rights situation in the OPT.

**A Delegation from the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network**

On 5 October 2005, PCHR received a delegation from the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network to evaluate the situation in the Gaza Strip following the implementation of the Disengagement Plan. The delegation included Per Stadig, Stefan Lutgenan and Marita Roos. Members of the delegation met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, who discussed with them the situation following the implementation of the Israeli Disengagement Plan. They spent 5 days in Gaza, during which they met with a number of public figures and were given a tour throughout the Gaza Strip.

**OCHA Head of Mission**

On 5 October 2005, PCHR received David Shearer, Head of Mission for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and an accompanying delegation. They met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani. The meeting discussed the impacts of the Israeli Disengagement Plan.

**A Delegation from Christian Aid**

On 6 October 2005, PCHR received a delegation from Christian Aid. Members of the delegation met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani. The meeting discussed the
challenges facing the OPT following the implementation of the Israeli Disengagement Plan.

**Danish Vice Consul**

On 9 November 2005, PCHR received the Danish Vice Consul. He met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, who briefed him on the economic and social impacts of the Israeli Disengagement Plan.

**Austrian Representative to the PNA**

On 11 October 2005, PCHR received at its offices in Gaza City the Austrian Representative to the PNA, Leon Hard Moll. He met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, who briefed him on the economic and social impacts of the Israeli Disengagement Plan.

**Belgian Minister of Justice**

On 13 November 2005, PCHR received Mrs. Laurette Onkelinx, Minister of Justice in Belgium, and an accompanying delegation. They met with the Director of PCHR, Raji Sourani, and the Head of the Democratic Development Unit, Hamdi Shaqqura, who briefed them on the impacts of the Israeli Disengagement Plan. Sourani and Shaqqura also talked about the Israeli system of justice and its discrimination against Palestinian civilians.

**Visitors to PCHR in 2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Visitors</th>
<th>Number of Visitors</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 January</td>
<td>Susan Bertoni, UNAIS</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 January</td>
<td>Stephanie David – FIDH</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 January</td>
<td>Dominic Nutt, Press Officer, Christian Aid</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nicholas McNally, International Commission of Jurists – Australian Section</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 January</td>
<td>Arjan El Fassed, Beleidsmedewerker Mensenrechten &amp; Conflicten Novib, Oxfam, Netherlands</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 January</td>
<td>Dr. Niall Holhan, Head of Irish Representative Office to the PNA</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 January</td>
<td>A delegation of election observers from the National Democratic Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 January</td>
<td>An Italian delegation from Action for Peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 January</td>
<td>Eddie Makue, Director, Justice Ministry, South African Council of Churches</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 January</td>
<td>Wael Kirresh, Safety and Security Officer, CARE International West Bank &amp; Gaza, Ferial Snonou, Care International</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 January</td>
<td>Juan Coderaue, Director of the ICRC, Gaza</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 January</td>
<td>A delegation of observers from the EU Election Observation Mission</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 January</td>
<td>Luis Castellar, External Consultant, LSU/UNDP</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 January</td>
<td>- William Sieghart, Chairman, Forward Thinking, London&lt;br&gt;- Oliver McTernan, Director, Forward Thinking, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 January</td>
<td>A delegation of French observers, Lyon</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 January</td>
<td>- Ann Mawe, Consul for Political Affairs, Swedish Consulate&lt;br&gt;- Sofia Zitouni, SIDA, Swedish Consultant&lt;br&gt;- Miss Sben, Netherlands Representative Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 February</td>
<td>A meeting with Sakher Bsaisu, the Governor of Northern Gaza, at his office</td>
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<td>1 February</td>
<td>Peter Hansen, UNRWA Commissioner General (Meeting at his office)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 February</td>
<td>Mahmoud Ba’lousha and Eyad Bala’awi, Tamer Insitute in Gaza, and two French human rights defenders</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8 February</td>
<td>- Emma Playfair, Regional Representative for the Middle East and North Africa, the Ford Foundation, Cairo&lt;br&gt;- Brand Smith, Vice President of the Ford Foundation, New York</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 February</td>
<td>John Dugard, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the Situation of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and an accompanying delegation</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 February</td>
<td>Jean-Jacques Joris, Representative Office of Switzerland to the PA and an accompanying delegation</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 February</td>
<td>- Rev. Clarence Musgrave, Minister, the Church of Scotland&lt;br&gt;- Morag Mylne, Convener, Committee on Church and Nation</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 February</td>
<td>A delegation from YMCA in Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 February</td>
<td>Baty Manuela, Psychologist, Doctors without Borders</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 February</td>
<td>Dr. Tanja Hohe, Social Development Specialist, the World Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 February</td>
<td>A delegation from YMCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>Christian Bauzerand, Judge, Legal Consultant, French General Consulate</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 February</td>
<td>- Nuala Ryan, Delegate, ICRC, Gaza&lt;br&gt;- Ynske Vandormael, Delegate, ICRC, Gaza</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 March</td>
<td>Kate Maynard, Solicitor, Hickman &amp; Rose, Human Rights Specialists, UK</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Chris Burns-Cox, Dove and Dolphin, UK</td>
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<td></td>
<td>David Halpin, Dove and Dolphin, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 March</td>
<td>Katie Hesketh, Intern, Addalah</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>8 March</td>
<td>Bishara Shahin, the Representative Office of South Africa to the PNA</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>A delegation from Christian Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 March</td>
<td>Leon Hard Moll, Head of the Austria Representative Office to the PNA</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 March</td>
<td>A delegation of mothers through al-Salah Islamic Society</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 March</td>
<td>Thierry Senechal, Principal, Consultants for French Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Souha Shehadah, Consultant, Consultants for French Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>Lucy Mair, Human Rights Watch</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Widney Brown, Deputy Program Director, Human Rights Watch</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>Richa Sing, a gender researcher</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>Dr. Yousef Abu Safiya, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>A delegation from Grassroots International</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 April</td>
<td>A delegation from International Labor Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 April</td>
<td>Mr. Leiv Lunde, Deputy Minister of Development Cooperation, Norway</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 April</td>
<td>Dr. Harald Hass, Senior Researcher, National Defense Academy, Vienna</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 April</td>
<td>Christian Sterzing, Director, Heinrich Boll Foundation, Arab Middle East Office, Ramallah</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jochen Kortlander, Project Coordinator, Heinrich Boll Foundation, Arab Middle East Office, Ramallah</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 April</td>
<td>Maria Lahood, Staff Attorney, Center for Constitutional Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 April</td>
<td>Ann Mawe, Consul for Political Affairs, Swedish Consulate</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 April</td>
<td>Susan Bertoni, UNAIS</td>
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<td>13 April</td>
<td>Christian Bauzerand, Judge, Legal Consultant, French General Consulate</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Tariq Abdul Shafi</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 April</td>
<td>A lunch meeting with:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Juan Coderauae, Director of the ICRC, Gaza</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Geordie Rashi, Director of the ICRC, Jerusalem</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Susana Swann, Head of the ICRC Operations in the Near East</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 April</td>
<td>A delegation from Palestine 24 and Palestine 33</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 April</td>
<td>Katrin Buchholz, German Foreign Ministry</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Group/Delegation</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 April</td>
<td>A dinner meeting with Alberto Uslai, Spanish Vice Consul</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 April</td>
<td>Ross Reid, Deputy Minister, Office of the Premier, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 April</td>
<td>A delegation from the National Democratic Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 April</td>
<td>Abdul Salam Si Ahmed, Head of the Middle East Office, Amnesty International Donatella Rovera, Amnesty International</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 April</td>
<td>A delegation of US human right defenders</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 May</td>
<td>British group of Politicians and Businessmen</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 May</td>
<td>A delegation from the National Democratic Institute</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 May</td>
<td>A delegation of French, Italian and Dutch election observers</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 May</td>
<td>Jeanuette Sepper, Office of the EU Special Representative to the Middle East Peace Process</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 May</td>
<td>Niall Holohan, Head of the Irish Representative Office to the PNA</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 May</td>
<td>Emma Wall, Brown University, Denmark</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 May</td>
<td>Johanne M. G. van Dijk, Project Officer, OCHA</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 May</td>
<td>Tony Gleeson, DFA, Ireland</td>
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<td>11 May</td>
<td>Ronan Desmond, DSW, Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 May</td>
<td>A delegation from Catholic Relief Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>Yasmine Rockenfeller, Task Manager of Social Sector, European Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 May</td>
<td>Susan Bertoni, UNAIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 May</td>
<td>John Kjaer, Representative, European Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 May</td>
<td>Hiba Al Qedwa, Consultant, Ford Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 May</td>
<td>A Canadian delegation headed by Rev. John Bridges</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 May</td>
<td>Philip Courtiau, Regional Project Manager, Handicap International</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 May</td>
<td>A delegation from Church Group, America</td>
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<td>24 May</td>
<td>A delegation from the Carter Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 May</td>
<td>A dinner meeting with a delegation from the Norwegian Foreign Ministry and Representative Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 May</td>
<td>Joseph Shakla, Coordinator, Housing and Land Network, Habitat International Coalition</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 May</td>
<td>Tove Myhrman, Programme Advisor, Save the Children, Sweden</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 May</td>
<td>Steven Malby, UNICEF</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 May</td>
<td>Reem Tarazi, UNICEF</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 May</td>
<td>An American delegation headed by Cecile Surasky, Director of Communications, Jewish Voice for Peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Name and Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 June</td>
<td>Tetsuya Nakamura, Campaign for the Children of Palestine</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8 June</td>
<td>- Sofia Zitouni, SIDA&lt;br&gt;- Sebastien Fustier, French Consulate</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 June</td>
<td>A dinner meeting with a delegation from Christian Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 June</td>
<td>- Anne Levin, Kvinna Till Kvinna</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 June</td>
<td>- Glenn Miles, Representative, the Australian Representative Office&lt;br&gt;- Tony Pobjie, Consul and Second Secretary, the Australian Embassy</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 June</td>
<td>Emma Wall, Brown University, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 June</td>
<td>Dr. Ussama Antar, Friedrich Ebert Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 June</td>
<td>A meeting with John Dugard, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the Situation of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and the UN High Commissioner Office in Gaza</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 June</td>
<td>- Marie Rajablat, Responsible of Mission, Mental Health Referent, Medecins Du Monde, France&lt;br&gt;- Regis Garrigue, Mission Advisor, Medecins Du Monde, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 June</td>
<td>A delegation from Christian Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 July</td>
<td>A delegation from the Technological Education Institute of Athens</td>
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<td>3 July</td>
<td>Tonia Diken, a postgraduate student, Norway</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 July</td>
<td>A delegation from the European Youth Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 July</td>
<td>Juan Coderaue, Director of the ICRC, Gaza</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 July</td>
<td>Mette Visti, Chief Consultant, MA Inst. and Socio-Economic Development, Copenhagen</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 July</td>
<td>Dr. Jonas Jolle, First Secretary, Political Affairs, the Representative Office of Norway to PNA</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 July</td>
<td>The wife of the Irish Representative to the PNA</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 July</td>
<td>A delegation from the National Democratic Institute headed by Michael Murphy</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 July</td>
<td>A delegation from the Basque region, Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 July</td>
<td>- Brard Remi, Président, Comite Saintonge Palestine &amp; Palestine 33&lt;br&gt;- Masuatric Laetitia, CCFD, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 July</td>
<td>Dr. Ghada al-Karmi, Palestinian Ministry of Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 August</td>
<td>Maria – Elena Ciccolini, ICRC</td>
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<td>2 August</td>
<td>Dr. Fadia Daibes, Dan Church Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 August</td>
<td>A delegation from the Spanish Consulate, the Belgian Consulate and the European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 August</td>
<td>Mara E. Rudman, Senior Vice President for Strategic Planning, Center for American Progress</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 August</td>
<td>Joachim Paul, Program Director, UNICEF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Position</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 August</td>
<td>Seamus Dunne</td>
<td>Senior Social Development Officer, International Management Group (IMG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 August</td>
<td>John Kjaer</td>
<td>EU Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 August</td>
<td>Christian Berger</td>
<td>EU Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 August</td>
<td>Alvaro De Soto</td>
<td>UN Special Coordinator for the Middle Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary General to the PLO and PNA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 August</td>
<td>Paul Prettitore</td>
<td>Legal Advisor, World Bank, West Bank and Gaza office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 August</td>
<td>Christian Bauzerand</td>
<td>Judge, Legal Consultant, French Consulate</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 August</td>
<td>Susan Bertoni</td>
<td>UNAIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 September</td>
<td>Fadia Daibes Murad</td>
<td>Dan Church Aid</td>
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<td>4 September</td>
<td>Pierre Beaudet</td>
<td>Executive Director, Alternatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 September</td>
<td>Diego Barjo Mogado</td>
<td>Attaché, Spanish Consulate</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 September</td>
<td>A meeting with the French Foreign Minister at the French Cultural Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 September</td>
<td>A meeting with Juan Coderaue, Director of the ICRC in Gaza at his office</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 September</td>
<td>Julia Wickham</td>
<td>Director of Labour Middle East Council, London</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 September</td>
<td>Christian Berger</td>
<td>EU Representative Office of the Special Envoy for Disengagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 September</td>
<td>Stuart Shepherd</td>
<td>Humanitarian Affairs Officer, UNOCHA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 October</td>
<td>Elisabeth Petersen</td>
<td>Project Manager, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 October</td>
<td>Bettina Huber</td>
<td>N(O)VIB Oxfam Netherlands, Programme Officer Middle East and Maghreb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 October</td>
<td>A delegation from the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network to evaluate the situation in the Gaza Strip following the implementation of the Disengagement Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 October</td>
<td>David Shearer</td>
<td>Head of Mission, OCHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 6 October  | Ramani Leathard, Regional Communication Manager, Asia and Middle East Division, Christian Aid  
             | Rev., Dr. Mark Gray, Presbyterian church in Ireland |
| 6 October  | Ms. Hina Jilani, the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders at UNDP Office through video conference meeting. |
| 10 October | Charles Clayton, National Director, World Vision  
             | Kelly Nau, Assistant to the National Director, World Vision |
| 11 October | Leon Hard Moll, Head of the Austrian Representative Office, Gaza  
             | Sami Abu Sultan, the Austrian Representative Office, Gaza |
| 11 October | A Swiss delegation from Collectif Urgence Palestine |
| 12 October | William Bell, Advocacy Officer for Palestinians and Israel, Christian Aid  
             | Abi Hewitt, DEMOS  
             | Hannah Lownsbrough, DEMOS (Building everyday democracy)  
             | Rachel Briggs, Head of International Programme, DEMOS |
| 13 October | Karen Koning Abu Zayd, Office of UNRWA Commissioner – General |
| 16 October | Fredrik Kirst, Consul, Political Affairs, Swedish Consulate |
| 19 October | Jack Fournier, French Expert, Head of Cooperation of the French Consulate |
| 23 October | A group of students from UNRWA preparatory schools |
| 24 October | A group of female students from UNRWA preparatory schools |
| 30 October | Barry M. Ward, Fine Gael, Ireland |
| 5 November | A delegation of Friends of Sabeel, USA |
| 9 November | Jan Pirouz Pulsen, Deputy Head, Royal Danish Representative Office  
<pre><code>         | Karsten Sparre Andersen, Personal Protection Officer, Danish Security Intelligence Service |
</code></pre>
<p>| 11 November | A meeting with a delegation from the European Parliament at the offices of Gaza Community Mental Health Programme |
| 13 November | Mrs. Laurette Onkelinx, Minister of Justice in Belgium, and an accompanying delegation |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting Details</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 November</td>
<td>A meeting with:</td>
<td>Mr. Carsten Stauer, Secretary of State, Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Mr. Carsten Stauer, Secretary of State, Denmark</td>
<td>Rolf M.H.P Holmboe, Head of Royal Danish Representative Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Rolf M.H.P Holmboe, Head of Royal Danish Representative Office</td>
<td>Jane Pirouz Pulsen, Deputy Head, Royal Danish Representative Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 November</td>
<td>- Lara Deramaix, Desk Officer, Advocats sans Frontieres, Belgium</td>
<td>Koen De Groof, Intern, Advocats sans Frontieres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- H.E. Ambassador Chinmaya R. Gharekhan, Special Envoy of the Government of India for West Asia and the Middle East Peace Process</td>
<td>Ohmprakash, the Representative of India to PNA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 November</td>
<td>Mas'oud al-Agha and Hassan Yassin, Media Department, Palestinian Ministry of Interior</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18 November</td>
<td>Manhoor Yar Khan, the Indian Representative Office to the PNA</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 November</td>
<td>A delegation from Friedrich Ebert Stiftung</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 November</td>
<td>A delegation from the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 December</td>
<td>A Swiss delegation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11-12 December</td>
<td>A delegation from Friedrich Ebert Stiftung</td>
<td>Ms. Agneta Johansson, ILAC Deputy Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Ms. Agneta Johansson, ILAC Deputy Director</td>
<td>Ms. Anne Ramberg, Secretary General of the Swedish Bar Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Ms. Anne Ramberg, Secretary General of the Swedish Bar Association</td>
<td>Dr. Phillip Tahmindjis, Programme Lawyer in the International Bar Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 December</td>
<td>Andrea Kämpf, Public Sector GmbH, ICON-Institute</td>
<td>Eduard Hoffmann, Team Leader, ICON-Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 December</td>
<td>A meeting with Rols Holmboe, Head of Mission, Danish Representative Office to the PNA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 December</td>
<td>Emma Playfair, Regional Representative for the Middle East and North Africa, the Ford Foundation</td>
<td>Barry Gaberman, Senior Vice-President, the Ford Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 December</td>
<td>Richard Gee, Long Term Observer, National Democratic Institute</td>
<td>Yasser Abu Mo'aileq, National Democratic Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 December</td>
<td>An Ukrainian observer through the National Democratic Institute</td>
<td>Yousef al-Hajjar, National Democratic Institute</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Interviews with Local and International Media in 2005**

PCHR continues to promote cooperation with local and international media. PCHR considers that the media plays a vital role in spreading information on the human rights and humanitarian situation in the OPT. In 2005, PCHR continued to conduct interviews with local and international media and respond to requests for information on human rights in the OPT.

**Media Interviews Conducted by PCHR Staff In 2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names of Journalists and Media Organizations</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 January</td>
<td>Alan Johnston, BBC</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 January</td>
<td>Antonio Fischetti, French Journalist</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 January</td>
<td>Hazem Badaru, Abu Dhabi Satellite Channel</td>
<td>Elections</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 January</td>
<td>Samer 'Akkila, al-Aqsa Radio, Gaza</td>
<td>Extra-judicial executions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 January</td>
<td>Andrew Mueller, French Journalist</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 January</td>
<td>Sille Mortius, Financial Times, Berlin</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 January</td>
<td>Michinobu Yanagisawa, Middle East Correspondent, Cairo Bureau – The Japanese daily Yomiuri Shimbun</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 January</td>
<td>Palestine Radio</td>
<td>The Israeli High Court ruling concerning house demolitions in Rafah</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 January</td>
<td>Al Alam News Channel</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 February</td>
<td>Naoki Higuchi, Jerusalem Bureau Chief, the Mainichi Newspapers</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 February</td>
<td>Voice of Peace, South Africa</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>Matthew Tostevin, Bureau Chief, Reuters</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 February</td>
<td>Iqra Television</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 February</td>
<td>Jameela Abu Shanab, all-Hurra News Channel</td>
<td>Women and elections</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 March</td>
<td>Al Alam News Channel</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 March</td>
<td>Oman Television</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 March</td>
<td>Dr. Carolin Emcke, Foreign News, Der Spiegel, Germany</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Name, Organization, Location</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<td>------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 April</td>
<td>Lysander Palmisano, Film Maker, Independent, USA</td>
<td>Documentary film on Palestinian Christians and the Situation in West Bank and Gaza</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 April</td>
<td>Harvey Morris, Bureau Chief, Financial Times</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 May</td>
<td>Gideon Lichfield, Jerusalem Correspondent, the Economist</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 May</td>
<td>Al Alam News Channel</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 May</td>
<td>Palestine Television</td>
<td>The dispersion of Palestinians in 1948 (Nakba)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 May</td>
<td>Ibrahim Barzaq, Associated Press Office, Gaza</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 May</td>
<td>Rene Backmann, Foreign Editor, Le Nouvel Observateur, Paris</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 June</td>
<td>France Radio</td>
<td>The release of 400 Palestinian prisoners</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 June</td>
<td>Germany Radio</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 July</td>
<td>Harvey Morris, Bureau Chief, Financial Times</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td>6 July</td>
<td>Al-Sharq Radio, Paris</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 July</td>
<td>Laura King, Bureau Chief, Los Angeles Times</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td>31 July</td>
<td>Al-Karmel Magazine</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td>1 August</td>
<td>Astrid Frefel, Swiss daily newspaper</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td>3 August</td>
<td>Ricardo Mir, Correspondent, ATB, Spain, Reforma (Mexico)</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 August</td>
<td>Kitty Lojin, Sky, Freelance Journalist, UK</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 August</td>
<td>Kando Yoshihiro, Correspondent, Middle Eastern and African General Bureau, the Asahi Shimbun</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td>15 August</td>
<td>France Television</td>
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<td>16 August</td>
<td>BBC</td>
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<td>16 August</td>
<td>Sharmila Devi, Reporter, Financial Times</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 August</td>
<td>Iren Meier, Foreign Editor, Swiss National Public Radio</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 August</td>
<td>Sybille Oetliker Carera, Swiss Journalist</td>
<td>The Israeli Disengagement Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 August</td>
<td>Al-Sharq Radio, Paris</td>
<td>The Israeli Disengagement Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Source/Channel</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<td>23 August</td>
<td>Voice of Islam, South Africa</td>
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<td>BBC Radio</td>
<td>The Israeli Disengagement Plan</td>
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<td>23 August</td>
<td>Al-Arabiya News Channel</td>
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<td>23 August</td>
<td>NBC</td>
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<td>25 August</td>
<td>Cecile Feuillatre, Agence France Presse (AFP)</td>
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<td>28 August</td>
<td>Richard Crowley, Journalist, Radio Telefis Eireann RTE (Irish TV/Radio)</td>
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<td>28 August</td>
<td>Safaa Kanj, Reporter, Middle East Bureau - AFP</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td>29 August</td>
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<td>Ahmed Sabawi, Spanish TV</td>
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<td>5 September</td>
<td>Hiba Humaid, al-Rai Magazine</td>
<td>Palestinian refugees</td>
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<td>5 September</td>
<td>Tom Hill, freelance journalist</td>
<td>Educated people in Palestine</td>
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<td>6 September</td>
<td>Egypt Television</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td>Gilles Paris – Correspondent – Le Monde</td>
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<td>7 September</td>
<td>BBC</td>
<td>The assassination of Mousa Arafat</td>
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<td>7 September</td>
<td>France International Radio</td>
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<td>Voice of Arabs, Egypt</td>
<td>The assassination of Mousa Arafat</td>
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<td>7 September</td>
<td>Le Monde</td>
<td>The assassination of Mousa Arafat</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 September</td>
<td>Alexandra Lucas Coelho, the Portuguese daily Publico</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td>13 September</td>
<td>Al-Arabiya News Channel A Swedish newspaper Al-Iman Radio, Gaza</td>
<td>The Israeli Disengagement Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 September</td>
<td>CNN</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td>15 September</td>
<td>Georges Malbrunot, Middle East Reporter, Le Figaro</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 September</td>
<td>• Harvey Morris, Bureau Chief, Financial Times</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Roy Fiswor, Correspondent, Canada</td>
<td></td>
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<td>• Ken Moriyasu, Correspondent, Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>Topic</td>
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<td>17 September</td>
<td>Palestine Television</td>
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<td>Daubai Satellite Channel</td>
<td>The legal situation in the OPT</td>
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<td>20 September</td>
<td>Matt Rees, Bureau Chief, Time</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td>21 September</td>
<td>BBC Radio</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td>24 September</td>
<td>Al-Quds Daily, Palestine</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td>9 October</td>
<td>David Lennon and John Leyne, BBC News</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td>Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel through Ramatan</td>
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<td>26 October</td>
<td>Voice of Arabs, Egypt</td>
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<td>29 October</td>
<td>Watan newspaper</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td>Nancy Updik, Middle East Correspondent, NPR</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jon Elmer, Photojournalist, Middle East Bureau, the New Standard, Canada</td>
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<td>12 November</td>
<td>Jorgan Laurvig, Senior Correspondent, Denmark Radio</td>
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<td>13 November</td>
<td>Rene Backmann, Observateur</td>
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<td>14 November</td>
<td>BBC Radio</td>
<td>The Israeli Disengagement Plan and Rafah Intern</td>
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<td>15 November</td>
<td>Voice of Islam, South Africa</td>
<td>The agreement on border crossings</td>
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<td>15 November</td>
<td>Jane Kinninmont, Managing Editor, Middle East and Africa, Business Monitor International</td>
<td>Economic and social impacts of the Disengagement Plan</td>
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<td>24 November</td>
<td>Harvy Morris, Financial Times</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 November</td>
<td>Hidenori Sato, Jerusalem Bureau Chief, The Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
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<td>30 November</td>
<td>Tehran Radio</td>
<td>Incidents in the Israeli prison Oufar</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 November</td>
<td>Al-Quds Radio</td>
<td>Incidents in the Israeli prison Oufar</td>
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<td>7 December</td>
<td>Filip Moravge, Reporter, Czech Weekly Magazine</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 December</td>
<td>Hidenori Sato, Jerusalem Bureau Chief, The Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan</td>
<td>The human rights situation in the OPT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**PCHR’s Publications in 2005**

PCHR's publications include press releases, studies, periodic and special reports, leaflets, position papers, interventions to UN and other international bodies, and working papers at international and local conferences.

1) **Press Releases**

PCHR regularly issues press releases providing detailed and timely information regarding specific incidents, violations of human rights and international humanitarian law or other important developments. In 2005, PCHR issued 132 press releases, including 70 (53%) that highlighted events relevant to human rights violations perpetrated by the PNA and internal Palestinian issues, and 60 (45.5%) were focused on human rights violations perpetrated by IOF. The remaining two press releases were focused on other issues. In addition, PCHR issued dozens of press releases on PCHR’s activities at the international and local levels.

**PCHR’s Press Releases on Israeli Violations of Palestinian Human Rights in 2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>2 January</td>
<td>Democratic Development Unit</td>
<td>PCHR Calls Upon the International Community to Pressure Israel to Provide Appropriate Conditions to allow Palestinians to Exercise Their Electoral Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>3 January</td>
<td>Democratic Development Unit</td>
<td>PCHR Strongly Condemns Shooting at a Palestinian Journalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>4 January</td>
<td>Field Work Unit</td>
<td>5 Days before the Palestinian Presidential Election, a Tank Shell Fired by Israeli Occupation Forces Kills 7 Palestinian Children and Seriously Injures 7 Others</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>4 January</td>
<td>Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit</td>
<td>In Violation of the Right to Freely Practice Religion, Israeli Authorities Prevent Pilgrims from Traveling to Saudi Arabia to Attend the Hajj and impose Severe Travel Conditions on Traveling Pilgrims</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>8 January</td>
<td>Field Work Unit</td>
<td>Israeli Occupation Forces Kill a Palestinian Police Officer in Khan Yunis</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>8 January</td>
<td>Field Work Unit</td>
<td>Israeli Claims of Military Withdrawal from West Bank a Fabrication</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>8 January</td>
<td>Field Work Unit</td>
<td>Palestinian civilians Still Being Denied Access to al-Mawasi</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>15 January</td>
<td>Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit</td>
<td>PCHR Warns of the Consequences of Closure of al-Mentar Crossing as It Completes the Cycle of Economic and Social Stranglehold of the Gaza Strip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>15 January</td>
<td>Legal Aid Unit</td>
<td>PCHR, Addalah and al-Haq Demand the Israeli High Court to Issue Temporary Injunction Stopping Wide Scale House Demolitions</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>15 January</td>
<td>Field Work Unit</td>
<td>4 Palestinians Killed and 5 Others Injured by IOF in al-Zaytoun Neighborhood in Gaza City</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>17 January</td>
<td>Field Work Unit</td>
<td>A Palestinian Woman and Her Son Killed in Khan Yunis by Indiscriminate Shelling by IOF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>18 January</td>
<td>Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit</td>
<td>One Day before <em>Eid al-Adha</em>, Thousands of Palestinians Are Still Away from Their Homes and Families Due to the Continued Closure of Rafah International Crossing Point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>25 January</td>
<td>Legal Aid Unit</td>
<td>The Israeli State Prosecution Claims: No Political or Legal Decision to Demolish 3000 Houses in Rafah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>31 January</td>
<td>Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit</td>
<td>IOF Continues to Impose a Strict Siege on the Gaza Strip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>31 January</td>
<td>Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit</td>
<td>A Palestinian Schoolchild Killed by IOF inside a School in Rafah</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>7 March</td>
<td>Women and Children Rights Unit</td>
<td>Palestinian Women Continue to Suffer Under Israeli Occupation as they Commemorate International Women's Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>6 April</td>
<td>International Unit</td>
<td>PCHR Urges Limerick City Council to take Action to Ban all CAT Products</td>
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<td>28 December</td>
<td>Democratic Development Unit</td>
<td>In Light of the Lack of Serious Protection for the CEC Offices, PCHR Is Concerned That the PNA May Not Be Able to Hold Free and Fair Elections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.</td>
<td>29 December</td>
<td>Democratic Development Unit</td>
<td>A Human Rights Activist and Her Parents Kidnapped in the Gaza Strip</td>
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### Other PCHR’s Press Releases in 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Unit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>4 January</td>
<td>International Unit</td>
<td>PCHR: EU and UN High Commissioner Must Act to Allow Free and Fair Elections, to Stop Humanitarian Crises</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>1 February</td>
<td>International Unit</td>
<td>PCHR Expresses Solidarity with UNRWA Commissioner General Peter Hansen</td>
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### 2) Reports, Studies and Other Publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication</th>
<th>Kind</th>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Report 2004</td>
<td>Annual report</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arabic and English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palestinian Legislative Council: An Evaluation of Performance in the Sixth Term (March 2004 – March 2005)</td>
<td>Report</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palestinian Presidential Election of 2005: An Evaluation Report of Election Day, the Counting of Votes and the Declaration of Results in the Gaza Strip</td>
<td>Report</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arabic and English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palestinian Higher Education: Reality and Ambitions</td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Election Campaigning during the Palestinian Presidential Election of 2005</td>
<td>Report</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arabic and English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elections of Palestinian Local Councils – The First Stage</td>
<td>Report</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arabic and English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elections of Palestinian Local Councils – The Second Stage</td>
<td>Report</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Medical Personnel</td>
<td>Series report</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arabic and English</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Right to Appropriate Housing in International Human Rights Law</td>
<td>Series document</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Leveling and House and Civilian Facility Destruction (1 May 2004 – 31 May 2005)</td>
<td>Series report</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arabic and English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3) PCHR’s Web Site (www.pchrgaza.org)

PCHR realizes and appreciates the increasing importance of information technology in our contemporary world. PCHR increasingly depends on its website as a means of disseminating human rights information. PCHR updates its website daily with publications and information on its activities and events on the ground. The material on the website is available in both Arabic and English. PCHR also distributes its publications via e-mail; at least 4,800 of those who have registered their email addresses with us receive PCHR’s publications via e-mail.

- In 2005, PCHR’s web site received 258,083 hits with an average of 21,506 visits monthly and 500 visits daily.
- The number of pages seen by visitors in 2005 was 705,520, with an average of 58,793 pages per month, or 1,959 daily.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Number of Visits</th>
<th>Number of Pages Seen</th>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>15,600</td>
<td>50,528</td>
<td>138,705</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>21,993</td>
<td>49,090</td>
<td>145,575</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>24,768</td>
<td>54,005</td>
<td>151,880</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>23,347</td>
<td>62,189</td>
<td>156,404</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>18,780</td>
<td>52,700</td>
<td>139,609</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>20,358</td>
<td>48,932</td>
<td>152,524</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>22,999</td>
<td>70,346</td>
<td>209,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>22,436</td>
<td>54,121</td>
<td>180,076</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>21,860</td>
<td>72,475</td>
<td>186,782</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>23,594</td>
<td>71,370</td>
<td>190,126</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>23,660</td>
<td>63,750</td>
<td>176,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>258,083</strong></td>
<td><strong>705,520</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,998,464</strong></td>
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Diagram of Visits to PCHR’s Website in 2005
Pictures of PCHR’s Activities in 2005
A delegation of international observers who monitored the Palestinian presidential election on 9 January 2005, from right to left: Mobassa Fall, International Federation for Human Rights, Senegal; Michel Tubiana, President of the French League for Human Rights; Per Stadig, International Commission of Jurists, Sweden; and Arjan El Fassed, Media Officer, Novib.

A colloquium on Palestinian elections and their implications organized by PCHR Democratic Development Unit (DDU) on 12 February 2005, the speakers from right to left: Hamdi Shaqqura, Director of DDU; Jaber Wishah, Deputy Director of PCHR; Jameel al-Majdalawi, a prominent leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and 'Ammar al-Dwaik, Executive Director of the Palestinian Central Election Commission.
Emma Playfair, Regional Representative for the Middle East and North Africa, the Ford Foundation – Cairo, and Brand Smith, Vice President of the Ford Foundation – New York, during their visit to PCHR on 8 February 2005.

Professor John Dugard, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the Situation of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and his assistant Ms Darka Tubali during their visit to PCHR on 13 February 2005.
A delegation from YMCA in Norway and Switzerland and Mr. Mousa Saba, Director of YMCA in Gaza, during a meeting with Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Jaber Wishah, Deputy Director of PCHR, on 15 February 2005.

Directors of PCHR units and members of NOVIB – Holland, Christian Aid – London; and Dan Church Aid – Denmark, during an annual meeting at PCHR’s office on 16 and 17 April 2005.
A delegation from Dan Church Aid, Denmark, headed by Mr. Uffe Gjerding, during a visit to PCHR on 30 June 2005.

A delegation from the Spanish Consulate, the Belgian Consulate and the European Union:
- Emmanuelle De Foy – Deputy Consul General – Consulate General of Belgium;
- Jose Luis Moreno Rosillo – Assistant Attache – Consulate General of Spain;
- Diego Parejo Morgeado – Attache – Consulate General of Spain;
- Matthias Peitz – Political Attache – European Union; and
- Alberto Ucelay, Deputy Consul General – Spanish Consulate
Participants in the first workshop organized by PCHR Legal Aid Unit at PCHR’s offices in Gaza on 20 October 2005 on the amended Judicial Authority Law, from right to left: Counselor Sa’ad Shuhabier; Counselor Mazen Sisalem; Counselor Yahia Abu Shahla; Counselor Ishaq Mahanna; Counselor Talal Subheh; and Yousef al-Shanti and S’adi al-Krunz, Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC);

Participants in the second workshop organized by PCHR Legal Aid Unit at al-Quds International Hotel in Gaza on 26 October 2005 on the amended Judicial Authority Law, from right to left: Counselor Zuhair al-Sourani, Head of the Higher Judiciary Council; Ahmed al-Mughanni, Attorney General; Counselor Ishaq Muhanna; Counselor ‘Omar Obaid; Muneer al-‘Aqabi, Assistant Attorney General; ‘Aadel Abu Jahal, Deputy Head of Palestine Bar Association; Iyad Alami, Director of PCHR Legal Aid Unit; and Sharif Abu Nassar, a PCHR lawyer.
Hamdi Shaqqura, Director of PCHR Democratic Development Unit (DDU), and Mahmoud Efranji, a DDU researcher, in a meeting with PCHR election observers in November 2005, in preparation for monitoring over the Palestinian legislative elections (January 2006).

Laurette Onkelinx and accompanying delegation during a visit to PCHR on Belgian Minister of Justice 13 November 2005.
Participants in a workshop on poverty organized by PCHR Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit (ESC) on 24 November 2005, from right to left: ‘Abdul Rahman Helles, from the Ministry of Social Affairs; Khalil Shahin, Director of ESC; E’temad Mahanna, a development expert; and Ghassan Abu Hatab, from the Development Studies Programme at Bir Zeit University.

Distribution of certificates for participants in a training course for women organized by PCHR Training Unit at Sharek Youth Forum in Rafah, November 2005.
Participants in a workshop organized by PCHR Women’s Rights Unit on 8 December 2005 on mechanisms of legal protection of victims of violence against women, from right to left: Hala Manna’, a researcher in women’s affairs; Counselor Suleiman al-Dahdoul, Deputy Head of the Legislation Council; Muna Shawa, Director of Women’s Rights Unit; and Hanan Matar, a lawyer at the unit.

A Swiss delegation that included Patrice Mugny, Mayor of Geneva, Jean-Jacque Joris, Representative of Switzerland to the Palestinian National Authority, and others, during a visit to PCHR on 8 December 2005.