

مجموعة الرقابة الفلسطينية



PALESTINIAN MONITORING GROUP

SPECIAL REPORT

Summary of Ground Activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since the Sharm ash Sheikh Summit, 08 February – 05 May 2005

Summary

On 08 February 2005 at the Sharm ash Sheikh Summit in Egypt, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon proclaimed that “Israel will cease all its military activity against all Palestinians anywhere”, while Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas declared that he had “jointly agreed with Prime Minister Sharon to stop all acts of violence against Israelis and Palestinians everywhere”.

Ground conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since the Sharm ash Sheikh Summit have been characterized by ongoing Israeli military operations, including attacks, raids, arrests and detentions, among other actions. This activity has resulted in the assassination of 1 Palestinian National Security officer, the deaths of 19 Palestinians – including 8 children, the injury of 238 and the arrest of 754. Additionally, Palestinian non-state actors have carried out a total of 186 attacks against Israeli targets, the majority of which resulted in no Israeli casualties.

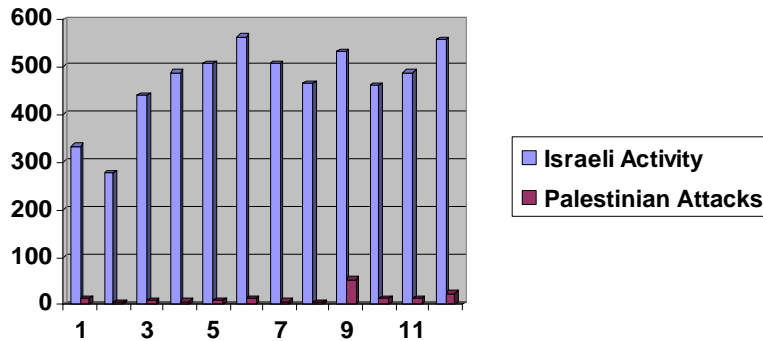
This Special Report covers ground activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip following the Sharm ash Sheikh Summit (08:00 08 February 2005 – 08:00 05 May 2005). It is based on Daily Situation Reports and Monthly Summary Reports of the Palestinian Monitoring Group.¹

Of total activity in categories covered by this report, Israeli military forces perpetrated 96.9 per cent of activity in the period following the Sharm ash Sheikh Summit, while Palestinian non-state actors carried out 3.1 per cent.²

¹ Daily Situation Reports are a survey of daily events collated from information provided by Palestinian Authority civilian ministries and security agencies. The reporting period for Daily Situation Reports is 08:00 to 08:00. Monthly Summary Reports provide an overview of events for each month, drawn from the month’s Daily Situation Reports. The information reported through the PMG process only represents data available at the time of distribution.

² Categories included are: Deaths, Assassinations, Injuries, Physical Assaults, Attacks, Raids, Arrests, Detentions, House Demolitions, Provocation of Palestinian Forces, Curfews, Flying Checkpoints and Palestinian Attacks.

A. Overview of Ground Events



From 08:00 08 February to 08:00 05 May 2005, 83.3 per cent (4,804 acts) of Israeli military activity occurred in the West Bank, while 75.3 per cent (140 acts) of attacks by Palestinian non-state actors occurred in the Gaza Strip.

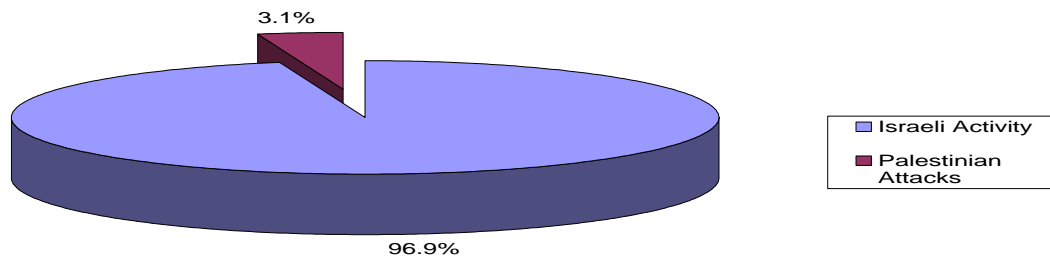
During this period, the following events occurred:

- Israeli soldiers **assassinated 1 Palestinian National Security officer**;
- Israeli soldiers **killed 19 Palestinians** and **injured 238**. An additional 6 Palestinians died as a result of injuries sustained prior to 08 February 2005;
- Israeli soldiers **physically assaulted 185 Palestinians**;
- Israeli military forces **opened fire on Palestinian locales 903 times**;
- Israeli military forces **carried out 1,632 raids** into Palestinian villages, towns, cities, and refugee camps;
- The Israeli army **constructed 10 new military posts** – 7 in the West Bank and 3 in the Gaza Strip – and **re-established 2 military posts** in the West Bank;
- Israeli military forces **arrested 754 Palestinians**, including 109 Palestinian children (14.5 per cent of total arrests) and 39 Palestinian National Security officers;
- The Israeli army **renewed the administrative detention orders (arrest without charge or trial) for 104 Palestinian political detainees**, some of whom have had their orders renewed several consecutive times;
- Israeli military forces **detained Palestinian civilians – including women and children – and vehicles 691 times**;
- Israeli authorities **demolished 20 Palestinian-owned structures**, including houses and animal shelters, and **distributed notices to demolish over 200 additional houses, including 181 in Jerusalem**;
- Israeli military forces **provoked Palestinian Forces on 164 separate occasions**;
- Israeli military forces continued to impose comprehensive restrictions on Palestinian freedom of movement, including **83 curfews** on Palestinian population centres and **erecting at least 1,075 flying checkpoints**;
- Only 77.9 per cent of Palestinian workers who obtained permits to access the Industrial Zones in the Gaza Strip were allowed access. Only 80.2 per cent of workers from the Gaza Strip who were issued permits to cross the 1967 boundary were allowed to cross. Israeli authorities issued between 8,521 - 11,574 permits for West Bank residents to cross the 1967 boundary for work; however, the total number of those allowed to cross is unknown.
- Construction of the Wall and expansion of the Israeli settlement and bypass road network continued;
- Israeli authorities **issued land confiscation orders for over 2,000 dunums (500 acres)** of West Bank land for Wall and military post construction, as well as Israeli settlement expansion;
- Palestinian non-state actors carried out **186 attacks against Israeli targets**;

- **Palestinian security forces carried out 166 security measures**, including 137 in the Gaza Strip and 29 in the West Bank. Though Palestinian security forces have assumed security responsibility for only two West Bank cities – Jericho and Tulkarem – security measures were carried out in a number of other West Bank cities, including Bethlehem, Ramallah and Qalqiliya.

B. Summary of Main Events

Of total activity in the categories covered by this report, Israeli military forces perpetrated 96.9 per cent of activity in the period following the Sharm ash Sheikh Summit, while Palestinian non-state actors carried out 3.1 per cent.



Assassination: At 14:00 on 14 April, Israeli Special Forces raided the city of Nablus and opened fire, extra-judicially killing 1 Palestinian National Security officer, ***Ibrahim Mohammed al Hashash***, wanted by the Israeli army for 3 years, thereby violating the agreement reached during the Sharm ash Sheikh Summit prohibiting the arrest or assassination of wanted Palestinian individuals.

Deaths: Israeli soldiers killed 19 Palestinians from 08:00 08 February 2005 – 08:00 05 May 2005. Among those killed were 8 Palestinian children, representing 42 per cent of Palestinians killed during the reporting period. Additionally, a 56-year-old Palestinian civilian died and a female Palestinian civilian suffered a miscarriage while delayed at Israeli checkpoints.

- On 09 April, the Israeli army fired 1 tank shell from its location at Point 8.5 along the Egyptian border towards Palestinian territory opposite the neighbourhood of Yabna in Rafah refugee camp, killing 3 children:
 - ***Ashraf Sameer Mousa, 15 years old;***
 - ***Hassan Ahmed Abu Zeid, 16 years old;*** and
 - ***Khaled Fu'ad al Ghannam, 16 years old.***
- At 16:30 on 04 May, a demonstration took place in the village of Beit Liqya protesting Wall construction and the closure of an agricultural detour road leading to the village of Khirbet Nasser. Confrontations took place between the Israeli army and civilians, during which the Israeli army critically injured 2 children: ***'Uday Mufid 'Assi, 15 years old,*** and ***Jamal Jabr 'Assi, 17 years old.*** The 2 children died after the Israeli army prevented medics from offering them first aid treatment and ambulances from transporting them to hospital.
- On 20 April, Palestinian civilian ***Ibtisam al Lahham*** suffered a miscarriage after an extended delay at At Tuffah checkpoint in the Khan Yunis District. The vehicle she was travelling in was

delayed on one side of the checkpoint while the ambulance called to transfer her was delayed for over an hour on the other side of the checkpoint. She miscarried while travelling to the hospital, located 100 meters from the checkpoint.

- At 15:40 on 28 April, ***Fatima Mahmud Abu O'baid, 56 years old***, died after being exposed to radiation equipment and being searched at the Rafah Crossing as she was travelling to Egypt for medical treatment.

Physical Assaults and Injuries: Israeli soldiers physically assaulted 185 Palestinians from 08:00 08 February – 08:00 05 May 2005. Of these, Israeli soldiers severely beat 12 Palestinian children, 6 elderly Palestinian civilians, 2 Palestinian National Security officers, a number of students and 1 ambulance driver. Additionally, 238 Palestinians were injured by Israeli military activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Among the injured were 43 children, 5 worshippers and 4 Palestinian National Security officers.

Restrictions on Freedom of Movement: Restrictions on Palestinian freedom of movement have remained intense since the 08 February Sharm ash Sheikh Summit. The Israeli army continued to prevent civilians from crossing the 1967 boundary or entering the city of Jerusalem and the closure imposed following the death of Palestinian President Yaser Arafat on 11 November 2004 remained in place, although somewhat eased in the Gaza Strip. Beginning on 21 April 2005, a complete closure was imposed on all West Bank and Gaza districts until 24 April for the Jewish holiday of Passover. The closure was then extended until 30 April 2005.

In addition to the ongoing closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the continued existence of internal, permanent checkpoints throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Israeli army intensified restrictions at a number of these checkpoints, impeded civilian access, and prevented vehicles from crossing permanent checkpoints set up at entrances to Palestinian cities in the West Bank.

Additionally, the Israeli army continued to erect numerous flying checkpoints on a daily basis. **From 08:00 08 February – 08:00 05 May 2005, the Israeli army erected 1,075 flying checkpoints.** The number of flying checkpoints rose significantly during the reporting period. During the month of February, Israeli soldiers erected a total of 248 flying checkpoints.³ In March, the number rose to 442. From 08:00 01 April to 08:00 05 May, the Israeli army erected a total of 451 flying checkpoints.

In March 2005, the Israeli army continued to partially ease the closure in the Gaza Districts, including allowing access to a restricted number of workers and opening Abu Holi and Al Matahin checkpoints along Salah ad Din road, connecting areas north and south of the Gaza Strip. During March and April, however, the Israeli army continued to close Nitsareem (*Ash Shuhada'*) junction, Abu al 'Ajin road (*Khan Yunis al Sharqiya*), and the Western road (*Khan Yunis*) since the outbreak of the current *Intifada* (Uprising). The Israeli army also impeded civilians attempting to reach their houses in the area of Al Mawasi (At Tuffah checkpoint closed completely for 6 days and partially for 29 days and the area of Al Mawasi/Rafah for 4 days completely and 34 days partially).

In the West Bank, the Israeli army continued to impose restrictions and impede civilian access at permanent checkpoints set up at entrances to Palestinian cities, including:

- **An Nabi Samwil and Qalandiya checkpoints** set up at the entrances to the city of Jerusalem. The Israeli army continued to dispatch patrols to prevent civilians from other districts from entering the city;
- **Huwwara and Beit Iba checkpoints** at the entrances to the city of Nablus. On 31 March, the Israeli army informed civilians of new measures regarding leaving the city of Nablus through Beit

³ Figure inclusive of entire month of February.

Iba checkpoint. Palestinian civilians are prohibited from leaving the city after 18:00 and entering after 23:00. Civilians are also prohibited from exiting from the remaining checkpoints set up around the city after 23:00, but may enter the city at any time through these checkpoints. On 06 April, the Israeli army intensified its restrictions at Beit Iba checkpoint and prevented civilians from crossing in both directions;

- Restrictions were intensified numerous times at **Al Kafriyyat (Jubara) checkpoint** in the Tulkarem District;
- Vehicular traffic continues to be prohibited at **Al Fahs and Hagai checkpoints** at the entrances to the city of Hebron. Additionally, the Israeli army frequently denies passage of pedestrians through Al Fahs checkpoint. Passage through Hagai checkpoint remains restricted to pedestrians who farm land or reside in the area.

Additionally, the Israeli army sporadically intensified its restrictions at checkpoints set up on main junctions between Palestinian districts, including Tayasir checkpoint between the districts of Jenin and Jericho; Al Hamra checkpoint between districts in the central West Bank and the Jordan Valley, As Sawahira ash Sharqiya checkpoint between Jerusalem and districts in the central West Bank; and Abu Holi checkpoint between the central and southern areas of the Gaza Strip.

On 22 April, the Israeli army announced that it would close Za'tara junction, on the main road connecting the northern and central areas of the West Bank, until 24 April 2005. However, the junction remained closed until 28 April. As of 08:00 05 May, the Israeli army had intensified its restrictions at Za'tara junction checkpoint, severely impeding or completely prohibiting the passage of Palestinian civilians travelling to the Ramallah District.

The Israeli army further restricted the movement of Palestinian civilians by closing a number of roads in the West Bank:

- At 17:30 on 10 April, the Israeli army closed the entrance to the village of Yasuf in the district of Salfit with an iron gate in place of a dirt barricade that had been in place since shortly after the beginning of the *Intifada* in September 2000. On 13 April, the Israeli army restricted the opening of the gate from morning until 18:00, which remains in effect to date;
- Beginning on 10 March 2005, the Israeli army closed Ar Ram Junction leading to the town of Bir Nabala in the Jerusalem District for Wall construction;
- As of 08:00 05 May, the Israeli army continued to close Al Shuhada' Street and the area of As Sahleh in the H2 section of the city of Hebron with cement blocks and barbed wire, denying civilians and vehicles access;
- Beginning on 19 April and continuing as of 08:00 05 May, the Israeli army continued to close Shalala (new) Street in the city of Hebron with cement blocks.

The Israeli army also continued to intensify its restrictions at the Wall gate to the village of 'Azzun 'Atma in the district of Qalqiliya. Israeli troops positioned at the Wall gate search civilians with a metal detector, delaying teachers and students from reaching their schools on time.

Special permits are required for private civilian vehicles to cross Huwwara checkpoint between the city of Nablus and the districts of Ramallah and Salfit, Qalandiya checkpoint between the cities of Ramallah and Jerusalem, and As Sawahira ash Sharqiya checkpoint (the 'Container') between the districts of Ramallah and Bethlehem to Hebron. Prior coordination is required for vehicles with permits to pass through Beit Iba checkpoint between the city of Nablus and the districts of Tulkarem and Jenin. Prior to the Palestinian Authority's 16 March assumption of security control in the city of Jericho, special permits were also required for vehicles to cross the checkpoint set up at the southern entrance to the city of Jericho.

Work Permits: During the reporting period, only 77.9 per cent of Palestinian workers who obtained permits to access the Industrial Zones in the Gaza Strip were allowed access to the area. Of those workers from the Gaza Strip issued permits to cross the 1967 boundary (primarily workers in the construction and agricultural sectors), only 80.2 per cent of those issued permits were allowed to cross into the 1967 boundary for work.

Israeli authorities issued between 8,521 - 11,574 permits for West Bank residents to cross the 1967 boundary for work throughout the reporting period. However, the total number of those allowed to cross is unknown. Israeli authorities continue to restrict the issuing of work permits to civilians who are married with children and over the age of 30.

On 27 March and 28 March, workers were not allowed access to the Industrial Zones or permitted to cross the 1967 boundary for work due to an Israeli imposed closure. On 08 April, workers were not allowed access to the Industrial Zones. Between 21 April to 02 May, workers were not allowed access to the Industrial Zones or permitted to cross the 1967 boundary due to the Israeli imposed closure beginning on the Jewish holiday of Passover.

Beginning on 17 April, Israeli authorities issued permits for workers to stay overnight inside the 1967 boundary.

Palestinian Attacks: Of a total of 186 Palestinian attacks, 24.7 per cent occurred in the West Bank, while 75.3 per cent occurred in the Gaza Strip. **Of total Palestinian attacks in the Gaza Strip, 33.6 per cent occurred in the 3 days following the killing of 3 Palestinian children by Israeli soldiers in Rafah Refugee Camp on 09 April.**

C. Palestinian Security Measures

From 08:00 08 February 2005 – 08:00 05 May 2005, Palestinian security forces carried out 166 security measures, including 137 in the Gaza Strip and 29 in the West Bank. Though Palestinian security forces have assumed security responsibility for only two West Bank cities – Jericho and Tulkarem – security measures were carried out in a number of other West Bank cities, including Bethlehem, Ramallah and Qalqiliya. **On at least 6 separate occasions, Israeli soldiers opened fire on Palestinian forces as they were undertaking security measures.**

Security measures included: blocking 21 attempts by Palestinian non-state actors to fire mortars towards Israeli targets or plant explosive devices; closing or demolishing 19 tunnels; carrying out 8 search missions to discover tunnels; discovering 5 tunnels; patrolling border areas and evacuating Palestinian civilians 64 times; arresting 7 Palestinians trying to cross the 1967 boundary; dismantling or detonating 7 mortars or other explosive devices; investigating and/or dismantling 7 suspicious objects; providing protection and/or assistance to Israeli individuals, including 1 Israeli soldier, 5 Israeli settlers, 2 Israeli civilians and 2 groups of Jewish worshippers; confiscating over 100 illegal vehicles and handing them over to the Israeli authorities; and handing over to the Israeli authorities mortars and other explosive devices on 3 occasions.

- On 10 February, Palestinian security forces in the Northern Gaza District blocked an attempt to launch 3 Qassam mortars and demolished 1 tunnel in the area surrounding Rafah Crossing.
- On 20 February, Palestinian security forces demolished 1 tunnel west of the city of Rafah. In the process, the tunnel collapsed, trapping 4 Palestinian security officers, 3 of whom were rescued, and 1 of whom – *Ziyad Mohammed Abu 'Arjah* – died.

- On 28 February, Palestinian security forces in the Central Gaza District prevented armed Palestinian individuals from launching 1 mortar, from the area surrounding Wadi Gaza towards the settlement of Nitsareem, and seized the mortar.
- At 02:10 on 10 March, Palestinian security forces blocked an attempt by armed Palestinian individuals to fire 1 anti-tank mortar and confiscated it.
- At 10:25 on 19 March, Palestinian security forces demolished 1 tunnel in Rafah refugee camp near Point 8 along the Egyptian border.
- At 15:05 on 26 March, the Israeli army opened fire from its location at Point 7.5 along the Egyptian border towards 1 Palestinian National Security patrol while Palestinian officers were demolishing 1 tunnel in the area surrounding Salah ad Din gate.
- At 07:45 on 09 April, Palestinian security forces in the Khan Yunis District blocked armed Palestinian individuals' attempts to fire mortars from the area surrounding As Satr al Gharbi in Al Qarara towards Israeli settlements. 1 mortar exploded while Palestinian security forces were blocking an attempt to fire it, *injuring 4 Palestinian security officers*.
- At 18:40 on 23 April in Northern Gaza, Palestinian security forces arrested 2 Palestinians near the Industrial Zone in Beit Hanun and confiscated weapons and grenades found in their vehicle.
- At 23:20 on 30 April, the Israeli army opened fire towards a Palestinian security force, while they were closing a tunnel near Point 9.5 along the Egyptian border, opposite Bloc (J) in Rafah refugee camp.
- At 14:15 on 02 May 2005, an Israeli army tank positioned near Point 9.5 along the Egyptian border opened fire towards Palestinian security forces, while they were demolishing 1 tunnel opposite Bloc (J) in Rafah refugee camp.
- At 11:05 on 03 May 2005, the Israeli army opened fire from its location at Point 9 along the Egyptian border towards Palestinian security forces, while they were demolishing 1 tunnel opposite Bloc (J) in Rafah refugee camp.

D. Israeli Violations of the Agreement to Transfer Security Control in the Jericho Area to the Palestinian Authority

On 16 March, security control of the city of Jericho and the village of Al 'Auja was transferred to the Palestinian Authority. Palestinian and Israeli commanders agreed that the Israeli army is not allowed to prohibit the entry and exit of Palestinian civilians to the city of Jericho. On Jericho's western side, the Israeli army is prohibited from setting up a checkpoint; it is only allowed to erect a surveillance point and search specific civilian vehicles on a selective basis. On the city's southern side, Palestinian civilians are allowed free movement, without vehicle searches, into the city. Upon exit, the Israeli army may conduct selective vehicle searches and examine the ID cards of individuals leaving the city.

Prior to the Palestinian Authority's assumption of security control, at various times during the reporting period, the Israeli army prevented Palestinian civilians, including Palestinians holding Israeli IDs, from entering the city of Jericho, permitting only Jericho and Jerusalem ID card holders access to the city. Following the 16 March transfer of security control, the Israeli army repeatedly violated the agreement on security responsibility by preventing civilians from entering the city, setting up a checkpoint, and/or searching civilian vehicles.

- At 12:45 on 21 March, the Israeli army set up a flying checkpoint at the western entrance to the village of Al 'Auja near the settlement of Yitav (the only entrance connecting Area (A) between the city of Jericho and the village of Al 'Auja), and searched civilians and vehicles entering the village of Al 'Auja.

- On 01 April, the Israeli army set up a flying checkpoint along Road #90 in the centre of the village of Al 'Auja and prevented civilians not holding Jericho ID cards from crossing. Beginning on 02 April and continuing until 08:00 05 May, the Israeli army has closed Road #90, between Al 'Auja and Jericho, with cement blocks.
- On 02 April and 05 April, the Israeli army set up a flying checkpoint at the western entrance to the village of Al 'Auja near the settlement of Yitav, searched civilian vehicles, and prevented civilians not holding Jericho IDs from crossing.
- On 03 April, Israeli troops positioned at the checkpoint set up at the southern entrance to the city of Jericho (known as the DCO checkpoint), searched civilian vehicles and examined the IDs of civilians travelling to the city of Jericho.

On 21 March 2005, security control of the city of Tulkarem and its eastern areas was also transferred to the Palestinian Authority. Palestinian and Israeli commanders agreed that the Israeli army would not enter the area. However, the Israeli army violated the agreement as it repeatedly raided eastern Tulkarem (particularly the town of 'Illar, the village of Seida, and adjacent areas). From 21 March – 31 March, the Israeli army raided the area on 15 separate occasions.