



PCHR
المركز الفلسطيني
لحقوق الإنسان



ANNUAL REPORT
التقرير السنوي

2018
www.pchrgaza.org

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

The Centre is an independent Palestinian human rights organization (registered as a non-profit Ltd. Company) based in Gaza City. The Centre enjoys Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nation. It is an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists-Geneva; the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) – Paris; member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network – Copenhagen; member of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) – Stockholm; member of the Arab Organization for Human Rights – Cairo; and member of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty – Rome. It is a recipient of the 1996 French Republic Award on Human Rights, the 2002 Bruno Kreisky Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Area of Human Rights and the 2003 International Service Human Rights Award (UNAIS). The Centre was established in 1995 by a group of Palestinian lawyers and human rights activists in order to:

- Protect human rights and promote the rule of law in accordance with international standards.
- Create and develop democratic institutions and an active civil society, while promoting democratic culture within Palestinian society.
- Support all the efforts aimed at enabling the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights in regard to self-determination and independence in accordance with international Law and UN resolutions.

The work of the Centre is conducted through documentation and investigation of human rights violations, provision of legal aid and counseling for both individuals and groups, and preparation of research articles relevant to such issues as the human rights situation and the rule of law. The Centre also provides comments on Palestinian Draft Laws and urges the adoption of legislation that incorporates international human rights standards and basic democratic principles. To achieve its goals, the Centre has recruited a committed staff of well-known human rights lawyers and activists.

The Philosophy of the Centre's Work

The Centre determined after a thorough legal assessment of the peace accords signed by the PLO and the Israeli government that the occupation would continue both physically and legally. According to these agreements Israel has redeployed its forces inside the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, while Israeli settlements and military installations maintain their presence in Palestinian territory. The major legal aspects of the Israeli occupation remain in place. Israeli military orders that safeguard Israeli control over the Palestinian people and their land remain valid in accordance with the peace agreement. The Israeli military court is still functioning and

to this day thousands of Palestinians languish in Israeli prisons. The essential elements of the Palestinian issue remain unresolved - the right to self-determination, the right to an independent Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and the right to remove illegal Israeli settlements

from the Occupied Territories. All of these constitute basic unfulfilled rights of the Palestinian people. In light of this wide-ranging disregard for Palestinian rights, the Centre concludes it must continue its work to protect Palestinian human rights from ongoing violations by the Israeli government and courts.

The peace accords and the major political changes resulting from the agreement, including the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in part of the Occupied Territories, has led to a vital and active role for the Centre in protecting civil and political rights and in promoting the development of democratic institutions, an active civil society, and a democratic legal system in Palestine.

Work Units of the Centre

The Centre is composed of specialised working units which carry out their activities in an autonomous but integrated manner.

Field Work Unit

The field work is considered the basic activity of the Centre. Well-trained field workers located in different areas of the Gaza Strip obtain accurate and documented legal information on human rights violations in the Gaza Strip. They gather information in the field from victims and witnesses of human rights violations. The information is received by the co-ordinator of the unit and other researchers to verify accuracy. Through the field workers' presence in the field the Centre has been able to maintain close contacts with the community. In this way, the community is able to influence the work of the Centre and the Centre is able to meet the community's interests and demands.

Legal Unit

This unit is composed primarily of a team of lawyers who give free legal aid and counselling to individuals and groups. The unit also carries out legal intervention with concerned bodies and makes legal representations before courts in cases that involve broad principles of human rights that affect not just the individual before the court but the community as a whole. Furthermore, the unit attempts to support the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.

Democratic Development Unit

This unit specialises in the promotion of democracy and the promotion of civil society and the rule of law. The unit's team carries out research and organises workshops and seminars to discuss issues on human rights and democracy. The unit's team also prepares comments on draft laws prepared by the Palestinian Authority in an effort to influence the decision-making process and the adoption of democratic laws. The unit has been also involved in providing training on human rights and democracy for youth groups.

Economic and Social Rights Unit

This unit seeks to ensure the importance of economic and social rights through re-

search and study. Such work is particularly important because it tends to be neglected, to some extent, by other human rights organisations. To achieve its goals the unit conducts studies, workshops, and seminars that focus attention on economic and social rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The unit seeks to develop recommendations and standards for each of these rights to be fulfilled in the Palestinian situation. Moreover, the unit reviews and assesses the legislation and draft laws pertaining to these rights adopted by the Palestinian Authority in an effort to secure legislation that is in harmony with international standards. The unit further seeks to provide an informative training base for governmental and non-governmental personnel who are empowered to set plans and implement programs and policies relevant to these rights. The goal of such training is to help bring economic and social rights into alignment with the standards accepted internationally and to ensure the maximum degree of implementation of these rights.

Woman Rights Unit

This Unit was established as a pilot project in May of 1997 for one year, renewable upon assessment of its accomplishments. The initial project was established after a thorough and comprehensive study of the conditions of Palestinian women and the work of women's institutions in the Gaza Strip. The Unit aims to provide legal aid for women and women's organisations. Intervention on behalf of women in Shari'a courts is included in its mandate. The Unit further aims to raise awareness of women's rights established by international human rights conventions and to raise the awareness of Palestinian women in regard to their rights under local law. Finally, the Unit is carrying out studies on Palestinian women and the law, while supporting the amendment of local laws inconsistent with women's rights.

The Training Unit

The Training Unit is a main instrument in PCHR's work in disseminating and developing a human rights culture, and promoting democratic concepts in the local community with all its various segments. The Unit organizes and holds training courses and workshops in order to develop theoretical knowledge and provide professional skills that can contribute to a real change in the behavior of the society, which in turn can promote respect for, and protection of human rights and participation in community building. The target groups of the training courses and workshops are particularly the youth, including university students, activists of political parties, lawyers, media, union members, and other civil society groups.

The Library

The Centre has established a specialised legal library in subjects related to local and international law, human rights, and democracy. The library includes books and periodicals in both Arabic and English and includes all Palestinian laws and Israeli military orders. Documents pertaining to laws of neighbouring Arab countries are also available. Furthermore, the library includes a variety of books and periodicals detailing the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The library is open for the free use of researchers, academics, and students.

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The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights is an independent legal body dedicated to the protection of human rights, the promotion of the rule of law, and the upholding of democratic principles in the Occupied Territories. Most of the Centre's activities and interests concentrate on the Gaza Strip due to the restriction on movement between the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed by the Israeli government and its military apparatus.

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Annual Report 2018

This report is PCHR's annual report for 2018 and reflects the work conducted by PCHR over a whole year of continuous efforts. PCHR has published such reports since 1997.



The annual report is divided into two sections:

- **Part One** provides a comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) from 01 January to 31 December 2018. It is divided into two sub-sections:
 1. War crimes and violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law perpetrated by the Israeli forces in the oPt; and
 2. Human rights violations perpetrated by the Palestinian Authority (PA) and obstacles to democratic reform in the PA.
- **Part Two** documents all PCHR activities from 01 January to 31 December 2018. It covers PCHR's various activities at both the local and international levels over the year.

Like previous reports, PCHR hopes that this report will provide a comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in the oPt. PCHR also hopes that relevant parties will follow the recommendations mentioned in this report, particularly those directed to the international community and PA. This report serves as a guide for PCHR's future work and reflects PCHR's strong belief in the importance of transparency for a non-profit and non-governmental organization that provides services to the community. Publishing and introducing PCHR's activities is an open call for all victims of human rights violations to approach PCHR for advice and assistance.



PART (1):

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE OPT



Summary



The policy of willful killing to confront the participants in the peaceful protests, which broke out along the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel during the so-called “Great March of Return” was one of the most violent and bloodiest violations committed by the Israeli forces against the Palestinian civilians in the oPt throughout the Gaza Strip. Since 30 March 2018, weekly peaceful protests started with the participation of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians representing all social and political spectrum, calling for the refugees’ right to return and end of the illegal and inhuman closure imposed by the Israeli forces for 12 years. The protests took place in 5 main locations that are hundreds of meters away from the border fence east of Gaza Strip. They were fully peaceful and included various folklore activities and political speeches, and sometimes the young men approached the border fence to throw stones and molotov cocktails and used slingshots against the Israeli soldiers fortified in watchtowers in military vehicles and behind sand berms on the other side of the border fence. The young men also attempted to break through the border fence or pull parts of it in addition to firing incendiary balloons at the borders. However, all those acts did not pose any imminent threat to the life of Israeli soldiers as none of them was harmed during the reporting period.

However, since the first day of the protests on 30 March, the Israeli forces have responded with live ammunition and committed willful killings when their snipers directly opened fire at the protesters in addition to using drones in some cases. The Israeli forces also used tear gas canisters, rubber bullets and sound bombs. Until the end of 2018, the Israeli forces’ willful killing and excessive use of force against hundreds of thousands of Palestinians participating in peaceful protests, which were described as the first of its kind in terms of organization and number of participants, resulted in the killing of 180 Palestinians, including 35 children, 1 woman, 2 journalists, and 3 paramedics. Moreover, during the protests, 10,066 Palestinians, including 1832 children and 292 women, were wounded. Hundreds of those wounded sustained serious wounds while dozens had their upper or lower limbs amputated.

On Friday 14 May 2018, which marked the 70th anniversary of the Nakba, the United States inaugurated its embassy in Jerusalem after the US recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in blatant violation of international law. It was one of the bloodiest days in 2018 as Israeli forces confronted the peaceful protests against the relocation of the embassy, by committing further wilful killings. As a result, 46 protestors were killed, including 7 children, and 2000 others were wounded.

Even before the outbreak of the Great March of Return and the following months, the statements and procedures issued by the Israeli political and military leaders provided the Israeli forces a climate of impunity to open fire at civilians and encourage them to commit crimes of willful killings. Those statements described the Great Return March as “violent” and terrorist” protests and that Hamas Movement is behind those protests. Moreover, the Israeli forces declared the areas adjacent to the border fence as closed military zones. On 28 March, Gadi Eisenkot, Israeli Forces’ Chief of Staff, declared that hundred snipers, most from “special units,” have been stationed along the borders.¹ Commenting on the first day of the Great March of Return Protests and the killing of 13 civilians and injury of 1000 others, including 200 children and 30 women, the Israeli Defense Minister at the time, Avigdor Liberman, said that “Israeli soldiers did what was necessary. I think all our soldiers deserve a medal.”² In 2018 the Israeli forces continued to commit violations against Palestinian civilians and their property all over the oPt. The Israeli forces continued to impose an illegal and inhuman closure for the 12th consecutive year as 2 million Palestinians continued to be subject to collective punishment and deprived of their right to freedom of movement. The closure

1. Times of Israel, on 28 March 2018, IDF chief: 100 snipers authorized to use live fire during Gaza march: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-chief-100-snipers-authorized-to-use-live-fire-during-gaza-march/>

2. Jewish Telegraphic Agency, on 01 April 2018: Israeli soldiers ‘did what was necessary’ on Gaza border, defense minister says <https://www.jta.org/2018/04/01/israel/israeli-soldiers-necessary-gaza-border-defense-minister-says>

amounts to persecution according to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) as it has affected all life aspects and resulted in a manmade humanitarian disaster and ongoing deterioration of the economic and social situation. The Israeli forces also continued the ethnic cleansing policy against Jerusalemites and their settlement projects in occupied Jerusalem and all over the West Bank. The Israeli forces tightened its control and dominance over the Palestinian cities, villages, and refugee camps and tirelessly continued their efforts to dissect and isolate them in addition to preventing the territorial continuity between them and turning them into isolated cantons, where the residents’ movement is subject to Israeli control. Furthermore, the Israeli forces continued to arrest thousands of Palestinians and subject them to torture and other forms of cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment.

Israel continued to lead a fierce campaign against the civil society organizations and Palestinian human rights organizations and to restrict and dry up their sources of funding. PCHR and its partners have been systematically subjected to smear campaigns and attacks, which have increased following the work of these organizations to prosecute the Israeli war criminals, especially after the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in 2014. Israel is attempting to distort the image of Palestinian civil society organizations and their staff by attempting to prevent donors from funding and working with them.

In July 2018, the Israeli Knesset approved

the Nation-State Bill, which stipulates that right to exercise national self-determination in the State of Israel is unique to the Jewish people, and the land of Israel is the historical homeland of the Jewish people. This means complete denial of Palestinians' right to self-determination on their own land and compensation according to the UN General Assembly's Resolution 194 for 1948.

In 2018, the Israeli forces continued to commit violations against Palestinian civilians and their property all over the oPt due to the silence of the international community and climate of impunity fully supported by the U.S. Administration. The year 2018 ended with zero real results regarding the international accountability mechanisms. There was hope that the ICC Prosecutor would complete its preliminary investigation, which started in January 2015, amid expectations that she would take positive steps four years after the preliminary investigations began. However, 2018 ended without the ICC announcing the opening of a criminal investigation into the situation of Palestine. By the end of 2018, the ICC Prosecutor published its report which was typical and followed the patterns of previous reports, and included no specific results or recommendations. It should be noted that the international and Palestinian civil society and human rights organizations positively networked with the Investigation team and provided it with the necessary reports, documents and legal submissions that enable the ICC Prosecutor to decide whether to refer the file to criminal investigation in an objective,

practical and legal manner. Moreover in 2018, the US Administration escalated its offensive campaign against the ICC and its judges. On 09 September 2018, John Bolton, US's National Security Adviser, attacked the International Criminal Court, describing it as illegitimate and criticizing Palestine's accession to the ICC, which has threatened Israel "with investigation into its actions to defend citizens from terrorist attacks in the West Bank and Gaza." Bolton added that the US, "will always stand with its friend and ally, Israel."³

Moreover, the Israeli forces continued to obstruct the work of international commissions of inquiry and deny them access into the oPt. On 18 May, the Human Rights Council voted in favor of establishing an independent, international commission of inquiry, to be appointed by the President of the Human Rights Council, to investigate all alleged violations and abuses of international humanitarian law and international human rights law committed in the context of the Great March of Return and to present to the Council written report at its fortieth session in March 2019.⁴ On 20 May 2018, the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs rejected the decision of the Human Rights Council, decided not to cooperate with it, and prevented members of the Commission from accessing the Gaza Strip to disrupt its work. Thus,

3. Full text of John Bolton's speech to the Federalist Society: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/09/full-text-john-bolton-speech-federalist-society-180910172828633.html>

4. UN, Human Rights Council, UN Commission of Inquiry in the alleged violations committed during the protests in the oPt in 2018: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=23107&LangID=E>

the Commission was forced to work from abroad. However, PCHR has been actively engaging with the Commission of Inquiry, either through meetings with the investigation team or through materials and documents submitted by PCHR to the Commission, including legal files and reports.

In light of the climate of impunity and absence of accountability, Israel will continue and be encouraged to commit its violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws more frequently all over the oPt.

In view of the ongoing deterioration of the humanitarian situation due to the closure, its catastrophic impact on all life aspects and ongoing violations of human rights and intentional humanitarian law, the situation in the Gaza Strip is open-ended and exposed to further deterioration in any moment. The latest escalation in November 2018 following the infiltration of Israeli Special Units into Khan Younis City was a serious indicator and an example of how an escalation would deteriorate into a new Israeli offensive that would be more catastrophic and brutal than the 2014 offensive and other previous offensives.

On the Palestinian domestic level, the human rights situation in the oPt rapidly deteriorated in 2018 while the split in the Palestinian political system and state of political division between the Gaza Strip and West Bank continued and even deepened. It seems that the political division is continuing due to the absence of a po-

litical will to end it, either at the national, regional or international level.

On 12 December, the Constitutional Court decided to dissolve the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). PCHR considered the decision as serious deterioration that would deepen the division in a time when the Palestinian people were awaiting steps towards ending the division and sanctions imposed on the Gaza Strip and not taking political decisions that would further complicate the existing situation. In light of the dissolution of the PLC, the PA will face a critical situation in case there is a presidential vacuum for any reason as the only constitutional mechanism to transfer the authority, according to the Palestinian Basic Law, is that the PLC Speaker takes office for 60 days, during which new presidential elections are held. Thus, this mechanism has become inapplicable as a result of the dissolution of the PLC.

The Constitutional Court's decision to dissolve the PLC in addition to other procedures and obstacles set by the executive authority to weaken the judiciary, including the recent dismissal of the Attorney General, who constitutes the legal conscience of the state, under vague and ambiguous circumstances, is further evidence of the non-independence of the judiciary. Previously, the executive authority carried out similar measures, when the former Chief Justice in Ramallah was forced to sign his resignation before his appointment. In addition to the deterioration of the judiciary due to the division, these procedures have created a judiciary

that is politicized and not independent. In view of this manipulation by the executive authority and political status quo, unifying the judicial system in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has become impossible.

The executive authority represented by the government also continued to impose tightening restrictions on civil society and human rights organizations. Those restrictions included attempts to adopt amendments to the 2000 Charities and NGOs Law that would radically affect it in an attempt by the Palestinian National Unity Government to control associations and undermine their independence. Moreover, in 2016 the Government issued a circular to not allow non-profit companies to receive any funds, except upon a special decision by the Council of Ministers as well as obtaining security clearance from security bodies and the approval of some ministries (Ministry of National Economy and Ministry of Justice). This arbitrary measure continues to directly affect the work of these organizations and their freedom to conduct their work and activities.

Throughout the year, the human rights situation in the PA controlled territories deteriorated, and the internal division continued to be at a standstill and even witnessed further institutionalization of the rift in the Palestinian political system.

Human rights violations continued in the Gaza Strip, which witnessed further measures that affect public freedoms, including the right to freedom of movement, right to

freedom of opinion and expression, right to association and the right to peaceful assembly. During 2018, the summonses and arrests against Fatah activists and others continued in addition to the accompanying interrogation, torture and inhuman and degrading treatment. This year also witnessed issuance of new death sentences against those convicted. Moreover, 2018 witnessed increasing number of incidents relevant to the proliferation of weapons and attack on the rule of law, resulting in the killing and injury of many Palestinians.

The PA continued to impose sanctions on the Gaza Strip. In 2018, thousands of PA employees were forcibly put on early retirement or had their salaries deducted. The PA also continued deducting funds allocated for the Ministry of Health in Gaza. Furthermore, the electricity crisis in Gaza continues to severely affect the work of hospitals, healthcare facilities and other vital facilities as hospitals do not have the ability to provide the necessary fuel supplies to fill the electricity shortfall.

In the West Bank, the arrests and summonses continued against the activists of Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements and others while PCHR continued to monitor and document further violations of the public freedoms, including the right to freedom of expression, right to form associations and right to peaceful assembly. The year 2018 witnessed further violations relevant to the proliferation of weapons and attack on the rule of law, resulting in the killing and injury of many Palestinians.

In light of the above, the possibility of collapse of the existing political system appears to be in place. As Palestinians, we are facing a bleak future as the PLC no longer exists in the West Bank, following the Palestinian President's recent announcement to dissolve it, while Ha-

mas's Change and Reform Bloc continues to exercise a de facto legislative power on behalf of the PLC without legal basis. Moreover, the Palestinian judiciary is devastated and no longer independent due to the executive authority's interference.





First: Israeli Violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law

1. Willful Killings and Other Violations of the Right to Life and Personal Security

In 2018, PCHR documented that the Israeli forces and settlers killed 302 Palestinians⁵; 245 of them were civilians, including 57 children and a woman. Among the total number of civilian victims, PCHR documented the killing of 211⁶ civilians in the Gaza Strip, including 50 children and a woman, while in the West Bank 34 Palestinians were killed, including 7 children. During this period, 10,731 persons were wounded; most of them were civilians, including 390 in the West Bank and 10341 in the Gaza Strip.

The crimes against civilians along the northern and eastern borders of the Gaza Strip and excessive use of force against the peaceful protestors in the context of the Great March of Return and Breaking the Siege demonstrations, which started

5. In 2018, 3 Palestinians succumbed to wounds they sustained before the beginning of 2018.

6. In addition, on 10 February, Mohammed Jallad succumbed to wounds he sustained last year on 06 December. Further, Mohammed Abu Haddaf, from al-Qararah, succumbed to wounds he sustained during an airstrike that targeted their house in 2014 offensive.

on 30 March were the most prominent crimes by the Israeli forces and violations of the right to life during 2018. Since the beginning of the protests until the end of the year, 180 Palestinians have been killed, including 35 children and a woman. Moreover, 10,066 Palestinians were wounded, including 1822 children and 292 women.

Moreover, 6 Palestinians were killed prior to the start of the Great March of Return demonstrations. Among those killed were 4 children who approached or infiltrated via the border fence, an elderly man who was cultivating his land near the border fence in a fisherman who was fishing in Gaza Sea at the time he was killed.

During the period after the Great March of Return started, 30 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip were killed in different incidents, such as airstrikes, infiltration via the border fence and etc. Meanwhile, 2 civilians were killed during the escalation in November following the security operation carried

out by Israeli Special Units in Khan Younis and resulted in the killing of 7 members of the Palestinian armed groups and one of the Israeli Special Units' members.

PCHR documented the killing of 37 Palestinians in the West Bank during 2018, including 7 children. Thirteen of those were killed, including 4 children, during the Palestinian protests against the Israeli forces and their practices throughout the year in the West Bank. Meanwhile, 10 Palestinians, including a child, were killed for attempting to stab Israeli soldiers and 3 Pal-

estinians, including a child, were killed in cold blood in shooting incidents in times of calmness. Moreover, 4 Palestinians, including a child, were killed in the Israeli incursions into Palestinian cities, villages and refugee camps; while a Palestinian woman was killed by an Israeli settler. Furthermore, 6 detainees were killed; 3 of them died in the Israeli jails due to medical negligence and 3 were executed after being arrested from their houses. In addition, 3 wanted persons were killed during an armed clash with the Israeli soldiers.

2. Ongoing Closure and Restrictions on Freedom of Movement in the oPt

In 2018, the Israeli authorities continued to impose more measures to tighten the closure and restrictions on the freedom of movement of persons and goods in the oPt.

The illegal and inhumane closure continued for the 12th consecutive year and resulted in deterioration of the humanitarian, social and economic conditions of 2 million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip. As a result, the unemployment rate reached 53.7% while the poverty rate in the Gaza Strip reached 53% according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). Moreover, more than 76% of the Gaza population suffers from food insecurity according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Regarding the commercial crossings, the Israeli authorities continued to ban Gaza

Strip's exports to the West Bank, Israel and abroad. Furthermore, they continued to ban the entry of "dual-use materials," which include 118 types of goods.

Moreover, the Israeli authorities issued series of decisions to tighten closure on the Gaza Strip, close the only commercial crossing of "Karm Abu Salem", and ban the entry of fuel, gas and basic needs to Gaza's residents for several days in response to the peaceful March of Return protests.

Regarding the movement of persons, the Israeli authorities stationed at Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing continue to ban most of the Gaza Strip residents from entering into or exiting the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, they only allow limited categories, including patients and their companions; businesspeople; Arabs of Israel; families of

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails; international journalists; workers of international humanitarian organizations; and persons travelling via al-Karama crossing.

Since May 2018, the Egyptian authorities opened Rafah Crossing, the only exit for Gaza residents to the outside world so that the humanitarian cases could travel or return to the Gaza Strip. However, the work at the crossing was very limited and at a very slow pace. Thousands of Palestinians who registered to travel at the Ministry of Interior are unable to travel, according to the Gaza Crossings and Border Authority.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces continued to impose arbitrary restrictions on the movement of Palestinian citizens and goods between the cities in 2018, particularly during the first quarter of the year. In 2018, the number of permanent checkpoints amounted to 103; 59 were internally established in the center of the West Bank and 18 were in the H2 sector in Hebron. Among the total number of these checkpoints, 39 are established along the Green Line (the armistice line) and considered as border crossings between the West Bank and Israel. In addition, hundreds of checkpoints were temporarily established and other physical barriers such as the metal detectors, sand berms and rocks.

The construction of the annexation wall separating between the West Bank lands

has doubled the suffering of Palestinian civilians whose residential areas and/or agricultural lands were isolated behind the wall, and persons working in those areas, including teachers, doctors, cleaners and others. The wall also negatively affects the life of Palestinian farmers especially in the olive harvest season, which is considered as the sole source of income for hundreds of Palestinian families in light of the difficult economic conditions suffered by Palestinians. Israeli forces deny Palestinian farmers access to their isolated lands to harvest olive or limit their entry and exit hours through 104 gates established in the wall. These measures and restrictions aim to deprive farmers of the only source of income and force them to leave their lands and neglect them in order for the Israeli authorities to confiscate them.

Israel has continued its policy of closing off and isolating occupied Jerusalem from its surroundings; banning Palestinians from the rest of the oPt to enter East Jerusalem, except for very limited categories. Moreover, the Israeli forces continued to impose an unprecedented closure on the Palestinian neighborhoods in Jerusalem. Those measures included the establishment of metal detector gates and police checkpoints in the old city's neighborhoods and at its entrances, denying Palestinian civilians' access to the occupied city and prevented them from enjoying their normal life.

3. Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment

During 2018, Israeli forces continued to arrest around 6500 Palestinians, including 6000 detainees from the West Bank and 370 from the Gaza Strip. Among the total number of detainees, there are 400 children, 64 women while 700 others are under administrative detention without trial. Those detainees are distributed into around 20 prisons and detention facilities; most of which are established in the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967,⁷ in a clear violation of article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which states that, “Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein.”

PCHR documented the arrest of 3369 Palestinians, including 489 children, 79 women and 11 Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) Members, in 2018. Among those arrested, there were 3287 Palestinians arrested in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem; 3034 of them were arrested during the Israeli incursions into the Palestinian cities, 241 were arrested a

t the checkpoints and 12 were arrested during protests. Moreover, 82 Palestinians, including 4 children, were arrested from the Gaza Strip; 13 were arrested along the border fence of the Gaza Strip while 9 were arrested at Beit Hanoun “Erez” crossing while traveling to the West Bank for business, medical treatment, and education. Furthermore, the Israeli forces arrested 60 fishermen while they working in areas where fishing is permitted by Israeli authorities.

The Palestinian detainees are subject to inhumane, cruel, and deteriorating detention conditions. Five Palestinian prisoners died in the Israeli jails; two of whom were sentenced to long periods and died in the Israeli hospitals after their health conditions deteriorated; two died due to beating and torture when they were arrested from their houses; and one succumbed to his wounds 3 days after his arrest, under the pretext of attempting to carry out a stabbing attack against an Israeli soldier at a military checkpoint.

7. Except “Ofer” prison established in the west of Ramallah in the West Bank.

4. Attacks on Journalists and Media Personnel

In 2018, the Israeli forces continued to systematically target journalists and media outlets to prevent them from covering the Israeli violations against the Palestinian civilians and their property. During the year, PCHR documented 300 Israeli violations against journalists in the oPt, including the murder of 2 journalists in the Gaza Strip.

This year witnessed particularly the Israeli forces' targeting of local and international journalists and media personnel who were covering the peaceful protests along the eastern and northern borders of the Gaza Strip, in the context of the "Great March of Return". The Israeli forces killed

2 Palestinian journalists while on duty covering the incidents despite wearing their distinctive uniforms.

Since the breakout of the Great March of Return demonstrations, Israeli forces wounded 132 journalists,⁸ including 8 female journalists. Eighty of them were hit with live bullets; 30 were directly hit with tear gas canisters; 25 were hit with rubber bullets; and 27 were hit with shrapnel of sound bombs or tear gas canisters. Some of the wounded journalist sustained serious wounds to the head and neck while most of them were wounded in their lower and upper limbs.

5. Demolition and Destruction of Civilian Property and Objects

The Israeli forces continued to systematically demolish Palestinian civilian property in Area C, as defined by the Oslo Accords between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel in 1993. Although this policy targeted the houses in many areas in the West Bank, it significantly concentrated in East Jerusalem as part of the policies ultimately aiming at creating a Jewish demographic majority in the city. The demolitions in the West Bank are carried out under the pretext of not obtaining building permits from the Construction and Organization Department at the Israeli Civil Administration in "Beit Eil" settlement or from the Israeli municipality regarding houses located in occupied East Jerusalem.

During 2018, the Israeli forces continued to apply the policy of house demolitions as collective punishment policy. The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, decided by the end of 2015 to re-activate this policy against the families of Palestinians who carry out run-over and/or stab attacks against Israeli soldiers and settlers in the oPt either by demolishing, blowing up or closing their houses. In 2018, the Israeli forces demolished and/or blew up and/or closed 6 houses on these grounds; 2 houses in Ramallah and al-Bireh, 3 houses in Jenin and 1 house in Tulkarm.

8. This number includes journalists who were wounded more than once in the protests, increasing the total number of injuries to 162.

This year witnessed significant escalation in the demolition of residential buildings and other civilian objects used for agricultural, industrial and commercial purposes in the West Bank. During the reporting period, Israeli forces demolished on grounds of unlicensed building 157 dwellings, including 85 houses in the West Bank and 72 houses in in East Jerusalem and its suburbs; 17 of which were self-demolished by their owners. Thus, the number of dwellings demolished on grounds of unlicensed building and collective punishment amounted to 163 houses and dwellings. The Israeli authorities in East Jerusalem use the policy of forcing Palestinian civilians to self-demolish their houses as most of the house owners usually do this to avoid paying high fines for unlicensed building and the expenses for Israeli demolition vehicles that carry out the demolition decisions.

In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli forces continued to carry out demolitions of civilian property in the Gaza Strip. In 2018, they destroyed 30 houses that include 44 apartments in the Gaza Strip, by mainly using airstrikes. Ten of them were completely destroyed while the other 20 houses were partially or severely damaged. Those houses were sheltering families comprised of 152 persons, including 81 children.

This year witnessed a remarkable escalation relevant to targeting civilian facilities as PCHR documented that Israeli warplanes targeted 10 civilian facilities used for commercial, services, healthcare, cultural purposes in addition to water wells, most notably the destruction of al-Aqsa TV building in Gaza City and Sa'eed al-Mishal Cultural Centre, which comprised of 4 floors, in addition to damage caused to the Indonesian Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip.

6. Settlement Activities and Attacks by Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

The Israeli government continued to intensify settlement activities in Area C in general and in East Jerusalem in particular and unprecedentedly, considering 2018 as the highest in this regard since the Israeli occupation of the oPt.

The Israeli forces continued its policy to confiscate more Palestinian civilian property for settlement purposes. Israeli confiscation of civilian property and bringing about change to the nature of the occupied territory violate international humanitarian law provisions which prohibit changing the nature of an occupied terri-

tory unless there is a military necessity in the narrow sense of the term – a condition that is not fulfilled in Israel's declared aims and plans.

During the reporting period, the area categorised as Area C under the Oslo Accords, as agreed between the PLO and the Israeli government in 1993, was the main target of Israeli forces to evacuate Palestinian residents for the settlement expansion projects. Those areas, particularly the Jordan Valley, witnessed wide-scale demolition targeting residential dwellings and agricultural facilities, such as water wells, rain-

water harvesting pools and cattle barns. The Israeli forces also issued hundreds of notices to demolish those facilities.

In parallel with the settlers' violations and the measures taken by the Israeli author-

ities, the "illegitimate settlements" had the greatest share of support from the Israeli government, which put forward many plans and bids for the construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

7. The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

The construction of the annexation wall continued around the village of Wala-ja, northwest of Bethlehem, and was renewed by the end of April 2017 after a three-year cession. The annexation wall will isolate the village from the rest of its lands, about 3,000 dunums, as well as from its geographical surroundings, maintaining only one road that connects it with Beit Jala. The construction of the annexation wall stopped three years ago after legal pressure from the village residents and human rights organizations. The renewal of the construction works came after the Israeli Supreme Court issued a decision allowing the construction of the wall in the vicinity of the village.

The route of the annexation wall in the village area passes entirely through the West Bank and has changed several times since its construction. The original planning of the wall included the village from the "Israeli" western side of the route by separating the village from Bethlehem, which provides the residents of the village with the basic services and connects them with the other villages. Later, the route changed as the wall absorbs all the built-up areas of the village through separating the village from its agricultural lands. The annexation wall's route would separate the village from the nearby "Har Gilo" settlement and provides only one way to enter and exit the village towards the nearby city of Beit Jala.

8. Long-Awaited Justice and Absent Justice

There has been a remarkable escalation in the use of excessive force by the Israeli authorities in dealing with Palestinian civilians in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip. The Great March of Return, which started on 30 March 2018, was accompanied with many Israeli violations; some of which may amount to war crimes. The excessive use of force by the Israeli forces against demonstrators resulted in the killing of 180 Palestinian civilians and injured

more than 10,000. Moreover, summary executions against Palestinians continued for mere suspicion or as a direct punishment by Israel. Thus, thousands of new victims are added to the tens of thousands of former victims who have been waiting for justice for years without finding it. The Palestinian people is looking at the ICC as an important resort and may be the last one due to hindering and sometimes closure of the other mechanisms.



Second: Palestinian Violations of Human Rights and Obstacles to Democratic Transition

1. Violation of the Right to Life and Attacks on Personal Security

In 2018, in incidents related to the misuse of weapons and assault of the rule of law, PCHR documented the killing of 46 persons, including 7 children and 7 women. Thirty-two persons, including 6 children and 2 women, were killed in the Gaza Strip while 14 others, including 1 child and 5 women, were killed in the West Bank. Moreover, 90 others were wounded; 76 in the Gaza Strip, including 18 children and 8 women, and 14 in the West Bank, including 4 children.

Violations of the right to life and personal security were committed within the following contexts: use of weapons in personal and familial disputes (13); illegal use and mis-handling weapons (13); murders on grounds of so-called “family honor” (6), including 4 women; and excessive use of force by security services during law enforcement operations (7). Moreover, 7 persons were killed during internal explosions related to the work of Palestinian Armed Groups in the Gaza Strip while one person was killed by an armed group on grounds of collaboration with Israel.

2. Continuation of the Use of Death Penalty

2018 witnessed a significant improvement regarding the abolition of death penalty. On 06 June 2018, the Palestinian President Mahmoud ‘Abbas signed instrument of State of Palestine’s accession to 7 international conventions and treaties, including the 1989 Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. The Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) commended the

accession to the ICCPR Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and emphasized that it is a step in the right direction which PCHR has always called for and needs to be upheld with legislative steps to guarantee compliance with the protocol. Moreover, the death penalty continued to be used in the Gaza Strip, but significantly declined in 2018. Meanwhile, there were no new death sentences issued in the West Bank during the same period.

3. Illegal Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

Palestinian security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to arbitrarily arrest, repeatedly summon, and detain for long periods Palestinian citizens, who are also subject to illegal practices and degrading treatment by the law enforcement officers. Those practices included physical and psychological torture during interrogation or while arresting them.

PCHR received affidavits and complaints claiming they were subject to forms of torture during their detention or interrogation by the security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Many complaints documented by PCHR were relevant to persons who were interrogated on crim-

inal grounds in the criminal investigation offices, particularly in the Gaza Strip. However, PCHR also received complaints and affidavits from other persons who claimed they were tortured on political grounds.

During the reporting period, 4 Palestinians died inside prisons and detention facilities of the Palestinian security services. Two of them were in the West Bank; one in the Istishari hospital in Ramallah and the other in Hebron Governmental Hospital in Hebron as they were both referred to them from the prison. Meanwhile, the 2 others were from the Gaza Strip; one died in the cell in Rafah police station while the other died in Beit Lahia police station.

4. Dissolution of PLC

On 22 December 2018, the Palestinian President decided to dissolve the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and called for parliamentary elections within six months. PCHR rejected such step at a time when the Palestinian people were looking forward to ending the division and lifting the sanctions imposed on the Gaza Strip and not the time for taking further political decisions that would reinforce the division. Due to the dissolution of the PLC, the only constitutional mechanism followed to transfer the authority in case of vacancy in the President's Office is that the PLC Speaker takes office for 60 days, during which new presidential elections are held. Thus, this mechanism has become inapplicable.

On the other hand, the Israeli authorities continued their systematic and ongoing policy of arresting PLC members, who are arbitrarily arrested for varying periods that would last for years and usually not being accused or tried in terms of the administrative detention.

The chaos of legislation also continued as the Palestinian President still issues laws by decree not in cases of necessity as codified by the Palestinian Basic Law. Moreover, the Change and Reform Bloc continued to practice a de facto legislative authority on behalf of the PLC with no legal basis.

5. Deterioration of the Judicial Authority

The status of the judicial authority continued to deteriorate in 2018 which ended without the end of the division in the judicial authority or even end of the executive authority's interference in the judicial authority's affairs. This interference was evident in various fields, such as the judicial authorities' issuance of suspi-

ciously politicized sentences; establishing the Justice Sector Development Committee upon a presidential decree that came up with recommendations which violate the independence of the judiciary; illegal appointments of judges and Prosecuting Attorneys; and ignoring implementation of judicial decisions.

6. Ongoing Obstruction of General and Local Elections

The repercussions of the ongoing division for 11 years have overshadowed the democratic transformation process, including obstructing the local and general elections as the general and PLC elections have not been held in the West Bank nor the Gaza Strip since 2010 and no new date was set for holding the elections. Regarding the local councils elections, there have been no consensual elections in both the

West Bank and the Gaza Strip but partial elections were held twice in the West Bank; the first was in 2012 and resumed in 2013 while the second were held in the West Bank in 2017 and resumed in 2018. In addition, there were no elections held in the Gaza Strip to renew the legitimacy of municipalities, which continue to be administered by non-elected councils.

7. Violation of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

The violations of the freedom of opinion and expression continued in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as a direct result of the division. However, those violations decreased in the second half. PCHR attributes that decrease to the abolition of the Cybercrimes Law and security services' adopting new ways to undermine freedoms with reference to the idea of enhancing self-censorship.

PCHR monitored many cases where journalists were attacked while on duty in addition to other cases where persons were pursued on grounds of exercising freedom of expression on social media.

PCHR also monitored many incidents where journalists and opinion-makers were attacked, summoned and subject to degrading and inhumane treatment while covering incidents.

8. Violation of Right to Peaceful Assembly

The Palestinian authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to violate the right to peaceful assembly in violation of the Palestinian Basic Law and 1998 Public Meetings Law in addition to the violation of Palestine's obligations under the ICCPR as well as other conventions which Palestine lately acceded to. In the Gaza Strip, , arbitrary arrests of activists were the most notable measures taken against the right to peaceful assembly. PCHR documented dozens of activists being arrested, interrogated and forced not to organize peaceful assemblies and threatened to be imprisoned if they or-

ganized or called for them. In the West Bank, most prominent violations were dispersal of the peaceful protests organized by the civil society organizations and national factions against the sanctions imposed on the Gaza Strip and beating, arresting, and detaining the participating protestors. Moreover, further restrictions were imposed in order to undermine the peaceful assemblies. That was represented by a special circular issued on 12 June 2018 by the Palestinian President's Advisor for Governorates Affairs suspending demonstrations during Eid Holiday.

9. Violation of Right to Association

The year 2018 witnessed dangerous attempts to make significant amendments to Charitable Associations and Community Organizations Act 2000. A bill to amend the law on charitable associations was prepared to be included in the Council of Ministers' agenda for approval then present it to the Palestinian President in order to be issued as a law by decree in accordance with the practice followed due to the absence of the PLC. The proposition came

in the midst of progressive developments related to Consensus Government's endeavors, since its establishment, to control the associations completely and undermine their independence. The bill was composed of 22 articles that aimed mostly at controlling associations' administration and finance. This development is part of a series of steps taken since the PA's establishment that aim at undermining the role of civil society.

10. Impact of the Political Division on Economic and Social Rights in the Gaza Strip

In 2018, the Palestinian political division continued to have a profound impact on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian population. The deterioration

of the economic and social indicators aggravated due to the total paralysis of the different economic sectors and economic recession in the Gaza Strip.

Failing to reach an agreement to end the division has led to further economic sanctions being imposed on the Gaza Strip by forcing thousands of PA servants into early retirement; continuing the deductions of the PA servants' salaries in the Gaza Strip; and minimizing funds allocated to the health service. At the same time, Hamas imposed higher fees and customs duties on imported goods under the justification of protecting national products. The health conditions of the Gaza Strip in 2018 dangerously deteriorated, particularly patients, due to the considerable and ongoing reduction in medicine and medical supplies of the public health facilities in the Gaza Strip and due to referring thousands of health sector servants to retirement in addition to minimizing the treatment abroad services for the patients in Gaza.

The crisis of fuel necessary for compensat-

ing the severe shortage of electricity supplied to the governmental hospitals and healthcare facilities came to surface again by the end of 2018, and both parties to division continued to exchange accusations about who is responsible for the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip. The repercussions of the severe shortage of electricity supplies continued as those parties could not improve or increase the hours of electricity supply to alleviate the crisis. Thus, the suffering of Gaza residents aggravated in light of the very cold weather in winter and very humid and hot weather in summer. People's living conditions even deteriorated as all the vital daily services were affected, including the operation of the healthcare facilities and environmental health services as well as the water-supply facilities and sanitation services. Thus, searching for alternative power sources has become people's main concern.





Recommendations

In light of the US administration's unconditional and unlimited support for the Israeli forces; denial of Palestinians' right to self-determination; tacit and overt support for settlement activity; US President Trump's declaration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in 2017; Israeli authorities' ongoing and systematic suppression of Palestinians and their right to expression and protests against the occupation, particularly their cruel suppression of the Great March of Return Protests in the Gaza Strip which broke out in March 2018; Israel's approach aiming at changing the demographic status of the occupied territo-

ry and policy of displacement and house demolitions; the ongoing Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip for the 12th year consecutively; Israel's persistence to grant impunity for the Israeli war criminals; denial of Palestinians' right to remedy; awaiting ICC's decision to open an investigation into Israeli crimes; taking into account the failure of efforts towards the national reconciliation; and sanctions imposed by the PA on the Gaza Strip forcing Hamas to hand over the authority in Gaza to the PA, PCHR presents the following recommendations to the international community and Palestinian decision-makers:

Recommendations to the International Community: PCHR calls upon:

1. The international community to pressurize Israel to stop its crimes against Palestinian civilians in the oPt.
2. The ICC in to open an investigation into Israeli crimes committed in the oPt in 2019 particularly the killings against civilians and settlement crimes and take into account the U.S President's declaration and his complicity in the crime of settlement.
3. UN to discharge its responsibility to enable the Palestinians to enjoy their right to self-determination as the UN is mainly responsible for the Palestinian cause since the adoption by the General Assembly of the Partition Resolution 181 and its recognition of the State of Israel.
4. The international community to condemn and boycott the Israeli settlements established on the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967 and respect the Security Council's Resolutions, particularly Resolution 2334 relevant to condemning the settlements and ensure that Israel respects it.
5. The international community to support the efforts exerted for the Palestinian reconciliation, taking in consideration the transitional justice mechanisms that guarantee non-recurrence of the division and achievement of the democratic transition.

6. The international community to take decisive and critical actions against the Israeli-American policies aimed at changing the situation in the oPt, particularly the policy of house demolitions and displacement, which constitute flagrant violations of the international law and amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.
7. The international community to condemn summary executions carried out by Israeli forces against Palestinians and to pressurize Israel to stop them.
8. The State Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC to work hard in order to prosecute and hold the Israeli war criminals accountable.
9. The High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions to fulfill their obligations under article (1) of the Convention to ensure respect for the Conventions under all circumstances, and under articles (146) and (147) to search for and prosecute those responsible for committing grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions to ensure justice and remedy for Palestinian victims, especially in light of the almost complete denial of justice for them before the Israeli judiciary.
10. The international community for a prompt intervention to compel the Israeli authorities to lift the closure that obstructs the freedom of movement of goods and 2 million civilians who experience unprecedented economic, social, political and cultural hardships due to collective punishment policies against civilians.
11. The EU to apply human rights standards embedded in the EU-Israel Association Agreement and to respect its obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights when dealing with Israel.
12. The international community, especially states that import Israeli weapons and military services, to fulfill their moral and legal obligations and not to allow Israel to use the offensive on Gaza as a way to promote new weapons already tested in the Gaza Strip and not accept training services based on the field experience in Gaza in order to avoid turning Palestinian civilians in Gaza into testing objects for Israeli weapons and military tactics.
13. The Parties to international human rights instruments, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), to pressurize Israel to comply with its provisions in the oPt and to compel it to incorporate the human rights situation in the oPt in its reports submitted to the relevant committees.
14. The EU and international human rights bodies to pressurize the Israeli forces to stop their attacks against Palestinian fishermen and farmers, mainly in the border areas.
15. The international community, especially Arab countries, to seriously work for ending the problems related to movement at the border crossings, particularly the Gaza Strip Crossings, in a way that guarantees the free movement of Palestinian civilians.

Recommendations to the Palestinian Decision-Makers

PCHR calls upon:

1. The Palestinian factions to work to take decisive and serious steps in order to achieve the Palestinian reconciliation on the basis of overcoming the hardships of the past and establishing a transition stage to end corruption and ensure protection and respect for human rights.
2. The Palestinian President to end all the punitive measures imposed on the Gaza Strip, especially deducting salaries and minimizing services.
3. The Palestinian Authority to stop the series of procedures aiming at fully controlling associations through regulating its funding sources and restricting their activities and to cancel all decisions related to associations that were issued in light of the division between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. All these decisions violate the international standards binding the PA, which acceded to the ICCPR and ICESCR.
4. The High Judicial Council to reunite and rehabilitate the judiciary as a first step towards ending the division in order to have a neutral authority that can resolve any dispute which may break out during the re-unification process.
5. The Palestinian President to comply with the conditions prescribed under Article 43 of the Palestinian Basic Law when issuing decrees that have the power of law, including the condition of necessity.
6. The Change and Reform Parliamentary Bloc to stop holding any sessions on behalf of the PLC and abstain from enacting any laws without the PLC's convening.
7. The Palestinian government and security services to stop all violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to peaceful assembly and to hold the perpetrators of such violations accountable through appropriate legal means.
8. The Attorney General to stop the illegal summoning of citizens through security services both in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, emphasizing that the judiciary is the only party authorized to issue Habeas corpus or a subpoena. PCHR also called upon the executive authorities to immediately release all persons who are illegally detained.
9. The executive and judicial authorities to immediately stop torture in prisons and detention facilities and the Attorney General to hold those suspected of committing torture accountable. PCHR emphasizes that such crimes are not time-barred according to the Palestinian Basic Law.
10. The Palestinian President to issue a law by decree that stops application of death penalty in Palestine in light of Palestine's Accession to the 1989 Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. Furthermore, PCHR calls upon the authorities in the Gaza Strip to refrain from issuing or executing death sentences or allowing summary execu-

tions.

11. The Palestinian Authority to apply the principle of transparency in the PA's institutions via facilitating access to information and providing all information relevant to public affairs, especially through the official websites.
12. The Palestinian Authority to work on respecting the rights of persons with disabilities and activate the Palestinian Law No. 4 of 1999 on the Rights of Per-

sons with Disabilities, especially providing adequate facilities to persons with disabilities and ensuring their right to work.

13. The executive authority to respect persons' right to freedom of movement. In this context, PCHR emphasizes that restricting this right is possible only upon a judicial order as codified in the Palestinian Basic Law.





Section (1):

Israeli Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law



1- Willful Killings and Other Violations of the Right to Life and Personal Security

In 2018, PCHR documented that the Israeli forces and settlers killed 302 Palestinians⁹; 245 of whom were civilians, including 57 children and a woman. Among the total number of civilian victims, PCHR documented the killing of 211¹⁰ Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, including 50 children and 1 woman, while in the West Bank 34 Palestinians were killed, including 7 children. During this period, 10731 persons were wounded; most of whom were civilians, including 10341 in the Gaza Strip and 390 in the West Bank.

In 2018, the crimes of killing Palestinian civilians along the eastern and northern borders of the Gaza Strip and the excessive use of force against peaceful protesters participating in the Great March of Return and Breaking Siege since 30 March constituted the most prominent crimes and violations committed by the Israeli forces against the right to life. Since the beginning of these demonstrations until the end of 2018, 180 Palestinian civilians, including 35 children and 1 woman, were killed. Moreover, 10066 persons, including 1832 children and 292 women, were wounded in.

9. In 2018, 3 Palestinians succumbed to wounds they sustained before 2018.

10. Moreover, on 10 February, Mohammed Jallad succumbed to wounds he sustained on 06 December 2016. Mohammed Abu Haddaf also succumbed to wounds he sustained when Israeli forces targeted his family house in the 2014 offensive.

Furthermore, 6 Palestinians, including 4 children, were killed prior to the breakout of the Return and Breaking Siege at the end of March, under the pretext of approaching or sneaking through the border fence. Additionally, an elderly man was killed while plowing his land located near the border fence while a fisherman was also killed while fishing in the Gaza Sea.

During the period after the Great March of Return started, 30 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip were killed in different incidents, such as airstrikes, infiltration via the border fence and etc. Meanwhile, 2 civilians were killed during the escalation in November following the security operation carried out by Israeli Special Units in Khan Younis and resulted in the killing of 7 members of the Palestinian armed groups and one of the Israeli Special Units' members.

PCHR documented the killing of 37 Palestinians, including 7 children, in the West Bank throughout the year. Thirteen of them, including 4 children, were killed in demonstrations and protests organized by Palestinians against Israeli forces and their practices. Ten Palestinians, including a child, were killed under the pretext of attempting to carry out a stabbing attack

against Israeli soldiers while 3 Palestinians, including a child, were killed in cold blood in shooting incidents despite the prevailing calm. Moreover, 4 Palestinians, including a child, were killed in the Israeli incursions against Palestinian cities, villages and camps; and a Palestinian wom-

an was killed by an Israeli settler. Furthermore, 6 detainees were killed; 3 of them died in the Israeli jails due to medical negligence, 3 were executed after being arrested from their houses and 3 wanted persons were killed during an armed clash with the Israeli soldiers.

A. Killings During the Great March of Return and Breaking Siege in the Gaza Strip

Since the beginning of the Great March of Return on 30 March 2018, Palestinians have organized large demonstrations, where thousands of Palestinians participated in along the eastern borders of the Gaza Strip, calling for the right of return for Palestinian refugees and breaking the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip for 12 years. From the very first day, ten thousands of Palestinians, including women and children within entire families, started swarming to 5 encampments established by the Supreme National Authority for the Great March of Return and Breaking Siege in eastern Rafah City; Khuza'ah in Khan Younis; al-Bureij in the Central Gaza Strip; Shuja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza City; and Eastern Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip. The encampments were established around 300 meters away from the border fence.

Since the beginning of the Return March activities, the Israeli government threatened to use force against the civilians who would participate in the protests, which were announced to be fully peaceful, and deployed snipers along the borders. It was clear from that first day of the protests that the Israeli forces made good their



Peaceful Demonstrators along the Eastern Gaza Strip Borders

threats and used excessive force against civilians, who did not pose any threat to the life of the Israeli soldiers or the life of dozens of snipers fortified behind. The Israeli shooting resulted in the killing of 9 Palestinians and the injury of 709 others, including 121 children and 26 women.

The Israeli forces continued to use excessive force against civilians participating in fully peaceful protests, which are organized weekly on Friday afternoon and do not pose any threat to the Israeli sol-

diers. The protestors developed different methods to demonstrate peacefully such as throwing stones at the soldiers stationed in military watchtowers and behind sand berms along the borders with 2 fences equipped with electronic devices, in addition to other means which also did pose any threat to the soldiers' life. The Palestinian demonstrators developed the "incendiary kites", which are kites with a bomb, incendiary device, or Molotov cocktail attached and flown over the Israeli side of the border, setting fire to crops such as wheat and etc. These kites later developed into incendiary balloons. The Palestinian demonstrators also set up groups called the "cutting fence" units as they approach the first border fence, cut parts of it and then pull it into the Gaza side of the border, making holes in it. Later on, the demonstrators set up other groups known as "Tire-Burning Units", who gather tires and burn them near the fence in an attempt to block the vision of Israeli soldiers stationed along the border fence.

These demonstrations then expanded after the Supreme National Authority of the Return and Breaking Siege declared the outbreak of the first "boats rally" in early August. In this rally, the Palestinian boats sail from the Gaza Seaport and then to the northern Gaza Strip approaching the coastline, where Israeli naval forces heavily open fire at them though they were sailing in the Gaza waters. The Palestinian protestors organize "the boats rally" every Monday. At the same time, demonstrations are organized along the Gaza Strip's northern borders, where peaceful

protesters hold activities similar to those held along the eastern borders.

These demonstrations include cultural and artistic activities organized by the Supreme National Authority for Great March of Return and varied between Dabkeh shows, national songs, poetry, drawings, sports and other competitions such as football, volleyball, horse racing and others. Entire Palestinian families weekly participate in these popular activities.

However, from the very beginning, these demonstrations were confronted by excessive force in an attempt by the Israeli forces to suppress them against the peaceful civilians, inflicting casualties weekly in large numbers. Many of them were killed while being hundreds of meters away from the border fence, either by live ammunition or by tear gas canisters which directly hit their bodies. PCHR documented many cases where civilians were killed with tear gas canisters directly targeted the head.

Due to the increasing number of civilians killed and wounded, the Ministry of Health and healthcare institutions established medical points hundreds of meters away from the border fence to provide first aid and treat the large number of wounded civilians. However, since their establishment, the Israeli forces have attacked these points and opened fire at the tents belonging to the medical personnel, medical transports, paramedics, and medical personnel to prevent them from performing their humanitarian duties. Those violations resulted in casualties among the medical personnel.

Since the beginning, the Israeli forces have targeted journalists in particular, despite apparently wearing their uniform, to prevent them from conveying the truth to the world. As a result, 2 Journalists were killed and more than 180 were wounded since the outbreak of the Great March of Return.

The total number of civilians killed during those demonstrations was 180, including 35 children and a woman. Among those killed were 2 journalists, 3 members of the medical personnel and 8 persons with disabilities. Moreover, 10066 civilians, including 1832 children and 292 women, were wounded during the demonstrations. Among those wounded were 134 journalists and media personnel in addition to 155 members of the medical personnel. Among those wounded, 513 were in serious condition and 101, including 17 children, had their lower or upper limbs amputated; 89 lower-limb amputations and 12 upper-limb amputations.

This high number of casualties proves that the Israeli forces continue to commit further crimes and use excessive force against Palestinian civilians in disregard for their lives. It also proves that the use of force was upon a political decision from the highest political levels in Israel to suppress hundred thousands of civilians participating in fully peaceful protests within hundreds meters away from the border fence with Israel, without any justification or posing any imminent threat or danger to the life of soldiers.

According to observations by PCHR's



Journalist al-Maghari Wounded in eastern al-Bureij

fieldworkers, dozens of Israeli snipers stationed behind sand berms along the border fence, east of the Gaza Strip, sporadically and deliberately opened fire at the participants in the peaceful assemblies that included hundred thousands of civilians in 5 main locations in the eastern Gaza Strip. As a result, many civilians were directly killed and wounded.

The observations of PCHR's fieldworkers revealed that the Israeli forces focused on targeting the participants in the back rows of the demonstrations as they were falling one by one around 300 meters away from the border fence in addition to others who attempted only in few num-

bers to approach the fence. This proves that there is an official decision to kill and cause bodily harm to the demonstrators, in application of the policy of intimidation adopted by the Israeli forces, spokespersons, and officials to reduce the public participation.

Targeting Medical Personnel

The recurrent targeting of medical personnel, including paramedics, doctors, and nurses, resulted in the killing of 3 paramedics and the injury of 138 medical personnel during the Return March. Twenty-nine paramedics were hit with live bullets or directly hit with tear gas canisters. The Israeli forces opened fire at the medical personnel and medical points while carrying out their humanitarian duty to vacate and transfer those killed and wounded.

1. The killing of paramedic Mousa Abu Hasanein

On 14 May, the Israeli forces opened fire at paramedic Mousa Jaber 'Abdel Salam Abu Hasanein (36), member of the Civil Defense, and wounded him with a bullet to the chest, while he was treating one of those wounded in eastern Gaza City. Abu Hasanein was wounded when he was 300 meters away from the border fence, and the medical personnel could not evacuate Abu Hasanein who was left bleeding for 20 minutes before he was transferred to the Indonesian Hospital in northern Gaza, and was dead upon arrival.

2. The killing of paramedic Rozan al-Najjar

On 01 June 2018, Israeli forces killed paramedic Rozan al-Najjar (21) from Khuza'ah in eastern Khan Younis. Razan, who was a paramedic volunteering in the Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS), was shot with a bullet that entered her chest and exited her back. She was wounded along with 2 of her colleagues identified as Rami Nahro Mohammed Abu Jazar (29), who was wounded with a bullet to the left leg and shrapnel to the right leg and left hand, and Mahmoud Fathi 'Abdel 'Aati (38) who was wounded with shrapnel to the left leg when they all were 100 meters away from the border fence, northwest of the Return camp in eastern Khzua'ah, helping 2 persons wounded.



Paramedic Razan al-Najjar while on duty in the Great March of Return

3. The Killing of volunteer paramedic ‘Abdullah al-Qitati

On 10 August, ‘Abdullah Sabri ‘Atiyah al-Qitati (22), a volunteer paramedic in pulse of life youth team, from Rafah, was hit with a live bullet that entered and exited his back while rescuing the wounded civilians along with his colleague in eastern Khan Yunis. Al-Qita-

ti immediately died after his arrival at the Gaza European Hospital in Khan Yunis, at approximately 19:00 on the same day. Paramedic Ra’ed al-Sharif said to PCHR’s fieldworker that he was next to Abdullah al-Qitati, who was wearing the distinctive uniform and standing 15 meters away from the barbed wire, which is about 50-100 meters away from the western side of the main border fence.

B. The killing of Palestinians under the pretext of approaching the border fence

In 2018, the Israeli forces killed 18 Palestinians, claiming that they sneaked into Israel or approached the border fence during protests organized by Palestinian youngsters against Israeli soldiers stationed behind the military watchtowers along the border fence. Among those killed were 14 civilians, including 5 children. Many of them were killed before the outbreak of the Return and Breaking Siege March. The Israeli forces used excessive force, including artillery shelling against the minor children who approached the fence. Moreover, an elderly man was killed while cultivating his land near the border fence, despite the prevailing calm, without posing threat to the soldiers’ life. The most prominent cases were as follows:

1) On 11 January, Israeli forces stationed behind sand berms and military watchtowers along the border fence, east of al-Bureij refugee camp, opened fire at around 20 Palestinian children, who threw stones at the soldiers protesting at the U.S. President Donald Trump’s decision to recog-

nize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The children were around 50-70 meters away from the border fence. As a result, Amir ‘Abed al-Hameed Muas’ed Abu Musa’ed (15) from al-Musadder village, was killed after being shot with a bullet to the chest. Moreover, three other civilians were wounded. The injury of one of them was reported serious.

2) On 17 February, Israeli forces stationed along the border fence with Israeli near al-Shokah village, east of Rafah City, fired around 10 artillery shells and opened fire at 4 Palestinian children, who were 30 to 50 meters away from the fence intending to sneak into Israel to work there, according to the testimony of one of the two wounded children. Shrapnel of artillery shells and live bullets hit the four children in various parts of their bodies. Two of them were immediately transferred to Abu Yousif Annajar Hospital in Rafah City as they ran to the west until the medical staffs evacuated them. The doctors described their condition as moderate while

the medical crews could not reach the two other children as it was very late and increasingly dangerous. On the next morning, the PRCS ambulance crews managed to access the area and evacuate the bodies of the two children namely Salem Mohammed Soliman Sabbah (17) and 'Abdullah Ayman Salim Irmeilat (15). It turned out that they bled to death after being hit with shrapnel throughout their bodies.

3) On 03 March, the Israeli forces stationed along the border fence with Israel

near the Military gate next to al-Najjar neighborhood in Khuza'ah village, east of Khan Younis, fired 2 bullets at farmer Mohammed 'Ata 'Abed al-Mawla Abu Jame'a (59) while he was working in his land that is 200 meters away from the border fence. As a result, he was hit with a bullet to the right thigh and taken by an ambulance to the Gaza European Hospital. He was then admitted to the Operation Room for internal bleeding. At approximately 17:30, medical sources at the hospital declared he succumbed to his injury.

C. Summary Executions

In 2018, Israeli forces and security officers killed 11 Palestinians¹¹, including a child, in the West Bank, particularly occupied Jerusalem, claiming that they carried out, attempted or were suspected of carrying stabbing or run-over attacks against Israeli soldiers, security officers and settlers in the oPt and Israel.

11. Investigations carried out by PCHR and other human rights organizations, including Israeli organizations, revealed that the committed killings could have been avoided if less force was used, especially as many cases claimed by Israeli forces as stab or run-over attempts did not pose any threat to the life of Israeli security officers. The investigations also revealed that Israeli forces employed excessive force in all cases without taking into consideration the principle of proportionality. Moreover, many victims were left lying on the ground bleeding to death without Israeli forces giving them the necessary medical care or even allowing the ambulance crews to treat them. The investigations also proved the falsity of Israeli allegations that their security services were subject to stabbing and run-over attacks in an attempt to justify their crimes against civilians. What happened in reality were direct and cold-blooded killings of defenseless civilians because they were suspected of crimes and because Israeli soldiers stationed at the checkpoints in the West Bank or in the vicinity of Israeli settlements panicked.

In application of summary executions, PCHR also documented the killing of two Palestinians by Israeli forces in cold blood after arresting them from their houses in the West Bank. According to PCHR's investigations, both of the mentioned civilians were arrested alive and few hours later their death was declared¹². In addition, the death of the wanted civilian Saleh al-Barghouthi was declared on 12 December without delivering his corpse to his family or referring it to the Forensic Medicine Department. On 28 December, al-Haq Organization sent a joint urgent appeal to the United Nations (UN) Special Procedures regarding the enforced disappearance of Saleh Omar Barghouthi (29) following his arrest by the Israeli forces near Surda village, north of Ramallah, on 12 December 2018.

12 Look at p. (47), paragraph deaths at the Israeli jails.

D. Killings during Clashes and Protests

Israeli forces killed 13 Palestinians, including 4 children, during protests organized by Palestinians throughout the West Bank, against the Israeli forces' suppressive policy and their arbitrary measures in the oPt. Moreover, dozens of civilians were wounded during these protests, including those organized weekly, against the confiscation of lands and settlement activities in Palestinian villages and cities. All of them were killed during protests and clashes erupted during the Israeli forces' incursions into the Palestinians cities, villages and camps in the West Bank. Among those killed was Mohamed Husam Habali (24), from Tulkarm, who was killed on 04 December when the Israeli forces moved into the city. While the Israeli forces claimed that Habali was killed during "riots", the investigations and

human rights reports refuted these allegations, and emphasized even through cameras that Habali, a person with disability, was shot to the head from the back, about 100 meters, without posing threat to the Israeli soldiers' life after he was running away along with other persons from the shooting. Furthermore, Mohammed Zain al-Ja'bari (24), from Hebron, was killed in cold blood during a protest organized in the center of Hebron on 09 March. It should be noted that Mohammed suffered from speech disorder. The Israeli forces stationed near al-Container checkpoint in the center of Hebron, opened fire at Palestinians, who threw stones at them. As a result, Mohammed was hit with a live bullet to the chest and succumbed to his wounds at the Hebron Governmental Hospital.

E. Killing Civilians during Israeli Airstrikes against Targets in the Gaza Strip.

In 2018, five Palestinian civilians were killed during attacks carried out by Israeli forces against military sites near densely-populated areas or various civilian objects across the Gaza Strip. Moreover, 33 civilians, including 4 children and 3 women, were wounded. Those attacks resulted in the killing of 25 members of the Palestinian armed groups over the year. Twelve of them were killed during the escalation occurred in the Gaza Strip from 11 to 13 November. This escalation also resulted in the killing of two civilians. Over this year, the Israeli airstrikes continued against military sites and resulted in the killing of

13 Palestinians, including 3 civilians.



al-Namarah Wounded after A Building was targeted in al-Katiabah area, west of Gaza

F. Killing by Israeli Settlers

PCHR documented the killing of two civilians by Israeli settlers.

On 12 October, 'Aisha al-Rabi (47), from Bidya village, northwest of Salfit, was killed after a car driven by her husband, was thrown with stones by a group of settlers at the intersection of "Rahalim" settlement, between al-Sawiya village and Za'tarah checkpoint square, south of Nablus. 'Aisha's husband sustained serious wounds.

On 09 April, Mohammed Zuhdi Marshoud (31), from Balata refugee camp, succumbed to his wounds after being hit with a bullet shot by an Israeli settler,



Ayshah al-Rabi

claiming that he attempted to carry out a stabbing attack near "Mishor Adumim" settlement in al-Khan al-Ahmar area, east of occupied East Jerusalem.

G. Killing and wounding Fishermen

PCHR documented the killing of 2 fishermen by the Israeli naval forces in Gaza City while fishing in the Gaza Strip Sea. In 2018, PCHR also documented the injury of 15 fishermen while sailing within the allowed fishing area.

1. On 25 February, Isma'il Saleh Abu Riyalah (18) was killed and 'Ahed Hasan Abu 'Ali (24) was wounded after an Israeli gunboat opened fire at them while sailing within 3 nautical miles off Gaza City shore. Isma'il was hit with a live bullet to the head and immediately died while the Israeli naval forces detained his corpse before releasing it 2 weeks later.
2. On 14 November, a group of Palestinian amateur fishermen threw their fishing nets in the Beit Lahia Sea around hun-



Blood signs on A Fishing Boat belonging to Abu Riyalah

dred meters away from the northern Gaza Strip shore in front of Israeli Zikim Military Base that is located at the

end of the coastal border of the northern Gaza strip. Meanwhile, the Israeli soldiers opened fire at the fishermen, wounding Nawaf Ahmed Mohammed al-‘Attar (23) with a bullet to the pelvis. As a result, a number of fishermen took him outside the water amidst a state of

panic and fear and called an ambulance to transfer him to the hospital. The ambulance arrived on the main road in front of the shore and took Nawaf, who passed away few minutes later after he bled so much.

H. Child Killings

In 2018, Israeli forces killed 57 Palestinian children in various circumstances. Fifty children were killed in the Gaza Strip; 36 of them were killed during protests and demonstrations organized along the eastern border fence (the Return and Breaking Siege March); 9 were killed under the pretext of sneaking into Israel or approaching the fence; 5 were killed during Israeli airstrikes on military sites and civilian objects. Moreover, 7 other children were killed in the West Bank; 4 of them were killed during protests and confrontations with the Israeli forces; 1 was killed under the pretext of attempting to carry out a stabbing attack; 1 was killed while moving into the oPt; and 1 was killed despite the prevailing calm. The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On 14 July, an Israeli warplane fired 9 missiles at a 5-storey uninhabited building in al-Katiba area in the center of Gaza City. The abovementioned building is located next to a public park in a densely populated area and government and civil institutions. The bombing caused a partial damage to the building and resulted in the killing of Loai Mazen Nabil Kuhail (14) and his friend Ameer Mohamed Waleed al-Namirah (14).

Both of them are from Gaza City. Moreover, 23 civilians, including 2 children, were wounded due to the scattering of shrapnel and rubble. The bombing caused damage to al-Katiba Mosque and other facilities, including the Ministry of Health’s ambulance building and its facilities, a number of ambulances parked there, and al-Katiba Prison.

2. On 23 July, Arkan Thayer Helmi Mizher (15) was hit with a live bullet that penetrated his heart and exited his back during confrontations erupted between Palestinian young men and Israeli forces in al-Dahisha camp, south of Bethlehem. Arkan sustained serious wounds and was then taken to al-Husain Hospital in Beit Jalah, where his death was announced.
3. On 15 May, ‘Oday Akram Abu Khalil (15) from ‘Ein Siniya village, north of Ramallah, was hit with a live bullet to the abdomen during confrontations erupted between Palestinian young men and Israeli forces at the northern entrance to al-Bireh in commemoration of Palestinian Nakbah Day. ‘Oday was taken to Palestine Medical Complex, where he stayed for 8 days until his death was declared on 23 May.



2- Ongoing Closure and Restrictions on Freedom of Movement in the oPt

In 2018, the Israeli authorities continued to impose its tightening closure and restrictions on the freedom of movement of persons and goods in the oPt. In 2018, Israel has continued its policy of isolating the West Bank cities and establishing permanent and temporary checkpoints to obstruct the movement of persons and goods between the cities. Furthermore, Israel has continued its policy of isolating

occupied Jerusalem from its surroundings and imposed restrictions on Palestinians' entry into East Jerusalem from the rest of the oPt. This has seriously affected the humanitarian conditions of the oPt residents. Moreover, their social and economic conditions deteriorated due to the serious and long-term impacts of the Israeli closure policies and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods.

1- Israeli-imposed Closure on the Gaza Strip for the 12th Consecutive Year

In 2018, the Israeli authorities continued to impose further restrictions on the movement of goods at the commercial crossings and movement of persons.

Regarding the movement of persons, this year witnessed an increase in the rate of rejected permits that are granted by the Israeli authorities to limited categories in order to allow them to travel via Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing. As a result, there was a decline in the number of persons allowed to travel via the crossing, including patients and their companions; businesspeople; families of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails; workers of international humanitarian organizations; persons traveling via al-Karama crossing; persons with special needs; elderly persons to perform

prayers in al-Aqsa mosque; and Christians to attend the Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem in the West Bank.

Regarding the movement of commodities and goods, the Israeli authorities continued to impose tightened restrictions on the entry of goods into the Gaza Strip they classify as "dual-use materials". The Israeli forces put 118 types of goods on the list of the "dual-use materials;" most of them include hundreds of basic goods. For example, the communication equipment alone includes dozens of goods. The items on the "dual-use materials" list are essential to the life of the population, so imposing restrictions on importing them contribute to the deterioration of infrastructure and economic, health and ed-

ucation conditions. These items include communications equipment, pumps, large generators, iron bars, iron pipes in all diameters, welding equipment and welding rods used in welding, various types of wood UPS devices that protect the electric devices from breaking down when the electricity suddenly cuts off, X-ray machines, cranes and heavy vehicles, types of batteries and several types of fertilizers.

The Israeli authorities continued to ban the Gaza Strip exports to the West Bank, Israel and abroad for the 12th consecutive year. However, they allowed the exportation of limited quantities of the Gaza Strip products (the majority of which were agricultural) as the number of truckloads allowed for exportation was 2608 truckloads. In 2018, the monthly exports amounted to 4.8% of the total Gaza exports before the imposition of the closure in June 2007 when around 4,500 truckloads used to be exported. The ban on exports resulted in the deterioration of economic conditions and closure of hundreds of factories in Gaza, including dozens of clothes and furniture factories that manufacture high quality products. Therefore, thousands of workers were discharged and became unemployed; raising poverty rates to unprecedented levels.

Moreover, the Israeli authorities issued successive decisions to tighten closure on the Gaza Strip, close the only commercial crossing “Karm Abu Salem “completely, and ban the entry of fuel, gas and basic needs to the Gaza population in response to the continued firing of incendiary kites

and balloons by Hamas towards the areas adjacent to the Gaza Strip.

On 01 August 2018, the former Israeli Defense Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, issued a decision to ban the entry of fuel and gas into the Gaza Strip through Karm Abu Salem crossing. The Israeli authorities previously issued a decision on 16 July 2018, to completely close Karm Abu Salem crossing, except for the entry of food, medicines, medical supplies, fuel and gas only when needed.

On 10 July 2018, the Israeli authorities decided to close Karm Abu Salem crossing and prevent the entry of goods into the Gaza Strip, except for the entry of some humanitarian goods, including food, medicine, fuel, and gas. Furthermore, the Israeli authorities imposed a complete ban on exporting and marketing goods from Gaza Strip.

Due to the policy of ongoing closure and social and economic strangulation, serious indicators emerged at the humanitarian level. Moreover, the social and economic rights of the Gaza Strip population deteriorated due to the serious and long-term impacts of the Israeli policies that succeeded in undermining any real opportunity to reconstruct the Gaza Strip and operate its economic sector.

The closure also resulted in violation of the economic rights of the Gaza population. The restrictions imposed on the entry of raw materials needed for production and ban on the exportation of the Gaza Strip

products in addition to the destruction of around 70% of the economic facilities during the Israeli military operations on the Gaza Strip paralyzed various economic sectors. As a result, around 283,000 persons in the Gaza Strip are unemployed, i.e. a rate of 53.7% according to The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in 2018.¹³ Moreover, the poverty rate in the Gaza Strip reached 53%¹⁴ and more than 67% of the Gaza population suffers from food insecurity according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).¹⁵

The ongoing closure also negatively affected the right of Gaza Strip population to education. Thousands of Gaza students are still deprived of studying in the West Bank universities in the fields they prefer, taking in consideration that such fields are vital and important for Gaza population. As a result, the West Bank universities have become empty of the Gaza students after their rate used to be around 26% in 1994. Furthermore, the Israeli authorities allow only a limited number of students studying in foreign universities to travel via Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing, forcing them to sign a pledge not to return to the

13. Labour Force Survey Results Second Quarter 2018, (April - June 2018), Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 8/7/2018. For more information: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/postar.aspx?lang=ar&ItemID=3211>.

14. The situation of the Palestinian civilian population on the Occasion of International Population Day, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 11/07/2018. For more information, see: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/postar.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=3182>.

15. Food insecurity in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), Bulletin of Humanitarian Affairs, November 2018, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 14/12/2018. For more information: <https://www.ochaopt.org/en/content/monthly-humanitarian-bulletin-november-2018>.

Gaza Strip for a year.

Concerning the health conditions, the closure deprived the Gaza population of their right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health, as the Israeli authorities continued to deprive patients of receiving medical treatment abroad. According to the Ministry of Health, the Israeli authorities obstructed the travel of 10,057 Gaza Strip patients referred for treatment in the hospitals in Israel and the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, (i.e. 38.8% of the total number of applied applications (25,877)). The Israeli authorities attributed the rejection of 1,978 patients for security reasons (7.6%), while they did not reply to 612 applications (2.3%). Moreover, they delayed the replies to 5,950 patients' applications (22.9%), claiming under security check. Meanwhile, the Israeli authorities asked 210 patients to change their companions (0.8%) and delayed the travel of 1,307 patients (5.1%) under various pretexts.

Moreover, the Israeli authorities prevented the entry of a number of new medical devices such as diagnostic and radiological devices needed for the diagnosis of cancerous tumors or the importation of spare parts for medical equipment. Thus, hospitals and medical centers were not able to deal with hundreds of patients. In addition, the Ministry of Health was forced to refer patients for treatment abroad.

Since May 2018, the Egyptian authorities opened Rafah Crossing, the only outlet for Gaza residents to the outside world so

that the humanitarian cases could travel or return to the Gaza Strip. However, the work at the crossing was very limited and at a very slow pace. During the reporting period, 55,824 managed to leave while 35,373 returned to the Strip in addition to

6,909 who were returned by the Egyptian authorities and banned from travelling for no reason. According to the Gaza Crossings and Border Authority, thousands of civilians registering to travel at the Ministry of Interior are unable to travel.

2- Restrictions on Movement in the West Bank

The Israeli forces continued to impose arbitrary restrictions on the movement of civilians in the West Bank in 2018 as part of the collective punishment policy and cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment. Following the increasing number of demonstrations in the oPt in protest against the U.S. President Donald Trump's decision on 06 December 2017 to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move the U.S. Embassy to it, the Israeli forces imposed tightened restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians and goods between the cities of the West Bank. PCHR emphasizes that the Israeli authorities on a wide scale violate Palestinians' right to freedom of movement and use it as part of the collective punishment policy against Palestinians. Those restrictions increased and decreased depending on the field conditions on the ground.

The number of permanent checkpoints amounted to 103 in 2018; 59 of which were internal checkpoints in the West Bank, and 18 checkpoints in H2 Area in Hebron where Israeli settlement outposts exist. Thirty nine of them erected along the Green Line (Armistice Line) and they are considered border crossings between the West Bank and Israel. In addition, hun-

dreds of sudden checkpoints were established and other material obstacles such as iron gates, sand barriers and rocks. In the last quarter of the year, Israeli forces increased the establishment of temporary checkpoints randomly at intersections between the Palestinian cities. The Israeli forces reclosed settler bypass roads, which they sometimes allow Palestinians to use, before the movement of Palestinian civilians to increase their suffering. Israeli Private Security Companies control part of the checkpoints under the supervision of the Crossings and Borders Department of the Israeli forces.

In occupied Jerusalem, in spite of the ongoing closure imposed on the city and completely isolating it as well as banning Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza



Restrictions on the Movement in the West Bank

Strip from entering the city, Israeli forces tightened its closure on the Palestinian neighborhoods in the city. These measures included establishing many iron detector gates and police checkpoints inside the Old City neighborhoods and at the entrances to them. These measures deprived Palestinians of their right to enter the occupied city and the city residents to enjoy normal lives.

The Israeli forces continued to use checkpoints as border crossings with the purpose of isolating Areas classified as Area (C) according to Oslo Accords from large areas in the West Bank, as in East Jerusalem, Jordan Valley areas along the Palestinian borders with Jordan and lands located behind the annexation wall. The Israeli government that declared several decades ago the annexation of East Jerusalem under its sovereignty in violation of the International law and the UN resolutions, does not hide its intention to annex the Jordan Valley areas and lands located behind the annexation wall too.

Israeli forces use checkpoints and border crossings in the West Bank as ambushes to arrest Palestinians who are allegedly wanted. Palestinian civilian are often subjected to maltreatment and attacks by Israeli soldiers stationed at these checkpoints. In 2018, according to PCHR's documentation, Israeli forces arrested at least 297 Palestinian civilians, including 37 children, 13 women and girls and a journalist, at those checkpoints. Comparing with 2017, Israeli forces arrested at least 280 Palestinian civilians, including 58 children

and 6 women.

In the same context, at al-Karama ('Allenby') International Crossing Point between Jordan and the West Bank, the Israeli authorities intend to humiliate the Palestinian civilians while traveling via the crossing, which is under their control. They further deprive thousands of civilians of their right to travel, and those denied from traveling are usually subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment, including thorough search and investigation by Israeli Intelligence officers in addition to forcing them to wait for long hours. Moreover, the Israeli forces from time to time close the crossing point for long hours without any reason, forcing hundreds of travelers, including children, women, elderlies and patients, to stay inside the buses, particularly in summer which usually witnesses active travel movement. These procedures include the Gaza Strip residents, who use al-Karama crossing to travel abroad according to prior coordination procedures with the Israeli authorities. They are being gathered and then deported to the Gaza Strip as groups without being allowed to stop in West Bank cities, including occupied East Jerusalem.

The construction of the annexation wall separating the West Bank lands has doubled the suffering of Palestinian civilians whose residential areas and/or agricultural lands were isolated behind the wall, and persons working in those areas, including teachers, doctors, cleaners and others. The wall also negatively affects the life of Palestinian farmers especially in

the olive harvest season, which is considered as the sole source of income for hundreds of Palestinian families in light of the difficult economic conditions suffered by Palestinians. Israeli forces deny Palestinian farmers access to their isolated lands to harvest olive or limit their entry and exit hours through 104 gates established in the wall. These measures and restrictions aim to deprive farmers of the only source of income and force them to leave their lands and neglect them in order to confiscate them.

The impact of restrictions on the movement of Palestinians living near the wall has not been limited to the agricultural sector, but included numerous other aspects of life. The residents suffer from restrictions imposed on their movement and access to hospitals in the nearby cities. The education system was also affected because many schools, particularly in villages, rely on teachers who come from outside the village, in addition to affecting the social and family relations. Palestinians on both sides of the wall need permits to move through the gates which are built in the wall and operate under a strict security system and in specified hours. Israeli forces often and suddenly close these gates for no apparent reason.

Israeli forces also impose a policy of racial discrimination against Palestinian civilians in using public roads. They deprive Palestinians of using many roads and only allow settlers to use them and so Palestinians are forced to take long and rough

roads. The Israeli authorities also designated around 60 kilometers of the West Bank streets to be used by settlers and ban Palestinian vehicles to travel on these roads in a way that restrains their access to nearby streets which Palestinians are not denied access to. In addition, Palestinians are banned from using and traveling via around 7 kilometers of internal streets in the center of Hebron in addition to denying them from even walking in parts of these roads, Palestinians are not allowed to walk on them. The military checkpoints obstruct the free movement of goods, increasing the expenses of transportation which would affect the prices of goods and so increase the financial burdens on the consumers.

The closure policy of is a form of collective punishment prohibited by the international humanitarian law, particularly the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention relevant to Protection of Civilians in Times of War, and international human rights law. Article 33 of the Convention specifically prohibits the punishment of protected persons for offences they have not personally committed. It also prohibits collective penalties, measures of intimidation or terrorism, and reprisals against protected persons and their property. The Israeli forces have implemented the policy of closure as a means of punishment, intimidation, and retaliation against Palestinian civilians through imposing the policy of isolation and closing roads, stopping the movement of individuals and goods.



3. Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment

During 2018, Israeli forces continued to arrest around 6500 Palestinians, including 6000 detainees from the West Bank and 370 from the Gaza Strip. Among the total number of detainees, there are 400 children, 64 women while 700 others are under administrative detention without trial. Those detainees are distributed into around 20 prisons and detention facilities; most of which are established in the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967,¹⁶ in a clear violation of article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which stipulates, “Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein.”

PCHR documented the arrest of 3369 Palestinians, including 489 children, 79 women and 11 Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) Members, in 2018. Among those arrested, there were 3287 Palestinians arrested in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem; 3034 of them were arrested during the Israeli incursions into the Palestinian cities, 241 were arrested at the checkpoints and 12 were arrested during protests.¹⁷ Moreover, 82 Palestinians, including 4 children, were arrested from

16. Except “Ofer” prison established in the west of Ramallah in the West Bank.

17. In 2017, the Commission of Detainees and ex-Detainees Affairs documented 30 cases of arresting wounded Palestinians after the Israeli forces opened fire at them.



Civilian Arrested in Jerusalem

the Gaza Strip; 13 were arrested along the border fence of the Gaza Strip while 9 were arrested at Beit Hanoun “Erez” crossing while traveling to the West Bank for business, medical treatment, and education. Furthermore, the Israeli forces arrested 60 fishermen while they working in areas where fishing is permitted by Israeli authorities.

The Palestinian detainees are subject to inhumane, cruel, and deteriorating detention conditions. Five Palestinian prisoners died in the Israeli jails; two of whom were sentenced to long periods and died in the Israeli hospitals after their health conditions deteriorated; two died due to beating and torture when they were arrested from their houses; and one succumbed to his wounds 3 days after his arrest, under the pretext of attempting to carry out a

stabbing attack against an Israeli soldier at a military checkpoint.

The Israeli authorities intensified their efforts to enact laws and legislations that would deprive Palestinian prisoners of their fundamental rights, including their right to life. These laws and legislations are part of series of unfair laws and measure that undermine the rights of arrestees in the Israeli jails.

This year witnessed the arbitrary arrest of minors, maltreating them, and subjecting them to investigation, which included torture, in addition to being tried before military courts and issuing cruel sentences against them. PCHR documented dozens of cases where children were arrested and inhumanely treated by the Israeli forces, including beating and degradation. In many cases, the Israeli forces issue draconian sentences against detained minors and impose high fines in accordance with an arbitrary law ratified by the Israeli government in 2015 that is in violation of international humanitarian law and the international human rights Law, particularly conventions relevant to child's rights and in continuation of the policy adopted by the Israeli authorities which previously issued hundreds of similar sentences against minors.

Moreover, the Israeli forces arrested civilians, particularly in occupied Jerusalem, on grounds of mere expression of their opinions on social media and bringing them to trial on grounds of incitement against Israel. The Israeli authorities impose a penalty that ranges between 3 to 22 months in prison in addition to impos-

ing varying fines according to the charge against the detainee.

The Israeli forces continued to arrest 5 PLC Members in the Israeli prisons including Marwan al-Barghuthi, PLC Member representing Fatah Parliamentary bloc, who has been arrested since 2002 and sentenced to life imprisonment; Ahmed Sa'adat, PLC Member representing the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), who has been arrested since 2006 and serves an imprisonment sentence of 30 years. The Israeli forces also administratively detained 3 PLC Members. In 2018, they arrested 2 PLC Members, who are so far under arrest, and released 5 PLC members arrested during 2016 and 2017. On 01 January, the Israeli forces arrested PLC Member Naser 'Abed al-Jawad. On 07 November, the Israeli forces arrested PLC Member Abu Jahishah. Both of them are so far under arrest. Throughout the year, Israeli forces arrested PLC member Hasan Yousef on 17 December 2017 and then released him on 11 October 2018. Hasan administrative detention was renewed 2 times. The PLC member Mohamed al-Natshah was arrested on 28 September 2016 and then released on 25 July 2018. Moreover, PLC member Mohamed Abu Tair was arrested on 04 August 2017 and then released on 01 February 2018. The PLC member Mohamed Bader was arrested on 28 June 2017 and then released on 08 April 2018. The Israeli forces also arrested PLC member Ahmed 'Atoun on 19 April 2017 and then released him on 08 March 2018. The PLC member Khaleda al-Najjar was arrested on 02 July 2017 and her administrative detention was extended several times.

Torture and Maltreatment

In November, the Israeli High Court issued a decision that allowed the Israeli Intelligence Service “Shin Bet” to use “special means”, in exceptional cases, which were previously prohibited, while interrogating Palestinian detainees. These means include prohibition including sleep deprivation and the frog stance.

The Israeli High Court, which consists of three judges, issued the decision during its consideration of a petition filed by the released detainee, Feras Tubaish, on grounds of torturing him during his detention in 2011. The court found that the methods of torture that Feras was exposed to at that time were legitimate. The court refused to reopen the investigation into the torture case, saying it could not be proven that the special means against him were torture, despite providing medical evidence confirming pain in the teeth, swelling to the knee, vision problems, and pains in the legs due torture.

This decision could be considered to expand the scope of torture during interrogation with the Palestinians although

torture in the Israeli prisons and interrogation centers remains widespread and has never stopped.

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are subjected to torture and degrading and inhuman treatment from the moment they are arrested. They are harshly beaten by hands and batons, verbally insulted and humiliated the whole way long to the detention facilities. Prisoners are tortured by officers of the Intelligence Service “Shin Bet” during interrogation and even when in prison. Prisoners’ suffering does not end by the end of interrogation but continues during their imprisonment. They undergo cruel procedures, including torture and inhumane and degrading treatment, sleep deprivation, medical negligence and denial of family visits and their right to receive legal representation and consultation.

During the year, two arrestees died after they were allegedly subjected to torture. They were severely beaten after arresting them from their houses, causing their death immediately.

Medical Negligence in the Israeli Jails

According to Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations, the number of detainees who suffer serious and chronic diseases such as cancer, cardiac diseases and paralysis, in the Israeli jails and detention facilities are increasing due to

the policy of the deliberate medical negligence and the unsuitable health and environmental conditions for them. According to statistics, there are about 1000 sick prisoners in Israeli jails and detention facilities in need of medical treatment,

including dozens who need an urgent intervention to save their lives. They shall, if possible, be separated from other detainees and shall enjoy conditions of food and hygiene which will be sufficient to keep

them in good health and which will be at least equal to those obtaining in prisons in the occupied country.

Deaths in Israeli Jails and Detention Facilities

In 2018, five Palestinian prisoners died in the Israeli jails; two of whom were sentenced to long periods and died in the Israeli hospitals after their health condition deteriorated; two died due to beating and torture when being arrested from their houses; and one succumbed to his wounds after 3 days of his arrest, under the pretext of attempting to carry out a stabbing attack against an Israeli soldier at a military checkpoint.

1. On 22 January, a Palestinian prisoner in the Israeli jails namely as Husain 'Atallah (57), from Nablus, who suffered cancer, died in Assaf Harofeh Medical Center in Israel in circumstances that raise suspicion of deliberate medical negligence in the Israeli prisons. 'Atallah was sentenced with 32 years in prison and spent 21 years of them in the Israeli prisons. While in prison, 'Atallah was diagnosed with cancer in 5 parts of his body, in the lungs, spine, liver, and head. Despite the rapid deterioration of his health condition in his last days, the Israeli authorities refused the repeated calls to release him as a humanitarian case. Issa Qaraq'a, Head of the Palestinian Committee of Prisoners' Affairs, stated to the media that the Israeli Early Release Committee of the Prison Ser-

vice refused a request submitted by the Committee's lawyer to release 'Atallah in last September. According to that, the lawyer filed three appeals regarding the decision, but the appeals were rejected by the Israeli court. The court was supposed to consider a fourth appeal, which was submitted by the Committee's lawyer on 22 January 2018. However, 'Atallah died 2 days before the date in Assaf Harofeh Medical Center.

2. On 22 February, Yassin al-Saradih from Jericho died after only hours of being arrested by Israeli forces. The Israeli forces moved into Jericho. They raided and searched a house belonging to Khamis Hattab in the center of the city after breaking down the main house door in addition to damaging some of the house contents. His nephew, Yassin 'Omer al-Saradih (33) headed to the house to figure out what was going on. However, immediately, a number of Israeli soldiers severely beat him up throughout his body and then fired a tear gas canister on the spot. They then dragged him all the way to a military vehicle and later to an unknown destination. At approximately 09:30 on the same day, the family received a phone call from the Palestinian Military Liai-

son telling them that the Israeli Liaison informed them of the death of their son due to suffering gas inhalation and seizures. A video captured by a surveillance camera showed 6 Israeli soldiers attacking the abovementioned civilian and brutally beating him up using their rifles' butts and feet.

3. On 08 April, medical sources at "Meir" Medical Center in "Kfar Saba" city in Israel announced the death of Palestinian prisoner Mohammed Sobhi 'Anbar (46) from Tulkarm refugee camp, succumbing to wounds he sustained earlier. Mohammed was hit with 3 live bullets throughout his body on 02 April 2018 after Israeli security company guards stationed at Jabarah checkpoint, south of Tulkarm opened fire at him claiming that 'Anbar attempted to carry out a stab attack against the soldiers. The Israeli forces arrested 'Anbar after wounding him and took him to "Meir" Medical Center where he underwent several surgeries in which doctors cut off one of his legs. 'Anbar further suffered from fractures to the pelvis. He stayed at the abovementioned hospital since the date of his injury until his death was announced.
4. On 20 May, medical crews in "Assaf Harofeh" Medical Center near al-Ramlah in Israel announced the death of Palestinian prisoner 'Aziz Mousa Salem 'Eweisat (53) from al-Mukkaber Mount village, southeast of East Jerusalem. On 09 May 2018, 'Eweisat was transferred from al-Ramlah prison to "Assaf Harofeh" Medical Center after he suffered a stroke and stayed there until his death

was announced on the abovementioned day. It should be mentioned that 'Aziz 'Eweisat was arrested on 08 March 2014 and sentenced to 30 years in prison after being convicted of planning to explode the gas pipeline of "Armon Hantsev" settlement established on the Palestinian lands of al-Mukaber Mount village. In the beginning of May, he had a stroke after being transferred from "Eshel" prison to "al-Ramlah" prison. Before the stroke, prisoner 'Eweisat said to one of the prisoners that he was beaten and maltreated in "Eshel Prison under claims of pouring hot water on a prison officer. On 09 May 2018, he underwent a heart catheterization, and his health condition deteriorated. After one day, he was taken to "Tel Hashomer" Hospital where he underwent an open heart surgery. The two day before his death, 'Eweisat suffered multiple organ failure and was on medical ventilators in "Assaf Harofeh" hospital where he underwent an MRI which showed he suffered severe inflammation and pulmonary hypertension "increased blood pressure within the arteries of the lungs." in the left lung. The Prisoners' Affairs Authority then called for urgently releasing 'Aweisat for health reasons and determined a hearing on 25 May 2018 in the Magistrate's Court in Ramla to consider the request.

5. On 18 September, Mohammed al-Khatib, from Beit Rima village, northwest of Ramallah, died only few hours after being arrested by the Israeli forces. The Israeli soldiers sneaked into Beit Rima village, northwest of Ramallah, via a ci-

vilian white Volkswagen Caravelle with a Palestinian registration plate. The vehicle stopped near a house belonging to the family of Mohammed Zaghoul al-Khatib (24), and the Israeli soldiers stepped out of it to raid al-Khatib's bedroom. They had brutally beaten him before arresting and taking him to an unknown destination. In the morning, an Israeli officer called the brother of the

abovementioned and asked him if Mohammed suffers from a certain disease, but his brother denied so. Shortly, the family received a phone call from the Palestinian Liaison informing them that their son died. It should be mentioned that al-Khatib was previously wounded by the Israeli forces with a bullet to his foot one year and a half ago.

Hunger strikers in protest against their inhuman detention conditions

Palestinian prisoners went on individual hunger strikes for various periods in protest against the deterioration of their detention conditions that violate the minimum international standards relevant to detention and arrest. Among those prisoners was Khader 'Adnan Mousa (40), who started his open hunger strike on 02 September in protest against his arbitrary administrative detention, which lasted for 58 days. 'Adnan ended his hunger strike on 29 October after the Military Court sentenced him to 12 months' imprisonment and fined him with NIS 1000. Khader was arrested on 11 December 2017 from his house in 'Araba village in Jenin. He was accused of belonging to the Islamic Jihad Movement. He remained for the entire period without trial (administrative deten-

tion). Khader was released after serving his sentence.

It should be noted that this strike is the third of its kind that Khader 'Adnan went on. He went on two similar hunger strikes; one in 2012 and lasted for 66 days, and the other in 2015 and lasted for 54 days.

Moreover, prisoner Mohamed al-Rimawi (27), from Beit Rima, west of Ramallah, went on an open hunger strike, which lasted for 20 days. Al-Rimawi ended his strike after the Israeli authorities decided to release him due to the deterioration of his health conditions. He was released on 07 August. Al-Rimawi was arrested on 19 July and immediately went on a hunger strike in protest against arresting and interrogating him again.

Unfair Legislations

With the beginning of 2018, a death penalty bill¹⁸ against Palestinian prisoners resurfaced after long debates in Israel. On 03 January 2018, the Israeli Knesset voted to amend the Penal Code in order to legalize the use of death penalty against those involved in murders while carrying out “fatal acts of terrorism”. The bill was presented before the Knesset on 30 October 2017 by three Israeli extremist parliamentarians: Robert Eltov, Oded Forer and Yuli

Leminovsky. The bill stipulates that “the Minister of Defense orders the commander of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) in the division to give orders to: 1- the Military Court in the division to have the power to sentence death penalty without requiring the consensus of the Military Court, but only the ordinary majority; 2- No other court in the division has the right to commute a final death sentence issued by the military court in the division.”

Administrative Detention

Hundreds of Palestinians in the Israeli prisons are still under “administrative detention”, which is a measure allowing the detention of Palestinians for an unlimited period without an indictment or trial but according to secret information or an order issued by the Israeli Military Commander, who has the power under Military Order no. 1651. Since the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, the Israeli government has applied this type of detention as a form of collective punishment which is internationally prohibited under the 1949 Fourth Geneva Conventions in order to make detainees serve the longest possible detention periods without presenting any charges or evidence against them.

In light of the continued protests against Israeli forces, particularly in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, the Israeli forces remarkably issued dozens of administrative detention sentences against Palestinians on charges of incitement against the Israeli forces on social media. In total, the Israeli authorities detain 700 Palestinian administrative detainees, including 9 PLC Members, in the Israeli prisons and detention facilities in flagrant violation of the right to fair trial, including their right to receive proper defense and be informed of any charges against them. The administrative detention also violates the accused person’s right to fair trial when being under administrative detention, which is applied according to an administrative order and not a judicial decision, in a way that affects the fair judicial proceedings, including fair trials.

18. A similar bill was rejected by the Israeli Knesset in 2015 and the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who recommended his party members not to vote for the bill that only received 6 votes, said that the bill needs amendments and long discussions but is acceptable, in principle, by him and his extremist party (the Likud Party) and the disagreement was only about the details.



4- Attacks against Journalists and Media Workers

The Israeli forces escalated their systematic attacks against journalists and media workers in the oPt. The year of 2018 witnessed a remarkable increase in the violations comparing with 2017. The number of attacks during this year was 300, including killing 2 journalists in the Gaza Strip; wounding 170 journalists and media workers with bullets; subjecting 40 to beating, humiliating and degrading treatment; and detaining, arresting and interrogating 45, in addition to preventing 10 from covering incidents. Moreover, 8 incidents were reported where media offices were closed and raided in addition to confiscating their contents. Moreover, 2 media offices were targeted while two newspapers were prevented from being printed.

This year witnessed particularly the Israeli forces' targeting of local and international journalists and media personnel who were covering the peaceful protests along the eastern and northern borders of the Gaza Strip, in the context of the "Great March of Return", which started on 30 March 2018.

It was clear from that first day of the demonstration that targeting journal-

ists, despite all the distinctive signs that emphasize the nature of their work and even the Israeli forces' intentionally targeting the demonstrators in the upper side of their bodies undoubtedly confirms that the Israeli soldiers had orders or even given the green light to inflict casualties and deter journalists from covering these crimes as well.

Since the breakout of the Return and Breaking Siege March, Israeli forces killed two journalists while covering the demonstrations in the Gaza Strip. They also wounded 132 journalists¹⁹, including 8 female journalists. Eighty of them were hit with live bullets; 30 were directly hit with tear gas canisters; 25 were hit with rubber bullets; and 27 were hit with shrapnel of sound bombs or tear gas canisters. Some of the wounded journalist sustained serious wounds to the head and neck while most of them were wounded to their lower and upper limbs. Among those journalists wounded was Yousif al-Kronz, Reporter for al-Wataniya New Agency, whose leg was amputated, and others who were in serious condition after being hit by the snipers with explosive bullets, particularly in the waist, in order to harm them severely.

19. This number includes journalists who were wounded more than once in the protests, increasing the total number of injuries to 162.

Killing Journalists

1. Journalist Yasser Murtaja, a photojournalist in 'Ein Media News Agency

On 06 April 2018, Yasser Murtaja, a photojournalist in 'Ein Media News Agency, was hit with a live bullet to the abdomen causing a rupture to the main artery of the Intestines while he was covering the events, 150-200 meters into the northeast of the demonstration yard in Khuza'ah, east of Khan Yunis. Murtaja was transferred via an ambulance to Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis. Doctors found out that Murtaja suffers from severe bleeding in the abdomen in addition to a rupture in an artery. He underwent a surgery and received medical treatment until his death was announced at approximately 01:20 on Saturday dawn, 07 April 2018. According to PCHR's investigations and eyewitnesses' statements, Yasser was apparently wearing "a Blue Helmet and Vest clearly Marked Press".



Yasser Murtaja Wounded along the eastern Khan Yunis borders

2) Journalist Ahmed Mohammed Abu Hussein (24), a photographer at Bisan News Agency, and reporter for al-Sha'ab Radio

On 13 April, Ahmed Mohammed Abu Hussein (24), photographer at Bisan News Agency, reporter for al-Sha'ab Radio and member of the Palestinian Democratic Assembly of Journalists, was hit with a bullet under the left armpit when he was covering the incidents in the border fence area between the Gaza Strip and Israel in eastern Abu Safiyah Hill, northeast of Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip. Journalist Abu Hussein was wounded though he was wearing the PRESS-marked vest and TV-marked helmet. His condition was serious and he was admitted to the



Journalist Abu Hussein

Indonesian Hospital. Due to his deteriorating health condition, he was referred to the West Bank hospitals to receive medical treatment and then to Tel HaShomer Hospital in Israel, where he stayed in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) until his death was declared on 25 April.

Israeli forces remarkably escalated their attacks against Palestinian journalists in local and international agencies in the oPt. These attacks violate journalists' right to personal security and discourage them from covering the crimes committed against Palestinian civilians and their property and exposing these crimes to the whole world. In 2018, Israeli forces carried out more crimes against journalists. The most significant attacks were committed while journalists were covering peaceful protests organized by Palestinian civilians and international solidarity and human rights activists against the confiscation of Palestinian lands in the West Bank for the interest of the annexation wall and settlement expansion. Those attacks included violations of the right to personal security; firing at journalists; beating and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; detention of journalists; denying journalists' access to certain areas; raids on media offices, satellite channels and the houses of journalists; and raids and closure of radio stations.

PCHR documented in 2018 shooting incidents by the Israeli forces and settlers, wounding 170 journalists with live and rubber bullets and directly hit them with teargas canisters. The Israeli soldiers de-

liberately and directly fire teargas canisters at civilians to harm them. Moreover, 40 journalists were subject to beating and other forms of cruel and degrading treatment. Further, 45 journalists were arrested or detained after the Israeli forces usually raided and search the journalists' houses.

The shooting incidents carried out by Israeli forces against journalists working in local and international media agencies resulted in the injury of 12 journalists.²⁰ This total number included journalists wounded with live and metal bullets or directly hit with tear gas canisters as the Israeli soldiers deliberately fired gas canisters at civilians to wound them. Moreover, 15 journalists were exposed to beating, violence, humiliation and degrading treatment. Furthermore, around 30 journalists and media workers were exposed to arrest and detention, accompanied by raids and searching the journalists' houses by Israeli forces.

Moreover, the Israeli forces raided and searched 5 press institutions in addition to confiscating their contents. They also closed 3 of those press institutions on charges of incitement. The most prominent cases were raiding Wafa News and Information Agency in Ramallah amidst shooting and firing tear gas canisters. The Israeli soldiers locked the employees,

20. This number does not include journalists who suffered tear gas inhalation as Israeli forces fire tear gas canisters at civilians during weekly peaceful protests, or other journalists who sustained bruises and fractures throughout their bodies due to being beaten with sticks and rifles' butts while escaping from gas canisters and gunfire.

checked their IDs and beat one of them before searching the office and firing tear gas canisters. As a result, many journalists fainted and suffered tear gas inhalation.

Moreover, Israeli warplanes launched several missiles at office of al-Aqsa Channel in al-Nasser neighborhood, behind the Italian Complex, north of Gaza City.'Emad Zaqout, Director of Programs' Department in the Channel, said to PCHR's fieldworker that at approximately 20:40, he received a phone call from the Israeli forces ordering him to evacuate the office within 5 minutes. Moreover, interviewer, Islam Bader, and Program producer, Saleem al-Shurafa, received the same phone calls from the Israeli forces ordering them to evacuate the building within 5 minutes because they will target it. The 4-story channel building and a barrack built of iron plates, which is a photography studio, were targeted with

9 consecutive missiles fired by drones and then the Israeli warplanes launched 3 consecutive missiles. The airstrike completely destroyed the channel building and its contents, including cameras, LCDs and sound engineering equipment. The airstrike caused severe damage to nearby houses. It should be noted that the office of al-Aqsa Channel was previously destroyed during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

Furthermore, Israeli forces have been preventing the printing of al-Risalah and Falastin newspapers, which are issued in the Gaza Strip and printed in the West Bank. On 28 May 2014, Israeli authorities issued a decision that prevents the printing of the aforementioned newspapers in al-Ayam printing press in the West Bank. Israeli forces raided the office of al-Ayam in Bitouniya village, west of Ramallah, in the center of the West Bank.



Building of al-Aqsa TV Destroyed in Gaza City



5. Destruction of Civilian Property

Israeli forces continued to systematically demolish Palestinian civilian houses and other objects in Area C, defined by the Oslo Accords between the PLO and Israel in 1993. Although this policy continued also in the West Bank, it was particularly concentrated in East Jerusalem this year as part of the policies ultimately aiming at creating a Jewish demographic majority in the city. The demolitions in the West Bank are carried out under the pretext of not obtaining construction licenses from the Organization and Construction Department of the Israeli Civil Administration at “Beit Eil” settlement that is one of the Israeli Forces’ arms or from the Israeli municipality concerning houses in occupied East Jerusalem.

In 2018, Israeli forces continued to apply the policy of house demolitions as a collective punishment policy. At the end of 2015, the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, decided to activate this policy by demolishing, blowing up or closing the houses of families of Palestinians who carry out run-over and/or stabbing attacks against Israeli soldiers and settlers in the oPt. In 2018, Israeli forces demolished and/or blew up or closed 6 houses, which were as follows: 2 in Ramallah and al-Bireh; 3 in Jenin; and 1 in Tulkarem. PCHR condemns this policy and emphasizes it falls within the policy of collective punishment adopted by Israeli forces against Palestinian innocents, in vi-

olation of Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in time of war that prohibits collective penalties and reprisals against protected persons and their property.

While the Israeli authorities worked on facilitating the construction of settlements



Khammash Family House Targeted and Destroyed in Deir al-Balah

in East Jerusalem under the pretext of the urgent need to meet the population growth of settlers, the Israeli authorities tightened the noose on the Palestinian civilians and imposed obstacles before the measures required to obtain the construction licenses. As a result of this policy and under the pressure of population growth, thousands of Palestinian civilians had to build new houses or attach structures to the present buildings, although they are aware of the consequences in advance. Although PCHR decisively stresses the illegality of the settlement expansion in the

opt and considers settlement activities as a war crime, the Israeli authorities deepen the apartheid (a system of racial segregation and discrimination) when dealing with issues related to non-licensed construction in the Palestinian villages and the similar construction in settlement, including measures to build or the measures to deal with the unlicensed construction.

This year witnessed a remarkable escalation in the demolition of houses and other civilian objects that were used for agricultural, industrial or commercial purposes in the West Bank. In 2018, the Israeli forces demolished 157 dwellings, including 72 houses in East Jerusalem and its suburbs; 17 of which were self-demolished by their owners under the pretext of not obtaining a building license, and 85 houses and dwellings were demolished throughout the West Bank. As a result, the number of houses that were demolished or exploded on grounds of non-licensing and collective punishment increased to 163. The Israeli authorities apply the policy of forcing Palestinian civilians to self-demolish their houses, and some of them do so in order to avoid paying high fines for the unlicensed building and the fees paid for Israeli vehicles applying the demolition decision.

The house demolitions on various grounds were distributed as follows according to each city: 72 houses in Jerusalem (including 17 houses whose owners were forced to self-demolish them;); 6 houses in Nablus; 18 houses in Hebron; 26 houses in Bethlehem; 11 houses in Jericho; 10 houses in Ramallah and al-Bireh; 11 houses in Tubas and the northern Jordan Valley; 4

house in Jenin; 4 houses in Salfit; and 1 house in Tulkarm.

Additionally, Israeli forces demolished 237 facilities used for non-residential purposes, including barracks, commercial stores, fences, tents, storehouses and stone-cutting workshops, in addition to leveling roads and electricity networks. The demolished facilities were distributed as follows: 88 facilities in Jerusalem, including 5 facilities whose owners were obliged to self-demolish them; 24 in Ramallah and al-Bireh; 20 in Hebron; 24 in Tubas and the northern Jordan Valley; 23 in Bethlehem; 17 in Jericho; 21 in Nablus; 16 in Jenin; and 4 in Salfit.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces continued to carry out demolitions and destruction of civilian property. In 2018, mainly using airstrikes, the Israeli forces destroyed 30 houses that included 44 apartments in the Gaza Strip. Ten of them were completely destroyed, while the other 20 houses were partially destroyed. These houses were sheltering families comprised of 152 persons, including 81 children. In those demolitions, the Israeli forces mainly used airstrikes.

This year witnessed a remarkable escalation in targeting civilian facilities as PCHR documented that Israeli warplanes targeted 10 civilian facilities used for commercial, health, culture purposes, services and water wells. Most prominently was the destruction of al-Aqsa TV building in Gaza City and Sa'eed al-Mishal Cultural Centre comprised of 4 floors in addition to damage caused to the Indonesian Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip.



6. Settlement Activities and Attacks by Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

The Israeli government, its military forces and settlers living in the oPt in violation of international law continued to commit crimes of settlement expansion in the West Bank. Meanwhile, armed Israeli set-

tlers protected by Israeli forces continued to commit crimes and carry out attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property. During 2018, the Israeli settlers killed 2 Palestinian civilians, including 1 woman, and wounded others.

Settlement Expansion Projects

The Israeli government continued to expand its settlement activities in areas categorized as Area C, and especially in East Jerusalem. In spite of the ongoing condemnation of international community of Israeli settlement activity and describing it as illegal and in violation of the international law and Security Council's Resolutions, the Israeli authorities unprecedentedly continued to increase these activities during the year. Thus, 2018 could be considered as the highest in this regard since the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and other Arab territories 51 years ago.

PCHR emphasizes that the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, is an occupied territory according to the international humanitarian law and other international resolutions. Therefore, PCHR

has persistently called upon the international community to immediately intervene to compel the Israeli government to stop all settlement activities in the oPt, especially in East Jerusalem, and dismantle Israeli settlements, which constitute a war crime under the international humanitarian law. After welcoming the UN Security Council's Resolution 2234 on the Israeli settlement in the oPt and considering it as a long-awaited milestone, PCHR reiterates its call for an immediate and effective international action to restore confidence in the rule of the law and put an end to the prolonged Israeli challenge and denial of the international law and to the inherent impunity that Israel has enjoyed for decades.

Confiscation of Palestinian Civilian Property

Israeli forces continued to apply the policy of confiscating more Palestinian civilian property in favor of settlement purposes. Confiscation of civilian property and changing the nature of the occupied territory by the Israeli forces is in violation of international humanitarian law, which prohibits making this change unless there is a military necessity in the narrow sense of the term – a condition that is not fulfilled in Israel’s declared plans and aims. During the reporting period, the area categorized as Area C under the Oslo Accords signed between the PLO and the Israeli government in 1993, was subject to a wide-scale operation by the Israeli forces to expel the Palestinian residents to pave the way for settlement expansion projects. Those areas, practically the Jordan Valleys, witnessed wide-scale demolitions targeting dozens of dwellings and agricultural facilities, such as water wells, rainwater harvesting pools, and cattle barns. Moreover, the Israeli forces issued hundreds of notices to demolish those facilities.

In parallel with the settlers’ violations and Israeli authorities’ measures, the “illegal” settlements had the great share of the absolute support from the Israeli Government, which put forward many plans and bids for the construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. During this year, the Israeli authorities approved the construction of thousands of units in the West Bank settlements, including occupied Jerusalem and its vicinity. The competent authorities responsible for the construction of settlements in the West

Bank and occupied Jerusalem declared plans and tenders and approved licenses to build 10,298 settlement units; 2600 of them in Jerusalem. According to the report issued by Department of Maps and Geographic Information Systems in Orient House managed by Khalil al-Tafkgy, the Israeli forces confiscated around 3439 dunums during 2018 under different pretexts such as security purposes, the annexation wall, state lands, closed military zones, and other pretexts.

In the same context, Israeli forces and settlers in the West Bank attacked thousands of trees in the West Bank. They uprooted, burnt, damaged, and dumped trees with sewage water and poisoned them with chemicals for the interest of settlement expansion. In 2018, the number of trees attacked amounted to 7600 olive trees, palms, almond trees and vines in the West bank, including Jerusalem.

In the same context, the Israeli authorities use the lands of the occupied West Bank to treat the Israeli waste. A B’Tselem report has revealed a significant portion of Israel’s waste treatment system is located outside its sovereign borders. Because Israel has set out less stringent environmental regulations for industrial zones in settlements and even offers financial incentives such as tax breaks and government subsidies, it is now more profitable to build and operate waste treatment facilities in the West Bank than inside Israel. The lax regulatory standards there

increase potential environmental and health hazards for West Bank residents. B'Tselem research has found that there are at least fifteen Israeli waste treatment facilities in the West Bank. Most of the waste they process is produced in Israel. Six of the facilities handle hazardous waste, which requires special processes and regulatory supervision due to the dangers it poses. The report reveals that, whereas polluting plants located within Israel are subject to progressive air pollution control legislation, polluting plants in the industrial zones of settlements are subject to virtually no restrictions. They are not required to report on the amount of waste they process, the hazards their operation pose, or the measures they adopt to prevent – or at least reduce – these risks.²¹



One of the Houses Attacked by Settlers

Ethnic Cleansing

Following the Oslo Accords in 1993 and classification of occupied territories into areas A, B and C in addition to referring full control of the Area C under the Israeli forces, Israeli forces targeted area (C) for settlement expansion under different contexts to apply the ethnic cleansing policies in Areas C in the West Bank. The cruelest of these policies was to destroy the life of Palestinian civilians there through demolishing their houses and livestock barns under the pretext of not obtaining building licenses from the Israeli Civil Administration; and their mass deportation

from an area to another under the pretext of conducting military trainings or declaring vacant areas of agricultural and pastoral lands as closed military zones, aiming at obstructing their daily basic needs and increasing their suffering.

In 2018, Israeli forces continued to target the Palestinian Bedouin communities to uproot them from their residencies, particularly the Eastern Slopes of Jerusalem and Jordan valleys. The highlight in this regard was the attempts to uproot and expel Khan al-Ahmar Bedouin Community's residents, east of occupied Jerusalem as on 24 May 2018, the Israeli Supreme

21. https://www.btselem.org/press_releases/201712_made_in_israel

Court Justices Noam Solberg, Anat Brown and Yael Fellner, issued a decision that allow Israel to demolish the houses of Khan al-Ahmar Bedouin Community, east of the city, and to transfer them from their houses to what is known as “Jerusalem Gate” in al-‘Izariyah village, east of the City. The demolition decision included all the Bedouin community houses, including a mosque and a school that were built of mud bricks and rubber tires. ‘Eid Khamis Jahaleen, Head of Khan al-Ahmar Bedouin community, said that he was informed of the court’s decision on Thursday, 24 May 2018. He also stated that the court held a hearing on 25 April 2018 to consider the challenge on the displacement decision. At that time, a decision was issued to give the Bedouin Community residents 10 days to find another place. Khan Al-Ahmar Bedouin Community, which is near “Ma’ale Adumim” and “Kefar Adumim” settlements established east of Jerusalem, shelters around 35 families comprised of 190 persons who live in tin-plate houses

and tents. Regarding the school, it is the only one in the community that includes around 170 students and 16 teachers.

On 04 July 2018, the Israeli vehicles demolished 10 residential caravans and 9 barracks used for breeding livestock in Abu Nawwar Bedouin Community near al-‘Aizariya village, east of occupied East Jerusalem. According to PCHR’s investigations and eyewitnesses’ statements. The Israeli forces expelled the residents from their houses and took their contents out before demolition. Around 60 Palestinian civilians living in houses built of tin plates became homeless. The demolished houses belong to al-Jahaleen and Hamadeen Families. The number of the Bedouin communities, east of Jerusalem, is 23 communities where around 5,000 civilians live. This Bedouin area in East Jerusalem is one of those areas that have been targeted by the colonization for decades. The Israeli government has unprecedentedly accelerated its settlement, particularly in East Jerusalem and its surroundings.

Efforts to Create a Jewish Demographic Majority in Jerusalem

Status of occupied Jerusalem was the highlight of 2018 at the local, regional and international level. In clear defiance of international law and the International legitimacy, on 06 December 2017, the United States President Donald Trump declared that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and signed a presidential decree to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. On 14 May 2018, the US Embassy

celebrated the US Embassy inauguration ceremony in Jerusalem.

PCHR emphasizes that Trump’s declaration explicitly violates the international law, Security Council Resolutions, and Geneva Conventions, and constitutes two crimes. The first crime is a crime of aggression against the Palestinian State as the declaration supports and upholds the

annexation of lands using force. The second crime is a war crime as the declaration is considered as a complicity in the Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank, including Jerusalem. PCHR is concerned that this decision, which received absolute rejection by most countries of the world, would whet Israel's appetite for threatening the future of Jerusalem more than it has witnessed in five decades of its occupation.

In the same context, the Israeli government and its forces continued to create a Jewish demographic majority in occupied East Jerusalem. They reinforced the measures of isolating the city from its Palestinian surrounding in the West Bank, continued to build the annexation wall and continued activities of settlement expansion in and around the city in addition to restricting life aspects of Palestinians living in the city. The Israeli Municipality continued to demolish Palestinian houses under the pretext of lack of building licenses and/or force Palestinian civilians to self-demolish their houses. 2018 has witnessed a significant increase in the number of house demolitions and demolition notices targeting Palestinian civilians' houses and other civilian property in East Jerusalem and its suburbs. PCHR expresses its deep concern over the wide-scale targeting of civilians' houses next year, after orders were issued by the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to speed up the implementation of house demolitions in occupied East Jerusalem, under the pretext of non-licensing. In 2018, Israeli forces, through the Munic-

ipality, continued the crimes of demolishing Palestinian houses throughout the city and its suburbs, claiming not obtaining construction licenses. The municipality continued to impose lengthy and complicated procedures on Palestinian civilians in order to obtain building licenses. Thus, though they are already aware of the results, many Palestinians, under pressure to meet the natural population growth, were forced to build new houses or attach rooms to their already built houses without construction licenses. Meanwhile, Israel, through the Municipality of Jerusalem, Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Interior and settlement associations, approved the construction of hundreds of settlement housing units inside and around Jerusalem in 2018. It should be noted that 2018 witnessed a significant increase in the number of settlement schemes in occupied Jerusalem.

Municipality of Jerusalem, the main wing of the Israeli Authorities in Jerusalem, works on implementing settlement expansion in order to create Jewish Jerusalem. On 08 January 2018, the Israeli Municipality staff along with the Nature and Antiquities Authorities and Israeli forces conducted excavations in several areas in al-Rababh Valley in Silwan village, south of Jerusalem's Old City, as a prelude to establish "a tourist footbridge." It should be noted that the Israeli Municipality plans to build a bridge connecting between al-Thawri neighborhood and al-Nabi Dawoud area, passing through al-Rababh Valley. The bridge will be 197 meters length and 30 meters height under the

supervision of “Development Authority of Jerusalem”.

On 13 February 2018, the Israeli authorities settled a crane and other equipment in the location designated for establishing a religious settlement project dubbed “Beit Haliba – Beit al-Johar” in the center of occupied East Jerusalem. According to the project approved in 2015 and tabled by the “Israeli Company for the Reconstruction and Development of the Jewish Quarter” supported by the Israeli municipality, the Israeli authorities intend to establish a 3-storey building on an area of 2825 square meters. According to publications on this project, the first 740-square-meter floor will include administrative rooms, educational centers, auditorium, VIP lounge and festive hall. The second 765-square-meter room will include a library, religious educational room and room for the guides in addition an open floor and open glassed-balcony on the roof overlooking the Western Wall, al-Aqsa Mosque, and Old City. The underground 1320-square-meter floor will exhibit remnants of archeological



Restrictions on the West Bank

assets found after years of excavations. The Israeli authorities claim that these remnants belong to the first and second Temple periods. The project’s location is around 100 meters away from the Western Wall to the far northwestern side of it and will be established on an area of 1840 square meters.

On 15 February 2018, Israeli forces established a military watchtower in the eastern side of Bab al-‘Amoud yard, at the entrances to occupied East Jerusalem’s Old City. Eyewitnesses said to PCHR’s fieldworkers that the Israeli forces unloaded steel plates and equipment in Bab al-‘Amoud area and started to establish them in order to build a military watchtower for the Israeli soldiers adjacent to Bab al-‘Amoud entrance. Moreover, they started to build 3 rooms on stairways leading to Bab al-‘Amoud’s entrance as rooms for investigation, detention, controlling and observing Palestinians while entering and exiting Bab al-‘Amoud.

On 23 April 2018, Israeli forces uprooted dozens of olive trees and leveled agricultural lands near Sour Baher village, south of East Jerusalem, to pave the way towards establishing new settlement units. Ahmed Nemer said that these actions by the Israeli forces come to complete the procedures of seizing the land confiscated in 1972 upon a decision by the Military Governor, which is estimated at 56 dunums from an area located near Sour Baher village. Ahmed mentioned that four families; Nemer, Dweyat, ‘Awaad, and Fawaqa, own this land, which is planted

with olive trees and includes old grave and house established more than 70 years ago.

On 29 April 2018, the Israeli Nature Authority conducted excavation works in Bab al-Rahma Cemetery, which is next to al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem's Old City. The Israeli Nature Authority crews excavated and exhumed many graves and damaged their gravestones to fix steel poles, upon the Israeli plans in the cemetery. Mustafa Abu Zahrah, head of the committee for the preservation of Islamic cemeteries in Jerusalem, refused to surround graves with iron fences, clarifying that the Israeli Nature Authority sprayed chemical materials at trees and grass. The Israeli Nature Authority claimed that they conducted excavation works in the cemetery upon a court's decision. It should be noted that Bab al-Rahma Cemetery is one of the most famous cemeteries in Jerusalem, which extends from al-Asbat Gate to the end of al-Aqsa Mosque walls, near the Umayyad palaces from the southern side. Bab al-Rahma Cemetery was built on an area of 23 dunums. The Israeli government seeks to confiscate parts of the cemetery and prevent burial in parts of it to implement settlement projects in the area, including "the paths of the biblical gardens," in addition to the air train project that connects al-Zaytoun Mount with al-Buraq Wall passing through the cemetery.

On 01 August 2018, Israeli authorities opened a new settlement project in Silwan village, south of occupied East Jerusalem's Old City, to serve Israeli settlers, under the name of "Jewish Yemeni Herit-

age Center". Eyewitnesses said that Ze'ev Elkin, Jerusalem Affairs and Heritage Israeli Minister, Miri Regev, Israeli Minister of culture, Rabbi of Jerusalem, and representatives of settlement associations participated in the opening Ceremony of the Cultural Center. It should be noted that the Israel authorities opened the settlement project in Abu Nab property built on an area of 700 square meter and seized in 2015. Last year, a synagogue was built in the same property, which the Israeli authorities claim that the building was a synagogue for the Jews of Yemen in the late 19th century.

As part of settlers' attempts to seize Palestinian civilian property, Israeli settlement associations seized, upon a court decision, property in Jerusalem. On 10 March 2018, "Ateret Cohanim" settlement association handed a notice to the heirs of late Sa'id 'Odah, claiming the land on which their residential building is established in the central neighborhood "Baten al-Hawa" in Silwan village, south of occupied East Jerusalem's Old City. The association claimed that this land belonged to Jews in 1889. According to the judicial notice, this land is delimited by a plot of land with an area of 5 dunums and 200 square meters in the central neighborhood from the western side, and the organization attempts to seize it along with the buildings established on it claiming it is a Jewish property.

As part of seizing Palestinian building for the interest of settlement associations, on 10 April 2018, Elad settlement foundation,

in twisted ways, took over 3 houses belonging to Reweidi Family on al-Ein Street in Silwan village, south of occupied East Jerusalem's Old City. Eyewitnesses said to a PCHR's fieldworker that dozens of Israeli soldiers accompanied with workers raided the houses and expelled the residents after evacuating all the houses' contents. The family emphasized that they did not receive any eviction order and that they have been trying for 2 years to prove their ownership of the houses before the courts. Mahmoud 'Atallah Rweidi said to PCHR's fieldworker that the Israeli forces imposed a complete closure in the area of al-'Ain Street and then closed all streets leading to the houses. They then raided the houses and forcibly expelled the residents after confiscating their cell phones. The Israeli workers vacated all the houses' contents and changed the houses locks. Mahmoud said that Elad Settlement Association has attempted for 3 years to seize the houses, claiming that his brother Rezeq sold the houses to the association before unknown persons killed him. Since then, the family submitted papers to prove that Rezeq did not own the houses and he was only living in his father's house, which is the inheritance of seven brothers, and he has no right to sell these houses.

On 05 May 2018, "Ateret Cohanim" association handed an eviction order to Jawad Abu Suninah Family in al-Westa neighborhood in Silwan village, south of occupied East Jerusalem's Old City, claiming their ownership of the house. Zuhair al-Rajbi, Head of al-Westa neighborhood Family Committee, said that a group of Is-

raeli settlers from "Ateret Cohanim" association raided a house belonging to Jawad Abu Suninah, handed his family an eviction order and gave him until 25 June 2018 to implement the order, in addition to paying NIS 19,000 as a rent allowance for 3 years. It should be noted that Abu Suninah Family house is in a 5-storey building, which was sold to the "Ateret Cohanim" association by Jamal Sarhan in August 2015. At that time, all the building was seized, except the apartment of tenant Abu Suninah who refused to leave. Abu Suninah had renewed the rent for a year before the building was seized. It should be noted that Sarhan Family filed a lawsuit against Jamal Sarhan after selling the building in an attempt to return it. The al-Sarhan Family clarified that this building belongs to Jamal's father so he does not have the right to buy or sell. The judge then delayed issuing a final decision in this case and the building remained for settlers, except Abu Suninah's apartment.

On 20 September 2018, a group of Israeli settlers accompanied with Israeli government officials and police officers attacked a plot of land belonging to 'Abed al-Razeq al-Shaiekh in al-Shaiekh Jarrah neighborhood, north of occupied East Jerusalem's Old City. Eyewitnesses said that the Israeli settlers raided the land, under the Israeli forces' protection, for the second consecutive time during 20 days. The eyewitnesses clarified that the Israeli settlers brought tools to set up a tent in 'Abed al-Razeq's land, but the neighborhood's residents confronted them and prevented them from continuing their work. The

eyewitnesses pointed out that the settlers came into the area with an employee from the so-called Absentee Building Custodian Department and an Israeli settler, Aryeh King. It should be noted that the Israeli Court issued on 28 August 2018, a decision preventing access to al-Skaikh's land, which he has owned for 50 years, being proved by a building abstract. On 3 October 2018, "El'ad" association seized a building in Helwa Valley neighborhood in Silwan village after its owners, who live in the United States, sold it. Wadi Hilweh Information Center said that dozens of Israeli settlers, protected by Israeli forces, raided a building belonging to Ftaiha family. Moreover, they forced Messwada family, who rented the building from its owner 30 years ago, to evacuate the place. Wadi Hilweh Information Center added that the building includes two 160-square-meter houses and a 800-square-meter land planted with olive and fig trees. According to Wadi Hilweh Information Center, the settlers started to dig in order to fix steel poles in preparation for establishing a gate for the property. They also dug other holes in the land and inside the two apartments. Messwada family said that the settlers forced them to leave the two apartments without allowing them to take any of their personal belongings noting that they raided the place without a prior warning. It should be noted that Ftaiha family submitted a compliant in the Israeli Courts in order to protect the property. Messwada family added that they had been living in the building for 30 years and were paying rent to Fatiha family, who informed them by

their lawyer several months ago that Fatiha family sold the building to the settlers. It should be noted that 7 persons, including 3 children, live in the two apartments.

On 21 November 2018, the Israeli Supreme Court rejected the petition filed by the residents of Batn al-Hawa neighborhood in Silwan village, south of the occupied East Jerusalem, and allowed "Ateret Cohanim" settlement association to continue its procedures relevant to expelling 700 Palestinians and forcing them to pay hundred thousands of shekels, claiming to compensate settlers for the costs of the legal proceedings and house rents for all the years. It should be noted that the residents of Batn al-Hawa neighborhood had submitted a petition against the decision of the Administrator General (Custodian of Absentee Property) to hand a plot of land in the abovementioned neighborhood that had been owned by Jews until 1948, but which is today home to 700 Palestinians, over to three members of Ateret Cohanim. The latter association, which is very active in creating a Jewish Majority in occupied Jerusalem, filed a request to expel the Palestinian families with the help of the Israeli Justice Ministry's administrator general to take over the area and buildings established there, claiming they belong to Jews, and to hand 70 Palestinian families judicial notices in this regard.

On 05 December 2018, the Israeli Magistrate's Court issued a decision to evacuate a Jerusalemite building in Wad Hilweh, south of occupied East Jerusalem's Old City for the interest of "El'ad" Settlement

association. Wadi Hilweh Information Center said that The Magistrate Court issued a decision to evacuate the heirs of the late Mariam Abu Zweir and gave the family until the beginning of March 2019 to implement the decision to evacuate the property. The Center added that the building is a house where Ilham Siam and four of her children live in addition to a land about 500 square meters. The center also said that the Magistrate's Court issued the eviction decision, preceded by a session appointed by the Supreme Court to consider the "ownership of the land." The documents were submitted to court stating that the land on which the house is built belongs to the late Jamil Siam and not to the late Abu Zweir. The court session will be held on 08 January 2019.

As part of targeting the Palestinian refugees' rights, Neer Barakat, the Head of the Israeli Municipality, declared a plan to end UNRWA's work in Jerusalem and replace its health, education and sanitation services with others provided by the Israeli Municipality. It should be noted that the Municipality started to implement its plan in October by cleaning works in Sho'fat camp. Moreover, a clinic belonging to UNRWA in occupied East Jerusalem's Old City was raided by a staff of the Israeli Ministry of Health accompanied by Israeli forces under the pretext of checking medicines in the pharmacy.

The Israeli authorities continued their policy of restricting the activities of the Palestinian NGOs operating in Jerusalem, claiming that they belong to the PLO and

/ or the PA, despite the clear identity of these organizations. The Israeli practices included raiding these organizations, preventing them from holding meetings of their public and administrative bodies, preventing them from holding any celebrations or meetings inside these organizations even if the activity intended to be held is a social one, claiming that it is an activity belonging to the PLO or the PA.

On 09 January 2018, Israeli forces prevented holding a press conference titled "Has not Time Come Yet to Hear Jerusalem's Cry" in al-Dar Hotel in al-Shaiekh Jarrah neighborhood, north of occupied Jerusalem's Old City. The press conference was dedicated to condemn the decision of Donald Trump, The American President, in which he declared Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

On 24 February 2018, the Israeli forces banned organizing a dinner party for journalists working in occupied East Jerusalem that was supposed to be held in Philadelphia Restaurant on al-Zahraa' Street under the pretext of being organized by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. According to the ban decision, this activity is organized by "a terrorist movement" and the ban came upon an order by the Jerusalem Command Chief.

08 March 2018, Israeli forces raided Rivoli Hotel on Salah al-Deen Street in the center of occupied East Jerusalem and prevented an activity for "Women for Life and Democracy" Society on occasion of the International Women's Day. The Israeli forces claimed that the activity was organized by the PA.

On 09 March 2018, the Israeli forces banned a Palestinian Marathon organized against the Israeli marathon that is organized by the Israeli municipality and the Israeli Ministries of Tourism and Sports. They arrested a number of activists and participants in the marathon after attacking them and confiscated their t-shirts relevant to the activity.

On 18 April 2018, the Israeli forces closed office of Elia Media Association for Youth on Salah al-Deen Street in central Jerusalem. The Israeli Intelligence officers fixed on the outside and main door of the association a decision to close it considering it “a terrorist organization”. The decision signed by the Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman provides that “a temporary decision declaring Elia Media Association for Youth as a terrorist organization under the 2016 Anti-Terrorism Law. After being absolutely convinced that the foundation is commensurate with Article 4 of the law, I declare that any office, association, society, company, authority, committee or center belonging to this Association is considered a terrorist organization”.

On 22 April 2018, the Israeli forces closed al-Safa al-Hadithah Printing House in Beit ‘Anan village, northwest of occupied East Jerusalem, after damaging its contents, destroying one of its walls and confiscating printers worth tens of shekels. The Israeli forces claimed the Printing House “supports terrorism”. However, Raja’ie Hmeid, the owner, said that the Israeli forces completely destroyed the printing house’s contents and confiscated a print-

er worth 120,000 shekels and a computer. He added that he has never printed anything for any Palestinian faction or any inciting materials, emphasizing that his printing house only prints advertising leaflets for stores.

On 05 May 2018, the Israeli police confiscated equipment used by al-Aqsa Society in an attempt to obstruct an activity organized by the society to clean al-Aqsa Mosque and Islamic Cemeteries in Jerusalem’s Old City.

On 9 June 2018, Israeli forces banned an Iftar “the evening meal with which Muslims end their daily Ramadan fast” in the center of occupied East Jerusalem held for journalists upon an invitation by the Chamber of Commerce in the City.

On 14 July 2018, Israeli forces raided Hind al-Hussainy College in al-Shaiekh Jarrah neighborhood, north of occupied East Jerusalem and prevented holding the fourth academic conference entitled: “The Islamic Endowment (Awqaf) in Jerusalem”. The conference was organized by the Jerusalem Waqf and Heritage Reservation Society and the Islamic Supreme Committee – Jerusalem.

On 17 July 2018, the Israeli Execution and Procedures Department staff raided al-Nedamyia elementary school in Shu’fat neighborhood, north of occupied East Jerusalem’s Old City. They confiscated equipment estimated at NIS 4,000, under the pretext of accumulating debts of “Arnona” property tax and not paying it from 2017.

Israeli forces continued to violate the Palestinians' religious rights by imposing restrictions on the entry of Muslims and Christians to East Jerusalem and not facilitating their access into the city to perform their religious rituals in mosques and churches. This coincided with diggings in the vicinity of al-Aqsa Mosque, which became at risk of collapse; settlers and security services' raids of the Mosque; and demands to separate it between Muslims and Jews, similarly to the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. The Islamic Endowment (Awqaf) Department documented that in 2018, 29,801 settlers who raided al-Aqsa Mosque through al-Magharba Gate controlled by the Israeli authorities since 1967. In 2018, this documented number has been increased 17% more than the previous year.

On 26 February 2018, the Christian community unanimously declared the closure of the Holy Sepulcher Church in occupied East Jerusalem's Old City until a further notice to protest the decision by the city's municipality to impose property tax (Arnona) on church-owned properties. The Israeli municipality claimed that the debts on 887 church-owned properties stood at over \$190 million, without specifying the period that the debts accumulated.

This closure is considered the second of its kind in the Church history as the first was on 27 April 1990 when the doors of the Church were closed for 48 hours to protest the "Ateret Cohnim" settlement Members' seizure of the Hospitality Palace in the Monastery of Saint John, who is King of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, next to the Church after two weeks of the seizure and failure of all efforts to expel them. Christian denomination shares the areas and quarters as identified for each inside the Church according to the Status Quo, which is a decree issued by the Ottoman Empire in 1852 and still applicable. The decree was set to preserve the rights of each sect and religious group in Jerusalem in general and in the Sepulcher Church in particular, and to identify how each sect shall use its area.

On 24 October 2018, the Israeli forces suppressed a sit-in organized upon calls from Coptic Bishop Anba Antonius in front of Deir al-Sultan Monastery next to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in occupied East Jerusalem's Old City to protest the Israeli-led restoration works at the site which they say favour Ethiopian monks living in the monastery and arrested a monk.

Attacks by Israeli Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

In 2018, armed Israeli settlers continued their attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. PCHR emphasized that those attacks were carried out by Israeli settlers under the protection of the

Israeli forces, who even joined them in carrying out dozens of attacks. Israeli forces do not intervene to stop such attacks, nor do they take legal action against settlers. In general, the Israeli forces ignore complaints submitted by Palestinian victims

against Israeli settlers and do not investigate them. This policy adopted by Israeli forces encourages settlers to commit more crimes against Palestinian civilians, and frustrates Palestinian victims who abstain from submitting complaints to Israeli authorities because they are convinced that Israeli authorities would not seriously consider and investigate their complaints. In 2018, Israeli settlers in the West Bank killed 2 Palestinian civilians.

In 2018, PCHR's fieldworkers monitored 285 attacks carried out by the Israeli set-

tlers against the Palestinian civilians and their properties. The attacks resulted in the murder of 2 Palestinian civilians, a man and a woman, the injury of 14 civilians, including 2 children, hit with live and rubber bullets during attacks carried out by Israeli settlers and Israeli forces while other 11 civilians, including a child, sustained bruises. Moreover, 3335 trees were uprooted and burnt, including 690 olive trees, 2623 grape vineyards, and 22 almond trees. Around 158 Palestinian civilians' vehicles were also damaged, including 143 cars, 8 buses, and an ambulance. Moreover, there were 5 attempts to seize houses in Jerusalem.

The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

Although 14 years passed since the Advisory Opinion has been issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 09 July 2004 on the legal consequences of the wall in response to a request by a UN General Assembly Resolution of 03 December 2003, Israel has not taken any measure to change the situation on the ground. The ICJ ruled that the wall's construction inside the oPt, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity. In the consequences of the Advisory Opinion, Israel is bound to put an end to its violations of international law, stop the construction works of the wall, and dismantle the sections already constructed, abolish all relevant legislations and orders, and compensate Palestinians affected by the construction of the wall. The ICJ called upon the international community to abstain from helping the continued illegal status, which was established after the construction of the annex-

ation wall, and to take legal action to stop the Israeli violations and ensure the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention. However, the Israeli authorities and its judicial system have continued to ignore the ICJ's opinion, and the Israeli government continued to act as a state above the law. Moreover, the international community has not taken any measures to deter the Israeli forces or hold them accountable for their crimes and serious violations of international humanitarian law in the oPt. Facts on the ground show that Israel, which built the annexation wall on alleged security reasons, created unilateral facts on the ground, and made the boundaries of the annexation wall negotiable with the Palestinians who seek to establish their state within the boundaries of 1967. According to the Palestinian estimations, the area of Palestinian lands isolated and besieged between the wall and

Green Line is 680 square kilometers; i.e. 12.0% of the total area of the West Bank, and 454 square meters of them are pasture and agricultural lands.

Regarding the construction of the annexation wall, the construction of the annexation Wall around the village of Walaja, northwest of Bethlehem, renewed at the end of April last year after a three-year cession. The annexation wall will isolate the village from the rest of its lands, about 3,000 dunums, as well as from its geographical surroundings, maintaining only one road that connects it with Beit Jala. The construction of the annexation wall stopped three years ago after a legal pressure from the village residents and human rights organizations. The renewal of the construction works came after the Israeli Supreme Court allowed the construction of the wall in the vicinity of the village.

The route of the Separation Barrier in the area, which runs entirely in the West Bank, has been changed a number of times over the years. The original plan placed the village on the western, "Israeli" side of the Barrier, detaching the village from Bethlehem, to which the villagers belong and from which they receive their services. A winding route was later established to run around the built-up area of the village, separating it from the village's agricultural lands. This route created a partition between the village and the nearby "Har Gilo" settlement, and left a single road along which persons could enter or exit the village in the direction of the adjacent Beit Jala.

The planned Separation Barrier around al-Walajah will transform an agrarian village set among ancient agricultural terraces into a concrete cage and stifle any possibility of development. The construction work on the barrier has heavily damaged cultivated terraces and, once complete, the villagers' access to farmland they have worked for generations will be subject to arrangements made by the military for crossing the agricultural gates. Although Israel has pledged to build 'agricultural gates' in the barrier so that residents may reach their lands, past experience from other areas of the West Bank has shown that such arrangements generally enable only partial access to the lands, and at times access is completely prohibited. Furthermore, the checkpoint to be erected at the entrance to the village will infringe upon the residents' freedom of movement and, as a result, violate their rights to work, education, medical care and family ties.²²

After 3-year cession of the construction of the annexation wall around al-Walaja village in April 2017, the Israeli forces resumed the construction of the wall that will surround the village from all sides and separate it from its lands and Jerusalem. In recent years, there have been several judicial disputes against the wall's construction in this area, particularly because of the large damage to the old terraces that descend from the village side towards the Walaja valley. According to the plan, the Wall will surround the village of Walaja in all its sides, and will separate the village

22. https://www.btselem.org/separation_barrier/20130624_hajajleh_family_isolated_in_al_walajah

from the majority of its lands (around 3000 dunums) on the slopes to the valley. It is expected to confiscate a large area of this land or the establishment of the New Great Jerusalem National Park. The Ein al-Hiniyah spring will remain outside the

wall and will become an attractive area got those visiting the park. The village's residents and shepherds so far water their livestock from the spring and use it for different purposes.



7- Long-Awaited Justice and Absent Justice

There has been a remarkable escalation in the use of excessive force by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian civilians in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip. Great March of Return, which started on 30 March 2018, was accompanied by many Israeli violations; some of which amount to war crimes. The excessive use of force against civilians by the Israeli forces has killed more than 174 Palestinian civilians and wounded more

than 10,000. Moreover, summary executions against Palestinians continued for mere suspicion or as a direct punishment by Israel. Thus, Thousands of new victims are added to tens of thousands of former victims who are still awaiting justice for years without redressing them. Palestinians are still seeing the ICC as an important resort and even a last one after all other doors to justice had been hindered and sometimes closed.

International Commission of Inquiry Formed

2018 witnessed significant developments in the criminal prosecution of Israeli war criminals following the Human Rights Council (HRC's) dispatch of an international commission of inquiry into Israeli crimes on 18 May 2018, especially during the events of the Great March of Return in Gaza. The ICC Prosecutor also emphasized she is monitoring the violations. On the other hand, the United States vetoed on 1 June 2018 against the adoption of Ku-

wait's draft resolution on international protection to Palestinians in the oPt following the killing and injury of thousands Palestinians along the Gaza Strip border fence. The Commission's mandate is to: "investigate all alleged violations and abuses of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), including East Jerusalem, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip, in the context

of the military assaults on the large-scale civilian protests that began on 30 March 2018, whether before, during or after and to establish the facts and circumstances, with assistance from relevant experts and special procedure mandate holders, of the alleged violations and abuses, including those that may amount to war crimes.”²³ PCHR has interacted with the Commission by providing the information necessary for facilitating the Commission’s investigations and work in general.

Awaiting ICC to Open an Investigation

The US administration launched a hostile campaign against the ICC and threatened to criminally prosecute its officials if they exercise jurisdiction over Americans and the nationals of our allies, explicitly pointing to Israel.²⁴ Later on 11 September 2018, the president of Assembly of States Parties issued a statement emphasizing the independence of the court and its right to prosecute those committing international crimes and achieve justice for the victims. There were similar successive reactions from several states denouncing the US campaign against the ICC and stressing the importance of its role in ending impunity.

Fatou Bensouda, ICC Prosecutor, issued 3 statements confirming that its office is following the situation in the oPt and will not hesitate to take action within its

23. General Assembly, Human Rights Council, Violations of international law in the context of large-scale civilian protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, 18 May 2018, A/HRC/RES/S-28/1

24. BBC News, John Bolton threatens ICC with US sanctions, 11 September 2018 <John Bolton threatens ICC with US sanctions>

mandate. The latest of those statements was issued on 17 October 2018, confirming following with the planned eviction of the Bedouin community of Khan al-Ahmar, in Jerusalem.²⁵ ICC Prosecutor also issued a statement on 08 April 2018 expressing her grave concern over the use of live ammunition and rubber bullets by the Israeli authorities against demonstrators during the Great March of Return organized along the border fence in the Gaza Strip.²⁶ Moreover, Bensouda issued a statement on 22 May 2018, declaring that ICC received a referral from the Government of the State of Palestine (“Palestine”), a State Party to the Rome Statute, regarding the situation in Palestine since 13 June 2014 with no end date.²⁷

On 26 October 2018, the partner Palestinian Human Rights organizations (PCHR, al-Haq, and al-Mizan Center for Human Rights) submit a file to ICC Prosecutor: Investigate and Prosecute Pillage, Appropriation and Destruction of Palestinian Natural Resources. Moreover, they previously submitted 2 files to the ICC on Israel’s illegal settlement activity in the oPt and its inability and unwillingness to investigate effectively and hold those suspected

25. International Criminal Court, Statement of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, regarding the Situation in Palestine:

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/pages/item.aspx?name=181017-otp-stat-palestine>

26. International Criminal Court, Statement of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, regarding the worsening situation in Gaza, (2018)

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/Pages/item.aspx?name=180408-otp-stat>

27. International Criminal Court, Statement by ICC Prosecutor, Mrs Fatou Bensouda, on the referral submitted by Palestine, (2018)

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/Pages/item.aspx?name=180522-otp-stat>

of committing war crimes accountable. Thus, there were 6 submissions by the partner organizations addressing the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip, the 2014 Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip and the Black Friday Massacre in Rafah (Hannibal Directive). It should be noted that the ICC opened a preliminary investigation on 16 January 2015 into the

situation in the oPt since 13 July 2014, but no tangible progress was realized. Meanwhile, the Israeli authorities did not allow the ICC investigators to enter the Gaza Strip to reveal the facts in blatant violation of the international justice, revealing their aforethought intention to obliterate facts and deny any opportunity for justice.

Israel's Insistence to Continue Denying Justice for Palestinians

New evidence of ostensible justice provided by the Israeli judiciary to Palestinians is the Supreme Court's decision on 05 September 2018 to uphold the demolition of Khan al-Ahmar village, being directly complicit in a war crime of displacing the village's civilian residents. It should be noted that the Israeli authorities released the soldier who killed the wounded civilian, 'Abd al-Fatah al-Sharif,²⁸ after serving only 9 months out of an 18-month sentence issued against him by the court as a punishment for his crime. The Israeli court had reduced his sentence twice on 09 May 2018. The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman have called the Israeli President for a pardon of the guilty soldier, expressing their sympathy with him. Such sarcastic penalty comes despite the fact that the Israeli law

28. On 24 March 2016, an Israeli soldier opened fire at a Palestinian civilian identified as 'Abd al-Fatah al-Sharif who was wounded and lying motionless on the ground. The Israeli soldiers shot al-Sharif to the head directly claiming that he attempted to carry out a stabbing attack. The Israeli Military Prosecution charged the soldier of unintentional killing, although the crime was willfully committed as shown in cameras that captured the scene where the soldier directly opened fire at the victim's head in the time the ambulances arrived to take al-Sharif after he was wounded.

and judiciary set a penalty up to six years for stone-throwing by a Palestinian at the Israeli forces, reflecting the discriminatory racist mentality of the Israeli judiciary.

In 2018, PCHR filed 166 complaints to the Israeli Military Advocate General (MAG), including 151 complaints relevant to the Great March of Return. PCHR received only 118 replies, including 82 replies concerning the Great March of Return, which inform that the complaints are still under follow-up. Moreover, the center received another 36 replies, including 31 negative and 5 others stating that the complaint is under follow-up. PCHR filed 247 criminal complaints during the Israeli offensive on Gaza in 2014 and received only 50 replies as follows: Two informing receipt of the complaints; 16 replies informing not opening an investigation into the incident; 11 replies informing the closure of the investigation; 3 replies informing dismissing the files as no was found, 10 replies asking for further evidence and documents, and only 8 replies emphasizing opening an investigation. PCHR still follows up 61 cases before the

Israeli Military Police and the previous numbers of complaints reveal that Israel deliberately ignores the submitted complaints and denies the victims' rights. The Israeli Judiciary continues to ignore the summary executions carried out by the Israeli soldiers and police against Palestinians, claiming the latter attempted to stab, run over, or open fire at the Israeli soldiers or security officers, for the third year consecutively. Moreover, The Israeli Judiciary continued their state of procrastination and disregard for the prosecution and trial of Israeli soldiers and settlers accused of attacking Palestinians. These facts and its continuity since the beginning of the occupation enhance a realistic result that the Israeli judicial system is unwilling to guarantee justice for Palestinians and insist on granting the Israeli soldiers and settlers who carry out the attacks impunity. Thus, resorting to international justice has become the only available choice for Palestinians in light of the Israeli explicit denial of any justice for the Palestinian victims.

For several times, The Israeli authorities imposed many obstacles before any International envoy aiming at opening investigations into the Israeli attacks in order to reveal the facts and circumstances. Israel has automatically rejected any commissions of inquiry formed since the establishment of Israel on the Palestinian territory in 1948 and to date. Lately, Israel rejected the UN Human Rights Council's decision to establish the latest commission of inquiry after the casualties during the Great march of return. Moreover, Israel rejected

the UN Commission of Inquiry that was established by the HRC following the high number of casualties inflicted during the Great March of Return in addition to the Commission of Inquiry formed by the HRC as well following the Israeli offensives in 2014 and 2008-2009. The Israeli authorities denied the Commissions access into the oPt and refused to cooperate with them and imposed many obstacles before eyewitnesses not to be able to testify before the judiciary. Thus, some of these commissions worked on acquiring testimonies via Video Conference or receiving those eyewitnesses at the Commissions' offices in nearby countries. PCHR believes that the entry of these commissions into the Gaza Strip and establishing the facts by themselves would significantly affect the investigations' results and contribute to bring justice to the Palestinian civilian victims in light of Israel's attempts to prevent so.

The victims of the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in July-August 2014 (Operation Protective Edge) are still waiting for remedy and justice, after they joined the long list of victims of the repeated Israeli offensives on the Gaza Strip in 2012 (Pillar of Defense) and in 2008-2009 (Cast Lead). This situation is a serious challenge to the international justice system, which shall confront the Israeli forces' denial of all their binding international obligations.

It should be mentioned that Israeli authorities continued to deny the Palestinian victims' right to redress through imposing a series of financial and legal obstacles. The latest of these measures was taken on 16

December 2014, when the Israeli Supreme Court approved regulations that ban Palestinians from Gaza from entering Israel for their compensation cases against the Israeli military in addition to the prohibitively high costs of Israeli legal fees to file reparation complaints and making it impossible to file such complaints, which affects thousands of victims. Furthermore, Amendment No. 8 to the Israeli Tort Law (Liability of the State) of 1952 exempts the State of Israel of any liability arising from damages caused to a resident of an enemy territory during a 'combat action' or 'military operation'. This amendment ap-

plies retroactively from 2005 onwards and exempts the Israeli forces not only from providing reparations to the victims of the latest Israeli offensive, but also to the victims of "Operation Cast Lead" in 2008-2009 and "Operation Pillar of Defense" in 2012 in addition to all the attacks committed against Palestinian civilians since 2005. As a result, PCHR could not file any compensation complaint on behalf of the "Pillar of Defense" victims. Moreover, the Israeli courts dismissed several compensation complaints that were already filed by PCHR on behalf of the victims.



Second:

Palestinian Violations of Human Rights and Obstacles to Democratic Reform



Violation of Right to Life and Personal Security

In 2018, violations of the right to life and personal security due to the misuse of weapons and due to assault on the rule of the law continued in the oPt. During this year, the oPt witnessed continuation of killing incidents due to family disputes, misuse of weapons and murdering women on various grounds, including on grounds of the so-called “family honor.” Moreover, the Gaza Strip witnessed an extrajudicial killing of a person carried out by armed groups for collaborating with the Israeli authorities.

PCHR documented the killing of 46 persons in 2018, including 7 children and 7 women in incidents related to the misuse of weapons and constitute violations of the rule of the law in the oPt. 32 of them were in the Gaza Strip, including 6 children and 2 women, while 14 others were

in the West Bank, including a child and 5 women. Moreover, 90 other persons were wounded in the same year; 76 of them in the Gaza Strip, including 8 children and 18 women, and 14 in the West Bank, including 4 children.

Violations of the right to life and personal security were committed in the following contexts: use of weapons in personal and family disputes (13); misuse and illegal use of weapons (13), persons killed as a result of excessive use of force in the context of a law enforcement operation (7), killings on grounds of family honor (6), including 4 women. Moreover, 6 persons were killed in incidents related to activities of Palestinian armed groups in the Gaza Strip. One person was also killed by armed groups on grounds of collaborating with Israel.

Use of Weapons in Personal and Familial Disputes

In 2018, 13 persons, including 2 children, were killed due to the use of weapons in personal and family disputes. While 10 persons, including 2 children, were killed in the Gaza Strip, 5 were killed in the West Bank. The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On 17 November 2018, a dispute broke out between members of two families in al-Tuffah neighbourhood, east of Gaza City, where firearms were used. As a result, A. K. (37) was killed after being shot with 2 live bullets to the abdomen and chest while ‘A. Gh. (9), from the same neighbourhood, was killed after being hit with a bullet

to the neck. Moreover, F. K (44) and H. S. (28) were wounded.

2. On 09 October 2018, (M. M. D.), 33, a police officer from al-Sabra neighbourhood in Gaza City, was shot dead by unknown persons while driving his car in the neighbourhood. Ayman al-Batniji, Spokesperson of the Palestinian Police in Gaza, said to PCHR's fieldworker that (M. M. D.) was killed on the ground of family revenge.
3. On 02 October 2018, (R. S. A.), 20, succumbed to wounds he sustained after being shot with a live bullet to the head the day before during a dispute with another person in Balata refugee camp, east of Nablus
4. On 08 September 2018, (T. A. Sh.), 26, was killed after being accidentally hit with a bullet while he was at the roof of his house in E'zeez area, south of Yatta, south of Hebron, during armed clashes between 2 families.
5. 05 September 2018, B. M. B. (35) opened fire at his wife S. M. B. (30) and then slaughtered her with a knife inside their house in Raba village, south of Jenin. After that, B. M. B. got into his car, drove for 400 meters and then stopped after he saw his cousin A. H. B. (24) standing on the road. B. M. B. got out of his car and shot his cousin dead at point-blank range.
6. On 26 August 2018, M. H. S. (24) was

killed during a family dispute, in which firearms were used, in Dir al-Balah City.

7. On 18 August 2018, M. J. Q. (23), from Beit Jala, was killed after being hit with a live bullet that penetrated his chest. Qattoush was killed in a dispute that occurred in front of his house in Battir village, west of Bethlehem.
8. On the same day, M. B. H. (22), from al-Shabourah refugee camp in Rafah, was hit with a live bullet to the head due to a family dispute. The person, who was accused of opening fire at Mahmoud, fled from the area and later surrendered to the police.
9. On 14 August 2018, N. 'A. H. (26) was shot dead by an armed person on the ground of a family revenge in Khan Yunis.
10. On 10 August 2018, T. H. 'A (24) was killed after being hit with multiple bullets in different areas of his body due to a family dispute that erupted between 2 siblings.
11. On 29 January, M. 'A. Kh. (27) was shot dead by masked gunman while heading to visit his family in Balata refugee camp. At the time of shooting, M. H. 'A. was with his 6-year-old daughter.
12. On 03 January 2018, 'A. A. Sh. (14), from Dir al-Balah City, was killed in a family dispute erupted between 2 families, in which firearms were used, in al-Berkah area, southwest of Dir al-Balah City.

Illegal Use and Misuse of Weapons

During this year, 13 persons were killed; 7 in the Gaza Strip, including 2 children, and 6 persons in the West Bank, including 2 children, due to the illegal use and misuse of weapons in the oPt. The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On 01 December 2018, S. H. M. (18) arrived as a dead body at Beit Hanoun Governmental Hospital in Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip, after he sustained a live bullet wound to the abdomen due to the misuse of weapons in his house.
2. On 9 July 2018, R. J. G. (17), from al-Shuja'iyia neighborhood, east of Gaza City, died after being shot with a live bullet to the head while celebrating high school exams results of 2018 in al-Shuja'iyia neighborhood.
3. On 02 February 2018, M. N. J. (21), from Enwaije'a area between al-Karmel and Khelet al-Mayah villages, was hit with a bullet to the chest while he was cleaning a weapon along with his friend in Yatta, south of Hebron.
4. On 20 January 2018, A. F. S. succumbed to wounds in his head. On 10 January 2018, Salah was wounded by a bullet to the head during a cars' procession on Jenin-Haifa Street to celebrate the releasing of prisoner Amir Naser Abu al-Zeit.
5. On 02 January 2018, R. Y. R. (67), from Gaza City, was killed by the explosion of a home-made hand grenade between his hands inside his house.

Crimes of Killing during Law Enforcement Operations

In 2018, 7 persons were killed as a result of excessive use force by security service officers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. 3 persons were killed during law enforcement operations in the West Bank, while 4, including 2 police officers, were killed during clashes between Palestinian security services and Palestinian gunmen in the Gaza Strip.

1. On 02 October 2018, S. S. M. (37), from Yatta, south of Hebron, succumbed to wounds he sustained on 28 September 2018 when Palestinian security officers opened fire at him during a law enforcement campaign.
2. On 09 August 2018, O. I. H. (24) was killed after being hit with a live bullet to the head while he was near his house in 'Arab al-Jahalin Bedouin Community, near al-Nar Valley intersection in al-Izzariyah village, east of East Jerusalem, during a security campaign that was launched by Palestinian security services against illegal petrol stations in the village.
3. On 22 March 2018, 4 persons, including 2 security officers, 2 wanted persons,

were killed during an armed clash in al-Hassainah area, west of Nuseirat, in the central Gaza Strip. The security services surrounded a house where persons accused of bombing Rami Hamdallah's convoy on 13 March were located, north of Gaza. Clashes erupted between the gunmen and the security services, in which 2 wanted-persons, A. Kh. (26) and 'A. A. (22) and 2

police officers Z.H. (38) and H. A. (36), were killed.

4. On 01 February 2018, I. M. 'A. (30), from Balata refugee camp, who was wanted by the security services, was killed during an armed clash with the security services that surrounded the house. A security service officer was also wounded during the clash.

Crimes of Killing on Grounds of the So-called "Family Honor"

In 2018, PCHR documented the murder of 6 women during incidents of misuse of weapons and all of them occurred in the West Bank.²⁹ PCHR documented 4 murders classified as the so-called "family honor" that resulted in the death of 6 persons, including 4 women.

PCHR is gravely concerned over the commission of such crimes and calls upon the competent authorities to take serious measures to put an end to these crimes, including applying the law issued by the Palestinian President on 15 May 2011 to abolish the lenient sentences issued against the perpetrators of these crimes and apply the penalty applicable to murder against them.

1. On 14 May 2018, A.F. B. (40) was killed in Wadi al-Badan village, north of Nablus, after fire was opened at her.
2. On 27 August 2018, 'A. S. H. (50) and his wife A. M. H (35) were killed after

fire was opened at them inside of their apartment in Ya'oud village.

3. On 5 September 2018, S. M. B., a 30-year-old woman, and A. A. B., a 24-year-old man, were killed after fire was opened at them in Jenin in the West Bank.
4. On 18 September 2018, R. S., a 43-year-old woman, from Khan Yunis, was killed after her father strangled her inside of his house.

Extrajudicial Executions

In 2018, al-Qassam Brigades in the Gaza Strip killed a person accused of collaborating with Israel. His family said that the "death sentence" was carried out after al-Qassam shared and discussed with them evidence proving that he was involved in providing information that led to the assassination of 3 leaders in al-Qassam Brigades during the 2014 Israeli offensive on Gaza.

- » On 19 January, A. B. (38) arrived dead body at Martyr Mohammed Yousef al-

29. See Details of these crimes above.

Najjar Hospital after being shot with a bullet in the chest. In their statement, the family disowned their son (A. B.) and says: “We welcome the execution of the aforementioned” in reference to their son. The statement adds, “the family has followed up the investigation conducted by the Palestinian Resistance Security, which shared with us the investigation results and made

us hear his confessions in addition to seeing with our own eyes the crime instrumentalities. The family has become certain beyond doubt that the aforementioned is involved in the assassination crime of great Qassam leaders and martyrs; Mohammed Abu Shammallah; Ra’ed al-‘Attar; and the family’s son Mohammed Barhoum.”



Escalation and Dangerous Precedents in the Application of Death Penalty

This year witnessed an important development with regard to abolishment of death penalty. On 06 June 2018, the Palestinian President signed instrument of State of Palestine’s accession to 7 international convention and treaties, including the 1989 Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. PCHR welcomed the accession to the ICCPR Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and emphasized that it is a step in the right direction that needs to be upheld with legislative steps to guarantee compliance with the protocol. Although the use of death penalty continued in the Gaza Strip, there was a notable decrease in 2018. Moreover, no death sentences were issued in the West Bank during the same period.

The number of death sentences issued in 2018 amounted to 15 sentences, which were in the Gaza Strip only; 13 were new sentences, a sentence issued by the Military Court of Appeal to uphold a previous sentence and another issued by the Court of Cassation. Among the new sentences, a sentence was issued against a woman, which is the second of its kind in Palestine. Thus, the total number of death sentences issued in the PA controlled areas has risen to 216 sentences since 1994. Thirty of which have been issued in the West Bank and 180 in the Gaza Strip. Among those issued in the Gaza Strip, 128 sentences have been implemented since 2007.

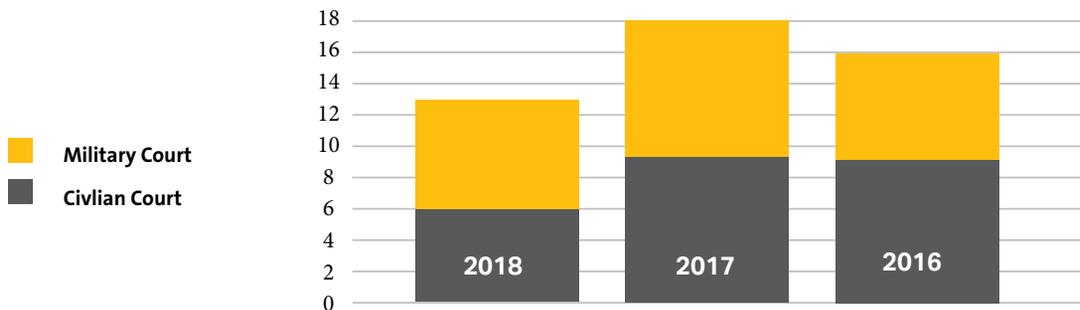
Although the number of death sentences has decreased in comparison with the pre-

vious year, which witnessed 31 sentences, this year witnessed the greatest number of sentences issued in one day. On 03 December 2018, 6 death sentences were issued in one day by a military court in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, the violations related to the use of death penalty continued to be committed such as bringing civilians before military courts; disrespect for law especially at the interrogation stage where torture is systematically used; and the absence of the experience and methods necessary for the proper investigation. PCHR stresses that the presence of death penalty in the Palestinian legislation in light of signing the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, is consid-

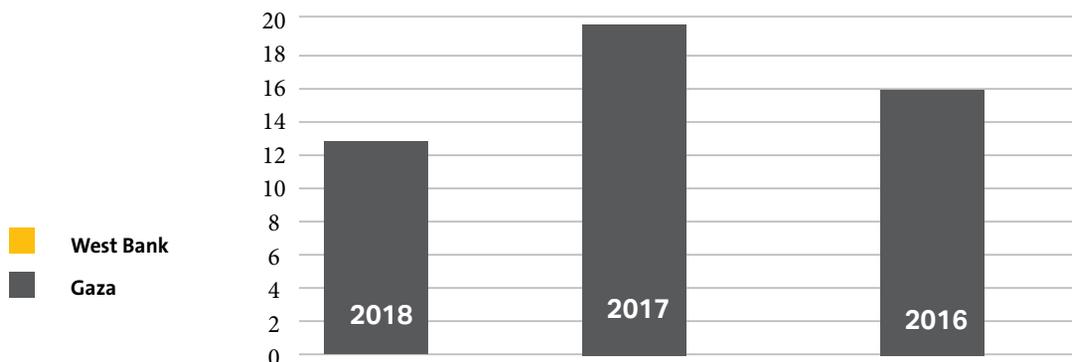
ered a violation of Palestine’s international obligations. In 2018, al-Qassam Brigades in the Gaza Strip carried out a summary execution against a person after he was accused of collaborating with Israel on 19 January 2017 after discussions were held with his family.

Unlike the previous year, which witnessed the implementation of 6 death sentences, no death sentences were implemented in 2018. Since the establishment of the PA, 41 death sentences were applied; 39 of which were in the Gaza Strip and 2 in the West Bank. Among those sentences applied in the Gaza Strip, 28 were applied since 2007 in violation of the law as they were ratified by the Palestinian President

Death Sentences Issued over the Past 3 years and Number of Sentences issued by Military Courts



Death Sentences Issued in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the Last 3 Years



Death Sentences Issued in the PA in 2018					
#	Date of Ruling	Name	Place of Residence	Type of Court and Ruling	Accusation
1.	01 February 2018	.K. S	Khan Yunis	Military Court of Appeal	Collaboration
2.	5 July 2018	Y. B.	Gaza	Court of First Instance	Murder
3.	10 July 2018	M. A.	The Central Gaza Strip	Court of First Instance	Murder
4.	26 July 2018	J. D.	Gaza	Court of First Instance	Murder
5.	26 July 2018	Th. Q.	Gaza	Court of First Instance	Murder
6.	9 September 2018	M. A.	The Northern Gaza Strip	Court of First Instance	Murder
7.	9 September 2018	J. A.	The Central Gaza Strip	Court of Cassation	Murder
8.	14 November 2018	Y. B.	Deir al-Balah	Court of First Instance	Murder
9.	3 December 2018	'A. 'A.	Gaza	Military Court of First Instance	Collaboration
10.	3 December 2018	M. A.	Khan Yunis	Military Court of First Instance	Collaboration
11.	3 December 2018	A.M.	Palestinian Territory occupied in 1948	Military Court of First Instance	Collaboration
12.	3 December 2018	M.L.	Rafah	Military Court of First Instance	Collaboration
13.	3 December 2018	A.'A.	Gaza	Military Court of First Instance	Collaboration
14.	3 December 2018	B. J.	The Northern Gaza Strip	Military Court of First Instance	Collaboration
15.	10 December 2018	M. 'A.	Gaza	Military Court of First Instance	Murder



Illegal Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

Palestinian security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to arrest and summon civilians without following the legal procedures in violation of their rights guaranteed under the PBL and relevant international standards. In most cases, the Palestinian Security Services arrest civilians without a legal arrest warrant and those arrested are subject to beating and inhuman and degrading treatment.

PCHR received many complaints confirming that the arrestees were subject to

torture either in the Palestinian prisons or detention facilities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, during their arrest or detention or while being taken to prisons and detention facilities. Dozens of statements and affidavits submitted by the claimants or their families confirming that the Palestinian security services used various investigations methods that are considered a form of torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment against those arrested and/or detained persons.

Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment

PCHR received many complaints confirming that the arrestees were subject to torture either in the Palestinian prisons or detention facilities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Several complaints documented by PCHR are related to persons who were interrogated on criminal grounds in criminal investigation departments, especially in the Gaza Strip, in addition to testimonies and complaints from civilians, who claimed that they were tortured on political grounds.

During this year, PCHR monitored several forms of torture crimes committed against persons suspected of committing criminal offenses, against those raising security suspicions, political rivals, etc. These torture methods, including forcing persons to stay in painful circumstances and sleeping deprivation for hours, shackling (Shabeh) for hours, beating on bare feet “**Falaka**”, death threats, and placing the detainees under degrading conditions or in narrow and poorly ventilated cells that lack ventilation and adequate health

conditions. The most frequently occurring form of torture was to force detainees to stand in difficult and exhausting positions for hours, in a method known as shackling “Shabeh”, causing terrible pains throughout the body, especially the legs and hands. It should be noted that the shackling is done in different forms.

In the Gaza Strip, PCHR documented many cases, where complainants claimed that they were tortured during investigation and interrogation in the security services’ headquarters, especially the Criminal Police. PCHR monitored a number of cases that constituted blatant forms of torture when arrested persons were severely harmed. In his testimony to PCHR’s fieldworker, (‘A. ‘A. Sh.) (48) said that Anti-Narcotics Force officers raided his house in al-Mawasi area, west of Khan Yunis, arrested and took him to the police station. He also said that he was subjected to severe forms of torture in Anti-Narcotics Department such as continuous shackling, beating on bare feet, kicking and punching all over the body. As a result, he said that the torture resulted in kidney and lung problems that forced him to be taken to the hospital. He was then admitted to the ICU and later, he was admitted to in Augusta Victoria Hospital “al-Motale’a” in occupied Jerusalem while he was in comma and doctors said that he had a pulmonary embolism. M. ‘A. ‘A., A Fatah Movement Member, was severely tortured when he was arrested by Palestinian Security Services on the charge of collaboration with Ramallah during the period of 26 March – 11 June 2018. He was beaten and shackled in different forms: while he

was standing, down on his knees for hours, by tying his hands to the back and placing a stick between them “scarecrow”. As a result, he suffered a stroke for which he had to be taken to the hospital.

In the West Bank, PCHR received many complaints and testimonies from civilians who claimed that they were subjected to torture in detention facilities administered by security services, especially in the GIS and PSS offices. In his testimony to PCHR’s fieldworker, R. B. H. said that he was tortured by the GIS in Hebron. He was beaten on bare foot several times, beaten all over the body, blindfolded with a smelly blindfold, and put in a smelly cell. Furthermore, M. Kh. ‘A (23), a university student, said that the GIS arrested him while he was on his way to Hebron University on 16 April 2018 and took him to GIS’s headquarters in Hebron, where he was treated in a humiliating and degrading way. He was interrogated for his student activism and was slapped, struck against the wall, beaten and kicked all over the body. He was then taken to Jericho Prison, where he was tortured in several ways such as being beaten, slapped and shackled for several days.



A Victim of Torture by the Security Services

Arrests and Summonses on Political Grounds

In 2018, the security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to arrest and summon dozens of civilians and activists on political grounds and coupled with violations of civilians' fundamental rights, guaranteed by the PBL and relevant international standards. Arrests often occur without a legal arrest warrant during which the arrestees are subject to beating and inhuman and degrading treatment.

In the **Gaza Strip**, dozens of Fatah activists and former members of the PA security services were arrested for different periods after being accused of collaboration with Ramallah and on security-related charges. Most of them were subject to inhuman and cruel treatment. A number of them complained that they were ill-treated in detention facilities.

All the illegal arrests against those activists carried out by the Security Services are based on Article (262) of Law No. 3/2009, which amended the Penal Code (Act No. 74 of 1936) that provide the criminalization of "Anyone who intentionally misuses telephone line equipment, the Internet or any other technological means to promote, transfer, print or copy any pornographic materials, harassing others, insulting or inciting obscene or immoral behavior." Therefore, those arrestees are mostly charged with undermining the revolutionary unity and collaboration with Ramallah and they are sentenced accordingly.

The most prominent among those arrests

were for dozens of Fatah Movement and Fatah Youth Organization members and leaders in the governorates of the Gaza Strip. Those arrests are carried out by phone calls or summons notices to refer to the Internal Security office closest to the place of residency of the summoned person. Among the arrestees, there were members of the Revolutionary Council, regional secretaries and members, other activists, and Student Union members. Generally, the activists were threatened and warned from the consequences of holding any activities to support the speech of Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian President, in the UN in 27 September 2018. In late December, dozens of Fatah Movement members were summoned, arrested and warned from the consequences of holding any activities to celebrate the 54th anniversary of Fatah Movement, while many others were subjected to torture and humiliating treatment.

In the **West Bank**, security services in the West Bank, mainly General Intelligence Service (GIS), Preventive Security Service (PSS) and Military Interrogation Service, continued to illegally arrest and summon activists from Hamas, the Islamic Jihad and Hizbu Tahrir. In addition, many persons were often arbitrarily arrested on political grounds and their rights were violated. Some of them are detained on behalf of the governor while others were brought before military courts although they were civilians. In addition, PCHR documented that dozens of civilians were il-

legally arrested due to their student and trade union activism. PCHR also documented a number of cases where the security services refused to apply the courts' decisions and release prisoners or delayed releasing them.

The security services in the West Bank charge the arrestees with "insulting prestigious figures", "initiating racial feuds", and "undermining the revolutionary unity". Those charges are derived from Jordanian Penal Code and the revolutionary Penal Code, which are applied in the West Bank.

The most prominent among those arrests were those carried out by the security

services in their campaign in 25 and 26 September 2018 against dozens of Hamas Movement affiliates in the governorates of the West Bank. Among the arrestees, there were activists, ex-prisoners, legal persons, imams, and university students. Some activists were arrested from their houses after they were searched, while others were arrested at their shops and while they were in the street. In late December, dozens of arrests against Hamas Movement activists and affiliates in the West Bank were carried out, seemingly, in response for arresting dozens of Fatah Movement members in the Gaza Strip and preventing them from celebrating the 54th anniversary of Fatah Movement.

Deaths in Prisons and Detention Centers

During the reporting period, 4 Palestinians died inside prisons and detention facilities of the Palestinian security services: 2 of them were in the Gaza Strip: one in a cell in Rafah Police Station and the other person in Beit Lahia Police Station; and the other 2 in the West Bank: one of them in Istishari Arab Hospital in Ramallah and the other in Hebron Governmental Hospital in Hebron. Both of them were transferred to the hospitals after their detention.

1. On 20 June 2018, the arrestee W. D. (30) died in a cell in Rafah Police Station, south of the Gaza Strip. The police spokesman in Gaza declared that the arrestee hung himself in the cell, where he was found hanging from the cell's window. According to PCHR's fol-

low up, W.D.'s family said that their son was detained in Rafah Police Station for drug cases since 17 June 2018 and he was brought before the court on 20 June 2018 as Magistrates Court decided to release him. However, he was detained again in Rafah Police Station for other charges by Northern Gaza Police. M. D., W.D's brother, said that his brother was detained in Rafah Police Station until Northern Gaza Police takes him into their custody before he was declared dead.

2. On 12 August, A. N. H. (26), from Balata refugee camp in Nablus, was declared dead in Istishari Arab Hospital, where he was treated for 2 weeks after being transferred from Jericho Prison with-

out giving death reasons. A. N. H. was detained in Jericho Prison for criminal charges since 19 March 2017 as he was arrested during clash with the security services, in which an officer was killed and another sustained serious wounds. A. N. H. remained in Jericho Prison. Two weeks before his death, he was transferred from Jericho to Istishari Arab Hospital, where he stayed until his death.

3. On 22 August 2018, Gh. M. H. (44), from Abu Halawa intersection in Hebron, was declared dead at Hebron Governmental Hospital after having a severe coronary thrombosis. The corpse was kept in custody and was then transferred by to the Faculty of Forensic Medicine in al-Quds University upon an order by the prosecuting attorney to determine the death reason. On 19 August 2018, Gh. M. H. was arrested by the Palestinian police in Ras al-Jura area in Hebron, where he worked as a driver, and was taken to General Intelligence's office in "Junaid" Department. His detention was extended to 48 hours upon an order by the prosecuting attorney upon a complaint against him. On Wednesday

morning, 22 August 2018, he was taken to Hebron Governmental Hospital due to a sudden indisposition. There, he was declared dead and was transferred to Forensic Science Department autopsy. Later, it was declared that he had a severe coronary thrombosis, resulting in his immediate death.

4. On 30 October 2018, arrestee B. N. H. (21), from Sheikh Radwan in Gaza died in Beit Lahia Rehabilitation Center "Abu 'Obaida Prison" and was taken to Kamal Adwan Hospital in Jabalia. In his statement, Colonel Jameel Samour, Head of Rehabilitation Center, said that B. H. was detained 40 days ago on robbery grounds and was in good health condition. He also added that at approximately 07:35, when waking the arrestees for the morning queue, B. H. did not wake up. The arrestees and the guards tried to wake him up, but it was in vain. He was then taken to Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahia, where he was declared dead. Later, he was taken to Forensic Medicine Department at al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza to find the cause of death.



Dissolution of PLC

On 22 December 2018, the Palestinian President declared the dissolution of the PLC and called for the elections to be held in 6 months. He based this on an advisory decision by the Supreme Constitutional Court (SCC) on 12 December 2018 at the request of the Minister of Justice and the behest of the Palestinian President. that the Court based its decision to dissolve the PLC on , the legitimacy of having a legislative council lies in exercising its legislative and supervisory role, and because it has not convened since 2007, the PLC has lost its status as a legislative authority and thus its status as the Legislative Council.” The Court justified the non-application of Article 47 of the 2005 Amendment to the Basic Law, which provides that the Council shall remain in place until the new Council assumes its functions, on the basis that its application requires elections to be conducted every four years.

PCHR reiterates its rejection of this step that has been taken at the time when Palestinians expect steps to be taken towards ending the division and lifting the sanctions against the Gaza Strip, not more political decisions that deepen Palestinian division. PCHR stresses that attempts to make the decision appear legal will not change the nature political conflict that exists and the misuse of law which began since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority and escalated following the Palestinian legislative elections in 2006.

PCHR views that the legitimacy of the Constitutional Court, which issued the decision to dissolve the PLC, is questionable due to the circumstances of its formation by the Palestinian President in light of the division. The Palestinian President himself was supposed to continue in office until the presidential elections, which have been due since 2010, but have not been held so far. Therefore, the President does not have the right to issue crucial laws by decree, such as establishing the constitutional court, and even amending the court’s own law to ensure his control over it.

Before the dissolution decision was issued, the PLC was disabled during the year of 2018; however, the Palestinian President continued to issue legislations beyond his powers using Article (43) of the PBL. The Change and Reform Bloc also continued to issue legislations on behalf of the PLC. Furthermore, the Israeli forces continued its systematic and ongoing policy of arresting PLC members. Thus, the PLC remained out of the picture, which resulted in the absence of the concept of the separation of power and the supervision over the executive authority. In light of this, the Palestinian society is still looking forward to fully applying the reconciliation agreement and reactivating the PLC to guarantee the stability and integrity of the legal system and control the exercise of power by the executive.

8 years have lapsed since the presidential and legislative elections should have been held in 2010. According to Palestinian law and the general principles of law relating to the continuation of public facilities, the functions of the Palestinian President and the Legislative Council are limited to executing the routine functions, as both have lost their legitimacy after the end of their term in office. Executing routine functions means that both exercise their authority within the limits of necessity. However, the reality on the grounds reveals serious abuses from the Palestinian President which is exercising absolute legislative and executive powers. From the other side, the Change and Reform Bloc exercises the PLC legislative powers as well as some of the President's powers, without any legal basis. This situation has reflected a serious violation of Palestinian's right to have authorities representing their real views and affiliation, especially after the a presumed change in the electoral bloc during the 10 years that followed the last elections. This situation violates the PA's obligations according to Article (25) of the ICCPR to which Palestine acceded in 2014 that guarantees the people's right to choose those, who represent them, in free, fair and periodic elections.

It should be noted that the current PLC elected in 2006 was disrupted only few months after being elected due to the power struggle between the two major blocs in the PLC, Fatah Parliamentary Bloc and the Hamas-affiliated Change and Reform Bloc which led to bloody conflict between both sides that resulted in establishing two authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Despite the disruption of the PLC, the Change and Reform Bloc has convened in Gaza and issued laws and decisions on behalf of the PLC. Moreover, the Palestinian President issued presidential decrees according to Article (43) of the PBL under the pretext of the absence of the role of the PLC. PCHR declared a clear position at that time and expressed its reservation regarding all legislations issued in light of the division. PCHR also called upon the Change and Reform Bloc to stop issuing laws on behalf of the PLC and the Palestinian President, and to strictly comply with the principle of necessity. This chaos contributed to increasing the fragmentation of the Palestinian law and complicating the rule of law reality in the PA. It should be mentioned that the reconciliation agreement did not include or mention how to deal with these laws and its consequences during the division.

Israeli Arbitrary Practices against PLC Members

Israeli forces continued to target PLC members during 2018 as part of their systematic policy since the election of the current Council in 2006. They carry out arbitrary detentions against them for different periods, which could last for several years, usually without charge or trial, under the pretext of administration detention. Following Israeli Authorities' actions such as blocking Change and Reform Bloc in Jerusalem and arrests of PLC members, it could be noticed that the Israeli Authorities follow a systematic policy to put PLC members out of the picture and defeat the Palestinian democratic experience to justify their permanent control of the oPt

by undermining the Palestinian political system.

By the end of 2018, 5 PLC members are detained, among them Marwan al-Barghuthi and Ahmed Sa'adat who have spent long years in prison, and 3 others are still under administration detention. During 2018, 8 PLC members were subjected to administration and 5 were released by the end of the year. Over the years, 50 PLC members were subjected for repeated administrative detention, without any charge or trial in flagrant violation of international human rights standards.

Most Prominent Developments in the Gaza Strip in 2018:

The Change and Reform bloc continued to exercise the powers of the PLC in Gaza, as it continued to debate and approve draft laws even though it did not publish any law during 2018. Among the most impor-

tant laws passed by the bloc are the Social Reconciliation Law, approved during the second reading, and the Consumption of Electricity Law.

Most Prominent Developments in the the West Bank in 2018:

The Palestinian President continued to practice his absolute powers in the enactment and issuance of legislation without complying with the principle of necessity, which requires the President to enact legislation only in cases of extreme necessity according to Article 43 of the Palestinian Basic Law. This year has witnessed an in-

crease in the number of legislation enacted by the President, as he enacted 41 decree-laws in 2018, which makes the total number of decree laws issued by the President since the division 214. By following up with the legislation issued by the President in the form of law-decrees, we find that the Palestinian President exercises

legislative powers not as an exception in cases of extreme necessity as stipulated in Article 43, mentioned above, but as if he is authorized to exercise full legislative authority.

One of the most prominent legislation issued in 2018 was a law amending the Electronic Crimes Act of 2017 and included many amendments to the old law and

took into account the observations especially those made by civil society relating to freedom of opinion and expression. Moreover, Law No. 6 2016 on social security still raises a lot of controversy because of its content, the manner and timing of its issuance, which reflects a state of mistrust in the current legislation mechanism.



Independence of Judicial Authority

Division in the judicial authority continued for the 12th consecutive year and its situation continued to deteriorate in 2018 along with the executive authority's continuous attempts to control it. Serious attempts were made by the executive authority to impose its control on the judicial authority in order to end its independence under the pretext of judicial reform. This has emerged from several aspects, most notably:

1. Issuance of suspected politicized decisions by the judicial authorities.
2. Formation of a development committee by presidential decision to reform the judiciary which came with with recommendations that affect its independence.
3. Presence of illegally appointed judges and prosecutors and negligence of the implementation of judicial decisions.

The most prominent shortcomings in the judicial system's work in 2018 were the recommendations of the Judicial Development Committee, which were about to threaten the judiciary in the West Bank. The committee was established by a decision made by the President on 6 September 2017 and it was supposed to submit its report within 6 months of its formation but its work was extended for another 6 months. On 5 September 2018, It should be noted that the committee was supposed to submit its report within 6 months but its work was extended for another 6 months. On 5 September 2018, the Palestinian Judges Association Club declared on social media that the judges of the High Court would submit a collective resignation if the committee's recommendations were approved. Moreover, civil society was not involved in the process of writing these recommendations. PCHR considers

that these recommendations came to increase the Palestinian president's authorities in facing the judiciary and neglected the serious problems of forming the present Constitutional Court. The recommendations were followed by a bill to amend the Judicial Authority Law, which grants the President wide powers allow him to isolate the Attorney General and the head of the Higher Judicial Council. These actions confirm that the Palestinian Authority (PA) seriously attempts to undermine the judiciary's independence.

In the Gaza Strip, the work of the de facto judiciary continued illegally through decisions made by the former Prime Minister of the dismissed government; decisions made by the Administrative Committee formed since the beginning of 2017 and dissolved months later; or decisions made by the Change and Reform bloc which convenes in Gaza in the name of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC).). There is a state of mistrust concerning the current Judiciary's independence in the Gaza Strip, which is exposed to political influences and suspicions of corruption, especially in the absence of monitoring and accounting according to the Palestinian Basic Law, the Judicial Authority Law and other relevant laws.

PCHR documented 38 complaints, concerning non-implementation or delay of judicial ruling regarding the release of detainees held by the security services, particularly the Preventive Security Service, General Intelligence and General Investigation Service. Only one of the complaints

was in the Gaza Strip and it concerned the implementation of a judicial ruling issued by the High court against al-Aqsa University in Gaza, which the latter refused to implement. The rest of complaints were in the West Bank where 15 judiciary rulings are still waiting implementation from previous years.

The security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued this practice constantly for years with no deterrence even though there is a clear article in the Basic Law that provides a deterrent penalty for those refraining or obstructing the implementation of judicial rulings. Article 106 of the 2003 Basic Law provides that:

“Judicial rulings shall be implemented. Refraining from or obstructing the implementation of a judicial ruling in any manner whatsoever shall be considered a crime carrying a penalty of imprisonment or dismissal from position if the accused individual is a public official or assigned to public service. The aggrieved party may file a case directly to the competent court and the National Authority shall guarantee a fair remedy for him.”

In addition to the non-implementation of the judicial rulings, the security services interfere with the judiciary work by interfering to resolve some financial disputes. The military police in Gaza is among the most intrusive security services as it interferes in the financial disputes between people. The military police uses arbitrary detention and false arrest and sometimes imposes solutions on the parties away

from the judiciary. This is a flagrant interference in the judiciary's work and a blatant violation of the rule of law. This issue was significantly raised during 2018 and the military police assured that it would not interfere any more to resolve problems. It should be noted that according to PCHR's observations, interferences by the military police in disputes still exists

It should be mentioned that the Palestinian judiciary has been suffering a split since the division started in 2007 when the judiciary suspended its work in the Gaza Strip following the interference with its work by the de facto government in Gaza, which ruled the Gaza Strip after Hamas took over. Following that, the Gaza de facto government unconstitutionally appointed new judges, and the courts im-

mediately returned to practice their duties but with a new cadre that was illegally appointed. Hence, there are now two separate judicial systems in the PA controlled areas: one in the West Bank and the other one in the Gaza Strip. Although the human rights organizations boycotted the judicial system formed in Gaza, as they considered it unconstitutional, they returned to deal with the judiciary in 2011 under the pressure of the need to protect the rights and liberties from the executive authority's abuse, thereby accepting it as a *de facto* authority. It should be mentioned that this in return did not result in any positive tangible results given the partisan and security influence on the work of the judiciary in the Gaza Strip.



Obstruction of General and Local Elections

The implications of division which started 11 years, still weigh heavily on democratic transition as it is obstructing general and local elections. The year 2018 has not witnessed neither (general legislative and presidential) nor local elections even though they were scheduled to be held 8 years ago. Therefore, the current components of authority lack for representative legitimacy unless periodic elections that represent the will of the people and re-legitimize those institutions are held.

National reconciliation and agreement on a unified political agenda to get out of the current crisis should lead to general elections being held. The elections are needed in order to restore respect to the structure of the Palestinian political system, including the presidency and the legislative council, and lead to an independent authority, which enjoys the trust of all sides and be a safe harbor to resolve disputes. Moreover, respect to the will of people should be restored and an end to the years

in which popular will has been taken over by the continued division of the Palestinian political camp and its components.

Reconciliation and periodic elections are the way to face Israeli's plans to the fragment the Palestinian territory, and to preserve geographical unity of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as the unity of the Palestinian people. On the presidential and legislative level, no elections have been held in the OPT since 2010 and no announcement for news election were made. According to Palestinian Law, the Palestinian President should announce legislative elections three months from its due date.

General and legislative elections have not been held in the OPT since 2010 and no announcements for new elections were made. According the Palestinian Law, the Palestinian President should announce

the Legislative Elections three months ahead of their due date, which did not happen.

Moreover, local council elections have not been held in both the West Bank or the Gaza Strip since 2010. However, , partial local election were held in the West Bank twice, the first was in 2012 and was continued in 2013, and the second was in 2017 and continued in 2018. In contrast, no elections have taken place to renew the legitimacy of the local councils in the Gaza Strip and are still administered by with the exception of holding them in the West Bank twice; the first was in 2012, which was continued in 2013, and the second was in 2017 and was continued in 2018. In addition, the PLC was entirely disrupted, and the municipalities in the Gaza Strip were administrated by appointed, non-elected councils

Local Elections in West Bank (Excluding Gaza)

On 31 July 2018, the Palestinian Cabinet decided to hold elections in 19 local entities in the West Bank as some of the councils were dissolved due to the resignation of most of their members or due to being decoupled. The date set by the Council of Minister for the elections was 22 September 2018.

On 22 September 2018, the elections were held on time in five councils only in six other local councils, one list was nominat-

ed in each council and won by acclamation while in seven other councils, no lists were not nominated and elections were not held as a result.

On 13 May 2017, municipality elections were held in 358 of 391 local councils in the West Bank. Among those councils, 181 won by acclamation. On 29 July 2017, complementary elections were held on 29 July 2017 in 32 local councils, in which no lists were nominated. As a result, the for-

mation of their local councils was left to the Cabinet.³⁰ On the other hand, no similar elections were held in the Gaza Strip after Hamas Movement refused to participate in protest against the amendments introduced to Election Law, which were amended without their consultation.

Hamas's refusal to participate in the municipality elections came following a decision to amend local councils' elections law no. 10 of 2015 by which electoral appeals' court was established. It should be mentioned that the Court of First Instance was responsible for electoral appeals in all governorates according to the previous law.

At the time, PCHR expressed its concern about making amendments to the local electoral law without holding consultations with the political parties as it makes

it difficult to hold elections in the Gaza Strip and for political parties, especially Hamas, to participate in them. PCHR called upon the Council of Ministers to consider the political situation at the time and to consult with other parties before appointing the judges to reassured all parties and provide the needed confidence in the election process.

PCHR stresses that holding partial elections in the West Bank only shall exacerbate the existing division and break the geographical unity in the OPT.

On the other hand, local councils in the Gaza Strip continued to be administered by nomination since the end of the 2004-2005 elections which were held in most of its municipalities as no elections have taken place to renew the local councils' legitimacy during the years of division.

30. It should be noted that local elections did not include refugee camps due to an autonomous decision by the latter not to hold local elections for political reasons related to the right of return. Moreover, the local elections did not include Jerusalem but covered Palestinian villages and neighborhoods adjacent to Jerusalem.



Violation of Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression:

2018 witnessed a positive progress on the freedom of expression as the Palestinian President made fundamental amendments to the 2017 Cybercrimes Law in which he took into account the civil society's notes submitted by different Human Rights organizations. Thus, the Cybercrimes Law is no longer affecting the freedom of expression even though there are notes that the Law still affects the right to privacy. Meanwhile, the violations of the freedom of expression continued in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, particularly in the first half of the year, because of the division bickering but these violations decreased in the second half of the year. Regarding the idea of self-commitment, PCHR relates the decreasing number of violations to the abolition of the Cybercrimes Law and the new ways taken by the Security Services to undermine freedoms, depending on enhancing self-commitment.

PCHR monitored several cases that included attacks against journalists while on duty and other cases where journalists were prosecuted for freedom of expression on social media. In the same context, PCHR also confirms that the documented cases reflect only part of the reality as there are cases where journalists and activists avoided filing complaints; restrict-

ing and sometimes blocking free access to information; and self-censorship that overpowers minds of journalists, editors, and website admins. These parts cannot be monitored through affidavits but its existence can be verified through meetings and interviews held by PCHR with journalists and social media activists, and through PCHR's close follow-up of the media reality.

It should be noted that the PA so far has not enacted any law that would guarantee freedom of access to information even though a draft bill exists. Both governments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip practiced the same policy in providing incomplete information or withholding information from the audience and journalists. Several journalists confirmed during meetings and interviews conducted by PCHR that the most serious issues facing them relate to withholding of information, selectivity when providing information and undergoing investigation each time journalists request information relevant to the ministries' work, political issues or crimes.

PCHR monitored incidents where journalists and opinion holders were subject to attacks as they were subjected to summoning and inhuman and degrading

treatment by the authorities. The following is the most prominent cases monitored by PCHR:

- Freelance photojournalist, Ihab Omar Fasfous, said that on 25 November 2018, he was summoned to refer to the Internal Security Service in Khan Younis and interrogated on grounds of his posts on Facebook.
- Lara Sameer Kan'an, a reporter for Ultra Palestine, said that on 30 June 2018, she was severely beaten by security officers dressed in civilian clothes while she was covering the incidents of suppressing a demonstration organized by the Palestinian factions to call for lifting the sanctions imposed on the Gaza Strip.
- Majdoleen Hassoun, a reporter for TRT, said that on 27 June 2018, she was attacked along with other protestors by one of the security officers dressed in civilian clothes because of covering a demonstration in Tulkarem denouncing the sanctions imposed on the Gaza Strip.
- Shereen Hamad Khalifa, a journalist and an editor for Nawa Network, said that on 18 June 2018, while covering a peaceful sit-in in Gaza City, a security officer approached and forced her to delete the photos she captured.
- Deyaa' Ibraheem Maleeha, a freelance journalist, said that on 18 June 2018, he was beaten by a security officer dressed in civilian clothes on grounds of covering a peaceful sit-in in Gaza City.
- Ahmed Mohammed 'Odah, a journalist and reporter for several agencies, said that on 30 May 2018, he was summoned to refer to the General Intelligence Service in Gaza City on grounds of his opinion published on his Facebook page.
- Baker Mohammed Abu Hammad said that on 24 May 2018, he was summoned to refer to the General Intelligence Service where he was tortured and subjected to degrading treatment and then summoned several times on grounds of his posts on Facebook.
- Hajer Harb, a journalist and a reporter for al-Mossayarah, the Yemeni TV, said that she was waiting for a retrial hearing on 21 May 2018 on grounds of an investigate documentary she did on suspicions of regarding corruption in the Referrals Abroad Department in the Ministry of Health as there was a sentence issued against her in absentia.
- Sameer Skaik, a program producer at Palestine TV, said that on 03 May 2018, the Internal Security Service in Gaza City arrested him on grounds of conducting interviews.
- Ramy Samara, a journalist for Wafa Agency and Ajjal Radio, said that on 3 April 2018, he was brought before the Public Prosecution in Ramallah and detained on grounds of defamation, libel and slander.
- Ossama Hussain Shahin, a reporter for Youth Free association, said that on 21 March 2018, he was arrested by the Preventive Security Service (PSS) in Hebron and detained for days for inciting racial hatred.

Violation of Right to Peaceful Assembly

In 2018, the authorities continued to violate the right to peaceful assembly in violation of the the Palestinian Basic Law and Public Assembly Law of 1998 and of Palestine's obligations under the ICCPR as well as other human rights conventions that Palestine previously acceded to. It should be mentioned that the authorities, in its areas of control, has allowed the peaceful assemblies that in their favor, while continuously prevented those against it.

In the Gaza Strip, arbitrary arrests of activists were the most notable measures taken against the right to peaceful assembly. PCHR documented dozens of activists being arrested, interrogated and forced not to organize peaceful assemblies and threatened to be imprisoned if they organized or called for them. Call for peaceful assemblies in all its forms cannot be considered as a crime or a basis for summoning or arbitrary detention under any circumstance even if they are not in accordance with proceedings.

In the West Bank, PCHR also documented similar violations; the most significant of which were when peaceful protests against the sanctions imposed on the Gaza Strip were dispersed and the protesters were attacked, arrested and detained. This was followed by the imposition of addition restrictions to undermine these

peaceful protests. That was represented by a special circular issued on 12 June 2018 by the Palestinian President's advisor for governorates affair suspending demonstrations during Eid Holiday.

PCHR stresses that the restrictions, including the legal constraints, that the competent authorities imposed on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip mainly aim at undermining the right to peaceful assembly in all its forms. It should be noted that the right to peaceful assembly requires only a written notice either to the governor or the police chief before it is organized according to Article 3 of the Public Meetings Law of 1998. Moreover, the violation of this condition is not enough to disperse a demonstration or arrest its organizers, unless riots occurred in the demonstration.



Peaceful Protest Attacked in the West Bank

PCHR believes that the right of Palestinians to peaceful assembly is violated by both of the authorities in the West Bank and Gaza strip whenever it conflicts with their interests. Moreover, Palestinian are deprived from practicing it, despite the fact that it is a guaranteed right and that the Palestinian Authority has willingly signed the conventions that guarantee this. Therefore, obliges the Palestinian Authority to comply with them to take all measures and

procedures to implement them.

PCHR reiterates once again that the practices of both authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, each in their area of control, are closely linked to the division and the political atmosphere. PCHR also believes that the reconciliation agreement shall prepare the atmosphere to have more freedoms, especially the right to peaceful assembly.



Violation of the Right to Association:

The year 2018 witnessed dangerous attempts to make significant amendments to Charitable Associations and Community Organizations Act 2000. A bill to amend the law on charitable associations was prepared to be included in the Council of Ministers' agenda for approval then present it to the Palestinian President in order to be issued as a law by decree in accordance with the practice followed due to the absence of the PLC. The proposition came in the midst of progressive developments related to Consensus Government's endeavors, since its establishment, to control the associations completely and undermine their independence. The bill was composed of 22 articles that aimed mostly at controlling associations' administration and finance. This development is part of a series of steps taken since the PA's establishment, This development is part of

a series of steps taken since the PA's establishment, that aim at undermining the role of civil society.

The policy of restricting the formation of associations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip continued throughout 2018. During the division's period, several laws and decisions aimed at controlling the associations and undermining their independence were issued, affecting their role in monitoring the authorities' actions. All the measures taken undermine the fundamental freedoms to form associations, i.e.: the right to exist, the right to exercise activities freely, the right to receive funding, and the right to privacy and independence.

The Palestinian consensus government decision of 2016 is still restricting chari-

table association which are registered as non-profit companies as it targets their right to receive funding. According to Circular No.82 of 2016, funding any non-profit requires special decision by the Council of Ministers and a security clearance from several different entities. This arbitrary measure still affects the work and freedom of the companies to carry their work as their existence depends on a decision by the security services that have the power to grant or deny security clearance according to unknown standards, in violation of the right to form associations.

The absence of constitutional mechanisms, including a legislative council and a unified and independent judicial authority, affects the associations' work and activities, as the means of lobbying, advocacy and prosecution for achieving community change can only be effective in the

presence of these associations. Moreover, arbitrary measures and excessive restrictions on freedom of movement continue to undermine the work of associations, due to the difficulty of travelling between the West Bank and Gaza Strip or travelling abroad.

The aforementioned indicates that the authorities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are not committed to respecting, protecting and implementing the right to form associations. Therefore, Palestine still violates its international obligations under Article 22 of ICCPR and Article 8 of ICESCR. It should be mentioned that Palestine has acceded to the 2 Covenants in 2014; however, it has not yet attempted to amend laws or practices in a manner consistent with its obligations under these covenants



Impact of the Political Division on Economic and Social Rights in Gaza Strip

The living conditions of the Palestinian population and the impact of the current situation on their economic and social rights reached a dangerous level, similar to the situation of the Strip after the Israel occupation in 1967. International support and funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which provides many health, education and social services to around 74% of the population of the Gaza Strip. This came in the wake of the United State to suspend its funding for the Agency's activities, which amounts to about 36% of its total annual budget.

Despite the continuation of reconciliation talks between the two sides of the political division during the year under Egyptian sponsorship and optimism that the division will end among the Palestinians in Gaza, the talks to reach an agreement and start a new era of national reconciliation have failed. This had led to further economic sanctions being imposed on the Gaza Strip by forcing thousands

of employees of the PA into early retirement, continuing to impose financial deductions from the PA employees' salaries, and reducing funds allocation to the health services. At the same time, Hamas imposed higher fees and customs duties on imported goods under the justification of protecting national products. The residents of the Gaza Strip have suffered from the burdens of conflicts which revolve around power and are paying the price at a time when economic and social conditions of the Strip are deteriorating and economic recession is affecting all sectors of the economy. Unemployment, poverty, and food insecurity rates in the Gaza strip have increased dramatically. The unemployment rate in, which reached 53.9%, is the highest in the world. The rate reached the worst level among young graduates to reach 69% among male graduates and 90% among female graduates. Poverty rate also increased to reach 54%, of which 36% are extremely poor. In addition, around 68% of the population is suffering from food insecurity

Deterioration of the Economic and Social Conditions

In 2018, the Palestinian political division contributed to deepening the serious deterioration of the economic and social levels. The deterioration of the economic and social situation in the Gaza Strip aggravated due to the total paralysis the different economic sectors and the recession imposed on the economy in the Gaza Strip. As a result, 470 facilities and factories were closed in the Gaza Strip and their workers stopped working. The political division deprived those living in the Gaza Strip of their right to manage the public affairs and to obtain government jobs that are annually announced to fill places of retired servants or in response to the developing demands in the fields of public and military service. As a way to face these serious challenges, the Ministry of Labor announced a temporary employment program for 10,000 workers and graduates at the end of the year and then the graduates, who are selected according to professional criteria set by the Ministry, will work for six months, while the workers will work for only three months. According to the Ministry of Labor, the number of applicants for the program was 305,000 unemployed, including 121,000 graduates and 184,000 workers, which show the great scale of unemployment in the labor market. The Ministry of Labor conducted an official screening in accordance with the criteria set by the Ministry which includes that the candidate does not have previous work opportunity. The criteria also require the candidates to have graduation and social status

certificates among other certificates. The Ministry announced that it had selected 5,000 candidates of those who applied electronically for the program and left the opportunity for candidates who did not register to upgrade their profiles to take advantage of the second stage of the program,, in which there will be opportunities for 5000 candidates. It should be noted that this program provides employment opportunities according to the needs of the ministries, institutions and local institutions with a monthly salary less than the minimum wage and the poverty line, in disregard for the right to a decent life.

Moreover, 2018 witnessed collection of fees and taxes with a higher value compared with last year. The taxes included taxes on the purchase of all goods such as construction materials, fuel, cars, food supplies, tobacco and other goods. At the same time, the ministries and governmental institutions, under the control of Hamas Movement continued to collect fees and taxes through the authorities in charge in the Gaza Strip. However, the Palestinian in the Gaza Strip did not realize any tangible or slight improvement regarding the level of services offered in the fields of health, education and social security. On the contrary, these services witnessed significant deterioration and serious setback, due to which the civilians had to bear an extra financial burden to obtain those services. Meanwhile, the markets of the Gaza Strip witnessed great increase in goods prices, especially

of meat and chicken, and people were no longer capable of buying due to unaffordable prices. Families receiving allocations and assistance under the social protection program have suffered from the interruption of payment to hundreds of these families benefiting from this program. Moreover, the social allocations' payment for around 76,000 families was delayed for six months. The financial deductions from the PA employees' salaries continued during the year and the number of employees whom the PA referred to retirement reached 13,000 military employees and 6,000 civil servants since the end of April 2017. The Gaza Strip is suffering a crisis of cash-flow which resulted in the deterioration of the living conditions for the families of the aforementioned employees and thousand of them are unable as a result to meet the basic needs of their family members in area of health care and higher education. Due to these policies, the markets of the Gaza Strip witnessed a huge unprecedented recession, and this has been reflected on the commercial movement that led to the closure of hundreds of shops and commercial companies. Moreover, the number of outstanding checks submitted to the Palestinian prosecution and courts amounted to more than 250,000 checks and demand drafts. However, Hamas movement continued to monthly pay only 40% of the salaries of its 35,000 employees.

The various measures taken by both parties to the political division seriously affected the economic and social conditions

of the population of Gaza, which already suffers from a near-total collapse. Those measures and administrative and financial policies led to deterioration of civilians' living conditions and aggravation of some negative phenomena on the Gaza Strip streets, significantly prevalence of beggary phenomenon among children and women and prevalence of child labor especially on the streets and along the Gaza Strip beaches in summer. The Gaza Strip population suffered an unprecedented state of impoverishment due to the huge increase in the costs of living conditions, including costs of basic services such as health, education, and access to water resources, including potable water, food and medicine. This collapse and deterioration in the economic and living conditions of the Gaza Strip population coincided with the ongoing comprehensive and illegal closure imposed by the Israeli authorities on the Gaza Strip for over 12 years, resulting in a state of total economic and social strangulation that hindered all attempts to improve the living conditions of the population and to respect their human dignity. The absence of National Unity Government remained the dominant feature of this year. The year of 2018 ended with an increasing state of frustration and despair among the Gaza Strip population, especially with the ongoing bickering on media between the two parties to the division and the failure of reconciliation efforts made by Egypt. The scene of tens of thousands of young men and women, especially university and college graduates, who are looking for jobs, constituted the real challenge

for the Gaza Strip society, which became extremely disappointed due to the procrastination of implementing the national reconciliation in addition to marginalizing and deliberately absenting the youth in managing public affairs and depriving them of job opportunities. This has exacerbated the loss of hope and prompted many of the Gaza Strip population to seriously think of immigration and search for their future outside the Gaza Strip.

The two parties of the political division returned to exchange accusations, which was the most prominent scene at the end of 2018. The consensual government continued to accuse Hamas movement of preventing the government from performing its duties in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, it accused Hamas of taking the Gaza Strip's revenues of fees and taxes, which made the government at the end of the year to prevent its staff from working at Rafah crossing, which was open for those returning to the Gaza Strip. Hamas also continued to accuse the government in Ramallah of avoiding performing its duties in the

Health Conditions in the Gaza Strip

The health conditions of the Gaza population, especially the patients, seriously deteriorated in 2018 due to the severe and continued lack of medicine and medical supplies for governmental health facilities in the Gaza Strip, putting thousands of the governmental health sector servants on retirement, and reducing the services of treatment abroad for the Gaza Strip patients. This resulted in profound and last-

Gaza Strip and depriving it from the basic expenses of education, health and social security fields and other services. Despite the gradual improvement that appeared in power services after Qatar provided the Gaza Strip with fuel during the last quarter of the year, which witnessed a remarkable improvement in power supply and paying Hamas movement's employees in the Gaza Strip. It should be mentioned that the power supply has gradually receded by the end of the year, which caused disastrous effects on the functioning of hospitals and governmental health facilities in particular. The Ministry of Health launched an appeal to intervene to provide about 300,000 liters of fuel per day to face the shortage of power supplies and to ensure the continued provision of all health services in the health facilities in the Gaza Strip. It should be noted that the two parties of the political division failed to mitigate the various crises in the Gaza Strip, especially the electric crisis. It should be mentioned that people in the Gaza Strip suffered from the electricity crises during the hot summer and the cold winter.

ing crisis due to the considerable lack of medicines, medications, and medical supplies throughout the year. This coincided with the financial crisis in the PA's budget, causing deterioration of the patients' health conditions, especially those with chronic diseases who suffered psychologically and materially, as most of them are not able to afford the cost of such medications and medicines. According to PCHR's

monitoring, hundreds of patients had to wait for months to get appointments for surgeries already decided by doctors in those hospitals. Moreover, the Ministry of Health in Gaza reduced many public health services, including surgeries in main hospitals in addition to decreasing the basic health services such as dental clinics, public and outpatient clinics.

The shortage of medicines aggravated again on 12 August 2018, which affected patients with cancerous tumors. On Sunday, 12 August 2018, the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza announced cessation of treatment for cancer patients in the Gaza Strip due to the delay of supplying the Gaza Strip's hospitals with chemotherapy. Due to this delay, cancer and leukemia patients in the Gaza Strip have been denied access health services as the shortage percentage of the treatment protocols reached around 75% of the needed types of medicines. Pharmaceuticals' in the Gaza Strip said that the supply of treatment protocol drugs to cancer patients has been irregular and fluctuating over the past year and a half. Moreover, the General Administration of Pharmacy said that 45 out of 60 types of therapeutic protocols drugs for cancer patients were consumed and missing in its warehouses in Gaza. It is worth to mention that Abd al-'Aziz al-Rantissi Hospital for Children, which includes a sector for the cancerous tumors treatment, was extremely affected due to this situation. As a result, Abd al-'Aziz al-Rantissi Hospital stopped providing cancer treatment services for patients in the hospital, especial-

ly lung cancer, lymphoma and colorectal cancer. The neupogen injections used to boost cancer patients' immune system are also not available in the Pharmaceuticals' warehouses, which the Ministry of Health in Ramallah had announced the supply of 100 injections only during the last two months, while the hospital needs around 1000 injections monthly. Due to all of that, the hospital stopped providing treatment for hundreds of patients. It should be noted that cancer patients have been affected by the continued shortage of medicines needed to treat them and the hospital had to reschedule their treatment for other months resulting in more health complications. Moreover, the Ministry of Health had to refer dozens of patients to receive treatment abroad, which increases financial and moral burdens and costs on the ministry and patients' families, who suffered more pain because of referring them to receive treatment in the West Bank or Egypt's hospitals.

The shortage of the fuel needed for governmental hospitals and health facilities' electricity supply, aggravated once again in the end of 2018. It should be noted that the Ministry of Health appealed to intervene to prevent the disastrous deterioration in health services, which aggravates and leads to reduce health services to the lowest level. Moreover, the Ministry usually resorts to the suspension of many operating rooms, in addition to the suspension of the use of medical equipment in many health facilities and operating them for hours only to deal with emergency medical conditions. It should be noted that the

Ministry of Health in Gaza announced its intention to close several health services in a number of hospitals in the Gaza Strip, which resulted in more pain and suffering for patients and puts their life at risk.

Salaries Crisis:

In 2018, the financial crisis of the former Gaza government servants' salaries remained without any solution. Meanwhile, Hamas Movement kept paying monthly advance payments, which cover only 40% of the servants' salaries, while the PA continued to refer many of its employees in the Gaza Strip to early retirement as the number of the employees referred to early retirement without any legal basis is 26000 employees from the civil and military sectors.

The civil and military servants of the PA in the Gaza Strip continued suffering the denial of their rights to allowances and promotions unlike the servants in the West Bank. The National Unity Government continued to implement its decision made since April 2017 concerning 30-50% deduction of salaries of the civil and

military servants, including those who are still on duty. It should be noted that the decision led to anger and indignation among the servants and their families as thousands of them were unable to cover their living needs, especially in education and health fields. Moreover, the banks continued to deduct financial installments, which resulted in catastrophic life conditions. The PA's policy, especially the salaries' deduction, led to more suffering and resulted in a serious situation at cash-flow's level in the Gaza Strip markets, causing difficulties at cash trading and buying levels in the Gaza Strip's markets. It is noteworthy that cash-flow's percentage in the Gaza Strip was reflected in fulfilling financial liabilities as dozens of checks and bills, including those of traders and servants, are pending in the Gaza Strip's courts,.

Electricity Crisis and Deterioration of Humanitarian Conditions in Gaza Strip

The year of 2018 ended with the exchange of accusations between the two parties to the division about who is responsible for the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip on the one hand, and their inability to reduce the severity of the crisis on the other hand. As the year before, this coincided with the very cold weather that hit that Gaza Strip at the beginning of the year and the very hot weather in summer. In addition, life conditions of the population and all vital daily services, including health facilities and environmental health (hygiene) services, including water supply facilities and sanitation services, deteriorated. Moreover, the main concern for the Gaza Strip population had become to search for other sources of alternative energy.

On 29 October 2018, the first shipment of Qatari fuel entered the Gaza Strip as a grant to reduce the electricity crisis and pay the salaries of Hamas Movement employees in the Gaza Strip. This grant resulted in a significant improvement regarding

the electricity crisis as it coincided with the very cold winter until mid-December. However, the electricity situation deteriorated after the end of the year.

PCHR held the two parties to the division responsible for the failure of finding a solution for the electricity crisis or at least mitigating it. PCHR stressed that the electricity crisis is political par excellence and called upon the parties administrating the electricity sector to find strategic solutions on the basis that each citizen has the right to enjoy basic services, including electricity. PCHR has repeatedly called upon the parties administrating the electricity sector not to involve citizens in the political spilt, and held the Palestinian Unity Government and the Energy Authority in Gaza responsible for the aggravating electricity crisis. PCHR believes that civilians, who pay their monthly bills, should not bear the failure of parties responsible for the current crisis.





PART (2):

PCHR Activities 2018



Introduction

PCHR continued its work to defend human rights in the oPt in light of the accelerating deterioration of human rights situation and international humanitarian law, which was reviewed in the first section of the report. PCHR's work focused on two main agendas: the Israeli violations and prosecution of Israeli war criminals, especially by engaging with the ICC and other International Mechanisms in addition to monitoring, documenting and revealing the Israeli crimes and arbitrary practices to civilians. All those efforts along with other efforts were exerted at the internal level to promote opportunities for democratic transformation and protection of human rights, which are subject to serious challenges in light of the Palestinian division.

PCHR developed a 5-year strategic action plan to cover the period 2015-2019 after profound discussions with its local and international partners, stakeholders from civil society organizations, political factions and target groups. The strategic plan is based on two main axes: the legal protection and advocacy. Moreover, the plan developed three priorities for PCHR's work; two relevant to the action programs and the third one relevant to enhancing PCHR's efficiency and efficacy.

PCHR continued its work within its expected plan. Despite the increasing burdens and financial deficit, PCHR continued to implement completely its strategic plan and managed to keep pace with the successive developments which require new financial and human resources to be followed, especially in regard with the Great March of Return and the violations against the Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip. In addition, PCHR constantly works on developing its administrative plan and contraction in addition to searching for new sources of fund-

ing to fill the budgetary deficit so that PCHR could continue its mission to protect human rights. Moreover, the financial deficit crisis has aggravated due to the lack of funding resulting from the Israeli campaign that aims at silencing the organizations working on the achievement of accountability and prosecution of the Israeli war criminals through launching systematic smear and defamation campaigns and practicing pressure on those in solidarity. PCHR hopes that the international community and donors will not respond to the Israeli pressures which aim at undermining the human rights work in



Destruction of Al-Amal Hotel Adjacent to PCHR's Old Head Office

the occupied territory.

In 2018, PCHR has relocated its office after security warnings to target a Security Site adjacent to PCHR's former office and so endangering the life of PCHR staff and beneficiaries. Thus, on 01 May 2018, PCHR moved its office and only months later the security site adjacent to the PCHR's former office was targeted with a number of missiles and totally destroyed. Moreover, the adjacent building severe great damages, including the building where PCHR's former office was. PCHR has chosen the new office in a way that meets PCHR's work needs and facilitate the beneficiaries' access, including persons with disabilities.

Strategic Priorities:

1. To challenge the climate of impunity for Israeli perpetrators of HR/IHL violations and to improve access to legal remedies for Palestinian victims.
2. To Support the democratic transformation, rule of law and human rights protection in the PA.
3. To strengthen PCHR capabilities to be

In 2018, PCHR succeeded for the first time to send a group of trainee lawyers in the Legal Unit to Europe within Bertha Foundation Fellowship, noting that PCHR failed to send the two other previous groups within the same fellowship due to the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip. The visit aimed at familiarizing the trainees with the means of international law in dealing with human rights violations and enabling them to have direct contact with relevant bodies and experts. Their visit included meetings with experts and visits to UN bodies such as UNHRC, OHCHR and ICC.

a robust and sustainable platform that can effectively and efficiently support the work we have set ourselves in a way that is integral to our values.

PCHR faces in its work many challenges directly related to the long-term Israeli occupation in addition to the Palestinian



Meeting of the BoD, November 2018



Meeting of PCHR's General Assembly, July 2018

internal situation, which is under the Palestinian authority that does not have real control on the ground and has suffered from an internal division for 12 years and in light of successive facts and crisis threatening the whole Palestinian National Project. Despite all challenges, PCHR is moving steadily towards promoting human rights in the Palestinian territory, which

is motivated by its deep belief in human rights and the justice of the Palestinian cause and the legitimacy of its demands for freedom and independence based on the international law. PCHR dedicates all its accumulated experience over twenty years and employs all available legal tools to achieve justice and preserve the dignity of the Palestinian Human Being.



Outcomes:

PCHR defined three outcomes aspiring to be achieved by the end of its new strategic plan 2015-2019. Every outcome is related to one of the strategic priorities. These outcomes are as follows:

1. PCHR challenged the climate of impunity for Israeli perpetrators of HR/IHL violations and to improve access to legal remedies for Palestinian victims.
2. PCHR supported the democratic transformation, rule of law and human rights protection in the PA.
3. PCHR improved its organizational and staff capacities.

The following section of the report presents in detail PCHR's efforts exerted throughout 2018 at the international and national levels and how PCHR effectively and efficiently employed law and advocacy in serving its strategic priorities and relevant outcomes. Moreover, the indicators will be shown in detail as well within a logical framework designed in light of the current strategy.

Outcome (1)

PCHR Challenged the Climate of Impunity for Israeli Perpetrators of HR/IHL Violations to Improve Access to Legal Remedies for Palestinian

In 2018, PCHR's efforts and interventions in cooperation with its national and international partners contributed to challenging the climate of impunity for Israeli perpetrators of human rights and international humanitarian law violations in the oPt and to improving access to legal remedies for Palestinian victims. PCHR's interventions included this year: legal aid provided to Palestinian victims of Israeli

HR/IHL violations through engagement in the Israeli justice mechanisms; access for Palestinian victims to international litigation mechanisms; and international and local advocacy efforts to influence the policies of national and international stakeholders urging them to take actions to face the Israeli violations against the human rights and the International humanitarian Law.

Indicators

PCHR and its partners achieved the following outcomes:

- » A new international commission of inquiry was formed upon a decision by the UNHRC on 17 May 2018, to investigate the crimes committed by Israeli forces in the oPt, including Occupied East Jerusalem, especially the crimes against the participants in the Great March of Return in the Gaza Strip which started in March 2018 and is so far ongoing until the moment of issuing this report.
- » Ongoing preliminary investigations by the ICC's Prosecutor into the Israeli crimes committed in the oPt since June 2014, which were initiated on 15 January 2015. PCHR and its partners filed 6 ICC submissions to the Prosecutor's office, including information on the most prominent Israeli violations in the oPt, including murdering civilians, settlement activity, closure, and appropriation of natural resources.
- » Three statements were published by the ICC's prosecutor confirming she follows up the violations in the oPt, including the Israeli violations against the demonstrators of the Great March of Return and the Israeli attempts to demolish Khan Al-Ahmar Bedouin Community and displace its residents for settlement purposes. The prosecutor also added that she would never hesitate to use her powers to open an investigation into the Israeli crimes.³¹
- » Four resolutions were issued during session (37) of UNHRC condemning the Israeli violations and crimes, stressing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to their resources, rejecting and condemning the Israeli settlement.
- » Seven resolutions were issued on 16 November 2018 by UN General Assembly, confirming the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, Rights of displaced Palestinian, the important role of, Palestinians' right to their property, their right to international protection and the illegitimacy of settlement, and condemning Israeli repressive practices.
- » Palestine filed a submission to the ICC, which included information on the Israeli violations in the oPt since June 2014 and called upon the prosecutor to open an investigation into these violations.
- » Many states condemned the excessive use of force against the Palestinian civilians and the policy of settlement activity and house demolitions.

31. International Criminal Court, Preliminary Investigations, Palestine <<https://www.icc-cpi.int/palestine>>

Outputs



1.1 Legal Aid Provided to Palestinian Victims of Israeli Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Violations through Engagement with the Israeli Judiciary

PCHR's Legal Aid Unit provided legal aid to victims of Israeli violations through legal interventions with the Israeli judiciary and competent authorities. The Legal aid included victims of murder, destruction, and property confiscation; Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli prisons; victims of Israeli violations in the Access Restricted Areas (ARA) in the Gaza Strip (farmers and fishermen); Palestinians deprived of their right to freedom of movement; Palestinians deprived of their right to health and denied access to medical facilities outside the Gaza Strip and Palestinians whose relatives' bodies are held by Israeli forces.

Indicators

- » Legal aid was provided to 3,791 persons in the Gaza Strip.
- » PCHR received 600 positive responses to its legal interventions.

1.1.1 Legal Aid Provided to Victims of Murder, Injury and Property Destruction and Confiscation

The Legal Aid Unit's activities included building legal files and filing complaints, appeals and cases before the Israeli courts. Building legal files requires special efforts from the Unit's lawyers: 1. Obtaining powers of attorney from victims to file a complaint on their behalf and a request to open a criminal investigation into the crime; 2. Visiting the crime scene to identify the circumstances and collect as much evidence as possible; 3. Obtaining affidavits from eyewitnesses; 4. Taking photos of the scene and drawing sketches in addition to identifying the location via Google Earth; 5. Collecting shrapnel from the crime scene to identify the weap-

on used and keep it in physical evidence bags with a serial number until the bags are delivered to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) in the Palestinian Ministry of Interior, as PCHR lawyers should be informed about the whole process; 6. Obtaining technical reports from the EOD explaining the weapon used in the crime; 7. Obtaining documents and identification papers related to the nature of the crime (including medical reports and death certificates to identify the number of killed and wounded persons); and 8. Obtaining documents or statements issued by the Israeli authorities or others related to the crime.

After building the legal files, the Unit worked in two directions: first, filing complaints to request the Israeli MAG to conduct a criminal investigation; second, sending written notifications to the compensation officer at the Israeli Ministry of Defense. Those complaints and notifications were followed up by sending reminders to the competent authorities. Appeals were also filed before the Israeli Public Prosecution and the Legal Advisor to the Israeli government on the negative responses received from the Military Prosecution concerning many complaints. Criminal investigations were demanded to be opened and the reasons behind closing investigation files should be clarified by the Military Prosecution. The Unit also followed up a number of cases, where investigation was opened by the Israeli Military Police. All of the aforementioned cases were related to the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in summer 2014. Moreover, the Unit provided more information upon interventions with the military police and coordinated for a number of eyewitnesses accompanying a PCHR lawyer to be interviewed by the Military Police interrogators. The Unit also provided legal consultations to the victims and their families.

2018 witnessed Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians, who practiced their right to peacefully assemble along the border fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip within the Great March of Return activities, which started on 30 March 2018 and is still ongoing until the moment of issuing this report.



PCHR's lawyer Accompanying Members of al-Najjar Family to Testify in the Killing of Rohiyah al-Najjar in Beersheba Court

Indicators

- » 647 persons were provided with legal aid.

1.1.1.1 Building Legal Files

Indicators

- » The number of legal files prepared during the reporting period was 15 on behalf of 19 victims (7 deaths, 11 injuries and one house destruction).
- » The number of prepared legal files concerning the violations of the Great March of Return was 151 on behalf of 151 victims.
- » The number of legal files followed by the legal unit concerning the Israeli offensive in 2014 on the Gaza Strip was 247 on behalf of 1080 victims.

1.1.1.2 Filing Complaints Demanding Criminal Investigations

Indicators

- » 166 complaints were filed before the

MAG, including 151 complaints concerning victims of the Great March of Return.

- » The Unit received 36 responses from the MAG. Thirty-one of them were negative and five are still under follow-up.
- » The Unit received 82 responses under follow-up concerning the Great March of Return. It was noted that the responses reveal the Israeli intention to deny the Palestinian victims' access to justice through asking questions that are difficult to answer.
- » The number of complaints files before the MAG concerning the Israeli offensive in 2014 on the Gaza Strip was 247 complaints.
- » The Unit received 50 responses concerning the Israeli offensive in 2014 on the Gaza strip. Two of them informed the receipt of 247 complaints and referring them to the competent bodies. Sixteen informed that no investigation would be opened into the incident. Eleven informed that the investigation was closed. Three informed that the file was closed for not finding the incident. Ten demanded more evidence to uphold PCHR's complaints and refer them to the military police. Eight informed the opening of investigation into the incident.
- » The Unit still follows up 61 cases before the Israeli Military Police.
- » The number of cases discussed with the Inquiry Commission of the Israeli General Staff "Experts Committee" was 112, which include 125 procedures and relevant to the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip.

- » Four letters were sent to the Israeli Military Prosecution for Operational Affairs to review the investigation materials, under which the investigation into the 2014 offensive cases was closed.
- » The number of files followed up before the military police was 2 other than the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- » A commission of inquiry belonging to the General Staff of Israeli Forces to investigate the Great March of Return incidents was formed:
- » According to all our complaints sent to the MAG and copies of them sent to the Israeli Military Prosecutor for Operational Affairs - Southern Command, PCHR received the abovementioned responses. Upon their request to provide the necessary evidence to prove our allegations in the sent complaints and send them once prepared in order to review and refer them to the General Staff Mechanism for Fact-Finding Assessments (the 'FFA Mechanism,) PCHR responded that it is fully prepared to provide the commission (FFA Mechanism) with the necessary evidence to prove our allegations mentioned in our complaints. Thus, a meeting shall be scheduled with the FFA Mechanism in Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing.
- » On 02 October 2018, a meeting was held between the Legal Unit's lawyers, Head of COGAT and Head of Coordination and Liaison Administration for Gaza in Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing, and other meetings followed to deliver PCHR's evidence and allegations in 82 legal files.
- »

1.1.1.3 Sending Notifications to the Compensation Officer at the Israeli Ministry of Defense

Indicators

- » 1170 written notifications were filed on behalf of each victim of the Great March of Return before the compensation officer at the Israeli Ministry of Defense.
- » The total number of notifications filed by the Unit relevant to the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip was 1,080 on behalf of the victims (497 notifications related to killings; 442 notifications related to injuries and 141 notifications related to property damage).
- » The Unit received one response from the Legal Advisor to the Security Service- Compensation Office at the Ministry of Defense confirming receipt of 101 written notifications concerning the victims of the Great March of Return.

1.1.1.4 Filing Compensation Cases before Israeli Courts

- » The number of compensation cases followed up by the Unit before the Israeli courts on behalf of the victims was 20 cases, including three cases of the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- » The number of dismissed cases was 3.
- » It is expected to dismiss all cases filed before the Israeli cases according to the Beersheba District Court's decision issued on 04 November 2018, which dismissed a compensation case submitted

against the Israeli forces as they directly opened fire at 'Ateia Fathi al-Nabahin (15) in 2014 claiming that he affiliates with a "hostile entity". The merits of the court's judgment provide that According to Article 5/B-1 of Amendment No. 8 of Israel's 1952 Civil Wrongs Law (Liability of the State), which declared the Gaza Strip as a "hostile entity", the Gaza Strip's residents have no right to compensation. Moreover, the court ruled that 'Ateia affiliates with a "hostile entity" so that Israel is not responsible for the damage he sustained.

- » The number of cases, where witnesses headed to the Beersheba's court, was 2 as 6 witnesses testified.

1.1.1.5 Appealing Decisions to Close Criminal Investigations

Indicators

- » The number of appeals filed before the Attorney General concerning closing files related to Operation Pillar of Defense was 12.
- » The number of appeals filed before the Attorney General concerning closing files related to Operation Protective Edge was 29.

1.1.1.5 Providing Legal Consultations to Victims and their Families

- » The number of consultations provided by the legal aid unit to victims and their families was 350.

Success Stories

The Unit's lawyers managed to return money confiscated by the Israeli forces from a Palestinian civilian at the Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing.

On 15 May 2018, the Legal Unit's lawyers succeeded to return NIS 3400 confiscated by the Israeli forces from a Palestinian civilian returning from the West Bank through Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing. On 14 May 2018, 'A. K. said to PCHR's lawyer that on 15 March 2018 when he arrived at Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing returning

from the West Bank, the Israeli forces took him and searched him and his belongings in addition to confiscating the money he had. PCHR's lawyers immediately sent a complaint to the competent authorities at Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing. As a result, on 15 May 2018, the confiscated money was returned.

1.1.2 Providing Legal Aid to Prisoners in the Israeli Jails

The Legal Unit provided various services to the Palestinians prisoners from the Gaza Strip in the Israeli jails. The services included receiving complaints from the prisoners' families and providing legal representation to defend them; determining the legal status and places of detention of detainees and informing their families; conducting visits to the prisoners and identifying their detention conditions to make sure they were not subject to torture or maltreatment; following up the sick prisoners' health conditions and coordinating with the Israeli associations to allow doctors to visit them; legal intervention with the competent authorities (the prison service, legal advisor to the government and Public Prosecution) to release them or transfer them to places adequate enough to receive medical treatment; legal intervention to release prisoners and providing legal consultations to the prisoners' families.

Indicators

- » Legal aid was provided to 230 prisoners from the Gaza Strip in the Israeli jails.

1.1.2.1 Representing and Following up Prisoners Newly Arrested and legally Intervening to Release them

Indicators

- » The unit provided 41 Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails with legal aid by assigning PCHR's lawyer to identify their detention places and legal status through representing them before the Israeli courts.
- » 14 prisoners were released after the Unit's intervention.
- » 4 complaints concerning confiscation of money and personal belongings of former prisoners were filed.

1.1.2.2 Visits to Prisons and Checking Detention Conditions

Indicators

- » 3 complaints concerning allowing prisoners' families to visit their sons in their detention places.
- » The number of visits conducted by PCHR's assigned lawyer to prisoners was 3 to identify the prisoners' detention conditions and their health and legal status to verify if they were tortured or maltreated.

1.1.2.3 Filing Complaints to the Competent Authorities relevant to Detention Conditions and Sick Prisoners

1.1.3 Legal Aid Provided to Palestinians in the Access Restricted Areas (ARA)

The Legal Unit provided legal aid to Palestinian victims of Israeli violations in the ARA, including the lands adjacent to the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel and fishing areas along the Gaza Strip coast. The legal aid provided during this year included filing and following up complaints to the Legal Advisor to the Israeli Navy regarding the attacks by Israeli navy forces against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip Sea, including shooting incidents, confiscation of boats and equipment and arrest of a number of fishermen.

Indicators

- » The number of persons who received legal aid was 43.

1.1.3.1 Filing Complaints

Indicators

- » The number of filed complaints concerning the attacks on the Palestinian fishermen was 5 complaints relevant to the injury of six fishermen.

Indicators

- » The Unit followed up 28 complaints to the competent authorities relevant to the detention conditions of sick prisoners in the Israeli jails from the previous years.

1.1.2.4 Providing Legal Consultations to Families of Prisoners

Indicators

- » The Unit offered 154 legal consultations to the prisoners' families.

- » The number of previous complaints under follow-up was 11 (5 confiscation, 1 destruction, 2 deaths, and 4 injuries)
- » The number of complaints filed on behalf of farmers was two complaints concerning killing a farmer, in addition to follow-up four previous complaints.
- » The Unit received one negative response from the Compensation office and five negative responses from the Military Prosecution.
- » The number of complaints followed up before the Judiciary was 3 (one fisherman's death, one petition before the Supreme Court to release a fisherman's body and a big fishing boats).

1.1.3.2 Providing Legal Consultations to ARA Victims

Indicators

- » The unit provided 25 legal consultations to the victims.
- » One decision by the Israeli Supreme Court to release the body of a fisherman, Isma'il Abu Riyalah, and return a big fishing boat.

Success Story

Returning the body of a fisherman, Isma'il Abu Riala

PCHR's efforts succeeded to get a decision from the Israeli Supreme Court to return the body of Abu Riala, who was killed on 25 February 2018 after the Israeli naval soldiers opened fire at him while fishing in the Gaza Sea. The decision was issued although the family of the soldier, Hadar Goldin who was captured by the Palestinian armed groups in the Gaza Strip, submitted a request to the Supreme Court not to hand the fisherman's body to his family.

Since the first moment of announcing the killing of Abu Riala, PCHR's lawyers as the legal representative of Isma'il's family contacted the Israeli competent authorities to guarantee the return of his body. The lawyers contacted the Israeli Liaison and Israeli Prosecution to ask about Isma'il's fate and received a response that he died.

On 26 February 2018, PCHR contacted the Israeli Liaison to return Abu Riala's body, but the Israeli Liaison responded that it did not receive any decision concerning the release of the body. In light of that, on

27 February 2018, PCHR sent a letter to the General Israeli Prosecution to release Abu Riala's body and hand it to his family to bury him in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, on 06 March 2018, PCHR received a response from the Israeli prosecution saying that Israel intends to return Abu Riala's body to bury him in the Gaza Strip after 72 hours of publishing this announcement as long as there was no other decision issued by the Supreme Court.

In an unjustifiable move, on 08 March 2018, the Supreme Court issued a temporary judgment not to return Abu Riala's body to his family in Gaza. The court said that the judgment was issued after the family of the soldier, Hadar Goldin, detained by the Palestinian armed groups in the Gaza Strip, submitted a request not to hand the fisherman's body to his family. On 13 March 2018, PCHR's efforts succeeded upon a decision by the Israeli Supreme Court, which abolished the judgment, to return Abu Riala's body. On 15 March 2018, Abu Riala's body was buried in Gaza.



PCHR's lawyers Receiving A Fishing Boat belonging to Abu Sadeq after Being Confiscated by the Israeli forces

1.1.4 Legal Aid Provided to Allow Palestinians to Practice their Right to Movement

The Legal Unit legally intervened to help Palestinians to travel via Israel after exhausting all mechanisms to coordinate between Israel and the PA. The unit's lawyers filed complaints and other interventions to the Israeli Humanitarian Center at Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing only for humanitarian cases, including patients traveling for advanced treatment abroad, in the West Bank or Israel, university students studying abroad, family reunification, and other similar purposes.

Indicators

- » The number of civilians who received legal aid was 2853; 538 of whom managed to travel.

1.1.4.1 Filing Complaints

Indicators

- » The Legal Unit filed 1391 complaints to the Israeli Humanitarian Center at Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing in addition to sending dozens of reminding letters and following up previous complaints.
- » The Unit received positive responses to 538 complaints, so the complainants managed to travel, while 370 complaints were rejected and 664 483 are so far under follow-up.
- » The number of challenges filed to the Israeli Prosecution is 90; 62 positive, 26 negative and 2 under follow-up.

Complaint	Number of Complaints	Follow-up results		
		Positive	Negative	Pending
Denying patients access to Israel for treatment	232	122	34	76
Denying patients access to the West Bank for treatment	296	111	83	102
Denying patients access to Jerusalem for treatment	582	188	171	223
Preventing patients from traveling abroad for treatment	42	12	8	18
Preventing patients' companions from traveling to the West Bank or Israel for treatment	39	13	8	18
Preventing businessmen from traveling to Israel and the West Bank for business purposes	12	2	8	2
Denying civilians access to the West Bank and Israel to visit or reunite with their families	26	3	8	15
Preventing Jerusalemite ID card holders from entering Gaza, extending their residency or obtaining a permit to Gaza	10	9	1	-
Preventing civilians from going to the West Bank to attend meetings or having interviews in embassies	49	10	29	10
Preventing civilians from going to the West Bank and Jerusalem for religious purposes	1	-	1	-
Preventing civilians from traveling abroad for other purposes	102	55	19	28
Total	1391	538	370	483

1.1.4.2 Providing Legal Consultations

Indicators

- » The number of legal consultations provided by the legal aid unit regarding the freedom of movement was 1462.

Success Stories

1.a cancer patient was offered help to travel to receive treatment despite the Israeli procrastination

In sad words and a pale face, the patient, A. H, asked for help from PCHR's lawyer to travel for treatment as he suffers an acoustic neuroma and needs a surgery. A. H said that he submitted several requests to the Palestinian coordination and liaison in Gaza to allow him to travel for treatment in Ramallah Hospital but each time the response was that A. H is still under security check. In November 2017, PCHR immediately contacted the COGAT in "Erez" Crossing to allow A. H to travel regarding his serious health condition and the response was that A. H is still under security check. Due to the patient's serious condition, many letters were sent to COGAT but in vain.

On 12 January 2018, an appeal was submitted to the Israeli Prosecution to allow him to travel for treatment. On 04 February 2018, PCHR received a response saying that A. H is allowed to travel on 12 February 2018. Thus, PCHR's efforts succeeded and the patient was able to travel for treatment.

2. A mother Provided aid and was able to accompany her sick child

In a sad voice, a mother talked about the pain of her 7-year-old daughter, A. Gh, who suffers high blood pressure, kidney problems and sudden kidney failure. Doctors in Gaza decided to refer her to the Israeli Hospitals due to her serious condition.

A. Gh's serious condition did not intercede for her mother to accompany her during her medical treatment as the Israeli forces rejected A. Gh's mother as a companion for her daughter, noting that A. Gh. is the only girl for her mother and has no one to accompany her but her mother as her grandmother is dead.

On 05 February 2018, PCHR's lawyers filed an appeal to the Israeli prosecution to allow the mother to travel as a companion to her daughter and after several attempts, PCHR's lawyers succeeded to have an acceptance allowing the mother to travel with her sick daughter. On 15 May 2018, the mother traveled with her daughter and PCHR followed up the problems that the mother faced every time she wants to accompany her daughter and the last time was on 10 December 2018.

3. Helping a cancer patient to travel for treatment in Jerusalem

As one of the Acute Leukemia patients, M. F. had faced problems in traveling for treat-

ment in Makassed Hospital in Jerusalem to receive chemotherapy. His serious condition was not enough to give him a permit to travel for treatment.

M. F. was advised to resort to PCHR in order to help him to travel for treatment. Thus, he went to one of PCHR's lawyers, feeling hopeless due to being repeatedly denied by the Israeli forces. On 12 August 2018, PCHR Legal Unit's lawyers immediately started to take action and submitted an urgent complaint to the COGAT, but PCHR was surprised with a response received after less than 24 hours informing that the request of M. F. is denied because he has relatives, who are affiliate with Hamas Movement. On 30 August 2018, an appeal was submitted concerning preventing M. F. from traveling for treatment. On 30 September 2018, after great efforts, PCHR's lawyers succeeded to obtain him a permit via the Israeli Prosecution allowing M. F. to travel for treatment and his wife was allowed to accompany him.

1.1.5 Legal Aid Provided to Return Dead Bodies under the Israeli Custody

The Legal Unit provided legal aid to families of persons killed and kept in custody by Israeli forces. The Unit followed up a number of complaints against Israeli forces refusing to return the bodies to their families in a blatant violation of the customary law. In light of Israeli authorities' insistence and delay in responding to complaints already filed by the unit, an appeal was filed to the Israeli Petitions Department at the Israeli Military Prosecution.

Indicators

- » The number of persons, who received legal aid, was 18.

1.1.5.1 Filing Complaints

- » Two appeals were submitted to the Petition Department of the Israeli Military Prosecution and one appeal was followed relevant to the detention of 16 bodies.

1.2 Helping Palestinian victims to access international litigation mechanisms through the International Criminal Court and International Jurisdiction

Throughout 2018, PCHR continued to take the lead in using all instruments of law to combat immunity and impunity, prosecute the perpetrators of international crimes, bring them to justice, and help Palestinian victims in accessing international litigation mechanisms. PCHR works in complementary manner on both: the ICC and International Jurisdiction. This was preceded by exhaustion of domestic jurisdiction before Israel's Judiciary as the latter is the occupying power which is obliged under international law to investigate suspicions of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, bring its perpetrators to justice and adequately redress victims. This strategic work has been leaded for 15 years by PCHR's Director along with the Director of the Legal Aid Unit and its staff by building legal files and using the domestic jurisdiction and all available legal tools in the Israeli judicial system and then identifying and preparing the most significant files to presented at the international judiciary in cooperation with strategic partners.

The accession of Palestine in April 2015 to the ICC constituted a crucial turning point in the legal struggle to prosecute Israeli war criminals before international courts and combat impunity enjoyed by Israel under a political cover of its ally, the US, which has failed any attempts to reach the ICC through the Security Council as it happened in many international crimes examined by the Court. This was preceded by the efforts of PCHR and its partners over the past years to urge the ICC Prosecutor to initiate an investigation into the situation in the oPt. In light of this important opportunity, PCHR has employed all its legal capacities and international networks and played a leading role within its work with the ICC. In 2018, PCHR's interventions included: Building legal files for the international judiciary; holding meetings with experts and coordinating with partners to the cases that will be presented before the international judiciary; Contacting with the ICC Prosecutor's Office; providing legal information and submissions for the international litigation mechanisms; Enabling victims and witnesses to appear before international litigation mechanisms; and following up cases before national courts in accordance with international jurisdiction.

Indicators

- » Following up 6 legal submissions filed by the partner organizations (PCHR, al-Haq, al-Mizan Center for Human Rights) before the ICC Prosecutor.
- » Following up the prosecution of Defense Minister of Israel, Shaul Mofaz, before the British Judiciary on 22 June 2015.
- » PCHR and its partners received strict confirmations from the ICC Prosecutor that she is determined to work professionally and independently and take decisive steps towards investigating the Israeli war crimes committed against Palestinian civilians.

1.2.1. Building Legal files for International Litigation

The Legal Unit selected specific legal files for the international litigation. The Unit exhausted all domestic litigation means before the Israeli judiciary, investigations were closed, and perpetrators were not brought to justice in addition to not providing the proper judicial remedy for victims. Thus, the Unit selected a number of files relevant to the Israeli war crimes

committed against Palestinian victims and built those files according to the intentional litigation standards.

Indicators

- » The number of legal cases built was 40; all of which were relevant to the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip.

1.2.2 Organizing Expert Meetings and Coordinating with Partners to Identify Cases and Actions for International Litigation

In 2018, PCHR contacted many international experts in complete coordination with the local and international partners concerning the work of Palestinian partner organizations (organizations (PCHR, al-Haq Organization, al-Mizan Center for Human Rights) to choose and agree on the cases to be submitted to the ICC.

Expert meeting in London

On 17 November 2018, PCHR held a meeting in London with a number of experts who previously participated in the expert

meetings in Malaga in Spain. The meeting discussed the latest developments concerning the ICC, the submissions filed by the partner organizations to the ICC Prosecutor and the correspondences with her through 2018. Moreover, it was agreed to have a meeting in Malaga in 2019.

It should be noted that PCHR previously organized four meetings in Malaga in Spain, with the participation of Palestinian and international human rights organizations and Law experts in 2006, 2010, 2013, and 2016.



An Educational Tour to Europe for Bertha Justice Fellowship Lawyers

1.2.3 Contacting the Office of the General Prosecutor of the ICC and other International Litigation Mechanisms

During this year, many correspondences and meetings were held with the ICC and HRC Commission of Inquiry to investigate all violations committed in the oPt. The most prominent files were the settlement, the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and targeting civilians.

The most prominent meetings:

- On 08 June 2018, PCHR's Director, Raji al-Sourani, his Deputy of Programs Affairs, Hamdi Shaqoura and the International Advocacy officer in al-Haq Organization, Nada Kiswanson, held a meeting with the ICC Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, in her office in the Netherlands. Al-Sourani gave a detailed presentation about the Great March of Return, whose activities started along the border fence with Israel, east of the Gaza Strip, the full peaceful character of those activities, and the excessive use of disproportionate force by the Israeli forces against civilians. Fatou Bensouda reviewed the latest devel-

opments concerning the preliminary investigation into the situation of Palestine and unequivocally confirmed that she is going to end the investigation and file the case before the end of 2018. After that meeting, Sourani met with the Palestinian Ambassador in Netherlands, Rawan Sliman.

- On 02 November 2018, PCHR's Director, Raji Sourani, met the members of the HRC Commission of Inquiry formed to investigate crimes committed in the oPt, in the Palace of Nations (the home of United Nations office at Geneva).
- On 15 November 2018, PCHR's Director, Raji Sourani, held another meeting in Geneva with the members of HRC Commission of Inquiry.

Indicators

- » The number of Meetings held by PCHR and its partners with the ICC prosecutor was 3.

1.2.4 Submitting Information and Legal Submissions to International Litigation Mechanisms (ICC, UN Inquiry Commissions, Treaty Bodies)

During this year, PCHR's efforts concentrated on the work with the ICC and UN Inquiry Commission to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the oPt, including East Jerusalem, since 13 June 2014.

The ICC

On 26 October 2018, the partner organizations (Al-Haq, PCHR and al-Mizan) filed a 500-pages submission to the ICC Public Prosecutor concerning the alleged crimes committed by Israelis, especially Israeli high-ranking officials, and members of companies that extract and destroy Palestinian natural resources. The sub-

mission has provided a reasonable basis to believe that Israelis and private stakeholders have committed the war crimes of extensive destruction and appropriation of property, pillage, and destruction and seizure of property. The confidential communication provides factual information and legal analysis on the exploitation and destruction of Palestinian water, agricultural land, minerals, mud, stone, and oil. Israel, along with and through Israeli and international non-state actors, including corporations, have unlawfully extracted Palestinian natural resources in the OPT, without the lawful consent of the occupied population therein, and solely for the benefit of the Israeli economy and population, including illegal Israeli settlements. Israel has also permitted and encouraged private actors to exploit Palestinian natural resources. Such private actors include business enterprises in agricultural and industrial settlements, as well as Israeli and multinational corporations.

This is the sixth submission filed by the partner organizations to the ICC Prosecutor as it completes the file submitted to the ICC Prosecutor in September 2017 concerning a number of matters such as the transfer of Israeli settlers to the oPt, the seizure of Palestinian lands and the forcible transfer of the protected Palestinian civilians.

The International Commission of Inquiry

On 18 May 2018, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution (S-28/1) in which it decided to urgently dispatch an independent, international commission of inquiry to investigate all alleged violations and abuses of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in oPt, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip, in the context of the military assaults on the large-scale civilian protests of the Great March of Return and Breaking the Siege. PCHR was effectively involved with the Commission of Inquiry either through meetings with the investigative team or through the materials and documents submitted by PCHR to the commission, including legal files and reports.

Indicators

- » A new legal submission was filed to the ICC concerning the Israeli violations relevant to the pillage of the Palestinian natural resources.
- » Five prior submissions filed to the ICC were followed up.
- » Two meetings were held with with the Commission of Inquiry of the Israeli crimes in the oPt.
- » The Legal Unit's lawyers testified before the Commission of Inquiry through 8 meetings, including 7 via Skype and one was in Geneva, as the Legal Unit's lawyers and trainees met with the commission and presented and discussed a series of Israeli violations against the civilian participants.

1.2.5 Filing Cases before National Courts with Universal Jurisdiction

PCHR continued to follow up cases filed against Israeli war criminals before the International Courts in UK, Netherlands, Spain, and Belgium. The arrest warrant issued on 10 September 2005 by London Magistrates' court's President, Timothy Workman, against the retired Major General, Doron Almog, is still in force. PCHR continues to pursue its appeal submitted on 22 June 2015, to Alison Saunders, Director of Public Prosecution, and Jeremy Wright "QC", the British Attorney General, to urgently coordinate to ensure immediate decisions on the arrest of Shaul Mofaz before the court in England and Wales for war crimes contrary to the 1957 Geneva Convention, before Mofaz left the United Kingdom.

Indicators

- » For political reasons, those efforts failed to lead to the arrest of any of those sus-

pected of committing war crimes.

- » The Israeli authorities continued to impose resections on the movement of Israeli officials suspected of committing war crimes for fear of judicial prosecution.
- » On 23 January 2017, Tzipi Livni, former Foreign Minister of Israel during the 2008-2009 offensives on the Gaza Strip, cancelled her scheduled visit to Brussels in Belgium after the Attorney General's announcement that Tzipi would be arrested for investigations into war crimes committed in the Gaza Strip during the 2008-2009 offensive. The Palestinian-Belgian Friendship Association filed a lawsuit before the Belgian Judiciary against Tzipi Livni for her responsibility for war crimes committed during the Operation Cast Lead as called by Israel.

1.3 PCHR raised awareness and built Palestinian capacities in international humanitarian law and international litigation mechanisms

PCHR continued to build the Palestinian capacities in the field of international law and the international litigation mechanisms. The Legal Unit at PCHR has implemented the Bertha Justice Fellowship, which is about training new law graduates in the field of international law and working to build their capacities and arm them with the tools of international humanitarian and criminal law. During 2018, Bertha Justice Fellowship trainees managed to travel to Europe within an educational exchange tour that included three countries; Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany. The Training Unit also participated in awareness sessions on international humanitarian law and the ICC.

1.3.1 Training new lawyers in the field of international law (Bertha Justice Fellowship)

The Legal Aid Unit has trained six new lawyers within the Bertha Training Project in the field of international law. The six trainees and staff of the unit managed to travel within a European tour that included Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland. They met with international law experts and special rapporteurs, and visited legal bodies such as the ICC, the United Nations Headquarters and others.

Indicators

- » The number of the trainee lawyers was 6, including four female lawyers.
- » The number of lectures that the lawyers received was two about how to build le-

- gal files, legal writing and use of force under international humanitarian law.
- » The training lawyers participated in two training courses on the measures of the Special Procedures of the UN “The Special Rapporteur for the Freedom of Expression” organized by the OHCHR in Gaza.
- » The training took a Professional Hebrew language Diploma.
- » The number of legal meetings was three about the science of fingerprinting, Criminal Investigation Manuals and detection of criminal evidence.
- » The trainee lawyers participated in an Educational tour for ten days to three European countries (The Hague, Geneva and Berlin).

1.3.2 Conducting awareness sessions on international humanitarian law and the ICC

The Training Unit, in cooperation with the Legal Unit, has conducted a number of awareness sessions on international humanitarian law and the ICC, targeting activists from civil society organizations, youth initiatives, students, university professors and politicians. The sessions



Practical Training for Bertha Justice Fellowship Lawyers On How to Document the Killing of A Resident in the Border Area

discussed basic concepts about the ICC, international humanitarian law, mechanisms for monitoring and documenting violations, mechanisms for monitoring and documenting violations, building legal files and following them up before the judiciary. These sessions were held in coordination with civil society organizations and youth groups in addition to the participation of the Unit's lawyers in external workshops and their participation

in the exchange of experiences program, especially with the European Center for Constitutional Rights and Human Rights in Berlin.

Indicators

- » The number of sessions' participants was 259.
- » The number of the sessions was 17.

1.4 PCHR Monitored and Documented Israeli Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law in the oPt

PCHR's Fieldwork Unit monitored and documented the Israeli violations in the oPt through its experienced team of fieldworkers spread throughout the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem. This year witnessed escalation by Israeli forces at all levels as they used armed force in pursuing civilians in the West Bank and Jerusalem and killing them under false pretexts. Moreover, the construction of the annexation wall and settlement work continued through seizing more lands and demolishing civil property. For the tenth year in a row, Israeli authorities continued to impose an unjust closure on the Gaza Strip, which aggravated civilians' conditions and affected their economic, social and cultural rights.

Indicators

- » The number of the documented violations was 14,691.
- » The fieldworkers made 3784 field visits in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
- » The fieldworkers conducted 950 interviews.
- » The number of affidavits collected by the fieldworkers was 348.
- » The number of forms that the fieldworkers filled was 10,726.
- » The number of captured photos was 802.
- » The number of the collected documents was 214.
- » The number of field reports was 3881.
- » The number of data entries in the database is 10,726.
- » The number of documents electronically archived was 4443.



PCHR's Fieldworkers Documenting Human Rights Violations along the Borders, east of Rafah City

1.5 PCHR Exposed Israeli Violations

PCHR used different forms of publication to make the international stakeholders aware of the Israeli violations in the oPt. PCHR published press releases, weekly reports, an annual report, thematic reports and factsheets. PCHR widely distributed these publications either in hard or electronic copies in addition to publishing them on its official website. PCHR further used Social Media to launch campaigns or disseminate information and strengthened communications with media by holding press conferences and making interviews with different media agencies.

1.5.1 Issuing press releases

PCHR issued press releases concerning serious violations against the international humanitarian law and the international human rights law committed by Israeli forces. PCHR aimed at exposing these crimes to the international and local public opinion, to hold responsible and to make recommendations to the international community to effectively intervene to protect Palestinian civilians and

achieve justice. PCHR issued a number of press releases about Israeli violations, including murder, field killings, and administrative detention and forced feeding, settler attacks, and other data.

Indicators

» PCHR published 102 press releases on Israeli violations.

1.5.2 Issuing weekly reports

The Fieldwork Unit published weekly reports on the Israeli violations in the oPt. This report is considered the main and most comprehensive document that is continuously and systematically issued on

the Israeli violations, and is an essential source of information on these violations.

Indicators

» 51 weekly reports were issued.

1.5.3 Issuing Annual Report on Human Rights Situation - Israeli violations

PCHR's annual report is the most important document published on the human rights situation and international humanitarian law in the oPt. PCHR has been publishing this report since 1997 as it includes

a comprehensive documentation of the human rights and international humanitarian law violations throughout the year. There is a full section addressing the Israeli violations, including recommendations

to the international stakeholders. PCHR's Democratic Development Unit (DDU) prepares this report in cooperation with the other units. During the reporting period, PCHR issued its 22^{ed} report covering the

period of 01 January to 31 December 2018.

Indicators

- » On 04 April 2018, the report was widely issued both locally and internationally.

1.5.4 Issuing reports on the impact of Israeli violations on economic, social and cultural rights

The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit issued reports shedding light on the impact of Israeli violations on Palestinian economic, social and cultural rights in the oPt.

- On 24 May 2018, the unit issued a report entitled "Palestinian Medical Personnel under Fire" concerning the Israeli forces' attacks against the medical personnel while on duty in the Great March of Return from 30 March 2018 to 22 May 2018.
- <https://pchrgaza.org/en/?p=10973>
- On 26 September 2018, the unit issued a report entitled "Banned from Treatment" concerning the Israeli authorities policies of banning patients from the Gaza Strip from traveling for treatment through Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing claiming that the treatment they need is provided in the Gaza Strip's hospitals.
- On 05 December 2018, the unit issued a report entitled "Reality of Persons with

Disabilities" concerning the reality of rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Gaza Strip. It also reviews the implementation of Palestinian Law of Persons with Disabilities by measuring the extent to which governmental bodies are committed to apply the law's provisions to meet the rights of persons with disabilities.

- On 23 December 2018, the unit issued a report entitled "Four Years, Homeless" concerning delaying the reconstruction of destroyed housing units during the 2014 offensive and reviewing the progress in the reconstruction. The reports also sheds light on the suffering of hundreds of families comprised of thousands of persons, who are still homeless due to the failure of initiating or not completing the reconstruction of their destroyed homes.

Indicators

- » The number of reports on the Israeli violations of the economic, social and cultural rights was 4.

1.5.5 Issuing Monthly Updates on the State of the Border Crossings

The Economic Rights Unit continued to issue a monthly update on the state of border crossings of the Gaza Strip. The update documents the freedom of movement at the border crossings and the latest devel-

opment on the movement of persons and commodities from and to the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

- » 12 updates were issued.

1.5.6 Issuing Reports on Israeli Violations against Media

On 02 May, DDU issued a new report on the Israeli attacks against media in the oPt. The report titled, "Silencing the Press", which is the nineteenth in the series, covered the pe-

riod between 01 April 2017 and 31 March 2018.

Indicators

- » One report was issued.

1.5.7 Issuing Factsheets on the Israeli Violations in the ARA

PCHR periodically issues these factsheets, which include focused information and updates on the Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians and their property in the ARA either along the border fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip (the land

Buffer Zone and its surroundings) or along the Gaza Strip Coast.

Indicators

- » 12 factsheets on Israeli attacks in ARA were issued.

1.5.8 Providing Easy Access to Information for Stakeholders through PCHR's Website

PCHR uses the Communication Technology as an important tool for disseminating information on the human rights situation in the oPt, as it plays an important role in facilitating the communication between peoples and nations. Since establishing its website (www.pchrgaza.org), PCHR feeds it with all the data, reports, studies and other activities. Moreover, PCHR feeds the website with daily updates on the human rights situation in both Arab and English Languages. PCHR also relies on the international Internet network to send its publications via e-mail (mailing list). In addition,

PCHR posts its publications on its account on Facebook and Twitter. In 2018, Facebook verified PCHR's page by placing the blue mark (the verification sign) next to the name of PCHR's page on the mostly used website in the Palestinian Territory, which would increase the protection of the page and increase confidence in its content.

Indicators

- » PCHR currently has 39,209 Facebook followers.
- » PCHR has 12,300 twitter followers.
- » PCHR's emailing list includes 8000.

PCHR's Website Visits in 2018

Month	Visits
January	77556
February	79514
March	82548
April	95821
May	78122
June	85458
July	67258
August	106324
September	71176
October	80159
November	88539
December	97497

1.5.9 Disseminating Publications

All PCHR's publications were published in English and Arabic either via hard or electronic copies.

Indicators

» PCHR printed and distributed 5,500 copies of its publications (annual re-

ports, weekly reports, thematic reports, awareness leaflets, and posters.)

» Electronic copies of PCHR's publications were sent via e-mail to around 1,100 local and international organizations and persons.

1.5.10 Producing Audio-Visual Materials to Expose Violations

PCHR produced a number of short films prepared by the media team, in cooperation with the Legal Unit, and published them on its own pages on social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp, Instagram, YouTube). These materials received a wide attention, which was noticed by the number of posts and views from the public. These are the videos:

1. In February 2018: Video of "Abd al-'Aziz Abu Mandil Needs Treatment to Get Back to Work." The video talks about the Palestinian patients' suffering due to the Israeli closure and their lives are threatened due to not issuing permits for treatment by Israel. https://pchr-gaza.org/ar/?p=14964&fbclid=IwAR1A-mneoxUKYOVV_efTZxY4yPvCGytBrl-jhIEqx8jgj_sdMa3AexLxhJ4IE

2. Video of “Between Life and Death: A Permit.” The video talks about the Palestinian patients’ suffering due to the Israeli closure. It also shows how their lives are endangered due to not issuing permits for treatment by Israel.
<https://pchrgaza.org/en/?p=10445>
3. In March 2018: Do Not Let Tareq Die. The video talks about the Palestinian patients’ suffering due to the Israeli closure. It also shows how their lives are endangered due to not issuing permits for treatment by Israel.
<https://pchrgaza.org/en/?p=10526>
4. In May 2018: Video of “When Children’s Limbs Become Target of Israeli Forces.” The video talks about targeting a child in the Great March of Return by the Is-

1.5.11 Media Interviews

Media is considered as an essential tool to reach out to the local and international audience, raise awareness on human rights, and conduct advocacy campaigns for change. In 2018, PCHR’s Director and staff members were active with media and had many interviews with visual, audible and printed media. Those interviews

raeli forces, which led to amputating his foot.

<https://pchrgaza.org/en/?p=10799>

5. In June 2018: “When Truth is Assassinated,” A video talks about targeting journalists, while covering the Great March of Return by the Israeli forces.
<https://pchrgaza.org/en/?p=10931>
6. In August 2018: Medical Personnel Under Fire. The video talks about targeting the medical personnel, while covering the Great March of Return by the Israeli forces.
<https://pchrgaza.org/en/?p=11292>

Indicators

- » 6 short videos were published.

included interventions in news programs to comment on certain incidents and developments or thematic interviews with PCHR’s Director or staff members.

Indicators

- » 46 media interviews with local and international media were made.

1.6 PCHR Networked with National and International Partners to Develop Joint Advocacy

PCHR organized and participated in coordination meetings with national and international partners, issued joint publications and petitions, prepared joint submissions to UN bodies. Moreover, PCHR organized and participated in joint activities and participated in national and international human rights coalitions.

1.6.1 Organizing/participating in coordination meetings with national and international partners

In 2018, PCHR organized and participated in many coordination meetings and many other meetings with national and international partners. Some of these meetings were held in Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany. Many of these meetings with the international partners were held via Video Conference due to the Israeli tightened restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement that directly affected PCHR's Director and main staff members. More-

over, other calls and meetings were held in Palestine, including the Gaza Strip and West Bank, in the framework of the partner organizations (PCHR, al-Haq, al-Mezan and Al-Dameer); the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC); PNGO and dozens of national organizations and initiatives at different levels.

Indicators

- » PCHR participated in 81 meetings.

1.6.2 Issuing joint publications/petitions

PCHR issued and participated in issuing many joint publications and petitions which focused on the Israeli violations either upon initiative from PCHR or their international and national partners. Many of those activities occurred within the

PHROC or within joint work with a number of these organizations.

Indicators

- » 13 joint petitions and publications on Israeli violations were issued.

1.6.3 Presenting Joint Submissions to UN bodies

On May 2018, PCHR joined a joint intervention initiated by al-Haq Organization, along with other partner human rights organizations (al-Mezan Center for Human Rights and Adalah Center), in the (28) session of the UN Human Rights Council. The intervention focused on the Israeli

violations against peaceful demonstrators in the Gaza Strip in the Great March of Return and called upon the Council to take the steps necessary to open an investigation in the Israeli use of lethal force against the Palestinian peaceful demonstrators.

1.6.4 Organizing/participating in joint activities

PCHR's Director and staff members attended many events, including conferences, seminars, lectures and other meetings, at the Palestinian and international levels to discuss the Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. PCHR also organized meetings and workshops to shed light on those violations. Those events were an integral part

of PCHR's efforts through the year to network with human rights, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to develop unified advocacy strategies on the Israeli violations.

Indicators

- » PCHR held 18 meetings.
- » PCHR participated in 24 events organized by partners.

1.6.5 Participating in national and international human rights coalitions

PCHR worked to enhance its participation in the the national and international coalitions. It should be noted that PCHR is an active member in the international human rights coalitions such as the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ); FIDH; Euro-Mid Rights (EMHRN); ILAC; the World Coalition against the Death Penalty; Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR); PHROC and Amal Coalition to Combat Violence against Woman.

In 2018, PCHR's Director and staff participated in several meetings and activities with these coalitions. Moreover, some activities that PCHR carried out on the international level were in partnership with some of them.

- From 27 to 29 March, Hamdi Shaqura, Deputy Director for Program Affairs, participated in his capacity as a political reference in Working Group on Palestine, Israel and Palestinians (PIP) in the work of an international workshop work organized by the Working Group in Brussels. The workshop was attend-

ed by Israeli and Palestinian partner human rights organizations and international development and human rights organizations. The workshop talked about tightening the screws on the civil society, especially with Israel's practices that affect human rights organizations. Moreover, Shaqura participated in the panel discussion organized by on the situation in the Gaza Strip.

- From 22 to 24 June, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, and Hamdi Shaqura, Deputy Director for Program Affairs, participated in Euro-Mid Rights' (EMHRN) work of the General Assembly held in Brussels in Belgium. It noteworthy that Hamdi Shaqura was re-elected in Executive Committee for three more years. Moreover, Sourani and Shaqura participated in a seminar about tightening the screws on civil society.
- On 25 June, Hamdi Shaqura, PCHR's Deputy Director for Program Affairs, Essam Yunis, Director of al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, Nada Kiswanson,

and Miguel Rodriguez Vidosa, Euro-Mid Rights' program officer, participated in a meeting organized by Working Group on Palestine, Israel and Palestinians (PIP) in the EMHRN and heads of departments in European External Action Service headquarters (EEAS). The meeting focused on Ministry of Strategic Affairs' report against human rights organizations.

- On 05 October, Hamdi Shaqura was not able to travel to participate in the Executive Committee's work held in Copenhagen in Denmark during the period from 04 to 06 October. However, he made a presentation via Skype about the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).
- From 30 November to 01 December, Hamdi Shaqura participated in the bi-annual meeting of Working Group on Palestine, Israel and Palestinians (PIP), which was held in Berlin in Germany.

International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC)

On 01 and 02 June, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, participated in the annual meeting of ILAC based in Stockholm in Sweden. Sourani was re-elected in ILAC's Executive Committee for a second term of

three years. In a private session during the meeting, Soruani and Sha'wan Jabarin, al-Haq's General Director, discussed the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory.

International Association of Democratic Lawyers

On 21 and 22 June, Raji Sourani, PCHR's director participated in the General Conference of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers held in Brussels in Belgium and was re-elected as a member in the Executive Office of the Association for a second term. Moreover, Sourani made a presentation about human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). Furthermore, he held a meeting with Janne Mirer, President of the Association, and Jan Fermon, Secretary General.

Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC)

It is a coordinating body that includes 12 Palestinian human rights organizations in the oPt. In 2018, PCHR participated in the coordination meetings held by the council, contributed to unifying the visions in addition to conducting many joint initiatives, including holding joint meetings with national and international stakeholders, conveying messages, issuing position papers and joint press releases about human rights violations, including Israeli violations.

Amal Coalition

The coalition includes 12 Palestinian NGOs interested in women rights, including women's and human rights organizations. Amal Coalition was established in



A Video Conference with the European Parliament, May 2018

2009 by 6 organizations, including PCHR.

The Non-governmental Palestinian Coalition to Implement CEDAW

The coalition includes 35 women's and human rights organizations based in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The coalition is led by the General Union of Palestinian Women and aims at monitoring the implementation of CEDAW and preparing the Convention's shadow report.

Transparency and Integrity in Election Campaigns Expenditure (AMAN)

The coalition aims at promoting the laws relevant to transparency in funding the elections and providing equal opportunities for candidates to run for elections.

Indicators

- » The number of meetings in which PCHR participated in the framework of the abovementioned coalitions was 17.

1.7 PCHR Raised Awareness and Built Capacities of the Palestinian Community on IHL and International Litigation Mechanisms

The Legal Aid Unit carried out a training program for law graduates in the Gaza Strip to build fresh lawyers' capacities and arm them with IHL and international criminal law. The Legal Unit cooperated with the Training Unit and held awareness sessions on IHL and international criminal law.

Indicators

- » 6 lawyers were trained (2 males and 4 females).

1.7.1 Conducting awareness sessions on IHL and ICC

The Training Unit in cooperation with the Legal Aid Unit held 15 awareness sessions on IHL, and ICC protection of civilians in times of armed conflict, targeting activists in NGOs and civil society organizations; university students; lawyers; journalists; farmers; lawyers and members of youth teams. The sessions were held in coordination with NGOs.

Indicators

- » The number of sessions was 15 throughout the Gaza Strip.
- » 382 persons attended the sessions; 65% of whom were females.
- » The unit coordinated with 24 NGOs, Community-Based organizations, and youth groups throughout the Gaza Strip.

1.8 PCHR Lobbied International and National Stakeholders to Take Action against Israeli Impunity

PCHR conducted various initiatives and activities at the national and international levels, including implementing/participating in advocacy missions and international meetings; organizing/participating in national conferences, workshops and meetings; holding meetings with diplomats and international delegations; taking diplomats and international delegations into field visits; and submitting letters and petitions to the national and international stakeholders.

1.8.1 Implementing/participating in advocacy missions and international meetings

In 2018, PCHR's Director and staff participated in several advocacy missions and international meetings carried out on the international level with PCHR's international partners.

Advocacy Mission in Stockholm – Sweden

During the period of 01 to 07 June, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, was in Stockholm in Sweden. He participated in ILAC meetings in addition to participating in other activities and meetings in partnership with Sha'wan Jabarin, al-Haq's General Director. The meetings and activities, which were organized by Diakonia in Sweden, were as follows:

- 02 June: a meeting with, Anne Ramberg, the General Secretary for the Swedish Bar Association, in the Bar Association's headquarters.
- 04 June: a meeting with Per Örnéus, Sweden's Special Envoy to the Middle East Peace Process, with Diakonia, ILAC and al-Haq.
- 05 June: a meeting with Peter Hultqvist, Minister for Defence in the Swedish Government; a meeting with four parliament members from the Social Democratic Party, including the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; and a meeting with Diakonia with a number of officials, including Cecilia Nelson, Policy Officer.
- 06 and 07 June: a meeting with Diakonia's former General Director; a meeting with Thomas Hammarberg, who is the former European Commissioner for Human Rights and is considered as one of the most important human rights activists; a meeting with Yasmin Nelson, a parliament member in the Left Party; a meeting with Teresa Rivera, Coordinator of Palestinian-Israeli affairs; a meeting with Anika Soder,



Meeting Between Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, and President of the French Bar Association, 30 October 2018

Swedish Foreign Minister; a meeting with Yunis Olgland, Director General of International Cooperation and Development and Responsible of SIDA in government, and two advisors to the Minister of Development; a meeting with Kristen Lindgren, a Member of Parliament and Foreign Affairs Committee; a work dinner with Anne Ramberg, General Secretary for the Swedish Bar Association, Thomas Hammarberg, Amina Bouayach and the Ambassador of Palestine.

Advocacy Mission in Geneva and Bern – Switzerland

During the period of 09 to 13 June, Raji Sourani, PCHR's director, was in Switzerland to hold meetings and participate in activities, which were as follows

- 09 June: a meeting with Tobia Schnebli, Representative of Solidarity Committees with the Palestinian People and an elected member of Canton of Geneva; and a meeting with a Swiss journalist.
- 10 June: a meeting with Mohammad Abu al-Harethia in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; and a meeting with Jalal Matri, a member in Geneva Municipality and the Solidarity Committees with Gaza.
- 11 June: a meeting with Mario Carrera from Swiss Ministry for Foreign Affairs; and a lecture with several Swiss solidarity committees attended by around 30 activists.
- 12 June: an important meeting in Bern with six Parliament members of the Social Democratic Party, chaired by Carlo Sommaruga, the former Minister

of Justice; a meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with six heads of departments of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

- 13 June: a meeting with Carol Van, the former representative of PRCS in the Gaza Strip, Legal Journalist and a member in Palestinian Film Commission in Geneva.



Advocacy Mission in Spain

During the period of 14 to 20 June, Raji Sourani, PCHR's director, was in Spain at the invitation of al-Quds Association in Malaga to hold meetings and participate in activities, which were as follows:

- 14 June: a meeting in Seville with a number of activists; and a meeting with Christina Roise from al-Quds Association in Malaga.
- 16 June: a meeting with Christina Roise to discuss mutual matters and meetings schedule with al-Quds Association in Malaga.
- 17 and 18 June: meetings with the President and the staff of al-Quds Association in Malaga about the situation and developments in the Gaza Strip.
- 18 June: a meeting in Madrid Munic-

ipality about the conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and about possible future collaborations.

- 19 June: a symposium with solidarity groups.
- 20 June: a meeting in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Spain with the human rights officer and the multilateral negotiations officer; a meeting with the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Spanish Parliament; and a meeting with ten deputies of different political parties in the Spanish-Parliament.

Advocacy Mission in Berlin – Germany

On 28 November 2018, Hamdi Shaqura, representing PCHR, participated in an advocacy mission in Berlin in Germany organized by EuroMed Rights with the

participation of two representatives of al-Haq Organization and Adalah Legal Center, which are members of the EuroMed Rights. The held meetings and activities were as follows:

- A meeting in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with Sarah Brandy, Vice-President of the Department of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel, and Silvia Grunig, head of the Department.
- A meeting in the Office of the Federal President with Anka Feldhusen, Head of Department, and Kirsten Wally, Bureau Chef in the Department of Foreign Policy. In the meeting, a presentation about the human rights situation and Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt).



1.8.2 Organizing/participating in international conferences and workshops

In 2018, PCHR's Director and staff participated in several international conferences and workshops, which included discussions about Israeli violations of human rights and the international humanitarian law. Those conferences and workshops were an opportunity to network with new partners. It is noteworthy that participations from the Gaza Strip were held via video conference as Israel impose a tightening closure and travel restrictions.

- From 29 to 31 October 2018, Raju Sourani, PCHR's Director, participated in Human Rights Defenders Summit held in Paris with the participation of 150 human rights defenders from all over the world.
- On 15 and 16 November 2018, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, participated in a ground table discussion organized by Legal Action Worldwide (LAW) in Lon-

don on human rights under occupation with the participation of around 40 lawyers from all over the world. Participants discussed the ways to face the violations of human rights, especially in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

- On 29 November 2018, Hamdi Shaqura participated in International Labor Organization's (ILO) workshop organized by Working Group on Palestine, Israel and Palestinians (PIP) in EuroMed Rights in Berlin in Germany entitled "Implementation of International Law in Palestine and Israel". Shaqura delivered an opening speech in his capacity as a political reference in Working Group.

Indicators

- » The number of participations was 4.

1.8.3 Organizing/participating in national conferences and workshops

These activities constitute a fundamental part of the networking efforts that PCHR had worked for during the year with human rights organizations, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to develop unified advocacy strategies in order to pressurize international duty bearers and demand them to put an end to Israel's impunity. The following are the main prominent activities organized or attended by PCHR:

- On 3 and 4 October 2018, in partnership with al-Haq Organization, Birzeit University, PCHR, and International Federation for Human Rights (Fidh), held a meeting

titled "The Legal Threshold from Occupation to Annexation". PCHR's staff was not able attend the conference due to Israeli travel restrictions. However, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, participated in the opening session and delivered his speech via video conference.

- On 13 October 2018, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, presented an intervention titled "PCHR's Experience on ICC Submissions regarding the Offensive on the Gaza Strip" via video conference in the International Youth Conference organized by the World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).

- On 11 December 2018, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, gave a lecture about human rights, international humanitarian law and accountability mechanisms for master's students in Islamic University of Gaza.
- On 15 January 2018, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, participated in SAWASIYA Pro-

gram partner's meeting, in which he delivered a speech about the current human rights situation.

Indicators

- » The number of participations was 4.

1.8.4 Holding Meetings with International Diplomats, Organizations and Delegations

Director and members of PCHR held meetings with international diplomats and delegations visiting and international organizations working in the oPt. Moreover, PCHR's staff participated in several

Indicators

- » The number of meetings held by PCHR with visiting international diplomats and delegations and international organizations working in the oPt was 104.32

1.8.5 Organizing field tours for visiting international diplomats and delegations

PCHR organized field tours for visiting international diplomats and delegations to brief them on the humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip. PCHR's fieldworkers and other staff members escorted the visiting delegations to places that witnessed systematic destruction during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip and other areas that were repeatedly attacked by Israeli forces. Moreover,

meetings were held with Palestinian civilian victims of the Israeli violations. It should be mentioned that Israeli authority's restrictions on solidarity delegations' entrance to the oPt resulted in a notable decrease in the number of delegations in the past years.

Indicators

- » The number of field tours held by PCHR with visiting international diplomats and delegations and international organizations working in the oPt was 2.



Field Tour for A delegation from Cidesk Association, April 2018

32. Appendix (9): details relevant the meetings.

Table: Field Visits Organized by PCHR for the International Diplomats and Delegations

Date	Visiting Delegation	Remarks
24 April 2018	Delegation from CIDSE Organization with members of Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, and Germany	A visit to a farmer in Beit Lahia, a Return Camp in the northeastern Jabalia, Gaza Sea Port, and a church in Gaza.
May 2018 07	Irish delegation from TROCAIRE Organization	A visit to a farmer in Beit Lahia, a Return Camp in the northeastern Jabalia, Gaza Sea Port, and a church in Gaza.

1.8.6 Sending Letters and Petitions to International Duty Bearers

- PCHR jointly sent letters and petitions to international duty bearers through PHROC.

Indicators

- » Number of letters and petitions sent by PCHR was 125.

1.8.7 PCHR Used UN Human Rights Mechanisms to Spur Action against Israeli Impunity

PCHR used a number of UN mechanisms in the context of challenging the Israeli impunity. Those mechanisms included testifying before the UN Commission of Inquiry, use of UN Special Procedures, submitting interventions to the UN bodies, holding meetings with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and Special Rapporteurs, and participating in Protection Cluster Working Groups.

1.8.7.1 Testifying before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs in the oPt

On 16 July 2018, Hamdi Shaqura, PCHR's Deputy Director for Program Affairs, and Samih Mohsen, Coordinator of PCHR's of-

fice in Ramallah, gave their testimony before the UN Committee that investigates the Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs in the oPt. The Committee held its sessions in Amman in Jordan as the Israeli authorities banned it from entering the oPt. Samih Mohsen, Coordinator of PCHR's office in Ramallah, could attend the meeting in Amman while Hamdi Shaqura, PCHR's Deputy Director for Program Affairs, participated via Skype.

Indicators

- » PCHR's members gave one testimony.

1.8.7.1 Submitting Complaints and Communications to UN Special Procedures³³

PCHR submitted a number of submissions prepared by the Legal Aid Unit to the Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Indicators

PCHR submitted 26 submissions to the Special Rapporteurs and they were as follows:

- » 7 submissions to OHCHR.
- » 12 submissions to The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967.
- » 5 submissions to the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.
- » 2 submissions to the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.

1.8.7.3 Holding Meetings with the OHCHR and Special Rapporteurs

PCHR's director and staff held meetings with the OHCHR and its own officers, in addition to a meeting with the Special Rapporteur on the oPt.

33. The Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council are independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advice on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective. The Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and members of the Working Groups are appointed by the Human Rights Council and serve in their personal capacities. They undertake to uphold independence, efficiency, competence and integrity through probity, impartiality, honesty and good faith.

A Meeting with the new High Commissioner

On 12 November 2018, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, and 'Issam Younis, Director of al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, met with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. That was the first meeting to be held between the Palestinian human rights organizations and the new High Commissioner, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, who assumed her functions on 01 September 2018. The meeting reviewed the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). The meeting also addressed the peaceful protests of the Return and Breaking the Siege March that are organized by Palestinians along the northern and eastern borders of the Gaza Strip since 30 March 2018, in addition to the latest developments related to the ICC. Sourani and Younis stressed on the importance to publish the database as soon as possible and pointed out that it is an urgent demand by the Palestinian human rights organizations.



Receiving A Delegation from the OHCHR-Gaza

Holding Meetings with the OHCHR in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)

In 2018, the collaboration between PCHR's staff and the OHCHR continued as several meetings between them were held on the human rights situation.

Indicators

- » The number of meetings held between PCHR's staff and OHCHR was 12.

1.8.7.4 Participating and Contributing to UN Working Groups and Agencies

PCHR participated in and contributed to a number of UN working groups and agen-

cies in the oPt. This included participation of lawyers from PCHR's Legal Aid Unit in periodic meetings of the Protection Cluster Working Group (PCWG) held by the OHCHR to discuss the Israeli violations of human rights and means to promote protection and other sub-groups. PCHR participated in the Legal Task Force Working Group, which is one of the Cluster's sub-groups, as PCHR's lawyer attended 11 meetings.

Indicators

- » The number of meetings in which PCHR's lawyers participated was 11.



Receiving A Delegation from the OHCHR- Gaza, May 2018

Outcome (2)

PCHR supported democratic transformation, rule of law and human rights protection in the PA

In 2018, PCHR continued to support the democratic transition and respect the rule of law and human rights in the PA controlled areas. For that purpose, PCHR offered legal assistance to the victims of human rights violations; particularly marginalized women in Family Law and Gender-based cases; and used advocacy campaigns to respect human rights and end violations against Palestinian civilians; documenting and disseminating the violations of human rights, raising awareness on human rights, promoting dialogue and leading discussions on human rights; and networking with national and international partners. This was in light of the challenges that hinder PCHR's work and the civil society in general, and these challenges include division of the PA and the disruption of the PLC in addition to the judicial division and the undergoing political influences.

Indicators:

- **Advocacy made by PCHR against certain policies:**

PCHR intervened in 18 Palestinian policies aiming to advocate them in order to be in conformity with international standards of human rights. Those policies were as follows: use and application of death penalty, extra-judicial executions, attacks on the freedom of opinion and expression and restricting the freedom of press,

violations of the right to form associations, violations of the right to peaceful assembly, unconstitutional issuance of legislations, infringement of the judicial independence, arbitrary arrests, travel ban, security chaos, denial of the rights of disabled persons, violations of the right to housing, violations of the right to health, gender-based violence, torture and maltreatment, poor conditions in prisons and detention facilities, hindering the general elections, and issuing laws that violate rights and freedoms.

- **Policies which PCHR contributed to changing in order to meet the international standards:**

- Contribution to amend cybercrimes law, which violated the freedom of expression and press through cyberspace. Moreover, PCHR launched a 6-month campaign in this regard from September 2017 until March 2018. PCHR's and other human rights and media organizations' efforts contributed to amend the law by the Palestinian President, taking into consideration most of PCHR and its partners' notes to the law.
- Not carrying out any death sentences in the Gaza Strip and not issuing any death sentence in the West Bank. It is noteworthy that no death sentences were carried out in the West Bank since 2001 and the last death sentence

approved by the Palestinian President was carried out in 2005.

- PCHR's contributed to stop the proposed amendment draft, which violates the right to form associations and their right to autonomy, privacy and access funding. PCHR participate in this

process through conducting and publishing a legal review for the proposed amendment and sending it to the competent authorities and duty-bearers in addition to discussing it with the stakeholders.

2.1 Legal Assistance Offered to Palestinian Victims of Human Rights Violations in the PA

Judiciary is the most important tool to face human rights violations, bring justice to victims and prosecute persons suspected of human rights violations and bring them to justice. The political division in the Palestinian authority led to judicial division and clear interference in its work, raising questions about its capacity to promote the role of law. In light of the unconstitutional steps taken by the government in the Gaza Strip since 2007, human rights organizations refused to resort to judiciary in the Gaza Strip. Thus, PCHR had to use alternative protection mechanisms. That was implemented through intensified communications with at a political, security and parliamentary levels in order to put an end to certain violations. However, in light of the ongoing division with no real chance to restore faith in the judiciary, the human rights organizations decided to reconsider their position during the recent years. PCHR continued its work before the judiciary in the Gaza Strip, especially before the Supreme Court, in specific cases of public interest. However, PCHR's experiences with the judiciary emphasizes that there is a fundamental defect in judiciary's structure and independence.

PCHR's Legal Aid Unit continued to offer legal assistance in different means to the victims of human rights violations in the PA. In 2018, legal assistance was given to prisoners in the Palestinian prisons and detention facilities, to victims of the abuse of power, including attacks on the public freedoms, and victims of suspicious medical negligence.

Indicators:

The number of civilians provided legal assistance on grounds of Palestinian violations was 688.

2.1.1 Legal Aid Offered to Prisoners in Palestinian Prisons and Detention Facilities

PCHR's Legal Aid Unit received and followed up complaints on arrest of Palestinian civilians by Palestinian security services and obtained powers of attorney to represent the arrested persons before the PA and identify their places of detention. The Unit's lawyers visited a number of prisoners and checked their detention conditions, including their health conditions and not being subject to torture. The Unit also referred a number of complaints to the competent authorities, including the Ministry of Justice, Attorney General and the Comptroller General of Security Services.

Indicators

- » The Unit offered legal assistance to 115 prisoners detained in prisons and detention facilities in the Gaza Strip.

2.1.1.1 Visiting prisoners to check detention conditions

PCHR's lawyers periodically visited the prisons and checked the detention conditions.

Indicators

- » The Unit received 32 notifications about detention of civilians in the prisons and detention facilities in Gaza.
- » The number of visits paid by PCHR's lawyers to prisons and detention facilities is 12. During those visits, 18 prisoners were visited.
- » After the Unit's intervention, 6 prisoners were released.

2.1.1.2 Filing complaints to the competent authorities against maltreatment in prisons

The Legal Unit filed a number of complaints

to the competent authorities, including the Attorney General in Gaza, Ministry of Justice and Comptroller General of Security Services at the Ministry of Interior; and Director General of Reform and Rehabilitation Centers. The complaints were about arresting civilians in violation of law; and subjecting them to torture, maltreatment and bad health conditions; in addition to deaths in the detention facility.

Indicators

- » The number of complaints relevant to unlawful detention, torture and death of detainees submitted by PCHR was 10.
- » The number of complaints followed up by PCHR was 13. The majority of them were relevant to detention of Palestinians in violation of law or to torture and maltreatment.
- » The number of meetings with competent authorities to check the legal status of the detainees was 8.

2.1.1.3 Filing cases before courts against illegal detention and torture

- » No cases were filed in 2018.

2.1.1.4 Providing legal consultations to Prisoners' Families

PCHR's Legal Aid Unit offered legal assistance to prisoners' families.

Indicators

- » The number of consultations provided by the Legal Unit to the prisoners' families was 60.

2.1.2 Legal Aid Provided to Victims of Abuse of Power

The Legal Unit provided legal aid to Palestinians that were exposed to violations resulting from the abuse of power and attacks on the public freedoms or the public authorities' non-fulfillment of their obligations under the law.

Indicators

- » The number of civilians who received legal aid on grounds of the abuse of power or alleged abuse of power was 75.

2.1.2.1 Filing complaints to the Attorney General, ministries and other competent authorities

Complaints were filed on behalf of the victims to the PA's competent authorities and other human rights organizations.

Indicators

- » The number of complaints filed by the Legal Unit to the competent authorities was 13.
- » The Legal Unit received replies to 4 complaints; 3 replies were positive while 1 was negative.

Number of Complaints and to which Authority they were referred

Complaint filed to	Number of complaints
Ministry of Interior	9
Ministry of Health	1
Director-General of the Security Services	1
Municipalities	2
Total	13

2.1.2.2 Filing cases before courts

PCHR's Legal Unit followed up cases relevant to the rights of workers and financial dues before the Palestinian judiciary.

Indicators

- » Following 2 cases before judiciary in the Gaza Strip regarding labor and financial demands.
- » Following an appeal before the High Military Court in the Gaza Strip about the Court's decision to convict two cit-

izens. The Court decided to accept the appeal formally but amended the penalty mentioned herein.

2.1.2.3 Providing legal consultations

PCHR's Legal Unit offered legal consultations to victims of abuse of power.

Indicators

- » The number of consultations provided by the Legal Unit was 40.

2.1.3 Legal Aid Provided to Victims of Medical Negligence

PCHR's Legal Unit continued to offer its services in cases of suspicious medical negligence by medical service providers, receive citizens' complaints and provide legal consultations to them, in addition to submitting complaints to the General Attorney and the Ministry of Interior.

Indicators

- » The legal aid was offered to 13 Palestinians on grounds of medical negligence suspicions.
- » The Legal Unit followed 6 complaints submitted to the Ministry of Health, 4 of which were previous complaints.
- » The number of consultations provided by the Legal Unit was 7.

2.1.4 Providing Legal Aid to Protect the Right to Health by Enabling Citizens to Access Health Care Facilities

PCHR's Legal Unit provided legal aid to protect the right to health by enabling citizens to access health care facilities in the West Bank and Israel. In light of this, the Legal Unit invested its professional relations with Treatment Abroad Department in the Palestinian Health of Ministry, Israeli human rights organizations (Physicians for Human Rights-Israel), humanitarian organizations (International Committee of the Red Cross – Protection and Health Department), and Israeli hospitals. The Unit's interventions contributed to ensuring the Palestinian authority's financial coverage to receive treatment in the West Bank or Israel, in addition to scheduling appointments with medical specialists in Israeli hospitals. Moreover, the Unit works to facilitate and ensure patients' passage via Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing. It is noteworthy that following up each case undergoes several complicated procedures in order to reach a positive response that ensures the right to health. Furthermore, the Unit provided legal consultations relevant to the right to health.

Indicators

- » The number of patients who received legal aid from the unit was 485 in order to travel for treatment.
- » The number of letters sent to Treatment Abroad Department in the Palestinian Health of Ministry, Physicians for Human Rights-Israel and Hospitals in Israel was 280. All letters received positive response and all the patients received the required health care.
- » The number of consultations provided by the Legal Unit was 205.



Meeting between PCHR's Lawyer Mohammed Bseiso and Director of the Treatment Abroad Department, Dr. Amirah al-Hendi

2.2 PCHR Provided Legal Aid for Marginalized Women on Family Law and Gender Issues

PCHR's Women's Rights Unit continued its work in helping women in having access to justice, especially the marginalized ones, by providing legal aid to them. The Women's Unit represented hundreds of women before the Shari'a Courts and obtained court rulings in favor of those women. Moreover, the Unit offered hundreds of legal consultations to women. The Women's Unit enhanced its cooperation with the Shari'a courts and NGOs to help women in having access to courts. In 2018, the Unit focused on promoting cooperation with al-Aman Shelter and Ansar Central Prison for Women through organizing periodic visits (4 to 5 monthly visits) to Beit al-Aman and one visit monthly to Ansar Central prison in order to provide legal services to women there.

Indicators

- » The number of women that received legal aid from the Women's Unit in cases relevant to the Family Law and gender issues was 850.
- » The number of children that benefited from the legal aid offered to women was 478.

2.2.1 Filing Cases before Sharia Courts

The Unit continued receiving women complaints relevant to the Family Law and representing them before Gaza Shari'a courts. The Unit offers legal services through a team of Shari'a lawyers. The cases varied in 2018, the most prominent cases included alimony, house furniture, deferred dowry, child custody, seeing children, and separation. In order to promote the women legal protection and access to justice, the Unit continued to cooperate with the Shari'a court. In the context of this cooperation, the Shari'a courts refer women, who need legal assistance, to the Unit's lawyers to represent them before courts for free. Moreover, cooperation enhanced with NGOs and women and human rights organizations, as these organizations refer certain cases to PCHR to

be followed up. Many cases were referred this year from the Women Health Center in Jabalia, Wafaq Society for Women and Child Care in Rafah, Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution, the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, Women's Program Center in al-Daraj, the Union of Health Work Committees, and Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection.

Indicators

- » The number of cases followed up before the Shari'a courts in this year reached 1284; 1192 cases was reported in 2018.
- » The number of women who benefited from the legal aid offered by the unit

reached 850, taking into consideration that more than a case was filed on behalf of one woman. This explains the big number of cases compared to the number of women represented by the unit.

- » The number of cases Women’s Unit received in this year was 1192.
- » The number of children that benefited from the legal aid was 478.

- » The number of cases referred by Shari’a courts to the Women’s Unit for follow-up was 614.
- » The number of cases referred from those benefiting from the unit services was 411
- » The number of cases referred from women and community-based organizations was 177
- » The number of cases referred from lawyers was 67.

The following tables show the cases followed up by the Shari’a courts and outcome:

Diversity of Shari’a Cases Followed up by the Women’s Unit in 2018

Type of Case	Number	Type of Case	Number
Alimony	876	House furniture	91
Hosting children	36	Child custody	29
Seeing children	23	Delivery fees	37
Deferred dowry	33	Divorce	97
Child custody fees	22	House rental fees	1
Death proof	1	Wife obedience	1
Paternity proof	-	Divorce proof	5
Conservatorship	1	Others	22
Total	1,284		

- » The number of sentences the unit obtained for the interest of women was 584.

Cases Followed up by the Women’s Unit before Shari’a Courts in 2018

Cases with rulings	Cases being considered	Cases dismissed for reconciliation	Cases stopped for non-follow-up by the claimant	Total
584	224	361	115	1284

Table of Number of Cases PCHR Branches received

Main Branch/Gaza	Jabalia	Khan Yunis	Total
536	315	341	1192

2.2.1.1 Intervening in order to implement Sharia courts' rulings

The Unit legally intervened to implement Shari'a courts' rulings for the interest of poor women. After Shari'a rulings were issued, the Unit filed executive cases before the executive bodies of the Shari'a courts to help women obtain

their financial rights.

Indicators

- » The number of rulings issued by Shari'a courts and implemented upon the intervention of the unit was 90.
- » The number of women that benefited from the rulings implemented was 65

Table of the Number of Cases PCHR Branches in Gaza received in 2018

Main Branch/Gaza	Jabalia	Khan Yunis	Total
48	42	18	90

2.2.1.2 Providing Legal Consultations for Women

Legal consultations provided to women are a fundamental pillar of the Women's Unit to enhance women's chances to have access to justice. The unit provided this service in different forms, including receiving women in PCHR's head office in Gaza City and branches in Khan Yunis and Jabalia, phone calls, or awareness-raising meetings organized by the unit.

Table of the Number of Consultations provided by the Women's Unit at PCHR's Branches in 2018

Main Branch/Gaza	Jabalia	Khan Yunis	Total
498	540	259	1297

Indicators:

- » The number of legal consultations provided by the Women's Unit was 1297.

2.2.2 Legal Aid Provided for Female Prisoners

The Women's Unit provided legal aid and consultations to female prisoners. The Unit's female lawyers paid visits to the women's prison in the central prison in Gaza City. The number of female prisoners was from 45 to 50 and this number is changeable from time to time. In 2018, the Unit's female lawyers paid visits to

the women's prison to check female prisoners' and their imprisonment conditions as part of the ongoing collaboration with the Women's Unit and the women's prison. The Unit intensified their visits to provide as much legal aid and consultations as possible for the female prisoners who need them. Moreover, the Unit gave a



Awareness-raising Session for the Prison Officials

training on self-care, well-being and personal security for female workers in the prison.

Indicators

- » The number of female prisoners who received legal aid was 45.
- » The number of cases the Unit filed on

- behalf of the female prisoners was 1.
- » The number of visits the Unit paid to women's prison was 14.
- » The number of legal aid and consultations provided to the female prisoners was 40, noting that many of them were provided many times for some of the prisoners.

2.2.3 Legal Aid was Provided for Women in Beit al-Aman (Women Shelter)

The Women's Unit continued cooperating with Beit al-Aman administrated by the Ministry of Social Affairs that gives shelter to the women victims of violence by providing legal services to women there. The Unit is the only one that offers legal aid for Beit al-Aman that gives shelter to 20 - 25 women. In 2018, the Unit carried out two training courses; the first was on 08 and 15 February 2018 on Security and Wellbeing, targeting 40 female workers in the Rehabilitation Center for Women in Gaza, while the second was on 29 to 30 September 2018 in Beit al-Aman, targeting 30 female workers.

Indicators

- » The number of female participants from Beit al-Aman and Rehabilitation Center for Women in Gaza was 70.
- » The number of visits paid by the Unit to Beit al-Aman was 34, at an average of 3-4 visits a month.
- » The number of cases the Unit filed on behalf of women in Beit al-Aman was 73.
- » The number of women in the shelter who received legal aid from the Unit was 73.
- » The number of legal consultations provided by the Women's Unit was 130.

2.3 PCHR Pressured Duty Bearers for the Promotion of Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democratic Transformation

Along with its work in the field of legal protection against the PA violations, PCHR exerted efforts on the level of advocacy and lobbying to change policies relevant to human rights. PCHR addressed several duty bearers for the protection of human rights, the rule of law and democratic transformation. This included observing and documenting violations of human rights, interventions to stop legislations and decisions affecting human rights, revealing violations through dissemination, raising awareness for Palestinians on human rights and democracy, including women rights, capacity-building for human rights defenders, promoting the dialogue and leading discussions about human rights issues, including women rights, networking with partner human rights organizations and CBOs, and holding meetings with Palestinian duty bearers for the respect of human rights.

2.3.1 PCHR Monitored and Documented Human Rights Violations Committed by the PA

PCHR's Fieldwork Unit has documented the PA violations in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip through an experienced team of fieldworkers, who geographically exists in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. This year was marked with the ongoing violations, especially in light of the current division and its implications that affect the Palestinians lives.

Indicators

» The number of violations documented was 448.

- » The fieldworkers conducted 240 field visits in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- » The fieldworkers made 170 interviews.
- » The number of affidavits collected by fieldworkers was 90.
- » The number of forms filled out by the fieldworkers was 348.
- » 21 photos were taken.
- » The number of documents was 19.
- » The number of filed reports was 169.
- » The number of entries in the database was 348.
- » The number of documents electronically archived was 278.

2.3.2 PCHR Monitored Legislations to Ensure Adherence with International Human Rights Standards

PCHR continued to monitor the chaotic situation in the Palestinian legislation, which led to the Palestinian division and disruption of the PLC since 2007. Hamas' parliamentary bloc held sessions and is-

sued legislations in the Gaza Strip on behalf of the PLC since 2007. Those sessions and legislations were not approved by all the other parliamentary blocs. The Palestinian President took advantage of Article

(43) to replace the legislative authority completely as he issued dozens of laws in force in the West Bank, which do not meet the necessity requirement. Moreover, the Constitutional Court gave him the authority to lift the immunity of PLC members. Over the past 10 years, the PA witnessed a state of legislative division. This division was reinforced by the 2 parties to the division as each issued government decisions exclusively within their areas of control in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

PCHR continued to monitor those grave developments on the Palestinian Legal System and to face them through a series of interventions with stakeholders, demanding to suspend legislation in light of the division and restore confidence in legislative authority, represented by the PLC. Moreover, PCHR intervened, in cooperation with partner human rights and civil society organizations, to stop issuing legislations and presidential and governmental decisions that tighten the screws on public freedoms and the civil society and violate human rights.

2.3.3 PCHR Exposed Human Rights Violations Committed by the PA

PCHR exposed those violations through issuing press releases and field updates relevant to the security chaos incidents. In addition, PCHR issued annual reports and other thematic reports addressing violations of rights such as the right to the freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly. They were all published worldwide in both Arabic and English languages.

Indicators

- » PCHR's interventions contributed to amend cybercrimes law, which violated the freedom of expression and press through cyberspace. This was done through an organized and intensive campaign in this regard that was based on a legal review by PCHR.
- » PCHR's interventions contributed to activate civil society discussions about Social Security Law and the proposed amendments and demands about it. This was done through panel discussions on the Law and the demands about it.
- » PCHR's interventions contributed to expose the attempts to amend associations' law that undermines the right to form associations. This was done through a legal review by PCHR and inviting stockholders to the panel discussion.

Indicators

- » The number of press releases on PA's violations published by PCHR was 36.
- » The number of field updates on security chaos in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was 17
- » PCHR published 3 thematic reports on PA's violations. They were as follows:
- » On 02 May 2018, PCHR's Democracy Development Unit published a report titled "Violations of Freedom of Expres-

sion in the PA”, which covered the period from 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. This report is part of a series of reports prepared by the Unit on the freedom of expression.

- » On December 2018, PCHR’s Democracy Development Unit published a report titled “the Right to Peaceful Assembly under the PA”, which covered the period from November 2017 to November

2018. This report is part of a series of reports that PCHR continued to publish since 1998.

- » PCHR published a legal review on the Bill to amend Associations Law of 2000. In this legal review, PCHR presented the risks of the proposed amendments to the right to form associations.

2.3.4 PCHR Raised Awareness of the Palestinian Community on Human Rights and Democracy, Including Women Rights and Gender-based Violence

PCHR continued the efforts throughout the year to raise awareness of Palestinians on human rights in cooperation with civil society organizations and grassroots organizations and encourage them to claim and protect their rights. PCHR’s Training Unit led this activity through holding training courses on human rights and democracy for various target groups. The Unit also held special awareness sessions on certain topics relevant to human rights.

Women had a great focus in raising awareness. In addition to women’s participation and addressing women rights in the Training Unit programs, raising awareness for both women and men was a basic element for the Women’s Rights Unit, as the latter held special raising awareness sessions for women and men. The legal awareness program at the Women’s Unit focused on the Family Law, women rights, confronting gender-based violence and gender issues.

The DDU dedicated big part of its efforts to raising awareness on democracy through

sessions addressing the basic rights that are directly related to the democratic transformation, especially the freedom of expression, the right to organize peaceful assembly, political participation and death penalty.

The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit contributed to raising awareness through holding sessions that shed the light on these rights, especially the right to health and rights of persons with disabilities.

All of the activities were carried out in cooperation with civil society and grass-root organizations and youth initiatives in the Gaza Strip.



Legal-Awareness Session on Women’s Legal Rights

Indicators

- » The number of training and raising awareness sessions PCHR carried out in the Gaza Strip was 142.
- » The number of participants in all training and raising awareness sessions was 3,244 including 2,335 females constituting 72% of the total number.
- » The number of participating organizations is 80.

2.3.4.1 Conducting Training courses on human rights and democracy

The Training Unit continued organizing training courses in human rights and the international human rights law. The unit organized 13 training courses throughout the year. The courses targeted human rights defenders; members and volunteers in civil society organizations and NGO's distributed throughout the Gaza Strip; members of youth groups; university students; journalists; media activists; lawyers; farmers and fishermen. The trainees received about 20 training hours in a 4-day or 5-day course on, inter alia, International Bill of Human Rights (the International Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the two Additional Protocols and the Human Rights Committee), Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Universal Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, gender, Convention on the Rights of the Child; judiciary independence and rule of law, the freedom of opinion and expression in the

international conventions and restrictions imposed on it, general and Cyber Crimes related to the freedom of opinion and expression, right to adequate housing, land and property under international humanitarian, mechanisms of judicial remedy for Palestinian farmers and fishermen, Palestinian land law and ways to prove ownership, monitoring and documenting mechanisms of human rights violations, and democracy and ways to enhance it in the Palestinian society. Trainers from PCHR staff and others of those who already received training at PCHR facilitated the training courses in cooperation with a number of Palestinian local organizations, universities and youth groups.

Indicators³⁴

- » The unit carried out 13 training courses throughout the Gaza Strip.
- » The number of participants in the training course was 307.
- » 199 women participated, i.e. 65% of participants' total number.
- » The training courses covered 245 training hours.
- » PCHR coordinated with 70 societies and CBOs, 4 universities, and 10 youth groups that are active throughout the Gaza Strip.



A Training Course for Lawyers

34. Appendix (4): details relevant to the training courses.

2.3.4.2 Conducting awareness sessions on human rights and democracy

This activity was organized by each of the Training Unit, Democratic Development Unit and the Economic, Social and Cultural Unit. The training courses carried out by the Training Unit addressed the following topics: introduction to human rights, Universal Bill of Human Rights (the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Two Additional Protocols); Convention on the Rights of the Child; Convention against Torture, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), violence against women, discrimination against women, mechanisms to protect women from discrimination, gender, right to health in international instruments, right to form associations, right to peaceful assembly, right to freedom of opinion and expression and mechanisms to protect it and its legitimate controls, the right to adequate housing, land and property under the international human rights law, political participation, democracy, the rule of law, judicial independence, role of human rights organizations in monitoring and documenting human rights, mechanisms for the protection of human rights' defenders, legal remedy for victims of human rights violations, Citizenship and Community participation and international non-contractual mechanisms for the protection of human rights³⁵. Those activities were carried out in cooperation with CBOs and youth

35. Appendix (5): details relevant to raising awareness sessions implemented by the Training Unit.

groups active throughout the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

- » The number of raising awareness sessions was 50 throughout the Gaza Strip.
- » The number of persons who participated in raising awareness sessions was 1,252, including 796 women i.e. 64% of the total number of participants.
- » The number of organizations and groups throughout the Gaza Strip with which PCHR coordinated was 77.

2.3.4.3 Receiving School Students Delegations

The Training Unit received 26 delegations of student parliaments of UN primary and secondary schools in the Gaza Strip. PCHR schedules the visits with the schools. Those visits usually take 1-1.5 hours. In these visits, the students are introduced to PCHR, its role, the cases it works on, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989. After that, the students get the opportunity to ask questions about human rights.

Indicators³⁶

- » The number of school students delegations PCHR received was 26.
- » The number of students who participated in the delegations was 748, including 455 women i.e. 64% of the total number of participants.
- » The number of schools throughout the Gaza Strip with which PCHR coordinated was 26.

36. Appendix (4): details relevant to receiving school students delegations



A Training Course for School Students

2.3.4.4 Conducting awareness sessions on women rights, family law and gender-based violence

The Women’s Unit continued to carry out awareness lectures on women rights in the Palestinian community. Although women are mainly targeted in these lectures, the past years witnessed a gradual increase in targeting men too, especially in gender-based violence issues and crimes on grounds of so-called “family honor”. The lectures were held throughout the Gaza Strip in coordination with NGOs, grassroots organizations, the Ministry of Social Affairs and schools with special focus on the marginalized areas. The topics of lectures varied covering the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, violence against women, Personal Status Law, crimes on grounds of so-called “family honor”, and the right of the child, and CEDAW Convention.

From 25 November – 10 December, the Unit took advantage of the 16-day international campaign against violence against women to raise awareness about violence through lectures. This year was characterized with PCHR’s coordination with the Ministry of Education for the first

time to organize legal awareness sessions in female high schools. The Training Unit targeted the girls for being a marginalized category that is not focused or not targeted in the awareness sessions regarding violence as the main focus is on women.

Indicators

- » The number of participants of lectures was 2,864, including 2,577 women and girls and 287 men.
- » The number of lectures held by the Women’s Unit was 119. They were held in cooperation with 47 organizations and 13 schools.
- » The number of lectures relevant to violence against women during was 37.
- » The number of lectures relevant to Child’s Rights was 3.
- » The number of lectures relevant to CEDAW Convention was 31.
- » The number of lectures relevant to violence against women during the 16-day international campaign was 6.

2.3.4.5 Developing and Publishing Training Manuals and Raising-awareness Matrials in the Human Rights Field

In 2018, the Training Unit updated, developed and published the second edition of the Palestinian Sharia Laws Guide, which is distributed to the participants in the training courses on human rights and litigation mechanisms before the Sharia Courts. This guide includes most prominent Palestinian Sharia Laws such as the Personnel Status Law, Family Law, Shariaa Procedural Law and etc...

Indicators

69. In the beginning of the year, a second edition of the Palestinian Sharia Laws Guide was developed to be used by the trainers and participants in the training courses.

70. 300 copies of the Guide were printed and distributed to the participants in the training courses.

2.3.4.6 Producing awareness-raising audio-visual materials (posters, films)

» A poster on Israel Forces' targeting of

journalists, marking the World Press Freedom Day on 03 May 2018.

» 6 short videos were published on the Cybercrimes Law within a campaign titled as "Cancel it, Mr. President" that was organized by PCHR to cancel the Cybercrimes Law; one of them was in English. The videos were shared worldwide on Social media by volunteer activists and via sponsored ads.

Indicators

71. PCHR issued 7 awareness-raising audio-visual materials in 2018

2.3.5 PCHR Held Capacity-Building activities for Human Rights Defenders

PCHR implemented a number of capacity-building activities which included conducting Training of Trainers (TOT) training courses for human rights activists, training courses on human rights and other courses for training and rehabilitating male and female lawyers to be fully prepared for litigation before sharia courts.

Indicators

» The number of beneficiaries of the capacity-building activities for Human Rights defenders was 218 persons, including 112 women.

2.3.5.1 Conducting TOT on the field of human rights

The Training Unit held one TOT Course on human rights that targeted 26 participants, including human rights activists and defenders, members and volunteers in CSOs and NGOs in the Gaza Strip, mem-

bers of youth groups, journalists, media activists and lawyers. Such courses make the participants an addition to the human rights movement as active trainers who would contribute to the dissemination and promotion of human rights concepts after developing their theoretical knowledge and improving their practical skills. The training courses addressed many topics in the human rights concepts and the techniques for building influencing trainers in addition to the practical and applied training approach. The 35-hour TOT course was held for five days.

Indicators³⁷

» One TOT training Course was held.
 » 26 male and female participants attended the course from all over the Gaza Strip.
 » The number of female participants was

³⁷, Table (5) which provides the details for the TOT Training Course.

14; i.e. 54% of the total number of participants.

- » The number of training hours in this course was 35 hours.
- » The Unit networked and coordinated with 12 NGOs, CBOs and youth groups active across the Gaza Strip.

2.3.5.2 Training for lawyers and preparing them to pass the Sharia Judiciary licensing Exam

The Training Unit continued to hold various training courses targeting young lawyers intending to obtain Sharia law-practicing license. These courses aim at enhancing their knowledge in human rights and Personal Status Law and helping them to practice law before Sharia courts, noting that such courses constitute a leap in enhancing lawyers' skills in litigation before sharia courts to defend rights of women subject to violence. The Training Unit added for the first time new topics relevant to international human rights law, particularly CEDAW and role of Personal Status Law in Protecting women and children's rights.

In 2018, the Unit held 6 training courses; each one continued for 5 to 7 days and of 30-35 hours. The training course program included various topics: the International Bill of Human Rights (the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights); CEDAW; Convention on the Rights of the Child, Introduction to Sharia Judiciary, Role of Personal Status Law in protecting women's

rights; Sharia Procedural Law; the Personal Status Law; Family Law; inheritance provisions; Endowments "Awqaf" Principles, Mecelle "the civil code of the Ottoman Empire" and examples for sharia cases. Such courses were supervised by a team of specialized sharia judges along with PCHR's training staff. Those courses were held in cooperation with the Sharia Bar Association in Gaza and the Women's Unit at PCHR.

Indicators:³⁸

- » 6 training courses were held.
- » 240 female and male lawyers participated in the courses from all over the Gaza Strip.
- » 102 female participants attended the course i.e. 43% of the total number of participants.
- » The number of training hours of all courses held was 190.
- » 95% of the total number of lawyers passed the law-practicing license exam



A Training Course Graduation Ceremony for Sharia Lawyers

38. Table (6) which provides the details for the Shariaa Lawyers' courses.

	Targeted Category	Place	Number of Participants	Number of hours	date	Female participation
1-	Young female and male lawyers	Laterna Restaurant training hall in northern Gaza	42	30	11-15 March 2018	19%
2-	Young female and male lawyers	Marna House Restaurant Training Hall- Western Rafah Road	46	30	25 March to 01 April 2018	44%
3-	Young female and male lawyers	Marna House Restaurant Training Hall- Gaza	44	35	28 April to 03 May 2018	36%
4-	Young female and male lawyers	Marna House Restaurant Training Hall- Gaza	46	35	28 April to 03 May 2018	46%
5-	Young female and male lawyers	Gloria Restaurant Training Hall- Gaza	31	30	09-17 September 2018	67%
6-	Young female and male lawyers	PCHR- Khan Younis	31	30	23-30 September 2018	51%

2.3.5.3 Training female lawyers to work before Sharia courts

The Women’s Unit trained female and male lawyers to transfer PCHR’s experience to the young generation of lawyers in order to empower them as defenders of women’s rights before Sharia courts and

to help women have access to justice. In 2017, the Women’s Unit continued training 4 fresh female law graduates.

Indicators

- » The number of female lawyers who were trained at the Women’s Unit was 4.

2.3.6 PCHR Promoted Dialogue and Lead discussions on Human Rights Issues, Including Women’s Rights

PCHR holding conferences and workshops on national human rights issues; participated in conferences and workshops held by CBOs and other stakeholders; conducted interviews with media; implemented radio and TV programs on human rights issues and carried out E-campaigns on human rights issues.

workshop titled “Mechanisms to Protect Civilians and their Property in Land and Sea Border Areas.” The workshop was attended by specialists representing civil society organizations, international organizations, farmers and fishermen organizations in the Gaza Strip, and media organizations. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Fadel al-Muzaini, a researcher at PCHR.

2.3.6.1 Organizing conferences, workshops and other meetings on human rights issues

- On 16 January 2018, PCHR organized a



Workshop on the Mechanism to Protect Civilians near the Borders

- On 06 February 2018, PCHR concluded the activities of “Promoting Media Freedoms” project carried out by PCHR and funded by the Canadian Government in the period between September 2017 and March 2018. PCHR held the closing ceremony in Lighthouse Restaurant on Gaza Beach and was attended by Douglas Scott Proudfoot, Representative of Canada to the Palestinian Authority (PA), Ian Anderson, Head of Political Section at the Representative Office, representatives of civil society organizations, journalists, social media activists and lawyers.

- On 04 April 2018, PCHR organized a conference to launch its 2017 annual report. This report is the 22nd of its kind; as PCHR has always published annual reports to review the updates on the status of human rights and International humanitarian law in oPt. The conference was held in the Roots Hotel hall in Gaza City and attended by a large number of public figures, including decision makers, politicians and representatives of human rights, community-based and youth organizations. Moreover, the event was exten-



No to Targeting of Journalists” Campaign, 06 May 2019



2017 Annual Report Ceremony, April 2018



A Memorial Service for Colleague Bassam al-Aqraa' and Graduation Ceremony of A Training Course

sively covered by the media.

- On 08 April 2018, PCHR organized a panel discussion titled: “Reality of Private Sector Workers’ Rights in the Gaza Strip.” The panel discussion was attended by a group of experts representing civil society organizations, Ministry of Labor, trade unions, Professional Associations, and lawyers interested in workers’ issues.
- On 10 April 2018, PCHR organized a graduation ceremony for young lawyers who received training courses at PCHR in the field of human rights and trial advocacy before Sharia courts. The ceremony, which was attended by 174 female and male lawyers from different cities in the Gaza Strip, organized a ceremony in Rashad al-Sahawa Cultural Center Hall in Gaza City with the participation of 300 figures from civil society organizations; political parties; national and Islamic factions; journalists, academics and human rights activists in addition to the family of late Bassam al-Aqra’a.
- 06 May 2018, PCHR organized a campaign titled as “No to targeting the truth” on the World Press Freedom Day coinciding the third of May. The report included the release of PCHR’s two reports on freedom of expression, the first titled “Freedom of opinion and expression in the Palestinian Authority (PA)”; while the second titled “Silencing the Press” on Israeli forces’ violations against journalists and the me-

dia. The event, which was held in the Light House Restaurant’s hall in Gaza City, was attended by a large number of journalists, representatives of human rights and community-based organizations, and politicians.

- On 17 October 2018, PCHR organized a workshop titled: “Repercussions of Applying Social Security Law” to discuss the measures and mechanisms to apply the Social Security Law and the repercussions. During the panel discussion, experts representing workers, employers, trade unions, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, and Media participated.
- On 29 October 2018, PCHR organized a panel discussion titled: “Executive Regulations of Social Security Law.” The panel discussion was attended by specialists representing workers, employers, trade unions, NGOs, civil society organizations, and media.



A Workshop on Social Security Law



A Panel Discussion on Executive Regulations of the Social Security Law

- On 01 November 2018, PCHR organized a panel discussion about the legal review that was prepared by PCHR for the draft to amend the NGOs and Charities Law of 2000. The panel discussion was attended by representatives of the civil society organizations and journalists at PCHR's Head office in Gaza City. The panel was held in light of the issuance of a draft to amend the abovementioned law without knowing the authority issuing it.



A Panel Discussion on Amendment to the Law on Charitable Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations

- On 10 December 2018, the Women's Unit at the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) organized a workshop titled as: "Mechanisms of Providing Protection for Women Subject to Violence" in PCHR's office in Khan Yunis, as part of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign to End Violence against Women and Girls. The workshop targeted these working in the community-based organizations in the southern Gaza Strip.

Indicators

- » 9 workshops and conferences were held.



A Workshop on Mechanisms for Protecting Women within the 16 Days of Activism Campaign to End Violence against Women

2.3.6.2 Participating in conferences and workshops organized by civil society organizations and other stakeholders

PCHR has participated in conferences and workshops organized by partner human rights organizations, civil society organizations and other stakeholders. In 2018, representatives from PCHR were invited to present papers and interventions and to review PCHR's position on a number of human rights issues, contributing to enriching the debate and building shared visions relevant to these issues. The following were the most important participations:

- On 04 February 2018, Mona Shawa, Head of PCHR's Women's Unit, participated in a school day organized by the National Society for Democracy and Law titled as "Legal Protection for Women in the Personal Status Law." Mona presented a paper titled as "Women's Legal Personality within the Personal Status Law."
- On 12 February, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, participated in the third Criminal Justice Conference organized by the House of Wisdom. He talked about the role of the oversight bodies on Criminal

justice and the challenges.

- On 15 February, Samir Hasaniya, Lawyer in PCHR's Women's Right Unit, and Mona Shawa participated in a workshop on violence against women organized by the Women's Affairs Technical Committees for the Law faculty students at al-Azhar University. Mona Shawa presented a paper on the violence against women within the international conventions while Samir Hasaniyah presented a paper on Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act.
- On 15 March, Majedah Shehadah, a researcher at the Women's Unit, participated in a conference organized by The Union of Palestinian Women Committees and presented a paper on women's social conditions.
- On 22 March, Mona Shawa participated in a conference titled as "Women against Closure and Division" organized by PNGO, marking the 8th of March and presented a paper titled as "Women against Legal Reality."
- On 29 April, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, participated in the Press Freedoms and Violations Conference that was organized by Press House.
- On 30 April, Mohammed Abu Hashem, a legal Researcher in PCHR, presented a research paper titled as "Palestinian Reconciliation Agreements and Principles of Transitional Justice" during an activity organized by the Palestinian Bar Association.
- On 08 August, Mohammed Abu Hashem, a legal researcher at PCHR, presented a research paper on the Transitional Justice in Palestine in an activity organized by the UNDP.
- On 03 September, Mohammed Abu Hashem, a legal researcher at PCHR, presented a research paper on the Transitional Justice in Palestine via video conference in a workshop in Ramallah that was organized by the UNDP.
- On 17 September, Hamdi Shaqourah participated in a meeting organized by Press House in Gaza to mark the International Day of Democracy. The meeting was held in Gloria Restaurant Hall where Shaqourah presented a paper titled as Democracy Reality in Palestine.
- On 09 and 09 October 2018, PCHR participated in a conference organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the Civil Society Organizations in the Gaza Strip. The conference was held in al-Mashtal Hotel in Gaza and its second session was headed by Hamdi Shaqourah on the first day about the challenges and opportunities.
- On 12-14 October 2018, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, participated in the International Youth Conference organized by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in Ramallah and Gaza under the title of "Youth Decide. Youth Participate: Towards Freedom and Justice."
- On 09 December 2018, Mona Shawa

participated in facilitating a session within a conference titled as “Woman and New Media” organized by the Ministry of Women’s Affairs during the 16-Day Campaign of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

- On 18 December 2018, Mohammed Abu Hashem, Legal researcher at PCHR, participated in a broadcasting seminar on death penalty, PCHR’s position of it, and legal justifications for canceling it. That seminar was part of an activity organized by the ICHR.
- On 18 December 2018, Hanan Matter, a Lawyer at PCHR’s Women’s Unit, participated in a workshop in Women’s Helath Center- Jabalia and presented a paper on “Honor-killing.”
- On 19 December 2018, Mohammed Abu Hashem, a legal researcher at PCHR, co-facilitated a panel discussion on freedom of expression within a

campaign organized by Press House to discuss the freedom of expression as a right and responsibility.

- On 20 December 2018, Mohammed Abu Hashim, a legal researcher in PCHR, participated in an activity organized by Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection and presented a research paper on domestic violence against children.

Indicators

- » The number of participations made by PCHR staff members is 17.

2.3.6.3 Participating in media interviews

PCHR’s Training Unit participated in a number of talk shows and media interviews on local human rights issues in the Palestinian society.

Indicators³⁹

- » The number of talk shows: 2.

39. Table (7) includes a list of media interviews.

A table of interviews and media interventions

	Partner Association	Date of interview	Details of interview	Place of interview
1-	Gaza FM Radio	08 January 2018	International Protection for Child Detainees in times of armed conflict	Gaza FM Radio
2-	Society of Culture and Free Thought	18 September 2018	Advocacy campaigns relevant to protection of child's rights	Nowarah Educational Center- Khan Younis

2.3.6.4 Conducting radio and TV shows

PCHR conducted 4 radio episodes in 2018 on issues relevant to freedom of expression and opinion.

	Date	TV/Radio	Topic of episode
1-	08 January 2018	Watan Voice Radio	Legitimate Restrictions on Freedom of Expression
2-	12 January 2018	Al-Shab Radio	Freedom of Access to Information
3-	18 January 2018	Gaza FM Radio	Freedoms on Social Media
4-	22 January 2018	Al-Quds Radio	Cybercrimes Law

Indicators

» 75. (4) radio episodes were conducted.

2.3.7 PCHR networked with Partners on National Human Rights Issues, Including Women's Rights

PCHR stepped up its networking efforts with partners about the national human rights issues, including women's rights, through participating in the meetings of PHROC; activities of Amal Coalition to Combat Violence against Woman; issuing joint statements and position papers; participating in joint activities with partners; participating in activities organized by partners; and promoting the ties with the members in PCHR's Alumni Club.

Indicators

» 76. The number of organizations which

PCHR worked and coordinated with in 2018 was 174 organizations, including human rights and civil society organizations, grassroots organizations and youth groups.

2.3.7.1 Participating in PHROC meetings

PCHR has participated in meetings organized by PHROC that formed a platform to coordinate the efforts and consolidate the views towards the national human rights issues.

Indicators

- » The total number of meetings held by PHROC was 32.

2.3.7.2 Participating in meetings and activities of Amal Coalition to Combat Violence against Women

- PCHR's Women's Unit participated in the training organized by the Coalition for its members on developing a unified strategic plan to cooperate with the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization against Domestic Violence against Women (al-Muntada) in the West Bank on 03, 04 and 05 April 2018. It should be mentioned that Amal Coalition is hosted by the Center for Women's Legal Research & Counseling and Protection – Gaza (CWLRC) after moving from the Women's Affairs Center (WAC) in February 2018.
- In 2018, the Women's Unit joined CE-DAW Coalition, which is comprised of 35 human rights and women's organizations active in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and headed by the General Union of Palestinian Women, aiming at training them on the Follow-up and accountability mechanism of the application of CEDAW and preparing and following the CEDAW's Shadow Report. On 12 June 2018, Mona Shawa participated in a meeting to discuss the shadow report filed by the CEDAW Committee in Geneva.
- The Women's Unit participated in the meetings of PNGO Women Sector and participated in the sit-in in Gaza within 16 days of activism against gender-based violence

Indicators

- » The Women's Rights Unit joined in 3 coalitions to combat discrimination and violence against women.

2.3.7.3 Issuing Joint Information/ Position Papers

PCHR and its national partners issued several joint press releases and position papers, which included national human rights issues.

Indicators

- » Number of issued press releases is 4.

2.3.7.4 Participating in joint activities with partners.

During this year, PCHR organized joint activities with national partners. The activities included training, raising awareness and capacity-building programs that were organized by PCHR's units in cooperation with NGOs and youth groups across the Gaza Strip. Moreover, other joint activities were organized with OHCHR in the Gaza Strip addressing the human rights situation in the PA.

Indicators

- » Number of activates held by PCHR in cooperation with national partners: 4.
- » Number of organizations and groups that worked with PCHR: 174

2.3.7.5 Participating in activities organized by partners

PCHR participated in many activities organized by the national partners about national human rights issues. PCHR rep-

representatives attended the meetings, conferences and workshops, which were organized by NGOs, other partners and stakeholders in addition to participating as speakers in seminars by presenting papers or facilitating the discussion. Furthermore, PCHR held training sessions in programs and other activities.

Indicators

- » Number of meetings and seminars in which PCHR's representatives participated as speakers: 22.

2.3.7.6 Building Relations with Trainers via PCHR's Alumni Club

The Training Unit continue its rule in building a group of young men and women, who received training courses in the Training Unit and maintain communication and relation within PCHR's Alumni Club to push them to involve in the field of defending human rights and democracy and promote their rule in the Palestinian society. This group consists an important link with the local society and they have special priority when recruiting temporary work crews, such as monitoring elections and field monitoring in times of war and so on after equipping them with theoretical and practical knowledge specialized in the concerned field.

Indicators

- » 26 young men and women were trained, rehabilitated and equipped with knowledge of human rights and presentation skills so they would be a good add to the club and contribute in transferring knowledge to their col-

leagues and societies.

- » 5 persons of those who received trainers' training were used for coordination to implement training courses and activities.
- » 6 persons of those who received trainers' training were used to organize awareness lectures and meetings within the unit's activities in the field of human rights in their areas of residence.
- » Contribute in PCHR's activities and communicate with PCHR in which those trainees are informed of anything issued by PCHR.
- » Develop the data base of the Training Unit and feed it with basic information about all persons who received training in PCHR during 2018 as more than 300 new files were added for trainers in PCHR. These files contain personal information of participants, their majors and the institutions to which they belong. The Training Unit benefits from this distinctive network in relations with the trainees.
- » More than 300 new e-mails were add to PCHR's mailing list in which the trainees are informed of all activities and reports issued by PCHR.
- » Continued visits of persons who received PCHR's training and their willingness to volunteer at PCHR and receiving and guiding them by the Head of the Unit.
- » Attend workshops and conferenced organized by PCHR.
- » Report about violations whether by phone call of attendance to PCHR with the victims.
- » The Training Unit received many em-

blems and certificates of appreciation from societies and associations to recognize PCHR's role in disseminating human

rights among their members and volunteers and for participating in implementing common activities with them.

2.3.8 PCHR Pressurized the Palestinian Duty Bearers to Respect Human Rights

PCHR and its partners employed many means for advocacy to influence the national duty bearers and decision-makers to respect human rights. Moreover, PCHR held meetings and contacted with the duty bearers to discuss issues relevant to human rights. PCHR also sent letters and participated in issuing petitions sent by its partners to the stakeholders.

Indicators

- » The Cybercrimes Law was amended, taking in consideration most of PCHR's notes.
- » The draft to amend the NGOs and Charities Law of 2000, which affects the right to form associations, has not so far adopted.
- » No death sentences were carried out

in the Gaza Strip while no deaths sentences were issued in the West Bank in 2018.

2.3.8.1 Conducting meetings with duty bearers

PCHR's Director and staff held a number of meetings with PA officials, including ministers, PLC members and officials in the Palestinian security services and governmental departments, about human rights issues, elections, and national reconciliation and so on. PCHR's staff also participated in meetings organized by those bodies.

Indicators

- » Number of meetings with Palestinian duty bearers: 8.

Outcome (3)

PCHR's Organizational Capacities and Staff Capacities Improved

During 2018, PCHR strengthened its organizational and staff capacities and security in order to promote its financial and administrative capacity in addition to the staff's skills and motivation, ensuring the efficient and effective achievement of the strategic goals. PCHR moved its head

office to a new office due to the serious security risk which the location of PCHR's former office pose on the safety and well-being of PCHR's staff as a building adjacent to the office was targeted by the Israeli forces and completely destroyed after PCHR moved out.

3.1 Expanding the Funding Base of PCHR

PCHR made unremitting efforts in 2018 to widen the funding base and ensure the recruitment of required funds to implement its activities and various programs, including reviewing and updating the funding strategy, strengthening the already existed partnerships and searching for new partnerships.

Indicators⁴⁰

- » Renewing expired contracts with the already existing partners.
- » Signing contracts with new partners.

3.2 PCHR's Systems Developed

PCHR worked on developing manuals and internal rules to regulate PCHR's work and improve staff's performance. In 2018, the following was issued:

- » PCHR's HR Unit developed a code of conduct, which is a detailed reference of principles and provisions that govern all staff members in PCHR. PCHR's Code of Conduct includes a series of rules and principles that ensure achievement of integrity transparency and objectivity in PCHR's work. It also aims at combating corruption of all its forms and strengthens self-responsibility, self-discipline, and internal control among PCHR's staff members in addition to helping them to take their daily decisions and work properly in a way that does not contravene the regulations and laws.
- » The HR Unit developed an anti-corruption policy which reviews PCHR's mechanisms

40. The financial report is published in a separate document, which includes all the PCHR's financial statements throughout the year.

and procedures to combat all forms of corruption, including bribery, extortion, favoritism, nepotism, conflict of interests, embezzlement of public funds, fraud, theft, and arbitrary abuse of authority.

- » The HR Unit developed a complaints and feedback handling policy to receive suggestions and complaints from any authority dealing with PCHR.
- »
- » The HR Unit prepared practical safety manual to be a reference for PCHR's staffs to preserve healthy and safe work environment. The manual basically aims at disposal and prevention of various risks in which PCHR staffs or anybody deals with PCHR are exposed such as the beneficiaries of services.

3.3 Developing Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) System for PCHR

3.3.1 Preparing a Log Frame

PCHR continued to implement its plans according to the log frame, which was developed in 2016 according to the a 5-year strategy from 2015-2019.

3.3.2 Developing a Communication Plan

By the end of 2018, PCHR developed a communication plan for 2019, which is the last year in the 5-year strategy. The communication plan is considered a guide for PCHR's staff to use the communication tools effectively while attaining their strategic priorities.

3.4 PCHR's Staff Capacities and Motivation Improved

This was achieved by conducting trainings to improve the capacity of the PCHR's staff; assigning members from the PCHR's staff to participate in trainings organized by the partners and by organizing a recreational activity for the staff.

3.4.1 Conducting Trainings to Improve the Abilities of PCHR's Staff

Developing and Publishing Training Manuals and Raising-awareness Matrials in the Human Rights Field

Table of Trainings that PCHR's staff received in 2018

Date	Subject	Organizing Body	Venue	Number of participants
12 February 2018	Results-based management	UN Woman	Gaza	1
25-26 February 2018	Program evaluation and Follow-up	KTK	Gaza- Roots Hotel	3
01 March 2018	Human Rights- basic concepts	PCHR- Training Unit	Heker El-Jame' Center Association	1
06-07 March 2018	CEDAW Convention and its mechanisms	Wi'am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center	Amman- Jordan	1
10 March 2018	English language course	Press House	Press House	1
03-05 April 2018	Strategic planning to put unified strategy for both al-Muntada and Amal Coalition	Amal Coalition	Gaza	1
May 2018	Digital Editing and Social Media	Computer Land Center	Computer Land Center	1
11 June 2018	Human right and women's rights	PCHR- Training Unit	PCHR's office- Jabalia	1
24 July 2018	Violations against journalists	PCHR- training Unit	PCHR's office- Khan Yunis	1
August 2018	Photography course	Mahmoud Studio	Laterna Restaurant Hall	1
16 August 2018	Workshop about the works of National Committee on Legal Aid	Sawasiyah	UNDP	1
12-16 August 2018	TOT	PCHR	Gaza	3
10 September 2018	Workshop about the gender sensitivity in press releases	Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development (PICD)	PICD	1
17-18 September 2018	Course in New Media	DCA	Gaza	2
19 September 2018	workshop	OHCHR	OHCHR	1
24 September 2018	How to use cellphones in media coverage	Press House	Press House	1
03 October 2018	Workshop titled: "Right to Adequate Housing"	Land Research Center (LRC)	LRC	1
16 October 2018	Journalists violations	PCHR- Training Unit	PCHR's office- Khan Yunis	1
17-18 October 2018	Media Workshop	DCA	Laterna Restaurant Hall	2
06 November 2018	Practical safety	Journalists Syndicate	Culture and Free Thought Association	1

Date	Subject	Organizing Body	Venue	Number of participants
08 November 2018	Court Monitoring	Sawasiyah	Light- House Restaurant Hall- Gaza	1
01-02 December 2018	Testimony and meeting about the March of Return, meeting with the UN Commission of Inquiry on Israel's violations	Amman-Jordan	Amman- Jordan	1
18-20-24 December 2018	Gender-Based Violence	Women's Affairs Center	Gaza	2
20-24 May 2018	Human rights and International Human Rights Law- Basic Concepts	PCHR	PCHR's head office	16

Indicators

- » 14 PCHR's staff received training courses.
- » 21 training courses were implemented and attended by PCHR's staff.

3.4.2. Conducting annual recreational activity

PCHR organized a recreational activity in cooperation with Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection through a project implemented by the Canadian Government. PCHR's staff participated in Psychological discharge sessions that targeted women rights activists.

Indicators

- » 12 female staff members participated in the sessions.

3.5 Promoting gender in PCHR and its programs

PCHR continued its work during 2018 by engaging the gender in its policies and programs. During this year, PCHR adopted a special gender policy, which will be applied in the coming years on the level of administration as well as on the programs and activities. During this year, PCHR showed a fair representation of women in many activities, including training courses and awareness sessions. Moreover, PCHR organized activities on women rights, promoted women's testimonies and concentrated on violations of women rights. PCHR was also committed to a balanced employment policy to promote the women role in the center.

3.6 Enhancing institutional security and safety at PCHR's New Office

PCHR moved its office to another site for the seriousness of the old site for its proximity of a security office. PCHR worked on the follow-up and maintenance of the

security system. It should be noted that Israeli forces targeted a security office adjacent to PCHR's old site in the Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip on 12 November 2018, months after PCHR moved its office to the new site.

Indicators

- » Surveillance cameras in PCHR's offices.
- » Fire alarm system was installed at PCHR and means of dealing with fire.
- » Electronic security systems for the PCHR's website equipment were updated.

Appendix (1):

awareness sessions on the IHL and ICC organized by PCHR's Training Unit in 2018.

	Meeting Date	Partner organization	Subject	Targeted Group	Venue	Number of Participants	Female Participation
1.	30 January 2018	Bena'a' Association for Development and Empowerment	Basic Concepts in the International Law	graduates	The Association's head office- 'Abasan	28	100%
2.	01 February 2018	Child Rights Defenders.	Basic Concepts in the International Law	Team members	PCHR's	23	61%
3.	25 April 2018	Al-Waleed Charity	Civilians' Protection in the International Law	Male and female graduates	The Charity office- Khuza'ah- Khan Younis	25	84%
4.	09 May 2018	Shore the Palestinian Family Association	Concept of the IHL	Female graduates	The Association's office hall- Deir al-Balah	26	100%
5.	10 May 2018	Al-Awda University College	Basic concepts of the ICL	Male and female students	The College hall- Gaza	20	0%
6.	29 May 2018	El-Adham Association for Development	Concept of IHL and ICL	Male and female graduates	The Association's office hall- Beit Hanoun	24	71%
7.	07 June 2018	Village Improvement National Center	International protection of civilians in armed conflict	Male and female graduates	The Center's office hall- Khuza'ah	23	87%
8.	31 July 2018	Premiere Urgent International (PUI)	Right to housing and land property in IHL	farmers	Virgin Marry Association for Charity- Rafah	28	-
9.	31 July 2018	Virgin Marry Association for Charity	Right to housing and land property in IHL	farmers	Virgin Marry Association for Charity- Rafah	23	17%

10.	10 October 2018	Bani Suhaila Prep Girls School	Refugee status in IHL	Parents and teachers	The school's library hall	25	100%
11.	19 November 2018	Besan Benevolent Association	Women's Protection in IHL	Female graduates	The association's office hall- Khan Younis	20	100%
12.	24 October 2018	Heker El-Jame' Center Association	Mechanisms of International protection of civilians in IHL	Male and female graduates	head Office of Heker El-Jame' Center Association	25	45%
13.	28 October 2018	Refugee Popular Committee	Refugees in the IHL	Members of "I am a Refugee" team	Head office of the Refugee Popular Committee- Deir al-Balah	37	59%
14.	08 November 2018	Members of ten community institutions active in Khan Younis	Concept of IHL	Male and female volunteers	PCHR's training hall- Khan Younis	20	90%
15.	14 November 2018	Male and female members of a youth group- Gaza	Litigation proceedings before the ICJ	Male and female lawyers	Gaza	30	52%

Appendix (2):

Training courses implemented by PCHR's Training Unit in 2018

No.	Number of Courses and Targeted Group	Participants	Training Hours	Female Participation
1.	Six training courses on human rights concepts and the International Bill of Human Rights and democracy for members of associations and community institutions working in civil society and youth groups in the Gaza Strip	150	120 hours	75%
2.	Two training course on women's rights	53	40 hours	64%
3.	Two training courses in the concepts of international human rights law and international humanitarian law for members of associations and community institutions working in civil society and youth groups in the Gaza Strip	35	35 hours	65%
4.	one specialized training course in the field of freedom of opinion and expression for media professionals, journalists, social media activists and media institutions	26	15 hours	65%
5.	A training course on children's rights for groups of activists in the field of children's rights	17	20	64%
6.	A training course specialized for persons with disabilities	26	15 hours	57%

Table clarifies the details of each training course

	Partner organization	Targeted Group	Venue	Partici- pants	hours	Date	Female Partici- pation
1.	Amjad Association for Creativity and Community Development	graduates and members of youth groups	The Mar- na House Restaurant - Gaza	35	20	05- 08/02/2018	77%
2.	Members of seven community institu- tions in Deir al-Balah	members rep- resenting eight community institutions	Heker El- Jame' Center training hall- Deir al-Balah	28	20	25/02- 01/03/2018	68%
3.	Members of seven community in- stitutions in Rafah- Tal al-Sultan	Volunteers rep- resenting eight community institutions	Magdou- noun Charity Development Association's office- Rafah	30	20	19- 22/03/2018	60%
4.	Raneen al-Samt Society and El-Amal Rehabilita- tion Society	Persons with disabilities	Raneen al- Samt Society training hall- Rafah	26	15	02- 06/05/2018	60%
5.	PCHR	PCHR's staff	PCHR's Of- fice- Gaza	17	15	20- 23/05/2018	60%
6.	American International School	School stu- dents	Light House Restaurant training hall	17	20	24- 28/06/2018	65%
7.	Members of five community insti- tutions from Northern GazaStrip	Light House Restaurant hall- Gaza	PCHR's of- fice- Jabalia	23	20	08- 11/07/2018	70%
8.	Journalists and media activists	Journalists and media activists	PCHR's office- Khan Younis	26	15	22- 24/07/2018	65%
9.	Members of fourteen community institutions from the central Gaza Strip	Members of fourteen com- munity institu- tions	Youth and Environment Association in Deir al-Balah	25	20	14-21/10/2018	70%
10.	Members of ten community institu- tions in Khan Younis	Members of ten community institutions	PHCR's office- Khan Younis	20	20	04- 08/11/2018	90%
11.	Faculty of Arts and Hu- man Sciences at al-Azhar University	University Stu- dents	PCHR's of- fice- Gaza	18	20	25-28/11/2018	73%
12.	University students	Faculties of Law students from the Gaza Uni- versity students	PCHR's of- fice- Gaza	20	20	03- 06/12/2018	65%
13.	Faculty of Arts and Hu- man Sciences - Depart- ment of Political Sciences at al-Azhar University	Students of Po- litical Sciences' Department- al- Azhar University	PCHR's of- fice- Gaza	22	20	18- 30/12/2018	32%

Appendix (3):

Raise Awareness Sessions organized by PCHR's Training Unit in 2018

	Partner organization	Targeted Group	Subject	Participants	Venue	Date	Female participation
1.	Al-Azhar University students	Law School Students	Concept of human rights and democracy	24	PCHR's office-Gaza	23/01/2018	38%
2.	Child rights' defenders	Group members	Basic concepts in Child Rights Convention	20	PCHR's office-Gaza	18/01/2018	40%
3.	Hirak Youth Team for Culture and Community Development	Group members and university students	International Bill of human rights	30	Rawasi Palestine Center-Gaza	19/01/2018	50%
4.	Coalitions working in the field of human rights	Group members	Concept of human rights	22	PCHR's office-Gaza	24/01/2018	50%
5.	Raneen Al-Samt Society	Persons with disabilities	Persons with disabilities	28	The society's office- Rafah	25/01/2018	54%
6.	El-Amal Rehabilitation Society	Persons with disabilities	Rights of persons with disabilities	28	Al-Amal Society's office-Rafah	25/01/2018	54%
7.	Fikra Association for Community Development	Association members	concepts of human rights	22	Fikra Association's office	01/02/2018	100%
8.	Heker al-Jame' Youth Center Association	Women	Violence against women	39	Office of Heker al-Jame' Youth Center Association	04/02/2018	100%
9.	Youth groups active in Gaza City	Groups' members	International covenants on human rights	35		06/02/2018	77%
10.	Rawafed Cultural Association	Female graduates	Women's rights and concept of discrimination against women	30	Association's office- the central Gaza Strip	11/02/2018	100%
11.	Al - Aqsa Youth Development Association	Male and female graduates	Political participation of Palestinian women	21	Al-Aqsa Association's office	15/02/2018	100%
12.	Youth groups active in Gaza City	University students	Honor killings	33	Marna House Restaurant's hall- Gaza	25/02/2018	60%

	Partner organization	Targeted Group	Subject	Participants	Venue	Date	Female participation
13.	Members of eight community institutions in Deir al-Balah	Volunteers	Mechanisms of monitoring human rights violations	28	Heker al-Jami' Youth Center Association-Dir al-Balah	01/03/2018	68%
14.	Iqra'a educational Center	University students	Basic concepts of human rights	22	Iqra'a educational Center	04/03/2018	72%
15.	lawyers	lawyers	International Bill of Human Rights	42	Northern Gaza Strip	11/03/2018	19%
16.	University students	University students	"Honor Killing"	24	Marna House Restaurant's hall- Gaza	26/03/2018	37%
17.	al-Waleed Charity	University students	Freedom of opinion and expression and peaceful assembly	25	The Charity hall- Khuza'ah- Khan Younis	25/04/2018	84%
18.	Shore the Palestinian Family Association	Female graduates	Universal declaration to eliminate violence against women	20	The association's office-Deir al-Balah	10/05/2018	100%
19.	Union of Cooperative Associations for Saving and Credit (UCASC)	women	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	20	UCASC's office- Deir al-Balah	10/05/2018	100%
20.	Heker al-Jame' Youth Center Association	Female graduates	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	26	Heker al-Jame' Youth Center Association	28/05/2018	100%
21.	Journalists and media activists	Journalists and media activists	Right to freedom of opinion and expression	26	PCHR's office- Khan Younis	22/07/2018	65%
22.	Members of five community institutions in the northern Gaza Strip	Members of five community institutions	Women's rights- concept of Gender Equality	23	PCHR's office- Jabalia	09/07/2018	70%
23.	Nidaa' Falastin Charitable Association in Jabalia	graduates		26			
24.	Virgin Marry Association for Charity	Charity staff	Right to housing and property in IHL	23	Virgin Marry Association for Charity	31/07/2018	21%

	Partner organization	Targeted Group	Subject	Participants	Venue	Date	Female participation
25.	Binaa' Association for Community Development	volunteers	Convention Against Violence	20	Binaa' Association for Community Development - Jabalia	05/08/2018	35%
26.	Press Assembly for Human Rights	journalists	International Convention on the Rights of the Child	27	PCHR's office – Khan Younis	29/09/2018	55%
27.	Palestinian Youth Media Rally	journalists	Controls of freedom of opinion and expression	12	Palestinian Youth Media Rally- al-Nuseirat	02/09/2018	41%
28.	Never Stop Dreaming Charity Association	volunteers	Gender-Based Violence	18	Never Stop Dreaming Charity Association – Khan Younis	04/09/2018	61%
29.	Mujaddoon Development Association for Youth	Association's members	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	18	Mujaddoon Development Association for Youth	13/09/2018	61%
30.	Palestinian National Initiative	Initiative members	Basic concepts of human rights	15	Palestinian National Initiative	20/09/2018	20%
31.	Lawyers	lawyers	Role of Personal Status Law in protecting women's rights	31	PCHR's office - Khan Younis	23/09/2018	51%
32.	Brilliant Tomorrow for Homes Sons Society	graduates	Mechanisms to monitoring human rights' violations	28	Brilliant Tomorrow for Homes Sons Society	10/10/2018	82%
33.	Youth and Environment Association	graduates	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	22	Youth and Environment Association	14/10/2018	63%
34.	Youth groups and NGO's- Deir al-Balah	Members of youth groups and NGO's	Political participation of youth	24	Youth groups and NGO's- Deir al-Balah	15/10/2018	65%
35.	Youth and Environment Association	Association's staff	The rule of Law and independence of the judicial authority	24	Youth and Environment Association – Deir al-Balah	16/10/2018	65%
36.	Bessan Benevolent Association – Khan Younis	graduates	Concept of human right	20	Bessan Benevolent Association – Khan Younis	19/10/2018	100%
37.	Youth groups active in Gaza City	Groups' members	International Bill of Human Rights	25	Gaza	20/10/2018	40%

	Partner organization	Targeted Group	Subject	Participants	Venue	Date	Female participation
38.	Graduates Association	graduates	Basic concepts of human rights	25	Graduates Association - Gaza	20/10/2018	40%
39.	Mujaddoon Development Association for Youth	graduates	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)	21	Mujaddoon Development Association for Youth	31/10/2018	0%
40.	Members of ten community institutions in Khan Younis	volunteers	Human rights and democracy	20	PCHR's office – Khan Younis	04/11/2018	90%
41.	American Corner-Al-Azhar University- Gaza	American Corner's students	Introduction to the concept of human rights and democracy	16	PCHR's head office - Gaza	26/11/2018	75%
42.	Khan Younis Elementary Girls School (B)	Students and teachers	Child's right and violence against children	20	Khan Younis Elementary Girls School (B)	27/11/2018	100%
43.	Law School students in the Gaza Strip universities	students	Concept of human rights	20	PCHR's head office - Gaza	04/12/2018	65%
44.	Molhmon Youth Group	Molhmon Youth Group's members	Violence against women and mechanism to end it	20	PCHR's head office - Gaza	06/12/2018	65%
45.	Department of Psychology - Faculty of Education at al-Aqsa University	Department of Psychology's students	Universal declaration of human rights	90	Department of Psychology - Faculty of Education at al-Aqsa University	10/12/2018	77%
46.	Political Sciences Department – al-Azhar University	Political Sciences Department's students	Concept of human rights	15	PCHR's head office - Gaza	18/12/2018	85%
47.	MA'AN Development Center	Al Fakhoora Scholarship programme	Monitoring and documenting violations of human rights	15	PCHR's head office - Gaza	19/12/2018	90%
48.	University students	Al-Azhar and the Islamic Universities' students	Concept of democracy and its relation with human rights	22	PCHR's head office - Gaza	23/12/2018	65%
49.	Hirak youth Team for Culture and Community Development	Group members	Freedom of opinion and expression	20	Rawasi of Palestine for culture and Arts - Gaza	24/12/2018	20%
50.	University students	Al-Azhar and the Islamic Universities' students	International Bill	22	PCHR's head office - Gaza	30/12/2018	65%

Appendix (4):

Raise Awareness lectures conducted by PCHR's Democratic Development Unit in 2018

#	Subject	Partner organization	Place Males	Participants			Date
				Male	females	Total	
1	Mechanisms to protect human rights	Al-Azhar University	Al-Azhar University	0	52	52	04 February 2018
2	mechanisms to protect human rights	Al-Azhar University	Al-Azhar University	78	0	78	07 February 2018
3	Political Participation	Atta Association for Mother and Child	Atta Association for Mother and Child	6	11	17	13 May 2018
4	The law of association and the right to form associations	al-Dameer Association for Human Rights	Laterna restaurant	14	13	27	09 October 2018
5	The law of association and the right to form associations	al-Dameer Association for Human Rights	Laterna restaurant	9	15	24	10 October
6	Political Participation	journalists	PCHR's office – Khan younis	9	17	26	22 July 2018
7	Freedom of opinion and expression	Future Youth Society	Future Youth Society – Deir al-Balah	9	17	26	21 July 2018
8	Freedom of opinion and expression	Future Youth Society	Future Youth Society – Deir al-Balah	3	17	20	07 November 2018
9	Political participation	Members of various associations	PCHR's office – Khan Younis	3	17	20	07 November 2018
10	Freedom of opinion and expression	al-Haq and al-Adalah Organization	PCHR's office – Khan Younis	3	17	20	07 November 2018
11	Political participation	Al-Azhar University	Al-Azhar University	7	13	20	27 November 2018
12	Political participation	Al-Azhar University	Al-Azhar University	23	0	23	05 December 2018

**Appendix (5):
awareness sessions implemented by the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit in 2018**

Subject	Date	Targeted Group	Place	Number of Participants
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	20/03/2018	Volunteers, representing 8 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)	Development Association for Youth support in Rafah	30
Convention on the Rights of the Child	28/03/2018	Lawyers	Al-Marna Training Hall	46
Convention on the Rights of the Child	04/04/2018	Lawyers	Al-Marna Training Hall	44
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Palestine obligations towards it	03/05/2018	Persons with Disabilities	Hall of Raneen Al-Samt Society- Rafah	26
Mechanisms of integrating persons with disabilities into Palestinian society	03/05/2018	Persons with Disabilities	Hall of Raneen Al-Samt Society- Rafah	26
International Bill of Human Rights	20/05/2018	PCHR's staff	PCHR's hall- Gaza City	17
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	16/10/2018	Members, representing 14 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)	Youth and Environment Association – Central Gaza Strip	25
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	05/11/2018	Members of various organizations	PCHR's hall- Gaza City	20
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	06/11/2018	Members, representing 10 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)	PCHR's hall- Khan Yunis	20
Convention on the Rights of the Child	27/11/2018	Al-Azhar University Students	PCHR's hall- Gaza City	18
Convention on the Rights of the Child	05/12/2018	Students of Law Faculty at al-Azhar University	PCHR's hall- Gaza City	20
Total				292

Appendix (6):

School visits to PCHR in 2018

#	School	Targeted Group	Subject	Place	Participants	Date	hours
1	Khan Yunis Elementary School for boys	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	30	20/02/2018	1.5
2	Jabalia Elementary School for girls	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall-Jabalia	28	28/02/2018	1.5
3	Mo'en Elementary School for Girls	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall in Khan Yunis	25	12/03/2018	1
4	Khuza'a Preparatory School	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall in Khan Yunis	25	18/03/2018	1
5	Bani Suhaila Preparatory School for girls	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's hall in Khan Yunis	25	21/03/2018	1
6	Khan Yunis Elementary School	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's hall in Khan Yunis	25	26/03/2018	1
7	Mostafa Hafiz School	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	24	12/04/2018	1
8	Al-Qattan Cultural Center	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	10	26/06/2018	1
9	'Izbit Beit Hanoun Preparatory School (B) for boys	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	Hall of 'Izbit Beit Hanoun School	30	07/10/2018	1
10	Beit Lahia Preparatory School (B) for girls	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	Hall of Beit Lahia Preparatory School for girls (B)	35	07/10/2018	1

#	School	Targeted Group	Subject	Place	Participants	Date	hours
11	Tunis Elementary Joint School	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	Hall of Tunis Elementary mixed School- Gaza City	31	08/10/2018	1
12	Safad Elementary School Students' Parliament Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child			Hall of Safad Elementary School	35	09/10/2018	1
13	Al-Howroyia Preparatory School	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	Hall of Al-Howroyia Preparatory School	46	09/10/2018	1
14	Bani Suhaila Preparatory School for girls	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	Hall of Bani Suhaila Preparatory School for girls	40	10/10/2018	1
15	Jabalia Elementary School (B) for girls	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	Hall of Jabalia Elementary School (B) for girls	30	15/10/2018	1
16	Jabalia Elementary School (H) for boys	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	Hall of Jabalia Elementary School (H) for boys	26	15/10/2018	1
17	Beit Lahia Preparatory School (A) for girls	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	Hall of Beit Lahia Preparatory School (A) for girls	40	22/10/2018	1
18	Halab Elementary Joint School	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Khan Yunis	32	20/02/2018	1

#	School	Targeted Group	Subject	Place	Participants	Date	hours
19	Dir al-Balah Preparatory School (A) for girls	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall-Gaza City	36	21/11/2018	1
20	Khan Yunis Elementary School (B) for Girls	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	Hall of Khan Yunis Elementary School (B) for Girls	28	27/11/2018	1
21	Al- Bureij Elementary School (C) for boys	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall-Gaza City	27	29/11/2018	1
22	Khan Yunis Preparatory School for Girls	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall-Gaza City	30	02/12/2018	1
23	'Abasan Elementary School for boys	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	9	04/12/2018	1
24	Beit Lahia Elementary School for girls	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall-Jabalia	24	04/12/2018	1
25	Gaza Elementary Joint School (A)	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	29	12/12/2018	1.5
26	Halab Elementary School (A) for Girls	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall-Jabalia	28	17/12/2018	1.5

Appendix (7):

Legal awareness lectures conducted by PCHR's Women's Rights Unit in 2018

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
09 January 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Khan Yunis	Nabdah Youth Center	7	16
11 January 2018	Killing on Grounds of ""Family Honor	Qa' al-Qureen-Khan Yunis	Zamzam Charitable Association	-	45
14 January 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Shati' Refugee Camp	Women's Activities Center	-	25
15 January 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Dir al-Balah	Women's Activities Center	-	25
18 January 2018	Violence Against Women	Dir al-Balah	Dir El Balah Rehabilitation Association	-	21
22 January 2018	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	Gaza	Shoroq and Amal Center	-	44
23 January 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Khan Yunis	women's struggle bloc	4	17
24 January 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Al-Nusirat camp	Afaq Charitable Association	-	25
25 January 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Jabalia	Binaa' Association	21	4
29 January 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Al-Maghazi Camp	Youth Movement Center	7	28
04 February 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Khan Yunis	Palestinian Popular Struggle Front	10	15
05 February 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Al-Bureij Camp	Women's Health Center	-	18
06 February 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Rafah	Al-Salam Neighborhood Committee	-	25
February 2018 07	Personal Status Law	Rafah	Raneen Al-Samt Society	20	-
February 2018 11	Personal Status Law	Gaza	Najd Charitable Society	-	30
13 February 2018	Personal Status Law	Gaza	Marna House Hotel	10	18
14 February 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Jabalia	Semsem Association	6	19
18 February 2018	Personal Status Law	Khan Yunis	'Abdullah Abu Sitah Elementary School	-	50
22 February 2018	Killing on Grounds of ""Family Honor	Qa'a al-Qrein - Khan Yunis	Zamzam Charitable Society	-	30
25 February 2018	Women's rights	Khan Yunis	Khan Yunis Preparatory School for girls	-	24
26 February 2018	Violence Against Women	Khan Yunis	Western Neighborhood Committee	-	18
04 March 2018	Violence Against Women	Khan Yunis	Khan Yunis Preparatory School	-	22
05 March 2018	Personal Status Law	Khan Yunis	Al-Mis'ir Neighborhood Committee	-	18

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
11 March 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Khan Yunis	Haneen Charitable Society	-	30
13 March 2018	Child's rights	Khan Yunis	Khan Yunis Elementary School	-	28
18 March 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Al-Daraj neighborhood	Women's Activities Center	-	27
19 March 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Khan Yunis	Safa Charitable Society	-	30
22 March 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Gaza	Marna House Hotel	18	7
25 March 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Gaza	Lover of Palestine Association for Community Development	7	18
26 March 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Gaza	Marna House Hotel	10	10
29 March 2018	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Gaza	Gaza Cultural Center	5	30
29 March 2018	Women's rights	Bani Suhiala	Malak Preparatory School	-	25
03 April 2018	Women's rights	Al-Bureij	Women's Health Center	-	18
11 April 2018	Personal Status Law	Khan Yunis	Yafa Educational Center	-	16
12 April 2018	Violence against women	Khan Yunis	Safa Charitable Society	-	32
17 April 2018	Personal Status Law	Khan Yunis	Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF)	10	30
18 April 2018	Personal Status Law	Al-Daraj neighborhood	Women's Activities Center	-	25
April 2018 19	Personal Status Law	Jabalia	Al-Sahel Charitable Society	-	35
22 April 2018	Personal Status Law	Khan Yunis	Boniyan Association for training	5	25
25 April 2018	Women's rights	Al-Maghazi	Youth Movement Center	6	30
26 April 2018	Personal Status Law	Beit Lahia	Women's Work Department	-	28
29 April 2018	Personal Status Law	Gaza	Najd Charitable Society	-	22
06 May 2018	Women's rights	Rafah	Shomou' al-Amal for deaf	8	10
08 May 2018	Personal Status Law	Gaza	Ro'iyia Youth Center	5	9
10 May 2018	Women's rights	Khuza'ah	Rural Development Center	12	10
13 May 2018	Personal Status Law	Khuza'ah	Safa Charitable Society	-	25
16 May 2018	Personal Status Law	'Abasan	Ajyal Association	16	20
24 June 2018	Women's rights	Rafah	Al-salam neighborhood committee	5	20
26 June 2018	Women's rights	Gaza	American School students-PCHR	-	20
28 June 2018	Women's rights	Qa'a al-Qerein	Zamzam Charitable Society	-	35

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
04 July 2018	Women's rights	Al-Maghazi	Youth Movement Center	9	7
08 July 2018	Violence Against Women	Khan Yunis	Hamad Building Committee	-	18
10 July 2018	Personal Status Law	Khan Yunis	Nabdah Youth Center	-	18
11 July 2018	Women's rights	Gaza	Ro'iyia Youth Center	30	-
12 July 2018	Violence Against Women	Khan Yunis	Bahjah Association-Hamad Building	-	12
17 July 2018	Personal Status Law	Gaza	Women's Activities Center- Al-Daraj neighborhood	-	18
18 July 2018	Personal Status Law	Nusirat camp	Al-Karmel Cultural Association	12	28
22 July 2018	Women's rights	Khan Yunis	Safa Charitable Society	-	28
25 July 2018	Personal Status Law	Beit Lahia	Women's Work Department	-	30
26 July 2018	Personal Status Law	Khan Yunis	Adam Association	-	30
29 July 2018	Women's rights	Qa'a Qurien-Khan Yunis	Zamzam Charitable Society	-	35
05 August 2018	Women's rights	Al-Qarah-Khan Yunis	Insan Development Association	-	16
06 August 2018	Women's inheritance rights	Gaza	Federation of Churches	-	24
07 August 2018	Women's rights	Nusirat camp	Al-Mostaqbal Association	-	45
08 August 2018	Violence Against Women	Gaza	Federation of Churches	-	24
09 August 2018	Personal Status Law	Rafah	Al Nidal Palestinian youth union	14	-
12 August 2018	Women's rights	Khan Yunis	Adam Association	-	35
13 August 2018	Personal Status Law	Gaza	Federation of Churches	-	25
15 August 2018	Personal Status Law	Gaza	Balsam Charitable Society	-	20
16 August 2018	Women's rights	Rafah	United Cultural and Social Society	10	5
27 August 2018	Personal Status Law	Gaza	Najd Charitable Society	-	30
28 August 2018	Personal Status Law	Gaza	Federation of Churches	-	24
03 September 2018	Women's rights	Rafah	Tawasoul Charitable Society	-	16
06 September 2018	Women's rights	Rafah	kidney patients' Friends Charity Association	10	12
10 September 2018	Personal Status Law	Jabalia	Al-Shamal Society for Community Development	-	25
12 September 2018	Violence Against Women	Al-Nusirat	Al-Mostaqbal Association for Development	-	20

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
16 September 2018	Personal Status Law	Gaza	Elderly Association	-	15
18 September 2018	Women's rights	Dir al-Balah	Women's Activities Center	-	14
20 September 2018	Women's rights	Khan Yunis	Boniyan Center for Training	-	18
23 September 2018	Women's rights	Al-Baten al-Sameen	Neighborhood Committee	-	12
25 September 2018	Women's rights	Khan Yunis	Sufara al-Kayir Care of Women and Children	6	10
27 September 2018	Violence Against Women	Rafah	United Cultural and Social Society	14	-
04 October 2018	Personal Status Law	Jabalia	Children Protection Network	-	12
09 October 2018	Personal Status Law	Jabalia	Al-Shamal Association for Development	-	35
10 October 2018	Violence Against Women	Khan Yunis	Sufara al-Kayir Care of Women and Children	-	15
14 October 2018	Violence Against Women	Khan Yunis	kidney patients' Friends Charity Association	7	20
16 October 2018	Women's rights	Jabalia	Al-Sahyil Association for Development	15	15
17 October 2018	Personal Status Law	Central Gaza Strip	Children Protection Network	-	10
21 October 2018	Women's rights	Khan Yunis	Al-Baten al-Sameen neighborhood committee	-	30
24 October 2018	Women's rights	Al-Daraj neighborhood	Women's Activities Center	-	30
25 October 2018	Personal Status Law	Rafah	Children Protection Network	-	22
28 October 2018	Women's rights	Khan Yunis	Bara'im Development Association	-	30
29 October 2018	Violence Against Women	Khan Yunis	Safa Charitable Society	-	25
30 October 2018	Family Violence	Khan Yunis	Al-Aqsa School	22	-
30 October 2018	Personal Status Law	Gaza	Children Protection Network	-	14
08 November 2018	Women's rights	Khan Yunis	Nabdah Youth Center	-	12
08 November 2018	Women's rights	Khan Yunis	Khan Yunis Preparatory School for girls	-	22
11 November 2018	Women's rights	Beit Lahia	Women's Work Department	-	28
18 November 2018	Personal Status Law	Gaza	Najd Charitable Society	-	24
21 November 2018	Child' rights	Khan Yunis	'Abed al-'Aziz Elementary School	-	34

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
28 November 2018	Violence Against Women	Gaza	Al-Ramlah Preparatory School for girls	-	47
29 November 2018	Women's rights	Gaza	Fahed Ahmed al-Sabbah Preparatory School for girls	-	44
02 December 2018	Women's rights	Khan Yunis	Al-Zahra Preparatory School for girls	-	45
03 December 2018	Women's rights	Gaza	Hashem 'Attah al-Shawa School for girls	-	45
04 December 2018	Women's rights	Gaza	Al-Shuja'iyia School (B) for girls	-	45
05 December 2018	Women's rights	Gaza	Dalal al-Moghrabi Preparatory School for Girls	-	45
12 December 2018	Women's rights	Khan Yunis	Women's Unit		25
13 December 2018	Women's rights	Khan Yunis	Palestinian Popular Struggle Front	-	25
17 December 2018	Women's rights	Khan Yunis	Osama al-Najjar Elementary School for girls	-	45

Table (8):
PCHR's Interviews with international, Arab and local media in 2018

Date	Media	Subject
02/01/2018	Al-Quds TV	Legal consequences of Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel
04/01/2018	Palestine TV	Ibrahim Abu Thraiya, person with disabilities, and PCHR's legal role
04/01/2018	AFP French News Agency	Ibrahim Abu Thraiya, person with disabilities, and PCHR's legal role
04/01/2018	Reuters Agency	Ibrahim Abu Thraiya, person with disabilities, and PCHR's legal role
04/01/2018	Al- Ghad Al Arabi Channel	PCHR's legal aid for cancer patients
08/01/2018	Ma'an News Agency	Deterioration of economic situation in the Gaza Strip
09/01/2018	Community Media Center	Alimony payments
10/01/2018	Donia al-Watan Agency	Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip
10/01/2018	Al-Najah TV	The impacts of crossings' closure on patients and students in the Gaza Strip
12/01/2018	Al-Risalah Newspaper	Alimony Estimation

Date	Media	Subject
16/01/2018	Al-Quds TV	Israeli attacks in the buffer zones in the Gaza Strip
16/01/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	Israeli attacks in the buffer zones in the Gaza Strip
16/01/2018	Palestine Today Channel	Israeli attacks in the buffer zones in the Gaza Strip
16/01/2018	Palestine TV	Israeli attacks in the buffer zones in the Gaza Strip
16/01/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	Israeli attacks in the buffer zones in the Gaza Strip
17/01/2018	Press TV	The use of excessive force by Israeli naval forces against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip
21/01/2018	Al-Kofiyah TV	Electronic Crimes Law
22/01/2018	Mediapart news in English	Economic and Social Conditions in the Gaza Strip
02/01/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	Deterioration of Humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip
27/01/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	Economic and Social Conditions in the Gaza Strip
28/01/2018	Ma'an News Agency	The impacts of the Israeli closure on economic and social conditions in the Gaza Strip
29/01/2018	Al-Aqsa TV	Reimposition of value added tax and its impact on the economic conditions in the Gaza Strip
03/02/2018	Al-Aqsa TV	Israeli violations against female journalists
04/02/2018	Al-Azhar University Radio	PCHR's campaign to abolish Electronic Crimes Law
06/02/2018	Al-'Alam Channel	Results about a project of support press freedom organized by PCHR
06/02/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	Results about a project of support press freedom organized by PCHR
09/02/2018	Al-Najah TV	Israeli attacks in the buffer zones in the Gaza Strip
11/02/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	The status of rights and public freedom in Palestine
28/02/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	Legal aid for patients and humanitarian cases in travelling
01/03/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	The legality of the US decision to reduce UNRWA
03/03/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	Summary executions committed by the Israeli authorities
04/03/2018	'Alam Radio- Hebron	The International Legal Dimension of UNRWA Cutting funds in the Gaza Strip
06/03/2018	Al-Khabar Newspaper	Electronic Crimes Law
06/03/2018	DMR Media Agency	Delay the reconstruction in the Gaza Strip
14/03/2018	Kalakit Radio	Violence Against Women
14/03/2018	Alwan Radio	PCHR's support of human rights' violations
14/03/2018	Algeria International Radio	Economic Conditions of Palestinian refugees in the Gaza Strip

Date	Media	Subject
19/03/2018	'Alam Radio- Hebron	Arbitrary measures against communication companies in Gaza
19/03/2018	Women FM Radio	Arbitrary measures against communication companies in Gaza
02/04/2018	Al-Ghad TV	Targeting Journalists by the Israeli forces
02/04/2018	Palestine TV	Targeting peaceful demonstrators
08/04/2018	Gaza Online Website	Targeting journalists and Yaser Murtajah
11/04/2018	Al-Ayam Newspaper	The use of internationally prohibited bullets against demonstrators
14/04/2018	Al-Quds TV	Deterioration of economic conditions and high rates of poverty and unemployment in the Gaza Strip
25/04/2018	Al-Neel TV	The role of human rights organizations in documenting Israeli violations against participants in the Return March
25/04/2018	Egyptian TV	The role of human rights organizations in documenting Israeli violations against participants in the Return March
06/05/2018	Ma'an News Agency	Freedom of Press and Targeting Journalists
06/05/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	Shortage of medicine in the Gaza Strip hospitals
07/05/2018		Freedom of Press and Targeting Journalists
17/05/2018	Al-Quds TV	Violations committed against demonstrators in the Return March
21/05/2018	Palestine Today TV	Preventing patients and wounded persons from travelling via Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing
25/05/2018	Mosawa radio	Deterioration of health conditions in the Gaza Strip
07/07/2018	Al-Aqsa TV	Depriving the wounded of the Return March of receiving treatment in Israel
17/07/ 2018	Palestine TV	Targeting civilians and medical personnel
17/07/ 2018	Kuwait TV	Killing Palestinian civilians
22/07/2017	Palestine Newspaper	PCHR's legal role relating to al-Daraj neighborhood cause-Salah Shehadah.
24/07/2018	Palestine Radio	PCHR's role relating to the right to health and freedom of movement
30/07/2018	Gaza FM Radio	Social conditions of displaced women
01/08/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	Choosing an Israeli person to serve as chairman of the Commission on Human Rights
02/08/2018	Al-Risala Newspaper	Choosing an Israeli person to serve as chairman of the Commission on Human Rights
01/08/2018	Women FM Radio- Ramallah	Israeli attacks against workers and fishermen in border areas.
15/09/2018	Al-Manar TV	Targeting children by the Israeli forces
15/09/2018	Palestine Today TV	Targeting children by the Israeli forces
17/09/2018	Al-Ghad TV	Procedures to get medical referrals abroad for the Gaza Strip patients
26/09/2018	Al-Ghad TV	The Israeli authorities policies of depriving the Gaza Strip patients of traveling via Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing to receive medical treatment abroad

Date	Media	Subject
26/09/2018	Al-Quds TV	Procedures to get medical referrals abroad for the Gaza Strip patients
27/09/2018	Al-Quds TV	Procedures to get medical referrals abroad for the Gaza Strip patients
30/09/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	Deterioration of health conditions in the Gaza Strip, such as the shortage of medicine and medical supplies in warehouses of the Ministry of Health in Gaza City
30/09/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	Preventing patients from receiving medical treatment abroad due the Israeli authorities' policies
30/09/2018	Al-Istqlal Newspaper	Excessive use of force in the Return March
08/10/2018	24 FM Radio	Death Penalty in Palestine
11/10/2018	Sawa News Agency	Social Security Law
23/10/2018	Al-Horrah TV	Torture in Palestine
24/10/2018	Al-Quds Radio	The right to form associations
03/11/2018	Al-Masira TV	International Day to End Impunity
05/11/2018	Gaza FM Radio	Electronic Crimes
05/11/2018	Syria TV	Israeli attacks against Palestinian children
27/11/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	Israeli attacks against buffer zone in the Gaza Strip
04/12/2018	Ramallah Radio	Israeli attacks against persons with disabilities
06/12/2018	'Alam Radio-Hebron	The determination of the International Criminal Court to open an investigation into incidents in the oPt
07/12/2018	Al-Quds Radio	Social and economic conditions of persons with disabilities
10/12/2018	Alawan Radio	PCHR's role relating to the right to health and freedom of movement
10/12/2018	Palestine TV	PCHR's role relating to the right to health and freedom of movement
11/12/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	Social and economic conditions of the Gaza Strip population
11/12/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	Human rights situations in Palestine
16/12/2018	'Alam Radio-Hebron	Israeli attacks and human rights organizations' calls to open an investigation
19/12/2018	Palestine Today TV	Preventing Christian persons from travelling to the West Bank via Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing
19/12/2018	Syria TV	Child labor in the Gaza Strip
23/12/2018	Al-Hadaf News Website	incest
26/12/2018	Baladna Media Channel	Preventing Christian persons from travelling to the West Bank via Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing
26/12/2018	Al-Kofiyia TV	Preventing Christian persons from travelling to the West Bank via Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing
26/12/2018	Al-Aqsa TV	The UN General Assembly condemns Israel in 2018 for violating Palestinian rights.

Table (9):
PCHR's meetings with Diplomats and International Organizations in 2018

Date	Visitors	Venue	Notes
04/01/2018	Wafa al-Kafarnah- UNDP	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
11/01/2018	Karen Lohner, Head of the Legal Department at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and Israel along with Khalil al-Wazir, ICRC's Legal Advisor in Gaza.	PCHR's Office- Gaza	Discussing human rights situation
11/01/2018	The Deputy Prime Minister; Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney; and the accompanying delegation from the Ministry and Irish Consulate General in Jerusalem. Additionally, the Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Gaza, Neil Tobin.	PCHR's Office- Gaza	Discussing human rights situation
15/01/2018	Meeting with the partners of Sawasya program (UNDP)	UNDP-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation
16/01/2018	James Heenan, Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), and Saber al-Nirab, from OHCHR in Gaza.	PCHR's Office- Gaza	Discussing human rights situation
16/01/2018	Field tour with a delegation from DCA	Gaza Strip	
16/01/2018	Eoin Hamil- Trócaire	PCHR's Office- Gaza	Discussing PCHR's reports and plans
16/01/2018	Mary Gelberine, Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and Terry Bulata, SDC Project Manager.	Al-Salam Restaurant- Gaza	The accumulating and successive crises in the Gaza Strip
18/01/2018	Davide Tundo-OHCHR	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
22/01/2018	GRASSROOTS	PCHR's Office- Ramallah	Discussing human rights situation in the oPt
22/01/2018	Bashar al-Qari'- Human Rights Secretariat	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
23/01/2018	Tafida al-Jerbawi, Head of Welfare Association - Taawon	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
24/01/2018	Deputy of German Ambassador and Mo'tasem al-Ashhab from the German Representative Office	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
08/02/2018	Javier Diaz Muriana, Technical Project Manager at al-Quds'	Via Skype - Gaza	
14/02/2018	Pierre Cochard, Consul General of the French Consulate General Jerusalem and his deputy		

Date	Visitors	Venue	Notes
19/02/2018	Marina Wes- World Bank Country Director in the West Bank and Gaza Strip	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
20/02/2018	Delegation from the European Union (EU)	European Union Office	
21/02/2018	Roberto Valent, Special Representative of UNDP; Geoffrey Prewitt, Deputy Special Representative; and Wafa al-Kafarnah from UNDP	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
28/02/2018	Jose Vericat, Director of Field Office- Carter Center		
08/03/2018	Matthias Shamali, UNRWA's Operations Director in Gaza,	UNRWA's Office- Gaza	
12/03/2018	Meeting with OCHA	OCHA 's Office- Gaza	Discussing human rights situation
13/03/2018	Meeting with the International Labour Organization Delegation, including Frank Hagemann, Deputy Regional Director for the Arab States; Steven Kapsos, Head, Data Production and Analysis Unit; Katerine Landuyt, Legal Standard Specialist; Mounir Kleibo, Representative, ILO Jerusalem; Rasha El-Shurafa, Programme Officer, ILO Jerusalem.	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
13/03/2018	Iyad al-A'raj, Head of Program- DCA	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
13/03/2018	Hafez Ghanem, World Bank Regional Vice President	Al-Dira Hotel- Gaza	
15/03/2018	Advisor from UNDP and Rami Al-Wahidi "UNDP"	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
15/03/2018	A delegation from Church of Scotland	PCHR's Office- Gaza	8 members
20/03/2018	A delegation from Christian Aid, including William Bell, Head of Middle East Policy, and Alicia Maalouf	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
20/03/2018	Netherlands Representative, Mr. Peter Mollema; and Human Rights Ambassador, Kees van Baar	Al-Dira Hotel-Gaza	Meeting with human rights organizations
10/04/2018	Neil Tobin, Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Gaza; and Tareq Hanafi, human rights official	OCHA 's Office- Gaza	
11/04/2018	Wafa al-Kafarna, UNDP Program	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
23/04/2018	Matia Poretti, Vice President of Swiss Cooperation "SDC"	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
23/04/2018	Meeting with UNICEF	PCHR's Office- Gaza	Discussing attacks on the peaceful demonstrations in eastern Gaza Strip, including attacks against children
24/04/2018	Meeting with heads of political committees in the European Union	European Union office- Gaza	Situations in the Gaza Strip

Date	Visitors	Venue	Notes
24/04/2018	Meeting with international institutions in the Gaza Strip	NRC	
24/04/2018	CIDSE (International family of Catholic social justice organizations)	PCHR's Office- Gaza- Filed tour	
30/04/2018	Dalia Za'tarah, OSF	via Skype	
03/05/2018	Meeting with a delegation of US lawyers	via Skype	
03/05/2018	Meeting with OCHA	Al-Salam Restaurant	Discussing OCHA Reports
06/05/2018	Delegation from KTK	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
06/05/2018	Delegation from Doctors Without Borders	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
06/05/2018	Wayne Merer, and Richard Harvey- International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL)	via Skype	
07/05/2018	Delegation from Trocaire	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
08/05/2018	Delegation from CGG	Al-Roots Restaurant	
09/05/2018	Dutch parliamentary delegation	Meeting via Skype in al-Mizan Center	Situation in the Gaza Strip
10/05/2018	Meeting with European Consuls	Meeting via Skype in the Independent Commission for Human Rights office in Gaza	
15/05/2018	Meeting with the representative of the Office of Humanitarian Affairs "OCHA"	UNSCO Office	
16/05/2018	Chantal Noiwiler, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF"	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
16/05/2018	Lisa Henry, director of the Danish Church Aid Foundation, and George Zidane, Financial Advisor at DCA	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
23/05/2018	Meeting with SDC	SDC office in Capital Mall	Sign a new agreement
24/05/2018	Delegation from DCA and NCA		
29/05/2018	Neil Tobin, Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Gaza	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
29/05/2018	Delegation from the Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Irish Representative.	Via skype	
31/05/2018	Meeting with a parliamentary delegation to strengthen relations with Palestine organized by the Secretariat EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DIRECTORATE-GENERAL EXTERNAL POLICIES	Via skype	
12/06/2018	Delegation from Church of Scotland	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
01/07/2018	Delegation from Trocaire	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
01/07/2018	Mohamed 'Ali al-Nasour, Head of the Middle East and North Africa department at OHCHR	Al-Roots Hotel	
02/07/2018	Julia Megan and Eleanor Jones, from Christiane Aid	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
30/07/2018	Jeffrey Bruett, Deputy Special Representative of the Director-General at UNDP	UNDP Office- Gaza	

Date	Visitors	Venue	Notes
14/08/2018	Wafa al-Kafarna- UNDP Program	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
15/08/2018	Chantal Neuweller, Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
27/08/2018	Meeting with OCHA to discuss human resources planning (HRP) of 2019	Al-Mashtal Hotel- Gaza	
28/08/2018	Jimmy McGoldrick, Deputy United Nations Special Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory	UNESCO Office-Gaza	
04/09/2018	Noel Patrikios Tsekouras, Head of OCHA, Gaza Sub-Office	OCHA Office- Gaza	
04/09/2018	Joesf Hinterseher- First Secretary; Basma al-Khatib, press, human rights and cultural affairs department- Representative office of Germany-Ramallah		
05/09/2018	Ishraqa Mostafa, Human Rights official; and Saber al-Nirab, from OCHA office in Gaza	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
16/09/2018	Gernot Sauer, Head of UNSCO Office in Gaza	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
17/09/2018	Meeting with GIZ	GIZ office	Discussing the Strategic Planning for the upcoming phase
19/09/2018	British parliamentary delegation includes: Brendan O'Hara, Catherine West, Richard Byrden	Via skype	Human Rights situation in the Gaza Strip
23/09/2018	Meeting with the UN Mission to support and adopt sustainable development goals with national priorities in Palestine	UNDP office	Human Rights situation in the Gaza Strip
03/10/2018	Meeting with French consulate		
03/10/2018	Meeting with Legal Assistance Group (ILAC)	Via skype	
07/10/2018	Ambassador Manuel Bessler, Humanitarian Aid Delegate and Head of Swiss Humanitarian Aid; Deputy Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Marie Gilbert, Swiss International Cooperation Director- SDC	SDC Office	
08/10/2018	Geoffrey Prewitt, UNDP Deputy Special Representative of the Administrator; and the UNDP Gaza advisor Mr. Francisco Roquette	Al-Rira Restaurant	
16/10/2018	David Carden, Head of OCHA; and Noel Tesekouras, Head of Humanitarian Affairs; and Hamada al-Bayari, from OCHA	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
16/10/2018	Delegation from the EU	EU Office- Gaza	

Date	Visitors	Venue	Notes
16/10/2018	Vilamin van Filved, Program Manager Swassia	UNDP Office- Gaza	
18/10/2018	Neil Tobin, Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Gaza; and Tareq Hanafi, human rights official		
22/10/2018	Husam Manna', Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency; and Saliba, the administrative and financial officer of Jerusalem- SDC	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
22/10/2018	Ambassador Mary Ann Peters, President of the Carter Center	Al-Roots Hotel	
24/10/2018	Fabio Sokolovic, Italian consul-general in Jerusalem and his accompanying delegation.	PCHR's Office- Gaza	Discussing human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including the inhumane and collective punishment imposed on the Gaza Strip
24/10/2018	Patrick Empey, Deputy Head of Evaluation and Audit Unit; and Iseult Fitzgerald, Director Middle East and North Africa, from the Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and their accompanying delegation.	PCHR's Office- Gaza	Cooperation and strong partnership between PCHR and Irish Aid
31/10/2018	Silvia Ciacci, policy officer; and Lila Barhoum, from Oxfam		
06/11/2018	Delegation of KTK	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
08/11/2018	Janek Tulle, Human Rights Officer; and Tariq Hanafi, human rights official-OCHAR	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
11/11/2018	Delegation of DCA	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
12/11/2018	Meeting with Christian Aid	Via Skype	
13/11/2018	Meeting with Trocaire	Via Skype	
19/11/2018	Jimmy McGoldrick, United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory	UNESCO Office	
22/11/2018	Chris Horwood, child protection specialist, and Safa Nasr, UNICEF child protection officer	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
22/11/2018	Juris Hern, Head of Governance, Office of the EU Representative West Bank and Gaza Strip	Al-Mashtal Hotel	

Date	Visitors	Venue	Notes
01/12/2018	Sharida Molefi, Department of Political Science, American University in Cairo		
11/12/2018	Thierry Baccala, Project Manager; and Hossam Manna, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)		
11/12/2018	A delegation from the British Consulate, including: Consul Jack Fitzgerald, Consul Jamie Wheeler, and Edwin Samanel, Government Spokesperson for the Middle East and North Africa		
12/12/2018	Annual OCHA Breakfast	OCHA Office	
17/12/2018	Ola Justin and Saber al-Nirab, from OHCHR	PCHR's Office-Gaza	
18/12/2018	Hans Josefsson, General Secretary and Member of the Swedish Socialist Party	PCHR's Office-Gaza	



Raji Sourani Receiving A delegation from the International Labor Organization, March 2018



A Visit of A Scottish Delegation from the Council of Churches in June 2018



Raji Sourani Receiving Irish Foreign Minister, 11 January 2018



PCHR Receiving Eyad al-A'araj, Head Of Program Management in DCA- Jerusalem



PCHR Meeting with Trócaire in PCHR's Head Office in Gaza City



A Delegation from the Scottish Churches Union Visiting PCHR's Head office in March 2018



Raji Sourani Receiving Member of the Swedish Socialist Party, 2018



PCHR's West Bank Office Coordinator Receiving A Delegation from the Grassroots International on 21 February 2018



A Meeting with A Delegation from The Irish Foreign Ministry, October 2018



Receiving Italian Consul General in Jerusalem, October 2018



PCHR Receiving A delegation from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, December 2018



📍 **Gaza City:**
Jamal 'Abdel Nasser "al-Thalathini" Street - Al-Roya Building- Floor 12 -
Opposite to al-Azhar University - Near Palestine
Red Crescent Society (PRCS) -Dr. Haidar 'Abdel Shafi
PO Box 1328 Tel/: 08 - 2824776 / 2825893 Fax 2835288

📍 **Khan Yunis Branch:**
El Amal Street, Branch of Jamal Abdul-Nasser Street,
near the College of Education
Tel/Fax: (972) 8 2061-025/ (972) 8 2061-035

📍 **Jabalya Branch:**
Izzidin Building, Main Street,
Near Abu Qamar Fuel Station, Jabalya Refugee Camp
Tel/Fax: (972) 8 2456336/ (972) 8 2456335

West Bank Office - Ramallah:
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