

Israeli Violations of Palestinian Citizens' Rights 1 October – 31 December 2003

Introduction

During the period covered by this report, the Israeli occupation forces continued their successive invasions of Palestinian cities, villages, and camps in the West Bank (with the exception of Jericho and Bethlehem). They also continued to commit a gamut of violations against Palestinian citizens' rights, including assassination, deliberate killing, house demolition, and bulldozing land. During this period, 142 Palestinians were killed (including 27 children and 7 cases of assassination), and more than 400 residential units were destroyed under the pretext of "security," including 12 houses destroyed under the pretext that one of the residents or owners carried out a bombing operation or was involved in an armed clash with occupation soldiers or settlers, or was wanted or detained by the occupation authorities for activist involvement in the Intifada. This is in addition to the destruction of 11 houses under the pretext that the owners did not obtain building permits. Further, more than 280 dunams of agricultural land in the Gaza Strip were bulldozed, as were other areas for the purpose of expanding settlements or erecting new military posts in the West Bank. This is in addition to the continuation of the arrest campaigns and intensified efforts to complete the construction of the separation wall, on which work began in April 2002.

The occupation forces continued their incursions into the various areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. On 10 October, they invaded the city of Rafah and opened fire, resulting in eight deaths and a number of injuries. On 18 October, they invaded the Salam and Brazil neighborhoods of Rafah and opened fire, resulting in four deaths and a number of injuries. On 11 December, the occupation forces invaded the Salam neighborhood of Rafah once again, killing six civilians. On 23 December, they invaded the neighborhood of Al-Qasas in Brazil Camp, Rafah, under the pretext that they were searching for tunnels linking the Palestinian territories to Egypt. In so doing, they killed nine civilians and demolished a number of houses. On 21 December, the occupation forces attacked the city of Nablus and the surrounding camps in a military operation they called "Operation Stagnant Water".

Despite the relative calm that pervaded the Palestinian territories during the period covered by this report, siege and closure remained firmly in place. The West Bank and Gaza Strip remained cut off from each other, and Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were prohibited from visiting Arab Jerusalem. Hundreds of permanent and temporary military checkpoints remained in place, limiting the movement of Palestinians between the various cities, as well as between each city and its neighboring or surrounding villages. As of the writing of this report, there had been no perceptible improvement in the lives of Palestinian citizens, despite efforts to sign a new truce between the Palestinian factions and the Palestinian National Authority on the one hand, and Israel on the other.

The following review highlights the most prominent Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians during the period from 1 October – 31 December 2003.

I. Violations of the Right to Life, Physical Safety, and Personal Security

The Israeli occupation forces continued to commit violations against Palestinian citizens' right to life, physical well-being, and personal security in contravention of the international agreements and charters prohibiting such violations. These charters include the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Article 147 prohibits all forms of assault on the life or security of protected civilians and regards an assault on the right to life to be a grave breach of the Convention. Grave breaches are considered war crimes according to the First Geneva Protocol of 1977 relative to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts and according to the Rome Statute of the 1998 International Criminal Court.

Excessive Use of Force

The Israel occupation forces' excessive use of force resulted in the death and injury of hundreds of Palestinians. In the period covered by this report, the occupation forces killed 142 Palestinians, including 27 children and 7 who were assassinated. Among the 142 were 26 who were killed while resisting occupation forces, whether in the areas that the forces invaded or in armed clashes near settlements. The rest were killed as a result of excessive use of force. In addition to the 142 deaths, 4 Palestinians were killed while carrying out bombing operations against Israeli targets, and 8 Palestinians were killed under ambiguous circumstances.¹

According to the statistics of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, during the period covered by this report more than 450 Palestinians were injured, the majority of whom were shot with live ammunition or hit by shell shrapnel.

Extra-Judicial Killings

The occupation forces' extra-judicial killings, committed since the outbreak of the Intifada, continued. During the period covered by this report, the occupation forces executed or deliberately killed seven Intifada activists. Their names are as follows:

1. Mazen Yousef Salameh Mubarak, 34, of Shweikeh/Tulkarem

He was killed on 1 October, when he was targeted by a Special Forces unit of the Israeli army.

2. Sirhan Burhan Sirhan, 21, of Tulkarem Camp

He was killed on 4 October, when he was hit by live ammunition when the car he was in was targeted in Tulkarem Camp.

3. Khaled Ghazi Al-Masri, 23, of Al-Daraj neighborhood/Gaza

4. Iyad Fa'eq Al-Hilew, 22, of Al-Shuja'ieh neighborhood/Gaza

They were killed on 20 October, when they were hit by shrapnel from a missile targeting their car in central Gaza City.

¹ See the appendix of the original Arabic report for a list of names of Palestinians killed between 1 October and 31 December 2003.

5. Ahmad Atiyeh Khamis, 28, of Qalqilya

He was killed on 22 October, when he was hit by live ammunition after being detained in the neighborhood of Kafr Saba/Qalqilya.

6. Migled Hmeid Hmeid, 40, of Jabalya Camp/Northern Governorate/Gaza

7. Nabil 'Awad Al-Sherihi, 31, of Al-Nusseirat Camp/Central Governorate/Gaza

They were killed on 25 December, when they were hit by shrapnel from a missile targeting the car they were in northern Gaza City.

Children Killed

During the period covered by this report, 27 children were killed. Their names and circumstance of death are as follows:

- On 1 October, Hussein Samir Hasan Alawi, 13, of Tal Al-Hawa/Gaza, was killed by a live bullet to the head while in his house during an incursion into his neighborhood by occupation forces.

- On 4 October, Ayman Yousef Barahmeh, 9, of Tulkarem Camp, was killed by live ammunition to the chest during the occupation forces' assassination operation against Sirhan Sirhan.

- On 4 October, Mustafa Abdel Qader Al-Badrasawi, 18 months, of Khan Younis, died as a result of injuries sustained on 2 October during an incursion into the city of Khan Younis by occupation forces.

- On 10 October, Ibrahim Ahmad Al-Qreinawi, 8, of Rafah, was killed by a live bullet to the abdomen while in his house during an incursion into the city by occupation forces.

- On 10 October, Sami Talal Salah, 15, of Rafah, was killed by a live bullet to the head near his house during an incursion into the city by occupation forces.

- On 10 October, Mabrouk Muhammad Joudeh, 16, of Rafah, was killed by a live bullet to the head near his house during an incursion into the city by occupation forces.

- On 18 October, Yahya Hassan Mahmoud Rihan, 17, of Azba Shoufah/Tulkarem, was killed by a live bullet to the chest during confrontations that took place with occupation forces during their incursion into the city of Tulkarem.

- On 19 October, Shadi Abu Alwan, 14, of Rafah, was killed by a live bullet to the head while in his house during an incursion into the city by occupation forces.

- On 20 October, Muhammad Ziad Muhammad Baroud, 12, of Al-Nusseirat Camp/Central Governorate/Gaza, was killed by shrapnel from a missile targeting a civilian car at the entrance to the camp.

- On 24 October, Muhammad Ismail Al-Hamaydeh, 11, of Deir Al-Balah/Central Governorate/Gaza, was killed by a live bullet to the abdomen while on his way to pray at a mosque near his family's house.

- On 29 October, Baha' Muhammad Jaber Al-Zubeidi, 12, of Balata Camp/Nablus, was killed by live ammunition to the abdomen while at the entrance to the camp.

- On 29 October, Salah Abdel Ghafar Asad, 16, of Al-Nusseirat Camp/Central Governorate/Gaza, died as a result of injuries sustained when a civilian car was bombarded at the entrance to the camp.

- On 7 November, Mahmoud Sabri Al-Qayid, 11, of Al-Sabra neighborhood/Gaza City, was killed by a live bullet to the chest near his house during an incursion into Gaza City by occupation forces.

- On 8 November, Mu'taz Wasef Al-Amoudi, 15, of Burqin village/Jenin, was killed by live ammunition during confrontations that took place with occupation forces during their incursion into the village.

- On 9 November, Ahmad Muhannad Nafe' Mar'i, 8, of Jenin Camp, died as a result of injuries sustained on 8 November, from a live bullet to the head during an incursion into the camp by occupation forces.
- On 11 November, Shadi Na'im Abu Anzeh, 14, of Block O/Rafah, died as a result of injuries sustained on 10 November, from a live bullet to the head near his house during an incursion into the camp by occupation forces.
- On 13 November, Suboh Mazen Suboh, 15, of Burqin village/Jenin, died as a result of injuries sustained on 8 November, from a live bullet to the head during confrontations that took place with occupation forces during their incursion into the village.
- On 15 November, Ahmad Marwan Hinni, 14, of Beit Furik/Nablus, was killed when he was run over by a military vehicle during confrontations that took place in the village.
- On 22 November, Ibrahim Ali Al-Jalamneh, 11, of Jenin, was killed by a live bullet to the chest during confrontations that took place with occupation forces during their incursion into the city.
- On 25 November, Rashad Tawfiq Abdel Rahman, 16, of Yatta/Hebron, was killed by a live bullet to the abdomen during confrontations that took place during an incursion into the town by occupation forces.
- On 1 December, Mu'ayad Mazen Eid Hamdan, 9, of Al-Amari Camp/Ramallah, was killed by a live bullet to the head nearby his house during an incursion into the camp by occupation forces.
- On 2 December, Muhammad Ahmad Zahran, 16, of Deir Abu Mash'al village/Ramallah, was killed by live ammunition during confrontations that took place during an incursion into the village by occupation forces.
- On 5 December, Jihad Musa Al-Akhras, 16, of Rafah, was killed by live ammunition upon approaching the border fence near Rafah crossing.
- On 11 December, Suleiman Muhammad Al-Atrash, 17, of Yabna Camp/Rafah, was killed by a live bullet to the abdomen during an incursion into the Salam neighborhood/Rafah by occupation forces.
- On 20 December, Nur Al-Din Ahmad 'Izat Omran, 16, of Deir Al-Hatab village/Nablus, was killed as a result of injuries sustained on 17 December, from live ammunition during an incursion into Balata Camp/Nablus by occupation forces.
- On 20 December, Muhammad Na'im Al-A'raj, 5, of Balata Camp/Nablus, was killed by a live bullet to the chest during an incursion into the camp by occupation forces.

Examples of Heinous Crimes Committed by the Occupation Forces against Palestinian Civilians in the Gaza Strip:

- Rafah/Gaza

On 10 October, the occupation forces invaded the city of Rafah and opened fire on civilians and houses. Seven citizens were killed as a result, including three children who were inside their homes. Those killed in this incident were:

- Ibrahim Al-Qreinawi, 8.
- Nader Ahmad Abu Taha, 22.
- Atweh Muhammad Muhasen, 22.
- Muhammad Ahmad Abdel Wahab, 23.
- 'Ala' Nu'man Mansour, 33.
- Sami Talal Salah, 15.
- Mabrouk Muhammad Joudeh, 16.

- Al-Nusseirat Camp/Central Governorate/Gaza

On 20 October, the occupation forces bombarded a civilian car at the entrance to Al-Nusseirat Camp, with the aim of assassinating Hamas activists. Afterwards, citizens gathered around the bombed-out car, whereupon a helicopter gunship fired a missile, killing 12 civilians, including two children and a physician aiding the wounded. More than 75 were injured in this incident. Following the incident, many questions were raised regarding the type of weapon used in the operation—which caused such a large number of civilian injuries—especially in light of the many puncture holes in the bodies of those hit. Investigations into the type of weapon—and whether it is banned internationally—are ongoing. Those killed in this incident were:

- Mahdi Ismail Jarbou', 20.
- Abdel Halim Muhammad Tabazeh, 23.
- Atiyeh Yousef Younis, 20.
- Zein Al-Abedin Muhammad Shahin, 35 (a physician).
- Muhammad Ziad Baroud, 12.
- Muhammad Shteivi Al-Masri, 23.
- Ahmad Eid Khalifeh, 49.
- Ayoub Misbah Al-Malek, 21.
- Muhammad Tawfiq Hathat, 22.
- Ibrahim Muhammad Tabazeh, 25.
- Mas'oud Ali 'Ayash, 35.
- Salah Abdel Ghafar Asad, 16.

- Al-Salam Neighborhood/Rafah Camp/Gaza

On 11 December, the occupation forces invaded the Al-Salam neighborhood of Rafah Camp with the aim of finding a wanted individual. As a result of firing upon citizens' houses, they killed six citizens, including a child. Those killed in this incident were:

- Suleiman Muhammad Al-Atrash, 17.
- Sabri Ahmad Abu Louli, 25.
- Ayad Muhammad Al-Mahmoum, 50.
- Omar Fawzi Abu Muhsen, 28.
- Muhammad Rajab Zeinou, 23.
- Nasser Muhammad Abu Al-Naja, 28.

- Gaza City (Assassination of Miqled Hmeid)

On 25 December, the occupation forces bombarded a civilian car in the Al-Saftawi neighborhood of Gaza City, with the aim of assassinating Islamic Jihad activist **Miqled Hmeid**. The bombardment killed five citizens, including Miqled Hmeid, in addition to injuring more than 15 civilians in the area. It appears that the type of weapon used in this incident was the same as that used in Al-Nusseirat Camp on 20 October. Those killed in this incident were:

- Nabil Awad Al-Sharihi, 31.
- Miqled Hmeid Hmeid, 40.
- Ashraf Hasan Radwan, 19.
- Said Awad Abu Rukab, 32.

Israeli Settler Attacks on Palestinian Civilians and Their Property

Israeli settlers continued to attack Palestinian civilians and their property during the period covered by this report, especially in areas near settlements. The most prominent of these attacks included the following:

- On 4 October, **Said Muhammad Said Suleiman**, 40, of 'Ajja village/Jenin, died as a result of injuries sustained approximately a year earlier from a live bullet fired by a member of the Tarsila settlement near the village.
- On 15 October, members of the Ariel settlement razed approximately 70 dunams of land planted with about 400 olive trees in the Al-Zawiyeh village/Salfit.
- On 3 November, members from the Halmish settlement, located on land of the village of Bani Zeid Al-Gharbiyeh in the Ramallah governorate, set fire to scores of dunams of land belonging to the Al-Nabi Saleh village.
- On 9 December, members of the Beit Hagai settlement, located south of Hebron, set fire to approximately ten dunams of land belonging to the citizens of Al-Rihiyeh village, located near the settlement.
- On 12 December, members of the Shvut Rahel settlement set fire to approximately 1,700 dunams of land belonging to the citizens of the Turmusayya village/Ramallah with the aim of expanding the settlement.
- On 28 December, settlers from the settlement enclave in central Hebron attacked residents of the city, injuring a number of them, including two children: Shaher Muhammad Al-Ja'bari, 15, and Anas Al-Bayed, 15. That same day, a number of settlers from Kiryat Arba, in Hebron, attacked houses in the Al-Nasara neighborhood of the city, damaging them.

Assaults on Medical Personnel

Article 20 of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention states: "Persons regularly and solely engaged in the operation and administration of civilian hospitals, including the personnel engaged in the search for, removal, and transporting of and caring for wounded and sick civilians, the infirm, and maternity cases, shall be respected and protected." Article 12 of the First Geneva Protocol of 1977 adds: "Medical units shall be respected and protected at all times and shall not be the object of attack." In addition, Article 8/b/28 of the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court regards as war crimes the deliberate attack on any medical buildings, materials, units, transport vehicles, and personnel, as well as on any individuals using insignia clearly recognized by international law. In spite of this, the occupation forces continued to attack members of Palestinian medical teams and to obstruct their work:

- On 25 October, occupation forces stormed Rafidiya hospital and Al-Injili hospital in the city of Nablus and detained a number of patients, including Jawad Ishtayeh and Khaled Abu Hamad, who were among those wounded in the car bombing that occurred on Amman Street in central Nablus on 25 October, which resulted in the death of one person and injured three others.
- On 20 October, occupation forces bombarded a group of citizens at the entrance of Al-Nusseirat Camp/Central Governorate/Gaza as they were aiding the wounded, resulting in the death of physician **Zein Al-Abedin Shahin**, 35.
- On 11 December, paramedic **Muhammad Rajab Zeinou**, 23, of Brazil neighborhood/Rafah, was killed by a live bullet to the head as he was attempting to aid those wounded when occupation forces opened fire during their incursion into Al-Salam neighborhood/Rafah.
- On 23 December, paramedic **W'am Rizeq Musa**, 22, was killed by a live bullet to the head as he was attempting to aid those wounded as a result of occupation forces' incursion into the Al-Qasas neighborhood of Yabna Camp/Rafah.

- On 27 December, an Israeli border guard force used their rifle butts to beat aid worker **Rami Shamlawi**, 24, as he was attempting to aid one of the wounded in the Rafidiya neighborhood/Nablus after the occupation forces had invaded and imposed a curfew.

II. Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Property

Demolition of Houses for “Security Reasons”

During the period covered by this report, the occupation forces demolished more than 400 residential units in contravention of Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which regards “destruction or appropriation of property not justified by military necessity” as a grave breach of the Convention.

- On 25 October, the occupation forces demolished three residential towers in Al-Zahra, near the Netzarim settlement close to Gaza City, on the pretext that these towers were being used to fire on the settlement. The towers consisted of 165 residential apartments, most of which were uninhabited due to the repeated firing of the occupation forces.

-On 10 October, the occupation forces launched an incursion into the city of Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, invading with military bulldozers and proceeding to demolish the houses near the border area between Egypt and the Palestinian territories on the pretext of searching for tunnels used to smuggle arms. This operation resulted in the complete destruction of 84 residential units and the partial destruction of at least 100 units.

The following table displays houses demolished on 10 October, in the city of Rafah, on the pretext of searching for tunnels used to smuggle arms. Information on the area of each house is not yet available from official or non-official parties:

No.	Owner	No. of Residents
Houses destroyed in Block J		
1	Abdel Hamid Abdullah Tafesh	2
2	Hasham Adel Rabi'	20
3	Heider Khalil Al-Mugheir	31
4	Ahmad Ali Othman	3
5	Sami Ali Othman	4
6	Ali Ahmad Othman	6
7	Zakaria Abdel Rahim Al-Sababi	9
8	Hamdan Hamdan Abu Siyam	8
9	Turki Mahmoud Al-Sha'er	13
10	Yousef Khalil Al-Sha'er	18
11	Najeh Khalil Abu Fakhr	10
12	Ahmad Muhammad Awad	2
13	Jamal Ahmad Awad	11
Houses destroyed in Block N		
14	Samir Mahmoud Al-Rantisi	10
15	Ismail Abdullah Matar	2
16	Abdel Fatah Samih Abu Ghali	9
17	Fatimeh Abdullah 'Awajeh	2
18	Fawzi Ali Yousef	8
19	Insherah Deib Al-Mugheir	25
20	Zakiyeh Khaled Al-Mugheir	14
21	Talal Najib Salah	10
22	Hasan Ahmad Dabous	12
23	Hamed Muhammad Al-Sabi'	20
24	Mahmoud Abdullah Abu Taqiyeh	2
Houses destroyed in Block K		
25	Ali Ismail Abu Jazar	12
26	Samir Suleiman Barhoum	12
27	Hamad Ahmad Barhoum	18
28	Suleiman Nasrallah Barhoum	29

No.	Owner	No. of Residents
Houses destroyed in Block L		
43	Azmi Salah Al-Boujji	9
44	Ibrahim Taha Al-Rantisi	7
45	Ali Hussein Al-Wawi	12
46	Muhammad Suleiman Radwan	6
47	Majed Muhammad Al-Agha	11
48	Ashour Muhammad Al-Agha	11
49	Naji Yousef Sweilem	9
50	Mahmoud Hamid Abu Ghali	10
51	Khaled Ali Nasr	4
52	Muhammad Ahmad Rasras	7
53	Younis Musa Abu Jazar	28
54	Refqah Muhammad Rasras	28
55	Musa Younis Abu Jazar	20
56	Mazen Rashad Al-Ghandour	18
57	Yousef Salim Abu Jazar	32
58	Ahmad Khalil Abu Hilal	17
59	Ahmad Hasan Al-Homs	32
60	Jihad Farouq Al-Homs	21
61	Salah Al-Din Al-Najmi	9
62	Hussein Muhammad Othman	10
63	Jihad Abed Salam Fseifes	3
64	Zeinab Muhammad Fseifes	7
65	Ahmad Muhammad Radwan	7
66	Muhammad Jabar Al-Qatati	17
67	Muhammad Hussein Al-Habibi	16
68	Fawzi Ali Yousef	11
69	Nabil Salah Omar	5
70	Muhammad Salah Omar	10
71	Mahi Al-Din Muhammad Sa'idi	10
72	Abdel Rahman Muhammad Abu Leila	10

29	Bassam Salem Barhoum	5
30	Salem Nasrallah Barhoum	11
31	Hamad Ahmad Barhoum	8
32	Sharif Hamdi Barhoum	8
33	Shawqi Hamid Barhoum	12
34	Said Muhammad Barhoum	17
35	Faraj Mahmoud Barhoum	3
36	Amin Mahmoud Barhoum	2
37	Mahmoud Jum'ah Barhoum	5
38	Shehadeh Khalil Barhoum	9
39	Ahmad Hamdan Barhoum	13
40	Naraiman Mahmoud Barhoum	7
41	Younis Mahmoud Barhoum	3
42	Hamad Ahmad Barhoum	8

73	Abdel Wahab Yousef Al-Jourani	10
74	Ibrahim Mubarak Al-Masri	10
75	Yasser Khalil Hajaj	3
76	Muhammad Mahmoud Shaqfeh	10
77	Ali Hasan Radwan	9
78	Ismail Salim Radwan	11
79	Hasan Salman Radwan	24
80	Nasser Abd Wahab 'Atweh	1
81	Sa'dallah Ali Salameh	8
82	Mahmoud Darwish Jazriyeh	12
83	Yasser Mustafa Abu Taha	7
84	Omar Taleb Al-Zatmeh	20

The following table displays the rest of the houses demolished for “security reasons” in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the period covered by this report (name of owner, area, number of residents, and date of demolition):

No.	Owner	Area in Square Meters	No. of Residents	Region	Date
1	Ahmad Ali Shaqfeh	90	1	Block J/ Rafah	10/1/2003
2	Adel Abdel Rahman Abu Leila	100	5	Block J/ Rafah	10/1/2003
3	Yousef Muhammad Al-Arja	100	12	Block J/ Rafah	10/1/2003
4	Saleh Muhammad Al-Arja	150	10	Block J/ Rafah	10/1/2003
5	Suleiman Hamdan Abu Jazar	200	12	Block J/ Rafah	10/1/2003
6	Fathi Shafiq Saqr	100	7	Block J/ Rafah	10/1/2003
7	Khader Abdel Hamid Abu Ghali	160	5	Block J/ Rafah	10/1/2003
8	Amin Khalil Omar	130	10	Block J/ Rafah	10/1/2003
9	Hamdeh Ahmad Abdel 'Al	220	18	Block J/ Rafah	10/1/2003
10	Khader Muhammad Al-Habibi	200	9	Block J/ Rafah	10/1/2003
11	Nathmiyeh Muhammad Abu Jazar	120	11	Block J/ Rafah	10/1/2003
12	Sarah Ibrahim Radwan	170	32	Block J/ Rafah	10/1/2003
13	Musa Jum'ah Abu Jazar	100	16	Block J/ Rafah	10/1/2003
14	Manthoum Ismail Abu Ayash	120	Under construction	Khrebtha Bani Hareth/ Ramallah	10/2/2003
15	Abdel Razeq Said Injas	150	Under construction	Khrebtha Bani Hareth/ Ramallah	10/2/2003
16	Mahmoud Muhammad Abdel Jalil	150	Under construction	Khrebtha Bani Hareth/ Ramallah	10/2/2003
17	Muhammad Abdullah Abu Mgheiseb	50	7	East of Deir Al-Balah/ Central Governorate/ Gaza	10/2/2003
18	Salah Suleiman Deib	120	13	Rafah	10/6/2003
19	Zahir Ismail Al-Homs	150	Uninhabited	Rafah	10/6/2003
20	Abdel Rahman Ibrahim Bashir	70	2	Deir Al-Balah/ Central Governorate/ Gaza	10/12/2003
21	Subhiyeh 'Attiyeh Mneifi	70	4	Deir Al-Balah/ Central Governorate/ Gaza	10/12/2003
22	Ziad Abdel Ghafour	120	6	Al-Satar Al-Gharbi/ Khan Younis	10/29/2003
23	Khitam Muhammad Mahmoud Abed	120	Uninhabited	Jenin	11/8/2003
24	Atef Attallah Abu Taha	100	Unknown*	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
25	Ashraf Othman Ahmad Al-Sha'er	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
26	Mazen Deib Hasan Al-Malahi	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
27	Hamzeh Ismail Ali Noufal	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
28	Jaber Diab Abdel Hadi 'Oweideh	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
29	Said Ahmad Suleiman Abu Jazar	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
30	Hasan Mahmoud Ahmad Abu Shawish	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
31	Fathi Hasan 'Abullah Al-Mugheir	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
32	Nasr Al-Din Sa'd Ziarah	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
33	Ziad Nayef Jaber Al-Qatati	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
34	Hani Mustafa Said Jaber	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
35	Rabah Abdel Hay Rafiq Abu Libdeh	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
36	Jamileh Muhammad Hamad	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
37	Hilmi Hamzeh Ismail Noufal	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
38	Sami Ali Abdel Jalil Al-Ghoul	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
39	Muhammad Nayef Jaber Al-Qatati	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
40	Jaber Hamid Jaber Al-Qatati	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003

No.	Owner	Area in Square Meters	No. of Residents	Region	Date
41	Fathi Abdel Jalil Al-Ghoul	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
42	Abdel Karim Said Ibrahim Hamad	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
43	Ghazi Hamad Hamdan Abu Taha	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
44	Yahya Said Mahmoud Jabr	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
45	'Ata Hamdan Hasanein Abu Libdeh	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
46	Hasan Ahmad Muhammad Dawoud	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/10/2003
47	Bassam Mahmoud Hamzeh Abu Libeh	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/16/2003
48	Muhammad Omar Mahmoud Omar	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/18/2003
49	Naji Kamal Abu Taha	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/18/2003
50	Samhan Hamdan Musa Mansour	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/18/2003
51	Majdi Hamzeh Ismail Noufal	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/18/2003
52	Na'im Khalil Othman Abu 'Anzeh	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/18/2003
53	Hamad Hamad Ahmad Abu Taha	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/18/2003
54	Muhammad Said Abu Taha	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/18/2003
55	Issam Ibrahim Abu Libdeh	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/18/2003
56	Muhammad Abdel Karim Mahmoud Taha	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/18/2003
57	Widad Muhammad Abu 'Anzeh	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/18/2003
58	Muhammad Muhammad Barhoum	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/29/2003
59	'Awad Hamid Barhoum	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/29/2003
60	Ikmal Hasan Barhoum	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/29/2003
61	Rashad Said Barhoum	100	Unknown	Block J/ Rafah	11/29/2003
62	Wajih Dawoud Ma'ali Ziad Al-Kiswani	220 * 5 floors	26	Ramallah	12/1/2003
63	Jamil Ismail Nasser Al-Ramhi	300	3	Al-Amari Camp/ Ramallah	12/1/2003
64	Ali Suleiman Deib	150	7	Al-Salam neighborhood/ Rafah	12/2/2003
65	Hasan Abdullah Salam Al-Qadi	150	19	Al-Salam neighborhood/ Rafah	12/11/2003
66	Hussein Abdullah Al-Qadi	150	15	Al-Salam neighborhood/ Rafah	12/11/2003
67	Yahya Suleiman Jum'ah Al-Qadi	250	4	Al-Salam neighborhood/ Rafah	12/11/2003
68	Suleiman Jum'ah Al-Qadi	250	9	Al-Salam neighborhood/ Rafah	12/11/2003
69	Ismail Suleiman Al-Qadi	80	7	Al-Salam neighborhood/ Rafah	12/11/2003
70	Matar Subhi Al-Qadi	150	7	Al-Salam neighborhood/ Rafah	12/11/2003
71	Majed Matar Al-Qadi	130	3	Al-Salam neighborhood/ Rafah	12/11/2003
72	Suleiman Sabah Al-Sultan	150	9	Al-Salam neighborhood/ Rafah	12/11/2003
73	'Attiyeh Salim Deifallah Al-Wakli	220	3	Al-Salam neighborhood/ Rafah	12/11/2003
74	Usama Ibrahim 'Attiyeh Abu Namous	120	13	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003
75	Muhammad Ibrahim 'Attiyeh Abu Namous	100	9	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003
76	Tawfiq Ali Hasan Abu 'Oudeh	100	13	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003
77	Jihad Ali Hasan Abu 'Oudeh	150	12	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003

No.	Owner	Area in Square Meters	No. of Residents	Region	Date
78	Mahmoud Ali Mahmoud Abu Shqeir	120	8	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003
79	Khader Abd Salim Abu Amouneh	120	10	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003
80	Fu'ad Abd Salim Abu Amouneh	80	10	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003
81	Muhammad Abd Salim Abu Amouneh	80	6	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003
82	Fathi Abd Salim Abu Amouneh	80	6	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003
83	Taysir Muhammad Salim Abu Amouneh	80	8	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003
84	Hamzeh Abdel Rahman Ahmad Abu 'Arqoub	220	30	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003
85	Ziad Ali Mahmoud Abu Shqeir	80	2	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003
86	Adel Muhammad Ibrahim Abu Seif	150	4	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003
87	Ramadan Muhammad Ibrahim Abu Seif	100	4	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003
88	Suleiman Hasan Ziad Abu Mkheimer	90	12	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003
89	Marwan Mustafa Muhammad Miqdad	80	7	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003
90	Hani and Nayef Khalil Abu Namous	120	14	Khan Younis Camp	12/15/2003
91	Rizeq Abdel Aziz Ali Al-'Abes	300	13	Border area/ Rafah	12/21/2003
92	Mahmoud Muhammad Radwan	200	13	Border area/ Rafah	12/21/2003
93	Hamid Subhi Ali Al-Homs	150	17	Border area/ Rafah	12/21/2003
94	Nawal 'Azim Al-Jabali	150	6	Border area/ Rafah	12/21/2003
95	'Amar Yousef Abdel Fatah Sweilem	200	4	Border area/ Rafah	12/21/2003
96	'Imad Yousef Abdel Fatah Sweilem	100	4	Border area/ Rafah	12/21/2003
97	Adnan Jum'ah Hasan Abu 'Armaneh	100	9	Border area/ Rafah	12/21/2003
98	Ahmad Talab Jaradat	150	Uninhabited	Sa'ir/ Hebron	12/22/2003
99	Muhammad Ibrahim Mahmoud Al-Hindi	100	8	Khan Younis Camp	12/31/2003
100	Ibrahim Ahmad Al-Smeiri	100	5	Wadi Al-Salqa/ Deir Al-Balah/ Central Governorate/ Gaza	12/23/2003
101	Muhammad Salameh Al-Smeiri	50	3	Wadi Al-Salqa/ Deir Al-Balah/ Central Governorate/ Gaza	12/23/2003
102	Rami Suleiman Al-Smeiri	180	Uninhabited	Wadi Al-Salqa/ Deir Al-Balah/ Central Governorate/ Gaza	12/23/2003
103	Suleiman Jum'ah Abu Salil	130	Uninhabited	Wadi Al-Salqa/ Deir Al-Balah/ Central Governorate/ Gaza	12/23/2003
104	Salameh Hasan Abdel Karim Al-Zer	150	5	Wadi Al-Salqa/ Deir Al-Balah/ Central Governorate/ Gaza	12/23/2003
105	Wa'el Hasan Abdel Karim Al- Zer	150	8	Wadi Al-Salqa/ Deir Al-Balah/ Central Governorate/ Gaza	12/23/2003
106	Anwar and Tahrir 'Awadallah Abu Jazar	150	6	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
107	Harbieh Muhammad Suleiman Abu Jazar	60	1	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
108	Ahmad Ziad Abu Al-Naja	70	8	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
109	Jamal Muhammad Abu 'Alwan	60	3	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003

No.	Owner	Area in Square Meters	No. of Residents	Region	Date
110	Mariam Abdel Rahman Abu 'Alwan	60	3	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
111	Mahmoud Said Ibrahim Hamad	100	9	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
112	Amin Mahmoud Abu Jazar	150	1	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
113	Ashraf Mahmoud Abdel Fatah Al-Ghoul	150	7	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
114	Yahya and Muhammad Abdullah Al-Ghoul	60	9	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
115	Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ghoul	60	5	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
116	Adel Marzouq Zanoun	150	6	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
117	Khader Hamad Marzouq Zanoun	150	13	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
118	Hussein Muhammad Zanoun	150	10	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
119	Ahmad Hasanin Muhammad Zanoun	150	5	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
120	Muhammad Hasanin Muhammad Zanoun	150	4	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
121	Muhammad Hamed Al-Homs	100	3	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
122	Majed Matar Al-Qadi	100	5	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
123	Halimeh Ibrahim Zanoun	60	2	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
124	Fadah Hussein Mahmoud Al-Atrash	60	3	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
125	Inferaj Abdel Jawad Al-Astal	100	4	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
126	Muhammad Abdel Jawad Abu Taha	100	6	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
127	'Atallah Salah Abdel Jawad Abu Taha	100	5	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
128	Khaled Said Abu Al-Su'oud	100	7	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
129	Sami Muhammad Abed	100	7	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
130	Salah Abdel Jawad Abu Taha	100	9	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
131	Mahmoud Khamis Zanoun	120	14	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
132	Ibrahim Hussein Musa Zanoun	120	15	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
133	As'ad and Raja` Hussein Zanoun	80	10	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
134	Ibrahim and Adib Hussein Abu Al-Naja	100	5	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
135	Hatem Abdel Rahim Al-Sa'idi	100	6	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
136	Hamed Subhi Al-Homs	80	6	Block N/ Rafah	12/24/2003
137	Muhammad Ahmad Mansour	110	6	Block J/ Rafah	12/24/2003
138	Yahya Suleiman Al-Qadi	100	8	Al-Salam neighborhood/ Rafah	12/24/2003
139	Yahya Muhammad Al-Sha'er	50	6	Al-Salam neighborhood/ Rafah	12/24/2003
140	Ibrahim Abdel Karim Abu Nada	100	8	Al-Qasas neighborhood/ Rafah	12/24/2003
141	Munir Mustafa Abdullah 'Ashour	100	8	Al-Qasas neighborhood/ Rafah	12/24/2003
142	Kamal Muhammad Suleiman Al-Hamarneh	100	8	Al-Qasas neighborhood/ Rafah	12/24/2003
143	'Imad Abdel Karim Abu Nada	100	8	Al-Qasas neighborhood/ Rafah	12/24/2003
144	Nasser Abdel Karim Abu Nada	100	9	Al-Qasas neighborhood/ Rafah	12/24/2003
145	Nasser Said Muhammad Abu Qamar	100	12	Al-Qasas neighborhood/ Rafah	12/24/2003
146	Muhammad Jum'ah Abu Jazar	80	9	Al-Qasas neighborhood/ Rafah	12/24/2003
147	Bashir Ali Al-Atrash	70	5	Al-Qasas neighborhood/ Rafah	12/24/2003

No.	Owner	Area in Square Meters	No. of Residents	Region	Date
148	Safiyeh Muhammad 'Ayad	70	4	Al-Qasas neighborhood/ Rafah	12/24/2003
149	Khaled Ahmad Hamad Radwan	100	9	Al-Qasas neighborhood/ Rafah	12/24/2003
150	Bassam Kamel Ahmad Al-Hindi	80	11	Khan Younis Camp	12/31/2003
151	Adnan Kamel Ahmad Al-Hindi	80	12	Khan Younis Camp	12/31/2003
152	Rami Ibrahim Noufal	80	12	Khan Younis Camp	12/31/2003
153	Majed Abu 'Oudeh	100	8	Khan Younis Camp	12/31/2003

* Information on the number of inhabitants is not available for all of these houses.

Demolition of Houses Belonging to Palestinians who Carried Out Bombing or Armed Operations or to Their Families or to Palestinians who are Wanted by the Occupation Forces

In addition to the house demolitions listed above, during the period covered by this report the occupation forces demolished 12 houses owned by Palestinians on the pretext that a family member participated in or helped carry out or plan operations against Israeli targets, whether in the occupied territories or inside Israel. Houses of Palestinians who were wanted by the occupation forces, detained in Israeli prisons, or assassinated by occupation forces were among these demolitions.

The following table displays houses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that were demolished because they were owned by families of Palestinians who carried out bombing or armed operations or by those wanted or detained by the occupation forces between 1 October and 31 December 2003:

No.	Owner	Area in Square Meters	No. of Residents	Region	Date	Reason for Demolition
1	Taysir Abdel Hadi Jaradat	120	8	Jenin	10/4/2003	His daughter Hanadi carried out a bombing operation in Haifa on 4 October 2003.
2	Amjad Ahmad Issa 'Obeidi	130	5	Zububa/ Jenin	10/4/2003	He is wanted by the occupation forces for activist involvement in the Intifada.
3	Mustafa Ahmad Safadi	180	8	'Ourif/ Nablus	10/10/2003	His son Ahmad carried out a bombing operation at the military checkpoint near Tulkarem on 9 October 2003.
4	Muhammad Ziad Iqneibi	180	6	Hebron	10/23/2003	His son Rafiq took part in an armed clash in the Jewish neighborhood of Hebron on 23 October 2003.
5	Ibrahim Mar'i Hamed	140	5	Silwad/ Ramallah	11/6/2003	He is wanted by the occupation forces for activist involvement in the Intifada.
6	Muhammad Hejazi Abeidou	180	9	Hebron	11/27/2003	His son Walid was killed on 8 June 2003, during an armed clash in the old city of Hebron.
7	Othman Muhammad Badr	200	3	Hebron	12/1/2003	His son Ahmad was killed in Hebron after being surrounded in the Al-Qawasmi building on 9 September 2003.
8	Ibrahim Hasan Yasin Jaradat	220	15	Al-Sila Al-Harthiyeh/ Jenin	12/2/2003	His son Ziad is being detained by the occupation forces for activist involvement in the Intifada.
9	Sami Suleiman Jaradat	140	9	Al-Sila Al-Harthiyeh/ Jenin	12/2/2003	He is being detained by the occupation forces for activist involvement in the Intifada.
10	Abdel Rahman Abdel Mun'em Al-Fakhouri	190	10	Hebron	12/4/2003	His son 'Ala' Al-Din was killed on 8 June 2003, during an armed clash in the old city of Hebron.
11	Kamal Jamil Hinni	180	12	Beit Furik/ Nablus	12/26/2003	His son Sa'ed carried out the Petah Tekva bombing operation on 25 December 2003.
12	Hashem Abu Hamdan	120	5	Balata Camp/ Nablus	12/29/2003	He is wanted by the occupation forces for activist involvement in the Intifada.

Demolition of Houses for Lack of Permits

The occupation authorities demolished 11 houses in East Jerusalem and the surrounding villages on the pretext that the owners did not have building permits.

The following table shows the houses demolished, the names of the owners, and the area of each:

No.	Owner	Area in Square Meters	No. of Residents	Region	Date
1	Rafiq Ahmad Rafiq Al-Natsheh	200	Under construction	Beit Hanina/ Jerusalem	10/22/2003
2	Mustafa Muhammad Abd Dar Hasan	450	18	Hazma/ Jerusalem	10/31/2003
3	Nafuz Badr Al-Rajabi	150	11	Nuseibeh neighborhood/ Beit Hanina/ Jerusalem	12/2/2003
4	Muhammad Ali Mleihat	80	10	Bir Nabala/ Jerusalem	12/8/2003
5	Mar'i Muhammad Mleihat	200	19	Bir Nabala/ Jerusalem	12/8/2003
6	Nayef Ali Muhammad Mleihat	70	8	Bir Nabala/ Jerusalem	12/8/2003
7	Omran Jaber	250	15	Al- Ashqariyeh neighborhood/ Beit Hanina/ Jerusalem	12/9/2003
8	Salameh Al-Kouz	180	8	Al-Ashqariyeh neighborhood/ Beit Hanina/ Jerusalem	12/9/2003
9	Muhammad Mahmoud Abu Farhah	600 * 2 floors	Uninhabited	Bir Nabala/ Jerusalem	12/10/2003
10	Fayez Al-Shweiki	120	6	Silwan neighborhood/ Jerusalem	12/10/2003
11	Adnan Shahin	66	8	Wadi Qadoum/ Jerusalem	12/10/2003

Demolition of a Palestinian Security Site

On 25 October, the occupation forces used explosives to demolish the headquarters of the Palestinian police during their invasion of Al-Zahra/near Gaza City.

Closure of Commercial Stores and Demolition of Commercial Installations

- The occupation authorities closed 50 commercial stores in central Hebron, including the Cairo Amman Bank/Al-Shalaleh branch, for a period of six months, beginning on 16 October. This went into effect with a decree issued by the Civil Administration officer.
- On 23 December, the occupation authorities demolished the **Al-Anwar** gas station in Halhoul/Hebron on the pretext that it was erected without a permit.

Seizure and Bulldozing of Land

- On 5 October, the occupation authorities bulldozed more than 100 dunams of agricultural land in the Al-Ramadin village, south of Al-Dhahiriyyeh/Hebron, for the purpose of expanding the Sansanah settlement. This land is regarded as falling within the 500 dunams threatened with confiscation in this area.
- On 21 October, the occupation forces proceeded to bulldoze 200 dunams of agricultural land in the Al-Sawhara Al-Sharqiyeh area and uprooted nearly 500 olive trees.

- On 21 November, more than 20 dunams of land were seized from the residents of the Beit ‘Awa village/Hebron. Moreover, approximately 250 olive trees were uprooted at the same site.
- On 23 November, more than ten dunams of land were seized from residents of the Al-Ramadin village, near Al-Dhahiriyyeh/Hebron for the purpose of laying a settlement road to serve the nearby Sansanah settlement.
- On 2 December, the occupation forces continued bulldozing wide swaths of land in the Jabal Al-Mukaber neighborhood/Jerusalem, paving the way for erection of a new settlement post named Nof Zahav—despite repeated strikes by the owners of the seized land in opposition to the confiscation decree.
- On 2 December, the occupation forces proceeded to bulldoze wide swaths of land in the Al-Buweira area of Hebron. This land is located near the Har Sinai settlement and was bulldozed for the purpose of expanding that settlement’s borders.
- On 7 December, the occupation authorities bulldozed more than 40 dunams of land in the Al-Buweira neighborhood/Hebron for the purpose of laying a road to serve the Har Sinai settlement located near the area.

The following table shows agricultural land bulldozed in the Gaza Strip for military purposes between 1 October and 31 December 2003:

No.	Area in Dunams	Date	Region
1	9	10/2/2003	South of Deir Al-Balah/ Gaza
2	3	10/5/2003	Al-Maghazi Camp/ Gaza
3	30	10/5/2003	Near the Morag settlement, between Khan Younis and Rafah
4			
5	11	10/13/2003	Southeast of Deir Al-Balah/ Gaza
6	2	10/28/2003	Al-Satr Al-Gharbi/ Khan Younis
7	60	11/14 – 11/18/2003	Al-Bureij and east of Al-Bureij Camp/ Gaza
8	49	11/24/2003	East of Al-Bureij Camp/ Central Governorate/ Gaza
9	14	11/25/2003	Al-Qarara/ Khan Younis
10	32	12/23/2003	Wadi Al-Salqa village/ Deir Al- Balah/ Gaza
11	5	12/25/2003	Khan Younis
12	3	12/25/2003	East of Deir Al-Balah/ Gaza
13	8	12/26/2003	Al-Qarara/ Khan Younis
14	33	12/27/2003	East of Al-Bureij Camp/ Gaza
15	25	12/30/2003	South of Deir Al-Balah/ Gaza
TOTAL	284		

The Separation Wall’s Effects on Palestinian Life (especially in the north of the West Bank)

In April 2002, the occupation authorities began building a separation wall cutting the West Bank off from Israel. The northern section of this wall has been completed, beginning near the Salem checkpoint, west of Jenin, and ending near the village of Kafr Qasem, south of Qalqilya—extending 110 km. Rapid work is taking place to complete construction of the Jerusalem envelope, at a length of 76 km—only 25 km of which have been finished thus far. Construction on the southern section of the wall has not yet begun; it is expected to be 215 km in length. Likewise, construction on the eastern section of the wall has not yet commenced.

As of the end of 2003, construction of the separation wall had led to the confiscation of more than 60,000 dunams of land, most of which is located in the northern West Bank and East Jerusalem. It also led to the uprooting of approximately 83,000 fruit trees, the destruction of approximately 37 km of irrigation networks, and the destruction of approximately 15 km of agricultural roads. Upon completion of the wall's construction, the remaining Palestinian areas, which the wall will surround, will make up less than 50 percent of the West Bank.

Completion of construction on the wall will isolate approximately 115,000 Palestinians in 53 villages located between the separation wall and Israel. Moreover, 28 Palestinian residential centers, in which approximately 150,000 Palestinians reside, will be surrounded by the wall from all sides. Further, the location of 102 residential centers in areas adjacent to the wall's eastern side means that 402,000 Palestinians will require special permits to travel to fields, schools, places of worship, and medical or health facilities. In the northern West Bank, where wall construction is complete, 5,200 Palestinians are now living in a closed military zone located between the wall and the Green Line and require permits even to reside in their homes. Educators, business people, and farmers each require special permits to travel west of the wall—these permits may be denied or revoked based on the discretion of military officials. Even for permit holders, the way is open once or twice daily—and only for a short duration. Commenting on this situation, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food for the United Nations Commission of Human Rights declared that: “The building of the security fence/ wall through Palestinian land is also threatening the right to food of thousands of Palestinians, leaving many Palestinians separated from their lands or imprisoned by the winding route of the fence/wall or in the closed military zone along the edge of the fence/wall.”²

The area of land that the wall, in practice, annexes to Israel, clearly serves a political goal as much as a security one. Among the dangers of continued construction on the wall is that it will prevent the establishment of a geographically contiguous, viable Palestinian state. This ominous danger has driven Palestinians and their allies to raise the issue of the wall before the United Nations General Assembly, which met for this purpose and decided, on 8 December 2003, to request a legal opinion on the wall from the International Court of Justice at the Hague. Palestinians and Israelis have begun preparing their respective defense to present to the aforementioned court, which is slated to begin its sessions on 23 February 2004.

III. Assaults on Freedoms

Military Checkpoints

The strangling siege imposed by the occupation authorities for more than three years has paralyzed the movement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. As of the end of December 2003, scores of fixed military checkpoints were in place in the West Bank, in addition to more than 600 obstacles - all of which prevent or hinder the movement of people, goods, and vehicles.³

The strangling siege resulted in extensive material losses to the various sectors of the Palestinian economy. In addition, it impeded students and teachers from reaching universities and schools; workers from reaching their workplaces, whether inside Israel or in the occupied territories; the wounded from reaching hospitals; and

² See further, the report presented by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Session 60, 31 November 2003.

³ See further, the B'tselem report issued in December 2003, entitled: **Medical Personnel Harmed**. See the Internet site at <http://www.btselem.org>.

worshippers from reaching the holy sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Further, the checkpoints obstructed the work of medical and health personnel, as well as humanitarian institutions. Heinous and inhumane treatment continued at the military checkpoints. For example, on 27 December, occupation soldiers left citizens for many hours without permitting passage. On 28 December, occupation soldiers deployed at the Sarra checkpoint, west of Nablus, brutally beat Nazmi Hamoudeh Ahmad Al-Sheikh, 43, of Sanniriya village/Qalqilya—and he was one of many who were assaulted and humiliated by soldiers at this checkpoint.⁴

Arbitrary Arrests and the Restriction of Freedoms

According to statistics kept by the Mandela Institute, the number of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons and detention centers had reached 6,206 as of 31 December 2003, distributed as follows: 2,518 who were being held in the central prisons, 3,397 in military detention centers, and 291 in other detention centers. Among the 6,206 detainees were 669 who were being held in administrative detention, 275 children, 77 women, and 117 in solitary confinement.

Palestinians in Israeli prisons and detention centers suffer from poor conditions with less than the minimum level of health and medical services. Some prisons and detention centers lack an on-site doctor—or even a qualified nurse. This is in addition to the administrative foot-dragging in transporting sick prisoners to hospitals. On 8 December, detainee **Bashir Muhammad ‘Oweis**, 27, of Balata Camp/Nablus, died from a stroke. He died in Al-Afula hospital, where he was transported from Megido prison after suffering from head pain for a long period of time without receiving the necessary medical care from the detaining administration.

The period covered by this report also witnessed increased instances of hunger strikes in protest against poor detention conditions. On 3 October, the detainees at the Hewara military camp, near Nablus, went on hunger strike due to the atrociousness of detention conditions. In November 2003, prisoners at Ramla prison went on hunger strike for more than ten days to protest poor treatment.

Among the prisoners are a number of elderly who suffer from various illnesses. Also among the detainees are Palestinian Legislative Council members Marwan Al-Barghouthi and Husam Khader; PLO Executive Committee member Abdel Rahim Malluh; Hasan Yousef, one of the leaders of Hamas; and other political leaders.

Deportation or Exile of Palestinian Civilians

Since the Intifada broke out at the end of September 2000, the occupation authorities have undertaken a policy of deportation of two types: deportation from the country and internal deportation. Internal deportation means exile from one area and transfer to another, or what is known as “forcible transfer.” The occupation authorities carry out punishment by exile or forcible transfer with the support of the Israeli High Court of Justice, which issued a number of decisions affirming the soundness of military orders commanding the forcible transfer of Palestinian citizens from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip.

Eighteen Palestinians were forcibly transferred to the Gaza Strip between 1 October and 31 December 2003, the last of whom was Mustafa Hasan Abed, who was forcibly transferred from the Naqab desert prison to the Gaza Strip on 31 December.

⁴ See further, the B’tselem report issued on 5 January 2004, entitled: **A Week of Abuse**. See the Internet site at <http://www.btselem.org>.

The following table displays the Palestinians forcibly transferred from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip during the period covered by this report (name, age, address, and date):

No.	Name	Age	Village/City	Date
1	Kamal Muhammad Musa Idris	33	Jabal Jawhar/ Hebron	11/10/2003
2	Taha Ramadan Rateb Al-Dweik	32	Hebron	11/13/2003
3	Ahmad Hussein Muhammad Meshkah	27	Jenin	11/23/2003
4	Samer Subhi Muhammad Badr	27	Beit Laqia/ Ramallah	11/23/2003
5	'Ala' Fu`ad Ibrahim Husouneh	28	Nablus	11/23/2003
6	Hussam Abdullah 'Oudeh	27	Qalqilya	12/4/2003
7	Munzer Muhammad Younis Al-Ju'beh	24	Hebron	12/4/2003
8	Raja 'Attallah Hirzullah	31	Bethlehem	12/4/2003
9	Lu'ai Muhammad Ribhi Dawoud	29	Qalqilya	12/4/2003
10	Ghanem Tawfiq Sawalmeh	38	Balata Camp/ Nablus	12/4/2003
11	Sami Hussein Al-Sous	21	Jenin	12/4/2003
12	Rasem Khatab Mustafa	26	Ramallah	12/4/2003
13	Rami Fawaz Hajji	34	Ramallah	12/4/2003
14	Shadi Ismail Ayash	28	Salfit	12/5/2003
15	Samer Abdel Ghani Abu Zeineh	27	Hebron	12/5/2003
16	Hani Hamdan Al-Rajabi	30	Hebron	12/5/2003
17	Nasser Yousef Jum'ah Salameh	28	Bethlehem	12/5/2003
18	Mustafa Hasan Abed	27	Nablus	12/31/2003

The deportation or forced exile of any citizen from his or her place of residence, whether to a location within or outside of the country, is one of the harshest forms of punishment, and it constitutes a blatant violation of the norms of international humanitarian law—in addition to negating the most basic of humanitarian values. Moreover, deportation is considered a war crime by the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilians in Time of War states that “Individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory to the territory of the Occupying Power or to that of any other country, occupied or not, are prohibited, regardless of their motive.” Article 147 of the Convention prohibits the occupying power from deporting protected citizens and considers doing so a war crime. Likewise, Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court prohibits the occupying power from forcibly exiling citizens.

Curfew

During the period covered by this report, the occupation forces continued to impose a curfew on some West Bank cities, villages, and camps. This is in contravention of Article 33 of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits collective punishment against protected civilians.

The following table displays areas placed under curfew and the curfew's duration:

No.	Region	No. of Days	Date
1	Tulkarem Governorate		
	City of Tulkarem and Tulkarem Camp	5	9, 10, 14 October 3 – 4 November
	Anbata	1	22 October
	Kafr Al-Labad	1	22 October
	Bal'a	1	4 November
2	Nablus Governorate		
	City of Nablus	8	24 – 31 December
	East of the City of Nablus and Balata Camp	15	17 – 31 December
3	Qalqilya Governorate		
	City of Qalqilya	4	5, 10 – 12 October
	Azoun	1	11 October
	Atma	1	14 December
	Beit Amin	1	11 October
	Sanniriya	1	14 October
	Habla	1	14 December
4	Jenin Governorate		
	City of Jenin	13	5 – 13 October 7, 8, 27 November 12 December
	Al-Yamoun	3	24 October 8, 11 November
	Fandqumiyeh	1	11 November
	Al-Sila Al-Harthiyeh	1	22 October
	Atara	1	28 November
	Barta'a Al-Sharqiyeh	1	22 November
	Jalqamous	1	14 December
	Al-Mutela	1	14 December
	Raba	1	14 December
	Sanour	1	22 December
	Meithalun	1	22 December
	Silat Al-Dhahir	1	23 December
	Mughaiyir	1	14 December
5	Bethlehem Governorate		
	Housan Village	3	11 – 13 December
6	Hebron Governorate		
	Old City of Hebron and Area South of the City of Hebron	3	1 – 2 November 23 December
7	Ramallah Governorate		
	Beit Rima, Deir Ghasana, and Kafr Ein Villages	3	6 – 8 November

Closing Remarks

Despite a decline in the intensity of the armed Palestinian uprising during the last three months, and despite the Palestinian government's recurrent efforts to achieve a truce by all concerned parties, the occupation forces have continued their oppressive practices against Palestinian civilians. Siege and closure remain in force in West Bank cities, villages, and camps (with the exception of a negligible loosening here and there), and the policy of assassinating and detaining Intifada activists continues—as does the policy of carrying out incursions, imposing curfews, demolishing houses, and bulldozing lands, whether in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip.

Even though the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 unequivocally prohibits deportation and forcible transfer, during the period covered by this report the occupation authorities exiled 18 Palestinians from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip. Moreover, despite Palestinian and international opposition to the route of the separation wall, the completion of construction is moving ahead in full force.

It is truly regrettable and shameful that despite the passage of 33 full months since the start of the Al-Aqsa Intifada, no signs have appeared on the horizon heralding near-term respite or effective international intervention to end the bloodshed, bring a halt to oppressive, illegal Israeli practices, and thereby alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people, who are struggling for freedom and independence.