

PCHR

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

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Weekly Report: On Israeli Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

28 October- 03 November
2004

Israeli Troops Continue Attacks in the OPT



- **12 Palestinians, mostly civilians, including 4 children, were killed by Israeli troops**
- **5 of the victims were extra-judicially killed by Israeli troops in Nablus and Qalqilya**
- **Israeli troops conducted a series of incursions into Palestinian areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip**
- **30 houses were destroyed and at least 60 donums^[1] of agricultural land were razed in Rafah**
- **147 donums of agricultural land were razed in Deir al-Balah and Beit Lahia**
- **Houses were raided and dozens of Palestinian civilians were arrested**

- **3 houses were destroyed in the West Bank in the context of retaliatory measures against families of Palestinian activists**
- **Continued shelling of residential areas and civilian facilities; a 7-year-old Palestinian child was killed and a number of Palestinian civilians were injured**
- **Construction of the “Annexation wall” in the West Bank has continued**
- **Israeli troops have continued to impose a total siege on the OPTs; Rafah Terminal was closed and a curfew was imposed on a number of towns and villages in the West Bank**

Introduction

Israeli occupying troops have launched more attacks against Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). This week, 12 Palestinians, mostly civilians, including 4 children, were killed by Israeli troops. In addition, a number of Palestinian civilians were injured by the Israeli gunfire. Human rights violations perpetrated by Israeli occupying troops included willful and extra-judicial killings, incursions into Palestinian areas, indiscriminate shelling, land leveling and total closure imposed on Palestinian communities.

In the Gaza Strip, on 28 October 2004, a 7-year-old Palestinian schoolchild was killed when Israeli troops opened fire at Palestinian residential areas in Khan Yunis. On 3 November 2004, a Palestinian civilian was killed during an Israeli military incursion into Rafah.

This week, Israeli troops conducted a series of incursions into Palestinian areas in the Gaza Strip. On 3 November 2004, Israeli troops demolished 20 houses completely and 3 others partially. They also demolished 15 shops and 4 sewing factories, and severely damaged a mosque. During 3 other incursions into Rafah on 28, 29 and 30 October 2004, Israeli troops destroyed 6 houses and razed 60 donums of agricultural land. Rafah town and refugee camp have been subject to wide scale destruction by Israeli troops in the current Intifada; 2527 houses have been destroyed, including 1450 ones that have been completely demolished. This has left 15000 people homeless. In the central Gaza Strip, Israeli troops razed 129 donums of agricultural land and destroyed a number animal and bird farms and uninhabited house. On 3 November 2004, Israeli troops razed 18 donums of agricultural land in Beit Lahia.

In the West Bank, 10 Palestinians, including 3 children, were killed by Israeli troops. Four of the victims, including 2 children, were killed in Jenin refugee camp during an Israeli military operation in Jenin town and refugee camp. Another child was killed by Israeli troops in 'Askar refugee camp, east of Nablus on 1 November 2004. The other 5 victims were extra-judicially killed by Israeli troops; one was killed in Qalqilya and the other 4 were killed in Nablus. This week, Israeli troops moved into various areas throughout the West Bank, injured a number of Palestinian civilians, and arrested dozens of others. They also destroyed 3 houses in Nablus in the context of retaliatory measures against families of Palestinian activists. In addition, Israeli settlers continued to attack Palestinian civilians.

Israeli occupying troops have continued to construct the annexation wall inside the West Bank territory. This week, Israeli troops continued to raze areas of agricultural land in Deir al-'Asal village, southwest of Hebron. On 28 October 2004, the Israeli High Court issued a temporary injunction stopping uprooting trees in Burdos village, west of Ramallah, by Israeli troops. Israeli troops also prevented Palestinian farmers in some areas from reaching their agricultural land to cultivate olives.

Israeli occupying troops have continued to impose a tightened siege on the OPT and have imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including Jerusalem. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli troops positioned at military checkpoints imposed restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. Israeli troops have also continued to close most border crossings of the Gaza Strip. These measures have negative impacts on the Palestinian economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights. On 31 October 2004, Israeli troops closed Rafah Terminal on the Egyptian border.

In the West Bank, Israeli troops have continued to impose a strict siege on Palestinian communities. Following the bombing that occurred in Tel Aviv on Monday, 1 November 2004, Israeli troops closed all entrances of the city. They have also continued to impose a tightened siege on Hebron for the 9th consecutive week. They have also imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians and arrested some of them while crossing military checkpoints. Israeli troops imposed curfews on a number of Palestinian communities.

Shelling of, and Encroachment into Palestinian Areas and Attacks on Palestinian

Civilians and Property

Thursday, 28 October 2004

In the early morning, Israeli troops moved into Jenin town and refugee camp. They opened fire at houses and imposed a curfew. They also seized a number of houses and transformed them into military sites. Then, they raided and searched a number of houses. During the hours of the day, dozens of Palestinian children and young men gathered and threw stones at Israeli troops. Immediately, Israeli troops fired at the stone throwers, wounding 2, including a child:

1. Yazan Nasfat Jarrar, 13, wounded by a live bullet in the left leg; and
2. Hilal Nafe' al-Sa'di, 28, wounded by shrapnel in the chest.

At approximately 09:40, Israeli troops positioned on tanks in the vicinity of "al-Nouria" military post, west of Khan Yunis, opened fire at Palestinian houses to the east and south. A Palestinian child, 7-year-old Rania Eyad Ahmed 'Arram, was seriously wounded by a live bullet in the neck, as she was about to leave her house towards school. The family evacuated her to the hospital, but she died before arriving at the hospital. The child, who was wearing a school uniform, was hit by a live bullet when she was at the door of her house, nearly 150 meters away from the source of fire. To evacuate her to the hospital, members of the family were forced to carry her towards the main road, which is 150 meters away from the house.

At approximately 13:00, Israeli troops positioned in a military posts near Salah al-Din Gate on the Egyptian border, south of Rafah, opened fire at residential areas in the town. A Palestinian civilian, 33-year-old Yasser Faraj Siam, was wounded by a live bullet in the right hand, when he was walking in the center of the town.

At approximately 13:30, Israeli troops positioned in a military posts in Tal Zo'rob area in the southwest of Rafah opened fire at Palestinian houses to the north. A Palestinian child, 16-year-old Shaker Jaber Tabas, was wounded by a live bullet in the pelvis.

At approximately 16:00, Israeli troops, reinforced by heavy military vehicles and helicopters, moved nearly 300 meters into al-Atatra area in al-Nasser village, north of Rafah. Under the cover of indiscriminate shelling, they demolished 5 houses completely and a sixth one partially, rendering 131 people (6 families) homeless. These houses belonged to the families of Abu Jazar, Abu Gharara and Abu Naja. Israeli troops also razed 15 donums of agricultural land destroyed a bird farm owned by Yasser Mohammed Abu Gharara.

At approximately 16:30, Israeli troops positioned in military posts in the vicinity of "Kfar Darom" settlement, southeast of Deir al-Balah, opened fire at Palestinian houses to the west of the aforementioned settlement. A Palestinian child, 14-year-old Murad Khalil al-Tawashi, was wounded by a live bullet in the right thigh, when he was near his house, nearly 150 meters away from the source of fire.

At approximately 16:45, Israeli troops in an Israeli military jeep that was patrolling in Jenin refugee camp opened fire at 17-year-old Salah Fadel Abu 'Eita, for no apparent reason when he was near his house. He was wounded by several live bullets throughout the body. An ambulance arrived at the area to evacuate him to the hospital, but more Israeli troops arrived at the area and took the victim out of the ambulance into an Israeli ambulance that accompanied them. Late at night, Israeli military sources declared that the child died from his wound. Later, his body was handed to the Palestinian side. According to medical sources, he was hit by several live bullets in the chest, the abdomen and the right leg.

At approximately 17:45, Israeli troops moved into Nablus. They opened fire at houses. A number of Palestinian children gathered and threw stones at those troops. Immediately, those troops fired at the children, wounding 12-year-old Hamed Mohammed al-Shaya with 3 rubber-coated metal bullets in the chest and the left leg and hand.

In the hours of the day, Israeli troops moved into Bethlehem and the neighboring al-Kahder village and al-Duhaisha refugee camp; and 'Ein Beit al-Maa' refugee camp near Nablus. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 7 Palestinians, including 5 children.

Friday, 29 October 2004

At approximately 00:00, Israeli troops, reinforced by heavy military vehicles, moved nearly 300 meters into al-'Atatra area in al-Nasser village, north of Rafah. They raided and searched a number of houses and transformed them into military sites. They started to raze areas of Palestinian agricultural land. By the evening, they had razed 30.5 donums of agricultural land and had destroyed 3 wells belonging to the families of Duhair, Abu Sunaima, Abu Jazar and Abu Sitta.

In the hours of the day, dozens of Palestinian children and young men gathered and threw stones at Israeli troops, which had imposed a curfew on Jenin refugee camp since the previous day. Immediately, Israeli troops fired at the stone throwers, wounding 6, including 5 children:

1. Mohammed Ayman Farhati, 17, seriously wounded by 2 live bullets in the abdomen and the thigh;
2. Islam Saubhi Jabarin, 17, wounded by shrapnel in the left shoulder and the right foot;
3. Mohammed Ibrahim Abu 'Ali, 21, wounded by 2 live bullets in the feet;
4. Ramah Mahmoud 'Azab, 17, wounded by a live bullet in the right hand;
5. Mohammed Ibrahim Nagnaghia, 15, wounded by shrapnel in the face; and
6. Saleh 'Abdul Fattah Hifnawi, 12, wounded by a live bullet in the right thigh.

In the hours of day, Israeli troops moved into 'Ein Beit al-Maa' refugee camp near Nablus; Jenin refugee camp; and al-'Azza refugee camp and al-Khader village near Bethlehem. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 4 Palestinians, including a girl.

Saturday, 30 October 2004

At approximately 08:00, Israeli troops positioned atop of Manasra commercial building in al-Basatin neighborhood in the north of Jenin opened fire at Palestinian schoolchildren who were entering Hitteen school. One of the children, 12-year-old Ibrahim Mohammed Kumayel, was instantly killed by a live bullet in the chest. Another child, 15-year-old 'Ameed Mohammed 'Abed, was injured by shrapnel in the right hand. According to eyewitnesses, the area was completely quiet when Israeli troops opened fire. Soon after, dozens of schoolchildren gathered and threw stones at Israeli troops that were patrolling in the town. Immediately, Israeli troops opened fire at the children, wounding 3:

1. Mohammed Ahmed Mansour, 17, seriously wounded by a live bullet in the head;
2. Mohammed 'Anad al-Zain, 15, wounded by shrapnel in the right leg; and
3. Mohammed Waleed Lahham, 14, wounded by a live bullet in the right leg.

At approximately 09:00, Israeli troops, reinforced by heavy military vehicles, moved into 'Oraiba area in the northwest of Rafah. Under the cover of indiscriminate shelling, they razed 15 donums of Palestinian agricultural land and destroyed a number of irrigation networks and an animal farm belonging to the families of Dahliz and Abu Taha.

At approximately 19:00, 10 Israeli military vehicles moved into Be'r Haram al-Rama neighborhood in the northeast of Hebron. They surrounded a mosque in the area, while Palestinian civilians were doing the *Taraweeh* prayer. Israeli troops held the prayers in the mosque for 3 hours, during which they checked and integrated a number of the payers. In the meantime, Israeli troops raided at least 20 houses in the area.

In the hours of the day, Israeli troops moved into Dura village near Hebron and Jenin refugee camp. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 10 Palestinians.

Sunday, 31 October 2004

At approximately 00:15, Israeli troops surrounded a deserted house in al-Sa'dia neighborhood in the east of Jenin. They opened fire at the house and called through megaphones on those who were in the house to surrender. A number of members of the Palestinian resistance who were inside the house clashed with Israeli troops. During these clashes, Israeli troops killed one member of the resistance, 'Ammar Rajab al-Sa'di, 28, and arrested 4 other members. Israeli troops kept the victim's body until 10:00, when they handed the body to a Palestinian ambulance. According to medical sources, the victim was hit by several live bullets in the abdomen, the chest and the right leg.

In the evening, a number of Palestinian children gathered in Jenin refugee camp and threw stones at Israeli troops that were patrolling in the camp. Immediately, Israeli troops fired at the children, wounding 1 and a passing girl:

1. Khadra Mousa Khatib, 17, wounded by a live bullet in the left hand; and
2. Ghassan Khaled Salman, 16, wounded by a live bullet in the right leg.

At approximately 15:30, Israeli troops positioned in military posts in the vicinity of "Netzarim" settlement, south of Gaza City, opened fire at Palestinian houses and agricultural areas to the south. A Palestinian civilian, Rajab Mohammed Yassin, 52, was seriously wounded by a live bullet in right side, when he was on his agricultural land, nearly 300 meters away from the source of fire.

In the hours of the day, Israeli troops raided and searched a number of houses in Jenin town and refugee camp. They arrested 9 Palestinians, including a child.

Monday, 1 November 2004

At approximately 06:30, Israeli troops, reinforced by heavy military vehicles, moved from the eastern border of the Gaza Strip nearly 700 meters into Gaza Valley village in the central Gaza Strip. They started to raze areas of Palestinian agricultural land. By 13:30, they had razed 39 donums of agricultural land planted with olives and citrus belonging to the families of Zimmu, Abu Sha'ban, al-Safadi and Abu Sa'id.

At approximately 08:00, Israeli troops, reinforced by heavy military vehicles, moved nearly 300 meters into al-Ja'farawi area in the southeast of Deir al-Balah. They started to raze areas of Palestinian agricultural land. By 00:00 on Tuesday, 2 November 2004, they had razed 40 donums of agricultural land planted with olives, on parts of which a number of greenhouses stood, and destroyed an animal farm. They also destroyed a 150-square-meter, 2-storey uninhabited house owned by Hassan Mohammed Abu Mughassib.

At approximately 13:30, 3 Israeli military jeeps moved into 'Askar refugee camp, northeast of Nablus. Israeli troops opened fire at houses. A number of Palestinian children gathered and threw stones at the jeeps. Immediately, Israeli troops fired at the stone throwers, seriously wounding 12-year-old Bashar Sami Zabbara with a live bullet in the neck. He died on the way to the hospital. Two other children were wounded:

1. Fadi Ahmed Abu Zir, 12, wounded by a live bullet in the left foot; and
2. Sameh Hussein 'Araishi, 14, wounded by a live bullet in the right leg.

According to eyewitnesses, the children did not pose any threat to the Israeli troops.

In the evening, a number of Palestinian children gathered in Jenin refugee camp and threw stones at Israeli troops that were patrolling in the camp. Immediately, Israeli troops fired at the children, wounding 2:

1. Qassem Hussein Jalqamoussi, 17, wounded by shrapnel in the legs; and
2. Ahmed 'Essam Furiहत, 15, wounded by 2 live bullets in the legs.

At approximately 19:30, Israeli troops moved from the annexation wall into Jayous village, north of Qalqilya.

They stopped and interrogated 2 Palestinian children who were walking in the west of the village. A verbal quarrel erupted between the two children and Israeli troops. Immediately, an Israeli soldier fired at them. The two were wounded:

1. Ahmed 'Abdul Karim Shamasna, 16, wounded by a live bullet in the right shoulder; and
2. Mohammed Mahmoud Baida, 16, wounded by shrapnel in the legs.

In the hours of the day, Israeli troops raided and searched a number of houses in Jenin refugee camp and the neighboring 'Anza village; al-Kahder village near Bethlehem; Rafat village near Nablus; and Nour Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm. They arrested 14 Palestinians.

Tuesday, 2 November 2004

After they had extra-judicially killed 3 Palestinians in Nablus on Monday evening, 1 November 2004, shortly after midnight, Israeli troops raided and searched the emergency center of Palestine Red Crescent Society in the city. They also searched a number of ambulances and interrogated medical crews.

At approximately 01:00, an infantry unit of Israeli troops moved nearly 400 meters into Palestinian areas to the west of "Kfar Darom" settlement, southeast of Deir al-Balah. Israeli troops raided and searched 'Atef al-Kurd's house. Then, they held the 8 residents of the house in one room and transformed its roof into a military site. Nearly half an hour later, more Israeli troops were brought to the area. They started to raze areas of Palestinian agricultural land. By the morning, they had razed 50 dunums of agricultural land planted with olives, on parts of which a number of greenhouses stood. They also destroyed 2 bird farms and a number of irrigation networks and wells. These properties belong to the families of Bashir, Abu Salim, Abu 'Amra, al-Louh and al-'Attar.

Wednesday, 3 November 2004

In the early morning, Israeli troops, reinforced by heavy military vehicles, moved nearly 400 meters into Palestinian areas located to the south of "Dogit" settlement in the northern Gaza Strip. They razed 18 dunums of agricultural land planted with strawberries, potatoes, figs and grapes, and destroyed an animal farm owned by Riad Zindah. At approximately 03:00, Israeli troops raided 2 houses belonging to the Zindah family. They held the 15 residents of the two houses in one room until the evening and confiscated their mobile phones.

At approximately 01:00, Israeli troops, reinforced by heavy military vehicles and helicopters, moved nearly 300 meters into Block O and Qeshta neighborhood in the south of Rafah, adjacent to the Egyptian border. Under the cover indiscriminate gunfire and shelling, they started to demolish a number of Palestinian houses. By 20:30, they had demolished 20 houses completely and 3 others partially, rendering 177 people (24 families) homeless. These houses belong to the families of Abu Hilal, Abu Shamallah and al-Najjar. Israeli troops also demolished 15 shops and 4 sewing factories, and severely damaged a mosque. As a result of the indiscriminate gunfire, a Palestinian civilian, Ra'fat Samir al-Hams, 27, a taxi driver, was killed by a live bullet in the head, when he was in the center of the town. Four other civilians were also wounded.

At approximately 20:00, an undercover unit of Israeli troops, disguised in Palestinian civilian clothes and traveling in 2 civilian cars that had Palestinian registration plates, moved into Sabah al-Khair neighborhood in the north of Jenin. Israeli troops surrounded Tahseen Abu Tabeekh's house, where public figures were settling a dispute. Soon, a number of Israeli military jeeps arrived at the area to support the undercover unit. Israeli troops cut off electricity from the house and raided it. Ra'ed Salim Qara'awi, 30, attempted to escape from the house, but Israeli troops fired at him from a close distance. Israeli troops transported him to a nearby checkpoint. At approximately 21:30, Israeli troops phoned the emergency center of Palestine Red Crescent Society in Jenin to bring an ambulance. Immediately, an ambulance went to the place, but Israeli troops held its crew for 30 minutes before delivering the victim's body. Later, the body was transferred to Dr. Khalil Suleiman Hospital in Jenin. According to medical sources, the victim was hit by several live bullets

throughout the body. The victim was an employee at the Arab Bank, and was not wanted by Israeli troops. Israeli troops also arrested 8 Palestinians from the area.

Extra-Judicial killings

In a continuation of the policy of extra-judicial killings officially adopted by the Israeli political and military establishments, this week, IOF committed 2 extra-judicial killings, which left 5 Palestinians dead.

According to investigations conducted by PCHR into the first execution, at approximately 19:30 on Thursday, 28 October 2004, an undercover unit of Israeli troops, disguised in Palestinian civilian clothes and traveling in a civilian car that had a Palestinian registration plate, moved into Qalqilya. This incursion coincided with the exit of Palestinian prayers from the mosques following the *Taraweeh* prayer. Three persons got out of the car and fired from guns equipped with silencers at 47-year-old Ibrahim Mohammed Fayed 'Eissa, who was sitting near a grocer shop nearly 20 meters away from his house. He was wounded. Then, the undercover unit opened fire at him and left the area. He was instantly killed. According to medical sources, the victim was hit by several live bullets throughout the body.

According to investigations conducted by PCHR into the second execution, at approximately 21:00 on Monday, 1 November 2004, an undercover unit of Israeli troops disguised in Palestinian civilian clothes and traveling in a civilian car that had a Palestinian registration plate, moved into Nablus. The car stopped near 'Abdul Mugheeth al-Ansari school, and 6-8 persons who were wearing women's clothes got out of it. Those persons mounted the stairs of al-Yasamina, which leads to al-Samra area in the west of the old town. They moved towards 4 Palestinians who were sitting in the area and fired at them at very close range. Three of these Palestinians were instantly killed:

1. Majdi Mar'ei, 25;
2. Fadi Sami Nour al-Sarwan, 22; and
3. Jihad 'Omar Abu Salha, 25.

The fourth Palestinian, Fadi Qaffisha, 24, was seriously wounded. He died from his wound on Tuesday evening, 2 November 2004. The four victims were members of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the military wing of Fatah movement. Soon, more Israeli troops arrived on the scene to transport the undercover unit, while an F-16 fighter jet, a helicopter and a drone were flying over the city.

Majid Mar'ei had survived an assassination attempt carried out by IOF on 15 September 2004, which left 6 Palestinians dead, including an 11-year-old child. Israeli military sources claimed that Mar'ei had been wanted for a long time and that he was responsible for a number of attacks against Israeli targets.

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

In violation of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949, article 33 of which prohibits punishing any protected person for "an offence he or she has not personally committed," Israeli forces took retaliatory measures against the families of Palestinians Israel alleges have ordered, facilitated, or carried out attacks against Israeli targets.

At approximately 03:00 on Tuesday, 2 November 2004, Israeli troops moved into 'Askar refugee camp, east of Nablus. They surrounded a 70-square-meter, 2-storey house owned by 'Abdul Qader 'Omar al-Far. Israeli troops forced the 8 residents of the house out and planted explosives inside the house. At approximately 04:30, Israeli troops destroyed the house. The owner's son, 'Aamer, 17, was killed while carrying out a bombing in Tel Aviv on Monday, 1 November 2004.

At approximately 02:30 on the same day, Israeli troops moved into Beit Fourik village, east of Nablus. They surrounded a 150-square-meter, 2-storey house owned by 'Abdul Latif 'Aaref Hanani. They forced the 8 residents of the house out and planted explosives inside the house. At approximately 05:10, they destroyed the house. The owner's son, Bashar, 28, is allegedly wanted by Israeli troops.

At approximately 02:45 on the same day, Israeli troops moved into Roujib village, east of Nablus. They surrounded a 200-square-meter, 3-storey house owned by Ghassan Ahmed al-Ka'bi. They forced the 30 residents of the house out and planted explosives inside the house. At approximately 05:15, they destroyed the house. The owner's brother, Hisham, 26, is allegedly wanted by Israeli troops.

Continued Siege on the OPT

This week, Israeli troops have continued to impose a tightened siege on the OPT and imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including Jerusalem.

Gaza Strip

This week, Israeli troops have continued to impose tightened siege on the Gaza Strip. They have continued to close all border crossings of the Gaza Strip either partially or completely. These measures violate the Palestinian economic, social and cultural rights.

Israeli troops have continued to impose a strict siege on al-Mawasi area in the southern Gaza Strip. They have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians to and from the area. Israeli troops frequently close al-Tuffah checkpoint at the entrance to the area. They have also continued to prevent female Palestinians whose ages are between 16 and 25, and males whose ages are between 16 and 30 from crossing al-Tuffah checkpoint when it is open, without prior coordination.

Israeli troops have also continued to impose a tightened siege on al-Sayafa area in the northern Gaza Strip. They have also imposed severe restrictions of the movement of Palestinian farmers. In the same context, Israeli troops have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians living in al-Ma'ni area near "Kfar Darom" settlement in the central Gaza Strip.

Israeli troops have continued to close Erez crossing to Palestinians in the northern Gaza Strip for the 2nd consecutive month. Israeli occupying troops partially reopened al-Mentar (Karni) commercial crossing to the east of Gaza City, but they have imposed severe restrictions on the flow of goods through the two crossing. As result, the Palestinian market has lacked several basic goods. Israeli troops partially opened Sofa crossing, northeast of Rafah, and allowed the entry of construction raw materials, but the crossing has remained closed in the face of Palestinian workers.

Israeli troops have continued to impose severe restrictions on traveling through Rafah International Crossing Point, which has been the only outlet for the Gaza Strip to the outside world since 14 February 2001, when Israeli troops destroyed the runway of Gaza International Airport. On Sunday morning, 31 October 2004, Israeli troops closed the terminal. The number of Palestinians allowed to travel through the Crossing daily is very limited. As a result, many patients who are badly in need for special medical treatment abroad have not been able to travel. Israeli troops have continued to prevent Palestinians whose ages are between 16 and 35 from traveling through the Crossing since 16 April 2004, although they claimed that they cancelled this prevention on 9 August 2004.

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The West Bank

Israeli troops have continued to impose a strict siege on Palestinian communities. They have also imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians.

Jerusalem

On Friday, 29 October 2004, Israeli troops reinforced their presence around East Jerusalem. According to eyewitnesses, Israeli troops imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians at the entrances of the city and near the old town and the al-Aqsa Mosque. An Israeli helicopter also flew over al-Aqsa Mosque to monitor the prayers. Israeli troops have continued to prohibit access of Palestinian civilians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the occupied East Jerusalem to pray at al-Aqsa Mosque, which is the third holiest site for Muslims.

Ramallah

Israeli troops imposed more restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Monday noon, 1 November 2004, Israeli troops closed Qalandya checkpoint, south of the town, and declared it a closed military zone. They prevented Palestinian civilians from traveling to Jerusalem. Palestinian civilians were forced to resort to alternative dirt roads.

Nablus

Israeli troops imposed more restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Saturday morning, 30 October 2004, Israeli troops erected a sudden checkpoint at the entrance to Surra village, southwest of Nablus. They stopped and searched dozens of Palestinian vehicles. On Monday morning, Israeli troops closed Hawara checkpoint for several hours, claiming that they found a suspicious object. In the evening, Israeli troops positioned at various checkpoints imposed more restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians.

Hebron

On Sunday evening, 31 October 2004, Israeli troops imposed a strict curfew on Jabal Jouhar, Jabal Jales, Wadi al-Nasara, al-Fahes and al-Kassara neighborhoods in the south of Hebron, near "Kiryat Arba" settlement. They raided and searched many houses and took Palestinian civilians who are under 40 to the aforementioned settlement to interrogate them. While imposing the curfew, Israeli troops fired live bullets and sound bombs. They also beat a number of families, including the families of al-Razem and Jaber. The curfew remained effective until Monday morning, 1 November 2004.

Bethlehem

On Monday morning, 1 November 2004, Israeli troops positioned at the Container checkpoint, northeast of Bethlehem, imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. They stopped Palestinian vehicles for several hours. Israeli troops also erected a checkpoint on Wadi al-anar road, the main road between the north and south of the West Bank. They stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles.

Tulkarm

This week, Israeli troops imposed more restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Saturday morning, 30 October 2004, they erected a checkpoint at the entrance to Far'oun village, south of the town. They stopped and checked Palestinian civilians at various checkpoints around the town. .

Arrests at Military Checkpoints and Border Crossings

On Friday morning, 29 October 2004, Israeli troops positioned at al-Karama Terminal on the Jordanian border arrested Jihad 'Abdul Qader Awlad Hamdan, 32, from Dura village, southwest of Hebron, while he was on his way to Saudi Arabia.

Curfews

On Monday, 1 November 2004, Israeli troops imposed a curfew on the villages of al-'Eizaria, Abu Dis and al-Sawahra al-Sharqia near Jerusalem. This curfew continued until the following day noon.

Settlement Activities and Settlers' Attacks on Palestinian Civilians and Properties

Israeli troops have pursued settlement activities in the OPT and settlers who live in the OPT in violation of international humanitarian law have continued to attack Palestinian civilians and their properties.

On Thursday, 28 October 2004, Israeli occupation authorities issued a military order stopping construction at a housing project in the east of Beit Sahour town in the West Bank. The order included stopping the construction of an apartment building and a garden. Israeli occupation authorities claim that the housing project is located near a settler bypass road in the area, and that the land on which the project is established is not within the boundaries of the Municipality of Beit Sahour, rather it is a part of Jerusalem. The project has construction licenses since 1994, and the maps of the Municipality of Beit Sahour show that the land on which the project stands is within the boundaries of the municipality. It is worth noting that 250 people (44 families) live in the housing project.

On Friday, 29 October 2004, Israeli occupation authorities issued a military order confiscating 305 donums of land in Shoufa village, south of Tulkarm, to be used for military purposes. This land belongs to the families of Hannoun, Abu al-'Alia and Daroubi.

At approximately 13:00 on Monday, 1 November 2004, a number of Israeli settlers from "Utaniel" settlement, south of Hebron, threw stones at Palestinian farmers and international solidarity groups who were cultivating olives on Palestinian agricultural areas near the aforementioned settlement to force them to leave the area. Israeli troops did not intervene to stop this attack. They even held the head of the committee to defend land attorney Mousa Makhamra, 50, and a farmer for 3 hours.

On Monday evening, a number of settlers from settlements in the center of Hebron attacked Palestinian civilians and houses near al-Sahla square near the Ibrahim mosque in the old town. Israeli troops did not intervene to stop these attacks.

At approximately 12:00 on Tuesday, 2 November 2004, a car that have an Israeli registration plate ran down 7-year-old Fidaa' S'oud Khader 'Ouda, from Hawara village south of Nablus, when she was on her way back home from her elementary schools. The driver escaped from the area. A Palestinian taxi driver who was in the area evacuated the child to the hospital. When he arrived at Hawara checkpoint, Israeli troops denied him passage. Nearly half an hour later, an Israeli ambulance arrived and transported the child to an Israeli

hospital.

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 Territories. PCHR believes the conspiracy of silence practiced by the international community has encouraged Israel to act as a state above law and 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 recommends international civil society organizations, including human rights organizations, bar associations and solidarity groups to participate in the process of searching for Israeli war criminals and to urge their governments to bring these war criminals to justice.
5. 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.
6. PCHR calls upon European governments to change their positions towards the Palestinian cause at UN bodies, particularly the General Assembly, Security Council and Commission on Human Rights.
7. PCHR welcomes the UN General Assembly resolution, which referred the issue of the Separation Wall inside the OPT to International Court of Justice to give a consultative opinion. There is no doubt that the wall is illegal, which obligates the international community to take steps that amount to the level of the expected decision by the court.
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 for facilitating 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 solidarity groups, 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. In light of the severe restrictions imposed by the Israeli government and its occupying forces on access of international solidarity groups to the OPT, PCHR calls upon European countries to deal the same way with Israeli citizens.
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.

“END”

[1] 1 donum is equal to 1000 square meters.

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