

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



Continued construction in "Ma'ale Adomim" settlement near occupied Jerusalem

11 - 17 June 2009

N^o 24-2009

Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) Continue Systematic Attacks against Palestinian Civilians and Property in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and Continue to Impose a Total Siege on the Gaza Strip

- A Palestinian civilian died of wounds he had sustained during the latest IOF offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- The body of a Palestinian shepherd who had been missing for about 50 days was found in the northeast of the Gaza Strip.
- IOF conducted 26 incursions into Palestinian communities in the West Bank.
- **IOF arrested 11 Palestinian civilians, including one child, in the West Bank.**
- **IOF have continued to attack Palestinian fishers in the Gaza Strip; they detained two fishers for several hours after confiscating their boat.**
- 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 have continued to harass Palestinian civilians.**
- IOF have continued measures aimed at establishing a Jewish majority in occupied east Jerusalem.
- **IOF forced two Palestinian civilians to demolish their homes.**
- IOF have continued settlement activities in the West Bank and Israeli settlers have continued to attack Palestinian civilians and property.
- **5 Palestinian civilians were injured by Israeli settlers.**
- **Israeli settlers set fire to areas of Palestinian agricultural land in the northern Gaza Strip.**

Summary

Israeli violations of international law and humanitarian law continued in the OPT during the reporting period (11 – 17 June 2009):

Shooting: During the reporting period, one Palestinian was killed by IOF in the West Bank. Additionally, IOF wounded 13 Palestinian civilians, including 4 children and a paramedic, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

On 14 June 2009, medical sources at an Egyptian hospital declared that Yasser 'Arafat Sbair, 27, from Jabalya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, died of wounds he had sustained during the recent IOF offensive on the Gaza Strip. An IOF drone fired a missile at him on 12 January 2009 when he was near his house. He was a member of the Palestinian resistance.

On the same day, the body of Ahmed Salama Abu Hasheesh, 19, a shepherd from the northern Gaza Strip, was found nearly 50 meters away from the border with Israel. Abu Hasheesh had been missing for nearly two months.

In the West Bank, dozens of Palestinian civilians suffered from tear gas inhalation, when IOF used force against peaceful demonstrations organized by Palestinian civilians in protest to the construction of the Annexation Wall in Bal'ein and Ne;lin villages, west of Ramallah.

Incursions: During the reporting period, IOF conducted at least 26 military incursions into Palestinian communities in the West Bank. IOF arrested 11 Palestinian civilians, including a child.

In the Gaza Strip, IOF naval troops continued to chase and fire at Palestinian fishermen. During the reporting period, they detained two fishermen for several hours.

Gaza Strip

IOF have continued to close all border crossings to the Gaza Strip for more than 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, excluding limited amounts of cooking gas, since 10 December 2008.
- The Rafah International Crossing Point has been 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 in the face of Palestinian civilians wishing to travel to the West Bank and Israeli for medical treatment, trade or social visits.
- Poverty had mounted to approximately 80% and unemployment has mounted to 60% in the Gaza Strip.
- IOF have continued to prevent the entry of spare parts form water networks and sewage systems. Losses incurred to this sector are estimated at US\$ 6 million.
- 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 for family visitation for more than 17 months.
- IOF have continued to attack Palestinian fishermen along the Gaza Strip coast.

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 in Jerusalem.
- 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 leads 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.

Establishing a Jewish majority in occupied East Jerusalem: IOF have escalated arbitrary measures against Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem to force them to leave the city. During the reporting period, IOF forced two Palestinians to demolish structures added to their houses in the old town of Jerusalem, allegedly because they were unlicensed.

Settlement Activities: IOF have continued settlement activities in violation of international humanitarian law and Israeli settlers living in the OPT have continued to attack Palestinian civilians and property. On 11 June 2009, IOF moved into Kufor Hares village, north of Salfit. They patrolled in the streets in order to allow at least 1,000 Israeli settlers to enter the village to conduct religious ceremonies. In the evening, IOF imposed a curfew on the village and allowed the settlers to enter the village. They stayed in the village until the following day morning, during which time they damaged a number of cars and windows of houses. They also wrote some slogans on walls of houses. On 14 June 2009, a number of Israeli settlers attacked 10-year-old 'Eissa Ahmed Qara'in near his house in Silwan village, east of Jerusalem. When the family intervened to protect the child, at least 30 guards of Israeli settlements in the area and attacked members of the family. Members of the family called the police, which arrived an hour and a half later. Ambulances also arrived at the area two hours later. As a result of the attack by settlers, 5 Palestinian civilians, including a child and two old people, were injured. On 15 June 2009, fire broke out in wheat field in Eastern al-Lubban village, southeast of Nablus. According to eyewitnesses, 3 Israeli settlers from "Elli" settlement, which stands on the eastern lands of the village set fire to the fields, while IOF troops were present in the area. Palestinian villagers hurried to extinguish fire and asked IOF troops to call fire engines from nearby settlements, but they refused. The mayor called the Palestinian civil defense in the nearby Bourin village. Fire fighter were able to extinguish fire after it had destroyed 20-25 donums¹ of land planted with wheat. On 17 June 2009, IOF moved into al-Hilwa area to the east of Tubas town in the northern Jordan Valley. They demolished 15 barnyards and 3 tents. About 40 days ago, IOF handed notices to Palestinian civilians living in the area ordering them to evacuate it claiming that it is a closed military zone.

¹ One donum is equal to 1,000 square meters.

Israeli Violations Documented during the Reporting Period (11 – 17 June 2009)

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

Thursday, 11 June 2009

- At approximately 00:00, IOF moved into Dura village, southwest of Hebron. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Fahed 'Abdul Fattah 'Amru, 20.
- At approximately 00:30, IOF moved into Hebron. They raided and searched a house belonging to 'Aassem Hassan al-Hashlamoun, 45, and arrested him and his nephew, 28-year-old Yousef 'Abdul Hadi al-Hashlamoun. They confiscated two mobile phones and some computer accessories.
- At approximately 01:30, IOF moved into Kufor Qallil village, east of Nablus. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested two Palestinian civilians:
 1. Fadi Mohammed Qanni, 24; and
 2. Rami Sa'ad Qanni, 20.
- Also at approximately 01:30, IOF moved into al-Jilda neighborhood in the west of Hebron. They raided and searched a house belonging to Zain 'Abdul Hafiz al-Qudsi, 29, and arrested him.
- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Hebron. They raided and searched a house belonging to Jameel Zakaria al-Jamal. No arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Taffouh village, west of Hebron. They raided and searched a house belonging to Hisham 'Abdul Qader al-Tarda. No arrests were reported.

Friday, 12 June 2009

- At approximately 21:00, IOF moved into al-Yamoun village, west of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 21:00, IOF moved into al-Hashimiya village, south of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 21:00, IOF moved into Kufor Dan village, west of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 21:00, IOF moved into al-'Araqa village, west of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.

Sunday, 14 June 2009

- At approximately 01:30, IOF warplanes dropped two bombs on al-Brazil neighborhood in the south of Rafah, allegedly to destroy tunnels along the Egyptian border. No casualties were reported, but Palestinian civilians were extremely terrified.

- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Bani Na'im village, northeast of Hebron. They raided and searched a number of houses and summoned 3 Palestinian civilians for interrogation.
- At approximately 02:30, IOF moved into al-Jdaida village, southeast of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 02:30, IOF moved into Maithaloun village, southeast of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 02:30, IOF moved into Sirris village, southeast of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 02:30, IOF moved into Sanour village, southeast of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- At approximately 09:30, IOF troops, accompanied by a jeep of the IOF "Civil Administration" and a number of officials of the Higher Organization Council moved into Kherbat al-Twaira area to the east of 'Aqraba village, southeast of Nablus. They handed a notice to 'Azmi Saleem Bani Jaber, 44, ordering him to evacuate the area where he lives in 48 hours.
- At approximately 10:00, the body of Ahmed Salama Abu Hasheesh, 19, a shepherd from the northern Gaza Strip, was found nearly 50 meters away from the border with Israel. Abu Hasheesh had been missing for nearly two months.

According to the victim's father and the paramedics who evacuated the body to the hospital, Abu Hasheesh left his home on 21 April 2009 and did not come back. The father informed the Palestinian police, the ICRC and Palestine Red Crescent Society, but all efforts to find him failed. On 14 June 2009, a number of internationals were visiting Gaza to see the destruction caused by the IOF offensive. The father told him his son's story, so they volunteered to search for him and went to the border area. IOF troops positioned at the border fired at them more than once, but they insisted to continue their search until they found a decayed body approximately 50 meters away from the border to the east of Beit Hanoun town. They called for an ambulance that evacuated the body to the hospital. There are strong indications that IOF shot Abu Hasheesh as the area is close to the border, and IOF often fire at whoever reach such areas.

- At approximately 22:00, IOF moved into Ta'nak village, west of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- During the day, medical sources at an Egyptian hospital declared that Yasser 'Arafat Shubair, 27, from Sheikh Zayed area in Jabalya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, died of wounds he had sustained during the recent IOF offensive on the Gaza Strip. Shubair was wounded by shrapnel to the head from a missile fired by a drone, when he was in front of his house. Shubair was a resistance activist.

Monday, 15 June 2009

- At approximately 00:00, IOF moved into Sour Baher village, southeast of Jerusalem. They raided and searched a house belonging to the family of Hamza Daoud Dandis, 23, and arrested him.

- At approximately 04:00, IOF moved into Jenin. They patrolled in the streets and opened fire at houses. Neither casualties nor arrests were reported.

Tuesday, 16 June 2009

- At approximately 04:00, IOF moved into Deir al-Ghossoun village, north of Tulkarm. They raided and searched a house belonging to Waleed Hassan 'Alu, 30. They also raided and searched his relatives' houses. They then took him to another house belonging to him in Shwaika suburb. They searched the house and confiscated a computer sets. Soon after, they arrested 'Alu.
- At approximately 04:30, IOF moved into Seilat al-Harhiya village, west of Jenin. They erected a number of checkpoints in the streets and stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles. No arrests were reported.
- At approximately 06:00, IOF gunboats opened fire at a fishing boat in al-Waha area in the northern Gaza Strip. They then moved towards the boat and arrested two fishers: Hadi Sobhi Sa'dallah, 19; and his brother Ashraf, 26. They took the two fisherso Ashdod Harbor in the south of Israel and interrogated them. The two fishers were released in the evening.

Wednesday, 17 June 2009

- At approximately 01:00, IOF moved into Beit 'Awa village, southwest of Hebron. They raided and searched a house belonging to the family of Yousef Ahmed al-Masalma, 22, and arrested him.
- At approximately 01:30, IOF moved into al-Rihiya village, south of Hebron. They raided and searched a house belonging to the family of Isma'il Ahmed al-Tubasi, 22, and summoned him for interrogation.
- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Nablus. They besieged al-Zain apartment buildings in al-Sikka Street in the west of the city. They forced the residents out and searched the building. No arrests were reported.

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 to the Gaza Strip for more than 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, excluding limited amounts of cooking gas, since 10 December 2008.
- The Rafah International Crossing Point has been 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 in the face of Palestinian civilians wishing to travel to the West Bank and Israeli for medical treatment, trade or social visits.
- Poverty had mounted to approximately 80% and unemployment has mounted to 60% in the Gaza Strip.
- IOF have continued to prevent the entry of spare parts form water networks and sewage systems. Losses incurred to this sector are estimated at US\$ 6 million.
- 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 denied family visitation rights for more than 17 months.
- IOF have continued to attack Palestinian fishers along the Gaza Strip coast.

Movement at Border Crossings during the Reporting Period:**Movement at Karm Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) Crossing
10 – 16 June 2009**

Date	Details
10 June 2009	Closed.
11 June 2009	Closed.
12 June 2009	107 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
13 June 2009	Closed.
14 June 2009	101 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
15 June 2009	117 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
16 June 2009	123 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
10 – 16 June 2009**

Date	Details
10 June 2009	72 persons were allowed to travel to Egypt and 154 others, including a number of patients, were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
11 June 2009	12 internationals and Arabs were allowed to travel to Egypt and 36 Palestinians, including a number of patients, were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
12 June 2009	6 internationals and Arabs were allowed to travel to Egypt.
13 June 2009	Closed.
14 June 2009	16 wounded children were allowed to travel to Egypt.
15 June 2009	54 Palestinians, including wounded children, and a 5-member delegation of the Ministry of Interior in Gaza, were allowed to travel to Egypt and 42 ones, including a 3-member delegation of Hamas and the body of a dead child were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
16 June 2009	A 16-member sports delegation of disabled persons was allowed to travel to Egypt.

Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing: IOF have continued to close Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing for the movement of Palestinian civilians. They have allowed only diplomats, a number of international journalists, workers at international agencies and a few patients who suffer from serious diseases to pass through the crossing. They have continued to prevent Palestinian civilians from visiting their relatives who are detained in Israeli jails. As mentioned above, IOF have allowed a few number of patients to pass through the crossing, but under severe restrictions that include prolonged checking.

**Movement at Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing
10 – 16 June 2009**

Date	Patients	Companions	Traders and Businessmen	International Journalists	International Workers	Travelers abroad
10 June 2009	19	15	Nil	3	32	Nil
11 June 2009	5	14	Nil	1	64	5
12 June 2009	1	5	Nil	2	24	Nil
13 June 2009	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
14 June 2009	16	17	Nil	2	11	18
15 June 2009	23	23	Nil	3	46	6
16 June 2009	27	27	3	3	54	2

**Nahal Ouz Crossing
10 – 16 June 2009**

Date	Cooking Gas (tons)	Energy Fuel (liters)
10 June 2009	95.180	476,400
11 June 2009	116.970	253,000
14 June 2009	89.590	426,000
15 June 2009	89.620	456,000
16 June 2009	123.300	423,410

Al-Mentar (Karni) Crossing: IOF partially opened the crossing on Wednesday, 10 June 2009 and allowed the entry of 2,850 tons of seeds and fodders. They opened it again on Tuesday, 15 June 2009, and allowed the entry of 1,250 tons of seeds and fodders.

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. IOF have established many checkpoints around and inside the city. Restrictions of the movement of Palestinian civilians often escalate on Fridays to prevent them from praying 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.
- **Nablus:** IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. During the reporting period, IOF dismantled the 17 checkpoints at the northern entrance of Nablus. Although IOF dismantled Beit Eiba checkpoint, west of Nablus, IOF troops positioned at an iron gate established on Nablus-Tulkarm road, west of Nablus, often stop and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles especially at times of heavy traffic. In the same context, IOF troops positioned at Hawara checkpoint on Nablus-Ramallah road and "Shavi Shomoron" checkpoint on Nablus-Jenin often conduct prolonged and complicated checking on Palestinian civilians. Additionally, IOF have continued to erect checkpoints on roads leading to the city. They stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles. On Tuesday evening, 16 June 2009, IOF closed the main entrance of Majdal Fadel village, southeast of Nablus, with sand barriers and rocks.
- **Jenin:** IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Saturday morning, 13 June 2009, IOF erected a checkpoint on the road between 'Arraba and Fahma village, south of Jenin. They stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles. In the evening, IOF erected a checkpoint between Rummana and Zabbouba villages, west of Jenin. They stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles. On Monday morning, 15 June 2009, IOF erected a checkpoint at 'Ejja intersection, south of Jenin. They stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles.
- **Hebron:** IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians inside and around the town. On Saturday and Sunday, 13 and 14 June 2009, IOF troops positioned in the vicinity of Wad al-Hussain neighborhood, adjacent to "Kiryat Arba" settlement, southeast of Hebron, prevented Palestinian civilians living in the area from supplying water to their houses as they prevented water vehicles from entering the area. Such measure has created a water crisis in the area.

III-Treatment of Palestinian civilians

On Monday evening, 15 June 2009, a Palestinian civilian from Beit Ummar village, north of Hebron, was seriously injured as he was violently beaten by IOF troops.

According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 18:30 on Monday, 15 June 2009, Mohammed Kamel Bahar was in the house of his friend, Sami Mahmoud Hammad, 20, after he had parked his motorcycle in the yard near Hebron-Bethlehem road. Seven IOF soldiers raided the house and arrested

Hammad and Bahar. They detained the two civilians near the main road and violently beat Bahar, claiming that the motorcycle was stolen. Bahar refuted this claim and presented to them ownership documents. Soon after, Bahar's mother, Fatima Khaled Bahar, 54, and his two brothers – Kifah, 24, and 'Eissa, 16 – arrived at the area and asked IOF soldiers to release the two civilians, but they refused and continued to beat Mohammed. When Kifah intervened, IOF soldiers violently beat him over a period of 15 minutes. The mother was also hit and kicked by the soldiers when she intervened to stop the attack. Kifah was seriously injured in the head and sustained bruises throughout the body. He lost consciousness. The mother and Kifah's two brothers also sustained bruises. A Palestinian ambulance arrived at the area, but IOF soldiers refused to allow the medical crew to offer medical aid for the detained civilians for 15 minutes. At approximately 21:15, Kifah was evacuated to an Israeli hospital, and remained under military escort. The other two brothers and the friend were also arrested. They were released on the following day morning. On Tuesday, 16 June 2009, IOF transferred Kifah from the hospital to an unknown destination.

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 and international and Israeli human rights defenders in protest to the construction of the Wall.

- Following the Friday Prayer on 12 June 2009, dozens of Palestinian civilians gathered in the center of Bal'ein village, west of Ramallah. They moved towards the Wall and threw stones at IOF troops positioned in the area. Immediately, IOF troops fired rubber-coated metal bullets, sound bombs and tear gas canisters at the demonstrators. Dozens of demonstrators suffered from tear gas inhalation.
- Also following the Friday Prayer on 12 June 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 attacked and fired tear gas canisters at the demonstrators. Dozens of demonstrators suffered from tear gas inhalation.

4. Establishing a Jewish majority in occupied East 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 forced Ussama Taher Hashima to demolish the third floor of his house in 'Aqabat al-Khaldiya area in the old town of East Jerusalem. An IOF court had ordered Hashima to demolish the third floor of his house by 15 June 2009, otherwise, the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem would demolish it and impose a fine that amounts to 70,000 NIS (approximately US\$17,500). Six months ago, the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem ordered the demolition of the third floor and an Israeli court, to which the family submitted a petition against the demolition, approved the order. On Thursday, 11 June 2009, the family demolished the floor.
- During the reporting period, IOF forced Jamal Daoud Sa'id to demolish a structure he had added to his house in the old town of East Jerusalem. Approximately a year ago, an Israeli court imposed a fine of 20,000 NIS (approximately US\$5,000) and ordered him to obtain a construction license from the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem, but the municipality refused to issue such license for him and ordered him to

demolish the added structure by 13 June 2009. On Sunday, 14 June 2009, the family was forced to demolish the added structure.

- During the reporting period, IOF handed an administrative order issued by the Israeli municipal court to Mohammed Faisal Jar requiring him to demolish a 20-square-meter house belonging to him in Jerusalem. Jar paid a fine in 2008 and was given 6 months to obtain a construction license.

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.

- At approximately 14:00 on Thursday, 11 June 2009, IOF moved into Kufor Hares village, north of Salfit. They patrolled in the streets in order to allow at least 1,000 Israeli settlers to enter the village to conduct religious ceremonies. In the evening, IOF imposed a curfew on the village and allowed the settlers to enter the village. They stayed in the village until the following day morning, during which time they damaged a number of cars and windows of houses. They also wrote some slogans on walls of houses.
- At approximately 17:30 on Sunday, 14 June 2009, a number of Israeli settlers attacked 10-year-old 'Eissa Ahmed Qara'in near his house in Silwan village, east of Jerusalem. When the family intervened to protect the child, at least 30 guards of Israeli settlements in the area and attacked members of the family. Members of the family called the police, which arrived an hour and a half later. Ambulances also arrived at the area two hours later. On 16 June 2009, the family submitted a complaint the Israeli police. The police detained Tamer and Mahmoud Qara'in until Wednesday, 17 June 2009, and ordered them to stay away from their family's house for one month; otherwise, they would have to pay a fine of 6,000 NIS (approximately US\$ 1,500). The police also ordered the third brother, Ahmed, to stay away from the house for one week. The police further refused to give details about the identities of the attackers to the family's lawyer for security claims. As a result of the attack by settlers, 5 Palestinian civilians, including a child and two old people, were injured:
 1. 'Eissa Ahmed Qara'in, 10, sustained bruises throughout the body;
 2. Ahmed 'Eissa Qara'in, 35, sustained bruises throughout the body;
 3. Tamer 'Eissa Qara'in, 23, sustained bruises to the face and the left leg;
 4. 'Eissa Qara'in, 70, sustained bruises and cuts to the back; and
 5. Raba'ia Qara'in, 63, sustained bruises to the shoulder.
- At approximately 02:30 on Monday, 15 June 2009, fire broke out in wheat field in Eastern al-Lubban village, southeast of Nablus. According to eyewitnesses, 3 Israeli settlers from "Elli" settlement, which stands on the eastern lands of the village set fire to the fields, while IOF troops were present in the area. Palestinian villagers hurried to extinguish fire and asked IOF troops to call fire engines from nearby settlements, but they refused. The mayor called the Palestinian civil defense in the nearby Bourin village. Fire fighters were able to extinguish the fire after it had destroyed 20-25 donums of land planted with wheat.
- At approximately 07:00 on Wednesday, 17 June 2009, IOF moved into al-Hilwa area to the east of Tubas town in the northern Jordan Valley. They demolished 15 barnyards and 3 tents. About 40 days ago, IOF handed notices to Palestinian civilians living in the area ordering them to evacuate it claiming that it is a closed military zone.

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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 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 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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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).