



Fact Sheet, No. 2

Extra-Judicial Executions in the OPT Committed by Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) Between January 2007 and March 2007.

Israeli policies of targeted killing continued in this period, killing 5 targeted persons and injuring 3 others. This summary highlights the cases and reiterates the criminality of such actions under international human rights law, international law and international humanitarian law. The following is a narration of some various and separated extra-judicial executions committed by the Israeli Occupation Forces.

- 01 February 2007: IOF soldiers entered the Tulkarm refugee camp and proceeded to kill Jaser Nader Ahmad Abu Zugheib. In the process Rafiq Mowafaq Heikal Dumeiri (only 16 years old) was wounded by a bullet to his right thigh and Amer Mahmoud El-Baraka was seriously wounded by a bullet to the chest.
- 21 February 2007: An IOF undercover unit entered the al-Bassatin area west of Jenin. After intercepting his car, they killed Mahmoud Ibrahim Qassem 'Obaid, a leader of al-Quds Brigades (the armed wing of Islamic Jihad), by several gunshots to the head.
- 28 February 2007: An IOF undercover unit executed three Palestinian members of Islamic Jihad (Ashraf Mahmoud Nafe' al-Sa'di, Mohammed Ibrahim Abu Naa'sa, and 'Alaa' Braiki) in the Jenin refugee camp as they tried to flee in a car.

These cases highlight a disturbing trend towards killing, rather than arresting. In all of these cases, the victims had been either wounded



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or unarmed before the IOF killed them—often by point-blank gunshot fire.

Reviewing earlier points, the wounding of three people besides those targeted persons that extra-judicial killing are committed by IOF without concern for the safety of civilians.

We also stress that these actions are in a fundamental conflict with international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Without due process of law, there is no guarantee that those chosen for execution are guilty of any crime. There is no attempt to arrest many of those who are targeted; they are simply killed. This causes a slippery slope effect wherein IOF have assumed the right to kill anyone they deemed to be criminal.

Israeli policies of targeted killing continued in 2007, killing 5 targeted persons and injuring 3 others. These cases bring the overall number of people killed by such actions to 660 since December 2000, 439 of these people were specifically targeted by IOF, the other 221 having been civilians by standers in the process of the attacks. The sheer numbers of civilians killed in the process of IOF extra-judicial killings attests to the unacceptable nature of this practice.

We also stress that these actions are in fundamental conflict with international law. Extra-judicial executions constitutes of the right to life, the most basic of human rights. Article (3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “everyone has the right to life, liberty ad security of person.” Article 6 (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that “Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall arbitrarily be deprived of his life.” These rights



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apply even in emergency situations and indeed, the killing of innocent bystanders is a clear violation of it.

Moreover, without the due process of law, there is no guarantee that those chosen for execution are guilty of any crime. There is often no attempt by IOF to arrest those targeted; instead, they are simply killed. This reinforces a slippery slope effect wherein the IOF has assumed the right to kill anyone it deems criminal. Extra-judicial executions have led to a slippery slope in determining qualifying factors for targeting. Who should be targeted? For what crime? What proof is necessary? None of these questions is open to kind of scrutiny provided by a court of law and are therefore subject to a great deal of subjectivity. This point alone should be enough to discredit the practice.

IOF generals have named vague qualifying factors such as “We strike against terrorists” or “those who continue to carry out attacks against state of Israel”, but this is not enough. If the IOF targets “terrorists”, what would stop them from also targeting those who provide support to the “terrorists”, those who develop plans of attack for the “terrorists”, those who fraternize with the “terrorists”, perhaps even those related to the “terrorists”? It is endless circle. The line becomes too much blurry and has allowed Israel to target virtually anyone desired.

On top of this, capital punishment is an inherently flawed system, with or without legal representation. In the United States, where capital punishment is enforced, the legal process is lengthy and open to numerous appeals before execution is finally carried out. Nevertheless, the system is open to serious errors and studies have shown a disturbing number of falsely incriminated persons being executed for crimes they were innocent of. The pattern of innocents



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dying for crimes they did not commit is even higher in a system where the accused are denied due process.

In light of the ingoing Israeli policy of extra-judicial executions of Palestinians PCHR:

1. Expresses deep concern and reiterates its rejection for this policy.
2. Reiterates its condemnation of Israeli Extra- judicial Executions against the Palestinians.
3. Calls upon the international community to immediately intervene to stop such crime which has no legal or moral grounds.
4. Calls upon human rights organizations to muster efforts to avail these crimes, and to join the efforts to prepare bills of indictment against Israeli perpetrators.



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