

## **PALESTINIAN MONITORING GROUP**



### **MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ISRAELI VIOLATIONS**

**01 December 2007 – 31 December 2007**

The following summary table and overview of events is a survey of Israeli violations during the period 01 December 2007 to 31 December 2007. The report includes a summary table of events by type throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in addition to a comparative table surveying events over the past three months. The survey is compiled from Daily Situation Reports of the Palestinian Monitoring Group (PMG), Negotiations Affairs Department (NAD), and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The PMG monitors all aspects of ground conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including Israeli violations, Palestinian violations, and Palestinian achievements. The PMG Daily Situation Reports are a survey of daily events collated from information provided by Palestinian Authority civil ministries and security agencies. The information reported through the PMG process only represents data available at the time of distribution.

- **On December 05**, a special force unit of the Israeli occupation army raided the city of Bethlehem, opened fire indiscriminately near the Palestinian Security complex, and killed one military officer from the National Security Forces.
- **On December 07**, the Israeli army opened fire towards Palestinian civilians while they were labouring on their land located to the east of Khan Younis district, resulting in the death of one civilian and the injury of another.
- **On December 12**, a settler ran over a 14-year-old girl near the village of al-Freides in Bethlehem district. The girl was seriously injured.
- **On December 13**, an Israeli drone fired a missile targeting a civilian vehicle in the city of Gaza, resulting in the death of 2 civilians.
- **On December 20**, the Israeli army raided Palestinian areas east of the refugee camps of al-Breij and al-Maghazi in Central Gaza. The Israeli army fired tank missiles and opened machine gun fire killing 5 civilians and injuring 21, including one child, one female civilian and an elderly civilian. In addition, the Israeli army injured 2 journalists, and seriously wounded 4 civilians.
- **On December 21**, a public march set out in the village of Bil'in in Ramallah district, with the participation of international peace activists and supporters, in protest of the apartheid wall construction. The Israeli army clashed with demonstrators and fired rubber bullets injuring 5 civilians, including 2 American peace activists.
- **On December 24**, the Israeli army raided the village of Nahalin in Bethlehem district, clashed with civilians, and seriously injured a 16-year-old child. In addition, the Israeli army imposed a curfew on the village and allowed an ambulance to offer medical assistance to the child only after the intervention of the military liaison.
- **On December 27**, the Israeli army raided the town of Beitunia in Ramallah district and opened fire indiscriminately during a house search. Additionally, the Israeli army killed one military officer (the private escort of the head of the Palestinian negotiation delegation, Ahmad Qrei') and injured one civilian.
- **On December 28**, Palestinian prisoner Fadi Abu al-Rab, a resident of the town of Qabatia in Jenin district, died of medical negligence in Jalbou' Israeli jail.
- **On December 30**, the Israeli army stationed at Beit Hanoun – Erez Crossing, located to the north of Northern Gaza district, opened fire towards the southern entrance to the Crossing, killing one female civilian, injuring her husband and 3 pilgrims who were on their way back home from the *Hajj*.

## SUMMARY TABLE OF EVENTS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY – DECEMBER 2007

EVENT	WEST BANK	GAZA STRIP	TOTAL	NOTES
<b>Assassinations</b>	0	2	2	The Israeli army assassinated two armed individuals in air attacks on the city of Gaza.
<b>Deaths</b>	5	58	63	Incl. 1 female civilian on her way back home from the <i>Hajj</i> ; 1 prisoner in Jalbou' Israeli jail as a result of medical negligence; 1 civilian who was attacked by settlers; 2 military officers; 48 armed individuals.
<b>Injuries</b>	53	102	155	Incl. 21 children; 1 female civilian; 1 elderly civilian; 4 journalists; 5 international peace activists and supporters; 1 military officer; 40 armed individuals.
<b>Attacks</b>	144	214	358	The Israeli army carried out 128 attacks during raids into Palestinian residential areas; 50 attacks during confrontations between the Israeli army and Palestinians; 137 attacks from Israeli army military posts towards civilian houses and property; 3 attacks from checkpoints. In addition, Israeli navy boats opened fire on 6 occasions and combat helicopters on 34 occasions.
<b>Raids</b>	748	22	770	35 in Jerusalem; 92 in Ramallah; 97 in Jenin; 30 in Toubas; 97 in Tulkarem; 57 in Qalqiliya; 66 in Nablus; 40 in Salfit; 61 in Jericho; 78 in Bethlehem; 140 in Hebron; 6 in Northern Gaza; 3 in Gaza; 4 in Central Gaza; 3 in Khan Younis; 6 in Rafah.
<b>Arrests</b>	421	66	487	The Israeli army arrested 56 Palestinian civilians in Jerusalem; 37 in Ramallah; 22 in Jenin; 9 in Toubas; 42 in Tulkarem; 33 in Qalqiliya; 82 in Nablus; 14 in Salfit; 14 in Jericho; 35 in Bethlehem; 77 in Hebron; 4 in Central Gaza; 62 in Rafah. The arrested civilians include 31 children; 2 female civilians; 12 students; 1 teacher; 1 university professor; 1 PLC member; 2 municipal council members; 16 military officers.
<b>House Demolitions</b>	4	1	5	The Israeli army demolished 3 houses in Jerusalem; 1 house in Hebron; 1 house in Khan Younis.
<b>Attacks on Public &amp; Private Property</b>	49	20	69	<b>Destruction of Property:</b> The Israeli army destroyed civilian vehicles, 2 offices, electric transformer, tin houses, plants, green houses, house furniture, commercial stores, and a restaurant. <b>Confiscation of Property:</b> The Israeli army confiscated weapons, ammunition, and computers.
<b>House Occupations</b>	11	16	27	In the districts of Jenin (2); Tulkarem (3); Nablus (6); Central Gaza (6); Khan Younis (3); Rafah (7).
<b>Curfews</b>	14	0	14	The Israeli army imposed curfews over residential areas in the districts of Qalqilya (7); Salfit (6); Hebron (1).
<b>Closure of Crossing Points</b>	0	107	107	The Israeli army closed international crossing points (Rafah Crossing to Egypt and Arafat International Airport) on 47 occasions, and crossing points to Israel on 60 occasions.
<b>Flying Checkpoints</b>	435	0	435	Jerusalem (73); Ramallah (48); Jenin (64); Toubas (6) Tulkarem (36); Qalqiliya (17); Nablus (13); Salfit (34); Jericho (12); Bethlehem (36); Hebron (96).
<b>Medical Obstruction</b>	3	1	4	The Israeli army denied Palestinian ambulances access to a village in Qalqilya district, impeded the transfer of a wounded child to hospital in Bethlehem district, searched a hospital in the city of Hebron, and opened fire towards ambulances east of Central Gaza.
<b>Attacks on Religious Sites</b>	3	0	3	The Israeli army and settlers hung the sign of the Temple near the al-Aqsa Mosque in the old city of Jerusalem, and broke into the mosque's courtyards. In Tulkarem, Israeli troops searched a mosque.
<b>School Disruption</b>	2	1	3	The Israeli army searched dormitories in Ramallah and prevented the construction of a college in Hebron district. In addition, the Israeli army disrupted education in Rafah district.
<b>Provocation of Palestinian Forces</b>	9	0	9	The Israeli army provoked the Palestinian National Security Forces on 6 occasions, and the civil police forces on 3 occasions.
<b>Settlement Activity</b>	3	0	3	In the districts of Ramallah (1); Nablus (1); Salfit (1).
<b>Settler Violence</b>	28	0	28	In Jerusalem (2); Ramallah (2); Tulkarem (1); Qalqilya (6); Nablus (4); Salfit (2); Bethlehem (1); Hebron (10).
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1932</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>2542</b>	

## COMPARATIVE TABLE OF EVENTS OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS

EVENT	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	COMMENTS
<b>Deaths</b>	40	31	63	Death toll rose to 103.2% compared to November and by 57.5% compared to October.
<b>Assassinations</b>	2	1	2	The Israeli army continued the policy of assassination without trial for those whom it considers "wanted" by the Israeli security forces.
<b>Injuries</b>	195	126	155	Rise of 23% compared to November and a drop of 20.5% compared to October. Twenty-one children were injured during the month of December, compared to 20 in November and 39 in October.
<b>Attacks</b>	290	304	358	Increase in the number of attacks by 17.8% compared to November and by 23.5% compared to October.
<b>Raids</b>	757	816	770	The total number of Israeli army raids into Palestinian Authority-controlled territory (Area A – which the Israeli army has continued to reinvade since 2002) was 427 in December, compared to 463 in November and 463 in October. The Israeli army also raided Palestinian Authority-controlled territory in the Gaza Strip districts on 22 occasions. During these raids, the Israeli army levelled civilian land on 6 occasions.
<b>Arrests</b>	423	411	487	Rise of 18.5% compared to November and of 15.1% compared to October. Thirty-one children were arrested during the month of December, compared to 27 children in November and 22 in October.
<b>House Demolition</b>	2	7	5	Drop of 28.6% compared to November and a rise of 150% compared to October.
<b>Attacks on Property</b>	91	94	69	Drop of 26.6% compared to November and of 24.2% compared to October.
<b>House Occupation</b>	28	35	27	Drop of 22.9% compared to November and of 3.8% compared to October.
<b>Curfews</b>	14	27	14	Curfews dropped by 48.2% compared to last November and October.
<b>Flying Checkpoints</b>	436	429	435	Rise of 1.4% compared to November and a drop of 0.2% compared to October.
<b>Complete Closure of Crossing Points</b>	135	114	107	Crossing points to Israel were closed on 47 occasions in November, compared to 54 in November and 73 in October. As in November and October, the Israeli army closed Rafah Crossing on 29 occasions during the month of December. Yasser 'Arafat International Airport has remained closed since the outbreak of the second <i>Intifada</i> (Uprising) in 2000.
<b>Medical Obstruction</b>	2	3	4	Rise of 33.3% compared to November and of 100% compared to October.
<b>Attacks on Religious Sites</b>	8	6	3	Drop of 50% compared to November and of 62.5% compared to October.
<b>School Disruption</b>	4	3	3	Same percentage as last November and a drop of 25% compared to October.
<b>Provocation of Palestinian Forces</b>	6	18	9	Despite efforts made by Palestinian forces to control the security situation, the Israeli army continued to take position near Palestinian security offices and headquarters. The Israeli army also detained Palestinian security commanders and officers, and arrested 16 Palestinian military officers.
<b>Settlement Activity</b>	8	6	3	Drop of 50% compared to November and of 62.5% compared to October.
<b>Settler Violence</b>	36	25	28	Rise of 12% compared to November and drop of 22.2% compared to October.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2477</b>	<b>2456</b>	<b>2542</b>	<b>The general 3.5% rise in the total incidents compared to November was due to the rise in the rate of deaths, injuries, arrests, attacks, and closure of crossing. Compared to October, total incidents rose by 2.6% due to the increase in raids, deaths, arrests and attacks.</b>

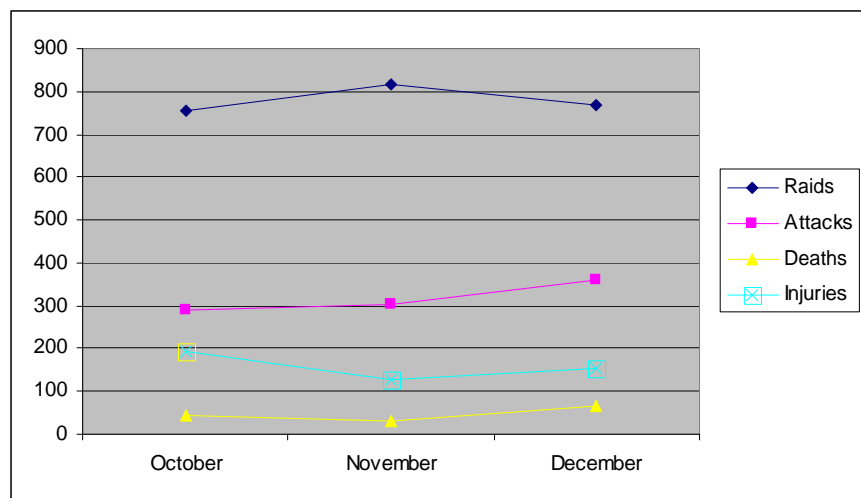
## PALESTINIAN SECURITY MEASURES DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2007

WEST BANK	NOTES
8	In the districts of Tulkarem (2); Salfit (1); Jericho (2); Bethlehem (3). Palestinian security forces handed over 5 stranded Israelis and one grenade to the Israeli army. In addition, the Palestinian security forces detonated 2 explosives.

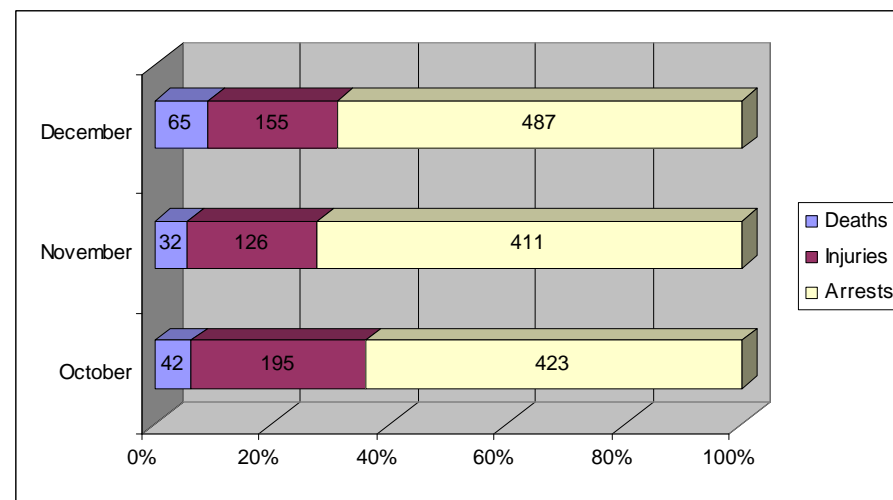
## PALESTINIAN SECURITY MEASURES OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS

OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	NOTES
7	7	8	During the month of December, the Palestinian security forces handed over 5 Israelis who entered Palestinian-controlled Area A (November 7; October 7) as well as one grenade. In addition, the Palestinian security forces detonated 2 explosives.

**COMPARISON OF ISRAELI RAIDS, ATTACKS AND PALESTINIAN HUMAN CASUALTIES OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS**



**COMPARISON OF INCIDENTS OF DEATHS, INJURIES, AND ARRESTS OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS**



## **ANALYSIS OF EVENTS**

### **1. Assassinations**

An Israeli drone fired missiles in two separate incidents assassinating 2 armed individuals in the city of Gaza. In addition, the Israeli army injured 7 civilians, including 2 armed individuals who were seriously injured and 4 stranded civilians. The Israeli army also attempted to assassinate an armed individual in Jenin city.

### **2. Deaths**

The Israeli army killed 63 Palestinian civilians in December, including 5 civilians in the West Bank and 58 in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli army killed Palestinians in the following districts: Ramallah (2); Jenin (1); Salfit (1); Bethlehem (1); Northern Gaza (14); Gaza (10); Central Gaza (16); Khan Younis (10); Rafah (8). Of these, the Israeli army killed one female civilian on her way back home from the *Hajj* at Beit Hanoun – Erez Crossing, one prisoner as a result of medical negligence in the Israeli Jalbou' detention facility, one civilian who was attacked by settlers, 2 military officers, and 48 armed individuals.

### **3. Injuries**

The total number of injuries reported during the month of December was 155 (53 Palestinians in the West Bank and 102 in the Gaza Strip). Most injuries were reported in the districts of Central Gaza (31); Northern Gaza (29); Ramallah (26); Rafah (16). Of those injured, 21 were children, including 1 child who was attacked by settlers; 1 female civilian; 1 elderly civilian; 1 civilian who was run over by an Israeli military jeep; 2 civilians who were assaulted by settlers; 4 journalists; 5 international peace activists and supporters; 1 military officer; 40 armed individuals.

### **4. Arrests**

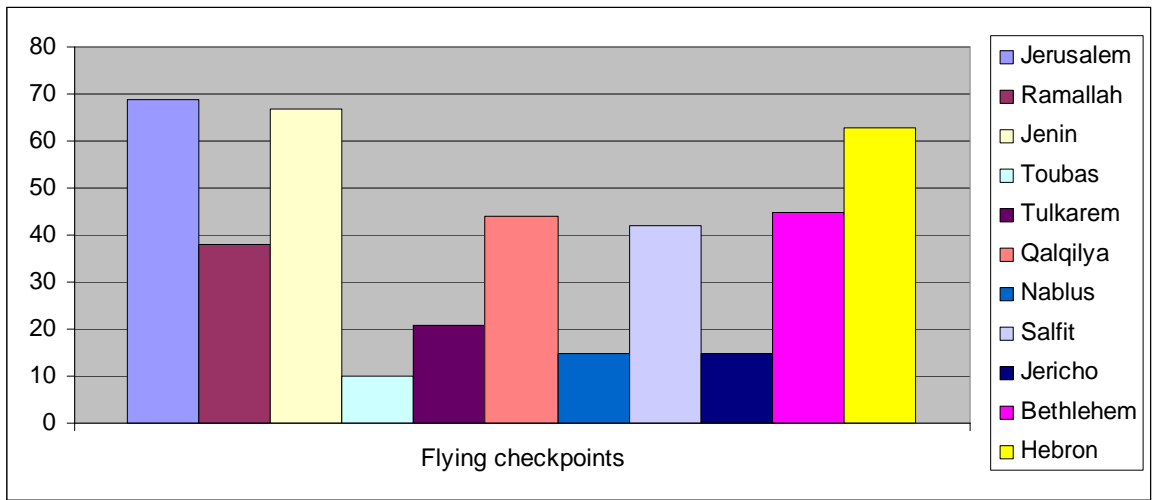
The Israeli army arrested 487 Palestinian civilians in December, including 421 Palestinians in the West Bank and 66 in the Gaza Strip. The majority of arrests were reported to have taken place in the districts of Nablus (82); Hebron (77); Rafah (62); Jerusalem (56); Tulkarem (42); Ramallah (37). Among these, the Israeli army arrested 31 children, including 3 injured children; 4 injured civilians; one school teacher; one university professor; 2 female civilians; 3 secondary school pupils; 9 university students; 1 PLC member; 2 municipal council members; 16 military officers.

### **5. Closure**

Especially on Fridays, the Israeli army has continued to intensify its restrictions at checkpoints located at the entrances to the city of Jerusalem and prevented civilians from accessing the al-Aqsa Mosque compound. Beginning on 17 April 2006, the Israeli army has continued to intensify its restrictions at permanent checkpoints set up throughout the West Bank districts. The Israeli army continued as well to isolate the northern districts from the central and southern districts of the West Bank, impeding civilian movement between these districts. Israeli troops positioned at the Za'tara junction checkpoint and at the entrances to the cities of Tulkarem and Nablus continued to impede access to civilian residents. Additionally, the Israeli army also continued to isolate the Jordan Valley and impede civilian access by adopting harsher measures at permanent checkpoints set up in Tayaseer.

Special permits are still required for private civilian vehicles to cross Huwara and Beit Iba checkpoints at the entrances to the city of Nablus and for vehicles leaving the city of Jericho through the checkpoint set up at the southern entrance to the city as well as through Ma'ale Efrayim, al-Hamra, and al-'Auja checkpoints leading to the area of the Jordan Valley. Considering it a "border crossing point," the Israeli army continued to prevent Palestinian West Bank civilian vehicles from crossing Qalandya checkpoint towards the towns of al-Ram and Qalandya, as well as Dahiyat al-Bareed north of the city of Jerusalem.

Further impeding civilian access, the Israeli army set 435 flying checkpoints in and around Palestinian residential locales throughout the West Bank during the month of December, compared to 429 flying checkpoints in November and 436 in October. The chart below shows the distribution of flying checkpoints in the West Bank for December 2008.



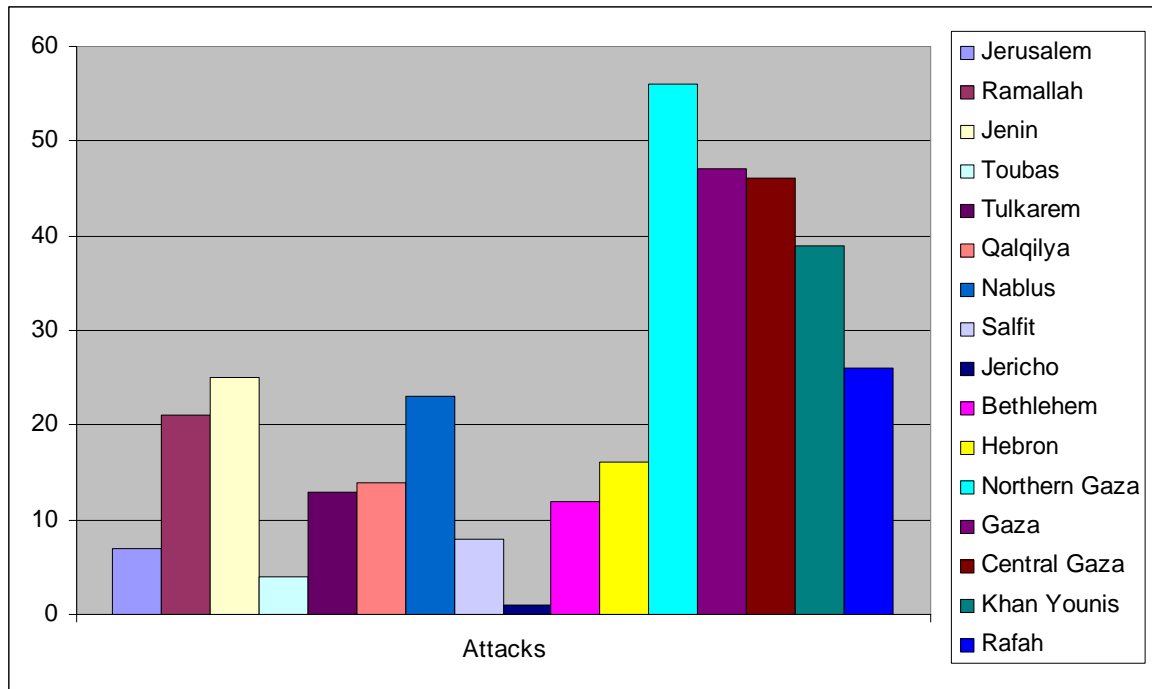
**Distribution of flying checkpoints in the West Bank – December 2008**

### 6. Attacks

A total of 358 attacks were reported during the month of December, including 144 attacks in the West Bank and 214 in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army carried out 128 attacks during raids into Palestinian residential areas; 50 attacks during confrontations between the Israeli army and Palestinians; 137 attacks from Israeli army military posts towards civilian houses and property; 3 attacks from checkpoints. In addition, Israeli combat aircraft, helicopters and UAVs carried out 25 air attacks. Israeli combat helicopters also opened fire towards Palestinian territory with machine guns on 9 occasions. Furthermore, Israeli navy boats carried out 6 attacks in Gaza. (See chart below).

In addition, the Israeli army carried out 214 attacks (including air attacks) in the Gaza Strip districts. Armed Palestinian individuals fired 519 mortars towards areas inside the Green Line (of which 2 mortars fell in Palestinian areas); opened fire on 15 occasions; detonated 6 explosive devices near Israeli troops positioned on the Green Line.



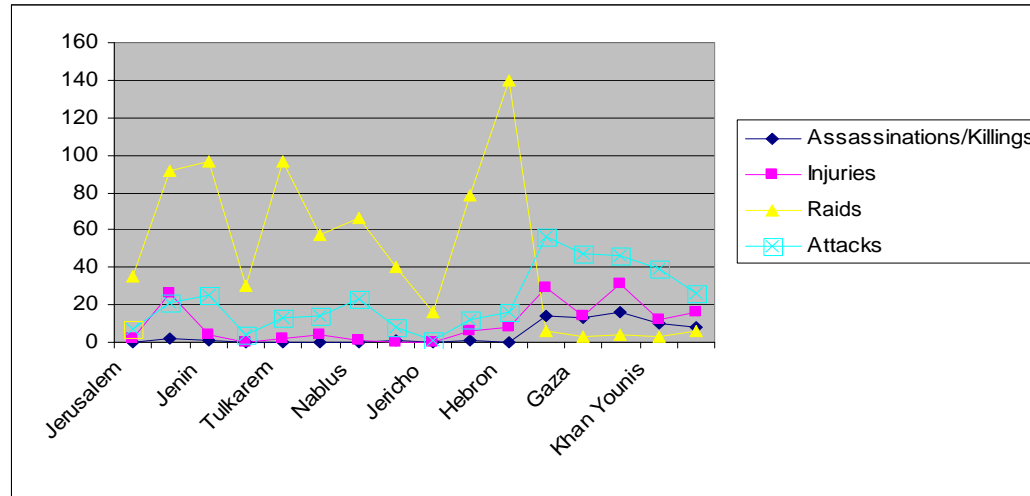
**Israeli attacks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip – December 2008**

Following the crisis in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire agreement that entered into force at 06:00 on 26 November 2006 has no longer been effective.

## **7. Raids**

1. The Israeli army carried out a total of 770 raids into Palestinian residential locales during the month of December, including 748 in the West Bank and 22 in the Gaza Strip. The majority of Israeli army raids took place in the districts of Hebron (140); Jenin (97); Tulkarem (97); Ramallah (92); Bethlehem (78). The Israeli army opened fire during 128 raids, approximately 16.6% of the total number of raids into Palestinian residential areas. Additionally, the Israeli army imposed curfew 14 times on 9 residential locales in the West Bank during raids (compared to 27 times in November and 14 in October). During the raids, the Israeli army occupied and converted into military posts 27 civilian houses and residential buildings. The following graph shows the correlation between the number of raids and resulting human losses:





**Correlation between the number of raids and resulting human losses – December 2008**

2. The Israeli army also continued to intensify its raids on Palestinian Authority controlled territory (Areas A under the Oslo Agreement), which the Israeli army re-occupied in 2002. The Israeli army conducted 427 raids, approximately 55.5% of the total number of raids, into Palestinian Authority controlled territory in the West Bank.

### **8. House Demolitions**

During the month of December, the Israeli army demolished 5 civilian houses, including 4 in the West Bank and 1 in the Gaza Strip. The house demolition included 1 house in Wadi al-Joz neighbourhood in the city of East Jerusalem under the pretext of unlicensed construction. In addition, the Israeli army demolished 1 house in the town of Sur Baher in East Jerusalem, and one room built without a license and annexed to a house in the old city of Jerusalem; 1 house in the village of al-Karma in Hebron district, and 1 house during a raid on the area of al-Farraheen in Khan Younis district. Furthermore, the Israeli army issued orders to demolish a 12-storey residential building in Ras al-‘Amud neighbourhood in East Jerusalem, and handed 2 civilians demolition notifications in the area of Ras al-Wad that is located in the town of Za’tara in Bethlehem district.

### **9. Provocation of Palestinian Military and Security Forces**

The Israeli army provoked Palestinian forces in West Bank districts on 9 occasions during the month of December (not including the 16 Palestinian military officers who were arrested by the Israeli army). The provocation was reported to have taken place in the West Bank as follows:

#### **Types of Israeli Army Provocation against Palestinian Forces during the Month of December 2008**

Type of Provocation	West Bank	Notes
Preventing Palestinian Security Forces from	1	Israeli army prevented Palestinian police officers from entering their police station in Hebron district.

<b>carrying out security duties</b>		
<b>Taking position / setting up checkpoints near Palestinian security posts</b>	<b>6</b>	The Israeli army took positions near a Palestinian National Security Forces checkpoint in the city of Jericho, and near 2 Palestinian military posts in Hebron district. In addition, the Israeli army patrolled near 2 Palestinian Security Forces complexes in the city of Hebron. Furthermore, the Israeli army set up a checkpoint near a Palestinian police station in the town of al-Obaidiyyeh in Bethlehem district.
<b>Detaining Palestinian security patrols</b>	<b>2</b>	The Israeli army detained a Palestinian National Security patrol in the city of Toubas, and detained police officers who were on duty in the area of Bab al-Zawiyyeh in the city of Hebron.

### **10. Attacks on Public and Private Property**

A total of 69 incidents of destruction and confiscation of public and private property were reported during the month of December, including 49 in the West Bank and 20 in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army destroyed and damaged houses and house furniture in Jerusalem, Qalqilya, Northern Gaza, Central Gaza and Rafah districts. The Israeli army also damaged 13 civilian vehicles and motorbikes in Qalqilya, Salfit, Nablus, Northern Gaza and Central Gaza districts. The Israeli army also damaged 3 commercial stores that obstructed the route of the apartheid wall near Alfe Menashe settlement in Qalqilya district.

Israeli troops incurred damage to 2 offices, 1 institution and a commercial store in the city of Jenin, and 1 restaurant in Toubas district. In addition, Israeli troops razed plants and green houses in Central Gaza and Khan Younis, and incurred damage to one electric transformer in Ramallah district, and to sewage, water and electric networks in Jenin, Hebron and Central Gaza.

The Israeli army confiscated computers and files from an association in the city of Ramallah and from an association that caters for prisoners' needs and 2 offices in the city of Jenin; 3 rifles and one revolver in the city of al-Bireh; TV broadcast equipment in Nablus district; ammunition and weapons in Qalqilya district; 3 IDs from a military officer and 2 civilians in Salfit, Bethlehem and Hebron. The Israeli army also stole 1000 NIS (\$255) from a civilian in Hebron district.

### **11. Settlement Activity**

Settlers carried out settlement activities on 3 occasions during the month of December. Settlers confiscated 4 dunums of land in the village of Sinjil in Ramallah district for opening a settlement road; razed land near Yitzhar settlement in Nablus district and land alongside the trans-Samaria road to the north of the village of Marda, located in Salfit district.

### **12. Settler Violence**

Israeli settlers carried out 28 violent incidents in West Bank districts during the month of December.

Israeli settlers kidnapped a child in Ramallah district; ran over 2 children in Bethlehem and Hebron districts and 1 civilian in Tulkarem district; physically attacked a number of civilians in Qalqilya, Nablus and Hebron districts; stoned civilians in Ramallah, Qalqilya and Salfit districts; occupied a house in the city of East Jerusalem; attempted to set up a settlement outpost east of the city of East Jerusalem and 2 outposts in Hebron district; attempted to raid 2 villages in Qalqilya and Salfit districts; closed a road junction in Nablus district; uprooted olive trees and plants in Hebron and Qalqilya districts; razed land in Hebron

district; incurred damage to 1 civilian vehicle on Hebron-Bethlehem road; stole a mobile phone from a female civilian in Qalqilya district.

### **13. Medical Obstruction**

In December, the Israeli army carried out 4 incidents of medical obstruction, 3 in the West Bank and 1 in Gaza Strip districts. The Israeli army prevented a medical team from entering a village that is located behind the apartheid wall in Qalqilya district; prevented an ambulance from carrying a wounded child to hospital from a village in Bethlehem district; stormed into and searched a hospital in the city of Hebron; opened fire towards ambulances and prevented them from carrying wounded civilians in Central Gaza.

### **14. Attacks on Religious Sites**

In December, 3 incidents on religious sites were reported to have taken place in the West Bank. Settlers backed by the Israeli army hung the sign of the Temple near Dung Gate that overlooks the al-Aqsa Mosque in the old city of Jerusalem and raided the mosque courtyards. In addition, the Israeli army searched a mosque in the city of Tulkarem.

### **15. School Disruption**

The Israeli army carried out 3 incidents of school disruption during the month of December, 2 in the West Bank and 1 in the Gaza Strip districts. The Israeli army searched a dormitory in Ramallah and prevented the construction of a technical college under the pretext of unlicensed construction in Hebron. In addition, the Israeli army raided a number of schools and disrupted education in Rafah district.

### **16. Closure of Crossing Points**

The Israeli army completely closed crossing points in the Gaza Strip, including Green Line crossing points on 107 occasions, in December. The Israeli army closed crossing points into the Green Line on 47 occasions. Beit Hanoun-Erez Crossing was opened partially to allow access to certain humanitarian cases, after prior coordination. The Israeli army allowed two groups of pilgrims to leave to Saudi Arabia for the *Hajj* through al-Karama (Allenby) Passage. The Israeli army also closed al-Muntar (Karni) Commercial Crossing for 30 days during the month of December and opened it for one day only; al-Shuja'iya (Nahal 'Oz) Crossing (designated for fuel transportation) was closed for 5 days completely and opened for 26 days partially; Sufa Crossing (designated for construction cargo transportation) was closed for 6 days in December and opened for 25 days partially; and Karm Abu Salim (Karem Shalom) Crossing (designated for commercial trading with Egypt) was closed for 6 days and opened for 25 days partially. Additionally, the Israeli army closed Rafah international crossing point on 60 occasions (closed throughout the month). Rafah Crossing bordering with Egypt was opened for 2 days to allow access to 1950 civilians who were going on a pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. Yasser Arafat International Airport has remained closed since the outbreak of the current Intifada (Uprising).

### **17. Palestinian Security Measures**

During the month of December, Palestinian Security Forces carried out 8 security measures in the West Bank. They handed over to the Israeli army (through the D.C.O.) 5 Israelis (3 settlers and 2 women) who drove into the cities of Jericho and Bethlehem. Additionally, the Palestinian Security Forces handed over one grenade to the Israeli army which they found in the city of Salfit. Additionally, the Palestinian Security Forces detonated 2 explosives in Tulkarem district.