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Introduction

Israeli forces continued its systematic attacks against local and international media workers¹ covering incidents in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) despite the protection which journalists enjoy 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 19th 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 2016 - 31 March 2017 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 inflicting casualties. 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 that Israeli forces continued their attacks against journalists and local and international media personnel. 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. Furthermore, the report also shows the increasing raids of media offices and homes of journalists and closure of a number of them under the pretext of incitement against Israel in addition to continuing to close TV Satellite Channels following the Israeli Security Cabinet's decision on 10 March 2016 to close radio stations and satellite channels under the pretext of “incitement against Israel”.

This report also shows the escalating arrests of Palestinians, including media personnel, in the West Bank, especially in occupied Jerusalem, claiming that they published incitement materials on social media. During the reporting period, PCHR documented many of similar cases, including children who were convicted and sentenced for many months in prison on these grounds.

PCHR has documented (57³) attacks by Israeli forces against media and were as follows:

- ⇒ 11 shooting incidents, during which 15 journalists were wounded;
- ⇒ 3 cases in which 4 journalists were subjected to beating and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment;
- ⇒ 17 cases in which journalists were arrested and detained;
- ⇒ 7 cases in which journalist were from practicing their job and covering incidents;
- ⇒ 13 cases in which media offices were raided or searched;

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.

³ There are dozens of cases documented by PCHR related to prosecuting Palestinians on grounds of expressing their opinion on social media. PCHR was able to highlight some of these cases in this report.

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⇒ One case in which press cards of journalists were confiscated; and

⇒ 2 cases in which Israeli forces banned printing newspapers in the West Bank.

According to PCHR's documentation, between 28 September 2000 and 31 March 2017, Israeli forces carried out 1,756 attacks against journalists. It should be noted that there are hundreds of other attacks not documented; in addition to shooting incidents which resulted in the killing of journalists as illustrated in Table (1). The Israeli attacks against journalists between 28 September 2000 and 31 March 2017⁴ were as follows:

- 21 cases of killing⁵ (a violation of the right to life and personal safety);
- 501 cases, in which journalists sustained various wounds;
- 328 cases in which Israeli forces beat journalists and subjected them to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment;
- 437 cases in which journalists were arrested and detained;
- 182 cases in which journalists were denied their right to practice their job;
- 112 cases in which press cards and media equipment and material were confiscated;
- 16 cases in which journalists were denied their right to travel;
- 38 cases in which houses of journalists were raided.

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 committed by Israeli forces against journalists.

⁴ See Table (2) in the report.

⁵ 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 2017. Review annex (1): "Table of Journalists Killed While on Duty".

Section I: International Standards Regulating 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 legal texts that guarantee these rights because they are 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."*

Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 19 in the 1966 ICCPR

"Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference."

"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."

1977 Protocol Additional (I) to the Geneva Conventions

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 Facilities as Civilian Objects

Radio and television facilities are civilian objects and as such enjoy general protection. The prohibition on attacking civilian objects has been firmly established in international humanitarian law since the beginning of the twentieth century and was reaffirmed in 1977 Protocol I and in the Statute of the International Criminal Court. Media should meet the same Conditions applied to civilian objects in order to be considered as civilian objects as attacks against which are prohibited.

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

Israeli forces continued their systematic attacks against media workers covering incidents in the oPt. Despite the protection granted for media workers according to the international law, Israel still escalates its grave violations against them. These violations included threatening journalists' personal safety within a systemic campaign to isolate the oPt from the whole world and to cover up the Israeli crimes against civilians.

During the reporting period, it was notable that Israel escalated arrests and trials of civilians, including journalists on grounds of incitement against Israeli forces on social media. Moreover, Israel conspicuously closed printing houses under the pretext of inciting violence against the Israeli forces. This escalation came following the Israeli Security Cabinet's decision on 10 March 2016 to close Palestinian radio stations and satellite channels under the pretext of incitement against Israel on social media. As a result, many radio stations and printing houses were closed in the West Bank in addition to arresting and prosecuting dozens of civilians for varying periods under the pretext of practicing incitement against Israel on social media.

During the reporting period, the Israeli forces committed more attacks against journalists in the oPt to prevent them from covering and conveying the Israeli continuous crimes against Palestinian civilians and their property. The most prominent incidents occurred when journalists were on duty, including covering peaceful demonstrations organized by 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. Moreover, many other incidents occurred in different areas such as shooting incidents; closing roads; Israeli bombing, house demolitions and etc. Those attacks included attacking journalists' personal safety; subjecting them to beating and violence or inhuman and degrading treatment; detaining and arresting journalists, banning them from covering the incidents; raiding and closing media offices and radio and TV stations; and closing printing houses and media facilities under the pretext of incitement.

1. Violation of the Right to Life and Personal Safety

In this report, PCHR documented the continued Israeli crimes violating Journalists' right to life and personal safety, including shooting incidents which led to variously wounding journalists while on duty. In the same context, PCHR documented 15 cases in which journalists sustained various wounds; 8 of them sustained rubber-coated metal bullet wounds; 4 of them were hit with sound bombs; and the 3 others were wounded after being directly hit with tear gas canisters. The cases were as follows:

1. On 26 April 2016, Sa'ed al-Hawari, Reuters' cameraman, was hit with a tear gas canister to the chest while covering a protest organized against the arrest of Omer Nazzal, Member of the General Secretariat of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, in front of 'Ofer Prison, southwest of Ramallah.
2. On 03 May 2016, 3 journalists sustained wounds while covering a protest organized by dozens of Palestinian journalists in front of "Ofer" prison, southwest of Ramallah, against the arrest of Palestinian journalists in the Israeli jails on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day.

Mohamed Abu Shusha, Photojournalist at al-Roya Jordanian TV said that:

"On 03 May 2016, dozens of Palestinian journalists gathered in front of "Ofer" prison, southwest of Ramallah, to organize a protest against the arrest of Palestinian journalists in the Israeli jails on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day. An Israeli officer from the Border Guard forces came from 'Ofer and threatened us to leave the area. He deliberately then fired sound bombs at us although we were wearing the press uniform and holding cameras. As a result, I was hit with a sound bomb to the

back and right hand, feeling so much pain. Moreover, my colleague Ali 'Abidat (33), who works as a photographer at Emirates News 24, was hit with a sound bomb to the left thigh while Zahir Abu Hussain (40), who works as a photographer at the Public Relations' Department in the Fatah movement, was hit with a sound bomb to the right ankle. We were all then taken via civilian cars to a governmental medical complex in Ramallah for medical treatment. The medical crew at the hospital performed for them medical tests and X-ray. It was found out that I sustained wounds to me right hand and back as well as my colleagues. After finishing the medical treatment, we left the complex."

3. On 06 May 2017, two Palestinian journalists were wounded by Israeli forces while covering the weekly demonstration in Kufur Qaddoum village, northeast of Qalqiliya, in protest against closing that entrance since 2000 with an iron gate. The Israeli forces fired bullets and tear gas canisters at them. As a result, 3 civilians sustained wounds, including 2 journalists identified as Ahmed Abdul Malek Ibrahim 'Othman Shawar (29), Reporter at the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), who sustained a metal bullet wound to the left hand and Mothana Sameer Abdullah al-Deek (27), photojournalist at TransMedia Company, who sustained 2 metal bullet wounds to the right leg and 2 others to the left hand.

Al-Deek said to PCHR's fieldworker that:

"Following Friday prayer, a demonstration made its way from Kafur Qaddoum village, in protest of closing the village entrance. During which, Israeli forces heavily fired live bullets and tear gas canisters at the demonstrators. We were ten journalists, so we went to the opposite side for fear of being hit with the bullets. One of the metal bullets hit my camera tripod. The clashes calmed down for a while, but then intensified and Israeli backups arrived at the scene. One of the Israeli soldiers topped a military jeep and directly opened fire at the journalists. The Israeli soldiers also fired tear gas canisters at us, so I was hit with one of the canisters to my right leg. Journalist Ahmed Shawar was beside me and I told him that I was wounded and he tried to carry me. Meanwhile, I was again wounded with a metal bullet to my left thigh and 2 metal bullets to my left shoulder. My colleagues took me to the ambulance, where I was offered first aid. I then returned to the Company's car and travelled it. It should be noted that the abovementioned journalist Shawar, was also hit with metal bullets to his leg and hand."

Ahmed Abdul Malek Shawar said to PCHR's fieldworker:

"Following the Friday prayer, on 06 May 2016, while I was covering the protest in Kafur Qaddoum village, along with my colleagues, including journalist Mothana al-Deek, Israeli soldiers arrived at the area and then fired metal bullets. As a result, I was hit with a rubber-coated metal bullet to my left hand and then taken to an ambulance to receive medical treatment. When I received the medical treatment, I returned again to the area in order to look for my microphone which I lost it. When I headed there, I found that the clashes again erupted between Palestinian young men and the Israeli soldiers, who were firing rubber-coated metal bullets. During which, I was hit with a rubber-coated metal bullet to my left leg and could not leave the area to receive medical treatment. After that, An Israeli jeep entered and heavily fired tear gas canisters from a launcher fixed on it, so I sustained serious wounds throughout my body. I was hit with 2 rubber-coated metal bullets to the upper part of my body while a bullet hit the lower part of my body. After that, I received medical treatment on the spot."

4. On 19 May 2016, journalist 'Emad Jebreel was hit with a tear gas canister while covering clashes erupted between Palestinian young men and Israeli forces in Taqqou' village, east of Bethlehem. Jebreel was then taken to hospital in order to receive medical treatment.
5. On 27 June 2016, Osaid 'Amarnah, a freelance photojournalist, was hit with a rubber-coated metal bullet while covering clashes erupted between Palestinian young men and Israeli forces in al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem.

Osaid 'Amarnah (32), a freelance photojournalist, said to PCHR's fieldworker that:

"I was at Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem in Ramadan, particularly on Monday morning, covering the settlers' raids into the mosque to provoke worshippers in Ramdan. The worshipers were angry at those intrusions. There were media crews and photographers covering the seclusion "Itikaaf "of a number of Palestinian young men at the Al-Aqsa Mosque and their attempts to confront the settlers' raids into the mosque. On the same day, at approximately 09:00 or 10:00, a large number of Israeli settlers raided al-Aqsa Mosque under the protection of Israeli forces. During which, the worshipers immediately encountered them. Violent confrontations erupted between the worshipers and Israeli forces, who attacked and surrounded the secluded persons for around 4 hours. In the meantime, the Israeli forces fired tear gas canisters and rubber-coated metal bullets at the worshipers and pointed their firearms at the media crews. Moreover, the Israeli forces beat my colleague Ahmed Jaradat, who works as a reporter at Palestine Today TV, causing him bruises. I was also hit with a rubber-coated metal bullet to the left side of shoulder. Ahmed Jaradat and I received medical treatment on the spot. I suffered for 3 days consecutively because of my wound."

6. On 02 September 2016, journalist Nidal Ishtaya (42), from Salem village, east of Nablus, was hit with a gas canister to the back of his head. As a result, his helmet was smashed and he sustained wounds to the head. The aforementioned person was wounded when he was covering Kufor Qaddoum weekly protest, northeast of Qalqiliya.

Ishtaya said to PCHR's fieldworker that:

"Following the Friday prayer, at approximately 13:15 on 02 September 2016, a weekly demonstration made its way from Kafur Qaddoum village towards "Kedumim" settlement established on the village's lands. Since I work as a photojournalist at the Chinese News Agency, I was wearing my helmet and a flak vest at the demonstration and started covering along with other journalists. Five minutes later, a skunk carrying vehicle arrived at the area and then sprayed wastewater at the demonstrators. As a result, we fled to hide behind the demonstrators, who threw stones at the vehicle. There was a group of Israeli soldiers stationed 100 meters away from the vehicle, but they did not do anything. We were 20 meters away from the demonstrators taking photos of them and the skunk carrying vehicle. After that, the Israeli forces intervened and fired a tear gas canister that fell behind the protesters and journalists. I then turned along with other journalists to see the tear gas canister while I was wearing my gas mask. As I was turning, I was surprised by a teargas canister in the back of my helmet. As result, my helmet was damaged, and my head was wounded, causing a swelling in it and in my ear and both were bleeding. My colleagues then took me to an ambulance belonging to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS), where I fainted and woke up to find myself in the Emergency Department in Rafidia Hospital. Following the medical checkup, it was found out that there is a bleeding under the helmet."

7. On 23 December 2016, Mohamed Shoushah (33), a photojournalist at Roya TV, was hit with a sound bomb in Bethlehem, while covering a peaceful demonstration near Rachel's Tomb, north of Bethlehem near the annexation wall.

Mohamed Jaber Shoushah (33), from al-Birh city, said that,

"I headed to Bethlehem along with my colleagues to Bethlehem in order to cover a peaceful demonstration. The demonstrators were wearing Santa Claus clothes coinciding with Christmas. The protesters wanted to convey a message to the whole world that restrictions imposed by the Israeli forces against Palestinians prevent them from celebrating and being happy, noting that the protestors had gifts to give them to the children. It should be noted that the demonstration was in Rachel's Tomb area, north of Bethlehem, near the annexation wall. At approximately 14:00, the protesters gathered, so around 20 Israeli Border Guard officers and members of private security companies arrived at the area. Around four minutes later, the Israeli forces fired live bullets, sound bombs and tear-gas canisters at the

protesters. In the meantime, I was interviewing a person and wearing my press uniform. Suddenly, I heard the sound of firing a sound bomb and surprisingly found it under my legs and exploded. As a result, I fell into the ground and was then taken via an ambulance belonging to the Medical Relief to the governmental hospital in Bethlehem to receive medical treatment. The medical report showed that there were second-degree burns in both feet. This injury prevented me from practicing my work for 17 days as I was lying in the house unable to move."

8. On 04 November 2016, Nedal Ishtayeh (45), a photojournalist at the Chinese news Agency from Salem village, east of Nablus, was hit by Israeli forces with a rubber-coated metal bullet to the back while covering the Kofor Qadom weekly demonstration in protest against closing that entrance since al-Aqsa Intifada with an iron gate. When the protesters approached the entrance, Israeli forces fired rubber-coated metal bullets, sound bombs and tear gas canisters at the Palestinian civilians, wounding 3 of them, including journalist Nidal, were wounded.
9. On 10 February 2017, Nidal Ishtayeh (45), a photojournalist in the Xinhua – China News Agency, and Ayman al-Nobani (32), a reporter at the Palestinian News Agency (Wafa), were both wounded while covering the weekly protest in Kafr Qadum, northeast of Qalqilya. Moreover, Israeli forces beat up a volunteer journalist in B'tselem Center identified as Ahmed Ziyadah (26). The latter was beaten up by the Israeli soldiers when he was taking photos of the lands seized and planted with grapes by settlers, south of his village. Although he showed his Press Card and volunteer card at "B'tselem Center", the Israeli forces pushed him to the ground, stepped on his head, arrested and handcuffed Ahmed with plastic straps to the back while he was lying on the ground.
10. On 03 March 2017, Ahmed 'Abdel Malek Ibrahim 'Othman Shawar (30), reporter at PBC, was hit with a metal bullet to the forehead after the Israeli forces opened fire at him. The abovementioned was wounded while covering the weekly Kafr Qaddoum protest, northeast of Qalqilya,.

Ahmed Shawar said to PCHR's fieldworker that:

"At approximately 12:00 on Friday, 03 March 2017, I went to Kufor Qaddoum village, to cover the weekly protest. I was taking photos via my cell phone camera before the protest started. Suddenly, the soldiers came from all sides. Three angry soldiers came close to me, and one of them attempted to take my phone by force and almost broke it. The soldier then took it, forced me to open the lock and then deleted the video that I took. When the journalists and I were near the protest area, the clashes escalated. I was surprisingly hit with a metal bullet that hit my forehead though I was wearing a press uniform and bulletproof jacket, but the soldiers directly opened fire at me. I was then transferred to Dr. Darwish Nazzal Hospital to receive medical treatment, and my face only needed one stitch."

11. On 13 March 2017, Bashar Mahmoud Nazal Saleh (40), a photojournalist at the PBC, sustained a metal bullet to the right leg. Bashar was wounded while covering the weekly Kafur Qaddoum protest, northeast of Qalqilya, when the Israeli forces directly fired rubber-coated metal bullets, tear gas canisters and sound bombs at the protesters.

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

PCHR documented 3 cases in which 4 journalists were subjected to beating and other forms of violence and inhumane and degrading treatment by Israeli forces and settlers. Those attacks were as follows:

1. On 27 June 2016, Ahmed Jaradat, a reporter at Palestine Today Channel, was beaten up by Israeli soldiers while covering clashes erupted between Palestinian young men and Israeli forces when Israeli settlers raided al-Aqsa Mosque.

According to an Eyewitness, Osaid Abed al-Majeed 'Amarnah (32), a freelance journalist, said about the attack against his colleague that,

"... During that, the Israeli forces fired tear-gas canisters and rubber-coated metal bullets at Palestinian worshipers and pointed their firearms at the press crews. They also kicked and beat up my colleague Ahmed Jaradat, a reporter at Palestine Today Channel, so he sustained bruises. Furthermore, I was hit with a rubber-coated metal bullet to the shoulder in the left side, and we both were treated on the spot in the mosque..."

2. On 05 January 2017, Israeli forces beat up Amoun al- Sheikh, a reporter at Palestine Today Channel, and Muthana Sameer al-Deek, a photojournalist at "Trans Media" Agency, while both were covering a peaceful demonstration in the Northern Valley, east of Tubas, in protest against settlements. Due to the beating, al-Deek was taken by an ambulance to Tubas Turkish Hospital where he underwent medical examinations. Al-Deek was then transferred to 'Arab Specialist Hospital in Nablus because his condition was serious.

Journalist Muthana Sameer Abdullah al-Deek said to PCHR's fieldworker,

"I was traveling my car along with journalist Amoun al-Sheikh behind the demonstration at the intersection of Street (90). We were surprised with the Israeli forces stepping out of their jeeps stationed in the center of the street, banning the demonstrators from moving forward. When the demonstrators stepped out of their cars raising Palestinian flags, the Israeli soldiers immediately fired tear gas canisters at them. In the meantime, al-Sheikh and I were standing about 3 meters away from the soldiers and demonstrators to cover the incidents. When a soldier saw us, he threw a tear gas canister at us, hitting my right hand. As a result, both of us sustained tear gas inhalation. A soldier, who was holding a baton, rushed towards us and hit al-Sheikh on her abdomen and pushed her. He then hit me several times on the abdomen, so the camera fell off to the ground. When I attempted to carry the camera, the soldier continued beating me on my abdomen and pushing me. The soldier then pushed both of us into our car and closed its door. Despite my severe pain, I drove my car a hundred meters until we moved away from the soldiers. I told Amoun I cannot drive out of pain, so she stepped out of the car and headed to the ambulances, telling them about my condition. A PRCS ambulance took me to Tubas Turkish Hospital where I underwent medical examinations. I was then transferred to Arab Specialist Hospital in Nablus to be under observation due to my serious health condition and stayed there until 18:00 when I decided to leave Against Medical Advice (AMA)."

3. On 10 February 2017, Israeli forces wounded 2 Palestinian civilians from Madama village, south of Nablus. According to PCHR's investigations, journalist Ahmed Abdul Ghani Salim Ziyadah (26), from Madama, south of Nablus, was taking photos of the lands seized and planted with vineyards by Israeli settlers, south of his village. The Israeli soldiers then stopped him and started heavily beating him and stepping on his head though Ahmed showed them his press card and volunteer card in the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories B'Tselem. They then arrested and tied him with plastic wires while he was lying on the ground.

3. Detention and Arrests against Journalists

During the reporting period, around (17) journalists, including a female journalist, were detained or arrested by the Israeli forces. PCHR documented many cases of detaining or arresting journalists whether

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on duty or from their own houses following raiding and searching them on grounds of being a journalist. The arrests and detention were as follows:

1- On 05 April 2016, Israeli forces raided and searched a house belonging to Diala Juwaihah, a reporter for al-Hayat Newspaper and website, in al-Thawri neighborhood, south of occupied Jerusalem. They handed her a summons to refer to al-Maskobiya police station to question her.

Diala stated to PCHR's fieldworker that,

"On 05 April 2016, Israeli forces raided my family house in al-Thawri neighborhood and handed me a summons to refer to al-Maskobiya police station at approximately 10:00 on Sunday, for interrogation without giving any explanation. She added that I along with lawyer Mofeed al-Haj attended the investigation, which started from 10:00 to end at 14:30. The investigation was about clarifying my workplace and they asked me about accurate details on grounds that my articles are considered "inciteful" and not within the scope of journalism. During the investigation, they focused an activity organized by Fatah Movement that I covered on planting olive trees bearing the names of 47 victims of the current Palestinian Intifada. The investigation ended with the word "watch out" without any explanation, and I was then released."

2- On 10 April 2016, Israeli forces raided and searched a family house belonging to Journalist Samah Duwaik (25) in al-'Amoud neighborhood, east of occupied Jerusalem's Old City. They confiscated her cell phones and PCs and then arrested Samah, taking her to an unknown destination. It should be mentioned that Samah works at al-Quds Network and prepares reports for a number of websites. Moreover, the Israeli forces put her name on the blacklist that includes names of those denied access to al-Aqsa Mosque for months. On 18 July 2016, Samah was accused of inciting against the Israeli authorities on social media, so a Military Court sentenced her to 6 months in prison to place Samah. On 19 September 2016, she was released.

Samah's sister, Israa' Duwaik, said to PCHR's fieldworker that, *" At approximately 09:20 on Sunday, 10 April 2016, Israeli Border Guard officers accompanied with Israeli Intelligence Service officers raided and searched our house. They confiscated our cell phones and PCs. They also confiscated my graduation certificates and other certificates honoring Samah as a journalist. She added that the Israeli forces did not allow Samah's family to visit her as she was in al-Ramlah prison. They also prevented our family from talking to Samah inside the court. The Israeli forces also prevented us from entering clothes for Samah or providing her with women's needs, despite she needs them."*

3- On 23 April 2016, Israeli forces stationed at al-Karama (Allenby) border crossing arrested photojournalist Omer Nazzal when he was on his way to participate in the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) Conference in Bosnia. On 02 May, the Israeli Ofer military Court sentenced him to 4-month- administrative detention ending on 22 August. On 22 August, the court extended the administrative detention for 3 other months. On 21 November, the court also extended the detention without identifying the period. The Israeli forces' spokesperson said that Nazaal was arrested on grounds of his affiliation with "a terrorist organization".

4- On 03 August 2016, Israeli forces detained journalist Shadi Hatem, a photojournalist at Raya Media Network, for two hours and then released him. Shadi was covering peaceful assembly organized by civilians and journalists near "Ofer" prison, west of Ramallah, in solidarity with hunger striking prisoner Bilal Kayed in the Israeli jails. In the meantime, clashes erupted between the young men and Israeli soldiers, who fired sound bombs and tear gas canisters at them. No casualties were reported.

5- On 01 September 2016, Israeli forces moved into Zaboubah village, southwest of Jenin. They patrolled the village streets and arrested journalist Samer Izz al-Deen Sha'abnah (26) and lawyer Omar Khalid Ibrahim Jamal (29) when they were in front of Samer's house. At approximately 15:40

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on Friday, 02 September 2016, Israeli forces released the abovementioned persons near al-Jalamah checkpoint, northeast of Jenin. It should be noted that Sha'abnah is a reporter at Donia al-Watan New Website.

- 6- On 31 August 2017, Israeli forces arrested five journalists at the Sanabel Radio Station in Dura city in Hebron. The journalists were identified as: Montasir Nassar, Mohammed Akram Omran, Nidal Amro, Hamed Namoura and the Radio Director Ahmed Samih Darwish. On 27 September 2016, the arrested journalists were subjected to trial on grounds of their press and media work. The court extended their detention.
- 7- On 20 September 2016, Israeli forces raided and searched a house belonging to journalist Mos'ab Zayoud (34), who works as a reporter at Donia al-Watan and Ramallah Mix Agencies. They confiscated his cell phones and a memory card. At approximately 05:30, the Israeli forces arrested Mos'ab and later withdrew taking him to an unknown destination. A week later, Mos'ab was released.
- 8- On 03 November 2016, Israeli forces arrested Dr. Khalid Ameen Ma'ali, from Salfit, and asked him about his membership in the EFJ and about publishing inciting materials on Facebook. The Israeli authorities released Ma'ali one week later, but refused to return the international card for him.

Ma'ali said to PCHR's fieldworker that,

"At approximately 02:00 on Thursday, 03 November 2016, I was arrested and taken to Ariel Police Station, where an Israeli officer questioned me and told me that I was arrested on charges of inciting on Facebook. They then took me to the prison. I refused his charges and told him I work as a journalist and in journalism you find what you would agree or disagree with. He also asked me about my membership in the EFJ, and I told him that I am the Director of al-Sahel Press Office, which is an office licensed by the Palestinian authority. I also told him that I hold a PhD in Media from The Hague University in the Netherlands. The officer showed me 11 papers, including 4 personal photos of me, taken from Facebook. I told them, my Facebook account has been hacked several times and there is no incitement by me on Facebook, and all the quotations that I posted were either written by others or by the Israeli media. At the end of investigation, I denied the charge of incitement on Facebook and I said that what I did falls within the law and even the Israeli law of the Israel and within the professional standards. The investigator did not give me my press card neither after the investigation ended nor after I was released via the safety department at Megiddo Prison. The card is so far held by the Israeli forces. I was released at the third hearing in Salem Court on several conditions, including handing over several press equipment belonging to me to the Ariel police station, paying NIS7,000 before releasing me, and banning me from working on internet and Facebook for one month from the date of release. This caused me great financial loss as I mainly rely on my income from journalism and not on the other income."

- 9- On 09 November 2016, Israeli forces moved into Hebron and stationed in Hawouz area. They raided and searched a house belonging to photojournalist Nidal Mahmoud Abed al-Hafeez Ashmar (27) and arrested him.
- 10- On 08 December 2016, Israeli forces raided and searched Elia Youth Media institution office on Salah al-Din Street. They confiscated 3 PC sets and some files. They also arrested journalist Lama Hani Ghosheh (25) and interrogated her about her activity. Lama was later released.

Lama said to PCHR's fieldworker that

"At approximately 11:40, I was along with my colleague Yasmeen 'Adliyah in the institution near the gate when we were surprised with Israeli special forces and Israeli Intelligence officers surrounding us. They then forced us to go with them to Elia Youth Media institution office in order to open it and the

soldiers search. However, we refused to open the office, so they broke the lock and then raided the institution. They damaged the office contents and confiscated 3 PC sets and some papers. After that, they arrested and took me to al-Maskobiya police station in Jerusalem, where they questioned me about my work. They asked me why I say “the Occupying State” in your reports. You do not live in an occupying state; you are a citizen in the State of Israel and holding the blue Israeli ID card. The investigator asked me who writes my reports and who helps me in preparing them, and I replied that I do them myself, and only my intuition and professionalism guide me.”

- 11- On 15 January 2017, Israeli forces arrested journalist Mohammad al-Qeeq, former head of Birzeit University Student Council, after being detained for more than three hours at the Beit Eil Checkpoint, north of Ramallah. After his arrest, al-Qeeq began a hunger strike to protest against the arrest and after 2 days suspended the strike, waiting for his trial after two days. Israeli authorities extended his detention and referred him to administrative detention. Al-Qeeq is so far under arrest and declared his hunger strike⁶ after being referred to administrative detention. After 33 days, he ended his strike following an agreement with the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) not to renew his administrative detention after 14 April 2017. The Israeli forces did not release him on time and the Military Court set a date for taking a decision after 18 April 2017.
- 12- On 11 March 2017, Israeli forces arrested journalist Mos’ab Ibrahim Sa’ied (28), after they moved into Birzeit, north of Ramallah. Sa’ied is so far under arrest.
- 13- In the afternoon of 15 March 2017, the Israeli authorities arrested journalist Samah Doweik from her house in Ras al-‘Amoud neighborhood. They searched her house and confiscated some of its contents. It should be noted that Samah was previously arrested and served 6 months in the Israeli jails on charge of inciting on Facebook⁷. Samah is so far under arrest.

⁶ Al-Qeeq declared an open hunger strike for 94 days in protest against referring him to administrative detention last year.

⁷See details, p. (22), paragraph (d) Trials on grounds of expressing opinion on social media.

4. Trials on Grounds of opinion Expression on Social Media

During the reporting period, the Israeli forces arrested a number of civilians on grounds of expressing their opinions on social media and brought them to trial under the pretext of incitement against Israel⁸. PCHR documented dozens of such trials, including journalists; most of the cases were in East Jerusalem. Amjad Abu 'Asab, Head of Jerusalem Committee for Families of Prisoners, said that until mid-2016, the number of the arrestees on this ground reached 80 and would double at the end of this year as it has become impossible to count the number of arrestees on this ground. Moreover, those arrests included children and young men who were later released from prison and to be under house arrest. Those young men were denied from using cell phones or even speaking with others on social media. Meanwhile, some activists and members of various movements were sentenced to imprisonment for periods ranging from 9 months to one year.⁹ The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On 24 April 2016, Israeli forces arrested Emad al-Barghouthi (54), professor and lecturer in al-Quds University from Beit Rima village, west of Ramallah, after they detained him at al-Nabi Saleh Checkpoint, west of Ramallah. The Israeli 'Ofer Military Court sentenced al-Barghouthi to 3-month imprisonment and then minimized it to 2 months on charges of incitement on Facebook. On 10 May 2016, 'Ofer Court issued a 7-month sentence of actual confinement starting from the date of his arrest in addition forcing him to pay a fine of NIS 2000. Al-Barghouthi was released on 04 November 2016 after serving his sentence.
2. On 15 May 2016, Salem Military Court issued a sentence against Sami Sa'ed al-Saa'ie (35), from Tulkarm, to 9 months in prison and suspended sentence of 12 months during 3 years. The court accused him of incitement on Facebook. On 09 March 2016, the Israeli forces arrested al-Saa'ie from his house in Tulkarm after questioning him on the spot. They searched the house and then took al-Saa'ie to Howarah military camp in Nablus. It should be noted that al-Saa'ie is an editor in al-Fajer TV in Tulkarm and worked before as an editor and reporter for some Palestinian websites. The Israeli forces arrested him in 1997 and released after he served a sentence of 4 months in the Israeli jails. He was released on 17 November 2016 after serving his sentence.

⁸ It should be noted that the Israeli government and Facebook officials agreed to monitor and control the Palestinian content on its pages and to remove pages and accounts that post inciting contents. A number of accounts belonging to admins and reporters of famous Facebook pages that include millions of followers from all over the world were closed. During 2015, the Israeli forces arrested and accused 30 Palestinians of posting inciting contents against Israel. Those arrested were sentenced to imprisonment for different periods. However, this year witnessed double the number in addition to the arrests of around 150 persons that ended up with paying bail, banning them from using the Internet, and house arrest.

⁹ Abu Asab mentioned that the first sentence issued against a person accused of incitement was against Omer al-Shalabi, former Secretary of Fatah Movement-Jerusalem, who served 9 months in prison along with 7 others of his friends affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Hamas. Omer and the others were accused of incitement against Israel and supporting the Palestinian resistance. Mohammed 'Azzam al-Natsha, from al-Salam Suburb ('Inata), north of Jerusalem, was the first one to be arrested on this ground in 2014. Mohammed was accused of posting on his Facebook page saying: "O Allah, grant me martyrdom in al-Aqsa Mosque". The Israeli forces claimed that perhaps al-Natsha was planning to carry out an attack against the Israeli forces. Moreover, 'Odai Sunoqrot, from Jerusalem's Old City, was arrested after posting on his Facebook page: "Oh Allah grant us an army like Salah Eden's", while another civilian namely 'Odai al-Bayoumi, from Jerusalem's Old City, was sentenced to 7-month imprisonment. Furthermore, the arrest campaign included female journalists and Morabitat (Al-Aqsa Mosque female guardians), who were accused of incitement on social media, and served a sentence of 3 months in prison. One of those female arrestees was Jerusalemite journalist Samah al-Dweik and Sahar al-Natsha from Beit Hanina, north of Jerusalem. It should be noted that Sahar was one of the most prominent Morabitat in al-Aqsa before she was on the list of the Morabitat banned from entering al-Aqsa mosque.

Al-Saa'i said to PCHR's fieldworker:

"At approximately 02:30 on Wednesday, 09 March 2016, I was asleep when I heard a sound of heavy knocks on the door. I was surprised that a group of Israeli soldiers came with my brother Osama (42) to my house searching for me. The soldiers searched the house and asked me some questions to confirm it was me. In the meantime, they stole my wife's cellphone claiming she was taking photos and until now did not bring it back. They then handcuffed and blindfolded me, taking me to al-Tibah crossing. I stayed there lying on the ground until at approximately 10:00 on the next day. The soldiers then took me to Howarah military camp where I stayed for one day and then was transported to Salem military camp. I stayed there for 11 days during which I went to the court for interrogation and then extension of my detention. After that, I was transferred to Megiddo prison where I stayed for 4 days. After that, I was then taken along with 4 young men to a room with surveillance cameras for 6 days. After being subjected to 4 investigation sessions, I entered the prison. The investigation was about my posts on Facebook. I was threatened to admit owning the page or denying that which might lead to administrative detention. However, I admitted so. According to this, I was actually sentenced to 9 months with a suspended sentence of 12 months during 3 years."

1. On 16 May 2016, the Israeli Court issued an actual imprisonment of 9 months in addition to imposing a fine of NIS 2,500 against Ghaith Ghaith after accusing him of incitement on Facebook. Ghaith was arrested on 20 March 2016 from his house in Jerusalem's Old City.
2. On 27 May 2016, the Israeli Magistrate Court in occupied Jerusalem issued an actual imprisonment of 8 months against 'Odai Rebhi Sa'ad Edeen Sunoqrot (24) after accusing him of incitement on Facebook.
3. On 18 July 2016, the Israeli military court accused the Jerusalemite journalist Samah 'Alaa' Eden Jamil Duwaik (25) of incitement on Facebook and sentenced her to 6 months.¹⁰
4. On 06 December 2016, the Israeli police launched a wide-scale campaign of raids and arrests in neighborhoods in the east of East Jerusalem. They arrested 6 Palestinians on charge of incitement on violence and terrorism on Facebook and Instagram. According to the Israeli police claims, the arrested young men published several posts on Instagram and Facebook that incite violence and support a banned organization. Thousands of followers commented and liked those posts according to the Israeli police statement. The campaign included raiding houses of the abovementioned civilians and confiscated PCs and cell phones. The police also said in its statement that they aim at ending incitement which according to them poses more threat than the direct support of the terrorist attacks because it widely spreads and might influence the attackers. The police added that since October 2015 when the wave of attacks started, the Israeli forces monitored social media looking for indicators of extremism or incitement as many attackers published posts of their intentions before carrying out their attacks while others said they were affected by the calls for violence they saw on social media.

¹⁰ Review details under the title of arrest and detention of journalists page 12.

PCHR was able to identify the targeted young men: Jihad 'Amirah (20) and Amin Hamed, both from Sour Bahr village, south of East Jerusalem; Dawoud Mahmoud al-Ghoul (33), from Silwan village, south of Jerusalem's Old City; and Ahmed Salah (19) and Walid al-Rajbi (19) from Shu'fat refugee camp, north of Jerusalem's Old City. Those young men appeared before the Magistrate Court in the occupied city as the Israeli General prosecution in Jerusalem submitted an indictment against them, accusing them of "incitement on terrorism and violence and supporting banned organizations" after the Attorney General of Israel, "Aviha Mandelblit", approved their indictments.

5. Raiding, Destroying and Closing Media Institutions

PCHR documented several cases in which Israeli forces raided, searched and closed media institutions, including Radio stations and printing houses under the pretext of incitement or printing inciteful materials against Israel. This decision comes following the the Israeli Security Cabinet's decision on 10 March 2016 to close Palestinian radio stations and satellite channels under the pretext of incitement against Israel on social media. During the reporting period, PCHR documented the raid, destruction and closure of 11 media institutions, including 6 printing houses, a media institution and radio station. Moreover, a printing house and media institution were closed. These attacks were as follows:

1. On 31 August 2016, Israeli forces raided al-Sanabel Radio station, destroyed its contents, confiscated the equipment and closed the station for 3 months. The Israeli spokesperson said that closing the station was under the pretext of incitement against Israel. They also arrested 5 of its employees.¹¹
2. On 16 October 2016, Israeli forces accompanied with several military jeeps moved into Hebron. They patrolled the streets and then stationed on Salam Street in the center of the city. A number of soldiers raided and searched Infinity Printing House belonging to Nidal 'Omran al-Qawasmeh (40). The soldiers also confiscated all the contents of the printing house and later withdrew, but no arrests were reported. It should be noted that the Israeli forces confiscated all contents of the abovementioned printing house twice before.

Nidal al-Qawasmeh said to PCHR's fieldworker:

"I own Infinity Printing and Advertising Company on al-Salam Street in Hebron. Forty persons, including administrators and technicians, work in the company. The company deals with several printing houses because we have modern and high-tech printing machines, which are also expensive. At approximately 01:00 on 16 October 2016, I received a call from a friend telling me there are Israeli patrols attempting to open the company's door. I then called some employees, and we rushed to the company. When we arrived at the area, the Israeli forces prevented us from approaching. After they withdrew, we entered the company and found that the Israeli forces confiscated 4 PC; each of which costs about NIS14000, 20 PC hard desks, 7 hard desks of the printer, which we bought few days ago and costs about US\$ 200,000. It should be noted that this printer is one of its kind in the West Bank. The Israeli forces also confiscated other contents that cost about US\$7000 in addition to a DVR. After the confiscation and damage, our work was distributed for 3 weeks and the losses were estimated at about NIS 120,000. Since we resorted to the Israeli judiciary via ..., the court continues to delay under the pretext that the prosecution is looking for evidence."

1. On 20 October 2016, Israeli forces raided al-Rayan Printing House in al-Ram village, north of Jerusalem, after bursting the main doors and confiscating its equipment used for making banners. They welded the printing house door with oxygen and pinned a closure order under the pretext of finding indictment materials and banners in addition to pictures of Mesbah Abu Sbeih, who was

¹¹ Review the arrest details in page: 12

killed on 09 October 2016 after he carried out a shooting attack in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, north of occupied Jerusalem.

2. On 07 November 2016, Israeli forces moved into Hebron and stationed in al-Manarah area in the center of the city. They raided and searched Al-Manar Printing House for Advertising belonging to Rabe'i Mohammed al-Tardah (36) from Taffuh village, west of the city. They opened the doors with special equipment and then confiscated 3 hard desks from the main PCs used for design and advertising.

Khaled Mohammed al-Tardah (29), Rabe'i's brother, working in the printing house said to PCHR's fieldworker:

"At approximately 02:45 on Monday, 07 November 2016, I received a call from my brother Rabe'I telling that Israeli forces raided the printing house in al-Manarah market in the center of the city. When we arrived at the area, the Israeli soldiers withdrew. The outside door of the building was broken and so the company door. When we entered the office, all the advertising equipment was on the ground while the 3 main PCs were confiscated in addition to all the files in the office. We talked with some young men at the entrance of the building, and they confirmed that the Israeli forces established a checkpoint at al-Manara intersection and another at Eben Rushud Intersection entrance to prevent civilians' movement. They stayed in the printing house for an hour. All the printing work totally stopped, and the printing house suffered significant losses."

1. On 06 November 2017, Israeli forces moved into Beit Ummer village, north of Hebron. They raided and searched Dozan Printing House belonging to Hasan Faraj. Israeli soldiers blew up the printing house main door and then confiscated a PC set.
2. On 16 November 2017, Israeli forces moved into Ramallah. They raided a building in the center of the city where the Health Improvement Program's office is located. They damaged the office doors and contents. They confiscated some electronic devices and later withdrew.

Samar Mustafa Mohammed, Director of the Woman's Program at the office said to PCHR's fieldworker:

"At approximately 02:20 on 16 November 2016, Israeli forces raided and searched the Health Improvement Program's office in al-Ahliya College building in Ramallah al-Tahta. I was informed about the raid at approximately 07:00, so I went to the office and found everything upside down. The soldiers broke main doors in addition to 9 wooden and aluminum ones. They destroyed gypsum walls and chairs, confiscated the DVR and PCs, and damaged the alarm system. It should be noted that this office is specialized in the health studies and documents the Israeli violations of human rights..."

1. On 23 November 2016, Israeli forces raided and searched Asayel Yafa Printing House in Qalqiliyah belonging to Saber 'Ali Dawoud (40). They confiscated PCs, Hard desks and 3 passports.

Yasser (45), Saber's brother, mentioned in his statement later about raiding the printing house for the second time in addition to the first raid:

"...during the raid last month, the Israeli forces confiscated 3 passports, one belonging to my brother Saber and two for 2 traders as the three were planning to travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to attend a Chinese exhibition. We appealed the PA because the three were supposed to travel after three days. In the court hearing on Sunday, 25 November 2016, the inspector asked the judge to extend the period for another two weeks to check and carefully examine the devices and PCs. The judge replied that they confiscated the devices on 23 November 2016, and until now you don't have any proof, so why did they confiscate the printers?! Our lawyer requested to release the confiscated items on bail, but they refused. It should be noted that the printers are so expensive and 6 employees work in the printing

house. We also appealed the Palestinian security services to reopen the printing house, but they said that we should do it ourselves. We don't know the consequences and what we shall do."

1. On 08 December 2016, Israeli forces raided Elia for Media office in Saladin Street. They searched it and confiscated 3 PC sets and some papers. They then arrested journalist Lama Hani Ghousha (25), questioned her and later released her.¹²
2. On 22 December 2016, Israeli forces raided and searched a house belonging to Saber Mohammed 'Ali Abdul Fattah Dawoud (40), owner of Asayel Yafa Printing House, and then arrested him. They locked his brothers and their children in a house belonging to their brother Samer Dawoud. Around the same time, another Israeli force raided the abovementioned printing house. They confiscated 13 printers and 6 hard disks and then closed the printing house until 21 January 2017, on charges of printing incitement materials.

Yasser (45), brother of Saber Dawoud, said to PCHR's fieldworker that:

"At approximately 00:00 on Thursday, 22 December 2016, an Israeli force raided houses belonging to my brothers and me. They detained us in the house of our brother Samer and then brought my brother Saber, who owns the abovementioned printing house and arrested him. We received a phone call from the neighbors, who live near the printing house. They told us that the Israeli forces accompanied with winches raided the Printing house and confiscated its machines, computers and other contents. When we arrived at the area, the soldiers prevented us from entering. A video taken by the neighbors showed that the Israeli forces confiscated 13 machines, 6 hard desks and computers. After that, we were not able to enter the printing house because it was welded and closed. The video of the confiscation was also published by the Israeli forces showing a printer was broken after it fell off the winch which was carrying it. Moreover, at the outside entrance there was disassembled steel, which proves that the printers were destroyed. We did not see and do not know what happened inside and what is left."

1. On 12 January 2017, Israeli forces moved into Nablus in addition to Balatah and 'Askar refugee camps, east and northeast of the city. They raided and searched several houses and then arrested 'Atta Husain Hashash (24), from Balata refugee camp, and Murad 'Ali Abu Hadeeb (22), from 'Askar camp. Israeli forces also raided and searched Suwan Printing House in Osoul building on Najah National University Street, west of the city. They confiscated 8 hard desks, 12 memory cards, a PC and laptop. They left a signed list of the items confiscated from the abovementioned printing house and withdrew.
2. At approximately 03:00 on 29 January 2017, Israeli forces moved into Ramallah. They raided and searched al-Noor Printing House belonging to Ibrahim Husain Khalid Mustafa (42). They destroyed all its contents and confiscated some devices. They also raided his house in Mazare'i al-Nubani village, north of Ramallah. Moreover, the Israeli forces orally notified Ibrahim to refer to the Israeli Intelligence Service. At approximately 16:00 on Tuesday, the Israeli forces stationed at Ofer checkpoint, west of Ramallah, arrested the abovementioned civilian while referring to the Israeli Intelligence Service.

Ibrahim said to PCHR's fieldworker:

"I own al-Noor Printing House in the center of Ramallah on al-Nahdah Street near Walid al-Nather Hospital, and live in Mazare'i al-Nubani village, north of Ramallah. At approximately 02:30 on Sunday, 29 January 2017, I was outside my house when I received a phone call from an officer, who introduced himself as Captain Tariq from the Israeli forces, and he was calling from my house phone number in Mazare'i al-Nubani. He asked me where I was, and I answered that I was in Ramallah. He said "I will give you five minutes to come either to the house or the printing house or else I will start destroying both

¹² Review details page (9).

of them. I said I was busy, so I won't come. Tariq then said he will destroy the printing house and I told him to do what he wants. At approximately 03:00, I received a call from persons, who live near the printing house, informing me that the Israeli forces raided the printing house and broke its contents. After that I went to the area, but the Israeli forces were not there. They broke the devices, including 4 computers, 7 modern printing machines in addition to heavy machines. The losses were estimated at about NIS 540,000. At approximately 12:00 on Monday, 30 January 2017, I received a call from an officer, who identified himself as Ra'oof. He said, "Yesterday, we did not destroy your house, but today if you do not turn yourself in, we will destroy it." It should be noted that the printing house was only opened two months ago, and we print normal posters that do not threaten anyone and I don't know the reason behind threatening and summoning me."

1. On 06 February 2017, Israeli forces backed by 4 military jeeps moved into Hebron and stationed on al-Salam Street in the central city. They raided and searched the Infinity Advertising Company after they broke the main door. When Mo'taz al-Jo'bah, the owner of the company, arrived, the soldiers handed him a summons to refer to the Israeli Intelligence Service in "Gush Etzion" settlement complex, south of Bethlehem.
2. On 28 February 2017, Israeli forces moved into Hebron and stationed on al-Salam Street. They raided and searched the Infinity Printing House and later withdrew, but no confiscations were reported.

6. Restrictions on the Freedom of Movement

Restrictions on the freedom of movement is part of a systemic policy within the Israeli continuous violations and collective punishments by against the Palestinian civilians in the oPt in addition to the closure imposed on the oPt, especially on 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 complicated obstructions to head to the scenes in order to carry out their jobs. Restrictions on media workers' movement 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 journalists daily suffer from which.

7. Denial of Access to Scenes

Israeli forces continued to deny journalists access to specific areas or prevent them covering incidents. The most prominent cases were regarding preventing journalists from covering the weekly peaceful demonstrations organized by Palestinian civilians and international and 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. However and during the reporting period, PCHR documented many cases where journalists were denied doing their job or covering certain incidents in addition to other cases where journalists' press cards, equipment or materials were confiscated. Those cases were as follows:

1. On 17 July 2016, Israeli forces denied Palestinian journalists' access to Hebron's Old City, including the Ibrahimi Mosque area, al-Shuhada Street and Tal al-Ramidah area to cover the incidents. Journalist Fedaa' Naser, Reporter at Palestine Today Channel, said to PCHR's fieldworker that:

"On Sunday, 17 July 2016, photojournalist Jamil Salhab (25) and I were going to do a report on the continuous closures in the Hebron's Old City. The border Guard officers denied the non-residents access to the vicinity of the Ibrahim Mosque area, claiming it is upon a military decision. We spoke with a soldier who allowed us to enter the area. Few minutes later, an officer arrived and began shouting at the soldiers because they allowed us to enter the area. He asked us about our ages and what we do and then ordered us to return to the checkpoint. He did not allow us to enter, claiming that our ages are less than 30. We tried to speak to the officer, but he informed us that there was a military decision concerning that and he does not know when it is over."

1. On 01 October 2016, Israeli soldiers detained 2 journalists who were covering a fire which broke out in Sharif Valley area in the western side of Silwad village, northeast of Ramallah. Over 30 olive trees caught fire after the Israeli soldiers fired Molotov Cocktails at them. Israeli forces also deleted all photos and videos from the cameras. Shatha Hamad (27), journalist at al-Quds News Network, said to PCHR's fieldworker that in the next day morning, she and her colleague Sandi Khalil, reporter at Arab48 News Website, went to the area to document the abovementioned attack. The soldiers attacked them and erased the photos from their cameras.
2. On 03 January 2017, Israeli forces banned al-Mothana al-Deek, journalist at Trans Media Production Company, from covering the run-over attack that occurred at the Intersection of Beit Qad and Deir Abu Da'if villages, east of Jenin. The soldiers also threatened him to confiscate and break his camera. After that, the soldiers detained him for 3 hours and then released him.

Journalist al-Deek said to PCHR's fieldworker:

"...When I arrived at the area, which was closed, I carried my camera and started covering what was going on, but a Border Guard officer came towards me and covered the camera with his hand. He then took me near the military vehicles about 20 meters away from the scene and threatened he will confiscate and break my camera if I again tried to cover the incident. I followed the officer's order, who detained me near the military vehicles for 3 hours until the investigation ended and the Israeli forces withdrew from the area. They later allowed me to leave and return to my house in Kafer al-Deek village in Salfit."

1. On 06 February 2017, Israeli soldiers stationed near "Yitzhar" settlement, south of Madama village, southeast of Nablus, detained a Palestine T.V crew comprised of a reporter, Baker Mohamed Musbah Mamdouh Abed al-Haq (27); a photographer, Sameh Darouza (25); a diver, Marwan al-Shaf'i; and the head of the village council, Tal'at Ziyadah. All of them were detained for 2 hours in al-Qa'dat land, south of the abovementioned village. The crew members along with the head of the village council were on a hill in the area to cover the changes by Israeli settlers on a 20-dunum land of. When the Israeli forces saw the T.V crew taking photos of the land, they immediately headed to them and confiscated the camera. They also confiscated their IDs and their press cards and detained them until an Israeli officer came and told them that Palestinians are not allowed to be in this area classified as Area C. He added that he will release them after they undergo a security check. He then threatened if they again come to this area, they will be arrested.

Reporter Baker al-Haq (37) said in his statement to PCHR:

"At approximately 09:30, on Monday, Sameh Drouzi, the TV photographer, Marwan al-Shafe'i (34), the car driver, and I were on duty in Madama village, southeast of Nablus. Tal'at Zeyada, Head of the Village Council, came with us to show us the land that was seized by the Israeli settlers. We arrived at a hill about 900 meters away from the abovementioned land, so we left the car and went there. Ten minutes after we arrived and started taking photos of the land, 3 soldiers came towards us from nearby "Yitzhar" settlement. We returned to the car, but the soldiers continued to chase us. They ordered us to stop and we did so. After 3 minutes, 3 other soldiers, including an officer, arrived and informed us that Palestinians are not allowed to enter this area except with permission from the Israeli Military Liaison. I informed the officer that the Palestinian Military Liaison is au courant, but the officer ordered us to leave and threatened to arrest us if we refused to do so. An hour later, the soldiers returned the camera and the ID cards. However, we started again taking photos, so the soldiers attacked us again and detained us for an hour. They then released us and withdrew from the area."

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 printing house of a military decision to ban publishing and distributing Palestine newspaper, which is originally published in Gaza city.

Conclusion and Recommendations

PCHR documented that Israeli forces continued its attacks against journalists and media workers in the oPt in the period between 01 April 2016 and 31 March 2017.

The report significantly highlighted the escalating raids of media and press offices and closures of some of them under the pretext of incitement against Israel in addition to closing TV channels. Moreover, the Israeli forces escalated arrest campaigns against Palestinians on grounds of expressing their opinions on social media and prosecuting them, including journalists and media workers.

PCHR also documented that Israeli forces continued to commit crimes affecting the personal safety of journalists, including gun crimes which resulted in the injury of 2 journalists while on duty.

PCHR also documented that Israeli forces continued to impose restrictions on the freedom of movement for journalists and media workers either while traveling abroad or when moving between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Moreover, Israeli forces have prevented al-Resalah and Palestine newspapers, which are published in Gaza City, from being printed in the West Bank's printing houses for three years.

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 other crimes committed against civilians in the oPt.

In light of that:

1. PCHR considers these practices against media workers as part of Israel's ongoing violations of Palestinian civilians and as a proof of Israel's disregard for international humanitarian law, especially the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention Relevant to Protection of Civilians in Times of War.
2. PCHR stresses that most of the Israeli attacks carried out against the journalists working in local and international news agencies were willful and intentional, especially that these journalists were in their press uniforms while on duty.
3. PCHR confirms that the Israeli attacks were not limited to Palestinian media workers, but extended to affect international journalists and even the Israelis. These attacks prove that there is an Israeli systematic policy aiming at isolating the oPt as a prelude to escalate murder and torture against Palestinian civilians.
4. PCHR underscores that these systematic attacks aim at preventing media from covering and publishing the crimes committed by Israeli forces against civilians 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 institutions to continue to follow-up Israeli violations against media workers in the oPt, and to exert all efforts at the international level to pressurize Israel to stop their crimes against Palestinian civilians and their property in general and media workers in particular.

**Appendix (1): Media Workers Killed by Israeli forces while on Duty
September 2000 – March 2017**

#	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	22 September 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 Shana'a	23	Reuters	16 April 2008	16 April 2008	Juhr al-Deek village
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

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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

Annex (2): Types of Israeli Attacks against Journalists from 28 September 2000 to 31 March 2017

Type of attack	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	March 2017	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	15	501
Beating and humiliation	9	30	24	9	13	25	40	30	16	20	40	9	10	8	16	25	4	328
Arrest, detention or interrogation	1	16	62	21	24	23	22	27	37	18	54	17	15	31	38	14	17	437
Denial of access to certain areas	2	3	2	5	3	3	4	15	17	23	46	31	7	12	1	1	7	182
Confiscation of media equipment	4	5	32	7	2	-	2	1	6	11	18	8	7	5	3	-	1	112
Attacks on media institutions	4	10	33	4	6	3	8	7	13	6	-	-	6	-	4	4	13	121
Denial of travel	-	-	-	5	1	2	-	2	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	2	-	16
House raids	-	-	4	3	1	-	2	1	3	1	3	4	2	4	4	6	-	38
Total	42	99	194	64	80	71	107	111	123	104	214	102	80	89	108	111	57	1756