

PCHR

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights LTD (non-profit)

<http://www.pchrgaza.org>



Weekly Report

On Israeli Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory



A Palestinian woman cooks near the ruins of her house that was destroyed by IOF in 'Abassan village, east of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip

26 March - 01 April 2009

N° 13-2009

Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) Continue Systematic Attacks against Palestinian Civilians and Property in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT): Total siege on the Gaza Strip continues

- Two members of the Palestinian resistance were killed by IOF in the Gaza Strip.
- A Palestinian woman died of injuries sustained during the recent IOF offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- 8 Palestinian civilians, a PCHR field worker, were injured by the IOF gunfire in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
- IOF conducted 20 incursions into Palestinian communities in the West Bank and two into the Gaza Strip.
- IOF arrested 27 Palestinian civilians, including 10 children and two women, in the West Bank.
- IOF have continued to impose a total siege on the OPT and have isolated the Gaza Strip from the outside world.
- IOF troops positioned at military checkpoints in the West Bank arrested two Palestinian civilians.
- IOF have continued measures aimed at creating a Jewish demographic majority in east Jerusalem.
- IOF informed a school in Jerusalem that 3 classrooms would be demolished.
- An Israeli court ordered 3 families to evacuate their homes in Silwan village.
- IOF have continued settlement activities in the West Bank and Israeli settlers have continued to attack Palestinian civilians and property.

Summary

Israeli violations of international law and humanitarian law escalated in the OPT during the reporting period (26 March – 01 April 2009):

Shooting: During the reporting period, IOF killed two members of the Palestinian resistance and injured two others in the Gaza Strip. A Palestinian woman also died of injuries she had sustained during the IOF offensive on the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, during the reporting period, 6 Palestinian civilians, including two human rights defenders, were injured when IOF used force against peaceful demonstrations organized in protest of the construction of Israel's annexation wall in the West Bank.

Incursions: During the reporting period, IOF conducted at least 20 military incursions into Palestinian communities in the West Bank and two into the Gaza Strip. IOF arrested 27 Palestinian civilians, including 10 children and two women. The two women work at the Prisoners Studies Center.

In the Gaza Strip, IOF conducted two limited incursions into Palestinian areas. On 26 March 2009, IOF moved into 'Abassan village, east of Khan Yunis, and arrested a Palestinian civilian. On 31 March 2009, IOF moved into al-Mussaddar village in the central Gaza Strip. During this incursion, IOF killed two activists of the Palestinian resistance and injured two others.

Restrictions on Movement: IOF have continued to impose a tightened siege on the OPT and 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 to the Gaza Strip for over two years. The IOF siege of Gaza, which has steadily tightened since June 2007, has had a disastrous impact on the humanitarian and economic situation in the Gaza Strip.

- 1.5 million people are being denied their basic rights, including freedom of movement, and their rights to appropriate living conditions, work, health and education.
- The main concern of 1.5 million people living in the Gaza Strip is to obtain their basic needs of food, medicines, water and electricity supplies.
- IOF have continued to prevent the entry of raw construction materials into the Gaza Strip for more than two years.
- IOF have not allowed fuel supplies into the Gaza Strip, except very limited amounts of cooking gas, since 10 December 2008.
- The Rafah International Crossing Point opened for a few days for a number of patients to receive medical treatment abroad and for some to return home to the Gaza Strip.

- IOF have continued to close Beit Hanoun [Erez] crossing to Palestinian civilians wishing to travel to the West Bank and Israeli for medical treatment, trade or family visits. In the past two months, five patients, including two children, died due to the denial of their access to medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip.
- IOF have imposed additional restrictions on access of international diplomats, journalists and humanitarian workers to the Gaza Strip. They have prevented representatives of several international humanitarian organizations from entering the Gaza Strip.
- Living conditions for Palestinian civilians have seriously deteriorated and poverty and unemployment levels continue to mount sharply.
- At least 900 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails have been deprived of family visitation for more than 17 months.
- At least 10% of the population of the Gaza Strip is deprived of electricity supplies.

West Bank

IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians throughout the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem. Thousands of Palestinian civilians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip continue to be denied access to Jerusalem.

- IOF have established checkpoints in and around Jerusalem, severely restricting Palestinian access to the city. Civilians are frequently prevented from praying at the al-Aqsa Mosque.
- There are approximately permanent 630 roadblocks, manned and unmanned checkpoints across the West Bank. In addition, there are some 60-80 ‘flying’ or temporary checkpoints erected across the West Bank by IOF every week.
- When complete, the illegal Annexation Wall will stretch for 724 kilometers around the West Bank, further isolating the entire population. 350 kilometers of the Wall has already been constructed. Approximately 99% of the Wall has been constructed inside the West Bank itself, further confiscating Palestinian land.
- At least 65% of the main roads that lead to 18 Palestinian communities in the West Bank are closed or fully controlled by IOF (47 out of 72 roads).
- There are around 500 kilometers of restricted roads across the West Bank. In addition, approximately one third of the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, is inaccessible to Palestinians without a permit issued by the IOF. These permits are extremely difficult to obtain.
- IOF continue to harass and assault demonstrators who hold peaceful protests against the construction of the Annexation Wall.
- Palestinian civilians continue to be harassed by IOF in Jerusalem, and across the West Bank, including being regularly stopped and searched in the streets by IOF.

- During the reporting period, IOF troops positioned at military checkpoints in the West Bank arrested two Palestinian civilians.

Creating a demographic Jewish majority in Jerusalem: IOF have escalated arbitrary measures against Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem to force them to leave the city. During the reporting period, IOF handed a demolition notice to al-Huda School that belongs to the al-Aqsa Islamic Charity in the old town in East Jerusalem, claiming that structures were added to the school without obtaining necessary licenses. The elementary school includes five classrooms, in which 130 students attend classes. Also during the reporting period, the IOF police issued an order from the Israeli District Court on 19 March 2009 to the al-Silwadi family in the Yemen quarter of Silwan village, south of Jerusalem's Old City. The court's decision orders the family to evacuate their three houses and confiscates a tract of land belonging to the family, claiming that the land on which the houses stand belongs to the department of protecting property of people in absentia. It is worth noting that Ibrahim Ahmed al-Silwadi purchased the land from a Jewish rabbi in 1942, and the family submitted supporting documents to the court, but the court ordered the evacuation of the houses and the land. Thirteen people, including 8 children, live in these houses.

Settlement Activities: IOF have continued settlement activities and Israeli settlers living in the OPT in violation of international humanitarian law have continued to attack Palestinian civilians and property. On 26 March 2009, IOF issued military orders stopping construction in three houses and a small factory in Bet 'Einoun area to the west of Sa'ir village, northeast of Hebron, claiming that the construction was not licensed. On 28 March 2009, at least 15 Israeli settlers from "Yits'har" settlement, south of Nablus, attacked a number of Palestinian shepherds and forced them to leave the area where there were grazing their animals. On 29 March 2009, at least eight Israeli settlers violently beat Tamer 'Eissa Qara'in, 22, from Silwan village to the south of the old city of Jerusalem, while he was near his house. He was injured in the head and the right hand. On 30 March 2009, Israeli settlers living in "Kiryat Arba" settlement, southeast of Hebron, attacked Palestinian houses located near the settlement. At least 14 Palestinian houses were attacked by Israeli settlers with stones, while IOF troops were present in the area. A number of houses were damaged.

Israeli Violations Documented between 26 March – 01 April 2009

1. Incursions into Palestinian Areas and Attacks on Palestinian Civilians and Property in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

Thursday, 26 March 2009

- At approximately 01:00, IOF moved into Sourif village, northwest of Hebron. They raided and searched a number of houses belonging to the al-Heeh family. They arrested Siham 'Awadallah al-Heeh, 30, and summoned her father and brothers for interrogation.
- At approximately 01:15, IOF moved into Balata and 'Askar refugee camp, east and northeast of Nablus respectively. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 8 Palestinian civilians, including 6 children:
 1. Nihad Rawhi Abu Keshek, 17;
 2. Sameh Fares Abu Keshek, 20;
 3. Mahmoud Khaled Abu Keshek, 17;
 4. 'Abdul Latif Hassan 'Aassi, 16;
 5. Ahmed Bassam Hashash, 22;
 6. Mohammed Ziad 'Ouda, 16;
 7. Ameer Khaled al-Khatib, 17;
 8. Mohammed Jamal Hashash, 17.
- At approximately 01:45, IOF moved into Jenin town and refugee camp. They raided and searched a number of houses, but no arrests were reported.
- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into 'Aqaba village, southeast of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested four Palestinian civilians:
 1. Ra'fat Bassam al-Masri, 19;
 2. Mustafa Sayel Abu 'Erra, 30;
 3. Mohammed Ghassan Ghannam, 27;
 4. Mohammed Mahmoud Abu 'Erra, 20.
- At approximately 04:00, an IOF infantry unit moved nearly 700 meters into 'Abassan village, east of Khan Yunis. IOF troops arrested Na'el Mousa Abu Nasser, 22, while on his way to the mosque.
- Also at approximately 04:00, IOF moved into Hares village, northwest of Salfit. They closed the entrances of the village with sand barriers and imposed a curfew. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 4 Palestinian children:
 1. Sufian Waleed Daoud, 16;
 2. 'Aziz Mohammed Klaib, 17;
 3. Nader Wade' Klaib, 17;
 4. Usayd Jamal Fareed, 16.

Friday, 27 March 2009

- At approximately 01:30, IOF moved into al-Zababda village, southeast of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses, but no arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 01:30, IOF moved into Masliya village, southeast of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses, but no arrests were reported.
- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Sanour village, southeast of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses, but no arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 02:00, IOF moved into al-Shuhada Triangle village, south of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses, but no arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Marda village, north of Salfit. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested attorney Samer 'Essam Suleiman, 23.

Saturday, 28 March 2009

- At approximately 01:15, IOF moved into Seilat al-Zaher village, south of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Salah 'Abdul Hamid Abu Diak, 25.
- In the morning of 28 of March, dozens of Palestinian civilians from 'Youth against Settlements', a number of international human rights defenders and Mr. Mohammed Baraka, a member of the Israeli Knesset organized a peaceful demonstration in Hebron to commemorate Palestinian 'Land Day'. IOF set up a presence in the vicinity of the old city of Hebron to prevent the demonstration from entering al-Shuhada Street, which has been closed by the IOF since 1994. They also declared the area a closed military zone and besieged the demonstration, which ended with a sit-in at the entrance of al-Shuhada Street near the "Beit Romano" settlement outpost. IOF troops used force against the demonstrators to drive them away from the streets. They fired tear gas canisters and sound bombs and beat a number of demonstrators. As a result, two Palestinian human rights defenders were injured:
 1. Fahmi Hamdi Shaheen, 48, a PCHR field worker, suffered from tear gas inhalation and sustained bruises to the right foot; and
 2. Mousa Mohammed Abu Hashash, 46, a field worker with Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem, was injured by shrapnel to the left leg.

Sunday, 29 March 2009

- At approximately 14:00, medical sources in Egypt declared that Ghada Riad Mohammed Abu Halima, from al-'Attatra area in Beit Lahia town in the northern Gaza Strip, died of injuries she had sustained during the IOF latest offensive on the Gaza Strip. According to PCHR's documentation, she was seriously injured when IOF fired a white phosphorous shell at her family's home. The attack also killed five members of her family.

Monday, 30 March 2009

- At approximately 06:00, IOF moved into Jayyous village, northeast of Qalqilya, and imposed a curfew. They fired tear gas canisters and sound bombs at Palestinian farmers who were on their way to farm their agricultural land located near the Annexation Wall. No casualties were reported.
- At approximately 14:00, IOF moved into Deir Abu Mash'al village, northwest of Ramallah. They raided and searched a house belonging to the family of Qassam Mohammed al-Barghouthi, 23, and arrested him.
- At approximately 16:00, IOF moved into Ne'lin village, west of Ramallah. They fired tear gas canisters and patrolled in the streets for some time. No arrests were reported.

Tuesday, 31 March 2009

- At approximately 01:00, IOF moved into Yatta village, south of Hebron. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 'Emad Taleb Jbour, 30.
- At approximately 01:30, IOF moved into Jenin town and refugee camp. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested two Palestinian civilians, including a woman:
 1. Samer Hashem al-Sa'di, 21; and
 2. Rajaa' 'Omar al-Ghoul, 39.
- At approximately 07:30, IOF moved nearly 300 meters into al-Mussaddar village in the central Gaza Strip following armed clashes between IOF troops and members of the Palestinian armed resistance near the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. During this incursion, IOF fired a number of artillery shells at resistance activists killing two of them:
 1. 'Abdullah Mohammed Esbaitan, 20; and
 2. 'Ali Abu al-Foul, 19, both from Gaza City.

Wednesday, 01 April 2009

- At approximately 00:00, IOF moved into Yatta village, south of Hebron. They raided and searched a house belonging to the family of Yousef Ahmed 'Awadh, 28, and arrested him.
- At approximately 01:00, IOF moved into Halhoul town, north of Hebron. They raided and searched a number of houses, but no arrests were reported.
- At approximately 01:30, IOF moved into Qabatya village, southeast of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested two Palestinian civilians:
 1. Mohammed Waleed Khzaimiya, 24; and
 2. Rami Fadel Zakarna, 22.
- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into 'Aqqaba villahe, northwest of Tubas. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Nasser Ahmed, 24.

2. Continued Siege on the OPT

IOF have continued to impose a siege and economic blockade on the OPT and severely restricts 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 to the Gaza Strip for over two years. The IOF siege of Gaza, which has steadily tightened since June 2007, has had a disastrous impact on the humanitarian and economic situation in the Gaza Strip.

- 1.5 million people are being denied their basic rights, including freedom of movement, and their rights to appropriate living conditions, work, health and education.
- The main concern of 1.5 million people living in the Gaza Strip is to obtain their basic needs of food, medicines, water and electricity supplies.
- IOF have continued to prevent the entry of raw construction materials into the Gaza Strip for more than two years.
- Since 10 December 2008 the IOF have not allowed fuel supplies into the Gaza Strip, except limited amounts of cooking gas.
- The Rafah International Crossing Point opened for a few days for a number of patients who received medical treatment abroad and needed to return home to the Gaza Strip.
- IOF have continued to close Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing to Palestinian civilians wishing to travel to the West Bank and Israeli for medical treatment, trade or social visits. In the past two months, 5 patients, including two children, died due to the denial of their access to medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip.
- IOF have imposed additional restrictions on access of international diplomats, journalists and humanitarian workers to the Gaza Strip. They have prevented representatives of several international humanitarian organizations from entering the Gaza Strip.
- Living conditions of the Palestinian civilian population have seriously deteriorated; levels of poverty and unemployment have sharply mounted.
- At least 900 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails have been deprived family visitation for more than 17 months.
- At least 10% of the population of the Gaza Strip is deprived of electricity supplies.

Movement at Border Crossings during the Reporting Period:

**Movement at Karem Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) Crossing
25 – 31 March 2009**

| Date | Details |
|---------------|---|
| 25 March 2009 | 106 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip. |
| 26 March 2009 | 109 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip. |
| 27 March 2009 | 67 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip. |
| 28 March 2009 | Closed. |
| 29 March 2009 | 101 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip. |
| 30 March 2009 | 635 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip. |
| 31 March 2009 | 113 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip. |

**Movement at Rafah International Crossing Point
18 – 24 March 2009**

| Date | Details |
|---------------|--|
| 25 March 2009 | 17 Palestinians (patients and representatives of Palestinian factions) were allowed into the Gaza Strip. |
| 26 March 2009 | 4 UNRWA staff members were allowed to travel to Egypt, and 54 Palestinians, including patients and representatives of Palestinian factions, and the bodies of two dead persons were allowed into the Gaza Strip. |
| 27 March 2009 | 17 Palestinians, including patients, were allowed into the Gaza Strip. |
| 28 March 2009 | 3 Palestinian patients were allowed into the Gaza Strip. |
| 29 March 2009 | 11 Moroccan doctors were allowed to travel to Egypt and 8 patients were allowed into the Gaza Strip. |
| 30 March 2009 | 11 patients and the body of a dead Palestinian were allowed into the Gaza Strip. |
| 31 March 2009 | 14 Palestinians, including 11 ones from Hamas, were allowed to travel to Egypt and 26 others, including patients and representatives of Palestinian factions were allowed into the Gaza Strip. |

Nahal Oz Crossing: During the reporting period, IOF allowed approximately 1,350 tons of cooking gas and about 220,000 liters of energy fuel into the Gaza Strip.

Al-Mentar (Karni) Crossing: During the reporting period, IOF allowed 150 trucks of seeds and fodder into the Gaza Strip.

The West Bank

IOF have imposed a tightened siege on the West Bank. During the reporting period, IOF imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians.

- Jerusalem: IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians to and from the city. Thousands of Palestinian civilians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been denied access to the city and the IOF have established many checkpoints around and inside the city. Restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians often escalate on Fridays when many wish to pray at the al-Aqsa Mosque. IOF often violently beat Palestinian civilians who attempt to bypass checkpoints and enter the city. IOF impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians on Fridays to restrict their access to the al-Aqsa Mosque.

On Monday morning, 30 March 2009, IOF troops positioned at the Container checkpoint near Jerusalem arrested Sakher Mohammed al-'Alama, 24, from Beit Ummar village north of Hebron.

- Nablus: IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Thursday morning, 26 March 2009, IOF closed the entrance of Madama village, south of Nablus with sand barriers, and prohibited movement to and from the village. On the evening of the same day, IOF closed "Yits'har" intersection, south of Nablus, when Israeli settlers threw stones at Palestinian civilian vehicles.
- Tubas: IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Thursday morning, 26 March 2009, IOF erected a checkpoint at the entrance of Bardala village, northeast of Tubas. They stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles.
- Hebron: IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Sunday, 29 March 2009, IOF issued military orders prohibiting the movement of Palestinian civilians without permission through a road linking between the Ibrahimi Mosque and "Kiryat Arba" settlement, and passing through al-Mashaqrqa and Jaber quarters and Wadi al-Hussain, al-Nassara and al-Ras neighborhoods. The road is three kilometers long and has been closed to Palestinian civilian vehicles for seven years. On Tuesday morning, 31 March 2009, IOF prevented dozens of Palestinian farmers from having access to their lands to the south of Yatta village, south of Hebron.

On Thursday morning, 26 March 2009, IOF troops positioned at a checkpoint in Ras al-Joura area in the north of Hebron arrested Yousef 'Abdul Hamid Abu Maria, from Beit Ummar village north of Hebron.

3. Construction of the Annexation Wall

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

- Following Friday Prayers on 27 March 2009, dozens of Palestinian civilians and international and Israeli human rights defenders gathered in the center of Ne'lin village, west of Ramallah. They moved towards the area where IOF were razing land to construct a section of the Wall in the

village. Immediately, IOF troops fired at the demonstrators. As a result, four Palestinian civilians were injured:

1. Bahaa' Mohammed al-Khawaja, 19, injured by a gunshot to the right leg;
 2. Mohammed 'Aayed Sorour, 21, hit by a tear gas canister to the back;
 3. Jamal Mustafa al-Kahwaja, 28, injured by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the right leg; and
 4. Sa'adat Ibrahim 'Amira, 21, injured by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the right leg.
- Also following Friday Prayers on 27 March 2009, scores of Palestinian civilians and a number of international human rights defenders organized a peaceful demonstration against the construction of the Wall in al-Ma'sara village, south of Bethlehem. The demonstrators moved towards the Wall, but IOF troops intercepted them at the entrance of the village. IOF troops fired tear gas canisters at the demonstrators, many of whom suffered from tear gas inhalation. IOF troops also violently beat four Palestinian civilians, including two journalists:
 1. Nayef al-Hashlamoun, a Reuters reporter;
 2. Eyad Hamad, a Reuters reporter;
 3. Mahmoud Zawahra, Chairman of the Local Council of al-Ma'sara village; and
 4. Eyad Jom'a Zawahra, 29.
 - On Monday noon, 30 March 2009, dozens of Palestinian civilians organized a peaceful demonstration in Beit 'Allam area near the Annexation Wall to the north of Ethna village, north of Hebron. IOF troops positioned near the Wall prevented the demonstrators from moving forward and declared the area a closed military zone. They then fired tear gas canisters and sound bombs at the demonstrators and violently beat some of them. As a result, 6 demonstrators were injured, including Mr. Bassam al-Salhi, Secretary General of the Palestinian People's Party.
 - During the reporting period, IOF continued to raze areas of Palestinian land in Wadi al-Rasha and Ras Teera villages, south of Qalqilya, for the purpose of constructing a new route to the wall in line with a decision by the Israeli High Court. According to local sources, IOF have uprooted at least 400 olive trees.

4. Creating a demographic Jewish majority in Jerusalem

IOF has recently escalated arbitrary measures against Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem to force them to leave the city. PCHR has devoted this section in the Weekly Report to highlight violations of human rights perpetrated by IOF against Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem.

- During the reporting period, IOF handed a demolition notice to al-Huda School that belongs to the al-Aqsa Islamic Charity in the old town in East Jerusalem, claiming that structures were added to the school without obtaining necessary licenses. The elementary school includes five classrooms in which 130 students have their classes. Due to the increasing need to absorb more students, 3 classrooms made of wood were added to the school 15 years ago.
- During the reporting period, the IOF police handed a copy of a decision issued by the Israeli District Court on 19 March 2009 to the al-Silwadi family in the Yemen quarter of Silwan village in the south of the old town. The court's decision orders the family to evacuate their three houses and confiscates a tract of land belonging to them, claiming that the land on which the houses stand belongs to the department of protecting property of people in absentia. It is worth noting

that Ibrahim Ahmed al-Silwadi purchased the land from a Jewish rabbi in 1942, and the family submitted supporting documents to the court, but the court went ahead and ordered the evacuation of the houses and the land. In the past years, Israeli settlers have launched several attacks against members of the family to force them to leave their houses. In 2005, Israeli settlers attacked Yahia al-Silwadi, 31, causing damage to his nerves. On 1 July 2008, the settlers filed a lawsuit against the family claiming that the land on which the houses stand belongs to an Israeli settler. On 29 March 2009, the family's lawyers filed a petition at the Israeli District Court against the evacuation order. Thirteen people, including 8 children, live in these houses.

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

IOF have continued settlement activities in the OPT in violation of international humanitarian law, and Israeli settlers have continued to attack Palestinian civilians and property.

- On Thursday morning, 26 March 2009, IOF issued military orders stopping construction in three houses and a small factory in the Bet 'Einoun area to the west of Sa'ir village, northeast of Hebron, claiming that the construction was not licensed.
- On Saturday morning, 28 March 2009, at least 15 Israeli settlers from "Yits'har" settlement, south of Nablus, attacked a number of Palestinian shepherds and forced them to leave the area where they were grazing their animals.
- On Sunday evening, 29 March 2009, at least 8 Israeli settlers violently beat Tamer 'Eissa Qara'in, 22, from Silwan village to the south of the old town of Jerusalem, when he was near his house. He was injured in the head and right hand.
- On Monday evening, 30 March 2009, Israeli settlers living in "Kiryat Arba" settlement, southeast of Hebron, attacked Palestinian houses located near the settlement. At least 14 Palestinian houses were attacked by approximately 10 Israeli settlers with stones, while IOF troops were present in the area. A number of houses were damaged.

.....

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 immediate implementation of the Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice, which considers the construction of the Annexation Wall throughout 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 in September 2005, 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 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.

.....

Public Document

For further information please visit our website (<http://www.pchrgaza.org>) or contact PCHR's office in Gaza City, Gaza Strip by email (pchr@pchrgaza.org) or telephone (+972 (0)8 2824776 – 2825893).