

PCHR

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights LTD (non-profit)

<http://www.pchrgaza.org>



Weekly Report

On Israeli Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory



Palestinian women wait to cross an Israeli checkpoint on their way from the West Bank town of Bethlehem to attend prayers in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem

10- 16 September 2009

N^o 37p-2009

**Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) Continue Systematic Attacks against
Palestinian Civilians and Property in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
(OPT) and Continue to Impose a Total Closure on the Gaza Strip**

- A Palestinian civilian died of a previously sustained wound, inflicted by IOF in Hebron.
- 6 Palestinian civilians, including a child, were wounded by IOF and settlers' gunfire in the West Bank.
- IOF used force against peaceful demonstrations organized in protest to the construction of the Annexation Wall in the West Bank.
- IOF conducted 24 incursions into Palestinian communities in the West Bank and 3 ones into the Gaza Strip.
- **IOF arrested 30 Palestinian civilians, including a child and a woman, in the West Bank, and 3 children in the Gaza Strip.**
- Israeli naval troops continued to attack Palestinian fishers and boats in the Gaza Strip.
- IOF have continued to impose a total closure on the OPT and have isolated the Gaza Strip from the outside world.
- **IOF troops positioned at military checkpoints and border crossings in the West Bank arrested 5 Palestinian civilians, including a child.**
- IOF have continued measures aimed at establishing a Jewish majority in occupied east Jerusalem.
- **New excavations in Silwan village were disclosed.**
- **IOF continued to target activities by Palestinian cultural associations in Jerusalem.**
- IOF have continued settlement activities in the West Bank and Israeli settlers have continued to attack Palestinian civilians and property.
- **Israeli settlers re-established a settlement outpost to the south of Yatta village, south of Hebron.**

Summary

Israeli violations of international law and humanitarian law in the OPT continued during the reporting period (10 – 16 September 2009):

Shooting: During the reporting period, a Palestinian civilian died of a previous wound he had sustained by IOF in Hebron. Additionally, 6 Palestinian civilians, including a child, were wounded by IOF and settlers in the West Bank.

On 13 September 2009, medical sources at an Israeli hospital declared that 'Obaida Maher al-Dwaik, 25, from Hebron, died of wounds inflicted by IOF. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 11:00 on Wednesday, 26 August 2009, Israeli troops positioned at al-Shuhada checkpoint near Tal Rumaidda neighborhood in the center of Hebron fired at al-Dwaik from a range of less than 20 meters. He was wounded by several gunshots to the abdomen and the legs. IOF did not allow Palestinian ambulances to attend him. They evacuated him to an Israeli hospital. They claimed that he attempted to attack an Israeli soldiers using a knife.

On 11 September 2009, a Palestinian civilian was wounded in Qalandya refugee camp, south of Ramallah, when IOF troops fired at Palestinian boys who threw stones at military vehicles.

On the same day, an Israeli settler opened fire at a number of Palestinian civilians in Silwan village to the south of the old town of Jerusalem, wounding two of them. The two civilians were evacuated to the hospital in a civilian car, which was stopped by IOF several times.

On 15 September 2009, a Palestinian civilian was wounded by an Israeli settler in 'Ainabous village, south of Nablus.

IOF also used force against peaceful demonstrations organized by Palestinian civilians and international and Israeli human rights defenders in protest to the construction of the Annexation Wall in the West Bank. As a result, two Palestinian civilians were wounded.

Incursions: During the reporting period, IOF conducted at least 24 military incursions into Palestinian communities in the West Bank. IOF arrested 30 Palestinian civilians, including a child and a woman.

In the Gaza Strip, IOF conducted 3 limited incursions into Palestinian communities, during which they leveled areas of Palestinian land they had already razed. They also arrested 3 Palestinians.

Restrictions on Movement: IOF have continued to impose a tightened closure on the OPT and imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem.

Gaza Strip

IOF have continued to close all border crossings to the Gaza Strip for more than two years. The IOF closure of the Gaza Strip, which has steadily tightened since June 2007, has had a disastrous impact on the humanitarian and economic situation in the Gaza Strip.

- 1.5 million people are being denied their basic rights, including freedom of movement, and their rights to appropriate living conditions, work, health and education.

- The main concern of 1.5 million people living in the Gaza Strip is to obtain their basic needs of food, medicines, water and electricity supplies.
- IOF have continued to prevent the entry of raw construction materials into the Gaza Strip for more than two years.
- IOF have not allowed fuel supplies into the Gaza Strip, excluding limited amounts of cooking gas, since 10 December 2008.
- The Rafah International Crossing Point has been opened for a few days for a number of patients who received medical treatment abroad and needed to return home to the Gaza Strip.
- IOF have continued to close Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing to Palestinian civilians wishing to travel to the West Bank and Israeli for medical treatment, trade or social visits.
- Poverty and unemployment rates stand at approximately 80% and 60% respectively in the Gaza Strip.
- IOF have continued to prevent the entry of spare parts form water networks and sewage systems. Losses incurred to this sector are estimated at US\$ 6 million.
- IOF have imposed additional access restrictions on international diplomats, journalists and humanitarian workers seeking to enter the Gaza Strip. They have prevented representatives of several international humanitarian organizations from entering the Gaza Strip.
- Living conditions of the Palestinian civilian population have seriously deteriorated; levels of poverty and unemployment have sharply mounted.
- At least 900 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails have been denied family visitation rights for more than two years.
- IOF have continued to attack Palestinian fishers along the Gaza Strip coast.

West Bank

IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians throughout the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem. Thousands of Palestinian civilians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip continue to be denied access to Jerusalem.

- IOF have established checkpoints in and around Jerusalem, severely restricting Palestinian access to the city. Civilians are frequently prevented from praying at the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.
- There are approximately permanent 630 roadblocks, and manned and unmanned checkpoints across the West Bank. In addition, there are some 60-80 ‘flying’ or temporary checkpoints erected across the West Bank by IOF every week.
- When complete, the illegal Annexation Wall will stretch for 724 kilometers around the West Bank, further isolating the entire population. 350 kilometers of the Wall has already been constructed.

Approximately 99% of the Wall has been constructed inside the West Bank itself, further confiscating Palestinian land.

- At least 65% of the main roads that leads to 18 Palestinian communities in the West Bank are closed or fully controlled by IOF (47 out of 72 roads).
- There are around 500 kilometers of restricted roads across the West Bank. In addition, approximately one third of the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, is inaccessible to Palestinians without a permit issued by the IOF. These permits are extremely difficult to obtain.
- IOF continue to harass, and assault demonstrators who hold peaceful protests against the construction of the Annexation Wall.
- Palestinian civilians continue to be harassed by IOF in Jerusalem, and across the West Bank, including being regularly stopped and searched in the streets by IOF.

Annexation Wall: 10 September 2009, the Israeli High Court ordered IOF to dismantle sections of the Annexation Wall in Kherbat Jebara and Jayous villages, north Qalqilya, in response to a petition submitted by the Citizens' Rights Association in 2003 on behalf of several Palestinian villages near Tulkarm and Qalqilya. The petition demanded dismantlement of the Wall in these villages and cancellation of the seizure of at least 6,000 donums of land. According to the Municipality of Jayous, 2,488 donums of land and a well would be spared seizure. However, the decision has not been fully implemented.

Efforts intended to establish Jewish majority in occupied east Jerusalem: IOF have escalated arbitrary measures against Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem to force them to leave the city. On 10 September 2009, al-Aqsa association for the Waqf and heritage disclosed that Israeli occupation authorities have been digging a new tunnel under Silwan village. Israeli authorities and the "El'ad" settlement association undertake efforts to complete this tunnel as soon as possible so that it can be linked with other tunnels under Silwan village near the al-Aqsa mosque. The al-Aqsa association stressed that it has photographs of works in the tunnel. During the reporting period, IOF prevented Rouaq Band from conducting a show in the Palestinian National Theater (al-Hakawati). IOF stormed the theater before the beginning of the show and expelled the band and a Swedish delegation, claiming that this activity was being organized under the auspices of the Palestinian National Authority.

Settlement Activities: IOF have continued settlement activities in violation of international humanitarian law and Israeli settlers living in the OPT have continued to attack Palestinian civilians and property. On 10 September 2009, Israeli settlers living in "Sousia" settlement to the south of Yatta village, south of Hebron, re-established a settlement outpost that had been dismantled on the preceding day. The outpost controls at least 300 donums of agricultural land. Israeli settlers set up 3 tents and brought electricity generators. IOF were present in the area to protect the settlers. On 12 September 2009, a number of Israeli settlers closed the main entrance of Ras Karkar village, northwest of Ramallah. They threw stones and empty bottles at Palestinian civilians. They then violently beat Mohammed Rafeeq Salhiya, 22. He sustained bruises throughout the body. During the reporting period, 3 Palestinian civilians, including a child, were wounded by Israeli settlers' gunfire.

Israeli Violations Documented during the Reporting Period (10 – 16 September 2009)

1. Incursions into Palestinian Areas and Attacks on Palestinian Civilians and Property in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

Thursday, 10 September 2009

- At approximately 01:00, IOF moved nearly 300 meters into the east of al-Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. They leveled areas of land and opened fire indiscriminately. They withdrew from the area a few hours later and no casualties were reported.
- Also at approximately 01:00, IOF moved into Ethna village, west of Hebron. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 3 Palestinian civilians:
 1. 'Ali Mohammed al-Jiawi, 21;
 2. Mohammed Mahmoud al-Jiawi, 25; and
 3. Waddah Mohammed Abu Juhaisha, 23.
- Also at approximately 01:00, IOF moved into Aqabat Jaber refugee camp, south of Jericho. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested two Palestinian civilians:
 1. 'Aatef 'Ali Ka'abna, 28;
 2. Ahmed Saleh Ka'abna, 25.
- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into al-Bireh town. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 'Abdul Hakim al-'Ajlouni, 22.
- Also at approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Bitounia town, west of Ramallah. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Sami Sameer Sawalhi, 25.
- At approximately 02:30, IOF moved into 'Anabta village, east of Tulkarm. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Mahmoud Wa'el Melhem, 22.
- Also at approximately 02:30, IOF moved into Eastern Baqa village, north of Tulkarm. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Mohammed Fakhri Khalaf, 24.

Friday, 11 September 2009

- At approximately 01:00, IOF moved into 'Azzoun village, east of Qalqilya. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- At approximately 01:30, IOF moved into Kufor al-Dik village, southwest of Salfit. They raided and searched a number of houses, including one belonging to Mosleh Nayef al-Dik, 60. When IOF troops left the house, he discovered that some amounts of money (14,000 NIS and 4,500 JD) were missing. He informed the Palestinian police and the liaison office, which in turn submitted a complaint to IOF.

- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Qabatya village, southeast of Jenin. They patrolled in the streets and opened fire. They withdrew from the village later and no casualties or arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Jenin town and refugee camp. They patrolled in the streets and opened fire. They withdrew later and no casualties or arrests were reported.
- At approximately 12:30, IOF moved into Qalandya refugee camp, south of Ramallah, and patrolled in the streets. Dozens of Palestinian boys gathered and threw stones at IOF military vehicles. Immediately, IOF troops fired rubber-coated metal bullets, tear gas canisters and sound bombs at the boys. As a result, 'Ali Mohammed Mutair, 20, was wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the head.
- In the evening, an IOF infantry unit moved nearly 500 meters into the east of al-Boreij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. At approximately 18:00, they arrested Nahidh Mohammed al-Tawail, 22. They forced him to walk towards the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. They detained him until noon on the following day.

Saturday, 12 September 2009

- At approximately 01:00, IOF moved into Madama village, south of Nablus. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested two Palestinian civilians:
 1. Hani 'Abdul Rahim Qut, 22; and
 2. Ahmed Fu'ad Qut, 18.
- At approximately 01:30, IOF moved into Qabatya village, southeast of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested two Palestinian civilians:
 1. Ibrahim Fu'ad Abu al-Rub, 24; and
 2. Tawfiq As'hab Zakarna, 25.
- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Kufor al-Dik village, west of Salfit. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Mahyoub Musleh al-Dik, 34.

Sunday, 13 September 2009

- At approximately 01:30, IOF moved into Tulkarm town and refugee camp. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- At approximately 02:30, IOF moved into Jericho. They raided and searched a number of houses. No arrests were reported.
- At approximately 03:30, IOF moved into Qabatya village, southeast of Jenin. They patrolled in the streets and opened fire. They withdrew later and no casualties or arrests were reported.
- In the early morning, medical sources at an Israeli hospital declared that 'Obaida Maher al-Dwaik, 25, from Hebron, died of wounds inflicted by IOF.

According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 11:00 on Wednesday, 26 August 2009, Israeli troops positioned at al-Shuhada checkpoint near Tal Rumaida neighborhood in the center of Hebron fired at al-Dwaik from a range of less than 20 meters. He was wounded by several gunshots to the abdomen and the legs. IOF did not allow Palestinian ambulances to attend him. They evacuated him to an Israeli hospital. They claimed that he attempted to attack an Israeli soldiers using a knife.

Monday, 14 September 2009

- At approximately 00:15, an IOF infantry unit moved nearly 800 meters into the east of al-Boreij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. Israeli soldiers searched agricultural lands in the area and arrested 3 Palestinians who have not been identified.
- At approximately 00:30, IOF moved into Senjel village, north of Ramallah. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Rida Mohammed 'Affoun, 28.
- At approximately 01:00, IOF moved into Bourqin village, west of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested two Palestinian civilians, including a woman:
 1. Hana' Yahia al-Shalabi, 25; and
 2. 'Abdul Rahman 'Adnan Abu Khaled, 27.

Tuesday, 15 September 2009

- At approximately 01:00, IOF moved into Nahalin village, west of Bethlehem. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 18-year-old Palestinian civilians:
 1. Mohammed Ibrahim Shakarna;
 2. Ahmed Na'im Fannoun;
 3. Ahmed Nidal 'Olayan;
 4. Bilal Sa'ed Fannoun; and
 5. Hamdi Sharaf al-Noubani.

Wednesday, 16 September 2009

- At approximately 01:30, IOF moved into Bal'ein village, west of Ramallah. They raided and searched the house of 'Abdullah Abu Rahma, Coordinator of the Public Committee against the Wall and Settlement in Bal'ein village. IOF troops attacked a number of international solidarity activists and violently beat Mohammed 'Abdul Karim al-Khatib, 34.
- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into the Western al-Mazra'a village, north of Ramallah. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Maher Mohammed Shraiteh, 23.
- Also at approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Koubar village, north of Ramallah. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested two Palestinian civilians:
 1. 'Abbas Ibrahim al-Barghouthi, 26; and
 2. 'Anad Mahmoud al-Barghouthi, 25.

- At approximately 03:00, IOF moved into Wadi Hilwa quarter in Silwan village to the south of the old town of Jerusalem. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 4 Palestinian civilians, including a child:

1. 'Omar Ameen Siam, 22;
2. Mahmoud Mohammed al-Banna, 22;
3. Na'im Mohammed al-Banna, 16; and
4. 'Adnan Ibrahim Siam, 45.

2. Continued Closure of the OPT

IOF have continued to impose a tightened closure on the OPT and imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including Occupied East Jerusalem.

Gaza Strip

IOF have continued to close all border crossings to the Gaza Strip for more than two years. The IOF siege of Gaza, which has steadily tightened since June 2007, has had a disastrous impact on the humanitarian and economic situation in the Gaza Strip.

- 1.5 million people are being denied their basic rights, including freedom of movement, and their rights to appropriate living conditions, work, health and education.
- The main concern of the population of the Gaza Strip is to obtain their basic needs of food, medicines, water and electricity supplies.
- IOF have continued to prevent the entry of raw construction materials into the Gaza Strip for more than two years.
- IOF have not allowed fuel supplies into the Gaza Strip, excluding limited amounts of cooking gas, since 10 December 2008.
- The Rafah International Crossing Point has been opened for a few days for a number of patients who received medical treatment abroad and needed to return home to the Gaza Strip.
- IOF have continued to close Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing to Palestinian civilians wishing to travel to the West Bank and Israeli for medical treatment, trade or social visits.
- Poverty stands at approximately 80% and 60% respectively in the Gaza Strip.
- IOF have continued to prevent the entry of spare parts form water networks and sewage systems. Losses incurred to this sector are estimated at US\$ 6 million.
- IOF have imposed additional access restrictions on international diplomats, journalists and humanitarian workers seeking to enter the Gaza Strip. They have prevented representatives of several international humanitarian organizations from entering the Gaza Strip.
- Living conditions of the Palestinian civilian population have seriously deteriorated; levels of poverty and unemployment have sharply mounted.

- At least 900 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails have been denied family visitation rights for more than two years.
- IOF have continued to attack Palestinian fishers along the Gaza Strip coast.

Movement at Border Crossings during the Reporting Period:**Movement at Rafah International Crossing Point
09 – 15 September 2009**

Date	Details
09 September 2009	3 Palestinians were allowed to travel to Egypt and 299 others and the body of a dead woman were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
10 September 2009	6 Palestinians were allowed to travel to Egypt and 145 others, 5 Australians and the body of a dead Palestinian were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
11 September 2009	106 Palestinians and the body of a woman were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
12 September 2009	408 Palestinians were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
13 September 2009	Two Palestinians were allowed to travel to Egypt and 104 others were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
14 September 2009	5 Palestinians were allowed to travel to Egypt and 160 others, two Jordanians and one Egyptian were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
15 September 2009	941 Palestinians were allowed to travel to Egypt and 627 others and 5 trucks of humanitarian aids were allowed into the Gaza Strip.

**Movement at Karm Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) Crossing
09 – 15 September 2009**

Date	Details
09 September 2009	89 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
10 September 2009	10 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
11 September 2009	Closed.
12 September 2009	Closed.
13 September 2009	106 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
14 September 2009	96 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
15 September 2009	89 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip.

**Movement at Nahal Ouz Crossing
09 – 15 September 2009**

Date	Cooking Gas (tons)	Energy Fuel (liters)
09 September 2009	233	1,058,510
10 September 2009	Nil	Nil
11 September 2009	Nil	Nil

12 September 2009	Nil	Nil
13 September 2009	Nil	Nil
14 September 2009	250	1,250,500
15 September 2009	243	276,000

Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing: IOF have continued to close Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing for the movement of Palestinian civilians. They have allowed only diplomats, a number of international journalists, workers at international agencies and a few patients who suffer from serious diseases to pass through the crossing. They have continued to prevent Palestinian civilians from visiting their relatives who are detained in Israeli jails. As mentioned above, IOF have allowed a few number of patients to pass through the crossing, but under severe restrictions that include prolonged checking.

Al-Mentar (Karni) Crossing: IOF partially opened the crossing on Wednesday, 09 September 2009, and allowed the entry of 2,440 tons of seeds and fodders. They opened the crossing again on Tuesday, 15 September 2009, and allowed the entry of 3,040 tons of seeds and fodder.

The West Bank

IOF have imposed a tightened closure on the West Bank. During the reporting period, IOF imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians.

- Jerusalem: IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians to and from the city. Thousands of Palestinian civilians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been denied access to the city. IOF have established many checkpoints around and inside the city. Restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians often escalate on Fridays to prevent them from praying at the al-Aqsa Mosque. IOF often violently beat Palestinian civilians who attempt to bypass checkpoints and enter the city. IOF impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians on Fridays to restrict their access to the al-Aqsa Mosque. On the third Friday of the Holy Ramadan, 11 September 2009, IOF declared that they would allow Palestinian civilians from the West Bank aged over 50 to pray in the al-Aqsa Mosque. However, hundreds of civilians were not able to enter the city due to restrictions on movement imposed by IOF troops stationed at various checkpoints around the city. IOF also reinforced their presence inside Jerusalem.
- Nablus: IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. IOF troops positioned at an iron gate established on the Nablus-Tulkarm road have continued to conduct prolonged checking on Palestinian civilians, especially in the morning. IOF troops positioned at Shavi Shomron checkpoint on the Nablus-Jenin road, and at Za'tara checkpoint, south of the city, have also continued to restrict the movement of Palestinian civilians.

On Thursday evening, 03 September 2009, IOF troops positioned at Shavi Shomron checkpoint, northwest of Nablus, arrested Khaled 'Abdullah Zakarna, 19, from Jenin.

- Ramallah: IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of the Palestinian civilians in Jenin. IOF troops positioned at Jaba'-Qalandya checkpoint, southeast of Ramallah, have imposed additional restrictions on movement and conducted prolonged checking on Palestinian civilians. During the reporting period, IOF erected a number of temporary checkpoints, and stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles. On Thursday morning, 10 September 2009, IOF closed 'Attara village, north of Ramallah. They stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles.

- Bethlehem: On Saturday evening, 05 September 2009, IOF troops positioned at the Container checkpoint, north of Bethlehem, arrested Mohammed Shareef Jaradat, 31, from Sa'ir village northeast of Hebron.
- Hebron: IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. During the reporting period, IOF imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the vicinity of the Ibrahimi Mosque in the old town of Hebron. At approximately 20:00 on Friday, 11 September 2009, IOF erected two checkpoints in the north and southwest of Hebron. They stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles.
- Salfit: At approximately 16:30 on Sunday, 13 September 2009, IOF arrested Mohammed Rateb al-Dik, 23, from Kufor al-Dik village west of Salfit, when he was working on his family's land near "Bodu'eil" settlement.
- Tulkarm: On Monday noon, 14 September 2009, IOF troops positioned at Kherbat Jebara gate, south of Tulkarm, arrested Bassam Ahmed 'Amarna, 21, from Ya'bad village southwest of Jenin.
- Qalqilya: On Tuesday, 15 September 2009, IOF erected a checkpoint near 'Izbat al-Ashqar villahe, north of Qalqilya, arrested Ahmed Mahmoud Shbaita, 19, and Mousa Mohammed Shbaita, 17, both from 'Azzoun village east of Qalqilya.

3. Construction of the Annexation Wall

IOF have continued to construct the Annexation Wall inside West Bank territory. During the reporting period, IOF used force against peaceful demonstrations organized by Palestinian civilians and international and Israeli human rights defenders to protest the construction of the Wall.

- On Thursday, 10 September 2009, the Israeli High Court ordered IOF to dismantle sections of the Annexation Wall in Kherbat Jebara and Jayous villages, north Qalqilya, in response to a petition submitted by the Citizens' Rights Association in 2003 on behalf of several Palestinian villages near Tulkarm and Qalqilya. The petition demanded dismantlement of the Wall in these villages and cancellation of the seizure of at least 6,000 donums of land. According to the Municipality of Jayous, 2,488 donums of land and a well would be spared seizure. However, the decision has not been fully implemented.
- Following the Friday Prayer on 11 September 2009, dozens of Palestinian civilians gathered in the center of Bal'ein village, west of Ramallah. They moved towards the Wall and following altercations threw stones at IOF troops positioned in the area. Immediately, IOF troops fired rubber-coated metal bullets, sound bombs and tear gas canisters at the demonstrators. Ashraf Ibrahim Abu Rahma, 29, and Khamis Fat'hi Abu Rahma, 25, were hit by tear gas canisters to the back.
- Also following the Friday Prayer on 11 September 2009, dozens of Palestinian civilians and international and human rights defenders organized a peaceful demonstration in Ne'lin village, west of Ramallah, in protest to the construction of the Annexation Wall. They clashed with IOF troops positioned near the Wall. IOF troops fired rubber-coated metal bullets, sound bombs and tear gas canisters at demonstrators. Dozens of demonstrators suffered from tear gas inhalation.

4. Efforts Intended to Establish a Jewish Majority in occupied Jerusalem

IOF has recently escalated arbitrary measures against Palestinian civilians in occupied East Jerusalem to force them to leave the city. PCHR has devoted this section in the Weekly Report to highlight violations of human rights perpetrated by IOF against Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem.

- On Thursday, 10 September 2009, al-Aqsa association for the Waqf and heritage disclosed that Israeli occupation authorities have been digging a new tunnel under Silwan village. Israeli authorities and the "El'ad" settlement association are undertaking efforts to complete this tunnel as soon as possible in order that it be linked with other tunnels under Silwan village near the al-Aqsa mosque. The al-Aqsa association stressed that it has photographs of works in the tunnel.
- IOF prevented Rouaq Band from conducting a show in the Palestinian National Theater (al-Hakawati). IOF stormed the theater before the beginning of the show and expelled the band and a Swedish delegation, claiming that this activity was being organized under the auspices of the Palestinian National Authority.
- During the reporting period, IOF prevented organizing a massive breakfast for Ramadan in the Seven Arches Hotel in al-Tour village in East Jerusalem under the auspices of the Palestinian Prime Minister, Dr. Salam Fayadh. The breakfast was supposed to be attended by diplomats, clergy and public figures.

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

IOF have continued settlement activities in the OPT in violation of international humanitarian law, and Israeli settlers have continued to attack Palestinian civilians and property.

- On Thursday morning, 10 September 2009, Israeli settlers living in "Sousia" settlement to the south of Yatta village, south of Hebron, re-established a settlement outpost that had been dismantled on the preceding day. The outpost controls at least 300 donums of agricultural land. Israeli settlers set up 3 tents and brought electricity generators. IOF were present in the area to protect the settlers.
- On Friday evening, 11 September 2009, an Israeli settler opened fire at a number of Palestinian civilians in Silwan village to the south of the old town of Jerusalem, wounding two of them. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 18:00, while Ahmed Farouq Qara'in, 36, was on his way back home in Hilwa quarter in Silwan village, he saw an Israeli settler pointing his gun at a number of children who were playing in the street. He asked the settler why he was doing so. The settlers shouted and threatened to shoot Qara'in. As the settler was moving back, he stumbled. Immediately, he opened fire at Qara'in, wounding him with 3 bullets to the abdomen, the thigh and the foot. Ameer al-Froukh, 15, was also wounded by shrapnel. The two civilians were evacuated to the hospital in a civilian car, which was stopped by IOF several times.
- At approximately 20:30 on Saturday, 12 September 2009, a number of Israeli settlers closed the main entrance of Ras Karkar village, northwest of Ramallah. They threw stones and empty bottles at Palestinian civilians. They then violently beat Mohammed Rafeeq Salhiya, 22. He sustained bruises throughout the body.

- At approximately 20:30 on Tuesday, 15 September 2009, a Palestinian civilian was wounded by an Israeli settler in 'Ainabous village, south of Nablus. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, while Zaher Hashem 'Allan, 35, from 'Ainabous village south of Nablus, was grazing animals in the west of the village, he was surprised by at least 10 Israeli settlers coming towards him. They were shouting at him. Immediately, he phoned his brother Nader, 36, and told him that the settlers were heading towards him. Nader moved to the mountain where his brother was grazing animals. There, he saw Israeli settlers violently beating his brother. Nader phoned the Israeli police and liaison. When one the settlers heard him, he fired at him. Nader was wounded by a gunshot to the chest.

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Recommendations to the International Community

1. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to fulfill their legal and moral obligations under Article 1 of the Convention to ensure Israel's respect for the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. PCHR believes that the conspiracy of silence practiced by the international community has encouraged Israel to act as if it is above the law and encourages Israel continue to violate international human rights and humanitarian law.
2. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to convene a conference to take effective steps to ensure Israel's respect of the Convention in the OPT and to provide immediate protection for Palestinian civilians.
3. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to comply with its legal obligations detailed in Article 146 of the Convention to search for and prosecute those responsible for grave breaches, namely war crimes.
4. PCHR calls for the immediately implementation of the Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice, which considers the construction of the Annexation Wall inside the West Bank illegal.
5. PCHR recommends international civil society organizations, including human rights organizations, bar associations and NGOs to participate in the process of exposing those accused of grave breaches of international law and to urge their governments to bring these people to justice.
6. PCHR calls upon the European Union to activate Article 2 of the Euro-Israel Association Agreement, which provides that Israel must respect human rights as a precondition for economic cooperation between the EU states and Israel. PCHR further calls upon the EU states to prohibit import of goods produced in illegal Israeli settlements in the OPT.
7. PCHR calls on the international community to recognize the Gaza disengagement plan, which was implemented in September 2005, for what it is - not an end to occupation but a compounding of the occupation and the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.
8. In recognition of ICRC as the guardian of the Fourth Geneva Convention, PCHR calls upon the ICRC to increase its staff and activities in the OPT, including the facilitation of family visitations to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.
9. PCHR appreciates the efforts of international civil society, including human rights organizations, bar associations, unions and NGOs, and urges them to continue their role in pressuring their governments to secure Israel's respect for human rights in the OPT and to end its attacks on Palestinian civilians.
10. PCHR calls upon the international community to pressure Israel to lift the severe restrictions imposed by the Israeli government and its occupation forces on access for international organizations to the OPT.

11. PCHR reiterates that any political settlement not based on international human rights law and humanitarian law cannot lead to a peaceful and just solution of the Palestinian question. Rather, such an arrangement can only lead to further suffering and instability in the region. Any peace agreement or process must be based on respect for international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law.

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For further information please visit our website (<http://www.pchrgaza.org>) or contact PCHR's office in Gaza City, Gaza Strip by email (pchr@pchrgaza.org) or telephone (+972 (0)8 2824776 – 2825893).