



Fact Sheet No. 3

Extra-Judicial Executions in the OPT committed by Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF), Between April 2007— June 2007.

Israeli policies of Extra-judicial executions "targeted killing" continued during the period between April and June, accounting for the deaths of 25 people, only 16 of whom were actually targeted. These cases bring the overall number of people killed by such actions to 664 since December 2000, 434 of these people were specifically targeted by (IOF), the other 230 having been killed in the process of the attacks. This summary highlights the cases between April and June 2007 while stressing the criminality of such actions under international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

- **21 April 2007:** An IOF undercover unit moved into Jenin, traveling in two civilian vehicles with Palestinian registration plates. IOF soldiers intercepted and opened fire at a Palestinian civilian car that was traveling in the area. Three Palestinians, including two members of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and one member of the al-Quds Brigades who were traveling in the car were instantly killed.

On the same day IOF aircraft fired a missile at a civilian car belonging to Kamal Kazem Mohammed 'Anan, 43, from Gaza City. 'Anan was seriously wounded by shrapnel throughout the body, as he was standing near it. He was evacuated to the hospital, but he died half an hour later. 'Anan had no affiliation with any militant group and the reasons of the attack are unknown.



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- **04 May 2007:** Two members of the al-Quds Brigades (the armed wing of the Islamic Jihad) and a mentally disabled Palestinian civilian were extra-judicially executed by IOF in Seilat al-Harthiya village, west of Jenin.
- **20 May 2007:** An IOF warplane fired a missile at a meeting hall belonging to the al-Haya family in al-Shojaeya neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. The missile hit the hall directly, killing 7 members of the family (2 brothers; a man and his child; a man and his son; and a relative) and an activist of Hamas. In addition, 3 civilians, including 2 brothers, were wounded.
- **29 May 2007:** IOF undercover units committed 2 extra-judicial executions in Ramallah and Jenin, killing two Palestinian activists and wounding 5 civilian bystanders.
- **01 June 2007:** IOF extra-judicially executed a member of the Islamic Jihad in the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis.
- **12 June 2007:** IOF extra-judicially executed a member of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades in Saida village, north of Tulkarm.
- **24 June 2007:** IOF committed 2 extra-judicial executions in the Gaza Strip, in which they killed 3 members of the al-Quds Brigades, and wounded 3 civilian bystanders.
- **30 June 2007:** IOF extra-judicially executed 3 members of the al-Quds Brigades in Khan Yunis.

Reviewing earlier points, the wounding of three people besides those targeted demonstrates that extra-judicial killings are prosecuted by



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the IOF without concern for the safety of civilians. 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 human rights law and international humanitarian law. Extra-judicial executions are in clear violation 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 and 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 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 or proof that those chosen for execution are guilty of any crime. There is often no attempt on the IOF's behalf to arrest those targeted; instead, they are simply killed. The decision to kill them lacks the basis legal and moral principles. This is reinforcing 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 the 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”, but this is not enough. If the IOF targets “terrorists”, what would stop



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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”? The line becomes much too 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. Even so, 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 dying for crimes they did not commit is even higher in a system where the accused are denied due process.



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