



Fact Sheet No. 5

Extra-Judicial executions of Palestinians by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) from September- December 2007.

Israel's current policy of extra-judicial executions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) was initiated during the premiership of Ehud Barak, who served as Israeli Prime Minister from May 1999-March 2001. Despite widespread protest against this policy, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) have, with the full consent of the Government of Israel (GOI) systematically executed almost 700 Palestinians since the second Palestinian Intifada began in September 2000.

The IOF have carried out these executions under a system they call "targeted killings," and justify their continuing policy of extra-judicial executions as self-defense, alleging the "targets" are extremely dangerous wanted persons who each pose a serious threat to the security of the State of Israel. However these politically motivated claims frequently have no proof.

The IOF claim they cannot arrest and detain Palestinian suspects because the suspects are in areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority (PA): but this claim is not substantiated by evidence. There have been many instances where Palestinian suspects could have been arrested, but the IOF instead chose to carry out extra-judicial executions. Civilian bystanders have frequently been killed or seriously injured during IOF extra-judicial execution operations.

During 2007, the IOF extra-judicially executed 78 Palestinians, including nine civilian bystanders, two of whom were children. During the reporting period (September-December 2007) twenty



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seven Palestinians were extra-judicially executed, including one civilian bystander.

The following cases represent a sample of the extra-judicial executions carried out by the IOF during the reporting period which have been investigated by PCHR.

On 11 October 2007, an IOF undercover unit entered northeast Jenin. The unit was traveling in a civilian vehicle with a Palestinian license plate. The unit was deployed near al-Hamam Square in the Jenin industrial zone, from where IOF soldiers opened fire at close range at a Palestinian civilian car driving along the road. Two members of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades (the armed wing of the Fatah movement) were shot by the IOF. Twenty three year old Mohammed Waleed Abu Sorour was killed instantly. Twenty two year old Hilal Nafe' al-Sa'di, was wounded, and immediately arrested by IOF. Having investigated the death of Mohammed Waleed Abu Sorour, PCHR has concluded the IOF made no attempt to arrest either of suspects before opening fire on their vehicle at close range.

On Sunday, 25 November 2007, IOF extra-judicially executed a member of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades in Tulkarm refugee camp, east of Tulkarm town.

According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 13:00 on 25 November, an IOF undercover unit moved into Tulkarm refugee camp. The unit was traveling in a civilian vehicle with a Palestinian registration plate. The vehicle stopped near a coffee shop in the south of the refugee camp, and twelve IOF soldiers, some wearing civilian clothes, emerged from the vehicle. Five Palestinians wanted by the IOF were standing near the coffee shop. One of them, Mohammed Zaki Qawzah, age 24, was shot and wounded in the foot as he attempted to escape. He raised his hands in a gesture of surrender but an IOF soldier shot him in the neck. Mohammed Zaki Qawzah fell to the ground, seriously injured. Two IOF soldiers dragged him into the coffee shop and proceeded to beat him violently. Mohammed Zaki Qawzah bled for almost an hour before he



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died. A second man, Musheer Farouq Monasouri, age 26, was seriously injured.

On 29 November 2007, an IOF aircraft fired 3 missiles at two members of the 'Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades (the military wing of Hamas), who were north east of Khan Yunis, near the border of the Gaza Strip and Israel. Twenty two year old Abdullah Ameen al-Astal, and Hani Hasan Abu Roumiya, age 18, were both killed instantly.

Since September 2000, the IOF have extra-judicially executed a total of 691 Palestinians in the OPT. 470 Palestinians were specifically targeted for extra-judicial by IOF. The additional 221 deaths were of civilian bystanders killed in the process of the executions, including 77 children. In the West Bank, during this period, 327 Palestinians have been extra-judicially executed, including 73 civilian bystanders.

In the Gaza Strip during this period, 364 Palestinians have been extra-judicially executed, including 148 civilian bystanders.

PCHR asserts that the number of civilians bystanders killed during the process of IOF extra-judicial executions highlights the brutality of the IOF, and its total disregard for the life of Palestinian civilians.

In addition to shooting Palestinians, IOF have also continued extra-judicial executions via air strikes against Palestinian "targets," with utter disregard for the lives of civilians. These targeted air strikes are a total violation of international humanitarian law. Basic human rights are protected by all international conventions:

Article three 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 inalienable rights apply in all situations at all times.



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The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) asserts that the Government of Israel (GOI) acts recklessly and with clear disregard for Palestinian human rights. PCHR also asserts that Israel has no intention of considering the Annapolis Peace Conference a "clear way forward" towards respecting these human rights: neither has it any intention of ending its long-standing occupation of Palestine. Therefore:

1. PCHR Calls upon the international community and the high contracting parties of the Geneva Convention of 1949, relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, to apply pressure on the Israeli government to abide by both the spirit and content of the Convention, particularly, article "3" of the Fourth Geneva Convention which prohibits any kind of assaults on life or physical security as well as article "32" which specifically prohibits murder, torture and capital punishment.
2. PCHR reiterates its utter condemnation of Israeli extra-judicial executions against the Palestinian population.
3. 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 OPT. PCHR believes that the conspiracy of silence practiced by the international community has provided Israel with an environment of de facto immunity, thereby encouraging Israel to continue violating international humanitarian law.
4. 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, all those responsible for grave breaches, namely war crimes.



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