

# PCHR

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

<http://www.pchrgaza.org>



## Weekly Report

### On Israeli Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory



An Israeli soldier firing at Ashraf Abu Rahma while handcuffed in Bal'ein village, west of Ramallah

17 - 23 July 2008

N<sup>o</sup> 30/2008

## **Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) Continue Systematic Attacks against Palestinian Civilians and Property in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)**

- 3 Palestinian civilians, including a child, were wounded by IOF gunfire in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
- IOF conducted 32 incursions into Palestinian communities in the West Bank.
- IOF arrested 80 Palestinian civilians, including a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council; 74 of these civilians were arrested in Nablus.
- IOF arrested a Palestinian civilian whose daughter filmed an Israeli soldier shooting a Palestinian civilian in Ne'lin village, west of Ramallah.
- IOF raided a charity and a kindergarten in Jericho.
- IOF have continued to impose a total siege on the OPT and have isolated the Gaza Strip from the outside world.
- IOF have continued settlement activities in the West Bank and Israeli settlers have continued to attacks Palestinian civilians and property.
- Israeli settlers launched 5 attacks against Palestinian civilians and property in Hebron and Qalqilya.

## Summary

Israeli violations of international law and humanitarian law continued in the OPT during the reporting period (17 – 23 July 2008):

**Shooting:** During the reporting period, IOF wounded 3 Palestinian civilians, including a child, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

On 17 July 2008, IOF wounded 2 Palestinian civilians, including a child, during an incursion into Nablus and neighboring refugee camps. On 23 July, IOF wounded a Palestinian civilian in Beit Hanoun town in the northern Gaza Strip, while he was collecting metals almost 300 meters away from the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

During the reporting period, dozens of Palestinian civilians suffered from tear gas inhalation when IOF used force to disperse peaceful demonstrations organized in protest to the construction of the Annexation Wall in Bal'ain and Ne'lin villages, west of Ramallah. In the same context, a footage filmed by a young Palestinian girl in Ne'lin village, west of Ramallah, on 7 July, which appeared on the screen of several television channels, showed an Israeli soldier firing a rubber-coated metal bullet, at extremely short range, at a Palestinian detainee who was cuffed and blindfolded.

**Incursions:** Since the Egypt-brokered truce between Palestinian resistance groups and Israel entered into force in the Gaza Strip on 19 June 2008, IOF have escalated attacks against Palestinian civilians and property in the West Bank. This escalation led the Palestinian Prime Minister, Dr. Salam Fayad, to suspend the security plan being implemented by the Palestinian National Authority in the West Bank. Dr. Fayad stated in a press conference in Ramallah on Tuesday, 22 July 2008, that “The Palestinian National Authority may suspend the security plan it is implementing in Palestinian town due to the escalation of Israeli attacks.”

During the reporting period, IOF conducted at least 32 military incursions into Palestinian communities in the West Bank. During these incursions, IOF arrested 80 Palestinian civilians, including a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council. In Nablus alone, IOF arrested 74 Palestinian civilians. IOF also arrested the father of a young girl who filmed an Israeli soldier firing at Palestinian civilian in Ne'lin village, west of Ramallah, on 7 July. The number of Palestinian civilians who have been arrested by IOF in the West Bank since the beginning of this year now stands at 1,628. For the second consecutive week, IOF have continued their campaign against Palestinian civil institutions. During the reporting period, IOF raided and searched a charity and a kindergarten in Jericho. They confiscated computers and documents.

**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.

## 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 tightened since June 2007, has had a disastrous impact on the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, and has violated the human, economic and social rights of the approximately 1.5 million Palestinian civilian population, particularly their rights to appropriate living conditions, health and education. The siege has also paralyzed the Gazan economy. In addition, the

siege has severely impacted the flow of food, medical supplies and other necessities such as fuel, construction materials and raw materials for various economic sectors. IOF have continued to prevent the entry of raw materials into the Gaza Strip, and many factories have been forced to close. Severe restrictions have been imposed on the movement of the entire Palestinian civilian population. Regarding civilian movements, IOF permit very few Palestinian civilians to pass through Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing in order to travel to the West Bank or Israel. Rafah International Crossing Point in the southern Gaza Strip is the sole outlet for the Gaza Strip to the outside world via a country other than Israel. IOF have closed Rafah International Crossing Point, even though they do not directly control it, and have also obstructed European observers working at the Crossing Point from reaching it. Although the Egypt-brokered truce between Palestinian resistance groups and Israel entered into force on June 19, no major changes have been observed regarding the movement of persons and goods through the six Gaza Strip border crossings. The closure of these border crossings deprives the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip of their right to freedom of movement, education and health.

## **West Bank**

Contrary to Israeli claims of easing restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians, IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians throughout the West Bank. Thousands of Palestinian civilians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been denied access to Jerusalem. 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 assault Palestinian civilians who attempt to bypass checkpoints and enter the city. IOF have also tightened the siege imposed on Palestinian communities in the West Bank. IOF positioned at various checkpoints in the West Bank have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. IOF also erected more checkpoints on the main roads and intersections in the West Bank.

**Settlement Activities:** IOF have continued settlement activities and Israeli settlers living in the OPT have, in violation of international humanitarian law, continued to attack Palestinian civilians and property. During the reporting period, Israeli settlers launched five attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property in Hebron and Qalqilya. IOF were present during those attacks and did not intervene to stop them' they were complicit in supporting the settlers.

## **Israeli Violations Documented during the Reporting Period (17 – 23 July 2008)**

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

**Thursday, 17 July**

- At approximately 01:00, IOF moved into Nablus and neighboring refugee camps. They patrolled in the streets and opened fire. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 30 Palestinian civilians:

1. Lu'ai Wleed al-Naqeeb, 20;
2. Firas Waleed al-Naqeeb, 22;
3. Adham Salah al-Naqeeb, 25;
4. Mohammed 'Abdul Qader Hafi, 24;
5. Nihad Ahmed al-Beeshawi, 23;
6. Qassem Ghazi Jarwan, 26;
7. Mohammed Hafez 'Abdul Jawad, 23;
8. Khaled Ahmed Salama, 25;
9. Radwan 'Abdul Qader Qatanani, 19;
10. Ahmed 'Abdul Qader Qatanani, 25;
11. Hassan Suleiman Qatanani, 26;
12. Mahmoud Khalil al-Mussaimi, 22;
13. Ahmed Nabeel al-Sairafi, 22;
14. Talha Mahmoud Mashayekh, 24;
15. Rami Fayez Abu Hawila, 27;
16. Ahmed Mohammed Habboush, 23;
17. Bassel Mohammed Habboush, 22;
18. 'Abdul Fattah Mohammed Habboush, 29;
19. Khalil Mohammed Habboush, 31;
20. Rakan Khalil Mabrouk, 24;
21. Mo'taz Yassin Subeh, 22;
22. 'Aamer Mohammed 'Alloush, 25;
23. Ashraf Rubin al-Saqqa, 25;
24. 'Abdul Hadi Fawzi Bashkar, 23;
25. 'Abdul Rahin Fawzi Bashkar, 22;
26. Jalal Ahmed Jarbou', 25;
27. Khalil Fakhri Mahfouz, 27;
28. Mohammed Mahmoud Badran, 22;
29. Mohammed Taher Fares, 37;
30. Yousef Taher Fares, 33.

A few hours later, a number of Palestinian children and young men gathered and threw stones at IOF military vehicles. Immediately, IOF troops fired at them wounding two of them, including a child:

1. 'Abdullah Khalil al-'Aassi, 17, wounded by a gunshot to the left hand;
2. Sameer Sa'id Msa'ed, 22, wounded by shrapnel to the body.

- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Bourqin village, west of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Mohammed Khaled Ghanem, 24.
- At approximately 03:00, IOF moved into Beit Ummar village, north of Hebron. They raided and searched a number of houses. During the house raids, IOF damaged a number of houses and assaulted a number of Palestinian civilians.

### **Friday, 18 July**

- At approximately 01:00, IOF moved into Qalandya refugee camp, north of Jerusalem. They raided and searched a house belonging to Mohammed Hassan Emtair, but no arrests were reported.
- At approximately 01:30, IOF moved into Koubar village, north of Ramallah. They patrolled in the streets and opened fire. Neither casualties nor arrests were reported.
- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Madama village, south of Nablus. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 10 Palestinian civilians:

1. Shareef Mohammed Nassar, 26;
2. Rami Mohammed Nassar, 28;
3. Mohammed Tayeb Faraj, 21;
4. 'Ali Tayeb Faraj, 28;
5. Tha'er Sameer Nassar, 26;
6. Fa'ed Sameer Nassar, 29;
7. Hani Sidqi Nassar, 20;
8. Bassem Sidqi Nassar, 26;
9. Hashem Dib Nassar, 31;
10. Basheer Hamed Ziada, 24.

- Also at approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Southern 'Assira village, south of Nablus. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 5 Palestinian civilians:

1. Ahmed Khali Makhoulf, 18;
2. 'Emad 'Aziz Ahmed, 30;
3. Waleed Hassan Hamdan, 25;
4. Hammam Husni Saleh, 23;
5. 'Ali Mohammed Saleh, 24.

### **Saturday, 19 July**

- At approximately 01:00, IOF moved into al-Bireh. They patrolled the streets and opened fire. Neither casualties nor arrests were reported.
- At approximately 01:30, IOF moved into Senjel village, north of Ramallah. They patrolled the streets and opened fire. Neither casualties nor arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 01:30, IOF moved into Kufor Ra'ei village, southwest of Jenin. They patrolled the streets and opened fire. Neither casualties nor arrests were reported.

- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into al-Mazra'a village, northeast of Ramallah. They patrolled the streets and opened fire. Neither casualties nor arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Deir al-Sudan village, north of Ramallah. They patrolled the streets and opened fire. Neither casualties nor arrests were reported.

### **Sunday, 20 July**

- At approximately 01:00, 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 Nablus and the neighboring Balata refugee camp. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Rassem Hussein Hashash, 20.

### **Monday, 21 July**

- At approximately 01:00, IOF moved into Jericho. They raided and searched offices of al-Israa' Charity and a subordinate kindergarten. They confiscated a number of computers and some documents.
- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Bourqin village, west of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Kufor Dan village, west of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- At approximately 02:15, IOF moved into Nablus and the neighboring Balata refugee camp. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 26 Palestinian civilians, including a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC):

1. Muna Saleem Mansour, 46, PLC member;
2. 'Othman Mohammed Musleh, 60;
3. 'Emad Anwar Can'an, 55;
4. 'Awni Sa'id Kalbouna, 42;
5. 'Allan Jamal Joudallah, 34;
6. Shadi Jamal Joudallah, 30;
7. Tamer Nabeel 'Olaiwi, 22;
8. Saleh Hussein Abu 'Ata, 23;
9. Hamza 'Abdul Hadi Abu Zant, 21;
10. Inas Qassem al-Faqeeh, 28;
11. Ibrahim Sa'id al-Sakhel, 67;
12. Ibrahim Ibrahim al-Sakhel, 40;
13. Wa'el Ibrahim al-Sakhel, 28;
14. Yahia Mohammed Abu Zant, 22;
15. Salah Khairi Abu 'Assab, 27;
16. 'Essam Mohammed Jarrar, 47;
17. Hussein Abu Zant, 57, manager of Nablus Mall;
18. Hassan 'Abdullah Hashash, 18;
19. Haitham Mohye al-Din, 21;

20. Samer Hussein Tahaina, 20;
21. Ibrahim al-Baz, 19;
22. Malek ‘Ammar, 22;
23. Ahmed Zaidan, 20;
24. ‘Odai Abu Kharma, 21;
25. Mustafa Abu Shamat, 20;
26. ;Odai Khadija, 19.

IOF troops also confiscated a number of computers, documents and mobile phones belonging to the detainees.

- At approximately 02:45, IOF moved into al-Yamoun village, west of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 02:45, IOF moved into ‘Arraba village, southwest of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- At approximately 20:00, IOF moved into Tulkarm. They raided and searched 4 shops near al-Safarini Mosque in the south of the town. They held a number of Palestinian civilians inside the shops for some time. No arrests were reported.

#### **Tuesday, 22 July**

- At approximately 01:45, IOF moved into Qabatya village, southeast of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Nablus and the neighboring Balata refugee camp. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 2 Palestinian civilians:
  1. Jamel Yousef al-‘Aayed, 27;
  2. Ahmed Farhan Hashash, 22.
- At approximately 02:15, IOF moved into Bourqin village, west of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 02:15, IOF moved into Deir Abu Da’if village, northeast of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- At approximately 03:00, IOF moved into Beit Ummar village, north of Hebron. They raided and searched 2 houses and arrested 2 Palestinian civilians:
  1. Mahmoud Mustafa ‘Abdul ‘Aziz, 22;
  2. Sa’ed Rebhi ‘Aadi, 20.
- At approximately 04:30, IOF moved into al-Zahiriya village, south of Hebron. They raided and searched a number of houses and photographed their residents. No arrests were reported.

**Wednesday, 23 July**

- At approximately 00:30, IOF moved into Nablus and neighboring refugee camps. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- At approximately 01:00, IOF moved into Jenin town and refugee camp. . They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- At approximately 01:30, IOF moved into Qiffin village, north of Tulkarm. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Ahmed Ibrahim ‘Abed, 25.
- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into al-Ymoun village, west of Jenin. . They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- At approximately 10:45, IOF troops positioned at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel north of Beit Hanoun town fired at Mohammed ‘Abdul ‘Aziz Hamdan, 22, from Beit Hanoun. He was wounded by a gunshot to the right leg. Hamdan was collecting scrap metal almost 300 meters away from the border, when IOF troops fired at him. This attack is the sixth of its kind since the Egypt-brokered truce between Palestinian resistance groups and Israel entered into force on 19 June 2008.
- At noon, IOF arrested Jamal Hussein ‘Amira Can’an, the father of a young girl who filmed IOF troops while they shot a Palestinian civilian in Ne’lin village, west of Ramallah. Can’an told PCHR on 22 July 2008 that the Israeli officer who ordered a soldier to shoot the Palestinian civilian on 7 July threatened him after the video recording was published.

**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 impose a siege on the 1.5 million civilians of the Gaza Strip. The border crossings of the Strip have been closed for more than two years as part of IOF’s collective punishment policy, imposing severe restrictions on the movement of civilians and goods. As a result, the territory is unable to secure its basic needs of food, medicine, and other supplies, pushing the poverty rate above 80%.

The continued Israeli ban on fuel supplies required for civilian life in the Gaza Strip has led to the near paralysis of the educational sector. In addition, the health sector is on the verge of collapse due to the stoppage of many ambulances from operating for lack of fuel. Healthcare facilities have registered a 25% drop in clients due to the transport crisis, and hundreds of healthcare professionals have been unable to reach their work places. Furthermore, the transportation sector has almost ceased functioning throughout the Gaza Strip, resulting in massively reduced essential services, including the delivery of drinking water delivery, sewage water disposal, and garbage collection.

During the reporting period, the Egypt-brokered truces between Palestinian resistance groups and Israel continued. Under the agreement, the IOF imposed siege of the Gaza Strip is apparently to be eased

gradually. However, no tangible change has been noticed with regard to the movement of persons and goods, excluding the increase in the number of containers of foods and humanitarian aid allowed into the Gaza Strip.

IOF are allowing a very limited number of seriously ill patients and staff of international organizations to pass through Beit Hanoun (Erez) checkpoint. IOF have however prevented families of at least 900 Palestinians detained in Israeli jails from visiting them since 6 June 2007.

The tightened siege has led to the collapse of the Gaza Strip economic sectors. Most production facilities have ceased to operate due to the siege and restriction on movement of goods and individuals.

Concerning the movement at Nahal Ouz crossing, east of Gaza City, which designed for the entry of fuels, during the reporting period, IOF allowed the entry of the following amounts of fuels:

Date	Benzene	Diesel	Cooking Gas	Energy Fuel
16 July 2008	Nil	Nil	220 tons	Nil
17 July 2008	Nil	Nil	227.370 tons	Nil
18 July 2008	43,010 liters	378,800 liters	Nil	Nil
20 July 2008	43,030 liters	258,400 liters	284.290 tons	678,800 liters
21 July 2008	45,000 liters	296,400 liters	261.320 tons	721,800 liters
22 July 2008	60,000 liters	317,000 liters	104 tons	558,000 liters

During the reporting period, IOF partially reopened al-Mentar (Karni) commercial crossing for several hours on Sunday, 20 July 2008, and allowed the entry of 7,000 tons of aggregate. On Monday, 21 July, IOF allowed the entry of 2,600 tons of seeds and feeds. On Tuesday, 22 July, IOF allowed the entry of 7,500 tons of aggregate.

Concerning the movement at Sofa crossing, northeast of Rafah, during the reporting period, it was as shown in the following table:

Date	Details
16 July 2008	71.5 containers of goods were allowed into the Gaza Strip
17 July 2008	88 containers of goods and humanitarian aids were allowed into the Gaza Strip
18 July 2008	66 containers of goods were allowed into the Gaza Strip
19 July 2008	Closed
20 July 2008	86 containers of goods were allowed into the Gaza Strip
21 July 2008	89 containers of goods were allowed into the Gaza Strip
22 July 2008	87 containers of goods and humanitarian aids were allowed into the Gaza Strip

With regard to Rafah International Crossing Point on the Egyptian border, the Egyptian authorities started to open it on a limited basis for some patients. However, during the reporting period, the crossing point remained closed.

In the meantime, IOF have continued to close Karm Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom” crossing for more than three consecutive months.

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. Approximately 35,000 people in and around Gaza’s coastal communities rely on the fishing industry, including 3,500 fishermen, 2,500 support staff and their families. Fishermen

are subjected to intensive monitoring by IOF, which use helicopter gunships and gunboats to monitor the fishermen. Under the Oslo Accords, Palestinian fishermen are permitted to fish up to twenty nautical miles from the Gaza Strip coastline.

## **The West Bank**

As previously noted, 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

On Tuesday afternoon, 22 July, IOF troops imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem. They closed road #1, which separate between the two sections of the city, and imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians through checkpoints and crossing established at the entrance of the city.

- Nablus: IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Thursday, 17 July, IOF troops positioned at various checkpoints around Nablus imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians to and from the city. On Saturday morning, 12 July, IOF troops positioned at Za'atara checkpoint, south of Nablus, and Beit Eiba checkpoint, west of the city, conducted prolonged checking on Palestinian civilians. On Sunday morning, 20 July, IOF troops positioned at Za'atara checkpoint, south of Nablus, conducted prolonged checking on Palestinian civilians. On Monday morning, 21 July, IOF troops positioned at various checkpoints around the city imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Tuesday morning, 22 July, IOF troops positioned Za'tara checkpoint, south of Nablus, imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians to and from Nablus. They conducted prolonged checking of those civilians.

- Tulkarm: IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Thursday, 17 July, IOF erected a checkpoint to the east of Nour Shams refugee camp, east of Tulkarm. They stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles. In the meantime, IOF troops positioned at Wad al-Teen checkpoint, south of Tulkarm, and Ennab checkpoint, east of the town, imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians to and from the town. On Saturday, 19 July, IOF erected a checkpoint at Far'oun intersection, south of Tulkarm, and another one at Beit Leed intersection, east of the town. They stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles. On Sunday, 20 July, IOF erected a checkpoint at the entrance of al-Ras village, south of Tulkarm. They stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles. On Monday, 21 July, IOF closed Wad al-Teen checkpoint, south of Tulkarm. On Tuesday, 22 July, IOF erected a checkpoint at Deir al-Ghossoun intersection, north of Tulkarm, and banned Palestinian civilians from passing through for several hours. On Wednesday, 23 July, IOF troops positioned at Wad al-Teen checkpoint, south of Tulkarm, imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians to and from Tulkarm.

- Hebron: IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians inside and around Hebron. On Monday evening, 21 July, IOF closed the entrances of Dura, Kharsa, al-Zahiriya, al-Sammou' and al-Rihiya villages and al-Fawar refugee camp, south and southwest of Hebron, for 3 hours. At approximately 16:00 on Tuesday, 22 July, IOF moved into the west of Hebron. They erected 2 checkpoints in the area and stopped and checked Palestinian civilians.

### **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 at the construction of the Wall in Bal'ain and Ne'lin villages, west of Ramallah.

- Following the Friday Prayer on 18 July, scores of Palestinian civilians and international and Israeli human rights defenders demonstrated in Bal'ain village, west of Ramallah, in protest at the construction of the Wall. The demonstrators moved towards the Wall, but IOF closed all gates designed for crossing the Wall. The demonstrators then set fire to tires in protest to the closure of gates. Immediately, IOF troops fired rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters at the demonstrators. As a result, dozens of demonstrators also suffered from tear gas inhalation.
- On Friday noon, 18 July, 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 rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters at the demonstrators. As a result, dozens of demonstrators suffered from tear gas inhalation.
- On Sunday morning, 20 July, 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 rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters at the demonstrators. As a result, dozens of demonstrators suffered from tear gas inhalation.
- A footage filmed by a young Palestinian girl in Ne'lin village, west of Ramallah, on 7 July, which appeared on the screen of several television channels, showed an Israeli soldier firing a rubber-coated metal bullet, at extremely short range, at a Palestinian detainee who was cuffed and blindfolded.

According to investigations conducted by PCHR, on Monday, 7 July, about 50 Palestinian civilians from Bal'ain village, west of Ramallah, and international and Israeli human rights defenders, headed towards Ne'lin village, west of Ramallah, to support residents of the village who were under a curfew imposed by IOF. IOF troops used force to disperse them and arrested 2, including Ashraf Ibrahim Abu Rhma, 27. IOF detained the two for several hours. While detaining Abu Rahma, an IOF soldiers fired a rubber-coated metal bullet from about one meter away at his foot. Abu Rahma, who is known in his village as al-Dabe' (hyena) has become a popular local figure as he is the only person who spends nights in a room built by the Palestinian Public Committee against the Wall behind the Wall. IOF troops have repeatedly threatened him. He was wounded twice and has also been arrested twice in the past 3 years.

In his testimony to PCHR, Ashraf Abu Rahma stated:

*“At approximately 11:00 on Monday, 7 July, I was one in a group of residents of Bal'ain village and international and Israeli solidarity activists who headed towards Ne'lin village, west of Ramallah. When we arrived at al-Muhallal area in the east of Ne'lin village, 4 military jeeps chased us. Two soldiers from each jeep got out and fired tear gas canisters and sound bombs at us. We fled and the soldiers chased us. They arrested me and Bassel Mansour, 31, and placed us in separate jeeps. Once the jeep in which they placed moved, the soldiers violently beat me. Later, they took me out of the*

*jeep and handcuffed and blindfolded me. They left me exposed to the hot sun. At approximately 14:00, a soldier made me stand up. I heard soldiers saying “goomi”, a Hebrew word which means rubber. I then heard an explosion between my feet. I fell down not knowing what happened to me. Two minutes later, they untied my hands unfolded my eyes. I looked at my left foot. My thumb was swollen and blue. An hour later, they released me after having threatened to send me to hell next time.”*

In her testimony to PCHR in the presence of her father, Salam Jamal Can'an, who filmed the incident, stated:

*“At approximately 12:00 on Monday, 7 July, I saw a peaceful demonstration coming from al-Muhallal area towards a settlement road that passes through my village, Ne'lin village. I started to film the scene using a home video camera. The army fired sound bombs at the demonstrators and dispersed them. At approximately 12:30, I saw a number of soldiers holding a young man, whom I knew later was Ashraf Abu Rahma. He was handcuffed and blindfolded. They held him in the heat of the sun for nearly 2 hours. The soldiers beat him from time to time. An officer then came and took him towards a jeep. I thought he intended to put Abu Rahma into the jeep. However, I saw the officer holding Abu Rahma's shoulder, while a soldier was just one meter away from Abu Rahma pointing the gun at his feet. The soldier then fired at Abu Rahma's foot. At this moment, I cried and left the camera. My brother took it and continued to film the scene.”*

#### **4. 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 evening, 17, Israeli settlers living in “Kiryat Arba” settlement and al-Rujbi building in al-Ras neighborhood, southeast of Hebron, renewed their attempt to seize a tract of land belonging to Mahmoud al-Bouti Jaber in Wad al-Nassara neighborhood. The settlers stormed the land in the presence of IOF troops, and set up tents. IOF reinforced their presence in the area and prevented Palestinian civilians from getting close to the seized land.
- On Friday evening, 18 July, IOF troops positioned in the vicinity of “Sousia” settlement, south of Hebron, arrested Mahmoud Mohammed al-Nawaj'a, 27, in response to a request by Israeli settlers. According to al-Nawaj'a's brother, IOF troops, accompanied by settlers, raided the family's land and arrested his brother, in response to a request by Israeli settlers.
- At approximately 18:00 on Monday, 21 July, Israeli settlers from “Gilad” settlement, east of Qalqilya, set fire to olive fields in Wad Abu al-Joud area between Ematin and Far'ata villages, northeast of Qalqilya. According to Palestinian farmers, Israeli settlers fired at them to prevent them from extinguishing fire. Later, IOF troops arrived at the area and fired tear gas canisters, sound bombs and rubber-coated metal bullets at Palestinian civilians. A number of civilians suffered from tear gas inhalation.
- Late in the evening on the same day, Israeli settlers from “Kiryat Arba” settlement, southeast of Hebron, attacked Palestinian houses in Wadi al-Nassara neighborhood, using stones and empty bottles. A number of houses were damaged. The settlers also attempted to break into a house belonging to attorney Munther Shukri Da'na.

## **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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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](mailto:pchr@pchrgaza.org)) or telephone (+972 (0)8 2824776 – 2825893).

