

## 2001

On January 16, **Majdi al-Arbid**, a free-lance cameraman and owner of a private production company in the Gaza Strip, was detained by the Preventive Security Services of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in Gaza in connection with video footage of the PNA's execution of a Palestinian accused of collaborating with Israel. The PNA was angered that the execution was aired on Israel's *Channel 2*. PNA suspected that whoever shot the footage then gave it to Al-Arbid, who passed it to *Channel 2*. Al-Arbid was detained for eight days, and was released on January 23.

On January 17, masked gunmen in the Gaza Strip assassinated **Hisham Mekki**, the general head of the official Palestinian radio and television stations and member of the Fatah movement. A Palestinian group, known as "Palestinian Al Aqsa Brigades" claimed responsibility for the assassination of Mekki. According to RSF, doctors at nearby Shifa Hospital said Mekki was shot twice in the head and once in the chest.

Palestinian Authority Security officials arrested Palestinian television cameraman **Majdi Arbid** for filming the execution of Majdi Makawi, a convicted collaborator with the Israelis, in Gaza on January 20. Arbid sold the film to the Israeli *Channel 2*, which broadcasted the execution, according to a *Reuters* report.

Cameraman **Ashraf Kutkut** and reporters **Mas'adah 'Uthman** and **Duha Al Shami**, all working for *Al Wattan TV*, were attacked by Israeli troops on January 28, at the entrance of Ein Kenia, a village near Ramallah in the West Bank, although they all had valid press cards. Al Shami was beaten by the soldiers and the crew's equipment was confiscated at the check point. Eventually, the crew was released, and the next day they retrieved their cameras and video cassettes after they had been inspected by the Israeli authorities.

On February 8, The offices of the official Palestinian newspaper *Al-Hayat al-Jadida*, located in the West Bank town of Al-Bireh, was hit during a barrage of gunfire that lasted from about 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. No one was injured, but the building was heavily damaged. The staff took cover in the basement during the shooting. According to staff, the shots came from the direction of the Israeli army base in Jabal al-Tawil, near the Jewish settlement of Pisgaut.

**Laurent van der Stockt**, 36, a veteran photographer working for the *GAMMA* photo agency and *Newsweek* magazine, was struck in the left knee with a live bullet while covering clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli troops near the West Bank town of Ramallah on February 9. It was reported by CPJ that during a telephone interview between an IDF spokesman and CPJ, that IDF troops and Palestinian gunmen were engaged in a fierce gun battle at the time van der Stockt was shot. Because of the general confusion and because the bullet that entered the photographer's leg was never retrieved, the army was unable to determine who fired the shot. Nonetheless, van der Stockt and eyewitnesses interviewed by CPJ maintained that the shot was likely fired by an Israeli soldier stationed either on the ground or in a nearby building. Five months after his injury Van der Stockt's left leg was still paralysed. It is unclear whether he will ever walk again normally.

On the same day, cameraman **Rebhi Ahmad Mohammed al-Kobari**, a 33-year-old Palestinian working for the Palestinian television channel *al-Sharq* in Ramallah, was wounded in the left knee by pieces of shrapnel after the Israeli army opened fire on demonstrators. The journalist was wearing a helmet clearly marked *TV*. **Al-Kobari** had previously been beaten by soldiers on October 19, 2000.

**Khalid Jahshan**, a *Palestine Television* photographer; **Husam Abu-Allan**, an *AFP* photographer; and **Lu'ay Abu-Haykal**, a *Reuters* photographer were beaten by Israeli troops in Hebron on February 11, while covering clashes between Palestinian youths and Israeli soldiers. When the journalists tried to defend themselves it was reported that an Israeli soldier struck one of them with a rifle butt, while the other journalist was threatened with a rifle aimed

at his head. The journalists' identification cards were temporarily confiscated. They were returned to the journalists after their respective news agencies had been contacted.

On February 12, the Israeli army bombed Palestinian residential areas in the West Bank. One of the buildings targeted was that of the *Al Hayat Al Jadida* newspaper, located in Ramallah. The shelling destroyed three windows, two doors and a printing press. In the editorial suite, six windows, three PCs, a stone pillar, the newspaper sign and the lights were destroyed. The Palestinian *Al Salam Television* was also shelled by Israeli forces.

**Abed Odeh**, who works for the *Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation*, **Shams Odeh** and **Ahmed Jadala**, both working for *Reuters*, were injured on February 13, in Khan Younis, the Gaza Strip. According to a report by *Reuters*, the journalists were injured during clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces near the Jewish settlement of Gush Kitif. According to LAW, the journalists were all hit by shrapnel from Israeli shelling.

On the same day, **Laila Odeh**, the *Abu Dhabi TV* Bureau Chief was threatened in Jerusalem by Israelis while doing a report. According to reports, Odeh had to take the *Abu Dhabi TV* sign off her microphone out of fear of being beaten. She also claimed that members of the Israeli security forces had to protect her from an angry crowd of Israelis. Odeh has been harassed on several occasions by both Jewish settlers and Israeli troops. She has been shot at by troops, assaulted by settlers and denied freedom of movement in the West Bank and Israel. Although Odeh holds a Jerusalem identification card and a press card (both of which enable her to move freely in the country), she is often stopped from entering towns and villages due to the Israeli military closures on Palestinian areas.

On February 14 *Reuters* cameraman, **Mazen Da'ana**, was injured again by Israeli troops. According to a report by *Abu Dhabi TV*, Da'ana was beaten by Israeli border point troops between Bethlehem and Hebron. A soldier reportedly hit Da'ana with his gun. Even after he had identified himself as a journalist the soldier continued beating him, according to Da'ana.

A transmission tower of the private television station *Nablus TV* was damaged by Israeli gunfire during clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinians in the West Bank city of Nablus on February 15. **Ayman al-Nimer**, technical director of the station, said because of the destruction, about 40 percent of the station's viewers could not watch the channel. A similar incident occurred in January, when Israeli fire knocked out the station's transmission, stopping all broadcasts for 20 days. The fact that the transmission tower has been hit twice within a short period of time raises questions about the Israel Defense Forces' intentions.

From February 16 to 20, according to CPJ, Israeli authorities barred editions of three Palestinian daily newspapers—*Al-Quds*, *Hayat al-Jadida*, *Al-Ayyam*—from entering the Gaza Strip. The measure was part of a closure of the Gaza Strip imposed by Israel in response to an attack on Israeli soldiers by Palestinian militants.

On March 8, an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldier in an armored carrier opened heavy machinegun fire in the direction of three *Reuters* journalists- **Christine Hauser** (Reporter), **Ahmed Bahadou** (cameraman), and **Suhaib Salem** (free-lance photographer) at the Netzarim Junction in the Gaza Strip. *Reuters* reported that the journalists believed they had made eye contact with the IDF soldiers in order to assure them that they were from the press. Army spokesman Olivier Rafowicz claimed that the journalists had violated IDF policy by approaching the outpost. Israel's embassy in Washington, D.C., wrote that an "investigation was launched the day of the incident. The investigation found that the soldiers involved acted within IDF guidelines." At the time of the shooting, however, journalists were actually not required to ask permission from the IDF in order to work at Netzarim junction.

Jewish settlers attacked journalists covering scuffles on March 10 between settlers and Palestinians in the West Bank city of Hebron. *Reuters* cameramen **Nael Shyoukhi** and **Mazen Da'ana** were filming the scuffle when settlers surrounded Da'ana and beat him. Shyoukhi was hit by a stone thrown by settlers and a photographer for *Agence France-*

*Presse*, **Hosam Abu Alam**, was also attacked. IDF troops intervened and escorted the journalists to an ambulance, which took them to hospital.

On March 21, Palestinian security forces ordered the closure of *Al-Jazeera* TV's office in Ramallah. The Palestinian security service had allegedly been offended by an image of Lebanese guerrilla soldiers holding up a picture of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat with a shoe hanging from it in a preview for a documentary on the 1975-90 Lebanese civil war. *Jazeera's* correspondent in Ramallah, Walid Al-Omari, said in a broadcast that members of a Palestinian security service entered the office and demanded that part of the preview for the documentary be removed. When the change was not made, station employees "were informed... about the closure of the office". Two days later, Arafat ordered the office to reopen. Millions of Arab viewers across the Middle East tune in to *Jazeera's* 24-hour broadcasting, considered one of the most outspoken and critical news services in the region. The station has actively covered the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

**Ahmed Zaki**, a correspondent for *Oman Satellite Television*, was hit in the knee with a rubber-coated metal bullet while he was reporting on clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinians at the northern entrance of Ramallah on March 23.

On March 26, according to CPJ, Israeli soldiers attacked **Amer Jabari**, a cameraman for *ABC News*; **Nael Shiyoukhi**, a cameraman for *Reuters*; and **Hussam Abu Allan**, a photographer for *Agence France-Presse*, while they were covering a Palestinian demonstration in the West Bank village of Halhoul. According to Shiyoukhi, an officer approached the journalists and ordered them to evacuate the area in exactly one minute or face arrest. He gave no reason for the order. When the journalists did not leave, soldiers began to push them, and one punched Jabari in the nose. Shiyoukhi was pushed against a military jeep. He also reported that an officer would have arrested him had a group of women not intervened. Abu Allan, who was watching the incident, was struck with a rifle butt. The Israeli army alleged that the cameramen were preventing the soldiers from performing their work, and that one had attacked a commander. The cameramen denied these allegations.

Palestinian journalist **Mahfouz Abu Turk**, a 51-year-old freelance cameraman working for the British news agency *Reuters*, the Israeli daily *Jerusalem Post* and the Palestinian daily *Al Quds*, was injured on March 27, 2001 at the Pitunia junction (Ramallah) while attempting to photograph a Palestinian sit-in.

**Yusef Samir**, a 63-year-old Israeli Arab of Egyptian extraction was arrested by the Palestinian Authority while on a shopping trip with his wife in the West Bank town of Bethlehem on April 4. Palestinian intelligence chief Tawfiq al-Tirawi later accused the Egyptian-born writer of "collaborating with Israel's intelligence service". Palestinian Preventive Security chief for the West Bank Jibril al-Rajoub told the Israeli daily, *Ha'aretz*, in early May that Samir had been released. But in fact Samir himself managed to escape from the Palestinian prison in Bethlehem, a month later, on June 6. Israel granted Samir political asylum in 1968 after he was released from a prison in Egypt where he had been held for participating in a student revolt and voicing criticism against then-Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser's regime. In Israel, Samir works as an editor and anchor at *Israel Radio's* Arabic service, and took up residence at the edge of the West Bank Jewish settlement of Gilo, close to the Palestinian town of Beit Jala.

A Palestinian sound engineer, **Mohamed Shanaa**, who works for the British press agency *Reuters*, was seriously injured in the legs and back by pieces of shrapnel in Khan Younis (Gaza Strip) on April 10. He was hospitalised for ten days.

According to RSF, **Zakaria Abu Harbeid**, a journalist with the local press agency *Ramatan*, was wounded in Khan Younis (Gaza Strip) on April 15 while taking pictures of Israeli soldiers shooting at Palestinians. Harbeid was hit in the left hand and had to be hospitalised for a few days .

On the same day, Palestinian journalist **Ahmed Jadallah** (photographer) for the British press agency *Reuters*, was wounded in the head by shrapnel while covering events in Khan Younis.

Another Palestinian, **Shams Odeh** (cameraman), working for the British press agency *Reuters*, was injured in both legs by pieces of shrapnel while covering events in Khan Younis.

On April 20, Israeli troops shot and wounded **Laila Odeh Abu Dhabi TV** Bureau Chief, while she and her crew were filming at the Rafah refugee camp in Gaza. Odeh was hit in the leg by live ammunition after identifying herself as a journalist to the Israeli soldiers positioned nearby. By her own account, and that of others at the scene, she left the area immediately when ordered to do so by IDF soldiers, and was shot as she was fleeing. After criticism from press associations and press freedom organisations, the official IDF reaction to the incident stated that "the presence of journalists among rioters and at friction points represents a danger to their well-being." This statement appears to place the blame for the shooting on Odeh rather than on the soldier who shot her or the soldier's commanding officers. It would also appear to call into question the right of journalists to report and photograph confrontations at "friction points" first-hand rather than rely on the accounts of combatants or other involved parties. The foreign press spokesman of the IDF also said that the shooting of Odeh was being "very seriously" investigated. At the end of the year, the investigation was still ongoing, but an IDF report now said her shooting occurred in the context of a proper dispersal of a riot, even though when she was shot she was not near any rioters at all, according to the Foreign Press Association in Israel.

Israeli soldiers detained a *Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC)* television crew and their driver while filming military vehicles and army positions near the West Bank town of Nablus on April 24. "The soldiers thought it was suspicious that they were taking pictures of so many army positions. They detained them...took them to another place for a short inquiry," an IDF source said. However, officials at the *PBC* said the four-member crew was detained during their routine news coverage and were left waiting in the sun for six hours before being taken for questioning. The crew was released but their driver remained in custody on suspicion of involvement in hostile activities, military and *PBC* officials said.

The armored car of **Neil MacDonald** (branch head of *CBC TV News*) met with warning shots (three bullets) near Netsarim (Gaza Strip) on April 25.

It was reported in RSF that **Magnus Johansson**, a freelance photographer working for *AFP* was arrested by a Tanzim commando unit (the armed branch of Fatah) the most important faction of the PLO, while photographing incidents in Beit Jala on May 6. He was beaten and searched, and his camera and film were destroyed.

Israeli troops shot and wounded **Iman Masarweh** as she was driving home near East Jerusalem in a car marked "Press" on May 13. The London-based *Quds Press News Agency* reporter was hit in the leg, then taken to Hadassa Hospital where she underwent an operation to remove the live bullet. Masarweh said there were no confrontations at the place and time when the soldiers targeted and shot her.

The French television *TF1* reporter, **Bertrand Aguirre**, was shot while covering clashes in the West Bank on May 15, but the round of live ammunition was stopped by a flak jacket, though it caused a haematoma. The reporter was standing among a group of TV cameramen near Ramallah. An *Associated Press Television News* photographer's video showed an Israeli border policeman, a cigarette dangling from his mouth, jump out of a dark green jeep, calmly aim his M-16 rifle in the direction of the TV crews and fire a single shot. The camera jumps wildly out of control for a moment, and then shows Aguirre, wearing a flak jacket, writhing in pain on the ground as other members of his crew try to help him. Aguirre was taken to a Ramallah hospital by ambulance. "If I had not been wearing this jacket, I would be dead now," he said afterwards. He charged that the Israeli paramilitary policeman targeted him. "It was clear that I am a journalist, and the camera was proof," Aguirre said. Witnesses said he was targeted by the Israeli sniper while speaking into a microphone in front of the camera. The

army voiced regret at the wounding of the correspondent and said it was investigating the circumstances of the incident. In September, the director of the Israeli police bureau for internal affairs, Eran Shangar, justified a decision to close an inquiry into the incident in the following terms in a letter addressed to the journalist: "After examining the case, I decided not to prosecute the policeman concerned, due to a lack of evidence." According to RSF, there was footage from two other news organisations, aside from *APTV*, which clearly identified the policeman and his utterly unprovoked act. Bertrand Aguirre, quoted by RSF in a protest to the Israeli justice ministry, shares that impression: "This decision clearly shows that the dice are loaded. I played the game. I gave them all the elements for the inquiry. We see here that the normal channels, that is, the courts, serve no purpose. I probably won't appeal. This proves that they don't want to see things for what they are."

On May 16, General Eliezer Stern ordered the suspension the Israeli Army weekly, *BeMahaneh*, for several weeks after it published a profile of a homosexual reserve colonel. RSF reported that it was "amazed" that the Israeli Army was "punishing a publication for providing a profile of a homosexual colonel when the army itself acknowledges admitting homosexuals among its ranks". According to an army spokesperson, "articles published in the newspaper [on May 4, 2001] did not correspond to the army's norms".

*Newsweek* Jerusalem bureau chief **Joshua Hammer** and photographer **Gary Knight** were detained while interviewing Palestinian militants in the town of Rafah on May 29. The militants claimed to be members of the Fatah Hawks. During the interview, the militants informed the two journalists that they were being detained "to protest unfair American and British press coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," according to *Newsweek*. The journalists' driver and translator were also detained. They were all allowed to leave unharmed after four and a half hours and said they did not feel threatened during the incident.

In May, the Israeli daily *Haaretz* reported that the Shin Bet, the Israeli state security service, had called in Arab-Israeli authors, journalists, and publishers for "clarification and explanatory conversations" about their writing. The paper reported that some were asked not to write anything, including poetry, that could be considered "incitement" to violence.

**Mazen Da'ana and Nael Shyoukhi**, *Reuters* cameramen in Hebron, were attacked by Jewish settlers in Hebron while filming on June 22. Mazen's tripod was destroyed and his car windows damaged.

According to CPJ, **Hazem Bader**, a free-lance cameraman working with the *Associated Press Television News (APTN)* in Hebron, came under heavy machine gun fire while driving his car on June 26. Bader, a veteran Hebron-based cameraman who strings for the *APTN*, was driving home from an assignment when his car came under attack in the Palestinian-controlled Bab al-Zawiyah section of the city. Bader said the fire came from an IDF outpost near the Jewish settlement of Tel Rumeida, about 500 meters away. The first burst hit a wall just a few meters from his car, causing him to exit the vehicle and take cover. It was followed ten seconds later by a second burst, Bader said, which struck a nearby streetlight. A few minutes later, five or six machine gun rounds were fired directly at his car – three of which struck the vehicle.

On July 6, *Reuters* photographer **Loay Al Haikal** was hit by an Israeli rubber-coated metal bullet while covering clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinians in the West Bank city of Hebron. Haikal, who has been shot at by Israeli troops on several occasions in the past, said he was standing far from the confrontation line when a bullet hit his leg. Haikal was taken to the Hebron hospital for treatment and was released on the same day.

On July 9, according to CPJ, Jewish settlers in the West Bank city of Hebron attacked **Mazen Da'ana** and **Nael Shiyoukhi**, cameramen for *Reuters*; **Hussam Abu Alan**, a photographer for *Agence France Presse*; and **Imad al-Said**, a cameraman for *Associated Press Television News*. The journalists were covering settlers attacking a Palestinian wedding party in the Al-Raf section of the city, across from the large Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba. After they

arrived at the scene, the photographers began filming the violence from 20 to 30 meters away, until Israeli border police ordered them to leave the area. They moved to a different location and resumed filming the settlers, who were throwing stones at cars and homes. Some of the settlers turned on the journalists and threw stones at them. One settler pointed his machine gun at the cameras of Shyioukhi and al-Said. Abu Alan was beaten by another settler. None of the journalists were seriously injured, although Abu Alan sustained slight injuries to his face and neck. According to the journalists, the soldiers and police who were present did nothing to stop the attacks.

*Marah* radio station and *Al-Nawras* TV station in Hebron were shelled by the Israeli army on July 12, according to LAW. The shelling caused extensive damage to both stations, which were thus taken off the air. **Fawzi Dana**, manager of *Marah*, said "shelling of the two stations was aimed at stopping the broadcasting of the stations especially that night when all of Hebron was under Israeli fire and the two stations were reporting the shelling live".

On July 16, Israeli tanks shelled *Al-Majd* TV in Hebron. The TV stopped broadcasting after the cables were cut off. Additional damage was also severe, although no personal injuries were reported.

In July 2001, in response to complaints from RSF, Israeli army spokesperson Olivier Rafowicz said: "We are going to group together these inquiries and publish them; I will personally see to that. We have to explain what has happened and reveal the mistakes. We really want to establish the truth." RSF had asked for a commitment regarding sanctions against those responsible and the authorities replied: "It goes without saying that if it were established, after an investigation, that a member of the Israeli army had injured a journalist, the authority to which that soldier reports would apply sanctions as provided for by the law and relevant regulations." With regard to the dropped investigation into the shooting of Bertrand Aguirre in May, RSF said "[i]t appears that these statements were nothing more than false promises."

In a response to related concerns repeatedly expressed by international press freedom groups, Israeli military authorities on July 26 ordered field commanders to protect journalists who cover street clashes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. IDF chief of staff Lieutenant General Shaul Mofaz "reiterated the standing orders concerning the safeguarding of journalists and called upon the army's commanders to strengthen the awareness of those orders throughout the ranks." Mofaz issued these instructions during a July 26 meeting with senior commanders of the IDF General Staff. "Lieutenant General Mofaz's actions at the IDF's most senior forum demonstrate the seriousness with which Israel treats the CPJ's concerns," a message from the Israeli Army to CPJ said.

Yet the violence against journalists persisted. According to LAW, a number of journalists and media workers were attacked and beaten by Israeli soldiers in the Al-Aqsa Mosque courtyards on July 29. They were present to cover confrontations after the Israeli High Court had given permission for a right wing religious Jewish group laying claim to the Temple Mount under the Al Aqsa mosque, to lay a founding stone. **Moussa Al-Shaer**, *AFP* photographer, **Ata Oweisat**, *Zoom* photographer, **Ammar Awad**, *Reuters* photographer, **Mahfouz Abu Turk**, a free lance photographer, **Nasser Abdel Jawad**, *CBS* and *ABC* correspondent, **Mona Al-Qawasmi**, *Al Quds* Newspaper photographer and **Majid Al-Safadi** *Al Jazeera* photographer were all manhandled and beaten by the Israeli forces. Awad sustained a broken tooth when he was kicked in the face by an Israeli soldier. Awad told CPJ that as he was photographing the clashes, a soldier charged him and kicked him in the mouth. Bleeding, Awad ran away. A few moments later he was again attacked by the same soldier, who kicked him several more times.

On the same day, according to CPJ, **Sakher Abu al-Aoun**, a correspondent for *Agence France-Presse (AFP)* in the Gaza Strip, was beaten by five assailants armed with pipes as he made his way to *AFP*'s offices. He suffered a concussion. In a letter to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, *AFP* said the incident was "particularly alarming because the assailants...clearly said they knew Sakher was a journalist." *AFP* quoted Palestinian Authority

secretary general Ahmed Abdulrahman as saying that the attacks against Abu al-Aoun were probably connected with a report the journalist filed about bloody clashes involving two feuding families in the Khan Yunis refugee camp in Gaza.

On July 31, an Israeli Apache gunship fired two missiles while **Mohamad Al Bishawi** (27), a photographer for the local newspaper *Al Hayat Al Jadida*, the Arab-Israeli weekly *Saut Haq*, and the Web site *Islamonline* (an Internet news service based in Qatar) and **Othman Ibrahim Qatanani** (24), a journalist working for *Nablus Press Office* of the daily *Al Quds*, the *Kuwait News Agency (KONA)*, and *Islamonline*, were interviewing Sheikh Jamal Salim and two other Hamas political leaders at the Palestinian Research and Media Center on the second floor of the Haj Nablusi Building in central Nablus. The Israelis said Salim had master-minded suicide attacks on Israelis. The two missiles entered from the two apartment windows and eight civilians were killed in the attack. The two journalists were among them.

On August 13, an Egyptian cameraman and correspondent were severely beaten up by Israeli soldiers at a West Bank checkpoint, Palestinian hospital sources and Egyptian media reported. The incident prompted an official Egyptian complaint. Egypt's official *MENA* news agency said Israeli soldiers attacked its cameraman **Abdel-Nasser Abdoun** and reporter **Tarek Abdel-Gaber** at the Qalandia checkpoint between Ramallah and Jerusalem, while they were reporting on the Palestinian protests that were taking place. The soldiers had initially told the journalists to leave the area. They complied and had already retracted several metres, when one of the soldiers ran up to them and started kicking one of them, continuing to do so until the Egyptian was lying on the ground. During the interaction, the other reporter had approached an officer present at the scene to ask him to halt his subordinate's impunity, but the second reporter was then attacked by a third soldier. The officer did not attempt to end the beatings. Palestinian hospital sources later said Abdoun was lightly wounded. A statement from the Israeli army said that the Israeli Defence Force had begun a thorough investigation, but placed blame on the journalists for having "provoked" the soldiers. "We deeply regret this incident," the statement said, adding that "The Israeli Defence Force has no intention of harming members of the press. The IDF recognises the gravity of such incidents and will take all necessary measures to ensure that similar incidents are avoided in the future." The army said in a later statement that one of the Israeli soldiers had been placed under arrest for 21 days because of the attack. Soldiers had beaten up the same Egyptian news team in an incident three weeks previous to that attack, *MENA* added. Egypt, the first Arab country to make peace with Israel, recalled its ambassador in November 2000 stating Israel's use of excessive force to quell the Intifada as the central reason. In February 2002, the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem, said the group had documented the cases of at least 19 Palestinian civilians shot dead by troops at checkpoints "without provocation" since the uprising began.

**Hussein Al-Tini**, a *Reuters* photographer, was attacked and beaten by Israeli soldiers on August 21 while taking photos of Palestinian commuters at the Til checkpoint south of Nablus.

**Mahmoud Makhlouf**, a photographer for the *Wafa* news agency, was shot and wounded with four rubber coated metal bullets on August 26 at the Qalandia checkpoint south of Ramallah while he was attempting to cover incidents at the check point. He was wounded in his left leg, right thigh, and right arm.

**Mohammad Sadek**, a photographer working with *AP* was shot and wounded in his left leg with a rubber coated metal bullet at the same checkpoint later on the same day.

**Mohamad Al Razem**, a photographer working for *Al-Amal* TV in Hebron was harassed, interrogated and detained on August 29, according to LAW. Al Razem was stopped by Israeli soldiers while driving in his car. The car had a 'Press' sign in Arabic and English and an additional, large 'TV' sign on it. Razem was told to step out of the car while the soldiers thoroughly searched it. In the process, they intentionally broke the camera he had, and confiscated the film in it. The soldiers then ran a security check on him for a duration of 40 minutes, during which he was required to face a wall. After the security check came out

negative, and nothing suspicious had been found on him, the soldier in charge did not deem Razem fit for release. He involved another officer and maintained that he had "caught a suspected man". The soldiers followed him to his apartment. Using loudspeakers, the soldiers demanded that all male residents of the building comprising seven apartments step outside, whereupon the soldiers searched Al Razem's flat and locked his family into one room. He was then taken to Givat Hafot detention camp and interrogated. After that, he was accompanied to Adorim camp where he was held and interrogated until 2 PM the following day. The soldiers marked Razem's car and he has been stopped repeatedly for thorough searches of his car ever since. He has also been harassed and intimidated at his private studio by soldiers in an effort to stop him from taking photos. Charges have not been made.

In September, **Ziad Abu Zayyad**, the Palestinian co-founder and editor of the *Palestine-Israel Journal*, a quarterly journal edited and written by Israelis and Palestinians, established at the end of 1993, was prevented from entering the city of Jerusalem and therefore unable to reach the editorial offices of the journal in East Jerusalem, according to IPI sources. Israeli police arrested and questioned Mr. Abu-Zayyad on his "illegal" presence in Jerusalem, threatening him with imprisonment were he to return. In a October 26 advertisement in the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz*, the *Palestine-Israel Journal's* international Board of Sponsors expressed their anger and condemned the spiteful harassment of Abu Zayyad, who is also a PLO politician and negotiator, and demanded "the immediate abrogation of the arbitrary and discriminatory measure that prevent Ziad Abu-Zayyad from entering Jerusalem and pursuing his efforts for peace and mutual understanding".

On September 11, clustered groups of Palestinians celebrated the WTC attacks in the United States in front of cameras. To avoid negative publicity, the Palestinian authorities attempted to quell the joyous outpourings, according to RSF. Police forces and armed gunmen also prevented journalists in Nablus from covering celebrations following the New York and Washington attacks. According to the *Associated Press (AP)*, Palestinian security authorities summoned a free-lance cameraman working for the *AP* that same day who had captured the events on film and warned him not to air his footage of the events. Members of the Tanzim militia, affiliated with President Arafat's Fatah organisation, also issued warnings that the *AP* cameraman interpreted as threatening. Later, the *AP* quoted PNA cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman as saying that the PNA "[could] not guarantee the life" of the *AP* cameraman if the film were broadcast. Ultimately, the footage was not aired, apparently out of concern for the journalist's safety.

It should be noted, however, that there were conflicting reports as to what actually took place. In the December 2001 issue of a reputed Swiss journalists' magazine, *Journalisten.ch*, it was alleged and documented with corresponding pictures, that the jubilating "crowd", comprised of a few children and youths, was in fact bribed to act as such with sweets and other tokens of goodwill by an unidentified man, while an *AP* photographer looking for a scoop "manipulated" a "non-event", in the words of the Swiss magazine. The lead story recounts how in fact those involved in the staged celebrations were not aware of the purpose in doing so, and with likelihood were not even aware of the terrorist attacks themselves or their implications. This story corresponds with another source that stated that the pictures broadcast around the world of young Palestinians celebrating in fact stemmed from footage taken from the 1991 Gulf War, but were alleged to be new recordings upon their (re)release. Although these interpretations in themselves are to an extent unverifiable, they should be taken into account in determining the validity of the now generally accepted version of the events.

Three days later, five journalists were detained by the Palestinian police. They were covering a demonstration at the Nusseirat refugee camp in memory of the perpetrator of the September 9 suicide-bomb attack in Nahariya, Israel. A *Reuters* photographer and editor, an *Associated Press TV (APTV)* cameraman, the correspondent for the *Abu Dhabi satellite television* station and an *Agence France-Presse (AFP)* photographer were released an hour and a half later, after police confiscated their videotapes and film. Four of the detained journalists were Palestinians and one was Norwegian. Although the PNA returned the journalists' camera equipment that same weekend, some of their video footage had been erased. The *AP* reported on September 16 that its video was missing forty-five seconds of



footage. Another photographer told CPJ that images stored on his digital camera had been erased.

On September 18, new, even more restrictive regulations for Palestinian broadcasters were introduced, resulting in instructions by the Palestinian police to the media not to broadcast news items concerning calls for a general strike, nationalist activities, demonstrations or security news without the explicit permission of the police or national security services.

Palestinian police and security agents descended on the offices of the private television station *Al-Roa* TV in Bethlehem on September 20 and ordered the station to cease broadcasting immediately, according to CPJ. No reason was given for the suspension, and the officers failed to provide station staff with any official documentation to justify the raid. Station director **Hamdi Faraj** eventually received a document from the local police postulating only that the station had been closed by decree of Hadj Ismail Jaber, general director of the Palestinian military and police forces in the West Bank. Staff at *Al-Roa* told CPJ that they believed the closure was in reprisal for a news bulletin aired earlier on that day announcing that *Al-Roa* had received a statement from the *Al-Aqsa* Brigades, a group affiliated with Yasser Arafat's Fatah organization, claiming responsibility for an attack on two Jewish settlers in the West Bank, that same day, resulting in the death of one settler. The publicity embarrassed the PNA, since *Al-Roa's* bulletin suggested that a group that is technically under Arafat's control may have violated the recently announced Palestinian cease-fire. A Palestinian security official, Nakhle Kaaber, later told *Agence France-Presse* that *Al Roa* will remain closed until further notice. By *Al Roa's* own count, this was the 10th time PNA authorities have closed it down since the station was founded in the early 1990s.

On September 21, **Jamal Arouri**, a photographer with the *Al-Ayyam* Palestinian newspaper was shot and wounded with a rubber coated metal bullet at the northern entrance to Ramallah.

According to RSF, *AP* photographer **Elizabeth Dalziel's** armoured car was hit by bullets on October 5 during a skirmish between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians in Hebron. A first bullet hit the vehicle's windshield, which carried "TV" and "Press" markings. While the journalist was attempting to flee the area, at least five more bullets hit her vehicle, one of them blowing out a tire. The journalist told *AP* that she could not see who had opened fire, but that the shots were coming from the direction of an Israeli position. On October 6, the Israeli army announced that the case was under investigation. The incident took place in the Abou Sneineh area, one of the two sectors of Hebron in which the Israeli army made an incursion on the same day and killed five Palestinians.

On October 8, according to CPJ, Palestinian authorities banned some foreign reporters from entering Gaza and prevented others from reaching the scene of clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and Palestinian police. At least two journalists who did manage to cover the clashes were attacked by Palestinian police and later detained for several hours. For security reasons, the journalists involved in this incident asked that their names and affiliations not be revealed to the public.

On the following day, according to CPJ, Palestinian authorities barred foreign journalists from entering the Gaza Strip and prevented other reporters from reaching the scene of more bloody clashes between Palestinian protesters and Palestinian police that resulted in the deaths of two protesters and the injuries of dozens more a day earlier. The ban remained in effect for one and a half days.

On October 12, according to CPJ, Palestinian security forces barred journalists from entering the Meghazi refugee camp in Gaza, where the militant Islamic Jihad organisation was staging a memorial service for a group member who had been murdered. Media outlets received the order via fax from Police Chief Ghazi Jabali.

On the same day, Palestinian security forces arrested **Alaa Saftawi**, publisher of the militant

Islamic Jihad weekly *Al-Istiqlal*, over an article criticising the Palestinian National Authority's crackdown on demonstrators in Gaza. He was released without charge on November 16.

On October 22, Raanan Cohen, who oversees Israeli broadcasting law, sent a letter to the directors of the state radio station *Kol Israel*, asking them not to broadcast live interviews with Palestinian militants, according to RSF. He reminded them of the current regulations, which prohibit the use of state radio stations to serve the enemies' propaganda. This directive was issued just after the October 21 broadcast of a live interview with West Bank leader Hussein al Sheikh. During a cabinet meeting, Education Minister Limor Livnat, mentioning the interview with Sheikh, complained that the radio station had given him "the opportunity to spread his lies."

On October 24, IPI strongly condemned the decision of the IDF to close the villages of Beit Reema and Deir Ghassana to journalists. The Palestinian villages were declared closed military zones and entrance was denied to the media. Early Israeli and Palestinian news reports stated that several villagers had been killed as a result of Israeli army incursions into the villages, which started on the morning of October 24. Journalists from the *Associated Press*, *Reuters*, and *AFP* attempted to enter the Beit Reema by car, but were turned back by the soldiers. Thereafter, they tried to enter the village through a back road, but Israeli soldiers again refused them entry. One journalist was told it was a "closed military area." The group returned to the village's main checkpoint. They managed to drive through the military post but were pulled over immediately by a group of soldiers who told them to leave the village immediately. When the group protested, a soldier struck one journalist's camera lens, and Israeli soldiers shoved two of the other journalists. The convoy was then escorted out of the village by Israeli military cars. Journalists were also barred later that day from the Israeli army post of Halmish, about 6 kilometers away from Beit Reema, where Israeli soldiers were handing over the corpses of Palestinians killed in the clashes to the Red Crescent.

Israel's Communications Ministry announced on November 3 that it wishes to remove the Qatar-based, Arabic-language television news station *Al-Jazeera* from its cable networks, because it allegedly serves as a forum for anti-Israeli comments. Around one million Palestinians live within Israel's internationally recognised borders and have Israeli citizenship. They often complain about systematic discrimination against them by the Jewish state. Many of them turn to *Al-Jazeera* for information.

According to CPJ, Jewish settlers attacked a car carrying photographers **Abdel Rahim Qusini** (*Reuters*) and **Nasser Ishtayyeh** (*AP*) on November 12. The two journalists were travelling from Jerusalem toward the West Bank city of Nablus to investigate news that a settler had been killed that day. The journalists and their driver were approaching a bus station at the Za'tara intersection, on the main road to Nablus, where they saw some five Israeli soldiers standing with a handful of settlers. About a dozen settlers then came forward from behind a concrete barrier and started hurling stones at the car. A separate group of about thirty settlers then emerged, also throwing stones and pieces of cement at the car. One stone broke the glass of the left window and struck Qusini in the shoulder. Both of them were bruised in the assault. The journalists said the attack took place in front of the Israeli soldiers who did not intervene, even though their car displayed a "press" sticker and had Israeli license plates. The two journalists somehow escaped while their car was being destroyed. They received first aid in a nearby Palestinian village and were later taken to a hospital in Nablus.

On the same day, Israeli soldiers stopped *Reuters* cameraman **Mazen Da'ana** at the Khamat Khadour checkpoint, near the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba, and prevented him from entering the old city of Hebron. Da'ana was travelling with Mary Robinson, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. The soldiers claimed that all journalists were prohibited from entering the old city. After Robinson protested, Da'ana told CPJ, he was finally allowed to proceed. After they passed through the checkpoint, a group of Jewish settlers attacked Da'ana's car with stones and metal bars. Afterwards, the journalist was taken to the local police station and was questioned for one-and-a-half hours.

On November 14, the IFJ (International Federation of Journalists) released a report condemning the "Vindictive Campaign" against journalists in the Israeli-Palestinian crisis, calling for the planning of a safety programme, and the condemnation of the Press Card Ban on Palestinian journalists. The report stated that all sides are to blame for the omnipresent pressure on media and reporters, alongside appealing for urgent international action to confront "a grave and dangerous climate of confrontation" threatening all media and journalists caught up in the conflict. Assistance would hopefully include the provision of bulletproof vests and helmets to reporters and camera crews, the introduction of a risk-awareness programme, and the setting up of a journalist's safety centre. The IFJ strongly criticised Israel over its plans to desist from recognising Palestinian journalists through banning them from receiving official press accreditation.

On November 15, CPJ reported, PNA security forces raided the private, Bethlehem-based television station *Al-Roa'* and temporarily forced it off the air. Two PNA soldiers beat station director **Hamdi Farraj** and several other staff members. According to *Al-Roa'*, some of the soldiers threatened to shoot the staff and destroy the station's equipment. After forcing the staff outside, the soldiers locked the station's doors and confiscated the keys. Though the authorities did not give a reason for the raid, it was apparently prompted by *Al-Roa'*'s incorrect report that Israeli forces had bombed a Palestinian military headquarters in Bethlehem. Farraj and several staff members were briefly detained. The station was allowed to resume broadcasting shortly thereafter.

On November 16, **Mohammed Zeid El-Kielani**, a cameraman of *Arab News Network* (ANN) was wounded by an Israeli rubber-coated plastic bullet while covering clashes in Ramallah. El-Zielani was wounded in the shoulder.

On November 17, Palestinian police ordered *Al Roa* to cease broadcasting, according to CPJ. The police carried a letter that had been sent to Palestinian National Authority chairman Yasser Arafat, asking Arafat to order the closure of *Al-Roa'* and the arrest of Farraj, who was accused of promoting sectarian strife. *Al Roa* staff told CPJ that the authorities had accused the station of promoting religious "strife" within the Palestinian community, but did not elaborate. On November 19, the station resumed broadcasting, after an estimated 100 local residents marched to the station's offices and demanded it be reopened.

On November 18, according to RSF, Israeli soldiers opened fire at a team of journalists from the Lebanese television channel *Al-Manar* on the Lebanese side of the Israeli border, near the border village of Kfarchouba. An Asian journalist and European journalists were present on the scene and were also shot at.

Israeli forces bombarded the Palestinian *Radio 2* station in Gaza on November 21, according to LAW.

Israeli gunfire and a shell from a tank based in the Jewish settlement of Psagot, near Ramallah, targeted Al Quds University's Medical Professions building, on November 22, which hosts *Al Quds Educational Television*, a non-governmental, not for profit station owned and administered by the Institute of Modern Media at Al Quds University. None of the TV staff members were hurt and no structural damage was made. The shelling caused a small fire in the buildings courtyard. In a statement issued after the incident, **Daoud Kuttab**, director of the Institute of Modern Media at Al Quds University denounced the attack on the university and the educational television station. Kuttab expressed concern that the attack was aimed at shutting down the station, stating that "...we don't understand why we were targeted since we are far away from the lines of confrontation and there was absolutely no fire coming out from the vicinity of the University compound." Kuttab added that the shelling of "an institution committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict is a setback to moderate voices in the Palestinian community."

**Mohammad Al Ashkar** from Tulkarem is a cameraman for *Al Salam* television. He told LAW the following: "On Friday November 24, there was a massive protest in south-west Tulkarem.

I was covering the protest while wearing a bullet-proof vest and a hat with the word 'Press' written on it. I was also carrying a camera. When the clashes started, a man was shot twice in the leg and fell to the ground... I started filming him from a distance of only three metres; we were 15 metres away from the Israeli soldiers. Suddenly I was hit in the heel by an unknown type of bullet. I held my camera up so the soldiers would realise I was a journalist, but then I heard another shot. An ambulance took me to Tulkarem hospital. I am positive that I was intentionally shot by the soldiers, who were very close by."

On December 6, Israeli authorities barred **Awad Awad**, a photographer for *Agence France-Presse (AFP)*, from entering Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon's office. Awad, who had covered news events at the office on several previous occasions, was there to photograph a meeting between Sharon and the Norwegian foreign minister. Awad was denied entry despite having the necessary Israeli Government Press Office press card, which grants journalists access to official events. Israeli authorities later told *AFP*, without further explanation, that Awad would not be allowed in the prime minister's office for 15 days.

Israel destroyed the *Voice of Palestine* radio station broadcasting headquarters in Ramallah on December 13. Israeli missiles hit the building's main transmitter, knocking the station off the air. Later, bulldozers flattened the building while Israeli soldiers detonated explosives that toppled a 90-foot radio and television tower and destroyed the station's transmitter, which is also used by *Palestine TV*. *Voice of Palestine* later went back on the air using another frequency and a different infrastructure. *Palestine TV* reportedly broadcast with poor reception. The attack came amid Israeli military strikes against Palestinian National Authority targets. This was not the first time that Israeli forces targeted Palestinian media outlets. In October 2000, Israeli troops had attacked transmission towers and other technical facilities used by the *Voice of Palestine* in Ramallah. A month later, Israeli helicopters bombed the offices of *Palestine TV* in Gaza.

In December, IFJ and LAW condemned the new accreditation procedure imposed by the Government Press Office (GPO) of Israel on Palestinian journalists. Press cards belonging to Palestinians who work as assistants in foreign networks will not be renewed and, instead, the holders will receive an orange card designating them as escorts to foreign journalists. The cards will only be valid for the occupied territories and will not grant the holders automatic access to Israel. Daniel Siman, head of the GPO, said the order was necessary "because everyone thinks he's a journalist, and we have to extend this order to the Palestinians too." He said that press cards had been "passed around" by the Palestinians and that, in the present security situation, it was "necessary to stick to the rules." The IFJ said the new rules and procedures amount to "pure and simple" victimisation of Palestinian journalists, and that "it is a spiteful act of discrimination." Uri Avneri, head of the Israel's Gush Shalom movement, described the issuing of the special cards as "part of the war to break the Palestinian entity" and added that it jeopardises freedom of the press in Israel. LAW said the move was guaranteed to cripple Palestinian media workers as many of them also work for international news organisations. The confiscation of this card prevented 450 Palestinian media workers from covering news in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They are no longer allowed to move freely from one city to another nor to enter Israel or East Jerusalem. The GPO has also prepared what it calls a "Black List" of Palestinian media workers. Siman was quoted by LAW as saying "they have to decide if they are neutral media workers or working for the PA, we see no need to facilitate their work."

On December 18, the IDF published its first report on shootings of journalists by IDF forces during the Intifada. The IDF Central Command had ordered a review of the cases in the summer, largely as a result of pressure from the Israel-based Foreign Press Association (FPA) and from international press freedom groups, including IPI, CPJ and RSF. All of these groups had repeatedly complained about the problem. In its report the IDF denied ever having shot any of the journalists deliberately. The FPA protested the report, calling it "inexcusable" that investigations had been dragged out and many incidents ignored. CPJ said "Regrettably, the IDF's report fails to provide adequate explanations of incidents in which journalists were wounded by Israeli gunfire. The report provides only summary details of individual cases and leaves many questions unanswered." Only in the case of *Associated Press* freelance

photographer Yola Monakhov has anyone in the IDF been disciplined for shooting a journalist. On November 11, 2000, Monakhov was hit by a live round fired by an Israeli soldier in the West Bank town of Bethlehem (see above). After a barrage of media criticism, the IDF formally apologised to Monakhov, stating that the soldier who fired the shot had violated IDF rules of engagement but had not targeted the journalist intentionally. According to the IDF report, the soldier's commanding officer was reprimanded. The soldier who shot the journalist, however, was not disciplined, although she was an unarmed civilian in an area where there was no confrontation at the time. RSF called the IDF report "highly disappointing", and denounced "its superficiality". Nevertheless, all organisations welcomed this first effort by the IDF to at least do something against the many press freedom violations in areas under its control.

On December 21, *Al-Jazeera* Correspondent **Saif Shahin** was beaten by three members of the Palestinian Security Forces while leaving the *Al-Jazeera* office in Gaza City. Saif was beaten on his head, back and arms. When he finally managed to escape, he was denied help from a member of the military secret services who refused to arrest the perpetrators. Similarly, members of the Criminal Services who witnessed the incident from a car parked outside the *Al-Jazeera* office refused to help him. The three men were subsequently arrested but no statement has been released by the Palestinian Authority as of yet. Shahin stated unequivocally that the incident was linked to his work with *Al-Jazeera*.