

Weekly report on Israeli human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories 21 - 27 Nov 2002

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights
Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nations
Affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists - Geneva
Member of the International Federation for Human Rights - Paris
The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network

Continued Israeli War Crimes in the OPT and the International Community Remains Silent

- 7 Palestinians, including 6 civilians, and an UNRWA official killed by Israeli forces
- Israeli occupying forces invade Bethlehem and take retaliatory measures against Palestinian civilians and their property
- A series of Israeli incursions into Palestinian areas, and residential areas shelled
- Continued Israeli retaliatory campaign against families of wanted Palestinians and those who carried out armed attacks against Israeli targets
- Israeli forces use Palestinian civilians as human shields during military operations
- A number of Palestinians arrested
- Continued strict siege of the OPT

Introduction

Israeli occupying forces have perpetrated more human rights violations against Palestinian civilians, including willful killings, shelling of, and incursion into Palestinian areas and agricultural land leveling. This week, 21-27 November 2002, 7 civilians -- 6 Palestinians and an UNRWA official -- and a security man were killed by Israeli forces. This number does not include Palestinians who were killed in military attacks.

On Friday, 22 November 2002, Israeli forces, reinforced with dozens of heavy military vehicles, invaded Bethlehem and surrounding towns, villages and refugee camp. They seized complete control over these areas and imposed a curfew. Israeli forces waged a campaign of arrests against Palestinian civilians. About 50 Palestinians have been arrested by Israeli forces since the beginning of this new offensive. Israeli forces also took retaliatory steps against families of wanted Palestinians. The Israeli invasion came shortly before the beginning of preparations for Christmas.

This week, the Gaza Strip was subjected to various kinds of attacks by Israeli forces. On Monday, 25 November 2002, Israeli forces encroached into Deir al-Balah. They opened fire everywhere wounding 5 Palestinian civilians. They also fired at a Palestinian ambulance that tried to offer help to the wounded. The ambulance driver was hit by 2 live bullets. Israeli forces destroyed the house of the family of a wanted Palestinian. They also arrested his 4 brothers.

On Friday, 22 November 2002, Israeli forces, reinforced with dozens of heavy military vehicles and 3 helicopters and covered by intense shelling, moved approximately 3km into al-Qarara village and al-Satar al-Sharqi area in the north of Khan Yunis. Israeli tanks took position on Salah al-Din Street, the main road between the north and south of the Gaza Strip, and on branch roads, so they tightened the grab on the area. During the 4-hour aggression, Israeli forces destroyed 2 Palestinian houses and raided some other ones.

In addition to the 9 houses that were destroyed in Deir al-Balah and al-Qarara village in the Gaza Strip, and Bethlehem in the West Bank, Israeli forces destroyed three houses in Nablus on the same ground.

This week, Israeli forces razed large areas of Palestinian agricultural land in the Gaza Strip, especially in Deir al-Balah.

This week, Israeli forces committed a series of apparent willful killings that left 6 Palestinians and an UNRWA official dead. On Friday, 22 November 2002, Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian child and an UNRWA official in Jenin refugee camp. On Thursday, 21 November 2002, Israeli forces in military locations in the vicinity of "Netzarim" settlement, south of Gaza City, shelled a Palestinian security site. A Palestinian security man was killed. On Sunday, 24 November 2002, Israeli soldiers at a military checkpoint west of Nablus fired at a number of Palestinian civilians who attempted to travel to the city. An old man fell over, and smashed his head on a large stone, which caused his death. On Monday, 25 November 2002, Israeli soldiers on tanks shot dead a Palestinian child, when they opened fire at passing Palestinian school children and civilians. On Wednesday, 27 November 2002, Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian civilian while he was on his way to the mosque in 'Askar refugee camp, east of Nablus. On the same day, a Palestinian civilian was killed in Bethlehem, when Israeli soldiers at a military roadblock opened fire at his car.

Israeli forces have maintained the total siege imposed on the OPT, collectively punishing the Palestinian people. Israeli forces have partitioned Palestinian areas, transforming them into cantons, violating Palestinian civilians' economic, social and cultural rights. They have also imposed curfews on several different areas.

Israeli Offensive on Bethlehem

At approximately 04:00 on Friday, 22 November 2002, Israeli forces, reinforced with dozens of heavy military vehicles, invaded the towns of Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour, the refugee camps of al-Duheisha, al-'Azza and 'Aaida, and the villages of al-

Khader, al-Duha, al-'Obeidia and Artas. They seized complete control over these areas and imposed a curfew. Many Israeli tanks and armored personnel carriers were positioned in the vicinity of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Israeli forces waged a campaign of arrests against Palestinian civilians. About 50 Palestinians have been arrested by Israeli forces since the beginning of this new offensive. Israeli forces also took retaliatory steps against the families of wanted Palestinians. Following are the most significant serious violations perpetrated by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians in the Bethlehem District:

House Demolition

At approximately 11:30 on Friday, 22 November 2002, Israeli forces surrounded a 150 square-meter house rented by the family of Na'el Nemer Mousa Abu Haulail, who carried out a bombing in Jerusalem recently, in al-Balou' neighborhood in al-Khader village. They forced the 5 residents of the house out and destroyed it. Israeli forces also arrested Abu Haulail's father.

At approximately 05:00 on Saturday, 23 November 2002, Israeli forces raided the house of Riadh Dakhllallah al-'Amour, 36, in al-'Amour neighborhood in Taqqou' village, south of Bethlehem. They forced the 10 residents of the 100 square-meter, 2-story house out and destroyed it. Israeli forces claim that al-'Amour, who has been detained by them, is responsible for a series of resistance actions against Israel.

At approximately 10:00 on the same day, Israeli forces surrounded the house of Ibrahim Mousa 'Ebayat, 27, in Wadi Shahin area, southeast of Bethlehem. They forced the 18 residents of the 180 square-meter, 2 story house out and partially destroyed it. An Israeli officer threatened to come to the house again to destroy the remaining parts. 'Ebayat is one of the 13 Palestinians who were deported by Israeli forces from the Church of the Nativity to Europe on 10 May 2002.

At approximately 11:00 on the same day, Israeli forces raided the house of the family of Walid No'man Subeih in al-Khader village, southwest of Bethlehem. They destroyed the 200 square-meter, 2 story house, where 2 families counting 13 persons lived. Subeih was assassinated by Israeli forces on 16 June 2002.

At approximately 14:00 on the same day, Israeli forces raided the house of the family of Mahmoud 'Abdul Fattah Salah in Berak Suleiman neighborhood in al-Khader village. They forced the 5 residents of the 130 square-meter house out and destroyed it. Salah is wanted by Israeli forces for alleged resistance activities against them.

At approximately 20:00 on the same day, Israeli forces surrounded a 5-story apartment building in Wadi Shahin neighborhood in Bethlehem. They raided the flat of 'Abdullah Ahmed Nawawra, 35, wanted by Israeli forces for alleged activities against them. They planted bombs in the flat, where 9 persons lived, and destroyed it.

During the Bethlehem offensive, Israeli forces seized 15 houses and civilian and security institutions and transformed them into military locations.

Thursday, 21 November 2002

At approximately 00:20, more than 60 Israeli heavy military vehicles, reinforced with 3 helicopters and covered by intense shelling, invaded 'Abasan and Khuza'a villages, east of Khan Yunis. Israeli military vehicles were deployed throughout the two villages. In 'Abasan, Israeli soldiers raided a 2 story house owned by Khaled Ibrahim Mahmoud Qudeih. They held the 8 residents of the house in one room and used the owner as a human shield in searching the house. They made 7 holes in rooms to use them to fire at neighboring residential areas. Palestinian civilians noticed the presence of Israeli soldiers in the house, so they remained in their houses to avoid being shot at by Israeli soldiers. Israeli military vehicles surrounded a number of houses, including the house of Talal Khalil Mohammed Abu Zharifa, wanted by Israeli forces for allegedly being a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The 7 residents of the 140 square-meter house had already evacuated expecting it would be demolished by Israeli forces. Israeli soldiers called on residents of the house and neighboring houses through loudspeakers to leave their houses. Then, an Israeli military bulldozer made a large hole in one side of the house. Dogs were sent into the house before Israeli soldiers got in and planted bombs. Soon, Israeli soldiers destroyed the house. A number of neighboring houses were damaged. In another attack, Israeli soldiers destroyed the entrance of a 4 story apartment building owned by Salem Mohammed Ahmed Abu Salah. They raided the empty building and broke into 2 flats on the first floor that served in the past as offices for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Salvation Charity Society. Israeli soldiers opened fire at doors and inside the flats. In another attack, Israeli soldiers destroyed the entrance of a 2 story apartment building owned by Mahmoud Ahmed Joma'a Abu Mutlaq. They broke into offices of the Fatah Movement and the Prisoners and Ex-prisoners Rehabilitation Society (Hussam). They broke doors and confiscated a computer and some documents and files.

Israeli soldiers on tanks positioned at Khuza'a-'Abasan junction opened fire at a number of Palestinian ambulances that came to offer help to the wounded. Three ambulances were damaged and 2 paramedics were wounded:

1. Ahmed 'Ali Jasser, 28, wounded by a live bullet to the left thigh, while he was inside an ambulance of Palestine Red Crescent Society; and
2. 'Emad al-Din Mohammed Jodei'an Abu Jamous, 25, wounded by shrapnel in the head, while he was inside an ambulance of the Qura'an and Sunna Society.

Israeli forces also destroyed a number of electricity towers, cutting off electricity from the whole area. A number of houses and a mosque were also damaged. Also as a result of the Israeli shelling, fire broke out in a wood store in a 2 story house owned by Isma'il Mohammed Khalil Tabash. The Fire extended to the façade of the house, which was empty when fire broke out. The fire was later extinguished.

In Khuza'a, Israeli soldiers raided the house of Walid Mohammed Ahmed Abu Rujeila. They forced the 7 residents out of the 3 story house. They then raided a flat on the first floor that served in the past as offices for Fatah Movement. Israeli soldiers also raided the house of Hussein Ahmed Hussein Abu Rujeila. They forced the 10 residents of the 3 story house out. Then, they used Kamal Hussein Ahmed Abu Rujeila, 23, as a human shield while searching the house.

At approximately 00:25, Israeli forces in military locations in the vicinity of "Netzarim" settlement, south of Gaza City, opened fire at a mobile site of the Palestinian Military Intelligence in Sheikh Ejlin area, approximately 1300m north of the aforementioned settlement. Less than 15 minutes later, Israeli forces fired 2 other artillery shells at the same site, where 4 Palestinian security men were on duty. A security man was wounded, while the other security men were able to escape. At approximately 01:00, 2 tanks and a minesweeper of Israeli forces, covered by intense gunfire, moved into the area and destroyed the small site. Approximately 2 hours later, the Israeli heavy military vehicles withdrew from the area. The destiny of the wounded security man was unknown. His body was discovered at approximately 04:30. It was clear that he bled intensely. The body was evacuated to Shifa' Hospital in Gaza City. The victim was identified as Fahmi Mohammed Fahmi Abu Hussein (Nassar), 26, from al-Shojaeya neighborhood in Gaza. According to medical sources, he was killed by shrapnel from a Fletchette shell. A PCHR field worker who saw the body reported that the victim's face was trodden on, which indicates he was still alive when Israeli forces arrived at the area. Flechette darts were found on electricity towers and trees in the place of the incident.

At approximately 11:00, Israeli forces moved approximately 100m into Palestinian agricultural land northeast of "Kfar Darom" settlement, east of Deir al-Balah. An Israeli military bulldozer razed areas of agricultural land:

1. It razed a 15 donum area of agricultural land planted with palms and olives, and destroyed a well and a water pump owned by Samir Mohammed Suleiman al-'Azaiza.
2. It razed a 5 donum area of agricultural land, on which 5 greenhouses planted with vegetables stood, owned by Mohammed Hamdi al-Sayed Abu Musabbah.
3. It razed a 5 donum area of agricultural land, on which 5 greenhouses planted with tomatoes stood, and destroyed an irrigation network owned by Rajab al-Sayed Suleiman Abu Musabbah.
4. It razed a 4.5 donum area of agricultural land planted with olives and palms, and destroyed an agricultural pool, a water pump and a store owned by Mahmoud Mohammed Ahmed al-'Azaiza.
5. It razed a 4.5 donum area of agricultural land planted with olives and palms owned by 'Abdul 'Aziz Mohammed Ahmed al-'Azaiza.

6. It razed a 5 donum area of agricultural land, on which 5 greenhouse planted with tomatoes stood, and destroyed an irrigation network owned by Khaled Suleiman al-Sayed Musabbah.

The Israeli attack on the area continued until 09:00 on Saturday, 23 November 2002, during which the Israeli military bulldozers cut electricity wires, leaving the 150 Palestinian civilians living in the area without electricity.

At approximately 15:00, Israeli forces moved into Palestinian agricultural land, north of Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip. They destroyed a number of greenhouses and wells. According to Palestinian farmers in the affected area, Israeli soldiers standing on tanks and 2 military bulldozers informed them that all greenhouses in the area would be bulldozed if they were not dismantled in 48 hours, but the farmers were not able to dismantle all greenhouses in such a short period. Until Friday, 22 November 2002, Israeli forces demolished a number of buildings and razed areas of agricultural land:

1. They demolished a 140 square-meter building that contained a well and a store of agricultural equipment owned by the family of Abu Halima.
2. They demolished a 150 square-meter building that contained a well and a store of agricultural equipment owned by Nabil and Sa'ïd Mohammed al-'Attar and 'Ali Tamim al-'Attar.
3. They demolished a 200 square-meter, 2 story building that contained a 3 room house, a well and a store of agricultural equipment owned by Suleiman Salman Abu Halima.
4. They demolished a 100 square-meter building that contained a well and a store of agricultural equipment owned by Zuhair Edris Khader.
5. They razed a 2 donum area of agricultural land, on which 2 greenhouses planted with vegetables stood, and destroyed an irrigation network owned by Bassam Salem Sa'ïd Abu Halima.
6. They razed a 2 donum area of agricultural land, on which 2 greenhouses planted with vegetables stood, and destroyed an irrigation network owned by Ra'ed Salem Sa'ïd Abu Halima.
7. They razed a 6 donum area of agricultural land, on which 6 greenhouses planted with vegetables stood, and destroyed an irrigation network owned by Zuhair Edris Khader and farmed by Akram Saleh Tawfiq al-Nahhal.
8. They razed a 1.5 donum area of agricultural land, on which a greenhouse planted with vegetables stood, owned by Taha Salman Suleiman Abu Halima.

Also at approximately 15:00, Israeli forces in military locations in the vicinity of "Neve Dekalim" settlement, west of Khan Yunis, opened fire at Palestinian houses in Khan Yunis refugee camp. Two Palestinian civilians were lightly wounded:

1. Hassan Ahmed Abu 'Azzoum, 50, wounded by shrapnel from a bullet in the arm; and
2. Suleiman Mousa Abu Mousa, 31, wounded by shrapnel from a bullet in his foot.

Friday, 22 November 2002

At approximately 00:00, Israeli forces, reinforced with dozens of heavy military vehicles and 3 helicopters and covered by intense shelling, moved approximately 3km into al-Qarara village and al-Satar al-Sharqi area in the north of Khan Yunis. Israeli tanks took position on Salah al-Din Street, the main road between the north and south of the Gaza Strip, and on branch roads, so they tightened the grab on the area. During the 4 hour aggression, Israeli forces destroyed 2 Palestinian houses and raided other ones.

In al-Qarara village, Israeli soldiers surrounded the house of Fayeze Ibrahim Mousa Abu Fayadh, uncle of Amjad Fayadh who carried out an armed attack on "Gush Qatif" settlement block in the southern Gaza Strip last year. They forced the 9 residents of the 185 square-meter house out. They used the owner as a human shield in searching the house. They then planted bombs in the house and destroyed it.

Israeli soldiers also surrounded the house of Mousa Ibrahim Mousa Abu Fayadh, father of Eyad Fayadh, whom Israeli forces had searched for since the first Palestinian Intifada, but he was able to escape to Sudan. They forced the 17 residents of the 350 square-meter, 3-story house out and raided it. They planted bombs in the northern side of the house and destroyed it. Two flats and a store were destroyed. The collapsed parts of the building hit a nearby greenhouse owned by Mohammed Rashad Fayadh, completely destroying it.

Israeli forces also razed areas of Palestinian agricultural land:

1. They razed a 3 donum area of agricultural land planted with carrots and parsleys, and destroyed an irrigation network owned by 'Awadh 'Abdul Hadi Hamdan Fayadh.
2. They razed a 3 donum area of agricultural land planted with vegetables, and destroyed an irrigation network owned by Ibrahim Ayoub Saleh Fayadh.
3. They razed a 2 donum area planted with spinaches, and destroyed an irrigation network owned by 'Abdul 'Aziz Musallam 'Ali Fayadh.

In al-Satar al-Sharqi area, Israeli soldiers raided the house of Dr. Younis Mohye al-Din Fayeze al-Astal, a Hamas leader. They held his family in one room. When they did not find him, they searched the house, destroyed some of its furniture and confiscated a number of books. Then, they raided houses of al-Astal's brothers. Israeli soldiers held the 30 family members in one room. They used Yousef Mohye al-Din Fayeze al-Astal as a

human shield in searching the houses. They also interrogated the males and beat three members of the families, to force them to reveal information about the place of Dr. al-Astal.

At approximately 06:30, about 40 Israeli soldiers, reinforced with military vehicles and bulldozers, moved approximately 500m into al-Birka area in the south of Deir al-Balah. They raided two houses owned by the families of Shihada and al-Aa'raj. They forced residents of the two houses out and searched them. Then, the Israeli military bulldozer moved approximately 200m southward. They razed areas of Palestinian agricultural land:

1. They razed a 4 donum area of agricultural land, on which 4 greenhouses planted with vegetables stood, and destroyed an irrigation network and a well owned by Hamdan 'Abdul 'Aziz al-Salqawi.
2. They razed a 5 donum area of agricultural land planted with olives and palms, and destroyed a well and a water pump owned by Jihad Mohammed Madhi.
3. They razed a 2 donum area of agricultural land, on which 2 greenhouses planted with vegetables stood, and destroyed an irrigation network, a well and a water pump owned by Mohammed 'Abdul Karim al-Salqawi.
4. They razed a 2 donum area of agricultural land, on which 2 greenhouses planted with vegetables stood, and destroyed an irrigation network owned by Ahmed 'Abdul Karim al-Salqawi.
5. They razed a 2 donum area of agricultural land, on which 2 greenhouses planted with vegetables stood, and destroyed an irrigation network owned by Hassan Ahmed al-Malliti.
6. They razed a 2 donum area of agricultural land, on which 2 greenhouses planted with vegetables stood, and demolished 2 rooms owned by Mohammed Yasser Mahmoud al-Salqawi.
7. They razed a 5 donum area of agricultural land planted with olives and palms, and destroyed a water pump owned by Ahmed 'Abdul Karim Baraka.
8. They razed a 2 donum area of agricultural land planted with olives and palms, and destroyed a water pump owned by Ahmed 'Abdul Karim Baraka.
9. They razed a 2 donum area of agricultural land, on which 2 greenhouses planted with vegetables stood, and destroyed an irrigation network and a water pump owned by Yousef Mahmoud al-Salqawi.
10. They razed a 1 donum area of agricultural land planted with olives owned by Na'im Mannaa' Abu Shiha.

11. They razed a 1 donum area of agricultural land planted with palms, and destroyed an irrigation network owned by Sha'ban 'Abdul Karim al-Salqawi.

Israeli forces perpetrated 2 new war crimes that left a Palestinian child and a member of the UNRWA staff dead. According to information available to PCHR, at approximately 08:45, Israeli forces, reinforced with dozens of heavy military vehicles and covered by intense shelling, invaded the West Bank town of Jenin and its refugee camp. At approximately 10:00, Israeli forces surrounded the house of Ibrahim 'id Hamda Nagnina, 58, in Jenin refugee camp, claiming that wanted Palestinians were hiding inside. A number of Israeli snipers took position on the roofs of neighboring houses and opened fire on the house and the whole area, so all those who were inside the house got out. Israeli forces arrested the owner's son and 20 year-old 'Abdullah Naji al-Wahesh. Then, an Israeli armored military bulldozer demolished the 150 square-meter, 3 story house, where 6 families counting 25 persons used to live. In the meantime, a number of Palestinian children gathered in the area and threw stones towards Israeli forces, which retaliated by opening fire at the children killing 12-year-old Mohammed Musleh Balalwa with a live bullet in the left eye. According to eyewitnesses, the child was shot when he was approximately 100m away from the Israeli forces. In addition, 3 children were wounded:

1. Jaber Tayseer Hassan, 12, wounded by a live bullet in the left shoulder;
2. Zakria 'Afif Hassan Sarhan, 13, wounded by shrapnel in the back; and
3. Amjad Mahmoud Ahmed 'Omar, 12, wounded by a live bullet in the left leg.

Israeli forces continued to fire indiscriminately. An Irish citizen, Caiomhe Butterly, 25, a member of the international public protection committees who works as a volunteer in Palestine Red Crescent Society and UNRWA, was wounded by a live bullet to the left leg, while she was attempting to offer help to the wounded. Butterly has been in Jenin refugee camp since April.

In the afternoon, Israeli forces continued to fire at the refugee camp. The UNRWA compound was hit by live bullets. At approximately 13:30, Iain Hook, 54, a British citizen and an UNRWA official got out of the compound and shouted to Israeli soldiers, warning them of the danger they posed to UNRWA staff. He demanded coordination to evacuate the staff from the compound. According to eyewitnesses, Hook stood in front of the compound and called on Israeli soldiers, including snipers, to cease fire, but they did not do so. An Israeli soldier then fired at him from a distance of approximately 20m, wounding him with a live bullet in the abdomen. The UNRWA staff attempted to offer him help, but Israeli soldiers prevented them from getting close to him. Israeli soldiers also prevented ambulances from evacuating him to hospital. So, the UNRWA staff made a large hole in the southern wall of the compound and were able to reach hospital 30 minutes later. Hook died of his wounds before arriving at hospital. According to medical sources, Hook was shot by a live bullet that entered the abdomen and exited the back. Shrapnel was also found in the pelvis.

An Israeli military spokesman claimed that a prolonged violent clash erupted between Israeli forces and Palestinian gunmen in the refugee camp, in a desperate attempt to hold the Palestinian side responsible for Hook's death. British Foreign Minister Jack Straw called upon the Israeli Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to investigate Hook's death. On the following day, Saturday, 23 November 2002, an Israeli military spokesman claimed an initial investigation into Hook's death revealed that that clashes erupted between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian gunmen. Two Israeli soldiers identified a man holding an object, so they thought he was a gunman. The soldiers opened fire towards him and wounded him.

Saturday, 23 November 2002

At approximately 10:00, medical sources at al-Ahli Hospital in Hebron declared that 15-year-old 'Abdullah 'Arafat Mahmoud 'Abdul Nabi al-Natsha succumbed to wound he sustained 3 days earlier. According to information available to PCHR, on Wednesday, 20 November 2002, there were rumors that the curfew imposed by Israeli forces on Hebron since Friday, 15 November 2002, was lifted. As a result, thousands of Palestinian civilians rushed to markets to buy foodstuffs. Immediately, Israeli soldiers on tanks opened fire at civilians. Al-Natsha was critically wounded by a live bullet to the pelvis. He was evacuated to the intensive care unit of al-Ahli Hospital, but all efforts made to save his life failed. Al-Natsha was wounded while he was on his way to buy things required for his birthday party, which was on that day.

At the same time, Israeli forces, reinforced with tanks, raided 'Ein Sara neighborhood in Hebron. They surrounded the houses of Asa'ad Fakhri Maraqa, 70, and his sons Khaled, 40, and 'Aayed, 38. They forced the 15 residents of the three houses out. Then, Israeli soldiers destroyed doors and windows. They also arrested the father and his son Khaled. The other son is wanted by Israeli forces for alleged activities in the Intifada.

Sunday, 24 November 2002

At approximately 09:30, Israeli forces, reinforced with dozens of heavy military vehicles, moved into Tulkarm. Israeli soldiers fired tear gas canisters and rubber-coated metal bullets at Palestinian civilians who broke the curfew imposed on the northern West Bank town. A Palestinian civilian, Majdi Riadh Mohammed al-Sariri, 20, was wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the right upper arm.

At approximately 10:00, Israeli soldiers on tanks positioned in al-Quds Street in the east of Nablus opened fire at Palestinian houses. An Israeli tank also fired a shell at a number of Palestinian civilians who got out of their houses to buy some of basic needs. Two civilians were wounded:

1. 'Alaa' Mohammed Khader, 19, wounded by shrapnel in the abdomen and the legs; and
2. Sami Ziad 'Awartani, 25, wounded by a live bullet in the right hand.

At approximately 12:00, Israeli forces in military locations near Salah al-Din Gate on the Egyptian border, south of Rafah, opened fire at Palestinian houses in Rafah refugee camp. A Palestinian civilian, 'Abdul 'Aziz Mohammed 'Awadh, 21, was wounded by a live bullet in the left leg, while he was inside his house in Block O.

At approximately 14:00, Israeli forces, reinforced with heavy military vehicles, moved approximately 200m into al-Birka area in the south of Deir al-Balah. Two Israeli armored military bulldozers razed areas of Palestinian agricultural land:

1. They razed a 5-donum area of agricultural land, on which 5 greenhouses planted with vegetables stood, and destroyed an irrigation network owned by Isma'il 'Aashour al-'Assar.
2. They razed a 3-donum area of agricultural land, on which 3 greenhouses planted with vegetables stood, and destroyed an irrigation network owned by Jamil Mohammed al-Salqawi.
3. They razed a 1.5-donum area of agricultural land planted with palms and olives and destroyed a water motor owned by Ahmed Baraka.
4. They razed a 4.5-donum area of agricultural land planted with palms and olives owned by Sha'ban 'Abdul Karim al-Salqawi.

Late at night, Israeli forces moved into Nour Shams refugee camp, east of Tulkarm. They opened fire at houses wounding 2 Palestinian civilians:

1. Hilal Ahmed D'ib Hassan, 18, wounded by a live bullet in the left leg; and
2. Amir Ahmed 'Abdul Rahman Fawzi, 16, wounded by a live bullet in the right shoulder.

Monday, 25 November 2002

In another apparent willful killing, Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian child and wounded 13 other civilians, when they fired at school children and passing civilians in Sheikh Musallam neighborhood in Nablus. According to information available to PCHR, in the morning, Palestinian civilians in Nablus went to their schools and work places, in protest to the continuous curfew imposed on the city by Israeli forces. At approximately 11:30, some Israeli heavy military vehicles moved from military locations around the city into its streets. A number of those military vehicles took position in Faisal Street in the center of Nablus, while school children were on their way back home. Without any warning, Israeli soldiers on tanks opened fired everywhere. A Palestinian child, Jihad Tahsin Darwish al-Faqih, 8, was critically wounded by a live bullet in the heart. He succumbed to his wound upon arrival at hospital. According to eyewitnesses, Israeli soldiers fired at Palestinian civilians from distances ranged between 100 and 150m apparently to cause a maximum number of casualties. In addition, 13 Palestinian

civilians, including 7 children and 2 women, were wounded. According to medical sources, one of the wounded was in critical condition.

At approximately 12:00, an Israeli tank moved into D'innaba neighborhood in Tulkarm. It moved into an alley close to a school. The tank was stuck in the alley, so Israeli military reinforcements were called to offer help. When school children exited their school, some of them threw stones towards Israeli forces. Immediately, Israeli soldiers fired at the stone throwers, wounding 4:

1. Tha'er Mansour 'Abdul 'Aal, 13, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the right side;
2. Mohammed Wasef Mohammed Hamed, 15, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the left foot;
3. Adham Khaled 'Anbas, 14, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the left forearm; and
4. Mujahed Mohammed Saleh 'Attar, 13, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the left forearm.

At approximately midnight, Israeli forces, reinforced with more than 30 heavy military vehicles and a number of helicopters, invaded Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip. Some of those forces moved from "Gush Qatif" settlement block, south of the city, approximately 3km into the town and took position approximately 700m away from Deir al-Balah refugee camp, while other forces moved from "Kfar Darom" settlement, southeast of the town, 1500m into the north and took position on a branch road of Salah al-Din Street (the main road between the north and south of the Gaza Strip). Israeli forces shelled the town, wounding 6 Palestinian civilians. They also fired at an ambulance of the Palestinian Ministry of Health, wounding its driver. After they had seized control over the town and its refugee camp, Israeli forces surrounded the house of Hamed Mohammed al-Houli bin al-Bassa area in the northwest of the town. They raided and searched the house and arrested four sons of the owner: Ra'fat, 33; Ashraf, 32; Zaher, 25; and Naji, 25. They also forced the 22 residents of the 350 square-meter, 3 story house out and destroyed it. About 20 neighboring houses were severely damaged. The owner's son Mohammed is wanted by Israeli forces for alleged activities in the Intifada.

Those wounded were:

1. Ahmed Mohammed Abu 'Eisha, 19, seriously wounded by a live bullet in the chest;
2. Mohammed D'ib Salha, 50, an ambulance driver, wounded by 2 live bullets in the right foot and left hand and 2 fingers of his right foot were cut;
3. Ibrahim 'Obeid Ramadan, 35, wounded by a live bullet in the neck and by shrapnel in the legs;

4. Rami 'Abdul Rahman al-Qedra, 28, wounded by a live bullet in the left leg;
5. Ahmed Munir Shihada, 15, wounded by a live bullet in the left leg; and
6. Ra'fat Hussein Shihada, 37, wounded by shrapnel in the face.

Tuesday, 26 November 2002

At approximately 01:00, Israeli forces in a military location in Tal Zo'rob area in the southwest of Rafah opened fire at Palestinian houses at the nearby Tal al-Sultan neighborhood. A Palestinian civilian, Mohammed Mohammed al-Dabbas, 21, was wounded by a live bullet in the head.

At approximately 09:00, a number of Israeli military jeeps moved into Tulkarm. Israeli soldiers fired at Palestinian civilians who broke the curfew that had been imposed on the town by Israeli forces for several weeks. Six civilians were wounded:

1. 'Essam 'Azzam Amin al-Qudsi, 27, wounded by a live bullet in the left foot;
2. 'Essam Ahmed Ra'fat Sa'ada, 18, wounded by a live bullet in the back;
3. Mo'men 'Abdul Latif Abu Safaqa, 15, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the right leg;
4. Ahmed Ibrahim D'ib, 42, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the right leg;
5. Mohammed Hussam Khalaf, 16, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the right hand; and
6. Ahmed Hassan Rihan, 18, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the right leg.

At approximately 15:15, Israeli forces, reinforced with heavy military vehicles, moved approximately 300m into al-Qarara village, north of Khan Yunis. Soon, Israeli soldiers raided the house of Hamdi 'Abdul Qader 'Aamer al-Astal. They checked the identities of the 22 residents of the 3-story house and held them in one room. Israeli soldiers searched the house using dogs. They then mounted the roof and transformed it into a military observation point. In the meanwhile, an Israeli military bulldozer razed areas of Palestinian agricultural land:

1. It razed a 3-donum area of agricultural land planted with olives, palms and vegetables, and destroyed an irrigation network and a well owned by Younis Khalil al-Astal.
2. It razed a 2-donum area of agricultural land planted with vegetables, and destroyed an irrigation network owned by Hamdi 'Abdul Qader 'Aamer al-Astal.

At approximately 19:00, Israeli forces in military locations in Tal Zo`rob area in the southwest of Rafah opened fire at Palestinian houses in Tal al-Sultan neighborhood. Two Palestinian civilians were wounded:

1. 'Awadallah Jaber 'Othman, 28, wounded by a live bullet in the foot; and
2. 'Ali Hassan 'Abdul 'Aal, 29, wounded by shrapnel in the arms and feet.

At approximately 22:30, Israeli forces in military locations in the vicinity of "Morag" settlement, south of Khan Yunis, opened fire at Palestinian residential areas north of the settlement. A Palestinian civilian, Mohammed Yousef Abu Jazar, 23, was wounded by shrapnel in the face and the arms, and Palestinian civilians were terrified.

Wednesday, 27 November 2002

At approximately 01:00, Israeli forces in military locations in the vicinity of "Gani Tal" settlement, northwest of Khan Yunis, shelled al-Rabwat and al-'Araishia areas in the northwest of the town. A number of houses were damaged, but no casualties were reported.

Approximately half an hour later, after Palestinian gunmen attacked "Neve Dekalim" settlement, west of Khan Yunis, with mortars, Israeli forces in military locations in the vicinity of the mentioned settlement and on a tank positioned near a military location, known as "al-Nouria", west of al-Amal neighborhood, shelled Palestinian houses in Khan Yunis refugee camp. In a later development, 2 Israeli combat helicopters launched 3 missiles at a civilian community and near an UNRWA elementary school. The first missile exploded near a 120 square-meter, asbestos-roofed house, in which 2 families counting 16 persons live, owned by Nahidh and Ramzi Shihada Hassan Abu Sahloul. The house was severely damaged. The second missile exploded in the same area near a 100-square-meter, iron-roofed house, in which 2 families counting 6 persons live, owned by 'Abdul Karim Ibrahim 'Ali Abu Mustafa. The house was also damaged. The third missile fell onto a space area. The missiles and their heavy explosions damaged 2 houses also:

1. A 128-square-meter, asbestos-roofed house, in which 2 families counting 5 persons live, owned by Maher Mohammed Ibrahim Abu Mustafa; and
2. A 150-square-meter, iron-roofed house, in which 2 families counting 15 persons live, owned by Sabri and Sa'id Samari Ibrahim al-Aa'raj.

In an apparent willful killing, Israeli soldiers on tanks that invaded Nablus shot dead a Palestinian civilian on his way to the mosque. According to information available to PCHR, at approximately 04:20, while Jihad Mohammed Salim al-Natour, 24, from 'Askar refugee camp, east of Nablus, was on his way to the mosque to do the dawn prayer, when Israeli soldiers on a tank surrounding the camp opened fire at him without prior warning. He was instantly killed by several live bullets throughout the body.

Shooting at Palestinian Civilians

Israeli forces fired at a number of Palestinian civilians who wanted to cross an Israeli military checkpoint towards their village. An old man fell onto the ground and his head collided with a big stone, so he died.

According to information available to PCHR, at approximately 06:00 on Saturday, 23 November 2002, Ahmed Mahmoud Hamad Eshtayeh, 70, traveled from his house in Nablus village, east of Nablus to visit his daughter in Til village, south of the city, through the city itself. At approximately 07:30 on Sunday, 24 November 2002, he traveled towards his village. He was not able to enter Nablus through its southern entrance, so he resorted to the western entrance of the city. At approximately 08:00, he and a number of Palestinian civilians arrived at Qussin-Beit Eiba junction. Israeli soldiers at a military checkpoint in the area held them until 09:30 and forced them to travel back. Those civilians tried to enter Beit Eiba village through agricultural roads. Israeli soldiers fired at them. While they were trying to escape, Eshtayeh fell onto the ground and his head collided with a large stone. At approximately 10:45, an ambulance evacuated him to hospital. According to medical sources, Eshtayeh suffered from an internal hemorrhage in the brain, which caused his death.

On Wednesday evening, 27 November 2002, Israeli soldiers at a military checkpoint east of Bethlehem opened fire suddenly at a civilian car that was traveling from Bethlehem to al-'Obeidia village. The driver was killed by a live bullet in the head.

According to information available to PCHR, at approximately 17:30, while 'Ateya 'Oleyan Rabai'aa, 33, from al-'Obeidia village, east of Bethlehem, was traveling in his private car from the town towards his village, Israeli soldiers at a military roadblock erected suddenly in Qaber Hilwa area, opened fire at the car without prior warning. Rabaia'a was killed by a live bullet in the head.

Collective Punishment Measures against Families of Wanted Palestinians and Those Who Carried out Armed Attacks against Israeli Targets

In violation of international and humanitarian law which prohibits collective punishment, Israeli forces took retaliatory measures against families of Palestinians who have carried attacks against Israeli targets in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and those wanted by Israeli forces. Under this context, Israeli forces destroyed 3 houses in Nablus, in addition to the houses that were destroyed in Bethlehem and the Gaza Strip (see this report above).

According to information available to PCHR, at approximately 01:00 on Friday, Israeli forces, reinforced with heavy military vehicles, surrounded the house of the family of Amjad Mustafa al-Qutob in al-Makhfia neighborhood in Nablus. They forced the 3 families counting 13 persons, who live in the 175-square-meter, 2-story house, out. They took photos for the house and for the families. At approximately 04:30, they destroyed the house. It is worth mentioning that Amjad al-Qutob was killed while carrying out an

armed attack against Israeli forces at al-Hamra military checkpoint in the northern Jordan Valley in the West Bank on 12 May 2002.

At approximately 05:00 on the same day, Israeli forces surrounded the house of Asa'ad Sadiq Sweisa, 70, in al-Ma'ajin area in the north of Nablus, where the 10-member family of 'Anad Rashid Shuqeirat lived. Similarly, they destroyed the 120-square-meter house. It is worth mentioning that 'Anad Shuqeirat when carrying out a bombing in 'Affoula city in the north of Israel earlier this year.

At approximately 03:30 on Tuesday, 26 November 2002, Israeli forces, reinforced with tanks and armored personnel carriers, surrounded the house of 'Aadel Ahmed Mansour al-Qanni, 42, from Kufor Qallil, south of Nablus. They forced the 18 residents of the 125-square-meter, 2-story house out and destroyed it. Al-Qanni is wanted by Israeli forces for being a member of Fatah Movement.

Continued Total Siege

Israeli forces have maintained the total siege imposed on the OPT, collectively punishing Palestinian people. Israeli forces have partitioned Palestinian areas, transforming them into cantons, and have imposed curfews on some areas, violating Palestinian civilians' economic, social and cultural rights. The Gaza Strip is still partitioned into three isolated zones.

This week, Israeli forces imposed a curfew on al-Mawasi area in the southern Gaza Strip. At approximately 18:00 on Thursday, 21 November 2002, they declared the area a closed military zone.

On Friday, 22 November 2002, Israeli forces closed al-Tuffah checkpoint separating Khan Yunis from its al-Mawasi area. Dozens of people were not able to go back home and were forced to spend the night at houses of their relatives and friends. The checkpoint was reopened on Monday, 25 November 2002 according to strict conditions imposed recently by Israeli forces, which include that anyone wants to cross the checkpoint must be at least 40 and the strict checking of people.

This week, Israeli forces have regularly closed al-Matahen and Abu Houli military checkpoints on Salah al-Din Street, the main road between the north and south of the Gaza Strip, disregarding the sacredness of the month of Ramadan. On Saturday morning, 23 November, Israeli forces closed al-Matahen and Abu Houli military checkpoints. They reopened the two checkpoints 2 hours later. They searched a number of cars randomly. Israeli soldiers searched cars and checked the identity cards of passengers. Two ambulances of the Palestinian Ministry of Health were among the cars that were searched by Israeli soldiers. Israeli forces closed the two checkpoints also on the following day and cars were searched.

At approximately 07:00 on Sunday, 25 November 2002, Israeli soldiers positioned near al-Matahen checkpoint, north of Khan Yunis, fired at a number of Palestinian civilians

who gathered near the checkpoint, which Israeli forces had closed earlier. A Nader Ziad Shu'aib al-Farra, 23, was wounded by a live bullet in the right foot. The checkpoint was reopened 2 hours later, and again cars were searched and people were checked.

Two Palestinians Killed in Circumstances that raise suspicion on the Methods of Engagement used by Israeli Forces

At approximately 11:00 on Tuesday, 26 November 2002, a heavy explosion occurred in al-Hawashin quarter in Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank. A number of Palestinian civilians and ambulanced rushed to the area. They discovered bodies of two young men on the under-construction first floor of a 2-story house owned by 'Abdul Rahman Mohammed al-Zubeidi, where the family of al-Zubedi lives. The bodies were evacuated to hospital. The victims were identified as 'Alaa' Ahmed Mahmoud al-Sabbagh, 22, commander of al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade of Fatah Movement in Jenin, and 'Emad Farouq Mahmoud al-Nasharti, 26, commander of 'Ezziddin al-Qassam Brigade of Hamas in Jenin. According to eyewitnesses, Israeli military vehicles were seen moving around and the refugee camp, while 2 Israeli helicopters were flying over the area when the explosion occurred.

PCHR calls:

1. Upon the international community to provide immediate and independent international protection for the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
2. Upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to reconvene in order to take effective measures to protect Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, in accordance with their obligations under Article 1, to ensure the respect of the Convention.
3. Upon the international community to investigate and prosecute those believed to have committed war crimes in the Occupied Palestinian Territories before international courts.
4. Upon the ICRC to enhance its presence, expand its activities, and intensify its field observations throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
5. Upon the European Union to activate Article 2 of the Euro-Israeli Association Agreement, which provides that Israel must respect human rights.
6. Upon the international community to provide humanitarian and medical assistance for the Palestinian people, whose living conditions are continuing to deteriorate as a result of the continued siege imposed by Israeli occupation forces on the entire Occupied Palestinian Territories.