

PCHR

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

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Weekly Report

On Israeli Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory



Palestinians Arrested by IOF.

29 March- 04 April 2007

N^o 13/2007

Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) Continue to Commit War Crimes in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

- **4 Palestinians killed by IOF in the OPT; including a child killed in the West Bank and another two died of previous wounds; IOF kill a resistance activist in the north of the Gaza Strip.**
- **12 Palestinian civilians, including 3 children and a journalist were wounded by IOF; 7 of the injuries occurred in Bal'ain village, west of Ramallah.**
- **IOF conducted 24 incursions into Palestinian communities in the OPT; 29 Palestinians, including 1 child, arrested in the West Bank.**
- **IOF continue the construction of the Annexation Wall; 80 dunums of land confiscated for the Wall in Azzoun and Jayyous near Qalqilya, and tens of dunums razed in Wadi Rahal village near Bethlehem.**
- **IOF have continued to impose a total siege on the OPT; IOF positioned at a checkpoint in the West Bank arrested 7 Palestinian civilian; The Gaza Strip continues to suffer shortages in fuels and basic commodities.**
- **IOF have continued settlement activities in the West Bank; Settlers prevent Halhoul farmers from reaching their farms; Settlers continue to occupy a house in Hebron for the second consecutive week.**

Summary

Israeli violations of international law and humanitarian law continued in the OPT during the reporting period (29 March – 4 April 2007):

Shooting:

On 29 March 2007, IOF used excessive force and killed Ahmad Asous (16) from El-Muthalath village south of Jenin. The boy was throwing rocks at IOF troops claiming to surround a hideout of a wanted Palestinian. No wanted people were in the house. Two others were injured in the same incident. On the same day, the child Sa'id Abu Warda (17) from Jabalia died of wounds sustained a day earlier in IOF bombardment of a civilian vehicle on the Gaza Beach road to the west of Beit Lahia. Also on 29 March 2007, the child Mohammad Oweida (15) died of wounds sustained the previous day at Qalandia checkpoint. He was hit by a bullet that penetrated his ear and issued from his eye. And on 4 April 2007, IOF killed Ramiz Awad El-Za'anin, a member of Islamic Jihad, in the town of Beit Hanoun in the north of the Gaza Strip.

On 30 March 2007, IOF injured 7 demonstrators in the village of Bal'ain, west of Ramallah. Two of the injured in Bal'ain were children. In addition, Wafa journalist Mofeed El-Hasayna (43) from Ramallah was injured by a sound bomb in his leg. In addition, IOF injured 3 civilians in separate shooting incidents by IOF troops at the border of the Gaza Strip. All three were injured in unprovoked incidents while working in their farms. And in the Beit Hanoun incursion of 4 April 2007, two farmers were injured by IOF.

Incursions:

During the reporting period, IOF conducted at least 24 military incursions into Palestinian communities in the OPT. During those incursions, IOF arrested 29 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Thus, the number of Palestinians arrested by IOF in the West Bank since the beginning of this year has mounted to 860. It is noted that IOF raids and searches systematically include destruction of property and ransacking houses. In addition, police dogs are occasionally used. The residents of targeted houses are also systematically abused. One of the incursions on 2 April 2007 was in the Gaza Strip, during which IOF leveled land in the Wadi Gaza village. The targeted land was razed earlier during Al-Aqsa Intifada. And on 4 April 2007, IOF moved 500 meters into the Gaza Strip, into the town of Beit Hanoun. Two Palestinian farmers were injured in the incursion.

Restrictions on Movement:

IOF have continued to impose a tightened siege on the OPT and imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem. On 1 April 2007, IOF imposed a complete security closure over the OPT due to the Jewish holiday of "Passover." IOF announced that all border crossing between the OPT and Israel will remain closed till 9 April 2007. Only exceptional humanitarian cases, international relief workers, medical crews, and religious leaders will be allowed to pass through the border after getting a special permit from IOF.

Gaza Strip

IOF have imposed a strict siege on the Gaza Strip. They have closed its border crossings as a form of collective punishment against Palestinian civilians.

IOF have closed Rafah International Crossing Point since 25 June 2006, even though they do not directly control it. During the reporting period, the crossing point was reopened for two days (30 March 2007 and 4 April 2007).

IOF have partially reopened commercial crossings, especially al-Mentar (Karni) crossing, but many goods and medical supplies have been lacked in markets in the Gaza Strip. During the reporting period, IOF completely closed al-Mentar crossing on 3 April 2007, and partially closed it on 2 April 2007.

IOF have also continued to close Erez crossing in the northern Gaza Strip. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip have been prevented from traveling through this crossing. IOF have allowed international workers to pass through the crossing. With this closure, only few Palestinian patients have been able to travel to hospitals in Israel and the West Bank. On Friday, 16 February 2007, IOF opened the new Erez International Crossing Point under new procedures. Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have to obtain permits from the IOF Civil Administration as it was the case before. However, Palestinians living in East Jerusalem have to hand their identity cards the Israeli Ministry of Interior to get travel documents. In the past, they had to hand identity cards to IOF at Erez crossing. This includes 800-1000 women from East Jerusalem married to men in the Gaza Strip. According to Palestinians who traveled through the new crossing point, IOF imposed the same restrictions on their movement as in the past. In addition, IOF have continued to prevent Palestinian fishermen from fishing freely for more than 9 months.

West Bank

IOF have tightened the siege imposed on Palestinian communities in the West Bank. They have isolated Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank. Contrary to Israeli claims, IOF positioned at various checkpoints in the West Bank have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. During the reporting period, IOF completely closed a number of checkpoints inside the West Bank as part of the complete security closure for the Passover holiday. IOF have prevented Jenin residents from leaving the governorate, and restricted their movement inside it. In addition, IOF detained 7 Palestinian civilians at various checkpoints in the West Bank during the reporting period.

Settlement Activities:

On 29 March 2007, settlers from Karmi Tzur settlement north of Hebron attacked Palestinian farmers from Halhoul, and prevented them from reaching their farms near the settlement. On 30 March 2007, settlers from Beit Hadasa settlement savagely beat Palestinian civilians in Shuhada Street in Hebron. And for the second consecutive week, settlers continue to occupy a Palestinian house in Wadi El-Hussein area, southeast of Hebron, near the settlement of Kiryat Arba. IOF continue to provide protection to the settlers who occupy the house.

Israeli Violations Documented during the Reporting Period (29 March – 4 April 2007)

1. Incursions into Palestinian Areas and Attacks on Palestinian Civilians and Property in the OPT

Thursday, 29 March 2007

- On Thursday morning, Shifa Hospital announced the death of Sa'id Saber Abu Warda (17) from Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip. He died of wounds sustained a day earlier. The boy was injured at approximately 16:00 the previous day, when IOF fired a surface-to-surface missile towards a civilian vehicle driving along the beach road to the west of Beit Lahia. The rocket fell near El-Waha resort. Three children in the area were injured, one of them seriously. The intended target was a group of Al-Aqsa Brigades, the armed wing of Islamic Jihad, that had returned after firing a rocket at Israeli targets.

- At approximately 00:30, IOF moved into the town of Kufr El-Deek, west of Salfit. They searched and ransacked the house belonging to Ahmad Ali Ibrahim Mer'e (23) and arrested him. During the raid, all family members were forced outside the house, and were held in cold weather throughout the raid.

- At approximately 00:30, IOF moved into the town of Dura, southwest of Hebron. They searched and ransacked the house belonging to Ahmad Issa Rashid El-Awawda (26) and arrested him.

- At approximately 00:30, IOF moved into the town of Beit Kahel, northwest of Hebron. They searched and ransacked the house belonging to Mohammad Ali Hasan El-Zuhour (28) and delivered an order for him to meet Israeli security officers in Har Manoud, south of Hebron.

- At approximately 1:00, IOF moved into Tulkarm and delivered an Israeli police summoning order to Mohammad Amin Ahmad Awad (57), to meet Israeli police in the settlement of Beit El, southwest of Nablus. A few hours later, he went to the settlements, where he was arrested and transferred to Ofer prison west of Ramallah. It is noted that IOF raided Awad's money exchange shop a few months ago and confiscated amounts of cash from the shop.

- At approximately 1:00, IOF moved into the town of Surif, northwest of Hebron. They raided and searched a number of houses, and arrested Mahmoud Ahmad Odwan Barath'eya (68).

- At approximately 1:15, IOF moved into the village of Maza'e El-Noubani, north of Ramallah. They raided and searched the house belonging to Jamal Dagher (45), and arrested him.

- At approximately 1:40, IOF moved into the city of Nablus and the nearby Balata and Askar refugee camp. They raided and searched a number of houses, and arrested 2 civilians:

1. Khalil Ismail El-Reyahi (20).
2. Mohammad Katana (22).

- At approximately 2:30, IOF moved into the town of Ya'bod, southwest of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses, and arrested two civilians, one of them a child:

1. Fawzi Omar Mohammad Salah (15).
2. Ahmad Yousef Ahmad El-Qalaq (22).

- At approximately 4:00, IOF moved into the village of Muthalath El-Shuhada, south of Jenin. They surrounded the house belonging to Mousa Hasan Turkman, and fired heavily at the house. They ordered the house residents to evacuate their home, and subjected them to a field interrogation about Rab'e Hussein Suliman As'ous (20) and if he is in the house. The family denied that the man is in their house. Two hours later, youth gathered and threw stones at the troops. IOF fired bullets and rubber-coated metal bullets at them, and killed Ahmad Ibrahim Suliman As'ous (16) by a bullet to the chest. Two others were lightly injured:

1. Showqi Fayyad Hasan As'ous (22), injured by shrapnel in the head and chest.
2. Ahmad Mahmoud Hasan As'ous (18), injured by shrapnel in the head.

Before withdrawing at 10:00, IOF arrested Majdi Hussein Suliman As'ous (25), the wanted man's brother, as a hostage to pressure the wanted man to surrender to IOF.

- At approximately 17:00, IOF moved into the town of Orief, south of Nablus. They raided an internet café, and took two children outside the village, and beat them severely. The father of one of the abducted children took them to Rafedia Hospital for treatment. IOF claimed that the two children threw stones at them. The children are

1. Osama Yousef Ata Shehada (14).
2. Fadi Faris Shehada (14).

Osama Shehada gave the following testimony to PCHR's fieldworker in the presence of his father:

"At approximately 17:00 on Thursday (29 March 2007), I was inside Ayed Sa'id internet café in Orief. We were surprised by 4 IOF soldiers who entered the café. Immediately, they hit me with the butt of a gun and accused me of throwing stones at them. They ordered me to go out of the café with them. Then they asked my friend Fadi Faris Shehada to go out too. They put us in a jeep carrying number 611008, and took us to El-Marah area near the settlement of Yitzar. Two soldiers got out of the jeep and chased children in the area; and the other two remained with us. One of them tied our hands, and the other took pictures. The officer, with three blue strips on each shoulder, hit us with the butt of his gun. Then he took out a metal bar and started to beat us on the head and all over the body. After 45 minutes of non-stop beating, my father came accompanied by two soldiers to the area. They released us. My father took us to Rafedia Hospital in Nablus. I suffered 7 stitches in the head and lips. My friend had 4 stitches."

- At approximately 17:30, an IOF undercover unit moved into Ramallah, and raided Baladna coffee shop in the center of the city. They arrested Ala' Abu Musallam (27). It is noted that he works as a guard with PLC member Jamal El-Tirawi from Fatah.

- At approximately 17:50, IOF troops deployed along the border of the Gaza Strip to the east of Jabalia fired at Hassan Abdel Salam Hussein (24) as he was in his family farm nearly 600 meters away from the border. He was moderately injured by a bullet in the back.

- At approximately 21:00, medical sources at Al-Maqasid Hospital announced the death of Mohammad Elias Mohammad Oweida (15) from Jerusalem. He was injured the previous day at approximately 15:30. At the time, youth gathered near Qalandia checkpoint and threw stones at IOF troops in the area. The troops responded by gunfire. Oweida was hit by a bullet to the head, and was taken to the Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem for treatment. He was transferred to an Israeli hospital, where he died.

Friday, 30 March 2007

- At approximately 1:00, IOF moved into the town of Toubas, southeast of Jenin, and patrolled the streets. No injuries or arrests were reported.

- At approximately 2:30, IOF moved into the village of Kufr Dan, west of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses without making any arrests.

Saturday, 31 March 2007

- At approximately 1:00, IOF moved into the town of Ateel, north of Tulkarm. They raided and searched the house belonging to Wajdi Saleh Mohammad Abu Khalil (23), and arrested him.

- At approximately 1:00, IOF moved into the town of Ellar, north of Tulkarm. They raided and searched the house belonging to Nizar Ma'rouf Taqatqa, and arrested his son Arafat (22).

Sunday, 1 April 2007

- At approximately 1:00, IOF moved into the Ein El-Sultan refugee camp, north of Jericho. They raided and searched the house belonging to Tariq El-Sheikh Zeyad (28), and arrested him.

- At approximately 2:00, IOF moved into the city of Jenin and nearby refugee camp. They patrolled the streets. No arrests were reported.

- At approximately 17:00, an undercover IOF unit moved into the town of Kufr El-Lubbad, east of Tulkarm. The raided the Kufr El-Lubbad internet center and arrested Omar Yousef Mahmoud Rajab (22).

Monday, 2 April 2007

- At approximately 00:30, IOF moved into the town of Beit Fujjar, south of Bethlehem. They raided and searched a number of houses, and arrested two civilians:

1. Anas Mohammad Taqatqa (19).
2. So'oud Faisal Thawabta (19).

- At approximately 00:30, IOF moved into the town of Qabatia, southeast of Jenin. They raided and searched the house belonging to Hosni Abu Omar, and arrested his son Rami (20).

- At approximately 1:30, IOF moved into El-Azza refugee camp, north of Bethlehem. They raided and searched a number of houses, and arrested 5 civilians, including one child:

1. Issa Mahmoud El-Barbari (47).
2. Karim Riziq El-Barbari (30).
3. Mu'ath Abdel Jabbar Abu Tarboush (19).
4. Hamza Sami El-Azza (17).
5. SAmer Issa El-Barbari (23).

- At approximately 1:30, IOF moved into the town of Siolet El-Hartheya, west of Jenin. They patrolled the streets without making any raids, searches, or arrests.

- At approximately 3:00, IOF moved into the town of Rantis, west of Ramallah. They raided and searched a number of houses, and arrested 3 civilians:

1. Munjed Mohammad Aref Khalaf (20).
2. Husam Nathier Abdallah Dannoun (22).
3. Ala Jum'a Abdel Rahman Khalaf (21).

- At approximately 11:00, IOF moved 70 meters inside the Gaza Strip to the east of Wadi Gaza village in the southeast of the Strip. They leveled land adjacent to the border. The operation continued till 18:00. IOF fired randomly at agricultural land in the area throughout the operation.

- At approximately 12:00, IOF moved into the town the town of Toubas, southeast of Jenin. They raided and searched the house of Ibrahim Majed Humeid Abdel Raziq (20), and arrested him. It is noted that IOF arrested his brother Humeid (25) a few hours earlier at a checkpoint in Jericho. Please refer to the section on continued siege on the OPT for details.

Tuesday, 3 April 2007

- At approximately 9:30, IOF troops stationed along the Gaza Strip border to the east of Wadi Gaza village fired at farmers in their land close to the border. The child Hani Ahmad El-Mudamer (14) was moderately injured by a bullet to the head.

- At approximately 17:00, IOF troops stationed along the Gaza Strip border to the east of Khan Yunis fired heavy machine guns at agricultural land in Greater Abasan and Mazen Market close to the border. Bilal Ahmad El-Qarra (19) was injured by a bullet that penetrated his right hand and hit the pelvis. He was in his family's farm when he was injured.

Wednesday, 4 April 2007

- At approximately 1:30, IOF moved into the town of Beit Hanoun in the north of the Gaza Strip. They pursued a number of resistance activists from Islamic Jihad, firing at them. Ramiz Awadallah El-Za'anin (24) was killed; and two farmers were injured by gunfire. The injured farmers are Awad Sa'adat (53) and his son Mohammad (24). The farmers were working their land. After the IOF withdrawal, medical crews found the body of El-Za'anin riddled with bullets. They also found Awad Sa'adat seriously injured, and was transferred to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. The farmer's son was detained by IOF.

2. Continued Siege on the OPT

IOF have continued to impose a tightened siege on the OPT and imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including Occupied East Jerusalem.

Gaza Strip

IOF have continued to close all border crossings of the Gaza Strip for the ninth consecutive month. The total siege imposed by IOF on the Gaza Strip has left disastrous impacts on the humanitarian situation and has violated the economic and social rights of the Palestinian civilian population, particularly the rights to appropriate living conditions, health and education. It has also paralyzed most economic sectors. Furthermore, severe restrictions have been imposed on the movement of the Palestinian civilian population. As a consequence of the total siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, at least 73% of the families in the Gaza Strip live below the poverty line, and unemployment has been estimated at 55%. In addition, the living conditions in the Gaza Strip have further deteriorated with the non-payment of salaries for the public sector for 7 months as international donors have frozen aids provided to Palestinians, and Israeli authorities have suspended the transfer of tax revenues to the Palestinian National Authority since March 2006. Moreover, the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip has severely impacted the flow of food, medical supplies and other necessities such as fuel, construction materials and raw materials for various economic sectors.

Rafah International Crossing Point:

Rafah International Crossing Point on the Egyptian border is the sole outlet for the Gaza Strip to the outside world. IOF have closed Rafah International Crossing Point, even though they do not directly control it. They have prevented European observers working at the crossing point from reaching it. The crossing point has been closed since 25 June 2006. During the reporting period, the crossing point was reopened on 30 March and 4 April, allowing hundreds of travelers to enter and leave the Strip.

- Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing:

IOF have completely closed Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing, which links the Gaza Strip with Israel and the West Bank. Before this latest closure, IOF had prevented Palestinian workers from reaching their work places inside Israel through Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip had been prevented from traveling through this crossing. IOF have allowed international workers to pass through the crossing. With this closure, few Palestinian patients have been able to travel to hospitals in Israel and the West Bank. IOF have prevented Palestinian female patients aged under 40 from passing through the crossing, even though most of these patients are in serious conditions and suffer from serious diseases. Since the beginning of this year, IOF have allowed only 45 patients to travel to hospitals in Israel and the West Bank through the crossing. IOF have also continued to prevent members of the Palestinian Legislative Council representing Hamas from traveling to the West Bank and Jerusalem.

On Friday, 16 February 2007, IOF opened the new Erez International Crossing Point under new procedures. Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have to obtain permits from the IOF Civil Administration as it was the case before. However, Palestinians living in East Jerusalem have to hand their identity cards the Israeli Ministry of Interior to get travel documents. In the past, they had to hand identity cards to IOF at Erez crossing. This includes 800-1000 women from East Jerusalem married to men in the Gaza Strip. According to Palestinians who traveled through the new crossing point, IOF imposed the same restrictions on their movement as in the past. IOF have allowed only 350 traders to pass through the crossing point, whereas they have continued to prevent family visitation to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

IOF announced that the crossing would be closed from 1 – 11 April 2007 for the Passover holiday. Only internationals, newspapers, mail, and urgent health cases would be allowed to pass through the crossing during this time.

Al-Mentar (Karni) Commercial Crossing:

IOF have closed the crossing, which is the main commercial crossing for the Gaza Strip. As a consequence, the economic situation inside the Gaza Strip has further deteriorated and many goods have been lacked in markets. The crossing witnessed some easing in restrictions after the first three months of hermetic closure. It was partially opened on a number of occasions. During the reporting period, the crossing was completely closed on 3 April 2007. In addition, it was partially closed on 2 April 2007. Over the rest of the reporting period, approximately 522 import trucks passed through the crossing daily; and approximately 66 export trucks left through the crossing daily.

Nahal Oz Crossing:

This crossing is designed for the entry of fuels. IOF allow the entry of limited amounts of fuels into the Gaza Strip, which do not meet the needs of its population. During the reporting period, IOF allowed some quantities of fuel to enter the Strip. However, these amounts were below the demand required in the Strip. IOF allowed an average of 200 tons of gas and 120 liters of benzene to pass through daily. On 3 April 2007, the crossing was completely closed.

Sofa Crossing:

During the reporting period, the crossing remained closed from the Palestinian side in protest of an attack on the crossing's director by unknown gunmen. In addition, IOF have continued to close *Karm Abu Salem* (Kerem Shalom) crossing, southeast of Rafah. But during the reporting period, Karm Abu Salem crossing was opened for 3 days to allow food and humanitarian assistance to pass through from Egypt.

The closure of border crossings deprives the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip of their right to freedom of movement, education and health.

IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on fishing in the Gaza Strip. Following the attack on IOF on 25 June 2006, IOF prevented fishing. Approximately 35,000 people in and around Gaza's coastal communities rely on the fishing industry, including 2,500 fishermen, 2,500 support staff and their families. Fishermen have been subjected to intensive monitoring by IOF, which use helicopter gunships and gunboats to monitor the fishermen. The Oslo Accords allow Palestinian fishermen to go fishing up to 20 nautical miles away from the Gaza seashore.

The West Bank

IOF have imposed a tightened siege on the West Bank. They have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians and imposed curfews on a number of Palestinian communities.

Jerusalem:

IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in and around occupied Jerusalem. On Friday, 29 March 2007, IOF deployed hundreds of police and border police at the entrances to the city, and subjected Palestinians to stringent search procedures. IOF prevented hundreds of Muslim worshippers from reaching in Al-Aqsa Mosque, including Jerusalem residents.

Nablus:

IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Friday, 30 March 2007, IOF closed Za'tara checkpoint and prevented passage both ways of the checkpoint. In addition, IOF erected roadblocks between Za'tara and Huwara checkpoint.

On Saturday, 31 March 2007, IOF troops deployed at the Beit Ebba checkpoint, west of Nablus, prevented teachers from the Tulkarm Cultural Forum from leaving Nablus after participating in a symposium on the role of Palestinian teachers in improving the capacities of youth. The teachers were subjected to very humiliating treatment, and prevented from returning to their homes.

On Monday, 2 April 2007, IOF troops on the Bathan checkpoint imposed additional restrictions on Palestinian civilian movement, and prevented people under 35 years of age from reaching Nablus.

On Tuesday, 3 April 2007, IOF erected a checkpoint on the Bazaria – Ramin intersection, northwest of Nablus. They prevented Palestinians under 35 years of age from Nablus and Jenin from passing through. It is noted that this road is used by residents of the northern West Bank to move between Jenin, Nablus and Tulkarm due to the closure of the Jenin – Nablus road more than 18 months ago.

Tulkarm:

IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians throughout Tulkarm. On Thursday, 29 March 2007, IOF erected 3 checkpoints on the northern entrance of Deir El-Ghosoun, entrance of Ateel, and on the Qufeen intersection. Troops hindered movement and prevented hundreds of civilians from reaching their work and study places. IOF detained people who tried to bypass these checkpoints, and held them for hours. At the same time, IOF troops at the Wadi El-Teen checkpoint prevented hundreds of civilians from moving in and out of Tulkarm. They also prevented people from bypassing the checkpoint. Also on Thursday, IOF troops stationed at Wadi El-Teen checkpoint detained Ismail Ibrahim Ismail Mer'e (20) from Tulkarm refugee camp. He was on his way to undergo a surgical operation in Qalqilya.

On Friday, 30 March 2007, IOF troops closed the Kufreyat checkpoint, and prevented movement both ways of the checkpoint. As a result, residents of Khirbit J'bara were prevented from leaving their village.

On Saturday, 31 March 2007, IOF closed the J'bara checkpoint for the second consecutive day. In addition, IOF closed the Ennab checkpoint to the east of Tulkarm, and prevented movement both ways.

On Sunday, 1 April 2007, IOF closed the dirt road between Ateel and Deir El-Ghosoun villages. IOF bulldozers erected earth barriers in the middle of the road.

In the morning of Monday, 2 April 2007, IOF erected a checkpoint at the entrance of Bal'a, east of Tulkarm, and prevented movement both ways. IOF used police dogs to frighten civilians and force them to head back. People who tried to bypass the checkpoint were detained. In the afternoon, IOF opened the checkpoint, and allowed passage after stringent security procedures.

Jenin:

IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. In addition, IOF troops at the checkpoints leading to the Jordan Valley prevented people without special permits from entering the area. On Saturday, 31 March 2007, IOF erected a checkpoint at the entrance of Takfir village, southeast of Jenin. IOF detained vehicles, and restricted movement through the checkpoint.

On Sunday, 1 April 2007, IOF troops at a checkpoint north of the town of Sanur, southeast of Jenin, detained Montasir Refat N'erat (25) from the town of Maythaloun.

On Monday, 2 April 2007, IOF erected a number of checkpoints. These checkpoints were erected on a bypass road between Burqien and Kur Dan, on the Jenin – Haifa road near the entrance of Horsh El-Sa'ada, on the western entrance of Marka village, on the southern entrance of Ojja village, on the western entrance of Anza village, and between the towns of Arraba and Fahma southwest of Jenin. IOF detained and searched vehicles and pedestrians on all these checkpoints. Also on Monday, IOF troops at the Dayouk checkpoint, north of Jericho detained Humeid Majed Humeid Abdel Raziq Daraghma, from Toubas. He is a nurse on his way to work in Jericho

Also on Monday, IOF troops stationed at a checkpoint on the Takfir village intersection severely beat Fida Mohammad Mustafa Soboh (37) who is an ambulance driver. In a statement to PCHR's fieldworker, Soboh stated:

“At approximately 9:30 on Monday, 2 April 2007, I was driving an ambulance belonging to the Palestinian Medical Relief Committees in Jenin. With me were:

- Dr. Amir Abu Salah (37) from Sielet El-Hartheya.

- Dr. Eyad Odeh (35) from El-Yamoun.
- Dr. Nadwa Salameh (32) from Jub'a.
- Zakeya Zayoud (37), a nurse from Siolet El-Hartheya.
- Amna El-Ejjawi (23), a nurse from Jenin.
- Hana Abu El-Rob (22), a nurse from Jalboun.

We were going to the town of Seer, southeast of Jenin, to organize a medical day. On the Takfir village intersection, we were surprised by two IOF vehicles closing the road. The troops were checking Palestinian vehicles. I did not stop behind the queue of nearly 20 vehicles. Generally, IOF allow ambulances to do so. I stopped in front of the first car. Three soldiers came to me and asked me why I passed the line. They did not wait for me to answer, and dragged me out of the ambulance. They beat me with their hands, feet, and gun butts for nearly 10 minutes. Then they allowed me to pass after severely beating me.”

On Tuesday, 3 April 2007, IOF erected two checkpoints on the northern and southern towns of Toubas, southeast of Jenin. IOF detained a large number of civilians, and subjected them to stringent search procedures.

Hebron:

IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians inside and around Hebron. On Friday, 30 March 2007, IOF troops deployed in the center and south of Hebron prevented activists from “Peace Now” and “Breaking the Silence” organizations (the first Israeli, and the second international) from entering Tal Rumeida, the old city, and Wadi El-Hussein areas to conduct solidarity visits with Palestinian residents of these areas. IOF announced that these areas were “closed military zones” and restricted entry to them.

In the afternoon of Saturday, 31 March 2007, IOF troops deployed around the Ibrahimi Mosque prevented the Palestinian Minister of Waqf, Hussein El-Tartouri, from entering the Mosque to participate in a religious celebration on the occasion of the birthday of Prophet Mohammad (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). The directorate of Waqf in Hebron stated that IOF informed them of the ban on the Minister as he constitutes a political symbol of the Palestinian government. Also on Saturday, IOF troops around the Ibrahimi Mosque detained Nahla Khalil Issa Abu Sneina (36, female) after she and her family left the Mosque. She was detained for more than 2 hours at a military checkpoint close to the Mosque. IOF troops abused her and subject her and her children to a field interrogation.

On Sunday, 1 April 2007, IOF troops at El-Karama border crossing with Jordan arrested Mamdouh Mohammad Omar El-Qawasmi (19) from Hebron. He was on his way home from Jordan.

Salfit:

At approximately 13:00 on Sunday, 1 April 2007, IOF troops at Huwara checkpoint, south of Nablus, detained Mazen Fayeze Ibrahim Mer'e (23) from the town of Qarawit Bani Hasan, east of Salfit.

In the afternoon of Tuesday, 3 April 2007, IOF troops at Burqien checkpoint, west of Salfit, detained Othman Mahmoud Othman Asi (22) from the town of Qarawit Bani Hasan, west of Salfit.

Qalqilya:

In the evening of Saturday, 31 March 2007, IOF troops stationed at the eastern entrance of Qalqilya detained Shams El-Deen Mohammad Abdel Rahman Zeid (19) from Qalqilya. IOF claimed to find a hunting rifle with him.

3. Construction of the Annexation Wall

IOF have continued to construct the Annexation Wall inside West Bank territory. During the reporting period, IOF used force against peaceful demonstrations organized by Palestinian civilians in protest to the construction of the Wall inside the West Bank.

On Thursday, 29 March 2007, dozens of Palestinian civilians and international solidarity activists organized a peaceful demonstration in Ras Atteya village, east of Qalqilya. When the demonstrators headed to the Ras Atteya gate

in the Wall, IOF responded by firing teargas grenades at the demonstrators, and beat them with batons and gun butts. Many demonstrators suffered cuts and bruises. The identities of two were learned:

1. Amjad Adel Abdel Rahman Odeh (25).
2. Basem Saleh Abdel Rahman Odeh (35).

IOF arrested both, and severely beat international activists who tried to prevent the arrest.

Also on Thursday, 29 March 2007, dozens of Palestinians organized a peaceful demonstration against the Wall in the town of Ras Tiera, south of Qalqilya. IOF fired in the air, then fired teargas grenades at the demonstrators. Many were injured by the teargas and were treated in the field.

On Friday, 30 March 2007, dozens of Palestinian civilians and international solidarity activists organized a peaceful demonstration in the town of Qoffien, north of Tulkarm. When the demonstrators headed to the Wall gate in the area, IOF responded by firing sound bombs and teargas grenades at the demonstrators, and beat them with batons and gun butts. Many demonstrators suffered cuts and bruises.

Also on Friday, hundreds of Palestinian and international activists organized a peaceful demonstration against the Wall in land threatened by confiscation in the town of Marada, north of Salfit. IOF prevented the demonstrators from reaching the Wall being built around the settlement of Ariel. IOF troops severely beat demonstrators, including two internationals, and prevented them from planting olive trees in the area.

Also on Friday, IOF used force to disperse a peaceful demonstration organized by the Popular Committee against the Wall in Salfit. IOF fired in the air, and fired teargas grenades and sound bombs at demonstrators. Many were injured and treated in the field.

Also on Friday, dozens of Palestinian, Israeli, and international activists organized a peaceful demonstration in Bal'ein village, west of Ramallah in protest to the construction of the Wall. The demonstrators moved towards the gate established by IOF at the Wall and attempted to open it. Immediately, IOF soldiers fired rubber-coated metal bullets, sound bombs and tear gas canisters at the demonstrators, and violently beat them. As a result, 6 demonstrators, including 2 children, were injured by rubber coated bullets:

1. Mohammad Ahmad Issa Yassin (17), injured by a rubber-coated bullet in the thigh.
2. Abdel Baset Mohammad Abu Rahma (16), injured by a rubber-coated bullet in the head.
3. FArहत Ibrahim Hashem Bornat (28), injured by a sound bomb in the leg
4. Khaled Shawkat El-Khatib (20), injured by a rubber-coated bullet in the thigh.
5. Samir Suliman Yassin Bornat (30), injured by a sound bomb in the leg.
6. Abdel Ra'ouf Mustafa Abu Rahma (23), injured by a rubber-coated bullet in the thigh.

In addition, the journalist Mofeed Hasana (43) was injured by a sound bomb in the leg. He works as a photographer for WAFA news agency.

Also on Friday, hundreds of Palestinian and international activists organized a peaceful demonstration in the Khalayel area, south of Bethlehem, to protest the resumption of Wall construction in the area. IOF surrounded the demonstration and fired teargas grenades and sound bombs at demonstrators. In addition, they severely beat several. Four demonstrators suffered cuts and bruises.

4. Settlement Activities and Attacks by Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

- In the evening of Thursday, 29 March 2007, settlers from "Karmi Tzur" to the north of Hebron renewed attacks on Palestinian farmers from the town of Halhoul, and prevented them from reaching their farms near the settlement. Settlers surrounded farmers in the area, and threatened two of them: Mohammad Sa'id Madeyya and Mahmoud Humeid Abu Dayya. The settlers threw stones at them, and forced off their land. The settlement security force that reached the area confiscated some farming equipment from Abu Dayya's farm. It is noted that the targeted land totals 5 dunums, and is located in an area where the settlers confiscated other lots of land.

- On the morning of Friday, 30 March 2007, settlers from the settlement of "Beit Hadasa" inside Hebron chased 3 Palestinian civilians in Shuhada Street, and severely beat them. Scuffles broke out between the settlers and

Palestinians. IOF intervened and arrested one of the civilians beaten by the settlers. The victims are Bassam Omran El-Sherbati (40), Jihad Omran El-Sherbati (55), and Omar Bassam El-Sherbati (10). Bassam was arrested and held for several hours in the police station in the settlement of Kiryat Arba, southeast of Hebron.

- For the second consecutive week, settlers continued to occupy a house belonging to El-Rigbi family in Wadi El-Hussein area, southeast of Hebron. The settlers continued to bring in equipments and supplies into the house. On Sunday, 1 April 2007, settlers brought an electricity generator, water tanks, furniture, and supplies to the house. In addition, the settlers threw rocks and empty bottles at Palestinian civilians and their property in the area. The attacks were perpetrated under IOF protection, and caused damages to the properties of Riziq Mohammad Hussein El-Ja'bari, Naser Fahed El-Ja'bari, Mohammad Rab'e El-Ja'bari, and Mo'taz Mohammad Jaber.

Recommendations to the International Community

1. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to fulfill their legal and moral obligations under Article 1 of the Convention to ensure Israel's respect for the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. PCHR believes that the conspiracy of silence practiced by the international community has encouraged Israel to act as if it is above the law and encourages Israel continue to violate international human rights and humanitarian law.

2. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to convene a conference to take effective steps to ensure Israel's respect of the Convention in the OPT and to provide immediate protection for Palestinian civilians.

3. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to comply with its legal obligations detailed in Article 146 of the Convention to search for and prosecute those responsible for grave breaches, namely war crimes.

4. PCHR calls for the immediately implementation of the Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice, which considers the construction of the Annexation Wall inside the West Bank illegal.

5. PCHR recommends international civil society organizations, including human rights organizations, bar associations and NGOs to participate in the process of exposing those accused of grave breaches of international law and to urge their governments to bring these people to justice.

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

7. PCHR calls on the international community to recognize the Gaza disengagement plan, which was implemented last year, for what it is - not an end to occupation but a compounding of the occupation and the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.

8. In recognition of ICRC as the guardian of the Fourth Geneva Convention, PCHR calls upon the ICRC to increase its staff and activities in the OPT, including the facilitation of family visitations to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

9. PCHR appreciates the efforts of international civil society, including human rights organizations, bar associations, unions and NGOs, and urges them to continue their role in pressuring their governments to secure Israel's respect for human rights in the OPT and to end its attacks on Palestinian civilians.

10. PCHR calls upon the international community to pressure Israel to lift the severe restrictions imposed by the Israeli government and its occupation forces on access for international organizations to the OPT.

11. 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 question. Rather, such an arrangement can only lead to further suffering and instability in the region. Any peace agreement or process must be based on respect for international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law.

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^[1] 1 donum is equal to 1000 square meters.

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