



Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR)
المركز الفلسطيني لحقوق الإنسان

[Palestinian Center for Human Rights] (PCHR)

Silencing the Press

Report No. 18

*Document About Israeli Forces' Attacks Against Media Workers and
Media Institutions in oPt*

01 April 2015 - 31 March 2016

Introduction	5
Section I: International Standards Organizing Freedom of Press	7
Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948	7
Article 19, Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966	7
Protocol Additional (I) to the Geneva Conventions 1977	8
Protection of Media As being Civilian Objects	8
Section II: Other violations against journalists working in local and international media	9
1.Violation of the Right to Life and Security of Person	10
2.Beating, Humiliation and Inhumane and Degrading Treatment against Journalists	18
3.Detention and Arrests against Journalists	20
4.Raiding Media Offices	23
5.Restrictions on the Freedom of Movement	25
6.Denial of Access to Scenes	26
7.Raiding Media Workers' Homes	27
8.Banning Newspapers in the oPt	27
Conclusion and Recommendations	27
Appendix (1): Media Workers Killed by Israeli forces while on Duty	29
Appendix (2): Israeli Attacks on Media Workers	31

Introduction

Israeli forces have continued its systematic attacks on local and international media workers¹ covering incidents in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) despite the protection extended to them under international law. It is clear that the Israeli practices against journalists, including killings and threats to their personal safety, is part of a well-planned scheme to isolate the oPt from the rest of the world and to provide cover-up for crimes against civilians².

This report which is the 18th of its kind, is part of the “Silencing the Press” series issued by the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR). It covers the period from 01 April 2015 - 31 March 2016 and documents a significant escalation of Israeli attacks and violations against media personnel in the oPt. It includes detailed accounts of all Israeli attacks on media personnel and media institutions as documented by PCHR staff. This documentation is based on testimonies of victims and eyewitnesses and field investigations. PCHR’s investigations refute the Israeli claims regarding certain crimes, including opening fire at journalists and causing injury. There is no doubt that these crimes were willfully committed and force was excessively used without taking into account the principles of distinction, proportionality or military necessity.

This report shows the escalation of Israeli forces’ attacks against journalists compared to their attacks during the period covered by the previous report. On the one hand, Israeli forces continued their attacks against journalists who cover weekly peaceful demonstrations organized by Palestinians against the annexation wall and settlement activities throughout the West Bank. On the other hand, those attacks were significantly escalated since the beginning of October 2015, due to which the oPt has witnessed a wave of protests and demonstrations against the Israeli forces that claimed the lives of dozens of Palestinian civilians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. PCHR documented a significant escalation of Israeli violations during the period following October including: killings and opening fire at journalists; arrests and detention. One of the most prominent arrests was the arrest of journalist Mohammed al-Qeeq who

1. Media personnel includes journalists, reporters, cameramen and workers at press offices. All these categories will be referred to as «journalists» in this report.
2. The isolation policy adopted by Israeli forces is not limited to attacks and violations against media personnel, as Israeli forces, for example, impose severe restrictions on the entry of internationals to the oPt, especially the Gaza Strip. This is also an attempt to isolate the oPt from the world in order to cover up the Israeli crimes against Palestinian civilians.

started an open hunger strike in protest against his administrative detention for six months, during which, he was subjected to force-feeding. However, he continued his strike despite the deterioration of his health condition. Mohammed terminated his strike after reaching an agreement with the Israeli authorities provided that they do not renew his administrative detention. Furthermore, Israeli forces raided the media offices and homes of journalists; closed a number of media offices under the pretext of incitement against Israel; closed TV Satellite Channels following the resolution of the Israeli Security Cabinet on 10 March 2016, which stated closing Radio stations and Satellite Channels under the pretext of “incitement against Israel”. On the following day of the decision, Israeli forces raided the office of Palestine Today channel in Ramallah and closed it for the same alleged reason. This report highlights the Israeli attacks against journalists in the Gaza Strip while on duty, especially when covering demonstrations organized by Palestinians near the border fence, east of the Gaza Strip, during the latest wave of protests.

PCHR has documented (106) attacks by Israeli forces against media workers, they were as follows:

- » 34 shooting incidents, which led to the injury of (56) journalists, including (11) female journalists and an Italian one. They sustained various wounds.
- » 7 cases in which (19) journalists, including (3) women and a disabled person, were subjected to beating and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment;
- » 17 cases in which journalists were arrested and detained;
- » 3 cases in which journalists were denied their right to travel;
- » 5 cases in which the homes of journalists were raided;
- » 5 cases in which media offices were raided or searched; and
- » 2 cases in which newspapers were prevented from printing in the West Bank.

According to PCHR’s documentation, between 28 September 2000 and 31 March 2016, Israeli forces carried out 1,813 attacks against journalists. It should be noted that there are dozens of attacks that were not documented; in addition to shooting crimes which resulted in killing journalists as illustrated below. The Israeli attacks against journalists between 28 September 2000 and 31 March³ were as follows:

- » 21 cases of killing⁴ (a violation of the right to life and personal safety);
- » 584 shooting cases, in which 456 journalists sustained various wounds;

3. See table (2) attached to the report.

4. The statistics about journalists do not include the killing crimes mentioned in this report. A number of journalists were killed in conditions unrelated to their work between 28 September 2000 and 31 March 2016. Review annex (1): «Table: Journalists Killed While on Duty».

- » 325 cases in which Israeli forces beat journalists and subjected them to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment;
- » 420 cases in which journalists were arrested and held;
- » 177 cases in which journalists were denied their right to carry out their job;
- » 115 cases in which press cards, media equipment and material were confiscated;
- » 116 cases in which journalists were bombarded, raided and searched or closed;

PCHR has worked on unveiling the crimes and violations committed by Israeli forces against journalists according to a specific categorization depending on the type of attack. These cases were categorized according to the most prominent ones, especially as many of the cases documented by PCHR included multiple violations within a single incident.

Section I:

International Standards Organizing Freedom of Press

International laws ensured the right to freedom of press, right to freedom of opinion and expression and right to free access to information. These laws oblige states to include in their local laws articles that guarantee these rights because they interrelated. In this context, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the two protocols additional to the Geneva conventions guarantee the abovementioned rights.

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

In its very first session, the United Nations stated in its resolution that *“Freedom of information is a fundamental human right and the touchstone of all the freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated.”* Article (19) of the declaration stipulated that *“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”*

Article 19, Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966

1. *“Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.”*
2. *“Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.”*

Protocol Additional (I) to the Geneva Conventions 1977

Article 79 of the Protocol clearly provides that journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians within the meaning of Article 50, paragraph 1. They shall be protected as such under the international humanitarian law, including his protection from being attacked or detained by any party to the conflict. Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of article 79 states the following:

1. "Journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians within the meaning of Article 50, paragraph 1.
2. Shall be protected as such under the Conventions and this Protocol, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians, and without prejudice to the right of war correspondents accredited to the armed forces to the status provided for in Article 4 A (4) of the Third Convention.
3. They may obtain an identity card similar to the model in Annex II of this Protocol. This card, which shall be issued by the government of the State of which the journalist is a national or in whose territory he resides or in which the news medium employing him is located, shall attest to his status as a journalist.

Protection of Media Institutions As being Civilian Objects

The radio and television stations are considered civilian objects that enjoy this character and a public protection. International laws all agreed on banning attacks against civilian objects and this was confirmed in the two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions 1949, as well as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. This applies too to the media offices that are considered civilian and should not be attacked.

Section II: Other violations against journalists working in local and international media

During the reporting period, Israeli attacks escalated against media workers in local and international media in the oPt. They attacked media workers and threatened their physical safety to ban them from covering the Israeli crimes against Palestinian civilians and their property. Though the international law granted special protection for the media workers, the last quarter of the year 2015 has witnessed a significant escalation of violations that continued due to Israel's targeting of the media workers during practicing their profession and covering the events in the oPt since the beginning of October. It was notable that Israel escalated its violations to closing radio and television offices under the pretext of incitement of terrorism. Violations are still committed even after the Israeli Security Cabinet convened on 10 March 2016 and issued a decision to close Palestinian media institutions under the pretext of practicing incitement against Israel. This was culminated by closing Palestine Today Channel in Ramallah the next day.

Since April 2015, until the beginning of events of protests and demonstrations in the West Bank cities and the Gaza Strip on October 2015. Israeli forces committed more attacks against media workers. The most prominent event was when media workers were covering peaceful demonstrations in which Palestinian civilians and international human rights defenders in protest against the confiscation of Palestinians' lands in villages and cities of the occupied West Bank to establish the Israeli annexation wall or to expand the settlements. Those attacks included crimes of attacking the security of person of media workers, beating them and subjecting them to means of violence or the humiliating, degrading and inhuman treatment, detaining and arresting media workers, banning media workers from taking photos and covering the events, raiding and closing headquarters and radio and television stations, raiding and searching houses of media workers, banning media workers from travelling and banning newspapers from being printed. The most prominent forms of violation that PCHR has documented during the year were as follow:

1. Violation of the Right to Life and Security of Person

In this report, PCHR documented the continued Israeli violations of the right to life and security of person of media workers, including shootings which led to wounding media workers while in the field. PCHR has documented 34 cases of shooting that resulted in wounding 56 media workers. These cases included injuries resulting from live bullets, rubber-coated metal bullets, sound bombs and tear gas canisters, and they were as follows:

1. On 08 May 2015, three photojournalists were hit with tear gas canisters to the upper parts of their bodies while covering the weekly demonstration against closing the eastern entrance to Kafer Qadoun village, northeast of Qalqiliya since the beginning of the Intifada. Medical sources classified their health conditions as moderate. The three journalists were identified as Ashraf Abu Shawish, who works at Pal Media Agency; Mohammed Enayah, who works at Palestine TV, and Ayman al-Nubani, who works at Wafa News Agency.
2. On 16 May 2015, Nedal Shafiq Eshtayeh (46), a journalist at the Chinese News Agency "Xinhua" was hit with a metal bullet to his left eye after the bullet penetrated the gas mask he was wearing. Moreover, Samantha Kumizuli (46), an Italian journalist, was hit with a metal bullet to her left hand and chest, while covering a peaceful demonstration heading to Hawarah checkpoint, south of Nablus. Eshtayeh stated to PCHR's fieldworker that:

"At approximately 11:00 on Saturday, 16 May 2015, I was covering the demonstration that headed from Nablus to Hawarah checkpoint, south of the city, and taking a statement of one of the demonstrator. Israeli forces stationed about 50 meters away, fired a live bullet that penetrated the gas mask I was wearing. As a result, I was hit to my left eye and was bleeding. One of the demonstrators took me to an ambulance where I was transported to Rafidya Hospital. Doctors conducted some medical tests and x-rays and then transferred me to Najah Medical Hospital."

3. On 02 July 2015, six journalists sustained burns to their faces when Israeli forces attacked and pepper-sprayed dozens of Palestinian civilians at the crossroad of Jabaa' village, north of occupied East Jerusalem, commemorating the first anniversary of the death of Mohammed Abu Khudair, who was burned to death by settlers on 01 July last year. The attacked journalists were identified as the reporter Nebal Farsakh and photojournalist Mohammed Abu Shushah, both work at Roya TV; Mohammed Radi and Mohammed Turkman, journalists at Palestine TV; Esam al-Remawi, a journalist at al-Hayat newspaper; and Abbas al-Moumani, a journalist at AFP.

4. On 23 July 2015, photojournalist Shadi Yasser Ahmed Jarar'ah (25) was filming the Israeli forces firing at a Palestinian civilian and attempting to arrest him in the northern Mount of Nablus. Though Jarar'ah raised his hand holding his camera up, Israeli soldiers opened fire at him. Jarar'ah stated to PCHR's fieldworker that:

"When I arrived to cover the clashes between the Palestinians and Israeli forces in the northern Mount of Nablus, I raised my hands and my camera up. Yet, Israeli forces opened fire at my chest. I received treatment on the spot in a Palestine Red Crescent Society's (PRCS) ambulance."

5. On 04 September 2015, photojournalist Bilal Abdul Salam Tamimi (48) sustained shrapnel wounds to the face and right arm due to the explosion of a sound bomb that was fired by the Israeli forces at Palestinian civilians who were protesting against the annexation wall and settlement activities in al-Nabi Saleh village, west of Ramallah.
6. On 13 September 2015, Lewaa' Abu Ermailah, a reporter of Palestine Today channel, and Sabrin Obaidat, a photojournalist at Quds Network, both sustained shrapnel wounds due to a sound bomb fired by the Israeli police officers. Lewaa' and Sabrin were covering the incidents at al-Aqsa mosque in occupied Jerusalem. A large number of Israeli police officers raided al-Aqsa mosque and fired sound bombs and rubber-coated metal bullets. They then closed al-Aqsa mosque, went up to the roof, trapped some Palestinians who were performing prayers in the mosque, attacked them and pepper-sprayed them while special police officers cleared the mosque squares.
7. On 2 October 2015, photojournalist Ahmed Tal'at Hassan (23), from Qasrah village, was hit with a live bullet to his right leg when Israeli forces opened fire at him while he was covering a peaceful demonstration organized by Palestinian civilians and international solidarity activists in protest against closing the eastern entrance to Kafer Qadoun village in Qalqilia.
8. On 4 October 2015, Hanaa' Mahamid, a reporter of al-Mayadeen TV, from Om al-Fahem, was wounded in the face when Israeli forces fired a sound bomb at her while she was covering the incidents occurring in al-Eisawiya village, northeast of occupied Jerusalem, following the death of Fadi Alloun. Hanaa' was transported to one of Jerusalem's hospitals to receive medical treatment. Immediately after Hanaa' left the hospital, she was on TV live saying: "... I was hit right to my face and sustained burns in the left side of it after Israeli forces fired a sound bomb towards the press crews that were present in the village..."
9. On 5 October 2015, Taha Dawoud Abu Husain (28), reporter of Raya

FM radio, was hit with a metal bullet to his forehead when was covering the incidents in the western Martyrs' street around the military checkpoint (56) in Hebron. Taha was transported by an ambulance to Hebron Hospital.

10. On 9 October 2015, Matin Kaya (27), a photojournalist at Anadolu Agency, was hit with a live bullet shrapnel to the fingers of his left hand when he was covering clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces stationed at the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel in the vicinity of "Nahel Oz", east of al-Shuja'iya neighborhood, east of Gaza city.
11. On 9 October 2015, Sakher Taleb Abdul Rahim Zawaytah (28), a photojournalist for Palestine TV, was hit with two metal bullets to his head and leg when he was covering clashes between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers at al-Jalamah checkpoint, north of Jenin.
12. On 10 October 2015, Jouda Naf'e Abu Nejamh (28), a broadcast engineer for Trans Media, was hit with a metal bullet to the fingers of his right hand as he was standing next to the agency's vehicle when Israeli forces opened fire towards the vehicle and the journalists near it. Moreover, reporter Feda Naser (27) and the photojournalist Mahmoud Khallaf (28), both work for Palestine Today Channel, suffered tear gas inhalation. It should be mentioned that the Israeli forces threatened Mahmoud, tried to ban him from recording at gunpoint and forced him to step back. The journalists were covering clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces in Yatta village, south of Hebron.
13. On 11 October 2015, Rami Rawhi Darwish Suwaidan (39), a journalist at Ma'an News Agency, was hit with a live bullet to his left leg while he was covering the confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli forces at Hawara checkpoint, south of Nablus.
14. On 13 October 2015, five journalists were wounded while on duty, covering the clashes between Palestinian civilians and Israeli forces north of the Gaza Strip. The wounded journalists were identified as:
 - *Tahani Adel Mahmoud Barhuom (20), a free journalist from Rafah.*
 - *Samir Mohammed Salem al-Buji (31), a photojournalist at Pal Media Agency from Gaza city.*
 - *Arenah Mahmoud Mohammed Abu Nahel (19), works for Tahreer News Agency from Gaza city.*
 - *Husain Abdul Jawad Husain Karsou' (40), a freelance journalist and founder of Jana Media Agency, from Gaza city.*
 - *Mahmoud Mohammed Mohammed Awad (32), a photojournalist at Al-Jazeera from Gaza city. Husain Karsou' said to PCHR's fieldworker:*

“At approximately 10:00 on Friday morning, 13 October 2015, I went to Erez crossing along with Palestine TV crew and started taking photos. Dozens of Palestinians gathered in protest against the Israeli attacks in the West Bank. The moment I started photographing, Israeli forces fired a tear gas canister at me although I was wearing a press vest, a helmet and a muzzle. I hid behind a wall and continued photographing. After that, Israeli forces fired four other tear gas canisters towards me. Journalist Ehab Fasfous was behind me as he was sheltering behind me and wearing also a press vest and a muzzle. We both continued photographing and the muzzles were partially protecting us. Thereafter, Israeli forces fired another tear gas canister that hit my vest. So I decided to move away and take shelter behind a cement cube around. In the meantime, Israeli forces fired a live bullet that hit my right forearm. I jumped over some young men who were hiding as well behind the cube. I lost consciousness for five minutes and when I woke up, the men were trying to carry me but I told them I could walk. We walked about 100 meters until we reached an ambulance that transported me to Kamal Edwan Hospital in Beit Lahya.”

15. On 16 October 2015, Nabil Samih Mohammed Abu Dayah (44), a photojournalist at Palestine TV from Beit Lahiya, was hit with a live bullet to his left thigh when Israeli soldiers stationed at Beit Hanoun “Erez” crossing, northwest of Beit Haoun, north of the Gaza Strip, opened fire towards dozens of Palestinians who were present on the road linking the Israeli and Palestinian sides of the crossing. Abu Dayah said to a PCHR’s fieldworker that:

“... At approximately 13:30 on Friday, 16 October 2015, I went along with my colleague Safaa’ al-Habil, reporter at Palestine TV, to Beit Hanoun crossing. After 15 minutes, my assistant Mohammed al-Agha joined us. When we arrived at the Palestinian liaison office (5/5), the area was quite. Then dozens of Palestinian young men gathered and confrontations started between them and the Israel soldier. The youngsters began heading towards the gate few meter away from me. They threw stones at the Israeli soldiers who heavily fired tear gas canisters in response. I was wearing a full press outfit, including the chest vest and a helmet with a camera. I photographed some Palestinians trying to raise the Palestinian flag on a traffic light in the area, but the Israeli soldiers fired live bullets at their legs. Other civilians hurried to help the wounded ones, so I ran about 40 meters with them to film the incident and then ran back to the gate. After that, I felt something that hit my body. I looked down and saw my left thigh bleeding. I did not feel the bullet, but I was limping for few meters on my right leg. Some young men helped me and transported me to an ambulance where I received first aid. I was then transported to Kamal Edwan Hospital to receive medical treatment and left the hospital after two hours...”

16. Around the same time, Mothana Suleiman Ibrahim al-Najar (30), a journalist at Palestine Today TV and al-Quds radio, was hit with a tear

gas canister to his chest while he was covering the confrontations between Palestinian protestors and Israeli forces, east of al-Faraheen area, in Abasan, east of Khuza'ah village, east of Khan Yonis, south of the Gaza Strip. Al-Najar said to PCHR's fieldworker that:

"... On Friday, 16 October 2015, I was covering the protests in the vicinity of al-Faraheen area, east of Abasan, east of Khan Yonis. Israeli soldiers heavily fired live bullets and tear gas canisters. I was wearing a press helmet and vest and was 300 meters away from the border fence. After that I was hit with a tear gas canister to my chest which forced me to fell to the ground. The canister fragmented into three pieces due to which I suffered tear gas inhalation because of the gas emission. I also felt pain in my chest. The ambulance crews rushed toward me, but they also suffered tear gas inhalation. I was then transported via an ambulance to Gaza European Hospital where I had medical tests and left the hospital after an hour..."

17. On 18 October 2015, Nebal Khaled Farsakh (26), a journalist and Director of Roya TV Channel, was wounded with a live bullet to her left hand. Nebal was covering the clashes between the Palestinian protestors and Israeli forces near the (DCO) Israeli military checkpoint and the fence of "Beit Eil" settlement, north of al-Birah.

18. On 23 October 2015, Tareq Osama Mas'oud (20), a journalist at al-Hadaf news company from Jabalia, was hit with a live bullet to his left thigh while he was covering the confrontations between the Israeli forces and Palestinian protestors near the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel, east of Beit Hanoun, north of the Gaza Strip.

19. On the same day, 3 journalists were hit with live bullets when they were covering the confrontations between Palestinian protestors and Israeli forces near the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel, east of al-Shuja'iya neighborhood in Gaza city. The wounded journalists were identified as Dawoud Nemer Hassan Abu al-Kas (23), a photojournalist at Palestine Today; Ehab Omer Yusuf Fafous (43), a freelance journalist; and Nehad Baher Mahmoud Budair (23), a freelance photojournalist also. Journalist Abu al-Kas said to PCHR's fieldworker that:

"At approximately 14:00 on Friday, 23 October 2015, I went to al-Shuja'iya, east of Gaza city, near Nahel Oz area. I was wearing a mask and a helmet and carrying a camera while covering the clashes between Palestinians and the Israeli forces. I was the first journalist who reached the place. After a number of journalists arrived, we approached the border fence so that I could take photos. I was about 300 meters away from the abovementioned fence. Israeli forces began firing tear gas canisters towards us. However, some youngsters came closer to the border fence, so the Israeli soldiers fired live bullets at one of them. I approached the wounded civilian to take photo

of him. At that time, I felt pain in my leg and then fell to the ground. Paramedics transported me to al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza city where I received medical treatment. It turned out that I was wounded with a rubber-coated metal bullet to my left leg. During my stay at the hospital, journalists Ehab al-Fasfous and Nehad Budair were admitted to the hospital too as both were wounded with rubber-coated metal bullets as well."

20. On 23 October, 2015, Samir Hesham Nazal (28), a journalist at Raya Media Network, was wounded with a live bullet to his left leg while he was on duty, covering the events between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli forces at the northern entrance to al-Birah in al-Balou' neighborhood. Nazal said to PCHR's fieldworker that:

"At approximately 12:30 on 23 November 2015, I was present near City Inn Hotel in al-Balou' neighborhood, north of al-Birah, covering the clashes between the Palestinian civilians and the Israeli forces. Meanwhile, two Israeli military jeeps were speeding towards the protestors and the soldiers opened fire at them. As a result, I was wounded with two metal bullets to my back and left leg. The Israeli soldier was 10 meters away from me. The paramedics offered me first aid and I was then transported to Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah. It turned out that I suffer a fracture in my leg and bruises in my back. It should be mentioned that I was wearing the press outfit, holding a camera and standing with other journalists."

21. At approximately 30 October 2015, Ibrahim Ahmed Abu Reedah (24), a photojournalist at Elia Agency, was wounded with a live bullet to the chest while he was covering the confrontations between Palestinians and the Israeli forces at the border fence area between the Gaza Strip and Israel, east of al-Faraheen area in Abasan, east of Khan Yonis, south of the Gaza Strip. Abu Reedah said to PCHR's fieldworker that:

"At approximately 15:00 on Friday, 30 October 2015, I was photographing the confrontations in al-Faraheen area near the border fence with Israel, east of Kahn Yonis. I was about 150 meters away from the above mentioned border fence where there was a group of youngsters gathering. The Israeli soldiers, who were behind the border fence, wounded one of the civilians. After that, I moved forward to take photos, but then, the Israeli forces opened fire at us. As a result, I was wounded with a live bullet that hit my chest and then fell to the ground. I was transported by an ambulance to the European Hospital where I stayed in the intensive care unit. Medical tests showed that the bullet penetrated a part of my chest bones and I underwent a surgery then. I left the Hospital the next day. It should be mentioned that I was wearing a special mask when I was hit."

22. On 13 November 2015, Fadi Wahid Hamad Thabet (25), a journalist at Quds Press News and Ibrahim Yahia Ibrahim Husain (24), a journalist

at Zain Company for Media Production, were wounded to their legs when Israeli forces fired tear gas canisters at them. They were covering clashes near the border fence, east of al-Burajj refugee camp. Moreover, their cameras were damaged due the tear gas canisters that hit them directly.

23. On 15 November 2015, photojournalist Ja'afar Jahed Husain Eshtiyah (47) was wounded with a metal bullet to his right shoulder that was fired by the Israeli forces when he was covering the clashes between Palestinian civilians and the Israeli forces near the annexation wall in Qalqilyah.

24. On 16 November 2015, Bahaa' Mohammed Mahmoud Nasser (31), a journalist at Wafa News Agency, was wounded with a metal bullet below his left knee, while Shadi Hatem Jaber Karakrah (22), a photojournalist at Raya Media Network, was hit with a metal bullet to his left leg. Both of them were covering the ongoing confrontations near "Beit Eil" settlement, north of Ramallah. Bahaa' said to PCHR's fieldworker that:

"On Monday morning, 16 November 2015, I was going to cover an incident in al-Balou' neighborhood in al-Birah near the military checkpoint at the entrance to "Beit Eil" settlement. I was wearing the special press outfit and standing along with my colleagues in an open area about 15-20 meters away from the Israeli soldiers. Moreover, the Israeli soldiers were firing live bullets, metal bullets and tear gas canisters towards the protestors. After that, an Israeli soldier, who was 70 meters away from me, opened fire at me. As a result, I was wounded with a metal bullet below my left knee. I received the medical treatment on the spot."

25. On 20 November 2015, Mohanad al-Sharif, a journalist at al-Horreya Media Network, was wounded with a live bullet to his left thigh while he was covering the confrontations between Palestinian protestors and the Israeli forces near an Israeli military watchtower in Jurat Bahlas area, south of Bethlehem, following the funeral of Shadi Arfah who was killed by the Israeli forces a day earlier.

26. On 04 December 2015, Shatha Abdul Rahman Hammad (25), a journalist at Honaa al-Quds network, was hit with a metal bullet to her right leg when she was covering the confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers in Silwad village, northeast of Ramallah.

27. On 04 December 2015, Amir Mostafa Atiya Hamayel (29), a photojournalist at al-Watan TV and News Agency, was wounded with a metal bullet to his left leg; and Nedal Nour Edin Etmah (27), a reporter at Palestine Today, was hit with a metal bullet to her left leg. Both of them were covering the confrontations between Palestinians and

the Israeli forces in Silwad village, northeast of Ramallah.

28. On 04 December 2015, Mahmoud Omer al-Loah (25), a reporter at Shaab Radio, was wounded with a live bullet to his right leg when he was covering an incident near the border fence east of al-Buraij, in the center of the Gaza Strip, as well as journalist Husain Karsou', who was hit in the same incident to the palm of his hand. Karsou' said to PCHR's fieldworker that:

"At approximately 22:00 on 04 December 2015, I was covering along with five other journalists the ongoing clashes with the Israeli forces. We were about 150 meters far from the border fence. A number of civilians were wounded and one of the civilians died. During my attempt to photograph one of the wounded civilians, Israeli forces opened fire at me. As a result, I was wounded to my right hand causing a fracture in my index finger. Moreover, journalist Mahmoud al-Loah was hit with a live bullet to his leg."

29. On 11 December 2015, Mohammed Aref al-Sharbati (25), a journalist at local agencies, was wounded with a live bullet after an Israeli Border Guard officer opened fire towards Palestinian young men in Ras al-Jourah intersection in occupied Jerusalem.

30. On 11 December 2015, Bilal Abdul Salam al-Tamimi (49), a photo-journalist of the Popular Committee against the Wall and Settlement Activities, was hit with a metal bullet to his left knee when he was photographing the confrontations between the Israeli forces and Palestinian civilians in al-Nabi Saleh village, west of Ramallah.

31. On 18 December 2015, Raed Fawaz Mesleh (24), a journalist at Tahreer Press Agency, was hit with a live bullet to his right leg, while, Yusri Mahmoud al-Rayes (37), the driver of Palestine Today TV, was also hit with a live bullet to his left leg. Both were covering the confrontations between Palestinian civilians and Israeli forces near the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel, east of al-Buraij, in the center of the Gaza Strip. Journalist Raed Mesleh said to PCHR's fieldworker that:

"At approximately 14:20 on Friday, 18 December 2015, I went to the border fence, east of al-Buraij refugee camp, holding a camera to cover the ongoing demonstrations along with my college Mohammed Mesleh and another one. When we reached the border fence that was about 300 meters away, I saw about 100 youngsters, some of whom were about 50 meters far from the abovementioned border fence. The Israeli soldiers stationed behind the border fence. I heard the sound of a bullet and then felt something had hit my right leg and saw blood. Paramedics offered me first aid and then transported me to al-Aqsa Hospital to receive medical treatment. It turned out that a live bullet entered and exited my leg. It should be mentioned that on

27 November 2015, I was wounded with a live bullet to the same leg while about a week ago, I was hit with a tear gas canister in my back at "Nahel Oz" checkpoint, east of Gaza city."

32. On 01 January 2016, Anal al-Jadaa' (26), a reporter for Palestine Today, was wounded with a metal bullet to his right leg while he was covering the confrontations between Palestinian civilians and Israeli forces at the eastern entrance to Qalqiliyah in which the Israeli forces established an iron gate since the beginning of the second Intifada.
33. On 15 January 2016, journalist Safiya Omer (27) was wounded with a live bullet when she was covering the confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli forces near Bilal Bin Rabah Mosque (Rachel Tomb) in Bethlehem.
34. On 20 February 2016, Ma'moun Wazwaz, a photographer at the Chinese Agency, sustained a minor injury to his left knee after he was hit with a sound bomb shrapnel.

2. Beating, Humiliation and Inhumane and Degrading Treatment against Journalists

PCHR has documented 7 cases in which 19 journalists, including 3 female journalists, a physically disabled journalist and an Israeli journalist, were subjected to beating and other forms of violence and inhumane and degrading treatment by Israeli forces and Israeli settlers. These attacks were as follows:

1. On 28 April 2015, Israeli soldiers obstructed the work of journalists, attacked them and swore at them in Hebrew. Of those who were attacked and insulted were an Israeli journalist and activist Haim (45) and Abas Abdul Wahab al-Moumeni (36), a photojournalist at AFP. Abass said to PCHR's fieldworker that:

"At approximately 13:00 on Friday, 28 April 2015, I was in al-Nabi Saleh village, west of Ramallah, along with my friends covering the weekly peaceful demonstration against the settlement activities and confiscation of Palestinian lands for the expansion of "Halamish" settlement established in the village. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and Israeli forces stationed at the main entrance to the village. Clashes reached al-Jabaliya area behind Khawaja Petrol Station. However, when we were setting on the ground 150 meters away from the Israeli soldiers, 4 Israeli soldiers came near us and suddenly started beating and kicking us with their gun butts. They tried to confiscate our cameras without any reason. Moreover, an Israeli soldier threw a stone at my colleague Esam al-Remawi, a photojournalist at al-Hayat newspaper, and verbally insulted us. As a result, I suffered bruises in

my left leg. It should be mentioned that Esam al-Remawi, Majd Turkman, Haim and I were wearing the press uniforms and helmets and holding our cameras. Furthermore, the Israeli journalist was severely beaten by the Israeli forces..."

2. On 21 August 2015, Israeli forces beat Rani Abdul Fatah Burnat (35), a photojournalist of the Popular Committee against the Wall and Settlement Activities in Bil'in who is physically disabled. He was covering the weekly peaceful demonstration in Bi'in, west of Ramallah.
3. On 04 2015, Ali Dar Ali (32), a reporter at Palestine Today, was beaten, kicked and verbally insulted. Moreover, the Israeli forces detained Ali for two hours and took him towards the iron gate and military watchtower established at the main entrance to al-Nabi Saleh village, west of Ramallah. Ali was covering the weekly peaceful demonstration organized by the Palestinian civilians in protest against the annexation wall and confiscation of the village lands for the expansion of settlements.
4. On 13 September 2015, 9 journalists sustained bruises after the Israeli forces attacked them while the journalists were covering the Israeli settlers storming al-Aqsa mosque through al-Magherba Gate led by Uri Ariel, the Israeli Minister of Agriculture, and the resultant confrontations between the Palestinian worshipers, who confronted the settlers, and Israeli forces. The attacked journalists were identified as:
 - Ahmed Gharablah, a photojournalist at AFP;
 - Diala Juwaihah, a reporter at al-Hayat newspaper;
 - Jihad al-Mohtaseb, a photojournalist at Roya TV;
 - Monther al-Khateeb, a photojournalist at al-Ghad TV;
 - Diao' Hushiyah, a reporter at al-Ghad TV;
 - Ethar Abu Gharbiya, a freelance photojournalist;
 - Mahfouz Abu Turk, a freelance photojournalist;
 - Ali Yassen, a journalist at Palestine TV; and
 - MomenShabanah, a photojournalist at Ma'an News Agency.
5. On 11 October 2015, Rami Suwaidan, a photojournalist at Ma'an News Agency, was hit with a metal bullet when he was covering demonstrations at Hawara checkpoint, south of Nablus.
6. On 23 October 2015, Eman al-Selawi, who works with several agencies, was attacked by the Israeli forces when she was covering the clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces. They also tried to confiscate her own camera and chased her in order to keep her away from the scene following the killing of Ahmed Kmail by the Israeli forces. Eman was covering the clashes on al-Jalamah checkpoint, northeast of Jenin.

7. On 30 October 2015, Israeli forces heavily attacked and pepper-sprayed journalists. Those journalists were covering the clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces at the (DCO) checkpoint and near the fence of “Beit Eil” settlement, north of Ramallah. Monther Mohammed al-Khatib (30), a photojournalist at al-Ghad Channel said to PCHR’s fieldworker that:

“At approximately 12:30 on Friday, 20 October 2015, I was in al-Balou’ neighborhood in al-Bireh along with my colleagues covering the clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces in the vicinity of the (DCO) checkpoint near City In Hotel. The Israeli soldiers were firing metal bullets and tear gas canisters at the protesters. I was wearing the press uniform and moved towards a shop. Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers went out of an Israeli jeep and fired a live bullet that hit a civilian... When I started photographing the incident, an Israeli soldier pepper-sprayed me and my colleague Diya’ Hushiyah. He then pulled me from the back for about 60 meters. When we reached the place where the Israeli jeeps were present, other journalists tried to free me from the soldiers hands. After that, he asked me to show my ID card, so I gave him the blue one and the Israeli press car, after which he released me. I left the place afterwards and went to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to check on Diya’ Hushaiya who was suffering pepper spray inhalation...”

3. Detention and Arrests against Journalists

During the reporting period, dozens of journalists were detained or held by Israeli forces. PCHR documented 17 cases of detaining or holding journalists whether in the field or from their houses. There a section below relevant to the house raids. The arrests and detention were as follows:

1. On 15 August 2015, Israeli forces arrested journalist Amjad Taher Arafah (33) while he was passing through a military checkpoint established at the entrance to Sour Baher village, south of occupied Eastern Jerusalem. They detained him, checked his ID card and then released him few hours later.
2. On 18 August 2015, Israeli forces arrested activist and photojournalist Abdul Afou Mohammed Zughair (24) while he was present in al-Wad neighborhood in the Old City of occupied Eastern Jerusalem. They beat and attacked him with sticks, took him to the Chain Gate (Bab al-Selsilah) police station in the Old City and released him an hour later.
3. On 21 August 2015, Israeli forces arrested two journalists and a human rights activist, claiming that they were present in a closed military zone. They took two of them to Benjamin police station, east of

occupied Jerusalem, while took the other one to Ofer prison, south-west of Ramallah. The arrested persons were identified as journalist Bilal Abdul Salam Hassan Tamimi (48); Israeli journalist David Ref (55); and the human rights activist Serit (42), who is the spokesperson of "B'Tselem" (The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories). Bilal, David and Serit were covering the weekly peaceful demonstration in al-Nabi Saleh village, west of Ramallah, in protest against confiscating the village lands for the expansion of "Halamish" settlement.

4. On 04 September 2015, Israeli forces detained journalist Ali Dar Ali (32), who is a reporter for Palestine TV, for two hours and took him to the iron gate and military watchtower established at the main entrance to al-Nabi Saleh village, west of Ramallah.
5. On 21 November 2015, Israeli forces arrested Mohammed al-Qeeq (33), a journalist at al-Majd Saudi Channel, from his house in Ramallah. During interrogation, al-Qeeq was subjected to a cruel treatment and torture including, shackling, before he was placed under administrative detention. As a result, Mohammed began a hunger strike. After 50 days during which he was feeding on water and salt, on 12 January 2016, Israeli forces applied the law of force-feeding for the first time against Mohammed. They forcibly cuffed him and fed him with fluids through veins. However, al-Qeeq continued his hunger strike which resulted in serious deterioration of his health condition. On 26 February 2016, al-Qeeq ended his strike after he had an agreement with the Israeli authorities not to renew his administrative detention.
6. On 08 October 2015, Israeli forces detained journalists Raed Mohammed Samir Sharif (27) and Raed Ibrahim Zagher (28), both work at al-Horya Radio FM, when they were covering the Israeli attacks in southern Hebron. Israeli forces attacked, handcuffed the journalists and verbally insulted them. They then released the two journalists two hours later. After that, they were transported to Hebron Hospital. Raed Sharif said to PCHR's fieldworker :

"At approximately 03:00 on Thursday, 08 October 2015, I went to the southern area in Hebron along with journalist Raed Ibrahim Zagher to cover the Israeli forces' and settlers' attacks in the area. As soon as we arrived to Abu Snainah neighborhood, an Israeli soldier ordered us to give him our ID cards. I told him that we were journalists and we were wearing the press vest and handed him over our press cards. However, the Israeli soldier verbally insulted us and then spoke over the radio. He then suddenly pointed his weapon at my back and took me along with Raed to Qaitoun neighborhood. They confiscated our cell phones and told me that I was wanted for the Israeli intelligence service. When we reached the cemeteries area,

the Israeli soldiers forced us to take off our shoes, raise our clothes and set down on the ground. They kept insulting us all the time. The radio the Israeli soldier was holding hit my left eye after which he began hitting me on my head. They then blindfolded me and Raed, tied our hands to the back and forced us to kneel between the graves for 15 minutes. When we started walking, we fell several times on the ground because the soldiers were beating us. They also cocked their guns at us three times until at 04:00 we were transported to a military checkpoint near the Martyrs Street, where we were released. We went to Hebron Hospital to receive medical treatment as I sustained bruises in the left leg and the right and left hands.”

7. On 09 October 2015, Israeli forces arrested photojournalist Malek Mohammed Busharat (21), a student at Najah University, and Othman Abdul Fatah Bani Ouda (25), both from Tamoun village. Malek and Othman were covering the confrontations between the Israeli soldiers and Palestinian protestors in Atouf village, east of Tubas.
8. On 10 October 2015, Israeli forces arrested Khadija Obaid while she was present near the entrance to al-Esawiyah village, northeast of East Jerusalem, and took her to an unknown destination.
9. On 21 October 2015, Israeli forces moved into several houses in the center of Hebron. They raided and searched a house belonging to journalist Ali Abdul Kareem al-'Euwaiwi (24), who works for al-Rabi Radio FM. He was then placed under administrative detention for six months.
10. On 16 December 2015, Israeli forces moved into Hebron and raided a house belonging to Thaer Ziad al-Fakhouri (26) in Khelat Hadour. They then arrested Thaer and placed him under administrative detention.
11. On 09 March 2015, Israeli forces arrested Sami Sa'id Abdul Sa'i (37), editor at al-Fajer TV, from his house in Tulkarm. He used to be an editor and a reporter for some Palestinian websites. They searched the house and confiscated his cell phone. On 24 March 2016, the Israeli Salem military court in Jenin extended the detention period under the pretext of resuming the legal measures. However, the Israeli authorities charged him of “incitement through Facebook”.
12. On 11 March 2016, Israeli forces arrested photojournalist Mohammed Yusuf Amr (30) and sound technician Shabib Mohammed Shabib (27), both work at Trans Media Company in Ramallah, at gunpoint after they raided their office at dawn. They also searched the company and interrogated Amro and Shabib about the company and services they offer. Furthermore, they took them to a detention center in Beit Eil and then released them in the morning.

13. On 11 March 2016, Israeli forces arrested journalist Farouq Omer Qasem Eliyat (33), the head of Palestine Today Channel in the West Bank, from his house in al-Marj neighborhood in Birzeit village, north of Ramallah. They also confiscated his work laptop and cell phone. On 31 March 2016, Farouq was brought to trial in "Ofer" court and was released on bail of NIS 2,000.
14. On 13 March 2016, Israeli forces arrested journalist Ibrahim Jaradat, who works at Palestine Today Channel, at Beer Nebala checkpoint. On 31 March, Ibrahim was detained and then brought to trial in Ofer court, west of Ramallah. The court released him on bail of NIS 2,000.

[4. Raiding Media Offices

PCHR documented 3 cases in which Israeli forces raided, searched and closed media offices. These attacks were as follows:

1. On 03 November 2015, Israeli forces raided and searched the office of Manbar al-Horiyah Radio and Adwar "Roles" for Social Change Association in Hebron. They detained the Broadcast Engineer Mohammed Farahat l'beido and Presenter Mahmoud 'Othman Qneibi and then destroyed and searched the contents of the office. Israeli forces confiscated all the electronic devices, including the radio transmitter, 4 audio mixers, 7 microphones, 13 PC sets, four 23-inch televisions, 160 Vero Cameras; 2 digital cameras, 3 press vests with a helmet, 4 Hi Bird for broadcast devices, an audio organizer, audio filter, 3 stereos, 12 surveillance cameras, a DVR and two headphones. They also destroyed the soundproofing walls in the studio used for broadcasting and cut off all the electricity and internet wires. They also stole US\$ 270 and two gold rings belonging to one of the female employees. Ayman Na'im al-Qawasmah, Director of the Radio, said to a PCHR fieldworker that the financial loss was estimated at around US\$ 350,000. He added that the Israeli soldiers handed him a military order to shut down the Radio office for 6 months from the date of delivery. The Israeli soldiers also informed Mahmoud Qoneibi and Mohammed l'beido to refer to the Israeli Intelligence Service in "Gosh 'Etzion" settlement, south of Bethlehem. Israeli authorities claimed that Manbar al-Horiyah Radio broadcasts inciting programs to mobilize people to go out to streets.
2. On 21 November 2015, Israeli forces moved into al-Dehdah area, north of Hebron. They raided and searched Hebron Radio in the northern area of Hebron and obliged employees in the office to get out so the Israeli soldiers can search it. An Israeli officer handed the radio's director, Amjad Shower, a military decision to stop broadcast and then confiscated the office contents. Israeli soldiers confiscated all equipment and cut off all electricity wires and internet cables.

Moreover, the Israeli decision stated that the aforementioned radio encourages incitement; therefore, it would be closed for 6 months.

3. On 29 November 2015, Israeli forces moved into Ras al-Jourah area, north of Hebron. They raided Dream Radio on the first floor of a building after blowing up the main door. They cut off the electricity and internet cables. In addition, they confiscated broadcast devices, including mixers, PCs, laptops, microphones and cameras. Talib al-Ja'bari, the radio's director, said to PCHR's fieldworker:

"At approximately 01:30, I received a call from one of the radio staff that number of Israeli soldiers raided and searched the office that was empty at that time. When I reached the area, the soldiers did not allow me to approach the place. They then confiscated all equipment and left the place. After that, I went to the office along with a number of the staff and journalists who arrived. We found that the Israeli forces had blown up the main door and confiscated all the electronic devices. Moreover, an Israeli decision stated closing the radio for 6 months under the pretext of broadcasting incitement. It should be noted that there are 20 persons working in the radio and that our loss is estimated at about US\$ 100,000 in addition to the loss we will endure during the closure period."

4. On 06 December 2015, Israeli forces moved into Ein Sara village in the center of Hebron. They deployed in the street, closed the street and denied journalists access to the area. They then raided and searched Infinity Advertising Company after they broke the locks of the main door. Once they entered, they confiscated all contents inside, including electronics, and cut off the electricity and internet cables.
5. On 11 March 2016, Israeli forces raided the office of Trans Media Production Company in al-Tahounah neighborhood in al-Birah City, from which Palestine Today broadcast news. They then arrested at gunpoint 2 of the Company's staff members namely photographer Mohammed Yosuf Amr (30) and sound technician Shabeeb Mohammed Shabeeb (27). In addition, Israeli soldiers searched the whole Company. According to statements of the Company staff members, Israeli forces confiscated all the sound and lighting equipment, routers, cameras and their tripods, PC sets, laptops, files and documents related to the Company's work, a server and cell phones. Moreover, Israeli forces questioned Amr and Shabeeb about the nature of the Company's work and media services offered by the Company. They then took the arrested persons to "Beit Eil" detention camp and released them few hours later. Before their withdrawal, Israeli forces affixed a military order issued by the Israeli Military Commander to close the office of Palestine Today. This comes after the decision taken by the Israeli Cabinet on Thursday, 10 March 2016, to close a number of Palestinian media institutions under the pretext of incitement against Israel.

5. Restrictions on the Freedom of Movement

Restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement are a form of collective punishment of Palestinian civilians in the oPt practiced by Israeli forces, along with the closure that it imposes on the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip. Israeli forces do not allow movement between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, except for very limited and exceptional cases. Media workers face extreme difficulties in covering events, as they cannot reach locations. Restrictions on the movement of media workers include: denial of permission to travel abroad; denial of movement between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; denial of movement from one area to another in the West Bank by military checkpoints; and denial of access to locations where incidents have taken place. Therefore, this type of violations is unlimited and all local and international media workers experience daily hardship due to these restrictions. However, PCHR was able to document a number of these cases as follows:

1. On 21 June 2015, Israeli forces prevented Dr. Tahseen Abdel-Hamid Mohammed al-Astal (34), deputy director of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate and Managing Editor at Al-Hayat Al-Jadida newspaper published in Ramallah, from traveling to the West Bank through Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing, north of the Gaza Strip, although he was informed earlier that his travel permit was issued.

Al-Astal said to a PCHR fieldworker that he along with 6 other members of the Journalists Syndicate applied through the liaison office to get permits to the West Bank to participate in a conference in Bethlehem. On 21 June 2015, he and 4 other members were informed that they got permits while the other 2 were rejected for security reasons. He added that on Sunday morning, 21 June 2015, they arrived to Beit Hanoun crossing. Al-Astal also said that he contacted the liaison again and he was told that Israeli forces retreated in regards to his permit although he traveled via the same crossing few months ago.

2. On 05 August 2015, Israeli forces summoned journalist Amjad Asem Arafa (34) to question him in al-Masqoubiya facility. They seized his passport and informed him that he was denied traveling abroad for 3 months for "security reasons".
3. On 22 February 2016, Israeli forces prevented Mohammed Khalil Salama Abu Fayad (42), a journalist at the Palestine News Agency (Wafa) from Khan Yonis, south of the Gaza Strip, from travelling through Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing, north of the Gaza Strip, although he obtained a permit.

Abu Fayad said to PCHR's fieldworker that at approximately 08:30 on the abovementioned day, he obtained a permit through the Palestinian liaison to travel to the west Bank for work. When he arrived, he found out that his suitcase had been open and his stuff was scattered around. He handed his permit and ID card to the Israeli security in the place. Abu Fayad was ordered to wait in the place. At approximately 15:00, Abu Fayad was summoned to the Israeli Intelligence Service, he was thoroughly searched and subjected to interrogation for an hour. After an hour of waiting in the hall, an Israeli security officer called him and took his permit and then informed him 15 minutes later that he was prevented from passing through the crossing. He returned to Gaza after his permit was taken back.

6. Denial of Access to Scenes

Israeli forces continued preventing journalists from entering specific region or even covering events. The most prominent cases are preventing weekly peaceful demonstrations organized by Palestinian civilians and international Israeli activists in a number of Palestinian villages in the West Bank including: Bil'in, Nil'in, al-Nabi Saleh villages, west of Ramallah, and al-Ma'sarah in Bethlehem in protest against the annexation wall and settlement activities, and in Kafer Qadoum in Qalqilyah in protest against the establishment of a military checkpoint in the village. PCHR documented cases in which media workers were denied their right to practice their profession or cover certain events. In other cases, the Israeli forces confiscated press cards, equipment or devices or press materials and they were as follows:

1. On 14 January 2016, Israeli police officers raided the Commodore Hotel in occupied East Jerusalem and prevented the press conference "Our Humanity is Stronger than your Ban" from being held there. It should be noted that the Campaign against Banning the Islamic Movement and Freedoms' Committee emanating from the NGOs' follow-up committee that was banned by Israeli government called for holding this conference. The Israeli police officers banned the conference and beat up and pushed some of the participants. Moreover, Israeli officers fired tear gas canisters to disperse them.

The conference was supposed to be held at approximately 10:00 and was about the NGOs' follow-up committee that was banned by Israeli government with the participation of the Head of the Higher Follow Up Committee Mohammed Barakah, lawyer Omer Khamaisi, director of Mezan Organization for Human Rights-Nazareth and other directors of NGOs'. However, the Israeli forces raided and searched the abovementioned hotel and attacked the journalists participating in the conference to disperse them. Moreover, they arrested Khair Baker al-Shimi (64).

[7. Raiding Media Workers' Homes

PCHR documented 5 cases in which Israeli forces raided and searched the homes of Palestinian media workers in the West Bank.

1. On 21 November 2015, Israeli forces raided a house belonging to Mohamed al-Qiq (33), a journalist at al-Majd Saudi Channel, which is located in Abu Qash village, north of Ramallah. They searched the house and then arrested Mohammed.
2. On 16 December 2015, Israeli forces raided and searched a house belonging to journalist Thaer Ziyad al-Fakhuri (26) which is located in Khelat Hadour area in Hebron.
3. On 09 March 2016, Israeli forces raided and searched a house belonging to Sami Sa'id Abdul Sa'i (37), a journalist at a local TV, which is located in Tulkarm. They confiscated his cell phone.
4. On 11 March, 2016, Israeli forces raided and searched a house belonging to Omer Farouq Eliyat (33), director of Palestine Today Channel in the West Bank, which is located in al-Marj neighborhood in Birziet, north of Ramallah. They then confiscated his work PC set and his personal cell phone.
5. On 21 October, 2016, Israeli forces raided and searched a house belonging to Ali Abdul Karem al-'Awiwi (24), a journalist at Rabea Radio FM, which is located in Hebron.

[8. Banning Newspapers in the oPt

Israeli forces continue preventing al-Resalah and Palestine newspapers, which are published in Gaza City, from being printed in the West Bank's printing houses for two years. On 28 May 2014, the Israeli authorities issued a decision to ban the printing of the two newspapers in al-Ayyam printing house in the West Bank. They raided al-Ayyam newspaper office in Betunia village, west of Ramallah, in the center of the West Bank. They informed the administration of a military decision to ban Palestine newspaper which is originally issued in Gaza city.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In light of the above, it is clear that Israeli forces continued its escalation of Israeli attacks against the media workers in the oPt specially for the right to life and personal safety of media workers. The Israeli attacks have significantly escalated against media workers since the beginning

of October 2015, as the oPt is still witnessing a wave of demonstrations and protests against the Israeli forces. As a result, dozens of Palestinian civilians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were wounded and/or killed. However, what encourages Israel to continue its violations against media workers and institutions is the absence of accountability according to rules of the international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

It should be noted that the Israeli forces do not conduct any serious investigation in the crimes committed against media workers in the oPt in addition to the crimes committed against civilians in the oPt.

PCHR is deeply concerned about the Israeli escalation of attacks and violations committed against the media workers in the oPt. PCHR considers that these attacks and violations as a real translation of the random, excessive and disproportionate use of force.

In light of that:

1. PCHR considers these practices against media workers as part of Israel's ongoing abuse of Palestinian civilians. PCHR also considers it evidence of Israel's disregard for international humanitarian law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.
2. PCHR stresses that most attacks by Israeli forces on local and international press agencies were willful and intentional, especially considering that members of the press wore clearly marked attire.
3. PCHR confirms that these attacks were not limited to Palestinian media workers, but international as well, even Israelis. These attacks are part of Israel's systematic policy of isolating the oPt so as to allow further illegal action against Palestinian civilians.
4. PCHR explains that these attacks are designed to prevent the objective coverage of incidents in the oPt; thus aiming at "silencing the press."
5. Therefore, PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to meet their obligations under the Convention and immediately provide international protection for the Palestinian people and their property.
6. PCHR calls upon all international media agencies to follow-up Israeli violations against Palestinian media workers, and to intervene and exert pressure on Israel to stop its forces' attacks on Palestinians in general and media workers in particular to provide the proper climate for practice of their profession without restriction.

Appendix (1): Media Workers Killed by Israeli forces while on Duty September 2000 – March 2016

#	Name	Age	Place of residence	Job	Date of Killing	Place of Killing
1.	Mohammed Abdul Kareem al-Beshawi	27	Balata refugee camp – Nablus	Cameraman for al-Hayat Newspaper & al-Haq Voice Magazine	31 July 2011	Nablus
2.	Othman Abdul Qader al-Qatnani	24	Askar refugee camp –Nablus	Reporter for the Kuwaiti Kona news agency, working at Nablus Press office	31 July 2001	Nablus
3.	Raffaele Ciriello	42	Italy	Freelance cameraman	11 March 2002	Ramallah
4.	Imad Sobhi Abu Zohra	30	Jenin	Director of al-Nakhil office for press and media	12 July 2002	Jenin
5.	Isam Methqal al-Tallawi	30	Beitunia Village-Ramallah	Palestine radio	22September 2002	Ramallah
6.	Nazih Adel Darwaza	46	Nablus	Cameraman for Palestine and AP	19 April 2003	Nablus
7.	James Miller	34	UK	Owner of Frost Bite company for media production	02 May 2003	Rafah
8.	Mohammed Adel Abu Halima	22	Balata refugee camp – Nablus	Volunteer reporter of al-Najah Voice radio	22 March 2004	Nablus
9.	Fadel Sobhi Shanana	23	Reuters	16 April 2008	16 April 2008	Juhr al-Deek village

#	Name	Age	Place of residence	Job	Date of Killing	Place of Killing
10.	Omar Abdul Hafez al-Silawi	28	Al-Aqsa satellite channel	03 January 2009	03 January 2009	Jabalia refugee camp
11.	Basel Ibrahim Faraj	22	Algerian TV	06 January 2009	06 January 2009	Gaza City
12.	Ramez Najib Harb		Gaza	Al-Aqsa Satellite Channel	19 November 2012	Gaza City
13.	Hussam Mohammed Salama	30	Gaza	Al-Aqsa Satellite Channel	20 November 2012	Gaza City
14.	Mahmoud Ali al-Koumi	29	Gaza	Al-Aqsa Satellite Channel	20 November 2012	Gaza City
15.	Mohammed Abd-Raboh Bader	24	Deir al-Balah	Media Office, al-Quds Brigades	20 November 2012	Deir al-Balah
16.	Hamid Abdullah Mohammed Shehab	23	Gaza	Media Agency 24	09 July 2014	Gaza
17.	Khalid Riyad Hamad	25	Gaza	Continue Media Agency	20 July 2014	Gaza
18.	Rami Fathi Raiyan	25	Gaza	A freelance journalist	30 July 2014	Gaza
19.	Sameh Mohammed al-Eryan	29	Gaza	Al-Aqsa Satellite Channel	30 July 2014	Gaza
20.	Mohammed Nour Eiden al-Dairi	26	Gaza	Palestine Network for Press and Media	30 July 2014	Gaza
21.	Abdullah Nasser Fahjan	21	Rafah	Al-Aqsa Satellite Channel	01 August 2014	Rafah

Appendix (2): Israeli Attacks on Media Workers 28 September 2000 – 31 December 2015

Type of attack	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Shooting resulting in death	-	2	3	2	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	4	-	6	-	21
Shooting resulting in injuries	22	33	34	8	18	7	26	28	29	23	46	30	29	29	36	59	460
Shooting without causing casualties	4	17	17	6	11	-	3	7	10	10	11	1	15	34	9	-	160
Beating and humiliation	9	30	24	9	13	25	40	30	16	20	40	9	10	8	16	25	338
Arrest, detention or interrogation	1	16	62	21	24	23	22	27	37	18	54	17	15	31	38	14	435
Denial of access to certain areas	2	3	2	5	3	3	4	15	17	23	46	31	7	12	1	1	178
Confiscation of media equipment	4	5	32	7	2	-	2	1	6	11	18	8	7	5	3	-	115
Attacks on media institutions	4	10	33	4	6	3	8	7	13	6	-	-	6	-	4	4	111
Denial of travel	-	-	-	5	1	2	-	2	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	2	17
House raids	-	-	4	3	1	-	2	1	3	1	3	4	2	4	4	6	38
Total	46	116	211	70	80	63	107	118	133	114	219	103	95	123	100	-	1837



Funded by the EU

This report was funded by the European Union. The report contents are of the PCHR responsibility and does not reflect in any form the European Union's opinion.